

## THE HOUSE OF EDGAR.

### EDGAR OF WEDDERLIE.

EDGAR \* is an old and peculiar surname. One might suppose that even at the present day it would be common, at any rate about large cities, and in those districts whose characteristics are still, to a certain extent, more especially Saxon. When, however, we come to inquire narrowly, and refer to Directories, we find it of rare occurrence. For example, if we take the diocese of Winchester, and run over the index of Wills in its Probate Court from 1498 down to the present time, or, at least to the close of last century, among numerous Saxon names, that of Edgar occurs but thrice; and in two of these Wills, oddly enough, we meet with the same corrupt spelling of the name which, in the contemporaneous registers of the northern kingdom was so prevalent.

It is doubtful whether, prior to the present century, even where Scottish patronymics were largely infused, there were any persons of this name in the sister isle.†

In England, an ancient family of the name settled in Berkshire at an early period. That and the Edgar family in Suffolk may have had a common ancestor; and it may not be saying too much to suggest their descent from one or other of the Edgars who appear in the pedigrees of the Saxon Earls of Northumbria.

A few persons named Edgar seem to have been in attendance upon, or connected with, the courts of several of the ancient kings of Scotland. One named "Gilbert, son of Edgar," was witness to the execution of a charter by William the Lion about 1176. Another, named "Edgar, son of Henry," was witness to a charter by King David about 1208. Another, "Gilbert, son of Edgar," was witness to a charter in 1200; and "Walter, son of Edgar," was witness to a charter of the lands of Scrogges in 1208.

In Rymer's "Fœdera" three notices of this name are to be found. 1. In the 24th Edward I. (1296),—"Walterus Edger persona de Penicok vicecomiti de Edenburgh." 2. 1st Edward II. (1308),—"De vadiis prisonibus Scotiæ," &c., "habere facias Galfrido Edger . . . in castro nostro Ebor." 3. 7th Edward II. (1314) . . . "quod Isabella de Brus in Castro prædicto sub custodia vestra, de mandato nostro, jam existens, habeat secum, ut de familia suâ, Elenam Edger, Johannem de Claydon, Samuelem de Lynford et Willielmum de Preston," &c., &c.

Besides these, we find a notice of a Sir Patrick Edgar, ("Ric de Barneby Domino Patricio Edgar Milite") in 1272, in the *Chronicle of Lanercost*; and in the reign of King John (*Abbrev.*

\* "Verstigan derives the name from EAD *an oath*, and ȝapð *to keep*." Bayley's "Etym. Dict.," Edin., 1789.

† There is at present a family of the name in Belfast; they came from Dumfries.

*Placit*) "Edgar avuncul Comitis Waldeni patris comit Patricii fuit seisit in Dhico suo sicut de feudo de Villa de Bewic," &c.

"In the shire of Berwick," says Nisbet, "besides the Homes there were other ancient families of different surnames who carried lions rampant in variation of tinctures from the old Earls of Dunbar and March; whether upon the account of descent from that eminent family, or, as vassals, carried lions in imitation of those of their patrons I shall not be positive, as the Hepburns, Rentons, and of the name of Edgar who held their lands of the old Earls of Dunbar.

"The principal family of the name of Edgar there is Edgar of Wadderlie, yet extant, who carried for their proper Arms—Sable, a lion rampant argent.

"As for the antiquity of the name, I shall here vouch a charter of Earl Patrick, son of Waldeve, Earl of Dunbar, who grants to the monks of Durham the church and lands of Edram for prayers to be said for the soul of his father and mother, of King Malcolm, his sons, King Edgar, King Alexander, King David, and his son Earl Henry, and King Malcolm, and for the safety of his brother David, and for himself, wife, and children. The charter has no date, but is granted in the reign of King William, and in it are many witnesses, among whom are many barons in the shire of Berwick, as 'Stephan Papedie, Robert de Bonaire, Gilbert de Hume, Henric de Prenderghest, Edward de Aldcambus, Alan de Suyntoun, Willielm de Nesbit, and Willielm filius *Edgari*.'

"The last-mentioned William, son of Edgar, I take to be one of the progenitors of Edgar of Wadderlie.

