

The
Chronicle of the Family
of
James of Edingight



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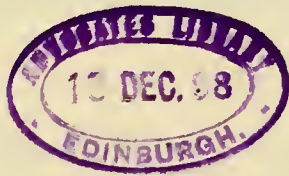


The Chronicle of the Family of
Innes of Edingight

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of
Innes of Edingight

By
Colonel Thomas Innes of Learney

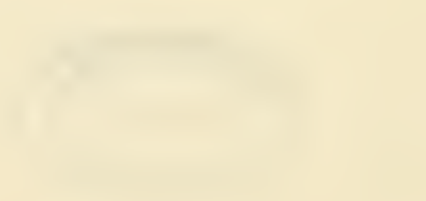
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Preface



THE compilation of this Chronicle has been the recreation of an old man who naturally takes a warm interest in the history of his own race, and he hopes that it may not be uninteresting to those who are related to it by blood or marriage.

It cannot be expected to have much attraction for the general reader outside of that circle ; still, in view of the great interest which is now taken in genealogy, it may offer to those who occupy themselves in hunting up family relationships, some information which would not otherwise be at their command.

The greatest care has been taken to verify every statement by the deeds and writings in the family charter chest, and by the records of the Great Seal, the Lyon Office, and Sheriff Courts, and, where any date or fact is only conjectural, a mark of interrogation (?) is attached.

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The Chronicle of the Family of Innes of Edingight



THE Family of Innes of Edingight is a branch of the House of Innes, the early history of which was compiled by Duncan Forbes of Culloden in 1698. This "Historical account of the origin and succession of the Familie of Innes gathered from authentic wreats," was written by Forbes of Culloden at the desire of Sir Henry Innes of that Ilk, with whom he was doubly connected by marriage; his wife, Marie Innes, being a second cousin of Sir Henry, and Sir Henry having married their daughter Jean Forbes. It seems to have been written as the groundwork for the Diploma, by Alexander Erskine, Lyon King-at-Arms, of the Coat of Arms, to which the family were entitled, and which is appended to the History.

Of this work only three MSS. copies seem to have been made. (1) The copy preserved in the family charter chest; (2) the original MSS. preserved at Culloden; and (3) a copy made by Robert Innes of Blairton, Lyon Clerk, (*i. e.* Clerk in the Herald office), which eventually came into possession of Sir J. M. Innes of Edingight, 1855, and is now in the charter chest of that family.

In 1805, Sir James Innes of Innes succeeded to the Dukedom of Roxburgh as heir-male of his great grandmother, Margaret Kerr, who married his grandfather, Sir James Innes,

father of the Sir Henry Innes above referred to. Many years before, in 1767, he had sold the family estate of Innes in Moray, which had for some time been heavily encumbered, and possibly his relations, the Kerr family, on his accession to the Dukedom through a female of their race, paid little regard to his claims of ancestry on the Innes side, and the MSS. copy of Culloden's History of the Family of Innes having been found in his charter box, he had it printed in 1820, as Cosmo Innes quotes his words, "to shew those proud Kerrs that he was of as good blood on his father's side as on his great grandmother's."

In 1864, this History, along with the Diploma of Arms, was reprinted by the Spalding Club. It was edited by Cosmo Innes, who had at his command the three MSS. copies above referred to, and he appended a very large number of charters and notes illustrative of the narrative. He also appended sixty-seven pages devoted to what he designates "Cadent Families"—meaning, as appears from a passage in the text, "collateral families." He admits the imperfection and insufficiency of this account, and excuses it by the sad fact that the branches of the house had, along with the parent stem, been uprooted from the soil of Moray, and "all passed to new owners, till, in the fair district they had so long possessed exclusively, at the end of last century not a rood of land belonged to an Innes." He proceeds to say, "It was not quite so in other quarters. The Family of Edingight in Banff has still retained its estate"; and it might have been expected from this exception that the history and fortunes of this branch would have been traced with some care and completeness. But that expectation is disappointed. Perhaps from want of information little is said about the House of Edingight except a footnote, which quotes a humorous saying of one of the lairds—"I hae jist ae faut to this lan', an' that is that I ha'na a little mair o't."

The object of the following pages is to supply this want of a

record of the Edingight branch of this ancient family, which is the next surviving to the main stem represented by the Innes Kerrs—Dukes of Roxburgh; and although the materials furnished by the family charters and papers are not abundant, they have been sufficient to ascertain the marriages of all the generations, and a good deal more which is of interest to their descendants.

The Innermarkie branch diverges from the main stem with Walter Innes of Innermarkie, second son of Sir Robert Innes, 14th in succession from Berowald, the first of this family, whose charter from King Malcolm is dated 1153. Walter Innes's charter for Innermark is dated 1487. His son, Robert Innes, married Elizabeth Stewart, sister of the Duke of Athol, and in 1536 we have a Precept of Seisin by the Superior, the Earl of Huntly, for infesting him and his wife, Elizabeth Stewart, in life-rent, and their son Robert in fee in these lands of Innermarkie. But besides this Robert II. of Innermarkie they had three other sons, the youngest of whom was John Innes, who became John Innes, I. of Edingight, and from him the family of Innes of Edingight is lineally descended from father to son through eleven generations, with only the one exception of a brother succeeding one who died unmarried.

The Innermarkie line, descending from Robert II. of Innermarkie, eventually, after several collateral transmissions, became extinct in 1817, and as a Baronetcy had been conferred on it, 1628, it was an object for John Innes, then IX. of Edingight, to establish his descent from Robert II. of Innermarkie and Elizabeth Stewart, and so make good his right, as male representative, to this Baronetcy, although there was no estate to go with it. His claim with a full statement of his lineage was accordingly submitted to a distinguished jury in the Sheriff Court of Banffshire, 10th January, 1818, and their verdict, founded on the evidence laid before them, forms an indisputable

proof of the right of the Edingight family to the Baronetcy designated Innes of Balveny, created 15th July, 1628. The Baronetcy is so designated to distinguish it from the Baronetcy of Innes of Innes, which is represented by the Duke of Roxburgh.

It is necessary before beginning a chronicle of the House of Edingight to give a slight sketch of the remarkable growth of this Innes race, and the relations which subsisted between its main line and this Innermarkie branch at the period of which we are to treat. Having been settled for four centuries in the fertile district of Moray, and perhaps from the energy infused in their character by the mixture of Flemish blood with that of native races, these Inneses had become feudal owners, not only of much of Moray, but of extensive estates in Banff, and branches of the family had even spread to Fyvie, Buchan, and Strathdon. The main line of Innes of that Ilk, from their long descent in a direct line, and from their considerable estates in the centre of Morayshire as well as the Aberchirder lands in Banffshire, had an indisputable claim to a leading position. The Bishops of Moray in their Castle of Spynie, near Elgin, might almost be regarded as equal to the great feudal nobility, and that Episcopate had been filled by one of the house of Innes. He was, indeed, a chief builder of the Cathedral of Elgin, his tomb is there and his arms are over the gate of the Castle of Spynie. On the other hand, the Inneses of Innermarkie had been acquiring lands in Moray, Banff, and Aberdeenshire, and the marriage of Robert II. of that line with Elizabeth Stewart, sister of the Duke of Athol, connecting them through marriages of her six sisters with families of rank and distinction, had excited their ambition to vie with their noble relations. It so came about that in 1577, the Innermarkie branch being represented by Robert, grandson of Robert II. of Innermarkie, a man of violent and unscrupulous character, he was tempted to gratify this ambi-

tion by grasping the position of head of the family and claiming the succession to the Innes estates. A catastrophe was precipitated by the circumstance that the representative of the main line, John Innes, was childless and, being of facile character, had allowed Alexander Innes of Cromy (Crombie) his next heir, to persuade him to convey the family estates to him, and that Cromy had already assumed the position of head of the family as Innes of that Ilk, and taken up his residence at Kinairdy Castle, the family residence near Aberchirder.

Innermarkie could not assert a right as next heir male, but he relied on a not very remote kinship and on his powerful connections and greater estate as entitling him more than Cromy to represent the headship of the family, and he had not much difficulty in making the weak John Innes repent that he had conveyed the lands to Cromy, and in persuading him that he was justified in any measures to recover the deeds.

