

Sinclair of Dryden - a cadet of St Clair of Roslin from Dryden near Roslin in Midlothian Scotland

William Sinclair 1st of Dryden (b.c1385 – bef. 1468) - third son of Henry St Clair 1st Earl of Orkney & Jean Haliburton . (Note 1)

m. Agnes probably Agnes Chisholm (Note 2)

A1 **Laurence de Driden of Stirling & Perth - heir of Dryden** oldest son (bc.1410/15 – d.1467 before his father) Keeper of the King's accounts and auditor under the

Comptroller of the royal household, Burgess of Perth - (Note 3)

m. unknown. Possibility of a daughter of John de Fotheringham, Burgess of Perth (Note 4)

B1 Agnes Dridane of Perth (bc.1440-1470) daughter & heiress of Laurence Dridane. . (Note 5)

m. Stephen Jafray Burgess of Perth (Note 6)

A2 **Edward Sinclair 2nd of Dryden** (d. after July 1496) 2nd son (Note 7)

m1. unknown – probably a Crichton & possibly a daughter of Robert Crichton of Sanquhar in Dumfries & Kinnoull in Perth. (Note 8)

B1. **Sir John Sinclair 3rd of Dryden** (bc.1455 – 1535) - Courtier & ambassador for James IV of Scotland & his wife Queen Margaret Tudor . (Note 9)

m. (before 1496) Katherine Ramsay – daughter of William Ramsay of Polton, a cadet of Ramsay of Dalhousie (Note 10)

C1 **Edward Sinclair 4th of Dryden** (d.1558-59) – son & heir of Sir John (Note 11)

m1. Margaret Ramsay – daughter of David Ramsay of Bangour (Note 12)

D1 Marion Sinclair (d. after 1564) only daughter and heir to Margaret Ramsay's portion of the Bangour estates (Note 12)

m. John Henderson (b.1524 Fordell Fifeshire) of Bangour, Little Fordell & Dryden - son of George Henderson & Katherine Adamson (Note 13)

E1 James Henderson ("apparent of Dryden" 1588)

m2 (before 27 September 1529) Janet Henryson (Henderson) (d. after 1536) (Note 14)

D2 Helen Sinclair (d. July 1569) (Note 15)

m. Dr Edward Henryson - (Note 16)

Edward Henryson married 2ndly after 1569 to Helen Swinton (her 2nd marriage) and had two children

E1 Elizabeth Henryson - also married her 1st cousin

m. John Nicholson Advocate & Commissary of Edinburgh, Lord of session, who acquired Dryden & Lasswade in 1591. (Note 17)

E2 Sir Thomas Henryson Lord Chesters, Lord of Session (d.1638)

D3 Margaret Sinclair – possibly of this family (Note 18)

m1.(before 1545) John Sinclair of Herdmanston (d. before 1566) – son of Beatrice Renton (below) & therefore a stepbrother to any daughter of Edward Sinclair of Driden by his previous wife Janet Henryson.

E1 Sir William Sinclair of Herdmanston (d.1594) **Sinclair of Herdmanston continued**

E2-7 John, Oliver, Alexander, Beatrice, Margaret & Jane Sinclair

m2. (1567) James Ormiston of that ilk – executed 1573 for his part in the 1567 murder of Lord Darnley, the Queen's husband.

m3 (between 1536 & 1538/39) Beatrice Rentoun (Renton) daughter of David Renton of Billie - Widow of William Sinclair of Herdmanston (d.1530) & divorced from William Crichton of Drylaw because of adultery with his brother James Crichton of Cranston-riddell Captain of Edinburgh Castle. (Note 19)

D4 **John Sinclair 5th of Dryden** (Note 20)

m. (1557) Catherine Crechtoun (Crichton) - daughter of Patrick Crechtoun of Lugton.

E1. **John Sinclair 6th of Dryden** – gave charter of Dryden & Lasswade to John Nicholson 1591 (as below in red) (Note 21)

m. (1584) Margaret Giffert (Gifford) daughter of James Giffert of Schirefhal (Sheriffhall) (Note 22)

F1. **John Sinclare** – fiar of Dryden, son and apparent heir – Discharge & renunciation by John Sinclair younger of Dryden (Note 23)

F2. James Sinclair – of this generation (Note 24)

C2 John Sincler (d. before 1532) (Note 25)

m. Beatrice Folkert (d.1535) – daughter of John Focart of Focartoun (Fokerton) (Note 26)

D1 Edward Sincler (d.1549) (Note 27)

m. Helen Grenelaw (Greenlaw) (Note 28)

D3 William Singcler (d.c1579) (Note 29)

m. Agnes Bosuell (Boswell/Bothwell) – daughter of Francis Bothwell (Lord of Session & merchant) & Katherine Bellendine (Note 30)

E1 Francis Sinclair (Note 31)

- C3 Helen Sinclair – probably of this generation (Note 32)
m. John Lowis of Mener (Manor)
- B2 **William Sinclair of Dryden** - Courtier to James IV & Queen Margaret Tudor from 1490-1514 (note 33) *possibly William Dryden of Walton Cumberland*
- B4 Robert Sinclair (d. before 1506) (Note 34)
- B5 George Sinclair (d. after 1527) – rector of Aberfoyle in the diocese of Dunblane (Note 35)
- B6 Master William Sinclair of Banks of Row Menteith - confusion over the date of his death, probably 1513 (Note 36)
m. daughter Drummond – unnamed 3rd daughter of James Drummond of Coldoch and Ballochard (Note 37)
- C1 Margaret Sinclair – probably of this family (Note 38)
m1 unknown Chisholm (Note 39)
D1 Elizabeth Crichton
m2. Robert Row – son & heir of John Row of Dunblane.
D2 Robert Row of Callentoyes
m. (about 1557) Marion Edmonstone - possibly dau of James Edmonstone son of Sir William Edmonstone of Duntreith. James Edmonstone was granted Wester Row in 1540. The Edmonstone of Duntreath family descended from Murdoch Stewart, Earl of Albany.
- C2 Edward Sinclair (d.1580) 1st of Galivmore and Glassingall-beg (Note 40)
m1. (before 1546) Elizabeth Littil (d by 1579) (Note 41)
D1 William Sinclair - 2nd of Galivmor and Glasinal (k.1593 feud with the Stirlings) - he married his cousin Beatrix Stirling (above)
m1. Beatrix (or Elizabeth) Stirling – as a daughter of William Stirling 1st of Ardoch & a cousin - below
E1 William Sinclair 3rd of Galivmor and Glassingal (d.1598 Testaments of Edinburgh) wounded in feud with Stirlings 1593
m1. Margaret Chisholm (d.1581 -Testaments of Edinburgh)
F1 Henry Sinclair 4th of Glassingal (d.1654)
m. Helen Chisholm - daughter of Alexander, parson of Comrie
F1 James Sinclair
G1 James Sinclair (d. 1655)
m. Jean Chisholm – daughter of Walter Chisholm Baillie of Dunblane
H1 John Sinclair - 5th of Glassingal - heir to grandfather's brother Henry Sinclair
H2 Jean Sinclair
F3 Margaret Sinclair – possibly of this descent
m1. John Grant of Carron murdered 1628 by Grant of Ballindalloch
G1 John Grant 4th of Carron
m2 (1628-31) Gregor McGregor, chief of Clan MacGregor
m2. Mary Livingstone (d.1636) – daughter of Sir John Livingstone of Abercorn
E2 Edward Sinclair (k.1593 by Archibald Stirling of Keir)
E3 George Sinclair (k.1593 by Archibald Stirling of Keir)
E4 James Sinclair - advocate, portioner of Feddals
m. Isabel Borthwick, relict of Mr. Robert Crichton of Ellioch, Lord Advocate.
E4 Henry Sinclair - "old Hendry" Sinclair – probably of this generation
m2.? Margaret Chisholm – testament 22 Nov 1581, sometime spouse of William Sinclair of Galwelmoir, indweller of Dunblane
D2 James Sinclair of Banks (d.1595) – possibly of this generation
E1 James Sinclair of Banks (Testaments of Edinburgh – James Sinclair of Banks, parish of Kilmadok, Sheriffdom of Perth 15 Feb 1603))
m. Annabel Forrester (d.1619 testaments of Edinburgh) – who married 2ndly Thomas Rollok son of David Rollok & Marion Livingstone
E2 Master John Sinclair, clergyman at Kilbryde 1576 – possibly of this family
- B7 Henry Sinclair of Ardoch, Menteith – probably of this family (Note 42)
m. Beatrice Chisholm - daughter of Edmond Chisholm of Cromlix & Janet Drummond (his 2nd marriage after Margaret Sinclair of Dryden) - widow of James Murray 3rd of Strowan
C1 Marion Sinclair – heiress of her mother's lands of Ardoch
m. (before 1542) William Stirling of Glassingal & Dachlewne

