

The Ruffin – Ruthven Family Story
Book of Jared Vol. 3, by Eleanor M. Hall
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with reference to the book,
The Ruthven Family Papers: The Ruthven Version of the Conspiracy and
Assassination at Gowrie Hoouse, Perth, 5 August 1600
By Samuel Cowen, J.P.

JOHN JARED – Wagonmaker, Revolutionary War Veteran, and common ancestor to all whose names are entered into the Jared books by Eleanor Hall, was born 25 June 1737, Isle of Wight County, VA, to Thomas and Martha (Kinchin) Jared. Than name of the father of Thomas Jared was also Thomas, but he had several ways to spell his surname including Jarred, Jarrett, Jarrell, Jarrard, and Jared, among other spellings that represented the same family in the unsettled spelling period of early America. Finally, as is explained in Supplement I, Book of Jared, our ancestor, John Jared took a firm stand and declared the spelling to be Jared. “Same as in the Old Testament.” Still some of his sons held to their own preferred spelling, so we have several ways to spell our surname, and will have to the last generation.

Thomas Jarrett (Jared) Sr. married first, Susanna Snow, second, Rose Tucker. His will, a copy of which is extant in the Court Records of Isle of Wight County Courthouse in Virginia, was made in 1741.

The son, Thomas, in 1734, married Martha Kinchin, and they are listed in the Journal of Our John Jared, as his parents. (See both Book of Jared, Vol. 1 and Supplement I for details.) Thomas and Martha established their home in Isle of Wight County, Virginia. That is where Thomas died in 1757.

Martha, the widow of Thomas, Jr. was the daughter of William and Elizabeth (Ruffin) Kinchin. Elizabeth, in turn, was the daughter of Robert Ruffin and Elizabeth Prime, daughter of Edmund Prime. All this brings the Ruffin/Ruthven family in to our string of ancestors.

Robert Ruffin, father of Elizabeth, was born in Isle of Wight County, Virginia in 1646. He died in Surrey Co., 9 January 1694, probably in the same house in which he was born, because by that time Surry County had been carved from a part of Isle of Wight County. Robert was the son of William Ruthven/Ruffin, who was born in Scotland about 1580.

The Ruthven/Ruffin Family Saga

The story of the Ruthven family is worth repeating from the beginning, altho' space and time will allow only a very sketchy review. My version of the story is based principally upon the work of Samuel Cowen, who published THE

RUTHVEN FAMILY PAPERS (Simpkins, Hamilton, Kent, & Co., LTD.) London 1912. His work is supported by THE HISTORIC FAMILIES OF SCOTLAND, by James Taylor, (London, J.S. Virtue & Co. Ltd. 1890; and THE COMPLETE PEERAGE, by Geoffrey H. White, London 1949.

Our Ruthven/Ruffin Ancestry

Our ancient Ruthven pedigree extends to the year 1124 and reads like a medieval fairy tale.

Thor – the – Long, our first proven ancestor, was adult, and a famous War Lord when King David I ascended the Scottish Throne in the year 1124; just 58 years after the illegitimate son of Robert, Duke of Corbeil decided he wanted England and took it in 1066.

Oh, it was the “Ault times of rugging and riving through the hale country, when nae mon wanted property if he had strength to take it, or had it langer than he had power to keep it.”

The abduction of a wealthy heiress was an event as common in Scotland as is fighting in Ireland. Rich young ladies were courted by as many lovers as was the renowned Tibby Fowler, who had ‘taw-and-forty wooing at her, suing at her.’ The estates which formed the patrimony of the St. Clair family fell into the possession of two co-heiresses. The young ladies were courted by as many lovers as was Tibby, but an uncle who was anxious to keep them unmarried, in order that he might inherit their large estates, carried them off from the family sear, and immured them in his own castle in East Lothian. The ladies, however, had singled out from the crowd of suiters, the stalwart sons of their powerful neighbor, David Home, of Wadderburn, and had lent a favorable ear to their addresses. In spite of the jealous precautions of their uncle, they contrived by means of a female beggar to transmit information to their lovers of the place of their confinement. They were soon gratified by the appearance of the two youths, accompanied by a band of stout Merse men, before the gates of the castle. In spite of the remonstrances and resistance of the uncle, the ladies were forcibly released, and carried off in triumph to Powarth, where their nuptials were immediately celebrated. The marriage festivities terminated with a merry dance round a thorn-tree which grew in the centre of the village green. In commemoration of this event it became the practice for marriage parties in Polwarth to dance around this thorn. The custom continued for well-nigh four hundred years, until the original tree was blown down in a fierce gale of wind.’

