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## HISTORIC SCENES IN PERTHSHIRE

by William Marshall, D.D.,  
Coupar Angus  
Edinburgh;  
William Oliphant & Co.  
1880

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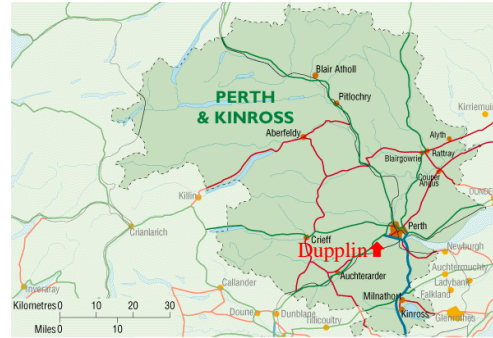


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On the 6th September, 1842, Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, accompanied by her Royal Consort Prince Albert, and several of the great Officers of State, left Dalkeith Palace in the morning, and arrived at Dupplin Castle about half-past three o'clock. After partaking of a déjeuner, her Majesty proceeded to Perth, on her way to Scone Palace, where she was to dine, and to spend the night.

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### ABERDALGIE

The battle of Dupplin was fought in this parish on the 6th August, 1332. In the July preceding, the Scots had sustained an inestimable loss in the death of their Regent, the veteran Randolph, Earl of Moray. He was succeeded by Donald, Earl of Mar, who had no military experience, and no talents of any kind to qualify him for the high office. Edward Baliol, eldest son of John Baliol, deemed this a fit juncture for renewing his claims to the throne of Scotland. He was secretly encouraged by Edward III., and strongly supported by the Lords who, when Robert Bruce had achieved the independence of the kingdom, were disinherited of the Scottish estates which Edward I. had given them for aiding him in subjugating the country. Baliol appeared in the Firth of Forth with an English Fleet; disembarked at Kinghorn; drove before him the Earl of Fife, who had tried to oppose him with such a small force as he could hastily collect; and, marching across the country, encamped at Forteviot, his front being defended by the Earn. The Regent, who had an army vastly more numerous than that of Baliol, drew them up on Dupplin Moor, on the north side of the river; and the Earl of March, with another army scarcely inferior in numbers, was only a few miles distant on the enemy's left flank. But Baliol had friends among the Scots, who betrayed them. Andrew Murray of Tullibardine pointed the English to a ford by which they might safely cross, marking the place by fixing a stake in it. Setting out at midnight, they did cross the Earn by that ford; approached the camp of the Scots with the utmost silence; and took them wholly by surprise. The route was inevitable and complete, and the loss of life appalling. The Regent himself was among the slain, with the Earls of Carrick, Moray, and Menteith, and many others of high rank. The name of Hay would have been extinct, had not William, the head of the family, left his wife with an unborn child. Thirteen thousand men were left dead on the field, and not a few more were drowned in the river. Sinclair, Bishop of Dunkeld, and Macduff, Earl of Fife, were among the prisoners taken.



A stone cross in a field to the west of Dupplin Castle marks the scene of this bloody battle.

Tullibardine did not long escape the doom he deserved. About two months after, he was made a prisoner at Perth, tried for his treason, and condemned and executed.

Aberdalgie owes its place in history chiefly to two historic families connected with it. The one of these is the Oliphants or Olifards, a branch of whom we met at Gask. The first of them of whom we have any account was David de Oliphant. He came to Scotland from Winchester with David I. in 1141. David's niece, Maude, having provoked the ire of the Londoners, had fled for refuge to the Castle of Winchester. David had accompanied her thither. Stephen followed and besieged them; and would have made David his prisoner, had he not been rescued by a Scots soldier in Stephen's army, to whom David happened to be godfather. That soldier was David de Oliphant. The King brought him home with him; and rewarded him with grants of land, and with the Justiciarship of Lothian. He was succeeded in the office by his eldest son, David, who was in high favour with Malcolm IV. and William the Lion. His second son, Walter, was one of the hostages for the release of the latter in 1174; and his grandson, Sir Walter, was Justiciar of Lothian.

