The Cathcarts of Carleton and Killochan

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The muniments of this ancient Carrick family appear, with the exception of two mediaeval charters, to have been lost. following account of the Cathcarts in the 16th-17th centuries, compiled from notes taken over a long period from different sources, published and unpublished, could, no doubt, be enlarged by further research; but so far as it goes it may serve as a corrective to the account given in Paterson's History of Ayrshire, which is extremely inaccurate and far from complete.

The history of the parent stock down to the time of the 2nd Lord Catheart may be found in the Scots Peerage, vol. ii; the later history of the family after the creation of the baronetcy is given in The Complete Baronetage and Burke's Landed Gentry.

ROBERT CATHCART, second son of John, 2nd Lord Cathcart, by his second wife Margaret Douglas, daughter of Sir William Douglas of Drumlanrig, had a charter from his father of the 13 merkland of Killunguhane in Carrick, dated at Edinburgh, 4 March, 1504-5, and confirmed by a charter under the Great Seal the same day. 1 Lord Catheart reserved from this grant one acre of ground on the east side of the property near to the "stane" of Drummillane. This is the earliest known reference to the celebrated Baron's Stone of Killochan.

As "Dominus de Killunguhan," Robert Catheart was present at a meeting of the Court of Justiciary at Ayr on 30 October, 1508.2 He, his eldest brother Alan, Master of Catheart, and their younger brother John, were all killed at the battle of Flodden, 9 September, 1513.3

He married Margaret (also called Marion) Cathcart, daughter and co-heiress of Alan Cathcart of Carleton, with issue-

- 1. Robert, of whom later.
- 2. Alan, who appears as a witness on 3 December, 1553 (Protocol Book of James Colvill, f.79).

His wife survived him and married, secondly, in 1518, Hew Campbell, son and heir of the deceased Robert Campbell of Kilmanach; 4 Hew was still living in 1538.

R.M.S., ii. 2944.
 Minute Book in Register House.
 Scots Peerage, ii. p. 510.
 Protocol Book of Gavin Ros, 246-9.

Sibyl Cathcart, the other daughter and co-heiress of Alan Cathcart of Carleton, married first Robert's brother John Cathcart of Glendowis, with issue two daughters-

- 1. Jonet, who married (contract March, 1529) Robert Craufurd, brother of Bartholomew Craufurd of Kerse. with issue. 5
- 2. Marion, who married, before 1532, Gilbert Graham of Knockdolian, and had issue. She was still alive in July, 1575, when she was a party to a decreet arbitral. 6

Sibyl Cathcart married, secondly, Gilbert Kennedy, and had two more daughters, Marion and Jonet. She died about 1530.7

ROBERT CATHCART, the elder son of Robert and Margaret Cathcart, was not served heir to his father till 20 December, 1524, 8 so was presumably born in 1503. He thus secured the 13 merkland of "Killumquhan," but the succession to the rest of his heritage was disputed. John Campbell, natural son of John Campbell of Little Cesnok, had had assigned to him by his father a gift under the Privy Seal (which is not recorded) of Sibyl Catheart's half of the barony of Carleton and of the ward of Sibyl's four daughters; and Duncan Craufurd, another brother of Bartholomew Craufurd of Kerse, had also a gift, dated 15 March, 1530-1,9 of half the 17 merkland of Carleton and of the marriage of the "necys" (i.e., grand-daughters) of Alan Cathcart of Carleton. The two claims came before the Lords of Council in 1532, when it was decided that John Campbell had the prior right. 10

It appears, however, that Robert managed to re-unite the family estate in 1538, when, with the consent of his mother, he bought half of the lands of Carleton, including "the principal messuage and mansion of the same "-the old tower, of which the ruin may still be seen near Lendalfoot. 1 He was still styled "Robert Cathcart of Kelluchane" when he sat on an assize on 30 December, 1539.2 But he had come to be known as Robert Cathcart of Carleton by 1541, when he was named as first heir of remainder to Alan, 3rd Lord Catheart, his cousin, from whom he held the lands of Killochan, 3 and who was killed at the battle of Pinkie in 1547. From henceforth, although residing at Killochan, the heads of this family were always styled "of Carleton."

