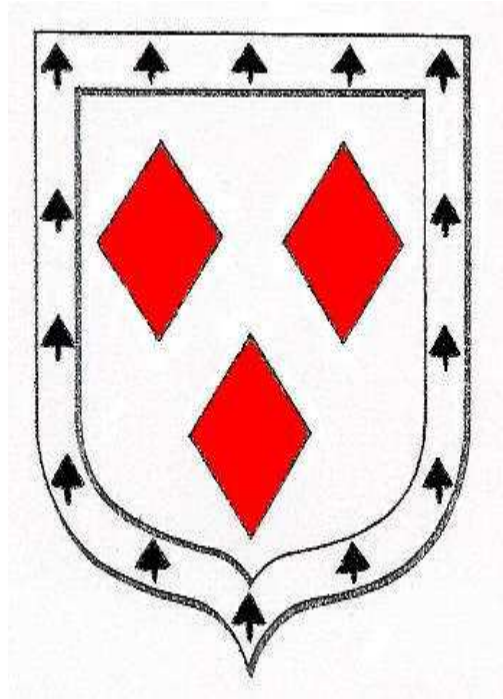


*THE HISTORY OF THE
FIFE PITCAIRNS*

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FAMILY BRANCH 10

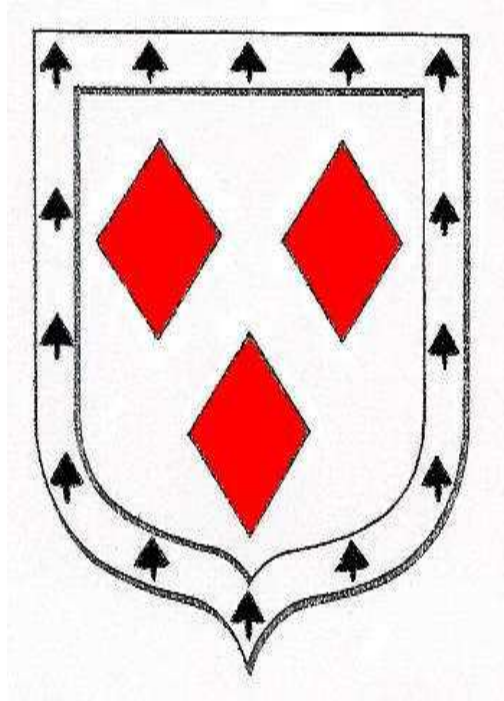


ARMS OF DR WILLIAM PITCAIRN OF DYSART.
Argent, three Lozenges Gules, within a Bordure Ermine
Crest. A Moon in her Complement Proper
Motto. Plena refulgent.

PITCAIRNS OF DYSART

FAMILY BRANCH X

THE PITCAIRNS OF DYSART



ARMS OF DR WILLIAM PITCAIRN OF DYSART.
Argent, three Lozenges Gules, within a Bordure Ermine
Crest. A Moon in her Complement Proper
Motto. Plena refulgent.

The Rev. James Pitcairne, ancestor of the Dysart Pitcairns, was the fifth son of William Pitcairn of that Ilk, seventeenth laird of the Barony of Forthar, and of his wife Anna, daughter of Sir David Crichtoun of Lugton. James was baptised on the 26th of January 1648, at Kettle Fife, the witnesses being John Seaton, fiar of Lathrisk, and Mr George Heriot of Ramorny.¹ He, like so many of the younger sons of the country gentlemen of Scotland, became a clergyman. He was first appointed to Burntisland, and in 1691 was transferred to Kettle, where he died in 1712. As his father's family estate, "Forfar," was in the parish of Kettle, this was no doubt the reason why he was appointed minister there.

Mr Pitcairne married, on December 26, 1670, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Francis Ruthven of Redcastle, and the marriage is noted in the Session records of that year. In the Register of Baptisms of Edinburgh, August 29, 1671, it states that –

¹ Canon Pitcairn's family papers.

“Mr James Pitcairne, Indweller, and Elizabeth Ruthven, A.S.N. had a son named Alexander, witnesses, John Ramsay of Braidmont, Alexander Pitcairne, Baillie”¹ (the father of the celebrated Dr Archibald Pitcairne, as is evident from his, and his wife’s, Janet Sydserff’s names appearing in the Register, the 25th of March 1673, on the baptism of a daughter, Janet). Alexander was a cousin of James Pitcairne’s also descended from the Pitcairns of Forthar, and a great friendship existed between the two families.

Lady Kellie showed the Forthar Pitcairns no little kindness and friendship; her father, Dr Archibald Pitcairne, always stated that the Pitcairns of Forthar were the Chiefs of the house of Pitcairn, and there is a letter of his still extant which proves this.

The following extract of a letter to Principal Lee from Sir John Campbell, a descendant of James Pitcairne, is of interest as showing that Sir John thought he was entitled to the barony of Ruthven through his ancestor Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Francis Ruthven of Redcastle, who married James Pitcairne.

Sir John took some trouble to find out if this was the case, but in the end the matter was dropped.

EXTRACT OF LETTER *from* SIR JOHN CAMPBELL
to MR PRINCIPAL LEE in 1815.

Sir John Campbell is encouraged by Mr Robert Pitcairn to hope that Mr Principal Lee will not be offended by his applying to him for some information from the stores of knowledge which he possesses respecting the families of the name of Pitcairne, which is that of Sir John’s Maternal Ancestors. The earliest of thee of which Sir John has authentic information is Rev. James Pitcairne, who was cotemporary with the celebrated Dr Archibald Pitcairne, and a near relation.

Dr Archibald’s father, as appears by the Session Records, witnessed the baptism of James’s first son.

James Pitcairne was tutor in one of the families of the Ruthvens. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Francis Ruthven of Redcastle. He was at one time minister of Burntisland, and in 1691 was translated from thence to Kettle, where he died in 1712. His marriage took place, and is noted in the Session’s Records in 1670.

Edinburgh Registers.

The families of Sir William Ruthven¹ of Douglass and of Sir Francis Ruthven of Redcastle were both in Edinburgh in 1673, as appears by the Session Records, in which they are found as witnesses to the Baptism of a son of Mr Francis Ruthven, Writer, whose marriage is recorded in 1672.² Sir William and Sir Francis appear to have been brothers, and were a branch of the Gowrie line. Elizabeth Ruthven and James Pitcairne were married in 1670, three years before the death of Lord Thomas, Lord David's father.

Sir John Campbell believes that Dr Archibald and his Ancestor James Pitcairne were first cousins.³ The tradition in Sir John's family is, that Elizabeth Ruthven, who married James Pitcairn in 1670, was an elder daughter of Sir Francis Ruthven of Redcastle, and of Elizabeth, second daughter of Thomas, first Baron of Freeland, created 1651, by Charles II.

His son, David, second Baron, one year after the death of his father in 1674, made a settlement of the property which he inherited from his father, in the entail of which he included a daughter of his sister Elizabeth and Sir Francis, named Isabella, to the exclusion of any others.

But it is proved that there was another Anna, by a lawsuit recorded concerning a bond of the Father's, and the tradition is strong tht there was Elizabeth besides.

The parishioners at Kettle have stories of the minister's wife, how she complained of having put up with only a Dominie, and treated her husband ill in consequence.

The family of the Johnstons claim the title, as well as the estate, through Isabella from Lord David. To that of the estate there can be no doubt, but that of the title they must claim through Isabella, from Sir William Cuninghame, who was the grandson of the first Baron Lord Thomas, by Jean his eldest daughter, and who never took up the title although he lived till 1725, twenty-two years after Lord David's death. By that circumstance it is to be presumed that he considered that he had no claim to the title, as it did not descend to heirs female; and as the Patent is said to have been burnt in 1750, with the family mansion of Freeland, there is no proof now existing of its so descending. If it does no descent, and it can be proved that Elizabeth, who married James Pitcairne, was an *elder* daughter of Sir Francis Ruthven and Elizabeth, daughter of the first lord, *her* descendants are the representatives who have the right to the title. She died in 1731, her son in 1757; they left descendants, and both out-

¹ Sir William Ruthven's daughter, Mary, married Sir Robert Douglas of Glenberrie, who was father to Agnes Douglas, wife of David Pitcairn of that Ilk and Forthar.

² Edinburgh Registers. ³ They were cousins. See Branch of Pitcairn of Pitcairns.

lived Sir William Cunningham, who died in 1725.

Isabella, through whom the Johnstons (by the marriage with her) claim, died in 1732. It is said tht she was summond to the Coronation of George II, in 1727, but that is not the fact. The Lord David had his caprice on the subject is proved by his naming his younger sister Jean first, then his eldest sister Anna then Isabella his niece, daughter of his sister, who was then deceased. Redcastle, an estate of the Ruthven, is in Forfarshire. It appears that William Ruthven in 1664 had lands in Perth, Berwick, and Forfar.

The ancient family of Ruthven are said to descend from Thor, a person of Saxon or Danish blood who settled in Scotland under David I, and whose descendant, the Hon. Alexander Ruthven of Freeland, co. Perth, younger son of William Ruthven of Freeland, who married Elizabeth, eldest daughter of sir William Moncrieff of Moncrieff, and dying (of plague) in 1608, was succeeded by his son, Sir Thomas Ruthven of Freeland, who was elevated to the Peerage as Lord Ruthven of Freeland in 1651. He married Isabella, daughter of Robert Lord Balfour of Burleigh, by whom he left a son and three daughters, viz.:-

- 1) David his heir.
- 1) Anne – married Sir William Cunningham.
- 2) Elizabeth, who married Sir Francis Ruthven, Knight, and had issue:-
 - 1) Isabella, who succeeded by a disposition of David, second Lord, to his estates, and became Baroness Ruthven.
 - 2) Elizabeth,¹ who married James Pitcairne and had a son David, who married Katherine Hamilton, of Wishaw, and had a son, John, killed at Bunker's Hill, who married Elizabeth Dalrymple, of Dreghorn, and had by her four sons, who *d. s. p.* and a daughter, Anne who married William Campbell, commissioner of the navy, who had three sons Sir John Campbell, K.C.T.S., General William Campbell, C.B. and the Rev. Augustus Campbell, rector of Liverpool; and two daughters, Elizabeth, married R. G. W. Onslow; and Marianna, married Rev. A. Onslow.
 - 3) Anna, who *d. s. p.*
- 3) Jean, *d. s. p.*

¹ Burke's Peerage, 1869

Lord Ruthven's only son and heir, David, second Baron, a lord of the Treasury, died without issue in 1701, when the barony devolved upon his niece, the Hon. Isabella Ruthven, as first baroness, daughter of the Hon. Elizabeth Ruthven above mentioned, by Sir Francis Ruthven. She married James Johnson, Esq., of Gratney, a colonel in the army, who assumed the name of Ruthven, and dying in 1730, was succeeded by her son, James, third baron.¹

Creation, 1651. The patent containing the precise specification of the honours of the house of Ruthven was unfortunately consumed with the mansion of Freeland, 15th of March 1750; but it is understood, and so acted upon, that the reversion was to the heirs male and female of the patentee's body.

