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ROYAL DESCENTS;
SCOTTISH RECORDS



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ROYAL DESCENTS: SCOTTISH RECORDS



I. HOW TO TRACE } By The Reverend
A DESCENT } W. G. D. FLETCHER,
FROM ROYALTY } M.A., F.S.A.

II. THE SCOTTISH } By J. BOLAM JOHNSON
RECORDS } C.A.



1908.

CHAS. A. BERNAU, WALTON-ON-THAMES, ENGLAND.

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I.

How to Trace a Descent from Royalty.

**Most families
have Royal
Ancestry.**

Probably most families that possess a pedigree of seven or eight generations in the paternal line, have at least one descent from the Kings of England, perhaps many lines of descent—even though they may be quite unaware of it. The difficulty is to trace out and prove your descent. The object of this chapter is to show from what kings and royal personages a descent can be derived; and to give some suggestions as to how it is possible to work out and trace a descent from Royalty.

**Why Royal
Descents are
worth tracing.**

The working out of a royal descent is, to my mind, a pursuit far more interesting than working out a pedigree of one's paternal ancestors. 'The ordinary pedigree is too often merely a string of the names of persons almost unknown. You get their names, their places of abode, the dates and places of baptism, marriage and burial, the date and proof of their Wills or the grant of Letters of Administration—and that is all. Useful and excellent persons these ancestors were in their day, no doubt; but still they were for the most part "unknown to history." It is given to but few to have in the male line for an ancestor a Marlborough, a Nelson, a Clive, a Wellington, a Cromwell, a Fox, a Burke, a Pitt, a Milton, a Tennyson, a Lely, or a Reynolds. Those few who have such paternal ancestors in their family tree are justly proud of them.

Every royal descent necessarily implies the possession of distinguished historical personages as ancestors—men and women whose doings we read about in the pages of history—not kings only, but warriors, statesmen, knights of the garter, canonized saints, and so forth. It gives a keener interest to the visitor to Westminster Abbey or Winchester Cathedral, or to the student of English history, if he knows that he is descended in a clear unbroken line from the kings and great men who lie buried in those sacred fanes and of whom he reads in history, and if he feels that he is united by the ties of blood to the Sovereign of these realms.

The Blood Royal.

It is sometimes urged that, after all, the quantity of royal blood that flows in any person's veins must be infinitesimally small; but the same holds true of the blood of our paternal ancestors—we only inherit one-half of our parents' blood,

one-fourth of our grandparents', one-eighth of our great-grandparents', and so on. Although we may have but little of their blood coursing in our veins, still we are proud of being descended from them, because they are our lineal ancestors.

**How & When
Royal Descents
Became
Possible.**

During the reigns of the Plantagenet Kings, princes and princesses of the royal blood frequently intermarried with English nobles and knights, and it is from these unions that the strain of royal blood flows in so many English families to-day. The earliest monarch from whose younger children descent can be traced* is King John, whose daughter Eleanor married Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester. The

*Gundrada, wife of William de Warrenne, used to be considered a daughter of William the Conqueror, but it is now almost conclusively proved that she was not his daughter, but his step-daughter. See the late Mr. R. E. Chester Waters's *Gundrada de Warrenne*. Descent from Gundrada is very common.

last monarch from whom descent can be traced is King Henry VII., whose daughter, Mary Tudor, Queen Dowager of France, married Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk. No commoners can trace legitimate descent* from the Stuarts or the Guelphs, except through morganatic marriages, for, since the year 1515 until quite modern days, our princesses have intermarried only with foreign royalties and princelings. In our own time we have witnessed the marriages of the Princess Louise to the Duke of Argyll, and of the Princess Royal to the Duke of Fife, so perhaps we are reverting to the happy custom that was in vogue in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries.

* "Royal Descents from Morganatic Marriages and Irregular Alliances of English Sovereigns, with some Notes on Legitimate Royal Descents from Scotch, Welsh and French Kings," will, it is hoped, be the title of an article to be included in a future volume of this series. For this reason I omit here all reference to the illegitimate children of Charles II. and their descendants. For the present, suffice it to say that a list of the 311 living descendants of Nell Gwynn is to be found in *The Genealogical Magazine* for January, 1901, and it may be noted here that the volumes of that magazine contain many royal descents, as well as some very useful descents of the Plantagenets from the old Irish and Scotch kings, etc.

Royal

**The Twelve
"Leakages"
of the
Royal Blood.** There are twelve royal personages, the younger children of Kings John, Henry III., Edward I., Edward III., and Henry VII., from whom descent can readily and usually be traced.

JOHN, 1199-1216, was father of

- (1) Eleanor, wife of Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester.

HENRY III., 1216-1272, was father of

- (2) Edmund "Crouchback," Earl of Lancaster and Leicester.

EDWARD I., 1272-1307, was father of

- (3) Eleanor, wife of Henry, Count of Bar, in France.
- (4) Joan of Acre, wife of Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester.
- (5) Elizabeth, wife of Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex.

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- (6) Thomas of Brotherton, Earl of Norfolk, and Marshal of England.
- (7) Edmund of Woodstock, Earl of Kent.

EDWARD III., 1327-1377, was father of

- (8) Lionel of Antwerp, Duke of Clarence.
- (9) John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster.
- (10) Edmund of Langley, Duke of York.
- (11) Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester.

HENRY VII., 1485-1509, was father of

- (12) Mary, Queen-Dowager of France, wife of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk.

**The Ancestry
implied by a
Royal Descent.**

A descent from any of these implies of course a descent from William the Conqueror, Alfred the Great,

Royal

and Egbert, from several Scottish kings, and from the Emperor Charlemagne, and the Emperor Frederick Barbarossa. A descent from Edward III., or from Eleanor de Bar, Joan of Acre, or Elizabeth de Bohun, implies a descent from the canonized Saint Ferdinand III., King of Castile (Edward II., and these three ladies being his grandchildren). Whilst a descent from Thomas of Brotherton and Edmund of Woodstock, or from Edward III., implies a descent from St. Louis of France, Edward I.'s second Queen being a granddaughter of St. Louis, and Edward II.'s Queen his great granddaughter. Descent from Hugh Capet and a long line of French kings is also opened up.

Each of these twelve royal children has left many descendants living to-day. It will be well to take each in order, and see how the royal blood has flowed down.

**Eleanor de
Montfort.**

(1) Eleanor de Montfort had a daughter, Eleanor, who married in 1278 Llewelyn ap Griffith, Prince of North Wales, and their daughter, Catherine, was the wife of Philip ap Ivor, Lord of Iscoed, from whom many Welsh and border families can trace lineal descent.

**Edmund
Crouchback.**

(2) Edmund Crouchback married Blanche, Queen-dowager of Navarre, a niece of St. Louis of France, and had a son Henry, Earl of Lancaster and Leicester. Henry left a son Henry, the father of Blanche, first wife of John of Gaunt; and four daughters, from whom descent can often be traced, namely:—

[a] Maud, wife of William de Burgh, 3rd Earl of Ulster, who left an only daughter, Elizabeth, wife of Lionel of Antwerp. *See* (8).

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[*b*] Joan, wife of John, 3rd Lord Mowbray, from whom spring the Howards, Berkeleys, and many other families.

[*c*] Eleanor, wife 1stly of John Beaumont, 2nd Lord Beaumont (ancestor of Beaumont, Bart., of Coleorton, &c.); and 2ndly, of Richard Fitz-Alan, 9th Earl of Arundel, from whom springs the Duke of Norfolk, &c.

[*d*] Mary, wife of Henry Percy, 3rd Lord Percy, ancestor of the Earls and Dukes of Northumberland, &c.

