

The Scottish Genealogist

THE QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY

| | <i>Page</i> |
|--|-------------|
| EDITORIAL | 1 |
| BURNS' EXCISE ASSOCIATES (continued) | 1 |
| CAMPBELL STREET BURYING GROUND, PORT GLASGOW ... | 7 |
| THE SWINTON FAMILY | 8 |
| THE DUNDAS FAMILY | 14 |
| THE URQUHARTS OF CROMARTY | 16 |
| QUERIES AND REPLIES | 18 |

By the constitution, the Scottish Genealogy Society exists "to promote research into Scottish Family History," and "to undertake the collection, exchange and publication of information and material relating to Scottish Genealogy by means of meetings, lectures, etc." By the expressed desire of the Original Members, the Society was to remain an academic and consultative body; and was not to engage itself professionally in record searching. Arrangements will be made by which the Society can supply a list of those members who are professional searchers but any commission of this kind must be carried out independently of the Society.

Monthly meetings of the Society are held from September to April in the St. Andrew Society Rooms, 24 Hill Street (Castle Street end), Edinburgh, at 7 p.m. on 15th of the month. (In the event of the 15th falling on Saturday or Sunday, the meeting is held on the following Monday.)

Membership of the Scottish Genealogy Society is by election at an annual subscription of £1 10s. 0d, (\$4.50) (inclusive of *The Scottish Genealogist*). This subscription which is payable on 1st October entitles members to receive the Magazine during the following year beginning with the January issue. Inquiries may be made to the Hon. Secretary, 28 Pitcauchie Bank, Dunfermline, and subscriptions paid to the Hon. Treasurer, 74 Brunstone Road, Joppa, Midlothian.

The Scottish Genealogist will be published quarterly. Subscription is 11/- (\$1.75) per annum (post free). Single copies are available from the Hon. Editor at 2/9 (\$0.50) post free.

All material for publication must be sent to the Hon. Editor, c/o Messrs. Shepherd & Wedderburn, W.S., 16 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, 2, in a form ready for immediate use. MSS. must be fully referenced, signed and previously unpublished.

Publication in *The Scottish Genealogist* does not imply that all views therein are accepted or admitted by The Scottish Genealogy Society. Authors, and not the Society, are to be held responsible for errors of fact.

All communications submitted should be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope (or by other means of return). Published matter will not be returned; but will become the property of the Society and filed for reference in the Library.

Reproduction from *The Scottish Genealogist*, in part or in whole, may not be made without permission.

THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY

At a General Meeting of the Scottish Genealogy Society, the following Constitution was adopted on Saturday, 4th July, 1953:—

1. The objects of the Scottish Genealogy Society are:—

To promote research into Scottish Family History.

To undertake the collection, exchange and publication of information and material relating to Scottish Genealogy, by means of meetings, lectures, etc., etc.

2. The Society will consist of all duly elected Members whose subscriptions are paid. A President and one or more Vice-Presidents may be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
3. The affairs of the Society shall be managed by a Council consisting of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Editor, and not more than twelve other Members. A non-Council Member of the Society shall be appointed to audit the accounts annually.
4. Office-Bearers shall be elected annually. Four Ordinary Members of Council shall retire annually in rotation, but shall be eligible for re-election. At meetings of the Council, a quorum shall consist of not less than one-third of the members.
5. An Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at or about the end of October, on a date to be determined by the Council, at which report will be submitted.
6. Members shall receive one copy of each publication issued by, or on behalf of the Society, but these shall not be supplied to any Members who are in arrears.
7. No alteration of this Constitution shall be made except at the Annual General Meeting of the Society, when a two-thirds majority will be required.

THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <i>Hon. President</i> | The Right Hon. The Earl of Dundee, LL.D., Royal Banner Bearer of Scotland. |
| <i>Hon. Vice-Presidents</i> | Sir Thomas Innes of Learney, K.C.V.O., LL.D., Lord Lyon King of Arms. The Right Hon. The Countess of Erroll, Hereditary Lord High Constable of Scotland. The Right Hon. The Lord Lovat, D.S.O., M.C. The Right Hon. The Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, K.T., G.B.E., LL.D. |
| <i>Chairman of Council</i> | Sir Iain Moncreiffe of that Ilk, Bart., LL.B., Ph.D., Unicorn Pursuivant of Arms. |
| <i>Hon. Secretary</i> | Duncan McNaughton, M.A., F.S.A.(Scot.), 23 Pitbauchlie Bank, Dunfermline, Fife. |
| <i>Hon. Treasurer</i> | J. H. C. Milligen, 74 Brunstone Road, Joppa, Midlothian. |
| <i>Hon. Editor</i> | Ivor R. Guild, W.S., c/o Messrs. Shepherd & Wedder- burn, W.S., 16 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, 2. |
| <i>Council</i> | Ivor R. Guild, W.S. (<i>Deputy Chairman</i>). Mrs. E. T. Bailey. Miss E. M. E. Berry. Mrs. M. N. Browne, M.A. Miss I. F. Grant, LL.D. Donald J. Macdonald. J. M. McGill, F.S.A.(Scot.). J. F. Mitchell, C.I.E. Miss M. F. Moore, M.A., Ph.D. Donald Whyte, F.S.A.(Scot.). Miss H. M. Woodford. |

Editorial

WITH this publication in February 1960 of the April 1959 issue of *The Scottish Genealogist*, we feel that we must tender our apologies to our members and subscribers who have so patiently waited. We realise that the magazine is the most important aspect of this Society and have accordingly taken emergency action at some extra cost to ensure the publication of the two outstanding issues of which this is the first. Vol. VI, No. 4 has already been published for we felt that for the sake of continuity of the articles which had already appeared in No. 1, that Nos. 2 and 3 should be devoted to completing these, with a fresh start for No. 4. The original delay was due to the printing dispute and the failure of the printers to produce our copy on time.

It has been gratifying to realise from our correspondence how much *The Scottish Genealogist* is appreciated and how much it has been missed, and we wish to thank those who have sympathised with our difficulties.

A constant difficulty, however, is that of material, a fact which has been mentioned before in these pages. We feel sure that there must be a great deal of unpublished genealogy which should be recorded in print, which is our "raison d'être." Genealogical accounts, queries, additions or contradictions are all relevant to our purpose, and members and subscribers are invited to forward their M.S.S. to the Hon. Editor for consideration.

For the Hon. Editor, D. McN.

Burns' Excise Associates

(Continued from Vol. VI, p. 19)

SON HUGH, Secretary of the Guardian Assurance Company, Edinburgh, from 1839 (or earlier) to 1853, *d.* childless in Portobello; one may imagine him being in communication with Chambers over the alleged loss of Burns manuscripts left with his father. Mary m. Gray Campbell of the excise, later Collector of Aberdeen, whose son James Mitchell Campbell, surgeon HEICS then Aberdeen, passed on to Allan Cunningham a letter his grandfather received from Burns. Daughter Helen m. William Inglis, apothecary Dumfries and later Edinburgh, who was also acquainted with Burns; his father was the Rev. William Inglis of the anti-burgher church in Dumfries, admired of Burns and his attendant on his deathbed.

As previously mentioned, Ann, daughter of Robert Mitchell and wife of Robert Hall, was in 1861 returned heir to her ancestress Margaret Stevens, her uncles and brothers having died without children; the succession went in 1865

to her grandson Robert Mitchell Hall and in 1906 to his son Robert Menelaus Hall.

