

THE GORDONS OF
ABERDOUR

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THE GORDONS OF ABERDOUR

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The Gordons of Aberdour.

Tragedy in its varying shades has been a familiar friend of many of our landed families. They often won their place by force of arms, and as often held it by warlike force, and in the process they often fell before their full time. This was all peculiarly true of the Gordons, an essentially reckless race. Even when the necessity for these warlike methods died out with the advance of law and order, the touch of tragedy remained in the ironic contrast between a fact so permanent as land and so changeful as the possession of it.

More than a full measure of this element encompassed the Gordons of Aberdour, especially in the case of the last laird, who brought sixteen children into the world. Of his six sons, the eldest, Alexander, was killed in a duel at Cambrai; the youngest, also Alexander, was murdered on the Transvaal veldt; while the intervening four died without issue. The daughters were more fortunate, though the youngest of them spent her old age as a recluse in Cullen, the last member of her family to remain in this country, where she was known as the "Lady of Logie."

It is curious that the family should have been called "of Aberdour" long after they sold the estate, which they held only for sixty-four years.

The lands of Aberdour, in the Buchan parish of that name, were originally part of the vast domains of the Earls of Buchan. They passed into the hands of the Frasers of Saltoun, who held them as early as 1376. In 1630 they were sold by the Frasers to

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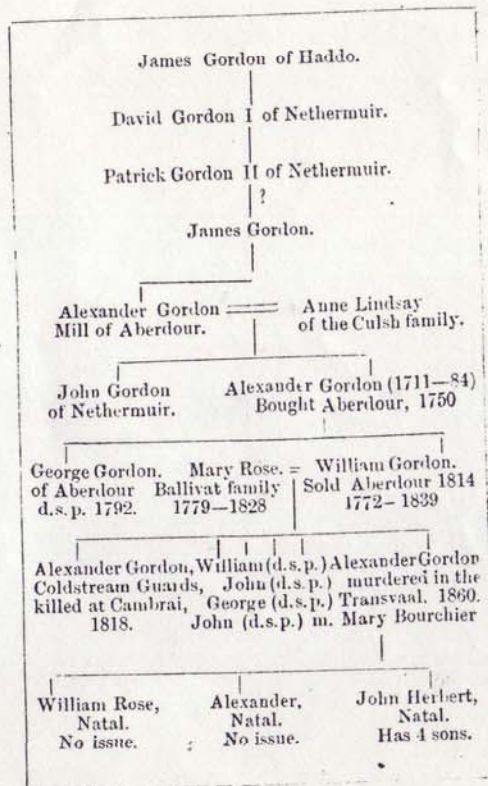
Alexander Forbes of Pitsligo, and from the hands of the Forbesees they passed, somewhere in the early part of the eighteenth century, into the possession of a family of Gordon, from whence they again passed about a century later into the keeping of the Dingwalls, who had previously intermarried with the Gordons of Nethermuir.

In working out this deduction I have to acknowledge the help of Mr Raymond Tinne Berthon, Selsey, Chicester, who is connected with the Rose family and has an extraordinary knowledge of northern genealogy; Mr William Rose Gordon, Natal, has also helped me.

A tiny pamphlet, "The Gordons of Aberdour, Auchleuchries, Cairnbulg, etc., extracted from ancient registers in St Peter's Church, Fraserburgh, and compiled by Robert Murdoch Lawrance, Aberdeen" (8pp. in a green cover) appeared in March, 1912. I may add that I have been working on the present deduction off and on for nearly twenty years.

Alexander Gordon, Mill of Aberdour.

The first of the family of whom we have definite knowledge is Alexander Gordon, who is said (in the "Family of Dingwall-Fordyce") to have been "of the family" of Gordon of Nethermuir. His descent is not quite clear on documentary evidence; but Paterson in his "History of Ayr" (i., 220-1) speaks of John Gordon of Nethermuir, who succeeded George Gordon of Nethermuir "about 1731," being the "grandson of James, third son of Patrick Gordon of Nethermuir," while the will of John of Nethermuir, confirmed, April 18, 1733 ("Aberdeen Commissariat") makes it perfectly clear that he was the son of Alexander Gordon "at Miln of Aberdour," so that the table of descent would work out as follows:—



