

The Scottish Genealogist

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The Halketts of Pitfirrane

~~THE family of Halkett of Pitfirrane was associated with the~~ ¹¹ name near Dunfermline, Fife, from the beginning of the 14th century, so far as written records exist, though family tradition would put the beginning of that association as far back as the 13th century at least. Certainly that is correct in the female line.

No complete account of the family exists, though a genealogical account prepared by the family was in existence at Pitfirrane, and seems to have been used as late as 1899 when the Scottish History Society published "The Scots Brigade in Holland." It has now disappeared, probably at the sale of the library after the death of Miss Madeline Halkett, the last of the family. There are accounts in the Douglas Baronage, and in Chalmer's "Dunfermline," both lacking in accurate detail in the early period. This article attempts to provide the early history of the family in connection with Pitfirrane. Their history after 1705 is amply supplied from the genealogical point of view by "The Book of the Wedderburns" from which the later material here is taken.

The mansion house and grounds were purchased by the Dunfermline Carnegie Trust, the latter being leased to Dunfermline Golf Club, which now uses the house as their club. It is gratifying to know that every effort is made to preserve this house, of which the central portion may date back to the early 16th century. The main portion was built at the end of that century and contains a wealth of oak carving reminiscent of the "Stirling Heads," as well as some fine linen-fold work on the main staircase, and Dutch stained glass.

This is not a record of a family which played an outstanding part in the history of Scotland, but of one which is representative of a relatively large class of minor lairds or barons, whose interests were with their estates and local government, and preserving in difficult times what they had acquired.

The Halketts were of sufficiently good standing to intermarry with the lesser nobility, and whose own daughters married into the ranks of lesser lairds and merchants around Dunfermline. Younger sons entered the army in Holland; or set up as merchants in Dunfermline, Dysart and Kirkcaldy. Nevertheless they did from time to time play their part on the stage of history, as the boon companion of kings, or as the cavalry leader against them, and gave their lives in the defence of their country against her enemies.

While the name of Halkett remained at Pitfirrane till 1951, when the connection ended with the death of Miss Madeline Halkett, the original male line had ended in 1705. With the death in that year of Sir James Halkett, the estates and name were assumed by Sir Peter Wedderburn of Gosford in virtue of his marriage to Janet, elder sister of Sir James. Again in 1779 another Wedderburn of Gosford likewise assumed the name.

The lands of Pitfirrane are first mentioned in a transumot of a charter of the reign of William the Lion, perhaps between 1200 and 1214 confirming the grant of a third of Pitfirrane to Sir David of Lochores by Sir William of

Lochore (18*). In the same century there is a reference to another third held by the Scotts of Balwearie (3) while the remaining third was held by the Abbey of Dunfermline, having been gifted to it in 1360 by Margaret, wife of Sir Robert de Meyngers (Dunf. Chart, 268/9). The lands are still in the hands of the same owners at the end of the 14th century when the Halketts appear with any certainty.

Where the Halketts originated is not known. They may have taken their name originally from the lands of Halkett in Cunningham, but any connection with that area seems to have been lost if it ever existed. The first recorded mention is of **Robert Halkett**, Collector of the thirds of Benefices in Fife in 1360 (Exch. Rolls II 36) and as Sheriff of Kinross by charter of Robert II on 9th March 1372/3 (Rob. Index P 98 No. 330). There is no indication of the identity of this Robert, but he was presumably a prominent landholder in Kinross, for shortly after we find **Philip Halkett**, Lord of Balnagal or Ballingall to the west of Kinross, who may well be the son of Robert. This Philip is also designated Lord of Lumphanan now Lumphinnans, a part of Cowdenbeath, in a brief of perambulation in July 1393 (8). Seven years later he is granted a charter by William Scott of Balwearie of a third of Pitfirrane, along with other lands in Muthil and Caputh, which, however, do not recur and must have been resigned soon after. (5).

From a deposition by a Dunfermline burgess in 1435 (21) it appears that Philip's mother was a sister of Constantine of Lochore, from whom he already held the other third. (This family of Lochore was that of Vallance who appear there in the 14th century). The same deposition reveals that there were already domestic buildings at Pitfirrane on the third held from Lochore.

In addition Philip acquired about 1400 half of the neighbouring barony of Pitconnochie from Sir John Wemyss of Rires, though later this has been reduced to a sixth. (21b). Philip died after 1415 but before 1432, in which year his son **David Halkett** as laird of Pitfirrane has a dispute over boundaries with the abbot of Dunfermline (23). David had already in 1404 been seized in Ballingall and the office of Coroner of the Waters by Robert Stewart, Sheriff Depute of Kinross (11) and was definitely the son of Philip on the evidence of the above deposition. Chalmers appears to think that the relationship was reversed but this is incorrect.

Philip had one other son at least, the Robert Halkett who surrenders to David a tenement in Newburgh in 1422 (15). At this time too there is some indication of holdings in Perth. This Robert might be the Robert Halkett who holds a tenement in Stirling and has the gift of the fermes of the Mint there (Stirling Burgh Records. Exch. Rolls V 132).

For a time David held the lands of Cluny to the north of Pitfirrane but this was in possession of the Wemys of Pittencrieffe by 1466 (30). He also held the wardship of the templeland of Lochore, as the male line of the family of Vallance appears to have died out at this time. David is later seen to hold the third of Pitfirrane from the Kinninmonths of Craighall, and Lumphinnans from the Wardlaws of Torrie who had gained possession of part at least of the old Lochore lands. (45).

* Figures in parenthesis refer to the printed list of Pitfirrane Writs published by the Scottish Record Society.

No evidence is available as to the date of his death, but he was alive in 1441 (30) and may have survived a further ten years. Nimmo in his "History of Stirlingshire" (1817) (Note A.A. P. 679) relates that a laird of Halkett fought a tournament along with two Douglasses against two Burgundian knights and a squire, and that he was knighted for the occasion. This was in 1449 but whether this refers to David or his son James cannot be proved.

By 1472 however David has been succeeded at Pittfirrane by **William Halkett**. This William was infefted in 1446 in the lands of Aucntertyre and Balcraig in the Sherittdom of Forfar, which had been held by his father James. As these lands remain in the family for over a century, it is a proof that this is the same William. Chalmers quoting family tradition states that James was the eldest son of David who died in his father's lifetime, but was certainly alive in 1451, when he witnessed a charter. He married a daughter of Sir John Boswell of Balmuto, according to the Douglas Peerage.

Dr. Stephen in his "History of Inverkeithing and Rosyth" states that William Halkett married Janet Fenton, co-heiress of Walter Fenton of Baikie in Angus. Janet was his 2nd daughter and was the widow of Robert Stewart, 2nd son of Sir David Stewart of Rosyth, and was said by her own petition to have been kept under conditions of extreme severity until she assigned her lands to the Stewarts. This William Halkett however was not Halkett of Pittfirrane but a 2nd son of David (Scot. Antiquary V77) and in the charters is consistently referred to as "of Belsys," having a charter from William of Pittfirrane in 1472 (33). He had married Janet Fenton in September 1446 (RMS I 618) and is dead by May 1488.

William Halkett of Pittfirrane appears to have been twice married. In 1465 he and his wife Elizabeth have permission to possess a portable altar (CPR I 422) but there is no further identification of his wife, nor does there appear to have been any issue. Sometime before 1484, if not in that year, he married Margaret, daughter of Alexander Cunningham of Polmaise and later Auchenbowie near Stirling, later knighted, and Sheriff of that shire, and Provost of the town of that name. He is said to have been a descendant of the Cunninghams of Kilmaurs. Alexander Cunningham had an interest in the neighbouring lands of Pitconnochie and William was well acquainted with him, witnessing a charter for him at Pittfirrane in 1477. In May 1484 William received another sixth of Pitconnochie from him (39).

There are references in the early charters of Linlithgow to a Laird of Halkett, possibly William, and the family seems to have some connection with that area. His daughter Margaret marries a Liston of Humbie near that town, and in the 16th century there is a David Halkett there, whose seal displays the undifferenced arms of Halkett. If the Laird of Halkett can be equated with William of Pittfirrane* he seems to have been a boon companion of James IV who draws sums of money from the Treasurer to play with the Laird and others in 1489 and 1490. (Lord High Treas. Acc.)

