KENNEDY FAMILY



Rennedy

KENNEDY FAMILY

Arms: Argent on a chevron gules between three cross cross!ets fitchée sable all within a double tressure flory counterflory of the second.

Crest: A dolphin naiant proper.

Supporters: Two swans proper beaked and membered gules.

Motto: Avise la fin.

The following history has been taken from the Historical and Genealogical Account of the Principal Families of the Name of Kennedy, from an Original Manuscript, by Robert Pitcairn, writer of His Majesty's Signet, F. S. S. A., and the Honorable F. S. A. Perth, &c., published in Edinburgh, by William Tait and John Stevenson, and in London, by Longman and Company. Regarding it, the author, Pitcairn, makes the following statement: "This account is appended to an Anonymous MS., 'Chronicle of Scottish Affairs,' from the earliest period of King James VI, which is preserved in the Library of the Faculty of Advocates, Edinburgh."

The origin of the name of Kennedy is from the Celtic "Ceaunathigue," meaning the head of a sept or clan. The Gallic or Celtic words are Kean-na-ty, the head of a house of chief of a clan. The Kennedys are originally believed to be of Carrick. At all events, previous to the year 1256 (the date of his death), Neil, Earl of Carrick, granted a charter in favor of Roland of Carrick, who is proved to be the ancestor of the Kennedys, granting and confirming to him and to his heirs forever to be the head

or chief of his race, "ut ipse et heredes fui sint caput progenisi Suae," which grant was confirmed by King Alexander III, January 20, 1275-6, and ratified by Robert II, October 1, 1372. (Reg. Mag. Sig., 114, 115, 116.) As the family ever after this grant bore the name of Kennedy (the head of the house or family), it is probable that this surname was adopted by it in commemoration of this circumstance. (See Crawford and Wood's Peerage.)

"Seing that thair is sum noittis, for memory, heirefter to follow, off the name of Kennedy, I thocht it gude to conteyne heir thair beginning and how they rease to be gritt, and soe furthe to this hour.

"And first, concerning thair name: it is, out of all dout, the same proceidit fra theu nem Kennethe; for of that nemme thair was sundry Kyngis and also sum very fynd Capitanis. For by the thrie Kingis that had to thair name Kennethe, thair was ane Kennethe Thaine of Carrik, quha was ane of King Gregories Capitanis in his weir in the land, be quhais skill of rowing doun of Stanes from ane hiche hill, he vanne ane gritt battell of King Gregorie. And of this Captane the Kennedyes sayis thai had thair beginning Bot the Blak Buik of Skoyne settis thair beginning to be in the ring of King Malcome the Secund.

* * * *"

(Without the aid of the Glossary, this narrative would be hard to understand, therefore what follows will be written in English, retaining the quaint phraseology and spelling whenever possible.)

"The Black Book of Skoyne, which sets their beginning to be in the reign of King Malcome the Second, who was crowned in the year of God 1010, and was the fourscore King of Scotland. There was with this King one in Wallace Book, was hanged in air by the deceit of the English; but because that Cronikill makes mention thereof, I rest thereon. But the heirs of this Sir Neil held the lands of Cassillis till the reign of Robert the Second, the first of the Stewarts, at the which time the lands fell to a lass: and the Laird of Dalrumpill, her neighbor, came to her house of Cassillis, and pursued her by force to have her in marriage; the which she would not consent to but defended her house. And at this time, the Laird of Donour that then was, he coming by, and seeing the dame, set upon the Laird of Dalrumpill and slew him, and released the lady and took her with him to his house of Donour; where, under promise of marriage, he made her surrender her lands that were in the King's hands to him; but I cannot read that ever he married her to his wife. But she seeing herself disappointed by that deed, took displeasure and died shortly thereafter. This was about the third year of Robert the Second, which was the 1373 year of God.

"Now the Laird of Dalrumpill being slane as ye have heard, his lands fell to his brother's sons, amongst the which there was great strife; but the youngest at last sold his right to the Laird of Donour, and then the Laird of Donour sett for the Eldest and slew him, a little above the Kirk of Dalrumpill where now there is a great cairne (pile or heap), of stone to this day. And so by that right he had of the youngest, he took the lands of Dalrumpill, and thus was Dalrumpill acquired.

