

COMMEMORATIVE

BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD

—OF—

WASHINGTON COUNTY,
PENNSYLVANIA,

CONTAINING

Biographical Sketches of Prominent and Representative
Citizens, and of many of the Early
Settled Families.

ILLUSTRATED



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*The family of Hay (or Hays as they generally spelled their name after making their new home in the North of Ireland) have prominent place in the history of Scotland. It is said that about the year 980, in the reign of Kenneth III., the Danes having invaded Scotland, they were encountered by that king near Lancarty, in Perthshire. The Scots at first gave way and fled through a narrow pass where they were stopped by a countryman of great strength and courage and his two sons, with no other weapons than the yokes of their plows. Upbraiding the fugitives for their cowardice, he succeeded in rallying them, and the battle being resumed, the Danes were defeated. After the victory was obtained, the old peasant, while lying on the ground, wounded and fatigued, cried, "Hay, Hay," which word became the

* Taken from the "Origin and signification of Scottish surnames" by Clifford Stanley Sims.

surname of his posterity, and the king, as a reward for his signal service, gave him as much land in the carse of Gowrie as a falcon should fly over before it settled; and a falcon being accordingly let off flew over an extent of ground six miles in length, after called Errol, and lighted on a stone, still called "falcon stone."

‡HAY, EARL OF KINNOUL. This noble family is a branch of the illustrious family of Errol, and is sprung from Sir William Hay, ancestor of the house of Leys, who was second son of Sir David, and brother-german of Sir Gilbert Hay of Errol, who flourished in the reign of King Alexander III. From him was lineally descended Sir Edmund Hay of Melginch, who made a considerable figure in the reign of King James VI. He was father of Sir Peter, the father of Sir Patrick, who was in much estimation with King James IV. George, his second son, being, by the care of his father, well brought up, was, for the improvement of his education, sent to France, where he spent some years under the tuition of the learned Edmund Hay, his uncle; soon after his return, being about twenty-one years of age, he was introduced to the court of King James VI. by his kinsman, James Hay, Viscount Dowcaster and earl of Carlisle, and in a very short time raised to be one of the gentlemen of his majesty's bed-chamber, and had a gift of the Carthusian priory of Perth. He was by the same king preferred to very prominent positions, among them that of lord high chancellor of Scotland, in which post he was continued by Charles I., King of Great Britain (for in the meantime the union of England and Scotland had been consummated), who advanced him to the dignity of Viscount Dupplin, and Earl of Kinnoul. The position of chancellor he held up to his death, which occurred December 16, 1634, a period of fourteen years. He married Margaret, daughter of Sir James Haliburton of Pitcur, and by her had issue Sir Peter, who died unmarried; George, his successor; and Lady Margaret.

George, second earl, was made captain of the yeomen of the guard to Charles I., and one of his privy council, but lost most of his estate in pursuit of his loyalty to the king.

William, son of George, third earl, died in 1677, and was succeeded by his second son.

George, fourth earl, who died in Hungary, 1687, without issue, and was succeeded by his brother.

William, fifth earl, who, dying a bachelor in 1709, the honor descended to Thomas Hay, of Dalhusy, near Perth, the next male heir.

Which Thomas, sixth earl, was the brother and heir of George Hay, of Belhusy, son of Peter Hay, of the same place, third son of Sir Patrick Hay, of Melginch, and brother of George, first earl of Kinnoul, and so succeeding, was elected one of the fifteen peers of the third and fourth British parliaments. He married Elizabeth, daughter of William Drummond, Viscount Strathallan. Their youngest son, Col. John Hay, of Cromlich, in 1715 followed the Pretender from Scotland, who gave him the title of Earl of Inverness.

George Henry (eldest son of Thomas), Viscount Dupplin, in 1711 was created a peer of Great Britain by Queen Anne. In 1718 he succeeded his father as seventh Earl of Kinnoul. In 1709 he married Abigail Harley, youngest daughter of Robert, Earl of Oxford, and by her had four sons and six daughters. The sons were Thomas, Viscount Dupplin; Robert, who took the name and arms of Drummond as heir of entail to his great-grandfather, William Drummond, Viscount Strathallan, and was elected in 1748 bishop of St. Asaph; in 1761 was elected bishop of Salisbury, and same year archbishop of York. John was rector of Lincoln; Henry Edward was consul-general in Portugal in May, 1754, and plenipotentiary to same king, 1762.

Thomas, eighth earl of Kinnoul, was commissioner of the revenue in Ireland, afterward commissioner of the board of trade in England; was ambassador to the King of Portugal, 1759, and was soon afterward appointed chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, but resigned all his offices in 1762. In 1741 he married Constantia, daughter of John Kirle Ernle, of Whetham, in Wiltshire, Esquire; she died 1753 without surviving issue.

‡From a work giving an account of the "Clan Hay."