THE GLEDSTANES OF GLEDSTANES AND COKLAW, 1296—1741.

Much has been written about the family whence springs the present Prime Minister, and incidents connected with the early Gledstanes have been collected by Mrs. Oliver of Thornwood, by Professor John Veitch, by Sir William Fraser, and others. But no one seems to have traced the pedigree of any branch with the exception of the Arthurshiel Gledstanes, and these do not go back beyond the middle of the sixteenth century.

The accompanying table is an attempt to follow out the parent stem from its commencement to its close. It is not perfect, but perhaps some reader of this magazine can throw further light on the subject. The notes following the table give the reasons for the insertion of each name. Besides the authors quoted above, the chief sources of information have been the Exchequer Rolls, Register of the Great Seal, Records of the Privy Council, Calendar of Documents relating to Scotland, and Acts of the Scottish Parliament.

The arms of the family are preserved in the Lyon Office, Edinburgh, as follows:—

James Gladstains of that Ilk Bears Argent, a Savadge head couped distilling drops of blood, and thereupon a bonnet composed of Bay and Hollin leaves all proper, within ane orle of eight martlets Sable. Crest: a gryphon issuant holding a sword in her dexter tallone. The motto in ane Escroll "Fide et virtute."

1. Herbert de Gledestan, "del counte de Lanark." Living August 28th, 1296.

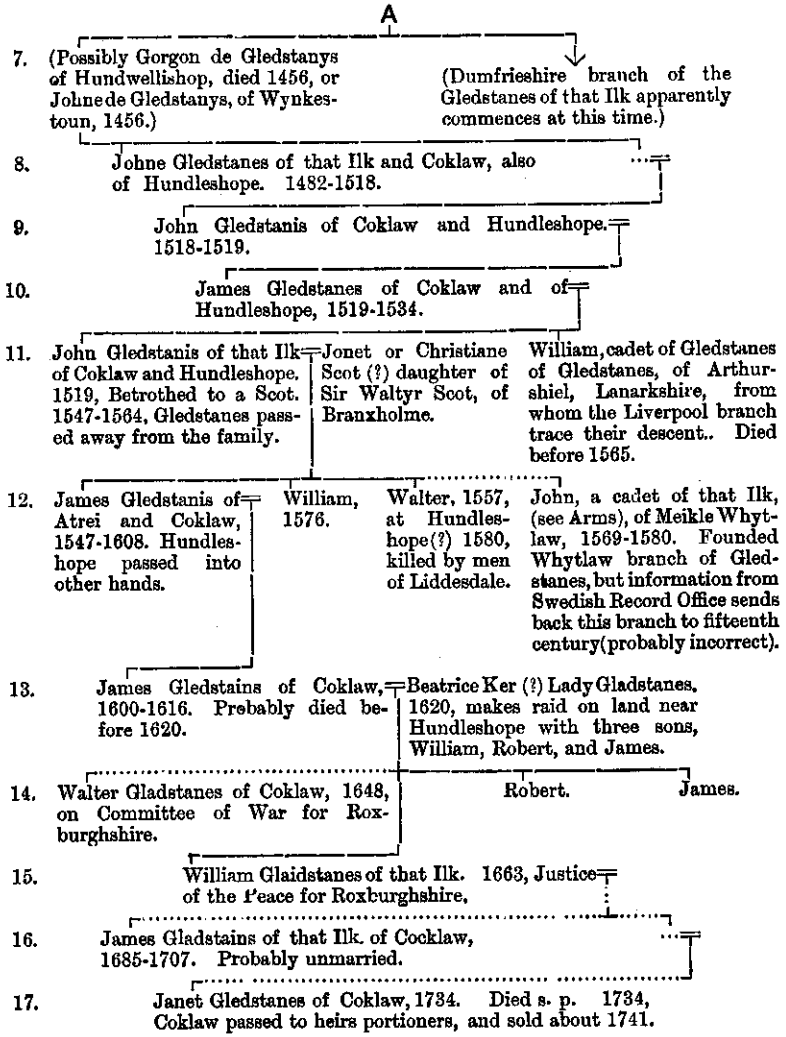
2. (Possibly Patrick de Gledestanes, 1336-1346, or William de Gledestanes of Mintowe, 1346-1354.)

3. William de Gledestan, 'chivaler.' Belted knight 1356. 1354 to perhaps 1388.

4. William Gledstanes of Gledstanes and Coklaw 'miles,' 1365; of Woodgreuynton, Wynkeston, and Acolmfield one mile from Peebles. Living 1396. — Margaret Trumbil, d. and h. of John Trumble (Turnbull). Inherits Hundleshope in Peebleshire. „ lands of Robertstoun, on borders of Selkirk and Roxburgh. „ property in town of Selkirk. Assigns lands to sons between 1390-1406, and in 1412. Probably dead in 1430.