- D1 Beatrix Stirling
m. William Sinclair 2nd of Galwaldmuir and Glassingal
- D2 William Stirling – rector of Aberfoyle in 1566 & 1593.
- p2. unknown - same mother of both these illegitimate sons
- B8 Mr Hector Sinclair (d. after 1554) – illegitimate son, procurator & clergyman (Note 43)
- B9 **Patrick Sinclair of Woodhouslee** (d.1545) of Spottis Kirkcudbrightshire & Woodhouslee Midlothian (Note 44) - illegitimate son
m1. (before 1509) Margaret Gordon (b.c1475) dau of John Gordon of Lochinvar Dumfries - her previous marriage to Bartholomew Glendinning (Note 45)
- C1. John Sinclair (d. before 1564) (Note 46) - illegitimate son
m. Isobelle Hamilton daughter of James Hamilton of Innerwick, son of James Hamilton & Helen Home the Step-daughter of Patrick Sinclair. - as below
- D1. Isobel Sinclair - heiress of half of Spotts (Kingsgrange) in the Lordship of Galloway in the Parish of Urr, Stewartry of Kirkcudbright
m. (before 1564) James Hamilton of Bothwellhaugh (d. 1613) - son of David Hamilton of Bothwellhaugh & Christian Schaw -
- E1. Alison Hamilton
m. Gavin Hamilton (d. 1614) - son of John Hamilton of Orbiston. promoted to Bishop of Galloway 1606.
- D2. Alison Sinclair - d. 1618 heiress of half of Spotts (Kingsgrange) in the Lordship of Galloway
m. (before 1564) David Hamilton of Monkton Mains, later of Bothwellhaugh (d.1613) brother of James Hamilton of Bothwellhaugh - above
- E1. David Hamilton the younger. 1601 Armed assault on the tenants of Woodhousele
F1. James Hamilton - heir in 1643 of Alison Sinclair, his grandmother of half part in Spotts called Kingsgrange in Galloway
- E2. Andrew Hamilton – murdered by Hugh Hamilton of Creichness - son of Alexander Hamilton of Innerwick & Isobel Home
- m2. (after 1513) Elizabeth Stewart widow of Mungo Home of Coldonknowis - (illegitimate but later legitimised) d. after 1545 - dau of James Stewart Earl of Buchan
Elizabeth Stewart's Children from her previous marriage – step-children to Patrick Sinclair of Dryden
m. (before 1507) Mungo Home of Cowdenknowes
- C1 *Helen Home*
m. James Hamilton of Innerwick (d.1547 Battle of Pinkie)
D1 *Alexander Hamilton of Innerwick (d.1559)*
D2 *Isobel Hamilton*
m. John Sinclair of Woodhousele – as above at Note 47
D3 *James Hamilton of Westhall*
- C2 *John Home of Cowdenknowes & Ersiltoun (d. by 1573)*
m. Margaret Ker – daughter of Andrew Ker & Agnes Crichton of Cranston-riddell (daughter of Patrick Crichton Jnr of Cranston-riddell)
- A3 Alexander Sinclair (a.1455 & 1485) (Note 47)
- A4 Thomas de Driden – Sub Prior of Arbroath Abbey in 1455 (Note 48)
- A5 John Dryden - chaplain born in Scotland dwelling in England in 1481. (Note 49)
- A6 Margaret Sinclair of Dryden (b. bef.1440)
m1. (before 1464) John Ramsay of Corstoun – a cadet of Ramsay of Carnock & Pitcruvie (Note 50)
John Ramsay had a son by a previous marriage or partnership with Janet Napier – who was Sir John Ramsay of Balmain & Trarinzeane (1464 -1513 battle of Flodden)
Lord Bothwell 1485-88 (Note 51)
- m2. Edmund Chisholm of Cromlix Perthshire - son of Robert Chisholm of Chisholm of Roxburghshire & Marion Douglas (daughter of Sir William Douglas of Drumlanrig, the brother of Archibald Douglas of Cavers) (Note 52)
- B2 James Chisholm - chaplain to King James III Bishop of Dunblane.
C1 Malcolm Chisholm – illegitimate son
C2 John Chisholm – illegitimate son - probably the John Chisholm Arch Deacon of Dunblane (d.1542)
- B3 Thomas Chisholm (Note 53)
C1-3 3 daughters

Notes:

1. William Sanctlar of Dridane is inarguably a son from the Sinclair of Roslin family. Later seals of his son Edward display the engrailed cross of the Sinclairs, confirming that William is from a legitimate family line. (Scottish National Archives Ref: GD18/429 "7 July 1496 Charter by Edward Sinclair of Dridene in favour of John Sinclair his son" seal attached. Appearing as a different person to William the 3rd Earl of Orkney together in charters and having a different wife, demonstrates he can't be confused with that Earl. Being born a little earlier and before 1390s makes him the probable son of Henry the 1st Earl of Orkney. There is a William listed as that Earl's 3rd son, amongst 11 children born before about 1400. This William Sinclair is mentioned as visiting England with an older brother in 1405 – meaning he most likely was born before 1390.

A charter by Archibald Earl of Douglas dated c.1410 [National Archives of Scotland GD10/11] was witnessed by William de St Clair & the identification of other names confirms a close relationship to the Sinclair of Roslin family. The first of the witnesses was "*Sir William de Douglas, the granter's nephew*", identifiable as William Douglas lord of Nithesdale whose sister Egidia Douglas married Henry Sinclair 2nd Earl of Orkney in 1407; Henry Sinclair being the oldest brother of William Sinclair of Dryden.

John St Clair the 2nd son was granted possessions on the St Clair Roslin estates of Loganhouse, etc in 1411 by his brother Henry St Clair the 2nd Earl of Orkney. Dryden as part of the Roslin estates granted to Sir William St Clair at a similar date (perhaps a little later) is further evidence that this William was the 3rd St Clair brother.

A Court of Sessions case of 1609 between Henderson and Sinclair outlines the family descent from William St Clair of Dryden, when contesting the inheritance of the St Clair of Dryden estates of Lasswade, Dryden and Piccars. "*Marion Sinclair ... only daughter & heir of Edward Sinclair of Drydane and Margaret Ramsay. John Sinclair his father who was heir and successor to Edward Sinclair ... which Edward was heir and successor to Sir William Sinclair his father, party contractor.*"

"Sir" William St Clair is first known by the name of Dryden in 1444, meaning he would have been granted Dryden from the Roslin Sinclairs before that time. He died between 1464 – 1469 & must have been close to 80.

"16 July 1444 – Instrument narrating that Robert Earl of Mar and Garyach and Lord Erskine, offered to William, Earl of Orkney.. would complete all agreements made between the said Earls and Robert Lile of Duchquhale [Duchal]" Witnesses William Sanctlar of Dryden. National Archives of Scotland Ref: GD124/1 Papers of the Erskine Family, Earls of Mar and Kellie.

" 14 May 1428 - Charter by Henry [Wardlaw], Bishop of St Andrews, in favour of William Stclar and Agnes, his spouse, of third part of sixth part of town of Leswade [Lasswade]" – Witnesses include Sir Robert Dryden, rector of Kinnetles. - National Archives of Scotland Ref:GD18/419.

The Bishop of St Andrews & founder of the University of St Andrews, Henry Wardlaw (according to Burns in his "History of Scottish Churchman" as a kinsman to Henry de Driden) grants William Sinclair & his wife Agnes the Laswade lands in 1428 – & that property descends through the Sinclair of Dryden family until 1591. The Manor house of Dryden itself seems to have been held by Sinclair of Roslin as the superior Lordship during this time, but its use & occupation must have been granted to Sinclair of Dryden at a time before 1444 when the family is first named as "de Driden". The Dryden lands also stayed in possession of the Sinclair of Dryden family until 1591 and then with descendants of the family, the Nicolsons, for a further 95 years.

The 10 acres of land in Pentland (referred to as Piccars, Paradyce or Paradise – now within Loanhead - is documented as passing from William Sinclair to his 2nd son Edward Sinclair of Dryden in 1455, while being witnessed by another son Alexander. It is then passed on by Edward to his son & heir Sir John Sinclair of Dryden in 1496 – National Archives of Scotland ref: GD/18429. These land documents confirm that the ancestor of the Sinclairs of Dryden is William Sinclair and his wife Agnes. Both William Earl of Orkney and William Sinclair (of Dryden) are identified separately in the confirming charter of 1457 – pointing toward William Sinclair being the youngest son of Henry the first Earl of Orkney.

