

THE ANCIENT FAMILY OF LESSELS (Weblink "Ancient family of Lessels")

While my father James (Jim) Bertie LESSELS was growing up in the family home in Nelson New Zealand, his father James Smith LESSELS possessed a leather bound LESSELS family tree book that dated back to the Bonnie Prince Charlie period. This book was full of information and included photographs and drawings of their ancestors. James often told stories about these ancestors to Jim and his siblings. Sadly after World War Two when all the brothers returned home the leather bound book had disappeared and was never seen again. As I was growing up my father told me some of the stories that his father had told him. To assist my father in locating some of the lost information about his family I began to research the LESSELS genealogy. In this document I hope to go back before the Bonnie Prince Charlie period.

Through the centuries the family surname of LESSELS has been recorded in numerous ways all around the world. People on hearing the surname have recorded it how they thought it should be spelt. By researching and transcribing all the variations of the surname into time frames it should make it easier for us to track the different branches on our family tree. I believe there is no correct way of spelling the surname as many descendants from the same common ancestor spell their surname differently. The main objective of this document and the website is to record the information and link the branches of the different families with whatever variation of spelling has survived for each individual. Here in New Zealand my maiden family surname is spelt LESSELS.

By transcribing (**weblink** "Lessels family history") the original information compiled by John LESSELS over a century ago then researching and transcribing additional information we can then start to learn more about the LESSELS genealogy. Please note that information written by John Lessels will be typed in italics font and indented in this document.

Ancient surname of the family of LESSELS in Fifeshire

LESSELS The old family of this name were of Anglo-Norman origin and possessed the lands of Forgrund in Fife. The old name (Lascelles) is derived from AF. La celle (Lat. illa cella), at the (hermit's) cell. Alan de Lascelles witnessed the gift of the church of Cupre by Richard the bishop of St Andrews, to the church of St Andrews, a 1173 (Liber cartarum prioratus Sancti Andree in Scotia ... Edinburgh 1841, p137) W de Lascelles witnessed concession of the churches of Forres and Dyke to the bishop of Moray, c 1189-99 (Registrum episcopatus Moraviensis Edinburgh 1832, 12) and before 1203 he witnessed a charter by William the Lion (Panmure, II, 81) Radulph Lesselis witnessed Alexander Comyn's charter of the hospital in his new burgh of Buchan, 1261 (Registrum episcopatus Aberdonensis Edinburgh 1845 Volume 11, p277/297) and as Ralph de Lasceles he rendered to Exchequer the accounts of the baile of Dingwall, 1266 (The Exchequer rolls of Scotland Volume 1 p19). In 1288 there is recorded a memorandum of a transaction between Serlo de Lascelis and the prior of St Andrews, (Liber cartarum prioratus Sancti Andree in Scotia ... Edinburgh 1841 p346) Johan de Lasceles of Fife, Richard de Lasceles also of Fife, and Rauf de Lasceles of Edinburghshire rendered homage in 1296 (Calender of documents relating Scotland preserved in Public Records Office Edited by Joseph Bain, Edinburgh 1881-84 Volume 11 p 205, 213, 204). The seal of Johan reads, S' Joannis de Lar schel, and that of Ruaf, S'Radu...e Lascelles (Calender of documents relating Scotland preserved in Public Records Office Edited by Joseph Bain, Edinburgh 1881-84 Volume 11 p552, 539). John de Lascel was one of an inquest made at St Andrews, 1302-03 (Calender of documents relating Scotland preserved in Public Records Office Edited by Joseph Bain, Edinburgh 1881-84 Volume 11, 1350) John Lassols who witnessed a charter by Robert earl of Fife c. 1390 (Athole, p706) was one of an inquest on the marches of Kyrknes and Louchor in 1395 (Liber

cartarum prioratus Sancti Andree in Scotia ... Edinburgh 1841 p3) David Lessellis had sasine of the lands of Inverdovet, 1560 (The Exchequer rolls of Scotland Volume XIX p454) Lassal 1294, Lasselis 1494, Lescellis 1589.

(Reference National Library 929.A BLA The Surnames of Scotland by George F Black page 425)

de LASCELLES-LACELES, LASCELAS, etc. Modern forms LESSELLS-LESSELS

It seems most likely that the earliest Lascelles in Scotland belonged to an Anglo-Norman family in Loucelles in Calvados, which acquired land in Bedfordshire, Yorkshire, and Westmorland and, through an early connection with the baronial house of Beauchamp of Bedford, became associated with the de Morvilles. A characteristic personal name was Alan, but a wide range of personal names was employed and a Peter de Lascelas occurs in a de Morville context, 1162 X 67 (CWAAS Trans. ix. 253-9; see also Loyd, Origins, 55, s.v. LOCELS; HMC 10th Rep., App., 320-1, 324).

Alan de Lascelles witnessed Lawrie, Charters, no. 244 and act of Henry son of David I anent Holm Cultram Abbey in Cumberland, 1136 X 1152. Alan de Lascelles witnessed the confirmation, by Bishop Richard of St Andrews, of the earl of Fife's grant of Cupar parish church St. Andrews Cathedral Priory, 1165 X 1172 (St. Andrews Liber, 137), and by that time he had no doubt acquired an estate in Scotland perhaps in north-east Fife.

This was presumably the Alan de Lascelles who, an elderly as well as a wealthy man, was captured at Alnwick with King William in 1174 (Lawrie, Annuals, 176-7). His wife was Juliana de Somerville (see below) under Somerville), and their son and heir, also Alan, married a lady named Amable (St. Andrews Liber, 260, dating 1199 X 1202). It would be natural to assume that the elder Alan had acquired the lordship of Forgan alias Naughton were it not for the fact that his son Alan expressly says that his grant of the parish church of Forgan was made with the consent and at the prompting of his wife (but the church might have been formed part of her dower). The younger Alan's charter was witnessed by Duncan de Lascelles, probably Alan's brother, and also by Henry (read Hervey?) and Richard de Lascelles. For Duncan's career see above, pp. 115-6. The senior male line of the family ended before the middle of the thirteenth century, leaving an heiress Marjorie de Lascelles who married firstly, Peter de la Hay, and secondly Richard Murray of Culbin. These marriages seem to have led to a permanent division of the barony of Forgan or Baughton.