Arms. Paly of six, argent and gules, within a bordure of the last.
Crest. A ram's head, coupé argent, horned or.
Supporters. Dexter, a ram; sinister, a goat, both proper.
Motto. Deeds show.

To The Rev. AUGUSTUS CAMPBELL, *from* The Rev. PETER BARCLAY,
relative to JAMES PITAIRN, of Kettle.
MANSE OF KETTLE.
June 29th, 1815.

REVD. SIR, - It appears from the tombstone of the ministers of Kettle (for we have the session Records of that time) that Mr James Pitcairne was admitted minister at Kettle in August 1691, and died April 1712. He had at least two sons, one who was afterwards minister of Dysart.

The late Dr William Pitcairn, P.R.C.P. in London, and the Major Pitcairn who was killed at Bunker's Hill, in America, were sons of Mr Pitcairn at Dysart, and grandsons of Mr Pitcairne at Kettle. Dr Pitcairn died without issue, and his heirs were the children of Major Pitcairn.

Whether Mr Pitcairne was ordained to any other parish before he came to Kettle, as the word admitted on the tombstone should properly imply, I have not been able to learn, nor have we any tradition that I can find respecting his daughters or other sons, if he had any.

In his time Pitcairns were lairds of Forthar, an estate in this parish, which was afterwards sold to Dr Stewart Threipland. From Dr S. Threipland somewhere about 1770, Dr William Pitcairn, in London, bought this estate.

1. Burke's Peerage, 1869

Whether he as a descendant of that family, and wished to recover the patrimonial estate of his ancestors, I have not been able to find out. But it has again within these few years been sold out of that family, the management of it, at such a distance, not having answered expectation. Rev. Sir Your most obedient and very humble Servant.

PETER BARCLAY.

LETTER to CANON PITCAIRN *from* SIR JOHN CAMPEBLL, in
Reference to the PITCAIRN PEDIGREE.¹

Copy, General Sir John Campbell's Evidence, 1848.

I Am descended by my Mother from James Pitcairne, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Francis Ruthven of Redcastle, in Edinburgh, in December of 1670: he was admitted minister of Kettle in Fife, in 1691, where is situated the estate of Forthar, and died in 1712. His son, David, was admitted minister of Dysart in 1708, and died in 1757. He married Katherine, daughter of William Hamilton of Wishaw. Amongst other sons and daughters, who died *d. s. p.*, he had William and John; the first became President of the College of Physicians, and purchased the estate of Forthar. My mother's father, John, was born in 1722, was a Major in the Marines, and was killed at Bunker's Hill in the American War: he married Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Dalrymple of Dreghorn, and had, besides others, Dr David Pitcairn, and Anne, who married William Campbell, whose son I am.

James of Kettle and Dr Archibald were contemporaries, and in Edinburgh in the youth of their families, and their descendants for succeeding generations, and were ever on the footing of nearest relations.

Lady Kellie showed the family of Dysart great kindness. I am now the senior representative of the descendants of James Pitcairn of Kettle and Elizabeth Ruthven. The property left by Dr David Pitcairn, my mother's eldest brother, which is all now in England, has become partly the possession of my daughter and partly that of my youngest brother,² having been left by Dr David to the widow, and by her to them.

¹ Canon Pitcairn's papers. ² The Rev. Augustus Campbell.

Extract from another LETTER OF GENERAL CAMPNELL, in
Reference to the Pitcairn Family. ¹

51 CHARLES STREET, BERKELEY SQUARE.
9th May 1848.

PITCAIRN of Forthar was the chief of the name, and was so styled by Doctor Archibald, as is shown by a letter of his still extant. The Forthar estate was sold in 1770, to Doctor William Pitcairn, President of the College of Physicians in London, and sold again by his nephew David of Kettle in Fife. The present representative of Pitcairne of Forthar is Sir James Pitcairn,² Knt., M.D. Physician to the Forces at Cork in Ireland, and Inspector General of Hospitals.

LETTER *from* Mr Reid, Minister of Kettle, in Answer to
CANON PITCAIRN'S Inquiries.

Manse of Kettle Fifeshire.
24th October 1864.

DEAR SIR, - I have yours of the 20th inst. Making inquiry regarding the Rev. James Pitcairne, who was minister of this parish during the latter part of the seventeenth century. It appears that about twenty-one years ago Sir John Campbell called at the Manse of Kettle to make inquiry regarding the same gentleman. I was from home when he called, but he left his card stating that he was a descendant of Mr Pitcairne, and wished to know if there was anything in the Register of the Parish that proved the said Rev James Pitcairne to have been married² in Edinburgh in 1670. to a daughter of Baron Ruthven.

I heard from certain old persons in the parish that the Rev James Pitcairne *had* married a lady of rank, and that she and the minister did not live happily together. I was told that he had been a tutor in the family of Lord Ruthven, and had married the elder daughter.

¹ Canon Pitcairn's papers.

² The marriage took place in Edinburgh in 1670. Register of Marriages.

The story is that she used to cuff the minister, and that he often spent whole nights outside among the broom to be rid of her scolding tongue. She was a woman of a high spirit and used to say to her revered but poor husband that she was a great fool to have married a poor dominie or teacher, and refused so many high offers. I wrote this and other stories to Sir John Campbell. His (Mr Pitcairn's) son David, as you say, and as Sir John wrote, was afterwards minister of Dysart.

There were some Pitcairns, proprietors of Forthar, in this parish up till the end of last century, when Dr Pitcairn sold the property to Mr Balfour of Balbirnie. – Yours faithfully,

W. REID.

Note. – The Rev James Pitcairne was the fifth son of William Pitcairne of that Ilk and Forthar, and therefore in point of ancient descent, though not of fortune, quite equal to the lady, his wife, who scorned him so much.

LETTER *from* Rev WILLIAM MUIR to CANON PITCAIRN, in
Reference to the Dysart Pitcairns.¹

Manse, Dysart, 26th Sept. 1866.

DEAR SIR, - I feel gratified by our notices of the descendants of my predecessor. The following additional particulars may have some interest. The regiment to which the Rev David Pitcairn of Dysart was attached as chaplain was Colonel Preston's. Though of the most gentle disposition, like his son the Major, he had plenty of courage. I have been told that, the regiment being once in position for action, Colonel Preston, seeing Mr Pitcairn in the line, ordered him to the rear to pray for them.

The Major erected a monument to his father in the old church at Dysart: the church was abandoned, and partly demolished in 1802, exposing the monument to the weather and to the ravages of boys, who soon striped it of its marble. Part of it was to be seen when I came to the parish about forty years ago. The iron fastenings now alone remain, to which I often directed the attention of visitors.

¹ Canon Pitcairn's family papers.

About thirty years ago I wrote a short memoir of the Rev David Pitcairn, which appeared in the `Christian Instructor,` a religious periodical now popular. I have looked through my library this morning, but do not think I have a copy. – I am, dear Sir, yours truly,

W. MUIR.

Mr James Pitcairne minister of Kettle, died in 1712. On the tombstone of the ministers there is the following: -

“Mr James Pitcairne, admitted minister at Kettle in August 1691, who died in April 1712,”

In the extract of the Register of Burials at *Dysart*, which began January 5 1721 there is this entry: - “In July 13 1731 Mrs *Elizabeth Ruthven*, Relict of Mr James Pitcairne minister of the Gospel at Kettle, buried in the Parson’s Isle.”

No doubt she must have lived with her son David Pitcairn, minister of Dysart, or in his parish, after the death of her husband, and been buried in his church. James Pitcairne left two sons, Alexander and David. David had seen some service in Holland, and returned to Scotland before 1708. That year it states in the Parish Records of Dysart; “Induction of Mr David Pitcairn, minister of the Scots Presbyterian Regiment of Foot, commanded by the Right Honble. Colonel Preston, abroad.”

The said David Pitcairn was admitted, the 8th day of January, by Mr John Wilson, one of the ministers of Kirkcaldy: -

“And the Heritors, Magistrates, Elders, and Masters of Families of the said Borrough and Parish did take him by the hand in token of their owning of, and submitting to him, their lawful Pastor, in place of the Rev John Anderson, late Pastor there.”¹ In the same year, on “June the 19th 1708, the Rev David Pitcairn, Minister of Dysart, and Mrs Katherine Hamilton, daughter to the Laird of Wishaw, in the Parish of Camsnethen, were contracted in marriage, and there orderly proclaimed.”

Katherine Hamilton, born the 13th of May 1682, was of very good descent, second daughter of William Hamilton of Wishaw, who was direct ancestor of the sixth Lord Belhaven,² who dying in 1784, in 1799 his son William by a decision in the House of Lords in his favour, assumed the title of seventh Lord Belhaven. Katherine Hamilton was also connected with the ducal family of Hamilton.

1 Parish Records of Dysart.

2 Douglas’s Baronetage, vol. i. p.208.

On her mother's side her descent was no less noble, as William Hamilton's second wife, Katharine's mother, was Mary (daughter of Sir Charles Erskine of Alva and grand-daughter of John seventh Earl of Mar), by whom he had five sons and six daughters.