2. Agnes, wife of William Sinclair. "25 July 1468 - Patrick, Bishop of St Andrews, grants Agnes Sinclair, relict of William Sinclair & Edward Sinclair her son, - 4th & 6th parts of Lasswade for their lifetimes." National Archives of Scotland GD18/426

The wife of William St Clair of Dryden was possibly Agnes Chisholm based on the seal of her son Edward that adds what might be a boar's head to the arms of Sinclair.

The History of the Chisholms by Alexander Mackenzie from pages 27 details how the Chisholm family married into descendants of Malise Earl of Strathearn and were allied with many of the same families as the St Clairs in the Caithness area – such as Fenton, Bisset & Haliburton.

William Sinclair's mother Jean Haliburton had a sister Margaret Haliburton had married Sir Robert Chisholm chief of Chisholm, closely linking the two families of Sinclair & Chisholm.

3. Lawrence de Driden. The name of William's oldest son is not known for certain. Laurence de Driden's name as "de Driden" would be explained if he was the heir of Dryden. The Exchequer Rolls have entries for Laurence de Driden as a "keeper" (Janitor in Latin) of the King's accounts from 1445 to 1467. He worked under Comptroller Robert Livingstone until the overthrow of that family by the King and Comptroller Livingstone's execution in 1450. Alexander Napier became the Comptroller and Laurence de Driden is mentioned as the keeper for him in the Exchequer Rolls in the Custumars accounts for Dundee for 1449-1450.

James II was resident mainly at Stirling Castle and in 1460 Laurence de Driden was granted a house in Stirling (Exchequer Rolls) which was probably the now tenement described in 1481 in the *Registrum Monasterii St Marie de Cambuskenneth A.D. 1147-1535* that mentions an old school belonging to the Monastery of Cambuskenneth near Stirling; "...lying in the vennel of the blessed Mary (St Mary's Vennel) on the east side of the same (school) which was **once** Laurencii Dridane's from the north side of a tenement of a certain Walter Galbraith and on the south side of the king's street..."

In 1450 Laurence de Driden granted land in St Andrews to his father's cousin Henry de Driden doctor of Decrees (Muniments of the University of St Andrews UMUN/2/1/3/17/8. Henry de Driden was aggregating lands that he then granted to the Bishop of St Andrews James Kennedy, who then donated those lands for the foundation of St Salvators College at St Andrews University. The charter of donation by the Bishop of St Andrews is dated 28 August 1450 and one of the witnesses was Laurence de Driden – UMUN/2/1/3/1/17/9.

The information published elsewhere that Henry de Driden needed his "brother" Laurence de Driden's permission to donate the lands to St Andrews University is incorrect on all counts. The true story is that Henry de Driden asked for and received a letter of permission granted by James, Abbot of Holyrood to sell all his lands and tenements in St Andrews. UMUN/2/1/3/17/6. The reason was because Henry de Driden was still a canon of Holyrood an order that had an agreed rule of the abbey's members sharing all their possessions.

A charter of 9 November 1469 from Agnes Dryden to the Predicant Friars of Perth named her as the daughter of the "deceased" Laurence Dridane NAS GD79/1/28. That places the date of Laurence de Driden's death between 1467 and 1469. Another charter of 1483 by Agnes Dryden's son Thomas Joffrayson describes his mother Agnes Dridane as the daughter and heir of deceased Laurence Dridane Burgess of Perth NAS GD103/2/41, which establishes that Laurence de Driden had no sons and that his next oldest brother as his male heir would inherit the Dryden estates.

4. Laurence de Driden's wife is not mentioned in any discovered document. However John de Fotheringham Burgess of Perth, left a gift of annual rent to Laurence Driden in a charter dated June 1463 (Scottish National Archives GD79/5/22) Then on 4 February 1464 Laurence Driden gifted to the Brethren of Blackfriars an annual rent. (GD79/1/25). The combination of charters gives a hint of a family working together to set up a financial framework for the gift to the Friars. John de Fotheringham is known from surviving charters from 1429-63, meaning he could have been the father of Laurence's wife, estimated to have been born about 1420.

The History of the Chisholms also notes on page 38 that "Hugh Fraser, Thomas de Chisholme, and Lord William de Fodrynham, ... were apparently at that time the portioners of the lands of the Aird, Thomas of Chisholme, holding his share in right of his mother, Margaret de la Ard," It seems that not only did the Chisholm family have connections to the St Clairs of Roslin, but so too did the Fotheringham family.

If Laurence de Driden's mother was from the Chisholm family, whose main line had land holdings at Kinrossie near Perth, that might account for Laurence's relocation to that city?

5. Agnes Dryden. 9 November 1469 – Charter by Agnes Dryden daughter and heir of ... Laurence Dryden Burgess of Perth" National Archives of Scotland Ref: GD79/1/28 records of King James VI Hospital Perth. This is an indication that Laurence's inheritance in Perth was from his mother or by charters from the Bishop of St Andrews, and not a St Clair inheritance from Roslin or Dryden – as his daughter Agnes is his only named heir, she seems to be an only child.

6. "22 Jan 1482/83 Charter by Thomas Joffrayson, son and heir of Agnes Dridane, daughter and heir of deceased Laurence Dridane, Burgess of Perth, to Thomas Yhough, Burgess of Perth, of lands of Kirk Street Perth". National Archives of Scotland ref: GD103/2 Papers of the Society of Antiquities of Scotland.

Letters patent by James Giffarde of Sheriffhall of 1 Nov 1478 Thomas Joffray is a witness along with the Earl of Morton whose son John the 2nd Earl married Janet Crichton daughter of Patrick Crichton of Cranston-riddel. James Gifford married Elizabeth Crichton daughter of Sir James Crichton and James Gifford married her sister Elizabeth Crichton. It is believed that Edward Sinclair, Laurence de Driden's uncle below, married a Crichton from the same extended family.

7. Edward Sinclair of Dryden. The Book "St Clair of the Isles" assumes Edward St Clair of Dryden to be the son of William Sinclair 2nd Earl of Orkney by his 1st marriage to Elizabeth Douglas. However documents held in the National Archives of Scotland show Edward to be the 2nd son of another William Sinclair & his wife Agnes – argued here to be the 3rd son of Henry Sinclair the 1st Earl of Orkney.

"11 Feb 1449-50 Instrument of resignation by William Synclar and Agnes his spouse, of sixth part of town of Leswad in favour of Edward Synclar, his second son" - National Archives of Scotland. GD18/422

"10 Dec 1455 Charter by William Sinclar in favour of Edward Sinclar his son, of 10 acres of land, 7 thereof being arable, in lands of Pentland" - National Archives of Scotland. GD18/424

"5 Jan 1457 Charter by William, Earl of Orkney and Cathness, confirming [above charter of 1455] – witnesses include Edmund Cheshovme (Chisholm)" - National Archives of Scotland. (Edward appears to inherit Dryden as in 1469 as 2nd son – probably heir to his older brother who has no sons – Laurence Dryden of Perth?.)

"Edward Saintclair of Draidon Hunting with 'the Prince' in 1447 at Roslyn" - Hay, Genealogie of Saint-Clair of Rosslyn.

8. The unknown wife of Edward St Clair 2nd of Dryden. The seal of her son Sir John Sinclair of Dryden has the St Clair engrailed cross with a maternal difference at its centre. The nearest approximation is a lion rampant. Together with other close relationships with the Crichton of Cranston-Riddel as members of court and later intermarriages between the two families, the wife of Edward St Clair of Dryden is assumed to have been from the Crichton family. Given the Sinclair of Dryden associations with Perth Edward's oldest son Laurence de Driden was a burgess of Perth), the most likely Crichton branch is that of Sanquhar in Dumfriesshire who had inherited lands in Kinnoull near Perth. However, that is speculation based on location – while the marriage of James Crichton of Crichton to Janet Dunbar also provides a Sinclair of Dryden connection through her descent from the Earls of Moray.

9. Sir John St Clair 3rd of Dryden. “7 July 1496 - Charter by Edward Sinclar of Dridene in favour of John Sinclar, his son and apparent heir, and Katherine his spouse of 10 acres of land in Pentland” - National Archives of Scotland GD18/429.

Earliest mention of Sir John Sinclair as a knight is in “15 September 1498. Instrument narrating requisition by Andrew Fraser of Stanywood for warrandice by King James IV in terms of charter by King James II.” One of the witnesses “John Sinclar of Dridane knight”.