William died in December 1499 (45) with the shadow of a murder charge hanging over him, but in February 1499/1500 a Precept of Remission was issued to him (though he had died three months earlier) and his son Thomas

* It was apparently quite common to refer to a Laird not by his holding but by surname i.e., Laird of Macgregor, there being no such place of that name.

for the slaughter of one Robert Carnys. The details have not survived but Robert Carnys is more than probably a member of the family of Dunfermline tradesmen connected with the abbey as plumbers. They appear as burgesses of Dunfermline at this time, and a Robert Carnys is Bailie at a later date (Dunf. Burgh Records).

William left at least two sons and two daughters by Margaret Cunningham, viz., Henry, his heir, Thomas noted above who has a rent of 5 merks from Lumphinnans in 1527 (77), Margaret who was married to Robert Liston of Humble in January 1501/2 with a dowry of 200 merks, and Katherine who appears later as the widow of Andrew Kinninmonth of Craighall (Fife). There may have been another son Andrew who gifts wax to the abbey in 1515 (Dunf. Burgh Records) and a Peter Halkett who trades with Andrew Haliburton but there is nothing to connect him with this family. There is also a probability that David (or Adam) Halkett of Linlithgow who was killed at Flodden was another son. (*Vide P6*).

This Andrew appears for Katherine before the sheriff court, and seems to have settled in Kirkcaldy, and may be the ancestor of some of the Kirkcaldy Halketts.

Henry succeeded to the two-thirds of Pitfirrane, two-sixths of Pitconnochie, Lumphinnans, Auchtertyre and Balcraig (45:43). He also added the lands of Craigton in the barony of Cambree (46). Henry, during his lifetime associates his son John in his lands. The process of sasines and resumptions is puzzling, unless Henry wished to ensure the retention of the lands in the family for some reason, and then discovered that he had divested himself of too much.

The other possibility was that John was lending his father money on the security of these lands. In 1509 John receives Auchtertyre and Balcraig, the two-sixths of Pitconnochie and the third of Pitfirrane on which the mansion house was erected (53). In 1513 however Henry resumes Pitfirrane on a new charter of confirmation from the king (58:59).

He was entered burgess of Dunfermline in 1501, and is elected Provost in 1511 and again in 1512. He was thus in office in 1513 after which he is succeeded at Pitfirrane by his eldest son John. Though Henry's name does not appear in any of the extant lists of casualties at Flodden, it is more than likely that he met his death there. Not only was he Provost of Dunfermline, but he held lands directly from the king, and his superior for part of Pitfirrane, the laird of Craighall, was amongst the slain. It is certain that he would have been summoned to appear in the muster, as was his son John to another thirty-four years later.

Henry left two sons, John, who succeeded him, and Peter, later Provost of Dunfermline in 1549, though the James and Henry who appear as witnesses in 1522 (76) may well be his sons.* His wife's name has not come down to us.

* The Lyon Genealogies 11/40 mention a William Halkett of Pitfirrane who married Mary Haliburton of Pitcur. He could be (by other dating) a son of Henry. His son John married Agnes, daughter of Lord Sinclair of Dysart (d. 1615) and their son Nicholas or Nicol was chamberlain to his grandfather at Dysart. He died 1608 (Ed. Comm.) His son John was a Bailie of Dysart who married Catrin Cay, daughter of Alexander Cay, merchant and Bailie of Kinghorn. This line ended in a daughter Margaret who married a Duncan Campbell.

John took sasine of all his father's lands, including Craigton (held from John Mailvyne of Carnbee) and married early in 1512/13 Elizabeth, daughter of Andrew Ayton, former Governor of Stirling Castle, and Master of Works to James IV, killed with his king at Flodden. This Andrew was the ancestor of the Aytons of Dunmure or Ayton in Fife. Elizabeth was the widow of Henry Bothwell of Urquhart near Pitfirrane and had two children by her first marriage, David and Elizabeth for whom provision is made. John seems to have been married previously, for a MS. fragment in the Pitfirrane papers in the National Library in an early 18th century hand states that he married Elizabeth, daughter of Stewart of Rosyth. This statement is also repeated in the Halkett Genealogies in the Lyon Office which do not mention Elizabeth Ayton, but it is expressly stated in the Pitfirrane papers (76) that John's son Patrick was the son of Elizabeth Ayton. His first wife must therefore have died prior to 1512.

By her marriage contract Elizabeth Ayton received Auchtertyre and Balcraig, which she disposed to Robert Mercer in Meiklour in 1524. Though the Halketts retain the superiority for the better part of the century, they do not appear to have occupied the land.

John's son Patrick is infefted with the third of Pitfirrane including the mansion in 1532 (80) and is associated with his father in a tack of 18th November 1524 (76) of the adjoining lands of Knockhouse with its coals and coal heughs, the first mention of the connection of the family with coal mining which was to be one of the main sources of income for four centuries (*Vide P13*). It is also, so far as I am aware, the first record of coal mining in this district since the grant to the monks of the abbey of the right to mine coal in Pittencreeff Glen in 1291. John Halkett was largely concerned with the affairs of Dunfermline, being Provost for at least ten of the years between 1518 and 1547, as well as acting as Bailie of the Regality. He too was involved in the rough and turmoil of the times for we find that he has a remission with a body of others for the slaughter of John Grief, but again no details have survived.

John Halkett must have been over sixty years of age when like his father he met his death in the defence of Scotland, being killed at the battle of Fawside or Pinkie in September 1547, and was succeeded by his eldest son Patrick.

Despite a holograph will of 1542 (103) he is stated to have died intestate and procurators had to be appointed to take inventory (114-117) so that Patrick's actual succession was delayed. He was already married (before 1543/4) to Margaret, daughter of William Ogilvie of Balfour and Anna Durie, daughter of Sir James Durie of that ilk (MS. Nat. Lib.) and had at least one son George who succeeded him. There was also a daughter who was married to a Houston of Lamyne in Renfrew. He married secondly Elizabeth, daughter of John Lundy of that ilk, but there appears to have been no issue of this marriage.

Patrick seems to have been on good terms with the Commendator of Dunfermline, Robert Richardson, who had been given permission to feu off the abbey lands, for we find that in 1559 (Pittf. Writs 1557) Patrick receives a

feu of the lands of Primrose, Knockhouse and Pitfirrane (i.e. the abbey third). There is also a tack of 1566 of Pitliver and Broadleys to a Katherine Halkett. This gave rise to a law suit to decide the rightful possessor as Patrick had apparently some claim, having had a lease as early as 1553 (127). From this we learn of the existence of an Adam or David Halkett, killed at Flodden,* who had married a Helen Mason and had had possession of Pitliver. Henry, his son, had allowed his mother to retain the lands along with his sister Katherine when the lease was renewed. Katherine and her husband Charles Danielson, were now being sued for possession by Henry, with Patrick of Pitfirrane intervening. Adam Halkett must be a collateral of the Pitfirrane family, but the connection cannot be now traced with certainty (*vide infra*). Katherine was allowed to retain possession, but the lands for a time passed to Pitfirrane shortly afterwards.

These lands around Pitfirrane were all valuable for the surface seams of coal, now coming to be worked as a regular industry. It is not clear whether the Pitfirrane family had the full right to work the coal on lands other than Pitfirrane, for the tack of Knockhouse may have expired, as we find that in 1560 George, Commendator of Dunfermline, grants Patrick a gift of the ninth load from that holding.†

Ballingall is still held in superiority, though in possession of Robert Porterfield, son of Henry Porterfield (123), while Lumphinnans is held from Wardlaw of Torrie. Half of Pitconnochie is secured from Allan Cowtis, Chamberlain to the Abbey of Dunfermline, and burghess of that town, and is disposed to him again in 1569 and 1576 (RMS 1887:2610). Patrick also retained the intimate connection with Dunfermline by being Provost from 1549 to 1553, and being also Bailie of the Regality of the abbey in 1548.

Patrick was succeeded in July 1573 by his son George, who was absent at his father's death and was represented by his sister Margaret.

George Halkett does not appear to have married until July 1575 when he married Isobel, daughter of Sir Patrick Hepburn of Waughton and Margaret Lundy, daughter of William Lundy of that ilk. Unfortunately he had a "cousin" of the same name (755) married to a Margaret Hepburn (no relation), who figures largely in the records of the time as Conservator at Campvere. It is difficult at times to disentangle them.

George the Conservator appears to be the son of David Halkett of Broughton, Linlithgow, and Katherine Danielston (Laird 493, March 1544/45). The connection of the Halketts and Danielstons of Pitliver has already been noted. The original David or Adam may well be a son of William of Pitfirrane who inherited his father's Linlithgow holdings. Lyon Genealogies state that George's father was the son of Henry mentioned in connection with Pitliver. His seal shows the arms of Halkett of Pitfirrane.

