THE GENEALOGY
OF THE
IRVING FAMILY
COMPILED FOR THE INFORMATION OF
THE DESCENDANTS OF WILLIAM IRVING
THE FIRST SETTLER OF THAT SURNAME
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BY
Pierre M. Irving, his Grandson.
1858.

James Robertson - Sheriff Substitute at Kirkwall, Orkneys

George Petrie, Clerk of Supply

July 13. 1857 - paid Riley & Halstead bill of expenses in 2 cases from Newport to London - Charges from London to the Orkneys not yet received -

£12

knowledge. I remember our once asking him to

thing I do or produce should be

knowledge. I remember our once [illegible] for the communication of | thing I do or produce should [illegible]

P. P. Bury

The arms / in days when to assume arms without right, was a civil offence / demonstrate John of Bruyn to have been a descendant of the Bruce to whom the arms were originally granted by Robert Bruce – See the MS history. The seals of the Bruces are still to be seen attached to records in the abbeys

arms of John of Bruyn
a sgt ten mots
Three Holly leaves in chief

Ancestry of Washington Irving.

John of Irwyn had landed possessions in the parish of Holm, in Orkney, in 1438, when the county was still an appanage of the crown of Denmark and Norway. The Irvines of Sebay are very frequently mentioned in the times of Robert and Patrick Stewart, Earls of Orkney, and suffered very severely from the outrages of these rapacious nobles. They became extinct in the direct male line, *tempore* Charles I.; but one collateral branch had immediately before settled in the island of Sanday, and another, the Irvines of Gairstay, in the island of Shapinshay. They lost the estate of Gairstay several generations back, and sank down into the condition of mere peasants, tenants of Quhome, where some of them reside at this day. I was there lately with Mr. Balfour, the proprietor of Shapinshay, who pointed out the old and modest house at Quhome where was born William Irvine, father of Washington Irving. Is it not somewhat singular that Sir Robert Strange and the author of *Bracebridge Hall* can be almost demonstrated of the same blood? I *guess*, if Irving knew his pedigree could be traced step by step up to John Erwyn of 1438, he would readily claim and vindicate his Orcadian descent. — *Dennistoun's Memoirs of Sir Robert Strange.*

From a Review of Lord Lindsay's Family History. 1856.

FAMILY HISTORY.—'Every family should have a record of its own. Each has its peculiar spirit, running through the whole line, and, in more or less development, perceptible in every generation. Rightly viewed, as a most powerful but much-neglected instrument of education, I can imagine no study more rife with pleasure and instruction. Nor need our ancestors have been Scipios or Fabii to interest us in their fortunes. We do not love our kindred for their glory or their genius, but for those domestic affections and private virtues that, unobserved by the world, expand in confidence towards ourselves, and often root themselves, like the Banian of the East, and flourish with independent vigour in the heart to which a kind Providence has guided them. An affectionate regard for their memory is natural to the heart; it is an emotion totally distinct from pride,—an ideal love, free from that consciousness of requited affection and reciprocal esteem, which constitutes so much of the satisfaction we derive from the love of the living. They are denied, it is true, to our personal acquaintance, but the light they shed during their lives survives within their tombs, and will reward our search if we explore them. Be *their* light, then, *our* beacon, —not the glaring light of heroism which emblazons their names in the page of history with a lustre as cold, though as dazzling, as the gold of an heraldic illuminator; but the pure and sacred flame that descends from heaven on the altar of a Christian heart, and that warmed *their* naturally frozen affections till they produced the fruits of piety, purity, and love—evinced in holy thoughts and good actions, of which many a record might be found in the annals of the past, would we but search for them, and in which we may find as strong incentives to virtuous emulation as we gather every day from those bright examples of living worth, which it is the study of every good man to imitate. And if the virtues of strangers be so attractive to us, how infinitely more so should be those of our own kindred, and with what additional energy should the precepts of our parents influence us, when we trace the transmission of those precepts from father to son through successive generations, each bearing the testimony of a virtuous, useful, and honorable life to their truth and influence, and all uniting in a kind and earnest exhortation to their descendants, so to live on earth that—followers of Him through whose grace alone we have power to obey Him—we may at last be re-united with those who have been before and those who shall come after us—

"No wanderer lost,
A family in heaven."' [*Quar. Rev.*

The Genealogy
of
The Irving Family.

Compiled for the information of the descendants of William Irving the first settler of that surname in the city of New York

By

Pierre M. Irving, his Grandson

~~February 1857~~

1858.

Written first in 1857. ~~Then~~ Corrected, afterwards in 1859 enlarged, after receipt of further communications from the Admiralty & of the letters of Lt Cd Fuller. The original or first draft was copied by Mr Eric Vankant & myself. I now copy the ~~letter~~ history as follows:

C. P. Ivory

Extract

From a letter of James Robertson Esq, Sheriff Substitute, at Kirkwall. Orkney, dated 6 May 1857, addressed to Washington Irving.

"It is proved beyond a doubt that your family are the male representatives or senior branch of the Irvines of Orkney: And there is a moral certainty that you are descended from William Irvine of Drum the Companion in arms of Robert Bruce. Very few families, in the present day can boast of so proud a pedigree."

The Arms of Byrne of Drum

Argent: three bunches of holly leaves: three in each: two & one. Crest: a sheaf of arrows. Supporters: two savages wreathed about the head & loins with holly, with batons: Motto: Sub sole, sub umbra virens.

The badge consists of three holly leaves, banded gules on a shield argent.

Armies of Drum. The same: except that the crest is a gauntlet arm, hand grasping three holly leaves.]

1

Introductory.

The names of our more remote progenitors, – names to all appearance lost sight of forever, – having lately been traced out through a succession of centuries, and revealed a lineage from Sir William Irvine or de Irvyne, the gallant companion in arms of Robert Bruce, – it seems a desideratum that some member of the family should record the history of this curious recovery, and arrange & elucidate the memorials of a descent equally ancient & honourable. For such, therefore, as desire to be certified

"through whom
Their life-blood tastes its parent lake",

and to secure & preserve the vestiges

of an ancestry thus rescued from long oblivion, I undertake this task.

The first stimulus to any inquiry into our pedigree, was communicated quite unintentionally by Mr John Murray, the London publisher, who, a few years ago, became involved in a copy-right dispute with Bohn, a fellow-bookseller, relative to the works of Washington Irving; and in the course of the controversy, he had occasion, as he supposed, to show by record proof that the father of the author was born in the British Dominions. Accordingly he made application to Shaftesbury for documentary evidence of his place of birth: and in this way, the fact of the author's Arcadian descent, got wind in that remote locality, and awakened the zeal of two intelligent antiquarians, to trace the family as far back as possible.*

Note.

to. "When it became known," says Mr. Geo. Petrie, in some Notices of the Family Ancestry, published in the Orcadian of May 18. ~~1850~~ 25. 1857. "that Washington Irving's father was a native of Orkney, a search was made, to trace the family as far back as possible, but the length of time that had elapsed since William Irving left Orkney, and the loss of some of the Parish Registers of Shapinshay, threw obstacles in the way of the inquiry. These were however, eventually overcome through information obtained from the charters & other documents in the possession of David Balfour Esq of Balfour, & of myself. Those in Mr Balfour's possession went back to the beginning of the Seventeenth Century, when the Irving's appear to have first acquired property in Shapinshay. The documents in my possession related to the elder branches

of the family on the Mainland of Orkney & embraced a period from 1422 to the beginning of the last Century"

The first hint of these inquiries appeared in Dennistoun's "Memoirs of Sir Robert Strange" published in London in 1855. In a notice in that work of the pedigree of Sir Robert, a grandson of Isabel Stone of the Orkneys; the writer remarks upon the singular fact that the distinguished engraver & the Author of Bracelidge Hall could be almost demonstrated of the same blood: And then adds: "I guess, that if Sing knew his pedigree could be traced, step by step, to John of Smoyn of 1438 he would readily claim & vindicate his Acadian descent."

This passage I first saw in a newspaper in 1855, & was led, in consequence to procure from London the work from which it was extracted. When I found it to be part of a contribution from Mr James Robertson, Sheriff substitute at Kirkwall, the metropolis of the Orkneys,

and but a few miles distant from the
birth place & early home of my grand
father. As soon as I became aware
of this fact, I addressed a letter of
enquiry to this gentleman, to which
he replied with cheerful alacrity,
tracing the lineage down step by step
from John Moryn of 1438, though with
a caution as to one or two of the names
in the list, not sufficiently vouched &
promising a more detailed account, when
he had had time to examine the County
records, & to consult with Mr Geo. Petrie,
the clerk of Suffolk, who had charge of
them, and with Mr Balfour of Balfour
& Menahie, the present proprietor of Sha-
pinsay.

The letter of Mr Robertson in reply to my
enquiry was received in March 1856. In it,
he not only traced the pedigree to 1438,
but expressed his confident belief

that John of Spurya was a Cadet of the House of Drum, from the evidence of the hereditary Coat of Arms, the three holly leaves, appended to a deed of his descendant, then before him, dated 2d September 1585.

~~This letter of Mr Robertson I received in March, 1856~~ While I was expecting the promised detailed account of our ancestry, the Reverend Pierre P. Irving embarked for Europe, and in the course of a brief tour of travel, made an excursion to the Orkneys, and became the guest of my unseen correspondent, to whom I had ventured to introduce him; Mr Robertson insisting upon taking him under his roof. Here he found Mr Robertson still busy upon the examination of the family records; absence from home & official ~~records~~ engagements, having delayed up to this time, the preparation of his further & more detailed account of our pedigree.

In a letter to me, dated August 30. 1856, and written only a few days after ~~the departure of~~ the Rev. Pierre P. Irving had left his roof, — he says:

"Upon making application to my friend Mr. Balfour, the proprietor of

Stapinshay, he in the handsomest manner at once sent me for inspection, a chest containing all the Title Deeds of the Island since it was first feued out to the Irvines and other families, by the Bishops of Orkney in the end of the 16th and beginning of the 17th Centuries. Mr Pelrie, the Clerk of Supply, placed all the County records bearing upon the descent of the Irvines of Orkney at my disposal, and gave his very valuable assistance in examining and deciphering them. I obtained from the Registrar of Stapinshay the ipsa corpora of all the old Parish Registers still in his possession, and on representing the object I had in view to the Registrar General, he ordered extracts to be sent to me from the Parish Registers in Edinburgh free of expense. All these sources of information were collected and lying beside me, when your Cousin the Rev Mr Irving unexpectedly arrived here, & presented your letter of introduction:

Mr Petrie & he & I went carefully over them, & thereafter Mr Petrie made out a revised genealogical table of the descendants of "John of Enoyn", certified by him & by me, as being formed from authentic & original documents."

This letter proceeds to state that this revised genealogical table which was presented by him & Mr Petrie to the Rev Pierre P. Irving in August 1856 was the result of their researches up to that ~~time~~ date, but that they were not quite satisfied in regard to one or two links of the pedigree of the Shapinsha branch; and would therefore make further examination. The result of these later researches was the discovery by Mr Petrie of some documents which had before escaped his notice, clearing up the question to be solved as to which member of the Irvings of Sabay, the Shapinsha

Irvings were sprung from: and shewing conclusively that William of Dairstay descended from a son of Magnus the Lawman, and not a brother, as had been assumed in the previous table. In accordance with this discovery Mr Petrie prepared a carefully corrected table, ~~to which Mr Astor gave his cordial approve. Mr Petrie then authenticated it by adding his certificate~~ bearing date December 30. 1856, and sent it, with a note, to Mr Washington Irving, in token, as he expressed it, of the great pleasure he had taken in connecting him so closely with Orkney.

A further evidence of descent, which is in the possession of the Reverend Pierre P. Irving, is a huge parchment document dated in 1589, to which is appended a seal of Gilbert Irving of Tankernest, a younger brother of Magnus, the ancestor of the Irvings of Shapinsha, which bears

the hereditary arms of Drum: and shows that he & Magnus were cadets of that family. This instrument Sir Balfour, the proprietor of Kapinsha, took from his charter chest, and presented to his visitor,* as attesting beyond doubt the Drum lineage of the family: for in those days, in which few cared write, it was the seal more than the signature, that gave validity to documents, and to have used the hereditary arms without warrant of descent, would have been a species of forgery. This seal has the name of "Gilbert Irving" stamped upon the border, and in the centre is the escutcheon with the distinctive arms of the three Holly leaves.*

On ~~taking~~ leave of Sir James Robertson, that gentleman gave to Mr Irving a letter to a namesake and antiquarian friend in Edinburgh. At

* The Revd P. Irving, at Balfour Castle Aug 19. 1856.
~~2 letts. in next pag.~~

~~Note. It~~ It is nothing of moment that these arms are three single holly leaves, not three bunches with three in each, thus giving force to the supposition of Colo. Forbes that the original arms consisted of three single holly leaves, & that these were probably the arms brought to the Orkneys by the first Irvine soon after the death of William de Bruys.

On taking leave of Mr Dal Robertson that gentleman gave to Mr Irving a letter to a name sake Antiquarian friend in Edinburgh. W

Joseph Robertson of the General Register House, who he hoped, would enable him to trace the descent of John of Inverye of 1438 from the family of Drum.

In this hope he has not disappointed. Through the kind researches of this gentleman, two additional names have been recovered, thus supplying the links that were wanting to make the chain complete from the gallant companion in arms of the renowned King Robert; "the Bruce of Bannockburn".

These additional names have been incorporated by Mr Petrie in the pedigree forwarded by him to Mr Washington Irving, making this table the most complete as well as the most authentic.

~~I have begun with these particulars to shew how the inquiry into our descent came to be started: under what circumstances it was prosecuted: and~~

Another circumstance which may properly be mentioned here is the visit of Mr Irving Lauffart to Drum, in July 1857, which proved the means of opening a direct communication with the Irvines of Drum, and leading to some additional genealogical particulars of which I have availed myself.

Mr Lauffart subsequently presented them with a copy of Leslie's likeness of the Author, taken for him by the artist's son, under the father's inspection: in return for a colored sketch of Drum made by Mrs Alex Forbes Irvine wife of the prospective successor of the estate, and sent to Mr Washington Irving & now suspended from the halls of Sunnyside. [The sketch was sent Sept 8 & the likeness was received Oct 9.]

"It is a curious event" says her father Colonel Forbes, in a letter to me dated April 13. 1858, "to see the portrait of

the descendant & the person from whom appearing in the dwelling of their ancestor, after a period of nearly five centuries & a half had elapsed, & coming from a continent that was unknown for one hundred & fifty years after the sketch of that ancestor.

Colonel Forbes is the author of "Eleven Years in Ceylon", and has compiled from "deeds preserved at Drum, as well as those of other families & chartularies of religious houses" "the most accurate & best attainable genealogy of the Drumes of Drum, and the families of the name of Drume, descended from them."

He is at variance in some particulars with the printed genealogies, which he has had reason to correct, and when they differ, his authority is to be preferred as I have had occasion to verify. I have received from him

several extracts from the memoranda he had collected & arranged, and a list of the successors of Drum, all of which I shall introduce in the course of my narrative.

I have begun with these particulars to shew how the inquiry into an de-scent came to be started: under what circumstances it was pro-secuted, and

to explain and elucidate the authentic origin of the ancestral names, the opportunity & ability of tracing which, with great accuracy, were afforded Messrs Petrie & Robertson, from a peculiarity in the ancient "Udal" laws of Orkney which required that lands should descend to "the nearest of kin" male & female, all the children drawing share, and therefore leading to the practice of stating in Title deed the relationship of the parties mentioned in them.

The historical and illustrative notices which I have grouped with the genealogical sketch are the result of my own personal research; and the authorities will be indicated wherever it may seem important. They are merely thrown in to the Reader the degree of a genealogical table, & assist an intelligent appreciation of our family antecedents.

~~III~~ II.

Of the name of Irving: its antiquity: derivation, & orthography.

The name of Irving is very ancient & gracious orthography. According to Dr. Christopher Irvine, of Bonshaw, Historiographer (in 1660) to Charles II. it was originally written Erinveine, from which it was contracted to Erynein, Erivine, & finally Irvine. "Some of the foolish," he says, "write themselves Irving" g as a final letter, being considered by him, as, somehow or other, a Pictish innovation. In its primitive spelling of Erinveine, according to this authority, it was compounded of the Celto-Scythic words, Erin, west, and veine or feine, resolute: it signified a "brave west-land-man," and was the descriptive appellation of a clan, which about the hundred & fifty years before the commencement of the Christian era, migrated from the west coast of Spain, with some of the Gallic tribes, that helped to colonize

Great Britain & Ireland. He further states that the Erinveinos had large possessions in different parts of Scotland: that they gave their name to the river Irvine in Ayr-shire, & also to the town of that name, the seat of their chief habitation.

Col. Forbes on the contrary, supposes they borrowed their designation from the town in which they dwelt. "Probably", says he, in relation to the origin of the name, "the name "de Irvine" is derived from the parish" of their name in Annandale: "as we know to be the case in many Scottish names: for instance Fakes, originally de Fakes, from the parish of Fakes: de Leslie, from the parish of Leslie &c. But there are instances, in which the parish acquired its name from a family. Chalmers in his Caledonia, says, "Ir vin" in the language of the Britons, signifies, "the yellow banks of a river". This is so far corroborated by the fact, that besides the parish of Irvin, from which the Irvines of Drum came, there is another parish in Scotland of the same name, situated on the

river Irvine. There is at least one other stream in Scotland," (the Irvine burn which runs into the Esk) "and two in England of the same name." (the river Irwen in Cheshire is one) And the parish of Irvin with which the family of Drum was connected, is situated on the banks of a river, viz. the Kirtle."

"I have found the name spelt," adds Col. Forbes, "de Hirewine, de Irewyn, de Yrewyn, de Irwin, de Irvin, de Irwyn, de Irvin. Erzwein. Irwyne. Erivene. Irwein. Irwing. Irwinge. Irwig. Ir-wing. Irwynge. Irvine. &c."

The name of the Irvines of Drum was generally written 'de Irvine', until about the middle of the fifteenth century: After that, the name is seldom found with the 'de' prefixed.

Col. Forbes says he has seen the name written two different ways in the same deed. I have also: And I have seen it spelt with either an E. Erwin, Erwyne, Erving: E. as an initial letter, and Y. as a final as,

bly traceable through five centuries.
The more usual way of spelling it at present, is Irvine, Irving, Irwin.
Irvine is the spelling adopted at Drum.

IV. III

Of Crinus Irvine

And of the pretentions put forth for him: And of some traces of the Original Stock.

It is stated by Dr. Christopher Irvine, who seems to have groped farthest for the origin of the family, that, Crinus Irvine, Abthane of Dull, and Senescal & Collector of the King's rents in the Western Isles, — the first member of the Eriniveine clan who is individualized, — in 1000 married Beatrice, the eldest daughter & heiress of Malcolm II. & became the father of Duncan: the 'gracious Duncan', rendered immortal in Shakespeare's tragedy of Macbeth. "When he began" he quaintly observes, "King Duncan the first, father to Malcolm Kenmore, third of that name so all the kings of Scotland from Duncan the first to John Baliol were Eryveins, except Macbeth the usurper." Playfair. B.P.A. Vol VII. p. 889.

According to this statement, the Male issue of Crinie Thorne & Beatrice, daughter to Malcolm II. possessed the throne of Scotland for 257 years, and succeeding King named reign in right of the females of that family: Baliol & Bruce both claiming through daughters of David, Earl of Huntington, brother of William the Lion, who died in 1214:- Bruce, as son of the second daughter, Baliol, as grandson of the eldest daughter.

The assertion of this genealogist in this particular, though it has a color of truth, is not however fully sustained. There is historic mention of the husband of Beatrice, but the individual is designated by a single name, as Crinus, Crinan, Crynin, Erynin, and never, that I can discover, by any such conjunction of name as Crinus Erinine. And I need here remark that, before the Norman conquest in 1066, the name given in baptism, as Edgar, Edmund, &c has sufficient for such individual:

that is, the Christian name. The name which one has in addition to that, — the surname, — was adopted after the Conquest, & then first descended hereditarily, as a family appellation, transmissible to descendants. If we apply this remark to the double name of Crinus Ericine, we shall be apt to suspect there must be some confusion about it: And that Crinus has either been prefixed to Ericine, or Ericine appended to Crinus: And that one or the other, a name nearly resembling one or the other is the single named husband of Beatrice.

Let us see then, how the name occurs in history, as far as we can trace it.

The earliest general history of Scotland, which has reached our time is the Scotichronicon of Fordun, who flourished about the year 1380. Fordun styles the son in law of Malcolm II, Crynin Abthanus de Dul ac insularum Senescallus, and adds, de quo in quibusdam annalibus,

bitio Scriptoris, reperitur Crynyn, Abbas de Dul. Lib: IV. Cap 43. The title of Abthane is said to be the same as Lord High Steward. He calls the lady, Beatrice.

Andrew Winton, who composed his metrical chronicle about the year 1420, calls the lady Beatrok, and the Abthane Cryny or Cryni. Fordun's & Winton's works, remained in manuscript for centuries after they were written.

John Major wrote his history, "De gestis Scotorum", in 1518, & it was printed at Paris in 1521. being the first printed history of Scotland. His narrative closes with the marriage of James IV in 1495. John Major, in his history, Lib III. fol XLI. edit MDXXI, says, King Malcolm II's only daughter was married to Erymin, abthane of Dull. "He sayeth", says Robert p. 66. that Malcolm "filiam unigenitam habuit quam nuptui tradidit Erymine Abthane de Dull, id est, Senescallo Regis in insulis ad colligendos Regis proventus".

. Here is a slight discrepancy: the first calling the husband of Beatrice, Crynin; the last, Erynin, but "Erynin & Crynin in old writings," says Colonel Forbes, a competent judge, "would appear nearly the same."

Crynin may have been an inaccuracy for Erynin, which John Major corrected, though the error, if error it be, was repeated in some form, by the historians who came after him.

John Major was followed by Hector Boethius born at Dundee, about the year 1465. He says, = I quote the translation, = vol II. p. 252 - "Malcolm had two doughters, of quhilkis the eldest, namit Beatrice, was gevin in marriage to Abbanath Crinin, quilk was Thane of the Ilis & west partes of Scotland: On her was gotten Duncane, quhilk succeedit immediatlie aftir him to the Crown."

Buchanan, in his history of Scotland, written in Latin & published in 1582: vol I. p. 325, says, "Malcolm, had two daughters.

. surnamed Beatrix, whom he gave in
. marriage to Crinus, a Mollenan, Thane of
the Western Isles, & Chief of the Thanes, who
was, in that age, called "Abthane".

Take the "Crinus" of Buchanan, and after
it, place the 'Erynin' of Banner Magn, & you have
Crinus Erynin, a conjunction of name very probably
assumed by Dr. Christopher Irvine to reconcile
the historic discrepancy in the description
of the same personage: for, Crinus, Crinan,
Brinan, Crynin, & Erynin, it is evident from
the preceding quotations, are only different way
of spelling or writing one & the same Style name.

The question remains whether Crynin or
Erynin be the true reading, and, in the confusion,
I do not entangle myself: as I presume
no recourse could now be had to any authen-
-tic record on the subject.

A modern writer, Chalmers, in his Cal-
-edonia, asserts that Beatrice, undoubtedly
married Brinan, Abbot of Dunkeld. There
is no inherent improbability in this, as
the Abbots of Dunkeld were persons of great

influence in Scotland, Auditors notwithstanding the Council of Rheims in 1148, that Monks were forbidden to marry. And he may have supposed, with Pinkerton, that the title of Abthane was no where else met with in Scottish history. Who ever heard of an Abthane? exclaims Pinkerton, in his Enquiry Vol II. p. 193. But, says Dr. Macpherson, that there was such an office, & that it remained for ages after this time is unquestionable. And he quotes authority in point. If Chalmers is mistaken, as I think he must be, in styling the husband of Beatrice, Abbot of Dunkeld, instead of Abthane of Dull, his authority would also be conclusive as to the name. Crinan.

Burke, in his British Commoners, under the head of Irwin of Tarragore, also helps to mystify the matter a little by making Beatrice a widow, and already the mother of Duncan, when Crynin or Crynin took her to wife. "The peculiar name

of Crinan, borne by members of the family." Sayhe, "is traditionally derived from Crynin Abethnae, the second husband of the Mother of Duncan." Abethnae is evidently a corruption of Abthane, as Abbenath has before. I can find no support for his incidental assertion that Crynin (or Erynin) was the second husband of Beatrice. On the contrary, he seems to be at variance with the current authority on this point.