In December, 1805, Hugh Mitchell persuaded the Board to grant leave to Collector Gray Campbell to assist Collector Mitchell, then gravely ill, to arrange his affairs; after the Collector's death it was found that over £1000 of revenue was due from him which should have been credited to Government and this was repaid by his sons Robert and Hugh in 1807.

As regards the sheaf of Burns manuscripts said to have been left by him, see the paragraphs below on Alexander Findlater.

(Minutes of the Scottish Board of Excise, parish registers of Tullynestle, Turriff, Montrose, Wigton, Thurso, 1796 to 1802, and Dalkeith, 1806; Edinburgh sasines 1775 and 1806 to 1861; *Scots Magazine* 1792, 1794 and 1806; *Greenock Advertiser*, Feb. 1832, *Return of Heirs* 1781, 1811, 1843, 1861, 1856 and 1906; *Census Portobello and Rosebank, Edinburgh*, 1851; tombstones, St. Michael's Dumfries, Inveresk, Portobello church in Melville Street, Warriston, Edinburgh, for Ann Mitchell or Hall and New Calton, Edinburgh, for Helen Mitchell or Inglis; *Edinburgh Directories* 1830 to 1853).

GENERAL SUPERVISOR WILLIAM CORBET. (Article by De Lancey Ferguson in *Burns Chronicle*, 1931; "warm and worthy friend" of the poet, who may have met him on one or two occasions; Burns probably appreciated the influence which Corbet could and did have on his career, especially in 1791 and 1792; De Lancey Ferguson mentions a "Drunken raid" on the lodge room of Dumbarton Kilwinning Lodge of Freemasons, in which a William Corbet, supervisor of excise, Dumbarton, took part on 26/2/1780, and opined that this must have been another Corbet; another article in *Burns Chronicle* 1937 gives the information that Corbet was a member of the Board of Green Cloth, "one of the most exclusive of the many convivial clubs in Glasgow"; *b.* 15/12/1755, *m.* Jean McAdam of Kirkcudbright 18/5/1785; *d.* at Meadowside, Partick, 16/9/1811, buried in Ramshorn churchyard, Glasgow, character book 1792, *i.e.* A. & C. 1794, "an active good officer," aged 37, employed 21 years, 10 of family, three sons at Glasgow University.) Supernumerary in Glasgow Collection, previously expectant, 1772; excise officer, Dumbarton or Bonhill, 1774, Glasgow 1776; officiating supervisor, Dumbarton, 1779; excise officer, Glasgow, 1780; examiner 1783; supervisor, Stirling, 1784; general supervisor 1785; Collector, Glasgow, 1797 till *d.* 16/9/1811; it is evident that this William Corbet, and not either of the other two who were in the department in 1780, was the one guilty of the "drunken raid," the report of which, however, I have not seen; sons matriculated Glasgow University, 2nd son William in 1798, eldest son Peter 1802, and 3rd son Adam 1804; births of children of William Corbet and Jean McAdam in Stirling—date of marriage shown above must be wrong—Jean 25/8/1784, William 7/6/1786, Carolina 15/1/1788, and Mary 13/12/1789; widow Jane McAdam *d.* at Glasgow 1831; daughter Jean *m.* at Stirling Alexander Cormick, later Collector of excise, Montrose; daughter Mary *d.* at Glasgow 1829.

Friendship with the notorious Deacon Brodie is perhaps further evidence of a convivial bent in Corbet's character, of which signs have been mentioned above. Brodie, Deacon of the Incorporation of wrights and masons in Edinburgh, and erstwhile town councillor, had some notoriety (see *DNB* article) as an almost nightly customer of a low gambling house in the Fishmarket Close; he was publicly hanged in 1788 for his participation in the robbery of the excise office; *Kay's Edinburgh Portraits* mentions, with reference to the trial, that a friend of Brodie's, "a Mr Corbett from Stirling had occasion to visit the excise office for the purpose of drawing money. Brodie accompanied him; and while in the cashier's room the idea first occurred to him. He frequently after made calls at the office under a pretence of asking for Mr Corbett, but with the sole purpose of becoming better acquainted with the premises." *The Trial of Deacon Brodie* in the *Famous Scottish Trials* series says much the same, substituting "connection" for "friend" and mentioning that Corbet came to Edinburgh frequently on excise business, accompanied by Brodie.

Despite the possible handicap of conviviality, if it was a handicap in the Excise Department in these days, Corbet was evidently an officer with a high departmental reputation to reach by promotion from the lowest ranks the high post of Collector of excise at Glasgow, probably the most important executive charge in the whole department. It is an extraordinary feature of his career that he should have received his first appointment at the age of 16, officiated as supervisor at the age of 24 and been promoted to be Collector, Glasgow, at the age of 42. *A. & C.* 1794 discloses that the next youngest ages of appointment as supernumerary or excise officer were one at 19 and one at 20. The only rule on the subject I am aware of was in force at a later date and imposed a minimum age at recruitment of 19. (*Kay's Edinburgh Portraits, Famous Scottish Trials—Deacon Brodie, Glasgow University Matriculation Album, Returns of Heirs* 1821, *Scots Magazine* 1811, *Glasgow Testaments* 1812, *Greenock Advertiser* 1/12/1829 and 15/3/1831.)

GENERAL SUPERVISOR JOHN LEVEN. (Recipient of letter of March 1792 from Burns relating to some tea permits, mentions "The deil's awa' wi' the excise-man" but says nothing about the Rosamond affair of end February—see Walter Crawford below; De Lancey Ferguson has a short but not very accurate note about him.) Excise officer, Forfar 1777, Dundee 1778; officiating supervisor, Elgin 1780, Old Meldrum at Ellon 1781; examiner 1784; supervisor, Stirling 1785, Greenock 1767; general supervisor 1791; Collector Greenock 1800, Fife 1804, dismissed 1808. The Board minutes contain allegations of irregularities in upkeep of cash book and of acceptance of interest from distillers on amounts of dues withheld from payment to Government; another charge of interfering with local politics at Kirkcaldy was dropped. In 1818 a jury in Edinburgh cleared him of the outstanding charges and awarded him £20,000 damages (as in the *Edinburgh Courant*, but the *Edinburgh Magazine* says £2,000) against the distillers who had given false information against him.

whereupon the Board allowed him £400 per annum superannuation from 17/1/1817 but did not accede to his request for reinstatement as Collector. *A. & C.* 1794—age 43, 21 years' service, 8 of family, "an active good officer." A tombstone in Canongate churchyard gives much information about the family, including a son John Leven, W.S., and his family. (Tombstone Canongate churchyard, *Scots Magazine* 1803, *Edinburgh Courant* 19/3/1818, *History of Society of Writers to the Signet, Consistorial Processes and Decrees* 1793, *Edinburgh Academy Register* 1824-1914, *Edinburgh Magazine* 24/3/1818, *Fife sasines* 1797, 1825 and 1826.)

SUPERVISOR ALEXANDER FINDLATER. ("A gentleman of great information and the first worth. I lie, and have long lain, under great obligations to him"—Burns letter, May 1794; "friend and champion of Burns"—article about him in *Burns Chronicle*, 1924, with information on his career, parentage and family; wrongly stated to be a son of Rev. Thomas F. of (West) Linton by some writers in *Burnsiana*; some information already in *Burnsiana* is repeated below along with fuller details. James Adams, MD, in his *Burns Chloris*, 1898, writes about certain Burns manuscripts which were in the hands of a Mrs Findlater, Rankellour Street, Edinburgh, widow of either a son or nephew of Supervisor Findlater; she had a son Duff with whom young Adams used to play.)

