NOTES ON GRIERS OF SCOTLAND

July 20, 2011 by Glenn N. Holliman

James Greer, b either 1627 (or 1650), (m 1680 to Anne Taylor), d ca 1688:

(James G. b Capenoch, Dumfrieshire and died between 1688 – 1699 in Gunpowder River, Baltimore County, Mary. Arr. Maryland Nov. 1674 on Batchelor, ex Bristol, indentured, according to Donald Whyte, 1972, Emigrants to the USA. Transported by Samuell Gibbons of Bristol. Also A History of the Origin of the Above Families (Greer) and Many of Their Descendants, 1954 by Robert M. Torrence, Baltimore, MD.) James was one of a number of children of Sir James of the Rock, b 1604.

Sir James of the Rock, b 1604 at Cape Noch, (m 1626 to Mary Browne who was b 1604 at Glencairn), d 1666, inherited the estate from his brother, John died with an heir in 1638. Mary Browne, a widower of Thomas Greer in 1625, m. James Greer in 1626. Her father was the Rev. John Borrwne, M.A. of Glencairn, first minister after the Reformation, and his wife, Sara Hope. Sir James was a 4th or 5th son of:

9th of Lag was Sir William Grierson, sasine of Lag in 1593. Held many judicial and administrative offices in West March. A justice of the peace in 1610 and sheriff of Dumfries in 1615, 1617 and 1621. In English parliament in 1617, 21 and 1625. Died in 1629. Principle residence was Rockhall.

1629, Robert Grierson became 10th of Lag. Lag tower now abandoned by Griersons. Last laird to live in Tower was Sir Robert Grierson of Lag (1655 – 1738 (33?). By 1789, Lag was in advanced state of decay.

Sir Robert Grierson had an outstanding career in public service, in Parliament 1628, 33, and 1639 to 1648. (Note this is the famous long Parliament of the English Civil War). The 10th Lag died in 1651.

Sir William Grierson of Lag, purchased wine with James Maxwell, brother of the Earl of Nithsdale, 1621, b btwn 1567 and 1575, Dumfrieshire (m Nichola Maxwell, , Lady Herries, daughter of Sir John Maxwell, Lord Herries, 1512 – 1583 and Lady Agnes Herries, 1534 - 1594. Nichola was b 1578 and m 5/9/1593). Lord Herries had 5 children in wedlock and 5 out! Sir William was knighted by King James VI (King James I of England), d 1/21/1629. Fought at Battle of Dryfe Sands in 1593 and ‘escaped only bh the fleetness of his horse’. Son of:

(John Maxwell of Conhaith gave title charter in favour of Archibald Makbrair of Almigill and Agnes Grier, his spouse, 1586….)

*“****The Border Towers of the West March of Scotland****”, Alastair M.T. Maxwell-Irving, 2000, by Maxwell-Irving.*

*P 15 – Hoddon Castle build by Sir John Maxwell 1565, 4th Lord Herries, a garrison fortress to fight lawlessness.*

*Sir John succeeded by eldest son, Robert, 7th of Lag. Roger received Rockhall, another son by a second marriage. Robert died in 1562 without issue and Lag went to Roger, his half brother and 8th of Lag. From this time on, Grierson’s preferred Rockhall as residence.*

Roger Grierson of Lag, b 1520, Dumfrieshire, (m 4/21/1566 to Helen Douglas), d 1593.

*John, 6th of Lag, was laird for 50 years or so. This John rebuilt or restored the present tower. His armorial panel stood over the tower gateway. In 1547, he pledged 200 men to the service of England.*

*The Lag stands on Crawston Hill, some 350 ft above sea level. Top of the hill is 700 feet above the sea and site of Crawston Beacon, one of a chain of beacons set up to warn of an English invasion. In 1595, Lag was still a substantial strongpoint. Tower averaged 5 ft, 9 inches in thickness.*

Sir John Grierson, b before 1513 (1490 one source), (m 1548 to Egidia Kennedy, b 1535 in Cullean, Ayrshire), d 1566 or 1559, son of:

