

**A RECORD OF THE LOGAN
FAMILY OF CHARLESTON,
SOUTH CAROLINA**

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A Record of the Logan Family of Charleston, South Carolina by George William Logan

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GEORGE WILLIAM LOGAN

**A RECORD OF THE LOGAN
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SOUTH CAROLINA**

A RECORD

OF

The Logan Family

OF

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA.



BY

GEORGE WILLIAM LOGAN.

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA.

"A lively desire of knowing and recording our ancestors so generally prevails that it must depend on the influence of some common principle in the minds of men. We seem to have lived in the persons of our forefathers,—it is the labour and the reward of vanity to *extend* the term of this ideal longevity. Our imagination is always active to enlarge the narrow circle in which Nature has confined us. Fifty or a hundred years may be allotted to an individual, but we step forward, *beyond* death, with such hopes as Religion and Philosophy will suggest,—and we fill up the silent vacancy that *precedes* our birth, by associating ourselves to the Authors of our existence. Our calmer judgment will rather tend to moderate than to suppress the pride of our ancient and worthy race." * * * *

"The satirist may laugh, the philosopher may preach, but Reason herself will respect the prejudices and habits which have been consecrated by the experience of mankind." * * * * * —*Gibbon's Autobiography.*



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It is a tradition handed down in the family of the Logans, of Charleston, South Carolina, from the first emigrant, that they are lineally descended from the ancient and once powerful Barons, of Restalrig, Scotland, whose wide-spread domains were forfeited in the reign of James VI. in consequence of the share which the last Baron was alleged to have had in the Gowrie conspiracy. In the year 1660, Sir Robert Logan, a grandson of the aforesaid last Baron, effected a purchase of a large portion of the Barony of Cunnock, to which he gave the family name. This extensive and valuable property descended, as far as I have been able to trace it, through a line of respectable ancestry to Hugh Logan, the distinguished Scottish wit, known as "The Laird of Logan," who was born at Logan House, in 1739.

"*Restalrig Church*" stood upon the flats about a mile from Edinburgh—east—and was the parish church of South Leith; and in 1330 the site of the wharves and adjacent "Links," or waste lowlands of Leith, was purchased from the Logans of Restalrig, by the authorities of Edinburgh for a Post.*

The church above named was founded by James I. of Scotland, and it was liberally endowed by the three succeed-

* These facts I have gathered from my brother Dr. Thomas M. Logan, who is herein again referred to, and who, during his hurried visit to Edinburgh in 1867, procured several literary productions of the Logans—among them "The Laird of Logan: or, Anecdotes and Tales, illustrative of the Wit and Humor of Scotland;" "The Scottish Gael," by James Logan, Fellow of the Society of Antiquarians of Scotland; also two volumes, being a posthumous publication of the "Sermons, Lectures, Sacred Poems and Prayers of the late Rev. John Logan, F. R. S., one of the ministers of Leith." Second Edition, 1790. Thus it would appear that the name of Logan has been equally distinguished in the literary as in the martial world.

ing monarchs. It was highly ornamented upon its tower and walls, as well as upon its interior finish, with crosses and sacred statuary. At the time of the reformation its rich papal decorations and attractions rendered it so odious to the Puritans that they decreed its utter destruction, and it was so effectually demolished that nothing of the "idoltrous" edifice remains but the east window and a small part of the east wall! The grounds were extensive, and in the middle of the graveyard stands a vault or polygonal mausoleum, formerly the burial place of the Logans of Restalrig, but now belonging, with the surrounding lands or Barony of Logan, to the Earl of Murray. Over and upon this vault is a high tumulus of earth, planted with yew trees, which, with the surrounding tombs, are all carefully preserved. The cemetery is still used as a burial place for the English and Scottish members of the Episcopal communion. In 1565 Mary Queen of Scots was married in this church by the Dean Jno. Sinclair to Henry Lord Darnley.

