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**THE GORDONS OF SALTERHILL**  
AND THEIR IRISH DESCENDANTS.

**J. M. BULLOCH**

KEITH: PRIVATELY PRINTED: 1910.

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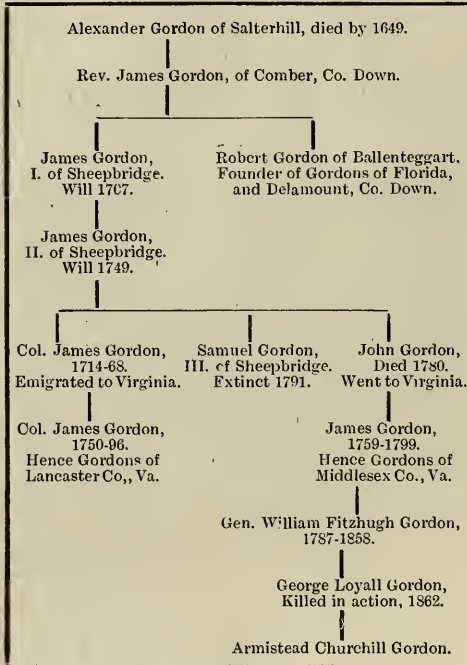
## THE GORDONS OF SALTERHILL

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The history of such a vast family as that of Gordon is honeycombed with many puzzles in descent. I have often thought of tabulating some of these, such, for example, as the ancestry of David Gordon of Lascelles' Regiment, who was the great grandfather of Chinese Gordon. It would be a proud day for the particular line of Gordons who could tack on the hero of Khartoum to their house. But no solution of a Gordon problem would give me greater satisfaction than the origin of the Gordons of Sheepbridge, Co. Down, because no Gordon has put himself to such trouble and expense in working out his origins as their descendant, Mr Armistead Churchill Gordon of Staunton, Virginia.

Mr Armistead Churchill Gordon holds that the founder of his family was the Rev. James Gordon of Comber, Co. Down, for he makes him the ancestor of the Gordons of Sheepbridge, County Down. If this suggestion is correct, the descendants of the minister can be numbered by the hundred, for though the direct line actually owning Sheepbridge died out in 1891, the house has been extremely prolific. Mr Gordon has constructed a pedigree (running into 51 pages of typewritten quarto), and last year he wrote a life of his grandfather, General William Fitzhugh Gordon, 1787-1858, issued by the Neale Publish-

ing Company of New York (8vo.: pp.412).  
The Sheepbridge family on this reckoning  
runs in tabular form:—



I am not satisfied that the Rev. James Gordon of Comber was the father of James of Sheepbridge. If that could be proved, the minister would be doubly interesting. For

the moment, I am concerned chiefly with the minister's own immediate ancestry, namely, the Gordons of Salterhill, which lies in the parish of Drainie.

There seems to have been at least three Gordon families connected with Salterhill. The one of interest at the moment is that of Alexander Gordon, of whom we know very little. It has been suggested (without proof) that he was descended from the Lesmoir Gordons.

The first appearance of Alexander Gordon of Salterhill is in 1625, when he was designed as "in" and sometimes "of" Dippill:—

1625, July 8.—James Douglas of Dippill, having sold Kirktoon of Dippill to Walter Innes, son lawful to Mr John Innes of Cokistoun and Jean Gordon, his spouse, on 8 May, 1621, redeemable for 2000 merks, and said Walter Innes having sold his right to Alexander Gordon, now in Dippill, said James Douglas, with consent of Mr Alexander Douglas, his eldest son, confirms Kirktoon of Dippill to said Alexander Gordon by deed dated at Elgin, 8 July, 1625, and recorded in the Elgin Sasines Register, 9 July, 1625.

1626, October 6.—Sasine to Alexander Gordon of Dippill and Marjorie Geddes, his spouse, on Kirktoon of Dippill, following on a charter by the Bishop and Chapter of Moray, as superiors, dated at Elgin, 6 July, 1626. Sasine recorded 31 Oct. 1626.

It was probably through this Innes of Dippill association that the connection between the Salterhill Gordons and the Rev. Alexander Gordon of Rathfriland, who left his books to the Rev. Hugh Innes of Mortlach, was established. Alexander Innes of Dippill was served heir to his father, William Innes of Dippill, 30 June, 1652 and his

mother's name was Margaret Spence. He married in 1649 Marie Hay, daughter of John Hay of Knockandie in Nairn; and seems to have resigned Dipple about 1659. On March 24, 1655, Marie Hay, spouse to Alexander Innes of Dippill, had renounced her liferent in Kirkcoun of Dippill . . . in favours of Sir Robert Innes of that ilk . . . 'befor thir witnesses, Colonell Johne Innes, John Hay of Knockandie, and Robert Gordone, sone to the deceissit Alexander Gordone of Aikinhead" ("Elgin Sheriff Court Diet Book").

Colonel John Innes was "governor of the Bog," i.e., Gordon Castle, in 1649; and I think he acquired Dipple about 1659. In 1660 Colonel John Innes of Dippill appears as a heritor of Dipple, but as non-resident. On July 12, 1664, William Ogilvie, younger of Bauchlaw, had sasine of Lightnet in the parish of Gamrie ("Banff Sasines"). On June 3, 1669, there was renunciatione and grant of redemptione of Lightnet made to William Ogilvie, younger of Bauchlaw, in favour of Col. John Innes of Dippill (*ibid.*) On Aug. 25, 1669, Col. John Innes of Dippill and Jean Campbell, his spouse, had sasine of Lightnett (*ibid.*) On 30 Nov. 1669, Col. John Innes of Dippill renounced Kirkcoun of Dippill in favour of Sir Robert Innes of that ilk ("Elgin Sasines"). Col. John Innes was succeeded in Lightnet by his son James; and another son was Mr Hugh Innes, minister of Mortlach, who died in 1733, aged 68. It was to this Hugh that the Rev. Alexander Gordon of Rathfriland left his books.

Robertus Innes, "filius domini de Lightnet," entered King's College in 1670 and took his M.A. in 1674. As Col. John Innes of Dippill got sasine on Lightnet in 1669, Robert may be taken to be a son of Col.

John, and a brother of Hugh, minister of Mortlach. If this Robert was the "cousin" of Mr James of Comber, he was cousin of Mr Alexander of Rathfriland (assuming Mr James and Mr Alexander to be brothers), and a reason would be found for Mr Alexander's mentioning him in his will. Robert Innes, cousin of Mr James, seems to have been a writer in Edinburgh, and so was Mr Robert Innes, son of Lichnet.

1697, March 2.—Reversion, by James Innes of Lichnet, of lands of Lichnet. in favour of Col. John Innes, his father, and Robert Innes, writer in Edinburgh ("Banff Sasines").

1700, Nov. 8.—Sasine to Robert Innes, writer in Edinburgh, of an annual rent of £48 out of Lichnet (ibid.)

If we could find that Jean Campbell was the Colonel's second wife, and then the name of his first wife, we should probably get a strong presumption that Comber and Rathfriland were brothers.

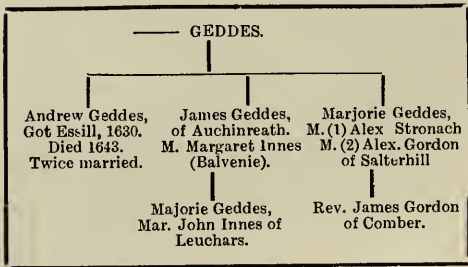
1642, Feb. 10.—Mr Alexander Gordon in Salterhill and Marjorie Geddes, my spouse, forsameikill as be contract . . . betwix umquhill Robert Innes of Dranye and us . . . of the dait at Elgin, 22 day of Aprile; 1634, the said umquhill Robert Innes grantit him to have received fra us . . . 3000 merks and for securitie . . . the said Robert Innes as principall, George Gordon, then in Dranye and now in Auchinraith, William Innes then in Boigsyde and now of Dippill, and Jherome Spens of Myltoun of Innerlochtie as cautioners . . . band . . . them . . . to infest me and my spouse . . . in an annual rent of fourtie bolles . . . out of Saterhill . . . and seeing Sir Robert Gordon [has bought the lands and barony of Dranie and has paid us the 3000 merks, he and his spouse quit claim Sir Robert,

etc.], dated at Saterhill, 10th Feb. 1642, recorded 12 Feb. 1642.

1642, Nov. 10.—“Alexander Gordone in Saterhill,” ruling elder, was present at a meeting of the Presbytery of Elgin (“Elgin Presbytery Records”).

1647, Nov. 11.—Sasine to Alexander Gordoun of Salterhill and Marjorie Geddes, his spouse, on Aikinhead and myll of Kynneddor, following on a charter from James, Earl of Moray, dated 31 March, 1647.

