

II.

THE ARMORIAL TOMBSTONE OF LADY JONET KER AT RESTALRIG,
1596. By WILLIAM DOUGLAS, F.S.A.Scot.

In the little building at Restalrig, now known as St Triduana's Well, there is a large armorial stone (fig. 1) commemorating the death of Jonet Ker, Lady Restalrig, in 1596. It measures 6 feet 5 inches by 3 feet 2 inches, and is in a good state of preservation, with the exception that one of the corners, bearing a few words of the inscription, has been broken off and is not to be found.

The inscription running round the margin now reads: "... NE · HONORABLE · LADY · IONET · KER · LADY RESTALRIG · QUHA · DEPÆRTIT · YIS · . . . AII . . . 6. I. K.," and it encloses an heraldic shield of a somewhat fanciful pattern. The arms displayed are those of Robert Logan, the sixth laird of Restalrig, impaled with those of Ker.

It would seem an easy matter, from the information here given, to identify the persons referred to, but the deeper one digs into the Logan pedigree the more tangled does it become. The doom of forfeiture pronounced over the dug-up body of Logan in 1609 still exercises an influence to confound the genealogist. By that doom the name, memory, and dignity of the deceased Robert Logan were extinct and abolished, his arms cancelled, rivine and deleted from the Books of Arms, and his posterity excluded from enjoying any office, land, or rights within this kingdom.¹

On the stone the Logan Arms are quartered thus: 1st and 4th, three piles in point for Logan. These Arms were on the Logan Seals at the

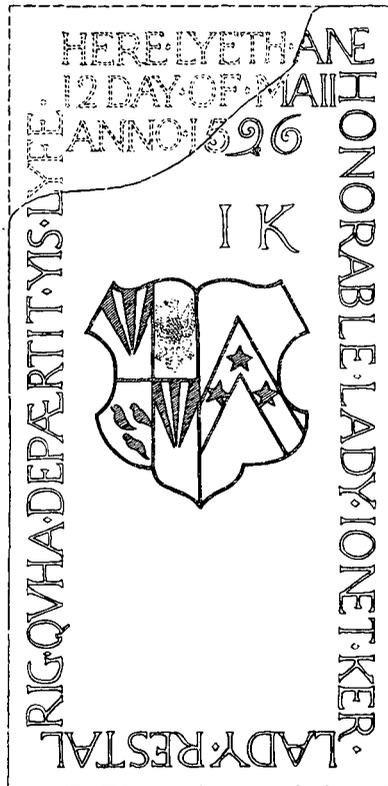


Fig. 1. Tombstone of Lady Jonet Ker.
Drawn by S. T. Calder, October 1927.

¹ Pitcairn's *Criminal Trials*, vol. ii. p. 291.

time of the *Ragman Roll*, and were also illustrated in the *Armorial de Berry* (fig. 2), and were borne by the 1st, 4th, and 5th Logans of Restalrig without any addition.

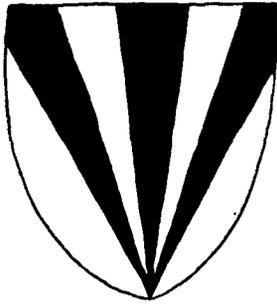


Fig. 2. The Logan Arms.
From *Armorial de Berry*
(1450), Stodart, vol. i. plate
viii.

On the 2nd quarter, an eagle displayed is, as will be explained later for Lestalrig.

On the 3rd quarter, the three papingoes are for Pepdie and Home. Nichola Pepdie, heiress of an ancient Border family the Pepdie of Dunglass, married in the fourteenth century Sir Thomas Home, grandfather of Sir Alexander Home, who founded in 1403 the collegiate church of Dunglass, and whose descendant Elizabeth Home, daughter and co-heiress of Cuthbert Home of Fastcastle, married before 1553¹ the fifth Logan of Restalrig. Her son Robert quartered the Home papingoes on his shield in 1542. The other co-heiress, Alison Home, married Walter Ogilvy of Dunlugas, and their descendants also quartered the Home papingoes on their shields.

