

Ayrshire Abbeys

Crossraguel and Kilwinning

IAN B. COWAN



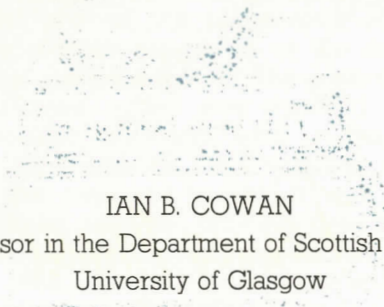
Ayrshire Collections

Volume 14

Number Seven

Ayrshire Abbeys

Crossraguel and Kilwinning

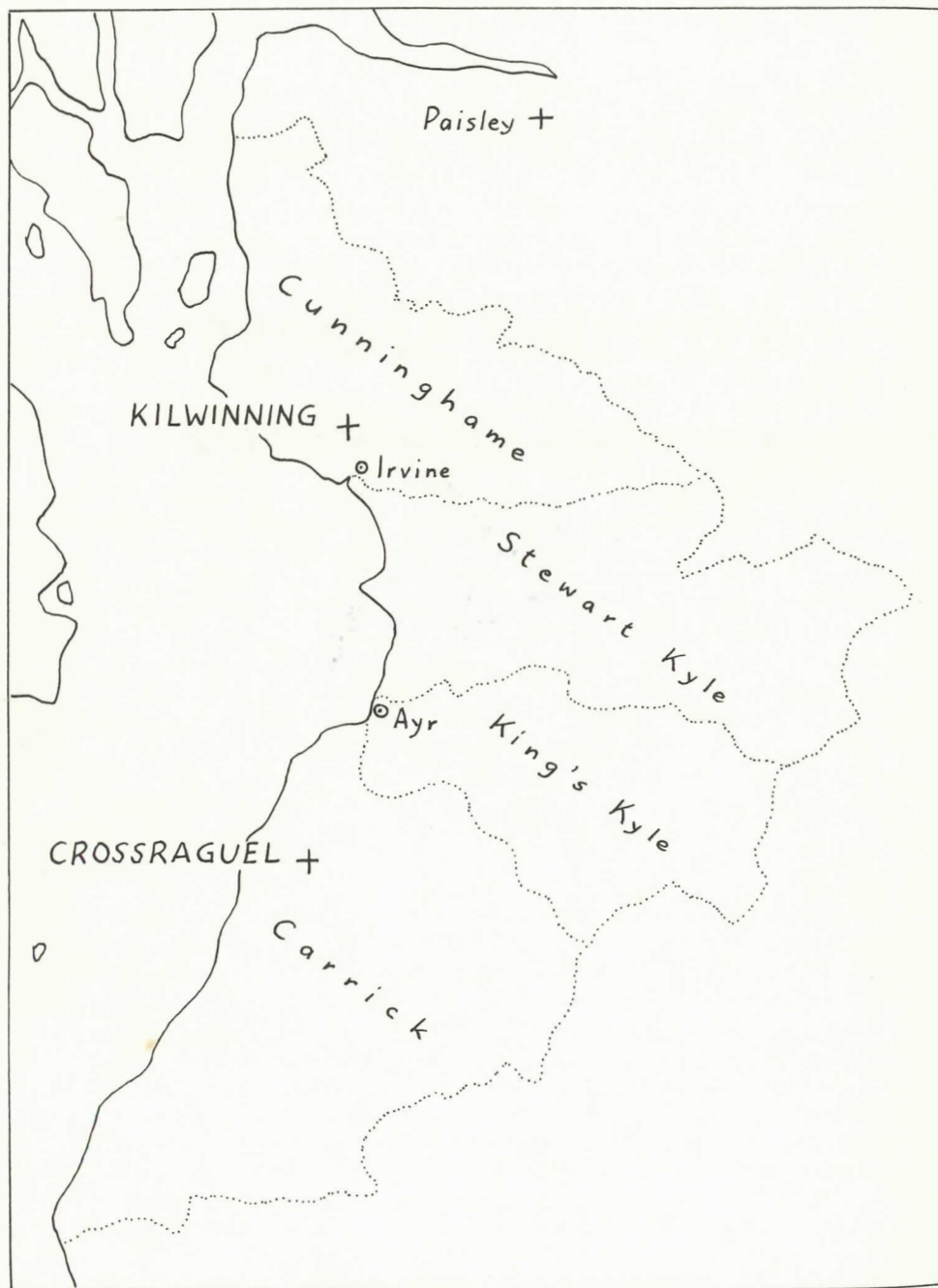


IAN B. COWAN

Professor in the Department of Scottish History
University of Glasgow

1986

Printed by Smith Brothers (Kilmarnock) Limited



The coming to Scotland of the Saxon princess, Margaret who, in 1068/9, married King Malcolm III facilitated the introduction of medieval monasticism into Scotland. At the queen's request, three Benedictine monks were sent from Canterbury to Dunfermline to form a nucleus of what eventually became a fully established priory. By this step, Margaret inaugurated the policy of encouraging the foundation of monastic houses in Scotland; a policy which was to be greatly developed by her sons and successors, and in particular by her sixth son David I (1124-53).

The characteristic feature of David's reign was the settlement of Normans, with royal encouragement, in the country and their acquisition of lands; the steady extension of feudal administration in the kingdom; and as the counterpart of these secular movements, the marked expansion of the organization and institutions of the medieval church. The generosity of the king towards the religious orders was matched by that of his Scottish and Norman magnates who on the west coast in particular were responsible for the foundation and endowment of all the principal monastic houses. It was Walter Fitzalan, steward of Scotland, who for the first time brought Cluniac monks (from Wenlock) to Scotland and settled them initially at Renfrew about 1163, whence they moved in 1169 to Paisley. From there a century later Crossraguel was to spring, but in the more immediate future, a de Morville endowed a house of the order of Tiron at Kilwinning at some date between 1162 and 1189.¹

The dates of foundation must remain imprecise for the cartularies of both Ayrshire abbeys have long since disappeared. In February 1591 William Melville, commendator of Kilwinning, raised an action against Jean Blair, Lady Montgreenan, widow of Alexander Cunninghame, the former commendator, and James Cunninghame, her son, and others, for delivery to him of the abbey and its register books, but the defenders did not appear and Melville only insisted upon possession of the abbey and its chapter seal.² Whether the registers remained in the hands of the Cunninghames or the Blairs is uncertain, but Timothy Pont, the cartographer, saw and quoted from them in 1608.³ The records may have already been in the possession of the earls of Eglinton and it was at Eglinton that they were last seen at the beginning of the eighteenth century.⁴ So too with

the cartulary of Crossraguel which remained in the possession of the earl of Cassillis in 1729, but likewise vanished thereafter.⁵

Through the loss of its cartulary the precise identity of the founder of Kilwinning and its exact date of foundation remain obscure. The assertion that it was founded in 1140 by Hugh de Morville has no factual basis.⁶ One account which claims to be based on original sources places the date of foundation in 1157, but names the founder as Richard de Morville. Richard, who succeeded his father in 1162, also appears as the founder in the account by Timothy Pont who saw the abbey's cartulary and who cites a papal confirmation of Honorius II which he dates as 1191.⁸ Pont is certainly in error either over the pope in question or the date, and it is impossible to determine whether the confirmation should be ascribed to the pontificate of Honorius III (1212-27), or if accepted as 1191 assigned to either Pope Clement III or Pope Celestine III. Neither assumption may be correct, but the presumption is strong that Richard was the founder, rather than his father who is mentioned in contemporary sources as the founder of Dryburgh but receives no such notices in respect of Kilwinning.⁹ Evidence of the abbey's existence is entirely lacking until 1202 x 1207, but the mention of the apparently non-monastic church of St. Winin in 1184 would seem to argue for a foundation shortly before Richard's death in 1189.¹⁰ In this respect 1187 rather than 1157 commends itself as a likely date. However, in the absence of further evidence, the question of foundation must ultimately rest with the *Liber Pluscardensis* which notes 'Kylwynnyn in Connyngham Tironensis Fundator Morville.'¹¹

Equal doubts at one time surrounded the Cluniac foundation of Crossraguel, but in this instance the survival of the register of Paisley has helped to clarify the issue. This house was undoubtedly founded by Duncan of Carrick before he became earl in 1214-16, and apparently before the resignation of Florence, bishop-elect of Glasgow, on 9 December 1207.¹² The foundation was, however, made in a rather curious and indirect manner as Duncan granted certain lands including 'Crosragmol' and the three churches of Dailly, Straiton and Turnberry to the abbey of Paisley on condition that the monks should found a monastery in Carrick to which these churches and other endowments, including books and vestments should pass.¹³ Paisley slowly and reluctantly complied with these conditions; an oratory was initially built, but the abbey only became a reality after a decision by William, bishop of Glasgow, in 1244 that the monks should comply with the founder's wishes.¹⁴

Appeals were still being made against this decision in 1265/6, but by that date the abbey was probably in the course of construction.¹⁵ However, nothing definite is ascertainable until the appearance of Abbot Patrick between 1280 and 1295.

