Notes on the family of Lascelles, lords of Forgan or Naughton

Alan I de Lascelles appears to have held lands in Fife from about the 1160s (RRS ii, nos. 28, 137; St And. Lib., 137), but no statement is made at this point which lands they were. He was married to Juliana de Somerville. No charters of his survive. Either Alan I or Alan II appears among other Fife notables as witness to the agreement between the céli De and priory of St Andrews in 1198x99 (St And. Lib., 318-19).

Alan II de Lascelles, son of Alan I and Juliana, appears to have married Amable and received the lands of Forgan or Naughton through her. This is suggested by the grant made by Alan II, with the consent of his wife Amable, of the church of Forgan to St Andrews Priory, between Oct. 1199 and 7 July 1202. (St A. Lib., 260). Alan was still alive after 1204, as he witnessed a charter of Earl Malcolm I of Fife (SHS Misc. iv, no. 8).

Duncan de Lascelles was the uncle of Margerie de Lascelles and thus the brother of Alan II (St And. Lib., 340-1). He granted two acres in the territory of Seggie, Leuchars parish, Fife, to St Andrews Priory, for the soul of his wife C. (St And. Lib., 275).

This suggests that Alan de Lascelles received Seggie from Ness son of William, lord of Leuchars, in the 1160s or early 1170s, and that his son, Alan II, then went on to marry the heiress of the neighbouring estate, Forgan/ Naughton. This division between two groups of landholdings in northeast Fife was evident at various times in the thirteenth century.

While Duncan obviously retained some of the lands in Leuchars parish, he spent most of his time in England. On 1 Dec. 1208, Duncan de Lascelles and Christina, his wife, daughter of Waltheof son of Gospatrick, came to an agreement with Jedburgh Abbey in the English king’s court at Carlisle, regarding the advowson of the church of Bassenthwaite, Cumberland, which Waltheof had granted to the canons (CDS i, no. 429; Pipe Rolls, 8 John, Rot. 5). Christina must have been the daughter of the Waltheof son of Gospatrick, lord of Inverkeithing and Dalmeny, the church of which he also granted to Jedburgh (NAS RH 6/34).

Before this, however, Duncan de Lascelles was married to Christiana, daughter of Uhtred son of Halden, lord of Catterlen in Cumberland. In 1202, Christiana of Windsor granted to God and the church of St Mary Magdalene of Lanercost, for the health of King William and for the soul of her brother Walter of Windsor, two bovates of land in ‘Patestun’,
which was evidently in Scottish territory (*Lanercost Cart.*, no. 82). There is no sign of Duncan in this charter, however. Duncan and Christiana, apparently this Christiana, appear in the Pipe Rolls between 18 May 1200 and 22 May 1202 in respect of ‘Boultona’ in Cumberland (as in Boltongate and Bolton Low Houses) (*CDS*, i, nos. 308, 322; Pipe Rolls 2 John Rot. 17d; 3 John Rot. 17d.). Duncan was still probably married to Christiana of Windsor in the seventh and eighth regnal years for John (19 May 1205 to 30 May 1207) (*CDS*, i, nos. 356, 379, 384, 392; Pipe Rolls, 7 John, rot. 25; 8 John, rots. 5, 8; ). By December, 1208, however, he was married to Christiana daughter of Waltheof. Duncan and Christiana of Windsor evidently had a daughter, also named Christiana (*CDS*, i, no. 490; Pipe Rolls, 13 John, Rot. 1).

Duncan de Lascelles witnessed charters of Robert II de Vaux, lord of Gilsland in Cumbria, to Lanercost Priory, dating to 1205 x 1237, and possibly before Duncan’s English lands were sold in 1211 (*Lanercost Cart.*, nos. 24, 25, 26, 27). Duncan was evidently in debt to Jewish lenders in respect of Christiana’s brother Walter’s estates, and William Brewer paid these off but kept the wardship of the lands as late as 1223 (*Barrow, Anglo-Norman Era*, 115-16; *CDS*, i, nos. 490, 491, 867). Duncan was still alive on 20 Feb. 1227 (N.S.) (*CDS*, i, no. 965), but perhaps was dead by 1228x9 (*CDS*, i, no. 1023).

