

This last Alwin is apparently the only one of the name on record whose importance at this time would lead to the supposition that he was the person on whom was conferred the honor of an earldom towards the close of a life devoted to his sovereign.

His first appearance as a witness to a charter was in the year 1131-1132.¹ This would place the probable date of his birth about the beginning of the twelfth century, which fits in exactly with the probable date of the birth of Alwin, first Earl of Lennox, thus strengthening the idea that they were one and the same individual. There does not appear to be any evidence which could be advanced against this supposition.

Robertson makes the rather feeble statement that MacArchil's family seems to have been carried on by "Gilleanrias, son of Alwyn,"² which is absolutely without foundation, as the name "Gillandres filio Alwini" appears only twice, and then as witness to charters by King Malcolm (1153-65) to the Church.³

Robertson also indulges in the conviction that Alwin, second Earl of Lennox, was a minor in 1174, and therefore unlikely to be son of Alwin MacArkil, who flourished so much earlier. This we have shown to be wrong.

The next step is to ascertain the identity of Arkil, the father of Alwin MacArkil.

We have already seen that the ancestors of the Earls of Lennox probably possessed the lordship over the lands comprised in that Earldom, or were stewards of the district. If, then, we can find an Arkil living about the beginning of the 12th century who, himself or his ancestors, held authority in the Lennox, he would, in all probability, be the father of the first Earl of Lennox. Such a man existed in the person of Ulkil, son of Maldred, son of Maldred or Malcolm, King of the Cumbrians, whose kingdoms included Strathclyde and the Lennox.⁴

There is no doubt that "Ulkill and "Arkil" were but variations of the same name due to the inexact orthography of the age. In fact, this is shown in the Boldon

¹ Book of Deer, p. liv.

² Robertson's "Scotland Under Her Early Kings," vol. ii, p. 496.

³ Reg. Prioratus Sancti Andree, p. 197; Liber de Scon., p. 8.

⁴ Robertson's "Scotland Under Her Early Kings," vol. ii, p. 495, footnote.