One author, writing about the claims of the ancient family of Ruthven says an ancient Scandinavian called Swain (Swan) invaded the British Isles, and left there a son called Thor – the - Long. However, he could not find evidence to prove it. It may be true, because Thor – the – long named a son Swaine.

Thor – the – Long was a Norwegian Baron who became Lord of Tibbermore in Perthshire, Scotland. He is the first proven ancestor of the Ruthven family. Thor flourished in Scotland during the reigns of King David I, (1124-1153), and of King Malcolm IV (1153-1165). He was the Lord of extensive estates and lands that included the village of Travernet, or Tranent, the church of which he granted to the Monks of Holyrood. He was overlord of the extensive territory of Crawford, and the holding of the Lindsay family.

He was contemporary with, and possible a close relative of Henry, Earl of Huntingdon, who is commemorated in a charter by Swaine, son of Thor, to the Monks of Scone. Scone, was, even then, a long time favored seat of the Royal Families.

From these distant appearances Thor was both religious and superstitious. There is a paper preserving an ancient gift of a Manor or Seat called Enaham, made by Thor, Lord of Tibbermore, which reads:

“To his dearest Lord, David the Earl of Huntingdon, Thor, entirely his, wisheth health. Know my Lord that King Edgar, your Brother, gave me Ednaham waste, which I by his assistance, and my own money, have inhabited and have built from the foundation the chapel, which your brother, the King, caused to be dedicated in honor of St. Cuthbert and enlivened with one carricate of land. This same chapel, I for the soul of my Lord, King Edgar, and of your father and mother, and for your weal and that of King Alexander, and of Queen Matilda, have given to the aforesaid Saint and his monks. Wherefore, I pray you, as my dearest Lord, that for the souls of your parents, and for the well being of the living, that you grant this donation to Saint Cuthbert and the Monks who shall serve him forever.” Thor gave the Monks of Inchcolm a toft in Tibbermuir, as well as a meadow at Methven, which were confirmed by King William, and by Thor’s grandson, Walter, and in 1362 by his kinsman and descendant, William Ruthven. He possesses, as super-Lord, the lands of Crawford in Upper Clydesdale, which the progenitors of the Lindsays held as vassals under him, as appears from a confirmation by King William of a donation to the Monastery of Newbattle, by William de Lindsay.

Swaine, son and heir of Thor, lived long under King William – the Lion, (1165-1214), and enjoyed the Manors of Ruthven and Tibbermuir as well as various other holdings of the family in Perthshire, Scotland. At that time, and for many generations following, Perth was the Capitol City of Scotland. Between 1188 and 1199 Swaine granted to the Monks of Scone the lands of Acjednapobbel, ‘by the same limits as Robert, the Chaplain had held them’, also a toft in Tubermere, ‘which the Goldsmith held.’ This charter was confirmed by King William, and by several generations of the heirs of Swaine as they came into their Seigniory, and confirmed the ancestral gifts to the Church.

To quote the author, Samuel Cowen, "Swaine gave the Monks of Inchcolm a toft in Tibbermore and a meadow at Methven which were confirmed by King William, and by Swaine's grandson, Walter in 1362.

"Swaine possessed, as Superior Lord, the lands of Crawford in Upper Clydesdale, which the progenitor of the Lindsays' held as vassals under him. There appears from a confirmation by King William, a donation to the Monastery of Newbattle, part of the lands of Crawford which 'King William himself holds of Swaine, son of Thor."