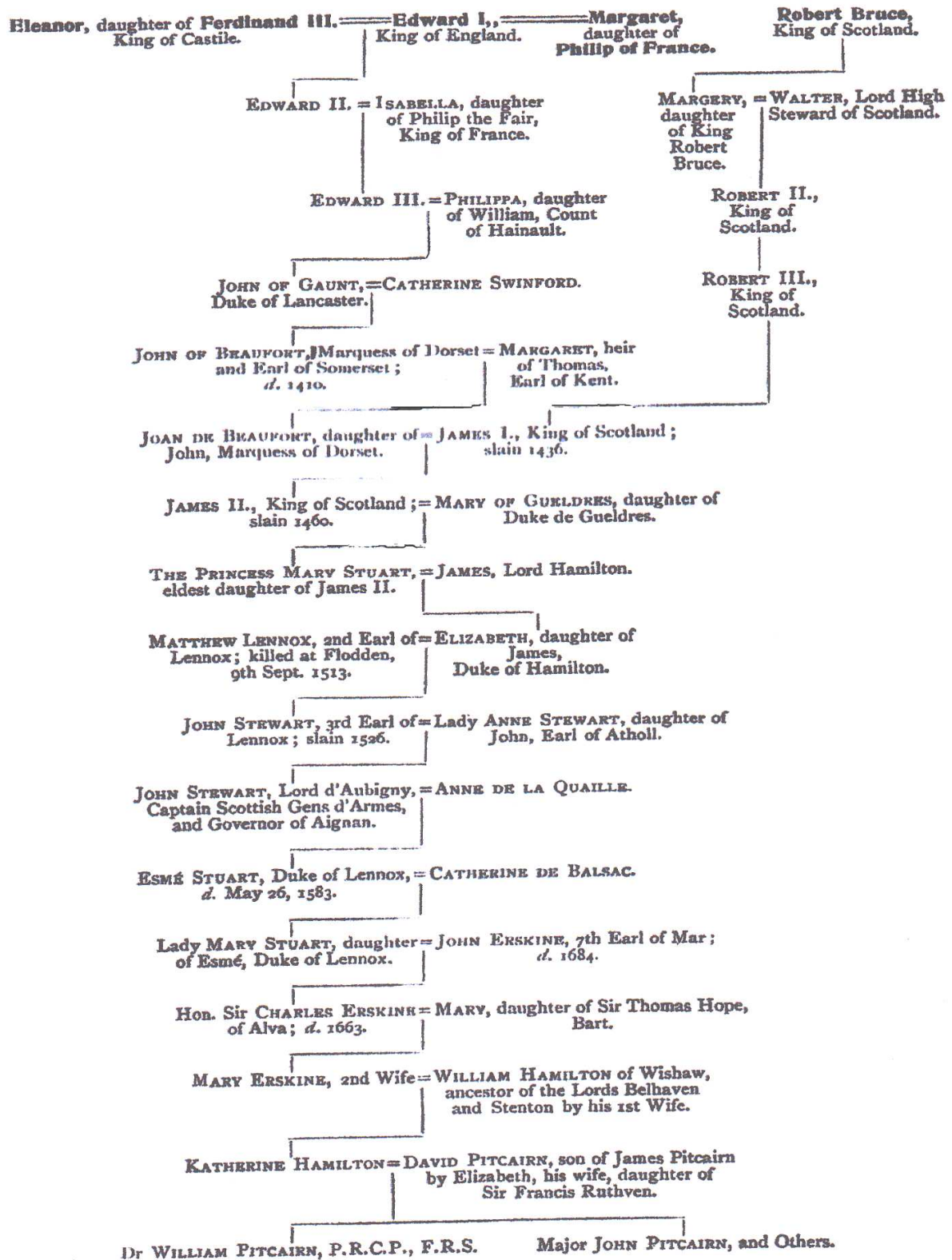
One of Katherine's half brothers was Robert Hamilton, son of William Hamilton, and his first wife Anne, daughter of John Stuart of Udston and of Castlemilk. His grandson, Robert Wishaw, married Susan Balfour, daughter of Sir Michael Balfour of Dennistoun, and became the father of Lord Belhaven, who was great-great-grandson of Katherine Pitcairn's father; Katherine's brother-german, Charles Hamilton, married Euphemia, sister of Sir James Hamilton of Rosehall. Her niece Helen, daughter of her second brother John Hamilton, married Sir Patrick Keith Murray; her other niece, Joan, married Sir James Dunbar.

Her third brother, the Right Hon. William Gerald Hamilton, was Secretary of State for Ireland and afterwards Chancellor of the Exchequer for that kingdom. He had a son William, who was known by the name of Single Speech Hamilton; he died 1796.

LINEAGE OF KATHERINE PITCAIRN, Wife of DAVID PITCAIRN
of
Dysart, on her Mother's side who was MARY,
Daughter of Sir CHARLES ERSKINE of Alva,
and
Wife of WILLIAM HAMILTON of Wishaw.



**LINEAGE OF KATHERINE PITCAIRN, Wife of DAVID PITCAIRN of
Dysart, on her Mother's side, who was MARY, Daughter of Sir CHARLES
ERSKINE of Alva, and Wife of WILLIAM HAMILTON of Wishaw.**



The Rev David Pitcairn had eleven children.¹

- 1) Henry, born Sept. 12th 1709. Witness, Henry Lord St Clare,
- 2) Margaret, born Sept 24th 1710. Witness, Henry Lord St Clare
- 3) William, born May 9th 1712 President of the College of Physicians, London. Witnesses Henry Lord St Clare, Mr Alex Bonthron.
- 4) James, 1713. Witnesses, Alexander Bonthron, Henry, Lord St Clare.
- 5) Archibald 1714. Witnesses Mr Henry Dall, Mr John Cleghorn & Mr Alex Bonthron, Archibald Arnot, chirurgion.
- 6) Elizabeth, 1715, Mr Alex Bonthron, Baillie Alex Swinton.
- 7) David, 1717. Witnesses, Mr Cleghorn, Baillies Thomson and Abercrombie.
- 8) Jean, 1718. Witnesses Baillies Abercrombie, Thomson and Mr Dall
- 9) Mary, 1719
- 10) John, 1722, Major in the Royal Marines.
- 11) Child born, 1728 died at Moffat.

Their mother is called in the Register Mrs Katherine Hamilton of Wishaw.

Mr David Pitcairn died in 1757. In the Register of Dysart is the following -

The Rev Mr Robert Balfour, minister of Ballingrie, by appointment of the Presbytery. Preached here last Sabbath, and declared the first post of the ministry vacant, by the death of the Rev David Pitcairn, who died upon Monday, the 18th of April (1757) last, about 9 of the clock in the morning, aged 83 years and five months, in the ministry 62 years, whereof 49 years 2 months in Dysart.

The following letters, written by his successor, the Rev Mr Muir, bear testimony to Mr Pitcairn's high character and goodness of heart: -

*Extract of Letter from Mr WILLIAM MUIR, Minister of Dysart
to CANON PITCAIRN*

Manse, Dysart,
22nd September 1864.

The Rev. D. Pitcairn as one of the most eminent ministers that ever filled the first charge of his parish, which is collegiate. His father was minister of Kettle, in the Presbytery of Cupar. Prior to his settlement here he was

¹ From the Dysert Register and Canon Pitcairn's papers.

an army chaplain, and saw some service on the Continent. His wife was connected with the ducal house of Hamilton.

One of his sons rose to the rank of Major of Marines. He had the unfortunate distinction of firing the first shot in the American war, having the command of the British at the sad affair at Lexington. He fell mortally wounded, leading the successful attack on Bunker's Hill. David Pitcairn, minister, was admitted to the first chare of Dysart 1708, and died very suddenly 12th April 1757, aged eighty-four.

There was another family of some note of the same name in this parish at that period. Of them I know nothing more than that they had a son, a captain in the army.

Mr D. Pitcairn had a large family. One of his sons became an eminent physician in London. I have conversed with aged people who remember him. – Yours truly,
Wm MUIR.

Letter from Mr WILLIAM MUIR, Minister of Dysart, for
CANON PITCAIRN of Eccles.

DYSART, 13th October 1864.

MY DEAR SIR, - I send by this post a copy of `The Antiquities of Dysart.` Please do not return it, but give it to the Vicar of Eccles: he may be pleased to have a view of the church where the Rev. D. Pitcairn preached so long. The road shown passes over the north aisle of the church, and shows part of the old cemetery. The monument to Mr Pitcairn was fixed on the east gable, which is not shown.

“Forthar,” of which you wrote, is in the parish of Kettle, of which the father of Mr Pitcairn was minister. I remember only one story, which I may write as illustrative of change. He had got from some friend a present of a few pounds of tea. He asked one of his elders to take a pound of it, saying, “It can never be al used in my house”!

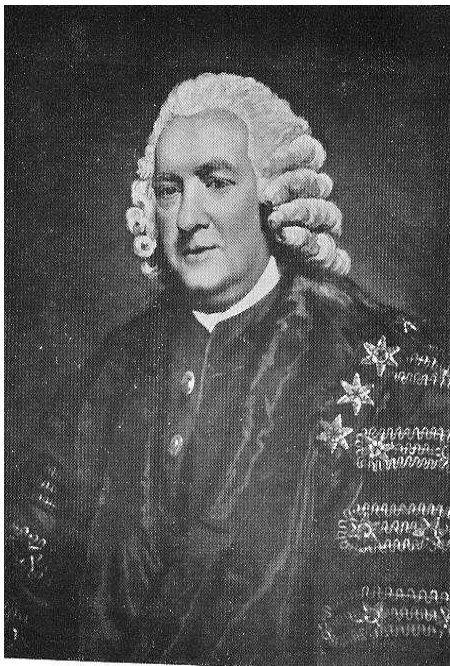
It was an uncommon beverage then. – I am, dear Sir yours truly,

Wm. MUIR.

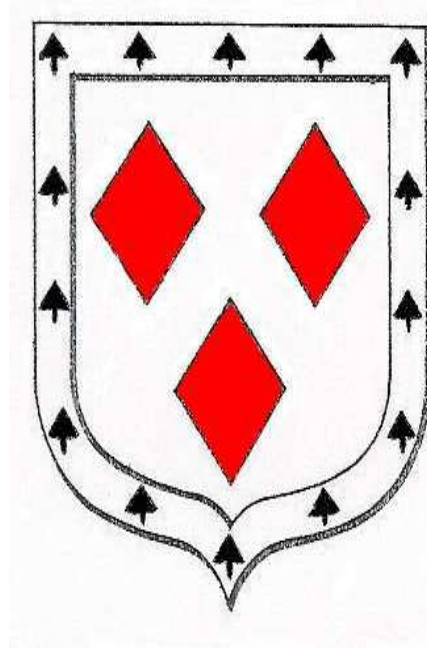
The two most distinguished of the Rev. David Pitcairn's children were Dr William Pitcairn, President of the College of Physicians, London and Major John Pitcairn. There is a statement of another brother Robert, whose name is not in the afore-mentioned list, who had apartments given him in Holyrood through the favour of the Duke of Hamilton. He died *sine prole*.

DR. WILLIAM PITCAIRN P.R.C.P., F.R.S.

**PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, LONDON,
FELLOW OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY, FELLOW OF THE SOCIETY
OF ANTIQUARIES, AND TRUSTEE OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM**



Dr William Pitcairn P.R.C.P F.R.S.
By Sir Joshua Reynolds



Arms of Dr William Pitcairn of Dysart
Crest. A moon in her complement proper
Motto. Plena refulgent.

DR PITCAIRN'S coat of arms was: shield argent, three lozenges for Pitcairn, within a bordure ermine. These are the same arms as Dr Archibald Pitcairne carried.

Dr William Pitcairn, the second son of David Pitcairn, minister of Dysart, was born in the year 1712. He studied at the University of Leyden, where he entered on the Physic line, on the 15th October 1734, and attended the lectures of Boerhaave. He took the degree of M.D. at Reheims. Boerhaave was a pupil, with Mead, of that distinguished man Dr Archibald Pitcairne, William Pitcairn's cousin.

William's mother Katharine was, as has been stated, a member of the Hamilton family she was related to James, sixth Duke of Hamilton: her son William, after he had finished his medical studies, went to stay with the Duke at Oxford, and travelled with him abroad in 1742. "The Duke's wife as the beautiful Miss Gunning, who in one year after her husband's death, married the Duke of Argyll. From this connection, and from his own personal and professional merits, Dr Pitcairn moved in the highest circles in London."¹

When the Radcliffe Library was opened at Oxford, with great solemnity, on the 13th of April 1749, the degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred, by diploma, on Dr William Pitcairn. Soon after this he began to practice in London. "His brother, Major John Pitcairn, was killed at the Battle of Bunker's Hill and as there was not in the world a more excellent or benevolent character than William Pitcairn, he adopted his brother's orphan children, and always acted towards them with the affection and solicitude of a parent. He was a man of very agreeable manners, and his society was much sought after. On the 20th of June 1750, William Pitcairn was elected a Fellow of the College of Physicians. In 1752 he was Gulstonian Lecturer, and in 1753, 1755, 1759 and 1762, he was made Censor. He was elected President of the Royal College of Physicians in 1775, and every year until he resigned in 1785, when he retired from practice."²

"On September 30th 1785, a Motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously in the College – that the thanks of the College be given to Dr William Pitcairn for his unremitting attention to the affairs of the College, and for the great zeal that he showed for his honour and prosperity during the years that he held the office of President."

He lived in Warwick Court for a time, near the old College of Physicians in Warwick Lane, in the City of London, and had a very large practice as a physician – in fact, Dr Pitcairn was the leasing practitioner in the City. Dr Radcliffe's celebrated Gold-Headed Cane³ had been bequeathed by Dr Mead to Dr Anthony Askew, and by him left to Dr William Pitcairn, who in turn, seven years after resigning the Presidentship, died bequeathing the cane to Dr David Pitcairn, who left it to the College of Physicians, where it is now carefully kept in a glass case, in the Censor's Room.

1 Dr Murray's History of Colinton.

2 From Roll of the Royal College of Physicians, by William Munk.

3 Munk's Roll of the Royal College of Physicians, vol. ii. p. 174; and "The Gold-Headed Cane," by Dr Macmichael.

The cane, which belonged to Dr Radcliffe in 1689, was a gold-headed one with a crook or cross-bar for a handle, with the arms on it of the different doctors to whom it belonged. A doctor's cane had generally, in the olden days, a rounded knob or head, often of gold, sometimes of silver, but in later times generally of ivory. "In earlier times the knob was perforated with holes, and it had within a cavity or chamber, for aromatic or Marseilles vinegar – le vinaigre de quatre voleurs – of sovereign efficacy against all pestilences. The head of the cane was thus a vinaigrette, which the doctor held to his nose when he went into the sick chamber, so that its fumes might protect him from contagion." (Dr Radcliffe's cane had no knob, however, but a cross-bar handle.)

"Physic of old her entry made,
Beneath th' immense full-bottomed shade,
While the gilt cane, with solemn pride,
To each sagacious nose applied,
Seem'd but a necessary prop
To bear the weight of wig at top."

On the 22nd of February 1750 Dr William Pitcairn was elected Physician of St Bartholomew's Hospital, and resigned that post on the 3rd of February 1780. On the 4th of March 1784 he was elected Treasurer of St Bartholomew's, and thenceforward lived in the Treasurer's House in the Hospital. He was long on the staff of St Bartholomew's Hospital, where a ward is still called after him. His sagacious use of opium in fevers was very remarkable and in enteric fever, which was not then recognized, he no doubt saved many lives. He had a country residence with a botanical garden of 5 acres in Upper Street, Islington, opposite dross Street. He was an accomplished botanist, - so much so that Monsieur L'H'eritier, the great botanist, gave the name of Pitcairnia to a species of plant in his honour. "Pitcairnia in Botany received the name from M. L'H'eritier in honour of the late William Pitcairn, K.S., R.R.S., President of the College of Physicians, and Trustee of the British Museum. One of the most amiable and benevolent of men." *Vide* Rees's Encyclopedia. He was also a member of the Royal Society, and a Trustee of the British Museum.

St Bartholomew's Hospital, where Dr Pitcairn was Treasurer, was founded in the year 1123 by Rahere, who subsequently founded the Priory of St Bartholomew: the Hospital had an independent constitution and a separate estate, but as for some purpose under the control of the Priory. At the granting of Henry VIII's charter, St Bartholomew's Hospital contained only 100 beds, but since that time its out-and in-patients have increased enormously. The Hospital is now to be extended, and brought thoroughly up to date in every way. It does a splendid work in the City, and it is a matter of great congratulation that it has been decided not to move it from the old original sit, which would have been an immense pity.

In Macmichael's "Gold-Headed Cane" it alludes to Dr Pitcairn's kindness to his nephew and his help to him in the early part of his career. After mentioning the adoption of his nephews and nieces after their father's death, it goes on to say: -

"Among the many occasions on which I (i.e., the Gold-Headed Cane, which is supposed to tell the story) attended him to the houses of his professional brethren, I remember once particularly, when in company with his nephew, then a very young man (afterwards Dr David Pitcairn), were called upon Dr Richard Warren. We were received with the greatest kindness and alacrity, the Doctor showing my master that respectful attention which, without checking the familiar tone of friendly intercourse, is due and agreeable to superiors in age. During the lively and entertaining conversation which ensued, Dr Pitcairn, in introducing his nephew expressed himself in these words: -

"Dr Warren, my nephew, whom I present to you, received his education in Glasgow, and then at Cambridge; but afterwards I took him home, and kept him here in London, under my own eye for a short time, endeavoring to give him some of my peculiar views of practice. He is now just returned from Edinburgh, where he has been under the tuition of my countryman Dr Cullen, whose clinical clerk he has been for a twelvemonth. Surely you will think him a youth of promise in his profession when I inform you, that in the case of the son of that great man of Physic, which the father thought desperate, David Pitcairn took a hint from what he had learned in London, and advised, a larger dose of laudanum than is usually made use of, which restored the child of his preceptor and friend. My practice of using opium has thus travelled northwards, to my own country, and I rejoice that it has reached the door of so amiable a man and excellent practitioner as Dr Cullen.'

“So strong a recommendation was not without its effect, and the expressions of friendship with which Dr Warren received the young student of physic were afterwards amply fulfilled by the real assistance and countenance which he gave him in the commencement of his professional career.”

The old estate of Forthar, which had belonged to the Pitcairns of Pitcairn and Forthar, for 400 years, had been bought in 1756, by Dr Stewart Threipland from the creditors of David Pitcairn of Forthar, who was a Jacobite. Dr Threipland evidently bought it in on behalf of the family. He was a connection of theirs, and a Jacobite himself, and bought it to enable the Pitcairns to buy it back again from him.

The decret of certification and bidding the ground at the instance of the said Dr Stewart Threipland, was dated the 26th day of November 1760.¹

Extract Disposition of the said lands and Barony of Forthar by the said Dr Stewart Threipland in favour of *Dr William Pitcairn*, Physician in London, dated the 2nd of August and recorded in the books of Council and Session (office J.C.) 1st October 1773.

Instrument of resignation of said lands and Barony of Forthar in favour of the said *Dr William Pitcairn*, dated the 6th day of August 1773. Charter of Resignation following thereupon in favour of the said *Dr William Pitcairn* of the said lands and Barony of Forthar, dated the 6th August, and sealed at Edinburgh 15th September 1773.

Instrument of Seasine in the said Lands and Barony of Forthar following upon the Precept of Seasine in said Charter in favour of *Dr William Pitcairn*. Dated the 22nd of September and recorded in the General Register of Seasines at Edinburgh the 6th of October 1775.

These deeds clearly show that Dr William Pitcairn bought back the ancestral estate. He would naturally be interested to do so, as his great-grandfather was William Pitcairne of Pitcairne and Forthar, his grandfather, James Pitcairn of Kettle, being William's fifth son. His cousin, James Pitcairn of that Ilk and Forthar, was the direct heir in lineal descent, but as his estate of Forthar had been confiscated, he as therefore too poor to buy it back, or to get any one to do so for him, but no doubt he was glad to see it in the hands of a Pitcairn. He was on terms of friendly intimacy with his cousin Dr William Pitcairn, and when he was appointed to the livings of Compton Bassett and West Kington, and came over from Ireland to take his LL.B degree in London, he mentioned in one of his letters that he went to see Dr William Pitcairn, and dined with him.

¹ Canon Pitcairn's family papers.

Dr Carlyle of Inveresk, an eminent man of his day in Scotland, and a great friend of Dr William Robertson, Principal of the Edinburgh University and Historiographer for Scotland, wrote his `Autobiography,` which was published by Messrs W. Blackwood & Sons. They have very kindly allowed me to quote references to Dr W. Pitcairn from the book, which are very interesting, as they are by a man who really knew him well, stayed frequently at his house, and had every opportunity of judging of his character. I therefore quote the following extracts verbatim. He says: -

“In 1758 Robertson and I went to London, - he to offer his `History of Scotland` for sale.

“He had never been there before, so we went to see the lions together, and had for the most part the same acquaintance.

“Dr William Pitcairn, a very respectable physician in the City, and a great friend of Dr Dickson’s was a cousin of Dr Robertson’s, whose mother was a Pitcairn; we became very intimate with him. Drs Armstrong and Orme were also of their Society.

