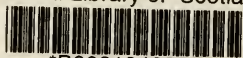


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GENEALOGICAL FRAGMENTS.



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GENEALOGICAL FRAGMENTS.

I.

EARLDOM OF FINDLATER.

THIS letter is relative to the claim of Alexander Ogilvie, Esq., surgeon, Dundee, to be heir-male of the Ogilvies of Findlater, and was enclosed in one from that gentleman "to the Editors of the 'Baronage of Scotland,' care of Mr. James Watson & Co., book-sellers, Edinburgh," 14th Feb., 1797, in which he says:—

"I have taken the liberty to enclose for your perusal the substance of a letter I was favour'd with from a friend in the North, which concerns myself.

"You'll observe in it a pretty accurate account of my descent: and it's many years since I have been informed by my father's younger brother, Mr. Thomas Ogilvie, writer in Edinburgh, who is still alive, that

I had a great chance to succeed, being the nearest of kin to the present James Earl of Findlater and Seafield."

" ' DEAR SIR,

" "I was favoured with yours covering a letter from Dr. Ogilvie, of Dundee, who seems anxious for discovery's concerning his progenitors, in which I am sorry I cannot give him all the gratification I could wish.

" "I knew his father, and likewise remember his grandfather and third wife, who lived next house to my father. His first and second wife were long dead. I have hopes, however, of learning them by means of the baptism and marriage register of Cullen. The Doctor's grandfather, Walter Ogilvie, and the Minister of Rynie were sons of Ogilvie of Korrestown (in Deskford), and they had a sister married to Alexander Hay, in Cullen, whose son John lives in Edinburgh, an Accomptant, and has a daughter married to her cousin, Mr. Ogilvie Farquharson of Oilford, son to the Minister of Rynie.

" "I have been these several years occasionally enquiring concerning the descent of the family of Korrestown, and have been assured that the family is descended from Ogilvie, Laird of Glassuah, who was son to the second or third Ogilvie, Laird of Findlater (which, I cannot say, for I have not the "Peerage of Scotland" at hand). Ogilvie of Boyne, lately Inchmartine, was certainly second son to the first Ogilvie,

Laird of Findlater, and married Edmonstone, heiress of Boyne, as his father married Sinclair, heiress of Findlater; so, undoubtedly, the representative of Glassuah is much nearer than the late Inchmartine was to the family of Findlater, and whoever presently represents the family of Glassuah I take to be the male heir of the first Ogilvie, Laird of Findlater.

“ ‘ Kempearn, who was known to be brother to the first nobleman in the family, is extinct in the male line, as are the Chancellor’s, uncle’s, brother’s, and younger son’s. So we must go on to the family of Glassuah, failing this Earl Findlater, and even independent of him, for the Chancellor’s grandfather was Ogilvie of Inchmartine, who married the heiress of Findlater, and had the title of Earl of Findlater renewed in his person; but the predecessor of that Inchmartine was brother to the Mr. Ogilvie who married, in James the First’s time, Sinclair, heiress of Findlater. They were both sons of Ogilvie of Gaster Powry, as well as Airley and Inchmartine. The Chancellor upon this used to say, that he had two to one against Airley for the Chieftainship.

“ ‘ Upon the whole, a later male cadet of the family than Glassuah is not known, whether you take the family from the marriage with Sinclair the heiress, or from its renovation by Inchmartine’s marriage to the Lord Findlater’s daughter.

“ ‘ As to what concerns the representative of Ogilvie of Glassuah (concerning which I have been anxiously inquiring), as my first predecessor at Cullen,

Mr. Wm. Lawtie of Tucheneal, married Margaret Ogilvie, a daughter of Glassuah, it's possible that Ogilvie of Korrestown's heir—Dr. Ogilvie—may represent Ogilvie of Glassuah; but I still believe that Henry Ogilvie, at Ashogle, was the eldest branch. He is now dead, and left only five daughters. After him came Mr. Walter Ogilvie, of Ardoch (in Deskford), whose sons are all dead. After Ardoch's male heirs, 'tis possible Korrestown may be the representative of Glassuah.

“ ‘ Dr. Ogilvie will observe that, according to the above, and in every view of the thing, the nearest he could be off Findlater is by his great grandfather's grandfather, or rather great grandfather. There is no representative of the family since nobilitate except the present Earl of Findlater, and after him no male heir. I believe we must go back to the family of Glassuah. You'll see their estate of Glassuah about the middle of the last century.’ ”

It is questionable whether the Patent of creation would carry the Findlater title to an heir-male whatsoever. On the other hand, the Barony of Banff is undoubtedly existing in the person who can make out his pedigree as heir-male of the last peer.

II.

GARDNER PEERAGE.