**Eleanor
de Bar.**

(3) Eleanor de Bar had a daughter, Eleanor, who married Llewelyn ap Owen, Lord of South Wales; their son, Thomas ap Llewelyn married Eleanor, daughter of Philip ap Ivor and Catherine (granddaughter

of Eleanor de Montfort). *See* (1). Their descendants are very numerous in Wales and the border counties.

(4) Joane of Acre married
Joane of Acre. 1stly, Gilbert de Clare, 3rd Earl of Gloucester, and had three daughters and co-heiresses—[*a*] Alianore, wife of Hugh le Despencer the younger; [*b*] Margaret, wife of Hugh de Audley; and [*c*] Elizabeth, wife successively of John de Burgh, Theobald de Verdon, and Roger d'Amory. Joane of Acre married 2ndly, Ralph de Monthermer, and their granddaughter, Margaret, married Sir John de Montacute (son of William de Montacute, Earl of Salisbury).

(5) Elizabeth de Bohun
Elizabeth de Bohun. had three children—William de Bohun, Earl of Northampton; Alianore, wife of James Butler, 1st Earl of Ormonde; and Margaret, wife of Hugh Courtenay, 2nd Earl of Devon.

Royal

The descendants of Joane of Acre and Elizabeth de Bohun are very numerous.

Thomas of Brotherton. (6) Thomas of Brotherton left an only daughter, Margaret, Duchess of Norfolk, who married John, 3rd Lord Segrave, and had issue a daughter, Elizabeth, wife of John, 4th Lord Mowbray (ancestor of the Howards, Berkeleys, and many other families).

Edmund of Woodstock. (7) Edmund of Woodstock left an only daughter, Joan, "the Fair Maid of Kent," who married, 1stly, Sir Thomas de Holland, K.G., Earl of Kent, and by him left numerous descendants. The Fair Maid married, 2ndly, Edward, the Black Prince, and was by him mother of King Richard II.

Lionel of Antwerp. (8) Lionel of Antwerp married Elizabeth de Burgh—see (2) [*a*—and

had issue an only daughter, Philippa, who married Edmund Mortimer, 3rd Earl of March, and had issue—Roger Mortimer, 4th Earl of March; and Elizabeth, who married, 1stly, Sir Henry Percy, “Hotspur” (son and heir of the 1st Earl of Northumberland), and 2ndly, Thomas, Lord Camois.

(9) John of Gaunt
John of Gaunt. married, 1stly, Blanche, daughter of Henry Plantagenet, Duke of Lancaster (grandson of Edmund Crouchback)—*see* (2)—by whom he had a daughter, Elizabeth, the wife of John Holland, Duke of Exeter. By his 3rd wife, Katharine Swynford, John of Gaunt had issue*—[a] Sir John Beaufort, Earl of Somerset and Marquis of Dorset, who married Margaret, daughter of Thomas Holland, Earl of Kent, by whom he had

* The children of John of Gaunt and Katherine Swynford were all born before marriage, but were legitimated with the assent of Parliament in 1397. For this reason many people do not value a descent from John of Gaunt so highly as other royal descents,

six children; and [*b*] Joan Beaufort, who married, 1st, Robert Ferrers, 2nd Lord Ferrers of Wem, and, 2ndly, Ralph Neville, 1st Earl of Westmorland. The descendants of John of Gaunt are very numerous.

**Edmund
of Langley.**

(10) Edmund of Langley left issue, from whom descent can be traced:—

[*a*] Richard of Conisburgh, Earl of Cambridge, married Anne Mortimer, and had a daughter, Isabel, Countess of Eu and Essex, and a son, Richard, 3rd Duke of York, who (by Cicely Nevill, his wife, a granddaughter of John of Gaunt—*see* (9) [*b*])—had with other issue—
[1] King Edward IV.; [2] George, Duke of Clarence, ancestor of the Hastings, &c.; [3] Anne, Duchess of Exeter, and wife of Sir Thomas St. Leger, ancestress of the

Manners, &c. ; and [4] Elizabeth, wife of John de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk.

[b] Constance, wife of Thomas le Despencer, 2nd Lord Despencer, and Earl of Gloucester.

**Thomas of
Woodstock.**

(11) Thomas of Woodstock left an only daughter, Anne, who married, 1stly, Edmund Stafford, 5th Earl of Stafford ; and 2ndly, William Bourchier, Earl of Eu in Normandy. Anne's descendants are very widespread.

**Mary
Brandon.**

(12) Mary Brandon, Queen Dowager of France, left two daughters and co-heiresses—Frances, wife of Henry Grey, Duke of Suffolk, K.G. ; and Eleanor, wife of Henry Clifford, Earl of Cumberland. From her descend the families of Seymour, Stanley, Brydges, Egerton, Hastings, &c.

**Unbroken
Male Descents
from Royal
Personages.**

It is from one or other of these twelve royal princes and princesses that royal descents must be traced. There are, I think, only three families living to-day, whose male ancestors directly married a princess of the blood royal of England; and these are the families of Nevill, Marquis of Abergavenny, St. Lawrence, Earl of Howth, and Beaumont, Baronet. Ralph Nevill, 1st Earl of Westmorland, married Joan Beaufort, daughter of John of Gaunt; Sir Robert St. Lawrence, 15th Baron of Howth, married Joan Beaufort, second daughter of Edmund Beaufort, Duke of Somerset, grandson of John of Gaunt; and John Beaumont, Lord Beaumont, married Eleanor, daughter of Henry Plantagenet, Earl of Lancaster, grandson of Henry III. All other historic houses that intermarried directly with royalty have become extinct, and it is now only

through a succession of female lines that a descent from royalty can be traced.

The first steps to take. How can we trace a descent from royalty? How shall we set to work? What steps shall we take? The first thing to be done is to study carefully your own pedigree. Take the wives of all your male ancestors, and note down the ancestry of each one in turn, both in the male and female lines. Purchase a 4to MS. Note Book, and enter in it carefully the pedigrees of your mother, both your grandmothers, your four great-grandmothers, your eight great-great-grandmothers, and so on *ad infinitum*, so far back as you are able to trace them. Be careful to note down the dates of birth, marriage, and death, wherever you can possibly obtain them. The probability is that soon you will

The Clue to follow. hit upon some good family with whom some ancestor has intermarried.

You now work steadily at this, and try to trace the female lines back to some peer or baronet (extant or extinct), or at all events to some family whose pedigree was entered up at the Heralds' Visitations, or is printed in the County Histories. We now try to connect this family with some of the great families undoubtedly descended from royalty, with Nevill, Percy, Howard, Seymour, Berkeley, Beaumont, Ferrers, Despencer, Courtenay, Manners, Russell, Vane, or some of the many other historic houses of the land; and having done this, it is not hard to find the connecting link with royalty.

**The Secret of
Success.**

The secret of success lies in working steadily at the female lines. We must keep on working backwards, from the present day, step by step; we must not begin with Edward III., and try to work downward from him, unless our object is not to trace our own descent from royalty but to make a study of royal descents in general.

The books that I have
Helpful Books: found most useful in tracing
 royal descents are these :—

Burke's "Extinct Peerage."

Burke's "Extinct Baronetcies."

Collins's "Peerage," ed. by Bridges, 9 vols.

The Harleian Society's and other "Heralds'
 Visitations."

Foster's or Burke's "Peerage." (I prefer
 Foster for this purpose; his introductory
 matter is more useful than Burke's.)

Burke's "Landed Gentry."

Marshall's "Genealogist's Guide."

Bernau's "International Genealogical
 Directory."*

With these books, little difficulty should
 be experienced in tracing back to royalty
 the descent of any families that have a
 genuine pedigree of seven or eight genera-
 tions, and of many who have not even this.

[* Thank you, Mr. Fletcher.—C. A. B.]

Other books that I have found helpful are the following:—

“Stemmata Chicheleana,” edition with appendix.

Burke’s “Royal Families,” 2 vols.

Burke’s “Royal Descents and Pedigrees of Founder’s Kin.”

