




C/

S. 120. i.

18/6

18/6





Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2012 with funding from  
National Library of Scotland

A BRIEF ACCOUNT

OF THE

IRVINE FAMILY,

COUNTY FERMANAGH.

DUBLIN:

ROBERT T. WHITE, STEAM-PRESS PRINTER,

45 FLEET STREET.



TO MY ELDEST SON,

GERRARD IRVINE,

---

My dear GERRARD.

You were on the 27th May, 1828, ten years old; and I now sit down to write for your future information, when you succeed me in the Rockfield Estate, if GOD spares you to do so, a correct and interesting account of our ancestors, as handed down in the family, and taken from various authentic sources, including a very old Manuscript now lying before me, which gives a short account of the family written by DOCTOR CHRISTOPHER IRVINE, of Edinburgh, Physician General and Historiographer of Scotland, about the year 1680, and sent by him to his brother, Sir GERRARD IRVINE, Bart., of Castle Irvine.

The Castle Irvine Estate, as is usual in the

case of old hereditary properties, has descended regularly in the elder line of our branch of the IRVINE family; but the Rockfield Estate has been handed down to us by direct succession in the younger line for many generations—the greater part of it having been acquired in the reign of King CHARLES II., by WILLIAM IRVINE, Esq., of Ballindullagh, youngest brother of Sir GERRARD and DOCTOR CHRISTOPHER, already mentioned. All three were sons of CHRISTOPHER IRVINE, Esq., my great grandfather's great grandfather (*tritavus*), who was the first of the family that held property in the County Fermanagh, whither he removed from the Borders of Scotland in the reign of King JAMES I.

I intend to show the true and regular succession of the CASTLE IRVINE and ROCKFIELD Lines from their common ancestor, this WILLIAM IRVINE afore-mentioned, who was the great-great-great grandfather (*atavus*) both of WILLIAM D'ARCY IRVINE, of Castle Irvine, and of me. For CHRISTOPHER, the eldest son of this WILLIAM of Ballindullagh, succeeding in the year 1714 to the Castle Irvine Estate,



was WILLIAM D'ARCY's grandfather's grandfather (*abavus*), while JOHN, the second son of this same WILLIAM of Ballindullagh, was, in like manner, my grandfather's grandfather (*abavus*.)

I believe that the following account of the Family is accurate in every material circumstance. I have examined carefully all the old Deeds, Family Documents, &c., within my reach, and these clearly establish the correctness of it, so far as they extend. I have conversed with old COLONEL IRVINE, the grandfather of WILLIAM D'ARCY, and I have received information from GORGES MARCUS IRVINE, WILLIAM D'ARCY's father, now living at Florence, in Italy. My own father, also, GERRARD IRVINE, (your grandfather, after whom you are called,) is now living at Rockfield, where you were born.

After my marriage, which took place on the 4th of January, 1817, I lived at Rockfield until 1st of May, 1820, when your mother, you, and I, removed to Goblusk Cottage, which I built. We there remained until 1st November,

1822, when we removed to England. After our return from England, having put this house of Shamrock Hill in order, we removed here on the 27th January, 1824, where we have continued to live since.

May GOD preserve you, my dear child, may HE give you health and length of years ; may you live whilst here below to HIS honour, and when you die, may you be received up into glory, for JESUS CHRIST, HIS sake.

Your affectionate Father,

JOHN IRVINE.

SHAMROCK HILL,  
15th July, 1828.

# THE IRVINE FAMILY.

---

## CHAPTER I.

---

THE word *Irvine* seems to have been originally the name of a castle, river, and locality in Ayresshire, Scotland, which probably gave its name as a title to the chieftain who owned it, and held dominion over the adjoining territory. The derivation of the word is uncertain, though, whatever may have been its origin, the name itself was of note in Scotland from ancient times. The chieftains of Irvine possessed or ruled of old the tract of country lying to the north of the River Irvine, containing the territory afterwards called Cunningham, where their court or palace was the Castle of Irvine, the site of the modern town of that name in Ayresshire.

It appears that the last of these chieftains was named Crine or Crinan, who flourished during the first half of the eleventh century, that is, from A.D. 1000. This Crine married Beatrice, daughter and heiress of Malcolm II.,

King of Scotland, who began to reign in the year 1004; and his son by her, Duncan, who was at first King of Cumberland under his grandfather Malcolm II., succeeded to the Scottish crown on Malcolm's death, A.D. 1034. King Duncan having inherited the territory of Irvine in Ayreshire, that country became known by the name of Cunning-hame, a word formed from the Teutonic *Koning* and *Hame*, signifying the King's Home.

Duncan was murdered by MacBeth in the year 1040; and his father Crine, endeavouring to avenge his death, was killed in battle against that usurper: but MacBeth was likewise himself killed in battle, A.D. 1057, when the son of Duncan, Malcolm III., who vanquished him, recovered the throne of his father; and thenceforth the lineal descendants of Crine sat on the throne of Scotland till A.D. 1285, when the succession passed to heirs of the crown by female branches.

## CHAPTER II.

---

AT the time that Duncan, son of Crine, was appointed King or Governor of Cumberland by his grandfather Malcolm II., he brought, according to an old traditionary account, certain of his father's brothers or kinsmen with him, who thus settled in that Border region, where they obtained possessions near the River Esk, in the south east of the County Dumfries; and as these gave the name of Irvine to the castles they erected, or places of their abode, after the name of their former seat in Ayresshire, this name of Irvine was thus by their means brought originally into Dumfriesshire; and accordingly from them the descent of the Border Family of Irvine has been traditionally derived.

This tradition is the only explanation or conjecture that has been given to account for the transference of the name of Irvine from Ayresshire to Dumfries, where it certainly became a local name at a very early period; for an ancient castle of Irvine on the Black Esk River existed till the close of the seventeenth century, when it was in ruins; while another

ancient site lower down the Esk, below Langholm, still retains the name of Irvine; and a parish farther on in the same locality, adjoining the River Kirtle, was also anciently called by that name.

But although the name *Irvine* may have been thus originally introduced into Dumfries, as indicated by this traditional account, yet all that seems certain with regard to the origin of the Border Family of Irvine, is, that they were of Teutonic extract, settled at a very early period in Dumfriesshire. The family name, originally De Irvine, was most probably derived from the name of their place or possessions there, which possibly may have been acquired by marriage from a previous local family of Celtic origin.

