



# THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGIST

**MARCH 2020**

**William Warden**

**The Radical War of 1820**

**My late mother, Mrs Cumming**

**Declaration of Arbroath**

**Knife Crime!**

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE SCOTTISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY

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Vol. LXVII No. 1

# The Scottish Genealogy Society

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## *Front Cover:*

The Society's Coat of Arms

## *Back Cover:*

"*Dunkeld*", by Elisabeth Maria Ouchterlony, Mrs William Cumming (1776-1854)

Photographed by Andy Phillipson

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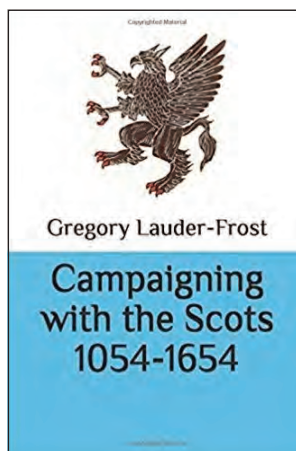
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## GENERAL INFORMATION

The Society is an academic and consultative body whose constitutional objects are to promote research into Scottish family history and to undertake the collection, exchange and publication of information and material relating to Scottish genealogy. Copies of our Constitution are available to members upon request. We assist members with modest enquiries, but do not carry out professional research. Private researchers are available, and we can also provide an ASGRA list upon request.

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Monthly meetings of the Society are held September to April in the Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, at 7.30pm around the 15th of the month, unless otherwise stated.

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### The Scottish Genealogist

Relevant articles are welcomed by the Hon. Editor preferably submitted in MSWord or rtf format via email or on a CD Rom. (Please, no formatting.) Illustrations are preferred in .jpeg format. Members' queries are also welcomed for inclusion in the magazine: a £2 per entry charge is made to non-members.

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# John Mackinnon and The Radical War, Glasgow, April 1820

Elizabeth Aitken

John Mackinnon (27/4/1802 – 14/7/1868) was born in Glasgow. He became the first clerk at Carnbroe Ironworks and was a prolific writer. Most weeks he wrote letters to his son, James (14/10/1838 – 4/12/1910). John Mackinnon was very interested in history and wrote a few essays on topics such as *The Early History of Glasgow* and *The History of Weaving*. He also wrote an autobiography in the form of letters to James. In 1983 Norman Aitken, James Mackinnon's grandson, arranged for the letters, covering the period 1858 – 1863, along with some essays and the autobiography, to be lent to the Mitchell Library in Glasgow.

This is John Mackinnon's account of his (comically unsuccessful) attempt to join the Radical War of April 1820. He was not quite 18 at the time and had suffered from a severe bout of typhus fever during 1818/19, so was perhaps not particularly healthy.



John Mackinnon 18??



John Mackinnon 18??

"The winter of 1819 was a dreary time. Wages of all kinds fell, while provisions and rent remained the same. The people began to think that any change whatever might be for the better, for worse they could not be. It was this feeling that made many persons fall in with the Radicals. The Radicals were a much maligned class of people. Whenever and wherever they were spoken of by the Tories, they were represented as a class of men who had no real cause of complaint,

and were dissatisfied with having to labour for their bread; and who wished to seize upon other people's property, and apply it to their own uses.

"That there were foolish men among the Radicals, I at once concede, how could it be otherwise. There were men equally foolish among the Tories, and they seemed to take a pride in their folly. The Radicals were branded with being selfish, and ignorant. They were much more liberal in their ideas than their tory opponents; and they had sufficient learning to know, that a man working for 10/ per week was not able to pay as much taxation, as he could do when he had 20/ per week; they also knew that when a man was thrown idle, and could not get employment, he was unable to pay any tax whatever. The Radicals complained of want of work as well as of low wages, and they were dissatisfied at being kept out of work when the Americans, The Poles, the Hungarians and others, would give them employment, and pay them with good corn and flour, while the Tories would give them neither work, nor corn. Is it any wonder that the Radicals increased in numbers and were vicious against the Tories?

"During that winter Reform meetings took place all over the land. A meeting of the Inhabitants of Paisley was held on Meikleriggs View to consider the propriety of petitioning for Parliamentary Reform.

"A Band of misc accompanied them to the Hustings, and while there they played the National air of "Scots wha hae wi Wallace bled" When they returned to the town the Tory hole and corner Magistrate of Paisley apprehended the Baird, and put them in prison for playing that tune, and the Baird was in prison for several hours. But on mature consideration, and after consulting with their legal advisers they found that they had acted beyond their powers, and the Baird was liberated. The report of the conduct of the Red hot Tory Paisley magistrates, flew over the country as swift as the Post could carry them, and the more moderate of the Tory party saw that the Magistrates, in their haste, had damaged the Tory cause considerably, and had excited a greater sympathy with the oppressed people. The Air of "Scots wha hae" immediately became quite popular over the whole country.

"It was played at all public meetings; it was sung by the ballad singers in the streets. It was whistled by workmen passing to and from their work. I learned the song and the air, and frequently sung it while at the loom.

"The Magistrates of Glasgow, were not so hasty as those of Paisley. Henry Monteith was then Lord Provost of Glasgow, and had the highest authority in the city. A public meeting was arranged to be held at a place called Clayknowes, at the east end of the Gallowgate, to be addressed by speakers in favour of Reform. Each district of the City and suburbs met at an appointed place, and marched in procession through the city to Clayknowes. The Magistrates were applied to for leave to walk in procession thro' the city, and the leave was granted, but they were requested not to use small drums or trumpets in marching thro' the streets. The Musical part of the procession was on a limited scale. Very few of the bodies could get a full band. The Anderston Party had a bass drum, and a few

flutes. One of the Calton divisions had a small drum borrowed from the town drummer, and a single Fife. Bands were not so plenty then as now, and money was also scarce to pay them. Every division had flags, with devices, and numbers of them had caps of liberty carried on the tops of poles. The caps of Liberty were made by the young women of the various districts, and they were carried by young women. There was a double row of young women along with the Anderston caps of liberty, and they formed two of the ranks in the procession. As green was the emblem of Union, many of us had a small bit of green ribbon fastened to one of the button holes, and I had one, among the rest. I was quite enthusiastic. Henry Monteath (*sic*) that day acted with great prudence. He ordered the Military to be confined to the Barracks. He stationed bodies of Police at the corners of the Streets along which we were to pass, to prevent confusion, and keep the way clear. The Sheriff at that time was one of the Red hot Tories, and he was very urgent with the Lord Provost to get a party of the Military, and disperse the meeting by force. The Lord Provost firmly refused, and said that if they would only let them alone the meeting would disperse without any force, and he was right.

"We proceeded through several of the streets of Anderston, and then went along Argyle street, Tron etc, and Gallowgate; our passing the Infantry Barracks we lowered our flags by way of salute to the soldiers, who viewed us from the Barrack windows, and from the top of the wall.

"The meeting was large, the flags and caps of liberty were taken in towards the hustings, and as many as could be accommodated, were taken on to the hustings. All passed over quietly. At one time a little confusion arose from a cry that the soldiers were coming, but it proved to be a false report, and order was restored. In the afternoon, we all returned in the same order as we went away. I then learned, that in the ranks before and behind the women who were along with the cap of liberty were a number of men who had pistols and ball cartridge concealed upon their persons, so as to be prepared for the worst. The prudent measures of Lord Provost Monteath, prevented all need for them.

"The winter passed on, and the suffering of the working classes were severe. The continued refusal of the Tories to make the smallest alleviations of their burdens, acted on the passion of the people to a great extent, and a disposition, was manifested to try the effect of physical force. In every large town in England and Scotland, the excitement was very great. A Tory Regiment of Sharp shooters was raised in Glasgow, and another in Paisley. A Regiment of Cavalry volunteers was also raised in Glasgow, and troops of Yeomanry cavalry were raised round all the Country. The people cared very little for the sour milk cavalry, as the Yeomanry were termed. And if a trial of Strength had taken place between them, I have not the least doubt but they would have been overthrown. At lent the 1st of April arrived and the famous proclamations were posted up through the night. It was on a Saturday night, and on Sabbath morning they were read by thousands.

"The excitement was extreme. Numbers of those who were able had provided



themselves with arms for defence. Some of these arms found their way to the Radicals. I had no arms, nor money to buy them. But a considerable number of Pike heads were made, and a number of poles were taken from a dye work which was standing, and they were used as shafts. Muskets and rifles with bayonets and pouches, and belts were exposed for sale in the windows of several Gunsmiths, and every thing portended the commencement of war.

"On the Monday, there was a general cessation from work, and bands of idle men thronging the streets. Both in the east and west ends of the town. The young men assembled on the banks of Clyde, and commenced to learn military drill. A Company of Artillery was brought to Glasgow. The yeomanry from the country were called into the town. The sharpshooters were called out, and guards of them were placed over the Banks.

"Thus passed Monday. On Tuesday a report was spread that a strong body of men were marching on the town from Paisley. A body of troops were marched to the Bridges, and guns were placed to command the passage. On Tuesday afternoon, James Robb and I forgathered with some other acquaintances, and we thought we would go to Paisley, and see what was doing there. There were five of us, and our whole stock of cash was two pence, and this we gave to the ferryman at Govan for taking us across the river. We proceeded to Paisley which we entered a little before dark. There was a good deal of rain, and the roads were soft. Our shoes also got softened, and having trod on a small stone, I had started one of the small nails in the heel of one of my shoes, and the point projected a little up through the shoe, and I felt it cut into the quick of my heel. I had no way of getting it beat down, and I just walked on although it was painful. We met some acquaintances in Paisley, and we accompanied them through several streets. By this time it was quite dark, and we stood still a while before a shop window at the corner of a Street, as there was a noise not far off. Immediately we heard a noise and a rush of people toward us, when we suddenly wheeled round, and in doing so my elbow stuck against the window, and shattered a pane of glass; this caused us all to run off, and James Robb and I ran into the first close that we came to, and remained there for a little. The noise died away, and we assembled again at the corner. The people had put on the window shutters, and closed the shop without looking after us. None could tell how the glass was broken, and I kept silence. I was very uneasy. I had broken a pane of glass though unintentionally, and I had no money to pay for it. I was anxious to get home. Several of the party proposed that we should stop in Paisley all night. This I refused to do, and so did James Robb. Our only difficulty was, that we did not know the way out of the town, it being quite dark. I said if we were at the Corslet, I knew the rest of the way, and our three friends remained for the night in Paisley. The Paisley lad sympathized with us as being strangers, and said that he would have felt the same as we did, had he been in a strange place. A heavy rain now came on, and by the time we reached the Corslet toll, we were wet. We took farewell of our Paisley friend and proceeded on our way home. The rain increased to a torrent, and we were soon wet through.