In January, 1547-8, Robert Cathcart was involved in a fight with Thomas Kennedy of Knockdaw and his sons, two of whom, David and Thomas, mutilated him of his left hand and hurt and wounded him in the face. 4

Robert Catheart appears in 1552 as a procurator for Marion Colvile, whose father, Thomas Colvile of Pemont, had been killed at Pinkie⁵; and on 3 December, 1553, he and his brother Alan were witnesses, "at Killunquhane" when their cousin Marion Cathcart, "Lady Knokdoleane," protested against the judgment of the Earl of Cassillis and others chosen as arbiters in a dispute between herself and David Kennedy of Pennyglen, whereby she declared herself much injured, and appealed to the Privy Council. 6 He was still living on 16 November, 1557, when he sat on an assize, 7 and died probably in 1560, his eldest son having received sasine of the lands and barony of Carleton shortly before 2 November in that year. 8

He married Elizabeth Corrie, possibly a daughter of Thomas Corrie of Kelwood. She survived him and died at Dalquhur (a small house near Killochan) in January, 1573-4, having made her will on 4 January. 9 Their children, all of whom but the eldest are named in their mother's testament, were-

- 1. John, of whom later.
- 2. Thomas, on record as a witness on 11 March, 1556-7, 10 and alive in 1581.1
- 3. Gilbert, probably the Gilbert Catheart, burgess of Ayr, who died in 1600 (Register of Deeds, cxxix, ff. 42-7).
- 4. Alan, on record as a witness in 1549, 2 who on 30 January, 1569-70, had sasine, on a charter from William Craufurd of Drumsoye dated 16 December, 1569, of the 30s land of McIllmorestoun but did not secure possession of it from Craufurd's son till 1604.3 He signed the "Band" in support of the Reformation at Ayr on 4 September, 1562, designating himself, incorrectly, "Allan Cathcart of Carltown." His eldest brother was also a signatory and the "Thomas Cathcart with my hand" who likewise signed may have been his second brother.4 From at least 1600 till his death he was known as Alan

Protocol Book of Gavin Ros, 938-9. Bailie Court Book of Carrick, f. 27.

Exchequer Rolls, xvii. p. 740.

Protocol Book of Gavin Ros, 747.

W. Moir Bryce: The Scottish Grey Friars, ii. pp. 252-4.

R.M.S., iii. 1809. Ibid., 2123. Ibid., 2397.

Pitcairn's Criminal Trials in Scotland, i. pp. *335-6, *343. Register House Calendar of Charles, viii. 1556.

Protocol Book of James Colvill, ff. 78-9.

R.M.S., iv. 1252.

Exchequer Rolls, xix. p. 463.
Edinburgh Testaments, iii. ff. 117-8.
R.M.S., iv. 1395.
Ibid., v. 276.
Protocol Book of James Colvill, f. 59.

Induced Book of James Colvill, 1. 59.

Ibid., f. 44; Acts and Decreets, ccix. ff. 308, 327; ccxii. ff. 6-8.

Memorials of the Montgomeries, ii. pp. 192-3; Knox's History of the Reformation, ed. Dickinson, ii. p. 56.

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Cathcart of Clauchfin, 5 and survived to extreme old age, dying in Ayr in 1625, a "truly worthy person . . . blind in his body for three or four years before his death but clear-sighted in spirit as the good prophet Ahijah, a man of a grave and composed temper."6

- 5. James.
- 6. David.
- 7. Margaret.
- 8. Katherine, who married Thomas McAlexander of Corsclavis and had issue; she died in January, 1569-70.7
- 9. A second Margaret, married before 1574 to John Kennedy of Baltersan and had issue; she died on 15 January, 1593-4.8

JOHN CATHCART OF CARLETON, who appears as a witness on 25 May, 1551, 9 succeeded his father. As already noted, he signed the "Band" in support of the Reformation on 4 September, 1562; and, with the lairds of Bargany, Blairquhan, Kelwood, and Dalquharran and several others from Ayrshire, he signed the Bond of Association in 1567. 10 He was on the assize in December, 1564, when Bernard Fergusson of Kilkerran, his brothers Thomas and David, and others were accused of attacking John Craufurd of Camlarg and others in the Sheriff Court of Ayr. 1 In 1600 he was accused, along with most of the Carrick barons and lairds, of abiding from the Earl of Angus's raid of Dumfries. 2 He was named in 1607 among the heirs of remainder to Alan, 4th Lord Cathcart. 3 He died on 9 October, 1612, when his debts exceeded his assets. 4

