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# Sir William Alexander, Earl of Stirling

(1567-1640)

(1st Earl of Stirling, b. Menstrie, Clackmannanshire; Scottish politician and man of letters, dramatist, critic; Scottish colonist of Canada, poet and courtier, b. Menstrie, studied under Dr. Thomas Buchanan, Grand tour in Eruope with kinsman Earl of Argyle, st. Universities of Glasgow and Leiden; tragedian; member of the court of King James, knighted 1609; gentleman of the Prince's Privy Chamber; m. 1601 Janet Erskine, daughter of Sir William Erskine, 10 children; benefited from Crown offices and monopolies, debt collector, knighted 1609; praised by Drummond, collab. as translator with the King; Master of Requests 1614; member of the Scottish Privy Council, 1614; colonial adventure in Newfoundland with John Mason; granted lands in Canada 1621 which he named Nova Scotia or New Scotland and from 1626 was Secretary of State for Scotland 1626-, printed King James's Psalms 1631; created Viscount 1633, Earl of Stirling 1639; supported by King Charles, in turn supported imposition of episcopacy in Scotland, financial fiasco when unsuccessful promoter of colony; advocated selling of titles to finance Canadian colonies; lost colonies after French war, 1629, deeply in debt, died surrounded by creditors in London)

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