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SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE

GRIERSON FAMILY

by

ROBERT GRIERSON

Short account of The

Grierson Family.

Origin.

The starting point of the Griersons is about the year 1400 when a certain Gilbert Grierson who was Esquire to the Earl of Douglas, obtained grants of certain lands in Dumfriesshire and Kirkcudbright. All we can say definitely, is that the name cannot be traced earlier, and that within a century or rather more it had become comparatively common and widespread both in the South and even to some extent in other parts of Scotland. Which is very remarkable. They cannot all be descended from one man as some think.

I should say that in the print of Rymer's Foedera that was commenced but not finished by the Record Commissioners, I found about 1367 the name of a Henry Grierson or rathere "Greresoun". My cousin had the original document looked up, and found that the name might be "Grevesoun" or "Grenesoun", but could not be "Greresoun".

The early spelling of the name varied; indeed it is only in comparatively recent years it has become fixed, and about the 17th century it nearly crystalised into "Greirson". About the same time the name of Grier was much used, and sometimes interchangeably. It was about that period that many of the name settled in Ireland, which may account for the shorter form being so common there, and in Ireland the spelling is generally Greer which is not used by the families in Scotland. The Form "Grier" does not appear till near the end of the 15th or beginning of the 16th century.

The MacGregor descent.

It has been stated in many books and in the first family Tree prepared by Gracie, that the name was taken in terms of a Charter of the lands of Airds in Tynron, the name previously having been Gregorson. Others say that the Gilbert Grierson in whose favour the Charter is said to have been granted, was the son of a Malcolm dominus de MacGregor who fought at Bannockburn

The dates appear to forbid this being correct. No such Charter is now know to be in existence, but one is mentioned in an old inventory of Lag Writs said to have been prepared by one of the Dalskairth family in the 17th century of which I saw a copy.

I have seen a paper written probably when the first Baronet was a very old man, and I think by his eldest son, and the reply from the Lyon Office. The reply referred to certain coats of Arms and particularly to one of an Andrew Grierson who was a Herald and which certainly suggested a MacGregor connection. The particulars of it can be read still in the published Lyon Register, and can be seen with other armorial coats in a beautifully illustrated book that was done for me by a friend and which is at present with my brother James Grierson, 1 Herbert St, Dublin.

The family changed their Arms several times, but none of those used by any whom we know actually belonged to the Lag family or its branches, indicate any connection with the MacGregors. I understood that my cousin did not believe in the MacGregor descent, and I have been unable to find any satisfactory proof of it.

Their Beginning

The first Grierson possession is believed to have been the Barony of Airds in Tynron. In the Charter to Lag he is designed as Gilbert Grierson of Airds, but that is the only instane I know of where such a designation was used.

The earliest mention of the name in print which was definitely dated in one in the published- Honoris de Morton- where a Gilbert Grierson is mentioned in 1406.

There is a most interesting reference to them in the Rotulliae Scottiae, and other records, in 1413 when Gilbert Grierson son and heir of Gilbert Grierson, was among the representatives of the best families in Dumfriesshire who went to England as hostages for the Earl of Douglas. It shows that from the first

the family was of importance. How they acquired this importance there is now no means of saying. Some of their lands were acqui--red through grants from the Earl of Douglas, whose Squires they were, but most of them were not, and there is nothing to show how they gained the means of acquiring them.

In the published Chartulary of the Abbey of Melrose, there is a renunciation by Gilbert Grierson of Lag, of lands in Dunscore in favour of that Abbey. This is the first mention of them as "of Lag", and the seal attached to the document is of great interest. It shows a lion ranpant which is supposed to represent their arms at that period. It is the only known instance of this coat of arms being used. The legend on this seal is supposed to be "Filii Doncani", but the reading is understood to be doubtful. It may be mentioned that in the very old days surnames were not general, and men were referred to as for instance- Duncan son of John. &c.

The lands were mostly the same for the greater part of their history till the beginning of the 18th century, when the greater part were lost, except that they added Rockhall in the second generation through a marriage with a Kirkpatrick heiress, and about the 17th century added somewhat to their lands in Dunscore.

When the Persecutor and his first cousin whom he succeeded were in minority my great gaand father's gtgdfather was Tutor or guardian on the estate, but in accordance with scot's law, not of the minor. He was James Grierson of Larglanglie, Tutor of Lag, whose Brieve as Tutor will be found in the printed Index of Services, which is a mine of information.

As Tutor he prepared rentals of the Lag estates, that are still among the Dalgoner papers. They were as follows, the rentals being from memory and only approximate. It will be seen that there were seven estates: not only where these much

separated, but some of them, though in the same parish were scattered about it or the next.

1. Drumjohn &c in Carsphern Parish (earlier Kirk Dalry) obtained by grant of Earl of Douglas about or shortly after 1400 A.D. Rental about 1200 £ 1400-00 in Scots money

2. Airds &c in Tynron and Glencairn. The Barony of Airds seems to have been their first possession and was obtained about 1400 or very soon after, it was a Crown holding, but the other lands that went along with them were a ten merk land held of the E. of Glencairn as far back at least as the time of Vedast Grierson rental in Scots money about 1200 — £ 1400- 0-

3. Dalgarnock Holmns in Closeburn formerly Dalgarnock probaly acquired along with Airds. the £5 land of Shaws was part of the Lags possessions but they seem to have parted with it before this time and it was afterwards acquired by the Cathenoch family. Rental say 980- 0-0

4. Lag &c in Dunscore and Keir. Lag was acquired not long after 1400 A.D. 700. 00

5. Lands of Betwixt The Waters in Troqueer & Lochrutton Bght obtained early, not exactly known how, but probably thro. a marriage with a Durrant. They seem to have been considerable, but were probably much mortgaged about this time and the rental, was only about £485 as far as can be remambered, only when they appear in the rentals of the forfeithed estates the rental was much larger rental say £ 485- 0- 0

6. Rockhall in Thorthorwald and Mouswald obtained by the marriage of the second Grierson of Lag with a Kirkpatrick heiress early in the 15th century, it was probably the most valuable of their old estates though by no means the most extensive and is the only place they now hold. Rental say £ 1800- 0- 0

7. Gretna &c in Gretna. This seems to have been the Gretna of

about 1660 the rent of Rockhall £1677. 12. 4 sets would in English money come to about £180 about 1674 to about £203 and by 1874 was £3000. Total in some 200 years it had increased in value fully 15 times

The rents of Dalquhairn in 1634 was about £15, in 1662 about £30, in 1770 about £100 by 1845 within the lifetime of a man who succeeded in 1788, it had risen to £840 and later in 1870 to about £1700

The Minute Book of the Renfrewshire Commissioners of Commission of 1643, shows us that though the Lairds incomes were thin so minute, yet they had silver spoons which they handed over to the Covenanters war fund.

marriage romance. These lands were extensive and the Lag family swem to have had full possession of them for many years, but they were probably only held under a Wadsett or Mortgage from the Murrays of Cookpool_ rental say (1750) 1800-0- 0

All of these rents are in Scots money which is worth only a 1/12th of English money, but by now the rentals might be twelve times as large or more. Here were two rentals during the minority. The first came to £8055 -0-3 and the second to £8903 -10-0 Scots.