In the years which follow the foundation of both Kilwinning and Crossraguel, scant information is available about either, and what is known mainly pertains to their possession of lands and churches. In terms of the former, Kilwinning was fairly modestly endowed in comparison to other Scottish abbeys, but it possessed all the lands of Kilwinning parish with the exception of the Eglinton and Montgreenan estates, part of the parish of Beith and a few smaller pieces of land elsewhere.¹⁷ It also owned three mills in the parish of Kilwinning and two tenements in the burgh of Irvine.¹⁸ Peaceful possession of this property was by no means assured and in 1332 Kilwinning was constrained to seek a papal bull of protection as their lands had been invaded by both laymen and clerics. Further security was later afforded by a grant of James III which granted the monks the right of holding chamberlain courts upon their lands for their own tenants and other inhabitants.¹⁹ Much of their wealth was, however, derived from parish churches and their associated teinds.

Kilwinning with sixteen appropriated parish churches fared remarkably well. Appropriation involved the division of parochial revenues, the greater part of the teinds which properly belonged to the incumbent (parson or rector) of the parish being granted to a corporation or individual, who thenceforth assumed the rectorial right while the residual teinds or a pension went to a substitute known as the vicar who ministered in the parish. The original grant was usually made by the lord of the lands, who might be the king or an ecclesiastic, but before such a donation could become effective, confirmation by the bishop of the diocese in which the church lay was also required.²⁰ Owing to the lack of records the identity of the donors and the dates of annexation of most of Kilwinning's churches are not readily ascertainable; but most appear to have been granted to the abbey in the course of the late twelfth or early thirteenth centuries. Of these churches, fourteen — Ardrossan, Beith, Dalry, Dreghorn, Dunlop, Irvine, Kilbirnie, Kilbride, Kilmarnock, Kilwinning itself, Loudoun, Pierstoun, Stevenston and Stewarton lay within Ayrshire and only two outside it. Of these Dumbarton was granted to the abbey by Robert I in 1320 and confirmed to it by John, bishop of Glasgow in 1325, while Kilmacocharmik or North Knapdale was granted by Walter, earl of Menteith (1258-

94) and confirmed by Andrew, bishop of Argyll in 1327.²¹

Other attempts to increase the abbey's patrimony in this way were not so fortunate. Their joint patronage and possession with Dryburgh abbey of the parish church of Lauder in Berwickshire which they held in 1228 was lost thereafter, while their attempt to take possession of the parish church of Libberton in Lanarkshire which was granted to them by John Maxwell of that ilk, c. 1360 was also unsuccessful despite confirmations by David II in 1364 and Pope Gregory XI in 1372.²² So too with the grant of the two churches of Arran — Kilmorie and Kilbride — made by John of Menteith, lord of Arran and Knapdale, c. 1327, and confirmed by David II in 1364, Robert III, 1390 x 1406 and Pope Benedict XIII in 1407/8.²³ Equally ineffectual was the grant of the church of Rothesay in Bute made by James Stewart, grandson of Robert III between 1397 and 1406.²⁴

Of the churches in Ayrshire which pertained to Kilwinning abbey that of the parish was clearly obtained at its foundation. Thereafter a curate provided parochial service in the abbey church which in 1450 was described as 'the monastical parish church of Kilwinning'.²⁵ The curate on the eve of the Reformation was Eumenides Henryson who had been a chaplain in the church as early as 1512 and who must have been an old man when he last appears in 1557 as the occupant of the house and yard on the north side of 'king's street', Kilwinning.²⁶ Of the other annexed churches, Ardrossan and its chapel of Dalry were claimed by the abbey in 1226 when as the result of a dispute between the abbot and the bishop of Glasgow it was agreed that Ardrossan, which was thenceforth to be served by a chaplain, pertained to the abbey, but Dalry was to remain in the patronage of the bishop and his successors.²⁷ This agreement remained in force for some two centuries, but shortly before 1471 the patronage of Dalry was also annexed to Kilwinning.²⁸ Two other thirteenth-century acquisitions were the parish church of Loudoun of which the teinds were appropriated in 1238/9, and the parish church of Beith annexed before 1286 when Robert, bishop of Glasgow, also granted the vicarage revenues to the abbey.²⁹ The parish churches of Dunlop, Irvine, Kilbirnie and Kilmarnock appear in possession of the monks in the following century, but Dreghorn, Pierstoun, Stewarton and Stevenston cannot be confirmed as their property until the fifteenth century and Kilbride only emerges as an annexed church on the eve of the Reformation.³⁰

The lands and churches pertaining to Crossraguel are more

readily ascertainable. They lie almost exclusively in Carrick for by the time of the abbey's foundation most of the available endowments in Kyle and Cunningham had already been engrossed by Paisley and Kilwinning. Of the lands held by the abbey, the most valuable were those on the banks of the rivers Girvan and Doon; the poorest were the moorland hills in the parish of Straiton.³¹ Such endowments which were additional to Duncan of Carrick's original donation of Crossraguel and Southblane grew in extent until the regality comprehended lands in every parish in Carrick, and included not only extensive rights of fishing in the water of Girvan, but also the exploitation of coal heughs at Yellowlee and other places in the neighbourhood.³²

Five parish churches were also appropriated to the abbey. Three of these — Dailly, Kirkoswald and Straiton — had formed part of the original endowment of Duncan of Carrick and passed to the new foundation about 1265/66.³³ Of the remaining two churches, Kirkcudbright-Innertig (Ballantrae) was confirmed to the monks by Robert III in 1404 although the initial grant by an unknown donor was undoubtedly earlier.³⁴ The church of Girvan was also contained in the confirmation of 1404, but appears to have passed to the abbey between 1236 when a parson still served the church and 1296 when a vicar appears in the Ragman Rolls.³⁵ One further parish church that of Inchmarnock, situated on a small island off the coast of Bute belonged to the abbey, but it was exchanged c. 1360 for the chapel of Kildomine which lay within the parish of Girvan and had previously pertained to the abbey of Saddell.³⁶

With the exception of their recorded endowments, the history of both abbeys until the sixteenth century is extremely obscure. In 1306 Henry de Percy, keeper of Galloway and sheriff of Ayr wrote from Crossraguel for two engines of war, but if these were intended for use against Bruce, the abbey itself seems to have been loyal to his cause as grants made by Robert I and the erection of their land into a free barony in 1324 clearly indicate.³⁷ Continuing royal favour is seen in a grant of the king's penny for the repair of the monastery from which the monks received £101.1s.10d in 1329/30. Further confirmation of the abbey's possessions was forthcoming from Robert II in 1374 and Robert III in 1404.³⁸ The latter not only confirmed the abbey's land holdings, but also erected them into a regality in which all jurisdiction was vested in the abbot.³⁹ Royal bounty was not so evident in the fifteenth century, though Abbot Colin enjoyed the favour of James III and obtained confirmation from

Robert, bishop of Glasgow in 1487 of the abbey's immunity from episcopal visitation.⁴⁰

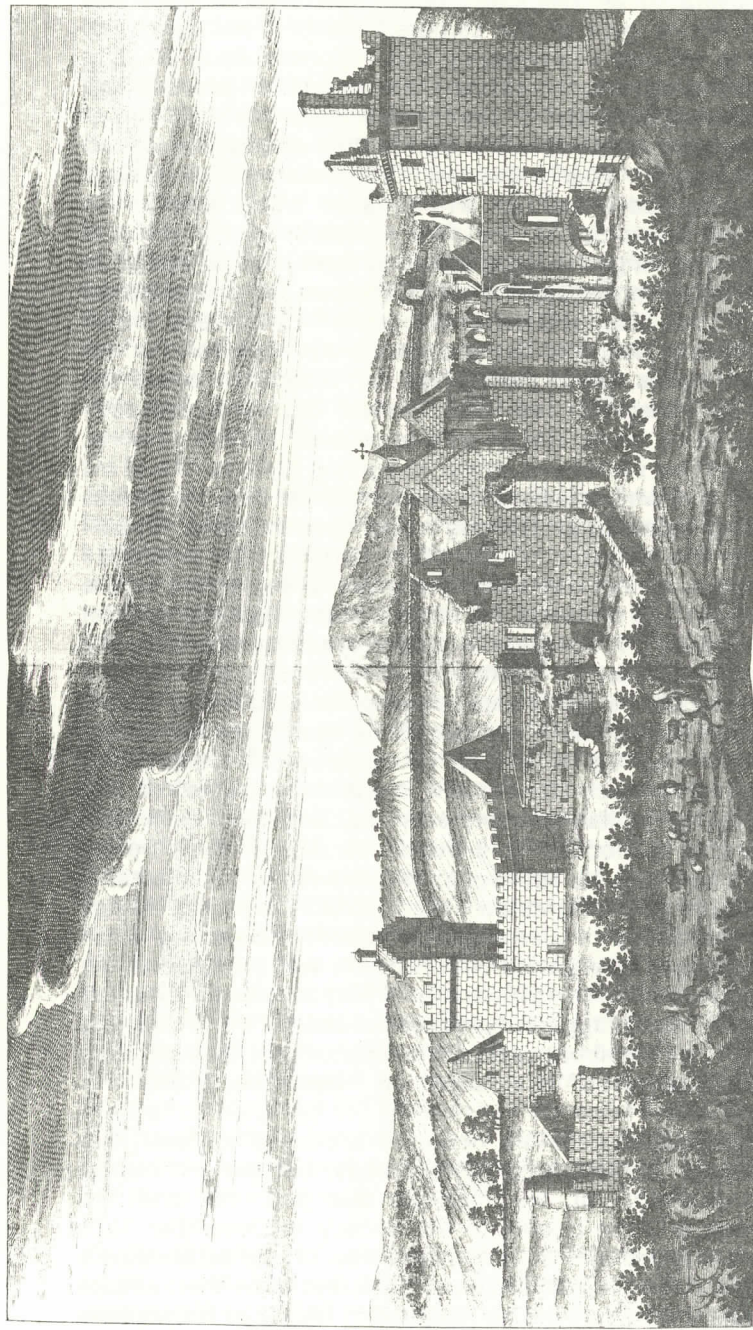
In other respects Crossraguel was not so fortunate and a visitation by the abbot of Paisley in 1370 found 'many faults and defects'. The aged abbot, Roger of Dunfermline, was summoned to appear before the commissioners and was forced to resign after being found unfit to rule his flock owing to age and weakness.⁴¹ A deputation sent from Cluny visited Crossraguel in 1405 and their report reveals that the number of monks was normally ten, but says nothing of its condition.⁴² However, by 1460 the restoration of the abbey buildings including choir and sacristy and the erection of a new chapter house under Abbot Colin demonstrates that the abbey, whose abbot frequently attended parliament between 1478 and 1485, viewed the future with equanimity.⁴³