Sir Walter's grandson, Sir William, was one of the most distinguished of the Scottish patriots in the days of Wallace and Bruce. Governor of Sterling Castle, he, with a small garrison, bravely defended it for three months against all the power of Edward I. It was the last fortress in Scotland that was given to the invader. When it was forced to surrender, every indignity was heaped on its gallant defenders. "They were compelled to go in procession to the tent of Edward, stript to their shirts and drawers, their heads and feet bare, and on their knees to acknowledge their guilt, and to give themselves up to his mercy." On submitting to this humiliation, their lives were spared. The garrison were consigned to different prisons in England; and Sir William Oliphant was sent to the Tower of London, where he lay a captive for four years. His name is at the famous letter which the Scots sent to the Pope in 1320, nobly asserting the independence of the country.

The patriot's son, Sir Walter, married the Princess Elizabeth, youngest daughter of King Robert Bruce. The dowery in lands which she brought with her considerably extended the possessions of the family; and about that time David II., brother of the Princess, erected the lands of Gask into a free barony. John, the grandson of Walter and the Princess, Robert II. knighted. Sir John's grandson, also Sir John, fell in the battle of Arbroath. He had married a daughter of Walter Ogilvy of Auchterhouse; and hence his participation in the quarrels of the Ogilvies and the Lindsays. His son, Sir Laurence, James II. raised to the peerage by the title of Lord Oliphant of Aberdalgie. James III. made him a Lord of Session, a Privy Councillor, and Sheriff of Perthshire. He was also of the Privy Council of James V., who created him a Baron.

The list of the Lords Oliphant of Aberdalgie increased to eleven before the title became extinct. The eleventh was William, son of Charles Oliphant of Langton, one of the principal Clerks of Session. He died in 1751, acknowledging Laurence Oliphant of Gask to be heir of his peerage; who, however, being as we have seen attainted for his share in the Rebellion of 1745, did not assume the title.

There is not much on record about their Lordships that is very notable; not much, at least, that has come in our way. Colin and Laurence, the latter Abbot of Inchaffray, sons of John, second Lord Oliphant, both fell on the fatal field of Flodden. Laurence, third Lord, was one of the nobles taken prisoner at the rout of Solway. The fourth Lord was also Laurence; and between him and his neighbour Lord Ruthven was a feud which had tragic issues in 1580. Chambers, in his

**Domestic Annals of Scotland, gives this account of it: —“Lord Ruthven and Lord Oliphant were at feud, in consequence of a dispute about teinds. The former, on his return from Kincardine, where he had been attending the Earl of Mar’s marriage, passed near Lord Oliphant’s seat of Dupplin, near Perth. This was construed by Oliphant into a bravado on the part of Ruthven. His son, the Master of Oliphant, accordingly came forth with a train of armed followers, and rode hastily after Lord Ruthven. The foremost of Ruthven’s party, taking a panic, fled in disorder, notwithstanding their master’s call to them to stay. He was then obliged to fly also; but his kinsman, Alexander Stewart, of the house of Traquair, stayed to pacify the Oliphant party. He was shot with a haquebuss by one who did not know who he was, to the great grief of the Master.**

**“Lord Ruthven prosecuted the Master for this outrage. The Earl of Morton, out of regard to Douglas of Lochleven, whose son-in-law Oliphant was, gave his influence on that side, and thus incurred some odium, which probably helped to bring his destruction soon after.”**

**Notwithstanding this woeful feud, the Master Oliphant joined in the Raid of Ruthven in 1582; for which, two years after, he and his brother-in-law Douglas were charged to quit the realm; and, in passing to the Continent, they were both drowned. They “were never scene again,” says Calderwood, “they, nor shippe, nor anie belonging thereunto. The maner is uncertain; but the most common report was that, being invaded by Hollanders or Flushingers, and fighting valiauntlie, they slue one of the principall of their number, in revenge whereof they were all sunke; or, as others report, after they had randered (surrendered) they were hanged upon the mast of the shippe. They were two youths of great expectation.” Laurence, fifth Lord Oliphant, was a spendthrift, and dissipated a great part of his goodly heritage.**

