

The Forsters of Adderstone and Bamburgh

The information in this tree and the associated notes are drawn from a number of sources. The predominant source is from Gerry Forster, Gold Coast, Australia 2003 (GF). Another is the Forster Pedigree displayed in St. Aidan's church near Bamburgh Castle, a copy of which I hold (BP) along with a PDF of the pedigree contained in the book titled, 'The Pedigree of the Forsters and Fosters of the North of England', 1871 by Joseph Foster, a renowned genealogist of his time (JF). Finally a pedigree prepared by Joe Forster in the 1990's (JoeF). Where each of these references appear, it's source will be shown as well as including my own commentary designed to show where differences arise or clarifications occur (HughF).

The History of the Forster Family and Clan

The Origin of the Name

The Name "Forster", variously spelled Forrester, Forester, and sometimes (badly) as Foster, has two possible origins. One derives originally from "forester", an ancient office and occupation associated with royalty and families of high degree, and goes back to the first great tribal clan systems and kingdoms in Scotland and England. The other origin lies with a Norman noble who was granted lands in Scotland and Northumbria by William the Conqueror, and who 'anglicised' his French family name into "Forester". I suggest we take a quick look at the first-mentioned possible origin, then come back to consider the second one. Once we are aware of all the possibilities, perhaps we can then form a better judgement based on the available evidence. In order to discover the earliest appointed "Foresters", I strove to trace back those first great tribal chieftains and kings in Britain, who were sufficiently well established and socially advanced to have set up a properly organised court. One in which state or household officers were appointed to various positions necessary for the regular administration, protection and maintenance of their strongholds and their lands.

In England, the first hints of such organised kingdoms or fiefdoms appear to have been those of the early Germanic Angle and Saxon invaders, circa 600 AD. However, since these were a fairly loose union of Teutonic tribal settlements, it seems unlikely - with the possible exception of the Angles in Northumbria - or old Boernicea - that they would have attained any formally organised states within their own individual bounds. That would only have happened after a mutual-defence union or treaty had been formed, and a common kingship established. This did not occur until the final emergence of Egbert, who was crowned king of the Saxon heptarchy in 827A.D, and was then able to set up a true court and organise a coordinated system of rule over the whole Saxon union, on a peaceably settled footing. Prior to this, there had been individual rulers over the seven minor "kingdoms" of Sussex, Essex, Wessex, Kent, East Anglia, Mercia and Northumbria - excluding Boernicea - which belong to the Angles. However, it seems unlikely that any of these had had the opportunity to become established as true kingdoms because of the tentative nature of their hold on their stolen lands, and because of the constant wars they waged against their Angle, Jute or Viking co-invaders.

In the meantime, the original Britons (or Brythons), who were little more than a group of barbaric Celtic tribes, ruled over by priestly druids, had been driven into Wales and the Cornish peninsula, by the invading Romans in 54 BC. There they had eventually become largely Christianised, and for a time at least, confederated under the rule of Uther Pendragon of Arthurian legendary fame. (Few, incidentally, realise that both he and King Arthur actually existed as historic figures!) But, here again, we find no evidence of a formally organised state, requiring court officials and administrators, until the ascendancy of the Saxon, Egbert, who - as stated earlier - was crowned King of the whole Saxon Heptarchy at Winchester, in 827 AD.

However, in Scotland (known to the Romans as Caledonia), which then extended as far south as an imaginary line between Carlisle and Newcastle-upon-Tyne), a well-established tribal system had already existed since long before the Romans occupied Britain. In fact, they were so well organized as to be able to repulse the full weight of the mighty Roman Army in their drive northwards. They fought back with such ordered fury as to necessitate the hasty building by the Romans of two barricade walls. The first was the substantial and fortified Hadrian's Wall, built in 121 A.D. along the Cheviot Hills south of the Tweed. Then 20 years later, the Antonine Wall, which was of rough turf-sod construction, more hastily thrown up, between the Clyde and Firth of Forth estuaries as a forward advance frontier. However, it failed miserably, and after losing more than 50,000 men, the new Emperor, Severus, had to abandon it and pull his troops back to Hadrian's sturdier stone barrier in 194 A.D.

There can be little doubt that such strong leaders as the blue-tattooed Picti (or "illustrated men") must have had to be able to drive back the Roman invaders, would have been well organized in their leadership and rule. Whether they were sufficiently civilised as to hold court and administrate their territories properly, however, is not known.

True Scottish history began with the mass migration - and reluctant acceptance by the Picts - of the Gaelic Scots from Ireland into Western Scotland (or "Dalriada", as it was known then). These Scots or Gaels were actually direct descendants of the Celtic peoples who had drifted across central Europe from Southern Russia and the lands around the Danube, to finally settle in Spain, Brittany, Cornwall and Ireland, and who still carried with them their own tongue, Gaelic, and their own ancient mythology and rituals, which are still reflected today in their quaint customs and festivals.

This settlement in Dalriada led to the amalgamation of the Scots and Picts into one strong nation and to their conversion to Christianity by Saint Columba in 563 AD. The Scots had already brought the "Clan" system with them from Ireland. Thus, it rapidly became established in Caledonia by the division of the new amalgamated race into district sub-tribes or clans in southern Scotland. This was well before the advent of Columba and his new religion, particularly on the western side, from Argyllshire southward. Before the spread of Christianity, the Picts and the Scots had both followed the old pagan religion of the Druids, as had the Britons, (to whom the Picts were closely related as aboriginal inhabitants of Britain). Much more than in England and Wales, this led to a moderately well organised society within the tribal or clan systems. Clan bards began to memorise all the historic events and battle-feats of their clans, and thus became, after their chieftains, the second most important and perhaps most knowledgeable officials in each clan's social and ceremonial life.

As with subsequent official posts in the chieftain's court, this office of Bard and Clan Historian became an hereditary one, with all the carefully memorised oral traditional stories and songs handed down from father to son.

As these early clans grew in size and stature, so the household offices of their chiefs grew more numerous to cover all of the social and material aspects of the Chief's rank, power and possessions, particularly the clan tribal territory, including the timber, domestic livestock and game. This territory and its contents became the responsibility of the Forester, the real "hands-on" man of action who had charge over all the forests, streams, animals and fishing-rights belonging to the chieftain and the clan, and upon which they had to depend for their very subsistence. The ancient clan-chieftains held vast mainland forests of oak and birch, fir and elder, and many of the Western Isles were also heavily wooded. (Sadly, most of those dense Scottish forests were felled and sold to English iron foundries during the Industrial Revolution of the 1800s, to line the pockets of greedy, unscrupulous Scots chiefs and lairds at the expense of the livelihoods of their people!)

However, to return to our subject, as tribal clans gave way to kingdoms, these Clan offices became royal appointments. Later, following the Norman model, they attracting titles, hereditary knighthoods and grants of land or estates in recognition of services faithfully rendered. Particularly so in protection of the King's most valued property, his Real Estate, that as we shall learn, was certainly the case with the Forsters.

So it can be seen that, from the earliest times, the office of Forester was a vitally important one, and the official who held it would have had many of the clan's best fighting men at his disposal to repel cattle-reivers, poachers, and rival clansmen from the Clan's territory and livestock. Early Viking marauders, foraging for game on the islands of Western Scotland as they sailed around to the Isle of Man (their western stronghold in the Irish Sea), often fell foul of the clan foresters and their men. The clansmen showered them with arrows from the thickly wooded shores of islands like Skye, Eigg, Coll and Tiree, as they waded ashore from their longboats. The few places these "Wolves of the Sea" could land in any safety were the barren and deserted rocky headlands. Places

like Trotternish, Vaternish and Dunvegan on Skye, where they set up temporary strongholds and left behind their Norse names together with their Norse genes for posterity.

Thus, we see that the Caledonians had already established a system of "Local Government" within their own tribal groups, at least two or three centuries before the Anglo-Saxons had attained sufficient territorial stability to do so. The foresters could only have first attained any kind of official clan standing in Scotland. The Chieftain's court-system would appear to have subsequently been adopted throughout Britain from that ancient Scottish model, beginning with that portion of England which had for long ages been a part of Scotland; namely Northumbria. Thus, by the time King Ida (or Adda), leader of the Angles, conquered the Britonic-Pictish state of Berneich (or Bernicia, later called Northumbria) in 547AD, he would have inherited the ancient Caledonian style of clan-government, and would undoubtedly have built upon this to create a Royal Court of sorts, complete with the appropriate officers. To what extent, we cannot be sure, but suffice it to say that Bernicia was the first real kingdom in Britain (albeit a pirate kingdom to begin with), but later destined to become the early seat of the Anglo-Saxon kings, from 547 to 975AD, with Bamburgh, or Bebbanburgh, named after Bebbha, the wife of Ida's grandson as its focus. Bebbanburgh was then nothing more than a stockaded log and stone fort perched on top of a vast, wind-swept outcrop of black rock, known as Whin Sill, which looked out eastward across the cold North Sea and the rocky Farne Islands, toward the land of the Norsemen. The site was an excellently strategic one having been used by the Roman legions as their forward defensive headquarters during the construction of Hadrian's Wall.

At its greatest extent, in 800AD, Northumbria stretched from the western Ayrshire coast and the Firth of Forth in Scotland, down the entire northern half of England to the Mersey in the west and the Wash in the east. This great kingdom, covering central and southern Scotland, as well as the greater bulk of northern England, was ruled by Anglo-Saxon kings from Bamburgh. Not until the final joining of Picts and the Scots under King Kenneth MacAlpin, into the first United Kingdom of Scotland in 843AD, was the northern border of Northumbria pushed back down to the Cheviots and the river Tweed. By this time, however, many of the clans of central and southern Scotland had become inextricably interbred with those of the Northumbrians and, to a lesser extent, the Cumbrians, together with an exchange and mingling of their traditions, cultures and racial attributes. Powerful traits and characteristics that were further strengthened by interbreeding with Vikings and Norsemen who invaded the northeast sporadically between 793 and the mid-900s.

In the meantime, amid all this upheaval, the clan-system and its hierarchy continued to develop both north and south of the waveringly uncertain border between Scotland and Northumbria. The power and social standing of clan administrators and officers increased accordingly. Particularly for the foresters, whose duties now also included the actual demarcation of territorial boundaries - an office that could easily be turned to their own personal advantage - and often was! The Foresters wielded considerable power from the days of tribal chieftains to those of the first kings of Scotland, and onward to the era of the Lords of the Isles (including Somerled, who founded the Clan Donald. By the time of his death in the late 1100s, Somerled ruled the entire western coast of Scotland and all its Hebridean islands. His empire stretching from the Isle of Lewis in the North Atlantic, right down to the Isle of Man, and no doubt he borrowed much from the Norman system of feudal hierarchy. Many renowned and noble Scottish clans owe their origins to the Normans, including the Royal Stewarts or Stuarts themselves, together with other typically Scottish-sounding names like Bruce, Menzies, Fraser, Montgomery, Grant, Sinclair, Barclay, Ramsay, Hay and so forth. So there is clearly no necessity, with reference to the enmity that anciently existed between Britain and France, to feel that there is any form of stigma attached to such a descent - particularly when one takes into consideration the fact that the Normans themselves are actually more Scandinavian than French in origin, since Normandy was settled long ages past by the Viking kings!

Long before the finally abolishment of the Lordship of the Isles by King James IV in 1493, the Foresters had been appointed the Hereditary Keepers and Administrators of the Royal Forests. These vast forests once surrounded Loch Lomond, as well as the region of Tor Wood and Garden, adjacent to Stirling. If the Foresters had any particular clan affiliation at all, it now lay with the Clan Douglas in Linlithgowshire and Galloway.

In the intervening time-period between 975 and 1174, the fortunes of Northumbria swung back and forth like a pendulum as the Scots strove to repossess their lost land. By the 1100s, the Scottish border had come south as far as a line between the Solway Firth and the Tyne Estuary, and the Forresters, (Foresters or Forsters) had become a large and powerful family in their own right. They had spread across south Scotland via Lothian and Galasheils, into Northumbria, which at that time owed allegiance to the Scottish King Malcolm IV as far south as Newcastle.

In 1157, Henry II, the fourth Norman king of England, brought some sort of pressure to bear upon Malcolm and the English-Scottish Border was restored northward to its old location on the river

Tweed, leaving the town of Berwick-upon-Tweed under English jurisdiction. Those Scottish Forsters who had settled below the Tweed and the Cheviots, in both Cumbria and Northumbria, now found themselves cut off from their land of origin. However, they rapidly adjusted to their new situation as English subjects, and, within reasonable parameters, became willing subjects of the English Crown. Nevertheless, in certain political situations, their old loyalties toward Scotland tended to surface from time to time - and not always to their advantage - as will become clear when we delve into their family history.

Nevertheless, they remained related, at least in the heraldic sense to the Scottish Forsters and Foresters, insofar as they still shared the same identical armorial bearings on both sides of the border. Their family escutcheons displayed: "Argent, a chevron vert between three bugle-horns sable garnished or, stringed or" - which translates in plain English to "On a silver background, a green chevron, between three black hunting-horns decorated and stringed with gold". (Most however, are "stringed gules"- red).

What this essentially means is that the Forsters of Northumbria are clearly directly stemmed from the same root source as the Forresters of Scotland, or they would have been granted different armorial bearings. The "three bugle-horns" (that do not have to face any specific way) and the "chevron" motif may have originally been granted by Lord Lyon, King of Arms, from the Scots Court of Heraldry. (Unless it came from another, perhaps Norman source.) The southern English version is not the same motif, comprising, as it does, a silver chevron between three silver arrow-heads (or pheons) on a black background. These last are actually the Norman-English Forster Arms, and relate to the Forestiers of the royal forests of the Norman Kings and Barons of England proper. (Such as the infamous Sherwood Foresters of Robin Hood's time, whose armorial insignia would have been granted by the Norman-English College of Arms, in London.) The truly significant difference here lies in the bugle-horn, which is the Scottish (and Flemish) "charge" or symbol of the Forester.

Incidentally, since we shall shortly be discussing Norman knights who received grants of land around and beyond the Border between England and Scotland, we must take these matters a little cautiously. (Or "Gang Warily" as the motto of a partly Norman, largely Scottish clan, the Drummond, would put it!)

Many renowned and noble Scottish clans owe their origins to the Normans, including the Royal Stewarts or Stuarts themselves, together with other typically Scottish-sounding names like Bruce, Menzies, Fraser, Montgomery, Grant, Sinclair, Barclay, Ramsay, Hay and so forth.

Thus, there is clearly no necessity, with reference to the enmity that anciently existed between Britain and France, to feel that there is any form of stigma attached to such a non-Scottish descent. Particularly when one takes into consideration the fact that the Normans themselves are actually Scandinavian rather than French in origin, since Normandy was settled long ages past by the Vikings!

In point of fact, one needs to remember that several Scottish clans also owe their own origins to those same "Wolves of the Sea" - those Vikings and Norsemen who pillaged and wasted with great plunder and rapine so many parts of both the English and Scottish coastline! The MacLeods are a typical example of a clan with true Norse ancestry. The illustrious Clan Donald which owes its origin to the famous Somerled, King of the Isles, was a clan whose members and descendants subsequently intermarried with Norse families on several occasions.

Let us remember too, that whilst it is certainly true that the Normans were much hated and feared by the Saxons of King Harold's day, one should always bear in mind that even the Anglo-Saxons themselves were descended from Germanic marauders from North Germany and Saxony!

So much then for racial purity, even among the earliest of the British peoples!

Flanderian and Northumbrian Forsters

The Founding Fathers!

Since I am involved in preparing an historical account of the Forster family in Northumbria and in Scotland, I think it might be worth while first giving the reader a "preview Roll-Call" of the great list of many generations that I have discovered since I first decided to follow an alternative origin to the purely Scottish one I had hitherto believed to be the case. I believe it will be of great interest to

students and Forster kinsmen alike, if I list them here pro tem on a separate document in which they can be more readily seen, commented or improved upon.

The source of this new information comes from many diverse sources, including other familial researchers who have tracked these, their astonishing, ancestors via a different route than was available to most local historians in bygone years. I refer of course to that new found fount of all knowledge - the World Wide Web. Naturally, there will be those diehards who will hold to what local historians said, and dismiss the WWW as being a load of nonsense! However, many American, Canadian, Australian and other nationalities of Forsters have drawn upon far more extensive records and had access to more university and other thoroughly creditable archives than were ever imagined possible, even a decade or so back, and most importantly, they have published their findings on the Internet! It would be remiss of me not to return the favour! We now have access to infinitely more information than did even the redoubtable Sir Walter Scott - probably the finest historian the Forsters and Forresters ever had! In addition, much of what they dug out ties in closely with much of the Border history I learned at firsthand in Northumbria, despite many of their search results covering the hitherto unknown, earlier genealogy of the family. So Let us now sit back and study this much longer list of forebears, which commences around thirteen hundred and eighty years ago, long before the time of the Norman Conquest of England!

From all accounts, the first mention of Forester, Forster or Foster as a real surname in all of Britain was when Sir Richard Forester, then known by his latinised name of Forestarius, went over to England with his father, Badouin (or Baldwin) V, Forester of Flanders (called "The Debonaire"), accompanying his brother-in-law, William of Normandy to participate in the Battle of Hastings. Thus, it appears that the key figure in this long history is this man named Richard "The Frislander-De-Flanders" "Forestarius" Forester, son of Baldwin V, Count and Forester of Flanders and Adele Capet, Princess of France. Richard's sister, Matilda Maud, was the wife of William, Duke of Normandy who apparently had legitimate claim to the English throne.

Richard, who was born around 1050, must have been only a young man in his teens when he accompanied his father and Count William to England, to fight against King Harold at the Battle of Hastings in 1066. Such was his gallantry on the field of battle that William subsequently Knighted him. With his Knighthood came generous grants of land on both sides of the Border, in both south Scotland and Northumbria. Being young and having no lands of his own at the time, Sir Richard immediately took up residence with an unknown wife in his new Scottish lands, where they were soon blessed with a family of three children. As a token of goodwill to the local nobility, Sir Richard adopted and followed local traditions, even anglicised his name from the Latin Forestarius to Forester. He was well regarded and esteemed by the locals. Unfortunately, he died whilst still in his 30s, but at least he had issue - his eldest son being Hugo, who was only twelve or fifteen at the time of his father's sad demise.