The Griersons of Lag obtained three Charters of Barony which gave them full powers of civil and criminal jurisdiction over their scattered posses-_sions. It is a puzzle how in such turbulent times they could manage, guard and exercise jurisdiction over such scattered estates, and the Charters of Barony included and gave them jurisdiction over possessions of which they had only the superiority, which were considerable and are not mentioned in the rentals. In the return of Landowners about 1874 Rockhall which remained about same here all along is given as 3514 ac - rent £3034. Dalgowen 800 ac rent £1117. H (Page facing)

Family Trees.

The first was prepared by Gracie, a writer or solicitor in Dum-fries about the middle of the nintteenth century, but according to what I heard, not a very successful one. Its reliability in parts is very doubtful, particularly regarding the original Charters of the family and the marriage with a daughter of Glendinning of Parton.

The second was prepared by Mr Greer of Seapark, Carrickfergus, who at one time was M.P. for Carrickfergus. It is much more satisfactory, but he wrote me mentioning some errors in it, and much further and more reliable information has been obtained since he prepared this Tree.

He connects the Irish Greers xx with the main stem through the Griersns of Capenoch. No confirmation can be obtained of this and the known facts are against it.

He accepted the statement in Gracie's Tree that the first Gilbert Grierson married a daughter of Glendinning of Parton, who had married a daughter of the Earl of Douglas. My memory is that he told me

he could get no other authority for either except Gracie. Through this report of the Glendinning marriage, Mr Greer traces a connection with the Scottish Royal family and the Crowned heads of Europe. There are two weaknesses in this account. There is no proof of such a marriage having taken place, though some generations later there is mention in the records of a Margaret Glendinning, Lady of Lag. It is not known what her history was. Then The Douglas Book shows who the daughters of the Earls of Douglas married about this time; they were the greatest nobles in the land; there is no mention of any of them marrying a Glendinning; and it seems improbable a daughter of those Earls would have done so.

I think my cousin prepared a Family Tree, though I have not seen it, and it will be the most reliable. I also prepared one.

Some of the older Branches.

About 1412-25, an Earl of Douglas granted in favour of Gilbert Grierson and his son William, (his second son) a Charter of the £20 land of Dalton and Dormont in the Parish of Dalton, not far from Rockhall.

This family seem to have been much connected with the Earls of Douglas for a long time after, and at a later date, but probably before 1439, they obtained from them a grant of the 10 merk land of Castlemaddie and Carminnow, in Carsphern, then Dalry. Later this family acquired other lands in Dalry about 1625 through a marriage with an Enable Chalmers.

They lost Dalton about 1532-50-(see Reg. of Gt. Seal. and and interesting entry in th Reg. Of Privy Cl.). Afterwards they were some--times known as Griersons of Dalton and sometimes -of Castlemaddie. They died out in the male line about 1672 (See Index of Services) were succeeded by Grierson of Dalgoner, a distant relative of theirs after a considerable litigation. The lands were heavily burdened through debts, fines as Covenanters, and marriage provisions. The Old Griersons of Dalgoner who acquired also suffered severly as Covenanters. The last of them went out at the Bothwell Bridge rising, died after it and was succeeded through a family arrangement, much too complicated to detail, by my gtgdfather's

gdfather, James Grierson, second son of James Grierson of Larglanglie Tutor of Lag, but the estate was so heavily encumbered, that it gave him a life of trouble, he married the daughter of the principal creditor, and through this saved Dalgoner, but the lost the wider lands in Kirkcud--bright, which were situated not far from Carsphern. These were extensive possessions, extending perhaps to 9,000 ac. but were mostly moorland and not proportionally valuable.

Both of the first Lairds of Lag were Gilbert Griersons. The second of these, acquired through the marriage with a Kirkpatrick, not only Rockhall, but Kirkbriderig in Kirkpatrick Juxta, near Moffat. It was a 27 merk land and must have been a fairly considerable place. It was granted to a branch, a younger son, and he and his descendants held it for some 200 years when they seem to have died out and the place apparently came back to the main family and was sold to the Johnstons of Annandale (see Reg of 1401.). The Lag people retained a superiority of it all along, and they also had superiorities of Windiehills, another place acquired through the Kirkpatrick marriage, which was granted to one of the daugh--ters who married a Muirhead; it was in Closeburn. Besides they had superiorities of Bargatton, Barquhar &c in Lochrutton, and Swyre and Laggan in Dunscore. All which if I remember right were included in the Charter of Barony. They also had a superiority in Penpont-

The fourth Laird of Lag was Roger who was mortally wounded at Sauchieburn fighting against about 1488 the King. He was succeeded by his son Cuthbert, who did not leave male heirs, and was succeeded by his brother Roger who fell at Flodden. Roger's son John was a minor when he got the estate. He married secondly a Kennedy of Bargatton or Bargaltoun, and partly through this marriage, and partly through purchase of other heirs portioners interests, he got the fairly consdierable lands of Bargatton in Balmaghie, Kirkcudgright, which went to the second son, whose descendants acquired other possessions and founded what was one of the most considerable branches. They represented Kirkcudbright in the Covenanting parliament of 1643.

The period when the family were of most importance was the 17th century. The Lairds of Lag at that time were ~~Sir~~ all Kinghted where they attained majority, they took a rather prominent part in national and local affairs, and were many times members for Dumfriesshire. They were Sir William, who fought at Dryffe Sands the last of the feudal encounters, Sir Robert his son, Sir John the son of Sir Robert, Robert the minor son of Sir John; he died at Bath, and there is a tablet to him in Bath Cathedral. Sir Robert, the son of William Grierson of Barquher who succeeded his consin, the son of Sir John, and was also in minority at his accession. This man became the first Baronet; he is known as the Persecutor. Most of the family estates were lost through various causes during his life. Both Sir William and ~~X~~ the first Sir Robert had large families, who had to be provided for. The estate was encum--bered when the Persceutor, he, succeeded; most of the estates through Scotland were so, (and Kirkpatrick Sharp the Antiquary says he was extravigant, see K.S.'s life, which corrests a mistake in Mr Greer's Tree about the descent of the Kennedys of Bargatton.) The final blow must have been when after the family estates had been put in his name, the eldest son of the Persecutor went out in the 1715 rebellion, and was taken at Preston with his brother. The Rental of the forfeited estates can be seen yet in the Register House, Edinburgh, It came to about £415, but does not include Rockhall, which the Baronet had probably retained, Airds and Dalgarnock which had been sold to the Drumlanrig family shortly before, (See Ramage), and some other lands, and so gives a misleading idea of their importance.