"At one place where there was a hollow in the road, the water was up to our ankles. We trudged on, we met no one by the way, but at one place a horseman passed us going to Paisley; as the rain was excessive with a strong breeze from the wet dashing it in his face, he rode with his head stooping down to the horse's mane thus breaking the rain from his face by means of his helmet; none of us spoke, and we met no other traveler. Long and anxiously did we look for the lights of Glasgow; and when we came within two miles of the City, and saw the lights in the mansions skirting the town, we were very glad, as we were now near home. When we came to the first lamp in Tradeston, James looked his watch, and it wanted but a little to 11, so we pushed on to the Broomielaw bridge, and then turned westward to Anderston. I was very tired, and thoroughly wet. My hat was soaked, and was quite soft, my shoes were the same, and on examining them, I found that the nail was about 1/8 inch through the shod, and it had cut a hole in the heel that would hold a pea. The family were all in bed, but they had left the door unfastened, that I might get in. I threw off my wet clothes, and went immediately to bed, and in 5 minutes was sound asleep. When I arose next morning, my mother informed me that James Robb had called at the house about half an hour after I came in and wanted to see me. My father had risen to see who it was and as I was asleep, he refused to awaken me. My mother said that she was vexed after he went away, lest he might not have got into his mother's, and thus not have a place to sleep in. I did not know what he might be wanting, for I thought his mother would not refuse to let him in, but I would try and see him during the day, and learn what he wanted with me.

"I met him in the forenoon, and he told me his adventures the preceding evening. He went straight home after we parted, and was drying his coat at the fire, when a girl called and told him that her father wanted to speak with; he put on his coat and went to see what her father, who was one Charles Burgess, wanted with him. Charles told him, that a body of men were going to turn out, and join some other bodies before proceeding to Carron to possess themselves of artillery, and knowing his principles, he had sent for him to join them. James at once consented, and his errand over to me was to get a pike head, that was concealed in our shop. I had got three pike heads, one for James, one for myself, and one for another party, and they were all concealed in the weaving shop. James did not tell my father what he wanted, but he just asked for me; if he had got me, he was sure of getting the pike head, but he knew it would be of no use to ask my father for anything of the kind. He returned to the place where the party was to meet, and as there was a spare Pike there, which a man had left, and had not returned for, he got it, and then moved off. James said there might be about 120 of them, and a number of them had fire arms. They were to join another body of men on the banks of the Great Canal. Their leader was one John Craig, and their guide was one Crawford. They could not proceed by any of the regular thoroughfares, as there were strong patrols upon them; so they proceeded through fields and bye ways. They entered the lands of Greenhile at the head of Bishop street, Anderston, and made their way over fences, till they reached

Sauchiehall road. In crossing sauchiehall road, one of the men accidentally broke one of the public lamps with his pike, but they pushed on and arrived on the bank of the Canal. When they were all got together, Crawford and Craig were amissing; no one could tell anything of them; and there was no other body of men to be seen. They were perplexed how to act; some were for proceeding at all hazards, but others were for being more cautious. They did not know whether the absentees were detained by accident or design. If they were detained by accident, it would be as well to ascertain what it was, and if they were absent by design, it would be better to return, as were they to proceed, they would be followed by a military force sufficient to overpower them. They then took a vote of all present whether they proceed, or return, when it was carried by a majority of one that they should return. The men then sunk the pikes in the Canal till the heads held in the mud, and having the shafts a little under the surface, so as they could easily be laid hold of again, and they all returned to their homes. On Wednesday morning, James came to learn whose pike he had on Tuesday evening. He met with one Arch'd McTaggart, who had been strolling about from an early hour in the morning, and seeing a party of military accompanied by a civil force, on the march, he followed them, and they went straight to the banks of the Canal, where they drew a number of Pikes out of the water, and among the rest Arch'd saw his own pike, which he had on Tuesday – He had gone to get some supper while the party were assembling, and when he returned, they had marched off, and it was Archibald's pike that James had got. How could the authorities go so straight to the place where the pikes were, if they had not been told?

"I never heard more about Crawford, very likely he was spy. Craig was apprehended on Sauchiehall by the Police. In leaping over the fence he had fallen, and the breaking of the lamp by the pikeman had attracted the Policeman's attention, and as Craig turned himself to rise after his fall, he found the policeman standing over him with a drawn Cutlass. Craig threw his pistol over the fence where it was found next day, and the policeman having sprung his rattle, divested Craig of a bundle of the proclamations which he transferred to his own pocket, and before the next policeman came up, Craig was stript of everything treasonable, and was given in charge for being drunk, and breaking a street lamp. The Policeman, whose name was James Macdougall, knew Craig quite well, and had a suspicion what he was about, but not wishing to injure him, and not daring to let him go after having given the alarm with his rattle, he took everything treasonable from him; and, when his neighbor camp up accused him of being drunk and breaking the law. On Wednesday morning Craig was dismissed with a reprimand. On Wednesday afternoon we were informed that there was to be a general turn out that evening. I was quite excited.

"About 7 oclock in the evening James Robb and I got our pike heads, to be ready for action. My mother was baking, and she gave me nearly a firl of cake saying it would be the last perhaps that I would ever get from her, I took the bread, saying that I hoped when we returned, it would be to take Glasgow. We

went over to Clyde street where we found several persons throng shafting pikes; there were no spare shafts, so that James and I had only the heads.

“One Geo Scott came in with the town drum, and he proposed that they should beat to arms through the streets. The number of men now assembled might be about 70 or 80, but more had been expected. We started; marched up Clyde Street, and westward along Finnieston road to where Hill square now stands. It came on rain, and the night was cold; the party halted at this place. A few persons went into Davie’s Land, to search for men and arms, as there were fewer turned out than had been expected. While standing here in the rain, my hands became so benumbed by the cold that I could scarcely stretch out my fingers. I happened to have a pair of gloves in my pocket, and with difficulty I got them drawn on my hands. After about half an hour’s halt, we went up to the head of Cranston hill, where we halted again. We were addressed by our leader who was one Matthew Logan a blacksmith. As our numbers were still short of what had been expected, a couple of picquets were detached, to force out parties who had encouraged the rising by advice, but who failed to appear now, and they were to serve on arms wherever they found them. As the party halted till the picquets would return, I took the opportunity to enquire if some shafts could not be got? Geo Scott said he could get two; so Jas Robb and I went with him to bishop street, and while they were shafting the two pikes, I went to Finnieston to get on Niven Adamson who was one of us. I got a shaft for the third pike in Adamsons, and Niven and I started to join the main body on Cranston hill.

“You may judge of our surprise when we found they were gone. They were at the place when I passed in going from Bishop Street to Finnieston so that they could not be long away. We met Jas Robb and G Scott from Bishop street with the other two pikes, but they had not seen them. I was extremely vexed. We laid our pikes along side of a hedge, and scoured the roads all round, but could get no word of them. At last we parted at the foot of Bishop street, and James, Niven, and I went up to Cranston hill to get our pikes, and conceal them till next day. We came down to Cheapside, and I opened a pane in my window and put the pikes along the top of the loom as far as I could reach there, and parted till next day. I went up stairs, and tried the kitchen door gently, but it was fast; seeing this I did not wish to disturb them, and I shut the stair head door, putt of my hat and shoes in the trance: took off my coat which was wet; drew down my stockings till the wet portion was off my feet; and lay down upon a large bag that was in the trance; I laid my coat across my shoulders, and fell asleep. I think I slept about an hour and a half, and when I awakened, although my feet were warm, my body and shoulders were cold, and a shivering came over me. I arose and knocked at the door, and my mother arose and opened it. I went to bed, and slept soundly till 6 oclcok.

“I arose and went down to the weaver’s shop. I removed the pikes from where I had placed them through the window, to a less conspicuous place. I locked the door, and having got something to eat, went out to hear if there was any news. I called on James Robb, but he had heard nothing. This was the Glasgow Feast

day, and all places of business in the city were shut.

"There were some flying reports that the expedition had failed. There was one James Stenhouse from Finnieston with the party on Wednesday evening. We went out to Finnieston and enquired if James were home, and were told he was not. We thought the reports untrue, since Stenhouse had not returned.

"We went into Glasgow, and in the Irongate we fell in with one Alexr Johnstone who was one of the radicals, and it was where he wrought that the pike heads were made, and shafted. He was going in search of the main body of the radicals, and we went with him. We went up the Flight street, and down Duke street, and took the Edinburgh road by Cumbernauld. The morning hitherto had been fine, but after we had left Glasgow, the sky became overcast, and shortly after rain began to fall. There was no footpath there at this time, and we had to walk on the cart track. We stopped at a public house about two miles out of the town, and got a bottle of Porter; Johnstone fell a talking with the landlady concerning the news of the day, never letting on that we were connected with the proceedings. Johnstone did all the conversation part of the business, I was merely a listener.

"We learned there, that a number of men passed that was eastward on Tuesday evening, but none on Wednesday evening. We proceeded on our journey. We met a single working man returning to Glasgow; he told us that he had been out 5 miles on the road, and he could hear no word of any body of men having passed on the proceeding evening. We proceeded onwards till we came near Hogganfield; we met two young men returning, who had been away on the same errand as ourselves: they said that they had gone 12 miles out, but could get no intelligence of the main body, and that they had not gone that road. They were returning home disappointed, and they advised us to return. Still we indulged in "hope" that these parties might be wrong, or perhaps they had lost courage and made this excuse. As Stenhouse had not returned, I was sure that the body had marched off. We passed Hogganfield, and Frankfield, and came to a small hamlet, where there was a public house. James Robb proposed that we should try and get some breakfast, as it was now well up in the day and we had got nothing but a little porter. We went into the house; they could give us bread and ale. So we got a gill of whisky, a bottle of ale and two loaves of bread. As formerly, Johnstone entered into conversation about the news of the day, but we could learn no more than we already heard; that a body of men passed that way on Tuesday evening, but none since. There was also a report that the expedition was unsuccessful, but they had heard no particulars. We finished our breakfast, and passed on. When we had gone a little way past the hamlet, we thought that we would consider before going farther.

"All the information that we could learn, only corroborated what we heard at the first, and from the persons whom we met; so we agreed to retrace our steps homeward. For some time before this I had walked with much pain, and had I not been an enthusiast, I would have turned a mile or two sooner. The rain came on soon after we left the town, and as there was no footpath, our feet soon

got wet by the mud of the cart track. My feet were quite wet, and the sane in the mud getting into my stockings, the friction of walking rubbed through the skin on the back part of both my heels. I could scarcely keep up with Johnstone and James Robb; and at every stop they made, I used to walk slowly forward so as to gain a little on them, and keep me from falling in the rear. When we had got about 2 miles on our way back, we fell in with a farmer with two carts going into Glasgow to lift dung; he offered us a lift into the town, so Johnstone went into the first cart with the farmer, and James Robb and I went into the last. I was very tired, and I examined my heels, and found they had bled considerably, my stockings were red with blood, and the inside of the shoes were quite sticky with the blood beginning to harden on them. The rain had ceased, but the sky was cloudy, and the wind cold. – We came in to Duke street, and when I attempted to come out of the cart, I could scarcely move my feet. The blood had hardened, and the stockings were sticking to the flesh of my heels.

“James Robb assisted me from the cart, but for a little I could not walk. I moved a little with very short steps till the bleeding beginning again, softened the stockings, and I walked with a little more freedom. James Robb would not leave me till he would see me in sight of home, where I arrived considerably exhausted. The news of the action at BonnyMuir was now known thro; the town, and the complete failure of all our hopes. I almost wished I had been there, so that I could say that I had struck one blow for my country.

