

THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGIST

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GEORGE SINCLAR—EARLY SCOTTISH SCIENTIST

By GRANT CARR-HARRIS, M.I.Mech.E.

Summary. George Sinclar, a Scottish scientist and practical engineer, was so far ahead of his time that posterity soon forgot him. Living in the 17th century, he was the first to develop the barometer for measuring heights. He designed a diving bell on sound hydrostatic principles, some features of which were 'invented' years afterwards. He assisted in giving Edinburgh its first main water supply. As judged from his literary works, he was gifted, intellectual, and practical. Although Sinclar occupied the chair of philosophy at Glasgow University for many years, we know nothing of his early life, or family origin. The purpose here is to identify him more clearly.

PART ONE

The 17th century has been called the 'Age of Projects' and George Sinclar, Scottish scientist, may be said to have characterized that period. He was one of the few to demonstrate in his day the application of scientific principles in project development. He died in 1696, four years before the close of the century. Had he lived in the next generation, he might have been better known. In the light of what we now know about the history of science and engineering, he was years ahead of his time.

Sinclar was essentially a mathematician and physicist but he was, also, a practical engineer of no mean ability. Because of this and, also, because he was a native of East Lothian in an area where one of my antecedents with the same surname was living at the time, I became interested in knowing more about him. It is, indeed, curious that nothing has come down to us about his early life, nor about his date and place of birth and family origin*. That he was a gifted writer, equally at home in English and Latin, can scarcely be questioned. That his intellectual ability was associated with science and engineering at a period when these subjects were reckoned of little account in Scotland is certainly one reason why posterity soon forgot him; another was, undoubtedly, the controversy over episcopacy which prevailed at the period.

(A) *Academic Career.* We first hear of George Sinclar as a 'pedagogue' at St Andrew's University. He was probably there in 1647 when his brother, John, left his post as Regent in St Leonard's College to become the minister at Ormiston. We next hear of him in 1654 when he accepted the chair of philosophy at Glasgow University. These were troublesome times in Scotland when the country was torn apart by religious controversy. Within twelve years, he was 'ejected' for refusing to comply with the Test Act and the episcopal form of church government. Shortly before, he had been allotted one of the divinity houses by the university for his 'encouragement' which, no doubt, he had to vacate in 1666. It is not known whether he was married; certainly there is no record of a wife or family.

*For a genealogical discussion, see Part Two.

When the controversy over episcopacy ended in 1689, Sinclar was reinstated in his former post at Glasgow University but gave it up two years later on being appointed professor of mathematics, a post he held until his death in 1696. It is said that he died a poor man, but he had been receiving a salary of 600 merks a year (1). It was in the interval between 1666 and 1689 that he had published all but one of his numerous works. It was during these years, also, that his ability as a practical engineer and scientist was demonstrated: No doubt his financial rewards were then very limited.

We are told that Sinclar was appointed to the chair of philosophy at Glasgow without competition. There is no doubt therefore that his early academic standing was high. We are also told 'he was one of the first in Scotland who devoted attention to the study of physics, then held, he laments, of little account' (2). This and the nature of his scientific publications may serve to give a clue to his early education. If no details are known about his early life, it is probably because he was educated abroad. Was it in Holland? It would seem so from what follows.

1. One of his first papers was a *mathematical* treatise in Latin written while holding the chair of philosophy at Glasgow*. This was published in 1661 and re-published in 1672. Thus, mathematics was one of his strong subjects.

2. His major work, also in Latin and consisting of some 600 pages, was 'Ars Nova et Magna'† published at Rotterdam in 1669. This appeared three years after he had lost his post at Glasgow and it was quite possible that he removed to Holland to write it.

3. Following this was his 'Hydrostaticks' published in Edinburgh in 1672. Both this and 'Ars Nova' reflect his interest in the application of physics.

4. Then in 1688, on the eve of being reinstated at Glasgow, he produced 'The Principles of Astronomy and Navigation', published in Edinburgh. In it were included two other papers, one on the 'Boroscope' (barometer) and another about buoying up a sunken vessel from the sea bottom using hydrostatic principles.

Sinclar had published a number of other works, some on religious subjects which need not concern us here. However, his 'Truth's Victory over Error' (1684) contains a Preface listing what he had published up to that time.

The few examples which have been given deal essentially with *mathematics, physics, and astronomy*. Living in Holland at this time was the great Dutch scientist, Christiaan Huygens (1629-1695). It so happens that he has been described as a '*mathematician, astronomer, and physicist*' (Encyclopaedia Britannica). His early education was received at the hands of his father, Constantijn Huygens (1596-1687) who 'was a master of Latin verse'. What then would be more likely than that George Sinclar was educated in Holland and that in early life he had formed an attachment with the younger Huygens? What lends support to such a possibility are the following significant facts:

a). Sinclar, who was a native of East Lothian, was a protégé of the Earl of Winton, Lord Seton. In one of his non-scientific works ('Satan's Invisible World Discovered', 1685), he speaks of the latter's 'bounty' which enabled his 'philosophical experiments' to be known abroad in Holland, France and Germany. When Sinclar

*For the precise titles of his works, see Dictionary of National Biography under Sinclar.

†Abbreviated title used for convenience here.

left Glasgow, he was employed by Lord Seton to improve the conditions of underground mining in the Seton area.

b). If one knows Scottish history, one realizes how close the Seton family were to the Stuarts, both before and after James VI became king of England. In his youth, Huygens the elder had been introduced at court in England and at the early age of 26 was knighted by James. It is not difficult to understand therefore that Lord Seton would be in an excellent position to introduce a protégé (such as George Sinclar) to the Huygens circle at the Hague. Here was a Scotsman from the very area which was so closely associated with King James!*

c). Sinclar's works show that he was a Latin scholar, a fact which could be explained if he studied under the elder Huygens, or belonged to that circle.

d). When he wrote 'Ars Nova et Magna' in 1669, the younger Huygens was living in France, the guest of Louis XIV. In that work, as was sometimes the custom in those days, Sinclar employs different characters to elaborate his thesis. At the outset, he introduces Alexander, Cornelius, and Franciscus — indicative of Scotland, Holland and France.†

e). Finally, we know that his brother, John Sinclar the Minister, went to reside in Holland in 1682, having been forced to leave Ormiston for non-compliance with the Test Act. He settled at Delft and there started an academy for his countrymen to prepare them for university. John died at Delft in 1687 and the fact that he embarked on this academic project late in life suggests that he must have been familiar with Holland. So he, also, may have had his early education there.

In the absence therefore of anything to the contrary, it seems logical to assume that George Sinclar was educated in Holland, possibly at Leiden, and that in his early years he was in touch with the Huygens family. In 1689 when Sinclar was reinstated at Glasgow, Christiaan Huygens was at the height of his career and a powerful influence. Was it a mere coincidence that Sinclar had just written a paper on Astronomy and that Huygens was a famous astronomer?

(B) *Projects and Innovations.* It would be beyond the scope of these notes to cover in detail Sinclar's activities under this heading. Only the following high lights are given here. They have to do mainly with hydrostatics and hydraulics.

a). *The Spanish Galleon 'Florida' and the Diving Bell.* This was a salvage operation in Tobermory Bay off the coast of Mull. It was sponsored by the Earl of Argyll in 1655 and three pieces of heavy cannon (two of them 11 feet long) were brought to the surface. Sinclar's involvement in the project was probably

*Died 1625. Sinclar was thus educated during the reign of Charles I.

†Living in France a generation or two earlier was a David St. Clare who is described by one of his students as "Monsieur de Saint-Clair, Conseiller et Professeur de Roi de sciences mathématiques." He held the post between 1600 and 1622. Not only an eminent mathematician, he was also a Latin scholar having addressed verses to the Queen, Margaret of Valois; also in Latin was a 16-page tract in hexameters to celebrate James I's accession to the English throne and supported by an astronomical diagram of the king's horoscope. The source of these details will be found in 'The Sinclairs of England' by Thomas Sinclair, 1887, p 411 but nothing is given about his family origin, nor his domestic life. It is not impossible that George Sinclar was a grandson, the only clue being their similarity of interests.

that of a consultant in the application of hydrostatic principles, and the improvement of the diving apparatus to provide the diver with a continuous supply of air. With the addition of this feature to previous designs, it may be said that this was the first prototype of the modern diving bell. Conventional sources credit Dr Edmund Halley, the astronomer, as the inventor of the modern bell on the basis of a paper he contributed to 'Philosophical Transactions' in 1717. Halley had constructed a bell in 1690 while Secretary to the Royal Society and he claimed that this had overcome the disadvantages of previous designs (4). Some of the disadvantages he speaks of were the ones George Sinclar dealt with previously. As one writer describes it (3):

Dr Halley, in the paper before alluded to . . . describes the defects of the diving-bell as previously used and suggests a remedy for them. This paper alone would be sufficient, although it does not enter into the early history of the machine, to contradict the erroneous statement . . . made to the effect that Halley was the inventor of the diving-bell.

Sinclar's detailed notes on the design and construction of a diving bell (called by him an 'ark') had been published in his 'Ars Nova et Magna' in 1669, and were elaborated in his 'Hydrostaticks' in 1672 (p 153-179). Both of these emphasized the importance of providing adequate air to overcome the defects of previous designs*. In his 'Principles of Astronomy' published in 1688, Sinclar included a 'Postscript' which dealt with underwater exploration and salvaging sunken vessels. Halley was an astronomer and in 1690 must have been familiar with Sinclar's work.

