THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGIST

MARCH 2013

Ellen de Menteith
Andrew Robertson, Part Two
The Bridges of Bishopmill, Elgin
Jean Stevenson and the Militia
Mamie Weir – a Scot?

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY

Vol. LX No. 1
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The Scottish Genealogist
The Earls of Menteith: Murdoch, Earl of Menteith and the Ferrers family of Groby

John P. Ravilious

The history and relationships of the Earls of Menteith in the late 13th and early 14th centuries has been a source of ongoing discussion and debate, but no more so than that of their wives and daughters. Matilda, wife of Alexander, Earl of Menteith, is only known to posterity from the grant by Walter Stewart, earl of Menteith of the church of Kippen to Cambuskenneth priory: the grant was made in part ‘for the salvation of the their [Walter’s and Alexander’s] souls and that of Matilda spouse of the said [late] Alexander and for their interment’ at Cambuskenneth.¹ No record remains to provide direct evidence as to her parentage. As her grandson Alan was called the heir of Duncan, Earl of Fife in 1315, Barrow wrote in 1974 that “Earl Alexander must have married a daughter of Malcolm II earl of Fife”.² Subsequently, in 2003 it was conjectured that she was a daughter of Malise, Earl of Strathearn, based on dispensations for consanguinity between some of her descendants and those of the Earls of Strathearn.³

Bruce McAndrew has since noted heraldic evidence which places Matilda as the sister of Malise, and a daughter of Robert, Earl of Strathearn. McAndrew has shown that Alice de Menteith (fl. 1335) was likely the daughter of Murdoch, Earl of Menteith, and that the arms of her father were A chevron chequy between three mullets. This is an example of composed arms, the Menteith fess chequy being modified into a chevron chequy, reflecting the paternal coat of Murdoch’s mother Matilda of Strathearn, with the further addition of the Moravia mullets (Matilda’s mother being a daughter of Hugh de Moravia).⁴

Supporting evidence of the Strathearn ancestry of Murdoch de Menteith and his siblings has been noted in records concerning a cadet branch of the family. Robert I granted lands in Ballygillachy (Kettins parish, Forfarshire) and Methlick (Aberdeenshire) to one Malise de Menteith, a name indicative of a Strathearn connection.⁵ It was likely his son, identified as Walter de Menteith of Peterculter, who granted land near Methlick on the Ythan river to the church of St. Devenick of Methlick on 13 Jul 1364 with the consent of his son and heir John.⁶ John de Menteith died before 1393, as he is described by Laing (citing a charter of that year) as “umquhile John de Menteith, dominus de Balgillis”. John left a son William de Menteith who granted the aforementioned charter resigning the lands of “Balgillis” [presumed to be Balgillo in Tannadice parish, Forfarshire] to Patrick Blair of Balthyock in 1393. Of particular note, William de Menteith’s arms on the seal are described by Laing and MacDonald as A chevron between three birds.⁷ This is another
example of composed arms, the addition of the birds indicating that John de Menteith’s wife and William’s mother was probably the heiress of the Gourlays of Balgillo. The chevron in the arms of Menteith of Methlick (later Balgillo) further evidences a Strathearn descent, and serves to support the identification of the ancestor Malise de Menteith as a younger son of Alexander, Earl of Menteith, and his wife Matilda of Strathearn.

The relationship between the Earls of Menteith and Strathearn is somewhat different than first proposed. In addition to McAndrew’s findings, it is certain that Sir John Graham, Earl of Menteith (executed 1347) was not identical with John Graham of Abercorn, and was most likely a younger son of Sir David Graham of Montrose. The following chart shows the relationship of Sir John Graham and his wife Mary de Menteith, the maternal relationship between Sir James Lindsay and his wife Giles Stewart, and the more recently noted relationship between Thomas Stewart, Earl of Angus and his wife Margaret Sinclair.⁸

![Family Tree Diagram]

