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CASTLE HUNTLY

Its Development and History

Edward A. Urquhart, F.S.A. Scot.



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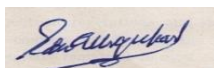
Castle Huntly

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FOREWORD

Through the long years of its existence, Castle Huntly has had an interesting history, but no comprehensive or chronological account has hitherto been published, the story being scattered throughout many works, several of which are long out of print and not readily obtainable by the general reader. Furthermore, there is a good deal of inconsistency between various writers, and, in compiling this present short history, after careful comparison, selection has been made from those writers whose authorities can be checked. There is sufficient material to fill a large volume, but it is hoped that this modest publication will, at least, be found of interest, and will go some way towards recuing an interesting piece of Scottish History from oblivion.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Carnegie", is written on a small rectangular piece of light-colored paper.

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CASTLE HUNTLY

Its Development and History

Part I.

THE CASTLE

The Site

Castle Huntly, or Castle Lyon as it was named for a period, is situated in the eastern end of the Carse of Gowrie, about three-quarters of a mile south-west of the village of Longforan. (See the map, Fig. 1.) This district, full of interest for both geographer and historian, has been inhabited from very early times. Dr. Douglas Simpson, writing on the Barony and Castle of Rothiemay, says "that despite the successive waves of racial immigration and cultural influences and the numerous and often severe political revolutions and devastating wars through which the country has passed, the local centres of Scotland's population have remained, in most cases, surprisingly constant, even from a period so far back as the Bronze Age." This appears to have been true in the Longforan area which clearly offered many attractions to primitive peoples.

The place-name, Longforan, goes back beyond written record, but W. J. Watson, in his *History of the Celtic Place-names of Scotland*, derives it from "Lon-for-gron" in the old British language, spoken in the district before the infiltration of the Goidelic or Gaelic tongue. The meaning of the name—"The flat land above the marsh"—indicates the dominant characteristic of the place in the eyes of these early inhabitants of the lower Tay valley. Until the early Eighteenth Century the land to the south was waterlogged and marshy with numerous water holes and

heavy clay soil, but, to the north, the ground slopes gently upwards from the 150 ft. contour, giving a fine southern exposure of good fertile land with natural drainage. There is direct evidence of early occupation: — a fired clay beaker found near the present policies of the Castle dates from about 1,700 B.C.; over a century ago a burial cairn, belonging to the late Bronze Age (c. 750 B.C.), was excavated just north of the village; a souterrain, or underground chamber, which would be in use in the early centuries A.D., was discovered in the west end of the village in 1955; the local parish church can be traced back to a religious foundation of about 500 A.D. All these point to a relatively continuous inhabitation of the immediate vicinity of the Castle.

Though direct evidence on the precise origin of the village is lacking, the history of the lands of Longforgan can be traced back for the past eight hundred years. In the 12th Century mention is made of four Royal manors in "Gowerin or Go wry," one of which was Longforgan, and from then onwards the name appears frequently in the records. It was already old-established at the point at which the history of Castle Huntly itself begins.

When, in 1452, the 1st Baron Gray of Fowls received a licence from James II. permitting him to build a fortalice on any part of his lands, he certainly chose well. His castle stands on a volcanic knoll of dolerite intruding through the old red sandstone and rising about 50 feet above the level of the Carse, a commanding position with an uninterrupted view over miles of the surrounding country. To the south, is seen the broad estuary of the Tay with the background of the Fifeshire hills and, to the north, the land rises gradually to the Sidlaws in Angus. East and west, lie the broad lands of the Carse. On the north side the knoll falls away in a gentle slope, while, to the south-west, there is a 50 foot drop of sheer cliff. To-day, with a large number of forest trees growing around the site, it is difficult to imagine the commanding and austere picture of the castle as it would be in the 15th century, when owing to its marshy condition, the area would be practically treeless.

Architectural Development of the Castle

The original castle still exists in its entirety, though with many alterations and additions made by successive owners. The most important addition, which affected the external appearance of the castle, was the building of a couple of Georgian wings on the N.E. side in 1778.

On approaching the castle by the present drive from the N.E. one gathers the impression that the castle is built on the top of the rock but in reality it is only the Georgian addition which is so. (Fig. 2.) From the S.W., however, it is seen that the original castle was built up the face of the cliff from the low level of the Carse. (Fig. 3.) A modern writer graphically describes this view: — "There are few Perthshire castles that declare their feudal origin more clearly than does the pile known as Castle Huntly or Lyon. The stern aspect of the lofty baronial tower, rising to a height of 116 feet above the Carse of Gowrie, might suggest, even now, that it was the residence of some predatory baron, were it not for the smiling fields and gardens which surround it."

There are no descriptions of the castle in its earliest form until towards the end of the 17th century when Patrick, 1st Earl of Strathmore, noted a number of details in his Book of Record. Rather over a century later the First Statistical Account (1797) provides some valuable information as, at that date, a new owner (Mr. Paterson), was making extensive additions and alterations, and the writer of the Statistical Account for the parish evidently had an opportunity to examine the building while these were in progress. The modern standard authors have neglected it. E. W. Billing, in his *Baronial and Ecclesiastical Antiquities of Scotland*, and MacGibbon and Ross in their *Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland*, give meagre notes and ignore the architectural evolution of the building. Mackenzie, in his *Mediaeval Castles of Scotland*, does not even mention Castle Huntly, and yet it is one of the finest examples of the typical "Tower and Jamb" design of the period.

The castle is built of sandstone from the famous quarries at Kingoodie, which lie about two miles S.E. of the site, the stones all being laid on their bedding plane. The development from the foundations is unique. The lowest part of the castle, in the S.W., is the prison or pit which forms the base of the Jamb. (Fig. 4.) This is built a few feet above ground level, in a recess cut out of the solid rock on a projecting part of the cliff. The inside of the pit measures about 12 by 17 feet and 15 feet to the ceiling, the walls being 10 feet in thickness. There is a loop window high up on the S.W. wall and the only entrance to the pit is by a trap in the floor of the chamber above.

The ground floor extends over the whole area of the castle with a guard room over the pit and a series of three cellars founding the tower. (Fig. 5.) The internal area of the cellars is 42 by 18 feet and each cellar has a barrel vaulted roof 12 feet in height. Access to the guard room is by a fine pointed doorway. The cellars are also erected on a recess in the solid rock about 15 feet above the base of the pit and the rock is exposed on the end and rear walls and also on the floor. A well had been sunk in the floor but has been filled in. The cellars are lit by two loop windows, one being close to the re-entrant angle, and the guard room by a square window in the S.W. wall.

Usually such castles had no entrance on the ground floor, the doorway being on the first floor and reached by a removable ladder. In the case of Castle Huntly, however, as the ground floor was at a considerable distance above the cut away rock, the entrance was on that floor through a rounded arch doorway into the guard room and would be reached by the usual ladder. There was no direct access from the ground floor to the floor above. While the height of the ceiling in the cellars is only 12 feet, that of the guard room is 20 feet. This was for security reasons as an arched passage was left through the rear wall of the guard room at the level of the first floor (Fig. 6), with three steps leading down and stopping abruptly at the outer edge from which a ladder, capable of being drawn up when required, would reach from the guard room floor. This was the only means of access to the dwelling apartments. There never had

been a built stairway and as late as 1946 only a light wooden one was in use.

