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Some Account of the Family of Dennistoun  
of Dennistoun and Colgrain





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of the  
Family of Dennistoun  
of  
Dennistoun and Colgrain

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## P R E F A C E

I AM having this short history of the Family of Dennistoun of Dennistoun and Colgrain, printed privately, for the benefit of the family and connections.

The whole of the letterpress up to the death of James Dennistoun, No. XVIII., is from MSS. written by his son, the late James Dennistoun, which MSS. with copies of old charters, references, and further information, are in my possession.

The Memoir of the above James Dennistoun is taken from the chapter dealing with the family of Dennistoun of Colgrain in Joseph Irving's *History of Dunbartonshire*; some copies of this Dennistoun history were printed separately for the family.

The short notices of my Grandmother, Father, Uncles, and Aunts are added by me; while the notice of myself and my dear wife has been written by her nephew, Charles Sandbach Parker, who, I hope, will accept my sincere thanks.

The pedigrees—with the exception of the family of Robert Dennistoun, most kindly sent to me by his grandson, Robert Maxwell Dennistoun—have been carefully prepared and arranged by my cousin, Harry W. Guthrie-Smith, mostly from the above-mentioned James Dennistoun's MSS., and from information gathered by the late John Guthrie-Smith, which information I believe to be strictly accurate. My thanks are also specially due to Mr. Harry W. Guthrie-Smith for help given in the preparation of the whole of the contents of this volume, without whose great assistance, labour, and kindness, this book might never have appeared.

J. W. DENNISTOUN.






ARMORIAL BEARINGS  
OF  
DENNISTOUN OF DENNISTOUN



Argent, a bend sable.—*Crest*, a dexter arm in pale proper clothed gules holding an antique shield sable charged with a mullet or.—*Supporters*, Dexter, a lion gules armed and langued azure; Sinister, an antelope argent, unguled and horned or.—*Motto*, Adversa virtute repello.



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## History of the Family of Dennistoun of Dennistoun

THE Family of Dennistoun have been mentioned in all our peerages as possessed of one of those dormant titles which would confer upon the person proving his right of representation, the privileges of a Scottish Peer. This, however, appears to be incorrect, as although the remote ancestors of that Baronial family possessed in common with all free tenants of the Crown, a seat in Parliament, there is no evidence of any patent of honours, or summons which would have continued to them that privilege after the representative system came to be introduced into the legislature of Scotland. We find, however, that the Lords de Danzielstoun may be traced through a very early period of our records, and that from them is directly descended the family of Dennistoun of Dennistoun. The name Danzielstoun<sup>1</sup> appears to have been at a remote period conferred by one Danziel or Daniel upon his fief, and thence assumed with the particle *de* by his descendants as the family name. In illustration of this supposition, Crawford quotes a charter of the barony of Houston in Renfrewshire which he had examined, wherein it is described as bounded by the lands of Danziel; which are evidently the same which were by Robert III. erected into the barony of Danzielstoun on the Gryfe. This charter was granted by Malcolm IV., whose reign terminated in 1165.

<sup>1</sup>The spelling of the name has changed considerably in the progress of ages, and has besides been almost hopelessly varied by the negligence or whim of transcribers. No fewer than nine variations are mentioned.

The name, however, is said to have existed before the reign of Malcolm IV. Auchmar informs us that in 1016 Anselan, son of O'Kyan (or O'Cahan), king of the south part of Ulster, emigrated to Scotland, and, marrying an heiress of the name of Denneistoun, got with her a tract of land on the water of Endrick, and founded the name and family of Buchanan.

But leaving the doubtful traditions of that writer, the first of the line of whom authentic records have been found is

I. SIR HUGH DE DANZIELSTOUN, witness to a charter from Malcolm, Earl of Lennox, who lived during the reign of Alexander III., which terminated in 1286. Sir Hugh de Danzielstoun, Knight of the County of Renfrew, appears in the Ragman Roll as submitting to Edward I. in 1296. He was father of

1. John de Danzielstoun.

2. Janeta or Joanna Danzielstoun, who married Sir Adam More of Rowallan, Knight, from whom sprang Elizabeth More, first wife of Robert the Steward of Scotland, a lady whose beauty and elevation have not saved her memory from a tissue of calumnies which impugned the right and legitimacy of the Royal Family of Scotland, but which have now been finally quashed by recent historians, more especially by the researches of Andrew Stewart of Torrance. She was regularly married in 1347 to the Steward of Scotland (under the sanction of a bull from Pope Clement VI.) having previously borne him several children, probably under the form of a marriage not till then recognized by the Church. Of these children the eldest was Robert III., ancestor of the long line of monarchs who have ever since occupied the throne of Scotland. That Joanna de Danzielstoun was the mother of Elizabeth More is confirmed by a portrait of the latter having the following inscription: "Elizabeth Mure filia Dom . . . Adam Mure Militis et Joan de Danzelstoun Regina Scotorum." This picture originally formed one of the historical suite of the Queens painted by Jameson, the Scottish Vandyke; and is now in the possession

of the Marchioness of Hastings, as heir of line of the House of Rowallan.<sup>1</sup> Proud of a circumstance which conferred upon their house the illustration of a royal connection, the de Danzielstouns commemorated it in the motto which has been preserved by tradition among their descendants, "Kings come of us, not we of Kings." If further confirmation be sought, it may be drawn from the numerous grants by Robert II. and Robert III. in favour of the House of de Danzielstoun, from the expression "delectus consanguineus noster" applied to them by these monarchs, particularly by Robert III. to Robert de Danzielstoun, Knight, his cousin-german removed, while witnessing a charter in favour of William de Somervill of the barony of Camsnethan in July, 1391: and from the circumstance of several charters of that monarch being dated at Finlaystone, then the chief seat of the de Danzielstouns; particularly one to Andrew Murray of Ballynbruck in 1393, and another to Laurence Lawndales in 1392.

II. SIR JOHN DE DANZIELSTOUN was the brave associate in arms of his patriotic brother-in-law the E. of Wigton and of Sir Robert Erskine during the reigns of Robert Bruce and David II. Through life he and his son Sir Robert maintained devoted loyalty with a steadiness as exemplary as it was rare in an age when the haughty Baronage of Scotland often sought to extend their individual influence at the expense of the prerogative of the Crown. "Dominus Johannes de Danzeilstoun, miles dominus ejusdem," is mentioned in several of our records during the reign of David II. He had a charter of confirmation from that monarch of the infestment of Malcolm Flemyng, Earl of Wigton, of the Isle of Inchealloche in Loch Lomond, with advocation of the kirk thereof, and with the lands of Kilmaronock.<sup>2</sup> Sir John de Danzielstoun was one of the Lords of Parliament who were parties to an

<sup>1</sup>A copy of this picture by Paillow, painted 1811, is in the possession of Mr. Dennistoun of Dennistoun.

<sup>2</sup>The armorial bearings of the House of Danzielstoun are still to be seen on the walls of Kilmaronock Castle.

Act of Settlement of the Crown in favour of his grand-nephew John, Earl of Carrick, recognizing his right as eldest son of Robert II. This Act was unanimously passed at Scone immediately after the coronation of that monarch in 1371, and fixed the succession of the Stewart dynasty. From Robert II. he had a charter of Mauldesly, Law, and Kilcadyon upon his own resignation, erecting them into a free barony, 19th June, 1374. We find him Sheriff of Perthshire in 1358, and he held the same office in Dunbartonshire in the following year, which he appears to have filled until succeeded in it by his son Sir Robert. In the Chamberlain's accounts there is a charge for fees paid Sir John de Danzielstoun as keeper of the Castle of Dunbarton for the year 1360 to 1364, and 1369 to 1375. The amount varies from 100 m. to 100 lib. per annum. There are also charges for other sums paid to him, such as in 1368, 20 lib. as the price of a horse purchased for the use of the King. In 1359 he had the ward of William, heir of Thomas de Carnot, with the lands of Tolecultry and Pettensken. He endowed a chaplaincy in the Cathedral Church of Glasgow, with 10 m. yearly out of his lands of Danzielstoun, Finlawistoun, and Kilmaloog in the barony of Renfrew. On the 24th January, 1377, it was dedicated to the Virgin and St. Kentigerne. Sir John seems to have died soon after making his peace with the Church by this Mortification, as on 11th October, 1381, his eldest son was designed "*Dominus Robertus de Danzielstoun, miles dominus ejusdem,*" in the testing clause of a charter by David de Hamylton and Janet de Keith, in favour of James Galbraith. He married Lady Mary, daughter of Malcolm, Earl of Wigtown. With her he probably got the lands of Kilmaronock, as already shewn, and on the death of Thomas, second Earl of Wigtown, the descendants of this marriage seem to have become representatives of Earl Malcolm, a nobleman whose loyalty and courage stand pre-eminent in the struggles of the Bruce line. The other daughter of the Earl was married to William de Fauside, a family which is apparently extinct. Sir John had issue:

1. Sir Robert, who succeeded him.
2. Walter, of whom afterwards.
3. Sir William, who carried on the male line of the family.
4. Heu, who had a charter from David II., of the Castlewards of Glencardine, or Glencairn, Dumfriesshire, then the property of his father, Sir John. He also had grants of the lands of Margaret Muschett, one of the co-heirs of William de Montafix, lost by forfeiture, and of the Escheat of Sir David Marshall.
5. Malcolm, who had grants from David II. of the lands formerly pertaining to Geill Somerville and Thomas Awmphrayis, which they lost by forfeiture, and also of the lands of Glenhargie, Cloginsheach, and 4 lib. land of Glins, in Ayrshire.
6. Janet.

III. SIR ROBERT DE DANZIELSTOUN, Knight, was one of the young men chosen from among the "magnates Scotiæ" in 1357 as hostages for the payment to Edward III. of 100,000 m. of ransom for the release of David II., on which occasion he, along with Robert, eldest son of Sir John Stewart, was committed in ward to Monsieur Richard Tempest. The period of his captivity in England was protracted, in consequence of the difficulty of raising so large a sum from Scotland in the impoverished state in which the civil wars had left her. But the King was not forgetful of those who had sacrificed their own liberty to purchase his: and, in 1362, he ordered an allowance to Sir John de Danzielstoun of 20 lib. towards the expense of his expatriated son. I also find Robert Danzielstoun, Esquire, along with many distinguished persons "amez et foialx" of David II., guaranteeing a treaty between the Scottish and English Kings in 1370. He consented to the above recited endowment by his father of a chaplaincy in the church of Glasgow in 1377, with the designation of Sheriff of Levenax and Keeper of Dunbarton Castle, which offices

he probably held until his death. In virtue of the latter he is allowed in the Chamberlain's accounts 80 m. yearly for 1392 and 1394, payable out of the customs of the Burgh; and also various sums for the repairs of the Castle. Sir Robert had a charter of lands of Trepwood, in Lanarkshire, on the forfeiture of Hastie or Horsley in 1368, and a confirmation of the barony of Glencairn on the resignation of his father, Sir John, 31st December, 1369, both from David II. He had also from Robert III. charters of Stanele, in the Barony of Renfrew and Danzielstoun and Finlawistoun, on his own resignation, 24th August, 1391, and 5th January, 1392. He died in 1399, leaving only two daughters, co-heiresses of his great estates.

