

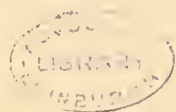
THE HOUSE
OF
GLENDINNING.

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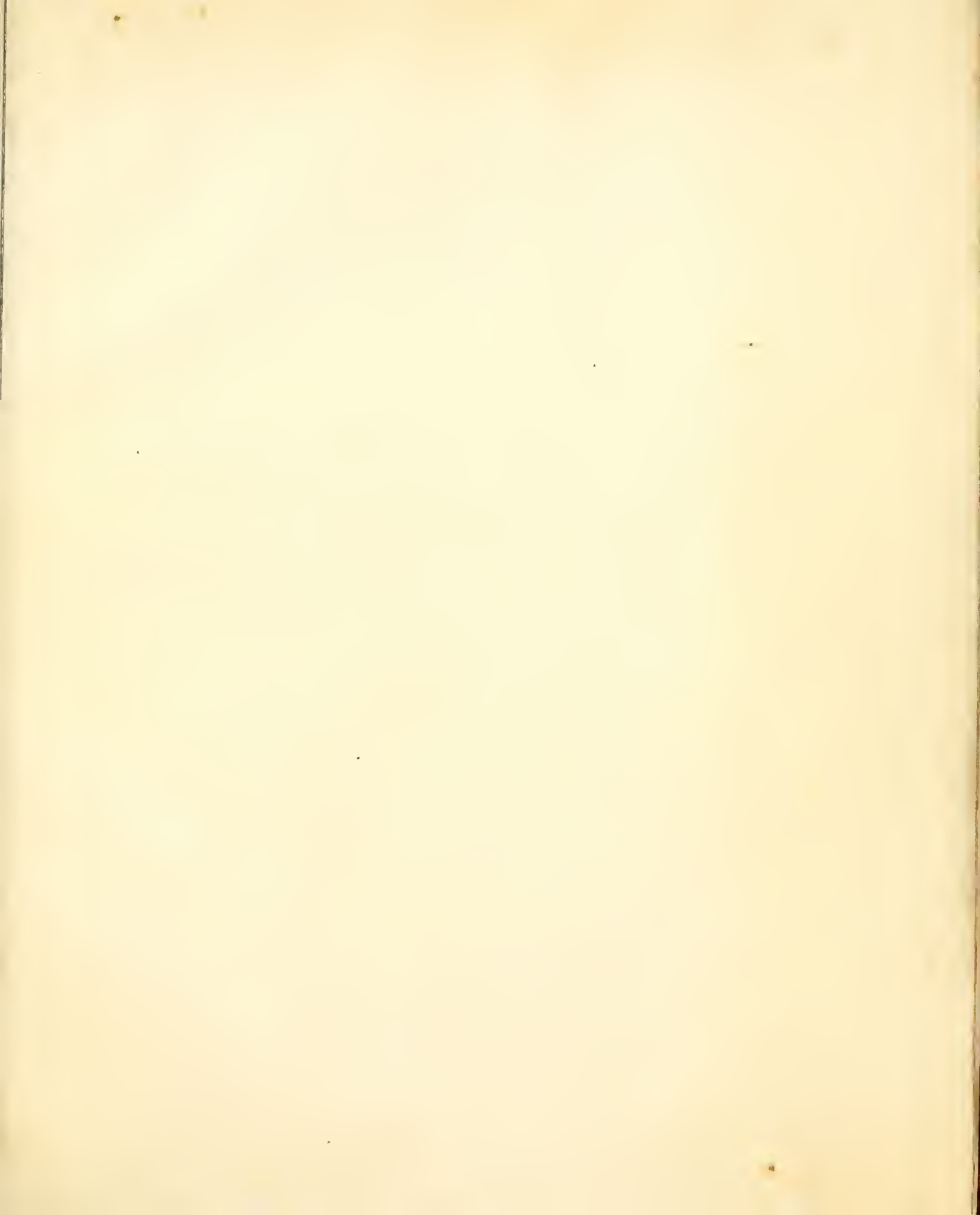
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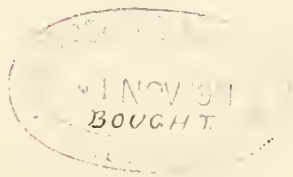
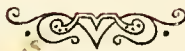


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THE
HOUSE OF GLENDINNING



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THE HOUSE OF GLENDINNING.

