

GENEALOGY
OF THE
WALLACE FAMILY

Descended from Robert Wallace of Ballymena, Ireland.
With an Introduction treating of the Origin of
the Name and Locations of the Early
Generations in Scotland.

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INTRODUCTION

CONCERNING THE ORIGIN AND EARLY PROGENITORS OF THE WALLACE FAMILIES

It is natural and commendable for all people to seek some knowledge of the origin and character of their ancestors, and to gratify this desire I will give a brief outline that will be of interest to all bearing the name of Wallace, whether hailing directly from Scotland or coming by the way of Ireland. Some learned antiquarians have maintained that the original form of the name was Galleius; that in course of time it was changed to Valance, and then to Wallace. It is possible this may be correct; but the illustrations are drawn from a family with which we have nothing to do. That was an English family, had large possessions in the northeastern counties of England and across the border in Scotland, and were staunch adherents of Edward through all his wars with the Scots. Two of this family were Lord Mayors of London, and they seem to have kept themselves entirely separate and distinct from the Wallaces of the western counties of Scotland.

David I. of Scotland was an educated and enlightened man, far above any of his predecessors and far in advance of his time; and when he came to the throne in 1124, he gathered about him men of culture and genius, among whom was Walter, the son of a Shropshire baron on the border of Wales named Alan. He made Walter senechal or steward of his household; he afterward became Lord High Steward of the kingdom, and this office was made hereditary in his family. He was an able man and a shrewd courtier, and he soon became possessed of vast riches and estates. One of his descendants intermarried with a member of the royal family, and from this union came the House of Stewart or Stuart, that proved a curse to both

Scotland and England. I have thus been particular in speaking of the early Stewards, for, as will be seen, the fortunes of the early Wallaces were very intimately connected with them.

Richard Waleys, or "Richard the Welshman," as the Marquis of Bute interprets it, seems to be a reasonable representation of his nationality, and of the real origin of the name. All historians agree upon the former, and I am not aware that any seriously controvert the latter. Richard of Wales naturally became "Richard Waleys." From the first appearance of this name as witnesses to charters, it has passed through considerably more than twenty variations in its orthography before it settled down to its present form "Wallace." Members of the same family, indeed the same individuals, varied in the spelling of this name. These variations were not peculiar to any one family, but were a universal characteristic in all families of that period.

We have no means of determining the date of the birth of our first known Scotch progenitor—Sir Richard,—but events connected with his history seem to place it at the very beginning of the twelfth century, say, 1100–1110. This spans the great period of nearly eight hundred years from then till now, and when we count up the intermediate connections, we will have to enumerate many generations of Wallace progenitors before we reach Sir Richard. Several circumstances seem to indicate that Richard Wallace, and Walter, the first Steward, were about the same age, and that they probably came to Scotland together in search of their fortunes. The earliest authority views them as friends, and gives an incident in their lives that proves it. Walter was in love with a lady in Wales, but her family were bitterly opposed to the marriage, and kept her under restraint. The assistance of his best friend was then invoked, and Richard carried her off by force and placed her safely in the arms of her future husband. Walter was then only a younger son of Alan, a Shropshire baron on the border of Wales.

From the position of an adventurer, Walter was successful in winning the confidence of King David I. With great power and honor came great wealth from the King in many estates in different parts of the realm, but especially in the western counties. In all his prosperity Walter divided liberally with

his friend Richard, and in this remarkable friendship the most remarkable feature about it is that it did not terminate with the two originals, but was maintained in healthy and vigorous manifestations through at least six generations of their descendants. At first the Stewarts were the superiors, but many of them fought and fell for the independence of Scotland under the command of Wallace and of Bruce.

Among the first grants to Sir Richard was a tract of land in Ayrshire, eight miles long and three wide, upon which he established himself and reared his family. He named it "Richardstown," which afterward became Riccarton, and the parish still bears that name. He had two sons whose identity has been maintained—Philip and Richard 2d. Philip was living in 1211, but Richard 2d succeeded to the paternal estate.

Richard 2d had two sons—Adam and Richard 3d. Adam succeeded to the Riccarton estate, and Richard 3d obtained the lands of Auchincruive in 1208.