The surname survives plentifully in Fife.

Black, Surnames, s.v. LESSELS.

(Reference transcribed from Surnames of Scotland page 182)

Clans and Tartans

I was told that the LESSELS ancestors were lowlanders not highlanders so they do not belong to any Clan. Some family members were told that the LESSELS ancestors belonged to the MacDuff Clan but if this is correct or not I do not know.

I was told that the LESSELS ancestors have a tartan but at the moment I have been unable to establish what tartan. More research has to be undertaken to locate the correct tartan but the answer will be somewhere in the Scottish records in Edinburgh.

Peerage

LASCELS - Baron Lascelis by writ of Summons, dates 23 June 1295 (York Family) (4 daughters). The noble house of Lascelles, Earls of Harewood claim descent from this ancient baronial family. Arms - Arg., three chaplets, gu.

(Reference National Library Burkes Dormant and Extinct Peerages)

LASCELLES, Allen - (E. III. Roll) bore, gules, a saltire and a chief argent (F.); Jenyns' Ordinary, where it is blazoned, probably in confusion with EGLECLIFFE, gules on a saltire five besants argent. See also ASSELES.

(Reference National Library Burkes Dormant and Extinct Peerages)

Heraldry and coats of Arms

We have been unable to establish if the coat of arms that belongs to our Scottish LESSELS ancestors and held by some Lessels descendants is authentic. Information below has been extracted from Heraldry and coat of arms publication held in New Zealand and does not match the copy I have in my possession. More information should be available to correctly identify the coat of arms by researching Heraldry publication held in Scotland and England.

- ASSELES, Alan de - (H III. Roll) bore, gules, a saltire and a chief argent; Arden and St George Rolls. See LASELLS
- LASSELLES, John de, of Allerthorpe - (E, III. Roll) bore, sable, a cross patee (dory in trick) or; Jenyns Ordinary.
- LASCELLES, John de, of Hinderskelfe (9 E. II) 1315-16 - bore, sable, a cross patonce and a bordure or. - Shirley.] F.
- LASSELS, John, of Langthorn - (E, III. Roll) bore, argent six roses 3,2,1 gules; Jenyns Ordinary.
- LASCELLES, Pigot - (E. III. Roll) bore, argent, three chaplets gules; Jenyns' Roll. ROGER, differenced with a bordure engrailed of the last; Jenyns' Ordinary.
- LASCELLES, Thomas, of South Cowton- (E. III. Roll) bore, gules, on a chevron sable between three eagles' heads erased as many mullets (6) all argent; Jenyns' Ordinary.

(Reference The Dictionary of Heraldry Feudal Coats of Arms and Pedigrees by Joseph Foster)

12TH CENTURY 1100-1199

The ruling dynasty in Scotland, England, Flanders and France during this period were:

- 1097-1107 Edgar (son of Malcolm III) Scotland
- 1107-1124 Alexander I (brother of Edgar) Scotland
- 1124-1153 St David I (brother of Alexander I) Scotland
- 1153-1165 Malcolm IV the Maiden (grandson of St David I) Scotland
- 1165-1214 William the Lion (brother of Malcolm IV) Scotland
- 1100-1135 Henry I (brother of William III) England
- 1135-1154 Stephen (son of Adela daughter of William I) England
- 1154-1189 Henry II (son of Matilda daughter of Henry I) England
- 1189-1199 Richard I Coeur-de-Lion (brother of Henry II) England
- 1093-1111 Robert II of Jerusalem (son of Robert I) Flanders
- 1111-1119 Baldwin VII Hapkin (son of Robert II) Flanders
- 1119-1127 BI Charles the Good (son of Adela daughter of Robert I) Flanders
- 1127-1128 William Clito (grandson of Matilda daughter of Baldwin V and William I of England) Flanders
- 1128-1168 Thierry of Alsace (son of Gertrude daughter of Robert I and Thierry II of Lorraine) Flanders
- 1168-1191 Philips (son of Thierry) Flanders
- 1191-1194 Baldwin VIII (married daughter of Thierry II) Flanders
- 1194-1205 Baldwin IX (son of Baldwin VIII) Flanders
- 1060-1108 Philip I (son of Henry I) France
- 1108-1137 Louis VI the Fat (son of Philip I) France
- 1129-1131 Philip (son of Louis VI) France
- 1137- 1180 Louis VII the Younger (brother Philip) France
- 1180-1223 Philip II Augustus (son of Louis VII) France

(Source: The Wordsworth Handbook of Kings and Queens by John E Morby & New Encyclopedia)

English family groups during this period were:

Geoffrey/Geoffrey LASSCELLES married wife unknown issue

1. Female LASSCELLES Born about 1130 Eastkrick Yorkshire England (*Reference source FHC LDS Film Batch 471965-24-87610*)

Geoffrey/Geoffrey LASSCELLES married wife unknown issue

1. Picot LASSCELLES Born about 1152 Eastkrick Yorkshire England (*Reference source FHC LDS Film Batch 471965-25-76139*)
2. Robert LASSCELLES Born about 1154 Eastkrick Yorkshire England (*Reference source FHC LDS Film Batch 471965-26-76140*)
3. Margaret LASSCELLES Born about 1156 Eastkrick Yorkshire England (*Reference source FHC LDS Film Batch 471965-24-87611*)

Picot LASSCELLES married wife unknown issue

1. Female LASSCELLES Born about 1154 Eastkrick Yorkshire England (*Reference source FHC LDS Film Batch 471965-28-87612*)

Geoffrey/Geoffrey LASSCELLES married wife unknown issue

1. Roger LASSCELLES Born about 1176 Eastkrick Yorkshire England (*Reference source FHC LDS Film Batch 471965-29-76141*)
2. Picot LASSCELLES Born about 1178 Eastkrick Yorkshire England (*Reference source FHC LDS Film Batch 471965-30-76142*)

Picot LASSCELLES married wife unknown issue

1. Theobald LASSCELLES Born about 1180 Eastkrick Yorkshire England (*Reference source FHC LDS Film Batch 471965-31-76143 & 183582-121-4247*)

Roger LASSCELLES married wife unknown issue

1. Roger LASSCELLES Born about 1182 Eastkrick Yorkshire England (*Reference source FHC LDS Film Batch 471965-35-87614*)

13TH CENTURY 1200-1299

The ruling dynasty in Scotland, England, Flanders and France during this period were:

