

TRANSACTIONS
OF THE
EAST LoTHIAN
ANTIQUARIAN AND FIELD
NATURALISTS' SOCIETY
VOL. XII

1970

TRANSACTIONS
OF THE
EAST LOTHIAN
ANTIQUARIAN AND FIELD
NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

TWELFTH VOLUME
1970

HADDINGTON:
PRINTED BY D. AND J. CROAL, LTD.
FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY

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THE LATE GEORGE MURRAY, M.A., F.S.A.SCOT.

The death of our much-loved Honorary Secretary, Mr George Murray, on the 21st of May, 1969, was a crushing blow to the Society. For twenty-three years he had devoted much time and his great talents to the work of the Society, with the result that its scope and membership became much wider and larger.

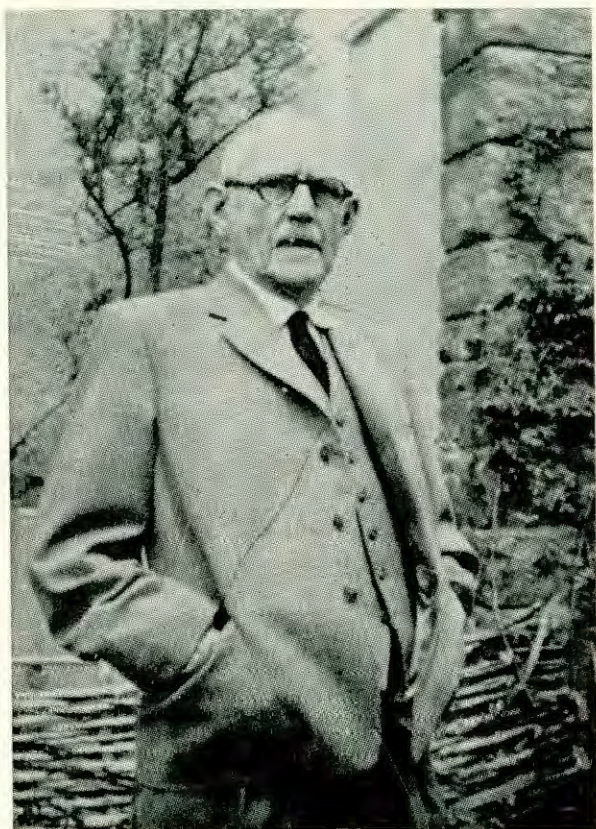
George Murray was possessed of great vision, and that Haddington House still stands as an historical landmark in the Burgh is mainly due to his imaginative foresight. He loved all beautiful things, and his knowledge and sense of History was very great. Those of us who were privileged to hear his account of the Battle of Dunbar, when we went to Doon Hill on a perfect autumn day, will never forget it. He led many of our expeditions, which meant infinite research in time he could ill spare, but he never seemed to think he had done very much. One of the pleasures on these occasions was meeting him; he had a great sense of humour, and was the most friendly and understanding of men. The zest and enthusiasm with which he enlivened the proceedings made even Business Meetings stimulating and amusing. As a member of the Editorial Board, he contributed to the success of the Transactions of the Society, which owe much to his help and guidance; he also started the Industrial Archaeological Group.

A native of Aberdeenshire, he chose teaching as his profession, and as a born teacher he gave his pupils the wish to learn, a gift beyond price. He taught in Dunfermline, Lerwick and Rothesay, and in 1944 he came to Prestonpans to teach English and History, but lived in Haddington, where, two years later, he became a Town Councillor, and was Treasurer for three terms. He was deeply concerned in the restoration of the Town House, and in the new street lighting. He was an Elder of the Church of Scotland, and was always a most welcome visitor in his District. He served for a period on the Council of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, and was also a lecturer at the University of Edinburgh, where he took extra-mural classes in the History of the Lothians.

Mr Murray loved East Lothian very dearly, and used his energy, gifts and talents for the County as a whole, and for our Society in particular. We owe him a very deep debt of gratitude. He lies in a kirk-yard in Glen Nevis, beside his eldest son, Keith; his memory will always live in the records of our Society, and in the hearts of his countless friends.

EDITH C. BROUN LINDSAY.





THE LATE DR JAMES SMITH RICHARDSON

LL.D., H.R.S.A., F.R.I.A.S.

Dr James S. Richardson died on 12th September 1970 in his 87th year. He was born in North Berwick and went to school here. During his life he studied in several European countries. He was elected Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland in 1912 and for many years was one of the Society's Curators. He was a life member of the Société Préhistorique Française. He was a member of and an expert adviser to the Board of Trustees of the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland and for some time he was one of three British representatives in the League of Nations International Institute Co-operation Department of Art and Archaeology. Latterly he was Inspector of Ancient Monuments for Scotland and in this capacity started several museums in this country.

"But this list of his achievements, while it signifies the measure of the man does not adequately represent him. He was to us a person of kind understanding, equally at home in the company of all people, with a sense of humour that found him a ready audience wherever he might be. He had the happy gift of being able to illustrate his profound knowledge and his anecdotes with a ready hand at sketching."

"We will greatly miss the sight of him on his daily travels from Tantallon Terrace to the High Street on his bicycle. We will no longer have the pleasure of saying how we met the Doctor — other doctors in the town were always named but to him was given the precedence and respect of being known simply as 'the Doctor.' We salute the passing of a great man.

"Those of us who knew him well will treasure our memories of him. All of us, even those who knew him but slightly, were privileged to know him. Our lives are richer by reason of his life in our midst. He showed us the value of our heritage. Now that he has himself become part of that heritage we will look on it with greater understanding and with a special sense of affection. He was a man who loved North Berwick and was himself much loved by North Berwick."

"The Doctor was an exceptional man, pre-eminent in the field of antiquarian studies. He combined many skills as architect, artist, archaeologist, antiquarian, writer, historian and teacher. These abilities he laid at the disposal of the Burgh, when in July, 1957, he inaugurated the Burgh Museum

and became its first Honorary Curator. I do not know of any other man who could have undertaken this work; certainly no other man could have done it so well.

"The Town Council of North Berwick conferred on Dr Richardson in 1967 the Freedom of the Burgh. This was the highest honour the Council could bestow and was conferred in recognition of his many qualities, his achievements and the work which he had done for this town."

J. C. FOWLER,
Provost of North Berwick.

Dr Richardson was a life member of the East Lothian Antiquarian and Field Naturalists' Society, and was a member of Council from the foundation of the Society in 1924 until 1934, and again from 1948 until his death. He led the very first excursion of the Society, in June 1924, to St. Mary's and St. Martin's Churches in Haddington and, over forty years later in 1965, one of the last excursions he led was again to St. Mary's Church.

In the intervening years Dr Richardson acted as a distinguished excursion leader on many occasions; at Tantallon, Dirleton, Dalmeny, Stirling and at many other sites, his great qualities as a teacher made these events so exceptional that votes of thanks seemed quite inadequate. His professional judgment and learning were always at the service of Council, while his home at North Berwick was long a place of pilgrimage. He remains an unforgettable personality and a great inspiration.

R. P. K.



THE SIGNIFICANCE OF TRAPRAIN LAW

By *R. W. Feachem*

Archaeology Officer Ordnance Survey

In prehistoric times the inhabitants of Britain were broadly speaking divided into those who, because their occupation was mainly agricultural, led a more or less settled life and those who, being principally stockbreeders, spent a considerable part of their time following flocks and herds to new pastures. The latter had houses and settlements, of course, and grew small crops, just as the former also bred cattle; but their lives were very different. The former lived in the agriculturally productive plains and rolling hills from Yorkshire and Cheshire southwards to the Channel, the latter in the northern and western parts of Britain where hill-pasture predominates.

One result of this is the difference in the remains and relics they have left behind them. The more settled agriculturalists tended to accumulate personal belongings and breakables such as pottery vessels, while the pastoralists — much of whose time was spent roaming from pasture to pasture with their beasts — relied on fewer and more durable articles such as wooden utensils. In consequence, while an agriculturalists' settlement may today yield hundreds of datable finds to the excavator, the pastoral house or settlement is often virtually barren, with the consequent severe handicap to archaeological research.

In the country between the rivers Forth and Tyne, from the North Sea in the east to the central Lowland hills in the west, most of the very numerous prehistoric pastoral settlements were both small in size and only seasonally occupied. The great exception is the settlement on Traprain Law. (Fig. 1). Placed in the fertile East Lothian plain — a large island of agriculture in a generally pastoral region — it attracted settled and prosperous people from as early as the first half of the 1st millennium B.C. Situated near the sea, they participated in a sea-borne trade with the richer south, and they developed an

OPPOSITE. Fig 1.—View of Traprain Law from the north as seen in 1965. Photograph by courtesy of Planair, Edinburgh.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF TRAPRAIN LAW

elaborate, almost urban, life which included industrial enterprises such as bronze-casting and working in iron. They built numerous houses and other buildings on the Law, and eventually erected great walls around it for their protection.

The earliest settlement on Traprain Law is revealed by such relics of Late Bronze Age life (early-middle 1st millennium B.C.) as bronze axes, dagger blades, knives, spearheads, chisels, gouges, punches, razors, armlets, rings, pins, buttons and ear-rings, pottery vessels of various kinds, amber beads and ornaments of shale and jet. These early dwellers on the Law, sophisticated when compared with their near neighbours tending beasts in the Lammermuirs, the Cheviot Hills and the Tweedside valleys, lived in an open settlement; but long before the end of the pre-Christian era they and their settlement were taken over by the original Celtic arrivals, whose presence is first shown by the building of the first great city wall, enclosing an area of some 8 hectares (20 acres) on the top of the Law. The Celts brought with them the use of iron, and they developed a more advanced technique of bronze-casting; and by the time the Romans arrived in the district in the year 79 A.D., Traprain Law was a city set on a hill, a walled town or *oppidum*, from which the occupants held some sort of authority over the lands between Forth and Tyne. They were known to the Romans as the Votadini. That the Votadini entered into a treaty with the Romans, and traded with them, is indicated by the fact that they were allowed to keep Traprain Law *oppidum* intact while all other Celtic capitals in Britain, and most in the rest of the Roman empire, were demolished.

Throughout the rest of the 1st century A.D. and through all the 2nd, industry and trade flourished and increased and the town expanded. The walls were twice rebuilt on enlarged foundations, first to contain about 12 hectares (30 acres) and finally, taking in both the northern and the western terraces, to about 16 hectares (40 acres) — the largest Celtic *oppidum* in North Britain. By the end of the 2nd century A.D., the Votadinian capital had become the single focus of activity throughout the district. But in 107 A.D. the Picts from north of the Forth made a great raid southwards, wrecking the Roman frontier system based on Hadrian's Wall, and on their way the invaders plundered Traprain Law and threw down the great stone wall. Such a place would have been fair game for the Picts, just as would any wholly Roman town, and the

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sacking was thorough. Soon, however, the frontier system was reconstructed by the Emperor Severus, and the city wall of Traprain Law was rebuilt. The occupants now became armed partners of the Romans. At the end of the 3rd century a second great Pictish raid destroyed the town again, but once more it was rebuilt to its greatest size. Finally, late in the 4th century, at a time of further reorganisation of the frontier system, the *oppidum* was finally rebuilt to a reduced size of about 12 hectares. The northern terrace was relinquished, and the new stone-faced wall, about 4 metres thick and well over 1000 metres long, is today the most conspicuous of the surviving surface remains.

But the *oppidum*, and indeed the political power of the Votadini, were not to endure much longer undisturbed. Round about the year 450 A.D., long after organised Roman power had gone from Britain, the chief of the Votadini — Cuneda — received an appeal from the British of Gwynedd, in North Wales, for help against serious raids being made against them by the Irish. Cuneda collected his army and marched off to Gwynedd where, having been successful in his object, he and his men settled and did not return. Traprain Law was now virtually abandoned as a capital city, and the centre of Votadinian tribal activity was moved westwards to the citadel Dun Eiddy, later called Edinburgh by the Saxons.

So after 1000 years and more of vigorous occupation, unique in British annals and hard to parallel elsewhere in Celtic lands, the majestic ruins on Traprain Law slowly fell into decay and rested quietly for some 1400 years. The people were soon absorbed into the Saxon dominion, and together the old and new stocks developed to become "these vigorous and determined individualists who gave to the Border country — and in due time to all the Scottish nation — not only its principal language but some of its toughest characteristics." No other place in Scotland can begin to compare in importance with Traprain Law as a monument to the growth of the people over so long a period — no other place in Britain can easily be called to mind which contains so much of value to prehistorians and to students of the relations between native peoples and the Roman armies. It can be paralleled in the wider Celtic territories, but is most readily comparable with the long-lived cities of the Mediterranean and Near East countries.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF TRAPRAIN LAW

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THE POLICE FORCE OF EAST LoTHIAN

1832-1950

By B. C. Skinner

NOTE: The study that follows is based on research carried out during 1969-70 by Police Officers of Course A.P.6 in the Senior Division of the Scottish Police College. The group comprised Sergeants Cameron, Cattnach, Duncan, Halkerston, Laird, McCracken, Pirie, Roxburgh, Shaw and Thomson. The research was directed and this study prepared by B. C. Skinner, University of Edinburgh. The group would like to express its gratitude to all those who have facilitated the research work, notably the County Clerk of East Lothian (for access to the Police Committee Minutes), The Chief Constable, Lothians and Peebles Police (for access to police records at Headquarters in Edinburgh), Superintendent Jamieson, Haddington (for access to records at Haddington Police Station), the Librarians of the National Library of Scotland, the University of Edinburgh Library, the Edinburgh Central Public Library, and the Library of the Scottish Police College, the Curator of Historical Records, Scottish Record Office, and several individual correspondents.

April 1970

I

When the parish ministers of East Lothian wrote their contributions for the *New Statistical Account of Haddingtonshire* in 1841 they were at pains to stress the respectability and high moral standing of their parishioners. "The general character of the people is on the whole exemplary," wrote the minister of Salton, "No crimes of a public nature have for years been committed nor has the parish for sometime past been found to require any constable or police officer within its bounds." His comment is fairly typical of the parish reports of his neighbours and only in the case of Tranent is disquiet expressed. Here

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it was said that the "population mainly of colliers unfortunately indulge very freely in ardent spirits, the bane of our working people."

The county that these ministers described was—in the 1830s—essentially rural. Apart from the anciently established coalmines and salt pans of its eastern part, East Lothian had little industry at this time and its reputation and wealth had been achieved largely as a pioneer county in agricultural improvement and invention. Its burghs of Haddington, North Berwick and Dunbar however each shared milling and brewing enterprises and the coming of the railways in 1846 meant from that date greater facilities for the industrialists moving into the county. In its 250 square miles, East Lothian had a population of 36,145 in 1831 which actually decreased over the next decade and had risen to only 36,386 by 1851. In 1951 the population was 52,240.

Vagrancy, petty-thieving and smuggling had been the principal sources of concern to the authorities in the 18th century and East Lothian shared with other districts of Scotland the traditional system of part-time parish watchmen or constables made possible under the terms of the Disarming Act of 1724. Even before this, as early as 1532, there is a record that Haddington took precautions and the Town Council "ordainit Mathew Hunter to waik in the tolbooth head nightly and to have *vi* pennies ilk night from the common good." (1) By 1774 the situation in East Lothian had become sufficiently formalised to enable the Justices of the Peace to issue printed "Instructions to Constables," (2) expressing themselves in the preamble "happy to find that the most respectable tenants in every quarter of the county are also desirous to give their aid and assistance for that laudable purpose by chearfully offering themselves to serve as Head Constables in their several bounds." Such "constables" were then instructed to arrest "night-walkers, vagabonds, sturdy beggars and Egyptians," and all wanted persons and idlers and to bring them before the Justices of the Peace. The physical and moral quality of these parish constables may not always have been high and it is to the larger towns such as Edinburgh, Glasgow and Perth rather than to the rural areas that one has to look at this time for the first organisations of police analogous to developments in London. (3)

The inefficiency of the parish-constable system became increasingly marked in the early years of the 19th century. In 1821-2 there was an outbreak of fire-raising in East Lothian farm-steadings and at the same time there were

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"numerous bands of gypsies and low Irish encamped during the greater part of the year in the retired roads and green loanings of the County." But one of the crucial events that underlined the need for a properly organised police-force was the riot that took place in May 1831 during the election of a member of parliament for the Haddington Burghs. Following the detention in Haddington of two men charged with the abduction of a key voter in Lauder, a mob formed and a rescue was carried out. Civil officers re-arrested the two men but further tumult was threatened and eventually avoided only after the arrival of a detachment of the 4th Dragoon Guards.⁽⁴⁾

The man who held out as long as possible against the introduction of the military was the Lord Lieutenant of the county, George 8th Marquis of Tweeddale. Lord Tweeddale, then aged 44, had had a distinguished career in the army. Serving first as A.D.C. to General Fox in Sicily and later as A.D.C. to Wellington in the Peninsular War, he became colonel at 25 and later was to rise to the rank of major-general. After 1842 Tweeddale's career lay as Governor and Commander-in-Chief in Madras. At the time of the 1831 riots in Haddington Tweeddale obviously felt very strongly against making use of the military against civil unrest. In this connection his friendship in Sicily with another officer, young Charles Rowan, was clearly of the greatest significance for in 1829 Rowan was appointed by Sir Robert Peel first Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police. Rowan in fact was the man who created the first modern police force.⁽⁵⁾

The situation in Haddington in 1831 prompted an approach by Tweeddale to his friend Rowan in London and negotiations were opened for the posting to East Lothian of a metropolitan-trained police officer capable of organising in the county an efficient police force on the new lines established only two years earlier in London. The man who was sent north on 16th October 1832 was Inspector Alfred John List. With the characteristic exactitude of the London police he carried with him a note from Scotland Yard reclaiming from East Lothian his £5 travelling expenses,⁽⁶⁾ Alfred List and his brother George, who succeeded him in command of the East Lothian police, were sons of a Hungarian émigré in London and had been early members of Rowan's new police force — Alfred List in fact from the start. They were among the first of a whole sequence of trained police officers sent by Rowan in succeeding

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years to evangelise various areas in Britain. A. J. List in 1832 was 34 years old.

