Some Forest people maybe descendants of Gilbert INNES Scotland

They are a series of letters written by Andrew Mitchell died 1851 in Monmouth and his son Samuel Mitchell and his cousin Frank Mitchell. Most of the letters are written about 1869. They are trying to trace their pedigree because they think they are descendents and possibly lawful heirs to the enormous wealth - upwards of 1 million pounds in 1839 left by Jane Innes of Stow in Scotland (to rhyme with cow).

This was quite a fortune and there was a great deal of skulduggery that went on. There were a number of court hearings and Samuel and Frank seem to have obtained quite a bit of information. And some of it I have been able to verify on your website. A number of people are mentioned, many of them living in The Forest of Dean. I have now been able to find them, some on Ancestry but also on your site, particularly the marriages as it is so often difficult to find the mother's maiden name, unlike in Scotland where they were keen to preserve it.

But one of the most informative about people was the Summons that Mrs. Mary Fisher or Fredericks and others served against Alexander Mitchell on May 21st 1850. Mary Fisher is daughter of Mrs. Ann Innes, or Fisher, deceased - spouse of the deceased Thomas Fisher residing in the parish of Goodrich. The case went before the vice chancellor, Sir R. T. Kindersley on Friday May 27th 1857. My grandmother had copies of the report in The Borders Advertiser and we have also found the details in The Times.

My grandmother was Gladys Theresa Mitchell nee Clark and she married George Herbert Mitchell in 1900. One can go on forever.

In addition the man who made all the money was George Innes said to be the wealthiest commoner in Scotland. He was a banker in The Royal Bank of Scotland as was his son Gilbert. When Gilbert died he left all his money and land to his sister, Jane. But Gilbert Innes never married though he was "famous of his amours" which left 67 children! The BBC did a programme a few weeks ago about him.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/edinburgh_and_east/8457825.stm

The others involved in the summons were
Mrs. Ann Hall or Edmonds from Monmouth
Mrs. Susannah Hall or Teague woodman
Mrs. Eleanor Hall or Davies farmer Llanarth

The original George Innes married Jane Fraser in Peterhead Aberdeen on Dec. 2nd 1701. They had 9 or 10 children. He died when he was 88 in 1755.

Their second son was George b. 26.12.1703 who made so much money at the Royal Bank of Scotland. He had 5 children including Gilbert of the "Many amours", and Jane who inherited.

Their first daughter Isobel b.13.12.1705 married T. Simpson in 1730 and had a daughter Elspet who married Alexander Mitchell of Tellicorthie. Their descendents fraudulently or not, are the ones who got possession of all the lands and money. The parish records are on line.

Then there is Thomas Innes b.13th May 1714. He travelled south to Monmouth "with a pack on his back". In 1752 on April 5th he married Mary Jenkins in Whitchurch record ID 103774. But they had a problem with his name and he becomes Hennis. This is confirmed by one of the letters I have apart from the knowledge the family had of their origins.

Mary Jenkins and Thomas Hennis or Innes have 3 children.

Jan 21st 1753 Anne Record ID 386162 Whitchurch

May 11th 1755 Margueritte later Margaret Record ID 386201 Whitchurch

July 8th 1759 Alice Record 386258 Whitchurch

Thomas Innes or Hennis dies on 18th May 1766 and is buried at Whitchurch ID 287519. Mary dies 3rd Jan 1779 and is also buried at Whitchurch. ID 287684

Anne, I think must have married Thomas Fisher but they lived just outside the Forest of Dean and I have been unable to confirm this. She then goes on to have a daughter Mary Fisher who married Henry Frederick, carpenter Llandenny. And when cited in the Summons in Scotland, Anne is referred to as Innes.

I don't find a marriage for Margueritte or Margaret but she signs as witness, Margaret Hennis, to the marriage of Alice Hennis or Innes to James Hall on August 1st 1779 ID 103870. There is a second ID when Alice is given the surname Harris ID71435 but this is the same occasion.

James Hall and Alice have a number of children including

Ann Hall who marries James Edmonds on June 8th 1813. He is a plumber at Local Cottage Monmouth. ID 104007

Also Susannah Hall marries William Teague woodman at Barnhill Lodge, Forest of Dean.

And Eleanor Hall marries William Davies farmer at Llanarth Nov 12th 1818 ID 104029

I hope I have made this clear ! So this covers the people in the summons of 1850. All feeling they have a claim to the Innes Fortune.

Elizabeth Potter