The territories which this Border family held at first in Eskdale, or about the River Esk, where the name of Irvine locally existed, must have been forfeited or lost by them during the turbulence of the following times. But they continued to hold their possessions in the district about the river Kirtle to a later period. As the principal family had their residence subsequently at Bonshaw, on the Kirtle, this family became known in modern times as the House of Bonshaw; and the ancient peculiar badge or armorial bearing belonging to it from the first, was the prickly bay or holly leaf.

The most ancient form of spelling the name

seems to have been, Eryvine, or Irewin,—the *w* being pronounced as *v*, and written in Latin as *u*. It was then contracted into Erwyne or Erwyn, Irwen, Orwin, Urwen, &c.; in Latin, *Eruius*, *Oruius*, &c. It seems to have been pronounced by the family themselves as if it were written Irving, and thus, too, it was very frequently written; also, Irvinge, Ervinge, Irrewing, &c. In later times the form, Irvine, came to be most generally adopted by the Houses of Bonshaw and Drum.

### CHAPTER III.

---

IN the beginning of the fourteenth century, when Robert Bruce fled from Edward I., King of England, to set up his claim to the crown of Scotland, on crossing out of England over the Scottish borders, he took refuge with De Irvine, the head of that border family. De Irvine, though his position close to the dominions of the King of England left him altogether at the mercy of that monarch, yet gladly received Bruce, and sent one of his sons, Sir William Irvine, at that time but a youth, to accompany him at his departure. Bruce made this Sir William his Secretary, and Squire or Armour-bearer, and gave him the lands of Drum in Aberdeenshire. And from him has descended the Irvine House of Drum, which has ever since held a distinguished position in Scotland.

At the great battle of Harlaw, A.D. 1411, where the Lowland Scotch or those of Teuton origin, fought against the Highlanders or Gaels, Sir Alexander Irvine of Drum was one of the commanders of the Lowlanders, and killed Hector M'Clean, Chief of that clan, who was leading on the Highlanders under Donald of the Isles, the Gaelic Earl of Ross.



His successor, Sir Alexander Irvine, was one of the Commissioners sent by Murdock Stuart, the Regent of Scotland, to the Protector of England, A.D. 1423, to treat of the ransom and liberation of James I., King of Scotland, who had fallen into the hands of the English.

The Lairds of Drum held the position or rank of Barons, among whom they were always classed. But King Charles I. intended to confer the title of Earl of Aberdeen upon Sir Alexander Irvine, Laird of Drum in his reign. This grant, however, was not confirmed in all the necessary legal forms owing to the great rebellion which broke out at that period and overthrew the King's authority. And as this Laird of Drum was a devoted Royalist, he suffered severely during the supremacy of the Covenanters.

His son, Alexander Irvine, next Laird of Drum, was likewise a great sufferer for his loyalty. He had been in arms for the King under the Marquis of Montrose, who had rescued him out of the hands of the Covenanters, and on the defeat of that nobleman he was exposed to their vengeance, which they exercised against him with the utmost rigour. After the Restoration, King Charles II. offered to renew to him the grant of the Earldom of Aberdeen made to his father by King Charles I., when, however, he declined the honour.

Many branches of the Irvine family sprang from the House of Drum.

## CHAPTER IV.

---

FROM the time that Bruce had recovered the independence of Scotland, and driven out the armies of England from Scottish territory, a strong spirit of hostility began to pervade the borders of both kingdoms, which gave rise to the establishment of that chronic system of border warfare that was carried on henceforth for several centuries under its own peculiar laws, usages, &c. Moreover, as this border warfare kept up continually a warlike temper amongst the borderers, they frequently turned their swords against each other, without regard to nationality, by which means a series of private feuds was engendered between the Scottish families within their own borders in addition to their national hostilities against the English beyond. So that in fine, property in that part of Dumfriesshire came, for the most part, to be held by the sword, and the West Marches became a kind of separate dominion, in great measure outside of the sway and protection of the government and laws of the kingdom.

The authority of the crown was often employed in attempting to restrain and suppress

this lawless spirit of the Borderers; and for this purpose an extensive use was made of forfeitures and confiscations, to bring this region into order. But as the power of the State was so much in the hands of the leading nobility, these confiscations ended merely in royal grants of the forfeited lands to influential nobles, who themselves fostered and shared in the lawless spirit that existed.

In this manner a great part of the south-east of Dumfries came by repeated forfeitures into the hands of the Crown. And in the course of the fifteenth century considerable possessions there were made over to the family of Douglas, and again to that of Hume. And in the beginning of the sixteenth century like extensive grants were made to the Maxwells, a border family and clan which had then come into much favor at Court.

During these commotions the Irvines suffered greatly. Their possessions lay in the front line of the border warfare, not only surrounded by their intestine enemies, but exposed to the continual inroads and invasions of the English, as the Scotch border on that side lay open to England, whilst its low and fertile character invited their approach. Instead of rising, therefore, like other families into positions of eminence, they lost ground under the continual devastations, burnings, "reift and slaughter" of that border land, to

which they were so especially subject, and in meeting which all their energies were exhausted ; and, as they sometimes engaged in arms against the Crown or those who held its authority, they were, when defeated, punished as rebels by the confiscation of their lands.

Christopher Irvine, Laird of Bonshaw, who was head of the family in the beginning of the sixteenth century, commanded a body of light horsemen, of his tenants, retainers, clansmen, &c., in the last expedition of King James IV. into England, which ended in the battle of Flowden or Flodden Field (9th Sept., 1513)—so disastrous to the Scotch—where he fell and most of his kinsmen perished at the same time. He was succeeded by his son, Christopher Irvine, the next Laird.

After the battle of Flodden Field, the English invaded and desolated the border regions of Dumfries ; and this country became henceforth the scene of much disorder. Many of the inferior persons of the different clans broke loose from the restraints of their lairds or chieftains and formed lawless bands of disorganized or “broken” men, as they were termed, that filled the borders on both sides with violence and pillage. And the chieftains or lairds, to keep up, for the purpose of carrying on their private feuds, as much as possible, the number of their armed followers, often supported these outlaws and shielded them

from punishment. And this conduct in a measure, involved the whole border territory in a spirit of violence, while the Lord Wardens appointed by the Crown were either unwilling or unable to check the evil, or adopted the same course themselves.

