

in the village of Gordon, given to them by Andrew Fraser about 1280.

After the coronation of Robert Bruce and the accession of Edward II to the English throne, certain Scottish noblemen continued 'deeply engaged in the English interest,' among whom Abercrombie mentions with sorrow 'the formerly brave and honest Sir Adam Gordon.' And till 1314 Gordon was well disposed toward the English king, from whom he received various marks of favour. In 1308, when William Lambert, archbishop of St. Andrews, who had been imprisoned by Edward I, was liberated by his successor, Gordon with others became surety for his compliance with the conditions of his release (*Cal. of Documents relating to Scotland*, iii. 44). In 1310 he was appointed justiciar of Scotland (*ib.* iii. 222). In January 1312 Edward II was at York, on his way to invade Scotland, but resolved to treat for peace, and for that purpose appointed David, earl of Atholl, Gordon, and others his plenipotentiaries, but without any good result. In October 1313 Gordon, along with Patrick, earl of March, was deputed by such of the Scots as still remained faithful to the English interest to lay before Edward their miserable condition (*ib.* iii. 337). The king received them graciously, and on 28 Nov. formally replied, announcing his intention to lead an army to their relief next midsummer (*Fœdera*, ii. 247). In a letter dated 1 April the same year Edward warmly commended to the pope John and Thomas, sons of 'a nobleman and our faithful Adam Gordon,' who seem to have been about to visit Italy. After the battle of Bannockburn in 1314, Gordon no longer hesitated to acknowledge Bruce as king. He was cordially welcomed, and was speedily numbered with the king's most trusted friends. From Thomas Randolph, earl of Moray, he obtained the barony of Stichel in Roxburghshire, which was confirmed to him and his son William by Robert I on 28 Jan. 1315. In 1320 Gordon, along with Sir Edward Mabinson, was sent on a special mission to the pope at Avignon. They were bearers of the memorable letter asserting the independence of the kingdom, dated at Aberbrothock on 6 April 1320, and were charged with the twofold duty of effecting a reconciliation between King Robert and the pope and paving the way for a peace with England. As a reward for faithful service, including help rendered in subduing the rebellious house of Comyn in the north-eastern counties, Bruce granted to him and his heirs the lordship of Strathbogie in Aberdeenshire, which had belonged to David, earl of Atholl. Gordon bestowed on that lordship the name

of Huntly, from a village on his Berwickshire estate. His fidelity to King Robert was continued to his son and successor, David II; and he was killed on 12 July 1333, fighting in the van of the Scottish army at the battle of Halidon Hill. By Abercrombie he is numbered among the most trusted friends of Bruce, 'all great personages and the glorious ancestors of many in all respects as great as themselves.' From Gordon descended nearly all the eminent men of that name in Scotland.

[Douglas's Peerage, pp. 295-6, 642; Crawford's Peerage of Scotland; Chalmers's Caledonia, ii. 387, 644; Liber de Kelso, pp. 85-97; Rymer's Fœdera, pp. 81, 82, 94, 222, 481, 848; Abercrombie's Martial Achievements of the Scottish Nation, i. 583, 591-3; History of the Antient, Noble, and Illustrious House of Gordon, i. 7-9; Concise History of the Antient and Illustrious House of Gordon, pp. 19-23; Gordon of Gordonstone's Genealogy of the Earls of Sutherland, pp. 34, 38, 45.] J. T.

GORDON, SIR ADAM DE (d. 1402), warrior, was son and heir of Sir John de Gordon, a knight distinguished in border warfare. In the 'raid of Roxburgh' (1377), when the Earl of March massacred all the English who had come to the annual fair, Gordon was a principal assistant, in revenge for which a band of English raiders broke in upon his lands and carried off his cattle. Gordon invaded the English side of the border and was bringing home a large booty with many prisoners when he was intercepted by Sir John Lilburn and his brother, with whom a battle was fought near Carham, Northumberland. Gordon was wounded, but victory was gained and the two brothers made prisoners. He was also in the division of the Scottish army which, under the young Earl of Douglas, invaded Northumberland in 1388, ending with the battle of Otterburn on 19 Aug., where Douglas with many other Scottish noblemen was killed. On 18 June the same year Robert II granted him a charter confirming to him and to his heirs the lands of Strathbogie given to Sir Adam de Gordon (d. 1333) [q. v.] by King Robert Bruce. Gordon was included in the grand army with which, in 1402, the Earl of Douglas invaded England. Though watched by the Earl of Northumberland and his son Hotspur, the Scots penetrated without hindrance to the gates of Newcastle. They had reached Wooler on their homeward journey when the approach of an English army forced them to take up a position upon Homildon Hill. They became impatient under the discharge of the English arrows. Sir John de Swynnton, with whom Gordon had been at feud, called impatiently for a charge. Gordon fell on his knees, begged Swynnton's forgiveness, and was knighted on

Dictionary of National Biography, Volumes 1-20, 22 for Adam de Gordon

Record Index

Name: Sir Adam de Gordon
Death Date: 1402
Father's Name: John de Gordon

Source Information

Record Url: <http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&db=DictNatBiogV1&h=25328>

Source Information: Ancestry.com. *Dictionary of National Biography, Volumes 1-20, 22* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. This collection was indexed by Ancestry World Archives Project contributors.
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the spot by his reconciled enemy. They charged the English at the head of a hundred horsemen, and inflicted much slaughter, but were overpowered and slain. Gordon left two daughters, one of whom died early; the other, Elizabeth de Gordon, married Alexander, son of William Seton of Seton, Edinburgh. On 28 July 1408 the Duke of Albany, regent of the kingdom, granted a charter confirming to Alexander Seton and Elizabeth Gordon, heiress of Gordon, the barony of Gordon and Huntly, Berwickshire, with other lands which had formerly belonged to Gordon there and in Aberdeenshire. From this couple descended the earls of Huntly, the dukes of Gordon, the dukes of Sutherland, and other noble families.

