

**IN THE OLDEN TIME: A
SHORT HISTORY OF THE
DESCENDANTS OF JOHN
MURRAY, THE GOOD**

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In the Olden Time: A Short History of the Descendants of John Murray, the Good by Sarah S. Murray

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SARAH S. MURRAY

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A SHORT HISTORY OF THE DESCENDANTS

OF

♦ John ♦ Murray ♦

THE GOOD

With Memories of More Recent Days

by Sarah S. Murray



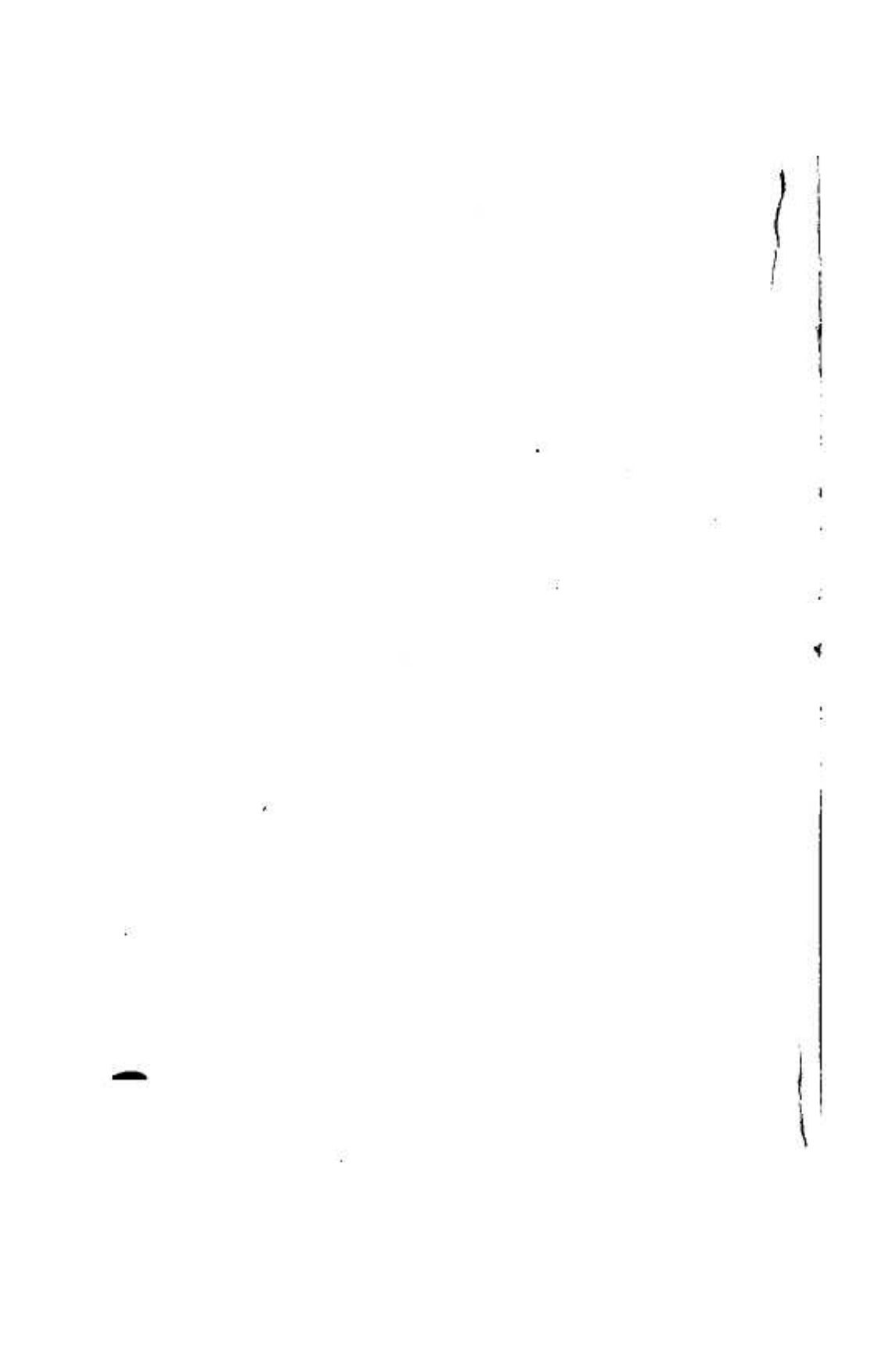
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To my
Great-Nephews and Great-Nieces
I dedicate
This brief record of a worthy ancestry
Sarah S. Murray



In the Olden Time.

THE Murrays of Perthshire are of pure Scotch extraction. Their origin is lost in the dim twilight of the early history of that land. Our first acquaintance with them is in the event of certain members of the family taking an active part in the wars consequent upon the "Pretender's" claims, and, as result of a stanch adherence to his fortunes, they suffered heavily.

John Murray, familiarly known as "the Good," gentleman of the Clan Athol, a Presbyterian by birth, when a young man of twenty-three determined to remove to America, and make an effort under new conditions to retrieve his shattered fortune.

In 1722, disposing of what property remained to him, with his wife and little daughter Elizabeth, for reasons unknown, he crossed into Ireland, and at Armagh a boy was born to them, named for his grandfather, Robert. The familiar sobriquet of "the little Irishman" clung to the lad for many years. The year following the family came to

America and settled at Swetara, near Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Robert was a youth of somewhat uncommon parts. With great energy of character he combined remarkable persistency of purpose, and these, influenced by a judgment beyond his years, enabled him at an early age to establish himself in independent business. He purchased a large mill interest, in which concern he continued some years, making frequent voyages to the West Indies—an undertaking involving much more time and risk, than in these days of perfected navigation.

In 1744 he married Miss Mary Lindley, the descendant of an English family who had removed to this country some years before and had settled in Philadelphia; her mother was a Desbrough. She had one brother, James, whose daughter married Mr. Murray's brother John. The coat of arms of the Lindley family bears seven Maltese crosses, indicating that a remote ancestor had fought in the Holy Land in seven battles of the Crusades. This lady was a member of the Society of Friends, with which denomination Mr. Murray also united. She was an amiable person, of very liberal views, which were quite unbiassed by her husband's ardent partisanship. Soon after their marriage they removed temporarily to North Carolina, but returned North in 1753, settling in the city of New York, where Mr. Murray became eventually one of its most

prominent citizens, distinguished alike as a merchant and a man. Scoville says in 1769: "He owned more tons of shipping than any merchant in America." His business firm was Murray & Sansom, until a younger brother John was entered as a partner, when it was changed to Murray, Sansom & Co. Sansom resided in England. Mr. Murray's wharf property at Coffee House Slip and Wall street is still held by the family. But shortly before this period a wall or palisade ran a little north of the line of this street. This was originally erected for defence against the Indians, but in 1653 was strengthened at a time of great excitement from a threatened attack by the aggressive New-Englanders, for whom the Dutchman entertained some contempt mingled with considerable fear.

At the foot of Wall street in 1711, and up to the time that Mr. Murray purchased the property, stood the Market House, where "all negro slaves that are let out to hire within the city do take up their standing, in order to be hired, at the Market House at the Wall street Slip." The market was largely supplied with this commodity by one John Cruger, who voyaged between New York and Madagascar, in the ship *Prophet Daniel*, "for the purchase of live freight."

Perhaps thirty years later we read that Washington, having been elected President, set out for New York, the seat of government, and "approached