Jan Aertsen Vanderbilt, His Children and Grandchildren

William and John Knowles, New York Stonecutters: Their Ancestors and Descendants

The Diary of Wendelin Merk: Epfenhofen, Baden, to Rochester, New York

Captain Robert Dunbar’s Muster Roll for 1808, Town of Watervliet, Albany County


Recent Literature on the Duncanson Sisters of New Netherland

Additions and Corrections to Articles in THE RECORD
In an article published sixteen years ago in this journal, Gordon L. Remington confirmed the longstanding hypothesis that the wives of the New Netherland settlers Pieter Loockermans, Thomas Powell, Willem Teller, and Sander Leendertsz. Glen were sisters. He identified the women respectively as Mary, Anne, Margaret, and Katherine Duncanson, daughters of the Rev­
extend James Duncanson, minister of Alloa and Tullibody, Clackmannanshire, Scotland, by his wife Helen Livingston, and granddaughters of the Reverend John Duncanson, minister of Stirling and to the household of King James VI, probably (now known to be certainly) by John's first wife, Janet Watson. Further, Remington noted that Katherine Duncanson's baptismal sponsor was a “Mr. Hendrie Levingston,” whom he identified as Henry Livingston, minister of St. Ninian's, Stirlingshire, a son of Henry Livingston of Falkirk and Margaret Forrester, the earliest proven ancestors of the Livingston Earls of Newburgh.\(^1\)

The first of the four sisters to arrive in the New World, in 1639, was Katherine, who would become a successful trader after the death of her husband. Dutch records refer to him as “Sander Leendertsz. Glen” and similar forms, and give his place of origin as “Duysert in Scotland,” suggesting—as Remington noted—that his original name was Alexander Glen, his father's name Leonard, and his place of origin Dysart in Fifeshire. Unfortunately the prospect of identifying him further is frustrated by gaps in the Dysart Presbyterian church registers. Despite the rarity of the name Leonard in Scotland during this period, Remington was correct in his unwillingness to accept the capricious reading Lindsay for the middle component of the name of Alexander Glen,\(^2\) a notion which had arisen by the 1890s and which was later to be embellished by the prolific but unreliable

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\(^1\) Gordon L. Remington, “The Duncanson Wives of Four New Netherland Settlers: Glen, Teller, Powell, and Loockermans,” RECORD 128 (1997): 1–10, 228. Thomas Powell was also married afterwards to a fifth sister, Janet Duncanson. Although Remington cautiously qualified Mary as a “possible” and Anne as a “probable” member of this family, the indirect evidence he presented that they were sisters of the others is compelling, particularly the fact that Anne's marriage intention describes her as from “Sterling,” accompanied by a sister “Jannetie.” Furthermore, Burke (note 8 below) shows that the Rev. James Duncanson and Helen Livingston were married many years earlier than the extant baptismal records at Alloa suggest, and that Helen had ten children alive in 1633.

Thomas Allen Glenn. Apart from the inherent implausibility of such a name as Alexander Lindsay Glen for a man born in the seventeenth century (when middle names were still extremely rare), the assumption that the name Lindsay would be so seriously mangled by Dutch clerks as to be represented as "Leendertsz." does not accord with the fact that the spelling Lindsay is well attested in Dutch records of this period. Disregarding records obviously made by English-speaking writers, such as the registers of English and Scottish churches, examples include Jeems [James] Lindsay, who married in Delft in 1607, Bernardt Lindsay, who served as a baptismal sponsor in Bergen-op-Zoom in 1655, and Georgius Lindsay, who was matriculated at the University of Leiden in 1688.

The vast progeny of Katherine and her sisters has made the elucidation of their ancestry a question of interest to many, and several years ago, the Duncanson/Livingston Project was founded by Adrian Benjamin Burke, John Howard Camp, Anthony Glenn Hoskins, and Joseph V. R. V. E. Laux, with the eminent genealogist Andrew B. W. MacEwen acting as consultant on the medieval portions of the research. The members of the project commissioned extensive research conducted by Diane Baptie in the National Archives of Scotland in Edinburgh. In Spring 2013 the project bore fruit in the form of the first installment of a three-part article by Burke, which spectacularly confirms and extends Remington’s work. In part one, Burke shows that Helen Livingston, born say 1585, was a daughter of the Reverend Henry Livingston, minister of St. Ninian’s, Stirlingshire, by his wife Agnes Gray, and a granddaughter of Henry Livingston of Falkirk and Margaret Forrester; and thoroughly documents the immediate descendants of this last couple. Part two rehabilitates an early-eighteenth-century identification of Margaret Forrester as the widow of Sir James Colville of East Wemyss, and as such the daughter of Sir James Forrester of Torwood and Garden by the latter’s first wife, Elizabeth Erskine, opening the door to a legitimate descent from Robert III, King of Scots, who died in 1406. The Duncanson sisters of New Netherland are in the ninth generation of descent from this king. The 1673 arrival of Robert Livingston the elder, first lord of Livingston Manor in New York, who was presumably related somehow to Helen Livingston in the


