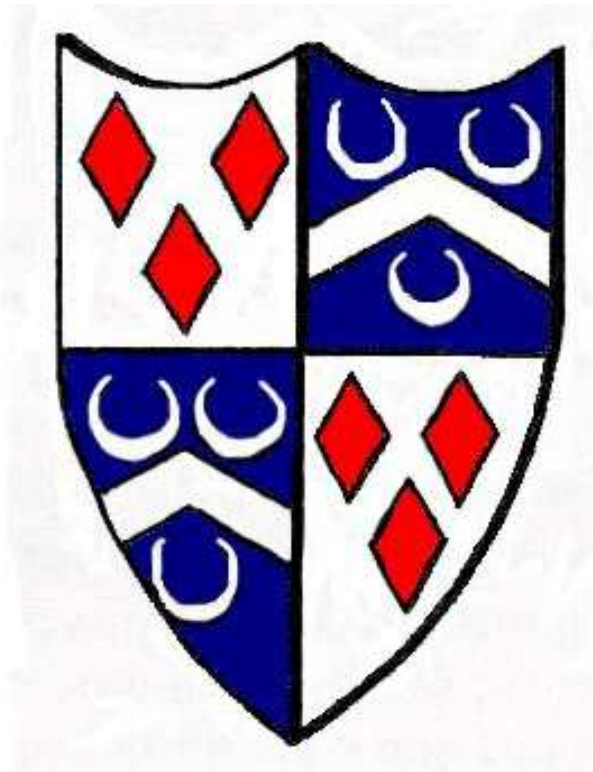


*THE HISTORY OF THE  
FIFE PITCAIRNS*

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*FAMILY BRANCH 3*



**ARMS OF PITCAIRN OF PITLOUR**

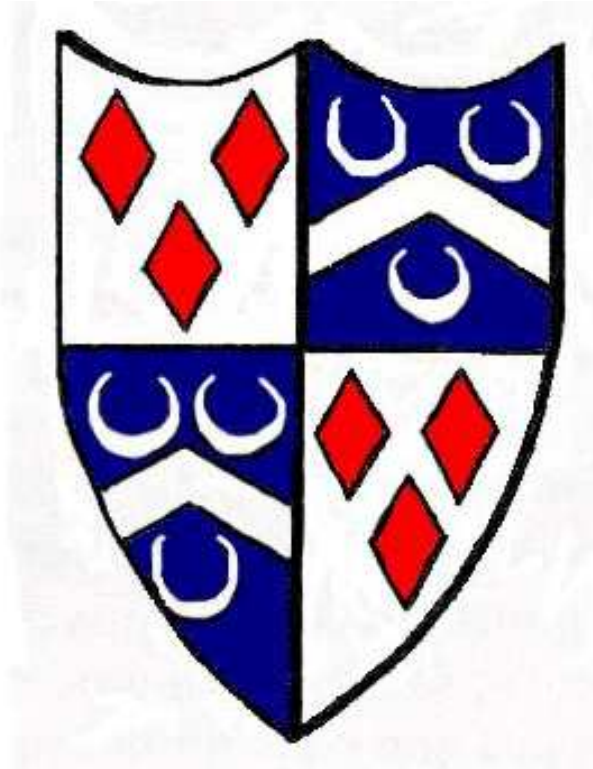
William Pitcairn of Pitlour, 1642.

Crest, an Anchor in Pale Azure.

Motto, *Sperabo*. (I will Hope)

*PITCAIRNES OF PITLOUR*

**FAMILY BRANCH III.**  
**PITCAIRNS OF PITLOUR**



**ARMS OF PITCAIRN OF PITLOUR**

William Pitcairn of Pitlour, 1542.  
Crest, an Anchor in Pale Azure.  
Motto, *Sperabo*. (I will Hope)

The coat of arms of the Pitcairn of Pitlour, mentioned in Nisbet's Heraldry<sup>1</sup> is as follows: -

For William Pitcairne of Pitlower, 1542, quarterly 1st and 4th Argent, three Lozenges, two and one Gules, for Pitcairn; 2nd and 3rd Azure, a Chevron between Crescents Argent. Crest, an Anchor in Pale Azure. Motto, *Sperabo*. (I will hope)

2nd and 3rd quarters, Azure, a chevron between Crescents, is the coat of arms of the Dury family.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Nisbet Scottish Heraldry, vol.1.p.215 Pub. Edinburgh 1722.

<sup>2</sup> Elizabeth Dury married David Pitcairn of that Ilk.

The estate of Pitlour is situated near the village of Strathmiglo, Fife and now includes part of the village itself. The village was formerly a portion of the Abbey lands of Balmerino. After Lord Balmerino's attainder in 1745 this part of the village was acquired by the estate of Pitlour, and now belongs to W.B. Skene, Esq.

Pitlour House is about one mile north, overlooking the village. The house was a substantial one, with grounds beautifully laid out and anciently formed part of the Barony of Strathmiglo, but was sold by Sir James Scott of Balwearie to Henry Pitcarne of that Ilk and remained with the Pitcairns until the year 1698 or 1699, when the second Patrick Pitcarne of Pitlour, with his father Henry sold the estate to John Skene of Halyards, who married Patrick Pitcairne's daughter Helen. The present house was not built until 1784 long after the purchase of the property by Mrs Skene. Helen Pitcairne was so fond of her old home that she would not have it altered before her death. The old house was only pulled down early in last century. The old wall gardens are still untouched: there are some beautiful trees in the park, and the country on all sides is very beautiful.

There was formerly a small religious house (or "Hospital") at Gatesyde, at the village of Edenshed, in the parish of Strathmiglo, probably founded by Robert III or James I. The original matrix of the seal of this house is now in the possession of a gentleman in Kinross.

The Pitcairns of Pitlour were descended from John de Pitcarne, who in 1250 received a grant of lands of Innernethy from his kinsman, Sir Hugh de Abernethy, from whom were also descended in the direct line the Pitcairns of that Ilk and Forthar. (See Forthar Pitcairns).

Henry Pitcairne of that Ilk and Forthar-Ramsay was eleventh laird in 1489. He married Egidia, or Grizzell, Marlville or Melville, and had two sons: David, who succeeded to Pitcairn and Forthar-Ramsay; and John, his second son, who succeeded to Pitlour, and the Barony of Drongie or Drumgy.

Henry also had two daughters: 1. Katherine married to John Balingall of Drummardy; 2. Marjory married to Robert Whyte of Balnethil, who also, in 1531-2, possessed part of Kilgraston, Strathern, given him by William Moncrieff.