Alexander, as probably the younger son, had to put up with a farm. The Dingwall-Fordyce family history tells us that at first (1690-2) he resided at Artamford in the parish of Auchreddie, now New Deer, belonging at that time to the Factor of Drum. From 1692 to 1696 he was at the Mains of Brucklay on the same property, and he was living there when the Poll Tax of 1696 was taken, with his wife and three daughters ("Poll Book," ii., 13, 14). The Dingwall-Fordyce book says he then went to Culsh, in the same parish of Auchreddie, where his father-in-law, William Lindsay, had land valued at £266, and where the Gordons of Nethermuir were still bigger landlords. He then went to Old Maud, and, subsequent to 1710, settled at the Mill of Aberdour. It is clear he made money for "Alexander Gordon at Miln of Aberdour, formerly in Oldmad," lent 2000 merks on bond to Sir Thomas Forbes of Foveran and Sir Alexander Forbes of Foveran, which he assigned to his son, John Gordon of Nethermuir, Feb. 8, 1731 (Will of John Gordon of Nethermuir, 1733).

Alexander Gordon, Mill of Aberdour, married Anne (died 1699), daughter of William Lindsay (died 1694) of Culsh, and had "at least" three sons and three daughters ("Family of Dingwall Fordyce," 1885, p. 185). He must have married again, for his son, Alexander, of Aberdour, was not born till 1711. I know he had:—

1. John Gordon, of Nethermuir.
2. Alexander Gordon, of Aberdour.
3. Anne Gordon, mentioned in the Poll Book. She is probably the Anne Gordon who married John Finlason, Collector of Excise, Aberdeen (made honorary Burgess of Old Aberdeen in 1753), for Captain William Finlason refers (in 1794) to Mrs Gordon, senr., of Aberdour, as "my connection." John Finlason had the following issue:—

William Finlason (?) He was an officer in the Northern Fencibles, and gave great help to the Duke of Gordon in his regiment-raising efforts. He married Elizabeth Aird, and had a daughter, Jean Gordon, born Feb. 4, 1792 ("New Spalding Club Misc." ii. (355)). Alexander Finlason.

Grace Finlason married Peter Gordon, of Mosstown 1714-1793), to whom she made over £300 and a fifth part more of the principal sum of liquidate penalty contained in a bond, dated January 6, 1778, granted to her by the deceased Alexander Gordon of Aberdour. The Mosstown family was fully described in the "Buchan Observer" by the present writer, April 25, and May 3, 1911.

Anne Finlason married Dr James Kershaw, Gainsborough. On March 19, 1782, there was registered the discharge of a bond by Dr James Kershaw to Alexander Gordon, and also to William and Alexander Finlason ("Aberdeen Commissary Record").

4. Barbara Gordon, baptised Sept. 27, 1692, mentioned in the Poll Book. She married about 1720 her cousin german, John Fordyce of Gask in Turriff. She died January, 1779, having had three sons and eight daughters ("Family of Dingwall-Fordyce," 1885, p. 185).

5. Margaret Gordon, mentioned in the Poll Book.

Alexander Gordon, I. of Aberdour.

Alexander Gordon was the younger son of Alexander Gordon, Mill of Aberdour, and the brother of John Gordon, of Nethermuir. He was born in 1711, so that he cannot have been the son of Alexander Gordon by Anne Lindsay, if the latter died in 1699.

He became factor to his kinsman, Lord Aberdeen, with whom the compiler of "The

Political State of Scotland," 1788, thought he would "probably go" in politics (p. 16). He was also factor to Lord Aberdeen's younger brother, General William Gordon, of Fyvie. The following interesting (and illiterate) letter was written by the Earl to "Alexander Gordon of Aberdour, at Ellon House," from London, May 28, 1769 ("Scottish Notes and Queries," July, 1903):—

"Dear Sir,—I had by last post, your letter of the 16th, and am surprised to find, you had not received a letter from me, which I wrote you, above a fortnight since, wherein I acquainted you that all the childring, had had the smallpox, and were recovered, I thank God, they all are weall now, and have been in the country, for some time, at a house I have taken for them, some miles from Town, I thought the Coll.s money was not due till the Aberdeens term, but there is no matter as it is now payed, you will please, take the trouble, to let watterton [Forbes?] and his lady know, that I would most willingly, have advansed the money, on there sons account, but that I am at present, about leaving London, and have bearily money to cleare off, my matters here, and there is not time, for my getting money from Scotland. I am glade to hear, that the meall is shiped, and the Cromarr meall sold. I hope the Bear, was sold, I wish auchorties could be bought, in reason, as I would sorry to miss it, I hope all the people in the Town of Ellon will be [turn?]ed out, that are Bancrups, it is sad, that Charles Gordons [MS. torn] nts, are neaver yet done, I hope Borderside, will be gone by this time, as I can't order Hall north till it be empte, I hope you will remember, to have aney thing nessesery settled, about cairing or the roads, this season, as wee formerly consented I am glade to hear, you go on so weall, with the park at Ellon, I hope God willing, to set out for Scotland, in a fortnight. If you write me a

