

VI.

CAMBUSLANG: SOME NOTES ON ITS EARLY LORDS—THE BARONS OF DRUMSARGARD, AND OTHER LANDOWNERS. BY JOSEPH BAIN, F.S.A. Scot.

The history of this parish, like that of many others, is yet to be written, and now that the public records are being made fully accessible by Government, the materials are gradually gathered for the future historian. Hitherto any one writing on such subjects, especially when treating of the succession to land—always an interesting chapter of parochial history—has been generally obliged to resort for his authorities to old peerage and other books, often full of gross errors.

These reflections occurred to me in lately reading an excellent essay, "Cambuslang, a Sketch of the Place and the People, by J. T. T. Brown, Glasgow, 1884." The account of the early landowners,¹ drawn from Crawford's Peerage (*voce* Bothwell), is however so incorrect, that it is worth while placing the true account from actual record in a connected form.

I do not know what ground Crawford had for saying that Walter Olifard, justiciar of Lothian in the reign of Alexander II., owned the barony of Drumsargard. He no doubt owned the barony of Bothwell, closely adjoining, being only separated by the Clyde and a part of the barony of Blantyre. Bothwell, with many other lands in Scotland, and some in England, was carried by an heiress, probably his daughter or grand-daughter, about the middle of the thirteenth century, into the family of de Moravia or Moray. For in 1293, William of Moray

¹ Pp. 13, 69.

panetarius Scocie, lord of Bothwell, appears in some transactions regarding the churches of Smalham and Walston (*Reg. Glasg.*). He was the heir, and probably the son of Walter of Moray, previous owner of Bothwell, who by a document enrolled in the Public Records¹ had given Derevergulla, widow of David Olifard, the liferent of a manor in Lincolnshire. It may have been a transaction connected with her dower in Bothwell. Hence Crawford's further statement that Drumsargard passed from Walter Olifard, with Bothwell, to the Morays, by marriage with Mary, daughter of Malis Earl of Stratherne, early in the fourteenth century, is quite erroneous. So too is his genealogy of the Lords of Bothwell. He makes Sir William Moray of Bothwell owner of Drumsargard also, and gives him two sons—(1) Sir Andrew Moray, who (he says) was killed at Stirling in 1297 (leaving a son Andrew, the colleague of Wallace, and future regent); and (2) Sir John Moray of Drumsargard. His authority for this being a "MS. history in the hands of Abercairny."

Whereas the real facts about Sir William Moray of Bothwell are—that he did homage to Edward I. in 1291 and 1296, was forfeited for having been in arms against him, and died a prisoner on parole in England before November 1300, *without heirs of his body*. That he had a younger brother, Sir Andrew, who died shortly before him, and a nephew Andrew, the son of this last, who was killed at Stirling in 1297. The son of this younger Andrew, a posthumous child also named Andrew, was at Whitsunday 1300 only two years old. *He* was the heir of Bothwell, the future regent, and brother-in-law of Robert Bruce, and with his descendants, Bothwell remained till appropriated, there is not much doubt, in some illegal way, by Archibald Douglas, lord of Galloway, about 1361, or soon after.²

Reverting to Drumsargard, there was no Sir "John" Moray, as stated by Crawford. But Sir "William" Moray of Drumsargard was contemporary with, and distinct from Sir William of Bothwell. He appears

¹ *Calendar of Documents (Scotland)*, vol. ii. No. 725.

² If the Papal records are correct, this barony was carried off from its right heirs, by marriage of the *widow*, not the *daughter* of Thomas Moray, last of the direct line. (Theiner's *Vetera Monumenta*.)

on the Ragman Roll in 1296, and can be identified by his seal, still existing—three mullets, 2 and 1, on a shield, with a rose at either side, perhaps for difference. And after making peace with Edward I. (for he too had taken arms), he had a writ from the English Chancery on 20th March 1303–4, to get back some lands in Northumberland. He thus survived Sir William of Bothwell by at least three years—how much longer I do not know. The next lord of Drumsargard appears to be John Moray, who is said, by Nisbet,¹ to have granted a charter of the barony of Ballencrieff in favour of his future wife Mary, daughter of Malise, Earl of Stratherne. This deed appears to have no date; but as Ballencrieff belonged to Sir Henry Pinkeny (brother of a claimant to the Crown), probably till Bannockburn, it may have been confiscated by Bruce about that time and given to this John Moray. Maurice Moray, perhaps the son of John, was owner of part of Ballencrieff about 1335,² probably the same person as Maurice Moray of Drumsargard, who became Earl of Stratherne, and fell at the battle of Neville's Cross or Durham in 1346.

In the reign of Robert II. (1371–1390) two lords of Drumsargard are recorded,—Walter Moray, to whom that king grants a charter of Ardromy, in the barony of Banff, Perthshire (Robertson, *Index*, p. 117, No. 74); and Alexander Moray, who in 1375 entered into an indenture with Eupheme Ross, the queen, and her son David, for their assistance to enable him to recover his inheritance (hereditas). This deed is quoted in Crawford's *Peerage* (p. 42), as among the Abercairney charters. Mr Riddell, who notices it in his *Stewartiana* (p. 89), ridicules the notion that this "inheritance" was Bothwell. But he was then advocating the claim of another branch of the Morays to the chiefship of Bothwell, and besides was not aware that Drumsargard was a distinct house before 1296, and must therefore have come off the main stock several generations earlier than was known, till the late republication of the Ragman Roll in connection with the yet existing seals.

