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EDITORIAL

One of the most interesting aspects of genealogy must surely be the comparison between facilities available in different countries for the tracing of ancestors. The records of one country are usually sufficient to occupy a genealogist for a lifetime but occasionally we are lucky enough to meet someone who is working in another part of the world and hear something of the special advantages and problems to be encountered there. For example in Scotland we may count two particular blessings as compared with our nearest neighbour, England. Although compulsory registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages was delayed by nearly twenty years in the north, beginning in 1855 as compared with 1837, we are fortunate in having the Old Parish Registers collected together in Edinburgh, thereby saving the searcher much time and money. The second advantage is the extensive property registers or Sasines, which date back to 1617 and provide detailed records of changing ownership of estates of anything from one to one hundred thousand acres. Our most particular problem is almost certainly the lack of early records many of which were removed to England by Edward I after 1291 and no more seen, while in 1660 some of the registers, uplifted by Cromwell, were lost in a shipwreck on their return journey.

This is not, of course, intended to be a survey of the whole field, but merely a signpost to possible items of interest; a challenge which it is hoped readers with experience of genealogical work in other countries will not entirely ignore.

SOME NOTES ABOUT THE DUNCAN FAMILY

(by A. R. Cederberg: Personhistorisk Tidskrift, 1922, XXIII, 3-4), translated from the Swedish by Archd. Duncan, M.A., F.S.A.(Scot.).

According to ancient tradition the Duncan family, which is found in different parts of the Swedish realm during the 17th and 18th centuries, traces its origin from a Scottish noble line. A member of the family asked to be admitted to the Swedish House of the Nobility in 1739, without success however. He had discovered that the family in Scotland belonged to the old nobility. "We use in our coat-of-arms a night owl with three gold stars on a silver field".

The oldest known member of the family in Sweden is Olaus Michael Duncan, who is mentioned in 1643 as teacher in the school at Koporje in Ingermanland. Later on he embraced the clerical profession and in 1655 is mentioned as rector in Narva.

Although it cannot be proved, in all probability his son would appear to have been the Nicolas Olai Duncan, who studied at the University of Dorpat in the early 1650's. During the troublous times Duncan had to flee to Abo, at whose university he was matriculated in 1656. At the conclusion of his studies he became district secretary in the province of Nyland and Tavastehus and later on secretary in the chancellery of the governor-general for Finland. When the chancellery ended in 1670, Duncan went to Livonia, where he was appointed to a post in the war commissary of the governor-general Krister Horn. During the campaign he was appointed to the trade commissary in Lais and Ober-Pahlen, which duty he managed with such success that, if we are to believe his own assertions, the royal revenue increased considerably. In spite of this he was dismissed from his post, which perhaps was not solely due to intrigues on the part of his enemies, as he himself maintains. After Krister Horn's death - consequently in 1692 or somewhat later - Duncan requested appointment as judicial burgomaster in Dorpat and pointed out in his application that he knew the district's language and customs well. "And this also should not without reason have gracious consideration, that your Majesty

would be more firmly assured of the due interest from an honest Swede than from a person of foreign nationality particularly so in regard to Swedish Law as was seen at Narva, which had been introduced and was to be observed in Dorpat, which could scarcely be the case with a German as he would give preference to foreign usage, particularly to the law of Lubeck, as a consequence of which all matters of law in Dorpat would fall to be judged under that usage...."

Duncan did not become burgomaster in Dorpat, for the governor-general J. J. Hastfehr had employment for so well-endowed a man in another direction and Duncan was appointed as assessor in the Livonian circuit appeal court at Dorpat on 8th May 1695. He died at Dorpat at the end of April or beginning of May 1701.

Nicolaus Duncan had four sons, named Ernst, Carl, Gustaf, and Niclas.

Ernst, who was probably the eldest, was a lawyer in the circuit court at Dorpat. His later fortunes are unknown to us. He died before 1729.

Carl was born in 1675. He went into the military profession, was captain in the Ober-Pahlen province militia battalion, when in May 1704 he was taken prisoner by the Russians. He died at Jaroslaw in September 1718. He was married to a Taube, who died at Riga in 1710.

