

CLAN POLLOCK



CINNEADH POLLAG

POLLAG
A POOL OF INFORMATION
31 March 1986

MOTTO

Audacter et Strenue
Bold and Strong

Volume 1
No. 16

POLLOCK, POLLOK, POOK, POLK, POLKE, PAULK, POALK, POALKE, POULK, POOLKE, POGUE

" A person who takes no pride in the noble achievements of remote ancestors cannot expect to be remembered for his noble deeds by remote descendants."

Editor's Corner

On 8 March, Ann and I represented the clan at the Arizona Games in Phoenix. There we had the pleasure of visiting with one of our new members, Florence Pollock. While there I was informed the U.S. Navy has a submarine named the USS Pollock, named after the fish. I plan to write the sub's skipper and see if I can obtain some information about her history.

Ross W. Pollock of Ontario, Canada has recently undergone surgery. We all wish Ross a speedy recovery. Connie and Jim Calhoun are on a long trip, during which they will spend a few weeks in Australia. Having spent some time with the Aussies myself, I am sure they are having a great time. Connie is the Clan Commissioner for New Mexico and Colorado.

In the last issue of the Pollag, I welcomed Jo Ann Richards as a new member. I should have welcomed instead her husband, Charles P. Richards. My apologies and a hearty welcome to you both.

Marcella Richards, in a letter to Rosemary Pollock, wrote about a genealogist who worked on Marcella's family tree. Since

she specializes in Scottish ancestry, some of you may be interested in contacting her for further details. She is Mrs. Stella Y. Pryor, and her address is Scottish Genealogical Research Services, 306 Cinnamon Lane, Euless, TX 76039.

It is with delight that I announce the arrival of the youngest member of Clan Pollock. She is Isabel Van Dyke of Richmond, California. Isabel was born on 8 September, 1985, to Laura Van Dyke. Congratulations to you Mom and Dad, and may Isabel always find happiness and success.

Ted Yeatman has informed me that he will be delivering a paper at the annual Polk Family Reunion in May. His talk will be on the Pollocks of Scotland. I have asked Ted for a copy of his talk to include in a future edition of the Pollag.

I have some unconfirmed information indicating that Fulbert, who was originally granted the barony of Pollock in Renfrewshire, came to Scotland from England. I am in the process of identifying the reference from which the information came. If the source appears to be a valid one, I will include the details in a future edition of the Pollag.

For those of you who have not sent your 1986 dues to Rosemary, please do so soon. Her address is on the form provided on page 8. Please use the form, a facsimile thereof, or be sure you include all the information requested by the form when submitting your dues.

New Members

The clan has gained six new members since publication of the edition of the Pollag. A hearty welcome to all of you. The new members are --

Sue R. Goodwin
403 South Elm St.
Marshville, NC 28103

Edith N. Pollock
3612 Erie Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45208

Florence Pollock
15643 N. 58th Ave.
Glendale, AZ 85306

Robert V. Pollock
6515 38th Ave.
Woodside, NY 11377

Bianca Polk Cox
1205 Governors Dr. SE
Huntsville, AL 35801

Jeffrey E. Williamson
4631 141st St. West
Apple Valley, MN 55124

Additionally, Cornelia Byers has had a change of address. Her new address is Penick N, P.O. Box 2004, Southern Pines, NC 28387.

The Maxwell History (Continued)

Lord Nithsdale continued to live in Rome in debt and difficulties, still hoping that the exiled Stewart family might

be restored to the throne of their ancestors; but he did not live to witness the last enterprise on their behalf. He died in Rome in March, 1744. His widow was induced to accept an annuity of 200 pounds a year from her son, who then came into full possession of the family estates. Of this annuity she resolved to apply one-half to the payment of her husband's debts, which would by this means be extinguished at the end of three years. When this desirable consummation was attained, in beautiful harmony with her unselfish and generous character, she caused intimation to be made by her agent to Lord Maxwell that "as his father's debts are now quite extinguished, his lady mother will have no occasion for more than one hundred pounds sterling per annum from him henceforth. She is now quite easy, and happy that she is free of what was a great and heavy burden upon her." Nothing further is known of Lady Nithsdale's declining years, but she appears to have grown very infirm. She survived her husband by five years, and died in the spring of 1749 in Rome, where in all probability both she and Lord Nithsdale were buried, but no trace can be found of their last resting place. She worthily sustained the spirit of that ancient and illustrious family from which she was descended. Lady Nithsdale's name, Mr. Fraser says, is never mentioned by her descendants "but with the utmost honor, gratitude, and affection." She deserves to be had "in everlasting remembrance."

