



# THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGIST

**SEPTEMBER 2014**

**Jedburgh High Court**

**A Dumfriesshire Sampler**

**The Simpsons of Greendyke**

**A Miniature Mystery**

**A Case of Incest**

**QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY**

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**Vol. LXI No. 3**

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*Front Cover:* The Society's Coat of Arms

*Back Cover:* Photograph by Jennifer Mason Brown.

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THUMBSCREW.  
(From the Museum of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.)

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Friday 24th October 2014 at the A K Bell Library, Perth

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### The Scottish Genealogist

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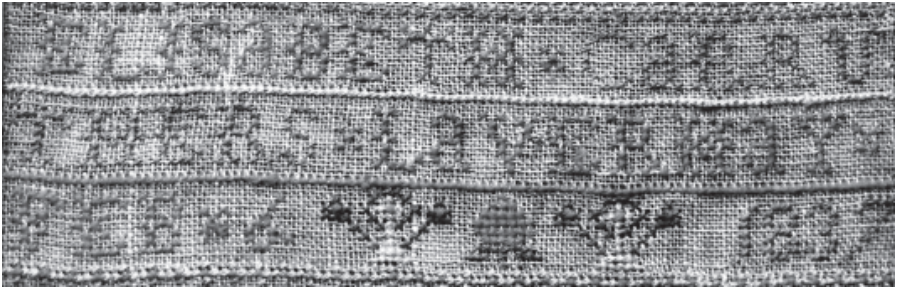
# A Dumfriesshire Sampler

Jennifer Mason Brown

A sampler came into my possession which intrigued me. I was keen to gain knowledge about all things to do with the making of samplers.

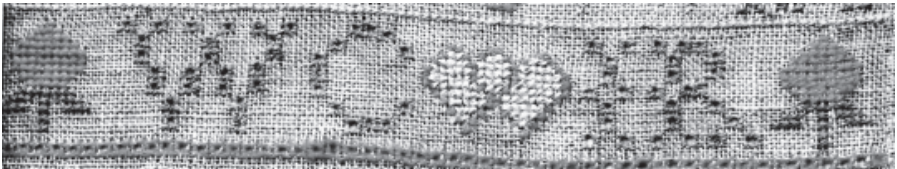
In discussion with Naomi Tarrant, former Curator of Costume and Textiles at the National Museum of Scotland, I learned that the sampler had been worked on linen with wool threads. The stitching is mainly cross stitch, except for the immediate family initials of the girl who stitched the sampler which are in eyelet stitch.

The top third of the sampler consists of four rows of doubled-up letters of the alphabet followed by two rows in single letters. Then there are two rows of initials in eyelet stitch. After that, a dividing line of zigzags of small cross stitch lies between two rows of eyelet stitch.



Next she has worked four rows of initials, the fourth ending in the numbers 1 to 9. Then three rows of writing her own name, where she lived and the date: *Elisabeth Carruthers, Laverhay. Feb 6 1837*. Finally she ends with two rows of border pattern.

The colours she uses throughout - red and green - are traditional Scottish colours. However, 'SR', 'MR', 'JC', 'JC' and 'NC' had died by the time Elisabeth did the sampler, so these initials were worked in black.



The row of initials in eyelet stitch that begins and ends with a rose has the initials of her father 'WC', William Carruthers, who was born in March 1777 in the Parish of Wamphray, Dumfriesshire. He was the son of George Carruthers of Miln and his wife Elizabeth [Betty] Rogerson.



Elizabeth's mother 'IR', Isabella Rogerson, was born on 15th May 1790. She was the daughter of David Rogerson, farmer in Fingland, Wamphray, and his wife Isabella Johnston. Elizabeth has stitched two hearts intertwined between the initials of her parents. William Carruthers and Isabella Rogerson were married on the 22nd May 1818 in the Parish of Wamphray.



The initials in the second line of eyelet stitch, 'IC', 'GC' and 'EC' adhere to the Scottish naming pattern, using the forenames of the maternal and paternal grandparents. Elizabeth has stitched 'IC' for her sister Isabella Carruthers, born 21st April 1820; 'GC' for her brother George Carruthers, born 18th July 1823, and then her own initials 'EC'. Elizabeth was born 25th September 1825. All three children were born at the farm of Laverhay, where their father was farmer.

Elizabeth's paternal grandmother Betty Rogerson, born 9th July 1739, and maternal grandfather David Rogerson, born May 1735, were sister and brother. Both were children of Samuel Rogerson and his wife Janet Johnstone. Samuel Rogerson was tenant farmer in Lochbrow, Parish of Johnstone.

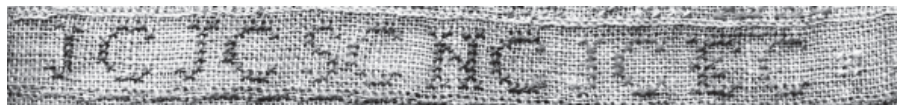
Elizabeth's parents being first cousins may, in some ways, be helpful in identifying the initials on her sampler, though it does create some confusion as the same forenames are used again and again in both Carruthers and Rogerson.



The initials in the first row of the lower part of the sampler are those of the Rogerson aunts and uncles of Elizabeth, who were all born at Fingland, Wamphray. The two sets of initials at the beginning of the row are worked in black. 'SR' is Samuel Rogerson, born 29th March 1778 (died 1833). The second set of initials in black, 'MR', is Margaret Rogerson, born 7th November 1779 (died 1817). Elizabeth has then worked a set of initials in red, 'JR' Janet (a.k.a. Jessie) Rogerson, born 26th September 1782 (died 1874),

followed by initials worked in green, 'JR', Jane Rogerson, born 2nd November 1783 (died 1863). The initials worked in a light blue/ grey, 'JR', John Rogerson, born 17th April 1786 (died 1864). The initials worked in red at the end of the row are 'ER', Elizabeth Rogerson, born 6th July 1788 (died 1877).

The initials of the Carruthers aunts and uncles of Elizabeth are not so easily identified and dated, partly because of the erratic recording of entries for births in the 1700s in the Wamphray Old Parish Register. The birth entry for Elizabeth's father, William Carruthers, has been inserted in the register. For his siblings I am working from death records, wills and monumental inscriptions.



Again the row begins with two sets of initials worked in black. Both sets are for 'JC': one is for John Carruthers who died 3rd April 1797. I deduce the other 'JC' is for Janet Carruthers, as in a will of a later date there is mention of 'Betty Carruthers of Miln and the three daughters'. But by the time the sampler is made, presumably Janet has died. The following initials, 'SC', worked in green, are those of Samuel Carruthers of Miln who died at Kirkhill, Wamphray, 25th May 1841, no age given.

The third set of initials worked in black, 'NC', is for Nicholas Carruthers, daughter of George Carruthers of Miln and his wife Elizabeth [Betty] Rogerson. The only monumental inscription information given is, *Nicholas their daughter died young*. This name has been used before: 8th December 1723, John Carruthers and Nickloas [sic] Carruthers had a child baptised named Georg [sic]. This is possibly George, father of William who was born in 1777. The next initials, worked in red, 'JC', are for Jane Carruthers who died in 1852 and her age is given as 79 years, which means she was born in 1773. The last initials on this line, worked in green, 'EC', are for Elizabeth Carruthers who died in 1846 aged 68 years, which means she was born in 1778.



The last line-and-a-half of initials are possibly those of cousins and friends. 'MS' and 'GC' with a heart worked between is a bit of a mystery. I have not found anyone with the initials 'MS' and I do not know who the 'GC' can be. Elizabeth's brother George (born 1823), will marry Jane French who is his

first as well as his second cousin. Also, Elizabeth has already stitched his initials in the sampler and he is not much older than she is. There is a George Carruthers who lives at Kirkhill, Wamphray, who would have been in his mid-twenties when Elizabeth was working the sampler. He is both first and second cousin of Elizabeth; as his father is her uncle, Samuel Carruthers. George is farming with his brothers Walter and John in Kirkhill in the 1841 census. There is no sign of George being married - I haven't found any marriage proclamation. By the 1851 census he has died, 19th June 1844, Kirkhill.

The next initials, 'JC', are likely to be those of Elizabeth's cousin Janet Carruthers who was born 30th June 1825, Kirkhill. Then 'JR' could be cousin Jean Rogerson, born 14th September 1821, Fingland, Wamphray; cousin Joseph Rogerson, born circa 1826/ 1828; cousin James Rogerson, born 20th June 1829, Fingland, or, cousin John Rogerson, born 30th October 1830, Fingland; daughters and sons of Elizabeth's uncle, John Rogerson (born 1786). Next, the initials 'MK' are likely to be for Margaret Kennedy, born 14th November 1823, Annanholm, Wamphray. She is the daughter of Elizabeth's aunt, Jane Rogerson (born 1783) and her second husband, David Kennedy, farmer in Annanholm. The last set of initials on this line, 'JS', are likely to be for John Scott, born 23rd May 1811, Langholm. He is the son of the first husband of Elizabeth's aunt, Jane Rogerson.



The half-line of initials begins with 'ER' and is likely to be another of the cousins at Fingland, Wamphray, Elizabeth Rogerson, born there 13th December 1822. Next, the initials 'JK' are quite possibly for Jane Kennedy, born 28th January 1827, Annanholm, Wamphray, or maybe for another of the Kennedy sisters, Jannet Kennedy, born 24th September 1817, Elbowhill, Wamphray. Finally, the only possible candidate for the initials 'EP' is Esther Paterson, who may have been a friend of Elizabeth. Born about 1820, she was daughter of the Rev. Henry Paterson, minister of the Relief Church, Wamphray.

It has been quite a tangled tree to figure out, especially since most people are related twice and George Carruthers (born 1823) is three times related to his wife, Jane French. There is even a relationship times four: John Scott (born 1811) is cousin of Elizabeth Carruthers (born 1825); John Scott is husband of cousin of Elizabeth Carruthers; John Scott is second cousin of Elizabeth Carruthers; and John Scott is husband of second cousin of Elizabeth Carruthers.



<http://www.carothers-carruthers.com/recordsofcarruthers.htm>



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One such resource is our own CD of the 1790 Census of the St Cuthbert's Parish (of Edinburgh), an invaluable fund of information for those researching in the City.