“After coming home, I got word from Ian(?) Stenhouse of Wednesday nights proceedings. One of the pike heads which I had was for him, but when he joined us on Cranston hill, a girl came forward with a pike to give to any person who wanted one. Stenhouse having no weapon took the pike. I saw it in his hand as I was passing on the Finnieston. The head was like a halberd, and it was polished clear. The party went straight to the Canal, and marched along the Bank till they came near Kirkintilloch when they halted. A number of men from Kirkintilloch met them, and told them of the total failure of the enterprise. They mentioned the action at Bonnymuir, where the radicals were defeated, and the most of them made prisoners. The recommended them to make the best of their way from the place, and to conceal themselves till the danger was over – Matthew Logan, the leader committed his sword to the canal, but kept his pistols till he would be out of danger. He recommended an instant dispersion, and every one to take his own way home – Thus terminated that ill fated expedition, which was planned by wretches in Government pay, and followed up by a number of simple enthusiasts, who thought all people as honest and well meaning as they were themselves.

“On Friday we all recommenced our work. During the afternoon, we were startled by the report of a strong body of military, with two field pieces, being posted at the Gusket house of Anderston; guards being placed in every street, and a search being made for concealed arms. Also that the searchers were going through Houldsworth's Barracks, which was the next building to us but one. There were three pikes in the shop, and little time to get them out of the way. There were

three of us in the shop – one went to keep watch at the close mouth, and two of us set to demolishing the pikes. As we had both a hammer and axe in the shop, a few minutes served to knock off the virls and draw the heads; the axe soon reduced the shafts to short sticks. Then one of the men who had a coat with inside pockets took one of the heads in his pocket and went away to get rid of it, and left me with the other two. There was little time to think; I bent the thin end of the pike into a hook with the hammer, and hung the two heads to my braces under my clothes. The searchers had not yet come our length, so I took my way to get the two pike heads disposed of. Seeing a mounted soldier at the foot of Cheapside street, I turned through into Warroch street, and passed the soldier, who did not stop, nor speak to me. I passed along the waterside road, intending to go to Finnieston to get them concealed there. I had reached Lancefield, when I thought I heard a slight noise behind me; I look round, and was surprised to see two dragoons riding along the green as if they were coming after me. The pulled up their horses exactly opposite me, and leapt off the green into the road. I thought some one had informed on me, or that they had suspected me; but, without speaking, they turned away westward, and posted themselves, one at the foot of Finnieston street, and the other at the foot of the lane leading into Finnieston street. It was no use going any farther, so I went straight down to the river side, and dropt the pike heads into the water. The two soldiers could not avoid seeing me, and my movements were suspicious like. But they did not move. Very probably, they dislike the duty, and thus were not so strict as they might have been. Had it been two of the Yeomanry instead of the regular army, I might have been seized with the pikes on me. But in that case I would have tried to defend myself.

“When I returned, I found that our premises had not been reached. No houses had been searched but Mr Houldsworth’s, and I suppose that he had requested the party to search his premises, so as he might affirm that his tenants were loyal to the Government. No arms were found that I heard of.

“Our people were now very anxious on my account. Numbers of persons in the neighbourhood were suspected to be spies, and one of the lived right opposite to us. They wished me out of the way. I told them I was willing to remain where I was, and if I were apprehended, I would make it cost the life of one person, for I would run through the first man that attempted to enter the house for that purpose. This plan was rejected. They thought of sending me to Strathaven, but the news from that quarter shewed it to be as bad as Glasgow. At last my father thought of a cousin in Dundee. There had been no agitation there; so he arranged with his neighbor in the Society, that he would start for Dundee with me on the following Monday.”

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## March talk

On 16th March, Michelle Leonard, a professional DNA specialist, will explain how testing can assist family history research.

# Ogilvie of Inchmartin Siblings

## Part Three

Richard Ian Ogilvie

### **Siblings of Sir Patrick Ogilvie Ygr, Lord Deskford & Inchmartin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Findlater (1583c-30 Mar 1651 »68)**

Sir Patrick of Inchmartin (1583c-30 Mar 1651 »68) married (mc 21 April 1609) Anna (b 1592c), daughter of Sir Duncan Campbell of Glenorchy. Her brother was Sir Colin Campbell of Glenorchy; Alexander Leslie Earl of Levin was her foster brother. Patrick was knighted in June 1619 at the age of 34 and inherited Inchmartin before June 1621 when he sat in Parliament.<sup>90a</sup> Their son, Patrick (1610c-1658/9 »49) inherited Inchmartin in 1651, became Lord Deskford & Inchmartin in 1641 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Findlater in 1652, having married (mc 1633) Elizabeth (b 1592c), daughter to James Ogilvie 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Findlater.

1. **William Ogilvie of Murie (1615c-1669 »54)** and Sir Patrick attended Kinnaird kirk where from 1631 to 1653 witnessed several baptisms of children of his servitor William, eldest son to Alexander Ogilvie in Craigmallie. After Sir Patrick elder died, Andrew and Thomas, brothers to Patrick Ogilvie Notary Public, were servitors to William of Murie.

Sir Patrick held charters by Francis Earl of Errol for the baronies of Errol (1622) and Capeth (1648) and in turn, granted a liferent to his second son, William and his heirs male, out of the town and lands of Drummadertie, Aird, and Little Fardell, the island of Hauch of Fardell.<sup>90b</sup> From 1648 to 1651 William was involved with disposition of land and borrowing of money by his family including a part of Balindean to William Gib and Jonet Moncur his spouse, Templehall and Ebrux to my ancestor Thomas, Newbigging to Mr James Blair minister at Rossie and Agnes Ogilvie his spouse, and the sale of Inchmartin to Alexander Leslie Earl of Levin. Sir Patrick granted William the lands of Murie in 1650.<sup>90c</sup> Muirhouse, was sold to William Kynman of Hill who subsequently disposed it to John, son of John Jackson portioner of Polgavie and his spouse, Margaret Monorgan.<sup>91a, 91b</sup> Sir Patrick of Inchmartin (1583c-30 Mar 1651), with his sons, Patrick Lord Deskford and William of Murie, borrowed considerable sums of money from 1648 onwards.<sup>92</sup> With his brother Lord Deskford away as Colonel in the Perthshire Infantry of Foot fighting Cromwell 1649-51, William was given the immense task of completing a major contract with James Alesone and John Brotherstones burgesses of Edinburgh to deliver 500 bolls of oats and 500 bolls of bear (barley) from the Carse of Gowrie by 2 March 1650 for £10,000 Scots, at £20/boll less £12 for each boll undelivered.<sup>93a</sup> This contract was completed in full without penalty despite adverse conditions, and with profit, since the price had more than doubled over the previous decade.<sup>93b</sup> Deaths from the plague had decimated the Carse and Dundee in 1647 with loss of agricultural workers aggravated by Civil War. Inflation followed peaking in 1651.<sup>94a, 94b</sup> Although weather conditions improved with better crop yields for the rest of the decade, many deaths from smallpox and malaria (*'trembling Exies- that is, ague'*) were now reported.<sup>94a</sup>

Sir Patrick died in March 1651 leaving Patrick Lord Deskford as his heir, and William



as cautioner for his testament.<sup>94c</sup> Many debts were unpaid and hornings issued in 1652.<sup>95</sup> Land transfers continued: Newtown; <sup>96a</sup> Bandeane <sup>96b</sup> with reversion to Fotheringham <sup>96c</sup> and Balbergies.<sup>97a</sup> Lord Deskford, who became the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Findlater in 1651, entered into an agreement with his brother, William of Murie, to allow settling their father's estate in an instrument witnessed by my Y-DNA ancestor, Patrick Ogilvie Notary Public.<sup>86, 97b</sup> William was forced to set his lands in wadset to John Hay in Seafield and Elizabeth Ramsay his spouse, on behalf of (the late) George Hay and Francis Hay.<sup>97b</sup> William of Murie was appointed Justice of the Peace for Perthshire and at the baptism of William, son to Thomas his servitor, he was designed as '*The Richt Hon William Ogilvy of Murie*' with Mr. Patrick NP also a witness.<sup>97c</sup> On 25 Jan 1665 William Ogilvie of Murie, Patrick Lyon of [Dren] elder, and Thomas Ogilvie of Templehall, witnessed the baptism of Lady Grizell Lyon to '*ane potent*' Patrick Earl of Kinghorn Lord Lyon & Glamis, and Dame Helen Middeltoun, countess of Kinghorn.<sup>34, 86b</sup>

William of Murie married late in life, perhaps at 45 years of age in 1660c, to the 17 year-old Catherine (b 1643 Edinburgh), daughter to Mr. William Hog of Bogend (advocate) and Katharine Simpson.<sup>82a</sup> Issue: i) Patrick (b 1660c) succeeded to Murie at age 9 and received his commission as ensign in a Scots Regiment of Foot on 15 Jan 1676 when he was 16; ii) William (b 1661c) of Drummadertie near Scone; iii) Elizabeth (b 1663c) = George Nisbet, fencing-master, Edinburgh.<sup>17</sup>

William's death at age 54 in March 1669 was near the age at death of his brother at 49. His spouse, Catherine, must have died before 1669 since William's estate was not divided in three. He was buried in Holyroodhouse and his eldest son and heir, Patrick, was beset with claims from multiple creditors.<sup>98a</sup> In 1671 Patrick his heir was forced into a second wadset for the east side of the Mains of Errol and assigned some obligations.<sup>98b</sup> His debts increased in 1675.<sup>99a</sup> Sir John Hay of Murie, son of deceased John Hay of Seafield, continued a court battle against Patrick and his tenants in the Mains of Errol.<sup>99b</sup>

In the midst of all of his financial troubles Patrick Ogilvie of Murie entered the army under his relative, Captain Sir Patrick Ogilvy of Boyne in Major General Sir George Monro's Regiment of Foot. In 1676 Patrick was one of 100 men drafted into the Scots Lifeguard of Foot to form a new Company and held the rank Lieutenant before 1682.<sup>100a</sup> Salary in this Regiment was £2 per year for a soldier at 6d/day with per diem for an Ensign of 3s/day, Lieutenant 4 s/day (£73/year), and Captain 8 s/day. He could never pay off any of his debts with this income.