[Douglas's Peerage of Scotland, pp. 295-6; Gordon's History of the Family of Gordon; Gordon of Gordonstone's Genealogy of the Earls of Sutherland; Reg. Mag. Sig., printed 1814, p. 235; Wyntoun's Cronykil, book ix. c. ii, p. xxvi; Fordun's Scotichronicon, ed. Goodall, ii. 384, 434; Tytler's History of Scotland, iii. 15, 131.]

GORDON, LORD ADAM (1726?-1801), general, colonel of the 1st royal regiment of foot, governor of Edinburgh Castle, fourth son of Alexander, second duke of Gordon [q.v.], by his wife Lady Henrietta Mordaunt, daughter of the famous Earl of Peterborough, was born about 1726, and entered the army as ensign in the 18th royal Irish foot, in Scotland, soon after Culloden. In 1753 he became lieutenant and captain 3rd foot guards, and was returned to parliament as member for Aberdeenshire the next year. He sat for that constituency till 1768, and afterwards represented Kincardineshire from 1774 to 1788, when he vacated his seat. In 1758 he served with his company of the guards in the expedition to the French coast under General Bligh. In 1762 he became colonel 66th foot, and took that regiment out to Jamaica. Returning home in 1766 he was entrusted by the Florida (P) colonists with a memorial of grievances to lay before the secretary of state. He was made colonel of the Cameronians in 1775, governor of Tynemouth in 1778, and colonel first royal regiment of foot in 1782. The same year he was appointed commander of the forces in Scotland (North Britain), when he took up his residence at Holyrood Palace, which he repaired extensively. In 1796 he became a full general and governor of Edinburgh Castle. In 1798 he vacated the command of the forces in Scotland, in which he was succeeded by Sir Ralph Abercrombie, and died at his seat, The Barn, Kincardineshire, on 13 Aug. 1801.

Gordon married Jane, daughter of John Drummond of Megginch, Perthshire, and widow of James Murray, second duke of

Athole, by whom he left no issue. She is said to have been the heroine of Dr. Austen's song 'For lack o' gold she left me, O.'

[Anderson's Scottish Nation, ii. 319; Foster's Members of Parliament, Scotland, 150; Cannon's Hist. Record 1st Royal Regiment of Foot.]

H. M. C.

GORDON, ADAM LINDSAY (1833-1870), Australian poet, son of Captain Adam Gordon, was born in 1833 at Fayal in the Azores. He was educated at Cheltenham College, where his father was for some time professor of Hindustani, and after passing on to another school was for a short time at Woolwich, and afterwards kept some terms at Merton College, Oxford. After a somewhat stormy youth he left England on 7 Aug. 1853 for South Australia, where he joined the mounted police as a trooper. Leaving the police he became a horsebreaker, and in 1862 married a Miss Park. In 1864 he received some 7,000*l.* on his father's death, and in 1865 was elected to the colonial House of Assembly as a member for the district of Victoria. He was an occasional speaker in the house, but did not retain his seat long. In 1867 he migrated to Victoria and opened a livery stable at Ballarat. During this period of his life he was noted as an adventurous steeple-chaser. In 1869 he went to Melbourne, and, with the desire of getting free from the associations of the turf, determined to settle at New Brighton. His first volume of poems, published in 1867, had achieved a considerable reputation, and there was every prospect that his succeeding years would be spent happily, when an unfortunate attempt to secure the reversion of the estate of Esselmont, in Scotland, ended in failure, and induced a return of his former morbid restlessness. In 1870 his second volume of poems was published, but, despite their success, on 24 June of the same year he committed suicide.

His chief works were the following: 1. 'Sea Spray and Smoke Drift,' 1867. 2. 'Bush Ballads and Galloping Rhymes,' 1870. 3. 'Ash-taroth: a Dramatic Lyric.' A collected edition of his poems was published in 1880 under the editorship of Marcus Clarke. Some additional poems, prose sketches, and his political speeches are printed in a memoir by Mr. J. H. Ross, entitled 'Laureate of the Centaurs.' As a poet he was vigorous and musical, but exhibited little true poetic originality.

[The Laureate of the Centaurs, a Memoir of Adam Lindsay Gordon, by J. Howlett Ross, 1888; Clarke's preface to his poems.] E. C. K. G.

GORDON, ALEXANDER, third **EARL OF HUNTLY** (d. 1524), was the eldest son of George, second earl [q.v.], by the Priu-