Excise officer, Cupar, Fife, 1777, Camelon 1778, Falkirk 1782, Glasgow 1784; supervisor, Dumfries 1787; general supervisor 1797; Collector Haddington 1806, Glasgow 1811; pension £700 a year; age 71; 50½ years' service, 1825, *d.* 3/12/1839; *A. & C.* 1794, age 38, 15 years' service, 7 of family, "a good officer." A printed Findlater pedigree (Edinburgh Corporation Central Library) shows descent from the supervisor's great grandfather to the numerous descendants of the supervisor's younger brother John; with the aid of this and *Fasti*, BLG Ireland 1912 for Findlaters of Fernside, and parish registers of Burntisland, Abbotshall and Falkirk, a considerable field may be covered, but only a few salient points are mentioned here.

The supervisor was born at Burntisland on 4/9/1754, the fourth son of James F., excise officer, and Helen Ballantine. His younger brother John, born 10/5/1758 in Abbotshall parish, adjacent to Kirkcaldy, became an excise officer in Glasgow and was the progenitor of the Irish family of Findlater of Fernside, including Sir Wm. Huffington F., 1824-1906—*Who Was Who* 1897-1915—and Alexander F., the wealthy founder of a distilling business in Dublin and London. The supervisor's eldest son James, *b.* 1779 Falkirk, *d.* 1826 Greenock, was also in the excise as a permit officer and his widow Margaret Hewan drew the excise widow's annuity for many years. A further connection with the excise is the marriage of the supervisor's uncle Alexander, *b.* 1695, schoolmaster, Montrose, then Edinburgh High School from 3/1/1718, with Anne, daughter of James Stewart, excise officer, Anstruther in 1718. The excise records also show a Charles Findlater, excise officer, Ayr,

Forres, Findhorn and Redcastle, 1733 to 1740, who might well be the Charles Findlater, uncle of the supervisor, known to have been b. 1711. A John Findlater, Collector's clerk at Haddington for first half of 1808, was probably the Collector's son. Of all the Findlaters in the excise, the supervisor was the only one to secure promotion above the rank of excise officer.

Findlater was well endowed with ministers of the Church of Scotland in his ancestry; they included his grandfather, Rev. Alexander Findlater of Hamilton, great grandfather, Rev. Thomas Kirkcaldy (of Grange) of Dalserf, great-great-grandfather Rev. Robert Birnie of Lanark to 1685, son of Rev. William Birnie of that ilk, vicar of Lanark in 1597, and son-in-law of Patrick Melvill, D.D., professor of oriental languages, New College St. Andrews. The Rev. Thomas Findlater of West Linton was uncle, and his son, cousin of the supervisor, Rev. Charles Findlater of Newlands, is subject of an article in *DNB* as an agricultural writer and essayist.

The parents of the Alexander of Hamilton were Alexander F. in Dyke parish, Elgin, and Christian Brodie of the family of Brodie of Brodie. *The Scottish Nation* has an article on this family as well as on that of Kirkcaldy of Grange to which this Rev. Alexander's wife belonged; her father, the Rev. Thomas Kirkcaldy, was grandson of the Sir James who was hanged in Edinburgh in 1573 along with his better known brother, Sir William Kirkcaldy of Grange (article in *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 14th edition); both were sons of Sir James, Lord High Treasurer of Scotland 1537 to 1543 and friend of James V, as well as being a "determined opponent of Cardinal Beaton," in whose murder he was assisted by three of his sons.

As regards the manuscripts in the hands of a Mrs Findlater of Rankeillour Street, Edinburgh, an Edinburgh sasine shows that she was Mary Hewan, widow of James Findlater of the excise, and therefore daughter-in-law of the supervisor. One would suppose that these documents must have previously been in the supervisor's possession, and it is certainly a possibility which may explain the disappearance of some Burns manuscripts mentioned in connection with Collector Mitchell, that when Mitchell died as Collector of Haddington, Findlater, who succeeded him there, got the manuscripts previously in Mitchell's possession.

In a letter written by Findlater in 1820 to somebody at headquarters in Edinburgh he laments the lack of success of his family in worldly affairs except for a son in the army in India.

The minutes of the Board of Excise bear frequent witness to the confidence which the Board placed in him, and his long career in the Scottish Excise Department, culminating in his tenure of the very responsible post of Collector of Excise in Glasgow, was one of some distinction.

(*Genealogical Tree of the Findlater Family*, *Fasti* I 285, 299, III 7, 246, 260 and 307, parish registers, Burntisland 1748-58, Abbotshall 1759, Falkirk 1779-1783, Edinburgh births 1726, Glasgow baptisms 1785-1787, Edinburgh

marriages 1718, 1778, Edinburgh testaments 1736, *Scots Magazine* 1810, Edinburgh sasines 1828, Glasgow sasines 1841, 1843, *Greenock Advertiser* 18/4/1833, 6/12/1839, 10/12/1816, *Matriculation Album, Glasgow University*, 1791, 1826, *BLG Ireland* 1912, *Who Was Who* 1897-1915, Resealed decreets Edinburgh, *The Scottish Nation* for Brodie of Brodie and Kirkcaldy of Grange, Epitaphs and Inscriptions in Greyfriars Churchyard, *The Scotsman* 22/6/1956, *Parliamentary Papers* 1826, *The Glasgow Herald* of 10/3/1923 is important.)

SUPERVISOR WILLIAM NIMMO. (Burnsiana explains that Burns met Clarinda in Edinburgh at the home of Miss Nimmo, sister of Nimmo of the excise, and that is about all that is said about him.) Supernumerary, Ayr Collection, 1739; excise officer, Cumnock 1739, Kilmwinning 1740; examiner, Edinburgh 1751; supervisor, Dunkeld 1754, Wigton 1757, Edinburgh 1759, Paisley 1762, Edinburgh 1763, Lanark 1793 till d. 23/11/1793; Adam Pearson, joint Secretary, Excise, his sole executor; legacies of £100 each to his children William and Margaret, his nephew Peter Nimmo, brewer in Edinburgh, and to his executor; £50 to Catherine Erskine Nimmo, daughter of Thomas Nimmo, apothecary in Greenock; £500 to Katharine, eldest daughter of Major-General Alexander Stewart of Alston with life rent to her grandmother, Katharine Campbell, widow of Thomas Gordon of Edriltston; and £100 to Isabella, daughter of James Hamilton, commander of the Prince William Henry in the service of the Customs. The sister is not mentioned. There may be some connection with James Nimmo, Cashier or Receiver General of the Excise, 1726 till d. 8/11/1758, whose first wife was Mary Erskine, b. 1690, daughter of Lord Cardross, and of Catharine, youngest daughter of Sir James Stewart of Kirkhill. The only other Nimmo in the Excise was an old officer at Grangeopans taken over at the Union in 1707 and retained till midsummer 1708.

(Edinburgh Testament 1794; for James Nimmo, Edinburgh marriages 1720, 1743 and 1759, Edinburgh births 1721 to 1731, Edinburgh Testaments 1760 and 1772, *Scots Magazine* 1745, 1747, 1749 and 1758, *Fasts* I 102, *The Scots Peerage* VI 9, and II 367, Edinburgh burgesses 1712.)