To appreciate the visionary aspect of Lord Tweeddale's initiative and the pioneering element in East Lothian's police force, one has to relate its establishment in 1832 to the national pattern. In that year no organised police force existed in the rural areas of England and Wales while in Scotland only the rudimentary parish-constable system operated. A Royal Commission of Enquiry into the means of creating a rural constabulary was set up in 1836, completing its work in 1839, and the resulting Rural Police Act made it the optional responsibility of Commissioners of Supply to set up county police forces. The obligation to set up such forces was not placed upon them until the Scottish Police Act of 1857. In the towns enabling acts applied to larger burghs from 1833 and to smaller burghs from 1847, but urban police forces became compulsory in Scotland as late as the Police Act of 1892 — a largely redundant provision giving authority to an already well-controlled situation. In the light of all this List's work in East Lothian can be seen to be well ahead of developments generally and his role in this respect was recognised by the Commissioners of Enquiry in 1836-39 in the weight that they gave to his evidence and experience.

II

The system that Superintendent Alfred John List introduced into East Lothian and the ideas with which he inspired it show clearly how far he himself had absorbed the teaching of Charles Rowan. To illustrate the line of influence from London to Haddington one can compare a pronouncement, entirely novel at its time, of Rowan in his "General Instructions" of 1829 with a phrase used in 1844 by James Miller, List's friend in Haddington.⁽⁷⁾ The first says "It should be understood at the outset that the principal object to be attained is the *Prevention* of crime," while Miller echoes this in his comment on the new county police as "It is better to prevent crimes than to punish them."

List's initial organisation in East Lothian divided the county into seven districts and in each he established a full-time paid district constable, assisted where necessary by part-time parochial constables on retainer fees. The

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districts — with their population figures quoted by List in 1840 — were as follows ⁽⁸⁾:

1. Haddington	5883
2. Gifford, Garvald, Bolton, Morham	2527
3. North Berwick, Dirleton, Athelstaneford, Aberlady	5112
4. Prestonkirk, Whitekirk, Whittinghame, Stenton	4275
5. Pencaitland, Saltoun, Humbie, Fala, Ormiston	3789
6. Tranent, Prestonpans, Gladsmuir	7600
7. Dunbar, Spott, Oldhamstocks, Innerwick	7054

This gives a police-population ratio of 1:4000 on full-time staff or 1:950 when the thirty part-time parish constables are included; the ratio recommended by the 1836-9 Royal Commission was 1:1000 while figures around 1:600 have been characteristic national averages in post-war Britain.

When List published in 1840 his *Practical Treatise on Rural Police*, he incorporated in it his experience of eight years work in East Lothian. It is interesting to read in this that he supported the generally expressed belief of the time that near-urban rural areas might be expected to suffer increased crime in proportion as efficient police-forces became operative in towns and cities. A recent writer ⁽⁹⁾ has suggested that this "migration of criminals" theory was not in fact wholly supported by the statistical evidence available. Whether it is tenable or not, the main types of crime in East Lothian are clearly shown from the records. In 1839 the statistics showed 40 cases of assault and 7 of riot, 27 cases of theft and 6 of poaching, 12 cases of damage to property (window breaking), 12 cases of furious driving, 3 breaches of the peace and 3 cases of vagrancy. The "furious driving" charges were explained by "opposition coaches being allowed to start at the same hour for the same destination."

To cope with this situation List arrived with certain preconceptions about the type of police officer he wanted. They should be literate, intelligent, certified in good health and strong, and between the ages of 21 and 40. On application they were required to give full details of past employment and to submit testimonials of character, and List expressed a strong preference for "strangers" rather than established local inhabitants.

For the normal duties of the district constable List relied upon two routines — the regular patrol and the constant flow into headquarters of reports and

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returns. Each constable received an Instruction Book which specified his duties and which was amended by General Orders. Returns were required of convicted thieves resident in the district, metal dealers, prostitutes, lodging houses and vagrants as well as regular evidence of the checking of inns and taverns. On patrol each constable was required to follow on foot routes that would ensure the frequent visitation of farms and villages, and signatures of ministers, schoolmasters and respectable tenants had to be obtained in the constable's report book as he went his rounds. The cost to the county of the establishment of this service was initially £335 a year including an allowance to Superintendent List for a horse.

A. J. List's reputation was growing. In 1840 he advised Forfarshire on the establishment of a modern constabulary and in 1841 he moved on from East Lothian to become Superintendent of the Midlothian Police. In this capacity he faced the miners' strike of 1842 and the 1846 railway riots at Fushiebridge when an army of Irish navvies faced their Highland counterparts with considerable threat to life.⁽¹⁰⁾ Two years later he was involved with the Edinburgh Chartist riots and five years after that he was again called to give evidence to a parliamentary enquiry on police organisation.⁽¹¹⁾ In 1857 he was appointed first Chief Constable of Midlothian, retiring in 1877. He died in March 1882 at the age of 84. His death brought to a close a most significant career in the annals of Scottish police history.

As superintendent of East Lothian he was succeeded by his brother George Henry List, aged 28. This younger brother had entered the Metropolitan Police at the age of 20 and followed A. J. List to Scotland in 1836 in order to take charge of the Musselburgh Burgh Police — an office which he combined with those of Burgh Chamberlain and Clerk of Works. When A. J. List passed to Midlothian, George List took command in East Lothian and received the rank of Chief Constable when that appointment was created in 1857. When he retired in December 1893 he had served the county for 52 years, and at his death in the year following he was described as "the oldest Chief Constable in Britain."⁽¹²⁾

During George List's lifetime the administration of the East Lothian police changed in certain particulars. One point of unease had been the inter-relationship between the county police and the constabulary employed separately by the small burghs within the county. Inevitably here as in most

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parts of Scotland local pride meant the continuance as long as possible of independent action and responsibility by each burgh. When the Commissioners of Supply of the County reported to the Secretary of State following the passing of the Police Act of 1857 they pointed out that at that time none of the three Royal Burghs had an establishment of police within the meaning of the act. Haddington, for example, maintained one principal officer and three other town officers. The first, at £30 a year, was also inspector of weights, while the three juniors, at £5 a year, shared the additional posts of sheriff officer and letter-carrier, town-crier, and grave-digger.⁽¹³⁾

Amalgamation of burgh and county forces was obviously desirable from the efficiency point of view but was opposed by the burghs until many points of cost and local control had been clarified. Negotiations with Dunbar following an adverse efficiency report in 1862 failed, and it was not until 1869 that Dunbar and until 1874 that Haddington consolidated with the county. An agreement with North Berwick was achieved without trouble, and by 1876 the county was divided into three police districts for administrative purposes — the County Local District (around Haddington and Dunbar), the Tranent District (with Prestonpans, Pencaitland and Ormiston), and the North Berwick District (North Berwick and Dirleton). This system continued until the 1920s. The Local Government (Scotland) Act of 1889 had the effect of replacing the consolidation agreements of small burghs of under 7000 inhabitants by full mergers with the county police. It also replaced the Police Committee of the county Commissioners of Supply by the setting-up of a Standing Joint Committee.

In 1861 the office of Chief Constable of East Lothian had been conjoined with that of Berwickshire, each county contributing £200 a year to the salary of George List. When he retired in 1893 this link was broken and the East Lothian police thereafter shared the same Chief Constable as Midlothian, West Lothian and Peeblesshire.

Apart from administrative changes, the fifty years of George List's command also saw expansion in the numbers of the constabulary. In 1844 the full-time paid police numbered eight men besides the superintendent. By 1857 this had doubled to a strength of 17 including an inspector as well as the superintendent. Following the Police Act of that year a further revision took place and the strength was established as one Chief Constable, one inspector,

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three sergeants, five first-class and twelve second-class constables. Ten years later a further increase from 22 to 26 men had enabled the addition of a detective. Subsequent police numbers are recorded as follows:—⁽¹⁴⁾

Census Year:	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911	1921	1931
East Lothian Police:	31	36	37	37	40	55	43

This constabulary was subject to annual inspection from 1857 by H.M. Inspectors of Police and upon their reports depended the grant to the county from treasury funds of a quarter of certain police expenses; this provision had been written into the 1857 Act. Undoubtedly this grant was necessary for the proper maintenance of the force; the other main source of income was the rate of around 1½d in the pound levied for police purposes throughout the county. This figure remained fairly constant during List's lifetime with the exception that after the establishment of the separate districts in 1876 North Berwick District paid a rate of 2d while the other areas paid 1d.

A typical balance sheet of the period (in this case for 1872) shows the general situation:

EAST LoTHIAN POLICE ACCOUNT FOR 1872			
EXPENDITURE		RECEIPTS	
Pay	£1819	Balance due by Collector ...	£441
Clothing	240	Treasury grant for 1871 ...	442
Station Houses	89	Treasury grant for 1872 ...	483
Apprehensions	50	Exchequer Account	50
Allowances to officers	15	Subscription from Parishes ...	52
Printing, etc.	25	Subscription from Dunbar ...	120
Postages, etc.	17	Subscr. from North Berwick ...	27
	£2255	Subscr. for Sanit. Inspect. ...	25
Building Tranent Station	600	Subscr. for extra officers ...	62
Collection, Interest	104	Miscellaneous	15
	£2959		£1717
Balance in hand	678	Assessment at 1½d per £	1920
	£3637		£3637

Not every area of the county, however, felt fully recompensed for this expenditure. After the 1857 Act the allocation of police sergeants and constables was on the following pattern:

Haddington	— 2	Dirleton	— 1	Aberlady	— 1
Gladsmuir	— 1	Dunbar	— 2	East Linton	— 1
Whiteinch	— 1	Innerwick	— 1	Tranent	— 2

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Prestonpans	— 1	Ormiston	— 1	Cockenzie	— 1
Saltoun	— 1	Gifford	— 1	Humbie	— 1
		Stenton	— 1		

In 1859 a plea from the residents of Garvald for a constable was received by the Police Committee but later discussions produced the feeling that not only this post but also that at Humbie might be dispensed with in favour of strengthening the north-west of the county. The area that gave greatest concern was around Tranent where approximately one third of the total county population lived (1866 figures) watched over by 6 police officers. Here street-brawls and breaches of the peace, attributed at the time to the development of the Prestongrange Colliery and to the presence of large numbers of Irish, made life hard for respectable townspeople. Petitions for extra constables were submitted in 1866 and again in 1876, the latter stating:

“That certain classes in the town and neighbourhood have seemingly lapsed into a state of utter lawlessness openly defying the constituted authorities, and perpetrated crimes against life and property very nearly with impunity. Indeed it is becoming dangerous for respectable people at this season to be from home after nightfall and complaints are frequent of the crowds of idle fellows who even during the day lounge about shop windows and street corners and address passers-by in insulting and often indecent language.”⁽¹⁵⁾

The problem of distributing the available police through the county to the best advantage was a difficult one. The Chief Constable produced figures for the year 1885 to show the places of residence of persons apprehended for crimes during that period. The ratings for the various communities were 243 people from Haddington, 240 from Dunbar, 201 from Tranent, 85 from North Berwick and 68 from Prestonpans. Of the total of 1345 persons taken into custody, 322 came from beyond the county. The classification of offences for that year may also be taken as typical of the decade:

1885	Offence	No. of cases	Persons Apprehended
	Against the person	18	9
	Against property	282	115
	Malicious damage	180	73
	Breach of the Peace	576	640
	Drunk and incapable	179	180
	Under Education Act	57	54
	Dog Act	34	9

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Game Acts	60	49
Public House Act	25	18
Road Act	64	69
Burgh Police Act	49	71
Other Statutes	88	58
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	1612	1345
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The police force that George List left in East Lothian at his retiral in 1893 would have been perfectly recognisable today. In his lifetime and that of his brother the county police had expanded from a mere eight men to thirty-seven and by a system of resident constables and regular patrols it proved as efficient in the maintenance of order as any rural police force in Scotland. Its administration showed a nice balance between the professionalism of the government inspectors and the local interest of the Police Committee or Standing Joint Committee. While the H.M. Inspectors could comment on many means for improving efficiency, in not every case did the local committee meekly accept the advice given. This was the case in 1884, to quote just one example, when Captain Munro proposed that an extra constable be posted to Prestonpans but this was refused by the Committee in Haddington.

After List's retirement he was succeeded by Colonel Alexander Borthwick as Chief Constable from 1893 until his death in 1914. Major S. W. Douglas from the Metropolitan Police served from 1914 until his resignation in 1950, since when Mr William Merrilees and Mr John Orr have held office in succession. On his appointment Colonel Borthwick was already Chief Constable of Midlothian and West Lothian and this pattern of joint-office continued.

Undoubtedly the combination of the Lothian forces and the Peeblesshire constabulary under one head paved the way for the eventual full amalgamation of the police in this area. A second contributory factor leading to the same end was the growing tradition of inter-constabulary co-operation to meet exceptional occasions of stress. Already in the 19th century East Lothian policemen has assisted at parliamentary elections in Berwickshire and had in turn received help from Berwick and Midlothian. George List had reported to his committee in 1886 that characteristic occasions requiring special attention also included the militia camps held at Dunbar, the agricultural fair at Amisfield and the yeomanry races at Belhaven. A more serious threat to peace and good order occurred in 1911 with the miners' strike in the Tranent-Ormiston-

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Prestonpans area. On this occasion 15 constables were promised from Berwickshire and Roxburghshire and 50 from Edinburgh, and the newly formed S.M.T. Motor Bus Company stood by with motor transport if required. The 1921 miners' strike brought six policemen from Berwickshire and ten from Edinburgh while the East Lothian farm-workers' dispute of 1923 involved police drafted from Midlothian and West Lothian. Reciprocally in 1913 East Lothian police had helped with a dockers' strike at Leith. On each of these occasions use was made also of special constables, a force commenced in the county in 1911.

With the growing tradition of co-operation between counties and with the equally insistent promptings by H.M. Inspectors towards the formation of larger police areas, amalgamation was not only inevitable but healthy. The East Lothian Police Force was finally and completely merged in the Lothians and Peebles Police in 1950.

III

The provision of police stations in the county proved a matter of perpetual concern to the Police Committee. A survey of the situation in 1857 showed that stations occupied rented houses in Haddington, Dunbar, Prestonpans, Gifford, Dirleton, Tranent and East Linton, and that in each case one or two rooms were set aside for use as cells while the rest of the four or five rooms served for the constable's family and police office. The committee resolved on a policy of building or purchase in place of renting and in 1862 moved to consider the erection of new stations at Dunbar, North Berwick and East Linton at a total cost of £804. One can note, for comparison, the cost of the North Berwick station opened in 1934 as £5829! Saltoun police station was built in 1883 and Tranent in 1872-3; at the latter the original cell block survives behind a newer reconstruction of 1929.

When the old toll-house at Belhaven came on the market in 1869 this was purchased for £100 for a police station but by 1883 it had become scarcely habitable and had to be repaired at a cost of £69. By 1915 it was condemned again and was finally sold to the Eastern District Committee for use by the county roadmen in 1925 for £150. At Haddington the old prison was auctioned in February 1887 and was bought by the Police Committee for £550.