ACCORDING to the account given in Douglas's *Baronage*, and also in Anderson's *Scottish Nation*, Glendinning, formerly spelt Glendonning, anciently Glendonwyn, is a surname derived from "the territory known of old by that name," which comprehended "a considerable district" of Eskdale, Ewis, Liddesdale, and the west of Roxburghshire. Any inquiry into the origin of the family so denominated may be postponed to another occasion. The succession of the early Barons of Glendinning, heads of the house in question, is given in the following order by the authorities above mentioned, or rather by the first of them. Anderson, as far as he goes, only echoes the statements of his predecessor. Neither account of the family is anything like perfect, I believe; and that contained in Nisbet's *System of Heraldry* is still more defective. "There have been some brave men of this family," he tells us. "A house of ancient descent and of superior consequence, including members who fought at Bannockburn and Otterburn," says Sir Walter Scott. A generation may be omitted, or more than one, in the earlier part of the family history. Altogether the record of them is somewhat meagre and obscure. No name can be more ancient.

I.

ADAM GLENDINNING of Glendinning was a nobleman of the time of King Alexander the Third; was proprietor of the territory or estates in question; and was descended, by unbroken male line, from a namesake who lived before the Flood, infest in the same lands, the ancestor of many royal and

imperial families. Knight or Lord of Glendinning, his existence is certain enough, but there are few remaining traces of his life and actions. The reign of that good king came to a mournful close in the year 1286. Previous to that date, the Lord of Glendinning received from M'Gill of M'Gill a charter, in which that chieftain presented him with certain lands, in return for valuable advice and assistance. The nature of the "counsel and aid" Glendinning had lent are not specified. Nor is the year of the charter mentioned: only it is dated in the reign of King Alexander, and signed by noble witnesses known to have lived then, one of them being Sir Alexander Lindsay, Lord Chamberlain, ancestor of the Earls of Crawford. This ancient baron—who lived, I suppose, more or less comfortably, "like a good old Scottish gentleman all of the olden time," at Glendonwyn, now *Glendiven*, on the banks of the Ewis—had one son; I find no more mentioned. The Glendinnings had also castles or towers at Glendinning, in Westerkirk, and other places once in their possession. Which of them was the original residence is not very clear.

II.

SIR ADAM GLENDINNING.—Represented as the son of the former, certainly his successor, son, grandson, or nephew, this brave knight is described as "a faithful adherent of King Robert Bruce, and the constant companion of Sir James Douglas." From that great king he received more than one charter, in which a title to lands was conferred or confirmed, by way of reward for "many faithful services." Bruce reigned from 1306 to 1328; the said Sir Adam flourished during that period. This should be noticed, in connection with a generation that has been left out in the family record. Apparently there has been such an omission.

III.

ADAM GLENDINNING of Glendinning.—Either the former knight, or a successor of the same name omitted in the *Baronage*, was disgraced, came to

grief somehow before the end of the said reign, or in the succeeding one. By a charter of the time of David Bruce—date 1363—the lands in Teviotdale, forfeited by Adam Glendinning, are given to another individual, Henry de Ashkirk. The house did not fall; if so, it soon rose again, whatever may have been the Christian name of the representative. One of those early Lords of Glendinning had married a daughter of Sir John Towers of Towers, a noble Anglo-Norman family, who had settled in the east of Scotland. Another had to wife the daughter of Wauchope of Wauchope, an ancient knightly and baronial family too; and the lands of Wauchope eventually came into the possession of the Glendinnings by inheritance that way. The common border name Waugh is an abbreviation of Wauchope; the Waughs are sprung from the Wauchopes, and have the same arms. An old branch of the Lindsays, descended from Sir Simon Lindsay, contemporary with the first Adam Glendinning, long possessed part of the lands of Wauchopdale. I could not “redd marches” between them. Next came four distinguished brothers, the sons or grandsons of Bruce’s Sir Adam—

1. Sir Adam, of whom more presently.
2. Sir Simon, a valiant knight, who fell at Otterburn.
3. Matthew, Bishop of Glasgow from 1387 to 1408.
4. Sir John, one of the conservators of the peace with England in 1398.

IV.