line when yow receive this, I may chance to get it, you will no dute have hard that Lady Susan Gordon [the daughter of his sister, Catherine, by the 3rd Duke of Gordon] is married [May 28, 1767], to Lord Burghesh [Burghersh, afterwards 15th Earl of Westmorland], eldest sone to the Earl of Westmorland. They are set out for there country house and the Dutchess gone with them. I hope the Drum case will not be neglected. I have wrote Fraser about it and Fantrey [Fintray?] Mr Falconer will ca[us]e the Boadm oates be sent to haddo house if not done, I long to have the pleasure of seeing you and will write you before I set out."

Aberdour made money by his loans, so that he was able to buy the little estate of Aberdour from the Family of Forbes; he had a charter of it under the Great Seal, February 10, 1750 (Dingwall Fordyce charters).

Alexander Gordon died at Aberdour, June 20, 1785, aged 74 ("Scots Magazine").

I do not know the name of his wife. She may be the lady who is the heroine of "Mrs Gordon of Aberdour, Strathspey," by Isaac Cooper, who began teaching music and dancing in Banff in 1783 (Cramond's "Annals of Banff," ii., 191). She is certainly the lady referred to in the following letter written by Captain William Finlason (her husband's nephew?), of the Northern Fencibles, to John Menzies at Gordon Castle, April 21, 1704 (Gordon Castle Papers):—

"I have to acquaint you that on my last jaunt I settled the final resignation of Boindlie house and farm in favour of Mrs Gordon, senr., of Aberdour, my connection, who much desired it as her widow and jointure residence, as her son is now married and to reside at Aberdour. It suited the old lady to the utmost of her heart and wishes, and it was pleasant to me to accommodate her. She has replaced every shilling

of my expenditure, interest and all, but has a most complete place within a mile of her son and not a nail to drive. So we are both pleased, and I am accordingly happy. I shall never lay out money again on another's property."

Alexander Gordon of Aberdour had the following issue:—

1. George Gordon, II. of Aberdour.
2. William Gordon, III. and last of Aberdour.
3. Susan Gordon, "second daughter," died at Aberdeen, January 28, 1780, "after a short illness" ("Aberdeen Journal").
4. Magdalen Gordon, married at Aberdour House, Nov. 15, 1709. Neil Sutherland, surgeon ("Aberdeen Journal").

George Gordon, II. of Aberdour.

He was the elder son of Alexander Gordon of Aberdour, entered Marischal College in 1782, and became a member of the Aberdeen County Club, 1786. He was served heir to his father in the Mains of Aberdour and Coburty, April 20, 1791, and died at Bath, June 1, 1792 ("Aberdeen Journal").

William Gordon, III. and Last of Aberdour.

William Gordon was the younger son of Alexander Gordon of Aberdour, and was born in 1772. He was served heir special to his brother George, 28 January, 1793, in the barony of Aberdour, including Cowbog, Glassie, Windyheads, etc. He entered Marischal College in 1788, and it has been suggested ("Aberdeen Journal," Nov. 1, 1903) that he was connected with "Downie's Slaughter"—apparently from the fact that he was called "Dourie."

He joined the Northern Fencibles in 1793 and granted a discharge to his curators, and their factor, October 15, 1794 ("Aberdeen Commissary Court Record"). "Dourie" was

keen on sport and kept excellent dogs. He subscribed to the Aberdeen horse races in 1817, 1818, 1819, 1820, and 1821 (MS. in possession of D. Wyllie & Son, Aberdeen).

It was he who founded the village of Aberdour, as recounted in the following advertisement in the "Aberdeen Journal," Oct. 17, 1797:—

"William Gordon, Esq., of Aberdour, intends to feu a certain extent of ground, in order to establish a Village near his estate, near the Kirk of Aberdour, and invites tradesmen and labourers to the place, where encouragements will be given.

"The feu [sic] will enter to the feu ground free of feu duty for some years; along with each feu there will be let a certain extent of intown and outfield land at a reasonable rent, upon lease, commodious to the feu, which will have the advantage of moss in abundance, within a mile; and the Village is situated about half that distance from the church, school, and sea shore, in a plentiful country, and where the Turnpike Road to Banff nearly passes. The feus may be taken possession of at or before Witsunday, and the lands will be open at the separation of the present crop.