Alan, Alexander’s eldest son by Matilda, succeeded his father as Earl of Menteith some time before 1306. He was a participant in the coronation of Robert I at Scone on 25 March 1306, and was subsequently held forfeit by Edward I of England. He was captured and imprisoned by the English some time before 7 November 1307, and had died - probably still a prisoner - within 18 months. He had two sons who were under King Edward’s protection in 1307, when a writ of liberate was issued at Carlisle to deliver meat and fish for their sustenance. His wife Margery was then in the English camp, as
John de Hastings, King Edward’s grantee of the Earldom of Menteith, had licence from the king on 13 March 1308/09 “to demise to Margery, late the wife of Alan, earl of Meneteth, for her life, the manor of Wotton”, presumably as she was then unable to receive support from her dower lands in Scotland.\(^9\)

Andrew B.W. MacEwen recently advised that the identification of Alan, Earl of Menteith as both son of Earl Alexander and father of Mary de Menteith (wife of Sir John Graham) was erroneous, based on both chronology and the indenture between Robert Stewart (later 1st Duke of Albany) and Isabella, Countess of Fife explicitly stating that Alan, Earl of Menteith and Margaret Graham’s grandfather, was the beneficiary of the entail by Duncan, Earl of Fife.\(^10\) Given the identification of Matilda, Alan’s mother, as a daughter of an Earl of Strathearn, and that the aforementioned 1315 agreement provided for the reversion of the Earldom of Fife to Alan, son of Alan, Earl of Menteith, it is evident that Margery (not Matilda) was the daughter of an Earl of Fife. Duncan, Earl of Fife (father of the conflicted Earl Duncan of 1315) was born in 1262, and the issue of Alexander, Earl of Menteith and his wife Matilda were likely born in the same decade or the next.\(^11\) It appears then that Margery was most likely a younger sister of this Duncan, and that the parties concerned in the 1315 agreement – Duncan of Fife and Alan of Menteith - were first cousins. As a younger daughter of Colban, Earl of Fife and his wife Anne Durward, Margery was apparently the namesake of her maternal grandmother Margery of Scotland.

\[
\text{FIG. 2}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Alan Durward} &= \text{Margery of Scotland} \\
\text{E of Athol} & \quad | \quad \text{E of Fife} \\
\text{Colban} &= \text{Anne Durward} \\
\text{E of Fife} & \quad | \quad \text{d. 1270} \\
\text{d. 1289} & \quad | \quad \text{d. 1306-07} \\
\text{Duncan} & \quad | \quad \text{Alan ‘II’} \\
\text{E of Fife} & \quad | \quad \text{fl. 1315} \\
\text{d. 1353} &
\end{align*}
\]

The subsequent tenure of the earldom of Menteith was complicated due largely to the ongoing struggle with England. The second Alan [referred to as Alan II hereafter] appears to have been born ca 1290-1300. He was evidently one of the two sons of Earl Alan and Margery of Fife, the beneficiaries of a writ of liberate issued at Carlisle in 1307, certainly a minor at the time of Gilbert Malherbe’s suit seeking his wardship from the English court, dated ca. 1309-1314 by Bain.\(^12\) He died between 23 August 1315 (the date of the
agreement over the Fife succession) and 6 April 1320, when his great-uncle Sir John de Menteith was ‘custos’ [guardian] of the Earldom.13 Soon after this Alan II’s daughter and heir Mary suffered the temporary grant of the Earldom to her great-uncle Murdoch, eldest surviving brother of Alan I. However, during this intervening period we find Murdoch in the English camp, the beneficiary of a curious transaction in England for which licence was granted at Leicester on 19 January 1316/7:

‘Licence for William de Ferariis to enfeoff Mordac de Meneteth of his manor of Groby, co. Leicester, and of the advowsons of the churches of the manor, held in chief: and for the latter to re-grant the same to him and Elena his wife and the heirs of their bodies, with remainder, failing such issue, to the said Mordac and his heirs. By p.s.’14