SIR ADAM GLENDINNING.—This brave knight and chieftain, eldest of these four, was also one of the heroes of Otterburn. Sir Simon, his brother, a man of heroic character and military experience, fell by the side of Douglas on that well-contested field. For the particulars, see Froissart, Buchanan, Tytler, and other historians. Sir Adam fought, but did not fall there. Some kind of relationship existed—I have not discovered what or how—between these brothers and the house of Stewart as well as that of Douglas. Sir Simon is called, in one account of that battle, the “kinsman of Douglas,” in

another he is styled the "king's eousin." Be that as it might, Sir Adam Glendinning was always, like his predecessor, a staunch ally of the Douglas. He was on the best terms, particularly with the third Earl, renowned as Archibald the Grim. By a deed of the great and grim Earl, dated at Glendonwyn, subsequent to the fight at Otterburn, Sir Adam devoted a portion of his lands at Hawick to maintain a chapel at Byken, in Eskdale. This was given, the charter says, for the good of the souls of his friend James Earl of Douglas, and of his brother Sir Simon Glendinning, and also for the good of his own soul and his wife's. Darwin and John Knox! am I descended from Roman Catholics? The name of the lady in question was Margaret: she was sister to James Douglas, Lord of Dalkeith, ancestor of the Earls of Morton. Along with his brother-in-law, Sir Henry Douglas, Sir Adam was sent on one occasion as an envoy to the Court of Richard of England, then residing in the north of France. This Sir Adam seems to have been much employed about the Court of King Robert the Third, being a witness to many of the charters granted by that king. By the will of Alexander Wauehope, Sir Adam was his heir. He died in 1397, and had three or four sons—

1. Sir Simon, his suecessor.
2. William, mentioned as the brother of Sir Simon in the Rolls of Scotland; omitted in Douglas's *Baronage*.
3. Matthew, mentioned by Douglas.
4. (?) Thomas Glendinning, witness to a deed of Bishop Matthew, may have been a son of Sir Adam. Thomas Douglas was the name of a brother of Lady Margaret.

V.

SIR SIMON GLENDINNING.—He was undoubtedly "the son and heir of Sir Adam of Glendinning." He had "a share in the achievements of both the third and the fourth Earls of Douglas," and "was concerned in all their transactions." Sir Simon is called "a man of spirit and great parts;" courage

and abilities, we would say now. In 1398 he became, with his uncle Sir John, security to the English King for keeping the peace on the Border. He had from King Henry the Fourth a safe-conduct to travel through England, in company with other knights, in 1405. In 1406, again, he received two safe-conducts to go to the English Court along with the sons of the Earl of Douglas and other noblemen. Also, in an indenture made between the English king and Archibald, the fourth Earl of Douglas, dated London, 14th March 1407, Sir Simon is one of the witnesses. In 1408, when that heroic but unfortunate Earl obtained leave to go home to Scotland on giving security for his return, his own two sons, Archibald and James, along with Sir Simon Glendinning, became hostages for him. While Sir Simon sojourns in the south, his brother William and his servant John Aitken get safe-conducts to go and see him. By the same Earl, his father-in-law, he was made "bailie of the regality of Langholm,—a hereditary office, also held by his son, the next Sir Simon." He seems to have died about the same time with his brother-in-law, Archibald, the fifth Earl of Douglas, before 1440, soon after the assassination of King James I., uncle of the latter. Margaret Stewart, eldest sister of King James, widow of Archibald, the fourth Earl, survived them by a year or two: a princess who has an excellent character. Buried at Lincluden, Duchess of Turenne, "Countess of Douglas, Lady of Galloway and Annandale,"—"is not her sepulchre with us to this day?" Lord Somerville, in his *Memorie of the Somervilles*, a gossiping old writer not always to be depended on, says that in a battle on the Border some ten years later, "the Lord of Glendonwyne" was taken prisoner by the son of the English chieftain of the name Collingwood; whilst, on the other hand, the elder Collingwood was likewise taken by the son of Glendonwyne, who succeeded in rescuing his own father, who afterwards died of his wounds. The story is not necessarily false because the dates, as they are given, do not tally. The same writer states that a Sir Simon Glendinning, one of the three—date not given—married, first wife or second, a lady of the House of Somerville. Possible, but not proved or

mentioned elsewhere, so far as I know. The wife of this Sir Simon, there is abundant evidence, was Lady Mary Douglas, daughter of Archibald, the fourth Earl of Douglas and first Duke of Turenne, and of the Princess Margaret already mentioned. They had several sons—

1. Sir Simon, eldest son and successor.
2. John, who also obtained a charter of some lands, but was forfeited in 1455 for adhering to the Earl of Douglas, with whom he went into exile in England.
3. Bartholomew, parish priest of Westerkirk, deposed by Andrew Bishop of Glasgow, on the accusation, false or true, of non-residence.
4. (?) William Glendinning, rector of Crawfordjohn, often mentioned in the records, contemporary with these brothers, was a cadet certainly, if not also a younger son of the house.

