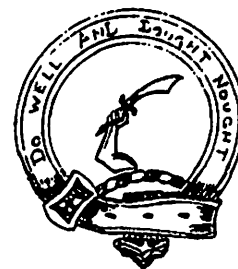


23 Elizabeth Avenue
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Dear Sir/Madam,

Recently I started using the internet in my local library. I found your Web-site interesting regarding the genealogy of your area. I am interested the ancestors of the Rev, Edward Brice, of Airth, Stirlingshire who fled to Antrim in Ireland in 1613. My family have lived in the Airth area for hundreds of years. Unfortunately, my G-G-Grandfather 'John Bryce' is recorded as (seaman deceased) at his son's marriage in 1867. His birth, marriage or death. Have never been found in the Stirlingshire records. The story is that he was Irish and fled to Carolina USA. Having hit a dead end in my ancestral research, I wondered if the ancestors of the Rev, Edward Brice, who settled in Fairfield County had ever done any DNA research. I read their Web-site and it appears that they have done a pretty thorough job of genealogy research over the years. Interestingly, my G-Grandmother on my father side came from Donegal and my Mother was Irish from Sligo, all in the North-West of Ireland. If there has been a 'Brice' DNA research project. I would be interested.

I have read on the internet various theories regarding the origin of the surname 'Brice/Bryce' There seems to be no doubt the some of the Irish 'Brice's derive from O'Breaslin, O'Breas. P.H. Reany points out in his book " Dictionary of British Surnames", That Map Rhys (Son of Rees) 'Ap Rhys', is the origin of 'Pryce' 'Price' 'Rice' and 'Rees. 'Ab Rees' maybe the origin of 'Robert Breese' in 1666, but not 'Rodger Brese' 1210 and 'William Breze' 1275, as it is to early for this development to have taken place. It is therefore doubtful if 'Brice' 'Bryce' derived from 'Ap Rhys'. (Welsh. Map=Son of.) (Scots Mac=Son) (Nic= Daughter of).

St. Bryce is listed in the Scottish Book of Early Celtic Saints as the 'Grumpy Saint'. The founder of the Scottish Tartans Society. Once referred to the 'Bryce's as a ecclesiastical Clan considering all the different ecclesiastical family connections over the years from Saints, Bishops, Priests and Reverends. St Brice's Day, 13th November (Anglican Calendar)

I enclose some information about the surname 'Bryce/Brice' which maybe of interest.