Marine salvage, especially from vessels supposed to contain treasure, has always had a strong appeal. Only recently, an American group using skin-diving brought to the surface artifacts 3300 years old from a Greek ship in the Aegean Sea. One member of the group was Susan Phipps (5). It is interesting to note that in Sinclar's day (1687) a certain William Phipps recovered an enormous amount of treasure from a Spanish ship sunk off the coast of Hispanola (3,4). The exact value was reportedly between 200,000 and 300,000 pounds sterling. Phipps was knighted and became Governor of New Zealand. Apparently, some form of diving bell was used, the nature of which is not now known.

b). *Ship Salvage*. Sinclar had given detailed calculations for the buoyancy required to recover heavy masses, such as guns, but he went further and in the 'Postscript' mentioned above he extended the principle to a complete vessel. This would be done by the 'arks' mentioned above but of much larger construction. These would be of wood, made water-tight but with an open bottom. Depending on the size of the ship and that of the 'ark', two of the latter would be chained to the prow and two to the stern of the ship. Air, by different means which he describes, would be introduced to the 'arks' after they were sunk into position. Detailed calculations are given to provide the required buoyancy to lift the vessel. He also describes some of the hazards involved and what safeguards to observe (3c & 3d). Here we get a glimpse of Sinclar's engineering ability.

c). *The Baroscope*. From his knowledge of physics, Sinclar would be familiar, of course, with the work of Torricelli, who had demonstrated in 1643 that the

*With the 27 pages of calculations was a sketch showing an air inlet pipe to the 'ark'.

atmosphere had weight. Based on this work and using the well known 'Torricelli tube' containing a column of mercury, Sinclar developed what he called the baroscope for measuring height. He was one of the first to use this method, one which was still in use some 35 years later in England. His first experiment was carried out on a hill at Hartfell, near Moffat, and between 1668 and 1670 he had made several other measurements including Arthur's Seat (Edinburgh), Leadhills, and Tinto. Although his determinations were fairly accurate for the height of small hills above the surrounding plain, the pressure variations due to temperature, humidity, etc. were not known and therefore not taken into account. The name 'baroscope' was chosen to imply *indications* of weight as compared with 'barometer', implying the *measurement* of weight. (1) & (2).

d). *Edinburgh Water Supply*. The first main water supply system enjoyed by the city of Edinburgh was completed in 1681 and it would seem that George Sinclar was largely responsible for its success. Before the contract was let to bring water to the city from a source at Comiston, the magistrates needed assurance that the water would flow by gravity to a reservoir on Castle Hill. The project had been decided upon in May 1672 and in the city Accounts 1673-1674 an item reads "to Mr Geoe. Sinclare, School Master at Leith, by Gratuities for his attendance and advyce in the matter of the Waterworks, "£66. 13s. 4d." This preliminary survey showed that the system would work and the following details are given by Sinclar in a Dedication to Sir James Fleming, Lord Provost of Edinburgh and the Members of the Council in 1683 (1):

... I still remember how kindly the Council treated me some years ago, when I taught mathematicks at Edinburgh; and what a singular obligation they conferred upon me after, when I was employed to search out a well, which by good providence I lighted upon, which is now a Well-spring of happiness to the Good Town. I made several Observations with a most accurate, and exact level; but especially one from the highest ground in the Castle, in the evening towards the Fountain, by the help of a light there, on the 29th of May 1674, which gave infallible assurance to the Magistrates that the source was 200 foot higher than the Weigh-House, and great encouragement to the Council to begin the work ... Leith, January 9, 1683.

Here again, we find him involved with an engineering project, and one of historic interest.

e). *East Lothian Coal Mining*. In both the 1672 and 1683 editions of 'Hydrostaticks' Sinclar had given a section on coal mines, and there is no doubt that he was employed by coal owners in the east and south-west of Scotland to improve the working of their collieries. Mentioned in this connection would be the Hopes, the Setons, and Johnstones.

Such problems as drainage and the extent and dip of coal seams would be matters on which his advice would be sought and he was perhaps the only one available who could be relied upon to approach these problems with an enlightened engineering mind.

In many of the workings in and around Tranent, Fawside and Seton, the draining problem was particularly complex — water from one mine being flooded

into the next and so on until it reached the sea. There is a reference in one of Sinclar's publications, written in 1685, to a mechanical 'engine' for draining sumps in coal mines. It was employed in one of Lord Seton's collieries, and the passage reads:

What curious Mechanical Engines has your Lordship, like another Archimedes, contrived for your Coal-works, and for draining of Coal-sinks . . . ? (6).

It is not known if this was a steam pump but, if so, it antedated the Savery engine patented in 1698. Although the Savery engine is generally regarded as the first of its kind for mine drainage, a method had been described as early as 1663 for raising water by the agency of steam. This had been patented by Edward Somerset, 2nd Marquis of Worcester (7) and it is quite possible that it was one used by Lord Seton.

In a 1683 edition of 'Hydrostaticks' (8) Sinclair gives the table of contents of the section devoted to coal:

. . . anent Coal, Coal-Sinks, Dipps, Risings, and Streaks of Coal, Levels, Running of Mines, Gaes, Dykes, Damps, and Wild-fire.

This shows that the author must have been thoroughly familiar with his subject. It gives us at the same time an insight into his mining engineering experience. Here is a wealth of information on 17th century mining practice in Scotland, and possibly in the north of England. Apart from his other accomplishments, Sinclar might well be called the father of the mining engineering profession.

This man was not only ahead of his time in engineering practice, but he was unique in recording the results of his experiments and experience in what we might call text-book form. A great deal more might be written about his life and work which, of necessity, must be omitted here. However, there was one incident which affected his career which must be mentioned. This had to do with James Gregory who was successively the professor of mathematics at St Andrews (1669-74), and at Edinburgh (1674 until his death in 1675)*

When Sinclar published his 'Hydrostaticks' in 1672, Gregory had attained considerable prominence as a mathematician. Under a pen name he made fun of Sinclar and his publication on buoyancy, suggesting that the latter was an attempt to *buoy* up Sinclar's own reputation. There was no doubt about the identity of the writer and it appears to have been a matter of academic jealousy. Gregory, of course, had episcopacy on his side (he had not declined the Test Act), and his criticism at this time reportedly damaged Sinclar's career. Had Gregory lived in a later generation, he might not have been so ready to attack Sinclar and try to discredit his work.

We have it in the words of the College Treasurer at Glasgow that, if Sinclar died poor, he "was an honest man".

*Encyclopedia Britannica.

References:

(1) This, and most details here about his career, will be found in a 'Prefatory Notice' in Stevenson's re-printed edition (1871) of Sinclair's *Satan's Invisible World Discovered*.

THE
PRINCIPLES
OF
AF. G. S. H.
Astronomy and Navigation:

OR,
A Clear, Short, yet Full Explanation,
of all Circles of the Celestial, and Ter-
restrial Globes, and of their Uses,
being the whole *Doctrinae of the*
Sphere, and Hypotheses to the
Phenomena of the *Primum*

Mobile.
Dowd gus Abtinn Bibeolpord Uuibor: Glasgwa
To which is Added

A Discovery of the Secrets of Nature,
which are found in the *Mercurial-*
Weather-Glass, &c. *G. S. H.*

AS ALSO
A New Proposal for Buoying up a Ship
of any Burden from the Bottom of
the Sea.

By GEORGE SINCLAIR, sometime Professor of
Philosophy in the Colledge of GLASGOW.

Edinburgh, Printed by the Heir of Andrew Anderson,
Printer to His most Sacred Majesty, Anno Dom. 1688.

(2) For biographical sketches of Sinclar's career, see *Dictionary of National Biography*, and *Chamber's Eminent Scotsmen*.

(3) *The Penny Cyclopaedia* of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge: *Submarine Descent* (1842 ed. p 190), kindly supplied by the University of Glasgow's Reference Librarian who listed the following additional references to Sinclar's work on diving bells:

- (a) Dialogus V Libri 11 of *ARS NOVA*. It is in this section that the marine salvage operation off the coast of Mull is covered. (p 210 to 244).
- (b) Index pages to *ARS NOVA* (11 pp).
- (c) Experiment XVIII of Hydrostatical Experiments in *HYDROSTATICKS* (p 153-179).
- (d) The Postscript "*To Buoy up a Ship, of any Burden, from the Ground of the Sea*", published in *THE PRINCIPLES OF ASTRONOMY AND NAVIGATION*, (15 pp). This, also, includes a refence to the salvage work off the coast of Mull. Of special interest is the author's signature on the title page of the copy he donated to the Glasgow University Library, reproduced here as an appendix to these notes.
- (4) Davis, *Deep Diving and Submarine Operations*, 6th ed. 1955. Diving bells are illustrated and discussed on p 603-9, Sinclar being mentioned on p 605-6.
- (5) *National Geographic Magazine* (U.S. edition), vol 117, May 1960, p 682-703.
- (6) *Dedication to the Earl of Winton*, in the 1685 (reprinted) edition of *Satan's Invisible World Discovered* (1683).
- (7) Forbes, *Man the Maker*, 1958, p 149-150, where features of the Worcester engine are described.
- (8) The 1683 edition was entitled *Natural Philosophy Improved by Experiments*.

PART TWO

Since no record of George Sinclar's ancestry has come down the years, it seems fitting that some space should be devoted to the subject here. The writer, who has made an exhaustive study of the different Sinclair branches, has reached the conclusion that he belonged to that known as the 'Sinclars of Longformacus'. A review of the many considerations in support of this would be out of place here; some of them will be apparent in what follows. Unfortunately, no supporting evidence has yet been found to provide documentary proof of this and other alternatives cannot be ruled out.

1. George Sinclair had a full brother, John, who was admitted Minister of Ormiston in 1647 and 'presented' by Patrick Cockburn of that parish. The Cockburns and the Sinclairs of Longformacus had continually intermarried. A diagram entitled 'Some Connecting Links between the Families of Swinton, Home, Sinclair, Dundas, and Cockburn' located in the Edinburgh Public Library shows all six Cockburn-Sinclar connections as belonging to the *Logformacus line*. The conclusion to be drawn from John Sinclair's *presentation* by Patrick Cockburn of

Ormiston is that John (and hence his brother George) belonged to the same Sinclair line. John died in 1687, reportedly about 69 years* of age; we do not know whether George was the elder or the younger but we may assume he was born between 1612-20. The Appendix shows John's family connections.