Alexander Gordon of Salterhill, who was dead by Oct., 1649, left a widow, Marjorie Geddes, whose origins have given a great deal of trouble. The probabilities are that she was the sister of Andrew Geddes of Essill and James Geddes of Auchinreath. The Rev. Stephen Ree, who has done yeoman work in unravelling the Salterhill pedigree, suggests the following environment for her:—



Concerning James Geddes of Auchinreath the following facts are interesting:—

1640, Oct. 9.—Be it kenned to all men be thir present letters me, James Geddes of Ower Achinreath, forsameikle as, be reasone of certaine contraversies falline be me and Margaret Innes, my spous, so that



for the present we can not live togidder in sic sympathie and concord as becometh betwix man and wyfe, it is thocht guid and expedient be certaine of our weill-willie freinds on both syds that ther be a sequestratione betwix us for a tyme . . . faithfullie bind . . . me . . . to . . . pay to Alexander Innes, now in Bellormie, in name of said Margaret, the sume of four scoir punds money yeirlie . . . and gif ony miscariage or break of dewtie happin to be fund or qualiefeit other on my or her partis the same to be judgit be Alexander Innes now in Bellormie, Walter Innes of Wrtane, David Dunbar in Garmochie, and Alexander Gordoune of Saterhill, wha hes brocht ws to this appoyntment above written . . . in witness quherof I haif subscribit thir presentis wretin be John Innes, notar publict, at Haltoune the nynt day of October, 1640 yeirs, befor thir witnesses, the saids Walter Innes, David Dunbar, Alexander Gordoune, and John Innes; recorded in "Elgin Commissary Records," 26 July, 1649.

The following documents show that Marjorie Geddes long survived her husband:—

1651, Sept. 13.—Sasine to Marjorie Geddes, relict of umquhill Alexander Gordoun, sumtyme in Salterhill, on the toun and lands of Salterhill, following on a contract of wedset by Sir Ludovick Gordon of Gordonstoun and her, dated 27 May. 1650.

1655, June 2.—Compeirit personallie Marjorie Geddes, relict of the deceissit Alexander Gordoune, sumtyme in Salterhill and now spous to Alexander Stronochie of Salterhill, and . . . renuncit and dischargit her wedset right . . . in and to the toun and lands of Salterhill . . . and that in speciall favours of Sir Lodovick Gordoune, fiar of Gordounstoune and Dame

Elizabeth Farquhar, his spous, thair aires and assigneys . . . Lykas immediatlie thairefter compeirit the said Alexander Stronach and ratified the said renunciation . . . befor thir witnesses John King in Plewlands, Alexander Stewart, writer in Elgin, and Alexander Hay, notar burges of Elgin ("Elgin Sheriff Court Diet Book").

Some loose papers of the Sheriff Court of Elgin show that in 1673 Robert Rutherfoord, one of the bailzies of Elgin, as executor to the deceased Barbara Dunbar (who died in Oct. 1669), relict of William Sutherland in Inchkeill (who died in Oct. 1664) raised an action against Marjorie Geddes, relict of the deceased Alexander Gordoun in Saterhill (who died in Oct. 1649), as executrix to said Alexander Gordoun, and Archibald Geddes of Essill, as cautioner in the bond, for payment of 600 merks, with interest, due by the deceased Alexander Gordon (with Archibald Geddes of Essill as cautioner) to William Sutherland in Inchkeill by bond dated at Elgin 31 May, 1648. Marjorie Geddes produced an exoneration, under the hand of the Sheriff Clerk, and dated 30 April, 1653, of her as executrix of the deceased Alexander Gordon of Aikenhead. Part of this exoneration remains, and shows that Alexander Gordon rented Myresyid, Readhall, Salterhill, and Little Dranie; that at his death he was due to umquhill James Gordon of Mostowie £333 6s. 8d by bond dated 12 Nov. 1635, upon quhilk John Gordone, merchant burges of Elgin, eldest lawfull sone and air to said umquhill James Gordon obtanit decree; and that his eldest daughter, Marjorie, "now spouse of James Spence of Woodhead," was left a legacy of £1200 Scots.

Alexander Gordon of Salterhill had at least four sons and a daughter, as follows:—

1. Rev. James Gordon, minister of Comber, whom I shall treat separately as carrying on the line.

2. "Mr" Alexander Gordon: was cautioner for his brother George at Elgin on September 20, 1667. Mr Ree has ingeniously suggested that he is probably identical with the Rev. Alexander Gordon, presbyterian minister at Rathfriland, Co. Down, who in his will of 1708 mentions two brothers, James and George, and leaves his books to Mr Hugh Innes, minister of Mortlach. Now the Geddes family to which Alexander of Salterhill's wife belonged had frequently intermarried with the Innes family. I know nothing of his early history. Somehow or other he found his way to Ireland and became minister of the Presbyterian Church of Rathfriland in County Down. This Church has had a history thoroughly characteristic of the troublesome period of its origin. A tablet over the church door tells its history in brief, bearing the following inscription:—"Congregation erected A.D. 1662. Meeting House built A.D. 1679. Rev. Alex. Gordon minister. Succeeded by Rev. Robert Gordon, A.D. 1711. M. House rebuilt A.D. 1775. Rev. Sam'l Barber, minister. Ceiled and improved A.D. 1834, Rev. John White, minister." In 1657 Rev. Robert Huetson had a grant of £150 a year from Cromwell's government as minister of Rathfriland. In 1661 the Rev. James Campbell was minister of the parish, as Presbyterian ministers then frequently were, but he was ejected from the pastorate by the ecclesiastical authorities because he would not conform, and give up his Presbyterian principles and practices. He was driven from the country and his after history is unknown.

Between 1662 and 1679, the Rev. Alex.

Gordon became minister and continued in office till his death on 13th February, 1708. About this time there was much ecclesiastical hostility against the presbyterians, and the Presbyterian Church of Rathfriland, like other churches elsewhere, had its doors nailed up, so that for a time no service could be held in it. Eventually, however, the opposition was overcome—the congregation divided by the Presbvt part of it thereafter worshipping, as their successors still worship, at Ballyroney. On March 27, 1711, the Rev. Robert Gordon was ordained minister in Rathfriland. He continued the paster for 51 years, dying on April 10, 1762. This Mr Gordon, who was a native of Donaghadee in the immediate vicinity of Comber, studied for the ministry in Edinburgh, where in 1704 he tells us in his "Diary" he paid fourteen pence weekly for his chamber. He tells us also in his "Diary" that when he went home the summer from College, he attended several "communions" near his native place, when there were from seven up to ten and a half "tables" and the services begun at seven or eight o'clock on the Sabbath morning. Mr Gordon was twice married, and was the father of 26 children—13 sons and 13 daughters (Reid's "History of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland," ii. 496, note—edition 1867). We do not know where Robert Gordon was buried, but one of his wives was buried in the same grave as his predecessor, the Rev. Alexander Gordon, in Drumballyroney Episcopal Churchyard, and the tombstone covering both bears the further inscription:—"Here lies the body of Mrs Jane Gordon, alias Hamilton, the pious and virtuous wife of the Rev. Mr Robert Gordon, minister of Rathfriland who departed this life September 8th, 1726, in the 34th year of her age."

It seems to have been during some of these troubles of Rathfriland that Gordon was a minister first at Kirkcowan and then at Sorbie, from 1689 to 1692. He had "studied and acquired" his degree at Glasgow University, July 27, 1676 (Scott's "Fasto," i., 734).

Alexander Gordon died on Feb. 13, 1708, aged 66, and was buried in the neighbouring Drumballyrone (Episcopal) Church, where his tombstone can still be seen and read. His will, which was not proved, is lodged in the diocese of Drumoil, and is accompanied by a counterpart copy, which, however, has certain additional phrases. It was as follows:—"In the name of God, Amen. I Mr Alexander Gordon of Lesise, parish of Drumballyrone, and county of Down, gent., now being sickly and weake of body, but sound of mind and perfect of memory (praise be to God for the same), and knowing the uncertainty of this life on earth, and being desirous to have my house sett in order being persuaded that I shall dye and not live, doe make and ordaine this my last will and testament in manner and forme following, viz.:—first and principally I recommend mv soul to the Almighty God, my Creator and Maker. asshuredly believing that I shall receive a full pardon and free remission of my sins and be saved by the precious death and free meritts of my Blessed Saviour and Sovereign Redeemer, Christ Jesus, and my body to be buried in decent order in the church yard of Drumballyrone, to the west-south side of the church with a grave stone and my name thereon. And first I revoke and renounce and hereby make voide all will or wills by me formerly made and appoint this my last will and testament. And as touching such worldly substance as the Lord in mercy hath lent me my will and

meaning is; the same shall be employed and bestowed as hereafter; by this my will is expressed.