It also appears logical and sensible to assume that at least two of his offspring would have stayed in Scotland, thus perhaps laying the foundations for the famous family groups of Foresters of Berwickshire and Galloway. I also believe that one should perhaps include with them the great families of Forresters that were to follow in Stirling, Torwood and Corstorphine and most of Southern Scotland - as well as those Forsters who lived at the Cumbrian and Galloway end of the Border. Sadly, there appears to be a scarcity of worthwhile information available regarding the Scottish half of Sir Richard's descendants. But first things first! I'll concentrate here upon the Northumbrian Forsters. If I can find out more about them, I'll look at Scottish Forresters, Forsters and Fosters in my coming text. (I'd appreciate any useful help that can be given in this undertaking!)

I must ask readers to please remember that this Flanderian-descended pedigree for the hitherto missing group of ancestors for the Adderstone and Bamburgh Forsters is based upon an amalgamation of "family-trees" traced partly by other equally dedicated Forster researchers residing either in the UK, Canada or the USA. I've endeavoured here to bring the bulk of these into some common semblance of sensible order, taking into account those undisputable historic events and dates that appear to agree best with their rather uncertain birth and death years. Beyond that, I cannot say whether these are a hundred or even fifty percent correct. Nobody can. Most current lists and "Pedigrees" seem to be at variance with each other in some respect or other, so I can only do my very best and approximate wherever accurate and positive data is missing.

Whilst it is possible that the occasional fictitious scion has somehow crept into this clan-tree, I've striven to avoid including any such falsities but, at the same time, I cannot exclude any entry either. It's impossible to be totally certain exactly who might be false without access to long-vanished records. However, I can certainly assure the reader that I have spent many hours hunting through all accessible records to ascertain the truest and most practicable order possible. What follows

should at least make for interesting reading - and, no doubt may stir up a few healthy arguments, too!

In order to save space, I've continued this attempt to list the male genealogical line of Forester-Forster issue up to the end of the Adderstone-Bamburgh lineage. I will begin this honourable and glowing list with the first known royally-appointed Forester, the forerunner of all others who bear the name in its many variations across early Europe, and since then, the entire globe.

His name was Lydric, only son of Saluart, Prince of Dijon. He was granted both the government and the fiefdom of Flanders by Dagobert I, King of the Franks in the year 621. The entry about him in the old Flemish chronicle I found is as follows: "Lydric the first Lord of the name called Buc, only son of Saluart, Prince of Dijon and Madame Emgarde, daughter of Girard (Gerald) Lord of Roussilon, having conquered and killed Phinart the tyrant, the Lord of Buc was appointed the First (or Grand) Forester of the country of Flanders, in the year 621, by Dagobert, the King of Austrasia and of the Franks, and carried the first arms that are blazoned as being 'garonny or et azur (blue and gold) of ten pieces in the middle of an escutcheon gules.' He died in the year 692." This coat of arms was one of the earliest granted. (The origin of the title "Grand Forester" is unknown, but it probably related to the high importance of those titled officials who had complete charge and oversight of the very heavily wooded lands in those times. These huge forests were the most valuable asset of their royal owners, the kings, being such an extremely vital source of both timber and meat for their realms! The same significance of forestry and silviculture applied just as much in Europe then as it did in England and Scotland.)

"Lyderic Le Buck governed Flanders wisely and humanely, until his death. In A.D. 640, he completed a castle on the bank of the river, which, from its insolated position was called "l'Isle," since easily changed to Lille. In this castle, Lyderic's descendants and successors, as Foresters and Counts of Flanders, resided for several centuries. Guicciardine says its ruins were extant in his time. About this castle, in time, grew the since famous City of Lille, Capital of Flanders, which once vied in importance with Lancashire, England, in the extent and value of its manufactures. It is still (1889) "one mean city" and contains some of the most valuable works of art in all Europe. The celebrated Hotel de Ville, built by Jean Sans Peur in 1430, contains forty-four of Raphael's paintings. The portraits of Lyderic Le Buc and several of his descendants, hang in the Musee in Lille."

By Richilda, his wife, Lyderic Le Buck had fifteen children. His descendants who for fourteen generations after his death governed Flanders.

Remote Origin of Frankish Foresters from 418 A.D.

Pharamond - King of the Franks, ruled 418 - 430 in Franconia

He was the chieftain who first led his tribe of Salian Franks from Franconia in Germany, into that northern portion of Gaul known as Flanders. Not a great deal is known about him, he had a wife and we must assume that Merovec was his son.

Merovec - King of the Franks, ruled 430 - 458 in Francia

Leader of the Salian Franks from the death of Pharamond. He fought against and caused Attila the Hun to retreat. Merovec's Germanic warriors settled the war-torn land they called Francia. Merovec married an unnamed wife. They had issue. The eldest was named Childeric.

Childeric I - King of the Franks, ruled 458 - 482 in Francia

He continued to expand their new land, and to establish agriculture. His was a reign of settlement and consolidation Francia as their homeland after his father's expulsion of the Huns. Childeric I married Basina of Thuringia. Their son, Clovis I inherited the crown.

Clovis I - King of the Franks, ruled 482 - 511 in Francia

He united the Frankish tribes by his strong leadership, defeated the last Roman Governor of Gaul and expelled the Visigoths. Now the new Francia was truly the country of the Franks, the land of the Merovingians. A vital factor in his success was his and his people's conversion to Christianity. It assured their support by the powerful Catholic hierarchy of Gaul and Rome, making the Franks more acceptable to the Romish population of Gaul. He married Clotilda, niece of King Gundobad of Burgundy. Later on, after a vicious fighting feud between his four sons, his final heir was Childebert I.

Childebert I - King of the Franks, ruled 511 - 558 in Francia

His was an uneasy rule, due to the enmity of his remaining brother, Clothaire, who constantly strove to overthrow him. Childebert I appears to have died unwed and childless during his 29 year reign, since his brother took over from him at his suspicious death in 558.

Clothaire I - King of the Franks ruled 558 - 562 in Francia

Prior to his brief four-year reign, Clothaire had evidently married and came to the throne with four sons - Charibert, Gunthram, Sigibert and Chilperic I. After Clothaire's short reign and early death, they divided his empire among them. Except for Gunthram, who died early, the other three each appear to have ruled consecutively as King after their father.

Charibert - King of the Franks, ruled 562 - 567 in Francia

Charibert had only a four-year reign like his father. Hardly enough time to achieve a great deal. There is no information about his marital status or issue. At his death, his younger brother, Sigibert took over the throne.

Sigibert - King of the Franks, ruled 567 - 575 in Francia

Sigibert's reign was quite a troublesome one. He married Brunhilda, the daughter of the Visigoth King Athanagild. However, his remaining younger brother, Chilperic, then married Brunhilda's sister, Galswintha. But no sooner had he done so than he grew tired of her. He had her murdered, and married her servant wench, Fredegund. The murder of her sister enraged Brunhilda so much that it caused a family feud lasting four decades. In turn, Fredegund became very dangerous and was accused of all sorts of mayhem within the family, until finally, she had King Sigibert assassinated in 575. After a short interregnum, Chilperic finally took the throne.

Chilperic - King of the Franks, ruled 576 - 584 in Francia

Given his sister-in-law's interference, Chilperic's eight-year reign was hardly a happy one, during which Brunhilda, now an old woman, managed to get herself tortured and dragged to death tied by her hair behind a galloping horse. Eventually, on Chilperic's death in 584, Fredegund's son, Clothaire II, finally became sole King of the Frankish Empire.

Clothaire II - King of the Franks, ruled 584 - 620 in Francia

Clothaire inherited a kingdom that was torn apart by internecine strife and struggles for supremacy among nobility and royalty alike. Apart from this internal strife, there was a constant threat of war with other tribes looming over his reign. However, it was a very long one in comparison with those of his immediate ancestors. He held the Frankish throne for 36 years before finally dying and leaving his son Dagobert I to take over his troubled empire.

Dagobert I - King of the Franks, ruled 620 - 637 in Francia

His reign was to be the culminating point of the Merovingian dynasty. Under Dagobert I, the Franks attained a position of great power and prominence among the European nations. However, despite his name and title being famed from the river Weser to Bohemia and across to the Pyrenees, at home his authority was illrespected. He discovered that he was the king in name only. His predecessors had virtually assigned their direct oversight of their kingdoms to their vassal Counts and Lords - to such a degree that these now almost overruled their own royal masters! The rights of the Counts were irrevocable and hereditary and they exercised them to the full over their respective territories, appointing judges and tribunals as they wished, without consulting the king.

Dagobert decided to set matters straight. In 621, he divided his kingdom into several provinces and bestowed their government to his most trusted knights. Among these was one Lyderic, the son of Saluart, Prince of Dijon. Apart from his excellent virtues and qualities, Lyderic was also Dagobert's brother-in-law, being married to his sister, Princess Richilda. Lyderic's mother was also Emingarde, the daughter of Girard, the Signour de Roussilon, a princess herself of the royal blood, of whose descendants one would eventually become wife to the Emperor of all France! In addition to all this, for having killed the tyrant Phinart, King Dagobert I also invested Lyderic with the government and fiefdom of all Flanders, gave him the name of "Le Buc", the title of Grand Forester and a coat of arms to match. In this manner the long dynasty of powerful Grand Counts of Flanders came into being.

There were, of course, still another eleven Kings of Francia to follow Dagobert I in what were now to become nominal royal "figurehead" roles. However, Dagobert had at least created a single line of loyal Counts as the executive governors over the royal territories instead of all the melange of various and sundry "Jacks-in-Office" who had gone before. Although it is to these powerful semi-regal Counts that the interest of modern Forsters and Foresters is now directed - starting with Lyderic Le Buc - I will at least mention the remaining kings, (even though they were to become such in name only from hereon), as a matter of common courtesy! They are as shown below:

Clovis II, 637 - 655

Clothaire III, 655 - 668

Childeric II, 668 - 674
Dagobert II, 674 - 678
Theuderic III, 678 - 691
Clovis III, 691 - 695
Childbert II, 695 - 711
Dagobert III, 711-716
Chilperic, 716 -721
Theuderic, 721 - 737
Childeric III, 737 - 751

From this point on the dynastic line changes from the Thuringian to the Carolingian dynasty with which we are not concerned in this genealogical exercise!

Click here for further data: <http://britannia.com/history/resource/france.html>

Royal Foresters of Flanders

Lyderic de Buc, Forester de Flanders. Born 600 and died 692 in Flanders
Appointed Grand Forester and Governor of Flanders by Dagobert I, King of the Franks in 621.
Married Dagobert's sister, Richilda, Princess of Merovingia. His 2nd son, one of 15 children, was named Antoine Forester de Flanders.

Antoine, Forester de Flanders. Born c619 in Flanders
3rd son was named Bouchard de Flanders.

Bouchard, Forester De Flanders. Born and died in Flanders
Became the first Lord of Harlbec. Had a son named Estorede.

Estorede, Forester de Flanders. Born and died 792 in Flanders
2nd Lord of Harlbec. Became Prince of Lorraine. Son was named Lideric.

Lideric II de Flanders. Born c750 and died 835 in Flanders
Became Count of Flanders and Harlbec. Son was named Enguerrand de Flanders.

Enguerrand de Flanders. Born c780 and died c851 in Flanders
Count of Flanders and Harlbec. Among others, he had a son named Anacher (or Odoacer) de Flanders.

Anacher, Great Forester de Flanders. Born 810 and died 864 in Flanders
Some Belgian records claim him as being Ogier or Oldacre von Laon, Conte de Harlebec, who married the daughter of Anselme de St. Paul and St. Omer. In which case he would have been the grandson of Liederick von Harlebec, "The Forrester of Lotharn". If this is true he would have been Count Odoacer Forester. But it cannot be verified. Anacher's wife bore him a son named Baldwin I.

Baldwin I - 'Bras de Fer' de Flanders. Born 837 and died 877 in France
Married Judith of France, daughter of Charles of France and Ermentrude of Orleans. When Flanders became part of Charlemagne's Empire, Baldwin I was created the 1st Count of Flanders, and kept Flanders free of Vikings. He was named "Bras de Fer" due to his strong arms. Their son was Baldwin II "The Bald".

Baldwin II - "The Bald" de Flanders. Born 864 and died 918 in Flanders
Married Aethelfryth of Wessex, daughter of Alfred the Great, in 889. (She died in 929 in Flanders.) From his castle in Bruges, Baldwin II maintained the repulse of the Norsemen. By his descent from Charlmagne on his mother's side and marrying the daughter of the Saxon King of England, he greatly strengthened the importance of his dynasty. His wife bore two sons, Arnold (or Arnulf) the elder, and Adalulf (died young).

Arnold I - "The Great" de Flanders. Born 889 and died 964 in Flanders
Married Adele de Vermandois and they had a son, Baldwin. Arnold continued warring against the Vikings, and in old age handed government over to his son, Baldwin - but had to resume control after Baldwin's early death in battle. He then passed on the succession to his grandson, Arnold II.

Baldwin III de Flanders. Born 938 and died 962 in Flanders

Although he only lived twenty four years, Baldwin did much to enhance the greatness of the region by promoting the wool and silk trades in Ghent. However, he also had to do his share of fighting the Vikings at the same time. No details are given of his early death but he still qualifies to take his place in the order of descent of his house. He married Matilda of Saxony Billung around 944 and they had a son, Arnold.

Arnold II - "The Young" de Flanders. Born 961 and died 987 in Flanders
Married Rosela of Italy, before 980. She was born 947 and died 1003. Little is known of Arnold II beyond his marriage and the birth of their son, Baldwin "The Fair Beard".

Baldwin IV - "Fair Beard" de Flanders. Born 978 and died 1038 in France
He married Ogive de Luxemburg, daughter of Richard II, Duke of Normandy, before 1012. She was born 980 and died 1030 in Flanders, France. He fought against the Capetian King of France and the Emperor Henry II, and consequentially gained lands in Flanders. This made him a feudatory holder of part of the French Empire as well as a claimant to the French Crown. The French Fiefs were thus known as "Crown Flanders" and the German fiefs as "Imperial Flanders". His wife bore him a son, Baldwin V.

Baldwin V - 'The Pious' de Flanders. Born 1012 and died 1067 in Flanders
Married Adelaide De France, daughter of Robert II and Constance de Taillefer in Paris, in 1028. He was the Fifth Count of Flanders that became part of the Holy Roman Empire in that century. He received new lands between the Schelde and Dendre rivers, and the Margraviate of Antwerp. His wife, Adelaide, the Princess of France, had 3 children - (1) Matilda-Maude II of Flanders B.1031 - D. 1083, (2) Richard "Forestarius" Forester de Flanders, B. 1030 in Flanders. D.1080 in Scotland, and (3) Robert I "De Fries" Count of Flanders, B. 1033 – D.1093 in Belgium.

Matilda Maud de Flanders. Born 1035 and died 1087 in Caen, France
She married William of Normandy in 1053 at Castle d' Angi, Normandy. Born the son of Robert and Harlette de Falaise in 1024, in Calais and died in 1087 at Rouen, France. William was called both "The Conqueror" and "The Bastard". He was crowned King of England on Christmas Day, 1066. His claim to England's throne and subsequent invasion were strongly supported by noblemen of Normandy, Brittany and Flanders. Their support was rewarded by gifts of land and titles after his victory at Hastings and recorded in the Domesday Book in 1085. Matilda bore him a son, the future English King Henry I, at Selby, Yorks. Her young brother, Sir Richard Forester, went on to found both the Scottish and Northumbrian Forester and Forster clans.

The Forsters of Northumbria

Cautionary note to readers of this record. All dates for births and deaths are often only approximate because all dates given need to accord with dates of history in order to make this history as coherent as possible under the circumstances. Keeping of proper records in the eras concerned was inaccurate due to the ignorance of local parish clerks, so should not be taken too literally. (GF)

Sir Richard Forester born 1030 in Flanders and died 1080 in Scotland
Son of Baldwin V, Count of Flanders & Adelaide Capet, Princess of France. His sister, Matilda Maud married William the Conqueror. Richard accompanied his father to invade England with William, then Duke of Normandy, claimant to the English throne. Knighted after the Battle of Hastings, he was given lands in southern Scotland and Northumbria. His Latin surname, "Forestarius", was one he possessed in Flanders, but he used the name Forester when he first settled in Scotland. He was also made Governor of Etherstone in Northumbria. His brother, Robert, allegedly had him poisoned. Richard's wife is not named, but their eldest child, Hugo, was one of several.

Sir Hugo Forester I born 1071 in Scotland and died 1121 in Northumbria
Son of Richard above also called "Forestarius". He fought in Scotland and England against Magnus, King of Norway in 1101. Hugo also fought with Henry I of England against the usurping Duke Robert de Mowbray in 1106. He succeeded Richard as Governor of Etherstone. His wife is unknown, but they had two sons named Hugo and Reginald.

Sir Reginald Forester born 1100 and died 1156 in England
Second son of Hugo above. Like his father and grandfather, he was made the Governor of Etherstone (or Adderstone). He was Knighted August 22, 1138 by King Stephen I, for his valiant conduct against Scots at the Battle of the Standard. Reginald's wife, again, is unknown, but they had one son, Hugo II.

Sir Hugo Forester II born c1121 in England

Son of Reginald above, Governor of Etherstone. Knighted by King Stephen, after Henry (Prince of Scotland) was created Earl of Northumbria, but his military or other details are not available. His wife also unknown, but they had one son William.

Sir William Forster I born 1146 and died 1176 in England

He was Governor of Etherstone, Northumbria. He, too, was Knighted by King Stephen, but now as a "Forster". His wife is again unknown, but they had one son, John.

