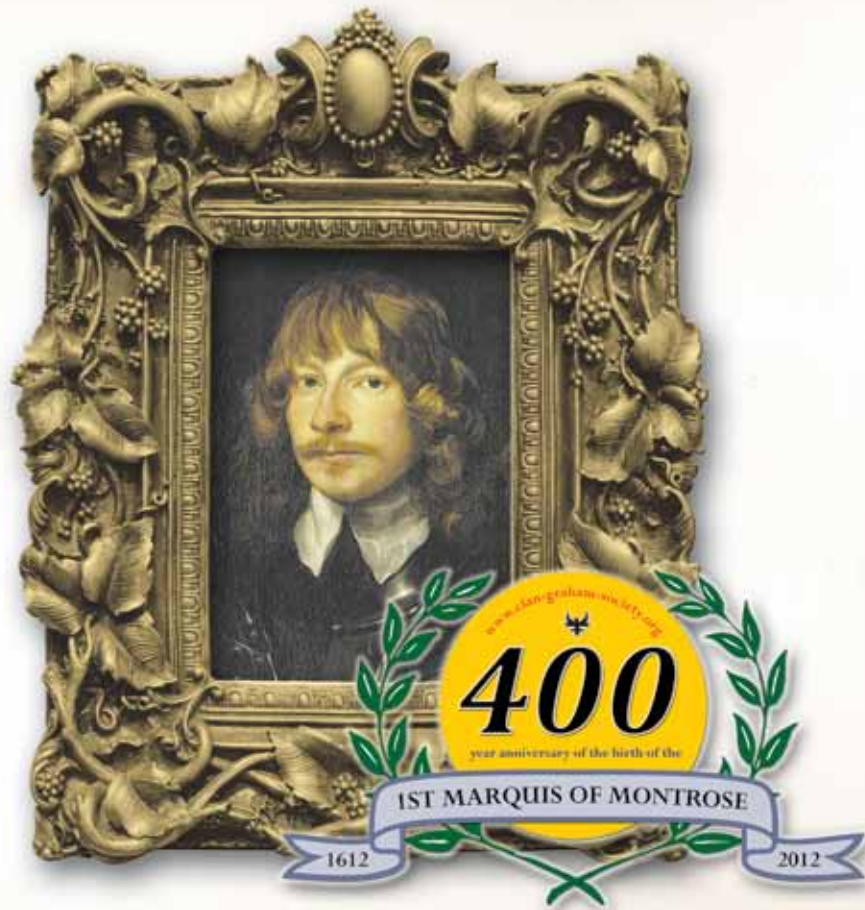


HISTORY & HERITAGE



*The Young James Graham
1st Marquis of Montrose*

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Living along the Highland Line, the unofficial border between the Lowland families and the Highland clans, were some of Scotland's prominent families of nobility—Angus, Mar, Moray, Buchan, Graham. The records of some of these families contain acts of blood and treason, but the family of Graham kept their hands fairly clean and played an honorable part in Scottish history.

Sir John Graham, “the right hand of Wallace” fell at Falkirk. His successors fought in later wars of independence and three times married into the royal line. The family attained the peerage in 1451. The 3rd Lord Graham was made Earl of Montrose and died with his king at Flodden. A successor fell at Pinkie; another became Chancellor and then Viceroy of Scotland when James the 6th came to the Scottish throne.

John Graham, the 4th Earl of Montrose, for the most part, lived a quiet life as a country laird. He was a well-respected sportsman and golfer who enjoyed his tobacco. Shortly before his death he was made Chancellor. His wife, Lady Margaret Ruthven, bore him six children and died when her only son, James, was just six years old. The family was reasonably wealthy, for the times, owning lands in Stirling, Perth and Angus and wielded the influence of a chief over the cadet branches of the Graham family. They had four principle dwellings—the

tower of Mugdock in Strathblane; Drygate in Glasgow; in the Ochil Hills overlooking Strathearn in Perthshire, Kincardine Castle, and Old Montrose, given to the Grahams by Robert the Bruce.