1. Margaret, married Sir William de Cunninghame of Kilmaurs, and brought him the lands and Baronies of Danzielstoun and Finlawistoun in Renfrewshire, Kilmaronock in Dunbartonshire, Collington and Redhall in Midlothian, and Glencairn in Dumfriesshire, from which last her descendants took the title of their Earldom. Her grandson, Alexander Cunninghame of Kilmaurs, in 1450, founded a mass in the Church of the Predicant Friars of Glasgow for her soul, and the souls of her father and grandfather Sir Robert and Sir John de Danzielstoun.
2. Elizabeth, married 1402 to Sir Robert Maxwell of Calderwood, who, by the contract of division 1404, obtained Mauldisly, Law, Kilcadzon, and Stenele, with parts of the other baronies, and quartered the arms of the Danzielstouns, Argent a bend azure, as still borne by his successors.

MR. WALTER DE DANZIELSTOUN in 1374 had a charter of confirmation under the Great Seal, of a grant from his father, Sir John de Danzielstoun, of the lands of Blackburn, Torbain, in the Barony of Bathgate—"Discretus vir Magister Walterus de Danzelstoun, Canonicus Glasguensis," is mentioned in an



instrument of date 1395, as appealing from the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Glasgow, in the cause of the hospital of Polmood. In 1396, a safe conduct was granted to "Walterus de Danzielstoun de Scotia clericus" passing through England on his way to France with eight servants and their horses.

According to Wood, Walter de Danzielstoun was elected Bishop of Saint Andrews in 1402. This transaction appears, however, to be enveloped in considerable doubt. Upon comparing the authorities of Winton, Fordun, Spottiswood, and the *Black Book of Paisley*, the following account seems most probable. Walter de Danzielstoun, parson of Kincardine O'Neill, "vir multum facti" upon the death of his brother Sir Robert in 1399, pretended an heritable title to the command of the Castle of Dunbarton. Availing himself of the weakness of the executive, and of his own family influence, he collected a large armed force, and took violent possession of what he claimed as a right. The King, declining to employ force against a relative whose power seemed no less formidable than his audacity, had recourse to negotiation, a policy recommended alike by his own facile disposition and by the turbulent spirit of the times.

In the year 1401 the vacant Bishopric of St. Andrews was supplied by the election of Thomas Stewart, Archdeacon of St. Andrews, natural son of Robert II.; but being a man of retiring nature he declined accepting the office. The opportunity appeared favourable for tempting the ambition of the Parson Walter, who consented to resign the fortress if he were put in possession of the vacant See. The chapter of St. Andrews, guided more by the influence of the Duke of Albany, who managed the negotiations for the King, than by their consciences, elected Walter de Danzielstoun, who performed the functions and drew the revenues of the Bishopric during the few months he survived; but, contumacious to the last, this military churchman maintained possession of Dunbarton Castle until his death, which happened about Christmas, 1402.

The direct line of the house of Danzielstoun having failed in the person of Sir Robert, the representation appears to have devolved upon his brother.

III. SIR WILLIAM DE DANZELSTOUN, the first of Colgrain, third son of Sir John de Danzelstoun of that Ilk, gives his consent to a grant made by his father, in 1377, in favour of the church of Glasgow. He is therein designated—"Dominus de Colgrane et de Cambesescan." Among the missing charters of Robert III. is a confirmation of a pension furth of the lands of Mauldisly in his favour. He seems to have been in the household of the unfortunate Prince David, as he had, 10th October, 1392, a charter "pro servitis suo nobis, et carissimo primogenitu nostro Davidi Senescallo comiti de Carrick impensis," of a pension of twenty merks out of the great customs of the burgh of Dunbar, to continue till the King should infest him or his heirs in a ten pound land in some fit place. This pension is accordingly charged in the Chamberlain's books for that year. We have no evidence of the promised grant being carried into effect, although there is reason to suppose that Cameron and Auchindennan, both five pound lands, may have been acquired in this manner. His widow, Lady Marjory, is mentioned in the Chamberlain's accounts, as drawing the tierce of this pension for six years subsequent to 17th March, 1393—the probable date of her husband's decease. In 1399, the Earl of March receives it on her behalf. It is probable that Sir William had also acquired the estate of Hiltoun, in Berwickshire, as there is a charge in the Exchequer Rolls of 1455, for a pair of gilt spurs, as the reddendo of these lands, paid by his heirs.

IV. ROBERT DE DANZELSTOUN of Colgrain. In the last quoted entry from the Chamberlain's Rolls, James Stewart (Senescallus) de Kilbride is mentioned as having the ward of the heir of the late Dominus Willelmus de Danielstoun, and as drawing in that capacity two-thirds of the pension due out of the

customs of Dunbar. No mention is made of the name of this heir, who continued in minority at least as late as 1399, but he is probably the Robert de Danzelstoun who had a safe conduct to England and back, 14th November, 1419. His wife, Margaret, mortified to the prior and convent of Predicant Friars of Glasgow, ten merks yearly out of her tenement in Dunbarton, in 1450, when she seems to have been in widowhood, and is designated "Domina de Cowgran."

V. WILLIAM DE DANZELSTOUN of Colgrain is mentioned in the above mortification as son and heir of Margaret, Lady Colgrain, and he witnesses a grant by Janet Buchanan to Patrick Buchanan, of that Ilk, of the lands of Strathur, in 1456. This deed is quoted by Crawford from the archives of the Duke of Montrose. He seems to have had issue—

1. Charles.
2. Robert Danzelstoun of Dalnair.

VI. CHARLES DANZELSTOUN of Colgrain was probably the person who witnessed a resignation of Murrach, in 1455, and he is mentioned as having died last seized in the lands of Colgrain, two Camis-Eskans, Auchindennan, and Cameron, in a precept of clare constat under the Great Seal, 24th May, 1481. Although the link of connection is deficient, there seems reason to think that this Charles was the son of William, No. V., and great-grandson of William the first of Colgrain. He was succeeded by his son,

VII. ROBERT DANZELSTOUN of Colgrain, 1481, who was infest in the lands of Ross, 28th November, 1482, on a precept from the Preceptor of Torphichen, upon the resignation of Duncan Macaulay of Spittal of Ross. He resigned the lands of Kilmalid in favour of John Sempill of Fulwood in 1495, and in 1514 had a discharge from Isobel Maxwell of "ijj<sup>li</sup>. vij<sup>s</sup>. viij<sup>d</sup>" of the soume boukit for the slauchter of umquhile George

Porterfield." He had a charter of novodamus of his lands of Colgrain and others, from Matthew, Earl of Lennox, by whom he is termed "consanguineus" (apparently from his wife, Elizabeth Napier, being third cousin of the Earl), and was thereupon infest, 6th August, 1512. He married Elizabeth Napier, daughter of John Napier of Merchiston, by Elizabeth, daughter of Patrick de Menteth of Rusky, and grand-daughter of Lady Margaret, daughter and co-heiress of Duncan, Earl of Lennox, as appears from a charter granted by him of the lands of Little Camis-Eskan and Brockland to the said Elizabeth Menteth, in liferent, 1502. The Lady Colgrain was infest in the liferent of Meikle Camis-Eskan in 1513, and in 1528, paid 117½ merks as a relief of the ward thereof to Archibald Campbell of Skipinch. Surviving her husband, she, in that year, entered into a contract to marry Humphrey Colquhoun of Lettyr within one year thereafter, and thereby conveyed to him all her lands and moveables. Robert Dancelstoun had issue—

1. Patrick, who succeeded his father.
2. Andrew, who consents to his mother Elizabeth Napier's contract of marriage with Humphrey Colquhoun, being called her "carnal son," 1528. He had a charter of confirmation, under the Great Seal, of the Ferrylands of Cardross, 7th July, 1512, "filio carnali Roberti Dancelstoun de Colgrain," and was ancestor of the Dennistouns of Ferryland and Auchindennan-Rhie.
3. John, who also consents to the contract of 1528 as "carnal son," and is co-cautioner with his brother Charles in 1525.
4. Charles, who had a four years' tack of Blairhennachan from Aulay Ardincaple of that Ilk, 1529. He was entered heir of his brother Robert in certain tenements and annualrents in Dunbarton, 19th October, 1525; and on same date mortified them in favour of David Graham, chaplain, and his successors, for the weekly

celebration of a mass at the high altar of the blessed Virgin, in the parish church at Dunbarton, for the souls of himself, of his father the late Robert Denzelstoun of Colgrain; of his eldest brother, Patrick Denzelstoun of Colgrain; and of all his relations, ancestors, and posterity.

5. Robert, also "carnal son," burgess of Dunbarton. Died 1525.
6. William, who had from his father, in 1508, an assignation of a wadset of Gartocharn, to which Charles succeeded as his heir in 1524.
  1. Janet, married to John Darleith of that Ilk.