Foster’s “Noble and Gentle Families of Royal Descent,” 3 vols. And especially

The Marquis of Ruvigny’s “Plantagenet Roll of the Blood Royal.”

Of this last most valuable work, three volumes have already been issued, namely :

“Tudor Volume”(descendants of Henry VII.)

“Clarence Volume” (descendants of George, Duke of Clarence).

“Exeter Volume” (descendants of Anne, Duchess of Exeter).

A fourth volume is promised, early in 1908, to deal with the descendants of Isabel, Countess of Eu and Essex. And further volumes are to contain other lines of descent from Edward III. Ruvigny's volumes are exceedingly useful for genealogical purposes.* Foster's and Burke's volumes contain the descents of merely a selected number of persons, whereas Ruvigny starts at the fountain-head, and endeavours to give *all* the known descendants of one royal personage in each volume.

I have in my own library two MS. Volumes of the late Joseph Foster, worked out on the same lines. One deals with the descendants of Joane of Acre, and the other with those of Elizabeth de Bohun, and they contain many hundreds of pedigrees, all traced back to these princesses.†

* In using the Indexes to Ruvigny's books, it should be borne in mind that they only give the names of *living* persons.

† The contents of these MSS. are at the service of any candid genealogical inquirer.

**Inaccurate
Royal
Descents.**

Some care is necessary in working out a royal descent. A man, for instance, marries twice; his first wife is descended from royalty; his second wife is not, and she is the mother of his children: it is so easy to fall into an error here, and to give the descendants of the second wife a royal descent, when they have none. There is an instance of this sort in the Waters pedigree (Burke's "Royal Families," vol. II., pedigree CXVIII.), where Sir Robert Peyton marries Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Robert Clere, by Anne Boleyn (who was of royal blood), and his descendants are given a royal descent. But as a matter of fact, Elizabeth Clere was not a daughter of Anne Boleyn, but of Anne Hopton, Sir Robert Clere's first wife; and so this alleged royal descent falls to the ground.

There is another instance of a clearly

inaccurate royal descent given in a book on the Woodd Family, printed in 1886; where a descent of Jane, daughter of Sir Philip Yonge, and wife of Lawrence Woodd, is traced from Henry III. and Edward I., through the families of Strange, Talbot, Barre, Corbet, Ipstones, and Yonge. But Thomas Corbet, esquire, of Moreton Corbet, the husband of Ankaret Barre, really died in 1436 without issue; and their (alleged) daughter, Elizabeth, was, of course, not their daughter at all, but the daughter of another Thomas Corbet, who was dead in 1363, and so this descent is erroneous.* It is only right to say that the Woodds have another and excellent descent from royalty, through the Hampdens; and the Waters have several descents, which are correctly given in the late R. E. Chester Waters's *The Chesters of Chicheley*.

* See Owen and Blakeway's "History of Shrewsbury," II., 287; Wm. Salt "Collections for Staffs.," I., 300; Harleian Society's "Visn. of Shropshire," I., 134 and 146; and Eyton's "Antiquities," X., 183 and 189.

Royal

Different Strains of Royal Blood permeate different Counties.

It will be found that in many counties the strain of royal blood, which permeates the families of those counties, was in the first instance brought in by one or two families, who have since widely intermarried with other families. Thus in Cornwall and Devon, it was disseminated by the Courtenays, the second Earl of Devon having married Margaret de Bohun. *See* (5) *ante*. Colonel Vivian's "Visitations" of Cornwall and Devon are most useful books in tracing royal descents in these counties. In Leicestershire, the Beaumonts and Manners have widely spread the royal blood. In Lincolnshire, the strain was brought in by Dymoke of Scrivelsby, and Tyrwhit of Kettleby, and disseminated throughout the county by these two families and also by Fitzwilliam. In Shropshire, Sir John Burgh of Mawddy, Sheriff in 1442,

and a great landowner, who left four daughters and co-heiresses, spread the royal blood very widely; and it was also brought in by Sir Walter Devereux, K.G., the Talbots, Earls of Shrewsbury, and the Greys, Lords of Powys; but the Corbets of Moreton Corbet, a most prolific race, who intermarried very widely in the county, were the great disseminators of the royal blood in Shropshire. It is probably the same in many other counties.

Sources of Information for some of the Counties.

What has been done in the way of printing descents from royalty in the various counties? What help can the genealogical inquirer get, as regards the royal descents of families belonging to his own county? This is a question that I am not prepared to answer. I can only suggest a few sources of information relating to some of the counties.

BERKSHIRE. — Berry's "Genealogies of Berks.," pages 34, 53, &c.

CORNWALL.—*See* Vivian's "Visitations of Cornwall," pages 106, 315, 488-9, 527, &c. Maclean's "History of Trigg Minor," p. 683*, &c.

DERBYSHIRE.—Jewitt's "Reliquary," vol. XXIV. (descent of Derbyshire peers from Henry VII.); vol. XXII., Cavendish; vol. XXI., Vernon; vol. XXIV., Holden and Hurt, Pares, &c. [large sheet pedigrees]; Alleyne, vol. XXIV., 106-7; Babiugton, 237.

DEVONSHIRE.—*See* Vivian's "Visitations of Devon," pages 63, 106, 244, 635, 691, 747, &c.

ESSEX.—Berry's "Genealogies of Essex," pages 11, 66, 71, &c.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.—*See* under "Worcestershire."

HAMPSHIRE. — Berry's "Genealogies of Hants," pages 55, 125, 135, 199, &c.

LEICESTERSHIRE.—Fletcher's "Leicestershire Pedigrees and Royal Descents."

OXFORDSHIRE. — *See* under "Worcestershire."

SHROPSHIRE.—"Shropshire Archæological Society's Transactions," for 1882 ("Persons connected with Shropshire, whose descendants can claim legitimate descent from Edward I., Edward III., or Henry VII., and a few from Henry III."); for 1903 (Shropshire persons descended from Hotspur); for 1904 (Shropshire persons descended from Henry VII.); and for 1908 (Notes on some Shropshire Royal Descents).

SUFFOLK.—Muskett's "Manorial Families," *passim*.

WARWICKSHIRE.—*See* under “Worcestershire.”

WORCESTERSHIRE, WARWICKSHIRE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, and OXFORDSHIRE.—“Royal Lineage in the Four Shires.”—An extensive series of royal descents printed in the “Evesham Journal or Four Shires Gazette,” in 1893, &c.

Extraordinary Descents. To those who are not satisfied with a descent from the English monarchs, but wish to carry their researches further back still, reference might be made to an extraordinary pedigree inserted at the beginning of Plantagenet-Harrison’s “History of Yorkshire,” which commences with “Odin, King of Asgardia, about seventy-six years before the birth of Christ.” This pedigree makes Egbert to be twenty-seventh in direct lineal descent from Odin, and

professes to trace the ancestry of our English Sovereigns from the Roman Emperors, and the ancient Kings of Jutland, Denmark, Sweden, Sleswig, Norway, Poland, Sicily, Russia, &c., &c. Should any one desire to go back further still, he will find a pedigree in the Bodleian Library,* which will give him a direct lineal descent, through the Kings of Scotland and Britain, back to Noah and Adam!

**A useful
method of
work.**

I have found it a useful plan, and one which saves much labour, to mark my own copies of some of the printed Heralds' Visitations, with cross-references to the marriages; and to write "R.D." over the name of each lady who brings a royal descent into any family.

* Ashmole MSS., 788, fo. 162 b. It has been printed in Jewitt's "Reliquary," vol XVI., page 64. Pedigrees tracing the descent of the kings back to Adam are also given in Additional MSS. 31,950 and 33,345; in O'Hart's "Irish Pedigrees;" in Anderson's "Royal Genealogies," 1732; and Shirley Smith's "Genealogy of Queen Victoria traced from Adam and Eve," 1885. Many other curious pedigrees are noted in Gatfield's "Guide to Printed Books and MSS. relating to Heraldry and Genealogy," 1892.