The connection of Crossraguel with Paisley helps to illuminate its otherwise sparse history, but without similar links the history of Kilwinning in the same period is much more obscure. The little which is known almost solely relates to the abbots, who were granted the right to wear the mitre on 20 February 1409, but even the early succession is incomplete.⁴⁴ Abbot Bernard submitted to Edward I in 1296 and Abbot Adam obtained an indult in 1439 for building a bridge over the river Garnock, but otherwise almost nothing beyond their names is known of these early abbots.⁴⁵ Even this is lacking in terms of the monks, but tantalizing glimpses of their activities indicates an active monastic community. Many of its members were apparently university educated, the means of attaining such an education being illustrated in the case of Robert de Knokis who on 18 September 1415 received a papal mandate conferring upon him an annual pension from the fruits of the abbey for seven years to study letters at a university.⁴⁶ This was not an isolated case and monks who appear in the records of Glasgow university include William Boyd, John Spark and Robert White in 1451; William Dunlop in 1466; and James Spark in 1467.⁴⁷ The community continued to recruit members to maintain its strength throughout the fifteenth century and a typical illustration of this process is provided on 14 October 1466 when William Chawmyr, acolyte and pensionary of ten merks Scots, petitioned for promotion to priests' orders.⁴⁸

By the end of the fifteenth century, monasticism was, however, under threat. As a result of the papal Indult of 1487 the king had acquired the right to recommend to the pope his nominees for

the headship of all religious houses worth more than two hundred florins gold of the camera.⁴⁹ Both Crossraguel and Kilwinning fell into this category and in consequence the king acquired the right to nominate their abbots. In practice this meant the appointment of lay commendators which in turn increasingly led to the secularisation of their monastic revenues. At Kilwinning in 1512/13 the last Tironensian abbot William Bunche, who had withdrawn an intimation of his intention to resign, was assaulted in the abbey church by the earls of Glencairn and Angus in an attempt to force him to resign in favour of John Forman, precentor of Glasgow, on whose behalf James IV had also petitioned the pope.⁵⁰ The scene which ensued vividly illustrates the changed circumstances in which monastic houses found themselves for Glencairn 'seized the abbot (who resisted and often called out, and earnestly entreated to be set at liberty) with force and violence of arms, throwing off his sword and shield and giving them to one of his followers; and while the armed men surrounded him, sometimes threatening, sometimes fawning upon him, to make himself submit to the pleasure of Mr. John Forman, the pretended abbot of Kilwinning, and open the gates of the abbey to the king's herald and others of the same opinion standing without the gates, held him long in his embrace, until induced by the persuasion of Alexander Scott, prior of Kilwinning, and some of the armed men, he let him go, panting for breath and calling out, "suffer me to sit here, and cut off my head, because, while I live, I never shall agree to what you propose".'⁵¹ Despite this treatment for which the crown must bear some of the responsibility, William Bunche survived, and may have died with the king at Flodden on 9 September 1513.⁵² Even before his death, however, he appears to have bowed to the inevitable and surrendered his rights on 7 April 1513 in favour of James Beaton, archbishop of Glasgow. Subsequent to Bunche's death he was engaged in litigation with Forman; was admitted to the temporalities 10 March 1516; and on 4 May received absolution as abbot.⁵³ Despite apparent promises of cession the archbishop thereafter ruled the abbey as its commendator until his translation to the archbishopric of St. Andrews on 1 December 1521.⁵⁴

Beaton's acquisition of his new see produced at least one contender for the headship of the abbey, but the archbishop had no intention of resigning at this juncture, and the nomination of John Cantlie to the abbacy in December 1521 remained ineffective.⁵⁵ In fact possession of the archbishop's new see was delayed until 5 June 1523, but even then almost three years elapsed before he resigned in favour of his nephew

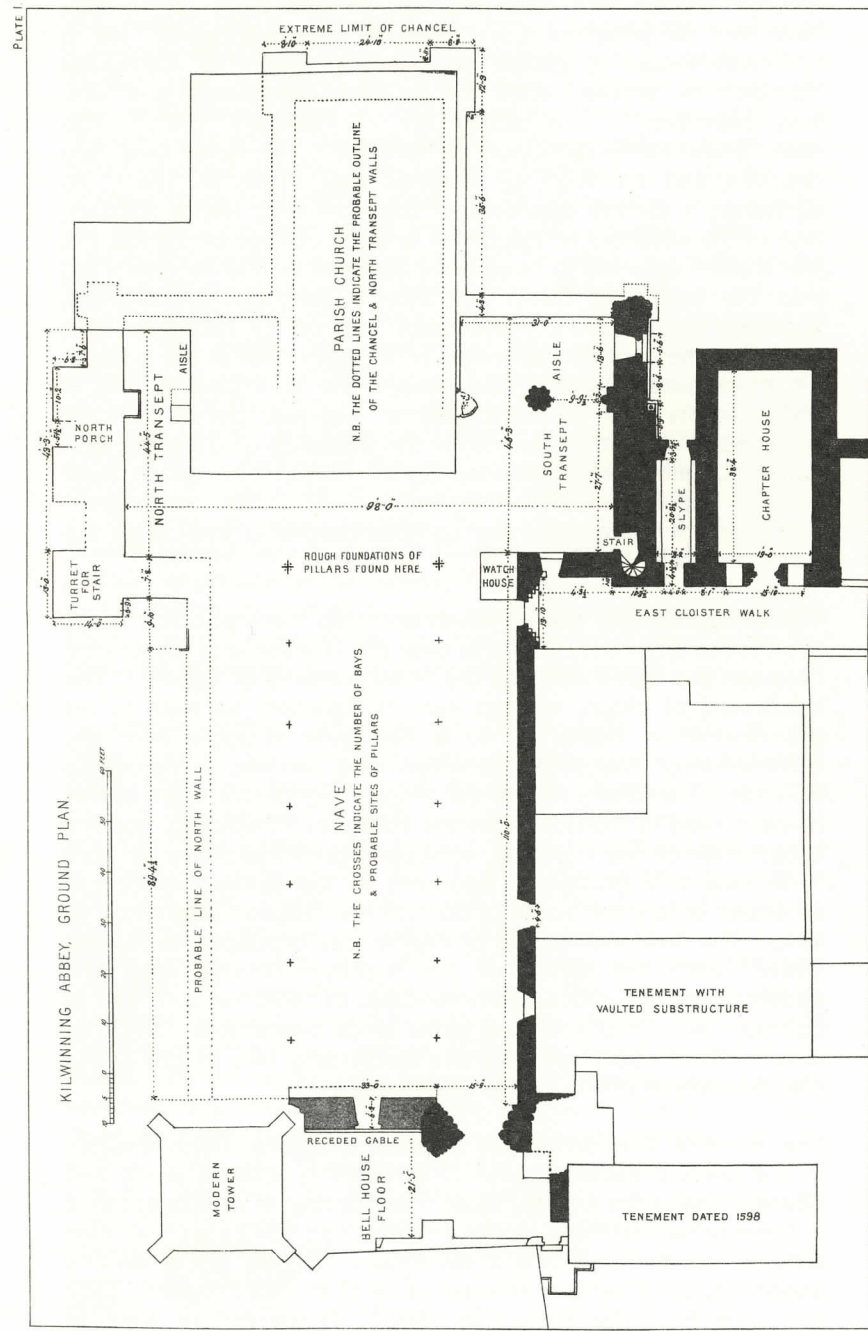


Rulera Cenchy de CÔRSREGAL seu crucis S^{ti} Reguli The Ruines of y^e Abby of CÔRSREGAL.

From "The Abbey of Crossraguel"

James A Morris

1886



W Galloway, Mens et Del.