The husband of Beatrice, whether Crynin, or Erynin, or Abthane, or Abbot, was a person of great influence in Scotland: & is stated in the Ulster Annals, to have fallen in battle in 1045, in an attempt to restore the grandson of Beatrice to the throne. He dwelt in Perth on the Tay. According to Dr Christopher Irvine, writing in 1680, his brother went from Perthshire in which Dull is situated, to the Orkneys adjoining Britain, and took up their first

habitation on the banks of the river Esk between the Black & White Esk, and there built their mansion house, which was in ruins when he wrote, though then bearing the name of Castle Irvine. From this section he says, the eldest of the family got by marriage the lands of Bonshaw in Dumfries, and other lands in that vicinity: and the Irvines became the chief proprietors of this district.

"Some genealogists, says Colonel Fitch, add to John Major's statement of the marriage of Beatrice to Erwin, a barony of Dull, that the Irvines left Perthshire in which Dull is situated, & migrated to the borders of Scotland." And in his view "it is probable that the ancestors of the Irvines accompanied the ancestor of King Robert Bruce, who in A.D. 1124, got the grant of the Lordship of Annandale with the "jus regalia" within the bounds of this Lordship.

Before I come to the account from

dish ancestry, I must glance at an other tradition which refers the name to a Roman Origin. "The family, now so widely scattered," says a late correspondent of an English paper, the Gateshead Observer, "has been located from time immemorial in the vicinity of the Roman wall in Liddesdale & Cumberland, and its founder, is said to have been Paulus Irvineus, the Captain of a Roman legion stationed there." [On referring to a County history of Cumberland I find mention of a "Thomas Irving", as residing in the parish of Kirkbinton in that vicinity, and I infer that the late Sir Paulus Aemilius Irving of Woodhouse & Robgill tower, may have derived his praenomen of Paulus from this curious tradition.]

Thus much for the obscure and dubious traces of the original stock, all of which have a very uncertain value.

IV.

of Sir William de Irwyn, Secretary & Armour Bearer to King Robert Bruce, & progenitor of the Irvines of Drum, & the Irvines of Orkney.

The oldest branch of the Irvings, which we have any reliable record, is the Irvings of Bonshaw, in the County of Dumfries & parish of Annan, on the frontiers of Scotland. In this scene of ancient border foray, according to most genealogists, they had been settled as early as the year 1124, and here some of them are settled still, two of the principal land owners of the parish being an Irving of Bonshaw, and an Irving of Newbie. The Irvings of Bonshaw had also landed possessions in the adjoining parish of Kirkpatrick-Fleming, separated from Annan by the Kirtle, a beautiful & richly wooded stream, which empties into the Solway, & is celebrated in ballad & story, as the

Scene of the pathetic fate of "the fair Helen of Kirkconnell". This stream divides the two parishes for a few miles of its course, & then intersects the former: comprehending in its present limits the old parishes of Kirkpatrick, Kirkconnell, & Irving.

"The Origin of Flemming & Irving" says an historian of the United parishes "is evident; these being the names of two very ancient & respectable families, who in former times enjoyed large & considerable possessions in this part of the Country."

"The earliest period" says Col Forbes, "of what may be termed authentic in the genealogy of the Irvings is the end of the 13 Century, at which time they held lands comprising a parish of their own name in Annandale. That parish now forms part of the parish called Kirkpatrick Fleming. All the lands in Annandale were held from the Princes, who were lords of Annandale long before they acquired the Earldom of Carrick".

In the beginning of the fourteenth century the Irvings occupied the tower of Woodhouse, which, yet resembled the other towers built near the frontiers, which were chiefly used as places of security against the formidable inroads of the English, was square form. & three stories high. This tower was still standing in 1842, though it had then been long uninhabited, was unroofed, and in a ruinous condition[x]. It was

[Robgill Tower, the seat of the late Sir Pauline Emilius Irving, of Woodhouse & Robgill Tower, was situated about half a mile from Burnhaw, on the right bank of the Kitle, on the northern confines of the parish of Dornock, and in the midst of beautiful & picturesque scenery[x].]

x New Stat: acct. vol IV. p. 280. (x) Stat. acc. Vol XIII. p. 293

It was to this, that, in the beginning of 1306, Robert Bruce came, when flying from Edward I. with the determination to assert his right to the throne of Scotland, & strike for his country's freedom.

According to Barbour's Poem of "the Bruce", written near the time, his flight had been precipitated by the treachery of Comyn, who had betrayed his designs to the English monarch: on the discovery of which, Bruce called his marshal "till him straight", & bade him see that he gave to

"his men good cher:

"For he wold in his chambre be,
A weile get quhile in privauté,
Mith him a clerk fra ovtyn ma."[1]
The marshall till the hall gan ga,
And dis hys Lordys commandyng—
The Lad the Bruce, but mar letting[2]
Gert prively bryng stedys tra.
He & the clerk, fra ovtyn ma,

[1] fra ovtyn ma - without more
[2] but mar letting. without more hindrance

"Lap on, for ontyn persauyng.[3]
And day & nyght, but[4] soiournyng,
Thai raid: quhill, on the fifteen day,
Cummyn till Lanchmaben on thai

(3) for ontyn persauyng: without keping.
(4) but. without

The Castle of Lochmaben was Bruce's strong hold, the Bruces naturally make for it; but to have reached it in five days from London, a distance of 400 miles, would seem a rate of speed quite incredible. The tower of Woodhouse, then in possession of an ancestor of the Bruce's branch, the acknowledged chief of the name, father of William de Bruce, was the first house in Scotland to which he repaired. It was but a short distance within the Scottish borders, and in the Bruce's lordship of Annandale, on the way to Lochmaben. It was here, according to some accounts, that Bruce was secreted for a considerable time, there, according to a

tradition, related by Sir Walter Scott to Mr Washington Irving, the aged occupant, his loyal vassal, killed his favourite dun cow to entertain his Lord, & spread the hide for his couch. The son of this Irving, was the secretary of Bruce, and probably before his attempt to gain the throne of Scotland. "I think it very probable," says Lord Tweed, in a letter to me in Nov. 1857, "that William de Irvin was "the Clerk" mentioned in Barbour's poem of "The Bruce" (Jamieson's Edition) as the sole companion of Bruce when he fled from the Court of Edward, and on the fifth day reached Scotland: tradition says, the tower of Woodhouse, belonging to the father of William de Irvin." It adds force to this supposition, that Fordun, writing in 1380 calls the companion of Bruce's flight, "the Secretary", and "as William de Irvin", says Lord Tweed "was afterwards Master of the Rolls he must have been qualified to act as Secretary by accomplishments rarely

took refuge amongst the inhabitants of the Borders."

At all events he certainly accompanied Bruce from his first attempt to free his country, ~~was slain~~ (when Comyn was slain) and was with him when he was surprised & totally routed at Methven, near Perth, in June 1306, "And after which his most important ~~attendants~~ adherents, with few exceptions, were either executed or compelled to embrace the English interest for safety of their lives & fortunes." After "Methven's flight," Bruce, being hard pressed by the English, endeavoured with the dispirited remnant of his followers, to escape from Albany & the Mountains of Perthshire into the Argyleshire Highland. ~~After~~ He ~~had~~ wandered some weeks among them, he was again attacked & routed, on the confines of Athole & Argyle, by the Lord of Lorn, who had taken up arms against him, in revenge of the death of his relative,

John the Red Comyn, whom Bruce slew in the Dominican Church at Dumfries. After this defeat, Bruce was reduced to a solitary & forlorn Condition, and endured the most distressing wants & hardships. At one time, he was actually hunted by bloodhounds: at another he lay hid with a few of his followers in a copse of holly, while his pursuers passed by. At length the weather compelled him & his few attendants to seek better sustenance & shelter, than the Highland mountains afforded, & they found means to pass through, with great difficulty, over the Frith of Clyde, to Cantire. But still diffident of his safety there, treason being so general, he embarked for the small & neglected island of Rambrin or Rathlin situated between the peninsula of Cantire & Ireland, amid the waves of the Atlantic. At the approach of spring, he returned to Scotland, resolved to reconquer his

kingdom, or perish in the attempt.

Among his staunch adherents in this extremity of his fortunes was his faithful secretary, William de Irvine, who shared his dangers & hardships, and clung to him in all his wanderings. "He was one of the few," writes Lord Tarbes, "who never left the King in all the hardships, privations, and hair-breadth escapes which he encountered in 1306, 1307 & 1308: and was one of the seven who, with the King, escaped the pursuit of their enemies, by secreting themselves in a copse of Holly. The King, in remembrance of his fortunate escape, assumed the Holly as a device, & afterwards gave it to his armour-bearer, William de Irvine, with the motto, 'Sub tele, sub umbra, virens:' — the motto & the leaves of the Evergreen and unchanging Holly, both having relation to the resolution & fidelity in adversity & prosperity of William de Irvyn to his Royal Patron. "Several of the old Heraldic writes" adds Lord Tarbes, "mention

that the holly sprig Motto had been used as a private badge by King Robert Bruce, but it has neither the Arms of Bruce as Lord of Annandale, nor as Earl of Carrick. Tradition however, supports the statement that it was a private cognizance used by Bruce". *

In 1309 Bruce granted a Charter to Wm. de Irvine of ten pounds from the Customs of Dundee. "Amongst Bruce's earliest grants" says Col. Fraser, "viz. in 1309, there appears from an 'Index to lost charters' in the Register Office, this entry,

"Carta Gulielmi Irwing his infeftment of X pund sterling, money furth of the Customs of Dundee." The value of this grant will be apparent, when we consider that at the time it was made, all the principal fortresses in Scotland still remained in possession of the King's enemies. Berwick, Dumfries, Roxburgh, Linlithgow, Perth, Stirling, Edinburgh, were still in the hands of the

* Sir Geo. Mackenzie in his Heraldry, testifies to their arms having been given by Robert Bruce, to Irvine, (afterwards designed of Drum) "an ancient & principal family of Scotland."

English other partizans." "As Bruce" says Sir Tobes, "only commenced his career while against the English in 1306, and in 1309 was still struggling against the power of England, he made this early grant, "the fact may be considered as sufficient proof of Wm. de Irvin having been his companion in the many dangers & adversities which befel Bruce between 1306 & 1309." It certainly corroborates most strongly that has been the invariable tradition both in the North of Scotland and the Borders, that William accompanied Bruce from the first, through all his dangers and difficulties, was his secretary & armour bearer.

In 1323, nine years after the Battle of Bannockburn the King granted to Wm. de Irwyn, in free forestry, a royal seat, a hunting seat of the Kings of Scotland, situated on the Northern bank of the river Dee, and about ten miles above where that river joins the sea at Aber-deen. The Charter, still extant, is dated 1st February in the 17th year of the King's reign, A.D. 1323. In this charter, the name of the place is written Drum, the name of the person, Irwin. Next year, by a charter dated 4 Oct. 1324, which is also extant, the former grant was confirmed, & Drum was erected into a Free Barony for William de Irwyn & his Heirs. In this charter, the names are written Drum & Irwyn.

I insert a copy of this charter of King Robert to his "beloved & faithful William de Irwyn, sent me by Mr Innes, which he observes "is not only interesting to the descendants of Wm. de Irwyn, but is a fine specimen of the deeds, short & comprehensive, of olden time."

"Rex Robertus I concedit prestam de Drom extra parcum in libera baronia Willelmo de Muryn. 1324

Robertus dei gracia Rex Scotorum omnibus probis hominibus totius terre sue salutem sciatis nos dilecto ... et ... confirmasse Willelmo de Muryn dilecto et fideli nostro illam prestam nostram de Drom extra parcum nostrum exceptis terris per nos datis Alexandro dicto Bernard de eadem presta tenendam ... dicto Willelmo et heredibus suis de nobis et heredibus nostris in feodo et hereditate in liberam baroniam ... cum furca et fossa soc et sac thol et them et infangandtheff cum canis reddituibus et cum aliis omnibus ... iustis pertinencijs .. In cujus rei testimonium presenti carte nostre sigillum nostrum precipimus apponi testibus Bernardo abbate de Abbirbrothoc cancellario nostro Waltero senescallo Scocie Jacobo domino de Douglas Alexandro Fraser camerario Scocie et Alexandro de Seton militibus apud Kynros quarto die Octobris anno regni nostri decimo octavo".

"Notes by J. Forbes

"Furca et fossa": Pit & gallows: power of inflicting death by hanging & drowning.

"Soc et Sac": Right to hold Courts &c.

"Thol": Certain privileges / exemption of duties or tolls /

"Them": The right to possess & dispose of Bondsmen & Serfs.

"Infangandtheff": Power to dispose of thieves.

These powers could only be exercised within the limits of the Barony.

Cain: "Canes": tributes of any sort."

The tower of Dun-Stite occupied by the family, existed when the estate was conveyed. "It is believed, says Col Forbes "to have been erected by King William the Lion, after his return from Captivity, in the end of the 12th or the beginning of the 13th Centuries. No timber is used in its Construction. The interior consists of three vaulted chambers, each of which occupies an entire story. The thickness of the walls at the first floor is eleven feet. The thickness of the walls from there to the top is considerably diminished, & somewhat increased in the dungeon below. The ascent to the upper chambers is by a screw stair formed in the wall, at the S.E. Corner of the building. The dungeon vault is 28½ by 15½ feet, & 11 feet high: it contains a well. The next chamber is 30½ feet by 19½ feet: & 22 high. it is now used as a library: The uppermost chamber is 34½ by 22½: & 23 feet high. The form of the Tower is an oblong, with rounded corners: it is surmounted by high battlements rising from a simple corbel moulding. The

top of the battlements is 68½ feet from the ground. The House attached was built in 1619."

This property remains in the possession of the descendants of Sir William de Irwyn to this day, who claim to be the premier baronial house of Scotland, that is, longest possessors of the same estates originally held by baronial tenure from the crown.

"I doubt," says Colo. Forbes, in the letter time, conveying this description, "whether there is in Scotland another dwelling that dates as in 1323, & is inhabited now. Certainly none so little altered as the Tower of Drum, the masonry of which is as sound & unimpaired as the day it was finished."

Some genealogists speak of the Forbes as "fat" & fruitors: from the fact probably that it was besieged, taken, plundered, & for a long time garrisoned by the Covenanters during the Civil wars in the time of King Charles I. It was at this period, that a great part of the family records were destroyed: And that they lost their genealogy of an old date. "A fragment of a document which I found" says Col. Forbes, "Amongst others, in the Chater room at Drum, shewed that there had been an old genealogical account of the family in Latin which was probably lost at the time of the Civil wars of the 17 Century. This will account for the fact that there is no mention of any members of the family, except the one who possessed the Barony, until nearly a hundred years after the grant of Drum to William de Irvine," during which time as he shall see, the Irvines of Orkney and Forfarshire came off from the Drum family.

William de Soime survived his Monarch & on the 6 Feb. 1330 had a charter from King David II of an annual rent of ten merks from the County of Kincardine. He had also a charter from King David II, dated 10 March 1332, of Auchtrigg & Redmyres.

He was "Clerk of the Rolls," & the last payment to him in the Chamberlain's accounts, is his salary for 1331. It is therefore probable that he died in 1332.

The Christian name of his wife was Marote. She was the daughter & grand daughter of Sir Robert de Keith great Marischal of Scotland, who led the horse at Bannockburn, & was killed at the battle of Duplin in 1332. The chief of the family of Keith, says Nisbet, was in 1010 admitted by Malcolm II to the hereditary dignity of Marischal: it must therefore have been "an ancient principal family of Scotland" at the time of the marriage, which took place prior to 1327, but the precise date is no where stated.

according to Nisbet, it would seem to have followed the grant of the Forest of Drum, occurring, says he, "Sometime thereafter." Sir Robert de Keith was succeeded by his grandson Sir Robert Keith, who married a daughter of Gilbert de Haya, the hereditary Constable of Scotland, was killed at the battle of Durham in 1346, leaving no family. The Office of Marischal & the estates attached, were entailed on heirs male, & thus passed to the grandnephew of Sir Robert, viz Sir Edward Keith: At which time, the feuds between the Drumes & Keiths probably originated.

In the old genealogical work of McKenzie & of Nisbet, the fifth Drume of Drum is styled, Sir Wm de Drume: "but", says old Erskine "I have not found him so styled in any deed."

To this Mr Irving adds "It is not probable, therefore that he was ever knighted." The editor, P.D. Hay, seems to remark upon this, that the fact that Wm de Drume was the "Alman Keier of Aquitaine in the Wars" of Robt Bruce, offices of military character, is sufficient to confirm the testimony of McKenzie & Nisbet: that he had been knighted.

V

Of the Irvines of Drum, successors to the Barony

Sir William de Irvine, who died in 1332, was succeeded by his Son, Sir Thomas de Irvine, who, says Col. Forbes, "is not mentioned in any genealogy that I have seen of the family: but he is mentioned amongst the Barons in Parliament in 1368. & 1369."

I find the name, Thomas de Irvyn, in an Act of Parliament of David II at Perth: 6th March, 1368; in which the truce with England was prolonged: And again, in two other acts in February, 1369, in which he is one of the Committee, "ad tractandum generalia negocia"*. The omission of this name in the printed genealogies has arisen, no doubt, from the loss, at Drum, of any continued genealogy of an old date: the ancient Latin genealogy, as we have seen, having been in all probability destroyed in the civil wars, when Drum was taken & garrisoned by the Covenanters.

*. See vol. 1. Acts of Parl. Scotland 1124 to 1423. pp. 148. 150. 154.

Of Thomas de Dwyse nothing further is known, except that his wife was a daughter of a Knight of the name of Montefort, who had received a grant of lands, from King Rob. Bruce. It was during his life, that the Fort was transplanted which we shall find gradually flourishing in Orkney.

Sir Thomas de Irvine was dead & succeeded by his son, Sir Alexander de Irvine, before 1381. He acquired the Park of Drum in 1388, which had been reserved out of the original grant of Bruce. In 1408 he accompanied the Earl of Mar to France & Flanders. The Earl carried over a company of "Knights, Esquires & Gentlemen: & with a hundred men at arms, armed at all points, since the army of the Duke of Burgundy had a post in the van at the battle of Liege. Sir Alexander de Irvine was knighted along with five others: viz John, Earl of Sutherland: Alexander de Keith: Andrew Stewart, brother to the Earl of Mar: John de Menzies, and

Sir Gilbert the Hay. The race of the Earl of Mar distinguished itself at the battle which gave Liege to the Earl of Burgundy. On the return of the Earl of Mar to Scotland he granted to "his Cousin" (Consanguineo suo)* Sir Alexander Irvine, a large estate in Aberdeenshire. This was in 1410. ~~that Mar dated~~

*: I presume there is a latent belief among the Irish, Scotch, English Irvines of a descent from the same stock with Eryvin, who married Beatrice, the daughter of Malcolm II in 1004: that in the life time of Eryvin, or in less than a century after his death, they left Perth, settled in the north of Scotland.

Colo Forbes also mentions a tradition in the family of Drum, that they were connected with the Stewarts at a very early period. There was no trace of this in their written genealogy - but he had found proof of it, introduced: the dated 1410 from Alex Stewart Earl of Mar & Lord of Duffyl in Perthshire: another in 1414 from the Regent, Rob. Stewart, Duke of Albany, Earl of Fife, Menteith, Gov. of Scotland, confirming the gift of land made by his nephew Alex. Earl of Mar & to "Consanguineo suo Alex de Irvine de Drum." The relationship is also mentioned in the deed of 1410.

Next year Donald, Lord of the Isles, backed by many of the Celtic Clans, made a sudden irruption into Ross Shire, ravaging the Northern Provinces of Scotland, had reached within 18 miles of Aberdeen, when he was encountered by a force hastily collected by the Earl of Mar. This was at Harlaw 24 July 1411. The battle fiercely contested, was gained by the Earl of Mar. In this action many of the Knights & Barons of the North Eastern Counties of Scotland, were killed, amongst them, Sir Alexander de Irvine. He encountered Hector, chief of the Macleans, who commanded the Highlandmen under his Uncle, the Lord of the Isles. Irvine & Maclean were both killed: probably on the spot, where a pile of stones is still known as "Drum'd Cairn". "It is the only one which the progress of agricultural improvement has left on the field of Harlaw".

This memorable battle says Tytler. Vol III p177. "from the ferocity with which it was contested, & the dismal spectacle of fine men & bloodshed exhibited to the country, appears

to have made a deep impression on the national mind. It fixed itself in the music & the poetry of Scotland: a tune called the Battle of Harlaw, continued to be a popular air down to the time of Drummond of Hawthornden, and a spirited ballad, on the same event, is still repeated in our age, describing the meeting of the armies and the death of the chiefs in no ignoble strain.

The following stanza, in the contemporaneous ballad of Harlaw, pays a minstrel's tribute to the gallantry of Sir Alexander Irvine.

"Gude Sir Alexander Irvine
"The muck renownit Laird of Drum:
"Nain in his dais were better sene,
"Nane they were semblit all & sum."

"To prais him, we need not be dumm,
"For valour, wit, humthiness:
To end his dais he ther did cum,
Quhois ransum is remedyless."

Notwithstanding the intermarriage of the Irvines & Keiths, a feud arose between the families, which raged for years with great bitterness, & gave rise to a good deal of private warfare, in which Sir Alexander Irvine made himself conspicuous for his great strength & bravery. This feud seems to have been so ferocious & lasting as to have impressed itself upon the popular mind of that section. There is a tradition that the Keiths burnt one of Irvine of Drum's children, & that Irvine burnt the Marischal's castle of Dale-forest. At another time there was a battle between the Keiths & Irvines at a place called "Keith's Muir", in which the Irvines were victors, driven them across the river at a deep and strong part of the channel, styled to this day "the Keith's Pot", where many of them were drowned. Some of them who had gained a point of rock in the river

were killed by arrows; & the rock which appears only occasionally above the water still retains the name of "the Keith's stone". These events probably occurred in the latter part of the 14th Century, during the reign of Alexander, the Son of Thomas.

There is a tradition in the books, that, to put an end to this bloody feud, which was still raging at the death of Robert III in 1406, and during the captivity of his infant successor, (the Royal Poet of the Sketch Book) the States of the kingdom interfered, and sent for Alexander from abroad to marry Elizabeth Keith, daughter of Sir Robert Keith, the great Marischal. That he yielded a constrained submission to the external union, but was unable readily to lay aside the feelings engendered by a long feud, and abstained from her bed: that

when summoned to the fatal field of Harlaw, he halted upon the hill of Auchindoney, in the parish of Kemnay, from the summit of which he cast his eye back upon the hosts of Drum, & proceeded to the field of battle, and seating himself on a stone which still retains the appellation of "Drum's Stone", he called his successor to his side, & bearing honorable testimony to the virtues & worth of his wife, declared his intention to atone for his neglect, if he survived, and if he should fall, he advised him to extinguish the vestal lide.

Dr. Col. Forbes is at variance in most of the particulars, with this account. According to him Sir Alexander married an only daughter of the House of Mentefod, who brought considerable estates into the family. There is probably however, some kind of foun-

detion for a tradition mentioned in all the genealogies, & we may indulge the supposition, either that Sir Alexander had a widower when he was espoused to Elizabeth Keith, & when he gave a forced consent to a merely external union. (or that he was sent for from France to influence his son to this union, who resisted until softened by his father's final appeals as he was hastening to the fatal conflict, — when he may have made a solemn engagement to marry the lady in case his father should fall):— Or it may be — as it is impossible to deck oneself of the belief that there is a romantic truth in the story, of some sort, — that a matrimonial alliance had been enjoined on the son to heal the long feud between the Drumes & the Keiths: that the embittered father withstood the proposition that his feelings relented as he found himself approaching the fatal battle-

-field and about perhaps to leave his youthful son a legacy of bitterness and strife: that he then seated himself upon Dennis stone, expressed compunction for his opposition, & calling his son to him, urged the union he had before resisted. Certain it is that the marriage followed in less than three months after his death, & proved to be a feud-healing union.

In two deeds this Sir Alexander Irvine is styled Cousin to the Earl of Mar: a proof of what has already been stated, that the Irvines were connected with the Stuarts at a very early period.

He was succeeded by his son (not brother as stated in most genealogies) Sir Alexander Irvine whose marriage contract with Elizabeth de Keith is dated 16 October 1411: less than three months from the battle of Harlaw in which his father fell. She was the daughter

of Kildrummie to Keith the Marischall, who gave with the lady, the lands & Barony of Strath-ekyn, for the settling of the feud that existed between the families. This feud is alluded to in the marriage contract, & was put an end to by the marriage.