Adam had two sons—Adam 2d and Malcolm; the former inherited Riccarton, and the latter obtained the lands of Elderslie in Renfrewshire. This Adam 2d of Riccarton, in 1296, acknowledged the authority of Edward I. of England, and took the usual oath.

Malcolm Wallace married Margaret, daughter of Sir Hugh Crawford of Corsbie, and of this marriage there were born two sons, according to Dr. Rogers—Malcolm and William, the Patriot; but according to the Marquis of Bute there were three sons—Andrew, William, and John—and of these he says: "They all died by the hands of the English—the first on the field, and the last two on the scaffold." William was executed in London, August 23, 1305, and his brother John two years later. The sons of Malcolm were educated chiefly by the monks at the Abbey of Paisley, but a short distance from the castle at Elderslie, and when more advanced, William, at least, was sent to Dundee. Lord Bute says he was thoroughly trained in three languages—Latin, French, and his own. For his period he was certainly a well-educated man. The best authorities are agreed that he was born about 1273. He was the son of Malcolm, the son of Adam, the son of Richard 2d, the son of Richard the "Welshman." All these men had been created knights, and were entitled to the style of "Sir." Henry the

Minstrel tells us Sir William wedded Marion Braidfoot of Lanark, and calls her his "rychtwyss wyff," but does not say she was his "lawful" wife. To this union a daughter was born, and upon reaching maturity she was married to William Baillie of Hoprig—the progenitor of the Baillies of Lamington. If this daughter had been legitimate, she would have inherited the whole Elderslie estate, for all direct heirs had been cut off. There is no intimation that any claim of legitimacy was ever made, and this fact alone settles the whole question; for the estate reverted to the Riccarton family, and about the close of Robert the Third's reign to a younger branch of Wallace of Craigie. John Wallace of Elderslie died 1728, leaving an only child, Helen, born 1712, and in 1733 she married Archibald Campbell, a scion of the noble house of Argyle. Thus, after a period of fully five hundred years, the ownership of Elderslie passed into another name.

Among the earliest books which I devoured with avidity, as a boy, was Miss Jane Porter's "Scottish Chiefs." The motives, the character, and the deeds of the hero set my imagination all aglow. As the years rolled by, I began to look upon this as other romances, containing but little that was true. Upon my first visit to Scotland, therefore, it was a great surprise to me to find that the whole groundwork of the story was true, and that the learned and unlearned, old and young, rich and poor, high and low, still revered the memory of Sir William Wallace, after the lapse of six hundred years, as the greatest of all national heroes. On my first pilgrimage to the original home of the Elderslie family, probably built by Sir Malcolm in the thirteenth century, I was disappointed in not finding some more conspicuous remains of the castle or strong manor-house erected with a view to defence, as was the custom of its period. The situation is at the top of a slope from the stream below and is commanding, or was commanding, before we find a factory on the one hand and a railroad on the other. The original structure was still habitable, according to Crauford, in 1710; but that was torn down and its materials were used for the present irregular block, two stories high, with additions made to it, from time to time, as the needs of the occupants seemed to demand. The most pretentious part of it seems to be two or three hundred years old, and in the basement of this

part there are two small vaults,—one with a fireplace in it,—and it is still known as “Wallace’s Kitchen.” There I discovered the remarkable thickness of the walls, from which antiquarians have concluded that this was part of the foundations of the original castle or manor-house. In the garden there is a very old yew tree, which, tradition says, was planted by Margaret, the mother of Sir William. In studying the premises I found two sides, and part of a third, of what seemed to be a quadrilateral embankment overgrown with grass and other vegetation, that seemed to cover the ruins of a wall that was the outside defence of the castle. The lines were straight and seemed to be 500 or 600 feet in length, and the angles were right angles. An hour’s work would determine what these embankments conceal, and I will commend the point to the local antiquarians. This was all a very dull business to the average tourist or sight-seer, but it was so exceedingly interesting to me that after a period of sixteen years I made another pilgrimage to the same patriotic Mecca.