The Ker Arms are three five-pointed mullets on a chevron—the Arms of the chief family of that name.

In order to identify the seven Logan lairds and their wives, the following list is given. The dates inserted after their names are not necessarily those of birth and death, but record the first and last reference to them.

1. SIR ROBERT LOGAN (1394–1440) was the first of the Logan family to be designed “of Lestalyrk.” The earliest instance of this is when the name “Roberto Logane domino de Lestalyrk” appeared, among other knights, in witnessing a charter of John Herries of Terregles of June 12, 1397.² Tradition says that he acquired the lands of Restalrig through marriage with a daughter of the last Baron of the ancient family of Lestalrig. Probably Sir Robert was a direct descendant of John de Logan, a follower of Bruce, who was in consequence dispossessed by King Edward I. of the lands of Grougar,³ for Sir Robert held these same lands in 1394.⁴ Certain writers⁵ on the family have claimed a lineal connection with Adam de Logan, who witnessed a charter of Alexander II.,⁶ with Walter Logan of the county of Lanark and Thurbardus de Logan of the county of Dumfries who appear in the *Ragman Roll*, and with the two worthy knights Sir Robert and Sir

¹ *Scots Peerage*, vol. iv. p. 451.

² *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. i. App. I. No. 157.

³ *Cal. of Doc.*, vol. ii. pp. 425 and 428.

⁴ *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. ii. No. 1411.

⁵ A. Thomson in his book *Coldingham*, App. xxxviii., and others.

⁶ *Liber de Scon.*, p. 41.

Walter Logan who died with Douglas on the fields of Spain, and who gained the immortal honour of being named by Barbour, but for such claim no evidence has been produced that merits serious consideration.

Sir Robert seems to have married three times, but there is a mystery about his wives. The facts are elusive, and it is only by inference that their names can be ascertained.

His first wife seems to have been a sister of King Robert III., for he is designed by that king "dilecto fratri suo" in a charter of 1394.¹ The pros and cons have been discussed by Dr Burnett in his Introduction to the fourth volume of the *Exchequer Rolls*, but as the seven lawful daughters of Robert II. have been otherwise married, he leaves the matter unsettled.

His second marriage seems to have been to Giles, daughter of Lord Somerville, but the date of it is unknown. The story of this marriage is told in that curious book *Memorie of the Somervilles*,² and runs thus:—"His second daughter, named Geillis after his ladyes mother, he marryes upon Sir Robert Logan laird of Restalrig, who had in portione with her the lands of Finningtoun, Becry-hill and Heathry-hill all lying within the barronie of Cambusnethen, and parishen ther of." Giles' elder sister married in 1427 and her younger in 1435, so dates allow her to have been Sir Robert's second wife.

His third marriage seems to have been before 1429, for the name of his wife at that time was Katherine.³ In 1436 a Papal Remission for plenary indulgence was granted to "Robert Logan donsel nobleman of the diocese of St Andrews, and to Catherine his wife noblewoman,"⁴ and in 1440, Masses were ordered to be said for Sir Robert and "Dame Katryne" his spouse, in St Anthony's chapel near Leith, a chapel founded by him in 1430.⁵

It is highly probable that this Katherine was the heiress of the last Baron of Lestalrig, who was last heard of in 1382,⁶ for besides possessing their lands, the Logans quartered on their shield (fig. 3) an eagle displayed, which were the Arms of Simon de Lastalric, as borne on his seal of 1296 attached to the *Ragman Roll*.⁷

Sir Robert was a man of great importance in his time, though, by

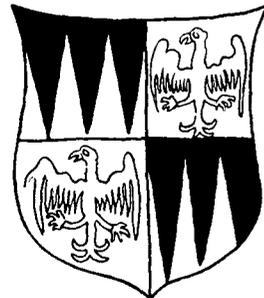


Fig. 3. The Arms of Logan of Restalrig.