After Gustaf, whose life-story and family are hereafter mentioned, came Niclas, born in 1682. He also was a soldier and was a captain in the Wikiska province militia infantry regiment. When Narva was captured by the Russians he was taken to Russia. In 1722 he returned, became a major in the same year and was posted to the Kymenegard infantry regiment but was unable to stay in the army by reason of the inadequate pay. He was still alive in 1740, when, it is stated, his wife Anna Maria Tyrohl had died recently (17/4/1740).

It is not known whether any of those three brothers had grown-up children.

The third in order of the brothers was Gustaf, born in

1676. He studied for six years at Dorpat University and in February 1697 was appointed as district notary in Pernau, in 1700 became frontier commissar at Fellin, and then in the autumn of the same year cashier in General O. Vellingk's army division and in May 1701 field-commissar, and also in the same year took over the post of Chief of the Esthonian field commissariat. Taken prisoner at Narva and taken along with his brother to Russia, thereafter he lived for some time in Moscow looking after Swedish prisoners' affairs.

Duncan was brought with his whole family - his wife and at least three children of whom the youngest were 7-week-old twins - during the coldest part of the year in January 1712 from Moscow to Tobolsk, where he remained till the end of the year.

By 1721 Duncan had returned with his family to Reval. It appears as if he was uncertain whether he should stay on in Russia or look to his future in Sweden. He let his son begin his schooling in Reval and when for the first time he went to Stockholm in 1723 he left his family behind in Reval.

In 1723 Duncan was nominated as assessor in the so-called Westra Commission, which was about to begin its work in Finland, but because that could not yet get to work, he secured in October of the same year commission as war-commissar. In the following Spring in May he was appointed "to be Post Commissar at our Posthouse, which will be established at the aforesaid frontierline (Between Sweden and Russia)". At first he resided in Willmanstrand until the construction of the posthouse at Taskula was completed. His salary at first was 800 silver thalers and 80 silver thalers for writing materials.

Duncan remained as postmaster at Taskula till his death in 1742. He was employed by the Swedish authorities as a scout or secret agent and earned an equally bad reputation, on the Russian as on the Finnish side of the frontier. With Governor Frisenheim at Willmanstrand he carried on an open feud and complained of him, that the governor did not give the postmaster the helping hand he required. On one occasion during the summer of 1732 when the postmaster arrived from

Viborg beyond the frontier where he had been on official business he was thoroughly beaten up by the border patrol and was shamelessly abused. Duncan wrote about the affair to the Chancellery then and many times but no reply came, from that quarter, so that "the same Governor permits the Post to be taken out, packets to be loosened, and my letters to be put aside", so Duncan's words run. The Governor had reported to the Chancellery that Duncan was old and ailing and also incapable of attending to his business. Frisenheim had even suggested another person to take his place.

During the period at Taskula Duncan had gathered to himself a considerable fortune. He obtained several properties in the districts of Palkijarvi and Ilomants in North Karelia and at his death in 1742 must have been a wealthy man.

Duncan was married to Elizabeth Lange, Dr. Jacob Lange's daughter, Lange probably being the overseer at Narva. Of Duncan's children two reached maturity, a daughter who was married to Land-secretary Jacob Printz, and a son Niclas Gustaf, the most noted member of the family.

Niclas Gustaf Duncan was born in Moscow on 20th November 1711. He began his schooling in Reval in 1721, staying there till 1725, when he went to Taskula to help his father "with the correspondence".

In January 1732 Duncan went to Abo University and in the same year became a clerk in the circuit appeal court.

In the following year he was summoned to the Swedish envoy in Petersburg, von Dibners, and later to the secretary of the Baron v. Nolckens there, and stayed in the Russian capital till 1739 when he returned to Taskula, "notwithstanding the honourable offers that came to him several times in his journeying to enter the Imperial Russian service".

In that year he was appointed to manage the post-office at Taskula during his father's illness, during which time according to his own statements he frequently obtained very valuable pieces of intelligence from St. Petersburg for General Buddenbrock.

In the Spring of 1741, when preparations were being made for war, Duncan left Finland, went to Stockholm and entered the civil service as an. extra official in the Royal Chancellery.

In 1743 Duncan followed in the wake of the Russian army in Sweden as interpreter and later on with it into Russia.

During the years 1744-47 he saw service as relief to the Russian interpreters in Finland.

In 1748 he was appointed to the Post-commissary at Ahvenkoski (Abborfors) and received the title and dignity of Post Director.