"The aforesaid principal charter is fully repeated in the charter of confirmation of King Robert the Bruce, dated at Berwick, the 15th day of November, the 21st year of his reign.

"Richard Edgar,\* in the reign of King Robert the Bruce, married the eldest daughter and coheir of Ross of Sanquhar, and William Crichton married the other sister. . . . King Robert confirms to Richard and his son Donald Edgar, the half of the lands of Sanquhar, with the manor place as the charter bears:—'De capitali mannerio in Baronia de Sanquehar cum medi[eta]te ejusdem Barronie ad ipsum mannerium pertinen.' It appears that Edgar of Wedderlie is descended of this Richard.

"I have seen a resignation in the custody of Edgar of Wedderlie, by Richard Edgar, son of Richard Edgar of the lands of Wedderlie, in favour of Robert Edgar Dominus de Wedderlie, in the year 1376, and confirmed to his son, John Edgar of Wedderlie, 1384.

"And beside the Arms of Wedderlie are quartered with figures like to these of Ross of Sanquhar—three water budgets *or*, much defaced, as on an old stone on the house of Wedderlie, supported by two greyhounds, and for crest, a dexter hand holding a dagger, point downwards. Motto: 'Man do it,' and on a compartment below, 'Salutem disponit Deus.'

"It has been remarked, with reference to the origin of our Peerage, that two great Houses, †

\* Unlike the majority of noble surnames this is not territorial—twice only is an Edgar named (William) de Wedderlie

† "The family of Cospatrick, a powerful Northumbrian nobleman, took refuge in Scotland after the death of Harold at Hastings, and in 1072 had extensive lands in the Merse and Lothian gifted them by Malcolm Canmore. They continued to be one of the most opulent and powerful Houses in the east of Scotland for a considerable period, as evidenced by their

one English, one Scottish, sprang from the best Saxon aristocracy. Of the old Earls of Northumberland, one named Cospatrick left England after the Conquest, and settled in Scotland. He was ancestor of the Earls of Dunbar, of whom the Homes, and we believe the Edgars, are cadets. From him the Nevilles of Raby, in England, are also descended."

According to *Douglas* ("Peerage of Scotland:" ed. Wood, ii. 107) the descent is stated thus:—

I. Cospatrick, son of Maldred by Algetha, daughter and heiress of Uchtred, Prince of Northumbria, by Elgiva, daughter of Ethelred, King of England, was father of Dolfyn and,—

II. Cospatrick, 1st Earl of Dunbar, whose son,—

III. Cospatrick, 2nd Earl, died in 1147, leaving 1. Cospatrick (3rd Earl). 2. Edward.

3. Edgar ("who appears to have been ancestor of those of the surname Edgar.") 4. Uchtred.

In Surtees' "Durham," we find, with many other collateral descents, the following:—

Waltheof (*circa* A.D. 969) father of Uchtred, who was thrice married, and had by his 2nd wife, Elgiva, a daughter, Aldgetha, who married Maldred, and was mother of Cospatrick, whose issue follows:—

1. Cospatrick, father of Cospatrick and Patrick.

2. Dolfyn (*viv.* 1120).

3. Waldeve.

4. Edgar (Nothus).

5. Gunil, who married Orme, and had Cospatrick, Dominus de Workington, father of Thomas (*ob.* 1152), father of Patrick.

Waltheof (*circa* 969), by his 3rd wife, Sigen, had Cospatrick, the father of Uchtred, father of Dolfyn (1131), father of Maldred and Patrick. This Maldred was father of five children, viz., 1. Robert, who married Isabella, daughter of G. de Neville. 2. Gilbert. 3. John. 4. Gilbert. 5. Richard.

In his version of the pedigree of the House of Dunbar, &c., many references are given by the author to the sources of his information; it contains likewise the name of Siward, the Giant Earl of Northumberland, who is stated to have married Aelfed, the great granddaughter of Waltheof, the founder (?) of these families.