George's wife, Margaret Hepburn, was the natural daughter of Sir John Hepburn, rector of Dalry, and was legitimised by letters under the Privy Seal

* *Vide supra* P. 4.

† They had a Charter from Mary, Queen of Scots, to export coal free of customs.

on 24th March 1583/4 (Reg. Privy Seal 685). As we shall see later George the Conservator has interests in and around Dunfermline and acquires land there which is inherited by Robert of Pittfirrane as heir of provision of George the Conservator in 1589 (314).

This George Halkett was appointed Conservator from 1555 to 1561 and again in 1565, holding the position until his death in March 1589. His was an extremely difficult task, as the revolt of the Netherlands against Spain was flaring up, and he had to try to hold a neutral position, representing the Scottish merchants, who ungratefully blamed him for their losses and misfortunes. He had in their interests to keep on good terms with the Spanish authorities when Scots volunteers were flocking in large numbers to aid their co-religionists. At the same time he was acting as ambassador for the Scottish government to the Dukes of Parma and Alva, as well as reporting on the Marian plots in France and Holland.

Nevertheless he was successful in persuading Philip II to recognise the privileges of the Scottish merchants at Campvere as early as 1568, pending the final settlement there ten years later. He had already been censured by the Convention of Royal Burghs for the decay of the privileges, and that body also insisted that he ensure the strict Protestant religious observances of all merchants resorting to the staple. On the other hand Philip had insisted as a condition of the grant that the Scottish merchants should behave as good Catholics, a clause accepted by the Regent Moray. Such contradictions were no doubt ignored in practice. (See "Scottish Staple at Vere." Davidson and Grey).

Apart from his duties as Conservator George Halkett was high in favour with the young King James VI. Numerous references in official letters of the period testify to his presence at court between 1576 and 1585. He was employed as special ambassador to Elizabeth on matters of trade as well as to the Spanish authorities who thought highly of him. He was exempted in 1578 from returning any gifts of abbey lands when James VI resumed them. (Reg. P.C. III. 712).

His "cousin" George Halkett of Pittfirrane was also implicated in the events of that stirring period. He was undoubtedly a supporter of Regent Morton and later of the king in the tortuous dealings with rebellious factions in Kirk and state. (Was he by any chance the servitor of the Earl of Bothwell who brought the news of the murder of Darnley?)

In 1579 he becomes cautioner for 1000 merks for James Hamilton of Ruchbak for being implicated in the charges brought against Lord John Hamilton, and Lord Claud Hamilton, brothers of the Earl of Arran, when Regent Morton struck at the power of that family (Reg. Privy Council III 185) and attends the king at court and in his host on several occasions (825-830). He is ordered to fortify the castle of Rosyth and retain all boats on the North side of the Forth in 1585 (831) at a time when James was struggling to master a rebellious kirk, striving to exempt itself from the king's authority. As Provost of Dunfermline he was ordered on 18th November 1585 to prevent a meeting at Dunfermline of the ministers and the nobles who had returned from England where they had received encouragement from Elizabeth to continue their

efforts to reduce James' power (832). The story from the point of view of the Kirk is told in Melville's Diary as quoted by Chalmers (Vol. II p300): "About the end of November 1585 warning was made according to the order of the Kirk be the last Moderator ahort the country to the brethren to convene in General Assembly . . . at Dunfermline, na uther town being free of the pest. The brethren frequentlie furth of all parts resorting thither, the ports of the town was closit upon them by the provost for the time, the laird of Pitfirrane, alleging that he had the king's express command so to do . . . But God within a few years peyit that laird and provost for the holding out of his servants for keiping his Assemblie in that town, he made his awin house to spew him out. For on a day in the morning he was fallen out of a window of his awin house of Pitfirrane, three or four house high, whether by a melancholy despair, or by violence of unkind guests within, God knows, for being taken up, his speech was not so sensible as to declare it but within a few hours deit."

So far as the estates are concerned we now have many more documents relating to the management of the lands, particularly to rents and produce and the use which a laird of the day made of them. The chief importance of land was that it provided a security for mortgage to provide ready cash to pay for the expenses of attending the King's host and person, and the repayment of previous debts. An examination of the charters show the high yield of land in this area, as well as the high rate of interest demanded.

In 1573/4 George Halkett assigns an annual rent of £10 from Pitfirrane to be redeemed by a payment of 218 merks: If this is the sum borrowed, the interest is approximately 14 per cent. In 1576 he redeems a payment of 12 bolls of meal and 4 bolls bere from the same lands for 332 merks, and during this time that land is further burdened with a £100 obligation to his sister Margaret who had been executrix during his absence at his father's death, and there is still a further 6 bolls meal and 2 of bere on an old charter of his father. Other possessions were similarly burdened—18 bolls oatmeal on Primrose as well as many other smaller burdens on practically all his property.

Most of these were redeemed within a year or two, and he has sufficient money to acquire the lands of Craigies, adjoining Pitfirrane on the south in the barony of Rosyth, from Henry Stewart of Rosyth in 1587 (304). Earlier he had secured the tack of the teinds on his own lands from the Commendator of Dunfermline (209), and in addition the Overgrange of Kinghorn as a result of a complicated series of loans and obligations (285). He had also secured lands in Dunfermline parish by the purchase of the mill and holding of Burnmouth, in which his cousin George the Conservator had interests (possibly at the mouth of the Linn burn on Pilliver estate). George the Conservator was assisted in redeeming burdens on Burnmouth by George of Pitfirrane assigning an annual rent of £30 from Pitfirrane in security to his cousin John Houston of Lanye, from whom the money had been borrowed by the Conservator, and assigns an annual of £20 to the vendors, also from Pitfirrane. George the Conservator had acquired Burnmouth in security and assigned his rights to his cousin in 1586 (757). He had also acquired in 1575 the lands of Sillietoun Wester alias Halkett to the south of Pitfirrane, along

with the eighth of the lands of South Fod from Robert Richardson the Commendator, later confirmed by a charter from James VI when he assumed personal rule (230) (sold in 1604 to Sir Robert Melville of Garvock). All these passed to the Pitfirrane family on the death of the Conservator in March 1588 (314).

George Halkett of Pitfirrane and Isobel Hepburn had six sons* :—1. Robert his heir (bapt. 2nd Sept. 1576). 2. Patrick (bapt. 28th July 1577) who is known as Patrick of Lumphinnans, having apparently been assigned that part of the family lands. He married Margaret, daughter of Sir John Murray of Blackbarony, and is said by Chalmers to be the ancestor of the Halketts of Moxhall in England, a statement which I have as yet been unable to confirm. (Patrick's son, also Patrick married Isobel, daughter of Sir John Boswell of Balmuto, and had at least two sons, the second of whom George being designated 'of Parkhall' and was a merchant in Dysart, whose testament is recorded in the Edinburgh Commissariat Register). 3. George (bapt. 13th July 1579) but nothing more is known of him. 4. John (bapt. 13th Nov. 1580) was knighted and entered Dutch service (marrying a Dutch lady, Maria van Loon), and commanded a Regiment of the Scots Brigade. He was killed in action at Bois le Duc in 1629. His descendants in Holland had a distinguished military service there and in Hanover, as well as in the British Army in the 18th and 19th centuries. Charles Halkett the great great grandson of Sir John married in 1767, Ann daughter and heiress of John Craigie of Halhill and Dumbarnie in Fife, and was the ancestor of the Halkett-Craigie or Craigie-Halketts of Cramond. 5. Andrew (bapt. 26th July 1584) disappears from the record, but may be the Andrew who is left half of the lands of Brotherton by his grandmother. 6. James, who shares in the same legacy.

George of Pitfirrane died before 7th August 1588, and his widow Isobel Hepburn married at Holyrood on 7th June 1590, Sir William Stewart, Prior or Commendator of Pittenweem, formerly a Colonel in the Scots Brigade. George was succeeded by his eldest son Robert who married on 10th June 1595, Margaret, eldest daughter of Sir John Murray of Eddleston and Margaret Hamilton of Innerwick, and had two sons and eight daughters of whom later. Robert Halkett was the first of the family definitely known to have been knighted in the latter half of 1602. There was no great change in the extent of the family holdings though there was at first some difficulty with his mother over her retention of certain lands of her original marriage portion, but a settlement was reached by which she was to receive life rents in lieu of actual possession. There also seem to have been a dispute over Pittliver, for in 1588 the Moubrays there, on the one hand, and Robert Halkett and his mother on the other, had to enter into caution not to molest or do bodily harm to the other parties (Reg. P.C.). The family retained its interest in the Overgrange of Kinghorn, Lumphinnans and in Ballingall as late as 1597.