The children of Swaine were Alan, Walter, Henry and Eva. Eva married Alan, High Steward to the King. He was a son of Walter, who was the King's chief steward 1177-1204. These were the early progenitors of the Royal family of Stewart. We hope he will not be confused with his brother-in-law, Walter Ruthven, son of Swaine, who became the Royal Steward by profession.

Alan son of Swaine, inherited Ruthven and Tibbermore, and all other major properties of the Ruthven family. Much more property was added to his holdings when he married Cecilia, daughter and co-heiress of Sir William Maule of Foulis. Alan and Cecilia had sons, Walter, Henry, and Alan. Walter the eldest was the heir apparent. He became known as Walter of Ruthven.

Thor – The – Long
Swaine
Alan – md Cecilia,
d/o Sir William Maule of Foulis
Children of Alan & Cecilia
Walter; Henry; & Alan

Walter of Ruthven was the first of the family to assume a surname, we look to Samuel Cowan to tell us about him, "He took his surname from his lands and possessions in official documents where he is designated Walter de Ruthven, son of Alan, who was the son of Swaine, son of Thor, Lord of Tibbermore." He died in 1245. His reign as Lord of Ruthven and Tibbermore was from 1204 to 1245. He married Cecilia, daughter of Gilbert, Earl of Strathearn. Walter and Cecilia had three sons, and one daughter: Alexander; William, Gilbert, and a daughter who married Patrick Edgar and had issue, Walter, to who two charters to East and West Culmalundie, were granted by his uncle Gilbert, both were undated, but confirmed 16 May 1279 by King Alexander III.

The oldest son, Alexander, died without issue, and William, the second son succeeded to the Family Estates, and community leadership position.

Sir William Ruthven, married Margaret, daughter of Ramsey of Auchterhouse, and, following customary procedure, succeeded to his brother Gilbert's position

when he died in 1270. This Sir William Ruthven, died in 1298, and left sons, Gilbert and Walter.

As Sir William of Ruthven, he witnessed two charters in January, 1267/68, and another in 1290. He did homage to King Edward I in 1291 and 1296, where he was dubbed "William of Ruthven, Lord of that Ilk". He, about 1298, confirmed the chapter of his father, Walter, 'son of Alan of the Lands of Scone.'

He fought with Sir William Wallace at siege of Perth in 1297. Sir William, with thirty followers, joined Wallace at this engagement and fought, it is recorded, with determined energy. For his gallant conduct Wallace appointed him Sheriff of Perth, a position that was to be hereditary in the Ruthven family. Sir William died the following year, 1298.

Two sons were born to Sir William and Margaret, whom they called Walter and Gilbert.

Sir Walter Ruthven, who succeeded, was a consenting party to his father's charter to Scone in 1298. He surrendered to the English at Strathord on 9 February 1303/4, and died about 1330. His successor was his son William.

Sir William Ruthven, son of Walter, paid a fine for the relief of Newton in Edinburgh, 1330. Before Easter 1346 he was slain at the battle of Durham. He left issue, William and Margaret. The daughter, Margaret married Sir John Seton, son of Alexander Seton of that Ilk. The son, William served as the succeeding Nobleman.

Sir William Ruthven, from 1346 to 1376. He died sometime before the 25th of June 1376. He is mentioned in 'Safe-Conduct Papers' 1358, 1359. He held a charter from King Robert II, for the lands of Ruthven and Balerno. He also had a charter for the hereditary Sheriffship of Perth in 1393 through 1395. His death came in 1412. William and Joanna had two sons, William and David. David the youngest, was granted the lands of Muirhall, Perth, in 1400 by his brother William, the Heir Apparent.