The family of Auchincruive, or Hackencrow, as it is generally pronounced, was founded by Richard Wallace 3d, the younger of the two sons of Richard 2d of Riccarton. The charter for this estate from Walter the Steward is dated about the year 1208. This Richard had two sons, Alan and Richard. This Sir Alan Wallace witnessed a charter, and Richard, his brother, probably, witnessed a charter in 1260. The next possessor of Auchincruive was Richard 1e Wallace, who became prominent as the husband of Eleanor, the Countess of Carrick and stepmother of King Robert the Bruce. This marriage took place after 1304, and they had two sons, William and Robert, who became very prominent in the reigns of Robert I. and David II. In both reigns they received grants from the crown of forfeited estates in different counties, and Sir Robert was made sheriff of Ayr—a great office in those days. His elder son, Sir Duncan Wallace, succeeded his father in this office 1359. He married a sister of the first Earl of Douglas and Mar, but left no children. His younger brother, Robert, was knighted, but he seems to have left no trace behind. Sir Duncan had two sisters, one of whom married Sir Alan Cathcart, and her son, Sir Alan, became the proprietor of Auchincruive and the barony of Sundrum.

In the reign of David 2d (1329-70), Malcolm Wallace was succeeded in the ownership of Riccarton by his son, Sir John Wallace, designated as "Lord of Riccarton," who was born in the first part of the fourteenth century. He married, as his second wife, Margaret, the only child of Sir Walter de Lindsay of Thurston, who was sheriff of Ayr, owned the barony of Craigie, and large estates in the eastern and other portions of the kingdom. In the ante-nuptial arrangements it was agreed that the arms of the two families should be united and that the designation should be "Craigie-Wallace." Of this union an only child—a son—was born and named Sir John Wallace. As between Riccarton and Craigie, the latter was more desirable, at least as a residence. The old Craigie castle was occupied by the Wallace-Craigie barons from 1371 till 1588, when they erected the new castle, Newton, on the old site, which is still standing. Thus the seat and centre of the family was removed. Sir John Wallace 2d, from his birth, was one of the richest men in all the realm, and the Crown still kept adding to his wealth. He married Lady Margaret Stewart, and of this union two sons were born—Hugh and William. Hugh was a special favorite of King Robert III. (1371-90). He left no children, and was succeeded in the vast estate by his younger brother, William, who married Elizabeth, daughter of James, seventh Earl of Douglass. Of this union were born three sons, John, Hugh, and Adam, and a daughter, Margaret, who became the second wife of Robert, Lord Lyle. Adam, the third son, became the founder of the family of Cairnhill. At the battle of Sark in 1449, between six thousand English and four thousand Scots, Sir John of Craigie displayed the hereditary valor of his house. Of the attacking party, Sir John led the left wing, and by the suddenness of his assault he struck terror among the English and the battle was won—slaying fifteen hundred of the invaders and capturing their three commanders. But Sir John did not long survive his victory; he was carried from the field on a litter, and three months afterward succumbed to his wounds. He left a widow and two sons—William and Thomas. His brother, Hugh, became the administrator of his estate.

It is not till about the close of the fifteenth century that we begin to find dates attaching to personal history. Up to this

point we have nothing but the names and locations of individuals signed as witnesses to grants of lands, etc., called charters. These charters were packed away in private charter chests and never made matters of public record. To this we may add the fact that there are no means of determining the precise dates of these charters or their witnessing. As a matter of course, the younger or less well-known members of families never were called upon to witness charters, and hence their personalities never were known and never can be known. In the four hundred years that rolled away between the birth of "Richard the Welshman" and the close of the fifteenth century, there can be no doubt there were hundreds and hundreds of Wallace men whose names, locations, and pursuits can never be found.

Having given all that is known of the early generations of the families of Riccarton, Auchincruive, Elderslie, and Craigie, we have considered the foundations from which more than forty other families have sprung. To continue the enumeration of families, therefore, would become burdensome and carry us beyond the purpose of this Introduction. The inheritance of estates under the laws of primogeniture may have been well suited to the condition of society in the thirteenth century, but it was not an unmixed evil, for it compelled the younger sons of the titled and wealthy to strike out for themselves, and in making their own way in the world, they developed whatever was in them. These younger sons of the Wallaces distributed themselves wherever their fancy led—in all employments, pursuits, and professions. From these younger sons came the great merchants, great sailors, great scholars, great teachers, great warriors, and great divines. Many of them fell in battle for their country, and not a few died at the stake for their religious convictions.