It.: I order all my debts, legacies, and servants' wages to be honestly and faithfully payed out of ye first part of my worldly substance. It.: I leave and bequeath John Magill of Gillhall, Esq., one mourning ring, value one double pistole, and to his two children five guineas each.

It.: I leave and order to the relict and children of my now deceased brother german, George Gordon, the hundred pounds sterl. money due to me by Robt. Koss of Karny, Esq., and Robert Gordon of Ball integgart, gent., in the County of Down, Ireland, as also I leave and ordr to the aforesaid relict and children a bond of Two Hundreth pounds Scots money due to me by Sir James Dunbar of Mochrum in Galloway, Scotland, and also another bond of 100 marks Scotch money due by David Gordon of Barnerny in Galloway in the kingdom of Scotland, also gent.; all which legacy I order to be disposed of by my Executors as followeth, viz.:—to my brother George aforsd, eldest daughter 500 marks Scotch money; and to his second daughter 400 marks Scotch money; and to his third daughter 300 marks Scotch money; and to his fourth daughter 200 marks Scotch money; and to his fifth and last daughter 100 marks Scotch money; and that the other 700 marks Scotch money over and above w[ha]t is here disposed of be at the disposall of the mother to and for her use and the use of the two voungeest daughters.

Item: I leave and bequeath to my eldest brother James, his daughter, my niece, Elizabeth Gordon alias Packington a bond of £10 sterl. due by David Bowell and John Stewart, both of Skennacher in the County

of Down conjoynedly and severally. As also I leave and order to her all the money remaining by the Regium Donnor att the time of my decease; and also I leave her the bed standing in the middle room with all its furniture, viz., sheets and all other things thereunto belonging; as also I leave her wt is due me by Henry McDoel and Archibald Moore, gent.

Item: I leave and bequeath to my servant, Elenor Flatcher, the bed standing in the little new room with all its furniture, viz., sheets and all other things thereunto belonging; as also I order my executor and overseers hereafter mentioned to give unto my afsrd servant, Elinor Flatcher, what part of the furniture belonging only to my kitchen they please and think fit.

Item: I leave to Doctor, Victor Fergison of Belfast, my bay gelding, or in lieu thereof one mourning ring, price a gwniea.

I order and leave all my Books to Mr Hugh Innes, minister of Mortlach, in Scotland.

Item: I leave and order John Knox of Rathfryland my sole executor of this my last will and testament, hereby revoking all wills and testaments dated before the date hereof.

Item: I desire and humbly require the Rd. Mr John Rowan of Ballynegappoch, ye Revd. Mr Charles Wallace of Morn, and Mr Isaac McCartney, merchant of Belfast. to be my overseers of this my last will and testament. Item: I leave to each of my above named overseers one mourning ring, price each ring are gwenie. As witness my hand and seal this first day of January; anno dom, one thousand seven hundred and eight.

A. GORDON (A.G.)

Signed and sealed in presence of James Cromey; John Hill; Nathaniel McCurry.

Whereas that I, Alexr. Gordon, of Lesise, parish Drombellyrony and County of Down gent., did the first day of this inst., January, make and perfect my last will and testament, now I, the afsrd Alexr. Gordon, doth make this codicile and further ordrs to be done by my executor in my said will as hereafter mentioned, viz.:—

Impr., I doe bequeath and order what stipend or stipends that is yett resting due to me by the sevrl inhabitants of that side of Rathfryland parish, called now by the name of Bellyroney parish to be paid to my niece, Elizabeth Gordon. alias Packington, I doe recomend the same to ye Presbytery that they may order ye inhabitants therein to make good payment Item I doe bequest and order what stipend or stipends that is due to me by that said parish now called Rathfryland parish, to be paid to my servant, Elinor Flatcher. I doe recomend the same to ye Revd. Presbytery of Ardmagh, that they may order ye inhabitants therein to make good payment. Item: I order to Mr Atchison Hawkins one mourning ring, value one giwney. Item: I did for a time agoe gifte to the Rd. Mr John Rowan my clock as it now stands, which I hereby order may be given him according to my former order. Item: I order the suit of clothes to be given to my servant, Nathaniel McCrivy, which I doe now wair, viz., the gray suit. Item: I doe further order to be given and distributed by my executor to ye poor of ye parish of or congregation of Rathfryland ye sume of £2 2s sterl.

In witness whereof I have hereunto put my hand and seal this ninth day of February, ano dom, 1798/9—

DOCTOR ALEXR. GORDON.



Sealed, signed and delivered in presence of Thomas Swan; James McDowell; James Nov.

From the will, it appears that George Gordon and the Rev. Alex. Gordon were full brothers; and this fact being emphasized by his calling George "brother-german" would seem to indicate the further fact that Rev. James of Comber was his half-brother. Marjorie Geddes was undoubtedly the mother of George and therefore of Alexander. Was the first wife of Alexander of Salterhill a Gordon of Gordonstown, or otherwise close kin to the Sutherland Gordons? Again, David Gordon of Barnerny, mentioned in the will, was a son of James Gordon of Craiglaw in Kirkcowan in Wigtonshire, who lost his estate and life at Bothwell. Alexander Gordon must have met him during his brief ministry at Kirkcowan. This probably explains the reference by the Rev. James Gordon of Comber to his "cousins of Earlstoun, also Craiglau," the word cousin being probably used in a generic way.

It may be doubted whether the Rev. Alexander Gordon was married, for he makes no mention of a wife or of issue.

3. George Gordon was baptised Aug. 12, 1645, and became a merchant in Elgin. He occupied an influential position, as the following document, dated Oct. 16, 1672, serves to show:—

I, John, be the mercie of God Bishope of Ross, be thir presents mak, constitut and ordaine George Gordon, merchand in Elgin, my vndoubted and irrevocable factor and chamberland, to the effect efter-specifeitt, giveing, granting and committing to him my full power and commissiōe in my name and vpon my behalf to intromitt with . . . the hail maillis, fearmes, dewties . . . payable to me furth of

my lands, milnes . . . about the brugh of Elgin . . . and that for the croft and years of God Im. vic. thrie score ellevin and tuelff yeares . . . lyckas the said George Gordone as principall, and Marjorie Geddes, his mother, as cautioner for him, is to mak compt and reckoning and payment to me"; dated at Fortrose, 1 Oct. 1672, and at Elgin 16 Oct. 1672; and recorded in "Elgin Commissary Records," 17 Oct. 1672.

George Gordon married (1) in October, 1683, Isobel Innes, daughter of Colin Innes, glover in Elgin, and she died in 1686. He married (before 1689) Helen Ogilvie, who survived him.

4. Robert Gordon, "sone to Alexander Gordon of Salterhill," had assigned to him Ballachastell on June 23, 1647, certain debts which had been assigned by decree at Edinburgh on July 11, 1635, as due to James Done, sometime servitor to the Earl of Moray. The assignment was registered on April 7, 1650, in the Elgin Commissary Record.

5. Marjorie Gordon: married James Spence of Woodhead in Kinloss, and was alive on Nov. 15, 1682. On July 6, 1688, George Gordon, merchant in Elgin (probably her brother), James Spence, elder, of Woodhead, and John Spence, younger thereof, granted a bond of 650 marks to Alexander Dunbar, brother german to the Sheriff of Moray; and it was registered on December 5, 1691, in the Elgin Commissary Record.

6. Margaret Gordon, baptised April 19, 1635 ("Drainie Register").

7. Barbara Gordon, baptised January 31, 1639 (ibid.)

## THE REV. JAMES GORDON, COMBER.

The Rev. James Gordon, minister of Comber, Co. Down, was the son of Alexander Gordon of Salterhill, a fact borne out by the following entry in the "Elgin Commissary Record":—

1649, Oct. 17.—On this date the following document was made out:—"Be it kend —me, Mr James Gordoune, minister at Comber in Ireland, sone lauchfull to umqll. Alexander Gordoune of Salterhill: forasmeikle as in the contract of wedsett of the lands of Aikenheid of dait—1640 yeires past betwixt James, Earle of Murray, and the said umqll. Alexander, provydit to me in fee the sune of 3000 merks for quhilk the said lands were impignorat: now for the love and favour quhille I have to Alexander Gordon, sone lauchfull to the said umqll. Alexander and my laughful brother:

Witt ye me to have resigned 500 merks out of the said 3000 merks in favour of my said brother Alexander."

The document was registered April 1, 1653. 1653.