- 1165-1214 William the Lion (brother of Malcolm IV) Scotland
- 1214-1249 Alexander II (son of William) Scotland
- 1249-1286 Alexander III (son of Alexander II) Scotland
- 1286-1290 Margaret (daughter of Margaret, daughter of Alexander III, and Eirik II of Norway) Scotland
- 1292-1296 John (Son of John Balliol maternal grandson of Margaret niece of William) Scotland
- 1199-1216 John (brother of Richard I) England
- 1216-1272 Henry III (son of John) England
- 1272-1307 Edward I (son of Henry III) England
- 1194-1205 Baldwin IX (son of Baldwin VIII) Flanders
- 1205-1244 Joan (daughter of Baldwin IX) Flanders
- 1244-1278 Margaret I (sister of Joan) Flanders
- 1278-1305 Guy (son of Margaret I and William of Dampierre) Flanders
- 1180-1223 Philip II Augustus (son Louis VII) France
- 1223-1226 Louis VIII, the Lion (son of Philip II) France
- 1226-1270 St Louis IX (son of Louis VIII) France
- 1270-1285 Philip III the Bold (son of St Louis IX) France
- 1285-1314 Philip IV the Fair (son of Philip III) France

(Source: *The Wordsworth Handbook of Kings and Queens* by John E Morby 1989 plus *New Encyclopedia*)

English family groups during this period were:

Roger LASSCELLES married wife unknown issue

1. Picot LASSCELLES Born about 1204 Eastkrick Yorkshire England (Reference source FHC LDS Film Batch 471965-36-76146)
2. William LASCELLES Born about 1206 Eastkrick Yorkshire England (Reference source FHC LDS Film Batch 471965-37-76147)
3. Roger LASSCELLES Born about 1208 Eastkrick Yorkshire England (Reference source FHC LDS Film Batch 471965-38-76148)

Picot LASSCELLES married wife unknown issue

1. Female LASSCELLES Born about 1208 Eastkrick Yorkshire England (Reference source FHC LDS Film Batch 471965-32-87613)
2. Roger LASSCELLES Born about 1230 Eastkrick Yorkshire England (Reference source FHC LDS Film Batch 471965-33-76144)
3. Richard LASCELLES Born about 1232 Eastkrick Yorkshire England (Reference source FHC LDS Film Batch 471965-34-76145)

William DE LASCELLES married Amice DE REVEGILL issue

1. Alice DE LASCELLES Born about 1223 Selside Lancashire England (Reference source FHC LDS Film Batch 451182?)

Roger DE LACELLES married wife unknown issue

1. Roger DE LACELLES Born about 1240 Kirkby Knowle Yorkshire England (Reference source FHC LDS Film Batch F514488-26-1553591)
2. Female DE LACELLES Born about 1244 Kirkby Knowle Yorkshire England (Reference source FHC LDS Film Batch F514488-26-1553591)

Richard LASSCELLES married wife unknown issue

1. Female LASSCELLES Born about 1240 Eastkrick Yorkshire England (Reference source FHC LDS Film Batch 537494-115-28328)
2. Catherine LASSCELLES Born about 1268 Eastkrick Yorkshire England (Reference source FHC LDS Film Batch 537494-119-28327)
3. Margaret LASSCELLES Born about 1270 Eastkrick Yorkshire England (Reference source FHC LDS Film Batch 537494-120-28326)

Roger LASCELLES married Isabel issue

1. Malilda or Mary LASCELLES Born about 1270 Scaleby Castle Cumberland England (Reference source FHC LDS Film Batch 442802)

Roger DE LACELLES married wife unknown issue

1. Theo-Phania DE LACELLES Born about 1272 Kirkby Knowle Yorkshire England (Reference source FHC LDS Film Batch F514488-26-1553591)

Roger LACELLES married Isabel FITZTHOMAS issue

1. Avice [F] LACELLES Born about 1291 Kirkby Knowle Yorkshire England (Reference source FHC LDS Film Batch 1760805?)

John LASSCELLES married Ann SKIPWITH issue

1. Helen LASSCELLES Born about 1292 Eastkrick Yorkshire England (Reference source FHC LDS Film Batch 557494-102-28303)
2. John LASSCELLES Born about 1310 Yorkshire England (Reference source FHC LDS Film Batch FPO 183411-249-8958)

The Ancient surname of the family of LACELLES, now spelt LESSELS in Fifeshire, is of Flemish origin, being derived from a parish, or commune, and village called

LECELLES which was under the rule of Robert Count of Dreux, Earl of Flanders, in the 13th century, but is now portion of France, and was probably called LECELLES from the number of monastic cells or dwellings of the monks and hermits to be found in it.

In this century it was famous for its manufacture of hand made lace, and fine cloth, like the famous walled town of Valenciennes [sic], in the neighbourhood which industry is now defunct in the present century. In the 19th century it was renowned for the manufacture of oil, agricultural implements and nails, but in this century it is not renowned for anything. It is now greatly reduced in size and in its number of inhabitants, who now amount to about 400, who are poor, whereas about 50 years ago they numbered 3000.

It boasts of an electric tramway from Valenciennes and a railway, as well as two small factories for making sugar, glass and pottery ware, and there are no signs of old age in the place as the ancient church which was of considerable proportions has been renewed in brick. It is about 8 ½ miles north by west of Valenciennes by St Amand of the Springs.

The above village must not be confounded with the village of Lascelle, in the south of France near Aurillae.

Owing to the similarity in pronunciation of the name of these villages, and the carelessness in spelling them properly when used as surnames, and the absence of dates, it is now impossible to distinguish by Court Rolls or other records the different families from these villages now in England and Scotland whose ancestors came from these place.

For instance the Earl of Harewood in Yorkshire spells his family name LASCELLES, while there are other titled families in Yorkshire who spell their name LASCEL, LASSEL, LASSELS. The first of the Harewood families who was ennobled was a lawyer. This Earldom was created in the 18th Century.