“Dr William Pitcairn was a very handsome man, a little turned of fifty, and of a very gentlemanly address. When he settled in London, he was patronized by an Alderman Behn, who being Jacobite, and not doubting that Pitcairn was of the same side, as he had travelled with the Duke of Hamilton, he set him up as a candidate for St Bartholomew’s Hospital. During the canvass the alderman came to the doctor, and asked him, with impatient heat, `if it was true that he was the son of a Presbyterian minister in Scotland?` which Pitcairn not being able to deny, the other conjured him `to conceal that circumstance like murder, otherwise it would infallibly blow them up.` He was elected Physician to that Hospital and soon rose to great eminence in the City of London.

“Dr Pitcairn was a bachelor, and lived handsomely, but chiefly entertained young Scotch physicians who had no establishment. Of these, Drs Armstrong and Dickson were much with him. As our connections drew Robertson ¹ and me frequently to the City, before my sister’s house was ready, we both took up our lodging at his house. We never saw our landlord in the morning, for he went to the Hospital before eight o’clock; but his housekeeper had orders to ask us to breakfast if we intended to dine there, and to tell us when her master was expected. The doctor always returned from his round of visits before three, which was his hour for dinner, and quite happy if he found us there. Exactly at five, his

¹ Dr William Robertson.

chariot came to the door to carry him out on his afternoon visits.

“We sat as long as we liked at table, and drank excellent claret. He returned soon after eight o’clock; if he found his company still together, he was highly pleased. He immediately entered into our humour, ate a bit of cold meat, drank a little wine, and went to bed before ten o’clock. This was an uncommon strain of hospitality, which I am glad to record, on repeated trials, nee was exhausted. He lived on in the same manner till 1782, when he was past eighty; and when I was in London for the last time he was perfectly entire, and made his morning tour on foot. I dined once with him at that period in his own house with a large company of ladies and gentlemen, and at Dr Hamilton’s (his cousin’s) of St Martin’s Church, on both of which occasions he was remarkably gay. He survived for a year or two longer. Dr David Pitcairn, the son of his brother, the Major, who was killed early in the American rebellion, was heir both of his fortune and of his professional merit...

“There was a club in London where Robertson and I never failed to attend, as we were adopted members while we stayed in town. It was held once a –week in the British Coffee-house, at eight in the evening; the members were Scotch physicians from the City and Court end of the town. Of the first set were Pitcairn, Armstrong, Orme and Dickson; of the second were William Hunter, Clephan, Mr Graham of Pall Mall &. – all of them very agreeable men; Clephan especially was one of the most sensible, learned, and judicious men I ever knew, - an admirable classical scholar and a fine historian. He often led the conversation, but it was with an air of modesty and deference to the company, which added to the weight of all he said. Hunter was gay and lively to the last degree, and often came in to us at nine o’clock fatigued and jaded. He had had no dinner, but supped on a couple of eggs, and drank his glass of claret, - for though we were a punch club, we allowed him a bottle of what he liked best. He repaid us with the brilliancy of his conversation. His toast was “May no English nobleman venture out of the world without a Scottish physician, as I am sure there are none who venture in.” He was a famous lecturer on anatomy. Robertson and I expressed a wish to be admitted one day. He appointed us a day, and give us one of the most elegant, clear, and brilliant lectures on the eye any of us had ever heard...

“As soon as my sister got into her house in a court in Aldermansbury, Dr Dickson and she gave a dinner to my friends, with two or three of his.

There were Doctors Pitcairn, Armstrong, Smollett, and Orme, together with Dr Robertson, John lair, Home, and myself. We passed an exceedingly pleasant day, although Smollett had given Armstrong a staggering blow at the beginning of dinner, by asking him some questions about his nose, which was still patched, on account of his having run it through the side-glass of his chariot when somebody came up to speak to him. Armstrong was naturally glumpy, and this, I was afraid, would have silenced him all day, which it might, had not Smollett called him familiarly John, soon after his joke on his nose; but he knew that Smollett loved and respected him, and soon recovered his good-humour, and became brilliant. My sister, who had one lady with her, - one of Pitcairn's nieces, I believe, - was happy and agreeable, and highly pleasing to her guests, who confessed they had seldom seen such a superior woman.”¹

The following anecdote is told of Dr Pitcairn by Bishop Low: -

“A grandchild of Sir George McKenzie, being seized with a dangerous illness, was attended by the head physician of the day, Dr Eccles. Additional advice being thought necessary, young Dr William Pitcairn was proposed in consultation, but Dr Eccles expressed a fear lest he might not come, as there was an enmity between them. Dr Pitcairn being, nevertheless, called in, and on his supposed scruple being mentioned, he said: `Tell them I would come to consult upon the case of a grandchild of Sir George McKenzie though it a with the muckle horn'd Deil himself.’”²

“Bishop Low also told an effecting story of an old lady, a Miss ~Sarah Pitcairne, a member of his congregation at Pittenweem, who lived there in reduced circumstances, owing to her family being Jacobites, and their estates of Pitcairne and Forthar being forfeited. He was occasionally invited to drink tea with her. Lady Anne Erskine of the Kellie family, hearing of Miss Pitcairne through the Bishop, became interested in the old lady on account of her pedigree, for Lady Anne's mother was a Pitcairne, daughter of the celebrated wit of that name She accordingly wrote to Dr Pitcairn, who was then in high practice in London, giving him an account of his venerable member of his clan, and soliciting some assistance for her. This excellent man at once acceded to the request, and granted Miss Pitcairne a small annuity. The Bishop went to take a fish dinner with her, and to communicate the joyful tidings. After dinner he

¹ Dr Carlyle's Autobiography, pp. 333.347.

² Extract from Life of Bishop Low, by Conolly.

produced a bottle of wine, which he said he had brought because he had a particular health to give. He said, `I have to propose to you, Madam, that we drink a bumper of this generous liquor, to a man who deserves to have his health drunk in the best we have, - I mean Dr Pitcairn of London, our kinsman, who has settled upon you an annuity that will make you comfortable for life.` The poor old lady was overpowered with joy, and could not sleep a wink all that night.”

Mr Conolly, the writer of `The Biographical Dictionary of Eminent Men of Fife,` says: “I knew Miss Pitcairne well, met her regularly at church, and was invited when a boy to drink tea with her once or twice a-week. I was always told to bring my flue with me, that I might play *Jacobite* tunes to her after tea. She lived to a good old age, and had several sisters, all of whom she survived.”

Dr Pitcairn was President of the Royal College of Physicians, a Fellow of the Royal and Antiquarian Societies, and a great botanist. Although unknown as authors, both Dr Pitcairn and his nephew did much to advance Medical Science. “About the year 1765 Dr William Pitcairn, and subsequently Dr David Pitcairn, were successively physicians in St Bartholomew’s Hospital, and delivered lectures, probably occasional ones, there on Medicine. Further additions to the course of instruction were made by Mr Abernethy, with the assistance of Drs William and David Pitcairn, the principal lectures of the present day were established.”¹

Dr William Pitcairn died at Islington on the 23rd November 1791, and was buried in a vault in the Church of St Bartholomew the Less, on the 1st December 1791: and in the same vault are also buried his brother, Major John Pitcairn, and his nephew Dr David Pitcairn. His portrait by sir Joshua Reynolds is in the Censor’s Room of the College of Physicians; it was engraved by Joshua Jones in 1777. Another portrait, engraved by Hedges, is mentioned by Bromley. His garden at Islington was dismantled, and with its contents sold by auction after his death in May 1792. He died unmarried, and left his fortune, pictures, and estate to his nephew, Dr David Pitcairn.

¹ Cunningham’s London, p.36, edit. 1850.

MAJOR JOHN PITCAIRN

1722-1775



MAJOR JOHN PITCAIRN
1760.

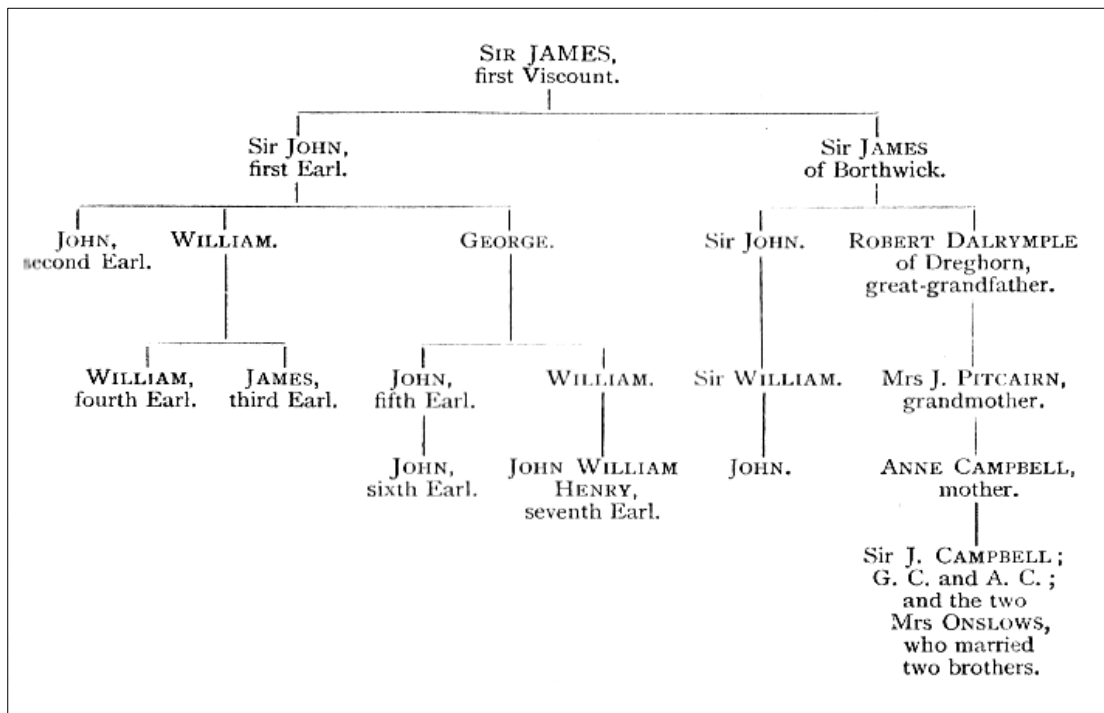
MAJOR JOHN PITCAIRN, of the Royal Marines, was the son of the Rev David Pitcairn, minister of Dysart, Fife, and Katherine Hamilton, daughter of William Hamilton of Wishaw.

He was born at Dysart in 1722, and married Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Dalrymple of Arnsfield, Dumfriesshire, and Dreghorn Castle, Mid-Lothian. Mr Dalrymple was of the family of the Waterside Dalrymples. The following letters show the ancestry of Mrs John Pitcairn, and her Dalrymple connections. They were written many years ago to, and from, Sir John Campbell and the Rev Augustus Campbell, grandchildren of Major John Pitcairn, and were lent to me by Mrs Pitcairn Campbell of Vicar's Cross.

