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AN

HISTORICAL SUMMARY

OF THE

ROGER TENANTS OF COUPAR.

BY

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OF THE MIDDLE TEMPLE, BARRISTER-AT-LAW,

AND FELLOW OF THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF SCOTLAND.

“Scattering fictions by stating facts.”—*Lord Lytton.*

“I will guide you as well as I can and as far as I know, no great distance perchance ; but I will rather declare my ignorance than wilfully misdirect your steps.”—*Planché.*

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PREFACE.

THE following pages embody the result of a search made under my direction in the public records, to which I gained access through the courtesy of Mr. Dickson, of H.M. General Register House. To that gentleman I am indebted for procuring me the services of Mr. Walter Macleod, an experienced searcher connected with that great storehouse of national muniments, and whose labours I have adopted in the facts herein set forth. Perhaps it may be agreeable to Mr. Macleod I should state that, while accepting the facts furnished by him, he is not responsible for the inferences which I have drawn from them. Though a total disbeliever in the alleged descent of the Roger tenants of Coupar from the soldiers of the Norman conquest through the beadle of Roxburgh,¹ I cannot but suppose that their learned biographer, the historian of *The Scottish Branch of the Norman House of Roger*, will feel grateful

¹ "Roger the Janitor," whom, on no evidence that I can discover, Dr. Roger[s] calls "a landowner of considerable extent," is named in *Origines Parochiales Scotiae*, among the tradesmen of Roxburgh, with "Huthred the Baker," "Henry the hangman," &c., (p. 470).

to me for having brought their history in an authentic form a century nearer to the "Conquest."²

The Playfairs, to whom the Rogers are related by intermarriage, appear to have been transplanted to Coupargrange from other districts of Perthshire at some period subsequent to the Reformation. At all events, they were not tenants of the Abbey of Coupar. So far as I can learn, no mention of the surname Playfair is found in the rental of the Abbey. The original seat of the Playfairs appears to have been the parishes of St. Madoes and Errol. Notices of the name occur in the former parish as early as 1594, and in the latter in 1596. I stated in my account of the Rogers in Coupargrange that an entry in the Scotch Retours dated July 26, 1617, namely, "Patricius Playfair in Cairney, patruus Patricii Playfair filii quondam Joannis Playfair, in Cairney, &c., had reference to the Playfairs of Aberdeenshire. I now find that I am mistaken, and that the Cairney referred to in

² When Dr. Roger[s] printed his genealogy, the *ascertained facts* relating to the Roger pedigree did not reach beyond the Truster of 1562. Thanks to Mr. Dickson, this can now be instructed in a well authenticated descent from 1454 downward.

this entry is situated in the parish of St. Madoes. The following is a list of testamentary deeds relating to persons of the surname Playfair, transcripts of which are still extant in the Commissariat Records deposited in H.M. General Register House. These are :—

1594. Jan. 30.—John Playfair, in Cairney parish of St. Madoes.
1596. Aug. 28.—Testament dative of Peter Playfair, husbandman in Kirktown of Errol, given up by Helen Cluny, his spouse, in name of Andrew Playfair, his son, &c.
1607. Feb. 26.—Testament dative of Isabell Scharpe, sometime spouse to John Playfair in Cairney, given up by the said John, as father of John Playfair, their lawful son.
1615. Oct. 7.—John Playfair in Cairney.³
1618. May. 13.—Margaret Playfair, spouse to John Turnbull, parish of Errol and sheriffdom of Perth.
1653. Feb. 1.—Alexander Playfair in Innerleven, within the parish of Scoonie and sheriffdom of Fife.
1681. Nov. 25.—Patrick Playfair, in Gouktown, within the parish of Kinfauns and sheriffdom of Perth.
1687. Oct. 13.—George Playfair, in Errol, within the parish thereof and sheriffdom of Perth.

³ Two sons of John Playfair were Patrick and Robert, another, called John, married Elspet Anderson. Patrick Playfair in Cairnie (described as the truster's brother) and Andrew Playfair, in Kirktown of Errol, are overseers of this will.

1717. Aug. 23.—John Playfair, Litster in Kerriemuir, in the sheriffdom of Forfar.

1727.—In this year David Playfair dwelt in Pittornie, within the parish of Lundie and county of Forfar, as appears from the will of David Thomson, dated June 4, 1727, called “servitor” to the said David Playfair.

In the Minute Book of Perth Sasines (fol. 286) is an entry dated June, 1672. Sasine Mr. George Halyburton in Duplin, *Margaret Playfair*, his spouse, and Andrew Halyburton, their son, of an annual rent of £120 Scots out of the lands of Nether Gask pertaining to Laurence Oliphant.

1697. July 8.—Renunciation by *Margaret Playfair*, relict of Mr. George Halyburton, Minister of Aberdalgie, and Mr. Thomas Halyburton, their lawful son, to William Oliphant, of Gask, &c., of an annual rent of £120 Scots furth of the lands of Over and Nether Gask.

1713.—Dec. 31.—Sasine *Thomas Playfair*, in Balgay, and *Margaret Mathiesone*, his spouse, in life rent, and *Peter Playfair*, their only lawful son, in fee, of a tenement in Errol.

1719.—April 15.—Sasine Patrick Jackson, brewer in Errol, and *Euphame Playfair*, his spouse, of certain houses in Errol, &c.

It is mentioned in a sasine on charter by Patrick, Earl of Strathmore, in favour of Patrick Meik, of Ledcassie, of a twelfth part of Coupar-

grange, that Elizabeth Ogilvie had a life rent of a "plugh" of land occupied by *Patrick Playfair*. The charter is dated Nov. 7, 1693.

On May 25, 1705, is sasine on charter by Patrick Meik, to which *John Playfair*, in *Coupargrange* is a witness.

Two recumbent tombstones in the churchyard of Bendochy bear the following inscriptions, which I transcribed in 1854 :—

1ST TOMB.

"HEIR · LYES · ANE · HONEST · WOMAN ·
JANET · PENYCUK · AND · THREE · CHIL-
DREN · LAUFUL · SPOUSE · TO · JAMES ·
PLAYFAIR · INDWELLER · IN · COUTY ·
AND · OF · HER · AGE · 48 · WHO ·
DEPARTED · THE · 26TH · OF · NOVEMBER ·
1703 · THE · CHILDREN'S · NAMES · ARE ·
JAMES · AND · ISABLL · AND · WILLIAM ·
PLAYFAIRS.

"JAMES · PLAYFAIR · SON · OF · JAMES ·
PLAYFAIR · AND · JANET · PENNYCOOK ·
IS · ALSO · INTERRED · HERE · TOGETHER ·
WITH · HIS · SPOUS · JANET · ROGER⁴ ·
HERE · ALSO · LIES · CHARLES · PLAYFAIR ·
IN · COUTY · WHO · DIED · ON · THE · 1ST ·
MAY · 1799 · AGED · 78 · YEARS · SON ·
OF · JAMES · PLAYFAIR · AND · JANET ·
ROGER."

⁴ Janet Roger was one of the daughters of George Roger, in Coupargrange, and his wife, Kathrin, daughter of William Bisset, in Weltown, of Balbrogie.