In the rolls of the Scots Guard in Paris in the 15th and 16th centuries the family name is spelt LAISELLE, LAISSELLE, LESSELLE, LESELS, LAISSELLS, LESCELLS and LACAILLE and the learned Canon Ferbes is of opinion these are all corruption's of the original name LECALLES, and are the descendants of Alexander de LECELLES of Priestleys, while these are spelt LASSALLE are probably the descendants of a family settled in Scotland, possessing considerable property at one time prior to the time of Alexander de LESELLES, but this family seem now to be extinct, there being 19 of the name of LECELES, LASCELES, LESELES, from 1200-1270.

In the Court Rolls of 1278 Alan de LASCELLES is accused of instigating four others to slay Richard Buick but he produced a Charter of Henry III pardoning him and he was acquitted.

1280 Richard de LASCELLES appeared at an Inquisition at Carlisle.

1280 John Comyn Earl of Buchan in England who is going to Scotland appoints Ralph de LASCELES, Knighted and Ralf Peynale his attarenies for 2 years

1292 The Earl of Buchan appoints Sir Ralf de LASCELES and John de Whitewyk his attarenies [sic] for a year.

1296 August 28th Jehan de LASCELES is tenant of the Bishop of St Andrews in Fifeshire.

1296 Sir Ralph de LASCELES swears [allegiance] to Prince Edward of England.
1296 Alan de LASCELES is sent to Tonbridge Castle, Roxburghshire.
1296 William de LASCELES does homage to Prince Edward Ragman Rolls.
1297 Alan de LASCELES freed from prison on condition he deliveries his eldest son as hostage to King Edward of England to serve him beyond the seas and elsewhere.

In this list it is probable that these called Cuille, Roger, Thomas, George and Mathien belong to the LECELLES or LESSELS family as orthography was not rigid in these days, and the pronunciation [sic] of the letter E would be like AI, the corruption of the name LECELLES or LESSELS into LESSEPS being a case in point. The absence of the name John in this list is accounted for as the heir of the LESSELS family was called John and remained at Priestleys to culture the land whilst his younger brother took service abroad, Radulph [sic] de LASCELLES, Sheriff of Fife in 1250 probably belonged to the family of LASCELLED who settled in Fifeshire in the reign of William the Lion of Scotland about 1165 and possessed much property there.

The Scots Guards (Garde Eccosias) were formed in 884 and for 500 years they were the faithful guards and personal attendants upon the different Kings of France. In this century they numbered 100 men. The Captain of his Guard had precedence over the other guards and when the king was crowned he stood by him, along with 6 other guardsmen who stood at all times beside the King both public and privately. This Guard was taught the art of war and rules of civility, and consisted of the younger sons of landed proprietors in Scotland. They were educated at the most splendid [sic] court in Europe, and each was entitled to an allowance for a squire, a valet, a page, and two yeomen, one of whom was termed Coutolier from the large knife he wore.

*According to tradition the founder of the **LECELLES** family in **Scotland** in the **13th century** was a priest of royal descent, known at Paris University as **Alexander de LECELLES** [Alexander De Lecelles] who was born in the village of **LECELLES**.*

(Reference Source The Royal Commission on the Ancient & Historical Monuments of Scotland, National Monuments Records of Scotland in Edinburgh 'Architects' file for John LESSELS "A Brief Account of the Ancient Family of LESSELS in Fifeshire)

The 21st century Hamlet of LECELLES is situated in the Hainaut Cambresis region of the Nord near the border of Belgium and is 6 km from the beautiful Foret de St Amand. The border with Belgium is only 3 km away and Valenciennes in France is 12 km away.

SEARCH for MAP to place on Lessels weblink (Reference source Internet website)

LESSELS genealogy

The Founder of the LESSELS family in Fife Scotland 1285

Alexander de LECELLES was born in the village of Lecelles France. In 1285 when King Alexander III of Scotland became betrothed to Iolan (Eirik) the daughter of the Earl of Flanders, Alexander accompanied her to Jedburgh Abbey in Scotland to assist in the marriage service. Alexander remained in Scotland with his wife and family, and accepted the offer from Michael Scot of a position as personal chaplain, which included a house and land some short distance from Balwearie Castle. For centuries this small property was known as Priestleys. For information about Alexander de LECELLES please refer to the **weblink "De Lecelles Alexander before 1285 France"**.

14TH CENTURY FROM 1300-1399

The ruling dynasty in Scotland, England, Flanders and France during this period were:
1306-1329 Robert I (great-grandson of Isabel, niece of William, and Robert Bruce) Scotland
1332-1356 Edward (son of John) Scotland
1329-1371 David II (son of Robert I) Scotland
1371-1390 Robert II (son of Marjorie daughter of Robert I and Walter the High Stewart)
Scotland
1390-1406 Robert III (son of Robert II) Scotland
1272-1307 Edward I (son of Henry III) England
1307-1327 Edward II (son of Edward I) England
1327-1377 Edward III (son of Edward II) England
1377-1399 Richard II (grandson Edward III) England
1399-1413 Henry IV (grandson of Edward III) England
1278-1305 Guy (son of Margaret I and William of Dampierre) Flanders
1305-1322 Robert III of Bethune (son of Guy) Flanders
1322-1346 Louis I of Nevers (grandson of Robert III) Flanders
1346-1384 Louis II of Male (son of Louis I) Flanders
1384-1405 Margaret (daughter of Louis II married Philip the Bold duke of Burgundy)
Flanders
1285-1314 Philip IV the Fair (son of Philip III) France
1314-1316 Louis X the Studdorn (son of Philip IV) France
1316 John I (son of Louis X) France
1316-1322 Philip V the Tall (son of Philip IV) France
1322-1328 Charles IV the Fair (brother of Philip V) France
1328-1350 Philip VI (grandson of Philip III) France
1350-1364 John II the Good (son of Philip VI) France
1364-1380 Charles V the Wise (son of John II) France
1380-1422 Charles VI the Mad (son of Charles V) France
(Source: The Wordsworth Handbook of Kings and Queens by John E Morby 1989 plus New Encyclopedia)

English family groups during this period were:

Ralph ALASSCELLES married Joan BURDETT issue

1. Elizabeth LASSCELLES Born about 1311 Eastkrick Yorkshire England *(Reference source FHC LDS film Batch FPO 537494-105-28301)*
2. Joan LASSCELLES Born about 1313 Eastkrick Yorkshire England *(Reference source FHC LDS film Batch FPO 537494-105-28301)*

William LASSCELLES married Cecity DANBY issue

1. Robert LASSCELLES Born about 1368 Shirton Nottingham England *(Reference source FHC LDS film Batch FPO 537471-21-26776)*

William LASSCELLES married Ellen BECKWITH issue

1. John LASSCELLES born about 1392 Eastkrick Yorkshire England *(Reference source FHC LDS film Batch 537471-27-26773)*

1302 Inquisition at St Andrews Fife John LASCEL is present.

1302 Ralph de LASCALLES adherent of Baliol whose lands were seized.

1304 The Earl of Buchan prays King Edward I to grant him the wardship of Ralf, son of Sir de LASCELS who is insane

1307 Petition by Wm de LASCELS for the grant of "charm" of land in South Contone lately held of him by Phillip Escot and his wife who are Scots rebels.