On the outbreak of the Revolution the Scots Lifeguard of Foot was ordered to England by James VII. One battalion declared they would not fight Protestants while the other joined James at Salisbury and fell back with him to Maidenhead. The whole regiment then went over to the Prince of Orange. The 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion fought at Boyne in 1690 and at the first siege of Limerick where it lost heavily. The 1<sup>st</sup> battalion was sent to Flanders and fought at Walcourt in 1689. They were joined in Flanders by the 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion and were engaged at Steenkirk, Neerwinden and in the siege of Namur in 1695 and returned to Scotland in 1697.<sup>100b</sup> Andrew Ogilvie (d April 1695), brother german of my Y-DNA ancestor, Patrick of Templehall, was in the Scots Lifeguard of Horse which was not deployed to Flanders.<sup>86a,b</sup>

2. **Margaret (b 1611c)** married (mc 1628 29 June) Frederick Lyone of Brigtonne.<sup>101a</sup>

3. **Elizabeth (b 1614c)** married Sir Walter Ogilvie 7<sup>th</sup> of Boyne (d 1666/7)

Issue: Sir Patrick (d 1714) married Mary Grant daughter to James laird of Grant with issue:

i) Ann married Thomas Fotheringham 14<sup>th</sup> of Powrie

ii) James elder (d 1728) married Ann Arnot with issue: James ygr (d 1717 without issue)

Sir Patrick Ogilvie of Boyne (d 1714) married secondly Ann, daughter to Hugh Douglas, Earl of Eglinton, with issue: Archibald, Patrick and Mary, but separated in 1686 and divorced. Patrick had been knighted (1666), created Lord Boyne (1681), MP for Banffshire, active in the Scots Lifeguards from 1674 and a supporter of James VII in 1685-7. He was forced to sell his lands of Boyne to his cousin, James 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Seafield and future 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Findlater. His eldest son, James elder, succeeded as Lord Boyne in 1713 and became an adherent to James the Pretender in France, acting as messenger to Mar and a Brigadier at Sheriffmuir in 1715. Following the defeat he fled to France where he died in 1728. He was an avid golfer and invited his cousins, James and his younger brother Patrick at Cullen House, for a game of *long gauff* on the sea braes near Boyne Castle alias Cragaboynd, Portsoy in Banffshire.<sup>101b</sup>

*Boyne, the ij September 1690*

*SIR, - I have sent an order for the trees my Lord has written for, and they have sent news. My father is gone towards Carnustie [Carnousie, Forglen, Banffshire] this day; and ife Patrick and you have a mind for a touch at long gauff tomorrow lett me know this night wher I shall waitt on you with a second, or if yee would doe me the honour to come this lenth, because the links ar better, and we shall see ife ye cannot make better use of a club in this countrey then ye did at Eden. This is not that I soubt but ye made good use of your short putting club ther. So hoping ye will give my humble service to all the Ladies and Lords with you, I remain Yours,*

JAMES OGILVIE

4. **? George** probably a clerical error substitution for William since there is no known son named George unless he was a natural son born 1605c therefore old enough to witness on 5 November 1622.<sup>101c</sup>

## References

<sup>87</sup>. (87a) 1595 CC8/8/28 ; (87b) 1592 RD1/44/1; (87c) 1593/4 6 Feb NP1/1/184; (87d) 1592/3 13 Feb D190/6, 1627 7 April D191/11

<sup>88</sup>. (88a) 1617 25 June CC20/4/6, 1617 25 June CC20/4/6; (88b) 1618 5 Dec CC20/4/6; (88c) 1646 6 Feb RD11/272

<sup>89</sup>. (89a) 1618 14 Mar CS7/318; 1618 31 Mar CS7/320; (89b) 1653 28 May CS7/583; (89c) 1638 6 May RS50/9, 1642 31 Dec RS50/10

<sup>90</sup>. (90a) RD1/283-5; (90b) RGS ix; PS1/115, 1649 3 Mar RS 1/59/710; (90c) 1651 10 Jan RS51/1, 1653 14 Apr RS2/3; (90d)

<sup>91</sup>. (91a) 1649 25 June NP1/86; (91b) RS50/5, Papers of the Hay family of Leys University of St. Andrews ms36220

<sup>92</sup>. 1652 5 Nov CS7/571, 1652 22 Nov CS7/573, 27 Nov CS7/573, 1653 26 Feb CS7/578, 1653 9 Mar CS7/580, 1653 28 May CS7/583

- <sup>93.</sup> (93a) 1652 19 June CS7/ 564; (93b) 1652 19 June CS7/ 564; (93c) 1654 6 Feb CS7/594  
<sup>94.</sup> (94a) *Domestic Annals of Scotland*; (94b) John Robertson, *Dundee and the Civil Wars 1639-1660* 2007; (94c) 1654 8 Sep CC6/5/8  
<sup>95.</sup> 1652 24 Nov, 11 Dec, 24 Dec D11/ 85; 1653 11 Jan, 1, 5 Feb & 10 Mar 26 Jan & 11 May D11/85, 86, 88, D11/2  
<sup>96.</sup> 1654 1 June RS51/2; (96b) 1652 6 Dec RGS x/lix/22; (96c) 1653 31 Jan RS51/1, 1657 8 Dec CS7/594, 1657 8 Dec CS15/296  
<sup>97.</sup> (97a) 1654 23 Jan NP1/86; (97b) 1657 8 Dec, 1662 1 July CS26/4, 1653 10 Mar CS7/580; (97c) 1663 2 Oct Kinnaird OPR 368/1  
<sup>98.</sup> (98a) CS18/54, CS18/60, CC20/4/13, CC20/52/6, CS22/35, CS 22/45, CS26/ 43, RS52/6; (98b) 1672 Nov SC49/48/16  
<sup>99.</sup> (99a) 1675 NP1/120, CC20/52/6, 15 June SC76/2; 25 June CS18/63; 1680 B22/8/74; (99b) 1686 27 Feb CS18/98, 1688 18 July CS18/108  
<sup>100.</sup> (100a) Charles Dalton, *The Scots Army 1661-1688*, 1903; (100b) CB Balfour, *Scots Guards in The Lowland Scots Regiments*, 1898  
<sup>101.</sup> (101a) GD248/577/8; (101b) James Grant, *Seafield Correspondence from 1685-1708*, 1812, p 64-5  
<sup>102.</sup> Errol OPR: *George son to Sir Patrick Ogilvie of Inchmartin, Androw Ogilvie in Balgay, and Thomas Ogilvie there, witness the baptism of George to Patrick Brown of ye Horn.*

## Dunfermline Mortcloth Society

The second annual meeting of this society was held in the Old Masons' Lodge here on Friday the 19th inst. The cause which led to its formation may be thus briefly stated. The excessive charges exacted by the incorporated trades for the use of their mortcloths prompted a number of spirited individuals to set about using means to rid themselves and the public from this oppressive burden. Accordingly meetings throughout the different districts of the town were held, to discuss the practicability of forming a society to procure morthcloths for themselves. Much opposition however was manifested, owing to the common understood opinion of the public in general, that the incorporated trades had a chartered right to keep mortcloths and lend them out for hire, and that they could prevent any such society from being formed, as it would be an invasion of their rights. Upon enquiry, however, no such word as mortcloth was to be found in all the charters of the incorporations of the town. Still a great many believed they could stop the formation of the society on the score of "use and wont". This plea, by a great number was held in contempt, and accordingly in the course of a few days about 200 individuals formed a society, the entry money only one shilling each – and in a short time they were enabled to purchase a complete set of silk velvet Mortcloths of the best quality, and now they are served with Mortcloths for themselves and families at the small charge of 6d, instead of six or eight shillings as formerly. Any person who is not a member may likewise have the loan of the Society's cloths by paying only one shilling for the large one, and 9d or 6d for the smaller ones, with 9d to the officer for carrying it. Thus have we rid ourselves of this odious and intolerable burden, which was the more unable to be born, being laid on the shoulders of the community at a time when they were most unable to bear it – let others who are suffering similar grievances apply the same remedy.

*Correspondent*

*The Scotsman, 27 April 1833*

# **“My late mother, Mrs Cumming”**

**Caroline Gerard**

All I was asked was, “Who was Mrs Cumming and where is she buried?” Really, that was all. But you know how it is....

In The Royal Scottish Academy of Art and Architecture are three undated paintings by “Mrs Cumming”, of St Bernard’s Well (Edinburgh), Hawthornden (Midlothian) and Dunkeld, which had been bequeathed in 1886 by Mary Ann Cumming, the daughter of the artist. In the days when ladies of some leisure and artistic talent would generally be restricted to drawings or to small works in watercolours, these are surprisingly large works – and in oils on canvas. A chance encounter led to my being asked to identify Mrs Cumming and to locate her final resting-place, the latter point assuming that she had lived and died in Edinburgh. Off I went on a tour in print and electronically of the UK and beyond, receiving an enormous amount of generous assistance along the way.

Answering the first part of the question was fairly simple. The daughter Mary Ann Cumming died aged 78, single, at Tulloes Lodge, Cheltenham, on 29th March 1886, and was interred in the Cemetery there. She owned property in Scotland, however, and so a copy of her Will was lodged at Edinburgh Sheriff Court. In this document, the three paintings and their attribution to “my late mother, Mrs Cumming” are clearly itemised. Various newspaper reports and Census returns revealed that Mary Ann had been born at Riga, Latvia, to William Cumming and Elizabeth Maria Ouchterlony. So there was Mrs Cumming’s full maiden name.

Elisabeth/ Elizabeth Maria Ouchterlony had been born at Montrose on 7th July 1776 to the deceased John Ouchterlony, Esq., of The Guynd at Carmyllie, by Arbroath (he had died in February that year), Riga merchant, and his spouse Ann Elisabeth Trompowsky. As Scottish traders would mingle with other traders in Latvia, so their families would intermarry. Elizabeth Maria died as the widow of William Cumming on 29th December 1854 at 14 Lansdown Crescent, Cheltenham, and was interred at St Mary’s, now All Saints, Edge Hill, Liverpool. (Where else?) And that answered the second part of the question - although why she was buried at Liverpool was a puzzle.

Did I stop there? Of course not!

The Ouchterlony families of Carmyllie, Arbroath and Montrose (and elsewhere in Angus) are mightily entangled and tricky to sort out, what with inter-marriages, a surprising paucity of public records, sons failing to produce heirs so that inheritance hops about, muddled information in published sources, people travelling around the world (sometimes back again), plus an unhelpful enthusiasm for the name John. From early in the 18thC the families were very much involved in trade with Riga, predominantly importing flax for the local manufacture (in Angus/ Forfarshire) of linen and threads, plus sailcloth (known as “Sail Duck”) much of which was then sold in London. Some of the rough linen may have been made into slaves’ clothing. (Don’t miss Dr Sally Tuckett’s talk on this subject in April!) Certainly a few members of the Ouchterlony family were slave-owners in Jamaica and benefited from the Slavery Compensation Scheme.

Montrose was a royal burgh, therefore had a charter to trade overseas. With a good harbour, business in and out was brisk. In the 18thC, the number of ships sailing between Montrose and the Baltic surpassed even that in and out of Leith.

Riga likewise had a natural harbour by the Baltic Sea, a trading gateway between the vast, largely land-locked expanse of Russia and the ports of northern Europe. It had been a Hanseatic port of the independent Latvia/ Livonia in the League's heyday. This was both a blessing and a curse: various nearby nations vied for ownership of this valuable port, and in 1710, after Polish and then Swedish occupation, the town had to surrender to Peter the Great, thus became part of the Russian Empire. The export of furs, timber and amber continued – plus the flax required to make sails for merchant vessels and for the fleet of the Royal Navy, somewhat essential during times of war.

But let's start with the Cummings.