VIII. PATRICK DENZELSTOUN of Colgrain, and Giles Colquhoun, his spouse, were infest in the five pound land of Cameron, on the resignation of his father, 8th July, 1513. There is also a sasine in his favour of the lands and mill of Little Ladrowel, Stucknahoick, and Lebardeland, in liferent, 31st December, 1518. Upon the demise of his father, he was infest in Colgrain, Camis-Eskan, and Auchindennan, 12th October, 1523; and in his favour Archibald Campbell of Skipinch renounced the ward of the lands of Colgrain for a relief of 400 merks, 15th January, 1527, soon after which date he died. He appears to have married, secondly, in 1515, Giles Sempill, daughter of — Sempill of Fulwood, in which year he conveyed to her the liferent of Cameron. She must have died soon after, as, in 1522, he took for his third wife Matilda, daughter of Sir Humphrey Cunningham of Glengarnock, to whom he gave a liferent of the same lands, and who survived him. He had a son—

IX. ROBERT DENZELSTOUN of Colgrain, who, in 1536, gave in wadset to Sir James Denzelstoun, chaplain, "four acres of land of the chapelle of St. Blane," in the lordship of Colgrain. He was infest in Colgrain, etc., as heir of his grandfather,

Robert Denzelstoun of Colgrain, 30th November, 1543. He was associated with William, fourth Earl of Glencairn, in his machinations and correspondence with Henry VIII. of England, and had a remission under the Great Seal in his favour, 21st August, 1546, for all treasons and crimes committed along with the Earl. His attention was soon after directed to protect his estates from the lawless inroads of his Highland neighbours, and in 1549, he had a commission from the tenants and occupiers of his lands to recover the goods spuilzied from them by John Colquhoun of Luss, Duncan Macfarlane of Arrochar, and others. He seems to have abandoned his own property, and fixed his residence at South Kipperminshock, which belonged to his son-in-law, John Wood of Geilston, and which he possessed as kindly tenant. Accordingly he disposed Meikle Camis-Eskan in favour of John Wood and Margaret Denzelstoun, 11th July, 1550, redeemable by him upon resigning to them South Kipperminshock, or paying them 300 merks. We also find a conveyance, in 1562, by his son and successor, Robert Denzelstoun of Colgrain, to his mother, Katherine Sempill, in her widowhood, of North Kipperminshock, in liferent, in exchange for South Kipperminshock, "quhare his fader dwelt and deit"—"because South Kipperminshock was better bigget, and had better yarding to dwell in, nor was North Kipperminshock." It may appear a strange taste which would prefer Kipperminshock as a residence to Camis-Eskan; but whatever the motive might have been, the arrangement does not appear to have continued beyond a few years. Nisbet says, that this Robert Denzelstoun of Colgrain married Marion, daughter of Sir William Edmonstone of Duntreath, widow of David Sempill of Noblestoun; but as it appears from the above document that the mother of his heir was Katherine Sempill, and as Nisbet elsewhere assigns this Marion as spouse of — Sempill of Noblestoun, she seems to have been mother of the Lady Colgrain. Robert Denzelstoun died after 1557, leaving issue—

1. Robert, who succeeded him.
  2. John, whose posterity carried on the male line of the family.
  3. Patrick, of whom we have found several notices as a witness in the Burgh Records of Dunbarton, between 1558 and 1577. He and his wife, Margaret Gibson, had sasine of certain subjects in the burgh, 1584, and in 1586, they were infeft in a victual annualrent out of Cameron, by Robert Denzelstoun of Colgrain, his brother. Their son Robert was seized in certain tenements in Dunbarton, 11th December, 1607. They had another son, William, a mariner, who was infeft in a house in Dunbarton, 1613. Margaret Gibson afterwards married Robert Campbell.
1. Margaret, who married John Wood of Geilston, having a dispensation for marrying within the prohibited degrees (fourth degree), 17th January, 1546. She survived him without issue, and was infeft on a precept from Sir James Stirling of Keir, in the liferent of Kirkmichael-Stirling, and Blairnairne, 8th March, 1582.
  2. Catherine, married to Dugald, second son of Archibald Campbell of Clachan, in Rosneath, who granted a discharge for her tocher to her brother, Robert Denzelstoun of Colgrain, 1566. She married, secondly, John Spreull of Cowden, and in 1599, is a party with him to the marriage of their daughter Margaret with James Weir.
  3. Elizabeth, who married Matthew, son and heir of Bartholomew M'Aulay of Ardoch-Campbell. Her husband granted her a discharge for her tocher, 1576, and in the following year they were conjunctly infeft in the lands of Stuckleckie.

X. ROBERT DENZELSTOUN of Colgrain, and Margaret Hamilton, his spouse, had a charter from Archibald, Earl of Argyle of Auchindennan-Denzelstoun, 28th July, 1549. He was infest in Colgrain, two Camis-Eskans, Auchindennan, and Cameron, 1st December, 1563, as heir of his father, Robert Denzelstoun of Colgrain; and in 1567, had a charter under the Privy Seal of the non-entry and ward of these lands from Queen Mary, on the death of her husband, Henry Lord Darnley, superior thereof. He feued the Spittal of Colgrain, with three acres of arable land, in 1559 to his relation, David Watson, father of David Watson of Croslet. His wife, Margaret Hamilton, had a liferent of Auchindennan, in 1563. She was daughter of John Hamilton of Ferguslie, in the county of Renfrew, who was a younger son of John Hamilton of Orbiston. By her he had—

1. John, who, in 1563, had a "sasine propriis manibus" from his father of the fee of Colgrain, two Camis-Eskans, Auchindennan, and Cameron. He did not long survive this, and predeceased his father, unmarried.
  2. James, who succeeded his father.
  3. Patrick, who appears to have joined a company of 200 archers who sailed for France, under the command of the Laird of M'Naughtan.
  4. Andrew. These last two are parties, along with their father and their elder brother, James, to a submission in 1589, as to the "kyndness of the wester half of Auchindennan."
1. Elizabeth, married to John Colquhoun, fiar of Camstradden, and infest by him, in 1586, in liferent of the lands of Auchengawen.
  2. Catherine, married to John Macgregor of Ardinconnal and Laggarie.



XI. JAMES DENZELSTOUN of Colgrain. The fee of the lands of Colgrain, etc., having fallen to James, second son of Robert Denzelstoun of Colgrain, (by the demise of his elder brother, John Denzelstoun,) John Douglas, in Little Dumfin, became donator of the ward and non-entry thereof by a grant under the Great Seal, 13th December, 1577; and at the same time had the marriage of the heir, who was infest in 1603. During the last years of the possession of Robert Denzelstoun of Colgrain there were a great many documents of debt affecting the estate in the shape of annualrents, wadsets, and bonds; indeed, there seem grounds for suspecting that his son James was a person of facile or extravagant disposition, as he was put into the charge of four persons as voluntary interdictors, who from that time appear as consenting to all his deeds. They were Walter Dennistoun in Colgrain, John Dennistoun in Auchindennan, Gavin Dennistoun in Kirkmichael-Stirling, and Robert Semple of Fulwood. In a wadset by Robert Denzelstoun of Colgrain James (his son) and his spouse Marion Denzelstoun adhibited their consent. He left—

1. Walter, who succeeded him.
2. Robert, who was alive in 1626, but appears to have died unmarried.

XII. WALTER DENNISTOUN (as the name is generally spelt from this time) of Colgrain, on his marriage with Sarah, daughter of Sir Patrick Houston of that Ilk, by Lady Janet Cunningham, 19th December, 1605, was vested by his father in the fee of his lands of Colgrain, two Camis-Eskans, Auchindennan, and Cameron. She brought him a tocher of 6,000 merks, and by his marriage contract he interdicted himself to Sir James Edmondstone of Duntreath, John Houston of that Ilk, Alexander Cunningham of Craigends, and Robert Sempill of Fulwood. He was infest 12th April, 1610, in the lands of North and South Kipperminshock, upon a Crown charter,

which narrated the immemorial possession of his ancestors therein as "nativi tenantes, rentallatores, et predecessores," in terms of statute 1594, c. 218, by which the production of resignations or precepts of sasine by possession infeft for forty years, is dispensed with. The debts accumulated by his father and grandfather pressed heavily upon Walter, and forced him to alienate several considerable portions of his paternal estate. He resigned the Kipperminshocks in favour of William Hall in 1611, and in 1612, the lands of Cameron were comprised by Alexander Colquhoun of Luss, for the sum of 5,000 pounds Scots. As we do not any longer find the lairds of Colgrain making up titles to Auchindennan, it was probably sold about the same time. He purchased from John Wood of Geilston the lands of Kirkmichael-Stirling, for which he had a charter of confirmation from Sir Archibald Stirling of Keir, 21st December, 1621. Walter Dennistoun, on 9th April, 1623, took for his second wife, Grizel, daughter of John Brisbane of that Ilk, by Anna, daughter of Blair of Blair, and conveyed to her the lands of Colgrain and Kirkmichael-Stirling in liferent. He died about 1640, and left two sons—

1. John, who succeeded him.
2. James, who, on the death of his brother without heirs male, became representative of the family, but died without issue.
1. Janet, who married Mr. David Elphinstoun, minister at Dunbarton, with a tocher of 2,000 merks. She was probably by the second marriage, and died before 1656, leaving a daughter, Janet.

XIII. JOHN DENNISTOUN of Colgrain, had a resignation in his favour, by his father, in 1638, of Colgrain and the Camis-Eskans; and in 1655, made up titles to Kirkmichael-Stirling, on a precept of clare constat from Sir George Stirling of Keir. In an age of national degradation, it is refreshing to find

individual instances of loyalty and devotion worthy of the brightest days of chivalry. Such an one was the Laird of Colgrain. He was a steady and zealous friend to the royal cause, and ultimately crowned his exertions with the sacrifice of his life. The Earl of Glencairn having been appointed by Charles II., in 1653, commander-in-chief of the Royalist troops in Scotland, granted commissions to Colgrain in November and December of that year. *First.* "Whereas I William Earl of Glencairne by vertue of his Ma . . . commissione ame empowered to levie horse and foot wtin the kingdom of Scotland for his Ma . . . service and I being weel assured of the Loyaltie courage and guid affectione of Jhon Denniston of Cogrene does hereby warrand and appointe him to levie the third man of all the fencible persons wtin the Lennox and to reduce them in foot companies and to place officars over them and to command the foresaid foote and to bringe them up to joyne wit his Ma . . . ties forces now on foot, for the which this sall be unto him ane sufficient warrand given under my hand the 20 day of November 1653. Glencairne." There is another commission from the Earl dated 3rd December of the same year. *Second.* "These ar authoreiseinge the Laird of Colgraine to use all advantages against the commonn enemie within this kingdom thair complices intelligencers and adherents and whatsoever persone shall without ane warrand from me mairch throu the countrie and presume to quartir in aniepairt of the Ile above Leavin I doe hereby ordaine him to tak notice of them and according as he shall find them deserving to allow them transeant qrtir for long or short space as he shall think fitt. Commanding lykwayes all the inhabitants within the said Ile and paroches adjacent, to be readie upon everie occasione to contribut to the fortifeing of the hous Rossdou against said commonn enemie at what tyme and whensoever they or any of them sall be requyrit for the effect as they and everie of them (without respect of personnes) tend the advantage of his Ma . . . ties service and will anser

the contrarie in thair heighest perill. Given at Chappelavroch this third day of Dec. 1653. Glencairne." The Parliamentary leaders—Monk, Couper, Twisleton, and Argyll—came to Dunbarton in 1654, "advising on a hard and sorrowful work, what houses and what corn to burn." They lost no time in seizing upon John Dennistoun as one of the most dangerous and influential Royalists in that part of the country.

This may be illustrated by the following letter from General Philip Twisleton—

"To the Laird Colgrene. These.

"Sr

"I have acquainted the generall with what you desired and wt had passed betwixt you and mee and he hath given command that (unless you give good securitie not to acte against the commonwealth and to render Yourself prisoner att the tyme that shall be appoynted) I shall secure You, therefore I have appoynted Captain Ward the bearer hereof to bring you with him and to lett You have the benefitt of a boate and the best accommodations that may be for the effecting theyreof, I am Your Servant

PH. TWISLETON."