The story of this family feud and the tragedy which ensued cannot be surpassed in romantic incident and in vivid illustration of the social condition of the time by any of the best efforts of fiction. The conspiracy of Innermarkie to assassinate Alexander of Cromy, his crafty working on the weak John to join with him for the purpose of recovering possession of the lands, the treacherous murder of Cromy at Aberdeen, the escape of Cromy's son, Robert, the despatch of a bribed servant of Cromy's with the token of his signet ring to obtain from his wife at Kinairdy the deeds conveying the lands to him, the killing of this messenger and recovery of the deeds, the son of Cromy taking refuge with Lord Treasurer Elphinstone at Edinburgh, and thus forming an attachment to and marrying his daughter, eventually the return of Cromy's son Robert to Moray, and with the aid of his friends, hunting the murderer of his father to his last refuge at Edinglassie and his death there at the hands of the man who as a lad slew the bribed messenger and recovered

the deeds; all this is narrated at length in Culloden's History. But it does not exhaust the incidents of this feud. As was not unusual in these times, when revenge for murder had been satisfied by blood for blood, an effort was made to patch up the feud, and a solemn contract of pacification was signed by the two Roberts, one, now Innes of that Ilk, the son of Cromy who had been assassinated, and the other the son of the assassin who had succeeded to Innermarkie and acquired Balvenie. But, nevertheless, rivalry and ill-feeling continued; they had litigation, and their animosity came to a head when Robert of Balvenie having obtained a Nova Scotia Baronetcy in expectation that it would give him precedence over his rival at the County head courts, found himself defeated by Robert of Innes having also got a Baronetcy, which was antedated on purpose to take precedence over Balvenie's. In these circumstances, it is not to be supposed that their relations were very cordial; and this will be found to have some bearing on the affairs of the family of Edingight. But before taking up that narrative it may be as well to conclude the story of the house of Innermarkie. The penalty for their ancestor's crime seemed to attach itself to the race, although they were estimable and honourable men. Their lands became encumbered and were lost. Their heirs failed in the direct line, and, after four successions by collaterals, this branch of the family came to a complete failure of heirs male on the death of Sir William Innes in 1817, and the succession opened to that of Edingight.

To Death of Patriarch John V.

HAVING traced the Innermarkie line to its extinction, we may now take up the Chronicle of the Edingight branch, which came off from that of Innermarkie at Robert the second of that designation, two generations before the murder of Cromy. The Edingight branch is therefore not tainted with that stain, and by contrast it has been specially favoured, in that it has had an almost unbroken succession from father to son for more than three hundred years. And though its landed estate has, comparatively, not been great, instead of being wasted, it has been enlarged.

John Innes, I. of Edingight, was the youngest son of Robert Innes of Innermarkie, who was the son of Walter Innes, the I. of Innermarkie. Innermarkie, which is in the parish of Glass, at the junction of the Markie with the Deveron, seems to have been acquired in 1487 by Walter Innes; and in 1536, there is a Precept by George, Earl of Huntly, as feudal superior, for infesting his son Robert and his wife, Elizabeth Stewart, in that property for their life-rent, and Robert Innes younger, presumably their eldest son, in fee. John Innes, the fourth son of Robert Innes of Innermarkie and Lady Elspeth Stewart, seems not to have been brought into Duncan Forbes of Culloden's view when he wrote his history, as he disposes of that generation of the Innermarkie family in a sentence; that "He, Robert, had two sons (as stated) who may be found in wreat. The eldest is called, in a charter of confirmation (which

I have seen) from George, Earl of Huntly, upon the half of Innermarkie, Roberto de Innes Junior armigero nostro. The other, I understand, was Walter Innes, predecessor to the family of Auchlunkart." But we have "wreaths" which are very clear evidence, not only of the existence of another son, but which also give us the name of his wife, and the provision made for them on their marriage by his father Robert. As Culloden's investigations of the Innes charters and his history were mainly to establish the claim to precedence of the branch to which he was so closely related, and to refute the claims of the Innermarkie line, it is not surprising that he did not take much interest in investigating the "wreaths" of that family, and his bias is shown by the rather contemptuous terms in which he writes, "This Robert Innes of Innermarkie was married to Elspet Stewart sister to some Earl of Athol." This Elspet Stewart, mother of John Innes I. of Edingight deserves, however, some more notice, seeing that her grandfather, Sir James Stewart, the Black Knight of Lorn, was cousin to James I., and that her grandmother, Joan Beaufort, was the widow of James I. and daughter of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, and grand-daughter of Edward III.; also that she was one of seven sisters who all were married and whose descendants survive in many families, some of them of high rank. The eldest, Jean, married Sir Robert Gordon of Pitlurg; the second, Catherine, married John VI., Lord Forbes; the third, Elizabeth, married Robert Innes of Innermarkie; the fourth, Marjory, married Sir Colin Campbell of Glenurquhart; the fifth, Margaret, married William Murray of Tullibardine; the sixth, Isobel, married Alexander Robertson of Strowan; the seventh, Anne, married John XI., Earl of Lennox. No doubt, this alliance with families of power and distinction contributed to the prominent position which the Innermarkies began to assume, and their possessions in land had become so considerable that they were able to provide appanages for younger sons.

It appears, by a contract between Alexander Innes, son and heir of Alexander Innes of Innes, and Robert Innes of Innermarkie, 1535, that the former undertook to furnish some writs necessary to complete the titles of the latter in the lands of Ogston and Plewlands, which are of value and near to Elgin, and in return, the latter gives up some land called Crannoch, and the mill thereof which he had got possessed of by a charter from the Crown in 1513. Notwithstanding this, it appears by a Crown charter, confirming a conveyance of half of this Crannoch land by Alexander Innes to Walter Ogilvie in 1538, that John Innes, son of Robert of Innermarkie still remained in possession. It is shown by the Great Seal Register of Charters that Robert Innes of Innermarkie conveyed (1537) to his younger son John, half of the lands of Creichlaid, and a fourth of the mill of the same in the county of Aberdeen, reserving his life-rent and that of his wife Elizabeth Stewart; and again, that in 1545 he had conveyed to his son John, and Marjorie Leslie, his spouse, "tres partes" of Rothie, in the county of Aberdeen. These, it may be assumed, were the appanage of this younger son John. The Crannoch land is in Aberchirder, and Creichlaid and Rothie in the parish of Fyvie. Although these charters were in the form of conveyances of land as held direct from the Crown, confirmed by charter under the Great Seal, it is possible that they were really what we now call heritable bonds. At this period in the 16th century, the land offered almost the only means of investing money, and in the crude stage of the conversion of a feudal military tenure into a security for a loan of money, the transaction assumed the character of an actual transference of the land in pledge for the loan, to complete which it was necessary that the Crown should accept the lender of the money as the feudal vassal, and it only differed from an absolute conveyance in that there was a clause for redemption on payment of the loan. This transaction was

termed a wadset, and the student of genealogies is often much puzzled by finding persons designated as "dominus de" (owners of) such and such lands, or of a half or so many parts of land, while he has reason to know that the land belonged to others. Another feature of interest in these wadsets was that the wadsetter was entitled at any term to claim payment of the loan, and on failure by summary process of apprising or adjudication to set aside the clause of redemption and get absolute possession of the land. This led to frequent episodes of financial difficulty, of which evidence remains in old family papers when impecunious lairds, who had obtained loans by wadset on their lands, were driven to canvass their friends to go up to Edinburgh and rescue their land from the grip of an adjudicating wadsetter by becoming security for the redemption.

