



# THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGIST

**SEPTEMBER 2018**

**William Mitchell**

**The Earls of March**

**Hepburn of Smeaton Hepburn**

**The Royal Scots**

**QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY**

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# The Scottish Genealogy Society

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## *Front Cover:*

The Society's Coat of Arms

## *Back Cover:*

"His and Hers" Derby dining-room chamber-pots,  
a wedding gift from Margaretta Beck to George Buchan Hepburn.

*Image reproduced by kind permission of Bonhams.*

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# The Last of the Hepburns of Smeaton Hepburn

David Affleck

A twenty-year period of incremental research on aspects of the contribution of people with the surname of Hepburn to East Lothian life recently took on a new dimension. It had started with an interest in the history of the estate of Smeaton Hepburn in East Linton and a specific study of two Lairds from the former Parish of Prestonkirk. One was a Sir George Buchan Hepburn who I described in a talk in 2000 to the East Linton Local History Society as “A Forgotten Man”. Later articles followed as I uncovered his close friendship with Sir John Sinclair of Ulbster and his support for Sinclair’s interest in “husbandry” after he was given Prime Minister Pitt’s agreement in 1793 to form a Board of Agriculture and Internal Improvement. Sinclair was its first President.

Four generations later, Sir Archibald Buchan Hepburn died on the 17th May 1929. Archive papers owned by the late Patrick Buchan Hepburn, (later Lord Hailes), the third son of Sir Archibald, were deposited in the Special Collection department of St

Andrew’s University in 2017. Patrick’s correspondence and papers relating to his time as a Trustee of his father’s estate discloses why Sir Archibald’s wish *that Smeaton shall always remain fully furnished ... and that my successor will occupy Smeaton for at least some portion of the year and take his place in the County as his predecessors have done* could not be fulfilled. Allegations that some contents of the house had been removed without the agreement of all the Trustees led to an application for the appointment of a Judicial Factor to manage the sale by auction of the 763-acre Smeaton estate and at least ten auction sales of the contents. It has now been possible to reassess the significance of this East Lothian family and the part Smeaton estate played in their lives. The contents of the house revealed four centuries of paintings, silverware, antique furniture, rare books and objects linked to Mary Queen of Scots. It was a rich heritage and while the estate remains as it had been in 1820 with only minor changes, the mansion house which had been sold as part of the estate in 1934, was eventually demolished in 1952.



Sir George Buchan Hepburn, 1739-1819

*This portrait is held in a private collection and has been reproduced with the owner's kind permission.*

## **The earlier history and the first Hepburn of Smeaton**

It is generally accepted that the family had its origins in Northumberland after their 13th Century appearance as Hyburne of Hyburne in Northumberland. The first significant reference to the estate of Smeaton is contained in a Sasine dated 1538.<sup>1</sup> It granted the lands to an Adam Hepburn, the third son of Patrick Hepburn of Waughton and Luffness, and Helen Hepburn his cousin. His parents were married at Bolton in East Lothian in 1510 by special dispensation of the Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Church.<sup>2</sup> The late Professor Gordon Donaldson had an interest in the Hepburns of East Lothian during the reign of Mary Queen of Scots. In his book *All the Queen's Men*, he lists Hepburn lairds living at Bolton, Fortune, Gilmerton, Kingston, Kirklandhill, Luffness, Smeaton, Stevenson, Waughton, Whitecastle and Whitsome, as well as some like Thomas, parson of Oldhamstocks.<sup>3</sup> They were the House of Hepburn, loyal to their head at that time, James Hepburn, 4th Earl of Bothwell.<sup>4</sup>

## **The Hepburns and Mary Queen of Scots**

Sir Archibald had specified in his will that some articles had to be donated to the National Museum of Antiquities, now the National Museum of Scotland. At least seven of these were linked to Mary, one being a letter of 25th June 1568 to Adam, the Laird of Smeaton, which she had written from Carlisle. She thanks him for "your constancy and fidelity anent uys and our service, quilk ye sall not repent with God's grace." Adam Hepburn of Smeaton had taken part in defending the Castle at Dunbar for her cause. According to Professor Donaldson, Mary had a hesitancy in forming trusting relations. "None of Mary's intimates in Scotland could give her anything like the kind of relationships to which she had become accustomed in France."<sup>5</sup> The current list of items held by the NMS contains only five of the seven items. Two of these are now assessed as too fragile for public display and there is no digital photographic record. In addition, a contemporary portrait in oils of James Hepburn was to go to the Scottish National Portrait Gallery and to bear on the frame, *Contemporary Portrait of the second Earl of Bothwell in the possession of the Hepburn family since that period*. Correspondence in 1931, relating to the need for it to be removed while building alterations took place, refers to doubts about the authenticity of the portrait which had been interpreted as a painting of the 4th Earl who became Queen Mary's third husband. It now cannot be located. One unexpected item in the sale of contents in 1934 was the cranium and part of the skeleton and coffin of James Stewart, 4th Earl of Moray, who became Regent when Mary agreed on 24th July 1567 to abdicate as Queen and be succeeded by her young child, James VI of Scotland. According to the present Baronet, the Hepburns of Smeaton were given the remains of her half-brother when they were found during excavations at St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh. As the finder did not know what to do with them, it was suggested they be given to the Buchan Hepburns because of their close link with Queen Mary. They were bought at the auction for £5 by Patrick, the third son of Sir Archibald, and later donated to the Earl's descendants at Doune Castle.



## East Lothian Hepburns in the 18th Century

In his major review of 18th Century Scottish History, *A Higher World, 1707-1815*, the historian Michael Fry refers to the impact of the “the drastic pruning in the number of public offices available in Scotland” after the Union of 1707.<sup>6</sup> According to Fry, “law was to be the main source of salaried public positions.” For younger sons, the future lay in becoming hands-on farmers, merchants, armed service in the Crown or emigration. In 2013, the residents of Smeaton in Victoria, Australia, marked the 175th anniversary of the foundation of their settlement by a Captain John Hepburn. He named the house he built in 1849-50 after Smeaton in East Linton, “the home of his ancestors.”<sup>7</sup> There are other examples of this Hepburn



A photo of artistic impression of the new Mansion House at Smeaton extended in 1793.

Photo held in a private collection. Location of painting not known.

*Reproduced by kind permission.*

family diaspora disclosed in *The Hepburn Chronicle*, a CD compiled by a Ross Hepburn of Melbourne, which contains details of Hepburn family history recorded and researched by Hepburns in Australia, New Zealand and Tasmania. Genealogy sources can now tell us that he was the son of a Thomas Hepburn from his first marriage to an Allison Stewart on 5th February 1803 at Whitekirk and was baptised there in December 1803. He had a step-brother named James who was listed in the 1841 Census as living at Smeaton House with his wife Sibella. In the 1851 census, he was listed as farm manager and living at

Prestonmains farm where he remained there until his death in 1888. He now rests in the graveyard of Prestonkirk. Two generations later on, there was the belief by a branch of his descendants that they were the rightful owners of Smeaton estate in the Parish of Prestonkirk. It was a perception shared by Lucille Quinlan, the biographer of John Stuart Hepburn.<sup>8</sup> In her book, *Here My Home*, she tells the story of the life of the man credited for saving the life of Sir John Franklin at the time of the explorer's first attempt to locate the North West Passage. She also refers to the decline of Hepburn fortunes as linked to "the conquest of Scotland by England", and that more and more Hepburns were driven into renting small farms from richer cousins or working at humble occupations in the villages around. She also comments on what happened to the house, that it was sold in 1945 after it had been used as a prison for German officers and that it was "demolished for the copper and silver in the lead sheathing of its roofs", adding the words "it is believed". It is an example of folklore that becomes a belief and is rarely challenged. The alternative assessment for the 18th century suggests that many of the Hepburn lairds were still adjusting to a post-1707 culture.<sup>9</sup> Evidence of family exploitation causing financial hardship can be seen in the petition of 1711 by a young Frances Hepburn living at Nunraw Castle. He pleads for the Court to stop a Roger Hepburn, Advocate, misusing the income of the Nunraw lands which were needed by his frail father Patrick and for his own maintenance. Nunraw had been part of the Beanston line. It was sold by 1741.<sup>10</sup> Earlier disputes such as at Keith Marischal and Humble in the late 17th Century had arisen over the succession involving entailed estates. In the late 1600s the estate of the Hepburns of Keith was inherited by a member of the Congalton of Congalton family through his grandmother. By the end of the 18th Century, the Hepburns of Beanston, Waughton, Keith, Athelstaneford and Nunraw had gone. Humble changed hands in 1792.

It is a theme that was repeated in 1764, when the direct male succession of the Hepburns of Smeaton ended with the death of the last George Hepburn, the 6th laird since the grant of the estate to Adam. The estate and representation of the family was inherited by his nephew, George Buchan, an advocate in Edinburgh. His father, John Buchan of Letham in Haddington, had married Elizabeth Hepburn, sister of the late George.<sup>11</sup> She had predeceased her brother in 1742. The arrival of George Buchan to ownership of the estate of Smeaton Hepburn, and his adoption of the name George Buchan Hepburn, was the start of a fifty-year period of significant development in the Parish of Prestonkirk and its local heritage.<sup>12</sup>

### **The sale of the family inheritance in 1934**

It is against that background that the continuing link between the Hepburns of Smeaton Hepburn and the link with the estate can now be better understood. A letter to Patrick in 1950 from Newton Don estate in Kelso includes the comment, "I do understand your grief over Smeaton". Other papers disclose that Patrick





Margaretta Henrietta Fraser Beck (died 1823),  
wife of Sir George Buchan Hepburn

Photograph based on the portrait by Raeburn,  
held in a private collection.

The location of the original portrait is not known.