JOHN EDGAR, EXCISE ACCOUNTANT. (Recipient of a letter from Burns 1795 re delay in wine returns.) Clerk in Auditor's office, excise, 1774, excise accountant in Edinburgh 1780, age 76 pensioned £200 per annum 1816, d. Edinburgh 1832; m. (1) Mary Pearson, daughters Jean b. 1787 and Ramsay b. 1791; m. (2) Agnes Forsyth of Dumfries 1803; daughter Fanny m. Lieut. James Steele of Dumfriesshire Militia 1804; daughter Ramsay m. R. Trotter, merchant, Edinburgh, 1810; Samuel Forsyth Edgar, surgeon, Berwick, returned heir to his father. (*Parliamentary Papers* 1816 for pension, Edinburgh births, *Scots Magazine* 1803, 1804 and 1810; *Returns of Heirs*.)

A subsequent article will deal with Burns' brother gaugers or excise officers, including probably John Brown, "the Devil killer," William Craig, Walter Crawford of the "Rosamund" affair, John Gillespie, suitor of Chloris, James Findlay (Burns' instructor), George Gray, John Lewars sen. and jun.,

John McCulloch, John McQuaker, Hugh Marques, Andrew Pearson, William Penn, John Rankine, Adam Stoble, Leonard Smith, Archibald Thomson and George Wishart.

J. F. MITCHELL.

Campbell Street Burying Ground, Port Glasgow

THIS Non-Conformist burial ground, closed for interments in 1860, is shortly to be demolished. No records of interments have been traced and the following inscriptions have been copied by Mr Arch. Duncan, Kilcraggan, one of our members. A plan of the ground from which this information has been obtained for this list is held by the Hon. Secretary.

1. Wm. Henry, 18—.
2. I. Foster, 1825.
3. IMNMM (N.D.).
4. F. 1711.
5. N. Hunter and J. Murray and their heirs. Date illegible.
6. R. K. M. 1774.
7. I. H. M. D. 1798.
8. James McKay and Ann Howiston and their child. (N.D.).
9. W.C. James McKay. (N.D.)
10. L.M.K. (N.D.)
11. Edward Bradley. (N.D.)
12. Williams. (N.D.)
13. Archibald Robertson, late farmer in Devall who departed this life Feb. 1807, . . . erected by his son Archibald, 18—3.
14. John Williams, Shipmaster, Margt. McConochie his wife, and children John—, June—, Janet died Oct. 1843. John died Oct. 1849.
15. Erected by Robert Blair to the memory of his father in law James—, who died—1844. Agnes—ston 1853.
16. James Taylor, his wife and children and their heirs erected in memory of Mary Taylor their younger daughter, late spouse to James Crawford who died 13th April, 1825. 17—4.
17. This is the burial place of W. M. Newsham, his wife and children, 1741.
18. Robert Deniston, cooper (?). 1—4.
19. Joseph Alison — 1846, Margaret Alison 18——. Alexander Alison 1879 (?) (probably 1849?)
20. W.S.M.L. 1746.
21. W.M. S.M. 177—. Roy.

22. I.B.M.M. 1734.
23. W.J.
24. McNewr, Shoemaker.
25. Duncan Allan. 1822.
26. This is the burying place appointed for John Lang, his wife and children. Sept. 1779.
27. The burying place of James Murray, Tidewaiter, Port Glasgow, his spouse and their children. 1806.
28. Thomas Toward. 1839.
29. Samuel Sharp. 1839.
30. James Leckie, Ropemaker, Port Glasgow. 1803.
31. This place of interment belongs to Alexander Scott, Taylor in Port Glasgow, Janet Shaw his spouse and their children. 1793.
32. This burlal place belongs to Matthew Neil, cooper, Catherine Brown his wife . . . 1841.
33. Peter Adam. 1742.
34. This is the burying place of John Turner, Mariner, his wife and their children. 181—.
35. I.G. I.G.
36. The burying place of Willm. Wilson, shipwright, who departed this life Jan. 22nd, 1817, aged 69 years, Agnes Kerr his spouse and their heirs.
37. Henry Dall.
38. The burying place of Wm. Hutcheson, ropemaker, Port Glasgow, Janet Fullerton his spouse and their children. 1826.
39. — Bull.
40. Thomas Allan, smith and his heirs.
41. James Cooper, his spouse and their children. 1806.

D. McNAUGHTON.

“The Swinton Family”

PEOPLE often speak of “old families.” In fact, no family is older than any other, and what is meant is that the particular families called “old” have managed to maintain their identity and retain records of their past longer than the majority of other folk. In the popular sense, many of the Scottish landed families are fairly “old” since their descent can be traced in a remarkable number of instances from the local hereditary administrators of the Middle Ages, nor do their first-recorded ancestors always appear to have been “new men” in their own time. Indeed, as our present teeming population was gradually bred from out of a relatively tiny stock, the cadets of our already established leaders made

good use of their combined advantages of heredity, environment and opportunity. Thus the many landed members of those still widespread and until recently dominant family groups, whose heads and numerous cadets form most of the Scottish peerage and much of the landed gentry (e.g., the Douglasses, Hamiltons and Campbells) derive from surprisingly few individuals even within historic times.

Nevertheless, there are few families in Scotland whose ancestry in the direct line can be traced with any degree of confidence before the 12th century. The rare exceptions are either semi-royal, and thus known to us from their part in history, or else of foreign origin and traceable in the records of the countries whence they came. To the former category belong the Dunbars and, probably, the Homes. To the latter a number of Anglo-Norman families, together with the Stewarts, who are Celts of Breton origin.

From the middle of the 7th century, the ANGLES, or English, established themselves firmly in Lothian, that is the territory from the Cheviots to the Forth. But this Teutonic conquest does not seem to have eradicated the native population who were basically PICTS. Lothian formed part of Kingdom of BERNICIA (the country between the Tyne and the Forth), soon expanded under the same English dynasty into the greater kingdom of Northumbria which stretched as far South as the Humber. After a series of wars with Scandinavian invaders, "the chief power north of the Tyne came into the hands of a certain EADULF of Bamburgh who did not take the kingly title, but accepted the overlordship of ALFRED the Great perhaps in 886." He died in 912, leaving two sons, of whom the elder ALFRED 2nd Lord of Bamburgh, "as dear to King Edward (The Elder) as his father had been to King Alfred," was ruling north of the Tyne when Viking invaders defeated him at Corbridge in 918. He did homage to King Athelstan at Dacre in Cumberland in 926. His son, OSWULF, 3rd Lord and High Reeve of Bamburgh in 949 who was made Earl of Northumbria by King Edred in 953, was deprived of that part of the Earldom known as Deira, the southern part, by King Edgar in 963, died 965, leaving issue:—

WALTHEOF, 4th Lord of Bamburgh, after an interval of ten years when Bernicia was held by Edulf Yvecild, became Earl of Bernicia in 975 and was living in 1006 when his elder son was acting as Earl on his behalf. He had two sons, of whom the elder, UHTRED, 5th Lord of Bamburgh, was given his Father's Earldom of Bernicia in 1006 by King Ethelred (The Unready) after a successful war against the Scots under King Malcolm II. King Ethelred gave him Deira which since his Grandfather's time (OSWULF) had been held by others, thus Uhtred was Earl of all Northumbria from 1006 to 1016, when he was killed and succeeded by his brother, EDULF CUDEL, who was made Earl by King Canute in 1016. He was defeated by the Scots under Malcolm II and Owen King of Strathclyde, at Carham in 1018, after which Lothian, the Scottish part of Bernicia, was united with Scotland.

He was succeeded in 1018 by **ALDRED**, his nephew, son of his brother **Uhtred**, who was Earl of English Bernicia until 1038. His granddaughter was the wife of King Duncan.