To illustrate my method of making cross-references to the marriages, I give an instance from Canon Maddison's "Lincolnshire Pedigrees (Harleian Society). The Dymokes, of Scrivelsby, brought a good deal of royal blood into Lincolnshire families, and their pedigree is given at pages 1202—1212. The working out of the pedigrees of the ladies whom the Dymokes married shows me that Margaret Welles (p. 1204), Anne Tailbois (p. 1205), Jane Cressy (p. 1207), and Eleanor Watson (p. 1207), were all lineally descended from the kings of England. I now write "R.D." over the name of each of these ladies. It is clear that all their descendants must be descended from royalty. Margaret Dymoke (p. 1204), the wife of Sir Thomas Fitzwilliam, is one of these. I turn to the Fitzwilliam pedigree, and find Margaret and her husband named at page 357; and I write "R.D." over her name, and under her name at that page "*See* p. 1204," and under

the name of Sir Thomas Fitzwilliam at page 1204 "*See p. 357.*" I similarly annotate the marriages of all the descendants of Sir Thomas Fitzwilliam and Margaret Dymoke, given in the Fitzwilliam pedigree at pages 357 to 360, with cross-references, being careful to write "R.D." over the name of each Fitzwilliam lady who married into another family.

I turn again to the Dymoke pedigree, and on page 1,205 find that Margaret Dymoke married Sir Vincent Fulnetby, whose pedigree is given at page 378; and I now write under his name on page 1,205, "*See page 378;*" and at page 378, I write "R. D." over the name of Margaret Fulnetby, and "*See p. 1,205*" under her name.

On page 1,207, Nicholas Dymoke, of Kyme, marries Elizabeth Danvers, of

Oxfordshire. I find this lady named in the "Visitation of Oxfordshire" (Harleian Society), p. 304; so I write under her name, "*See Vis. Oxford, p. 304,*" and at p. 304 of the "Visitation of Oxfordshire," "*See Lincs. Peds., p. 1,207.*" In like manner I have added cross-references to all possible marriages in the "Lincolnshire Pedigrees," and some of the other Visitations, and this method of annotating renders it comparatively easy to find whether any family has a royal descent.

Looking at the Corbet pedigree ("Visitation of Shropshire, 1623"), I find that no less than 14 ladies brought royal blood into the Corbet family prior to 1623. By adopting this method, it is easy to see at a glance where a descent from royalty comes into any family, and by means of the cross-references to the marriages, to trace it back readily to its source.

Quartering the Royal Arms.

Many families who have a royal descent are entitled also to quarter the royal arms on their shield. This opens up another matter altogether, which I must not enter upon here. Those who wish to go further into it would do well to consult C. E. Long's "Genealogical List of the several persons entitled to quarter the Arms of the Royal Houses of England, 1845," and the lists given in the prefatory portion of "Burke's Royal Families," 2 vols.

Cab-drivers, Plumbers and other cousins of Royalty.

The blood royal is to be found in all ranks and degrees of society. The case is well-known of Roger Stafford, who claimed the barony of Stafford on the decease of his uncle Henry, 5th Lord Stafford, in 1637, but was denied it on account of his poverty. His sister, Jane, married a joiner, and their son was a cobbler residing at Newport, Salop.

Roger and Jane were the great-grandchildren of Margaret, Countess of Salisbury, "the last of the Plantagenets." Another well-known instance is that of the Woodcocks, co-heirs to the barony of Dudley, who are lineally descended from Henry VII., and amongst these were a butcher, a toll-gate keeper, a gamekeeper, a tailor, a painter, a glass-cutter, and a private soldier and sailor. I know of a cab-driver who has the blood of Edward I. in his veins; and not long ago I joined in marriage the daughter of a policeman to a plumber whose pedigree goes back 850 years, and who is descended from four sons of Edward III. But as a rule the royal blood will be found circulating in the upper classes, the county gentry, and the professional classes. No less than 371 British peers are descended from Richard, Duke of York (the father of Kings Edward IV. and Richard III).

**The 60,000
Descendants of
Edward III.**

It has been computed that out of a hundred millions of people of British descent, there are, perhaps, fifty or sixty thousand descendants of Edward III,* but the difficulty lies, of course, in being able to trace the line back to him. I hope that my suggestions will stimulate some to make the effort to trace

**The Reward of
Success.**

their descent back to royalty. It will repay them all their trouble, when they find they can connect themselves with all the traditions of a glorious past. It has been well said,† that, whilst a word from the King can put a man into the peerage, or a successful financial speculation and the purchase of an estate can put a man into the "Landed Gentry," birth alone can give a man a descent from the Plantagenet

* Ruvigny's "Plantagenet Roll," Clarence Volume, preface p. ix., and Exeter Volume, preface, p. x.

† Ruvigny's Exeter Volume, preface, p. x.

kings, for on one side, at least, there must be a strain of gentle blood, through which it is possible to trace ancestry back to the feudal and crusading days.

W. G. D. FLETCHER, M.A., F.S.A.

Oxon Vicarage,
Shrewsbury.

The Scottish Records.

History. The earliest known authentic Scottish writings are the Charters of Edgar, 1098-1106, which are to be found among the Coldingham Charters preserved at Durham. In all probability there is not in existence any Scottish writing of any description so old as the reign of Malcolm Canmore, who died in the year 1093, in fact there is no good reason for believing that writing was practised in Scotland at a much earlier date than this. Very many of the ancient Scottish records have been lost and destroyed, some by fire and negligence, but by far the larger number by the removal to

England by Edward I. and by Cromwell. Of those removed to London by the latter about 95 hogsheads were shipped back to Scotland about the beginning of the year 1661, but, by the wreck of one of the ships conveying them, 85 hogsheads were completely lost.

The General Register House in Edinburgh is the National Repository of the Public Records, and unless otherwise stated the records aftermentioned are to be found there. The contents may be divided into two classes, namely—(1) Historical; and (2) those which are useful for every day business transactions. The first department is under the charge of the Curator of the Historical Department, and contains the documents relating to the general and constitutional history such as the records of Parliament, Privy Council, and Exchequer, Monastic Records, &c. In this department no fees are charged for literary research.

In the second department, which is under the charge of the Deputy Keeper of Records, are to be found the many public records used in connection with the transactions of the people.

The object of registration in these records is to make public and ascertainable at all time the state of the titles of heritable property, as regards its ownership and the burdens affecting it, and they contain records of Feu-charters, Dispositions, Transfers of Land by Sale, Notarial Instruments, Bonds and Dispositions in Security, with relative Deeds of Discharge, &c. The earliest writs recorded are contained in the "Secretary's Register," instituted by the Acts of 1599 and 1600, which provided for the registration not only of all instruments of Sasine, but also of all reversions, regresses, bonds for giving of reversions or regresses, assignations to re-

**Sasine
Records.**

versions and intimations of the same, renunciations of wadsets and grants of redemptions, within 40 days. The regular series, however, was instituted by the Act 1617, c. 16, under the name of "Particular Registers," and this system with modifications and improvements remains in force at the present day. From 1617 to 1st January, 1869, there were "Particular Registers" kept at various local centres, and a "General Register" available for the whole country kept at Edinburgh. From 1st January, 1869, these registers were discontinued, and a "General Register of Sasines" instituted, containing separate divisions for each county.

In addition to the records there are available for the searcher's assistance:—

Minute Books of all writs recorded.

Book of Abridgements from 1781 to close of year 1871.

An Index of Persons, with the names of the Granters and Grantees of all recorded Deeds from 1781.

An Index of Places from 1781 to 1830, and from 1871.