Extract from a letter of Sir John Campbell.

The family of Dalrymple had its name from William Dalrymple who married Agnes Kennedy, heir of the Barony of Stair, 1450, from whom descended Sir James, who was first Professor of Philosophy at Glasgow, then advocate, and in 1658 a Senator of the College of Justice. He was made a Viscount in 1690. His wife was Margaret, daughter of James Ross of Balneil. Their eldest son, Sir John, was Lord Advocate in 1682, made an Earl in 1703, and married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Dundas of Newliston. Sir W. Dalrymple, eldest son of Sir John of Cousland, eldest son of Sir James of Borthwick, who was second son of James, first Viscount Stair, bears quarterly 1st and 4th or, on a saltier azure and nine lozenges of the field for Dalrymple; 2nd and 3rd, sable, a cross glory cantoned with four escallops argent, for Fletcher of New Cranston: Crest, a rock proper. Motto, Firm. Mr Robert Dalrymple, my grandmother Pitcairn's father. Writer to the Signet, younger brother to the above Sir John, carries the same coat, with his brother, with suitable differences, of Thomas Kennedy, son of Sir Thomas Kennedy of Colaine, a near relation of Lord Cassillis. This family is descended from the Sir James Kennedy who married the Lady Mary Stewart, daughter of Robert Bruce the Third.

THE MAJOR JOHN PITCAIRNS OF DYSART.



MR DUNCAN to The Rev. A. CAMPBELL of Liverpool.

5 UPPER SEYMOUR STREET,
PORTMAN SQUARE, W. 26th Nov. 1854.

REVEREND AND DEAR SIR, - I have great pleasure in sending you all the information I have yet got to hand regarding the Dalrymple of Waterside. . . . A few weeks ago I was in Dumfriesshire, and visited the old churchyard of Keir, where lie the remains of the ancient family. Four moss-covered grave-stones beneath several old trees occupy a spot that overlooks the river Nith with an extensive sweep of the valley, bounded by the Queensberry range of mountains. It is a most interesting place, within sight of the mansion house, part of the property of Waterside. I took hastily a jotting of the inscription on the stones, and from them, and the inscription on an old mourning ring which has become the property of my sister, I gathered the following: John Dalrymple born 1562, died 1625 (his descendants must have had Waterside, but the death of more of them is not recorded till the following); John Dalrymple, born 1670, married 1696, Agnes, daughter of John Copland, Provost of Dumfries, and his wife Agnes, *n'ee* Hairstaines, who survived her husband, and died 21st March 1714, aged 84. John Dalrymple died 1733.

They had issue: -

1. Agnes, *b.* 1698, *m.* Rev. Alex. Orr, incumbent of Hoddam, Dumfriesshire (1) John, who afterwards succeeded to the property; (2) Barbara, *b.* 1740, *m.* Rev. John Craig, incumbent of Ruthwell, Dumfriesshire and had Agnes (afterwards Mrs Duncan), Robert, and Alexander; (3) a daughter *m.* Rev. A. Young, minister of Hatton, Dumfriesshire, and had Alexander, who married Miss De Saumarez, and had a large family. Mrs. Orr died 1760.

Your great-grandfather, Robert Dalrymple of Dreghorn and Armsfield, Dumfriesshire, and the second John Dalrymple were probably the sons of the immediately preceding John Dalrymple. – I am, Rev. and dear Sir, obedient Servant,
GEORGE DUNCAN.

The Rev. AUG. CAMPBELL, M.S.

Mr DUNCAN to The Rev. AUG. CAMPBELL.

Extract from Letter.

5 UPER SEYMOUR STREET,
PORTMAN SQUARE, 2nd December 1864.

REV. AND DEAR SIR, - There is no doubt, I believe, of the alliance of the Waterside Dalrymples with the family of Lord Stair.

I know that there used to be an acknowledged relationship also with the Duke of Sutherland's family, which led to some friendly correspondence from the then Duchess to relations of mine in Edinburgh, whom she used to visit in passing about forty years ago, and this was probably through the Dalrymples. – I am, Yours most truly,
GEO. DUNCAN.

The Rev. AUGUSTUS CAMPBELL to his Daughter,
LADY GORDON CUMMING of Altyre.

Extract from Letter,

July 6th, 1866.

MY DEAR A., - Lord Dunfermline lives in the parish of Colinton, in which is Dreghorn, where my great-grandfather Dalrymple lived. He was of the Dalrymples of Waterside in Dumfriesshire.

The late Lord Dunfermline, as you probably know, married an Egerton Leigh.

Dreghorn had belonged to one David Pitcairn, a Scotch Clansman of ours, and he died there in 1709, and there is a grand monument to him in the churchyard at Colinton. One of the daughters married a Robertson, and through her Lord Brougham is great-grandson of Pitcairn of Dreghorn, and the present Lady Dunfermline is descended from him also. Her mother Lady Minto, was Mary Brydone, whose mother was a Robertson. – Your aff. Father,

A. C.

KEIR MANSE, BY PENPONT, 15th NOVEMBR 1869.

KIND SIR, - The parish records of this parish were some years ago taken to Edinburgh and deposited there in the Register Office, where they may be consulted. They are, however, very imperfect. In the churchyard there are five gravestones recording the death of the members of the family of Dalrymple of Waterside. On some of them are recorded the names of three proprietors of the estate. John Dalrymple, “who died the 25th day of March 1695, his age 63;” “John, who died the 20th day of July 1731, his age 63;” and William, “who died the 21st of March 1760, in the 59th year of his age.” Another has the name of “Agnes Aspland, Spouse to John Dalrymple, died 1729.” Another bears the name of Alexander Bayne of Dry Grange, minister of the parish, who died May 15th, 1776, in the 84th year of his age and 56th of his ministry; another tht of Isabel Dalrymple, his wife, who died 4th Dec. 1770, aged 87. From a Bible in possession of the wife of Captain Aitkin, residing in Broughton, Edinburgh, I have learnt that another Miss Dalrymple of Waterside married the Rev. A. Orr, afterwards minister of Hoddam, where the gravestones of himself and his wife now are. – Your very obedient Servant,

WILL. MENZIES.

Major John Pitcairn had by his wife, Elizabeth Dalrymple, five sons: 1. Dr David; 2. Col. Thomas; 3. Robert, who went to sea, and gave the name to Pitcairn Island, having been the first to sight it; 4. Alexander, barrister; 5. William; and four daughters: 2. Anne, married William Campbell, Commissioner of the Navy, younger brother of Admiral John Campbell; 2. Catherine, married to the Hon. Charles Cochrane, son of the eighth Earl of Dundonald; 3. Joanna, married to General Wellington;

4. another married to General Butler. All the sons died *sine prole*.

Major Pitcairn died at the battle of Lexington, near Boston, America, at the early age of fifty-three.

He led the assault on Bunker's Hill, fell mortally wounded, and died in a house in Boston that afternoon. He was carried off the field by his son Thomas, who became Colonel, married Charlotte, daughter of Charles Proby, and died abroad.

The account of the battle of Bunker's Hill is from General Thomas Gage's despatches to the Government, also from the `Gentleman's Monthly Intelligencer,' 1775, stating the English view of the battle and another account from an American paper from their standpoint. The latter was printed in a little brochure at the Lexington Centenary Exhibition in Boston in 1875.

Whitehall, *June 10th 1775*¹ Lieutenant Nunn, of the Navy arrived this morning at Lord Dartmouth's offices, and has brought letters from General Gage, Lord Percy, and Lieut. Col Smith, containing the following particulars of what passed on the 19th of April last between a detachment of the King's troops in the province of Massachusetts Bay and several parties of rebel provincials.

General Gage having received intelligence, of a large quantity of military stores being collected at Concord, for the avowed purpose of supplying a body of troops to act in opposition to his Majesty's Government, detached, on the 18th of April at night, the Grenadiers of his army and the Light Infantry, under the command of Lieut. Co. Smith, of the 10th Regiment, and *Major Pitcairn* of the Marines, with orders to destroy the said stores; and the next morning eight companies of the 4th, the same number of the 23rd and 49th, and some marines, marched, under the command of Lord Percy, to support the other detachment.

Lieut. Col Smith finding, after he had advanced some miles on his march, that the country had been alarmed by the firing of guns and ringing of bells, despatched six companies of Light Infantry, in order to secure two bridges on different roads beyond Concord, who, upon their arrival at Lexington, found a body of the country people drawn up under arms on a green close to the road; and upon the King's troops marching up to them in order to inquire the reason of their being so assembled, they

¹ The Gentleman's Monthly Intelligencer, vol. xliv., year 1775.

went off in great confusion, and several guns were fired upon the King's troops from behind a stone wall, and also from the meeting-house another houses, by which one man was wounded, and Major Pitcairn's horse shot in two places. In consequence of this attack by the rebels, the troops returned the fire and killed several of them; after which the detachment marched on to Concord without anything further happening, where they effected the purpose for which they were sent, having knocked off the parts of three pieces of iron ordnance, burnt some new gun-carriages and a great number of carriage-wheels, and thrown into the river a considerable quantity of flour, gunpowder, musket-balls, and other articles. Whilst this service was performing, great numbers of the rebels assembled in many parts, and a considerable body of them attacked the Light Infantry posted at one of the bridges, on which an action ensued, and some few were killed and wounded. On the return of the troops from Concord, they were very much annoyed and had several men killed and wounded by the rebels firing from behind walls, ditches, trees, and other ambushes; but the brigade under the command of Lord Percy having joined them at Lexington, with two pieces of cannon, the rebels were for a while dispersed; but as soon as the troops resumed their march, they began again to fire upon them from behind stone walls, and houses, and kept up in the manner a scattering fire during the whole of their march of 15 miles, by which means several were killed and wounded; and such was the cruelty and barbarity of the rebels that they scalped and cut off the ears of some of the wounded men who fell into their hands.

It is not known what number of the rebels were killed and wounded; but it is supposed that their loss was very considerable. Too much praise cannot be given to Lord Percy for his remarkable activity during the whole of the day, and Lieut. Col Smith and Major Pitcairn did everything that men could do, as did all the officers in general; and the men behaved with their usual intrepidity.

(Sig.) THOMAS GAGE.