The war with England which led to the battle of Solway Moss, 24th November, 1542, proved very disastrous to the West Scottish Marches, especially as the death of the king, James V., took place immediately after. For the English army, following up their victory, occupied the adjoining portions of Dumfriesshire, wasting and plundering that whole country. And for many years in succession invasions of this devoted territory by the English constantly took place, so that all property was destroyed and the inhabitants reduced to great distress.

Again, in the year 1547, on the demise of King Henry VIII. of England, the war broke out afresh with renewed violence. The Duke of Somerset, the Protector, in order to enforce the marriage of Mary, the young Queen of Scotland, with Edward VI. of England, aimed at the complete subjection of Scotland; and to quell the hostility of the Borderers, the County of Dumfries was occupied and in fact annexed for the time to England; for the Borderers, being left entirely to their own resources, were unable to make head against the

powerful English armies that invaded them, and so were compelled to give in their adherence to the Crown of England, and submit to the English yoke.

In the course of this war Bonshaw was taken, plundered, and burnt to the ground. The Laird, who seems to have been disabled from age, died about this time ;\* but others of his family, Christopher, Cuthbert, and Geoffrey, were actively engaged in fighting against the English. Christopher, his eldest son, who succeeded to Bonshaw, had submitted to England at first, but he afterwards rebelled against that power, and joined with the Maxwells and others in raising the standard of resistance and taking the field against the invaders. The Earl of Lennox at the head of the English army hastened to attack the confederates, who gave him battle at Dalswinton, near Dumfries. Christopher Irvine was in advance in command of the Light Horsemen of the Scotch army, and on the arrival of the English he charged into their ranks and defeated their first array ; but in endeavouring to carry on

\* Some genealogical accounts state that one of the Laids of Bonshaw was killed at Solway Moss. If so it must have been this Laird. But as the statement seems to refer to his son who was killed at Dalswinton, it is most likely a mistake of names, arising from the similarity between the battle of Solway Moss, whose name was well known, and that fought near Dalswinton, which was very little known, in later days.

this success, he assailed the main body, when he was surrounded and with his Light Horsemen cut to pieces before the Scotch infantry, under Maxwell, came up; and the latter, seeing the disaster of their Light Horse, were seized with a panic, and fled, leaving the English masters of the country. Christopher Irvine was buried at Gretna, and his son Edward succeeded him in Bonshaw.

## CHAPTER V.

---

FROM the year 1550 peace prevailed between England and Scotland, and thenceforward the people of both countries became gradually more and more united. But the Borderers did not immediately reap all the benefits of this change. The cessation of national hostilities led at first to a revival of the family feuds waged against each other, which had been hitherto restrained under the long-continued war with England. An old hereditary feud had existed between the Irvines and the Bells, a potent border clan. In the course of this feud the Bells were compelled to lean for support on the Carlyles, another border family. Still the Irvines had the advantage in the contest, which, however, ceased about the middle of this century, and ended in an alliance between the three families engaged. The Irvines had also hostilities of lesser importance with other clans, but the greatest of all their feuds was with the Maxwells, the most powerful of the West Border clans, and this lasted to the end of the century. The grants made by the Crown to the Maxwell family included Eskdale, Ewisdale, Wauchopdale, &c., and comprized the confiscated lands that formerly



belonged to the Irvines. This brought the two clans into collision, and was the origin of the feud between them. But so extensive were the grants of territory bestowed upon the Maxwells, that, supported as they were by the favor of the Crown, they became quite an overmatch for any of the other border families. As the preponderance they had thus acquired threatened to overturn the balance of power in Dumfriesshire, the hostility of the Johnstons, the strongest of the other border clans, was in an especial degree roused against them, and the Irvines and others entered into a combination with the Johnstons to withstand them. In effect an alliance was formed of the greater part of the East Dumfries families—the Johnstons, the Carlyles, the Irvines, the Bells, the Elliotts, the Græmes, the Armstrongs, &c.—under the leadership of Johnston, against the Maxwells and the families of West Dumfries who supported them, and it filled all Dumfriesshire with a civil war during the remainder of this century.

At this period the Reformation had spread widely over both England and Scotland; but owing to the distracted state of the Western Borders, it failed at first in securing any footing there. In fact the turbulent spirit of these Borderers, who were quite occupied in carrying on war with each other, unfitted them for the task of investigating questions of doctrine. They therefore regarded the controversy in a



political point of view. As their enemies, the English, on the one hand, and those in power in Scotland on the other, whom they looked on as a faction hostile to themselves, were Protestants, they took the side of Rome. And in the civil war that broke out between Queen Mary and her insurgent subjects, the Irvines adhered to her cause, as did all the principal families of the Western Marches, including both of the leading hostile clans, the Maxwells and Johnstons. On this account the Earl of Murray, Regent of Scotland, after he had defeated Queen Mary and driven her into England, led an army into Dumfriesshire and thus secured the submission of the chief Border families to his authority.

. But this submission was only temporary, as the Borderers still remained loyal to Queen Mary, and took up arms again in her cause. A great combination had been organized on Mary's behalf against the Crown of Elizabeth, Queen of England, not only throughout Great Britain, but in foreign countries, enflamed by zeal for the Church of Rome; and the conspiracy broke out at this juncture in a dangerous rebellion of the Roman Catholics in the North of England. As these rebels were in concert with the adherents of Queen Mary in Scotland, no sooner had Elizabeth subdued them, than she seized the opportunity to crush the Borderers of the Western Marches of Scotland.

Accordingly English armies invaded that region in force, contrary to the peace that existed between the two kingdoms, and wasted it with fire and sword. On this occasion Bonshaw was as usual taken by the English, sacked and burnt to the ground.

Edward Irvine of Bonshaw was of a turbulent and warlike character, like all the other lairds or chieftains of that period. He was succeeded by his son Christopher Irvine, a still more turbulent chieftain, known in early life amongst the Borderers, by the title of "Black Christie," not however from anything *black* in a moral point of view, but from his appearance in armour.\* He is said to have entertained King James VI. at Bonshaw in 1588, but as he was brother-in-law to the Laird of Johnston, chief of that clan, he was continually involved in the rebellions and treasons of the Johnstons.

The war between the Johnstons and Maxwells occupied the West Marches during the concluding portion of the sixteenth century.