An Article by myself in the Scottish Historical Review will give you an idea of the state of things about this time.

You will understand that the history of a family is very much the history of its lands. The Lag estates remained much the same all along, most of the acquisitions being granted off to branches, Very early in their history they seem to have settled at Lag, and it is a remarkable

fact they should have done so, for this was the smallest of their estates, and before the 17th century, it must have been quite small, consisting only of the 7 merkland of Lag. It was the one estate they added to. They acquired the 4 poundland of Allanton, and the 40/ land of Hallidayhill both in Dunscore, and the 40/ land of Kirkbride, and the 20/ land of Hillend both in Keir adjoining their Dunscore lands. This made in all a £13-13-4 land, yet even then was not a big estate.

The reason is not known, but it is suggested that, as Lag lay among the Church lands of Melrose (The Barony of Monkland (£600) a £40 land) and near those of the Abbey of Holywood or Hailywood in Keir and Dunscore adjoining, it was a safe locality to live in. Of the additions to their lands here- Allanton may originally have been acquired direct from the church, but the other lands were obtained by excambion (Hallidayhill) or purchase. The Monkland of Melrose was (£600) a £40 land granted far back to the Abbey of Melrose. It lay in Dunscore. Now Sir Walter Scott and others have dwelt on how the great families seized on the church lands. That does not seem to have been the case with the Church lands in Dunscore. The Parish was valued for teinds about 1634 not so long after the Reformation, and then their had been a few considerable feus in it, such as Dalgoner and Friars Carse, but most of it had been feued off in small holdings to various people, a good many of the name of Grierson, but there is no trace of any of these small men being connected with the Lag family and the name was common in the district. It may be mentioned that the name was common in Dunscore, Keir, Tynron and Glencairn, and in many parts of Kirkcudbright, but not so frequent round Rockhall, though that place was so long in the family. There was an Earl of Melrose who got what might read like a Charter to the Melrose lands, but in reality all he received was small feuduties, which are now only minute. Dalgoner was probably feued originally to a relative of the Lag family, but that is the only instance that can be traced of any one definitely belonging

to the main family getting any part of the Melrose lands, ~~and~~ at the time they were probably only pretty far out cousins, and their rela--tionship to Lag may have had little to do with the matter.

Most of Keir or Holywood was granted to Lord Maxwell, but parts such as Braeco, and Allanton and probably Barjarg seemed to have been granted off prior to this (See Drumlanrig papers H.M.S.S.).

Of the many interesting facts brought out by my cousin's book, perhaps the most interesting fact is that the tenants of the Abbey in Holywood in Keir held their lands in specially favourable terms, but were bound to serve against the English under Grierson of Lag by an old Charter. Most of the lands in Keir have at one time or another belonged to Griersons. There is an old rental of the Parish made out ab ut 1646 in connection with some tax levied for the war in Ulster. This shows if I remember right, that 5/8ths of the Parish was in the hands of owners of our name, and at an earlier period there are many mentions of Griersons there. For long their names were a puzzle; sometimes they are given as "of" the place, which implied ownership, and sometimes as "in" the place which did not imply ownership. It is now thought that they were kindly tenants, (i.e. held under speci--ally favourable terms) who had probably been so many generations in occupation that they had come to be regarded as owners, and some of whom had likely obtained feus of the lands. Any way it is surprising that while the family is always regarded as a Dunscore family, they probably at one time held a much larger proportion of Keir adjoining.

Families of the Name and their lands.

One can now only make a vague guess at what the extent of the Lag estates were, but they may have covered 25,000 or 30,000 or more. Like most Scotch estates, they were largely moor land or rough land, still they must have had much good land among them particularly at Rockhall and Dalgarnockholms.

About the middle of the 17th century there were nearly a dozen known lairds of the name, besides as many or more smaller people called portioners. The list would be somewhat as follows-

In first rank.

The Lag family who were all along much the biggest.

In the second rank- Considerable people.

Griersons of- Bargatton, Barjarg, Dalton or Castlemaddie & Capenock

Moderate Lairds.

Griersons of Dalgoner, Dalskairth (who may have been more considerable) Chapel, Loch Urr, and Millmark (From whom the Griersons of Garroch or Ballingear are descended).

Besides these others are mentioned who were more or less temporary or who are less known- such as- Griersons of Braeco, Barnbauchle, Barquhar, Arnmannoch, Largnaglie, Bardannoch &c. Many are shown in Sir P. H. Hamilton- Grierson's book. and there were many smaller holders of the name. It is unlikely that this list is really exhaustive, we get vague traces of others like the Griersons of Craigneston.

It may be mentioned that in several instances the same lands passed through more than one family of the name. This took place it is believed with Dalgoner, Dalskairth and Barjarg at least. The family that last held Barjarg having started at Griersons of Ingleston, next of Nether-Keir, and lastly of Barjarg. Dalgoner was sold about 1885, and except Rockhall, it was the last of the old family lands to remain with us. Ordinary debts, troubles as Covenanters, as Jacobites, and most of all dying without male heirs accounted for most of the rest. the want of male heirs was the end of the families of Castlemaddie, Arnmannock, Barjarg, Capenock, and the old Dalgoner family.

Irish Families of the name.

These chiefly claim connection with the stem through the Capenoch Griersons. My cousin's book will show how fully he has inves--tigated the subject and he could not find anything which proved the connection, but if I remember right, there was one matter that left a possibility, and which there was not sufficient information about to enable it to be followed out.

Both the Greers and the Griersons of the King's Printers family seem to claim through the Capenoch Griersons, but I have heard some suggestion that the founder of the King's printers family was descended from a man that came from Argyleshire, and have a copy of a long paper by a lady of that family, in which, founding on the lion rampant with a primrose in his hand that is in the arms claimed by the ~~KingsxPrinters~~ Irish Griersons, she endeavours to trace a connection with ~~the~~ a Grierson of Barjarg who married a Primrose. It would not seem to me that there is anything in this idea.

The history of Capenoch in connection with the Griersons may be mentioned. It ~~was~~ is situated in the North of Keir, and was part of the Holywood lands. About 1470-80 a Peter Grierson of Capenoch is mentioned by several authorities(see Drumlanrig Papers, Ramage, Hope Johnston Papers and either the Acta Concilii or Acta Dominorum.)