# George Hay or Frazer and Elizabeth Sutherland of Pitsligo and Thurso: A Case Of Incest

Contributed by Russell Cockburn

Att Thurso the Twenty eight day of May One Thousand Seven Hundred and Twenty Eight Years. The Presbytry met *Pro re nata* and after prayer by Master William MacBeath Moderator *sederent* with him Masters William Innes, Hugh Corse and John Monro with Master James Nicolson, Clerk. No ruling Elders. Master James Oswald's absence excused (He being at the Assembly). Masters Hector Monro, Alexander Gibson, Alexander Brodie, Andrew Sutherland and James Torncie Absent.

The Moderator informed the Brethren that the occasion of his calling them together was a letter he had from Master Innes informing him of a very weighty Process the Session of Thurso had to lay before this Presbytry which could not admit of longer delay. In regard that the Delinquents were to be banished out of the country by the Civil Magistrate and presented an Extract of the Process, The Tenour Whereof Follows; Thurso May Twenty Fifth One Thousand Seven Hundred and Twenty Eight Years. The Session meet *Pro re Nata* and constitute. The Moderator informed the Elders that the reason of his calling them was a letter that he had yester night from Master William Mercer, Minister of Pitsligo, informing that there had been two persons guilty of Incest elopet from his Parioch, that their names were George Hay and Isabel Sutherland and they had a maid with them called Elizabeth Taylor, that the man was a Weaver to trade and that they resided in this Parioch and he being sure that there was no stranger person following that employment among us but George Frazer and other circumstances mentioned in the letter agreeing to no other man he made application to Ulbster to secure the Persons of George Frazer, Isabel Shaw his pretended spouse and Elizabeth Taylor their Servant Maid till they should compeer before the Session and prove themselves innocent. The Session approved the Moderators conduct and appointed the said Persons to be called in who accordingly compeared.

The Session appointed them to be examined one by one and for some weighty reasons judged it proper to begin with the foresaid Elizabeth Taylor, who being solemnly sworn purged of malice and partial Counsel and interregat how they called her Master ? Answered, That he called himself since he came to this place, George Frazer but that his real name was George Hay in Boghead in the Parioch of Pitsligo, a Tennant of my Lord Salton's, *Secundo*, Being interregat how they called her Mistress, Answered that she went under the name of Isabel Shand since she came here but that her real name was Isabel Sutherland Daughter to Robert Sutherland in the Parioch of Pitsligo. *Tortu*, Being interregat if she served the said George Hay in his first wife's time and what her name was. Answered, that her name was Mary Sutherland,

Sister German to Isabel Sutherland with whom he now cohabits as if she were his married wife, and further added that the said Robert Sutherland, Father to the said Mary and Isabel Sutherland was excommunicate for scandalous conversations with Christan Miln.

*Quarto*, being interrogat when they came from Pitsligo? Answered: about the latter of Harvest. *Qinto*, being interrogat if the said Isabel Sutherland brought forth a Child, and when and to whom? Answered: that she brought forth a Child about the beginning of Harvest, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Twenty Seven and that the father'd it upon George Ferguson who was content to purge himself by Oath that he had no carnal knowledge of her and further that the said George Frazer and Isabel Sutherland brought the said Child along with them and that the said Frazer own'd himself to be it's Father.

*Sexto*, being interrogat if they came of together? Answered, Not. But she came along with her Mistress and that she overtook them at Fochabers. All this she the Depenant declares to be truth as she shall to GOD and because she cannot write empowers the Clerk to subscribe for her. See *Subscriber*, James Nicolson, Sess. Clk.

Isabel Shand being called Compeared and being interrogat if she was married to George Frazer? Answered, she was by Master Lesly, Minster at St. Fergus in the Shire of Banff. Being interrogat how long since she was married? Answered, Six years come August and that she had three children to him one whereof died since she came here and that her Father was Robert Shand in the said Parioch of St. Fergus and that she had lived with her husband there all the time since she was married except one year that she was at Inverness but no Tesificate from St. Fergus or Inverness and neither knew Ministers or Magistrates or the Gentleman's name on whose ground she had but that her husband knew all these things. She being removed - George Frazer was called in who compearing and being interrogat what was his name? Answered George Frazer and they called his wife Isabel Shand and that they were married five years since by Master Lesly, Minister at St. Fergus but does not mind the month he was married. Only that it was in winter and that he had four Children by his wife, Three of which died not having come to a timeous birth and he had one alive with his Father George Frazer in St. Fergus in the Shire of Banff, and being enquired where he was born; Answered in Berrydale in Lincoln Shire, England and that his Father was a Serjeant. Being enquired how they called his wife's Father? Answered William Shand in St. Fergus. Being enquired if he had a testificate? Answered in the negative. And being enquired if he had lived any time in St. Fergus? Answered not since he was married, but that he has been sometime in Aberdeen, Stirling and Edinburgh and near a year in the Green at Inverness. Being asked if his wife went along with him? Answered in the negative but that she resided in Peterhead half a year, Aberdeen half a year and the rest of her time at St. Fergus except when at Inverness. Being interrogat if formerly married;

Answered in the negative. Being interrogat if his wife had any sister, Answered one named Elizabeth. He further told that he knew now none of the Ministers or Magistrates of Inverness except one Baillie Fraser. Master Mercer's letter being read to him and he interrogat if he was ever called George Hay, denied the same and affirmed that he never resided in Pitsligo and further told that Elizabeth Taylor was his wife's neice. They being confronted together and interrogat the said Elizabeth Taylor adhered to her deposition and the said George Frazer and Isabel Shand persisted in these denial notwithstanding of all pains taken on them. The Session having adjourned to the afternoon Closed with Prayer.

*Eodam Die Hora Quartie Post Moridiem* The Session met and constitute and Parties being called compeared George Frazer and after much pains taken with him confessed that his Surname was Hay, and that he was the same Person the Minister of Pitsligo wrote of. And being interrogat if he was married with this woman with whom he cohobited so long in Incest declared he was not. *Tertev*, Being interrogat if he knew this Isabel Sutherland to be the sister of Mary Sutherland alledged to be his first wife? Declares he cannot deny it but withal declares that Mary Sutherland was never his married wife though he begat a Child on her, frequently cohobited with her and got a forged testimony of marriage. Being interrogat if he had more Children than one with this woman declared he had none but the Child that died here who was baptized by Master Mercer William Mitchel being sponsor.

Isabel Shand being called and the above confession made by George Hay being read to her she adhered thereto, and confessed her name to be Isabel Sutherland and acknowledged Mary Sutherland the said George's reputed first wife to be her sister. Being interrogat if she had guilt with George Ferguson Answered in the negative. They having put on sackcloth the moderator spoke at full length with respect to the heinous nature of their sin and exhorted them to repentance. The Session taking the premises to their consideration do forthwith *per emplorely* them never to cohabit any more together, with Certification that in that Case they shall be held guilty of Notlous Incest and refers them to the next Presbytery to be called Tuesday next *Pro re nata* for censure. And appoint them to find sufficient Bail for their Compearance there or else to remain in Prison and desires the Concurrence of the civil Magistrate to interpone his Authority thereto and the session. Approved the Clerk to wait of Ulbster and thank him for his Concurrence and assistance in this matter and the he was personally at with them in order to bring them to a Confession.

The Clerk is appointed to give in an extract of this process subscribed by him to the Presbytry Extracted by *sic subscribitus*. JA, NICOLSON, Clerk.

The Presbytry having read and considered the above Process did approve of the Moderator's Conduct in calling them together before Ulbster who is sheriff

should banish them and appointed the Delinquents to be called which being done Compeared in SACCO George Hay alias Fraser and Isabel Sutherland alias Shan[d], and being severally interrogat adhered to their former Confession above narrated That they have for this long time been guilty of habitual Incest and declared their grief and sorrow for it. The Moderator and several members spoke at full length to them with respect to their great wickedness with the hainous aggravations that attend it and rebuked them for covering their sin with a train of lies and falsehoods after which they were removed till the Presbytry should think of their Case.

The Prebytry having asked Counsel of God by prayer taking to their serious Consideration that George Hay and Isabel Sutherland have cohabited and for some time together in the hainous sin of fornication and Incest (he the said Hay having lived a Year and a half with her Sister in fornication) And they having Confessed the same both before the Session of Thurso and this Judicatory being moved with zeal for the Glory of God and the purging his House of such vile corrupt members according to the word of God and Apostolick Preidice did solemnly IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST excommunicate and Cast out of the Church of God and deliver up to Satan the said George Hay and Isabel Sutherland for the punishment of their flesh that the soul may be saved in the Day of the Lord and that for their said atrocious and Heaven daring wickedness and appoint the said sentence to be intimated next Lord's Day from the Pulpit of Thurso immediately after Divine service in the forenoon and in all the Parioch Churches of this County on the Lord's Day thereafter and appoint the Commission of the Assembly acquainted thereof that the said sentence may be intimated to all the Parioches of this national Church and appoint the Moderator to pronounce this sentence immediately upon them which was accordingly done. There was likewise certification given them that, if they be found ever to haunt our author's Company They will be persecute for their lives.

It is further agreed that an Extract of this whole *Die* before the session of Thurso and this Prebytry be sent under a cover by Master Innes to Master Mercer Minister of Pitsligo to be by him laid before that Presbytry. The Presbytry Closed with Prayer.

*Source: National Registers of Scotland, Ref. CH2/47/4*

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## October talk

The Edinburgh World Heritage Trust has recently taken some responsibility for the care of five of the historic burial grounds in central Edinburgh: St Cuthbert's, Canongate, Greyfriars', Old Calton and New Calton. Dr Susan Buckham will recount their histories and explain why Robert Louis Stevenson described them as *Appallingly Adorned*.



# The Simpsons of Greendyke

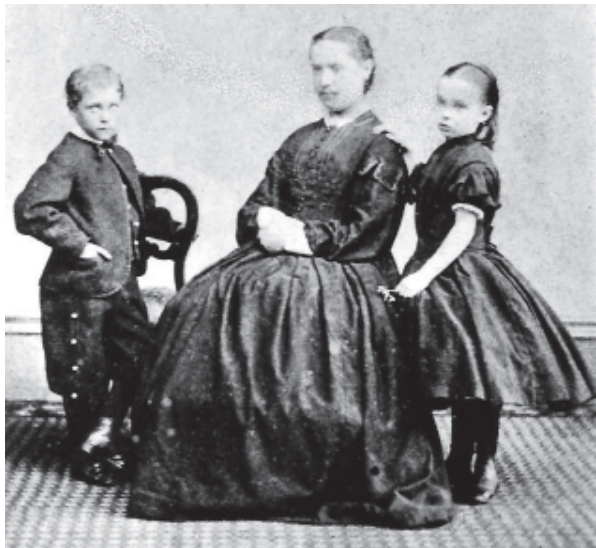
John Lord

The present writer's maternal grandmother, Flora Ferguson or Henderson, left a photograph album which included two taken in Falkirk. One shows Flora's maternal grandmother, Isabella Simpson or McAlley, and her twin children John and Lillias. Isabella's husband, John McAlley, was captain of a foreign-going sailing-ship, which presumably accounts for his absence. The other photo shows Isabella's mother, Agnes Towers or Simpson, widow of Walter Simpson, formerly a farmer in Greendyke, parish of Bothkennar, Stirlingshire.