"Now at this time, there was a Laird in Carrick who was called Macktaise. The Laird of Donour made this Macktaise his Gossop (Godfather), and the bairne being a man-child, this Macktaise would needs have him to be his foster son; and in the end, by wanting children

McKenane of the Yllis that was slain by the Danes at the Battle of Murlaik, and by him come the McKenane of the Yllis who enjoy the lands Stroworddell to this hour. This McKenane and his race or posterity were at the time of King Donnallis' reign, when the Danes got possession of the whole Yllis, banished by them to Ireland where they remained till the reign of Alexander the Third. He then came to King Alexander before the Battle of Larkis with three score of his name and his servants; and after that King Acho was defeated, he fled to Air and there took shipping. The principal man that pursued him was McKenane with his sons; and after that the King of the Danes was received in the Castle of Air. McKenane followed one Lord or great Captaine of the Danes to a Craig in Carrick, whereon there was a stronghold McKenane and his sons took, and slew this Captaine and all who were therein. For the which deed this Mc-Kenane got the same stronghold from King Alexander, with certain lands thereto; the which he gave to his second son. And this was the first beginning of the name of Kennedy in the Mainland. On the stronghold and craig there is now a fair castle, which the Chief of the Lowland Kennedys took their stile of for long space and were called Lairds of Donour, because of the Don of the hill above the House. Of this house the rest of that name are come. This battle was fought on the third day of August the year of God 1263.

"The House of Donour, of Dunnurc.

"This house remained a long time but in sober estate, not having any great rent nor power in the country. For we hear no great mention made of them in Wallis days, nor the Bruce's time. For at the Barnis of Air the Laird of Cassillis was Sir Neil Montgomery, who, as we read of his own, made his foster son his heir and gave him his lands after him. And of this son came the House of Bargany which had no benefit of the House of Donour.

"The House of Blaquhan, or Blairquhan.

"It is thought that the House of Blaquhan came of the House of Donour at this time; and got from the Laird, his father, the twenty pound land of Donourtoune, which they had off the House to this hour. But their preferment came by the marriage of one McColloche who was here-triy of Twymone; by the which they gat the lands of Cronstoune and many more lands in Galloway.

"The House of Bargany.

"The House of Bargany came to their preferment by the valor of the second brother, who was first put to have been a Friar; but his courage not agreeable to this office, lost the same, and went with the Laird of Blaguhane to France, to Charles the VII, in the year of our Lord, 1431. He was called Friar Hew (Hugh), and was for his valor so beloved by the King of France that he remained with him many years thereafter, and went with him to the Holy Land. And at his returning, he received word that his brother, the Laird of Bargany, was dead. Whereupon he took leave of the King of France, and got in recompense of his service, many great rewards of gold and money. And above all, he gave him leave to wear arms quarterly in his arms, to wit, flour-de-lyse, which that house wears to this day. He came to Scotland, and bought the ten pound land of Arstensar, and built the house thereof, and acquired many more lands, by the benefit of the stypend of the King of France. This Friar Hewis (Hugh's) grandchild was called 'Com with the penny,' who acquired the greatest part of all the living, which now is a great rent, and has of it come the

houses of Ardmillane, Dunneane, Bennane, Kirkhill, Bar-drohatt."

Sir Gilbert¹-de-Carrick had issue, Sir John² Kennedy of Dunure, whose son, Sir Gilbert³ Kennedy, was the next Laird of Donour. By his two wives he had seven sons. He was one of the hostages for the liberation of King David II, Anno Domini 1354. His first wife was Marion, daughter of Sir James Sandiland of Calder, by Eleanora, only daughter of Archibald Douglas of that Ilk, and relict of Alexander Bruce, Earl of Carrick, who was killed at the battle of Hallidon Hill, Anno Domini 1333. Her third husband was William Towers of Dalry; her fourth husband was Sir Duncan Wallace of Lundrum; her fifth husband was Sir Patrick Hepburn of Hales (See Wyntown II, 268). Sir Gilbert Kennedy had by her the following children:

- i Gilbert, who was disinherited by him and died in the French service without issue.
- 1 ii Sir James, of Dunure, married Princess Mary, second daughter of King Robert III, and widow of George Doug!as, first Earl of Angus.
 - iii Alexander, who was Alschunder Dalgour.
 - iv Sir Hugh, of Ardstinchar, who accompanied the Scottish troops under the Earl of Buchan, and was distinguished at the battle of Bauge in Anjou, March 22, 1421, in being honored by the King of France with his armorial bearings, Azure, three fleurs de lis or. From him sprung the House of Bargany, Kirkhill, and Benning. These arms are still borne, quarterly with those of Kennedy, by descendants. By his wife, Agnes, daughter of Sir Robert Maxwell of Calderwood, he had three sons, John, Thomas, and

David, who was one of the retinue of knights and esquires who attended Margaret of Scotland into France on her marriage to the Dauphin, Louis, Anno Domini 1436.

1 SIR JAMES² KENNEDY (Sir Gilbert¹) of Donour, had a charter of the barony of Dalrymple, on his father's resignation, January 27, 1405-6, by which the old privilege is declaimed and ratified by the King as follows: Quod dictus Jacobus et heredes sui mascun sinc caput totius progeniei suae, tam in Calumpniis quam in aliis articulis et negotiis ad Kynkynol pertinen. Valentibus vnacum Officio Ballivi predictae terrae (Carrick) et hominum ipsius directione, ac cum armorum ostentatione, in omnibus, sub comite de Carrick, qui pro tempore fuerit." [Confirmed by King James II, August 2, and November 21, 1450.]

Sir James married Mary, daughter of King Robert III, and the widow of George Douglas, first Earl of Angus. Sir James Kennedy was killed in a quarrel with his disinherited brother, Gilbert, during his father's lifetime. He left two sons.

- 2 i Gilbert, the first Lord Kennedy.
 - James Kennedy, who was created Bishop of Dunkeld, 1438; made Postulate of St. Andrews, Anno Domini 1440, during his absence in Florence with Pope Eugenius iv, who at that time bestowed upon him the Abbacy of Scone in commendam; chosen one of the Regents of Scotland, during the minority of King James III; died May 10, 1466. This highly eminent and talented prelate, according to Buchanan, "surpassed all men in Scotland in point of au-

thority; his prudence was held in the highest estimation, and he was lamented at his death as a publick parent." [See Buchanan's History of Scotland, Keith's History of the Bishops, Crawford's Lives of Officers of State, &c., Pinkerton's History of Scotland, I, 247-254, and Wood's Peerage, I, 328.]

But now to return to the House of Donour again.

"There was one brother of the House, which was either the fourth or fifth brother. The eldest who was Laird being dead, the friends convened to take order who should be Tutor; But this brother, although the youngest, starts up and, drawing his sword, said, 'I am best and worthiest and I will be Tutor!' This brother was called Alschunder, and because he wore a dagger, which at that time was not common, he was called Alschunder Dalgour.

"This Alschunder, or Allexander, fell in misliking with the Earl of Wigtone Douglasse, who was a very gritt manne, and had great power in all the country. This Douglas was so much offended at him, because it was thought that he had been in a deadly feud against him at Glaynnaip, and in another against Lindsay, then Lard of Craigy, at the water of Done, both in one day, that the Earl promised to any that would bring this Alexander's head, they should have the forty mark land of Stewarttoune, in Cuninghamey the which words coming to Alexander's ears, he assembled a hundred horsemen, and on Yuill-day, in the morning, came to the town of Wigtone, about the time he knew the Earl would be at the morning Mass, and having all his right to the said forty mark land put in form, came into the Church, and said, 'My Lord, you have promised this fourty mark land to any

that would bring you my head, and I know there is none so meet as myself and therefore will desire your Lordship to do to me, as you would to any other.'

"The Earl perceived, that, if he refused, the same would cost him his life; and therefore took the pen and subscribed the same. Alsohunder thanked his Lordship, took his horse, lept on, and went his way. He and his heirs enjoyed the same at this time or at least to 1602 year of God when the Earl John sold the same to the Laird of Langschaw. He got this in the fourth year of the reign of Robert the third which was about the year of God 1380. This Alexander, coming home to Donour, began to grow proud, and it was feared he would disinherit his brother's son, and also he began to be a tyrant above his friends. Whereupon they, meeting in Donour, took him in his bed, cast fedder bed above him, and smothered him, and there he died, leaving behind him but one bastard son, of whom the House of Kirkdall is descended."