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After modification it provided 18 cells and accommodation for the superintendent, one married and two unmarried constables; the married constable's wife was given £10 a year for attention to the female prisoners. By the end of the century East Lothian had nine police stations of which only one was rented. At this time several were linked by telephone — Haddington with Edinburgh in 1896 and Dunbar, North Berwick and Tranent with Haddington in 1901.

The extent of accommodation in police-houses at the turn of the century can be illustrated by the two houses ordered at Gullane in 1910 at a combined cost of £590 exclusive of cells. Each house comprised two rooms, kitchen and lavatory, each room being 12 feet square. When the H.M. Inspector visited North Berwick police station two years later he commented on the absence of a bath in the constable's quarters. This the committee refused to remedy since, they pointed out, each constable already possessed a hip-bath. As late as 1930 the Inspector's house at Dunbar had no bath or hot water and he had to go to the neighbouring constable's house for these facilities.

Despite the variations in accommodation the police service in East Lothian proved attractive both to new recruits and to established officers. Particulars of incoming recruits show that they came from most counties of south-east Scotland and also that East Lothian attracted the frequent transfer of Midlothian police officers. While the county force does not seem to have attained the position of the Midlothian police under A. J. List as a breeding-ground for high-placed officers in other constabularies, nevertheless the occasional outstandingly long record of service indicates some satisfaction with the life. In 1878 Constable Campbell of Garvald and in 1910 Constable Murdoch at Haddington retired after 21 and 25 years service while another constable who retired at 59 in 1922 had completed 33 years with the force. At the outset of the present century the average age in the East Lothian force was 36 and the average period of service 12 years.

Rates of pay naturally advanced as general costs rose, but in the period before national standardisation East Lothian Police Committee sometimes found itself ahead of, sometimes behind, the general average. The overall increases in rates between the 1857 Act and the outbreak of the 1914 war can be tabulated thus; a war bonus of 3/- per week was granted in 1916:

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Rates of pay	1857	1914	Increase to 1914 maximum
Chief Constable	£250 p.a.	£800-£1000	x 4
Inspector	£ 70	£190-£ 265	x 3.5
Sergeant	21/- p.w.	27/11-43/9	x 2
Constable	17/-:18/-	26/3-36/9	x 2

In 1859 Colonel Kinloch, H.M. Inspector, recommended the introduction of a three-tier system for constables with those of the first-class paid at 20/-, the second-class at 18/- and the third-class at 16/- per week. While accepting the principle, the East Lothian committee declined to pay any officer less than 17/-. One year's service with good conduct normally brought the first promotion with a further two years to the rank of first-class constable. In 1872 the constabulary themselves petitioned the Police Committee for an increase in pay and as a result of this an average 1/6d per week was added to the wages.

The provision of a sound house had to be taken into consideration along with these wage rates. At first, when almost all the force had to find their own lodgings, an allowance was made to them varying from £4 a year for constables to £6 a year for inspectors. Later as it became possible to house the officers in custom-built accommodation a charge of 1/- or 1/6 was deducted from the weekly wage. By 1914 the situation had scarcely changed, with weekly deductions for married constables and sergeants of 1/6 and 2/- and a lodging allowance to unmarried men of just under £4 a year. In 1920 no more rent deductions were made and the lodging allowance had risen to £13 a year. Other allowances were occasionally ordered. Duty made necessary under the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act brought extra payments while in 1858 1/- a day (later rising to 1/6 and 2/6) was paid for attendance at fairs and races. When bicycles became common, an allowance of £2 a year was made for their upkeep.

For this reward the police force worked long hours. At the end of the century inspectors and sergeants were entitled to twelve days holiday per year, constables of over three years service to 10 days, and other constables to 8 days. The passing of the Police Weekly Rest Day (Scotland) Act of 1914 brought statutory improvement of the situation although East Lothian had already in 1912 introduced the practice of a day off each month for all officers on day-shift.

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In the early days of the force the incoming recruit was sworn-in and posted straight to his station without any form of preliminary training. Experience and the guidance of established officers were his sources of instruction and from these he was expected to pass an examination at the end of one year in police-duty, the police manual, general orders and Board of Agriculture and Fisheries orders. This somewhat haphazard system was replaced in 1913 by the establishment of a regional training centre in the Old Militia Barracks at Dalkeith. This centre was shared by the Lothians and Peebles forces and received recruits normally sent for periods of one month. By 1930 the usual course of training was supplied over 10 weeks at the City of Glasgow Police Training School.

Apart from the normal duties of the police which — in the 19th century — included much time devoted to “passing-on” vagrants, the East Lothian officers were expected on occasion to carry out other functions. Senior ranks were called on to act as Inspectors of Weights and Measures and as Inspectors under the Shops Act of 1912: this last duty was imposed upon them by their Standing Joint Committee against the advice of the Secretary for Scotland. In 1884 the Recruiting Officer of the 1st Regimental District successfully obtained permission for East Lothian constables to undertake recruiting duties on his behalf, while from 1872 police officers of all ranks did duty as inspectors under the Contagious Diseases of Animals Acts. The North Berwick police in particular proved versatile both before amalgamation when one officer served as harbour-master, town-officer and bell-ringer, and after, when — in 1879 — they purchased fire-fighting equipment and installed it in a shed behind the police office.

Information on early patterns of police uniform in East Lothian has proved scattered and inadequate but a photograph of the entire constabulary taken in 1898 ⁽¹⁶⁾ shows the type of dress introduced three years earlier. By this time the general form of blue serge jacket and trousers had been adopted as standard in 17 counties in Scotland. Tunic, trousers and felt cap all followed the accepted military convention of the day and in addition each constable had a great-coat, cape and leggings for rough weather and a pair of white gloves for parade occasions. His equipment comprised lantern (with belt and shield), handcuffs (with key), handstraps, baton and whistle, button brush and button stick, bail-book, lockup book, duty journal and notebook; electric

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torches were introduced in 1927. The first firearms were purchased by the force in 1926 following an armed burglary at Woodhall, Pencaitland. On this occasion the Standing Joint Committee bought twelve Webley automatic pistols at 45/- each. For a short time around 1911 bloodhounds were available for police work through a local breeder, Mr Frank Rayner of Haddington.

Reference has already been made to the bicycle allowance payable to constables with push-bicycles. It was not until 1916 that mechanised transport was taken onto the establishment although as early as 1902 policemen in the rural parishes of East Lothian had been encouraged to enforce the 12 m.p.h. speed limit rigorously and to write down in their notebooks the numbers of all motor vehicles seen on their patrols. Two stopwatches were purchased for the force in 1906 and twelve driving offenders were in court during the following year. The purchases made in 1916 comprised an 8 h.p. Sunbeam Combination (for £127) and a 2½ h.p. A.J.S. motor-bicycle (for £58). By 1930 there had been added a 5-seater Hillman motor-car while the constables at Saltoun, Gifford, Garvald and Innerwick were paid allowances of £8 a year for maintaining their own motor-bicycles. Before 1936 an Alvis sports car was purchased for road-patrol work after the passing of the Road Traffic Act of 1930, and this car was equipped with wireless. A second police wireless set had been installed in the county headquarters in Haddington. According to the Chief Constable's report for 1936, however, radio communication was unsatisfactory for not only was transmission and reception continually interrupted by members of the public, the set being in the main office, but also the electrical wiring necessitated turning off the wireless when it was intended to use the telephone.

* * * *

Conditions of service in county police forces were increasingly standardised throughout the nation as a result of the Desborough Committee's Reports of 1919 and 1920. Growing efficiency, changing requirements and attempts at bettering the policeman's lot have meant the gradual eradication of "local" police history since the First World War. East Lothian police lost some individuality with the amalgamation of the Chief Constable's office in 1893, more as a result of the Police Act 1919 and its consequences. As a

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county constabulary, however, it can look back on a history that in the annals of the rural police in Scotland is second to none.

APPENDIX

THE EAST LoTHIAN POLICE FORCE: 1832-1932

Centre	Miles of Road	Population		Police Personnel		
		1832	1932	1832	1857	1932
Haddington	51	5883	5616	1c	See H.Q.	1s 3c
Morham	—	262	—	—	—	—
Pencaitland	32	1166	1420	1c	1c	1c
Saltoun	65	784	914	—	1c	1c
Gifford	40	1119	1307	1c	1c	1c
Garvald	62	914	795	—	—	1c
Bolton/Humbie	—	1207	—	—	1c	—
Gladsmuir	—	1658	—	—	1c	—
Longniddry	15	—	1105	—	—	1c
N. Berwick/Dirleton	28	1824	5380	1c	1c	1s 3c
Aberlady	28	1033	1158	—	1c	1c
Gullane	28	—	2164	—	—	2c
Dunbar	38	4735	5177	1c	1s 1c	1I 4c
Innerwick	60	987	1214	—	1c	1c
Spott/Oldhamstocks	—	612	—	—	—	—
East Linton	114	—	2769	1c	1c	2c
Whittingham/Stenton	—	1401	—	—	1c	—
Tranent	10	3620	5217	1c	1s 1c	1I 3c
Ormiston	20	838	1819	—	1c	1c
Elphinstone	29	—	981	—	—	1c
Macmerry	27	—	996	—	—	1c
Prestonpans	9	2376	5697	—	1c	1s 2c
Cockenzie	13	—	3202	—	1c	2c
Headquarters	—	—	—	1S	1C	1C
					1I	1S
					1s 2c	1s 2c
Totals	669	36145	48331	8	22	42

c=constable; s=sergeant; I=Inspector; S=Superintendent; C=Chief Constable.

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- (12) *THE HADDINGTONSHIRE COURIER* 26 January 1894.
- (13) J. Miller *op.cit.*
- (14) *CENSUS RETURNS: SCOTLAND* (1861-1931).
- (15) *EAST LOTHIAN POLICE COMMITTEE MINUTES*, County Buildings, Haddington, from which together with the *MINUTES OF THE STANDING JOINT COMMITTEE* and the *ANNUAL REPORTS OF H.M. INSPECTORS OF CONSTABULARY FOR SCOTLAND*, the information in the rest of this paper is drawn.
- (16) Photograph in Haddington Police Station.

ANCIENT DOVECOTES OF EAST LOTHIAN

By *T. C. Martine*

A comprehensive survey of dovecotes in East Lothian was included in the 3rd Volume of the Society's *Transactions* in 1938 which was followed by a Supplementary List of existing dovecotes in 1952 (Vol. 5), and by the survey by D. C. Bailey and M. C. Tindall in *Transactions of the Ancient Monuments Society*, 1963 (Vol. 11).

In the former it is mentioned that after 1741, several persons dared to question the right of the Justices of the Peace for Haddingtonshire to interfere with pigeon houses: what then transpired is taken from notes left by John Ainslie, Town Clerk of Haddington, who was engaged to defend them by those called to account.

Offenders appear to have been numerous and included: —

James Seton of Belses, Rob. Murray of Murrays Hall, Mr Charles Cockburn, Advocate, John Hog, Merchant in Prestonpans, David Dick, Portioner in Tranent, Mr Matthew Reid, Minister of Gospel, Prestonkirk, James Rutherford, Mason in Elvingston, James Forrest, Brewer in Haddington & Portioner of Gladsmure, Ann McMillan, Relict of David Dick, Flesher in Haddington, George Meenzies in Port Seton, James Smith, Merchant in Haddington, Thos. Robertson, in Prestonpans, James Rannie in Elvingston, Helen Wood in Prestonpans, George Anderson and others.

Summonses served on the Accused read as follows: —

"I George Runciman, Sherriff Officer Summonds, Warns and charges You to compear before the Sherriffs of Haddington upon the 15th day of March instant in the hour of cause to answer the points of Lybell persewed at the instance of Sir Robert Hay-Linplum—Sir John Baird of Newbyth—John Hay of Spott—Wm. Hay of Charterfield—Charles Broun of Coalston—John Henderson of Leaston and George Buchan of Cumlage—for themselves and in name and behalf of the whole other Heritors and Tenancy of the Shire, and John Gray Proc. Fiscall of Court, for his interest against you for keeping a

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Dove-coatt contrair to Law This I give you with certification upon the—day of March 1741”

The actual charge against Forrest of Gimmersmiln reads as follows:—

“Whereas the Illegal Multiplcity of Pigeonhouses, Dovecoatts, or places kept for hatching and propagating Doves is a great nuisance and damage to the Country and thereby the Corns and produce of the Country are much spoiled and destroyed and taken away especially in seedtime and harvest and whereas, by the 19th Act of the 22nd Parliament of King James the 6th—Intitled ‘Act anent Dovecoatts’ it is statuted that hereafter no person or persons should have power libertie nor privilege to build a Dovecoatt upon any lands within the Realm, neither in Burgh or in the Country Except that Person builder of the Dovecoatt have Lands and teinds pertaining to him Extending in Yearly rent to Ten Chalders of Victuall, adjacent to the said Dovecoatt att the least within two miles of the same.

And it is thereby declared That it shall in no wayes be lawfull to the person forsaid, worth in Yearly rent, The said 10 Chalders of Victuall to build more Dovecoatts upon and within the bounds forsaid except one Dovecoatt only and Whereas David Forrest of Gimmers Miln has upon his houses or Yard or upon some other place of his lands erected or keeps a Dovecoatt or place for propagating Doves without having lands or teinds pertaining to him extending to Ten Chalders of Victuall of Yearly rent adjacent to the said Dovecoatt and within Two miles thereof contrary to the said Law and to the manifest predjudice of the County and neighbourhood, Therefore the said Dovecoatt ought to be demolished, and the said David Forrest discharged from all keeping or erecting Dovecoatts upon his said house, yards or lands, as also fyned and amerciate in the sum of Twenty pounds Sterling money for the use of the poor of the Parish and the expense of prosecution.”

When those summoned appeared before the Justices they were represented by John Ainslie the lawyer and Town Clerk of Haddington who put forward the following Defence:—

- 1st. That they and their Predecessors and Authors have been in the immemorial possession of their Dovecoatts which have been upon their Lands, and have stood as they do now past all memory, and

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that the oldest Witnesses alive not only dont remember when they were built, but remember them in the same situation they now are in, with some allowance for alteration by length of time, but they did not, so far back as they can remember appear at that time to be new Dovecoatts. And therefore it must be presumed that these Dovecoatts were built before the Act of Parliament 1617 confining the privilege of building Dovecoatts to Heritors of a certain extent of Rent, and that they have been built in obedience to an older Act in the Reign of King James 4th. appointing every Lord and Laird to build Dovecoatts. The presumption must be rather that they were built contrary to the prohibition in the Second Law, and a proof of this sort ought the reather to be sustained, to infer the presumptions that Proprietors think themselves safe if they have a forty years progress delivered to them and look no further back and it were an insuperable hardship if the presumption did not hold here because our records for infestment of reall rights go no further back than the Year 1617, when the Act of Parliament the foundation of this process was made.

- 2nd. As the Act of Parliament gives a privilege to every person who has Lands or Teinds pertaining to him of ten Chalders of Victuall Yearly Rent in Lands or Teinds within 2 milles of his Dovecoatt to build a Dovecoatt the presumption must be that the Dovecoatts possessed by the Defenders were built by persons who had a sufficient Qualification entitleing them to build the same, because it must be thought that neither the neighbouring Heritors, nor these who had the execution of the Laws committed to them would have suffered Dovecoatts to be built against the Statute Law of the Land and to the damage of the neighbourhood: neither will it availl altho some of the Defenders could not show that their predecessors or Authors possessions or rights were to the extent specified in the Act, because neither Heirs nor singular Successors have any access to know (after a large interval of time) the extent of their Predecessors possessions or rights. An heir can serve no more than his predecessor did infest in, and a singular has no occasion to know his Authors estate further than the purchase he makes. And in both cases it is alike difficult

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after a long lapse of time to come at a knowledge of their predecessors or Authors Estates, and as noman is presumed to have trangressed the Law, the presumption must stand in force that the Dovecoatts belonging to the Defenders now were built by persons privileged and entitled to have them.

- 3rd. The Defenders and each of them and their Authors and predecessors have been in the possession of their Dovecoatts for fourty years together, and that without Quarrell or interruption in Virtue of their Charters and Infestments therof — whence from the Statute 1617 anent Prescription of Heritable Rights, it is presumed that they had all the Rights Tyteles and Writing requesite to support and maintain them in the subject so possessed—and besides these General Defences the Defenders severally urge that their Dovecoatts cannot be demolished for the following reasons.

Here follow individual statements by some of the defenders, which make interesting reference to properties that must have by now long disappeared.