"In the vicinity of this village there is, besides, a considerable extent of outfield and pasture land upon the high road leading from Turriff, Cuminstown, and Byth, towards Aberdour, Roseheart, and Fraserburgh; and as these lots ly near the moss, and only one mile from the sea, and near the intended turnpike road, they are favourably situated for the accommodation of men of industry, who, if well recommended, will get independent leases at reasonable rents, free of services and customs.

"Such people as this village and its conveniences will suit and those who incline small possessions upon independent leases, free of services, are desired to apply to the

proprietor at Aberdour House; Alexander Crombie, Advocate in Aberdeen; Archibald Young, Writer in Banff, or to Mr Craig, Schoolmaster of Aberdour.

"A meeting is to be held at Ardlahill on Wednesday, the 25th of October, at eleven o'clock, when the honest labourer will have the best opportunity of fixing a perpetual dwelling, free of feu for seven years, with sufficiency of fire gratis, and thereafter at the small exaction of 7s 6d. Such of this description as are not possessed of stock, will be in no difficulty, as it is to be in their option to build a house of whatever material may suit their convenience, to have the in-town at 12s and not exceeding 18s per acre, the best outfield from 5s to 10s per acre, grass and improvable land in proportion, but free of rent for seven of a nine years' lease.

"It is well known that these lands are situated not only in a beautiful country, but are of the most early soil, and not subject to blast or frosts. The persons whose circumstances are not so opulent as to build a stone house, may build, as already mentioned, of any materials they chose, optional to them to become a feu within twelve years, or to continue their own situation for the 19 years, as he choses.

"N.B.—It is intended to erect speedily a fishing boat at Aberdour, whereby the inhabitants will have a plentiful supply of fish, within ten minutes' walk of the place, at the cheapest rate, with liberty to fish themselves, if they so incline."

By disposition dated March 18, 1814. William Gordon sold Aberdour for £65,000 to the trustees of John Dingwall of Brucklay, whose grandnephew and heir married Gordon's eldest daughter ("Family of Dingwall Fordyce," 1885, p. 60).

Gordon died at Aberdour House, Nov. 11, 1839, aged 67 ("Aberdeen Journal").

William Gordon married at Edinburgh, January 2, 1794, Mary (born March 26, 1778), eldest daughter of William Rose of Montcoffer (by his wife Mary, daughter of William Robinson, Banff—murdered at Banff by some soldiers in 1771—and his wife, Mary Monro), and sister of Mrs Andrew Hay of Montblair ("Scots Mag.," Bible in possession of the family in South Africa, and Cramond's "Annals of Banff," i., 221-2; ii., 291). She had a settlement December 4, 1798 ("Aberdeen Commissary Court Record"). She died at Aberdour House, January 18, 1828, aged 49, and is commemorated in a marble tablet on the south side of the ruins of the church there ("Aberdeen Journal").

William Gordon had a large family—six sons and ten daughters. It is apparently to him that Mrs Grant of Laggan refers in "Letters from the Mountains," when she says, under date October, 1802, "— Gordon of A— has nothing extraordinary about him, but that at 25 he is married and has already four daughters." His children were as follows:—

1. Alexander Gordon, born at Aberdour, April 22, 1797 ("Abd. Journal"); entered Marischal College in 1800. Entered the Coldstream Guards, 2nd battalion, as ensign; as lieutenant fought at Waterloo. He was killed April 1, 1818, at Cambrai, in a duel with a French officer. A correspondent tells me a pure legend current in Cullen a few years ago, namely, that Gordon's sister, Georgina, was engaged to the officer who fought the duel. "The two men were playing cards in the hall of her ancestral home, when they quarrelled. Her brother killed her fiancé, and then, horrified at what he had done, mounted his horse, rode along the sea coast, and jumped into the sea, horse and all. She discovered her lover lying dead, and it affected her mind; so her friends took her

to Logie," where she lived for sixty years. This version is pure fable, though it is true that Miss Gordon kept an oil portrait of her brother hanging in her dining-room at Logie House. According to a Bible in the possession of the family in South Africa, his brother officers erected a monument to his memory at Cambrai, but the Mayor of Cambrai informs me (Dec. 10, 1912) that there neither exists, nor ever has existed, any such monument.

