



## BEACON GENEALOGICAL AND HERALDIC RESEARCH

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### The Crest of the Family of Bruce of Airth and Stenhouse, Co. Sterling

The crest as engraved upon this Victorian English Sterling Silver Octagonal Teapot (Ref – SKU: W8809) by Henry Holland hallmarked London 1877 is that of the family of Bruce. It may be blazoned as follows:

Crest: **On a cap of maintenance purpure a dexter arm armed from the shoulder resting on the elbow and holding in the hand a sceptre all proper**

This particular crest is that of the baronetcy family of Bruce of Airth and Stenhouse in the County of Sterling. This Nova Scotian (or Scottish) baronetcy was created on the 29th September 1628 in the person of Sir William Bruce (died 1630). He was a descendant of Sir Robert Bruce of Clackmannan (who lived during the 14th Century) from whom the Earls of Elgin descend. Upon the balance of probability and without any evidence to the contrary, this teapot and one would imagine its accompanying suite was manufactured during the lifetime of Sir William Cunningham Bruce, 9th Baronet of Airth and Stenhouse. He was born on the 20th September 1825, the eldest son of William Cunningham Bruce, of the Bombay Civil Service and Jane, daughter of William Clarke, of London. Sir William married Charlotte (died 16th October 1873), daughter of The Hon. Waller O'Grady on the 21st August 1850. She was the granddaughter of Standish O'Grady, the 1st Viscount Guillamore. Sir William succeeded his uncle, Sir Michael Bruce, the 8th Baronet as the 9th Baronet on the 14th December 1862. Sir William was a Deputy Lieutenant and had served as a Captain in the 74th Regiment of Foot. He died on the 29th May 1906 when he was succeeded by

his only surviving son, William Waller Bruce as the 10th Baronet. It is interesting to note that Sir William's youngest grandson was Nigel Bruce (born 4th February 1895, died 8th October 1953), the actor who played Dr Watson to Basil Rathbone's Sherlock Holmes in the films portraying Conan Doyle's creation during the 1930's and 1940's.