*Reproduced by kind permission.*

made strenuous efforts to keep the collection of silver together by contacting purchasers of items sold at auction and offering to buy articles back. It was clearly an impossible task. One auction that he took an interest in was the sale of the silverware belonging to the second wife of the first baronet, Sir George. Their marriage took place in Edinburgh in April 1781. In an article on the web by a Marie Fraser,<sup>13</sup> this marriage is described as a marriage for love to a lady whose first marriage “for money” was to a Major Alexander Grant of Shewglie. He had fought for the Jacobites at Culloden and escaped to India where he again escaped at the time of the Black Hole of Calcutta episode. He became a successful merchant with the East India Company in London. He died in 1763 at

the age of forty-three on a return trip to India and left his estate to his “beloved wife.” Her second marriage in October 1769 to Brigadier General Simon Fraser of Balnain who died at the Battle of Saratoga in October 1777 has been described as a “marriage for gallantry” (There is another notable Gen. Simon Fraser, son of Lord Lovat). He also left his fortune to his beloved wife and sole executor, Margaretta. Evidence of her fortune appears in an auction of silverware held in London in 1934. One item described as “Four Oval two handled sauce tureens. Arms of Fraser impaling Beck dated 1769”. It was later resold to Patrick for £70.10/-. The buyer understood why Patrick was attempting to keep the collection together.

## Exhibition

In June 2018 there opened an exhibition on the Hepburns of Smeaton at the John Gray Centre, Haddington, curated with the support of East Lothian Council Museum service. Its main aim is to explore the contribution of this family which was at the heart of East Lothian history, 18th and 19th Century Agricultural

Reform, estate and garden development including the origins of Logan Botanic Garden. With the help of items on loan from the Scottish Portrait Gallery, the National Museum of Scotland and Sir Alastair Buchan Hepburn, the 7th Baronet, it is hoped that the sense of loss Patrick felt over the events between 1929 and 1934 can be appreciated. While most of the contents sold by the Judicial Factor cannot be traced, some items have appeared in recent auction sales or were protected by the bequest of Sir Archibald to the then National Museum of Antiquities and the Scottish Portrait Gallery. Some are known to have been excluded from the inventory of the estate but have appeared in recent auctions sales. One recent rare book advertised for sale is an account of two botanical expeditions to Africa in 1904 and 1909 by Sir Archibald and his nephew Nigel Douglas McDouall of Logan, (1872-1942). Other similar "lost objects" may emerge during the exhibition period.

A series of specific events are planned until the exhibition closes in December 2019. Will it attract interest from members of the Hepburn diaspora? The actual objects available for exhibition are few but they can reveal episodes in a heritage that can now be revealed from the now archived papers of Sir Archibald Buchan Hepburn's third son, Patrick.

Note. The Patrick Buchan Hepburn archives are deposited in the St Andrews University Library Special Collection Dept. Ref. MS 38998. The author acknowledges the assistance of the staff in researching this project. Full indexing of the archives is still in hand.

## Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> Nisbet System of Heraldry 1 p162
- <sup>2</sup> Laing Charters, No 278
- <sup>3</sup> Donaldson, Gordon. (1983) "All the Queen's Men," p 104. Batsford, London.
- <sup>4</sup> The status of the Smeaton line in relation to the Bothwell line and which one was the earlier is frequently disputed. See Gregory Lauder-Frost, *The Scottish Genealogist*, Vol.LIII, No.3, September 2006, pp110-111.
- <sup>5</sup> Donaldson Ibid. page 61.
- <sup>6</sup> Fry, Michael. 2014. *A Higher World. Scotland 1707-1815*. Birlinn. Edinburgh
- <sup>7</sup> For a fuller account of the Hepburns of Whitekirk and the link with Smeaton Australia, see Affleck, D K. (2013) *Tales of East Lothian Families*, East Lothian Life; Issue 85 2013
- <sup>8</sup> Quinlan. L.M. 1967, *Here my Home: The life and Times of John Stuart Hepburn, 1803-1860* (Oxford.)
- <sup>9</sup> Affleck, D. *Neighbours No More* published in East Lothian Life Issue 99, p.43.
- <sup>10</sup> NRS/CS236/H/1/73
- <sup>11</sup> George Buchan, later of Kelloe, the father of John Buchan of Letham was Commissioner of Tiends and then Clerk to the Lords of Session. He belonged to the of the Buchans of Auchmacoy family. He has been identified as a secret consultant to the Commissioners of the Forfeited estates. Another member of the large family, Thomas Buchan, (1641-1724), was a prominent Jacobite Army Officer promoted by James II and VII, Major General for Scotland.
- <sup>12</sup> For a fuller Account of Sir George Buchan Hepburn, see Affleck. D K. (2008) *Transactions of the East Lothian Antiquarian and Field Naturalists' Society*, Vol XXVII
- <sup>13</sup> [http://www.electricscotland.com/history/canada/gallantry\\_love.htm](http://www.electricscotland.com/history/canada/gallantry_love.htm)

# Edinburgh City Archives, who we are and what we hold (Part 2)

Ashleigh Thompson

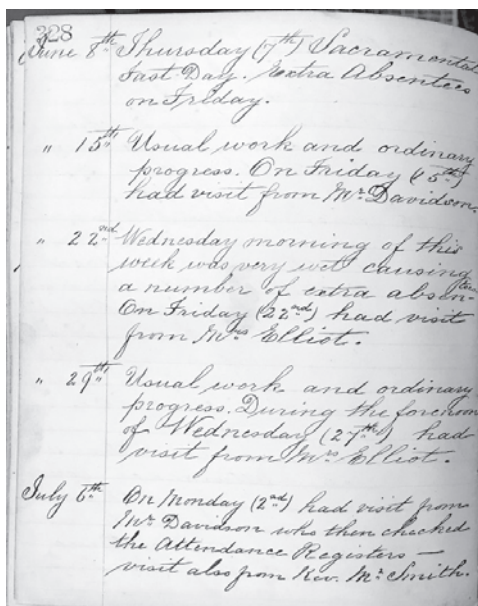
## Education

Another popular area of interest is education and the records produced by this function. Prior to 1872, responsibility for schools and education lay with the Town Council. Following 1872, the Education Scotland Act was introduced, and as a result, school boards were established. At ECA we hold school board records for Edinburgh, Leith, Portobello, Liberton, and St Cuthbert's, dating from 1873 to 1920. They allow us a glimpse into the administration of this function and how education changed and developed over time.

We also hold the records for over 100 past and present Edinburgh-based schools. These records mainly come in the form of admission registers and log books. Admission registers are a fabulous resource and provide details around pupils in attendance. They can be incredibly detailed and include names of pupils, their ages, details regarding their parents or guardians, their addresses, and information about movement between schools or locations. Likewise, log books are insightful, and although they rarely name individual pupils, they are great for providing context of what daily life was like for the teachers and pupils, and the wider events of the time. For example, log books have illuminated issues such as the outbreak of diseases like measles, periods in which children did not attend school as they were helping to harvest potatoes, and even evacuations during war time.

The image here is a log book from Davidson's Mains Primary School 1883, I particularly enjoyed one of the entries here which recorded the fact that there had been many absentees on one particular day due to the weather being so very wet. It felt very relevant to me at the time of discovery as it too was a wet and miserable day!

One particular school collection to note is that for the Royal High School, which is one of the most



Davidson's Mains Primary School  
Log Book, 1883

famous municipal schools in Scotland. We hold a vast collection of records for this school and these records are used regularly by various types of researchers. Within this collection you will find matriculation records, details of who borrowed what books from the library going back to the 18th century, examples of the academic work carried out by pupils, information about school clubs and societies, and even copies of the school magazines.

Some schools continue to hold their historical records, so if we don't hold the records for a school of interest we can advise if you should check directly with the school.

We also hold records from the Wellington Reformatory school. This collection boasts fantastic pupil admission records, reports, discharge accounts, and punishment books. These records offer a fairly vivid picture of what life was like for the children sent here.

A final education series that I want to mention are the Industrial School complaints volumes that we hold for the latter 19th and early 20th century. These volumes list the children who were sent to industrial schools, or trainee-ships as far afield as Dundee, due to their bad behaviour at home, or at their current schools in the City. Although these don't make for a particularly easy or happy read, much like the Wellington Reformatory School records, they illuminate how incredibly tough life could be for some children.

## **Law and Order**

We now move on to law and order. We hold the records of the Burgh Court for Edinburgh, Leith, and Canongate, and the cases within usually relate to issues such as slander, breach of the peace, drunkenness, property disputes, and debt. You won't really come across cases of murder, treason, or rape, as these are crimes of the Crown and would have been heard in the High Court. These records are held at the NRS.

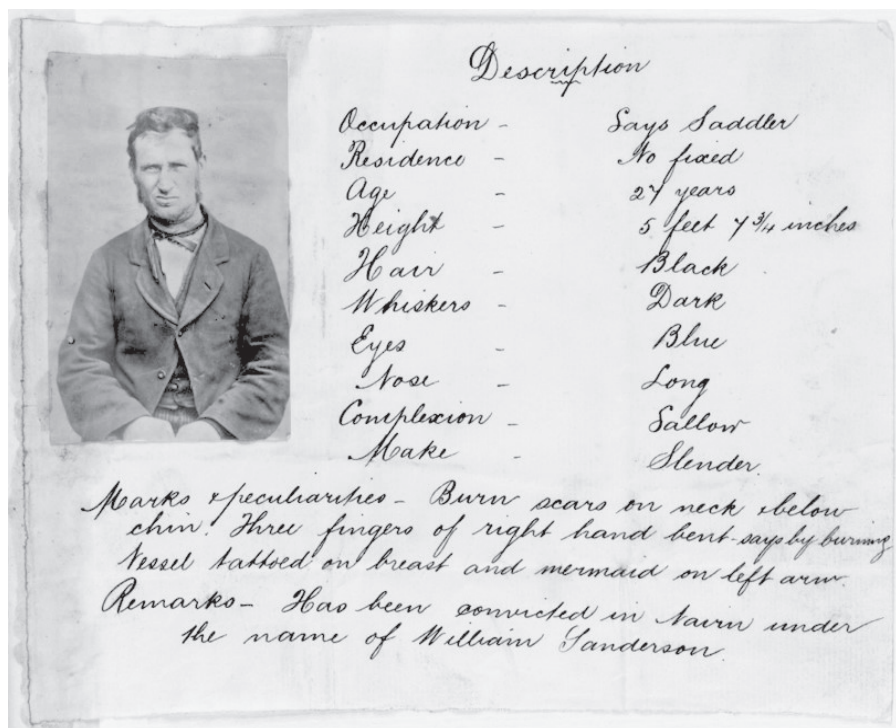
Within our records you will find registers of decrees which begin in 1507 and include the name of the accused, any trade they belonged to, as well as who was prosecuting, and the outcome. They can provide an interesting insight into crime and what kinds of punishments were dished out in comparison to what is given to those found guilty today. We also hold petitions for the release of prisoners from the Canongate Tolbooth, as well as black books from Canongate Burgh Court which list those released from the Tolbooth after signing a bond guaranteeing their good behaviour!