### **Cumming**

William Cumming, who married Elizabeth Maria Ouchterlony, was the youngest son of another family trading with Riga. He was born in 1770 at Fairfield, Inchinnan, Renfrewshire, one of at least 10 children of John Cumming and Janet Wilson who'd married in 1745. Fairfield later became the site of the very large Govan shipbuilding yard. An older sister, Margaret, married one James Fenton, Riga Merchant.

At some point William Cumming met and married Elizabeth Maria Ouchterlony, presumably at Riga, and the union produced five children: Elizabeth ca1804; Janet ca1806; Mary Ann 29 May 1807; Margaret 22 December 1809; John ca1812. According to Census Returns, the children had all been born at Riga.

As we all know, in the summer of 1812 Napoleon decided to invade Russia, partly to disrupt trade and to damage the British economy. Thus many British people resident there returned to the UK to await the outcome. In fact, Napoleon largely bypassed Riga and headed for Moscow, but had his invasion been successful, then Riga almost certainly would have been a target. The Cummings (and other traders) had young children to consider and to protect. The stone-built defensive walls around Riga had been tried and tested before – but.

The Cumming family moved to Hampstead, helping to form a second Riga "colony". Hampstead was then a semi-rural retreat from London and which a century earlier had ventured into the spa business for a while. After the French revolution of 1789, about 200 émigrés had arrived, enough to warrant the foundation of a Catholic chapel. Throughout the centuries, the writers, artists and other notables who were either resident in or who visited Hampstead could comprise their own *Who's Who*.

Another Riga merchant at Hampstead was George Todd, who built a very large house, with 16 acres of garden, at which he remained until his death aged 67 in 1837. (The house, Belsize Court, was demolished in 1937.) He had married Helena Frederica Stegmann at Riga in 1797, and in 1823 his youngest daughter, Amelia Frederica, married Edward Burn, 3rd son of John Burn, Esq., of Coldoch, Perthshire.

Yet another "Riga family" was that of Philip Ibbetson Fenton, who had arrived in 1793, and his nephew James Fenton, the husband of Margaret Cumming, sister-in-law of Elizabeth Maria. Their business interests were combined with those of William Cumming, the company being called Cumming, Fenton & Co., one of the major

Riga trading companies. Mostly it operated in and out of Liverpool, with premises at 2 Goree Piazza (now Beetham Plaza). Margaret Cumming and James Fenton both died at Hampstead, in 1827 and 1834 respectively, and are interred in the Old Churchyard of St-John-at-Hampstead, as are some other family members. For example the uncle, Philip Ibbetson Fenton, who was originally from Lancashire and Yorkshire, lies there. P.I. Fenton's home became known as Fenton House and is now a small museum owned by the National Trust.

William Cumming died on 1 March 1817, although where isn't clear. His Will, with a Codicil dated 29 May 1813, was proved on 20 September 1817. He doesn't appear to have been interred at Hampstead, although his Will does state that he had been based there.

### **Ouchterlony of The Guynd (Arbroath line – mostly)**

Elizabeth Maria, as stated above, was the youngest child of John Ouchterlony of The Guynd and his spouse Elisabeth Trompowsky. This John Ouchterlony was titled 19th Laird of The Guynd. (Just to add to the confusion, only men were numbered as Lairds, no matter who was legally in possession of the estate: there was not a Lairdess in sight, numbered or otherwise.) Elizabeth Maria had older siblings, though: John (later the 20th Laird) ca1772-1843; Ann (died 1832); and Margaret (died 1849).

John, 19th Laird, had inherited the estate of The Guynd through his mother, Ann Ouchterlony, who in 1736 had married her second cousin, John Ouchterlony, Junior, of Montrose, (died 1761). Ann's father – yes, a John Ouchterlony – died in 1770, and Ann was served heir in 1772. Ann died in 1777, so that her son John (the 19th Laird), Elizabeth Maria's father, was then served heir of his grandfather John in 1781. This grandfather John was the son of a John, grandson of another John, great-grandson of yet another John, etc.

Elizabeth Maria's brother John (20th Laird) didn't marry, and he died at The Guynd in 1843. The main part of the estate then passed to their nephew James Alexander Pierson, son of their sister Margaret who had married James Pierson in 1796. Later, after another bout of familial hopscotch, the estate returned to the ownership of persons called John Ouchterlony, after a brief flirtation with the name Thomas.

### **The further travels of the artist**

After Elizabeth Maria's husband William Cumming died, she and her daughters began, in stages, to explore the United Kingdom. Her son John Cumming (born ca 1812), however, went to Liverpool to take part in the family business, Cumming, Fenton & Co.

At some point the mother and daughters did move to Edinburgh and Post Office Directories show them resident at 11 Great King Street from 1820 to around 1836/7. This address has the *desideratum* for artists, large north-facing windows.



Elizabeth Cumming at St John's, Edinburgh  
Photograph by Caroline Gerard



It was at Great King Street that daughter Elizabeth died aged 19 on 29th August 1824, interred in the ground of the new St John's Church, West End. She was later joined by other relatives: her aunt Ann (died 1832), her mother's sister and eldest daughter of John Ouchterlony of The Guynd (19th Laird), and her cousins Ann Louisa and Sophia (who both died in 1869), sisters of James Alexr. Pierson of The Guynd. Most of the family belonged to the Episcopal Church.

Elizabeth Maria's only son, John, died at Liverpool aged 26 on 24th December 1838 and was interred there. Suddenly the location of Elizabeth Maria's final resting-place made sense. As he owned property in Scotland, a Testament Dative and Inventory was submitted to the Sheriff Court at Edinburgh in May 1840, declaring that his surviving sisters, who had compiled the Inventory, were then resident at Brighton, the town which had been made fashionable by the Prince Regent a few decades earlier. A later addendum, dated 1855, following the death of his mother, placed them at Cheltenham.



View of part of the graveyard of  
St Mary's/ All Saints, Edge Hill, Liverpool.  
*Kindly photographed from the roof by Chris Turner.*



Gravestone of John, Elizabeth Maria  
and Janet Cumming.  
*Kindly photographed by Chris Turner.*

Why they moved to Cheltenham isn't known. Perhaps they hoped the waters there would improve their health. Perhaps some other family members lived there. Perhaps Elizabeth Maria hoped to marry off her daughters, no longer in the first flush of youth, to some of the famous retired Colonels with incomes, Army pensions, social standing and a need of female companionship. Or perhaps they just liked fashionable Cheltenham.

When the ladies removed to Cheltenham, however, they stayed put in one town. Elizabeth Maria died aged 78 on 29th December 1854 at Lansdown Crescent, a prestigious row of houses completed in the late 1830s. The three sisters moved to Tulloes Lodge (originally called Pembroke Lodge, later Glen Isla, in Douro Road, which was known as Northwick Park Road until 1876). After the death of their uncle John (20th Laird) in 1843, while their cousin James Alexander Pierson inherited The Guynd estate and title of Laird, they had inherited the Tulloes Estate, which lies between

Carmyllie and Dunnichen. Janet died aged 61 on 25th November 1867 and was interred with her mother and brother at Liverpool; Margaret died on 16 May 1884; Mary Ann on 29 March 1886. The last two are interred at Cheltenham. The three



sisters had written wills originally in each other's favour, but Mary Ann's had to be re-written when she became the last survivor.



Margaret Cumming's side of the gravestone  
at Cheltenham Cemetery.  
Kindly photographed (in the rain) by Penny Fogarty.

Mary Ann Cumming's side of the gravestone  
at Cheltenham Cemetery  
Kindly photographed (in the rain) by Penny Fogarty.



## The Art Classes

Elizabeth Maria almost certainly took classes at the school of Alexander Nasmyth's talented daughters (who were brought up to be independent), often with demonstrations from their famous father, at the studio at 47 York Place, Edinburgh, which Nasmyth had had installed specially. Their youngest brother James (the renowned engineer) reminisced that these classes "became the fashion". There were other art schools or drawing academies in Edinburgh at which young ladies could refine their accomplishments, but this was the top one. There is a painting by Comtesse Hugo, *The Drawing Class at Edinburgh, 1830*, but the room depicted is not Nasmyth's studio - and the drawing master portrayed is far too young to be Nasmyth!

By that stage of his career, Nasmyth had moved from portraiture to landscape and his works were in demand. To quote Duncan Macmillan in *Painting in Scotland: The Golden Age*,

Typically Nasmyth's pictures incorporate one of the peculiar charms of the Scottish landscape, the presence in a single view of cultivation and the habitation of man, together with an expanse of water and wild hills, the domain of untamed nature. In the serene light in which he presents them, these two things are in harmony... Man is at the centre of his landscape, but nature is not subservient.

The sisters organised day-trips for their students, and carriages of ladies, with art supplies and picnics, would make their way to various locations, including St Bernard's Well. The pump-room there, plus the "Temple of Hygeia" above, had been designed by Alexander Nasmyth in 1789. Nasmyth himself painted the scene from the same viewpoint on the opposite bank, the garden of his friend Henry Raeburn, probably between 1789 and 1810. There was a great emphasis in the classes to learn proper draughtsmanship with pencils, and also to understand the structure of objects. Nasmyth himself rarely went out of the house without a sketchbook and pencil, as some people now don't venture forth without a mobile 'phone with a camera. To teach the ladies oil-painting, Nasmyth would prepare boards and have them copy

his works, hence there being so many extant paintings of St Bernard's Well, sometimes mistakenly attributed to Nasmyth.

In *Alexander Nasmyth H.R.S.A. 1758–1840: A Man of the Scottish Renaissance*, J.C.B. Cooksey shows a few of these copies but praises Mrs Cumming's larger version on canvas as it "is the most likely to pass for an authentic work of the master... [Various features] closely adhere to the Nasmyth style".

While we tend to think of artists of years gone by grinding up and blending their own oil paints, in fact "bladders" of ready-made colours had been on the market since the later 18thC. The metal tubes, with which we are more familiar today, weren't widely available until later in the 19thC. Meanwhile paints and other supplies were no longer sold by apothecaries or ironmongers but by separate retail businesses, Colourmen's Shops, for example, that of Alexander Hill. This was the older brother of David Octavius Hill, better known now as a pioneer of "calotypes", early photographs, but also an accredited artist and Secretary of the Royal Scottish Academy. Alexander traded at 67 Princes Street, Edinburgh, as "bookseller, stationer and artists' colourman", and later, from 1846, as printseller and publisher to the Queen and the RSA.

Alexander Nasmyth, despite leaving few records, is known to have travelled to London fairly regularly. In a private collection there is a detailed drawing of Highgate Village, timed and dated 7pm on 8th June 1814, and in the National Gallery of Scotland there's a hasty sketch of nearby Hampstead Heath dated 1819. Nasmyth was also a friend of Sir Walter Scott, who, when he visited London, would visit the Scottish poet and playwright Joanna Baillie at Hampstead. She lived in Bolton House, Windmill Hill, close to Fenton House in Hampstead Grove. The Cummings and Fentons had a very wide social circle. Did Mrs Cumming and Alexander Nasmyth ever meet at Hampstead?