After 1660, the Earl of Strathmore, when making his improvements, built up the original doorway to the guard room and states, in his *Book of Record*, that he opened a new doorway in the N.E. side of the castle, which, owing to later additions, it is not now possible to trace. When alterations were being made in 1778 the original doorway was re-opened and the original iron yett was found in position.

The first floor (Fig. 6) consisted of a hall, 43 by 19 feet, with a high barrel vaulted ceiling and with a fireplace at the N.W. end. A newel stair cut in the solid wall at the re-entrant angle led to the upper floor and the roof.

The second floor was a duplicate of the first floor with the addition of a chamber over the guard room and from the writings of the Earl we can conclude that there were no wall chambers or wardrobes provided. Thus there were only three floors in the original castle. The vaulting of the second floor rose above the parapet on the roof and was covered with stone flags.

The sketch (Fig. 9) gives a fair representation of how the castle would look when built in the 15th Century.

As the ground to the N.E. of the tower has been made up for the later additions, it is not now possible to trace how far the rock rose on that side, but at the S.E. corner of the first floor the rock appears inside the walling of the lower hall.

Earl Patrick states in his *Book of Record*: — "The house was extremely cold and the hall was a vault out of which, by the striking thereof, I have gained the rooms above." He cut out the vaulting of the first floor and inserted two joisted floors and so gained an extra flat. In the walls of the two new upper floors he cut out chambers in the solid walls and reduced two walls in the chambers over the guard room (Fig. 7).

He also, very daringly, skinned four feet from the N.E. wall of the first floor and when alterations were being made in 1778 it was found that the full thickness of the floor above the hall was

overhanging and carried on the joists of the new floor.

At some date, not yet determined, an apron wall (Fig. 3) had been built up to the level of the doorway in the Jamb, behind which a series of cellars with vaulted ceilings had been constructed. The whole was roofed over, giving a forecourt to the entrance. At the level of the cellars the wall is 3 feet in thickness and the rear wall shows the solid rock below the ground floor. (Fig. 8). Access to the cellars is by a winding stair at the N.W. end of the forecourt. The present cellars do not occupy the whole space beneath the forecourt as the part adjoining the pit wall has been built up. In the cellars there is a chute in the wall down to an outlet at the base. The floor of the cellars, which is rough rock, would be the line of approach to the doorway, as shown in the sketch (Fig. 9).

The roof was entirely renewed after 1776 by Paterson, when he added the central round tower and capped the bartisans.

Since the castle was taken over by Paterson, the interior of the original building had been much altered by successive owners and tenants, by the building of numerous partition walls, new staircases, windows and the plastering of stone facings, all of which makes it extremely difficult to examine the building. No traces can now be found of any carved mantlepieces or other decorations in any part of the building.

As the Georgian addition (Fig. 2) does not materially affect the main building of the original castle, an interior plan is not given. It consists of two wings, each of two stories, with an entrance hall between which has a fine oval glazed cupola. The two roundals at the doorway have been removed and the walling set further back within recent years.

The castle was originally built in the traditional defensive style, but it appears that it was never used as a stronghold.

When trouble was brewing the Grays retired to their other castle at Fowlis, which was better fitted for defence.

The Policies

The 1st Earl of Strathmore made many external improvements. In the *Book of Record* he describes how he planted the policies with timber and makes some shrewd remarks about the proper method of doing so, in order that planting might be a profitable investment. Apart from laying out the policies, the building of a surrounding wall and the making of the ornamental pond round the eastern slopes, he carried out extensive excavations on the S.E. face of the knoll, where, " by the force of quarry mellis and peiks," he formed the terrace gardens which were made up with carried soil, and he also laid out the kitchen gardens and plant nurseries. On the modern ordnance maps the ornamental pond is described as a "Moat," and Melville, in his *Fair Land of Gowrie*, quotes from the *Book of Record* in support of this description. It is, however, clear that in the relevant passage the Earl was referring to a ditch at Glamis. The pond at Castle Huntly could never have been intended as a moat as it could have no real protective value, being too far from the castle and, from its level, easily breached and drained.

The Earl made a fine avenue running N.W. from the castle. At that date the road from Dundee to Perth was further north than now and bye-passed the village (Fig. 1), the present road not being constructed till 1790. A branch road led from the old road to Snabs, three-quarters of a mile west of the village, where the avenue joined it. There was no road leading to the village as at present. The avenue originally had six gates, five of which have long been demolished, whilst the survivor was removed to the present entrance to the policies at the north lodge after 1790. It is a handsome structure, consisting of a central gateway of 16 feet width with two side archways of 7 feet. Two piers are decorated with ornamented semi-circular Tuscan pilasters and all are surmounted with elongated pyramids.

The forecourt of the castle has recently been built over with a two-storied brick building which, once more, closes up the original doorway to the castle.

Part II.

THE OWNERS

This castle has been continuously occupied during the 500 years of its existence. For almost all that period three successive families have owned it and its surrounding estates: The Grays of Fowlis; the Lyons of Glamis; the Patersons. Viewed, therefore, from the standpoint of ownership, its history falls into three phases: from the original building to 1614; from 1614 to 1776; from 1776 to 1946, when it passed from private to national ownership.

The Grays (to 1614)

The Grays were certainly the most interesting family of the three. They held high positions, both politically and socially, through the long period of warfare and unrest during the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Centuries, and many of them distinguished themselves in their service to the country. They were descended from a family of Norman-French origin who had settled in Chillingham in Northumberland. One of the family followed Prince David when he returned to Scotland to be crowned as David the First in 1124, and was one of the many of Norman-French descent whom David gathered around him at his Scottish Court. This Gray received a grant of land at Browfield in Roxburghshire, not Broxmouth, as several writers state. The Broxmouth property, which lies on the East Lothian coast not far from Dunbar, did not come into their possession until later, but there is clear evidence in a charter that an Andrew Gray, second son of Baron Gray of Chillingham, was settled at Browfield in 1214.

The first member of the family to come into the story of Castle Huntly was a grandson of the above Andrew, Sir Andrew

Gray of Browfield, who, no doubt with an eye to the main chance, joined under the standard of Robert the Bruce and assisted him in his fight for the Throne of Scotland, distinguishing himself in that service. He took part in the capture of Edinburgh Castle in 1312, being the second person to enter.

Bruce, appreciating the service which Gray had rendered, bestowed on him, by Charter dated February 12th, 1315, the whole estates belonging to Sir Edmund Hastings, an English Knight, comprising the Barony of Longforgan, the lands of Craigie, Pitcarroch, Carniston, and Milntoun. It is possible that this Hastings was of the same family as Lord John Hastings, who was one of the eight candidates for the throne of Scotland to appear before Edward the First at Norham in 1291, so perhaps Bruce was getting his own back.

There is no reference to the Grays having a residence in the Carse until over a hundred years later, but they no doubt administered their Carse estates from Browfield or the then recently acquired property at Broxmouth. Judging from many of the marriages which were contracted with families in the area of the Carse during that period they must have been frequent visitors.

Sir Andrew married Ada Gifford of the House of Yester, an estate neighbouring on Broxmouth. They had issue: David, who succeeded his father with the title of Sir David Gray of Browfield and Broxmouth and who died in 1356, leaving a son, John; and Thomas, who was taken prisoner at the Battle of Durham in 1346. John, who succeeded his father, acquired more lands at Craigie under a Charter from David II. dated 8th September, 1356, and had two sons. The first, another John, was a hostage for the payment of the ransom for David II. and died in England before his father, without leaving issue. The second son, Patrick, succeeded on his father's death in 1376.