Duncan was employed as a Swedish Government spy on the frontier and kept in active correspondence with the competent authorities in Sweden. During the years 1759 and 1760 he was in St. Petersburg in the service of the Chancellery President von Hopkin "to find out particularly important matters and affairs affecting the Lealn".

But Duncan did not spy only on the Swedish Government's account. He had time and opportunity to do this also for the Russians. After 1744 the Empress had given him a present of 1000 roubles as compensation for certain properties which he wrongly lost following the Peace of Abo. Duncan then expressed to the authorities his desire to go over into the Russian service, if the Empress appointed him secretary to the countil for Esthonian and Livonian affairs. This occurred in 1746. Duncan still remained at Stockholm so that during the following riksdag he could spy for Russia. He was also able to provide the Russian minister in Stockholm, Baron von Korff, with many important documents and the minister expressed his great apprcciation of him. Duncan still hesitated to enter the Russian service - with this greater reason, as he took the opportunity to spy on behalf of the governor-general von Rosen and did this to the latter's great satisfaction, so that the governor-general warmly recommended him to receive the postmastership at Ahvenskoski.

It is difficult to know in whose service Duncan was. It is probable that he deceived the one just as much as the

other.

Duncan was in good financial circumstances. The properties of his father in North Karelia he had redeemed for himself and secured some new ones. But his ownership was not always of the easiest, as appears from complaints and disturbances, which after his death broke out on his properties and could not be quelled without military help.

Niclas Gustaf Duncan, who died on 23rd April 1771, was twice married, first to Susanna Charlotta Christiernin (b. 1714, d. 1757) who was previously married to Erik Geringius, curate in the Jacob parish of Stockholm. In 1761 Duncan married as his second wife Catharina Birgita Nohrstrom, who after her first husband's death was married to Erik Philip Didron, judge in the Karelia judicial district.

Niclas Gustaf Duncan had by his second wife four children who survived their father, namely the son Nils Gustaf born 1762, student in Åbo 1777, died in the 1780's, the daughter Catharina Charlotta, born 1763, marriedin 1786 the circuit judge Henrik Johan Porthan (b. 1753, d. 1796) and died 1834, the daughter Hedvig Christina, born 1771 and died 1789, and another daughter, who at her father's death is reported to have been four years old. A son, Jakob Johan Duncan, born 1766, had died before his father.

With Nils Gustaf Duncan the family would seen to have died out on the male side in Finland.

TABLE

Olaus Michael DUNCAN

Nicolaus Olai DUNCAN (d.1701)

Ernst (d. ?1729)	Carl (1675-1718)	Gustaf (1676-1742)	- Elizabeth Lange	Niclas (1682-1740?)

Niclas Gustaf - (i) Susanna Charlotta Christiernin

		(ii) Catharina Birgita Nohrstrom		
(i) Nils Gustaf (1762-1780?)	(ii) Catharina Charlotta (1763-1834)	(iii) Jakob Johan (b.1766 d. before 1771)	(iv) a daughter (b.1767)	(v) Hedvig Christina (1771-(1789)

OLD NORSE NICKNAMES IN SCOTLAND - III

This article concludes the list of Old Norse nicknames given to men and women in the Scandinavian parts of Scotland as recorded in Orkneyinga saga.

Abbreviations

Orks. Orkneyinga saga, edited by S. Nordal, Copenhagen 1913-16.

O.N. Old Norse.

Jarlsmágr - Sigurthr jarlsmágr, 'Earl's kinsman by marriage', Orks 129. Sigurthr, an Orkneyman of the 12th century, was so called because of his kinship with Erlendr, earl of Orkney.

Karl - O.N. karl meant 'an old man', and as a nickname is probably to be translated 'the old' or rather 'the elder'. Thus there were two Orkneymen in the 12th century called Hakon karl or 'the elder' (OrkS 109 and 312) to distinguish then from another Hakon called Hakon barn or 'the younger'.

Klerkr - Thorbjorn klerkr, 'the clerk', OrkS 122. Thorbjorn was a warlike Caithness chieftain who murdered Earl Rognvaldr Kali of Orkney in Caithness in 1158. The nickname meant that he had had a 'literary' education.

Klíningr - Einarr klíningr, OrkS 16-8. Einarr was an Orkneyman of the 10th century. His nickname meant 'buttered-bread.' The word has survived in Norway, and also in Orkney dialect klino, 'a piece of buttered bread'. One

wonders if Einarr was something of a milksop,or was rather particular about what he ate.