John Hog for supporting the right to his Dovecoatt produced before the Justices of Peace a Charter from Geo. Aitchison sone to the Laird of Geffoord in favour of Barbara Congalton his Author qlk Charter dispones the Pigeon House or Dovecoatt and is dated 23rd January 1603.

William Broun says that he and his Predecessors and Authors have possessed his Dovecot past memory of man and that his Dovecot must be older than the Act of Parliament is plain to occular inspection and makes part of the Townwall of Haddington built some Centuries ago.

Mr Matthew Reid, Min. of the Gospel at Prestonkirk answers

1st That he has no Dovecoat of his own but there are some Doves who haunt the Church, which place in the Church where they haunt Mr Reid has no power or right to demolish.

2nd The Patron and other Heritors of the Parish not being called, the place in the Church where the Doves haunt can not be touched or demolished without they were in field.

3rd The place where the Doves haunt being Sir James Dalrymple of

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Halls, his Isle, who has more than ten Chalders of Victuall within two miles of the Church and no other Doucat, the same does not fall within the Act.

4th The said Dovecoat in the Church is as old as the fabrick of the Church and older than the Act of Parliament libelled on, and the Minister and his predecessors have possessed the said Dovecoat unmemorially, tho' *decennalis et triennalis possessio* would be sufficient to defend against the process.

5th The Minister has ten chalder of Victuall or of value thereof in Stipend, within two miles of the Doucat and so does not fall within the Act, for which reason the Defender should be assolzied from the process.

Anna McMillan produced before the Justice of Peace an infestment in the Dovecot in Haddington, life rented by her and belonging to John Herriot her Sone which infestment is in favour of Margaret Carkettle and is dated 1602 and says that her Sone should be cited in the process.

For Hellen Wood, John Craw writes that he being Proprietor and Hellen Wood only Liferentrix and being indisposed Clerk Ainslie should give in the following Defences: — thinks a decret cannot be given agt' himin yr terms of yr Libell as he produced before The Justices of the Peace a Charter from the Abbot of Newbottle dated Anno 1553 of his house of which his Dovecote is a part and is built the said house, and by ocular inspection appears to be extremely old and must be presumed to be of equall antiquity with the house of which it is a part.

Thomas Robertson produces a Charter from Sir Thomas Hamilton of Preston dated 2nd June 1646, who had Lands far exceeding the Yearly rent of tenn Chalders of Victuill and that this Dovecoat was built before the Act of Parliament 1617 — and the antiquity of it appears both from it being an old worn building and likewise from the form in which it is built being Round and covered with flags.

George Anderson says that his Dovecoat was built before the Act of P. and so it appears from the form in which it is built and also from a

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disposition granted by Jas. Willson to Alex. Simpson his Author dated last day of October 1588 and from an infestment thereof two years before in 1586.

Ro. and Pat. Vallanges say yt any pidgeons they have are keepit in the tope of a turnpike of their old Houses and hath been there past all memory of Man and they produce before the Justices a Charter from the Lord Seton Superior dated 17th June 1587, in favour of their Author containing Doves and Dovecoatts in their Tenindas and their House and Dovecoatt holes are more ancient than yr said Charter, is a very strong evidence, joined with what otherwise appears that the said little Dovecot was in the house at the time.

Lieut. John Maitland says the Dovecot he and his predecessor and Authors have possessed past memory of Man and is to be presumed, was built long before the Act of Parliament and for him it is offered to be proven that his Father had above 1000 merks of Yearly Rent as he himself has got Rent to the above extent, which corresponds in value to ten Chalder of Victuall (the qualification specified in the Act).

In this matter of the Procurator of the Justice of Peace Court of Haddington against Forrest and Others, Judgement was given on 23rd June 1741 as follows:—

“That no action upon the Act of Parliament anent pigeon houses of which the parties had been so long in possession as — Years was competent before the Justices of the Peace—and therefore dismissed the process.”

It now seems evident that the deterioration of passing years has automatically settled what was once a contentious subject.

NEWHOUSE AND THE FAMILY OF SAWERS

(AN EXTRACT FROM A PERSONAL ACCOUNT)

By *W. E. Calton*

Newhouse, Dunbar, is the first house encountered when approaching the town from the south-east. The house does not rank as an Ancient Monument, but it has a good deal of local interest. It has been associated with three families, of whom this paper deals with that of Sawers. Convener Sawers of Halhill Farm, Lochend Estate, was alive in 1734. It was he who was probably referred to in the political verse of the time: —

There's wabsters, and there's can'lemakers
And tailors wi' bow'd legs;
There's dirt drivers, and cabbage eaters
And Sandy Bower that begs.
O, Simon Sawers got carts and horse
And Laurie he got looms,
And Bairdie he got leather gude,
A' for to mend their shoon.

Chorus: O fie upon ye Congress
O fie upon ye, fie!
Had Tyne been made o' claret
Ye wad ha'e drank it dry.

Martine, in his *Reminiscences of the County of Haddington* (1894), who gives more of these verses, says there was no doubt a good deal of bribery and undue influence on both political sides. Congress was synonymous with the Country Party or Jacobites, and the Court Party opposed them.

A son of Convener Sawers was Alexander Sawers, tenant of Halhill, who married Janet Lorimer. He died in 1813. Simon Sawers (1780-1849) was probably his son, and he was the first of the family definitely connected with Newhouse. He was prominent in Burgh affairs, and was Provost in 1833-1837,

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and again in 1847-49. But before this he had spent much of his life in the Ceylon Civil Service. He served as Judicial Commissioner in Kandy, Ceylon, in 1826, and was also in Ceylon in 1814, for in this year he buried his first wife, Mary Sibbold, there. He married a second time to Mary M. Johnstone, 21 years his younger, and she died in 1829. That year a son, John Lorimer Sawers, was born. Simon Sawers in his first year as Provost of Dunbar was thus 53 years old, probably not marrying again, with a son just 4 years old. Martine, already quoted, says he was of Newhouse and a leading Liberal.

Simon Sawers was a moving spirit in many new things in the Burgh. In 1836 at a meeting held in the Town House he subscribed the Articles, Rules and Regulations of the Dunbar Gas Light Company and was presumably the first Chairman of its Board of Directors. He was a subscriber for ten of the original shares. He was present at the laying of the foundation stone of Victoria Harbour on the 27th September, 1842, and was among the 300 people who sat down to the dinner at 4 p.m. According to James Miller in his *History of Dunbar* (1859), the most prominent men at this ceremony were Provost Middlemas (a Tory), the Earl of Dalhousie, Sir George Warrender of Lochend, Captain Hunter of Thurston, James Hamilton of Ninewar, James Maitland, M.P., and Simon Sawers of Newhouse.

Simon Sawers was concerned with railway development, both by public encouragement and privately in a claim for a bridge or archway where the new railway cut across his lands. He was appointed in 1842 to the Local Committee in Dunbar for procuring subscriptions to the North British Railway Company. This Local Committee was as follows: —

James Hunter, Esq. of Thurston (a Deputy Lieutenant of the County); Simon Sawers, Esq. of Newhouse; General Carfrae of Bowerhouses (an eminent East India Officer); Dr Anderson of Ashfield; Baillie France (long a baker in Dunbar, of Seafield, an eccentric); Baillie Hume, Dunbar; Messrs. John Stott, Linton; Andrew Howden, Lawhead; Thomas Hume, West Barns; James Miller, Junr., Dunbar (there was a prosperous grocer of that name); John Wedderburn, Dunbar (a principal draper); Ellis Dudgeon, Belhaven (a brewer); Wm. H. Ritchie, Dunbar (Solicitor, Town Clerk, Agent for Commercial Bank); John Anderson, Ashfield; George Nelson, Broomhouse (nephew of George Shirreff, who left a deal of money).

Simon Sawers' claim on the Railway Company in 1845 got short shrift

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from the Directors, as the following minutes show:—

“24 June, 1845. A letter from S. Sawers, Esq., Dunbar, dated 21st June, in regard to communication between parts of his field, which is intersected by the railway, was read, and the consideration of the matter delayed till Mr Miller's return.

“2 July, 1845. Claim for a Bridge at Newhouse and Report by the Resident Engineer thereon were read and the claim for the Bridge refused.

“9 July, 1845. A letter from Mr Sawers, Dunbar, of the 5th instant regarding his claim for an Arch under the railway was read. The former Resolution of the Directors refusing to give the Arch was adhered to, but an access to his field was ordered to be given from the Spott road.”

It seems from this that the line was not yet built (it was opened for traffic on 22nd June 1846) and it was not then clear to Sawers whether it would run level or above the height of the surrounding ground. The claim is perhaps a little out of keeping with his character since there could have been little of his land on the other side of the railway and access to it by the Spott road would be easy unless the Railway Company had control of a considerable frontage along that road. Sawers had in 1844 subscribed £250 to the Railway Company, and by a conveyance of 1846 he got £1191 10s for the 3.164 acres of land he sold to them; some of this land he bought first from John Sawers, probably a brother, who also subscribed £250 to the Railways.

Simon Sawers died 3 years later, in 1849, while still Provost of Dunbar. His son, John Lorimer Sawers, survived him only 11 years, and died at the early age of 31 in London, of a sickness contracted in the Indian Army. Two men, who were probably Simon Sawers' brothers, were Charles Lorimer Sawers (1795-1876) at one time Baillie, and the John Sawers already mentioned who was a Surgeon in the East India Co. in 1827.

It was thought for a time that Simon Sawers may have added to the original house of Newhouse. The house is definitely of two parts and two ages, a smaller and older west wing and a larger more ornate newer east wing. From the road it looks but a grey, commodious, indeterminate building, except for the rather unusual tall stairway window, but the other side of the house is more attractive. There was some support for the idea that the east wing was built in the 1830s and the whole house renovated, from the evidence of the chimney pots. These were of a somewhat rare type to be seen at the George

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Hotel, Dunbar, rebuilt in 1828 and at Friarbanks, West Port, Dunbar, the West Port having been widened in 1831. But the east wing of Newhouse has now been dated around 1880 and the west wing as 80 years earlier about 1800. Dr Gorrie, Editor of *Scottish Forestry*, estimates the sycamores in the garden to be about 80 years old and the oldest laburnums, from a branch ring count, are about the same age; the building of the east wing and the planting of ornamental trees in an enclosed piece of field fit together.

The historic horse-mill now preserved as an adjunct to the Roxburghe Filling Station was a part of Newhouse Farm. It is tentatively dated as early 18th century. When Newhouse was auctioned in 1859 the land included about 35 acres, described as extending to the north near to Dunbar Church and the Stobburn Stank (probably the seepage point near the Latch Park just south of the Railway Station), to the west to Goldenstones and the Lochend boundary, to the south to the Newtonlees boundary, and to the east to the point where the through-road to Broxburn is now aligned. Included in this parcel was a piece of three acres or thereabouts with the dwelling house and office houses "sometime possessed by James Blair." There was also mention at that time of James Miller, farmer, Newhouse, who subscribed £25 to the Railway Company. In addition there were cottages attached to Newhouse Farm, and one of these survives in 'Samoya' on the Broxburn Road at the south east extremity of the old Newhouse lands adjoining Newtonlees.

The 1841 Census Schedules for the enumeration district containing Newhouse refer to "Mr Sawers' Houses (not newhouses)" (*sic*). Four families, two with agricultural labourers as head, one a joiner and one a seamstress, were living at Newhouse at the time. In the 1851 Census Schedule six families were living at the address Newhouse, the heads being agricultural labourers, a joiner, a groom and a farm steward.

Newhouse was auctioned on 12 January 1859, and fell to George Purves, Farmer, Emmerscleugh, Haddingtonshire, for the sum of £4500. The trustees of Simon Sawers' estate were Charles Lorimer Sawers, merchant in Dunbar, Alexander Howden, Caple Court, near Ross, Hereford, two solicitors and a sheriff clerk. In the interregnum, 1849-1859, the lands were no doubt managed by a farm steward for John Lorimer Sawers, 20 years old by 1849 and absent with the Indian Army in which he served. He died in 1860.

THE ARRIVAL OF QUEEN VICTORIA IN SCOTLAND, 1842

EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARY OF LORD DALHOUSIE

Edited by *Edith C. Broun Lindsay*

The following extracts are taken from the journal of the Marquess of Dalhousie, the great grandfather of Lady Broun Lindsay of Colstoun. Lord Dalhousie was very closely associated with East Lothian. His mother was Christian Broun, heiress of Colstoun and wife of the ninth Earl of Dalhousie, and he spent much of his time at Colstoun. The journal is the property of the present Earl of Dalhousie, who has kindly given permission for parts of it to be published. At the present time, the journal is in the custody of Lady Broun Lindsay, who has transcribed and arranged the extracts.

Lord Dalhousie was born in 1812 and during his comparatively short life (he died at the age of 48), he held many posts. He was elected Member of Parliament for Haddingtonshire in 1837 but was removed to the Upper House on the death of his father in the following year. He was appointed Vice-President of the Board of Trade and a Privy Councillor in 1843, and President of the Board in 1845. He also became Captain of Deal Castle in 1845 and Lord Clerk Register of Scotland in the same year.

In 1847 he was offered the Governor-Generalship of India and was sworn in to that office in January 1848, being then the youngest man ever to have held that appointment. His brilliant career as Governor-General cannot be entered into here : it was chiefly characterized by the annexation of the Punjab, Lower Burma and Oudh, by the development of state-aided railways, the introduction of telegraphs, and the reform of the postal system. In 1854 he launched his scheme for Indian education, the pattern of which is still followed in India, at a time when there was no state system of education in Great Britain.

Today the people of India remember him as the architect of modern India. He was created a Knight of the Thistle in 1848 and was made Constable of

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Dover Castle and Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports in succession to the Duke of Wellington, in 1853. He returned home in May 1856 much broken in health by devotion to duty, having disregarded the advice of his doctor to leave India earlier.

At the time of these diary extracts, Lord Dalhousie was still near the beginning of his public career. He was a keen diarist, and continued writing the diary until 1856. It is thought that no such comprehensive account of the duty performed by the Royal Company of Archers on the occasion of Queen Victoria's first visit to Scotland has previously been published; nor has there been any description published of the official reception held at Dalkeith Palace. Lord Dalhousie was possessed of a very pretty wit and an unfailing sense of humour which makes his account entertaining as well as interesting. He and his wife, Lady Susan Hay, were much liked by and in great favour with Queen Victoria, which may account for the mysterious summons to Dalkeith described in the diary. Lord Dalhousie was a very keen member of the Royal Company of Archers. He won many of the archery prizes and was Lord President of the Council of Archers from 1848 until a few months before his death.

THE DIARY

AUGUST 1842

The railway brought us to Edinburgh on Wednesday evening. Watson ⁽¹⁾ immediately came to me and reported everything as in easy progress. An order for the mustering of the Company was issued on Monday and many names had already been given in. A meeting of the Town Council was held today which Watson attended upon the part of the Royal Company, and which he described as most confused and ridiculous. "Is it possible we are to be obliged to wear Court dresses" cried Adam Black, the radical bookseller; while the whole Council was in an uproar at the hint which the Duke of Buccleugh gave them that Her Majesty did not wish a public reception, on the day of her landing, at all. Not to be cheered! Drive through the town at once! Not to receive the keys of the town on a velvet cushion with the Provost kneeling! ! Quite impossible. One could see by the light of common sense the grounds of Her Majesty's very reasonable wish, without the intimation which Buccleugh afterwards gave me, but could not give publicly, that the Prince was

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certain of being very sick on board, that the Queen expected to be so, and both were very naturally anxious not to make a public entry when white and miserable from the voyage, but to rest at Dalkeith, and return for the entry next day. But the wish is very strongly felt everywhere by the unreasonable multitude that she should pass through the city from the ship in state, and I fear that if she continues to decline doing so, she may give offence.

This point had hardly been discussed when old Reoch the Provost of Leith made some inquiry about the platform to be erected for Her Majesty landing on the Shore. "The Shore, man! The Queen's no' for landing on the shore or at Leith at all. She lands at the Duke's Pier at Granton." "The Queen's no' to land at Leith" howled the redfaced old Provost in an excess of perfect fury, as it has been described to me. And without waiting for any further explanation, he threw up his arms over his head, exclaiming "Then she'll never land alive," and banged out of the room.

The scene was described to me as most preposterous; and as devoid of all sense as the Provost's parting exclamation. On Friday the Council of the Archers met and a number of orders were given and points settled.