The son of "Jude sir Alexander" was one of the Scottish Ambassadors who went to London in 1423 by appointment of the States, to negotiate for the liberation of James I. from his long captivity in England. And received the honour of knight-hood from that Prince in 1424. During the confusion which followed the murder of the King at Perth in 1437, the inhab-itants of Aberdeen solicited his services for the defence & protection of the city, And in 1440, the burgesses unanimously consented to his being appointed Captain & Governor of the Burgh, which invested him with an authority in the town, supe-rior to that of the chief Magistrate;

a striking proof of the respect & confidence he enjoyed.

Sir Wm brought him the lands of Strathdon in Kincardineshire which were conferred, as we have seen, by his father-in-law, Sir Robert Keith, to heal the feud. He also got the lands of Targlen, provided he & his heirs were to lead the vassals of the Abbey of Aberbrothock under the "Braebenach" the consecrated banner of St. Columba, in the King's army.

Sir Alexander died in 1457, and the effigies of himself, his wife, Dame Elizabeth Keith, carved in stone, still remain in that part of the church of St. Nicholas in Aberdeen which is called "Drum's Aisle". In this Aisle is also the monumental brass with the inscription & arms of Irvine & Keith. "This is one of the two monumental brasses" says Col. Forbes, "which are all that the zeal or rapacity of the Reformers left in

Scotland."

"On the arch" says Col. Forbes, "over the tomb of Sir Alexander Irvine & Dame Elizabeth Keith the arms ~~[illegible]~~ are three holly leaves, each of three leaves branded together. However, I am inclined to think from the floriated nature of the sculpture in that tomb, that the armorial part is what is sometimes called "an embellishment of arms". And he leans to the opinion that the original arms, like all others of an early date were simple, and consisted of single leaves of holly. They are so depicted, he says, in a heraldic manuscript by Sir David Lindsay of the Mount "Lyon King of Armes 1542", & which is the same mentioned in Marmion, was the legal authority in those days for all Heraldic matters. Of this however he ~~[illegible]~~ viz. that the arms were single leaves, there is no certainty.

Note by the Copyist &c. They are so on the seal appended to the Parchment I bought from Abney. Dated 1561. (P.P.)

from one of the sons of this Sir Alexander Irvine, are descended the Irvines in Germany & Prussia. After an interval of 300 years, says Col. Forbes, in a letter to Irving Vaultart, "Baron William de Irving received a communication with the family of Drum in a letter dated from Berlin in 1756, tracing his own descent and that of several other families, (amongst others, Baron Ephraim de Irving,) from the time their ancestor joined the army of the Teutonic knights in Prussia about the middle of the 15th Century. "It is curious, he adds, "to see another branch, one hundred years after the date of Baron de Irving's letter, accidentally discovering a clue by which to trace back their ancestry to the original stock."

From Colonel Drummond's Extracts enclosed in a letter to me, dated Apl 13. 1858.

Alexander de Irvine who succeeded in 1457, was grandson of the preceding. His father was also an Alexander, their mother, a daughter of Abernethy, Lord Saltoun.

This Alexander was accused before the Lords Auditors of attacking the castle of Sir Walter Lindsay of Beaufort. He also received a royal pardon for the premeditated slaughter of Sir Alexander Fraser, (ancestor of Lord Saltoun) and other acts of violence. This Alexander married Marion, daughter of Lord Forbes, & died in 1493.

Sir Alexander Irvine succeeded his father in 1493. He had a pardon from King James IV for taking the place and fortalice of Inver-alloche. He married

Janet, daughter of Keith of Ludquharn.
and died in 1527.
Alexander Irvine succeeded his father in 1527, & on the 4 December in that year received an acknowledgment from King James V of the services of his chief & his father, in searching & bringing to Justice rebels, robbers & thieves, who had been harbored in the Grampian Mountains. This Alexander Irvine was married to Janet, daughter of Allardes of Allardes. His eldest son Alexander, was married in 1526 to Elizabeth Ogilvie, daughter to the Lord of Finlater, was killed in his father's lifetime, at the Battle of Pinkie in 1527, leaving a family. The father died in 1552 and was succeeded by Alexander Irvine a grandson who married Lady Elizabeth Keith, daughter of the Earl Marischal (the contract is dated 10 April 1552). This Alex-

-under had a royal pardon for having taken & kept possession of the Estate of Kulaton. King James VI borrowed 500 Merks from "our trew belovit Alex Irving of Drum" and in an acknowledgment signed by himself he promises "thankfully" to repay the same. This Alexander Irvine died in 1603, & was succeeded by his Son.

Alexander Irvine, who had married in 1590 Lady Marion Douglas (daughr of Robert Earl of Buchan) and died in 1630; having bequeathed large sums for charities & for purposes of education. He was succeeded by his Son.

Sir Alexander Irvine, who in 1617, married Magdalen daughter of Sir John Scrimgeour, Hereditary Standard Bearer of Scotland, & afterwards created Viscount Dudhope. Sir Alex-

under Irvine supported the Royal cause in the Civil War, and during her absence Drum was besieged by the army of the Covenant under General Monroe. This was in June 1640. The lady defended the place, and two of the besiegers were killed. But Monroe kept battering ordnance into a commanding position, and the lady, having obtained favourable terms, surrendered the place. The plate, jewels & furniture were plundered: the rents for years were seized: large fines imposed: the family imprisoned, & otherwise persecuted. Parliament authorized the demolishing of the Tower of Drum, but it was saved in consequence of the Covenanters' judging it convenient to keep a garrison there. This persecution was continued by savage ecclesiastics & greedy laymen, until the firm ~~hand~~ rule of Cromwell protected all who remained amenable to the paramount authority.

The King, Charles I. had ordered the patent

to be prefixed creating this Sir Alexander Erskine Earl of Kintore. But the leaders of the Covenanters prevented the formal execution of the patent. On the restoration of King Charles II. the peerage was again offered to the head of Drum, Sir Alex's son, but it was refused unless the date of the original patent were given: and there the matter ended.

At this time the estates of the family were very large, portions of them being in Eighteen different parishes.

Sir Alexander died in 1658, and was succeeded by his Son

Alexander Erskine, who had married in 1643, Lady Mary Gordon, daughter of the Marquis of Huntley. This Alexander Erskine, in his father's life-time, had taken an active & violent part in favor of the Royal cause.

After the death of his first wife, Lady Mary Erskine he married Margaret Watts, who survived her husband.

[This first wife, the Lady Mary, according to a local ballad, was very haughty, fancying herself above her degree.

"She wadna gang to the bonny yetts o' Drum,
But the perlin abeen her e'e:
And I durst na gang in the room where she was,
But my hat below my knee".

To make amends for the ~~first~~ haughtiness of the first, he marries a second wife "o' Low degree" "a mock to all our kin" demonstrates her better. But

"The wife he married a lady
As ever was in Drum."]

He died in 1687. Was succeeded by his son Alexander Irvine, who married Margery daughter of Forbes of Rothiemay. This Alex Irvine died without surviving issue in 1696 and was succeeded by his cousin,

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Alexander Irvine, who had married a sister of his predecessor viz. Jane, daughter of Alexander Irvine who died in 1687. This Alex Irvine died in 1720, and was succeeded by his son,

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Alexander Irvine. He in 1715 joined in the unsuccessful attempt to restore the Royal line of the Stewarts. He was wounded in the head at the battle of Sheriffmuir, but escaped to the Continent. He afterwards received a pardon, returned to Scotland. But the effects of his wounds rendered him incapable of managing his own affairs. This and the dishonesty of guardians, greatly impaired the estates, which were already involved in consequence of the losses

made to assist the royal cause during the civil war. This Alex Irvine died in 1735, and succeeded by his Uncle

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John Irvine, who married Catharine, daughter of Robert Fullarton of Dudwick. John Irvine died in 1737, and was succeeded by the Heir of Entail, viz:

Alexander Irvine, the great-great-grandson of Alex Irvine of Drum who died in 1683 & his wife, Lady Elizabeth Keith. This Alex Irvine died in 1744. His wife was Isabel daughter of Thomas Thomson of Fairchild. He was succeeded by his Son,

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Alexander Irvine, who in 1745, joined Prince Charles Edward when he attempted to regain the throne of his ancestors. Irvine escaped from Culloden, that last battle fought of the Stewart race, & remained concealed at Drum, & various other places.

In 1748 a bill of indictment for high Treason was prepared against him, which was thrown out by the Grand Jury. Another indictment was immediately prepared which shared the same fate:- & thus he & his estate were saved. He married Mary, daughter of James Ogilvie of Auchiries, & died in 1767. He was succeeded by his Son,

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Alexander Irvine, who possessed the estate of Drum for upwards of 83 years. He married Janet, daughter of Hugh Forbes of Skeras. He died in 1844, & was succeeded by his Son

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Alexander Forbes Irvine, the present proprietor of Drum. He had previously succeeded to the estate of Skeras, the property of his maternal ancestors: & in which he has to assume the name of Forbes, in addition to that of Irvine. He married Margaret, daughter of James Hamilton Esq, by whom he has three Sons and

two daughters. He is the direct descendant & heir male of William de Brom.

[He is now, in 1858, upwards of 80 years of age. His eldest son, the present Alexander Innes Irvine Junior of Drum, (& heir apparent) married a daughter of Abel Forbes. P.M.I.]

VI

Of the Irvines of Orkney

The Irvines of Orkney were the earliest cadets of the Family of Drum.

In a manuscript in the Heralds' office, London, entitled "The Original of the family of the Irvins or Ervins, done by Christopher Irvine, M.D." it is stated: "Of this family, alluding to the Irvines of Drum" are descended the Irvins of Perth, Mearns, Mar, & Orkney." A copy of this manuscript is printed in Playfair's British family Antiquity. Vol VII. p 889. This work was published in 1811.

In 1810 Dr. Peter Irving procured from the Heralds' College, London, a certified transcript of a letter from this same Dr. Christopher Irvine to his brother, Sir Gerard Irvine, in Ireland, giving him a Genealogy of the House of Irvine, but, — the letter being intended mainly to show to his

brother his descent from the house of Barbar-
-making no mention of the Orkney branch.
This letter is dated in 1660, & in it he styles
himself State Physician & Historiographer to
His Majesty Charles II. In other notes writ-
-ten about the same time, by this same person-
-age, and quoted by Sir George Petrie of
Kirkwall, it is stated that "the Irvines
of Forfarshire & the Orkneys are descended
from the family of Drum.

It is worthy of note here, that this state-
-ment is given in 1660, a few years after
Drum had been plundered & garrisoned
by the Covenanters, and its Latin Genealogy
of an old date, in which the branches were,
no doubt, traced, probably destroyed. Dr.
Christopher Irvine, it is likely, received
his information direct from Drum.

Sir William de Irvine, the founder
of the House of Drum, and progenitor of
the Irvines of Orkney, received, as we
have seen, by a charter dated 4 Oct. 1324,

from King Robert Bruce the grant of them in fee Barony. "Sometime thereafter," according to Nisbet, he married the daughter of Keith, and according to Col: Forbes he was married to Mariota or Marjota, the daughter or grand-daughter of Sir Robert Keith, the Marischal, who was killed at the Battle of Duplin in 1322, "before 1327". The presumption, therefore, is that he was married between 1324 & 1327. He died in 1332 or 1333.

William de Irvine left three sons, Thomas his successor who was a Baron in Parliament in 1368. 1369. William, who was settled in Kirkwall, the Capital of the Orkneys, in 1369; and "Ade", who was the 3d son. "In an index to lost Charters," says Col. Forbes in a letter to me dated 15 August 1858, "there is mentioned 'Carta to Ade Irwine of the lands of Haynes, & fourth part of Morele in Nide Forfar?' This charter is by King David II, and therefore is before 1371. But there are circumstances, particularly its

position in the list of Charters, that induces me to fix the date about 1364. In 1422 Reginaldus de Irvyne exchanges lands in Forfarshire for estates in Aberdeenshire. And the seal of this Reginaldus de Irvyne shows three holly leaves, with a mullet in the centre: the mullet being the distinctive difference for a third son who assumes his Father's arms. As Reginaldus was the proprietor of these Forfarshire estates & therefore the eldest son of his father, he Reginald of course assumed his father's arms without any difference. Thus showing that the addition of the mark of the third son had inherited from 'Ade'. This is also a curious corroboration of the tradition that the Forfarshire Fahney Irvines were descended of the Irvines of Drum'."

The first of the Orkney line bears the ruling Christian name of the Irvines of Drum. He is mentioned as "Williamus" in an indenture, dated at Kirkwall on the 25th of May, 1369. between William, bishop of Orkney and Shetland, on the One part, and Hakon Jonson on the other. This indenture is printed from the Original parchment, in the Diplomatarium Norvegicum, Vol. I. pp. 308-309. Christiania, 1847: and the name occurs in an enumeration of inhabitants of Orkney, many of which, say Mr Joseph Robertson* in a letter of Sept 30 1856 to the Rev. Pierce Irving "are names of families seated in Aberdeenshire and the neighbouring counties on the North-east Coast of Scotland." Then specifying some

* — of the Genesse Regist: Mo. Edinb.

such names in the list, as for instance Buchan, Calder, &c &c he proceeds, — "All this tends to show that early intercourse between the Orkneys & the Northern of Scotland, of which our records supply many scattered intimations."

It appears from this date at which we find him flourishing in Orkney that this Cadet was settled in "the storm-swept Orcades" while they were yet under the sway of the Norwegian Jarls or Earls of Orkney. These potent magnates had

ruled the islands as tributaries of the Crown of Norway for several centuries, but their race became extinct a few years after in the person of Magnus V. & Henry St Clair, son of Sir William St Clair of Roslyn, and Isabella, grand-daughter of Magnus, obtained the Earldom in 1379. It was thus the principality passed by marriage to the noble Scottish family of the St Clairs of Roslyn.

"The lady line of high St Clair," who held the Isles as Feudatories of Norway from 1379 to 1468. Holding however, under the sovereignty of Norway, yet possessing titles & lands in Scotland, the sea-lord Monarch of the North only admitted the claim of Henry St Clair under strict and severe conditions and burdens. He was considered as being appointed Governor and Earl of Orkney by his absolute sovereign, was bound to serve him with One hundred men, completely armed, when

required, and to maintain the inhab-
-itants in their own laws and customs &c.
These laws were the Norwegian laws.
"They were administered," says Mr James
Robertson in a letter to me of February, 1856,
"by the chief Judge or 'Law man', and
his Deputy the 'Fowde' with the assistance
of a jury called 'Lawright-men'. The prin-
-cipal difference between the laws of
Scotland and those of Norway consisted
in this, that under the Norwegian system
there was no feudal tenure and no
law of primogeniture; the lands were
not held of a feudal superior; and on
the death of the owner they divided equally
among his sons & daughters. The parts
at which the divisions were effected a-
-mong the family, and all disputes regard-
-ing lands were settled, were called 'Tings'
and generally speaking, though not always,
the eldest son managed to purchase
back the shares of the younger branches

at a price fixed at the Tings."

The next in the line of Orkney Jarls is again a William, whom we find a burgess of Kirkwall, under the sway of William St Clair, the third Earl of Orkney and Admiral of Scotland. Kirkwall was then, as now, the metropolis of the Orkneys, and the huge old Cathedral rose then, as now, in massive grandeur from the centre of the town, having been founded in 1138 by Ronald, Earl of Orkney.

This Jarls, for whose resuscitation we are also indebted to Mr Joseph Robertson of the General Register House, Edinburgh, makes his appearance at Kirkwall on the 10 of November, 1422, in company with two dignitaries of this venerable Cathedral, and four others to attest with their united names and seals* a solemn instrument apparently intended for a public purpose.

* ~~The letter was missing from the deed~~ Note on next sheet

Note to p. 38.
The latter (the seals) were missing from the deed: which was printed some years ago in the Miscellany of the Spalding Club vol V. published in Aberdeen. Dr Petrie had this 'William of 1422' at the head of a draft he was preparing before the Rev Dr Jamieson visited Abney, but had mislaid it (see his letter).

In this instrument, which is in Latin, he is styled "Wylelmus de Erwyne".

In a letter of Sept 1. 1856 to the Rev Pionel Irving, communicating the recovery of this name in an original document still preserved in the General Register House, Edinburgh, the repository of the Public Record of Scotland, Sir Joseph Robertson remarks;- "In the undotted orthography which obtained in Scotland until after the beginning of the last century, the name which is now written 'Irving' and 'Irvine' was more frequently written Irvine, Irving, Irwyne, Erwyne, Ervine, Erwing, etc, etc. The common pronunciation of the name in Aberdeenshire among old people in my young days was 'Erwyne', exactly as it is written in the Orkney parchment of 1422".

He also adds: "The Wylelmus de Erwyne' of 1422 is doubtless the same as the 'Wilhelmus Ytving' mentioned in a transaction of 1423 in Torfaeus's Rerum

Orcadensium Historica, p. 180. Hamiae 1715. That work is inaccurate in its spelling of names, and I have no doubt that for Ytwing we should read Ywing.'

If this supposition be admitted, it would afford the earliest instance, so far as I can detect, of a change in the final letter of the name which has provoked the criticism of that erudite antiquary & philologist, Dr Christopher Irvine, Historiographer (in 1660) of Charles II. "Some of the foolish", he observes "do write themselves Irving": the change from the final e to g, being in his view adopted from a senseless or aristocratic fancy for the Pictish language, which was a dialect of the old Saxon, in which the syllable ing denotes superior excellence.

The third of the Orkney branch (a son of "Wylelmus de Ewryne," See Acadian May 25. 1857) is John Ewryne, Sheriff Erwing in the ~~[illegible]~~ genealogical table in possession of the Rev Pierce

P. Irving, and forming a second instance of the final g, though its rival c continued to predominate for more than a century after this. The two prior names of the line though the first in the order of succession, were the last evolved from obscurity. John of Swyne, or John Erwing, was the first to make his appearance as the undoubted progenitor of the Irvings of New York; ~~and from the time~~

He had landed possessions in the parish of Holm, a few miles from Kirkwall, in Pomona or Mainland, the chief island of the Orkney group, ~~[illegible]~~ figured as a principal witness at a "Ting" held

in that parish for the adjustment of a dispute about land in 1438, and is mentioned as 'a person of note' in a document bearing the seal of the "Lawman" a chief judge of the Islands, together with men of rank, dated at "Kirkwaw" 20 January 1438.

I find this curious document quoted in Wilson's Archaeology & Pre-historic Annals of Scotland, pp. 94-95. as follows:—

"Tile all and synd lele folk in Crystes, to quhais knawledge yir prnt. wris. sal cum, Henry Randale, Lawman of Orknay, John Narraldson, Balze off Kirkwaw, Janis off Lask, Greeting in Gode: . . . make kend that we the forsaide bystude saw and on horde, And for witnesse wes tane quhere yt John off Enwyne and Will: Bernardson swor on the Birdmane Stem before the Lorde yc. Erle off Orknay, and the gentilefs off the Cuntre, that they bystude saw and on horde, And for witnesse wes tane quhere that Thos. Snider, yc. Son off Quhilk Dany Snider, Callit in yc. vestre in Sant Mawing Kirk, John of Kirkness," &c.

In this comparatively recent transaction adds Wilson, "we have probably a very accurate

illustration of the ceremonial which accompanied the erection of the a boarde-stone, or Stone of Memorial, whether as a landmark, or the evidence of some solemn treaty. The document from which it is extracted has a further interest in connexion with early Scottish history. Its date is thirty years prior to the marriage of James III of Scotland with Margaret of Denmark, when Orkney was first annexed to the Scottish Crown: yet it is written throughout in the Scottish tongue".

The Archæology and Pre-historic Annals of Scotland, by Daniel Wilson, Honorary Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, was published at Edinburgh in 1851.

He son of John, was called Christe. He married a Norse heiress of the name of Edin Paplay, a descendant probably of "Sigurd Papplay", mentioned as a man of note in a deed of 1319, by her acquired lands in Paplay, & others in Stolm: a few miles south East from Kirkwall, which they exchanged

with William St Clair, Earl of Orkney for the lands of Sebay in the parish of St Andrews, Orkney, A-pril 27. 1460*, ~~apparently the day of their nuptials~~.

The Orkneys were still an appan-age of Norway at the date of this trans-action, though not long after, on the 8th September, 1468, on occasion of the mar-riage of James III of Scotland to Marga-ret, a daughter of Christian I of Denmark & Norway, they were mortgaged by that mo-narch as a security for the portion of the royal bride, and were never afterwards redeemed. They were annexed to the crown of Scotland in 1471, by act of

* See Inventory of the Title Deeds among the County Lands of Orkney from 1460 to 1669, which at great length de-scribes all the immediate descendants of the Laird of Sebay, until they became extinct in the direct male line about 1626. See also Lord Sinclair's Rental, p. 7.

parliament, and in exchange for the Earldom, the Castle and domains of Ravenscraig were conferred on William St Clair, Earl of Caithness. Their ancient laws, however, were secured to the inhabitants by the treaty between the kings of Scotland and Norway & Denmark, and they continued to speak the Norse language until the fifteenth century; nor were the laws of primogeniture fully introduced until the end of that century; up to which time the substitution of the Scottish weights & measures for the Norwegian, would seem also to have formed a subject of complaint.

Of the two sons of Christie Erwyn & Edin Paplay, John the eldest, was an progenitor. He appears in 1483 and died in 1527. On occasion of his decease, the usual ~~[illegible]~~ partition of the estate took place among the children. The Rev Peter P. Irving brought home from Orkney the certified copy of

a document, termed a Dome or Decreet, which helps to illustrate and vouch a pedigree, by showing the division of the lands among the younger members of the family, and the minute enumeration of them which from time to time it made necessary. This Dome, so far as I can gather its import, is an award between William Flett the husband of Marion, John's eldest daughter, who appears in his own right, and three of the minor children, who appear by Rechart Syncler their representative. In this Dome, or Decreet, "certane of worthy persons, ~~yat wd tiftay~~ yat ar till say," James of Randell, and nineteen other "gudmen whom it were tedious to particularize, in the matter "betwix Rechart Syncler in the umbutht of Alex: Drver, Peter Drver & Mr Jet Drver on ye tha part; and William Flett of Howbuster in his awin umbutht of ye toyir part, as tryching ye partying of lands" in debay — "lynds and gyffis

fordome, yat ye Laird Williame is
fiard ye eldest air, and to have ye first
chois of ye howss;" and the "dome"
proceeds to specify, that if the Laird
'Williame' choose 'ye ney' howss' he
shall pay to "ye aires of umquhile
Johne Irrwyne quhame God assol-
-ze XII pounds quhull money of
Scotland;" and if he choose "ye over
howss," the "forsaid" heirs shall pay him
"three pounds of usuall money of Scot-
-land;" and if he makes choice of neither,
then there is another alternative for the
parties in which "Gold silver oxen and
kye" figure, but of which I cannot de-
-cipher the import. The conclusion seems
to refer the party which thinks his
"dome hevy" to "ane Law man."

Besides throwing light on the way
in which a pedigree was traced, this
instrument illustrates very forcibly the
unsettled orthography of the family

appellative of that period: the surname of the father being spelt Irwyne, while that of the children is Irven.

In addition to the daughters and minors of which this instrument takes note, John had three sons; James of Sebay, Alexander, & Cristie, who married Gelis Pierson. James of Sebay was the eldest child, & was our ancestor. He is mentioned in 1534 & in 1555. He was "Lawman" that is, Chief Judge of Orkney, and probably was the last with that title, as Sheriffs succeeded Lawmen in 1560, about which time he died. He had six sons: James who died without issue, Magnus, the ancestor of the Irvings of Shapinsha, Gilbert of Tankerness, whose seal with the hereditary arms of Drum is now in possession of the Rev Pierce Irving, Alexander, William of Horrie & Sebay, and Edward.

William, who is here designated of Horrie & Sebay, acquired by purchase

from his brothers & sisters the whole of Sebay (Sabay) the principal property of the Irvings. He died in June 1614, and his grandson was the last of Sebay, the estate being acquired in 1622 or 1623 by a William Lindsay.*

It was in 1565, about five years after the death of James the Lawman, the father of Magnus, the ancestor of the Irvings of the Smithas, that Sir Robert Stewart, a natural son of King James V obtained a grant of the crownlands in Orkney & Zetland from Mary, Queen of Scots, which he then, King James VI elected into an Earldom by creating him Earl of Orkney by patent, dated 28 October 1581. Thus after the lapse of 113 years the Orkneys are again converted into an Earldom. * (Note next page)

~~It was during the proxy of this Earl that the Parliament bear date with the original seal of his best brow, a seal of high genealogical value, which~~

Note to p. 49

* James Sinclair, the grandson of this William Sinclair, had some dispute relating to his title to the property about the year 1678; and he produced titles & other documents connected with the property of the Irvings, from which Mr Petrie derived great assistance in making up his table. He found them in an old chest which was lying carelessly open in the Townhouse at Kirkwall.