Sir William Ruthven, of Ballernach, son of the above William, was granted a charter to Walter Haliburton of Dirleton, which was confirmed by Robert, Duke of Albany, the Regent, on 2nd February 1407/8. This Sir William is identified by the fact that he was held hostage in England for the ransom of King James I, 1424-1427. He died in 1428 and left issue, one son and two daughters. The son, of course, came into his inheritance as: Sir John Ruthven.

Sir John Ruthven with all the titles and appertainences his great line of frugal, wise, and steady ancestors had accumulated, maintained and augmented through these eleven generations of servitude, loyalty, and devotion to their close relatives, the royal heads of Scotland.

One of inherited graces that came to John was the position of Sheriff of Perth. Acting in this capacity in 1443, he, with his posse of guards, was attacked by one John Gormac of Atholl, Captain of a band of free-booters, while they were leading a thief from Atholl to the gallows. A skirmish ensued, and Gormac and thirteen of his men were slain. According to the ex-checker rolls, Sir John Ruthven was also slain, but, to quote Samuel Cowan, 'This is not confirmed on account of the weakness and inadequacy of the administration, no trial appears to have taken place in connection with this remarkable event.' John left issue, on son only: Sir Patrick Ruthven.

Sir Patrick Ruthven is recorded as 'Sheriff-dupte', 9th May 1444. Sir John Ruthven, and grandson of Sir William Ruthven, 24th December 1458.' Sir Patrick was knighted, and soon after served on a jury, 6th December 1461.

He married the daughter of Sir Thomas Cranistoun, who is styled 'Grandfather' to his son and successor, 1465. The issue from this union was one son named William. This William became the first Lord Ruthven.

Sir William Ruthven was created a Lord of Parliament 9 January 1487/88, by King James II, of Scotland. "On 18th June 1488 he joined King James III at Perth with 3,000 troops, which formed at the battle of Sauche, a division of the army to remain under his command. For heroic services he was created First Lord Ruthven, 20 June 1488. He added many charters of lands and estates in Perthshire before 1492. He is said to have had great influence among the Protestants who depended upon his leadership for the protection of their homes, chattles, and families. He was known to have added considerably to the holdings of his already rich and industrious family.

He married first, Isabel, daughter of Levington of Saltcoats, relict of Walter Lindsay of Beaufort, by whom he had already had two sons, who received letters of legitimation. He married secondly, Christian Forbes, the daughter of William, Third Lord Forbes. By his two wives he had issue:

William, Master of Ruthven, his heir.

John Lindsay or Ruthven, who had letters of ligitimation along with his brother under the Great Seal, 2 July 1480, and the remainder of the lands of Ruthven in a charter dated 12th July 1480, to his brother, mentioning his mother, Isabella Levington.

3. William Ruthven of Ballindean, a son by Christian Forbes.
4. Margaret, a daughter of Isabel Levington.
5. Elizabeth.

William, Master of Ruthven, eldest son and heir, received a ligitimation with his brother, giving them the right of mutual succession, 2 July 1480, and a grant of the lands of Ruthven, 12 July 1480, resigned by his father. In 1507 he is styled son and apparent heir of William, Lord Ruthven. He fell at the battle of Flodden 9

September 1513. He married first, Catherine Buttergask, and secondly, Jean Hepburn. His issue was, William Ruthven, heir to his grandfather, and Isobel, who married John Murray.

William, 2nd Lord Ruthven, succeeded his grandfather as Provost of Perth. He was made custodian of the Royal manors and Hospitals within the burgh, 10 September 1528. His lands of Glenshee were erected into a free forest on August 28, 1536. He was appointed an extra-ordinary Lord of Sessions 16 February 1539, and Keeper of the Privy Seal 8 August 1546. He died between the 3rd and 16th December 1552.

He married, (and by so doing greatly added to his estates), Janet, eldest daughter and co-heiress of Patrick, Lord Haliburton of Dirleton.