2. William Rose Gordon, born January 18, 1800, baptised March 3, 1800, his grandfather, William Rose, being sponsor (St Peter's Church Register, Fraserburgh). Educated in Scotland, he entered the Navy as a first-class volunteer, April 2, 1814, serving on the "Redwing," April 7, 1815; the "Alceste," January 5, 1816; on the "Grasshopper," as middy, Feb. 10, 1818; on the "Larne," as midshipman and master's mate, June 3, 1819, becoming full master's mate, July 13; on the "Aid," Oct. 31, 1820; he passed as lieutenant, February 8, 1821. He became lieutenant of the "Dauntless," January 9, 1823, and of the "Tyne," February 23, 1827, and soon after retired. He then resided in lodgings at Jersey till 1833 or 1834. On August 30, 1834, he was appointed (at £300 a year) Stipendiary Magistrate on the islet of Tortola in the West Indies, under the Act for the Abolition of Slavery. On October 15, 1838, he was appointed a Member of Council of the Virgin Islands, and on December 27, 1838, President and Senior Member of the Council. He came home to get married (for the second time) in 1839, and, soon after, he and his wife sailed on a vessel which was to touch at the Island of St Kitts and then proceed to Tortola. In May or June, 1840, he reached St Kitts in a bad state of health, and died on June 18, 1840, and his widow on July

3 following. He left no family, and never had a dwelling-house in Great Britain. He left property somewhat exceeding £5000. The Commissioners of Inland Revenue obtained an order upon Arthur Forbes, W.S., and Newall Burnett, advocate, to shew cause why they should not deliver an account of his personal property and pay legacy and residue duties—which would have amounted to £150—thereon. If the deceased was domiciled in Great Britain legacy duty was undoubtedly due, but if his domicile was in the Virgin Islands, West Indies, or otherwise, it was not. The case was argued in the Court of Session on January 24 and 28, 1850. Mr Cleghorn appearing for the Crown. Lord Robertson and Lord Fullerton decided, Feb. 4, 1850, in favour of the trustees, on the ground that at the time of his death he was domiciled at Tortola. The case is described in a pamphlet entitled "Legacy Duty: report of the case *in re* William Gordon, deceased. Court of Session in Scotland, February 4, 1850:" Edinburgh, printed by W. H. Lizars, 3 St James's Square, 1850: 8vo.; 23pp. Gordon was twice married—(1) in 1827 or 1828 at Halifax to a lady whom the above pamphlet does not name; (2) on Feb. 7, 1840, at Edinburgh, to Albinia Isabella, second daughter of John Gordon of Cairnbulg ("Gent.'s Mag.," vol. 13. NS., p. 314), and as noted died at St Kitts, s.p., June 18, 1840.

3. John Gordon, born Sept. 5, 1802, baptised Oct. 13, and died the same day (Lawrance's "Gordons of Aberdour" p. 5).

4. George Gordon, born May 10, 1813, and died Dec. 1, 1820, at East Sheen ("Scots Mag.").

5. John Gordon, born at Aberdour, Oct. 11, 1814; baptised Nov. 15; entered Marischal College, 1829. He was for some time

at Plantation Bel Air, Demerara, and lived latterly at 38 Brockley Road, London. He was a keen genealogist, and made collections, but Mr Berthon does not know what became of his material. He entertained his nephew, William Rose Gordon, on the latter's visit to England in 1881. He died at 38 Brockley Road, Oct. 1, 1895. He married Miss Daly, who subsequently lived at Bath. They had one son, who died apparently without issue.

6. Alexander Gordon, fifteenth child, was born at Aberdour, April 29, 1819, and baptised May 26. It will be remembered that he had an elder brother also called Alexander, who was killed in April, 1818. Curiously enough, the younger Alexander also met his death by violent means, and also on a foreign shore. Like his brother Alexander, he also entered the army, joining the 1st Royal Scots as ensign, April 6, 1838, becoming lieutenant Aug. 3, 1841, and adjutant Feb. 8, 1842. He retired by the sale of his commission in 1847 or 1848, and emigrated to South Africa, under the Byrne Administration Scheme in 1850, sailing on the "Ina," and arriving in the Colony in March, 1851. He obtained a 3000 acre farm under Sir George Grey's Act, and abandoned the land allotted to him by Mr Byrne. He named his new farm "Aberdour," and it is now in the possession of his second son, Alexander. Gordon was murdered in the Transvaal under circumstances that remain much of a mystery. His own son, Mr William Rose Gordon, is not even sure of the date; "it was either 1860 or 1861." He tells me (April 24, 1912) that his father was murdered when on a shooting expedition in the Transvaal by his valet, a Dutchman named Lautmann. The object of the murder was robbery, and the family never got back any of the property. Gordon's

two native servants managed to escape, though Lautmann tried to poison them by mixing arsenic with their bread. Mr William Gordon writes—"I remember the arrival of the Kaffirs, early in 1861, half starved. They both went to the Secretary for Native Affairs and reported the whole affair, and subsequently the Government sent a commission into the Transvaal to get particulars of the murder. The scoundrel (Lautmann) was tried by some of the Landdrosts, who gave him a few years' imprisonment, saying that the law of the Transvaal in those days did not permit hanging for murder."