The other historic family connected with Aberdalgie is that of Kinnoul. After being the property of the Oliphants for upwards of three centuries, it passed from them in 1620 to the Earl of Morton, who, five years after, sold it to the Hays. Dupplin Castle, their principal seat, is a magnificent mansion, in the Elizabethan style, which cost upwards of £30,000, and occupies the site of the old Castle, accidentally destroyed by fire in 1827.

The great family of the Hays is of Norman extraction, and came to England with William the Conqueror. The first of the family that we read of in Scotland was William de Haya, chief butler to Malcolm IV. The fifth in descent from William was

Gilbert de Haya, Lord of Errol, a compatriot of Bruce. He, with his brother Hugh, did noble service to his country’s King and cause; and Bruce made him Hereditary High Constable of Scotland.

The Hays of Kinnoul are of the same stock as the Hays of Errol, but of a younger branch of it. They are descended from George Hay, second son of Peter Hay of Megginch. George, having studied for years at the Scots College of Douay under his uncle, Father Hay, the Jesuit, was, on his return to his native country, introduced at Court; and, after giving him some other appointments of honour and emolument, James VI. Knighted him in 1610; and made him Clerk Register in 1616, and Lord High Chancellor of Scotland in 1622. Charles I. Created him Viscount Dupplin and Lord Hay of Kinfauns in 1627, and Earl of Kinnoul in 1633.

The Chancellor must have been a man of no common ability and sagacity; and his spirit and pluck are worthy of all admiration. On the morning of the day on which Charles was crowned at Edinburgh, Sir James Balfour, Lord Lyon, was sent to him with a very characteristic message from the King, who could never sufficiently exalt ecclesiastics, if they were of the right stamp. The message was an earnest request that the Chancellor would, for that day, give precedence to Spottiswood, Archbishop of St. Andrews. The Chancellor replied, that “since His Majesty had been pleased to continue him in that office which by his means, his worthy father of happy memory had conferred on him, he was ready in all humility to lay at His Majesty’s feet. But since it was his royal will that he should enjoy it with the various privileges pertaining to the office, never a stoled priest in Scotland should set a foot before him while his blood was hot.” This answer being reported to the King, he remarked, “Well, Lyon, I will meddle no further with that old cankered goutish man, at whose hands there is nothing to be gained but sour words.”

Scott of Scotstarvit says of him:—“He was a man of little or no learning, yet had conquest a good estate, namely, the baronies of Kinnoul, Aberdalgie, Dupplin, Kinfauns, Seggieden, Dunninald, and many others; all which estates, in a few years after his decease, his son made havoc of.”

In the era of the Covenant the noble house of Kinoul was keenly Royalist. We shall only point in the briefest possible manner to a few illustrations of this. When the Civil War broke out the Earl of Kinnoul refused to sign the Solemn League and Covenant; and in the service of Charles he sacrificed most of his patrimony—the “havoc” of it to which Scotstarvit alluded. When Montrose raised the Royal standard in 1644, the Earl of Kinnoul joined him. In the Marquis’s second campaign the Earl had the command of the

twelve hundred soldiers who were shipped off from Gothenburg in September, 1649, to be landed in Orkney, and a thousand of whom perished by shipwreck on the passage. When the Marquis fled from the field beyond the Pass of Invercarron, where his sun set under the thorough defeat which Strachan gave him, the Earl was one of the officers who accompanied him. On the morning of the third day thereafter, as they wandered in the Reay country, Kinnoul became so faint from hunger, cold, and fatigue that he could proceed no further. His companions had no alternative but to leave him on the exposed heath. They could give no accurate direction to the place where they left him; his body was never discovered, and the conclusion was that he must have perished miserably in some solitary recess among the mountains. After the abdication of James VII. in 1688, the Court at St. Germain's was the refuge of the Earl of Kinnoul.