The periods embraced by the various Registers extant are as follows:—

I. GENERAL REGISTER OF SASINES, REVERSIONS, &c., containing writs affecting heritable property situated in all parts of the country.

19th Aug., 1617, to 31st Dec., 1868.

II. PARTICULAR REGISTER OF SASINES:
ABERDEEN and KINCARDINE.

ABERDEEN.

21st Dec., 1599, to 24th Jan., 1609.

1st Aug., 1617, to 12th Nov., 1660.

KINCARDINE.

2nd Jan., 1600, to 6th Dec., 1608.

2nd Sept., 1617, to 22nd Oct., 1657.

Scottish

ABERDEEN and KINCARDINE combined
Register.

1st Jan., 1661, to 6th Feb., 1869.

ARGYLL, DUMBARTON, ARRAN, BUTE
and TARBERT.

1st. Kept at Dumbarton 31st July,
1617, to 24th Sept., 1622.

Kept at Inverary, 7th March,
1643, to 26th Dec., 1660.

Kept at Glasgow, 20th Jan., 1644,
to 8th May, 1657.

2nd. Kept at Dumbarton, 8th July,
1673, to 12th Jan., 1871.

AYRSHIRE and BAILLIARIES OF KYLE,
CARRICK and CUNNINGHAM.

3rd Dec., 1599, to 26th, July, 1607.

31st July, 1617, to 20th May, 1653.

5th Sept., 1653, to 28th Dec., 1655.

31st Jan., 1656, to 31st May, 1661.

26th Aug., 1661, to 30th Sept., 1869.

BANFFSHIRE.

16th Jan., 1600, to 2nd Jan., 1609.

1st Sept., 1617, to 27th Feb., 1869.

BERWICKSHIRE and BAILLIARY OF
LAUDERDALE.

1st Dec., 1617, to 10th Aug., 1624.

6th Feb., 1632, to 2nd Aug., 1651.

2nd June, 1658, to 7th Nov., 1661.

1st Oct., 1662, to 28th June, 1735
(part very defective).

16th June, 1743, to 17th March, 1869.

CAITHNESS.

20th Sept., 1646, to 27th Feb., 1869.

Prior to 1644 the writs were recorded
under Invernesshire.

DUMFRIESSHIRE and STEWARTRIES OF
KIRKCUDBRIGHT & ANNANDALE.

13th Aug., 1617, to 10th March, 1620.

Scottish

20th Feb., 1624, to 10th Jan., 1634
(incomplete).

1st April, 1633, to 20th May, 1654.

11th Aug., 1654, to 8th Oct., 1655
(incomplete).

16th Dec., 1656, to 31st Aug., 1660.

30th Mar., 1671, to 30th Sept., 1869.

EDINBURGH, HADDINGTON, LINLITHGOW
and BATHGATE.

EDINBURGH and HADDINGTON.

7th Dec., 1599, to 20th Jan., 1609
(incomplete).

LINLITHGOW and BATHGATE.

11th Nov., 1599, to 21st April, 1609.

COMBINED.

19th Aug., 1617, to 19th July, 1633.

8th Feb., 1634, to 6th Feb., 1869.

ELGIN and NAIRNSHIRE.

30th Aug., 1617, to 24th Aug., 1621.

8th Dec. 1624, to 1st Dec., 1664.

3rd Nov., 1666, to 27th Feb., 1869.

FIFE and KINROSS.

20th Jan., 1603, to 20th Nov., 1604.

1st Oct., 1605, to 30th June, 1606.

1st July, 1607, to 20th Jan., 1609.

17th Sept., 1617, to 31st March, 1657.

1st Feb., 1659, to 12th Jan., 1871.

KINROSS.

2nd July, 1688, to 31st Dec., 1871

(1734—1743 wanting).

FORFARSHIRE.

6th Sept., 1620, to 17th Jan., 1621.

18th Sept., 1637, to 22nd March, 1658.

14th Nov., 1660, to 27th Feb., 1869.

INVERNESS, ROSS, SUTHERLAND and
CROMARTY.

3rd Feb., 1606, to 3rd May, 1608
(incomplete).

14th Aug., 1617, to 14th Sept, 1660
(1621-1624, 1643-1648 wanting.)

22nd Aug., 1661, to 6th Feb. 1869.

Includes Caithnessshire prior to 1644.

LANARK.

NETHER WARD.

21st March, 1618, to 9th July, 1636.

27th May, 1648, to 16th Sept., 1653.

31st Aug., 1654, to 28th Sept., 1660.

UPPER WARD.

30th June, 1620, to 22nd Dec., 1641.

25th July, 1654, to 10th Nov., 1660.

COMBINED.

14th Dec., 1660, to 17th March, 1869.

ORKNEY and SHETLAND.

ORKNEY.

1st Sept., 1617, to 15th July, 1626.

8th May, 1630, to 9th June, 1656.

25th June, 1753, to 6th Feb., 1869.

SHETLAND.

1st July, 1623, to 1st March, 1672.

11th Oct., 1744, to 6th Feb., 1869.

ORKNEY and SHETLAND COMBINED.

8th June, 1661, to 5th Dec., 1752.

PERTHSHIRE.

3rd Aug., 1601, to 10th June, 1609.

12th Aug., 1617, to 24th March, 1621.

11th Nov., 1624, to 2nd Oct., 1736.

4th April, 1738, to 12th Jan., 1871.

Scottish

RENFREWSHIRE and REGALITY OF GLASGOW.

3rd December, 1641, to 1st July, 1657.

(No record, 1652-1654).

6th Feb., 1661, to 30th March, 1871.

(1688-1693 wanting).

ROXBURGH, SELKIRK and PEEBLES.

26th July, 1617, to 18th Dec., 1658
(incomplete).

28th Feb., 1661, to 30th Sept., 1869.

STIRLING and CLACKMANNAN and STEWARTRY OF MONTEITH.

2nd Aug., 1617, to 12th Jan., 1871.

WIGTOWN.

13th Aug., 1619, to 30th Sept., 1869.

III. GENERAL REGISTER OF SASINES for all parts of the country.

From 1st Jan., 1869, to date.

Writs relating to land and buildings held under Burgage tenure (a manner of holding lands and buildings within Royal Burghs) are recorded in the respective Burgh Registers instituted in 1681, and kept locally by the Town Clerks.

There are 65 Royal Burghs with Burgage tenure and Burgh Registers, namely:—

Aberdeen	Edinburgh	Linlithgow
Annan	Elgin	Lochmaben
Anstruther Wester	Falkland	Montrose
Arbroath	Forfar	Nairn
Auchtermuchty	Forres	Newburgh
Ayr	Fortrose	New Galloway
Banff	Glasgow	North Berwick
Brechin	Haddington	Peebles
Burntisland	Inverkeithing	Perth
Crail	Inverness	Pittenween
Cullen	Inverurie	Queensferry
Culross	Irvine	Renfrew
Cupar Fife	Jedburgh	Rothsay
Dingwall	Kilrenny	Rutherglen
Dornoch before 1809	Kinghorn	St. Andrews
Dumbarton	Kintore	Sanquhar
Dumfries	Kirkcaldy	Selkirk
Dunbar	Kirkcudbright	Stirling
Dundee	Kirkwall	Stranraer
Dunfermline	Lanark	Tain
Dysart	Lauder	Whithorn
Earlsferry		Wigtown

For lands held in the town of Paisley under this singular tenure the REGISTER OF BOOKING kept by the Town Clerk must be referred to.

Of the Royal Burghs just mentioned, with the exception of Auchtermuchty, Brechin, Dornoch, Dunfermline, Falkland, Fortrose, Kilrenny, Kirkwall, Lockmaben, Newburgh, New Galloway, Stranraer, and Whithorn, and including the Burghs of Cromarty, Inverbervie, Leith, Preston and Aberlady, and Wick, there are preserved "Accounts of the Common Good and Customs" for various short periods between 1510 and 1682.