2ND TOMB.

“HERE · LYES · THE · BONES · AND ·
ASHES · OF · JOHN · PLAYFAIR · LAUFUL
SON · TO · IAMES · PLAYFAIR · AND ·
JANET · ROGER · IN · COUTIE · WHO ·
DIED · THE · 14TH · OF · MARCH · 1762 ·
OF · AGE · 31.

“HERE · LIES · ALSO · INTERRED · GEORGE ·
PLAYFAIR · IN · KNOWHEAD · HIS · ELDER ·
BROTHER · WHO · DIED · APRIL · THE ·
3RD · 1786 · AGED · 76 · YEARS⁵ · HAVING ·
LEFT · BEHIND · HIM · ONE · SON ·
JAMES⁶ · THE · AUTHOR · OF · THE ·
CHRONOLOGY.”

These facts, with the entries to be found in the Baptismal Register of the parish of Bendochy, make up the sum of my knowledge in regard to the early history of the Playfairs. The two forms in which the name occurs in Scotch records are *Pleyfer* and *Playfair*.

Colonel R. L. Playfair, H. Brit. Majesty's Consul-General at Algiers, informs me that the name, spelt exactly as his own, still exists in France, and that among the colonists of Algeria killed in the insurrection of 1871, there was a *Playfair*, whose widow received an indemnity

⁵ His widow, Jean Roger, died at St. Andrews in 1804, at the age of 93, and was interred within the Cathedral burying-ground of that city.

⁶ The Very Rev. James Playfair, D.D., Principal of the United College, St. Andrews.

from the State. Colonel Playfair suggests a derivation for the name, *Pli-fer, bend iron*. This, however, does not appear to me entirely satisfactory. If, as I conjecture, the name be of Northern origin, it probably found its way into France with the Normans, who were simply Northmen, as it also probably did into Scotland with the Scandinavians. In that case its significance must be sought for in the Icelandic or Old Norse, or perhaps more remotely in the ancient Gothic.

NEW COURT, TEMPLE,

February, 1879.

AN HISTORICAL SUMMARY OF THE ROGER TENANTS OF COUPAR.

I ventured to suggest, in opposition to the gratuitous assumption of a migration from Ochiltree¹ that the Rogers in Coupargrange, as free tenants and rentallers of the Abbey of Coupar, had been the immemorial occupants and dwellers on the land where we first find them. My information did not then reach beyond the testator of 1562, and this date I was disposed to regard as the boundary of possible investigation. It, however, plainly appears from the public records preserved in H.M. General Register House, that my conjecture as to their early settlement on the Abbey lands was well

¹ In combating the assertion of the historian of the *Norman House of Roger*, I find I have been fighting a shadow. There is no mention whatever of Lord Ochiltree in the Will of David Roger in Redie. The words of this deed are "Item to my Lady Vchiltre iiiij bollis ij firlots, teind bere of the said crope, 1581, at iiiij merkis, the boll summa xij lib., and to her for iiiij bollis ij firlots, teind bere of the lxxx zeris, crope at iiiij lib., the boll summa xvij libs." What this reverend "historiographer" may know of feudal tenures, and in particular of redendo exigible from a tenant in fee by his overlord, is matter of conjecture, save in so far as that his finding in this instance suggests a total ignorance of the whole subject. Lady Ochiltree was probably the daughter of some Forfarshire laird or Lord of Erection, and as such, titular of the teinds, and by accident the wife of Lord Ochiltree.

founded. In 1454, one twelfth part of the town and lands of Coupargrange, belonging to the Abbey and Convent of Coupar, is set in tack for a period of seven years to *William Roger*, one of the husbandmen inhabiting the Grange.² He paid yearly a money rent, distinguished as *mail* or *silver mail*, of 10 lib. Scots, a ferme victual consisting of twelve chalders of barley, and twelve dozens of poultry (*gallinas*), *cum debito servuicio et consueto*.³ The Grange at this time is divided into nine tenements consisting of two eighth, and seven twelfth parts set to

² *Registrum Assedationum, &c., B. Marie de Cupro, 1443-1538*. "Farming in those days required but little capital, and farmers were regarded more as bailiffs or servants, accountable for the profits of the land at an annual sum, than as having any property of their own." Such is the account given by Williams (*Law of Real Property*, p. 9) of the condition of the English rural tenant. In Scotland I fancy the case was not very different. Professor Innes makes frequent allusion to the humble condition of the "poor tenant," in respect of whom, he tells us, an Act was passed in 1449 which ordains "For the safety of the puir pepil that labouris the grunde, that all tenants having tacks for a term of years shall enjoy their tacks to the ish of their terms suppose the lords sell or analy (alienate) their lands." "Lord Kames," he continues, "has recorded how generation after generation of Scotch lawyers tried to defeat this beneficent provision, and how, at last, the equitable principle prevailed." (*Scotch Legal Antiquities*, p. 120.) The very oldest description of rural tenancy, we learn from the same authority, is from a rental of Kelso of 1290.

³ *Reg. Assed., &c., B. Marie de Cupro, 1443-1538*, fol. 3. b. Gen. Reg. House.

nine tenants in joint occupancy,⁴ the remaining two twelfth parts being reserved for the use of the Abbey. The rules of holding are that each tenant of a twelfth part shall have two cottars under him, and those holding an eighth part shall have three and no more, under pain of forfeiture and expulsion. The cottars may not have bond service—neyfs or tenants in villenage (*codrauchos*)⁵ under them, *sub pena supradicta*, and those cottermen not having yards for kale and fuel are to be ejected from the Grange. Each tenant of a twelfth part shall have only one pig (*unum porcum*), and if more shall be found they shall be forfeited to the Monastery.⁶ From Whitsunday A.D. 1461, to Whitsunday 1463, the tenants inhabiting the Grange appear to have continued to occupy their respective holdings as tenants at will. In the latter year the Grange is formally set in tack for five years.⁷ The names of the tacksmen are not on the record. There is, however, no room to doubt that William Roger, the same who is mentioned in the tack of 1454, was among

⁴ One-eighth part is set to two brothers, who are included in the same tack, making the actual number *ten*.

⁵ This word occurs several times in the volume of Cupar Tacks, but its meaning is not clear.

⁶ *Reg. Assed., &c., B. Marie, &c., 1443-1538*, fol. 3. b.

⁷ *Ibid.*

the number, as his name and those of four others who held under that lease again occur in a third tack for five years, commencing at the Feast of Pentecost (Whitsunday) 1468,⁸ and once more in conjunction with three of the original tacksmen in a tack *pro termino vite suorum*, granted to the tenants of the Grange in 1473.⁹ In what year happened the death of William Roger, whose formal tenancy began in 1454, and ended subsequently to 1473, does not appear. We only know that his twelfth part of the Abbey Grange was set in tack for five years at the Feast of Pentecost, 1505, to another William Roger,¹ who, it seems reasonable to believe in the absence of evidence to the contrary, was the eldest son of the former tenant, and who, during some portion of the interval between the years 1473 and 1505, when his father's final tack ended, and his own formal one began, probably occupied the family twelfth part of the Grange² as tenant at will. The terms of this

⁸ *Reg. Assed., &c.*, Vol. I., fol. 12. Gen. Reg. House.