To revert to **UHTRED**. He had married firstly **Ecgrida**, daughter of **Aldhun**, Bishop of Durham, mother of **Aldred**. She became a nun and **Uhtred** married secondly **Slge**, daughter of **Styr Ulfsson**. Her sons were **Edulf**, who succeeded his half-brother as Earl in 1038, but was killed at Court by order of King **Harthacnut** in 1041, and **GOSPATRIC**, to whom we shall revert later.

Uhtred married thirdly **Elfgifu**, daughter of King **Ethelred the Unready** and sister of King **Edmund Ironside**, and half-sister to King **Edward the Confessor**. Their issue included **Aldgyth**, who married **Maldred of Atterdale**, 2nd son of King **Malcolm II** and brother of King **Duncan**, and **Gospatric**, Earl of Northumberland from 1067 to 1072, when he was deposed by King **William the Norman**.

GOSPATRIC had a son **UHTRED**, whose son **EDULF**, nicknamed **Rus**, murdered **Walcher**, Bishop of Durham on 14th May, 1080, and was probably the **Edulf** whose son **LIULF**, of **Bamburgh** and **Swinton**, Sheriff of the Northumbrians who was one of the earliest Sheriffs under the Crown on record, as well as the first individual SUBJECT in Scotland whose ownership of land can be proved by CONTEMPORARY writings still in existence. Among the **Coldingham** writs in the possession of the Dean and Chapter of Durham is a charter granted by King **Edgar** about 1098, in which **Liulf** is mentioned as holding **Swinton** before that date.

(This identification of **EDULF Rus** was originally suggested by **J. H. Round**, the celebrated authority of 50 years ago. No other **Edulf** is known who could have founded an Anglo-Saxon line of hereditary "Vicecomites" so soon after the Norman Conquest. **Liulf**, son of **Edulf**, and the early 12th century **Bamburgh** family would have had a difficult time in administering turbulent Northumberland had they not belonged to the popular old **Bamburgh** house, who has already slain three alien administrators. Like **Edulf Rus**, they had interests in Scottish Bernicia, and the bulk of their lands (held in chief of the crown) lay in the heart of **Bamburghshire**, between the ancient Earl's stronghold and the lands restored to the Earl's **Dunbar** descendants).

LIULF was succeeded about 1118 by his son **UDARD** of **Bamburgh** and **Swinton**, Sheriff of the Northumbrians, whose name occurs in Scottish charters and in the pipe rolls of Northumberland. He was one of the witnesses at the foundation of the Abbey of **Selkirk**, 1119. He died about 1132, leaving four sons. **WILLIAM** was confirmed by King **Stephen** in his right to his Father's land under the English Crown, and held **Swinton** from the monks of **St. Cuthbert**. **ADAM** and **JOHN** were both Sheriffs of Northumbria. **ERNULF**, the youngest, succeeded **William** in the lands of **Swinton** only. Described as **ERNULF DE SWINTON "Miles"**, perhaps the first instance on record of a Scottish Knight; received from King **David I** about 1140 two charters in which he is

designated "Miles meus" and is given Swinton "in feudo et in hereditate sibi et heredibus" "to hold as freely and honourably as any of my barons by the same custom by which Liulf son of Edulf and Udard his son held it of St. Cuthbert and of me paying forty shillings to the monks of Durham without any other services." These documents, which are at Durham, are the earliest Scottish records of inheritance. He died after 1166.

COSPATRIC, 5th OF SWINTON, was a witness to a charter before 1177 to the Nuns of North Berwick; this was also witnessed by his son Hugh, the founder of the family of Arbuthnott.

ALAN, 6th OF SWINTON, witnessed numerous documents and was followed by his son ALAN who received a charter of the lands of Colleslie and Abernethy in Fife, as Alan, son of Alan, son of Cospatric de Swinton, from Walter Olifard, the Justiciar, whose charter was confirmed by King William the Lion in 1211. He owned also the Sheriff mill at Inveresk and held rights over Elphinstone. He died after 1247 and his tomb is in Swinton Kirk. (A cast of his skull is at Abbotsford.) He left, with another, a son John, who, it has been suggested, was John de Elphinstone first of that name, for the arms are similar.

ALAN, 8th OF SWINTON, appears as far north as Inverness in 1262 in an official capacity, and as far south as Croxton in Leicester.

ALAN, 9th OF SWINTON, granted about 1271 the Kirkcroft of Lower Swinton to the monks of Coldingham. (I have a replica of his seal.)

HENRY, 10th OF SWINTON, swore fealty to Edward I at Berwick in 1296. JOHN 11th OF SWINTON, whose lands, almost valueless on account of war destruction, were forfeited by Edward III after the battle of Halidon Hill in 1335. ALAN, 12th OF SWINTON, was witness to an inquest at Bonkyl in 1364 and his heir, HENRY DE SWINTON, styled "Lord of that ilk" but apparently living at Abernethy during the forfeiture of Swinton and the occupation of the Merse by the English, made over all his possessions in Little Swinton to SIR JOHN DE SWINTON, 14th LORD OF THAT ILK, "nobilissimus et validissimus miles" whose charter of Melke Swinton was confirmed by Robert II and his son John, Steward of Scotland, in 1382, and ratified by a bull of POPE CLEMENT VII, dated at Avignon 9 June 1383. Sir John, a friend of John of Gaunt, is frequently mentioned by Froissart, commanded the Scots at Otterburn, married three times, firstly Joan, who died at the court of Edward III in 1374, secondly Margaret Countess of Douglas and Mar, widow of William 1st Earl of Douglas, and thirdly Lady Margaret Stewart, daughter of Robert, Duke of Albany, the Regent. He was killed at Homildon Hill, 1402.

SIR JOHN, 15th OF THAT ILK, killed the Duke of Clarence at the battle of Beaugé in 1420, see "The Lay of the Last Minstrel"—

"And Swinton laid the lance in rest
that tamed of yore the sparkling crest
of Clarence's Plantagenet."

He was killed at the battle of Verneuil in 1424, leaving an infant son, SIR JOHN, 16th OF THAT ILK, who died before 1500.

SIR JOHN 17th married a Lauder of the Bass. Their son JOHN 18th was Warden of the East Marches and married a Home of Wedderburn. JOHN 19th signed in 1567 a bond for the protection of the infant James VI against the Earl of Bothwell on his marriage to Queen Mary. ROBERT, 20th OF THAT ILK, was the first representative Member of Parliament for Berwickshire, 1612-21, and Sheriff, 1620. He married a daughter of the 5th Lord Hay of Yester and by her had a son JOHN 21st, who died unmarried in 1633, and a daughter Katherine who married Sir Alexander Nisbet of that ilk, a lady of great character and grandmother of Nisbet, the Herald. Robert married secondly a daughter of Sir Patrick Hepburn of Whitecastle and had, amongst other issue, SIR ALEXANDER 22nd OF THAT ILK, Sheriff of the County and M.P., 1644-45. He married a Home of St. Bathans and had six sons. The second, Alexander, became a Senator of the College of Justice as Lord Mersington, and his two sons were killed at the battle of Malplaquet. Robert and James, the third and fourth, were killed at Worcester, the former when attempting to carry off Cromwell's standard. George is described as of Chesters and David of Laughton. JOHN 23rd, the eldest, Colonel for Berwickshire and M.P. in 1649 was present, as a prisoner, at Worcester and was forfeited by the Convention of Estates, and excommunicated by the Commission of the Kirk in 1651. He became, according to Bishop Burnet, "the man of all Scotland most trusted and employed by Cromwell." He was appointed in 1655 a member of the Council of State for Scotland, and a "Commissioner for the Administration of Justice to the people of Scotland" and sat as a Scottish representative in the English Parliament. He joined the new sect of Quakers in 1657.

