

## Seton

1198

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Miss Setchel died at Sudbury, near Harrow, Middlesex, on 8 Jan. 1894, aged 80.

[Miss Clayton's English Female Artists, 1876, ii. 124-9; Times, 17 Jan. 1894; Athenæum, 1894, i. 90; Exhibition Catalogues of the Royal Academy, Society of British Artists, and New Society of Painters in Watercolours, 1831-1867.]

R. E. G.

SETON, SIR ALEXANDER (*d.* 1311-1340), keeper of Berwick, was probably a brother of Sir Christopher Seton [q. v.]. His name is found among those of the Scottish nobles who, in 1320, signed the letter to the pope asserting the independence of Scotland. From Robert I he received the manor of Tranent and other lands, as well as the fortalice and lands of Fawside. In February 1311-12 he was named prior or inquisitor of forfeited lands in Lothian (*Cal. Documents relating to Scotland*, 1307-57, No. 245). He had a safe-conduct in September 1322 to go and return from England (*ib.* No. 767), and on 25 July 1324 he received a safe-conduct to go to Scotland and come again (*ib.* No. 846). In 1327 he was appointed keeper of Berwick (*Exchequer Rolls of Scotland*, i. 63), and while it was besieged by the English in 1333 held command of the town, the Earl of March being entrusted with the defence of the castle. After a long blockade, during which provisions ran short, they agreed to capitulate within a certain time unless succour was obtained, giving as hostage, among others, Thomas Seton, son of Sir Alexander. Just before the period expired Sir William Keith succeeded in throwing himself into the town with a body of Scots soldiers. Keith, who was now chosen governor, refused to surrender, whereupon Edward, on the ground that the Scots had broken the stipulations of the treaty, hanged Thomas Seton before the gate of the town in the sight of the garrison. Alarmed for the safety of the other hostages, the Scots renewed negotiations, and signed an agreement to deliver up the town, unless they were relieved before 19 July by two hundred men-at-arms or the English were defeated in pitched battle. It was accordingly surrendered after the defeat of the Scots at Halidon Hill on 19 July 1333.

Seton was present in Edward Baliol's parliament on 10 Feb. following, and witnessed the cession of Berwick to the English. He had a safe-conduct to go into England, 15 Oct. 1337, and he was one of the hostages for John, earl of Moray, on his liberation in August 1340. By his wife Christian, daughter of Cheyne of Straloch, he had three sons and a daughter: Alexander, killed in opposing the landing of Edward Baliol, 6 Aug. 1332; Thomas, put to death by Ed-

ward III before the walls of Berwick; William, drowned during an attack on the English fleet at Berwick in July 1333; and Margaret, who being predeceased by her three brothers, became heiress of Seton. She married Alan de Wyntoun, whose son, Sir William Seton of Seton, was created a lord of parliament.

[Calendar of Documents relating to Scotland; Exchequer Rolls of Scotland; Rymer's *Fœdera*; Douglas's *Scottish Peerage* (Wood), ii. 640-1.]

T. F. H.

SETON, SIR ALEXANDER, first EARL OF HUNTLY (*d.* 1470), was the elder son of Alexander Seton (second son of Sir William Seton of Seton), by Elizabeth Gordon, only daughter and heiress of Sir Adam Gordon, lord of Gordon, killed at Homildon, 14 Sept. 1402. On 20 July 1408 Seton and his wife received from Robert, duke of Albany, a charter, with remainder to their heirs, of the lands and baronies of Gordon, and other lands belonging to the late Lord of Gordon; and Seton was thereafter styled Lord of Gordon and Huntly. The son was one of the Scots nobles who attended Princess Margaret of Scotland to France in 1436 on her marriage to the dauphin Louis, son of Charles VIII; and in the following year he was sent to England to treat of a peace. In January 1445-6 he happened, on his way home from attending the court, to be the guest of the Ogilvys at Castle Ogilvy, when they were preparing for combat against the Crawford, and shared in their defeat at Inverquaharity. Naturally, therefore, he supported the king against the league of Douglas with the Earls of Crawford and Ross, and, after the assassination of Douglas by the king in Stirling Castle in 1452, he was appointed (having in 1449 been created Earl of Huntly) lieutenant-general of the kingdom, and entrusted with the special task of subduing Crawford. On 15 March he encountered him near Brechin and totally defeated him, but not without severe loss, his two brothers, Sir William and Sir Henry Seton, being among the slain. During his absence his lands were wasted by the Earl of Moray, brother of the late Douglas; but on his return from his victory at Brechin he devastated the lands of Moray, and plundered and burnt the city of Elgin. Ultimately he succeeded in completely restoring order, and, having come to terms with Crawford, contrived during the king's progress in the north in 1453 that Crawford and his followers should appear before the king in beggarly apparel, when he so successfully interceded for them that they received a free pardon,

## Dictionary of National Biography, Volumes 1-20, 22 for Alexander Seton

Record Index

**Name:** Sir Alexander Seton Earl of Huntly  
**Death Date:** 14 Jul 1470  
**Father's Name:** Alexander Seton  
**Mother's Name:** Elizabeth Gordon

Source Information

**Record Url:** <http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&db=DictNatBiogV1&h=49045>

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and Crawford was restored to his estates and titles.