They had issue:

1. Patrick, succeeded his father
2. James of Forteviot
3. Henry
4. William
5. Alexander of Freeland, youngest son.
6. Lillas – md David, Lord Drummond.
7. Catherine – md Colin Campbell
8. Cecilia – md David Wemyas, of Wemyas.
9. Barbara – md 14 January 1557, Patrick, Lord Gray.
10. Janet or Jean – md 1st John Crichton of Strathord – md 2nd Lawrence Mercer or Meikleour – d. 9 December 1593.
11. Margaret – md 24 March 1550, James Johnston of Elphinston.
12. Christian – md William Lundin of that ilk.

Patrick, III Lord Ruthven, born about 1520, and educated at St. Andrews, the party which sided with the Reformers. He was an adherent of Darnley, and was the principal actor in the murder of Riccio, (The Queen's favorite), having risen from a sick-bed for the purpose. After the murder, abandoned by Darnley, he fled to England where he died at Newcastle, 13 June 1566.

He married before 8 August 1546, Janet Douglas, natural daughter of Archibald, Earl of Angus, by a daughter of Stewart of Traquair, to whom he was contracted before his marriage to Margaret Tudor, the Queen-Dowager." His second marriage was to Janet Stewart, Lady Methven, eldest daughter of John, 2nd Earl of Atholl.

The issue of Patrick, Third Lord Ruthven, were:

1. Patrick, Master of Ruthven, died before 1565 – md Marion, d/o Patrick, Fourth Lord Gray.
2. William, Fourth Lord Ruthven, who succeeded his father.
3. George, killed along with the Regent Lennox near Stirling 4 September 1571.
4. Archibald of Forteviot.
5. James

6. Alexander
7. Jean – md 1st Henry, Second Lord Methven (son of her step-mother) – md 2nd Andrew, Fifth Earl of Rothes. Jean died 26 September 1571.
8. Isabell – md about 22 August 1570, James First Lord Colville of Culross.

William, Fourth Lord Ruthven, son and heir of Patrick, Third Lord Ruthven and Janet Douglas, became the Fourth Lord of Ruthven and the First Earl of Gowrie, 1566-1584. Pursuing the Religious Wars of the time on the side of Presbyterianism, he was one of those who waited on Queen Mary at Loch Leven, and by threats, got her signature to her abdication of her Throne. He had been with his father and engaged in the association against Riccio, the favorite Courtier of Queen Mary, and after his murder had fled to England for a time. He made peace, however, and returned to Scotland. There he entered into the association for the support of King James VI. He was present at the Coronation of James, and was made Treasurer of all Scotland 24 June 1571. He became one of the Extra-Ordinary Lords of Session 25 November 1578, by King James VI. About that time he was given the Earldom of Scone which was limited to the heirs-male of his body, whom failing, to his heirs-male bearing the name and arms of Ruthven. This was ratified by Parliament 29 November 1581. He was aggressive in the Raid of Ruthven, 20 October 1581 and that lead, over the next twenty years, to the complete ruin of his family.

That disgraceful affair was called The Gowrie Conspiracy. There are two versions of that story. The ancient, well-published one told by King James VI to excuse his purpose to utterly wipe-out the Ruthven Family, root and branch and wipe their name from future use or historical remembrance.

The well published ancient story told by James VI has been copiously printed since the day of William's doom. The newer version has been extracted by delving historians who discovered the Ruthven Family Papers about the turn of the present century. It presents an entirely different account. Moreover, it is backed by legal charters, legal papers, and testimonies. Samuel Cowan, J.P., has critically revised and Edited The Rughtven Family Papers. His book, published in London, 1912, gives "The Ruthven Version of the Conspiracy and assassination at Gowrie House, Perth, Scotland, 5th August 1600. The following stories are based mainly upon his well documented work.

The story revealed by the family papers is one of treachery, betrayal, avarice and greed. It was not the Gowrie's against the King, but the King's plot against the Gowries. It was conspiracy alright, but the Ruthven family were the victims, not the authors of the treachery by which they lost their lives and possessions. The hatred entertained toward them by the King was in part, at least, owing to his jealousy of the younger Earl of Ruthven, and the great amount of money the Crown owed the Ruthven family.

