



THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGIST

DECEMBER 2011

Andrew Meikle

**Lord Thomas Cochrane,
The real Master and Commander**

Embroidering the Evidence

Danielstoun

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Front Cover: The Society's Coat of Arms

Back Cover: Jane Sutherland's family record sampler.

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The Scottish Genealogist

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Charting a heroic career: the personal archive of Admiral Lord Cochrane, the real Master and Commander

by Tristram Clarke

As Thomas Cochrane, 10th Earl of Dundonald, approached the age of 85, he was busy writing his autobiography, or rather working with the assistance of his ghost writer, G B Earp, to record the almost incredible story of his life, containing many episodes which might belong in the realm of fiction.

A Narrative of Services in the Liberation of Chili, Peru, and Brazil from Spanish and Portuguese Domination (1859) and the account of his early career in *Autobiography of a Seaman* (1860) became the defining versions of his life and provided the raw materials for his many subsequent biographers.

Who was he and what did he do to merit such attention?

Background and the Dundonald Papers

Thomas Cochrane was born in 1775 at Annesfield near Hamilton, Lanarkshire, the son of Archibald, 9th Earl of Dundonald, and his wife, Anne Gilchrist, and spent part of his childhood at Culross. The earl was well known for his scientific interests, but his heavy investment in his own chemical manufacturing ventures were to prove disastrous for the family fortunes and led to the sale of their Scottish estates. Necessity was therefore one of the motives that led the young Cochrane into a naval career for over twenty years. When his father succeeded to the earldom in 1778, as his eldest son Thomas took the title Lord Cochrane. He was known by this name for most of his life, and it is used here for convenience.

As well as becoming a Royal Navy officer, Cochrane also became at different periods an MP, engineer, inventor, convict, naval commander in wars of independence across the globe, and, for the last third of his life, an admiral of the Royal Navy. In looking back over the highs and lows Cochrane was able to draw directly on his own personal papers, saved in the course of a busy life. This rich archive charts the life and times of one of the most extraordinary men Scotland, indeed Britain, has ever produced. It is now preserved as part of the Dundonald family papers deposited in the National Records of Scotland (NRS) in Edinburgh. The collection has been accessible by researchers, but is currently partly closed for re-cataloguing.

The Dundonald papers contain layers representing successive generations of the family, starting in the time of Cochrane's father, the 9th Earl, and run on to the time of the 12th Earl and his family in the early twentieth century, but the bulk of the collection consists of Cochrane's papers. From them the NRS has selected key documents to help tell Cochrane's story in an exhibition

at the National Museum of Scotland. Reunited with objects that were once in his possession, they speak of his experiences, ambitions and achievements. Although only a selection from a mass of papers spanning most of his remarkable life, they all have one thing in common: they were important to him in different episodes of his life. He kept them, and he must have treasured some of them for their associations with his past.

Cochrane's early naval career

Few papers survive for his early career, but he later summarised it in a list of the ships on which he served. Nominally appointed as a boy in 1783, he actually went to sea in 1793, at the age of seventeen, on HMS *Hind*. After four years as a midshipman, Cochrane served as a lieutenant on successive ships. His courage, seamanship and leadership began to be noticed by Admiral Keith, who fortunately felt that these virtues outweighed his vices of being *wrong headed, violent and proud*.



In 1800 he gave Cochrane his first command, the sloop HMS *Speedy*. From the log book he preserved we can get a picture of why the commander of this little warship soon acquired a fearsome reputation along the Spanish and French Mediterranean coasts. Cochrane was aggressive in chasing and capturing enemy merchant vessels, attacking warships, and bombarding coastal fortifications and personnel. He became a past master of littoral warfare, goading the Spanish and French navies into searching for the *Speedy* in order to put an end to the troublesome sloop.

On 21 December 1800 the *Speedy* chased a schooner and a ship, which turned out to be a Spanish frigate. The log book records the action in typically laconic style: *Hoisted Danish colours and spoke her. At 7 parted company with the Frigate and made sail close to shore*. This episode was told more fully in Cochrane's *Autobiography*, where he explains that he had already adapted *Speedy's* appearance to that of a Danish merchant ship. He fooled the enemy captain by showing Danish colours, and when the frigate's boat came over to investigate, scared them off with a tale of having the plague on board. These ruses saved his ship from certain capture or sinking. It is likely that at least some of the log book entries formed the basis for Cochrane's memoirs, triggering recollections which then formed longer accounts of individual episodes that had happened almost sixty years earlier.

Cochrane's most famous early action took place on 6 May 1801, when the *Speedy* captured the *El Gamo*, a Spanish frigate four times her size. Although undermanned by some crew being off in prize vessels that the *Speedy* had just captured, Cochrane took the frigate by surprise, came in under her broadside (of 190 pounds of shot from 32 guns), while delivering accurate fire from his own puny guns (56 pounds from 14 guns). The *Speedy's* boarding party fought hard to overcome the large crew, and forced them to surrender,

with very light casualties.

The capture of the *El Gamo* was a celebrated action, but the prize rewards were small, which helped develop Cochrane's grievances against the prize courts. His deceptions of the enemy were often successful, but he was angered when these alleged tricks were used as excuses for the naval authorities to reduce or withhold his prize money. His later outspoken attacks on the corrupt and unjust practices of the prize courts were popular with many in the navy, but made enemies of senior officers and officials with vested interests in lucrative shares of prizes.

Cochrane's luck ran out in July 1801, when he was chased and captured by three French frigates despite skilful evasive action. After being acquitted by a naval court martial for losing the sloop, he was promoted captain. These colourful incidents will be familiar to readers of Lt Jack Aubrey's adventures aboard the sloop *Sophie* in *Master and Commander*. Patrick O'Brian was indebted to Cochrane and the *Speedy*, just as C S Forester's *Hornblower* had earlier been inspired by Cochrane's daring and his collisions with authority, a recurrent motif for much of his career.

Also in Cochrane's papers are logs from HMS *Arab*, on which he conducted fishery protection duties around Orkney in 1803-4, and his first frigate, *Pallas*, which he commanded 1804-1806. Cruises rich in enemy prizes followed, and in April 1806 another feat of daring seamanship added to his fame: Cochrane captured a sloop off the French coast, and chased and destroyed three corvettes, each of which outmanned him. In his next command, HMS *Imperieuse*, Cochrane developed his littoral warfare techniques to ever greater effect, destroying installations, communications, batteries and lighthouses, and damaging France's capacity to use coast roads to send armies into Spain.



In April 1809 an attack on the French fleet in the Basque Roads near La Rochelle, demonstrated some of Cochrane's best qualities: calculated daring and bravery, as well as an inventive approach to the equipping of explosion vessels packed with munitions. These caused rather less damage than was hoped, but succeeded in driving the French fleet aground, where it was partially destroyed. While Cochrane was rewarded with a knighthood, he openly attacked the British admiral for neglecting the opportunity to destroy the enemy totally. His failure to substantiate his charges made him more enemies, and refusing further sea service, he concentrated on politics.

Disgrace

In 1806 he had become MP for Honiton, but in 1807 was returned as one of two members for Westminster. It was not unusual for serving officers to become MPs, but Cochrane's radical politics marked him out. His attacks on privilege and abuses in the navy and elsewhere in the establishment caused resentment. An opportunity for revenge offered itself in 1814. Cochrane

became embroiled in a fraud on the stock exchange, by which he made a considerable profit on the value of government stock, whose value had risen on false news of the death of Napoleon. He always denied wrongdoing, claiming he was the dupe of the principal fraudsters, who included his uncle. However, he was found guilty, imprisoned for a year and fined £1,000.

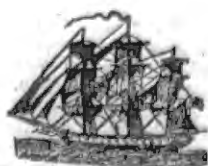
Cochrane's disgrace was completed by three further humiliations. He was struck off the Navy List, expelled from Parliament, and then cast out of the Order of the Bath by its Chapter. After midnight on 11 August, the Deputy Bath King of Arms proceeded to Westminster Abbey, where he took down Cochrane's banner from King Henry VII's Chapel and threw it down the steps. Next his spurs of knighthood were hacked from a pair of boots. The present writer claims a family link to this episode, because the Deputy Bath King of Arms was his great-great-great-great uncle, Francis Townsend.

The 'dreadful degradation' was a matter of long and bitter resentment for Cochrane, symbolising, as he claimed, the unjust loss of his honour. His repeated attempts to prove his innocence of the fraud are documented in copious letters, addresses, transcripts of trial evidence, and original newspapers.

One striking aspect of his downfall that comes out in his papers is his rapid political rebirth as his Westminster constituents immediately re-elected him their MP. On his release in 1815 he threw himself into reform politics, speaking out vigorously about the social and industrial conditions of peacetime. He was close to the radical journalist William Cobbett, who supported him in his *Weekly Political Register*. For all his aristocratic pedigree and attitude, Cochrane enjoyed support among Cobbett's readership of working class reformers across Britain, including in Scottish manufacturing towns. In a letter of 1814 one partisan from Paisley stated that although Cochrane had been stripped of honours, he retained what rulers had no power to take away, *the applause and admiration of his grateful countrymen*.

South American Hero

Among the best-documented episodes in Cochrane's story are his naval commands in South America, first in Chile and Peru, 1818-1823, and then in Brazil, 1823-1825. In 1817 Cochrane accepted an invitation from Chile to organise and command a fleet in the war of liberation from Spanish control. His favourite tactics of littoral warfare and ship captures overwhelmed the Spanish, and actions such as the storming of the forts at Valdivia and the capture of the warship *Esmeralda* heightened his reputation as a feared commander. Cochrane's papers contain copious evidence for his Chilean command: papers concerning his innovative *Rising Star*, the first sea-going steam warship, the conduct of campaigns, the minutiae of naval administration, and high-level correspondence with Chilean leaders, especially San Martín, the military commander, with whom he had a difficult relationship. As so often



*Deos por certo vos trás, porque pertende.
Algum serviço seu, por vós obrado:
Por isso só vos guaa, e vos defende
Dos inimigos, do mar, do vento irado.
Cam. Lus.*

**VIVA LORD COCHRANE,
MARQUEZ DO MARANHÃO,
HEROE BRASILEIRO.**

Eis aqui EXCELSO ALMIRANTE! O grito universal, que com entusiasmo retumba, não só nesta Capital, mas em toda a extensão do Rico, e Florecente Imperio do Brasil. O Vosso zêlo pelo nosso

Address by the Brazilian government to Lord Cochrane,
Viscount Maranhao and hero of Brazil.

Reproduced by kind permission of the National Records of Scotland, GD233/19/442

with Cochrane, differences arose over strategy, and money for many of his successful actions left unpaid. This added to his stock of grudges, and the documents which recorded them.

It was a similar story in Brazil, where his efforts as the emperor Pedro I's admiral to organise and build up the Brazilian navy are well recorded in his papers. They include voluminous letters in Portuguese, which have been calendared for ease of use. Cochrane also used his old skills of surprise, bluff and courageous aggression in a series of bold actions to oust the Portuguese from Brazil. In 1823 he was created Marquis of Maranhao as a reward for liberating that province from Portuguese control. However, as before, Cochrane's service was marred by bitter disputes over his prize money and his attacks on government corruption. These led him to quit the Emperor's service in 1825.



Star of the Order of the Cruzeiro, awarded to Lord Cochrane by the Emperor of Brazil for his defence of Brazil against the Portuguese fleet.

Currently on display as part of the exhibition, "Admiral Cochrane, the real Master and Commander", at the National Museum of Scotland.

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That year formed an interlude while he considered and began to prepare for his next foreign crusade for freedom in Greece, and concluded a bitter parting of the ways with Brazil. Part of the time was spent on a Scottish holiday, during which he and Lady Cochrane received a standing ovation in an Edinburgh theatre, a mark of his wide reputation as a hero in the cause of liberty. This scene inspired Walter Scott to some rhapsodic verse. It was also during this Scottish visit that the Cochranes were remarried, this time according to the forms of the Church of Scotland.

In 1825 Cochrane agreed to support the cause of Greek freedom from the Turks. His papers include the details of his prolonged preparations, including the construction of steam warships to serve under his command. If his part in the Greek campaigns counted for little, at least he showed a pioneering grasp of the importance of steam-powered ships, especially in operations close to shore and against sailing ships. It was typical of the setbacks in Cochrane's career that his undertakings for the Greeks broke down amid mutual recriminations, and accusations that he had broken his contract. He resigned in November 1828. It was a sorry end to his career as a fighting shipboard commander.

Later years ashore

During the 1830s and 1840s, now settled in London, Cochrane once again turned his attention to inventions and engineering. With several earlier patents to his name, his extensive correspondence in this period shows how his main interest became the development of improved steam propulsion, particularly marine steam boilers and propellers, and getting this improved technology fitted to warships to improve their sailing power and fighting capability. He invested heavily in his own designs for rotary engines, but none of the trials, first on railway locomotives, and later in the experimental vessel HMS *Janus*, succeeded. Cochrane possessed a fertile, inventive mind, but his designs were technically deficient and did not give him the satisfaction of proper performance or the consequent rewards of their being widely adopted.

From 1830, Cochrane's life and prospects had rapidly improved, with the sympathetic 'sailor king' William IV on the throne, and a Whig government in place of Wellington's hostile Tory administration.

In 1831 he succeeded to his father's earldom as the 10th Lord Dundonald, and in May 1832 was granted a free pardon and restored to the Royal Navy with the rank of Rear Admiral. However, he was not given a command because he let it be known that he would not accept one unless he was restored to the Order of the Bath. He frequently lobbied on this subject until 1847, when Queen Victoria decided to reappoint him a Knight of the Bath. The importance of this moment to Cochrane would be hard to exaggerate. It was followed in 1848 by his promotion to be Vice Admiral of the Red in command of the Royal Navy's North American and West Indian stations. For three years he carried out his duties assiduously, improving the service where he could. A study of his papers which included log books, letters, orders and charts, would shed light on how he ran his command.

Cochrane also used his position to urge government and military chiefs to adopt his war plans. As far back as 1811-12 he had formulated plans for attacks using ships to deliver explosives, act as mortar platforms, and even for sulphur gas attacks from ships. In the 1840s he revived his ideas for using poison gas, and again in the 1850s with a view to using them against Russian fortifications during the Crimean War. The service chiefs were doubtful about their efficacy, but commended Cochrane for not having divulged his secret plans to the other navies he had served, but saving them for the defence of his own country.

Cochrane's engineering and naval interests were all-absorbing, occupying much of his time and draining money which might otherwise have been spent on his family. His near-obsession contributed to his estrangement from his wife Kate by the early 1840s. Another factor was his continuing desire to seek redress for the catalogue of the wrongs done to him over his long career. Kate went to live in France, and for years Cochrane lived alone, brooding over his grievances. He died at his son's house on 31 October 1860. His widow summed up his life in 1862: *'The Hero of a Hundred Fights ... He was a Glory to the Nation in which he was born.'*

His legacy

Has his reputation as one of Scotland's greatest sons, at last begun to register in the land of his birth?

For some, Cochrane's name has long been a byword for daring successes, but it is not a household name. It is to be hoped that the exhibition about his life and times at the National Museum of Scotland, which draws attention to his extraordinary career and explores his achievements, will create a better understanding of a man who left a lasting legacy across the world.



Dr Tristram Clarke holding Admiral Lord Cochrane's silver boatswain's whistle.

Reproduced by kind permission of the National Museum of Scotland

Admiral Cochrane, the real Master and Commander

This is the title of the exhibition at the National Museum of Scotland (at Chambers Street, Edinburgh), co-curated by Dr Tristram Clarke of NRS, which will run until 19 February 2012.

It comprises "a hoard of treasures", of papers, paintings and personal possessions, delineating Cochrane's extraordinary, inspiring and sometimes controversial life and career. In conjunction with the main exhibition will be some extra events. Please see www.nms.ac.uk.

Admission free; Special Exhibition Gallery, Level 3.

January talk

Dr Clarke will be presenting a talk on Admiral Lord Thomas Cochrane, concentrating more on his family history and with reference to holdings in NRS, on Monday 23rd January 2012, at our usual venue.

Embroidering the Evidence: Sutherland family record sampler

by Naomi Tarrant

Samplers, particularly Scottish ones, can help a family historian find that elusive piece of evidence or else point out the right ancestor, as they often list the initials of members of one family and may even include both sets of grandparents.⁽¹⁾ Some girls used their samplers to record later events in their life, such as Marion Raitt, who worked a very fine piece in 1799, which is now in the collection of the National Museum of Scotland. Later she added the dates of death of her parents and her eldest daughter, information that is not recorded elsewhere. It is rare in Britain to find what are known as Family Record samplers, that is, samplers which detail the births of all the children of a particular couple, and sometimes including deaths as well. This type is more commonly found in America.

