

Alexander Forrester = Jean Erskine

Notes derived from “Lands and Lairds of Larbert and Dunipace Parishes” by John Charles Gibson published 1908.

Alexander succeeded David Forrester of Torwood and Garden before 16th June 1556 when he must have been very young, as he was under curators¹. About 1568 he married Jean Erskine, daughter of John Erskine of Dun² by whom he had several children. On 17th February, 1557, there is an instrument of resignation of certain tenements in Stirling in favour of Alexander Forrester of Garden³. He was provost of Stirling, 1562-3 and 1564-5. In 1570 he was present at the Convention of Estates in Edinburgh, also at the Convention upon the Regency after the assassination of the Regent, Earl of Murray⁴. He was one of those who signed the “Band of the freindis of the House of Mar in 1578”⁵.

Towards the end of his life, the Register of the Privy Council records at length a boundary dispute in 1593 between Alexander and a tenant which involved what appears to be Alexander’s personal army! Two years later in the same record appears:- “Proclamation against attending the Earl of Mar and John Livingstone to their day of law concerning the slaughter of David Livingstone”⁶.

1. R.M.S., 1557.

2. Stirling Protocols.

3. Stirling Burgh records.

4. Reg. Privy Council

5. *Ibid.*

6. Register of the Privy Council, Vol.V., p. 242.

There is much more in Gibson’s book between pages 138 and 148.

Violet Jacob in “The Lairds of Dun” says

“Jean, who had a tocher of three hundred merks and was married to Alexander Forrester of Garden. Her arms are carved upon her husband’s tombstone in the floor of Leckie Vault – once the pre-Reformation aisle of St. Andrew – in the West Kirk of Stirling.”. (Now the church of the Holy Rude.)

She cites ‘Dun Papers’ for this information. (See picture of stone at end.)

Alex’s testament is recorded in the Edinburgh Commissariat on 23rd July 1599.

(Alex and Jean’s fourth son Mr Duncan Forrester is the line being followed through this history.)

From: Calendar of State papers Scotlana, vol.11 (Edinburgh, 1936), pp. 636, 63. 660, 679:
John Colville and the English diplomats Robert Bowles and George Nicholson mentioned the aftermath of the murder in several letters.

From: James VI and Noble Power in Scotland 1578-1603 Ed. Miles Kerr-Paterson, Steven J. Reid (2017), Published by Routledge. p. 109

In December 1595 James VI had a proclamation made at the town cross of Stirling denouncing Forrester and his sons and followers. They attacked the Officer of Arms and tore his letters in contempt for this legal process. Forrester's sons were banished from the county for three years or longer.

Stone below.