King James VI, was but ten years old when his mother, Queen Mary was forced

To abdicate the throne into his hands. Back of all of this was the religious wars that were sweeping all of Europe at the beginning of the sixteenth century. The Protestants were supported by Queen Elizabeth of England, the Catholics by the French War Lords. The Protestant leaders were called 'Lords of the Congregation', and did for the most part support the common people. Patrick, Lord Ruthven, was among the most zealous Protestants. He died in 1566 and was succeeded by his son, William, Lord Ruthven, afterward First Earl of Gowrie. William had married the lady Dorothea Stewart, daughter of Henry Lord Methven.

When King James took the administration of national affairs upon himself, through ruled by and protected by the Protestants, far from being grateful to them, or taking a lesson from his mother's misfortunes, he soon put himself under the control of his cousins, the Princes of Lorraine. They sent over to him James Stewart, a notable Episcopalian, and it soon appeared that the King had put himself entirely in the power and under the direction of James Stewart. He became a great favorite of the little King, who made him Earl of Arran. He proved to be a rascal who received his instructions from his friends in France.

In an effort to break the French influence, and to restore the youthful King to the Protestant Faith, in which he had received his early training, William, Lord Ruthven invited the King and his Court to dine at Rughven Castle. After the meal the Court Lords were a hunting in the adjoining forest. On their return they were refused access to the King. James remained at Rughven Castle about ten months under the tutelage of Lords Ruthven, Agnus, Mar, & Glamis. This was called "The Raid of Ruthven."

In the month of May, 1583, James effected his escape through the assistance of Colonel William Stewart, a brother of Lord Arran, and took refuge in the Castle of St. Andrews. He was again under the rule of Arran, and sponsoring the Catholic Cause.

The Protestant Lords were commanded to retire to their own estates, and to remain there till the King should call them. Gowrie, however, having obtained permission from James, repaired privately to St. Andrews, and falling on his knees before the King, professed his sorrow for his share in The Raid, and implored forgiveness, which the King readily granted. The Earl, however, retained his self-respect while expressing his penitence. "Though there was a fault in the form.", James, overjoyed at regaining his freedom, declared, in the presence of the Lords of both parties and of an assemblage of the neighboring gentry, the chief magistrates of the adjacent towns, and the ministers and the heads of colleges, that he would hence forth govern all his subjects with strict impartiality and justice. As a proof of his sincerity, he paid a special visit to Ruthven Castle, 'to let the country see he was entirely reconciled with the Earl of Gowrie.'

Arran, was at that time, a prisoner in the hands of Gowrie, but the King begged so earnestly that his old favorite should be permitted to come and see him 'but once' and then return to his place of detention, the the Lords at length consented. As might have been foreseen, the interview was followed by Arran's restoration to the Court, and to his former place in the Council. The obnoxious favorite speedily regained his ascendancy over the King, and a proclamation was issued repudiating all the Acts of State and Royal promises respecting the pardon granted to the Lords who had been engaged in the 'Raid of Ruthven', and the Royal clemency was to be extended those who had taken part in it only upon their acknowledging their offence and suing for pardon within a limited time, and submitting to temporary banishment, money payment, or such other punishment as the King, or rather as Arran, might think fit.

The tyranny of the wicked and ruthless favorite at length became intolerable. Like Cataline, he was covetous of other men's money and prodigal of his own. His boundless extravagance was naturally connected with an insatiable rapacity, which was gratified by utter disregard of law and justice. He cast a covetous eye upon Gowrie's possessions, and it was justly said no man who had an estate was safe if Arran set his heart upon his possessions.