THURSDAY AUGUST 25, 1842

Everything is yet in doubt and uncertainty. The Provosts are in misery, the gentlemen in anxiety, and the ladies in agony. "Is Her Majesty going to have a drawing room?" "No — only a reception." "But what is a reception? How does one go to it?" "Oh, we are to go in bonnet and morning gown." Then the next two days are spent in asserting that they are to go in bonnets and morning gowns, and then enquiring whether they really *are* to go so. And when the point was at last settled, the morning gowns ordered and the bonnets trimmed, the Duchess of Buccleugh intimated yesterday that Her Majesty had sent down to say that the ladies were to be presented, and were to appear in *full* dress, but without feathers and trains. So now the full *Aviary* is in full quire of investigation and complaint commixed; and ruffling their present plumage for fury at not knowing what feathers they are actually to flutter in at Holyrood.

Nobody knows where the Queen is to land — nobody knows where she is to go on landing—whether she is to parade thro' the City,—or to dash thro' it.

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Nobody well knows whom she is to visit, when she is to come or when she is to go!

Seriously the uncertainty is inconvenient — but it, and all the consequent confusion are the inevitable result of attempting such an impossibility of a private visit by the Sovereign, on the *first* occasion of her coming to a distant part of Her Kingdom. It cannot be altogether private — it must be partly state; and from the mixture arises the confusion.

Everyone is prepared to receive Her Majesty well, and I am assured the population will greet her enthusiastically; but if she disregards (however reasonably) the wishes or convenience of any class, I am afraid it may affect the warmth and pleasure of her welcome by the people.

The arrangements regarding the Company have hitherto been successful and satisfactory, and they muster well. Last night 150 had intimated that they wish to serve and there must be more.

EDINBURGH, AUGUST 31, 1842

Being dressed in my uniform and sitting in expectation every moment of hearing the signal guns which are to announce the arrival of the Royal Squadron at the mouth of the Firth of Forth, I shall employ the first spare moments I have had for many days, noting the busy whirl in which those days have been passed.

On Friday the 26th I drove in from Dalhousie to drill at 8 o'clock in the Riding School with the Royal Company. We drilled again at 12 and at 3 — in all six hours that day, while the intervals were filled up with meetings of Council and visits to the tailor, and hurrying to and fro after appointments. On Saturday we again drilled at 8, 12, and 3, and went out to the Castle thoroughly tired.

On Monday the same triple drill, with the same meetings of Council and the same rushing to and fro after tailors and armourers, were repeated. By the end of this day the members of the Company had got a little accustomed to their drilling, and considering the very short time they had been instructed, did wonderfully well. During all this time the confusion and uncertainty which have all along prevailed as to the Royal Movements and intentions continued. Until Tuesday nothing at all was known, and at the moment at

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which I write, when the Queen is every hour expected, it is uncertain whether she will go in procession thro' the City or move at a trot. All this creates murmuring and uneasiness; and it is the necessary consequence of attempting an impossibility viz: for Her Majesty to visit the capital of her one Kingdom for the first time, *in private*. Yesterday we drilled an extra drill at 8 o'clock in the morning, and had a full dress parade in the field uniform at Archer's Hall at 4 o'clock. They mustered about 140 with a front rank, where hardly one man was under six feet high. They looked remarkably well, and will have a really fine appearance. It seemed to be all settled yesterday that the Queen would move at a trot with a cavalry escort from Granton to the Barrier, where the keys of the City were to be given up to Her Majesty; and thence again at a trot to Dalkeith Palace. One division, therefore, of the Archers are to receive her on the Pier, escort her off the Pier, till she moves off quick, when she will take up the cavalry escort; the other will be drawn up at the Barrier to guard her during the ceremony of delivering the Keys.

Another shell exploded among the lieges yesterday, by the statement which was circulated that it would be impossible for Her Majesty to hold a drawingroom at Holyrood because there has lately been a case of scarlet fever in the apartments which Her Majesty was to occupy; and Dr Abercromby had declared he could not take upon himself to say that the rooms were yet free from the possibility of conveying infection. Under these circumstances it is hardly to be permitted that the Queen should run any risk, by holding a reception there; and as the matter will be decided by Sir James Clark, who is infection mad, it may be assumed as quite certain that she will not hold it on Friday at all events; or, if at all, not till her return from the North.

People began to pour into Edinburgh yesterday from all quarters of the Country. Steamboats disembarked them, coaches set down and the railroads disgorged them in streams on every side. Platforms were rising in every area and tickets hanging out of every other window. The lion's head on Arthur's Seat was alive with men, like ants, busy in raising a huge bonfire which is to blaze on his top; and which is to be the signal for a range of similar beacons, which are to shoot up on every hilltop as far as the English border; carrying by similar machinery, as of old, tidings of welcome and gladness, very different from those which such beacon flames in days of old were wont to convey from Scotland to the English borders. The shop windows are

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crammed with little medals, inscribed with "Welcome," St. Andrew crosses, and thistles of gold on silver tissue — while for those who cannot compass such costly decorations, baskets, even cartloads, of heather are hawked about the streets, to furnish an ornament for their buttonholes, with the poetical cry "Wha'll buy my bonny bloomin' heather."

All the world went to bed last night in terror lest the signal gun should sound while they were asleep, and so the sight be lost and hurried. At least half of the said world was awake at six o'clock watching for it, but it is already noon and we have heard nothing of it. A more lovely day never shone out of a smiling heaven. The wind from the North West that gives a clear caller air, which shews the Firth and the shores of Fife as plainly as if they were within a mile of us; and everything seems propitious. May it end so.

(The Queen remained fourteen days in Scotland and the diary was not continued day by day. It was only after four months that Lord Dalhousie took up writing the account again.)

The same incessant streams of people which had begun flooding towards Granton soon after daybreak continued to pour onwards during the whole live-long day. The weather I have said was heavenly. Every creature that was not bedridden was abroad, and all bent their steps towards the shore, along the course which it was supposed Her Majesty would take. I was anxious to be near my duty, if the signal guns should be fired; and on that account I did not leave the town. But many who walked down to Granton Pier assured me that a gayer and livelier scene never was beheld. The whole of that noble scenery, to the furthest horizon on every side, was shewn by the bright sun and clear air to perfection; as though Nature herself put on her holiday dress to grace the occasion. The ships were all decorated with their flags — the Firth was alive with steamers and pleasure boats of every degree — and one unbroken mass of people, gay in colours, gayer still in smiles, and with visible pleasure, actually hid the ground on the immense bank, which slopes down from the top of Granton brae to the Pier. The harvest having been very early the corn had all been carried, and most propitiously had left a clear and dry stubble, on which thousands and tens of thousands *bivouacked* that day. The hours wore on; but no weariness betrayed itself to the gazers; and fresh thousands every half hour added themselves to the multitudes who were

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gathered there already. One o'clock-two-three o'clock came, and still no flag was hoisted on the monument on the Calton Hill — no guns sounded from the Castle. And as these signals were to be given when the Royal Squadron reached St. Abb's Head, full four hours sail, it was now evident that the Queen could not land till evening. The Royal Archers paraded, according to order, at 3 p.m. and while mustered there, the Sheriff came to us with a copy of a Proclamation which the Magistrates were just printing. It conveyed the intelligence that authentic information had been received that the Squadron was still 80 miles distant, and could not possibly arrive that night. The proclamation added that ample notice would be given to the public of the time at which the Queen would land; and that, as before announced, the red flag would be hoisted on the Nelson Monument, and two guns fired from the Castle, as soon as the Royal Squadron was seen in the Firth. This proclamation was distributed, and created great disappointment. But no-one was to blame — the elements were under no man's command; and, therefore, although the people shewed great disappointment, they shewed no discontent. To make the matter worse there fell towards evening a drizzling rain; which not only increased the general regret that the Queen had not seen the Scottish Kingdom, and the people their Sovereign for the first time, under such a favourable aspect as that day's glorious day would have ensured, but furnished in addition, a gloomy augury for the morrow. As if *everything* was to go wrong, the first thing Abercainey ⁽²⁾ and I saw, on turning into Princes Street on our way to dine at the Club, was the beacon on Arthur's Seat, which was only to have been lighted on the Queen's arrival, blazing furiously! and this although, two hours before, the world had been told that she had not arrived, and could not be there that night. The bonfires on the Pentlands, on the Lomonds in Fife, and away to the Ochils, took up the lie from Arthur's Seat, and blazed it abroad through all Scotland. People smiled bitterly at all this, abusing the bungling, and said "See what it is to have a Radical Town Council!" As it happened the blunder was not known in the Country. For the beacons *had* been lighted at the English border and those along Lammermuir taking it up, Berwick Law was next set fire to, and all of these fancied Arthur's Seat had handed it on from them, while those in Fife were none the wiser. The blunder however, was none the less, though luck set it a little to rights. The culprits indeed denied that it was a blunder. Augustus Maitland ⁽³⁾

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was Chairman of the Fire Committee. He told Watson that it was not lighted by mistake — that it was fired purposely, and fired moreover by the advice of old Lord President Hope. Why Maitland went to the President I can't guess, but he did go and asked his opinion what should be done about the beacon. "Why Mr Maitland" said the old gentleman, "the people are all here, they are disappointed of a sight of the Queen — they will want something to look at. Her Majesty can't be far off the Firth by this time—and so, I think you had better just fire the beacon." I am not sure whether I adopt the President's reasoning. At all events it bears an amusing resemblance to the reasoning of old Caxon, in "Antiquary," who by a somewhat similar process arrived at the same resolution of "I'se 'een fire the beacon."

Augustus Maitland, nevertheless, was satisfied and lighted his bonfire. But he was long and well roasted afterwards in the heat of his own unreasonable flames.

We heard subsequently that all these fires added very much to the delay in the arrival of the Squadron; for the number of lights, everywhere around them, bamboozled the officers, and made them afraid to attempt entering the Firth as early as they might otherwise have done. One steamer came in, but sounding all the way. The Yacht had too precious a freight to venture the attempt.

I awoke the next morning with an odd mixed sound in my ears, made up apparently of the sound of a trumpet and a cry of "Hot water." Sitting up in bed and rubbing my eyes, a repetition of the sounds shewed that I had not been dreaming; only they now resolved themselves into the Archer's bugles sounding the Assembly and Abercairny shouting over the bannisters for water to shave with.

I got up immediately and put on my uniform; but as this was about six o'clock and as no guns had yet fired from the Castle, we thought ourselves safe for three hours at least, and we did not hurry off till we had got our breakfast. In an hour afterwards Watson arrived from Catherine Bank, and told us that he had gone down to the shore between 5 and 6, and had seen the Royal Squadron moving up the Firth to Inch Keith, where they were now lying at anchor. At half past seven the two guns fired, and we drove off to the Riding School in the Lothian Road. Here we found the Royal

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Archers had been there since 6 o'clock — soon after 8 all had arrived, and at half past 8 we marched, 150 strong, for Granton Pier. As we reached the wooden Barrier which had been erected in Brandon Street near Stockbridge Toll to represent the City Gates, where the Keys of Edinburgh were to be delivered up to Her Majesty by the Lord Provost, we passed the Guard of Honour of the 53rd Regiment which had just arrived at its post. They presented arms to us; and we moved on quite satisfied that we were abundantly in time. However, as we were approaching the Park Wall of Warriston, a staff officer met us at a gallop, and riding up to Lord Elcho,⁽⁴⁾ who was commanding us, hastily announced that the Royal Yacht had reached the pier that Her Majesty had already landed, and was close at hand! We were immediately halted and made to line both sides of the road, to the great astonishment of nine tenths of the Company, who had not heard the message, knew nothing of the Queen's landing and wondered what in the world all this halting and right about facing might mean. We had hardly formed, when the Queen's carriage came in sight, preceded and followed by an escort of dragoons, and with an immense crowd, which had been assembled at Granton, running and scrambling and hurrying after it.

As Her Majesty passed between their lines the Archers saluted; and were proceeding as smartly as they could, to recover their bows, and take their acknowledged position round the royal carriage, when their manoeuvres were suddenly thrown into melancholy confusion by the more energetic movements of the crowd! The escort occupied the whole breadth of the road, so that the mob was pent up into the footpaths and edges on each side, and thus came on with accumulated impetus. As we were in the act of recovering bows, the crowd reached us, and of course came right against that part of our line which the carriage had passed. As a matter of course also, our files were driven right into the road — the arrows were heard cracking in all directions — stray bonnets were dropping everywhere — all because of the instant irrecoverable confusion — and the only thing I saw clearly was the scattered remnant of our band picking up the discomfitted drummer, who had been pitched forward onto his head, and made to turn a somersault over his own big drum into the mud.

It had been arranged that the general officers should take their places round the Queen's carriages, and that the Archers should move in files parallel

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to it: but as the carriage when it reached us was proceeding at a quick amble, and never paused, even for a single moment, everyone was obliged to run on and scramble into their places the best way they could. The other officers made their way after the carriage, each of them as soon as they could; including the Adjutant who in my poor opinion, ought to have been minding his peculiar business in bringing on his own men elsewhere.

I myself got involved in the rush which I have described; and not knowing whether it was still intended, notwithstanding the confusion of the corps, that the officers should be at the carriage, and seeing that it was quite necessary that someone should take charge of getting the Archers out of the confusion into which that had been thrown, I thought I should be more use in bringing them on than anywhere else. I therefore busied myself in bringing them up, urging them to keep their files close to exclude the crowd, and not get too far behind. This was no easy work. The ground was muddy and slippery, the streets steep, and the pace killing. We hoped for a momentary pause at the Barrier, where we might recover our order. But the Barrier was unguarded by any of the City Magnates — the Baillies were nowhere to be seen. No Provost was there to present the keys, and as the gate stood invitingly open Her Majesty drove through without a pause.

The start had been sharp enough, but the march up Pitt Street and till we reached Princes Street was a terrific burst. The pavement had been covered with sand, which by the trampling of feet and the last night's rain had been kneaded into something like Naples soap, anything but favourable to a firm footing. The postilions of the Queen's carriage finding the footing so bad, were obliged to keep the horses almost at a trot to enable them to get along at all. This mended pace, though of little consequence to the Cavalry escort, was pointedly inconvenient to Her Majesty's Bodyguard of Archers! Having taken the additional duty of running backwards and forwards in the attempt to keep the files up, even I felt the pace severe and the duty fatiguing — and I was not at all astonished that lusty country gentlemen and pury writers to the Signet should give up the struggle.

Before we reached Queen Street a good many had tailed off. Sir George Mackenzie of Coul, our Ensign General, fat and fastened up in trousers and buttons instead of his more congenial kilt, was brought to a standstill, panting and feeling, as he told me, "his breath go out of him all at once like a burst

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sugar bag;" he fell to the rear. Little Boswell of Wardie, a parallelogram in shape, and the most comical specimen of an Archer that ever was seen, was taken into a house speechless; and only recovered on receiving a whole glass of rum internally administered. And poor old Claudy Russell, a very old Archer and a man of 74 or 75 years old, who had lately been made Brigadier as a compliment, but to the astonishment of everyone turned out and did the whole duty thoroughly, was early known to be among the missing. The last that was heard of him, as that odd fish Weir declared to me, was just inside the Barrier; where "he had been seen, feebly poking with his bow, like a dying pigeon, at a parcel of little boys, who were trying to take his arrows from him"!

Along the whole of the line the Constables, both regular and special were totally useless. Their force was inadequate, and the men were inefficient. When we turned into Princes Street the crowd became much more dense, and all along as far as the Calton Hill, it was one constant and violent struggle to make our way. At the side of the Calton Hill where they had drawn up their carriages in echelon across the road, so as exactly to obstruct the passage in the most inconvenient manner, sat the Baillies and the Town Council with the Lord Provost at their head! "Clear the road" cried one of the escort, (as the story goes and I really believe it to be true). "Clear the road" cried one of the escort, seeing a carriage in the way, and little regarding the smart new hammercloth with an F. embroidered on its centre, and taking as little account of the insignificant figure, with a bald head and a face exactly like a monkey, that sat fidgetting at the window, in a red furred robe. "Clear the road." "I'm the Lord Provost and I'm come to present the Keys of the City" cried the pigeon, holding out the silver implements. "G-d-d--n your keys and clear the road," was the urbane reply of the dragoon, as he brushed past him; and immediately the Queen's carriage swept by, without a moment's pause, not even a momentary glance falling on the miserable Provost.

The Town Council, however, distinguished themselves: for rising in their open hackney coaches they shouted lustily as Her Majesty went by, and not satisfied with this ebullition, they paid the same compliments to the Duchess of Roxburghe who was following the procession in her own carriage and four!

Roxburghe told me this soon after, and he vows that he does not believe that even to this hour they knew which of the two ladies was the Queen.