Whether knighthood or his father's court connection had induced a higher

* Possibly a daughter Margaret as well, unless the Margaret Halkett married to Mungo Murray of Myreside nr. Pitfirrane at Ballingry in 1609, is the sister mentioned above. Mungo Murray was a Colonel of a Scots Regiment in Holland. Either he or his son served under David Leslie in the Scots Army in England in 1643 (Parish Records: The Army of the Covenant. Scot. Hist. Soc.).

standard of expenditure or had involved greater commitments is not apparent, but the number of sasines and charters resulting from a widespread pledging of the lands as security for sums borrowed markedly increase at this time. Knockhouse was pledged to William Murray, brother of Sir John, but was redeemed in 1606 when Sir Robert's mother resigned her interests in Pitfirrane, Knockhouse and Pitconnochie. £40 sterling was borrowed in 1609 from Andrew Hagget in St. Martins in the Fields (454).

All did not go well however. In 1612 Sir Robert and his brother Patrick of Lumphinnans were summoned by John Bannatyne in Edinburgh for repayment of 1000 merks. In 1633, 5000 merks were borrowed from Robert Wellwood in Touch who was infested in Pitfirrane as security, with an annual interest of 500 merks, a transaction not redeemed until 1643. Half of Limekilns was disposed under reversion for £5284 Scots. Other amounts reveal further the extent to which a landed proprietor made use of his lands to raise ready money to keep up the style fitting to his position. £444 (requiring legal action for repayment), a further 4200 merks from Robert Wellwood in 1638 on a bond involving Sir Robert's son and his wife, 1100 from Robert Aleson, mason in Dunfermline (who is in trouble during the Commonwealth (Wood 160/1)) and a further sum bearing an interest of £106 per year (probably a principal of £1060) are further examples. Some may have been for a relatively short term (all the discharges have not survived) but some run on for several years. Despite his involved financial affairs Sir Robert had time to indulge in country sports, perhaps over-indulge, for in May 1602, James VI had to order him to "desist from hauling, slaying poultis and partricks" (834) for James often lived at Dunfermline and was inordinantly fond of hunting and like sports.

Nothing has come to light regarding the activities of Sir Robert during the troubles of the Covenant and the Bishops' Wars, but by that time he was an elderly gentleman of 62. His son James was much more active in the cause. Some of the sums borrowed may have been for expenses in support of the Kirk, but no evidence can be adduced. Nevertheless Sir Robert added a little to the family possessions, buying for 3000 merks the lands of Mukil Meadow or New Meadow adjoining Pitfirrane (probably the farm of Meadows today) and the half of Limekilns, which though disposed were to remain under the superiority of Pitfirrane for some time.

Sir Robert died c 1653 and left a large family by his marriage with Margaret Murray viz.: Annas (bapt. 9th Jan. 1600) who may be the Anna who married (1) Sir John Henderson of Fordell (who was dead by April 1619) and (2) Thomas Myretoun of Cammo in January 1622. Thomas Myretoun was killed at Kilsyth in 1645. Grizel (bapt. 19th Oct. 1602) who married Thomas Ker of Cavers in June 1641. James who died in infancy. James (bapt. 12th Aug. 1610) who succeeded his father. Jean (bapt. 4th Dec. 1612) who married on 24th Aug. 1647, William Scott, flar of Itcha (sic) ie. Headshaw, eldest son of John Scott of Headshaw. Jean had a portion of 8000 merks. Robert (bapt. 9th Dec. 1617) who married Jean Hadden at Torrie on 14th May 1652. He also served in the Covenanting army being designated Captain in the Dunfermline Parish Registers in 1642. He was in command of a troop of horse in Fife in 1650. Robert was much more extreme than his brother James (he

had no estates to lose) and is among the Protestors or Remonstrants in the West under the command of the Colonel Strachan who had been Sir James' colleague in the North against Montrose. Robert was associated at this time with extremists such as Andrew Cant, Samuel Rutherford and James Guthrie (vide letter to Lilburne Oct. 1651 in "Scotland and the Commonwealth," II Scot. Hist. Soc.). He appears to be the Robert Halkett against whom a warrant for treason was sworn, but as nothing further transpired, he presumably made his peace with the Protectorate.

Robert had two younger sisters, Margaret (bapt. 6th Aug. 1619) and Elspet (bapt. 7th Feb. 1620). The latter married a James Gray by 1640. There appears to have been another son Patrick whose son William occurs in the St. Andrews Testaments in 1699, but nothing further is known of him.

Sir James the eldest son had been knighted by Charles I at Dalkeith in 1634, and used the title throughout the time he fought against the king in the Civil War. He was twice married (1) to Margaret, eldest daughter of Sir Robert Montgomerie of Lochranza and Skelmorlie, and Lady Ann Campbell, daughter of Archibald 7th Earl of Argyll. By this marriage he had nine children. 1. Mary (bapt. 7th Sept. 1633). 2. Charles (bapt. 6th Sept. 1639) who succeeded him. 3. Robert (bapt. 7th Nov. 1640) of whom nothing is known though he might be the Robert designated Colonel in a bond of 1690. 4. James (bapt. 13th July 1642) later knighted. 5. Margaret (bapt. 18th July 1643). 6. Thomas (bapt. 1st Oct. 1646). 7. Anna (bapt. 29th July 1647). 8. John (bapt. 25th Feb. 1649). 9. Jean (bapt. 10th Oct. 1650) who is probably the Jean Halkett who married John Scott, younger of Headshaw, 15th Dec. 1682 (Edin. Marriage Register). He married (2) at Holyrood in 1656 Anne Murray, daughter of Thomas Murray, Provost of Eton, who was descended from the Murrays of Woodend, and Jane Drummond who claimed descent from the Tullibardine family. Anne Murray was a favourite of the Royal family having been governess to the Royal children of Charles I. She lived to a great age and is noted for a number of devotional works. By this marriage there were at least two children. Elizabeth (bapt. 4th Dec. 1656) and Robert (bapt. 10th Feb. 1660) and perhaps others who did not survive.

With the family connections of the first marriage it is not surprising that we find Sir James taking an active part in the Civil War on the side of the Presbyterians. He raised and commanded an independent troop of horse, and was present at Kilsyth, his force having been joined to that of Lord Balcarres (Balfour III 295). He escaped with difficulty from that battle having to cut his way to safety. (Howie's Worthies under Captain Paton). After the battle of Philiphaugh which saw the ruin of the hopes of Montrose, Sir James was sent by the Estates to announce the victory to the English deputies at Berwick. He also took part in the campaign in the north in 1650 which ended with the capture and execution of Montrose. Later when Cromwell marched north to Dunbar, Sir James was summoned before a parliamentary enquiry, the equivalent of a court-martial, for having failed to support David Leslie in an attack on some of Cromwell's forces in a skirmish near Edinburgh prior to the battle of Dunbar. As Balfour puts it "Sir James Halkett received a great fright at a skirmish with the enemy: he should have seconded the

Lieut. General but turned and never lowsit a pistoll against the enemy, but tooke him to the speed of his horse's heels" (Balfour lv 86). Sir James was however exonerated by the committee, though Balfour drily says for 3rd August 1650 "Sir James Halkett and Colonell Scotte cleared by the committee, zet that did little saeve ther honor amongst honest men and soldiours of worth and reputation." He was appointed guardian or cautioner for £10,000 sterling for the behaviour of his cousin Archibald Lord Lorne, who was confined in 1651 by Monk to a radius of 25 miles from Gordon Castle, and in 1659 he lends his wife's uncle, Archibald, 8th Earl of Argyll, £17,000 Scots. (Argyll Inventory of Charters at Inveraray), so that the family finances must have been on a firm foundation.

Although he signed the Submission of the Gentlemen of Fife at Auchterderran on 6th Oct. 1651, he still retained the more extreme views shared by his brother Robert, though having estates to consider, was more politic. Yet that did not prevent him being a signatory along with Samuel Rutherford and others to a letter to General Lambert in March 1653 which was referred to in a News letter of the time. The writer of the News letter says "You will perceive by itt the drift of their intentions, which is to exalt their governement in the Kirke, and so to bring all kind of governement into their hands . . . to lett them have a liberty to tyrannize both over the bodies and soules of the poore people under pretence of giving them liberty of conscience." (Scotland and the Commonwealth: Scot. Hist. Soc. 33).