\* "Black Christie" seems to have resided at Robgill, and at Annan, during his father's lifetime, a circumstance that has probably led to his being described in several genealogical accounts as the *brother* of Edward of Bonshaw, instead of his *son*. It appeared necessary to distinguish Christopher of Robgill, who flourished as "Black Christie" cotemporary with Edward of Bonshaw, from Christopher of Bonshaw, who succeeded him as Laird, though these descriptions applied to the same person at different periods of his life.

Lord Maxwell had reached the summit of his power when as Lord Warden of the Marches he was enabled to denounce his enemies as traitors, and wield the authority of the Crown against them. The consequence was that in 1584 Dumfriesshire was reduced to a desert, and as the Maxwells prevailed in the contest Lockwood Castle, the residence of the Laird of Johnston, was beseiged, taken, and burnt to the ground. The Laird of Johnston escaped thence with difficulty to Christopher Irvine and found refuge with him at Bonshaw. Lord Maxwell, elated with success, pursued him there, and laid siege to Bonshaw, which, however, was able to hold out till terms of peace were agreed upon, through the mediation of the English Lord Warden, and a temporary respite given to the war. King James VI. made repeated visits to Dumfries to heal this dissension and quiet the country, but he had no better resource than to take part with the stronger side. As he thus continued to support the Maxwells, the Johnstons and their allies became exasperated, and in 1592 joined with Stuart, Earl of Bothwell, in his treasonable enterprizes against King James. Both the Laird of Johnston and Christopher Irvine of Bonshaw entered into this rebellion; but as it was suppressed, the effect was only to attach the King more decidedly to the Maxwell faction. Accordingly in 1593 Lord Maxwell, under

sanction of the royal authority, assembled a large army to make war again upon Johnston and his confederates, when he was attacked by them with greatly inferior forces, but with such desperate valour that he was himself killed and his army routed, though ten times the number of that of the confederates. In 1595 another pitched battle was fought by the contending factions, and the Maxwells were again defeated. Johnston having thus decidedly obtained the upper hand, the King had to recognize his supremacy and appoint him Lord Warden of the Marches. But such was the oppression in turn with which he and the allies conducted themselves, now that they were in power, that King James was compelled to visit Dumfries in 1597 and restore order in person, when he took hostages from the Johnstons, the Irvines, and the rest of the confederate clans to ensure the peace of the country.

The accession of this Prince, however, to the throne of England, in 1603, enabled him at last to act with effect in quelling the disorders of this Border land. The measure was then adopted of destroying all the iron "yetts" of the border castles which, with some other corresponding steps, put an end to the unruly independence of the chieftains, with all their wars and alliances. Still for a hundred years afterwards the old lawless spirit lingered

amongst the lower orders, and appeared in the number of moss troopers that infested the country. But these gradually dispersed when the woods that sheltered them were cut down, and all finally disappeared before the increasing power of the law, and the spread of civilization.

## CHAPTER VI.

---

CHRISTOPHER IRVINE, Laird of Bonshaw, known previously as "Black Christie," married Margaret, daughter of the Laird of Johnston, and was succeeded by his eldest son Edward Irvine, of Stapleton, ancestor of the Bonshaw family, who married Mable, daughter of Graham of Eske. His second son, John Irvine of Robgill, married Mary, daughter of Johnston, Laird of Newbie, and died at an early age, leaving a son Christopher. This latter Christopher Irvine was intended for the Bar, and as the accession of King James VI. to the throne of England led many Scotchmen into that country, he entered the Temple in London with the view of becoming a lawyer or advocate as it is termed in Scotland. He was connected with the Carletons, an English Border family of Cumberland, and the Carletons were related to the Lowthers, some of whom were high in the legal profession in England.

But in the year 1610 King James appointed one of the latter, Gerard Lowther, to be a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in Ireland. And this circumstance led to the settlement in that country, not only of Gerard Lowther himself, but also of his relatives, Lancelot

Carleton and Christopher Irvine, thus changing the destiny which the latter had intended for himself. For at this period the Plantation of Ulster was in operation; the extensive tracts of land forfeited in the rebellion of O'Neil, Earl of Tyrone, were disposed of by the Crown to British undertakers, to whom they were conveyed and transferred from one to another. These conveyances and transfers were confirmed by Royal Letters Patent, and by the Lords Justices and Council of Ireland, through the Commissioners appointed for the Plantation. Accordingly in this manner, Gerard Lowther, Christopher Irvine, and Lancelot Carleton, obtained property together in Ireland in the year 1613. Their lands which adjoined each other were situated near the Lower Lake Erne in the Barony of Coolemakernan or Lurg, County of Fermanagh.

Christopher Irvine remained for some time uncertain about settling permanently in Ireland. At first he lived for a short time at Lettermony, from whence he removed to the town of Enniskillen, where many of the English and Scotch undertakers, who had property in the county Fermanagh, resided at that time. For the open country was as yet in a wild unsettled state, and the Irish natives disturbed and uncivilized, whereas Enniskillen was secure, defended by a castle and garrison, with all its inhabitants either English or Scotch. But at last he settled at Partagh, Lowthers-



town, a place lately founded by Gerard Lowther, its previous owner.

For this Gerard, or rather Sir Gerard Lowther as he had been knighted in 1618, died in 1624. And his successor, Richard Lowther of Lowtherstown, dying in 1631 was succeeded again there by a second Sir Gerard Lowther, Knight, a Baron of the Irish Exchequer, and afterwards Chief Justice of the Common Pleas in Ireland. As he had no children and wished to reside altogether in Dublin, he disposed of all his property in the County Fermanagh to Christopher Irvine for a term of years. This step was a preparatory measure to the purchase of the Lowther property in perpetuity, which took place some years later, when it was finally transferred from the Lowther to the Irvine family.

But no sooner had Christopher Irvine fixed his residence at Lowtherstown, which in subsequent times was called Irvinestown, than the great Irish Rebellion broke out in 1641, and the whole Plantation in Fermanagh was ruined for the time. On the 23rd October of that year the Irish Roman Catholics, at the instigation of their priests, assailed the Protestant and British settlers with the greatest treachery, and perpetrated a series of the most cruel massacres. At first they spared the families of Scottish origin, and concentrated their efforts in the destruction of the English inhabitants, and then after this they assailed

the Scotch with the same atrocity. Meanwhile, however, to such of the Scotch as seized the opportunity, this temporary respite offered the means of safety in escaping to Scotland or to some other place of refuge. And though Christopher Irvine thus escaped, his property in Fermanagh was utterly destroyed and his house near Lowtherstown burnt to the ground.