The territory once in possession of the Wedderlie family, appears to have extended in a broken chain from the coast of Berwickshire to the Solway Firth. Yet many small landowners bearing the name, who were settled under a peculiar tenure\* in the royal patrimony at Lochmaben, may have

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donations, noted in the chartularies of Coldingham, Newbottle, Dryburgh, Kelso, Melrose, and Soltra. Founded on a steep, rugged rock, within sea-mark, and communicating with the land through a covered passage, the castle of Dunbar might well, before the invention of gunpowder, have been deemed impregnable. It was often the theatre of warlike contention, and two great battles were fought in its immediate neighbourhood,—the first in 1226, when Earl Warenne defeated the army of Scotland sent for its relief; and the second in 1650, when Leslie was overthrown by Cromwell. It was often besieged, and as often bravely defended; but perhaps never so brilliantly as by Black Agnes against the Earl of Salisbury in 1337."—*Quarterly Review*, Jan. 1858.

\* Existing likewise in the Orkneys.

had no distinct legitimate connection with the chief House, but at the same time it is probable there was but *one* family of the name.

It is probable that in the fourteenth century the House of Wedderlie was more powerfully represented in Nithsdale than in its native county; and it is a question whether the representation of the family early in the seventeenth century did not revert to the head of the House settled in the former locality.

Towards the close of the thirteenth century an Edgar, Laird of Wedderlie, appears to have been married to a Countess of Home; and immediately afterwards, the fortune of this House seems to have reached the summit of its prosperity, in the reign of King Robert the Bruce, at whose marriage Richard de Edgar was a witness. One of the latter's four sons was placed by David Bruce at the head of the Clan McGowan, and Wedderlie itself seems to have been resigned to a younger brother,—probably the king's godson.

The Laird of Wedderlie, as co-representative of Robert de Ros, Lord of Sanquhar,—through his wife, a daughter of the latter,—was allied to the family of one of the competitors for the crown of Scotland in 1292.\* Thus his position must have been among the foremost.

Yet it seems strange, that when a distinction came gradually to be made between *territorial* and *titular* barons, an Edgar should have acquired the latter rank; thus losing for his descendants a nominal status, which, like many powerful barons, they perhaps undervalued, during the season of *material* prosperity, and before the encroachments of men inferior by birth, but more ambitious—had reduced, by taking advantage of their inaptitude for war or business, or by marriage with their daughters, the once noble possessions of the family to comparatively a few acres.

Moreover, "they were among the few families who disobeyed the act of 1672, c 21, in not having their arms matriculated in the Lyon Register then established."

Then again, the *direct* succession seems to have been more than once broken; and, like certain other families of cognate origin, there is a period of obscurity midway in the descent, and though it is incontrovertible, that even during the most troublous times Wedderlie never was held but by an Edgar, still the then laird may have been self sufficient and short-sighted, or ignorant of the intention of the act referred to, and content to thus proceed on the stagnating principle of "leaving well alone."

Of the Edgars of Wedderlie, in the fifteenth century, little is known, although it is evident that they must have continued to maintain considerable influence in their native county. In the following century, it is probable, that cadets of the House established themselves at Edinburgh.

The heads of the family seem to have been turbulent in the seventeenth century. The Laird of Wedderlie was in 1679 a rebel. In 1661, George Edgar of Newtown was proceeded against, in the Court of Session, for oppressing Ker of Mersington and his servants, and preventing them cultivating their lands, and attending to peaceful occupations.

Towards the close of the seventeenth century, the *irregularities* of another laird brought him into

\* William de Ros, great grandson of Isabella, said to have been eldest daughter of William the Lion—Hailes' "Annals," 1776, v. p. 209.

frequent bad odour with the rigid Presbyterians of his parish, whose interference he resisted for a while, but he was obliged to yield to them eventually.

In this century flourished the Edgars of Peffermyln \* (an interesting ancient fortalice near Craigmillar), and the Edgars of Keithock, &c. The former was of the Nithsdale line of Wedderlie, and will be noticed elsewhere.

The lands of Wedderlie continued in the possession of the Edgar family until 1733—6, when they passed by sale to Robert Lord Blantyre. So late, however, as the 25th July, 1736, John Edgar, the last in possession, marked the exodus of his race from their ancient patrimony by the gift to his native parish of Westruther, of a Bible "bound in blue Turkey leather, for which the Session appoints the minister, Mr. Scott, to return thanks to Wadderlie."

