

**MEMORIALS OF
THE FAMILY OF
WOOD OF LARGO**

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Memorials of the Family of Wood of Largo by Frances Mary Montagu

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FRANCES MARY MONTAGU

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THE FAMILY
OF
WOOD OF LARGO.

COLLECTED AND ARRANGED

BY
MRS. MONTAGU.

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218. d. 6.

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THE COAT OF ARMS OF
JOHN WOOD OF LARGO,



GOVERNOR OF THE ISLE OF MAN,

1761-1777.

Inherited from the ancient Admiral.

A MEMENTO FOR MY NEPHEW,

Andrew George Wood,

WHOM MAY THE POWER ETERNAL
PROTECT AND PRESERVE,
TO BECOME, AS LIFE MATURES,
A GOOD MAN,
AND A BRAVE AND KINDLY GENTLEMAN,

FROM HIS AFFECTIONATE AUNT,

Frances Mary Montagu.

April, 1861.

—
"A picture is the past,"
In lights and shadows falling,
And all this life a mystery,
Wherein, Faith, submissive,
Veils her sight, and questions never
The sovereignty nor grace of God.

THIS History of the Woods of Largo was commenced with the intention only of clearing away, chiefly for my brother's sake, upon hearing it exclaimed after reading Tait's Memoir, "Then we are not defended from the "old Sir Andrew after all," of clearing away the doubts to which this Memoir had thus rather painfully given birth. As time went on, and opportunity was found for looking over the aid to be obtained from proofs existing, and words and events and incidents were recalled of which memory had been alone the keeper, the subject increased gradually towards many others, some of which, in unison with my own feelings, I have ventured to express. For this I must trust to be pardoned should they be deemed irrelevant. I would even at the present moment, were I to consider principally myself, remove much that it may not be quite agreeable to me to bring into the view of any but those most closely and most personally related to me; but I reflect sometimes upon the future as well as upon the past, and when the mental vision is disclosed before me of the young and interested of generations to come, looking back to an age that is gone, I determine to think of self-regard no more, and to leave unchanged these memorials, as they are, and as they have arisen from all that has fallen within my own knowledge and remembrance.

It may be necessary for me also to request indulgence if, in reciting from different authors, I have occasionally been inaccurate, but, not expecting publication, I had taken some notes less in their full integrity than they might have been, yet still I can affirm that all are substantially correct, whilst in the last concluding lines from Tennyson, it has appeared to me not wrong to substitute this sentence—"desire of good name," for the original, "the desire of fame,"—for I have written in most part for the young, and I would not have for them the latter sentiment, valuable though it be, impressed as the sentiment of the greater importance.

MM

February, 1862.

P.S.—A loss and sorrow which have come to me since the above was written, in April last year, have prevented until now the completion of this work; but now I offer it, besides to my little nephew, as a token also of love and affection, in reverential care for one of the latest wishes of my ever dear husband, to our own son, Horace Montagu.

March, 1863.

MM

Memorials,

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IN the pages following there are notes and observations taken from various papers in my possession, and from printed and other records of English and Scottish families, regarding the family of Wood of Largo, and its connexions and extraction, which may not be without some value to those who bear that distinctive Family Title; therefore I have endeavoured to place them together as well as the materials and the uncertainties of several of the attendant circumstances have permitted, with the hope that they may be of service to my little nephew, and of assistance in giving to him especially, and to others of us also, an increased assurance of that long descent, which until the appearance of the Memoir referred to and of which an abridgement is given, had never before been questioned.

The notes are taken, *first*, from the papers which were drawn up in due legal form when our uncle Sir Mark Wood (he was then Colonel Wood) became one of the claimants of the Roxburghe succession in the year 1805, and the originals of which I believe to be laid aside in the House of Lords with other law forms of similar nature.