John Cathcart, who finished re-building or enlarging the house of Killochan in 1586, according to an inscription over its door, married, apparently in 1563, Helen Wallace, who survived him and died in January, 1624, 5 at Killochan. She was "a grave, wise, virtuous woman" and "directed all things about her family herself in her extreme old age." 6 They had issue-

- 1. John, of whom later.
- 2. Mr. Robert, variously designated as "in Kildonan" in 1593, "of Penmoir" in 1602, but generally "of Nether Pinmore." 7 He accompanied the widowed

- Register of Deeds, exxix. f. 47.
 Wodrow's Collections, ii., Part II. p. 269.
 Edinburgh Testaments, xxi. 16 July, 1590.
 Edinburgh Testaments, xxviii. ff. 56-8.
 Protocol Book of James Colvill, f. 70.
 Paterson's History of Ayrshire, i. p. 150.
 Pitcairn's Criminal Trials, i. p. *457.
 Ibid ii p. 106.

- Pitcain's Crimmal Trials, 1. p. *457.

 Ibid., ii. p. 106.

 R.M.S., vi. 1872.
 Glasgow Testaments, ix. ff. 29-30.

 R.M.S., iv. 1485; Glasgow Testaments, 28 October, 1624.

 Wodrow. op. cit., p. 267.

 e.g., Reg. of Deeds, cxxix. ff. 46-7, cxllii. ff. 442-6; Ayr Sasines, ii. ff. 216-7.

Lady Bargany to Edinburgh in January, 1602,8 when she went to seek reparation for her husband's murder; and in 1605 he witnessed her testament and several other deeds executed by her. 10 He was named in his father's testament in 1612 as a creditor for over £1,000, and died apparently between 1621 and 1628, though a report of his death reached a friend in France in October, 1616.1

He married, first, Agnes Kennedy, widow of an Eccles of Kildonan, who died 22 December, 1593,2 and by whom he had a son-

- (i) John, on record as a witness in 1601 and 1604; and married secondly, late in life (ante-nuptial contract dated at Girvan 12 September, 1621), Elizabeth Mure, a daughter of the notorious John Mure of Auchindrane who had been executed for murder in 1611. Mr. Robert settled on her the liferent of the 40s land of Nether Pinmore.
- 3. Mr. Hew, who appears as a witness on 29 October, 1626, then described as lawful son of umquhile John Cathcart of Carleton. 5 From his brother the reigning laird he had on 9 May, 1629, a charter of the £9 land of Killuguhane with the castle (castrum), fortalice, manorplace, &c., and took sasine of it immediately after his brother's death in 1633.6
- 4. James, of Barneill, a witness in 1596,7 who had a Crown charter of Easter Barneill on 18 June, 1601,8 and sasine thereon on 31 July following. 9 He was a witness on 17 July, 1603, to the testament of his uncle Thomas McAlexander of Corsclayis. 10. On 14 May, 1605, he lent £1,000 to the Earl of Eglinton. 1 He is stated by Paterson to have purchased the estate of Genoch in

Reg. of Deeds, lxxxvi. f. 104.
 Historic of the Kennedyis, p. 52.
 Glasgow Testaments, xvii. ff. 114-6; Reg. of Deeds, cx. ff. 134-8.

Wodrow, op. cit., p. 260.

Mr. Robert Catheart's close association with the Bargany and Auchindrane families is part of the evidence, not yet conclusive, leading me to consider him the probable author of the anonymous Historie of the Kennedyns (ed. Robert Pitcairn, 1830), which is a principal source of the story of the great Cassillis-Bargany feud.

Edinburgh Testaments, 1 November, 1594.

Secretary's Reg. of Sasines, Ayr, i. f. 105, ii. f. 357. Ayr Sasines, ii. f. 216-7.