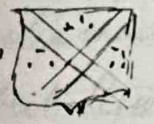
William had two Sons: Patrick & William, & four daughters. The Eldest Son Patrick predeceased his father, & William was killed at the Siege of Kirkwall Castle in 1614. - the father having died in June the same year. Patrick left a Son William, who succeeded to Sabay at the death of his Grandfather but afterwards mortgaged the property to William Sinclair of Dalhoop (now Toft) who had married Patrick's widow. Patrick left two other Sons & a daughter, but the whole of them including William died without issue.

The Male descendants of William Senior Patrick's father, having thus become extinct, the Estate of Sabay was subsequently conveyed to William Sinclair by Patrick's Sisters & their Children." [Geo: Petrie. May 25. 1857]

It was during the sway of this Earl that the parchment deed bears date, with the original seal of Gilbert Wring, a seal of high genealogical value, which

the Rev. P. P. brings brought home with him from the Orkneys.

It was also during the sway of Earl Robert Stewart that we find the seal of William Irvine of Sebay, a younger brother of Gilbert, with the distinctive arms. The seal of William Irvine of Sebay, writes Mr James Robertson in his first letter to me, "attached to a document dated 2d Sept 1585 & which I held in my hand to day, is a fel-tire with three holly leaves in chief, thus,



The seal of Gilbert contains no saltire, William having no doubt added that to the hereditary arms to distinguish his particular branch, some such separate designation being customary & necessary. The distinctive arms of the three holly leaves would serve to class them both with their proper family, the Irvines of Drum, even if we had

not the direct testimony of a learned anti-
-quary of 1660, that the Irvines of Orkney
are descended from the Irvines of Drum.

Another circumstance worthy of note
in regard to these two brothers, is that the
surname of one is written with a final
e (Irvine) and of the other with a fi-
-nal g (Irving). It was about this time
that the innovating g began to assert a
claim to supremacy, David Irving, Robie Irving, Christie
Irving, &c figuring conspicuously in an act
of Parliament of 1585.

Robert Stewart was succeeded by his
son, Patrick, in 1599.

These two earls availed themselves of
the remote situation of these parts, to
commit many acts of violence and
oppression, of which the people made
loud & bitter complaints. In the words
of an ancient document, "they stressed
the Udallers to augment their rental"
"The Irvines of Lebay," says the Memoir

of Sir Robert Shango, "are very frequently mentioned in the times of Robert and Patrick Stewart, Earls of Orkney, and suffered very severely from the outrages of these rapacious nobles." One of the orders of Patrick Stewart was expressive of his character. It was that if any man endeavoured to relieve ships in distress, he should be punished with fine and imprisonment. It was spoiling his booty; one of his expedients to repair his ruined fortunes, ruined by his profuse expenditure. He finally broke out in rebellion against his King, and was committed a prisoner to the Castle of Edinburgh in 1615. Having pledged his estate to Sir John Arnot, the King purchased Arnot's right, & took possession of the Castles of Kirkwall & Birsay. The Earl sent his natural son, Robert Stewart, to Orkney, & he raised a body of men & seized on these Castles in 1613. The Earl of Caithness, by the King's orders, pro-

ceded to Orkney, and attacked the King's castle; a strong fortress, with massive walls, situated near the harbour in Kirkwall. Robert Stewart defended the Castle to extremity, and only surrendered, says Scott, when it was nearly a heap of ruins. It was at this siege that William Irvine of Sebay* was killed. The Earl of Orkney, who was in confinement, was tried for treason in instigating his son's rebellion, found guilty, and beheaded at the market cross of Edinburgh 6 Feby 1614. His estates and honors reverted to the crown, and thus terminated this semi-sovereignty of Orkney.

It was during the oppressive sway of these two Earls, that Magnus Irving, the son of James of Sebay the Lawman, & first of the Shapinsha line, ran his career. In 1581 he had married Christian Yinsta, daughter

* Son of William of Horie of Sebay, & a relation of Magnus.

ofad heiress of Andrew Guistar, (the last male heir of the Guistars family), a territorial name taken, according to the old custom in Orkney, as elsewhere, from the property of Guistars in the parish of St Andrews, in which he & his wife were residents at the time of their marriage. In 1597 he parted with his share of his father's landed property to his brother William, the fifth son, who in that year acquired by purchase the whole of Sebay from his brothers & sisters. And it may have been soon after this that he transferred his family to Shapinsha, for he is mentioned in a charter by Earl Patrick Stewart as in Howaldshay in Shapinsha, in 1608. Thus before the Irvines of Sebay had become extinct in the direct male line in 1626, Magnus, the head of the family, left the parish of St Andrews in which his ancestors had dwelt since the marriage of Christie Irvine and

Edin Paplay in 1460, & the island of Po-
-mona in which they had spent two
and a half centuries, removed to the
neighbouring island of Shappinshay
which became the home of his old
age.

He was accompanied by his
two sons, William & Thomas, and
between them they seem appear to
have owned at first a large portion
of the Island which consists of some
big or seven thousand acres. The
present proprietor

Mr. Balfour, derives his title mainly thro' the Irvings. ~~[illegible]~~ "The deeds I saw," says the Rev P. P. Irving, in one of his letters from Kirkwall, recounting a visit to Balfour Castle, "show that the Irvings of Shapinshay were not only once in possession of a large part of the island, but of property on the mainland and on other islands, so that the tradition here is no doubt true, that next to the St Clairs they were the oldest & principal family in the Orkneys."

It was somewhat about this period that the law of primogeniture and the Scottish form of land rights began to be introduced. The system of feudalizing the Udal lands appears to have been begun by King James VI & Bishop Law, and to have been kept up by the Earls of Orkney, Robert & Patrick Stewart; also by the family of Maton in 1612, when

* Douglas, Earls of Morton p.21.

they obtained a grant of the Earldom of Orkney. A great number of the Proprietors continued to possess their heritages as Udallers. This, however, does not appear to have been the case with William, the eldest son of Magnus, whom I find to have been a magistrate of the Island as early as 1614: the year in which Earl Patrick was beheaded. In the copy of an old document listing of answers to certain Proprietors of the town of Edinburgh, and under the head of "The Ile of Shapinshaw" I find the following extracts, showing the proprietor held by feudal tenure.

"Ther is fewed ye of be Bischop James Law to William Irving the lands of Kirbister & Gerstay, fu payment conforme to the rental.

"Thair is fewed ye of be ye lait Bischop to ye said William Irving the Laird of Oguirer, tho penny land in Innesh, ane penny land in Brunstane, Gugray, fu payment of ye rentall."

This William of Kinluster & Fairstay, and 'Laird of Ogwier' was Baillie of Shapinsay in 1627, & in the 27 Year of that Year signs a 'declaration of the Estate of the Isle of Shapinscha for information of his Majesties Commissioners'.

William Irving of Fairstay acquired almost all, if not the whole of his lands in Shapinsha from the Bishop of Orkney & others in the early part of the 17th Century. He was married to a Christian Mudie, whose last will is dated 16 April 1628. Two or three years afterwards he married again a young wife, Elizabeth Baillie, presumedly Mr Petrie, in a letter to the Rev P P Irving, of Jany 22. 1857, to be a daughter of the Proprietor of Tankerness in the parish of St Andrews, 'which shows' he observes, 'how the connection was kept up by the Irvings of Shapinsay with the parish in which the Head of the family resided, & in which Magnus Irving

was born.

In an act of Parliament of 1649, for putting the kingdom in a posture of defence, I find William Irving of Gairsay appointed on a Committee of War for the Sheriffdom of Orkney, but he did not live to enjoy whatever of consequence or dignity there may have been in the appointment. He left at his death a widow and four daughters, children of the first marriage.

In a valuation of the County made in 1653, the Widow is enrolled as Proprietor of Gairsay, which shows that he had conveyed to her at his death, as he was entitled to do, the lands acquired by himself; and his daughters are enrolled for the lands of Finstay, which were "Udal" lands, to which he had succeeded in right of his mother Christian Finstar and by purchase from his brother Thomas.

His daughters, being his nearest of kin, succeeded according to the Udal law to these lands, which after that law had been virtually abrogated, they and their heirs conveyed to their Step-mother.

This conveyance took place in 1672, and the widow, Elizabeth Irving, survived to 1686, and probably occupied at that period the homestead or "Stamschloss" as it is termed of Sairistay; an edifice of some pretension, remembered by my grandfather when a boy.

This homestead of Sairistay, now torn down, stood within a few hundred yards of the spot, where rises at present the stately mansion of Lord Arthur Balfour, the proprietor of the Island, styled in the Orkneys, "Balfour Castle".*

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* Begun by Sir William Balfour, grandfather of the present proprietor, perhaps, next to Dunrobin Castle the Duke of Sutherland's, the grandest edifice in the North of Scotland

William left no son, and does not belong to our ancestral column. It is his brother Thomas, a younger son of the first Magnus of Skaapinshay, through whom the direct line is carried down.

Thomas sold to his brother William the land of Ginstay, to which he had succeeded in right of his mother, and on the death of that brother without male issue he became the male head of the Sinclairs of Orkney. He was living in Duhome (pronounced Home) in Skapinsha on the 22d March 1646, when he had landed proprietors. His residence was on a peninsula about a mile & a half in a direct line, tho' five by the circuit of the road, from that of his brother William, the occupant of the now demolished "Hamschlop" (as Mr Balfour termed it) of Sairstay.

The successor of Thomas of Duhome was named Magnus, after his

grandfather Magnus, the son of the Chief Judge, & was probably the first Irving born on the Island of Shapinsha. He had two Sons, Magnus & John; of whom ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ was the elder. He descend, ~~[illegible]~~ through Magnus, who appears in 1720, and ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ according to Mr. Petrie in his Communication to the Reading, May 20, 1879 Our family is now the head of the Irvings who so long held property in Orkney, whose younger branches are still Land owners in several parts of the County.

At this period (1720) the estate of Gairstay had passed from the family, the last owner bearing the name of Irving being Elizabeth, the widow of William and Magnus must seem to have declined in fortune, and from an

owner of land who had sunk down into the condition of a tenant at Dunkeld. He married Catharine Williamson, and of this marriage was born in 1731 in the modest farmhouse of Dunkeld, still standing, William Irving, the first of the name of Irving who settled in New York.

William conceived early a passion for the sea, which was kept in check by his mother, to whom he was tenderly attached.

But at her death, which took place when he was about eighteen, he bade adieu to the Orkneys, and embarked in a sea faring life, apparently the only opening to his enterprise within that offered some chance of success.* ~~in that life of peril & exposure~~. He returned but once to the home of his infancy, & then left it forever. The vessel in which he served was at one time captured, and he was thrown into prison at Brest. On the 18th of May 1761, he was married in Falmouth, England, to Sarah Sanders, daughter & only child of John & Sarah Sanders, his wife, whose father was an English ~~[illegible]~~ clergyman by the name of Kent. On the 25th of May, 1763 just after the peace between England & France, the youthful pair left Falmouth in his Majesty's packet boat, the Pitt, and arrived in New York on the 18th July, landing on these shores in the same year that William Irvine of Irish extraction, afterwards a Major General of the Revolution, settled in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

At the time he cast his lot on this side of the ocean, William had acquired

*. He ran away from home, on ale of difficulties with his stepmother (D.C.)

a little property by sundry ventures at sea, with which, in the moderate way these means would allow, he commenced business as a Merchant.

Thomas

~~[illegible]~~ Williams was the first Irving who settled in the city of New York; ~~[illegible]~~ others of the name had preceded him to these shores. There were Irvings in Pennsylvania who sign a memorial in 1752. There was an Edward Erwin an inhabitant of Dover, New Hampshire in 1658, taxed in 1662. A Captain John Erving, Merchant, appears among the literati of New England about the beginning of the last Century. He was from Orkney. & an uncle of Grand father:

James Bowdoin, Governor of Massachusetts, born 1726, married Elizabeth Erving, daughter of John Erving, and had a son James, born Sept 22. 1752. Her second husband was General Henry Dearborn. Her brother, John Erving Jr. of Boston, graduated at Harvard

University in 1747: was a loyalist: in 1776 fled to Halifax; afterwards went to England: in 1778 was proscribed & banished: in 1779 his property was confiscated: died in England in 1816. aged 89.

George Irving, a merchant of Boston, was another loyalist: proscribed in 1778: estate confiscated in 1779: went to Halifax, thence to England: died in London 1806 aged 76.

Alexander Irving, of South Carolina: a loyalist: went to England in 1779.

Note. Irvings of South Carolina.

though some of the name as appears by this the pioneer society in New York enumeration, were loyalists, William was a steadfast Whig; and he and his wife have received honorable mention for their kindness to the Americans who were thrown into prison in New York during the war of the Revolution.

The following is an extract from a manuscript certificate in my possession, which was given to him a few days prior to the evacuation of the city by the British in 1783, and evidently tendered under an impression that he might be exposed to abuse in person & property by the Americans at their entrance, without some such safeguard.

"These may certify whom it may concern, whether Civil or Military Officers that Deacon William Irving, Merchant in this city, appeared to be friendly inclined to the liberties of the United States, and greatly lamented the egregious barbarities practised

See note next page by copyist P.E.J.

Note by P.P.J. 1857.

[I have heard from my Father Ebenezer Henry & from my Aunt Mrs Paris many anecdotes & facts illustrating the fervent piety of both William Henry & his wife.

He was a Scotch Presbyterian, a member and officer of the Presbyterian "Brick Meeting" in Beekman Street: a constant & devout student of the Scriptures, regular in his regard to family worship, and universally respected for his upright & honorable character in business. His wife was a Church of England woman;- who tho' she conformed to the Presbyterian Church for the sake of her husband, yet never lost her attachment to the Church of her youth: and to this influence may be ascribed the singular fact that all of her children subsequently became connected with the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States. She was a woman of vigorous intellect, open & generous disposition, & of truly devout habit & affections. P.P.J.]

by her enemies at the unhappy sons of liberty that unhappily fell in their power; contributed largely to my relief, (who was a prisoner in this city as early in the war as 1779): and was probably an instrument under God of the preservation of my life: And by credetable accounts I have had from other prisoners both in this city & Country, has been the means of the preservation of them also."

This document is dated November 15. 1783, and is signed "Blackleath Burritt, minister of the Presbyterian Church."

Another similar instance is mentioned in Barber's Historical Collections of Connecticut.

The Rev. Moses Mather D.D. of Darien Ct. was taken captive with forty of his congregation July 22. 1781. by a party of British troops, while worshipping on the Sabbath, and confined in the Provoost Prison, where

his food was wretched & stinted, and he was subject to frequent indignity from the keeper, the notorious Cunningham. But says Barber in recording the fact, "Dr. Mather was not without his friends, - friends, however, who knew nothing of him except his character. A lady of distinction (the mother of Washington Irving, according to information obtained in Darien,) having learnt his circumstances, and having obtained the necessary permission, sent to him clothes and food and comforts with a very liberal hand."

Though William was so far separated from his family in Shaftsbury, he did not neglect a correspondence with them, and letters from his only brother, Peter, at the old homestead at Dunbarton, bore grateful allusion to his liberal assistance in a season of great scarcity. One of these communications dwelt with earnest acknowledgment on the kindness of the "dear sister" William's wife, which seemed to call for some special recognition. Peter had no sons, and of five daughters, but one who married. This was the youngest, named Sarah, after his brother's wife.

William died in the city of New York October 25. 1807, leaving what was in those days a handsome independence to his widow, who survived to April the 9th 1817.

On summing up the foregoing particulars of our ancestry, it will be seen that the Irvings, (descendants by one account of the brothers of Crimes Irvine of 1004) had been of long standing in the northern border of Scotland in 1306: that in the beginning of that year, William de Irvin, our first authenticated progenitor, left the Tower of Woodhouse to follow the fortunes of Bruce: that he was transplanted to the vicinity of Aberdeen by a royal grant of that Monarch, if may be as early as 1312: but without doubt in 1323: And that prior to 1369, a younger son, bearing his own name, had settled at Kirkwall, the metropolis of the Orkneys: in which town & its vicinity, the parish of Holm & the parish of St Andrews, his descendants remained until about the year 1800, when Magnus, the male head of the family by the death of his elder brother James without issue, passed with his

two sons

William & Thomas, to the neighbouring island of Shapinsha, from which about the year 1750, William, the great-grandson of Thomas, delivered himself for an ultimate home in the New World. — In other words William who settled in New York in 1763, was descended at eleven lenions from Sir William Irvine, to whom Bruce gave the coat of arms; the direct line comprising 4 Williams, 2 Johns, 3 of the name of Magnus, 1 Cristie, 1 James, & 1 Thomas

The succession runs as follows:

I

William de Irvin. Secretary of Bruce. receives from him knighthood: the coat of arms: the lands of the forest of Drum. appears in 1306. 1323. 1332. Dead in 1348

II

William Erwin. Cadet. appears at Kirkwall Orkney, as a man of note 25 May 1369

III

William de Erwyne. alias Yeving: appears in a list of dignitaries at Kirkwall 10 Novem. 1422. mentioned in a transaction in Torfæus's history 1423.

John of Ewrayn - or Ewing. Landed Proprietor in Holm. 1438. mentioned as a principal witness in documents bearing seal of the Chief Judge. & in Thom's Archdeacon Ro. p. 94.95.

V.

Christie Ewrayn. Married Edin Paplay a Nude heiress. Exchanged lands of Holm & Paplay for Sebay in St Andrews. 27 April 1460.

VI.

John, eldest son of the marriage, appears 1483. 1509. 1526. dead in 1527.

VII.

James of Sebay. Lawman or Chief Judge. appears in 1534. 1555. dead before 1561.

VIII

Magnus. appears 1581. married Christian Nicolson an heiress: parts with his share of the Sebay property to his younger brother William in 1597: becomes the male head of the Irvings of Orkney by the death of his elder brother James without issue: removes from Parish of St Andrews to Shapinsha prior to 1608.

IX

Thomas in Sulisome. Shapinsha. 22d March 1646. younger brother of William Irving of Sacistay, the occupant of the ancient Stewr demolished 'Stanchless', near the site of the present Balfour Castle: and at William's death without male issue, male head of the family in Orkney.

X.

Magnus of Duhome: the second of the name of Magnus & probably the first being born on the Island of Shapinsha.

XI.

Magnus, of Duhome. appears in 1720 declines from a landed proprietor to a tenant at Duhome. marries Catharine Killiam. Son.

XII.

Killiam, their eldest son, born at Duhome, Shapinsha, August 31 (Old Style) 11 Sept. (new) 1731. Married Sarah Sanders of Falmouth, Eng.d 18 May 1761. Settled in New-York 1763: Died Oct 25. 1807. leaving eight children surviving him. viz.

(1) Killiam, born August 15. 1764. m. Julia Paulding Nov 7. 1793. died Nov 9. 1821

(2) Ann Sarah, born Feb 14. 1770. m. Rich.d

Dodge. 1788, died May 10. 1808.

(3) Peter, born Octo 30. 1771. died June 27. 1838.

(4) Catharine Rodger, born Jany 1. 1774. m: Dan: Paris 1 Octo. 1796. died December 25. 1849.

(5) Ebenezer, born Jany 27. 1776. m: Elizabeth Kip Nov 14. 1805.

(6) John Treat, born May 26. 1778. m: Abby Ferman April 28. 1806 died March 15. 1838.

(7) Sarah, born June 30. 1780. m: Henry Bankart 8 Jany 1806

(8) Washington, born April 3. 1783. died at Sunnyside. N. Y. Nov 28. 1859. Buried in the family ground. near the old Church Tarrytown Decl. 1859

Memoranda of the Irving family in America from the period of their Settlement in New York 1763.

added by P.P.I.

William Irving the eldest son of Magnus Irving of Dalhome Shapinsha. Orkney, whose descent from Sir William de Irvyne of the Knightly House of Drum, Aberdeenshire is traced in the preceding sketch arrived in New York with his wife Sarah (Sanders) on the 18th July 1763.

By his previous ~~adventures~~ in successes in moderate mercantile adventure, he had acquired some property: and in a list of Freemen or Citizens of the city of New York from 1749 to the Revolutionary War, (Compiled from official records by David Valentine, Clerk of the Common Council & published in 1856) I find the name of my grandfather in 1769. with the addition of "Skutteman". ~~[illegible]~~

a designation which in those days marked the social position which he possessed.

He continued to be engaged in business as a merchant until within a short period of his death: connecting with other things the employment of vessels to Charleston & the West Indies. Altho I have no recollection of him, yet I remember well the impression made on my youthful mind by anecdotes illustrating his probity, & his true piety. He died 25 Oct. 1807: leaving his widow & eight children surviving him: & at the legacies of these children, who had become themselves independent in circumstances, bequeathing all his estate, a very handsome one, to his widow.*

His widow, my grandmother I well remember: a person of a high order &

* This I had from Judge Ogden Edwards, only last week: P.P.E. Oct 13. 1858.

intellect, true piety, & great energy and decision of character.

During the lifetime of her husband she, though a Church of England woman, attended the Brick Meeting, Presbyterian Church, in Beekman street, with her grandfather who was a Scotch Presbyterian. She continued her attendance there afterwards, altho she always retained a strong affection and preference for the Church of her fathers and to this it is no doubt owing that every one of her children (unless it may have been her daughter Anne, who married Richard Dodge and died young) became attached to the Protestant Episcopal church.

She survived until April 9th 1817. and I distinctly remember her death & the funeral services.

The house in which this venerable couple lived for a great many years

was in William Street. on the East side.
a few doors from Fulton St: and was
only taken down within four or five
years past. /about 1852/.

Old Judge Edwards remarked to me
lately that he remembered her appear-
-ance perfectly: & that she very strongly
resembled her son Washington.

I

1. Their oldest son William, who survived, was born in New York 15 August 1764. He became at an early period interested in the fur trade (Hatt Astor); was engaged with (the subsequent millionaire) John Jacob Astor; & I have been told was at one time offered a copartnership by him. He did not receive a collegiate education - but was a man highly endowed, of rare humour, great poetic taste, delightful conversational talent, most attractive personal appearance, and was always my youthful admiration for the thoroughness with which the spirit of the time, refined, noble gentleman pervaded him. He was a member of Congress from New York from 1813 to 1819 at a time when only our leading men were elected as representatives: and was greatly valued as a member of the committee on Commerce by Mr

clay.

His early efforts as a writer in Philadelphia were not followed by any literary production in his later years, that I know of: unless it may have been some pamphleteering in the unfortunate ecclesiastical war which took place between Bishop White, & the Rev Cave Jones, one of the clergymen of Trinity Church. New York. in which Mr. L. sought to be a peacemaker. His wide nature & disposition unfitted him for any other position, than this - "He was" say the Messrs Duyckinck, in their "Cyclopedia of American Literature" a merchant at New York, with the character of a man of high refinement who had added to a naturally genial temperament, the extensive resources of observation, & perhaps experience of the hard gathered from under-hand.*

* This I suppose refers to his fortunes adventures in the Northwest Fur Trade

Nov. 7. 1793

He married Julia Paulding of Tarrytown, Westchester Co. (sister of William, James K. & Nathaniel Paulding) and died in New York Nov 9. 1821: leaving a very handsome fortune: and children surviving him. The house in which he died, which he built in 1817 was no 15? State Street: and in its day was one of the finest dwellings, as it had one of the most charming situations (facing the Battery) in the city.

He had become a Communicant of the Episcopal Church before his death: and his end was crowned with the blessed hope which the gospel inspires.

His widow, survived until 1822.

The children of William King, who died in 1821. were

1. Lewis Graham, married Maria Carlton Hale. daughter of Dr N. Hale of the U.S. Army. by whom he has (1) Lewis, unmarried, a physician. (2) Charles, Secretary of the Ocean Ins. Co. married to Eleanor Merton. & (3) two daughters. Lewis is at present Secretary of the Niagara Ins. Co. Born

2. William Sanders. a clergyman of the Protestant Episcopal Church: born . and died in Texas, whither he had gone for his health (unmarried) in 1823.