"The spirit of the author's remark is that it was feared that this violent, bold-spirited man would have disinherited his brother's son, i. e., that he would have usurped the inheritance of his nephew, lawful heir, and maintained himself in possession by force."

How far this story is founded on fact it would now be difficult to trace, but it is certain that the Earl of Wigton made a grant of the town Kyrkyntulach to Sir Gilbert Kennedy, knight, which was confirmed May 13, 1372. [Reg. Mag. Sig. 104; Wood's Peerage, II, 630.]

² GILBERT³, LORD KENNEDY (Sir James² Kennedy, Sir Gilbert¹) was the first Lord Kennedy and the son of Sir James Kennedy and his wife, the Princess Mary,

daughter of Robert III. He was made Lord by King James, and got the lands of Lachsuad and Meurig from the said King James, at the forfeiture of the Earl of Wigtoune, the which lands the House of Cassillis enjoys to this day. This Gilbert was the King's sister's son, who was made the first Lord Kennedy. From the numerous lands acquired by this Lord, and the Charters in his favor passing under the Great Seal, it would appear that he was possessed of great power and influence. He was, Anno 1460, appointed one of the Six Regents of Scotland, on the death of James II. He married Catherine, daughter of Herbert, first Lord Maxwell of Caerlaverock. The issue of this marriage was three sons and two daughters.

- 3 i John, second Lord Kennedy.
 - ii James, married Egidia Blair; half the barony of Glenstinchar was granted him, on his father's resignation, May 17, 1473.
 - iii Walter, called brother of John, Lord Kennedy, in the Charter of the Earl of Angus, September 25, 1498.
 - iv Catherine, married to Alexander, second Lord Montgomery.
 - v Mariot, married to Sir John Wallace of Craigie.
- 3 JOHN⁴, LORD KENNEDY (Gilbert³, Lord Kennedy, Sir James², Sir Gilbert¹) was the second Lord Kennedy. He married Elizabeth Montgomery, second daughter of Alexander, the first Lord Montgomery, by whom he had an only son, David, who became the third Lord Kennedy. He married, second, Elizabeth, second daughter of Sir Alexander Seton de Gordon, first Earl of Huntley (by his third wife, Elizabeth, eldest daughter of William,

Lord Crichton, Chancellor of Scotland, whose posterity took the name of Gordon), and relict of Nicol, second Earl of Errol. She had a charter of the lands of Cassillis, dated July 12, 1471. By this marriage there were three sons and two daughters.

Children (by Elizabeth Montgomery):

i David, third Lord Kennedy.

Children (by Elizabeth Seton de Gordon):

- ii Alexander, ancestor of the Kennedys of Gervanmains and Barquhanny, who had charters of the lands of Garvane, &c., in Carrick, with the lands and Barony of Lessvalt.
- iii John.
- iv William.
- Janet, one of the mistresses of King James IV, who granted a charter to her, for her lifetime, under the title of Lady Bothwell, of the Castle and Forest of Dernway, &c., &c., in shire of Elgin, June 1, 1501; with this qualification: "Tamdiu remanserit abseque marito seu alio viro, cum Rege et suo condilecto filio Jacobo Stewart, in Castro Regis de Dernway, vel alibi pront Regiy placuerit et convenientius visum fuerit." This son was, the same year, created Earl of Moray. There is evidence of this lady having formed a similar connection with Archibald, Earl of Angus, commonly known by the name of Bell-the-Cat. At all events, confirmations of Charters exist in the public Records; one of them to him and Janet, daughter of John, Lord Kennedy, and the heirs-male procreated, or to be procreated, betwixt them, whom failing, to William Douglas, son of said

Earl of the Barony of Bradewode, etc. This confirmation was dated July 20, 1498. The other is a confirmation of a grant by the Earl to her of the Barony of Crawford-Lindsay, September 25, 1498. Hume of Godscroft says that Archibald, Earl of Angus, was confined to the Island of Arran for taking Jean Kennedy, daughter of the Earl of Cassillis, out of Galloway, to whom the King bore affection—and to whom the Earl gave investment and seisin of the lands of Bothwell, though he never married her.

vi Helen, married to Adam Boyd, of Penkill. This Lord appears frequently in the records of Parliament, as taking an active share in all public affairs. On October 16, 1488, he obtained a royal commission "for stanching of theft, reff." etc., in Carrick, and on February 15, 1489-90, he is held responsible for the King's Casualties, in Carrick, Leswalt, Monybrig, etc.