From "Archaeological and Historical Collections — Ayr and Wigton"
Ayr & Wigton Archaeological Association 1878

George Beaton, who was provided in consistory on 16 May 1526, but nevertheless failed to make good his claim.⁵⁶ He in turn was forced to resign his rights in favour of Alexander Hamilton on whose behalf the king had petitioned, and who was provided to the abbey on 11 February 1527.⁵⁷ The commendatorship remained in Hamilton's hands for over two decades and although an attempt was made in 1541/2 to exchange it for the deanship of Glasgow with Henry Sinclair, one of the senators of the newly erected college of justice, the transaction appears to have been abortive as the deanship fell into the hands of Gavin Hamilton.⁵⁸ Sinclair, nevertheless, acquired the title of commendator and on 27 February 1543 promised the common services, with reservation of the fruits to his predecessor, who in turn leased the revenues to him in 1545. At the end of the stipulated five-year period Sinclair resigned his title in exchange for the deanship of Glasgow with Gavin Hamilton who obtained crown nomination on 10 April 1550.⁵⁹ Papal provision followed on 24 June, and Gavin Hamilton thereafter held the commendatorship until after the Reformation.⁶⁰

The struggles over the commendatorship were punctuated by even more bitter controversies over the bailiership of Kilwinning between the Hamiltons and the Montgomerys of Eglinton. The infeftment of Hugh, second earl of Eglinton, as heir to his grandfather as bailie led to a two year struggle with the commendator Alexander Hamilton who refused to recognise Eglinton's hereditary title to the office.⁶¹ Eglinton's claim in this respect, read to the monks by the curate of Kilwinning, and the acceptance of his right, by episcopal commissioners in April 1545, was only grudgingly accepted by the commendator and an action before the Lords of Council and Session was required before the final instrument of sasine was produced in August 1547.⁶² With the revival of the Hamilton interest after the appointment of Gavin as commendator in 1550, the third earl of Eglinton, who had acted as bailie since September 1546, not only insisted upon new charters confirming him in office, but also transcripts of the earlier infeftments.

The effect on the community of these struggles which resulted in the gradual secularisation of Kilwinning abbey's lands and possessions is not entirely clear. The number of monks appears to have remained fairly stable until the mid-1540's with at least sixteen monks in 1532 and seventeen in 1544, but a decline appears to have set in thereafter; only 12 monks appear in 1557 and only eight for certain in 1560.⁶⁴ These monks were in

receipt of fixed portions and it may be that such payments and the possession of individual chambers and yards meant an inevitable relaxation in the strict observance of the order which should have governed their daily lives.⁶⁵ Private possessions were not unknown and in 1549 one of the monks owned land at the west end of the Garnock bridge.⁶⁶ Nevertheless, there is no hint that choir services were being neglected and under the will of the first earl of Eglinton made on 23 September 1545, an obit for his soul and that of Sir Alexander Montgomery was to be said in the abbey kirk of Kilwinning.⁶⁷ Devotion is equally to the fore in terms of pilgrims who visited the abbey to view its precious relics.⁶⁸ Among their number was James IV who on 10 July 1507 made an offering of fourteen shillings.⁶⁹ The educational standard of the monks was also maintained and the admission of Dene Charles Stuytle to Glasgow university in 1519 not only upheld the abbey's tradition in this respect, but also anticipated a decree of the Scottish church in 1549 that the principal monasteries should in proportion to their resources send some of their number to pursue literary studies in theology and holy scripture.⁷⁰ Ability of another kind is revealed in 1536 when one of the monks, Thomas Brown, built an organ in the parish church of Ayr for which he was paid £5 by the town council, from which he later received further sums for mending the organ and repairing the mass books.⁷¹

A similar picture emerges at Crossraguel which at the beginning of the sixteenth century appears as a vigorous community with equally energetic abbots. This is illustrated not only in the removal in 1505 of a layman John Hamilton who occupied four dwelling houses, a smithy, an orchard and a yard at the very gate of the abbey, but also in the exemption obtained from a proposed visitation of the archbishop of St. Andrews.⁷² Even the usurpation of the abbey by the Kennedy family against which the abbot of Paisley as vicar of Cluny protested in vain did little to upset this state of affairs. Moreover, although David Kinghorn, a monk of the abbey, who had been abbot since before 1498 was forced to resign the abbacy, he did so on fairly generous terms as he was not only assigned the fruits of the parish church of Dailly, but also received a generous pension from other lands pertaining to the abbey.⁷³ William Kennedy, brother of the second earl of Cassillis who was subsequently elected by the convent and thereafter provided by the pope on 10 September 1520 was a statesman and a scholar.⁷⁴ His pilgrimage to Rome in 1530 may have been conventional piety, but his appointment in 1546 as executor of archbishop Gavin Dunbar's will casts him in the role

of a man of integrity.⁷⁵ As far as the community is concerned, care for the aged monastic officials and benefactors was expressed in the provision of five dwellings in the fifteenth century for their sustenance and accommodation.⁷⁶ These small houses set in a row behind the refectory, each self-contained with two rooms and a latrine, survived even the Reformation and reference in 1589 to the 'pur men that hes the yardis' indicates their presence even at that date.⁷⁷ The piety of the monks is also reflected in the bestowal of twenty pounds by Egidia Blair, Lady Row of Baltersan who died in 1530, on condition that her body be buried in St. Mary's aisle of the abbey.⁷⁸

William's successor as abbot, his nephew Quintin Kennedy, son of the second earl of Cassillis, might be more accurately described as commendator for he was a secular priest who apparently never entered monastic orders, but was appointed to the abbey in 1547.⁷⁹ He followed in his uncle's footsteps as a statesman and far surpassed him in his scholarship.⁸⁰ Critical of abuses in the church, he nevertheless proved to be an able champion of the old faith. Devotion to the mass was equally evident among the monks who actually seem to have increased in number as the eight who are found in 1548 and 1552 had risen to at least twelve before 1560.⁸¹ The Reformation did not dampen their ardour. High mass was apparently still being celebrated in the abbey in 1562 and two of the monks took part in a public celebration of the Easter mass at Maybole and Kirkoswald in 1563.⁸² As late as February 1587/8 one of the few remaining members of the community, dene Gilbert Kennedy, was reported to be ministering the Catholic sacraments and 'baptising illegitimate children in houses and fields', and yet another, dene Adam Maxwell, was included in a list of ecclesiastical offenders cited before the Privy council in 1590.⁸³

These acts of defiance were of no avail and the consequences of the Reformation had to be faced at both Kilwinning and Crossraguel. At the former the abbey was reputedly 'cast down' by the earls of Arran, Argyll and Glencairn, but although two of the monks conformed and entered the reformed ministry, the majority of the convent refused to do so and remained in residence at the monastery until their deaths, which can on occasion be dated by the leasing of their chambers and yards.⁸⁴ In the meantime the secularisation of monastic revenues continued apace. Following upon the forfeiture and death of Gavin Hamilton, Kilwinning abbey was conferred, 4 July 1571, on Alexander Cunningham, son of the earl of Glencairn, but the

final acts in the abbey's long history did not take place until after his assassination on 1 August 1591.⁸⁵ Thereafter, William Melville was appointed commendator on 5 August 1591, but on 17 April 1592 'understanding that the monasticall superstition, for the quhilkis the abbaceis, within this realme were of auld erectit and fundit, are now be the laws of the same aluterlie abolisheit, and that na memorie thair of sell be heirefter' resigned the manor place of Kilwinning of old called the monastery and abbey of Kilwinning into the hands of the king.⁸⁶ In consequence the parsonage and vicarages were dissolved from the abbey and the remaining temporalities were regranted to Melville on 17 May 1592, confirmed in parliament on 5 June, but later sold to Hugh, fifth earl of Eglinton.⁸⁷

The history of Crossraguel in the same period is much more complex. After the death of Quintin Kennedy in 1564, the earl of Cassillis took possession of the monastic buildings. The celebrated scholar George Buchanan received a gift of the temporality and monastic buildings on 9 October 1564 as security for a pension of £500 granted by the crown, and raised an action for their possession on 16 October, but this seems to have been unsuccessful.⁸⁸ Alan Stewart, brother of the laird of Cardonald in Renfrewshire, obtained a grant of the abbey on 19 July 1565 and following provision by the archbishop of St. Andrews, acting in the name of the abbot of Paisley, was instituted as commendator by being placed in the abbot's stall by the sole monk present on 16 December 1565.⁸⁹ But his commendatorship was punctuated by a series of controversies with Buchanan, with the laird of Bargany to whom Buchanan sold his pension rights, and with the earl of Cassillis who obtained a nineteen year lease of the abbey from the crown on 10 February 1565/6.⁹⁰ The 'Roasting of the Commendator of Crossraguel in the Black Vault of Dunure' by the earl of Cassillis has passed into Ayrshire legend.⁹¹ By the time of Stewart's death in 1587 much of the abbey's former wealth had been dissipated and the next commendator John Vaus of Barnbarroch fell heir to a much diminished income.⁹² Even this would have been reduced if a proposal in early 1603 to restore the house and place of Crossraguel, which Vaus was obliged to demit, as a residence for James VI's son Prince Henry had been followed through.⁹³ In the event this project was never realised and after the resignation of Vaus about 1616, the commendatorship passed to one of the ministers of Edinburgh, Peter Hewatt, who was allowed to keep the life rent when the abbey finally passed to the bishop of Dunblane in 1617.⁹⁴ By this time the last survivors of both convents had died.⁹⁵

At Crossraguel the last surviving monk, dene John Bryce sued the earl of Cassillis in 1602 for the arrears of his portion then amounting to £722.6s.8d. This the court awarded him in consideration of 'the great aige and waiknes of the said dene John'.⁹⁶ In all probability he predeceased dene Gilbert Kennedy who was still alive in 1607 when he was obliged to borrow money from an inhabitant of Maybole.⁹⁷ With these events the history of both Crossraguel and Kilwinning came to an end. As institutions they had exercised a powerful and largely beneficial influence in Ayrshire for almost four centuries and their disbandment was ultimately brought about not so much by their own inherent failings, but by the variety of secular and religious motives which combined to constitute the Scottish Reformation.