Another extremely interesting proof of James's origin occurs in the Elgin Sasines as follows:—

1678, Oct. 9.—Sasine (30 Sept. 1678) to Mr James Gordone now in Ireland, eldest lawfull son to the deceist Alex. Gordon in Saterhill, his father. of the lands of Aikenhead and mylne of Kinneddor upon precept of clare constat to him as heir forsaid be Alex. Brodie of that ilk, superior of said lands, dated 6 Mav. 1678.

The tenor of the precept of clare constat follows:—

Alex. Brodie of that ilk, immediat lawfull superior of the lands and others vnderwritten with the pertinents, to my lovitts

Alexander Anderson in Aikinhead, or any of them . . . my baillies in that part speciallie constitut, gretting. Forsomuch as . . . it is evident and clear knowen that the deceist Alexander Gordon of Saterhill, father to Mr James Gordon now in Ireland, bearer of thir presents, died last vest and saised as of fie in peace in the lands and others vnderwritten, viz., in all and heall the lands of Aikinhead and miln of Kinneddor, milnlands, multurs, sequells and pertinents therof, and the teynds of the samen lyand within the sherifffdom of Elgin and regalitie of Spvnie, and that the said Mr James Gordon is neirest and lawfull air to the said deceist Alexander Gordon, his father, of the said lands, miln and teynds and others forsaid with their pertinents, and that he is of lawfull age, and the said lands and others are now holden immediatlie of me as superior therof, and my airs and successors, as come in place of ane noble Earle, Alexander Earle of Morray, who was immediat lawfull superior therof, and forsameikle as the said Mr James Gordon, as eldest lawfull sone and air of the said deceist Alexander Gordon of Saterhill, with consent of Marjorie Geddes, his mother be their right and disposition of the date the twentie eight day of May, 1656 years, has sold and disponed to me, my airs and assigneys, heretable ther right of propertie and vedsett of the said lands. milne and others forsaid to be holdin of the superiors in manner specified in the said right, since the which right I have acoucred the superioritie of the saids lands from the said Alexander, Earle of Morray and therby I have both right of propertie and superioritie of the saids lands and others standing in my person. Thairfoir and to the effect the said right and disposition may

be the more valid and effectuell and the propertie of the saids lands, milne and others forsaid may be lawfullie consolidat with the superioritie therof in favour of me and my airs male and assigneys upon the resignation of the said Mr James Gordon, I command and charge you or any of you, etc., etc.

I do not know where James was born or where he was educated. He seems to have gone to Ireland as chaplain of the regiment commanded by Hugh (Montgomery), 2nd Viscount Montgomery, during the rebellion in Ulster in 1641, and whose widow, Jean Alexander, daughter of William, 1st Earl of Stirling, married Major-General Robert Monro. Mr Armistead Gordon's theory that the Rev. James may have had a Gordons-toun Gordon for his mother becomes all the likelier in view of the part played by Sutherland men in quelling the rebellion as recorded in "The Earls of Sutherland" (pp. 509-510):—

This year of God one thousand six hundredth fourtie-two, George Gordon (the Earl of Southerland, his brother) went with a companie of men into Ireland with General Leslie, being the first captain of the General's own regiment. This armie of Scots consisted of ten thousand men, and were sent under the command of Generall Leslie and Generall-Major [Robert] Monro into Ireland, to assist the English against the Irish rebels there, in that great rebellion stirred vp be the papists of that kingdome against the protestants. About the end of May one thousand six hundredth fourtie-two yeares, Captain Gordon assembled a companie in Southerland and Strathnaver, of eight score able men, most part gentlemen, and went with them through Badenoch and Atholl to Stirlie

(where his rendezvous was appointed), from thence to Irwin, and so into Ireland.

It was during his stay in Ireland that Captain George Gordon married Lady Rose Macdonald, daughter of the Earl of Ancrum.

The Rev. James may very well have gone across with Captain Gordon, and been appointed to Montgomery's regiment. Certain it is that a James Gordon was "chaplain" with the army in Ireland in 1649. His name so appears in a document called "Inrolments" in the office of the Chief Remembrancer of the Exchequer, Dublin (Roll ii. membrane 27), and is copied into O'Hart's "Landed Irish Gentry" (1889. p. 389). Confirmation is afforded by the following Exchequer Bill (Dublin, 1682-3, p. 83A):—

Hugh Montgomery v. James Gordon and John Griffiths. 23 Nov. 1682.—Hugh Montgomery, of the town of Drogheda, Esq., states that he was agent and solicitor for several commissioned officers in Ireland before 5 June, 1649 for procuring their certificate, stating their arrears, procuring satisfaction, and passing certificates and Letters Patent thereon, being by agreement to manage the whole concern at his own expense, and to lay out all money necessary. For this service he was to have from some a fourth-part of the satisfaction given to them: from others a third part, and a moiety from those whose debentures were but small. And being employed by James Gordon of Comber, Co. Down (who had been some small time chaplain to the Right Hon. The Lord Montgomerie's Regiment), he procured for James satisfaction, which amounted to £30, and passed the said satisfaction in his own letters patent, and afterwards treated with Gordon for what proportion he might reasonably expect.

The plaintiff, at Gordon's request, entered into one personal bond of £30, conditioned for the payment of £15 to John Griffiths of Comber, merchant, and soon after paid; and John Griffiths promised to deliver up the bond to be cancelled, which the plaintiff states he did not do.

No answer.

Like Captain George Gordon, the chaplain did not end his career in Ireland by fighting. According to the Montgomery MSS. (examined for Mr Armistead Gordon by Mr Philip Crossle, Newry), he became private chaplain to the widow of his colonel, Lord Montgomery, who died in 1642 and who had a house at Comber, and from this post he seems to have been appointed to be the first minister of the church at Comber; to which, according to Killen's "Presbyterian Church in Ireland," he was ordained by the Presbytery of Down, "about the year 1645. Mr Gordon was deposed for nonconformity in 1661, but afterwards conformed. He was succeeded by the Rev. John Hamilton, who retired to Scotland at the time of the troubles in 1689," in which year the Rev. Alexander Gordon of Rathfriland (the supposed brother of the minister of Comber), betook himself for a time to the parish of Kirkcowan.

Gordon, like other Presbyterian ministers, suffered through Blood's revolutionary attempt of 1663, being suspected of aiding and abetting the adventurer. In June of that year, seven ministers in Down, including Gordon, were apprehended and sent to the King's Castle at Carlingford. Patrick Adair ("True Narrative of the Rise and Progress of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland," pp. 277-281), says that they were "first put up, or pounded, in a narrow room at the top of the house, far from friends or acquaintances, where they were in danger of starving, but

that God stirred up the heart of a woman in the place, a stranger called Miss Clark, to supply them with necessaries. They were for a fortnight kept very close, till they were advised by Mr Francis Hamilton, an officer of the company there, to write to my Lord Dungannon, who procured them liberty of the town in the da-time, they returning to their narrow room at night lying on the floor, four or five, as it were, in one bed." Ultimately Gordon and another parson had liberty of abiding in the countrv. "through the procuring of my Lad- Ands, mother of the Earl Mount Alexander."

Gordon's eccleasical outlook is made clear by a document preserved among the Wodrow MSS. in the Advocates' Librarv Edinburgh (folio, vol. 59, No. 130). endorsed "Mr James Gordon's own news from Ireland; orin[gi]nall in his own Hand, 1680." The "grievances" referred to must have been written about 1677, for in one of the letters Gordon says he forwarded them to Lord Granard "some three years agoe." They were as follows:—

Grievance.—Some publict greivances with some supposed suitable remedies. Anno 1680.

I fear their are who look at, mavbe desyre, the change of the civil government in this land and wish a commonwealth way; or change of the Stewart's family: or somthing they know not what. so being thair were a change; a feirfull ill temper. in my opinion, and of the most dangerous consequences.

Remedy.—That as the protestant for religion against papists and sectaries, so Monarchy in his Majestic Charles II. and his seccessor be owned b- all as the Civil Government in this lands not only against papists so oft attempting for Pope or popish monarch, sometyme of Spain, now of



France, may be, but also against common-wealths or 5th monarchv men against jus papalians and jus populatians.

2nd Grievance.—It is judged by many that the Bishops helped sadiv or mainely to bring down his last most excellent Majestie and the throne: what they signify in England or Scotland I'm not so certain: But I'm cleare and sure they and their curats in the numerous North of Ireland signify little or nothing either for God and souls or yet for King and Kingdoms. Finaly they seem to have been and to be still the great and hard bone of contention which thir Kingdomes finds most hard of digestion, so to say.