Some years ago a law was enacted requiring all the old parish registers in Scotland to be collected and kept in an office provided for their preservation and safety. From these old registers I had great expectations of being able to find important dates of births and marriages of early years, and, what was still more to be desired, to find clews that would enable me to bridge over that little channel between Ayr and Antrim, and to show the family connections between those who remained at

home and the members of their families who went over to Ireland. I employed an assistant, and we spent several days over those old records, copying out every entry with the name of Wallace, and the summing-up showed no date of birth earlier than 1664; and just one man, Archibald Wallace, who had removed to Tanderagee, Ireland, 1672.

In passing to the Antrim side of the channel, I found that parish records among the Presbyterian churches were a very rare possession, and none older than about 1775. There had been plenty of Presbyterian churches there more than a hundred years before that, but if there had been any records kept, they had been lost or destroyed in the troublous times of conflict between the Romanists and the Protestants. The old hearth money rolls, the lists of electors, and the old wills that are preserved in Dublin, to say nothing of the old gravestones that may be studied in many burying-grounds, furnish much undigested information; but I have never met a Scotch-Irishman, either in Ireland or this country, who could tell me just when his ancestors crossed over from Scotland, or from what part of Scotland they came. The whole race seems deficient in the genealogical instinct and in the natural desire to know whence they came. In all the New England States of this country, the records kept by the town clerk of each town are older and altogether more complete for genealogical purposes than anything in either Scotland or Ireland. St. Patrick's Channel, separating Ayr from Antrim, only requires a sail of an hour or two to pass from one side to the other, but in a genealogical sense it serves as an impassable gulf between the parents on the one side and their descendants on the other. There may have been a few instances in which this link, crossing the water, may be honestly supplied, but in a general way the Wallaces must be content with perfecting what can be found on the Irish side of the channel.

When James VI. of Scotland, and I. of England, was well seated on his throne, he was not unmindful of his Scotch friends. In 1606 he made a large grant of land in County Down to Hugh Montgomery, and in 1610 a large grant in Antrim to James Hamilton. To these new "principalities," as we might call them, a great tide of Scotch settlers poured in, and they carried their religious views with them. This was

the first serious move of the Scots to enter upon and possess the north of Ireland. They increased rapidly, and they soon became the controlling element in many portions of the province. In 1640 Lord Deputy Strafford urged his master, Charles I., to banish all the Scots from Ulster, but in 1642 Presbytery was again established. This relief was the result of the arrival of Gen. Monro's army, in which Col. James Wallace was one of the most prominent officers. He was in command of the troops at Carrickfergus for about eight years, and during that period was an Elder in the church at Templepatrick. In 1666 he commanded the army of Covenanters at the battle of Pentland Hills, where his half-armed soldiers, not exceeding 900 in number, were cut to pieces, and he escaped to Holland, where he spent the remainder of his days in Christian work. The earliest family of Wallaces that I have found in Ireland was located at Dunluce. In the will of William Boyd, a large landowner in northern Antrim, dated 1624, he makes a bequest to William Wallace, who was also a witness, and to his son, John, then of man's age. In 1666 John the elder and John the younger are mentioned, and in 1668 Robert Wallace is named. In 1684 Robert of Bushmills made his will, and he probably belonged to the same family.

The establishment of the Commonwealth under Cromwell no doubt created a feeling of greater security among the Protestants of Ulster, and this naturally increased the flow of emigrants across the channel. As a great Protestant ruler, Cromwell set his heart on the idea of securing uniformity in church government as well as uniformity in worship. To the accomplishment of this purpose he found the strongest opposition among the Scots of Ulster, who stubbornly and persistently stood by the divine authority of Presbytery, and he concluded that the way to conquer was to "divide the enemy." On May 23, 1653, he issued an order, naming 260 of the most popular Scots of Ulster to be transferred with their families and effects to Munster. Among these 260 names we find Lieut. Samuel Wallace of Six Mile Water, County Antrim, and Lieut. Hugh Wallace of Claneboy, in County Down. The late Dr. Simpson, Librarian of Queens College, Belfast, told me it was known that the ships arrived at Carrickfergus to carry away these "leading Scots," with their families and effects, from Ulster to

Munster, but for some reason, never disclosed, there was no attempt made to execute the order. If this scheme had been carried out under conditions that were equitable and just, no one can doubt that the south of Ireland to-day would be as enlightened and prosperous as the north.