Sir Patrick Gray and his wife Margaret (her maiden name is undecipherable) had seven children, of whom Andrew directly concerns us, because it was he who inherited the estates in 1421, The daughters' marriages are none the less of interest—Margaret to

Sir William Hay of Errol, Elizabeth to Andrew Honour of that ilk, Marion to Lindsay of Crawford—as illustrating the way»-in which the Gray family was extending its contacts among the Scottish aristocracy of the time.

Similarly, before his succession to the estates, Andrew had married Janet, only child and heiress of Sir Roger de Mortimer of Fowlis. Of their large family two are of direct interest: Andrew, who succeeded his father in 1445, and Elizabeth who married Sir Thomas Maule of Panmure, and, after his death, Sir Andrew Murray of Tullibardine. On the death of Janet de Mortimer, Sir Andrew remarried, and by his second wife, Elizabeth—daughter of Sir Walter Buchanan of that ilk—he had a further five children of whom the eldest became Gray of Baledgarno.

With the succession of the second Andrew in 1445, the Grays become more prominently associated with both national and local events. Andrew had been in England from 1424-27 as a hostage for the ransom of his monarch, James I., and on the return of James to Scotland he rose rapidly in favour in the royal household. Whilst still Master of Gray, he had been sent to France in 1436 as one of the Commissioners to arrange the marriage of Margaret, daughter of James I., to the Dauphin, and on two occasions he was an ambassador of James II. in peace negotiations with England. Through his mother he inherited Fowlis Castle and lands and took up residence there, thus becoming the first member of the family of whom we can say that he definitely lived in the Carse of Gowrie. His prestige, both local and national, was enhanced when, in 1445, he was created Baron Gray of Fowlis and became a Lord of Parliament.

In 1452 he received a Licence from James II. granting him permission to build a fortalice in any part of his possessions of Fowlis or Longforgund. As the castle at Fowlis had become too small to accommodate his growing establishment, he began the building of Castle Huntly. By his marriage with Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Wemyss and heiress of Sir Andrew Erskine of Inchmartine, he materially strengthened his hold on the lands of

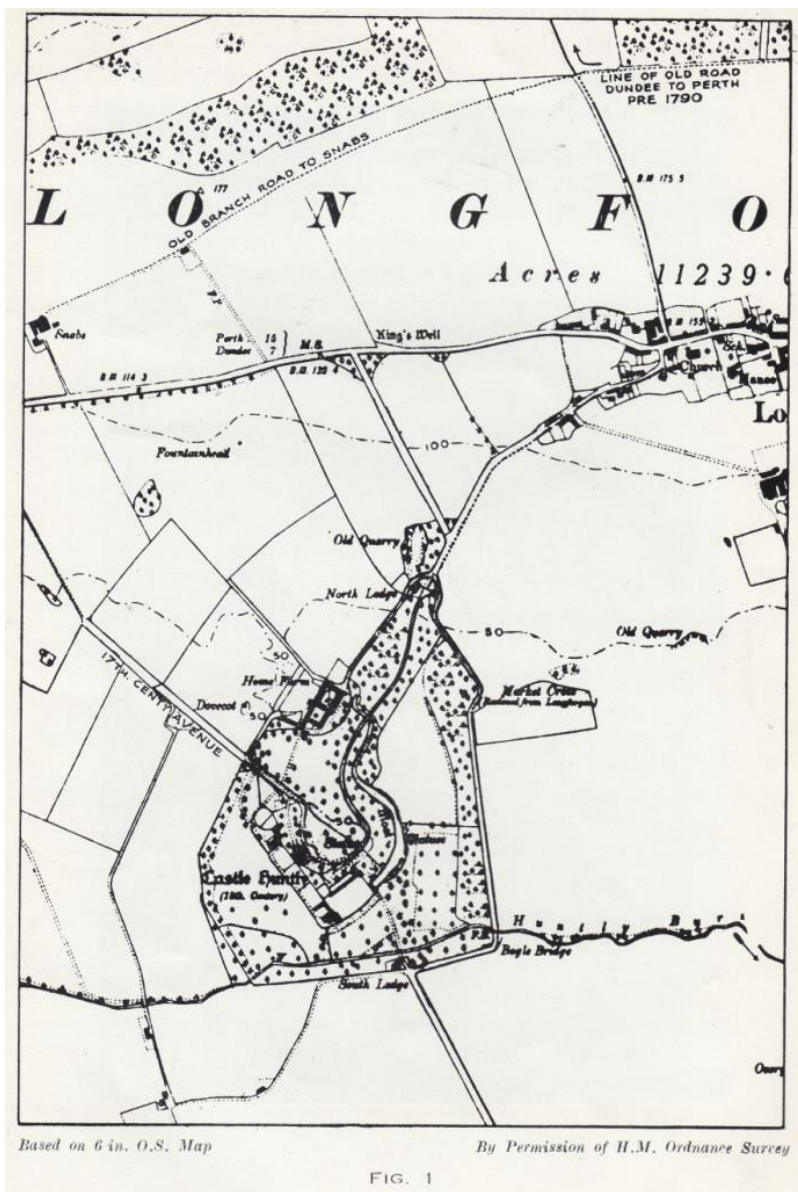


FIG. 1

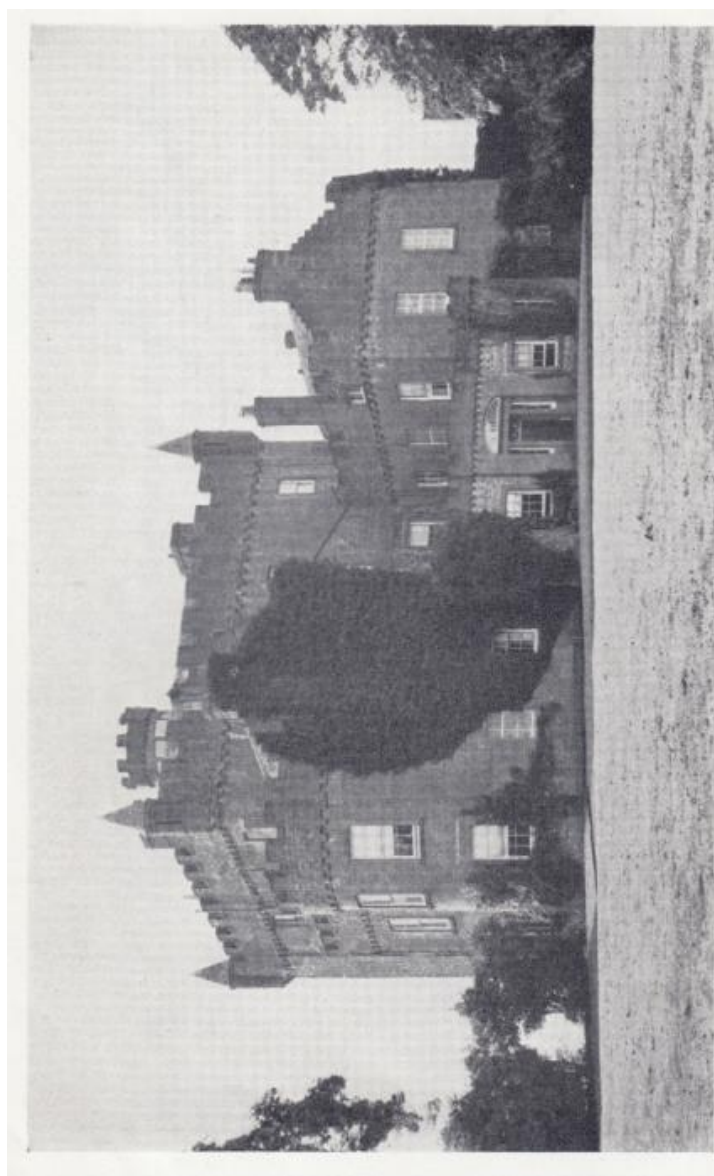


FIG. 2.