In 1715, the House of Kinnoul adhered to the same interest. The then Earl was brother-in-law of the Earl of Mar. On his way north to raise and head the Rebellion, Mar visited him at Dupplin Castle; and as one of the suspected he was committed a prisoner to Edinburgh Castle till the insurrection was quelled. His youngest son, Colonel John Hay, was one of Mar's most devoted and energetic lieutenants. He took Perth in September, proclaimed the Pretender at it, and was made Governor of it. Forfeited by Act of Parliament, he joined the exiled Court in France, held a high place in the Chevalier's household, and was created by him Earl of Inverness. George, seventh Earl of Kinnoul, was made a British Peer in 1711, by the title of Baron Hay of Pedwardine; and he also, in September, 1715, was taken into custody at London on suspicion of favouring the Pretender, and was kept in confinement till the following June, when he was admitted to bail.

We must forbear even naming subsequent Earls of Kinnoul, that we may reserve a small space for the greatest event associated with Dupplin Castle in recent times. It is the visit of Royalty to it on the 6th September, 1842. On her way from the south to Perth that day, a Craighend, amid deafening acclamations from an immense concourse of her loyal and loving subjects, Her Majesty turned west to Dupplin Castle by one of the finest drives for scenery in the kingdom. Entering the policies of Dupplin by the western gate, she approached the Castle by an avenue skirted with majestic and beautiful wood, and giving glimpses of park, and landscape, and lawn, which must have filled the Royal visitors with delight and admiration. They arrived at the Castle about half-past three o'clock, where a most distinguished party waited to welcome them, including, among others, the Earl of Mansfield, Lord and Lady Kinnaird, Lord and Lady Willoughby d'Eresby, Lord and Lady Ruthven, Lord and Lady Rollo, Admiral Sir Charles Rowley, Viscount Strathallan, &c.

On Her Majesty's arrival "God Save the Queen" was played by a detachment of military drawn up on the lawn in front of the Castle. The Royal Standard, was sent down for the occasion by the Lords of the Admiralty, floated over the turrets of the Castle, on which were displayed also the colours of the Royal Perthshire Militia, of which the Earl of Kinnoul was Colonel, and the staff of which kept the Park that day.

A party of the county ladies on the lawn gave Royalty a most graceful and hearty welcome. The Countess of Kinnoul, accompanied by her eldest daughter, Lady Louisa, received Her Majesty at the Grand Entrance, and conducted her to the Baronial Hall, which was royally prepared for the visitors. The Earl of Kinnoul, in his uniform as Lord-Lieutenant of the County, assisted Prince Albert to alight from the carriage.

From the Hall they were ushered into the Library; and there fitting addresses from the county were presented to the Queen and Prince Albert; the former by the Earl of Kinnoul, and the latter by Mr. Home Drummond, M.P. for the County. They were received standing; Prince Albert, the Duke of Buccleuch, and Lord Aberdeen, being on her Majesty's left hand, and the Duchess of Norfolk, Lord Liverpool, and Sir Robert Peel on her right. Suitable answers were returned. Like addresses were presented by the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Council of the city of Perth, and were graciously answered, the Lord Provost having the honour of kissing Her Majesty's hand.

Shortly after, the Royal party partook of the hospitality of the Castle in the great diningroom, a large party of nobles and gentlemen having the honour of sitting at table with them. The repast, and the style in which it was served, were surpassingly exquisite, sumptuous, and superb; and a few minutes after it was concluded, the Royal party entered their carriages: Her Majesty, handed in by the Earl of Kinnoul, and Prince Albert cordially shaking hands with him and his Countess; the troops presenting arm; the band playing the National Anthem; the guests at the Castle standing around uncovered; and the ladies bowing, and waving their handkerchiefs.