There is no other mention of a Grierson"of"Capenoch so far as I know, till Sir William Grierson of Lag purchased it from a Maxwell early in the 17th century. He granted it to his second son John, who died and was succeeded by his brother James, and this man's descendants later on succeeded to Braeco, and Barnbauchle in Kirkcudbght which had been acquired by two other sons of Sir William, they also acquired Shaws in Cloreburn, that was an old possession of the family which seems to have been sold, and had quite considerable lands though they did not keep Barnbauckle long or even probably Braeco. I think they had some other place besides. In the first quarter of the 18th century,

they died out in the male line, and the heiress, Susanna Grierson, married Sir T Kirkpatrick of Closeburn, though I think Closeburn had been sold by then. About 1850 it (Castlemorch) was sold to my cousin James Grier--son, who is said to have paid a high price for it. The story I heard was- that some old countryman advised him- Before you pay that for Capenoch, summer it and winter it- i.e. take time to think over the matter; but he was anxious to secure the old family property and would not wait. Eventually he sold it in order to purchase Dalgoner from my father and the other heirs of their grandfather, and through him Dalgener passed to his nephew, the late Sir Philip James Hamilton-Grierson who had to sell it about 1885.

The Irish Griersons.

My late father's father was the son of James Grierson of Dalgoner who died about 1845 in his 89th or 90th year. He succedded as a minor and therefore held the estate for an unusually long period. When he got the plate the rental was about £100 and when he died it was over £800, and afterwards increased to about £1200, before the fall in rents came. My grandfather settled in Dublin and married a Sophia Grierson daughter of a John Grierson a merchant in Dublin who belonged to a family that had been settled in Meath and Kildare for some generations. Many of them are buried at Laricor, near Trim of which Dean Swift was the recto:

The best known family of the Griersons in Ireland are known as the King's Printer's family, and there is said to have been a connect--ion between the Meath Griersons and them, but what it was I never could hear. Our own relations of the name in this connection are now distant and in the colonies or have died out. There are however several families of the name about Dublin, and one I think in West Meath. One of the King's Printers family at one time owned the Daily Express and after that went to live at Malahide. There used to be a Robert Grierson, a retired clergyman who lived at Dublin, whom I knew. He was very

enthusiastic about family history, but it was difficult to get him to stick to proved facts. Ultimately he was descended from a Dublin salesmaster of the name of Greenan

Many years ago, while I was giving gratuitous advice to poor folks here, a woman called whose maiden name had been Grierson and who belonged to a family of farmers in Co. Armagh, and another whose first wife had been a Grierson from Dublin, but the longer form of the name is not common in Ireland. My father bought lands in Co Dublin near Clondalkin, and had some also in Meath. One of these a small place came to him through his gtgdfather a William Grierson the second son of John Grierson of Dooliston, that I shall mention later.

On the other hand the ~~farm~~ shorter form of the name, which in Ireland is generally spelt "Greer", is I understand common in Ulster. There is no doubt that many people left the South West of Scotland and settled in Ulster about the 17th century. I have come across instances in our own papers where people who had gone to Ulster, succeeded to some interest in a piece of land in Dumfriesshire, and when the second or third last Grierson of Castlemaddie died, his brother ~~who~~ was in Ireland, had ~~had~~ evidently been there for long. The dying laird left directions that the key of his charter "kist" should be sent this brother.. About the time when these Griersons or ~~Grairs~~ Griers left Dumfriesshire, the form Grier was much used and often indiscriminately by the country folk for the same man. The first Baronet is said to have been known as "Roaring Grier of Lag". This probably explains that form of the name being so frequent in Ulster.

Many years back I looked up the Wills of most of the Irish Griersons at the records in the Four Courts, which are probably burnt now, and ~~took~~ made notes on them. There were too many Greers or Griers in the book to note all of their Wills. How far ~~the~~ any of the Greers in the North of Ireland held land, without which people seldom can go back any great time, I do not know.

The first of the Meath Griersons that I can trace was John Grierson of Dooliston, a farmer known as "Honest John Grierson" who was born in 1703 (see his tombstone in Laricor). The King's printers family seem to have started in business in Dublin about 1712, as far as I can remember. Some old ladies belonging to that family used to live in a house at the head of Glenismole near Dublin, and the fact is mentioned in Mr Handcock's book on Tallaght. Mrs Constantia Grierson a lady of great learning (see Dict. Nat. Biog.) was the wife of one of the King's Printers. One story is that he xxx got a grant of the valuable monopoly of King's Printer because of her attainments, and another that he got this because he was a protigee of Primate Boulter.

You will find that many of the older Irish bibles and testaments are printed by that family. Mrs Letitia Grierson sen who died at Early is mentioned in Boswells Life of Dr Johnson

Books.

As regards books on the subject- Ferguson's Laird of Lag, is the only book entirely on the subject, but his account of the early history of the family is very incomplete. The Persecutor, Sir Robt Grierson is of course the hero of Wandering Willie's Tale in Redgauntlet, which Conan Doyle regards as the best short story in the English language. Crockett's books, particularly The Raiders and the men of the Moss Haggs, will give you an idea of the Covenanting tradi--tions about him in the South West; but historically I doubt his accuracy. In particular the Gordon estates, were not granted to the Persecutor as he says, but to some one else altogether, as shown by an act in the Folio Acts of the old Scots Parliament.

The Index of Services, the Reg. of the Gt. Seal and other Scotch records, particularly the Reg. of the Privy Council, are mines of information about the family, but they require much digging into, and the fact to be gathered are very disjointed. It is impossible at this distance of time to so connect them as to write a consecutive account, and every now and then some new information comes from an

Any one wishing to visit the Grierson country, could not do better than start at Carsphern, in Kirkcudbright most of the land round which belonged to the Lag family or the Griersons of Castlemaddie. You reach it via Ayr and Dalmellington. There is a good hotel there and much fishing for any one contented with small trout.

The outlook from some of the farms or places that belonged to the family formerly is magnificent- Particularly from Barjarg Tower, Upper Craigenbay farm, or Larglahglie. It was disappointing that few of the graveyards contained any stones belonging to the old families. There is an enclosed tomb at Mouswald for the Rockhall family with some fairly old stones. In old Dunscore Churchyard there was none till comparatively recently. The Persecutor is said to have been buried there and it has been stated that formerly the country people would not have allowed a stone to him to stand there. Near by where he was buried there is one to the Old James Grierson of Dalgoner who d. 1676 or Degonar as it is put on his tomb. This would not be there now but that my Gtgdfather had it set up again and the lettering recut, though as a strong Covenanter, the people would be glad to let him rest in peace.

When I was in Dunscore there was no good Inn. Only one where my room was over the byre, and was impregnated with the smell of amonia; not pleasant but said to be healthy.

Any way our old district is well worth a visit.

The Dalgoner tomb erected about 1769 is prominent in the new Dunscore Churchyard

Notes about Griersons

of Dalgoner.