R.M.S., viii. 2056. Ayr Sasines, vi. ff. 27-8. Reg. of Deeds, lxxxiv. f. 12. R.M.S., vi. 1194.

Secretary's Reg., Ayr, i. ff. 118-9. Edinburgh Testaments, xliii. f. 100. Reg. of Deeds, cxxi. ff. 38-9.

Wigtownshire in about 1618 and to have died about 1636. He married, according to Paterson, Margaret Cathcart, and had, with other issue-

- (i) Robert (not mentioned by Paterson), afterwards of Barneill, called "eldest son" in 1617.2
- (ii) John, who succeeded to Genoch, ancestor of the Cathearts of Knockdolian. 3
- (iii) Margaret, eldest daughter, who married in 1617 4 Hew Kennedy of Bennane, and died in March, 1670, 5 leaving issue.
- 5. Alan, on record as a witness on 6 March, 1587-8,6 who had a Crown charter of the 30s land of Ballochbroyik and others on 2 June, 1593,7 and appears as an arbiter in March, 1604.8
- 6. William, a witness on 7 July, 1601, and 29 March, 1603, but still described as "adolescens" on 15 February, 1604; 9 mentioned as the youngest son in his father's testament in 1612.
- 7. Margaret, who married (ante-nuptial contract dated 17 November, 1596), John Wallace of Dundonald. died before 31 March, 1608; she later married Sir John Wallace of Carnhill, and was living in 1621. 10
- 8. Jonet, who married William Wallace (died 1616), commendator of Failford from 1576, brother of John Wallace of Craigie and one of King James's suite of some 300 barons and gentlemen on his voyage to Norway in 1589.1 She was styled Lady Faill, and died "at the place of Faill" in May, 1630.2 Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticanae erroneously states her to have been the wife of Mr. William Wallace, minister of Symington.

John Cathcart of Carleton appears as a witness to a charter by Alan, 4th Lord Catheart, on 14 May, 1594.3 He was an active supporter of Gilbert Kennedy of Bargany in the Bargany-Cassillis feud, and commanded Bargany's rearguard in the fight at Pennyglen near Maybole, when Bargany was mortally wounded. 4

Ayr Sasines, vii. f. 375. See Paterson, Ayr and Wigton, ii. pp. 162-4. Ayr Sasines, vii. f. 375. Glasgow Testaments, xxxv. 12 April, 1670.

Reg. House Charters, xiii. 2947. R.M.S., v. 2333. Reg. of Deeds, cxxxiii. ff. 337-9.

Secretary's Reg., Ayr. i. f. 105; ii. ff. 131, 356. Reg. of Deeds, cxliii. ff. 442-6; Ayr Sasines, ii. f. 180. The Book of Wallace, i. pp. 122-3. Glasgow Testaments, xxii. 30 November, 1630.

R.M.S., vi. 112. Historie of the Kennedyis, pp. 46-7. He was named as only executor of his father's testament on 1 October, 1612,5 and in 1624 was executor dative of his mother's, she being "ane aigit woman" who "duelt and had hir residence with hir sone."6 He was one of the commissioners representing Avrshire in the Convention of Estates in 1625.7 He died in April, 1633.8

He married Rebecca Lokhart, possibly one of the Lockharts of Bar in the parish of Galston. The marriage seems to have taken place between 16 and 31 January, 1577-8, when John Cathcart cannot have been more than 14 years old. By the marriage settlements his father granted him the 40s land of Hallowchappell, the 2 merkland of Barsalloch, and the £3 land of Mains of Carleton with "the Chapel-croft"; and Rebecca's mother Jonet Dalrymple (who had married, secondly, John Hume) resigned in her favour the £5 land of Camregan with its mill. He married secondly, in 1587, Janet Chalmer, Lady Wattereid. 9