"Ffrom the Campe at

"Tarreboote August 15th 1654."

Of the same date is the following pass—

"You are to permit the Laird of Colgrene to have his little boate to his owne house hee having engaged himselfe to returne her to Dunbarton and deliver her to Captain Thompson by twelve o'clocke tomorrowe.

PH. TWISLETON."

"Att noone August 15th 1654.

"To Capt. Escot."

It is probable that Colgrain had found security as required, for he was included in a convention between Monk and Glencairn a fortnight afterwards to the following purport—

“Articles of Agreement made and concluded this nine and twentieth day of August 1654 between the Right Honourable General Monck, commander in chief of the forces in Scotland for and on behalf of his Highness the Lord Protector of England, Scotland and Ireland on the one part, and David Creichton Laird of Lugton on the behalf of the Right Honourable the Earl of Glencairne and his forces, on the other part.

*1st.* It is agreed and concluded that the Earle of Glencairne shall together with all others of his partie, repair or come to Dunbarton within six daies after the signeing of these present articles and then and there lay down and deliver upp their armes to Lieutenant Collonell Cotterell to whom they are to give notice twenty four houres before their approche.

*2nd.* That the Earle of Glencairne shall give good security to the value of Five thousand pounds to Lieut. Col'. Cotterell within fourteen daies after delivering up their arms for his peaceable deoprtment to his Highness the Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England and his successors; and that such others of the said Earl's forces or partie as either have estates in Land or were officers under him, shall give reasonable security for their peaceable deoprtment, and the private soldiers shall give their engagements to the like purpose.

*3rd.* That the officers shall have liberty to marche away with their horses and swords, and the private soldiers with their horses to their respective habitations or places of aboade, where they are to sell their horses within three weeks to their best advantage; and both Officers and soldiers to have passes from Lieut. Coll. Cotterell to go to their homes.

*4th.* That the Earle of Glencairne and the laird of Lugton, the laird of Newarke, the laird of Milton, the laird of Legland, James Cunningham of Blanghose [Blairwhoirh] the laird of Colgraine, Captain Colquhoun of Ballernick, Crawford of Carsburne, Captain John Stack and Captain William Stewart

of Reidbeg shall enjoyne their estates both real and personall, and all others of the Earle of Glencairnes partie [non coming in] shall enjoyne their personall estates without any trouble or molestation, any act or thing by them formerly don in reference to the late Warrs between England and Scotland notwithstanding. They submitting to all common burdens equal with others of the nation. Provided that this doeth not extend to the restoaring of all or any part of the estates of any which are disposed of by way of donative, by the late Parliament, their Commissioners, or his Highness the Lord Protector and Councill. The Lord Forrester to have the benefit of this article paying fifteene hundred pounds in lieu of the fine of two thousand five hundred pounds lately ordered by his highness and councell, in the ordinance entitled, An ordinance of pardon and grace to the people of Scotland according to the terms prescribed in the said Ordinance—

*5th.* That the Earle of Glencairne and the Laird of Lugton shall have liberty at any time within six months after the signeing hereof to go beyond seas and to levye and transport each of them one regiment of foote, each regiment to consist of one thousand men, to any Prince or state in amity with his Highness and Commonwealth of England, the same being first approved by His Highness the Lord Protector, and to be licensed to recruite once every three yeares.

*6th.* That whereas there are ships now on the coast for transporting of such as are prisoners att warr to the Barbadoes, notice shall be given to the Governours of the respective guarrisons where any prisoners are, upon signeing of these articles; and such as are not before notice thereof on ship board [belonging to the Earle of Glencairnes party] shall be sett at liberty, and that such prisoners of ours (either English or Scotch) which have been taken by the Earle of Glencairnes party and are now prisoners, shall be forthwith released.

*7th.* That all such officers and soldiers who shall conceale or willingly embezell their armes, and not bring them to

Lieut. Col. Coterell according to this agreement, shall lose the benefit of these articles.

8<sup>th</sup>. That the Laird of Lugton shall not by these articles be excluded any benefit he may have to claime by the ordinance of his highness and Councill of pardon and grace to the people of Scotland.

9<sup>th</sup>. That these articles shall be ratified by his Highness the Lord Protector or the Parliament (if neede soe require) and delivered to the Earle of Glencairne or whom he shall appoint within two months after signing these articles.

GEORGE MONCK.  
DA. CREICHTON."

"Signed and sealed in presence of

WILLIAM DUNDASS.  
WILLIAM CLARKE.  
MATTHEW LOCKE."

"We hereby declare our approbation and consent to the articles above written made with the Earl of Glencairn.

PH. TWISLETON.  
JOHN O'KEY."

There is a family tradition that John Dennistoun was about this time hit by a random cannon shot from Dunbarton Castle while going to the town in his boat, but his son-in-law mentions that he was wounded in the Highland expedition. After lingering for many months, he died of that wound in July, 1655. Colgrain married, 15<sup>th</sup> February, 1648, Jean, daughter of William Sempill of Fulwood, "a young ladie of incomparable beautie, wisdom, and prudent foresight." She married, secondly, Thomas Fleming, merchant, burgess of Dunbarton, and had by him a son, Charles. They acquired the estate of Dalchurne from Mr. Archibald Dennistoun in 1669, as we shall presently have occasion to show. Her children by Colgrain were—

1. Margaret, born 1649.



## HISTORY OF THE FAMILY OF

2. Jean, married to — Stirling of Milliken.
3. Janet, married William Sempill of Fulwood or Dalmoak, who discharged her tocher of 2,500 merks in 1671.

Before his death, Colgrain executed a special settlement and destination of his estate, which, with the reasons which actuated him, may be best stated in the words of a certain MS. below quoted. I shall only add that the dispositions, procuratories of resignation, charters, and confirmations from the superior are all precisely in accordance with the statement that Margaret Dennistoun was duly infest thereupon 14th February 1655. "Of the wound he thereafter died; but though he was pained in bodie, yet being in his judgement wholie sound and entire all the tyme he laye of his wound, he did seriously reflect upon the circumstances his familie was in at the time as having no airs maill of his own bodie; and his brother, a man of no deip wait or considerable actioun being the person by the tailzie to succeed, he bethought him of a method to preserve his familie from aparend danger of mismanagement if his brother should succeed, and at the same tyme holie to keep it in his own name and in the succession of the children begotten of himself; having a certain prospect by this method of considerable addition to his fortune, or making his owne thereby free of all burdein it stood then affected with. Whereupon he dispones his estait to Margaret Dennistoune, his eldest daughter, with the burdein of his debts, she always matching and marrying with William Dennistoune of Dalquhurne, and no otherwayes; whom failzing, to the second daughter Jean, and the third Janet, successive, upon the same terms; and failzing of all uther by deceas or reprisal, to the said William Dennistoune, his airs and assigneys whatsomever; and failzing of him by deceas, to Archibald Dennistoune, his brother, in the same manner as to William —these two, next to his own brother, being the next airs maill of the family, after the decease of their father and grandfather, who were alive at the time."



Before proceeding to narrate the consequences of this arrangement, we must deduce the genealogy of this William Dennistoun from—

X. JOHN DENZELSTOUN, second son of Robert Denzelstoun of Colgrain, No. IX. of this history. He is designated "second son of Robert Denzelstoun of Colgrain," in a resignation by himself of the Spittal of Colgrain into the hands of his brother Robert, fiar of Colgrain, 20th April, 1559. He and his son continued notwithstanding to be designated generally "in Colgrain," being probably kindly tenants, retained in that part of the estate on account of their relationship to the lairds. He and his wife, Euphane Bontyne, were infest in an annualrent of ten merks out of Portnellan-Halliday, 4th May, 1564; and in 1566 and 1584, had sasines of tenements in Dunbarton. He was succeeded by his son,

XI. WALTER DENNISTOUN, who is designated in various deeds "son of John Dennistoun in Colgrain." Along with his spouse, Janet Buchanan, he had an infestment of an annualrent out of tenements in Dunbarton, 8th May, 1600; and in 1614, Walter with his heir-apparent, John Dennistoun, had a wadset of Little Kirkmichael-Stirling from John Wood of Geilston. His testament was confirmed in the Commissary Court of Glasgow, 1618, by his wife, Janet Buchanan, who survived him, and left—

1. John.
  2. James, infest in a tenement in Dunbarton, on the resignation of his father, 1611.
  3. Walter.
  4. Patrick.
  5. Robert, burgess of Glasgow, a witness to his brother's sasine in Dalchurne.
1. Janet, married 1607, to James Wood, brother of John Wood of Geilston.
  2. Helen.

XII. JOHN DENNISTOUN in Colgrain acquired the lands of Dalquhurn by a conveyance from James Spreull of Cowden, father of his second wife, dated 1st December, 1620. Previous to this he was generally designated "in Colgrain," or "in Kirk-michael," but henceforward he assumed the designation "of Dalchurne." He conveyed Nether and Over Cordales to John Sempill, fiar of Fulwood, in 1660. He was member of the Committee of War for Dunbartonshire in 1642, and Sheriff-Depute of Dunbartonshire in 1632. He married, first, Margaret Houston, who died 1617, leaving—

1. Sarah.
2. Agnes, married to Daniel Ewing of Keppoch.

He took for his second wife, in 1617, Margaret Spreull, widow of Adam Colquhoun in Hill, in the parish of Bonhill, and daughter of James Spreull of Dalquhurn and Cowden. By her he had:

1. Archibald, minister in Campsie, who succeeded him.
2. William in Colgrain, who had a tenement in Dunbarton from his father in 1654, and was entered in another as heir of his brother Robert. He was treasurer of that burgh 1664. In 1654 he married Agnes Buchanan, daughter of Walter Buchanan in Colgrain, by Eliz. Dennistoun, by whom he had three sons.

1. John, who with his father witnesses a wadset from William Dennistoun of Colgrain to Zuille of Darleith in 1675. He studied divinity; became tutor to the family of the Archbishop of Glasgow; was presented by Lord Semple to the church of Glassfurd, and refusing to conform at the Revolution, was deprived of his living. He acquired the Ferry lands of Cardross before 1672, and conveyed them in 1707 to John Dennistoun of Colgrain.

2. Walter.
3. George, who became a merchant in Dublin, and married, first, an Irish lady of fortune, and, second, Jean, daughter of Craig of Riccarton.
3. Robert.

XIII. MR. ARCHIBALD DENNISTOUN of Dalchurne went into the Church and obtained the living of Campsie. Principal Baillie says: "He was deposed by the Remonstrants without any considerable fault, much against the heart of his parish, who loved him." In the churchyard of Campsie is the following inscription: "The burial place of the Rev<sup>d</sup>. Mr. Arch<sup>d</sup>. Dennistoun of the family of Colgrain. He was ordained Minister of Campsie on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March 1649. He was deposed by the Protesters in 1655. He was restored in the year 1661 and died 1679."