The first Griersons of Dalgoner were not a direct branch of the Lag family, but a branch of the Griersons of Dalton or Castlemadie, the eldest branch in the family. Between 1409-24 the Earl of Douglas granted a Charter of the 230 land of Dalton to his Esquire Gilbert Grierson, and after him to his son William and William's heirs male. Dalton is down near Reckhall.

There seems to be little doubt that this Gilbert Grierson was the original founder of the family, or possibly his son; William seems to have been the secon son though this is not mentioned, and it is curious why Gilbert is not called "of Lag" The Charter is printed among the papers of the late Sheriff Murray Hist.Man. Comn. 1st series 6th vol. Sometime before 1439 a William Grierson of Dalton, probably the same man, got a grant from one of the Earls of Douglas of the 5 merk land of Castlemadie and the 5 merk land of Carminnow in what is now Carsphern in Kirkcudbright. They were in a wild out of the way corner. Among the Muni--ments of the Royal Burgh of Irvine there is a letter printed by the Prior of the Convent of Irvine of Confraternity in favour of William Greyrson and his spouse Egidia. This is dated 24th August 1436 and may probably refer to Grierson of Dalton.

About 1558 Dalton was sold to Lindsay of Barcloy.

There is a very interesting entry in the Register of the Privy Council in 1565-66 about this. Card--uthers of Holmends complained that he was kindly tenant of

tenant of Meikle Dalton, which is given as a £20 land, past the memory of man, and had got the lands let to him by Gilbert Griersen of Dalton forty years before.

Lindsay had warned him to remove, and he complained that this was "aganis equitie conscience and the kexabl levabill sustum of the cuntrie so far as the saidis landis lyis within sex mylis of the Bordour of Ingland and the saidis Carrutheris and the inhabitantis of the saidis landis (are) subject to continewall service and to sustene hors and geir for defence of the realme quhairunto the inhabitantis of the in cuntirie necht so dailie astrictit; and in defence of the same landis and boundis adjacent to the same within few yeris bi--past, the saidis Johnne had his son slane and XXVIII of his principal freindis, and gif the King and Queenis Majesteis and lordis of thair Secreit Counsall sall permit this preparative of removing of Kyndlie tenentis to cum in the Bordeweris, it sall be far aganis the commenweill". A Court of kindness was ordered to be held to decide the matter, but what the result was we do not know, only Carruthers seems eventually to have got the lands. Among the Dalgener papers there is only one Charter or Sasine conveying Dalton, Castlemadie and Carminnow at the same time. Sheriff Murray got the Charter and the Agreement selling the lands to Lindsay through the Carruthers, and I think gave them back to some one of the name; among the Dalgener papers are one or two Sasines to Carruthers of Holmends.

There are few references to the Griersons of Dalton or Castlemaddie in the records, unless in the Reg. of the Gt. Seal or the Exchequer Rolls, though they lasted for 250 years and held their lands of the Crown. This was an unusually long time for one of the branches to last.

There seems to have been some dispute about the title to Castlemadie for a long period and the entries in the Exchequer Rolls rather look as if the Crown drew the rents of it, but this was cleared up by a Charter in 1534 from the Crown.

Early in the 17th century Gilbert Grierson of Castlemadie married Enable Chalmers and got with her the ~~XXX~~ 20/ land of Largirie and Woodhead, and the ~~X~~ 2½ merk land of Upper Craigenbay and Lochspraig, giving him altogether a 14 merk holding. The Dalgoner Grier--sons eventually succeeded to these lands and got the papers which are in the Dalgoner box.

Besides Dalmonieside

The Abbey of Melrose held a ~~X~~ £40 land known as the Barony of Monkland in Dunscore. The adjoining parish of Keir and part of Dunscore (at least Allanton) belonged to the Abbey of Halywood. In consequence Lag must have been pretty well surrounded by Church lands, and that may have been the reason the Griersons made their principal residence there; the lands they held in Dunscore were originally small, and they never held a large estate there. The only part of these Church lands which the Lag people seem to have got directly from the Church or nearly so, was Allanton, but they bought up afterwards other places- Kirkbride and Hilland- The

Barony of Halyweod was feued or granted off by the Abbot to Lord Maxwell, but some of the Griersons seem to have got a hold of a good deal of it, and there is little of the Parish of Keir that did not belong at one time or another to some one of the name. The land belonging to Melrose in Dunscore seems to have been taken possession of or feus were got from the Church, and the £40 land was divided up into a large number of small holdings, as shown by the valuation of Dunscore for the teinds about 1634.

In the beginning of that century or the end of the pre--ceeding one several Crown Charters of parts of this land are given in the Reg. of the Gt. Seal.

There are one or two notices of sales of Church lands about Dunscore or which show they had been granted off, that cannot now be very well explained for instance- In Mebton's Monastic Annals of Teviotdale, among the Abbey of Melrose Lands we get- in Dumfriesshire-"Grierson has 3 merk land worth £246, pays £5 of feuduty." It is not known to what this refers. In 1566 Johnston Welsh the last Vicar of Dunscore sold part of the Church lands to Cuthbert Greir in Lach which was confirmed by Crown Charter in 1574 (R.of G.S.) but what special piece of land this refers to we do not know. In the Reg. of the Gt. Seal in 1637, "Cuthbert Greir Comarchi de Dalgoner" is mentioned, but I cannot say what this means.

A good many of the small holdings into which the Melrose lands were divided, are shown by the valuatoen of 1634 to have been in the hands of persons of the name of Grierson, and the Parish records show that some of these

small landowners of the name lingered on till about 1770 or later. Unless we consider Friers Carse, the only large holding among them, and the one longest held was Dalgoner.

In 1681 William Greir of Dalgoner son of the late John Greir of Dalgoner got a Crown Charter of the 40/ land of Dalgoner and the 20/ land of Poundland in the Barony of Menkland-"Que olim fuerunt pars patrimonia monasterii de Melrose et per dictum Wil. et ejus predecessores veteres tenentes earundem possidebatur." It is not thought that this Charter is now in existence, but the Sasine on it is among the Dalgoner papers. and its terms are given in Reg. of Gt. S. Among the Melrose Charters there is a Renunciation by Gilbert Griersen of Lag with consent of his son and heir Gilbert in favour of the Monastery, of lands in Dunscore. This is the only known document indicating any lands in Dunscore had been given up by the Griersons, and it may be this that the Dalgoner Charter refers to. The Charter of 1418 is of special interest as being the earliest mention of a Grierson as "of Lag", and his seal attached to it shews an old ~~xxxx~~ coat of arms not given elsewhere, the legend on which has recently been deciphered as "Gilbertii filii Duncanii" in the last book on Scottish Armorial Seals.

