

Galloway families, says, "The Sproats are originally from England." This mode of spelling the name never appears in the older records, but came in about the end of the seventeenth century from following a local way of pronouncing it. The Borgue tradition was that they were descended from a Sir Thomas Sprot, an outlaw from Yorkshire, and no doubt they were among the numerous Saxons who took refuge in the south of Scotland after the Norman Conquest. There was a Richard Sprot of Bryset in Roxburgh in 1307. The name has never been wanting in that county since. George Sprott of the Gowrie conspiracy was son of Richard Sprott of Jedburgh. There was an Adam Sprot a landowner in North Tyndale before 1279. The name appears still earlier in Northumberland, and frequently among Saxon landowners in the Domesday Book for Yorkshire. "Sprot occurs in Domesday as a Saxon patronymic at Harewood. When Conisboro was the Kingsboro, Sprotboro [near Doncaster] must have been the abode of some Saxon to whom that name belonged" (Allan's *History of Yorkshire*, also Hunter's *Doncaster*). Part of it belonged to Wulfric Sprott, Count of Mercia, who founded Burton Abbey in 1004. He is sometimes called Spott, especially in later histories. In the MSS. "pr" was contracted, the "r" being represented by a loop. Hence, I believe, the error of some of the copyists when printing began. From the valley of the Urr, or Orr, the Srots removed to Borgue, where they owned Brighthouse at an early period, to Girthon, and Anwoth—the "Fair Anwoth by the Solway" of Rutherford's Hymn, where my great-grandfather was born in 1724. He appears first in the Stoneykirk Register thus: "John Sprot and Jean M'Murray married 24th November 1748." In later entries he appears as John Sprott, which spelling has been retained by his descendants. My father wrote of him: "He was twenty-four years a widower and many years blind. He was a man of strong mind and high passions, but of strong religious feelings, and paid much attention to Christian duties." And of his wife: "I saw this venerable matron on her death-bed. She died of a few days' illness. Praying people gathered round her, and cheered her pathway to the tomb with the consolations of religion. I have often heard my father say that his mother was a woman of singular piety." She died in 1784, and her husband on the 14th April 1808, aged 84. They had three sons—James, born 30th August 1749, baptized 3rd September; John, born 5th May 1751, baptized 12th May; Robert, born 22nd July 1755, baptized 25th July. It was then the custom to take children to church for baptism the first Sunday after their birth. My father writes: "I saw my uncles John and Robert on their death-beds. Their conduct was highly becoming, and their last hours were cheered with the consolations of Christianity." John took the farm of Barbeth in Leswalt, still occupied by his descendants. My dear friend, the Rev. William Sprott of Glasgow, who was killed in a railway accident in 1875, was his grandson. He was an able and eloquent preacher, and was much loved and respected. My grandfather James married Margaret Hannay on 19th April 1778. He died 4th October 1823, aged 74. Of him my father writes: "He was a great admirer of Isaac Ambrose's *Looking unto Jesus*. Many a long Sabbath day with prayers and tears he pored over the writings of that pious Puritan divine. This alone appears to me a strong proof of our father's piety." Elsewhere mention is made of his admiration of Walker's *Sermons*, and of Boston's *Fourfold State*. On the morning of a Communion Sunday, at family worship my father always gave out for singing the 118th Psalm at the 24th verse, and he told us that this was his father's custom. Sprot armorial bearings—Early English, "Az., two spears in saltire between 4 body hearts or, in chief an Imperial Crown gules. Crest, a pelican's head erased vulnerating." Scottish—Gules, 3 salmon naurent with rings in their mouths. Crest, a gannet on a rock with a sprat in its mouth, or a heron with a fish in its mouth. Motto, *Parce qu'il me plait*. General Sprot of Riddell bears, Parted per fess gu. and az., 3 salmon naurent in fess, each with a ring in its mouth or, in base a boar's head, erased of the last. Crest, a heron without the fish.

HANNAY or A'HANNAY.—This is an ancient Galloway family. Nisbet, in his *Heraldry*, says that "Gilbert de Hanyethe, *i.e.* Hannay," swore fealty to Edward in 1296. Sorby was their chief seat. "Hugh Hannay, an offshoot of the Hannays of Sorbie, was in possession of Grennan in 1612." There were