### **Other Ouchterlony artists**

It transpired that Elizabeth Maria was not the only artist in the family. Her brother John (20th Laird, died 1843) was a keen water-colourist. He travelled a great deal, also wrote poetry. Furthermore, in daughter Mary Ann's detailed Will, she bequeathed an oil painting of Belagio on Lake Como, by Captain William Henry Pierson "my cousin" to Mrs Louise Pierson, his widow. This William Henry Pierson was of course another son of Elizabeth Maria's sister Margaret.

Given that the paternal grandparents of Elizabeth Maria, John (20th Laird) and Margaret, were second cousins, he from the Montrose line and she from the Arbroath line, from whom did this artistic talent descend? I would suggest that the evidence points to it coming down the Montrose line.

One John Ouchterlony of the Montrose line, born ca1812, the fourth son of William Ouchterlony, Russia merchant at London, joined the Royal Engineers and travelled to South India and China. His published account of *The Chinese War* (generally known as the Opium War) contains 53 illustrations reproduced from his own drawings. He was much involved in engineering projects in India, and died of a fever, aged 50, on 29 April 1863 at Ootacamund. Meanwhile he had had persuaded his brother James to start coffee plantations in Ouchterlony Valley (usually abbreviated to "O'Valley"). These plantations still thrive.

Charlotte Amy Ochterlony (1857-1956) descended from David Ochterlony of Montrose (died 1765 after a spell in Boston, USA), lived for some time at 12 Eildon Street, Edinburgh, and was an amateur portraitist, exhibiting one unknown work at the Aberdeen Artists' Society in 1894. Her nephew, Sir Matthew Montgomerie Ochterlony (1880-1946), as well as being an architect, worked in wood, metal and stained glass. (They were also keen golfers, but that belongs to another story.)

Jumping back through the centuries, David Auchterlonie (1657-1719) was a Goldsmith, working in both Montrose and Edinburgh between 1681 and 1719.

### **Henrietta Ochterlony**

Henrietta Ochterlony was baptised at Montrose on 14 September 1762 to another John Ochterlony (of Montrose) and his spouse Mary Ruperta Skinner. Through her mother she had an illustrious lineage, as Mary Ruperta Skinner was a great-granddaughter of Prince Rupert of the Rhine and therefore a great-great-great-granddaughter of James VI and Anne of Denmark. This noble blood was rarely overlooked. When a Public Roup of her household belongings was to be held on 25th October 1853, after her death, the advertisement in the *Montrose Standard* listed amongst other items, "A choice and valuable lot of Paintings, including a full-length portrait of James VI by Jameson". Presumably the artist referred to was George Jamesone (ca1589–1644), who has many portraits attributed to him, with or without convincing provenance. When Charles I made an entry into Edinburgh in 1633, Jamesone was commissioned to paint portraits of "all past kings of Scotland" for a triumphal arch. The father of Charles I is unlikely to have been omitted. However, the known surviving works from this welcome are not full-length portraits and, besides, were unlikely all to have been executed by Jamesone himself.

Henrietta was the second of at least seven children born to John Ochterlony and Mary Ruperta Skinner, although two of her siblings appear to have died in infancy. Her brother Robert travelled to Russia around 1794 and died there in 1830 after founding his own settled line in that country. Alexander, a son of Robert, later became a General, and was reportedly killed at the Battle of Inkerman in 1854, but in fact he was only wounded, and was later reported to be in Moscow.

When her uncle Robert Ochterlony died on 4 August 1816 at the age of 71, the Inventory of his movable estate was given up by the legatees, his nieces Henrietta, Anne, Elizabeth and Margaret Ochterlony, "daughters of my late brother John". This John Ochterlony had died in 1807. John's widow, Mary Ruperta Skinner, died in 1830 at the grand age of 96, and her estate was inherited by her only surviving children, Henrietta, Anne and Margaret. Elizabeth had died single in 1825. The sisters continued to be based in Montrose. Margaret died aged 78 on 11 November 1848 and Anne died in 1850. Henrietta, the last, died on 9 August 1853 and was given a fulsome obituary in the *Montrose Standard*. Given the "royal" or "celebrity" aspect of her ancestry, her descent from the hero Prince Rupert, this obituary was repeated in abbreviated versions in several other newspapers around the British Isles. The sisters lived in the large house known as The Retreat in the High Street and none of them married.

Henrietta was an accomplished artist and was featured (as Miss Auchterlony) in the third Exhibition of Scottish Artists in 1810 at 16 York Place, with seven Scottish "Views", including one of Montrose, offered for sale. In the 1815 Exhibition at 32

York Place (this time as Miss Oughterlonie of Montrose) two more “Views” were exhibited. (It may seem as though York Place was full of art and artists. Indeed so: Henry Raeburn had lived at No.32.)

An account of an art exhibition in the *Montrose Standard* of 3 May 1929, written by the Montrose historian James G. Low, stated that she travelled to Bath around 1800 to continue her artistic training, and that while there she painted views of Bath and of the Cheddar Gorge. He wrote also that she received tuition from Robert Monro, who in 1816 became the first Art Master at Montrose Academy. The source of this information, however, remains undiscovered. Her works exhibited in 1810 are exclusively of Scottish scenes.

She may well have also attended the Nasmyth school, as while in Edinburgh she stayed at No.1 Clyde Street, around the corner from York Place. One of her 1810 exhibited works was a view of Edinburgh from Craighleith Quarry. Nasmyth depicted this same scene, and both a drawing and a painting of it are in the National Gallery of Scotland.

One of her works, the view of Montrose from across the Montrose Basin (she painted a second such vista from another viewpoint), was very popular as a print from around 1810. For example, George III had a coloured version in his personal collection. Another is in the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich. Some of the prints may be viewed online and the greater part of the image may be seen today reproduced on an information board looking from the artist’s viewpoint towards Montrose. The original painting is in a private collection.

Her sister Anne (died 1850), according to her obituary in the *Montrose Standard*, was also a talented painter. Some of her works were reported to be in Montrose Museum and Brechin Castle, although enquiries to both resulted in the reply, “no known works held here”. The newspaper account stated also that the bulk of her estate was bequeathed to “her nephew, Colonel Ouchterlony, in the service of the Emperor of All the Russias”, but it seems that her Testament was not lodged with a Court.

### **A few coincidences along the way**

In the extract from John Waldie of Hendersyde’s Journal published in the June 2013 edition of *The Scottish Genealogist*, the entry for Thursday 18th May 1826 records that later in the evening he went to Col. Spens’s house and played Boston for upwards of two hours with him, Mrs Cumming and Miss Ouchterlony. Lt-Col. Archibald Spens of Lathallan (1765-1845) had retired from military service in India to 35 Great King Street, Edinburgh, (and Manor House, Inveresk) and thus was a close neighbour of Mrs Cumming at No.11. It seems fairly safe to assume that Miss Ouchterlony was Elizabeth Maria’s sister, Ann, who died in 1832 at No.25 North Nielson Street, Edinburgh, interred at St John’s “in Mrs Cumming’s tomb”.

In 1829 at Bombay/ Mumbai, Lt-Col Spens’s son, another Archibald, married Henrietta Ouchterlony Valiant (1809-1890), the eldest daughter of Sir John Valiant and Henrietta Wilsone Lockhart (1791-1851). The earlier Henrietta was the daughter of James Lockhart (1744-1807) and Henrietta Ochterlony (1754-1815), who seem to have married at Deptford in 1786, the mother having been born in Hertfordshire. “Our” Henrietta, however, was probably named for her maternal grandmother, Henrietta

Howe (born 1704), while this other instance of the name appears to have had a different origin. Just to add to the cat's-cradle of inter-relationships, Henrietta Ochterlony Valiant or Spens's brother, Captain Lockhart Mure Valiant (died 1866 age 45), changed his surname when he married his second wife. His new name? Cumming! (But with no blood relationship to Elizabeth Maria's husband.)

### **And finally**

After all these enjoyable adventures through the records and e-mail conversations around the UK, and discovering this well of hitherto unrecognised artistic talent, it can be reported that the three paintings held by the Royal Scottish Academy of Art and Architecture are likely to have been executed between 1820 and 1836 and are now attributed to Elisabeth Maria Ochterlony, Mrs William Cumming, 1776-1854. Mrs Cumming now has her full identity and her final resting-place has been located. Her paintings may be viewed on the ArtUK website, and that of Dunkeld is on the back cover – but the image of St Bernard's Well is due to be updated, as it's currently undergoing restoration work.

*If anyone knows the whereabouts of Henrietta Ochterlony's paintings – or any others by Anne Ochterlony and Elisabeth Maria Ochterlony or Cumming – please get in touch with the Editor. [editor@scotsgenealogy.com](mailto:editor@scotsgenealogy.com)*

Works exhibited by Henrietta Ochterlony in 1810

- View of Stirling
- View of Loch Ketturin [Katrine]
- View of Edinburgh from Craigleith Quarry
- View of Montrose
- View of Limekilns at Murray's hall near Stirling
- View of Kame of Mathers, county of Kincardine
- Landing Place

Works exhibited by Henrietta Ochterlony in 1815

- View, "*On Gillies hill, whose height commands/The battlefield.*"  
(Scott's *Lord of the Isles*)
- A View of the Campsie Hills and Bannockburn,  
"*Where Bannock, with his broken bank/ And deep ravine, protects their flank.*"  
(Scott's *Lord of the Isles*)

These two paintings were not for sale.

### **My thanks**

This article could not have been written without the generous help of: Mary Allan of Liverpool & South West Lancashire Family History Society; Patricia R. Andrew, Art Historian; Victoria Bernie, Robin Rodger & Sandy Wood of the Royal Scottish Academy of Art and Architecture; Judy East of St-John-at-Hampstead; the staff of the Edinburgh & Scottish Room, Central Library, Edinburgh; Karen Findlay of Arbroath Library; Penny Fogarty of Cheltenham Cemetery & Crematorium; Alison Gough and Colin C. Cleverly of [www.monikie.org.uk](http://www.monikie.org.uk); Anne Law and Douglas Norrie of Carmyllie Heritage Society; the staff of the National Library of Scotland; Chris Turner of St Mary's/ All Saints Church, Liverpool; and Jill Waller of Cheltenham Local History Society, who became almost as obsessed as I did – but not quite!

## Queries

**2981 GARTHLY, GARTHLEY, GAIRTHLIE, GAIRTHLEY** - I have been doing my family research since 1964 and have been very fortunate in getting back to 1658. I would love to discover another branch if possible. George Garthly.

Please reply to [editor@scotsgenealogy.com](mailto:editor@scotsgenealogy.com)

**2982 ROBERTSON** - James Robertson and Christine Alexia Thomson married in Edinburgh on 23 October 1853, and after the births of several children the family to London. For a time they lived in Stowe Villas, Hampstead, then Tottenham Green. Their children James, John, Stewart, Margaret, Charlotte, **Duncan** and Amy, lived in the London area initially, but most married then moved elsewhere. In the 1881 Census of Scotland, Christina Alexia is recorded as a visitor at Govan at the home of her older sister **Catherine Robertson**, a 51-year-old widow. Perhaps Cristina was there to comfort Catherine in her recent bereavement? Catherine must have been a widow of a Robertson man so I wondered if the family of this lady are able to help with my quest. As **Duncan Douglas Robertson** is my late Grandfather, I am seeking a photograph of Duncan, or of the whole family, to complete my family history research. If anyone is able to provide such a photograph this octogenarian Australian will be delighted. Lindsay Chester.