In 1504 Henry Pitcarne of Forthar and his wife Egidia Marlville had-

Two toffees granted to them, near the lands of the Abbey of Balmerinock, and ane croft with malt kiln and barn in the village or town of Strathmiglo, in the shire of Fife<sup>1</sup>.

This deed was dated at Pitlour on the 21st of July 1504, and was the first mention of Pitlour as belonging to the Pitcairn family. There is another deed, dated 1517, signed by Henry Pitcairne at Pitlour.<sup>2</sup>

In 1526, August 4th at Perth –

Mr David Pitcarne, Archdean of Brechin, and John Petcarne, are witnesses at Perth to a charter granted to William, Lord Ruthven, and Christian Forbes, his spouse, and William Ruthven, their son, who bought from Walter Chaip lands Wester Pitlour and Auchnary in baronia de Strathmeglo. Held of the King.<sup>3</sup>

Henry Pitcarne gave his son John, Pitlour, and he was in possession of it, and the Barony of Drungy, as early as October 31, 1536. The following charter plainly shows that John Pitcarne was in possession of Pitlour, also that he had four sons: Henry, his heir-apparent, William, John, and James; besides a daughter. The sons signed the deed as witnesses: -

John Pitcarne de Drungy sold 10 marcatas terrarum vile sue de Blaifortht in baronia de Cuthilgrundy vic Perth to Andree Gib and Margaret Admowty, his wife. Witnesses, *Henry Petcarne* filio, dicti Johannis Pitcarne et here de apparente, William Pitcarne filio ejusdem, John Alex. Maure, John Pitcarne, James Pitcarne. Apud locum habitationis dicti John Pitcairne de Pitloure, 27th October 1536. Confirmed by the king, Edinburgh, 31st October 1536.<sup>4</sup>

And in 1542 in 'Nisbet's Heraldry' James Pitcarne of Pitlour is called "Pitcarne of Drunghe," and has for coat of arms three lozenges within a border gules. Motto, *Spes lucis eternæ*.

James, youngest son of John Pitcarne of Pitlour, and his son William are mentioned in the records of Dysart in 1542.

In 1553 John Pitcarne sold some more of his land near Perth. The following is the charter: -

<sup>1</sup> Reg.Mag.Sig.lib.xiv.No.117. <sup>2</sup> Ibid. lib. xxiv No. 43. <sup>3</sup> Ibid. lib. Xxi. No. 89.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid. lib. Xxv. No. 357.



**PITLOUR HOUSE.**

Pitcarne of Drongie,

In the year 1553 John Pitcairn of Drongie sold to David Wemyss, son of David Wemyss of that Ilk by Mariot Tours his second wife, the lands of Blair of Forth and others in the barony of Cathilgrundy and shire of Perth.<sup>1</sup>

Confirmation by the Queen of Charter by John Pitcairne of Drungy, whereby he sold to David Wemyss, brother-german of John Wemyss of that Ilk, the lands of Blair of Forth, with third part of Strentoun, in the barony of Cuthilgrundy and shire of Perth. Dated at his place of Pitlour, 10th of June 1553. William Pitcarne is a witness. Confirmed at Perth, 18th of June 1553.<sup>1</sup>

It appears from the foregoing Charters that John Pitcairne of Drongy and Pitlour had sold all his former estate of Blair Forthyt to two different people, part to Andrew Gibb in 1536 and the rest to David Wemyss in 1553. Pitcairn was now definitely settled in his hose of Easter Pitlour, Lord Ruthven owning West Pitlour and Auchnary.

John Pitcairn of Pitlour died in 1597<sup>2</sup> an old man; his grandson, Patrick Pitcairne, was served heir to him. Jan.18, 1597, and on the same day to his great-grandmother, Egidia Melville, wife of Henry Pitcarne of Forthar.

The four sons of John of Pitlour were Henry, the eldest and John's heir, who would have had Pitlour but died early, Henry's son Patrick succeeding in his place; 2. William; 3. John; and 4. James.

Williame Petcarne of Drungy, John's second son, signed a deed in Strathmiglo for his father on the 18th of November 1596. On the 8th of March 1585 he made his last will and testament, and was succeeded by his son William Petcarne (II), who is mentioned in a charter, 1589-90, as being of Kirktown Mylne of Innerkelour, tenant of John, Lord of Innermeyth.<sup>3</sup>

On the 27th July 1616 John Pitcairne, in Kirktown Mill of Innerkeilour, makes his will: he was son of William Pitcairne (II) of Kirktown Milne and great-grandson of John of Pitlour.

Henry, the eldest son of John Pitcairne of Pitlour, had predeceased his father; therefore Patrick, Henry's son succeeded to the Pitlour estate in 1597, on the death of his grandfather.

<sup>1</sup> Wemyss book. vol. i.

<sup>2</sup> Index of Retours, County of Fife.

<sup>22</sup> Index of Retours, County of Fife.

<sup>4</sup> Reg. of Privy Council, 1589-90.

## PATRICK PITCAIRN OF PITLOUR

On the 18th of Jan. 1597 Patrick was also retoured heir to Egidia Melville, his great-grandmother. He was very young when he came into the property, for only four years before this date he was page to his cousin, John Pitcarne of that Ilk, and witnessed a deed at Forthar on the 3rd of May 1593; in it he is called 'Servitore' to Mr John Pitcairne.

In 1594 Sir James Scott of Abbotshall went surety for Sir James Scott of Balwearie not to harm Patrick Pitcarne of Pitloure.<sup>1</sup>

It was a Sir James Scott of Balwearie who sold part of Pitlour to the Pitcairns.

On the '25th of May 1594 Patrick Pitcarne of Pitlour became surety for James Weyms of Balquhary, that he would not reset or intercommune with Francis, sometime Earl of Bothwell.' Weyms broke the contract, and had communications with Bothwell, so therefore Patrick Pitcairne had to pay. The reason of this transaction was that at the University in Edinburgh the boys barred out their master, Hercules Rollock; one of them in the confusion shot a master through a window. Some of the ringleaders were to have been executed, but got off eventually by many of the gentlemen's sons in Fife becoming surety for them. Francis, Earl Bothwell, was one of those implicated.

Wester Pitlour had now become the property of Mrs Moncrieff, nee Janet Pitcairne, in this way: Janet Pitcarne, daughter of Andrew Pitcarne of Innernethy, was the wife of Robert Moncrieff, of Easter Rhynd near Innernethy.