From a reference to the title deeds it would appear that the older muniments have either perished or gone astray among other collections, for the earliest is a crown charter granted in the year 1619, to John Edgar, eldest son of *Robert Edgar of Wedderlie*. This is a curious coincidence, inasmuch as the collateral succession of this Robert Edgar is one of the obscure links of the pedigree of Wedderlie.

Before the Reformation, the Edgars were buried in their own chapel at Wedderlie; from the Reformation to 1649 at Bassendean, and subsequently, at Westruther; all their tombstones, however, have unfortunately disappeared, with one exception, on which the last resident Laird of Wedderlie has left a memorial of himself, in his native parish, which, from its quaintness, seems characteristic of the sad and somewhat sarcastic spirit of its author.

An apocryphal story is told of the departure of the Edgars of Wedderlie from their ancient inheritance. The family were fallen and obliged to sell their estates, and in the words of the narrator,—“The auld laird and leddy drove out in their carriage and four horses at mid-day; but the young laird (their only child) was broken-hearted at the thocht o’ leaving the auld place, and he waited till the darkening; for he said the sun should na shine when he left his hame.” † The preserver of this anecdote was a very aged woman, named Eppy Forsyth, who died about 1840. She remembered seeing the young laird riding down the avenue alone, and she said “It was a dark night when the last Edgar rode out of Wedderlie.”

The death of the last *recognised* male heir of Wedderlie is thus recorded, and one of the many examples of the same kind of error is here repeated.

“1817, March. . . . In Bedford Street, Bedford Square, London, aged 80, Rear Admiral Alexander Edgar, *the last male* descendant of the ancient Scottish family of Edgar of Wedderlie.” ‡

There are no complete pedigrees on record of the various families of Edgar in Scotland, and it would be a somewhat bold assertion to make, that there may not, at the present day, be many

\* *Vide* “Peffer,” p. 541. Robertson’s “Gaelic Topog. of Scotland,” 1869.

† The ancient manor house, once styled a fortalice, and about 6,000 acres, chiefly moorland, picturesquely extending towards the Lammermoor Hills, now represent the lordly possessions of this once powerful family.

‡ *Gent’s Mag.* 1817. “Last Male” is a common error in many genealogies.

descendants, in the male line, of the numerous cadets of the house of Wedderlie, in the sixteenth, seventeenth, and earlier centuries.\*

It is quite certain, for example, that the branch of the Wedderlie family planted at Newtown de Birgham, in Berwickshire, flourished there until the death of Lieut.-Colonel Hunter Edgar, in 1808.

But there is a probability of nearer cadets of Wedderlie being in existence. Beside the "Edgars of Evelaw, and of Westruther," local records show, that at the opening of the eighteenth century, Edgars were still numerous in the neighbourhood of Wedderlie, and several families of the name still lived—some as lairds, others as "kindly tenants"—around the chief of their house. It would be difficult, perhaps impossible, to ascertain their relationship to him, considering that the last Laird of Wedderlie had no fewer than five sons, of whom the Admiral was one; it does seem remarkable that none of them should have left any known male descendants.

On a reference to the records of the Commissariat of Lauder, and of Edinburgh, where the Wills of Edgars of, from, or at Wedderlie, are recorded, it is at once perceived that there have been extensive offshoots, whose descendants have never been traced.

In the "Bride of Lammermoor" there are a few marked and curious coincidences between the family of Ravenswood and that of Edgar of Wedderlie. Both were of the Merse, and Wedderlie is situated at the foot of the Lammermoor Hills. The Master of Ravenswood is named Edgar. Against the "Wolf's Crag" of the Romance we have "Wolfstruther," afterwards Westruther, the parish of Wedderlie. Edgar Ravenswood was related to the Humes and Douglasses; so likewise was Edgar of Wedderlie; but what is still more remarkable, *both* families were connected with that of Chiesly, and at the same period. The Ravenswoods were involved in a litigation, in which Chiesly was implicated; while in the Public Records (*Decisions of the Court of Session*) at the period of the Romance, Edgar of Wedderlie had a bitter lawsuit with Chiesly, the tutor of his father's younger children. Edgar of Wedderlie was impoverished by his opposition to the Presbyterian church, just as Edgar Ravenswood opposed its minister at his father's funeral. Both families were turbulent, and both were brought to ruin by espousing the losing cause.