From the numerical strength of the Scots in Ulster, in the early years of the seventeenth century, as shown by the fact that they then had their churches, their ministers, their merchants, their mechanics, and, indeed, all that was necessary to the complete organization of civilized communities, it seems to be a reasonable and safe conclusion that the great body of the Scots came over and builded homes in Ulster about that time. That this period of migration was more remote than we have generally supposed, becomes still more apparent by the fact that very few, if any, of the families in Ulster descended from the Scots, in this generation, have either knowledge or tradition as to when their forebears came over. If they had left Scotland one hundred or one hundred and fifty years ago, traditions of the event would be met with in almost every family, but when we add another century, at least, the family traditions have died of old age and non-use. There is nothing now to supply knowledge of an event so remote, unless the fact was committed to paper at or about the time of the removal.

A sojourn in Ireland of more than two hundred and fifty years; on our way from Scotland to America, seems to have been a long stop; but that is the real experience of nearly or quite all the Scotch-Irish families in this country. This long sojourn in Ireland wrought no corruption of the Scottish blood by intermarriages with the native Irish; for the religious antagonism between the two peoples kept them entirely separate in all their social relations, and these antagonisms are quietly nurtured till this day. The display of the emblems of the siege of Derry and the battle of the Boyne, even in our own day, always indicates the probability of bloody noses and broken heads. Instead of a retrograde development, as might have been expected, this sojourn, from some cause that would be difficult to explain, seemed to strengthen the self-reliance of the people mentally, morally, and physically. They were thus prepared for the duties which awaited them in this new country, where, from a very early period in our history, they

have always signalized their devotion to freedom, religion, and education. It is not boasting, but a conceded truth, that of all the races that have contributed to the building-up of this great nation, the Scotch-Irish blood stands pre-eminent as the representative of the highest type of citizenship and success.

The rising generation of Wallaces in Scotland, Ireland, and America can look back over an unbroken line of inheritance, historically established, extending to the middle ages, and covering a period of about eight hundred years. To represent this line of descent in strictly genealogical form would require the naming and placing of about twenty-six successive ancestors in the right male line before we reached "Sir Richard, the Welshman." To do this is, at the present time, impossible; but as the spirit of research and the desire to know what we do not now know is developed from this unpretentious beginning, we have good reason to expect that in some future generation much new and important light will be thrown upon the successive generations of the tribe.

It is a fact greatly to be regretted that pastors of churches in Scotland, Ireland, and America have been so woefully negligent in not keeping careful records of baptisms, births, and marriages in their respective parishes. This complaint cannot be urged against pastors alone, for the whole Scotch-Irish race has been sadly indifferent to the importance of keeping family records. I have met with families of average intelligence where the parents lived to old age and died without leaving behind any record of the births and deaths of their own children. When we get beyond these indifferences and begin to study the laws which govern all animal life, morally, mentally, and physically, in the transmission of inherited qualities, there will be fewer misfit marriages, and as we grow wiser we will grow better.

The different branches of the Wallace families are very widely distributed in this country and there are *many* of them. Some very careful observers have thought they could discover a family resemblance among them, but aside from the prevailing light complexion and blue eyes it is probable the supposed resemblance was suggested by the name. In their religious convictions there seems to be a very marked resemblance, for they generally adhere to the doctrines of their forefathers and,

with great tenacity, to the Presbyterian Church or to some of its minor divisions, which are the same in doctrine and government. The number of its representatives in the pulpit has always been large, and they have been a mighty element in the enlightenment and uplifting of the masses at home and abroad.

There were other families of Wallaces who came to this country from Ireland, long before the family of Robert of Ballymena, that I would have been glad to embody in this collection, but that would have widened the field of search to such an extent that I could have no reasonable hope of living to complete it. Hence it seemed the part of wisdom to restrict it to the descendants of Robert, trusting and believing it may serve as an object-lesson to younger hands to take up other families and develop their lines to the present generation, intelligently and honestly.