2. From the 'Fasti' of the Church of Scotland, we know that Rev. John Sinclar (sic) married Christina, a daughter of Rev. James Fleming, Minister of Yester. Given there are the names of only 4 children, John, Patrick, Rachel and Sarah. Like his brother, Rev. John refused the Test Act and subsequently lived in Holland at Delft. There were other children as recorded in a notarized document which has now been found in the City Archives at Delft; these were James, Joanna, Christina, and Jeanette. A copy and translation was kindly provided by the Centraal Bureau voor Genealogie, Gravenage, Nassaulaan 18 in Holland and the translated version reads:

This day the 29th October, 1687 . . . in the City of Delft, appeared in the presence of the witness named below:

Mr Joan Sintclair, Minister of the Holy Gospel in this city, well known to me notary, for himself as well as having written authorization of Sir Joris, Sinclare, nobleman, from Halmey near London, and of Sir Robert Sinclare, nobleman, from London, this authorization having been given the 14th of this month . . . And also representating *Jacobus Sinclar*, *Patric Sinclar*, *Rachel Sinclar*, widow of Mister William Hogh, *Joanne Sinclar*, wife of Andreas Hogh, *Sara Sinclar*, spinster, and *Miss Christina Sinclar*, his brothers and sisters, together the children of the late Sir John Sinclar, by his lifetime Minister of the Holy Gospel in this town, as well as brothers and sisters of the late *Jeannette Sinclar*, former wife of Mr Andreas Wardroper, factor of Rotterdam, their deceased sister, whose heirs they are . . . Witnesses William Elphinstone and Albertus van Overmeer (Delft City Archives, Notarial Record N. 2190, deed No. 27 It was signed 'Johannes Sinclar').

This is a revealing document and gives rise to the following comments:

(a) The deceased Rev. John Sinclar is given the title 'Sir' which was probably only a curtesy title in Flemish. In the case of Sir Joris and Sir Robert Sinclare the word nobleman is added but this was not done for the deceased John Sinclar.

(b) The family must have been living in Holland for sometime to judge from the daughters' married names. Rachel, who is mentioned first, may have been the eldest; she had a second marriage — see later. Dates are sketchy but it is known that Rev. John Sinclar had been elected to the Church at Delft as early as 1663, having refused the Test Act in 1662; but he offended the Government in Scotland and was not admitted to the congregation in Delft until 1684. Meanwhile, he had opened an academy there to prepare his countrymen for the University.†

(c) Living in 1687 was a Sir Robert Sinclair, 3rd baronet of Longformacus (d 1725/6). He married a daughter of Adam Cockburn of Ormiston. Quite pos-

*On 24 March 1687 ('Fasti'). He was therefore born in 1618.

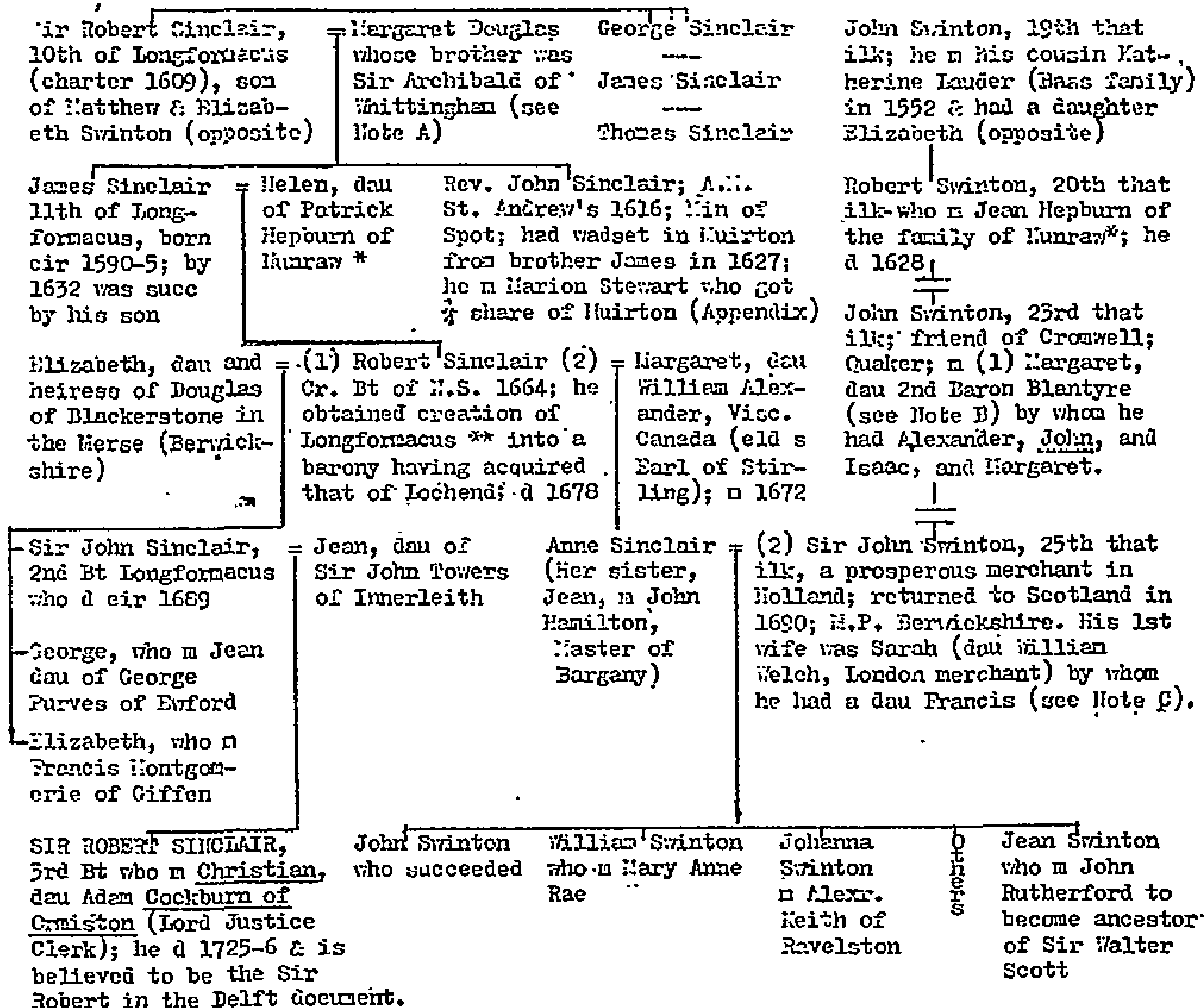
**On a visit to Holland he contracted 'Flanders Fever' and died soon afterwards.

†Prefatory Notice, to the 1871 (re-printed) edition of Sinclar's 'Satan's Invisible World Discovered', p ix-x.

sibly, this daughter had been baptized by Rev. John Sinclair when he was the minister of Ormiston. In any case, it is logical to assume that the Sir Robert Sinclair of Longformacus was the Sir Robert 'Sinclare, nobleman' mentioned in the Delft document.

(d) The Longformacus line is briefly sketched overleaf for the period 1600 to 1700. It shows where this Sir Robert comes in (unfortunately, Joris Sinclare is not identified). Included in the sketch are the connections with the main Swinton family line, showing a significant link through the *Hepburns of Nunraw*.

(Data from St. Clair's 'Saint-Clairs of the Isles' 1893, p 261; Burke's 'Landed Gentry' 1852, p 2460; Douglas 'Baronage' p 250; Cockayne's 'Baronetcies' v 3, p 351; etc.)



*See 'Some Connecting Links Between the Families of Swinton, Home, Sinclair, Dundas, and Cockburn,' Edinburgh Public Library; also Cockayne's Baronetcies, v 3, p 351.

Nunraw, near Garvald village and some 6 miles S.E. of Haddington was then in possession of the Hepburns of Beanston (see Trans. E. Lothian Antiquarian and Field Nat. Soc vol 1).

**Cockayne's Baronetcies, v 3, p 351.

Note A: Their elder brother was William Douglas (grandchildren of the 2nd E. of Morton) who married in 1577 Lady Jean Hepburn, former wife of John Sinclair, Master of

Caithness. Whittingham Castle belonged to the Earls of Morton; James Douglas, 4th Earl, had been Regent in the minority of James VI (James Douglas got the earldom through his wife).

Note B: Margaret Stewart died in prison (1662) due, no doubt, to her religious beliefs. Her daughter, Margaret, married Sir John Riddell (possibly 3rd Bt).

Note C: Frances Swinton married Henry Veitch, minister of Swinton whose sister was Marion (they were children of Sir John Veitch of Dawick). Marion married John Jenkinson, minister of Athelstaneford in 1701. The latter's 2nd wife was Kathreen Cunningham, daughter of Alexander Cunningham and Beatrix Sinclair of that parish and living at Drem. Beatrix who married in 1658 is believed to be a niece of George and Rev. John Sinclair.

e). The foregoing diagram illustrates the relationship between Sir Robert Sinclair, 3rd Bt of Longformacus and his Swinton cousins living in Holland when the Delft document was signed in 1687. Undoubtedly, the Swintons were there due to both political and religious reasons as was the case of the Rev. John Sinclair who died in exile there. It also illustrates that Sir Robert's great-grandfather, James Sinclair XI of Longformacus may well have been living abroad, since there is nothing on record about him except that he had a son who succeeded and that he also possessed property at Muirton. Was he, too, involved with Cromwell—leaving Scotland for political reasons and did he have other children? One of the family, for instance, may have been the Sir Joris Sinclare, reportedly living at Halmey, near London (as per Delft document); if he was, in fact, the son of James, and the nephew of John who was at St. Andrew's in 1616, his year of birth could be 1620-5 and he would thus be about 60 years of age in 1687 when the above document was signed.