It is with the genealogy of this family, who farmed in Greendyke for many centuries, until Walter finally sold the property in 1822, that this article is concerned

Some preliminary notes will help in following the family's history.

1. In January 1822 Walter registered a sasine in Edinburgh (RS3/1227/37). This sasine mentions three documents in particular. The first two are sasines of 1774 and 1778 respectively, in which



Isabella Simpson or McAlley, with twins John and Lillias

Walter's father Thomas transferred to, then received back from William Simpson, his eldest son by his first wife Margaret Young, "all and whole one quarter or one fourth part of all and whole the lands of Greendyke ... excepting and reserving to the heirs and assignees of the deceased John Simpson in Bothkennar the principal house barnyard and orchyard ditches banks and dykes thereof on the east west and south parts lying contiguous to the said house as the same were sometime occupied by umquhill Alexander Simpson". Later in the sasine the property is referred to as "all and whole the said quarter or one fourth part of all and whole two oxengates and three quarters of an oxengate of all and whole the lands of Greendyke". This very distinctive description, "one quarter of  $2\frac{3}{4}$  oxgates of the lands of Greendyke, excepting and reserving to the heirs of the deceased John Simpson the principal house

... etc", enables the family to be traced back some centuries. The third document mentioned is a sasine of 14th October 1799 in which Thomas transferred to Walter, his eldest son by his second wife Margaret Millar, the whole of his land, being sixteen acres in Greendyke.

2. This 16 acres in Greendyke, which continued to be Walter's main holding, is described in a sasine (RS3/942/58) of 1813 as being part of "the lands of Grange of Bothkennar", and amounting to "an oxgate, the fourth part of an oxgate, and a half of a fourth part of an oxgate". This is, of course, half of  $2\frac{3}{4}$  oxgates, so the quarter would be eight acres.

3. A number of sasines in the late C18th and early C19th (e.g. RS3/942/58) refer to the property as "Greendyke, one half whereof is called Lidsdale". In many documents, members of the family are referred to as "of Lidsdale" (various spellings), or in earlier documents, variants of Luggedale.<sup>1</sup>



Agnes Towers or Simpson

In Grassom's map of 1817 and in John Thompson's of 1832, Greendyke is shown in the parish of Bothkennar, near the shore of the Firth of Forth, just south of the border with the parish of Airth (approx NS924845). The earliest OS map has no farm Greendyke in Bothkennar, but shows one just over the border in Airth (as does Roy's map, 1747-55), which is still there. I have not been able to find if there is a connection between these two Greendykes.<sup>1</sup>

Grange of Bothkennar, of which Greendyke was a part, was Crown land. Holders paid annual rent to the Crown, and also an "introitus", an "entry-fee", when first taking possession. The Crown made lists, approximately every three years, of its vassals, their holdings, and feu-duties etc., which survive from the late 15th century. These records have been transcribed in the later volumes of *The Exchequer Rolls of the Kingdom of Scotland*. Charters granting Crown lands, or confirming transfers of such land, were made under the Great Seal of Scotland or the Privy Seal, and summaries of these are also in printed volumes, *The Register of the Great Seal* and *The Register of the Privy Seal* (all in Latin).

### Patrick Simpson

We start in 1480, when the *Exchequer Rolls* record that Patrick Simpson

held 3½ oxgates in Grange of Bothkennar. By 1483 he had acquired an extra oxgate, making a total of 4½ oxgates. This 4½ oxgates continues to be his holding recorded in the Exchequer Rolls for 1486, 1490 (two references) and 1492.<sup>2</sup>

### **Thomas Simpson & John Simpson**

A change comes in 1495 when Patrick Simpson, and Thomas Simpson and John Simpson, sons of the said Patrick, conjointly and severally, hold the 4½ oxgates.

In 1499 Patrick has disappeared from the record, and Thomas and John are each listed as holding 2¼ oxgates, i.e. half of the 4½ oxgates. In 1502 and 1505 they continue to be recorded as holding 2¼ oxgates each.<sup>3</sup>

Then on 18th July 1506 they jointly acquired a further oxgate in Grange of Bothkennar, so that each now had an extra half oxgate, making 2¾ oxgates each. This is, of course, a figure we noted in the preliminary notes. Their entry fee of £16 10s for this extra holding is recorded in 1507. In 1508 therefore, Thomas and John are each recorded as having a holding of 2¾ oxgates.<sup>4</sup>

### **John Simpson & John Simpson (sons of Thomas and John)**

We now move to the *Register of the Privy Seal of Scotland* where the next generation appears. Two charters dated 20th February 1528, Nos. 4083, 4084, respectively, name Thomas and John jointly with their respective sons, both John.<sup>5</sup>

4083. At Edinburgh, 20 Feb. Feu charter of precept to John Simpson and his son John Simpson – of two oxgates and three quarters of one oxgate of the lands of Grange of Bothkennar, with its pertinents, which the said John Simpson senior now occupies.

4084. At Edinburgh, 20 Feb. Feu charter of precept to Thomas Simpson and his son John Simpson – of two oxgates and three quarters of one oxgate of the lands of Grange of Bothkennar, with its pertinents.

Some time later, in 1541, a check seems to have been made on people's titles to their holdings, and noting their feu-duty, transcribed in the *Exchequer Rolls*. Under the heading: "Baronia de Buthkennar" comes the following entry, (for once not in Latin!):<sup>6</sup>

The Grange	Johne Symson producit ane charter of few maid to him and Elene Liddale, his spous, of tua oxingang and thre quarteris theirof, payand yeirlie iij ll. ij s. iiij d silver v ½ bollis beir v ½ caponis
Thomas Symson	Producit ane charter of few maid to him and Margaret, his spous, of tua oxingang and thre quarteris theirof, payand yeirlie iij ll. ij s. iiij d silver v ½ bollis beir v ½ caponis

John Simpson, husband of Helen Liddell, is later referred to as John Simpson junior, so he is the third generation, son of John, nephew of Thomas and grandson of Patrick.

Since the King, “with consent of his mother”, had prior to this on 30th May 1854 granted the  $2\frac{1}{4}$  oxgates to John Simpson and Margaret Allan his spouse by a charter under the Great Seal (Vol.3, p 306, No.1360), it seems possible that the second part if the entry is an error for “*John son of Thomas Symson...* and Margaret his spous”. Such a slip is perhaps more likely by the fact that John bore the by-name “Thomas’s John”.

The next charters are recorded in *The Register of the Great Seal of Scotland*.<sup>7</sup> On the 21st April 1550 two charters (Nos. 436, 438) were granted to the two young John Simpsons, sons of Thomas and John, in their own right, each for  $2\frac{3}{4}$  oxgates in Grange of Bothkennar. These both appear to be confirming previous charters made while the King was a minor. The first makes the grant to “John Simpson and Margaret Allan his spouse”, so refers to John Simpson son of Thomas, since, as we have seen, the other John was married to Helen Liddell. The second is to “John Simpson junior in Greendyke and Helen Liddell his spouse”.

A charter in 1561 records that John Simpson, son of Thomas, sold his  $2\frac{3}{4}$  oxgates.<sup>8</sup>

At Holyroodhouse, 27th Oct. The Queen has confirmed a charter made by John Simpson alias Thomas’s John, dweller in Grange of Bothkennar, (by which, for a sum of money paid) he sold to Alexander Bruce of Airth, and Jonet Levingstoun his spouse ...  $2\frac{3}{4}$  oxgangs of the lands of Grange of Bothkennar.

We follow from here on the Simpsons in Greendyke, those descending from Patrick’s son John. From a reference in the *Exchequer Rolls* we find that there were three contemporaneous John Simpsons in Grange of Bothkennar in 1550.<sup>9</sup> In a footnote, a charter given to an Andrew Mylne is quoted, in which reference is made to John Simpson senior, John Simpson junior and John Simpson youngest there. So in 1550 there was a John Simpson in Grange of Bothkennar even younger than John Simpson junior of Greendyke. We come next to what is probably this youngest John Simpson, together with his brothers, Thomas and, in particular, Duncan, great-grandsons of Patrick.

### **Duncan Simpson**

A charter, No. 1076, granted 12 July 1614, refers back to a contract made in 1562 by John Simpson of Greendyke and Helena Reid his spouse.<sup>10</sup> It is just conceivable that this is the same John Simpson of Greendyke as in 1550, with a second wife, but since in any event we know there was a younger John, a consideration of possible dates (see tree) makes it practically certain this is a further generation.

The charter notes that “the late John Simpson of Greendyke in Bothkennar and Helen Reid his spouse by virtue of a contract dated Falkirk 10 July 1562 transferred to the late Thomas and Duncan Simpson his brothers half of his lands of Greendyke, which Thomas and Duncan obtained a feu charter of the above on 28 January 1562/63 (reserving to the heirs and assigns of the said John Simpson the principal house ...etc,) and by which the late William Simpson, eldest lawful son and heir of the said Duncan obtained a quarter of the said lands of Greendyke (which extend in total to  $2\frac{3}{4}$  oxgates) of the date 20 Aug. 1585”. The 1614 charter now granted to “Alexander Simpson in Bothkennar eldest lawful son and served heir to the said William, to the said quarter of Greendyke, ... (reserving as above)”.

So in 1563, Duncan Simpson obtained one quarter of the  $2\frac{3}{4}$  oxgates of the lands of Greendyke, excepting and reserving to the heirs of John Simpson ... etc. Here we have, dating back 260 years, the origin of that description of the property which we saw still appearing in the 1822 sasine. (It is evident that Thomas’s descendants would also have an inheritance described in identical terms to Duncan’s. This will be considered later.)

The name of Duncan’s wife is known from the Testament Dative (CC8/8/24), registered at the Edinburgh Commissary Court on 1st April 1592, of “Jonet Maistertoun, sometime spouse to Duncan Symson in Ludgedale, Parish of Bothkenner”.