In Dunfermline Museum there is a very interesting family record sampler by a young girl of nearly 11, which is also worked with a biography of her father.⁽²⁾ She includes her paternal grandparents as well as her parents, and all her brothers' and sisters' births and their birthplaces. Most of these can be confirmed in the OPRs, although it seems, unsurprisingly for those times, that some of Jane's siblings died in infancy or childhood. The text is embroidered in one colour, blue, and as a single sentence in capital letters. There is a floral border round it.



Although Jane mentions her grandfather's occupation as a joiner she neglects to tell us what he father did. From the baptisms of his children he appears to have been a tailor. This was not a trade noted for making its members even moderately well off, as much of their work was remaking, turning and mending.⁽³⁾ However, this may explain Jane's reference to him 'clothing the naked'. The reference to 'three kingdoms' is obscure, but presumably she means Fife as the third, after Scotland and England.

Jane is much more concerned to tell us that after enduring many vicissitudes he spent the last years of his life in good works and died a member of the Temperance Society. She also indicates that Dunfermline was a good place for him to settle. It is possible that Donald Sutherland (known as Daniel in the south of the country) was a member of a more radical church than the established one, as there is a suggestion of the evangelical movement in his obituary.

The text of the sampler

Donald Sutherland son of James Sutherland Joiner and Isobell Wright born at Thurso County of Caithness 25 of December 1776 and married on Margaret Skinner at New Lanark Mills 6 of December 1796 to whom the Lord was pleased to give unto him the following children

And after my father endured the vicissitude of fortune in sojourning through the greater part of three kingdoms Providence was so kind to settle as the place of his abode the town of Dunfermline where he spent the last eight years of his valueable life in clothing the naked and died a member of the Temperance Society 2 of May 1830 and my father was dearly beloved and much regreted by his little circle of friends

Here are the names of his little family

James Sutherland born at New Lanark 24 of December 1797

Isobell Sutherland born at Thurso 13 October of 1799

Paterson Sutherland born at Thurso 17 of May 1801

John Sutherland born at New Lanark 12 of June 1803

Mary Sutherland born at New Lanark 6 of March 1805

Ebenezer Sutherland born at Newcastle on Tyne 25 of June 1807

Katharine Sutherland born at Edinburgh 21 of June 1809

Allan Sutherland born at Edinburgh 7 of May 1811

Margaret Sutherland born at Edinburgh 14 of May 1813

Barbara Sutherland born at Edinburgh 5 of April 1816

Bengamin Sutherland born at Edinburgh 13 of January 1818

Jane Sutherland born at Edinburgh 24 of May 1820

As I am the youngest of the family I finish this task on the fifth of May 1831

(See back cover)

The Temperance Movement

The Temperance Movement apparently started in America in the early years of the nineteenth century and gradually spread to Britain, becoming well established by the end of the 1830s. In his *Reminiscences of Dunfermline* Alex Stewart mentions the Temperance Society there as being founded in 1830, on 15 February, which probably means Donald Sutherland was a founder member.⁽⁴⁾ This early date also means that Dunfermline had a Temperance Society before Edinburgh (1833).

Stewart gives a flavour of the Temperance Society's meetings:

A few years ago (Penny Readings) were greatly in vogue in every city, town and village throughout Great Britain. When they were well-conducted

they were conducive of good, affording a source of instruction to old and young. It should be known, however, that Dunfermline has the honour of being the first place to introduce these pleasant entertainments. About forty-six years ago [ie c1840] a series of Saturday evening entertainments were got up there. The originators of these most attractive and useful meetings, which are now universally known and appreciated throughout the entire kingdom, were Mr Robert Anderson, in conjunction with the late Mr Robert Hay, both of them well-known and respected townsmen of Dunfermline.

They were held in the Maygate Mason's Lodge (next to the Abbot House) – admission one penny. They were under the auspices of the Dunfermline Temperance Society, which was instituted in 1830, and the crowds attracted were so great that those gatherings got the title of "The Penny Crush".

The entertainments, consisting of a short address, songs, recitations and readings by amateurs and untried young men principally, had a most beneficial tendency and were carried on with much spirit for a good while. On many occasions hundreds of people could not get into the hall for want of room. The mind's eye can yet conjure up some of the leading spirits who figured on the boards at these lively gatherings.

Memory calls up one after another, after the lapse of between forty and fifty years.

Alas, "life's fitful fever" is over with most of them; and of those who are left it may be said that they are scattered far and wide.

Amongst some of the more prominent of those who officiated were Alexander Younger, Robert Kilpatrick, Robert Walls with his "Donald and his Dog" and "Margaret and the Minister"; James Russell with his popular recitation of "The Auld Sark Sleeve"; and foremost among them all, and the leading spirit in this popular and most beneficial movement, was Robert Anderson, then in the full glow of youth and vigour.

The recital of "Wallace's Address to his Army", "Mary, the Maid of the Inn", "Tell's Speech on Liberty", "Soda Water" &c, evoked rounds of applause.'

But Jane's sampler has more significance. In the Dunfermline Museum records, information from the donor, Miss M Hutton who gave the piece in 1957, states that a daughter of Jane Sutherland married John Hutton, weaver, and a son, unmarried, made a fortune in New Zealand. A photograph of the sampler was sent to lawyers in New Zealand and used as evidence by the Hutton family when claiming his estate. Stevenson & Marshall handled the case in Scotland.⁽⁵⁾

It was, however, Jane herself who married a James Hutton in 1859 at the age of 39, the groom being 55. They had four children: William in 1862, Daniel in

1863, Margaret in 1865 and James in 1866, but it's not clear who was the one who went to New Zealand and made a fortune. However, William, Margaret and James died single in Scotland in 1947, 1955 and 1933 respectively. Any further information on this would be welcomed.

Notes

- (1) see Naomi Tarrant, 'Scottish Samplers', *Family Tree Magazine*, 18/3 (January 2002), 29-30, and Naomi Tarrant, 'Samplers made in Scotland', in *History Scotland*, May/June 2004, pp.28-34.
- (2) Inventory number 1968.58
- (3) see Stuart Maxwell, 'Two eighteenth century tailors', *Transactions of the Hawick Archaeological Society*, 1972, 3-29, for the work of small-scale tailors.
- (4) Alex Stewart, *Reminiscences of Dunfermline*, 1889.
- (5) This is not the only occasion a sampler was used in this way. According to G.A. Fothergill in a note to his article 'Notes on Scottish Samplers', *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*, 1909, [vol 43, (1908-09) pp 180-205], he said that two days before he read his paper to the Society he was handed a newspaper cutting which mentioned a speech in the House of Commons stating that a pension had been secured for an old woman who presented her sampler which proved her age. She was born in 1836, the year before general registration of births, marriages and deaths was introduced in England & Wales.

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Andrew Meikle - Civil Engineer and Millwright

by Joy Dodd



Andrew Meikle.
[By T.D. Scott, after Ruddock.]

Andrew Meikle, the East Lothian millwright, engineer and inventor, who contributed so much to the development of agriculture in the 18th century, died 200 years ago, at the age of 92, on 27th November 1811.

In his publication of 1797, *A general view on the Agriculture of East Lothian*, George Buchan Hepburn, who knew Meikle, says of him that he is

well known for his genius and skill in mechanics, by the various useful machines he has invented and given to the world.

John Smeaton, the first Civil Engineer, who also knew Meikle, was accustomed to say of him

that if he had possessed but one-half of the address of other people, he would have rivalled all his contemporaries, and stood forth as one of the finest mechanical engineers in the kingdom.

His background

Andrew Meikle is said to have come from a long line of ingenious men, but this has been difficult to confirm.

A John Meikle, son of John Meikle, burgess of Musselburgh, was apprenticed to George Anderson, copper smith in Edinburgh on 26th Oct 1664. He produced his essay piece before the Deacon and Master of the Incorporation of Hammermen on 7th September 1671. Soon after he was chosen master of his craft and in 1681 elected Deacon of the Incorporation. He worked at the Edinburgh Foundry and was known for making bells and armaments. His most notable work was the casting of a carillon of 15 bells for St Giles in Edinburgh about 1698–99. One can be found in a frame in St Giles today.

However no direct connection can be made between him and Andrew's father, James Meikle.

Although John Meikle married and had children, there is no son James recorded. Furthermore, in his notebook James Meikle (Andrew's father) mentions payments to his father and mother in 1716, many years after the death of John.

James Meikle

Andrew's father was probably born about 1672, as his gravestone inscription gives his age as 55 when he died. What we don't yet know are the names of his parents.

On 20th June 1696 at Humble he married Janet Allen, daughter of Robert Allen, and the baptism of their daughter Janet is recorded on the 29th June, 9 days later.

Following his career until he is found in 1710 working at Wester Keith as a millwright has not been successful. The Crown and Hammer on his gravestone tells us that he was a Hammerman. In the Hammermen records of Edinburgh a James Meikle is booked journeyman to Thomas Brown, locksmith, on 10th November 1704. However nothing confirms that this is the same James.

Fletcher of Saltoun

The estate of Saltoun was bought by Sir Andrew Fletcher of Innerpeffer in 1643. His elder son Andrew was born in 1655 and inherited Saltoun in 1664. Andrew and his brother Henry were educated by Gilbert Burnet who became Minister of Saltoun and later Bishop of Salisbury.

Andrew Fletcher was known as the Patriot, and played a key role in opposing the Union of Parliaments in 1707. At the same time, with much help from his brother Henry and his brother's wife Margaret Carnegie, he was developing his estate of Saltoun in Haddingtonshire.

In 1710 Andrew Fletcher was exiled in the Netherlands, and having observed Dutch methods of agriculture and machinery used there for removing husks from barley, asked Henry to send James Meikle, then working at Wester Keith, to learn these methods. An agreement was drawn up to protect his wife and children should he not return safely. While there James learnt "the whole art and secret of bleaching" and how the Dutch removed husks from the barley before milling could begin. James returned with a winnowing machine (commonly called a pair of fanners) and the iron work needed for shealing barley, and the Barley Mill at Saltoun was built, the first of its kind in the country. So closely guarded were the secrets of this mill that Margaret Carnegie kept its keys. When the mill was completed James Meikle was appointed master of the Barley Mill.

In 1715 James Meikle went again to Holland, this time accompanying Margaret Carnegie, prior to setting up as makers of Holland cloth.

Andrew Meikle's early years

Andrew Meikle was born at Saltoun Barley Mill on 5th May 1719, the youngest known child of James Meikle and Janet Allan. James Meikle died on 27th November 1727 when Andrew was only 8 years old. He was too young to have learnt much from his father, although he would have grown up around the mill and its workshops.

AD 19.
May 10

James Meikle in the Barley mill and bannet
 at an his spouse had a son born on Tuesday at
 eleven a'clock in the forenoon the said infant
 baptised the above written day named Andrew
 witness Thomas Fletcher and William Bartleman

Andrew Meikle baptism record

Reproduced by kind permission of the Registrar-General for Scotland

At this point another member of the family comes into the story, Robert Meikle, whose date of birth is unknown as is also his exact relationship to James and Andrew. The gap in our knowledge of James Meikle's movements between 1696 and 1710, when several children could have been born, make it possible that Robert could be a son.

Part of the agreement between Henry Fletcher, brother to the Laird of Salton, and James Meikle says

That if it shall happen, that the said James Meikle shall die abroad in this voyage, then Salton shall be obliged to give his wife and children 100 merks.

We do know that Janet Allen's father was Robert Allen and so a son named after him is likely. Robert seems to have been connected with the Barley Mill after James's death and although he did work all over Scotland and for a time lived in Falkirk, it was at the Barley Mill that he died in 1780. As yet we have not found evidence of Andrew Meikle serving an apprenticeship, or becoming a member of any Trades Incorporation. It may have been through working with Robert that Andrew learnt some of the varied skills necessary to become a millwright. In 1734 Robert is found in Glasgow, "a stranger millwright", skilled in iron-rolling, slitting machinery, and with a knowledge of surveying and model making. During the 1740s he produced plans and models of a number of mills for the Duke of Argyll. From 1747 to 1768 Robert and Andrew worked together on many projects in connection with the textile industry.

In 1746 Lord Milton, son and heir of Henry Fletcher, and a founder of the British Linen Company, began building an extensive linen bleaching field and works at Saltoun. His company wanted to reduce the cost of bleaching Scottish linen so as to be able to combat the import of cheaper Irish and German linen to the main Glasgow and London markets. Durie, writing in 1976, states "that the famed Meikle brothers were paid to make a trip to Perth to view the bleaching field there".

In 1750 both men were sent together to England by the Board of Trustees for

Manufactures in Scotland to look at waulkmill machinery and later were paid £20 for taking on apprentices.

They also carried out surveys for the Forfeited Estates Commission. Robert was also connected with a number of engineering projects – a joint survey with James Watt for the proposed Forth Clyde canal, engines for Port Glasgow dry dock (1768), a scheme for deepening the Clyde (1778) and additions to the old Glasgow bridge (1779). Robert seems to have been a skilled and successful engineer, whose work has been overshadowed by that of Andrew.

The move to Houston Mill

The surviving pocket day-book of Andrew Meikle (held in the National Records of Scotland) suggests that

it was about 1749 that he set up his own business. He moved to Houston Waulkmill on the Tyne at East Linton, an ideal site for a millwright's business. The post road between Edinburgh and London crossed the Tyne nearby, and the mill being just east of the Lynne cascade provided a good potential source of energy. In the mid 18th century Houston Mill, with its mill house, yards, infield and pasture, lay within the estate of Phantassie and was



Houston Mill.

[By E. M. Wimperis, after a Drawing by J. S. Smiles.]

farmed by James Rennie, tenant of the Earl of Aberdeen. Historically it was part of the Friary lands of the Red Friars, whose monastery was founded in the 13th century.

In 1752 he married Marion Merrilees, daughter of George Merrilees, tenant in West Saltoun, the banns being called in both parishes. They went on to have six sons and two daughters, who all survived into adulthood.

Having established himself in the parish, he was made an elder of Prestonkirk on 29th July 1753 and the Kirk Session minutes regularly record him collecting at the church door.

Tax records indicate that Andrew Meikle paid House Duty of 1/- a year for the West mill at Prestonkirk from 1758 to 1769. This also indicates that the millhouse had fewer than 7 windows, as Window Tax (first introduced in Scotland in 1748) was payable only on houses with 7 or more windows.

Looking at the house today there are indications that it was once a single-storey building.

The Rennies

James Rennie, tenant of the Earl of Aberdeen, came to Phantassie, in the parish of Prestonkirk in 1742. Like Andrew Meikle he was born in 1719, and was the second son of George Rennie, a slater in Prestonpans, and his wife Marion Brownfield from the parish of Whitekirk. His first son George was born in 1749 and his youngest son John, who became the famous civil engineer, in 1761. James Rennie died at the age of 47 in 1766, when John was only 5 years old.

John Rennie passed through Meikle's workshop daily on his way to school, spending many hours using the tools, making models and learning the many skills of a Millwright. When he left school in 1773 aged 12 he went to work with Meikle, beginning an apprenticeship.

Following a spell at Dunbar Mathematical School, John Rennie returned to work for Meikle, working for him as a journeyman and also on jobs of his own, until he went to further his education at Edinburgh University. Between his studies he is said to have built the northern mill at Knowes.

Andrew Meikle's working life

In the period from 1750 both Andrew and Robert seem to have been working on mills to do with the fulling of cloth. In 1752 he is unable to complete Garvaldfoot Waulkmill because of 'throng of work'.

In 1762 Andrew was made a burghess of Haddington for services he had done to the burgh concerning their town mills.

In 1768 a machine for dressing and cleansing corn was invented by Andrew Meikle, Millwright, and Robert Meikle, Engineer, and a patent was taken out, Patent no 896

Both Andrew and Robert were paid by the Board of Trustees for Manufactures to take on apprentices from 1752. His day book for 1749 to 1756 records several major building jobs, when his team of 5 or 6 men were committed to working, mainly through the winter months. Repairs or maintenance to mills could be entrusted to two or three experienced workmen. Journeymen millwrights could thus gain further experience before setting up their own businesses.

His most noted apprentice was of course John Rennie, and it must have given great pleasure to Andrew Meikle to hear of the success of his protégée.