The career of Sir William de Ferrers of Groby (d. 20 March 1324/5) is fairly well documented. Born at Yoxall, co. Stafford on 30 January 1271/2, he was the son of Sir William de Ferrers of Groby, co. Leicester, sometime Constable of Scotland (d. before 20 Dec 1287), by his first wife Anne, the widowed Countess of Fife and younger daughter of Alan Durward, Earl of Athol (ca. 1232-1235) and a major participant in Scottish affairs (d. 1275).15 He was not his mother’s heir; her eldest son Duncan, Earl of Fife, held that distinction. However, he did acquire his father’s portion of the Quincy inheritance, including lands in Leuchars (Fife), in addition to which certain lands in Galloway and Ayrshire (including Drehorn) came as his grandmother Margaret de Quincy’s share of the heritage of her mother Elena, coheiress of Alan, lord of Galloway.16

Several theories have been advanced to explain the connection of Murdoch de Menteith to William de Ferrers: that which has received the widest acceptance, alleging that the wife of Murdoch was a daughter of William de Ferrers, was recently disproved by McAndrew.17 The recent correction by Douglas Richardson to the received account of Sir William de Ferrers the elder and the identification of his wife Anne as being a daughter of Alan Durward (and not of the Despenser family) provides one connection between Sir William de Ferrers the younger and the Menteith family.18 Sir William has therefore been identified as a younger half-brother of Duncan, Earl of Fife (d. 1289) and of Margery, shown above as the wife of Alan I, Earl of Menteith, and sister-in-law of Murdoch de Menteith.

The Heraldic Evidence
Roger Pye wrote in 1974 concerning the use of a single eagle supporter in the arms of certain Scots families, stating in part that “... all the users of the single eagle supporter are logically connected, and the solution to the problem is essentially a genealogical one...”.19 Bruce McAndrew noted more recently that the genealogical connection had been made by virtue of the identification of Margaret, wife of Sir Alexander de Abernethy, as a daughter of Alexander,
Earl of Menteith. Earl Alexander's arms are typically described in part as “An eagle displayed, bearing on its breast a shield of arms.,” which was taken up by Sir Alexander de Abernethy: MacDonald described his seal as “A lion rampant debruised by a ribbon. The shield is placed in front of an eagle displayed”. The seal of Sir Alexander’s kinsman Laurence de Abernethy bore only the Abernethy arms without a supporter, indicative that the adoption of the eagle displayed was an innovation by Sir Alexander. This was the adoption of a heraldic achievement from the family of Sir Alexander de Abernethy’s wife, as noted and explained by Bruce McAndrew.

An innovation in the arms of the Menteith family in fact occurred with the next generation. Alan I, Earl of Menteith, made a slight change to the appearance of the eagle on his own seal, described by Birch as “A double-headed eagle displayed charged on the breast with a shield of arms: a fess chequy, in chief a label of five points”. This is significant with regard to the identification of Elena, wife of Sir William de Ferrers. Bruce McAndrew has kindly pointed out that Sir William de Ferrers, the husband of Elena, used the arms of his father (Seven mascles, three, three, and one), with an added element: his seal shows “A double-headed eagle displayed, charged on the breast with a shield of arms [the Ferrers mascles]”. This appears to be another instance of adoption of a heraldic achievement of the wife’s family.

The name Elena (frequently rendered as Ellen, or Helen) was not a rare name in medieval Scotland. The authors of the POMS project website identified 25 individuals living during the period 1093 to 1314, some of whom are known to have been related to one another. Among these was Elena, wife of John de Drummond, one of the Scots taken prisoner after the battle of Dunbar. John was imprisoned at Wisbeach castle in 1296, but came into King Edward’s peace and returned to Scotland before 19 May 1304, when King Edward issued directions to his chancellor William de Greenfield to restore Elena’s dower lands in England to them. Elena’s parentage is not stated, but Lady Edith Drummond stated in Scots Peerage (1910) that she was held by tradition to have been a daughter of Walter Stewart, Earl of Menteith. Lady Drummond noted the well-known interment of John de Drummond at Inchmahome priory in Menteith as supporting evidence of Elena’s alleged Menteith parentage, stating “this is not improbable, as only ‘founder’s kin’ could have a right to bury in such a spot”.