William, Lord Maxwell, her son, succeeded to the family estates the year before the last great insurrection on behalf of the Stewarts. His sympathies were no doubt in favor of that ill-fated race, but his good sense, fortunately, kept him from taking part in that desperate enterprise. He seems to have led a quiet, retired, and somewhat indolent life. Lady Catherine Stewart, his wife, died in Paris in 1765. Lord Maxwell survived her by eleven years. His death took place in London in August, 1776. He had no male issue, and of his two daughters the elder, Mary, died in her fifteenth year; the younger, Winnifred, succeeded to the Nithsdale estates. Lady Winnifred, in her twenty-third year, married William Haggerston Constable of Everingham, in the county of York, second son of Sir Carnaby Haggerston, and heir of his maternal grand-uncle, Sir Marmaduke Constable, Bart., whose name he assumed. The mother of the young lady was delighted with the match. She described this "fine English squire," in a letter to the Countess of Traquair, as "a very sensible, well-bred, pretty gentleman, and a good Roman Catholic." She goes on to say that "Winny was much startled at first at his prodigious size; but now, I think, she seems to have got over that fault, which, indeed, is the only one can be found in his appearance; but that's certain he's among the tallest men I ever saw, so your ladyship may judge what sort of a figure they will make together;" but, as she sensibly adds, "that is not an essential matter as to happiness." Lady Winnifred bore her husband (who on his marriage assumed the name of Maxwell before that of Constable) three sons and four daughters.

She became a correspondent of Burns, who wrote to her in high Jacobite terms; and when the present mansion-house was to be built for the permanent residence of Lady Winnifred and her husband, the poet indited a song, entitled "Nithsdale's Welcome Hame," which, however, displays more cordial feeling than poetical genius. Mr. Maxwell Constable died in June, 1787, but his wife survived until July 1801. During the time that Lady Winnifred possessed the Nithsdale and Herries estates, which was about a quarter of a century, she resided chiefly at Terregles, where she dispensed a very generous and almost unbounded hospitality. She seldom sat down to dinner without a company of between twenty and thirty friends and neighbors. Terregles in her day was a kind of open house, where friends and neighbors frequently came, and stayed without any formal previous arrangement. Such hospitality became costly, and Lady Winnifred found it necessary to sell the barony of Duncow, the lands of Newlands, Craigley, Deanstown, and other portions of the estates.

Lady Winnifred was succeeded in the Nithsdale and Herries estates, including the baronies of Caerlaverock and Terregles, by her eldest son, Mr. Marmaduke Constable Maxwell, who possessed them about eighteen years. He died suddenly at Abbeville, in France, on the way to Paris, in June, 1819. In 1814 he executed a most judicious deed of entail for the settlement of his property, under which the Everingham and Nithsdale estates were to descend to his eldest son, now Lord Herries. But as he considered his lands in Scotland and England to be fully adequate to the maintenance in a suitable manner of two separate families, he disposed the land and baronies of Terregles and Kirkgunzeon, and others, to Marmaduke Constable Maxwell, his second son, and to his heirs male. (Editor's Note -- The manuscript does not mention any settlement with respect to the third son, nor does it contain any further account of his life.) According to the Domesday Book, the Everingham estate contained 6,858 acres; the lands in Dumfriesshire and the Stewartry of Kirkcubright, belonging to Lord Herries, comprised 9,237 acres; while the Terregles estate, extended to 15,803 acres -- the rents of which were amply sufficient to maintain two families in a "suitable manner."

In the year 1848 an Act of Parliament was passed in favor of William Constable Maxwell, Esq., and all the other descendants of William, fifth Earl of Nithsdale, reversing the forfeiture of the nobleman. In virtue of this act, Mr. Constable Maxwell claimed the dignity of Lord Herries, as having been originally conferred on heirs general.