3. Oscar born . formerly an officer in the U.S. Navy: late of Terrytown: married 1. Catharine Dayton daughter of A Ogden Dayton: by whom he has (1) ~~William~~ dead (2) Nathaniel P. — & 2. his cousin Eliza (unmarried) Dodge, widow of T. Romeyn.

4. Pierre Monro. Counsellor at Law. New York. born . married 1. Eliza Bedan. & 2. his cousin Helen Dodge. Had no children.
The sketch of the family in Scotland has been compiled by him.

5. Julia. born Nov 21. 1803. married Moses H. Grinnell of New York and has three children viz (1) ~~Henry~~ Julia. (2) Henry. (3) Fanny.

6. Henry Ogden of Tarrytown. Counsellor at law. born 1806. Unmarried.

II. Anne second child of William Irving (1st in America) born Feb 14 1770 married Jeremiah Richard Dodge of Johnstown, Montgomery Co N.Y. and died 1808. leaving

(1) William I. = from whom many descendants (of Syracuse. N.Y.)

(2) Jane = Fettingham. = also several descendants.

(3) Samuel Died unmarried

(4) Hermes R = Rebecca, d. of Wm Jno. Williams. M.C. from N. Carolina. residing in Salisbury. N.C. from whom 1 son Richard Irving. Lt U.S. Army. 4 d.

(5) Eliza. = 1. Romeyn. 2. her cousin Oscar Irving.) no children

(6) Helen = her cousin O.M. Irving.

III. Peter King. [3rd child of 1st ptn.]
born N.Y. 30 Oct. 1772. Educated at
Columbia Coll. N.Y. but did not
take his Bachelor's degree. Took degree of M.D.
from Faculty. A man of high culti-
vation & refinement: & much literary
taste. Never pursued his profession
from disinclination to it. Engaged in
conduct of Morning Chronicle as Editor.
Went to England in . Formed
connexion in business with his brother (my
father) Stewart — which for series of years
highly prosperous. [Were the partners in
England.] Went to Italy in 1837. His
permanent residence at Rouen in
Normandy. After hard in Paris: &
still later at London & Madrid with
his brother Washington. Returned to
New York in 183? after years absence
died June 27 1838. & interred in old
Church Yard at Tarrytown

IV. Catharine Rodgers. /4 chil of 1. 2 4/
bn Jan. 1774. Married Daniel
Paris [Son of Colo Isaac Paris, killed
while in Command of his Regiment
at Battle of Germany in the War of the
Revolution] — of Albanstown Montgom-
-ry. Member of State Senate — Coun-
-sellor at law. She died in Albany
on 23 Dec 1849 — & he died 1851
— leaving two surviving children
1st Mary — who m. — Wethoeffer. Dr. of
Judge M. Wethoeffer — & has several
children. (1) (2) (3)

2d Sarah — Thomas W. Storrow. Mer-
chant of Paris — France. where they
reside. Three daughters at this
date 1858. about (1) 15. (2) 12. (3) 9.

v. Ebenezer. 5 child of Wm Irving
born Jan 27. 1776. ~~at~~ in New York
~~Jersey~~ ~~while~~ ~~with the army~~ flying from New York
then possession of British troops. He
became given to acknowledge their thank-
fulness for deliverance. Ebenezer,
hitherto hath the Lord helped us.
Lo — Sam. for which while
I revere their piety, I cannot ap-
prove their taste.

He was bred a merchant. Early
employed in West India trade: &
made several visits to the Havana.
For a time a partner of Pat Paul-
ding. Married ~~Oct~~ Nov 14. 1805 Eliz-
abeth Kip. [born Feb 18. 1784 died April
19. 1827. descended from the Old Dutch
family of that name: a record of their
ancestry step by step from settlement
in America will be found in their
papers. Gathered by her father in law
James B Mosher from various old
family Bibles. Buried in the estab-

lishment of his claim this left
of his life. [the second of same name
2d another branch of same family / to
large property –]
Engaged as a Merchant ~~that~~ until
1838. when retired to Sunny side
with his daughters: to take up his
abode with his brother Washington.
At one time in possession of large
property: but lost it all in. ?
. Died resident there at 82 yrs of age.
in cheerful & serene old age. Venerated
for his straightforwardness & probity.

His children
1. Pierre Paris. [the writer of these Memo /
. Strange that with such a dislike
to every thing Grand. I should have
been called Pierre instead of Peter
after my Uncle of that name – I then
& make the matter worse, to have

had that associated ~~with~~ so oddly with Pain's. I don't think I have ever become quite reconciled to the monstrosity so revolting to my peculiar & somewhat fastidious tastes.

Born 24 Sept 1806. Grammar School of Dr. Nelson until Oct 1820. At Columbia College 1820–1824. Here graduated. Introduced by class mate William Duer in 1822 to intimacy with that family. Engagement of marriage before College term ended. 1 Nov 1826. when just beyond 20 year married to Anna Ellen Hilton. [Dr. of John Duer & Anne Bunner: & grand daughter of Col. Wm Duer & Lady Kath. Alexander Dr. of Lord Stirling] born 11 July 1807.

Already marriage rendered necessary, compliance with the Father's wishes to enter into commercial life contrary to my own inclinations for which totally unfitted by previous

habits strained. This began in 1827. without any experience: & at the early age of 21. Dissolved in 1832 rendered necessary ~~of~~ the winding up in the spring of 1833:-

At housekeeping in Worcester St near Pleasant. In a new dwelling 1830-1831. In Grand St. Corner of Mercer 1831-1833-

At West Point May ~~1833~~ - Nov 1833. While closing settling business.

Intimacies during College life Wm Duer: Charles Ferris Hoffman, now in the lunatic asylum at Utica. From College until leaving service in 1833. Henry St Marie, Lieut. now Post Captain U.S.N.

In January 1833 Commencement of new era in my life. First dawn of Religious light on my soul. Deepened throughout the Spring: Made promoted by trial & solicitudes about my father Dr: Matured & deepened by quiet Summer at West Point - where with Mam from unfavorable associations by fond fraternal friendship I passed day after day among the Mountains with no other Companion but the Bible: & in almost continual prayer.

Nov 1833. Removed to Saugerties on the Hudson where induced to invest $5000 in Barclay & Livingston's Brewery which turned out another disastrous concern: the debts of which followed me for years. Revolved to think of the Ministry. After many doubts & hesitations came to a decision in Jan 1835. Began preparation then. - Removed to New York Nov 1835 &

passed that winter in family of my father in law. Mr Dwar. [who died Chief Justice of Superior Court of New York on 9 August last 1858]

Ordained in St Thomas Ch New York June 19. 1836. Assumed charge of that Church during absence of the Rector Rev Dr Hawks until Sept of that year. Nov 1836. Removed to Geneva N.Y. to take charge of Trinity Church in that Village as Rector. Passed happy ministry there for seven years. Obliged by increasing family & diminishing income / in consequence of debt incurred on New Church & Office / to resign on 1 Jany 1843. Take charge of Trinity Mission Department of P.E. Episcopal Ch. in the City of New York.

Domiciled with the Dwar, until May 1848. When had charge for the year of Ascension Ch Wal - in

absence of Rector Rev G. T. Bedell [19]
in Europe. At the same time Con-
tinuing my connection with Foreign
Missy Committee. [N. B. Did not cease
until I resigned 1 Oct 1857]
During that year & until Oct 1849
My family residence at Jamaica
L. I.

1 July 1849. Assumed charge
of Christ Ch. N Brighton.
Thorns & perplexities of this new
position. Always an uneasy berth.
Yet affording a pleasant home & &
some kind friends.

- 1856. Went to Europe by my parish.
- 1858. Oct 14. Writing this.
- Concluded <u>merciful</u> -

Family of Pierce Irving / son of George
& grandson of William Irving /

1) Pierce Leslie Irving - born July 25, 1828
in New York. 105 or 106 Grand St. at
house of John Dwer his grandfather.
Dropped the f & Leslie at an
early period. Removed to Geneva
with his father in 1836. & back to N.Y.
again in 1843. Grammar school
& Old College for one year. And in
Oct. 1844. Entered Columbia College.
New York. Graduated 1848.
Studied law: admitted to practice
1852.
Married Feb 16. 1858 Amy G. de
Gilbert Percy deceased. & had
(a) Henrietta born 19 Feb. 1859

2) Anna Dunn Bring. da of P. Bring. born Nyak 28 Aug 1830. Married June 7. 1854 to Frederic Randolph Rutter. of New Brighton. Staten Island.

3) John Dunn Bring: born New York 29 Jan 1832 & died 19 Apl 1836. Interred in Dunn's vault. Thomas & Wyck

4) Elizabeth born Saugerties. Ulster Co. N.Y. April 8. 1834.

5) Harriet Ridgway born Saugerties. 17 Sept 1835.

6) Grace. born Geneva 8 May 1838. died Aug 25. 1889. Interred at Geneva.

7) Ellen. born at Geneva. 21 Aug 1840.

(2) Alexander Dwer, born at Geneva, in the Lecture. 28 Dec 1842.

(3) Frances Rutherland, born New York 20 Mch 1845
Died April 24. 1846. Interred Mr Dwer's vault
Thomas ch. Broadway NY.

(4) Roland, born April 27. 1847.

Married 1. Jane, dtr of Rev Joel [24]
Sutherland of Geneva – who died 1852!

3. Theodore has

(1) Fanny. bm 1839
married 8 Nov 1859. Lot C Clark

(2) Elizabeth Kip bm 1840
married 6 Sept 1859 Rev Geo B Reese

(3) Mary

(4) Cornelia

(5) Sutherland

Theodore. married 2. m 1858. Louisa Ketchum
Staten Island | Rev Rector of St Andrews Parish
(6) Grace.

4. William. Son of Ebenezer. Grandson of William ?: bm Feb 16. 1811.
Married. 1844 Sarah Mann.
died, while in one of the Public departments at Washington. Aug 28. 1854.
leaving three children.
(1) Katherine.
(2) William
(3) Francis.

5 Sanders, Jr Stephen born Feb 9 1813. Married Sept 15 1840 Julia Frazer of Canandaigua N.Y. Has no children. By Profession a Civil Engineer.

6 Eliza Ann. B. 27 May 1814. Died 1819.

7 Catherine A. B. May 6. 1816. Unmarried

8 Sarah, B. June 20. 1817. Unmarried.

8 Jane. B. Sept 26. 1818. Died 1827
Twins
9 Julia. B. do.

10 Mary E. B. 23 May 1820. Unmar.

12 Harriet E. B. Mch 14. 1822. Unmar.

12 Charlotte V.N. = B. Sept 3. 1824. Mr. June 7. 1847. William Stennett. Has
(1) Edward
(2) Laurence
(3) William Irving

John Keat Irving: Son of William 1st born Nyack May 26. 1798. Educated & graduated at Columbia College, New York. Studied Law. Married Abby Furman, 1836. For many years First Judge of New-York, & died while holding that office, New York. Mch 15 1838: having filled the station with great honour. Died the last man of the name: partly acquired by his wife: his partly also the result of judicious investments from his own early savings, & the rise of property in the city.

He left Children.

Gabriel. born 1806. A Merchant. died about 1840 in London, having previously married Eliza Eckford: by whom he had two daughters. (1) Hamilton married Smith Van Buren, (Son of ex-president of the U.S.) (2) Elizabeth - yet unmarried.

2. William ~~John~~ [5th of Mr. T.] died
before his father — an officer in
the Navy.
3. Sarah. married Edwin Clark.
died in 1835? leaving (1) Irving Clark.
(2) Sarah Clark [m^d to James Kent]
4. John Kent — married Helen d.
of Abraham Schermerhorn of N.Y.
who had several children.
(1) John Irving
(2) Catharine Irving &c —

5. Washington — unmarried.

6. George — m^d — Wells — dec^d — &
has one child — (1) a daughter?

7. Abby. m^d her cousin Henry Stan=
hope of Birmingham — England.
Son of Hyde Park — New York — &
has ~~two~~ children
(1) ?

VII

Sarah d. of William Irving (Wid)
Born N.Y. Feb. June 13. 1785. m. Henry
Vanwart of Birmingham. England
in 1805 where he died until her death
in 1849. Had

Henry Vanwart born Oct 1806.
m. 1st Susan Pierson - 2d Abby d.
of John T. Irving (his cousin) and
has two children. ~~twin~~ - by second
wife - daughters?)

Irving. m. 1st his cousin Susan
Irving. d. of William 2d. & 2d Sarah
Ames. of Coxsackie. N.Y. by the last
whom he has two sons. twins,
(1) Irving Vanwart
(2) Ames Vanwart.

* (Irving V.W. is the ~~author~~ writer
of the letter giving an acc of the
visit to Dunn in 1857.

3 # William Stanhat, Sen of Sarah = married 1. Miss Lee of Birmingham. Eng. & 2d. and has many children.

Sarah — unmarried.

Matilda = Lell. of Birm. and has many children.

Marianne — unmarried.

Family in America distinguished as follows

1st Generation		I. II. &c
2d	"	1. 2 &c
3d	"	(1) (2) &c
4	"	(a) (b) (c) &c

VIII

[30]

Washington Irving:- Journal
eldest of William — 1st / Born
New York 3 April 1783.
Died at his house "Sunnyside"
Tarrytown on November 28th 1859.
and interred in the family
burying ground near Sleepy Hollow
church

ncestry of Washington Irving.

John of Irwan had landed possessions in the pa-
h of Holm, in Orkney, in 1238, when the coun-
was still an appendage of Denmark and Nor-
y. The Irvines of Sebay are very frequently
entioned in the times of Robert and Patrick
ewart, Earels of Orkney, and suffered very se-
rely from the outrages of these rapacious no-
s. They become extinct in the direct male
e, *tempore* Charles I.; but one collateral branch
d immediately before settled in the island of
nda, and another, the Irvines of Gairstay, in
e island of Shapinshay.

They lost the estate of Gairstay several gene-
tions back, and sank down to the condition of
re peasants, tenants of Quhome, where some of
em reside to this day. I was there lately with
r. Balfour, the proprietor of Shapinshay, who
inted out the old and modest house at Quhome
ere was born William Irwine, father of Wash-
gton Irving. Is it not somewhat singular that
r. Robert Strange and the author of Bracebridge
ll can be almost demonstrated of the same
od? I guess, if Irving knew his pedigree could
traced step by step up to John Erwyn of 1438,
would readily claim and vindicate his Orcandin
scent.—*Dinnision's Memoirs of Sir Robert
range.*

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PERSONAL.

Mr. Washington Irving's Transatlantic Connections.

The *Northern Ensign* says that Mr. Petrie, county clerk of Orkney, has discovered that Washington Irving, the celebrated writer, is an Orkney man by descent. Mr. Petrie says:

"Along with other gentlemen, I have been engaged for the last six or eight months in tracing the pedigree of Washington Irving, and we have found, from manuscripts (most of them in my possession,) and other sources, that his father was born in Snapinshay, and emigrated to New York about 1760, and died in 1798, leaving a large fortune. The Rev. P. P Irving was here about three weeks, and carried away with him a table of the family descent, and tracing them back to 1422, and subscribed by Sheriff Robertson and myself The Orkney Irvings were cadets of the Irvings of Drum, as appears from the coat of arms appended to charters, &c."

The following letter was written before the
recovery of the two links in the chain from
Sir William Irvine to John of Enzeyns

Kirkwall. Orkney.
Wednesday 20 Augt 1856

My dear Father

I wrote to you some time since from London, on my return from Scotland in which I mentioned that a attack of illness together with very stormy weather had enthralled me up, for the time at least, my intended visit to the Orkneys. I accordingly returned to the Continent & pursued my pleasantly with the exception of the medical one which the greatest kindness which have shewn me. I left Gilles & came thence to the Rhine where I remained a fortnight & thence to Switzerland & Paris. I passed a fortnight & enjoyed it very greatly notwithstanding concerned at receipt of my old enemy the intermittent which during my absence in Scotland & there in Scotland up to this time set in. I was obliged to keep my mind upon the last & delightful as the time of my stay in Europe, but now the tedium of sickness & the prospect from my sickness [illegible] sent me home [illegible]

ded I ~~[illegible]~~ do so. The heat from
ever was to escape that I deemed
it imprudent with my tendency
fever to go into Italy. And came to
Paris, which finding that the fever
had left & the heat subsided
I posted thus without delay.
Intention now was to join Prince
Fred who had concluded to return
until October & pass the time at some
interesting places in Switzerland.
I resolved to carry out my
old purpose of a visit to the Oberland
Lake on Thursday the 14 I left
London for Edinburgh & by
the steamer Sakuntala which
did not reach Leith Saturday morn
ing, too late to call upon Sir
Robert Christison. Mr Robertson
Mr. Chisholm & Mr Sellar
on Sunday between the services
I walked about the lions of Edin
burgh & the Castle of

the Earls of Orkney & of Mary Queen of Scots
Lake. And above all we saw
the really very fine Cathedral
On Monday at 1 m after breakfast
the late Professor Chisholm & Mr Sellar
Jun. I called on Mr Robertson the
Lion. He did a strange man with
marked peculiarities. He is an old
bachelor with some resemblance of an ape
& with a peculiarity of manner
fitting to his ability & con
versation but with a general simple
ability & a kind heart that put me at my
ease at once. He soon carried me
off to his house & showed me
a large dark room full of
pictures & curiosities & installed me in a room
adjoining to concentrate within the
at that was busy & cheerful on the
death much has been to the light
fire which he had thoughtfully had
kindled for me
air of there Northern [illegible]

very acceptable. Sudden changes of temperature to encounter within a week. After resting a while he walked out with me. The social circle here consists of a few gentlemen who have taken of holding judicial offices under Government. These are all Idiotic persons. Men of intelligence & education are those here the cadets of some of the old Highland families. These again are proprietors, & like every great thing in the management of their estates, & have already made the Orkneys a very different place from what I repented to see. Among the heartiest, freest, most hospitable & cordial people I have met with since I left home, among the country gentlemen of these islands

I find that Mr Robertson has been far from indifferent to the further examination of the family record. But his own official business has prevented his urging the matter to a conclusion. Nor until I came, & then only little by little did I understand the degree of trouble he had taken. He had enlisted the cooperation of the County Clerk, Mr Petrie, who is himself a legal gentleman & an antiquarian skilled in reading old documents. And with his aid & identity archives had been ransacked. All the old parochial records of parishes they had been presented, from prior to 1820 some ten years since by an Act of Parliament, sent up to Edinburgh & placed in the custody of the Registrar General of Scotland. From these Mr Petrie certified extracts, & Registrar General Dundas gratuitously refusing any fees, most much of the search had been in states for age of Washington Irving. Besides, there will

the present Professor of Rhapsodhagy,
Nelson of Nelson, had sent on a large
box case containing over Eighty old
document, per Parcel Post, dealing
matrimonial contracts & relating
exclusively to the Irving of Raffhay
Raffhay:— being the deeds by which he
had now held possession — there
had been examined & deciphered by
Mr Petrie. He has opened & examined
for me: and as I turned over the
documents thro' a series of more than
three hundred years, this it was
interesting to me to look at them. I
did recognize or read little more
than the names, ~~and~~
of the labels of all this I will at my
first leisure prepare a detailed Abstract
& Catalogue Raisonné. — To day I have
called thro' Mr Robertson
Mr Petrie:— who are singularly adapted
for the work: both lawyers: & both so
situated as to make them familiar

with such enquiries: & both passionate
antiquarians. And Mr Petrie is now engaged
in preparing a table which Mr Robertson
is to sign as Sheriff Sub for the Shires — &
Mr Petrie as Clerk of the Record. The
table will vary a little from that sent
out by Mr R. to P.M. I let in no important
particulars.

But to return to my page of Monday
I had a very pleasant dinner. I find
Mr R. one who is the relative and
companion of many of Walter Scott's
early friends himself familiar with
the literary notabilities of the day and full
of anecdote concerning them. As a Highland
he is Robertson Chief of Struan, the
lineal immediate progenitor of the
Plain attitude in 1715 he is
a story about old Highland land security
referred to in Scott's
Guy Mannering. Mr Robertson to meet me on Monday
has offered to do so & I have rarely known
a more courteous & pleasant man. Mr Robertson
a story to I have forgotten to mention that
a maiden sister lives with him. Thank

force fr him - & a very nice person he is.

Yesterday I went on by invitation on a visit to Balfour Castle in Shapinsha. It is a grand house, much like Abbotsford only a great deal larger - and most beautifully furnished. I was most kindly received by Mr Balfour: after lunching with him he took me out with him pointed out the site of "Fairstay" which he said was once the seat of what he called the great family of Irving - but everything of which had been removed by his predecessors. His father was the first proprietor of the house in Shapinsha. He then went to a neighbouring island from which he pointed out the promontory on which stood Quhome, pronounced Hoome, the house in which my grandfather was born. The distance was so great nearly five miles by road that we had not time to go to it.

But from the hill on which we stood in a direct line across the water it was not more than a mile & a half. It is an old fashioned gray stone house much superior to Mr B. told me to the other farm houses which I saw about me, but inferior yet. I inferred "Fairstay" which now no trace remains. Still what Mr Balfour called "the great nest" of the family undoubtedly dated away a long time ago. He deed I saw shew that the Irvings of Shapinsha were not only once in possession of a large part of the Island, but of property on the main land & another Island. So that the tradition is no doubt true, that next to the Fleming they were the oldest & principal family in the Orkneys. Their decline, Mr Balfour attributes to the Norse custom of dividing estates between children which, notwithstanding the custom of the elder brother buying up again the portions of the younger, naturally led to the diminution of the large estates. It seems that the law of primogeniture when introduced

did not affect what were called "Udal lands", but only those for which new charters were taken from the Scottish Kings.

But Mr Balfour attributes the great decline of the Shapinsay Irvines from being proprietors to tenants at Lukame, to the improvidence & extravagance of one of the family, who Mr B. thinks from the bad letter records must have been the grandfather of my grandfather, & was so much embarrassed, that his widow & children declined possessing the estates of the property (I forget the legal term Mr B used) because they would have assumed the debts with them.

After these visits about Shapinsay I returned with Mr Balfour to the Castle. An conversation was as you may suppose, much about my family - & to my gratification Mr B. brought out of his chest a huge parchment document dated 1589 to which it appended an enormous seal of Gilbert Irving of Saukerness, bearing unmistakably the three holly leaves, the arms of Drum. Showing beyond all doubt the position of the family at that date, & confirming as clearly the claim that the Orkney Irvines are cadets of Drum. This parchment took with Mr Robertson's revised genealogical sketch I take home with me.

I ought to add that I found Mr Balfour a most intelligent & courteous gentleman, who is most actively & successfully engaged in the improvement of his property in the county. He hopes to be down to the mainland in his yacht one of the Royal Yacht Squadron.

Wednesday Augt. 20. Evening.

I dined this afternoon at "Sagerness" the house of Mr Sclater Booth

who is the Sheriff of Orkney as Mr Alderson is the "substitute" or resident chief magistrate. I there met many Orkney legal & landed gentlemen and passed a delightful evening. Mr Aytoun is the daughter of Professor Wilson the Christopher North of Blackwood. Mr Aytoun has now acquired a high reputation as a poet, a professor, & as a writer in Blackwood. He possesses a rare fund of humour, and his conversation together with that of the others, all men familiar with the notabilities of the Scottish generation now passing away, was a rich treat. Mr Aytoun made many enquiries about Uncle Washington, and expressed himself with a heartiness regarding him that was as satisfying to me as an American as it was pleasing to meet a relative.

On Thursday the 21 I took leave of my most kind & hospitable host, feeling really as if I were going away from home again: indeed affected painfully by the thought that I should probably never again see one toward whom a feeling of sincere attachment was growing up thus suddenly.