Knowes Mill

In 1769 Andrew moved his residence from Houston Mill to Knowes Mill in the neighbouring parish off Whitekirk, though he may have kept part of his business at Houston mill. No one paid duty there after he left.

From the Window Tax records mentioned earlier, the last entry for payment of house duty for Houston Mill is in 1769. In 1770 Andrew pays window tax for Knowes Mill. From 1771 to 1786 he pays 14 pence annually for 7 windows, after this the house must have been altered or rebuilt as he pays 6/- for 9 windows until 1799, when the records change.

The timing of this move is confirmed, as he ceased to be an elder at Prestonkirk, no longer being resident in the parish.

Knowes Mill was a corn mill, on another ancient site, and the mill was nearer to the river Tyne than the mill ruins that can be seen today. William Forrest's map of 1799 shows 2 mills at Knowes. The southern one, which must have been the only mill when Meikle went there, has totally disappeared. He became at this time the resident miller for the Tynninghame estate.

What we do not know for sure is why Andrew moved from Houston Mill. Maybe he wanted to expand his business and needed more workshops. Some references to his work locate him as still at Houston Mill after we know he is living at Knowes. So he may have worked both mills with help from his growing family and apprentices. A corn mill and a wauk mill would have given his work force a varied experience.

Although working with water mills was part of his daily life, his pocket daybook, shows detailed estimates for building windmills, an indication of the continuing use of wind power, where water was unavailable.

Meikle Family Tree

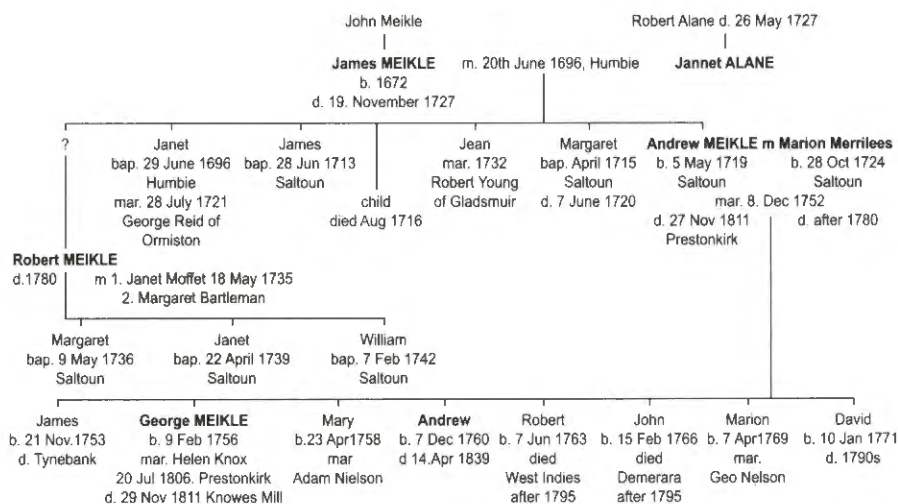


Fig. 2. Ref. OPR for Humbie, Saltoun and Prestonkirk.

There are still many stone towers of former windmills in East Lothian, the sails of early windmills being a grid of timber frames supporting a canvas sail. These sails each had three ropes attached for reefing, and each sail had to be adjusted individually, thus were liable to cause serious accidents in sudden gales or shift in the direction of the wind.

In 1772 Andrew Meikle invented a completely new kind of sail. Its surface comprised canvas-covered wooden frames in bays of three or four, each 'shutter' pivoted near the outer edge and held closed by a crank onto a wooden control bar attached to an adjustable spring at the inner edge of each sail.

Any gust of wind might overcome the selected degree of resistance of the four springs and allow the shutters to open, "spilling the wind", but closing again to resume working once the wind had died down. This safer design of windmill can be seen on preserved windmills in England today.

Family

Andrew Meikle and Marion Merrilies had 8 children, six sons and 2 daughters. The sons were: James born 1753; George born 1756; Andrew born 1760; Robert born 1763; John born 1766 and David born 1771. All followed their father in becoming millwrights, serving their apprenticeships at Houston and Knowes mills.

Robert and John went to Grenada, West Indies, where their knowledge of machinery and windmills was invaluable to the sugar industry. They survived the Fedon rebellion of 1795/96, following which John moved to Demerara where he built 4 windmills before his death, sometime before 1801.

James the eldest son, died at Tynebank, Haddington, at an unknown date.

David, the youngest son, had planned to join his brothers in Grenada, but died as he was about to set off.

Andrew the third son seems to have continued to work at either Houston Mill or Knowes Mill with his father. He died at Knowes Mill in 1837.

It was George Meikle, the second son, who proved to be the most talented engineer and worked closely with his father on many projects including the famous Thrashing Machine. For a time he was based in Alloa and working independently. There he worked on Alloa Burgh Mills in 1790, before working on Lanark Burgh Mill in 1795. In 1787 he had suggested a invention of his father's for draining the Blair Drummond Moss; a newly-contrived wheel 28 feet in diameter and 10 feet broad, for raising water in a simple, economical and powerful manner at the rate of from 40 – 60 hogsheads a minute. In the early 1800s he seems then to have moved to Knowes Mill, his father moving back to Houston Mill.

The 'Thrashing Machine'

The increasingly greater amounts of grain being grown by the later 1700s

made farmers more and more dissatisfied with the procedural bottleneck of preparatory work. In the months following harvest, teams of 'barnsmen' would laboriously separate the grain from the straw by beating on a threshing floor with hand-held flails. The process bruised much of the grain and involved considerable losses.

In 1768 Andrew Meikle had taken out a patent, jointly with Robert Meikle, for a machine to dress and clean grain. This machine efficiently prepared the grain once it had been separated from the straw, but it did not address the larger problem.

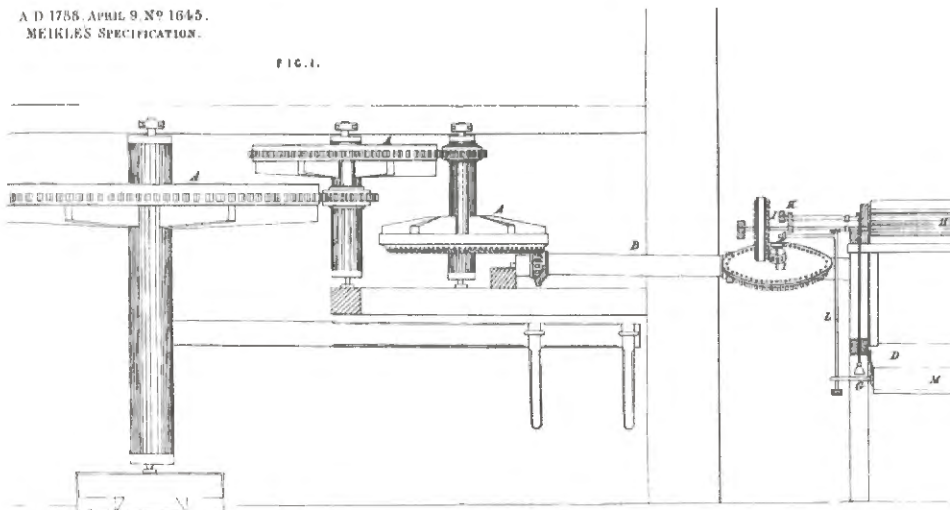
Experimental machines, hopefully intended for separating various kinds of grain from their straw, were erected, especially in the Borders, the Central Lowlands and the northern counties of England, which all had in common a short growing season.

Mr (later Sir) Francis Kinloch of Gilmerton, East Lothian, had seen the potential of some of these machines while travelling in Northumberland. He had a model made in which a drum was mounted with four pieces of fluted wood, working upon springs and pressing with force upon the corn. He is said to have consulted Andrew Meikle on this and the completed model was sent to Knowes Mill to be tried with the power of the water wheel. Sadly, when set to work it was driven into pieces in a few minutes. The same fate befell a larger machine that Mr Kinloch later made for one of his tenants.

This will have all have directed the ingenious mind of Andrew Meikle on ways to improve on these earlier attempts. His first attempt in 1778 at his works at

A D 1755. APRIL 9. N^o 1645.
MEIKLE'S SPECIFICATION.

FIG. 1.



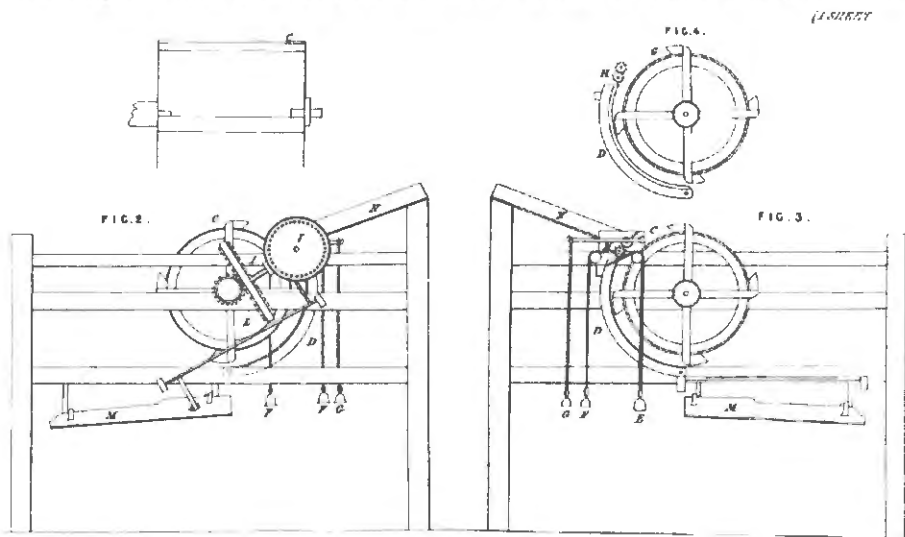
The engraved drawing is partly coloured.

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Knowes was into the usefulness of a system with a beam with five flails fixed on each side, striking on two platforms, on which sheaves of corn were spread, all activated by water power through a crank. An invited jury of five improving tenant farmers, including George Rennie of Phantassie, signed a memorandum to record that the machine, with just one attendant, could do more work and separate more grain, than could a man by handthreshing, and by its use the saving must be considerable. However Meikle could see a weakness in the machine and decided not to proceed with it.

By 1784 Andrew Meikle was 65 years old and working closely with George, his second son, then based at Alloa; and the two kept in touch by written correspondence. With experience gathered from all these earlier attempts at making threshing machines, Andrew and George came up with the following proposition: that if the sheaves could be fed through gripping rollers into a horizontal drum with a close-fitting breastwork (instead of one with a fluted surface) revolving at a much greater speed than usual, then the positioning of short fixed scutchers could make the swollen heads of any type of corn virtually explode into a rain of grain and chaff, to drop down and be further separated and cleaned by sieves and fanners below. The crucial technical problem was to gear up the speed of rotation from the first large toothed-gear-wheel driven directly by the power source (animals, wind or water), so that a far greater rotative speed could be delivered to the threshing drum.

George Meikle had the opportunity to build the first full-scale machine in 1787 for Mr James Stein of Kilbeggie in Clackmannanshire. He was the owner of a distillery and was unable to obtain sufficient men to thresh enough corn for



his numerous cattle. It was stipulated in the agreement that Mr Stein would furnish the wood, and that if the machine did not answer the intended purpose, no payment should be given to Mr Meikle. It proved successful, remaining in use for many years.

In the same year a horse-driven machine was erected for George Rennie at Phantassie, in the west range of the farm courtyard, with its new horse mill jutting out into the stackyard on the west. Later Mr Rennie built a large windmill to drive the machine.

In 1788 a patent (No 1645) was taken out in England, for 14 years, in Andrew Meikle's name, with drawings by his son David, for "A Machine for separating Corn from Straw".

An advertisement appeared in the *Edinburgh Advertiser* on 13th Feb 1789 and in the *Scots Magazine*.

Gentlemen may either erect the machine themselves, upon a plan furnished by the inventors, or contract with them for the whole at a fixed price.

Once the Meikles had evolved their formula for an efficient drum threshing machine, their invention sprang up all over the country. The machines spread across Britain and Europe in a surprisingly short time. It was estimated that the cost of machine-threshing was very much cheaper than threshing by flail, and it was calculated that the use of the machine saved the five per cent of the crop normally lost by hand-threshing.

Smiles, writing in 1874, states, "During the course of the patent, that is until 1808, there were about 350 thrashing machine erected in East Lothian alone". By 1845 each farm in the county had 'a thrashing machine, of which about 80 are driven by steam, 7 by wind, 30 by water, and the rest [269] by horses'.

The 1788 patent drawings show a cumbersome wooden gear-train to achieve the triple acceleration. This took up much space in the horse engine house, which needed to be a full two storeys high and have extra space for the gears between the horse-gin and the barn wall. A high rectangular building resulted. The Meikles must have radically reappraised this part of the patent and quickly decided that iron gearing could be designed to nest in a minimal space beside the box of the machine. This became a standard part of the machine within the barn. In this way the horse mill needed only to protect the horse-gin and horses with a close fit, either circular or octagonal, with open sides to disperse the heat from the horses. The upright shaft around which the horses laboured carried a large-diameter gear that drove a small gear on the shaft passing through the barn wall to the new iron gearing. The gearing of the horse-gin was arranged between two parallel wooden beams which also served to restrain any spreading of the steep pyramidal or conical roof. The number of persons requisite for attending the mill when working is six:

AGRICULTURE.
TO THE FARMERS OF GREAT BRITAIN.

THERE is now offered, a new machine for threshing corn, invented, and lately brought to perfection, by Messrs. ANDREW and GEORGE MEIKLE, engineers.

The construction of this machine has been attended with much application, labour, and expence. The invention has not been offered to the public till repeated trials have established the certainty and perfection of its operations.

It is a species of MILL, capable of being worked by two horses, or any power of wind or water equal to that force. The work performed is twenty-four bushels of barley or oats per hour – wheat and other grain in proportion. The corn is not only separated completely from the straw, but made ready for market, by being riddled and cleaned from the chaff. No attendance is needed but that of three men, women, or boys; one to feed the mill, one to hand up the corn to the feeder, and another to remove the straw, with a boy (if necessary) to drive the horses.

It is needless to institute a comparison between this, and the expence of common threshing and cleaning – every person interested in the subject will do it for himself.

The expence is, besides, greatly lessened, by savings arising from the perfect clearing of the straw. This is computed by the best judges to be, upon an average, between three and four bushels per acre. Any common barn will admit of the erection of the machine, as it requires only an area of *ten feet square*.

The first complete one answered so well, in point of expedition and effect, that the proprietor declared he would not take a present of common threshing by the flail.

His Majesty's Patent is obtained, in order to secure the advantage to the inventors: of which notice is hereby given to all whom it may concern.

Gentlemen may either erect the machine themselves, upon a plan furnished by the inventors; or contract with them for the whole at a fixed price.

Application to Andrew Meikle, at Knowsmill, by Dunbar, or George Meikle, at Alloa, will be answered with care and expedition.

Advertisement in *The Edinburgh Advertiser*, 13 February 1789

one person drives the horses, a second hands the sheaves to a third who unties them, while a fourth spreads them on the inclined boards and presses them gently between the rollers; a fifth person is necessary to riddle the corn as it falls from the fanners; and a sixth removes the straw.

The addition of compact iron gearing to the standard Meikle threshing machine simplified its use with both water and wind power, as no extra space for gearing was required.

Thomas Telford writing in 1796-98 about Meikle's machine says,

The advantages of this machine are many. As the drum makes 300 revolutions in a minute, the four scutchers make together 1200 strokes in the same space of time. For such a power and velocity it is evident that much work must be performed.

Once word emerged that the patent had been granted, and with knowledge of the premium awarded by the Board of Trustees, the general esteem in which Andrew Meikle and his sons were held was changed overnight into a widespread irritation among the many other inventors of all types of threshing machine. In particular, Mr Francis Kinloch claimed that aspects of his machines had been stolen by the Meikles and incorporated into the perfected machine.

Francis Kinloch, to give him his due, even after the Meikles' success and patent, continued to make many attempts to design a thrashing machine, but all of them failed. The last attempt was in 1790 and no further attempts are known. He had his supporters, however, and after his unfortunate death in 1795 (he was murdered in his own house by his deranged brother Archibald), they continued to claim that he had invented the thrashing machine.

Litigation was mooted. It also became clear that the invention was the subject of unauthorised copying and that the Meikles were not to reap the hoped-for benefits of their invention. Although he had a patent, he seems not to have enforced it, and the Meikles did not profit from their work. Genius inventors are not necessarily good business men!