Sir James died on 24th September 1670, and was succeeded by his eldest son Charles, who married on 5th May 1675, Janet, eldest daughter of Sir Patrick Murray of Dryden, also designated as of Pitdinnie and Saltcoats. By this marriage he had seven children. 1. Janet (bapt. 14th April 1676) who married Sir Peter Wedderburn of Gosford July 1694 (675). 2. Elizabeth (bapt. 15th April 1677) who married Sir Henry Wardlaw of Pitreavie, June 1696. 3. Mary (bapt. 24th April 1678). 4. Anna (bapt. 21st Oct. 1679). 5. James (bapt. 12th Dec. 1680). 6. Margaret (bapt. 29th April 1682) who married John Erskine of Balgonie, 16th Feb. 1710. 7. Barbara (bapt. 14th Feb. 1684) d. unmarried 1749 (St. Andrews Test.).

Sir Charles received a patent of baronetcy of Nova Scotia in 1672 and in 1677 received a charter ratified by Parliament in 1681 erecting Pitfirrane into a barony, as well as referring to a holding of Nether Kelso in the Sherifffdom of Ayr. He also acquired the neighbouring property of Pitdennis, the modern Pitdinnie (683) which he feued to his father-in-law, his wife and his son James. The development of his coal seams continued and the possession of the convenient neighbouring port of Limekilns was assured by a confirmation of his half from John, Earl of Tweeddale in 1684 (656) which were resigned by him in 1686 (662). The family tradition was that the family had, from an early date the privilege of exporting coal free of duty, a right confirmed to it by Queen Anne in 1706 and ratified by Parliament the following year. No mention of this grant appears in the records except that in 1565, Mary Queen of Scots grants licence to Patrick Hakket of Pitfirrane and others to sell and export the smithy coals from Knockhouse and Crombie.

When the Crown bought back this privilege in 1788 the sum of £40,000 was paid. It was to facilitate this trade that Sir Charles built a pier at Limekilns in 1676. His business activities extended further than Dunfermline, for in 1675 he was admitted Burgess and Guild Brother of Edinburgh and was also Provost of Dunfermline. In addition he was the Member of Parliament at the Revolution, raising a troop of Fife horse against Claverhouse. He also served on the Committee to discuss the terms of Union with England.

Sir Charles died in 1699 and was succeeded by his only son James, who appears to have been in such obviously bad health that immediate steps were taken to ensure the succession. In 1700 his eldest sister Janet secured the possession of Limekilns from the Earl of Tweeddale, and her husband assumed the name of Halkett in virtue of his wife being heiress presumptive. From this we must assume that all the male descendants in the succession had died, unless the collateral lines could not succeed until the failure of the issue of Sir Charles (the patent of baronetcy specifies only heirs not just male heirs). Sir James died in 1705 and Sir Peter Wedderburn-Halkett became Sir Peter Halkett of Pitfirrane, resigning Gosford to his younger son stipulating that the two baronies must ever remain separate.

THE WEDDERBURN-HALKETTS

(From The Book of the Wedderburns — I 363—394)

The Wedderburns of Gosford were descended from Sir Peter Wedderburn (1616?-1679) third and youngest son of James Wedderburn, clerk of Dundee, and Margaret Goldman. Sir Peter had a distinguished career as advocate, Clerk to the Privy Council, and Lord of Session as Lord Gosford. He was married three times (1) to Christian Gibson whose two sons died in infancy, (2) on 20th October 1653 to Agnes Dickson, daughter of John Dickson of Hartree, and by this marriage had five sons and three daughters, and (3) in 1677 to Elizabeth Goldman. Sir Peter had acquired in 1659 the estate of Gosford, Longniddrie, with the help of his uncle Sir John Wedderburn, physician to Charles I. Douglas erroneously states that his uncle left him the estate but Sir John never owned Gosford. Douglas' statement that the family descended from the Wedderburns of Blackness is also erroneous.

He was succeeded by his eldest son John of the second marriage who died unmarried in 1688, and was in turn succeeded by Peter (1659-1746) second son of Sir Peter. Peter Wedderburn matriculated at St. Andrews in 1675 and later served as Lieutenant in the Earl of Dumbarton's Regiment (26th March 1686), becoming a Captain of Grenadiers in the same Regiment in 1688. He appears to have left the army on succeeding his brother and entered Parliament, being a Commissioner of Supply in 1690, and was created baronet of Nova Scotia in 1697. Sir Peter Wedderburn had married c. 1694 Janet Halkett as noted above and in virtue of his wife assumed the name of Halkett of Pitfirrane, entering to the estates formally on 26th October 1705. The entail already mentioned which was thereupon executed upon Sir Peter and his wife settled the estate of Pitfirrane on their eldest son, and that of Gosford of

the second son. It provided that if ever the two estates should devolve on the same person, he should immediately divest himself of Gosford in favour of a younger branch of the family. This was supplemented by a later one in 1751, and led to a costly lawsuit (A. Dec. 1706. Reg. Book of Council 1st May 1753, B.W. II 376). The baronetcy of Gosford remained in the Pitfirrane branch.

Sir Peter was M.P. for Dunfermline at the Union and voted for it in defiance of a directive by the Town Council against it (Chalmers) and is said to have had to avoid Dunfermline for some time thereafter.

Sir Peter Halkett and Janet Halkett had seven sons and five daughters. (1) Peter who succeeded to Pitfirrane. (2) Charles Wedderburn who succeeded to Gosford and married Mary, daughter of Sir Henry Wardlaw of Pitreavie, and Elizabeth, sister of Janet. (3) James, died young. (4) James (bapt. 26th July 1705) died in South Carolina before December 1754. (5) Alexander (12th Dec. 1706) who acquired the estate of St. Germans, near Tranent, in November 1750 and which he disposed to John Wedderburn-Halkett in 1778 to relieve himself of debt, and which remained in trust for his wife and family until 1782 when it was sold. (6) John (1708) probably died young. (7) Robert (bapt. 10th Dec. 1709) who was a merchant in Dunfermline and died 1748. He had married Rachel, daughter of John Anstruther-Thomson, of Charlton in Fife, and left two daughters, Rachel, who died unmarried, and Janet who married at Torryburn Fife, on 21st April 1783, George Bruce of Langlees near Melrose. The daughters were (1) Janet (bapt. 21st May 1700) who married Robert Colville of Ochiltree (Contract 23rd April 1729). (2) Agnes (bapt. 25th September 1701) died unmarried. (3) Christian (bapt. 20th January 1703) married James Carstairs, eldest son of Sir John Carstairs of Kilconquhar, who succeeded to the estates and name of Bruce of Kinross on the death of his mother. Contract 31st Dec. 1724. (4) Elizabeth (1704) died young. Janet Halkett their mother died in 1713.

Sir Peter Halkett of Pitfirrane, 2nd Baronet of Gosford, the eldest son of Sir Peter Halkett was born 21st June 1705 and succeeded his father in 1746. He was M.P. for Dunfermline in 1734 and for Inverkeithing in 1739, but made the army his career. Major, Scots Fusileers 1739, Lt. Col. 1741, of Houghton's Regiment and then of Lee's Regiment, and Colonel of the latter 1751. As Captain he was captured at Prestonpans, and with other officers gave his parole not to engage further against the Highland forces. It is said that the Duke of Cumberland ordered them to disregard their parole on pain of losing their commissions. Captain Halkett is recorded to have refused to do so saying that Cumberland might be master of his commission, but not of his probity and honour. He was subsequently upheld by the government. He commanded the 44th Regiment in America under General Braddock, and was killed with his youngest son James at Fort Duquesne in July 1755.

He had married before 15th February 1738, Lady Aemilla Stewart, 2nd daughter of Francis, 3rd son of Charles 7th Earl of Moray, and Jean Elphinstone, 2nd daughter of John, 4th Lord Elphinstone. By this marriage he had three sons. Peter Halkett who succeeded his as the 3rd Baronet; Francis, a Captain in Halkett's Foot in 1751, and later a Major in the Black Watch, who was

designated "of Pitfirrane" after his father's death, and served as Provost of Dunfermline. He died unmarried in Naples in November 1760; James above mentioned.

Sir Peter Halkett, the 3rd Baronet, had early shown an infirmity of mind so that his father in 1751 had settled Pitfirrane on his 2nd and 3rd sons. Sir Peter was found "incompos mentis" by inquest in February 1761, and a commission was issued to his cousin **John Wedderburn of Gosford** as curator.

