

# Clan Logan Society

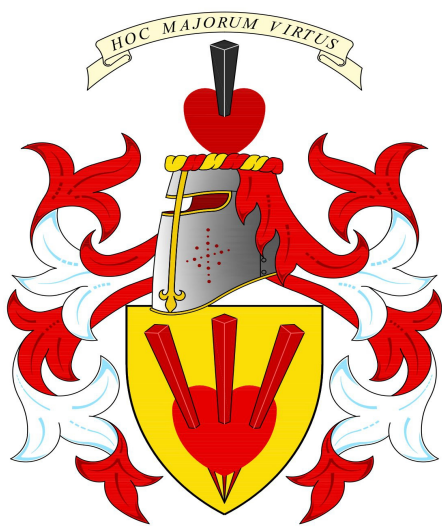
## The Search for the Chief of Name and Arms of Logan

Summary of progress to August 2023 and thoughts for next steps

by John Logan Marjoribanks  
Heritage Officer  
Clan Logan Society

### Introduction

The Logans are an ancient family which has played a notable part in the history of Scotland. There are three main branches of the family, one Highland, the Logans of Drumdeurfit, and two Lowland, the Logans of Restalrig and the Logans of that Ilk.



Logan of that Ilk  
emblazoned by John Gaylor

On 10 September 1672, the Scottish Parliament passed an Act, which is still in force, requiring all those who make use of arms to register them with the Lord Lyon within a year. The register to be kept by the Lord Lyon "shall be respected as the true and unrepealable rule of all arms and bearings in Scotland". George Logan of that Ilk was one of the gentlemen who registered his arms within the time limit. No other Logan came forward to register arms. George Logan was recognised as Logan of Logan, chief of name and arms of the Logan family. Any Logan, male or female, who claims to be the current chief of Logan by inheritance will have to prove descent from this George Logan of that Ilk or from one of his ancestors.

One of the problems facing the researcher is that the Logans, like any family, have extensive stories about the exploits the earlier members of the Family.

Undoubtedly many of these stories are rooted in fact but they may well have taken on a life of their own in the constant retelling. When petitioning the Lord Lyon to recognise an individual as chief, family stories cut no ice. What's needed is hard documentary proof.

### Starting the search

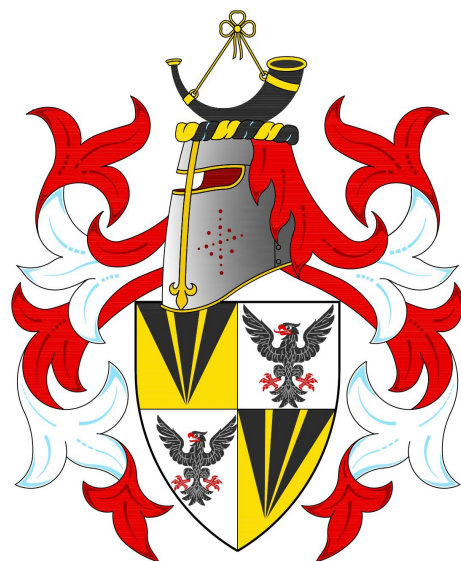
It has now been over 20 years since the late Peter Logan and I, with the backing of Vernon Logan, then President of the newly re-established Clan Logan Society, started working together to identify the person who might have the best chance of petitioning the Lord Lyon to be recognised as Chief of Name and Arms of Logan, a position which has not been claimed by anyone since the death in 1802 of Hugh Logan of Logan, grandson of the man who registered arms as Logan of that Ilk. The most apparently authoritative source for Logan family history known to us was the 'History of the Logan Family' by Major G.J.N. Logan Home (George Waterston & Sons, Edinburgh, 1934). Peter and I took this book as our starting point.