1st Remedy.—It wer to be wished his Majesty (to his greater glory then the King of France hath aimed at or attained by all his victories) would call a synod of orthodox divyns out of all Europe as well as out of the three Kingdomes for settling of church government or far as is possible according to the Scriptures: How great is God's goodness that moderat Episcopalians and we Presbyterians are agreed in doctrine and grounds of religion, held forth in the confession of Fayth and Catechisms, agreed on by the parliament and assembly there.

2nd Remedy.—A worthy great person in Scotland commended hugely to myself our Presbyterian way in the North of Ireland. The Civil magistrate to sitt (as the King's Commissioner did in the Generall Assemblies of Scotland) as superintendant in all presbyteries and church judicatories to heare and see that Kin<sup>o</sup> or State receive no hurt and by thir means (to my own experience in my own poor congregation) the church might reap much good.

3rd Grievance.—Jus populi: Lex Rex: Cup of cold water, and the like peeces

from Holland or elsewhere have influenced thir lands to much trouble and hurt, yea ruin of many families; for whatever good things be in them they hold forth thir and other such unscriptural, dangerous, and unpeaceable principles (which the godly learn'd might easily and should refute) for example, That the people or multitude is the original of Magistracy? That, in the case of Magistrats maleadministration, their power resolves unto the people again? That they may alter the government, change the governours, etc. That the said people or multitude in defect of King and parliament may take the sword, ryse in armes, gather in arm'd feild conventicles, onely let it be say'd for the defense of the Gospel and ministry thereof, and may such grounds they walk upon; preach up; and act by To us here these things are most sad.

Remedy.—Such principles by the authority of King and Parliament to be gethered, summ'd up briefly refuted: and a short substantious model drawn up. etc., to be subscryved by every one entring into the ministry, either at their being licensed to preach, or at their ordination to the ministry: If the lyke were done by all entring into civil trust or power. But that's besyd my scope; who am a churchman and mynding our churches matters I adde for remedy:—

That the sword civil is given of God to the Magistrate (Rom. 13 4). He beareth not the sword in vain, etc. not to the people or multitude: O feirfull would be that sword! As the sword spiritual is given to the ministers of the Gospell onely, and not to the people congregation, or multitude of the faithfull, say some whom we'll not name.

Q.—Quhy a professed Papist in thir 3 Kingdoms more than a professed Protestant in all Spain?

Q.—If ther oath of supremacy, according to Dr Wishart's sense and exposition might not doe much ease and good within the land?

Q.—If a negative voice can be denyed the King's Majesty; vet the Parliament hath it by the late Restoration Word.

Q.—If the King be indicable by anv but God? I mean unto death: For otherwise King and Parliament are bound by this.

The most interesting facts about the minister of Comber from the human point of view are two letters from him to his daughter Jean in Edinburgh. The document containing them is preserved among the Wodrow Manuscripts in the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh (Folio, vol. lix., No. 130). The document consists of a sheet of foolscap, forming four pages. It is endorsed "Mr James Gordon's own News from Ireland, orin'll his own Hand, 1680." On page 1 is a letter beginning "My dear Chyld, I received thy first written in Septr. on Fryday nyt last past and this is Munday morning," and ending "Thyn own Father to death, Ja. Gordon." On page 2 is another letter beginning "My chyld, I would fayn hav written to some as to mv Lady Staires," and ending "Transcryb for your self the following page and be wise concerning it and keep it for myself. Your care in this and all things else is craved by your own father. Ja. Gordon." On page 3 is a list headed "Some public Grievances, with some supposed sutable Remedies," and on page 4 is the address, "For my loving daughter Jean Gordon at Edinburgh. To be left at the Poast Office there." There is added in another hand, "This to be sent by the post of Air or Glasgow as directed, and to be

given in att Edinburgh to my Lady Hattone her lodgens, or John Kennedy, Apothecary, his shop there." Document No. 131 is simply a copy of the "Grievances" on page 3 of 130, somewhat carelessly made. Lady Elphinstone, who is referred to in the letter, was the grand-daughter of Richard Lauder of Hatton, whose wife may be the "Lady Hattone" spoken of. The first page runs:—

My dear Chyld,—I received thy first written in Septr. on fryday last past, and this is Munday morning. I'm little obleight to the keepers up of it. I hae answered that large one by Mr Livingstoun, and very ill to read it was, twyce and at large by Mr Peacock's conveyance and cover to the poast m[aste]r at Edr., his acquaintance, to be called for by you there at the poast m[aste]r's. I say from Mr Peacock to you.

Now, my child, 1st Receiv here inclosed your sister Betty's from Galway in Ireland, where her husband lives, ane officer in that garrison. A strange like cast of providence if my only two daughters should according to your dreams, takes not well enough with her condition. Yee know her temper, poor thing, to be over anxious for the world. And I really feare she inclyns too much to the epidemick distemper of your selfe to have as husbands John Thomson's men, and that'll never doe well enough with her or any other, I hope. I wott weell it's not God's way in the Scripget sojers to their husbands. It agrees but too well with my loyalty. But out of jest into earnest, I feare your sister Betty, tures. Bidd her both win and keep her husband's heart whyle they live. Neer a hunder lib. St. myt doe very weell in such a chape and plentiful place; and he is sweet.

20. Know, dater, that for his not doing to Sir Lodowick and to you also in other particulars a becoming duty, I have not gotten a kyndlie look almost given to your poore prodigall brother, and yee may know also that's no very agreeable to my temper. The poore chyld and his mother are at their witts end, and cannot advyse me what to doe for myself and Sir Lodowick in his affayre; and, therefore, this is the third tyme I have written especially in my last letter to my cousin Robert Innes, to find from Sir Roger, our most worthy friend and relation, and others judicious advocats what to doe. Your coussin threatens in his last that he is to come to Ireland next month. Might I begg of him that he would not come till he bring you with him? Or assure me of your tymes that is he and mee together and I'll doe my best to help you with horse or money or both altho' I'm scare enough of both since my excellent colt dyed.

30. Now what to say either of the one thing Mr M'Kenzie's bussiness and yours (I remember him very affectionatly) or of that excellent Lady Elphinstoun's bussiness so to say and vours. I present by you my most obleidged humble service to my outmost power and capacity unto her Ladyship. (Ye may easily see I cannot writt to either). I confess I much preferr your being with her Ladyship from Hallowday forewards, till ye be somewhat disposed to come home unto your old father and mother, and profit her Ladyships sweet child to the outmost till then, rather than yee should be obleidged to live with one of different principles—I dare not think let be to say, of a different religion. Yea, and for ought I know, never see your old decripit father, the stay of whom in his

old age it would be to have thee by me, and to me there's little doubt but God would provyd you weell here to live comfortably after I wer dead and gone.

Finaly, if Hanna Ker come hither without you has honest John did, it'l stand with my heart to make her so wellcome as otherwyse I would fayn doe. If John would do me ryt, we myt have a very comfortable lyfe in Bellihenry whyle I live who am ever, my dear child, thyn own father to death.—Ja. Gordon. [This suggests that John is the "poore prodigall brother."]

Remember me to all particularly that's kind unto thee, as if I had expressly named them; they run through my mynd and would fill much paper.

The second letter, forming the second page of the document, runs:—

My chyld, I would fayn hav written to some as to my Lady Staires, Lady Bogy, etc., but the truth is I know not weill what, or how, till I heare from thee or see thee. Wherever thou art or with whomsoever, receiv herewith some of myne own and brethrens principles, which I did communicat some three years agoe to our excellent frend, my most kynd and favorable countryman, my Lord Granard [Sir Arthur Forbes], and about two yeares agoe unto my poore Earl of Mount-Alexander [Hugh Montgomery, d. s. p. 1714]. His English Lady and highlie Episcopall has moved him to sell off his estat almost, and, it's very lyke, at her father Lord Fittsharding [Maurice, 3rd Viscount Fitzhardinge, died 1690] his coming over to Ireland, she'll move him next to goe live in England. My lord and Hew Campbell now deceised, in his worldly pryme did me hurt enough at and before the change but I'll overcome it all. Receiv, I say, some

[of] the principles or overtures for signifying my publick judgement and of many others here. And I desyre you for your part to own them as sound, and, if it be for any good purpose, to communicat them. But be reserved wary and prudent in the thing, and know well with whom you are free. Now, Jenny, if the Lord would be pleased to make use of your being acquaint with the worthy Lady Elphinstoun (for so I heare her commended) or any other great person whom you may influence to doe any service unto the sweet deare family of our cousins of Earlstoun, Craighlaw, also, if neid be or any other brokin family with that unhappy Bothwell business, I had written earnestly against that way of theirs, if you be remembered; and also a good while before to him and Craighlaw and my Lady Stayres. At the same time, I say, daughter, receiv thir principles as it wer our overtures for our right carriage and to let some know what stamp most I hope of my brethren are who are presbyterians here in Ireland. Ah! Ah! for Scotland, the Lord redintegrat the Staff of Bands and Beauty there. [The reference in this sentence is to the two shepherd's staves, "Bands" and "Beauty," of the 11th chapter of Zechariah, a favourite chapter with the Covenanters.]