Here it may be appropriate to mention that George Sinclair and his brother, John died in the years 1696 and 1687 respectively. It may be inferred therefore that they belonged to the same generation as the above Sir Joris Sinclare, or by reference to the foregoing pedigree, to that of Sir John Sinclair, 2nd Bt. of Longformacus who died about the year 1689.

f). A connection by marriage which might provide a clue to identify the mother of George and his brother, John, was the 2nd marriage of the latter's daughter, Rachel. According to the 'Fasti,' Rachel had married a Thomas Wilkie, Minister of Cannongate. For what it is worth, the theory is as follows.

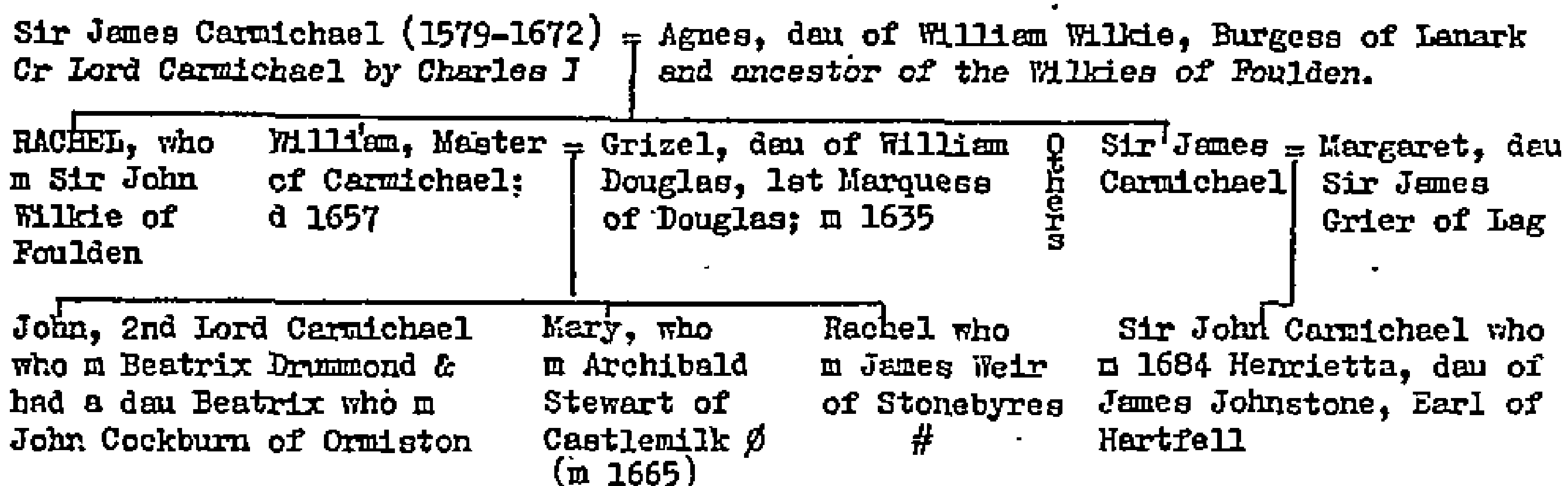
Having been named first among her sisters in the Delft document, she is assumed to be the eldest. Conventional practice in those days (but not always followed) was to name the eldest daughter after the father's mother. Hence the mother of Rev. John may have had the Christian name 'Rachel.' We must look for a Rachel therefore in some family likely to be known by the Sinclars.

So far as Thomas Wilkie is concerned, he is yet to be identified. One by that name is listed in the 'Fasti' living between 1638 and 1716. His two wives were Margery Hepburn, and - - - Alexander. Although the dates fit, no Rachel is mentioned there.

Whatever the date of Rachel's marriage to Thomas Wilkie, it would have been after 1687 when she was described at Delft as a widow of William Hogg.

A glance at the abbreviated pedigree below shows that a Sir John Wilkie of Foulden (Scots Peerage, vol 7, p 261 and correction in vol 9) married a Rachel Carmichael in a previous generation. There are several reasons for believing

that the Carmichael family were close to George and Rev. John Sinclar, only two of which will be mentioned: Rachel Carmichael's nephew married in 1684 Henrietta Johnstone, daughter of James Earl of Hartfell (see later note about that family); and in 1700 a Beatrix Carmichael married *John Cockburn of Ormiston*.



Ø See note para B about the Fleming family. #In 1799 an Eliz Weir m a grd-son of
Beatrix Sinclar - see para (d) Note C.

3. George Sinclar described himself as a Lothian Scot. This appears in Latin on the title page of his 'Ars Nova et Magna.' We know that he owned property in the town of Haddington (as recorded in a deed of sale in 1685—Laing Charters, No. 2383, p 660). This Property had been transferred to his brother John and the latter's son, Patrick, sold it in 1685 on John's behalf. This deed confirmed that George and John were full brothers and it is important in what follows next to note that Patrick signed as 'Sinklar'.

4. In 1684, a certain James *Sincklar* was living in Seton Maynes (presumably tenant of the 4th Earl of Winton). He is so named in the administration of his father's estate, namely that of a James Sinclair in Drem Ø. Due to the unusual spelling of the surname, there must have been some connection between this James Sincklar in Ø Edinburgh Commissariat Books, 25th Jan. 1684 (through curtesy of David C. Cargill) Seton Maynes and Patrick Sinc(k)lar. In that case there would be a connection between our George Sinclar and the James Sinclair in Drem.

The barony of seton was in the parish of Tranent and it is recorded by an antiquarian* that, when George Sinclar left his post at Glasgow University, he returned to Tranent; this not only confirms that he was a native of E. Lothian but tells us that he came from the Tranent area. Now, James Sinclair in Drem was in the same area, although Drem was in the neighbouring parish of Athelstaneford. To date no record has been found of George Sinclar's baptism in either Tranent or Athelstaneford. The registers of the latter only commenced in January 1664, so there would be no record there relating to his birth or his brother's, supposing them to have been born in Drem. Further investigation may show that James Sinclair in Drem was the father or brother of George

*Forbes Gray, 'East Lothian Biographies,' 1941, published for East Lothian Antiquarian and Field Naturalists Association.

Sinclar—but this remains uncertain. We know that John died in 1687 and James Sinclair died in 1684—thus it would more likely be brothers.

5. Drem was a barony which came into possession of the Hopes of Hopetoun. It is interesting therefore to note (Burke's Peerage) that Sir James Hope of Hopetoun had 'brought the art of mining to the highest perfection ever known in Scotland.' He died in 1661, the owner of lead mines in Leith.** George Sinclar would have known Sir James Hope before he went to Glasgow University and may have been associated with him after his appointment there in 1654. The following is quoted from the Prefatory Notice' to a republished (1871) edition of Sinclar's 'Satan's Invisible World Discovered', and refers to what he did after leaving his academic post:

It is reported that afterwards he betook himself to the business of a mineral surveyor and practical engineer, and was employed in that profession by several proprietors of mines in the southern parts of Scotland, and particularly by Sir James Hope who . . . was probably not averse to his Presbyterian principles.

One wonders why Sir James Hope is *particularly* mentioned. Sinclar could not have been associated with him for very long before he died in 1661. Is it not more likely that Sir James is mentioned here because the Sinclairs were his tenants in Drem?

Before Drem was possessed by the Hope family, it had belonged to Thomas Hamilton, 1st Earl of Haddington (1563-1637). He had been a favourite of James VI and had obtained a charter erecting the 'Temple lands of Drem' into a barony.* His second wife was Margaret Foulis and it may have been through her that it went to Sir James Hope, whose first wife was Anne Foulis, daughter of Robert of Leadhills.

It is perhaps no coincidence that one branch of the Sinclairs of Longformacus at that period, had a Foulis connection. Thomas Sinclair, youngest son of Matthew the IX Laird married Anne Foulis (who is not further identified). We have no record of children by that marriage but Thomas died, age 42, in 1607. He is described as 'of Bilpster, Caithness, and Master of the Horse to George, Earl of Caithness and Lord Sinclair of Berridale'. It is of interest to note in passing that George, Earl of Caithness, was the son of John, Master of Caithness, and Jean Hepburn, only daughter of Patrick, 3rd Earl of Bothwell. This is the Jean Hepburn who subsequently married William Douglas mentioned previously among the Swinton-Sinclair Connections (Note A).

6 From what has been said above, we may get a clue to George Sinclar's antecedents by examining his business contacts. One of the first of these after his appointment to the chair of philosophy at Glasgow University in 1654 was the Earl of Argyll (1607-1661). This had to do with the salvage operations from the Spanish galleon 'Florida'. Argyll had welcomed Cromwell, was arrested at the Restoration, placed in the Tower, and executed in 1661.

*'Notes of Charters to Vassals of the Barony of Drem,' 1830, 55 pp.

Ø'Saint-Clairs of the Isles', 1898, p 261.

What is significant in this analysis is that the Earl's mother was Lady Anne Douglas, daughter of the 1st Earl of Morton, and also the fact that he married Lady Margaret Douglas, a daughter of the 2nd Earl of Morton. This was the same branch of the Douglasses with whom the Sinclairs of Longformacus have been shown to be closely connected (Swinton-Sinclair Connections — Note A). Surely George Sinclar was associated with the Earl of Argyll through this link with these Douglasses.

7. Next for examination is George Sinclar's association with Lord George Seton, 4th Earl of Winton in his coal mining operations in Tranent. Here it is relevant to note that, although the Seton family were traditionally Roman Catholic, George Seton had been brought up a Protestant. He had succeeded to the title at the age of 9 (in 1647) and was in the tutorship of his Protestant uncle, Alexander Seton, Viscount Kingston. The latter's 2nd wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Archibald Douglas of Whittingham; so here we have another link with the Sinclairs of Longformacus.