### **William Simpson**

In the NRS there is a document (GD58/5/8/3) dated 1591 recording a tack made by “Alexander Callender, portioner of Hallis of Airthe, and Jane Knox, his spouse, to William Symson, son of Duncan Symson in Luggedaill, Elizabeth Burn, his spouse, and Alexander Symson, their son, and the survivor”. This seems to be the earliest reference to Lidsdale in connection with the family.

### **Alexander Simpson**

A retour dated 12th March 1608, serves Alexander heir to his father William Simpson in Grange of Bothkennar. These are probably the Alexander and William mentioned in the 1614 charter, but no property is specified, to confirm this. The retour does not give the date of William’s death.

### **John Simpson, then Thomas Simpson**

A retour dated 3 November 1686 serves Thomas Simpson in Powfoulis in the parish of Airth as heir male and tailzie to his grandfather Alexander Simpson, portioner of Greendyke, in “a quarter of  $2\frac{3}{4}$  oxgates ... reserving etc”. It states that Alexander died in December 1624, and notes that there has been a lapse of 64 years before Thomas formally entered the property. It seems that Alexander’s son had done nothing about it.

Who was this son? This can be established by four sasines, three from 10th December 1686 (RS59/7/145-147) and one from 12th December 1662 (RS59/



1/197-199). In the 1662 sasine, John Simpson of Lidsdale and his wife Margaret Callendar, fulfilling the terms of a marriage contract, make over to their son John Simpson younger and his promised spouse Marion Syme, and the longest liver of them, and their heirs, half their “eight aikers of land called greindyke of bothkennar”. (Eight acres, as we have seen, was equivalent to a quarter of 2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> oxgates). One of the witnesses was Thomas, son of John Simpson elder.

In the first of the 1686 sasines, Thomas Simpson in Powfoullis inherits as in the retour above. In the second, he gives a liferent in half this property to his spouse Marion Logan. The third is a renunciation by Marion Syme, relict of the deceased John Simpson, and her daughters Margaret and Janet, acknowledging, for a payment of 1250 merks, Thomas Simpson in Powfoullis as “aire maille of tailzie” to Alexander Simpson portioner of Greindyke, “his goodsir” (i.e. grandfather), and renouncing Marion’s liferent and any title the daughters might have. Thomas is described as “eldest faither brother” to Margaret and Janet, and Alexander is referred to as their great-grandfather. So, Thomas was brother to John the husband of Marion Syme, and therefore also a son of John Simpson of Lidsdale, who was therefore son to Alexander.

However, in a sasine of 1696 (RS59/478,479) John Simpson of Strattonhall (in Bothkennar) inherits from *his* grandfather, also Alexander Simpson of Greindyke, an identically described property. This is not Thomas’s inheritance passing to yet another brother, for, as we shall see, Thomas’s property was inherited by his son William. This can only be the other “quarter”. Is there anything to show which Alexander was descended from Duncan, and which from Thomas? Yes, the property inherited in 1686 by Thomas was inherited by the Lidsdale Simpsons, i.e. the descendants of Duncan.

Thomas Simpson’s marriage to Marion Logan on 22nd August 1672 is recorded in the Airth parish register, as are the baptisms of six children, their eldest son William on 4th September 1681. Thomas seems to have continued to live in Airth until at least 1690, for in a sasine (RS59/7/490,491) registered 17/9/1690 “Thomas Simpstone in manes of Bafoullis” (sic) gave a liferent of £40 to Marion Logan his spouse. And he was certainly still a tenant there in 1691, for the Register of the Privy Council of Scotland Vol.XVI p.652 records a decret of 29th December 1691, against the parishioners of Airth, which names “Thomas Sympsone tenant in Balfoulls”.

However, in his Testament testamentar<sup>11</sup> dated 5th April 1699 and registered 10th November 1704, he refers to himself as Thomas Simpstone portioner of Greindyke, and signs it “with my hand att greindyke”. It names his spouse Marion Logan as executrix, and the registration says he died in April 1699.

### **William Simpson**

A retour registered on 2nd July 1704, and dated 30th June 1704, names William Sympson of Greindyke as heir to his father Thomas Sympsone

Portioner of Greendyke who died May 1700 (a discrepancy of about a year in Thomas's date of death) in "a quarter of 2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> oxgates ... etc". A sasine (RS59/11/412) dated 18th July 1704 registered this inheritance.

In 1730 William bought from John Callendar and his wife Marion Walker "their lands of Greendyke consisting of eight acres", which he was already occupying (RS59/15/466). It was this purchase which brought the family's holding in Greendyke up to the sixteen acres we saw in the preliminary notes. It seems probable that the phrase in subsequent sasines "one half whereof is called Lidsdale" refers to the original 8 acres.

The Bothkennar Kirk Session minutes for 16th July 1730 record contributions towards the cost of a new bell. The list begins with the heritors, the fifth being £1 from William Simson Lidsdale.

I have been unable to find any record of William's marriage, but the baptisms of his children, recorded in the Bothkennar register, name his wife as Janet Callendar. The first four baptisms are all recorded together in 1727, though the earliest, their son Thomas, dates back to Agust (sic) 1719.

A retour dated 28th January 1774, registered on 7th February 1774, gives the date of William's death as February 1733 and names Thomas as William's heir, the property being described in the usual way. Thomas would have been only 13 at the time. The Testament Dative<sup>12</sup> and Inventory of "William Simpson of Lidsdeall" were registered on 12th February 1739.

### **Thomas Simpson**

It was not until 1774 also that Thomas registered a sasine (RS59/23/460) recording his possession of his inheritance.

On 7th January 1749 "Thomas Simson of Lidesdale ... and Margaret Young daughter to the deceast David Young portioner in Beancorse"(sic) were proclaimed for marriage in Bothkennar.<sup>13</sup> Between 1750 and 1761 baptisms of 6 children are recorded,<sup>13</sup> for the first and last two of which Thomas is "of Lidsdale, for one "of Greendick"(sic), and one simply "portioner in this parish". Their first child, William, would in 1776 inherit David Young's property in Polmont (RS59/24/248).

After his wife's death Thomas married again. On 7th May 1763 "Thomas Simpson Portioner in Lidsdale" and Margaret Miller enrolled their names for marriage.<sup>13</sup> Four children were baptised,<sup>13</sup> for three of which Thomas was "of Lidsdale" and one "in Greendyke". Their second child, and eldest son, was Walter, baptised on 23rd November 1766.

The minutes of meetings of the heritors of Bothkennar, which start on 15th February 1788 when the need to repair the Kirk was raised, include the name of Thomas Simpson of Greendyke. After a few meetings it was agreed that a new church needed to be built, and it was left to a committee of the wealthier heritors, who would have to meet the expense. Thomas reappears in meetings from 1790 to 1795.

**A New Church to be Built,**  
 At BOTHKENNAR, in the County of Stirling.  
**S**UFFICIENT Tradesmen who are willing to undertake  
 the Work, are desired to give in their plans and estimates to a general meeting of the Heritors of that parish, to be held on Monday the 18th of August next.—Mr Dickson, the minister, will show the ground upon which the Church is intended to be built, and inform as to the number of people which it should contain.

*From Caledonian Mercury*

### Walter Simpson

As we saw at the beginning, on 14th October 1799, Walter Simpson registered a sasine (RS59/35/424) recording the transfer to him of his father Thomas's sixteen acres in Greendyke. It included a condition that after Thomas's death, certain legacies should be paid to some of his other children by both marriages, and if Margaret Millar survived him, provisions made in their marriage contract be honoured.

In the minutes of the heritors' meeting dated 18th December 1799, the name of Walter Simpson of Greendyke appears for the first time. On 3rd July 1807 Walter was appointed with another heritor as a committee to see to the repair of the school and school-house, and on 21st July 1815 to a more numerous committee to obtain estimates for building a new manse. Walter was not at the next recorded meeting, 22nd August 1818, nor subsequently.

On 22nd and 23rd February 1800 respectively, in Bothkennar and Falkirk, Walter and Janet Grosart gave in their names for marriage, and a son Thomas was baptised in Bothkennar on 29th March 1801.<sup>13</sup>

In 1813 Walter married again. On 28th and 31st May 1813 respectively, in Denny<sup>16</sup> and Bothkennar,<sup>13</sup> Walter and Agnes Towers of Muirhead, Denny, gave in their names for marriage. Six children of this marriage were baptised in Bothkennar,<sup>13</sup> including Isabella on 25th December 1820.

On 25th July 1812 a sasine (RS59/59/60) registered

**TO CONTRACTORS FOR EMBANKMENTS.**  
**I**T is proposed to EMBANK, from the Forth, the sea-  
 greens opposite part of the lands of Orchardhead,  
 belonging to John Ogilvie of Cairdloch, Esq.; the lands  
 of Greendyke, belonging to Walter Simpson, and the  
 lands of Stenhouse, belonging to James Greig, W. S. all  
 lying in the parish of Bothkennar and county of Stirling.  
 The land to be recovered may amount to from 40 to  
 50 acres, and satisfactory caution will be required from  
 the contractor.  
 Persons willing to contract for the intended embank-  
 ment, may apply either to Mr Simpson, on the spot, or  
 to Mr Greig.  
 Edinr. Jan. 6. 1810.

*From Caledonian Mercury, Thursday 18 January 1810.*

The British Newspaper Archive.

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Patrick Simpson  
(c.1440)

Thomas Simpson = Margaret

John Simpson  
(c.1470)

John Simpson = Margaret Allan

John Simpson = Helen Liddell  
(c.1495)

John Simpson = Helen Reid

Thomas Simpson

Duncan Simpson = Jonet Maistertoun  
(c.1525)

William Simpson = Elizabeth Burn  
(c.1550)

Alexander Simpson  
(c.1575)

John Simpson = Margaret Callendar  
(c.1610)

John Simpson = Marion Syme

Thomas Simpson = Marion Logan  
(c.1650)

William Simpson = Janet Callendar  
(1681)

(2)Margaret Millar = Thomas Simpson = (1)Margaret Young  
(1719)

(1)Janet Grosart = Walter Simpson = (2)Agnes Towers  
(1766) (1784)

William Simpson  
(1750)

Thomas Simpson  
(1801)

Isabella Simpson  
(1820)

Walter's purchase of 1 acre 1 rood and 9 falls of land which he was already occupying, together with the "unrecovered sea-greens" (i.e. salt-marshes). Already on 18th January 1810 an advertisement had appeared in the *Caledonian Mercury* inviting tenders to embank from the Forth the sea-greens lying opposite the lands of Walter and others.

