

**MOUTRAY OF SEAFIELD AND ROSCOBIE,
NOW OF FAVOUR ROYAL, CO. TYRONE:
AN HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL
MEMOIR OF THE FAMILY IN SCOTLAND,
ENGLAND, IRELAND AND AMERICA**

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MELVILLE HENRY MASSUE

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An Historical and Genealogical Memoir of the Family in
Scotland, England, Ireland, and America

BY THE
MARQUIS DE RUVIGNY AND RAINEVAL
AUTHOR OF "A LEGITIMIST KALENDAR," "AITKEN OF THORNTON," "DALGLEISH OF
TINNYGASK," "THE BLOOD ROYAL OF BRITAIN," ETC., ETC.

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MOUTRAY OF SEAFIELD AND ROSCOBIE

*Arms:*¹ *Azure, on a chevron argent, between three escallops of the second, a boar's head couped, sable, tongued gules, between two mullets of the last.*

Crest: *A mermaid proper.*

Motto: "*Nunquam non fidelis.*"



THE Scoto-Norman name of Moutray, originally written "Multrer" and "Multrare," is said to have been introduced into Scotland in the reign of Malcolm III., about A.D. 1060.² No genealogy of the family has previously been compiled, although pedigrees of the cadet branches of Aston Hall and Favour Royal have appeared in Burke's "Landed Gentry." As will be seen from the following account, the family may be said to have divided into three main lines—the Scottish (now extinct), the Anglo-American, and the Irish. The genealogy of the elder line here given has been compiled from the Charters of Roscobie and Seafield,³ the parish registers of Dunfermline and Beath, and supplemented as noted. That of the second, or Anglo-American branch, has been supplied by the Rev. Austin Moultrie; and the account of the Irish line is taken from Burke's "Landed Gentry," kindly corrected by Mr. Moutray of Favour Royal and Mrs. Gledstanes of Fardross. The first of the name of whom I find mention was ROBERT DEW MULTRIE, who is mentioned in an ecclesiastical memorandum relating to Canterbury,

¹ These arms were recorded in the Lyon Office by Sir David Lindsay of the Mount, Lyon King, 1542, and again 20 March, 1676, by John Moutray, of Roscobie when the boar's head, previously borne erased, was changed to couped.

² Boetius, "Scotland," 1575, p. 177. See also the *Genealogist* (Marshall), 1883, vol. vii., pp. 25-27.

³ For excerpts from these the writer desires to record his grateful thanks to Mr. John J. Dalgleish, the present proprietor of Roscobie, and to the late Mr. Lawrence James B. Mercer, of Edinburgh.

May 22, 1228.¹ After him we find ADAM DE MULTREVE, Burgess of Berwick, who swore fealty to Edward I. of England at Berwick June 30, 1292.² He afterwards appears as a witness to a charter in the Chartulary of St. Giles, Edinburgh, together with HENRY MULTRAR, Burgess of Edinburgh, who held the lands of Grothill (Greenhill), near Edinburgh, from Henry de Brade of that Ilk during the reign of David II. In 1350 he made endowment of his lands to the Church of St. Giles, which on January 15, 1362, was confirmed by his son³ ROBERT MULTREAR, Burgess of Edinburgh, who on the same day, three years later, had a charter under the Great Seal from King David II. of the lands of Restalrig.⁴ Capiend JOHAN MOTERE is mentioned in a document dated January 20, 1347,⁵ also as Johe Multrar in a list of names of the Chartulary of St. Andrews, July 6, 1395.⁶ The first known ancestor of the Seafield line was:

I. ROBERT MULTRARE, who received a Royal Charter from King James II., confirming him in the lands of Seafield and Markinch in 1443.⁷ He died in 1469, leaving issue a son John and possibly Mariota Multarer, who married John Strang, of Balcaskie.

II. JOHN MULTRAR, second Laird of Seafield, son and heir of

¹ Camden Society Publications, xxxiv., p. 246.

² "Fœdera Letteræ," i., p. 772.

³ Reg. Cart. Eccles. S. Egidii de Edinburgh, pp. 3-15 Ban. Club Publications, No. 108).

⁴ Reg. Mag. Sigilli, Reg. Scoto, 46, 104. "This is possibly the foundation of the 'Moutrays of that Ilk.' The village had obtained considerable dimensions about the beginning of last century. Garden of Rothiemay's map shows a large quadrangular edifice, with gables and dormer windows crowning the apex of the hill, probably the ancient family residence (Grant's 'Old and New Edinburgh,' 1882). Moutrays on the Hill was the scene of some severe conflicts during the war of 1570. With the improvements to Edinburgh in 1775 this place disappeared. The arms of Moutray of that Ilk, recorded in Wardman's Heraldic MS., 1565: *Arg. an oak-tree vert, eradicated in pale, between two arrows or, winged gu., barbed az.; per bend dexter and sinister, bars towards base, on a chief az. 3 mullets of the first* (Stodart, 'Scottish Arms,' 1881)" (*The Genealogist*, vii., p. 26).