I am interested in the genealogy of the Rev, Edward Brice/Bryce (1569-1636) Born at Airth Stirlingshire. However, he fled to Ulster on the 29th December 1613, and he is buried at Ballycarry, County Antrim, Ireland. At present I live at Larbert by Falkirk which is only four miles away from Airth. I have often visited Airth Castle and the old ruined medieval church there which has beautiful carved tombstones and effigies of the old Lairds of Airth. Interestingly, I noted that the Rev, Edward Brice's Coat of Arms which is on his tombstone at Ballycarry is a Bruce of Airth Coat of Arms, but the 'Mollet/Mullet'(*) in the in the dexter canton represents a third son in Scottish Heraldry where as a (☺) would represents a second son. It is not surprising that he spelled his name 'Bryce' in Scotland as many of the old 'Bruce' of Airth spellings are: Brys, Broyce, Brois, Bruice. Ect. Recorded in the Stirling Presbytery records of 1445-1581. One of the possible reasons that he spelled his name 'Brice' in Ireland is that there is no 'Y' in gaelic. Interestingly, we find 'Mac'ill Bhris' (The servant/devotee of Brice) First recorded on North Uist in 1618 'Donald Macileresch' and variations of the name: M'illfrice. now MacElfrish. Brice, once a popular name in the highlands during the middle ages. The stone effigies of Bricius (Bryce) can be seen in Iona Abbey. The inscription on the stone pillow commemorates 'Bricius' who may have fought at Battle of Bannockburn 1314 and his two Sons. The type of armour and sword suggest that it was carved during the mid or late 14th century. The shield shows clearly the dragon ship. Who 'Bricius' ancestors were is uncertain. He may have been connected to the Royal Celtic House of Alpine as only saints and royal family were usually buried on Iona. We also find 'Saint Bryce' holding a 'Fleur-de-lys' (France) is on the Kirkcaldy Royal Burgh Coat of Arms of 1672, the shield also shows the church of Kirkcaldy, Fife, dedicated in 1242 to St. Bryce. It is not surprising that with so many different spellings of the surname's of Bryce/Brice and 'Bruce' that they have been so extricable confused with each other over the years. I believe that the French genealogist are correct that the surname of 'Bruce' derived from the Chateau Bris (Now spelled 'Brix') which once stood in the parish of Brix named after St.Brisius/ Brixious. (Latin). (Ref. Dictionnaire des noms et prenom de France, Dawzat, 1951.) "Forme pop n. De Saint Briticus, populaire au moyen age, var. 'Bris' 'Brix', der de Bres". Unfortunately, the Scottish court battles over the Titles and estates after the 1745 Rebellion led to all sorts of claims and cover-up's. For example, the 'Tale' about the 'tail' on the 'U' of 'Bruce' making it 'Bryce' was claimed to be a mark of disgrace for murdering a chief before fleeing to Ireland (Anderson W. Scottish Nation V1 P.447) which cannot be accepted because many of the old spelling's of 'Bruce' had a 'Y' 'Bruys' of Clackmannan 1358, de Broyce of Stenhouse 1445. When we consider that the Rev, Edward Bryce/Brice was direct male line from the 'Bruce's' of Airth, it is not surprising . It is quite possible that all Scots are probably related considering that the population of Scotland was about one million in the 13th century and fell to about 750,000 during the 'Black Plague', in 1362.

Andy Bryce

A large black marble slab was recorded at Airth Old Parish Church in 1851, bearing the following text:

M.S. Alexandro Brussio, ex Roberti Brussii Scotorum regis filio natu secundo, progenito, baroni Airthensi. Primum in Belgio per annos XLII. Dein in Anglia pro tribuno regio. Viro cum strenvo tum pientissimo; aetatis, anno LVI. Vitaque simvl defyncto, A.D. XLII. Kal. Oct. CICDCXLII. G. Lauderus affinis, M.P.

* *Brussius hic sitvs est; pietate an clarior armis, Incertum est; certum regibus ortus avis.*

*Here lyes a branche of Brusse's noble stem,
 Airth's baron, whose high worth did svte that name.
 Holland his courage, honovred Spain did feare
 The Sweeds in Fvnen bought the trial deare.
 At last his prince's service called him home,
 To die on Thames his bank, and leave this tombe,
 To bear his name unto posteritie,
 And make all braue men loue his memorie.*

