

The History of the Dernellis Family

The members of the Dernellis family, mainly settled on Lesvos island, Greece, since late medieval period, are possibly the only and rare descendants of Dernell Canmore, Princess of Scotland (1215 - 1238).

Princess Dernell was born in 1215 in Haddington, East Lothian, Scotland and died in 1238 in Dounke Temple, Scotland. Her father was the famous Alexander of Scotland (1198 - 1249) and her mother Isabella, Countess of Atholl (1190 - 1236). In 1236, the Princess was married to Sir Alexander Hoo (1166 - 1241), usually referred as "Knight Hoo". The marriage ceremony was held in Hereford, Herefordshire, England.

Though, Sir Alexander died on Rhodes island, Greece, after only 5 years after the marriage during the 7th Crusade. Till then, he had managed to establish his castle and headquarters on Lesvos island, move his wife (Princess Dernell) and their son Roger over there and begin his sallies all over the Aegean Sea, using his strong fleet. Death met him early during a naval battle near Rhodes island.

Princess Dernell and Sir Alexander's only child, Roger Hoo (1240 - 1339) lived long enough - died at the age of 99 years - to travel all around Europe. He had essentially not ever forsaken the family castle in Lesvos as he and his mother, Princess Dernell, not only refurbished it but also built it on.

It seems that both Princess Dernell and her son Roger were very beloved by the locals who used to call Roger "the Dernell's son". From their side, the Princess and her son, as well as his children seem that were very generous to the islanders of Lesvos.