A lawyer's instruction to George Meikle, dated 30 March 1799, shows that all the main figures involved in its evolution were to be interviewed, and a model with explanations was to be gathered with which to brief their advocate.

This may have been a preliminary stage to a case before the Court of Session in 1805, at which Andrew Meikle was advised by his advocate not to continue the case when it emerged that the prototype horse-powered machine at Phantassie had not been erected as a normal commercial transaction.

The debate between Meikle's opponents and his supporters (the latter chiefly led by George Rennie and Robert Brown) transferred to the pages of the *Farmer's Magazine* following its founding in 1800, and was still active after Meikle's death 11 years later. An anonymous supporter of Sir Francis Kinloch had a pamphlet published in 1811, which inspired George Rennie to write a

long and detailed letter in support of his friend, which sadly was published in the same issue of *Farmer's Magazine* as was Andrew Meikle's obituary.

This debate was raised again in the 1860s when a series of letters, prompted by a chance remark by Sir Alexander Kinloch at a dinner, tried again to name Sir Francis Kinloch as the inventor of the Thrashing Machine. After some correspondence, a letter from someone in East Linton, that included George Rennie's letter of 1811, was published in the *Courier* on 15 February 1861. Nothing further is mentioned.

The ambivalent attitude in modern Scotland to the reputation of the true inventor of the drum threshing machine seems to be due to the continuing memory of this divisive and partial debate.

An interesting sidelight on Meikle's attitude to the unexpected furore is that around 1798 he offered to let the Board of Agriculture purchase the rights of the patent from him. Sir John Sinclair, the board's president, wrote back regretting that it was not in the Board's power to give that assistance 'which we should be glad to do to a person of your ingenuity and talents'.

Later years

By 1809 Andrew Meikle was 90 years old, and in that year Mr Dempster, M.P., wrote to Sir John Sinclair as President of the Board of Agriculture saying,

Should you tour in East Lothian procure a suitable reward to the inventor of the threshing machine, it will rebound much to your and the country's honour; our heathen ancestors would have assigned a place in heaven to Mr Meikle.

On 23 February 1810 Sir John Sinclair wrote from London to the *Farmer's Magazine*, enclosing a letter he had written to the Earl of Haddington, sent from Edinburgh on 7 December 1806.

My Lord

In the course of some excursions which I have been induced to make, for the purpose of examining the system of husbandry adopted in some of the most improved districts of Scotland, I have found a very general wish expressed, to concur in a sentiment which I understand has been long entertained in the county of East Lothian, that of manifesting, by some public mark of attention, the sense so generally entertained of the services performed by Mr. Andrew Meikle to the agriculture of these Kingdoms.

At a meeting in Haddington on 26 December 1809, it was resolved to open a subscription among proprietors and farmers for rewarding Andrew Meikle. The committee added that its

object in the first place is to secure a comfortable provision for Mr Meikle, and such members of his family as may remain unprovided for; and in the event of sufficient funds being procured, to erect a statue or monument in the Corn Market of Haddington, or some other public place, in commemoration of the merits of Mr Meikle, and the obligation which Agriculturalists are under to that gentleman.

The latter was never done.

By November 1810 a total of £1428 had been subscribed. Nearly every farmer in East Lothian subscribed, the lists of subscribers being published in the *Farmers Magazine*.

Andrew Meikle must have been heartened by the publication of the lists, because they demonstrated the extent and the quality of informed public opinion in favour of his claim to have originated the drum thrashing machine. The subscription was closed in 1811, but the business of setting up a trust seems to have taken time so the family must have still been looking forward to the benefits when Andrew Meikle died. Fortunately in 1810 Andrew had been left £150 Sterling by John Mirrylees of Upper Bolton, probably a relative of his late wife, which would have helped to support him.

Andrew Meikle died at Houston Mill, in the care of his son Andrew and youngest daughter Marion, on the 27th November 1811, aged 92, and was buried in the churchyard at Prestonkirk. Two days after his death, his son George Meikle passed away at Knowes Mill, aged 55. Robert Brown published obituaries to them both in the December edition of the *Farmers Magazine*.

The long-ish obituary to Andrew detailing his deeds, concludes:-

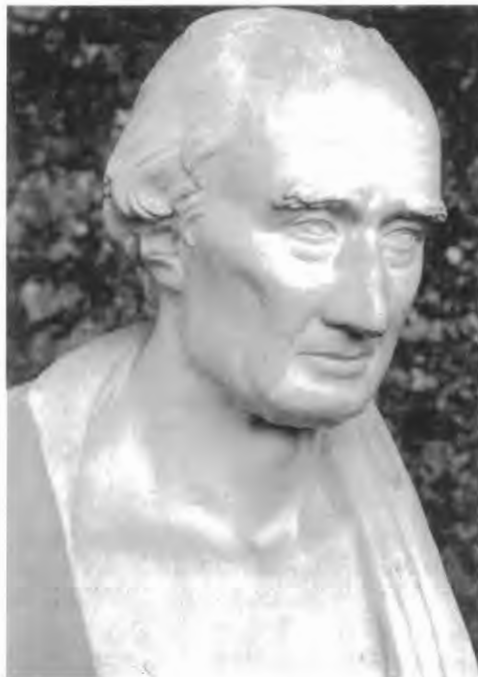
To give a character of Mr Meikle would far exceed the small space of this Number which remains unoccupied. Suffice it to say, that his disposition was modest, gentle, and unassuming. His genius was great, and of an original cast; though, in the presence of strangers, from an invincible modesty, it could hardly be discovered. ...He had some enemies; but their hostility to him was amply compensated by the steady attachment of a numerous body of friends — who, justly considered the agricultural interest of the country to be highly benefited by his talents and exertions, constantly favoured him with their support and countenance.

The shorter obituary to George Meikle followed, mentioning Alloa and repeating the tale of the draining of Blairdrummond Moss by means of George's giant waterwheel, and the compliment paid to this by Robert Whitworth, the English engineer, that it was greatly superior to the machine recommended by himself. It ended:

Mr George Meikle was married; but has not left any children; — of course, the subscriptions obtained for rewarding his father, on account

of the Drum Thrashing Machine, will be appropriated to his brother and sister— the only remaining members of the family.

An added irony is that, as mentioned earlier, the splendid defensive letter by George Rennie appeared in the same edition as the obituaries, so that Andrew Meikle may never have had the chance to read it in print. At the hour of his death, this man of invention, who had 'rendered to the agriculturists of Britain, and of other nations, a more beneficial service, than any hitherto recorded in the annals of ancient or modern science', possessed, as recorded in his testament, the princely sum of five pounds Sterling.



Bust of Andrew Meikle by George Rennie,
East Lothian Museum Service.
Photograph courtesy of William Dodd

His memory is recorded on the fine epitaph written by George Rennie and carved on his gravestone.

At some date between 1828 and 1837, George Rennie, the sculptor and politician, son of George Rennie of Phantassie, Meikle's friend and neighbour, exhibited busts of Meikle and of his uncle, John Rennie, at the Royal Academy. The former is today in the care of East Lothian Museums Service.

What should be remembered is that although many people had tried to develop a machine to thresh corn from straw, using various different methods, they had for various reasons all failed. The Meikles' machine, using scutchers and velocity, although based on some earlier inventions, was the invention that proved successful. For that, the farmers of today should hold him in great respect.

He was an exceptional man of great talent whose inventive genius made such a huge contribution to agriculture.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on Monday 20th February 2012. After the customary business, a little light entertainment will be offered in the form of a talk by Ken Nisbet, "Nairn".

The Danielstouns of Linlithgow and Edinburgh

by John P. Ravilious

The Danielstouns of that Ilk were a well-known family, once regarded in error as ancestral to Elizabeth Mure, first wife of Robert II, King of Scots. The senior line died out in 1397, with the representation devolving on the Danielstouns or Dennistouns of Colgrain, co. Dumbarton, descendants of a younger son of Sir John Danielstoun (d. after 1378) and his wife Mary Stewart, illegitimate daughter of Robert II.^[1]

Probably the best known member of this branch of the family was James Dennistoun (d. 1855), the noted author and antiquary.^[2] There were however numerous descendants who have received little to no recognition, and whose relationship to one another has been

virtually unknown. The following is the history of one branch of this family, the Danielstouns of Linlithgow and Edinburgh.^[3]

Robert Danielstoun, the first identified member of this family, was either a younger son or near kinsman of Danielstoun of Colgrain as indicated by the arms of his descendants, including his daughter Katherine.^[4]

The earliest record found to date names him as one of the 'providis viris' in



James Dennistoun's gravestone
in Greyfriars Kirkyard, Edinburgh

an instrument of sasine dated at Linlithgow on 13 March 1499/1500.^[5] Whether through his own efforts or by marriage or inheritance, he was able to acquire lands in and around Linlithgow from John Scott and his wife Elizabeth Goodswain in late 1505 amounting to 5 acres or more, including half of Barons Hill ('Bernishill') then held of the Abbot of Holyrood.^[6] Robert was one of the bailies of Linlithgow by the following March, when 'Robert Danzelstoun, bailie of Lithqw' sealed an agreement to enfeoff Sir Henry Mitchell, chaplain, with the altar of All Hallows.^[7] He is recorded in the later stages of his life as a customs collector for the burgh of Linlithgow: together with James Robison and later Nicholas Crawford of Oxcang. The accounts of 'Roberti Danyelstoune, customarii de Linlithqw' were rendered at Edinburgh were rendered on 4 July 1508, 10 July 1511, 14 July 1512 and 6 July 1513.^[8] He had one known wife, Ellen Kincaid, with whom he had a charter from William Knollis, preceptor of Torphichen, of a Temple tenement in Linlithgow on 7 August 1507.^[9] He had died some time before 5 August 1525, when Nicholas Crawford of Oxcang rendered his account at Edinburgh and referred to actions by the late Robert Danzelstoune, burgess of Linlithgow.^[10]

Robert has been identified as the father of John Danielstoun, rector of Dysart, and his siblings based on the apparent inheritance by John of the lands held by Robert of the abbot of Holyrood in Barons Hill, and his brother William's tenure of lands in Barons Hill before 1542.^[11] The question of which of the issue of Robert was the eldest is a matter of conjecture, but we can identify a daughter Katherine and three sons (John; Robert, his successor at Dysart; and William). Katherine Danielstoun was the wife of David Halket or Halkheid of Bonyntoun (d. after 7 April 1545) by whom she had a daughter Agnes and a son George.

After David's death, she married Peter Cornwall of Bonhard, whose son and heir Nicholas Cornwall married her daughter Agnes Halkheid.^[12] Through the issue of Agnes Halkheid, Katherine Danielstoun is the ancestress of the later Cornwall lairds of Bonhard, the Setons of Abercorn (later Baronets of Nova Scotia) and others. George Halket was Conservator of Scottish Privileges in the Low Countries, the administrator charged with overseeing the rights and claims of Scots merchants engaged in commerce there. Upon his death ca. 1587 there was a brief contest concerning his replacement: the choice of King James VI fell upon George's cousin, Sir Robert Danielstoun of Montjoy, about whom more is presented below.^[13]

Katherine's brother John Danielstoun had a notable clerical and administrative career in the service of King James V. John held the prebend of Balmaclellan in the Chapel Royal of Stirling, but was promoted following King James V's writing to the Pope on 28 March 1531 seeking the nomination of 'the King's wellbeloved clerk John Denneiston' to the rectory of Dysart.^[14] He had a grant of 114 acres in and around Linlithgow, including Langcroft, Montjoy, Youngers Hill and part of Barons Hill, regarding which an instrument of sasine was

executed on 17 January 1535/6.^[15] Following the death of John Chisholm in 1542, John Danielstoun was put forward as King James V's choice to succeed him as archdeacon of Dunblane. He went in person to Rome at some expense to secure the appointment, but in his absence others sought the office. The young Queen Mary, likely at the direction of her overseer the Earl of Arran, wrote to Cardinal Carpi on 19 April 1543, asking for his assistance in securing the appointment from the Pope, which was successful.^[16] 'John Dannelstoun, archdeacon of Dunblane' was the beneficiary of a renunciation on 5 October 1543 by James Hamilton of Mandestoun of title to certain properties in Linlithgow.^[17] He was one of the auditors of the Accounts of the Treasurer together with Thomas Bellenden the Justice Clerk in October 1546 [18], and is identified as holding the "session" signet.^[19]

John Danielstoun was evidently an educated man and bibliophile as evidenced by the collections of Trinity College (Cambridge), where there is a volume of the Aeneid translated by Gawain Douglas, bishop of Dunkeld (d. 1522) inscribed "Iohannes Danyelston Rector a Dysert".^[20] He died sometime in 1547, when his brother Robert replaced him as rector at Dysart and Neil Laing, clerk in the secretary's office, succeeded as keeper of the signet.^[21]

Robert Danielstoun was probably the first Protestant rector of Dysart. There was a dispute with George Strachan, vicar of Dysart, in 1552 concerning the rights and responsibilities of each. Robert was the godfather of Marion Bannatyne, a sister of George Bannatyne, in 1551, and a witness to an instrument concerning arrangements for the marriage of his niece Agnes Cockburn to James Hamilton in 1563.^[22]

Robert Danielstoun appears to have also been a learned man. A copy of Ptolemy's Geography in the College Library of St. Andrew's bore the inscription, 'This book belongs to Robert Danielstone rector of Dysart and his friends – John Stevenson preceptor of Glasgow'.^[23]

It should be noted that both John Danielstoun (d. 1547) and his brother Robert left illegitimate issue. John had two sons, John and James, and two daughters, Elizabeth and Jonet; Robert had a son Robert and a daughter Marjory. These children were subsequently legitimated, probably at the instance of Robert Danielstoun the rector, between 18 September 1548 and 2 March 1553/4.^[24]



Elizabeth, 'daughter of quondam Mr. John Danielstoun rector of Dysart', was legitimated on 18 September 1548, and she was likely the wife of Neil Laing, clerk in the secretary's office and successor of her father as Keeper of the Signet.^[25] Elizabeth married Laing sometime after 12 December 1548, and is noted as the godmother of Henry, brother of George Bannatyne who was born on 13 January 1561.^[26] Neil Laing and Elizabeth Danielstoun resided in the house on High Street in Edinburgh subsequently known as Tweeddale House.^[27] Laing was in the

process of building his house at the time of the siege of Edinburgh: in order to build a new gate inside the Netherbow Port and reinforce the walls, an order was issued in August 1571 to seize building materials including '...als all stanis and lyme gadderit be Neil Layng to big his hous with'. The house was eventually built, and has had an interesting list of subsequent owners. The initials NL and ED were inscribed on a lintel, still part of the modern structure.^[28]



William Danielstoun was the layman of the three Danielstoun brothers, and heir (in his issue) of his brother John.^[29] William was a burghess of Linlithgow before 21 September 1540, when he had a charter from James Cockburn of Langton of Loch Mill, the mill of the barony of Carriden.^[30] Closely involved with the maintenance of the burgh and palace of Linlithgow, William replaced Sir Thomas Johnston as Keeper of the Palace in August 1541.^[31] He held lands in Pardovan and Barons Hill by 6 December 1542, when he had a further grant of 9 acres in the vicinity of Linlithgow.^[32] He was living as late as 29 December 1546 when he witnessed an official protest by Alexander Baird, but died less than a year later. On 5 November 1547, an inquisition was held in Linlithgow that found that 'quondam' William Danyelstoun, burghess of Linlithgow died in legal possession of 9 acres of lands lying in and around Linlithgow (the same which he had acquired in 1542), and that he was the father of James.^[33]

In addition to his son and heir James, William Danielstoun also had a daughter Elizabeth, the second wife of Patrick Cockburn of Clerkington. She was the mother of his younger son Thomas, and of Agnes Cockburn, wife of James Hamilton of Livingston (son of James Hamilton of Kincavil).^[34] She may have maintained adherence to Roman Catholicism even following the establishment of the Protestant faith in Scotland. There is a Book of Hours in the British Museum identified as hers, bearing the inscription, "This buik pertenis to ye honorable Elizabeth Danielstoun ladie of Clarkington, 1577".^[35]