In May 1813 on the security of his land he borrowed £700 from the Friendly Society of Dissenting Ministers (RS3/942/58). There is nothing to show whether this was because he was running into financial trouble, or in order, perhaps, to pay for the embanking. In May 1814 he borrowed £500 from Henry Stainton of the Carron Warehouse, London (RS3/967/144). Walter finally sold his whole property to Henry Stainton in 1822 (RS3/1244/168). Stainton was a member of the Dawson/ Stainton family which controlled, and largely owned, the Carron Ironworks.

Walter may perhaps for a while have continued to farm the land as a tenant. However, a sasine (RS59/167/268) registered 20th March 1834, which records his wife Agnes and her sisters inheriting property from their mother, describes him as being "in Higgins Neuk", which is in the parish of Airth. In the 1841 census Walter, Agnes and Isabella were in Tulliallan, across the Firth of Forth, Walter's occupation being "toll-keeper". This occupation is confirmed in a sasine (RS59/223/124) dated 6th April 1843, in which Agnes and her sisters

sell the inherited property, and in which Walter is said to be "residing Burnbrae Toll, Kincardine", but I have been unable to find any reference to this toll. However, as Tulliallan was near to the ferry<sup>15</sup> across the Firth to Higgins Neuk, it seems possible that Walter was connected with the ferry throughout this period.

Isabella Simpson married John McAlley at Airth 1st December 1847.<sup>16</sup>

Walter died before the 1851 census, at which time Agnes (occupation, Knitting!) was living with Isabella (sailor's wife) at Bankside, Falkirk. At the time of the 1861 census Agnes (Formerly Farmer's wife) was still with Isabella at Bankside, together with Isabella's two-year old twins. Agnes died 20th September 1864 at Bankside.<sup>17</sup> The McAlleys had by this time, or soon after, moved to Liverpool. Isabella died in Liverpool on 28th August 1904.<sup>17</sup>

**TOLLS TO BE LET.**

To be Let by public roup, upon the 4th day of April next, for one year from Whitfunday next to Whitfunday thereafter,

**T**HE TOLLS leviable at the Six Turnpike Gates on the road from Cawfeyhead of Stirling to Newmill Bridge in the county of Fife, viz. at the Turnpike at Cawfeyhead; the Turnpikes on the east and west of Alloa; the Turnpike at Dalquharny, near Kincardine; the Turnpike at Burnbrae on the east of Kincardine; and the Turnpike at Newmill Bridge.

The Toll-houses are very commodious, having been built within these few years, and have gardens belonging to them.

To be Let at the same time, and for the same period, The TOLLS leviable at the Turnpike Gate at Gate-side, on the road leading to Kinross; at the Turnpike Gate at Whins, on the road leading from Alloa to Hillfoot; at the Turnpike Gate at Spittal, near Cawfeyhead, on the new road by the foot of the Ochils; and at the Turnpike Gate at the Yates of Muckhart on the said line of road.

The roup is to be held in the house of Thomas Ramsay, innkeeper in Alloa, and will commence by twelve o'clock precisely.

For further particulars application may be made to Mr Jamieson, at the Sheriff Clerk's Office, Alloa.

From *Caledonian Mercury*

## References

- <sup>1</sup> I am grateful to John Reid of the Falkirk LHS, who gave me helpful information (now in his book *Place Names of Falkirk and East Stirlingshire*) when I contacted FLHS some years ago to ask about Lidsdale, which appears on no map, and about the apparent change of position of Greendyke. It was he also who mentioned that Grange of Bothkennar was crown-land, though I did not realise until much later the significance of this for genealogical research.
- <sup>2</sup> *Exchequer Rolls*: Vol. 9, pp.567, 599, Vol. 9, p.633, Vol.10, pp.663, 665 & 731.
- <sup>3</sup> *Exchequer Rolls*: Vol.10, p.756, Vol. 11, p.409, Vol. 12, pp.637, 679
- <sup>4</sup> *Exchequer Rolls*: Vol. 12, p.682, p.539, Vol. 13, p.638.
- <sup>5</sup> *Register of the Privy Seal*; Vol.1.p.590
- <sup>6</sup> *Exchequer Rolls*: Vol. 17, p.711
- <sup>7</sup> *Register of the Great Seal*: Vol.4, p.99
- <sup>8</sup> *Register of the Great Seal*: Vol.4, p.317
- <sup>9</sup> *Exchequer Rolls*: Vol. 18, p.164
- <sup>10</sup> *Register of the Great Seal*: Vol.7, p.393
- <sup>11</sup> CC21/5/11 Stirling
- <sup>12</sup> CC21/6/34 Stirling
- <sup>13</sup> Bothkennar OPR
- <sup>14</sup> Denny OPR
- <sup>15</sup> National Gazetteer 1868
- <sup>16</sup> Airth OPR
- <sup>17</sup> Statutory death reg.



# The Portrait of 'Mrs William Blacklock & Son': a re-identification of the sitter

Stephen Massil

This study is an exercise in sifting details of fact from hearsay, speculation, misapprehension, and error, brought on by the lapse of time and the passing of generations. Such family lore contains invariably the 'grain' of truth that is not always self-evident, which has to be teased out and emerges by application of the principles of Ockham (the simpler the better) and the forensic techniques of Dr Edmond Locard (every trace can bear analysis and yield an answer).



The portrait watercolour on ivory is held at the R.W. Norton Art Gallery at Shreveport, Louisiana.<sup>1</sup> It measures 9.5 x 7.9cm. It came originally from a family holding in Charleston, South Carolina, and was described temporarily at the Metropolitan Art Museum as a portrait by Edward Greene Malbone (1777-1807). It had been the gift of R.T. Haines Halsey (1865-1942), a founder of the American Wing and Trustee of the Museum,<sup>2</sup> who had published it in colour in an article on Malbone in *Scribner's Magazine*<sup>3</sup> and this was reported by Theodore Bolton in 1921.<sup>4</sup> Halsey identified the sitter as

Mary Freer Blacklock (1774-1811) with one of her sons at the age of between one and two:

The assumption was that it was painted by Malbone in his last Charleston phase over spring 1806. It is not listed in Malbone's accounts,<sup>5</sup> where there is however an undated entry for 'Miss Blacklock', but no indication of a portrait painted. The portrait is also reproduced as a photograph in the papers of Motte Alston Read (1872-1920)<sup>6</sup> which feature various of his extended family connections over many generations.

The portrait became subject to the scrutiny of director Ruel Pardee Tolman (1878-1954) for his book on Malbone, published posthumously in 1958<sup>7</sup>, and he attributed the portrait to the English artist James Nixon (1741-1812) on the strength of the signature 'N' discernible on the plinth in the staged setting. Further to this the Metropolitan appears to have de-accessioned the portrait (hence its possession now at Shreveport) and the record at the Smithsonian now carries the date and identification of in effect the first 'Mrs William Blacklock' around 1790 – Katherine Blacklock (d. 1799) - and a child born around 1785.

The re-attribution of the artist is perhaps impeccable. But the resulting identification of the sitters becomes nonsensical – Nixon never visited America (for of course there would presumably have then been other examples of his works of American sitters) and nor did either of the 'Mrs Blacklocks' visit Britain. No work has been done to sort this out. For instance, Katherine Blacklock did not even have a son. The 'Miss Blacklock' in Malbone's 'Accounts' was perhaps the first Mrs Blacklock's daughter Katherine Blacklock Farr (1790-1846), still only a girl, or Mary Freer Blacklock's first-born daughter Susan, who would have been only two years old during Malbone's last time in Charleston.

Halsey, who had donated the portrait to the Metropolitan, stated:

*My friend Miss Alice Huger Smith, purchased the Blacklock miniature from the family. The little child in the miniature was the mother of the seller. She told Miss Huger that her mother had never been abroad. So much for family tradition*

*It never seemed like the work of Malbone to me, but Miss Smith felt that it was the period of "the little Scotch girl" when Malbone was working under the foreign influence he had acquired and which fortunately he broke away from.*

Old men forget – and Halsey here forgets his article of 1910 to the extent that he goes along with the suggestion from Miss Smith (and the lady who sold her family portrait) that the child was a girl, and with it his own approval for Malbone's work. Alice Ravenal Huger Smith (1876-1958) who purchased the portrait from the seller around 1900 might also by the time of Tolman's publication have forgotten such details.

The suggestion that the child is female would allow the identification of the mother as perhaps the first 'Mrs William Blacklock' [i.e. Katherine Blacklock with her daughter Katherine (1790-1846)] or the second [i.e. Mary Freer Blacklock with her daughter Susan (1804-1836)] but Susan had no children herself. Katherine Blacklock married Nathaniel Farr (1787-1822) and had daughters. One in particular might qualify: Catherine Blacklock Farr (1817-1872) who married in 1834 Dr. Benjamin Burgh Smith, grandson of Jane

Freer Ladson, and had a large family but who had died even before Miss Smith was born.

I spell all this out to show that if the seller of the portrait were the daughter of the child in the picture, the account is still a generation adrift ... In other words, this is another form of the family garbling and 'unsafe' transmission that I have engaged with throughout. Whether painted by Malbone (ca. 1806) or by Nixon (ca. 1790) the lapse of time means that the 'family' having the portrait to sell is at too great a remove for Miss Smith and Haines Halsey and Motte Alston Read to be sure about the details being imparted.

Nevertheless, amidst the possibilities, and also against the confusion of the re-attribution, there is a very convincing – circumstantial - solution to the identification.

The portrait was painted in Edinburgh by James Nixon in 1797 or 1798 and the lady and child sitting can be identified from the family context presented – but they are not 'Mrs William Blacklock & Son'. Rather, they are 'Mrs John Deas Thomson & Son', i.e. Rebecca A. Freer Deas Thomson (1766-1826), older sister to Mary Freer Blacklock and to Susannah Boone Robertson (1770-1845), wife of William Robertson (1763-1832), lawyer of Charleston and Beaufort.

This brings us to the circle of the *Deas Thomson Papers*.<sup>8</sup> Rebecca Freer of Charleston married Scotsman planter (since 1784) John Deas Thomson (sometimes *Thompson*) in 1787, went to Scotland with him in 1791 and there bore him a family with a daughter and sons. She became estranged from him, however, and left him in 1805, returning to Charleston to live with her mother and sisters and their families. She died, by repute a recluse, in 1826. John Deas Thomson sent his son Edward to America in 1826, during the course of which Edward met his surviving aunt and cousins in Charleston and settled his mother's estate and outstanding business of his father's affairs in Carolina with his partner and brother-in-law William Robertson. Whether Rebecca Freer Thomson had had the portrait with her for the duration or whether Edward Deas Thomson brought it with him and gave it as a gift to his Aunt or cousins on this visit of 1826 does not trouble the narrative, though the detail that the child is her eldest son carries a weight of sentiment. The fact of its presence in the family in Charleston is satisfactory. The families concerned are the Blacklocks themselves (the immediate family of Mary Freer Blacklock, and the half-family of Katherine Blacklock Farr) and the Robertsons through William and Susannah Boone Freer.