In the year 1598<sup>1</sup> she was described as his relict, and had seisen of the lands of Wester Pitlour, in the Barony of Strathmiglo. With tenants, tenandries, and services of free tenants, on Charter of Sale and Alienation by Sir James Scot, of Balwearie, Knight, with consent of Elizabeth Wardlaw, his spouse dated at Kynnerny (in the west of Fife) the 15th of August 1598. Elizabeth Wardlaw (daughter of Andrew Wardlaw of Torrie) subscribing; 'With my hand at the pen led by the two notaries Publict underwritten at my command, because I can not wreit.' The deed states, that 'seisin was given on the ground of the said lands, by an honorable man, James Blyth of Craigie (near Dundee) son of Richard Blyth,

<sup>1</sup> Reg. Of the Privy Council of James VI 1593-94.

‘Chalmerlaine and Granatour’ of the Abbacy of Lindores, as bailie of Sir James Blyth. The said Janet Pitcarne personally present, about 12 noon, in presence of Mr James Pitcarne, Minister of God’s Word at Falkland, Mr James Balcanquell, Minister of God’s Word at Stramiglo, John Dron junr. in Pitlour, James Laing in Innernethie, and David Barclay mason (fabro murario) in Cupar. (This was a wadset for 3000 merks advanced by Mrs Moncrieff to Sir James Scott<sup>1</sup>)

This Janet Pitcairne is not mentioned by Mr George Seton in his book on the Moncrieffs, neither is her husband. Her brother, Andrew Pitcairne (son of Andrew Pitcairne of Innernethy).

Had disposed to him by her, the right to the lands of Wester Pitlour, when she had in pledge from Sir James Scot of Balwearie. The right of reversion of these lands having been transferred by Sir James to Alexander Moncrieff, Master Falconer to King James VI (afterwards Sir Alexander Moncrieff, of Balcaskie, Knight), the latter, on the 15 th December 1600, redeemed them from this Andrew Pitcarne of Innernethy, by paying him 3000 merks. The redemption was made within the “Kirk of Strathmeglo at twa houris efter noone” or thereby, in presence of James Ramsay of Corstoun, Andrew Riccartone of Casche, and others.<sup>2</sup>

In June 1602 Patrick Pitcarne of Pitlour gave Sir James Elphinstone of Innerdevat £100 to buy a stand of horsemen’s armour from Sir Michael Balfour of Birley.<sup>3</sup>

Patrick was still a young man, though he had come into the inheritance of his father, grandfather, and great-grand-mother.

On July 22nd, 1603, Patrick Pitcairn of Pitlour is witness to a Charter of this date at Hampton Court, “Confirmed at Whytehall on the 10th of February 1604.”<sup>4</sup>

Patrick was Groom of the Bedchamber to King James VI, and was evidently in favour with that King, as for his services in 1605 he is granted a charter of the lands of Wester Pitlour, &c., which had belonged to the Ruthvens, the Scots of Balwearie, Janet Pitcairne (Mrs Moncrieff) and then redeemed by Alexander Moncrieff, and in 1608 a second charter is granted to Pitcairne.

<sup>1</sup> Reg. Privy Council, 1594. <sup>2</sup> Scottish Notes and Queries, Mr Lyell’s paper <sup>3</sup> Scottish Notes and Queries. <sup>4</sup> Register of the Privy Council for 1602-3.



1. *Royal Charter*

1605, *March* 6. Charter by King James VI, to Patrick Pitcairne of Pitlour, and the heirs-male of his body, of the town and lands of Drumgie, with peat moss, muirs, meadows, and commonty, in the Shire of Perth, town and lands of West Pitloure, lands of Auchnairie, lands of Easter Pitloure, &c., in the Barony of Strathmiglow, in the Shire of Fife, with privilege of pasture on the Lomonds of Falkland, and the hills of Auchtermuchty, on resignation by the said Patrick; all which the King incorporated into a free Tenandry of Pitloure for the good services of the said Patrick.<sup>1</sup>

II. *Royal Charter*

1608, *July*. Charter by the King to Patrick Pitcairne of Pitloure, of the West Mill if Strathmiglo, with 24 acres of land of Pitgormo, lying contiguous to the said mill, with pasture on the Lomonds of Falkland, &c., on resignation by Sir James Scot of Balwerie, Knight.<sup>2</sup>

By this time Patrick had left Mr John Pitcairne of Forthar – Ramsay and had gone as page to Alexander Seaton, sixth Lord and first Earl of Dunfermline. He was probably of an impatient disposition, as in 1605 it says in the Register of the Privy Council that “he was brought up for rebellion against Alexander Seaton,” Earl of Dunfermline.

Parties: Patrick Pitcairne of Pitlowre (Pitlochry) in Scotland, Esq. James I. Place or Subject: Surrender of Letters Patent of 20 Dec I James I granting him the reversion of the office of Clerk to the Council in the province of Connaught, Ireland, and the date: 1612. Source: The Catalogue of The National Archives Exchequer: King’s Remembrancer: Modern Deeds, Series DE. 214/358.

In 1613 he was one of the Commissioners of the Peace of the Sheriffdom of Fife and Kinross,<sup>3</sup> and amongst others on the Bench were his cousin, Henry Pitcairne of Forthar, Sir David Lindsay of the Mount, and Patrick’s uncle, Sir

<sup>1</sup> Reg. Mag. Sig., lib, xlv. No. 192. <sup>2</sup> Ibid, lib.xlis.No.75 <sup>3</sup> Ibid. lib. xlv. No.207.3



**PATRICK PITCAIRN OF PITLOUR,  
CIRCA, 1600.**

William Pitcairne of Kirktown Mylne. In 1615 Commission is also given to “Sir Johne Boiswell of Balmuto, Sir James Wemyss of Bogie, David Beatoun of Balfour,

Henrie Pitcairne of Forthie, James Clark of Balbirnie; any three of them, to try prisoners.”

At this date, there were –

Letters to find caution, to keep the peace, between Laird Pitcarne of Pitlour and the Laird of Duncrub.

The Laird of Duncrub was the ancestor of the present Lord Rollo. These gentlemen had probably disagreed on some point; and as they were neighbours, it was necessary to bind them over to keep the peace.