At the Restoration he was tried for High Treason in 1661 and suffered forfeiture and imprisonment, but was released in 1667. His eldest son ALEXANDER 24th, died unmarried in 1687 and was succeeded by his brother SIR JOHN 25th OF THAT ILK who had lived in Holland during the forfeiture and was a considerable merchant there. He returned to Scotland at the Revolution and the decree of forfeiture was rescinded in 1690, the family estates being restored to him. He was M.P. for Berwickshire in the Scottish Parliament 1690-1707, when he voted for the Union and was the first M.P. for the County in the Parliament of Great Britain, and a founder of the Bank of Scotland. His eldest daughter, Jean, married Dr. John Rutherford, and was the grandmother of Sir Walter Scott. He died in 1723 and was followed by his eldest son JOHN 26th, an Advocate who died in 1774, having had, amongst others, three sons, JOHN, SAMUEL and ARCHIBALD. He was one of the early improvers of land in Berwickshire, some of his double fences still existing.

It is of interest that since 1722, the date of his marriage, of 71 males born

in the family, more than half have seen service in India, as soldiers or as civilians.

Of the three sons, John continued the line at Swinton, of Samuel I will speak later, and Archibald was the founder of the Kimmerghame branch.

JOHN, 27th OF THAT ILK, was Sheriff of Perthshire in 1754, and was raised to the bench as LORD SWINTON in 1782. He was one of the judges who tried Deacon Brodie. He died in 1799. His son, JOHN 28th, was Sheriff of Berwickshire until his death in 1820. He re-built Swinton House in 1800 after it had been burnt to the ground in 1792. His son, JOHN 29th, died unmarried in 1829, and the Estate was bought by his cousin SAMUEL, second son of Captain Samuel Swinton, R.N., son of 26th, who owned a Bourbon newspaper in Paris called "Le Courier de l'Europe." He married Felicity Lefebvre, whose Father, an officer of the French Guards, fell at Versailles during the French Revolution. Samuel, the son, had three sons who all died in India, and the property went to his daughter, Anne Elizabeth, who had married her cousin, George, 5th son of Lord Swinton, who had been Chief Secretary to the Governor General of India.

Anne Elizabeth did not like the second wife of her eldest son, and left a will which forced the sale of the Estate in 1890. However, in 1913 it was re-purchased by her grandson, Captain George Herbert Swinton, Father of the present owner, Canon Alan Swinton.

WILLIAM, 6th son of Lord Swinton (1784-1853), was a Colonel in the H.E.I.C.S., and married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Robert Blair, K.C.B. He had six sons, all soldiers except Robert Blair, the third, who was in the Madras Civil Service. He was the Father of Major-General Sir Ernest Dunlop Swinton, one of the inventors of the Tanks, and Chichele Professor of Military History at Oxford University, 1925-39.

Of the 14 male descendants of William, 13 were in the Army.

Meantime the Headship of the Family had passed from Father to son until today WILLIAM SWINTON, 33rd OF THAT ILK, lives in Edmonton, Alberta. He has 3 sons and 5 daughters living, with numerous grandchildren, and visited us in 1958.

To return to ARCHIBALD, 1st of Kimmerghame, 4th son of JOHN 26th of that Ilk, he went to India as a Surgeon's Mate about 1752, having got a M.D. at St. Andrews. Exchanging to be a fighting soldier in 1759, he became a Captain in 1763, A.D.C. to General Carnac, and Persian Interpreter to Lord Clive. He was a witness to the Grant of the Dewanee by Shah Alum, the Great Moghul.

Returning home in 1766, he received the Freedom of Glasgow, Inverness and the Burgh of Fortrose. In 1769 he bought Manderston, which he sold in 1783, and Kimmerghame in 1771. He married Henrietta Campbell of Blytheswood and had 3 sons and 4 daughters. He sold Kimmerghame in 1803 and died in Bath the following year.

His eldest son, JOHN CAMPBELL SWINTON, 2nd of Kimmerghame, after seven years in the Army, retired and bought Broadmeadows, Hutton, where he built the Mansion House. In 1850 his aunt, Mary Campbell, who had bought Kimmerghame in 1847, died and left it to him. He at once joined the builders of the age, pulling down the old house and building a new one. He died in 1867, aged 90.

Of his children, JAMES RANNIE SWINTON was a popular society artist of the middle of the last century. MARY lived at Blythebank, Duns, where she died in 1891, and HENRIETTA was the mother of Lord Davidson, Archbishop of Canterbury.

The elder son, ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL SWINTON, 3rd of Kimmerghame, born 1812, was an Advocate and Professor of Civil Law in the University of Edinburgh. He married twice, his second wife being Georgiana Sitwell, great-aunt of the modern Sitwell family. LULF SWINTON, the eldest son, succeeded to Kimmerghame on the death of his father in 1890, and died in 1920. His daughter passed it on to me in 1937.

GEORGE, Captain, H.L.I., Member of the L.C.C. for 28 years, and Chairman in 1912, Lord Lyon King of Arms 1926-29, died in 1937.

ALAN ARCHIBALD, F.R.S., pioneer of "X" rays, wireless and television, 1863-1930.

A.H.C.S. 1896—.

J.S. 1925—.

J.S. 1955—.

Today, I, ALAN HENRY CAMPBELL SWINTON, Brigadier, late Scots Guards, am the only son of George Sitwell Campbell Swinton. My son, JOHN SWINTON, is a Major in the Scots Guards, and has two sons, James and Alexander.

Thus the Family should continue in Canada, and at Kimmerghame, for some generations to come, though these are the only branches that will survive.

Brigadier ALAN H. C. SWINTON OF KIMMERGHAME.

The Dundas Family

OLD CADET BRANCHES OF WEST LOTHIAN

(Article No. VI.)

5. DUNDAS OF BREASTMILL (A).

GAVIN DUNDAS (parentage unknown) and Margaret Wardlaw, his spouse, were granted a charter of the mill and lands of Breastmill (*vulgo* Priestmill), near Kirkliston, with the whole thirlage of the Barony of Liston.

by James, Lord St. John and Preceptor of Torphichen, on 28th February, 1558.¹ A charter of confirmation was granted on 24th June, 1563. Gavin and Margaret had issue a son, George, of whom below. In 1587 Gavin appeared in court for contravention of a proclamation to follow his sovereign to Dumfries.²

George Dundas, of Breastmill, and Margaret Dundas, his spouse, were granted a charter of the mill and lands, resigned by his father into the hands of the Lord St. John, of date 22nd June, 1574.³ George and his father witnessed several charters in 1578.⁴ By his wife Margaret he had several children, as follows: (1) James, his heir, of whom presently; (2) Duncan, who succeeded James; (3) John, apprenticed to Alex. Miller, tailor in Edinburgh, on 29th October, 1594;⁵ (4) Gavin, witness with his father, John Dundas of Newliston and David Dundas of Priestinch, to a charter of the quarter oxgate of Over-Newliston (now called Overtoun) known as Sergeandland, on 17th February, 1596/7;⁶ and (5) Margaret, who married George Logie, a burghess of South Queensferry.