There are no fewer than five baronetcies held by members of the house of Maxwell; namely those of Pollok, Calderwood, Cardoness, Monreith, and Springkell. There are also numerous and influential junior members of the family, most of them settled in the southern counties of Scotland, such as the Maxwells of Munches, Broomholm, Kirkconnell, Brediland, Park hill, Dargavel, and Breoch.

The most powerful and celebrated of all the branches were the Maxwells of Herries, who, as we have seen, became ultimately the representatives of the house. The original family of Herries was of Norman origin, and settled in Nottinghamshire. One of them migrated into Scotland during the reign of David I. (1124-1153), and like other Anglo-Norman barons, obtained grants of land from that monarch and his successors. Sir Herbert Herries, of Terregles, was created a lord in 1489. His eldest son, Andrew, the second Lord Herries, and four of his brothers fell at Flodden. William, the third Lord Herries, died in 1543, leaving three daughters as co-heiresses. The eldest, Agnes, married Sir John Maxwell, second son of Robert, fifth Lord Maxwell, in 1547.

Sir John Maxwell, fourth Lord Herries of Terregles, was one of the most prominent and active politicians during the troubled times of Queen Mary and James VI. He was born about the year 1512. As he was for a time heir-presumptive to his brother, and then to two of his nephews, and possessor of a great part of the Herries estates, made him one of the most powerful barons in the south of Scotland and gave him great influence at Court. He subsequently acquired from the sisters of his wife their shares of their father's property, and thus the whole of the extensive Herries estates were vested in him. The Regent, Arran, had intended to marry Agnes, Lady Herries, to his own son, John Hamilton, but he resigned the lady to John Maxwell in order to detach him from the Earl of Lennox and the English faction. The ostensible reasons for this step were the good service which Sir John had rendered in drawing a great part of the inhabitants of the West Borders from the assurance of the English to the obedience of "our sovereign lady", and the Regent.

After the death of his brother Robert, sixth Lord Maxwell, in September, 1562, the Master of Maxwell was appointed Warden of the West Marches, but he resigned it in the following year, on the ground that he was at deadly feud with most of the clans of that district, and the office was temporarily conferred upon his uncle, Sir James Douglas of Drumlanrig. Maxwell exerted himself with characteristic energy to restore and maintain peace on the Borders, but he encountered many difficulties, especially from the remissness both of the great proprietors and of the yeomen, in accompanying him on days of truce, and also from Lord Dacre, the English Warden, to redress the Border grievances of which he complained.

When dissensions arose between Queen Mary and many of her nobles on account of her marriage to Darnley, Sir John Maxwell labored to obtain redress for the Protestant lords and entertained them most honorably at Dumfries. He, in consequence, incurred the displeasure of the Queen, which was not, however, followed by any injurious consequences. When Mary and Darnley came to Dumfries with all their forces in pursuit of the Earl of Moray and the other nobles engaged in the Roundabout Raid, they sent Sir John Maxwell to intercede for them with the Queen, as

he had taken no action against her, though he professed to belong to the confederate lords.

His intercession, if it was really made, was of no avail. But he made his own peace with Mary, and returning to Dumfries told the lords that he could not help them, and advised them to flee into England. All his past offenses were forgiven him by the Queen and her husband, and on January 1st, 1566, they declared that after an investigation by the Lords of the Secret Council, they believed all the charges against him "to be perfectly untrue and founded upon particular malice," and as to some of the charges, "they understood right perfectly the plain contrary. He has been and is our true servant and our good justiciar, and in execution of our service has taken great travails and pains, bearing a weighty charge in the common service of this our realm many years by-past, and executed the laws upon the many and notable offenders, defending our good subjects from such enormities and oppression as is laid to his charge; nor has received augmentation or any reversion, as is unjustly alleged, nor no gold from England; neither has nor will discover our secrets to them nor others, to the hurt of his sovereign, this our realm, nor subjects." Her majesty also faithfully promised that if Sir John, who, in the execution of justice on malefactors, had fallen under the deadly feud of the principal clans and broken men of the West Marches, should be slain or die during the time of his exercise of the office of Warden, his wife and eldest son should have the ward of all his lands and heritable possessions which by his decease should fall into the hands of the Crown, with the marriage of his son and heir for the time. A short time afterwards his holding of his lands and baronies was changed from ward and relief to free blench in consideration of his good and faithful services.