The roads in these days were evidently in a bad state, and there is a note in the Register of the Privy Council that -

The roads near the Erne were to be repaired in the parish of Ebdie, Auchtermuchtie, Strathmeglo, Arnegosk, and the landis pertaining to the Lairdis of Balvaird and Pitlour, within the parish of Abernethy.<sup>1</sup>

Arngask and Balvaird were now in possession of the son of Sir William Murray and his wife Barbara *nee* Pitcairne.

There seems to have been some friction between Patrick Pitcarne and the folks of Auchtermuchty, for in 1625 there is a “Caution in £1,000 by William Ricartoun of Corskillis, for the baillies, Council, community, and inhabitants of Auchtermuchty, not to molest Patrick Pitcarne of Pitloure, his family, tenants, or servants; and another caution in £1,000, by Henry Pitcarne of that Ilk, for Patrick Pitcarne of Pitloure, not to molest the folks of Auchtermuchtie. Signed by both.”

Henry Pitcarne of Forthar was Patrick’s cousin.

In 1623 Patrick seems to have fallen out with the Ramsays, for there is-

<sup>1</sup> Reg. Of the Privy Council 1065. <sup>2</sup> Ibid. <sup>3</sup> Reg. Of the Privy Council.

Caution by Pitcarne of Pitforthar in 1000 merks, that Patrik Pitcarne of Pitloure will not molest Mr David, Robert, and Mr James Ramsay, brothers to Sir James Ramsay of Corston, nor their tenants or servants.

And again there was-

Caution given by John Ramsay in Pittocho, in 500 merks each for the said Mr David, Robert and Mr James Ramsay that they will not molest Mr Patrik Pitcarne of Pitlour, nor his tenants or servants.

These Ramsays were connections of the Pitcarnes, as Elizabeth Pitcarne, sister to Henry Pitcarne, eleventh lord of Pitcarne, married Sir John Ramsay in 1495.<sup>1</sup> His son was Sir James Ramsay.

In 1623, in the Register of the Privy Council, "Patrik Pitcarne of Pitlour and Henrie Pitcarne of Forthar" are mentioned as being Justices of the Peace for Fife and Kinross.

In 1636<sup>2</sup> there is a Charter by King Charles I, to Thomas Ogilvie, younger of Hilkaire (or Pittcaire), and Margaret Pitcarne his wife, of the sunny half of the lands of Hilkairenes with manor.

In 1637 Patrick Ogilvie of Inchmartin resigns lands of Urquhart and Streidmureland, in the lordship of Balmerino, to Patrick Pitcarne of Pitlour, and on Nov. 1643 the King gives or ratifies the charter of Urquhart to Patrick Pitcarne. (Margaret Pitcarne may have been Patrick's daughter.)

In 1643<sup>3</sup> Mr Patrick Pitcarne of Pitlour was Justice of the Peace for Fife and Kinross, with his cousin Henry Pitcarne of Forthar, and the Commission under the Signet was given to Pitcarne of Forthar, Broun of Finmouth, James Clerk of Balbirnie – of Kinnadie and John Boiswall of Pittedie, or any two of them, to try Issobell Mawer in the Weymis, who has been long suspected of the crymes of Witchcraft, sorcerie, using of charmes inchantmentis and other devillishe practises offensive to God, slandell to the trow religion and hurt of diverse of our goode subjectis. She is now in the ward in the Tolbooth of Dysart.<sup>3</sup>

The same to try Patrik Landrok, Helene Darumpill, Jonnet Pedie, and Helen Dryburgh in the Weymis, who this long time have been suspected of the crimes of witchcraft, sorcerie, using of charmes and inchantiments and other devillishe practises, which have confessed they are now in ward in the Tolbooth of Dysart.

Signed by Chancellor, Mar, Roxburgh, Dunkeld, Stormont, and Colvill.

This was the most terrible time of cruelty and ignorance. Poor people were done to death for witchcraft, burnt, and put to horrible tortures.

<sup>1</sup> Register of Privy Council in Scotland 2nd Series Vol.i.

<sup>2</sup> Reg. Mag. Sig. lib Lvii.No.367. <sup>3</sup> Register of Privy Council in Scotland, 2nd Series, Vol.i.

King Charles I, gave Patrick Pitcarne some more lands: -

On November 26th 1643, charter by the King to Patrick Pitcarne of Pitlour, of the lands of Urquhart, with the coals, &c., lands of Steadmureland, &c., in the lordship and barony of Balmerino, Shire of Fife, which were resigned by Patrick Ogilvie of Inchmartin and others on the 13th June 1637, and the said Patrick and Robert his son, now deceased, were resigners.<sup>1</sup>

On August 16, 1650, William Patrick's son, was married. Lamont says in his Diary -

Young Pitloure, surnamed Pitcairn, married Alisone Rig, Eathernie's second sister; the marriage feast (such as it was) stood at Eatherney.

Pitlour and Auchnarie –

On the 13th of April 1653 William Pitcarne, fiar of Pitloure (on contract entered into between him on the one part, and Alisone Rig his spouse with consent of Mr Thomas Rig of Aithernie her brother-german on the other part, dated the 9th of April 1653), infested his said spouse in liferent in the lands of Drungie lying in the barony of Balmerinock and shire of Fife, and in his two tofts, bakehouse and barn, lying in the town of Stramiglo and Yard thereof pertaining to the said William, and in the Stonehouse at the West end of Stramiglo then occupied by Robert Cupar with the crofts lying thereto, and pasturage and commony thereto belonging, lying in the shire aforesaid and in the sunny quarter of the lands of Ester Pitloure, and in an annual rent of 36 bolls 2 firlots victual (20 bolls beir 16 bolls 2 firlots oats) and 34s. 8d. Scots, yearly to be levied out of the other three quarters of the said lands of Easter Pitlour.<sup>2</sup>

On 10th March 1658 Henry Pitcarne of Larestoune acting as baillie of William Pitcarne of Pitlour, gave sasine to Alisone Rigg, spouse of said William, of an annual rent of 20 bolls oats, 12 bolls meal, 10 bolls bere, and £30 Scots, out of said William's land of Wester Pitlour and Auchnarie, and that in lieu of her liferent sasine of the lands of Drymmie, which were disposed on by her husband with her consent.<sup>3</sup>

On 10th March 1658 Henry Pitcarne of Larestoune, acting as baillie for William Pitcarne of Pitlour, gave sasine to the latter's wife of a liferent provision.<sup>4</sup>

In 1670 Patrick Pitcarne of Pitlour died, a very old man. His son Robert was buried the same day. Patrick left two other sons, William and Henry. Lamont in his diary says: -

<sup>1</sup> State Register of Privy Council for Scotland and Series, Vol. i.    <sup>2</sup> Perth Sasines, Series vol. v.fol.89.    <sup>3</sup> Ibid. vol.v.fol..89.