Logan Home identified, on page 15, the Logans of Grugar as the progenitors of the Logans of Restalrig, whom he then traced down to Robert Logan, the last laird of Restalrig, who died in 1606, leaving, according to Logan Home, four sons. So far, so good. However, on page 173, Logan Home identified the fourth son, Alexander, born

around 1590, as the ancestor of the Logans of that Ilk. This identification is demonstrably wrong as, in a land transfer of 1603 <sup>(1)</sup>, George Logan of that Ilk is recorded as having taken possession of certain lands in Cumnock .

This George's great grandson, another George, was the gentleman who registered arms as Logan of that Ilk in 1672/3 with arms significantly different from those previously used by the Logans of Restalrig and, in the seventeenth century, used by the Logans of Burncastle, Berwickshire <sup>(2)</sup>. For convenience, I refer below to the George Logan of that Ilk who registered arms as the '*armiger*'. Much of Logan Home's chapter on the Logans of that Ilk, Ayrshire, has been shown to be unreliable.

The *armiger* had three sons, William, Rev Allan, and Hugh. Each, in turn, was chief. William and Allan left no sons <sup>(3)</sup>. The third son, Hugh, also had three sons, the youngest of whom was another Hugh. The two elder boys, George and William, died before their father. So, on the death of the father when the youngest boy was still a minor, the Logan estate and the chiefship passed to young Hugh. He was ill-educated, a well-known wit and bon viveur who never married <sup>(4)</sup>. Most of the estate was sold off in his lifetime to meet his debts, the remainder sold after his death in 1802. He left three illegitimate children <sup>(5)</sup>, but his death meant that there were now no legitimate descendants of the *armiger* bearing the name of Logan.



Logan of Burncastle  
(formerly of Restalrig)  
emalazoned by John Gaylor

### Refining the area of study

Peter and I therefore had to look for a descendant of a known ancestor of the *armiger*. Fortunately, a deed of 1664 <sup>(6)</sup> shows that he had three brothers, William, Allan and James. The three brothers are also referred to, though not named, in a 1647 document <sup>(7)</sup> granting wardship of the young George Logan of that Ilk to his uncle James after the death of the *armiger's* father, also George Logan of that Ilk. So, as well as three brothers, the *armiger* had an uncle, James.

We were able to trace the Logans of that Ilk in Cumnock Parish six generations back from the *armiger* to Alexander Logan of that Ilk, who was alive in 1516/7 <sup>(8)(9)</sup> but did not find evidence of any male collaterals of Logan of that Ilk other than the *armiger's* uncle James and his three brothers, William, Allan and James. It is unlikely that provably evidence of earlier collaterals will ever come to light.

### A renewed mandate

Sadly, in November 2015, Peter Logan died. His family were kind enough to pass on his extensive research notes to me. With the backing of James Logan, Verrnon's successor as President of the Clan Logan Society, I was able to continue the search, using professional genealogists when needed to investigate areas which I had identified as worthy of close study. The current President, J Kevin Logan, has been equally supportive since he took over the Presidency from James.

### The *armiger's* three brothers: Have they left descendants?

I and my professional colleagues have very extensively searched primary sources to

establish whether any of the *armiger's* three brothers William, Allan and James, have any legitimate descendants named Logan.

William Logan was thoroughly researched by genealogist Diane Baptie. She found that he had one illegitimate son, Alexander, and three children, Barbara, George and Jean, by his wife Jean Moir. George died six months after his father. So William has left no legitimate descendants bearing the name of Logan <sup>(10)</sup>.

Allan Logan had three sons, George, James and Charles, by his wife Lilius Nicoll.

- We know from a deed of 1715 <sup>(11)</sup> that the eldest son, George, died young. The second son, James, inherited his father's writer's premises in Edinburgh and passed them on to his younger brother Charles in Brockledyke in Sorn parish, Ayrshire, just north of Cumnock. Genealogist Dr Bruce Durie has searched extensively to try to identify James and Charles.
- At one time we thought James could have been the James Logan in Little Mains of Cumnock whose testament in 1731 names Hew Logan as his son and executor <sup>(12)</sup>. This identification has since been dismissed <sup>(13)</sup>. The identity of James, nephew of the *armiger*, has not been established without doubt so we do not know whether or not he left any descendants.
- Charles married Margaret Campbell. They had four boys and three girls <sup>(14)</sup>. The first son Allan (b. 1711) died young. We have not found any evidence that the other three boys, George (b. 1715), William (b. 1720) and a second Alan (b. 1721) married and had children. Conversely we have found no evidence that they died without issue.