NOTES

- 1 I. B. Cowan and D. E. Easson, *Medieval Religious Houses: Scotland*, 2nd ed. (London, 1976), 63-5, 69.
- 2 W. Fraser, *Memorials of the Montgomeries, earls of Eglinton* 2 vols. (Edinburgh, 1859), i, xix.
- 3 *Archaeological and Historical Collections relating to the Counties of Ayr and Wigton*, i, 115-116, 128-9.
- 4 C. Innes, *Sketches of Early Scotch History* (Edinburgh, 1861), 22.
- 5 W. B. D. D. Turnbull, *Fragmenta Scoto-Monastica* (Edinburgh, 1842), 14.
- 6 J. Spottiswoode, *History of the Church of Scotland* (London, 1677), 407.
- 7 *Ayr-Wigton Coll.*, i, 128.
- 8 *ibid.*, i, 115-116, 128-9.
- 9 *Early Sources of Scottish History 500-1286* ed. A. O. Anderson (Edinburgh, 1922), ii, 249.
- 10 *Scottish Annals from English Chroniclers 500-1286* ed. A. O. Anderson (London, 1908), 286; *Registrum Episcopatus Glasguensis* (Maitland Club, 1843), i, no. 98.
- 11 *Liber Pluscardensis*, ed. F. J. H. Skene (Edinburgh, 1877-80), i, 403.
- 12 Cowan and Easson, *Medieval Religious Houses: Scotland*, 63-4; *Registrum Monasterii de Passelet* (Maitland Club, 1832), 428.
- 13 *Charters of the Abbey of Crossraguel* (Ayr-Galloway Coll., 1836), i, nos. 1-2, 4; cf. *Calendar of Entries in the Papal Registers relating to Great Britain and Ireland: Papal Letters*, edd. W. H. Bliss and others (London, 1893-), i, 107 for correct date of *Crosraguel Chrs*, i, no. 1.
- 14 *Crosraguel Chrs*, i, no. 3.
- 15 *ibid.*, i, no. 4.
- 16 *Pais. Reg.*, 129.
- 17 *Ayr-Wigton Coll.*, i, no. 26.
- 18 *ibid.*, i, 218-9; *Muniments of the Royal Burgh of Irvine* (Ayr-Galloway Coll., 1890-1), 184; *Registrum Magni Sigillii Regum Scotorum* (RMS), edd. J. M. Thomson and others (Edinburgh, 1882-1914), iv, no. 2633; v, no. 2085.
- 19 *Ayr-Wigton Coll.*, i, nos. 14, 26.
- 20 I. B. Cowan, *The Parishes of Medieval Scotland* (Scottish Record Society, 1967), 220-1, I. B. Cowan, 'Some Aspects of the Appropriation of Parish Churches in Medieval Scotland' in *Records of the Scottish Church History Society*, xiii, 203-22.
- 21 Cowan, *Parishes*, 50, 102, 220-1.
- 22 *ibid.*, 128-9, 132.
- 23 *ibid.*, 96, 107.
- 24 *ibid.*, 174.
- 25 *ibid.*, 110; *Registra Supplicationum* (Vatican Archives), 446 fo. 225.
- 26 *Liber Protocollorum M. Cuthberti Simonis Notarii Publici et Scribae Capituli Glasguensis 1499-1515* (Grampian Club, 1875), ii, no. 622; Register of abbreviates of feu charters of Kirklands (Scottish Record Office), E 14/1/202.
- 27 Cowan, *Parishes*, 8, 44-5.
- 28 Reg. Supp. 671, fo. 231.
- 29 Cowan, *Parishes*, 16, 139-40.

- 30 *ibid.*, 48, 53, 91, 94-6, 104, 165, 187.
- 31 *Crossraguel Chrs.*, i, lvi-lx.
- 32 *ibid.*, lx-lxii.
- 33 Cowan, *Parishes*, 42-3, 123, 189-90, 215.
- 34 *ibid.*, 120.
- 35 *ibid.*, 73.
- 36 *ibid.*, 85-6.
- 37 *Crossraguel Chrs.*, i, nos. 8-11.
- 38 *ibid.*, i, nos. 12.
- 39 *ibid.*, i, nos. 17-19, 22.
- 40 *ibid.*, i, xxxiii-iv, no. 27.
- 41 *ibid.*, i, no. 14.
- 42 *ibid.*, i, no. 23.
- 43 *ibid.*, i, xxxii-xxxiv, no. 27a, cf. C. A. Raleigh Radford, *The Cluniac Abbey of Crossraguel* (HMSO, 1970), 6-7.
- 44 Registra Avinionensia (Vatican Archives), 333, fo. 432v.
- 45 *Documents Illustrative of the History of Scotland 1286-1306* ed. J. Stevenson (Edinburgh, 1870), ii, 68; Reg. Supp. 359, fo. 139.
- 46 *Papal Letters to Scotland of Benedict XIII of Avignon*, ed. F. McGurk (Scottish History Society, 1976), 326.
- 47 *Munimenta Alme Universitatis Glasguensis* (Maitland Club, 1854), ii, 55, 68, 73.
- 48 Reg. Supp., 602, fo. 89.
- 49 J. Herkless and R. K. Hannay, *Archbishops of St. Andrews* (Edinburgh, 1907-15), i, 157-8.
- 50 *Ayr-Galloway Coll.*, i, 180-3; *The Letters of James the Fourth 1505-13* edd. R. K. Hannay and R. L. Mackie (Scottish History Society, 1953), no. 504.
- 51 *Prot. Bk. Simon*, ii, no. 621.
- 52 The Flodden Death Roll in *Scottish Antiquary*, xiii, (1899), 105.
- 53 *Prot. Bk. Simon*, i, nos. 630-1; Registra Lateranensia (Vatican Archives), 1281, fos. 157-161; *Registrum Secreti Sigilli Regum Scotorum (RSS)*, edd. M. Livingstone and others (Edinburgh, 1908-) i, no. 2725; Reg. Supp., 1526, fos. 149-150.
- 54 *The Letters of James V*, edd. R. K. Hannay and D. Hay (Edinburgh, 1954), 28, 85-6.
- 55 Fraser, *Douglas*, iv, 79-82.
- 56 D. E. R. Watt, *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticanæ Medii Aevi* (Scottish Record Society, 1969), 298; Arm. Miscellanea (Vatican Archives) 7, fos. 99 and v; 17 fo. 155.
- 57 *ibid.*, 7, fos. 126v-127; 17, fo. 163v.
- 58 *James V Letters*, 419, 434; Reg. Supp., 2454, fos. 190-190v; 2469, fos. 209-209v; Watt, *Fasti*, 156.
- 59 Obligationes et Solutiones (Vatican Archives), 90, fos. 186 and v; *Acts of the Lords of Council in Public Affairs 1501-1554*, ed. R. K. Hannay (Edinburgh, 1932), 563-4, RSS, iv, no. 644.
- 60 Registra Vaticana (Vatican Archives) 1729, fos. 109-110v; RSS, vi, no. 1199.