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#### EDGAR OF PEFFERMYLN AND EDINBURGH.

THE *conjecture* of one generation is apt to become the family tradition of the next, and then, if embalmed in the pages of a literary sponsor, it is transmitted to posterity with a fictitious authority, to question which would, in many instances, excite the strongest indignation. The fact that certain families of Edgar used the pure arms of Wedderlie prior to the extinction of the chief line in 1817, militates against the very origin that it suggests; at the same time, one may well understand

\* "C. W." in *Notes and Queries*, 1861.

the ignorance of heraldic rules on this point, among the obscure descendants of an old parent stock.

Sometimes we find two families of the same name, to all appearance so thoroughly amalgamated, that after the lapse of a century, without some special knowledge of them, it becomes a matter of no slight difficulty to separate their records, and give to each its own fair proportion. This has more than once occurred among the Edgars, and a notable example\* is found in the family of Keithock, when the ancestral estate was transferred by sale from one branch to another.

Edinburgh † seems to have been the crucible in which these commingling families were fused. Here, early in the sixteenth century, dwelt a powerful burgess, named Patrick Edgar, ‡ who was one of the first offshoots of Wedderlie of whom we have any record. His name occurs in the *Diurnal of Occurrents*; and his house is now better known as that in which the celebrated Sir David Baird was born.

A reference to the *General Inquisitions* of the seventeenth century shows that the Edgars at Peffermyln, in the Barony of Craigmillar; at Restalrig, in the Barony of Broughton; in Leith, and at Hillhousefield, formed but one family, to trace all the ramifications of which, however, would be a task attended with almost insurmountable difficulties.

These Edinburgh Edgars traded in grain, as their Wills attest. The Will of Edward Edgar, † of "Papermylne," is a curious example. The rich acres, or "riggs," as the equivalent seems often to have been termed, about the metropolis, must have had peculiar advantages from the proximity of the port of Leith, the trade of which was, at the period referred to, very considerable.

We find, in the seventeenth century, two Edgars, described as merchants, trading with the great continental grain port of Dantzic, which received and garnered the produce of the fertile plains of Poland. These were Gilbert of Sheirington, in Dumfries, whose nephew, Thomas, was returned his heir in 1623, and John "of Poland," "eldest lauchful sone to Thomas Edgar of Keithock," about eighty years after.

In the eighteenth century, and during the palmy days of the West Indies, many persons of this name emigrated thither; and at Bristol (the commercial nurse, so to speak, of these colonies) there were residing at that period two gentlemen, whose names, Preston and Alexander Edgar, point rather to a Scottish than a southern origin.

A glance at the map of Scotland will at once suggest with what ease an over-crowded family in the parish of Westruther, could transfer its junior members to the metropolis, not to say anything of the other outlets in Haddington, Roxburgh, Dumfries, &c.

Certain baptismal names seem to have been peculiar to certain branches. Thus Edward, Clement

\* See also the families of Guthrie, and Pringle.

† Wilson's "Memorials of Edinburgh."

‡ Edgar's house (in Edinburgh) was one of especial note in early times from its substantial magnificence. It is described in one of the deeds as "that tenement or dwelling house called the *Schlute* house of old of the deceased Patrick Edgar." \* \* \* It is alluded to in the *Diurnal of Occurrents*, 7th Sept., 1570, where the escape of Robert Hepburn, younger, of Wauchtown, from the Earl of Morton's adherents is described. It is added:—"he came to the Castell of Edinburgh, quhairin he was ressauit with great difficultie; for when he was passand in at the said Castell zett his adversaries were at Patrik Edgar his hous end." In this work is mentioned "Mr. Edgar's Map of Old Edinburgh."

and Herbert prevail in one, Alexander is common in another, David in a third, and several of these branches were ultimately represented by a "Margaret." This happened more than once in the Berwickshire families; and Margaret, the wife of Alexander Edgar of Auchingrammont, was, we believe, the co-heiress of her father, James Edgar of Edinburgh (about 1737). These resemblances are so closely involved in some instances, that it is scarcely possible, among so many *counterparts*, all grouped contemporaneously, to discriminate accurately.