Andrew B. W. MacEwen advised the author in 2004 that Sir John de Menteith, younger son of Earl Walter, had a daughter Elena or Ellen, wife of Sir Colin Campbell of Loch Awe, whose son Archibald or Gillespig Campbell had grants of land from his Menteith kin. Mary, daughter of Alan II and Countess of Menteith in her own right, granted him land in Kilmun, calling him “our dear and special kinsman Gillespeag Campbell”; Sir John de Menteith’s grandson John de Menteith granted lands in Knapdale on 29 November 1353 to “my faithful kinsman Gilleasbeg Cambel, lord of Lochow”. Given that Walter
Stewart, Earl of Menteith most likely did have a daughter Elena, the wife of John de Drummond (d. after 1304), and his younger son Sir John de Menteith in fact had a daughter Helen or Elena, the wife of Sir Colin Campbell (d. before 1343), it is reasonable to state that the Menteiths used Helen or Elena as a typical name for their daughters in the 13th and 14th centuries.

The suggestion can then be made that Sir William de Ferrers sought permission in 1316 for the grant of Groby on behalf of Murdoch de Menteith for a more personal reason than was described earlier. Sir William’s wife Elena was very likely a member of the Menteith family. Elena or Helen, the daughter of Sir John de Menteith discussed above, would appear to be a good match chronologically, but her corrected personal history as wife of Sir Colin Campbell and mother of Archibald or Gilleaspig (born ca 1312) make this virtually impossible. Sir William’s wife Elena was most likely a daughter of Alexander, Earl of Menteith, and the namesake of Alexander’s sister Elena. She then would have been a sister of Alan I, Earl of Menteith, whose heraldic achievement of a double-headed eagle displayed Sir William had adopted for his own seal. The then landless Murdoch would then not only have been connected by the marriage of William’s half-sister Margery, but would also have been the brother-in-law of Sir William de Ferrers, whom he sought to support.

FIG. 3

seal of Sir William de Ferrers
[Scott-Ellis, Some Feudal Lords, p.113]
Sir William de Ferrers adopted the Double-headed eagle for his seal before 12 February 1300/01, as evidenced by his seal appended to the Barons’ Letter to Pope Boniface VIII, which indicates that William had married Elena de Menteith before that date. Sir William’s son Henry de Ferrers was stated to have been aged twenty-two ‘and more’ on 4 April 1325; he was therefore born sometime before 4 April 1303, but likely not much earlier. If Henry de Ferrers was born in 1302 or 1303, and Sir William de Ferrers and Elena de Menteith were married before 12 February 1300/01, it follows that Henry, and the younger sons of Sir William (Ralph and Thomas) were the issue of that marriage. That Henry was the son of Elena de Menteith can also be inferred from the terms of the licence for the re-grant of Groby by Murdach de Menteith in January 1317: Groby in fact was inherited by Henry, evidently the heir of both Sir William and Elena.

There is an interesting armorial seal which may be explained by the identification of Elena as a Menteith. Sir William de Ferrers and Elena had a daughter Anne, the namesake of Sir William’s mother Anne Durward who married Sir Edward le Despenser at Groby on 20 April 1335. The seal of Anne (de Ferrers) le Despenser, appended to a document dated 1363, has in the past been taken as evidence that Anne’s mother Elena was a member of the Segrave family, as the arms in one of four roundels on the seal contain a Lion rampant. Beyond this assertion, to date the representations on the other three seals have defied conventional explanation. In particular, the left roundel contains three chevrons, which has been claimed to represent the arms of Anne de Ferrers’ mother-in-law, Eleanor de Clare.

![Seal of Anne le Despenser](Ellis, vol. I, Plate 7, p.242)
In describing the heraldry documented in *The Siege of Caerlaverock*, Nicholas Harris Nicolas observed “that the placing charges on the exterior of the shield on seals approached much nearer to the subsequent system of quartering arms, and seems often to have been adopted from a similar principle, namely, of perpetuating a descent from the family of a maternal ancestor.” On the Ferrers side, the masacles (impaled) are represented by arms in the seal, as well as in the band connecting the roundels. Sir William's paternal grandmother was Margaret de Quincy, coheir of her father Roger de Quincy, Earl of Winchester, and of her mother Elena/Helen of Galloway, coheiress of her father Alan, Lord of Galloway. The lion rampant in the sinister roundel appears to represent the Lion rampant of Galloway, and the lower roundel the Cinquefoil used by the family of Margaret de Beaumont, coheiress of the honour of Leicester, and by her son Roger de Quincy.