QUEEN VICTORIA IN SCOTLAND

All round the Calton Hill, and by the Jock's Lodge road, the crowd pressed heavily on us. Great numbers of the people had taken a short cut from the lower part of the town by Leith Walk, to get a second look at the Queen; and thus gave us the benefit of a second squeeze near the *Savoury* meadows. These meadows, by the way seem to have partaken of loyal feelings: for they exhaled on this day none of their usual, peculiar perfume, much to the advantage of the Royal nostrils.

When we reached Parson's Green the Queen's carriage at last halted for a moment; and then disengaging itself drove off to Dalkeith at a rapid pace, accompanied by the escort of Dragoons. The Archers having turned aside at the Gate of the King's Park there halted to recover their breath and their order. They certainly shewed some signs of work. Covered with mud — their boots torn and trampled, partly by the crowd and partly by the Cavalry — the feathers in their bonnets all crushed — their arrows for the most part smashed — dripping with sweat, which was especially visible on the Nova Scotia baronets, whose orange ribbons it had literally turned to orange tawny, soiled and stained and jaded exceedingly — their appearance shewed plainly that they had no sinecure.

Elcho had been thrown almost under the carriage wheel, and but that one of the footmen behind put his hand under his head, and saved him from falling, he must have been badly hurt. As it was his coat was torn, his shoulder bruised, and his six arrows snapped so nicely in two by the wheel, that their six heads hung dangling like ear-rings. After a short halt we marched by the Abbey Hill and York Place to Lord Wemyss' house in Queen Street where the Lt. General had established his quarters: and there we deposited our colours and dismissed.

The Queen was in an open carriage with the Prince; and the apron up. He looked pale and worn. She looked better, but not to so much advantage as usual. The cheering from the crowd as soon as the Queen had entered the town was vociferous enough. When she came to Pitt Street where the windows were crowded and the platforms filled, although many empty benches testified that Her Majesty had taken her lieges by surprise — the cheering waxed louder and warmer: and thence thro' Princes Street it was loud, hearty and affectionate. I did not myself hear any discontented remarks or abusive exclamations out of the mob, directed against the Queen: but many others

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told me they had heard them, and dreaded the effect that Her Majesty's hurried passage thro' Edinburgh might have on her future popularity and reception by the public in Scotland.

There is no doubt that her passing through the town at so early an hour as 9 in the morning, created a very general disappointment, which was felt probably the more severely, from the previous disappointment of the day before. Many of the inhabitants of the town and vast numbers of the multitude which had flocked into it from distant quarters, arrived upon the line of procession, only in time to learn that the Queen had passed some time before, and was already on her way to Dalkeith. Still to direct the whole of their indignation against the Queen at the disappointment they had met with, was exceedingly unjust. I do not mean to defend Her Majesty altogether, or altogether acquit her of blame. I admit that it would have been much better if Her Majesty would have consented to delay her landing for an hour or two longer. The Duke of Buccleugh and Sir Robert Peel had remained all night at the Granton Hotel, and went on board the Royal Yacht as soon as she neared the shore. Sir Robert represented the state of matters and begged a little delay; but the Queen was inflexible. She said "I have said that my visit was private; it is now nine in the morning — I have been expected for 24 hours. I have passed 72 hours on board ship and you cannot ask me to stay longer." And although Sir Robert almost went down on his knees to her, the utmost delay she would agree to was ten minutes.

But I say that the *great and real blame rested with the Lord Provost and Magistrates of the town of Edinburgh*. They had taken it upon themselves to proclaim that ample notice should be given of the hour at which the Queen would land; and had said that the flag should be hoisted on Nelson's monument, and the guns fired from the Castle, as soon as the Squadron was in the Firth. The Yacht was *known* to be at Anchor in Aberlady Bay, only ten miles off, at half past one in the morning, and the Squadron was seen under weigh at 5 a.m. Why were the promised signals not given at daybreak? But so far were they from giving them, that the red flag has never been hoisted to this hour; and the guns which were to be fired at sight of the flag would not to this hour have been fired either, but that Buccleugh at half-past seven got an order from the Adjutant General to desire the artillery men to fire the guns,

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without waiting for the flag, and this he sent himself to the Castle by Archy Hope.⁽⁵⁾

For 24 hours the Queen had been expected — and ever since daylight she had been seen; but yet at nine o'clock the magistrates were not ready. And why not? As Sir Robert Peel told them when they went to Dalkeith "I was there — the Lord Lieutenant of the County was there — the Commander in Chief was there — and I am quite at a loss to know why you were not there." I will further say that the whole of their subsequent proceedings was of a piece with the inefficiency, the stupidity and the want of arrangement which they displayed on the first day of the Queen's visit.

The same mismanagement of the signals, of which I have been speaking was also the cause of the Archers being late. But although for a Corps not permanently on duty, this is a fair excuse (especially as the Guard of Honor of Infantry only reached the pier by going at the double quick) I yet do not mean to hold it up as a full excuse of our tardiness. We ought not to have been too late.

(1) Watson: treasurer to the Royal Company of Archers.

(2) Abercairney: James Moray of Abercairney.

(3) Augustus Maitland: son of Sir Gibson Maitland, and a member of the Town Council.

(4) Lord Elcho: son of 8th Earl of Wemyss, and M.P. for Haddingtonshire.

(5) Archy Hope: 12th Baronet of Pinkie.

ARCHIBALD SKIRVING AND HIS WORK

By B. C. Skinner

"Painting too, the sister art of poetry, has been cultivated here with taste and advantage. The son of a respectable farmer in this parish from his earliest years discovered a genius for drawing and painting. As he advanced in life, he applied chiefly to miniatures in which he excelled. For several years past he has been in Italy and there is good reason to believe that he ranks among the first artists in that country." In these terms the parish minister of Athelstaneford described Archibald Skirving in the pages of the *Statistical Account*. The year was 1794 and — though the minister did not know it — Skirving lay in a French prison in Brest. Repatriation followed however in 1795 and Skirving lived on to gain no small reputation in Edinburgh, the contemporary of Henry Raeburn and Thomas Carlyle. His memorial now stands in the churchyard of his native parish.

Archibald Skirving, born in 1749, was "the first son and finest semblance" of Adam Skirving, 1719-1805, tenant farmer of Garleton and Clackmae farms and ballad-writer of *Hey Johnnie Cope* and other songs. Adam Skirving was twice married; by his first wife, Jean Ainslie of Abbey Farm, he had three children—Archibald the painter, Robert who joined the East India Company's service and married an Ainslie of Peaston, and Grizel who married an Ainslie of Blanesburn. His second wife, Christian Carnegie, bore him three daughters who married into the Carnegies of Baldownie and Drylawhill and the Ainslies of Merryhatton, and a son David who also married a Carnegie and who in 1803 took over his father's lease of the two East Lothian farms. Archibald Skirving therefore was born into a family with the strongest local connections and alliances.⁽¹⁾

Skirving worked in his early manhood as clerk in the Customs Office in Edinburgh and held this appointment until the age of 28. During this time — according to Henry Mackenzie ⁽²⁾ — he painted several miniatures including

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portraits of his father and of Lady Eleanor Hume. In a fragmentary autobiographical note Skirving himself records an incident from this period in his career; it is headed *Sir John Dalrymple's Behaviour to me*, and continues:

"Being at Gilmerton, Athelstaneford Parish in the year 1776 painting some of that family which were often shown at table, Sir John being there one day took occasion to commend my works and particularly the picture of Mr Mackie which he said was equal to Rubens. . . . He said that if I would come and stay with him a few days he would give me employment. . . . I afterwards returned to Edinburgh where I got acquainted with Professor Robison who took my pictures to the Poker Club of which Sir John is a member. When *he* saw them there he said, 'Oh those are done by that strange fellow Skirving; he came and hung about my house for several days; Gad, I could not get rid of the fellow. . . .'"

Patronage by the local families of Kinloch of Gilmerton and Dalrymple of North Berwick was in fact characteristic of the constant support that Skirving enjoyed from East Lothian friends and relatives. The list of his sitters includes — for example — Patrick Sgeriff of Mungoswells, Mrs Welsh of Haddington, John Rennie of Phantassie as well as several Ainslies and Carnegies.

By 1777 Archibald Skirving had clearly decided to devote his time wholly to portraiture and two letters of introduction survive with which he set out for London in December. One of these was to the English painter John Hamilton Mortimer, 1741-1779. But Skirving was back in Edinburgh by 1784 working on portraits of Miss Hume of Ninewells, John Hume and a Mrs Lockhart. In a letter from Bengal written on August 9th 1786 his brother Robert, now a captain in the H.E.I.C. Service, says:

"Now that you have determined to settle in Edinburgh I hope you will find yourself much more at ease. . . . I'm very glad you paint only in crayons as it will not be so bad for your eyes nor confine your chest so much and I remember yon picture you did at Dunbar that pleased me exceedingly. If you chance to do the heads of my acquaintances, instead of rubbing them out, send them to me." This reference to Skirving's abandonment of miniature work underlines the main basis of his reputation historically — that of crayon and chalk portraitist—and it is in life-size heads and profiles that his surviving work predominates.

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A turning point in Skirving's professional career as an artist came in 1786 when he decided to follow a well-established precedent to seek inspiration and betterment in Rome. At the same time a letter to his brother which may well have crossed with that quoted above says "I have resolved to finish my career in Edinburgh to prevent the public doing it for me," an indication possibly of a failing market for his work. He recorded his journey in a piece of verse of a not too proficient type into which he launched himself on occasions throughout his life:

"In eighty-six, St. Andrew's Day, and without friends, alas,
To push my fortune I set out and sailed down by the Bass:
. . . . And fully ten weeks strive, In Tuscany to arrive."

In the event the Italian study tour lasted $7\frac{1}{2}$ years, long enough in fact for Skirving to become fully accepted as part of the Italian-Scottish colony in Rome. For at least some of this period he relied upon the generous support of Francis Charteris, Lord Elcho, 1745-1808, son of the 7th and father of the 8th Lord Wemyss, who was in Italy at the time. Lord Elcho reported to Robert Skirving in 1790:

"I am happy to inform you that your brother has acquired one of the first characters here for merit in his profession and for his general conduct. I hope to have it in my power to be of great use to him in making his talents known, and — when they are — they cannot fail being esteemed" (Rome, January 6th, 1790).

At the end of the same year, Archibald also wrote from Rome to India:

"I told you I had painted Lord Elcho's portrait. I did afterwards his cousin called Gordon, a Mr Cleghorn from St. Andrew's, Sir John Macpherson's for Mr McAuley, a copy whereof I have to make for poet Home. . . . I have likewise done another India gentleman yt was an architect. I went to Naples the 6 July last where I remained near five months and had the fortune to see a considerable eruption of Vesuvius. I made a copy in Crayon of a picture in the possession of the Minister — Sir William Hamilton K.T. — and expect it daily to arrive" (Rome, December 18th 1790).

The visiting Scots tourists — among them Francis Garden Lord Gardenstone and Sir William Forbes the banker — came to know Skirving well. In his *Travelling Memorandums* ⁽³⁾ the former records commissions that Skirving

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carried out for him of two copies after Corregio and a miniature portrait of Gavin Hamilton the pioneer neo-classicist and doyen of the Scots colony in Rome. In all probability this miniature, itself no longer recorded, was related to the fine full-size pastel portrait of Hamilton that survives in family ownership today. Skirving also undertook the task of packing up and dispatching back to Scotland Lord Gardenstone's collection of natural history specimens that he had accumulated on his peregrination of Italy. Sir William Forbes of Pitsligo leaves a different picture of Skirving: in his unpublished *Journal of a Continental Tour* ⁽⁴⁾ he writes of his meeting with the artist on April 30th 1793:

"Skirving, another old acquaintance from Edinburgh, paints small portraits with considerable merit but he takes so much time and bestows so much labour in finishing his pieces that he never can do much, indeed can scarcely live by his art."

One or two of Skirving's small oval pastel portraits have survived and such similarity to the work of Hugh Douglas Hamilton, an Irish portraitist in Rome at the same time, that one might easily suppose a studio connection between the two.

Fragmentary references to Skirving's stay in Rome survive elsewhere too. To Tischbein, the German landscape painter in Naples, he sent a letter introducing Sir William Forbes his fellow Scot, and his name appears in two contemporary lists of British artists resident in Rome. From one of these ⁽⁵⁾ we know that he took lodgings in the Palazzo Babuino near the Piazza di Spagna, while the other list, ⁽⁶⁾ dated April 20th 1794, records the gratitude of the British colony to H.R.H. Prince Augustus for his interest in their concerns. Finally his own manuscript notebook kept in Rome in the year 1789 lists one or two books that he had with him, including Thomas Bradwill's *Practice of Painting*.

Archibald Skirving left Rome on May 22nd 1794 for home. He took ship from Italy through the Straits of Gibraltar and was captured by the French on August 4th. For some reason he was taken for a spy, perhaps because of his drawing equipment and sketches, and was thrown into prison at Brest. After some months he was released, repatriated to Portsmouth and reached Berwick on August 12th 1795. Skirving's imprisonment seems to have affected him in two ways: on the one hand his vision suffered and he appears to have

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developed the symptoms of uniocular diplopia; in a letter written later he says "Both eyes are equally strong but small objects appear forked. At Brest after getting out of prison my companion who would buy some pins at the gates remarked that they were all split; he never dreamed the defect was in his sight, and *I* cannot make a pen tolerable. Glasses would remedy this but they do not well to paint, for painting requires to see different distances." The other way that Skirving changed was in a growing eccentricity of character.

When he returned to Edinburgh he took a flat on Leith Terrace which led from the Theatre Royal at the east end of Princes Street down to Leith Walk. Here he established a studio and set out to earn his living as a portraitist in pastel and crayon. His sitters at first were varied. Sir William Forbes again patronised him as did Lord Meadowbank the judge and William Robertson, Principal of the University, Principal John Hunter of St. Andrews University and Professors Dugald Stewart and Adam Ferguson. Lord George Gordon, the Rev. Alexander Carlyle and Lord Woodhouselee were other well-known subjects, while Lady Charlotte Campbell, sister of the Duke of Argyll, represented the fashionable world. In connection with this last sitter whose portrait still survives unfinished, we have an illuminating illustration of Skirving's uncompromising manner from the pen of Thomas Carlyle.⁽⁷⁾

"Dress, head-dress and details were all accurately settled and the first sitting went altogether well. At the second sitting something in the head-dress had been altered — Beauty on second thoughts discovering some improvement there; Skirving grew angry, remonstrated with emphasis 'Can't stand the like of this, madam,' was however flattered and persuaded into standing it, and again made a successful and hopeful stage or sitting. Capricious Beauty, I suppose, was, herself flattered at subduing and reducing the fiery creature and tried it a second time; came for her third sitting in head-dress again slightly altered. But this time Skirving threw down his brush inexorable to apologies, persuasions and entreaties and no third sitting was or ever could be."

Undoubtedly Skirving found it difficult to assume the acquiescence of manners possibly essential to a successful practice, and that practice in consequence dwindled. He himself attributed the decline in patronage to his unfashionable address: "It is the humour of the people not to employ me because my lodgings are not expensive enough," and again "This gives disgust to many who think I should take expensive lodgings for their entertainment."

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Finally he writes to his brother Robert in 1800, "I have fixed up in my room—'Mr Skirving has no show room and wishes to be private, and is satisfied with employment of his acquaintances.'" On another occasion however, Skirving suspected the machinations of his East Lothian neighbours: "It would appear," he tells his brother on June 17th 1802, "that my having obtained for myself some respect from the Public fills some individuals with spleen and those who circulate silly tales to my prejudice are generally of East Lothian breed. But there are two who wantonly injure me — George Rennie and Andrew Pringle. The first soon after my coming home, at Gifford Fair, pulled Robert Walker aside, told him that a cleg lighted on my back but my coat was so bare it was obliged to hang on by its mouth."