Please reply to [editor@scotsgenealogy.com](mailto:editor@scotsgenealogy.com)

**2983 MacLEAY** - Alexander MacLeay, Scientist and Government Minister, and his wife Elizabeth Barclay had 17 children, although at least three died young. They emigrated to Australia in 1826. If any descendants would like to share further information with or receive such from Margaret Brown, please email [pearlatnewton@gmail.com](mailto:pearlatnewton@gmail.com)

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## Letter to the Editor

Further to *Fanny MacLeay: A Life of Duty* (December 2019), the author may or may not be aware of the MacLeay Museum, University of Sydney, see <https://sydney.edu.au/museum/discover-our-collections/macleay-collections.html>

MacLeay must have led a very interesting life in Australia. He obviously much enjoyed what the author calls the "...quiet backward country", and there was an active Australian art school in development that his daughter might have enjoyed, although it didn't blossom until the second half of the 19th century.

*Mark Collins, Swallowtail and Birdwing Butterfly Trust*

# A knife crime in Edinburgh in 1858 – some things don't change

Gordon B. Corbet

The recent spate of fatal stabbings has prompted me to look again at my records of an incident in 1858 that I came across when researching the life of my grandfather, John Corbet. He spent all his adult life in Edinburgh's Old Town as a shoemaker, but was recorded in the censuses as born in Massachusetts, USA, in 1836 or 1837. His parents, John Corbet, a tailor, and Rebecca McGregor were married in Edinburgh's Old Town in 1824 and were deceased by 1859 when my grandfather John was married. I have no record of when they went to USA, nor if they ever returned, although their son John was recorded as a 14-year-old apprentice shoemaker in the Canongate in 1851. When on-line searching of newspapers became possible I made a search for John Corbet, Edinburgh, 1850/60, which produced a very brief account in the *Caledonian Mercury*, 22 February, 1859, of a case in the High Court of Justiciary. John Corbet had been stabbed in the neck, with 'great effusion of blood and serious injury of his person'. Christina Goldie pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment.

At the National Records of Scotland I was able to see the full record of the trial on 21 February, 1859. It transpired that Christina Goldie, an immigrant from Ireland, had earlier been a girlfriend of John Corbet and had heard that he had become engaged to someone else. He had been in a lodging-house in Shakespeare Square (later to disappear with the development of Waverley Station and Waterloo Place) with several other shoemakers late on the evening of 20 December, 1858 when Christina Goldie came into the room, seized his shoemaker's knife and stabbed him in the neck. One of his fellow shoemakers rushed out and, remarkably, returned very soon with a policeman and a doctor, who was able, only just, to save John's life. The doctor turned out to be Dr Henry Littlejohn, soon to become the Chief Medical Officer for Edinburgh and largely responsible for the development of efficient water and sewage systems for the city. Later he became President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, was knighted, and, in 1897 became Professor of Forensic Medicine at Edinburgh University. So I have to add Sir Henry Littlejohn to the list of ancestors responsible for my existence. His patient John Corbet was indeed married in June 1859, to Agnes Robb, and they produced eleven children while living in and adjacent to Edinburgh High Street. Only one child died in infancy; perhaps a further tribute to Dr Littlejohn's pioneering sanitary work.

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## April talk

To continue the theme of slavery and how Scots benefited from it, Sally Tuckett will explain the rôle of the linen industry and "Milford's Shirts".



# William Warden, R.N.

Alex Wood

Caroline Gerard's excellent article on William Crokot, who for five years commanded the guard on St Helena during Napoleon Bonaparte's imprisonment there, was a reminder of the wide Scottish contribution to British military power. Crokot was not however the only Scottish presence on St Helena.

William Warden (1777-1849) was a Royal Navy surgeon, serving on *HMS Northumberland* in 1815, when it conveyed Napoleon to St Helena. Warden then remained with the exiled Emperor for some months on St Helena. He published in 1816, with the aid of two professional writers, his memoir of that period.<sup>1</sup> When originally published, it faced a barrage of criticism by an establishment which saw it as presenting a far too positive picture of Bonaparte.

William Warden was born in Alyth, Perthshire, in 1777, in modest circumstances. He was the son of Adam Warden and Charlet Barron, who had at least nine children. Adam Warden, Innkeeper in Alyth, is variously described as a brewer, vintner and feuar. He was also a property developer who built at least one tenement, including an inn and several properties, in Alyth which was sold for £403 in 1823 by the Trustees of his grandson, Edward Warden.<sup>2</sup> Adam Warden, in turn, was the son of Hugh Warden, a tanner in Alyth, and Janet Mitchell. Hugh Warden was the brother of James Warden, schoolmaster in Alyth, and the son of Adam Warden who preceded his son James as schoolmaster and who died in early 1737.



William Warden

The Alyth OPRs are patchy, although interestingly there are several pages of Alyth baptisms and deaths noted in the Alyth Session minute books and not indexed by Scotland's People.<sup>3</sup> The preface to Warden's reminiscences of Napoleon, offers however some hard information on Warden's family. Unfortunately it also contains some of the fanciful material which can too easily muddy genealogical waters. 'His family were Jacobites out in the rising of 1745. His mother, whose maiden name was Barrow, was born at Kirriemuir just after Charles Edward had passed through the town, and after him she was christened "Charles Edward," changed in later years to Charlotte.'

His mother was Charlotte Barron, not Barrow. She was born in Kirriemuir in 1749 and the baptismal register is clear: she was baptised Charlet, not Charles Edward.<sup>4</sup> There is no evidence of connections between the Wardens and the Jacobites. William Warden's uncle, James Warden, throughout the period of the 1745 rebellion, as well as being the Session Clerk of Alyth was a Parish Schoolmaster, appointed by the Church of Scotland. For that reason alone, he would not have supported the Jacobites.

Such family tales however, frequently create issues for the genealogist. Much of the evidence on the Warden family comes from the diaries of Hugh Warden<sup>5</sup>, a son of William's uncle James, the schoolmaster. Hugh Warden's Dairies also however contain a family myth of the origin of the name Warden: 'My father draws his descent from Sir William Wallace, and says that Sir Williams Heir, on the captivity of that Hero, fearing the persecution of his enemies, shifted his place of abode and took the name of Warden from Sir Wm having been Warden of the Scottish Marches.' Unfortunately that cannot be the origin of the name: William Wallace was not Warden of the Scottish Marches, a title not instituted until 1356, 51 years after Wallace's execution.

To return however to William Warden, the most comprehensive review of his life is John Knox Laughton's contribution to the Dictionary of National Biography.<sup>6</sup> Laughton tells us that from the parish school, in Alyth, he was sent to Montrose, where he served some years with a surgeon. He studied also for some time at Edinburgh, and in 1795 entered the navy as surgeon's mate on board the *Melpomene*. (It is worth noting that he was 18 at this point.) In December 1811 he graduated M.A., M.D., from the University of St. Andrews. In 1812-1813 he served in the American campaign, one of Britain's most unsuccessful wars. After the publication of his 1816 book, there was an unsuccessful attempt to end his naval career. In 1817 he married Elizabeth Hutt, by whom he had one son and two daughters. Warden graduated M.D. from Edinburgh in 1824 and was appointed surgeon at Sheerness Dockyard in 1842 and at Chatham Dockyard in 1847. He died at Chatham on 23 April 1849.

Warden's is a fascinating tale, not least because it illustrates the professional routes which were open to young Scots from relatively modest backgrounds, when, on the one hand, Scottish education had created a significantly larger educated cohort of young men from the poorer and middling ranks of society than had English education, and when, on the other hand, the expansion of Empire required precisely a skilled and educated administrative and professional class.

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- <sup>4</sup> Baptisms (OPR) Scotland. Kirriemuir, Forfarshire. 25 January 1749. BARRON, Charlet. GROS Data: 299/10 119.
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## May talk

An extra date! Christine Woodcock will be in Scotland on a short visit.

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Compiled by Joan Keen & Eileen Elder

- Montrose Associate Church Births & Baptisms 1743-1831  
& Marriages 1769-1827 Stuart Farrell (Comp)
- Tracing Your Ancestors Using DNA, A guide for Family Historians Graham S Holton
- From Goblets to Gaslight – The Scottish Glass Industry 1750-2006 (includes CD) Jill Turnbull
- Wellington's Men Remembered Vol 2, A Register of Memorials to Soldiers  
Who fought in the Peninsular War and at Waterloo M-Z (includes DVD)
- The Place-Names of Fife Vol 3, St Andrews and the East Neuk Simon Taylor with Gilbert Markus
- The Hidden History of Glasgow's Women The new Factor Elspeth King
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- Spottiswoode: Life and Labour on a Berwickshire Estate 1753-1793 Tom Barry & Douglas Hall
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Jane Rendall & Sian Reynolds (Eds)
- George Buchanan A Forgotten Scot Catherine Organ
- Kenmay Parish and its People Part 1 Duncan A Downie
- Kenmay Parish and its People Part 2 Duncan A Downie
- Kenmay Parish and its People Part 3 Duncan A Downie
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- Preserve and Enhance: a History of Colinton Amenity Association Illingworth, Richard
- What to see in St Monans: a Guided Walk Paula Martin
- Ketchen Family, their Lives and Times Janet Miller
- Contin Ross-shire Poor Register 1865-1918 Stuart Farrell (Comp)
- Mauricewood Disaster: Mining in Midlothian Andrew B Donaldson
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- Aberlemno the Heart of Angus: A Short History 1986 Isobel Jackson
- Discovering Galloway Innes MacLeod
- The Red Book of Grandtully Vol 1 W Fraser
- The Red Book of Grandtully Vol 2 W Fraser
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- Borland's Fowler 1841-1842: An Annotated Copy of Fowler's Paisley  
and Johnstone Commercial Directory John Malden (Ed)
- Galston Kirk Session Register: Baptisms 1568-1676,  
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- Bondagers: The History of Women Farmworkers in  
Northumberland and South-east Scotland Dinah Iredale
- Objectors & Resisters: Opposition to Conscription and War in Scotland 1914-18 Robert Duncan
- Researching Scots-Irish Ancestors:
- The Essential Genealogical Guide to Early Modern Ulster 1600-1800 William J Roulston
- The Badges of Kitchener's Army David Bilton
- Banff-shire, the People and the Lands, Part 17, the Parish of Cullen prior to 1750 Bruce B Bishop
- Banff-shire, the People and the Lands, Part 18, the Parish of Cullen 1750-1850 Bruce B Bishop
- Banff-shire, the People and the Lands, Part 19,  
the Parish of Fordyce (Portsoy) prior to 1774 Bruce B Bishop