The proposal that Elena, wife of Sir William de Ferrers, was the sister of Earl Alan I of Menteith and of Murdoch then would have the Lion passant in the upper roundel as representing the family of Anne's maternal grandfather Alexander de Menteith - the Lion passant shown on his arms in the Lord Marshal's Roll, LM55. It is therefore suggested that the chevrons in the left roundel had no connection to the Clare family, but were intended to represent the arms of Anne’s maternal grandmother and Alexander’s wife, Matilda of Strathearn. Anne’s father Sir William de Ferrers inherited his landed wealth from his father, including a significant share of the Quincy and Galloway estates. Nothing is known of any lands or other property acquired through his mother Anne Durward: all of the known lands from her share of the Durward inheritance (including Coull and Kincardine O’Neil, co. Aberdeen) were inherited by her eldest son and heir, Duncan, Earl of Fife. This lack of a legacy from her Durward ancestors could explain the absence of any representation of Anne de Ferrers’ Durward ancestry in her seal.

**FIG. 5**
Conjectured representations in Fig. 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MALE</th>
<th>FEMALE</th>
<th>FEMALE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(lion passant, for MENTEITH)</td>
<td>{chevrons, for STRATHEARN}</td>
<td>{Lion rampant crowned, for GALLOWAY}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MALE</td>
<td>{pierced cinquefoil, for BEAUMONT/QUINCY}</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
That Sir William de Ferrers had a first wife before Elena, who was likely a member of the Segrave family, is discussed by Richardson. This argument also holds that Henry de Ferrers and the other issue of Sir William de Ferrers were by this first Segrave wife, based in part on a relationship between Master Thomas la Warre and Henry le Despencer, bishop of Norwich, noted in a letter written by la Warre. There was certainly a relationship between the two, but it appears to have been one generation more distant than surmised. Rather than involving the Segrave family, the kinship would have been based on the common descent of the two men from Roger de Quincy, earl of Winchester and his wife Helen, or Elena, of Galloway. The importance of this ancestry was evidently not lost on the la Warre family; so too Anne de Ferrers, mother of the Bishop of Norwich mentioned by Master Thomas la Warre as his cousin ca. 1400, made allusion to her own Quincy and Galloway ancestry in her seal.

FIG. 6
The relationship between Thomas la Warre and Henry le Despencer, Bishop of Norwich

Roger de Quincy = Elena of Galloway

E of Winchester

William de Ferrers = Margaret de Quincy

E of Derby

Sir William of Groby = Anne Durward

Roger la Zouche = Ela Longespee

Sir William De Ferrers = Elen de Menteith

Alan la Zouche = Eleanor de Segrave

Edward le Despenser = Anne de Ferrers

Robert = Maud de Holand

Henry le Despenser = John la Warre

Bp of Norwich = Margaret de Holand

Roger la Warre

Master Thomas la Warre
FIG. 7
Ellen de Menteith and her family

Alan Durward = 1) Margery of Scotland = NN (not married)

Colban = Anne Durward = 2) Sir William de Ferrers d. 1287
E of Fife d. 1270

Thomas Durward (illegitimate)

Alexander = Matilda of Strathern [2CH]
E of Menteith <E>

Sir John de Menteith <DE>

Elena = John de Drummond

John Walter Elena Joanna
= Gillespie Campbell

Duncan Margery = Alan Murdoch Margaret Malise Ellen = Sir William
E of Menteith E of Menteith de Menteith Methlick de Ferrers
Menteith [CH] de Abernethy of Methlick d. 1325 <DE>

Duncan
E of Menteith
E of Fife

* heir of Fife, 1315

Mary = Sir John C of de Graham

Walter de Menteith Anne Thomas
of Methlick d. aft 13 Jul 1364 = Edward le
[3CH] Despenser

John de Menteith
d. bef 1394

William de Menteith fl. 1393 [CH]