- 61 The documentation relating to the bailiary of Kilwinning is found in the Eglinton Muniments deposited in the Scottish Record Office, GD3/1/689 et seq.
- 62 Eglinton Muniments GD3/1/728-730, 732-4; Fraser, *Eglinton*, ii, 136.
- 63 Eglinton Muniments, GD3/1/736-737.
- 64 M. Dilworth, 'Monks and ministers after 1560' in *Records of Scottish Church History Society*, xviii, 206.
- 65 M. Sanderson, 'Kilwinning at the Time of the Reformation and its First Minister William Kirkpatrick' in *Ayrshire Coll.*, vol. x, 114.
- 66 Eglinton Muniments, 2/86/1; John Hay, *Kilwinning Parish* (Kilmarnock, 1967), 12.
- 67 Fraser, *Eglinton*, ii, 132.
- 68 *Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer of Scotland*, ed. T. Dickson and Sir J. Balfour Paul (Edinburgh, 1877-1916), ii, 291.
- 69 *ibid.*, ii, 291.
- 70 *Glasgow University Muniments*, ii, 136; *Statutes of the Scottish Church* ed. D. Patrick (Scottish History Society, 1912), 106-7.
- 71 *Ayr Burgh Accounts 1534-1624* ed. G. S. Pryde (Scottish History Society, 1937), 28, 112.
- 72 *Crossraguel Chrs.*, i, nos. 38, 40.
- 73 *ibid.*, i, no. 41; Reg. Vat., 1166, fos. 143-4.
- 74 Reg. Supp., 1719, fos. 218-9; Reg. Vat., 1166, fos. 143-4; *Crossraguel Chrs.*, i, xxxvi-xl.
- 75 *ibid.*, i, nos. 53, 65.
- 76 Radford, *Crossraguel Abbey*, 7-8, 20.
- 77 *Crossraguel Chrs.*, ii, no. 126.
- 78 *ibid.*, i, no. 55.
- 79 *ibid.*, i, no. 63, Reg. Vat., 1817, fos. 86-7.
- 80 *Crossraguel Chrs.*, xl-xlvi.
- 81 *ibid.*, i, nos. 64, 67-70, 75, 118.
- 82 *Criminal Trials in Scotland from 1488 to 1624* ed. R. Pitcairn (Edinburgh, 1833), 1a, *427-9.
- 83 *Acts and Proceedings of the General Assemblies of the Kirk of Scotland from the year MDLX* (Bannatyne Club, 1839-45), ii, 722; *The Register of the Privy Council of Scotland* edd. J. H. Burton and others (Edinburgh, 1877-), iv, 522.
- 84 *The Works of John Knox* ed. D. Laing (Edinburgh, 1846-64), ii, 168; Sanderson, 'Kilwinning at the time of the Reformation', 113, 119-20.
- 85 RSS, vi, no. 1199; cf. *ibid.*, no. 2090.
- 86 Eglinton Muniments; Fraser Inventory GD3/1/689-690.
- 87 *ibid.*, GD3/1-692, 695, 702; *The Acts of the Parliaments of Scotland*, edd. T. Thomson and C. Innes (Edinburgh, 1814-75), iii, 599; RMS, v, no. 2085; vi, no. 1387.
- 88 *Reg. Privy Council*, i, 288-9.
- 89 *Crossraguel Chrs.*, i, nos. 83-85, 91.
- 90 *ibid.*, i, xlix-lxiii, nos. 90A, 93; ii, nos. 101, 111.
- 91 *ibid.*, ii, nos. 102-108; no. 102 is reprinted as an appendix.
- 92 *ibid.*, ii, no. 125.

- 93 *ibid.*, ii, no. 131.
 94 Father R. A. Hay, *Scotia Sacra* (NLS MS. 34.1.8), fo. 279; *Crossraguel Chrs.*, ii, no. 133.
 95 Sanderson, 'Kilwinning at the Time of the Reformation', 119.
 96 Acts and Decrees (SRO), ccii, fos. 6-7, 297-8, cited Sir James Fergusson, 'The Last Monks of Crossraguel' in *The White Hind* (London, 1963), 59-60.
 97 Register of Deeds (SRO), cxlix, fos. 285-6, cited Fergusson, 'Last Monks of Crossraguel', 60.

APPENDIX

ABBOTS OF CROSSRAGUEL

Patrick 1290 x 95

Occ. 1290 x 95 (*Pais. Reg.*, 129).

Roger x 1370

Res. 27 Sept. 1370 (*Pais. Reg.*, 425-7; cf. *Chron. Bower* ii, 112 which refers to him as Robert).

Nicholas 1370-1386 x 1400

El. in or soon after 1370 (*Chron. Bower*, ii, 112; cf. *Pais. Reg.*, 425-7); occ. 16 Feb. 1374/5 (*Cross. Chrs.*, i, no. 20); occ. 1 March 1383/4 (*ibid.*, i, no. 21); occ. 1386 x 1400 (*Laing Chrs.*, no. 72).

Rolond x 1414-1433

Occ. 1 Oct. 1414 when prov. to Paisley Abbey (McGurk, *Benedict XIII Letters*, 302); re-prov. to Crossraguel after failing to obtain Paisley, 13 Dec. 1415 (*ibid.*, 231; *CPL*, vii, 291; *CSSR*, i, 75; *ibid.*, ii, 27); occ. Dec. 1433 (*CPL*, viii, 486).

John di Lithco 1414

Monk of Paisley prov. 1 Oct. 1414 (McGurk, *Benedict XIII Letters*, 302); res. without poss. on being granted Roland's right to Paisley (qv) 13 Dec. 1415 (*ibid.*, 331; *CPL*, vii, 291; *ibid.*, viii, 486).

Colin Kennedy *alias* Fergusson 1460-1490

Said to have been el. 1460 (*Cross. Chrs.*, i, xxxii); occ. 15 Sept. 1465 (*ibid.*, i, no. 26); occ. 24 Sept. 1487 (*Pais. Reg.*, 350); occ. 29 Aug. 1490 (*Cross. Chrs.*, i, no. 31); d. before 6 Oct. 1491 (v. inf.).

Robert Whitehead (Quhyt, Qutythed) 1491-1492x

Cellarer of Paisley, prov. Oct. 1491 after appointment by abbot and convent of Paisley following decease of Abbot Colin (Reg. Supp., 944, fos. 89 and v); occ. 26 May 1492 (*Cross. Chrs.*, i, no. 34).

David Kinghorn x 1498-1520

Occ. 25 Sept. 1498 (*RMS.*, ii, no. 2457); occ. 5 Feb. 1515/16 (*ibid.*, i, no. 40); occ. 18 May, 1518 (*Prot. Bk. Ros.*, no. 223) confirmed in office by pope 5 June 1520 (Reg. Supp., 1700,

fo. 220); res. on pension on appointment of William Kennedy as co-adjutor, 10 Sept. 1520 (v. inf).

William Kennedy 1520-1547

Monk of Crossraguel, brother of 2nd Earl of Cassillis, el. by convent which abbot of Paisley as vicar of Cluny refused to confirm (*Cross. Chrs.*, i, no. 41); prov. as co-adjutor by pope following res. of Kinghorn 10 Sept. 1520 (Reg. Supp. 1719, fos. 218-9); occ. 11 March 1521 (*Prot. Bk. Ros.*, no. 541); occ. 22 Nov. 1546 (*Cross. Chrs.*, i, no. 61); d. before 31 Dec. 1547 (v. inf).

Quintin Kennedy 1547-1564

Son of third earl of Cassillis, el. by convent, following death of his uncle William, before 1 Jan. 1547/8 when his el. approved by John, bp. of Dunkeld, abbot of Paisley and father abbot of order of Cluny in Scotland (Prot. Bk. Prestoun in *Ayrshire Coll.*, 2nd series, 3, 50-1); installed as abbot, 1 Feb. 1547/8 (ibid.) when he also received possession of abbey and its goods from earl of Cassillis (*Cross. Chrs.*, i, no. 63); admitted to temporalities by the crown as its nominee, 23 April 1548; occ. 19 May 1548 (*Cross. Chrs.*, i, no. 78); prov. during course of litigation over rule and administration to commend on pet. of the queen, 18 July 1554 (Reg. Supp., 2848, fos 97-98); new prov. 26 May and 8 August 1557 (Reg. Vat., 1817 fos. 86-87; Reg. Supp., 2935 fo. 267); d. 22 Aug. 1546 (*Cross. Chrs.*, i, no. 78).

George Buchanan 1564-1568

Received crown gift of temporality and monastic buildings as security for an annual pension, 9 Oct. 1564 (*RSS*, v, no. 1783); raised action for pension as pensioner against earl of Cassillis, 16th Oct. 1564 (*RPC*, i, 288-9); still styled as pensioner of Crossraguel, 20 June 1572 (*Brechin Reg.*, ii, App. no. cliii) but had little success in obtaining its emoluments. After attempts to resign his pension in 1568 and 1569, it was finally leased to the laird of Bargany, 20 Aug. 1571 (*Cross. Chrs.*, i, 179-82; ii, 1-2, 29-32).

Alan Stewart 1565-1587

Crown pres. 19 July 1565 (*Cross. Chrs.*, i, no. 82; *RSS*, v, no. 2187); prov by archbishop of St. Andrews as papal legate and 'abbot' of Paisley, 26 Sept. 1565 (ibid., i, no. 83); instituted 16 Dec. 1565 (ibid., i, no. 84); prov. by pope, 8 June 1566 (ibid., no. 91); involved thereafter in

controversy with Buchanan (v. sup.), the earl of Cassillis who obtained a nineteen year lease of the abbey from the crown, 10 Feb. 1565/6 (*Cross. Chrs.*, i, no. 904) and the laird of Bargany (ibid., i, xix-liii); d. 1587, after 6 Sept. prob. before 31 Dec. (v. inf.); certainly d. before 15 Aug. 1588 (*Edinburgh Testaments* (SRO), xix, fo. 186).

John Vaus of Barnbarroch 1587-1616

Crown pres., following death of Stewart, after 6 Sept. 1587 and before 31 Dec. (*Cross. Chrs.*, ii, no. 125); requested by James VI to demit house and place of Crossraguel in favour of Prince Henry, but confirmed in rents and duties of the benefice, 21 Feb. 1602/3 (ibid., ii, no. 131); res. before 1616 (v. inf.).