George, 4th Earl of Winton married Mary Montgomerie who died in 1677, and subsequently Christian, daughter of Robert Hepburn of Addistoun. He died in 1704. Again, we find a link with the Sinclairs of Longformacus through Mary Montgomerie who was the eldest daughter by his 2nd marriage of Hugh, 7th Earl of Eglinton. Mary's brother, Francis of the Giffen estate, married as his 2nd wife Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Robert Sinclair, 1st Bt of Longformacus (see Swinton-Sinclair pedigree given above in para 4 (d)).

Thus, the Earl of Winton was close to the family of Longformacus and the fact that he sponsored Sinclar's experimental works abroad is easily explained if the latter belonged to that Sinclair family.

8. In addition to dedicating a book to the Earl of Winton, Sinclar dedicated another (in 1683) to Sir James Fleming, Provost of Edinburgh. Whether Sir James was a relative of Christian Fleming, George Sinclar's sister-in-law (see appendix) is not clear. It is unlikely that Sinclar would make use of a connection by marriage in that connection, especially since Christain Sinclar (née Fleming) was a connection of the Reformer John Knox and episcopacy was still in force in Scotland. In fact, at that very time his brother, Rev. John Sinclar, was exiled for refusing to subscribe to the Test Act.

While it is quite possible that George Sinclar dedicated his book to Sir James Fleming because of business association, it is also quite possible that he was connected by birth with some branch of the Flemings in an earlier generation. George's mother, for instance, may have been a Fleming or some close connection.

It will be appropriate at this point to give the following details from the Scots Peerage about the Flemings who became Earls of Wigtown.

If reference is made to para 2 (f), it would be found that a Mary Carmichael married in 1665 an Archibald Stewart of Castlemilk. Evidently, he must have been the son of the Archibald Stewart in the above sketch pedigree who died in 1643, his mother being Mary Fleming. The purpose of working out these relationships is to provide relevant data in order to determine whether George Sinclar's mother might be found among them.

We know that Rev John Sinclar was born in 1618. His mother therefore would be living in the same generation as the Rachel Fleming who married in 1624

George Lindsay of Covington. Did she have a previous marriage? Her sister Ann had married as early as 1607 and it is interesting that her husband was a Livingston of Darnchester. Their granddaughter, Christian Livingston, married James Makgill, Viscount Oxenford* and it was to Robert 'Viscount of Oxfuird, Lord Mackgill' that Sinclar dedicated the 1672 edition of his 'Hydrostatics' — possibly a son of the above James. He altered this in his 1683 edition, dedicating it to Sir James Fleming, Lord Provost of Edinburgh.

Of special interest is a note in the Dictionary of National Biography stating that Robert Fleming, nephew of Christina who married Rev John Sinclar, was kinsman^Ø to Lord Carmichael (presumably the 2nd Lord Carmichael shown in the pedigree in para 2 (f) whose daughter Beatrix married John Cockburn of Ormiston. There was thus a connection between the Sinclars, the Flemings, and the Cockburns of Ormiston.

Sarah Maxwell who was eld dau of John Lord Herries & relict of Sir James Johnston of Johnston		(2) John, 6th Lord Fleming, (1) er Earl of Wigtown in 1606		Idlias Graham, only dau of John 3rd Earl of Montrose by Jean, dau of Lord Drummond (m 1587)
Sarah Fleming Jean Fleming d 1638 (she was to marry James Grant of Feuchie but it was broken off)	Ø H E R R I E S	John, 2nd Earl suc in 1619; he m in 1609 Margaret, 2nd dau Alexander Livingston, 1st Earl of Idnlith- gow	Ann Fleming, who m 1st (1607) Sir William Living- ston of Darnches- ter (eld s of Sir William of Kilsyth) & m 2nd (1618) Sir John Seton of Barne	Mary Fleming, who m (1634) Archibald Stew- art (d 1643) of Castle- milk (younger), son of Sir Archibald Stewart of Castlemilk Rachel Fleming, who m (1624) George Lindsay of Covington.

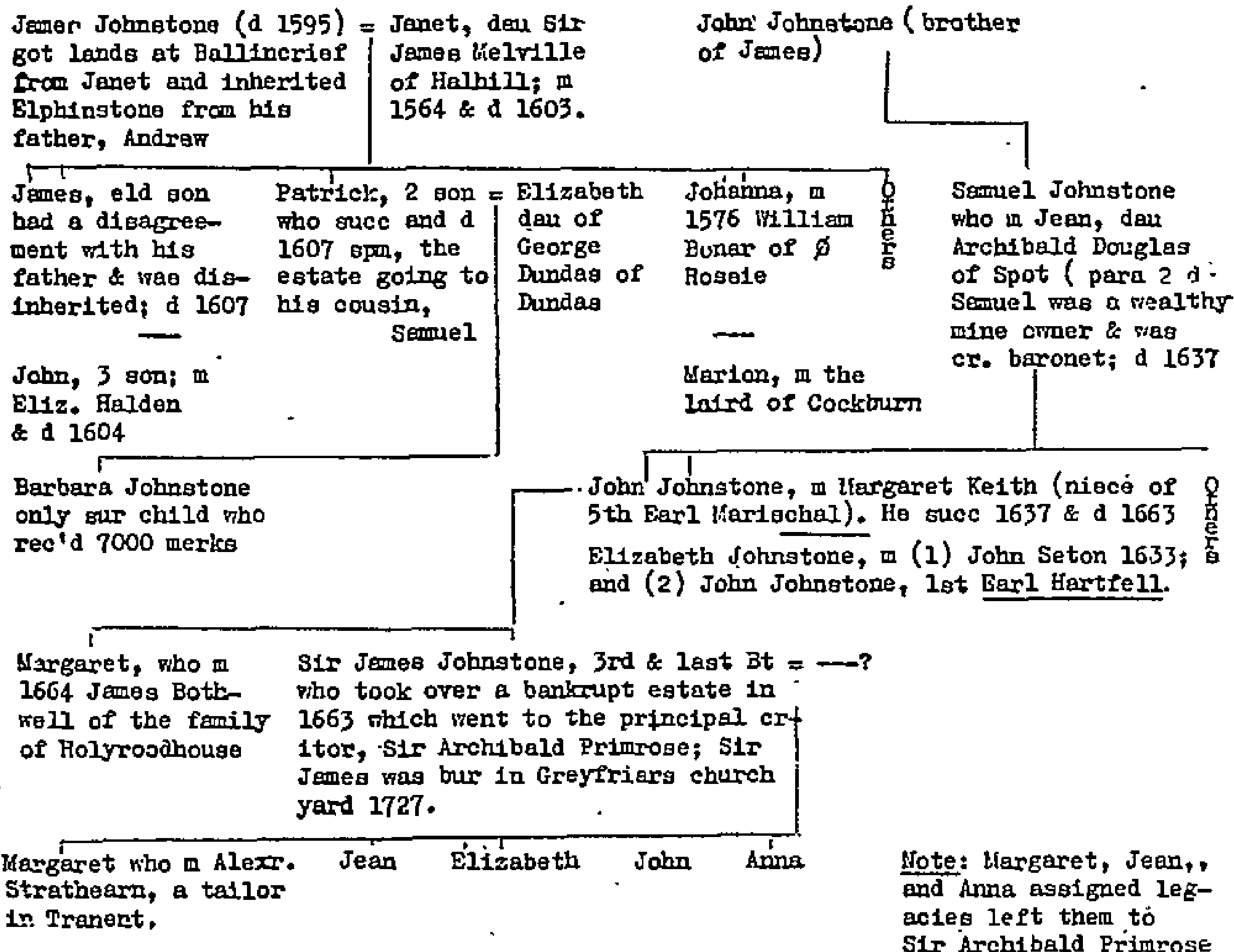
9. When Sinclar left his post in Glasgow, one of his first projects was to determine the height of a hill at Hartfell with his boroscope. A year later he made a similar experiment at Leadhills. Undoubtedly, the latter site was chosen through his association with Sir James Hope whose wife was a daughter of Robert Foulis of Leadmills. The former site was the seat of the Johnstones of Hartfell with whom the Johnstones of Elphinstone were connected. The latter family was one of the oldest in Tranent. Did George Sinclar 'return' to Tranent because he was a relative, and did he choose Hartfell first of all for that reason? The following data about 'Johnstone, of Elphinstone' has been put together from different sources.†

If we are seeking a connection between George Sinclar and the above Johnstone family through his mother, or his wife (if he had one), we would be interested in those of marriageable age in 1618 (when Rev John was born) and a generation later. Nothing apparently relevant is revealed in the foregoing pedigree.

*See Scots Peerage, vol, 6, p 590.

Øsee Appendix.

†Chiefly from 'The Johnstones of Elphinstone' in Trans. E Lothian Antiquarian and Field Naturalists Soc., vol 4 (1948), p 42-50.



It would be interesting, however, if we knew more about the Barbara Johnstone, only surviving child of Patrick. Of more direct interest is the family of Samuel Johnstone who married Jean, daughter of Archibald Douglas of Spot. As shown in the appendix, a Rev. John Sinclair of the Longformacus family was the minister of Spot about a generation later. Possibly, Samuel Johnstone had a daughter not shown (by his wife Jean Douglas) who married a Sinclair (or Sinclar) in the Longformacus family — a theory which might account for a member of that family later being the minister there. Were they George's parents?

Worthy of special note is the fact that the only daughter of Samuel Johnstone shown in the chart was Elizabeth who married (1) John Seton and (2) the Earl of Hartfell. This would be right in line with what we know of George Sinclair concerning his experiment at Hartfell and his association with the Setons. If Samuel had a daughter (named Jean after his wife?) it would also be in line with the names Jean and Jeanette in the Delft document of 1687. Certainly, this is a possibility to be followed up, and the parish registers, and Session records at spot, might be consulted.