Sir John Forster I born c1176 and died 1222 in England

He accompanied King Richard I to the Holy Land on the Crusades and became hero of the Battle of Acre by saving Richard's life. He was there Knighted by Richard the Lionheart for bravery, and appointed the Governor of Bamborough. He was also later one of the Knights who compelled King John to sign the Magna Carta at Runymede in 1215. His wife, alas, is again unknown, but they had a son, Randolph.

Sir Randolph Forster born 1220 and died 1256 in England

With the rank of General, he accompanied Prince Richard, the brother of King Henry III, to France to recover his possessions. Sir Randolph was made Governor of Bamborough and lived in the Castle. He and his unknown wife had a son, Alfred.

Sir Alfred Forster born 1242 and died 1284 in England.

He was known as "Alfred the Generous" by the people of Northumbria. He assisted Prince Edward to escape from Simon de Montfort's rebellious barons and raised an army to release King Henry III. He was later Knighted by him in the field, following the Battle of Evesham in Worcestershire on August 4, 1265. His wife's name is unknown, but they had two sons, one Reginald, the other Gilbert.

Gilbert Forster born 1275 and died 1342 in England

Also called Gilbert de Buckton and Gilbert Forestarius. Not much is known about him, apart from his appointment as Chief Forester to the Bishop of Durham. Gilbert was married, did no great deeds, and his unnamed wife bore a son John.

Note Joseph Foster in his book of 1871 stated that the origins of the Forsters began with this Gilbert Forster. (JF) As you can now see, earlier ancestral links have been established. (HughF)

Sir John Forster II born 1316 and died 1371 in England

He Married Elizabeth, the daughter of Roger de Edrystone (Etherstone) and thus gained the Etherstone (or Adderstone) estate as his own. The Etherstone Arms were quartered with those of the Forsters. He fought in the 100 Years War against France with King Edward III at Bordeaux and Crecy. John became a general in the Black Prince's army at the Battle of Poitiers in 1356 and was Knighted for his part in the battle. He and Elizabeth had a son who was named Robert.

Note for (JoeF) and (JF) both their trees state Sir John Forster married Elizabeth Orde and not Elizabeth Etherstone. (HughF)

Robert Forster born 1340 in died 1390 in England

Born in Adderstone, Northumbria, He married Elizabeth, the daughter of Simon Orde. They had one son, Thomas, who was destined to be the first of many Thomases. After his wife's early death, Robert's name appeared on the Prior's Roll, Holy Island 1389.

Note despite other claims, these last two marriages accord with the Forster Pedigree as displayed in St. Aidan's church, and of which I possess a copy. (GF)

Note for (JoeF) and (JF) both their trees show Thomas Forster as the next in line, not Robert Forster who was his brother. They also show this Thomas Forster marrying Joan Elmeden in 1365, not Elizabeth Orde. (HughF)

A Few Comments about Scottish Border Plunderers

During previous intervening generations the Forster fortunes had continued to prosper quite significantly, even though they were living in dangerous and difficult times, when one had to be

strong and hard to survive all the strife and struggle which was a constant worry along the Border country. The Forsters however, proved themselves well equal to the struggle. There had been an ongoing war of skirmishes between clans and families on both sides of the Border since the early 1300s, and raids by Scottish cattle-reivers and general marauders had reached epidemic proportions. Some of these Scots raiding parties were quite huge, numbering thousands of men, and there is an historic note of one such group actually reaching as far south as York!

An historian of the day noted: "These Scottish men are right hardy and sore travelling in harness and in wars. for when they will enter England, within a day and a night they will drive their whole host twenty-four miles, for they are all a-horseback and they carry with them no carts or chariots. They take with them no purveyance of bread and wine that they will pass in the journey a great longer time with flesh half sodden (half-cooked), without bread, and drink of the river water and they neither care for pots and pans, for they seethe beasts in their own skins. They are ever sure to find plenty of beasts therefore they carry with them none other purveyance, but on their horse between the saddle and the panel they truss a broad plate of metal (a gridle) and behind the saddle they will have a little sack of oatmeal. They lay this plate on the fire and temper a little of the oatmeal, and when the plate is hot they cast of the thin paste thereon and so make a little cake in the manner of a cracknell or biscuit."

Scottish marauding bands descended in hordes upon villages and towns, killing the people, burning their houses and barns, and driving off their livestock. There was no other protection than oneself and one's sons and workmen. Some families were fortunate enough to possess sturdy and virtually impregnable pele-towers and the Forsters of Adderstone were among that lucky few, and besides, they were recognised and feared as ferocious fighting-men. Because of these attributes they not only survived, they even prospered.

These border raids often reached the level of real warfare, so there was plenty of opportunity for bold and ambitious young men to distinguish themselves in the service of their King. Such stalwart services were often rewarded with grants of land and even titles. Obviously, this was how the Forsters began their climb to fame and fortune, and several knighthoods came their way for services rendered to the Crown. There can be little doubt that the Forsters, according to Sir Walter Scott's records of their activities, added much to their wealth through reprisal raids across into Scotland, since this internecine clan warfare cut both ways. The famous "Raid On The Reidswire", about which Sir Walter Scott wrote and in which he describing the battle by means of a long narrative poem, is a typical example of the aggressive and vengeful attitude of the Border Forsters, and shows that they were not a family to be trifled with.

This bloody clan warfare continued until the end of the 16th Century, and the Forsters retained their renowned military standing in the Border district, largely because they were easily the strongest and fiercest opponents of their Scottish counterparts.

Note that it is at this point in the history that we are now entering a better-known historical territory that covers the Forsters of Adderstone and Bamburgh. Therefore, it is from this point we will adopt a similar method of numbering the Thomases as was done by the family historians of Adderstone and Bamburgh. Also, please note again that all birth and death dates given can only be approximated here in order to marry up with actual recorded historic events. (GF)

First Generation

1. M i. **Thomas Forster I** of Etherstone was born in Bucton 1358 and died in 1413

He was born at Buckton but raised at Adderstone. He married Joan de Elmeden, the co-heiress of the Earldom of Angus. Thomas was severely wounded fighting in the Battle of Otterburn, 1388. Precise date of his death is not certain, though 1425 seems reasonable. He died in the time of King Henry IV. They had issue, the eldest of whom was another Thomas. Note: not Elizabeth de Etherstone as some records appear to claim! (GF) Both (JoeF) and (JF) show him marrying Elizabeth Etherstone, the sister of and heir to Roger de Etherstone. They also show him dying in 1410. (HughF)

Thomas married Joan Elmeden daughter of Sir William Elmeden

Joan was the 4th daughter of Sir William Elmeden and his wife Elizabeth Umfreville who was the eldest sister and co heir of Sir Gibert Umfreville. (GF)

(JoeF) and (JF) both show he married Elizabeth Etherstone, the sister of and heir to Roger de Etherstone. There is a marriage record for Thomas and Joan of 1365 but this does not fit with his birthdate. (HughF)

Thomas and Joan had the following children:

2. M i. Thomas Forster II of Etherstone was born in 1394 and died in 1446

Second Generation

2. **Thomas Forster II** of Etherstone (Thomas Forster I of Etherstone) was born in 1394 and he died in 1446

This Sir Thomas is considered to be the first of the Adderstone-Bamburgh line, and so he ranks highly in family records dating back to that time. For all intents and purposes he was the first of the Bamburgh Forsters. History shows that he owned a Pele Tower in Adderstone in 1415. Later that year, as a youth of 18 or 19 he accompanied Henry V to France, where he is said to have fought valiantly at the Battle of Agincourt under the Percy family banner. (The young Earl of Northumberland, a lad of 17, was not present, having been charged by Henry V with the task of holding the Scots at bay along the Border during the King's absence in France). He returned to Northumbria with a well-earned Knighthood for his deeds in the field at Agincourt and his name on the Subsidy Roll as holding one quarter of a knight's fee in Adderstone. He had earlier married Elizabeth Featherstonhaugh and the Arms of her family were now added to Thomas's new Arms marking the start of a real dynasty. (The fee related to land granted in exchange for his outstanding military service.) Elizabeth bore him 22 children, 19 boys and three daughters. Thomas, as the elder, inherited his father's title. (GF)

(JF) pedigree lists the first four children. (JoeF) also lists the first four and the remainder in his pedigree. (BP) pedigree lists the first three males, Thomas, Roger and Nicholas, and a reference for a marriage to Gerard Shaftoe. (BP) pedigree also states there were 19 sons and 3 daughters. (HughF)

Thomas married Elizabeth Featherstonhaugh daughter of William Featherstonhaugh of Stanhope Hall.

They had the following children:

3. M i. Thomas Forster III of Etherstone was born in 1418 and died in 1503
4. F ii. Elizabeth Forster
Married Gerard Shaftoe of Bavington
5. M iii. Roger Forster of London was born in 1422
6. M iv. Nicholas Forster of Newham and Tuggel
7. M v. Robert Forster
A juror in 1450. (JoeF)
8. M vi. William Forster of Greencroft Durham

Slain at Towton Morr, Lancastrian side, 1461. (JoeF)

9. M vii. Rowland Forster died in 1524

Third Generation

3. **Thomas Forster III of Etherstone** (Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone) was born in 1418 and died in 1503

Little is recorded of the this Sir Thomas of this dynasty, except that he married the daughter of Baron Hilton a noble who lived at Hilton Castle, Co. Durham. And, by some amazing genetic fluke, they also had a huge number of children like Thomas's parents, the eldest three of their 19 sons being Thomas, Roger and Nicholas.

The story of the three Forster brothers' dubious escapade as youths is remarked upon in the family history. Let it suffice here to say that it involved the death of a family foe during a fight after they were waylaid by three Karr brothers. Roger, who struck the fatal blow, had to flee to the south of England to avoid the long arm of the law. It is worth noting, however, that he stayed in the South long enough to marry Joan Hussey, daughter of Lord Sussex, and begin a new branch of the Forster family with four sons, Thomas, John, Emile and Richard, who later bred several High Court Judges! One, Sir Robert Forster, became the Lord Chief Justice of England under Henry VIII! (GF)

Thomas married Jane Hilton daughter of Sir William Baron of Hilton Castle.

They had the following children:

10. M i. Sir Thomas Forster IV of Etherstone was born in 1466 and died in 1520

11. M ii. Robert Forster of Durham and Heslecton was born in 1468

Died without issue. (BP)

12. M iii. Patrick Forster

Died without issue. (BP)

13. M iv. Reginald Forster

Died without issue. (BP)

14. F v. Constance Forster

Married James Gower of Stainsby

15. F vi. Margaret Forster

Married Gawen Mitford

16. F vii. Eleanor Forster

Eleanor married Lionnal Grey of Berwick son of Grey of Horton

Grey was a Porter of Berwick (JoeF)

17. F viii. Isabella Forster

Married Turpin

Turpin was Governor of Morpeth. (BP)

5. **Roger Forster of London** (Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone) was born in 1422

His marriage and children came from the (JF) and (BP) pedigrees.

The story of the three Forster brothers' dubious escapade as youths is remarked upon in the family history. Let it suffice here to say that it involved the death of a family foe during a fight after they were waylaid by three Karr brothers. Roger, who struck the fatal blow, had to flee to the south of England to avoid the long arm of the law. It is worth noting, however, that he stayed in the South long enough to marry Joan Hussey, daughter of Lord Sussex, and begin a new branch of the Forster family with four sons, Thomas, John, Emile and Richard, who later bred several High Court Judges! One, Sir Robert Forster, became the Lord Chief Justice of England under Henry VIII! (GF)

According to 'Burkes Landed Gentry' Vol 1, Roger Forster is the ancestor of the family of Forster of Jamaica, Egham and Kempstone, and from these families of Foster-Barham and Foster of Brickhall House etc descend. (JF)

Roger married Joan Hussey of Sussex daughter of Lord Hussey of Sussex.

They had the following children:

18. M i. John Forster
19. M ii. Roger Forster
20. M iii. Richard Forster of Stokesley
21. M iv. Robert Forster
Died without issue. (BP)
22. M v. Thomas Forster of Hunsden
23. F vi. Emilie Forster

Fourth Generation

10. **Sir Thomas Forster IV of Etherstone** (Thomas Forster III of Etherstone, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone) was born in 1466 and died in 1520 in England

Born at Adderstone, he married Dorothy, the 6th daughter of Robert, Lord Ogle, and he was created Marshall of Berwick-on-Tweed by King Henry VIII. Whilst there he was given command of a troop of sixty cavalymen just before the Battle of Flodden Field in 1513, a

great battle in which he and his troops played a valiant part. He was the father of eight children.

He was described at that time as "The Chief of one of the most numerous Border Clans" and, quite apart from its humorous inference regarding his prolifically fecund father and grandfather, it appears to have been an actual fact. His eldest son became the next Thomas. But his younger son, John, was to become a notorious figure on the Border Marches. Whilst John was born an Adderstone Forster, he also heads up the Bamburgh list as Sir John Forster of Bamburgh. (GF)

Will dated 3 March 1526 (BP)

(GF) has his birth and death date as 1430 - 1520

(BP) states his wife was a daughter of Ralph Ogle and sister of Robert, 4th Lord Ogle

(JF) states his wife was a daughter of Cuthbert, Lord Ogle of Ogle in Northumberland

Thomas married Dorothy Ogle daughter of Lord Ogle.

They had the following children:

24. M i. Thomas Forster V of Adderstone was born in 1498 and died in 1589

25. M ii. Sir John Forster of Bamburgh was born in 1503 and died in 1603

26. M iii. Reginald Forster of Clapheaton died in 1565

(JF) states he died without issue but then states he had two sons George Forster and Peter Forster - probably meaning they were natural sons.

(BP) will dated 18 Nov 1565

Reginald married Clara Swinburne of Clapheaton

27. M iv. Rowland Forster of Lucker and Wark died in 1565

28. F v. Elizabeth Forster

Elizabeth married George Finch of Kent

29. F vi. Margaret Forster

30. F vii. Dorothy Forster

Dorothy married Sir Reginald Carnaby of Halton

31. F viii. Eleanor Forster

Eleanor married (1) George Craster

Eleanor married (2) Robert Widdrington of Plessey

18. **John Forster** (Roger Forster of London, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone)

He had the following children:

32. M i. Roger Forster

20. **Richard Forster of Stokesley** (Roger Forster of London, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone) died in County York

Richard was Gentleman Usher to Queen Mary. Knighted 1549 (BP)

Richard had the following children:

33. M i. Edmund Forster

34. M ii. William Forster

22. **Thomas Forster of Hunsden** (Roger Forster of London, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone) died in County Herts

His marriage and children were from the (BP) pedigree.

Thomas married Margaret Browning of Chelmsford. Margaret was born in County Sussex.

They had the following children:

35. M i. Sir Thomas Forster of St John's

36. M ii. Richard Forster

37. M iii. William Forster

38. M iv. Humphrey Forster

39. M v. James Forster

Fifth Generation

24. **Thomas Forster V of Adderstone** (Thomas Forster IV of Etherstone, Thomas Forster III of Etherstone, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone) was born in 1498 and died in 1589 in England

When he reached his 20s, Thomas V married Florence, sister of Lord Wharton, and they had four children. He was appointed Sheriff of Northumberland by Henry VIII. This enabled him to wield great power in helping to keep the peace for a while. (GF)

(GF) has his birth and death dates as 1468 - 1550. (JF) has his will dated 14 April, 1589. (JoeF) states he was born in 1498, married in 1548 and died 1589.

Thomas married Florence Wharton.

They had the following children:

40. M i. Sir Thomas Forster VI of Adderstone was born in 1549 and died in 1587
41. F ii. Margaret Forster
Margaret married Nicholas Ridley
42. F iii. Barbara Forster
Barbara married Robert Rodham of Rodham son of John Rodham of Rodham Northumberland.
43. M iv. Cuthbert Forster of Brunton was born in 1551
25. **Sir John Forster of Bamburgh** (Thomas Forster IV of Etherstone, Thomas Forster III of Etherstone, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone) was born in 1503 in Adderstone and died in 1603. He was buried in Bamburgh Castle.

In this ignominious manner, the long and lofty unbroken line of illustrious Forsters came to its close, leaving only their less renowned kin to carry the name forward at a more everyday level as ordinary farmers or tradesmen. This was certainly the case in the Border region at any rate. However, their southern cousins (descended from the runaway, Roger Forster of the late 1400s) had already risen to become persons of prominence, especially in the fields of law and politics. However, that is another story!

Nevertheless, we have not yet done with the saga of the noble Forsters of Northumbria. The interesting story of the Bamburgh Forsters remains to be related and that famous branch of the family was certainly not without its own moments of brilliant success, high drama, murder and bloodshed. Nor have we yet heard of the remarkable adventures of General Tom Forster X and the part he played in the 1715 Highland Uprising against "German Georgie", a Prince of the House of Brunswick and the first Hanoverian King of England! Therefore, without further ado, let us take up this account of the Northumbrian Forsters again, by learning something of a second noble line of descent - the Bamburgh Forsters. We shall begin this time with the one who was by far and away the most notorious Forster of them all! The outrageous and aggressive younger brother of Sir Thomas Forster V - Sir John Forster.

John, the youngest son of Sir Thomas Forster IV of Adderstone, was to become a notorious figure on the Border Marches. (GF)

(GF) has him born 1517

Sir John Forster was Lord of Bamborough Castle, County Nothumberland, by grant from the Crown. He was Deputy Warden of the Middle and East Marches, towards Scotland, for 37 years and was Sheriff of Nothumberland. Will dates 1601. (JF)

He is remembered as being perhaps the most colourful of all the Forsters of Adderstone and Bamburgh. The younger son of Thomas IV, he seems to have been a man of great drive. His family, although well established, was not particularly rich. Yet, by the time reached 30 in 1547, he had married Jane Radclyffe, who bore him six children. He already had a Knighthood and was, by Royal appointment, Constable of Bamburgh Castle - and had amassed enough money to buy all the Bamburgh Catholic church lands from Henry VIII following his infamous Dissolution of the Monasteries.