⁹ *Ibid.*, 1443-1538.

¹ *Ibid.*, Vol. I., fol. 45. b.

² "The second age began when some regard was had to descent. It is supposed that at first the son of a tenant was put into possession of his father's land, not as having a better right,

lease are that he shall pay annually the same money and victual as the other tenants, and five merks of "gressum" under the usual conditions. He was dead in 1508, as appears from an entry in the rental of the Abbey, namely: "Ad festum Pentecostes anno Domini millesimo quingentesimo octauo, duodecima pars ville de Couper-Grange quam olim Willelmus Roger inhabitauit assedatur Jacobo Irland ad terminum quinque annorum soluendo inde annuatim sicut prius soluebat," &c., &c.³ On the death of the tenant,

but as being naturally more known and more favoured than a stranger. That which was reasonable became, by degrees, customary, and when the son, without any cause alleged, was excluded, the lord was considered as exercising *summum jus*, as acting unkindly though not illegally."—Wharton's *Law Lexicon*, by J. Shiress Will, Esq., *Feudal System*, p. 384. Lond., 1876. The tenants of the Abbey of Coupar appear to have acquired by user a kind of claim to perpetual succession. I do not of course mean that they could not be ejected, but that, as an act of grace, the Church (which Mr. Innes represents as a "fair and merciful landlord,") had by immemorial usage continued to the first born of its several tenants the same tenement from father to son, and which in time, though by custom only, and not by right, came to be regarded as in some sort the patrimony of the family. In the case of the Rogers, the favoured individual appears always to be called *William*, a baptismal name, which as that of the eldest in the direct line of primogeniture, occurs three times in the Rental of the Abbey, twice in the Secretary's Register of Sasines for Perth, and twice in the parochial record of the parish of Bendochy. If it still continues in the elder branch, I do not know.

³ *Reg. Assed., &c.*, Vol. I., fol. 52.

unless the gift was to the *tenant and his heirs*, the lands reverted to the grantor. Among the issue of this individual, whose children apparently became wards of the Abbot of Coupar, were William Roger, his eldest son, heretofore called the testator of 1562, and Jonet Roger, described as "Relict of Wmquhile Johne findlay." The latter obtained from the Abbot a letter of tack under the common seal of the Chapter, of one-sixth part of the town and lands of Downie "lying within the Sheriffdom of Forfar and barony of Glenisla." This, perhaps the most interesting of the Roger tacks or charters, called in the rental "*Litera Jonetæ Roger in Downye*," is dated March 9, 1557, and is recorded at folio 72, b. vol. II. of the *Registrum Assedationum, &c., B. Marie de Cupro*. It contains a covenant for military service, and for the maintenance of a blood-hound as a protection from the ravages of the wolf, with the right reserved to the lord to re-enter upon possession on the conviction of the tenant of *heresy* or of flagrant moral crime, and reveals a very unsatisfactory state of public feeling and morals at the epoch immediately preceding the Reformation. Some years later an Act of Parliament was framed for the purpose of checking the rapacity

and thievish practices of the smaller lairds, who, as Mr. Cosmo Innes aptly phrases it, "Left their glens and *lifted*."⁴ The form of giving possession of a tack granted under "commoun seile," it will be seen, was "Be thak and diffat." Here is an exact transcript of this curious document :

"Be it kend til all men be thir present letres Ws Donald be the permissoun of god Abbot of the Abbey of Cowper with hail consent and assent of the convent of that Ilk to haif granted set and for maill lattin And be the tenor of thir presentis grantis settis And for maill lattis to our louittis Jonet roger Relict of Wmquhile Johne findlay And to air maill gottin betuix hir and the said wmquhile Johne findlay All and hail ane saxt pairt of our town and landis of Downye with the pertinentis lyand within the Schirefdome of forfair And barony of glennylyay quhilk thai bruk and Joss now Instantlie for all the dais and termes of thairis and Ilkane of thairis lyftymes and to the langar lewend of thaim twa failzeing of ane to ane wther Thay payand thairfoir zeirliche to ws and our successouris or ffactouris in our name the sowme of twenty schillingis vsuall money of Scotland At tway vsuall termes witsunday and Martymes In winter be equall portiones with ane tame guis ane pultre thre laidis of

⁴ "Item, it is statute and ordained, be our SOVERAINE LORDE, and his three Estaites, in this present Parliament, that in case it sal happen onie Landed-men to be lauchfullie and ordourlie convict of the crimes of commoun theft, receipt of theft, or stouth riefie in time cumming : They sall incur the crime and paine of treason : That is, tinsell and fore-faltour of life, landes, and gudes."—Eleventh Parliament of King James VI., 29th July, 1587. The Lawes and Actes of Parliament, &c., Imprinted at Edinburgh, be Robert Walde-grave, &c., 1597.

petis quihilkis salbe led into our place of Cowper All on ane day And thai sall nwrice ane rethe⁵ for tod and wolf with all other arage cariage dewiteis And dew service vse and wont And thai sall put our said tak and landis to all polecie thay may in biggin of houses planting of birkin treis eschis osaris And Sauchis with thair defensouris keipand guid nychtbourheid. And thair land fra guld eftir thair powar And thai salbe reddy to all service in pece and weir and hunting and sall accept the office of stodhirdrie vpoun thame for the old feall give thai be requirit thairto And give It happen as god forbeit at ony of thame hold ony opiniones of hereseis agains the ordinance of Haly Kirk and bydis obstinatlie thairat or give ony ef thame beis apprehendit with thift resset of thift or sornaris⁶ or beis noterlie knawing adulteraris sway the saidis Crymmes be sufficientlie Previn vpoun thame It salbe tinsall of thair takkis to the Committer of the said cryme and sall tyme thair place and rycht in this present letter of tak And we the said Abbot and convent bindis and oblisses ws and our successouris to Acquit warand and defend this our said Assedatioun to the persounis abune writtin induring thair lyftymes as said Is Aganis all deidlie As Law will Attour we the said Abbot and convent hes maid constitut and ordand &c. our veray lauchfull and vndoutit bailze or bailzeis &c. to gif stait and possessioun be thak and diffat &c. In witnes heirof to this present writ subscriuit with our handis the commoun seile of our Cheptour Is appensit at the Abbay of Cowper the ix day of Marche in the zeir of god Ane Thowsand five hundretht fifty and sewin zeiris et ad fabricam monestarii soluerunt vi. lib.”

⁵ A species of blood-hound.

⁶ The crime technically known as *Sorning* was the masterful quartering of brigands, by which many parts of Scotland were oppressed.