In Scotland, when a family parted with its paternal acres, the origin of its descendants was soon lost, owing, in a great measure, to deficiencies in parochial and heraldic registration.

Peffermyln, in the parish of Liberton, near Edinburgh, is an ancient "Tower and Fortalice," once belonging to a branch of the family of Edgar of Wedderlie, in Berwickshire. There is a curious piece of armorial sculpture over the entrance to the tower, representing Edgar of Wedderlie, impaling Pearson of Kippenross, with only the difference of a *mullet* instead of a *cinquefoil*, in the latter. Such monograms are very obscure, for this reason, that little is known of the Edgars who owned the place, beyond what can be gleaned from the imperfect parish registers, the Burgess Rolls of Edinburgh, and a few other records.

Edward Edgar of Peffermyln, or Peffermiln, the son of Patrick Edgar (whose house in Edinburgh in the time of Mary, Queen of Scots, and which is still standing, shows him to have been a person of no small consequence), was one of the last of the commissioners appointed to try witches, and the record of some curious trials at which he presided is preserved. He appears to have been succeeded by his son, Patrick Edgar, who was succeeded by his brother Edward, whose heirs were Andrew and Margaret.

There is a deed recorded (Reg. of Deeds Dur. Off. 1664, Dec. 23), which is dated at "Johnstoun," and was executed by the heirs of Edward Edgar, bailie and burgess of Edinburgh. In it is described the estate of umquhile Patrick Edgar, and of Andrew and Edward, sons to the deceased Edward Edgar, and Margaret, their sister, married to Walter Cant; Patrick, son and heir of the defunct "Edward Edgar the elder." The names of two Johnstouns appear to this deed along with Margaret, relict of the deceased.

Edward, the elder, had been admitted a guild brother of Edinburgh on the 12th of August, 1621, and appears to have acquired from another Edgar the lands of "Kingsmedow *alias* Scharnyhall," Edinburgh, on the 19th of June, 1629. Possibly, however, this may have been Edward Edgar, also of Edinburgh, and a guild brother in 1607.

These Edgars of Peffermyln owned land about the village of Water of Leith, Restalrig, Hillhousefield, &c., all in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh, and they appear to have intermarried with Thomsons, Johnstons, Cants, Romes, Cranstouns, and perhaps with Chisholm; but as the parish registers of that period are very imperfect, it would be scarcely possible to construct a complete pedigree, although the descent of property could be shown in the same family.

The quaint and elegant old fortified house of Peffermyln closely resembles externally that of Wedderlie, in Berwickshire, which latter again is described in a deed dated December 14th, 1714, as the "tower, fortalice, and manour place" of Wedderlie.



During a portion of the seventeenth century Peffermyln appears to have been occupied by a family named Osborne, whose transactions with the Edgars are the subject of several records.

Many of the Edgars of Wedderlie were burgesses of Edinburgh. A branch of the Nithsdale Edgars early in the sixteenth century settled in Edinburgh, under the auspices of Lord Maxwell.

There seems to have been a connection between Murray of Broughton\* in 1720, and James Edgar, writer in Edinburgh, and from the *Retours* we discover that certain Edgars possessed land in the Barony of Broughton; but this James Edgar must not be confounded with his namesake and contemporary.

James Edgar, writer in Edinburgh, an honorary burghess of the city, Extractor in the Court of Session and private clerk or secretary to Sir Gilbert Elliot, the first baronet of that family, had two daughters, viz.,—1. Margaret, married in 1742, Alexander Edgar, of Auchingrammont, and died in 1791. 2. Elizabeth, married, in 1739, John Myln of Edinburgh, and had issue—1. John, progenitor of the families of Milne and Ritchie of Edinburgh and Redford, 2. Edgar, physician. 3. James (*ob. s. p.*). 4. Priscilla. 5. Margaret, married Dr Colin Lauder † of Edinburgh, who by him had issue—1. William Preston, M.D., married Harriet, daughter of General Harry Dalmer (*ob. s. p.*). 2. A daughter, who married a Mr. Guild; and left issue—1. Margaret, married Lieut.-Col. Edenborough. 2. Eliza, married Admiral James Ferguson. 3. Jesse, married Nathaniel Spens, of Craigsanquhar.