But whatever may have been the character in feudal conveyancing of John Innes's rights in the half of Crichton and the fourth of the mill thereof, and in three parts of Rothie, apparently, in 1552, he was occupied in land transactions, as in that year there is a commission by William, Bishop of Aberdeen, to Robert, Bishop of Orkney, and James Gordon, Chancellors of Moray, to receive resignation by John Innes, son of deceased Robert Innes of Innermarkie, and for infeftment of John, Earl of Atholl, in certain lands in Marnoch by excambion. The lands, for which they were to be excambied, are not designated, but it is probable that these transactions were connected with the realising of his interest in the lands of Crichton and Rothie in the parish of Fyvie, and in his purchase of the lands of Edingight in the parish of Grange, Banffshire, from the Abbey of Kinloss, for which he obtained the charter from William the Abbot in 1559. What reason the Abbey had for parting with these lands of Edingight does not appear. Possibly it was because the Church, which used to be the spoilt child of the Crown, and had been accumulating land by pious endowments,

now, in these Reformation times, began to feel the hand of the spoiler and the premonition of the confiscation, which, in 1613, would see the whole estate of the Abbey of Kinloss in the hands of a lay appropriation. The Crown charter confirming the Abbot's conveyances of Edingight was obtained in 1576, and this leads to some particulars regarding John Innes's family. Of his wife, Marjorie Leslie, we know but her name. But as her husband, by his father's provision, was connected with the parish of Fyvie, it is probable that she was of a family in that district. It was a country of the Leslies. The Earl of Rothes who was Lord of Leslie had an estate there. John I. of Edingight and Marjorie Leslie had two sons, Thomas and Herome, and in 1569, that is ten years after his acquisition of Edingight, John Innes conveyed it to his eldest son Thomas, reserving his own life-rent. It does not appear when he died. By a charter, dated 1581, in which his son is styled heir-apparent, and another in 1611 in which he is styled "of Edingight," he must have died between these dates. By charters dated 1569 and 1577, Thomas II. of Edingight acquired by purchase, also from the Abbey of Kinloss, land called Wester Croylet, and again by charter dated 1581, also from the Abbot of Kinloss, he is shown to have bought from his brother Herome, land called Cranat Strype, which afterwards came to be called Mosstown. From that last deed we learn that Thomas Innes II. of Edingight's first wife's name was Janet Seyton, and as this land acquired from his brother Herome, was to be held jointly by Thomas and his wife, possibly it may have been purchased with her dowry, or it may have been in security of her jointure. She did not, however, survive her husband, as we find him in 1611 conveying the Croylet and Cranat Strype lands to his son, reserving his own life-rent and that of a second wife, Janet Abercromby. There is nothing to show how Herome Innes had acquired the land of Cranat Strype; all that is known of him is that he became

minister of Fyvie, and that he had a son John, and three daughters—Janet, married to William Bannerman ; Margaret, married first to Patrick Leith, Kirktown of Nairn, and second to John Logie, of Boddam ; and Isobel, married to John Gordon, of Ardlogie. He and his son John must have become wealthy, as we shall find later on that the latter was able to assist his cousin, the then laird of Edingight, with a loan of 9500 marks. It is probable that Herome Innes owed his presentation as minister to the parish of Fyvie to his mother, Marjorie Leslie's connection with that parish, and his father's ownership of lands there.

We now come to the third generation of the lairds of Edingight in the person of Thomas III., so far as known the only son of Thomas the II. of Edingight. Hitherto the family seems to have prospered and added to its possessions, but this Thomas died early before his father, leaving a widow and an only son, whose life was by no means prosperous, and who even in infancy was a party to litigation. Thomas became III. of Edingight in his father's life by a charter 1611, by which his father conveyed to him and his wife, Janet Innes, on their marriage, Wester Croylet and Mosstown and Edingight, reserving his life-rent. Thomas the younger died before his father, as in 1621 we have letters of horning in an action by Robert Innes Burgess, of Elgin, father of his widow, against his father, Thomas II., for her provision and that of her son John, under her marriage contract. What the provisions of her marriage contract may have been is not known, but as they were secured by the charter conveying the lands, it is to be supposed there was not much difficulty in obtaining this horning to enforce them. This is the commencement of financial troubles and litigation, which seem to have overshadowed the family for some time. Financial difficulties may perhaps greatly be ascribed to the political troubles of the period, which bore hardly on the

owners of land. And the charters of Edingight bear unmistakable testimony to one leading cause of political trouble, in the temptation to the spoiler to appropriate church lands. In 1618, instead of the Abbot, the commissioners of Lord Bruce of Kinloss grant charters and precepts of infeftment. These charters of 1618—11th and 18th March and 12th and 18th October—are all for the infeftment of the minor, John, as heir to his father, Thomas, then dead, in the lands conveyed by his grandfather in 1611—in security of his mother's marriage contract—but as the grandfather still survived and had reserved his life-rent, it may be supposed that he had somehow failed to fulfil his obligations and that the horning in 1621 was obtained to compel him.

When Thomas the elder, II. of Edingight, died is uncertain, but it must have been between 1621, when he was sued for his daughter-in-law's provision, and 1634, when he is referred to as "deceased" in a deed of contract between Sir Robert Innes of Innes and Sir Robert Innes of Balveny; and the first light that is shed upon John Innes his grandson as IV. of Edingight, is by that remarkable document of date 1634. It not only gives us some information as to his circumstances as a minor of perhaps 19 years of age, having succeeded to a burdened estate, but also throws some light on his relations with the elder branches of his family and on the two newly created baronets who represented these rival lines. This deed is in the form of a contract between Sir Robert Innes of Balveny and Sir Robert Innes of Innes. It narrates that the deceased Thomas Innes, elder of Edingight by wadset, dated October 1618, had conveyed the lands of Edingight to Sir Robert of Balveny for 3000 merks, and that John Innes his grandson, being a minor, was incapable of undertaking an obligation for money to redeem the land, and Sir Robert of Innes undertakes to pay the sum of 3000 merks at two terms of Whitsunday 1635 and 1636, and Sir Robert of Balveny and his eldest son Walter, are thereupon to reconvey the lands to

Sir Robert of Innes, to be held by him until John Innes attains his majority and can make payment and redeem the land. This important deed seems to have been overlooked as it is not included in the inventory of writings produced with the claim by Edingight in 1818 for the Balveny Baronetcy. This borrowing of 3000 merks by Thomas the elder from his cousin Sir Robert of Balveny, must have been connected with some money difficulty arising after his son's death, and the claim of the widow for payment of the provision for herself and her son, as it follows in date, the infeftments in 1618, in favor of the boy, in the lands which were security for the provisions. An explanation is wanted how Thomas the elder, after conveying the lands to his son and his wife, and only retaining the life-rent, could have granted this conveyance in wadset to Sir Robert of Balveny. The fact remains that the land was in the power of Sir Robert of Balveny, pledged in wadset for 3000 merks, and apparently he wanted the money. He was a keen Royalist, and probably at that time, in the height of the troubles of which Spalding gives such a vivid narrative, the Royalist land may have been exposed to some extortion or pillage at the hands of the Parliamentary party. At all events the two baronets were by no means on friendly terms. Sir Robert of Balveny was the son of Robert of Innermarkie, who, in 1580, murdered Alexander, the father of Sir Robert of Innes, and who in turn was assassinated in revenge for the murder. In 1587 the feud was patched up by a solemn contract in the Chanonry Church at Elgin, but nevertheless rivalry and ill-feeling continued. They had litigation, and their animosity again came to a head when they met at the Wappenschaw at Elgin, and Sir Robert Innes threw down the disputed titles and challenged Balveny to fight for the right to them. Added to this they were on opposite sides in the great controversy of the day, Sir Robert of Innes being a supporter of the Covenanters. In these circumstances,

it is not to be supposed that that contract for the redemption of the lands of Edingight was gone about from any friendly relations of their own by these two old men, and it can only be ascribed to a desire on both sides to extricate a young kinsman from embarrassment Sir Robert Innes having interposed in this way to save the minor lands, seems to have continued to take an interest in him, for we find him three years later, 1637, as a witness to John Innes's marriage contract, and it may be surmised that he may have had something to do with bringing about the marriage. John Innes was now only just of age, and he married Christian Bruce, the widow of Thomas Urquhart of Kinowdy. We have no record of this lady's age, but she must have been considerably older than the bridegroom as she had a son and daughter by her first marriage, and as the daughter was married in 1648, she must have been at least ten years old at the date of her mother's second marriage to John Innes. Possibly she may have had a good jointure on Kinowdy. At all events Sir Robert Innes of Innes, and his eldest son Robert, are witnesses of the marriage contract, and there is a marginal clause saving the rights of Sir Robert Innes and his heirs in the lands of Edingight, in respect of his advance of 3000 merks for its redemption.