It may seem fortuitous that Alice Huger Smith refers to her purchase of the picture from one of the family but it must be understood that the 'sale' itself was important to the seller and helps in the identification.

And who might that have been? The 'grain of truth' focus would suggest that

it was Helen Robertson Blacklock (1848-1932) who herself had her own close family portraits to bequeath to the Gibbes Art Museum at her death.<sup>9</sup> She was a grand-daughter of William Robertson and Susannah Boone Freer, and the daughter of Mary Robertson Blacklock (1813-1850) who had married John Freer Blacklock (1805-1885), her cousin, one of the sons of the second 'Mrs William Blacklock'. Alexander Robertson (1804-1888) and John Freer Blacklock, as cousins and brothers-in-law, were also partners in the firm of Robertson & Blacklock, Rice Factors of Charleston. The detail of the source and provenance of the bequest to the Gibbes Art Museum reports that Miss Blacklock and her sisters were near to destitute in 1890 following the deaths of their father in 1885 and their uncle Alexander Robertson in 1888, as:

*... She was the last of three sisters, who were the last of their family. After the failure of rice planting, they were destitute and Dr. [A]. Toomer Porter gave them a home on the grounds of Holy Communion Church Institute (Porter Military Academy).<sup>10</sup>*

Without being able to pinpoint when Miss Smith bought the portrait, it was certainly in the period around 1900 and in time for Haines Halsey to give it a place in his article on Malbone. Miss Blacklock in any penury would have sold her most precious (as she perhaps thought) and probably most valuable possession, and Miss Smith, keen also to help, might have been happy to pay well for it.

By Miss Smith's account, Helen Robertson Blacklock in identifying herself as the daughter of the girl in the portrait would appear to be identifying herself as the grand-daughter of the mother in the picture; when in fact she was the great-aunt of the mother in the picture.

Short of an extensive family tree, the position is this:

Helen Robertson Blacklock was:

A grand daughter (Blacklock) of Mary Freer Blacklock (1774-1811)

And

A grand-daughter (Robertson) of Susannah Freer Robertson (1770-1845)

And she is presumably under the misapprehension that the sitter is Mary Freer Blacklock

**But** the sitter is Rebecca A. Freer Thomson (1766-1826) older sister to the two other ladies thus: her great-aunt

And if she is also under a misapprehension that the child is a girl and also her mother, then she thinks that the child is Mary Robertson Blacklock (1813-1850) daughter actually of Susannah Freer Robertson

But it would appear that there had never been anyone of the older generations alive to tell her that when she was growing up. Miss Blacklock was correct in thinking that her mother did not travel abroad, but Miss Blacklock was only

two when her mother died, her surviving sisters only a few years older; and their grandmother (Susannah Boone Freer Robertson) died in 1845. The three Blacklock sisters did themselves travel to Britain (and Europe) when their father took them abroad to avoid the hostilities of 1861 to 1865 and stayed until 1871. Their widowed aunt Helen Rebecca Robertson Rowand (1802-1874) numbered amongst them at the Bath census of 1871, may have been with them for the duration. Their other surviving Robertson aunt (also Susan Boone Robertson by name, cicerone of Edward Deas Thomson on his visit to Charleston in 1827 and his correspondent afterwards) died in 1867, their uncle Alexander Robertson in 1888, and most of their cousins, his children, before them.

This demonstrates, I hope, why the 'family' did not know of James Nixon as the artist, but it might be interesting to consider how the misattribution to Malbone came about. For instance the family had had portraits of Mrs William Robertson, 1841, and Alexander Robertson (both now unlocated) by Charles Fraser exhibited in 1857<sup>11</sup> and M.R. Severens details Miss Blacklock's bequest to the Gibbes Art Museum in her *The miniature portrait collection of the Carolina Art Association*, 1984:<sup>12</sup>

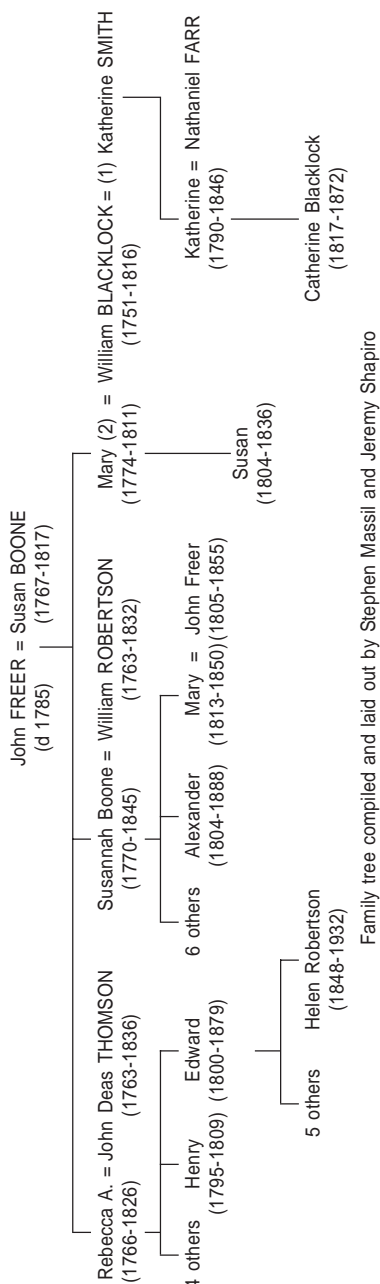
She records a portrait of Daniel Robertson by Pierre Henri, Charleston, 1793;<sup>13</sup> a portrait of William Robertson (junior) by William J. Thomson, April 1812, under his address at 41, Craven Street, Strand, London,<sup>14</sup> and a portrait of William Robertson, painted about 1807 which 'may be the work of English artist Charlotte Jones (1768-1847)', which would also mean a visit to London, as yet unsubstantiated.<sup>15</sup> For family completeness at the Gibbes Museum, there is also a portrait of Mrs William Robertson at a much younger age than the one by Fraser of 1841, painted by Jean François de la Vallée (active in America 1794-1815) and included in a bequest of Mrs W.E. Simms,<sup>16</sup> Mrs Simms being the sister of Motte Alston Read - Mary Alston Read (1879-1972) in her second marriage. (She figures in other earlier dispositions to art collections as 'Mrs Joseph Hume' by her first marriage so one has to pick carefully amidst the various collections and their sources.)

I give these instances to show that Miss Blacklock ought to have been familiar with the art world of her grand-parents and I should perhaps say that I have written separately of the Robertson family in America in part with a focus on these portraits.<sup>17</sup> Her uncle Alexander Robertson's later home at Henderson County, N.C. – 'Struan' at Arden – was also adorned with fine art.

And in drawing these instances one can point out that apart from 'Mrs William Blacklock & Son' there are in fact no 'Blacklock' portraits at the Gibbes Museum or elsewhere so as to confirm that in this respect the 'Robertson and Blacklock' connection can be given the field I am establishing for them.

The child, however, is a boy and not a girl and is pictured with his mother Rebecca Freer Thomson. He can be identified as not Sir Edward Deas





Thomson (1800-1879) but as the elder but short-lived son Henry Deas Thomson (1795-1809) and the picture was painted in Edinburgh at their home at 34 Prince's Street<sup>18</sup> sometime in 1797 or 1798. James Nixon's address at the time was No. 2, Prince's Street, according to the Royal Academy exhibitor lists of those years. For what it's worth, as a matter of art and his literary interests, Sir John Deas Thomson, Commissioner and Accountant General of the Navy, had an extensive library with armorial bookplate, and was a member of the committee that negotiated with John Flaxman on the proposed Burns memorial for Edinburgh of 1821. In his will of 1838<sup>19</sup> he refers to his sister-in-law Susannah Boone Robertson most fondly.

Nixon appears to have been working in Edinburgh from only 1795 until 1798/9. In 1799 his entry for the Royal Academy exhibition is addressed from 66, Harley Street, Cavendish Square, after he had settled back into London.

## References

- <sup>1</sup> "Checklist of Miniature Paintings in the Collection of the R. W. Norton Art Gallery," 1979) CAP 2005
- <sup>2</sup> The miniature was formerly part of the Halsey collection
- <sup>3</sup> R.T. Haines Halsey, 'Malbone and his miniatures', in: *Scribner's magazine*, No. 5, May 1910, pp.558-565
- <sup>4</sup> T. Bolton: *Early American portrait painters in miniature*, New York: F. F. Sherman, 1921, item 255:
- <sup>5</sup> Winterthur Library: Joseph Downs Collection: *Edward Greene Malbone Account book and register of portraits, 1794-1807*, p.35 of the facsimile, line 10
- <sup>6</sup> The Motte Alston Read collection at Tulane University (Manuscripts Collection 796) has a photograph of a painting: "Mary Freer Blacklock and Son William" (Box 1: Folder 20)
- <sup>7</sup> R.P. Tolman, *The life and works of Edward Green Malbone, 1777-1807*, New York: New York Historical Society, 1958, p.268, item 6