1318 Wm de LASCELS of South Contone asks that the farm he has holds from John Personat a Scotsman be surrendered to him as he has spent so much money on it that if he loses it he will be a beggar for life.

1335 Johannis LACELS respecting and of Stakkys [sic].

1337 Johannis LACELS respecting and of Stakkys [sic].

1350-60 In the Advocates Library in Edinburgh there is a Charter granted by William de RAMSAY Earl of Fife to Margaret de LASCELL, and to John de LASSELL her son, conveying to them all the lands of Rouchlaw and Holdean in Haddingtonshire. This Charter is said to be one of the oldest deeds in Scotland, the earlier ones to a great extent, having been destroyed or removed to London by the order of Edward I of England when he invaded Scotland and removed the "Stone of Destiny".

(Reference Source The Royal Commission on the Ancient & Historical Monuments of Scotland, National Monuments Records of Scotland in Edinburgh 'Architects' file for John LESSELS "A Brief Account of the Ancient Family of LESSELS in Fifeshire")

LESSELS genealogy

The daughter of William de RAMSAY Earl of Fife Elizabeth married John de LASSELL and they had three children. John's mother was Margaret de LASSELL. The written "Deed" of William de RAMSAY and information about these families is located on the **weblink "de Lassell de Ramsay before 1340 Scotland"**.

15TH CENTURY FROM 1400-1499

The ruling dynasty in Scotland, England, Flanders and France during this period were:

1390-1406 Robert III (son of Robert II) Scotland

1406-1437 James I (son of Robert III) Scotland

1437-1460 James II (son of James I) Scotland

1460-1488 James III (son of James II) Scotland

1488-1513 James IV (son of James III) Scotland

1399-1413 Henry IV (grandson of Edward III) England

1413-1422 Henry V (son of Henry IV) England

1422-1461 Henry VI (son of Henry V) England

1461-1470 Edward IV fourth in descent from Edward III) England

1470-1471 Henry VI (son of Henry V) England

1471-1483 Edward IV fourth in descent from Edward III) England

1483 Edward V (son of Edward IV) England

1483-1485 Richard III (brother of Edward IV) England

1485-1509 Henry VII (fourth of descent from Edward III) England

1384-1405 Margaret (daughter of Louis II married Philip the Bold duke of Burgundy)
Flanders

1380-1422 Charles VI the Mad (son of Charles V) France

1422-1461 Charles VII the Victorious (son of Charles VI) France

1461-1483 Louis XI (son of Charles VII) France

1483-1498 Charles VIII (son of Louis XI) France

1498-1515 Louis XII great-grandson of Charles V) France

(Source: The Wordsworth Handbook of Kings and Queens by John E Morby 1989 plus New Encyclopedia)

English family groups during this period were:

Robert LASSCELLES married Catherine GRAY issue

1. Margaret LASSCELLES Born about 1420 Eastkrick Yorkshire England (Reference source FHC
LDS Film Batch 471965-74-87628)

Roger or William LASCCELLES married Eleanor GREEPTOKE issue

1. Edward LASCELLES or JACKSON Born about 1446 Yorkshire England (*Reference source FHC LDS Film Batch?*)

In the Roll Calls of this famous Scots Guard in the reign of King Louis XI (who married Margaret [half a sentence missing] King of Scotland in 1346 and died in 1483) Charles VIII, Louis XII and Francis I in the year 1515 appear the following Scottish names: (not of Priestleys)

<i>Johan de LESELLES, Men at Arms, in the year</i>	<i>1465 to 1472.</i>
<i>Guille LAISELLE</i>	<i>1493 to 1496.</i>
<i>Cuille LESSELLE from</i>	<i>1497 to 1501</i>
<i>Cuilleume appears as Man at Arms in</i>	<i>1498 and 1499</i>
<i>Roger LASELS appears as Archer in</i>	<i>1499</i>

LESSELS genealogy

THE 16TH CENTURY 1500-1599

The ruling dynasty in Scotland, England and France during this period were:

1488-1513 James IV (son of James III) Scotland
1513-1542 James V (son of James IV) Scotland
1542-1567 Mary (daughter of James V) Scotland
1567-1625 James VI (son of Mary and Henry Stuart, later King of England James I) Scotland
1485-1509 Henry VII (fourth of descent from Edward III) England
1509-1547 Henry VIII (son Henry VII) England
1547-1553 Edward VI (son of Henry VIII) England
1553 Jane (granddaughter of Henry VIII) England
1553-1558 Mary I (daughter of Henry VIII) England
1558-1603 Elizabeth I (sister of Mary) England
1498-1515 Louis XII great-grandson of Charles V) France
1515-1547 Francis I (fourth in descent from Charles V) France
1547-1559 Henry II (son of Francis I) France
1559-1560 Francis II (son of Henry II) France
1560-1574 Charles IX (brother of Francis II) France
1574-1589 Henry III (brother of Charles IX) France
1589-1610 Henry IV (tenth in descent from Louis IX) France

(Source: The Wordsworth Handbook of Kings and Queens by John E Morby 1989 plus New Encyclopedia)

Commissariat of Edinburgh 1514-1600

LESSELLS Andro, in Laveroklaw, par. of Forgound in Fife = 09 March 1590-1
LESSELLS David, portioner of Innerdovot in Fife = 19 January 1590-1
LESSELLS David, in West-Newtoun, par. Of Weymes, Fife = 24 March 1595-6
LESSELLS Elspeth, relict of Richard Tindaill, in Fettircarne in the Mearns = 03 June 1591
LESSELLS James, in Pitlochrie, par. Of Strameglo, Fife = 06 January 1597-8
LESSELLS Janet, sometime spouse to William Russell, in Gleslie, par. of Falkland = 20
January 1577-8
LESSELLS Marjorie, spouse to James Young, in Howden, constab. of Haddington = 16
June 1593

