

## CHAPTER V.

THE NEISHES OF ANGUS—NEISH OF HANDWICK—THE NEISHES OF LAWS, OMACHIE, AND TANNADYCE.

THE Neishes are a very old-established family in Angus or Forfarshire. They are possibly descended from one of the sons of Neis, son of William, who was associated with Angus during the latter half of the thirteenth century. The Angus branch is now the most numerous of all the various branches of the Neish clan.

About the year 1200 we find that Adam de Nesh was a witness to a charter by William Wascelyn, of an oxgate of land in his vill of Newtyle, to the monks of Lundors (27).

We have no proof that Adam de Nesh was the ancestor of the Neishes of Angus, or that he was of the native Gaelic Neish stock.

The Angus family is possibly sprung from a Neis who lived a century or two later than Adam of Nesh.

It is not until the year 1450 that we get a definite record of Neis as a surname in Angus.

Thoma Nesse, a vicar of the Cathedral of Brechin, was a witness to charter No. 68 on the 20th June 1450; as Thomas Neiss, he was also a witness to another charter of Brechin, dated 17th November 1453 (28).

In 1465 John Nece was a witness to a Charter of Sale by Robert Mortymair of Balandrow, in favour of Robert Falconer, burgess of Montros, of the 3rd parts of the lands of Balandrow in Kincardynshire; dated at Estir Matlie, 8th November 1465 (29).

John Nece was again a witness to a charter by Mortymar of Belandrow, in favour of Robert Falconer, of the 8th part of the lands of Balandrow; dated at Balandrow, 27th April 1466 (29).

In 1470 "Sir" William Neische, presbyter, was a witness to a charter by Thomas Ogilvy

of Cleva (Clova) to Robert Rollok, burgess of Dundee, of the lands of Bradowny (Braedownie), Forfarshire; dated at Dundee, 22nd October (30).

In 1498 Thomas Nesche, who was probably a member of the Abbey of Arbroath, was a witness with David, Abbot of Abbirbrocht, and others, to an Aberbrothoc charter (13).

The under-mentioned James Nethe was probably the father of John Neiche, tenant of the lands of Petlevy in the barony of Panmure in 1541. "Action by Thomas, Lord Innermeith (Stewart), against Thomas Maule of Panmure, Knight; James Nethe; Fergus Lyne; Robert Boyes and others; for spoliation of foure gunnys with thair chalmaris out of the schip pertenyng til him, the price xli £.

The pursuer and Maule compearing, but the rest being absent, the Lords continue the case till 8th July next, and ordain letters to be written charging the sheriff of Forfar and his deputies to call parties before him and take evidence, and report the same to Council that day; and the depositions of witnesses now

compearing are to be closed till that day." Spuilzie; dated 17th March 1501-02 (26).

On 17th April 1529 King James V. confirmed the charter by David Ogilvy of that ilk in favour of Alexander Neische, burgess of Dundee, and Jonet Rollok, his spouse, of the lands of Handwik, in the barony of Ogilvy, Forfarshire. Holding to them and their heirs, of the King. The charter was dated at Dundee, 11th March 1528 (17).

Alexander Neisch, burgess of Dundee, was a witness to a Precept of Sasine, directed by John Kynnard, Lord of that ilk, of John Lessillis, in Cadam, &c. Dated at Dundee, 19th April 1528 (29).

We again find a reference to the Handwick charter in 1530: "Et de vif in completam solutionem compositionis carte confirmationis (Alexandri Neitche) super carta siba facta per David Ogilvy de eodem, de terris in baronia de Ogilvy infra vicecomitatum de Forfare" (31).

In 1533 the Sheriff of Forfar became answerable for £8 of relief of the fee of the lands of

Handwik, in the barony of Ogilvy, due to the King for sasine given to William Neische of the same, reserving the frank tenement of the same to Jonet Rollok, spouse of the late Alexander Neische, burgess of Dundie, Lady of the conjunct infestment thereof for her lifetime. Dated 11th April 1533 (23).

Apparently Jonet Rollok was married secondly to Laurence Flescheour (now Fletcher); there was an old Dundee family of this name. "Et de iiii £, compositionis carte confirmationis Jonete Rollok et Laurentii Flescheour super carta facta per Willelmum Neische super occidentalibus dimetietatibus terrarum de Sandwick (Handwick)." Dated 1533 (31).