Other members of the family are apparent by around 1200. Duncan de Lascelles, Henry de Lascelles (perhaps for Harvey) and Richard de Lascelles witnessed Alan II’s grant of the church of Forgan alongside such Fife noteworthies as Thomas of Kilmeron, William of Wyville, Constantine of Lochore and Waldino (Waldeve?) of Denmuir. Duncan’s grant to St Andrews was witnessed by Harvey de Lascelles and his son Richard.

Richard de Lascelles, presumably the son of Harvey, was clearly from a cadet line of the family, which would be perhaps most easily explained if Harvey was a younger brother of Alan II and Duncan. Richard granted 3 acres in Friarton, in Forgan/Naughton, to St Andrews Priory. It is clear that he was not an heir of Alan II and thus not the lord of Naughton. This is further suggested by the attestations of John de Haya and Richard of Moray. Harvey de Lascelles also had a son, Adam, who witnessed a charter of Duncan of Inchyra, 1206 x 21 (*St And. Lib.*, 393).

Similarly, a probable cousin of Richard, Alan son of Walter de Lascelles, gave 2 acres in the parish of Naughton to St Andrews Priory, perhaps in the 1200s or 1210s. (*St And. Lib.*, 274-5). That this was given with the
consent of his wife suggests that he may have married into the family of lesser landholders in the area. Harvey and Richard de Lascelles witnessed this charter.

Alan II de Lascelles would appear to have had two daughters, Juliana and Margeria. Juliana was apparently not the daughter of Alan I, because then she would have been perhaps an heiress for Seggie land but not Naughton land. Juliana married John de Haya, and they jointly granted to Lindores Abbey all right that they had in the toft (in Perth?) that Alan de Lascelles (Alan II?) sold to Theodoric the dyer of Perth, in a charter that was composed before 18 April 1241 (Lind. Cart., no. 66).

John de Haya was a son of William de Haya, lord of Erroll (d. circa 1201), and a younger brother of David de Haya (d. 1237 x 41). He was sheriff of Fife in the period of 1227-8 - 1233 x 4 and sheriff of Perth in 1226 -28 and again in 1246. John de Haya ‘of Naughton’ granted a ‘yare’ in the Tay and a toft in The Gauldry in Forgan parish, for the soul of his late spouse, Juliana de Lascelles, and with the consent of his son and heir, Peter de Haya. This charter is hard to date but appears to have been granted in the 1220s or 1230s (C.A. Rent., no. 67).

Margeria was a daughter and heiress of Alan II of Lascelles. Margeria was married to Richard of Moray, who witnessed Richard de Lascelles’ grant to St Andrews Priory, perhaps in the 1230s (St And. Lib., 274). Duncan de Lascelles was certainly her uncle (St And. Lib., 340-1). In 1260, their son, Alexander of Moray, inspected and upheld the grant made by Duncan of 2 acres in Seggie. Margeria was a widow by October 1266, when she confirmed the donation of the church of Forgan, made by Alan II in 1199x1202, specifying that it also included the chapel of Naughton and a carucate of land (St And. Lib., 109). Perhaps around the same time, as she was also in her ‘legal widowhood’, Margeria de Lascelles, with the consent of her son Sir Alexander of Moray, granted 20s. from her vill of Baledmond in Forgan parish (Inchcolm Chrs., no. 28). These documents make clear that Margeria was indeed exercising lordship over Forgan/ Naughton as well as (parts of?) Seggie.