As if this were not enough, he was later appointed Warden of the Middle Marches of the Scots-English Border - a powerful and tough post that he held firmly for 37 years! The total amount of his purchases of ex-Church properties from "Bluff King Hal" (who was himself a notoriously hard businessman) amounted to £664.5s.10d - which translates in today's British currency into around nearly half a million pounds sterling! He died aged 85 and his prearranged Funeral Feast was a tremendously expensive affair that cost over £450 - or around a third of his total estate! Sir John Forster never did anything by halves!

Let us now take the time to study that most intrepid Forster of them all! We have read something of his career in the foregoing list. But Sir John deserves a much closer inspection than that! This redoubtable scallywag was a fearlessly intrepid warrior and he must have borne a most highly charmed life to reach the fine old age of eighty-five years! Sir John continued with his preferred vocation as a soldier, and in 1557 he was one of the commanders of a great foray into Scotland, during which more than sixteen towns were completely sacked, pillaged and burned. As a result of his leading part in this somewhat dubious action, he was appointed as Warden of the Middle Marches* and was thus responsible for maintaining the peace over a very sizeable area that extended from the Wooler-Alnwick road west to the border with Cumbria, and north-westwards to the Border itself, covering over half of Northumbria.

*The term "Marches" mentioned above, refers to "regions or districts lying along borders or boundaries" (similar to those between England and Wales). There were three Marches along either side of the Scottish-English Border: the West, the Middle and the East, each of which had their Scottish and English Wardens, who were expected to cooperate in settling border disputes.

In 1560, now in his early forties, He commanded a large force of light horse cavalry at the siege of Berwick-upon-Tweed under the Duke of Norfolk, and subsequently he was appointed Deputy Governor of Berwick. In 1563, he became Deputy Warden of the East Marches, in addition to being Warden of the Middle Marches! It was in this role that he was the official ordered by Queen Elizabeth I to accompany Mary, Queen of Scots (who was Elizabeth's hated half-sister, and thus her unwanted Catholic heir to the throne of England) over Halidon Hill to Berwick.

Sir John's valuable services to Queen Elizabeth positioned him very favourably at Court to advance his own interests, and there is little doubt that a blind eye was turned by her toward much that he did. In 1569, he helped suppress the great pro-Mary uprising in the north, which was led by the Earl of Westmorland and supported by the Earl of Northumberland, and as a result, both Alnwick and Warkworth Castles fell into his hands, which he at once plundered of anything valuable. Hearing of this outrage, Lord Hunsdon wrote to Lord Burghly asking the following worried questions:

"I know not what awthorite ye commyted to Sir John Forster of th' Erle of Northumbreland's lands and howsys nor what therof he hath purchasyd: and therfor when any comlaynts come to me I can say nothing. But He taks upon him to have the rule of all and so comands what he lyst: and this I assure your Lo. that ytt ys a grete pytty to see how Alnevyke Castell and Warkworth are spoyled by hym and hys. And for the Abbey that stands yn Hull Parke he hathe neither left lede, glase, ierne nor so much as the pypes of lede that conwayd water to the house..."

It isn't surprising then, to learn that a few years later, Bamburgh Castle, of which Sir John was now the "live-in" Captain, had been similarly stripped of its more valuable contents; even though it belonged to Queen Elizabeth! In 1575, a Royal Commission was set up to investigate this, and it reported it to be in a state of "utter ruine and decaye". It was proved that the previous Captain, Sir John Horsley, had left the castle in pristine condition, so, in 1584, Sir John Forster was charged with "layeing it waste". However (and not really surprisingly), there was a great reluctance on the part of witnesses to testify against such a dangerous figure, so all the charges were dropped and he escaped any blame or punishment.

In the meantime, raids were continuing to flare up along the border, and Sir John turned his attention back to his primary office. Sir Walter Scott described one typical Border affray involving Sir John in his epic poem "The Raid on the Reidswire". As the English Warden of the Middle Marches, Sir John Forster had gone to meet his opposite number, Sir John Carmichael, the Scottish Warden, near Carter Bar, in order to settle a number of border issues. There was great deal of apprehension in the air. The Scots had already arrived and set up camp, when ...

"We looked down the other side
And saw come breasting ower the brae
Wi' Sir John Forster for their Guyde
Full fifteen hundred men and mae."

These included men of Tindaill and Ridsdale, a notoriously quarrelsome bunch. However all appeared to be going well at first ...

"Yet was our meeting meek enough
Begun wi' merriment and mowes"
And then the tension began to build up again as ...

“We saw come marching ower the knowes
Five hundred Fennickes in a flock
With Jack and spears and bows all bent
And warlike weapons at their will.”

The parley began and progressed on a reasonable level until they came to discussing an English border thief called, of all odd names, Farnstein. The Scots had a good case against him but Forster claimed Farnstein had fled English justice, therefore he would see to his punishment. However Carmichael refused to accept this and accused Forster of trying to get the thief off. A quarrel then ensued and Sir John Forster ...

“Began to reckon kin and blood
He raised and racked him where he stood
And bade him match him with his marrows
Then Tindaill heard them reason rude
And loot off a flight of arrows.”

Sadly, the outcome of this battle was an extremely humiliating one for Sir John, as the Scots soundly thrashed his spare-time soldiers. Sir John himself was taken prisoner, and carted off together with several others to face the Scottish Regent, the Earl of Morton, at Dalkeith. Fortunately, the Earl was trying to keep in good standing with Queen Elizabeth, so he only kept them incarcerated for a few days “to cool their heels” and then sent them off home.

This was to be Sir John’s last “official” Border squabble, although he did have a final run-in with his archenemy, Sir Thomas Kerr of Ferniehurst over a minor incident. This took place in 1585, on a hilltop called Windy Gyle, near Carter Bar, and resulted in Sir John’s son-in-law, Lord Francis Russell, being mortally wounded. At that time, Sir John was approaching 70 years of age, and was well past his best for engaging in violent arguments. He spent the next 17 years in reluctant and crotchety retirement and died in 1602 at the ripe old age of 85 in nearby Spindleston, now but a mere shadow of his former ebullient self.

However, Sir John’s funeral feast was, to say the very least, a most extravagant final gesture. It cost over £450 (approximately £200,000, or A\$558,000, in today’s money), which was about a third of his entire estate. In addition, considering that it was two-thirds of what he had paid for all that ex-monastic property at Bamburgh, (£664), it must have been quite a remarkable and memorable send-off!

Even his bitterest opponents and rivals attended his funeral and the wake that followed, such was the powerful influence of his magnetic character, even in death. Thus then, passed Sir John Forster, in a pre-arranged, wild blaze of bold flamboyance, which ideally matched the highly colourful and reckless life he had lived. (GF)

John married Jane Radclyffe daughter of Cuthbert Radclyffe.

Apparently she was a widow from her 1st marriage to Cuthbert, Lord Ogle when she married Sir John Forster. (BP) and (JF)

John and Jane had the following children:

44. F i. Juliana Forster died in 1558

Juliana married Sir Francis Russell of Bedford son of Earl of Bedford

45. F ii. Grace Forster

Grace married Sir William Fenwick of Wallington

46. M iii. Nicholas Forster of Bamburgh

47. M iv. John Forster

48. F v. Dorothy Forster

Dorothy married Ralph Salkeld son of Thomas Salkeld of Hume Park

49. F vi. Mary Forster

Mary married Sir Henry Stapleton on 5 Jul 1599 in All Saints, Newcastle-upon-Tyne

27. **Rowland Forster of Lucker and Wark** (Thomas Forster IV of Etherstone, Thomas Forster III of Etherstone, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone) died in 1565

Rowland married Catherine Selby .

They had the following children:

50. F i. Elizabeth Forster

Elizabeth married Thomas Orde of Orde

29. **Margaret Forster** (Thomas Forster IV of Etherstone, Thomas Forster III of Etherstone, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone)

Margaret married 3 Heron brothers William, John and Sir George. (JF)

Margaret married (1) William Heron of Ford Castle

Margaret married (2) John Heron of Thornton

Margaret married (3) Sir George Heron of Chipchase Castle. George was born in Northumberland

They had the following children:

51. F i. Eleanor Heron

32. **Roger Forster** (John Forster, Roger Forster of London, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone)

He had the 2 following children:

52. F i. Details unknown

53. F ii. Details unknown

36. **Sir Thomas Forster of St John's** (Thomas Forster of Hunsden, Roger Forster of London, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone)

Living 1596, his children were included in the (BP pedigree. Judge of the Court of Common Law. (BP)

Thomas married Susan Forster daughter of J Forster of St John's.

Heiress of Thomas Forster of Iden in county Sussex and London. (BP)

Thomas and Susan had the following children:

54. M i. Thomas Forster

Thomas married Mary Baskerville daughter of William Baskerville

55. M ii. Robert Forster of Battle

56. F iii. Susan Forster

57. F iv. Mary Katherine Forster

Sixth Generation

40. **Sir Thomas Forster VI of Adderstone** (Thomas Forster V of Adderstone, Thomas Forster IV of Etherstone, Thomas Forster III of Etherstone, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone) was born in 1549 and died in 1587.

He also had natural sons Thomas, John and William. (JoeF) and (JF) His will dated 2 September, 1587 "left his house in Etherstone to his wife". (JF)

This Thomas married Isobel, daughter of John Brewster of Lucker, and they had eight legitimate children. However he also sired several other illegitimate offspring one of whom, Matthew, subsequently became his successor. However, this in no way impeded his civic advancement, as he was Knighted and appointed Sheriff of Northumberland by Queen Elizabeth I. (GF)

(GF) has his birth and death dates as 1488 - 1580

Thomas married Isabella Brewster daughter of John Brewster of Lucker

They had the following children:

58. M i. Sir Matthew Forster of Etherstone was born in 1570

59. M ii. Thomas Forster

60. M iii. John Forster

61. M iv. William Forster

62. M v. Florence Forster of Low Buston

63. F vi. Margaret Forster

64. F vii. Phillis Forster. She married John Forster of Newham

65. F viii. Elizabeth or Susanna Forster

43. **Cuthbert Forster of Brunton** (Thomas Forster V of Adderstone, Thomas Forster IV of Etherstone, Thomas Forster III of Etherstone, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone) was born in 1551

Cuthbert's will dated 1589 (JF)

Cuthbert married Elizabeth Bradforth daughter of Thomas Bradforth of Bradforth

They had the following children:

66. F i. Jane Forster

67. F ii. Grace Forster

Grace married John Forster of Tuggall Hall

68. M iii. Samuel Forster

69. M iv. Thomas Forster of Brunton was born in 1615 and died on 19 June, 1648

46. **Nicholas Forster of Bamburgh** (John Forster of Bamburgh, Thomas Forster IV of Etherstone, Thomas Forster III of Etherstone, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone)

He was Sir John's "illegitimate" son (who let it be said, later became legitimate, with the second marriage of his father). He was the acknowledged heir, and soon began to make his mark, having inherited all of his father's sturdy genes. He married a daughter of the wealthy and noble Clervaux family, and became the Sheriff of Northumberland in 1601, (just before his aged father's death), and he also was granted a Knighthood by the swiftly aging Queen Elizabeth I for his own military services to the Crown. (GF)

(BP) and (JF) both show him marrying Jane Radclyffe with no reference to any other marriage.

Nicholas married Jane Radclyffe daughter of Anthony Radclyffe of Blanchland

They had the following children:

70. M i. Sir Claudius Forster of Bamburgh was born in 1578. He died in 1623 in Blanchland

Claudius was the eldest legitimate son of Nicholas Forster, and as he grew to manhood, he soon proved himself to be both a notable and noble figure. Upon reaching his majority, he married Elizabeth Fenwick, daughter of Sir William Fenwick of Wallington, who was his grand-uncle by marriage. As it happened, Elizabeth Fenwick's half-sister, Mary, had married Sir Matthew Forster's son, Thomas VII, so one would think that such bonds would bind the Forster and Fenwick families very closely together indeed, which makes their later falling-out, and its doubly-tragic outcome, quite astonishing. However, more about all that presently. Like his grandfather, the redoubtable Sir John Forster - Claudius was appointed Constable of Bamburgh Castle, by the now dying Queen Elizabeth I. In 1612, he followed his father, Sir Nicholas, as Sheriff of Northumberland, under the auspices of the new Stuart King, who was both James I of England and James VI of Scotland.

King James had, in 1609, already granted him the full title of ownership of Bamburgh Castle and all of its associated lands - which included the entire village

and manor of Bamburgh - as a reward not only to himself, but to all those preceding Northumbrian Forsters who had never forgotten their Scottish association and had, on many occasions, shown certain considerations and goodwill towards their Scottish kinsmen (several family or clan feuds notwithstanding.) It was a case of "What goes around, comes around"!

Claudius received a Knighthood very soon afterwards, and this was followed six years later, by a full baronetcy from King James in 7 Mar 1619. This was now the very peak and pinnacle of the Forster family fortunes, and it marked the zenith of the family's upward climb. Sadly, Sir Claudius or Baron Forster, who had no issue, died in his mid-forties in 1623. His memorial, which is a very finely carved marble *entablement, is the oldest one in Bamburgh's ancient St. Aidan's Church, and his remains lie in a special crypt beneath the altar.

*This has been studied in person by the present writer, along with other ancient Forster tombstones and memorabilia, as also was the Castle itself, in 1986. (GF)

Claudius married Elizabeth Fenwick daughter of Sir William Fenwick of Wallington and Meg of Meldon.

71. M ii. John Forster of Bamburgh and Blanchland was born in 1580. He died on 20 May 1625

72. M iii. Edward Forster died in London

(JF) says he died in London unmarried but (BP) shows he had issue and provides pedigree. Which has been included here. (HughF)

73. F iv. Jane Forster

Jane married Elliot

51. **Eleanor Heron** (Margaret Forster, Thomas Forster IV of Etherstone, Thomas Forster III of Etherstone, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone)

Eleanor married Oswald Muschamp

They had the following children:

74. F i. Eleanor Muschamp

55. **Robert Forster of Battle** (Thomas Forster of St John's, Thomas Forster of Hunsden, Roger Forster of London, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone)

Robert married Elizabeth Burton daughter of Sir Edward Burton

They had the following children:

75. M i. Thomas Forster of Egham was born in June, 1617

Seventh Generation

58. **Sir Matthew Forster of Etherstone** (Thomas Forster VI of Adderstone, Thomas Forster V of Adderstone, Thomas Forster IV of Etherstone, Thomas Forster III of Etherstone, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone) was born in 1570

Sir Matthew was born outside of wedlock. (JoeF)

He was Knighted 23 Apr 1617 in the county of Durham by King James I and became the Sheriff of Northumberland in 1620 or 1637. (JF)

He was Knighted and appointed Sheriff of Northumberland in 1617 by James I for illustrious service to the Crown. Matthew married Catherine, daughter of Sir Ralph Grey of Wark. She bore him eight children, of whom Thomas was the eldest. (GF)

(GF) has his birth and death dates as 1505 - 1625 therefore 120 years old when he died.

Matthew married Catherine Grey daughter of Sir Ralph Grey of Chillingham

Sister of the 1st Lord Grey of Wark. (BP)

Matthew and Catherine had the following children:

76. M i. Thomas Forster VII Etherstone was born in 1604 and died in 1637/1638
77. F ii. Magdalina Forster
78. F iii. Jane Forster
79. F iv. Mary Forster was buried on 17 December, 1665

Mary married Edward Lisle of Action Northumberland in 1629. Edward was buried on 18 May, 1676. Edward was of the Lisle of Fenton and they had 3 daughters who were co-heiresses.

80. F v. Dorothy Forster
81. F vi. Edith Forster

Edith married Edmund Craster of Craster. Edmund was born in Northumberland

82. M vii. Matthew Forster of Horsley was born in 1606
83. M viii. John Forster of Cornhill was buried on 6 December, 1679

62. **Florence Forster of Low Buston** (Thomas Forster VI of Adderstone, Thomas Forster V of Adderstone, Thomas Forster IV of Etherstone, Thomas Forster III of Etherstone, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone)

Youngest son of Sir Thomas Forster VI who married his cousin. (BP)

Florence married Jane Forster daughter of Cuthbert Forster of Brunton and Elizabeth Bradforth

Eldest daughter of Cuthbert Forster of Brunton. (BP)

Florence and Jane had the following children:

84. M i. Francis Forster of Low Buston and Fonnden was buried in 1676 (See #89)

65. **Elizabeth or Susanna Forster** (Thomas Forster VI of Adderstone, Thomas Forster V of Adderstone, Thomas Forster IV of Etherstone, Thomas Forster III of Etherstone, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone)

Elizabeth married John Forster of Bamburgh and Blanchland son of Nicholas Forster of Bamburgh and Jane Radclyffe. John was born in 1580. He died on 20 May 1625 and was buried in Bamburgh Castle.

Since Baron Forster of Bamburgh died without an heir of his own, his estates passed to his brother John (II), who had married Elizabeth Forster, a daughter of Thomas (VI) of Adderstone, and did not survive Sir Claudius for very long. So when John (III) died in 1625, the family estates then passed on to his eldest son, Nicholas. (GF)

(JF) shows that it was Susanna Forster daughter of Sir Thomas Forster VI of Adderstone who he married.

John and Elizabeth had the following children:

85. M i. Nicholas Forster of Bamburgh and Blanchland was born in 1605 and died on 10 December, 1636 (See #97)

86. M ii. Thomas Forster of the Friars near Bamburgh (See #98)

87. F iii. Elizabeth Forster (See #99)

Elizabeth married Elrington of Elrington

88. M iv. Claudius Forster (See #100)

66. **Jane Forster** (Cuthbert Forster of Brunton, Thomas Forster V of Adderstone, Thomas Forster IV of Etherstone, Thomas Forster III of Etherstone, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone)

Eldest daughter of of Cuthbert Forster of Brunton. (BP)

Jane married Florence Forster of Low Buston son of Sir Thomas Forster VI of Adderstone and Isabella Brewster

Youngest son of Sir Thomas Forster VI who married his cousin (BP)

Florence and Jane had the following children:

89. M i. Francis Forster of Low Buston and Fonnden was buried in 1676 (See #84)

68. **Samuel Forster** (Cuthbert Forster of Brunton, Thomas Forster V of Adderstone, Thomas Forster IV of Etherstone, Thomas Forster III of Etherstone, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone) died in 1612

Student at Edinburgh, and of Newton in the Parish of Embleton. Will dated 1612 and left one son. (JF)

Samuel had the following children:

90. M i. John Forster

69. **Thomas Forster of Brunton** (Cuthbert Forster of Brunton, Thomas Forster V of Adderstone, Thomas Forster IV of Etherstone, Thomas Forster III of Etherstone, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone) was born in 1615 and died on 19 June, 1648

Will dated 19 June 1648.