From Lyndsay's *Heraldr* (1542), p. 85.

¹ *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. li. No. 1411.

² *Liber de Melros*, vol. ii. p. 516.

³ Rogers' *St Anthony's Chapel*, pp. 7 and 28.

⁴ *Cal. of Doc.*, vol. ii. p. 546.

⁵ Vol. i. p. 169.

⁶ *Papal Letters*, vol. viii. p. 614.

⁷ Stodart's *Scottish Arms*, vol. ii. p. 176.

selling to Edinburgh certain rights over the Port of Leith in 1398, he was considered to have been an ill-friend to Leith for many years afterwards.¹ He travelled, during 1396-99, on embassies to England and foreign parts with Sir John of Ramornie, and in 1427 was one of the hostages for the king's ransom. He was appointed in 1439 hereditary bailie for the Holyrood lands of St Leonards.² He died 6th March 1439-40.³ His seal (fig. 4) attached to a document of 1439 is illustrated



Fig. 4. Seal of Sir Robert Logan (1439), in possession of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

from the original in possession of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.⁴ He was predeceased by his son Simon.

2. SIR JOHN LOGAN (1430-51) was Simon's son and Sir Robert's grandson. In 1430 he received the honour of knighthood, on the occasion of the birth of the royal twins at Holyrood.⁵ In 1444 he was appointed by the King, Sheriff of Edinburgh.⁶ In 1447 he got a sasine of Restalrig,⁷ and was "drownit in the watter of Crawmond" in 1451 at the age of twenty.⁸ His wife's name is unknown and there is no record of his seal.

3. ROBERT LOGAN (1450-87) was an infant when his father died, and during his minority was the ward of Philip Moubray of Barnbogle.⁹ His wife's name is unknown and there is no record of his seal.

4. SIR JOHN LOGAN (1486-1513) was the son of Robert, and "Isobella" was the name of his wife in 1490.¹⁰ It is recorded that he held a Baron Court at Restalrig in 1497-8,¹¹ and tradition has it that he died with his eldest son John at Flodden. His seal in 1504 bears three piles in point.¹²

5. SIR ROBERT LOGAN (1513-43), who got sasine of Restalrig six weeks after Flodden,¹³ may have been a younger son of Sir John, but his seal bearing a star with the Logan Arms may indicate a more distant relationship. Elizabeth Hepburn was his wife in 1516,¹⁴ and he married secondly, Elizabeth Home, daughter and co-heiress of Cuthbert Home of Fastcastle before 1533.¹⁵ He seems to have married thirdly,

¹ *Edinburgh Charters*, p. 48.

² *Rogers' St Anthony's Chapel*, p. 28.

³ *Book of Pluscarden*, vol. i. p. 376.

⁴ *Exchequer Rolls*, vol. ix. p. 660.

⁵ *Exchequer Rolls*, vol. v. p. 548.

⁶ *Acts of Lords in Council in Civil Causes*.

⁷ *Exchequer Rolls*, vol. xiv. p. 515.

⁸ *Scots Peerage*, vol. iv. p. 451.

⁹ *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. xli. p. 306.

¹⁰ *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. xli. p. 312.

¹¹ *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. ii. No. 274.

¹² *Chron. of James II.*, p. 45.

¹³ *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. ii. No. 1951.

¹⁴ *Laing's Seals*, vol. ii. No. 657.

¹⁵ *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. iii. No. 132.