Notwithstanding these friendly efforts in his behalf, this John Innes seems to have been pursued by money troubles to the last. In 1648, upon the marriage of his step-daughter, Margaret Urquhart, he was led to undertake liability for her dowry, and this proved the cause of a lawsuit at the instance of James Mercer, the husband, for payment of 3000 merks, which ended in James Mercer obtaining letters of horning and caption against John Innes for payment of this money, 1657. Here we have a little glimpse into the state of the country and of society at the time. By this time Cromwell had stamped out the Covenanters, and Scotland was under the military rule of the

Independents. General George Monk was in command of the forces in Scotland, and Inverness was garrisoned. In these troubled times the warrants of the civil Courts did not always meet with ready obedience; at all events the messengers in charge of this horning and caption seem to have apprehended that they might meet with some resistance on the part of this truculent John Innes, and to have applied for a military escort, for we find the horning endorsed with an order signed by "George Monk" to the Governor of Inverness "to be assisting with a section such messengers as shall be employed by James Mercer in seeing the peace kept while the within written letters from the judges against John Innes of Edingight are put in execution." These and other liabilities seem to have led to John Innes and his wife, Christian Bruce, in 1653 raising a loan of 9500 merks by a wadset on Edingight—and this was advanced by his cousin John Innes, son of Herome Innes minister of Fyvie. But apparently all expedients failed to restore his fortunes, for at his death in 1674, we have the inventory of his personal estate given up by his son John. In 1659, fifteen years before his death, he had denuded himself of the lands of Edingight, and by a deed of sale conveyed them to his son, and was then designed as "of Kinowdie,"—but this was probably only his wife's jointure house. The inventory of his personal effects amounted only to £46 Scots, consisting of a white pony worth £20, a sword and belt worth 10 merks, a whinger with knives (probably a dirk) worth 40 shillings, a trunk worth 40 shillings, a little coffer $1\frac{3}{4}$, another little coffer $1\frac{3}{4}$, one box $1\frac{3}{4}$, back and bed clothes, etc. 20 merks. He would be about fifty-eight years of age at his death, and it is to be feared that his life was not a very happy one. So far as known he had only one son John, to whom he conveyed the lands of Edingight by a deed of sale in 1659. The deed of sale is not extant, but it is narrated in the son's marriage contract, to which he was a party.

This marriage contract is without a date, but as it was connected with the minute of sale of the lands, the date of which is quoted in the contract, it is probable that the marriage took place at that date. The son having thus, on his marriage, come into possession of the family estate became John Innes V. of Edingight, and he seems to have set himself about putting the family affairs in order, and it was his happy lot to survive to a good old age and see his great-grandson as heir to the inheritance which he had redeemed. He married Elizabeth Gordon, daughter of John Gordon of Ardlogie in Fyvie. Her mother was Isobel Innes, one of the heirs-portioners, sisters of John son of Herome Innes minister of Fyvie. By this marriage, as his wife's marriage portion, he obtained the discharge of one-third of the wadset on Edingight, which had been granted by his father for a loan of 9500 merks from John Innes son of Herome minister of Fyvie. This John Innes had died, leaving his three sisters as his heirs-portioners in the wadset, Elizabeth Gordon being the daughter of one of them; and shortly after we find by several deeds that John Innes V. was able (1662, 1665, 1670) to obtain discharges of the remaining two-thirds of the wadset from the other sisters. In 1662, we have a singular deed by which he revokes consent he had given in minority to bonds on the land granted by his father, probably amongst others that for 3000 merks in security of Margaret Urquhart's dowry; and, in 1664, there is a discharge by Alexander Urquhart for this 3000 merks for his sister Margaret, who was then deceased. The family troubles seem now to have come to an end; but there are no papers to give any clue to the circumstances until 1691, when we learn by the marriage contract of his eldest son, to which the father John V. was a party, that the latter had married a second wife, whose name was Isobel Hamilton, but nothing is known of her relations. The family of John Innes V., presumably by his first wife Elizabeth Gordon of Ardlogie, consisted of three sons and

two daughters—John, James, Thomas, Jean, and Margaret. As was a rule in the family, John V. conveyed the lands of Edingight to his eldest son John on his marriage, reserving his life-rent and that of his wife Isobel Hamilton, and so the son became VI. of Edingight; but as he predeceased his father he did not come into possession of the estate, and in a deed by his father to which he was a witness in 1700, we find him described as “John Innes in Clarkseat his eldest son.” Of the second son James little is recorded; he is described as “in Thornton,” and in 1700, by the deed just referred to, his father conveyed to him the town and lands of Mosstown, formerly “Crannat Strype,” which apparently were held under separate titles and were considered as the appanage of a younger son. And in 1707, James discharges his eldest brother John for the “Bairn’s part of goods and gear he might be entitled to on his father’s death.” James appears to have died about 1722-24, as in 1725 we have a decree against his youngest brother Thomas, probably as his representative, by the Commissary of Banffshire, in respect of his occupation of the lands of Braco, for vicarage dues owing to the minister of Grange. This youngest brother Thomas appears to have been an able man of business and is said to have been employed as factor for the Earl of Fife. He left two sons; the eldest John succeeded him in the factorship for the Earl of Fife, and became proprietor of Muiryfold. His second son Alexander had a son known as Thomas Innes, W.S., of Monellie, who married his cousin Elizabeth Innes of Edingight, and from this marriage came the Rose Innes’s of Netherdale—but the circumstances attending it belong to the records of the next generation. Of the two daughters of John V. it is only recorded that Jean Innes, 1698, married William Scott merchant in Banff, and had a dowry of 2000 merks; and that Margaret in 1707 married George Geddes in Burnsyde, 1000 merks being provided by her father and 2000 merks by Alexander Geddes in Dorlaichy, the

father of the husband, to be invested in security for the life-rent of the married couple and provision for children.

Before reverting to the marriage of the eldest brother John VI., it may be observed that the factory of Thomas the youngest brother for the Earl of Fife brings in view the remarkable social change which had taken place in Moray. Looking two generations back, we had the representatives of two branches of the family of Innes contending for pre-eminence in that fertile district of Scotland, which was mostly owned by them and by cadets of their race ; and now we have an Innes acting as factor for the Duffs, who had risen on the ruins of his kindred and were ere long entirely to supplant the rival Baronets of Innes and Balvenie, as well as the smaller lairds of their race, in the ownership of the land and in the social importance attached to it.

Sir Robert Innes of Balvenie, after parting with much of his estate, sold all that remained of Balvenie about 1660 ; and then it became the subject of much litigation amongst claimants, who founded upon some asserted flaw in the conveyance by Lord Ochiltree, as trustee for Lord Saltoun, to Sir Robert Innes of Innermarkie in 1615. There is a story of one of the litigants getting an order from Cromwell to inspect the records, and taking advantage of the opportunity to tear out three leaves of the Records of the Court of Session which were against his interest. But, eventually, Duff of Braco bought up wadsets and appraisings on a considerable part of the estate, amounting to £21,000 Scots, and on these he obtained adjudication in 1687. The remainder became the property of his descendant the Earl of Fife by purchase.

Sir James Innes of Innes, on the other hand, being in straightened circumstances from expenses in the civil wars, from fines levied by each party when in power, from the ravages of Montrose, and from £15,000 spent on a new house, had in 1767 to sell Innes and all the estates of his family to the

Earl of Fife ; and so, as Cosmo Innes writes, "all the old Innes lands in Moray are now the property of the family of Fife."

In 1691, John Innes eldest son of John V. of Edingight married Helen Strachan second daughter of Michael Strachan of Auchnagatt, and at the same time, having by this marriage contract had the lands of Edingight conveyed to him by his father, he became John Innes VI. of Edingight, but he did not enter in possession of the estate as his father reserved his life-rent and survived him. By the marriage contract, Michael Strachan provides his daughter with a dowry of 4000 merks, one fourth payable on her marriage and the remainder on her father's death ; and we find that shortly after, in 1697, by a conveyance from William Mitchell, the 1000 merks payable on the marriage was invested in favor of John Innes and his wife, Helen Strachan, in the purchase of an additional portion of lands named Croylet, two-thirds of which had been acquired in 1569-77.

Michael Strachan, the father of Helen, was one of the Strachans of Glenkindy in Strathdon. They had also lands in Old Deer from which this Michael was designated "of Auchnagatt." They were an old family and have been traced up to 1350. Sir Patrick Strachan of Glenkindy, the son of Michael and brother of Helen, seems to have been ambitious of adding to his property of Glenkindy, for we find him in 1712 buying adjoining land, named Belnaboth, from Charles Innes, one of a family who were settled on Strathdon for several generations, and a deed ratifying this conveyance by May Forbes, the wife of Charles Innes, was executed in presence of John Innes, younger of Edingight, as Baillie of Regality in Strathisla, at Grange, 1712. This John Innes, younger, was John Innes VI., the husband of Helen Strachan, and the ratification was witnessed by James and John, described as the lawful sons of John Innes, Baillie of Strathisla. Sir Patrick Strachan pro-

ceeded, 1715, to execute a deed of Entail by which, failing more immediate heirs, he destined his estate in succession to the four sons of John Innes and his sister Helen. But Sir Patrick's project of leaving an entailed estate was not destined to be fulfilled. He was an active partizan for the Hanoverian family against the Jacobite Rising in 1715, and after the suppression of the Rising, he addressed a memorial to George II., setting forth all that he had done against the rebels and his sufferings and losses in consequence, including his having been made prisoner at the battle of Dunblane (Sheriffmuir) and, after detention in a common prison at Dundee, having been dragged on foot to Stonehaven, and being obliged to beg for food. Also subsequently, that his lands and tenants had been harried and swept of cattle by Highland Caterans, in revenge for the part he had taken in pursuing and arresting the rebels. Probably his knighthood was the only recompense he got. At all events, at his death, 1726, his affairs proved to be involved, and the Estate of Glenkindy to satisfy his debts was sold in 1738 to his cousin, Alexander Leith of Freefield.