My other friend Mr Petrie, himself an author on Scottish & Canadian antiquities, drove me to the station. On the way I stopped to pay my respects to "Scott of Benscaith" who had most pressingly invited me to make him a visit. It had a curious effect to see a handsome house, luxuriously appointed with every modern comfort, in the very

centre of the mainland of Abney.
As I had engaged to meet Bonnet
Chidleen on Saturday I could not
delay: so after lunching there I
came on to Stennett & there took
the Mail Steamer to Puerto
My last sight of the Abneys was the
hill at sunset, when the sun shone
brightly on the great cliff of Boy,
a rock which rises 1200 feet sheer
vertically from the deep sea
All these acts of kindness were
heaped upon me for Uncle Matt
ington's sake. The gentry of Abney
are delighted that they can claim
him as one of themselves, & they
honoured me greatly simply for
his sake: many circumstances
which I cannot detail in a letter

I hope to speak of hereafter.
In the libraries of Port Salerno I found
ection. I found complete sets of his works,
the latter only deficient in the life of
Washington, an American copy of which I
mean to send him when I get home. I
Mr Robertson took me into the Bank
& introduced me to a young Irishman
the Secretary highly a clever intelligent
man & a fellow ship Cabin: & it was
pleasant to find an exceedingly good look-
ing & gentlemanlike youth.
I made a curious acquaintance too
with another of the name. As they are none
uncommon in Ireland. I found a very pleasant by con-
versation man about my own age & strangers
in the Inn. He had evidently been a gay
traveller, & incidentally it came out that
he had commanded a vessel in the East
India trade. He kept patted & dined
with us on Sunday, & he came quite well
acquainted: but I knew not his name.
I afterward found out from Mr Petrie,
that it was a [illegible] Irish of the San-
day stock, who had acquired a fortune:

in the East India Company's service, and who had now returned to his native isle in which he had recently made large purchases.

Aberdeen Sept. 27. 1856. I reached this place on the 23d: & on the 25 had the pleasure of meeting Anna & Fred who arrived here after a tour thro' the Highlands & are now on a visit at Fullbrook the seat of one of Fred's uncles. I went out yesterday (about 18 miles by rail) passed the day & dined with them: and found a charming hunting-box. I read in the papers to day of Yellow Fever at Quarantine & has troubled me a good deal: I expect my letters this morn - and there will decide me whether to act to a floating thought in my mind, viz. to try to exchange my passage taken for Oct 4th for one by the Asia to sail on the 8th. I hope however that there is no real ground for alarm. With love to the girls & most affectionate regards to Uncle Washington, I am ever affectionately yours

P. P. Irving

Ed. Irving Esq. Inn, Str. Aberdeen Sept 27 1856.

Kirkwall 19th/22d January 1857.

[41]

My Dear Mr. Irving,

I would have long since ~~answered~~ replied to your kind and highly esteemed [illegible] of 20th Oct. last had I not been making some further researches relative to the object of your late visit to Orkney, and deemed it better to postpone writing until I had some farther intelligence to communicate to you.

At the time the Table was made up which you carried home with you, I did not feel quite satisfied that William Irving of Gairsty was a descendent of Cristie Irving: although with the evidence then before me William Irving could not be traced as descended from any other branch of the family. The question to solve was - whether William of Gairsty was descended from a brother or a son of James the Lawman?

On a comparison of the names, dates &c. there was none of the Lawman's sons with whom William could be so closely connected, and Cristie was the only one of the Lawman's brothers that seemed at all likely to be the ancestor of the Shapinshay branch. Still, although the names and dates seemed to point to Cristie, much had to be taken for granted, and the name of Gairsty's father had to be guessed as it could not be ascertained from any document then discovered - or, rather, it escaped my notice at the time that I had previously got it & had it marked in some notes which I had made about the family. Having therefore doubts on the subject which I was anxious to have removed, I again very carefully went over the numerous documents in my pos-

session, in anyways connected with the Irvings in Orkney. Am here, the knowledge which I have acquired through my antiquarian researches of names of families now extinct, and of places whose names have also been altered or forgotten, was very useful. For example, I found that William Irving of Gairsty had 4 (or 5) daughters, but no son, and that when a general valuation of Orkney was made in 1653, his heirs (he being then dead) were rated for the lands of Ginstay in the Parish of St. Andrews. Now there was something like a clew to the puzzle, for the principal property of the Irvings viz. Sabay was situated in St. Andrews Parish, and thus I had now obtained evidence, if not of a connection between the families of Sabay and Gairsty, at all events of the connection of the latter with St. Andrews Parish. It has been said "But what's in a name?" In this case there is a good deal of information in it, for I remembered that Magnus Irving, the eldest son (who had issue) of James the Lawman was married to a Christian Ginsta. And keeping in view the old custom in Orkney, as elsewhere, of assuming a territorial name or taking the surname from the property, I inferred that Christian Ginsta was a daughter, and in all probability the heiress of the proprietor of Ginstay, and that the Gairsty family inherited that property through her. I therefore recommenced an examination of the old Manuscripts in my possession to find out if possible some traces of the family of Ginsta, and I was rewarded by discovering documents which in my opinion leave no doubt of the connection between the families. I now proceed to enumerate some of those Manuscripts.

I. A very curious MS. being a "Dome" (Doom) of the "Lawling" or ancient Head Court held at Kirkwall in 1516 relative to the lands of Norrie belonging to the Irvings in which the names of "John Elder of Ginsta" and "Olay Ginsta" appear among the assize.

II. A Discharge by "Andro Ginstae Fakisman of St. Andyrois Pare" "shone" in favor of William Irving of Norrie dated Sept. 1572.

III. Minutes of proceedings of the Sheriff Court of Orkney in which Lord Robert Stewart (afterwards Earl of Orkney) presided: and in which Minutes the name of "Andro Ginsta" appears as one of the assize and the question at issue was relative to lands in the Parish of St. Andrews. Dated 5 Nov. 1579.

I trace, in the upward way, the connection between the Irvings of Gairsty and the family of Ginstay, who were also proprietors of Ginstay. We have as shown above, John Elder of Ginsta in 1516, and Olay Ginsta evidently his son mentioned at the same time. Then Andrew Ginsta Fakisman of St. Andrews mentioned in 1572 & 1579 who appears to have been the last Heir Male of the family, and the father of Christian Ginsta whom we find in 1581 married to Magnus Irving, second son of James the Lawman. In 1608 there is a Magnus Irving in Norrabshay in Shapinshay mentioned in a Charter by Earl Patrick Stewart, and at the same time William Irving of Gairsty was residing on that Island, but no Magnus Irving at that date is to be found resident in St. Andrews. This Magnus Irving in Norrabshay, from a comparison of dates &c. I unhesitatingly believe to be the Magnus Irving son of the Lawman who was married to Christian Ginsta, & father of Wm. Irving of Gairsty

I think the following facts will fully corroborate the opinion I have now expressed.

I find that William Irving of Gairsty acquired almost all, if not the whole of his lands in Shapinshay from the Bishop of Orkney and others in the early part of the 17th century. This Willm was married to a Christian Mudie whose latter Will or Testament dated the 16 April 1628 is now before me. Two or three years afterwards he married again to Elizabeth Bailie a daughter, I believe, of the Proprietor of Tankerness in the Parish of St. Andrews, which shows how the connection was kept up by Irvings of Shapinshay with the parish in which the head of the family resided, and in which Magnus Irvine was born. Elizabeth Bailie must have been very young when she married for while W. Irving her husband died in 1647 she was alive in 168. William Irving of Gairsty left as I have said 4 daughters. At his death, his Widow was liferented in his lands in Shapinshay while his daughters succeeded to him in the lands of Ginstay in St. Andrews. This I ascertain from the Valuation of the County made in 1653 where his Widow is enrolled as Proprietor of Gairsty and his daughters for the lands of Ginstay. And in 1672 these lands of Ginstay are conveyed by the daughters and their heirs to Elizabeth Bailie whom they design their mother in-law (Stepmother) which proves that they were children of the former marriage. It is necessary to keep these facts in mind in order to understand what follows.

The "udal" law at that time still in force in Orkney, and derived from Norway, required that udal lands should descend to the nearest of kin, and this at once explains the Division of Wm Irving's lands at his death. The inference I draw from the whole is this – that Christian Ginsta was a daughter of Andrew Ginsta and succeeded to at least a portion of the lands of Ginstay – that William Irving of Gairsty was a son of her marriage with Magnus Irving, and succeeded to the lands of Ginsta in right of his mother and by purchase from his brother that at his death he conveyed to his Widow, as he was entitled to do, the lands acquired by himself – but that his daughters being his nearest of kin succeeded according to the udal law to the lands in Ginsta, which, after that law had been virtually abrogated, they conveyed to their Stepmother. This last of the Ginsta property being in William Irving's possession at his disposal at his death, and the operation of the "udal" law (with which I have had many opportunities of becoming acquainted) leaves it in my opinion beyond a doubt that Willm Irving of Gairsty was a son of Magnus Irving & Christian Ginsta – in short, that this Magnus was the ancestor of all the Irvings in Shapinshay, and his older brother James having died without issue, he became the head of the family in Orkney. And on the death of William of Gairsty without male issue, Thomas in Ruhome mentioned in 1646 became the Male Head of the Irvings in this County.

There is another circumstance which bears me out in the view I have taken, and it is this – the frequent recurrence of the Christian name of Magnus in the families of the Irvings of Shapinshay

I am afraid I have not succeeded as I desired to make the matter as clear to you as it appears to myself, but the correct genealogical table which I have prepared in accordance with the recent discoveries to which I have referred and which I have taken the liberty to send herewith to your Uncle Mr Washington Irvine under cover to you, in the hope that he will do me the honour to accept it, will help you to understand this prosy letter.

The Deed in 1422 in which William de Ewayne Burgess Kirkwall is named was printed by some years ago in the Miscellany of the Spalding Club Vol. V published in Aberdeen and a copy of it was sent to me, before publication, by my friend the Editor Mr John Stuart now of the Register House Edinburgh with a request that I would give him some information about some of the persons mentioned in it. I had this William given at the head of a Draft of the Table which I prepared before you visited Orkney, but having mislaid it when you were here I made out your Table from another Draft in which this William did not appear. The original Deed of 1438 in which John de Ewayne is named and which is now in the General Register House Edinburgh was discovered by me about 10 years ago or upwards in the County Archives & have been lent by me to a Gentleman, he without my knowledge or consent sent it to Edinburgh.

If you compare together the several dates at which Magnus Irvine, Christian Yinsta, and William Irving of Sabay are mentioned, you will at once perceive how perfectly they agree in every point.

There is one other circumstance worth noting. The Estate of Sabay was acquired by a William Sinclair about 1622 or 1623 from William Irving of Sabay. Sir William Sinclair, the grandson of William Sinclair, had some dispute relating to his Title to the property about the year 1678, and he produced Titles and other documents connected with the property of the Irvings embracing several branches of the family. These Manuscripts are very numerous and it was chiefly from them that I have made up the Table and derived my information. They were in an old Chest, apparently a sort of Charter Chest, which was lying carelessly open in the Town House, and from which I have rescued many curious papers that were fast disappearing as they were continually being destroyed in the most reckless manner. In that chest I found also the papers of the Yinstay family formerly noticed, which I hold to be primafacie evidence of the connection of the family of Yinstay with the Irvings of Sabay & of Shapinshay as already pointed out.

I observe that you make Magnus in 1720 younger than his brother John. Is there any, or sufficient evidence that John was the eldest? Because you will observe, if Magnus was the Elder of the two, then your family is now the Head of the Irvings who so long held property in Orkney, and whose younger branches are still Land owners in several parts of the County.

I am making certified copies of the Inventory referred to in the Genealogical Table and of some others of the curious documents to which I have referred, and will forward them to you very soon, both as evidence of the source from which the Table has been prepared and as affording curious illustrations of the ancient laws & customs of Orkney. Perhaps they will be found to possess some interest for you and your friends. They give strange glimpses of the past, and of laws manners & customs of "auld lang syne" which have now become almost forgotten. Since I was within a reasonable distance of New York I can show you strange old Manuscripts which are now the sole records of peculiarities in laws & customs that were once prevalent in Orkney but nowhere else in Scotland. And in regard to Antiquities, there is no district of equal extent in Britain (unless perhaps Wiltshire) that is so completely studded with the relics of the long forgotten past. In every parish you have surrounded with the comical grave mounds of the aborigines. This is a land of graves, and of curious edifices which do not exist in any other part of Scotland. But I am wandering from the subject in question.

I have gone over the new Table with Sheriff Robertson showing him the sources of my information and gave him this letter to read down to this paragraph. as he entirely concurs with me and says that the case is clear to demonstration. I do feel gratified to

have been so successful in tracing to an Orkney Stock so celebrated and deservedly popular a Writer as Mr. W. Irving. If you can send me an autograph of your Uncle I would prize it very highly, but do not wish it unless it is perfectly agreeable. I take the liberty of enclosing a note to him along with the Table and although it is intruding myself upon him without a formal introduction I am sure you will give me credit for doing so from no improper motive, but simply as an expression of the pleasure I feel in connecting him with Orkney.

I was very glad to learn that your journey had rather improved your health & that you have been enabled to resume your momentous duties with renewed vigour. ~~I pray~~ May your great Master long spare you to be a faithful & successful labourer in his vineyard. I cannot allow myself to think that I am never again to see you in this world. It would indeed be a great pleasure to look forward to another visit from you, and I also expect that some of the family will soon cross the Atlantic to visit the land of their forefathers. I need not say how happy I will be to see them & to show them any little attention in my power. May I hope that you will write me as soon as convenient if this reaches in safety.

You will hear again from me as soon

as I can get the papers copied to which I have referred.

You will have seen an account of the death of Hugh Miller of the "Witness" Edinburgh newspaper and the great Geologist. I felt his death very much he had the pleasure of making his acquaintance when he was in Orkney on a visit in 1846. It is a strange, and very mysterious.

With kindest remembrances & hoping very soon to have a letter from you I ever am

My Dear Mr Irving
Yours very truly
Geo. Peter

Revd P. P. Irving
No. 19 Bible House
Astor Place
New York

"The Tower of Drum."

The following notes of a visit to the Ancient Haute of Drum, the seat of the head of the Irving family, are extracted from a letter of my cousin Irving Vanwart to his wife in New York, dated at

Stricken, the estate of Drum,
40 miles north of Aberdeen.
July 19. 1857.

"I have so much to say that will interest you & some of our Irving connexions that I have shut myself up in my bed chamber at Stricken, that I may be secure from interruption, while I endeavour to give an a succinct account of the scenes & have passed through since I left the Shubbery" x x x x —

x x. The grand development of the climacteric from Scottish

journey had now commenced. ** We left Aberdeen, & followed a smooth turnpike road along the banks of the Dee, a narrow but beautiful stream: the hills receding in the distance on our left. The beautiful seat after another appeared as we advanced, with finely wooded banks and heads descending to the water; while on our right the country had a milder aspect; dark firs predominated over other timber, & as the road now & then penetrated their shade, I could well imagine I were approaching the ancient sepulchre originally conferred on the family by the Bruce.

After several miles of this character, the Dee crossed our path, ~~and as we trotted over its bridge,~~ + + + We now had an open country of hills receding to our right, bounded

distant moor & mountain, while a primitive pine forest, free of under-wood, with massive trunks and lofty bombe tops, clothes the country on our left. Inclining to our right, but two miles in front of us, in a wooded park, Drum is pointed out by our postillion, who halt to survey it. It is too distant to descry its architecture, but it stands well to maintain its old baronial character, in a green & richly wooded park, set in a back ground of heathy mountains, & long vistas of this wild character, between the receding hills. Where the firtrees cross the road, we penetrate them by a private carriage way, without gate or lodge to designate it as an approach. Presently we emerge where the forest showed a late clearing, but closed again beyond to conceal a further

view. Entering this passage through the forest, we wound circuitously through its undulating course, the cultivation improving, & a noble avenue of elms & oaks succeeding to the sombre pines. Passing beneath these, the rich & verdant park opens on either hand, with noble clumps of trees ~~[illegible]~~ varying its surface:— the house appeared on our right while another avenue of elms branched away ~~to the~~ left. ~~[illegible]~~

This really quite a Castle: a grim but most picturesque tower of the Eleventh Century dominated the pile, while connected with it, was the house of dark stone or granite in the style of the 16th century: of considerable length, with small windows, high up for security, and cupolas sur-

-mounted with tops like extinguishers, such as characterize the Scottish buildings half mansion half castle, of those days. Drawing up in front while our postboy ascended the steps and rang the bell I added in pencil to my address card, "of New York: Relative of Washington Irving". A lad in plain livery shewed us into the house, & carried my card to Mr Irvine, & brought us that answer that he would be with us immediately. The sitting or drawing room into which we were shewn, was spacious, & had a combined air of ease & elegance. The windows commanded a fine view of the park & mountains: & there were many pictures of great beauty, and of merit. In that, everything about the room bespoke good taste & elegance:- just what you would

respect in an ancient & highbred family. One miniature I had time to remark, which proved to be the late wife of the present Laird, who was a Hamilton of Edinburgh, now three years dead; and between the windows a full length portrait (as I supposed) of a young lady in a riding dress, holding by the bridle her saddle horse — The features were pretty, though without regular beauty, but the hazle eyes, large & animated, and remarkably wide apart, gave the whole a charming expression. It proved to be the second daughter Jane (taken by herself from a reflection in a mirror) married about four years since to an officer of the Bengal army & now in India.

In a few minutes Mr Irving entered the room, — & gave me the

warmest & most courteous reception. I then presented Mr Thorneycroft as a nephew of the Baird, whose estates we were visiting. He knew them, & gave Mr Thorneycroft a pleasant welcome. On my then presenting to him "My son Irving," he repeated the name with an emphatic of satisfaction, as he kindly took his hands. He is an old man, as we had heard, of eighty one years, of middling stature, in form & appearance not unlike Uncle Ebenezer, but rather fatter: hair grey, & partly bald. I alluded to the correspondence which Pierre (II) had had with Mr Robertson of Kinkisle in regard to the pedigree of Uncle Washington, the end of which had induced me on my tour through Aberdeen to visit Crum. He said he had known of the correspondence, that

he had followed with great inte-
-rest, altho' "he knew before of
the connexion" (I score these as
the words he used). After several
minutes of interesting conversation,
he desired his butler to show us
through the house and the old Tower
-after which to conduct us to his
library. His daughter & second
son, just home from California,
and two or three friends, he said,
had driven to a neighboring
estate but would soon be at home.
The butler led us first through
a spacious dining room, hung
with many interesting pictures,
and a few portraits. There was
the father & predecessor of the
present laird, who had possess-
-ed eighty one years, coming
into it at six, & dying at eighty
seven, ~~the 87 years age~~

The present laird had been first as he himself told me, in the army, had served in the West Indies under Abercrombie; afterwards retired from the service & practised law in Edinburgh.

Without any prompting of the imagination, I cared not regard the portrait of the old laird without recalling the strong cast of the eye, a peculiar inclination of the head & upward luminating glance that reminded me strongly of Uncle Washington, of my mother & other members of the family. Next was a portrait of Miss Jane Brine the same whose likeness I perceived he had been in the drawing room: this was at about 17 or 18, & what he termed call a very strong face. But of the pictures I will say more after I have advanced further

ning history. We passed into the Court yard, & entered the square tower which is the oldest part of the Castle, having belonged to the Scottish Kings two centuries before the days of Robert Bruce that is in the eleventh century.

The walls are of extraordinary thickness, full ten feet: and the windows were shot holes for archers & cross bow men, excepting the middle floor of the tower which is now converted by the present Laird into his library, & has an arched window such as you see in a church. But to this apartment you do not enter by the tower steps; the communication there being cut off, & the only approach to it being through the house.

We descended into a deep

dungeon, into which the light
found only faint admission
by a mere loophole through the
walls; and heavy iron rings, let
into the arched brick work of the
roof, suggested fearful ideas of
the fate of poor captives. Above
the entrance door, which was
reached by a long flight of stone
steps there was a hole like a
chimney, through which boiling
oil, lead, or other weighty things
were thrown in case the door were
forced & the enemy sought to en-
-ter. The Castle was besieged
in the time of the Covenant, when
Alexander, Laird of Drum, who
married Lady Mary Gordon
daughter of the Marquis of
Huntly, with his son & brothers,
was actively engaged upholding
the royal cause, & suffered,

in Confinement, in Carceration, banishment, confiscation. Charles II at the Restoration offered Drum a peerage, wh he declined, probably owing to a reduction of his fortunes. After which he sold one of his estates to Lord Panmure the ancestor of the present cabinet minister of that name. x x x – He ascended the tower & had an extensive view of the romantic scenery and beautiful park with the Deeside winding through: – here Cairn Keith's Stone and far distant on the N.E. the hill of Auchlunkart & "Drum's Stone" from whence he had overlooked his estate, as he hastened at the head of his vassals to the bloody battle of Harlaw, in which he fell, in hand to hand

combat with the chief of the MacLeans, entailing his wife the daughter of the grand Maréchal, whom he had thus far neglected, with the estate to his father: all of which you will find detailed in Pierre [Mi] genealogical history of the Dukes of Drum and Mewfah. — + + —

From the Courtyard we entered the armoury. Spears, shields, swords, battle axes, some of which had been used by the Duke at Bannockburn, & Culloden, at which last the old Laird took the general of the family fell.

The Laird motions in this room which communicates with his Library, both being part of the ancient Castle: and leading us near to his elbow-

chair by a large fire place, his usual seat, he told me he meed expect us to dine ~~with him~~ & spend the evening with him. This I at first declined: but finding that he earnestly expected it, I cheerfully consented it.

The party now returned & we were cordially received by all: Mr Hamilton, his brother-in-law, recently become a widower, about 60. white hair, amiable countenance & pleasant frank manners: James Irvine the 2d son, four weeks home from California on a year's visit, a bachelor of six thirty, red hair California beard mustache, about the size of Hugh. and Mary Irvine, whose name is Beatrice, graceful form & pleasing

Countenance. The eldest son, the James Laird as they call him, is a Coventeller at Edinburgh: his eldest son, the 2d Alexander died a year since at almost eight years of age: his two younger children are staying at Drum & came in to the dessert. A young lady is in the Indian Army, from them they have not heard since the beginning of the rebellion what army recently —

I led Miss Irving to the head of the dinner table & was seated at her side: next to me a young lady, her second cousin from another part of Scotland: then Mr Thomey right on the right hand of the old Laird: then James Irvine a Miss Irving's beau, opposite to me Mr Hamilton. A more easy

and delightful dinner Thera
enjoyed. Of course much of the
Conversation was in mutual
enquiries: on their side, chiefly in
regard to Uncle Washington
concerning whom they cared not
tire of asking & hearing me speak.
Before dinner Miss Irving had
spoken much of her sister's
the own attachment to his kin-
-ness, dwelling with most plea-
-sure on Bracebridge Hall, be-
-cause I suppose that comes
more completely home to them
in their mode of life -

× × × ×

After dinner James Irving
led us through the park, thro
looking the walled garden, & ~~then~~ back to the Library in the
old tower to tea. He also,
while out, visited the burying

place a chapel of the family, which James Inne unlocked for the purpose. It was full of the graves of departed Innes. More recently his mothers, who died during his absence, and his little nephew, now now the 22nd heir.

The tea table was set in the Library near the window made by the present laird, commanding the park and hill of Auchary. This window was of course in a deep recess, the walls being ten feet thick. The ceiling was lofty & arched, & covered with the arms of Drum and of the families allied to them by marriage, among them the Keiths.

After tea I had much talk with the old laird on the

Sofa. x x x He is calm and thoughtful, but extremely gentle and amiable in manner: they all call his son James, adding him as 'papa' which the latter used frequently to call his attention at the dinner table: in that their manners are at once simple & refined, & shew the high breeding of an ancient Lauhencwalle family. x x

Miss Irving gave me from her portfolio a photography of the Castle – x x x

We left at length after eight o'clock to return on foot. All accompanied us to the steps, Mr Hamilton & James Irvine descending with us to the carriage: – but after old Laird

I took leave in his library: being charged with many kind & complimentary words to Mrs Wathington. As we again drove at twilight down the avenues of the noble park, I passed in review the history of Pierre M's researches, the visit of Pierre P. to the Orkneys, and thus my crossing visit to Dunn; — and returned to Aberdeen. [illegible] satisfied. × × ×

Copy of a letter to Irving Vaultart from Lt. Col. Forbes. / Father in law of the former Irvine of Drum / dated 12 Lansdown Terrace, Cheltenham 9 September 1857.

12 Lansdown Terrace
Cheltenham 9 Sept 1857

My dear Sir

I have much pleasure in complying with the request of my daughter & Son in law Mr & Mrs Foley, some few, viz. that I would answer the enquiries contained in your letter, which they have forwarded to me. They have done this because I occupied myself for some time in collecting & arranging facts regarding the Lords of Onn, & the families descended from them, as well as the public events and private feuds in which they were engaged. I have never abandoned the intention of some day completing the latter, as I had nearly done the earlier portion of their history.