(Reference source publication found on FHC LDS film Of Commissariat of Edinburgh)

Register of Testaments 1549-1800 Commissariat Record of St Andrews

LESSELLS Ambrose in Kincapill par of St Andrews = August 1551

LESSELLS Andrew wobster in Greemside See Henderson Helen - Henderson Helen spouse Andrew Lessells wobsterin Grenesyde par of Carnbee = 30 October 1596

LESSELLS David dwelling at Standand-stane of Pitcorthy = 8 March 1588-9

LESSELLS John cottar in Kilconquhar = 10 June 1596

LESSELLS John land-labourer in St Andrews = 10 June 1596

LESSELLS Patrick husbandman in New toune of Wemyss see Keddie Isobel - Kaddie Isobel sometime spouse to Patrick Lessellis husband man in Newtoun of Wemyss = 1 Aug 1597

(Reference Source Kirkcaldy Public Library publication Register of Testaments 1549-1800 Commissariat Record of St Andrews LR 929-3 COM)

Retours of Services of Heirs 1544-1699 Volumes I-III

April 09 1560

DAVID LESSELLIS, haeres Joannis Lessellis de Innerdovett, Partris, - interris de Interdovett et Plewland, cum piscaria molendini marini vulgarter nuncupati Seymylnes, - A.E. 51 N.E. 261.13s.4d – l 49.

(Reference NZSG CD collection FRC Auckland Retours of Services of Heirs 1544-1699 Volumes I-III)

In the Privy Council Records at the 16th and 17th centuries the following landowners names appear from 1592 to 1599.

- Charles LESSELS residing at Pittenweem
- James LESSELS residing at Kilconquhar Fifeshire
- Peter LESSELS at Anstruther
- Wm LESSELS at Kirk of Fyvie

SEARCH (Reference source FHC LDS Film 1592-1599 for Pittenweem, Kilconquhar, Anstruther Kirk of Fyvie)

Rolls of the Scott guards (Garde Eccosias)

Guillaume LESALLE appears as Man at Arms in 1507

Thomas LAISELLE appears as Archer in 1507

George LAISELS appears as Archer in 1507

Thomas LESCELLS appears as Archer in 1507

George LESCELLS appears as Archer in 1507

Guillauma LASCELLE as Man at Arm 1507

Mathien LACSILLE as Man at Arm 1516.

LESSELS genealogy

Count Ferdinand de LESSEPS stated that he was of Scottish origin and his ancestor Bertrand de LESSEPS originally came from Fife and his family name was LESSELLS. Bertrand was in the regiment of the Scottish Guards in France and as a captain of gendarmerie he was entrusted with the duty of arresting Henry IV, but instead of arresting him, he disobeyed the orders of Henry III, and let Henry IV escape. This would have been around the 1580's. It was since then that the family remained in the services of the Kings of France. Additional information is located on the weblink "**de Lessels Ferdinand before 1849 France**".

(Reference source National Library of NZ web paperspast Otago Witness Issue 1703, 12 July 1884, Page 1)

17TH CENTURY 1600-1699

The ruling dynasty in Scotland, England and France during this period were:

1567-1625 James VI later James I King of England (son of Mary) Scotland
1558-1603 Elizabeth (sister of Mary I) England
1603-1625 James I (grandson of James V of Scotland and grandson of Henry VII)
1625-1649 Charles I (son of James I) England
1649-1653 Commonwealth England
1653-1658 Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector England
1658-1659 Richard Cromwell (son of Oliver) England
1659-1660 Commonwealth England
1660-1685 Charles II (son of Charles I) England
1685-1688 James II (brother of Charles II) England
1689-1695 Mary II (daughter of James II, married William III) England
1689-1702 William III (son of Mary, daughter of Charles I, and William II) England
1589-1610 Henry IV (tenth in descent from Louis IX) France
1610-1643 Louis XIII (son of Henry IV) France
1643-1715 Louis XIV (son of Louis XIII) France

(Source: *The Wordsworth Handbook of Kings and Queens* by John E Morby 1989 plus *New Encyclopedia*)

In 1607 at Balwearie near Markinch the following names appear Thomas and John LESLELLIES, which are no doubt corruptions of the family name.

*From the above names it may be inferred that the corruption of the name from **LECELLES** to **LESSELS** took place prior to 1592.*

SEARCH (Reference source FHC LDS film 1607 for Thomas and John LESLELLIES in Balwearie near Markinch Fife Scotland)

In 1660 a Kirkcaldy ship with a great number of old national records on board was shipwrecked and the records which had been sent away for safety were lost, which accounts for the scarcity of Deeds now to be found.

Register of Testaments 1549-1800 Commissariat Record of St Andrews
LESSELLS Andrew tenant in Binhead par of Burntisland = 3 March 1697
LESSELLS Andrew in Argath see Drummond Elspet - Drummond Elspet spouse to Andrew Lesalls in Argath par of Lundie = 6 August 1613
LESSELLS Arthur in Fifthfeild par of Kilrennie = 8 March 1653
LESSELLS Catherine widow in Portmoak = 24 October 1616
LESSELLS Catherine spouse to James Fernie in Easter Fernie par of Monineall = 9 July 1662
LESSELLS George in Baglillie par of Dysart = 9 October 1686
LESSELLS Isobel spouse to David Hay in Nethertoun par of Orwall = 25 October 1675
LESSELLS Janet sometime spouse to umquhile Andrew Gullen mailmaker in St Andrews = 28 November 1606
LESSELLS Janet relict of Alexander Beattie burges of Anstruther Easter = 25 May 1614
LESSELLS John in Mains of Kellie see Black Janet - Black Janet spouse to John Lessells in Mains of Kellie par of Carnbee = 9 December 1636
LESSELLS Margaret spouse of James Lundie in Pittenween = 4 August 1617
LESSELLS Peter in Greensyde par of Carnbee = 24 February 1606
LESSELLS Peter Flesher in Kilconquhar = 19 August 1653
LESSELLS Thomas in Drumblochran par of Cleisch = 27 August 1662
LESSELLS William in Capildra par of Auchterdira = 18 January 1614
LESSELLS William in Minarbo par of Crail = 17 April 1617
LESSALLIE Andrew servitour to Robert Lessallie in Firthfeild par of Kilrennie = 8 December 1634

(Reference Source Kirkcaldy Public Library publication *Register of Testaments 1549-1800 Commissariat Record of St Andrews LR 929-3 COM*)

Commissariat of Edinburgh [1601-1700]

LESSELS Alexander, burgess of Haddington = 17 December 1675

LESSELS Alexander, merchant, burgess of Edinburgh = 15 March 1686

LESSELS Alexander, merchant, burgess of Haddington. See Cockburn, Margaret.