May 1653 – Old Pitlowrre in Fyfe, (surnamed Pitcaine), departed out of this life att Pitlowrre, as also one of his sonnes; they were both buried in one day. From Mr John Lamont’s Diary.

### WILLIAM PITCAIRNE OF PITLOUR

On August 29, 1671. William Pitcarne of Pitlour was served heir-male to his brother-german Robert Pitcarne in the town, village, and lands of Wester Pitloure and Auchnorie.

A.E. 3 1. N.E. 12 1. Retours for Fife.

Lands of Easter Pitloure, with the moat and manor place of Pitloure, in the Barony of Strathmiglo, privilege of common rights, and pasturage in the Lowmonds of Falkland, and in the hills of Auchtermuchtie, lands in Strathmeglo, with pasturage in the Lowmonds, and 3 crofts in Strathmeglo.

A. E. 3 1. N. E. 12 1.

All united with all lands in the “Vicecomitatu” of Perth in the tenandry of Pitloure, town and lands of Streidmureland in the dominion or lordship of Balmerino.

E. 6 1. E.<sup>1</sup>

This was a time of much persecution for religious opinions, and the Pitcairns were not exempt: -

In 1674 the following gentlemen of Fife were fined for being at Conventicles and listening to a Mr Welsh – Sir John Kirkcaldy of Grange £500 Scots, the Laird of Raith £850, George Scott of Pitlochry in a £1000, William Pitcarne of Pitlour £1050, and Henry Pitcarne of Larestown in £200; the latter was William Pitcarne of Pitlour’s brother and baillie. Charles Cowan of Causton £333, Robert Colville of Balvaire in £100, Robert Shaw a portioner in Auchtermuchty, £49; James Hamilton in £150; Maxwell, Provost of Auchtermuchty, £250; Mr George Heriot of Ramorny £983. They were all ordered to lie in prison till they paid the said sums.<sup>2</sup> None of them was sett at liberty until they had paid their fynes, and yet some of them declared that if they had taken the oath of Supremacy they would have been set at liberty at once.

On the 23rd July still greater severity was practised with certain gentlemen. The Council again fined Harry Pitcarne of Larestoun in £1200, Pitcarne of Pitlour in 2000 merks, George Scott of Pitlochry in £1200, Charles Cowan of Causton in £1000, by and

<sup>1</sup> Indices of Retours for the County of Fife, vol. Xxx. Fol. 229.

<sup>2</sup> Wodrow’s History of the Sufferings of the Church of Scotland, vol. Ii, p.238.

after the sums they were liable to and fined for their being at Conventicles and upon the account of harbouring Mr John Welsh, Minister.<sup>1</sup>

July 18, 1683, Sir Thomas Hope of Craighall, Skene of Halyards, elder, with many other Lothian Gentlemen, are indicted for converse with rebels and resetting them on their lands, of which in some measure the whole gentry east and west are chargeable, and upon their taking the test they are dismissed.

The Pitcarnes had been heavily fined for their religious opinions – William Pitcarne in £1050, and again in 2000 merks, and Henry in £200 and in £1200; so it is no wonder they were embarrassed. At any rate, they made a disposition of Pitlour to Helen Pitcarne's husband, John Skene, in 1683; but whether the Pitcairns sold it or gave it is not quite clear.

### HENRY PITCAIRNE OF PITLOUR

After William Pitcarne's death his brother Henry succeeded him to Pitlour, which he following clearly shows: -

Henry Pitcarne of Pitloure, male heir of William of Pitloure, his brother-german, in town and lands of Wester Pitloure and Auchnorie (A.E. 3 b., N. E. 12). Lands of Easter Pitloure with manor place of Pitloure, in the Barony of Strathmeglo, with pastures, in the Lowmonds of Falkland, and in the hills of Auchtermuchtie, the lands of Strathmeglo, with 2 crofts and tofts, in the town of Strathmeglo (A.E. 3 b., N. E. 12), all in the tenandry of Pitloure, the town and lands of Streidmureland in the Lordship of Balmerinock (E. 6 B. Feudiferma, September 17, 1675.<sup>2</sup>

Henry Pitcarne 5th Laird of Pitlour m. Lily McGill had possibly James, b.30 Mar 1651. Margaret, b. 13 Aug 1651 and Patrick, b. 13 Mar 1654, who became 6th Laird of Pitlour and Lcestoune. He sold the estate to John Skene. This Patrick married Margaret Wilson, and had Helen of Pitlour who m. 1695 John Skene of Halyards and Pitlour, and three sons William, b.

Ante 1682, Patrick 17 Oct 1690 and James b. 5 Oct 1692. Register of Deeds 1681.

*Note* – 1617-1660 - of Lcestoune (Lachestoun), Henry, son of Patrick P. of Pitlour XII.280, XVII.25, XVIII.37, 70 302, etc, his spouse, see McGill Lily.

<sup>1</sup> Wodrow's Church of Scotland, vol. ii. p.244. <sup>2</sup> From Canon Pitcairn's Papers. Indices of Retours for Scotland vol. Xxxii. Fol. 182.

## PATRICK PITCAIRNE (1I) OF PITLOUR.

Patrick Pitcairne of Pitlour married Margret Wilson. He had three sons; 1. William Pitcairne, born 1682, or before, who is mentioned in the Edinburgh City Births as son of Patrick Pitcairne, and was a witness in 1692; 2. Patrick, baptised 17th October 1690; 3. James, 28th October 1692. Helen Pitcairne, who married John Skene, must have been much older than her brother, as she was married about 1695. The witnesses to the brothers' baptisms were –

Patrick Firma, Merchant	1690
Alex. Hamilton of Kincail	1690
James Smitoun, merchant,	1690, 1692
Rob. Pitcairne, writer	1690, 1692 (sponsor).
John Pitcairne, writer,	1692
William Pitcairne, son to Patrick	1692
James Brown, merchant,	1692

- Edinburgh City Birth Records.

The Alexander Hamilton of Kincail (or Kinkell) mentioned here married Margaret, the daughter of Alexander Pitcairne of that Ilk and Forthar; and her mother was Margaret Threipland of Fingask. Mr Hamilton and his wife suffered great religious persecution, an account of which is given in the history of the Pitcairns of Forthar.