Thomas married (1) Margaret Forster daughter of Richard Forster of Tuggall

They had the following children:

91. F i. Elizabeth Forster

Thomas married (2) Jane Carr daughter of William Carr of Ford

They had the following children:

92. M ii. Ephraim Forster

93. M iii. John Forster

Emigrated to Scotland about 1640 and had a son who went to Ireland and grandsons going to Lancaster Count, PA in 1728.

94. M iv. Matthew Forster

95. M v. Reynold or Reginald Forster died in 1664 in Ipswich, Mass

96. M vi. Edmond Forster

71. **John Forster of Bamburgh and Blanchland** (Nicholas Forster of Bamburgh, John Forster of Bamburgh, Thomas Forster IV of Etherstone, Thomas Forster III of Etherstone, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone) was born in 1580 and died on 20 May, 1625. He was buried in Bamburgh Castle.

Since Baron Forster of Bamburgh died without an heir of his own, his estates passed to his brother John (II), who had married Elizabeth Forster, a daughter of Thomas (VI) of Adderstone, and did not survive Sir Claudius for very long. So when John (III) died in 1625, the family estates then passed on to his eldest son, Nicholas.

(JF) shows that it was Susanna Forster, daughter of Sir Thomas Forster VI of Adderstone, who he married.

John married Elizabeth or Susanna Forster daughter of Sir Thomas Forster VI of Adderstone and Isabella Brewster

They had the following children:

97. M i. Nicholas Forster of Bamburgh and Blanchland was born in 1605 and died on 10 December, 1636 (See #85)

98. M ii. Thomas Forster of the Friars near Bamburgh (See #86)

99. F iii. Elizabeth Forster (See #87)

Elizabeth married Elrington of Elrington

100. M iv. Claudius Forster (See #88)

74. **Eleanor Muschamp** (Eleanor Heron, Margaret Forster, Thomas Forster IV of Etherstone, Thomas Forster III of Etherstone, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone)

Eleanor married Thomas Forster son of Cuthbert Forster. Thomas was born in 1575 and died in 1623

NOTE: See 'The Forsters of Warenford and Berwick' Family Tree, #3, Third Generation for the continuation of this line.

75. **Thomas Forster of Egham** (Robert Forster of Battle, Thomas Forster of St John's, Thomas Forster of Hunsden, Roger Forster of London, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone) was born in Jun 1617

He had the following children:

101. M i. Thomas Forster

Called to the Bar Inner Temple 1688. (BP)

Eighth Generation

77. **Thomas Forster VII Etherstone** (Matthew Forster of Etherstone, Thomas Forster VI of Adderstone, Thomas Forster V of Adderstone, Thomas Forster IV of Etherstone, Thomas Forster III of Etherstone, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone) was born in 1604. He died in 1637/1638

He was son and heir when aged 11 years 1615 and his will dated 7 Sep 1637. (JF)

Not much is recorded about this Thomas, except that he married Mary, the daughter of Sir William Fenwick, and was the father of Colonel Thomas Forster VIII. Since there was no knighthood in evidence, we can only conclude that he was one of the sensible county squires in that dangerous period who managed to keep their heads down. He still died quite young at 35. He left six children, of whom Thomas was the eldest. (GF)

(GF) has his his birth and death dates as 1603 – 1638.

Thomas married Mary Fenwick daughter of Sir William Fenwick of Wallingford. Mary was buried on 25 Jan 1671

They had the following children:

102. M i. Col. Thomas Forster VIII of Adderstone was born in 1625 and buried on 19 June, 1673

103. F ii. Madelaine Forster

Madelaine married Philip Grey of Howick

104. F iii. Mary Forster

Mary married George Baker of Crook

105. M iv. John Forster of Crookletch was buried on 10 May 1681.

A worthy and upright gentleman who married a daughter of Richard Forster of Newham, and sister to John Forster of London, commonly called in the north "London John". (JF)

John married Mary Forster, sister of John Forster of London daughter of Richard Forster of Newham in 1668

106. M v. Ralph Forster of Halton

In 1861 he was Ralph Forster of Adderstone and afterwards of Halton.

107. M vi. Francis Forster of Eassington Grange and of South Bailey Durham died in 1681

Will dated and proved 1681 owned Belford of Easington Grange, County Northumberland and of South Bailey, Durham.

Francis married Elizabeth unknown

83. **John Forster of Cornhill** (Matthew Forster of Etherstone, Thomas Forster VI of Adderstone, Thomas Forster V of Adderstone, Thomas Forster IV of Etherstone, Thomas Forster III of Etherstone, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone) was buried on 6 December, 1679

John married Mary Orde

Mary was the sister of John Orde of Mindrum. (JF)

John and Mary had the following children:

108. F i. Catherine Forster

Living a widow 1698. (JF)

Catherine married Wilkinson Wilkinson died in 1698

109. F ii. Elizabeth Forster

Elizabeth married Henry Collingwood of Branxton

110. F iii. Margaret Forster

Margaret married (1) William Ramsey

Margaret married (2) George Fenwick of Brinkburne

111. M iv. Thomas Forster of Cornhill

84. **Francis Forster of Low Buston and Fonnden** (Florence Forster of Low Buston, Thomas Forster VI of Adderstone, Thomas Forster V of Adderstone, Thomas Forster IV of Etherstone, Thomas Forster III of Etherstone, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone) was buried in 1676 in Warkworth, England

Obtained Fonnden 1663 (BP)

Francis married (1) Lawrence of Ambull

Francis married (2) Bell of Wooden Bell of Wooden who was buried in 1683 in Warkworth, England

They had the following children:

112. M i. Francis Forster of Low Buston

113. M ii. Robert Forster

Died without issue. (BP)

114. M iii. George Forster

85. **Nicholas Forster of Bamburgh and Blanchland** (Elizabeth or Susanna Forster, Thomas Forster VI of Adderstone, Thomas Forster V of Adderstone, Thomas Forster IV of Etherstone, Thomas Forster III of Etherstone, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone) was born in 1605 and died on 10 December, 1636

He was married to Agnes, the daughter of Sir William Chaytor, soon after his succession to ownership of the Bamburgh Forster estates, and his younger brothers, Thomas and Claudius (II), received Friar's Farm, an ex-Papal Forster estate in Bamburgh. It was this farm, alas, which was eventually to become the central cause of a great quarrel with their relations, the Fenwicks.

Nicholas (II) the father of four children, died quite young shortly prior to the beginning of the English Civil War of 1642, between the Royalists, who supported the Stuart King, Charles I, and the Parliamentarians, who supported Oliver Cromwell and his Protestant Commonwealth.

Because of Nicholas's untimely death, the Bamburgh Forsters were not caught up in the War, (in which they would have been obliged to support the Royalist cause, due to their traditional Scottish Stuart leanings). However, the Adderstone Forsters were embroiled, and consequently had to pay the full penalty. (GF)

Nicholas married Agnes Chaytor daughter of William Chaytor of Croft

They had the following children:

- 115. M i. Sir William Forster of Bamburgh and Blanchland was born in 1636 and died on 12 November, 1674
- 116. F ii. Mary Forster
Mary married Moore
- 117. M iii. Ferdinando Forster
- 118. F iv. Frances Forster
Frances married Francis Liddell son of Sir Francis Liddell of Redheugh

Ninth Generation

- 102. **Col. Thomas Forster VIII of Adderstone** (Thomas Forster VII Etherstone, Matthew Forster of Etherstone, Thomas Forster VI of Adderstone, Thomas Forster V of Adderstone, Thomas Forster IV of Etherstone, Thomas Forster III of Etherstone, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone) was born in 1625 and was buried on 19 June, 1673

Held the rank of Colonel in the King's Army.

This Thomas was a colonel in the Royalist forces during the Civil War between King Charles' Cavaliers and Cromwell's Roundheads. At the end of the war, Colonel Thomas was fined a sixth part of his estate by Oliver Cromwell for his role in it. It is perhaps worth noting that Colonel Thomas Forster was the grandfather of General Tom Forster, the Commander of the Jacobite army that marched into England during the ill-fated Jacobite Uprising of 1715. By his wife, Mary, daughter of Sir Nicholas Cole, Colonel Forster had one son, Thomas. (GF)

(GF) has his birth date 1620

Thomas married Mary Cole daughter of Sir Nicholas Cole of Brancepath Castle County Durham on 27 January, 1651

They had the following children:

- 119. F i. Mary Forster was born on 21 February, 1653 and died on 19 May, 1705
Mary married Edmund Maine Edmund who was buried on 25 April, 1711
Edmund was the M.P. for Morpeth and Lt-Gov of Berwick
- 120. M ii. Ralph Forster was born on 17 April, 1655 and died on 19 May 1656

121. M iii. Thomas Forster IX of Adderstone was born on 6 August, 1659 and died on 25 October, 1725

111. **Thomas Forster of Cornhill** (John Forster of Cornhill, Matthew Forster of Etherstone, Thomas Forster VI of Adderstone, Thomas Forster V of Adderstone, Thomas Forster IV of Etherstone, Thomas Forster III of Etherstone, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone)

Thomas married Elizabeth Reed daughter of George Reed of Cassop

They had the following children:

122. F i. Elizabeth Forster

She was living at Horninghold, County Leicester as a widow in 1715. (JF)

Elizabeth married (1) The Hon. Charles Grey of Chillingham. Charles died in 1696.

Elizabeth married (2) John Atkins of Horninghold Leicester

112. **Francis Forster of Low Buston** (Francis Forster of Low Buston and Fonnden, Florence Forster of Low Buston, Thomas Forster VI of Adderstone, Thomas Forster V of Adderstone, Thomas Forster IV of Etherstone, Thomas Forster III of Etherstone, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone)

Living in 1684, died at 84 years of age (BP)

Francis married Grace Forster daughter of Forster of Newham

They had the following children:

123. M i. Joseph Forster of Low Buston

124. M ii. Nicholas Forster of Newcastle

Living in Newcastle in 1697. (BP)

115. **Sir William Forster of Bamburgh and Blanchland** (Nicholas Forster of Bamburgh and Blanchland, Elizabeth or Susanna Forster, Thomas Forster VI of Adderstone, Thomas Forster V of Adderstone, Thomas Forster IV of Etherstone, Thomas Forster III of Etherstone, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone) was born in 1636 and died on 12 November, 1674

He was the posthumous heir of Nicholas II and elder brother to three other children, was only a child of six when the Civil War began. He was made the ward of Sir Francis Liddell, (his mother's third husband), who was himself a declared Royalist, and was subsequently fined a sixth of his estate, along with all the other Royalist gentlemen, at the end of the Civil War. Being a minor during such a troublesome time had many disadvantages, since, although the Forster Estates remained intact, they lacked all the personal care and supervision of an adult

owner, and the War interfered greatly with the farming of the estates, upon which their revenue depended so heavily.

Thus, because of the additional problem of inflation, the real wealth of the family was considerably diminished, and when William grew to manhood, he kept up the family's renowned taste and tradition for rich living, which, unfortunately, the reduced resources of the estate could no longer support. However, this sorry state of affairs was not to be fully revealed until after his death. In the meantime, William continued the family traditions, making an excellent marriage with Dorothy, the daughter of Sir William Selby, and in due course, he received his knighthood. They had ten children, of whom Frances, William, Ferdinando and Dorothy are remembered here.

Because by this time, Bamburgh Castle was largely in ruins after years of neglect, William and Dorothy lived in elegant style at Bamburgh Manor (now Hall, which he largely rebuilt to its present form), entertaining the local gentry with lavish hospitality. They had ten children, but only five of these attained full age. One of these, Frances, married her cousin, Thomas Forster (IX) of Adderstone, and another daughter, Dorothy, was wed to Nathaniel, the Lord Crewe of Stene. But of the surviving three sons, only William (II) got married (to Elizabeth Pert), but sadly they left no children.

After the death of Sir William (II) in 1674, the Bamburgh estates passed first to William (III), and then, after his early death without issue, to his younger brother, Ferdinando Forster. (Ferdinando was an unusual name but it was quite fashionable at that point in time among the more exalted society. The Stanley family, for example, were quite taken with it and there were several Ferdinandos among them! (GF)

Appointed a Burgess of Berwick on 18 October 1661. (JF)

William married Dorothy Selby daughter of William Selby of Tiswell and Thornton and Eleanor Fairfax

They had the following children:

- 125. F i. Frances Forster
- 126. M ii. William Forster of Bamburgh and Blanchland was born on 28 July, 1667 and died on 6 September, 1700

Died without issue. (BP)

William married Elizabeth Pert daughter of William Pert of Essex and Elizabeth Forster

- 127. M iii. John Forster was born on 28 September, 1668 and died on 15 November, 1669
- 128. M iv. Ferdinando Forster was born on 14 February, 1670 and died on 22 August 1701

The MP for Northumberland, Ferdinando was the last male heir to the Bamburgh estate, his brothers having died young. He was also, alas, a bachelor, preferring his social life in the hostleries to the ties of matrimony. From all accounts, Ferdinando was a man of action too, and made many enemies through his fiery temperament and readiness to take offence at any slight. It was such an insult from his archenemy, John Fenwick of Rock, that brought about his end. In a towering rage, no doubt exacerbated by drink, Ferdinando invited Fenwick outside for a duel. However, before Ferdinando could draw his sword, he slipped on the wet cobbles of the road, and as he lay on the ground struggling to climb to his feet, Fenwick treacherously ran him through with his sword, killing him instantly. With no lack of witnesses, it was a clear case of murder for which Fenwick was hanged on the same precise spot a month later. Ferdinando's black armour now hangs in St.

Aidan's church in Bamburgh, suspended from a wooden sword, signifying his being killed without a sword in his hand.

As a consequence of his bachelorhood, since his sisters were married and his brothers dead, his nephew and niece, Thomas and Dorothy of the Adderstone branch now became co-heirs to the Bamburgh Estate - or what pitiful little remained. Since we have already covered that branch to its finale the list of notable Forsters is now complete.

This, then, is where the two great dynastic trunks of the Forster Family Tree finally rejoin for one final "Hurrah" following the marriage of Dorothy Forster Sr. to Nathaniel, Lord Crewe of Stene, who was a very important figure in his native Northamptonshire, and their taking of young Tom Forster XI and his sister Dorothy Jr. beneath their protective wings. Because of this, I believe that, as the final Forster who had any powerful standing in the family, she deserves the last listing of them all.

The Quarrel with the Fenwicks "Thrice armed is he that hath his quarrel just. But four times he who gets his blow in fust!"

To step back a little in time, when Sir Claudius and his brother, Thomas, had both died, Claudius's widow, Lady Elizabeth (nee Fenwick), took charge of her two young nephews, also named Tom and Claudius, who had inherited the farm known as "The Friars" in Bamburgh. Lady Elizabeth had some of her own stock of cattle on the farm, and she left it there simply to improve the farm's value, which action was very much in her nephews' interests. Sadly, both nephews, Tom and Claudius, died fairly young and the farm then passed to their nephew, William - who was later to become Sir William (II).

Eventually, when Lady Elizabeth died, her own stock on the farm, together with certain other property of hers, was left to her niece, Elizabeth, who was the daughter of her half-brother, Sir John Fenwick of Wallington. However, when the niece, Elizabeth tried to take possession of her aunt's bequeathed property, she was prevented from doing so by Sir William (I), who, having got his hands upon it, wasn't about to let it go. As far as he was concerned, the entire farm and all it contained, was legally his property.

Young Elizabeth Fenwick put up quite a lively struggle to obtain her rightful property, and wrote to everyone of any influence, whom she thought might help her secure it. As she stated in a letter to a friend dated 1667: "Sir William Forster knows well enough y' stoke at Fryers was due to my Lady Forster, but because he thinks to trampul me down and to make a fule of his uncle he will busel for this to get all into his owne hands." Sir William Fenwick's three grandsons also contended the same will.

The Murder of Ferdinando Forster

The outcome of all the trouble over Elizabeth's will never be known, but it's not difficult to guess how a family squabble of this calibre might continue to fester, and even exacerbate, for a long time afterwards. One thing is quite certain. By the end of the 17th Century the Border Fenwicks were locked in a bitter feud with the Forsters of Bamburgh.

It was in August, 1701, that matters finally came to a head between the two factions. Ferdinando Forster was enjoying a pleasant evening drinking with friends in the Black Horse Tavern on Newgate Street, in Newcastle, when his sworn enemy, John Fenwick of Rock, (a village not far from Embleton) entered the inn. He began to sing a rather rude little ditty about the Forsters, to which Ferdinando took great exception. Insulted, he had a very heated argument with Fenwick and ended up inviting him outside for a duel. It's highly likely they were both the worse for drink, and Ferdinando was notorious for his quick and fiery temper. Whatever the circumstances were, before Ferdinando was able to draw his sword, he slipped on the cobbles and fell to the ground. Fenwick didn't wait till he got to his feet again. He simply ran Ferdinando through with his sword, as he lay on the ground, killing him on the spot.

However, there were plenty of witnesses to this deed of dishonour, and after being sentenced by the local judge, Fenwick was hanged above the same spot a month later.

After a great and sad funeral, such as befitted the last male heir to the Bamburgh estates, Ferdinando Forster's body was interred in the Forster Crypt beneath the chancel of Saint Aidan's Church, in Bamburgh village. His armour, complete with a wooden sword (which was always displayed instead of the real one, in such treacherous circumstances, where the victim had been slain without a sword in his hand), was hung from the chancel wall of the church, close to the imposing marble memorial plaque of his lofty ancestor, Sir Claudius Forster. The writer has seen these items in St. Aidan's and has photographs of same.