**Record of
Retours.**

Before an heir can regularly acquire the right to his ancestor's estate he ought to be served heir. This is a writ issuing from chancery in the name of the Sovereign the object of which is to establish a claim by inheritance—to be "served

nearest lawful heir." Such service formerly proceeded upon a "Brieve of mort Ancestry or Service" which included the verdict of a jury, fixing the right and character of the heir to the estate of his ancestor and contained, in the case of a special service particulars of (1) In what lands and annual-rents the claimant's ancestor died vested and the annual value thereof (2) If the claimant is the nearest lawful heir and (3) If he be of age, (4) Of whom the lands are held, (5) The nature of the holding, (6) In whose possession the land is.

The extract or copy of the Retour to chancery was termed the retour.

These records are accordingly very valuable to genealogists as they contain not only the descent of a large number of the principal families but also record the transmission by inheritance of much of the landed property.

An abridgment of these inquisitions has been printed under the title "*Inquisitionum ad Capellam Domini Regis retornatarum quae in Publicis Archivis Scotiae adhuc asservantur abbreviatis* 1811—1816.

The present series begins in 1545 but from 1611 to 1614 is lost, from 1630 the practice of recording has been regularly continued to 1847, when it was practically dispensed with by substitution of service before the sheriff, under which system services are carried through by petition to a sheriff, the decree upon which is transmitted to chancery to be recorded and extracted.

There are also 9 extra volumes containing a copy of retours deposited but not recorded in the above dated 1571 to 1700, and some retours and extracts dated 1303 to 1646.

There is a printed index.

The Act 1695 c. 39 allowed an heir to enter upon inventory "as use is in exectuaries" and on complying with certain provi-

sions the heir's liability for his ancestor's debts was limited to the value of the lands given up in the inventory.

These inventories are recorded in the Register of Inventories of Heirs entering "*Cum beneficio Inventarii.*"

This register commences 16th February, 1696, and ends 11th September, 1850, and was abolished by an Act of 1847.

Commissary Courts.

were established about the middle of the 16th century, the name being derived from that of the officials (Bishop Commissaries), to whom the bishops had been wont to delegate or commit their judicial functions. In addition to the usual consistorial duties such as the confirmation and administration of moveable estates these courts prior to 1830 had jurisdiction in cases of declarators of marriage, the nullity of marriage, actions of divorce, &c.

The following abstract shows the dates of the commencement of the records of

testaments or wills and of the earliest testaments preserved.

COMMISSARIOT.	RECORD OF TESTAMENTS.	TESTAMENTS.
Aberdeen	1715	1715
Argyll	1674	—
Brechin	1576	1596
Caithness ... {	1661 (1679—1790 } wanting)	1803
Dumfries	1624	1694
Dunblane	1539	1682
Dunkeld ... {	1687 (1697—1712 } and 1777—1804 } wanting)	1682
Edinburgh	1567	—
Glasgow	1547	{ 1616 (1619—1736 } and 1800—1804 } wanting)
Hamilton & Campsie	1564	1662
Inverness	1630	—
The Isles	1661	1709
Kirkcudbright } (Confirmations } 1809)		1663
Lanark	1595	1662
Lauder	1561	1649
Moray	1684	—
Orkney & Shetland ...	1611	—
Peebles	1681—1699	—
Ross	1802	—
St. Andrews	1549	—
Stirling ... {	1607—1728 } (1628-30 wanting)	—
Wigtown	—	1700

In the majority of cases it will be found that the series from the dates given are incomplete, in some cases there are gaps, and in others volumes wanting.

Besides the testaments and records of testaments, there are various other documents preserved, such as inventories, protests, petitions, minute books, edicts, bonds of caution, &c., &c.

With the exception of Edinburgh after 1800, which must be searched by the Minute Book, Indices of these Records of Testament have been prepared under the direction of the Deputy Clerk Register. The Scottish Record Society have also published Indices down to the year 1800.

There are nine portfolios
Muster Rolls. of muster rolls of mounted
and unmounted troops
stationed throughout the country taken
between 1697 and 1732.

- Charity Rolls** and certificates for persons on the Roll 1667-1707.
- Records Connected with Estates Forfeited by the Rebellions of 1715 and 1745.** Including surveys, rentals, factor's accounts, lists of claimants, lists of attainted persons, &c., &c. There are also some accounts in connection with the estates forfeited by the Rebellion of 1689.
- Record of Taxations,** consisting of general and particular taxt rolls, inventories and valuations for various years between 1593 and 1649.
- Notarial Protocol Books,** being the books kept by various Notaries in which they recorded their Official Acts. In these books may be found some records of transactions and deeds connected with lands of which no other record exists. In the General Register House there are preserved protocol books,

kept by about 160 Notaries between 1512 and 1738.

There are also some in the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh, and others in the possession of the officials of Royal Burghs.

**Register of
Tailzies or
Entails,**

which contains in addition to the indispensable portions of deeds of entail also deeds of disentail, and

others connected with entailed land was instituted in 1685, and comprises the period from 31st July, 1688, to date.

There is available an index of the whole series giving the names of the Granters of deeds of entails.

**The Scotch
Rolls,**

commencing 1291 and continuing to 1516, have been printed under the title

"*Rotuli Scotiae in Turri Londinensi, &c., 1814-1819*" and contain valuable information for genealogists in the form of negotiations, and treaties of peace, truces, precepts of the

Lords Marchies regarding the keeping of the Marches, rewards to partisans, grants of estates to those who have rendered valuable aid to the kings of England in their claims to the Crown of Scotland, licenses to trade, attainters, precepts for levying men, &c.

An abstract of the Scottish Rolls for the period embraced in reigns of Edward I. II. III., Richard II., Henry IV. V. VI. is in the College of Arms, and there is also a collection of these rolls from Edward I to Edward IV. in the British Museum.

Oaths of Allegiance and Declarations of Assurance to various Sovereigns, &c. made by various Public Officers, &c., commencing with the year 1661.

Records of the Lord Lyon Office. Instituted in the year 1672 by Act 1672, c. 47, which provided for the compulsory registration of

Arms. Many persons, however, failed to register their Arms. It is this same Act (1672, c. 47) which is the authority for the custom in Scotland of a laird or landed proprietor annexing to his name the name of his lands prefixed by the word "of," thus describing himself — of —. In fact, in olden times a laird was often known by the name of his estate, in place of his personal name. In Scottish legal terminology where a person is described as "of" a place it means that he is the proprietor of that place; in the case of other people living there the word "of" would be left out or substituted by "in."

REGISTER OF GRANTS AND MATRICULATIONS OF ARMORIAL BEARINGS from 1672 to date with index.

REGISTER OF GENEALOGIES, &C., from 1727 to 1796, and from 1827 to date.

Liber Curiarum et Processus Domini Roberti Forman, Leonis Regis, Armorum,

dated 9th Feb, 1566, containing arms of nobility and gentry.

MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS, such as pedigrees, family histories, &c. In the Advocates Library, Edinburgh, there are other records, including the Heraldic Register of Sir David Lindsay, Lyon King of Arms, *circa* 1542, &c.

The leading authority on Scottish Heraldry is, "An Ordinary of Arms, contained in the Public Register of all Arms and Bearings in Scotland," by Sir James Balfour Paul, Edinburgh, 1903.

Records of Regality, Sheriff and Baron Courts, (abolished in 1748). The heritable rights of Regality and Barony introduced with the feudal system were held of the Sovereign in connection with lands granted under the Great Seal.

St. Andrew's	...	...	...	...	1671—1730
Spynie	...	...	...	...	1660—1726
Urquhart, Pluscarden and Farneen	...			...	1654—1662

SHERIFF COURT.

