

CRAIGALLIAN.

The lands of Craigallian and Ballochalary, which is the correct name of what is usually called "The Boards", and about one fourth of the lands of Carbeth, make up the present estate of Craigallian. It lies south-east of Carbeth Guthrie.

The name Craigallian means "Beautiful Rock", and the place originally was called doubtless from the picturesque cliffs which overhang the eastern side of the fine loch on the estate. Craigallian and Ballochalary from an early date were conjoined, but it was not till 1784 that part of Carbeth was added to the estate.

Craigallian and Ballochalary were feued off the Barony of Mugdock by James Earl of Montrose, with consent of his curators, to Walter Robison, who was tenant in one of the Ballewans, conform to feu charter dated 22nd August 1632. The instrument of sasine is recorded 26th February, 1634, and after the young Earl attained majority there was a ratification of these deeds dated 27th August, 1642.¹ Walter Robison was succeeded by his son John² and by his grandson, another John, and by the latter the lands were alienated to John Bryson younger, merchant in Glasgow. The deeds relating to this sale are dated 23rd January and 2nd March 1696.³

The new laird of Craigallian came of a family who had long held a high place in the City of Glasgow. His father was Baillie Bryson, and his mother Jean, daughter of Edward Robertson, merchant in Glasgow, a cadet of the old family of Struan. The Bailie's father was another John Bryson, merchant in Glasgow, and his mother was Margaret Hill, daughter of Ninian Hill of Garioch, merchant in Glasgow, and Helen Hutcheson, sister of George and Thomas Hutchieson, the founders of the Hospital and School which bear their name⁴

John Bryson of Craigallian married about 1714 Elizabeth, daughter of Zachary Maxwell, and sister of John Maxwell of Pollok, and on his death about 1749 his three daughters, Isobel, Marion, and Jean, succeeded as heiresses portioners. They were all by this time married, Isobel to Robert Dreghorn, merchant in Glasgow, soon afterwards of Blochairn; Marion to John Hamilton of Barns and Cochna, merchant in Glasgow; and Jean to David Leitch, also merchant there⁵

¹ Craigallian Writs.

² The testament dative and inventory of goods of the deceased "John Robisoune of Craigallethan", who died within the parish of "Strablaine" in June, 1664, is given up by Margaret Craig, his relict. John Craig of Cult is cautioner.-Com, of Glasgow, vol.31

³ Craigallian Writs.

⁴ Hist. of Hutchesons' Hospital, pp. 14 and 15, Wm. H. Hill.

⁵ Robert Dreghorn was younger brother of Allan Dreghorn of Ruchill, but predeceased him. By Isobel Bryson, his wife, he had a son *Robert*, afterwards of Blochairn and Ruchill, in which he succeeded his uncle Allan. He was the "Bob Dragon" of Glasgow fame. *Elizabeth*, who died unmarried, and *Margaret*, who was the second wife of James Dennistoun of Colgrain. Mrs. Dennistoun had four daughters who eventually succeeded to their uncle's fortune - Isabella Bryson who married Gabriel Hamilton Dundas of Westburn and Duddingston, and had issue; Janet Baird, who married Hugh Maclean of Coll, and had issue; Elizabeth Dreghorn, who married Sir Duncan Campbell of Barcaldine, Bart. and had issue; and Mary Lyon, who married Sir William Baillie of Polkemmet, Bart., and had issue.

John Hamilton of Barns and Marion Bryson are the grand-parents of Miss Grace Hamilton, the venerable proprietrix of Barns and Cochna, in the neighbouring parish of East Kilpatrick
David Leitch and Jean Bryson were the ancestors of the Yuelles of Darleith and others.

These ladies did not hold the estate long, but with the consent of their several spouses sold it in 1751 to John Park, residing at Craigallian, and he almost immediately resold it to John Colquhoun of Hillhead, writer and clerk to the Regality of Glasgow¹

John Colquhoun was fifth son of Andrew Colquhoun of Garscadden² He died childless about 1784, and left Craigallian and Ballochalary to his nephew, James Colquhoun, second son of his brother William Colquhoun of Garscadden.