<E> = arms/seal included An eagle displayed

<DE> = arms/seal included A double-headed eagle displayed

[CH] = arms/seal included A chevron

[2CH] = arms/seal likely included 2 chevrons

[3CH] = seal includes roundel showing 3 chevrons

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Footnotes


2. G.W.S. Barrow wrote, "Since in 1315 the then earl of Menteith (Alan son of Alan) was agreed to be heir presumptive to the earldom of Fife (Barrow, Robert Bruce, 391), it seems that Earl Alexander must have married a daughter of Malcolm II earl of Fife (1228-66)." [G. W. S. Barrow, Some East Fife documents of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, in G. W. S. Barrow, ed., The Scottish Tradition: Essays in honor of Ronald Gordon Cant (Edinburgh: Scottish Academic Press, 1974), p.40].

3. J. Ravilious, The Ancestry of Mary Abernethy: a Menteith Connection?, soc.genealogy.medieval, 5 Dec 2003. Two dispensations in particular indicate a mutual Strathern descent. There was a mandate of Pope John XXII dated at Avignon, 1 May 1334, for a postnuptial dispensation for "John de Gram, knight, and Mary de Me[n]tet" as they were related within the fourth degree of consanguinity [W. H. Bliss, ed., Calendar of Entries in the Papal Registers Relating to Great Britain and Ireland (London: for the Public Record Office, 1895), Papal Letters Vol. II, p.411]. The second was a mandate of Pope Clement VI dated at Avignon on 11 April 1346 for "James de Lindesay, knight, and the noblewoman Egidia Steward" ["Jacobo de Lundesay Militi, et Dilecte in Christo Filio Nobili Mulieri Egidie Steward" due to their being related in the third and fourth degrees on their fathers' side, and in the fourth degree on their mothers' side ["in tertio et quarto ex parte partum, et in quarto &c. ex parte matrum vestrorum consanguinitatis gradibus"]. Andrew Stuart, Genealogical History of the Stewarts (London: A. Strahan et al., 1798), p.434).


6. The grant was made by "Walterus de Menthet dominus de Petmacaldor" together "de consilio et assensu Johannis filii mei et heredis". Cosmo Innes, ed., Registram Episcopus Aberdonensis (Edinburgh: Spalding Club, 1845), vol. I, pp.112-3.


8. Sir William de St. Clair, sheriff of Edinburgh, died some time before 7 April 1299, when his widow Amicia had a letter of protection from Edward I of England [Bain, Calendar of Documents relating to Scotland 1272-1307, vol. II (Edinburgh, 1884), p.280, no. 1104]. She is shown by various authors as Lucia, daughter of Robert, Earl of Strathearn. While primary evidence for this name and parentage is lacking, it is known that Sir William and his wife had a daughter Annabella, a name closely associated with the earls of Strathearn [Fraser, Memorials of the Family of Wemyss of Wemyss, vol. II (Edinburgh, 1888), pp.5-6, no. 3; cf. Paul, Scots Peerage vol. VIII, pp.478-9]. Further support of a Strathearn origin for Sir William's wife is found in the dispensation for the marriage of his great-granddaughter, Margaret, to Thomas Stewart, Earl of Angus, the mandate for which was granted at Villeneuve on 3 June 1353 [W. H. Bliss and C. Johnson, eds., Calendar of Entries in the Papal Registers Relating to Great Britain and Ireland (London: for the Public Record Office, 1897), Papal Letters Vol. III, p. 512]. The mandate states that Margaret and Thomas were 'related in the fourth degree of kindred': if Thomas' great-grandmother Matilda of Strathearn was the sister of Margaret Sinclair's great-grandmother, this would have been the exact relationship necessitating the dispensation.

9. Alan was held forfeit and his earldom granted to John de Hastings by order of Edward I dated at West Denton, 28 Sept 1306 [Bain, ibid., vol. II, pp.491-2]. Order of Edward I "as to Aleyin late earl of Menteth...and other adherents of Robert de Brus, who have come to the King's peace to be in law, and prisons to which they have been sent" dated ca. 7 November 1307 [Bain, ibid., vol. II, p.495, no. 1849]. Dated at Carlisle, "Writ of liberate to the two sons of the Earl of Menteth, and the son of the Earl of Stratherne, of a quarter of an ox, etc." [Bain, ibid., vol. II, p.523, no. 1971, dated by Bain as "[1307]"] Licence by King Edward II to John de Hastings dated at Westminster, 1 March 1308/09 [Calendar of the Patent Rolls, 2 Edw II, mem. 10, p.108]. "Margaria Menteeth" was still one of two
tenants holding Wootton, Northants. of Sir John de Hastings in 1316 [Inquisitions and Assessments Relating to Feudal Aids, vol. IV, p.27].