Another notable series that we hold is the Bailie Court Processes for Edinburgh and Canongate from 1600s to 1830s. These mainly relate to cases of debt, but can throw up some unusual instances. We recently found a bundle relating to a dust-up between two pupils and a teacher, and the evidence included a rather bloody handkerchief – we were mystified as to why this case reached the Bailie Court to be heard, until we discovered that one of the pupils was the son of a

sheriff and he was determined to clear his son's name... which is rather unsurprising!

The Court records are not indexed and so can take some wading through, and the handwriting can be particularly challenging, especially the earlier records. However, well worth a look, especially if you are looking for someone who was a wee bit naughty. Perhaps one of my favourite recent finds was by a researcher who came across an entry in a Leith Court book from August 1611 detailing an incident in which a group of youths had been found 'joyriding' in a boat at Leith Shore. Although today this is somewhat amusing to us, at the time it was taken quite seriously!

If you are interested in criminals, or indeed how they were caught then we also hold the historical records for Lothian and Borders Police. Prior to the creation of Edinburgh City Police, the Police Commissioners were established, and they



Criminal Album

had overall responsibility for policing the City. Once Portobello and Leith were absorbed into Edinburgh, the City police came into being, and eventually merged with the Lothians and Peebles forces, as well as Berwick, Roxburgh and Selkirk. It then became known as the Lothian and Borders Force.

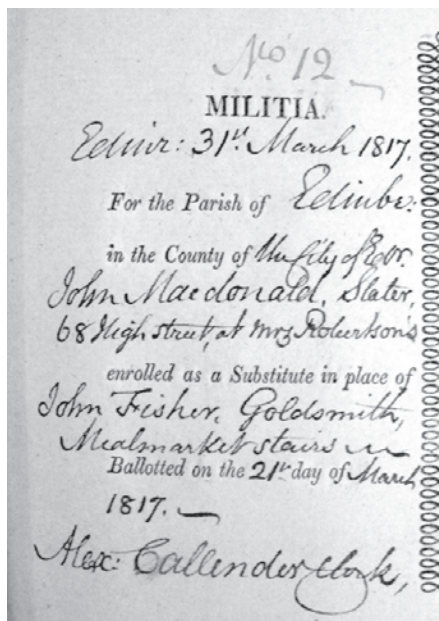


Within this collection we have personnel records for the serving police officers themselves, as well as weekly records of what was going on at the time. Other highlights from this collection include criminal conviction registers, which cover roughly the 1860s to the 1920s. Some of the individuals recorded within these have only one or two convictions, whereas others have several pages dedicated to them. These give us an understanding of the struggles that some people faced. You have those regularly arrested for things like breach of the peace, prostitution, being incapable, and assault, whereas you find other who are arrested for stealing a loaf of bread or a pair of shoes. This series, in particular, highlights the contrast between individual lives and experiences.

Within the Lothian and Borders Police collection, lies some of my favourite record series. These include criminal albums and wanted notebooks which describe, and often contain images of, wanted individuals. I find that being able to both read about and see an individual brings history very much to life. For example, the image here is from an entry in one of the criminal albums and contains immense descriptive detail about this wanted individual. From this entry we learn that he's 27, works as a saddler, has blue eyes, black hair, and dark whiskers! We also learn of his unusual traits including burn marks on his neck and that he only has 3 fingers on his right hand. These kinds of details would have been most helpful when trying to identify him as he does have some stand-out traits!

## Defence

In line with law and order we also hold records that show how the City defended itself and prepared for attack. For example, we hold Militia and volunteer regiment records. The Militia Bill in Scotland was passed in 1797 and allowed for regiments on a regional basis for home defence - this was how it differed from the regular army which was for a national cause. The records include lists of men deemed eligible to serve, as well as substitute lists for those who made successful pleas for exemption, as service was compulsory otherwise. The image shows an example of a substitution-dated March 1817 in which John Macdonald was enrolled as a substitute for John Fisher. We don't learn much more than this from the entry, other than the fact that both men lived within Edinburgh. We also



Militia Substitution, 1817



have surviving declarations by militiamen claiming allowances for wives and children, and these are for militia regiments all over Scotland, not just Edinburgh.

The records for the volunteer regiments range from the Rifle volunteers to the Artillery and Medical volunteers, covering the period 1840s-1890s.

We also have Army Attestation Registers from 1794-1887, because army recruits had to take an oath of allegiance in front of a magistrate, and although Scottish regiments recruited in many areas the oaths had to be taken at the main military centre which was Edinburgh. This means these registers cover many parishes in Scotland. These records provide an astonishing level of detail regarding recruits – they capture the date of recruitment, the name of the recruit, age, designation, parish of residence, regiment, their height, the colour of their hair and eyes, and even information about their complexion. Much like the aforementioned criminal albums and wanted notebooks containing descriptions of individuals, these records also provide powerful descriptive information which can be invaluable to family members who may never have had such an in-depth description of an ancestor's physical appearance.

## Religion

The National Records of Scotland are the official repository for the records of the Established and Free Churches. Likewise, For Catholic records you would also need to check with NRS, or with the Scottish Catholic Archives.

Here at ECA we hold a number of Episcopal church collections, including Old St Pauls and St George's, and St Peter's. The records within include baptism, marriage and burial registers, as well as minutes, pew registers, and even some photographs and comical cartoons! The Pew registers are particularly interesting and provide insight into the somewhat subtle hierarchy of the church congregation. The image here shows a cartoon of a church official, the caption reads, **NOBODY LOVES ME BUT I DON'T CARE, IM GOING TO BUILD SPIRES. I'VE BUILT ONE AND IM GOING TO BUILD**



*Religious Cartoon*

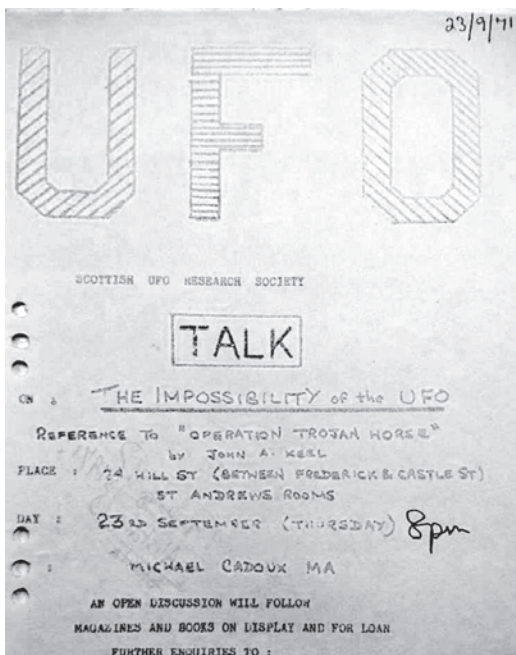
ANOTHER. I have interpreted this as an acknowledgement perhaps of the decline in church influence within society, and how as a result the church began to retreat within its walls.

Some churches still hold on to their own records, so if you are interested in a particular church you can let us know and we should be able to advise on where its records are most likely to be held.

### Leisure – Clubs and Societies

Finally, I am going to look at records relating to leisure in Edinburgh. These include the records of varied clubs and societies, which illustrate the interests and pastimes of individuals across society, and can be used for the study of various aspects of history.

We have collections covering a whole host of topics including gardening, sports, politics, and even UFO societies! The image here is another one of my favourites, and perhaps one of our more unusual records. It is from our collection for the Scottish U.F.O Research Society. It shows an illustrated flyer for a talk that they hosted in 1971, the talk was about the impossibility of the UFO.



*Scottish U.F.O. Research Society, 1971*

We appeal to local organisations and clubs to think about the records that they are creating and what plans are in place to safeguard their longevity. If clubs pass their records on to us, we can in turn ensure their long-term preservation, make them available to the wider public, and subsequently ensure that they become part of the story of the cultural heritage of Edinburgh.

### Think “outside the box” when using records

During my time as an archivist, I have learned to think “outside the box”! You don’t always find what you think you’re going to within collections, and therefore it’s advantageous to be as open-minded as possible when using archives. For example, when I was going through one of our newer collections, deposited by the Bellevue Chapel, I came across something unexpected. I was reading a Visitors and Intimation book, when I found an entry from 3rd September 1939. It

records the postponement of a morning sermon because of an air-raid warning that had been issued, instead of ministry, an emergency prayer gathering was held. I certainly didn't expect to find such a potent reminder of the war in this collection, let alone in this particular book.

### **Information legislation**

Please bear in mind that many of our collections contain the personal details of individuals, and sensitive information, for example school, court, police, and personnel records. This means that they fall under the scope of the Data Protection Act and this can in some cases restrict access. However, our team is trained in this legislation and we can advise on this when necessary, but we do our very best to ensure access to records whenever possible, even if it means that we must consult collections on behalf of users.

### **Preservation**

As I mentioned in the introduction, preservation and promotion are key to the success of ECA, so I'll discuss these briefly.

As you have heard we hold large and vast collections of real historical significance, and therefore a big part of our role is ensuring the longevity of these records. This includes undertaking tasks like re-boxing, cleaning, removing harmful bindings such as staples and poly-pockets, wrapping fragile records, and even having some records conserved professionally, ie re binding and covering. The image here shows a log book that arrived in with a school collection recently, when going through the book, I found a little surprise in the form of a very well-preserved branch with some leaves! As lovely as this find was, I couldn't risk the record sustaining further damage as the branch had already caused some discolouration, so it had to be removed! This is perhaps one of my more random finds during preservation work, but the key aim is to ensure that records are not kept within or around any materials that could harm them over time. We use archival grade materials such as brass paper clips, melanex pockets, and archival grade envelopes and boxes to organise and store records.