One thing I had almost forgot. Yee wrott of paying Mr Livingstoun 30 shs: for you, which when I was offering unto him he told me that Mr Livingstoun's younger son, not the elder, had his son John's note for it, and it behoved to be sent to Glasgow or be some express to Mr Livingstoun, Merchant in Ed[inburgh]. Therefore, let me know both from him and John Duncan, my worthy friend, how to send them their money. But Jean doe

not surpryze me for such a whole summe together, for I have to doe with my pen[n]ies I assure you. Your sister has casten 5 lb. besyd other smaller debts upon me. I know not weill how to answer all. But I'll see to your credit if I set tyme to answer things, though your brother had done weill for himself, if he had closed rightly with Sir Lodowick and you ere he came to me. I say it the 4th tyme, my Cousin Robert and yee know the best and outmost that he can doe with reason, and I hope to bind him to it, and procure if yee can a lyn or two from some downright friend of his own to himself in the thing as well as yours to me, if my cousin Robert or others hav not a better, and that Sir Lodowick will not persue [prefer?] what, may be he [may?] inclyne to keep what he has of myne in the north, I must deal with some gentlemen in the West to treat and work with Trochreig and see if I can free your houses of Ayre, yielding good eight or rather nine lib. yearly rent to you if they wer rightly managed: but I wait just for your better overtures.

Transcrib for yourself the following page and be wyse concerning it and keep it for myself. Your care in this and all things else is craved by your own father.—Ja. Gordon.

Endorsed.—The address should have been here, but it is at the end of the Grievances. Number 131 is a copy from Gordon's original and is endorsed by Mr Ward's hand; there is added 1680 by some other hand.

Note.—The Rev. James Gordon was ordained in Comber about 1650, was deposed in 1661, continued in that county, was in Comber in 1673, May 1684 he is reported to have confirmed.



In the index to Wodrow, Gordon is entered as "afterwards minister at St Andrews." There is no reference to him in Scott's "Fasti."

What actual relationship existed between the minister of Comber and the laird of Gordonstown mentioned in this letter is not clear, but they had business dealings, as is proved by the following document:—

1672, October 24.—Sasine to Sir Lodovick Gordon of Gordonstoun of half of the milne of the barronie of Kilmalemnock, commonly callit —, within the pariochin of St Andrewes, disponed be Mr James Gordon, somtym minister at Comber in Ireland (by disposition dated at Edinburgh 16 August, 1672, and witnessed by George Dallas, W.S., and Mr Alexander Gordon, student of divinitie); recorded Dec. 10. 1672.

I do not know when the Rev. James Gordon died. His will has not been found, despite an exhaustive search, nor any grant of administration on his estate. Part of the Comber property which he owned formed part of the same Abbey lands in the Barony of Newry, as were those at Sheepbridge, which were granted to the first James Gordon of Sheepbridge in 1692.

The Rev. James Gordon married (as her second husband) Marie Simpson, the daughter of the Rev. James Simpson, minister of Airthland. Simpson went to Ireland as chaplain to Sinclair's regiment in Munroe's army, 1645-7. This regiment was at Newry during that period, and when it left, Mr Simpson remained in Newry as minister to a congregation there, and was still in Newry in 1650, when his daughter, Mary, married the Rev. Hugh Binning, minister of Govan, who died of consumption in September, 1653, aged 27 (Scott's "Fasti," ii. 68).

Binning's life was short, but he made his mark. He played a prominent part in the historical dispute before Cromwell at Glasgow (April, 1651), between the independents and presbyterians. "His learning, theological knowledge, and eloquent fervour bore down all opposition. The Protector was astonished, and finding his party (of the independents) non-plussed, is said to have asked the name of 'that learned and bold young man,' and when told it was Mr Hugh Binning, to have replied, 'He hath bound well indeed, but' (putting his hand on his sword), 'this will lose all again.' Subsequently he still more publicly vindicated the church's rights as against the invasion of the State, from Deuteronomy xxxii. 4-5. A long account of him was given in the "Distionary of National Biography" by Dr A. B. Grosart. Binning's only son John entered the family estate of Dalvennan, in Straiton, South Ayrshire, on the death of his grandfather, but having engaged in the affair of Bothwell Bridge in 1679, was attainted and his property forfeited. But in 1690 the forfeiture and fines and attainder were rescinded by Parliament, with little advantage nevertheless to him, through the roguery of one Mackenzie, who claimed to have advanced money on the estate far beyond its value.

On July 5, 1667, there was registered the action and cause "at the instance of Marie Simpson, relict of Hugh Binning, minister of Govan, and James Gordon, late minister at Comber, her husband, for his interest, against John Binning, son and heir to the deceased Hugh Binning of Dalvennan, and oy and heir to the deceased John Binning, his good sir ("Register of Deeds," vol. 24). On January 28, 1674, John Binning of Dalvennan and Mr James Gordon, minister in Ireland, granted a bond for 200 merks to

Lilias Campbell, merchant in Edinburgh. It was registered November 24, 1676.

On January 2, 1668, a bond was registered by Mr James Gordon, Minister of the Gospel granted a bond to Hew Wallace, merchant burges of Edinburgh, for £147. at Ayr, 18 November, 1667; witnesses, Alexander McMurray, shoemaker burges of Ayr, and William Crawford, merchant burges of Ayr.

On October 24, 1672, Sir Lodovick Gordon of Gordonstoun got sasine of half of the milne of the barronie of Kilmalemnock comonlie callit — within the pariochin of St Andrewes, disponed be Mr James Gordon, somtym minister at Comber in Ireland (by disposition dated at Edinburgh 16 Aug. 1672. and witnessed by George Dallas, W.S., and Mr Alexander Gordon, student of divinitie); recorded 10 Dec., 1672. [Mr Alexander Gordon, "chaplain to the Laird of Gordonstoune, elder." witnessed the baptism of Alexander, son of Mr Michael Cuning, minister at Kinneddar, on 5 May, 1672 ("Drainie Register"). Evidently he is the same man as witnesses the above disposition, but it is doubtful if he was the brother of Mr James, for he would at this time be 30 years of age.]

According to Scott's "Fasti" (i. 68), Mrs Gordon died at Paisley in 1694.

The Rev. James Gordon refers in his letters to only three children, a son (of whom he speaks in the letter to his daughter Jean as "your poore prodigall brother"), and two daughters. Mr Armistead Gordon, however, gives him three sons as follows:—

1. (?) James Gordon of Sheepbridge near Newry, a family that became extinct in the direct male line in 1891.
2. (?) Robert Gordon of Ballinteggart, progenitor of the Gordons of Florida, Manor and Altamont, Co. Down.

3. (?) Hugh Gordon of Killyleagh, Co. Down. Mr Gordon is doubtful of his parentage, but points out the name of Hugh, which was the same as that of the Rev. James Gordon of Comber's patron, Lord Montgomery, and also that two of Hugh's daughters, Betty and Jean, bear the same names as James's daughters, as is shown by Hugh's will, which was proved in 1686:—

In the name of God Amen, the eighteenth day of November, One thousand six hundred and eight six: I, Hugh Gordon of Killeleagh, in the County of Down, being sick and weak in body, but of sound and perfect memory (praise be God for the same), and knowing the uncertainty of this life on earth, and being desirous to settle things in order, do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following: that is to say, first and principally I commend my soul to Almighty God, believing to be saved only by the precious death and merits of my blessed Saviour Jesus Christ; and my body to the earth whence it was taken, to be buried in such Christian and decent manner as to my friends and executors hereafter mentioned, shall be thought meet and convenient. And touching such worldly estate as the Lord in mercy hath sent me, my will shall be employed and bestowed as followeth:

First: I appoint that whatever portion was left to my children by the last will of my father in law, Robert Linton, deceased, and Isabell Linton, his wife, also deceased, be accordingly payed and given to them; and further I give and bequeath to my daughter, Janet Gordon, £20 Ster. and to my son Hugh Gordon £40 ster., and that whatsoever is over and above, whether in money debts or any other thing what-

soever belonging to me, be equally distributed among my children, viz.: Janet Gordon, Robert Gordon, Ann Gordon, Bettie Gordon, John Gordon, James Gordon, and Hugh Gordon.

Next I order and appoint that none of these my children dispose of themselves in marriage or to callings without the advice and consent of their guardians and executors all hereafter mentioned. And likewise, if it fall out that any of these my children die before they be disposed of in marriage, then my will is that the portion or portions of the defunct shall be honestly and equally divided amongst the next of my surviving children or their issue lawfully begotten.