In the settlement of John Dennistoun of Colgrain (XIII. of this history) he was appointed one of the tutors of Colgrain's daughters. He was infest in the fee of Dalchurne by his father, 8th March, 1645. He was a man of easy, indolent temper, which rendered him open to much imposition, both in his own affairs and in those of his wards. He married, first, Jean Noble, daughter of Humphrey Noble of Ferme, and had by her<sup>1</sup>:

1. William, afterwards of Colgrain, born 1647.
2. Archibald, matriculated as student in the College of Glasgow.

<sup>1</sup>"A short time after the Laird's (Dennistoun of Colgrain) death Jean Noble dies and within a whyl after Mr. Archd . . . begins to think upon a second mariadge; and qr so proper should application be made then to his chiefs relict . . . bot she being young and of incomparable beawtie and prudent foorficht, considered the proposal as altogether unfit for the love she caryed to the memorie of her deceased husband and the children begoten by them; as wyslie foorseeing that the children if males that should happen to be begoten of that mariadge, being Dennistouns as weil as the other, and Mr. Archibald noway tyed up from disposing of his awin fortune in prejudice of the first transaction: I say she proable thought that for thir reasons if such a notion were interteined it might be the ocasion of quyt ruining the will of her deceased, bot inteirlie beloved husband, and therefore rejected the proposal. Thereafter the good ladie married a gentleman called Thomas fleiming qho she was suir could lay no claim to her first husbands fortune."

He married, secondly, 11th April, 1657, Catherine Stirling, eldest daughter of James Stirling, Auchyle, and infest her in liferent in part of Dalchurne. He, on the 15th of April, 1665, granted an annualrent of 240 merks out of Dalchurne in favour of their children :

1. Anne, married Mr. James Gillespie, minister of Tarbolton.
2. Margaret, married Mr. James Gordon, minister of Roseneath.
3. Jean, died 1665.
4. Mary, died 1665.
5. John, died S.P. before 1686.
6. George, writer in Edinburgh.
7. Walter.

XIV. WILLIAM DENNISTOUN, son of Archibald, minister of Campsie, and grandson of the above John, being but a boy at the time he was named provisional heir of the Colgrain estates, by the settlement of the last laird, was unable to preserve his rights intact against the interference of a number of interested individuals, who combined to take advantage of his father's weakness and the unprotected state of Colgrain's orphan daughters. The principal leader of this cruel conspiracy appears to have been William Semple of Fulwood, whose object was, by embarrassing the affairs of the Dalchurne family, to force them to sell to him that property which lay adjoining his estate of Kirkmichael, and to this policy he sacrificed the natural affection as well as the moral duty he owed to the daughters of Colgrain, as their uncle and guardian. With him were joined James, the brother of the late Colgrain, naturally anxious to overturn an arrangement which cut him off from his succession as heir male of the family; and also Stewart of Scotstoun, who being donator of the marriage of the heiress, was enraged at being prevented

from controlling her choice of a husband. The most formidable opponent of these three was ere long silenced by the death of James, the heir male; but the machinations of the others, besides occasioning much annoyance and expensive litigation, evicted the estate of Dalchurne in 1669, and landed the laird of Colgrain in a load of embarrassments which a long life was not sufficient, with the utmost prudence, entirely to clear.

“His hours hang be a har,  
Duill and distres almaist to deid him draive.”

It has been observed that marriages of convenience destined by relations long before the parties can judge for themselves are rarely accomplished, and still more rarely turn out happily. That, however, of William Dennistoun with Margaret, the eldest daughter of the last Colgrain, proved an exception to this remark, perhaps owing in part to the obstacles latterly thrown in the way. It took place privately, by license from the Archbishop of Glasgow, 5th November, 1667, in a barn at the Faddens of Colgrain, by Mr. Hew Gordon, minister of Row. The mansion house of Camis-Eskan having been left unfurnished by the last laird, the young couple entered into possession of their estate with but a melancholy and desolate prospect. By dint of prudent management they were nevertheless able during many years in some degree to maintain the credit of the family, which had for several generations been declining. Precluded by his straitened circumstances from taking an active share in the convulsions which during his time agitated the political world, the Laird of Colgrain was forced to cherish in private life those feelings of loyalty which would otherwise have rendered him an active supporter of the high Tory party. His papers contain proofs of these sentiments as well as of a taste for literature, which appears to have been checked by the misfortune of defective education. He was named as Commissioner for the county of Dunbarton in the Acts of Supply for the years 1678-1685 and 1704. In 1674 he was engaged in a scuffle with John Maxwell of Blastoun, in Paisley, and

having been wounded, the matter was brought under the cognizance of the High Court of Justiciary; but the diet was deserted of consent, the matter having apparently been compromised. By his wife, Margaret Dennistoun, eldest daughter of the last Colgrain, who died 20th November, 1718, he had sixteen children, "of blooming beauty and promising wisdom and virtue," of whom only three grew up, and only one survived his parents—

1. John, who succeeded him.
2. James, who died abroad, 29th October, 1720.
3. William, who died, 20th November, 1719.

XV. JOHN DENNISTOUN succeeded his father, and in 1725 got a charter of novodamus of his lands of Colgrain, two Camis-Eskans, and Kirkmichael-Stirling. During his life the estate was entirely cleared of debt, and he was enabled to leave it to his son considerably augmented in value. To effect this, the most prudent management was indispensable, and Colgrain seems to have abstained from taking any part in the public events which convulsed Scotland during his time, in order to devote his whole attention to his private affairs. That his feelings were in favour of the Jacobite cause, we have evidence besides the family tradition, in his uniform absence from all meetings of the gentlemen of his county about 1715, as most of these were noted for their attachment to the Hanoverian succession. He married, in 1700, Jean, only child of Moses Buchanan of Cummings-glen, a younger son of Carbeth, by Jean, eldest daughter and co-heiress of William Hamilton of Auchentoshan. Through her he succeeded to certain claims upon the estates of Glinns (or Cummings-glen) and Branshogle, in the county of Stirling, which he submitted to arbitration in 1708, and obtained decret for 4,747 merks, 5 shillings, and 4 pence Scots. They had seven sons and nine daughters, of whom only the following attained a mature age—

1. James.
1. Margaret, born 1701, died unmarried, 1793.
2. Jean, married, in 1735, to John Brown, afterwards Provost of Glasgow, and had
  1. A daughter, who died young.
  2. Alexander, a merchant in Glasgow. He married Isabella, daughter of John Noble of Ardardan, and had
    1. Alexander, died unmarried.
    2. James Dennistoun, Major in the R.I.C.S., who married Anna Isabella, daughter of George Noble, and had, with three daughters who died young, an only son, Alexander James Dennistoun Brown.
  3. Lilius, who died unmarried.
  4. Janet, who married Humphrey Ewing Maclay of Cathkin, in Lanarkshire, without surviving issue.
  5. Isabella, who died unmarried.
3. Janet, married, in 1733, to John Stevenson, merchant in Glasgow, and died without issue, aged eighty-two. Her husband, in 1749, had a feu from James Dennistoun of Colgrain, of Drumfork, being part of the lands of Kirkmichael-Stirling, which was, after his death, sold, but was reacquired, in 1825, by James Dennistoun of Dennistoun.
4. Grizel, married, in 1735, to William Dunlop, shipowner in Glasgow, and had one son, who predeceased her.
5. Elizabeth, married, 1752, Patrick Carnegie, shipmaster in Port-Glasgow, with issue.

XVI. JAMES DENNISTOUN of Colgrain had a resignation from his father of the family estates in 1752, with reservation of his liferent of the mansion-house, and an annuity of 1,700 merks,

and succeeded him in 1756. In 1779 he purchased two-thirds of the lands of Auchenvennal-Mouling from the heirs portions of Parlan M'Walter. When the rebellion broke out in 1745, being prevented by his father from joining the Prince's standard, he retired to England, but on the defeat of that attempt, he took the oaths to Government in 1746, and devoted himself to the peaceful pursuits of commerce, with the hope of augmenting his fortune by the wealth which there began to offer. He was for many years one of the leading American merchants; and preferring a town life, gave up the estate to his eldest son, from which period he generally resided in Glasgow, until his death in 1796. He married, first, in 1746, Janet Baird, daughter of John Baird of Craigton, merchant in Glasgow, a lady whose beauty was very celebrated. By her he had—

1. John, who died young.
2. James, who succeeded him.
1. Jean, who died young.
2. Jean, married, in 1769, to Andrew Buchanan of Ardinconnal, and had issue.

Colgrain married, second, in 1752, Mary, daughter of John Lyon of Parklee, in the county of Renfrew, the great-great-grandson of Archibald Lyon, a younger son of the Lord Glamis, who came to Glasgow with Archbishop Gavin Dunbar in the fifteenth century, and who, marrying Margaret, daughter of Dunlop of that Ilk, became a merchant there. In token of this descent, Robert Dennistoun, the eldest son of Mary Lyon, differenced his paternal arms with a canton in the dexter chief point, bearing a demi-lion rampant azure on a field argent, being the arms of Strathmore. They had issue—

1. William, an Ensign in the 55th Regiment, lost at sea.
2. George, died unmarried.
3. Robert, a merchant in Glasgow, married Anne Penelope,



daughter of Archibald Campbell of Jura, and had issue, eight sons and six daughters.

4. Richard, of Kelvingrove, merchant in Glasgow, married Christian, daughter of James Alston of Westertoun, and had issue.
5. Stevenson, died young.
6. John, drowned in a West India hurricane, 1780.
1. Mary, married John Alston of Westertoun.

XVII. JAMES DENNISTOUN of Colgrain made up titles to his estates in 1796, and soon after acquired the superiority of Colgrain and the Camis-Eskans from James, Duke of Montrose. He was successful in mercantile speculations, but preferring country pursuits, he was chosen Convener of the county of Dunbarton in 1787, and held that office until his death. He was named Vice-Lieutenant of Dunbartonshire by Lord Elphinstone, and continued to act in the same capacity under the Duke of Montrose. During the long series of years in which he held these appointments he devoted a great portion of his time and attention to the business of his native county. His influence was particularly useful in promoting the establishment of the militia and volunteer systems, and till the end of his life he commanded the regiment of Dunbartonshire Local Militia. He married, first, 1777, Margaret, daughter of James Donald of Geilston, who died January, 1780, after giving birth to a son and heir—

James Dennistoun.