Margaret Ellem, for that was the name of his widow in 1543.¹ His allegiance to the King is recorded before a Notary in 1521, when he and "the laird of Craigmillar ilkane of themself offerit thaim redy till resist the Kings rebellis";² but in 1526 he had offended in some way and for remission had to pay a fine.³ His seal bearing three piles in point with star is recorded.⁴

6. ROBERT LOGAN (1534-61) was the son of Sir Robert and Elizabeth Home. In 1539 he received from his father and mother charters of the lands of Restalrig, Grougar, Hutton, and Flemington.⁵ Margaret Seton was his wife in 1543.⁶ She was a daughter of George, fourth Lord Seton, and sister of one of "the Queen's Maries." Soon after 1550, when they granted a joint charter, they appear to have been divorced, for she afterwards married a son of Hamilton of Preston⁷ and died in 1565, and he married, secondly, Lady Agnes Gray sometime before 1557.⁸ Lady Agnes was the daughter of Patrick, fourth Lord Gray. Probably the marriage took place some years before 1557, for the date of the birth of their son Robert is calculated to have been about 1555. Lady Agnes survived her husband and married, secondly, Alexander fifth Lord Home, and thirdly, the Master of Glamis.

On the 20th May 1547 he was appointed to "the keeping of the baile-fire of Dowhill about Fastcastell."⁹ He was a man of vacillating character, first siding with the Lords of the Congregation and then with the Queen Regent.¹⁰ On the 2nd of July 1560 he, for "certain Indignities put upon the Edinburghers, was arrested by Order of the Magistrates and committed to Prison, with a strong Guard to secure him; but proving refractory, threatened the Magistrates; for which he was closer confined in *Duress*."¹¹ He died on or about 26th August 1561.¹² His seal (fig. 5) is quartered 1st and 4th, three piles in point; 2nd, an eagle displayed; and 3rd, three papingoes.¹³



Fig. 5. Seal of the sixth Laird attached to a Charter of 1552, in possession of the writer.

7. ROBERT LOGAN (1555-1606) was the son of Robert and Lady Agnes Gray, and known to fame through his connection with the Gowrie

¹ *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. iii. No. 2961.

² *Lord High Treas. Accs.*, vol. v. p. 281.

³ *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. iii. No. 2057 and No. 2056, and *Stirling of Renton's MSS., Hist. MSS. Com.*, vol. v. p. 647.

⁴ *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. iii. No. 2881.

⁵ *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. iv. No. 1203.

⁶ Calderwood's *Kirk of Scotland*, vol. i. pp. 464 and 484.

⁷ *Edin. Council Reg.*, vol. iii. f. 47, quoted by Maitland, pp. 19 and 20.

⁸ *Protocol Book of Jas. Harlaw*, p. 140.

⁹ *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. v. p. 155.

¹⁰ Macdonald's *Armorial Seals*, No. 1743.

¹¹ *Scots Peerage*, vol. viii. p. 583.

¹² *Reg. Privy Council*, vol. i. p. 73.

¹³ Laing's *Seals*, vol. ii. No. 658.

mystery. The casualty of his ward ended in 1576,¹ which suggests the year of his birth to have been about 1555. He married Elizabeth Makgill before 1576, and from her he was divorced; afterwards, in 1579, she was carried off by Thomas Kennedy of Culzean, under cover of an armed force, and she and Thomas were subsequently married.² Marion Ker was Logan's widow in 1606, and it is presumed that it was only within two or three years of his death that he had married her. It is unnecessary to say more of the Gowrie conspirator, for he is already well known to history, and I have previously given some details of his life in my paper on Fastcastle.³ For some unknown reason he had, during the last few years of his life, sold all his lands, and though landless when he died on () July 1606, he was a wealthy man. His estate in "geir, sowmes of money and dettis," according to his Testament Dative, given up on 28th January 1607, amounted to £29,042, 6s. 8d., but that was all escheated to the Crown by the Doom of Forfeiture in 1609.

Among interesting items in the sums due to him, are 18,000 merks by Lord Balmerino, and 15,000 merks by the Earl of Dunbar, which were, no doubt, balances of the purchase prices of Restalrig and Fastcastle, sold to them in 1605 and 1606; and among the "geir" there is an item "Ane schip with hir armaments in Eye-mouth, estimat to the sowme of 500 merkis." The possession of this ship, together with the sale of his lands, suggests the idea that he had made preparation to flee the country at a moment's notice should necessity arise.