Gordon married at Roscrea, Tipperary, Feb. 4, 1846, Mary (born 1825), daughter of John Bouchier, barrister, of Summerhill, near Nenah, Tipperary, who was a cousin of Samuel Butcher (1811-76), Bishop of Meath. His son, William, says she "was the granddaughter of the Herberts of Muckcross," Co. Kerry. Gordon had three sons and two daughters:—

(1). William Rose Gordon, born at the Curragh, where his father was stationed, Sept. 12, 1848. He was educated at York Academy, Natal (now defunct), and at Edmond's Commercial Academy, and (Government) Greytown Schools. He entered the Natal Civil Service, March, 1866, as Clerk and Zulu Interpreter to the Assistant Magistrate at Maritzburg. He was Clerk and Interpreter to the Resident Magistrate, Alfred County, 1867; ditto, Durban, 1870; Interpreter to Supreme Court, Circuit, and Native High Courts, 1878; Registrar, Court of Appeal, May, 1880; Acting Resident Magistrate at Umsinga, 1883; ditto, Alexandra, 1884, 1885; Administrator of Native Land, Mapumulo, 1887-93; Magistrate, Mapumulo, 1883-98, when he retired on a pension. He visited England in 1881.

He was living at "Nethermuir," 121 Davenport Road, Durban, in 1906, and is now resident at Summerhill, Gilletts, Natal. He is interested in experimental agriculture and fowl farming on a small scale, and in literary work. He is a J.P., and a member of the Civil Service, R.N.Y.C., and Union Clubs. He married, Dec. 31, 1881, Lavinia Araminta Bayly, Donnybrook, granddaughter of Captain Peter Bayly, R.N., Shannon Lodge, Co. Tipperary, but has no issue (Information from himself and biographical notes in the "Natal Who's Who," printed and published by Robinson & Co., the "Natal Mercury" Office, 1906).

(2.) Alexander Gordon, educated at York Academy, Natal; occupies his father's farm, "Aberdour." He married Annie Holgate, whose "uncle was one of the Inspectors of Schools in London." They have no children.

(3.) John Herbert Gordon. His brother William says he was educated at "Aberdeen College by his uncle, John Gordon," and "used to spend his holidays with the Gordons of Nethermuir." He is now a farmer at Overstone, and J.P. for the county of Umvoti, Noodsberg District. He married Miss Nellie Ward, Richmond, Natal, daughter of the Rev. — Ward, and has four sons—Jack (aged about 10), Douglas, Godfrey, and — (born 1912).

(4.) Mary Jane Gordon, eldest of the family, born in Ireland, Nov., 1846. She married, in Cape Colony, Andrew George Kemp Macqueen (son of the late General Macqueen, Indian Army, who died at Blackheath, London) who fought in the Boer War. She has

Andrew Macqueen, farmer, who, as a special volunteer, served in the Boer War.

Donald Macqueen, farmer; he is in the Colonial Volunteers, and served in the Zulu and the Boer Wars.

(5.) Georgina Gordon: married Roland Arthur Holgate, solicitor, Pietermaritzburg, Natal, and has three sons in the Civil Service. One was formerly in the Rhodesia Mounted Constabulary, but left it after a few years' service.

7. Mary Gordon, born February 6, 1795; baptised as "Elspe" (Lawrance's "Gordons of Aberdour," p. 5), March 29, her grandmother, Mrs Rose, being sponsor. She was married at Aberdour by Bishop Jolly, on Nov. 6, 1813, to John Dingwall of Brucklay. "Immediately after the ceremony the pair set out for Brucklay. "In the forenoon a salutation was fired from the guns at Fort Fiddes in honour of the occasion, and the tenants of Mr Dingwall's estate, desirous to testify their joy, assembled on horseback, and on the confines of the property met and congratulated their landlord and his lady on their marriage. They escorted them home, and afterwards adjourned to an eminence in front of the castle, when in flowing bumpers they drank with great glee health and happiness to the newly-married couple. The rejoicings concluded with bonfires, illuminations, and fireworks" ("Aberdeen Journal"). Mrs Dingwall died November 18, 1828, and John Dingwall died January 21, 1833 (J. A. Henderson's "Aberdeenshire Epitaphs," i., 407). They had one son and one daughter.