### **Storage**

Once sorted and ready for storage, our records are kept in archival grade stores that control and monitor temperature and humidity to ensure the records are stored in optimum conditions.

### **Promotion**

Much like preservation, promotion is also vital as there's very little point in us collecting and preserving these records if no-one knows that they exist. Therefore, much of what we do is about promoting the existence and use of our collections. We do this via many channels. We have a popular Facebook page upon which we post information about our collections, images from our collections, interesting research projects being undertaking using our collections, and general information

about the service. We also provide outreach events such as talks, which enable us to get out into the community and advocate our collections. We have an internal blog too, called Ask the Archives, in which we encourage staff members to ask us questions about the Council and the city and we try to answer these questions using our collections. This helps us to raise the profile of the service and the collections that we hold internally within the Council. We also collaborate with other organisations such as NRS on exhibitions and projects. We're also happy to host visits from groups during which we do tours of our on-site storage area, now fondly known as the Harry Potter Room, and we can also look out a selection of relevant records to show visiting groups. We're always open to new ways of promoting our wonderful collections.

## **Volunteers**

I couldn't discuss preservation and promotion without mentioning our fantastic volunteers. Our volunteers come in weekly or monthly and help us to do a range of tasks. These include cataloguing, indexing, cleaning, and re-boxing.

## **Access to archives**

If any of the collections discussed have sparked your interest and you'd like to visit us or make an enquiry, here's what you need to know:

We are based on Level 1 of the City Chambers on the High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1YJ

We ask for some notice before you visit as some records are stored off site and must be ordered in.

We are open Tuesday to Thursday from 9am to 1pm and from 2pm to 4.30pm.

You can find our searchroom regulations and handling guidelines on our website

Our telephone number and email address are also noted here and can be found on our website too.

## **Online and Resources**

As well as our public searchroom, we also have a presence online. All of our key details and some information about our collections can be found on our webpage. In particular, we have a selection of handy subject guides available, which can help individuals to navigate our collections. These cover family history, business history, and house and building history. We also have collection catalogues available to download, and several name indexes including Edinburgh Poll Tax returns 1694-1699 and Register of Inmates at Edinburgh Charity Workhouse 1835-1841.

We also have a popular Facebook page, as mentioned before, upon which we post all sorts of information about upcoming projects and snippets from our collections. So please check out our page if you're interested in what we're getting up to.

[http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20249/edinburgh\\_city\\_archives](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20249/edinburgh_city_archives)

# **William Mitchell: a maritime casualty of the Second World War**

**J. Colin Bain**

William Mitchell was a Lieutenant (E) in the Royal Naval Reserve, having been a merchant seaman, and is commemorated on Panel 3, Column 1 of the Merchant Navy Memorial at Liverpool Pierhead.

He was born on 8 August 1906 at Ballinree, Cashel, Co. Tipperary, the son of Alexander McGregor Mitchell and Isabella Storey Laurie. They had married on 22 June 1904 at Lismore, Waterford and had a daughter, Jean, in 1905. They subsequently had two more sons, James in 1908 and Alexander in 1912 (emigrated to New Zealand after WW2), as well as a second daughter, Katherine in 1910.<sup>1</sup> Alexander senior was a Land Steward or farm manager and was in fact the third generation of his family to follow that profession. He had been born in Old Monkland, Lanarkshire, moved as a youth with his



William Mitchell in RNR uniform, 1939

family to Brantingham, Yorkshire, and then to Ireland to further his prospects. On the face of it Alexander came from a classic lowland Scots farming background, but his great-grandfather Robert (born 1780 in Aberdour, Fife) had been a Boatswain in the Royal Navy.<sup>2</sup> Isabella had come to Waterford to keep house for her older brother Robert, who was also a Land Steward. Her background was a little more colourful than that of her husband. Her parents were James George Laurie and Jane Selkirk. James was a Fort William born gardener and the son of a gardener. He worked on various large estates in Britain, but in 1882 took his wife and three sons to Canada, arriving in Quebec on 14 June in that year.<sup>3</sup> Isabella and her twin, Susan, were born on 11 January 1883 in Middlesex, Ontario.<sup>4</sup> Sadly, Susan died in infancy and the family decided to return to Scotland where James became head gardener at Murthly Castle near Dunkeld for the remainder of his life. They were thus part of that little considered group – the emigrants who failed to settle and returned home. Perhaps unexpectedly, Isabella also had a nautical connection in her grandfather James Moncreiff, whose career has been mentioned in the pages of this journal.<sup>5</sup>

Let us now return to William Mitchell. When he was still a small child, the family moved to Cloonfinglass, Bansha, Tipperary.<sup>6</sup> It is worth mentioning that Alexander moved employer frequently and had a quick temper at times, if his opinion was not respected by that employer. In 1916 they moved to Clonberton, Drumcondrath, Co. Meath. The children went to the (rather distant) Protestant school by pony and trap, usually driven by sister Jean. By 1918 they were off again, this time to Balinagee near Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow. This was a small hill farm, mainly sheep, but they kept a few cows, goats, hens, ducks and geese as well as a horse. To bolster their diet, they also trapped rabbits. There was IRA activity in the area, which apparently culminated in the burning down of the house occupied by Alexander's (Unionist) employer. This prompted a move in October 1920 to Finnebrogue, Downpatrick, Co. Down (owned by Col. Maxwell). Shortly thereafter, William became an Apprentice on the Belfast & County Down Railway. Grown to adulthood at 6 feet 1½ inches, he was very slim-built and gained the nickname "Spider". At this time William and his brothers were involved in the Finnebrogue Cricket Club, although William seems to have been the most interested. An unknown would-be poet in the district produced some doggerel verse about the club, of which this is part –

They are all different sizes  
Some big and some small  
But there is only one of them  
Who is really very tall.  
  
And that is Willie Mitchell  
Who is about 6 foot in height  
And if you dare to look at him  
He's sure to start to fight

In 1929 the family bought their own small farm at Ashgrove, Carrickmaddyroe, Boardmills, Lisburn, where they kept cows, horses, ducks and geese and cultivated some land. Most of the family income, however, came from the sale of milk and from the keeping of hens and the sale of eggs.<sup>7</sup>

While it is generally possible to obtain the service records of those who served in the Second World War, by application to the Ministry of Defence, it can be more problematic in the case of merchant seamen. The short version is that only a sample of documentation has been retained by the National Archives. William, as subsequently an officer in the RNR, may be said to have had a foot in both camps and we have the advantage that his actual personal Board of Trade Certificate of Discharge<sup>8</sup> is in the hands of the family. Where access can be gained to one of these documents, it gives a great deal of detail about the individual's career. This certificate shows that William first went to sea on 19 December 1928 on the P&O cargo ship *Barrabool*, which he joined at the Victoria Docks, London, as an Assistant Engineer. It is worth emphasising this fact as the P&O differed from most contemporary shipping companies, in that it directly



employed its crew members on a permanent basis, making jobs with them highly regarded. Most merchant seamen did not approach companies directly, but

3

Die A.

ISSUED BY THE BOARD OF TRADE.

CONTINUOUS CERTIFICATE

with a View of the SEAFARER'S

Name of Seaman, in full: *Mitchell, William* Age: *196*

Rank, (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10) (11) (12) (13) (14) (15) (16) (17) (18) (19) (20) (21) (22) (23) (24) (25) (26) (27) (28) (29) (30) (31) (32) (33) (34) (35) (36) (37) (38) (39) (40) (41) (42) (43) (44) (45) (46) (47) (48) (49) (50) (51) (52) (53) (54) (55) (56) (57) (58) (59) (60) (61) (62) (63) (64) (65) (66) (67) (68) (69) (70) (71) (72) (73) (74) (75) (76) (77) (78) (79) (80) (81) (82) (83) (84) (85) (86) (87) (88) (89) (90) (91) (92) (93) (94) (95) (96) (97) (98) (99) (100)

Signature of *W. Mitchell*

were recruited via the Shipping Federation, who acted as a kind of specialist job centre. Another distinctive feature of the P&O company was that it heavily encouraged its officers to join the Royal Naval Reserve. Finally, since most of the lower ranking engine and boiler room crews were recruited from the Indian sub-continent, officers were required by the company. as quickly as possible, to learn "Hindustani" (a version of Urdu) to communicate with their men.

4

R 66092

Certificate of Discharge

with a View of the SEAFARER'S

Name of Seaman, in full: *Mitchell, William* Age: *196*

Rank, (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10) (11) (12) (13) (14) (15) (16) (17) (18) (19) (20) (21) (22) (23) (24) (25) (26) (27) (28) (29) (30) (31) (32) (33) (34) (35) (36) (37) (38) (39) (40) (41) (42) (43) (44) (45) (46) (47) (48) (49) (50) (51) (52) (53) (54) (55) (56) (57) (58) (59) (60) (61) (62) (63) (64) (65) (66) (67) (68) (69) (70) (71) (72) (73) (74) (75) (76) (77) (78) (79) (80) (81) (82) (83) (84) (85) (86) (87) (88) (89) (90) (91) (92) (93) (94) (95) (96) (97) (98) (99) (100)

Signature of *W. Mitchell*



William Mitchell on board Mooltan, circa 1930

At this time and indeed well into the latter part of the 20th Century, the usual path towards employment at sea as an engineer officer, was to undertake an apprenticeship as a fitter and turner in an engineering company on shore, before applying to go to sea. William's time with the railway was thus to some degree unusual, although it would familiarise him with steam machinery, albeit of a different type from that found at sea.