Ferdinando's death more or less marked the end of the Bamburgh dynasty of Forsters. However, he left two remarkable sisters, who were able to stay the final chapter of the Bamburgh branch of the family, for a while at least. Frances, who married Thomas Forster (IX) of Adderstone and was the mother of Tom Forster and his heroic sister, Dorothy. Ferdinando's other sister, also named Dorothy, married Lord Crewe, the Bishop of Durham. (GF)

- 129. M v. Nicholas Forster was christened on 8 June, 1671 and was buried on 7 April, 1678 in Church of South Bailey Durham
- 130. F vi. Mary Forster was christened on 23 Nov 1664 in Berwick and died young
- 131. F vii. Eleanor Forster was christened on 8 June, 1663 in Berwick and was buried on 2 February, 1664 in Berwick
- 132. F viii. Dorothy Forster of Bamburgh and Blanchland was born in 1671 and died in 1715. She was buried in Steane.

Dorothy was co-heir with Thomas Forster of Adderstone to the Estates of Bamborough and Blanchland. Born 1672; married 1699 to Right Rev. and Right Hon. Nathaniel, Lord Crewe, Bishop of Durham, Baron of Steane, who having purchased all the estates forfeited by Thomas Forster, "the Rebel General" founded the famous Bamborough Charity" therewith. He was born 1633 and died in 1721. She died 1715 without issue and was buried at Steine. (JF)

Born at Bamburgh Manor House (the Castle having long since begun to fall into disrepair), Dorothy grew up to be a very beautiful young woman and at the age of 18, she received a proposal of marriage from Sir Nathaniel Crewe of Stene in Northamptonshire. However, although he was a great catch being the Bishop of Durham as well as a peer of the Realm, she rejected his advances since he was then 56. Sadly, he went off and married another lady of quality, but upon her death a few years later, he renewed his proposal to Dorothy. By this time she had acquired some wisdom and, now being 28, she happily accepted him. Their marriage took place in 1699 and they lived together happily until her untimely death in 1715 at the young age of 44.

Though both Forster Estates had now fallen into bankruptcy, Lord Crewe bought them back for his bride, and invited young Tom and Dorothy Junior to live with them. He even made them a generous allowance so that they might continue to live in the style of their forebears. Oddly, he was regarded rather unkindly by many of his ilk, but in actual fact he supported several charities - including the Lord Crewe Trust, which was very active in the Bamburgh district - and still continues there - even to this day!

Fortunately, when Tom finally joined the Jacobite Uprising in 1715, and was subsequently caught and sentenced to death, Lord Crewe, who espoused the cause although in a non-active way, provided young Dorothy with the funds to help secure his escape. By then Sir Nathaniel was well into his 80s, and died soon afterwards.

However, Dorothy Junior was not left entirely penurious, and she married a local blacksmith, named John Armstrong. He had helped her to get to London and had helped further to bring back Tom's remains from France (where he had died in exile in 1738) for a proper burial in St. Aidan's Church. Dorothy Armstrong (nee Forster) followed her brother to the grave in 1767, and they now lie side by side in the Forster Crypt beneath St. Aidan's. It is not known if they had any issue or how many, but that must now be left to history!

This, of course, was not the end of the Forsters as such by any means! As noted earlier, they were regarded as the most prolific clan in the Border Country, and they have since left many thousands of descendants in their wake - of which I, for one, am proud to be a member! It is indeed most heartwarming to note that so many modern-day Forsters, Foresters, Forresters and Fosters continue to hunt out their sturdy and ancient roots. I hope that this lengthy record will be of some help to them!

As our Scottish cousins are apt to say, I also say to Forsters everywhere, wherever you may dwell in this turbulent world of ours - and however your honoured name may now be spelled: "Lang May Your Lume Reek!"

Dorothy Forster, Sr. The Lady Crewe. "Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is above rubies." Proverbs.

Dorothy, daughter of Sir William Forster, was not only beautiful, but also highly intelligent, and when she was still only a girl of eighteen she so captivated the heart of the Lord Crewe that he proposed marriage to her.

Nathaniel, the Lord Crewe of Stene, in Northamptonshire, was a highly esteemed personage indeed. Not only was he the Bishop of Durham, a position of great power, both ecclesiastical and temporal, a Prince Palatine of both Church and State, but he was also extremely wealthy, and a Peer of the Realm in his own right. (He would today be considered a millionaire tycoon, with royal prerogatives!)

He would have been considered a marvellous catch for the right woman, except he was 56 years old, which was regarded as virtually teetering on the brink of the grave, in those days! So young Dorothy turned him down. The year was then around 1689.

Lord Crewe went disconsolately away and married Penelope, the widow of Sir Hugh Tynte, but she died within a few short years. After a decent interval, Lord Crewe again tried his luck with Dorothy, who was still unmarried. This time, being 28, she readily accepted his proposal, and they were wed in 1699, to live happily until Dorothy died (of what precisely, is not revealed) in 1715 - just when the Scottish Jacobite Rebellion was getting under way.

The bankrupt state of the Forster Estates at Bamburgh had made no difference to Dorothy. Lord Crewe had spent a great deal of money to buy them back from the Receiver, in order to keep them in his wife's family. So young Tom - (Thomas (X) - although deprived of his inheritance, was able to live, in quite respectable comfort, in Bamburgh Manor House with his younger sister, Dorothy. It's probable that Lady Crewe provided them both with allowances, and, since their own mother, her sister Frances, was dead, took an active interest in their welfare.

Certainly she had the full support of Lord Crewe in this. Tom and his sister had every reason to be grateful to him - not only then but also later on, when serious trouble befell them - even though there were some who said of Lord Crewe, unkindly, that "Nothing in his life became him so well as his leaving of it" - for by that time, their aunt had died, yet Lord Crewe continued to support them. He himself finally died in 1721.

An impressive memorial erected in Bamburgh Castle by Lady Crewe to honour her family, the Forsters, and Lord Crewe is remembered for the charity he bequeathed to Bamburgh - the Lord Crewe Trust - which has continued actively for many years and still exists today! His coat-of-arms is carved on the ends of the choir-stalls in Bamburgh Church, in memory of a great benefactor, not only of the Forsters but also of the whole village and its surrounds. Portraits of Lord and Lady Crewe still hang proudly in Bamburgh Castle. (GF)

Dorothy married Lord Nathaniel Crewe of Stene

It is here that the strange chain of circumstances, mentioned above, arose. Bamburgh Castle, as we have noted earlier, was eventually purchased in 1704, by Dorothy Forster's uncle, Lord Nathaniel Crewe of Stene, the wealthy Bishop of Durham. He was a descendant of that other princely Bishop of Durham, who had once employed the dubious Gilbert Forster in the early 1300s! Lord Crewe had married young Dorothy's aunt (also named Dorothy Forster), in 1699. He then spent a fortune restoring Bamburgh Castle to its former glory for his wife's sake, as did his trustees after his death in 1721, completing the castle's restoration and maintaining it. By what seemed another extraordinary twist of fate, the castle was finally purchased, in 1894, by Lord Armstrong, the head of the great armaments and engineering group - believed by some to be descended from that young Armstrong blacksmith whom the younger Dorothy Forster had married back in the mid-1700s! (GF)

Tenth Generation

121. **Thomas Forster IX of Adderstone** (Thomas Forster VIII of Adderstone, Thomas Forster VII Etherstone, Matthew Forster of Etherstone, Thomas Forster VI of Adderstone, Thomas Forster V of Adderstone, Thomas Forster IV of Etherstone, Thomas Forster III of Etherstone, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone) was born on 6 August, 1659 and died on 25 October, 1725

Thomas was the Sheriff of Northumberland in 1703 and the M.P. in 1705. MP for Northumberland, married his cousin, Frances Forster. She, with William, Ferdinando and Dorothy (the elder) was one of the four children of his uncle, Sir William Forster and his wife Dorothy (nee Selby) of Bamburgh Castle. Thomas IX had 7 children by her, including Thomas X, John and Dorothy.

After Frances' early death in 1697, Thomas IX had several other children out of wedlock by two other women, Mary Unknown and Barbara Laws of Lucker, who survived him when he died in 1723 aged 63. (GF)

Thomas married (1) Frances Forster daughter of Sir William Forster of Bamburgh and Blanchland and Dorothy Selby on 27 Jan 1680 in South Bailey, Durham.

They had the following children:

133. M i. **General Thomas Forster X of Adderstone** was christened on 29 Mar 1683. He died in 1737 in Boulogne France and was buried on 17 December, 1738 in Bamburgh Castle (See #144)

M.P. for Northumberland 1696/9, 1702 and 1714. He was a General in the Jacobite Army in England in 1715. Co-heir of Bamburgh Estates with his aunt Dorothy Forster (Lady Crewe). (JoeF)

Since Thomas X and his sister Dorothy will be mentioned in greater depth later on in an expanded work, I shall refrain from going into it in any great depth of detail here. Alas, this Thomas was destined never to marry. He was next to the last of the almost unbroken chain of eleven Thomases who headed the Adderstone Forsters consecutively for over 360 years! However, in effect, Tom and Dorothy's brother - John - managed to finally reconnect the two parallel Forster families - despite them being the last notable members of the once-proud family dynasty that had flourished in both Adderstone Hall and Bamburgh Castle. (GF)

The Rebel General who commanded the English portion of his lawful Prince's - called the Pretender - army, he escaped to Boulogne, France where he died 1737, buried at Dover 7 October, 1738 and then interred in the family vault at Bamburgh on 7 December, 1738. He forfeited the estate. He died without issue. (BP)

The Legend of Tom and Dorothy Forster

"Blinded they into folly run and grief for pleasure take"- Icarus.

In effect, one can say that Tom and Dorothy brought together the Forsters of Bamburgh and Adderstone, as their mother was Frances of Bamburgh and their father, Thomas (IX) of Adderstone. The wheel of family destiny had come full circle, and the Forsters, after amazingly divergent fortunes and adventures, were once again a united clan. Not that they were the only branches of the clan in the Border country, or even in the whole of Northumbria or even Britain. Their forebears had been such a prolifically breeding tribe that they soon had scions of their clan in not only England, Scotland and Ireland, but, later, even in the farthest flung colonies of the burgeoning British Empire, in almost every corner of the globe.

One interesting example of the spread of these Forsters of Northumbria, was the chance meeting of two of the London descendants of that Roger Forster, who had fled to London to evade the law, only to begin a new dynasty of Forster barristers and high-court judges. The two scions in question, whilst on vacation in Europe, encountered two young German countesses, with whom they at once fell in love. The result of this holiday was a double wedding and their permanent settlement in Germany. Their wives took their husbands family name, whilst their husbands took up the rank and standing of their wives, as was the normal custom in Middle European circles of that time.

This led to the establishment of a huge German dynasty of Forsters, from which there were soon hundreds of descendants. Some went on to fame and fortune, whilst other descendants sank into shame and infamy - such as the Nazi Minister for Education during World War II who was a Forster of this stock, as was Albert Forster, Nazi Gauleiter of Danzig, in Poland, who was responsible for innumerable war-crimes against Jewish and Russian concentration camp inmates in Poland. He was hanged by the Russians in 1945. Every family, it seems, alas, has its complement of black sheep!

However, to return to the account of Tom and Dorothy Forster. Their lives were greatly affected by the death of their mother, and their father's remarriage. Thomas (IX) actually remarried twice, as his second wife, Mary, was killed in a shooting accident, and he then married Barbara Laws, who bore him several other children, and was heartily despised by Tom and Dorothy. (Although, at least one can see here how the family line of the Adderstone Forsters came to be so prolifically perpetuated!)

When Tom and his Aunt Dorothy became co-heirs to the Bamburgh estates, he and his sister moved into what his now Bamburgh Hall. Because the Adderstone branch of the family had never been very rich, Tom now looked forward to enjoying a fine inheritance, but sadly he was doomed to great disappointment when he found that there was so little left of the Bamburgh fortune. He had begun to live the life of a country gentleman, whose main occupations were to be shooting, gambling, drinking and entertaining. But when he realised his true financial position, he had to cut back his social life radically, and, though he and his sister Dorothy were still able to continue living at Bamburgh Manor, they both had to economise considerably. Although very little is actually recorded about her lifestyle at this time, Dorothy's later exploits suggest that she must have lived a pretty vigorous and spirited life as a girl, and that she had inherited all the adventurous and fearless traits of her Bamburgh forebears.

Down the generations, the Forsters had intermarried with many of the great families of Northumberland. In particular, they were blood cousins of the Radclyffes, whose chief was the Earl of Derwentwater. He himself, in turn, was a blood cousin to James Francis Edward Stuart - the Old Pretender to the Throne. It was these strong family bonds and bloodline connections, beside their part-Scottish origins, that made the Northumbrian Forsters such dedicated supporters of the Stuart cause.

When Derwentwater came to England, after a childhood in France, Tom would have been about 27. Up until then, he had done little of note, except succeed his father as Member of Parliament for Northumberland, and he owed this more to his social status rather than to any special political talents. His politics were those of the High Church Tories, who were heavily in favour of the Stuarts as monarchs of both England and Scotland. There was a great deal of plotting by the Jacobites at that time, but there is no evidence that Tom was actually involved in planning the overthrow of the new German King of England, George I, formerly a Hanoverian Prince of the House of Brunswick.

However, he was known to be a keen Stuart sympathiser. It had been hoped when Queen Anne died, that another Stuart king would succeed to the throne. But since that did not happen, and a German king was imported instead to take Queen Anne's place, the scene was set for the 1715 Jacobite Uprising.

(Perhaps we should examine the meaning of the term "Jacobite", since it is likely to crop up frequently in this history. It actually refers to the supporters of James II of England, a Stuart King who abdicated in 1688, due to a great wave of anti-Papist feeling which swept England at that time. The term comes from the original Biblical name "Jacob", from which the English name "James" was originally derived. However, it was later to be applied to the supporters of all of his royal Stuart descent.)

The Uprising began in both Scotland and Northumbria, and oddly enough, allegiances to the Stuarts - although they were Catholics - cut right across all religious boundaries. The Radclyffes were also Catholics, but the Forsters and many other Northumbrian families were staunchly Protestant. (It's perhaps of some passing interest to note that both Protestant and Catholic families actually shared St. Aidan's Bamburgh Church at that time!)

The Uprising began in Scotland, and for Northumberland, the fateful decision to join the Scots was made at a meeting out on the moors near Blanchland. There was a fair amount of shilly-shallying among the gathered gentry, and it is said that the Countess of Derwentwater grew so exasperated with their lack of decisiveness that she threw down her fan in a rage and demanded her husband's sword. If he didn't fancy fighting for the Stuart cause, she did! So, although there were many who refused to join the Uprising, at least, a respectable number of the Northumbrian gentry rose to the challenge, and it is recorded that one aged Joseph Forster of Low Buston was so keen to fight that his friends had to have him locked up in gaol to prevent him from joining the Rebellion!

That Tom Forster was chosen to be the General of the English Rebel Army, may seem rather surprising, in view of the fact that he had no experience of soldiering at all, and was utterly unequipped for the post. However, the Earl of Derwentwater was little known in Northumberland and it was feared that he might not attract much support, whereas Tom, by virtue of his status, was considered the right man for the job. He could learn all he needed to know about soldiering as he went along! As events subsequently proved, the choice of Tom as a General could hardly have been more disastrous!

A Disastrous Adventure and A Lucky Escape

"Fools rush in where angels fear to tread"- Old adage.

The first few weeks of the Rebellion were occupied with marches back and forth across the Borders, Proclaiming James Francis Stuart to be King in such towns as Morpeth and Hexham, and trying, often to no avail, to rally support for the cause. The city of Newcastle, being loyal to a man toward King George (hence their nickname of "Geordies"), slammed shut its gates in the faces of Forster and his followers.

Eventually, The Earl of Derwent-water and Tom Forster with their army of Northumbrian gentry joined up with the Scottish Lords Nithsdale, Kenmuir, Carnwath and Wintoun and their army, that included the elderly Macintosh, chief of Borlum, with a battalion of his Highland infantry, at Langholm, before commencing their march south. It was at that time, as they rested at Brampton in Cumberland,

that official letters were received from the Earl of Mar, who was the chief architect of the entire rebellion, appointing Kenmuir as the Commander-in-Chief, Thomas Forster as a General, and old Macintosh of Borlum as a Brigadier of the Jacobite Army that was to march into England.

In the meantime, a huge Scottish Army was being marshalled to reclaim Scotland itself for the Old Pretender, already being styled as James III of England and VIII of Scotland. Even though the Pretender himself had not yet set foot in Scotland, hostilities were set in motion, and the army began to move towards the great battle of Sherrifmuir, between Stirling and Perth. This battle involved about 9,000 rebel highlanders and some 3,500 Government troops - under the hated Duke of Argyle, head of the Campbell Clan. It began at 11.30 am. on Sunday, 13 November, and lasted until nightfall at 5 pm. Thoh the Jacobites suffered only 232 casualties, compared to Government losses of 663, Argyll's Army, by stopping the Jacobite army in their tracks, scattering them, and preventing them reaching the Forth, emerged as the real victors at Sheriffmuir.

In the south, the invading army led by Derwentwater and Forster, had reached the town of Kendal by Saturday, 5 November in appallingly bad weather conditions. They were soaked to the skin and shivering with cold. Forster and the others were able to find excellent lodgings with warm fires and fine food, but the rank and file of their army could only huddle miserably around open bonfires trying to dry out their sodden plaids. The following day they marched 12 miles south to Kirby Lonsdale, where they proclaimed James III as King, and collected revenue from the inhabitants. Then, since it was Sunday, they attended the local church.

The next day, Monday brought the Jacobites to the Lancashire county town of Lancaster, where they were rejoined by a scout, Charles Widdrington, who had cheering news. He had been sent ahead to test the possibility of support from Lancashire, and he was able to tell Tom Forster that James III had been proclaimed in Manchester that same day, and that a troop of fifty men had already been raised there. However, the local squirearchy of Lancaster, under Sir Henry Houghton, had quietly gathered a force of some 600 local militia, whom he then led away to Preston.