James Graham, John and Margaret's only son, was born, probably in October of 1612 in the town of Montrose. There were omens about James' birth given by local opponents of the Graham family. The Ruthven family was said to have loved necromancy and his mother was said to have consulted witches, and his father was said to have observed to a neighbor, “this child will trouble all Scotland.”

How prophetic this statement would become! Of his five sisters, the two oldest were married young—Lilias to Sir John Colquhoun of Luss and Margaret to a much older Lord Napier. His sister's homes were open to James and he spent many leisure hours fishing in the waters of the Ruthven stream. When not fishing, he would ride his horse in the Ochil Hills, as confirmed by the blacksmith in Aberuthven. James honed his archery skills on the roebuck and goats of Loch Lomondside, a skill that would earn him awards later.

When Lord Graham was 12, he was entrusted to William Forrett, Master of Arts,

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to prepare for the college of Glasgow, taking with him two pages outfitted in scarlet, some linen and plates, books from his father's library and his favorite white pony. William Forrett must have been a considerate teacher, as James had good memories of those Glasgow days and of Master Forrett, for he retained him in later years as tutor to his own sons. One of Lord Graham's favorite books was Raleigh's "History of the World." This book, signed by James Graham, may be seen in the Innerpeffray Library.

In the second year at Glasgow, the old earl died and James hurried home, arriving two days before his father's death. The funeral ceremonies lasted about three weeks and a large gathering of the Graham family attended, some bringing huge quantities of wild game, some of which was taken out of season, and drink as their contribution to the mourning. This longer mourning period gave James, the new head of the family, an opportunity to be introduced to the extended Graham family and many other attendees.

He never did return to Glasgow, but



ST. SALVATOR'S COLLEGE AT ST. ANDREWS, WHERE JAMES GRAHAM, WHO WOULD BECOME THE 1ST MARQUIS OF MONTROSE, STUDIED AND EXCELED IN SEVERAL SPORTING EVENTS.

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A LONE SIGN INDICATES WHERE KINCARDINE CASTLE ONCE STOOD. WITH ONLY A FEW RUINS OF THE CASTLE WALLS REMAINING, THIS FORMER GRAHAM DWELLING IS NOW JUST AN OVERGROWN MOUND NEAR AUCHTERARDER.

enrolled at St. Salvator's College at St. Andrews. In his second year at St. Andrews, he was active in many sporting activities such as golf, archery, hawking and hunting. He was an excellent horseman, riding to the hounds, after which he would give his horse a pint of ale.

James' rooms were hung round with bows, and in his second year he won the silver medal for archery, which he held against all comers, including the future Duke of Argyl who was some years his senior. In October of 1628, he gave a housewarming party at Kincardine Castle, which lasted for three days. (Kincardine Castle is now only an overgrown mound near Auchterarder.)

In March of 1629, in Edinburgh, he

appeared in gilt spurs, a new sword and had the use of the Chancellor's carriage. It would seem that his undergraduate years were happy, he being well liked by all he met.

When his sister, Dorothea, was married to Sir James Rollo, it would seem that young James overindulged in the festivities and became quite ill. Two doctors were called and prescribed a rest cure—no amusements except cards and chess. A barber cut away James' long brown hair and special food was prepared—trout, pigeons, capons, "drapped eggs," calf's-foot jelly and grouse, washed down by "liquorice, whey, possets, aleberry and claret"—this diet for a bad case of indigestion.

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James also became a student of Greek and Latin classics; he enjoyed romances and his early ventures into poetry began. He was a bibliophile and had favorite volumes from his library specially bound.