William Roger, the next in succession to the tenant whose lease determined in 1508, obtained from Donald, Abbot of Coupar, a tack of one twelfth part of the town and lands of Coupar-grange, with destination to himself and his spouse, Marjorie Blair, and to an heir male for life, whom failing, with remainder to a daughter, whose husband should enjoy her tack if she married with consent of the Convent.⁷ This instrument, which was granted with the solemn consent of the Chapter, and executed under the common seal of the Convent, is dated May 1st, 1542. It sets forth that "For speciall gratitudis and seruice done and to be done be our familiar William Rogear and for vtheris gude and rationable causes moving us for the time," &c., the Abbot sets, "And be the tenor of thir presentis" "for maill lattis to our said familiar Williame Rogear, Mariorie Blair, his spous, and to ane air maill lauchfully gotten or to be gotten betuix tham tuay and failzeing of the air maill to ane dochter," &c. "All and hail ane tuelf pairt of our towne and landes of Coupargrange quhilk the said Williame brukes

⁷ Tack by the Abbot of Coupar in favour of William Roger and Marjory Blair, May 1st, 1542. *Liber. Assed. B. Marie de Cupro.*, Vol. 1539-1559, fol. 7. Gen. Reg. House.

now instantly for all the dais and termes of their lyftymes and to the langar levand of them thre failzeing of ane to ane vther. Togedder with the teind schawis of the samyn, with all commodoties profettis asiamentis emolumentis and rychtuus pertenens quhatsumewer pertening thairto," &c.

It would appear that at some date subsequently to the year 1587, John Campbell of Calder,⁸ as superior of the lands of Coupargrange granted to William Roger, the person next entitled under the gift to his father by the Abbot, a charter of feu-ferme of that twelfth part of the lands of Coupargrange, formerly occupied by him and Marjory Blair his mother.⁹ The grant is to the said William, and his wife Margaret Rollock, and the longer liver of them in conjunct fee, and to their heirs male lawfully begotten, &c. He was alive in 1603, in which year he is witness to a sasine in favour of Marjoreta Dickson, daughter of John Dickson, portioner of Banchry, and his wife Beatrice Roger,¹ apparently the daughter of

⁸ Son of Archibald, second Earl of Argyll, brother of Donald, Abbot of Coupar, and a progenitor of the Earls of Cawdor.

⁹ Sec. Reg. of Sasines, Perth, Vol. III., fol. 384. Gen. Reg. House.

¹ Sec. Reg. of Sasines, Perth, Vol. II., fol. 296 b.

William Roger and Marjory Blair, and sister german of William first Roger portioner of Coupargrange. The latter had a sister Issobell Roger, married to William Roger in Reidie, parish of Airlie,² and another sister called Jonet, who was twice married, first to John Brown in Leitfie,³ parish of Alyth, by whom she had issue, William, Rannald, Elspeth, Beatrix, David, and Marjorie, and secondly to Thomas Bell in Leitfie,⁴ apparently without issue. William Roger, *second portioner* of Coupargrange, was seized in his father's twelfth part of Coupargrange in 1604. In the Secretary's Register of Sasines for Perth, is an entry of sasine proceeding on Precept of Clare Constat by John Campbell of Calder, as superior, in favour of William Roger in Coupargrange "found by authentic documents and evidents to be lawful son and nearest heir male to the deceased William Roger in Coupargrange, who died last vest and seized as of fee," &c. "Of all and whole that twelfth part of the lands of

² Commissariat of Edinburgh, Testaments, Vol. XXVI. Testament of William Roger in Redie, 1589.

³ Registrum Secreti Sigilli, Vol. XLV., fol. 120, Vol. XLVI. fol. 9 b.

⁴ Testament of Jonet Roger, Commissariat of Edinr., Testaments, Vol. XXXIII, July 27, 1599.

Cowpargrange which was formely occupied by the said deceased William Roger and Marjory Blair his mother, and now by the first named William Roger, and his cottars, lying nearest the sun, and beginning the town by run rig, in the lordship of Cupar and sheriffdom of Perth : The said William Roger being of lawful age, and the said land holding in chief of the said John Campbell," &c. Sasine is given on 21st December, 1604.⁵ William Roger, second portioner of Coupar-Grange, was succeeded by his eldest son William, but the date of his succession does not appear. William Roger, *third portioner* of Coupar-Grange married Elspeth Angus.⁶ She was apparently the daughter of John Angus portioner of Coupar-grange,⁷ to whose father, James Angus, a twelfth part of Coupargrange was set in tack in A.D. 1542,⁸ and sister of John Angus, also called portioner of Coupargrange.⁹

⁵ Sec. Reg. of Sasines, Perth, Vol. III., fol. 384. Gen. Reg. House.

⁶ Baptismal Register, parish of Bendochy.

⁷ Secretary's Reg. of Sasines, Perth, Vol. II., fol. 296, b. Gen. Reg. House.

⁸ *Rentale Monasterii beate Marie de Cupro. Terrarum ecclesiasticarum et annuorum reddituum, &c. In toto anno quadragesimo secundo.* Gen. Reg. House.

⁹ Register of Perth Sasines, Vol. III., fol. 430, July 26, 1667. Vol. XII., fol. 20, November 7, 1693. Gen. Reg. House.

The order of succession in the Roger pedigree from father to son, as I think, now stands thus :—

- I. WILLIAM ROGER, tacksman of $\frac{1}{12}$ part of Coupargrange, from A.D. 1454 to A.D. 1473. Downward.
- II. WILLIAM ROGER, tacksman of $\frac{1}{12}$ part of Coupargrange from A.D. 1505—1510. Dead in 1508, in which year the tenement, which it was intended he should enjoy, is set in tack to James Ireland.
- III. WILLIAM ROGER, tacksman of $\frac{1}{12}$ part of Coupargrange jointly with his spouse Marjory Blair, with reversion to an heir male, whom failing, to an heir female, A.D. 1542. Obiit June, 1562.
- IV. WILLIAM ROGER, portioner of $\frac{1}{12}$ part of Coupargrange, obtained from John Campbell, of Calder, a charter of feu-ferme of $\frac{1}{12}$ part of Coupargrange. The grant is to himself and his wife, Margaret Rollock, in conjunct fee, and to their heirs male. Obiit 1604.
- V. WILLIAM ROGER, portioner of $\frac{1}{12}$ part of Coupargrange, was seized in his father's twelfth part of Coupargrange on the 21st of December, 1604.
- VI. WILLIAM ROGER, portioner of $\frac{1}{12}$ part of Coupargrange, and Elspet Angus his wife, named in the parochial records of Bendochy, A.D. 1649. This William was third and last portioner of Coupargrange.
- VII. WILLIAM ROGER, tacksman of some portion of the lands of Coupergrange, and Bessie Duncan, his wife, named in the parochial records of Bendochy, A.D. 1670.

William Roger, the seventh in succession from father to son, occupied for a time a tenement in Coupargrange, where his eldest daughter Elspet, the name daughter of his

mother Elspet Angus, was born.¹ He afterwards resided at Coupar, and eventually moved to a neighbouring parish. The direct line of primogeniture still continues in his descendants.

The date and circumstance of the transfer of the Roger's twelfth portion of the Grange of Coupar Abbey still rest upon tradition. It is said that this was alienated by Elspet Angus to a person named Meik, on the death of her husband, the third portioner, and this latter event, it is alleged, happened about the year 1660, during the minority of their children. I have, however, failed to discover the *infestment* of the alienee, although the minute Book of Perth Sasines has been carefully searched from the year 1660 down to 1726.² There is reason

¹ Baptismal Register of Bendochy.

