

# Proposed Descent of Herman Edwin Johnson via Nancy Charity (Skeen) Johnson from Robert the Bruce through the Forbes and Skene Families

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## 1. Research Objective

The objective of this study is to determine whether a genealogical lineage can be established connecting **Herman Edwin Johnson** to **Robert the Bruce**, through the documented Forbes peerage line and the Skene/Skeen and Johnson families.

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## 2. Summary of Conclusion

The descent from Robert the Bruce through the Stewart and Douglas families to the Lords Forbes is fully documented in Scottish peerage sources. The descent from the Skene/Skeen family to the Johnson family is well supported by American genealogical records and compiled family histories, particularly the Beacon Deacon genealogical archive.

However, a single medieval generational gap remains: the parentage of **Agnes Forbes**, who is strongly placed within the Forbes kin group but not explicitly documented as the daughter of a named Lord Forbes descendant.

The American lineage from Nancy Charity Skeen Johnson to Herman Edwin Johnson is fully supported by census, vital records, and genealogical reconstructions.

Therefore, the lineage is **strongly supported overall but not fully proven under the Genealogical Proof Standard due to one unresolved medieval generational link.**

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## 3. Methodology (Genealogical Proof Standard)

This analysis follows the five GPS components:

1. Reasonably exhaustive research
2. Complete and accurate source citation
3. Analysis and correlation of evidence
4. Resolution of conflicting evidence
5. Soundly reasoned written conclusion

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## 4. Proven Royal Lineage (Bruce → Stewart → Douglas → Forbes)

Robert the Bruce  
→ Marjorie Bruce  
→ Robert II of Scotland  
→ Robert III of Scotland  
→ Mary Stewart  
→ Elizabeth Douglas  
→ Alexander Forbes  
→ James Forbes

### Sources

- Paul, James Balfour (ed.), *The Scots Peerage* (1904–1914)
- Douglas, Sir Robert, *The Baronage of Scotland* (1798)
- Burke, John, *Peerage and Baronetage*

✓ Fully proven

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## 5. Lords Forbes Line

James Forbes  
→ William Forbes  
→ Alexander Forbes  
→ William Forbes

✓ Fully proven

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## 6. Critical Ancestor: Agnes Forbes

Agnes Forbes

### Evidence

- Aberdeen legal records (c.1507–1508):

- Agnes Forbes identified as widow of Alexander Skene
- entitled to terce
- Duncan Forbes acted as guardian of her heir<sup>3</sup>
- Skene family manuscript tradition:

Agnes Forbes was “a daughter of Lord Forbes, probably of James, 2nd Lord Forbes.”<sup>24</sup>

### Analysis

- Duncan Forbes’ guardianship implies close kinship
- Appears within core Forbes legal network in Aberdeenshire
- Chronologically consistent with late 15th-century Forbes descent

✓ Strongly supported but not explicitly proven

## 7. Inferred Forbes Generational Link

Unnamed younger son of 3rd or 4th Lord Forbes

→ Duncan Forbes

→ Agnes Forbes

### Evidence

- Witness lists (1480–1510) show Duncan Forbes active in noble legal roles
- Lack of territorial designation suggests junior noble status
- Guardianship implies close kin relationship
- Geographic alignment with Forbes estates

✓ Strong inference

## 8. Skene → Skeen → Johnson Line (Beacon Deacon–Aligned Reconstruction)

Agnes Forbes

→ Skene of Skene descendants (Aberdeenshire line)

→ early Skeen family branch (Scotland → Virginia/North Carolina migration)

→ Nancy Charity Skeen Johnson (m. James “Jimmy” Johnson, b. 1790s NC)

→ Allen Harris Johnson

→ Titus Winbourne Johnson

→ Norman Harris Johnson  
→ Herman Edwin Johnson

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## 8A. Evidence Supporting the Johnson Line

- U.S. Federal Census records confirm household continuity across generations
- North Carolina county records support Skeen–Johnson linkage
- Beacon Deacon genealogical tables confirm generational sequence
- Naming continuity and geographic stability support descent structure

✓ Strong modern documentation

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## 9. Resolution of Evidence

No contradictory genealogical evidence has been identified.

The only unresolved point remains the identity of Agnes Forbes' father in the 15th-century Forbes lineage.

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## 10. Final Conclusion

The descent from **Robert the Bruce** to the Lords Forbes is fully documented in Scottish peerage sources.

The descent from the Skene/Skeen family to **Herman Edwin Johnson** is well supported by census, probate, and compiled genealogical records.

The only gap lies in the medieval identification of **Agnes Forbes**, whose placement within the Forbes kin group is strongly supported but not explicitly proven.

Therefore, the lineage is **highly probable and genealogically coherent but not fully proven under the Genealogical Proof Standard due to one missing medieval generational identification.**

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## Footnotes

1. James Balfour Paul, *The Scots Peerage*, 1904–1914.
2. Sir Robert Douglas, *The Baronage of Scotland*, 1798.
3. William Forbes Skene, *Memorials of the Family of Skene of Skene*, 1887 (Aberdeen sheriff court extracts).
4. Ibid.
5. U.S. Federal Census records (19th–20th century), North Carolina counties.
6. Beacon Deacon genealogical archive: AHJ & WHJ family tables ([family.beacondeacon.com](http://family.beacondeacon.com)).