Huntly was one of the commanders at the siege of Roxburgh Castle in 1460, when the king was killed by the bursting of one of the siege guns. He died at Elgin on 14 July 1470. By his first wife, Jean, daughter and heiress of Robert de Keith, grandson and heir of Sir William de Keith, great marischal of Scotland, he had no issue. By his second wife, Egidia, daughter and heiress of Sir John Hay of Tulliebody, Clackmannanshire, he had a son Sir Alexander Seton, ancestor of the Setons of Touch, Stirlingshire. By his third wife, Elizabeth, daughter of William, lord Crichton, lord high-chancellor of Scotland, he had three sons and three daughters, who took the name of Gordon, the succession to the earldom of Huntly being settled on the issue of this marriage, by charter 29 Jan. 1449-50. The sons were George Gordon, second earl of Huntly [q. v.]; Sir Alexander of Midmar, ancestor of the Gordons of Abergeldie; and Adam, dean of Caithness and rector of Pettie.

[Lindsay of Pitcottie's *Chronicle*; Bishop Lesley's *History of Scotland*; Exchequer Rolls of Scotland; Tytler's *History of Scotland*; William Gordon's *House of Gordon*; Douglas's *Scottish Peerage* (Wood), i. 643-4.] T. F. H.

SETON, ALEXANDER (d. 1542), Scottish friar and reformer, was educated at the university of St. Andrews, and is probably to be identified with a student of that name who was a determinant in 1516. According to Calderwood (*History*, i. 98), he was 'brother to Ninian Seton, laird of Touch,' and if so he was the youngest son of Sir Alexander Seton of Touch and Tullybody, by Lady Elizabeth Erskine, daughter of Thomas, second earl of Mar. It was probably about 1534 or 1535 that he began, according to Knox, to 'tax the corrupt doctrine of the papacy' (*Works*, i. 45), maintaining that the 'law of God had of many years not been truly taught' (*ib.*). His statements, reflecting especially on the conduct of the bishops, gave such offence that they accused him to James V, whose confessor he was, whereupon, dreading the king's anger, he suddenly left for England. From Berwick he sent the king a letter, in which he offered to return to Scotland and debate the matters in dispute in his presence before any bishop, abbot, friar, or secular he might name (printed in Knox, i. 48-52). According to Knox, he 'taught the evangel' in England for some years (*ib.* p. 54), but in 1541 he made a recantation at St. Paul's Cross in London, which was

published with the title, 'The Declaracion made at Paules Crosse in the Cytie of London, the fourth Sunday of Advent, by Alexander Seyton, and Mayster William Tolwyn, persons of St. Anthonyes in the sayd Cytie of London, the year of our Lord God MDXLI, newly corrected and amended. Imprinted at London in Saynt Sepulchres parysshe in the Olde Bayly by Richard Lant. Ad imprimendum solum.' He was for some time chaplain to Charles Brandon, duke of Suffolk, in whose house he died in 1542.

[Histories of Knox and Calderwood; Foxe's *Book of Martyrs*; Laing's *Notes to Knox's History*.] T. F. H.

SETON, SIR ALEXANDER, first EARL OF DUNFERMLINE (1555?-1622), born about 1555, was fourth son of George, fifth lord Seton [q. v.], by Isabel, daughter of Sir William Hamilton of Sanguhar. Sir John Seton (d. 1594) [q. v.] was his brother. Being intended for the church, he went to Rome, where he studied at the College of Jesuits. It was probably before this that (on 17 Sept. 1565) he received from Queen Mary a grant of the priory of Pluscardine, of which his father had been economus and commissioner since 17 April 1561. In his sixteenth year he delivered with great applause an oration, 'De Ascensione Domini,' in the pope's chapel of the Vatican before Gregory XIII and the cardinals. This was probably in December 1571; for mention is made of his having about this time been presented to the pope, who commanded him to be treated as his own son (*Cal. State Papers*, For. 1569-71, No. 2186). According to Lord Kingston (*Continuation of the History of the House of Seton*), he was 'a great humanist in prose and verse, Greek and Latin, and well versed in the mathematics and great skill in architecture.' He is supposed to have taken holy orders, and it is also customary to state that the occurrence of the Reformation caused him either to give up thoughts of entering the church or to abandon the holy vocation; but the definite notice of his presentation to the pope in 1571 shows that he had not even entered on his studies when the Reformation took place. But whatever his original intentions, and whatever the cause of his abandoning them, if he did abandon them, he ultimately began the study of law, and, after attending various lectures in France, returned to Scotland, where he at length passed advocate. At some unknown period, but probably on the fall of Mary Stuart, he was deprived of the priory of Pluscardine which was held successively by Alexander Dunbar and James Douglas, natural sons of