AMERICAN AFFAIRS

WHITEHALL, July 18th 1775. Lieutenant-General Gage, in his letter to the Earl of Dartmouth, date June the 12th 1775, state that “the town of Boston continued to be surrounded by a large body of rebel Provincials, and that all communications with the country was cut off; that the rebels had been burning houses, and carrying sheep off an island that has easy communication with the main land, which drew on a skirmish with some Marines, who drove the rebels away; but an armed schooner that had been sent between the island and the main land, having got on shore at high water, there was no possibility of saving her; for as the tide fell she was left quite dry, and burned by the rebels. Two men were killed and a few wounded.”

Whitehall, July 25th 1775. This morning arrived Captain Chadds, of his Majesty’s ship *Cerberus*, with the following letter from the Hon. Lieutenant-General Gage to the Earl of Dartmouth, one of his Majesty’s principal Secretaries of State: -

COPY of a LETTER *from* The Hon. Lieutenant-General Gage
to The EARL OF DARTMOUTH, date –

Boston, *June 25th 1775.*

MY LORD, - I am to acquaint your lordship of my actins that happened on the 17th inst. between his Majesty’s troops and a large body of the rebel force.

An alarm was given at break of day on the 17th instant by firing from the *Lively*, ship of war; and advice was soon after received that the rebels had broke ground, and were raising battery on the heights of the peninsula of Charles–Town against the town of Boston. They were plainly seen at work, and in a few hours a battery of six guns played upon their works.

Preparations were instantly made for landing a body of men to drive them off; and ten companies of the Grenadiers, ten of Light Infantry, with the 5th, 38th, 43rd, and 52nd battalions, with a proportion of field Artillery, under the command of Major-General Howe, and Brigadier-General Pigot, were embarked with great expedition, and landed on the Peninsula without opposition, under the protection of some ships of war,

armed vessels and boats, by whose fire the rebels were kept within their works.

The troops formed as soon as landed; the Light Infantry posted on the right and the Grenadiers on the left. The 5th and 38th battalions drew up in the rear of those corps, and the 43rd and 52nd battalions made a third line.

The rebels upon the heights were perceived to be in great force, and strongly posted. A redoubt, thrown up on the 16th at night, with other works full of men, defended with cannon, and a large body posted in the houses in Charles-Town, covered their right flank; and their centre and left were covered by a breastwork, part of it cannon-proof, which reached from the left of the redoubt to the Mystick or Medway River. This appearance of the rebels' strength, and the large column seen pouring in to their assistance, occasioned an application for the troops to be reinforced with some companies of Light Infantry and Grenadiers, the 47th Battalion and the 1st battalion of Marines; the whole, when in conjunction, making a body of something above 2000 men.

These troops advanced, formed in to lines, and the attack began by a sharp cannonade from our field-pieces and howitzers, the lines advancing slowly, and frequently halting to give time for the Artillery to fire. The Light Infantry was directed to force the left point of the breastwork to take the rebel line in flank, and the Grenadiers to attack in front, supported by the 5th and 52nd Battalions. These orders were executed with perseverance under a heavy fire from the vast number of the rebels; and, notwithstanding various impediments, before the troops could reach the works, and though the left, under Brigadier-General Pigot, was engaged also with the rebels at Charles-Town, which at a critical moment was set on fire, the Brigadier pursued and carried the redoubt. The rebels were then forced from their strongholds, and pursued till they were driven clear off the Peninsula, leaving five pieces of cannon behind them.

The loss the rebels sustained must have been considerable, from the great numbers they carried off during the time of action, and buried in holes since discovered, exclusive of what they suffered by the shipping and boats; near 100 were buried the day after; and 30 found wounded in the field, 3 of which are since dead. I enclose your lordship a return of the killed and wounded of his Majesty's troops. This action has shown the superiority of the King's Troops, who under every disadvantage

attacked and defeated above three times their own number, strongly posted and covered by breastworks.

The conduct of Major General Howe was conspicuous on this occasion, and his example spirited the troops, in which Major General Clinton assisted, who followed the reinforcement, and, in justice to Brigadier-General Pigot, I am to add that the success of the day must in great measure be attributed to his firmness and gallantry. Lieutenant-Colonel Nesbit, Abercrombie, and Clarke; Major Butler, Williams and Bruce Spendlove, Smelt, Mitchell *Pitcairn*, and Short exerted themselves remarkably; and the valour of the British Officers and soldiers in general was at no time more conspicuous than in this action. – I have the honour to be &c.

(Sgd.) THOS. GAGE.

Following is the list of killed and wounded of his Majesty's troops on the Heights of Charles-Town, June 17th 1775: -

10th Foot. Lieut. Kelly, wounded.

22nd Lieut. Col. Abercrombie, wounded, and since dead.

23rd Foot. Lieut. Cochrane, wounded.

25th Foot, Lieut. Campbell, wounded.

43rd, Lieut. Dalrymple, wounded.

52nd, Lieut. Crawford, wounded.

1st Battalion Marines, *Major Pitcairn*, wounded, since dead.

AN AMERICAN ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLE OF LEXINGTON

During in spring of 1775 the Colonists of Massachusetts, anticipating a possible rupture with the Royal Government, had collected a few military stores at convenient points in the Interior. Several of the leading Americans had also shown an extraordinary independence in asserting their rights and creating a public sentiment, which was opposed to the policy of the Government.

Hearing of this, General Gage, the Governor, eager to maintain the authority of the Crown, formed a plan to destroy the stores at Concord, and get possession of the persons of John Hancock and Samuel Adams, who were known to be in the vicinity. Accordingly a secret expedition was organized, consisting of a detachment of 800 Grenadiers, Light Infantry, and Marines, under the command of Lieu-Col. Francis Smith of the 10th British Regiment, and *Major John Pitcairn*.

That night, the 18th of April, about 10 o'clock, the fated expedition embarked from the foot of Boston Common, in the boats belonging to the vessels of war at anchor in Charles River.

The troops had landed at East Cambridge, and proceeded across the marshes till they came to old Charlestown Lane, now Milk Street. The rest of the march was by a well-travelled road along North Avenue. It was not long before Colonel Smith found to his dismay that the news of his secret expedition had got wind, and had travelled before him. Although he had maintained profound silence, suppressing the ordinary drum beat, and even all conversation amongst his men, he now perceived the secret was out.

Shadowy forms were hovering upon his flank; horsemen were galloping ahead; alarm-bells and signal-guns rent the midnight air with their ominous sound.

It was evident the country was thoroughly aroused. Accordingly, after a brief halt, the Colonel concluded to send forward six companies of Light Infantry and Marines under *Major Pitcairn*, while he despatched an express to Boston for reinforcements.

Pitcairn's troops had not gone far up the road, when they met the officers coming back in great haste with the news that hundreds of men had assembled on Lexington Green, to oppose their march. As the British approached the village, they saw unmistakable signs of resistance, and heard the drum beat to arms. Supposing this to be a challenge their Commander ordered them to halt, load, and prime, after which they doubled their ranks and marched on rapidly with a shout up to the meeting house, where a portion of their number left the road, and fled off in platoons upon the Common.

The Provincials were astonished to see such an imposing force arrayed against them. There were, in fact, six or eight hundred altogether; but, to the inexperienced eye of the Militia, it seemed as if there were twelve or fifteen hundred. *Major Pitcairn* rode forward at the left of his line; and, drawing a pistol from his holster, he commanded the Americans, with threats to lay down their arms and disperse. Capt. Parker, fearing lest, in the excitement of the moment, some of his men might discharge their guns to hastily, cried out, "Don't fire unless you are fired on; but if they want a war, let it begin here." At the same time he threatened to shoot any one who should attempt to leave his post. *Pitcairn*, finding that his orders were not obeyed, and hearing, as he supposed, the report of a gun near the opposite wall, commanded his men without further delay to fire. Seeing them hesitate a moment, he brandished his sword, and discharged his own pistol; whereupon the first Platoon fired, but without any apparent result. The order was instantly repeated, and a second volley was discharged all along the line with deadly effect. The gallant little company was broken. Several of the men fell dead and wounded. Cries of distress rent the air. There was no question now as to their right to resist, and they immediately returned the fire. The engagement lasted less than half an hour. Only two of the British soldiers were wounded.

Pitcairn's horse was struck in two places. The officers occupied a conspicuous position for a marksman, but the smoke enveloped them to such a degree that it was almost impossible during the action for the militia to see the line, and, after the summary slaughter of so many of their own number, they saw the utter hopelessness of the contest, and wisely withdrew to seek shelter behind houses and stone walls.

The battle was fought on Wednesday, April 19th. On Sunday, the 23rd, between the Church services, New York heard of it, and the people immediately arose, disarmed the soldiers, seized the fort and magazines, unloaded two transports bound to Boston, and forbade all pilots to bring any more King's ships into port. On Monday the 24th at five P.M., a courier reached Philadelphia, with despatches from Lexington. The British found the people of Concord ready to receive them. From an early hour the militia had been pouring in from Acton, Lincoln, Bedford, other towns. Messengers had arrived with exciting news from Lexington. The regulars entered Concord in two divisions. Col. Smith and Major Pitcairn remained in the town, with the larger number of the troops, while they sent a detachment of about 200 men, under Captain Parsons, to hold the North Bridge. Orders had been given by Gen. Gage very early that morning for three regiments of infantry, and two divisions of marines, with two field-pieces, to be ready to march at four o'clock for the relief of the expedition.

The brigade was under the command of Earl Percy, an accomplished young nobleman of the illustrious family of Northumberland. They went out over Boston Neck, through Roxburgh and Brookline, and crossed Charles River on the old bridge near the Colleges. The baggage wagons fell behind, and were captured near West Cambridge. Percy had nearly reached the village of Lexington, when about 2 o'clock he met the returning troops, who had been terribly harassed all the way from Concord. Many defenseless persons were grossly insulted, and a feeble old man was killed. After a short rest, Lord Percy abandoned his position and ordered a retreat.

The famous Essex Regiment, under Col. Pickering, did not arrive in time to check the return of the British, and about sunset Lord Percy reached Charlestown, and crossed the river under the cover of the guns of the ships of war.

The Americans lost that day in killed, wounded, and missing 93. The British 273. The day was ended, but the sword did not return to its sheath. Throughout the Revolutionary War the anniversary of the memorable day was "statedly observed" in Lexington by the "Militia in arms" and a solemn assembly of the whole congregation in the house of God.