Mr. Dennistoun married, secondly, Margaret, second daughter of Allan Dreghorn of Blochairn, county of Lanark, merchant in Glasgow, and by her, who died in 1822, he had four daughters, co-heiresses of their maternal grandfather and granduncle—

1. Isabella Bryson, married, 1814, to Gabriel Hamilton Dundas of Westburn, county of Lanark, and Duddingstoun, county of Linlithgow, and had issue, six sons and five daughters.
2. Janet Baird, married, 1814, to Hugh M'Lean of Coll, county of Argyll. She died 1819, leaving four daughters.
3. Elizabeth Dreghorn, married, 1815, to Sir Duncan Campbell of Barcaldine, Bart., Argyllshire, with issue.
4. Mary Lyon, married, in 1815, to Sir William Baillie, of Polkemmet, county of Linlithgow, Bart., with issue.

XVIII. JAMES DENNISTOUN of Dennistoun succeeded his father, in 1816, in his estates of Colgrain, Camis-Eskan, and Kirk-michael. In 1825, he acquired from Sir James Colquhoun of Luss, Bart., the lands of Drumfork, in excambion for those of Auchenvennal-Mouling. In 1828, having adduced satisfactory evidence of his descent as heir male of Sir John de Danzielstoun (No. II. of this genealogy), Lord of Danzielstoun, he obtained the authority of the Lord Lyon to bear the arms proper to the chief of his house, and thereupon assumed as his designation, Dennistoun of Dennistoun. He had a troop in the Yeomanry raised in Dunbartonshire in 1796, and was nominated Major-Commander of a corps of that constitutional force, raised in the county during the disturbances of 1820,—an appointment which he continued to hold until the corps was reduced, in 1827. He married, in 1801, Mary Ramsay, fifth daughter of George Oswald of Auchencruive, in the county of Ayr, and of Scotston, in the county of Renfrew. By her he had thirteen children. He died 1st June, 1834, and was succeeded by his eldest son James. His widow survived him, and after the sale of Camis-Eskan lived with her daughters at Walkinshaw and Greenlaw, near Paisley, and at Sweethope,

Bothwell, where she died in 1851. She was buried with her husband in the family vault at Cardross.

- XIX. JAMES DENNISTOUN of Dennistoun was born on the 17th of March, 1803. He spent the greater part of his youth at Scotston with his grandfather, George Oswald, Esq., and has often been heard to remark, that to the example and precepts of this old gentleman, more than any other thing, did he owe the first excitement of those literary tastes which distinguished him in after life. About 1814, James Dennistoun, and his brother George, were placed under the care of a tutor, the Rev. Alexander Lochore, afterwards minister of Drymen parish. The youths studied at Glasgow College, and some of their class-fellows still speak with enthusiasm of the successful appearance made by James on the occasion of a Blackstone examination. His studies for some years after this time continued to have special reference to the legal profession, though it does not appear he had ever any intention of entering upon its practical details. He passed advocate in 1824. As his father had succeeded to the family estate eight years before this date, there is good reason for believing that James, while attending with all strictness to his proper legal studies, also availed himself of the choice opportunities within his reach to perfect his acquaintance with some of those departments of knowledge to which his youthful mind had been directed at Scotston. If, as may be reasonably supposed, he turned first to the annals of his own house, it was not long before he undertook the labour incident to a history of all the old families connected with Dunbartonshire. At this project he wrought most ardently for many years, gathering together, by his own researches in local charter chests, a mass of accurate genealogical and topographical details, the value of which can only be appreciated by those who know from experience the laborious nature of such investigations. To his extensive researches the *History of Dunbartonshire*,

by Mr. Irving, has been very largely indebted. Without Mr. Dennistoun's aid, he says, it would have been impossible to complete the genealogical and topographical sections of the work in a manner worthy of the old families of the county. Mr. Dennistoun commenced his investigations at a most auspicious period in the history of Scottish antiquities. The example set by Sir Walter Scott had infected all classes, and it is no exaggeration to say, that during the last twenty years of his life more was done to preserve and illustrate our national antiquities than had been accomplished for centuries previously. It is to the zeal then felt for this branch of study that the most important of our Printing Clubs owe their origin. Mr. Dennistoun was admitted a member of the "Bannatyne" in 1829, and presented to the club the following year an edition, edited by himself, of Moysie's *Memoirs of the Affairs of Scotland from 1577 to 1603*. He was also an active member of the Maitland Club, instituted in 1828, on a basis similar to the "Bannatyne," but designed especially to illustrate the antiquities of the west country. "Moysie" was presented to the members of the "Maitland" by Mr. Dennistoun, and he afterwards edited for the club the following useful publications: *The Cartularium Comitatus de Levenax*, presented by Alexander Campbell, Esq., in 1833; *The Coltness Collection*, presented by James Bogle, Esq., in 1842; and the *Cochrane Correspondence*, presented by James Smith, Esq. To the first volume of the *Miscellany* of the club he contributed the "Letters from Henry II., King of France, to his cousin, Mary, Queen Dowager of Scotland"; "Royal Letters and other Documents addressed to the Lairds of Barnbarroch"; and "De Jure Prelationis Nobilium Scotiæ": and to the second volume of the selection from the Cumbernauld charter chest, known as the "Wigton Papers." In 1825, Mr. Dennistoun undertook a tour on the Continent, in company with a few friends; and at Rome, about Christmas of that year, met with his future wife, Isabella-Katherina, eldest daughter

of James Wolfe Murray, Lord Cringletie, whom he married in 1835. The following year Mr. Dennistoun sold the family estate of Colgrain, Camis-Eskan, and the whole of the family estates. He afterwards purchased Dennistoun Mains, in Renfrewshire, the property which gave name to his house; but the sale of the old patrimony seemed to break the tie that bound him to Dunbartonshire, if not to Scotland. His studies took a new turn. Local genealogies and topography were thrown aside, to be superseded at no distant period by art and art literature. During his continental tours Mr. Dennistoun had not only visited the best galleries, but made lengthened sojourns at some of them, and carefully studied the different schools represented. His impression regarding several of the best known collections are embodied in an article on the National Gallery, contributed by him to the *Edinburgh Review* for April, 1853. The sale of Colgrain gave Mr. Dennistoun additional opportunities for residence abroad, of which he seems to have frequently availed himself. To his sojourn on the continent we owe a fine paper on Early Italian Art in the *Foreign Quarterly Review* and another, on "The Stuarts in Italy," in the old *Quarterly* but the most important result of his residence in Italy appeared in 1852, when he published the *Memoirs of the Dukes of Urbino*—a work not more to be commended for the research it displays, than the fine taste and just criticism which pervades it throughout. On its appearance, the book received, as it merited, the most marked approval from the highest critical tribunals in the country. In 1853, Mr. Dennistoun was examined at some length before the Select Committee appointed by the House of Commons to inquire into the constitution and working of the National Gallery. His suggestions, as contained in the printed Report, appear to be of an eminently practical character, and might have been adopted in their entirety with great advantage to the institution. His last work of any kind, was the *Memoirs of Sir Robert Strange, Engraver, and his Brother-in-law,*

*Andrew Lumisden*, the first copy of which reached Mr. Dennistoun's residence on the day of his death. The original papers on which this work is based, came into his hands through Mrs. Dennistoun, who was the great grand-daughter of the eminent Jacobite engraver. Mr. Dennistoun died at his residence in Edinburgh, on the 13th of February, 1855, and was buried, at his own desire, in the Greyfriars' Church-yard, in the last resting-place of a former Sir Robert Dennistoun of Mountjoy, instead of in the family vault at Cardross.<sup>1</sup> During his residence in Dunbartonshire, Mr. Dennistoun took an active part in the business of the county, though he does not seem to have mixed himself much up with its politics after 1832, when he published anonymously a pamphlet on the Conservative side, in the form of a *Letter to the Lord Advocate, on the Scottish Reform Bill*. In addition to his many other accomplishments, Mr. Dennistoun was an excellent man of business. This is best shown by the judicious manner in which he unravelled other affairs besides those of his own family—such as the Drymen Road Trust, the Ayrshire Iron Company's Bankruptcy, and Sir Philip Durham's estate. During the last two years of his

<sup>1</sup> A monument to Mr. Dennistoun's memory bears the following inscription :

In memory of  
 JAMES DENNISTOUN, Esquire of Dennistoun,  
 Born 17th March, 1803.  
 Distinguished in literature,  
 Of cultivated mind,  
 Sound judgment, and refined taste ;  
 His Christian character,  
 Moral worth, and courteous manners,  
 Endeared him to many friends.  
 He died, 13th February, 1855.

—  
 This corruptible must put on incorruption ;  
 This mortal put on immortality.

—  
 Erected by his Widow,  
 Isabella Katherina Murray.

life Mr. Dennistoun was Deputy-Governor of the Forth and Clyde Canal Company, the directors of which held a special meeting after his death, and unanimously agreed to a resolution expressive of the great loss they had sustained thereby, and deeply sympathizing with Mrs. Dennistoun in her bereavement. By a liberal provision in his trust-deed, Mr. Dennistoun provided for the whole of his manuscript collections being placed in the hands of his friend, Mark Napier, Esq., Advocate, who was empowered to go over, select, and arrange the different parcels, to have them properly bound, indexed, and catalogued, and then to present the volumes, in the name of Mr. Dennistoun, to the Faculty of Advocates in Edinburgh. Availing himself of such opportunities as his avocations afforded, Mr. Napier carefully examined the whole collection of manuscripts, and having had them bound into eleven volumes, presented them, in terms of Mr. Dennistoun's bequest, to the Faculty of Advocates, in whose noble library they now are—a rich mine of information on all subjects relating to the history of Dunbartonshire.

2. George, born 1806, was some time a merchant in New York and in Glasgow. In 1837 he married Margaret Helen, daughter of Henry Wallis of Marysborough (of the Drishane family), County Cork, and his wife, Helen M'Call. She died on 14th December, 1839, after giving birth to an only child. After his wife's death George lived with his mother and sisters at Greenlaw. He died in 1849 and was buried beside his wife in the family vault at Cardross.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The old burying place of the Dennistoun family was in the parish burying ground of Old Cardross, formerly situated on the west side of the Leven, at its junction with the Clyde. It is now a public park. When the present Parish Church was built at Cardross, the family vault was placed against the Church. (Above it is a room communicating with the family pew in the gallery of the Church, in which the family from Kamis Eskan used to have luncheon between sermons.) On the arch above the outer door of the vault (now built up) is the inscription

3. Richard, born 1809, died 1829.
4. Robert, born 1815, died 1895.

The following account of Robert Dennistoun was dictated by him to his grandson, Robert Maxwell Dennistoun :

“I was the fourth son of James Dennistoun of Dennistoun, born on the 18th Jan., 1815. Spent my childhood at the beautiful family residence of Camis Eskan, Dumbartonshire, which had been in the possession of my ancestors for some six hundred years.

Educated in private, in June, 1834, my father died at the age of fifty-four, it was supposed he had suffered internal injury when his horse fell with him when riding home from church.