John Innes VI. of Edingight must have died between 1712, when he appears in the ratification of the sale of Belnaboth as Baillie of Strathisla, and 1720, when his eldest son John married Jean Duff of Craigston; for in the marriage contract, his father, John V. who survived him is styled "elder of Edingight," and his son, the bridegroom, is styled "younger of Edingight," and he does not appear. He left four sons, John, James, Alexander, and Thomas, and before going into the eldest son's marriage and its issue, it may be as well to dispose of what is known of Thomas the youngest, which is all that can be found of the younger sons. It consists of an account between the executors of Captain Thomas Innes, deceased, and the also deceased John Innes of Edingight. It appears, from a pencil note endorsed on the account, that Captain Thomas Innes was in the Royal Navy,

and that he was killed in a duel at Jamaica in 1738. The account, 1750-51, is to show that his brother John, then recently dead, had been due him 1000 merks as his provision by a bond in Edingight, but, by outlay for his education at King's College, by his outfit on entering the service, and payment of bills and debts on his account, the provision had been satisfied, and a balance with interest to 1751 incurred amounting to £236 5s. 6d. As his mother, Helen Strachan's dowry was 4000 merks, probably this provision was one-fourth of that for the four brothers. He seems to have been a student at King's College 1722-24, at which date there is a formal docquet signed at Braco of the past account for his maintenance at College, bringing out a balance of his provision remaining at that time of £298 3s. Scots, the remainder of the amount is for payment of bills he had drawn at various dates in course of his service up to his death in 1738, by which, the balance of the account is transferred to the other side.

John Innes the eldest son of John VI. and Helen Strachan succeeded his father and so became John Innes VII. of Edingight, but, as his grandfather had reserved his life-rent, he did not come into possession of the estate until his grandfather's death, and even then his title does not seem to have been completed, as it will be seen that his son was in 1751 served heir not to him but to his great-grandfather John V.

In 1720 John Innes "younger" but VII. of Edingight married Jean eldest daughter of Patrick Duff of Craigston. Apparently his father was then dead, as his contract is with consent of his grandfather John Innes V. of Edingight. It is uncertain when this grandfather died; he was still alive in 1724, when his grandson in an account settled with his brother Thomas is styled "younger of Edingight." It may be inferred from a discharge dated 1735 by William Scott for payment of the dowry of his wife Helen the daughter of John V. that he was then recently dead.

Patrick Duff of Craigston by the marriage contract gives his daughter a dowry of 3500 merks in full of all claims at his decease and that of her mother Ann Innes. The marriage contract is witnessed by William Scott, Provost of Banff, husband of the bridegroom's aunt Helen, and by James Innes in Thornton and Thomas Innes in Muiryfold, his uncles. By extracts from the Register of Baptisms of the Parish of Grange it is shown that of this marriage of John Innes VII. of Edingight with Jean Duff there were three sons—John, born 1721; Alexander, 1727; and James, 1729. Jean Duff was one of a family of thirty-three children by two marriages, of whom sixteen married cousins. Amongst them was a brother Admiral Duff of Fetteresso, and a sister Catherine who married George Gordon of Gight and was grandmother of Lord Byron.

John Innes VII. probably died shortly before 1751 as at that date we have a special service of his son John Innes as heir to his great-grandfather John Innes of Edingight in the lands of Edingight and others, and this date of his death is confirmed by the account made up after his death with his brother Thomas's executors. It does not appear why, in this service of John VIII. as heir to his great-grandfather, his father and grandfather are both passed over, seeing that the estate had been conveyed to them both by their marriage contracts. Presumably, as John Innes V.'s life-rent had not lapsed, they had not been infest, and so John Innes VIII. is served heir to his great-grandfather as the last infest tenant of the Crown. This great-grandfather John V. of Edingight, who married Elizabeth Gordon of Ardlogie in 1659, we have found to have been still alive about 1735, and allowing him to have been only twenty-one years of age at his marriage in 1659, which is probably right as his mother was married in 1637, this would make him ninety-seven years old in 1735. We have no exact record of his death, but the service of his great-grandson

as his heir in 1751 infers that he was dead at that date, and that, on the death of his grandson, his great-grandson had to go back to him as the last infeft in the lands of Edingight.

This Patriarch, who had reserved his life-rent of Edingight, thus very nearly survived two generations of his lineal descendants whose marriage contracts he had been a party to, and had the satisfaction of seeing the circumstances of his family, which his father had left in disorder, re-established and prosperous, and its social position strengthened by marriages with daughters of good families.

It is interesting to note that in this John V.'s lifetime, in 1672, the family coat-of-arms is recorded in the Register of the Lyon Herald Office. The Register was begun in that year in accordance with an Act of Parliament, and no doubt the entries under that date include all the previously recognised armorial bearings. Under the same date the arms of Sir Robert Innes of that Ilk are recorded. The shield argent with three stars azure, which was the immemorial cognizance of the family. The shield assigned to Edingight is the same with the addition of a border chequé, and that, with the crest a palm branch and the motto "Ornatur radix fronde," no doubt was intended to indicate the family being a branch of the main stem.

These arms are still borne by the collateral branches of the House of Edingight, but John IX. of Edingight, on succeeding to the Balveny Baronetcy, assumed the arms recorded by Sir Robert Innes in 1753, as "heir-male to Innes of Balveny, created Baronet 15th July, 1628." This was a shield argent, with three stars in chief azure. Crest, a dexter hand and arm in armour coupé at the elbow holding a broadsword in pale ppr. and in 1782 these arms were again recorded with the addition of supporters, two greyhounds.

To Balvenie Baronetcy



O return to John VIII. of Edingight, and to dispose first of his younger brothers.

Alexander the second son became a lawyer, and eventually Commissary of the County of Aberdeen. This office, which represented the separate Jurisdiction of the old Ecclesiastical Court in questions of marriage, parentage, and in everything involving the special interest of the Church, has since been merged in the Court of Session and the Sheriff Courts. He prospered and became proprietor of Breda in Alford, Cowie, near Stonehaven, and Tillymorgan in the Garioch. He married Elizabeth, daughter of William Davidson, Provost of Aberdeen, and had a large family of two sons and eight daughters. His eldest son, John Innes of Cowie, left no son, and he is represented through his youngest son, William Innes of Raemoir, who married Jane, daughter of Alexander Brebner of Learney, by their great-grandson Alexander Berowald Innes, heir apparent to Raemoir and Dunnottar. His descendants also include Colonel Thomas Innes of Learney, the writer of this chronicle. The youngest brother of John VIII., James Innes of Maisley, married Isobel Abernethy of Mayen, and had two sons; the eldest, John, married Mary Ramsay, heiress of Barra and Straloch, and took the name of Ramsay, and they had three sons. The eldest, John Ramsay of Straloch, married his cousin Susan, daughter of Alexander Innes of Pitmeden, second son of James of Maisley, and they had one son, Major John Ramsay of Straloch, with whom the male succession failed, but he left a daughter



Mary Agnes, who married Francis Hugh Irvine of Drum. The male representative of this line is James Ramsay, son of James, and second son of the John Innes who married the heiress of Straloch and took the name of Ramsay.

To return again to John Innes VIII. of Edingight. He married 1753, Elizabeth, daughter of James Grant of Carron. She is said to have been one of three children at a birth, the others were sons who left no issue. The marriage contract is lost, but it is referred to in a deed of Provision 1789. In 1771, he makes provision of £2400 for his children excepting the eldest son John, namely, three sons, Thomas, James and Alexander, and five daughters, Jean, Elizabeth, Anne, Margaret, and Helen; and appoints, as their tutors and curators, his spouse Elizabeth Grant, John Innes of Muiryfold, James Grant of Carron, Alexander Innes of Breda, and James Innes, Maisley (his brothers.) In 1772, his eldest daughter Jean, married James Milne, merchant in Portsoy. Her marriage contract provides a tocher of £300 sterling. From an entry in the Family Bible, she was born in 1754, and so she was only eighteen years of age at her marriage, and she appears to have died within two years. In 1774, her next sister Elizabeth married Thomas Innes, W.S., designated as "of Monellie," and she is described in her marriage contract as "eldest daughter now in life" of John Innes of Edingight. Her father provides her with a dowry of £800 sterling, and her husband undertakes obligation for a jointure of £100 per annum. Thomas Innes of Monellie was her cousin, being grandson of Thomas Innes of Muiryfold, youngest son of John V., the patriarch.