Not far from Old Montrose stood the castle of Kinnaird, the home of Lord Carnegie and his six daughters. Montrose had often visited there and fell in love with Magdalen, the youngest daughter. Montrose was only 17, but the match met the approval of both families, and they were married in the parish church of Kinnaird on November 10, 1629. Lord Carnegie, in the marriage agreement, promised to let the couple live at Kinnaird Castle for three years; this they did.

During this time Montrose came of age and two of their four sons were born. They had five children—John died of exhaustion on active service with his father at Inverlochy; James, the second Marquis of Montrose; David died in infancy; Robert; and one daughter, Jean.

The years at Kinnaird were of quiet study and leisurely activities with his wife and young family, and were the only years of peaceful domestic life that Montrose was able to enjoy. Life and the concerns of Scottish politics were to crush out the refinements of domestic life and lace collars



KINNAIRD CASTLE WAS DESTROYED BY TWO FIRES BUT WAS REBUILT TO ITS PRESENT CONDITION.

and silken doublets were replaced by armor and sword.

Montrose left Scotland for Europe in 1633 in order to remove himself from a scandal involving his sister's husband, Sir John Colquhoun, who had left his wife for his sister-in-law, the Lady Katherine, who had for a time been Montrose's companion in his Glasgow lodgings. Colquhoun was excommunicated for 14 years before being returned to grace by Church and State.

Montrose spent the winter of 1633-34 at Angers, France, where he was a student of arms at the French military school. The Innerpeffray Library has a French Bible in which Montrose had scribbled notes of his travels.

In Rome, Montrose met Lord Angus,



JAMES GRAHAM SIGNED THE NATIONAL COVENANT AT GRAYFRIERS CHURCH.

the future Marquis of Douglas, and others of the Scots nobility, becoming a student of men in his encounters with the great men of his travels.

James Graham returned home in 1636, aged 24, and was a subject of great interest to leaders of King Charles' court. James Hamilton, Marquis of Hamilton did not totally approve of Montrose and had the ear of the king. Hamilton was a schemer, a vain, secret man who was a master of intrigue and did much to cause Montrose not to be accepted by King Charles in court. When Montrose was presented to Charles, the king spoke a few chilly words, gave his hand to be kissed and turned away. It was enough to discourage the most ardent royalist and Montrose returned to Scotland with no

personal love for Charles.

On October 18, 1637, James Graham became a signatory, along with many other Scottish nobles, to the document against "The Book of Common Prayer."

On February 22, 1638, when the proclamation that was to become known as "The National Covenant," was read in Edinburgh one act of war was met by another. Montrose was one of the protest leaders, standing with boyish enthusiasm on a barrel. Lord Rothes, moved by Montrose's enthusiasm was heard to observe: "James, you will never be at rest 'til you are lifted up above the rest in three fathoms of a rope." Once again, this was another prophetic statement regarding the future of James Graham, Marquis of Montrose.

AUTHOR'S NOTE: THE INFORMATION FOR THIS BRIEF ACCOUNT OF JAMES GRAHAM'S EARLY YEARS HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM JOHN BUCHAN'S BOOK "MONTROSE." ANY MORE DETAILS OF MONTROSE'S LIFE ARE INCLUDED IN THIS WORK AND IT IS WELL WORTH READING.

JOHN BUCHAN, 1ST LORD TWEEDSMUIR, WAS APPOINTED BY KING GEORGE V TO BE THE 15TH GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA FROM NOVEMBER 2, 1935 UNTIL FEBRUARY 11, 1940. HIS WIFE, LADY TWEEDSMUIR, WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN ENCOURAGING THE FEDERATED WOMEN'S INSTITUTE OF ONTARIO TO RECORD THE HISTORY OF THE MANY SMALL COMMUNITIES IN WHICH THEY LIVED, A PROJECT THAT CONTINUES TODAY. WOMEN'S INSTITUTES ARE A PART OF THE ASSOCIATED COUNTRY WOMEN OF THE WORLD WITH A MEMBERSHIP OF 9,000,000 WORLDWIDE.