5. John, of Hundleshope, Robertestoun and Selkirk. Probably died s.p. before 1412. — Thomas of Robertstoun, 1412 and 1430. 1404, witnesses charter with James in Roxburghshire. — Walter. By charter of Robert III (1390-1406) granted yearly payment of lands of Wynkestoun and Wood Grevington. See No. 4.

6. James Gladstanes of Coklaw Castle, parish of Cavers, Roxburgh, 1403-1413. Probably died before 1437. — Jonet Murray. 1437, lawsuit over land near Hawick belonging to her late husband.



1. Herbert de Gledestan, "del counte de Lanark," swore fealty to Edward I. on August 28th, 1296. His name appears on the Ragman's Roll, and a detached seal, with S' Herb' d' Gledstan, is also preserved at the Record Office, London. Gledstanes is the name of a farm in the Upper Ward of Clydedale, about four miles north of Biggar, Lanarkshire. There is no doubt that this is the site of the ancient property.

2. The next generation is doubtful. There were de Gledestanes in Roxburghshire at this time. Paterick was a juror in 1336; he and William of Mintowe swore fealty to Edward III. in 1346 at Roxburgh, and William was counted among the Teviotdale lairds in 1354.

3. "William de Gledestan, chivaler," appears, in 1354, as witness to a charter of David II. He accompanied the first Earl of Douglas to France; was belted knight in 1356, after the battle of Poitiers; was subsequently placed in the Tower, London, but was released on October 4th, 1358, after sixteen months' imprisonment. From this time he devoted himself to serving the first and second Earls of Douglas on the Borders. The name appears frequently in charters between 1357 and 1388, but the later entries may refer to his son.

4. William de Gledstanys, "miles," was a son of William (No. 3), as proved by a deed of 1365. In that year David II. granted him the properties of Woodgreuynton, Wynkeston and Acolmfield close to the town of Peebles. In 1396, he is mentioned in a deed of Robert III. as Gledstanes of Gledstanes and Coklaw. Coklaw is a hill near Gledstanes in Lanarkshire, but this name was afterwards given to the chief home of the family in the parish of Cavers, Roxburghshire. William de Gledstanes married Mergreta Trumbil, who inherited from her father properties near Peebles (Hundleshope), in the town of Selkirk, and on the borders of Selkirkshire and Roxburghshire (Robertestown). In the reign of Robert III. (1390-1406), Margaret resigned her three properties to her son John. But John probably died before his mother, for in 1412 she re-assigned the lands of Robertestoun to her son Thomas, although he did not come into possession until 1430. A Walter Gledstanes obtained from Robert III. a grant of the yearly payment from the lands of Wynkeston and Woodgrevington.

5. Probably William (No. 4) died shortly after 1396, and was succeeded by his son John, until John's death in 1412. There seems to have been still another brother—James—who was witness to a charter along with Thomas in 1404. He lived in the parish of Cavers, Roxburghshire, at Coklaw Castle. On the death of his brother John, he would succeed to Gledstanes and Hundleshope; however James may have been the eldest of the family.

6. The succeeding members of the family were known indifferently as Gledstanes of that Ilk and Coklaw, for Gledstanes in Lanarkshire, Hundleshope in Peebleshire, and Coklaw in Roxburghshire were the chief estates of the family. In 1403 the siege of Coklaw Castle by the Percys took place. In 1413, James Gledstanes was baillie to the Earl of Douglas in the regality of Sproustoun (near Roxburgh). He married Janet Murray, who, in 1437, had a lawsuit with the Earl of Douglas for the recovery of some property belonging to her late husband.

7. The next link is apparently lost, unless it be John de Gledstanys, who, in 1456, obtained legal possession of Wynkestoun for £3 6s. 8d., and in 1463, witnessed the retour of the fifth Earl of Angus. There are several Gledstanes of that Ilk belonging to the first half of the fifteenth century, and the Dumfrieshire family of that name branched off at this period. There was a Gorgon of Gledstanys of Hundwellishop (Hundleshope), who died in 1456, when his property passed into the King's ward. It was a time of special difficulty. The Gledstanes had always been faithful adherents to the Earls of Douglas, and when that mighty house fell, Gledstanes, in Lanarkshire, was forfeited to the Crown. In 1457 it was granted to the fourth Earl of Angus.