Roger Grierson, b 1474, (m Agnes Janet Douglas, b 1467 who d in 1519) d 1513 9/9 in Flodden Field, Branxton, North Umberland, England, son of:

*P 182, 221 - 224 – First Grierson was Gilbert Griersoun, described as a ‘son of Duncan’, rose in the 15th Century. Extensive lands in Dumfriesshire and Galloway. Early 1400s purchased lands of Lag and Bardman.*

*Son Gilbert followed, 2nd of Lag who married Isabel, daughter of Sir Duncan Kirkpatrick of Torthonwald. Acquired Rockhall and Collin.*

Roger Grierson, b 1439, Dumfrieshire (m 1473 to Isabella Gordoun, b abt 1460), d 6/1488 Sauchieburn, near Sterling, Scotland, son of:

Vedast Grierson, b 1415, Lag, d 1487 (m Margaret Glendonwyn), built Lag Tower in 1460. Son Gilbert, 2nd Lord, died in 144, succeed by eldest, Vedast, 3rd of Lag. Vedast built the tower in 1460.

*Vedast’s eldest son, Roger, killed at Sauchieburn in 1488. Succeeded by Cuthbert who had sasine of Lag in 1492 and Rockhall in 1504. Cutbirth, 5th of Lag, died 1513 with no issue. Passed to Sir John Grierson, an infant, the father being killed at Flodden.*

Son of:

Gilbert Grierson, b 1397, Dumfrieshire, d abt 1444 in Lag (m 11/14/1412 Isabella De Kirkpatrick, b abt 1400, Rock Hall, d 1472), son of:

Gilbert Grierson of Lag, b 1353, (m before 1400 to Janet Glendening, who was b about 1383 and d after 1400), d abt 1425 Lag. Had received charter of the lands of Lag on 6 Dec 1408 from his cousin, Henry, Earl of Orkney. , son of

Malcolm Dominus de MacGregor, Lord MacGregor, b bef 1300, d 1374; fought at Brannockburn in 1317 with Robert de Bruce. M Mary MacAlpin, who was b before 1340. Son of:

Lord Gregor MacGregor, b before 1239 and died 1300. M to Marion Fileon De Gilchrist who was b bef 1280. Son of:

Lord William MacGregor, b before 1165 and d 1238. M. Margaret Lindsay, b bef 1225. Son of:

Sir Malcom MacGregor, b before 1113, d 1164. M. Majory Lindsay, b bef 1150. Son of:

Sir John MacGregor, Lord of Glenorch, b before 1100 and d about 1113(?). Son of:

Gregor MacGregor of Gleurchy, b before 1005. M unknown Campbell. Son of:

Sir John MacGregor, b before 962 and d 1004. M Alpina, b bef 990; son of:

Gregor De Bhrattich, b before 940, m Dorviegilda b bef 945, son of:

Constantine,b bef 900, m to Malvina, b bef 920. He d 940. Son of:

Prince Dongallus, b before 880 and died 900 in Italy. M. to Spontana, b in Ireland b bef 880. Son of:

Gregor MacAlpine, Regent of Stathclyde, b before 855 and d 889 in Dundur, Strathearn. Unknown wife. Son of:

Dungal Thane, b bef 782: son of:

Hugh IV, b before 760, d 822, known as King of Dalriada and also Hugh the Poisonous M to Fegusa, b before 765. Son of:

Aed Finn, King of Dalriada, b before 724, d 778, also known as Ethafind, ruled 733 – 764. M to a queen consort. Son of:

Hugh III, b before 696, d 733, also known as Eugene IV, ruled 707-724, m to a queen consort.

Hugh II, b before 680, d 697, King of Dalriada, ruled 691-695. M to a queen consort.

Mary Browne’s father was rector at Glencairn, the Rev. John Brown. DNA according to David Grierson shows test results that Aquilla Greer elder was in relationship the Lag family.

Look up and print Polly Brown’s will, mother of Frankie Brown Greer whose photo is on internet.