⁵ Rotuli Scota, i. 681.

⁶ Cart. S. Andree, 3.

⁷ These lands had formerly been a portion of Malcolm's grant to the Earl of Fife. Seafelde, with the lands of Wodefeld and Tyry, was granted to Sir James de Douglas June 7, 1372, by Robert II. Seafield Castle, whose ruinous tower, wave-washed and weird in its loneliness, yet remains, about a mile from Kinghorn, became the principal seat, the proprietors ranking as a baronial family of considerable eminence.

the preceding. He represented the Burgh of Ayr in the Parliament of 1463-1478,¹ and dying about the latter year, left issue by his wife Gelis a son Thomas.

III. THOMAS MULTRARE, third Laird of Seafield, son and heir of the preceding. He married in 1481, by Royal leave, Katherine, fifth daughter of David Boseville, by whom he had issue:

1. John, younger, of Seafield.

Thomas Moultray de Markinch was a witness to the redemption of the lands of Methill, April 30, 1484, and on the procuratory by Andrew Wighton, Sub-Prior of St. Andrews, for resigning the said lands, May 2 following. In or about 1491 a claim was preferred against John Melville, of Raith, by James Richardson, a Burgess of Edinburgh, for £70. This amount was owing to Richardson by Moultray, from whom Melville had been empowered by the King's letter to collect it. Melville declared that he apprised Moultray's goods to the value of £48, which sum he had delivered to Richardson's agents, who in turn asserted that he had paid the money to his principal.² The proceedings against Moultray upon this occasion may have led to the quarrel in which he was slain by John Melville or one of his servants. The particulars of the tragedy are not known, but this event, which took place in or near Moultray's own house of Seafield, situated on the north side of the Forth, between Kirkcaldy and Kinghorn, led to one of those family feuds so common in Scotland, where the relatives and kin of the parties took up the quarrel, and, as in this case, carried on a series of mutual annoyances and plots to assassinate the principals.

IV. JOHN MOUTRAY, fourth Laird of Seafield and Markinch aforesaid, son and heir of the preceding, whom he succeeded between 1490 and 1500. He immediately took steps to avenge his father's murder, but the Abbot of Dunfermline (James Beton, afterwards Archbishop of Glasgow and St. Andrews), who relates the circumstances, determined to act as peacemaker, because the death of Moultray had been brought about, not by direct malice, but by instigation and persuasion of wicked men. His efforts so far succeeded with the young Laird of Raith that for the sake of concord he resigned into the hands of the Abbot, who was also his feudal superior, the sum of 12 merks, to be uplifted yearly from his

¹ Acta Parl. Scot., ii.

² Acta Dominorum Concilii, pp. 189-229, March 22, 1490-91. See Melville Book, by Sir William Fraser, p. 36 *et seq.*, from which the following account of this feud is taken. It must be remembered in reading it that we have only here Melville's side of the case.

lands of Raith and others, and expended in Masses for the soul of the said Moutray. This money the Abbot, by a formal charter, bestowed upon John Moutray, the son and heir of the deceased, with full permission to expend it upon a chaplain, who should celebrate a yearly Mass in a fitting place, February 6, 1506-7.¹ Thus, according to the Abbot, the feud was composed for the time, only, however, to be renewed some years later. In March, 1511-12, Moutray was one of the arbiters for the adjustment of the Marches between the properties of Wemyss and Lord Sinclair's land of Dysart.² This John, who appears on an inquisition of December 7, 1506, died "in campo,"³ 1513, being probably killed at the Battle of Flodden with King James IV., having married Marion Pitcairn, who, as his widow, paid three years' rents to the King's Receiver in 1516. He had issue:

1. John, younger, of Seafield.
2. Richard. And, possibly,
3. Sir David, Vicar of Carnbee, who was one of the co-defendants with Wemyss and his tenants against Sir John Dingwall, Provost of Trinity College Church, Edinburgh, and Vicar of the parish church of Wemyss, respecting the teinds belonging to the Provost as Vicar, February, 1528-29.⁴ He is also mentioned in an instrument on the redemption of the lands of Polguld by David Wemyss of that ilk, May 16, 1521.⁵

V. [SIR] JOHN MOUTRAY [Knt.], fifth Laird of Seafield and Markinch aforesaid, son and heir of the above. Was at the Battle of Flodden with his father and father-in-law, Sir Alexander Stuart, of Garlies, and is said to have been knighted upon this occasion; this, however, appears to be incorrect. He⁶ revived the feud with the Melvilles. After the peace in 1506-7 the two families, according to Sir John Wemyss's own statement, remained upon neighbourly and friendly terms for several years, and they joined together in the Bond at Scone, February 13, 1521, an agreement entered into by the Fifeshire Lairds for their mutual defence⁷; but during the seven succeeding years, while Sir John Melville was engaged in public affairs, he was subjected by his neighbours to a series of active

¹ See Melville Book for text of charter. ² Wemyss Book, ii, p. 135.

³ Exchequer Rolls.