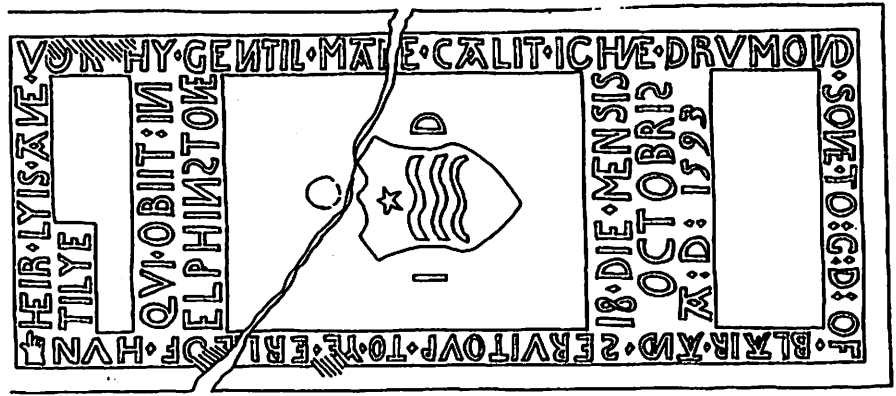
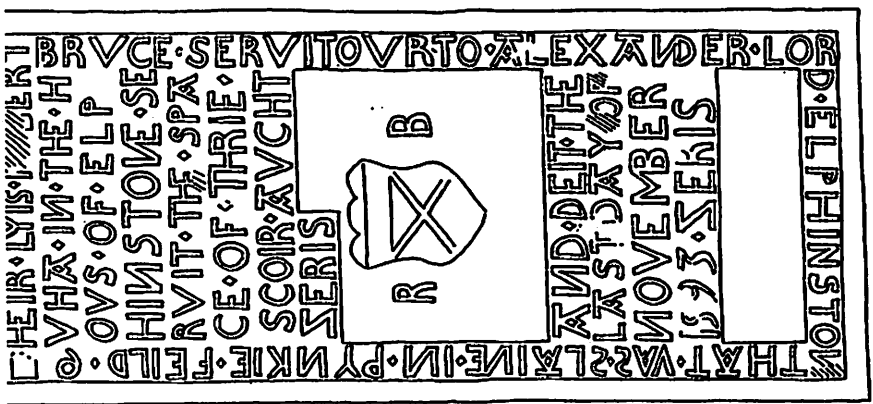
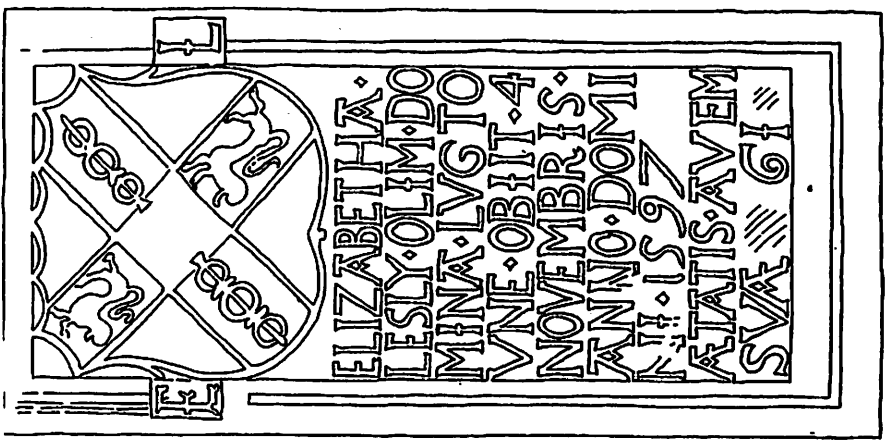
This monument was taken to Blair about 1853, then to Edinburgh, before being placed in the ancient chapel of St Mary of Wedale on the estate of Torsonce, close to the Edinburgh to Galashiels road about a mile south of Stow in 1860 (McGrouther 1928, 79). Alexander Bruce was in the Scots Brigade in Holland.

ELPHINSTONE AISLE

A 1.74 x 0.76 m. HEIR LYIS ANE/ VOR[T]HY GENTIL MANE CALIT IOHNE DRVMOND/ SONE TO G:D: OF/ BLAIR AND SERVITOV R TO YE ERLE OF HVN/TILYE — / — / QVI OBIT IN/ ELPHINSTONE/ 18 DIE MENSIS/ OCTOBRIS/ A:D: 1593. The shield is charged, a fess undy, in centre chief a mullet. A small roundel appears above the shield and the initials ID on either side for John Drummond.

B 1.73 x 0.78 m. HEIR LYIS R[O]BERT/ BRVCE SERVITOV R TO ALEXANDER LOR/D ELPHINSTON/ THAT VAS SLAINE IN PYNKIE FEILD Q/VHA IN THE H/OVS OF ELP/HINSTONE SE/RVIT THE SPA/CE OF THRIE/ SCOIR AVCHT/ ZERIS/ AND DEIT THE/ LAST DAY OF/ NOVEMBER/ 1593 ZERIS. The shield is charged, a saltire and chief. It is flanked by the initials RB for Robert Bruce.

Elphinstone Aisle - Stones A, B and C.



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