10 Private communication by Andrew B.W. MacEwen, 5 November 2004. That Earl Alan had a son and heir (Alan 'II') was attested well before 1315, as early in the reign of Edward II (ca. 1309-1314 acc. to Joseph Bain) Gilbert Malherbe sought "a grant of the ward and marriage of the late Earl of Menteith's son and heir, or the keeping of Jedburgh Castle" as compensation for the loss of a prior grant [Bain, ibid., vol. III, p.78, no. 410 (cites 'Tower Miscellaneous Rolls, No. 459').

Alan, Earl of Menteith (Alan 'II') was referred to as both the Alan who had the earldom of Fife entailed upon him, and the grandfather of Margaret Graham, in the indenture between Robert Stewart, Earl of Menteith and Isabella, Countess of Fife (dated at Perth, 30 Mar 1371): "...tam per talliacionem factam per bone memorie dominum Duncanum comitem de Fyff, patrem dictae dominis comites, dominum quondam Alano comiti de Menteith, auo domine Margarete, sponse dicti domini Roberti nunc comitis elusdem..." [Fraser, The Red Book of Menteith (Edinburgh, 1880), vol. II, p.252, no. 34].

11 'Alano de Menetethe, filio comitis de Menetethe' and his brother Peter had the gift of horses from King Edward I of England for use in fighting for the King in France, order dated at Winchester, 21 Aug 1296 [Joseph Stevenson, Documents illustrative of the history of Scotland from the death of King Alexander the Third to the Accession of Robert Bruce (Edinburgh: H. M. General Register House, 1870), Vol. II, p.139]. It seems reasonable to assume Peter de Menteith was of age (21 or more), if not already knighted, when provision was being made for him to fight on horseback in August 1296, and so he was likely born in or before 1275: his brother Alan would have been somewhat older.

The identification of Margery, wife of Earl Alan I, as a daughter of Colban, Earl of Fife was noted by Bruce McAndrew in 2009 [Bruce McAndrew, The Identity of Countess Alice of Menteith (fl 1335-1339): part 1, The Scottish Genealogist, Vol. LVI No. 4 (December 2009), p.194].


13 Barrow, Robert the Bruce and the Community of the Realm of Scotland (2005), p.361. His uncle Sir John de Menteith was identified as 'Johannes de Meneteth custos comitatis de Menteeth' when he assented to the Declaration of Arbroath on 6 April 1320 [Fordun, Scotichronicon (Edinburgh: Robert Fleming, 1759), vol. II, p.275].


15 Complete Peerage, ibid. With regard to the inheritance of Galloway (formerly de Morville) lands in Drehorn, co. Ayr, there is record of the (English) account for the period 20 November 1302-20 November 1304 "for 55s. 4d. from the farms of Sir Alan de la Souche's and Sir William de Ferrers' lands in Drehorn (Dregenere), taken in the K.'s hand for their not doing service in his army" [Bain, ibid., vol. II, p.425, no. 1608. Cf. p.304, no. 1186 as to the restoration "to William de Ferrars [of] his hereditary lands in Galloway, taken in the K.'s hands when he was there", royal order dated at Netleyham, 2 Feb 1300/01].


22 The seal of Laurence de Abernethy (dated ca. 1320) is given in MacDonald, *ibid.*, p.1, no. 4.

23 McAndrew, *ibid.*


25 It is also interesting that the Double-headed eagle was also taken up by Earl Alan's uncle Sir John de Menteith at about the same time [MacDonald, *ibid.*, p.247, no. 1950].