He had issue-

- 1. John, who died vita patris in November, 1628, 10 having married Margaret Kennedy, who survived him and was still living in 1665.1 They had issue-
 - (i) HEW, who succeeded.
 - (ii) Mary, on whose behalf her "father brother" Mr. Hew Cathcart was executor dative to her father.
- 2. Mr. Hew, the executor dative above-mentioned, first appears on record on this occasion but is possibly the "Hugo Catheart" who graduated M.A. at Edinburgh in 1615. He was an overseer to the testament of his aunt Lady Faill in 1630. He was for several years guardian of his nephew Hew Cathcart of Carleton, who refrained from entering heir to his father so as not to incur responsibility for the latter's debts; 2 and was known as the Tutor of Carleton.3 As late as 11 May, 1643, the Tutor signed (as "M. H. Cathcart") a precept of clare constat dated at "Killuchan" which his nephew was granting "cum expresso consensu et assensu ejus curatorum subscribentium" to Robert Inglis, merchant, as heir

Glasgow Testaments, iv. ff. 19-20.

Ibid., xx. 28 October, 1624.

A.P.S., v. p. 166. Glasgow Testaments, xxiv. 6 November, 1633. R.M.S., iv. 2761, 2767: v. 1395. Glasgow Testaments, xxi. (3), 13 May, 1629.

Grasgow Testamento, XXI. (6), 13 may, 1029.

Laing Charters, 2595.

See Reg. of Deeds, ecceevi. ff. 253-4.

See R.M.S., ix. 458, 552, 1870; Ayr Sasines, vii. ff. 366, 461, &c.

to his father the deceased Mr. James Inglis, minister at Daily, in the 20s land of Killub.4

His actual signature to the National Covenant of 1638 has not been found; but in August, 1640, he, with the Earl of Cassillis, Sir John Hamilton of Bargany, Mr. John Boyd of Trochrig, and others, signed a bond (discharged on 23 December following) for £2,732 6s 8d for arms and ammunition supplied to them by an Edinburgh merchant, evidently for use in that cause. 5 It was probably he, though described as "Mr. Hew Cathcart of Cairletoun," rather than his nephew, who was appointed by the Estates in 1643 a member of the Committee of War for Ayrshire. 6 He was by then an elderly man, and probably died not long afterwards.

HEW CATHCART OF CARLETON was for some years, as already noted, under the tutelage of his uncle. On 25 February, 1662, he was retoured heir to his grandfather John Cathcart in the lands of Carleton. 7

He was, according to Wodrow, "wonderfully holy and heavenly in his family" and "extraordinary in solving cases of conscience." 8 There is a description of his holding family worship in the hall of Killochan, when "the family convened, and cushions were cast down; and then being called out of his closet, he went to worship, and prayed both earnestly and confidently, after which he retired to his chamber without ever taking notice who was in the hall, till meat was set upon the table; and then he came out and welcomed his guests very kindly." In the hall of Killochan, too, in his time, there was held a conventicle at which Mr. Thomas Kennedy preached, a former minister of Lasswade, "but at this time thrown out of his charge, by the rage of the prelates," and it was on this occasion that John Stevenson younger in Camregan, who afterwards fought at the battle of Bothwell Bridge, first "fell in love with the Word."10

Hew Cathcart died in February, 1677. He married, early in 1650, 2 Grizel Agnew, elder daughter of Sir Andrew Agnew, knight, younger of Lochnaw (afterwards 2nd baronet), by his

wife Lady Agnes Stewart, daughter of the 1st Earl of Galloway. They had issue-

- 1. John, of whom later.
- 2. HEW, created a baronet, of whom later.
- 3. Andrew, a merchant, taken prisoner by a French privateer in August, 1688, but exchanged the following year.3 He is presumably identical with the Andrew Cathcart, merchant in Glasgow, suspected by the Kirk Session of Dailly in 1693 of fornication committed at Killochan. 4
- 4. Anna, reported to the Privy Council in 1684 as one of those in the parish of Dailly who did not frequent the ordinances-"Anna Catheart, daughter to the Lady Carletoun."5

JOHN CATHCART OF CARLETON was retoured heir to his father on 29 August, 1677, in the 40s land of Hallowchappell, 2 merkland of Barsalloch, the Mains of Carleton, half the lands and barony of Carleton with the principal mansion of the same, and others; also in the 13 merkland of Killoquhen.6