The *Barrabool* was a 13,062-ton gross vessel, only five years old, and fitted with twin screws driven by quadruple expansion engines. In her, William made a voyage to

Australia and returned to London in April 1929. One week later he was transferred to the *Kashgar*, again as Assistant Engineer. This was a smaller vessel of 9,005-ton gross, built in 1914, and in her he went to China and Japan, again returning to London in August and then straightaway repeating the voyage, returning to London at the end of December and then again on 14 June. They then made a coastal voyage of only 4 days and William was again transferred. This time, at Tilbury, he joined the *Mooltan*, a 20,952-ton passenger/cargo vessel, built in 1923. They headed to Australia on a mail run and he made two round trips, returning the second time in January 1931. He now spent time ashore, by implication engaged in study for certification, before joining *Mooltan* again on 14 September for another Australian mail voyage. He now re-joined the *Kashgar*, on 31 December 1931 at London, this time as 4th Engineer, and made a voyage to Kobe, Japan, arriving there on 30 March 1932. The following day he joined the 14,251-ton *Corfu*. All his previous vessels had been fitted with quadruple expansion engines, but the year-old *Corfu* had twin screw steam turbines. This



William Mitchell with his family at Ashgrove, 1934

Left to right: William, Jim, Isabella, Alex, Alex

would be an introduction to a newer and very different technology. They arrived in London in May 1932 and, after a brief leave, he joined the *Maloja* as Assistant Engineer. This was a sister ship of *Mooltan*. His voyage took him as far as

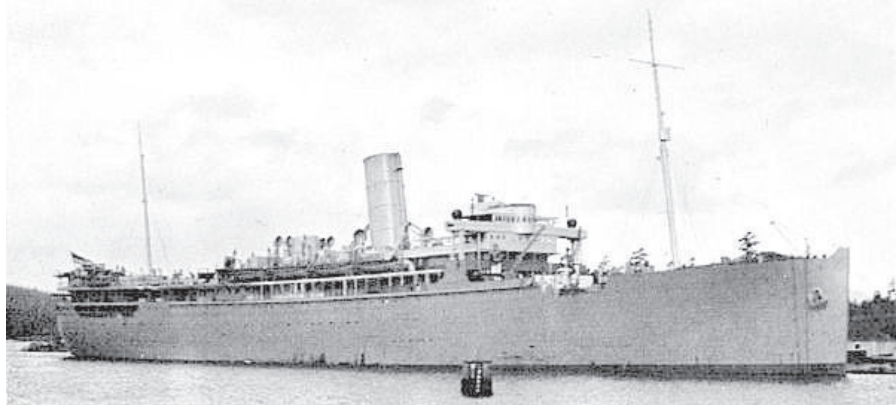
Bombay, where he left the ship in order to join the *Kidderpore* on 13 September 1932 as Assistant Engineer. This was a 5,334-ton ship, built in 1920 to a more old-fashioned design, with a single screw driven by a triple expansion engine, typical of cargo ships of the period. He made a total of four far-eastern voyages in her before leaving on 5 May 1934 at Bombay. His next ship was a very different proposition, for he was assigned to the *Viceroy of India*, 19,648-ton vessel, considered by many to be the finest ship ever owned by P&O. She had a reputation for speed and was the first British turbo-electric ship - a very different type of engine arrangement. She had twin screws, powered by electric motors, the electricity being produced by steam turbines. He was only with her for the 16 days which it took to reach Tilbury – matching the record time held by this luxury passenger and cruising ship for the eastbound voyage.

After some months ashore, during which we believe he undertook professional study, William re-joined the *Maloja*, this time as 2nd Refrigeration Engineer, on 26 July 1934. Hence, while the vessel type was familiar, he had new responsibilities. After two round trips in her with the Australian mail he was made 4th Engineer for one round trip, before reverting to 2nd Refrigeration Engineer for a further two round trips, finishing at London on 24 January 1936. He was now moved to the *Ranchi* as 4th Engineer in this 16,738-ton passenger/cargo ship. She was another of the twin screw, quadruple expansion type vessels. They made a round trip to China and Japan and were preparing for a second when he was transferred on 13 May 1936 to *Strathnaver*, a 1931-built, 22,270-ton passenger ship. The ship was regarded as state-of-the-art and had a different colour scheme - white with yellow funnels – rather than the usual P&O black with a white stripe. His role was once again that of 2nd Refrigeration Engineer but being in this ship could be seen as a good career move. He made three round voyages in her to Australia, interspersed with one cruising. He was transferred out of her in April 1937. This was followed by another spell ashore, again presumably for study, before joining *Corfu* again as 4th Engineer on 9 July 1937. He made six voyages in her, to China and Japan, until 18 May 1939. He then seems to have engaged in further study, gaining his Chief Engineer's Certificate on 4 August 1939.

On the outbreak of war, he was mobilised as a Lieutenant (E) RNR and placed on active service. Several P&O ships also found themselves mobilised, usually still with at least a proportion of their crews retained. Several of these were rapidly converted into Armed Merchant Cruisers. Typically, these were large (by the standards of the day) passenger/cargo liners and were equipped with perhaps 10 or a dozen, medium sized guns, mostly left over from the First World War. The ships were then deployed, mostly in the North Atlantic, to assist in escorting convoys and in some cases to patrol on their own on the lookout for German surface raiding warships and converted enemy ships with similar origins to themselves. It should be noted that a typical P&O ship, being designed for voyages to Australia and/ or the far East, was not especially at home in chilly

northern waters for extended patrols. It is also relevant that the ships were not equipped either to detect or engage submarines, unless, by chance, they spotted one on the surface. William was assigned as 4th Engineer to HMS *Chitral* on 25 September 1939 at Glasgow, for "Admiralty Service". In fact, the 15,346-ton P&O ship was one of these Armed Merchant Cruisers, having just been hastily equipped and now flying the White Ensign and patrolling the North Atlantic instead of running back and forwards to Australia.

On 3 October 1940 he was transferred as 3rd Engineer, into HMS *Rajputana*, another P&O vessel, the sister ship of *Ranchi*, built in 1925 for the India run. She had also been converted into an Armed Merchant Cruiser at the start of the war. She had been in Japan at the outbreak and was diverted to Esquimault, British Columbia for the conversion. The vessel was 547.7 feet long with a 71.3 feet beam. Part of her 4,200-ton cargo space was converted for ammunition stowage for her eight 6-inch main and two 3-inch anti-aircraft guns. One of her



HMS *Rajputana*, sunk 1941

two funnels was removed. Her twin screws were driven by quadruple expansion engines and her top speed was 17 knots and she carried a crew of 323. They were assigned at first to escort convoys in the Bermuda to Halifax area of the western Atlantic and then to the North Atlantic Escort Force. She had been escorting convoy HX117 from Halifax, leaving there on 27 March, but left the convoy on 9 April to continue a patrol. On 13 April 1941 she was between Greenland and Iceland at 64 degrees 50 minutes North, 27 degrees 25 minutes West. William was Engineer of the Watch on duty in the engine-room. They were spotted by a submerged German submarine, *U-108*, which torpedoed and sank them. Forty men, including William were killed, but the remainder survived, took to the ship's lifeboats and were ultimately rescued by HMS *Legion*. For many years the family believed the date of his death to have been 23 April, but this seems to have been a confusion related to the date on which they were informed of the circumstances.

William never married and has no known grave but the sea.

Details of the description of the various ships mentioned were drawn from Course, A.G. 1954 *Ships of the P&O*.

#### Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> Personal communication by family
- <sup>2</sup> Noted on the death Certificate of his son, also Robert. 1885 Death 652/02 0383 Old Monkland
- <sup>3</sup> Ancestry Canadian Arrivals
- <sup>4</sup> Ancestry. Ontario Archives births MS929 Reel 60
- <sup>5</sup> Bain, C 1988 A footnote to the story of Grace Darling. *Scottish Genealogist* XXXV.3 125-126
- <sup>6</sup> 1911 Census of Ireland
- <sup>7</sup> Personal communication by family
- <sup>8</sup> Board of Trade Continuous Certificate of Discharge R66092 (still in possession of family).



## The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) World War 1 Roll of Honour

In acknowledgement of the sacrifices made by those who served in The Royal Scots in the Great War ie 100,000 wore the cap badge and over 11,000 were killed, the Regiment has worked closely with the Scottish National War Memorial within Edinburgh Castle to publish The Royal Scots Roll of Honour on our website

[www.theroyalscots.co.uk](http://www.theroyalscots.co.uk).

There will be supporting information eg gallantry awards, photographs, letters and newspaper cuttings available with the intention that families and others will be able to share further information thus increasing the overall knowledge base. Details of where the total of 35 battalions of The Royal Scots served and Battle Honours awarded will be readily available.

Links to other websites will also be available, eg Commonwealth War Graves Commission which gives details of where the fallen are buried.

The Roll of Honour initiative, which has been developed closely with St Andrew's University, was launched on 17th August, just after the commemorative events on 8th August to mark the centenary of the Final 100 Days of the Great War.

Currently 11,313 servicemen are listed.

With thanks to Col. (retired) Martin Gibson, OBE, DL, Project Leader



# The Earls of March, 1308-1368

John P. Ravilious

On 6 April 1320, the magnates and barons of Scotland addressed the document now known as the Declaration of Arbroath to Pope John XXII in support of the kingship of Robert Bruce and the continued independence of Scotland from English rule. The first magnate named in the declaration was Duncan, Earl of Fife, the premier Earl of Scotland; second was Thomas Randolph, Earl of Moray and King Robert's nephew and a long-time supporter; the third was Patrick Dunbar, Earl of March. Earl Patrick had occupied a significant place in the pro-Balliol (or pro-English) camp well into Robert's reign, possibly best known for having received King Edward II of England at Dunbar following the defeat at Bannockburn and permitting his departure for England by sea<sup>1</sup>. The reversal of English fortunes soon brought Patrick into King Robert's peace, as evidenced by his support of Robert's kingship at Arbroath<sup>2</sup>.

The biography of this Earl Patrick has long been accepted with his birth ca 1284, based on the inquisition post mortem held at Felton on 8 March 1308/09 concerning his father's lands in Northumberland. Having determined that the late Earl held these lands in chief of the English king when he died on 10 October 1308, the inquisition is recorded as having declared that "Patrick de Dunbar is son and next heir of Earl Patrick, and is 24 years of age"<sup>3</sup>.