James Danielstoun had sasine of his father's lands on 9 Nov 1547.^[36] He was a burghess of Linlithgow, and one of the baillies of the burgh when on 3 Jun 1549 he gave sasine of a tenement in Linlithgow 'by delivery of earth and stone' to John Hoge, son and heir of the deceased burghess John Hoge.^[37] 'Jas. Dennlistoun burghess of the same [Linlithqw]' was a member of assize on 10 June 1550, and he subsequently had sasine of lands in Loch Mill 'as heir to his father, the late William Dennistoun' on 11 March 1550/1, by which time he was provost of the burgh of Linlithgow.^[38] James married Margaret Bellenden, a daughter of Thomas Bellenden of Caldercleir and Auchinoull, Justice Clerk (d. 1547) by his wife Agnes Forrester, and sister of the noted Sir John Bellenden of Auchinoull.^[39] Evidently as part of their marriage contract, they held in conjunct fee land in Younger's Hills near Linlithgow, part of the 114 acres originally held by his uncle John. Margaret resigned these lands in

1553 in connection with a lease by her husband James to Helen Gowan, widow of John Hamilton, and her son James Hamilton.^[40]

Mary of Guise, the Queen Regent, recommended the re-election of James as provost of Linlithgow on 3 October 1557, which presumably occurred; however, James died some time before 4 August 1558 when Philip Whiteheid, chamberlain of Linlithgow, rendered his account including £3 6s. 8d. of the farm of the mill at the east end of Linlithgow 'in the hands of the heirs of the deceased James Danielstoun'.^[41]

James had by his wife Margaret Bellenden three sons, Robert, David and Peter. The youngest son Peter was a cleric, and as minister of Duns is best known as the successful party in a dispute over the provision to the parsonage and vicarage, settled in his favour when he obtained a decret of the Court of Session in 1585. He died some time before 10 July 1592, when John Laing, Keeper of the Signet (on behalf of Peter's brother Robert Danielstoun, the Conservator, and Mr. Thomas Bellenden, Peter's cousin, tutors of Peter's young son and heir William) and Peter's widow Janet Ramsay agreed to a discharge to George Home of Wedderburn.^[42]

Robert, the eldest son and heir, evidently entered into a mercantile career and established his residence at Carmelaws in the common muir of Linlithgow. His professional activities likely caused him to spend significant amounts of time in Edinburgh and elsewhere outside of Linlithgow: this was doubtless one of the primary factors that caused him in April 1586 to sell the 114 acres of land in and around Linlithgow (the same originally acquired by his great-uncle John Danielstoun the rector) to his cousin Sir Ludovic Bellenden of Auchinoull for 10,000 marks.^[43] Through the influence of his relations he likely came to the attention of his sovereign James VI, who selected him as Conservator of Scottish Privileges in the Low Countries following the death of his kinsman George Halket in 1587.^[44] He continued in this post for virtually the remainder of his life – 30 years according to inscription on his tomb. He married Helen, daughter of Walter Myrton or Morton of Cambo, and widow of Col. Andrew Traill, but they had no issue: she predeceased him on 13 February 1608, following which he married secondly Christian Gibson, recorded as his widow.^[45] Having been knighted for his service to King and country, Sir Robert Danielstoun died in 1626, and was buried in a monumental tomb in Greyfriars, Edinburgh.^[46]

David Danielstoun, Sir Robert's brother and heir, was likely sent to Edinburgh as a young man and apprenticed to a goldsmith, arranged either by his father the provost of Linlithgow or by a well-connected relation in Edinburgh, such as his uncle Sir John Bellenden, the Justice Clerk. It was likely that the interest of Bellenden in his nephew was a factor in David Danielstoun's marriage to one of the daughters of the hypothecary (or apothecary) Thomas Thomson of Edinburgh. He was recorded as a burghess of Edinburgh on 6 February

1561/2, and admitted to the Guild-Brethren of Edinburgh by right of his wife Katherine, Thomas Thomson's daughter.^[47] '[Mr.] David Dannelstoun' was elected on 30 September 1577 as Councillor of the Burgh of Edinburgh for the period 1 Oct 1577 to 31 March 1578, and re-elected on 14 April 1578 for the next six-month term.^[48] David, a burghess and officer of the burgh of Edinburgh, was still acting on behalf of the burgh of Linlithgow in a transaction in February 1584 [N.S.] when the farm of lands in Kingsfield and Bogside, held by the burgh of Linlithgow during the minority of the heirs, was granted on 12 February 1583/4 'for the sum of £80 paid by Richard Abercrommye of Poltoun, in name of the burgh, to David Danielstoun, burghess of Edinburgh'.^[49]

As previously noted, 'David Dennestoun, goldsmith of the burgh of Edinburgh' gave his assent – required as the next heir – to the charter of his brother Robert Dennestoun selling 114 acres of lands in Linlithgow (including Montjoy, Barons Hill, and Youngers Hill) to their cousin Lewis Bellenden and his wife in conjunct fee for 10000 marks in April 1586: this likely dissolved his last landholding connection with Linlithgow.^[50] David continued taking on apprentices as late as 1589, and acquired land in Ratho Byres from a kinsman then in London in October 1594, but he died some time before 12 April 1597 when his son Robert was admitted as a burghess of Edinburgh 'as the eldest son of umquhile David Danielstoun, goldsmith'.^[51]

In addition to Robert, David Danielstoun and Katherine Thomson had two younger sons, James – also a goldsmith – and David, a merchant of Edinburgh. There were at least two daughters, Margaret (namesake of two grandmothers) and Janet, likely named for Katherine's sister the wife of the apothecary Adam Dickson. It is probable that Rebecca Danielstoun, wife of Mr. John Laing the Keeper of the Signet in succession to Neil Laing, was David's daughter as well: Rebecca's arms were identical to those of Sir Robert Danielstoun, her apparent uncle, and she had a namesake in Rebecca Muirhead, her niece.^[52]

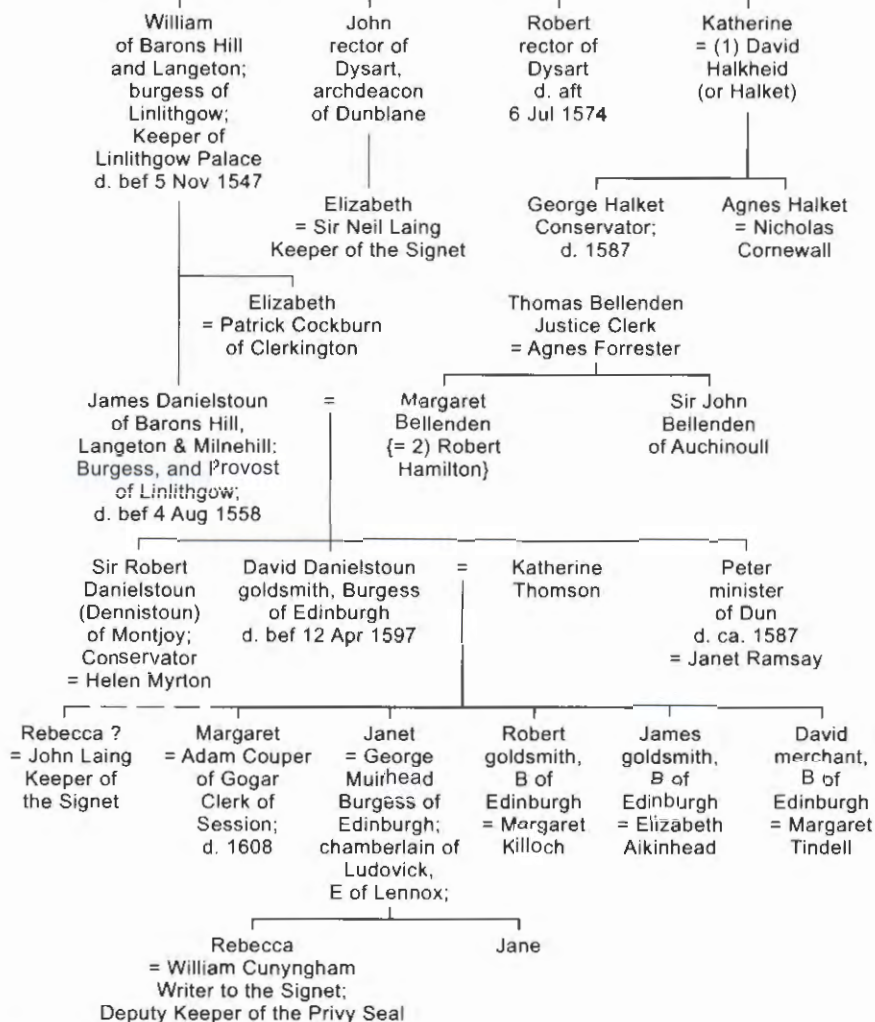
All of David and Katherine's children had issue: their daughters have known descendants to the present day.^[53] It is possible that there currently are Danielstouns or Dennistouns who can trace their ancestry to David Danielstoun or his brother Peter, and it is hoped that further research will bear fruit in that direction.



N.L. The feir of the Lord preservith the lyfe E.D. 1576
 Photographed by kind permission of Canongate Books

Robert Danielstoun, of Barons Hill, co. Linlithgow
burgess of Linlithgow; d. bef 5 Aug 1525

= Ellen Kincaid



Notes

- [1] For a discussion of the Danielstouns of that Ilk and their connection to the Stewarts, see J. Ravilious, "Nephew of the Duke: the Danielstons of that Ilk".
- [2] Joseph Irving, *The Book of Dumbartonshire* (Edinburgh: W. and A. K. Johnston, 1879), Vol. II, pp. 337-343.
- [3] Members of this family are found with their name variously called Danielstoun or Dennistoun, with numerous spelling variations of each. With the exception of contemporaneous citations, the name Danielstoun is used throughout the article as the surname of the family.

- [4] The arms of Danielstoun or Dennistoun of Colgrain were Argent a bend sable between a unicorn's head erased in chief of the second and a cross crosslet fitchy in base azure [Sir James Balfour Paul, *An Ordinary of Arms contained in the Public Register of all Arms and Bearings in Scotland* (Edinburgh: William Green and Sons, 1893), p. 11].

The first matriculation of the arms of Danielstoun of Colgrain is dated 1672-7 by Paul, nearly 300 years after the extinction of the senior line [ex inform Dr. Bruce McAndrew; cf. Paul, *ibid.*, p. 17]. The Colgrain arms correspond exactly (less the colours) with the arms shown in the MI for Katherine Danielstoun, wife of David Halkheid (see below, note [9]), her great-nephew Sir Robert Dennistoun of Montjoy, and Sir Robert's niece Rebecca Danielstoun, wife of Mr. John Laing (see below, note [51]).



- [5] Rev. John Ferguson, *Ecclesia Antiqua, or, the History of an Ancient Church* (St. Michael's, Linlithgow) (Edinburgh: Oliver & Boyd, 1905), pp. 353-355, no. III.
- [6] Roxburghe MSS., in Historical Manuscripts Commission, *Fourteenth Report of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts, Appendix, Part III*, (London: Printed for HMSO, by Eyre and Spottiswoode, 1894), p. 20, no. 36.
- [7] Bellenden MS. of the Innes-Ker family, Dukes of Roxburghe, NRAS1100/Bundle 1937, courtesy The National Records of Scotland.

- [8] George Burnett and A. J. G. MacKay, eds., *Rotuli Scaccarii Regum Scotorum: The Exchequer Rolls of Scotland*, (Edinburgh: H. M. General Register House, 1891), Vol. XIII (1508-1513), p. 84, no. CCCXXII; pp. 382-383, no. CCCXXXI; p. 480, no. CCCXXXIII; p. 571, no. CCCXXV.

- [9] Writs and Papers Relating to Linlithgow, B48/18/5, courtesy NRS.

- [10] George Powell M'Neill, M.A., LL.B., ed., *Rotuli Scaccarii Regum Scotorum: The Exchequer Rolls of Scotland* (Edinburgh: H. M. General Register House, 1895), Vol. XV (1523-1529), pp. 183-184.

- [11] John Danielstoun had sasine of 114 acres of land in and around Linlithgow on 17 January 1535/6, evidenced by the following instrument calendared by the NRS: Ref. GD76/113
Title: Instrument of sasine in favour of John Dennestoun, rector of Disart, of 114 acres of land near burgh of Linlithq, namely, Langcroft, Barnehouse, Balyelands, Barnishill, Island, Montioy, Bauerschanks, Borgishoile, Youngarshills, Lochmylln, Gallowhills, the Standand Stane, and 6 acres of lands in the Magdalene croft, in virtue of precept of sasine by Robert, abbot of Holyrood
Dates 17 Jan 1535/1536

Description Notary - Bartholomew Kello, M.A., clerk, St. Andrews diocese. With transcript [MS. in the Henderson Collection, NAS, GD76/113]

These lands, still totaling 114 acres, were later found in the hands of his brother William's grandson, Sir Robert Danielstoun of Montjoy (discussed later in this article). John's issue was illegitimate, and legitimated only after his death, so that his eventual heir was William's grandson, Sir Robert Danielstoun.

- [12] Katherine is called 'probably' the sister of Robert Danielstoun, rector of Dysart [Genealogy of the Family of Cornwall of Bonhard, *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica* (London: Hamilton, Adams & Co., 1877).p. 446], but the description of her arms – impaled by those of David Halkheid – as "sinister, a bend between a unicorn's head erased and a cross crosslet fitchy" [RCAHMS, *Tenth Report with inventory of monuments and constructions in the counties of Midlothian and West Lothian* (Edinburgh: HMSO, 1929), pp. 243-244] makes her placement in this family certain.

- [13] J. Balfour Paul, Notes (1) on a set of shuffle-board counters with portraits of kings and

- heraldic devices, 1600; (2) on a silver badge of the conservator of Scottish privileges in the Netherlands, exhibited by Sir Robert Fraser Turing, Bart., *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland* (1891), Vol. 25, pp. 397-400. Rev. John Anderson, ed., *Calendar of the Laing Charters, A.D. 854-1837* (Edinburgh: James Thin, South Bridge; printed at the University Press by T. and A. Constable, 1899), pp. 292-293, no. 1185. The will of George Halket the conservator was proved 30 March 1591 [Francis J. Grant, W.S., ed., *The Commissariat Record of Edinburgh: Register of Testaments* (Edinburgh: British Record Society, Ltd., 1897), Vol. XVI, p. 120].
- [14] Theo Van Heijnsbergen, *The Interaction between Literature and History in Queen Mary's Edinburgh: The Bannatyne Manuscript and its Prosopographical Content*, in Alasdair A. MacDonald, Michael Lynch and Ian B. Cowan, *The Renaissance in Scotland: Studies in Literature, Religion, History and Culture* (Edinburgh: printed for the Scottish Record Society by James Skinner & Company, 1917), p. 204.
- [15] See note [11], above.
- [16] Thomas Ruddiman, ed., *Epistolae Jacobi Quarti, Jacobi Quinti, et Mariae, Regum Scotorum, Eorumque Tutorum & Regni Gubernatorum* (Edin., 1724), Vol. II, pp. 152-154.
- [17] NRAS, Bellenden MS. of the Innes-Ker family, *ibid.*
- [18] Account of John, bishop of Dunkeld and Treasurer rendered 1 October 1546, the auditors including 'Johanne Danyelstoune, rectore de Disart' [Sir James Balfour Paul, ed., *Compta Thesaurariorum Regum Scotorum: Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer of Scotland* (Edinburgh: H. M. General Reg. House, 1908), Vol. VIII (A.D. 1541-1546), p. 194. Concerning Robert's succession as rector, see Theo Van Heijnsbergen, *ibid.*, p. 204.
- [19] Robert Hannay, *The Society of Writers to His Majesty's Signet*, (Edinburgh: T. and A. Constable, 1936), pp. 45-46.
- [20] Montague Rhodes James, Litt.D., *The Western Manuscripts in the Library of Trinity College, Cambridge: A Descriptive Catalogue* (Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1902), Vol. 3, p. 195, no. 1184.
- [21] Hannay, *ibid.*, p. 46.
- [22] David Laing, ed., *Memorials of George Bannatyne* (Edinburgh: printed for the Bannatyne Club, 1829), p. 27; James Beveridge, M.A. and James Russell, eds., *The Protocol Book of Nicol Thounis* (Edinburgh: printed for the Scottish Record Society by James Skinner & Company, 1917), p. 31, no. 151.
- [23] William Euing, *Notices from the Local Records of Dysart* (Glasgow: printed for the Maitland Club by James Hedderwick & Son, 1853), p. 21.
- [24] David Hay Fleming, LL.D., *The Reformation in Scotland: Causes, Characteristics, Consequences* (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1910), pp. 556, 562, citing Reg. Sec. Sig. xxii, 48 and xxvi, 68.
- [25] Hannay, *ibid.*, pp. 46, 217. No statement or documentation has been found to date that establishes Elizabeth's parentage. However, given that Neil Laing succeeded John Danielstoun in a lay capacity, his marriage to the daughter of his predecessor would not be surprising.
- [26] Neil Laing's first wife Isobel Rynd was alive as late as 12 December 1548. 'Elizabeth Daniellfoun, spous of Sir Neill Layng, kepar of the fignet' was recorded by George Bannatyne as his brother's godmother. David Laing, ed., *ibid.*, pp. 27, 29.
- [27] *Registrum Domus de Soltre* (Edinburgh: Bannatyne Club, 1861), p. lix, cites "The Diurnal of Occurents".
- [28] Wesley Shrum, *Fringe and Fortune: The Role of Critics in High and Popular Art* (Princeton: Princeton Univ. Press, 1996), p. 115. John Gifford et al., *Edinburgh* (New York: Penguin Books, 1984), p. 209.
- [29] See note [11] above as to John Danielstoun's sasine of 114 acres in and around Linlithgow dated 17 January 1535/6. The same 114 acres were identified and sold by Sir Robert Dennistoun to his cousin Ludovick Bellenden in April 1586 [see discussion below]. Van Heijnsbergen noted the relationship, stating that 'James Denniston, son of

John and Robert Denniston's brother William, provost of Linlithgow and Keeper of Linlithgow Palace, married Margaret, the daughter of Mr. Thomas Bellenden.' [Van Heijnsbergen, *ibid.*, p. 205, note 53]

- [30] 'Willelmo Dennestoun (sive Danyelstoun) burgensi de Linlithqw', charter dated at Langton on 21 Sept 1540 and confirmed by Queen Mary at Edinburgh, 12 Mar 1546/7 [James Balfour Paul, ed., *Registrum Magni Sigilli Regum Scotorum, The Register of the Great Seal of Scotland* (Edinburgh: H. M. General Register House, 1886), Vol. IV (A.D. 1546-1580), p. 19, no. 73]. This work will be referred to hereafter as *RMS*.