“28 July 1536. Instrument of sasine in favour of Edward Sincleir as son and heir of deceased John Sincleir of Dridane, Knight of sixth part of lands of Lesswaid following on precept of clare constat, dated 15 November 1535, by James Archbishop of St Andrews”. National Archives of Scotland ref: GD18/455

10. Wife of Sir John St Clair 3rd of Dryden “10 April 1518 – Instrument ...with consent of William Ramsay of Poltoun in favour of Sir John Sinclar of Dryden Kt, and Katherine Ramsay, his spouse” – National Archives of Scotland Ref: GD18/441 also GD18/429

11. Edward Sinclair 4th of Dryden is shown by a number of documents held in the National Archives of Scotland to be the son of Sir John Sinclair of Dryden.

“28 July 1536 – Instrument of Sasine in favour of Edward Sincleir as son & heir of deceased John Sincleir of Dridane Kt, of a sixth part of the lands of Lesswaid following on a precept of clare constat dated 15 Nov 1535.” - National Archives of Scotland Ref: GD18/454

Witness to Lord Borthwick's retour in 1541 as “Edwardum Sinclar de Drydane”

“20 May 1559. Instrument in favour of John Sinclar as son and heir of deceased Edward Sinclar of Dridene, of sixth part of lands of Lessuaid, following on precept of clare constat, dated 7 May 1559, by John, Archbishop of St Andrews.” National Archives of Scotland Ref: GD18/488

The Book “*St Clair of the Isles*” incorrectly supposes this Edward Sinclair of Dryden to be the same man as Edward Sinclair of Ethay in Orkney. The quoted charters witnessed by Edward Sinclair of Driden in 1542, 1543, 1554 and 1555 can instead be identified with this Edward Sinclair of the Driden family.

This document of William Sinclair of Roslin dated 28th October 1583, that lists witnesses as “*Edward Sinclair of Dryden, my brother, Oliver Sinclair of Westravinsnake*” & others. This presents a puzzle as the Sinclair of Driden family still had possession of Dryden at that date. The Edward Sinclair mentioned is without doubt Edward Sinclair of Roslin who conveyed Roslin to his brother William in the previous year of 1582. Either this is a mistake in transcription or Edward Sinclair the ex-lord of Roslin had moved his residence to the Dryden manor house for a period. Edward Sinclair of Roslin, was noted in a charter of 17 November 1582 as the lord of Roslin. In 1583 litigation was brought by Edward Sinclair's wife Christian Douglas saying her husband had been abducted and was being kept at Roslin. John Henryson of Drydane husband of Marion Sinclair was named as one of Christian Douglas's sureties in a case of that same year.

12. Margaret Ramsay & Marion Sinclair. Court of Session 1609-1610 Henryson Vs Sinclair. “*James Henryson heir to Marion Sinclair his mother who was the only daughter and heir of Edward Sinclair of Drydane and Margaret Ramsay his first spouse, daughter to David Ramsay of Bangour.*” And later says that Beatrix Renton was Edward's second spouse. However the dates on the Lasswade charters say that Janet Henryson was a second wife who is named on charters of 1529 and 1536/37 and his third wife was Beatrice Renton in 1538/39.

“Instrument of sasine proceeding upon Precept of Clare Constat by John Sandilands fiar of Caldor in favour of Mariok Sinclare as heir to the deceased Margaret Ramsay her mother in the lands of Easter Bengour in the barony of Caldor Comitis. 10 September 1549.” National Archives of Scotland GD119/202.

“Instrument of sasine in favour of David Ramsay of Bangourlaw in the 6 oxgangs of Bangourlaw lying in the Barony of Calder and Sheriffdom of Edinburgh: following a precept of sasine by the superior, Marion Sinclar of Eister Bangour, with consent of her husband Mr John Henderson, directed to her bailiff John Park. Done on the ground 7 of July 1552”

Items 172 & 173. Protocol Book of Nicol Thounis 1559-1564 (published Edinburgh 1927).

Also another “*charter by Marion Singlar of Dryden and Mr John Henderson for 4 acres of the Mains of Eister Bangour to James Akinhead*” dated 14 November 1564 – Protocol Book Numbers 229 & 230.

13. John Henderson (b.1524 Fordell Fifeshire) of Bangour, Little Fordell & Dryden - son of George Henderson & Katherine Adamson. John Henryson is “of Dryden” in 1582 & 1584

“1591. Extract decret in action at the instance of Mr David McGill of Nesbet, HM advocate, against Mr John Hendirson of Drydane and James Hendirson, his son, Marion Sinclair, spouse of the said John, and James Adamsone, Burgess of Edinburgh, for production of a pretended reversion by the said James Adamsone to the said Marion Sinclair or to the said Mr John Hendirson for redeception of the lands of Eister Bangour, mill and mill lands thereof.” National Archives of Scotland Ref: GD30/943

This John Henryson (Henderson) was the son of George Henryson 2nd of Fordell & the grandson of James Henryson the King's advocate
"Instrument of sasine in favour of Mr John Henryson as son and heir of deceased George Henryson of Fordell, of lands of Cottis, within the muir thereof and 8 acres adjoining in barony of Newbottle and sheriffdom of Edinburgh, following on precept of clare constat by James, abbot of Newbattle. 2 August 1549."

John Henderson of Bangour was the uncle of James Henderson 3rd of Fordell.

"Letter of reversion by Mr John Henderson of Bengour to James Henderson of Fordell of tenements lying on north side of the high street and in Halkerstouns Wynd on payment of 40s. 6 July 1568." National Archives of Scotland GD172/105

John Henryson of Bangour appears to have been the influential uncle of Elizabeth Henryson who with her husband John Nicolson acquired the Dryden estates in 1591.

14. Janet Henryson, second wife of Edward Sinclair of Dryden. Marriage documented as being before September 1529 and ending some time after January 1537.

"27 September 1529 – letters of reversion to Edward Sincler, son & heir of John Sincler of Dridene Knt, and Janet Henryson his spouse, to John Lowis on Menner (Manor) of the lands of Briglandis." National Archives of Scotland GD34/176

"27 Jan 1536/37 - Instrument of sasine in favour of Edward Sinclere of Dridane and Janet Henryson his spouse of a sixth part of lands of Lesswaid" – National Archives of Scotland Ref: GD18/455. This marriage appears to have lasted for at least 7 years, possibly extending beyond the period of 1527 and 1536.

Janet Henryson seems likely to be related to the Henrysons (Henderson) of Fordell – and was probably an aunt to the brothers John Henryson of Bangour who married Marion Sinclair and a great aunt to Edward Henryson who married Helen Sinclair of Dryden. If that is the case, then Janet would be a sister to James & George Henderson and a daughter of James Henderson 1st of Fordell the Edinburgh Advocate.

That Janet Henryson was from the Henryson family of Fordell has circumstantial evidence from that family's papers.

12 March 1532/1533. "Instrument of sasine in favour of Helen Baty...." "Witnesses: William Ramsay of Polton, John Sinclare ...". National Archives of Scotland GD172/66/2

Helen Baty, widow of James Henryson of Fordell; John Sinclair the father of Edward Sinclair of Dryden & William Ramsay of Polton from the family of John Sinclair's wife Katherine Ramsay. i.e. there was a close association between the Henrysons of Fordell and Sinclairs of Dryden in 1532, during the period of Edward Sinclair's marriage to Janet Henryson.

15. Helen Sinclair could be a daughter of either of Edward Sinclair's 2nd and 3rd wives Janet Henryson and Beatrice Renton as Marion Sinclair is named as the only daughter and heir of his 1st wife Margaret Ramsay.

Court of Session 1609-1610 Henryson Vs Sinclair. "James Henryson heir to Marion Sinclair his mother who was the only daughter and heir of Edward Sinclair of Drydane and Margaret Ramsay his first spouse, daughter to David Ramsay of Bangour."

That same court case was taken by James Henderson son of Marion Sinclair of Dryden, challenging the inheritance rights of John Sinclair of Dryden the son of Edward Sinclair and Beatrice Renton. Edward Sinclair of Dryden's 2nd wife Janet Henderson is not mentioned nor is his daughter Helen Sinclair, giving some weight to the suggestion that Helen a daughter of Janet Henryson. Helen's marriage to Edward Henryson might then be an indication of a marriage designed to keep any marriage settlement of Janet Henryson back into the Henryson family – but that is speculative. Dr Edward Henryson returned to Scotland from the University of Bourges in 1556 at age 34 and if Helen Sinclair was the daughter of Janet Henryson she must have been aged between 19 and 29 in the same year.

There is no date of marriage for Edward Henryson and Helen Sinclair, with the dates allowing Helen to have married later than 1556 and to have been the daughter of Edward Sinclair's third wife Beatrice Renton.

The Edinburgh Commissariat Register of testaments Part I lists "Helen Sinclair of Dryden, sometime spouse of Edward Henryson, 7 February 1573". However, those testaments can record the date of a testament being made, or the registration of the testament after death. The book on "The Poems & Fables of Robert Henryson" of 1865 by D. Laing gives us the information regarding the contents of the will of Helen Sinclair of Dryden that ..."She died in July 1569". That appears to be an informed comment as the contents of Helen's will is also discussed.