OBonar of Rossie and Arnot of Ferny acquired the Ardrross estate between 1650 and 1664 from Scot of Ardrross (see East Neuk of Fife, p223).

It is appropriate to mention here a family relationship between the Johnstones of Elphinstone, Sir John Hope, and George Seton of Winton. Sir John Johnstone's wife, Margaret Keith of Benholm, was a neice of the 5th Earl Marischal. The 7th Earl Marischal (William Keith) was the father of Mary Keith who married Sir James Hope. Also, William the 7th Earl Marischal married twice; his second wife was Elizabeth Seton, aunt of George, the 4th Earl of Winton. Then to complete the picture, the first wife of William Keith was Lady Jean Douglas, eldest daughter of Robert Douglas, Earl of Morton, and Sir John Johnstone's mother (as shown in the chart) was also a Douglas.

The close ties between the Douglasses and the Sinclairs of Longformacus have already been demonstrated. The theory that George Sinclair was of the latter family gains further confirmation through his business associates in the Tranent area. That he 'betook himself to the business of a mineral surveyor and practical engineer' when he lost his post in Glasgow is now easily explained.

10 The spelling 'Sinclar' adopted by George and his brother, John, may have some significance. There is also the form 'Sincklar' employed by the latter's son in the Haddington deed of sale and the same spelling by the son of James Sinclair in Drem. Then, there is the spelling 'Sinclare' used by what we presume to be two relatives of George and John (the Delft document of 1687). The latter form was reportedly used by James Sinclare, 7th of the Longformacus line in 1505*. It was also in use at that time by the Caithness Earls**. That the Longformacus Sinclairs were close to the Royal family of Stewart is evident from the fact that the spouse of David, 4th of Longformacus, was "probably identical with Elizabeth Sinclare . . . paid £40 for charge of the Princess Mary." This was in 1460-2 and she remained on pension until 1480*. The Princess was, undoubtedly, one of the two daughters of James II, who was killed by an exploding gun in 1460; Mary, his Queen, died three years later.

Less than a century later, the daughter of James V was also nursed by a 'Jehane St Clare' — this Princess was the historic Mary Queen of Scots, then at the French Court (cir 1550). In view of the foregoing, it would be logical to expect that Jehane also was a *Longformacus Sinclair*. (In Scots Peerage the surname is written 'St Clair').

It is certainly a coincidence that three of the principal families in this discussion of George Sinclair's origin happened to be the Setons, the Flemings, and the Carmichaels, and that three of the ladies in waiting upon Mary Queen of Scots at the French Court were Mary Seton, Mary Fleming, and Mary Carmichael.Ø

Prominent also in these notes are the Douglasses (Earls of Morton), the wife of the 3rd Earl of Morton was Elizabeth, natural daughter of James V; she was thus

§This son also signed as 'St Clair' in a bond dated 21, Oct 1704 (Scot Rec Off SC40/57/10-11).

*R. W. St Clair, 'Saint-Clairs of the Isles', 1898, p 261.

**Scots Peerage, vol. 2, p 334-7.

ØSee Antonia Fraser 'Mary Queen of Scots'. Mary Fleming was reportedly the 'most captivating'. A popular verse comes to mind which goes: "There was Mary Beaton, Mary Seton, Mary Carmichael. and me".

by way of being a half-sister of Mary Queen of Scots. The Mary Fleming mentioned above (spouse to Lord Fleming) was also a Stewart, a natural daughter of James IV.

When we recall that James Sinclair in Drem who died in 1683 was a likely kinsman of George Sinclair and, also, that he lived in the parish of Athelstaneford, it is significant that the minister there from 1665 to 1681 was a William Carmichael; his wife was Janet, daughter of John Johnston of Wamphray ('Fasti').

11. One clue to George Sinclair's family connections concerns a loan he made in 1656 to finance a building project at Glasgow University. There is an entry in the Act Books* of the Moderators recording that the loan by him and Andrew Burnet was returned in 1659 with interest. That George was mentioned with Andrew Burnett implies that they had collaborated in making the loan (or loans) and that there may have been some family liason between the two. Andrew has not been positively identified but it is fairly certain that he belonged to the Burnets of Leys in which line was an Andrew Burnet in the time of James IV. Thomas Burnet was created the 1st Bt. of Leys in 1626, and the Andrew who contributed the loan may have been a nephew, possibly one of the sons of his brother Robert, who became Lord Crimond. Robert had three sons, the youngest being Gilbert (1643-1715) one time Professor of Divinity at Glasgow in 1669 and later the celebrated Bishop Burnet. Robert, also, had a youngest brother John, a Factor for the Scots at Campvere in Holland.

The sketch pedigree below shows a number of salient features tending to confirm the fact that George Sinclair was close to the Burnet family through the Johnstones; or could it have been the other way round and he was close to the Johnstones through the Burnets! Lord Crimmond, for instance, had a nephew, Alexander Burnet, who married Jane, daughter of Robert Arbuthnot; Jane's brother, also Robert, married *Elizabeth Keith* and it was *her sister* that married Sir James Hope of Hopetoun. The Burnets also intermarried with the Skenes. Sir Thomas Burnet married twice and had a large number of children; his 1st wife was Margaret, daughter of Sir Robert Douglas of Glenbervie, brother of the 10th Earl of Angus (their mother was a Graham of Morphie).

Archibald Johnson, of the house of Benholm = Rachel, dau Sir John Arnot (Treas-depute)

Samuel Johnston of Schenes = Helen Morrison (Douglas Baronage, p 232)

William Johnston m Janet Johnston, sole heiress of Wamphray (issue)	James Johnston, Edinburgh Merchant, m Elizabeth, dau ** Thomas Craig (1538-1603)	(Was there a 'Rachel Johnston', mother of George & John Sinclair, who came in here?)
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Archibald Johnston, Lord Warriston, Coventanter, b 1611 & executed 1663	Agnes Johnston, who m Alexr. Innes of Blairton Chamberlain to Earle of Perthure ♂	Beatrix Maule #, grd-dau of Robt. Earl of Perthure (no surv issue)	= (1) Robert Burnet (2) = Rachel Johnston	who d 1661 as Lord Crimond, 3 son of Alexander Burnet of Leys (had a brother John #, factor at Campvere)
---	---	--	---	--

2 sons, of whom one assumed to be Andrew	Gilbert (1643-1715) a Bishop	Helen Burnet, e dau m 1617 John Allardyce & (2) Sir Robt Graham of Morphie	Barbara Burnet 2 dau m before 1607 Sir Robt. Innes, 1st Bt. Balvenie	Janet Burnet, m (10 Alexr. Skene that ilk & (2) Sir Alexr. Comyn of Culter	(see overleaf for foot notes)
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*Sinclar, 'Satan's Invisible World Discovered', 1871 (republished) ed. p xi in the *Prefatory Notice*.

**Dict. of National Biog. under *Sir Thomas Craig*.

ØAlexander Innes (1615-79) had been a merchant in Holland; he founded the House of Blairton. His wife, Agnes, was liferentrix of Hopeshill in the Menie estate, parish of Belhelvie, Aberdeenshire and died 1696. Their great-grandson was Alexander Redford, Grammar School master at Tranent who married a grand-daughter of the Beatrix Sinclar who lived at Drem and is believed to be a close connection of George Sinclar as per note in para 2 (d). For 'Redford' see Carr-Harris Hist. & Genealogy 1966, with 1968 & 1973 Supplements thereto printed privately.

ØØSir Robert Graham of Morphie in 1659 held a mortgage on the Menie estate. (Henderson, Aberdeenshire Epitaphs & Inscriptions, 1907, 146).

§Douglas Baronage.

The analysis under this heading shows a connection with George Sinclar at Glasgow University, a connection with the Douglas Earls of Angus to which those of Whittingham were closely related, a connection through the Earls Marischal with Sir James Hope, and a connection with Beatrix Sinclar living at Drem with her husband (i.e. Alexander Cunninghame, tenant of the Hope family circ 1658). There are also the connections with a Johnston family and the Skenes.

The reference to Robert Burnet's brother John is also of special interest, he being one of the factors at the port of Campvere, in Holland. For over three centuries, Scotsmen had made fortunes there trading on behalf of their principals in Scotland. In 1641, a movement was on foot to urge one of the leading factors, Thomas Cuninghame, to help the reformed religion (see 'Thomas Cuninghame of Campvere' pub. 1928 by the Scottish Hist. Soc.). This movement was the subject of a secret document, the signatories of which included: Sir Thomas Hope, Hamilton, Archibald Primrose, Elphinstone, Robert Innes of Innes, and *Sinclar* (sic). The latter was not identified in the text of the foregoing book but in the index he was shown as 'Lord *Sinclare*'. It would seem that the only one by that name at the time was 9th Lord Sinclair, only son of Patrick and his spouse, Margaret, daughter of Sir John *Cockburn of Ormiston*; Lord Sinclair's aunt was Margaret Sinclair who married William Lord Berridale (discussed in the next para under Thomas Sinclair). It is indeed significant that we have here the precise spellings of the surname met with in the Delft document of 1687. Incidentally, the line of the 9th Earl failed with him and the earldom went to the Sinclairs of Herdmanston (1677).

Concluding Comments:

12. Based on the very limited factual data we have about George Sinclar (and his brother John), the analyses in Part Two confirm the theory that he claimed descent from the Sinclairs of Longformacus. As he was probably born between 1616 and 1620, his parents would be of the same generation as James the 11th laird as shown in the sketch pedigree in para 2 (d). James therefore could well be his father, a supposition strengthened by the fact that nothing seems to be known about him coupled with the lack of information about George's early life. In that case, George's grandparents would be Sir Robert, 10th laird, and Margaret Douglas, grand-daughter of the 2nd Earl of Morton.

