

III.

THE SCOTTISH DE QUENCYS OF FAWSIDE AND LEUCHARS.
SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES. BY JOSEPH BAIN, F.S.A. Scot.

One regrets that the author of the interesting paper on this family¹ did not, besides those he refers to, consult these other authorities below,² for he would have made it much more complete. As I have had to examine their history in editing these calendars, I can say this with some confidence.

There is no evidence that the family came from Normandy with Duke William ; the roll of Battle Abbey is of very little authority, and it has been thought by some—the late Mr John Gough Nichols for one³—that they came from Gascony, their arms (mascles) representing a kind of flint found there. The first of them who appears in the English Pipe Rolls is Saher de Quency, in 1157, in Northamptonshire, receiving a remission of 25s. on his land. His son Robert, as stated, acquired Leuchars and other lands in Scotland, by marriage with the daughter of Nes, son of William ; but her name was Orabilis or Orabla, not Eva, and she herself (not a sister) was the widow of an Earl of Mar.⁴ This Robert was at Jerusalem in 1192–93, and died before 1197–98, when his son Saher is found in possession of Bukby, his grandfather's land in Northampton (Pipe Rolls). The Robert whose widow Eva granted the Melrose charter is probably the younger brother of Earl Saher, and married Hawyse or Havoise, easily read “Eva,”⁵ one of the four co-heiresses of Chester, who survived him. As for the date of Saher's earldom, he is styled by King

¹ *Proceedings*, vol. xxxii. pp. 275–94, by W. W. Ireland, M.D.

² *Burke's Extinct Peerage* ; the *Complete Peerage* of “G. E. C.” ; the *Chartulary of St Andrews* ; *Skene's Celtic Scotland* ; *Hist. MSS. Commission*, 4th Report, p. 460, on the De Quency Charters in Magdalene College, and the four vols. of *Calendars of Scottish Documents* edited by myself.

³ Winchester volume of the *Archæological Institute*, 1845.

⁴ *Celtic Scotland*, iii. 68 ; *Magd. Coll. Charters* ; *Chart. St Andrews* ; and Mr Burnett, *Lyon Herald*, on the Earls of Mar, *Genealogist*, Oct. 1887, p. 179.

⁵ *Scottish Calendar*, No. 555.

John an "Earl" on 28th April 1209, when giving him leave to bring a ship from Leuchars to Lynn.¹ On 20th December 1218, he was fitting out a ship in Galloway to touch at Bristol for arms, etc., for his intended voyage to Jerusalem,² so evidently had not yet started. He died on the Crusade some time before 21st July 1220.³

In treating of his son Roger, second Earl, Dr Ireland has fallen into some difficulties. He identifies Earl Roger's eldest daughter, Margaret, second wife of Sir William de Ferrars, afterwards fifth Earl of Derby, with the lady who was abducted by Sir William Douglas at Tranent about January 1288-89—in other words, with her own daughter-in-law! Sir William de Ferrars, second son of this fifth Earl of Derby and his wife Countess Margaret, received Groby from his mother,⁴ and died in January 1287-88 (Hilary Term),⁵ leaving by his first wife an only son William, then aged 18, and his second wife a young widow, Alianora Lovaine, doubtless well dowered.⁶ It was this lady, not her mother-in-law Countess Margaret (then a woman of mature age), who was carried off by Douglas. Dr Ireland errs in good company, for even John Riddell confused her with another lady.⁷ Douglas had a son by her, named Hugh, nearly two years old in 1296,⁸ and instead of dying in York Castle in 1302, died in the Tower of London about 20th January 1298-9, where he had been imprisoned certainly during 1297.⁹ Sir William de Ferrars (II.), the stepson of the abducted lady, as the eldest De Quency co-heir, bore their chief arms at Falkirk in 1298,¹⁰ and was summoned to Parliament as Lord Ferrars. He also held Leuchars, besides extensive lands in Galloway and Ayrshire, and flourished till 1325, a conspicuous man, signing the English barons' letter to the Pope in 1320. A transaction is recorded on 19th January 1316-17,¹¹ by which he and his wife Elena settle their manor of Groby, failing heirs of their own bodies, on Sir

¹ *Scottish Calendar*, No. 442.