16. "Edward Henryson who married Helene Sinclare, daughter of umquhile Edward Sinclar, and sister of John Sinclair of Dryden, was from the Fordell family. Helen died in July 1569-70. In his own and his wife's name, he raised an action before the Commissaries of various things, clothes, silver cup etc. Left in legacy by Helen Baty and by George Henryson of Fordell in their later wills."

"In the last will of this Helen Sinclair appointing her husband Edward Henryson only executor, reference is made to children, but no names are given." Registration of the testament of Helen Sinclair 7th February 1573.

Helen Baty was the wife of James Henryson 1st of Fordell, and George Henryson was their surviving son and heir. James Henryson 1st of Fordell died in 1513, his wife Helen Baty after 1535 and his heir George Henryson in 1549. On the face of it, this information points to Edward Henryson being a son of George Henryson, as the dates for the next generation

of the Henryson family fall too late. George's son and heir was William Henryson who was born along with two sisters within the 4 years of William's marriage from 1543 to 1547.

The question is then raised as to whether Edward Henryson the husband of Helen Sinclair was the same individual as Dr Edward Henryson who married Helen Swinton and whose daughter Elizabeth Henryson came into possession of the Dryden estates in 1591.

There are also a number of documents demonstrating that Thomas Henryson Lord Chester was close to, and looked after the interests of a later James Henrison from Fordell.
e.g. Scottish National Archives GD172/283 dated 24 June 1628. *"Discharge by Sir Thomas Henryson of Chester, Kt, senator of the College of Justice, and others on behalf of James Henryson, son of deceased Sir John Henryson of Fordell .. etc"*

The seal of Dr Edward Henryson's son Thomas, a prominent lawyer and judge, testifies to the fact that he also came from the same Henryson family of Fordell. The seal displays the same arms with the addition of a rose as a difference



Seal of Thomas Henryson , son of Dr Edward Henryson



Coat of arms of Henryson of Fordell

An Epitaph from Greyfriars Churchyard in Edinburgh known as the "*Henryson Monument*" was erected by the same Thomas Henryson Lord Chesters, *"And to the memory of Mr Edward Henryson, Doctor of the Civil and Canon Law, his most loving father, senator and one of the judges of consistorie of Edinburgh; and of Dame Helen Swintoun his dearest mother; and of three most uterine sisters--Dame Agnes, and of her most worthy husband Sir James Foulis, Baron of Colintoun; Dame Helen, and her most renowned husband, Mr Thomas Craig of Riccartoun, most famous lawyer; of Sir Lodovick Craig of Riccartoun, Knight, and most honourable senator; Jean and of husband, John Lawrie, baillie of Edinburgh; of one sister german, Elizabeth Henryson, and her notable husband John Nicolson of Dryden, most eloquent advocate and judge of the said consistorie."*

It was Dr Edward Henryson & Helen Swinton's daughter Elizabeth Henryson and her husband John Nicolson the prominent Edinburgh lawyer who in 1591 "acquired" possession of the Dryden estates from John Sinclair of Dryden. Given that family connection and the date of Dr Edward Henryson's birth about 1522, there remains little doubt that Edward was the son of George Henryson 2nd of Fordell and Katherine Adamson – and was therefore the same person as the Edward Henryson who had earlier married Helen Sinclair of Dryden

The known records allow the second marriage of Edward Henryson to closely follow the first. Laing gives Helen Sinclair's death in July 1569 and the first known record of Dr Edward Henryson's to Helen Swinton is found in a *"Precept of sasine in favour of Mr Edward Henryson, Advocate, and Helen Swinton his wife."* dated 19 February 1570 from the Scottish National Archives GD122/1/343.

17. John Nicolson of Lasswade, Advocate & Commissary of Edinburgh, succeeded his father as Clerk to the Collector of Tithes.

"21 May 1591 – Charter by John Synclair younger, of Drydane and Margaret Giffart, his spouse, in favour of Mr John Nicolson, advocate commissary of Edinburgh and Elizabeth Henrysoun his spouse, of the lands in GD18/544 (R - below) National Archives of Scotland Ref: GD18/534

"22 December 1593. Extract contract between John Sinclair, yr, of Dryden, and Margaret Giffert (Gifford), his spouse, with consent of David Creichtoun apparent of Lugton, on one part, and Mr John Nicolsoune, Advocate, on the other, whereby said John is acknowledged to be indebted to said John Nicolsoun for 13,860 merks and is obliged to pay the same at Michaelmas failing which the reversion of lands in 544 [6th part of lands of Lasswade, town and lands of Lasswade, lands of Dryden, and 10 acres of lands of Pentland], 546 and 548 is discharged and said lands are to belong outright to said Mr John Nicolsoune, he paying said John Sinclair the additional sum of 7,000 merks." National Archives of Scotland GD185/549.

Sir John Nicolson of Lasswade. Created a Baronet of Nova Scotia on 27 July patent sealed 31 December 1629.

"22 November 1637. Charters "a me' and 'de me' by Sir John Nicolsone of Laswaid, Knight, in favour of John Nicolson, his son and apparent heir, of the town and lands of Lawswaid, sixth part of lands of Lawswaid, eighth tenth parts of fourth part and three parts of another fourth parts of lands of Lawswaid, 40s land s of Lawswaid, lands of Dradoun and lands of Easter and Wester Poltoun." National Archives of Scotland Ref: GD18/567

18. Margaret Sinclair. This is only a suggested descent based on the circumstantial evidence of an evidently close family relationship. Margaret Sinclair married John Sinclair of Herdmanston the son of William Sinclair of Herdmanston (d.1530) and Beatrice Renton. Beatrice Renton next married & divorced in 1536 William Crichton of Drylaw, then married thirdly Edward Sinclair of Driden. Some family historians have Margaret Sinclair as the daughter of John Sinclair 3rd Earl of Caithness, but this does not seem to be corroborated by any historical records or authorities.

Unable to be identified so far from historical documents, it seems that a plausible origin would be from the Sinclair of Dryden family with a marriage to her stepbrother John Sinclair the head of the Herdmanston family. Both John and Margaret would have been children of previous marriages of their step-parents. As Marion Sinclair is declared as the only daughter and heir of Edward's first wife, this must mean Margaret can only have been a daughter of Edward Sinclair's 2nd wife Janet Henryson. There is no conflict with the known dates of Edward's marriage to Janet Henrysons which can only be placed before a record of "September 1529" - and the marriage to Beatrice Renton being after her divorce from William Crichton of 1536 and before a record of being Edward Sinclair's spouse in "March 1539".

The Scots peerage; *"John St. Clair of Herdmanston was in minority when he succeeded his father, his curators being John Sinclair of Blans and Mr. Robert Galbraith, parson of Spott ; * seised in Herd-manston in 1544-45,' was a witness to a resignation of the lands of Roslin and Pencaitland in 1542. He had a charter under the Great Seal on his own resignation to him and Margaret Sinclair his spouse, of the lands of Herdmanston on 27 June 1545.' On 10 July 1546 he granted a precept for infefing George, Lord Home, in the lands of Friariness, and he had sasine of the lands of Milton and mill thereof 4 November 1555.° He died before 12 January 1565-66, when his testament was confirmed.' He married Margaret Sinclair, who survived him, and married James Ormiston of that ilk before 7 September 1567, on which date she was charged by the Regent and Privy Council to deliver the house of Herdmanston to her husband's executors."*

Margaret Sinclair's second husband James Ormiston was one of the murderers of Lord Darnley the husband of Mary Queen of Scots on 10 February 1567. That date suggests she married James Ormiston shortly after his involvement that murder. The Scottish Regent's spies tracked down and arrested James "the Black Laird" Ormiston on 10 November 1573. He was tried & sentenced to death. On 13 December, before he left his prison in Edinburgh Castle for the scaffold, he made a formal confession of his part in Darnley's murder. Ormiston was drawn & quartered on 14 Dec 1573

19. Beatrice Renton. *"7 March 1538/39 - Instrument of resignation by Edward Singler of Driden of sixth part of town and lands of Lessuad, in favour of himself and Beatrice Rentoun, his spouse"* – National Archives of Scotland Ref: GD18/456

"17 April 1546. Letters of Regress by David, Cardinal Archbishop of St Andrews, in favour of Edward Synclare of Drydane and Beatrice Rentoun, his spouse, of sixth part of lands of Lessuayd disposed, under reversion etc..." National Archives of Scotland ref: GD18/462