Banff-shire, the People and the Lands, Part 20, the Parish of Fordyce (Portsoy) 1775-1850	Bruce B Bishop
Discovered Lives: Ladies of St Giles, Edinburgh 1597-1672	Rosalind K Marshall
Laggan, Inverness-shire Poor Register 1865-1918	Stuart Farrell (Comp)
The Union Bank of Scotland Roll of Honour 1914-1918	David McNay
Common Cause: Commonwealth Scots and the Great War	Stuart Allan & David Forsyth
Livingston	William F Hendrie (Comp)
The Scottish Glass Industry 1610-1750: "To Serve the Whole Nation with Glass"	Jill Turnbull
The Scotch-Irish	Bill & Mary Durning
The History of Dunblane	Alexander B Barty
Prestonpans Kirkyard East Burials 1799-1872 East Lothian	Joy Dodd (Trans)
Prestonpans West Graveyard Burials 1799-1872 East Lothian	Joy Dodd (Trans)
Greek Secrets Revealed, Hidden Scottish History Uncovered, Book 1 Edinburgh	Ian McHaffie
Edinburgh Past and Present	Maurice Lindsay & David Bruce
John Simpson Kirkpatrick, Digger or Geordie?	
The Untold Story of his Family	Kelso McEwan Yuill
Scotland and the Flemish People	Alexander Fleming & Roger Mason (Ed)
Inverness Poor Register 1857-1862	Stuart Farrell

## TENTH (OR EDINBURGH) REGIMENT OF *NORTH BRITISH MILITIA*

### D E S E R T E D

**J**OHN MURDOCH, private in the said regiment, having absconded and been missing since the first day of April current, a Reward of TWO GUINEAS is hereby offered to any person or persons who shall be the means of discovering and lodging him in safe custody, over and above Twenty Shillings allowed by act of Parliament for apprehending deserters. The reward will be paid by the Commanding Officer at Dumfries, or Captain Stenhouse, South Castle Street, Edinburgh.

The said John Murdoch is 5 feet 7½ inches high, about 26 years of age, fresh complexion, dark hazel eye, dark brown hair, stout made, his manner of speaking soft and mild. – Said he was born in the county of Ayr, parish of Ochiltree, and by trade a baker. – He was dressed in a short drab-coloured coat, drab-coloured stockings, and round hat. Said he had worked long at his trade in Glasgow, and also in Edinburgh; and that his reason for serving in the militia was owing to the smallness of journeyman bakers wages being but 5s. 6d. per week, from which he said he was unable to support his wife.

*Caledonian Mercury 22nd April 1799*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - 2020

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.

- 16 March "What can DNA Testing do for your Family History?" by Michelle Leonard, Genealogist
- 20 April "Milford's Shirts : Scottish Linen and Clothing for Enslaved People" by Sally Tuckett, Lecturer in Glasgow
- 18 May "Researching Scots Who Came to Canada" by Christine Woodcock, Canadian Genealogist
- 7 June "Gravestones and Memorials, a guided walk in Rosebank Cemetery, at 2.00pm" by Ken Nisbet.  
Please book at the SGS Library.
- 21 September "The Edinburgh Men who founded the World's First Foot-Ball Club in 1824." by Andy Mitchell
- 19 October "The Show in the Meadows" – the Edinburgh International Exhibition of 1886 by Graeme Cruickshank, Historian
- 16 November "Crimes of an Heinous Nature" – looking at some High Court Trials.  
by Margaret Fox, Archivist

SGS meetings are open to all – bring your friends!  
(Donations of £4 from non-members will be appreciated.)

### 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.

- 18 April SAFHS Conference
- 9-19 May National Cemeteries Week  
See [www.cemeteryfriends.com](http://www.cemeteryfriends.com) for details
- 27-29 March Borders Kith & Kin: Hawick Reivers Festival  
[www.hawickreivers.com](http://www.hawickreivers.com)

### 31st Annual SAFHS Conference 2020

## *It's a Sàir Fècht!*

**Saturday 18 April 2020 9am – 4.30pm**

The Brunton, Ladywell Way, Musselburgh, EH21 6AA

*Hosted by*

ASGRA, Lothians FHS, Borders FHS  
and the Scottish Genealogy Society

**[www.safhs.org.uk](http://www.safhs.org.uk)**

# **The Declaration of Arbroath**

## **1320 - 2020**

**Alan Borthwick**  
**National Records of Scotland**

### **Introduction**

2020 is the 700th anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath, widely regarded as Scotland's most iconic document. One of the treasures of National Records of Scotland, it is a key Scottish document from the Wars of Independence when the Scots attempted to re-affirm the independence of the kingdom of Scotland against English claims to overlordship.

The Declaration is a letter from the barons and the community of the realm of Scotland to Pope John XXII. It is about 1000 words long, in Latin. Its short text is a carefully-crafted appeal designed to persuade the Pope to reconsider his approach to the long-running Anglo-Scottish conflict. The Pope had excommunicated King Robert I and four of his bishops, after failed efforts to secure peace between England and Scotland. The Scots sent the Declaration of Arbroath as part of a diplomatic counter-offensive.

The Declaration's stirring language, and its evocative sentiments of nationhood and freedom, have given it a special distinction since then, not just in Scotland but worldwide. Its name "Declaration of Arbroath" is however relatively modern, inspired by a perceived connection with the United States' Declaration of Independence of 1776. The link between the two Declarations continues to be debated by historians. In 1998 the US Senate passed a resolution, stating that 6th April "has a special significance for all Americans, and especially those of Scottish descent". Many signers of the US Declaration had Scottish ancestry. As a result, 6th April has been designated Tartan Day in the USA, an occasion for a festival of Scottish heritage.

### **Declaration content**

The Declaration emphasises Scotland's long history as an independent Christian kingdom. It contains a brief account of the origins of the Scots. It explains that they had lived in freedom and peace until King Edward I (father of the present King Edward II) invaded Scotland and caused widespread havoc.

The Declaration asserts that the Scots were saved by their present King, Robert Bruce, whom they will defend as their king unless he seeks to make their kingdom subject to the English king. The Pope is asked to persuade Edward II to leave the Scots in peace, and Scotland's support for a crusade is pledged if peace should be achieved. The letter closes with a threat to the Pope – that he would be answerable to God should war continue.

The Declaration was sent in the names of eight earls and 31 barons of Scotland.

In theory all were to have had their seals appended to it, but we cannot now be sure that in practice this happened. Documents at this time were not signed. To authenticate documents, wax seals were attached. Seals were commonly used by the king and his officials, landowners, churchmen, and merchants. There are only nineteen seals currently attached to the Declaration. Because there are at least eleven seals now attached of men who were not actually named as senders of the document, perhaps as many as 50 seals might once have been attached, but they are easily lost or damaged.

Depicted on the seals is a mixture of heraldic and personal emblems. Three seals are equestrian, showing knights on horseback. They are the seals of some of the more important barons, and are in red wax. The seals of the less important barons are in green wax. Bruce McAndrew's book, *Scotland's historic heraldry* (2006), includes a chapter on the heraldry of the sigillants of the Declaration.

### **People of the Declaration**

During the last 18 months, a family history project run from Strathclyde University has been researching the background and descent of many of the barons named in the Declaration. It will also involve a genetic genealogy strand, to discover previously unknown descents from these individuals through DNA testing. There will also be an exhibition which it is hoped will tour several venues. See the project web-site for more information: <https://www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/centreforlifelonglearning/genealogy/declarationofarbroathresearch/>

Those interested in finding out about the social and political networks of the barons named in the Declaration might want to look at some of the outputs of the Community of the Realm project. The project is investigating the political community of Scotland between the mid-13th and mid-15th centuries. The project concludes this year, and has begun to post many research papers, blogs and podcasts. One strand of the project includes some social network analysis: see <https://cotr.ac.uk/social-network-analysis-political-communities-and-social-networks/> for more information. On one of the linked pages there is a study of the Crown charter witnesses of the reign of King Robert I.

### **Aftermath of the Declaration**

The Declaration implies that all Scots were steadfast in their support of Robert I as king, but in reality that support was not universal. The majority of the barons named in the Declaration were King Robert's loyal supporters, but not all. Furthermore, Robert's dynasty was fragile – his heir, grandson Robert Stewart, was only four years old.

In December 1318 an Act of Parliament was passed against anyone spreading rumours against the king or his government, and within weeks of the Declaration being drafted, a conspiracy against King Robert I was uncovered. Its leaders were savagely dealt with at Parliament in August 1320. The conspirators intended



to oust Robert, but it is not clear whom they wanted as his replacement. Historians speculate that they preferred to have Edward Balliol (son of King John Balliol, deposed in 1296) as king, rather than Robert.

In his reply to the letter, the Pope urged a reconciliation between the warring sides. Following the deposition of Edward II in 1327 and consequent discord in England, an opportunity arose to negotiate a settlement. The treaty of Edinburgh-Northampton in March 1328 was supposed to effect a “final and perpetual peace”. It included the recognition of Robert I as king, and of Scottish independence. The Declaration on its own did not cause all this: it was part of a long campaign in which the Declaration was just one step.

### **Declaration on display**

The original letter sent to the Pope has long since disappeared. The document held by National Records of Scotland (NRS) is what is regarded as the Scottish “file copy”, but it was undoubtedly written at the same time as the original letter. For some time NRS has been preparing the way for a rare opportunity for a public display of the Declaration. We are delighted that we have been able to collaborate with the National Museum of Scotland, and the Declaration will be on display there, at Chambers Street, Edinburgh, between 27 March and 26 April 2020. The Declaration will be exhibited in the Museum’s free medieval Scotland gallery, The Kingdom of Scots. Due to the age and fragility of the document, we have to limit the document’s exposure to light to ensure its preservation for future generations. This will be the only exhibition of the letter in 2020.

Although the exhibition is limited to a month-long run, during 2020 NRS will be hosting a series of free public talks in New Register House about different aspects of the Declaration. To keep up to date and book a place, please see the NRS public talks programme here: <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/visit-us/events-talks-and-visits>. Many other events are taking place in Scotland to mark the 700th anniversary, and the Arbroath 2020 web-site, <https://arbroath2020.com>, is worth checking for regularly for updates.

### **More information**

The Declaration is one of only a handful of British archive documents which have been the sole subject of books, let alone articles. On the Declaration itself, there is Ted Cowan’s *‘For Freedom Alone’: The Declaration of Arbroath, 1320* (various editions from 2003). Two biographies of the king which set the Declaration in a general context are G W S Barrow’s *Robert the Bruce and The Community of the Realm* (various editions from 1965), and Michael Penman’s *Robert the Bruce, King of the Scots* (2014).

## The Declaration of Arbroath 700th Anniversary

The original document will be on loan from the NRS to the National Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, from 27th March to 26th April 2020. Due to its fragility, the exhibition must be for a short time only.



Arbroath will stage an extensive series of events for a 6-month Festival, including a Pageant Procession from the Abbey to the Harbour on Sunday 5th April 2020. As well as a new Scriptorium, a commemorative Tapestry has been commissioned from the Arbroath Tapestry Group, on display at the Abbey from 3rd April. A new "Pictish" stone for St Vigean's is in progress.

To see the full programme, access [www.arbroath2020.com](http://www.arbroath2020.com)

*Permission to reproduce the photograph of the David Annand statue has been requested.*