6 Albijn Studium Academia Lugduno Batavorum 1575–1875 (s'-Gravenhage: Martinus Nijhoff, 1975), col. 699. The name is there printed Lindsay, but in Dutch orthography this is equivalent to Lindsay.


paternal line,\textsuperscript{10} may have been tenth in descent from the same king, but in a completely different way.\textsuperscript{11} While the descent from Robert III is shared by several other American immigrants of the colonial period,\textsuperscript{12} these either arrived considerably later or had no apparent connection with the New Netherland region. And the only New York colonist with a known descent from a more recently deceased monarch is the 1679-arrival Robert Sinclair, descended (illegitimately) from James V, King of Scots.\textsuperscript{13}

Beyond the royal descent, Burke’s article reveals in the ancestry of the Duncansons a wide swath of medieval Scottish nobility.\textsuperscript{14} The sisters were sixth cousins of their contemporary, James VI, King of Scots (James I, King of England), through their shared descent from their early-fifteenth-century ancestors Sir William Douglas, 2nd Earl of Angus, and Margaret Hay, and they share with the present royal family of the United Kingdom the mid-fifteenth-century ancestors William 2nd Lord Graham and Helen Douglas.\textsuperscript{15} Burke has already announced that the as-yet unpublished part three of his article will focus on the evidence for the identification of Helen Livingston’s mother, Agnes Gray, and maternal grandmother, Helen Little, identified in part one as the wet-nurse to King James VI. Burke writes: “I . . . uncovered an unusually close network of servants to Mary, Queen of Scots, and her son James VI (later King of England) which included Helen’s mother, maternal grandmother, and several other close relatives. The unique relationship between Helen’s mother and King James I of England is the likely reason why

\textsuperscript{10} Burke identifies Helen Livingston’s paternal grandfather, Henry Livingston of Falkirk, as the probable eldest son of William Livingston, parish clerk of Falkirk, and notes that this line probably descended from an early cadet branch of the medieval Livingsons of that ilk—making them distant but unproven cousins of the Lords Livingston of Callendar, their feudal overlords in Stirlingshire.

\textsuperscript{11} This line is shown in its entirety in John P. Ravilious, “Ancestry of Alexander Hamilton,” Gen-Medieval, discussion list, Jan. 2004 (http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/GEN-MEDIEVAL/2004-01/10173937974), but Gary Boyd Roberts, The Royal Descents of 600 Immigrants to the American Colonies or the United States . . . (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2008), 129, may have found it unsatisfactory as he bypasses part of this line and instead gives a descent from Robert II. Moreover, even in the portion given by Roberts, corresponding to generations six through eleven of the line shown by Ravilious, the connection between generations seven and eight—the parentage of Barbara Livingston, wife of the Rev. Alexander Livingston, rector of Moneyabroch—is not really proven by the cited sources. Edwin Brockholst Livingston, The Livingsons of Callendar, and their Principle Cadets: The History of an Old Stirlingshire Family, 2nd ed. (Edinburgh: the author, 1920), 446–47, characterizes the identification only as “most probable,” and Florence Van Rensselaer, The Livingston Family in America and its Scottish Origins (New York: n. pub., 1949), 45–46, does not address this point of doubt.


\textsuperscript{13} Roberts, Royal Descents of 600 Immigrants (note 11), 37–39.

\textsuperscript{14} The connection is through their great-grandmother Margaret Forrester. For a convenient summary of her ancestry see her entry in the Genalogies database compiled by Leo van de Pas (http://genealogics.org/pedigree.php?personID=100269386&tree=LEO).


\textsuperscript{17} For the identification of Helen Little as the wife successively of Alexander Gray and Thomas Livingston, and mother of Agnes Gray, see Burke, “Livingston Ancestry of the Duncanson Sisters of New Netherland” (note 8), 40n79, 44n111.
Helen twice received royal favor from King James and his son Charles I."¹⁸ The final installment of this monumental article promises to be of interest as much for social history as for genealogy.