The name of "Logan" is said to be "one of those derived from locality, and hence deemed most honorable." It appears in Scotch history (or legends) "at the early period of William the Lion (twelfth century), and throughout subsequent ages, it is connected with important national transactions." (See Tytler's History of Scotland—index, "Logan of Restalrig.") The chief was "Baron of Restalrig," which included all the lands upon the Frith known as "South Leith," and which is now the town of that name and Port of Edinburgh. And this house was connected by various intermarriages with most of the noble families of the kingdom of Scotland, and even with royalty itself, one of them having married a daughter of Robert II., who granted him certain "lands of Grugar" by a charter addressed: "*Militi dilecto fratri suo.*" (Robert II. was first of the Stuarts and reigned from 1370 to 1390.)

"In A. D. 1329, when that solemn embassy was undertaken in compliance with the death-bed request of the great Bruce that his heart might be taken to the Holy Sepulchre, Sir Robert and Sir Walter Logan were among the chief associ-

ates of the good Sir James Douglas in that illustrious band which comprised the flower of Scots chivalry. The fatal termination of the enterprise, under the walls of Grenada, where an excess of heroism led them to suspend their journey and to engage in battle with the Sultan of Grenada in aid of Alphonso, finished, in glory, the career of most of the troop, and in attempting the rescue of the casket of the heart of Bruce and of the bodies of Douglas and Lord Sinclair, the Logans fell in the thickest of the fight (1331). The casket containing the royal heart was rescued and carried back to Scotland.* Buchannon, the historian (or chronicler), gives a very graphic account (vol. i.) of the achievements and vicissitudes of "The Bruce," his final success, his death bed and the result of the expedition to Palestine. He associates Sir Robert and Sir Walter Logan with Douglas, as life-long friends of Bruce, partaking of all his trials, his failures and successes against England and Baliol, and mentions Sir Walter Logan† (father of him who died in Spain) as having been captured or betrayed to the English and beheaded in London in 1306, on account of his support of Bruce against Baliol. "Some centuries since the Scots navy was able to cope with that of England, and in A. D. 1400 Sir Robert Logan of Restalrig, Lord Admiral of Scotland, defeated an English fleet in the Frith of Forth." He is recorded to have "married Grillis, a daughter of Lord John Somerville." "On the return of James I. from his captivity in England, he knighted him a Laird of Restalrig and made him High Sheriff of Edinburgh." "After the ruin of the family by James VI. in 1609 (hereafter recorded), many of them emigrated." Frederick, Baron Logan, "a German

* My quotations are taken from "*Grose's Antiquities of Scotland*;" "*Forsyth's Beauties and Legends of Scotland*;" "*The Scotman's Library*;" "*Somerville's Memoirs of Somerville*;" "*Robertson's History of Scotland*;" "*Buchannon's History of Scotland, translated from Latin and continued by Aichman*;" "*Memoirs of James Logan of Philadelphia, by Wilson Armistead, London, 1851.*" This note applies to succeeding quotations also. The version of the Legend of this holy expedition, as given by Tytler, is somewhat, but not materially, different from the above quoted older authors.

† Vol. i., p. 414.

poet, flourished in 1620." The whole narrative, by the eloquent Buchannon, of the life of "The Bruce," is interesting, and his translator has succeeded in doing justice to the original;—I allude particularly to concluding chapters of first volume.

In 1600 the head of the family of Restalrig is mentioned as "opulent," and as also the owner of what was known as Logan's house of "Fastcastle," on the borders of the German ocean, which castle is called by Buchannon "the strongest in March, and was taken by the Scots from the English in 1410." (Buch., vol. ii., p. 78.)

Dr. Robertson's History of Scotland (vol. iii., pp. 133, 62-3 and foot notes) and History of Scotland, continued by Aichman (vol. iii., pp. 257-65), contain full narratives of the nefarious proceedings instituted against this family by James VI. of Scotland, and then I. of England, and his pliant tribunals, in 1609, upon the pretence that their parent, who had died unsuspected nine years previous, had been an accomplice with the noblemen Gawrie and Ruthven, who had been put to death in 1599 or 1600 for an alleged conspiracy. Robertson says: "Death itself did not exempt Logan from persecution; his bones were dug up and tried for high treason, and by a sentence equally odious and illegal, his lands were forfeited and his posterity declared infamous." Buchannon calls the proceedings "an outrage upon the laws of humanity and the law of the land." He, previously, has described the tyranny of James and his minion "Arran," their mode of getting up "fictitious conspiracies to murder by judicial process and confiscate to their own uses the estates of their victims." The historian depicts the universal gloom cast over the whole land by the dread of spies and informers. Buckle also (civil, vol. ii., foot note, p. 152), shows the gross ignorance of Scotland in that day (yet the proceedings of the mock trial prove that Logan possessed the rare ability to write); and Buckle also records the previous penury and unthriftiness of this cruel ruler. That he frequently had to pawn his plate, and mainly subsist upon the bounty of Queen Elizabeth (p. 209, foot