⁴ Wemyss Book, i, p. 113, n.; ii, pp. 275-278.

⁵ *Ibid.*, ii, pp. 146-148.

⁶ In the Melville Book the John who revived the dispute in 1521-22 is assumed to have been a son of Thomas; but this appears incorrect, as a John Moutray died, as above, in 1513.

⁷ He appears here as "John Multrar of Markynch, leget excepis."

annoyances and assaults upon the persons of himself and his friends in consequence of this feud. Shortly after the Bond, and before the death of Archbishop Forman in May, 1521, John Moutray had attempted to interfere with Sir John Melville's possession of certain lands near Kinghorn, called the Abthane of Kinghorn, near Abden. These lands apparently belonged to the Abbey of Dunfermline, of which the Archbishop was Commendator, and were leased to an aunt of Sir John Melville's, who assigned them to her nephew. Six years before the lease expired Moutray granted a mortgage on his lands of Seafield, and offered the proceeds—600 merks—to the Archbishop to take the lease from Melville, the result being that the latter, to retain possession, was forced to pay £300 Scots for renewal of his lease, instead of £40 Scots as before.¹

This proceeding naturally aroused Sir John Melville's displeasure, but no open rupture then took place, though Moutray pursued a similar course with the family of Kirkcaldy of the Grange, who were related to Melville. In the end of November, 1526, however, Moutray's goods were escheated to the Crown for the crime of manslaughter, and when the messenger-at-arms appeared, with the officers of the Earl of Morton, feudal superior of the lands of Seafield, Moutray and his men deforced the messenger and recovered the goods distrained.² Either on this or a precisely similar occasion, when the officers of the Earl of Morton exacted payment of a debt of £60 Scots adjudged to James Kirkcaldy of Grange, and apprised Moutray's goods, the latter resented the presence on his land of Sir John Melville, James Kirkcaldy, and other neighbouring lairds, who, by the judge's order, accompanied the officers. On December 11, 1526, James, Earl of Morton, obliged himself to defend and keep scatheless Sir John Melville in his dealings with the escheated goods of Moutray, and states that he had directed Melville to pass with his (the Earl's) officer to take up the goods. This obligation was afterwards enforced by a decree of the Lords of Council, dated February 27, 1528-29.

Moutray's first step in retaliation was to resort, not to force, but to the comminatory power of the Church, and a sentence of excommunication was pronounced by the principal official of

¹ See the case submitted to the Lords of Session for Sir John Melville of Raith against John Moutray of Markinch, *circa* January, 1433-34, and the answer for Sir John Melville of Raith to the complaints and charges of John Moutray of Markinch, January, 1633-34 (Melville Book, iii., pp. 70-77).

² See the charge to poind the goods of John Moutray of Markinch, escheated for the slaughter of Richard Moffat, November 6, 1526 (*ibid.*, iii., pp. 62, 63).

St. Andrews against Sir John Melville, James Kirkcaldy, and several other lairds of the neighbourhood. They appealed from the sentence, pleading, first, that they had not been either cited or convicted; secondly, that as to the charge of aiding the officer of the Earl of Morton, it was in the power of any competent judge to demand assistance in the execution of his decrees; thirdly, if it was alleged that the officials had issued the appellants letters inhibiting the apprising of the grain, they denied receiving such, and it was only reported them that they were to be excommunicated, and the final sentence was pronounced wholly unknown to them.

The result of this appeal is not recorded; but very shortly after it was made Moutray determined to take the law into his own hands, and on Ash Wednesday (March 6) of the year 1527, he, with his son and other friends, began the first of a series of hostile attacks upon Sir John Melville and his friends, which were repeated at intervals during the next few years. Unfortunately we have only Sir John Melville's statement of the facts, but, so far as that goes, it is graphic enough. There are two versions of the narrative, both intended for the perusal of the Lords of Session, before whom the case ultimately came—the first being apparently a personal relation by Melville, while the second is a more elaborate statement prepared by counsel. From these we learn that Melville and Kirkcaldy of Grange, accompanied by their household servants on their way to Edinburgh, passed through the town of Kinghorn on this particular Ash Wednesday. This being the first day of Lent, they determined to hear Mass, and proceeded towards the parish church for that purpose. But, ere they reached it, Moutray and his followers, who were within the sacred building, being advertised of Sir John's approach, rose hastily and rushed out of the church gates with drawn swords, and besetting the street, made a violent attack on Melville and his friends, who wore no defensive armour, James Kirkcaldy being wounded in the fray.

In the same year, probably about July, Sir John Melville and his retainers, returning from the service of the King, who had made a raid upon the borderers, again passed through Kinghorn on his way homeward. On this occasion his companions were David Wemyss of that Ilk and James Lundy of Balgonie, and the three lairds, leaving their attendants, went quietly to the church "to do thair devotioun and heir mess as qud Cristine men shuld do." While thus engaged, the young Laird of Seafeld, who had observed their movements and the absence of their retainers, sent to his father's tower, about a mile to the east of Kinghorn, and mustered