

Archibald, the third son, engaged in merchandise at Stirling and Dunfermline, residing in the former burgh. In 1593 he was chosen one of the Magistrates of Stirling, and six years later was elected Dean of Guild. In 1601 he was returned to Parliament, and in 1606 he represented Stirling in the Convention of Burghs.¹ He died on the 13th September 1621, leaving issue.²

Andrew, fourth son of Alexander Alexander of Menstry, became a solicitor in Stirling, and obtained the lands of Southfield. He is named as "brother of Archibald Alexander" in 1606, as "brother to the gudeman of Menstrie" in 1616,³ and in 1629 as uncle to Sir William Alexander.⁴

Alexander, the eldest son of Andrew Alexander, succeeded to the lands of Menstry, and died on the 10th February 1580. By his wife, Marion, daughter of Graham, of the family of Gartmore, scions of the Earl of Menteith, he had, with two daughters, a son, William, afterwards Earl of Stirling.⁵

The date of Lord Stirling's birth is uncertain. The opinion commonly received, that he was born in 1580, is untenable; it rests solely on the circumstance that the words "ætatis suæ 57" are inscribed on his engraved portrait by William Marshall, included in his "Recreations with the Muses," published in 1637. But Lord Stirling's portrait was not specially engraved for this work, a few copies only containing it. With the engraver he was certainly acquainted in 1631, when the artist executed a decoration for his edition of the Psalms. Writing in 1638, Principal Robert Baillie, a relative, describes him as "old."⁶ The earliest authentic information

¹ Burgh Records of Stirling.

² Edin. Com. Reg.; Stirling Parish Register.

³ Protocol Book of John Muschet. Commissariat Court Book of Stirling, vol. i.

⁴ Commissariat of Dunblane: Decrees, vol. i.

⁵ In Stacie's "Funeral Escutcheons," a record preserved in the Lyon office, the Earl of Stirling's mother is described as "a daughter to Duncan Cample, the Laird of Glenorchy." Stacie, who was an Englishman, was, after being some years employed as a herald painter, appointed a herald in 1663, when he seems to have commenced his record. In assigning to the Earl of Stirling a maternal descent from the house of Glenorchy, he presents no authority, while the opposing evidence is not inconsiderable. In the testament of Alexander Alexander, the Earl's father (Edin. Com. Reg., vol. ix.), are these words—"Item, there was awand to the said unq^l Alex. Alschilder of Menstrie be William Graham of Gartavertane, his brothir in the law, the soun of 400 merkis money, restand of the soun of eight hundred merkis of tocher, contractit to the said unq^l Alex with Marion Graham, his spouse, in the Contract of Marriage; for the whilk sounne also the said William Graham is becom actit in the Commissary Books of Striveling, as the Act made thircuppon beirs." Now William Graham of Gartavertane succeeded his uncle Robert Graham in the estate of Gartmore, in Menteith, in 1577; he died about the year 1589, leaving a son, Robert, afterwards of Gartmore, and whose daughter, Agnes, succeeding to the estate in 1634, became the wife of John Alexander, fourth son of the Earl of Stirling. On the death of Agnes Graham in 1636, without issue, her husband and his father, the Earl, invested themselves in her lands, which afterwards passed to the Earl's creditors, and at their instance were, in 1644, sold to the Grahams for 13,300 merks. Had Alexander Alexander of Menstry been twice married, and his children been of a wife other than Marion Graham, it is nearly certain that some allusion to the fact would have occurred in his lengthened testament. Happily there exists a contemporary record of the Campbells of Glenorchy, embraced in the "Black Book of Taymouth," printed by Mr. Cosmo Innes in 1855, and in this there is no allusion to a matrimonial union between the families of Glenorchy and Menstry. More disposed to secure a quarter for the shield of the third Earl of Stirling, than any strict genealogical or historical accuracy, Stacie, the herald, had probably assumed that Sir Duncan Campbell of Glenorchy, who in 1594 is recorded as possessing the lands of Menstry, was a kinsman of the Alexanders. (Memorials of the Earl of Stirling, Edin. 1877, 2 vols. 8vo, i. 6; "Red Book of Menteith," by William Fraser, 1881, 2 vols. 4to, vol. i., 314-315).

⁶ Baillie's Letters, vol. i., pp. 76-77.