The ages of heirs given in inquisitions were often inaccurate, more typically expressed in approximations. One relevant example is the 1307 inquisition for the late Gilbert de Umfraville, earl of Angus which found that "Robert de Umfraville is his son and next heir, and 30 years of age and more"<sup>4</sup>. That this was the case with regard to Patrick Dunbar in 1309 can be readily shown. On 24 May 1297, Edward I of England issued orders to 57 of his Scots supporters to make preparation to join him in his planned expedition to Flanders. Among these was a letter to "Patrick, son of Patrick, earl of March" which stated that the king had given directions to Hugh de Cressingham, treasurer of Scotland, and Osbert de Spaldington

"to be told by them to Patrick by word of mouth: he orders Patrick to give credence to what Hugh and Osbert shall tell him concerning the passage aforesaid, and to do and execute such things, as he loves the king's honour and profit and his own and as the king specially confides in him, accordingly as they shall be required from him on the king's behalf."<sup>5</sup>

If the young Patrick V had in fact been aged 24 in 1308, he would have been aged 12 or 13 when the above orders were issued by Edward I at Portsmouth. This was certainly not the case: King Edward knew full well who he was dealing with, and what he sought to be done by his Scottish adherents in support of the forthcoming campaign against France. In addition, given that Patrick IV was aged 65 or more when he died in 1308, it would have been most unusual, although



not impossible, for his eldest son and heir to have been aged only 24 at the time. Beyond the issues of logic and probability, the facts concerning the near relations of Patrick V indicate that there was certainly an earlier date for his birth. Robert Umfraville, mentioned above as being aged 30 'and more' in 1307, was Patrick's first cousin [see Fig. 1]. Among the first cousins of Patrick V and Robert Umfraville, Maud of Strathearn was likely born in the mid 1270s, and David de Brechin likely born 1274x1275<sup>6</sup>. As the eldest son of the eldest daughter in this group, it would be expected to find Patrick V among the oldest of these cousins, not the younger.

It appears that Patrick V was born before 13 June 1271. An inquisition was held concerning the lands of Isabel de Vipont, deceased widow of Roger de Clifford, on 13 June 1292. A moiety of the manor of Milneburne [Milburn] in northern Westmorland was held by Earl Patrick IV, "rendering 10s. 10d. for cornage yearly." Significantly, the inquisition noted several instances of lands held 'blanch farm', that is by payment of an annual rent in coin: among these obligations is noted one "from Patrick son of the earl for a moiety of Milneburne, 40s "<sup>7</sup>. While the age of the younger Patrick is not stated, it is clear that he was already an adult, aged at least 21, when he was obligated to render an annual rent to the lady of Appleby. He was evidently aged 26, or more, when King Edward wrote to him on 24 May 1297.

Fig. 1



Seal of Patrick, Earl of March

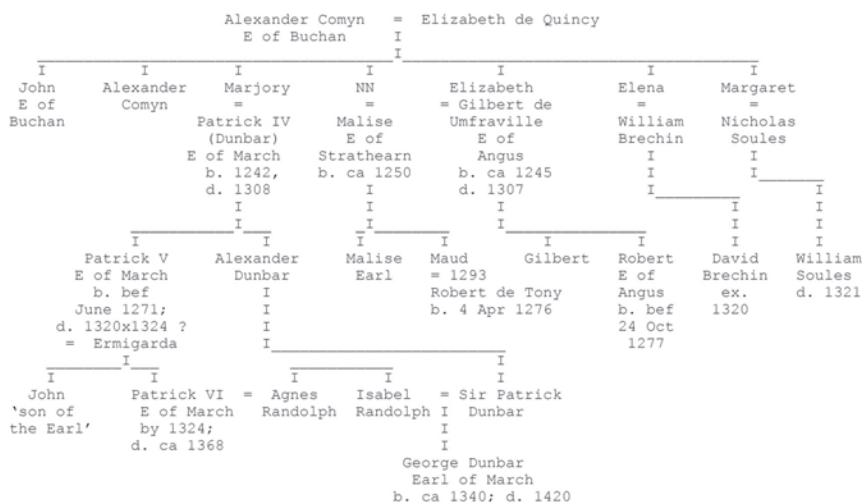
The proposed solution as to a birth date or range for Patrick V creates a different chronological problem: if he was the last Patrick Dunbar, Earl of March, and was born in June 1271 or before, he would have been aged 97 or more when he resigned the Earldom of March on or before 25 July 1368<sup>8</sup>. The conjecture was put forward in 2005 that there were actually two Earls of March during this period, not one. This argument contended that the death of Patrick V occurred some time between 1320,

the year of the dispensation for the marriage to Agnes Randolph, and 1324 when a new dispensation was granted for Patrick, his son and then Earl of March, to marry Agnes<sup>9</sup>. The first dispensation was likely requested soon after the declaration at Arbroath: the mandate was dated at Avignon, 18 August 1320, ordering the dispensation "to Patrick de Dumbar, and Agnes [daughter] of Ralph of the diocese of St. Andrews, to intermarry, they being related in the fourth degree"<sup>10</sup>. The second dispensation was dated at Avignon, 16 January 1323/4, and named the husband as "Patrick de Dunbar, earl of March"<sup>11</sup>, evidently the son and successor, Patrick VI. The chronological problem concerning Patrick V noted above would be resolved by this solution, as Patrick VI, aged perhaps 16 to 20 when the 1320 mandate was issued, would likely have been aged 64 to 68 when he resigned the earldom in 1368.

There is an absence of direct evidence for the death of the earl of March during this period<sup>12</sup>, but it should be noted that the record of the death of Patrick IV in 1308 is English, not Scottish. Patrick V in fact left his English allegiance not long after Bannockburn: on 2 February 1316/17 King Edward II presented a new rector to the church of Dunbar as this right was deemed “in the king’s gift by reason of the rebellion of Patrick de Dumbard, a Scot”<sup>13</sup>. The absence of an inquisition concerning Beanley and other Dunbar lands in Northumberland during this period is then not surprising: there would have been no need for one in the event of the death of the Scottish earl of March, as in the view of the English crown he no longer held either those English lands or the Earldom.

Fig. 2

Alexander Comyn, Earl of Buchan, Elizabeth de Quincy  
and their descendants



The source of the relationship between Patrick VI, Earl of March and his wife Agnes Randolph has not been proved to date<sup>14</sup>. Agnes was the daughter of Thomas Randolph, Earl of Moray (d. 1332) by his wife Isabel or Isabella, the latter identified in a papal indult dated at Avignon, 13 November 1329<sup>15</sup>. It had been theorized that Isabel was a second wife of Thomas Randolph, identical with the Isabel of Ross who was dispensed to marry Edward Bruce, Earl of Carrick and King Robert’s brother, in 1317<sup>16</sup>. She was in fact the sole known wife and eventual widow of Thomas, called “the revered lady Isabella Randolph, countess of Moray, our mother” by her son John Randolph, Earl of Moray when she witnessed his grant of Dunphail and Tarnaway castle to John Grant on 1 April 1346<sup>17</sup>. Isabel was doubtless a daughter of John Stewart of Bonkil (d. 1298) by his wife Margaret de Bonkil<sup>18</sup>, evidenced by the charter of her aforementioned son John Randolph granting Garlies and other lands to “his dearest uncle Walter Stewart”, one of the younger sons of John Stewart<sup>19</sup>.

It appears that the relationship of the Stewarts and Randolphs was yet more tightly drawn, the result of not one but a pair of marriages. There is a well-known charter of Thomas Randolph, earl of Moray dated ca 1329x1331 in which he granted the reversion of Longformacus in Berwickshire to “John Stewart, Earl of Angus, our dear nephew”<sup>20</sup>. The language of the charter – “nepoti nostro dilecto” – makes it clear that John Stewart was called the *nepos* of Thomas Randolph, the usual term for a grandson or nephew during this period. The chronology makes it clear that John Stewart, likely born ca 1305 (1310 at the latest), was not the grandson of Thomas Randolph, so that the mother of the Earl of Angus was almost certainly Randolph’s sister. The wife of Alexander Stewart of Bonkil is known from only one record, an indult granted by the Pope at Avignon on 22 September 1320 “to Joan, relict of Alexander Steward (senescalli), knight, who is buried at Melros”<sup>21</sup>.

The previous understanding as to the career of Patrick V further served to make uncertain the exact connection of George Dunbar, Earl of March (d. 1420) to the previous earls. George wrote a letter to Henry IV seeking a letter of safe-conduct to enter England following the Duke of Rothesay’s repudiation of his daughter. Dated at Dunbar on 18 February 1399/1400, the Earl made note of their mutual descent from the Comyns. While erring as to the place of King Henry’s great-grandmother ‘Dame Alice the Bewmont’ in the family, Earl George wrote that “Dame Mariory Comyne, hyrre full syster, wes my graunde dame on the tother syde”<sup>22</sup>. Rev. John Anderson accepted the identification of Patrick IV as the husband of Marjory Comyn based on the testimony of Wyntoun, but believed there to be an error on the part of George Dunbar: “if Marjorie Comyn were the wife of the eighth Earl, it seems impossible that she could have been the great-grandmother on the father’s side of George, tenth Earl of March”<sup>23</sup>. The chronological reassessment of the biography of Patrick V, and the establishment of the existence of Patrick VI, provide a sufficient basis for accepting the testimony of Earl George, at least as to his own ancestry.

\* \* \*

Fig. 1 Seal of Patrick, Earl of March appended to an agreement dated at York, 13 May 1334 (Joseph Bain, *On a Remarkable, and (so far as yet known) Unique Seal of Patrick de Dunbar (fifth of that name), Earl of March, Appended to a Document in 1334*, *The Archaeological Journal*, vol. XXXVII (London, 1880), pp. 200-204.

My thanks to Alex M. Findlater, Bruce McAndrew and Ethan Gould for their observations and criticism of this paper, and the improvements resulting therefrom.

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> G. W. S. Barrow, *Robert Bruce and the Community of the Realm of Scotland* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh Univ. Press, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 1976), p. 330.

<sup>2</sup> Transcript of the Declaration of Arbroath, National Records of Scotland, <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/files//research/declaration-of-arbroath/declaration-of-arbroath->

[transcription-and-translation.pdf](#) .