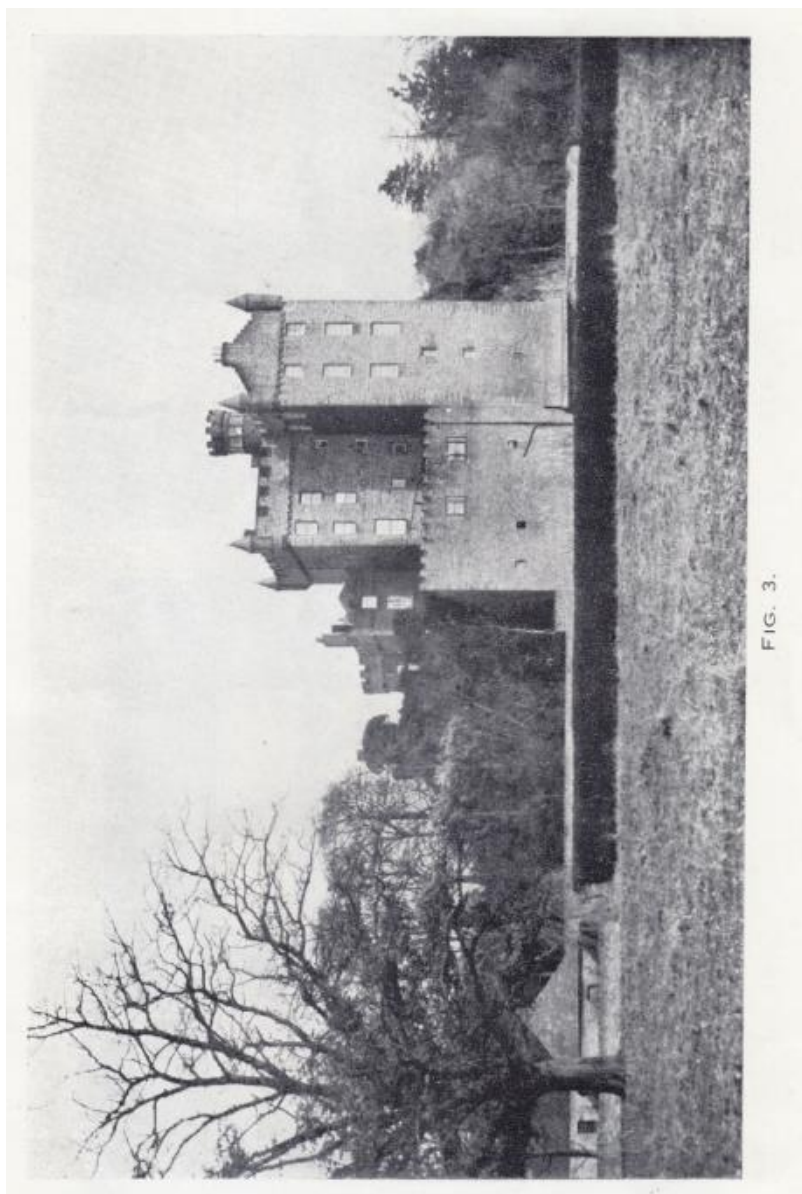


FIG. 3.

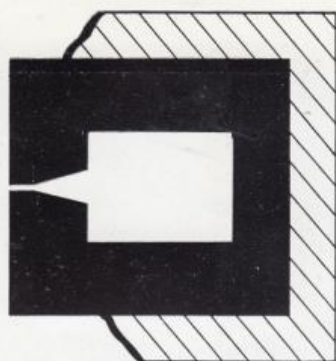


FIG. 4.

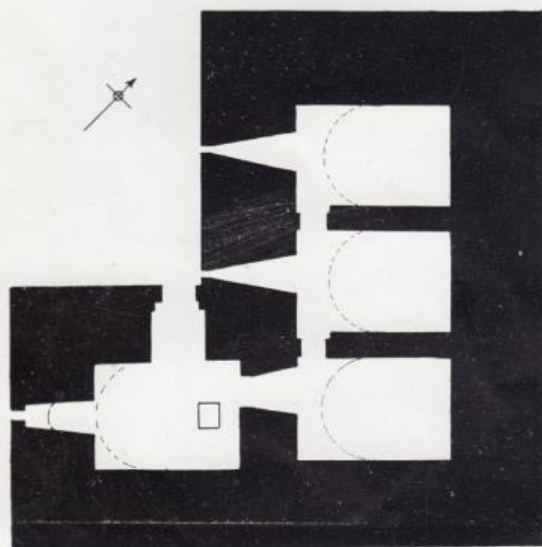


FIG. 5.

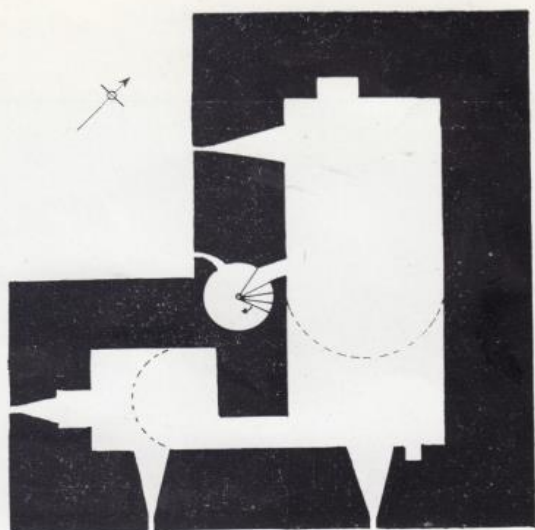


FIG. 6.

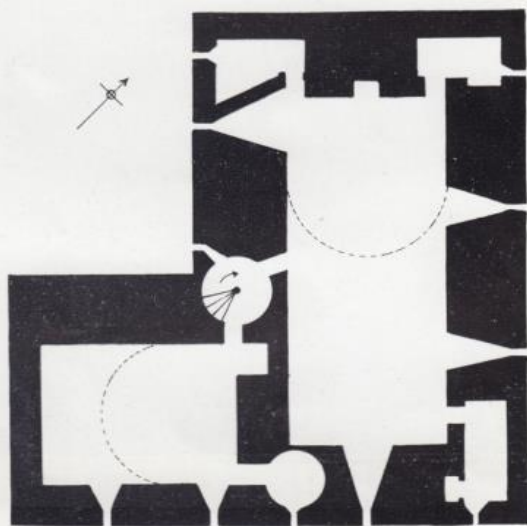


FIG. 7.