Also I appoint my trusty and well beloved friends Mr William Fairlie, Robert Moore, John Mairs and John Macknaught, to be the sole executors of this my last will, and

Finally I appoint my trusty and affectionate friends Sir Robert Maxwell, Mr James Bruce, and Mr George Maxwell of Derriboy to be guardians and overseers to my said children.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year first above mentioned.

Hugh Gordon (Seal much broken).

Signed and sealed in presence of John Leank, J. Danny, James Spotswood, Johnes Mayre, Johnes McNaught una executor and Jacobus Spotswood testis subscribens *Infra Scripti testamenti jurat fuerunt de Civitate ejusdem 28 die menii January 1686.*

Coram me, Geo. Lowell.

Endorsed: Robert Linton 4 or 5 years.

Copy of will proved in the Diocese of Down.

4. Elizabeth Gordon is referred to in her father's letter as being married to an officer garrisoned in 1680 at Galway. Mr Armistead Gordon calls him Lieut. Packington, identifying her with the Elizabeth Gordon, "alias Packington," who was a beneficiary under the will of the Rev. Alexander Gordon of Rathfriland in 1708.

Mr Philip Crossle, of Newry informs me that on 4 Dec. 1665, William Packington was commissioned Lieutenant to Captain Carteret's Foot. In April, 1672, he appears as Lieutenant to Colonel George Lesome, who was Captain of a Company of Foot in Sir Edward Mossie's Regiment: and in December, 1678, being in the same regiment, was quartered at Galway. Again in July, 1679, in the same company, and still at Galway. In March, 1685, he is Lieutenant in Captain Richard St George's Regiment of Foot, and quartered in the Isle of Arran. (West of Ireland.)

I have not been able to identify him with any family of Packington (or Pakington), the best known of which was Pakington of Aylesbury, Bucks, created Baronets in 1620 and extinct in 1830. The baronet contemporary with Gordon of Comber was Sir John Pakington (died 1727), who sat in eleven Parliaments for Worcester, and was a strenuous supporter of the rights of the subject. He is said to have been the original of Addison's "Sir Roger de Coverley." His grandfather fought in the Royalist army at the battle of Worcester.

5. Jean Gordon did marry a "sojer," as her father half humorously said she would do in his letter to her in 1680. In one of these letters he says—"Now what to say of the one thing, Mr M'Kenzie's bussiness and yours (I remember him very affectionately)." The marriage duly came off, the bridegroom being Daniel M'Kenzie.

He appears in the muster roll of the Earl of Dalhousie's company "upon the 17 of June, 1682," signing it as Daniell McKenzie," though in the actual list of officers he is given as "Donald" (in Charles Dalton's book "The Scots Army in 1661-1688," p. 113, 133). The same muster roll is also signed by Richard Elphinstone. This is apparently Richard Elphinstone of Calderhall (son of Sir Thomas Elphinstone, "Muster-Master-General" of the Forces in Scotland), who bought the barony of Elphinstone from the 8th Lord Elphinstone. Jean's married life was brief. for on March 3, 1697, there was registered a disposition by Jean Gordon, relict of the deceased Daniel McKenzie, ensign to the late Earl of Dalhousie, in the Earl of Mar's Regiment, with consent of Mr James Gordon (spouse to Mary Sympton, relict of the deceased Mr Hugh Binning), late minister of Comber, to Mr Roderick McKenzie, advocate, whereby for certain sums the said Jean Gordon sold and disposed to the said Mr Roderick Mackenzie, his heirs, etc., all and whole the ten-merk land of the £10 land of Keires, comprehending the particular lands therein mentioned, all lying within the parish of Straiton, bailiary of Carrick and Sheriffdom of Ayr. At Edinburgh, April 19, 1683. Witnesses—Mr James Elphinstone, W.S., Robert Innes, Mr Colin McKenzie, Mr Robert Mitchellson, writers in Edinburgh, and William Brown, writer in Edinburgh ("Register of Deeds").

The descent of the Gordons of Sheepbridge and of Ballinteggart, both in County Down, from the Rev. James Gordon of Comber, is at present a great difficulty. Mr Armistead Gordon is inclined to believe that James Gordon I. of Sheepbridge was the son of the minister of Comber; but Mr Philip Crossle,

of Dundalk, who has made elaborate investigations into the history of the Irish Gordons, thinks that James Gordon I. of Sheepbridge, and Robert Gordon I. of Ballintaggart, were probably brothers and sons of Robert, the brother of the Rev. James Gordon of Comber.

The Sheepbridge lands acquired by James Gordon in 1692, were a part of the Abbey property of the Cistercian Abbey at Newry granted by Queen Elizabeth to Sir Nicholas Bagenal; and James Gordon leased them from Nicholas Bagenal, his descendant.

Benn's "History of Belfast" contains a note stating that in Queen Elizabeth's reign, Sir Nicholas Bagenal and Henry Bagenal, his son, obtained a patent granting to them the Abbey of Comber in County Down. Rathfriland apparently came within the Bagenal ownership of these abbey lands; and, since the Presbyterian minister at Comber occupied Bagenal lands, it is natural to suppose that this minister's son, James would have a preference at Sheepbridge; and that the Bagenal interests and influence would be powerful in behalf of the same family at Rathfriland, and its adjacent townland of Ballinteggart.

Another suggestive link is to be found in the fact that the Rev. Alexander Gordon of Rathfriland was succeeded in 1711 by the Rev. Robert Gordon, "a native of Donagh-dee," which is in the neighbourhood of Comber. Now the fact that one of this Robert's wives was buried in the same grave with the Rev. Alexander Gordon of Rathfriland suggests that there was some family relationship between the two ministers. The diary of the Rev. Robert Gordon is now in the possession of a Dr Annesley of Derrylin, County Fermanagh, but I have not had the opportunity of seeing it.



Rev. Patrick Simpson became minister at Dundalk, Co. Louth. in 1713; and Hamilton Gordon, eldest son of Rev. Robert Gordon of Rathfriland, lived in Dundalk, and had an only son named Patrick Simpson Gordon. This Rev. Patrick Simpson appears to have been a nephew of Professor Simpson of Glasgow University, who was a progenitor of Sir John Moore, of Coruna fame.

The migration of these Morayshire Gordons to Ireland is extremely interesting as showing that the south of Scotland was not the sole exporter, as is often supposed, of its people to Ireland. The paucity of records in Ireland makes it extremely difficult to follow up the origin in Scotland of many of the Scots settlers, and it is usual to look for their antecedents in the south-western corner of Scotland, as the nearest land to the Green Isle. We have seen, however, that the Rev. James Gordon of Comber came from the north. Another Salterhill Gordon took a trip to Ireland, in the person of the notorious Lewis Gordon of Aikenhead, in the parish of Drainie, who, when he got into trouble at home, crossed the Channel to Ireland in 1682, in the beginning of the eighteenth century. He found a little colony of Gordons there, mentioning Lewis Gordon, "provis"; Charles Gordon, ensign, "who is a sister's son of General McKeys, who went to Portegeall"; John Gordon, a gentleman in "Heasten's" (Houston's) Regiment (in the Scots Brigade in Holland?); John Gordon, shoemaker in Dublin; Alexander Gordon, stationer in Plunket Street; Alexander Gordon, tailor in Skinner Row; Archibald Gordon at the sign of the "Coak and Botle in Bryd Street"; Robert Gordon, a tailor in Patrick's Close; Thomas Gordon "doctor and dextrius in cutting of the ston"; Alexander Gordon, a brother to Arthur Gordon. "a man that rides in Cornel Deyeall [Dal-

zill's] troupe of Dragouns, a corporall"; Alexander Gordon, an old man, who ran errands for a club that Lewis Gordon of Aikenhead started in Dublin.

Again, William Gordon, the last male Gordon of Farskane (he was served heir to his father in 1780), is stated in the Rose MS. to have gone to Ireland, "and is still (1791) alive in Sligo."

The Gordons of Feltrim and Swords, near Dublin, also came from the north.

John Gordon of Nether Buckie, an officer in the 1st Foot, married in 1728 Mary, the second daughter of William Armour of Connor, and had a son, Alexander Gordon, captain of the Swords Infantry. The latter, who died in 1830, had two sons—Lieut.-Col. John Gordon of the 38th Foot (died 1846?), and Hugh Loftus Gordon of the Commissariat Department, who died in 1833. It is significant that William Gordon last of Farskane, who in 1735 got sasine of Wester Buckie from the above John Gordon of Nether Buckie, is said to have settled, for a time at any rate, in Sligo.