And this Irish Rebellion was soon followed by other calamities. The whole British Empire was in fact convulsed at this period by the Great Rebellion or civil war between King Charles I. and the Parliament. And when the King was overthrown, the Royalists had to submit to fines, confiscations, imprisonments, exile, and oftentimes the sacrifice of their lives, as the penalty of their defeat. In this conflict the Irvine family in all its branches, including Christopher Irvine and his sons, took the side of the King, and had accordingly to suffer severely for their loyalty.

Christopher Irvine died in 1666, and was buried with his wife, Blanche, daughter of Edward Irvine, Laird of Bonshaw, in the family burying place in the grave yard of the Church at Lowtherstown or Irvinestown. He left surviving three sons, Christopher of Edinburgh, who was heir to his father in Scotland, Gerard of Ardstraw, County Tyrone, who succeeded him as head of the family in Ireland, and William of Ballindullagh, County Fermanagh.

## CHAPTER VII.

---

GERARD IRVINE, the second son of Christopher Irvine, was distinguished for his services against the rebels during the Irish Rebellion of 1641. He was at that time Captain of a troop of Horse in the army of King Charles I. He was engaged in the defence of Enniskillen against the insurgent Irish, and continued afterwards in arms against the forces of the Roman Catholic League. In the great civil war between the King and the Parliament, he remained to the last steady in his allegiance on the King's side. When the Parliament or Revolutionary Government had gained the ascendancy, he still refused to submit, but along with Sir Robert Stuart and others in the North West of Ireland, carried on the contest against both the Irish Roman Catholic insurgents on one hand, and the Parliamentary Revolutionists on the other. And having on one occasion fallen into the hands of the latter, he was, according to the vindictive measures adopted in the course of that conflict, condemned to be put to death by Sir Charles Coote, who had gone over to the winning side, and was then Parliamentary Governor of

Londonderry. But while awaiting the execution of this sentence in Londonderry, Captain Irvine was rescued by means of a party of his friends who surprised and disarmed the guards of one of the gates of the town, as well as those of the gaol in which he was imprisoned.

When King Charles II. was restored to the throne of Scotland in 1650, and when in consequence of this, the war broke out afresh between the Scotch and the English under Cromwell, Gerard Irvine crossed over to Scotland to join the Royal Army, and was appointed by King Charles, Lieutenant-Colonel of Sir Arthur Forbes' Regiment. He served during that campaign, and after the battle of Worcester, so fatal to the Royal cause, he retired along with Lord Glencairn and others to the Highlands, where they continued to carry on the war for some time longer, till all resistance was useless.

Colonel Irvine then returned to Ireland, and remained in privacy there during the Commonwealth or Protectorate of Oliver Cromwell. He resided at Ardstraw, County Tyrone, till his father's death, when he returned to Fermanagh. He rebuilt Castle Partagh or Irvine, as it was commonly called, and greatly improved the town of Irvinestown which now belonged to him. He was J.P. for the Counties of Fermanagh and Tyrone, served as High Sheriff of Fermanagh in 1672, and

was created a Baronet by King Charles II. in 1677.

Sir Gerard Irvine married (1stly) Catherine Cathcart, daughter of Adam Cathcart of Bandonagh, and (2ndly) Mary Hamilton, daughter of William Hamilton, Laird of Blair. By this last marriage he had three sons, Christopher, Charles, and Gerard.

Christopher, his eldest son, born 1654, married Deborah Blennerhasset, daughter of Henry Blennerhasset of Castle Hasset, M.P. for the County Fermanagh. He died, however, without issue in 1680.

Charles, Sir Gerard's second son, was an officer in the Horse of the Army of King Charles II. He died unmarried in 1684.

His third son, Gerard, died also unmarried at an early age. All Sir Gerard's sons, thus, died without posterity in his own life time. Lady Irvine, his wife, died in 1685.

At the beginning of the Revolution in 1688, Sir Gerard remained faithful in his allegiance to King James II. He refused, accordingly, to join in the insurrectionary movement, that took place throughout the North of Ireland, against the authority of the Lord Lieutenant, Tyrconnel. And when the Enniskilleners, with the Fermanagh gentry, united together for purposes of defence, he declined at first to join with them. On this account, and because of the personal esteem with which he was re-

garded by King James, his name was not inserted in the Act of Attainder against Protestants, passed by that Prince in his Irish Parliament, while he reigned at Dublin in 1689.

But when the conduct of King James and his adherents showed plainly that the real aim of the Irish Government was to eradicate Protestantism, and to establish Popery on the ruins of the Protestant population, Sir Gerard resolved to declare for King William. At this time the Protestants of the North were engaged in open warfare with the Irish Government. They had proclaimed William III. King, in Enniskillen and Londonderry, which were the only places of strength in all Ireland that were able to hold out against King James. Londonderry was now beleaguered by the Irish army, and many attempts were made, but without success, against Enniskillen. While the siege of Londonderry was being carried on, the Duke of Berwick, one of James' Generals, was sent thence with a force to attack Enniskillen. As the road from Londonderry passed near Castle Irvine, Sir Gerard had that place prepared for defence. He assembled and armed his tenants, and permitted those who lived in the neighbourhood to gather in their effects under the protection of the Castle. The Duke of Berwick, on his arrival at Kilskeery, was impeded in his advance by this unexpected resistance on Sir Gerard's part, and as the

force he had with him was not large enough to divide with safety, he withdrew to Trillick, where he lay encamped for some days. At length he made a sudden advance upon Enniskillen by way of Ballinamallard, avoiding Castle Irvine, and defeated the Enniskillen troops, which had been drawn out to oppose him, at Cornagrade. But though the way was now open to him to follow up his success, by an assault upon Enniskillen, or by laying siege to that town, he did not think it prudent to hazard the attempt, with Sir Gerard in arms at Castle Irvine in his rear, able to cut off his communications and intercept his retreat. Immediately after the engagement of Cornagrade, he withdrew hastily, retiring the same day to his camp at Trillick, from whence he retreated to Derry.