It was obvious that the line of Pitfirrane would again become extinct and his cousin as heir under the entails entered into possession as early as 1763, but did not assume the name of Halkett.

This John Wedderburn was descended from the Charles Wedderburn, 2nd son of Sir Peter and Janet Halkett who married Mary Wardlaw of Pitreavie, whose mother was a sister of Janet Halkett. Charles had been succeeded at Gosford 1753/4 by John his eldest son, but left four other sons viz. Henry who entered Indian service and succeeded at Gosford when John assumed Pitfirrane. Peter (bapt. November 1722) entered Dutch military service and died young. James (bapt. July 1725) entered the military service of the East India Co. Charles became an ensign in the same service and is said to have died in the Black Hole of Calcutta in 1757. Of Charles' five daughters the 2nd Janet married John Erskine of Balgonie, and the 4th married Charles Stewart of Annfield, Lt. Col. 63rd Foot, eldest son of John Stewart of Blairhall and Lady Anne Stewart, sister of Lady Amelia Halkett.

Sir John, 4th baronet, assumed the name on the death of his cousin in 1779, but had been involved in a long and costly lawsuit over Gosford. His brother Henry, and his uncle Alexander claimed that under the entails he should have divested himself of Gosford immediately he entered into possession of Pitfirrane in 1763. The case dragged through the courts until it was finally settled in the House of Lords in favour of Henry Wedderburn (BW II 380).

Sir John had acquired in 1762 the lands of Balmule and mill, Lochend, Cragdukie, Wester Luscar and Erlot, in the neighbourhood of Dunfermline on the resignation of John McFarlane W.S. (BW II 377).

Sir John died at Pitfirrane on 7th August 1793. He was twice married (1) in 1758 to Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Andrew Fletcher of Saltoun, Lord Milton, and had one daughter who married in 1779 the Marquis of Lally-Tallendal, an emigre of the French Revolution. (2) on 28th March 1762, Mary, daughter of the Hon. John Hamilton (2nd son of Thomas, 6th Earl of Haddington) and Margaret, daughter of Sir John Home of Blackadder. Several portraits exist of Sir John and Mary Hamilton. Of this marriage there were six sons and seven daughters. (1) Charles Halkett, later 5th baronet, (2) Peter, later 6th baronet, (3) John Halkett, 1768-1852, advocate, who married c 1794 Ann Todd, whose younger sister married his elder brother Peter. There was no issue. On 6th July 1815 he married Lady Katherine Douglas, but of the five sons of this marriage none survived. One Major Douglas was killed at Balaklava. (4) Henry 1770-1818 died unmarried in the army of the East India Co. (5) Alexander 1776-1851 later Sir Alexander Halkett G.C.H. and Aide de Camp

to Sir Ralph Abercrombie. (6) Thomas 1778?-1800 entered the East India Co. His daughters all died unmarried except the 6th Sholto Charlotte b. 1774 who married on 5th April 1800 at Edinburgh, Lt. Col. Pringle, son of Robert Pringle, Lord of Session.

Sir Charles Halkett 5th baronet was born at Pitfirrane on 6th June 1764, and entered military service in the 21st Dragoons. He succeeded his father on 7th August 1793 and died unmarried at Pitfirrane on 26th January 1837.

He was succeeded at Pitfirrane by his brother **Sir Peter Halkett** the 6th baronet, b. 16th October 1765. He made the Navy his career becoming Vice-Admiral 1835, G.C.H. (Kt. Grand Cross Guelphic Order) and K.C.B., and was C. in C. West India Station and Admiral of the Blue 1837. He married in Edinburgh 14th October 1802, Elizabeth Todd, younger daughter of William Todd of Millhill, sister of the first wife of his brother John. He had one son John and two daughters. Of the daughters Jane Margaret b. 5th January 1806 married Captain Richard Kirwan Hill (late 52nd Regiment) of St. Columbs, Co. Londonderry, and had three sons and three daughters, one of whom married her cousin Sir Peter Halkett, the 8th baronet. Mary Emily Elizabeth b. 7th September 1811 married 10th July 1839 Robert Henry Stewart Jackson, Captain 97th Regiment, and had four sons and four daughters.

Admiral Halkett died 7th October 1839 and was succeeded by his son **Sir John**, 7th baronet, a Commander in the Royal Navy, b. 15th January 1805, who married, 8th April 1831, Amelia Hood Conway, daughter of General Conway of the 53rd Regiment. He died at Southampton 4th August 1847.

He had three sons and two daughters. (1) Peter Arthur who succeeded him. (2) George 1839-1858, died unmarried. (3) Wedderburn Halkett 1844-1853. Both his daughters died unmarried.

Sir Peter Arthur Halkett, the 8th and last baronet, was born 1st May 1834, and served in the 81st Regiment but later exchanged into the Black Watch for the Crimean War, and then to the 3rd Light Dragoons. He married, 6th May 1856, his cousin Elizabeth Ann Hill, and had one son and five daughters. His son Wedderburn Conway Halkett was born 1st February 1857 and served as Captain in the 79th Highlanders but died of illness contracted on the Nile expedition on 23rd August, 1885. He had married Jessie Elizabeth Lempriere, daughter of Col. Arthur Reid Lempriere, Royal Engineers, and had one son Arthur Wedderburn Halkett who died at Gibraltar October 1886 aged four years.

Thus the male line of the Halkett-Wedderburns of Pitfirrane came to an end. Sir Peter Arthur Halkett died in 1904 but was survived by his daughters all of whom died unmarried. Adelaide Francis b. 13th April 1858. Helen Margaret b. 21st September 1859 d. Jan. 1925. Madeline Halkett b. 22nd October 1862, died at Pitfirrane 1951, the last of the Halketts. Mabel b. 17th May 1868 d. 1941.

With the death of the last surviving daughter in 1951 the estates were sold and the house and immediate grounds were purchased by the Dunfermline Carnegie Trust for the use of the Dunfermline Golf Club.

DUNCAN McNAUGHTON.

The Company of Merchants of the City of Edinburgh

THE records of the Merchant Company and the various Trusts associated with it contain a great deal of information which would be very valuable to genealogists. Unfortunately, the greater part of these records is unindexed, and the older ones are written in a script which is not easy to decipher. Recently these records have been microfilmed, so that they will be more readily available for study.

I propose to give a brief account of the Company, which should give some indication of the people who have been associated with it and of the information which is likely to be found in its archives.

The full title of the Merchant Company as given in the Royal Charter granted by Charles II in 1681 is The Company of Merchants of the City of Edinburgh, and while, as I shall explain later, the Company can trace its origins for a considerable time before that date, I will start by referring to the terms of the Charter. Although it has been amended by other Charters and Acts of Parliament, it still remains the foundation of the present Company, for it empowered them to have a Master, twelve Assistants and a Treasurer to be chosen annually, and this is still the Governing Body of the Company under the title of the Master's Court. The name of the Company was fortunately chosen, as it now covers very well the various members of the Company, but in point of fact membership under the Charter was limited to those who were sellers or importers of cloths, stuffs or other merchandise for the apparel and wear of the bodies of men and women. It has to be kept in mind that in the seventeenth century trade was much less specialised, and merchants such as Sir John Dick Lauder of Grange, whose early account books were kept by George Watson, imported every conceivable commodity, including wearing apparel, and so were eligible for membership.

The history and present position of the Merchant Company are very similar to those of some of the great Livery Companies of London. In each case they were originally formed to confer a monopoly of trade on the Members, and during the course of their history have turned their main interest to charity and education and are distinguished for the part they play in the official social life of the two capitals.

There is, however, one very considerable difference, and that is, while the London Companies have favoured admission at the nearhand and admitted sons of Members without reference to their mercantile qualifications, the Merchant Company, while very largely widening the qualifications for membership, has always insisted that the Members should both be business men and have a connection with Edinburgh. This means that while the Merchant Company has been more closely associated with the development of trade in Edinburgh and consequently its views have carried weight with the authorities on various matters of public interest, the Forth Road Bridge

being a recent example, there are, however, few if any families which can claim that they have been represented in the membership for more than four or five generations. Thus while Lord Bruntfield's ancestor, Sir George Warrender, Baronet, was an original Member and Master in 1698, his descendants were not Members.

The first Clerk of the Company was Hugh Stevenson, W.S., who was also Clerk-Depute to the Privy Council and, incidentally, the first Clerk of the Royal Company of Archers when they were re-formed in 1676. The Company still possesses the original warrant for the Charter written in English and superscribed by Charles II. This strictly speaking should have been retained with the Public Records, but presumably Mr. Stevenson in his dual capacity thought it more appropriate that it should remain with the Company, a view endorsed by the present Queen when she inspected some of the historic records in 1958.

