

MATT. PARIS, *Chron. Maj.* iv. 7 and 44 note). On 18 Oct. 1260 he was knighted, with his brother Henry [q. v.], by the king's son Edward. At the opening of the barons' war (1264) he defended Northampton against the king, but was captured after a gallant fight on 6 April, and imprisoned at Windsor. Released by his father's victory at Lewes, 14 May 1264, he was made 'custos pacis' in Surrey and Sussex (June) and constable of Porchester (24 Dec.) In September–November 1264 he unsuccessfully blockaded an alien garrison in Pevensey Castle; he was at the same task again in June 1265 when called away to help his father in the west. After wasting a month in collecting fresh troops in London, plundering Winchester, and making a triumphal progress to Oxford and Northampton, he reached Kenilworth on 31 July, only to be surprised and routed by Edward next morning. On 8 Aug. he set out again to join his father, but, owing to an unlucky halt at Alcester, he only reached Evesham in time to see from afar his father's head borne off on a spear-point as a trophy of the royalists' victory (4 Aug.) He withdrew again to Kenilworth; there the garrison, in their thirst to avenge the earl, were for slaughtering the king's brother Richard [see RICHARD, EARL OF CORNWALL], who was a prisoner in Simon's custody; Simon, however, withstood their demand, and on 6 Sept. set Richard at liberty. On 23 Nov., having fortified and victualled Kenilworth for a long siege, he went to join some of his father's friends who were entrenched in the Isle of Axholme. There, at Christmas, he was forced to accept Edward's terms, and submit himself to the judgment of king and council at Northampton. They pardoned him on condition that he would surrender Kenilworth and quit England for life, with a yearly pension of 400*l.* He was taken in the king's train to Kenilworth, but when he called upon the garrison to surrender, they refused, clearly with his connivance; he was led back to London, and thence, on the night of 10 Feb. 1266, escaped to Winchelsea. After acting for a time as leader of the Cinque Port pirates, he went over sea. On 18 May a proclamation was issued against his expected attempt to re-enter England by force, and he kept up a correspondence with Kenilworth till the eve of its surrender in December. In September 1267 King Louis of France was negotiating with Henry III for Simon's return to England, but he was still in France on 26 March 1268 (BÉMONT, *Simon de Montfort*, p. 251, note 4). Bartholomew Cotton (p. 146, Rolls ed.) says that Simon came over in 1271 to visit the

graves of his father and eldest brother; the visit, if it took place, must have been a hasty and stolen one. On 18 March of that year he was at Viterbo, taking part with his brother Guy [q. v.] in the murder of Henry of Cornwall [q. v.], and was only saved from justice by his death in the same year, at a castle near Siena.

[*Annales Monastici*, vols. ii. iii. iv.; *Floras Historiarum* ('Matt. Westminster'), vol. iii.; Robert of Gloucester, vol. ii.; Royal Letters, vol. ii. (all in Rolls Series); *Chronica Majorum Londiniarum*, ed. Stapleton (with *Liber de Antiquis Legibus*), and Rishanger's Chronicle, ed. Halliwell (Camden Soc.); Rymer's *Fœdera*, vol. i. pt. i.; Patent Rolls 48 & 49 Hen. III.; see also J. R. Green's article on the Ban of Kenilworth in *Archæol. Journ.* xxi. 277 et seq.] K. N.

MONTGOMERIE, SIR ALEXANDER DE, of Ardrossan, first BARON MONTGOMERIE (d. 1470?), was the eldest son of Sir John Montgomerie of Eaglesham, Eglinton, and Ardrossan, by his wife Agnes, daughter of Alexander, earl of Ross, lord of the Isles. His grandfather, Sir John Montgomerie (d. 1398?), is separately noticed. The father was a hostage for the Earl of Douglas in 1408, a hostage for James I in 1428, and one of the jury on the trial of Murdac, duke of Albany, in 1425. In 1425 the son was chosen a member of the privy council of James I. He succeeded his father some time before 22 Nov. 1429, and in August 1430 he was, jointly with his brother-in-law, Sir Robert Cunningham of Kilmaurs, appointed governor of Cantyre and Knapdale. On 30 Nov. 1436 he was appointed a commissioner to conclude a treaty with England (*Cal. Documents relating to Scotland*, iv. 1103), and he was one of the conservators of the truce concluded on 31 March for nine years (*ib.* p. 1111). With the other Scottish commissioners he received the present of a silver cup from Henry VI (*ib.* p. 1109). On 5 Feb. 1444 he had a safe-conduct to go to Durham to treat for the extension of the truce and the return of the Scottish hostages (*ib.* p. 1162).