Cf. G. W. S. Barrow (ed.), *The Declaration of Arbroath: History, Significance, Setting* (Edinburgh, 2003), p. xiii; A. A. M. Duncan, *The Nation of Scots and the Declaration of Arbroath* (1320) (London, 1970), p. 34.

- <sup>3</sup> Joseph Bain, ed., *Calendar of Documents relating to Scotland* (Edinburgh, 1887), vol. III, p. 15, no. 77, cites Inq. P. m. 2 Edw. II. no. 8. The most widely accepted account of the Dunbar earls of March, by Rev. John Anderson, is found in Sir James Balfour Paul, *The Scots Peerage* (Edinburgh: David Douglas, 1906), vol. III, pp. 239-279. No change in the accepted biography of Patrick V (Paul, *ibid.*, pp. 264-9) has been noted in either recent published scholarship or graduate work. Cf. <http://db.poms.ac.uk>, Document 3/15/111; Alastair J. Macdonald, Kings of the wild frontier? The earls of Dunbar or March, c. 1070-1435, in Steve Boardman and Alasdair Ross, eds., *The Exercise of Power in Medieval Scotland, c. 1200-1500* (Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2003), pp. 139-158; Peter William Daniels, *The Second Scottish War of Independence, 1332-41: A National War?* MPhil(R) thesis, University of Glasgow, 2013, p. 39.
- <sup>4</sup> Bain, *ibid.*, p. 4, no. 19. A clear if extended example can be found in the IPM of Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester, who was slain at Bannockburn. His heirs were his sisters Eleanor, Margaret and Elizabeth, who were identified in various inquisitions between August and October 1314 as being respectively aged 21 and more, 20 and 19 (Suffolk), 22 and more, 21 and 19 and more (Essex), 25, 22 and 19 (Hertford), "all of full age" (Surrey), 20, 18 and 16 (Berkshire), and "aged 16 and more" (Dorset), with other variants, including "ages unknown" (Devon). *Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem*, Edward II (London: Mackie & Co. Ltd, 1908), vol. V, pp. 325 et seq.
- <sup>5</sup> *Cal. Close Rolls* Edw I, Vol. IV (London, 1906), p. 80. Cf. Latin text in Stevenson, *Docs. Illust. History of Scotland*, vol. II (Edinburgh, 1870), p. 167, no. CCCCXXIX. This evidence was first noted by the late Andrew B. W. MacEwen.
- <sup>6</sup> Robert Umfraville was not the eldest child of that union, an older brother Gilbert having died previously. Maud of Strathearn, a first cousin of Patrick V and Robert Umfraville, was contracted to marry Robert de Tony in 1293. Unusual for the period, her husband Robert's birth date is known to have been 4 April 1276 [Chris Given-Wilson, *Chronicles: The Writing of History in Medieval England* (Cambridge, 2004), p. 79, citing the proof of Robert de Tony's age and the record made at West Acre priory as to his birth in Scotland]: the placement of his fiancée Maud's birth around the same time would be reasonable. Further, another first cousin, David de Brechin, was probably born around 1274-5 given his participation in the Battle of Dunbar in 1296 (when he was doubtless already a knight) and that King Edward I renewed a grant of David's marriage to John de Callendar on 18 June 1294, indicating that David was born no earlier than 19 June 1273 [Paul, *Scots Peerage* II:218]. Patrick V was the eldest son of the eldest daughter of Alexander Comyn, Earl of Buchan: Maud of Strathearn was daughter of the second, Robert Umfraville a son of the third, and David de Brechin the son of the fourth, according to the account of Andrew de Wyntoun. David Laing, ed., *The Orygynale Cronykil of Scotland by Androw of Wyntoun* (Edinburgh: Edmonston and Douglas, 1872), vol. II, pp. 310-311.
- <sup>7</sup> The inquisition was dated Friday after St Barnabas the Apostle, 20 Edw I. *Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem*, Edward I (Hereford, 1912), vol. 3, p. 54, no.70. The Dunbar holdings in Westmorland were noted in the next generation. An inquisition was held in Westmorland on 26 August 1314 following the death of Robert de Clifford, son of Agnes de Vipont, at Bannockburn. This inquisition noted that Clifford's land in Millenburne was 'held by Earl Patrick, rendering 21s. 8d.' *Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem*, Edward II (London: Mackie & Co. Ltd, 1908), vol. V, p. 302, no. 533.
- <sup>8</sup> Paul, *Scots Peerage* vol. III, pp. 267, 270.
- <sup>9</sup> John P. Ravilious, Dunbar dilemmas: Patrick, [8<sup>th</sup>] Earl of Dunbar, soc.genealogy.medieval, 2 August 2005. The 1324 dispensation clearly states that the relationship between Patrick Dunbar and Agnes Randolph was misstated in the original, and that this error was noted by Thomas Randolph, Agnes' father.
- <sup>10</sup> mandate dated at Avignon, 18 Aug 1320:

'To the guardian of the Friars Minors, Roscheburc, in the diocese of Glasgow. Commission and mandate to grant a dispensation to Patrick de Dumbar, and Agnes [daughter] of Ralph of the diocese of St. Andrews, to intermarry, they being related in the fourth degree. If they are excommunicate they are to be absolved, and if the realm is under an interdict, it may be relaxed to allow of the celebration of the marriage.' W. H. Bliss, ed., *Calendar of Entries in the Papal Registers Relating to Great Britain and Ireland, Papal Letters*, Vol. II (A.D. 1305 - 1342) (London: for the Public Record Office, 1895; reprinted 1971, Kraus-Thomson, Liechtenstein), p. 201.

<sup>11</sup> "Patricio de Dumbar Comiti Marchie [et] Agnete, nate dilecti filii nobilis viri Thome Arnulphi Moravie, eiusdem Patricii uxori". Theiner, *Vetera monumenta Hibernorum et Scotorum historiam illustrantia* (Rome, 1864), pp. 227-8, no. CCCCLII.

<sup>12</sup> An analysis was made of the seals of the earls of March to determine if any heraldic evidence existed as to the succession of Patrick VI. Patrick IV used a seal with the Dunbar lion rampant, within a border charged with fourteen roses, before 1289 (J. Stevenson and M. Wood, *Scottish Heraldic Seals* (Glasgow: R. Maclehose at the University Press, 1940) vol. II, no. 33506) but subsequently used a seal with a border charged with eight roses, in 1291 and 1302 (Stevenson, SHS 33507; W. R. MacDonald, *Scottish Armorial Seals* (Edinburgh: William Green, 1904), p. 96, no. 786). The seal of Patrick V displayed the Lion rampant with a border charged with eleven or twelve roses in 1320: this was the Earl's seal appended to the Declaration of Arbroath (SHS 33508 says eleven; SAS 788 says twelve). The seal used by Earl Patrick (VI) in 1334 shows a border charged with thirteen roses (SHS 33601, SHS 789: see Fig. 1), the seal used in 1357 shows a border charged with eleven roses (SHS 33602, SAS 790) while a slightly later seal shows a border charged with eight roses (SHS 33604, SAS 793). The changes with regard to the charges noted above provides a basis for conjecture as to reasons for the changes made, but no conclusion can be drawn.

My thanks to Bruce McAndrew for his kind assistance in this effort.

<sup>13</sup> *Calendar of the Patent Rolls*, Edward II, A.D. 1313-1317 (London, 1898), p. 616, mem. 29.

<sup>14</sup> This relationship may stem from the paternal grandmother of Thomas Randolph, name unknown but conjectured to have been a sister of Patrick IV, Earl of Dunbar. J. Ravilious, private communication with Andrew B. W. MacEwen and Bruce McAndrew, 17 Jan. 2012.

<sup>15</sup> Indult dated at Avignon, id. November 1329:

"To countess Isabella, wife of Thomas Ranulphi, earl of Moray. Indult that her confessor shall give her plenary remission at the hour of death."

Bliss, *ibid.*, p. 312

<sup>16</sup> The mandate for the marriage of Edward Bruce and Isabel of Ross was dated at Avignon, 1 June 1317. Andrew Stuart, *Genealogical History of the Stewarts: from the earliest period of their authentic history to the present times* (London: Printed for A. Strahan, and T. Cadell Jun. and W. Davies, in the Strand, 1798), pp. 427 et seq.

The identification of Isabel of Ross as a second wife of Thomas Randolph, Earl of Moray was proposed in 2010. Cf. Andrew B. W. MacEwen, The Boyd Tomb at Kilmarnock, in *The Genealogist*, vol. 24, no. 1 (Spring 2010), pp. 52-64.

<sup>17</sup> "...reverenda domina domina Isabella Ranulphi comitissa Moraue, matre nostra...". William Fraser, *The Chiefs of Grant* (Edinburgh, 1883), vol. III, pp. 8-9, no. 13. I am indebted to Ethan Gould of Monash University for kindly bringing this evidence to my attention.

<sup>18</sup> Paul, *The Scots Peerage* (Edinburgh: David Douglas, 1909), vol. VI, p. 294.

<sup>19</sup> NRS, Galloway charters, GD138/1/1. This charter was among the muniments of the Earls of Galloway, and was recorded in the National Records of Scotland prior to its return.

<sup>20</sup> "Johanni Senescalco comiti de Anegus, nepoti nostro dilecto". Sir William Fraser, *The Douglas Book* (Edinburgh, 1885), Vol. III, p. 14, no. 16.

<sup>21</sup> The indult, dated at Avignon, 11 Kal. Oct. [22 Sept.] 1320:

'To Joan, relict of Alexander Steward (senescalli), knight, who is buried at Melros. Indult to visit that monastery once a year with a retinue.' Bliss, *ibid.*, p. 208.

<sup>22</sup> Fraser, *The Douglas Book* (Edinburgh, 1885), vol. IV, pp. 59-60, no. 53.

<sup>23</sup> Paul, *ibid.*, vol. III, p. 264.