Peter Hewatt 1616-1645

Minister of St. Giles, Edinburgh; said to have been gifted abbey by the king, 29 Dec. 1612 (Scott, *Fasti*, i, 64); but pres. according to other sources was 1616, prob. between 13 March and 17 April (Hay, *Scotia Sacra*, fo. 279; *Edinburgh Burgh Records*, 139, 141); life rent as commendator preserved on the annexation of the abbey to the bishopric of Dunblane, 28 June 1617 (*APS*, iv, 553-4); occ. as commendator, 24 March 1628 (*RMS*, viii, no. 1479); annexation to bishopric of Dunblane, ratified 28 June 1633 (*APS*, v, 476); lost his living during civil war against Charles I but had his life-rent and enjoyment for another 19 years secured to him and his heirs by gift of that king, 27 Oct. 1641 (Scott, *Fasti*, i, 64); ratified in parliament, 17 Nov. 1641 (*APS*, v, 476); d. in Maybole parish, Aug. 1645 (Scott, *Fasti*, 64), but testament not lodged until 13 Jan. 1648 (*Glasgow Testaments*, 229). The abbey was re-annexed to the bishopric of Dunblane in 1660 (Scott, *Fasti*, 64).

ABBOTS OF KILWINNING

Rainer x 1190

Occ. x 24 March 1190 (*Melr. Lib.*, no. 108).

Nigel 1201-1210

Occ. 6 Dec. 1201 (*Glas. Reg.* i, no. 9; *Chron. Bower*, ii, 516);
occ. 19 June 1210 (*Pais. Reg.*, 229).

John 1214-1226

Occ. 11 May 1214 (*Pais. Reg.*, 21-2); occ. 1226 (*Glas. Reg.*,
i, no. 140).

William 1289

Occ. 15 March 1289 (Hay, *Kilwinning Parish*, 51).

Bernard 1296

Occ. 28 Aug. and 25 Dec. 1296 (Stevenson, *Documents*, ii,
68-69; *Melr. Lib.*, no. 348).

Roger 1296 x 1305

Occ. 1296 x 1305 (NLS, Ac. 7043, bundle no. 9).

Adam 1312

Occ. 21 Aug. 1312 (*Arbroath Liber*, i, no. 333); occ. 1327
(*Ayr-Wigton Coll.*, i, 167).

William Daunant c.1335

Occ. c. 1335 (Ker, *The Abbey of Kilwinning*, 78).

William de Deyn 1344

Occ. 1344 (Hay, *Kilwinning Parish*, 51).

John of Dalgarno 1344-1346

Prov. at the age of seventy shortly before 2 Dec. 1344
(*CPP*, i, 82; *CPL*, iii, 175); promises common services, 10
Oct. 1346 (Ob. et Sol., 22, fo. 15).

Robert 1360-1367 x 1370

Occ., c. 1360 (*Cross. Chrs.*, i, no. 13); occ., 10 Jan. 1361/2
(*RMS*, ii, no. 3680); occ. 1367 x 70 (*Irvine Muniments*, ii,
26-7).

John x 1383/4

Occ. 1 March 1383/4 (*Cross. Chrs.*, i, no. 21).

Roger 1400

Occ. 1400 (Ker, *Abbey of Kilwinning*, 78).

Bryce Macmakyn x 1407

Res. shortly before 17 May 1407 (v. inf.).

Adam Spark 1407-1439

Prior of Kilwinning, el. by convent and conf. by bishop of
Glasgow following on res. of Bryce Macmakyn; prov. by
pope, 17 May 1407 (McGurk, *Benedict XIII Letters*, 163);
granted right to wear mitre, 20 Feb. 1409 (ibid., 196); occ.
16 June 1426 (*Dryburgh Liber*, 277); occ. 13 June 1439
(*CSSR*, iv, no. 559).

William Boyd 1443-1474

Prov. by the pope, 26 July 1443 (Cameron, *Apostolic
Camera*, 30, 35); appeared personally in Apostolic Camera
and promised common services, 21 Aug. 1443 (ibid., 31);
blessed as abbot at Siena, 18 Aug. 1443 (ibid., 317-8); occ.
27 Sept. 1471 as a sexagenarian 'stricken with age' (*CPL*,
xiii, 288; *Reg. Supp.*, 672, fo. 104 v); occ. 8 Jan. 1472/3
(*Ayr-Wigton Coll.*, i, 179; *RMS*, i, no. 1098); res. before 9
May 1474 (v. inf.).

William Bunche 1474-1513

Prov. by the pope, following res. of William Boyd, 9 May
1474 (Cameron *Apostolic Camera*, 69-70); paid total
common services 12 June 1474 (ibid., 267); occ. 6 July
1498 and 22 Jan. 1508/9 (*RMS*, ii, nos. 2429, 3381); said to
have promised to res. 1512 (v. inf.); but resisted attempts
to force him to do so, 22 March 1512/13 (*Prot. Bk. Simon*,
i, nos. 621-5); proposes to resign favour of James Beaton,
archbishop of Glasgow 7 April 1513 (ibid., i, no. 631); said
to have res. 7 Aug. 1513 (*Reg. Supp.*, 1418, fos. 266 and
v.); d. before 27 Aug. 1513 (ibid., 1424, fos. 273 and v.), but
also said to have d. at Flodden, 9 Sept. 1513 (The Flodden
Death Roll in *Scottish Antiquary*, xiii (1899), 105).

John Forman 1512-1513

Prov. requested by crown in 1512 as William Bunche had
promised to resign (*Letters of James IV*, no. 504); prov. by
pope before 26 Nov. 1512 (*Reg. Supp.*, 1400, fos. 49 and
v.); expected to resign precentorship of Glasgow on
promotion to abbey, 20 April 1513 (*Libri Annatarum*, 57,
fo. 9v); litigating 7, 16, 27 Aug. 1513 (*Reg. Supp.*, 1418, fos.
266 and v.; 1424, fos. 273 and v; 1433, fos. 1 and v); prov.

9 Jan. 1514 (Reg. Lat., 1281, fos. 157-161), but fails to gain poss. (v. inf.).

James Beaton 1513-1526

Proposal by William Bunche to res. in his favour, 7 Apr. 1513 (*Prot. Bk. Simon*, i, no. 631); Lit. with Forman, 9 Jan. 1514 (Reg. Lat., 1281, fos. 157-161); admitted to temporalities 10 March 1516 (*RSS*, i, no. 2725); also reported as prepared to res. 1516 (*James V Letters*, 28) but received absolution as abbot, 4 May 1516 (Reg. Supp., 1526, fos. 149-150v); c. 1523, administrators appointed on trans. to St. Andrew's archbishopric or res. of abbey, but not effective (*St. Andrews Formulare*, i, 3); res. in favour of his nephew shortly before 16 May 1526 (v. inf.).

John Cantlie 1521

Reported as nom. by crown, Dec. 1521 (Fraser *Douglas*, iv, 79-82), unfruitfully.

George Beaton 1526-1527

Prov. 16 May 1526 following res. in his favour by his uncle James (*Acta Miscellanea*, 7, fos. 99 and v; 17, fo. 155); res., possibly without poss., before 11 Feb. 1527 (v. inf.).

Alexander Hamilton 1527-1545

Prov. following nom by crown following res. of George Beaton, 2 Feb. 1527 (*Acta Miscellanea*, 7, fos. 126v-127; 17, fo. 63v); promises common services 13 March 1527 (*Obbligazioni per servizi communi*, 15, fo. 83v); admitted to temporalities, 21 May 1527 (*RSS*, i, no. 3777); written compact with James, earl of Arran and James Hamilton of Finart that their nominee should succeed him, rescinded x Feb. 1539 (*St. Andrews Formulare*, ii, 25-37); proposes to res. with retention of fruits, authority and rights of regress in favour of Henry Sinclair, 13 Feb. and 30 Dec. 1541 (*James V Letters*, 419, 434); res. with all fruits reserved, 1 May 1542 (Reg. Supp. 2454, fos. 190 and v; Reg. Lat. 1719, fos. 161-162v); occ. 3 June 1542 (*Ayr-Wigton Coll.*, i, 190); called 'late abbot', 27 Feb. 1543 (*L & P Henry VIII*, xx (i), 635), but styled abbot, 5 Apr. 1543 (*RMS*, iv, no. 53); called former abbot and leases revenues to Henry Sinclair in 1545 (v. inf.); but granted charters as abbot with consent of Sinclair as commendator up to 2 Aug. 1547 (*RMS.*, v, no. 854).

Henry Sinclair 1545-1550

Lord of session, recommended by crown as commendator following res. of Hamilton with res. of fruits, 13 Feb. and 30 Dec. 1541 (*James V Letters*, 419, 434); prov. by pope, 1 May 1542 (Reg. Vat., 1610, fos. 193-6); but obtains pro-rogation of prov. as unable to obtain poss., 27 Sept. 1542 (Reg. Supp., 2469, fos. 209 and v); promises common services with reservation of fruits to Hamilton, 27 Feb. 1543 (Ob. et Sol., 90, fos. 186 and v); and received lease of revenues for five years in 1545 (*ADCP*, 563-4); res. in exchange for deanery of Glasgow in favour of Gavin Hamilton before 10 April 1550 (v. inf.).

Gavin Hamilton 1550-1571

Nom. by crown following res. of Henry Sinclair in exchange for deanery of Glasgow, 10 Apr. 1550 (*RSS*, iv, no. 644); prov. by pope 24 June 1550 (Reg. Vat., 1729, fos. 109-110v); promises common services, 15 Nov. 1550 (Ob. et Sol. 91, fo. 23); occ. 7 March 1551/2 (*Ayr Wigton Coll.*, i, 196); escheated 27 Sept. 1565; later remitted on condition that he reside in France, but returned shortly after 24 July 1566 (*Diurnal of Occurrents*, 83, 86; Knox, *Works*, ii, 515; *CSP Scot.*, ii, 296-7); forfeited in parliament 16 May 1571 (*Diurnal of Occurrents*, 214; *RSS*, vi, no. 1185); killed 16 June 1571 (*Diurnal of Occurrents*, 224-5).