Having been destined for a mercantile life, up to this time I had spent three years in a counting-house in Glasgow.

It so happened at this time there was a general idea in Scotland that life in the Colonies was a desirable one for

Dennistoun of Dennistoun and Colgrain, and the Arms. Inside the Church on the wall at the back of the vault is a white marble slab with the following inscription :

In Memory of  
Those Members of the family of  
Dennistoun of Dennistoun and Colgrain  
Buried in the family vault here previous to the year 1780,  
and to  
James Dennistoun, died 1816, his wife Margaret Donald, died 1780, and his wife  
Margaret Dreghorn.  
James Dennistoun, born 1780, died 1834, his wife Margaret Ramsay Oswald, born 1780,  
died 1851.  
John Dennistoun, born and died 1823.  
Katherine Dennistoun, born and died 1824.  
Richard Dennistoun, born 1809, died 1829.  
George Dennistoun, born 1806, died 1849, his wife Margaret Wallis,  
born 1809, died 1839.  
Margaret Dennistoun, born 1805, died 1872.  
Elizabeth Dennistoun, born 1813, died 1873.  
Mary Dennistoun, born 1811, died 1873.  
Camilla Dennistoun, born 1815, died 1889.



young men with small capital. Accordingly in October of that year I sailed to New York from Liverpool, reaching Peterborough in December. In March following I purchased 500 acres of land on Cameron Lake in Fenelon and settled on it. I was in 1837 appointed a Justice of the Peace. I was married on 24th Dec., 1839. Our eldest child was born in October, 1841. By 1844 I had cleared about 100 acres and become satisfied that if I continued to live as a farmer in the back woods I would have no chance of educating my children or pushing them on in the world. In February, 1844, when 29 years of age, with the approval of my wife I became a law student in the office of G. S. Boltoun, for three years we lived in Cobourg, and I, until Feb., 1849, in Toronto, in D. B. Reid's office, when I was enrolled as a Solicitor and Attorney. (In June following I was called to the Bar.)

Having opened an office in Peterborough my business soon became prosperous, in 1856 County Judge Hall thought of resigning his position, if he had I was to have been appointed, fortunately for me he changed his mind and there was no vacancy.

While living in Fenelon the 5th Durham Battalion of Militia was incorporated, I received a Captain's Commission, in 1857 the 5th Peterborough Battalion of Militia was formed and I was appointed Lt.-Col.

I was afterwards appointed a Bencher at Osgoode Hall in July, 1867. I was appointed a Queen's Council 26th June, 1867. In July, 1868, I was appointed County Judge, and in February, 1886, after eighteen years service I had a slight attack of paralysis and retired on a pension.

In the year 1856 I built Inverlea (on land I had purchased then in the Township of Smith, afterwards in the Town of Peterborough) where we continued to reside until the end of May, 1888, when it was sold."

5. Alexander, born 1821, was educated at Loretto. He went to Canada to join his brother Robert, but took up the lumber business, which he followed for many years, mostly in the backwoods of Ontario. In 1866 he married Margaret, daughter of John Redpath and Jane Drummond (both of Edinburgh), of Terrace Bank, Montreal, Canada. Latterly he and his wife lived in Edinburgh, where she still resides. He died in 1895 and is buried in the Churchyard of Holy Trinity, Edinburgh.
6. John, born and died 1823.
1. Margaret, born 1805, died 1872.
2. Isabella, married in 1847 John Wilson, D.D., who was for many years Presbyterian Missionary in Bombay. He was well known and greatly respected as an eminent Oriental scholar. Both died in Bombay where a handsome building has been erected, which is called the Wilson Memorial College, in memory of them.
3. Mary, born 1811, died 1873.
4. Elizabeth, born 1813, died 1873.
5. Camilla, born 1815, died 1889.
6. Janet, married in 1847 William Mitchell of Carwood, and had issue.
7. Katherine, born and died 1824.

The four unmarried sisters Margaret, Mary, Elizabeth, and Camilla, after their mother's death, purchased in 1863 a villa at Row, and adding to it, named it Auchinlea.

XX. JAMES WALLIS DENNISTOUN of Dennistoun. On the death of James Dennistoun in 1855 the representation of the family devolved upon his nephew James Wallis, only son of George Dennistoun. He was brought up by his father's eldest sister Margaret, and he always looked upon her as a mother. Later on he spent much of his youth with his maternal aunt and her

husband, William Smith of Carbeth Guthrie, as one of their family. He entered the Royal Navy in 1854 and served as naval cadet and midshipman in H.M.S. "James Watt" (steam line-of-battle ship), commanded by Captain George Elliot, for two summers in the Baltic, under Admirals Sir Charles Napier and Sir Richard S. Dundas; afterwards in H.M.S. "Boscawen" (sailing line-of-battle ship), commanded by Captain Richard Ashmere Powell, flagship of Admiral Sir Frederick Grey, at the Cape of Good Hope and coasts of Africa; and four years as Lieutenant in H.M.S. "Trident" (paddle-wheel steam ship), on the coast of Scotland, and the Mediterranean. He retired from the service in 1865.

He married on 2nd July, 1868, Caroline Joanna, daughter of Henry Gore Booth (second son of Sir Robert Gore Booth, Bart., of Lisadell, Co. Sligo) and his wife, Isabella (daughter of James Smith of Jordanhill). They resided for more than twenty years in Selkirkshire, at Harewood Glen and The Hangingshaw, both on the river Yarrow, and their house was the scene of many happy gatherings, which will always be green in the memory of those who took part in them. Latterly they made their home at Auchinlea, Row. Mr. and Mrs. Dennistoun travelled a good deal abroad. From 1886 to 1890 in Switzerland, Italy, and Egypt. In 1899 and 1900 they went round the world, visiting Ceylon, Australia, and New Zealand, where they spent about two months with their cousin, George Dennistoun, at Peel Forest, Canterbury. They returned by way of the Pacific from Sydney to Vancouver, and crossed the Rocky Mountains by the C.P.R., visiting at Winnipeg, Peterborough, and Montreal, their relations of the house of Dennistoun. In November, 1904, they made a trip to India, and landing at Bombay they went to Mhow where they had a bungalow for a short time with their son, Captain J. G. Dennistoun, R.H.A. They also visited some of the chief places of interest, Udipur, Jaipur, Delhi, Agra, and Dehra Dun; on their way home they landed at Brindisi, and spent several weeks between Naples, Rome, and Aix les Bains.

## DENNISTOUN OF DENNISTOUN

Mr. Dennistoun has always taken a great interest in the Episcopal Church of Scotland, and was, while in Selkirkshire, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer to St. John's Church, Selkirk, and was for some years a member of the representative Church Council, and for a year on its Executive Committee. He has since been an active member of the vestry of St. Michael's and All Angels, Helensburgh. He was a keen sportsman and enjoyed shooting, especially on a small moor over which the late Duke of Buccleuch gave him leave to shoot. He was also a member of the Duke of Buccleuch's hunt, with which he hunted regularly for ten seasons.

Mr. Dennistoun is a J.P. for Dumbartonshire, a member of the Army and Navy Club, a life member of the Highland and Agricultural Society, was for 36 years a member of the New Club, Edinburgh, and also, while in Selkirkshire, a member of the Forest Club.

Mrs. Dennistoun died on 17th July, 1905, at Seaside, Helensburgh, in the house of her sister, Miss Joanna Gore Booth. She is buried in the Cemetery at Helensburgh. They had two children :

Isabella Caroline, m. 20th October, 1902, the Rev<sup>d</sup>. Herbert Hensley Henson, Canon of Westminster and Rector of St. Margaret's, Westminster.

James George, b. 24th May, 1871, educated at Mr. Darnell's school and at Eton, now Captain R.H.A. and a member of the Army and Navy Club.

II. JOHN DE DANZIELSTOUN = Adam More of Rowallan, Knight  
1360-1377.

III. SIR ROBERT DE DANZIELSTOUN = More.  
Knight, 1399.

Elizabeth = King Robert II.  
1347

King Robert III.

Margaret =  
Sir W<sup>m</sup>. Cunninghame of Kilmaurs,  
The Earls of Glencairn.

VIII. PATRICK DENZIELSTOUN = Giles Colquhoun.

IX.—ROBERT DENZIELSTOUN = Katherine, d. of Se

X.—ROBERT DENZIELSTOUN = Margaret, d. of H

Catherine = Elizabeth = Matt<sup>w</sup>. M'Aulay  
1st, Dugald Campbell of Clachan. of Ardoch Campbell.  
2nd, John Spreull of Cowden.

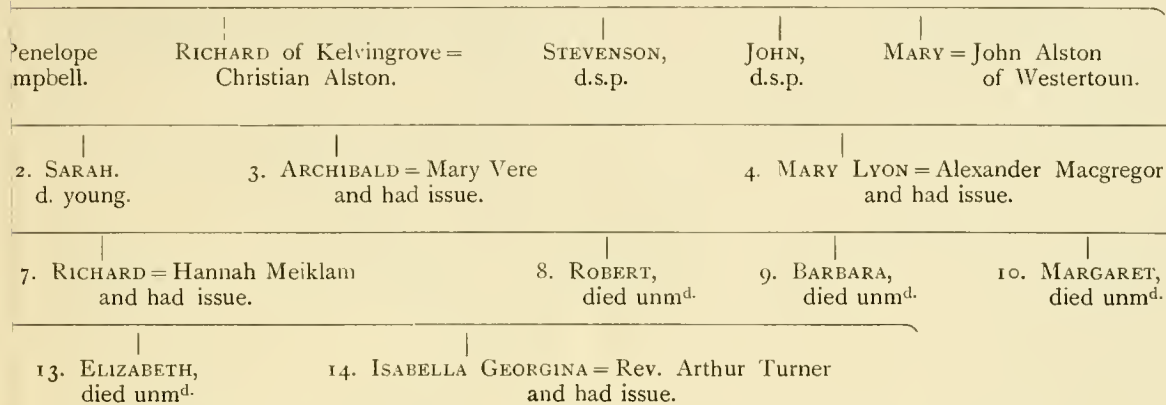
XI.—JAMES DENZIELSTOUN = Marion Dennistoun

VII. WALTER DENNISTOUN = 1st. Sarah, d. of H

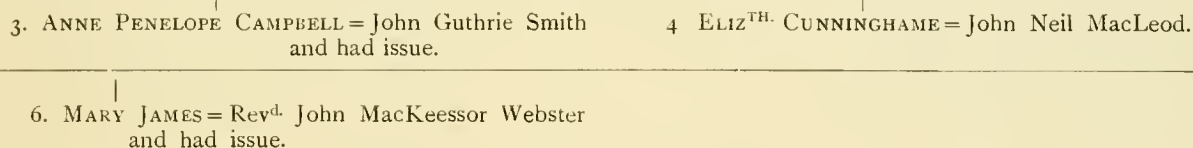
ustoun. James. Walter. Patrick. Robert. Janet = Helen.