note). Another writer, already quoted (Armistead), writes that "the sentence of guilty against the dead bones of Logan threw his forfeited and opulent estates into the hands of Lord (Earl of) Dunbar, and extinguished a large debt which 'Balmerino owed to the family.'" Lord Balmerino was at that time President of the Court of Sessions.* The historians already quoted agree that the proceedings were sustained only by the loose sayings of one "Sprot," who was arrested by the Privy Council and put to torture after two months' denial and such prevarications as proved him to have been destitute of all trustworthiness. Aichman adds: "The Judges doubted the truth of his tale, and upon enforced confession, *hung him forthwith*, so that they might not, by his recantation, lose his evidence in support of a conspiracy (ten years previous) on which the credit of *the King* was pledged: there being a desire on the part of the tyrant (now King of England, also Elizabeth being dead) to justify his former cruelties and false dealings." "When rulers show a willingness to receive accusations and offer a bounty for the discovery of treason, it is seldom long ere they are gratified either by the destruction of the innocent by false testimony or by the conviction of the unwary who are entrapped." "When the consciences of such weak and bad men (as James is admitted to have been), when these consciences upbraid them for their injury to others, they are very apt the more intensely to hate their innocent victims, and to try to cover up one crime by the commission of another." "We transmit the narrative," says Aichman, "as we have received it, only with this caution, that as our information is *entirely one sided*, and that the side whose interest it was to blacken the characters of the sufferers, we may be pardoned for not seeing clearly either

* Buchannon, vol. iii., p. 32.

† Buchannon, p. 257. See also Hallam's Constitutional History, vol. ii., note, p. 486; but neither he nor Arnot record the great doubts of the impartial to the genuineness of the dead man's letters; nor the fearful tortures under which Sprot was made to affirm to the truth of their charges against Logan, whose opulent estates were coveted by the King and Balmerino.

that the escape of the King was so miraculous, or the guilt of the offenders (Gowrie and Ruthven) so transcendent as his majesty would have wished posterity to believe." "Mankind, by universal suffrage, have delivered over to execration the assassin who, even at the risk of his own life, attempts to take that of his fellow-man, but by some strange perversity of intellect the cowardly villain, who, under cloak of law, commits, without personal risk, the lowest and vilest of assassinations—judicial murder—finds apologist historians to extenuate his conduct." "It is a truth never to be lost sight of in reading the history of the Stuarts, that it was the struggle for unlimited tyranny on the part of the princes, and for freedom of conscience on the part of the people which originated all of the troubles, and that civil liberty is the child of religious freedom." This tyrant, therefore, urged on by his rapacious ministers, his own well known love of plunder already whetted by the execution, in bad faith, of the elder Earl of Gowrie, instituted this pretended conspiracy to appropriate the estates of the noblemen, and caused or consented *nine years* afterwards, that the judicial farce should be performed, as well for the purpose of justifying his previous falsehoods, as to distribute the opulent estate of the dead man among his favorites. To this end young Gowrie and Ruthven were massacred, and *ten years afterwards* the "King of England and Scotland" plundered the children of a dead man, and declared them "infamous!" His corrupt ministers of State and Court and the more timid of the ministers of the gospel alike submitted to and justified the perjured King; all save a few of the more honest of the clergy, who, refusing to approve or believe in the justice of the proceedings, were banished. Robert Bruce, a clergyman, who, among many others less outspoken, disbelieved the whole "conspiracy," was brought before James. "Bruce said to James: 'I might lie unto with my mouth, but I cannot *trust* without evidence!' 'Then I see you will not believe me,' said James. Bruce, who could not say he