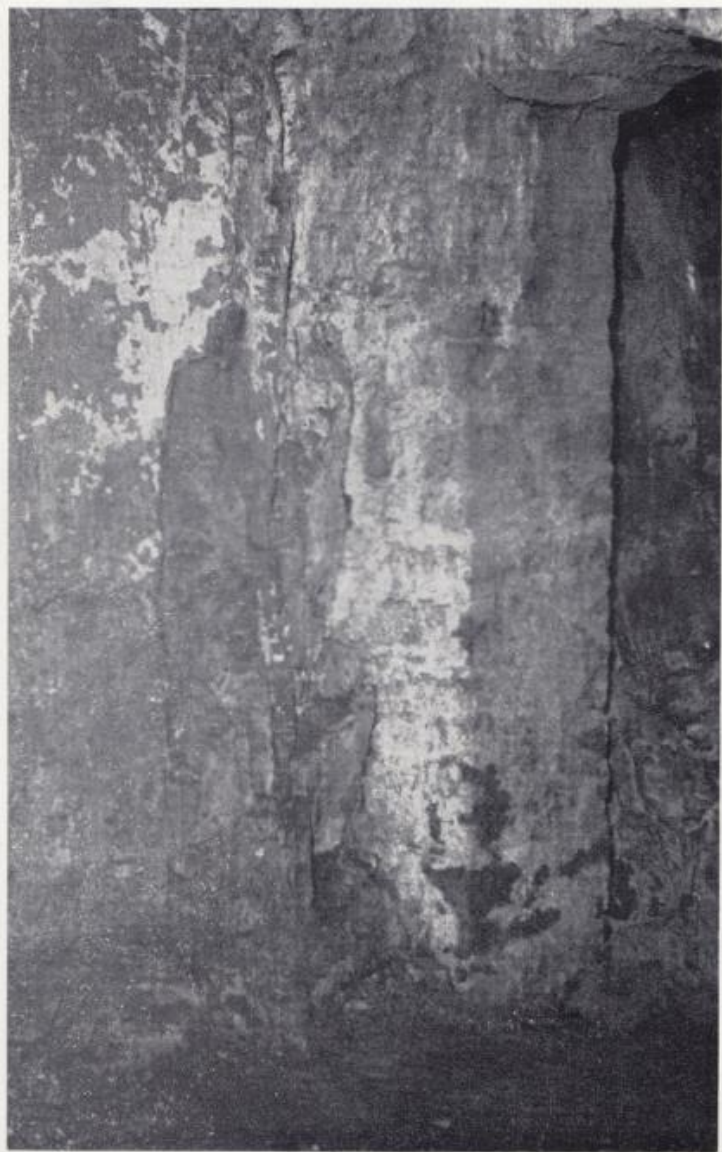


FIG. 8.

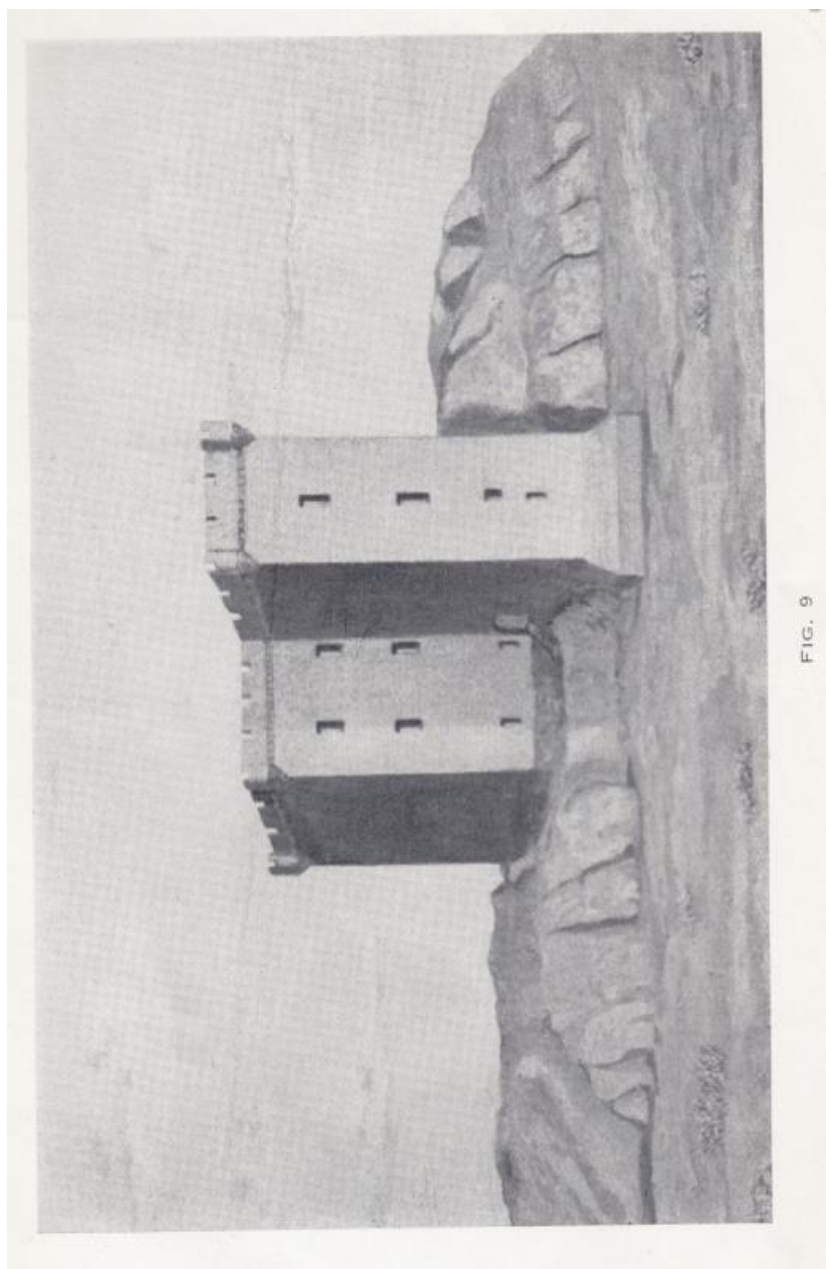


FIG. 9

the Carse. Their younger son, Andrew, settled in Ross-shire and was the progenitor of the Grays of Skibo. The elder, Patrick, who predeceased his father in 1464, had three daughters and a son who succeeded his grandfather in 1470.

When Andrew, 2nd Baron Gray, inherited the estates, the family fortunes were in the ascendant, and being possessed of great shrewdness and political sagacity, he soon rose to a prominent place in the affairs of the country. Three milestones in his public career may be noted: in 1488 he was made a Lord of the Privy Council and High Sheriff of Angus; in 1489 Justice General of Scotland North of the Forth; and in 1506 Justice General of Scotland.

Loyalty to the reigning dynasty had been the traditional policy of the Grays from an early period, but the Second Lord Gray introduced a system of treachery and double dealing in his public affairs. Though an intimate of James III., from whom he had had many favours, he was one of the movers in the unpatriotic plot to dethrone James and erect Scotland as an appanage of the English Crown under the nominal rule of Albany, but, when the young Prince James advanced his Standard against his father, Lord Gray became one of his chief supporters and was leader of the second line at the battle of Sauchieburn in 1488, when James III. was killed. He does not, however, appear to have supported the young King at Flodden, but his second son, Robert, was killed there.