Sir Gerard now formed and equipped a body of Horse, of his tenants, about 200 strong, and taking the field, placed himself under the orders of Major General Kirke, who had just relieved Londonderry, and in communication with Colonel Wolseley, whom Kirke had sent to command the army at Enniskillen. Kirke had landed three regiments of infantry at Derry, and was anxious to proceed at once to meet Duke Schomberg at Belfast, who was coming from England with all the troops that could be spared, to make head against King James. For this purpose Kirke required the

assistance of some Horse from Enniskillen, and had applied to Wolseley to send them. Accordingly Sir Gerard marched, with his body of Horse, and those supplied by Wolsely, to Londonderry, and on his joining General Kirke there soon after the beginning of August, he was sent on with them towards Newtownlimavady (as that country was still held by King James' troops), to enable Kirke and the infantry to follow. But on the arrival of the Enniskillen Horse at Newtownlimavady, the enemy dispersed on every side, so that Sir Gerard proceeded without delay to occupy the important post of Coleraine, and secure the bridge over the Bann there. On Kirke's reaching that town he advanced cautiously towards Belfast, sending on Sir Gerard and the Horse before him, to feel his way. The latter came into communication with Duke Schomberg while he was engaged in the siege of Carrickfergus, just before its fall, on the 27th of August, and Kirke himself with the Infantry joined the Duke some days later. Sir Gerard and the Enniskillen Horse were likewise employed by Duke Schomberg, as an advance guard before the army, in his march to Dundalk, where the whole army encamped. But the effort had proved too much for Sir Gerard's declining strength. His health gave way completely on his arrival at Dundalk, and he died in the Camp there, early in October, 1689. He was



buried in the Chancel of the Parish Church in that town.

---

As Sir Gerard had several sons when he was created a Baronet, it was assumed that the title would descend in his own direct line. No reversion, therefore, was made in favor of his brothers, in the original grant. Accordingly, since it turned out that all his sons died before himself, without issue, the Baronetcy became extinct upon his death.

His brother, Dr. Christopher Irvine of Edinburgh, who, as heir-at-law, succeeded him in the Castle Irvine estates, was a Jacobite in politics; he came, thus, under suspicion, as hostile to the Government that had come into power on the overthrow of James II. A revival of the Baronetcy in his favor was, therefore, out of question.

Dr. Christopher Irvine's heir, again, was his son and successor, Dr. Christopher Irvine Jun., who, having no issue to succeed him, did not take any steps to have the Baronetcy restored.

And this lapse proved fatal to its recovery. When Dr. Christopher Irvine Jun. died, his heir-at-law and next of kin was his cousin, Colonel Christopher Irvine, eldest son of William Irvine, Sir Gerard's youngest brother. As such he succeeded him at Castle Irvine, in the year when King George I. ascended the throne. And the Government having then come per-

manently into the hands of the Whigs, these showed no disposition to confer favors on Tory families. And afterwards, again, Colonel Irvine's grandson, Colonel William Irvine, having taken a leading part in the Irish Volunteer movement of the latter part of the eighteenth century, became particularly obnoxious to the Government of that period, when the Whig monopoly of power had passed away.

The Baronetcy has therefore remained in abeyance ever since Sir Gerard's death, and has not as yet been legally revived in favor of his heirs.

## CHAPTER VIII.

---

SIR GERARD IRVINE was succeeded at Castle Irvine by his eldest brother, Dr. Christopher Irvine of Edinburgh, who had always resided in Scotland. He had devoted himself to literature, and was appointed at an early age a Professor in the College of Edinburgh, where he was distinguished as a Historian and Antiquarian.

During the political commotions of the reign of Charles I., he adhered to the side of the King, and was strongly opposed to the Revolutionary faction. By profession a Protestant of the Episcopal Church, he never swerved, either towards Presbyterianism, when it was all powerful during the Great Rebellion, or towards Romanism, when it became afterwards the passport to royal favors.

When the Revolution in Scotland had reached its climax, and the Solemn League and Covenant was imposed by the Presbyterians, in opposition to the Royal authority, he refused it. On this account he was expelled from the College, prosecuted for malignancy or loyalty to the Crown, and banished the kingdom. He thus suffered for his loyalty like the rest of the Irvine family—confiscation, exile, imprisonment, and other in

juries. While on the Continent he took the Degree of M.D., and now adopted the profession of a physician.

After the restoration of King Charles II. in 1660, he took up his abode at Edinburgh, where he was appointed Physician General to the Estates of Scotland, and Historiographer Royal.

When James, Duke of York, the King's brother, visited Edinburgh in 1679, Dr. Irvine was sent by him, as a personal friend, on a secret mission, to bring several of the nobility and persons of influence to an understanding, in support of the Duke's succession to the Crown, and against the measure of exclusion from the throne that had been so widely supported at that period, on account of the Duke's attachment to the Roman Catholic Religion. And when this Prince afterwards, as King James II., lost his Crown for the same reason, Dr. Irvine continued, nevertheless, loyal to his cause, and kept up zealously his connection with the Jacobite party, or those who were disaffected to the Government of the Revolution.

Dr. Irvine married Margaret Wishart, daughter of the Laird of Pittarow, by whom he had two sons, Christopher and James.

On the death of Sir Gerard in 1689, Dr. Irvine, as his next male heir, succeeded to his property in Ireland, but he died soon afterwards, in 1693.

His eldest son, Christopher, who succeeded him, was born in 1642. He resided much on the Continent in his early days, where he also took the Degree of M.D., and was Honorary Physician to King Charles II. But as he was firmly attached to the Protestant Religion, he found the way to advancement under King James II. closed against him, though he had intimate connections with the Court at Edinburgh. He, therefore, retired to Fermanagh, and in 1689 accompanied his uncle, Sir Gerard, in his march to Londonderry, and across the North of Ireland, to join Duke Schomberg at Carrickfergus.

In 1693 he succeeded, on his father's death, to the Castle Irvine estates. And in 1695 he was elected M.P. for the County Fermanagh, Colonel Abraham Crichton of Crom Castle, who had been returned for the County in 1692, yielding to him. Dr. Irvine continued to represent Fermanagh during the reign of William III., and till near the end of the reign of Queen Anne, when he retired from ill health in 1713.

He married Phœbe, daughter of Sir George Hume Bart., of Castle Hume, County Fermanagh, and died without issue, at Castle Irvine, in 1714, when he was succeeded by his cousin and next heir, Colonel Christopher Irvine, eldest son of William Irvine of Ballindullagh.