20. John Sinclair 5th of Dryden *"31 March 1557 – Charter by Edward Sinclare of Dryden in favour of John Sinclare, his son and apparent heir, and Katherine Crechtoun, his spouse, daughter of Patrick Crechtoun of Logtoun, etc. following on marriage contract dated 1555"* – National Archives of Scotland Ref: GD18/484

A Court of Sessions case of 1609. Feb. 23. & 1610. Jan. 23. Henryson against Sinclair suggests that Edward's male heir was the son of his third wife Beatrix Renton – although the court case mistakes her for Edward's 2nd wife. *"...John Sinclair ... who was heir or successor to the said Edward Sinclair, procreated upon Beatrix Renton, his second spouse..."*,

21. John Sinclair 6th of Dryden – fiar of Dryden *"21 May 1591 – Charter by John Synclair younger, of Drydane and Margaret Giffart, his spouse, in favour of Mr John Nicolson, advocate commissary of Edinburgh and Elizabeth Henrysoun his spouse, of the lands in GD18/544"* National Archives of Scotland Ref: GD18/534

22. Margaret Giffert. *"22 December 1586 – resignation by John Sinclare, elder, of Drydane of sixth part of lands of Leswaid, in favour of John Sinclare, his son & apparent heir, following on marriage contract dated 5 June 1584 between said John and his son on one part, and James Giffert of Scherifhal and Margaret Giffert his daughter on the other ..."* National Archives of Scotland Ref: GD/18515

23. John Sinclare – son and apparent heir – Discharge & renunciation by John Sinclair younger of Dryden *"5 May 1591 – Decreet of registration of contract of wadset, dated 5 May 1591, between John Sinclare, son and apparent heir of John Sinclare of Drydane and Margaret Giffert, his spouse on the one part and Mr John Nicolsoun, advocate, and Elizabeth Henrysoun his spouse, on the other, whereby said John Sinclare disposes to said John Nicolsoun, sixth part of lands of Leswaid, town and lands of Leswaid, lands of Drydane and 10 acres of Pentland etc ..."* National Archives of Scotland Ref: GD18/544

24. James Sinclair confirmed a charter of 1630 of all the lands of Dryden to Sir John Nicolson & a charter of 1637 in favour of John Nicolson heir to Sir John, The land was to be held *"with a precept of sasine and a precept of clare constat"*. (meaning that the "Superior" land holder [John Sinclair of Dryden] gives possession through a document known as a precept of sasine – the precept of clare constat is a recognition of Nicolson's heir and his entitlement to inherit the possession). Hay's Genealogies page 155 names James Sinclair as a brother-german to John Sinclare the superior land holder.

25. John Sinclair of Lasswade. "31 Jan 1531/32. Procuratory of resignation by Beatrice Folkert, relict of John Sincler in Lessuaid, of sixth part of lands and town of Lessaid, in favour of Edward Sincler, her son, and Helen Grenelaw, his spouse." National Archives of Scotland Ref: GD18/449

26. Beatrice Folkert daughter of John Focart of Focartoun (Fokerton) "29 May 1503. Procuratory of resignation by Katherine Focart, daughter and heir portioner of deceased John Focart of Focarton, of half of sixth part of lands of Lessuaid, in favour of Beatrice Focart, her sister." National Archives of Scotland ref: GD18/432

27. Edward Sincler . "31 May 1536 – Instrument of Sasine in favour of Edward Singler as son & heir of deceased Beatrice Folcart following on precept of clare constat, dated 30 Dec 1535, by James Archbishop of St Andrews." – National Archives of Scotland Ref: GD18/453

28. Helen Grenelaw (Greenlaw) "31 Jan 1532 – Procuratory of Resignation by Beatrice Folkert (Folkarde), relict of John Sincler in Lessuaid, in favour of Edward Sincler, her son and Helen Grenelaw, his spouse. " – National Archives of Scotland GD18/449

29. William Singcler " 1 May 1549 – Precept of Clare Constat by James, Archbishop of St Andrews in favour of William Singcler as son and heir of deceased Edward Singcler, portioner of Lessuade of 40s lands in Lessuade." National Archives of Scotland Ref: GD18/472

30. Agnes Bosuell (Boswell) "1579 Contract between William Sinclare in Lessuade, Agnes Bosuell his spouse they dispose and assign to said Mungo (Tennant) their rights of 40s land of town and territory of Lesuade." National Archives of Scotland Ref: GD18/510
GD34/175 " Instrument of Sasine in favour of Mr Francis Boithuell, Burgess of Edinburgh and Katherine Ballantyne (Bellendene) his spouse of the lands of Briglands .. following resignation dated 8 March 1534/5 by Edward Sincler of Dridane".

31. Francis Sinclair "1587. Precept of Clare constat by Patrick Archbishop of St Andrews, in favour of Francis Sinclair as son & heir of deceased William Sinclair, portioner of Leswaid, of 40s lands of Leswaid." National Archives of Scotland ref: GD18/520
"1598 disposition by Francis Sinclair to Mr John Nicolson of Leswaid Advocate, of 40s lands of Leswaid " National Archives of Scotland Ref: GD18/555

32. Helen Sinclair , probable daughter of Sir John Sinclair 3rd of Dryden . "16 July 1526, by Gavin Archbishop of Glasgow, in favour of John Lowis of Mennir and Ellen Sinclar, his spouse, of lands of Herkerss in Barony of Edilstoun, earldom of Tweeddale". John Lowis heir of deceased father John Lowis of Manner 24 Jan 1543/44. National Archives Register.
Testament - 28 March 1569, John Lowis of Manor

"26 January 1536 Charter by John Lowis of Mener with consent of Helen Sinclar his spouse to Mr Francis Bothuile Burgess of Edinburgh and Katherine Bellendine, and John Bothuile their younger son, of the lands of Briglandis." National Archives of Scotland.

"27 September 1529 – letters of reversion to Edward Sincler, son & heir of John Sincler of Dridene Knt, and Janet Henryson his spouse, to John Lowis on Menner (Manor) of the lands of Briglandis." National Archives of Scotland GD34/176

The Lands of Castlehill & other properties in the Manor Valley, Peebles, were acquired by the Lowis family in the 1400s. Members of this family emigrated to Russia & Poland in the 1500s. (Danzig – Prussian trading Port etc)

33. William Sinclair of Dryden and his surviving brothers are identified in a charter of 20 July 1513 are reported on page 295 of "The Saint-Clairs of the Isles" by Roland Saint Clair.
"Confirmation to Patrick Sinclere of Spottis of the lands of Spottis, with mill at Kirkcudbright; remainder to the legitimate heirs of his body, whom failing to (1) Hector Sinclair, his brother-german; (2) Sir John Sinclair Knight; (3) William Sinclair, brother-german to Sir John; (4) George Sinclair, also brother-german; (5) M. William Sinclair, also brother-german; who failing to the nearest heirs of the said Sir John Sinclair."

The father of all six surviving brothers is named with Patrick and Hector Sinclair given the right to make disposition despite "being bastard sons of the late Edward Sinclair of Dridane."

There is considerable documentation on the life of William Sinclair of Dryden, his positions at court and his activities up to 1514. There is an early document naming William Sinclair as procurator (legal representative) presenting documents for Helen Arnot (the mother of Andrew Wood later Admiral of Scotland) to King James IV in 1490 – where his brother John Sinclair is one of the witnesses. The last known document referring to William Sinclair of Dryden is in the Exchequer Rolls as the usher to the Queen's chamber in 1514.

34. Robert Sinclair (d. before 1506) 30 Nov 1482. Instrument by Oliver Sinclair of Roslin. "Witnesses Edward Sinclare, ...Robert Sanctclare, George Sanctclare, sons of said Edward." Scottish National Archives Ref: GD/1/529/5 " This probably refers to Edward Sinclair of Dryden as Oliver Sinclair's son Edward would not have been old enough to have sons of the required age at this date.

35. George Sinclair rector of Aberfoyle appears with his brothers Mr Hector Sinclair procurator and John Sinclair, together with John's son Edward Sinclair & John's father-in-law William Ramsay in an instrument of 1527 in favour of Helen Sinclair (daughter of John and sister of Edward).

1527, April 9 – Instrument of sasine in favour of John Lowis of Menner, and Elene Sinclair, his spouse (by their attorney, George Sinclair rector of Abirfuyll, in the diocese of Dumblane) in the lands of Herkerse with pertinent, lying in the barony of Eddilstoun and sheriffdom of Tweedell proceeding upon a precept of sasine by Gavin, Arichbishop of Glasgow, dated in Edinburgh, 16th July 1526 (in the second year of his consecration) directed to Edward Sinclair, William Ramsay, George Sinclair, John Sinclair and John Donaldsoun, as baillies, and in which he states that the lands had been resigned in his hands as superior by Mr Hector Sinclair as procurator of the said John Lowis, and regranted to him and his spouse aforesaid in conjoint fee. Sasine was given by John Donaldsoun on the ground of the said lands; Witnesses, John and Edward Sinclair, and others, and John Gray M.A., clerk of the Diocese of Dunkeld, is notary.