In the letter of 1802 just quoted, Archibald Skirving refers to one of his best-known surviving portraits—his red-chalk ("keel") head of Robert Burns drawn in 1797-8. He says "I have been repeatedly offered 30 guineas for a keel-head of Burns but it is not finished and still with me. It is taken from a picture, for I never saw him." Sir Walter Scott wrote in a letter to Samuel Rogers on May 30th 1816 that this was "the only good portrait of Burns," but it is on Skirving's own statement not taken from life and is simply his sympathetic interpretation of the well-known portrait of the poet by Alexander Nasmyth. It seems possible however that Skirving may have known Gilbert Burns who was to farm at Morham Mains, East Lothian, in 1800 and Grant's Braes at Lethington in 1804, and Allan Cunningham suggested that Skirving may have drawn the poet at the wish of the brother Gilbert to correct deficiencies in Nasmyth's rendering.⁽⁸⁾

Skirving exhibited on occasions in the Royal Academy, London, and towards the end of his life he made a second expedition to the city. He reached London in June 1816, then 67 years of age, and remained there until September, delivering three letters of introduction from Sir Walter Scott. These secured him access to view the Marquess of Stafford's pictures, a meeting with Samuel Rogers the poet and an interview with the great patron of the arts, Sir George Beaumont. Besides these he renewed acquaintance with fellow Scots artists John Henning and John Watson, and met also the landscape painter Hugh William Williams, the sculptor Turnerelli and "young Constable whom I found very obliging." The London trip was Skirving's last adventure. He passed the last three years of his life on one of the family farms. A letter

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of May 5th 1819 records the end: "Poor man, he was nailing some boards in an old pigeon house in his sister's garden when he fell down and instantly expired." The tombstone in Athelstaneford churchyard sums up his 70 years thus:

"By peculiar excellence he attained eminence as a portrait painter and might have lived in affluence had he not aimed at a private independance by simplicity in the comforts of common life.

"To beauty, virtue, talent he would bow
But claims of birth or rank would not allow,
Kept friends and foes at almost equal distance,
Knew how to give but not to take assistance.
At three score ten when scarce begun to fail
He dropped at once without apparent ail."

Skirving left £3,808 in worldly wealth and 37 pictures in his studio which were duly catalogued for the executry by George Watson, president of the Scottish Academy.

The best memorial to Archibald Skirving is the unpublished manuscript by Thomas Carlyle from which a brief quotation has already been made. Carlyle knew of Skirving through two connections: when he retired from India Robert Skirving, then ranking a Captain of Foot, settled at Croys some 12 miles from Craigenputtock in Galloway from where Carlyle on occasions visited him. More intimately however, Carlyle knew of Archibald Skirving through Jane Welsh who had attended the local school alongside David Skirving's daughter from Garleton and who had taken drawing lessons from Archibald during her continuing education in Edinburgh. Clearly there was an exchange of friendship and respect between the painter and the Welsh family and Carlyle recalls with pleasurable nostalgia the bone egg-cups turned by Skirving out of beef-bones that he carried as presents to the Haddington household; "In our house, said my Darling, it was frequently at breakfast time. . . . He was well liked and esteemed among us and flowed out into cheerful and curious talk whenever he sat down." In a pen-portrait that rivals in excellence and clarity anything the subject himself could have achieved on canvas, Carlyle thus records Skirving at the end of his days:

"An altogether striking man, wiry, elastic, perpendicular and of good inches, still brisk-looking though perhaps 70 odd, spotlessly clean, his linen

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white as snow, no neck-tie but a loosish-fastened black ribbon, hair all gray, not white nor over long; face, neck, hands of a fine brown tint—one of the cleanest old men I ever saw — and such a face as you would still more rarely see. Eagle like, nose hooked like an eagle's bill, eyes still with something of the eagle's flash in them; squarish prominent brow, under jaw ditto-ditto, cheeks and neck thin, all betokening impetuosity, rapidity, delicacy, and the stormy fire of genius not yet hidden under the ashes of old age. A face and figure never to be forgotten."

As an artist Skirving ranks quite highly. At his best — as in his self-portrait or his portrayal of Gavin Hamilton both done in Rome — he rivals the finest work of any British pastellist, and his Edinburgh portrait of Lord Woodhouselee falls not far behind. Apart from Catherine Read in fact, Skirving is the only pastellist of note that Scotland produced and his contemporary reputation, despite his lack of social graces, was high. His miniature work scarcely survives but a miniature of his father related in design to the large pastel portrait remains in family ownership and shows considerable competence; Carlyle noted this small piece at Croys and admired it exceedingly. Only occasionally however did Skirving venture into oils as a variant means of expression; his work here is traditional and unexceptional.

Today Skirving's work may be seen in the National Galleries of Scotland and in one or two other public collections. Some of the best of his works still hang on private walls but many more of his portraits are known to us now solely from references in his letters or in contemporary documents and engravings. The list that follows is published in the hope that more locations may emerge, that more of Skirving's portraits be recognised, and that a fuller appreciation of his merit be achieved.

Only those portraits of which the identity of the sitter is known are included in this list; many other unidentified portraits by Skirving exist as well as some topographical studies. Reference to these will be found in the records of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery and of the Department of Prints and Drawings, National Galleries of Scotland. In the following list the last known locations are given or—failing these—the source of the reference or the existence of an engraving from the portrait. As abbreviations SNPG refers to the Portrait Gallery in Edinburgh; NGS to the National Gallery there; RSA to the Royal Scottish

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Academy; and BM to the British Museum; Hoskins refers to the collection of Mrs Hoskins in Cheltenham.

LIST

- Ainslie, Robert, of Begbie — Letter of 10 March 1796.
 Ainslie, Mrs (Grizell Skirving wife of Robert Ainslie of Blanesburn and sister of the artist) — Exhibited RSA 1863 from coll. of Miss Ainslie.
 Archibald, Mrs Elizabeth (wife of John Archibald, wine-merchant in Leith) Coll. (1901) of Mr J. N. Adamson, Broughty Ferry.
 Baillie, Mrs — Studio contents 1819.
 Berry, William, seal-engraver in Edinburgh. — Indian ink copy after Wm. Delacour, 1797; in SNPG collection.
 Boswell, Robert, W.S. of St. Boswells — in coll. Dr P. R. Boswell, Peebles.
 Brown, Mr, of Boggs — Letter of March 10, 1796.
 Burns, Robert, poet — in SNPG collection.
 Campbell, Lady Charlotte, (or Bury) — in coll. Mrs Hoskins, Cheltenham.
 Campbell, John, of Shawfield — exh. RSA 1863 from coll. of Capt. Wilkie.
 Carlyle, Rev. Alexander, of Inveresk —
 (1) — oil, in SNPG collection.
 (2) — chalk, in coll. Inveresk Kirk Session.
 Carnegie, Mrs (Janet Skirving wife of John Carnegie of Edrom Newton and sister of the artist) — in NGS collection.
 Cay, Mrs — exhibited RSA 1863 from coll. of Sheriff Cay.
 Charteris, Francis (eldest son of Lord Elcho and later 8th Earl of Wemyss) — in coll. Lord Wemyss.
 Cleghorn, Mr, of St. Andrews—drawn in Rome; Letter of Dec. 18 1790.
 Clerk, John, of Eldin — in coll. Capt. Adam of Blairadam.
 Cochrane, Mrs — letter of July 4 1816.
 Craig, William, Lord Craig, judge — engraving (BM, SNPG).
 Cunningham, Mary (daughter of Wm. Cunningham of Lainshaw, later became Mrs Edmonstoun and changed her name again to Cranstoun) — in coll. Col. Cranstoun of Corehouse.
 Cunningham, Rev. Chas. — miniature; exh. 1865 So. Kensington from coll. of Miss Cunningham.
 Drummond, Henry Home, of Abercairney — in coll. Major Home Drummond of Abercairney.
 Elcho, Lord — in coll. Lord Wemyss.
 Ferguson, Professor Adam — exh. 1868 Glasgow from coll. of Mrs Stark.
 Forbes, Sir Wm. of Pitsligo, banker — engraving (BM).
 Fraser Tytler, Isabella — exh. 1880 Edinburgh from coll. of J. S. Fraser Tytler.
 Gillespie, Wm., of Cleardean, E. Lothian — in SNPG collection.
 Gordon, Lord George — exh. 1912 Whitechapel from coll. of Mr F. A. Newdegate.
 Graham, Mrs, of Glasgow — studio contents 1819.
 Gray, Mrs — miniature of 1798; exh. 1865 South Kensington from coll. of Mrs Lawrence.

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- Hamilton, Gavin, painter —
 (1) Pastel head — in coll. of Mrs Hoskins.
 (2) Miniature—commissioned in Rome by Lord Gardenstone.
- Home, Lady Eleanor, daughter of Lord Home — miniature, referred to in Henry Mackenzie's *Anecdotes*.
- Horn, Miss — in coll. Mr Wm. Walker, Edinburgh.
- Hume, Miss, of Ninewells — letter of 1785.
- Hunter, Dr John, Principal of St. Andrews University — exh. 1883 Edinburgh from coll. of Mr James Leslie, Edinburgh.
- Hyslop, Miss — Studio contents 1819.
- Johnston, Mrs, of Hutton Hall, Berwickshire — in NGS collection.
- Kean, Miss S. — studio contents 1819.
- Lockhart, Mrs — letter of August 22 1785.
- Lockhart, John, son of the foregoing — letter of August 22 1785.
- MacCormick, Father James — in coll. of Mrs Hoskins.
- Mackie, Mr — 1776; ms note by the artist.
- Macpherson, Sir John — letter of December 18, 1790, Rome.
- Meadowbank, Lord — letter of June 17, 1802.
- Melville, Henry Dundas 1st Viscount — copy after David Martin; — in Dundas of Arniston collection.
- Murray, Mr — drawn in Rome; note by Mr Stanley Cursiter in NGS records.
- Napier, Charles, of Merchiston — in coll. Glasgow Art Gallery.
- Pringle, Mrs (Mary Drummond daughter of James Drummond of Abercairney and wife of John Pringle of Stitchil) — in coll. Major Home Drummond Moray of Abercairney.
- Rennie, George (possible identification and attribution) — in private collection, Ilminster.
- Rennie, John, civil engineer — engraving (SNPG).
- Robertson, Rev. Daniel, Professor of Hebrew at St. Andrews — drawn in Rome while travelling tutor to Mr Murray — note by Mr Stanley Cursiter in NGS records.
- Robertson, Professor William, Principal of Edinburgh University — miniature, in coll. Mr Murray Thomson, Surrey.
- Sheridan, Mrs (Elizabeth Ann Linley, wife of R. B. Sheridan) — in coll. of Mrs Hoskins.
- Sheriff, Patrick, of Mungoswells — in coll. NGS.
- Skirving, Adam, farmer and ballad-writer, father of the artist —
 (1) oil — in collection of SNPG.
 (2) copy — in coll. of Nat. Gall. of New South Wales.
 (3) miniature — in coll. of Mrs Hoskins.
- Skirving, Archibald — self portraits:
 (1) in collection of SNPG.
 (2) in collection of Mrs Hoskins.
- Skirving, Archibald: painted by Andrew Geddes — in coll. NGS.
- Skirving, Archibald: painted by Henry Raeburn — in coll. Toronto Art Gallery.
- Skirving, Archibald: painted by George Watson:

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- (1) in coll. of SNPG.
- (2) in coll. of Mrs Hoskins.
- (3) in coll. of Mr R. W. Skirving, Shilton.
- Skirving, Mrs (Christian Carnegie second wife of Adam Skirving and step-mother of the artist) — in coll. of Nat. Gall. of New South Wales.
- Sprot, Mark, financier — engraving (BM); in Sprot of Riddell coll. in 1903.
- Sprot, Mrs (Joanna Stewart of Physgill wife of Mark Sprot, above) — engraving (BM) in Sprot of Riddell coll. in 1903.
- Stewart, Professor Dugald — in SNPG collection.
- Tait, Mrs (Susanna Campbell daughter of Sir Ilay Campbell and wife of Crawford Tait of Harvistoun; mother of Archbishop Tait) — Edinburgh salerooms November 4 1950 (91).
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- (1) I am grateful to Lord Wemyss and to Mrs Hoskins of Cheltenham for assistance in the preparation of this paper. Mrs Hoskins, descendant of the artist, has most kindly made her manuscripts available to me and quotations in the text are from Skirving's letters and papers in Mrs Hoskin's collection unless otherwise stated.
- (2) ANECDOTES AND EGOTISMS (edit. by H. W. Thompson; London 1927), 212.
- (3) TRAVELLING MEMORANDUMS MADE ON A TOUR UPON THE CONTINENT OF EUROPE IN THE YEARS 1786, 1787, AND 1788 (Edinburgh 1791-5).
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OLD HADDINGTON

Edited by *T. C. Martine*

Some Notes written in 1830 by Peter Martine, 1775-1865, Postmaster at Haddington for 52 years.

For those unfamiliar with the layout of old Haddington, these notes will be better followed if read in conjunction with the old map of the Town following the text.

The following Notes were written in 1830.

"There have been a great many alterations in the Town, which cannot now be well described — the Road from the Town at the East Mill Haugh, was on the West side of the Malt & Meal Mill—it crossed the Haugh, and went up the bed of the River about 80 or 100 yards, and came out on the Public Road at the West end of Lord Blantynes Planting, called the Braeheads, and joined the present road to Gifford and a road to Grantsbraes, about 100 yards after leaving the Water, passing an old Coal pit about 50 yards to the right, where my Grandfather, John Martine, Farmer in Westfield, was drowned in 1736, going home to Westfield about 6 oclock P.M.

There was another Road from the Town at the West end of the Churchyard (St. Marys) — it went through¹ Tynepark Property, crossed the Mill Dam by a stone bridge (now removed) and went West of the Mill Haugh joining the other road at the side of the water.

The old *Meal and Malt Mill* was burned in the year 1794, and the present Mill was built upon the same site.

Mr Wm. Wilkies House and Offices (nearby) was a Woollen Manufactory — the ground was feued by the Gentlemen in the neighbourhood to erect the Manufactory, and after continueing a few years it was sold and was bought by Mr Wm. Wilkie who brought Men and Women from Yorkshire and carried on

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the manufacturing of Woolen Cloth for a short time, but did not succeed — the Property was afterwards converted into a Mustard Works, and carried on for a short time by Mr Hay Smith, the Agent for the Bank of Scotland, under the name of Robert Telfer & Coy. — afterwards it became a Starch Works, carried on by Mr Wm. Wilkie for a short time.

The *old Flour Mill* stood upon the site of the present Flour Mill, *which was built in 1850*, and the Waulk Mill stood at the North end — it was totally removed when the present Flour Mill was built, there being then no employment for a Waulk Mill, as the custom of Farmers and other people making their own cloth was given up.

At one period there were 4 Dyers of Greasy Cloth in Haddington and 2 Dyers in the Nungate, and at the Election of a Deacon for the Corporation, 80 Greasy Weavers voted.

Till the year 1816, when Mr Dunlop *built the Distillery*, that Road west of the Towns Park (now Mr Dods Nursery) was a low road and water running in it from end to end—but Mr Dunlop paid the Town for a piece of the Park and added to the road for his own convenience, to make it a better road to the Distillery.

In The Second Field, west from Tynebank, near the South end of the Park and near the Hedge, there was a *Fort called Newark*, — part of the building was seen until a man of the name of Russell took the land from Sir George B. Hepburn and took up the building and sowed Corn where the Fort was and made it corn land — no mark where the Fort stood has been seen for the last 30 or 40 years — there was a cart road to Clerkington which went through the middle of that open or unenclosed land, also a cart road to Clerkington through the Water, a little below the Damhead.

Originally, there was no road past the East Gable of the House at *Dobsons Well*, towards the South, to join the footpath to Clerkington East Cottages — a footpath however existed on the West side of the East hedge — now the 1st Ministers Glebe. This path was continued along the North end of the Glebe, and joined the Pencaitland Road about 50 or 60 yards west of Dobsons Well.

The Rain water that falls at *Hawthorn Bank ground*, and towards Blackmains is conveyed under the road at the West Port, and ran through Kemps garden into *Lothburn*, but the properties were so often flooded that the water

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was taken under the road to the West and then round the North and West of the Towns Nursery, into *Milesburn* on the South.

From the West Port to the North has always been called the *Aberlady Loan*, and from the North at the old Town wall there was a large Arch for a gate, and from it to Mr Scoulers house was called *Barmy Loan* — from the North end of Barmy Loan to Aberlady Loan on the West, was called *Lidgate*. The Field East of Aberlady Loan was where the Cavalry Barracks stood at the time of the late War with France — from about the Year 1793 until 1816 when all the Barrack Huts were sold.

In the First, Second and Third Fields, west from the North East Port Toll Bar, stood the *Infantry Barracks*, and in the Field opposite the Toll Bar, stood the *Artillery Barracks*.

Before the present (Waterloo) Bridge was built, about the year 1818, there was a *wooden bridge* for foot passengers about 200 yards above the present stone Bridge, which was erected by Subscription in the Year 1737 (in the great Floods of 1775, it was swept away and remains of it found later on Tynninghame sands).