² At one time I contemplated an exhaustive search in the General Register of Sasines, with the view to discover the instrument of Sasine relating to the conveyance in question, and as helps to authenticate traditional statements, such other facts as might therein be disclosed, but as no good modern index exists for these or for any other of the old records except the Great Seal (for which an index was made by the Writers to the Signet), the expense of a search would be very great. I therefore, for the present, content myself with such information as I have been able to gather from the partial search above mentioned, which, with an exhaustive search through the indices of Testaments of the several Commissary Records, occupied Mr. Macleod, at intervals, from the month of October, 1877, to the end of July, 1878.

to believe that William and George were not the only sons of William Roger and Elspet Angus, some of whom settled in other parishes not far distant. One of these probably, the contemporary certainly of William and George, and whose name does not occur in the numerous testamentary deeds of the Rogers in Airlie, was Hew Roger, in Migvie, in the united parishes of Migvie and Tarland, perhaps one of the progenitors of the late Rev. John Roger, minister of Kincardine O'Neil.³ He married, in 1666, Eupham Henderson, the sister of William Henderson, of Hallyards, near Alyth, who acquired the estate of Hallyards in 1686.⁴

³ The following obituary notices relating to the Rogers of Kincardine O'Neil, lately appeared in the *Times* newspaper, (Nov. 3, 1876). "On 21st of October, at 45, High Street, Old Aberdeen, in her seventy-fifth year, Helen, widow of the Rev. James Gordon Garioch, Minister of Strachan, and daughter of the late Rev. John Roger, Minister of Kincardine O'Neil." (Feb. 2, 1878). "On the 9th January, at Cordack, near Peterborough, Ontario, in his seventy-first year, the Rev. John Morrice Roger, for forty-two years Presbyterian Minister in Peterborough, second son of the late Rev. John Roger, Minister of Kincardine O'Neil."

⁴ "In examining the charter chest of the Hallyards family (Henderson) near Alyth, on the borders of Perthshire and Forfarshire, I find that the first Henderson of Hallyards, viz., Wm. Henderson, who acquired the estate in 1686, had a sister, Eupham Henderson, who, in 1666, married Hew Roger in Migvie (Migvie). The wife of William Henderson was Rachel

George Roger, the youngest son of William Roger and Elspet Angus, was born at Coupargrange, as appears from an entry in the Bendochy Register, which gives the date of his baptism, the twenty-eighth day of January, 1649.⁵ He became tenant of some portion of the lands of Grange and of Millhorn, both in the parish of Bendochy, and afterwards tacksman of part of the lands of Coupargrange. He resided at Grange in 1693,⁶ and at Coupargrange certainly from 1705 to 1719, in which latter year he is discharged by his son-in-law, John Stewart, in Milltown of Rattray, of 200 merks Scots, given as dower with his second daughter,

Kirkwood, widow of Neil Montgomery of Lainshaw, the representative of the ancient line of the Lords Lyle. Her sister was married to Sir Alexander Lindsay of Evelick, Bart., and another sister to Campbell of Glenlyon. Migvie is a parish united to that of Tarland in Aberdeenshire, but close to Forfarshire.—*Communicated by Mr. Walter Macleod.* The marriage contract of Hew Roger in Migvie and Euphame Henderson, the only surviving daughter of William Henderson in Potento, dated Jan. 13, 1666, is in the charter chest of the Hendersons of Hall-yards, which also contains a discharge by the said Eupham Henderson with consent of her spouse, Hew Roger, in favour of her brother-german, William Henderson, who, at that time, it would appear, exercised the functions of a "Notary in Kirk-town of Newtyle." This deed is dated at Ochertyre, Oct. 10, 1681. The lady's dower was 600 merks, Scots.

⁵ Baptismal Register of the Parish of Bendochy.

⁶ *Ibid.*

Kathrin.⁷ He married Katharine Bisset, traditionally represented as "The only child and heiress of the Baron of Bulba," the alleged owner of certain lands held in free barony, &c. It now distinctly appears from the Register of Sasines, that the wife of George Roger was daughter and heir of William Bisset, in Welltown of Balbrogie, and his spouse, Janet Souter, and the descendant of a family of Bisset, who, as portioners of Balbrogie, first appear in 1592.⁸ Here are the *ipsissima verba* of the record, "Catharinae Bissat filiae legitimæ ac hæredis quondam Wilhelmi Bissat in Weltoun, de Balbrogie procreatae inter illum et quondam Jonetam Soutar eius conjugem nunc sponsæ Georgii Roger in Coupergrange, &c." The sasine is in respect of an annual rent of £20 Scots secured on the lands of Balbrogie and Coupergrange. It proceeds on a precept of Clare Constat by John Blair, in Polkak,

⁷ Marriage contract of John Stewart and Kathrin Roger, dated Nov. 17, 1716, among the family papers of the late Charles Roger of Dundee, now in the possession of the writer of this account.

⁸ Testament and Inventory of James Bisset, portioner of Balbrogie (ob: July 8, 1592). Edinburgh Commissariat Record. Testaments, Vol. XXIV. See also *Abbreviates of Scotch Retours*—Inq. Spec. Perth (531) (532).

portioner of Balbrogie, superior of the said annual rent, &c., and is dated July 24, 1705.⁹ Perhaps the feudal attributes of the so-called *Baron*, which do not appear to be wholly fabulous, are explained in the following excerpt from a letter of the late Charles Roger, of Dundee, to the writer of this account. "I had some conversation with your Aunt Margaret about the 'Baron.' She will have it that he was baron-bailie to a neighbouring laird,¹ and that it was in consequence of this he was commonly called 'The Baron.' This, she says, is what she remembers being told by her father. If that be the case, the feudal character of Bulba disappears, but she may be mistaken." I conclude that this is the true state of the fact. It is, however, a circumstance perfectly well known, though not yet formally authenticated, that the father of Katharine Bisset was the possessor of a small estate in land, which descended to her by succession in heritage. If

⁹ Instrument of sasine in favour of Catherine Bisset, spouse of George Roger, &c. Part. Reg. Seisins, Perth, Vol. XV. fol. 69 b. Gen. Reg. House.

¹ The Baron-bailie, an important personage in his way, presided over the Court of the feudal lord, and administered the baron's law.

Bulba may mean *Bilbo*,² or if it be a corrupt form of *Balbrogie*, I do not know.

There is still extant in the churchyard of Bendochy a large recumbent tombstone, supported on six pillars, and inscribed in antique raised Roman capitals hewn out of the solid stone. At the top, which is semi-circular, placed on either side of a cherub's head and wings, and in larger characters than the rest of the inscription, are, on the right, "W.R." and on the left "E.A.," the initial letters, doubtless, of the names William Roger and Elspet Angus. Underneath these is the inscription

" HEIR LIES · IAMES · ROGER · LAVFVL ·
SON · TO · GEORGE · ROGER · AND ·
KATHARINE · BISSET · IN · COVPAR ·
GRANGE · WHO · DEPARTED · THE II
DAY · OF · DECEMBER · 1706 · OF ·
HIS · AGE · 16 · YEARS."