8. By 1482 there was another John Gledstanes of that Ilk and Coklaw who also held Hundleshope. This man allied himself closely to the Scots of Branxholm (who afterwards became Earls of Buccleuch). A good deal is known about him. He was turbulent and unscrupulous, as shown by the burgh books of Peebles. Over and over again he tried to get possession of part of the common lands of Cademuir adjoining Hundleshope, and in connection with a disgraceful raid there in June 1518, we hear of "Johne of Gledstanes and his nevoy and apperand heir, Archibald Gledstanes his sone."

9. Apparently he died shortly after this occurrence, and his nephew succeeded him. But John of Gledstanes (No. 9) was already an old man, and had but a short tenure of office. A contract of marriage exists, dated February 9th, 1519, between Sir Waltir Scot of Branxhelm, knight, and James Gledstanis, son and heir apperand to John Gledstanis of Coklaw, by which it is arranged that John Gledstanis, the son and heir of the above James, shall marry a daughter of Sir Waltir Scot. James Gledstanes promises to give his son on his marriage £10 worth of land in Hundilhillishop and £20 worth of land in the barony of Cavers, in Roxburghshire. This document proves three generations.

10. James Gledstanes appears to have been in possession in 1534, for in that year a fresh seal was added to the deed, by which David II. granted Hundwellishoppe to John Trumbull, and thus James Gledstanis and his heirs were confirmed in those lands.

Gledstanes, in Lanarkshire, passed into the hands of the Somervils before 1551, and no one of the name has held it since that time, though the family was still called Gledstanes of that Ilk. Arthurshiel, a neighbouring property, and thought to be part of the original estate, belonged to a cadet of the Gledstanes of that Ilk. William, the first known laird, died before 1565. He may have been a younger son of James (No. 10). Land in Quothquan, thought to be another portion of the original estate, was held at this time by John Gledstanes of that Ilk, LL.D., Lord of Sessions. He died in 1574, and the property passed to his nephew.

11. John Gledstains of that Ilk probably married one of the daughters of Sir Waltir Scot, to whom he had been betrothed, for, after 1553, he took an active part in the wild Border life of that family, and in 1564 he "and his bairns" are mentioned as retainers of the Scots of Buccleuch. He recommenced the depredations in the neighbourhood of Hundleshope. Among his "bairns" we can trace James, who succeeded him; William of Coklaw, a surety in 1576; Walter, who was killed in 1580 by the men of Liddesdale after the attack on Meikle Quytlaw; and almost certainly John, the founder of the house of Whytlaw and Flex.

12. James Gledstanes, of Cokkilaw, was a leading spirit in the Border warfare of the East Marches. This was "little Gledstone, good at need," who in 1575 led the men of Hawick against the English at the raid of the Reidswyre. His name occurs thirty-two times in the Register of the Privy Council, both in connection with Roxburghshire and Peebles. He was fined, denounced as a rebel and imprisoned, yet on the Borders he was a respected "landit man." He lived to old age, for in 1608 his son James was still "apparent of Coklaw."

13. James Gledstains led a life similar to that of his father, and himself committed theft, murder and other atrocities. He probably lived only a few years as Laird of Coklaw, for after 1616 he disappears from view. An incident given by Professor Veitch would lead one to imagine that he died before 1620. In that year Beatrix Ker, Lady Gladstanes, aud her three sons, William, Robert and James, headed an assault on the old debated land near Peebles, although Hundleshope had already passed away from the family.

14. The next generation is more difficult to trace. If Beatrix Gladstanes and her three sons belonged to the Coklaw branch of the family, there was probably an elder son, Walter, who took no part in the raid, for Walter Gladstanes, of Coklaw, was in 1648 on a Committee of War for Roxburghshire.

15. Possibly Walter was succeeded by his brother William, as William Glaidstanes of that Ilk was Justice of the Peace for Roxburghshire in 1663.

16. But in 1686 a James Gladstains of that Ilk was Laird of Cocklaw, for Scot of Satchel's dedicated to him part of his Rhyming Chronicle. At that date he was unmarried, and probably remained so, although he lived to 1707, or later.

17. According to Sir William Fraser, this branch failed in the direct male line. The property passed to Janet Gledstanes, who died unmarried about 1734. Coklaw Castle and the lands belonging to it were sold about 1741, and a few years later no Gledstanes of any social standing could be found in the old haunts in the counties of Lanark, Peebles, Roxburgh or Dumfries. Only in this century have they risen again to importance, and that entirely south of the Borderland which their ancestors guarded with such jealous care.

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