In 1537 George Neische was a witness to a charter granted to Sir John Ker, vicar of Chernesyde, in liferent, and to William Ker, his son, in fee, of the lands of Lumlethin, Forfarshire. Dated 7th March, at Restinot (17).

In 1541 the King confirmed a charter by Thomas Maule, Lord of the fee of the lands and barony of Panmure, to Andrew Barry,

elder, burgess of Dundee, of the lands and town of Petlevy, &c., occupied by John Neiche and John Fold, in the barony of Panmure, Forfarshire. Dated at Dundee, 30th April (17).

In 1543, Thomas Neiche, as one of the Convent of the Monastery of Aberbrothok, signs a Letter of Tack by David, Cardinal priest of the Roman Church and Archbishop of St Andrews, to George Gordon of Scheves, otherwise Gycht of the Mayns of Gycht, &c. Dated 10th May (29).

Andro Neis in Corsbank, barony of Menmuir, is mentioned under date 27th May 1567 in a contract relative to a feud between John Fewell of Linlithgow on one part, and David Betoune of Melgound ('Reg. of Deeds,' vol. iii. p. 432).

On the 28th November 1574 the King confirmed a charter by David Gardin of Conansyth, to Issobella, his spouse, in liferent of the lands of Conansyth (except the town called Eistertoun thereof, occupied by Wil.

Neische, Jo. and Nic. Logy), in the barony of Leis, shire of Forfar. At Edinburgh, 8th September 1574 (17).

Johne Nes, officer, Dundee, was a witness to several documents during 1585-1598 (the Compt Buik of Dav. Wedderburne, merchant of Dundee).

James Nesche, servitor to James Bonar, Sheriff-Depute of Forfar, was a witness to an Instrument of Sasine given by James Bonar to Richard Blyth, portioner of Cragy, as attorney for Theophilus Smettoun, heir of umquhile Walter Smettoun of the toun and lands of Polcak, in the Lordship of Teling. Dated 19th May 1586 (29).

William Neische, farmer in Eister Balgillie, parish of Tannadeis, died on 8th May 1587. His testament and inventory was witnessed by Andro Neische in Tannadeis (probably his brother), Alexander Neische, son of the said Andro, and others. William left Jonet Symson, his spouse, and four bairns—William, John, Alexander, and Janet Neischis (32).

John Neische, farmer in Ballindarge, parish of Kirriemuir in Angus, died on the 21st December 1591, leaving Margaret Neillie, his spouse, and various bairns (32).

James Neische, messenger, and one of the Mairs of the Sherifffdom of Forfar, is mentioned in Privy Council documents dated 10th January 1596 and 8th May 1601 (21).

In a Bond of Caution dated at Brechin 16th March 1603, Thomas Ramsay, bailie of Brechin, gave security for Robert Neish there, and others, for 200 merks each, not to harm Margaret Crawmond, relict of Captain Alexander Ramsay (21).

A complaint by David Ogilvie of Over Kynnatie, and others, upon John Neische in Nether Kynnatie, for violence and oppression, is dated 8th June 1609 (21).

An action was taken by Harie Wood of Bonytoun against Hew Maxwell, foar of Teling, for remaining unrelaxed from a horning of 14th April 1599, executed against him by



Jonet Gibsoun, relict of Andro Neische in Pitslandie, and others, for not restoring certain victual; dated 20th July 1609 (21).

On 26th April 1610 an action was taken by Patrick Orme, brother of the late David Orme of Mugdrum, factor of the New College of St Andrews, against Alexander Neshe at the Mill of Tannades, as unrelaxed from horning of 13th January last, for not delivery of teinds, &c., due by them to the masters of the said college for 1607-8 (21).

A protestation by William Neische, burgess of Dundee, and others, that they be not held further to answer to the letters raised by David Kinloch, Doctor of Physic, against them, charging them with the casting down of a pretty pillor of stane-work erected by the said David on his own heritage, was dated 16th August 1610 (21).

In 1620 John Archibald of Donyface made a complaint to the Privy Council against James Neische in Ravilgrein (parish of Tannadyce), and

others, as cautioners for the Earl of Crawford, who remains unrelaxed at the horn for not paying to the complainer £1000 (21).

David Lindsay, the twelfth Earl of Crawford, was so reckless and extravagant that he acquired the name of the "prodigal earl."