Although this was a Crown Charter, there was no further entry by the Crown for about a century, till I think McBurnie got a Crown Charter, but after that the Crown always entered. During the 17th century Precepts of Clare Constat were got from the Earl of Melrose Lord Byres and Binning. The exact state of the titles to

what had been Church lands is often difficult to get to the bottom of- Dalgoner though a Crown holding pays a small feuduty to a subject- Glenlach in Keir and Swyre in Dunscore are in the Lag Charters of Barony, but the property in them was held by other families of the name of Grierson; though Allanton is in their Charters and they had the property of it, the Lag family paid a feudzuty for it to the Earl of Nithsdale- there are numerous references to Grier-sons as "of" certain places in Keir-Farthingunk-rush, Beechen, Penfillan, Nether Keir, Penmurtie &c, but elsewhere we see these places given as if they belonged to others; sometimes this seems to be because the Griersons held the place under a Wadsett or Apprising.

In 1617 William Greir of Dalgoner served heir to William Grier his father, and got a Charter or Precept from the Earl of Melrose in 1621. In 1626 James Grierson, brother of that William got a Precept of Clare Constat from the E. of Melrose as brother german and heir of William and this seems to have been the James Grierson who held the place till he died in 1676, who is buried in old Dunscore church yard, and who was a leading Covenanter. Both of the above Precepts are in the Dalgoner box, and so is the Confirmation of James as the executor in 1624. The amount of the moveable estate was triffling. In 1635 he purchased from Thos Porter in Belfast, the Vicar lands or Kirkstyle Kirkland of Dunscore. This he afterwards mortgaged with a Wadsett in his troubles, and it passed out of his pos--session. It was carried along with the titles to the other/

other lands till the time of the Father of our gxxx gt,gd.father,who had a litigation about the redemption of the Kirkstyle with Fergussen of Isle,who had acquired the Wadsett. In this Dalgoner was successful,and then he sold the place to Ferguson. It is described in the titles as being about 10 acres,but seems to have con--tained about 50 acres or more.

James Grierson had two brothers Lancellot and Robert. Lancellot is mentioned in a letter in the book on the Hope Johnston papers in a letter in 1651.

James Grierson married three times. First to Agnes Johnston- second to Agnes Grierson,daughter of James Grierson of Penfillan,and widow of John Kirko of Sundaywl--well,and last to Elizabeth Johnston dr. of Robert John--ston of Raeeleuch,a near relative of the E. of Annandal

It was Blackadder of Troqueer,the well known Covenant--ing minister who married them,and their Marriage Con--tract,to which he was a witness is still in the Dalgone box. He seems to have had a large family,most of whom particularly of the sons died. James the eldest was apprenticed to a Merchant Burgess in 1659 in Dumfries,but he die a good while before his father,as latterly William the second son concurred in the deeds. William however,lat on is described as"vix compos mentis" and when the troub--les came it was arranged the xxxx estate should go to Samuel the youngest son. William and James were the children of the first wife,and so must Robina his daught--er have been. Helen seems to have been the only child by the second wife. She inherited xxx some claims on land in Keir,and brought the Dalgoner people into contac with the Griersons of Braeco and Capenoch,but it would.

take too long to go into this, and particulars are given in the detailed notes. Samuel was the son of the last wife, and Nicholas must have been her daughter.

James Grierson represented Dunscore on the Covenan--ters War Committee (Folio Acts). There is a letter among the Dalgoner papers which appears to have been addressed to him as Capt of the Parish of Dunscore, but he is called John Grierson in it.

About Killeleech- this was possibly part of the Melrose lands. Dalgoner had some claim over it, but he never get the place. In 1635 Susanna Grierson served heir to the 30/ land of Killeleech and the 20/ land of Poundland. In 1673 James G. of Dalgoner served as heir to his Brother Robert in the same place.

In the valuation of 1634, Susanna Grierson and Nicolas Wallace ~~her mother~~ are mentioned as owing Nether Killel--eech valued at £50, as against 200 merks for Dalgoner and £50 for Poundland, both of which James G. had.

The money is Scots of course. It appears that Dalgoner had a claim on Killeleech and the other people a claim on Poundland. In Elizabeth Johnston's Mge, Con--tract it was provided she was to have a liferent of Poundland, or if Susanna Grierson and Nicolas Wallace her mother died Killeleech was to be substituted for Poundland, and Jean Maxwell, Susanna's daughter, was to get £300 in that event, on giving up the titles. In 1703 James G. the first of the second family of the name who held Dalgoner, and who had a conveyance to Killeleech along with the other family lands, seems to have made an agreement with Jean Maxwell, widow of John McMillan of Ardarroch, (presumably Susanna's daughter) by which he gave up all

claims on Nether Killelego, and Joan gave up all claims on Poundland and was to pay £1000 Scots. Joan only signed by a mark however, and in 1717 there was an arbitration about the matter before Fergusen of Isle.

There were cross claims under Bonds between Dalgoner and Maxwell of Middlebie, who had got in right of Joans claims, Grierson pled compensation in respect of the £1000 due under this agreement; objection was taken that it was only signed by a mark, but "Middlebie ack--nowledged he found ane other double of the said Agree--ment amongst the papers". Here the Decree Arbitral in the Dalgoner box was torn across, and we do not know the result, but as it is recorded in the Commissariot Book of Dumfries on 3rd June 1717 the exact result could be found out if it was of any use.

In 1672 or about then the last of the Castlemaddie Grierssons died without leaving children, or any near heir male, but leaving four sisters. The estate was destined to heirs male, and was claimed by James Grierson of Dalgoner as the heir male, by the daughters, one of them married to a Shaw being particu--larly active in the matter, and by the Master of Cath--cart on the ground that he had got a gift of the Crown's right as ultimus haeres, and that there were no heirs (probably on account of the destination).

There seem to have been heavy burdens connected with the estate- Castlemaddie had been fined as a Covenanter, or at least he was called on to pay a fine and a party of horse was quartered on him for not

doing so. Among the Dalgoner papers there is an interesting paper about a petition he presented in connection with this. You will see from the list in Woodrow's book, that the name was put in vaguely and E John Greir of Castlemadie complained that it was not he at all that was intended but John Grierson of Dalskairth, which seemed quite likely, as they were leading Covenanters, one of them was treasurer for the War Committee of Kirkcudbright about 1644; and among Claverhouse's letters there is an account of his hunting for Dalskairth in Dumfries in 1679, but he could not get him which was just as well for poor Dalskairth.

