

quent to 1292. Of his two sons, Alexander of Isla and Angus Oig, the former opposed, and the latter upheld, the claims of King Robert the Bruce, with the result that the King bestowed upon Angus his brother's possessions. Permanently to secure the royal authority in the Isles, King Robert erected on the isthmus of Tarbert a powerful stronghold. There he temporarily resided. Subsequently he placed the structure under the charge of a constable.¹ John, Lord of the Isles, grandson of Angus Oig, married, as his second wife, Margaret, daughter of Robert II. His third son by this marriage, Alexander, Lord of Lochaber, had two sons, Angus and Alexander. In 1481 James III. granted to Tarlach MacAlexander the stewardry of Kintyre, with the lands of Auchnaglek and Le Crag, in North Kintyre.²

Prior to 1264 the Campbells of Lorne obtained the lands of Menstry, in Clackmannanshire,³ and on these, under their powerful protection, the members of the family of MacAlexander, or Alexander of Tarbert, settled not long afterwards. To the Tarbert or Menstry family belongs Alexander de Alexandry, a Captain of the Scots Men-at-Arms, who in 1419 were stationed in France under command of Sir William Douglas.⁴

To an instrument of gift, whereby on the 8th September 1528 Queen Margaret and her husband, Lord Methven, granted to James Stewart the office of Captain of Doune Castle, one of the witnesses is Sir William Alexander, a Churchman.⁵

In a legal instrument, dated 6th March 1505, Thomas Alexander de Menstry is associated with sixteen others in an arbitration connected with the division of forty acres of land in Clackmannanshire, about which a dispute had arisen between the Abbot of Cambuskenneth and Sir David Bruce of Clackmannan.⁶

Andrew Alexander succeeded to the estate of Menstry. He married Katherine Graham, by whom he had a son, Alexander, who appears as owner of the lands of Menstry prior to 1527. By his wife, Elizabeth Douglas, Alexander Alexander had three sons, Andrew, William, and John. William is mentioned on the 6th June 1564 as "sone lauchful to unquhile Alexander Alsclunder in Menstrie."⁷ John obtained the lands of Pitgogar, near Dollar, and there died in November 1595. Andrew, the eldest son, is mentioned on the 20th April 1530 in a confirmed charter of Archibald, Earl of Argyle, as heir-apparent of Menstry.⁸ Succeeding to the paternal inheritance, he married Marion, daughter of Alan Coutts, by whom he had, with other children, four sons, Alexander, James, Archibald, and Andrew. James, the second son, received, on the 7th October 1582, from John, Earl of Mar, a charter of an annual rent of 100 merks Scots, "furth of the lands of Langcarse, in the barony of Alloway and shire of Clackmannan." This charter was confirmed under the Great Seal on the 30th May 1584.⁹ In the charter of confirmation he is styled "James Alsclunder in Menstrie."

¹ Exchequer Rolls, I.; Preface, lxx.-lxxii. 53-7.

² Reg. Mag. Sig., lib. x., 9.

³ Exchequer Rolls, I.; Preface, xlv. 24.

⁴ "Scots Men-at-Arms in France," by William Forbes Leith; Edin. 1882, 4to, vol. i. 13.

⁵ "Red Book of Menteith," by William Fraser; Edin. 1880, 2 vols. 4to, vol. ii. 389.

⁶ Chartulary of Cambuskenneth Abbey, p. 86.

⁷ Commissary Record, vol. i.

⁸ Reg. Mag. Sig., lib. xxiii., 196.

⁹ Reg. Mag. Sig., lib. xxxv. 929.