VI.

SIR SIMON GLENDINNING, eldest son of the preceding, was knighted by King James the Second, the history says, and was held in great favour by that king. "Vested with the most extended justiciary powers within his own lands, particularly in Glendonwyn, and with the privilege of regality throughout Eskdale, of which he was hereditary bailie, and heading a hardy and well-trained band of men, Sir Simon was well respected on the Borders," "one of the most potent barons in the kingdom." In 1449 he was one of the guarantees of a treaty of peace with King Henry of England; the other guarantees on that occasion being the Earls of Douglas, Angus, Ross, Moray, and Crawford, and some more. He was again, several times, among the great lords who were guarantees of the peace with the English in subsequent years. Sir Simon kept his ground, evidently did not fall, on the overthrow of his kin the Black Douglases. In 1458, he obtained from the king a confirmation of the barony, baronial rights, and patronage of what is known as the parish of Parton, in the Stewartry of Kirkeudbright. He is styled

thenceforward Sir Simon Glendinning "of that Ilk and Parton." To the latter place, about that period or not long afterwards, the head of the house seems to have transferred his residence; it continued to form their chief baronial seat. One-half of the barony of Westirker, that is Westerkirk, forfeited by Sir William Soulis of Liddesdale, had been given by King Robert the Bruce to the Monks of Melrose; the other half he had bestowed on his friend Sir James the Douglas. The latter part, or no small portion of it, including "the lands of Westirker" in the more limited sense, had now come into the hands of the Glendinning. The wife of this Sir Simon—see the *Baronage*—was Elizabeth Lindsay, daughter to Alexander the second Earl of Crawford. He was the son of the valiant and strong Earl David, whose Countess was a legitimate sister of King Robert the Third. Sir Simon, who died about 1778, and Lady Elizabeth, had several sons—

1. John, eldest son and successor.
2. Alexander, called the father of the Glendinnings of Drumrash, near Kirkcudbright. A line of long-named and strong-headed lairds of that place for some ages rivalled those of Parton.
3. Archibald.
4. Matthew.
5. (?) David.

The last, a warrior who got forfeited about the year 1504, in connection with the slaughter of the laird of Dalziell or somebody, was probably a grandson of the last Sir Simon.

VII.

JOHN GLENDINNING of Glendinning and Parton, succeeded his father in the year I have named. Their lands, enumerated in the *Baronage*, lying in Roxburghshire, Dumfriesshire, and the Stewartry, were at that time very extensive. This baron, who, it appeared, did not condescend to get knighted, married a sister of Lord Sinclair, likewise descended from the Douglas and the Bruce. Is this article becoming too long? The couple in question had

four sons—Bartholomew, Ninian, Simon, and Adam. There is a tragedy here: another time for that.

From the sons of the last Sir Simon, many of the Glendinnings now existing are descended. Matthew, son of the last Sir Adam, is called the ancestor of the Glendinnings of Glenraith; somewhere up the Tweed, is it? John, Sir Simon's brother, who settled in England, was the progenitor of "severals of the name" in that country. Sir Simon had a sister Janet, and there was an earlier lady of the name; each married to somebody: was it a Ross and a Grierson? Janet married Gilbert Grierson, representative of that southern branch of the McGregors, of course; but they had no children, Anderson says. The Ross connection produced a lady, "daughter to Sir John Ross of Renfrew;" she married Sir Roger Coltart of Coltart in 1424. Their son, Sir Roger Coltart, had himself served heir to some "lands of Glendonyn" in his mother's right, and assumed the Glendinning arms, of which more anon. Nay, I should not postpone it. The device is as good as any, and the motto the best in the world. "Have faith in Christ" is the motto; the device *three crosses*, of a complicated and curious construction, hardly recognisable. "The Glendinning arms" may be seen still, I suppose—unless alterations, in part destructive, have taken place in the mansion,—among "the shields of the wardens" figured in a hall at Abbotsford.

I have omitted a number of details that have been preserved, regarding these seven or eight generations of "our race." It is worth remarking that the seventh generation, as given here, namely, the sons of the last Sir Simon, were also the sixth in descent from King Robert Bruce by the side of their mother Elizabeth Lindsay, and the seventh in descent from the same heroic king by the side of Sir Simon Glendinning.