Castlemadie was also cautioner for Gordon of Bars for a fine of £1000 or £1500 levied on him and for which a party of horse had been quartered on Gordon; then Gordon went out in the 1666 rebellion, and his estates were forfeited; and Grierson was afraid he would lose his money, and petitioned again- whether he was successful in either case does not appear. Also Castlemadie had given considerable portions to the daughters or sisters, or at least to the three who had married. Any way after some time Dalgoner made an arrangement with the Master of Cathcart that if either was successful they should divide the estate as follows- Dalgoner was to get Carminnow, Largirie, Woodhead, Lonchepspraig, and Dalmonieside (a small place in which a Crown Charter was got in 1613). The Master of Cathcart was to get Castlemadie and Upper Craigenbay. The relationship of Dalgoner to Castlemadie as shown from the terms of the service, was remote, and he may have

been doubtful of success. He apparently depended a good deal for success on the general repute of the relationship in the district. Dalgoner had been in a good deal of trouble himself. He had been fined £360 in 1662, which he did not pay till 1666 (12th Apl) the receipt is among the Dalgoner papers, and in the year he paid the fine he was imprisoned in Ayr on an accusation of having been out in the rebellion against Turner. From what he says in his progress of his Statement before the Commissioners he seems to have suffered a good deal otherwise. James Griersen was successful and was served in 1675 as heir male of John G. of Castlemadie as "pronepotis fratris proavi" and he also served heir male in general as "Obnepotis fratris proavi". Apparently the General service being to a different generation of the Castlemadie people. Agnes, Bevan, Sidney, and Helen Griersons served as heirs portioners of Gilbert Grierson of Castlemadie "patrui". The last Griersons in Castlemadie seem to have been Gilbert succeeded by his son Gilbert, succeeded by his brother John followed by his son John. It is believed that the ladies were daughters of the first John, and sisters of the last man. They do not seem to have taken anything by their service. On the jury that served were among others Robert Grierson of Milmark ((ancestor of the Grierson-Yorstons) Cannon of Muirdrocket (was not this the man that betrayed the Covenanters) Robert Grierson in Monyive, James Grierson in Shancastle, Gilbert G. of Chapel, and Roger G. of Nether Barjarg.

After old Dalgoner's son Samuel was killed at or died after Bothwell Bridge in 1649, some kind of family arrangement was made by which William Grierson his brother made over the family estate to James Grierson second son of Jas. G. of Larglanglie Tuter of Lag, William getting an annuity and James undertaking to settle the debts of old Dalgoner. I once showed you the draft of the memorial explaining this; it must be still among the Dalgoner papers. The Conveyance from William was got in 1679, but the Adjudication in implement by which the title was completed was not taken till 1695-6. In between these dates and indeed for nearly all the rest of his life our ancestor was in ceaseless trouble over the debts on both estates.

He seems to have been adjudged on only by McBurnie and Cairns, but by Shaw of Nether Grimmet, and I think by the Master of Cathcart, and the interest on the debts seems often to have been many many years in arrear. Besides the Conveyance from William G., Laurie of Maxwelton, one of his guardians, seems to have got a Gift from the Crown of the forfeiture of Samuel, which he held for James Grierson, but seems to have made it a condition of J.G.'s getting it, that he should pay annuities to his brother Gilbert G. and his four sisters - this is taken from a newspaper cutting dealing with papers at Maxwelton. The third title to Dalgoner, and likely the one that saved it was the Adjudication by McBurnie. McBurnie conveyed this to his son Robert who left it to his nephew James Grierson Dalgoner's son. He also left a close of houses in Dumfries

to X John the second son, and Larbreck to Thomas the third son.

Most of this James Grierson's life as far as can be made out, was spent in fighting about his lands, and struggling with the large debts he had in--herited with the properties of the old Griersons.

In 1697 he married Agnes McBurnie, and the same year he came to some kind of settlement about the lands he had a claim to in Carsphern &c, the effect of which was that Cairns took Lochspraig in part payment of his deb and Shaw of Nether Grimmet got the rest of the lands and was to pay 5300 merks for them, and to give up all right he had to the other lands, and I think any ~~other~~ debt due him. If poor Dalgoner had been slow in paying his debt, Shaw was a bad, as it is mentioned that by 1709 Shaw had only paid 1450 merks of the debt, and later on when J.G. was being pressed by Cairns and was in desperation for money apparently Shaw was due him a large sum, but why he was not paid does not appear.

The early years of the 18th Century were very bad years for Scotland, and were known as "the lean Hanoverian years", and this may explain why there was so much trouble about them. About 1717 Jas. G. had to go to Carlisle for a long time and lived there in bad health and destitution while his eldest son and wife were fighting Cairns, in which they seem to have been suc--cessful. Dalgoner did not get finally settled with Cairns till 1736, and he died with a year of doing so.

What the end of his claim against Shaw was we do not know, but his son prepared a long Memorial to Counsel

from which it would appear that the debt was not paid then - also that the bargain Dalgoner made with Shaw in 1694 was a poor one for Dalgoner but he was forced into it.

in 1736 about the matter. There is a jotting among the Dalgoner papers of some tradition that when the right to the estate of Dalton (Castlemadie) was liti--gated between Dalgoner and Shaw, it was found so even that they were ordered to ride a race for it, which Shaw won.

The note to which you refer Jas. G. against Wm. G. must refer to the adjudication in implement in 1697, but this seems to have been a friendly lawsuit.

The cousinship between James and William G. which you mention seems to have been a very distant relationship unless there was some nearer female con--nection by marriage. The Service of old Dalgoner to Castlemadie, shows that he represented that branch which must have gone back 250 years at the time.

When Samuel died William seems to have been unable to manage the estates in the state they were in and there seems to have been a strong wish on the part of old Dalgoner that the lands should be kept in the family, and even that it should go to the Tuter's second son if he had no children. The Tuter and he were evidently friends. The Tuter had two other sons John and Gilbert. What became of them I do not know. Gilbert seems to have gone to Liverpool. There is a mention of John being in Ireland, in Mullingar I think it was, and of his being in Stirling Castle, from which I thought he might have been in the army.

There are a few references to the Dalgoner Grier--sons getting into trouble in The Reg. of the P.C. and numerous references to verious other Griersons

being in rows- for instance.-

In 1667 Geersge Grierson of Drumloff (Tinron) was cautioner for William G. of Dalgoner that he would not harm George Edgar, Merchant Burgess in Dumfries.

At the same time Sir Wm. G. of Lag was cautioner for him for £500 and also for Thomas G. his brother, that they would not harm Geo. Edgar, Gilbert Grierson in Little Dempsterton, Cuthbert Grierson and five other people in the same place.

In 1613 there was a complaint by Homer Maxwell of Spedeoch that on 8th August Thomas Grierson "callit of Dalgoner" and his son John, came armed to Speddeoch's corn mill and "violentlie dameleist and kaist down the dammes thairef and they thairby hes layed the said complainers saids mylnes waist". Speddoch was present before the Council, but the Griersons were not, and so were ordered to enter themselves in the Tolbooth of Edinburgh, there to remain at their own expense till the Lords further considered the case. What the upshot of this was we do not hear as usual, but likely the Griersons thought Dumfriesshire a healthier district than the Tolbooth.