Patrick had an only daughter Helen, who married John Skene of Halyards; and on the 22nd of November 1683 Henry and his son Patrick made a disposition of the Pitlour estate to John Skene. There are inserted here three old deeds; 1. Disposition of Pitlour to John Skene; II. A Copy of an old contract of marriage between John Skene and Helen Pitcairne. III. The will of John Skene, disposing his property to his wife and his son David Skene. The original documents are still extant, and in the possession of W.B. Skene Esq., the present owner of Pitlour, by whose kind courtesy I was allowed to copy extracts from them. The old wording and spelling, to which I have adhered, is interesting and quaint: -



*I. Disposition of Pitlour to Mr John Skene*

To Mr Charles Robinson, writer in Edinburgh; disposition of Henry Pitcairne of Pitlour to John Skene of Hallyeirds, dated 22 and 24 November 1583.

Disposition by Henry Pitcairne of Pitlour and Patrick Pitcairne, junr., of Pitlour, his eldest sone, in favour of John Skene of Hallyards, and after his decease to the eldest for the time, of John, Charles, and Thomas Skene, sons of John Skene, junr., of Hallyards, and the heirs male of their bodys during the lifetime of their said Father. And after the succession of the eldest to their said Father's Estates, to the next eldest successively, and the heirs male of their bodys respectively. Of the land of Wester Pitlour and Auchnarie and Easter Pitlour, with commonty and common pasturage of feuing of the lands in the Townships of Falkland and Hills of Auchtermuchty. Of the land of Stridmuirland and ffriarmill and Teinds of ffriarmill, dated 22 and 24 November 1683.

*II. The Contract of Marriage*

1. Contract of Marriage between **JOHN SKENE** of Halyairds and Helen Pitcairne, his spouse, dated the 9th July 1700. Providing her in a free Life rent of a thousand marks, after his decease, furth of the lands of Easter and Wester Pitlour, Auchnarie and Streidmuireland with Precept of Seisin. And she assigns to him her life rent right of all Bonds, Heretable estate and Movables belonging to him.

“The ninth day July 1700 years it is Contracted and finally endit betwixt ye pairties follouing, that is to say John Skene of Halyairds and Helen Pitcairne, his spouse, Lauffull daughter to Patrick Pitcairne, sometyme of Pitlour upon ye ane and oyer pairth, in mainer, subsequent yer is to say forasmuch, as the said John Skene, Helen Pitcairne, spouse ye seberell years, bygone solemnized, and compleited ye Holy bond of Marriage, and yer being no contract of marriage betwixt yem naiyer befor nor since yeir marriage. So that ye said ye Helen Pitcairne is as yett unprovided to any provisione for her subsistence, after ye death of the said John Skene, hir husband thereffore the said John Skene; in implement and fulfilling of his matrimonial promise, made be him to hir, at the agreement of hir marriage, and for hir lyveliehood in a word. In case shee survives him . . .(giving her an annuity of one thousand merks).



**JOHN SKENE, OF PITLOUR.**

The said John Skene obliges him and his aforesaid to make payment of ane thousand merkes to his said Spouse during hir lyftyme as saidis ffurth of the lands of Pitlour or any other moveables, or hertable Estate that shall belong to David Skene their sone, or be provyded to him be the said John Skene his Father no wayes furth of any other estate pertaining to the said John Skene, free of all private and publick burdens, whatsomever. In the which annuity of ane thousand merkes the said John Skene binds and obliges him, his heirs and successors, to duly and law-fully infest, and seise the said Helen Pitcairne, his spouse in life rent, during all the dyes of hir lyftyme, yeirly to be raised to the said four termes in the yeir, Mertimes, Candlesmiss, Whitsunday, and Lambas., by equall proportiones FFURTH OFF ALL THE SAID lands the toune and lands of Wester Pitlour, and Auchnorie, with the pairts, pendicles and annexis, connexis, dependaines, outsets, tenents, tennandraies, and service of free tenents of the samen and sicklyke FFURTH OFF ALL AND SUNDRIE The Lands of Easter Pitlour with the foss and mainer place of Pitlour, yairds, orchards, pairts pendicles annexis, connexis dependainces, outsets, tenants tenandries, and service of he samen, and Hail pertinents therof lying within the baronie of Stramiglo and Shirroffdome of Ffyfe with full right ad privilidge of commonty and pasturage in the Lomonds of Ffalkland and in the hills of Aughtermughtie, corresponding to the quantity of the saide lands conforme to use and custome as also FFURTH OFF ALL AND THE HAILL the toune and Lands of Stidmuirlands with Houss, biggins, yairds, orchards, pastureages and haill pertinents the samen us and wont, lying within the lordshipe of Balmerino, and shirroffdome of Ffyfe and sicklyke FFURTH OFF ALL AND THE HAILL.

The toune and Lands off ffrier Milne, with houss, biggins, yairds, tofts, crofts, and haille other pertinents lying within the barrony of Pitgorno paroch of Straemiglo Lordshipe or Balmerino and Sheirroff-dome of Ffyfe forsaid together with the teynd, and teynd sheaves great and small, parsonage and Viccarage of the samen or Ffurth of any other and all rents tht shall be provyded by the said John Skene to the said David Skene, wherever the same lye within in this Kingdom of Ffurth of any pairt or portion thereof.

FURTH OFF ALL AND HAILL. The said toune and landes of Western Pitlour, Auchnorie, with the pairts, pendicles, annexes connexes dependences, outsets, tenents, tenandries and service of feu tenents of the same and sicklyke FURTH OF ALL AND HAILL.



**DAVID SKENE, OF PITLOUR.**

The lands of Eastern Pitlour with the foss and Mainer place of Pitlour, yairds, orchards, pairts, pendicles annexies, connexis, dependices, outsets, tenents tenandries, and service of free tenents of the same and hail pertinent thereof, with full right, priviledge of commonty, and pastureage in the Lommons of Ffalkland, and in the hill of Aughtermughtie, corresponding to the quantity of the said lands conformed to use and custom, as also Ffurth of all and Hail.

The said toune and lands of Steidmureland with houss, biggins, yairds, orchards, pasturages and hail pertinent of the same used and wont and sycklyke FFURTH OF ALL AND HAILL. The said toune and lands of ffriermilne with house and biggins, yairds, tofts, crofts and hail, other pertinent all lying as said is together with teynd, sheaves, great and small, Parsonage and Vicarage of the same, Ffurth, of any other lands rents shall be provided by the said John Skene, to the said David Skene, his sone, wherever the same lye within this kingdom or Ffurth of any part or portion thereof, mealls, fermes, profits, deutys of the same.