To prevent the continual alienations of the estates of the earldom carried on by this earl, the family got him imprisoned in Edinburgh Castle, where he spent the last years of his life under surveillance, but acting in every respect otherwise as a free agent.

In consequence, he was sometimes styled "Comes Incarceratus," or the "captive earl."

He died in the castle in February 1621, and was buried in the chapel of Holyroodhouse.

The lands of Easter and Wester Ravelgrenes belonged to Lindsay of Balgawes in 1619.

1626. The testament of John Neish, in Auchterlony, parish of Dunnichen, is dated 24th July 1626 (33).

1630. George Neisch, servitor to the sub-

scribing notary Thomas Schewane, was a witness to an Instrument of Sasine in favour of Patrick Livingstone, younger, given on 8th September 1630 (30).

Thomas Shewan was a notary in Kirriemuir in 1620 (17).

1631. George Neish was a witness to No. 186 charter, dated 13th October 1631, of Brechin Cathedral (28).

1635. Robert Neish, burgess of Forfar, was fined for selling tobacco contrary to the law (21).

1638. The following testaments are recorded in the Commissary Record of Brechin :—

Elsbeth Neish, spouse to Thomas Brokhouse, baxter, citiner of Brechin, 6th June 1638.

Euphan Neish, widow in Buttergill, parish of Brechin, 14th February 1640.

Alexander Neish, in West Drums, and Margaret Steinsone, his spouse, dated 12th April 1658.

David Neish, at the Law of Farnail, and

Barbara Neish, his wife, dated 15th December 1658.

John Neish, in the Mansion of Navar, 15th December 1658.

John Neish, in Middledrums, parish of Brechin, 1663.

Isobel Neish, spouse to Andrew Ogilvie, in Mayns, 13th January 1669.

Margaret Neish, indweller in Brechin, 18th May 1671.

George Jamie, in Brachlaburn, and Margaret Neish, his spouse, 1696.

Thomas Neish of Kincaig, 27th May 1712.

Duncan Neish, merchant in Montrose, 1718-19.

George Neish, in Pitpullox, dated 23rd August 1737.

James Neish of Laws and Omachie, Angus, sometime merchant in Dundee, purchased the estate of Laws from the trustees of William Colville, formerly of Calcutta, on the 16th August 1850.

This family is a branch of the old stem of MacNish.

Arms—Azure, on a chevron, between three ravens, argent, armed, gules, as many cross crosslets fitchee, sable.

Crest—An eagle rising proper, armed or.

Motto — *Animo non astutia* (By courage, not by craft). ('Baronage of Angus and Mearns.')

Laws House stands on the most elevated site in the parish of Monifieth, amid extensive picturesque grounds, about seven miles north-east of Dundee. The lands of Laws were formerly known as the "Lawys of Estyr Athy."

#### THE NEISHES OF TANNADYCE.

The Neishes of Tannadyce, in Angus, are descended from John Neish, in Craigie, who married Janet Anderson about 1654.

John left three sons and two daughters.

1. David, in Mains, married Margaret Grizzel Hazel, 18th August 1674.
2. William, married (1) Janet Whittet, *circa* 1686; (2) Grizzel Lamb, in 1696.

3. Andrew, married Isabel Bathie, *circa* 1692, had by her a daughter, Christian, born 13th June 1694.
4. Catherine, married Alexander Low, and had a son, David, and three daughters.
5. Jean, born 28th July 1660.

William Nish, second son of John, had four sons and three daughters :—

1. Thomas, by Janet Whittet, born 26th April 1688.
2. Janet, by Janet Whittet, born 3rd October 1690, married David Couper.
3. William, by Janet Whittet, born 18th July 1696.
4. Margaret, by Grizzel Lamb, born 14th January 1697, married David Garland Wright.
5. Isabell, by Grizzel Lamb, born 19th February 1699.
6. James, by Grizzel Lamb, born 1st June 1701.
7. Alexander, by Grizzel Lamb, born *circa*

1702, married Helen Smith; died *circa* 1740.

Alexander Nish, fourth son of William Nish, left two sons and a daughter.

1. James Neish, maltman in Dundee, born *circa* 1730, married, 11th August 1759, Margaret, second daughter of Thomas Davidson, Laird of Wolflaw; admitted burgess of Dundee, 25th September 1764. Died 31st March 1810.