This Thomas of Muiryfold, who was factor to the Earl of Fife, had two sons, John and Alexander. John succeeded him as factor and in Muiryfold, but as he had no son, Muiryfold was expected to go to his nephew Thomas Innes, W.S., of Monellie, who was the son of his brother Alexander. In the meantime, however, John of Muiryfold was still alive, and a witness to his nephew

Thomas's marriage contract. Thomas was not fated to survive his uncle, as he was killed by a fall from his horse not long after his marriage, but he left one infant daughter Elizabeth Mary, who so became presumptive heiress to her grand-uncle, and on his death she inherited his property of Muiryfold in the Parish of Grange. This probably occurred in 1789, as at that date her succession to the property of Muiryfold became the occasion of a very elaborate Deed of Provision by her grandfather John Innes VIII. of Edingight based upon the assumption that if she died without children he or his heir would inherit her estate, and he accordingly proceeds to burden the succession with additional provision for his wife and children. These provisions are of no importance, as Elizabeth Mary Innes of Muiryfold lived and married James Rose, one of the family of Kilravoch, and they had a large family. The property of Muiryfold was exchanged for Netherdale, and the family became the Rose Inneses of Netherdale.

In 1778 we have John Innes VIII. making provision for his wife Elizabeth Grant, in case she survives him, occupying a house in Banff, leased from the Earl of Fife, she giving up her right under her marriage contract to the mansion-house of Edingight, she is also to have the life-rent of the furniture. The next deed in 1789, in contemplation of succession to Muiryfold, has been already referred to. But, in addition, from it we find that Thomas Innes the second son was then dead, because James the third son is described as the second son "now in life." James went to India in the H. I. Co.'s service, rose to the rank of General, and died there unmarried. Ann the third daughter married Innes at Garmouth. Alexander the fourth son became a doctor but died early. Margaret and Helen probably died unmarried. Elizabeth the widow of Thomas Innes of Monellie married a second time, George Robinson of Gask, and one of their daughters married Leslie of Wartle.

Having thus accounted for all the younger children, let us take up the eldest John IX. of Edingight, and we find by a singular correspondence that he served in the army, first in the 58th Regiment of Foot and afterwards in the 3rd Regiment of Guards. The first letter is from Provost Jopp and the Magistrates of Aberdeen to Lord Barrington, Secretary at War, 31st January, 1778, and sets forth that the City of Aberdeen "had lately the honour of offering to raise a corps of men for His Majesty's service for the better enabling Government to reduce the revolted American Colonies to a proper state of alliance and subordination"; and upon this ground although the offer had not been accepted the magistrates take upon them to recommend the promotion "of a young gentleman with whom we and severals of our fellow-citizens are under connections John Innes who has been ensign near four years in the 58th Regiment of Foot, and most of that time on duty at Gibraltar." This was replied to by Lord Barrington, 23rd November, 1778, offering him, instead of promotion, an exchange to an Ensigncy in the "3rd Regiment of Guards, which sells for £900, whereas a Lieutenancy of Foot is only worth £550. The pay of an Ensigncy in the Guards is about £90 a year, but London is a dear place and will require assistance from friends to the amount perhaps of £100 a year, and much prudence is necessary in a town where there is so much extravagance and bad example." 30th November, a copy of this letter is forwarded by John's uncle, Alexander, the Commissary, to his father, advising the acceptance of the offer, after having consulted with his uncle "Carron" Accordingly he exchanged into the Guards and remained until 1759, as in the deed of provision of that year he is styled Captain John Innes, and of the same date he is addressed—"Captain John Innes, 3rd Regiment of Guards, London,"—on a letter from William Rose. But there is no information at what date he sold out, except that it must have been before his

marriage in 1796, as in the marriage contract he is not designated by any military rank. In 1796 he married Barbara Forbes, daughter of deceased George Forbes of Upper Boyndlie, with consent of Mrs. Christian Kerr, his relict, and the marriage contract provides a jointure of £100 Scots. It is signed at Ladyfoord, witnesses John Grant younger of Artamfoord, and John Forbes of Upper Boyndlie. In case of no issue of the marriage, or no lawful issue of Captain James Innes, it gives the widow right to the occupation of Mains of Edingight, from which it appears that James at this date had only attained the rank of Captain. Barbara Forbes's grandfather was John Forbes, a son of Sir John Forbes, 3rd Baronet of Monymusk. In 1711 he purchased Upper Boyndlie from Lord Pitsligo. He married Susan, daughter of George Morison of Bognie. He had five sons, and the youngest, George, succeeded to Boyndlie on the death of an older brother who died unmarried. George Forbes was twice married, and Barbara was one of four daughters by his second marriage.

John IX. of Edingight was served heir to his father in the lands of Edingight and others in 1795, the year before his marriage. The issue of the marriage was three sons and six daughters. John, died in infancy. John, born 1801, died 1838. James, born 1808, died 1878. Christian Susan, Elizabeth, Helen, Georgina Forbes, Barbara, and Susan. Of the daughters, two were married, Elizabeth to Edward Stock, Esq., London, and Georgina to W. Blackwood, Esq., a settler in Canada.

The Baronetcy Claimed

IN 1817, John Innes IX. of Edingight, by the death of Sir William Innes, became representative of the Innermarkie branch of the family, and consequently entitled to the Baronetcy of Innes of Balvenie. The Innermarkie branch first failed in the direct line with Sir Robert Innes, who died without issue in 1698, followed by a cousin, Sir George Innes of Dunoon, a priest, who died in 1699. The representation of the Innermarkie branch then fell to collaterals, deriving from William Innes of Main and Orbiston, younger brother of the first Baronet. They came to be designated as "of Orton," and so some confusion arises, because the designation of "Balvenie" is attached to the Baronetcy irrespective of possession of that estate. The tenure of the Baronetcy by this Orton branch did not extend beyond two generations. The first of them, Sir James Innes of Orton, who succeeded to it in 1699, had five sons. The eldest, Robert, succeeded in 1723, and left an only daughter, Catherine, who married Lord Forbes. The second, Captain Sir Charles, succeeded 1757, and died without issue. The next two brothers Walter and Captain James Innes, R.N., predeceased him without male issue, and the youngest Sir William succeeded and died March 1817, in the 100th year of his age, leaving only two daughters. He served in the army, and most of his service was abroad. It is narrated of him that he at one time was so ill of a fever that he was looked upon as dead, and that he would

have been buried had not some accident delayed the funeral. He passed the end of his life at Ipswich. He had two cousins, daughters of his aunt Margaret Innes of Orton, wife of Sir Ludovic Grant of Dalvey. Elizabeth married to James Burnett of Countesswells; and Margaret married to Sir Æneas Macintosh of Macintosh. For some years before the death of this old Sir William Innes, naturally, in the absence of any male representatives of his branch of the family, attention was directed to where the succession to the Baronetcy would go upon his death, and it appears by the evidence of Mrs. Burnett and Lady Macintosh that it was frequently the subject of conversation when they visited their cousin Sir William at Ipswich, and the conclusion they came to was that John Innes of Edingight was undoubtedly the next male representative of the Innermarkie Branch. On the death of Sir William, therefore, John Innes proceeded to take steps to substantiate his claim, and, although there was a general agreement in the family and its connections that his claim was good, having to go back 340 years and nine generations to find documentary evidence of the links which connected him with the Innermarkie branch, involved a good deal of research and correspondence. This seems to have begun as early as 1789, when we find a letter from William Rose, addressed to Captain John Innes, 3rd Regiment of Guards, London, in which he says: "I have found the inclosed wherein you see John Innes brother to Robert Innes of Innermarkie, anno 1552, and agrees perfectly with the age of your predecessor John, the first laird of Edingight, who got the lands seven years following, and who in 1586 came under great engagements for Innermarkie in the memorable conflict between that family and the laird of Innes." From this it appears that the enquiry about the pedigree began as early as 1789, and these are the first glimmerings of documentary evidence obtained by Mr. William Rose. But Sir William's life was abnormally prolonged, and