In 1444 Montgomerie was appointed keeper of Brodick Castle in the Isle of Arran (*Exchequer Rolls of Scotland*, v. 163). He was one of those who set their seals to instruments passed by the parliament held at Perth on 9 June 1445 against those lords who had rebelled against James II. He was created a lord of parliament by the title of Lord Montgomerie some time before 3 July 1445 (*Acta Parl. Scot.* ii. 59; *Hist. MSS. Comm.* 11th Rep. pt. vi. p. 16). On 31 Jan. 1448–9 he had a grant of the office of bailliary of Cunningham. On 14 Aug. 1451 he was a conservator for a truce with England (*Cal.*

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Record Index

Name: Sir Alexander De
Montgomerie Baron
Montgomerie
Death Date: 1470
Father's Name: Sir John Montgomerie
Mother's Name: Agnes

Source Information

Record Url: <http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&db=DictNatBiogV1&h=40174>

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Documents relating to Scotland, iv. 1239), and in subsequent years he was sent to England on various other important embassies. He died about 1470. By his wife Margaret, second daughter of Sir Thomas Boyd of Kilmarnock, father of the first Lord Boyd, he had three, or possibly four sons and three daughters: Alexander, master of Montgomerie, who died in 1452, leaving by his wife Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Sir Adam Hepburn of Hales, a son, Alexander, second lord Montgomerie, father of Hugh, first earl of Eglinton [q. v.]; George, ancestor of the Montgomeries of Skelmorlie; Thomas, parson of Eaglesham, and rector of the university of Glasgow; John of Giffen (doubtful); Margaret, married to Sir John Stewart of Darnley, who was created Lord Darnley, and for a time was titular Earl of Lennox; Elizabeth, to John, lord Kennedy, seventh earl of Cassillis; and Agnes, to William Cunningham of Glengarnock.

[*Cal. Documents relating to Scotland*, vol. iv.; *Exchequer Rolls of Scotland*, vol. ii.; *Reg. Mag. Sig. Scot.*, vol. i.; *Sir William Fraser's Earls of Eglinton*; *Douglas's Scottish Peerage* (Wood), i. 495-6.] T. F. H.

MONTGOMERIE, ALEXANDER (1556?-1610?), Scottish poet, second son of Hugh Montgomerie of Hesselhead Castle, Ayrshire (TIMOTHY PONT, *Topography of Cunningham*, Maitland Club, p. 19), was, according to one of his poems, born 'on Eister day at morne', probably in 1556. His father was a kinsman of the Eglinton family (G. S. MONTGOMERY, *Hist. of Montgomery of Ballyleek*, p. 115). His mother was a daughter of Houston of Houston. A sister Elizabeth became the wife of Sir William Mure of Rowallan, father of Sir William Mure [q. v.] The eldest brother John succeeded to Hesselhead. A younger brother, Robert (d. 1609), is separately noticed.

Montgomerie's poems show that he received a scholarly training in youth. If one can trust a statement by Sir Patrick Hume [q. v.] of Polwarth, his antagonist in the 'Flyting', he must have been sent to Argyleshire for a part of his education (*Flyting*, ll. 183, 184). The circumstance may account for his being called by Dempster *Equus Montanus*, an expression probably equivalent to 'highland trooper.' Montgomerie was never knighted.

On his return from Argyleshire he appears to have resided for a time at Compston Castle, a little way above Kirkcudbright, near the junction of the Dee and the Tarff. Andrew Symson, in his 'Large Description of Gallo-way' (*MS. Adv. Lib.*), drawn up in 1684 and enlarged in 1692, mentions a report current in his day to the effect that Montgomerie's

fancy had been quickened by the romantic scenery of the Dee when he composed 'The Cherrie and the Slae.' Symson's statement is supported by Robert Sempill, Montgomerie's contemporary, who, in 'The Legend of the Bishop of St. Androis Lyfe,' calls him Captain Kirkburne, in obvious allusion to his residence in the stewardry.

Montgomerie soon obtained an introduction to the Scottish court. In 1577 he was in the suite of the Regent Morton, on whose compulsory resignation in the following year he was retained in the king's service. His official duties apparently entitled him to the style of captain, and he also became the laureate of the court. The king, in his 'Revlis and Cavtalis of Scottis Poesie,' recognised his abilities by quoting passages from his poems as examples of different kinds of verse. But he somehow fell into disgrace, although his services were rewarded with a pension of five hundred marks, payable from certain rents of the archbishopric of Glasgow. The date of this grant is not known, but it was confirmed in 1583, when payment was to be computed from the previous year.

In 1586 he obtained a royal license to leave the kingdom for five years, and to visit France, Flanders, Spain, and other countries. During his travels he was confined in a foreign prison, and his pension was withheld, an act which led to a protracted lawsuit in the court of session. Eventually the grant was renewed and confirmed by a writ of privy seal dated at Holyrood House 21 March 1588-9. Dempster says he died in 1591, bewailed by his sovereign, who was charmed with the effusions of his mirthful muse. But at least two pieces by Montgomerie refer to events that took place in 1592, and we have no reason to doubt that he was alive in 1605, when his 'Mindes Melodie' was printed by Robert Charteris. His death occurred, however, before 1615, as on the title-page of the edition of 'The Cherrie and the Slae,' printed by Andro Hart in that year, the poem is said to have undergone careful revision by the author not long before his death. He married and had issue Alexander and Margaret. The latter in March 1622 was tried for witchcraft (MONTGOMERY, p. 117).

Montgomerie occupies a conspicuous place in the poetical literature of Scotland during a period almost barren of poetic genius. 'The Cherrie and the Slae,' which has long been popular with his countrymen, is written in a fourteen-line stanza, of which, if Montgomerie was not the inventor, he is certainly the greatest master. It is wanting in design, and bears unmistakable traces of having been written at considerable intervals. The first