James Dundas of Breastmill was apprenticed to William Rigg, merchant in Edinburgh, on 30th November, 1591.⁷ In 1612 he entered into a contract of sale, to Sir James Dundas of Craigton, of an annual rent of 300 merks from the mill and lands of Breastmill.⁸ He received from James, Lord Torphichen, the superior, on 15th January, 1613, a precept of *clare constat*, infesting him in the mill and lands of Breastmill.⁹ Sasine was given on 26th January, 1613.¹⁰ James died unmarried and was succeeded by his brother, Duncan.

Duncan Dundas of Breastmill, on 30th October, 1615, made a disposition of the mill and lands in favour of John Dundas of Newliston, obliging himself to procure a precept of *clare constat* for infesting himself as heir to his father and brother.¹¹ The precept, given by Lord Torphichen, was dated 15th November, 1615; and sasine was given on 20th November, 1615.¹² John Dundas of Newliston was granted a charter of the mill and lands of Breastmill, containing a clause of *novadamus*, and dated 21st November, 1615.¹³ Sasine was given on 4th December, 1615.¹⁴

DONALD WHYTE.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

¹Newliston Inventory (see note No. 50 on p. 51 of vol V.), No. 1.

²Pitcairn, R., *Ancient Criminal Trials in Scotland*, vol. i, part ii, p. 156. Edin., 1833.

³Newliston Inventory, Nos. 5 and 6.

⁴Dundas MSS., N.L.S. (Charters).

⁵Grant, F. J., *Edinburgh Register of Apprentices*, p. 57. Edin., 1906: Scottish Record Society.

⁶Dundas MSS., N.L.S. (Charters). ⁷Grant, F. J., *op. cit.*, p. 57.

⁸Living Charters, No. 2337. ⁹Newliston Inventory, No. 8. ¹⁰*Ibid.*, No. 9.

¹¹*Ibid.*, No. 10. ¹²*Ibid.*, Nos. 13 and 14. ¹³*Ibid.*, No. 16. ¹⁴*Ibid.*, No. 17.

The Urquharts of Cromarty

WE are obliged to begin with an all too familiar observation, namely, that the origin and early history of the Urquharts is obscure. True, we have the doughty Sir Thomas Urquhart's famed genealogy, the "Pantochronocanon; Or, A peculiar Promptuary of Time; Wherein (not one instant being omitted since the beginning of motion) is displayed A most exact Directory for all particular Chronologies, in what Family soever: And that by deducing the true Pedigree and Lineal descent of the most ancient and honorable name of the Urquharts, in the house of Cromartie, since the Creation of the world, until this present year of God. 1652."¹ In this marvellous compilation, the result, we are assured, of the most minute and meticulous research, Sir Thomas purports to give his illustrious sires right back to Adam, the Protoplast as he agnames the putative father of all. Among other things, he gravely informs us that the first undoubted Urquhart was Esormon, prince of Achaia in ancient Greece c. B.C. 2139. On the distaff side the descent was equally remarkable, including the daughter of Pharaoh who found Moses among the bullrushes, the Queen of Sheba, a niece of Lyncurgus, the sister of Coriolanus, the daughter of Alcibiades, and the daughter of King Arthur. Such a remarkable stock was bound to beget some remarkable fruits, not least of which, as we shall see, must be reckoned the distinguished genealogist himself.

"Pantochronocanon," though vastly entertaining reading, is perhaps best regarded as an early example of science-fiction; yet this absurd work has bedevilled the study of the family history of the Urquharts; for, when confronted with a hopeless impasse, there has always been a temptation to believe that, when dealing with historic times at least, Sir Thomas may be recounting more or less accurate traditions. As we shall see, even such an able scholar as Lord Hailes fell into this trap, and the latest writer on the history of the family, Miss Henrietta Tayler, never quite freed herself from Sir Thomas' eldritch spell.

But, in sober truth, of the Urquharts before the 14th century we have no real evidence. Let us begin, then on firm ground—literally on that *terra firma* which the main branch of the family was to hold for many centuries. There is reason for this, inasmuch as the early history of the shire of Cromarty throws the first light upon the Urquharts. That history is involved and tortuous, and from the moment of its inception at some indeterminate point in the 13th century this tiny sheriffdom could pose many problems. In particular, why was its extent so slight, it measuring no more than 10 miles in length and 1¾ miles in breadth? There is indeed no reason to suppose that the old sheriffdom ever included more than the north-eastern tip of the Black Isle, comprising the parish of Cromarty and parts of the parishes of Kirkmichael

and Cullicudden, while southwards it lost itself in the Mulbuie or common moor of the Black Isle.²

The question, then naturally rises: why should such a tiny administrative unit have been created, especially when it is compared with the massive unwieldy bulk of medieval Inverness-shire? Dr. Mackay Mackenzie thought that Cromarty was an ancient Celtic thanage adapted to new uses, but of this there is no real evidence. The same scholar, in his interesting booklet *The Old Sheriffdom of Cromarty*, later advanced a more probable explanation—namely, that the sheriffdom owed its origin to the chronic trials inflicted by the turbulent province of Moray on the kings of Scots of the 12th and 13th centuries. In 1179, for example, William the Lion quelled an insurrection in the north which had been headed by Donald Bane McWilliam. To complete the good work King William then founded castles at Dunscaith and Edirdivir. From this uneasy situation the sheriffdom of Cromarty seems to have evolved, for, like the castles just mentioned, it could, by safeguarding the important ferry route to the far north-east play a large part in the pacification of the region. It owed its origin, then, to its strategic importance. As a corollary of this, it became the tip of that wedge of lowland culture which, firmly based upon Aberdeenshire, has for centuries been driven into the North-east Highlands. This determining factor in the origin and early history of the sheriffdom has never been better or more cogently expressed than by Hugh Miller, himself one of its most distinguished sons. "Cromarty," wrote Miller in the *New Statistical Account*, "owed little to its Highland neighbourhood; the inhabitants were lowland Scots; and it seems to have constituted one of the battle-fields on which needy barbarism and the imperfectly formed vanguard of a slowly advancing civilization contended for the mastery."

The first definite reference we have to this new feudalised Cromarty that was emerging occurs in a charter of 1252 x 1272 by which William de Mohaut (or de Monte Alto) granted a davoch of *Fernenes* in the holding of Crumbathyn to David de Denoon in exchange for land in Kippen in Stirlingshire.³ Evidence also exists that in 1264-66 the sheriffdom was held by William de Mohaut;⁴ and in Edward I's Ordonnance of 1305 for the government of Scotland a William de Mohaut is described as holding the sheriffdom in fee.⁵

Now, little really is known of the early Mowats of Cromarty, and in order to dispose of them and to explain the coming of the Urquharts there has been a strong tendency to accept Sir Thomas Urquhart's version of the matter. By this account William de Mohaut was in reality an early Urquhart who held out for Robert I against Edward I on the mole-hill of Cromarty, after everyone else in the North-East had submitted, this becoming "agnamed Gullielmus de Monte Alto." In the best tradition of Blind Harry, valiant William was eventually succoured by Wallace, but, as Sir Thomas critically asserted, not the hero himself but his nephew. However the Guardian later and more effectively raised the siege.⁶ So mysterious has the advent of the Urquharts

been that even Lord Hailes in his *Annals of Scotland*, succumbed to the temptation and accepted the essential part of this cock-and-bull story. Hailes argued that the transcriber of the Ordonnance had erred and that Mohaut ought to have read Urquhart.⁷ Nimmo in 1807 accepted this emendation and it has haunted the subject ever since. Black, in his invaluable *Surnames of Scotland*, accepts it, and Miss Tayler could never quite get it out of her subconscious even though she was aware of evidence that proved it to be erroneous.