LESSELS James, in Littill-Balquhomrie. See Lieburne, Eufame.

LESSELS James, in Pitlochrie. See Low, Margaret

LESSELS Janet, servitrix to John Arthur, writer in Edinburgh = 16 April 1646

LESSELS John, portioner of Innerdowat, Fife = 18 February 1603

LESSELS John, in Balgothrie, par. Of Leslie, Fife = 10 February 1604

LESSELS John, late provost of Haddington = 28 June 1692 and 14 June 1700

LESSELS Margaret, sometime spouse to William Broun, in Wester - Pitcorthie, par. Of Carnebie, Fife = 02 February 1604

LESSELS Margaret, lawful daughter to the deceased James L., in-dweller in Berwick = 15 December 1697

(Reference source FHC LDS publication found on film of Commissariat of Edinburgh)

Register of Deed 1698 Scottish Record Office

- Abbotshall = Sir Andrew RAMSAY of patron of the parish church of Abbotshall (vacant stipened) = RD 4/83/226
- Kirkcaldy = Kircalie, Kirkaldie, Kirkaldie, Kirkaldy, Kirkcaldie
 - Elizabeth LESSELS relict of William Dauglas of Kirkness R D 4/83/884
 - John LESSELS in Easter Fernie RD 2/81/2/600
- Kirkcaldy = Presbytery of united with Dunfermline RD 3/90/55. 154
- Dunfermline = Presbyteries of Kirkcaldy and RD 3/90/55, 154

Scottish Records Office = Index to the register of Deeds

LESSELS (Lessells)

- Andrew (?LESSLLE) in Binhead = RD 4/88. fo:60
- Janet LESSELS spouse of John YOUNG on Over Grange of Kinghorne Wester = RD 3/84. fo 974
- Robert LESSELS in Passcarmile = RD 3/95, fo 552

Sometimes LESSELS has been found under the different spelling of LESLIE so search: Lesslie, Lessly, see LESLIE = LESLIE see Lesle, Lesley, Lesly, Lesslie, Lesslle, Lessly

LESSELS genealogy

- John LESSELS and Margaret WHYT = **weblink** "Lessels Whyt 1637 Scotland"
- Andrew LESSELS and Elizabeth MOOREHEAD = **weblink** "Lessels Moorehead 1676 Scotland"
- John LESSELS and Christian BROWN = **weblink** "Lessels Brown 1708 Scotland"
- Patrick LESSELS and Isabel WATSON = **weblink** "Lessels Watson about 1708 Scotland"
- John LESSELS 1688 and Geils HENDERSON 1688 chart 512-513 = **weblink** "Lessels Henderson about 1703 Scotland"

18TH CENTURY 1700-1799

Bonnie Prince Charlie - Charles Edward Louis Philip Casimir STUART 1720-88

The Kingdom of Scotland ended with the House of Stewart. The last reigning sovereign was James VI 1567-1625. On the 19th August 1745 in an attempt to regain the throne for the

House of Stuart. Prince Charles Edward son of the exiled James III, raised his father's standard at Glenfinnan. He was joined by 700 Cameron's and 3,000 Macdonalds, and this marked the beginning of what is known as the '45 Jacobite rebellion.

Although the army of Highlanders clansmen rose to around 9,000 at one time and they marched to within 130 miles of London, the rising ended in a devastating defeat at Culloden Moor on 16th April 1746. The Prince spent the next five months in flight through the Highlands hills and the Hebrides, until he was rescued by a French ship on 20th September 1746. The story of that year has become one of the most romantic episodes in Scottish history.

The ruling dynasty in England and France during this period were:

1702-1714 Anne (sister of Mary II) England

1714-1727 George I (son of Sophia, granddaughter of James I) England

1727-1760 George II (son of George I) England

1760-1820 George III (grandson of George II) England

1643-1715 Louis XIV (son of Louis XIII) France

1715-1774 Louis XV (great-grandson of Louis XIV) France

1774-1792 Louis XVI (grandson of Louis XV) France

1793=1795 Louis XVII (son of XVI) France

1792-1795 National Convention France

1795-1799 Directory France

1799-1804 Napoleon Bonaparte France

(Source: The Wordsworth Handbook of Kings and Queens by John E Morby 1989 plus New Encyclopedia)

Register of Testaments 1549-1800 Commissariat Record of St Andrews

- FERGUSON Robert of Raith par of Abbotshall = 20 May 1782
- LESSELLS Janet who was spouse to David Carmichael tenant in Byrhills par of St Andrews = 5 September 1754
- FERGUSON Robert of Raith par of Abbotshall = 20 May 1782
- Lots of other Ferguson's etc.

(Reference source Kirkcaldy Public Library publication Register of Testaments 1549-1800 Commissariat Record of St Andrews LR 929-3 COM)

The RAITH Estate has been held by the FERGUSONS since 1707

Burgess Roll of St Andrews Fife Scotland 1700-1750

LESSELLS William second son of James L carpenter burgess 21-2-1708

In the Burgh Records of Kirkcaldy the family name only appears twice in 1719 and 1735 for a Patrick LESSELLS.