## Appendix

### Charters of, and relating to, the Earls of March ca 1315-1342

Most charters of the Dunbar earls are undated, providing little assistance with regard to dating of events in Scotland in the early 14<sup>th</sup> century. One exception to this is a charter in the Melrose Liber in which Patrick de Dunbar, Earl of March - identified as Patrick VI above - confirmed the charter of his deceased father [Cosmo Innes, ed., *Liber Sancte Marie de Melros* (Edinburgh: for the Bannatyne Club, 1837), vol. II, pp. 395-396, no. 431. Subsequent references to this charter will appear as Melr. Lib., no. 431. The charter of his father was Melr. Lib., no. 365]. While his father's charter is undated, the charter of Patrick VI was dated at Dunbar on 11 January 1342. As a result of the standing identification of the 1342 grantor as the Earl of March from 1308 to 1368, the earlier charter has been variously assigned to Earl Patrick IV, in one instance with an approximate date as early as 1290x1296 [Jonathan D. Gledhill, *Locality and Allegiance: English Lothian, 1296-1318*, in Andy King and David Simpkin, eds., *England and Scotland at War, C.1296-c.1513* (Leiden: Brill, 2012), p. 175], and more broadly to the period 1290x1368 [POMS project as noted above, Document 3/15/111].

There were numerous witnesses to Melr. Lib. no. 365: those named were John (Dunbar), son of the Earl; the knights William Ramsay, Adam Gordon, Henry Haliburton, Edward Letham; Robert Lauder, steward of the Earl ("nostro seneschallo"), Robert Congleton, the earl's chamberlain, Henry Ellum, Edward Cockburn, Gilbert Hering, Stephen Papedi and John Mackerstoun. John Dunbar was also a witness to a grant by Hugh Gourlay of the lands of Popple in East Lothian to Robert Lauder – dated ca 1318 according to NRS, Robert Lauder was designated a knight in this charter [NRS, GD 86/4]. Henry Haliburton and Edward Letham are found together with Robert Lauder (designated 'clericus') as witnesses to Thomas Randolph's grant of the lands of Stichill in Roxburghshire to Adam Gordon (and his son William) in early 1315: King Robert confirmed the grant on 28 June 1315 [W. Angus, ed., *Miscellaneous Charters, 1315–1401*, from Transcriptions in the Collection of the Late Sir William Fraser, in *Scottish History Society Miscellany* (Edinburgh, 1933), pp. 5 et seq, nos. 1, 2]. Haliburton and Gordon, together with the younger Adam Gordon and Robert Lauder (then Justiciar of Lothian) witnessed the Earl of Moray's grant of Redpath to Melrose shortly before 4 September 1319, on which date Randolph designated Robert Lauder his attorney and bailiff to given sasine of the grant [Melr. Lib., nos. 422, 423, 424].

Patrick, Earl of March confirmed Randolph's grant of Redpath soon afterward as tenant in chief: the confirmation was witnessed by Adam Gordon and his son Adam, Henry Haliburton, Robert Lauder the Justiciar, Henry Ellum, Gilbert Hering and Nicholas, son of Hugh of Duns, among others [Melr. Lib., no. 425]. These men are together found associated with Thomas Randolph, Earl of Moray, and the Earl of March over a fairly short period of time: these records evidence numerous promotions including knighthood, and the involvement of the men's sons as witnesses as well as recipients of grants. One of the more interesting changes was indicated in Thomas Randolph's grant of Stichill to Adam Gordon and his son: this same land had been granted by King Edward II of England to Adam Gordon on 4 March 1308/09 following the forfeiture of Thomas Randolph [W. Angus, *ibid.* The record of Edward II's grant to Gordon is found in Cal. Patent Rolls 2 Edw II, cited by Bain, *ibid.*, vol. III, p. 15, no. 76].

Beyond the enlightenment provided by these grants, the information provided as to the witnesses is helpful in estimating a date for Melr. Lib. no. 365. It would not have significantly predated Hugh Gourlay's grant (ca 1318) of Popple to Robert Lauder, given that Sir John, son of the Earl, was a witness to both. It predated the June 1317 grant by King Robert to Robert Skene, given that the witness Robert Lauder was not then a knight [NRS, Montrose muniments, GD220/6/126]. Gilbert Hering was also a witness to Melr. Lib. no. 365 and to Gourlay's grant of Popple to Robert Lauder: it is significant that Hering is found with the knights Adam Gordon and Henry Haliburton, Robert Lauder, and Henry Ellum in witnessing both Melr. Lib. no. 365 and Earl Patrick's confirmation of Thomas Randolph's grant of Redpath to Melrose, which confirmation occurred after 4 September 1319 (the date of Randolph's appointment of Robert Lauder the Justiciar to act as his attorney) [Melr. Lib., nos. 422-425]. The identification of the witnesses and grantees of these charters, and the details known regarding these men and their careers in this period, provide a sufficient basis to date Melr. Lib. no. 365 as a charter of Patrick V, and to identify the grantor of Melr. Lib. no. 431 as Patrick VI, Earl of March.



# Chronology of the charters of and relating to Patrick V and Patrick VI, Earl of March

Charter	Date	Grantor [lands granted]	Earl Patrick	Sir John Dunbar	William Ramsay	Adam Gordon	Henry Haliburton	Edward Leham	Robert Congleton	Henry Ellum	Gilbert Hering	Nicholas s. of Hugh de Duns
Angus 1	ca 1315	Thomas Randolph [Sichill]				G (grantee: and son William)	X	X				
Angus 2	28 June 1315	Robert I [Sichill: confirm]										
LM 365	*****	Patrick V [previous: confirm]		X ‘filio C.’	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
RRS 113	1 June 1317	Robert I [Skene]										
NRS GD86/4	ca 1318	Hugh de Gourlay [Popple]		X		X (father and son Adam)					X	X
LM 422	ca Sept 1319	Thomas Randolph [Redpath]	X [Patrick VI]			X (father and son Adam)						
LM 423, 424	4 Sept 1319	Thomas Randolph [Redpath: letter of attorney]										
LM 425	after 4 Sept 1319	Patrick V [Redpath: confirm]				X (father and son Adam)	X			X	X	X
Laing 27	ca 1320	Hugh de Gourlay [Union]	X [Patrick VI?]			X						X (steward of the earldom)
Laing 32	20 Oct 1324	Patrick VI [Whitelaw]										X (earl's bailiff)
LM 431	11 Jan 1341/2 [confirm: LM 365]	Patrick VI										X

## Key

LM Liber Sancte Marie de Melros, vol II (Edinburgh, 1837)

Angus W. Angus, ed. Miscellaneous Charters, 1315–1401, from Transcriptions in the Collection of the Late Sir William Fraser, in Scottish History Society Miscellany (Edinburgh, 1933), pp. 5-6, nos. 1, 2.

Laing Rev. John Anderson, ed., Calendar of the Laing Charters (Edinburgh: James Thin, 1899).

NRS National Records of Scotland

RRS Regesta Regum Scottorum, The Acts of Robert I, vol. V, p. 388. Cf. also NRS, GD 2206/126.

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Getting Married in Scotland	Iona McGregor
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Emigrants and Expats, a guide to sources on UK emigration and residents overseas	Roger Kershaw
Aryan Order of America and the College of Arms of Canada 1880-1937	Yves Drolet
Croft History: Isle of Harris Vol 7 (Scalpay / Scalpaigh)	Bill Lawson
To my Pocket: the Personal Cashbook of an Eighteenth Century Scottish Laird	S F MacDonald Lockhart (Ed)
Records of the Medical Professions, a Practical Guide for the Family Historian	Susan Bourne & Andrew H Chicken
Understanding the History and Records of Nonconformity	Patrick Palgrave-Moore
The Great Tapestry of Scotland, the Making of a Masterpiece	Susan Mansfield & Alistair Moffat
The Emigrant Scots	James Lawson (Comp)
The Rattray, Dunbar, McCombe and Rawlinson Lineages – Maternal Ancestors of the Birch Family	William Birch

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - 2018**

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.

- 24 September "A Family Life Revealed" The Stuarts at Traquair, 1491-1875 by Margaret Fox and Catherine Maxwell Stuart
- 22 October "The Second Boer War, 1899-1902" by Ken Nisbet
- 19 November "The Goldsmithing Families of Edinburgh" by Elspeth Morrison, Archivist at Edinburgh Assay Office

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

### **New Register House Research Evenings 2018**

(in conjunction with Standard Life FHS)

Please telephone the Library (0131-220 3677) for dates and to reserve your place.

### **Around Scotland**

To discover programmes of our sister societies, log onto [www.safhs.org.uk](http://www.safhs.org.uk), to access the list of members and follow their links.

(Around Scotland)

- September Archaeology Months plus Doors Open Days  
See local websites for details
- 27 October Lanarkshire FHS Local & Family History Show  
[www.lanarkshirefhs.org.uk](http://www.lanarkshirefhs.org.uk)
- 26-27 April 2019 Northern Roots, 30th SAFHS Conference  
Pulteney Centre, Wick  
[www.caithnessfhs.org.uk](http://www.caithnessfhs.org.uk)
- 26-27 April 2019 Family Tree Live  
UK Family History Show, Alexandra Palace, London  
[www.family-tree.co.uk/ftre/show/family-tree-live/](http://www.family-tree.co.uk/ftre/show/family-tree-live/)

### **Anglo-Scots**

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

Anglo-Scots meet on Saturdays Manchester Central Library, firstly for a workshop at 10.30am on the 3rd floor at the computer block, at 2pm on the ground floor in Performance Space 1 or 2 for a Talk either by a Speaker or by a member.

### **Scotslot Meetings 2018**

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

Scotslot meets in Southdown Methodist Church Hall, Southdown, Harpenden, Herts, at 2pm. Venue, 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)

## **Doors Open Days**

For venues open throughout Scotland in September 2018, visit [www.doorsopendays.org.uk](http://www.doorsopendays.org.uk) although final programmes may not be available until later this summer.

## ***Previously... Scotland's History Festival***

This won't be taking place in 2018 – but stay tuned for 2019!

**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 Ramsay Tubb at  
[enquiries@scotsgenealogy.com](mailto:enquiries@scotsgenealogy.com) or 0131-220 3677**

## **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](mailto:editor@scotsgenealogy.com)**