Yet the truth of the matter is perfectly plain and the advent of the Urquharts not in the least mysterious. Robert I, in pursuance of his policy of winning over the magnates, all unconsciously began the process when he conferred the sheriffdom of Cromarty upon his brother-in-law Hugh de Ross, heir to William Earl of Ross. The charter, which is dated at Arbroath, 5th December 1315 (correctly 1316) is given in Fraser, *Cromartie*, II, 446-7. But this was not, as is sometimes erroneously inferred, the familiar case of the faithful being rewarded out of the spoils wrested from the *Disinherited*.⁸ The evidence is to the contrary. The Mowats were loyal to Bruce and in fact they continued to have an interest in the sheriffdom. William de Mohaut continued as sheriff till his death at the siege of Norham in 1327,⁹ but rendering his accounts to Ross, his new superior and not, as hitherto, to the King. Ross, in fact, like Randolph in other instances, was granted almost palatine authority in Cromarty.

(To be continued)

REFERENCES

- ¹"The Works of Sir Thomas Urquhart," Maitland Club, 1834, 161-172. Hereafter cited simply as "Works."
- ²Nimmo in "Third Report of Commissioners for Roads and Bridges in the Highlands of Scotland," App. U, 1807; his views are reproduced in Sir G. S. Mackenzie, "View of Agriculture of Ross and Cromarty," 1810, 1-21; and in Sir William Fraser, "The Barls of Cromartie," II, 458 sqq.
- ³Fraser, "Barls of Cromartie," II, 445-6.
- ⁴"Exchequer Rolls," I, 19.
- ⁵A.P.S., I, 121.
- ⁶"Works," 170. The obvious anachronisms in this absurd tale need not be pointed out.
- ⁷"Annals of Scotland," ed. 1776, I, 285, f.n.
- ⁸As, e.g., by John Willcock, "Sir Thomas Urquhart of Cromartie," 4.
- ⁹Fordun, ("Historians of Scotland" ser., 1871), I, 352, states that William de Montealto was, along with several others, killed at the siege of Norham through their own want of skill.

QUERIES

VI/5. SHAW—MCGILLERAY.—Ancestry sought of following from inscription on tombstone in Dunlichity Churchyard. Murdoch Shaw aged —. Who died —. Tacksman in Gask, and Anna McGilleray, his spouse, who died 3rd November, 1760, aged 39 years.

Arms are :—Quarterly (1) Cat, (2) Hand, (3) Lymphad, (4) Boars Head, impaled quarterly. (1) Cat, (2) Hand, (3) Lymphad, (4) Fish.

Motto :—Touch not the Cat bot glove.

C. J. S.

VI/6. SHAW.—Whereabouts of portrait of Lt.-Col. Alexander Shaw of Tordarroch, Lt.-Governor, Isle of Man, 1794-1804.

C. J. S.

VI/7. HILL.—Edwin P. Hill, 1615 Tarpon, Plainfield, Indiana, is anxious to contact families of the name of Hill to collect records from Dec. 1936. All communications should be sent direct to the above address.

E. P. H.

VI/8. PIRIE.—Information required on John Pirie, born 1805 in the Aberdeen Area and married Janet Anderson at a date unknown. They emigrated to Canada on their honeymoon.

R. W. K.

REPLIES

IV/11. STENHOUSE.—Will the originator of the query relating to the family of Stenhouse contact the Hon. Secretary?

II/18. RONALDSON.—Andrew Ronaldson of the West Indies (Kingston, Jamaica) purchased Blairhall 1757 (Reg. Great Seal 23rd Feb., 1757). He died June-July 1781. His wife Anne Alves was alive in 1802. Andrew was succeeded by his son John, who died before 1796, leaving no issue. John's sister who had married James Dickson, 80th Foot (of the Martree family) succeeded. James Dickson took the name of Ronaldson-Dickson. The estate was sold by degrees, completed in 1827.

D. McN.

I/44. WALDIE.—Dr. David Waldie, L.R.C.S.E., was born at Linlithgow in 1813. His father was Alexander Waldie, who was in the printing business subsequently acquired by Mr F. Johnston, proprietor of the *Linlithgowshire Gazette*. He died about 1839, leaving two other sons and three daughters. Dr. David who recommended chloroform to Sir James Young Simpson (1811-1870), was an analytical chemist of considerable reputation, but his merits have not yet received sufficient recognition. He worked in India for many years, but had been in business as a chemist and druggist at Linlithgow. On the centenary of his birth a plaque, bearing the following inscription, was erected on the house at No. 67 High Street, Linlithgow, where he resided and had his laboratory :—

DAVID WALDIE
SURGEON L.R.C.S.E., AND CHEMIST
MEMBER OF ASIATIC SOC. BENGAL
B. LINLITHGOW 1813. D. CALCUTTA 1889
A PIONEER IN ANAESTHETIC RESEARCH
TO HIM BELONGS THE DISTINCTION
OF HAVING BEEN THE FIRST TO
RECOMMEND AND MAKE PRACTICABLE
THE USE OF CHLOROFORM IN THE
ALLEVIATION OF HUMAN SUFFERING.

In a footnote to a pamphlet, Sir James Young Simpson, who was Professor of Midwifery at the University of Edinburgh, states :

" In talking over with different chemists what fluids might be sufficiently volatile to be respirable, and hence deserving of being experimented upon, Mr Waldie first named to me the perchloride of formyle as worthy, amongst others, of a trial."

Even this meagre admission by Professor Simpson indicates some part played by Dr. Waldie in the discovery of the anaesthetic properties of chloroform. In the *Pharmaceutical Times*, vol. iii, p. 202 (1848), Dr. Waldie makes the following statement, which was never contradicted by Professor Simpson :

" When in Scotland in October last (1847) Dr. Simpson introduced the subject to me, inquiring if I knew of anything likely to answer. Chloric ether was mentioned during the conversation, and being well acquainted with its composition and with the volatility, agreeable flavour, and medicinal properties of chloroform, I recommended him to try it, promising to prepare some after my return to Liverpool and send it to him. Other engagements and various impediments prevented me from doing this as soon as I should have wished, and in the meantime Dr. Simpson, having procured some in Edinburgh, obtained the results he communicated to the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Edinburgh on the 10th of November, and which he published in a pamphlet entitled *Notice of a New Anaesthetic Agent as a Substitute for Sulphuric Ether in Surgery and Midwifery*."

Professor Simpson wrote to Dr. Waldie on 14th November, 1847, describing the experiment with chloroform which he carried out in his house. In *The Liverpool Medico-Chirurgical Journal*, vol. xlii, p. 82 (1934), Dr. Walter J. Dilling, Professor of Pharmacology in the University of Liverpool, writes :

" There can be no doubt that Simpson denied to Waldie the public renown which he ought to have shared with him, because, since very little was known about the commercial preparation of the active constituent of chloric ether except by Waldie, he must have communicated his method of purification in October to Simpson, who, instead of waiting for Waldie's preparation, lost no time in having the pure chloroform made in Edinburgh, and Messrs. Duncan, Flockhart & Co., are alone referred to as the makers of pure chloroform."

These facts throw some light on the professional career of Dr. Waldie, but a good biography of this distinguished son of Linlithgow remains to be written. Besides the plaque in his native town, there is a memorial in the building of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, at Calcutta, India, where he died.

J. McK.