the matter was not seriously taken up until after his death in 1817. For a year an active correspondence goes on preparatory to the Retour by a Jury of John Innes as heir to Sir William, and the business seems to have been managed professionally by Patrick Rose, Sheriff-Clerk of Banff, and John Innes of Cowie, W.S. The letters include, besides Patrick Rose's and John Innes's, several from Lord Forbes, Sir Æneas Macintosh, Lady Macintosh, Mrs. Burnett, Countesswells, James Grant, (Carron?), and Rev. Alexander Innes, Shanwell Glenlivet. Eventually, having collected from the family papers and public records a satisfactory chain of evidence, the claimant's case was drawn up and submitted to a Jury at Banff on the 12th January, 1818, before James Urquhart of Meldrum, Sheriff-Depute of Banffshire. The Jury consisted of James, Earl of Fife; Sir Robert Turing, Bart., of Foveran; Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Gordon of Park; Thomas Russell, Esq., of Rathen, "Cohortis Instructor"? Alexander Dunbar of Durn; Hans George Leslie, Esq., of Dunlugas; Alexander Stronach of Knock; Lieutenant-Colonel George Garden Robinson, Provost of Banff; James Chalmers, Alexander Chalmers, George Alexander, and George Imlach, Merchants in Banff; Archibald Young, Esq., residing in Banff; Hugh Cross, Esq., Goldsmith, residing in Banff; and David Donaldson, Esq., only surviving son of deceased James Donaldson Esq. of Kinnairdy; and the Retour by this Jury, engrossed on parchment and duly authenticated, of John Innes of Edingight, as heir to the deceased Sir William Innes of Balvenie, remains in the family charter box.

Edingight and Balvenie



SIR John Innes IX. of Edingight, and IX. Baronet of Balvenie, died 1829, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir John X., and he dying unmarried, 1838, was succeeded by his brother, Sir James Milne Innes XI. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Alexander Thurburn, Esq., and there was issue of the marriage, besides two sons who died in infancy, seven sons and three daughters, John, James, Robert, George, Thomas, Hector, Edward; Barbara Forbes, Annie Thurburn, and Elizabeth Helen. Of the daughters, Barbara was married to Edward Wood Stock, Esq., Barrister, and Annie to Edward Alexander Thurburn, Esq., of Mayen, D.L.J.P. At this date, of the younger brothers, Robert, George and Edward are dead unmarried. Thomas, who is engaged in a mercantile business at Valparaiso, married Virginia, daughter of Colonel Bouchier, and they have a son, James Bouchier, and a daughter, Mary Thurburn; and Hector, who is a settler in the Argentine Republic, South America, married Annie Jane, daughter of William Fraser, Esq. At this date they have no surviving children.

Sir James Milne Innes died 1878, and was succeeded by his eldest son, now Sir John Innes XII. of Edingight and XII. Baronet of Balvenie. He spent a good many years in New Zealand. On his father's death he returned home, leaving his New Zealand affairs in charge of his next brother James, and

has been actively engaged in the management of his estate and the public business of the County of Banff.

This chronicle of the Edingight Branch of the Family of Innes, from 1537 to 1898, covers a period of say 361 years; and when added to that of the main line, recorded by Duncan Forbes of Culloden in 1698, beginning with Berowald's charter from King Malcolm in 1153, makes a total of 745 years and 26 generations; and, in conclusion, I may repeat the sentences with which Forbes of Culloden winds up his history of that earlier period of the family:—

“In all which long tract of time there are three things wherein they are either notable or happy as they themselves say. First, that their inheritance never went to a woman; next, that none of them ever married an ill-wife; and thirdly, that no friend ever suffered for their debt. Whether that be true I know not, but, if it be, let them be the more thankful to the Lord for his goodness, who has continued them so long without reproach, and can yet add to their succession if they be humble before him and honest towards men. And if they be vain and misimprove the kindness of God, how easily can he put a period to their race? and cast them out of his sight as he daily doth with many greater and better than they.”

FINIS.

ERRATA.

Page 3, line 13	...	...	...	for Duke read Earl.
Page 4, line 28	...	...	...	for Duke read Earl.
Page 15, line 6	...	...	...	for minor read minor's.
Page 18, lines 1, 29	...	...	...	for Jean read Helen.
Page 23, line 13	...	...	...	for Catherine read Margaret.
" " 14	...	...	...	for Grandmother read Great-Grandmother.
Page 26, line 3	...	...	...	for and read the.

GENEALOGY OF THE FAMILY OF INNES OF EDINGIGHT

WITH ITS BRANCHES.

Robert Innes II. of Innermarkie married Elizabeth Stewart, daughter of John, I. Earl of Athol, died 1552; had four sons—Robert, Walter, Alexander and John.

John Innes I. of Edingight married 1545? Marjorie Leslie; 1559 bought Edingight; had two sons Thomas and Herome; 1569 conveyed estate to Thomas.

Thomas Innes II. of Edingight married 1. Janet Seyton, 2. Janet Abercromby; 1569-77 bought two-thirds of W. Croylet; 1581 bought Crannat Strype; had one son Thomas; died 1621.

Thomas Innes III. of Edingight married 1611 Janet Innes, had one son John; died 1618?

John Innes IV. of Edingight married 1637 Christian Bruce; had one son John; died 1684; 1653 borrowed 9500 merks on wadset; 1659 conveyed estate to son by deed of sale.

John Innes V. of Edingight married 1., 1659? Elizabeth Gordon; 2. — Isobel Hamilton; had three sons, John, James, and Thomas, and 2 daughters, Helen and Margaret; 1662-70 redeemed wadsets on Edingight; died 1735?

John Innes VI. of Edingight married 1691 Helen Strachan; had 4 sons, John, James, Alexander and Thomas; 1697 bought remaining third of Croylet; died 1720, before his father.

John Innes VII. of Edingight married 1720 Jean Duff; had 3 sons, John, Alexander and James; his marriage contract with consent of his grandfather John V.; his father dead; died 1749?

John Innes VIII. of Edingight married 1753 Elizabeth Grant; had 4 sons, John, Thomas, James and Alexander, and 5 daughters, Jean, Elisabeth, Ann, Margaret and Helen; died 1795?

Sir John Innes IX. of Edingight married 1796 Barbara Forbes; had 3 sons, one died in infancy, John and James, and 6 daughters, Christian, Elizabeth, Helen, Georgina, Barbara and Susan; served in 58th Foot and 3rd Guards; succeeded to Baronetcy 1818; died 1829.

Sir John Innes X. of Edingight died unmarried 1838.

Sir James Milne Innes XI. of Edingight, 3rd son of Sir John Innes IX., married 1837, Elizabeth Thurburn; had 9 sons, 2 died in infancy, John, James, Robert, George, Thomas, Hector and Edward, and 3 daughters, Barbara, Annie and Elizabeth; died 1870.

Sir John Innes XII. of Edingight and XII. Baronet of Balvenie.

Herome Innes, 2nd son of John I. of Edingight 1581 sold Crannat Strype to his elder brother Thomas; became minister of Fyvie; had a son John, and 3 daughters, Janet, Margaret and Isobel; John died without issue; Isobel married John Gordon of Ardlogie; their daughter Elizabeth married John V. of Edingight.