The Charter of Charles II was not the first time when the Crown had encouraged the merchants. In 1505 James IV became a Brother of the Guild of Merchants called the Confraternity of the Holy Blude, the Lord Treasurer recording a payment of £7 for his robe. This Guild maintained an Altar in St. Giles'. The Merchant Company can claim to be the heirs of that ancient Merchant Guild and, although the wearing of robes was discontinued for a long period, the custom has been revived this century so far as the Master, Treasurer, Assistants and Secretary are concerned.

After the Reformation James VI in 1583 was called upon to adjudicate between the Merchants and Tradesmen, and laid down "The Magistrates and Officemen, sick as Provost, Baillies, Dean of Gild and Theasaurer, to be in all tymes coming of the estaits and calling of Merchants" which in effect gave the Merchants control of the Town Council, and it is interesting to note that to-day the Lord Provost, two Bailies and the Lord Dean of Guild are all members of the Company, and this is not exceptional. In 1681, as I have already mentioned, Charles II granted a Royal Charter of Incorporation.

The first Chaplain of the Company was Dr. Annand, at that time Dean of Edinburgh and Minister of St. Giles', who composed the Company's prayer in 1682. This prayer, which was to be said by the Clerk of the Company or by the Master, is still read at Company meetings and has stood the test of time very well. The Company's motto is "*Terraque Marique*," and it may not be inappropriate to include here a quotation from the prayer:—

"The sea is Thine, and Thy hands formed the dry land: prosper us in our present undertaking with the bounties of both."

We can truly say that over the centuries the Company has prospered.

The appointment of Chaplain fell into desuetude but was recently revived when The Very Reverend Dr. Charles Warr, who is an Honorary Member of the Company, was appointed Chaplain. Other links with St. Giles' have also been strengthened in recent years. In 1953, on the occasion of the National Service when the Honours of Scotland were carried before The Queen, the Company gave the reredos which stands behind the Communion

Table, flanked on one side by the Royal Arms and on the other by the Company's arms and the Company's prayer. In 1954 three dignified stalls for the Master, Treasurer and Secretary were erected immediately in front of the Royal Chaplain's pew. These stalls are occupied on all official occasions when the representatives of the Company take their position immediately after the Town Council and before all other public bodies.. On the Installation of a new Master, a Kirking Service is held in St. Giles' at which not only Members of the Company attend, but also representatives of the four Merchant Company Schools, and in addition, pensioners of the Company's Endowments Trust.

In 1777 George III granted a Supplementary Charter, and in 1801 gave a Charter of Incorporation to James Gillespie's Hospital for old men and women, one of the Company's main charities.

In 1822 when George IV visited Scotland, the first Sovereign to do so since Charles II, the Members of the Company were instructed to turn out dressed in blue coat and white nankeen trousers, while the two junior members carried a silk banner displaying the Company's Arms. This banner now hangs in the Board Room of the Merchants' Hall.

In 1931 the Company had the honour of receiving its first Royal Honorary Member, the late Duke of Kent.

In 1949 Princess Elizabeth and The Duke of Edinburgh accepted Honorary Membership of the Company and after Her Accession the Queen became Patron of the Company. Both The Queen and The Duke have been entertained in the Hall in recent years.

From the earliest period the Company has been connected with charity and education. In 1693 David Aitkenhead, a Merchant in Poland, left the Company a legacy for the maintenance of a poor and decayed merchant, and the following year Mary Erskine, widow of James Hair, a druggist, gave 10,000 merks for a Hospital for daughters of decayed Burgesses, and the Company raised a further 22,000 merks. The Merchant Maiden Hospital was incorporated in 1707 by the last Act of the Scots Parliament before the Union. It is now The Mary Erskine School for Girls.

Mary Erskine claimed to be a relation of the Earl of Mar, but the precise degree of relationship has never been established. It was, however, provided in the original constitution that two members of the House of Mar should be nominated by Mary Erskine. The first two were the Jacobite Earl of Mar and his brother, the notorious James Erskine, Lord Grange, one of the Senators of the College of Justice, who had his wife kidnapped and kept a prisoner on St. Kilda for many years. Amongst the papers of the Hospital are letters from Lord Grange nominating girls as foundationers. The successive Earls of Mar were Governors of the Hospital until 1909 when the Education Board incorporated the three educational hospitals. In that year the grandfather of the present Earl of Mar and Kellie was made an Honorary Member, and in 1958 his successor, the present Earl, also became an Honorary Member. The famous Mar Peerage Case last century naturally raised questions as to which of the Earls of Mar was entitled to act as a Governor and exercise the

rights of presentation which belonged to the Earldom. Lord Mar and Kellie's position was recognised by the Governors and has never been challenged.

George Watson was Treasurer of the Merchant Maiden Hospital and was so impressed with the Company's management of the Hospital that he resolved to leave his money to the Company for a Hospital for boys, and so, when he died in 1723, leaving £144,000. Scots—£12,000 Sterling—George Watson's Hospital was founded.

In 1814 Daniel Stewart, who had a humble office in the Court of Exchequer and who had inherited a fortune from a Merchant in India to whom he had been a servant, left £14,000 to be accumulated until there was a sufficient sum to build a Hospital for poor boys. In 1855 the Hospital was opened for 50 boys and in 1859 handed over to the Merchant Company.

The Company was instrumental in having the Endowed Institutions (Scotland) Act 1869 passed, and immediately after, the Company obtained power to discontinue the three Hospitals and to start the four large day schools now known as The Mary Erskine School for Girls, George Watson's College, George Watson's Ladies' College and Daniel Stewart's College. While the numbers have fluctuated, the total for the four schools has remained near 4,000, as compared with less than one-tenth the number in the Hospital days. In 1871 the Governors of the Hospitals endowed the University Chair of Political Economy (now George Watson's and Daniel Stewart's Chair of Economic Science).

The other Trusts of the Company are for old people. First James Gillespie's Hospital founded by James Gillespie in 1797. He was a wealthy snuff merchant. He obviously enjoyed his own snuff, as can be seen in the bust in the Merchant Company Hall which shows "his muckle great neb" very clearly. He had his own carriage, which was an unusual distinction for a shopkeeper of the period. The Hon. Henry Erskine, a noted wit at the Bar, proposed the following motto for the carriage:

"Who had thought it
that noses had bought it."

Whether from pride or love of his fellows he obtained a lasting memorial by leaving nearly the whole of his fortune to found a Hospital for old men and women.

Recent research has shown that there has been some confusion between James Gillespie and his brother, John. Both were represented in John Kay's "Original Portraits" and both in the first and third editions James Gillespie was referred to as the elder of the two brothers, and it was stated that he was born at Rosslyn, whereas in fact James was the younger son and was born in Broughton. Unfortunately, the error regarding James Gillespie was incorporated into the two main publications dealing with the Company, the first being the lengthy history by Alexander Heron, then Secretary, entitled "The Merchant Company of Edinburgh—Its Rise and Progress, 1681-1902," and also in the short account of "The Merchant Company and its Schools, 1694-1920" by John Harrison, a former Master of the Company.

In 1889 James Watherston, a builder and a former Assistant of the

Company and, incidentally a great-uncle of the present Master, made over a valuable block of property to provide annuities mainly to men connected with the building trade. There have been a number of similar bequests of recent years, the largest being by Dr. Alexander Darling, a former Master of the Company and uncle of Sir William Darling. Part of this bequest is to be used in paying pensions to gentlewomen, and part for pensions to women who have been employed by Silk Mercers in Edinburgh.

Last year arrangements were made with the Trustees of Sir William Fraser's Homes at Colinton to take over the fabric of the building and for half the beneficiaries to be appointed by the Endowments Trust of the Company. The Endowments Trust also own a number of cottages in Spylaw Street which have been modernised for pensioners.

The original Company Hall was in the Cowgate—a great house which had belonged to the Earl of Haddington, James VI's Chancellor and nicknamed by him "Tam O' the Cowgate." When the Cowgate became unfashionable, the house was let to the Excise Office. It was finally pulled down in 1828 to make way for George IV Bridge; the association with the Company is remembered in the name Merchant Street. The Company also retained the earlier Title Deeds, which included the original Charter granted in 1498 with the seal of James IV. The Merchant Maiden Hospital started its existence in part of the Cowgate building.