In a charter dating to between 31 Aug. 1244 and Oct. 1266, Peter de Haya and Margeria de Lascelles, ‘by their common wish and consent’, confirmed the donation of Forgan church to St Andrews ‘which Alan de Lascelles son of Alan de Lascelles granted’ (St And. Lib., 108). Adam of

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1 R(obert?), abbot of Dunfermline, granted to R. of Moray son of Murdoch son of Alexander of Moray his land of ‘Kyndun’ next to Dingwall in Ross, but this is just as likely to apply to Abbot Robert of Crail (1314-28), Ralph of Greenlaw (1275-96) as it is to Robert ‘de Keldeleth’ (1240-52).
Bassenthwaite witnesses this charter, suggesting the further link with the Cumberland estates of Duncan de Lascelles and Christina daughter of Waltheof. In any event, this joint confirmation suggests that Forgan was split between two lines based on Juliana and Margeria.

In any event, nothing more is heard from the Hay side, with the most likely explanation being that Peter de Haya died without issue. Alexander of Moray, held his court at Newton in the parish of Forgan. He also held land in Seggie, as he granted an acre there to St Andrews Priory in augmentation of the two acres that Duncan de Lascelles gave. Did he hold his court at Newton because the barony was still split with the Hay family at Naughton (as the title John de Haya of Naughton suggests)?

**Other family members:**

Malcolm de Lascelles witnessed a charter of William I to Hugh son of Hugh of Benholm, 1200 x 03, although this could be a mistake for Malcolm of Leslie, i.e. Malcolm son of Bertolf (RRS ii, no. 428).

A later Richard de Lascelles, perhaps a son of the first, witnessed charters of Roger de Quincy, earl of Winchester and constable of Scotland, Simon son of Simon of Kinnear, Alexander of Moray and Margerie de Lascelles (St And. Lib, 109, 292, 340), in the 1250s and 1260s. De Quincy and Kinnear were neighbouring Fife landholders.


James de Lascelles witnessed two charters of Alexander Comyn, earl of Buchan, suggesting he may have been in his household (St And. Lib., 282-3; NAS GD 52/388, 1244 x 89).

Sir Thomas de Lascelles witnessed a 1241 charter of Robert de Brus (Lind. Cart., no. 41). Sir Thomas de Lascelles witnessed an agreement between Lanercost Priory and Roald son of Alan and his wife Isabel, 20 Aug. 1252 (Lanercost Cart., no. 268). It seems most likely that Thomas was an heir, perhaps a son, of Duncan de Lascelles and Christiana daughter of Waltheof son of Gospatrick. Thomas de Lascelles died
between circa 20 Jan. 1259 and circa 10 Sept. 1260 (CDS, i, nos. 2144, 2203).

Ermina, daughter and heiress of Thomas de Lascelles and Christiana (daughter of Christiana daughter of Odard) of Ireby, married John of Seton, who confirmed a grant by Christiana’s father William of Ireby to Lanercost Priory on 3 May 1273 (Lanercost Cart., no. 305). Christiana married Robert de Brus (V), lord of Annandale, on that day.

A later Sir Alan de Lascelles witnessed a grant by Matilda of Moulton, lady of Gilsland, Cumberland, to Peter of Hayton son of Peter of Talkin (Lanercost Cartulary, ed. John M. Todd. Surtees Soc., no. 203. 1997, no. A4)

Serlo de Lascelles restored the lands of ‘Ryhinche’ in the parish of Forgan in Fife to Prior John and the convent of St Andrews, with two friends (sociis), William of Dairsie and Thomas of Auchtermuchty, 3 Oct. 1288 (St And. Lib., 346).

John de Lascelles and Ralph de Lascelles of the county of Fife both did homage to Edward I in 1296 (CDS ii, p. 204, 205, 213) and the family name continued in Fife for the rest of the Middle Ages. They were, of course, descendants of the cadet branches represented by Richard and Alan III in the early thirteenth century, but they would no longer hold the major estate of Forgan or Naughton and were lesser gentry (Black, Surnames).