There was likely some fight over the multures, as in another case we find in 1616 Grier of Drumlosse (Drumloff?) convicted of assaulting Adam Kirko and his wife- Complaint by Adane Kirko in Chapel, and Masie Kirko his sister as follows:- On a day in December last, while the pursuers were in the said Maisie's Mill of Glenesland, "takand up the multuris of some coirnis quhilkis wer than grinding thairintill", Gilbert G. of Drumlesse

Drumlosne accompanied by John Caldwell miller at Glen--island both armed came and attacked them"with thair feit and handis strak and dang the said Maisie and maid her blood at neis and mouth, and left hér lyand upoun the ground for deid, and with thrie hersis over--raid the said Adam and trampit him underfeit, gaif him mony bauch and bla strykis, and left him also for deid:" Gilbert G. was the only one personally present.

These Glenesland multures eventually came into the hands of a Grierson as in 1677 Gilbert G. of Chapel served heir to John Kirkaugh of Glenesland (Index of Ser. 887). In Merxisen's Dict of decisions 12,072 we find a Gilbert Grierson heritor of the Hill as early as 1623. The Kalgannex Griersons had two actions about the multures. first with Homar Maxwell of Speddock this one, and second 1681 (M.10,671) with Gordon of Spediech.

Probably Grierson of Chapel got this place by marriage with a Kuko.

The copy of the old Inventory of the Lag titles which I recently got gives several interest--ing facts, especially about the early history of the family. It appears that the original Gilbert Grierson got Airds and Dalgarnockholm, and the lands in this Charter prebably included Shaws, and Grenane or Blackmy--re in Penpont, this was about 1400, also Lag, and Drumjohn &c in Carsphern then Dalry. His son Gilbert Married the heiress of Rockhall, and got with her also Kirkbriderig, a considerable place in Kirkpatrick Juxta which was granted to one of this Gilbert's younger son; and continued in his branch till the 17th century when it seems to have come back to the Lag people, and to

have been sold by them to the Johnstons of Annandale.

This heiress was a Kirkpatrick and the Griersons also got with her Windiehill in Closeburn, which was granted off to a sister by Cuthbert G.

What this inventory shows which is specially interesting, is that as early as Vedast's time the Lag people had their lands in Trequeer and Lochrutton, also Larglanglie, and Terraran, Corredew, Cornilligan, and Marg--madie in Tinron and Glencairn, and a house in Dumfries. How they came to get these places does not appear, but early in their history they had as much land as they ever had,, and they rather lost land as time went on. Almost the only part theyadded to was their holding next Lag- originally this was a seven merkland land of Lag and Crawston- they got the £4 land of Allanton and in the 17th century they bought or got Hallidayhill a 40/ land, also Kirkbride a 40/ land and Hillend a 20/ land, both in Keir adjoining. The curious thing is, that the. this gave them a £10-13-4 land in Dunscore, Dalgoner and Poundland, which together only made a £3 land seen as early as 1634 to have been more valuable. They also seem to have had the Mill of Allanton and some kind of superiority over Swyre, Glenlacht and Capenoch.

The position of Capenoch, like so much of the land which the church once held, is peculiar and doubtful. Peter Grierson of Kapenoch is mentioned in 1461-83-94. In 1593 John son to Gilbert Greir of Kippinoch in Nithsdale, was apprenticed to Hector Davidson Armourer in Edinburgh- (Scot. Record Secy, List of Apprentices in Edr). This list also shows that James Grierson, brother german to Sir Rt. G. of ELag (i.e. Larglanglie) was apprenticed to a merchant in Edinburgh in 1689. Then we get Maxwells in Capenoch, and in 1613 Sir Wm. G. of Lag bought it from them. Then it went to his sons 1st John and then James. The descents of this man succeeded to or got Braece, Barnbauchle (in Kirkcdbshire which they do not seem to have kept, and Shaws, besides ac--quiring some other lands, and they handed these places on to the Kirkpatricks one of whom married Susanna the heiress about 1721.

Besides the Griersons of Lag, and the earlier branches, such as the Griersons of Dalton, Kirkbriderig (probably sometimes referred to as Kirkbride), Dalmacurran, Drumloff, Hallidayhill, Crawferton, Isle, Craig, Poundland (1557 and others, we find in the 16th cent. the following Griersons of Barjarg, Dalton or Castlemadie, Bargatton, Capenoch, Dal--gon-er, Dalskairth, Chapel, Lochurr, Milmark, Swire & Laggan, Arnmannoch, Nether Keir (afterwards the second Griersons of Barjarg) Barquhar (Persecutor's father) Braece, Barnbauchle, Lochenkitt (Covenanters), Kilbelege, Craigneston?, Larglanglie Barnbarroch or Over Culquha, Barndannoch, Kirkbride, Inglistor Penmurtie, Beochan, Bus, -also about eleven smaller landowners of the name that can be traced, mostly in Dunscore, but one in Troqueer, and another elsewhere in Kirkbt. Some of thes places were only held for about a generation, and the posi--tio n of others is doubtful.

Braeco was acquired by a Kirkpatrick from an Abbot of Holywood about 1541-43 (papers in Dalgoner box)-after a time it went by marriage to Grierson of Penfillan, then to another Grierson, then to the Cappnoch people, then back to the Kirkpatricks. Susanna Grierson served to it as late as 1740- see dec. Index.

Before the middle of the 18th cent. only Lag, Dalgoner, and Milmark were left, and most of the Lag estates had gone.

In the old times persons of the name in all classes of life seems to have been specially common about Tinron, Glencairn, and Dunscore, also in certain parts of Kirkcudbright. The name does not seem to have been a com--mon one near Rockhall or in any part of Annandale. At a comparatively early date we get Griersons or Griers widely distributed-in Ayr Coldstream, Roxburghshire, Edinburgh, Prestopans, &c. The form Grier (Grer-Grere) I have not found before 1495&1506. It seems to have been used indiscrimin--ately with that of Griersen, and to have been in specially common use in the 17th cent. In the form Greer, it seems to be almost commoner now in the North of Ireland than in Scotland, and some of them are coming back here from Ireland, two have been in my office within the last year or two, and one of them in the last week (21/10/89). A few years ago a Grierson came to my office who said his predecessors came from the Highlands- Argyleshire I think it was.

In the index of services Larglanglie Brieve as Tutor to Robert G. of L. is given (this was not the persecu--tor but his cousin (the Persecutor) whom he succeeded). The Lag Services prove the connections before than and James G. who got Dalgoner is repeatedly mentioned in Dalgoner papers and title as second son of Larglanglie the Tutor.