

Memorials of the Aberdeen Aldermen

brebner.com

*Memorials of the Aldermen, Provosts and Lord Provosts of Aberdeen
1272-1895*
Alexander Munro MDCCCXCVII

Page 257

1797-1798

Thomas LEYS of Glasgoforest

Provost LEYS was a son of **Baillie Francis LEYS**, who died in November 1788 by his wife **Elizabeth INGRAM**, a daughter of **William INGRAM**, merchant in Huntly. The Provost's parents were married in 1755, and, besides himself, there was a daughter who became the wife of Provost **Alexander BREBNER** (122) in 1783. **Provost LEYS** was unmarried, and died on the 24th October, 1809 at the early age of forty-five years, much regretted, as he had given great promise of public usefulness. In 1749, the Provost's father, as a member of the firm of **Leys, Still and Co.**, afterwards known as **Leys Masson & Co.**, started a manufactory for linen thread and cloth at Gordon's Mills, now known as Grandholm Works. In this business the Provost was actively engaged along with his brother-in-law, **Provost Alexander BREBNER**, and **Provost James HADDEN** as partners. On his father's death in 1788, the Provost succeeded to his interest in the works, and also to the estate of Glasgoforest, in the parish of Kinellar. He was, at the time of his death, Convener of the County of Aberdeen.

Through the kindness of **Colonel INNES** of Learney, a portrait of **Provost LEYS** is given from a fine painting at Learney House.

[That painting was still hanging there during a visit I made in 2001]

Page 262

1805-06

Provost BREBNER was the son of **William BREBNER** of Learney, and was admitted burgess of Guild on 29th July 1779. He carried on business in the city as a merchant and manufacturer and was for long a member of the firm of **Leys, Mason, & Co.** He married on 17th August, 1783, **Christian Leys**, a daughter of **Baillie Francis Leys**, and a sister of **Provost Thomas Leys** (119) by whom he had issue- **Jane** the eldest daughter, married on 19th October, 1809, **William INNES** of Hall-green, merchant in London; **William** was admitted as an infant burgess on 27th September, 1796; and a daughter who, on her father's death was co-heiress with **Mrs. INNES**. **Provost BREBNER** died on 28th February, 1823, aged 70 years, and **Mrs. BREBNER** on 16th February, 1843, aged eighty years. The arms of **BREBNER** of Learney, as recognized in the arms granted in 1875 to **Colonel INNES** of Learney, a grandson of the Provost, were or, a fess ermine, between three griffin's heads erased vert.

[\(View genealogy of this family.\)](#)