- <sup>8</sup> State Library of New South Wales: *Thomson family papers, 1773-1883*: Mitchell Library A 1531. – The papers have been discussed by John Hammond Moore, 'The Deas-Thomson Papers in Australia', in: *South Carolina historical magazine*, Vol. 71, No. 3, Jul., 1970, pp.189-196; and have been studied in particular for the biography and career of the Australian politician Sir Edward Deas Thomson (1800-1879)
- <sup>9</sup> Gibbes Museum of Art: Bequest of Helen Robertson Blacklock, 1932: Bequest 32.5.1-3
- <sup>10</sup> Gibbes Museum, op. cit. Typescript: Information from: Mrs T.G. Waring [= Catherine Fuller Porter (1881-1972), Dr. Porter's grand daughter known as 'Kate', wife of Thomas Grange Waring (1881-1948)]
- <sup>11</sup> S. Gilman, *Catalogue of miniature portraits, landscapes, and other pieces, executed by Charles Fraser and exhibited in "The Fraser Gallery", at Charleston, during the months of February and March, 1857 ...*, Charleston, S.C. : James and Williams, printers, 1857:- p.15: 183: Alexander Robertson, 1841; 184: Mrs Robertson, 1841; - p.17: 227: Charles E. Rowand (son-in-law)
- <sup>12</sup> M.R. Severens, *The miniature portrait collection of the Carolina Art Association*, Carolina Art Association, 1984
- <sup>13</sup> Severens, op.cit., p.83; Gibbes Art Museum: 32.5.2
- <sup>14</sup> Severens, op.cit., p.116; Gibbes Art Museum: 32.5.1
- <sup>15</sup> Severens, op.cit., p.168; Gibbes Art Museum: 32.5.3
- <sup>16</sup> Severens, op.cit., p.123; Gibbes Art Museum: 72.10.2
- <sup>17</sup> S.W. Massil, 'Andrew Robertson of Gladsmuir in America 1756-1782, and his American family', Part I, in: *Scottish Genealogist*, 59, No. 4 (Dec 2012), pp.159-170; Part II: in: *Scottish Genealogist*, 60, No. 1 (March 2013), pp.31-38. – The portrait of Daniel Robertson by Pierre Henri, 1793, is reproduced in Part II, courtesy of the Gibbes Art Museum
- <sup>18</sup> "John Deas Thomson" in Eleanor Harris, The Episcopal Congregation of Charlotte Chapel Website (online, archive.stjohns-edinburgh.org.uk, 2011). Traced to The Edinburgh directory from July 1797 to July 1798, ... carefully selected by Thomas Aitchison, Edinburgh, 1797, p.186 – Nixon's does not appear in the directory but his Edinburgh address comes from: A. Graves, The Royal Academy of Arts, a complete dictionary of contributors and their work from its foundation in 1769 to 1904, London: Henry Graves and Co., Ltd., and George Bell and Sons, 1906. - Vol. V, p.372
- <sup>19</sup> PROB 11/1894/253 7th April 1838: '... My valued friend and sister-in-law Susan Boone Robertson – whom he had not seen since 1791.

## Acknowledgements

The image formerly entitled 'Mrs William Blacklock & Son' appears by permission from the Modernist Journals Project, Brown University: *Scribner's Magazine*, Vol. 48, No. 5, May 1910, following p.560.

The family tree has been laid out by Jeremy Shapiro (London).

I have conferred with a group of Blacklock and Freer family researchers in America, including Barbara Brown Allen of the Blacklocks of Ontario (Michigan), and with Dan Shelton (Auckland) on some details of the art-history unravelled. Some details regarding the Deas Thomson family in Edinburgh come from Dr Eleanor Harris, and I have consulted Stephen Foster of Canberra in respect of the *Grigg Papers* (now at the Bodleian) as a component of the *Deas Thomson Papers*. I have had advice from the *Catalog of American Portraits*, National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution; and further curatorial advice from Camilla Lombardi of Bonham's. I have consulted with several libraries in Britain and the United States, including the Motte Alston Read Collection at Tulane University (New Orleans). The R.W. Norton Art Gallery have made available images of the miniature in its case.

# **John Waldie of Hendersyde, Part Four**

## **Extracts from his Journal from 11th May 1826 to 24th May 1827**

**Transcribed by Christine Glover**

*(Tuesday 11th July 1826, after learning the previous day that his sister had died.)*

The next day Tuesday Forbes was up to see me off – very kind he was but I was almost incapable of returning it – I had no sleep – but got off at ½ past 7 after breakfasting with Forbes – the servant drove me in their car to Pitmachie over wild hills & bad roads – I was in time for the Mail & got an outside place – hilly country – uninteresting – the river Ury – neat weaving town of Inverury – Aberdeen – view of the sea – Old Aberdeen – mouth of the Don - & canal which goes up to Inverury & Kintore - another small place near which is Keith House, Lord Kintore at Aberdeen I stopped above an hour & dined - & set off outside the Mail – lovely afternoon, for Edinburgh – crossed the Dee by a good bridge – wild hills close to the sea – Stonehaven very neat seaport & pier – bold coast – Bervie – neat cottages &c – Johnshaven – Montrose - & beyond it Redhead a grand promontory – we saw the Bellrock light like a post in the sea – 12 miles off Montrose. Montrose a neat wide street – large & well built – fine lake formed by the Esk – in 3 mouths it goes in to the sea – they have all bridges – the middle outlet has a drawbridge. Very rich & lovely cottages gardens & villas on the banks of the Esk Estuary – High grounds & descent to Arbroath also close to the sea – here are extensive ruins very picturesque of the old monastery of Aberbrothick – we stopped ¼ of an hour for tea or supper – The drive from thence to Dundee is flat along the shore chiefly of the Firth of Tay – but it is very rich – the town is irregular but well built – noble houses – Dundee to Perth along the Tay very near it most of the way – very rich woods, tract called the Carse of Gowrie – Nearer Perth the rocky woody hills & orchards & hedges of Kinfauns an old house of Lord Gray – noble bridge over the Tay. – very fine Grecian monument like Temple of Vesta at Tivoli at the entrance of Perth from the North – to a provost – The town is large & well built – we saw a good deal of it driving thro' it – Beyond Perth the woody glen of Glenfarg is very rich – it is very long – but is not all wooded – tho' romantic & pretty – Emerging, we soon came to Lochleven, the 2 Lomond hills very fine, & the lake of Loch Leven with its little castle & island once the residence of the unhappy Mary. Kinross is a mere village – we passed Brig of Earn not far from Perth – here people stay – to drink Pitcaithly waters – Kinross to Queensferry is a hilly rich country – at Queensferry we left the Mail & found the other Mail & horses on the other side after (54) we drove rapidly into Edinr & I got to Barry's before 7 – On the morning of

### Wednesday July 12th

Dressed & set off for Kelso outside the stage – fine day – quiet people – I was in such grief I could not talk – we arrived by the usual crivian bendibus - I walked down to H. P. before 4 & found my Mother much better than I expected, & also B. O. & Miss W. well – however I still think there may be hope that all is not over for ever - & that we may be permitted to meet again – but it is hard to break the chains of domestic affection – Before 6 I set off in our carriage to Cornhill – took a chaise & pair there & went on in the night to Newcastle – I did not arrive till near 5 in the morning of

### Thursday July 13th

When I set off outside the Exmouth which stops for a bad breakfast at Ward's bad inn at Durham – I went on to Auckland & Staindrop - & took a chaise from the latter - & found Watts all alone – William is much improved - & is most sweet & lively: - but oh the dreadful blank! – Every thing reminded me of my dearest lost sister! Mr Deane came – both he & Watts explained it to me – it was an easy death – internal hemorrhage – caused by malposition of the womb when with child – no human power could arrest it – the malposition may or may not have been brought on by her former bad labour – she suffered little – the funeral was on Tuesday – Charlotte was here but went off after it – she came on Monday night & went off on Tuesday night - & regretted not seeing me – I wrote to her – Watts wrote the death for the papers which I had done at H. P. – Melancholy day - & the sight of William & Jane's pictures & all her neatnesses made me most wretched – Oh my loved sister – friend & solace of my early youth – to whom & of whom I looked with such pride & affection – all is over – we are parted perhaps for ever – for ever in this world - & nothing but the remembrance of thy sweetness talents and liveliness remains to me. To me all is blank – nothing but my far distant Maria - & Charlotte by whom I have suffered so much – but this is the time for quarrels to cease & I trust we may again be friends. It is not my fault if we are not – It is a comfort to me that my dearest sister died with so much kindness & affection for me - & that we had long since by letter & when I was here settled our cause of difference – Now all is over – She is no more - & I am left to those who care not for me & for whom I care not – This is even severer than my dear Jane Lamb's death – There was such a similarity between Jane & me in many things – yet oh how superior! & there was a close affection between us more than could be felt even for Jane Lamb for whom at first I felt more than sisterly love & then only sisterly love, & friendship – Both are gone – I shall not be long behind. –

### Friday July 14th

Breakfasted with Watts – I went alone to Gainford church yard & in its retired corner threw myself on the grave of my dearest loved sister – I watered it with my tears – but no tears or heart rending pangs can wake to consciousness the buried dead! Oh my loved sister ! To me more is thy loss than to any – I

have now no near relative – My only two others are far distant – I must pray for resignation – but it is a heavy blow – I spent near an hour at the grave of my much loved sister – I walked back – I wrote to Charlotte to beg her to bury in oblivion our differences – I took leave of Watts & his sweet boy – in voice & look not unlike his loved Mother – I went to Staindrop in the chaise I had ordered & then went outside the Exmouth coach to Newcastle where I sent for Mr Adamson - who wished to see me – I went to bed tired & in much distress –

#### Saturday July 15th

Up at 6 – at 8 set off outside the Mail for home – fine day – 2 very respectable agreeable men near me – but all conversation is painful to me – one only idea possesses me – my dearest sister in her cold grave – she so formed for enjoyment, so formed to communicate it to congenial feelings – she is gone – the youngest of us all lays under the cold green sod of Gainford church yard – I arrived at home before 4 – My poor Mother, B. Ormston & Miss W are well – but for my sister where shall I see her like again – she was the peculiar child of my affections and woman of my admiration – My affection as strong for Maria – but neither her tastes nor her judgement nor her activity of mind are so admirable tho' her temper & disposition are more so – but Jane, my dearest Jane is gone for ever! - -

I tried to occupy myself at home – but in vain

#### Sunday July 16th

Several letters for me while absent business &c. – one from Aglionby gave me great pleasure - & one from Watson still more so – as it shews so generous a disposition – also a pleasant letter from Christie – I wrote to Bessy Cookson – Nancy Oliver - & Maria – we got a most affecting letter from Charlotte – I trust her health has not suffered

Miles travelled last week

Monday Excursion from Castle Forbes to Monymusk & back	14
Tuesday & Tuesday night Castle Forbes to Pitmachie	10
Pitmachie to Aberdeen	25
Aberdeen to Edinburgh by Stonehaven & Montrose, Arbroath, Dundee & Perth	135
Wednesday & Wednesday night Edinburgh to H. Park by the Kelso coach road	45
H. Park to Newcastle	69
Thursday N.C. to Langton Grange	36
Friday Langton Grange to Gainford Churchyard & back	4
Langton Grange to N. C.	36
Saturday N.C. to H. P.	69
	<u>443</u>



Monday July 17th

Wrote to Mrs Hewetson - to Aglionby - to Mrs Egremont - & to Christie - It is some consolation to write to those who like the 3 first knew the value of our dreadful loss - oh my sister my sister - object of my earliest care & love & pride of my heart - gone - the living spirit fled - blank & sad despair remains - no time no space - no other form can fill up the sad void -

I rode out - read - & walked - & talked with B.O. & Miss W. & my Mother - but all is weariness - all is a struggle against the heavy grief & harrowing sense of wretchedness I feel - I wish I could have died - I have often wished not to survive those I love - but it is my fate now to lose one after another my best friends - all young - & in the full enjoyment of life - My attachment to life is thus much weakened - May God grant me patience & resignation under the manifold evils & miseries!