## CHAPTER IX.

---

As the succession, in the case of the elder sons of Christopher Irvine who first settled in Ireland, failed from want of issue, the heirship of the family descended to the line of his youngest son, William, from whom the House of Castle Irvine is derived.

William Irvine, like the rest of his family, was engaged on the King's side in the great civil war of that time. He was a Lieutenant of Horse in the royal army, and served under General Middleton, in the campaign that followed the accession of King Charles II to the throne of Scotland in 1650. He was present at the battle of Worcester, 3rd September 1651, in which he was wounded.

After this he returned to Ireland, and resided at Ballindullagh, near Castle Irvine, in the County Fermanagh. He married Elizabeth Gledstanes, daughter of Colonel Hubert Gledstanes, Governor of Walgast, an officer who had served under Gustavus Adolphus, King of Sweden. He acquired the Lack estate, after his father's death, and that near Maguire's-bridge, in Fermanagh, for which county he was J.P. and served as High Sheriff in 1681.

In the civil war that broke out under King

James II, William Irvine from the first embraced the cause of the Prince of Orange, and joined with the Enniskilleners in their gallant resistance to the arbitrary and illegal measures of the Irish Government, and in their proclaiming of William III. King. Accordingly, when the Act of Attainder was passed, in the Parliament held under James II at Dublin in 1689, he and his eldest son, Christopher, were attainted, and their property confiscated.

William Irvine died at Ballindullagh in 1691, and was buried in the Church of Irvinestown, beside his wife, by whom he left four sons, Christopher, John, Charles, and Lancelot.

1. Christopher, his eldest son, was a Captain in the Army, and afterwards attained the Honorary or Militia rank of Colonel. After he retired from the Service, he lived at Cules, till he succeeded to Castle Irvine in 1714. He married (1) Mary Bernard, daughter of Rev. Dr. Bernard, and (2), in 1693, Dorothy Brett, daughter of Jeffrey Brett. He was heir-general of the Irvine family, and ancestor of its eldest branch, the line of Castle Irvine. He died in 1723.

2. John, second son of William Irvine, was also a Captain in the Army. He married (1) Elizabeth Hamilton, and (2) Catherine Carleton, daughter of his cousin, Lancelot Carleton of Rossfad. He succeeded his father at

Ballindullagh in 1691, and afterwards when his eldest brother removed to Castle Irvine in 1714, he succeeded him at Cules. He was ancestor of the Rockfield line of the Irvine family, and died in 1716.

3. Charles, third surviving son of William Irvine, was a Lieutenant-Colonel in the Army, and served in the Continental wars under Marlborough. He married in 1698 Margaret King, sister of Dr. William King, Archbishop of Dublin. After he retired from the army, he lived in England, and died at London without issue in 1745.

4. Lancelot, the fourth son of William Irvine, was Lieutenant in Colonel Wolseley's Regiment of Enniskilleners. He died unmarried in 1701.

William Irvine also married, secondly, Anne Armstrong, by whom he left another son, Captain Gerard Irvine, of Green Hill, County Fermanagh, who married Alice Forster, and died without issue in 1755.

On the death of Dr. Christopher Irvine Jun. of Castle Irvine, 9th May, 1714, Christopher, the eldest son of William Irvine, as already stated, obtained possession of the Castle Irvine estates. He did so, owing to his being next of kin and heir-at-law of the deceased Dr. Irvine. But his actual right to these estates was disputed by Guy Carleton, eldest surviving son of Lancelot Carleton of Rossfad, on



the ground of a settlement made in favor of the latter by Dr. Christopher Irvine Sen., who died in 1693. For Dr. Christopher Irvine Sen., when in possession after Sir Gerard's death, had made a settlement, in 1692, excluding his brother William's family (the right heirs), who were loyal to King William III., and conveying these estates to his nephew Lancelot Carleton, who alone of the family was a Jacobite like himself. To defeat, then, this claim of Guy Carleton, Colonel Christopher Irvine had to fall back on the known intention of Sir Gerard to entail the estates on the right lineal heirs, and a supposed previous settlement made by Sir Gerard thus in his favor by will. This dispute led to a family contest and proceedings at law, which ended at last in an arbitration, by which the Irvine property was divided between the two antagonists. Castle Irvine and the Irvinestown portion of it, was awarded to Christopher Irvine, as the right heir by birth, while the other portion, including the town of Lisnarick, was assigned to Guy Carleton, in respect of his claim under the settlement made by Dr. Irvine Sen.

## CONCLUSION.

---

THE descent of the two branches of the IRVINE family—the lines of Castle Irvine and of Rockfield—from their common ancestor, WILLIAM IRVINE, ESQ., younger brother of SIR GERRARD IRVINE, BART., of Castle Irvine, is thus traced:

### I.

#### THE LINE OF CASTLE IRVINE.

COLONEL CHRISTOPHER IRVINE, eldest son of WILLIAM IRVINE, ESQ., of Ballindullagh, who succeeded his cousin DR. IRVINE, at Castle Irvine, 9th May, 1714, was the ancestor of the Line of CASTLE IRVINE. He was High Sheriff of Fermanagh in 1716. By a settlement made on the 29th July, 1718, previous to his son's marriage, he settled the Castle Irvine estate by reversion, after his own descendants, on his brother CAPTAIN JOHN IRVINE's heirs. He died in 1723, leaving two sons, CHRISTOPHER and CHARLES.

His eldest son, CHRISTOPHER IRVINE, ESQ., born 15th April 1697, succeeded him at Castle Irvine. He was High Sheriff of Fermanagh in 1725, and married (1), 1st August, 1718, DORCAS, daughter of COLONEL ALEXANDER MONTGOMERY of Bellyleck, and (2), in 1727, ELINOR, daughter and eventually heiress of

AUDLEY MERVYN, ESQ. of Castle Mervyn. He died in the winter of 1754, leaving two sons, WILLIAM and HENRY.