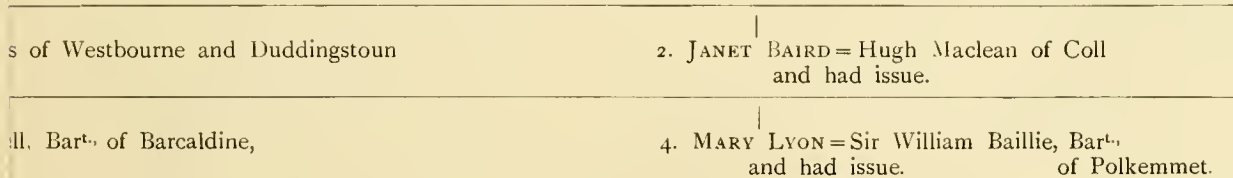
JAMES DENNISTOUN married secondly Mary Lyon.



JAMES ROBERT DENNISTOUN = Barbara Macredie.



JAMES DENNISTOUN married secondly Margaret Dreghorn.



JAMES WALLIS DENNISTOUN





KING ROBERT BRUCE.

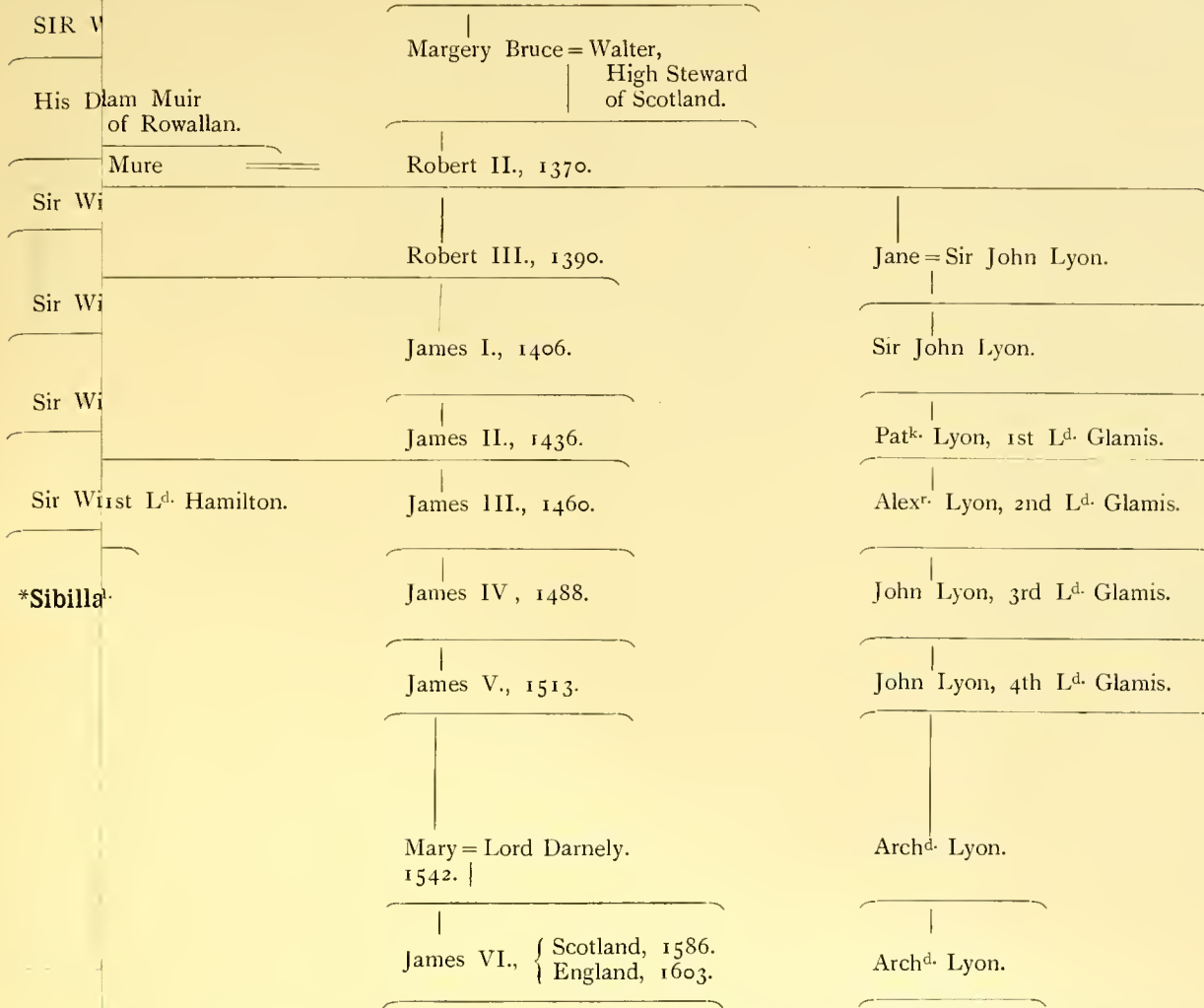




Table IV.

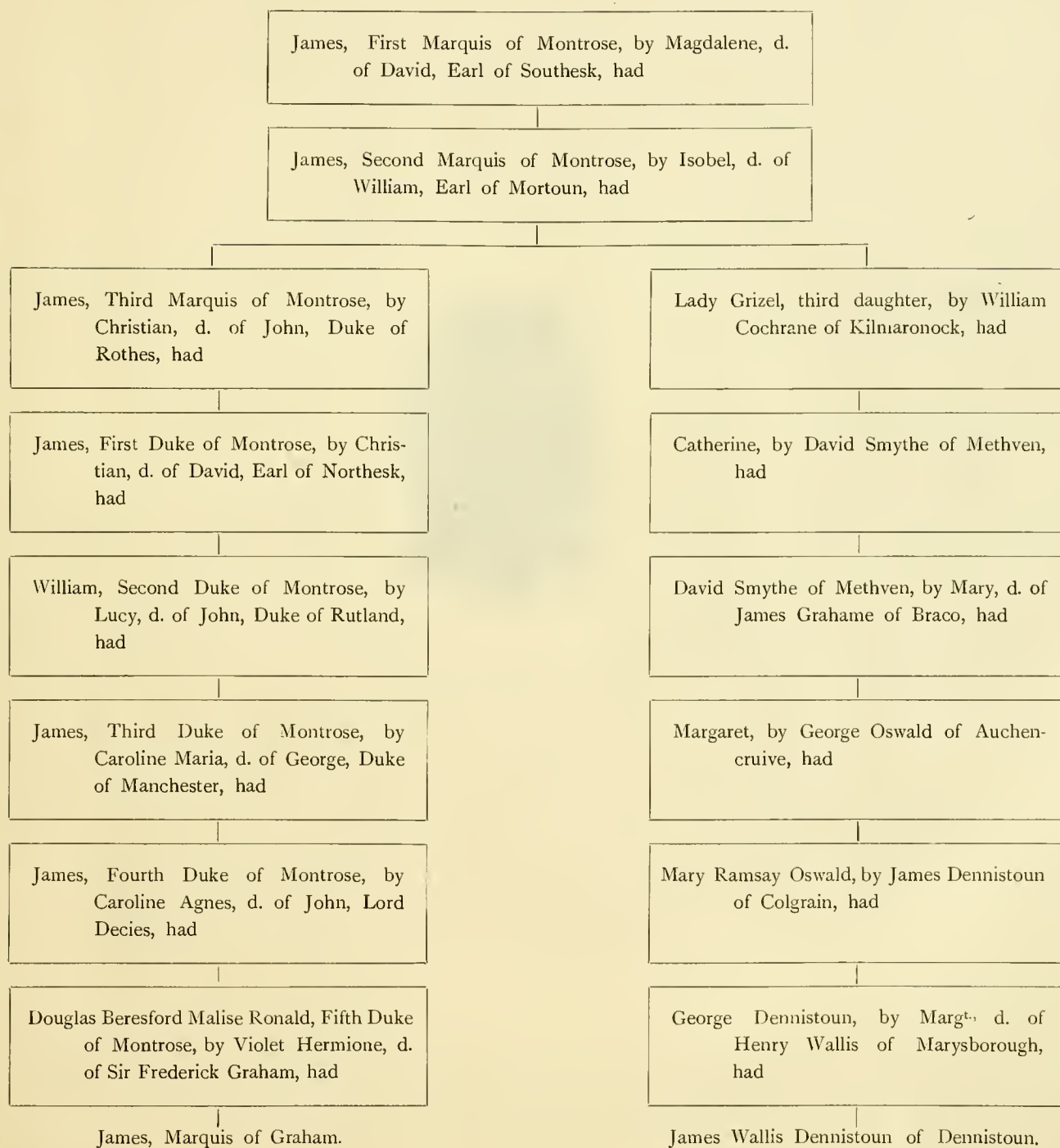
JAMES WALLIS DENNISTOUN of Dennistoun's Escutcheon  
of 16 Descents.

<p>JAMES WALLIS DENNISTOUN of Dennistoun.</p>		<p>George Dennistoun.</p>	<p>James Dennistoun of Colgrain.</p>	<p>James Dennistoun of Colgrain.</p>	<p>James Dennistoun of Colgrain married Janet Baird of Craigton.</p>
<p>Margaret Wallis.</p>		<p>George Dennistoun.</p>	<p>Henry Wallis of Marysborough.</p>	<p>George Oswald of Auchencruive.</p>	<p>Dr. James Oswald married Elizabeth Murray.</p>
			<p>Helen M'Call of Braehead.</p>	<p>Margaret Smythe of Methven.</p>	<p>David Smythe of Methven married Mary Graham of Braco.</p>
<p>Margaret Wallis.</p>		<p>Margaret Wallis.</p>	<p>Henry Wallis of Marysborough.</p>	<p>Henry Wallis of Drishane.</p>	<p>Henry Wallis of Drishane married Elizabeth Wallis.</p>
			<p>Helen M'Call of Braehead.</p>	<p>Elizabeth Paul.</p>	<p>Christmas Paul married Ellen Carew.</p>
<p>Margaret Wallis.</p>		<p>Margaret Wallis.</p>	<p>Henry Wallis of Marysborough.</p>	<p>James M'Call of Braehead.</p>	<p>Samuel M'Call married Margaret Adam.</p>
			<p>Helen M'Call of Braehead.</p>	<p>Sarah Reid of Stevenston.</p>	<p>Thomas Reid of Stevenston married Elizabeth Boyd.</p>



Table V.

Descent of JAMES WALLIS DENNISTOUN of Dennistoun  
from James, First Marquis of Montrose.





19 06