Ayr	...	...	...	...	...	1515—1526
Banff	...	...	...	...	...
Berwick	...	...	...	1621—1625 and	1671—1677	
Dumfries	...	...	...	...	...	1537—1538
Dunblane	...	...	...	...	...
Fife	...	...	...	...	...	1514—1522
Forfar	...	...	...	...	...	1568—1569
Inverness	...	...	...	...	...	1450—1568
Lanark	...	...	...	...	...	1548—1683
Linlithgow	...	...	...	...	...	1541—1700
Monteith	...	...	...	...	...	1629—1733
Orkney and Shetland	...	...	...	...	...	1576—1677
Perth	...	...	...	...	...	1748—1751

BARONY RECORDS, &C.

Broxmouth and Pincarton	...	...	...	...	1620—1764
Carnwath	...	...	...	...	1523—1542
Gilmerton	...	...	...	...	1730—1811
Glasgow	...	...	...	...	1588—1592
Keilour	...	...	...	...	1554—1568
Stanstell	...	...	...	...	1640—1662

BURGH RECORDS, &C.

Aberdeen	1553—1581
Ayr	1702—1711
Crail	1556—1743
Elgin	1766—1810
Haddington	1714—1723
Inverkeithing	1605—1688
Jedburgh	1693—1704
Kirkintilloch	1659—1695
Perth	1564—1587
Wigtown	1512—1599

BAILLIE COURT RECORDS.

Carrick	1573—1576
Cunningham	1633—1729
Dunrossness, Sandwick and Cunningsburgh	1731—1735
Kelso	1623—1744
Kilwinning	

**Births,
Deaths,
and
Marriages.***

Compulsory registration of births, deaths, and marriages, was introduced on 1st January, 1855, in terms of the Act 17 and 18 Vic.,

* In Scotland there are two kinds of marriages equally valid, viz.:—regular and irregular. The former is where the ceremony is performed by a clergyman before witnesses after due publication of banns, and in the latter case all that is necessary is that the parties express their mutual consent to take each other then and there for husband and wife.

c. 80. After this date the registers are kept in duplicate, one copy being retained by the District Registrar, the other copy being in the General Register House, Edinburgh. These registers are indexed, and may be searched, the fee being (1) At the District Office: for every particular search, 1/-; and for every general search, 2/-. (2) At the General Register House: for every particular search, 1/-; and for every general search, 20/-.

PARISH REGISTERS.—Prior to 1st Jan., 1855, the only records of births, deaths and marriages are those contained in the parish registers, introduced in the year 1551. All these old parochial registers are now preserved in the General Register House, Edinburgh, but the series is exceedingly incomplete, very many volumes being missing. As a rule only the baptisms administered by the parish ministers are entered, and only marriages celebrated *in*

facie ecclesiae after proclamation of banns, or merely the proclamation of banns are recorded. In very many cases there are practically no records whatever of the burials, and, where there are records, then they contain only the names of those persons who are interred in the parish burial ground.

As in England, the earliest registers commence about the middle of the 16th Century.

There is an index giving the dates covered by the various registers of each parish.

Births and deaths of Scottish subjects at sea are now entered in the "Marine Register," and marriages of Scottish subjects in foreign countries, if intimated within twelve months, are entered in the "Foreign Register."

**Great Seal
Records.**

(*Registrum Magni Sigilli
Regum Scotorum*) is the
record of Crown grants

under that seal, and includes grants of land, original charters and renewals or confirmations thereof, called "Charters by Progress," Pardons, Legitimations, Commissions to Superior Officers, Patents of Nobility, &c. The earlier portions were printed in 1814 by direction of the Public Record Commission, under the title "*Registrum Magni Sigilli Regum Scotorum in Archivis Publicis Asservatum, A.D. 1306—1424.*" An abridgment for the following period is in course of publication.

The records preserved include:—

(1) GREAT SEAL REGISTER.

Rolls and volumes from 1306 to date.

(2) PAPER REGISTER OF GREAT SEAL (*commissiones carta adjudicationis, &c.*) containing letters of remission (pardons) legitimations, confirmations of redeemable rights and comprisings, &c. From 1608 to date.

(3) REGISTER OF CONFIRMATIONS AND
RESIGNATIONS AND REGISTER
OF CROWN WRITS.

From 1858 to 1874, when the process
was abolished.

(4) WARRANTS, INVENTORIES, &c.

**Prince's Seal
Records.**

For grants relating to
lands included in the Prin-
cipality of Scotland. These
lands were granted by Robert III. to his son,
James, and in 1404 were created into a regality,
when they were described as the baronies
of Renfrew, Cunningham, Kyle Stewart,
Rathow, and Innerwick; the lands and
Islands of Bute, Arran, and Cumbray; the
lands of Cowal and Knapdaill, the Earldom
of Carrick and the lands of Kyle Regis.
During the non age of the son and heir, or
when there was no son and heir apparent,
Charters of Prince's lands passed under the
Great Seal. This register covers from 1620
to 1819 (indexed) and from 1863 to 1874.

There are also:—A volume containing rentals of the principality lands from 1468 to 1624 and other writs. An index of charters to vassals from 1426 to 1616, and a volume of Precepts of Sasine, &c., 1620 to 1625.

In the Signet Library, Edinburgh, there is a collection of MSS. relating to the Principality of Scotland.

**Privy Seal
Records** contain a record of all Royal grants which have passed the Privy Seal, and include presentations to churches, grants of pension, commissions to inferior officers, gifts of excheat, feudal casualties, and other moveable property or rights, pardons, &c.

The register is in two parts—

I. THE OLD SERIES.

From 19th Oct., 1488, to 12th July,
1651.

II. THE NEW SERIES.

LATIN RECORD (*Registrum Secreti Sigilli*).

From 10th June, 1661, to 16th July, 1810 (termination).

ENGLISH RECORD.

From 9th Aug., 1660, to date.

There is also a volume (indexed) containing precepts for grants of land in Nova Scotia, conformable to a scheme instituted by James VI. for settling that Colony. From 28th May, 1625, to 17th Dec, 1738.

A set of indexes to the registers is available, viz. :—

OF THE OLD SERIES. 1499 to 1651.

OF THE NEW SERIES.

LATIN REGISTER. 1661 to 1705,
and 1744 to 1773.

ENGLISH REGISTER. From 1660.

Exchequer Records. The most important documents in this department are the—

EXCHEQUER ROLLS, on which are engrossed the accounts of the collectors who had charge of the Revenue of the Crown, consisting of the duties payable by the King's vassals, fines, rents, customs, &c. Of the earlier rolls there now exist only transcripts made for the Earl of Haddington, which give extracts from the periods between 1264 and 1266, and between 1288 and 1290. The later series commences in 1326, and continues almost without interruption to the year 1708. These rolls are in course of being published.

RECORDS OF CROWN LANDS, containing details of the rentals, are contained in—

Rentale Supremi Domini Nostri Regis, beginning in 1476, and continuing to 1588.

Rentale at Lenth of the Kingis Gracis Landis, 1505.

Rental of the Crown Lands, in 1668.

Rental of the King's Lands, in 1667.

Various dated and undated Rentals, &c.

Rentals of Orkney and Zetland (Rentale Orchardie pro Rege et Episcopo) being a rental of the scat or tribute payable to the King, of dates about the end of the 16th Century.

Rentals of the Lordships of Dunfermline and of Ardmannock and Ettrick Forest, and of the Earldom of Ross, from 1619 to 1633.

RESPONDE BOOKS (*Liber Responsiorum ad Capellam Regiam*), kept in the King's Chancery, record the superiorities paid by the King's vassals, &c.; the volumes cover the period from 1513 to 1659, of which there is an index from 1537 to 1618.

ACCOUNTS OF THE LORD HIGH TREASURER (*Compota Thesaurariorum Regum Scotorum*), from 1473 to 1635. The Treasurer had charge of the administration of Revenue falling under the description "Casualty," consisting of duties payable by vassals, compositions, &c. These records are in course of publication.