John Dingwall, born October 11, 1825. He assumed the additional name of Duff on succeeding to the estate of Corsindae, which had been entailed on him by his grand-uncle, William Duff. He married, September 14, 1837, Fanny, daughter of Sir Henry Bridges. She died June 15, 1840, aged 25, and is commemorated by a tablet in New Deer Churchyard

(Henderson's "Epitaphs," i., 407). Her husband died without issue at Carlisle on Monday, October 26, 1840. At an inquest held before W. Carrick, the Coroner, at the Bush Inn, Oct. 26, it was stated that Dingwall was found dead in his bed about one o'clock in the morning, "having an extensive and deep wound in his throat. He had arrived at the Bush Inn by the Edinburgh mail in the course of the preceding afternoon, accompanied by his man servant. He had some idea when he first went upstairs that someone was in his room, which was proved not to be the case. His razor was found near him. The jury found that he had cut his throat during temporary insanity. Mr Dingwall's principal agent, Mr Sutherland, W.S., Edinburgh, arrived here [Carlisle] on Tuesday (Oct. 27) afternoon, and the remains of the unfortunate gentleman were interred at Christ's Church, Botchergate, by the Rev. B. Ward" ("Carlisle Journal," Oct. 31, 1840). Dingwall was supposed to be passing through Carlisle on his way to London. His tombstone in Christ's Church churchyard bears the inscription: "To the memory of John Duff Dingwall, Esquire, of Brucklay Castle, Aberdeenshire, who died at Carlisle, October 26th, 1840, aged 25 years" (Information from Mr C. W. Ruston-Harrison, Stanwix, Carlisle). The story believed by some of his South African relations that he was murdered by his valet for his winnings at Carlisle races is mere legend, in face of the coroner's decision. It may be added that Mrs Dingwall's nephew is Mr John Henry Bridges, of Ewell Court, Surrey, and laird of Fedderate, Bonnykelly and Ardlaw. He tells me that Dr David Bridges who married Dingwall's aunt,

Alicia Gordon, was not of his family.

Mary Rose Dingwall, born Aug. 17, 1821, died unmarried.

8. Elicia Gordon (so entered in the family Bible): born March 19, 1796; died August 2, 1810.

9. Penelope Gordon, born January 3, 1799, baptised January 28, her grandmother, Mrs Rose, being surety. She was married at Aberdour House by Bishop Jolly, March 26, 1818, to Patrick Duff, of Carnousie ("Aberdeen Journal," April 1). Duff was the eldest son of General Patrick Duff, of Carnousie (who died 1803), and was born in 1797. He died in Banff in 1825. His widow subsequently married David Scott Threshie, and died in 1853. By her first husband she had (according to Mr A. N. Tayler, of Glenbarry, in the "Aberdeen Weekly Journal," July 26, 1912):

Patrick Duff, born 1821, lieutenant in the 18th Royal Irish. He sold out and went to the West Indies, where he died.

— Duff, posthumous son, born 1825.

Mary Duff married Baron Michel, a Frenchman. It was apparently her daughter, Marie Michel, "wife of the Rev. — Vance, a minister of the Unitarian Church," who was one of the parties in the multiplepointing action over the will of Miss Georgina Gordon, Logie House, Cullen, Nov., 1905.

10. Huntly Gordon, born May 13, 1801, baptised July 20, her mother being sponsor and the Marquis of Huntly nominal godfather. She died June, 1841. Mr Murdoch Lawrance ("Gordons of Aberdour," p. 5), and the "Aberdeen Journal" of July 1 say that "Miss Jane Huntly Gordon" married at Aberdour House, June 16, 1818, Captain William Marshall, H.E.I.C.S. The family Bible and the "Aberdeen

Journal" of the period say that "Huntly, third daughter of William Gordon of Aberdour, married at St James's Church, London," June 16, 1820, Peter Rose, one of the judges of Demerara. This was apparently a second marriage. She had a daughter, Mary Rose, who married, October 1, the Hon. Francis Sadleir Prittie, of view, near Clonmel, son of the 1st Duke of Dunalley, and had issue of two sons and a daughter.

11. Madaline, born January 4, 1802, baptised February 10. She married, January 20, 1825, John Murray M'Gusty, and died in Edinburgh, October 23, 1842, having had a daughter who died unmarried.