² The late Mr. Gough Nichols (see my account of the Rogers in Coupargrange, p. 15.) doubted the existence in the locality of Coupargange of a place called *Bilbo*, in proof of which I cited from a deed in my possession the names of two persons resident in the parish of Coupar, who dwelt "*in Bilbo*." There is however no lack of other evidence to vouch the authenticity of this name. The Minute Book of Perth Sasines (Vol. IV. fol. 45. April 29, 1668,) gives at this date the name Alexander Bell "*in Bilbo*" as attorney to an annual rent fourth of the lands of Balbrogie, &c. In Vol. V. fol. 75. June, 1671, there is evidence from the sasine in favour of James Fallay, portioner of Grange, of lands pertaining to George Ireland "*in Bilbo*." Again in Vol. XI. fol. 165, 13 Nov., 1691. Under this date is the sasine in favour of Catherine Sommervail relict of James Murray of Arthurstone of an annuity of 822½ merks out of the lands of Cronnonvaltone and *Bilbo*, lying within the parish of Coupar, &c.

Below this, within a recess, hollowed out of the substance of the stone is a disproportioned skeleton ; and on either side of the cranium, on the right, the initial letters " G. R.," and on the left, " K. B." Lower down, at the foot of the stone, expressive of the amiable character of the defunct, are the following lines of the usual obituary type :

" His humble temper was so good,
His virtues in thair blossom,
And to his parents was so kind,
It was their grief to lose him.

The descendants of George Roger and Katharine Bisset, brought down to the present time, are accurately given in the genealogical chart appended to my former *brochure*, entitled *Some Account of the Rogers in Coupargrange, Lond. 1877.*

Contemporary with the first known inhabitant of the Grange of the Roger race, were other members of the family, also tenants of the Abbey, which shows that even then their settlement in Coupargrange could not have been recent—a fact, perhaps, still capable of demonstration, if by any accident the earlier records of the convent may yet be discovered. At the Feast of Pentecost, 1457, the lands of Polkak, Blarachnoch, and Achnekathyl, are set in tack

for five years, one half to William Halden, the other half to *John Roger*.³ At Whitsunday, 1467, the same subjects *cum pertinentijs*, &c., are again set in tack for five years, one half to *John Roger*, as before, one fourth to Thomas Souter, and the remaining fourth to Patrick Smyth.⁴ An entry in the rental dated 1542 gives the earliest notice of the Rogers in Redie, whom another chronicler of the "House of Roger"! calls the elder branch, but who, in point of fact, were only collateral. From this we gather that, prior to the Reformation, David Roger, *in Redie*, was a tenant of the monastery of Coupar, and tacksman of one fourth part of the lands so named,⁵ which latter also distinctly appears from his testamentary deed executed in 1581.⁶ It is stated, in regard to this David

³ *Registrum Assed. B. Marie de Cupro*, Vol. I. 1443-1538. fol. 10 b.

⁴ *Ibid*, fol. 14.

⁵ Rede intromiserunt tenentes eiusdem.

Johne Spalding ther ane quartar
 xj b. ij. f. farine et V b. ij. f. ordeii
 Allexander Farar siclyk in omnibus.
 David Roger siclyk in omnibus.
 Rob. Crome siclyk in omnibus.

Rentale Monasterii beate Marie de Cupro, &c. In toto anno quadagesimo secundo. Gen. Reg. House.

⁶ Will of David Roger in Redie (1581) Comm. of Edin., Testaments, Vol. X. Gen. Reg. House.



Roger, that, except a bequest of 200 merks to his younger son David, he "endowed" his elder son William with his "hail gudis," which is not true in fact. David Roger "Levis his hail geir and gudis to the said William *to pay his saidis dettis* vpon the quhilk the said William askit instrumentis," &c. There remained, after satisfaction of the debts, the inconsiderable sum of £70 17s. 4d. Scots, by reason that the truster had already during his life made provision for the several members of his family, as is plain from the terms of the will: "Being syngill without wyf and having *foris familiat* his hail barnes," &c. The sum of 400 merks (not 200 merks), which his son David takes under the will, is not a gift, but a sum set apart in discharge of a specific liability, which he had undertaken under a covenant contained in his son David's marriage settlement. David Roger's eldest son, William, as already mentioned, married Isabell Roger, the daughter of William Roger in Coupargrange, and his wife, Marjory Blair, and on this the historian of the *Norman House of Roger* builds a theory, that but a few years later than the Reformation the restrictions in regard to marriage interposed by the Canon Law had ceased to be regarded. I find it nowhere stated that William Roger, in

Redie, and his wife, Isabell Roger, of Coupargrange, were cousins within the prohibited degrees, and it is possible to conceive of a relationship more remote than cousins-german.⁷

⁷ "With one family in the Bendochy district of Perthshire they [the Rogers] frequently intermarried; with the result that the Right Honble. Lyon Playfair and Dr. Roger[s] are cousins twice removed," &c. (*Vide Lond. Scottish Journal*, Sep. 22, 1877). And with the like result, I suppose, to the other Rogers of the same generation, some of whom, let us hope, are content to rest on their own honours without the adventitious aid of reflected grandeur. Surely Dr. Roger must know that Bendochy is a parish, and that the district is called *Strathmore*. The following amusing derivation of the name *Bendochy* occurs in a foot-note appended to the New Statistical Account of that parish, by the late Rev. Dr. Barty, a gentleman of exceptional ability, with an exquisite conception of the ludicrous. "An ingenious and learned friend writes me as follows: 'I suppose the name to be a compound of three Gaelic syllables, Ben, *a hill*, do, a verbal particle prefixed to the preterite or future, and chi, the future of the verb *to see*. Ben-do-chi, *the hill of the good prospect*.' The rising ground on the southern base of which the church and manse stand is midway betwixt the Sedlaw (Southlaw) and Grampian ranges, and equidistant from Forfar and Perth, the limits of Strathmore proper. The view from it is extensive, varied, and beautiful. 'It would with the same meaning' adds my correspondent, 'admit of being written Ben-a-chi, or Ben-a-thi.' This is fortunate, giving authority for the supposed vulgar pronunciation of the natives, and meeting to some extent the predilections of my predecessor for 'Benathie.' But what is to be done with 'Bendothy,' the spelling on the communion cups, and retained by the writer of the former account? Here is the solution—'Ta is old Gaelic for water, *The Tay is water, par excellence*. Ben-do or da-tha, would be *the hill of two waters*, do or da means two, and tha would be the objective case of Ta.' The rising ground (why called a hill I know not) is bounded on the north by the Monk Mire, and on the south by the Islay, or the church is on the base of the eminence, bounded on both

Historical examples of persons bearing the surname Roger occur in *The Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer of Scotland*, edited by Thomas Dickson, Esq., in Archbishop Spotswood's *History of the Church of Scotland*, and in Drummond of Hawthornden's *History of Scotland*. First of these in the order of time is one named *Robert Roger*, for whose homicide Dionysius Cairns of Gaitgill compounds in the sum of £6 13s. 4d. Scots, at a Circuit of Justiciary held at Dumfries on the 24th of October, 1473.⁸ Next is *John Roger*, a black friar, who in 1544, for preaching the doctrines of the Reformation, was apprehended and brought to the castle of St. Andrews by the emissaries of Cardinal Beaton, and whose lifeless body was shortly afterwards found at the bottom of the rock below the sea-tower.⁹ Then follows Sir *William Roger*, Kt., the English master of music,¹ who came into Scotland, in the

sides by the Isla and Ericht. Select for yourself, reader, and acknowledge with thankfulness the plastic powers of Gaelic etymology." I commend this to the notice of Professor Blackie.