LESSELS genealogy

- John LESSELS and Christian BROWN = **weblink** "Lessels Brown 1708 Scotland"
- Patrick LESSELS and Isabel WATSON = **weblink** "Lessels Watson about 1708 Scotland"
- Thomas LESSELS and Margaret HENDERSON = **weblink** "Lessels Henderson about 1709 Scotland"
- John LESSELS 1688 and Geils HENDERSON 1688 chart 512-513 = **weblink** "Lessels Henderson about 1703 Scotland"
- John LESSELS 1704 and Margaret WATT 1714 chart 256-257 = **weblink** "Lessels Watt about 1732 Scotland"

- John LESSELS 1731-1804 and Christian GRAY 1736-1826 chart 128-129 = **weblink** "Lessels Gray 1760 Scotland"
- John LESSELS 1761-1826 and Mary CAIRNIE 1758-1825 chart 64-65 = **weblink** "Lessels Cairnie 1783 Scotland"
- John LESSELS 1784-1865 and Elizabeth Hamilton MURRAY 1789-1866 chart 32-33 = **weblink** "Lessels Murray 1804 Scotland"

19TH CENTURY 1800-1899

The ruling dynasty in England during this period were:

1760-1820 George III (grandson of George II) England

1820-1830 George IV (son of George III) England

1830-1837 William IV (brother of George IV) England

1837-1901 Victoria (niece of William IV) England

(Source: The Wordsworth Handbook of Kings and Queens by John E Morby 1989 plus New Encyclopedia)

Services of Heirs in Scotland 1700-1959 CD Volumes I-IV

Name of Person served = Distinguishing Particulars

LESSELLS John = at Raith to his father John LESSELLS Forester there – Heir in General – dated 13 September 1826

LESSELS James = Shoemaker Pittenwean, to William Brown, Slater, Anstruther – Heir Portioner General – dated 16 April 1826

LESSELS Martha (or HENDERSON) = Wife of G Lessels, Grieve at Inchry, to her Grandfather David ALLEN, Hosier, Paisley – Co-hr. of Prov. Genl.-15 March 1826

LESSELLS Thomas Shoemaker Kilgonquhar + Jack Thomas his grandson 1830-1839 Supplement

Fife Convicts transported 1752-1867 by A J Campbell 1996

Margaret LESSELS age 19 daughter of Andrew LESSELS mariner in Austuther, theft of money from the house of Alexander Lindsay (married to Sophia Dryburgh) maltman and servant to David ROGER brewer Anstruther Easter, PCC April 09 1828 14 years [AD14/28/257] Scottish records office AD14 Precongnition of evidence sent by the Sheriff to Crown Agent in Edinburgh in order for the case to be heard at a High Court of Justiciary. The sentence has been found from the JC11 minute books

LESSELS genealogy

- John LESSELS 1784-1865 and Elizabeth Hamilton MURRAY 1789-1866 chart 32-33 = **weblink** "Lessels Murray 1804 Scotland"
- John LESSELS 1809-1883 and Mary HENDERSON 1807-1858 chart 16-17 = **weblink** "Lessels Henderson 1829 Scotland".
- John LESSELS 1833-1914 and Margaret GILLIES 1835-1898 chart 8-9 = **weblink** "Lessels Gillies 1855 England".
- James Smith LESSELS 1865-1900 and Bertha MANSSEN 1878-1919 chart 4-5 = **weblink** "Lessels Manssen 1900 New Zealand"

20TH CENTURY 1900-1999

The ruling dynasty in England during this period were:

1837-1901 Victoria (niece of William IV) England
 1901-1910 Edward VII (son of Victoria) England
 1910-1936 George V (son of Edward VII) England
 1936 Edward VIII (son of George V) England
 1936-1952 George VI (brother of Edward VIII) England
 1952-current Elizabeth (daughter of George VI) England

(Source: *The Wordsworth Handbook of Kings and Queens* by John E Morby 1989 plus *New Encyclopedia*)

LESSELS genealogy

- James Smith LESSELS 1865-1900 and Bertha MANSSEN 1878-1919 chart 4-5 = **weblink** "Lessels Manssen 1900 New Zealand"

The remainder of this period's genealogy belongs to our parents, you and I and the different branches of the LESSELS family tree.

MISCELLANEOUS LESSELS INFORMATION

Transcribed from various sources

Kirkcaldy Parish Baptisms

1700 December 12 or 10		
Parents	Child	Witnesses
John LESSIE Christen HUTSON	Katharine	James LESSIE Robert LESSIE
1717 February 17		
James MILLER Janet LESSIE	Robert	Doctor Hay Alexander Campbell

(Reference source FHC LDS Film 1040186 Kirkcaldy Parish baptisms Item 2 OPR)

James LESSIE and Margaret LAING

1720 March 13		
James LESSIE Margaret LAING	James	Angus Nixon William Gray
1722 May 07		
James LESSIE Margaret LAING	Katherine	James Brown John Baston

(Reference source FHC LDS Film 1040186 Kirkcaldy Parish baptisms Item 2 OPR)

Margaret LESSIES/LESLEY/LESSIE and Duncan FORBES

1725 February 14		
Duncan FORBES Margaret LESLY	Agnes	?
1727 April 30		
Duncan FORBES Margaret LESSIES	Janet	Con? McGill John Mackie
1729 January 05		
Duncan FORBES Margaret LESSIE	?	Dr Robert Hay Da. Mapt mm?
1734 June 02		
Duncan FORBES Margaret LESSIE	Margaret	John Mackie Andrew Briggsen?

(Reference source FHC LDS Film 1040186 Kirkcaldy Parish baptisms Item 2 OPR)

Marriage Kirkcaldy Parish 1730 January 02

Joan LESSIE of Kirkcaldy Parish & Robert KILGOUR of Dysart Parish
1738 December 02

James NORGE and Christian LESSELS both in this parish (Kirkcaldy)
(Reference source FHC LDS Film 1040186 Kirkcaldy parish Item 2 OPR)

Baptism Kirkcaldy Parish 1743 February 07

Christian LESLE daughter to Alexander LESLE soldier and Mary Drummond his spouse.
1742 January 17

John LESLIE son to John Leslie SMITH and Guzel Humerpy of this parish (Kirkcaldy) [death
was also registered]

(Reference source FHC LDS Film 1040186 Kirkcaldy Parish baptisms Item 2 OPR)

Death Kirkcaldy Parish 1741 September 02?

Robert LESLES son to John LESSES Wright.

(Reference source FHC LDS Film 1040186 Kirkcaldy parish Item 2 OPR)

SEARCH AGAIN (Reference source FHC LDS Film 1040186 Kirkcaldy Parish baptisms Item
2 OPR)