Like his father, his sister, his grand-uncle, and his cousin Robert Cathcart of Barneill, John adhered to the cause of the Covenant. In the spring of 1678, after the withdrawal of the "Highland Host" from Carrick, the Committee of the Privy Council in the West ordered the garrison of Blairquhan, which according to Wodrow 7 consisted of 120 foot and 40 horse, to be transferred to Killochan. This order was carried out towards the end of March; but as John Cathcart had submitted on March 13th to take the oath against tolerating conventicles, the Privy Council sent directions from Edinburgh on March 26th that their Committee should transfer the garrison from Killochan to Bargany "if you think the same be a fitt place."8

He married (contract 28 November, 1679) Annabella Maxwell, second daughter of Sir George Maxwell of Pollok, whose tocher was 16,000 merks, ⁹ "but died the first night after the marriage without issue." ¹⁰ His body was brought home in February, 1680, the burgh accounts of Irvine making reference to 18 February as "that night that Carletoun's corps came to the toune." His brother Hew was retoured heir to him on 19 April, 1681.1 His widow married, secondly, in 1686, Sir Robert Pollok of Upper Pollok.

Ayr Sasines, vii. f. 605.
 Ailsa MSS. Misc., Box 2.
 A.P.S., VI., Part 1, p. 54.

Ayr Retours, 517.

Ayr Redurs, 511.
 Analecta, quoted in Paterson's History of Ayrshire, i. p 304.
 Quoted in Sir Andrew Agnew's The Hereditary Sheriffs of Galloway, p. 309.
 A Rare Soul-Strengthening and Comforting Cordial for Old and Young Christians,

^{1729,} p. 6. Glasgow Testaments, xl. pp. 259-262.

^{2.} Agnew, loc. cit.

Register of the Privy Council, 3rd series, xiv. p. 584.
 Kirk Session Minutes, 23 November, 1693.
 Privy Council Register, 3rd series, ix. p. 532.
 Ayr Retours, 610.
 History of the Sufferings of the Church of Scotland, i. p. 478.
 P.C.R., 3rd series, v. pp. 410-1, 415, 548, 562, 569-71, 576-7.
 Fraser's The Maxwells of Pollok, i. p. 77.
 Playfair's Baronetage, App. p. lxiv; Muniments of the Royal Burgh of Irvine, ii. p. 282, &c.

^{1.} Ayr Retours, 625.

SIR HEW CATHCART OF CARLETON, 1st baronet, was appointed a Commissioner of Excise and Supply for Ayrshire in 1684,2 and was among those appointed in December of that year to proceed against those in the county who were guilty of "ecclesiastick disorders," and on 27 March, 1675, to proceed against "desperate rebells sculking up and down in some southern and western shires." 4 But at the Revolution he raised troops for the Protestant cause and garrisoned Ardmillan. 5

He was a Member of Parliament for Ayrshire, 1703-7, and was created a baronet of Nova Scotia on 8 April, 1703,6 with remainder to his heirs male whomsoever.7 He died in March, 1723, "or thereby," and his will was confirmed at Glasgow on 8 September, 1746.8

Sir Hew married in 1695 Anne Broun, daughter of Sir Patrick Broun of Colstoun, 1st baronet, and had issue.

In the Kirk Session minutes of Dailly there are various allusions to Sir Hew Cathcart. Some two years before his marriage a Dailly girl, Margaret Girvan, was "rebuiked for the sin of fornication with Carleton" and had a child alleged to have been his. 9 On 15 January, 1695, "the Laird of Carletoun" was one of four chosen to be elders, and was regular in his attendance at the Session's meetings up to 1711. On 2 January, 1698, he was appointed with the minister "to speak to Trochreg about the poor's money," and on 3 May, 1702, he was unanimously chosen to represent the Session in the Presbytery of Ayr.

P.C.R., 3rd series, ix. pp. 54,60.
 Ibid., x. p. 87.
 Ibid., pp. 204-5.
 Ibid., xiii. p. lx.
 Not 20 January, 1704, as stated in the Complete Baronetage.
 R.M.S., lib. lxxx. No. 110.
 Not December as stated in the Complete Baronetage.
 Glasgow Testaments, lvi. p. 388,
 Minutes of 26 November and 10 December, 1693.