THE following letter, from the first Lord Gardner to Robert Beatson, Esq., the compiler of that useful work the "Political Index," and who was collecting materials for a Peerage, is interesting. The candid admission of "humble" descent, on the part of a new Peer, is so very uncommon as to merit special notice :

*" Cove House, Ireland,
" May 10th, 1802.*

" SIR,

" I duly received your letter of the 12th of March, acquainting me of your having been employed a considerable time in forming an accurate statement of the Peerage of Ireland, requesting me to communicate any particulars respecting my family which may not be already known to the public. In answer thereto, I must acquaint you that I have very little claim to your attention, being myself a Soldier of Fortune, turn'd out into the world in the year 1755, at the very early

age of thirteen, since which, I have been, with the exception of only ten years, constantly employed in His Majesty's Naval Service. With regard to my pedigree, which is very humble, I must refer you to the Herald's Office, and for other circumstances which have occurred during my service, I refer you to a paper which I will transmit to you, under a separate cover, which contains a correct statement of the principal events relative to myself during a period of upwards of forty-six years, and if any part thereof should afford you any materials which you may judge worth noticing, they are at your service.

“I have the honour to be,

“Sir,

“Your most obedient, humble Servant,

“GARDNER.

“R. Beatson, Esq.”

[*From the Original, amongst the Beatson Papers, in the Library of the Faculty of Advocates.*]

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III.

MEMORANDUM CONCERNING THE
DOUGLASES & KEITHS OF WHITERIGGS.

SILVESTER DOUGLAS, the paternal grandfather of Lord Glenbervie, eldest son of the Bishop of Dunblane, by his second wife (the only son of the first marriage having died a bachelor), married Margaret Keith, eldest daughter to George Keith of Whiteriggs. Her mother was Jane Bannerman, the daughter of Sir Alexander Bannerman of Elsie, Baronet.

The contract of marriage between the above Silvester Douglas and Margaret Keith is dated the 30th August, 1695: it is written by Robert Arbuthnot, and the execution of it is witnessed by William, Earl Marischal, by the above Robert Arbuthnot, Writer in Edinburgh, by an Alexander Arbuthnot, Physician, and others; which particulars appear by the original instrument in Lord Glenbervie's possession.

The above-mentioned George Keith, in some of the family papers, is described as Sheriff-Depute of Kincardine, and nephew to Earl Marischal. He was

owner of Whiteriggs; but that estate must either have been purchased by the above-mentioned Silvester Douglas, or must have come to him in right of his wife, as he died owner of it, and was always designated by the name of Whiteriggs. His eldest son, George, Lord Glenbervie's uncle, succeeded to it and sold it. George's issue male are extinct. It is clear that the before-mentioned George Keith and his daughter Margaret, who became Mrs. Douglas, or (as she was generally called) Lady Whiteriggs, were different persons from Alexander Keith, the Sheriff-Depute, and Margaret, the daughter of — Keith of Whiteriggs, who married Robert Keith of Craig. That — Keith may, perhaps, have been the father of the above George Keith, of Whiteriggs, as the former is stated to have died in the reign of James the Second, *i.e.*, between 1684 and 1688; the said George Keith, whose daughter, as above mentioned, married in 1695, was also Keith of Whiteriggs.

Margaret, the wife of the said Silvester Douglas, and Lord Glenbervie's grandmother, had a sister, whom his lordship remembers, and who was married to Mr. Cumine, of Kinnamond, in Aberdeenshire, and her grandson is now proprietor of that estate. Lord Glenbervie never heard of any brothers of his grandmother; but the exact relationship of her father, both to William, Earl Marischal, who was as above mentioned witness to her marriage settlement, and to the late Mr. Keith of Craig, father to Mrs. Ann Keith, are matters which, from the manner of recording deeds

and family settlements in Scotland, may be ascertained with the utmost accuracy, and probably could be traced, without much trouble, either by the gentleman mentioned by Mrs. A. Keith as claiming to be the direct representative of the Marischal family, or by the anonymous Editor of the "Continuation of Douglas's Baronage," whose name can be learned from Mr. Creech, the bookseller, and who, in his preface, solicits correspondence on these subjects.

Lord Glenbervie's own mother, Katherine Gordon, second daughter and co-heir of James Gordon of Fechil, was second cousin to the last Earl Marischal, —they being both grandchildren of George, second Earl of Kinnoul, by his two daughters, Ladies Mary and Katherine. Lord Glenbervie is well acquainted with Sir Alexander Douglas, Baronet, of Dundee, who having no sons living, the Glenbervie branch of the Angus family will, at his death, centre in Lord Glenbervie as heir male.

Lord Glenbervie has got, and had consulted, "Douglas's Peerage and Baronage," which were written by his old acquaintance and relation, Sir Robert Douglas, father of Sir Alexander.—[*From a Memorandum in the handwriting of the first and last Lord Glenbervie, preserved in the Collection previously referred to.*]



IV.

SOME ACCOUNT OF THE AUCHINLECKS
OF BALMANO.

SIR JOHN AUCHINLECK of that Ilk, in King James the Fourth's time, disposed his estate of Auchinleck to his daughter, Marion Auchinleck, then the wife of William Cuninghame of Craigends, upon which the estate recognised and fell in the king's hands, who, upon that, disposed it to David Boswell [the ancestor of the late Sir Alexander Boswell, Baronet, of Auchinleck], son of Balmano's.