"Clifton, Searsburgh, Breacallow, Walchope, Watsterker, Langholm," as well as "Glendoning," and many more lands too numerous to mention, were,

in the end of the fifteenth century and beginning of the sixteenth, the feudal possessions of John Glendinning, son and successor of the last Sir Simon. Persons who are interested in the subject may be left to modernise the spelling, and identify the places for themselves at their leisure. John's lady was Elizabeth, daughter of William Lord Sinclair, of Dysart and Ravenscraig, a nobleman who had been extravagant in his youth,—“William the Waster” I find him called. Hé was disinherited by his father, the Earl of Caithness and Orkney, who capriciously bequeathed to his second son Oliver immense estates, and to his third son, another William, the earldom of Caithness; I forget how Orkney went. Much of Lord William's life was spent in a contest with his brothers; half-brothers only, I should have stated. In the end he succeeded to a reasonable extent in compelling them to disgorge the prey. Besides recovering part of the property, he made the other two, namely, Sir Oliver of Roslin and William Earl of Caithness, solemnly acknowledge him as their head and chieftain of the name. Having accomplished this, the chronicle says, “he almost immediately died.” When I have added that his mother was the eldest daughter of Archibald Earl of Douglas and the Princess Margaret, and that his paternal grandmother was the only child and heiress of Black William Douglas of Nithsdale and the Princess Egidia, daughter of King Robert II., you have some idea of the personal and ancestral dignity of Wasterful William.

John Glendinning and Lady Elizabeth had four sons: did I mention that before? Adam, the youngest, according to the *Baronage*, got lands in Galloway; he was known as Laird of “Bishopton.” Ninian, the second son of John, succeeded him, not Bartholomew, the eldest; I must explain how that happened. Bartholomew had his residence in Eskdale, and is styled “the Laird of Glendoning.” On one occasion he got robbed of valuable property, including some horses, by Thomas Dinwoodie, who appears to have been caught and punished. On the death of John Lindsay of Wauchope, he went as King's Sheriff, accompanied by his brother Simon, to assign the due third to the widow. While engaged in this business, they were furiously

attacked by young Lindsay and his people, and both of the Glendinnings were slain. Lindsay was forfeited for the deed; his family got restored in the third generation. An old Wauchope tragedy, congenial to that "vale of tears." An account of *it* is given, with a summary of the trial, in the dark but too faithful pages of Pitcairn.

The father of the ill-fated victims, who dwelt at Parton, died about the same time, in the autumn of 1503.

To "instruct the succession" now, as Nisbet would say. Seven generations have been already given.

VIII.

NINIAN GLENDINNING of Glendinning.—The date, year, and season, if not month, of his accession can be thus determined. A precept is granted by "John Glendinning of that Ilk" for infefting "George Madyr in the lands of his grandfather, in the territory of Langton and shire of Roxburgh, of which the Glendinning was lord superior." The deed is dated, Parton, 14th July 1503. Ninian Glendinning, his son and heir, gives a like precept, some months later, to "George Gladstanes of the lands of Gladstanes"—in English, Gladstone. George has no recollection of that; he has forgotten all about it now. It seems to have escaped him; no great affair indeed; you could not expect him to remember a fact so minute, a favour so ancient. Yet that simple act of paternal jurisdiction, feudal justice—or love and law combined—might be the preservation of his family, enabling him to live and prosper. A second tie between Gladstone and Glendinning is, that the former fought, and fell too, as a gallant young man, on the field of Otterburn. A third tie occurs to me, and a *fourth*, which some of your readers may find out perhaps.

Ninian was "an honourable man," but made no figure in the national history. He received various charters of confirmation, under the great seal, of the lands of Scarsburgh, Glendonning, Clifton, Parton, and other lands in the three counties, dated in 1510, 1513, and afterwards between 1528 and 1537. His name appears repeatedly in the records, in connection with the

discharge of certain duties as a country gentleman. His wife was Janet, daughter of Sir John Dunbar of Mochrum, descended from the great Earls of March and Moray, as well as from the Royal Family. They had one son; the current genealogy makes mention of no more.

IX.

JOHN GLENDINNING, "of that Ilk and Parton," duly succeeded his father Ninian; got charters of confirmation as usual; married Isabella Gordon, daughter of Sir Robert of Lochinvar [whence the Viscounts Kenmure]; and had three sons, Alexander, William of Garquhinye, and Simon, who also settled in the west country. George of Laggan "was descended from the last," the *Baronage* says. This Lord of Glendinning, flourishing, without making himself conspicuous, in the lively days of the Reformation, seems to have died in middle age, about 1560.