4 DAVID⁵, LORD KENNEDY AND FIRST EARL OF CASSILLIS (John⁴, Lord Kennedy, Gilbert³, Lord Kennedy, Sir James², Sir Gilbert¹) was third Lord Kennedy, and first Earl of Cassillis. (Created Earl in 1509.) He married Anna Bothwick, eldest daughter of Lord John Borthwick. After the death of Anna Bothwick he married, for his second wife, Gregoria Boyde, daughter of Lord Boyde and grandchild to King James II, by whom he had no issue. This Earl David was slain at the battle of Floudone in Anno 1513.

Children (by Anna Bothwick):

5 i Gilbert, second Earl of Cassillis,

- ii William, Abbot of Crosregnall.
- iii James, Laird of Broinestoune.
- iv Thomas, Laird of Coiff; children: Katherine; Helen; Christiane.
- v Katherine.
- vi Helen.
- vii Christiane.
- 5 GILBERT⁶, LORD KENNEDY AND SECOND EARL OF CASSILLIS (David⁵, Lord Kennedy, the first Earl, John⁴, Lord Kennedy, Gilbert³, Lord Kennedy, Sir James², Sir Gilbert¹) succeeded his father in the Earldom. He married Issobell Campbell, daughter of Colin Campbell, Earl of Argyll, and had seven sons and two daughters.

"The Earl shamefully neglected his hostages who had been placed under the care of the Archbishop of York * * * Earl Gilbert was killed at the Pon of Prestick in Kyll, by Hew Campbell of Londoune, Sheriffe of Aire 28 December, in Anno 1527 and was buried at the Collegiate Church at Mayboll."

Children:

- 6 i Gilbert, "his eldest sonne succidit him."
 - ii David, married Janet Kennedy, eldest daughter of Duncan Kennedy of Dalgabre. He was one of the hostages for his brother, the Earl, in England, 1543, who was one of the prisoners taken at the rout of Solway by Dacre and Musgrave, in November, 1542. Thomas Kennedy of Coif, and David and Thomas, his brothers, were hostages for his ransom, which was fixed at £1,000.
 - iii Quinton, Abbott of Crosregnall, "the learned and pious Churchman, who publicly disputed

with John Knox on the subject of the Sacrifice of the Mass for three days, at Maybole," After his death, in 1564, he is said to have been canonized. (See Tracts reprinted by the late Sir Alexander Boswell of Auchinleck; Knox's History, Irving's Lives, 1, 80; Appendix to Keith's Church History, etc.)

iv Archibald.

v Henry.

vi James.

7

vii Robert.

viii Janet, married the Laird of Freuche and had issue.

ix Helen, married the Laird of Kilhilt and had issue.

6 GILBERT⁷, LORD KENNEDY AND THIRD EARL OF CASSILLIS (Gilbert⁶, the second Earl, David⁵, the first Earl, John⁴, Lord Kennedy, Gilbert³, Lord Kennedy, Sir James², Sir Gilbert¹) succeeded his father, in 1527, when he was in his thirteenth year. He married Sophia Kennedy, daughter of Alexander Kennedy, the Laird of Bargany.

Earl Gilbert was sent to France by Mary, Queen of Scotland, as an ambassador to conclude the marriage betwixt her and Francis, the Dauphin of France, "who in his return home departed this mortal life at Deipe in France, not without suspicion of poison, 14 Novembus, in Anno 1558, he lays buried at the Collegiat Churche of Mayboll." [See Buchanan, lib. 16.] This nobleman appears to have been the most eminent and excellent of the early Earls of Cassillis. He was educated by George Buchanan, with whom he went abroad, who wrote the

following epitaph of him: "Hic situs est Heros humili Gilbertus in urna Kennedus, antiquae nobilitatis honos:

"Musarum martisque decus, pacisque minister,

"Et columen patriae consiliumque suae

Parce hospes, lachrimis, et inanem comprime luctum;

"Non misere quisquam qui bene vixit obit."