There is a Charter in the Register of the Great Seal from James IV., dated St. Andrews, 7th January, 1508, conceding to Baron Gray, Justiciar in Scotland: — ". . . terras et barpnum de Langforgnnd cum dependentiis, tenentibus et tenandris, viz.:—terras de Langforgund, Huntlie cum turre et fortalicio, Bulyeon, Gedpik, Balbunnoch, Kingaidy, Ebrukis, Thrissile-holme, Raschycruke, Drone, Knap, Laurestoun, Litiltoun, fig. 12 bovatas terrarum in villa de Inchmartin, terras de Montskeide, Montramyche, alias Disart, et Killebrioch, vie Perth." These lands and possessions had been formerly held

from the Crown and were incorporated anew in the Free Barony of Longforgan.

He completed the building of Castle Huntly and built Broughty Castle on the site of an older fort, obtained by exchange with the Earl of Angus for Browfield in Roxburghshire.

Like some of his progenitors, he increased his influence by judicious marriages. His first wife was Janet, only daughter of Lord Keith, Earl Marshal of Scotland. Patrick, their son, was to succeed as the 3rd Lord Gray in 1514. One of their daughters, Elizabeth, is distinguished for her marriages to three noblemen; first, John Lyon, Lord Glamis; then Alexander, Earl of Huntly; and finally, George, Earl of Rothes. After the death of his first wife, the 2nd Lord Gray remarried to a daughter of the Earl of Atholl by whom he had nine children, of whom one fell at Flodden and another, Andrew, became Rector of Lundie, obtained a Crown Charter of the lands of Inchyra, and founded the Chapel of Loretto in Perth.

Compared with his immediate predecessor and his successor, the 3rd Lord Gray lived in obscurity. He extended the family possessions by securing, under a Charter from James V., lands in Broughty and elsewhere in Angus. He was twice married, and by his first wife had three daughters who each married a landed proprietor. Margaret, the eldest, married Sir William Keith of Inverurie; Marjorie married Patrick Ogilvie of Inchmartine; Isobel strengthened the family connection with Lundie by marrying Sir John Campbell of that place. As there was no male heir the title and estates, on the death of the 3rd Lord in 1541, passed to his nephew, Patrick, son and heir of Sir Gilbert Gray of Buttergask.

Before entering on his inheritance, this Patrick was taken prisoner at the "Rout of the Solway" in 1542 and had to pay a heavy ransom to his captors. He next figures at a skirmish at Perth in 1544. Though John Charteris had been nominated to the office of Provost of Perth on the advice of Cardinal Beaton, the citizens of Perth would not hear of the nomination, and, with Lord Ruthven at their head, prevented Charteris from

entering the town. Charteris, being allied to Gray through marriage, appealed to him for armed assistance. The attack on the town was a failure and Gray had to retire with heavy losses. For this escapade Gray was arrested in Dundee by order of the Regent and was committed to Blackness Castle for a period. In return for this, Gray held aloof during the invasion of 1547 and would not join the forces of the Regent. After the battle of Pinkie, he was charged with having surrendered Broughty Castle to the enemy. He was accused of treason and confined, to Edinburgh Castle, but he was not convicted and after a short duration was released. He had many similar adventures and was frequently in trouble through wavering between the English Party and the Scottish Crown. He married Marion, daughter of Lord Ogilvie of Cortachy, and had six sons and seven daughters. Those particularly relevant to the history of the Carse were Patrick, his heir; James, who succeeded to Buttergask; and another Patrick who became Sir Patrick Gray of Invergowrie.

Patrick, 5th Lord Gray, held the title and lands from 1582 to 1608. Though his fame in public affairs is overshadowed by the activities of his son, the famous "Master of Gray," he served twice as a Lord of Session and was a close friend of Queen Mary. After the death of the Dauphin it was to Lord Gray that she first wrote of her intention to return to Scotland. His marriage to Barbara, daughter of Lord Ruthven, resulted in ten children. Two only need be noticed here: Patrick, the heir, and William who married Elizabeth, relict of Patrick Kinnaird of Inchtute, and so succeeded to her property there.

The fame of Patrick, 6th Lord, rests entirely on his public life as Master of Gray, for he held the senior title and lands for three years only, from 1608 to 1611, and died in obscurity. His character was perhaps the most interesting and yet the least commendable of the whole family. He was the most remarkable Scottish adventurer of his day. It has been said of him that "Scottish historians portray him in colours so odious that, to find his parallel as a master of unprincipled statecraft, we must search among the Machiavellian politicians of Italy,"

He was educated at St. Andrews University but left there on his sixteenth birthday. Sent abroad by his father in order to extend his education and knowledge of foreign affairs, he travelled in France, Spain and Italy. Being a handsome youth with polished manners and a pleasant address, he soon gained entrance to the highest circles. He lightly shook off his Protestantism at the French Court and leagued up with the Scottish Catholics in Paris. He wormed his way into the confidence of the Duke of Guise, who was conducting a close correspondence with Mary, Queen of Scots, then a captive in England. Young Gray was engaged by Guise in this delicate service, whereby his name became favourably known to the unfortunate Queen.

While on the Continent, Gray, who had developed an aptitude for intrigue, realised that he might profit by disclosing the secrets of Mary and Guise to their enemies and travelled back to Scotland. He was welcomed there by the Earl of Arran, then the royal favourite, and, with his courtly accomplishments and wide experience of life, soon made himself a close favourite of the young King. He was made a gentleman of the Bedchamber, Master of the King's Wardrobe and a Privy Councillor and, in 1584, Commendator of Dunfermline Abbey.

Arran, becoming jealous and suspicious of him, suggested that Gray should be sent as Ambassador to England and so get him out of the way of his own nefarious schemes. The young man was thereby brought into contact with Queen Elizabeth and soon saw where his own advantage lay. It was not long before he had an opportunity of conveying to her ears *his* knowledge of the plotting that was going on by Queen Mary and Guise, unscrupulously stating that he did so by desire of the King of Scots. He urged that Elizabeth should get rid of Mary, while, at the same time, he made contact with Mary and posed as her friend.

After the execution of Queen Mary, a great outcry broke out over the country. In the excited state of public feeling a scapegoat had to be found. The Master of Gray was arrested and brought to trial in the Castle of Edinburgh in May 1587.

He was indicted of treason under six charges, in which no mention was, made of his dealing with Queen Elizabeth. He was condemned to death but, through the advocacy of his relative, the Earl of Huntly sentence was never carried out. He was banished from the country and divested of all offices held by him.

His term of banishment was short for, in 1589, he obtained permission from the King to return home for a time, but, while he appeared at Court, he did not regain any position or influence and he again withdrew to the Continent. While abroad in this latter period, he carried on a correspondence with the King—preserved for us in the *Moray Papers*—with a view to re[^]instatement in the Royal favour. In the course of this correspondence he made pecuniary claims against the King. These claims were finally adjusted by Commissioners appointed for the purpose, who, in 1606, found that £19,983 Scots was due by His Majesty, and an order for payment was made accordingly. Royal favour continued to rest on him, for on his next return to Scotland he was connected in several more despicable actions, but in all cases he managed to obtain a pardon from the King.