- [31] There is record of a payment of £30 for repairs at Linlithgow palace, 25 June 1541 in the records of the Treasurer:

'Item, to Williame Danielstoun to mak expensis upoun the heding of the chymnayis and uther wark in Linlythqw to compt and rekkenyn,..... xxx li.'

[Sir James Balfour Paul, ed., *Compota Thesaurariorum Regum Scotorum: Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer of Scotland* (Edinburgh: H. M. General Reg. House, 1907), Vol. VII (A.D. 1538-1541), p.456]. Following on this is a payment of £60, 11 Jul 1541: 'Item, to Williame Danielstoun to be spendit upoun the warkis of Linlythqw,.... lx li.'

[Paul, *ibid.*, p. 463] and a further payment of £16 12s. 1d., 15 August 1541: 'Item, to Williame Danielstoun, in complete payment of his comptis for theking of the chapell in the palice of Linlythqu, and utheris wark done be him, as his comptis gevin thairupoun beris,.... xvj li. xij s. j d.' [Paul, *ibid.*, p.472]. Shortly after there was a payment of £20 in Aug. 1541, then Keeper of the Palace of Linlithgow: 'Item, to Williame Danielstoun, keper of the palice of Linlithqw in Schir Thomas Johnnestonis place, xx li.' [Paul, *ibid.*, p.480].

- [32] 'A reference to the lands belonging to this altar occurs in a charter by James V., of date 6th December 1542, in which he concedes to William Danyelstoun, his heirs and assignees, nine acres of land lying around the burgh of Linlithgow, viz: six acres contiguous to Magdalenside, between the lands of the Hospital of the Blessed Magdalene, those of the altar of St. John, within the Parish Church of Linlithgow, and the public street - the said lands being held by Catherine Hamilton, spouse of Thomas Pettigrew, Lyon King-at-arms, in life rent - and three acres occupied by the late John Spens, viz: an acre at a place called Maderyard, between the lands of the said William Danyelstoun and William Hamilton in Pardovan, a torrent call Bellisburne, and the lands of the said William Danyelstoun of Bernishill, and two acres contiguous to Bernishill, between the lands of the said William Hamilton, and John Danielstoun, rector of Dysart, and the street leading to the port of Blackness.' [Ferguson, *Ecclesia Antiqua*, *ibid.*, pp. 314-5; the Latin text is found in Paul, *Registrum Magni Sigilli*, *ibid.*, vol. III, p. 664, no. 2852].

- [33] James Beveridge, M.A. and James Russell, eds., *Protocol Books of James Foulis, 1546-1553, and Nicol Thounis, 1559-1564* (Edinburgh: printed for SRS by James Skinner & Company, 1917), p. 42, no. 5, fol. 2. The results of the inquisition of 5 November 1547 states in part, 'Qui jurati dicunt quod quondam Willielmus Danyelstoun, burgen. burgi de Linlithquow, pater Jacobi Danyelstoun latoris praesentium, obiit ultimo vestitus et sasitus ut de feodo, ad pacem et fidem supremae dominae nostrae Scotorum Reginae, de totis et integris illis novem terrarum acris jacen. circa praescriptum burgum de Linlithquow, viz. sex acris earund. jacen. contigue invicem in lie Magdalensyd,...' [Alexander Wight, *An Inquiry into the Rise and Progress of Parliament, Chiefly in Scotland* (Edinburgh: William Creech, and London: J. Murray, 1806), Vol. I, pp. 464-5, No. XXXI].

Following his discussion of the careers both literary and in service to King James V of John Dennistoun, rector of Dysart, and his brother and successor Robert (including religious and literary connections with the Bellenden family), van Heijnsbergen noted, 'James Denniston, son of John and Robert Denniston's brother William, provost of Linlithgow and Keeper of Linlithgow Palace, married Margaret, the daughter of Mr. Thomas Bellenden.' [Theo Van Heijnsbergen, *ibid.*, p. 205, note 53].

- [34] Beveridge, *ibid.*, p. 31, no. 151, and Thomas Cockburn-Hood, *The House of Cockburn of that ilk and the Cadets Thereof* (Edinburgh: Scott and Ferguson, 1888), p. 272.
- [35] British Museum Add. MS. 39761, catalogued as '94a. Elizabeth Danielstoun's Book of Hours. (1577)'.
 'Addenda to Catalogue of Scottish Medieval Liturgical Books, which appeared in The Innes Review, vol. iii, pp. 49-63', in Miscellany, The Innes Review, vol. III (1952), 134. Courtesy Edinburgh Univ. Press,
<http://www.euppublishing.com/doi/abs/10.3366/inr.1952.3.2.129>
 See Priscilla Bawcutt, 'My bright buke': Women and their Books in Medieval and Renaissance Scotland, in Jocelyn Wogan-Browne, Rosalynn Voaden, Arlyn Diamond, Ann Hutchison, Carol Meale and Lesley Johnson, *Medieval Women - Texts and Contexts in Late Medieval Britain*, vol. 3 (Turnhout: Brepols, 2010).
- [36] George Powell M'Neill, M.A., LL.B., ed., *Rotuli Scaccarii Regum Scotorum: The Exchequer Rolls of Scotland*, (Edinburgh: H. M. General Register House, 1898), Vol. XVIII (1543-1556), p. 418.
- [37] Beveridge, *Protocol Book of James Foulis*, *ibid.*, p. 4, no. 16, fol. 10-11.
- [38] Grant by Queen Mary dated at Edinburgh, 17 June 1550. Paul, *RMS* Vol. IV, pp. 110-111, no. 477 and note 1.
 'Instrument of Sasine in favour of James Dennistoun, provost of Linlithgow, of the Lochmill, following on precept of clare constat by Robert Carnegie of Kynnard', dated 11 Mar 1551 [NAS, Title deeds relating to properties in Edinburgh, Linlithgow and Dumfriesshire, GD1/202/13]. The seal of Sir Robert Carnegie of Kinnaird was appended to the referenced precept [Henry Laing, *Supplemental Descriptive Catalogue of Ancient Scottish Seals* (Edinburgh: Edmonston and Douglas, 1866), p. 31]. Beveridge, *ibid.*, p. 25, no. 138, fol. 51-52.
- [39] Sir James Balfour Paul, *The Scots Peerage*, vol. II, p. 64. She married Robert Hamilton of Inchmachan as her second husband.
- [40] Records dated at Linlithgow, 29 Mar 1553. Beveridge, *Protocol Book of James Foulis*, *ibid.*, p. 37, nos. 215-217.
- [41] Letter of Queen Mary as regent, dated 3 Oct 1557 [NAS, Writs and Papers Relating to Linlithgow, B48/18/57].
 The account of Philip Quhitheid, chamberlain of Linlithgow, for the period beginning 11 Sept 1557, rendered at Edinburgh, 4 Aug 1558 - £3 6s. 8d. of the farm of the mill at the east end of Linlithgow "in manibus heredum quondam Jacobi Danielstoun" [M'Neill, George Powell M'Neill, M.A., LL.B., ed., *Rotuli Scaccarii Regum Scotorum: The Exchequer Rolls of Scotland*, (Edinburgh: H. M. General Register House, 1898), Vol. XIX (1557-1567), pp. 63, 101].
- [42] 'Peter Danielstoun, sone to umquhile James Danielstoun, burges of Linlythqu' was named in a complaint of William Henryson at Stirling, 5 December 1578 [David Masson, LL.D., ed., *The Register of the Privy Council of Scotland* (Edinburgh: Her Majesty's General Register House, 1880), Vol. III, p. 53]. Discharge by Mr. John Layng et al., witnessed by Adam Coupar, writer to the Signet, dated at Edinburgh, 10 July 1592 [Milne Home of Wedderburn MSS., in Historical Manuscripts Commission, *Report on the Manuscripts of Colonel David Milne Home of Wedderburn Castle, N.B.* (London: printed for HMSO by Mackie & Co., 1902), Vol. XLIV, p. 59, no. 127]
- [43] An action by John Knox, minister of Edinburgh and others in 1563 named as defendants 'Johnn Cockburn of Clarkingtoun Elizabe' Danielstoun his spouse Robert Danielstoun son and apperand aire to umq 'James Danielstoun' among others [J. R. N. MacPhail, Hamilton of Kincavil and the General Assembly of 1563, *Scottish Historical Review*, vol. 10 (1913), p. 159]. The sale of the 114 acres to Sir Ludovick Bellenden was by charter dated at Edinburgh and Leith on 9 April 1586, one of three charters (the others dated 5 April and 7 April) confirmed by King James VI at Holyrood on 9 May 1586 [*RMS* vol. V, pp. 322-3, no. 987; cf. extract in NAS, Title deeds relating to properties in

Edinburgh, Linlithgow and Dumfriesshire, GD1/202/20]. Among other details, the sale provides evidence that David Danielstoun was the next elder brother, as (1) Peter Danielstoun, minister of Duns was then still alive, and (2) the sale to Sir Ludovick Bellenden required the assent of David Danielstoun as the next heir [the charter was made "per M. Rob. Dennestoun de Carmonelawis, filium et heredem quondam Jacobi D. burgensis de Lynlithgow, et Helenam Mortoun ejus sponsam, - [qua, -cum consensu Davidis Dennestoun fabri aurarii burgen. de Edinburgh, ad cujus instantiam dictus Rob. interdictus est, - pro completionione contractus de data apud Edinburgh et Leith, 5 et 9 Apr. 1586" - RMS, *ibid.*].

[44] See note [13] above.

[45] James Toschach Clark, ed., *Genealogical Collections concerning Families in Scotland made by Walter MacFarlane 1750-1751* (Edinburgh: printed at the University Press by T. and A. Constable, 1900), Scottish History Society vol. XXXIII, p. 50. The MI of Helen Myrton in Robert Monteith, *Collection of Epitaphs and Monumental Inscriptions, chiefly in Scotland* (Glasgow: printed for D. MacVean by George Richardson, 1834), pp.152-3. Christian Gibson is noted as having been Sir Robert's widow, marrying a second time and subsequently dying in 1642: she had a liferent in Sir Robert's will, which afterward provided a payment of 500 marks to the College (later University) of Edinburgh for maintaining a bursar [R. R. Stodart, *Scottish Arms: being a Collection of Armorial Bearings A.D. 1370-1678* (Edinburgh: William Paterson, 1881), Vol. II, p. 107; Andrew Dalziel, *History of the University of Edinburgh from its Foundation* (Edinburgh: Edmonston and Douglas, 1862), Vol. II, pp. 122-123]. My thanks and credit go to Dr. Bruce McAndrew for providing this information.

[46] The MI of Sir Robert Danielstoun as rendered and translated by Robert Monteith: Sir Robert Denyston of Mountjoy, of the Family of Colgraine, his Monument, 1626. En nil orbis quod perennet possidet. Robertus isto conditus sub marmore, legatus olim Denystonus Regius; per lustra libertatis ad Belgas fuit sex Scoticanæ assertor; idem ad Anglos, Iberos missus est cum gloria, fidusque patriæ, principi erat a conciliis ætate plenus, quinque ter lustris tribus annis peractis, coeliteum vitam colit. Behold, the world possesseth nothing permanent. Sir Robert Denystoun lyes under this tomb. He was formerly the King's ambassadour; and, for thirty years, conservator of the Scottish privileges in Holland. He was also sent to, and behaved with glory, among the Englishes and Spaniards; true to his cuntry; counsellour to his prince; and, being full of days, having lived 78 years, he now liveth in the heavens. On the reverse, it is inscribed thus, D. O. S. Domini Roberti Denistoni quod claudi potuit hic jacet; amantissima uxor, famæ carissimi viri, & mansuræ memoriae, hoc monumentum D.S.P.F.C. [Monteith, *ibid.*, pp. 8-9]

For more than one reason, the antiquary James Dennistoun of Colgrain (later assumed the style 'of Dennistoun') chose to be interred not in the family vault in Cardross, but rather in a plot adjoining the monument of Sir Robert Danielstoun in Greyfriars. He was in fact buried in 1855 [Irving, *ibid.*, vol. II, p. 341].

[47] 'Item, sexto Februarij, David Danielstoun, goldsmith, burges,.... v'

[Robert Adam, F.S.A. (Scot.), ed., *Edinburgh Records. The Burgh Accounts* (Edinburgh: printed for the Lord Provost, Magistrates and Council, 1899), Vol. II, p. 148]. An extract of this record is given in Charles B. Boog Watson, F.S. Ant. Scot., F.R.S.E., ed., *Roll of Edinburgh Burgesses and Guild-Brethren, 1406 - 1841* (Edinburgh: Printed for the Scottish Record Society by J. Skinner & Company, Ltd., 1929 and 1930), p. 294. Thomas Thomson and Sir John Bellenden knew each other well, given Sir John's involvement at court and Thomson's position as royal apothecary and town councillor for Edinburgh [Van Heijnsbergen, *ibid.*, p. 203]. The association of Robert Danielstoun, rector of Dysart with the Bannatyne family in 1551 has already been mentioned: we also note that Margaret Barton, wife of Thomas Thomson and the mother of David

Danielstoun's wife, was the godmother of Patrick, son of James Bannatyne of Kirkcaldy, at his baptism on 3 July 1556 [Laing, *Memorials of George Bannatyne*, *ibid.*, p. 28].

- [48] J. D. Marwick, ed., *Extracts from the Records of the Burgh of Edinburgh, A.D. 1573-1589* (Edinburgh: Scottish Burgh Records Society, 1882), pp. 574-580.

- [49] "Inventory of the Early Writs of the Burgh of Linlithgow," *The Scottish Antiquary: Or, Northern Notes & Queries*, Vol. XI, No. 43 (Edinburgh: T. & A. Constable, January 1897), p. 131, no. 25.

- [50] Referred to above in re: Sir Robert Danielstoun; see note [43].

- [51] George Wilson, son of Michael Wilson of Wester Duddingston was registered as the apprentice of David Danielstoun, goldsmith on 27 June 1589 [Grant, *ibid.*, p. 200]. The charter of Alexander Danielstoun, a tailor residing in London, granting his lands in Ratho Byres to 'Davidi Danielstoun fabro aureo, burgensi de Edinburgh', with precept of sasine directed to David's brother-in-law Adam Thomson the apothecary, was confirmed by King James VI at Holyroodhouse on 2 October 1594 [RMS, vol. VI, pp. 58-59, no. 170].

- [52] "M. Joanni Layng, et Rebecce Danielstoun ejus conjugii" had a charter confirmed by King James VI [RMS, vol. 5, pp. 548-9, no. 1603]. They acquired Redhouse in Haddingtonshire, and Jean Laing, their daughter and heir, carried this property to her husband Sir Andrew Hamilton of Redhouse. Rebecca Danielstoun's seal is described in John H. Stevenson and Marguerite Wood, *Scottish Heraldic Seals* (Glasgow: R. Maclehose & Co., 1940), vol. II.