Klō - Hakon klō, 'claw', OrkS 89, 124 etc. Another Orkneyman of the 12th century. Perhaps he had a hook-fist, a hand turned inward.

Krókauga - Thorkell krókauga, 'cross-eye', OrkS 130, 224. Another Orkneyman of the 12th century.

Kyllinef - Thorarinn kyllinef, 'bag-nose' OrkS 305. Another 12th century Orkneyman with a nickname derived from a physical deformity. It is interesting to find that J. Jakobsen heard the expression 'to wash de kuli o' de face' in the northern part of the mainland of Shetland (Dictionary of Shetland Norn).

Langhals - Melkolmr Skotakonungr, OrkS 88. O.N. langhals means 'long neck', and the whole name is simply our Malcolm Canmore' or 'big head'.

Níthingr - Ljótr níthingr, 'the niddering', OrkS 122, 124. This was a nickname of great contempt, signifying 'good-for-nothing'. 'Niddering' was a favourite word of Sir Walter Scott for a cowardly rascal. Cf. also Lowland Scots 'a poor nidderet creature'. The despised Ljótr lived in Sutherland circa 1100.

Ónálgi - Páll ónálgi, 'the silent', OrkS 123. Earl of Orkney, 1123-36.

Pík - Hakon pík, OrkS 89 etc. An O.N. nickname of doubtful meaning. Perhaps cognate with English pike or peak, signifying a tall thin man, or a man with a pointed nose.

Rangmuthr - Einarr rangmuthr, 'Wry-mouth', OrkS 23. Earl of Orkney, d. 1020.

Rósta - Olvir rósta, 'the Unruly', OrkS 122. This Oliver was a chieftain in Sutherland in the 12th century. His nickname seems to be the O.N. word rósta meaning 'a brawl'; cf. Modern Icelandic rusti 'a rude fellow'.

Skalli - Lífólfr skalli, 'bald-head', OrkS 322. Lífólfr lived in Caithness in the 12th century, and there are traces of his nickname in Shetland and the Faeroes, as well as in English scald-head.

Skeifr - Einarr skeifr, OrkS 277. O.N. skeifr meant literally 'askew', being applied commonly to the legs. Einarr lived in Orkney in the 12th century.

Slættmáli - Haraldr slættmáli, 'smooth speaker', 'smooth tongue', OrkS 122. Haraldr was an Orkney earl who died

about 1128.

Sokki - Sighvatr sokki, 'sock', OrkS 111. Why this 11th century Orkneyman got this nickname one may only guess.

Sterki - Hosvir himn sterki, 'the strong', OrkS 306. A Caithness man of the 12th century.

Streita - Eirikr streita, 'struggle', OrkS 124. He lived in Orkney about 1100.

Svarti - Thorbjorn svarti, 'the Black', OrkS 224. Another Orkneyman of the 12th century.

Tigna - Ingibjorg tigna, 'the High-born', OrkS 89. Granddaughter of Earl Paul of Orkney, 11th century.

Tonn - Melbrikta tonn Skotajarl, OrkS 6, 7, 8: O.N. tonn means 'tooth'. Maelbrigte, an earl of one of the northern provinces of Scotland in the late 9th century, had a large tooth which stuck out of his mouth. He was slain in battle by Sigurthr earl of Orkney, who tied his head to his saddle-bow. On his way home Sigurthr tried to spur his horse and scratched his leg on Maelbrigte's tooth. Says the Saga: 'The sore grew into a painful swelling, so that he got his death of it'.

Ungi - Haraldr ungi, 'the Younger', OrkS 316. An Orkneyman, d. 1198.

Wængr - Jón vaengr, 'Wing', OrkS 130, 291. This nickname is is used of a farmer and his nephew who lived in the 12th century in the island of Hoy, Orkney.

Orvi - Engus orvi, 'the Generous', 'the Open-handed', OrkS 128. A man of rank who lived in Caithness or Sutherland in the early 12th century.

(Concluded)

A. B. Taylor.

FOOTNOTES ON HERALDRY

Extracts from a paper read to the Scottish Genealogy Society

I suppose there is no system which has been the victim of so much misunderstanding and misrepresentation as heraldry. Some years ago the official responsible for arranging the lectures instituted by the London County Council was approached as to the possibility of a series upon that subject. The suggestion was received with a stare of blank, incredulous astonishment at the idea that any rational being could be found anxious or willing to endure a disquisition on a theme not only as dry as dust, but hopelessly out of date.