His eldest son, COLONEL WILLIAM IRVINE, born 15th July, 1734, succeeded him. He was High Sheriff of Fermanagh in 1758, and of Tyrone in 1768. He was M.P. for Ratoath from the year 1769. He presided at the celebrated meeting of the Irish Volunteers in Dungannon, which was of such political importance to the kingdom, 12th February, 1788. He married (1) FLORA COLE, daughter of LORD MOUNT FLORENCE, by whom he had a son, CHRISTOPHER, who died in infancy, and (2) SOPHIA, daughter of GORGES LOWTHER, ESQ. of Kilrue, M.P. for the county of Meath, by whom he had eight sons, GORGES, WILLIAM, CHRISTOPHER, HENRY, GEORGE, AUDLEY, JOHN, and HUGH. He died in the summer of 1813, and was succeeded by his eldest surviving son, MAJOR GORGES MARCUS IRVINE of Castle Irvine, now living at Florence, in Italy.

## II.

### THE LINE OF ROCKFIELD.

CAPTAIN JOHN IRVINE, second son of WILLIAM IRVINE, ESQ. of Ballindullagh, and brother of COLONEL CHRISTOPHER IRVINE of Castle Irvine, was ancestor of the ROCKFIELD branch of the Family. He inherited from his father the Lack estate, &c., and acquired that of

Killadeas. In 1715 he settled his property by reversion, after his own sons, on his eldest brother, COLONEL CHRISTOPHER, and his heirs. He died at Cules, in the winter of 1716, and was buried beside his first wife, in the family vault, at Irvinestown Church, leaving two sons, CHRISTOPHER and JOHN.

His eldest son, MAJOR CHRISTOPHER IRVINE, succeeded him. He was High Sheriff of Fermanagh in 1734, and built the house of Rockfield soon after. He married JANE, daughter of REV. WILLIAM GREEN, Rector of Killesher, and died at Cules, in 1760, leaving two sons, JOHN and GERRARD.

His eldest son, MAJOR JOHN IRVINE, succeeded him. He was High Sheriff of Fermanagh in 1763, and married, in 1745, CATHERINE, daughter of DOCTOR JOSEPH STORY, Bishop of Kilmore. He died at Rockfield, in the spring of 1787, leaving three sons, JOSEPH, GERRARD, and WILLIAM.

The eldest son, JOSEPH IRVINE, ESQ., succeeded him. He distinguished himself in his educational career at Trinity College, Dublin, but from the year 1768 he became mentally affected, so that on his father's death he had to become a ward of the Court of Chancery. He died unmarried in the spring of 1797, and was succeeded by his next brother, CAPTAIN GERRARD IRVINE, now living at Rockfield.

CHRISTOPHER, LAIRD OF BONSHAW,  
m. Margaret Johnston,  
died 1604.

---

JOHN,  
m. Mary Johnston,  
died 1593.

---

CHRISTOPHER,  
*Removed to Co. Fermanagh*, 1613,  
m. Blanche Irvine,  
died 1666.

---

DR. CHRISTOPHER, SENR.  
*Of Edinburgh*,  
m. Margaret Wishart,  
died 1693.

---

SIR G  
m. (1) Ca  
,, (2) M  
c

DR. CHRISTOPHER, JUNR.  
*M.P. Co. Fermanagh*,  
m. Phœbe Blennerhasset,  
died s.p. 1714.

JAMES,  
*Of Dumfries*,  
m. — Maxwell,  
of the Nithisdale Family.  
died 1688.

---

CH  
m. Debor  
died

CHRISTOPHER,  
died *unn.*

<p>SIR GERARD, BART.  <i>m.</i> (1) Catherine Cathcart,  <i>m.</i> (2) Mary Hamilton,  died 1689.</p>	<p>LANCELOT,  died <i>unn.</i></p>	<p>WILLIAM,  <i>Of Ballindullagh,</i>  <i>m.</i> Elizabeth Gledstan  died 1691.</p>	
<p>CHRISTOPHER,  <i>m.</i> Deborah Blennerhasset,  died, s.p. 1680.</p>	<p>CHARLES,  died <i>unn.</i></p>	<p>GERARD,  died <i>unn.</i></p>	<p>COL. CHRISTOPHEI  <i>(The Castle Irvine li.</i>  <i>m.</i> (1) Mary Bernard,  ,, (2) Dorothy Anna I  died 1723.</p>
			<p>CHRISTOPHER,  <i>m.</i> (1) Dorcas Montgor,  ,, (2) Elinor Mervy  died 1754.</p>
			<p>WILLIAM,  <i>m.</i> (1) Flora Cole,  ,, (2) Sophia Lowt  died 1813.</p>
			<p>GORGES MARCUS.  <i>m.</i> Elizabeth D'Arc</p>
			<p>WILLIAM D'ARCY.  <i>m.</i> Maria Brooke.</p>

*note. John  
George*

*(The  
m. (1) Eli  
,, (2) Ca  
d*

*CH  
m.  
.*

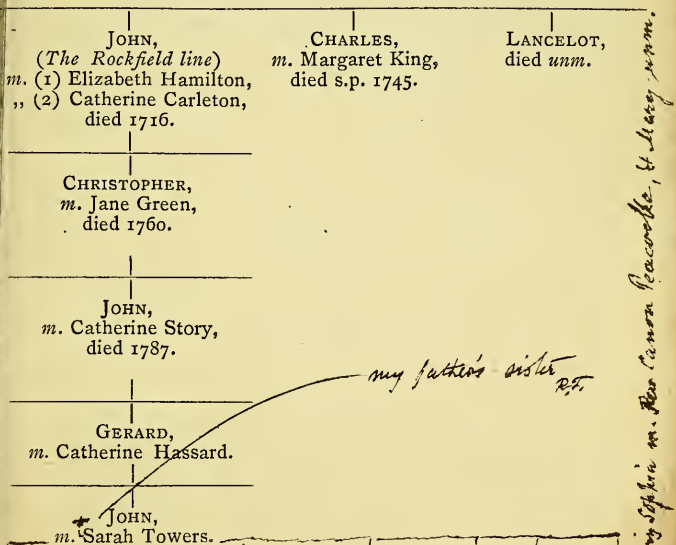
*m. C*

*m. Ca*

*m.*

*1813, J  
1801, C*

ste. John, the present head of the Rockfield line, has changed the name of Rockfield to Hilladeas.



my father's sister R.F.  
my father's m. Rev Canon Peacocke, St Mary's m.m.

card. John of Hilladeas. m. Catherine Carleton. died 1716. Arthur. Duncan, Charles C.E.  
 m.m. C.E. Ferronagh. in holy orders. in holy orders. Capt 17. 18. both 1/2 p. 2 daughters