² *Ibid.*, No. 703.

³ *Ibid.*, No. 771.

⁴ *Ibid.*, ii. No. 175.

⁵ *Ibid.*, No. 329.

⁶ *Burke's Extinct Peerage*.

⁷ *Scottish Peerage Law* (1833), p. 176.

⁸ *Scottish Calendar*, ii. p. 173.

⁹ *Ibid.*, Nos. 957, 960, 1054-5.

¹⁰ *Falkirk Roll*, by H. Gough, F.S.A.

¹¹ *Scottish Calendar*, iii. No. 534.

Murdac of Menteth, a Scotsman, formerly esquire to de Ferrars. As they had a son and heir Henry, then aged 14, this is singular. This son Henry succeeded his father as Lord Ferrars of Groby and died in 1343, succeeded by his son, a third Sir William Lord Ferrars of Groby, also a man of some note. Though Robert Bruce (as Dr Ireland says) had swept the land of the De Quency heirs and other hostile families, his son David II. was minded, had he been able, to restore them. In an indenture about November 1363,¹ in a list of English nobles who were to regain their lands in Scotland, appears the "Sire de Ferrers," this third Sir William. From his grandson, a fourth Sir William Lord Ferrars of Groby, descend the present chief lineal representatives of the De Quencys, viz., the Earls Ferrars, Townsends, Greys of Groby, besides others less known.

Dr Ireland is not quite correct in his notices of the Comyns, Earls of Buchan, another branch of the De Quency co-heirs. Speaking of John, the last of them, he repeats the story that his wife Isabella was imprisoned four years in a cage *on* a turret of Berwick Castle. Had he said *in* a turret he would have been nearer the truth. There is nothing to countenance the notion that such prisoners were hung outside of walls like birds, and the king's warrant does not say so. From a contemporary warrant for the imprisonment of a Welshman of note in Bristol Castle,² it is clear that a cage was a wooden structure *inside* of a castle, and the prisoner was only shut in at night for security against escape. To suppose that a human being could survive four years' exposure in a cage hung on a wall in our climate, is to credit the impossible; and cruel as the punishment was, it fell short of this barbarity. Her husband, Earl John, did not survive till 1312; he died before 3rd December 1308;³ and was succeeded by his nieces, daughters of his brother Alexander, who had predeceased him—Alice, the elder, carrying the earldom to her husband Henry de Beaumont, now (or lately) represented by the Stapletons, Barons Beaumont, in whose favour the abeyance was terminated in 1840.⁴

¹ *Scottish Calendar*, iv. No. 92, there printed for the first time. ² *Ibid.*, iii. No. 16.

³ *Ibid.*, iii. No. 59.

⁴ *Complete Peerage*, art. "Ferrars."

With these *aldenda*, Dr Ireland's paper will afford a good idea of the career of the great but short-lived house of De Quency in Scotland. They are made in no pretence of superior knowledge, but simply as facts with which I have necessarily become familiar during my ten or more years' study of the records of England bearing on Scotland. And I hope Dr Ireland, who has bestowed great pains on his paper, will accept them as the contribution of a brother antiquary to a very interesting and little known subject.

As already observed, the De Quency charters in the Magdalen College Library, which number several hundreds, contain some new particulars of the family. Mr Macray's report on them shows that Earl Saher, besides a daughter Lora, wife of William de Valoines, had two nephews, Sir Roger and Saher de St Andrea, men of some note, whom I had already observed in the records of the early part of the 13th century.¹ One of them is now represented by the Foljambe family, as Lord Hawkesbury (then Mr Foljambe) informed me some years ago. Since then, had time and opportunity served, I have often wished to examine these Magdalen charters, believing they would reveal much of the De Quency connection with Scotland. The annexed pedigree will make the foregoing clearer.

¹ *Scottish Calendar*, i., Nos. 555, 745, etc.

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