The said Margaret Davidson's great-grandmother was Elizabeth Graham, who married Robert Davidson of Balgay in 1671. She was the daughter of Walter Graham of Duntrune, and cousin-german of William Graham of Claverhouse, the father of John, 1st Viscount Dundee. Margaret Davidson was born in 1731, and died 4th July 1824.

2. William, died unmarried.
3. Jean, married David Brown Walker, Dighty Water.

James Neish, eldest son of Alexander Nish, left three sons and three daughters:—

1. Thomas, born 31st March 1761; married Elizabeth Kirkaldy, 23rd October 1784, and had by her three sons and two daughters. He died 14th November 1833.

A son of his, also named Thomas, a merchant, was the first to introduce jute to Dundee, about the year 1824.

John Graham of Claverhouse, 1st Viscount Dundee, was the direct descendant of Sir Robert Graham of Fintry, the son of the Lord Graham of Kincardine by his wife Lady Mary Stewart, daughter of King Robert III. of Scotland.

2. James, born 1st May 1766; married, 14th November 1794, (1) Agnes Moncur; (2) Catherine Playfair. Had family by both; died April 1838.
3. William Neish, manufacturer, burgess of Dundee; born 26th April 1772;



Kiches of Lannadice  
———— Dunder

Alexander b. 1702 d. 1740.  
James (son of above) b. 1730 d. 1810  
married Margaret Lawson.

Great Grand daughter of Elizabeth  
Graham Cousin of William  
Graham of Clackhouse father  
of John McCourt Dunder

James had a son William  
manufacturer, b. 1772 d. 1828

married Abigail daughter  
of William Bisset 1804

Had five sons and six daughters  
The second son William  
barrister at law (of Aberdeen  
and Lannadice) had five  
sons one of whom was

Edward Nelson Nash  
Scribb. Substituted for London  
born 30<sup>th</sup> March 1865 in  
London

married, September 1804, Abigail,  
daughter of William Bisset; died 18th  
September 1828, leaving five sons and  
six daughters:—

1. James Neish of Laws and Omachie,  
born 14th May 1809; married,  
8th June 1841, Janet, second  
daughter of John Walker, Blebo  
Mills, Fife; died 23rd May 1882,  
leaving (1) William of Laws and  
Omachie, born 28th October  
1845; died, unmarried, 19th Feb-  
ruary 1911; (2) John Walker  
Neish, born 1st September 1849,  
died, unmarried, 15th September  
1884; and two daughters.
2. William Neish of Clepington and  
Tannadyce, Barrister - at - Law;  
born 23rd April 1815; admitted  
burgess of Dundee, 25th October  
1842; married, 13th September  
1848, Margaret Ann, daughter  
of George Watson, Calcutta and

Aberdeen; died 16th March 1886,  
leaving six sons.

3. John Elam Neish, born 31st May 1816, died, unmarried, 1879.
4. Thomas Neish, born 2nd September 1819, died 5th September 1819.
5. Charles James Fox Neish, born 26th October 1823, died 9th January 1831.

The sons of William of Clepington.

1. George Watson Neish, born 11th July 1849; married, 20th September 1876, Jane Annie, eldest daughter of James Patullo, solicitor (Dundee), of Abertay, Broughty Ferry; issue, William Neish, born 28th February 1881 in London, now Captain Gordon Highlanders; and four daughters.
2. James Neish, born 13th October 1854; married 1892, Adeline Maud Lambert; issue, Hugh Graham Neish, born 10th October 1897.

3. Charles Henry Lawrence Neish, C.B., born 6th December 1857; issue, Charles Douglas Hamilton Neish, born 7th June 1891, died 16th January 1906.
4. Colin Graham Neish of Tannadyce, Captain R.H.A., retired; born 30th March 1860 in London; married, 10th August 1896, Helen Lyell, eldest daughter of Francis Balfour Paton of Aucharroch and Cairnbank, Forfarshire; issue, Colin Francis Ian Neish, born 13th May 1897.
5. Francis Hugh Neish, born 14th June 1863 in London; married Alice Katherine, daughter of Colonel Almeric Spenser, late Essex Regiment; Lieut. - Colonel Commanding 1st Batt. Gordon Highlanders in Belgium, 1914; issue, Frances Feodora Spenser Neish, born 21st August 1900.
6. Edward William Neish, Sheriff-Substitute for Dundee, born 30th March 1865 in London.