

**MEMORIALS OF THE  
SCOTTISH FAMILIES OF  
STRACHAN AND WISE**

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BY THE

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## P R E F A C E.

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OF these *Memorials* a first edition was, in 1873, printed for private circulation. In matters of detail the present edition is more ample, while it is free from certain errors which crept into the former issue. Two genealogical narratives, discovered subsequent to the printing of the text, are deemed sufficiently important to find a place in the Appendix. The entire Memoir has been framed on authentic materials, which are systematically quoted or referred to.

GRAMPIAN LODGE, FOREST HILL, SURREY,  
*December 1876.*



# MEMORIALS

OF THE

## FAMILIES OF STRACHAN AND WISE.

THE *strath* or valley, through which the river *Aan* conveys its waters from Mount Battack to the river Feugh, on the western borders of Kincardineshire, has given name to the surrounding territory. The district now termed *Strachan*, was formerly known as *Strathechyn*, *Strathethyne*, or *Strathlawchin*. A charter, dated about the year 1215, sets forth that Waldeve or Waltheof de Strathecan granted the lands of Blackerock to the monks of St Andrews. These lands were bounded by the streams Feugh and Dye, in the district of Strachan. In the same charter Ranulp or Randolph is mentioned as son and apparent heir of Waldeve or Waltheof of Strathecan (Regist. Priorat. Sti. Andreæ).

About 1220 a charter is witnessed by Waldeve de Strachachyn; and in 1278 John de Strachachyn, son and heir of the late John of Strachachyn, resigned his lands of Beth<sup>1</sup> Waldeve into the hands of

<sup>1</sup> The lands of Beth or Beath form a parish of that name, about seven miles to the east of Dunfermline.



Alexander II., when the king conveyed them to the Abbey of Dunfermline (*Registrum de Dunfermlyn*). At this period the territory of Strachan was conveyed by marriage to Sir Alexander Frazer, Thane of Cowie, chamberlain to King Robert the Bruce. In 1316 Sir Alexander received a royal charter "de omnibus et singulis terris de Strachethyne de Esuly et Achenerooks, faciendo nobis et heredibus nostris dictus Alexander et heredes sui, forinsecum servitium, quantum pertinet ad predictam baroniam." In the lands of Strachan, Sir Alexander Frazer was succeeded by his son John, who was knighted. Margaret, only daughter of Sir John, married Sir William Keith, Marischal of Scotland. In 1376, Robert II. confirmed to Robert de Keth the barony and forests of Strathachyn, on the resignation of his parents, William de Keth, Marischal, and Margaret Frazer. Among the papers of the Countess of Rothes, at Leslie House, Fifeshire, is preserved a charter under the Great Seal, by King Robert III., confirming a charter, which is therein engrossed, by Alexander de Leslie, Earl of Ross, to his cousin, Sir George de Leslie, Lord of Rothes, for his good and faithful counsel and service, of all his lands of Woodfield, Frisky of Esly, Balmain, and Strachan, in the barony of Kincardine, and the yearly annual rents out of the said lands of Kincardine; and for which lands and others, Sir George paid to the Earl of Ross in his great need 200 merks Scots, to satisfy the king for the relief, as well of the earldom of Ross, as of his other lands; to be held of the said earl and his lawful heirs; whom failing, of the king, in fee and heritage for ever, giving therefore yearly three suits to three head courts, to be held at Kincardine. This charter contains a clause of absolute warrandice, and is dated at Perth the 27th of February 1400; the witnesses thereto being—Robert Stuart, Duke of Albany, Earl of Fife and Monteith; Murdoch Stuart, his son and heir, Justiciar on the north side of Forth, Lord of Kincleivin; David

Lindesay, Earl of Crawford, William de Lindsay, Lord Byers, and others. The charter of confirmation is dated at Seoon, the 4th of March 1400, and the witnesses thereto are—Walter, Bishop of St Andrews; Gilbert, Bishop of Aberdeen, Chancellor to the King; David, Duke of Rothesay, Earl of Carrick and Athole, and Steward of Scotland; Robert, Duke of Albany; Archibald, Earl of Douglas, Lord of Galloway; and James of Douglas, Lord of Dalkeith, and Thomas de Erskine, Knights (Report of Historical Commission, part iv., p. 494).

While the lands of Strachan fell into the possession of the female branch, the representation of the family in the male line was continued. In a decree at the instance of William of Striuclyne, laird of Cadon, dated 21st January 1442, and pronounced by James, Bishop of St Andrews, and others, respecting certain lands in Dumbartonshire, is named among the assessors of the Court, "Alexander of Strathachyn, procurator for the Lorde of Kethe." On the 13th April 1452, he received from James II. a charter of half the lands of Keir, Perthshire (Stirling of Keir Family Papers, pp. 217, 227).

During the reign of David II. (1328-1370) a charter was granted by Thomas, Earl of Mar, to Adam Strachan and his wife Margaret, the earl's cousin, and to their issue, of the lands of Glenkenety, now Glenkindy,<sup>1</sup> in the parish of Strathdon, Aberdeenshire. This charter was in the possession of Sir Alexander Strachan of Glenkindy, and Nisbet remarks he had seen it (Nisbet's Heraldry, vol. i., p. 326). William Strathachin, described as "vicarius perpetuus Bentæ Mariæ ad nives," was in 1499, Rector of the University of King's College, Aberdeen. Gilbert Strathauchyn, evidently of the same family, was rector in 1531 (Sinclair's Statistical Account, vol. xxi.). On the 20th July 1510,

<sup>1</sup> An old English ballad has been adapted to the Scottish meridian under the name of Glenkindie (Roberts' *Legendary Ballads*, p. 26).

William Strachan, son and apparent heir of Duncan Strachan of Glenkindy, received a precept for a charter of the lands of Glenkindy, reserving the liferent thereof to the said Duncan and a reasonable terce to Margaret Lundy, his spouse (*Reg. Sec. Sig.*, vol. iv.). On the 7th February 1528, William Strachan of Glenkindy received a remission for his absence from the army at the battle of Solway (*Privy Seal Gifts*, vol. ix.). A royal letter, dated 25th April 1545, was addressed to Sir George Strathachin, granting him and "his heirs and assignys, a gift of all the goods, movable and immovable, pertaining to Alexander Law, by reason of his escheat for absenting himself from the army ordained to be convened at Anerum" (*Reg. Sec. Sig.*, vol. xix., fol. 7*b*). In the "Chronicle of Aberdeen" occurs the following entry: "Wilyem Strayquhen, sone to the Lard Glenkindy, departtit the xi. day of November, the yeir of God 1575 yeris" (*Miscellany of the Spalding Club*).

On the 3d June 1630, the Privy Council received at Holyrood a submission between Alexander Fraser of Philorth and Alexander Strachan of Glenkindy anent the satisfaction to be given by the latter to the former for "the insolence committed be him agains the said laird of Philorth upon the Hie Street of Edinburgh, a litle above the mercat croce thairof, in the month of March last, by the persute and invasioun of him for his bodilie harm, and slaughter and hurting and wounding him to the effusion of his blood in great quantitie." The judges appointed by the council were James, Lord Ogilvie of Airlie; Sir Alexander Gordon of Cluny, Knight Baronet; Andrew Fraser of Muckalls; William Forbes of Tolquhore; and Thomas Fraser of Streachin (*Reg. Sec. Sig.*, vol. 1630-32, fol. 232).

In a bond dated at Aberdeen 22d January 1653, are named Alexander Strachan, elder, and Alexander Strachan, younger, of Glenkindie (*Reg. of Deeds*, vol. 591). In the "Minute-Book of Confirmed Testaments of the