Sir John Maxwell became Lord Herries at the end of the year 1566, and was henceforth known by that designation throughout the momentous affairs in which he took a prominent part. When Bothwell was brought to trial for the murder of Darnley, Lord Herries was one of the assize who acquitted him, on the ground of an error, which was no doubt designed, respecting the day on which the crime was committed. But Sir James Melville asserts that when a rumor went abroad that Mary was about to marry the murderer of her husband, Lord Herries came expressly to Edinburgh to entreat her, on his knees, not to take that fatal step, and that the Queen recommended he leave the city at once in order to avoid Bothwell's resentment. It has been argued that this statement is scarcely reconcilable with the fact that Lord Herries sat on Bothwell's assize; that he signed the bond recommending Bothwell as a suitable husband to the Queen, (the most disgraceful and cowardly of all the base transactions of the Scottish nobility of that age), and that he was one of the witnesses to the marriage contract subscribed by them on the 14th of May, 1567, the day before the marriage took place.

But these proceedings are quite in keeping with the portrait drawn of him by Throckmorton, the English ambassador, in a letter to Sir William Cecil. Throckmorton wrote that the Queen herself had said that Lord Herries could not be trusted. He further warned that they had good occasion to beware of him. Among other events, he reminded Sir William that Lord Herries had allowed his own hostages to be hung by failing to keep a promise. The event referred to occurred in 1547. Maxwell had promised to support the Earl of Lennox in an attempt to recover by force his estates in Scotland, on condition that he would abandon the English interest. He had arranged to meet the Earl of Lennox, and Lord Wharton, the English Warden, at Dumfries, with a strong body of horse. He delivered to Lord Wharton certain gentlemen as pledges for the performance of his promise. The Regent Arran, however, induced Maxwell to break his word, and when Lennox arrived at Dumfries he found no troops there for his assistance. A detachment of horse, which he sent out to reconnoiter the district, encountered and defeated a body of the Borderers commanded by the Laird of Drumlanrig. The Master of Maxwell, who was present, barely escaped with his life. Lord Wharton retreated into England, and by the orders of the English Council he hanged Maxwell's pledges, one of whom was the Warden of the Greyfriars in Dumfries, and another the Vicar of Caerlaverock, at Carlisle.

Lord Herries was one of the nobles who subscribed at Dumbarton, in July, 1567, a bond supporting Queen Mary against the confederate lords. But on the 14th of October he came to Edinburgh and acknowledged the coronation of the infant King and the authority of the Regent Moray. "He was minded," as James Melville said, "to the present weal and quietness of the State." He attended the meeting of Parliament in December, 1567, which ratified Mary's resignation of the Crown, confirmed the coronation of the King and the regency of the Earl of Moray, and pronounced the imprisonment of the lawful Queen. The Regent, on the other hand, declared that he forgave Lord Herries and the other nobles who had formed the Queen's party, all that they had done on her behalf. All the Acts passed by the Estates in 1561 in favor of the Protestant religion were ratified by this Parliament.

At this meeting of the Estates, Lord Herries delivered a plausible oration eulogizing the nobles who from the beginning had adopted measures for the punishment of the Earl of Bothwell, and defended them in imprisoning the Queen at Loch Leven, whose inordinate affection to that wicked man was such that she could not be persuaded to leave him. He declared that he and those in whose names he spoke would hazard their lives and lands for maintaining the cause in which these nobles had embarked, and that if the Queen herself were in Scotland with twenty thousand men, this would not alter their purpose. And yet, before the close of the month, Lord Herries and his associates, who had thus publicly declared their adherence to the King's government, entered into a bond pledging themselves to do their utmost to

effect the liberation of the Queen from her prison at Loch Leven. On Mary's escape on 20 May, 1568, Lord Herries and others, who at the last Parliament had solemnly pledged themselves to support the infant King, entered into a bond for the defense of the person and authority of the Queen. The Scottish nobles of that day seem to have been utterly lost to all sense of truth and honor. (To be continued)

Until next time,

Aye,

Bill

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