The subject is peculiarly interesting in view of the fact that the majority of the Gordons in the United States have gone there via Ireland, and include many distinguished soldiers. Some of these I am convinced we shall never be able to trace beyond Ireland itself, where they started poor, and therefore documentless. On the other hand, as the Scoto-Irish were always better off than the pure-bred Celt, it is much easier to trace them than it is to follow up the origins of the rank and file of Irish emigrants.

## JOHN GORDON OF KINEDDAR.

It is a curious fact that though Salterhill has long ceased to belong to the Gordons, the two branches of the family which possessed it are still represented. I have shown the theory that the first group of Salterhill Gordons are represented by second groups of Irish and of American Gordons. The second group who owned it are now represented by the Gordons of Cluny and of Cairnfield.

Salterhill passed from the hands of this Irish-parson group of Gordons into that of James Gordon, mason and burgess of Inverness, from whom its superior, the laird of Gordonstown, had borrowed money. He had no son, his three daughters being served heir to him. It then came into the keeping of an Alexander Gordon, who is said (though I cannot prove it) to have been a great-grandson of Sir Alexander Gordon of Lesmoir.

The father of this Alexander Gordon was John Gordon. He was apparently the John Gordon in Kinneddar who figures in the following transactions:—

1698, April 20.—There was registered a bond for 200 merks by Mr Andrew Geddes, younger of Essell, to John Gordone in Kinneddor, at Longbrydc, April 20, 1696 (“Elgin Commissary Record”).

1703, Nov. 15.—There was registered a bond for 100 merks by William Chalmer, glover in Elgin, to John Gordon, indweller in King-Edward. Elgin, June 10, 1691, before thir witnesses, John Gordon, shoemaker in Elgin, and Alexander Philp, merchant there (*ibid.*)

1705, — .—Bond for £40 by James Winchester, younger in Kinedor, to John Gordon, indweller there. Written by Alexander Gordon in Kinedor, and subscribed at Kinedor, December 31, 1705,

befor thir witnesses, John Gordon, lawful son to said John Gordon in Kinedor, and the said Alexander Gordon, writer, for-said.

I do not know whom John Gordon married, but his scampish grandson, Lewis Gordon in Aikenhead credits him with seven sons and a daughter, of whom the eldest son was Alexander Gordon of Salterhill.

#### ALEXANDER GORDON OF SALTERHILL.

Alexander Gordon, the eldest son of John in Kineddar, was connected in turn with Salterhill, Covesea, and Kineddar. The following transactions refer to him:—

1692, May 25.—There was registered a bond for 400 merks by Alexander Dunbar, merchant in Elgin, to Alexander Gordon in Kinedore. Written and subscribed by himself at Elgin, 27 Nov. 1685 (“Elgin Commissary Record”).

1695, July 12.—There was registered a bond for £32 by Robert Gibson of Linkwood to Alexander Gordon in Kineddar. Written and subscribed by himself 22 Jan. 1686 (*ibid.*)

1699, April 1.—There was registered a bond for 500 merks by John Gordon of Davidston to Alexander Gordon in Kinnedor, written by Robert Gordon, schoolmaster at Kinnedor, and subscribed at Kinnedor Dec. 9, 1696, before John Gordon in Kinnedor and the said Robert Gordon (“Elgin Commissary Record”). This John Gordon of Davidston (who married Jean Gordon) was the son of George Gordon of Thornybank and the brother of James Gordon in Romarack.

1703, February 23.—There was registered a bond for £32 by Richard Win-

chester, elder in Kinnedar, to James Winchester, his lawful son. Written by Alexander Gordon, younger in Kinnedar, at Kinnedar, Dec. 10, 1698, before their witnesses—Robert Stephen, servant to Alexander Gordon in Kinnedar and the said Alexander Gordon, writer forsoid (“Elgin Commissary Record”).

1706, Sept. 13.—Alexander Gordon of Kennedor had sasine of part (— wester Tombain) of Auchinadies (“Banffshire Sasines”).

Alexander Gordon married Isobella King, Plewlands, who died in February, 1711, and had:—

1. Lewis Gordon in Aikenhead, whose scandalous divorce case was quoted in the “Banffshire Herald” on July 30, 1910.

2. Alexander Gordon (1677-1724) was baillie at Kinnedar in 1720 (Dunbar’s “Moray Documents”). He acquired the lands of Dykeside and Eastertown of Tullybardin in Drainie. He married Margaret Brodie of Milton, and had a son, George, and six daughters, of whom, according to a pedigree constructed by General William Gordon of Arradoul, Croydon, two were:—

Helen Gordon married George Grant of Tullochgorum, and had:—

Captain Grant, who died without issue.

Rev. Peter Grant of Ballestrean.

Barbara Grant married — Macgregor, and had:—

Dr Macgregor, London, married and left issue.

Colonel William Macgregor, died unmarried.

Marjory Gordon (1713-1798) married William King of Newmill (1692-1764). She had four sons, William, Joseph, Alexander, and George, who all died unmarried, and two daughters:—

Margaret King married Dr Munroe, and had no issue.

Barbara King married Stewart of Lesmurdie, and had:—

General Francis Stewart married Lady M. Grant.

General William Stewart married Mary Darves.

Marjory Stewart married — Farquharson, Aberdeen, and had issue.

3. William Gordon, "son to the deceast Alexander Gordon of Kinneddar," was cautioner on June 21, 1700, for a bond for 116 merks by James Gordon in Thornhill to William Stuart in Binno.

4. Miss — Gordon. According to General Gordon of Croydon's pedigree, the sister of Alexander Gordon of Dykeside married "the father of John Gordon of Cluny." This is an extremely interesting statement, for we do not know who the father of John Gordon of Cluny was. She had:—

John Gordon of Cluny is stated to have begun life as factor to the third Duke of Gordon, was lessee of the Spey fishings. He hailed from Strathaven. and married a "southern lady" (Mary Lindsay). I do not propose to deal with him at length here beyond giving his main descendants.

i. Cosmo Gordon, II. of Cluny, Baron of Exchequer, died s.p. 1800. He married Mary Baillie, daughter of Henry Baillie of Carnbroe.

ii. Charles Gordon of Braid succeeded as III. of Cluny. He died in 1814. He married Joanna ("Jackie") Trotter, daughter of Thomas Trotter of Mortonhall, Midlothian, and had:—

(i.) John Gordon IV. of Cluny, who died in 1858. He had four illegitimate children, the eldest being:—

John Gordon (died 1878). He married, firstly, in 1862, Clara Margaret Jean White (died 1864), daughter of the Rev. James White of Bonchurch (1803-62). He married, secondly, in 1865, Emily Eliza Steele Pringle, who married secondly Sir Reginald Cathcart, and now holds the Cluny estates.

(ii.) Alexander Gordon of Great Myless, Essex, died 1839. He married Eleanor — and had:—

a. Charles Henry Gordon (1816-95), Major-General. He married in 1865 Georgina, eldest daughter of Sir Edmund K. L. Lacon, but had no issue.

b. Alexander Q. Gordon, died 1844.

c. Rev. Cosmo Spencer Gordon (1820-77), born at Culloden. He married Mary, eldest daughter of the Rev. George Cranley Bowles, and had one son:—

Alexander Stillingfleet Gordon, born 1871, now head of the family. He married Miss Kathleen Byng, and has two sons:— Roderick Cosmo Gordon, born 1902; John Kenneth Maitland Gordon, born 1903.

d. George Gordon, died in Australia, leaving two daughters.

e. Maria Frederica Gordon married in 1858 Robert George Linzee of Farnham. She had four sons and three daughters. One of her sons, Charles, is heir to the Cluny estates.

(iii.) Cosmo George Gordon, died 1795.

(iv.) Joanna ("Jackie") Gordon, married in 1804 Viscount Dalrymple, who did not consider the marriage valid, and remarried Laura Manners in 1808. Miss Gordon's claim was held good, but she was divorced for adultery in 1811. She died in Edinburgh in 1847.

(v.) Charlotte Gordon married in 1805 Sir John Lowther Johnston.

iii. Alexander Gordon made a huge fortune in Tobago. He died unmarried in 1801.

iv. Katherine Gordon married James Ross, cashier to the Duke of Gordon.

v. Jean Gordon died 1791.

3. Barbara Gordon, the second sister of Alexander Gordon of Dykeside, married Robert Gordon of Lunan, who was descended from the Arradoul family. She had a son:—

Alexander Gordon, W.S. (1687-1775) who bought up Cairnfield. He married before 1717 Elizabeth Gordon, daughter of Robert Gordon VI. of Cairnfield, who had become a bankrupt. I have described his issue at length in the Transactions of the Banffshire Field Club.