At this point—the last quarter of the fourteenth century—I can trace the possessors of Drumsargard with no certainty for a generation. It

¹ *Heraldry*, vol. i. p. 253.

² Original Roll of Exchequer (Public Record Office).

could not have come into the possession of the Douglasses in 1370, by marriage of Archibald the Grim, and Johanna, daughter (or widow) of Thomas Moray of Bothwell.¹ The Douglasses probably got possession of it in some irregular fashion, somewhat later, during the weak reign of Robert III. The first notice I see of their ownership, is a charter by Archibald, fourth Earl of Douglas, to John of Park and Janet Chisholme his wife, of the lands of Gilbertfield, in the barony of Drumsargard. It has no date, but is granted at his Castle of Bothwell. Andrew Stuart, who found it in the charter chest of his relatives the Stuarts of Castlemilk (*History* p. 324), considered it to have been granted about 1411. The Earl was made prisoner at Homildon in September 1402, and was kept in England, with short intervals, for nine or ten years, and it may have been granted during one of these intervals.² The Douglasses held the barony till they were forfeited in 1455, when James, first Lord Hamilton, obtained it,³ and with the Hamilton family it still remains.

Before adverting to the lands outside of the barony, it may be remarked, that so early as 1296, one small freeholder existed in Cambuslang, who has hitherto escaped notice. This was "Hugh Croket of Kameslank,"⁴ who appears on the Ragman Roll with others of Lanarkshire. His seal, with the punning device of a squirrel eating, is still preserved. Hugh is certainly the earliest known freeholder of the barony, and it is very likely that the tenement of "Crookedshield" within it took its name from him. A William Croket, of the adjoining parish of Kilbride, also appears on the roll. His seal is also still preserved.

Besides these feus of Gilbertfield and Crookedshields, the next in point of antiquity is Lethrig or Lettrick. Sir John of St Clair, lord of Lethrig, is a witness to a charter by Archibald, Earl of Douglas, granted at Edinburgh in 12th March 1420-21, in favour of Archibald of Hepburn, brother german of Adam of Hepburn, lord of Hales, of

¹ As stated in *Essay on Cambuslang*, p. 69.

² This deed may probably have got into the Castlemilk papers for this reason. Archibald Douglas, the previous Earl, was owner of the barony of Carmunnock, which adjoins Drumsargard on the south-west, in 1388 (Exchequer Rolls).

³ *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. ii. No. 601.

⁴ A spelling closely resembling the local pronunciation of the word.

the lands of Flemington, in the barony of Drumsargard. In later times several of these feus, with other parts of the barony, *e.g.*, Newton, Westburn, Greenlees, Spital, &c., were granted to cadets of the Hamilton family; but I believe all have reverted to the Duke by purchase or otherwise, except Newton and Spital, the former belonging to Mr Hamilton Montgomery, the latter to the family of Jackson, old feuars in the adjoining barony of Blantyre.

The other estate forming the remainder of the modern parish, but not within the barony, cannot be traced quite so far back. This is Coats *alias* Nobles-farm, a £5 land of old extent, in one place called the East Ferme of Rutherglen. This is in the Register of Paisley (p. 107), where it is said that Master John of Merton, rector of Cambuslang in 1394, had ineffectually claimed the tithes as a pertinent of the chapel of the B.V. Mary of Cambuslang. This evidently refers to the foundation (or augmentation) of a previous rector, William of Monypeny, who mortified an annualrent of 6 marks which he had acquired from Sir William of Dalvulle, knight, charged on the above estate, for a chaplain celebrating in the said chapel. Crawford (*Remarks on Ragman Roll*) says that in 1467 a family called Noble had a charter of these lands. James V. confirmed on 14th July 1537 a charter by James Nobill of Nobillis-ferme, in favour of Walter Crawford of Ferme, and Mariota Maxwell his wife, of his land of Nobillis-ferme, *vic.* Lanark, the reddendo being 6 marks yearly of blench farm to the chaplain of the B.V. Mary of Nobillis-ferme. (*Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. ii. new edition. No. 1688.) They subsequently passed with an heiress, Christian Craufurd, shortly after 1600, to her husband Sir Walter Stewart of Mynto, and remained with that family for fifty or sixty years, when they were sold to the Hamilton family, who still possess them. It seems more than probable that they were originally part of the parish of Rutherglen, and have been at some date now unknown disjoined from it and added to Cambuslang. Even now a part of the boundary of these two parishes is not properly defined for a considerable distance. A glance at Forrest's excellent map of the county of Lanark shows that the barony of Drumsargard has a well-defined water boundary at nearly all the points of the compass; while Coats, without a single natural

boundary except where it touches Drumsargard, has quite the look of a piece cut out of the parish of Rutherglen. I feel much inclined to think that originally, the barony of Drumsargard and the parish of Cambuslang were co-extensive, notwithstanding some opinions to the contrary.

With a word or two on the origin of the name I may close. Though no Gaelic scholar, the derivation given in the old Statistical Account as the "ridge of the parched height," is far inferior, in a common-sense point of view, to Druim-sagart—"the priest's hill," which I see is the one favoured by the Rev. Mr Blair, the parish minister of Cambuslang. No one who knows the place can fail to see its appropriateness. On the gentle slopes surrounding the mound on which the old Castle once stood, the people of the district could with ease witness the rites of a worship doubtless older than Christianity; and St Cadoc, said to have been the first Christian missionary, may very likely have as usual adopted the spot where the pagans worshipped, till the lord of the land provided him or his successors with the site where a church has stood for centuries, the Kirk-hill of Cambuslang.