To the said Helen Pitcairne in liferent, during her lyftyme as said is by delyverie to her, or to certaine acting in her name, bearer thereof of earth and stone of the ground of the said lands, and handful of corne, for the said tokens, and one penny money uses, and this on noways they leave undone, the which to do we do commits to them and ilk ane of them conjunctly and severally in that part as full and irrevocable power be their presence because the said John Skene, hereby wills and ordains thereat the said Helen Pitcairne his spouse for keep and in family the said David Skene their Sone in family with herselfe, and cause educate him to Schooles and Colledges, according to his rank and degree, and for that effect the said John Skene hereby assigns and dispones to the said Helen Pitcairne his spouse yearly and ilk year during the said David Skene his remaining in family with her after the death of the aid John Skene his father and her widowhood allenary.

ALL AND SUNDRIES The Haille Mealls, customs, and dutyes, of whatsoever lands and heritages and the rent to whatsoever sums of money or heritable or movable that shall be provide to him be the said John Skene his Father to be managed, uplifted, and improved by the said Helen Pitcairne during widowtie Allenary to the use and utility the said David Skene her sone. What is and shall be aid be her said Sone's entertainment and education at Schools and Colledges. FOR WHICH CAUSES on the other

part, the said Helen Pitcairne not only hereby accepts of the aforesaid one thousand merkes yearly in satisfaction to her of all conjunct free life rent, and thried of movables goods, gear, and others whatsoever that shoe bee anyways provided to heretofore any manner of waye, that might befall to her be the death of the said John Skene his husband his representatives, and all others concerned thereof for ever. EXCEPTING what sumes of money for plenishing for ane hose and others the said John Skene of his own will and pleasure shall be pleased to provide and dispose to his said spouse hereafter. BUT ALSO in respect the said Helen Pitcairne thereby assigns and dispones his haille life rent right of the aforesaid debts all well heretable as moveable due be ye whatsoever persons all persons To which shoe is provided in life rent in favours of the said John Skene his husband his heirs and assigns whatsoever, &. Written before the said witness, the said James Moyes and Adam Peirson, Writer of brief, John Willard, by the said John Skene.

Ja. Moyes, *Witness*.  
Ad. Peirson, *Witness*  
John Willard, *Witness*.

JOHN SKENE.  
HELEN PITCAIRNE.

### III. *John Skene's Will.*

REGRATT ASSIGNATION AND DISPOSITION, JOHN SKENE elder  
of Hallyeards to DAVID SKENE, his son, and HELEN  
PITCAIRNE, his Spouse.

At Edinburgh the third day of February 1708 years, in presence of ye Lords of Council and Session, compeared Mr Matthew Macbeth advocate has proe for John Skene aforesaid and signed and gave in ye disposition and assignation under written desiring the same insert in ye books of Council and Session to remand for confirmation when deferred the said Lordes.

Ye for ordained thereby he same to be done accordingly of this disposition, and assignation the tenor follows –

I, John Skene, elder of Hallyeards considering I'm grown old and inform, and been of intention to avoid all controverses and debates that may arise amongst my nearest friends, anent the plenishing, and moveables of my

dwelling house of Grange, and any bestiall happened to be possessed and laboured by me, ye time of mine decease, when the same should happen at ye pleasure of almighty God. Anent my farmes, lands due to me Furth of the said lands and barronnys and growth orchards thereof falling due to me, and in my possession, in the time of, and proceeding my desease and annual years' rents of the farms that shall fall due to me at m desease. Therefore the greet love and affection which I have and bear to David Skene my only son, procreate between Helen Pitcairne my present spouse and me, and the said Helen Pitcairne my said Spouse will to have sold assigned and disponed by their presence sole, assigned simpliciter disponed fro me, my heirs and all oyes my assigns to, and in favour of, the said David Skene. Helen Pitcairne his Mother for her said son, his use utility and profit, during his minority and nonage parting of him by desease to the said Helen Pitcairn to be disposed of and used to her, at her pleasure, and that by, and attour, any life rent provision granted by me, to ye said Helen Pitcairne, declaring all and sundrie goods, geir and household plenishing, utensils, gold and silver, bestaills, horse, sheep, growth, crops, . . . lands, feus mealls rents and dutys of lands, cloath duties &c., about my dwelling house, and barronnys, about Halliyeirds, and Grange pertaining and added to he time of my desease . . . In favour of the said David Skene and his forsaid and to the said Helen Pitcairne my said spouse, for her said sone, brining up and be-hoof during his minority and nonage, ad in case of his desease to the said Helen Pitcairne whom I hereby surrogate and substitute in my room, of ye whole premises with full power to ye said Helen Pitcairne after my said desease for the behove aforesaid intermitt, with the aforesaid goods geirs, plenishing, bestialls, corn crops growth and lands, and dispose thereon generally sundrie other things, to doe as I might have done thereon myself in my own lyfetye and lastly I do hereby declare, that what of the above goods geirs shall be bestowed on her for ye defraying of the expenses of the funerals, shall be allowed and deducted to her of ye first and of her intermissions by virtue thereof and hereby impower the due to me the time aforesaid, of my desease, to be bestowed to the said David Skene, his use, like as I hereby oblidge me to enter the said David Skene and Helen Pitcairne in the possession of her household goods, geir, household plenishing, and other assigned and disponed and for that effect, - and ilk ane of you and several whom I require to put the said David Skene and Helen Pitcairne for his behoof in possession of the aforesaid goods, geir, and others above disponed by delivery to him or hir, the bearer in their name any part thereof which shall be sufficient

consenting to the registration in ye Book of Council and Session, or other competent one to remand for conservacione, and I constitute, Mr Matthew Mikell advocate my proxy in witness there of written be Alexander Luchar, Servitor to Mr Henry Scrimsour, writer to the Signett. I have subscribed these presents at Grange, the seven day of December seventeen hundred and five years before these Witnessed David Blayth and David Wemyss writer in Edinburgh, inspector of the place, date witnesses' name and designations, sic sube John Skene, David Clark, witnes David Wemyss, witness. Extraction by me,

Ja. Dalrymple.

Sir James Melville, in his `Memoirs, ` mentions a John Skene when he went about King James VI's marriage to Denmark. Probably a relation of John Skene of Pitlour.