Latterly of course, there has grown up a distinct revival of intelligent interest which, I am inclined to think, may be due to the publication of a little work, possibly not unknown to your chairman - Simple Heraldry[1] which brings home to the man in the street, with a lighter touch, that heraldry is not an antiquated survival from the dark ages, but a real living thing. How many people are aware that mail-vans and pillar-boxes are painted scarlet and black because these are the Royal livery colours? Indeed, to the vast majority the very name conveys an impression of a jargon of incomprehensible, grotesque, archaic terms, in fact a kind of resuscitated mummy which had better be shut up again in its sarcophagus at the first opportunity. Now could there be a grosser libel on the gay science and its dealings with gold, silver and bright colour, quite apart from the light it throws upon historical research.

It is hardly necessary to point out what invaluable help heraldry lends to the genealogist. Take for example, the two families, Barclay in Scotland, Berkeley in England. The question may arise, was there originally any relationship, or is it a deceptive similarity of sound? To get at the facts would involve endless research into records, registers and family documents. Heraldry settles the point at once by showing that in each case the coat-of-arms is charged with a chevron between eight crosses pattées, the only difference being in the tinctures, Barclay in Scotland bearing Azure and Argent, Berkeley in England Gules and Or.

It always seems remarkable, not that armorial bearings should have come into existence, but that they did not make their appearance earlier, especially when one considers primitive man's elaborate code of totems. I am afraid we must dismiss as a romantic chimera, the claim for a more respectable antiquity put forward by Sir John Ferne, the 16th century authority, who asserts that the first gentleman to bear arms was Adam. Eve, being an heiress, he charged her silver inescutcheon upon his plain red shield; consequently Cain, as their eldest son, bore Gules and Argent quarterly. There seems to be no information available whether later generations confirmed their bearings, or whether they preferred to ignore their descent from the black sheep of the family. Sylvanus Morgan's fantastic theory that a mystical meaning attached to every charge and colour seems to have passed into well-deserved oblivion. The same fate has overtaken the doctrine that peer's arms must be described in terms of jewels and king's of Roman dieties.

In Greek vase-paintings warrior's shields almost invariably carry some sort of device, such as lions or dolphins, while in one case Pallas Athenés has in the centre not the usual gorgon's head but three legs conjoined with a kind of windmill effect, precisely the same as the present arms of the Isle of Man, and a similar design appears on the old Sicilian coins. Whether there is any connection is a point for archaeologists to decide. Again, in Sophocles play, The Seven Against Thebes, a detailed description is given of the charges and mottoes on the shields of the besiegers.

It was formerly claimed that the first dawn of heraldry is to be found in the Bayeux tapestry, but the most cursory inspection shows that there is no coherence in the banners carried, whose patterns vary according to the taste and fancy of the designer.

The 12th century saw the beginning of systematised heraldry. To some extent this must have been due to the introduction of the pot-helmet, which so successfully concealed the wearer's features, that unless some ocular proof

were given of his identity, in a melee a knight ran the risk of finding that his battle-axe had cloven the skull of his bosom friend, instead of a member of the opposing forces. Not that success was invariable in that respect. One foggy morning during the Wars of the Roses, the Lancastrians mistook the star badge of the liegemen of the De Veres for the blazing suns of the Yorkist adherants, fell upon their own allies, and consequently lost the battle. One of the earliest examples is to be found in the museum at Le Mans, which is well worth a visit for the sake of the tomb-slab of Geoffrey Plantagenet, the second husband of the Empress Maud and the father of Henry II. It is a beautiful piece of enamellar's work, probably Limoges, and shows the Count of Anjou standing, a full length figure, under an architectural canopy against an elaborately lozenged background. On his head he wears a tall blue cap embroidered with a gold lion. The cap being in profile it is uncertain whether there would be another en face. One hand holds a sword and the other the tall shield of the period, Azure, charged with four lions Or 2, 1 and 1, about a gold escarbuncle centred by an elaborate boss of the same metal. Only half the shield is visible, but presumably the opposite side coincides. A slight variant on these arms was borne by his grandson, another Geoffrey Plantagenet, Earl of Salisbury the illegitimate son of Henry II, and Fair Rosamund - Azure six lions rampant, 3, 2 and 1.