James Logan, the last of the *armiger's* three brothers, has not been positively identified. As with Allan's second son James, the *armiger's* brother James was at one time thought to have been James Logan in Little Mains of Cumnock. This identification has also been dismissed <sup>(15)</sup>. Logan Home identifies the *armiger's* brother James as James Logan of Castle Cumnock, ancestor of the Logans of Camlarg, but we have found no evidence for this. Nor have we found any positive identification for him.

Our researches have found a great many references to Logans in Ayrshire in the eighteenth century. The names George, William, James, Charles and Hugh were in wide use. The problem has been to establish an acceptable level of documentary evidence of the connections between them all. It seems that Logan Home in many instances made assumptions about these connections rather than finding hard evidence. We have plenty of material <sup>(16)</sup> and could also make any number of suppositions, but in terms of provable connections which would satisfy Lord Lyon, we have not found them.

#### The *armiger's* guardian and uncle James

The last of the collaterals of Logan of that Ilk of whom we have reliable evidence is James, uncle of the *armiger* and guardian (known then as 'tutor') to him in his minority. We have found many James Logans in Ayrshire and Edinburgh at the right period, but none who can irrefutably be identified with the *armiger's* uncle. Thus we cannot say with certainty whether he did or did not leave descendants.

#### Crawford Logan's family tree

Logan Home, on page 177, states that William Logan, brother of the *armiger*, had two sons, William and Hugh, progenitors respectively of the Logans of Gribton and the Logans of Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania. The senior current living descendant of

the Logans of Gribton is the well-known Scottish actor Crawford Logan.

If Logan Home were correct, Crawford Logan would most certainly be able to petition Lord Lyon for the rematriculation of the arms of Logan of that Ilk in his own name with every chance of success. Similarly, the current senior representative of the Logans of Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, could put together a viable petition.

However, as we know, Diane Baptie's research into the *armiger's* brother William has shown that his only legitimate son, George, died in infancy. We therefore know that Logan Home's statement regarding the descendants of William's supposed two sons is not reliable.

Prior to the outcome of Diane's investigation of William, I had met Crawford Logan to discuss the possibility of a petition. He was aware of his putative descent from Logan of that Ilk through the Logans of Gribton <sup>(17)</sup> and willing to take on the chiefship of Logan if a successful petition could be made. However, he was also aware of possible doubts about the descent set out by Logan Home and showed me a typed family history and manuscript family tree by his great uncle John Harvey Logan <sup>(18)</sup> that appeared to show that his family had originated in Ireland.

Having failed to substantiate Crawford Logan's descent working forwards from the armiger's brother, William, we then tried a new approach by working back from Crawford Logan through his known antecedents. Diane Baptie reported in 2019 <sup>(19)</sup> that "there does not appear to be any connection with the Logans in the parish of Straiton and the Logans of Logan." The Logans in Straiton are Crawford Logan's antecedents.

Before I moved from my previous home in Scotland to my current home in Devon, England, I left some boxes of documents, mainly research papers accumulated by the late Peter Logan, at Crawford Logan's home.

### How should we proceed?

Having invested a great deal of time, energy and resources in our search for the Logan chief, in addition to the input of expert professional researchers on our behalf, it now seems unlikely that we will be able to substantiate descent from any of the collateral relations of the *armiger* identified above, although it remains a possibility.

Having similarly invested expertise and energy in investigating the possible claim of Crawford Logan to the chiefship, it now seems unlikely that that claim could ever be substantiated.

As a Family or Clan without an acknowledged chief, the Logans are disadvantaged in that there is no one person with the authority to work positively on behalf of all Logans worldwide to foster the interests of this great Family.