An incident very typical of his activities took place in 1599 when Lord Balmerino, President of the Court of Session, wrote to the Pope on behalf of his cousin, Sir Edward Drummond, requesting the elevation to the Cardinalate of their kinsman, the Bishop of Vaison, and containing complimentary references to his Holiness. This letter Balmerino managed to shuffle among other papers for the King's signature, and the King, ignorant of its contents, innocently signed it. The Master of Gray, then in Rome, managed to get a copy of the letter and sent it to Queen Elizabeth, who at once reproached King James with conduct unworthy of a Protestant Prince. The King denied all knowledge of the letter and declared it to be a forgery by his enemies. The sequel is too long to be told here, but the letter cropped up again later with disastrous results for Lord Balmerino.

We come to one of the Master's final and meanest misdemeanours. In the year 1607, one year before his death,

Lord Gray, then a very old man, made complaint to the King of his son's behaviour. His Majesty wrote to the Council in Scotland - "Patrick Lord Gray is havelie complenit to him against his sone the Maister of Gray, for, not only, having brought his wife and familie into the said Lord's hoose, consumed thairby all that mean portion that he had reservit for his awne use and intromissed with his maillis, fermes and duties, but also preising verie unnaturallie to accelerat his faderis grey hairis to the grave with sorrow, by removal of all the auld servandis and domesticquis and the substitution of ithers wha's servis in no way gevis the auld man ony contentment." By His Majesty's instructions, the Lords of Council directed a commission to the Commendator of Holyrude House to repair to Lord Gray's house and make enquiry. The Commendator gave the Master fifteen days to clear out and restore all rents, for the intromission with which he had no warrant, under pain of the charge of Rebellion.

He had married Elizabeth Lyon, daughter of Lord Glamis, with no issue, and secondly Mary Stewart, daughter of the Earl of Orkney. By this second wife he had issue: — Andrew, his heir, and six daughters, all of whom continued the family tradition of marrying well.

Prom time to time, previous to Andrew's succession, various portions of the estates had been alienated to raise funds to provide dowries for the many daughters and to clear heavy debts on the estates, so, for this reason and no doubt to escape the odium of his father's name, he chose a military career, and to raise ready cash, he sold the estates of Castle Huntly.

By this sale of the estates the Gray's connection in our story comes to an end.

The Lyons of Glamis (1614 to 1776)

As the Lyons of Glamis already held lands in Longforgan and the Mains at the Castle, partly through the dower of Elizabeth, daughter of the 2nd Lord Gray, who married John, 6th Lord Glamis, in 1487 and partly through mortgages to

Patrick, 11th Lord Glamis and 1st Earl of Kinghorne, the latter purchased the Castle and whole estates for 40,000 Merks in 1614.

Patrick only lived three years after that date, but had commenced to repair the castle, which had fallen into a bad condition during the occupancy of the last few Grays. "As his grandson stated in his *Book of Record*:—" It was a place of no consideration, fitt for nothing else but as a place of refuge in time of trouble, wherein a man might make himselfe a prisoner ; and in the meantime might therein be protected from a flying partie, but was never of any strength, or to have been accounted a stronghold to endure a siege, or a place capable to hold so many as with necessarie provisions could hold out long, or by salleys to doe much prejudice to an enemie, and such houses truly are worn quyt out of fashione, as feuds are, which is a great happiness, the cuntrie being generally more civilized than it was of ancient times, and my owne opinion, when troublesome times are, it is more safe for a man to keep the feilds than to inclose himselfe in the walls of a house, so that there is no man more against these old fashion of tours and castles than I am and I wish everie man who has such houses would reform them for who can delight to live in his house as in a prisone."

Patrick married Lady Anna Murray, daughter of the Earl of Tulliebardine, died in 1617 and was succeeded by his son John.

This John seems to have been a weak sort of fellow who fell under the influence of his first wife, Lady Margaret Erskine, and that of his younger brother, James Lyon of Aldbar, who embroiled him in many adventures, which greatly reduced his exchequer. He was over obliging to his relations and friends; he took on heavy obligations in bonds and cautions which plunged his affairs deeply into debt. He did, however, continue the work of restoration of Castle Huntly, and his son credits him with "an inteer new rooffe upon the castle, which beforehand had ane scurvie battlement."

His first wife, Margaret Erskine, was the daughter of the Earl of Mar, and his second, Elizabeth, daughter of the Earl of Panmure. He died of the plague at St. Andrews in 1646, where

he had gone to nurse a ward, and was succeeded by his only son Patrick.

Patrick succeeded when only four years of age and grew up to be one of the most remarkable members of the Lyon family. He was a man of extremely fine character with strong determination to do the right by his family and estates and had exceptional administrative ability.

The long period of dissensions and unrest that affected Scotland for thirty years preceding the Restoration, told severely on the estates. Both his grandfather and his father had been compelled to raise large sums of money for the exigencies of war, by borrowing upon the security of their properties. Most lands were pledged in some form to creditors throughout the land. The Castle of Glamis was denuded of furniture and allowed to get into a state of disrepair, and Castle Huntly was almost uninhabitable. Earl Patrick says: "The total debts were about 400,000 Pounds Scots."

The young Earl's guardians were unwilling to undertake the rescue of a property so deeply involved, but his uncle, the Earl of Panmure, did much to preserve a remnant sufficient to start him in life, though quite inadequate to his rank in Society.

Castle Huntly had been made the jointure house of the family and he stayed there with his mother. In 1650, when the boy was only eight years of age, his mother was married for the second time, to the Earl of Linlithgow, who treated his stepson with harsh cruelty. After his wife's death this Earl compelled the repayment of all monies expended by her on the young heir out of her jointure income.

Having completed his studies at St. Andrews, the young Earl returned to his castle at Huntly in 1660, in his eighteenth year, and even at that age had formed his resolution to restore as far as possible the honour and estates of his family. The lamentable condition in which he found the castle he graphically describes in the *Book of Record*: "I had a verie hard beginning, there was not even a bed in the castle and I had to borrow one from the minister at Longforgan, while I was awaiting the

arrival of my humble student's furniture from St. Andrews." His stepfather had stripped the house of all furniture. The barns, byres and stables were empty, and as he puts it—"Att that time I was not worth a four-footed beast, safe the little dog that I keepit att and brought with me from St. Andrews." His sister, Lady Elizabeth Lyon, and he began their first attempt at housekeeping on a most parsimonious scale. Having scrambled together some old pots and pans and collected some old furniture, they began with their own hands to decorate then-lonely dwelling and make it habitable for the time.

The *Glamis Book of Record* is a very human document in which he writes of his sister, some twenty-five years afterwards—"Her company was of great comfort to me, so young as we both were. We consulted to-gether and in two years got together as much coarse furniture as, in a verie mean and sober way, filled all the rooms of my house some way or other." His sister remained with him until his marriage.

In 1662, he married Helen, daughter of John, Lord Middleton, Royal Commissioner for Scotland. The marriage took place at Holyrude Abbey, Archbishop Sharpe officiating.

He brought his wife home to Castle Huntly in 1663 and set about altering and improving the buildings and policies and the status of the family. Thus, in 1672, he obtained a Charter from Charles II., erecting the lands of Castle Huntly into a free Barony to be called the "The Lordship of Lyon," and it was then that he changed the name to Castle Lyon. Similarly, in 1677, another Charter provided that, in future, the Earls of Kinghorne should be styled "Earls of Strathmore and Kinghorne, Viscounts Lyon, and Barons Glamis, Tannadyce, Sidlaw and Strathdichtie."

