

PREFACE

SINCE the author completed his manuscript, and placed it in the hands of Mr. John Henry Livingston of Clermont for publication in New York, he came across some further, and quite unexpected, information concerning the family of William, the fourth Lord Livingston of Callendar, which, he considers, settles the question as to the identity of the great-grandfather of the Rev. John Livingston of Ancrum, who is stated by the latter in his *Autobiography* to have fallen at Pinkie, *anno* 1547 ; and which, moreover, completely fits in with the pedigree drawn up by the writer before he was aware of this new information.¹

This new information is derived from the recently published volume—the fifth—of the new *Scots Peerage*, edited by Sir James Balfour Paul, Lyon King of Arms, and is to be found in the account of “Livingston, Earl of Linlithgow,” contributed to this volume by Mr. W. B. Cook of Stirling,² who had access to some original authorities not consulted by the author. In his valuable and learned article, Mr. Cook states William, the fourth lord, had *three* sons (the two younger of these being hitherto unknown to any genealogist) namely:

1. ALEXANDER, who succeeded as fifth lord, and was the father of William the sixth lord.
2. MR. JAMES, concerning whom Mr. Cook appends the following note: “13 October 1547³ arrestment of goods of deceased Mr. James Livingston, brother to Alexander, Lord Livingston, for behoof of his creditors.” *Stirling Town Council and Court Book* (MS.), 1544–1550.
3. WILLIAM, “styled ‘brother-german of Alexander, Lord Livingston,’ in an action against the Earl of Huntly as to the rents of ‘Pawplay’ in Orkney, 28 November 1553.”

The deceased Magister James Livingston, some of whose goods were seized by his creditors in October, 1547, was evidently one of those persons of “gentil bluid” who fell in battle on that “Black Saturday” in Scottish annals, when, according to the prophecy of Thomas the Rhymer: —

“There shall the lion lose the gylte,
And the libbards bear it clean away;
At Pinkie Cleuch there shall be spilt
Much gentil bluid that day.”⁴

For the seizure of his goods took place during the month following the Pinkie fight, and just at a time, when, owing to the retirement of the victorious English army across the border the defeated Scots had the necessary leisure for attending to their private affairs. Moreover, some of the articles in the inventory of those arrested, such as a camp-bed⁵ and quarrels or bolts for a crossbow,⁶ point to the owner as being a man of war. In the account of this battle, contained in Robert Lindsay of Pitscottie’s *Chronicles of Scotland*⁷— who must have been a lad at the time, and probably obtained his particulars from an actual participant—it is stated “thair was slaine that day be the Inglischmen, to wit, the lord Fleming, the maister of Erskine, the maister of Ghrame, the maister of Bouchan, the maister of Levingstoun, the maister of Ogillvie, with money great barrouns, quhilk” —he quaintly remarks—“war langsum⁸ to rehearse and no fruite nor plesour heirof.” But it certainly would not have been “langsum” reading to anyone searching for the information thus unfortunately withheld by this worthy chronicler!

In this battle, so fatal to so many junior members of the Scots’ nobility, it will be noted, the Lords Erskine and Livingston, the guardians of the infant Mary, Queen of Scots —and who had been personally excused, on this account, from taking the field “aganis our auld inymyis of England”⁹ —both lost their eldest sons and heirs. The Erskines and Livingstons, two of the most ancient families in Stirlingshire, were old friends and allies, and it is an interesting fact, that the pre-Reformation predecessor of the Rev. Alexander Livingston in the family living of Monyabroch, was a Magister Alexander Erskine, a son of the fourth lord, and younger brother of the fifth Lord Erskine, the Queen’s guardian, and uncle to the Master of Erskine who fell at Pinkie.¹⁰ This is an additional proof, if one was needed, that the rectorship of Monyabroch—now Kilsyth—was considered an appropriate living for the younger sons of these two noble families. There is no doubt, therefore, in the author’s mind, that the above Magister

James Livingston, also fell at Pinkie, and that he was the father of the Rev. Alexander Livingston, Rector of Monyabroch *anno* 1561,¹¹ and so the great-great-grandfather of Robert Livingston, the founder of the New York Manor of Livingston.

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Notes

1. See Pedigree in Chapter I, of this work; also *Livingstons of Callendar*, p. 652. To which the author has now only to add the Christian name "James," hitherto either left blank or queried as "Robert?"
2. *The Scots Peerage*, vol v, p. 435, and note 4. This is by far the best Scots peerage ever compiled, but it will be some time before it is completed.
3. Mr. Cook kindly informs the author this date is misprinted 23 October in the *Peerage*.
4. The Lion, of course, meaning Scotland, and the Leopards, England.
5. Owing to the courtesy of Mr. David B. Morris, Town Clerk of Stirling, the author has obtained a full transcript of this interesting minute from the town archives. In the transcript this word is queried as "ane letitains(?) bed," which evidently should read "ane lettgant bed," from the French "Lit-de-camp," These beds are to be found in the inventories of the Scottish kings of this period.
6. Namely "xxvj genzeis." The rest of the goods consisted of ordinary tapestry beds, bedding, books, a lute, personal wearing apparel, etc.
7. Scottish Text Society's edition, vol. ii, p. 101. Mr. William Patten, Londoner, the pioneer of English war correspondents, who accompanied the invading army, estimated, that besides thirteen thousand of the common folk, there also fell on the Scottish side "of Lairds, Lairds' sons and other gentlemen, above twenty-six hundred." But he doubtless grossly exaggerated for the sake of praising his patron the Protector Somerset, who commanded the English army.
8. Anglo-Saxon and old Scots for "tedious."
9. Privy Council Order of 10 July, 1545.
10. The new *Scots Peerage*, vol. v, p. 609. According to charters in possession of the Earl of Mar and Kellie, he was Rector of Monyabroch, *anno* 1518.
11. William, the sixth Lord Livingston, the second son of the Queen's guardian, who presented the Rev. Alexander Livingston to Monyabroch, succeeded to the Barony of Callendar "cum advocacione et donacione ecclesie de Monyabro," in 1551. *Exchequer Rolls of Scotland*, vol. 18, p. 529.