X.

ALEXANDER GLENDINNING, next chief of the name, is registered as heir to his father in 1572. He got sasine of Templeshiels, Anylton, Castleery, and many other lands in Liddesdale, which had belonged to his grandfather, Ninian.

Alexander was twice married. The first wife was Alison Gordon, daughter of Alexander Gordon of some western seat; was it Troquhane? There was one son of the first marriage, John, who died childless, before his father. The second wife was Nicholas Herries, daughter of Robert, son of Andrew, third Lord Herries. Of this marriage there were three sons, Robert, William, and Simon. The last two died young; Robert alone surviving. There is a contract existing by which John Maxwell, Lord Herries, "the brother of the bride," agrees to pay 9000 merks, in name of tocher, to his sister; and Alexander Glendinning obliges himself to "infest and seize" his son and her in certain lands in Eskdale—"Curcleugh, Megdail, Watsterker, *Daldarran*, Broomholm, Ardkyn,

Langholm," etc. etc.—date 14th January 1605, the actual infeftment taking place 7th August 1606.

XI.

ROBERT GLENDINNING of Glendinning and Parton succeeded his father, who died about that time. He is "retoured heir" to his brother John, and gets a charter to himself as "the only legitimate son"—surviving—of Alexander of Glendinning. He married, as has been more than half told already, Margaret Maxwell, daughter of William, Lord Herries, whose family, a younger branch, afterwards succeeded to the earldom of Nithsdale. They adhered, as the Glendinning likewise did, only too faithfully to the House of Stewart. Douglas mentions one son only.

XII.

JOHN GLENDINNING.—He received a charter to the lands of Parton, date 11th December 1630. The lands of "Glendoning, Daldarran" (the modern Westerhall), etc., by fair sale and purchase I understand, got into the hands of the Johnstone about that period. John married Isabella, daughter of George Seton, second Earl of Wyntoun, and had four sons, George, James, William, and Robert. The marriage is vouched by sundry letters of the Setons to him, and other original documents, by a precept from "John Glendoning" for infefting said Lady Isabella, his spouse, in the barony of Parton. The deed is dated at Seton, 16th February 1629. On the rising of Montrose on the king's side in the spring of 1644, Glendinning boldly joined him. The consequence was that, on the 27th May of the same year, the same John was denounced as "a traitor to God, and a professed enemy to holy religion." He was then outlawed and forfeited. All his goods and gear were sold off by Robert Gordon, commissary of Dumfries, and he sought refuge as an exile on the Continent. Part of his lost property was bought back by friends, however, in behoof of his lady and children.

The Glendinning retired to rest, and fell asleep in the Stewartry. Evidently the Parton stem did. O the easy-osy soul, and drowsy dreaming head of him! Plenty strength, and more than plenty pride, but very little application. Had he possessed the wit to sail with the tide, had he seized his opportunity, had he stood his ground on the Border, nobly stealing and killing and the like, or had he worked his mines, antimony, silver, and particularly gold, which grows there indeed on the surface, abundant as slate stones, in the shape of fleecy animals, he might have been the Duke of Glendinning, lord of the three Galloways, perhaps of the three Lothians too—bidding for the Crown of Germany, richer than a Jew, fresher than the flowers of spring, and—*proprietor and editor of a newspaper!*

Burke says, in his *Landed Gentry*, though “untitled nobility” is the Glendinnings’ class, strictly speaking, “the family is directly descended from King Robert III.” Very true; but not only that, the sons of John Glendinning and Isabella Seton were descended, legitimately enough, from King James II. The Princess Cecilia, younger daughter of that monarch, married William, Lord Crichton. Their daughter, Lady Margaret Crichton, married George, Earl of Rothes. One of their daughters, Helen Leslie, became wife to Mark Kerr, ancestor of the Marquis of Lothian. The daughter of Mark Kerr and Helen Leslie again married William Maxwell, Lord Herries, and their daughter married Robert Glendinning, as above. Some make Helen Leslie daughter to Agnes Somerville, the other wife of George, Earl of Rothes. Crawford, in his *History of the House of Stewart*, says distinctly Margaret Crichton. But again, Isabella Seton was daughter to the Countess of Errol, daughter to the Countess of Morton, Agnes Leslie, another daughter—says Wood’s *Peerage*—of the same Earl George Leslie and Margaret Crichton, daughter of Cecilia Stuart.