12. Anna Gordon, born March 4, 1804 (1805?), baptised March 25, 1805. She died of a decline, February 4, 1822, at Aberdour House (Family Bible and "Aberdeen Journal").

13. Jane (or Jean) Helena Gordon, born July 21, 1807, baptised (as Jean) August 29.

14. Elizabeth Gordon, born at Aberdour House, September 9, 1809, baptised Oct. 31. The family Bible says she died at Aberdour, August 28, 1826.

15. Alicia Gordon, born March 11, 1811: married David Bridges, M.D., and had issue. Several members of the Bridges family, including John Gordon Bridges, figured in the multiple-poincing-action over the will of Georgina Gordon in 1905.

16. Georgina Gordon, born at Aberdour House, August 8, 1821 ("Scots Mag."). She was partly educated in Paris, and never forgot her French training. The "Banffshire Journal" stated at the time of her death that she had a "fairly good knowledge of Latin" and was "an excellent French and Italian scholar, as her bookshelves showed," and that all through her

long life "the newspaper chiefly read by her was a French weekly published in London." When a little over 20 she went to reside at Logie House, Cullen, a quiet and beautifully situated dwelling, where she lived for sixty years, being known universally by her neighbours as the "Lady of Logie." "The Banffshire Journal" in its obituary of her said:—"Being highly accomplished and possessed of considerable means, she mingled freely for a time in the social life of the place, entertaining her friends and neighbours with liberal hospitality. For the latter half of her life, however, she rather withdrew from society and courted privacy, preferring to be alone save for the visits of her minister, Rev. Mr M'Intyre, of Seafield parish, finding sufficient interest for herself and occupation in her books and music, her garden and domestic pets. . . . She was gentleness itself to her servants, by all of whom—it is not too much to say—she was beloved. No mistress could be more considerate for their comfort, or less exacting, though her intercourse with them and interest with everyone was characterised by a certain reserved dignity of manner and old-world courtesy that rendered anything approaching to undue familiarity impossible. . . . Her accent, tone of voice, correctness of expression, even in ordinary speech, and general bearing, all indicated a lady of inborn refinement. Till within five or six years [of her death] she was able to walk to and from Portknockie to church on good days, and was most attentive to her religious duties, both public and private, being naturally of a devout disposition and the Bible never far from her hand." She died at Logie House, December 12, 1904, and was buried in Cullen Churchyard. She made two wills and a holograph codicil revoking the

wills, leaving personal estate valued at £7977, including £4779 in Scotland. In November, 1905, an action of multiple-pounding was raised in the Court of Session by her nephew, William Rose Gordon, against other relations, including the Bridges family, to decide on the division of the estate. In March, 1906, Lord Salvesen found that all the wills were effectively revoked, and that the estate fell into intestacy. All parties were found entitled to their expenses out of the funds.

Some Gordons in Aberdour.

There was a Gordon family in New Aberdour, as follows:—

— Gordon had the farm of Nether Boyndlie. He gave it over to his eldest son, Alexander, and took Woodhead of Aberdour. He had

1. Alexander Gordon, Nether Boyndlie.
2. George Gordon, born at Tyrie, 1784, succeeded his father at Woodhead of Aberdour. He then took Brownhill, Echt, and farmed Mansfield, Inverkeithny, for 22 years, dying there in 1873. He married Barbara Chessor (whose father, an Irishman, farmed Hillhead of Pitullie, Fraserburgh, and then Drumbrake, Echt, where he died). They had twelve children, registered at New Aberdour, including

(1). George Gordon, born in Tyrie, 1784, farmed Whitebog, Cromarty, and was a notable agricultural authority. He had two sons and a daughter—

a. George Gordon, died January 21, 1910, in Glasgow.

b. John Gordon, bank agent, Fortrie, now at Beaver, Manitoba. He joined the 1st (Ross Highland) Volunteer Battalion of the Seaforth Highlanders, as a private, Nov. 29, 1882, and got a commission as 2nd lieutenant, April 18, 1894, becoming lieutenant

in 1900, captain in 1903, and major in 1905, in July of which year he retired.

c. Annie Gordon, married H. W. Graham, proprietor of the "Inver-gordon Times."

(2). Barbara Gordon, born 24 March, 1837. She married — Black, and was living in Sept., 1911, at Berde Hill, Cuckfield, Sussex, from which she sent me several details about her family. She says "The account of my forefathers is in the books at Boyndlie House, since 1633. Elizabeth Forbes married James Gordon about that time." She then starts with her grandfather, as above noted.