Angus, Mar, and Glamis, the Protestant leaders in The Ruthven Raid, were banished. Gowrie, whose submission had pacified the King, was allowed to remain at Court, but he was annoyed and insulted to such an extent by the favorite that he felt it necessary to return to his residence at Perth. The King, who seemed really to have liked him, sent Melville to entreat the Earl to return. He complied with the request, and James attempted to reconcile him with Arran, but in vain. He asked, and obtained from the King permission to retire to France. Dundee was a convenient seaport for his embarkation, and he repaired thither for that purpose. He had received the Royal command to set sail within fifteen days, but he still lingered. He evidently believed, no doubt with good reason, that if he quitted the country some pretense would be found for the forfeiture of his estates. Some difficulties had arisen about the vessel which he had chartered, and the Countess, who had been recently confined, was lying very ill. The Earl of Athole, his son-in-law, went to the King at Edinburgh and besought an extension of the period limited for Gowrie's embarkation. He was peremptorily refused, and Athole was not even allowed to return to Dundee and speak to his father-in-law before his departure. Instead, Arran and his men came with a warrant for Gowrie's arrest. Gowrie refused to accompany Arran and his men until he had their promise that there was no plot against his person. That his life would not be taken. He perceived the snare that had been laid for him at Edinburgh, and that he was facing a trial that had already been determined. The trial had been set for that very afternoon. That, in itself was suspicious, but he had the Lord's promise so proceeded with the Royal escort to Edinburgh.

At the court he soon realized that he had no mercy to expect. He was charged with The Raid of Ruthven, for which he had twice received full pardon, both

privately and publicly. The jury convened, and returned almost immediately with a verdict of guilty, which he heard without changing his countenance. With great composure he called for a cup of wine and drank to his friends around him. Then he desired one of them to commend him to his wife, and to conceal his death from her, and put her in good hope of his life till she was stronger in body, "for she was even at this instant weakened through the delivery of his child."

As he was about to address the court, he was interrupted by the judge, who informed him that the King had sent down the warrant for his execution.

"Well, my lords," he remarked, "Since it is the King's contentment that I lose my life, I am as willing to part with it as I was before to spend it in his service; and the noblemen who have been upon my jury will know the matter better hereafter. And yet in condemning me to die, they have hazarded their own souls, for I had their promise.....My sons are in my lands many years since, and have all their rights confirmed by the King, and failing the eldest, the second is to succeed, and is assigned to all my causes." Gowrie was then informed by the Judge that this request to allow his family to remain as he had provided for them, could not be granted, because the penalty of treason, of which he had been found guilty, necessarily included that of forfeiture. That astute sage proceeded to pronounce the usual sentence.

"I pray God," said the Earl, "that my blood may satiate and extinguish the bloody rage and ire of the courtiers and bring this country to quietness." He bade farewell to those around him, and then retired for a short space with a minister to a chamber to his private prayers. He was then conveyed to the scaffold in the market-place of the town, from which he briefly addressed the people who had assembled to witness the scene.

"Brethern", he said, "this spectacle is more common than pleasant to you. I am to die this night, for so it is the King's pleasure; but I shall never ask mercy for anything that I ever thought against him; and the Lord is witness that I was more careful of his welfare than i was of my own and my wife and children." Then, after praying, he was heard to make that common regret which many great men have done in such misfortunes, that if he had served God as faithfully as he had served the King he had not come to that end.

He then, with great composure, loosed his buttons, tied the handkerchief over his eyes with his own hands, then with a smile kneeled down and laid his neck upon the block. His head was severed from his body by a single blow.

Arran lost no time in securing the spoils of his murdered victim. Gowrie was executed the 5th of may 1584. On the 6th of June an order was made by the Scottish Privy Council 'to inbring and deliver the escheat guidis of William, sumtyme earl of Gowrie, to the Earl of Arran."

The treatment which Arran and his associates, with at least the tacit permission of the King, gave to the widowed Countess of Gowrie and her children, fill up the measure of their cruelty. When the Earl was conveyed from Dundee to Edinburgh, his wife, a Stewart of Methven, set out immediately after his departure, with the intention of interceding with the King on his behalf, but she was so unwell as to be obliged to travel by short stages, and at the slowest pace. Her purpose became known, and a royal mandate was issued forbidding her to come within twenty miles of the King's person.