Tuesday July 18th

Business letters - books - ride - walk - dinner - walk &c. Mathew very ill - & Margt also - I hope it is not a fever -

Wednesday July 19th

Kelso races today - I little expected to be here now - very kind letter from Mr Robertson - but my loved sister's image never leaves my mind - & happiness is fled for ever! Mr Smith called - & talked of various business - kind letter from J. Lamb - I wrote to Watson - rode out - & walked - Read out the Journal of an Exile - melancholy - interesting

Thursday July 20th

Mathew, Margaret & Jackson all ill - but mending - The plate came from London - How is all changed since it was ordered! Shortsighted mortals - Letter from Bessy Cookson - most kind & most consoling - one from Charlotte written in great grief - & from that cause its hasty expressions may be excused - She will one day be sorry for having so wilfully & pertinaciously misunderstood & misrepresented her brother - at present all is lost in grief for my departed sister - for a sister who has always loved me - & never tried to debase me - thank Heaven I am innocent of ever having wronged her or any of my sisters -

Friday July 21st

The servants better - Fine day after the rain of yesterday - & last night - Rode out on horseback - walked - Rainy afternoon - another letter from Charlotte - affecting paragraph about Jane which I shall send to Kelso Mail, Edinr Courant, & the 2 N. C. Saturday papers - Charlotte had sent it to Mr Ballantyne's Edinr papers. Read out Mathison's Travels in South America - amusing - & a good account of the revolution there - but I can now attend to nothing - one grief fills my breast - & I feel a weight there which only death can relieve me from -

*NRS GD1/378/30*

## High Court, Jedburgh

13 October 1708

The said day Alisone Wilson Spouse to John Wilson in Oxmuir, Marion Cockburn, Indueller in Langtoun, John Broun, Herd to Sir James Hall of Dunglass, Charles Lauder, late Servitor to James Lauder late Thesauror of Lauder, Margaret Blackhall in the Parish of Chirnside, Isobell Dickson there, John Niele in the Parish of Etrick in the Shire of Selkirk and Bessie Fletcher there, all Adulterers. Alexr. Maxwell and William Smyth, Dragons in Captain Prestouns Troop of Dragons as Duellers. Christian Wilkieson in Greenlaw for Witchcraft, and Charmeing, Marjory, Alexander, George, Margaret and Isobell Faa's Marjory, William and George Youngs in the Parish of Maxtoun, Gipsies and Vagabounds. Isobell Grame in Assinbank in the Parish of Minto for Incest and Adultery. John Scot of Davingtoun and William Scot of Barrowcleugh his Brother German for Violence and oppression being all oft and diverso tymes called by the Maier of Court (To have answered to the Indytements given in against them in manner mentioned in the Porteous Rolls) and not Compearing Therefor the saids Lords of Justiciary by the mouth of John Gray Dempster of Court Dempster of Court Decerned and Adjudged them to be denounced Rebels and putt to the Horn as Fugitives and Outlaws from Her Majesties Laws for the Crymes forsaid And Ordained all their Moveables goods and gear to be EScheit and Inbrought to her Majesties use which was Given for Doom.

[signed] A. Cokburne

[A. Cokburne = Adam Cokburne of Ormiston]

Source: *National Registers of Scotland*, Ref. JC12/1/15

Contributed by Russell Cockburn

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## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - 2014**

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.

- 15 September "Pre 1841 Scottish censuses and other early population lists." Bruce Bishop.
- 13 October "Appallingly Adorned - the story of Edinburgh's World Heritage Site graveyards." Dr Susan Buckham.
- 17 November "Soldiers, sailors and airmen of Rosebank Cemetery." Ken Nisbet.

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

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The 2015 Conference will be at Stirling, hosted by Central Scotland FHS.

### **Anglo-Scots**

**(a branch of the Manchester & Lancashire FHS)**

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

### **Scotslot Meetings 2014**

Scotslot is a group of family historians with Scottish ancestry, who meet in Hertfordshire to talk about topics of mutual interest.

- 27 September "Photographs and their storage" Stuart Laing.
- 22 November "Tartan Tales and Myths." David Dewar.  
Festive food and Quiz.

Scotslot meets in Southdown Methodist Church Hall, Southdown, Harpenden, Herts, at 2pm. Both dates and topics are subject to change and visitors, who are very welcome to come along, should check in advance either by post to: Scotslot, 16 Bloomfield Road, Harpenden, Herts, AL5 4DB or by email to [stuart.laing@virgin.net](mailto:stuart.laing@virgin.net) or [liz.vanlottum@btinternet.com](mailto:liz.vanlottum@btinternet.com)

### **Family & Local History Events 2014**

- 13-14 Sept "Wha's Like Us?" Family History Event, Tolbooth, Stirling  
[www.my.stirling.gov.uk/events](http://www.my.stirling.gov.uk/events)
- September Doors Open Days [www.doorsopendays.org.uk](http://www.doorsopendays.org.uk)
- 24 October Scottish Local History Conference  
"Crime and Punishment", Perth [www.slhf.org](http://www.slhf.org)

November	Kirkcaldy Gravestones Conference <a href="http://www.kirkcaldycivicsociety.co.uk">www.kirkcaldycivicsociety.co.uk</a>
November	<i>Previously...</i> Scotland's History Festival <a href="http://www.historyfest.co.uk">www.historyfest.co.uk</a>
All year	Homecoming Scotland 2014 <a href="http://www.visitscotland.com/see-do/homecoming-scotland-2104">www.visitscotland.com/see-do/homecoming-scotland-2104</a>

For details of some of these events, please read the features throughout this issue.  
For others, access websites nearer the time.

## SAFHS Conference 2015

The 26th Annual SAFHS Conference will be hosted by Central Scotland FHS on 25th April 2015. It will follow a Great War theme, with the title, *There was a Soldier...*

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More details nearer the time will be available on [www.csfhs.org.uk](http://www.csfhs.org.uk)

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## **“YOUR AIN FOLK”**

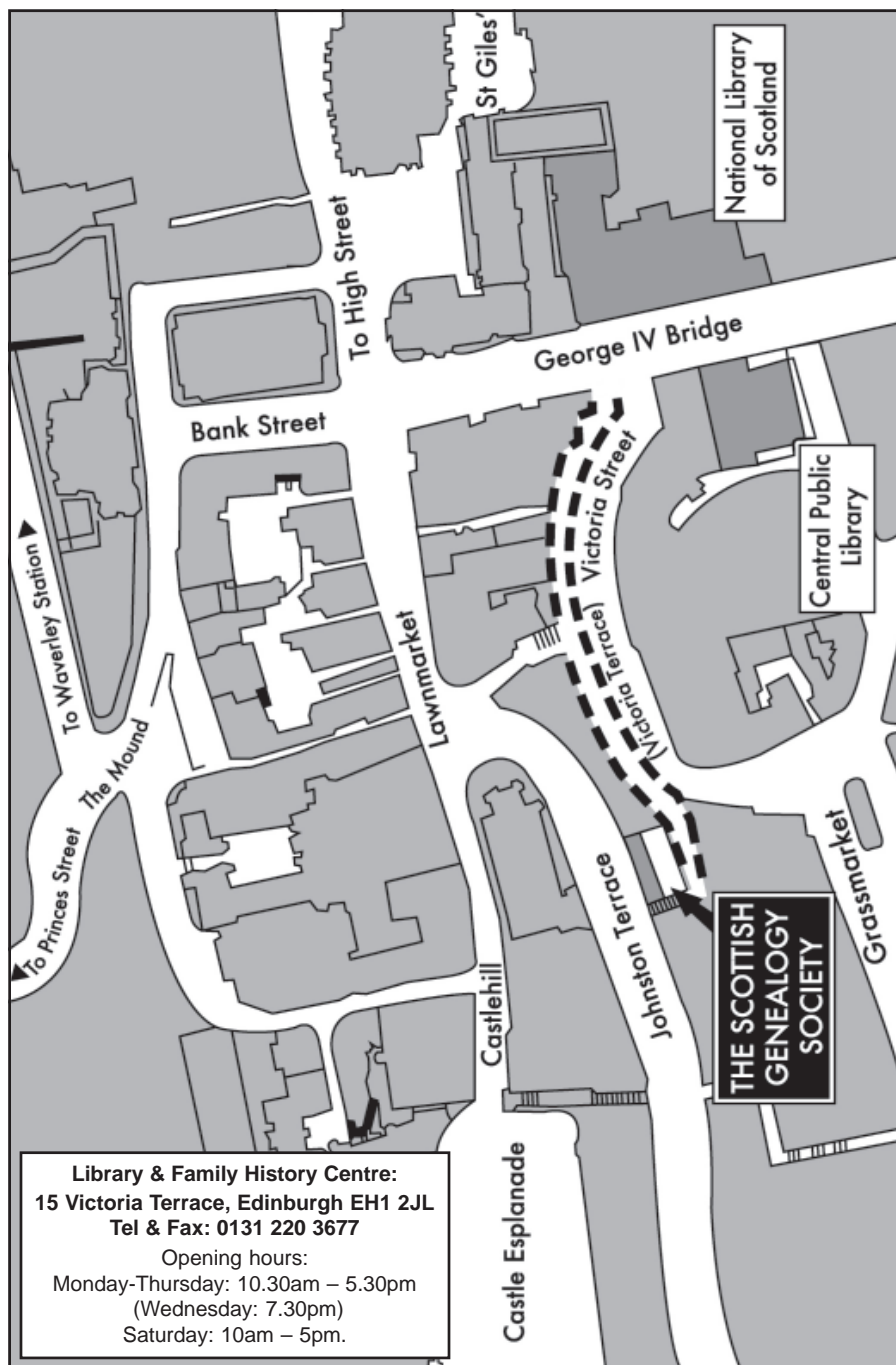
**.... at their Library and Family History Centre at  
15 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh.**

**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](http://scotsgenealogy.com) or 0131-220 3677.**





**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.