Aberfoyle is near Port of Menteith, in the earldom of Menteith which includes parts of Perthshire and parts of Stirlingshire – and also near where Sir John Sinclair of Dryden had been granted lands and where his brother master William Sinclair of Banks had settled.

George Sinclair together with master William Sinclair witnessed a series of charters in 1510 when Archibald Napier settled lands on his son and heir Alexander Napier and his spouse Janet Chisholm. Janet Chisholm was the daughter of Edmund Chisholm, the uncle of the brothers George and master William Sinclair, while Janet's mother Janet Drummond was the sister of master William Sinclair's wife, both being daughters of James Drummond of Coldoch. See the National Records of Scotland *GD430/103/1, GD430/103/2, GD430/104 & GD430/106*.

These relationships and the location of the Chisholms in Menteith adds convincing evidence that George Sinclair, son of Edward Sinclair of Driden was indeed George Sinclair rector of Aberfoyle.

George Sinclair was previously identified by Roland Saint Clair in "Saint-Clair of the Isles" as George Sinclair of Hefeld who had been granted various lands in Galloway since 1490. However George Sinclair of Highfield near Dirleton in East Lothian was murdered in 1507 by Andrew Herries of Terregles, contradicting the list of Patrick Sinclair's surviving brothers from the document of 1513 (note 43).

There is also evidence of a family of Sinclair of Hiefield both before and after the time of George Sinclair of the Driden family & at least one connection to the Sinclair of Herdmanston family. The identification as George Sinclair of Hiefield is therefore a doubtful one.

"2 May 1469. A reversion of the late Thomas Sinclair to the late George Lord Haliburton of the lands of Highfield..." The Manuscripts of the Duke of Athole.

"15 July 1511. Licence of Quitclaim, Robert Levinstoun of Drumry. Knight, to Sir Symon Prestoun." Names attached - Sir John Ramsay of Tervingzane (son of Margaret St Clair of Driden), John Sinclair of Hirdmanston & Thomas Sinclair of the Hiefield. National Archives of Scotland Ref: GD122/1/173

"23 January 1542. Charter by George Sinclair of Hiefeild to Sir Thomas Mailuile (Melville), parson of Hutoun, of three husbandlands of his lands of Hiefeildis in the barony of Dirltoun." National Archives of Scotland Ref: GD6/57

36. Master William Sinclair is named as a brother-german to Sir John Sinclair of Dryden. He appears in a number of charters from the Menteith area where he was granted Banks of Row by his brother Sir John Sinclair from 1491.

"4 March 1510. Charter of confirmation by James IV of a charter by Archibald Napier of Merchiston and baron of the barony of Edinbellie in favour of Alexander Napier, Knight, his son and apparent heir, and Janet Chisholm, his spouse etc" . "Witnesses: Master William Sinclair." Janet Chisholm was the daughter of Master William Sinclair's uncle Edmund Chisholm of Cromlix in Menteith.

"7 July 1512. Petition to James IV by Archibald Napier, resigning his lands and to infeft them again in Alexander Napier and his spouse Janet Chisholm. Among his procurators John Ramsay of Trarinzean knight. Among the witnesses James Chisholm Bishop of Dunblane. Master William Sinclair and Sir John Chisholm.

37. daughter Drummond – p.57 of the *"Genealogical Memoir of the most Noble and Ancient House of Drummond..."* has the unnamed 3rd daughter of James Drummond of Coldoch and Ballochard marry an unnamed Sinclair of Galdimor. Another of James Drummond's 3 daughters Janet Drummond was the 2nd wife of Edmund Chisholm of Cromlix.

Of this early generation and as a member of the Sinclair of Dryden family resident in this area, this Sinclair of Galdimor can only be Master William Sinclair of Banks or Row, a nephew of Edmund Chisholm's first wife .

38. Margaret Sinclair . At this location, with the Sinclair of Dryden landholdings and close relationships with the Chisholm family, and the witnessing of documents by John Sinclair of Dryden, the circumstantial evidence is very strong for Margaret to be from the Sinclair of Driden family. Possibly a daughter of Sir John, but probably a daughter of his brother Master William Sinclair of Banks of Row who appears to have died about 1513. That date of 1513 then allows the possibility of this William's death at Flodden Field.

"18 July 1521. Lease by Alexander, commendator of Inchaffray and convent , to Robert Row, son and heir f the late John Row in Dunblane and his assignees,, Margaret his spouse

(struck out), Sir Denis Row, John of Row and failing them to Thomas Row and James Row, of the fruit (teinds etc) of Kilbride for nineteen years..." Among the Witnesses Johannes Dridene identified as Sir John Sinclair of Dryden who held lands in Menteith – Banks of Row etc

" 14 January 1544. Lease by Gauine (Gavin) Archbishop of Glasgow, commendator of Inchaffray and convent to Margaret Sinclair, relict of Robert Row of Callentoyes and Robert Row their son and heir apparent, who failing to Margaret's assignees, viz. Elizabeth Cheisholm her daughter, of the church of Kilbride for nineteen years."

39. Unknown Chisholm marriage to Margaret Sinclair (see Note 38 above). Edmund Chisholm later of Cromlix was the member of the Chisholm family of Chisholm in Roxburghshire to relocate to the Menteith area. He married first Margaret Sinclair of Dryden and the reason for his location to Menteith was presumably to take up possession of some Sinclair lands in the area. His second marriage was to Janet Drummond, from which he gained the lands of nearby Cromlix. Any Chisholm marriage by Margaret Sinclair the great niece of Edmund Chisholm's first wife, would need to have been to a son or grandson of Edmund Chisholm of Cromlix.

These close relationships between the families of Sinclair of Dryden and Chisholm of Cromlix in Menteith add weight to the identification of Margaret Sinclair as being from the Sinclair of Dryden family.

40. Edward Sinclair 1st of Galivmore and Glassingall-beg. Galivmore was a Drummond held estate before Sinclair of Galivmor and it makes sense if this Edward Sinclair's mother was from the Drummond family and Galivmor descended through her. Of the Sinclair brothers in this area of Menteith, Henry Sinclair married his cousin Beatrix Chisholm, leaving Master William Sinclair of Banks of Row as the likely father of this Edward. On the same facts it is only Master William Sinclair who is likely to have been the husband of the Drummond family daughter. Through his inheritance of Galivmore Edward Sinclair must be of that Sinclair family.

41. Elizabeth Littil is named in the Red Book of Fife by Gordon MacGregor (prepublication copy 2012) as the wife of Edward Sinclair of Galivmor, son of Sir John Sinclair of Dryden. However that Edward, son of Sir John Sinclair had three other marriages of different dates and died around 1558. This must be a different Edward & must therefore have been a nephew of Sir John Sinclair of Dryden. That again tends to confirm the descent from Master William Sinclair of Banks of Row.

Edward Sinclair and his spouse Elizabeth Littil had a charter from William Chisholm Bishop of Dunblane for the lands of Glassingall-beg and Drumduie on 3 July 1546.

42. Henry Sinclair of Ardoch, Menteith is indisputably one of the Sinclair of Dryden family. MacGregor's "Red Book of Fife" goes so far as to name his wife as his cousin Beatrix Chisholm, daughter of Edmund Chisholm. There is only one other brother listed among the Sinclair of Dryden family who fits that situation & he is named as Hector Sinclair in "St Clair of the Isles" as a full brother to Patrick Sinclere of Spottis in 1507. However, Hector Sinclair appears again in a 1527 instrument as the attorney for John Lowis of Menor and his wife Helen Sinclair daughter of Sir John Sinclair of Dryden, meaning that Henry was NOT Hector.

Henry's location and his marriage into the extended Sinclair of Dryden family mean that he is likely to have been another son of Edward Sinclair 2nd of Dryden, who died before 1513 when Patrick listed all his living brothers. The fact that George Sinclair was rector of Aberfoyle and this Henry's grandson followed as another rector of Aberfoyle indicates some close relationship. That is, George and Henry Sinclair are likely to have been brothers.

43. Hector Sinclair. From Roland Saint-Clair in "The Saint-Clairs of the Isles"

"On the 20th July 1513, there is Confirmation to Patrick Sinclere of Spottis of the lands of Spottis, with mill, in Kirkcudbright, remainder to the legitimate heirs of his body whom failing to

1. Hector Sinclair, his brother-german [full brother]
2. Sir John Sinclair of Dryden, knight
3. William Sinclair, brother-german [full brother] of Sir John
4. George Sinclair, also brother-german [full brother]
5. William Sinclair, also brother-german [full brother]

whom all failing to the lawful and nearest heirs of the said Sir John Sinclair.