As Onn was besieged, taken,

plundered, for a long time garrison
by the Covenanters during the civ
wars in the time of Charles I. it is
-haordinary, not that a great par
of the family record were destroy
but that so many of the old deed
including three dated in the reign
of K. Robert Bruce were preserved.
Drum they had no continued gene
-ogy of an old date regarding the
-mily; and none at all regarding th
branches from it. I have attempted
from deeds preserved at Drum, a
well as those of other families, an
chartularies of religious houses
correct the family genealogies;
from many sources to add part
-ulars regarding the families of the
name of Irvine descended from tho
of Drum. When prosecuting m
researches I often thought of writ
to Mr Washington Irving, who I wa

informed was believed to be of a Forfar
shire branch: but I abandoned my
intention as I was unable to get any
information regarding families of the
name, who held estates in that Coun
-ty, altho' I made enquiry at those
who had access to the title deed of
these estates

I shall take the liberty of copying the
genealogical list of your family,
which owing to the peculiar customs
of the Orkney Islands, seems to have
been extremely well preserved.

The following memoranda are taken
from rough notes: as my MS regarding
the Irvines is in Scotland.

Name of Irvine.

I have seen the name spelt in twenty
-one different ways. The Charter of K.
Robert Bruce granting the Royal Forest
of Drum in Freeprestry is dated in 1323.

to William" de Irwin". In the charter dated in 1324 erecting the forest of Drom into a free Barony it is William" de Bevyn". I have seen the name spelt two different ways in the same deed. Most probably the name is taken from the name of a place. There is the river Irvine in Ayrshire. The Irvine Burn which runs into the Esk. There is also the river Irven in Cheshire. The Burgh of Irvine is situated on the banks of the river Irvine in a parish of the same name: And the parish of Irvine in Annandale, upon the banks of the Kirtle, is now included in the parish of Kirkpatrick Fleming. It was in this parish of Irvine in Annandale that we find the Irvines seated when K. Robert Bruce commenced the war of independence by the slaughter of the Red Comyn. Before that period /1306./ any events either genealogical or the-

-nite, regarding the Irvines, which he first recorded, are of the same uncertain value as the particulars with which the earlier genealogical writers commence the history of many an old Scottish family. They often commence with fables intended to enhance the dignity of the family, by giving an origin or an antiquity not founded on fact, or even on tradition.

It is probable that the ancestors of the Irvines accompanied the ancestor of Mr. Robert Bruce, viz. Robert Bruce who in A.D. 1124 got the grant of the Lordship of Annandale with the "jus gladii" within the bounds of that lordship. It is certain that they held lands in the parish of Irvine from Bruce as their feudal Lord in the 13 Century, and three of the name, viz. William, Roger, & Alexander had rewards for their services from Bruce

after he was established on the throne of Scotland.

Altho' I put no great faith in the accuracy of genealogies private or official, inched or uninched, unless when confirmed by deed or other redemptive evidence, I would not exclude from a family history the record of traditions, even when proved to be generally incorrect, as they are seldom without some kind of foundation. As an instance of this, I may mention the tradition in the family of Dunn, that they were connected with the Stewarts at a very early period. There was no trace of this in their written genealogy, but I have found proof of it in two deeds: one dated A.D. 1410 from Alexander Stewart, Earl of Mar &c, and Lord of Duffyl in Brabant:— and another dated A.D. 1414 from the Regent Robert Stewart, Duke of Albany, Earl

of Fife and Menteith, Governor of Scotland, confirming the gift of land made by his nephew Alex Earl of Mar to "Consanguineo suo Alexand de Irvine de Drum". The relationship is also mentioned in the deed of 1410.

John Mayor in his History of Scotland / Lib III fol XLI. Ed of 1521 / says K. Malcolm II's only daughter was married to Eryvin, Abthane of Dull. Fordun, who wrote nearly a hundred years before Mayor, calls the lady Beatrice, and the Abthane of Dul Crynyn. Wintown about the same time as Fordun calls the lady Beathok and the Abthane Cryny or Cryni. Eryvin & Crynin in old writings appear nearly the same.

I now commence with notices which I consider sufficiently authenticated.

The Irvines of Bonshaw in Annandale

were chiefs of the name in the end of the 13th century. They held their lands from the Bruces, hereditary Lords of Annandale. William de Irvine (a son) the oldest Sn of Irvine of Bonkaw, was secretary and Armour bearer to Robert Bruce, probably from the commencement of or before his attempt to gain the crown of Scotland: for in 1309 there was a charter from K. Robert Bruce to William de Irvine for "X pund" from the customs of Dundee, altho at that time all the principal burghs in Scotland were still in possession of the English. In 1323 W. de I. had a charter granting him the Royal forest of Drum in Free forestry: & in 1324 a charter erecting Drum into a free Barony.

Wm de I. had married before 1327 and the Christian name of his wife was Mariota or Marrote.

Her family name I do not know. She could not be the daughter of Sir Robert Keith, the Marischal of Scotland, (as stated in all the books of genealogy & heraldry). But there are good grounds for believing that she was the sister of that Sir Robert Keith, the Marischal who was killed at Durham in 1346. There are Charters to Wm de I. dated in 1327. 1331. 1332. William de Irvine probably died about 1333, and was succeeded by his son Sir Thomas de Irvine; who is not mentioned in any genealogy that I have seen of the family. But he is mentioned amongst the Barons in Parliament in 1368 & 1369: & was succeeded by his son Sir Alexr de Irvine on or before the year 1381. He acquired the Peel of Drum in 1388. & 1408 he accompanied the Earl of Mar to France and Flanders. The Earl carried over a company of Knights, Squires, Gen-

tenen', and with a hundred men armed at all points, joined the army of the Duke of Burgundy. At the raising of the battle of Liège, Alex and de Irvine was knighted along with four others, viz. the Earl of Sutherland; Andrew Stewart, brother of the Earl of Atlas; Alex de Keith, son of the Marischal; Gilbert de Hay; & John de Menyeis. In 1410 Alex de Irvine had the gift of Estates & charter already mentioned, & in 1411 was killed at the battle of Harlaw, where "Drum's Cairn" still marks the spot where he fell.

I am again at variance, in most of the particulars, with the accounts given in all the genealogies of the circumstances attending the marriage of the next Alex de Irvine of Drum, with Elizabeth daughter of the Marischal of Scotland in 1411. This Alex de Irvine was the son I believe and not the brother of this Alex who was killed at

of the law. The marriage contract is extant, and alludes to the feud which had existed between the families. That feud (or Private War) was certainly carried on for many years with the usual ferocity, and was put an end to by that marriage. This Sir Alex de Irvine died in 1457: and the statues of himself and his wife Dame Elisabeth Keith still remain in that part of the Church of St Nicholas in Aberdeen which is called Drum's Aisle. There also is the monumental hall with the inscription and arms of Irvine and Keith. This is one of two monumental halls, which are all that the zeal or rapacity of the Reformers left in Scotland.

From one of the sons of this Sir Alex Irvine are descended the Irvines in Germany & Prussia. After an interval of 300 years Baron William de Irving

renewed a communication with the family of Drum in a letter dated from Berlin in 1756, tracing his own descent and that of several other families (amongst others, Baron Ephraim de Boing) from the time their ancestor joined the army of the Teutonic knights in Prussia about the middle of the 15 Century. It is curious to see another branch, 100 years after the date of the Baron de Boing's letter, accidentally discovering a clue by which to trace back their ancestry to the original stock. For I think the William de Erwin in Jon genealogical list who appears in 1369, is more likely to be a son than a grandson of William de Irwin of Drum.

A fragment of a document which I found amongst others in the Charter room at Drum showed that there had been an old genealogical account of the family in Latin, which had

probably lost at the time of the civil war in the 17 century. This will account for the fact that, so far as I can recollect, there is no mention of any members of the family, except the one who possessed the Barony, until nearly a hundred years after the grant of Drum to Mr de Irvine. It has during that time however that the Irvines of Dorfarthire came off from the Drum family.

If there is any other point on which I can give you information, it will give me much pleasure to hear from you, to see you if anything should bring you to Cheltenham.

My daughter has also sent me the manuscript book of Irving genealogy by Mr Pierce M. Irving. But in case of your being absent, or the direction being incorrect, I shall not forward it until I hear that you have received this letter

It is abrupt & disconnected, and written in reading over your genealogy accidy as passages in it suggested the to-marks. This must be my excuse for the extraordinary form of my letter

Believe me to be
Yours very truly
Signed/ Yates.

[x] written on a large sheet of lawsen foolscap!
A.P.

Copy of letter from Lt. Col. Forbes
to Irving Vanderbilt. New York.
(Made by P. Irving. Jan 27. 1860)

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12. Lansdown Terrace
Cheltenham. 23d Decem. 1859

My Dear Sir,

Before I close this letter I wile explain why I did not write on receipt of yours a week ago, to thank you for your kind attention in so soon communicating the very interesting details of the tranquil closing scene of the life of Mr Washington Irving. In full possession of his fine intellect, surrounded by attached relatives & friends, to be cut off, as he was, somewhat suddenly by an easy death, cannot for his own sake be regarded but as a happy termination of a deservedly honoured career. His public & literary life here alike acknowledged as honourable to his judgment, & conducive to the best interests of America and Britain. In his

country and that of his ancestors, his writings will always be held in esteem as a pure source of amusement and instruction.

The day after I received your letter, and before I could communicate with Drum, Mrs. Forbes had a letter from Miss Irvine in which she says, "We are sorry to see the death of Mr. Washington Irvine in the newspapers. If Col. Forbes is writing to our friend Mr Stuart, we should be obliged to him, if he would express how sorry we were to see the announcement of the death of Mr Washington Irving: & also how much I prize the picture which was framed & hung up in the drawing room."

I at first delayed to answer your letter until it should be returned to me, as I lost no time in sending it to my daughter Mrs Irvine, at Edinburgh; that

She might send it to Drum. Several other Mr Irvine's friends were much interested to know the particulars of Mr Wm. Irving's death. Mr & Mrs Irvine seem to have been delayed in Edinburgh, possibly by the severe weather. But I have no doubt they are now at Drum; and as they have not yet returned your letter, I presume you will hear from some of the family there.

The work which contained your sketches of Peel Spurs reached me safely before I left Drum & was read with much interest by the family there. I brought it up with me: & have heard from your Sister Mrs Vaubert that it has safely arrived at Edgbaston, and that she will take care of it until your return.

Mrs Forbes & Mrs Crawford unite with me in kind remembrances to you and would ask you if you see Mr

Please bring to give him my kind
compliments. And believe me yours
very sincerely

[signed] J. Forbes

Copy of a letter addressed by Alexander Forbes Irvine of Drum to Irving Paulrant. 33 La Fayette place N.Y. Cop. Jan 27. 1860. by P. P. Irving

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"Drumcastle. Aberdeenshire
Jan 3. 1860

My Dear Sir.

Your letter to Colonel Forbes has been forwarded to me, and I have to thank you for your courtesy in so promptly communicating to us, the sad intelligence of your esteemed Uncle's death. Every detail connected with him is particularly interesting to the members of this family who descend from the same Scottish ancestors & who bear a name which he has done so much to make famous in the literary history of his time, not less in the land of his early forefathers, than in the country of their later adoption.

I am joined by all the

other members of my family in offer
our sympathy to yourself and those
other near connexions and relations
of Mr. Washington Irving in whose circle
so great a blank has been caused
by the loss of one no less amiable
than gifted.

With kindest regards
Believe me ever
Yours very truly
(Signed) Alice Forbes Irvine

Irving Van Wart Esq.

Extract from a letter addressed by James Robertson Esquire, Sheriff Substitute of the Orkneys, & President of the Historical & Antiquarian Society of Orkney, to Washington Irving, dated

"Kirkwall. Orkney, May 6. 1857.

× × × × ×

× × It is curious enough to look at the course of events in these islands. First, they were inhabited by the Christian Scots. Next, these were driven out & extirpated by the heathen Norwegians. And finally, the Scots, in their turn, encroached upon & supplanted the upper classes of the Norwegians; until now they regard themselves as the native gentry of Orkney. And thus "the whirligig of time brings about the revenges". At the present day there are only two large proprietors of Norse descent in the County, Mr Heddle

of Melsetter, and Mr Baikie of Tankerness: And Mr Heddle's estate was only acquired by his Father, & Mr Baikie's ancestor acquired Tankerness in the beginning of the 17th Century. Previous to that Period it belonged to the Irvings & Groats. The other principal Heritors are all of Scottish extraction, & of these the Brefours, Stewarts, Frailles, Grahams, & others immigrated at or after 1558. The Sinclairs & Irvings you are aware arrived nearly two centuries earlier: and one of the latter, an ancestor of your own, was perhaps the very last person that held the influential and distinguished office of Lawman or Judge of Orkney, under the 'Anges Gamle-Lovi', the Old Norse Laws. Your descent from the Lawman is now proved to demonstration. It is also proved, beyond a doubt, that

your family are the male representatives or senior branch of the Drimas of Orkney: and there is a moral certainty that you are descended from William Drime of Drum, the companion in arms of Robert Bruce. Very few families in the present day can boast of so proud a pedigree. It is true that yours latterly fell into decay: but so did the noble houses of Comyn, Dunbar, & Lindsay. Nescots, however, do not allow that decay of fortune brings decay of blood along with it. The Laird of MacNab says with the Spaniard "I am as good a gentleman as the king, only not so rich:" and despite of his thread bare cloak & tattered plaid, appeals to

"Men's opinions this living blood,
To shew the world he is a gentleman!"

I cut the following from a Scottish Newspaper sent to me May 1857 [10]
by Geo: Petrie Esq of Kirkwall.
P. P. Irving

John O'Groat Journal.

WICK, FRIDAY, MAY 22, 1857.

THE ANCESTRY OF WASHINGTON IRVING.

It is now generally known that the father of the celebrated American author, Washington Irving, was a native of Orkney, and a descendant of one of the oldest of the Orcadian families. Last year a nephew of the famed author, a clergyman in America, visited Orkney, for the purpose of tracing his line of ancestry, and, by the courtesy of Mr Balfour of Shapinshay, Sheriff Robertson, and Mr G. Petrie of Kirkwall, was enabled satisfactorily to establish this. In a communication with which we have been favoured, the last-named gentleman furnishes some interesting particulars with reference to the Irving family. He says:—

"The name of Washington Irving has become a household word in many lands. The brilliant wit, playful humour, and lucid, pure, and graphic style of his writings, charm his readers, while the warm genial sympathies of his kindly heart, seeking to bind man more closely to his fellow, enshrine him in their affections. Mr Irving has conferred lustre on the national literature of America, and has secured the lasting love and esteem of his fellow citizens, who are justly proud of their gifted and accomplished countryman. No library is now held to be complete which does not embrace the works of Washington Irving. His name would reflect glory on any country, and it is therefore with unfeigned pleasure that I can claim for Orkney the honour of having been the birth-place of his father, William Irving, who was born at Quhome, in the Island of Shapinshay. At an early age William Irving conceived a passion for a seafaring life, but was kept under restraint by his mother. She died while he was quite young, and he then went to sea, and for some time sailed as a petty officer on an armed vessel, which sailed between Falmouth and New York. In 1761 he married Sarah Sands, the grand-daughter of an English curate, and in 1763 emigrated to New York, where he subsequently became a merchant, acquired a fortune, and died in 1807, leaving a numerous family. His widow survived till 1817. Washington Irving is now in his seventy-fourth year, and resides at Sunnyside, his beautiful country seat, on the banks of the Hudson. In a letter lately received from one who knows him well, Mr Irving is described as still possessing "the same warm genial

heart as of old, and better than all, resting his age and his hopes upon the provision and promises of the blessed gospel of Christ." When it became known that Washington Irving's father was a native of Orkney, a search was made to trace the family as far back as possible, but the length of time that had elapsed since William Irving left Orkney, and the loss of some of the parish registers of Shapinshay, threw obstacles in the way of the inquiry. These were, however, eventually overcome through information obtained from charters and other documents in the possession of David Balfour, Esq., of Balfour, and of myself. Those in Mr Balfour's possession went back to the beginning of the seventeenth century, when the Irvings appear to have first acquired property in Shapinshay. The documents in my possession related to the elder branches of the family on the mainland of Orkney, and embraced a period from 1422 to the beginning of last century. A genealogical table of the Irvings of Orkney, from whom Washington Irving is descended, was carefully prepared from the documents above referred to, and certified by James Robertson, Esq., Sheriff Substitute of Orkney, and myself, and handed to Mr Irving's nephew, the Rev. P. P. Irving, who visited Orkney last autumn to obtain information about his family. Washington Irving, and the other members of his family in New York, were highly gratified with the result of the search, and expressed a wish that anything which might throw additional light on the history of the family, might be communicated to them. There was still one link in the chain which was somewhat unsatisfactory, there being some doubt as to which member of the Irvings of Sabay the Shapinshay Irvings were sprung from. Last winter I resumed the search, and succeeded in obtaining distinct documentary evidence to prove that Washington Irving is descended, through the Irvings of Shapinshay, from the Irvings of Sabay, and that his family now represent the elder branch of the Orkney Irvings.

"The family of Irving in Orkney were cadets, and used the arms of the Irvines of Drum. Last autumn Joseph Robertson, Esq., of the Register House, Edinburgh, discovered the name of a William Erwin, mentioned along with other persons of note, in an indenture dated at Kirkwall, 25th May 1369. This is the earliest notice yet discovered of the name in Orkney, and it is very probable that that William Erwin was a younger son of William de Irvine, to whom, as his armour-bearer and devoted follower, King Robert Bruce gave a grant of the royal forest of Drum, first in free forestry, and then as a barony. It is stated in notes written about 200 years ago, by Cristopher Irving—a member of the family of Irvine of Bonshaw, in Annandale—that 'the Irvines of Forfarshire and the Orkneys are descended of the family of Drum.' The estate of Bonshaw was the place from which William de Irvine departed to follow the Bruce. The Irvines of Bonshaw held their lands of the Bruces as Lords of Annandale. This information regarding the Irvines of Drum was communicated to me by Lieut.-Col. Forbes, father-in-law of Alexander Forbes Irving, Esq., younger of Drum.

"A 'William de Erwyne, burgess of Kyrkwaw,' is mentioned in a deed dated 10th Nov. 1422, and the name of his son, John off Erwyne, appears as a person of note in a document dated 20th Jan. 1438, which I found among the county records in Kirkwall. This document is written in the Scottish language, and bears the seal of the 'lawman' of the islands. Cristie Erwyne, the son of the said John, was married to Edin Paplay, who appears to have been heiress of the lands of Hurteso and others in Holm, which she and her husband exchanged with the Earl of Orkney for the lands of Sabay, in the parish of

St Andrews. The deed of excambion was dated 27th April 1460. Christie Erwyne had two sons, John and David. The latter left no issue; but John, who died about 1526, had seven children. The eldest son, James, was appointed 'lawman' of Orkney—the highest judicial office in the islands. James, the lawman, left six sons and two daughters. His eldest son, James, died without issue. The second son, Magnus, married, prior to 1581, Christian Yinsta, and acquired by this marriage part of the udal lands of Yinsta, in St Andrews; and, in 1603, appears to have been resident in Shapinshay. Gilbert, the third son, was proprietor of Tankerness in 1591. The property of Sabay was udal land, and divisible, according to the udal law, among the whole of the sons and daughters. This law naturally led to minute subdivisions of property, and hence the great number of small 'lairds' in Orkney at the present day. As a sort of practical check to this inconvenient system, it became a very common occurrence that the most enterprising member of the family, frequently a younger son, who had as a merchant or otherwise realized a sufficient sum, purchased their respective shares of the property from the other members of the family. It thus not unfrequently happened that the family property passed into the hands of a younger son, while his elder brother was still alive and in comparative poverty. It was thus that William, the fourth son of James, the lawman, having been of an enterprising character, and having succeeded in trade, purchased from his brothers and sisters their shares of the family estate, and so became sole proprietor of Sabay. William had two sons, Patrick and William, and four daughters. The eldest son, Patrick, predeceased his father, and William was killed at the siege of Kirkwall Castle in 1614, the father having died in June the same year. Patrick left a son, William, who succeeded to Sabay on the death of his grandfather, but afterwards mortgaged the property to William Sinclair of Tolhoop (now Toab), who had married Patrick's widow. Patrick left two other sons and a daughter; but the whole of them, including William, died without issue. The male descendents of William Irvine, Patrick's father, having thus become extinct, the estate of Sabay was subsequently conveyed to William Sinclair by Patrick's sisters and their children.

"We now return to Magnus Irvine, in Shapinshay, who had at least two sons—William, who acquired the lands of Gairsty and Kirbuster, about the commencement of the 17th century; and Thomas, who was resident in Quhome, in Shapinshay, in March 1646. William, of Gairsty, who was bailie of Shapinshay, and died about 1649, left daughters, but no sons. Thomas appears to have had a son named Magnus, whose son was also named Magnus, and was the father of William Irving. William was born in Shapinshay, and afterwards settled in New York, as has already been stated.

"It is now therefore a fact clearly established, not only that Washington Irving's father was born in Orkney, but that the family had been resident there 400 years prior to William Irving's emigration to New York, and had held a very considerable landed estate in the county even before the islands had been transferred by Denmark to the Scottish crown."

We understand that Mr Washington Irving has sent a copy of his works, consisting of 15 volumes, beautifully bound in morroco and extra gilt, to Mr Petrie, and a similar copy to Sheriff Robertson. He also honoured Mr Petrie with a letter from himself, in which he begs his acceptance of the books, as a "testimonial of his high respect and regard, and his gratitude for the genealogical chain by which he has connected him so closely with Orkney."

Copy
of a letter from Lt Col J Forbes. British Army. dated at Cheltenham England. 13 April. 1858. To Pierre Monro Esq of New York. To which are appended Notes, by Colo Forbes on

The Tower of Drum

The Name of Drum

&

A genealogical Sketch of the Lords of Drum, to the present representative of that branch of the family.

Copied by P. P. Irving
New Brighton Octo 12. 1858.

Copy.

Letter from Lt. Col. J. Forbes to Clerc M. Irving dated

12 Lansdown Terrace
Cheltenham, England
13 April 1858

My dear Sir,

The severe illness of Mr Irvine at Drum prevented my daughter and Mr Irvine Jun. from coming to Cheltenham so early as we had expected: and is my excuse for not having sooner fulfilled my promise of writing to you:- as they brought with them the M.S. from which I have given you, enclosed, extracts regarding William de Irvin: and a list of his successors at Drum. The convalescence of Mr. Irvine Senr. has, I am glad to say, continued since the arrival of Mr & Mrs Irvine here.

It is a curious event to see the

portrait of the descendant[1] and the person of another[2] appearing in the dwelling of their ancestor after a period of nearly five centuries and a half had elapsed — and coming from a continent that was unknown for the hundred & fifty years after the death of that ancestor. I doubt whether there is in Scotland another dwelling that existed in 1323 and is inhabited now. Certainly none so little altered as the Tower of Drum, the masonry of which is as sound and unimpaired as the day it was finished.

The title find a copy of the charter granting Drum in Free Barony to William de Irvin. It is not only interesting to his descendants, but is also a good specimen of the deed, — that comprehensive of the olden time.

1. Washington Irving. 2. Irving Vanwart

You will perceive by my remarks on the anecdote told by Sir Walter Scott to Mr. Washington Irving, that I intended keep the Drum Cow, Skin & all, & give up the Ring.

My daughter Mrs Irvine would be very glad to receive from Mr Washington Irving what you seem to think he had sent an acknowledgment of having received her sketch of Drum. Not that she is ignorant of its arrival, and that it is more valued than it deserves to be: but that there may be an autograph letter from Mr Washington Irving's along with his picture to be preserved at Drum.

As I do not know if Mr Irving von Wart is still in New York, nor his direction there, I would esteem it a great favour, if he is in your neighbourhood, if you would convey

to him the kind remembrances of Miss Forbes, Mrs Crawford, & Mr. & Mrs Home as well as my own; also to express my thanks to him for his very interesting letter.

Major Crawford on his return to India found himself Lieutenant Colonel in his Regiment, viz. the Bombay Engineers.

Mrs Lucheson (formerly Miss Home) and her husband are in safety at one of the hill stations in the upper district of India.

I observed with great pleasure the feeling displayed at New York on the receipt of the accounts of Sir Hy Havelock's death. He has an excellent man, and a most able & gallant officer: an honour to the race to which he all belong.

I remain
My Dear Sir
Yours very truly (Sd.) J. Forbes.

Drown. Drom. Drum.

Was a Royal Forest situated on the northern bank of the River Dee. and about ten miles above where that river joins the sea at Aberdeen.