The Colquhouns were then and still are a great family in Dumbartonshire, and then as now had a great taste for acquiring land, and this James, who succeeded his uncle in the Craigallian estate, was already a Strathblane laird, having in 1758, 1775 and 1780 acquired successively parts of Carbeth from Walter M'Indoe, Gilbert Ware and James M'Indoe³, descendants of two of the old tenants on the original two merk land of Carbeth. Craigallian, Ballochalary, and about a quarter of the original Carbeth⁴ were thus united into one estate in 1784, and have so continued to the present day.

James Colquhoun of Craigallian and Garscadden, to the latter of which he had succeeded on the death of his brother William, died unmarried in 1801 and was succeeded in Garscadden by his nephew, William Dalzell Colquhoun, W.S.,⁵ and in Craigallian by his sister Jean and the same nephew as heirs portioners. The laird of Garscadden died in 1806 and was succeeded by his aunt, Miss Jean Colquhoun. She and his trustees sold the Craigallian estate in 1807 to Adam Graham, and when she died unmarried in 1821 Garscadden fell into the Killermont family of Colquhouns.

Adam Graham who thus purchased Craigallian was a younger son of William Graham of Lymekilns, the head of an old family long settled in the parish of East Kilbride in Lanarkshire. He died in 1824 after having executed a Disposition and Deed of Entail under which his grand-nephew John Graham, second son of Alexander Graham of Lymekilns, succeeded.

John Graham, or as he was afterwards styled John Graham Barns-Graham, when he succeeded to Lymekilns and the Ayrshire estate, was a pronounced politician of the Liberal type, and possessed of great influence in Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire, perhaps somewhat eccentric, and with peculiar views of his own as to the management of his estates, but withall a thoroughly agreeable acquaintance and firm friend, well informed, conversational, and hospitable. He died a bachelor in 1875, and Lymekilns, Craigallian,

¹ Craigallian Writs.

² The Colquhouns of Garscadden and Killermont are descended from John, second son of John Colquhoun, 7th of Camstradden, 1530-63, an early cadet of Luss.- Chiefs of Colquhoun, vol. ii. p. 189.

³ Craigallian Writs.

⁴ The Craigallian part of Carbeth consists of the whole or nearly so of the fourth part, or six and eight penny land, of the two merk land of Carbeth, which was feued 14th April, 1632, to Gilbert Ware, and sold by his great-great-grandson, another Gilbert Ware or Weir, to James Colquhoun in 1775. It consists also of small parts of the other fourth of Carbeth, Feued at the same time to James M'Indoe, and it was his great-grandson, Walter M'Indoe, and great-great-grandson, James M'Indoe, who were the sellers to the Colquhouns.

⁵ William Dalzell Colquhoun, W.S., was the son of Margaret Colquhoun, sister of James Colquhoun of Garscadden and Craigallian, and David Dalzell, her husband, merchant in Glasgow. William Dalzell Colquhoun married Elizabeth Glen, youngest daughter of Sir Islay Campbell of Succoth, Bart., and died s. p. in Edinburgh, 28th January 1806.

and his other estates were inherited by his cousin, Allan Graham, eldest surviving son of Patrick Graham of Robshill, by Janet, daughter of Allan Pollok of Faside¹

A fine old-fashioned mansion, built by the Brysons, stood on the site of the house just built, but after the Colquhouns ceased to live at Craigallian it was occupied in part only, and gradually falling into ruins, was taken down about 1850 and replaced by a convenient farm-house, which for many years was occupied by the tenant of the farm. After some additions and improvements, it was occupied in 1878 by Mr. Lindsay Small, who was then acting as factor for Mr. Barns-Graham, his brother-in-law. In the summers of 1881 and 1882 Mr. Barns-Graham lived in it himself, and in the autumn of 1883 it was taken down to make way for the present handsome house, which was finished in the autumn of 1885 and is now occupied by the laird and his promising family.

¹ These estates were:-In *Lanarkshire* -Lymekilns, including Bogton and Shieldburn; Cambuslang, including Westburn, Gilbertfield, Overton, Kirkhill and Chapel. In *Renfrewshire*-Ferenze, including Capellie, Killock, Boyleston, and other farms; also public works and part of Barrhead, and Greenhaggs, In *Ayrshire*-Kirkhill, including Hobsland and Fairyrees, Auchenharvie, Overlochridge and Laigh Fenwick. In *Stirlingshire*-Craigallian, including Ballochalary and parts of Carbeth.