After her husband's execution, Davidson says, she was treated 'with the greatest inhumanity that may be.' Having come to Edinburgh to entreat for herself and her children while the Parliament was sitting, and 'having fallen down upon her knees before the King, she was trodden under foot and left lying in a swoon.'

Even the mediation of Queen Elizabeth in behalf of the Countess and her children was unavailing. She addressed a letter to James reminding him that the deceased Earl was one of the chief instruments in putting the crown upon his head, and that in defense of his Majesty's rights against the murderers of his father, that his grandfather Lennox and those of his uncle Regent Moray, Gowrie had lost many relatives and members of his clan, and had subjected his own life and estates to the greatest hazard. She earnestly solicited James's compassion towards the Earl's poor wife and thirteen fatherless children. She reminded him of their innocency and their youth. She begged that by their restoration to their father's lands some monument of that ancient house might abide to posterity, and their names not be rooted out from the face of the earth, through the private craft and malice of adversaries whose eyes could not be satiated otherwise than by the Earl's death, and the forfeiture of all his possessions. Finally, Elizabeth appealed to James on the score of natural affection to his own, the Gowries, as she states, 'being tied so near by kindred and consanguinity' to himself. No attention was paid, however, to these appeals.

Family of William, Earl Gowrie

"The family of William, Earl of Gowrie, was the last of our ancestors who were prominent in the Courts of Scotland's Royal Family.

William, Earl of Gowrie, married Dorothea Stewart, daughter of Henry, First Lord Methven, and Janet Stewart, his father's second wife. Dorothy was residing at Dirleton, near Edinburgh when the news of the Gowrie Conspiracy was brought to her.

The Children of William and Dorothea were:

1. James, second Earl of Gowrie...He died in his thirteenth year of age.
2. John, third Earl of Gowrie...He was murdered with his brother Alexander 5 August 1600 by King James VI Scotland, 1st of England.
3. Alexander, Master of Gowrie, born at Perth 22 January 1581. Murdered with

- his brother John at Gowrie House 5 August 1600.
4. William Ruthven/Ruffin...He fled Scotland with his brother Patrick at the time his brothers, John and Alexander, were murdered at Gowrie House 5 August 1600. Received his education in Europe, and sailed to America in 1635. He made his home in Isle of Wight Co., VA, and changed his name to Ruffin. He was our first Ruthven/Ruffin ancestor in America.
 5. Patrick Ruthven, M.D., escaped with his brother to England, where he was apprehended and thrown into the Tower of London, without trial or accusation. After 19 years he was released with restrictions. He was able to use the Ruthven name, but was never restored to any of the Ruthven property. He died disillusioned and very poor in this world's goods, altho' he was well educated, and a Doctor of Medicine.
 6. Mary married first at Perth Parish Church 24 January 1580, John Stewart fifth Earl of Atholl. Md 2nd John Stewart, Earl of Atholl, Lord of Innermeath, and 3rd, before 30 December 1613, to James Stewart, son of James, master of Buchan.
 7. Margaret, md. (contract) 12 December 1593, to The Earl of Montrose.
 8. Sophia, md to Ludovick, Duke of Lennox, and died before 1592.
 9. Jean, md before 1588 to James, Lord Ogilvy of Airlie. She died 6 January 1611. Her testament was recorded 12 January 1616.
 10. Elizabeth/Isobel, md (1) contract dated 1 February 1598, to Sir Robert Gordon of Lochinvar – md (2) George, 1st Lord Loudoun.
 11. Beatrix, a Lady of the Bedchamber of Queen Ann of Denmark. (wife of King James VI) – md (contract dated: 29 October 1608) Sir John Home.
 12. Liliias, apparently died before her father who at his death left 13 children.
 13. Dorothea, md before 8 June 1609, John Wemyess of Pittercrieff.
 14. Barbara, a favorite maid of honor in Queen Ann's court. She died at Greenwich, 29 December 1625.

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