ACCOUNTS OF THE COMPTROLLER, who superintended the administration of the "Property" Branch of the Revenue, consisting of the rents of lands in possession of the King, &c., commence in 1491 and end in 1636.

The accounts of the Treasurer and Comptroller are both incomplete, there being very many volumes wanting.

RECORDS OF THE PIPE. The office of the Clerk of the Pipe was a department of the Court of Exchequer, and to which was transmitted all the accounts of the various

branches of the Revenue where they were engrossed on rolls. In these records, which terminated in 1833, will be found details of assessed taxes, income and property tax, excise, customs, land tax, &c., &c., in most cases for the period after the union, the earliest date being 1693.

It is understood that a large proportion of the records of Exchequer have been retained by the Exchequer Officials.

**Books of
Council and
Session.**

In these books, deeds, obligations and contracts of all descriptions, have been recorded for the purpose of preservation and execution. The contents may be roughly classified under the following heads.

- (1) Deeds containing a clause of consent to registration for preservation or execution.

- (2) Probative writs, *i.e.*, writs duly attested but without the registration clause.
- (3) Protested bills.

Prior to 1868 writs relating to Heritable Subjects were sometimes, besides being recorded for publication in the Register of Sasines, also registered in the books of council and session for preservation.

The periods covered by these registers of deeds are :—

(1) Old series

(1) From 1554 to 1659.

(2) In three separate divisions.

1661 to 31st December, 1811 (close).

(2) New series.

From 1st January, 1812, to date.

There are indexes for the period subsequent to 1770.

**Ecclesiastical
Records.**

Very many of these records for the period prior to the Reformation have been destroyed or lost, and of those that are known to exist the larger number are in private hands, some of which have been published by the Bannatyne and other similar Clubs. Of these earlier records there are preserved in the General Register House some volumes consisting of judicial records, rentals and various documents, viz. :

ABBAY OF ARBROATH.

Chartulary, 1660 to 1715.

ABBAY OF COUPAR ANGUS.

Registrum Assedationum, 1443 to 1559.

(In the Advocates' Library there is a volume of an earlier date.)

Liber Compositionum, 1543 to 1562, with a rental of the Abbey Lands in 1542.

Rental of the Abbey Lands in 1587.

ABBAY OF DUNFERMLINE.

Registrum Assedationum, 1557 to
1585.

DIOCESE OF GLASGOW.

Registrum Episcopatus, 1116 to 1476.

ABBAY OF HOLYROOD.

Register of Charters, Tacks, &c.,
1545 to 1567.

ABBAY OF JEDBURGH.

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CHURCH OF LINCLUDEN.

Register of Charters, 1517 to 1564.

BOOKS OF THE "OFFICIALS" OF ST. ANDREWS.

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Liber Sententiarum of S. Andree principalis, 1541 to 1553.

Liber Actorum of S. Andree, 1546 to 1549.

Liber Actorum of S. Andree infra Laudoniam, 1551 to 1553.

Constitutiones Procuratorum in curia Consistoriali S. Andree, 1564 to 1566.

GENERAL.

Taxations, rentals, Papal bulls, and other documents of various dates,

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REGISTER OF ABBREVIATES OF FEU CHARTERS OF CHURCH LANDS, granted prior to the Act of Annexation (Act 1587, c. 8).

Feu Charters of Church Lands required confirmation, when certain compositions were payable; on confirmation taking place abbreviates of these Charters were framed, and these abbreviates are recorded in this Register.

There are in the General Register House two volumes from 1564 to 1569, and from 1575 to 1586 respectively, in addition to which there are two other volumes, one in the British Museum, and one in possession of the Earl of Linlithgow.

ACCOUNTS OF THE COLLECTORS OF THE THIRDS OF BENIFICES, from 1561 to 1594.

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and St. Andrew's.

In the Teind Office there are a large
number of original and other documents.

Printed
Books, &c.

Antiquarian Gleanings from
Aberdeenshire Records.
Turreff.

- Genealogical Account of Families of Ayrshire. Paterson.
- A Genealogical Account of the Principal Families of Ayrshire. George Robertson. 3 volumes. Irvine, 1823-5.
- History of the County of Ayr, with Genealogical Account of Ayrshire Families. James Robertson. Ayr, 1847-8.
- History of the Parish of Banchory Devenick. John A. Henderson. Aberdeen, 1890.
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- History of Fife. Mackay.
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- History of Kinross. Mackay.
- History of the County of Bute and Families
connected therewith. John E. Reid.
Glasgow, 1864.
- History of Bute. Blain.
- History of the County of Dumbartonshire,
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- The Book of Dumbartonshire. Joseph
Irving. Edinburgh, 1879.
- The Historic Families of Dumfriesshire.
C. L. Johnstone. Edinburgh, 1888; and
Dumfries, 1889.
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- Balmerino and its Abbey; a Parish History.
James Campbell. 1899.

Description of the Western Isles of Scotland in the year 1549, with Genealogies collected by Sir Donald Munro. 1805.

Biographical Annals of the Parish of Colinton, Edinburghshire. Thomas Murray. Edinburgh, 1863.

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Notes on Burghead, County Elgin, with Notices of Families connected with the place. Robert Young. Elgin, 1868.

Maryton Parish, Landed Proprietors from the 12th Century. William R. Fraser. Montrose, N.D.

The Old County Houses of the old Glasgow Gentry. Glasgow, 1878.

The Parish of Strathblane and Its Inhabitants from Early History. John G. Smith. Glasgow, 1886.

History of Old Cumnock. Warrick, 1899.

In the shadow of Cairngorm. Chronicles of the Parishes of Abernethy and Kincardine. Rev. W. Forsyth.

Valuation Book or Tax Roll for the County of Lanark, 1757, MS. Signet Library.

County Histories of Scotland Series; in course of publication.

Memorials of St. Michael's, the old Parish churchyard of Dumfries. William MacDowall. Edinburgh, 1876.

Great Historic Families of Scotland. Dr. James Taylor.

Genealogies of the Principal Families in Scotland. Crawford.

Family Histories; numerous Books dealing with History of various Families, *consult* Marshall's "Genealogist's Guide."

Tartans of the Clans and Septs of Scotland with the Arms of the Chiefs, &c.

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Chronicles of the Picts and Scots and other
Early Memorials of Scottish History.
Edited by William F. Skeene, LL.D.
Edinburgh, 1867.

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The Celtic Review.

The Celtic Magazine.

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The Scottish Antiquary.

Scottish Notes and Queries.

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Memorial Catalogue of the Heraldic Exhibition held at Edinburgh, 1891. Edinburgh, 1892.

Calendar of Documents relating to Scotland, preserved in H.M. Public Record Office, London. Edited by Joseph Bain.

Documents and Records illustrating the History of Scotland preserved in the Treasury of the Exchequer by Sir F. Palgrave, 1837.

Jacobite Peerage, Baronetage, Knightage, and Grants of Honour. Marquis of Ruvigny and Raineval.

For a list of books and manuscripts relative to Royal Genealogies, Pedigrees of the Nobility and Gentry, see R. Sim's Manual for the Genealogist, Topographer and Antiquary. London, 1888, pages 179, 187, 188 and 226. Also Guide to the printed books and manuscripts relating to Heraldry and Genealogy, by George Gatfield. 1892.

AN Index drawn up about the year 1629 of many records of Charters granted by different Sovereigns of Scotland between 1300 and 1413, with an Introduction on the Ancient Records of Scotland, which were in that Kingdom in 1292. William Robertson. Edinburgh, 1798.

Armorial Bearings, Inscriptions, &c., in Churches and Castles of Scotland. Alex. Deuchar, MSS. Advocates Library.

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