The Jacobites took a two-day respite in Lancaster, before leaving on 9 November. But, apart from taking money and spirits from the Government Custom House, Forster and Derwentwater permitted no pillaging of any sort among the private houses. This had been their policy all through the southward march, and any looters did so at their dire peril. Two Jacobite agitators had been released from Lancaster Castle gaol, and a number of Lancashire gentry and their servants, mostly Catholics, also joined the rebel army. The next day, the Jacobites set out upon what was to be the last leg of their march as a conquering army. They didn't realise the true situation and thought they were going to make a clean sweep across Lancashire and that soon, the whole county would rise outraged to join them. Their informants told them that, even though Troops were gathering to oppose them, it was time to extend themselves, that they might join all those who had promised their assistance. To this end, they moved from Lancaster, taking the Road to Preston, and designed to possess themselves of Warrington Bridge, and of the Town of Manchester, where they had Assurances of great Numbers to join them; and by this means they made no doubt of securing the great and rich town of Liverpool, which would be cut off from any Relief if they were once possessed of Warrington Bridge.

It was a nasty wet day and the Preston road was deep in mud, and though the horse troops reached Preston that night, the infantry had to stop over in Garstang, a small hamlet midway between. The rebel cavalry were pleased to learn that two troops of Stanhope's Dragoons had departed the town on hearing of their approach. It looked as if the Government troops were afraid of them, and that they might never meet with any real opposition. Preston also held other delights for the rebel soldiery. As one wrote: "The Laydys in thys towne, Preston, are so very beautyfull and so richly atired that the gentlemen soldiers from Wednesday to Saturday minded nothing but courtyng and feastyng."

Preston sits on the River Ribble where it meets the sea, on the northwest coast of Lancashire. In 1715, it was the chief market town of the area with a population of 6,000, and was claimed to be "The Metropolis of the North". It possessed some fine

buildings; a lovely old Parish Church, the elegant Town Hall and several residences of the landed gentry, including those of Lord Derby and the Duke of Hamilton. It also had a theatre, as well as its full share of inns, taverns and hostleries.

By today's standards, it probably presented a melancholy appearance, especially at night, but in 1715, it was considered very sophisticated, with four oil-lamps to illuminate the principal streets of the town. These were deeply rutted, and an open drainage channel ran down from the market place along the centre of Friar Gate to a stream that ran out to the sea. The Ribble being tidal, was used by shipping.

After spending a couple days enjoying the pleasures of Preston, Tom Forster resolved to set out for Manchester, but on Friday, November 11, as he was preparing orders for the advance to start on the Saturday, he discovered the situation was much less encouraging than he had thought. While the Jacobites were involved in Preston, the Government forces had also been active.

General Carpenter was on his way over the Pennines from the east, and with him were three regiments of dragoons. Meanwhile, General Wills, commander of Government troops in Cheshire, had marched, on November 11, from Manchester to Wigan, 15 miles south of Preston, and with him came a force of four regiments of dragoons, as well as the Cameronian Regiment of Foot - and he was joined at Wigan by another regiment of cavalry, plus Sir Henry Houghton's 600 militiamen from north Lancashire! To make matters worse, Newton's Dragoons were en route northwards to garrison Manchester, since it was known to be a Jacobite stronghold! A number of Lancashire men had arrived by this time to swell the Jacobite ranks in Preston, but they were not an inspiring sight. Old Borlum told Tom Forster, "Look ye there, Forster, are yon fellows the men ye intend to fight Wills with? Good Faith, sir, if ye had ten thousand of them, I'd fight them a' wi' a thousand of his dragoons!" A more uncouth and unsoldierly body of men had never before appeared in the field than these Lancashire rustics; some with rusty swords and no muskets, others with muskets but no swords; some with fowling-pieces, others with pitchforks, whilst others had no weapons of any kind at all!

Forster suddenly began to realise his own vulnerability and his weakness, and he became utterly depressed. He called a council-of-war that same evening, and it was decided to put Preston into a state of defence at dawn the next day. The next morning, Tom Forster went out to reconnoitre the area. He crossed the Ribble Bridge, which was covered by 100 men of Lt-Col. Farquarson's command, then suddenly he almost ran into the leading elements of Will's Government troops! Luckily, he managed to avoid being spotted and got back into Preston by another route. He told Borlum of this, and they decided that Preston would have to be defended from "close-in" and that the men on the Ribble Bridge should be brought back. It was a grave error, since General Wills, having discovered that this apparent laxity was not part of an elaborate ambush, eventually sent his men, led ironically by Col. Sir George Forrester, across the bridge and occupied the high ground just outside the town. Once their dispositions had been made, the English Brigadiers received orders to "endeavour to gain the suburbs, set fire to the houses, so that the rebels might be dislodged from their barricade; and make such lodgements as would prevent the enemy from sallying, or making their escape".

Thus the Battle of Preston, the first big clash between the armies of the Hanoverian King in London and the shadowy figure of James the Pretender, commenced at 2 pm. On Saturday, 12 November, 1715, only one day before the start of that other great Jacobite Battle of Sheriffmuir, far to the north in Scotland!

There is not really the space here to describe the battle in any detail, but suffice to say that it was fought with some considerable ferocity on both sides, though it must be said that, without Old Borlum's wisdom and experience, it would have been much shorter, and far less bloody, especially for the Government troops who received six times the casualties sustained by the Jacobites. The Scots fought almost a house-to-house guerilla conflict against troops who were more accustomed to open battlefields and being able to make cavalry charges. In addition, the English had to try to avoid killing the English citizens who were still trapped in the town, which cramped their style considerably. By five pm it was nearly dark and there were to be no more attacks. The Jacobites could now congratulate themselves on having won the first round of the battle. They had lost very few men, but had inflicted heavy casualties on their opponents. Old Borlum

even found time to sit down and write a letter to the Earl of Mar to tell him how well they were doing!

Though there were no more attacks that night, there was constant sniping, and anyone on either side - including civilians - who moved about on the streets was likely to be fired at. General Wills commanded his men to put lights in the windows of the houses they occupied to make it clear to each group where its own friends were, and possibly to light up the surrounds outside so they couldn't be surprised during the night. But so many houses were already on fire around the town that there was an abundance of light, and these lamps merely served to show the Jacobites where their targets were!

Because General Wills had somehow neglected to place any guards on the Liverpool Road many of the Jacobites slipped away into the night, including most of the rustics who had only joined a couple of days earlier. For those who stayed at their posts there was little sleep on either side. As a witness later said: "That night, both armies lay upon their arms, but General Forster went to bed. All that night there were constant dropping shots".

Early on the morning of Sunday, 13 November, a small attack was made on the Church Gate barricade, but it was quickly beaten back by the defenders. It was virtually the last action of the battle, as, between 9 and 10 am. The scales suddenly tipped in the Government's favour with the arrival of General Carpenter and his three regiments of dragoons. With him came the Earl of Carlisle and Lord Lumley who had brought their own militia along. In all there must have been two and a half thousand fresh reinforcements for the Government side!

This sealed the fate of the defenders, who must have been running low on ammunition by this time, and the sight of so many more troops massed against them must have caused even the bravest of Jacobite hearts to sink within them.

About midday, General Tom Forster was discussing the surrender of the town with two of his aides, Lord Widdrington and Colonel Oxburgh. The highlanders wanted only to sally forth and attack the Government troops, preferring to "Die wi' Swords in oor honds, like Men o' Honour", rather than be starved out in a siege, as they expected would be the case. Had they known that Forster and his officers were discussing surrender, they would have used their swords on him! However, Oxburgh, who knew some of the Government officers, was sent out to parley with the enemy, and was taken directly to see General Wills. At first Wills refused to accept the proposal, but when Oxburgh asked him to show mercy as a man of honour, the General told him that if they surrendered as "prisoners at discretion" within the hour, he would prevent his troops hacking the Jacobites to pieces.

Before Oxburgh got back with the gloomy news, another emissary was on his way to see Wills representing the Scots in an attempt to secure separate terms for them, unaware of Oxburgh's attempt. Dalziel, the emissary received the same answer, and returned to tell the Scots that General Forster had already spoken of surrender to Wills. A tremendous row followed Dalziel's return. The Scots regarded Forster's negotiation as treachery, even though they had sought separate terms with Wills for themselves.

At 3 pm Wills sent a staff officer, Colonel Cotton, accompanied by a drummer, beating the Chamade (a call to parley), to get a definite answer to Wills' terms, since the hour allowed was up. He was told that the Scots wanted until 7 am Monday morning to make up their minds. Unluckily, as Cotton turned away to return to Wills, one of the Highlanders, who was averse to all thoughts of surrender, shot his drummer dead. After this, another row flared up, and all the traditional dislike between English and Scots rose to the surface amongst the Jacobites. Tom Forster was nearly shot by an angry Highland officer named Murray, who burst into his room with a pistol, had Tom not knocked it aside as Murray fired, he would have died there and then. In fact, had he left his room, he would have been cut to pieces in the street by the Scots, for what they still regarded as his treachery, even though he had sent Oxburgh to negotiate for them all, Scots and English Jacobites together! The Scots seemed blind to their own duplicity.

Cotton duly returned to tell them that General Wills had agreed to grant them the extra time the Scots had asked for, provided they sent out the chiefs of the English

and the Scots as hostages for the performance of the terms, and, after a great deal of arguing over who should be the hostages, at 8 pm Lord Derwentwater and Colonel Macintosh surrendered themselves at the Government Headquarters.

That night was a very desperate one, especially for the Scots, who still laid plots to escape, despite Old Borlum's life being laid on the line in surety of their good behaviour. However, at 7 am the next morning, the Jacobites sent out a joint answer to accept Wills' terms of surrender "at Discretion, as Rebels taken in the Act of Rebellion". Colonel Macintosh was present in Wills' headquarters when this reply came, and said he could not believe that the Scots would surrender in that way. Wills told him "Go back to your People again, and I will attack the Town, and the consequence will be, I will not spare one Man of You!" Brave Old Borlum took him at his word, but when he got to the town and found that his Highlanders really were giving themselves up, he had to return, very shamefacedly, to Wills.

Colonel Lord Forrester was given the task of supervising the capitulation, and the Jacobite officers handed over their swords to him in the churchyard, except for the leaders, who carried out this humiliating act in a private room at the Mitre Inn. How General Wills' choice of Forrester must have galled Forster!

Wills wasted little time in sorting out the prisoners into their various categories. Six of the Jacobites were found to still be serving officers in the King's army, so a Court-Martial had to be swiftly convened to deal with them, on 17 November. On the 28th, four of these were shot by firing-squad. Lord Charles Murray, through the intervention of his father, the Duke of Atholl, was reprieved, and Captain Dalziel was able to prove that he had resigned before joining the Uprising. The other prisoners were sorted into lords, officers, gentlemen and ordinary soldiers.

The important personages were sent off to Wigan on 21 November, en route for London and their trials, under the escort of Stanhope's Dragoons, whilst the less important went into the local gaols of Chester, Lancaster and Liverpool to await trial in Lancashire. The common insurgent soldiers were left locked up in Preston Parish church to await disposal for about a month, under guard of the survivors of Preston's Regiment, and the townspeople of Preston had to keep them fed and watered until they were eventually taken off to proper gaols.

We will not dwell upon that other battle north of Stirling, at Sheriffmuir, which was as great, if not greater, a disaster as that of Preston. However, it is worth remarking that, after a great deal of shilly-shallying on the part of the Old Pretender, the would-be King James Francis Edward Stuart, at last arrived at Peterhead, north of Aberdeen on the 22nd of December after a nightmare voyage up the English coast. (He was supposed to have landed from France, into southwest England, then, after a change of plan, via Ireland into Argyllshire, at Dunstaffnage Castle).

As one loyal Jacobite writer put it: "it was hardly the act of a coward to set sail in mid-winter, across a sea beset with enemy frigates for the sake of sharing the dangers of a dwindling band of adherents, whom, as he well knew, nothing save the direct interposition of the Almighty could save from destruction."

However, the Pretender only went through the motions of appearing the saviour of Scottish sovereignty. For most of his stay in northern Scotland, he suffered from a mysterious "Ague of Anxiety"* that kept him largely bound to his host's house and his bed, issuing useless directives to his chief advisers and military leaders. Beyond that, his performance as a "conquering hero" was abysmal, and after a few face-saving outings to social events among the Scots aristocracy, he departed again, bound for France and safety on 4 February, 1716. He seemed to miraculously recover from his "ague of anxiety"* virtually from the moment he stepped on to the ship's deck. His followers stood watching with utter disgust as the ship sped him away back to safety. (*Or simple cowardice, perhaps?)

Executions and Escapes

As previously mentioned, the leading members of Tom Forster's army were sent to Wigan. Here they were split up into four parties and made their way to London under close escort via Warrington. The peers rode in carriages, whilst the remainder rode on horseback. En route, Derwentwater asked the officer in charge where they were to be imprisoned in London. The officer told him that the peers

would get the Tower of London, the next in quality to Newgate, and the rest to the foul prisons of Marshalsea and the Fleet. Their escort was changed at Highgate on December 9 for the march into London, where huge crowds were gathering, (many of them sympathisers with the Stuart cause, and haters of the Hanoverian usurper, King George). So it was not merely for show that Major General Tatton had three hundred Foot Guards and a hundred and twenty Horse Guards on escort duty that day!

As one historian of the period later described the scene: "At Highgate every one of them had their Arms ty'd with a cord coming cross their back; and being thus pinion'd, they were not allow'd to hold the Reins of the Bridle, but had their Horses led by a Foot Soldier. In this disgraceful Posture they were ranged into four Divisions, according to the four different Prisons to which they were allotted, viz. the Noblemen to the Tower, Forster and Mackintosh, with the other most criminal, to Newgate; others to Marshalsea, and others to the Fleet; each Division being placed between a Party of Horse Grenadiers, and a platoon of Foot-Guards."

The examination of the peers was begun without delay on 12 December, and they were fetched in turn to Westminster from the Tower, by either coach or the Thames. The House of Commons decided to impeach Derwentwater, Kenmuir, Nithsdale, Wintoun, Carnwath, Nairn and Widdrington on charges of High Treason. Oddly enough, on the way back to the Tower, the Jacobite Lords were permitted to descend from the lumbering coach at the well-known Jacobite tavern, "The Fountain" in the Strand, where, guarded by warders from the Tower, they dined heartily upon roast beef well washed down with several glasses of port. Then they were allowed to enter a shop next door to buy supplies of snuff. All this to the accompaniment of a cheering demonstration by crowds of Jacobite sympathisers. Of the seven peers, only Wintoun pleaded "Not Guilty" and requested time to prepare his defence. The rest pleaded "Guilty" on 19 January, and it was decided that sentences would be pronounced on these six upon the 9 February.

On the appointed day, The Lord Chancellor concluded his duty of pronouncing their death sentences with these awful words: "It is adjudged by this Court that you, James, Earl of Derwentwater, William, Lord Widdrington, William, Earl of Nithsdale, Robert, Earl of Carnwath, William, Viscount Kenmuir, and William, Lord Nairn, and every one of you, return to the Prison of the Tower from whence you came; from thence you must be drawn to the Place of Execution; when you come there, you must be hanged by the Neck, but not till you are dead, for you must be cut down alive; then your Bowels must be taken out and burned before your faces; then your heads must be severed from your Bodies, and your Bodies divided into four Quarters, and these must be at the King's disposal. And God Almighty be Merciful to your Souls!"

Lord Wintoun was tried separately on 15 March, 1716, and his trial was quite a spectacle since his Counsel "Insinuated that he is not perfect in his Intellectualities". Whilst this wasn't enough to save him from the death-sentence, it would probably have been enough to get his sentence commuted later, had he not taken other steps to ensure his safety! He was soon to prove that there was nothing at all wrong with his "Intellectuals"! However, more of that shortly.

The trials of the commoners took place in two batches. Of the first batch, twenty were tried at Westminster in May, and another twelve at Southwark. Then in July, another thirty were tried at Westminster and most of them were found guilty. Of the tiny few that were acquitted, most claimed that they were pressure into joining the uprising, but some, such as Robert Townley and Edward Tilsley of Lancashire, managed to get off through having influential "friends in high places", despite their both being ardent Papists, and being deeply implicated in the planning of the rising!

The executions began in London long before these other trials were ended. In fact, the two peers were executed before the first commoners were even tried at Westminster on 7 May, 1716. The peers were condemned to death on 9 February, and their executions were set for the 24th. However, when 24 February arrived, only two of the peers were actually executed. The others had their sentences commuted or stayed for various reasons, which we will not dwell on here.

The method to be used was beheading; as it was normal in the case of noblemen for the King to allow this instead of the barbaric hanging, drawing and quartering, to

which they had actually been sentenced. The two were taken to Tower Hill at 10 am Derwentwater was beheaded first after making a short speech. He was followed by Kenmuir who offered up a useless prayer for "King James III".

These executions - especially that of such a young and noble man as Derwentwater - started a great public swing of sympathy towards the Jacobite cause, especially since so many English people resented having a foreign King more or less thrust upon them to occupy the Throne of Britain. There is no doubt that it was because of this swing of public opinion that only four more of the prisoners condemned to death were actually executed in London. Col. Henry Oxburgh was to die on 14 May; Richard Gascoyne on the 25th; and "Mad Jack" Hall of Otterburn, and Reverend William Paul (the rebels' Padre), both on 13 July.

The unlucky four, being commoners, were executed at Tyburn before enormous crowds of sightseers, in the hideous and obscene manner that was then demanded by Law for High Treason, and were alas, unable to obtain the much less degrading and far less horrendously painful death of simple beheading granted by the King to the peers. Instead, they were subjected to the full and dreadfully protracted process of being "Hung, Drawn and Quartered", in all its shocking agony and horror. At what point the wretched victim actually died, depended upon the size of the gratuity he had been able to give the public hangman, who no doubt was able to prolong the torment or speed their end as he thought fit.