27 English and Scottish heraldry of the period was not without other examples of the use of a double-headed eagle. Besides the relations of the Earls of Menteith, Birch identified 8 individuals who were contemporaneous with Sir William de Ferrers of Groby, or nearly so, among whom John de Grymesby, parson of West Keal, Lincolnshire appears to have the highest social rank [Birch, *Catalogue of Seals in the Department of Manuscripts in the British Museum* (London: Longmans and Co., 1894), Vol. 3, p.46, no. 10,318. The seals of the other 6 English armigers can be found on pp.11, 12, 138, 217, 463 and 585. The seal of the Scots armiger, William de Upsettington, is found in Birch, *ibid.*, vol. 4, p.598, no. 17,017.] None of these individuals has been identified as being of sufficient rank to have Sir William de Ferrers marry a sister or another near kinswoman. It is therefore deemed improbable that such a union would have occurred, or that Sir William de Ferrers would have inherited the heraldic achievement of such a family as part of his own seal.

28 People of Medieval Scotland 1093-1314, URL [http://www.pcms.ac.uk](http://www.pcms.ac.uk). Three individuals of this name in the database can be readily shown as near relations: Helen (or Elena) de Moreville, Helen de Galloway (her granddaughter) and Helen la Zouche (daughter of Helen of Galloway).


33 *Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem* (Hereford: printed for His Majesty's Stationery Office, 1910), vol. VI, pp.376-7, no. 603. The Leicestershire inquisition was dated "Thursday after Palm Sunday, 18 Edward II" [i.e., 4 April 1325]. The Northamptonshire inquisition was held on 13 April.

34 Richardson, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, *ibid.*, vol. II, p.72, 296.

Widow of Edward le Despenser, knight.
A shield of arms: quarterly, in the second and third quarters a fret, over all a bend (DESPENSER) impaling four mascles. Within a cusped circle, surrounded by a band of pointed tracery broken by four roundels of arms containing (above) a sleeping lion (below) a pierced cinquefoil, (L) three chevrons, (R) a lion rampant crowned. S: .AN[N].LE[DESP]EN[SER]
As mentioned in the text of this article, the "band of pointed tracery" is actually composed of twelve mascles, three between every pair of roundels. These may have been intended to represent the three mascles missing from Anne's paternal arms in the seal.

The identification of Sir William de Ferrers' wife as a Segrave is one of long standing [cf. Complete Peerage, vol. V, pp.343-4; note also the grant of the lands of William de Ferrers when a minor to Nicholas de Segrave junior for a fine of 100 marks, dated 18 May 1288 (Cal. Patent Rolls (1281-1282), p.295]. Douglas Richardson has kindly pointed out the heraldic evidence in the windows of Baddeley Clinton as supporting this, as the arms shown in the window for this William de Ferrers are shown as Ferrers impaling Segrave [Rev. Henry Norris, Baddeley Clinton: its Manor, Church and Hall (London:Art and Book Company, 1897), p.64]. The arms depicted in the windows are reasonably accurate, but are understood to have been a creation of the 16th or 17th century [Norris, ibid., p. 63]. Possibly due in part to the gap in time between the marriages themselves and their commemoration in the windows of Baddeley Clinton, it is important to note that the arms depicted provide occasionally misleading genealogical evidence. In particular, the arms of William de Ferrers' father are shown impaling not the arms of his mother, Anne Durward, but rather those of his step-mother Eleanor de Lovaine. There are other arms which could have been depicted which are clearly not if a complete heraldic presentation had been intended (e.g., the arms of Sibyl Marshal, one of the heiresses of the well-known William Marshal and the first wife of William de Ferrers's grandfather William, Earl of Derby, are not shown). That William de Ferrers may have married a Segrave lady as his first wife seems quite likely, but the Baddeley Clinton windows should not be taken as proof of this alliance, let alone evidence that this individual was the mother of one or more of William de Ferrers' children.

Richardson, ibid., vol. II, p.72.
McAndrew, Scotland's Historic Heraldry, p.51.
The chevrons in the left roundel, if representing Strathearn, ought to number 2 and not 3, as observed by Bruce McAndrew and Douglas Richardson. Given the revised ancestry assigned to Anne de Ferrers in this article, this appears to be either an error or artistic licence on the part of the seal's artisan.

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