

The lost Auchinlecks of Pennyland. A challenge for Scots in America.

There are papers in Register House in Edinburgh that disclose that on the 13th of July, 1510, an Andrew Auchinleck living in Inverness was assigned the estate of Pennyland in Ayrshire by his father, William Auchinleck. On the 27th August 1511, he transferred the ownership to a John Murray of Blackbarony. The papers also reveal that William's father was an Adam Auchinleck.¹ This is a significant record which researchers on the history of the Auchinlecks of Auchinleck and Glenbervie had either missed or did not appreciate its significance. Andrew went on to marry one of the four illegitimate daughters of Sir George Douglas of Pittendreich near Elgin. There were at least four sons of that marriage who were important in Scottish history in the mid 16th Century.

Andrew died on the 15th February 1582 at Petdreichie on the Glenbervie estate in Kincardineshire. His testament of 13th December 1577 reveals that he had married again and had several other "lads and lasses" by a Jane Allardes. Evidence of the second family continuing to live in the area is revealed in Sasines for the County of Kincardine in the period 1623 to 1657. Two descendants, a James and Robert Auchinleck became Ministers in rural Northern Ireland around 1650. In 2008, there was a James Auchinleck living in Philadelphia who believed he was a descendant of this Petdreichie line through the Rev. James. The link I had with him ended abruptly. I only had his e mail address.

Earlier this year, I self-published a book with the title, *A Saga of the Early Auchinlecks and Afflecks*. I had found answers to problems earlier historians had missed and decided I should share this information. One reviewer has said the book has been long overdue. After the time of publication, the significance of this 15th century family from Pennyland was still being researched. It is now known the grounds are located on the present estate of Dumfries House in Ayrshire now managed by a Trust set up by the Prince of Wales. The link deserves to be better known. The origins of Pennyland wood, Pennyland Mount and Pennyland house now on the estate would be worth researching. Most of this information is not available using family history sources. That is the value of the book.

Could you be a descendent of the 15th C. Auchinlecks of Pennyland? Check the Saga to find out.

David Affleck

¹ There is a William Auchinleck referred to in 1467 a clerk of Glasgow and being of baronial race on both sides. His father is likely to have been an Adam Auchinleck, Canon of Glasgow. In 1439 at Florence, he was described as Adam de Auchinleck, Canon of Moray. In 1497, a William Auchinleck was Chaplain of the Choir of Dornoch Cathedral. See the Saga for more details.