When heraldry was definitely established, the Middle Ages fell in love with their own invention, finding in it a source of a charming form of decoration for architecture, furniture, hangings or stained glass, and it runs through the whole gamut of mediaeval artistry. In needlework especially, they gave full reign to their imagination, witness the sumptuous beds of the 14th and 15th centuries. Joan, Pricess of Wales and widow of the Black Prince, bequeathed, to her son Richard II., "my new bed of red velvet embroidered with ostrich feathers and leopard's heads of gold with branches and leaves issueing from their mouths", while Edmund Mortimer lay down at night under the coverlet of "our great bed of black satin embroidered with white lions and gold roses with escutcheons of the arms of Mortimer and Ulster". One feels that no nightmare would venture near

anything so gorgeous.

The church inventories contain entries of vestments and altar-cloths whose richness puts to shame their modern imitations. Thomas, Duke of Gloucester left to Westminster Abbey, three new copes, a chasuble and two tunicles of a red colour of noble cloth of gold, with orphreys of black velvet embroidered with swans of pearl (the Bohun badge, his wife's family) interspersed with the initials T and A, for Thomas and Alianore. And the list might be prolonged ad infinitum

Peers, knights, and gentlemen having assumed and recorded arms, the like privilege was extended to dignitaries of the past, and semi-mythological heroes. The Nine Worthies received grants, while practically everyone who is mentioned in the Morte D'arthur is alloted armorial bearings. I have myself collected above two hundred, and there may be as many more scattered about in mediaeval literature. Saxon and early Norman kings were credited posthumously with coats quite unknown to them, while the heirarchy of heaven, from archangels downwards had their own special blazons. The subject of Saintly heraldry until now has been very inadequately looked into. There is, of course, Darlings Heraldry of the Church, but (excellent though the illustrations are) it only touches the outside fringe. Everybody is familiar with the crosses of St. George, St. Andrew and St. Patrick, possibly too, with the arms assigned to St.Margaret of Scotland, Azure a cross between five martlets Or, the same as those of Edward the Confessor, whose blood relation she was. But this is a field of almost unexplored territory.

Contrary to popular belief, there has been a certain amount of variation in the Royal Arms of Scotland. The Armorial de Gelre, a Flemish 14th century roll of arms, represents the helm of King Robert Bruce surmounted by a crown enclosing a green mound spotted with red, on which sits a crowned lion Gules, holding a sword proper, the simple mantling being charged with the Annandale arms. It was not until the reign of James V. that the crest was altered to its present form of a crowned lion sejant, holding a sceptre as well as a sword. At the same period, too, unicorns took the place of the lions who had up till then supported the shield. The charges on the escutcheons itself have remained

unchanged, though at one time they were in considerable danger. In 1460 Parliament, for some reason best known to itself, urged James III. to remove the tressure and leave the lion ramping in solitary majesty, but the idea, like so many Parliamentary projects, never materialised. The only possible hint of it can be seen in the Royal Arms as shown in the portrait of James III., now in the National Gallery of Scotland. There, the tressure only extends down two sides of the shield, leaving the top untressured. Whether this is due to a mistake on the part of the artist, or to a half-hearted attempt at the proposed effacement, it is impossible to say.

It would come as a surprise to most people to learn that the Bruces were originally a Yorkshire family. At the time of the Norman conquest they came over to England and settled in that country, where they acquired ninety-four manors, the principal seat being at Skelton, with others at Ugmanthorpe, Pickering and surrounding districts. In Pickering church there is still the chantry chapel founded by the Bruce who was lord of the manor, containing a figure tomb of himself and his wife. Robert Bruce, the king's very great-grandfather was a persona grata with one of the Scottish princes and presumably as a token of friendship received the fief of Annandale, migrated to Scotland, and relinguished his former arms, Argent, a lion rampant Azure, in favour of the later coat, Or a saltire and chief Gules.

Now as to the arms of this ancient city of Edinburgh. In the records of the Lyon Office, the dexter supporter is blazoned as "a lady richly dressed". Who was the vandal who degraded that comely, dignified figure into a dishevelled, female, clad, more or less, in a very inadequate garment which displays one bare leg? Originally the shield was supported by St. Giles, a much more appropriate figure for the purpose, and one which gives point to his emblem of the hind on the sinister side. But during the inconoclastic throes of the 16th century, when the image of Edinburgh's patron was cast with contumely into the Norloch, saints were at a decided discount, and the ruling powers preferred to substitute something more secular and feminine.