The family of Balmano are the heirs male of the Auchinlecks of that Ilk, and carry the cross embattled, sable, [in] their arms. Their predecessor was Vincent Auchinleck, brother to the last Sir John, as he was designed in the writs of the Dukes of Douglas. I do not see any authority for his marriage or issue, save one son, William Auchinleck, who is designated of Schetkin, who was married to an heir female of the Hepburns of Craig, and had George, his son, who married Elizabeth Douglas, daughter of Sir George

Douglas of Pittendrich, sister to James Earl of Morton, the Regent, and his [son?], Sir George Auchinleck, [was] styled of Balmano, having acquired part of the lands of Balmano from Alexander Balmano of that Ilk.

He was a great man, through his uncle, the Regent, who made him a Lord of the Session, and he sat on the Spiritual side as parson of Kirkeir. He married Jean, daughter of — Rait of Halgreen, by whom he had Sir George, his son and heir, and several daughters; Jean, married to Sir James Lockhart of Lee; Elizabeth, to Sir William Douglas of Glenbervie, son to the Earl of Angus, &c.

Sir George married with the house of Angus; he had Sir William, who was a Lord of the Session in the reign of King Charles the First, from whose heir Mr. Thomas Murray of Glendoig, the registrar, purchased the estate, though it's said by non of the fairest means; and since the family is quite decay'd.—[*Crawford's MSS. in the Library of the Faculty of Advocates.*]

V.

VETCH OF ELLIOCK AND CAPONFLAT.

THE original of our name, Vetch, was Gailard, a

native of France, who came over to Scotland in the reign of Robert Bruce.

He became a favourite of that king, from being an alert hunter.

Happening to distinguish himself at a time when Robert was pent up in an encampment, near Warkworth Castle, and his army in great want of provisions, Gailard bravely ventur'd his life by driving a herd of cattle in the night, by which means Robert's men were so much reviv'd, that they made such a vigorous sally as next day secured them a safe retreat.

Robert soon after coming to Peebles, where he had a hunting seat (the vestiges of which are now to be seen adjoining the church at Peebles), it was then he thought proper to reward Gailard for his bravery, by giving him the lands of Dawick, upon the Tweed, and for his coat of arms three cows' heads, with this motto, "Famam extendimus factis;" at the same time he took the surname of Vache, by reason of its corresponding with the crest. It came to be differently spelt afterwards thro' ignorance.

This account of our family name is copied verbatim from an old writing, without a date, given by Lord Elliock to Mr. William Vetch, Haddington (and is at present in his possession), by me, Robert Vetch, of Caponflat. April 10th, 1786.

I can remember when very young (about thirty years ago), living in Haddington, a cousin of my father's, sister to the last Laird of Dawick, who was reduced to the selling of that estate, which had con-

tinued in our family since King Robert's gift of it, to Sir — Nasmyth.

ROBERT VETCH.

[When Nisbet wrote (1722), the Dawick property was in possession of John Vetch, of Dawick, Presenter of Signatures in Exchequer, who married Margaret Nisbet, of the family of Nisbet of that Ilk. The story about the cows is alluded to, but not one word as to the French origin; and Nisbet gravely remarks, "However serviceable he was to the king, I rather think that these arms are carried as speaking to the name Vach, or Vacca, a cow." He adds, he had seen a Charter by Archibald, Earl of Douglas, of the lands of North Linton, "delicto armigero nostro Barnabe le Vach de Dauryk." Anno 1407.]

What as to the Vetch?

VI.

DUGUID OF AUCHENHOVE.

By extracts of a contract of marriage, and of some of the family title-deeds, it appears that Francis Douglas,

who married Elizabeth Duguid, heiress of Auchenhove, was a younger son of William, Earl of Angus, who became bound to take and bear the name and arms of the family of Auchenhove. The estate, which was very extensive and considerable, was accordingly settled upon him and his heirs, in right of his wife, Elizabeth Duguid, daughter of Robert Duguid, by Elizabeth Seton, daughter of Seton of Meldrum, which he accordingly did, sometimes quartering the Douglas arms with their own. He is designed in the above contract, “Franciscus Douglas frater germanus Willielmi Comitis de Angus;” and was infeft in terris Baronie de Auchenhove et Covehead, and several other lands, in 1592, by a Charter under the great seal, “Franciscò Douglas nunc Duguid, filio et heredi Domini Roberti Duguid de Auchenhove terrarum Baronie de Auchenhove cum omnibus pertinentiis terrarum, Baronie de Covehead, &c., quæ fuerunt dicti Domini Roberti et Elizabethæ Seton ejus uxoris. 1592.” He was son to William ninth Earl of Angus, by Giles, daughter of Sir Robert Graham of Morphy.—[*Extract from MS. History of the Family, amongst “Materials for Baronage of Scotland.” Folio MS., Advocates’ Library.*]