Alexander Cunningham 1571-1591

Son of earl of Glencairn, nom. by crown 4 July 1571, following forfeiture and death of Gavin Hamilton (*RSS*, vi, no. 1199; cf. *ibid.*, vi, no. 2090); occ. 1572 (*Irvine Muniments*, i, 208-10); killed in fight 1 Aug. 1591 (*Ayr Wigton Coll.*, i, 119).

James Cunningham

Said to have become commendator in 1586; Alexander retaining life interest (Hay, *Kilwinning Abbey*, 51). Ineffective.

William Melville 1591-1592

Son of John Melville of Raith, nom. by the crown following death of Alexander Cunningham, 5 Aug. 1591 (Eglinton Muniments, GD 3/1/689); res. commendatorship in hands of crown 17 April 1592 (*ibid.*, GD 3/1/690); the temporalities were erected in his favour, 5 June 1592 (*ibid.*, GD 3/1/695; cf. *RMS*, v, no. 2085; *APS*, iii, 599), and were later sold to Hugh, 5th earl of Eglinton, this trans-

action being confirmed 5 Jan. 1603 (Eglinton Muniments, GD 3/1/702; *RMS*, vi, no. 1387).

The title of abbot or commendator of Kilwinning, with a right to the teinds, remained in existence and was held on 26 April 1615 by John Spottiswoode, archbishop of Glasgow (*RMS*, vii, no. 1230), later archbishop of St. Andrews who is styled commendator, 21 Dec. 1616 (*Ayr-Wigton Coll.*, i, 219); d. 26 Nov. 1639 (*Spottiswoode Misc.*, i, 6-7, quoting memorial in Westminster Abbey).

**Complainte of Allan Abbot of Crosraguel
to the Privy Council.—(Circa December 1570).**

Unto your Grace and lordis of Secreit Counsall humblie meanes and shawes your servitour Mr. Allane Stewart, commendatour of Crosraguell, that whair upon the 29 day of August last bypast, I, beand within the wood of Crossraguall, doand my leasome errandis and busines, belevand na harme nor invasione to have been done to me be any persone or persones; Notheles, Gilbert Erle of Cassillis, Thomas Maister of Cassillis, with their complices, to the number of 16 persones or thereby, came to me and persuadit me be their flatterie and deceatful wordis to pas with thame to his castle and place of Dunure, being always mindit, gif I had made refusal to pass with them, to have taken me perforce. And he, puttand me within the same, that I suld be in sure firmance, commandit sex of his servantis to await upon me, so that I ischewit not; wha tuke fra me my hois, with all my weaponis, and then departed quhile the first day of September thereafter, that he came again, and requyrit me to subscrivve to him ane Few Chartour, brought with him, made in parchment, of the whole landis pertening to the said abbacie, together with a 19 and 5 year tak of the fructis, teindis, and dewities thereof, as he alledgit, of the whole kirkis and personages perteaning thereto: wharof I never redd a word of; answeritt it was a thing vnreasonable, and that I could nawayis doe, in respect the same, long of befor, was alreddie disponit to the kindlie tenantis and possessoris thereof, and to James Stewart of Cardonell: and therefore, the samin being furth of my handis I culd nawayis grant his vnreasonable desyr; wha then, after long boasting and minassing of me, caused me to be carriet be Jhone Kennedie his baxter, Jhone M'Ceir his cuike, Alexander Richard his pantryman, Alexander Eccles and Sir William Tode, to ane hous callit the Black Voute of Dunvre; whair the tormenteris denudit me of all my cleathis, perforce, except onlie my sark and doublet: and thair band baith my handis at the shackle bones with ane corde, as he did baith my feet, and band my soiles betuix ane iron chimlay and a fyre, and beand bound thereto could nawayis steir nor move, but had almost inlaikit through my crewell burning. And seeing nae uther appearance to me, but eather to condescend to his desyre, or else to continew in that torment quhill I died, tuke me to the longest life, and said I wuld obey his desyre, albeit it was sore against my will. And for to be relevit of my said paine, subscrivved the foirnamed Chartour and Tacks, whilk I never yett redd, nor know what therin was contenit: which beand done the said erle causit the said tormentouris of me sweir

upon ane Byble never to revaill any word of this my unmercifull handling, to ony persone or persones. Yit he not beand satisfied with their proceedings, come agane vpon the 7 day of the forsaid month, bringand with him the samyn Chartour and Tak, which he compellit me to subscriue, and requyred me to ratify and approve the same, before notar and witnessis, which allutterlie I refused. And therefore he, as of befoir, band me, and pat me to the same manner of tormenting: and I said notwithstanding "He suld first get my lyfe or ever I agreit to his desire," and beand in so grit payne as I truste never man was in with his lyfe, whair I cryed, "Fye upon you! will ye ding whingaris in me and put me out of this world! or elis put a barrell of powder vnder me, rather nor be demaned in this unmercifull manner!" The said erle hearing me cry bade his servant Alexr Richard put ane serviat in my throat, which he obeyed; the same being performed at xi horis in the nyght: wha then seeing that I wes in danger of my lyfe, and my flesh burnt and consumed to the bones, and that I wuld not condescend to their purpose, I wes releivit of that paine, whairthrow I will never be able nor weill in my lyfetime.

Sic ane creweltie never being hard of befoir done to onie frie persone that had not committed offence, and gif your Grace and Lordschips takis not gude order heiranent, for punishment of the same, it will give occasione to vtheris proude persones, contemners of the Kingis gracious authoritie, to brek gude order, and truble the comone weall of the cuntrie. And for declaring of the said erle's wicked mynd towardis me, hes wrangouslie by all ordour of justice, intromettit with and tane up my whole living of Crosraguall, at his awin hand, without ony title or richt, thir thrie zeiris bypast. Lykas he yit continewis thairunto, taking no feare of our soverane lordis lettris or chargis used in his name, ewin as he wes ane exemit persone, not subiect to lawis, but mycht doe all thingis at his pleasour. As it is not vnknawin vnto your Grace and Lordschipsis, of my deteaning captive, that I obteaned both lettris of Horning, and lettris chargene him vnder paine of Treassone to put me at libertie, yit he continewallie disobeyed the same, and both past to the Horne, and also incurrit the said paine of treassone, as the saidis lettris of Horning and Treassone, executiones, and indorsationes therof, heir present to schaw, beiris. Heirfor in maist humbe manner I beseik your Grace and lordschippis to have consideratione of the premisses; and that it will pleiss your Grace to comand and charge the said erle to bring and present befoir your Grace and Lordschippis, the forenamed Few Chartour and Tackis, at sic day as your Grace pleasis to assyne,

and under sic panes as your Grace thinkis expedient. And they beand productit, to be decernit of none avail, for the causses above written. And als to caus and compel him to find ane catione and sovertie or he depart therefra, that he nor none in his name in all tymes coming sall intromet or medle with ony part of my said living of Crosraguall, but to suffer me to use the same and intromett therewith at my pleasour, conforme to my provisione; and in lyk maner I beseik your Grace nocht to oversie the vsurped authoritie taken upon him in the wrangous tormenting of me, be reassone the same onlie appartenis to your Grace. And ye suld sie the samyn punist in exemple of vtheris. And your Grace and Lordschippis answer.

PUBLICATIONS OF AYRSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The following are still available:

Ayrshire: the Story of a County (Strawhorn)	£5.00
Armstrong Map of Ayrshire 1775, facsimile in six sheets.....	£6.00
Old Ayrshire Harbours (Graham)	£2.00
Ayrshire Mining Enterprise 1600-1840 (Whately).....	£1.50
Ayrshire Honestones (Tucker).....	£1.50
Ayrshire Miners Rows 1913 (McKerrell and Brown).....	£1.25
Rails to Ayr (Broad)	£1.25
Printing in Kilmarnock and Ayr (Gardner).....	£1.00
Bronze Age in Ayrshire (Morrison).....	50p
Libraries in Ayr (Leach)	25p
Mauchline Account Books of Melrose Abbey (Sanderson).....	25p
Digging Up Auld Ayr (Lindsay).....	£1.00
Mauchline Memories of Robert Burns (ed. Strawhorn)	£1.50

The above are obtainable from A.A.N.H.S. per Mrs S. Andrew, Reference Librarian, Kyle and Carrick District Library Headquarters, Carnegie Library, 2 Main Street, Ayr KA8 8ED.

AYRSHIRE COLLECTIONS

Volume 12

Contents: Printing in Kilmarnock and Ayr (Gardner), Roderick Lawson of Maybole (Douglas), McIlwraith: An Ayrshire Family (Waterson), Bronze Age in Ayrshire (Morrison), Robert Bruce in Ayrshire (Barrow), Rails to Ayr (Broad), Covenanters and the Western Association (Stevenson), with preface and index.

Issued by Alloway Publishing Ltd, £18.50 plus £1 postage. Obtainable from Walker and Connell Ltd., Hastings Square, Darvel, Ayrshire.