The crusades, naturally, have always made a strong

appeal to popular imagination, even though the impression is on the vague side. In Academy pictures and illustrated historical romances the Crusader is always depicted with a large red cross covering the front of his surcoat. As a matter of fact the crosses distributed by Peter the Hermit were small enough to be carried in a purse or wallet, and when finally assumed were affixed, not to the breast but to the shoulder. Each country had its own distinguishing colour. France red, England white, Flanders green, and Germany black. Scotland, as a whole, does not seem to have taken part in the movement; so that any knight who joined with the rest of the enthusiasts must have been merged in the particular section to which he attached himself.

There are certain errors which seem to bear a charmed existence, therefore I shall make no apology for referring to one stale old cliché, which has been disproved times without number, but still continues to flourish. I mean the well-worn fiction that at the battle of Crecy the Black Prince slew the King of Bohemia and assumed his enemy's ostrich-feather crest in place of his own. Now that statement contains about as many mistakes as it is possible for human ingenuity to cram into a single sentence. In the first place the ostrich feather is not a crest but a badge, secondly, it would be contrary to rules, not only of armoury but of commonsense for the heir to the throne tacitly to proclaim himself a member of a different family and of an alian country, moreover, the cap of maintenance above the Prince's tomb is surmounted by his own crest of a crowned lion; lastly, and most of all to the point, the King of Bohemia's crest was not a feather but a black wing powdered with golden leaves. It would be impossible for the most short-sighted or weak-minded to mistake one for the other. It is just within the bounds of possibility that the story may have arisen from the fact that the mantle and kirtle of the effigy of Anne of Bohemia (Richard II's wife) in Westminster Abbey, are strewn with her badges of ostriches and an elaborate knot, in harmony with the hinds and sun-bursts decorating her husband's robe and dalmatic.

The badge of course, was introduced by Queen Philippa, wife of Edward III. and appears in contemporary inventories

as engraved or enamelled upon plate belonging to her. She derived the device from her father, the Duke of Hainault and Count of Ostrevant, being a piece of what is known as "canting" heraldry, a play upon the words of the title and the badge, a kind of pun sometimes, as in this case, rather far-fetched.

Once established, the ostrich feather was taken over by the whole of the Royal family - each with some slight variation. The King bore one of silver with a gold quill, the Prince of Wales all silver, as at the present day, John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, ermine with a gold quill, the Duke of Somerset, the legitimised descendant of John of Gaunt and Katherine Swynford, silver with a blue and silver quill, the Duke of Gloucester charges his with a strap, presumably the garter, while the Duke of York chose for difference a gold chain laid along the centre. The modern grouping of three feathers together, banded together by a label or a coronet, does not appear until the 16th century.

How much everybody loses who knows nothing of the fascination of heraldry. Is it any wonder that in former times it made part of the education of persons of quality? Can it be that in that future age of gold which is so often dangled like a carrot before our eyes, heraldry will be included in every school curriculum, so that any lack of acquaintance will call forth the cry of Di Vernon, when Francis Osbaldstone confessed his ignorance, "What! It is possible? Not know the figures of heraldry! Of what could your father be thinking?" And here, as always, the woman must have the last word.

Lewis Gordon.

1. Simple Heraldry: Cheerfully illustrated by Iain Moncreiffe and Don Potinger. Nelson. 1953.

QUERIES

1/40. Has anyone got any information about John MacNaughton who was warded in Edinburgh Castle in 1715? D.McN.

1/41. John McNachtan the last Chief in the direct male line died at his residence of Springfield, near or in Edinburgh, on 6th April 1773 at the age of 85. What is the likeliest place of his interment and where was Springfield? This John McNachtan was the founder of a Rakes' Club in Anstruther and later in Edinburgh. Its records were in existence at the end of the last century in possession of Mr. Connolly author of a guide book to Anstruther. Is there any information as to their present location? D.McN.

1/42. Can any reader give particulars of a Cadet of the Balcarres Lindsays who went to Ulster with General Monroe's army and in 1642 received a grant of land at Tullyhenam, near Banbridge, Co. Down? C.W.M.