⁸ *Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer of Scotland*, edited by Thomas Dickson, Esq.

⁹ *History of the Church of Scotland*, by Archbishop Spotswood, Lond. 1655, p. 19.

¹ Dr. Charles Roger, whom in my former "Account" I relegated to his proper place in the pedigree, "claims to be the representative of this ingenious but ill-fated musician!" (See his own statement, *Traits and Stories of the Scottish people*. London: Houlston & Wright. 1867.)

suite of the English ambassador in the reign of James III. He was *lynched* at Lauder bridge in 1482, by the revolted nobles, who were jealous of the favour shown to him by the Scottish king.² Another example, perhaps scarcely quite historic, is found in an old charter in the archives of Aberdeen. This is, *John Roger*, guardian of the Friars Minors. He resigns, with consent, &c., on 29th October, 1559, all lands belonging to the fraternity over which he presided to the Burgh of Aberdeen.³ I hope it will not be deemed very improbable to suppose that Roger, the black friar, and the other priestly Roger, who granted the charter of resignation to the town of Aberdeen, may have been two of the no doubt numerous collateral descendants of the tenants of the Abbey of Coupar, it being, as I think, not a thing incredible, that some members of a family so long connected with one of the great religious houses of the kingdom, should find their way to the ranks of the priesthood. It is at least easier to conceive of this as a possibility than that the black friar, who was dead in 1544, and the first Roger

² Drummond of Hawthornden's *History of Scotland*.

³ Communicated by Mr. Henry Laing.

tenant of the grange, who began his tack in 1454, could have descended from an Ochiltree cottarman, who deceased in 1549. I formerly stated in regard to Bailie William Roger of Dundee, that neither his degree of consanguinity nor the names of his immediate progenitors are now distinctly known.⁴ I proceed to show that this William, the founder of the bequest which bears his name, was without much doubt the son of John Roger, skinner, burgess of Dundee, and his spouse Issobell Cathrow, and that he was related, though in what degree does not appear, to two persons of his name, the one James Roger, maltman burgess of Dundee, the other John Roger, described as "Tailor and Merchant burgess of Dundee." In the MS. Family Register of the late Charles Roger of Dundee, who of the Roger family has the best claim to be considered its historian, is an entry for which he cites the authority of an original MS. entitled "Acts of the Council of Dundee," formerly in the possession of Provost Yeaman.

From this it appears that Bailie Roger, before he traded as a merchant, followed his father's calling of skinner, of which craft he

⁴ Some account of the Rogers in Coupargrange, p. 11.

appears to have been deacon. "The Twentie Second of September, 1646.—*Eodem die*. The Council takand to ther consideration that Wm Roger, now on the Lit to be baillie, was Somtyme deacon of the Skynner Craft, doe now all in ane voice declair that they have no regard to the sd Wm as ane craftesman but as ane actuall Trafacting Mer^d. who has deserted the sd Skynner Craft and all benifit that may redound to them thereby, and this nomination does therefor no way prejudge the libertie of this brug." From the "Inventory" of John Roger, skinner, burgess of Dundee, who died intestate in the month of December, 1598, we learn that he had an only son, *William*, and a daughter, *Helene*.⁵ The latter, if she ever married, pre-deceased her brother without issue. The Inventory purports to have been "Gevin. vp be Issobell Cathrow his relict, spous," &c. Among the number of persons indebted to his estate is "Thomas Roger, in Muresyde," probably the father of Thomas Roger, in Lioch, parish of Auchterhouse, whom, in his will, Bailie Roger calls his

⁵ Testament Dative and Inventory of the goods of John Roger, Skinner Burgess of Dundee—Comm. of Edin., Testaments, Vol. XXXIV., 1598.

cousin-german. In 1631 James Roger, Maltman, burgess of Dundee, by his "Latter Will," dated the 2nd day of June of that year, constitutes "William Roger, Skynner, burgess of Dundie," tutor to his infant son and daughter, James and Janet Roger.⁶ In this will "Johnne Roger, Tailzour and Merchant burges of Dundy," is called "brother to the said James, &c." One of the "Cautioners" who guarantees the due administration of the trust is "Robert Davidsons, Merchant burgess of Dundie," the brother-in-law of William Roger, or, to speak with greater exactness, the husband of his wife's sister.⁷ There is a curiously ornamented recumbent tombstone in the *Houff*, or old cemetery of Dundee, perhaps at one time supported

⁶ Will of James Roger, Maltman burgess of Dundee.—Comm. of Brechin, Testaments, Vol. V.

⁷ Bailie William Roger, married Eupham Mann, one of the daughters of James Mann, merchant-burgess and Magistrate of Dundee, and his spouse, Grizzel Clayhills, of the family of Invergowrie. Eupham Mann had four sisters, one called Grizzel, married to Robert Davidson, another to Alexander Bower, a third to George Brown, and a fourth to William Duncan of Seaside (a progenitor of the family of Camperdown), all of them merchants of Dundee who had held office in the magistracy. Robert Davidson and George Brown were mortally wounded at the siege of Dundee, in 1651, while defending the town against the attack of General Monk. These facts, which I have verified by other evidence, are from the MS. Register of the late Charles Roger of Dundee.

on pillars, but now level with the ground. The inscription, which is in Latin, bears that it was placed there by Elizabeth Lochmalonie to the memory of her deceased husband, George Roger, called "NAVCLERO · ET · HVIVS · OPPIDI · &c." This monument was discovered by myself. From it certainly nothing can be learnt as to the names or number of his issue. Yet on this simple circumstance, which left the matter as an unascertained *possibility*, has been founded the assumption given, without reservation, that the person whom this stone commemorates "left one son, William, who became a prosperous merchant in Dundee, &c." We have, however, a better oracle, one which speaks not indeed with less ambiguity, but whose responses are more to be trusted. From George Roger's own lips, delivered *in articulo mortis*, "giffen wpe be his awin mouthe speikand," as expressed in his "Letter will and legacie," it plainly appears that he left issue not "*one son*" (which is obviously one of those so-called facts made to fit in with the accidents of the individual) but *three sons and one daughter*, "lawfull bearnis procreat betwix him and bessie Lochmalonie."⁸ Their names were George, William,

⁸ Latter Will and Testament of George Roger, skipper bur-gess of Dundee—Commissariat of Brechin, Vol. III., fol. 31.