In November, 1542, he was one of the prisoners taken at the disastrous rout of Solway, and was committed to the charge of Cranmer, through whose means he was finally induced to espouse the reformed religion to which he had already been secretly attached by the instruction of Buchanan. Having procured hostages, he returned home next year and engaged, in the English interest, to promote the marriage between Queen Mary and Edward, Prince of Wales, for which service he got a pension from Henry VIII of 300 marks. The sureties were neglected and, early in the year 1545, he went to

London and delivered himself to the King.

He was succeeded in the Earldom by his eldest son.

He had three sons and two daughters:

Children:

- 7 i Gilbert, fourth Earl of Cassillis.
 - ii David, died as a child.
 - iii Sir Thomas, Laird of Reiland, was knighted.
 - iv Jeane, married Willam, Earl of Orknay.
 - v Catharine, married Sir Patrick Vans of Barnbaroch and had issue.
- 7 GILBERT⁸, LORD KENNEDY AND FOURTH EARL OF CASSILLIS (Gilbert⁷, the third Earl, Gilbert⁶, the second Earl, David⁵, the first Earl, John⁴, Lord Kennedy, Gilbert³, Lord Kennedy, Sir James², Sir Gilbert¹) succeeded his father. He married Margaret Layone, daughter of

Patrick, Lord Glames, by whom he had issue, a son and a daughter, who both died in childhood. He then had two sons, John and Gilbert. Another account gives Hew (Hugh) as second son and says of him, "This Hew was married to the Laird of Carslandis' sister, who bore to him two laidis and one dochter and Hew died within twenty five years of age. He was a well conditioned man and had the love of all men."

Another statement about Hugh is as follows:

"Hew, Master of Cassillis, married Margaret, daughter of Uchtred Macdowall of Garthland, who, on the death of her husband, married, secondly, James, Lord Ochiltree."

Mr. Wood, in his Peerage, mentions a third son, Gilbert, Master of Cassillis, on the authority of Doctor Stewart, in his history of the Stewarts, page 121. This Earl Gilbert was one of the judges of Francis, Earl of Bothwell, who was convicted of the murder of Henry, Duke of Albany, the husband of Mary, Queen of Scotland, and the father of James VI, King of Great Britain. This Earl Gilbert departed this mortal life at Edinburgh, December 14, 1516, and was entombed at Mayboll.

"Gilbert was a particular man, and a very greedy man, and cared naught how he got land, so that he could come by the same; and for that cause he entered into an agreement with one Abbott of Glenlufe, concerning the Abacie, to take the same in fee; but or he got the same performed, the Abbott died. And then he dealt with one monk of the same Abacie, who counterfitt the Abbott's hand-writt, and all the whole convent, and got him counterfitt their names. And when he had gotten the same done, fearing that the monk would reveal it, he caused one Churl they calld Carnachane, to kill him,

and then for fear that Carnachane would reveal it, he got his uncle on his father's side, Hew of Bargany (Barquhouny) accuse this Carnachane of theft, and hang him in Corsragall. And so the lands of Glenluse was obtained." (See full account of the Roasting of the Abbott of Crossraguel in the notes of Ivanhoe.)

"Now as concerning the Abbacye of Coisragall, this Earl Gilbert acquired the Abbacy in this form: There was an fader-broder of his, called Abbott Quinteyne, a good man, and one that feared God, after the manner of his religione. He at the alteration of the religion My Lord dealt with the Abbott, and got the rent of the said Abbacy set to him, but this was refused by the next incoming Abbot; and because the same was not confirmed by the King, the same was made null. And then the Abott, Allane Stewart, got the Abbacy; and this Abott had married the sister of Lady Barganyis; and, for that reason, the Abott was with the Laird of Bargany, and followed his opinions in all his doing. My Lord of Cassillis perceiving the same, desired the Laird of Bargany, to induce the Abbott to confirm his right as given by Abbott Quinteyne before. But the Laird could not get the Abbott to agree to come to him, that he might deal with him, in that, himself, with faithful promises to use him well. Whereupon the Laird persuaded the Abbott, and sent him to Mayboll, to my Lord. At which coming, my Lord delt with him to ratify his right; but could not get him moved thereto. Whereupon he took purpose to convey him to Donour and there to move him to do the same by violence. And when he found him obstinate, at last took him and bound him to a form, and set his bare legs to a great fire, and extremely burnt him, that he was ever thereafter unable