

## THE SURNAMES OF SCOTLAND (RUTHVEN)

*Their Origin, Meaning, and History*

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**RUTHVEN** – From the old barony of the name in Angus. The early pedigree of the old family is proved mainly from the chartulary of the Abbey of Scone. Four generations are evidenced in a single deed (*Scon*, 78, p. 47-48). Thor, son of Swein, witness to royal charters between 1127-50 (Lawrie, ESC, p. 72, 186), held the lands of Trauernent (Tranent), the church of which he granted to the monks of Scone the lands of Ahednepobbel by the same as Robert the chaplain held them, and also a toft in Tubermore (*Scon*, 21). Swan, who seems to have been the first to assume, the territorial designation of de Ruthven, also held the land of Crawford in Clydesdale with William de Lindsay as his vassal (*Neubottle*, 102, 103). Walter de Rotheuen witnessed a charter by Sir Ferguis de Fedal, a. 1244 (LAC., 24) and Sir Gilbert de Rothwin (Rothewen, Rothewane, or Ruthfen) witnessed charters by Malise, earl of Stratherine, between 1247 and c. 1270 (*Inchaffray*, p. 68, 77, 85, 88). William de Rotheuen witnessed a charter by Muriel, daughter of Coneval, 1284 (LIM., xxxvi), and in 1291 rendered homage at Stirling (*Bain*, II, 508). “Their later history comprises in two generations of Earls, more romance and mystery than have fallen to the lot of any other name in the Scotch peerage” (Innes, *Sketches of early Scotch history*, p. 125).

**After the failure of the treasonable Ruthven or Gowrie Conspiracy of 1600 Parliament enacted “that the surname of Ruthven shall now and in all tyme cumming be extinguishit and aboleissit for euir,” and further ordained that those who bear the said surname and are innocent of the crime of treason shall renounce the surname and take to honest and undefamed surname and to use the same in all contracts, etc.** (APS, iv, p. 213). **In 1641 an Act was passed making it lawful for the Ruthvens of Ballindean (Perthshire), their bairns and posterity “to enjoy and assume to themselves the surname of Ruthven and to use it as if the Act of 1600 had never been made against them”** (RPC, vi, p. 511). William Riven in Ochtergaven, 1683 (DPD., I, p. 487). John Ruthven, architect, one of the builders of High Bridge, New York City, and James Alexander Ruthven (1821-1889), scholar, traveler, and author of the battle-hymn “The flag of the free,” were born of Scots parentage. Ravin 1438, Ravyn 1485, Riwan 1560, Riuuen 1671, Roduen (in Froissart), Rotheven 1476, Rothiane 1470, Rothevenne 1425, Rothuen 1478, Rothveyn 1389, Rothwen 1461, Ruthen 1646, Ruthuen 1583, Ruthyn 1435, Ruthwein 1624, Rwithtven 1558, Rwtthven 1553.

\*Read more about the Ruthven/Ruffin families at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>