Rebecca was a very uncommon name in Scotland in the 16th century. Janet Danielstoun, David's known daughter and Rebecca's apparent sister, married George Muirhead, merchant, who was admitted a burghess of Edinburgh 'by right of wife Jonet, daughter of umquhile David Dannelstoun, goldsmyth' on 4 April 1598 [Watson, *ibid.*, p. 761].

Among their issue was a daughter Rebecca Muirhead, baptized in Edinburgh on 18 November 1599 and identified as one of the daughters of George Muirhead and Janet Danielstoun in an agreement with Ludovick, Duke of Lennox dated 3 March 1620 and registered in the Books of Session on 31 July 1620 [NAS, Montrose Muniments, GD220/1/G/3/1/7].

- [53] Rebecca Muirhead, daughter of David Danielstoun's daughter Janet, married William Cunyngham, youngest son of James Cunyngham of Ashinyards, co. Ayr and a writer to the Signet (d. after 16 January 1626). Descendants of this marriage include the Cunninghams of Craigends, the Houstouns of Johnstone, co. Renfrew, Wallace of Cairnhill, Hamilton of Grange and many more besides. David's daughter Margaret Danielstoun married Adam Couper of Gogar, writer to the Signet and principal Clerk of Session (d. 3 December 1608). Their descendants include the Coopers, baronets of Gogar, and the Dawkins family of Moggerhanger, Bedfordshire. The Honywoods, baronets of Evington, descend from both Margaret and her niece, Rebecca Muirhead.



Annual Report 2011

Chairman

The Society hosted the 22nd SAFHS Conference in June. I'm very pleased to be able to say that the venture was a success and it appeared to be enjoyed by everyone who attended. I'd like to thank all the speakers, our sister societies and the various other exhibitors and stall-holders. Special thanks also to those members of the Society, particularly Liz Watson, Irene Townsley, Barbara Revolta and other members of the Conference Sub-Committee, who worked so hard to ensure that everything fell into place on the day and that matters ran smoothly.

Council

The Council of the Society has met on a regular basis throughout the year, and amongst the items discussed were the painting of the Library, the refurbishment of the bookstore and also the Society's future development and the resources available to members.

Sales

Many thanks also to our devoted Sales Team, Rhona Stevenson and Alison Moffat, assisted by Nancy Douglas and Dorothy Tweedie, for their regular work to maintain our Shop, both online, by post and in the Library.

Library

Many thanks are due to all the volunteers who keep the Society running. While members and visitors meet those on counter duty, the Annual Report shows the extent of our operation and the time and expertise which our volunteers commit to the Society.

In the year, over 300 items were added to stock which includes a copy of any new item added to sales stock. The Library continues to benefit from donations. The CD and fiche items are now included in the online book catalogue. The transcribing of the Emigrants' index is almost at an end and a start has been made on the Cross-border Marriages and Strays indexes.

The website now includes a page with links to some lesser known sites, a downloads page with the Sales Catalogue, the Index to the SGS Journal from 1953-2005 as well as pedigree charts. It played a key role in the publicity for the SAFHS conference which the Society hosted this year. Many family history researchers expect information to be on the internet, so developing the website and creating digitised records to meet these expectations is a priority.

We are planning to start an occasional email newsletter with information about new publications and reminders about meetings. We do not yet have a full email listing, so if you think we may not have your email address, please send it in to membership@scotsgenealogy.com

New volunteers are always welcome. If you wish to find out about opportunities, please email enquiries@scotsgenealogy.com or call to arrange a meeting with Moira Stevenson or Joy Dodd.

Website

Richard Torrance continues to maintain the site, frequently adding new features and regular news and updates. Intimations of our own new publications and other titles have their own spotlight as these become merged into our ever-expanding online shop. (See also the Library Report.)

Monthly Meetings

The session began in October 2010 with Ken Nisbet giving an up-date about the use of "Scotland's People" before listing a large number of "Websites for Family Historians", not only Scottish ones.

In November, Bruce Bishop explained the continuing "Work of the Moray Burial Ground Research Group", not just recording gravestones, but also the archaeology and history, with excellent drawings and photographs: the team working with wooden toothpicks and dustings of flour!

Following the AGM in February, Joy Dodd also gave a talk on "Recording A Graveyard", i.e. in North Berwick where the emphasis was more on identifying the many interesting people such as shipwrecked mariners, and the information being available for research in the local museum.

In January 2011 Dr Eric Graham, on the topic of "Burns and the Sugar Plantocrats", explained how Robert Burns nearly went to Jamaica, instead of to "Clarinda's Edinburgh", to join other Ayrshire families who made their fortunes in the sugar plantations and funded the building of their grand estates and Edinburgh's New Town.

In March, Rachel Hosker of "The Heritage Hub, Hawick – Scottish Borders Archives & Local History Guide" described the wonderful modern amenities in this historic former mill. The records range from those of Sir Walter Scott to those of the Poor Relief following the Eyemouth Disaster: well worth a whole day's visit!

Joanne Lamb spoke of "Dalrymple Crescent" in April, detailing how her research into her own house expanded to include the 27 buildings and 140 families in the whole street from 1862 – 1901. The famous merchants, ministers & professionals living there provided a "Snapshot of Victorian Edinburgh".

On a sunny afternoon in May about 16 members assembled in The Dower House, Corstorphine, then formed two groups for a guided tour of the village and churchyard. Afterwards there were refreshments and a chance to view the exhibits and browse the archives.

In September Dr Charles Waterston told the entertaining story of his own family, "The Sandemans of Springland", from before the Union of 1707 when in the linen trade, through the Jacobite uprisings and the following settled times of Adam Brothers' mansions, Chippendale furniture and pioneering engineering works, to being a successful merchant in Perth and further afield. N.B. Sandeman's Port & Sherry!

New Register House Visits 2011

During 2011, 15 evening visits were arranged. For 2012, 16 visits have been booked, all jointly with Standard Life FHS. The dates are listed in "Dates For Your Diary". Phone the Library to book your place! These are of course available to any member of a SAFHS group.

Publications

There were the usual ongoing reprints of our various existing publications from the University of Edinburgh's printing facility at King's Buildings, arranged by the SGS Sales Department.

New SGS books published during 2011 were *Athelstaneford MIs*, *Aberlady MIs*, *Whitekirk MIs*, *Dean Edgehill MIs* and *History of 2nd Battalion 78th Regiment*.

New CDs include *Portobello Cemetery MIs*, *St Cuthbert's 1790 Census*, *Bristol Baptisms*, *Grange Cemetery MIs*, *Grange Burials*, *Dunbar MIs*, *Dunbar Burials*, *Military Lists from Edinburgh Almanacs* and *Hermann Moll's Maps*.

Forthcoming publications: there are no specific print deadlines for any of these, as they are all works in progress and at differing stages of completion. However some should be ready during 2012:

Kilmun Cemetery MIs and *Liddesdale Cemetery* (both probably as books); *Eastern Cemetery (Leith) MIs*, *Rosebank Cemetery MIs*, *Portobello Memorials*, *Restalrig MIs*, *Corstorphine Hill Cemetery MIs*, *Dean Cemetery Old and Middle Grounds MIs* (all as CDs due to their size); various Edinburgh & Borders registers transcribed from sources in the National Records of Scotland.

Advertising

The Society advertised in *Family History Monthly*, *Family Tree Magazine* and *Your Family Tree* (all monthly publications); *History Scotland* (bi-monthly); *Visit Scotland Visitor's Pack*; *Family & Local History Handbook*, *Frae the Fit O' The Walk*, the newsletter of Leith Local History Society, as well as the online links of *What's On Scotland*.

We also arrange to leave SGS leaflets in as many venues as we may, such as public libraries.

Family History Fairs

In 2011, as well as hosting the 22nd SAFHS Conference, we attended and

had tables at the following: Tay Valley Family History Society Book Fair (April); West Lothian History Fair (May); Fife Family History Society Fair (September).

Many thanks to the Sales Team, Treasurer and those volunteers who took the time to travel to the Fairs to man our stalls, represent the Society and answer the many enquiries from the public.

At the moment, our only planned Fair attendance is at the 23rd SAFHS Conference at Dundee in April (see "Dates For Your Diary").

Journal

Your Journal is now despatched to you courtesy of a dedicated Packing Party. Many thanks are due to John Stevenson and his Band of Merry Men & Women.

Peripatetic Prattlers

The Society is often asked to supply speakers to other groups, in exchange for a donation to the SGS. Thanks to Ewen Collins, Jim Cranstoun, Jessie Denholm, Caroline Gerard, Maurice McIlwrick, Charlie Napier, Ken Nisbet, Ann Pippet and John Stevenson and for their contributions. Thanks also to Richard Torrance for creating a powerpoint presentation for such events.

Your Ain Folk

Your Ain Folk evenings continue, thanks to the enthusiastic efforts of Charlie Napier and John Stevenson. Interested groups may book visits to our Library to be given guided tours of our resources and facilities, with time afterwards to explore.

**The Scottish Genealogy Society holds
Scottish Family History Evening Workshops....**

"YOUR AIN FOLK"

*.... at their Library and Family History Centre at
15 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh.*

**We welcome enquiries from Local History Societies,
Family History Groups, Church Groups, Clubs, etc.... in fact any
groups interested in researching family history.**

**All facilities in our Library, including 'our complete collection of
Scottish Old Parish Records microfilms' will be available to you.**

**The maximum number per group is 12,
and volunteers will be there to offer advice.**

**For further details contact
John D. Stevenson or Charles Napier
at enquiries @ scotsgenealogy.com or 0131-220 3677.**

Communicants joining Moffat Parish Church at March 10, 1895

John Galloway	Coutts Close	From Dumfries
William Fleming	Biddhouse, Summit	
Thomas Fleming	Greenhill	
John Anderson	Star Sheel	
Margaret Tait Kirk	Coatsgate	
Richard Porteous	Causeway	
Anie Aexander Melville	Academy Road	
Georgina Blake Kirk	Hartfell House	
John Thomas Anderson	Coldwell	
Helen Baird	Skellywell	
Jane Johnstone	Ivy House	
James Fleming Elliot	Police Station	
James McDonald & wife		From Crawford
Maggie Dempster	c/o Mrs. Rolfe	
Mary Smith	Oakrigg	From Kells
Catherine Little	Haywood	From Crawford
Walter Rutherford Thomson	Harthope Place	
Jessie Anne McDonald	Annandale Arms Hotel	
Louisa Jane Telfer	Willow Bank	
John Niven	Douglas Acre, Beattock	From Dumfries
Robert Brown	Holm Street	From Peebles
Mary Watson	St. Ninians	
Jessie S. Robertson	Vicarlands	
Mary Jane Thomson	c/o Dr. Grange, Mansefield House	From Macduff
John Williamson & wife	Nethermiln	From Deadhills
John Smith & wife	Harthope Place	From Glasgow
Walter Smith & wife	Stationmaster	
Neil Kennedy & wife	Proudfoot Institute	From Alexandria
Margaret Hastie	2 Sunnyside	From Langholm
Annie McLennan	The Hops	From Glencorse
David Young	Church Place	From Dumfries

Source: National Records of Scotland. Reference: CH2/1523/2

Contributed by Russell Cockburn

through the complexities of cultural history and linguistic changes as elucidated from archaeological evidence and early historical records.

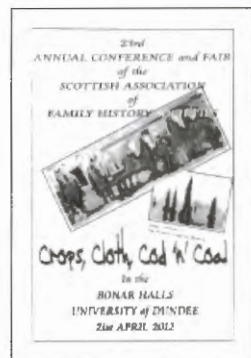
In the second main theme history meets science and we learn how the science of genetics can add an extra dimension to our knowledge of the people of these past eras and throw light on our own ancestry. We may, for instance, know that our ancestors came from an area known to have been inhabited by the Picts but ordinarily we cannot know for certain that our ancestors were Picts. With the help of genetics we can, however, come much nearer knowing the answer to this question.

We are all accustomed to reading about DNA and the use to which analysis of DNA can be put in medical science and forensic investigation. In this book we are told how it can expand our knowledge of our ancestry. Briefly, it concentrates on the Y chromosome which men pass on to their sons and which they in turn pass on to grandsons. Over the centuries mutations occur and statistical analysis can show that substantial numbers of men bearing a particular mutation or 'marker' have a common ancestry and concentrations of a particular marker in men from a particular area point to that marker being characteristic of an ethnic group known to have lived in that area.

Sometimes that marker may indeed point to a common ancestor who lived within historic times. We are told that about 50,000 Scottish men, mostly with the surname McDonald or one of its variations, are descendants of Somerled, Lord of the Isles and King of Man, who died in 1164. Clearly traditional tales about a particular individual being the 'father of the clan' may in some cases be literally true!

Genetics can add an extra layer of information about our more distant ancestors and this book is wellworth reading. This is, however, a comparatively young science and I suspect that if the authors decide to produce a revised edition of this book in, say, ten years' time, there will be a lot more to be said about how it can assist our understanding of the past.

Jessie Denholm



23rd SAFHS Conference 2012

Organised by Tay Valley FHS

in conjunction with Fife FHS

Crops, Cloth, Cod 'n' Coal

The Bonar Halls, University of Dundee

21st April 2012

Jack Ritchie 1929 – 2011

(John Winter Ritchie)

The Society is very sorry to announce the death of Jack Ritchie, one of its volunteers, on 17th October 2011, after a few years of poor health.

Jack was born in Aberdeen on 4th September 1929, the third child of Alexander Farquharson Ritchie and Agnes Jane Bremner. His parents were keen to educate their children to their full potential, and although family resources became more straitened, all three eventually attended university. Jack's older brother Murdoch became an outstanding micro-biologist in the USA and his sister Stella became a maths teacher.



Jack attended Aberdeen University after National Service in the RAF. During his National Service, he had two particular close friends, one of average height and the other very tall. Jack, of course, was neither of these, and he was fond of relating that, before marching into a pub, the three would align themselves in ascending order so that the barman would see one body and three heads!

After University Jack entered the electronic communications industry and worked for a while in Basildon and then East Kilbride. He took up a position as a Mathematics Lecturer at Napier College (later University), Edinburgh, in the latter 1960s, where he was considered by his students to be encouraging and inspirational; in fact, at one point he was lecturing his own son during his own university education. He retained throughout his life a deep love of pure mathematics. Another volunteer recalls that he and the late Prof. Gordon Nicoll suddenly one day began a long discussion about Infinity, leaving everyone else behind from around halfway through the first sentence.

He joined the SGS in the early 1990s and was soon recruited as a volunteer, and many visitors benefited from his enthusiasm and willingness to help. What some of them didn't realise was that he had the ability to keep a straight face too. Also, some members may not know that for a couple of years, Jack single-handedly applied stamps to envelopes and posted out the Journals, as well as being Joint Sales Secretary with John Stevenson.

Another voluntary activity was with the Seagull Trust at Ratho, taking people with learning difficulties on its canal cruises, despite his own fear of water. He enjoyed this immensely for about 12 years, and he would also devise arithmetical puzzles for them.

The Society extends its sympathies to Jack's son Ewan, daughter-in-law Lori and grandsons Daniel and Cameron.

THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY

Scottish Charity No. 016718

Statement of Financial Activities

	2010 £	2009 £
Income resources		
Subscriptions	21,572	20,441
Gift Aid	1,761	1,521
Donations	794	995
Legacies	200	500
Investment Income	53	585
Sales - publications	19,630	25,456
Other - Conference income	1,125	3,905
A: Total Income resources	45,134	53,403
Resources expended		
Library Running Costs	15,178	11,674
Journal (Print & Dist.)	9,546	11,312
Cost of sales - publications	8,063	11,028
Cost of sales - conferences	475	2,107
Lecture Expenses	515	701
Computer Expenses	5,246	4,869
Advertising	1,928	2,394
Postage	2,909	4,569
Stationery, Copying	602	1,146
Bank & Credit Card charges	1,166	1,414
Affiliations	75	68
Telephone & Travel Exps.	-	11
Sundries	40	40
Depreciation	9,182	8,967
B: Total Resources expended	54,924	60,301
Net incoming resources (A-B)	(9,790)	(6,898)
Total Funds Brought Forward	288,981	295,878
Total Funds Carried Forward	279,191	288,981

Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2010

FIXED ASSETS:		
Property at cost	54,545	54,545
Equipment (Net)	5,421	13,722
Books, Microfilms etc	133,157	132,268
	<u>193,122</u>	<u>200,534</u>
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Stock	31,280	31,802
Debtors & Prepayments	2,279	2,662
Bank	54,076	54,306
Cash	80	80
	<u>87,715</u>	<u>88,851</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Creditors & Accruals	(1,647)	(404)
NET CURRENT ASSETS:	<u>86,068</u>	<u>88,446</u>
TOTAL ASSETS:	<u>279,191</u>	<u>288,981</u>
TOTAL RESERVES:		
Unrestricted Funds	279,191	288,981
Restricted Funds	-	-
	<u>279,191</u>	<u>288,981</u>

DR Torrance, Trustee

D Tweedie, Honorary Treasurer. Approved 21st February 2011

RECENT ADDITIONS to the LIBRARY

Compiled by Eileen Elder and Joan Keen

Travelling Names	Alasdair Steven
MIs Lossiemouth Cemetery and other local memorials, Parish of Drainie, Moray	Moray Burial Ground Research Group
Wiston & Robertson Burial Records	Lanarkshire FHS
Libberton and Quothquan Deaths and Mortcloth Records	Lanarkshire FHS
Leadhills Burying Ground and Cemetery MIs	Lanarkshire FHS
Kirkton Graveyard Monumental Inscriptions	Lanarkshire FHS
Elvanfoot and Troloss Graveyards (Crawford) MIs	Lanarkshire FHS
Carmichael Churchyard MIs	Lanarkshire FHS
Burying Ground MIs Cadder Churchyard	J. Scott Fairie
Burying Ground MIs Rutherglen Old Church	J. Scott Fairie
Hoskins Families of Seventeenth Century America	George Ely Russell
The Scotts, Trenabie, Westray	Thomas Scott
The Wilson Family	
MIs Dalarossie Churchyard Inverness-shire	Highland FHS
The Picts A History	Tim Clarkson
The Men of the North, The Britons of Southern Scotland	Tim Clarkson
Burying Ground MIs, St. Andrew's by the Green	J. Scott Fairie
Genealogical Collections relative to the Family of Porteous	Alex Deuchar
Greifswald - Stralsunder Jahrbuch Band 5 1965: The Scottish Immigration into Vorpommern in the 16th and early 17th Centuries	
MIs Kilmacoll Cemetery	Renfrewshire FHS
MIs Kilbarchan Cemetery	Renfrewshire FHS
MIs Houston Cemetery, Quarriers Burial Ground	Renfrewshire FHS
The Robertsons, the Sutherlands and the Making of Texas	Anne H. Sutherland
Family Trees of St. Kilda	Frances Jones (Comp.)
Act Book of the Conventry of Deacons of the Trades of Edinburgh 1577-1755, Vol I	Scottish Record Society
Act Book of the Conventry of Deacons of the Trades of Edinburgh 1577-1755, Vol II	Scottish Record Society
Scottish Studio Photographers to 1914, Vol I	Scottish Record Society
Scottish Studio Photographers to 1914, Vol II	Scottish Record Society
The Glenalmond Register 1847-1954	The Old Glenalmond Club
Audubon in Edinburgh and his Scottish Associates	John Chalmers
The Forty-Five, The Last Jacobite Rebellion	Michael Hook & Walter Ross
Placenames on Maps of Scotland and Wales	Ordnance Survey
Physicians and Society, A History of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh	Morrice McCrae
Hands Across the Water, Emigration from Northern Scotland to North America	ANESFHS
The Covenanters	David Stevenson
Some other Chelsea Pensioners and Others (Chiefly of the Peninsular Period)	A.J. Campbell (Comp.)
Register of Burials St. Aidens Churchyard, Broughty Ferry, Angus	Tay Family History Society

MO30 Index to Wills proved in the PCC	
1750-1800 Volv 3 Ch-G	
Formulary E Scottish Letters and Brieves 1286-1424	
Wellington's Forgotten Men	
A List of Deserters from Her Majesty's Service	
Scottish Veteran Pensioners	
A Prisoner of the '45'	
Illegitimacy in Scotland	
Rev Dr JD Lang and the Bounty ship Portland	
Boer War Casualties Gordon Highlanders	
Boer War Casualties Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders	
Australian Intimations in Hawick Advertiser	Thistle Times
Canadian Intimations in Hawick Advertiser	Thistle Times
American Intimations in Hawick Advertiser	
Births 1859-1900 and Marriages 1855-1872	Thistle Times
New Zealand Intimations in Hawick Advertiser 1861-1896	Thistle Times
Miscellaneous Intimations in Hawick Advertiser	
Births 1854-1900	Thistle Times
Scroll of Last Members of	
Last Scottish Parliament Edinburgh 1706-1707	
Atlas of Scottish History to 1707	Peter GB McNeil & Hector L MacQueen
Transactions, East Lothian Antiquarian & Field Naturalists Society	
Contents listed by Parish Name Vol 1-28	
Stronefield and other deserted Knapdale Townships	Jean C MacLeod
Scots Church Rotterdam Baptismal Index 1643-1900	Thistle Times
Scots Church Rotterdam Marriages 1643-1809	Thistle Times
Scottish Soldiers Serving in the Netherlands 1574-1655	
The Seven Seals of Lanark	Thomas Reid
Lancashire Registers Vol 1	CD
Bent Cemetery Burials 1853-1949	CD
Hamilton Death Records	CD

Advertising in ***'The Scottish Genealogist'***

Our journal now accepts advertising
for things relevant to genealogy.

A full page (black and white) is £80,
half page £40, and a quarter page is £20.

These are the only sizes accepted.

If you, or someone you know, would like to consider
advertising here please email the editor at:

editor@scotsgenealogy.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - 2012

All SGS ordinary meetings take place at 7.30pm in the
Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1EL
(unless otherwise stated). Admission free to all.

- 23rd January 'I would marry her in a hundred churches!' "The private life of Admiral Cochrane, the Real Master and Commander" by Dr Tristram Clarke
- 20th February Annual General Meeting followed by a short talk by Ken Nisbet "Nairn"
- 26th March "F.I.B.I.S. (Families In British India Society)" by Elaine MacGregor
- 16th April Corstorphine Village Speaker from the Corstorphine Trust
- 26th May At 2.30pm. "Visit to The Peace Garden at St John's, Princes Street Guided tour" by Angus Mitchell
Numbers limited: please book at SGS Library
- 24th September "Memories and Memory – how good are yours?" by Anne Reid
- 22nd October "The Strange Migration of Botanic Cottage" by James Simpson, OBE
- 18th November "Names & Patronymics in the Hebrides" by Ruairidh Halford-MacLeod

SGS meetings are open to all – bring your friends!
(Small donations from non-members will be appreciated.)

New Register House Research Evenings 2012

(in conjunction with Standard Life FHS)

Mon 16th January	Tue 7th February	Wed 29th February
Thu 22nd March	Mon 16th April	Tue 8th May
Wed 30th May	Thu 21st June	Mon 16th July
Tue 7th August	Wed 29th August	Thu 20th September
Mon 15th October	Tue 6th November	Wed 28th November
Thu 13th December		

These are available to members of all SAFHS groups. Please telephone the Library (0131-220 3677) to reserve your place.

Anglo-Scots

(a branch of the Manchester & Lancashire FHS)

Anglo-Scots meet at 2pm on Saturdays at Clayton House, Piccadilly, Manchester.

- 21st January Quiz and Social
- 18th February "Finding more about your Scottish Ancestry through Sasine Records and other Property Records" by Dan Muir
- 17th March "Scottish Family History on the Web" by Ina Penneyston
- 14th April Annual General Meeting and Members' Heirlooms
- 19th May "Getting All Steamed Up: The Development Of Steam In Britain's 19thC Maritime Trade" by Bruce Dawson
- 16th June Ancestry Workshop Q & A
- 21st July Favourite Websites
- 15th September Ancestral Breakthroughs

Scotslot Meetings 2012

The Scotslot 2012 Harpenden programme was not available at time of going to press. For details email stuart.laing@virgin.net or write to Elizabeth van Lottum, 16 Bloomfield Road, Harpenden, Herts AL5 4DB.

Around Scotland

To discover programmes of our sister societies, log onto www.safhs.org.uk, access the list of members and follow their links.

Family & Local History Fairs 2012

- 24-26 February Who Do You Think You Are? Live
Olympia, London www.whodoyouthinkyouare.com
21st April 23rd SAFHS Conference
University of Dundee www.tayvalley.org.uk
30th June York Family History Fair
Knivesmire Exhibition Centre www.yorkshirefamilyhistoryfair.com
8th September National Family History Fair
Newcastle Central Premier Inn www.nationalfamilyhistoryfair.com

News from the Library

New Irish records on ancestry.com

Ancestry has added several records for those researching their Irish family history. You can now search the Irish Catholic Parish Records 1742-1884 so you may find your ancestors living in their original homes before they left during and after the potato famine. You can also search the death registers for 1845-52 to find those who died from hunger and poverty because of the famine. There are also the Irish Birth, Marriage and Death indexes from 1845-1978 and the Ireland Births and Baptisms 1620-1881. All these plus the Griffith's Valuation 1848-1864 giving details of landowners and the Tithe Applotment books 1823-1837, which act as pre-famine censuses providing a chance to find those elusive Irish ancestors.

Findmypast.co.uk available again

The Library once again has access to findmypast.co.uk with its excellent range of information. A new type of subscription means there is no charge to individuals for using it, unlike the previous access.

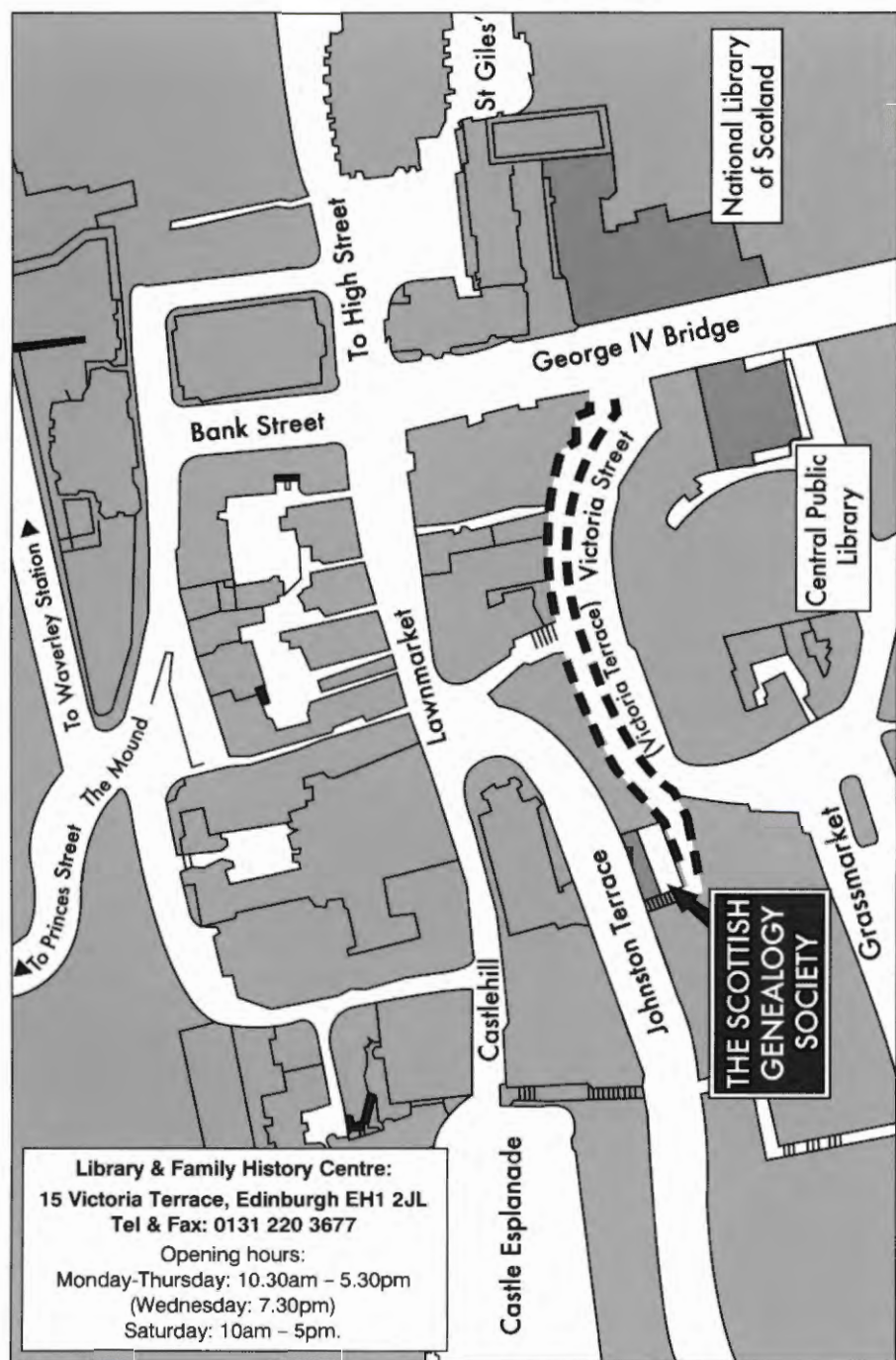
You can find people leaving the UK from 1890-1960 whether for business, pleasure or emigration, many military records including British Army service records, Soldiers who died in the Great War, the National Roll of the Great War, plus records of the military and civil in India.

It also has the English censuses, including the 1911 English census, and has started transcribing the Scottish censuses with 1841 and 1851 being done so far.

For those with English ancestors the English parish records for Baptism, Marriage and Burials are there from 1538 as well as the Birth, Marriage and Death indexes from 1837-2006.

Festive Closure

The Library will close at 5.30pm on Thursday, 22nd December 2011, and re-open at 10.30am on Monday, 9th January 2012. We wish all our members a peaceful Festive Season and successful research in the New Year.



Library & Family History Centre:

15 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL

Tel & Fax: 0131 220 3677

Opening hours:

Monday-Thursday: 10.30am – 5.30pm

(Wednesday: 7.30pm)

Saturday: 10am – 5pm.

DONALD SUTHERLAND SON OF JAMES SUTHERLAND JOINER AND
 ROBERT WRIGHT BORN AT THURSO COUNTY OF CAITHNESS 25 OF
 DECEMBER 1796 AND MARRIED ON MARGARET SENNER AT
 NEW LANARK HILLS 6 OF DECEMBER 1798 TO WHOM THE LORD
 WAS PLEASED TO GIVE UNTO HIM THE FOLLOWING CHILDREN AND
 AFTER MY FATHER ENDURED THE VICISSITUDE OF FORTUNE IN
 SOJOURNING THROUGH THE GREATER PART OF THE PLACE OF HIS
 DOWNS PROVIDENCE WAS SO KIND TO SETTLE AS THE PLACE OF HIS
 ABODE THE TOWN OF DUNFERMLINE WHERE HE SPENT THE LAST
 EIGHT YEARS OF HIS VALUABLE LIFE IN CLOTHING THE NAKED
 AND DIED A MEMBER OF THE TEMPLANCE SOCIETY 2 OF MAY 1831
 AND MY FATHER WAS DEARLY BELOVED AND MUCH REGRETTED
 BY HIS LITTLE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS HERE ARE THE NAMES OF HIS
 LITTLE FAMILY JAMES SUTHERLAND BORN AT THURSO
 OF DECEMBER 1799 & ATERSON SUTHERLAND BORN AT NEW LANARK
 13 OF OCTOBER 1801 JOHN SUTHERLAND BORN AT NEW LANARK
 17 OF MAY 1803 MARY SUTHERLAND BORN AT NEW LANARK
 12 OF JUNE 1805 BENJAMIN SUTHERLAND BORN AT THURSO
 6 OF MARCH 1808 & SYDNEY SUTHERLAND BORN AT THURSO
 21 OF JUNE 1807 & ALAN SUTHERLAND
 7 OF MAY 1811 MARGARET SUTHERLAND
 BORN AT EDINBURGH 13 OF MAY 1813 BARBARA SUTHERLAND
 BORN AT EDINBURGH 8 OF APRIL 1816 BENJAMIN SUTHERLAND
 BORN AT EDINBURGH 13 OF JANUARY 1818 JANE SUTHERLAND
 BORN AT EDINBURGH 24 OF MAY 1820 AS I AM THE YOUNGEST
 OF THE FAMILY I FINISH THIS TASK ON THE FIFTH OF MAY 1831