There would be other possibilities, however, in the Longformacus line. James, for instance, had three uncles, George, James and Thomas, as shown below; any one of these may have been our George Sinclar's grandfather (rather than Sir Robert):

* Matthew Sinclair, 9th laird = Elizabeth Swinton (see appendix)

Sir Robert	George = ?	James = Elizabeth	Thomas = Anna Foulis	A daughter
10th laird	2nd son	3rd son Home	4th son	

George above has been assumed to be the father of that John Sinclair who acquired Stevenson and was the ancestor of that line. This assumption has been questioned, however, not only by the Lyon Clerk of 1863 but by an early genealogist, Father Hay (b 1650). In their opinion, the Stevenson link with the Longformacus line would have been through a daughter and not a son. The question here is, did this George Sinclair have a son who was the father of our George Sinclar? The latter died in 1696 and his brother, John, in 1687. If, then, our George was the 2nd son and, if we assume that the convention was followed of naming the 2nd son after his paternal grandfather, our George Sinclar could have been named after the George, son of Matthew above.

Here again, we know nothing about this George and still less about any son he may have had. Were they also living abroad? The ambiguity about the origin of the Sinclairs of Stevenson and the controversy about their descent from the Longformacus family serves to show how sketchy and incomplete the early records were about these two families. Under such circumstances the likelihood of identifying our George Sinclar is remote, indeed.

*Based on R. W. St-Clair's 'Saint Clairs of the Isles', 1898, p 261.

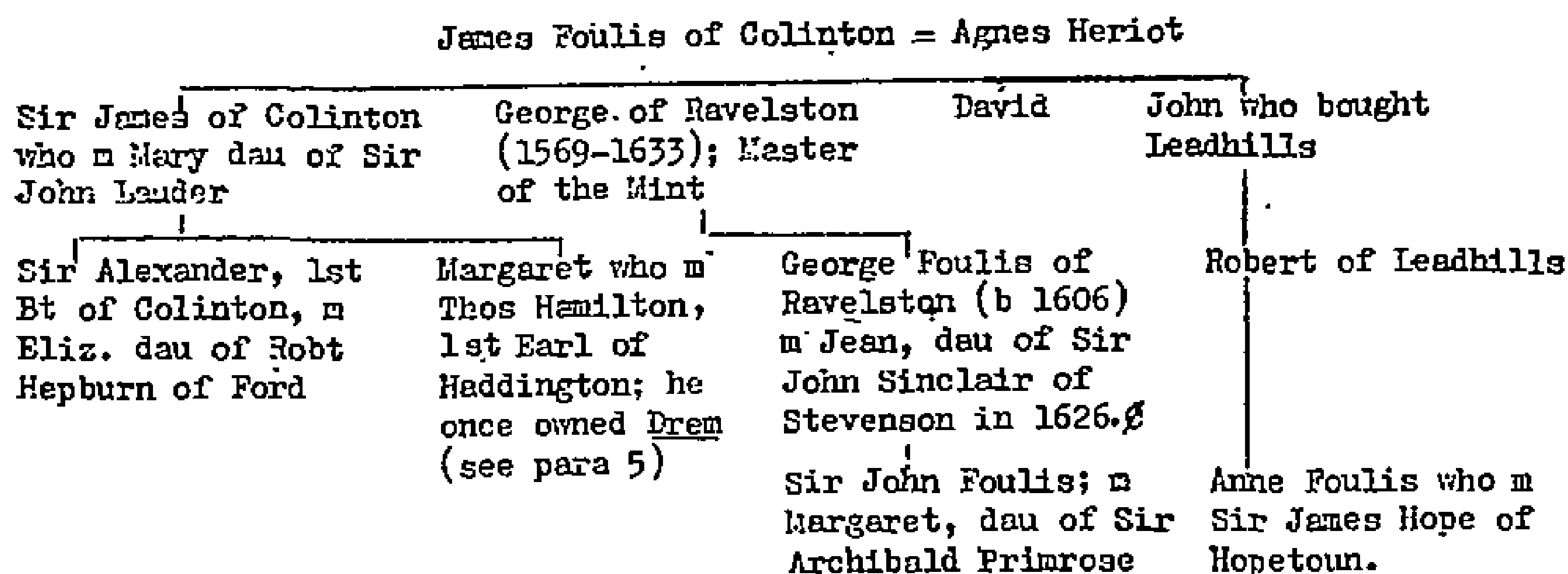
ØSee Cokayne's 'Baronetage' vol. 2, p 421 (footnote).

*Matthew Sinclair, 9th laird = Elizabeth Swinton (see appendix)

James, who married Elizabeth Home is said to have had a son Sir James Sinclair of Kinnaird in Fifeshire living in 1686. In that year, Sir James was 'at suit of Sir Robert St. Clair of Stevenson for payment of a jointure to Anna Foulis, Bilbster's widow'. He had become heir to his uncle Thomas.* Sir James' wife was Isabel Balfour and they could, of course, be the parents of George and John Sinclair but Sir James in that case must have been a very old man in 1686 (there may have been other brothers than Sir James who would be more in line as the father of George and John).

That the father of George and John belongs here seems unlikely. Nevertheless, the possibility merits further study in view of their paternal grandmother being Elizabeth Home; a Margaret Home was the grandmother of the John Swinton mentioned earlier (para 2, d) in connection with Holland and Rev. John Sinclar.

Thomas, the youngest of four brothers, was age 42 at his death in 1607 (b 1565). His wife, Anna Foulis, has yet to be identified. Thomas was buried in Wick church-yard where an inscription records his parents, offices, arms, etc. with the two phrases, 'Remember death' and 'Regard- Good service will get good reward! A.B.M.R.M.'. These capitals may refer to the names of his wife and children (i.e. 'A' for Anna). He had been Master of the Horse to George, 5th Earl of Caithness and his son, Lord Berridale. If George and John Sinclair come in under this heading, their grandmother would be Anna Foulis. The question to be asked is whether Anna Foulis (living after 1607) was a close connection of the Anne Foulis (d before 1657) who married Sir James Hope. As already noted, this Anne was the only daughter of Robert Foulis of Leadhills; the Foulis line was:



The Anna Foulis 'jointure' which formed the subject of litigation in 1686 is difficult to understand. There was only one Sir Robert Sinclair in 1686 (b 1643); he was the 3rd baronet and it is possible that he was acting as heir to this grandfather, Sir John Sinclair who first acquired Stevenson. When Sir Robert was born, Anna Foulis was about 52 years of age and there could be no question of his marrying her.

It would be premature to speculate on the question of George Sinclair's descent from any particular member of the Longformacus line until the Sir Robert and Joris Sinclair in the Delft document mentioned earlier are identified. Certainly, they offer the best evidence yet found to identify our George Sinclair.

13. The possibility that the latter was not a Longformacus descendent (although his maternal ancestors may have been) has not been considered. A definite possibility concerns the Sinclares of Mey, a cadet branch of the Earls of Caithness as shown overleaf.

*See Saint Clairs of the Isles, p 261.

ØHer father, John Sinclair purchaser of Stevenson, m—MacMath.

John Sinclair, (or Sinclare),
3rd Earl of Caithness

William, 2nd Earl of Montrose = Janet Keith, dau of 3rd Earl Marischal; her sister m. Archibald Douglas of Glenbervie (see para 11).

George Sinclair, 4th Earl of Caithness = Lady Elizabeth Graham

John, Master of Caithness who d 1578. He strangled his brother William of Mey & was imprisoned by his father in 1571 (see Caithness Earls, Burke's Peerage)

Jean Hepburn dau 3rd Earl of Bothwell; she later m Archibald Douglas (para 2, d, Note 'A')

William of Mey um; by Margt. Mowat (dau of James of Balgutholly) he had 2 sons; he d before 1574 *

George, yr brother who was served heir to his brother, William 7 Sept 1574; d 1616

Margt. dau of William, 7th Lord Forbes; she m before 1583

George, 5th Earl of Caithness, to whom Thomas Sinclair (para 12) was Master of the Horse

Jean, only dau of George Gordon, 5th Earl of Huntley

Patrick & John assumed b 1570-3 & both legitimized in 1607. They would be well known to the Thomas in para 12 (d 1607)

William, Sinclair, Lord Berriedale, He m Mary, dau Henry; 5th Lord Sinclair (see Lords Sinclair, Burke's Peerage) Mary's brother, Patrick, became the 8th Lord Sinclair having m Margaret, dau of Sir John Cockburn of Ormiston, Lord Justice Clerk. This connection (cir 1609) is significant.

(Was there a son, Patrick or John, b about 1590-5 who was the father of Rev John 'Sinclar' of Delft & George?) **

(to 12th Earl)

* When William received Mey from his father he is described as 'Sinclare'. It is a logical assumption therefore that his father used the same spelling

** Rev John Sinclar of Delft named his 2nd or 3rd son Patrick. He himself may have received the name John from the John who was legitimized in 1607 and who could have been his paternal grandfather.

For Appendix see page 102 overleaf.