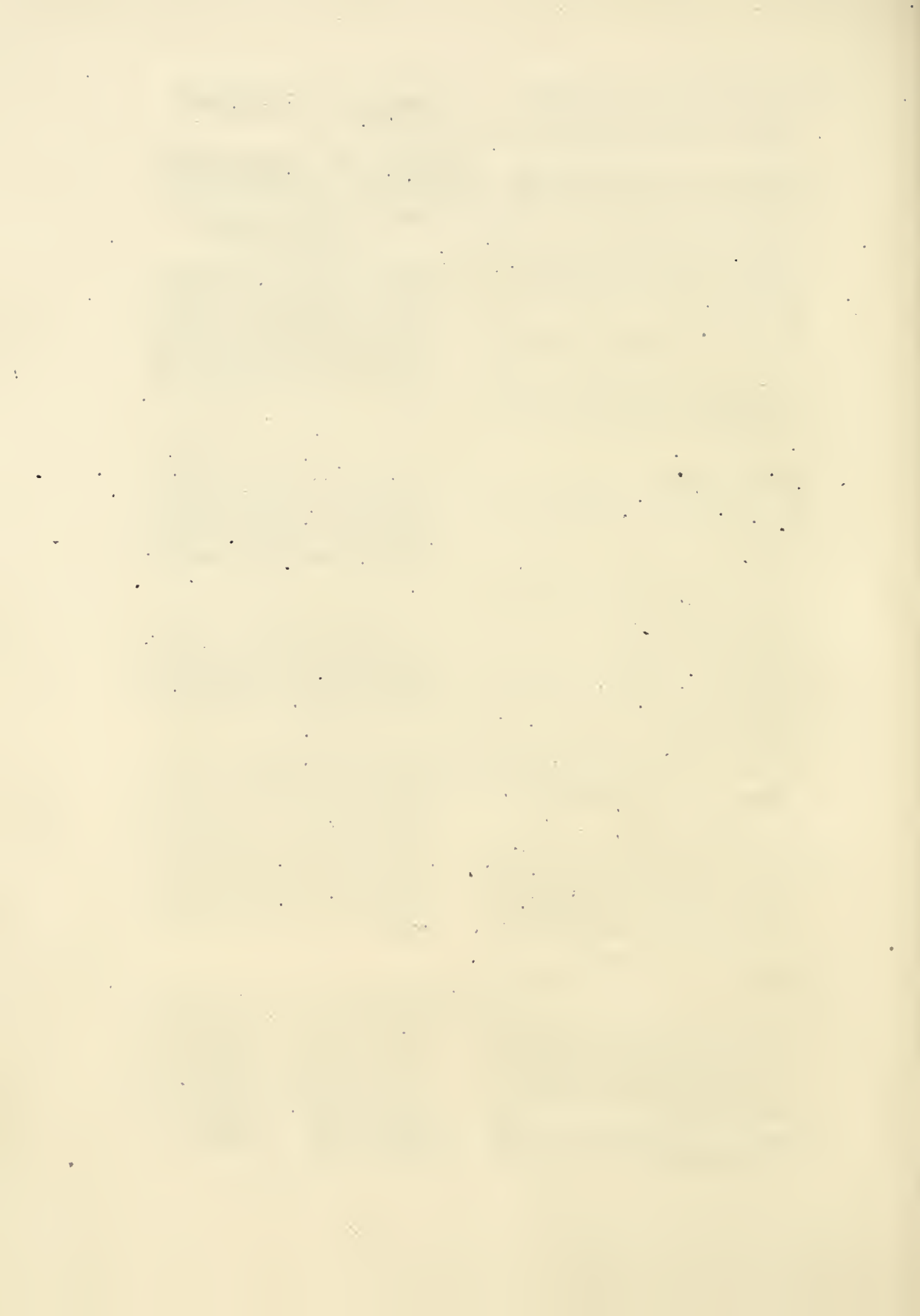
Thomas Innes, 3rd son of John V.; Factor to Earl of Fife; had 2 sons, John of Muirfold, who left no issue, and Alexander. Alexander left a son Thomas who married Elizabeth, 2nd daughter of John VIII.; their daughter Elizabeth Mary married James Rose, from them the Rose Inneses of Netherdale.

Ann Innes, daughter of John V., married Patrick Duff of Craigston; had 13 children; the eldest son Alexander married Katherine, daughter of William Duff of Braco, and from them the Duffs of Hatton.

Alexander Innes of Rosieburn, 3rd son of John VI., married Katherine, daughter of Alexander Abercromby of Glassaugh, M.P.; had 1 son and 4 daughters; 2nd daughter Eliza married Alexander Russel of Mountcoffer, and from them the Russells of Aden; 3rd daughter Katherine married George Gordon of Gight, and from them George Gordon, Lord Byron; 4th daughter Anna married Captain Thomas Russel of Rathen.

Alexander Innes of Breda, 2nd son of John VII. married Elizabeth, daughter of William Davidson, Provost of Aberdeen, and from them the Inneses of Rae-moir, Cowie and Learney.

James Innes of Maisley, 3rd son of John VII. married Isobel Abernethy; their son John married Mary Ramsay, heiress of Straloch, and from them the Ramsays of Straloch.



Addenda

PAGE 12. Janet Innes, one of the daughters of Herome Innes, minister of Fyvie, appears to have been twice married. Dr. Davidson in his "Earldom of the Garioch," p. 446, states that John, second son of James Leslie, IV. of Warthill, one of twenty-one children, born 1624, "served at the battles of Dunbar and Worcester, and in 1651 married Janet, daughter of Herome Innes, minister of Fyvie." In 1662, in her discharge to her cousin John Innes, V. of Edingight, she is described as the wife of William Bannerman, and he signs the deed along with her. He must so have been a second husband.

Page 17, 18, 23. Ann Innes, the first wife of Patrick Duff of Craigston, was a daughter of John Innes V. of Edingight. Her marriage contract has been lost, but it appears from family records that she was married 1687? She was the mother of 13 children, of whom the eldest daughter Jean married her cousin, John Innes VII. of Edingight. Her eldest son Alexander married his cousin Katherine, daughter of William Duff of Braco, and on his marriage, 1709, his father gave him the estate of Hatton, which he had recently purchased. From them descends the family of Duff of Hatton, represented by Garden Alexander Duff of Hatton. Patrick Duff of Craigston married a second wife, Mary Urquhart, by whom he is said to have had 23 children. One of the daughters, Margaret, married George Gordon, elder, of Gight. One of the sons, Robert, became Admiral Duff, and was the ancestor of the Duffs of Fetteresso.

Page 21. Alexander Innes of Rosieburn, the third son of John Innes, VI. of Edingight, seems to have been a man of ability. He was born 1701. He became, 1733, Sheriff-Clérk of Banffshire; 1735-38 he was Provost of Banff; 1743 he acquired the property of Rosieburn in the Parish of Alvah; 17— he married Katherine, second daughter of Alexander Abercrombie of Glassaugh, M.P. He died 1761. His wife died 1788. They had one son and four daughters. The son Thomas, born 1749, died 1784, at the age of 35. He does not appear to have married, and the estate of Rosieburn on his death was sold to Colin Morison. Helen, the eldest daughter, born 1738, was unmarried. Eliza, born 17—, and Anna, born 17—, married two Russels, grandsons of Patrick Russel of Mountcoffer; and Katherine, born 17—, married her cousin, George Gordon of Gight.

Alexander Russel of Mountcoffer and Aden, son of Alexander, eldest son of Patrick Russel of Mountcoffer, had married, as his first wife, Margaret Hay, daughter of Charles Hay of Rannes, by whom he had only one surviving daughter. He purchased the estate of Aden, and on the death of his first wife, he married, 1767, Eliza, second daughter of Alexander Innes of Rosieburn. They had three sons and a daughter. The eldest son Alexander inherited Aden. He married Margaret, daughter of James Cumine of Kinninmont, and from them descends the family of Russell of Aden, represented by Major-General F. S. Russell, C.M.G., M.P., of Aden.

Captain Thomas Russel of Rathen, son of John, second son of Patrick Russel of Mountcoffer, in the same year, 1767, married Anna, the youngest daughter of Alexander Innes of Rosieburn. His father had purchased the lands of Rathen and Blairmormond. He died 1827. They had seven sons and eight daughters. Four of the sons served in the Royal Navy.

George Gordon of Gight, who, 1763, married Katherine, third daughter of Alexander Innes of Rosieburn, was the son of George Gordon of Gight and Margaret, daughter of Patrick Duff of Craigston. He died early, 1778-79?, leaving two daughters, Katherine and Margaret, a third daughter, Abercrombie, having predeceased him 1777.

Katherine Gordon the eldest, on whom the estate of Gight was settled, married Captain John Byron. The estate was sold for payment of his debts, and she with her only son George, afterwards Lord Byron, were reduced to very narrow circumstances.

Page 25. Alexander Innes of Breda appears to have shewn a very early capacity for business. At 20 years of age he was Commissary Clerk for Aberdeenshire, and Factor for the Earl of Kintore. In 1746, when the Duke of Cumberland's army was at Aberdeen, a week before the battle of Culloden, he seems to have incurred suspicion of favouring the Pretender, as he was arrested. The following appears in a letter dated "7 April, 1746. Alexander Innes, commissary clerk here, and factor for the Earl of Kintore, was last night brought in prisoner and committed to the Provost Marshall's guard. It's talked here that he runs a chance of being hang'd, but I cannot yet discover for what"; and in a second note—"the Provost Marshall took what money and banknotes from Mr. Innes with his watch last night, which is a bad symptom."

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