The Company next had accommodation in the Royal Exchange, now the City Chambers. In 1788 a new Hall was built in Hunter Square beside the Tron Kirk. The building still stands little altered, and the ground floor is now occupied by The Royal Bank. When the Company moved to the present Hall in 1879, the two fine mantelpieces in Adam style bearing the Company's Ship were left behind. One is now in the Bank below, and the other, presented by The Royal Bank, is in the Secretary's Room in Hanover Street.

The Hall and Offices in Hanover Street were originally built for the notorious City of Glasgow Bank. The Hall itself has been enlarged on a number of occasions, but its good classical proportions have not been spoilt and it is now very finely decorated. The building was enlarged 60 years ago, but the stone which was used was inferior to the original with the result that an extensive re-facing has become necessary, and the opportunity has been taken to remove some of the unnecessary ornament so that when completed the appearance of the building as a whole will be greatly improved.

RECORDS

The record of entrants to the Merchant Company is contained in two volumes covering from 1681 to the present day.

The earliest entries contained the signatures of new Members without any designation or other reference. From 1694 until the present time it has been the practice to give the date of the Burgess Ticket, and from 1750 to about 1850 the names and designation of the entrant's father was almost always given, and with certain gaps appears in entries up to the 1880's. Since then the normal practice has been only to mention those whose fathers were

Members of the Company. In 1886 the practice of giving both the business and the home address was started and still continues.

Until the end of the 19th century, many entrants were merely described as merchants without particularising their type of business. The most valuable entries from a genealogical point of view are, of course, those in which the father's name and designation is given. Some of these have also interesting sidelights on the social standing of the persons concerned. In 1774 there are succeeding entries concerning first: "Mr. Charles Innes, son of the deceased Alexander Innes, Esquire of Cathlaw," and second "Thomas Campbell, son of Archibald Campbell, Brewer in Edinburgh."

An alphabetical index, compiled in 1839 by James Jollie, W.S., then Senior Clerk of the Company, has been kept up to date ever since. Unfortunately, the index does not in fact include all the earlier entries. Mr. Jollie had a very long tenure of the office of Clerk or Secretary, extending to a total of 63 years. He was the subject of one of the caricatures in *Modern Athenians* and acted as a Trustee in Sir Walter Scott's bankruptcy.

The Widows' Fund of the Company was instituted in 1827, and since that date all Members joining have had to join this Fund, the records of which contain the names, dates of birth, dates of marriage, and dates of death of the widows of all married Members, and similar information is also available of the Members themselves.

Printed lists of Members have been published at various times and continuously since 1872.

Minutes of the Company run from 1681 to date, the Merchant Maiden Hospital from 1733 to 1909, George Watson's Hospital from 1724 to 1909, and Daniel Stewart's Hospital from 1811 to 1909. The last three are now included in the Merchant Company Education Board Minutes. James Gillespie's Hospital Minutes run from 1798 to 1909.

The various Hospital Minutes contain lists of foundationers from time to time and other references to foundationers, often to their misdemeanours. While, the early Minutes are usually very short, those at the end of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th were both full and uninhibited, often giving interesting sidelights on the characters of the Members present.

While there is a complete list of Masters of the Company since 1681, this is not very detailed, and I found it necessary to refer to Burke and Debrett to decide on the identity of Sir William Forbes, Baronet, who appears as Master in 1786, 1802 and 1818 and, as a result, was able to establish that the Sixth Baronet was Master in 1786 and 1802, while it was the Seventh Baronet in 1818. In connection with the Forbes, who were both Bankers in Edinburgh, it is interesting to speculate whether the Stock of Broom, which for many years has been associated as the Emblem of the Company was adopted during one of their Masterships, as broom is the Forbes emblem.

Since 1681 a very large number of Members have held the office of Lord Provost, including twenty-two Masters of the Company. While many of them

were distinguished for their public service, I propose to refer to three only: first, Sir George Drummond, who was Master in 1681 and later as Lord Provost was responsible for the fine statue of Charles II erected in Parliament Square. He also had the somewhat dubious distinction of having to seek sanctuary from his creditors in Holyrood. Sir James Falshaw, Baronet, Master in 1879, was unique in being the only Englishman to be a Lord Provost of the City or a Master of the Merchant Company. The last Master to hold the office of Lord Provost was Sir Andrew Macdonald, Master in 1888. He was a man who was largely self-educated and was reputed to have referred to Scott's "Legend of Montrose" and on another occasion to the "Sword of Damocles."

As I stated, the extant Minutes of the Merchant Maiden Hospital did not start before 1733. There are, however, a number of miscellaneous papers, and I will read a Petition presented to the Governors in 1723, which is of interest in itself and as an instance of the valuable information which can sometimes be found:

"Petition of Elizabeth Mercer, 1723.

Unto the Honourable the Preses and other Governours of the Maiden Hospital founded by the Compeny of Merchants and Mary Erskine.

The Petition of Wm. Mercer, merchant burges and gild brother.

That albeit I once had a fair prospect of busyness in Edinr. whereby I might have maintained my Family and Educate my Six Children, yet by bad Debtors and other Losses I was sometime ago nessessitat to give over all trade that way and to give up all that I had to my Lawful credetors after which I betook myself to honest but mean imployment about the Excise, To wit a Gadger by which though I have thirty pounds yearly Sallary yet being thereby obliged to keep a horse for travelling through my District the aforesaid Sallary can do little more than maintain my said horse myself and defray the Charges of Travelling, much less can it go any length to maintain my wife and six children, it being known that a Single man cannot live well in that station. That being informed your honours has several and frequent vacancies in the Merchants maiden hospital, I presume to petition you in behalf of my Daughter called Elizabeth Mercer, who is of Competent age, having been born the 30th of May 1715 conform to Testificat herewith produced, and who is fully intituled to your charity not only by my own burgess ticket but also by that of John Scott her Grandfather who and his predecessors have for many generations been of the order and calling of Merchants burgesses and gild brothers of Edin, as could be Instructed by many old burgess tickets and by documents if needfull.

May it therefor pleas your Honours to Elect and Choise Elizabeth Mercer as a proper object and full Intituled to Supply the first vacancy in the said Hospital.

And your Petitioner shall always pray."

I examined the Burgess Roll and found the following entry :

" Wm. Mercer, Merchant Burgess and Guild Brother by right of his wife Helen, daughter of John Scott, Merchant. 11th June, 1707."

It is possible by making cross-references from the Minutes of the Company, the various Hospitals, the record of entrants and referring to the Burgess Roll to obtain additional information, but in some cases one reaches a dead end. In the first Minute of the Merchant Maiden Hospital held at Bristo on 29th October, 1733, it is stated that: " The Clerk, having laid before the Meeting a Minute of Sederunt of the Master and Assistants and Treasurer of the Merchant Company . . . wherein they nominate and present Bethia Baak, daughter to Duncan Baak, merchant and member of the above company . . . upon one of the funds in their presentation now vacant." Reference to the record of entrants shows Duncan Baak was admitted on 13th May, 1728, and that his Burgess ticket was dated 17th January, 1728. The reference to the Roll of Edinburgh Burgesses, which very often gives both the business and the father's name, unfortunately adds nothing to our knowledge of Mr. Baak.

I should also refer to the Company's records as superiors and landlords. Over 6,000 individual feu-duties are collected and particulars of successive owners over very considerable periods in some cases are available. These cover large areas in Edinburgh as well as Peterhead and Bathgate. At Peterhead there are records of farm tenants since the estate was acquired by the Merchant Maiden Hospital in 1728. The property was part of the forfeited estates of the Earl of Keith, Earl Marshal of Scotland, confiscated after 1715. In Roxburgh there is one large farm, Ladyrig, near Kelso, which has been tenanted by the same family—Robertson—for over 200 years.

The records are there; before long they will be more accessible and perhaps eventually indexed and thus throw more light on the history of Edinburgh families, but nothing will really satisfy those who have been brought up to believe that they are descended from famous figures of the past. I once had a visit from two very respectable maiden ladies from Canada whose mother had been a Watson, and who were convinced that they were descended from George Watson. Even when I produced evidence to show that he had died unmarried they were not the least shaken in their faith, which largely depended on a so-called family crest which bore no relation to that of George Watson.

H. M. HARVEY-JAMIESON, W.S.

SELKIRKSHIRE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

This Society as a part of its field work has recorded the Gravestone Inscriptions in Selkirk, Ashkirk and Lindean before 1855, together with full plans and indices. We compliment the Society on its efforts, and gratefully acknowledge a copy for our records, presented on behalf of the study group by Mrs N. M. Duff, Hon. Secretary.

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 reports 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

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