He said: -

“I told His Majesty, that I would chuse to take with me for a Lawyer, Mr John Skeen. His Majesty said, he judged there were many better Lawyers.

I said, he was the best acquainted with the German customs, and could make them long harangues in Latin; that he was a good true stout man, like a Dutch man. Then His Majesty was content that he should go with me.<sup>1</sup>

Eight gentlemen of the law were called from their number Octavians, and had the management of the Revenues. Alexander Seaton, President of the Session; Walter Stewart, Commendator of Blantyre, Lord Privy Seal; David Carnegy; John Lindsay James Elphinston; Thomas Hamilton; John Skene, Clerk Register; and Peter Yong, Elemosynar.

I give the following particulars of the Skene family given to me by Mr Douglas Govan. He says: -

My great-great great-grandmother was Helen Pitcairne of Pitlour. She became the second wife of John Skene of Halyards, and was daughter of Patrick Pitcairne, from whom in 1683 John Skene had the disposition of the estate. Her son, David Skene (born 17th January 1696) succeeded to the estate of Pitlour, in terms of his father's settlement, and on the 25th July

<sup>1</sup> Sir James Melville's Memoirs.



1718 married Jean Douglas of Strathendry, by whom he had three sons and three daughters –

1. Robert Skene, who succeeded him.
2. Philip Skene, who succeeded his brother.
3. David Skene, a captain in the 28th Regiment who died may 22 1788, leaving by his wife Elizabeth Morison of Naughton, one son David Skene, who succeeded his uncle Philip. He died a minor in 1803 and was succeeded in the estate by his aunt, Helen Skene, who was married in 1746 to Colonel George Moncrieff of Rudie and Myres.

The pictures of the first Patrick Pitcarne of Pitlour, John Skene, and his son David Skene, the originals of which are still at Pitlour, are reproduced in this book through the kindness of Mr Skene.

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Patrick Pitcairn 3rd Laird of Pitlour and Margaret Elphinstone, also had a daughter Margaret and another possible son Patrick, Merchant St Andrews mention as brother of Robert in Register of Deeds 1677. 1681, 1688. Patrick had two sons,

- 1) John, Merchant, St Andrews, m. 10 Dec 1658, Janet Watson, issue-
  - 1) Alexander, b. 9 May 1661. 2) James b. 24 Jul 1662. 1) Ehphan, b. 30 Oct 1659. 2) Jean, b. 7 Mar 1667.
- 2) Robert Pitcairn, Writer Edinburgh, m. 3 Dec 1675, Margaret Murray, issue –
  - 1) Patrick, b. 5 Nov 1676. 2) James, b. 29 Feb 1680.
- 1) Margaret, b. 30 Nov 1677. 2) Liliias, b. 29 May 1681.

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**NOTE.** - John Pitcairn 2nd Laird of Pitlour 1536, was married to Christina

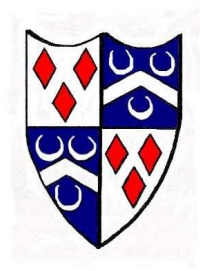
Muschet, according to Protocol Book of Alex. Gaw P.18. 1551.

The Registers of Deeds and Sasines come up with names, which, at present are possibly connected, to this family, but until

more proofs and further research has been worked, we cannot further this family.

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**BRANCH III. PITCAIRNS OF PITLOUR.**



**HENRY PITCARNE** = EGIDIA MELVILLE  
 XI.th laird of tht Ilk, and 1  
 Forthar and 1st of Pitlour, 1504 1  
 II.nd larid, 1489 1

1	1	1	1
<b>XII. DAVID PITCARNE</b> Laird of Pitcairn And Forthar.	<b>II. JOHN PITCARNE</b> of Drungy Of Pitlour, 1536 <i>d.</i> 1597 I	Katherine m. John Ballingall	<b>MARJORY</b> m. Robert White of Kilgraston and Balnethiel.
1.	2.	3.	4

1	1	1	1
<b>HENRY PITCARNE</b> Died before His father.	<b>WILLIAM PITCARNE</b> f Pitlour, Fife <i>d.</i> 1584-85.	<b>JOHN</b> of Drunghe 1542.	<b>JAMES</b> I I I
1	1	1	1

1	1	1
<b>III. PATRICK PITCARNE</b> of Pitlour served heir to John of Pitlour Grandfather. 1597. and Great-grandmother Same day, 1597: <i>d.</i> 5th Sept, 1670.	<b>WILLIAM</b> of Kirktown Milne of Innerkeilour 1589, 1613	<b>WILLIAM</b> of Petlour son of James 1542
1	1	1

1	1	1	1
<b>ROBERT PITCARNE</b> <b>PITCARNE</b> of Petloure; <i>d.</i> 5th Sept. 1670 buried with his father <i>d.s.p.</i>	<b>IV. WILLIAM</b> = ALISON RIG served heir to Robert Aug. 1671 <i>d.</i> Sept. 7, 1675 <i>d.s.p.</i>	of Eatheries m. 1650 infected in Drunghe, 1653.	<b>V. HENRY PITCARNE</b> succeeded to Pitlour Sept. 17, 1675. I I I
1	1	1	1

**VI. PATRICK PITCAIRNE** = Margaret Wilson  
 of Pitlour. 1

1	1	1	1	1
<b>HELEN PITCAIRNE</b> of Pitlour	= <b>VII. John Skene</b> of Halyards	<b>WILLIAM</b> <i>b.</i> ante 1682	<b>PATRICK</b> <i>b.</i> 1690	<b>JAMES</b> <i>b.</i> 1692
1	1	1	1	1

**VIII. David Skene** = Jean Douglas  
 of Pitlour I of  
*b.* 17th Jan. 1696 I Strathendry:  
 I *m.* 25th July 1718  
 I

1	1	1	1	1
<b>IX. Helen Skene</b> Aunt to David Skene (No.3) succeeded him in Pitlour.	= Col. Geo Moncrieff of Rudie and Myres Castle; <i>m.</i> 1746	<b>IX. Robert Skene</b> succeeded to Pitlour.	<b>X. Philip Skene</b> succeeded Robert in Pitlour.	David = Elizabeth <i>d.</i> 1788 Morrison I of I Naughton.
1	1	1	1	1

**XI. Capt. David Skene.**  
 28 th Regiment; *d.s.p.* 1803  
 (No.3)  
 succeeded his uncle Philip  
 To Pitlour; and was succeeded by  
**his aunt Helen Skene.**

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