A few hundred yards above this Wooden Bridge, the water from the head of the Park (where there was an old coalpit) was carried over to the Bleachfield, now Distillery Park, — the Bleachfield being afterwards supplied from the Mill Lead which was taken across the road a little above the Mill. The above mentioned Park was later added to the Park on the West side of it, and cannot now be distinguished, except by a spring of Water at the side of the River a little up the field.

The Road to the Church from the East Port went close in front of the Houses, from the East corner of the English School, past Mr Wilkies Garden Door, and the West side of The Earl of Wemyss Garden — before the road was feued to the Earl of Wemyss (then Mr Charteris), the Towns Schools stood from that road to the East to where the Round House called the Dovecote stands, and at those Schools, John Knox was educated — it is owing to the road to the Church being there that the Properties in the Titles are marked 'bounded on the East by the Road to the Church.'

The English Chapel was at Poldrate, the Second House on the West side of the Street from the Mill Wynd, which is still standing — the present English

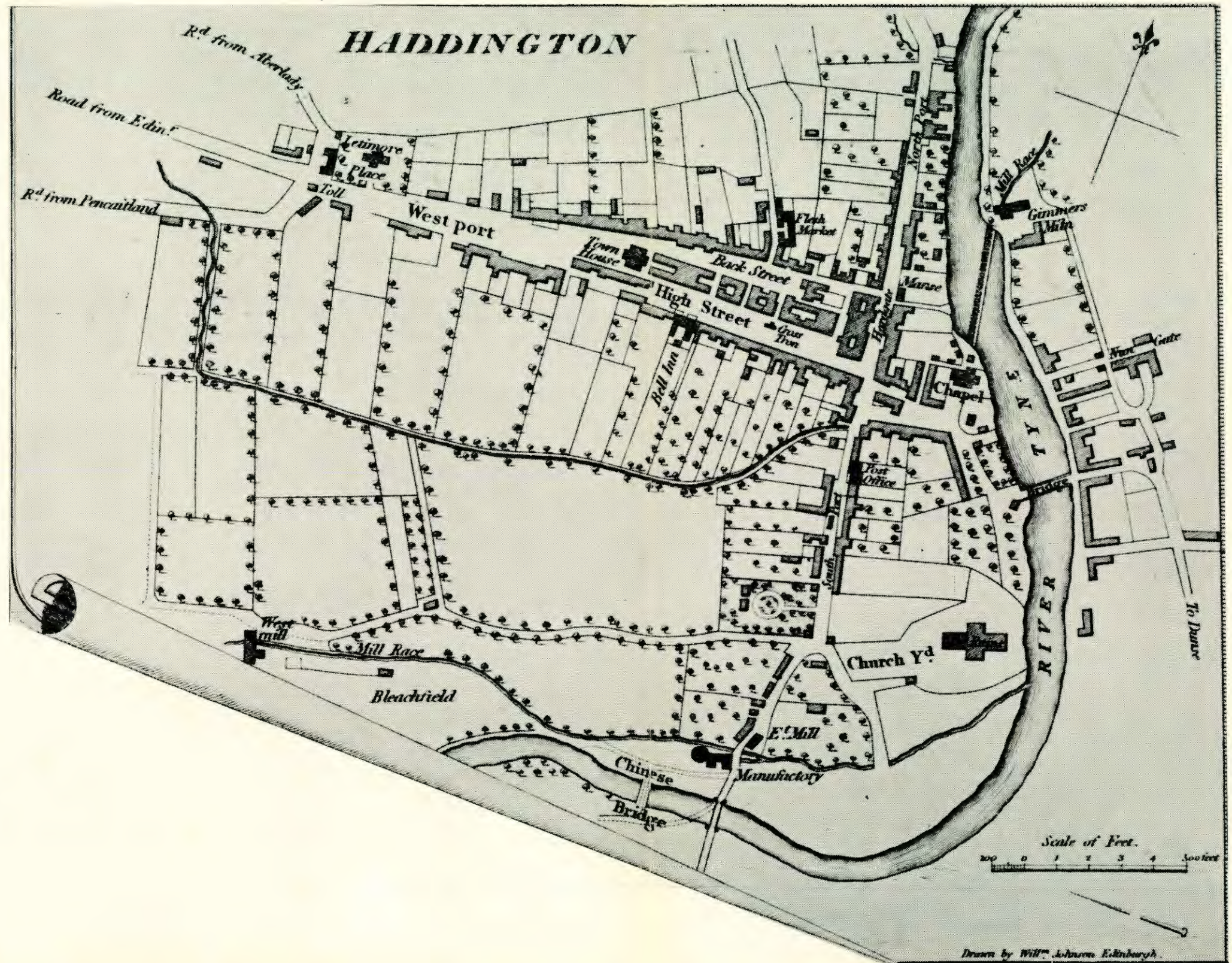
OLD HADDINGTON

Chapel was built by Mr Charteris of Amisfield, on ground belonging to a person of the name of Warrender — a row of two storey Houses stood on the South side from the West pillar of the present Gate to the West, and from the corner to half way up Tyne Close to the North.

There was a Skin Works on the Ground at the East end of the Chapel ground which was removed when the Chapel was built, it was called the *Skinners Knows*, and there was also a Tan Yard behind the present Parsonage which was removed long ago and belonged to a George Anderson — there was also a Tan Yard in the Nungate opposite the East end of the English Chapel, near the side of the water — also removed long ago.

The Road from the Nungate to the South was up the road called the Gifford Gate, where the House in which *John Knox* was born stood — but now there is not one stone of the House as the Park where it stood was bought by Wm. Aitchison, a Baker, and he removed every stone of the House and it now cannot be found except by the people who had seen it before it was taken down.

The Road called the *Gifford Gate* leads into the road to Gifford — about half way down there was a road leading down from it to the Water, and it is supposed that the stones used for the building of the Church were brought from Garvald Quarry (by this route) and taken across the River at the East end of the Church."



SHORTER NOTICES

A TOMB-SLAB IN GULLANE CHURCH

By A. and M. Ryan

During a visit to Gullane Old Parish Church in August, 1967 by members of the East Lothian Antiquarian and Field Naturalists' Society, Mr Schomberg Scott, who led the group, referred to a tomb-slab in the north aisle and suggested that it might repay cleaning. (No mention of it occurs in the entry under Gullane church in the Royal Commission's *Inventory of Monuments* for the county.) We undertook to clean this slab and obtained permission from East Lothian County Council who have responsibility for the upkeep of the church fabric and grounds.

This slab is of red sandstone, and measures 72 ins by 14 ins by 5 ins. It now rests on four grey stone pedestals about a foot above the earth and rubble that constitute the floor of the north aisle.

At first glance the only feature of interest is the inscription in what appears to be Gothic minuscule within a border 5 ins wide which runs round all four sides. When we applied water to the stone, however, the outline of two shields became visible; the larger, in the upper half of the slab, was found to be flanked by the Roman capitals P and C. Traces of a coat of arms could be discerned. The capitals M and H flanked the lower and smaller shield, from which the heraldic features have been almost entirely eroded.

Little can be made of the inscription without the use of specialist techniques. The word "of" appears to occur half-way down the north side; if this is correct, the language used is English, at any rate in part. Near the south west corner there is a deep diagonal incision which suggests the presence of a cuffed hand with pointing forefinger to indicate where the reader should begin.

Although the inscription still awaits elucidation, it is possible to suggest that the persons commemorated are Patrick Congalton and his wife Margaret Hepburn.

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The family of Congalton, whose estate lay some four miles to the south east, had a close connection with the church. The Trinity Altar was in fact founded — as Douglas's *Baronage* records — by "Sir Andrew Congalton, presbyter."⁽¹⁾ (The founding probably occurred about 1500.) The same sources refers later to "Sir John, who being bred to the church, obtained from George Dundas, Lord St. John's preceptor, of Torphicen, a confirmation of the foundation of the Trinity altar in Gullen kirk, by the said Sir Andrew Congalton, declaring the said Henry Congalton [John's father] of that ilk, to be patron thereof, dated 18th May 1523."⁽²⁾

Evidence of the link between the aisle and the Congalton family is also suggested by Grose's *Antiquities of Scotland*. Grose, who visited Gullane Church in 1789, noted that

"On each side of a pointed arch, leading out of the north transept, is a shield of arms; the westernmost quarterly, a bend and chequer; the easternmost party per pale, the bend and chequer as before; and on the sinister side, beneath a chief charged with three mullets of five points, a lion rampant, over it the letters H.C. and A.Y.; probably there were some letters over the other coat; but if there were, they have been effaced."⁽³⁾

What more likely than that *H.C.* should stand for Henry Congalton, named as patron of the Trinity Altar in the document of 1523? He had married Agnes Inglis for whose surname the alternative spelling Ynglis would be not unexpected at this period. Moreover, the heraldic evidence appears to support such an ascription.⁽⁴⁾

The P.C. commemorated on the tomb-slab is therefore likely to have been a member of the Congalton family. Douglas in fact records a Patrick Congalton who married Margaret Hepburn of Waughton and died about 1600. Patrick, incidentally, is described as

"a great patriot, who adhered firmly to the interest of queen Mary, and fought on her side at the unfortunate battle of Longside, for which he was obliged afterwards to get a remission anno 1573."⁽⁵⁾

The style of the slab is fully consonant with the date of Patrick Congalton's death. Moreover, the vestiges of the coat of arms on the shield flanked by the initials P and C seems in keeping with the "bend and chequer" on the shield (now gone) seen by Grose. In the first and fourth quarters a large label can

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be made out, and in the second and third, deep dots or squares which look like the remains of a chequer.

It is of interest that Patrick and his wife would have been among the last of the Congaltons to be commemorated in Gullane church. In 1612 an Act of Parliament sanctioned the translation of the church to Dirleton on the grounds that it

“ . . . is sa incommodiouslie situat besyde the seasand That the same with the kirkyard thair of Is continewallie owerblawin with sand that nather the kirk servis commodiouslie for convening of the parochiners nor yit the kirkyard for thair buriall. . . . ”

The tomb-slab is in a state of decay only surpassed by that of Gullane church itself. But an act of veneration has ensured that it still attracts attention in the aisle of the Congalton family. Who raised the slab to its present position and when are questions that remain to be answered.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: We wish to thank Dr J. S. Richardson, H.R.S.A., LL.D., F.S.A.Scot., for his advice and encouragement.

- (1) Douglas: *BARONAGE OF SCOTLAND*, p. 522.
- (2) *Ibid.*, p. 522.
- (3) Francis Grose: *THE ANTIQUITIES OF SCOTLAND*, London 1798; p. 74.
- (4) Burke: *THE GENERAL ARMORY*, 1884, gives two entries under Congalton, one relating to Dirleton and one to the place-name Congalton. The latter is given as:
“Quarterly, 1st and 4th, ar. a bend, gu. in chief a label of three points sa., 2nd and 3rd, ar. a fesse sa. betw. two cotises compony az. and of the second.”
This is the commonly accepted form of the arms of Congalton of that ilk, but what Grose describes and what seems to be on Patrick Congalton's shield agree in having a chequer in the 2nd and 3rd quarters instead of the “fesse between two cotises.”
The same source gives a number of entries under Inglis, the most relevant being:
Inglis (Edinburgh). Az. a lion ramp.ar on a chief or, three mullets of the field.
- (5) Douglas: *op. cit.*, p. 523.

THE MEMORIAL INSCRIPTION TO EX-PROVOST SETON AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY HADDINGTON

By I. R. Macaskill

(I) TRANSCRIPTION: —

MEMORIAE SACRUM
GULIELMI SETON, NATALIBUS HUIUS URBIS HADINAE CIVIS

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INGENTIS ET HONESTI, PROSAPIA AUTEM E VETUSTISSIMA ET NOBILISSIMA GENTE SETONA ORIUNDI,

RECTA QUIPPE SERIE

EX FAMILIA SETONA DE NORTHRIG IURE CONUBII CUM ILLIUS PRAEDII HAEREDE UNICA COGNOMINE SINCLARA, PER ATAVUM SUMM GUILIELMUM SETON, FAMILIAE SETONAE PRINCIPIS NEPOTEM, OLIM ACQUISITI, ORIGINEM SUAM DUCENTIS;

PRAEFECTURA HUIUS CIVITATIS PER DECENNIIUM CONTINUUM FIDELITER, PRUDENTER ET MODERATE FUNCTI, EIUSDEMQUE AD SUPREMA REGNI COMITIA DELEGATIONE SAEPIUS HONORATI, OFFICIO TABELLARII EQUESTRIS IN HAC URBE PER 37 ANNOS DIPLOMATE REGIO PRAEPOSITI.

INGENII ET MORUM HUMANITATE, VIRTUTE ET INDUSTRIA OMNIBUS, INIURIA AUTEM ET DOLO NEMINI NOTI; AB AVARITIA, VINDICTA, INIUSTITIA ET IN CONCIVES ODIO PRORSUS ALIENI; PIE TANDEM, ET QUA CHRISTIANUM DECET, ANIMI TRANQUILLITATE ANNO AETATIS SUAE 57 VITA FUNCTI.

MONUMENTUM HOC MAERORIS ET CONIUGALIS SUI DESIDERII SIGNUM ET INDICIUM AGNETA BLACK, IPSIUS CONIUGIO NUNC VIDUATA, EXSTRUENDUM CURAVIT; LOCUMQUE SIMUL HUNC, CANCELLIS MUNITUM, IN QUO RECONDUNTUR OSSA ET CINERES ALEXANDRI SETON, SCHOLAE PUBLICAE HUIUS URBIS QUONDAM MODERATORIS, EIUS PATRIS, MARIOTAE GRAY MATRIS, ALEXANDRI, GULIELMI ET MARIOTAE, TRIUM IPSIUS LIBERORUM DICTO CONUBIO CUM AGNETA CONIUGE SUA PROCREATORUM, UT SIBI PARITER ET MARITI SUI AGNATIS COGNATISQUE, CUM FATIS CESSERINT, SEPULTURAM COMMODAM PRAEBEAT, AUCTORITATE PAROCHIALI,

RELIGIOSUM FECIT.

ANNO 1682

(2) TRANSLATION:—

Sacred to the Memory

of William Seton, by birth a distinguished and worthy citizen of this burgh of Haddington, but by pedigree descended from the most ancient and most

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noble family of Seton, as deriving his origin by direct descent from the house of Seton of Northrig, by right of a marriage contracted in former times with the sole heiress of that estate, surnamed Sinclair, through his own forefather William Seton, grandson of the head of the house of Seton;

Who discharged the office of provost of this community with loyalty, wisdom and moderation for an unbroken period of ten years, and more than once was honoured with representing the same at the highest assembly of the realm, and by royal warrant was charged with the post of mounted courier in this burgh for thirty-seven years;

Well known to all for the humanity of his nature and character, as for his virtue and industry, but to no one for wrongful actions and deceit; absolutely averse to covetousness, vindictiveness, injustice and hatred towards his fellow-citizens;

Who at length came to the end of his life righteously, and, as becomes a Christian, with peace of mind, in his fifty-seventh year.

Agnes Black, now bereft of wedlock with the deceased, saw to the erection of this memorial as a sign and token of her grief and longing for her own dear husband; and at the same time, with the permission of the parish, has consecrated this ground, protected as it is by the chancel, where lie buried the bones and ashes of his father, Alexander Seton, formerly rector of the high school of this burgh, his mother Marion Gray, and the three children of the deceased, Alexander, William and Marion, the issue of the said union with his wife Agnes, so that she may provide a fitting burial equally for herself and for the relatives of her husband on both sides, when once they have yielded to the fates.

1682

(3) NOTES:—

- (i) The inscription, some of it now barely decipherable, is to be seen on a wall of the ruined choir, within a few yards of the last resting place of Jane Welsh Carlyle.
- (ii) William Seton was provost of Haddington from 1657 to 1667. The sentiments expressed above seem to be somewhat at variance with the facts.

“Seton’s provostship ended abruptly in 1667, when he was confined

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in the tolbooth of Edinburgh for acting illegally and tyrannically towards two East Lothian men." (cf. "A Short History of Haddington" (1944) by W. Forbes Gray, pp. 95-96).

- (iii) His father, Alexander Seton, was rector of the grammar school of Haddington from 1623 to 1645.

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Mrs GEORGE MURRAY

As this Volume was going to press we learned with sorrow of the death of Mrs George Murray, widow of our late Secretary. Janet Murray was a faithful member, and supported her husband in all his activities for the Society. During the difficult interim period before the appointment of a new Secretary, she was able to advise on many points; and, in spite of indifferent health, she unobtrusively busied herself with the addressing and despatch of the notices for our meetings. We salute her memory.

D. D.