David, and Bessie. His son William might by possibility be supposed the ultimate survivor of the family, though, in view of all the facts, I submit that this is not probable, and that he is *not* the William who afterwards became the founder of "Bailie Roger's Mortification." There is evidence to show that George Roger, of the tombstone, was one of the sons of William Roger, in Redie, and his wife, Isobell Roger, of Coupargrange.

The last of the Roger tenants who occupied part of the lands of Coupargrange were William Roger, whose line ended in a daughter,⁹ and his younger brother Peter, who afterwards rented the farm of Laws in the parish of Moniefeith.¹ Peter Roger married Janet

⁹ William Roger was tacksman of the lands of Nether-Coupargrange. His two sons, George and William, died unmarried. His surviving daughter, Janet, by his first wife, Isobell Constable, the daughter of George Constable in Bendochy, married John West in Mayriggs, parish of Bendochy. George Constable was nearly related to Constable, head of the firm of Constable & Co., the publishers of Sir Walter Scott.

¹ Peter Roger farmed the Ryehill and haughs of Coupargrange. He was the younger surviving son of William Roger in Coupargrange (eldest son of George Roger and Katharine Bisset), by his second wife, Janet, daughter of David Gellatly, factor of Lethendy (MS. Register of C. Roger, Dundee). The surviving sons of Peter Roger and Janet Davidson were James, the elder, afterwards Minister of Dunino, who married Jean Haldane, and his merchant-brother, Charles of Dundee. It is

Davidson,² daughter and eventual heir portioner of Thomas Davidson, tacksman of the lands of Magdalen's Kirktown, in the parish of Mains, and of Milton of Craigie, in the parish of Dundee, and heritable proprietor of Wolflaw, a small estate in the parish of Tamadice and

stated by the historian of the *Norman House of Roger*, that the progenitors of Miss Haldane were *lairds* of "Bermony" in Alyth, who had a free gift of their lands for special service rendered to King James V., &c. The lands of *Bardmoney*, improperly called *Bermony*, do not appear to have been held in free barony, or in whole by any individual as a freeholder of the crown; but were owned by a number of persons styled *portioners*. "Alexander Scott, portioner of Bardmoney, is witness to the Testamentary deed of Jonet Roger in Leitfie, parish of Alyth, in 1599. Another portion appears to have been owned by the Haldane family, not improbably the descendants of William Halden, who, in 1457, had a tack of one half of the lands of Polkak, Blarachnoch, and Achnekathyl, from the Abbey of Coupar. It seems to me in every way improbable that the Haldane portioners of Bardmoney were descended from any Haldane of the stock of Gleneagles.

² Janet Davidson had two sisters, one called Grizel, (a widow), who became the first wife of Convener Charles Roger, Dundee, (cousin-German of Peter Roger), by whom she had no issue, another called Margaret, who married James Neish, brewer, the grandfather of James Neish of Laws, a retired Dundee merchant, and William Neish of Lincoln's Inn, Esq. Those gentlemen do not, however, as stated by Dr. Roger, *represent* the Neish family. Most people know that no family is represented by its collateral branches during the continuance of the direct line. This is one of Dr. Roger's vagaries, both in regard to himself and others. One of the grand-daughters of James Neish and Margaret Davidson is Mrs. Elizabeth Walker of Ravensby.

county of Forfar.³ Thomas Davidson was related by descent to a family of the name who long occupied a prominent position as merchants and magistrates of the town of Dundee, and who acquired in heritage the lands of Balgay.⁴ Robert Davidson, of Balgay, married Elizabeth, daughter of Walter, first Graham of Duntrune⁵ by his wife Elizabeth, daughter of David Guthrie, of that ilk, and niece of Sir John Blair, of Balgillo, who, with much probability, was the grandson of David Blair, Cellarer of the Monastery of Coupar, and the maternal relative of William Roger, first portioner of Coupargrange.⁶

³ Thomas Davidson was a large grazing-farmer. He occupied as grazing farms, his own property of Wolfaw, and the two farms which he rented.

⁴ MS. Register of C. Roger, Dundee, and Parochial Records of Dundee.

⁵ Family Record of the Grahams of Duntrune, (transcript by C. Roger, Dundee). Walter Graham was the second son of William Graham of Claypots. His elder brother, George Graham of Claverhouse, was the grandfather of Major-Gen. John Graham of Claverhouse, created Viscount Dundee, (*Family Record of the Grahams of Duntrune*).

⁶ Augt. 20, 1601, William Roger, portioner of Coupargrange, is witness to a sasine in favour of Grizzel Heton, spouse of Alexander Blair, son of William Blair of Balgillo. (*Secretary's Register of Sasines for Perth*. Vol. I. fol. 27.) William Blair appears to have been the maternal uncle of William Roger, and son of David Blair, Cellarer and Chamberlain of the Monastery

In regard to the Provost of Glasgow of the Roger name, I have only learnt the additional fact, to be found at page 122 of McUre's History of Glasgow, printed in 1736, namely, that his daughter Elizabeth married Zacharias Murdoch, one of the sons of Patrick Murdoch, merchant in Glasgow. "Zacharias Murdoch, the other son of the deceased Patrick and his spouse, was married to Elizabeth Roger, daughter lawful to the deceased Robert Roger, late Provost of Glasgow, and has issue, viz., Robert Murdoch, writer in the town clerk's chamber, and Zacharias, and several hopeful daughters, viz., Jean, Mary, Elizabeth, Margaret, Agnes, and Anne Murdochs; Mary is married to James Campbell, merchant, and the rest not

and Convent of Coupar. Sir John Blair was the son of William. The seal of William Blair of Balgillo is given at No. 105 of Mr. Henry Laing's 2nd. Vol. of *Ancient Scottish Seals*, viz., a chevron between three annulets. In chief a mullet. "S' Guilielmi Blair de Balgillos"—appended to reversion of the lands of Reidcastle and Inverkeillor, in Forfarshire A.D. 1607. H.M. Gen. Reg. House. The Cellarer of an Abbey was generally but not always a monk or member of the priesthood. "Dominus Rogerus Cellerarius" was translated in 1236 to the dignity of Abbot of Newbottle. It is however very evident that the Cellarers of the Monastery of Coupar were laymen, and that they each exercised the function of Steward or Factor to the Abbey. "The Cellarer had other duties besides those of the cellar, being often the accountant of the house as well as its cashier."—COSMO INNES, *Scotch Legal Antiquities*.

as yet married." So writes the garrulous historian of St. Mungo.

The surname Roger occurs in the public records of Scotland in the orthography of *Roger*, *Rogear*, and *Rodger*, and is not found in any other.⁷ By vulgar error of the notary, the form last cited is often used convertibly with the other surname *Roger*. I have, however, already given my reasons for believing that the two names were *ab origine* distinct. They are so now beyond all question.

⁷ "The Coupargrange *branch*"—Dr. Roger tells us—"long maintained the original spelling, but the present representative has adopted the English form." It would be nearer the truth to say the Coupargrange Rogers have always spelt the name *Roger*, with a single exception, that exception being himself. If the "Norman" historian be "Chief" of any "House of Roger," it must be the "House" at Westwood Park, called "Grampian Lodge." His statement that he is the "present representative" of the Roger tenants of Coupar is an *unfounded assumption*.