Insuper ex special grace concede Patrick and Hector, brothers, bastard sons of the late Edward Sinclair of Dryden, the right to make disposition. In 1515 Patrick Sinclair and the Lady of Coldonknowis, his wife, are to be cited (Brechin and Nevaire); "

Mr Hector Sinclair procurator.

"1527, April 9 – Instrument of sasine in favour of John Lowis of Menner, and Elene Sinclar, his spouse (by their attorney, George Sinclair rector of Abirfuyll, in the diocese of Dumblane) in the lands of Herkerse with pertinent, lying in the barony of Eddilstoun and sheriffdom of Tweedell proceeding upon a precept of sasine by Gavin, Arichbishop of Glasgow, dated in Edinburgh, 16th July 1526 (in the second year of his consecration) directed to Edward Sinclar, William Ramsay, George Sinclair, John Sinclair and John Donaldsoun, as baillies, and in which he states that the lands had been resigned in his hands as superior by **Mr Hector Sinclar as procurator** of the said John Lowis, and regranted to him and his spouse aforesaid in conjoint fee. Sasine was given by John Donaldsoun on the ground of the said lands; Witnesses, John and Edward Sinclar, and others, and John

Gray M.A., clerk of the Diocese of Dunkeld, is notary."

"Mr Hector Sinclair as procurator" indicates both a university education and practice in the law.

In August 1554 an instrument of sasine in favour of George Seyton of the Seton lands and baronies was witnessed by "sir" Hector Sinclair, one of the prebendaries of the collegiate church of Seton. The document is in Latin and the title of "sir" in this case can also be translated as "master" as the three prebendaries named are clergymen, not knights. National Records of Scotland GD3/1/11/1/13.

Hector Sinclair of Dryden would have been approaching 75 years of age at this date but there were other documents connecting the Setons to the Sinclair of Dryden family. For example, in 1559 there was a precept of clare constat by the same George, Lord Seyton "in favour of John Sinclare as son and heire of deceased Edward Sinclare of Dryden, of town and lands of Lessuaid". That is, the Setons were landlords of the Sinclair of Dryden family.

44. Patrick Sinclair of Dryden has background history recorded by Roland Saint-Clair in "*The Saint-Clairs of the Isles*" - see page 295. The record of his surviving brothers as outlined in Note 43 confirms his position as an illegitimate son of Edward St Clair 2nd of Dryden. Patrick was granted lands of Spottis in Kirkcudbrightshire & then Woodhouselee Midlothian, the latter apparently within the greater St Clair of Roslin estates.

45. Patrick Sinclair "He married twice. In 1509 he appears in record with his wife Margaret daughter of John Gordon of Lochinvar". Writes Keith Murray on page of "*The Genealogist*" Vol. XX of 1904, quoting Roland Saint-Clair's "*The Saint-Clairs of the Isles*".

46. John Sinclair. Patrick Sinclair "... gave a charter of these lands in 1546 to his son John Sinclair and his wife Isobel, daughter of James Hamilton of Innerwick. John Sinclair in the charter is called a natural son, but the following year is styled son and apparent heir of Patrick Sinclair "of the Spottis", from which and later designations it must be inferred that he was legitimate. He had issue two daughters and coheirs, Isobel and Alison, who in 1553 are called 'nyces' and heirs of Patrick Sinclair of Woodhouselee, David Hamilton of Bothwellhaugh being then their tutor.

They were both married before 9 February 1564-5 to two sons of the said David Hamilton, and in an action brought by them at that date are described as daughters and heirs of the deceased John Sinclair of Woodhouselee, who was the son and heir of the deceased Patrick Sinclair of Woodhouselee.

Isobel married James Hamilton of Bothwellhaugh, the assassin of the Regent, and Alison married his brother David of Monkton Mains, later of Bothwellhaugh, both of whom were outlawed after the battle of Langside." The Genealogist Vol XX page 3-4.

47. Alexander Sinclair. "10 Dec 1455. Charter by William Sinclar in favour of Edward Sinclar his son of 10 acres of land, 7 thereof being arable, in lands of Pentland." "Witnesses: Alexander Sinclair, son of said William..." National Archives of Scotland Ref: GD18/424.

48. Thomas de Driden is named as a Sub Prior of Arbroath Abbey in 1455. "*Thome de Driden, Supprior claustralis*" in the "Liber St Thome de Aberothoc" This is a record of Thomas receiving the resignation of the Abbot Richard. Arbroath Abbey was one of the richest in Scotland at this time. There appears to be only the one family "de Driden" at this date and Thomas must therefore be another of the Sinclair of Dryden family and son of William St Clair 1st of Dryden. There was no other known family of the time using the Dryden name.

49. John Dryden Chaplain. "10 March 1481 Westminster. Mandate to all bailiffs and others to permit John Dryden chaplain, born in Scotland, dwelling in England, who has taken an oath of fealty, to inhabit the realm peaceably and enjoy his goods." From the Patent Rolls of England.

Possibly an adherent of James Douglas the 9th Earl Douglas who was living in exile in England at this time. As a son of William St Clair 1st of Dryden, this John Dryden would have been a 1st cousin of James Douglas though Beatrice St Clair, sister to this John's father William St Clair 1st of Dryden.

50. John Ramsay & Margaret Sinclair of Dryden. "*a Lady of the House of Dryden & widow of Ramsay of Balmain*" History of the Chisholms - Alexander MacKenzie.

Margaret Sinclair was first married some years before 1457 the year when her second husband Edmund Chisholm witnessed a Sinclair Document at Roslin & is likely to have been born before 1435. Margaret seems likely to have been a younger sister to Edward Sinclair of Dryden who seems to have been born about 1420/25 and first married after 1455. The John Ramsay who married Margaret Sinclair of Dryden was probably John Ramsay of Corstoun - itself a cadet of Ramsay of Carnock & Pitcruvie. A charter of 1484 names another John Ramsay as the son of George Ramsay of Corstoun. Scottish National Archives Ref: GD305/1/102/264.

John Ramsay had a son by a previous marriage or partner Janet Napier - who was Sir John Ramsay of Balmain & Trarintzeane. Below.

51. Sir John Ramsay of Balmain & Trarinzeane (1464 -1513 battle of Flodden) Lord Bothwell 1485-88 . Master of the Household of James III. Esquire in the Kings Chamber. Ambassador to England in 1485 and 1486. Lost titles in 1488 with the death of James III. Retreated to England & acted as a spy for Henry VII. Rehabilitated 1497. Captain of Linlithgow Palace in 1503. Negotiated the marriage between Henry VII's daughter Margaret Tudor and James IV of Scotland. Granted in 1510 the lands and Barony of Balmain in Kincardineshire.

John Ramsay of Balmain m1. Isabel Cant. m2. (1505 – divorced) Janet Kennedy, dau of John Kennedy 2nd Lord & Elizabeth Gordon (Seton) & previously the mistress of James IV m3. (before Feb 1508) Isabel Livingston

William Ramsay (b.1510) the son of John Ramsay of Balmain was raised by his “uncle” James Chisholm Bishop of Dunblane (step-brother of his father through the marriages of Margaret Sinclair of Dryden). That William Ramsay was the ancestor of the Ramsays of Balmain

As John Ramsay of Corston's son, John Ramsay Lord Bothwell did not inherit at from his father at Corston, and his mother and father both had later marriages. On those facts it seems that John Ramsay was illegitimate – which would also have fitted his membership of the group of favourites of James III famously described as being “Low born”.

52. Edmund Chisholm of Cromlix . “5 January 1457. Charter by William Earl of Orkney and Caithness confirming” an earlier charter of Pentland acres held by William St Clair of Dryden from the Earl as Superior Lord. “Witnesses: Edmund Chesholme” National Archives of Scotland ref: GD18/425. Earlier Charter for William St Clair of Dryden Ref: 18/424.

53. Thomas Chisholm. The book “*The History of the Chisholms*” by MacKenzie has Margaret Sinclair's second son as John Chisholm. However, it was actually Thomas Chisholm who was a witness along with his father Edmund Chisholm to a charter granting a tenement to John Ramsay Lord Bothwell in 1486. Scottish National Archives GD32/26/18

These references are taken from the book “*Dryden – the History and Mysteries of a Family Name*”, first published in 2013.

The 3rd edition of the book has been comprehensively re-written, with additional research, information and references included. That edition should be available in 2018

The Manor House of Dryden in its final stages, demolished in the 1890s
Photo - Courtesy of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland