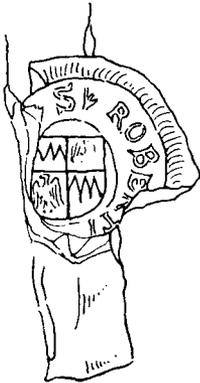


Fig. 6. Seal of the seventh Laird in 1579, attached to a Charter in possession of J. Hewat Craw, Esq.

His seal in 1578 is quartered 1st and 4th, three piles (not conjoined in point); 2nd and 3rd, an eagle displayed;⁴ and that of 1579 (fig. 6) is the same, and is illustrated here from one in possession of J. Hewat Craw. There is a drawing of a seal, purporting to be of Robert Logan in 1576, in Carr's *Coldingham*, p. 224, but as it bears a man's heart and is totally different from the authentic seals of 1578 and 1579, I think a mistake has been made, more especially as Stodart⁵ remarks that the heart and three nails are a seventeenth-century addition to the Logan Arms.

Robert Logan the forfeited laird was survived by—

(1) ROBERT his eldest son, presumably by his first wife Elizabeth Makgill. His name appears in a writ of 6th August, 1606, where he

¹ *Exchequer Rolls*, vol. xx. p. 544.

² *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. lv. p. 56.

³ *Scottish Arms*, vol. ii. p. 177.

⁴ *Scots Peerage*, vol. vi. p. 594.

⁵ *Macdonald's Armorial Seals*, No. 1746.

“and Alexander, erle of Home, taking burding for him and the remanent his brether and sisteris on the one part, and Marion Ker on the other part,” submitted to arbitration an unstated dispute.¹ He is named in the Testament Dative of 1607, and also in the Doom of Forfeiture of 1609.² After that the world knows him no more.

(2 and 3) GEORGE and JOHN. These names are given on the authority of Nisbet.³ They are not mentioned in the Testament Dative, nor in any contemporary document known to me, and, as is seen in the above extract, the eldest son Robert answers for but one brother, presumably Alexander, in August 1606, it is doubtful if George and John ever existed. In this Stodart seems to agree with me, for in writing of them he says that Nisbet “in his pedigree seems far wrong.”⁴

(4th, 5th, and 6th) ALEXANDER, JONET, and ANNE are named in the Testament Dative of 1607, and in 1616 they were granted a reversal of attainder, on the grounds of their being at the time of their father's forfeiture all minors and had not participated in any of his crimes.⁵ This restored them to their former good fame and gave them the right to enjoy any lands they might acquire, otherwise than by succession to their father.

Marion Ker was the mother of Anne.

In compiling this list I have had much help from Major George Logan Home, who, from his large collection of notes on the family of Logan, has given me, besides many useful hints, a copy of Logan's Testament Dative. For these and other kindnesses I express to him my thanks.

But to return to the stone. Hugo Arnot in 1788, in describing what he calls “a spacious vaulted mausoleum of a circular figure, with yew trees growing on its top, which was originally the family vault of Logan of Restalrig,” says: “In this vault, there are the remains of persons who have been interred there some hundred years ago, particularly those of Lady Jonet Ker, Lady Restalrig, quha departed this life 17th May 1526.”⁶ It is next referred to by David Laing in 1861, who, in describing “the mausoleum-looking building . . . often said to have been the crypt or family vault erected by Sir Robert Logan,” but which had been “undoubtedly attached to the Collège, perhaps as the chapter-house or as St Triduan's Chapel” says: “Inside there is a large stone, the upper part broken off, with a shield of arms, and an inscription as follows:—‘Here · lyeth · ane · honorable Lady · Ionet · Ker · Lady · Restalrig · quha · departit · this · lyfe · 12 · day

¹ *Marchmont MSS., Hist. MSS. Com.*, p. 79.

² *Heraldry*, vol. i. p. 202.

³ *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. vii. No. 1412.

² *Pitcairn's Criminal Trials*, vol. ii. p. 276.

⁴ *Scottish Arms*, vol. ii. p. 178.

⁶ *History of Edinburgh*, p. 257.

of .Maai .Anno .1526 .IK.' This stone is not in its original position and may have been brought from without."¹

It will be observed that some of the words given are not now on the stone and that while Arnot gives the date as the 17th of May, Laing has it the 12th. The missing fragment may have been in existence in the time of Arnot and Laing, but it is not forthcoming now.

The following questions arise in reading the stone:

1st. Who was Lady Jonet Ker?

2nd. Which of the seven Logans of Restalrig was her husband?

3rd. If the date 1526 is correct, how do the Home papingoes come to be on the shield, seeing that the Logan-Home marriage did not take place till about 1533?

If it be not too hazardous to correct a reading of such a careful scholar as David Laing, I would say that the date on the stone has been misread. The figure "2" of the 1526 is broken, and what remains of it now looks more like "9." The date 1526 is obviously wrong, for the Home papingoes did not come to the Logans until after the Logan-Home marriage about 1533, and their son, the sixth laird, was the first to be entitled to quarter them on his Arms, and they appear on his seal of 1542. However, he is already provided with two wives and dates forbid a third.

If we take it that the date be 1596, it points to the seventh laird, the Gowrie conspirator, as the husband of Lady Jonet Ker. She may easily have been his second wife, for after his divorce from Elizabeth Makgill, he seems to have married in 1586 a lady whose name is unknown. The only allusion to this marriage is in a letter written on the 1st October 1586 by the Master of Gray to Archibald Douglas, in which he says: "Of late I was forced at Restalrig's suit to engage some of my cupboard, and the best jewel I had, to get him silver for his marriage."² That is all we know of this marriage, but it is significant that one of Logan's children was named Jonet.

As for Lady Jonet Ker, she may have been of the Lothian family, though her name does not occur in the *Scots Peerage*. The Arms would allow this, and if this were so, it might help to explain why Logan risked his life to shelter at Fastcastle the outlaw George Ker, brother of the Earl of Lothian, when he secretly returned from abroad in 1597.³

The building of St Triduana's Well, in which the stone is placed, was restored in 1907 by direction of the proprietor, the Earl of Moray. Dr

¹ *Charters of Midlothian Churches*, p. lxi.

² *Hatfield MSS., Hist. MSS. Com.*, vol. iii. p. 178.

³ *Cal. of Border Papers*, vol. ii. p. 917.

Thomas Ross, who carried out the work, describes the condition in which he found it. Inside it was filled with earth and rubbish to the height of the capital of the central pillar, and outside, the roof was heaped with a mound of grass-covered earth some 10 to 12 feet deep. He speaks feelingly of the difficulty he had in ridding the building of its repulsive contents and of fighting the constantly rising water which had to be systematically pumped out. When the floor was at last laid down and the last hole in the paving plugged, the water burst through and completely wrecked it, although composed of concrete, asphalt, and heavy stones. After several attempts to combat the flow, he realised that the building was part of a natural hydraulic press, with a head of water too great to be overcome, and that it originally had been the well of St Triduana. When finished, clear and limpid water rose to a height of 2 or 3 feet. Unfortunately, a year or two later, during alterations in the drainage system in the neighbourhood, the water failed, and this has left the floor in a very unsightly condition. He was able to prove, from the stones found in the earth mound on the roof, that there had been a chamber above the well, which had been the "Upper Chapel of the Parish Church of the Blessed Virgin of Lestalric" referred to in a charter by James III. dated 3rd Nov. 1477.¹ Of this upper chamber, which resembles the chapter-house at Inchcolm, plans and drawings are printed with his paper in the *Transactions of the Edinburgh Architectural Association*, vol. vii.

¹ *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, vol. ii. No. 1329.