He was a nobleman who shone as a patron of the arts and devoted his life to improving and beautifying his domains. He was a Privy Councillor and Lord of the Treasury and, in 1686, an Extraordinary Senator of the College of Justice. The entries in his *Book of Record* show that he was a master of finance. At the time of his death in 1695, in his 53rd year, he had cleared most of the debt on his estates and had made considerable alterations and

additions to his castle at Glamis as well as at Castle Lyon.

His two daughters both married members of the local nobility, and his eldest son, John, succeeded as 2nd Earl of Strathmore.

The 2nd Earl, though a man of considerable talent and a Privy Councillor in the reign of Queen Anne, took relatively little part in public affairs. By his marriage with Lady Elizabeth Stanhope, daughter of the Earl of Chesterfield, he had six sons. Two of them predeceased their father: the other four followed each other as Earls of Strathmore after his death in 1712.

John, the third son of the 2nd Earl, was a zealous Jacobite and on the breaking out of the Mar rebellion, although only eighteen years of age, raised a regiment in Angus and took an active part in the campaign. He was slain at the battle of Sheriffmuir in 1715.

Charles, the fourth son, was not implicated in the rebellion and although both his family seats were visited by the Old Pretender, he was not disturbed in his rights. In 1725 he married Lady Susan Cochrane, daughter of John, Earl of Dundonald, who was considered to be the most beautiful woman of her day in Scotland. Earl Charles was killed, in an unfortunate brawl at Forfar, by Carnegie of Finavon in May 1728, and left no heir.

James, the next in succession, died without issue in 1735.

Thomas was the last of the four brothers. Notwithstanding the Jacobite antecedents of his family, he refrained from espousing that cause in 1745. For a time he was M.P. for Angus. He died in 1753. His son John succeeded.

In general these later Earls lie outside our immediate theme, for Castle Huntly, being the jointure house, was mostly occupied by the widows of various earls. Thus Lady Susan, the widow of Charles, 4th Earl, resided at Castle Huntly for seventeen years after her husband's death in 1728. Later, she made an unfortunate second marriage and left for the Continent, where she died in 1754.

The 7th and 8th Earls must be mentioned, partly because of a marriage which was destined to have an historic outcome, and

partly because with the 8th Earl the family link with Castle Huntly ceased. John, the 7th Earl, was only sixteen when he succeeded. Thirteen years later, in 1767, he married Miss Elizabeth Bowes of Streatham who inherited a large fortune and great estates from her father, and with this John assumed the name of Bowes Lyon. He died on a health cruise to Lisbon in 1776, leaving three sons and two daughters.

The heir, another John, was seven years old at his father's death. He can have known little or nothing of Castle Huntly, for his mother, Countess Bowes Lyon, removed at once to London and the Castle and its estates were sold.

The Patersons (1776-194S)

George Paterson, who was born in Dundee in 1734, began his working life as a member of the medical faculty. Later, he proceeded to India as official secretary to Sir Robert Harland, where he displayed great diplomatic and administrative talent. After Clive's daring exploits in Arcot, where he placed Mohammed Ali on the throne as Nabob, Paterson was employed in the important negotiations in settling and defending the Nabob.

Paterson amassed a large fortune in the East India Company and returned to Scotland in 1775. In the following year he married Anne, daughter of John, 12th Lord Gray. It is said that when a friend of the family remarked to Lord Gray that he was surprised at the engagement of his daughter to a commoner, Lord Gray replied—"Weel, she has the bluid and he has the fillings, so between them they will mak a guid puddin."

Paterson purchased the Castle and estates of Castle Lyon at the price of £40,000, being as many pounds sterling as the 40,000 merks (about £2,220) which Earl Kinghorne paid in 1614. In honour of his wife, who was a direct descendant of the long line of Grays who had owned the castle, he changed the name back to Castle Huntly.

When Paterson took over the castle it was in a very dilapidated condition and the alterations which the Lyons had made were quite out of date. He spent vast sums of money in

repairs and additions, building the fine Georgian portion to the N.E. side.

Paterson was a man of great ability and many interests. He was a pioneer in agriculture in the Carse. He was greatly interested in education and gave a yearly allowance of £30 to increase the salary of the local schoolmaster to £50 per annum; made an allowance to pay the fees of poor scholars; presented Bibles, Testaments and prizes to the scholars, and in 1825 set up a new school. He was good to the tenants in the village and the workers on his estate. During the winter following the bad harvest of 1795, he and Lord Kinnaid obtained 400 quarters of meal and oats from England which were supplied free to the poor. His presence was felt in Dundee, where, in 1775, he presented three lustres to the Town House; in 1776 he was Master of St. David's Lodge of Freemasons at the laying of the foundation stone of Trades Hall, and in 1777 Deacon of the Nine Trades and the Weavers.

By his marriage with the Hon. Anne Gray, he had seven sons and three daughters. He died in 1817.

All of the first laird's sons, with the exception of one who died in infancy, chose careers of adventurous activity and attained distinction in the Army or the Navy, as the following summary indicates:— George, who succeeded to the estates, was Colonel of the 3rd Foot Guards and was at Waterloo; John was a Captain in the Royal Navy; David, holding rank as Lt.-Colonel in the 53rd Rifles, was Aide-de-camp to Lord Raglan during the Peninsular War and fell in action at Vittoria; William was a Captain in the Royal Navy; James was a Captain in the service of the East India Company and spent his life where his father had won distinction.

Colonel George Paterson, born 1778, was laird for twenty-nine years, but spent most of his life in the Army. His son George succeeded in 1846. This George Paterson, after taking his degree as M.A., was admitted as an advocate at the Scottish Bar. He took a keen interest in the estate and became an authority on the subject of Fiars. His writings aroused great

interest and are still consulted. George Frederick, son of the third laird, succeeded in 1867. There is not much known about this fourth laird as it appears that he left the district, and the Castle and policies were leased to Mr J. Martin White, whose family were the Whites of Balruddery.

In 1886 the castle and policies were leased to Lady Armitstead, who remained there until her death in 1913. While not an owner, she did a lot to improve the castle and grounds and was responsible for the opening of the new avenue to the main road, west of the village. She maintained a large staff at the castle and was a generous benefactress to the district. She bore the cost of the erection of the fine church of St. Columba at Invergowrie.

George, the fourth laird, left no heir and the estates fell to his younger brother, Charles James George, in 1890. Charles lived principally in Edinburgh, and, the castle being let, had a cottage in Longforgan in which he stayed when visiting the district.

On the 18th March, 1919, the whole estate, including the village of Longforgan, was put up for sale in the Royal Hotel in Dundee. Previous to the sale, most of the farms and the cottages in the village were sold privately and a large portion of land was purchased by the Board of Agriculture as a centre for small-holdings for ex-service men. The castle and policies were put up separately and were purchased for £6,400, by an estate agent from Edinburgh, on behalf of Mr. Charles Paterson, the former owner, who retained them until his death in 1937. As he had never married, he was succeeded by a distant cousin, Colonel Adrian Gordon Paterson, D.S.O., M.C. This, the last, laird carried out many improvements at the castle preparatory to taking up residence, but died, three years after succeeding, in 1940. His heir, a young lad, had been drowned in a tragic yachting accident in the Tay. At that time the castle was occupied, as a war residence, by a Girls' Probation School. When the girls vacated the castle in 1946, it was sold to the Government by the widow of Colonel Adrian, since when it has been used by the Home Department as an open Borstal for Boys.

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