Drum was granted by King Robert Bruce to William de Irwin in fee forestry. The charter, still extant, is dated 1 February in the 17 year of the King's reign, /AD 1323/ In this charter the name of the place is written Drown, the name of the person, Irwin.

Next year by a charter dated the 4 Oct. 1324 which is also extant, the former grant was confirmed, and Drum was erected into a fee-barony for William de Irwyn and his heirs. In this charter, the names are written Drom & Irwyn.

The Tower of Drum

It is believed to have been erected by King William the Lion after his return from Captivity, in the end of the 12th or beginning of the 13th Centuries. No timber is used in its construction. The interior consists of three vaulted chambers each of which occupies an entire story. The thickness of the walls at the first floor is eleven feet. The thickness of the walls from there to the top is considerably diminished, somewhat increased in the dungeon below. The ascent to the upper chamber is by a screw stair formed in the wall at the S.E. corner of the building. The dungeon vault is 28½ by 15½ feet, 11 feet high. It contains a well. The next chamber is 20½ by 19½, & 22 high: it is now used as a library. The upper most chamber is 34½ by 22½, and 23 high. The form of the tower is an oblong with rounded corners. It is surmounted by high battlements rising from a single corbel moulding. The top of the battlements is 68½

from the ground. The Stile attached was built in 1619.

—

[Note. The view I have of this ancient tower the sketch attached is from a photograph bought from Drum in 1857 by Irving Van Wart of New York.

P. P. Irving]

The Name of Irvine

John Major who published his History in 1521, says that Bethoc or Beatrix, only daughter of King Malcolm II, whose reign commenced A.D. 1003, married Eryvine Abthane of Dull, & became mother of King Duncan, "the gracious Duncan". Some genealogists add to this that the Irvines left Perthshire, in which Dull is situated and migrated to the borders of Scotland.

The earliest period of what may be termed authentic in the genealogy of the Irvines is the end of the 13th Century, at which times they had lands comprising a parish of their own name in Annandale. That parish now forms part of the Parish of called Kirkpatrick Fleming. All the lands in Annandale were held from the Bruces, who were Lords of Annandale long before they acquired the Earldom of Carrick. Probably the name "de Irvine" was derived from the Parish, as we know to be the case in many Scottish names, for instance

Forbes originally "de Forbes" from the Parish of Forbes; de Leslie from the Parish of Leslie &c.

But there are instances where the Parish acquired its name from a Family. Chalmers in his Caledonia says "Ir Vin" in the language of the Britons signifies "the green bank of a river". This is so far corroborated by the fact, that, besides the Parish of Irvine from which the Irvines of Drum came there is another Parish in Scotland of the same name situated on the river Irvine. There is at least one other stream in Scotland, two in England of the same name. And the Parish of Irvin, with which the family of Drum was connected, is situated on the banks of a river, viz the Tittle.

I have found the name spelt, de Hirewyne, de Irewyn, de Yrewyn, de Irvin, de Irwin, de Irwyn, de Irevin, Errwein, Irwwyne, Erwane, Irwein, Urwing, Irwinge, Irving, Irwing, Irwynge, Irvine &c. The Names of the Irvines of Drum was generally written de Irvine until about the middle of the 15th Century. After that the name is seldom found with the "de" prefixed.

The arms of Irvine of Drum.

The arms were no doubt granted to William de Irwin by King Robert Bruce, viz, the leaves of the ever green & unchanging Holly: also the motto, "Sub sole sub umbra virens", both having relation to the resolution & fidelity in adversity and prosperity of William de Irwin to his Royal Patron.

The following is extracted from a document of Sir Charles Areskine, Lyon King at Arms, dated 7 July 1676.

"Irvine of Drum for his achievement and bustgin armorial bears argent three small sheafs, or bundles of Hollin 2 & 1 vert each, consisting of as many leaves slipped and tied with bands gules. An a helmet with a mantle gules doubled argent and wreath of his Colours, is set for his Crest a sheaff of Hollin consisting of nine leaves, and bauded as the former: Supported by two Savages wreathed about the head and loins with Hollin, each bearing in their hand

abatement all proper. The motto in an escroll above all, "Sub Sole Sub Umbra virens."

Several of the old Heraldic writers mention that the Holly & this Motto had been used as a private badge by King Robert Bruce

For at least four hundred years, as appears from the tomb of Sir Alex. Irvine who died in 1456, this appears to have been the arms of Irvine of Drum. (Probably at an earlier period the arms were three single leaves of Holly, but of this there is no certainty).

It has neither the arms of Bruce as Lord of Annandale nor as Earl of Carrick. Here is the authority of these writers herein for saying, it was a private cognizance used by Bruce: they probably had tradition in support of their statement.

But I entirely approve the family

traditions, viz. that William de Irvin accompanied King Robert Bruce from his first attempt to free his Country when Comyn was slain; that Wm. de Irvin was one of the few who never left the King in all the hardships, privations, and hairbreadth escapes, which he in encountered in 1306. '7. '8: And that Wm de Irvin was one of the seven who with the King escaped the pursuit of their enemies by secreting themselves in a copse of holly: that the King in remembrance of his fortunate escape, assumed the holly as a device and afterwards gave it to his Armour-Bearer, viz. William de Irvine.

William de Irvin

Not only immemorial tradition maintains, but satisfactory proof exists to show, that William de Irvin was secretary and armour bearer: at least corroborate fully the tradition that he was secretary to King Robert Bruce. William de I. was son of that Irvine of Bonshaw (or Woodhouse) who was acknowledged as Chief of the name, and whose tower was near the castles of Lochmaben and Annan, the strong-holds of the Bruces as Lords of Annandale. As William de Irvine was afterwards "Clerk of the Rolls," he must have been qualified to act as Secretary by accomplishments rarely to be found in those days amongst the inhabitants of the Borders.

That Wm de I. accompanied R Bruce from the commencement of his career to recover Scotland from the English, may be inferred from a fact viz, that amongst Bruce's earliest grants viz in 1309, there appears from an "Index to lost charters"

in the Register Office, this entry,
"Carta Guellielmi Irving his infeft-
ment of X pund Sterling money furth
of the Customes of Dundee".

The value of this grant will be ap-
parent when we consider that at the
time it was made all the principal
fortresses in Scotland still remained
in possession of the King's enemies: Ber-
wick Dumfries Roxburgh, Linlithgow Perth
Stirling, Edinburgh, were still in the hands
of the English, or their partizans.

On the 1 February 1323 he had from
King Robert Bruce a charter of the
Forest of Drum in Free Forestry.

On the 4 October 1324, a charter ~~from~~
of Drum as a free Barony from King
Robert Bruce.

On the 6 February 1330 from King David
II a charter of an annual rent of ten
merks from the lands of Vreys in the
County of Kincardine.

William Ld. had also a charter

from King David II dated the 10 March 1332 of Fwytriggs and Redemyres.

Wm de I. was "Clerk of the Rolls" & the last payment to him, in the Chamberlains accounts, is his Salary for 1331.

It is therefore probable that he died in 1332.

The christian name of his wife was Marrote. She was the daughter or grand daughter of Sir Robert de Keith, Great Marischal of Scotland, who was killed at the battle of Duplin in 1332. (His eldest son, Sir John de Keith died before his Father, but leaving a family. One of them a son, Sir Robert, succeeded his Grandfather). see page also.

It is not known what family William de Drume left but that he was succeeded by a son Sir Thomas Drume.

As however it was understood that the Drumes of Forfarshire, and the

Irvines of Orkney, were descended from William de Irvine; it may be considered that "A de Irvine" who got from King David II a grant of the lands of Maxpee was the ancestor of the Roxburghshire Irvines: And, documents lately discovered in Orkney seem to prove that William de Irving was the first of the Orkney Irvines: And was probably the son, altho' possibly the grandson of William de Irvine.

[Note by the Copyist. The documents found in the Orkneys, as elsewhere in these papers introduced, demonstrates this.
A S Irvine]

Sir William de Irvin.

[at the close of Lt Col Forbes' genealogical sketch of the Irvines of Drum, I find the following additional remarks respecting the first Irvine of Drum, which I insert here, in their more appropriate place].

In the old genealogical works of Mackenzie & of Nisbet the first Irvine of Drum is styled Sir William de Irvine but I have not found him so styled in any deed. & in this sketch of the proprietors of Drum, I have only styled those "Sir" who are mentioned in deed as knights.

It seems by no means unlikely that William de Irvin was the "Clerk" mentioned in "Barbour's Bruce", as the fide confidant and companion of Bruce when he escaped from the Court of Edward I. It has been the invariable tradition, both

and on the Borders, that William de I. accompanied Bruce from the first through all his dangers and difficulties, and was his secretary and almoner Barbour. - "Fordun" calls the companion of Bruce's flight the secretary. As Bruce only commenced his career against the English in 1306, & in 1309 whilst still struggling against the power of England he made one of his earliest grants (already mentioned) to William de I. - the fact may be considered as sufficient proof of Wm. de I. having been his companion in the many dangers and adventures which befel Bruce between 1306 & 1309.

That anecdote told by Sir Walter Scott is disproved & think by what I have stated of Wm de I's being the companion in adversity, and rewarded on the first gleam of prosperity by Bruce: I mean so far as

the King is concerned. The story of the Dun Cow is good & probable, as the Towers of the Deines were close to the Borders, and on Bruce's way to his strong hold of Lochmaben, when he escaped from London.

Of Sir Thomas de Irwyne nothing is known: except that he is twice mentioned amongst the Barons attending the Scottish Parliaments in 1368 and 1369: And that his wife was a daughter of a knight of the name of Montford, who had received a grant of lands from King Robert Bruce.

Sir Thomas de Irvine was dead and succeeded before 1381 by his son Sir Alexander de Irvine: In 1408 He accompanied the Earl of Mar who went to the Continent accompanied by many knights & gentlemen. The Earl of Mar joined the Duke of Burgundy with One hundred men armed at all points, & had a post in the van of the Duke's army. Sir Alex^r de Irvine was then knighted along with five others viz John, Earl of Sutherland, Alex^r de Leith, Andrew Stewart, brother to the Earl of Mar: John de Menzies: Sir Gilbert de Hay. The sure of the Earl

of Mar distinguished itself at the Battle which gave Liege to the Duke of Burgundy. On the return of the Earl of Mar to Scotland, he granted to "his cousin" Sir Alex Irvine a large estate in Aberdeen-shire. This was in 1410. Next year Donald Lord of the Isles, backed by many of the Celtic clans, made a sudden irruption into Ross-shire & ravaging the northern provinces of Scotland had reached within 18 miles of Aberdeen, when he was encountered by a force hastily ~~raised~~ collected by the Earl of Mar. This was at Harlaw 24 July 1411. The battle, fiercely contested, was finally gained by the Earl of Mar. In this action many of the Knights & Barons of the North Eastern Counties of Scotland were killed, amongst them Sir Alex Irvine. He encountered Hector chief of the McLeans who commanded the Highland host under his Uncle, the Lord of the Isles. Irvine and McLean

were both killed: and probably on the spot where a pile of stones is still known as "Dunn: Cairn". It is the only one which the progress of agricultural improvement has left on the field of Harlaw.

Sir Alex Irvine married — Mackenzie an only daughter who brought considerable estates into the family. In the deed Sir Alex is styled Cousin of the Earl of Mar. ——

This Sir Alex. has succeeded by his son Sir Alexander whose marriage contract with Elizabeth de Keith is dated the 16 October 1411. She was daughter of Sir Robert de Keith the Marischale: who gave with the lady the lands and Barony of Strathchryn: in the settling of the feud that existed between the families.

This Sir Alexander got the lands of Forglen, for which he & his Heirs were to lead the vassals of the Abbey of Aber-

brothers under the "Brachenoch" in the King's Army. / The Brachenoch has the consecrated banner of St. Columba /.

In 1423 Sir Alex^r. was one of the Ambassadors sent to England to negotiate for the release of King James I.

He (Sir Alex) died in 1457 and the effigies of himself and his Lady, carved in stone, and also their monument-as bass and inscription are still preserved in "Drum's Aisle" of St. Nicholas Church in Aberdeen. —

Alexander de Irvine who succeeded in 1457 was grandson of the preceding. (Sir Father was also Alexander: his mother — Abernethy, daughter of Lord Saltoun).

This Alexander was accused before the Lords Auditors of attacking the Castle of Sir Walter Lindsay of Beufort. He also received a Royal pardon for the premeditated slaughter of Sir Alexander Fraser

/ancestor of Lord Saltoun/ and other acts of violence. His Sir Alexander married Marion, daughter of Lord Fraser, and died in 1493. —

Sir Alex^r Irvine succeeded his father in 1493. He had a pardon from King James IV for taking the place of fortalice of Inveralochy. He married Janet daughter of Keith of Ludquharn: and died in 1527 ——

Alexander Irvine succeeded his father in 1527: & on the 4 December in that year received an acknowledgment from King James V. of the service of himself and his father in searching and bringing to justice rebels, robbers, & thieves, that had harboured in the Grampian Mountains. His Alex^r Irvine was married to Janet daughter of Allardes of Allardes: His eldest Son Alexander was married in 1526 to Elizabeth Ogilvie, daughter of the Lord of Finlater; and was killed in his Father's life time, at the battle

of Pinkie, in 1547. leaving a family. The father died in 1552, and was succeeded by

Alexander Irvine, a grandson who married Lady Elizabeth Keith daughter of the Earl Marischal, (Contract is dated 10 April 1552). This Alexander had a royal pardon for having taken & kept possession of the Fortalice of Finlater. King James VI borrowed 500 merks from "Ane Neill belevit Alex Irving of Drum", and in an acknowledgment signed by himself he promises "thankfully" to repay the same. This Alexander Irvine died in 1603 & was succeeded by his son,

Alexander Irvine who had married in 1590 Lady Marion Douglas (daughter of Robert Earl of Buchan) died in 1630: having bequeathed large sums for charities and for purposes of Education. He was succeeded by his son

Sir Alexander Seime, who in 1617 married Magdalen, daughter of Sir John Scrimzeour, Hereditary Standard Bearer of Scotland, & afterwards created Viscount Dudhope. Sir Alexander Seime supported the Royal Cause in the Civil War, and during his absence Drum was besieged by the Army of the Covenant under General Monro. This was in June 1640. The Lady defended the place and two of the besiegers were killed. But Monro brought heavy ordnance into a commanding position, and the Lady having obtained favourable terms, surrendered the place. The Plate, Jewels, & furniture were plundered. The Tents, & Pears were seized. Large fines were imposed: the family imprisoned: and otherwise persecuted. Parliament authorized the demolishing of the Tower of Drum. But it was saved in consequence of the Covenanters judging it convenient to keep a garrison there.

This persecution was continued by savage ecclesiastics and greedy laymen, until the firm rule of Cromwell protected all who remained amenable to the paramount authority.

The King Charles I had ordered a patent to be prepared creating this Sir Alex. Irvine, Earl of Aberdeen. But the leaders of the Covenanters prevented the formal execution of the Patent. On the restoration of King Charles II the Peerage was again offered to the next Irvine of Drum, (Sir Alex's son). But it was refused unless the date of the original patent was given. Here the matter ended.

At this the estates of the family were very large, portions of them being in 18 different parishes. Sir Alex died in 1658 and was succeeded by his Son ——

— Alexander Irvine who had married in 1643 Lady Mary Gordon, daughter of the Marquis of Huntly. This Alexander Irvine, in his Father's lifetime, had taken

an active & violent part in favour of the Royal Cause. After the death of his first wife (Lady Mary Gordon) he married Margaret Coutts who survived her husband. He died in 1687 & was succeeded by his Son ——

Alex Irvine who married Marjory daughter of Robert of Auchreddy. This Alex Irvine died without surviving issue in 1696, & was succeeded by his Cousin, ——

Alexander Irvine, who had married a sister of his predecessor (viz. Jane, daughter of Alex^r who died in 1687). This Alex Irvine died in 1720 & was succeeded by his Son ——

Alexander Irvine. He in 1715 joined in the unsuccessful attempt to restore the Royal line of the Stuarts. He was wounded in the head at the battle of Sherriffmuir, but escaped to the Continent. He afterward received a pardon & returned to Scotland. But the effect

of his mind rendered him incapable of managing his own affairs. This, and the dishonesty of guardians greatly impaired the estates: that were already involved in consequence of the sacrifices made to assist the Royal cause during the Civil War. This Alex Irvine died in 1735 & was succeeded by his uncle ——

John Irvine, who married Catharine daughter of Robert Fullerton of Dudwick. John Irvine died in 1737 and was succeeded by the heir of entail, viz ——

Alexander Irvine (He was the great great grandson of Alex Irvine of Drum, who died in 1653, and his wife, Lady Elizabeth Keith). This Alex Irvine died in 1744. (His wife was Isabel, daughter of Thomas Thomson of Faichfield) and was succeeded by his son

——

Alexander Irvine, who in 1745, joined Prince Charles Edward when he attempted to regain the throne of his Ancestors. Irvine escaped from Culloden, that last battle field of the Stuart race, & remained concealed at Drum, & various other places. In 1748 a Bill of Indictment for high Treason was preferred against him which was thrown out by the Grand-jury. Another indictment was immediately prepared which shared the same fate. & thus he & his Estate were saved. He married Mary daughter of James Ogilvie of Auchiries, and died in 1761. He was succeeded by his Son, ——

Alexander Irvine who possessed the estate of Drum for upwards of 83 yrs. He married Jane daughter of Hugh Forbes of Skivas. He died in 1844 and was succeeded by his Son, ——

Alexander Forbes Irvine, the present proprietor of Drum. He had previously

succeeded to the estate of Shivas, the property of his maternal ancestors: upon which he had to assume the name of Fobes in addition to that of Irvine. He married Margaret daughter of James Hamilton Esq. by whom he has three sons and two daughters. He is the direct descendant and heir-male of William de Irwin.

'Signed' J. Wes.

Feuds of the Douglas of Dunn and the Keiths. Marischals.

There is only an uncertain tradition as to the wife of William de Douglas, viz a daughter of Sir Robert Keith, the great Marischal. - And that tradition is erroneous in so far as it says that he was the daughter of that Sir Robert Keith who was killed at the Battle of Durham in 1346: and whose wife was daughter of Gilbert de Haya, the Hereditary Constable of Scotland. That Sir Robert Keith left no family: & the Office of Marischal and the estate attached were entailed on heirs male and thus passed to the Grandfather of Sir Robert, viz Sir Edward Keith.

It seems probable that this was the time when the feuds between the Keiths and Douglas originated. And Sir Edward may have taken possession of Estates not included

with the entail as attached to the office of Marischale. The feud was finally settled by a marriage (already mentioned p.) in 1411. and a grant of lands then given with the bride. (Pace)
Although Sir Robert Keith who was killed in 1346 left no family he had sisters daughters of Sir John Keith who died before his Father, viz the Robert Keith (Marischale) who was killed in 1332.
There is a tradition that the Keiths burnt one of Irvine of Drum's children. And then Irvine burnt the Marischal's Castle of Hall-Forest. At another time there was a battle between the Keiths and Irvines on a place called "the Keiths' Muir" on the banks of the river Dee. The Keiths were defeated and many of them were drowned in the river at a place called "the Keiths' Pot". Some of them that had gained a point of rock in the River were killed by arrows. And the rock is called "the Keiths Stone"

These events probably occurred in the latter part of the 14th Century.

Copy
of a further letter from
Lt Col Forbes
to Pierre M. Irving. New York.
15 August 1858.

In relation to several points of
inquiry & remark contained
in a letter from P. M. Irving to
Col Forbes - of 8 June 1858.

Copied
at Newington
Oct 12 1858.
P. M. Irving

Copy
of a letter from Lt Col Forbes
dated Cheltenham 15 August 1858
to Pierre Monro Irving. New York.

12 Lansdown Terrace
Cheltenham 15 August 1858

My Dear Sir

I have kept thus long in answering your letter of 8 June, in consequence of having been absent from home for the last two months: and wishing to refer to memoranda before replying to your remarks on some points of the Irvine genealogy. Yours also. Curious to see on what authority I had addressed you as* the Revd — as I felt

— Note by the Copyist —

* Col: Forbes here supposes that my Cousin Pierre Monro Irving, is the person who visited the Orkneys in 1856, & procured the family documents there which trace that branch of the family to Sir Wm de Irvine of Drum: I also is the Clerical Copyist } P P Irving

convinced that your letter being dated from the "White House" was not of itself sufficient. I now find that you are styled "the Revd" in a paragraph which I transcribed from a Scotch newspaper: and which first attracted my attention to your having been in Orkney, & carried from there the genealogical account of your family.

I agree with you in thinking that there are conclusive reasons for considering William, the first Orkney Drume, to have been the son, and not the grandson of William de Drum of Drum, Bruce's Secretary.

For the following reasons I think William de Drum (1st) of Drum, left, besides his eldest son & successor, another named "Ade" who was the 3d son.

In an "Index to lost charters" there is mentioned "Carta to Ade Drome of the lands of Maynes, and fourth part of Coull in Vic de Forfar." This Charter is by King David II, and there=

fore is before A D 1371. But there are circumstances, particularly its position in the list of Charters, that induces me to fix the date about 1364. In 1422 Reginaldus de Irwyne exchanged these lands in Forfarshire for estates in Aberdeenshire, and the seal of this Reginaldus de Irvine, shows three holly leaves, with a mullet in the centre: the mullet being the distinctive difference for a third son who assumes his Father's arms. As Reginaldus was the proprietor of the Forfarshire estates and therefore the eldest son of his Father, he, Reginald, of course assumed his Father's arms without any difference. Thus showing that the addition of the mark of the 3d son was inherited from "Ade". This is also a curious corroboration of the tradition that the Forfarshire & Aberdeen Irvines were descended of the Irvines of Drum.

with regard to the "Dun Cow". She may have been "the fatted calf" or the only one left of the herd of the Father of Wm. de Irvin, when Bruce reached the tower of Woodhouse or Bonshaw. For the traditions of Aberdeenshire and Dumfriesshire agree that the Father of William de Irvine was chief of the name. Traditions all agree that William de I. accompanied Bruce from his first daring attack on the English. They, the Irvines and other feudal vassals of Annandale must have been at first Bruce's sole dependence after his slaughter of Comyn. The English under Clifford had devastated that part of the Country in 1298 and burnt the villages. No doubt they had also made free with the cattle. So the Dun Cow was in all probability no small sacrifice, and her skin

useful Couch. But I am not in-
-clined to adopt the rest of the tradi-
-tion, viz, that it was necessary to re-
-call to Bruce's recollection the servi-
-ces of Wm de Irvine's father: and that
it was only on that occasion that
William de I. was taken as common
Bearer. This is opposed to the fact
of the grant to Wm de I. in 1309:— to
the tradition regarding the arms of
the Irvines, and to many other cir-
-cumstances which I think outweigh
that part of Sir Walter Scott's legend.
Sir Walter had a wonderful store of le-
-gends & most retentive memory, and in
this case probably repeated what he had
heard, without having any occasion or
opportunity to compare it with facts
or conflicting traditions. Sir Walter
with all his wonderful gifts was not,
in my opinion, an accurate antiqua-
-rian. Indeed, it was impossible he
could be so. He could not spare the

time without which no amount of intellect can enable a man to make the researches which are necessary to elucidate remote events.

Ꝑꝛynyn – Crinin – In these two words carefully written

Ꝑꝛuuinn Ervinin – it is evident how

easy it would be to lead them in either way as they are written in ordinary M.S. of the 14th & 15th Centuries. But it is a matter of comparatively little consequence, as surnames were not hereditary until long after the period of the abbacy of Dull. Still I think that all traditions should be preserved. Sometimes they lead to discoveries that might not otherwise be made.

I was not aware until informed by your letter, that Playfair had noted

by which another of the Armorbearers
Sons, viz 'Ade' is in my opinion fairly
established. it not in the Drum char-
-ter chest. It is published in one of
the volumes of an antiquarian club:
(Spalding Club) edited by the very
accurate & intelligent Mr Joseph
Robertson of the Register office,
Edinburgh.

I shall be glad to hear that Mr Bach-
-ington Drury is no longer an invalid.
-and, to give you any further in for-
-mation I can in regard to the subject
in which you have taken so kind
interest.

If you see Mr Faulkner, please give
him our kind remembrances, and
believe me

Yours very sincerely
(signed)
J Stokes.

ANCESTRY OF WASHINGTON IRVING.

JOHN OF IRVING had landed possessions in the parish of Elgin, in Orkney, in 1[illegible] county was still [illegible]

[illegible] lack, and each down into the [illegible] parishes, [illegible]