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#### EDGAR OF NEWTOUN, BERWICKSHIRE.

RICHARD EDGAR, son of Oliver (son of another Richard of Wedderlie), who married Margaret, daughter of George Pringle, of Torwoodlee in 1564, and acquired Newtoun de Birgham, (now known as Eccles-Newton) early in the seventeenth century, was succeeded, about 1645, by his son George, who in 1648 was one of the commissioners for putting the kingdom in a posture of defence. The latter had a long feud with Thomas Ker, of Mersington, which was terminated in 1661, by an act of the Estates, in Ker's favour. (Acts of Parliament, vol. vi. 299, vol. vii. 37.)

Richard Edgar, of Newtoun, who lived at the time of the Revolution of 1668, was an Episcopalian, a Nonjuror, and one of the few gentlemen of the county, who stood by Charles, Earl of Home, in his opposition to the new government. He was one of three who, in May, 1691, went with Henry Home, of Kames, into the church of Eccles, and interrupted the ordination of the Rev. John Lauder. In 1702 he married Rachel Maxwell, by whom he had two sons; Richard, his successor, and Andrew, who married Grace, daughter of the Rev. James Allen, minister of Eyemouth. He was grandfather of the Rev. John Edgar, minister of Hutton, in Berwickshire, who died on the 2nd April, 1858, in his

\* This was the *traitor*, but perhaps he was not so culpable as represented. He was a Freemason of the Canongate Kilwinning Lodge of Edinburgh.

† He was a direct descendant of the first Baronet of Fountainhall.

seventy-third year. The latter married, 7th June, 1814, Jessie, daughter of Abraham Logan, of Burnhouses, and had issue Andrew, barrister-at-law, of the Middle Temple, and LL.D. John George, born 1827, died 15th April, 1854, and others. The first mentioned who represents the Edgars of Newtown, married 1st (1850) Mary Ann daughter of the late E. Bichnell Esq (*d.* 1858) by whom he has a son Logan Bichnell Edgar of Trinity Hall, Cambridge and of the Middle Temple, and 2dly (1864) Emily Elizabeth, daughter of the late Humphry Ballard Esq. The last mentioned was the author of several popular works, of which the best known are "Boyhood of Great Men," "Footprints of Famous Men," and "History for Boys." He also contributed some materials for the present work:

Richard Edgar, eldest son of the Jacobite and Nonjuror, succeeded his father as Edgar, of Newtown, and having married, in 1728, Margaret, daughter of George Bell of Rigg, he had two sons and two daughters. Of these Margaret, born 1734, and Richard, born 1736, attained maturity.

Richard, after being an officer in the Berwickshire Militia, entered the 25th Regiment as a lieutenant. In 1757 he accompanied the regiment to the Continent, and fell during the seven years' war. In consequence his sister Margaret, on her father's death in 1767, succeeded to the estate of Newtown. Having married William Hunter, of Linthill, Roxburghshire, she had two sons, William, who died young, and Lieutenant Colonel Richard Edgar Hunter, 1st Dragoon Guards, who was killed by falling from his horse, as he was returning from a meeting of heritors. He died unmarried and after his death there was a long litigation about the succession, in the Court of Session and House of Lords; the estate being claimed by the Rev. John Edgar as heir of entail under a Disposition executed by his great uncle Richard Edgar, the son of the Nonjuror. It was held, however, that the entail had been broken by a deed executed *alio intuitu* by Mrs. Hunter, the mother of the last proprietor. Thus the estate of Newtown passed from the Edgars into the hands of others.

#### EDGAR FROM DUNSE, BERWICKSHIRE, AND OF AUCHINGRAMMONT, LANARKSHIRE.

Nearly connected with the House of Wedderlie \* is that of the Edgars of Auchingrammont, who have the advantage of uniting another family of the same name by the marriage of Alexander Edgar of Auchingrammont in 1742, with the daughter of James Edgar of the Melrose branch of Wedderlie derived intermediately, from the Edgars of Gruedykes (Dunse).

\* Major F. Pemberton Campbell, 14th Hussars, grandson and heir of the late Admiral Alexander Edgar, only surviving son of the late laird of Wedderlie, represents the direct line.