

Sir Duncan Forrester = Margaret Forsyth

Notes from Lands and Lairds of Larbert and Dunipace Parishes by John Charles Gibson published 1908. Pages 134-135.

“Duncan Forrester of Gunnershaw, had a charter of the lands of Torwood, and the office of forester, 26th November 1488, which office became hereditary in this family. This Duncan, sometimes designed of Skipynch, was supposed to be the son of Matthew Forrester,¹ burgess and provost of Stirling,² brother to Malcolm of Torwood. Exchequer Rolls states that Matthew Forrester lent money to Flanders, probably to the king who was there at that time. *circa 1457.*”

1. Matthew Forrester was most probably the Natural son of Robert Forrester of Torwood. King James III *ex gratia speciali sua*, [as a special favour] granted him under the Great Seal of Scotland, the full powers of a legitimately born subject, 15th November 1477.

2. Stirling Protocols, 23rd February, 1479, and Burgh Records, 1470-1

3. Sasines of 26th November 1497 and 12 Sept 1502 describe Walter as heir apparent of Duncan Forrester of Skypinch.



The photos show above, the Church of the Holy Rude in Stirling and below, from the outside and inside the Forrester Aisle built by Duncan. More information at [CHURCH OF THE HOLY RUDE, STIRLING - RCAHMS Inventory](#)



From The Red Book of Scotland by Gordon MacGregor p293.

Sir Duncan Forrester of Skipinch and Torwood, who like his father, was a person of importance in and around Stirling, He was granted a pension by James III in 1480 for his service as custodian of Stirling Castle¹ and in 1482 he and James Dawson, as joint-custodians, had payments to themselves for those duties². He is styled son of Matthew Forrester in an action raised against them by William James on 12th December 1482 for having taken oxen from the lands of Cambusbarron³ and was Provost of Stirling on 31 December 1483 when he bound himself to Adam Corsour to repair his aisle in St. Mary's church⁴. On The forfeiture of his cousin, Henry Forrester, Fiar of Torwood, for being in arms against James IV at Sauchieburn, The king conveyed the lands of Torwood to him for which he had a charter under the Great Seal on 16 November 1488⁵. He also acquired the lands of Skipinch with the Castle, and is found variously styled "of Skypinch." "of Torwood," "of Gunnerschaw" and "of Garden" from 1488 onwards. He *m.* firstly, to Margaret Forsyth, secondly, by 1503, to Margaret Bothwell and on 6 November 1523, with consent of Sir Walter, his eldest son, he granted an annualrent of 20 shillings Scots from his lands in the burgh of Stirling to Mr. James Wilson, chaplain, for a yearly mass for Margaret Forsyth, his late wife, and after his own death, for them both and then for Margaret Bothwell, his present wife, dated 6 November 1523.⁶ He d soon afterwards having had issue by both wives.

1. Ex. Rolls Vol.IX p3.

2. Ex. Rolls Vol. IX. P169

3. NAS PA2/3/f. 26r.

4. Stirling Protocol Book.

5. C2/12/53. Printed Vol. 1424-1513. No. 1802

6. B/66//25/79

Further notes from Lands and Lairds of Larbert and Dunipace Parishes by John Charles Gibson published 1908.

Pages 135-136.

Sir Duncan, who became laird of Torwood about 1488, was closely identified with Stirling. He was custumar from 1480 to 1487¹. In the year 1480 he was keeper of Stirling Castle, when payments were made to him for the watchmen and porter; he was Comptroller and Auditor, and renders accounts of the Baillies, 1422-7; is made provost, 1477-8, 1487-88, and 1489-90. He is designed by Buchan of Auchmar, in his Genealogy of the Buchans, as "a very topping gentleman". James IV stood godfather at the christening of Sir Duncan's grandchild, when he "hufe" Duncan Forrester's sonnis barne", 17th December 1489². on 31st December 1483, he bound himself to repair his aisle of St. Mary³, that beautiful little chapel in the West Parish Church of Stirling. Sir Duncan was Comptroller to Queen Margaret, wife of James IV., daughter of Henry VII. Of England. In 1504 we learn from the Lord High Treasurer's Accounts that "the queen hunted in the forest of Torwood, and amused herself as best she could." The same record states that Sir Duncan played at cards with the King and his son, Alexander, played at the "Caich" [Probably tennis.] with the King (1508). The name of Sir Duncan's chaplin was Sir Alexander Crag. Sir Duncan had many charters, among others that of Arngibbon, 6th July, 1503. Sir Duncan married first, Margaret, daughter of Harthill in Clydesdale by whom he is said to have had five sons and one daughter. Sir Duncan married secondly, Dame Margaret Bothwell, mentioned in a charter, 1503, by whom he had four sons and three daughters. His second son by this marriage, Robert, was burnt on Castle Hill, Edinburgh, "be ye papists last February (1539-9) for ye reformation". Sir Duncan made provision that prayers should be said for the souls of his wives⁵ Margaret Forsyth and Margaret Bothwell.

1. Exchequer Rolls.

2. Lord High Treasurer's Account.

3. Stirling Protocols.

4. MS Ped.

5. Stirling Burgh Charters.