It now seems only to be a remote possibility that a successful petition can be made to Lord Lyon for the rematriculation of the arms of Logan of that Ilk by a living descendant of the chiefly line. Advancing years mean that I am not in a position to continue the search further. Therefore I recommend:

- that the Clan Logan Society nominate a suitable candidate to take over from me as Heritage Officer and pursue further the Family's search for its chief;
- that an application be made to the Court of the Lord Lyon for the holding of a Derbhfine or Family Convention <sup>(20)</sup> in order that a small number of suitable possible candidates to take on the mantle of chiefship can be identified, allowing Lord Lyon to appoint the most suitable as Clan Commander for a period pending the acknowledgement of a new chief.

## Valete

I have enjoyed the many hours I have spent transcribing and studying ancient documents, discussing and arguing with colleagues, preparing reports and amassing substantial amounts of information, all in pursuit of the elusive chief of the Logan Family and Clan. I will be happy when another comes forward who is willing to take over all the material I have gathered and all Peter Logan's material, currently in store with Crawford Logan, and take the quest forward with the dynamism and energy it requires.



John Logan Marjoribanks

Axminster

9<sup>th</sup> August 2023

## References

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2. Nisbet, Alexander; A System of Heraldry, Vol. 1, p. 202 with illustrations on Plate 11; first published 1722, new edition published 1984 by T&A Constable, Edinburgh
3. NRS; Dunblane Commissary Court Ref CC6/5/24; Testament Dative of Rev Allan Logan of that Ilk, Minister of Culross
4. The Laird of Logan or Anecdotes and Tales Illustrative of the Wit and Humour of Scotland p. 3; published by Robert Forrester & David Robertson, Glasgow, and Simpkin Marshall & Co, London; New Edition 1868
5. NRS; Old Parish Registers Births 610/Old Cumnock; pp.187, 206 of 346 and 171 of 314
6. NRS; Register of Deeds, Ref RD4/16 pp.800-802
7. NRS; Inquisitiones de Tutela, C22-19-00139V, 23 June 1647
8. Ros, Gavin; The Protocol Book of Gavin Ros N.P. 1512-1532; edited by John Anderson and Francis J Grant; published by the Scottish Record Society, Edinburgh 1908
9. NRS; Register of Deeds, Ref RD3/36/502; see John Marjoribanks' Logan Chief Research Note 5, 6 Dec 2012 (unpublished)\*
10. Baptie, Diane; Logan Chief Research Report 3, 9 May 2020 (unpublished)\*
11. NRS; Register of Deeds, Ref RD3/145/605
12. NRS; Glasgow Commissary Court Ref CC9/7/53
13. Marjoribanks, John; Logan Chief Research, Notes & Queries on Durie Reports No.2, 25 January 2023 (unpublished)\*
14. NRS; Old Parish Registers Births 613/Sorn; p. 145, 175, 185, 193, 197, 199, 205 of 324
15. Marjoribanks, John; Logan Chief Research, Notes & Queries on Durie Reports No.2, 25 January 2023 (unpublished)\*
16. Most of the material is held electronically on my computer. There are a few paper records with me in Devon, more are in the home of Crawford Logan in Stirlingshire, Scotland. All can be made available to anyone taking on the research in future.
17. Logan Home, Major GJN, History of the Logan Family; published by George Waterston & Sons, Edinburgh; 1934; pp. 176 - 182
18. Logan, John Harvey; The Logan Family of Straiton, Ayrshire; unpublished typescript and accompanying manuscript family trees; 1933-1935; in the possession of Crawford Logan and lent to John Marjoribanks for the purposes of the Logan chief research project. Access restricted.
19. Baptie, Diane; Logan Chief Research Report 5, 1 August 2019 (unpublished)\*
20. Court of the Lord Lyon; Guidance Note - Chiefs of Clans and Families; Succession of Chiefs; Family Conventions; Nomination of Heir; published 16 December 2021

\* These unpublished documents can be made available to interested parties on request.