NOTES

THE CAIRN OF LOCHWINNOCH: A FOOTNOTE

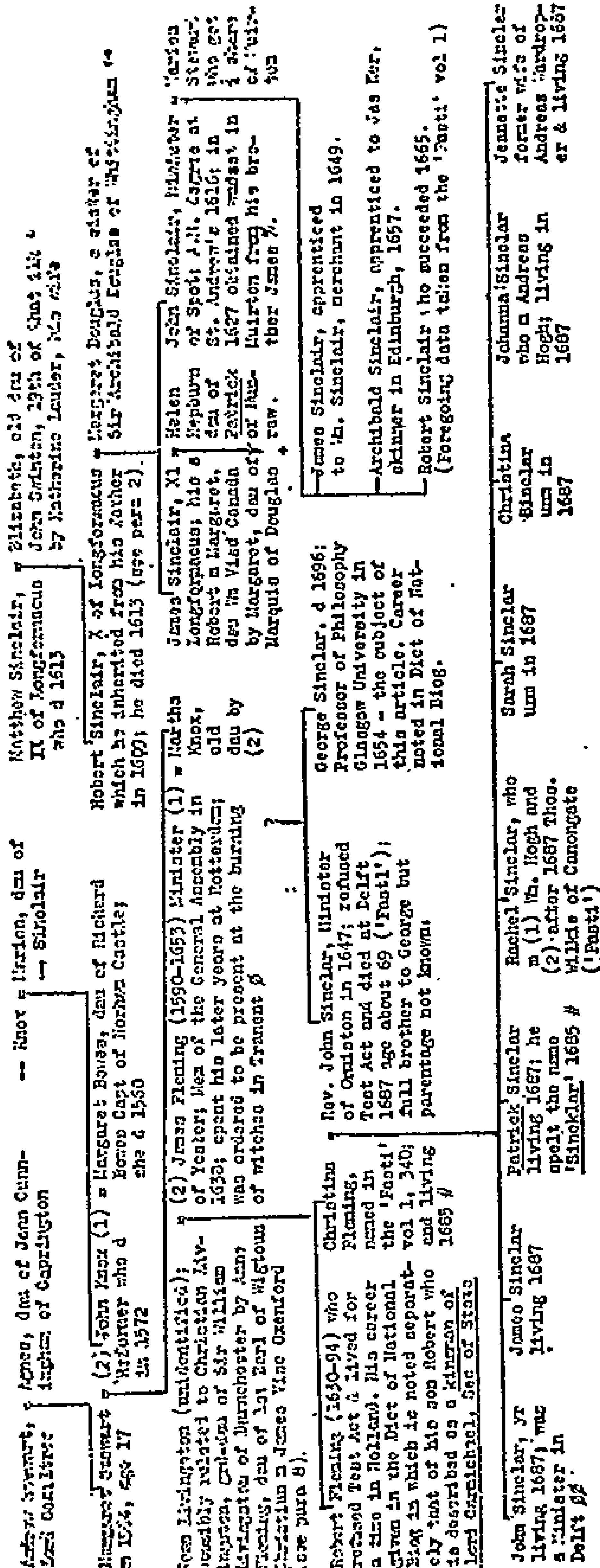
In *The Scottish Genealogist*, vol. XII, No. 2, pp. 9-12, William Rodger says that a microfilm of *The Cairn of Lochwinnoch*, 45 volumes, is in the Scottish Central Library, Edinburgh. John F. Mitchell, in *Monumental Inscriptions in Renfrewshire*, Edinburgh, 1969, says, p. 205-206, the microfilm copy is in the National Library of Scotland. The Scottish Central Library is now a department of the National Library, but neither repository houses a copy of the microfilm, which is in Paisley Public Library.

SENNACHIE

KIRKCUDBRIGHT SHERIFF COURT RECORDS

In *The Scottish Genealogist*, vol. xx, pp. 71-73, was printed a list of marriage contracts recorded at Kirkcudbright between 1774 and 1788. The records from which the information was taken are now in the Scottish Record Office, ref. SC16.

APPENDIX - The Family Connections of Rev. John Sinclair (d 1667) showing comparative generations of the Sinclairs of Longformacus to the 12th-17th Century.



Footnotes:

- * John Swinton was one of those signing a bond in 1567 for the protection of the infant James VI on the marriage of Mary Queen of Scots to the Earl of Bothwell.
- ** Archibald Douglas's elder brother was William of Whittingham (son of 2nd Earl of Morton). William married in 1577 Lady Jean Hepburn whose previous husband was John Sinclair, Master of Caithness (para 13).
- § 'East Lothian Biographies' by Forbes Gray, in Proc. E Lothian Antiquarian & Field Naturalists Soc. (1911).
- § Murison was, presumably, the one in Stirlingshire. + Re Murray and issue by this marriage see para 2 (d).
- §§ Particulars of his brothers & sisters as given in Notarial Record No. 2190 in Delft Archives.
- § Loing Charters, No. 2838, p 660.

Data put together
January 15, 1975.
J.C.S.

QUERIES

LANDELLS - DOUGLAS: In 1809 James Landells married Jane Burns. They had a son Adam and probably others. ADAM was born 1812? MARGARET DOUGLAS was born about 1815? They married 9th March, 1832. Their children were:— Jane Landells, 1833; James Douglas Landells, 1836; *Edward Douglas Landells, 1838; Mary Ann Landells, 1840; Isabella Landells, 1844; Elizabeth Ann, 1846; Margaret Landells, 1847; William George Burns, 1848.

*I would love to hear from any one who knows of or is part of this family. Who were Margaret Douglas's parents? — Miss Daphne Eades, 28 Clifton Lee, Lauranga, North Island, N. Zealand.

HOWIE: Request parents names for John Howie m. Marion Miller (Stewarton Ayrshire) at Newmilns, Mickle Byre, Parish of Loudoun, 29 March, 1841. Brothers or cousins Thomas and David Howie accompanied them to Vernon, Wisconsin U.S.A. Does anyone have the complete family tree of Howie's of Lochgoin?

I would also be interested in contacting descendants of Howie (HUET) of Parishes of Mearns and Craigie who settled there in the 12th century — Mrs H. A. H. Jeffery, 314 Tophill Road, San Antonio, Texas 78209, U.S.A.

PRIMROSE: James Primrose and Catherine Knight had a son John born 1817 possibly in Musselburgh. John had five children including the Rev. James Primrose, D.D., F.S.A. Scot. Any information regarding this Primrose line would be appreciated. William M. Black, 14 Quernmore Road, London, N4 4QX.

PATERSON: Desire data and parentage of Alexander (Samuel) PATERSON, farmer, born ca 1783, Ettrick, Selkirkshire, Scotland; died Dromore, Lochrutton, Kirkcudbrightshire; interred Kirkpatrick Irongray Churchyard; son of — Paterson and Elizabeth Melrose.

COWAN: Desire information and parentage of Fanny COWAN, his wife, born ca 1783, Torthorwald, Dumfriesshire; census records show that in 1841 and 1851 both were living in Holywood, Lochrutton; family living at home at 1851 census were James, Mary, Fanny and Alexander.

Desire data and parentage of Isabella COWAN, born ca 1811, died Dec. 30, 1875; daughter of Wellwood Cowan and Janet Brown; married to William Paterson who died Oct. 20, 1900 at Horseholm, Mousewald, Dumfriesshire. — Miss M. Johnston, 2725 Western Avenue, North Vancouver, B.C., Canada.

McKINLAY-MORTON: Desire information about the JAMES McKINLAY family of Stirlingshire, and the ROBERT MORTON family of Ayrshire. — Mrs James R. McKinlay, 2740, La Cuesta Drive, Los Angeles, California 90046.

Engaged in tracing ancestry of Capt. James Mor Drummond of Benmore, co. Perth (eldest son of Rob Roy) and of his wife, Annabella McNicoll, daughter of Donald McNicoll of Sockoch, parish of Glenurchy. Desire marriage alliances of

the Ogilvies of that Ilk (David, his son Gilbert, d. c. 1601, his son John, d. c1609).
—Andrew B. W. MacEwen, Stockton Springs, Maine 04981.

KEAR: Peter Kear, born 27th April, 1765 in or near Tarrytown, or Yorktown, New York, married in 1796 in New York Anna Odell (b. 1777 in New York and d. 10/3/1869 in Ohio). He had two sisters and one brother; Catherine b. 1768 d. 1849. married Obed White; Jonathan b. 1769 d. 1833 married about 1804 Hannah Outhouse; Olive b. 1775 d. 1854 married Cypran Stevens. All buried in Kear Cemetery, Tymochtee Township, Wyndot County, Ohio, except for Jonathan and Hannah who are buried at White Plains, New York and whose son (John 1812 to 1872) was a member of Cearr, the Kear Family Association.

Who was Peter Kear's father who is believed to have been killed in 1776 by indians and where in Scotland did he come from? Was he Peter Jonathan Kear?
— Mrs Charles H. Thompson, P.O. Box 56 Payson, Arizona 85541.

LETTER

The Cottage
Mains of Fullerton
Meigle
Perthshire

Dear Sir,

I am at present, under the auspices of the Pasold Research Fund, writing a book on Scottish stocking makers and merchants in the Eighteenth Century. I am looking for the Minute Book of the Glasgow Incorporation of Stocking Makers (last seen in 1935) and wondered if any of your readers have come across it in the course of their research.

Yours faithfully
(Dr) Ishbel Barnes

FEDERATION OF FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES

IN June of last year the Federation of Family History Societies was formed and 12 regional societies have so far joined. The Secretary is Mrs Elizabeth Simpson, 19 Harboro Road, Sale, Cheshire and anyone who is interested in obtaining details of the Regional Societies should write to her.

As the objects of all these societies are somewhat similar the establishment of a Federation to further their objects should be to the advantage of all the Societies who are members of the Federation and should help towards dissemination of information.

THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY

CONSTITUTION

- 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, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Editor, Honorary Librarian, 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 on a date in November to be determined by the Council, at which reports will be submitted.
- 6 Members shall receive one copy of each issue of The Scottish Genealogist, but these shall not be supplied to any Members who are in arrears.
- 7 Institutions may be elected to affiliate membership of the Society. The subscription payable by such affiliate members shall be fixed from time to time by the Council. Affiliate members shall be entitled to receive 2 copies of each issue of the Scottish Genealogist, and to have suitable queries inserted therein free of charge. Their members shall be entitled to attend all meetings of the Society and to borrow books from the Society's Library (but not to send such books overseas). They shall not, however, have any vote at meetings of the Society, nor shall they be eligible for election to membership of the Council.
- 8 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.

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