As for the rest of the commoner prisoners, some were deported to the American colonies as slave labour for seven to fourteen-year contracts, others petitioned for banishment, often before even being tried. Many, however, were sentenced to long terms in prison, where a number of them eventually died. Only a tiny few of the original prisoners managed to escape. The first major escape was that of the Earl of Nithsdale from the Tower on 23 February, the night before he was due to be executed. His wife played an important part in his escape, by bringing with her on her final farewell visit, a maidservant wearing a hood, who changed places with the Earl and let him escape in her clothes. After a very lucky run, the Earl finally managed to escape to France. (For some time afterwards, women's hooded cloaks were known as "Nithsdales"!)

Tom Forster was the next most important Jacobite to escape. He got out of Newgate on 11 April, 1716, a week before he was due to be tried at Westminster. He had been given excellent quarters in the gaol, paid for presumably by his sister, Dorothy, who had made the journey down from Northumberland on horseback in midwinter, accompanied by the village blacksmith. (possibly her Armstrong blacksmith lover?) The weather was atrocious with deep snow and ice, and their journey must have taken three or four weeks, as on some days, they barely covered more than 20 miles. It's likely too, that they called upon Lord Crewe, at Stene in Northamptonshire, and that it was he who gave Dorothy the necessary money, for he was a strong Jacobite sympathiser, even though not an active one, being by then in his mid-eighties. Eventually they got to London in just enough time to bribe the Prison Governor, Mr. Pitt, who had befriended Tom.

However the deed was arranged, the "official" story was that Tom Forster and he were having drinks together, when Tom asked to be excused whilst he went to the lavatory. Pitt claimed that he became suspicious after Tom had been gone for rather longer than usual. When he went to see why Tom was taking so long, all he found was Tom's nightgown (which he had apparently been wearing over his clothes), lying on the stairs. In the lock of the side door was a false key, and in a small room downstairs the Governor found his own servant, who said he had been locked in by Tom Forster's man servant, Thomas Lee. The two escapees, Forster and his servant, were spirited away so efficiently that they were safe in France within 24 hours. According to the authorities at the subsequent inquiry: "The whole affair was clearly so well-planned an operation, that it must have had outside backing."

Nobody thought to challenge the Governor of any collusion in the actual escape, or that Tom's sister could have played any part in it. On the contrary, there was much speculation that it might well have been a "Put-Up Job" to avoid embarrassing the Government with trying a man who was both a Member of Parliament and a Protestant. Governor Pitt was arrested and later tried for "Very High Neglect and Misdemeanour in his Office", but luckily he was subsequently acquitted.

Thus Tom Forster escaped what would most certainly have been a hideous death at Tyburn, had he come to trial, since, unlike his forebears, he had no title to prevent the full penalty for High Treason from being carried out upon his person. Dorothy returned to Northumberland without being questioned at all, glad that her dear brother was safe in France, but no doubt greatly saddened that she would probably never see him in England again.

However, Tom's Scottish Brigadier, Mackintosh of Borlum, made an even more brazen escape from Newgate, by a sudden rushing of the guards, in company with several other Scots, and a wild headlong dash down the streets, and thought eight of them were recaptured, Old Borlum and his son got clean away, and returned to Scotland to "turn out" again in 1719. The Earl of Wintoun, referred to earlier as having pleaded "lacking in his Intellectuals", made his exit from the Tower three months later, on 4 August, 1716. He is reputed to have actually sawn through his window-bars with a watchspring, a little trick he had picked up when, as a callow lad, he had run away from home to France, where he had somehow managed to become apprenticed to a blacksmith!

Other Newgate escapees of note were James Swinburne, brother of Edward, who died in prison, and Charles Radcliffe, Lord Derwentwater's brother. Swinburne escaped from those "treatyng him for lunacy", on 11 December: whilst Radcliffe simply strolled out of the prison, pretending to be a visitor, on December 13, most likely as a result of heavy bribes to the gaolers.

Thus of approximately a hundred prisoners brought from Preston to London, about half can be accounted for as follows: Tried and acquitted - 10; Tried and executed - 6; Escaped from prison - 20; Died in prison - 10; Petitioned for banishment - 5; Turned King's Evidence - 5; a total of 56. The remainder were pardoned and released in 1717, when on May 6th George I signed an Act of Grace. However, in Lancashire, 34 were executed, 43 died in prison, and only 4 managed to escape.

Although the precise number is not known, several hundred were believed to have been deported to the American and West Indian plantations - thirty of whom managed to capture the vessel they were being transported in, and sailed it to France, where they were able to sell it and divide the profits between them!

Finally, in Scotland, the arrests and trials resulted in only one execution, and all prisoners were released under the 1717 Act of Grace.

So ends the woeful story of a rebellion that was damned from the beginning, but, because of the failure of those who did not learn the lesson of history, the whole thing was to be repeated again thirty years later, for the son of The Old Pretender, Bonnie Prince Charlie. But that, as the wise old sages say is another story! (GF)

134. M ii. John Forster of Adderstone was christened on 5 July, 1688 and died in 1745 (See #145)

135. F iii. Margaret Forster was christened on 8 December, 1681 (See #146)

Margaret married William Bacon of Staward & Newton Cap on 13 February, 1706. William died on 20 April, 1748 in Newton Cap and was buried in South Church

136. F iv. Elizabeth Forster was christened on 14 August, 1684 (See #147)

137. M v. William Forster was christened on 14 August, 1684 (See #148)

138. F vi. Dorothy Forster was christened on 3 February, 1686 (See #149)

However, Dorothy Junior was not left entirely penurious, and she married a local blacksmith, named John Armstrong. He had helped her to get to London and had helped further to bring back Tom's remains from France (where he had died in exile in 1738) for a proper burial in St. Aidan's Church. Dorothy Armstrong (nee Forster)

followed her brother to the grave in 1767, and they now lie side by side in the Forster Crypt beneath St. Aidan's. It is not known if they had any issue or how many, but that must now be left to history!

However, although the Bamburgh Forsters had died out in name, at least they were perpetuated in bloodstock under the Armstrong name, as Tom's sister, Dorothy Forster, married a Border blacksmith named John Armstrong, a scion of another ancient and famous Border clan, and had children by him. Dorothy herself died in 1767, and her gravestone, marked "Dorothy Armstrong nee Forster", lies (as this writer can personally verify) beside those of her illustrious kin, in the Forster crypt under St. Aidan's Church in Bamburgh.

By what seemed another extraordinary twist of fate, the castle was finally purchased, in 1894, by Lord Armstrong, the head of the great armaments and engineering group - believed by some to be descended from that young Armstrong blacksmith whom the younger Dorothy Forster had married back in the mid-1700s!

Thus the bloodline and spirit, if not the name of the Forsters of Bamburgh continues on, as does the castle itself, which is today a famous and much-admired landmark, and, which - thanks to the generosity of the Armstrong family - now belongs to the National Trust.

Of course, it should be stressed here, that, whilst this was the end of the Bamburgh dynasty of Forsters, it was by no means the end of the Forsters of Adderstone, from whom the first Bamburgh Forsters had sprung. By the time of General Tom's exile to France, there were many other offshoot families of Forsters all around the northern region of Northumbria, as well as in other parts of England, Ireland, and even in Germany! This latter German branch stemmed from the two Forster brothers who had married two German countesses.

The brothers were descended from Roger Forster of London, who also became the founder of a great judicial and political tradition among his descendants - even though Roger himself had been a former fugitive from justice, after participating in killing a scion of the family's traditionally feudal enemies, the Kerrs and their ilk, in Northumbria! (GF)

Dorothy married John Armstrong of Berry Hill

By what seemed another extraordinary twist of fate, the castle was finally purchased, in 1894, by Lord Armstrong, the head of the great armaments and engineering group - believed by some to be descended from that young Armstrong blacksmith whom the younger Dorothy Forster had married back in the mid-1700s!

Thus the bloodline and spirit, if not the name of the Forsters of Bamburgh continues on, as does the castle itself, which is today a famous and much-admired landmark, and, which - thanks to the generosity of the Armstrong family - now belongs to the National Trust. (GF)

Thomas married (2) Mary Unknown. Mary died in October, 1697

Shot by accident in October 1697

Thomas and Mary had the following children:

139. M vii. Ralph Forster of Carham was christened on 15 April, 1703 and died in 1735

140. F viii. Mary Forster

Mary married Vincent Proctor of Rock in 1725

Thomas married (3) Barbara Laws on 14 Feb 1705

She bore him no sons and she was a widow in 1738. (JF)

123. **Joseph Forster of Low Buston** (Francis Forster of Low Buston, Francis Forster of Low Buston and Fonnden, Florence Forster of Low Buston, Thomas Forster VI of Adderstone, Thomas Forster V of Adderstone, Thomas Forster IV of Etherstone, Thomas Forster III of Etherstone, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone)

Called "the old Justice" who was sent to Prison by his friends in 1715 to prevent him from joining the "Rising". (BP)

Joseph married Catherine Dalston daughter of Christopher Dalston of Acorn Bank. Catherine was born in Westmoreland.

They had the following children:

141. M i. Francis Forster was born on 3 April, 1703 and died in 1778

142. M ii. Joseph Forster of Durham

Whose son Abraham and daughter died without issue. (BP)

143. F iii. Grace Forster

She had 5 daughters who died young. (BP)

Grace married William Cresswell of Cresswell

125. **Frances Forster** (William Forster of Bamburgh and Blanchland, Nicholas Forster of Bamburgh and Blanchland, Elizabeth or Susanna Forster, Thomas Forster VI of Adderstone, Thomas Forster V of Adderstone, Thomas Forster IV of Etherstone, Thomas Forster III of Etherstone, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone)

Frances married Thomas Forster IX of Adderstone son of Col. Thomas Forster VIII of Adderstone and Mary Cole on 27 January, 1680 in South Bailey, Durham. Thomas was born on 6 August, 1659 and died on 25 October, 1725.

Thomas was the Sheriff of Northumberland in 1703 and the M.P. in 1705. MP for Northumberland, married his cousin, Frances Forster. She, with William, Ferdinando and Dorothy (the elder) was one of the four children of his uncle, Sir William Forster and his wife Dorothy (nee Selby) of Bamburgh Castle. Thomas IX had 7 children by her, including Thomas X, John and Dorothy.

After Frances' early death in 1697, Thomas IX had several other children out of wedlock by two other women, Mary Unknown and Barbara Laws of Lucker, who survived him when he died in 1723 aged 63. (GF)

Frances and Thomas had the following children:

144. M i. General Thomas Forster X of Adderstone (See #133)

145. M ii. John Forster of Adderstone (See #134)

- 146. F iii. Margaret Forster (See #135)
- 147. F iv. Elizabeth Forster (See #136)
- 148. M v. William Forster (See #137)
- 149. F vi. Dorothy Forster (See #138)

Eleventh Generation

134. **John Forster of Adderstone** (Thomas Forster IX of Adderstone, Thomas Forster VIII of Adderstone, Thomas Forster VII Etherstone, Matthew Forster of Etherstone, Thomas Forster VI of Adderstone, Thomas Forster V of Adderstone, Thomas Forster IV of Etherstone, Thomas Forster III of Etherstone, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone) was christened on 5 July, 1688 and died in 1745. He was buried on 3 January, 1745

John married Isabella Orde daughter of William Orde of Sandybank on 19 Mar 1739

They had the following children:

- 150. M i. Thomas Forster XI of Adderstone was christened on 22 November, 1743 and buried on 4 April, 1763

Thomas died unmarried and without issue. His Estate was willed to the son's of his Aunt Margaret who married William Bacon of Staward & Newton Cap.

True, their brother, John Forster, did marry Isabella, daughter of William Orde of Sandybank and produced a son who could rightly be called Thomas Forster XI, but, alas, the lad never married. He remained living in obscurity with his mother in Adderstone until his early death at the age of only twenty in 1763. His father being dead, and having no other male issue, the family titles and honours died with him, thus young "Thomas XI" became the final "pall-bearer" and rearguard of the great and noble Adderstone-Bamburgh Forster male lineage.

This, of course, was not the end of the Forsters as such by any means! As noted earlier, they were regarded as the most prolific clan in the Border Country, and they have since left many thousands of descendants in their wake - of which I, for one, am proud to be a member! It is indeed most heartwarming to note that so many modern day Forsters, Foresters, Forresters and Fosters continue to hunt out their sturdy and ancient roots. I hope that this lengthy record will be of some help to them!

As our Scottish cousins are apt to say, I also say to Forsters everywhere, wherever you may dwell in this turbulent world of ours - and however your honoured name may now be spelled: "Lang May Your Lume Reek!" (GF)

- 151. F ii. Isabella Forster was buried on 9 Apr 1780

Died without issue. (BP)

Isabella married John Widdrington of Hauxley on 26 May 1767

141. **Francis Forster** (Joseph Forster of Low Buston, Francis Forster of Low Buston, Francis Forster of Low Buston and Fonnden, Florence Forster of Low Buston, Thomas Forster VI of Adderstone, Thomas Forster V of Adderstone, Thomas Forster IV of Etherstone, Thomas Forster III of Etherstone, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone) was born on 3 April, 1703 and died in 1778

Francis married Frances Bathurst daughter of Charles Bathurst Skitterskelf

She was the co hier with her brother Charles of Skitterskelf, Clints and Arkendale, Yorks. (BP)

They had the following children:

152. M i. Charles Francis Forster of Low Buston and Askendale who died in 1803
LLD, J.P./D.L.CO. Northumberland. Died unmarried 1803. Purchased Campville and other property. (BP)
153. M ii. Joseph Forster of Warkworth
154. M iii. William Forster of Deal who died on 20 Jan 1770
155. F iv. Catherine Forster

Twelfth Generation

153. **Joseph Forster of Warkworth** (Francis Forster, Joseph Forster of Low Buston, Francis Forster of Low Buston, Francis Forster of Low Buston and Fonnden, Florence Forster of Low Buston, Thomas Forster VI of Adderstone, Thomas Forster V of Adderstone, Thomas Forster IV of Etherstone, Thomas Forster III of Etherstone, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone)

On his brother's death he inherited his mother's property Askendale about 1814. (BP)

Joseph married Isabella Hargrave .

They had the following children:

156. M i. Charles Turner Forster
157. M ii. Charles Francis Forster of Stockton on Lees and Askendale who died in 1829 was married to Jane Whitfield
Died without issue and sold his share of property. (BP)
158. F iii. Frances Forster was born in May, 1796 and died on 1 January, 1857.

154. **William Forster of Deal** (Francis Forster, Joseph Forster of Low Buston, Francis Forster of Low Buston, Francis Forster of Low Buston and Fonnden, Florence Forster of Low Buston, Thomas Forster VI of Adderstone, Thomas Forster V of Adderstone, Thomas Forster IV of Etherstone, Thomas Forster III of Etherstone, Thomas Forster II

of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone) died on 20 January, 1770 in Deal, England

William married Unknown

They had the following children:

159. M i. Francis Forster

160. F ii. Phillipa Forster

Phillipa married Sir J Burton

155. **Catherine Forster** (Francis Forster, Joseph Forster of Low Buston, Francis Forster of Low Buston, Francis Forster of Low Buston and Fonnden, Florence Forster of Low Buston, Thomas Forster VI of Adderstone, Thomas Forster V of Adderstone, Thomas Forster IV of Etherstone, Thomas Forster III of Etherstone, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone)

Catherine married G Hutchinson of Stockton

They had the following children:

161. F i. Frances Hutchinson

Died Unmarried. (BP)

Thirteenth Generation

158. **Frances Forster** (Joseph Forster of Warkworth, Francis Forster, Joseph Forster of Low Buston, Francis Forster of Low Buston, Francis Forster of Low Buston and Fonnden, Florence Forster of Low Buston, Thomas Forster VI of Adderstone, Thomas Forster V of Adderstone, Thomas Forster IV of Etherstone, Thomas Forster III of Etherstone, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone) was born in May, 1796 and died on 1 January, 1857

Heiress of her brother. (BP)

Frances married Robert Thompson of Stockton on Lees. Robert was born in April, 1798 and died in August, 1868

They had the following children:

162. M i. Charles Forster Thompson died in 1847 in Dinapore, India

Served in H.M. 98th Regiment died at Dinapore India in 1847 and died unmarried. (BP)

163. F ii. Frances Juliana Thompson who died young

164. M iii. Robert Thompson
165. F iv. Anna Jane Thompson

Had issue 4 daughters. (BP)

Anna married Rev E S Marrett son of General Marrett of Bath

159. **Francis Forster** (William Forster of Deal, Francis Forster, Joseph Forster of Low Buston, Francis Forster of Low Buston, Francis Forster of Low Buston and Fonnden, Florence Forster of Low Buston, Thomas Forster VI of Adderstone, Thomas Forster V of Adderstone, Thomas Forster IV of Etherstone, Thomas Forster III of Etherstone, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone)

Succeeded his Uncle Charles Francis Forster of Low Buston. He also had 4 daughters. (BP)

Francis married Mary Salter of Margate

They had the following children:

166. M i. Francis Forster was born in 1793 and died in 1844

Francis married Susanne Chitterbuck daughter of John Chitterbuck of Warkworth

She was the 4th Daughter of John Chitterbuck of Warkworth. (BP)

167. M ii. Charles Francis Forster
168. M iii. John Forster
169. M iv. Robert Forster

Fourteenth Generation

164. **Robert Thompson** (Frances Forster, Joseph Forster of Warkworth, Francis Forster, Joseph Forster of Low Buston, Francis Forster of Low Buston, Francis Forster of Low Buston and Fonnden, Florence Forster of Low Buston, Thomas Forster VI of Adderstone, Thomas Forster V of Adderstone, Thomas Forster IV of Etherstone, Thomas Forster III of Etherstone, Thomas Forster II of Etherstone, Thomas Forster I of Etherstone)

Served in HEIC's Madras Army and Crimea, late Adjutant 1st Dutchman R.V Bolt. (BP)

Robert married Essex Gray daughter of William Gray of East Bolton

They had the following children:

170. M i. Arthur Robert Gray Thompson was born in 1866

- 171. F ii. Essex Thompson
- 172. F iii. Frances Thompson
- 173. M iv. Charles Forster Ker Thompson

Died young. (BP)