

Alexander Livingstone



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Born: 1382 Stirling, Scotland

Married: Janet Dundas

Died: 6 Nov 1451

Parents: John Livingstone & Hannah Mentieth

Sir Alexander Livingstone of Callendar, the eldest son, the celebrated guardian of James II. in his minority, was one of the jury on the trial of Murdach, duke of Albany, in 1424. On the assassination of James I. in 1437, he was appointed keeper of the young king's person. The rival minister, Sir William Crichton, chancellor of the kingdom, retaining his majesty in the castle of Edinburgh, the queen-mother had him conveyed, enclosed in a chest, to Stirling, where she delivered him to his legal guardian, Livingstone. He subsequently besieged Crichton in the castle of Edinburgh, but a reconciliation took place between them. Afterwards quarrelling with the queen, he imprisoned her, in 1489. By another stratagem, Crichton regained possession of the king's person, but by the intercession of friends a lasting agreement was at length formed between the two ministers, and the king was committed to the care of Livingstone, who thus obtained chief direction in the government. All differences between him and the queen were likewise settled by a solemn indenture dated 4th September 1489. In 1440 the sixth earl of Douglas, his brother David, and his friend Fleming of Cumbernauld, were, chiefly at his instigation, inveigled into the castle of Edinburgh by Crichton, and beheaded there. In 1445, when the Douglasses were at the height of their power, Sir Alexander was denounced a rebel, and in the following year he was imprisoned, but released on paying a large sum of money. However, Alexander, the younger of his two sons, was tried and beheaded He was ancestor of the Livingstones of Dunipace, one of whom was named in 1550 an extraordinary lord of session. On 4th July 1600, Jean Livingstone, Lady Warriston, daughter of John Livingstone of Dunipace, was beheaded at the foot of the Canongate, Edinburgh, for the murder of her husband, John Kincaid of Warriston near that city. She was only 21 years of age, and is highly celebrated in several popular ballads of the period for her graceful appearance and uncommon beauty. Her father had great influence at court, but she is said to have declined all efforts for saving her life. An account of her behaviour in prison and at the place of execution, was preserved among Wodrow's MSS. in the Advocates' Library, and is reported on in Pitcairn's Criminal Trials. In 1449 Sir Alexander Livingstone was again received into favour, appointed justiciary of Scotland, and sent ambassador to England. He died soon after.