143. The progeny of Walter Dundas of Magdalens, West Lothian, 3rd son by a second marriage of Sir Walter Dundas; XVIIIth of that Ilk, were settled in Ireland in the first half of the 18th century. Can anyone supplement this meagre account? D.W.

1/44. Dr. David Waldie (1813-1889) L.R.C.S.E., was a native of Linlithgow and died at Calcutta. A member of the Asiatic Society Bengal and a pioneer in aneasthetic research, he is credited with having recommended chloroform to Sir James Y. Simpson. Can anyone indicate original sources of information regarding his professional career? D.W.

1/45. A list is being compiled of Scottish Excisemen holding office between 1707 and 1828 (any dates) and their relatives. Can anyone supply information concerning any of them from parish records, family histories,

tombstones (except in Edinburgh, which have been scrutinised) and local histories? J.F.M.

1/46. Parish of St. Vigeans. David Cargill (c. 1745-1816) Tacksman in Mains of Auchmithie married Jean Carie on 12th November 1780: had two sons and two daughters. Wanted: the parentage of David Cargill and Jean Carie (or Cary). The name Carie does not appear in St. Vigeans except the above marriage but it does appear in Arbirlot c. 1712-16 and 1742-7. W.D.C.T.

1/47. (a) According to Nisbet, the Rosses of Innernethy were cadets of Ross of Craigie; Patrick Ross, Sheriff Clerk of Perth who bought Innernethy in 1655 from the Pitcairns, being the grandson of Alexander, second son of Ross of Craigie. The Rosses of Craigie fell on bad times and their estates were sold in the early 17th century, but none of the later Rosses of Craigie (neither Robert, the last to own Craigie (died 1620/1) nor his father, John (died 1600) nor uncle, Thomas (died 1556) nor their father, John, killed at Pinkie in 1547), seem to have had a son named ALEXANDER.

Information is required as to the ancestry of Patrick Ross, First of Innernethy, and his connection with the Rosses of Craigie.

(b) The Rosses of Innernethy parted with Innernethy about 1745, but General Sir Patrick Ross, styled of Craigie and Innernethy, appears in the earliest editions of Burke's "Landed Gentry". However, presumably because they had parted with their estates, after his death the family does not appear in later editions of Burke, although both Sir Patrick and his brothers had several male descendants.

Does the family still survive?

(c) Robert Ross of Oakbank (1765-1851), Provost of Perth, used the arms of Ross of Craigie (they appear

on his tombstone in the Greyfriars, Perth).

What was his connection with the Rosses of Craigie or Innernethy? W.D.C.T.

1/48. James Fisher in Kames, parish of Kilchrenan, Argyllshire (? son of Neil F.), understood to have been born c. 1750, died c. 1805, husband of Margaret Leitch, Knapdale, had with other issue, Donald, who emigrated to America c. 1816, was "Principal Instructor" at Jefferson College, Washington, Mississippi, c. 1821-1823, and died in Jamaica c. 1826. In a letter written in 1821 Donald is described as "friend & relative" of Archibald Fisher who was family tutor to Isaac Wright, attorney in Bladen County, North Carolina, and who died in 1820. James had a brother, John, who married Christina MacNicoll on 23 December 1770.

Archibald Fisher above mentioned was born 23 Oct. 1769, surviving son of Angus F. of Thornfield, (Auchindryden), Argyll (baptised at Inveraray 9 Aug. 1720, died by 1780) by his second wife Lillias (m. 13 Oct. 1757) daughter of John Campbell of Corries; Angus was a younger son of James Fisher of Durren (d. 1757), Provost of Inveraray, and his wife Ann (m. 28 Feb. 1706) daughter of Archibald MacLachlan of Craigenterve.

Archibald was served heir of provision general to his cousin James of Durren (grandson of the Provost of Inveraray), 15 January 1772.

Information concerning the ancestry of James and John Fisher in Kames, or their relationship to the Durren family, would be welcome. C.C.

NOTES

1/39. McGills in Holland. It is suggested to write to Mille. Th. J. wan Alff, (librarian), Koninklijk Nederlandsch Genootschap voor Geslacht- en Wapenkunde, (Royal Netherlands Society for Genealogy and Heraldry) Bleijenburg 5, The Hague, Holland. C.C.

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