

## Report on Kennedy Mausoleum, Ballantrae

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Through the efforts of Commander G. H. Hughes-Onslow, our President, the Society received at the end of 1956 a grant of £400 from the Pilgrim Trust for the repair of the Kennedy Mausoleum, Ballantrae Churchyard, which is now becoming ruinous. The building, vaulted and surmounted by a slated roof, was built against the south wall of the former Kirk, which was demolished at the beginning of the nineteenth century. On the west wall of the aisle is the monument consisting of the recumbent figures of Gilbert Kennedy of Bargany and his widow, Jonet Stewart, surmounted by a canopy supported by pillars at each end and one in the centre. Through decay and vandalism the inscription and carving have largely disappeared. Nevertheless the monument is an excellent example of the "glorious tombs" which it was the fashion to erect in the seventeenth century. It is described and illustrated by Macgibbon and Ross<sup>1</sup> and is scheduled as an Ancient Monument.

Gilbert Kennedy took a prominent part in the feud between the Bargany and Cassillis branches of the Kennedy family, and was mortally wounded in a fight between the opposing factions at Brockloch, near Maybole, in 1601. Aged twenty-five, he died at Ayr and his body was laid in the Kirk of Ayr until his tomb was made ready.<sup>2</sup>

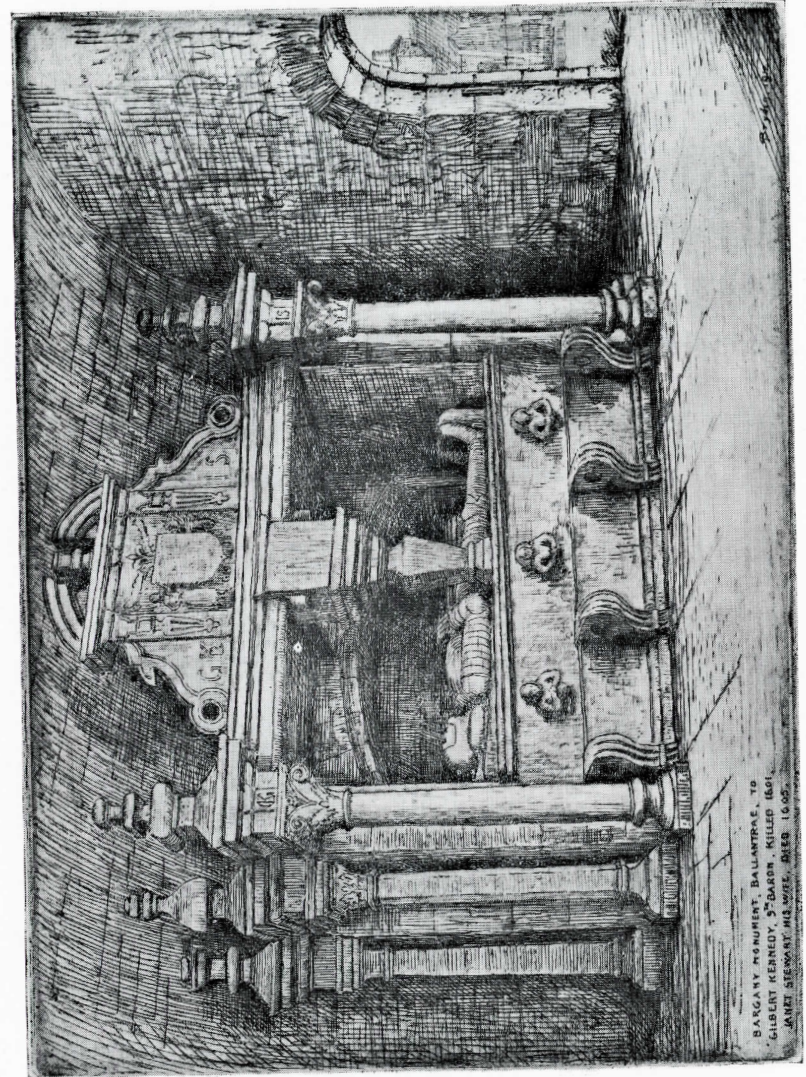
Lady Bargany died at Stilton, in England, in 1605, and her body was brought to Ayr to be laid beside that of her husband.<sup>3</sup> The funeral, on a magnificent scale, is best described in the words of the anonymous contemporary chronicler:—

"At this tyme, me Lord of Abercorne, and the hail freindis, concluditt that the buryiall of the Laird of Bargany and his wyff suld be on the xv day off September, . . . yeiris, in the New Kirk of Ballantry; quhilk the Lady had caussitt build for hir husband, quhair scho had gartt sett wp ane glorieous towme; and, indeed, Josias maid gritt preparatioune for the same, bayth in Bargany and in Arstensar; the

<sup>1</sup> *Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland*, III., p. 304.

<sup>2</sup> *Historical Account of the Families of Kennedy* (Bannatyne Club, 1830), pp. 46-51.  
For an account of the feud see the foregoing and also Paterson's *History of Ayr and Wigtown*, Vol. II.

<sup>3</sup> *History of Kennedy's*, p. 67.



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honouris and all the rest being prepairitt werrie honorable. The day being cumin, thair wes thairoff Nobill menne, the Eirllis of Eglintoune and Abercorne, and Vintoune, with the Lordis of Sempill, Carkartt, Loudone, and Wchiltry. The Lairdis of Bombie, Blairquhanne, and Gairland; with ane grit number, quhilk I will nocht mint to expres. His Honouris being borne be the Gudmanne of Ardmillane, the the Gudmanne of Kirkhill, with sindry ma of the freindis. His sister-sonne, Young Auchindrayne, beirand the Banner of Rewendge, quhairin was payntitt his portratour, with all his wondis, with his sone sittand at his kneis, and this deattone writtine betuix his handis "JUDGE AND REWENDGE MY CAUS, O LORD!" And sa, conwayit to Air; bur all werry honourabilly, to the number off ane Thoussand horse, of Gentilmenne; and layd in the foirsaid Tome."<sup>4</sup>

Work on the repair of the Mausoleum is going forward and it is proposed to publish a further note in the next volume of *The Collections*.

The Pilgrim Trust is due the thanks of all interested in the preservation of our historic past, for the generous grant which alone enables the urgent repairs to be effected.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, p. 68. The persons named were:—

Lord Abercorn, created Earl of Abercorn 10th July, 1606;

Josias Stewart of Bonnytoun, brother of Lady Bargany;

Hugh, 5th Earl of Eglinton;

Robert, 2nd Earl of Winton;

Robert, 4th Lord Sempill;

Alan, 4th Lord Cathcart;

Hugh, Lord Campbell of Loudoun;

Andrew, 3rd Lord Ochiltree;

Sir Robert Maclellan of Bombie;

John Kennedy of Blairquhan;

John McDowall of Garthland;

Thomas Kennedy of Ardmillan;

Thomas Kennedy of Kirkhill;

James Mure, yr of Auchendrane.

Assuming that the funeral was in 1606, Gilbert Kennedy's son, Thomas, would then be about nine years old.