

CONCERNING THE FAMILY OF MOSSMAN
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About four centuries ago, the minor sovereigns of Europe began to consider the open crowns as no longer consistent with their dignity, so, as to distinguish them from the coronets of the nobles, they were ordered closed i.e. bands of gold were brought up from the sides to meet at the top, which was surmounted by the Imperial ball and Cross. The change was made during the reign of James V (1512-1542) in Scotland, and this historic work was intrusted to the court jeweler, James Mossman.

The same James Mossman subsequently furnished pieces of jewelry to Queen Mary of Guise and other members of her family. Among these, Michelet in his work, "Les Eccossais en France", mentions an, "ingot of ora" procured

from James Mossman for the Duke of Guise .

Amongst the printed, "Acts of Parliament of Scotland", Vol III is a ratification dated June 20, 1581, by James King VII of the, "Charter maid be ung 11 James Mossman, goldsmyt burges of Edinburg to Jonet, King dochter to Alexander King aduocatt burges of the said bur, his spous, of the lands of Wray, in Linlithgow Feb. 20, 1570."

Another is to the effect that the, "lands of Laughermistown in Edingburgh-shire here belong to James Mossman, Goldsmyt', his son, with the lands of Curry and Mylne, thereof 1592."

This James Mossman became unfortunately embroiled in the Jacobite cause embracing the cause of Mary Queen of Scots, and taking part in the defense of Edingburg Castle under Sir William Kirkaldy of Grange. The Castle being taken by Elizabeth's troops, the old chronicler tells us in the following quaint but effective language; "William Kirkaldy of Grange, sometime capitain of the castle and James Mossman, goldsmyt', were harlit in two carts backward from the abbey, to the Cross of Edingburg, and there hanged, third of August 1573."

The first reference above gives the will of James Mossman made more than three years before he was hanged, together with the date of its ratification by James VII, 1581. The next probably indicates the restoration of lands confiscated at the time of James Mossman's demise, restored nineteen years later.

Since that time the descendants of James Mossman emigrated from Scotland and settled in Ireland, later in New Zeland, Australia and America.

James Mossman, mentioned above as Goldsmyt' had a son named John, who is the son heretofore mentioned.

This man, John Mossman, has a son James Mossman who was born in Scotland in 1660. VIZ: James Mossman, grandson of the hanged goldsmith, who was born in Scotland in 1660, was a Presbyterian Minister. He emigrated to Ireland and located near Belfast. He had two children: A daughter, name unknown who

died without issue. She dropped dead while milking a cow. A son John who was born in 1709.

The father, that is the Presbyterian Minister, James Mossman came to America in 1713 and took up land now covered by the city of Boston. He then returned to Ireland to bring his family to the New World. One account says that he either died in Boston or on the sea home bound; the other is that he reached home and died there.

John, only son of the Minister, James, was born in County Down, Ireland in 1709.