THE DEATH OF MAJOR PITCAIRN

IN A PRINCE STREET HOUSE¹

When Major Pitcairn was mortally wounded at Bunker's Hill, he was brought over in a boat and taken to a house not far from a ferry, at the foot of Prince Street. As soon as General Gage heard of it, he sent to Dr Thomas Kast, a well-known Boston physician, who sympathized with England in the struggle, and requested him to call on Pitcairn, as the regular surgeons were overwhelmed with work. The doctor proceeded at once in his gig taking with him a friend whom he met on the way. It was now late in the afternoon. Entering the chamber, where the Major was lying upon a bed, the Doctor announced that he had come at the request of General Gage, who wished to have everything done that was possible to help the Major in his distress. Pitcairn, with his usual courtesy, asked the doctor to thank the General for remembering him at such a time, and added that he feared that he was beyond all human aid. On being asked where he was wounded, he laid his hand upon his breast and said, "There sir." The doctor proceeded to remove the sheet in order to examine the wound, but the Major objected, and said "Excuse me, it is useless. My time is short; you cannot do anything for my relief; my wound must cause death immediately; I am bleeding fast internally."

"But let me see the wound," said the doctor; "you may be mistaken in regard to it," and again he attempted to raise the sheet. The Major kept his hand on it, and said "Doctor, excuse me, I know you can do nothing for me; do not argue the matter with me... Let me say a few words to you about my private concerns." The doctor yielded for a moment, and listened to such messages as the dying man had to give. This seemed to relieve his mind, and soon after he allowed the doctor to open his vest, when suddenly the blood spouted out with great force upon the floor, and he died in a very short time. The strains remaining a long time, and the room was called "Pitcairn's Chamber" for many years. After doing what he could for the sufferer, Dr Kast returned to the General and reported the case, but, before he could reach Prince Street again, the brave officer had died of his wounds.

¹ From History of Old Boston, by Porter.

It would be an interesting fact, could we know what house it was in which this scene occurred. There is a tradition handed down by the late Timothy Dodd and others, that it was the house, which is still standing at No. 130 Prince Street. It is a brick house originally of three storeys on the left-hand side, going down opposite the yard of the gas works. It belonged for many years in the last century to Benjamin Stokes, miller, who bought the land in 1728 of John Waldo, also a miller. It is described in the deed of transfer of that date as a “dwelling house with all the land whereon the same doth stand, and is thereunto adjoining in the North end of Boston, on the north-west side of the Widow Copps’ housing and land, near Charlestown Ferry place.”

It has been called the Stoddard House, because it was supposed by some to have been the house of Tomas Stoddard, the boat-builder who assisted Pitcairn’s son in carrying the Major to his own house on Prince Street. Stoddard did not own this house, though he may have lived here at the time.

“When Pitcairn fell his son advanced in view,
Towards the spot with anxious ardour flew.
Though rage and love his steps accelerated,
To guard his father’s steps he came to late;
Already death had launched his fatal dart,
And lodged the barb in the bold veteran’s heart.
Burning for vengeance, and oppressed with grief,
With finial care he raised the wounded chief,
From blood and dust (as decency required),
And from the carnage of the field retired.
So, strained with streams of warm paternal gore,
Young Scipio from the field his father bore.”

It must be said that other houses have claimed the distinction of having sheltered the dying Pitcairn, but none of them are now standing. There was one on the other side of the street, spoken of as “the third house from Charlestown Bridge” as late as 1851. Another was the Philps’ Mansion, afterwards known as the Asylum for Boys, on the corner of Salem and Charter Street. In favour of this was a tradition, apparently very circumstantial, in the Walter and Macleary families, but it contradicted the statements made by Dr Kast, Me Ewing Samuel Lawrence, and other men of 1775, who had the best opportunity of knowing, and who gave the honour to Prince Street, where Fotheringham had left it, and where it must

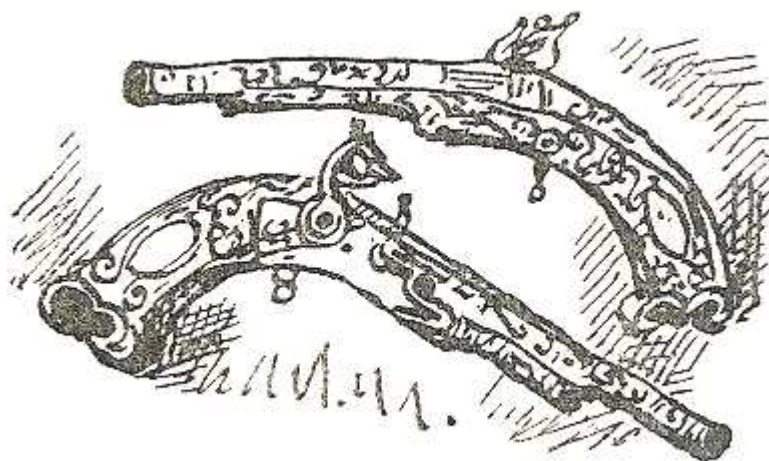
in all probability remain. It is quite likely, however, that the Phips' house and many others received wounded officers that day, some of whom were, naturally enough, supposed to be the distinguished Major of Marines.¹

Under the church are buried many families of the early time. Thirty-three tombs, arranged in rows, occupy all the available space. In the one marked 20 was deposited the body of Major Pitcairn until its removal to England.

Major Pitcairn's body was taken to London, and buried in a vault in the Church of St Bartholomew the Less, where his son, Dr David Pitcairn, and his brother, Dr William Pitcairn, are also interred.

Major Pitcairn's pistols were captured on Fiske Hill with his horse in the afternoon.

The accompanying sketch represents the brace of pistols used by Major Pitcairn on Lexington Common.



These pistols have a full and authenticated history. During the retreat in the latter part of the day, Pitcairn's horse was shot under him, and he barely escaped with his life, leaving his equipage in the hands of the pursuing Americans. These pistols were then taken, and presented to General Israel Putman, who used them throughout the war.

¹ Extract from an American Magazine.

At his death they were placed on the drapery of his coffin, as he was borne to the grave. They became an heirloom in the Putnam family, and in 1827 were brought to Lexington and shown to three members of Capt. Parker's Company, one of whom, Col. Munroe, recognized them from their peculiar construction and ornament, and said he saw Major Pitcairn discharge one of them, before any other shot was fired.

It is, therefore, the first weapon used in formal action in the Revolutionary war; an additional certificate accompanies the pistols signed by Colonel Aaron Burr, Aide-de-Camp to General Putman. They were loaned for Exhibition at the Lexington Centennial by the widow of John P. Putman of Cambridge, N.Y. The Exhibition was held in 1875.

Mrs Pitcairn Campbell has in her possession the buttons of Major Pitcairn's coat which he was wearing in the battle, and the bullet which caused his death.

A picture was painted about fifty years ago by Mr Sandham, the American artist, of the battle of Lexington and he has chosen the moment when Major Pitcairn was waving on his men. The following is a description of the picture: -

DESCRIPTION OF THE PICTURE OF THE BATTLE OF LEXINGTON

Artist, Mr HENRY SANDHAM

The artist has an established reputation, and has spared neither pains nor expense in making himself familiar with all the facts necessary for so great an undertaking. He has studied our Common and its surroundings at sunrise in the middle of April; he has made careful measurements and sketches; he has kept before him the law of perspective; he has had well-selected models for every figure in the painting; he has visited England and examined the uniforms worn by the Royal troops in 1775 – thus doing more than was ever before attempted to secure historical and topographical accuracy as the groundwork of his design.

Mr Sandham has chosen the moment when Pitcairn, exasperated by the refusal of the patriots to throw down their arms and disperse, turns in his saddle and commands the troops to fire. The farmer in the foreground, with arm upraised, represents the determined attitude of the Colonies at that time.

The aged man holding his gun with both hands is a type of the sturdy fathers of New England. The young man in his death-throe is raising his arms as if making an appeal to Heaven. The sympathy and horror of others as they see their neighbours shot down by their side; the unyielding courage of those who in defence of their rights are returning the fire; and the individuality of the militiamen, as compared with the line of disciplined troops – are intensely significant of the character and meaning of the event. The cool morning light breaking upon the meeting house; the waning candle in the tavern window; and the smoke of the volley creeping along the ground – are features of artistic merit which add a peculiar charm to the composition.

Major John Pitcairn left five sons and four daughters. Of Dr David Pitcairn, his eldest son, we will speak later on. His second son, Colonel Thomas Pitcairn, was with his father on that fatal day, and carried him from the battlefield. He married Charlotte, daughter of Charles Proby, and died abroad. Charlotte's uncle, Sir John Proby, became Baron Carysfort, and his son John was made Earl of Carysfort; his third son, Levison, succeeded as third earl.

ROBERT PITCAIRN – MIDSHIPMAN- Born: 12 May 1752

PITCAIRN ISLAND

Robert Pitcairn,¹ the third son, was born at Edinburgh in 1747. He became a midshipman. On the 15th July 1766 he was ordered on board the *Swallow* as a midshipman for a voyage of discovery under Captain Philip Carteret. According to the *Swallow's* pay-book he was then nineteen. On Thursday, the 2nd of July 1767, the *Swallow* sighted an island in the Pacific – according to their reckoning, in latitude 20^o 2` S. and longitude 133^o 21` W. “It is so high,” wrote Captain Carteret, “that we saw it at a distance of more than fifteen leagues; and it having been discovered by a young gentleman, son to a Major Pitcairn of the Marines, we called it `Pitcairn Island. `” The *Swallow* paid off in May 1769, and Pitcairn appears to have joined the *Aurora*, which sailed from England the 30th September.

¹ Lee's National Biography, Family Papers, &c.

After touching at the Cape of Good Hope, she was never heard of again, and it was supposed that she went down in a cyclone near Mauritius, in January of February 1770. Pitcairn's name does not appear in her pay-book, but Captain Carteret, in a subsequently published journal of the voyage of the *Swallow*, state that Robert Pitcairn was lost in her. Pitcairn Island has been very generally, and no doubt correctly, identified with the same island that the mutineers of the *Bounty* went to in 1789, and where their descendants were found in 1808, 1814, and 1902. There is a good description of the island in Dr Pritchard's book called 'Pitcairn's Island.' A curious circumstance has come to my knowledge whilst writing this book, in a letter from a gentleman in America, who was writing in the middle of the nineteenth century to a friend in England. What he says would seem to indicate that Robert Pitcairn was not lost in the *Aurora*, but that he, like his father, fought in the American war, and was killed in the battle of Braddock.

The writer mentions the tombs of Col. Halkett and Robert Pitcairn being side by side. It appears to me possible that this Robert Pitcairn he mentions was the naval son of Major John Pitcairn, who may have joined the Marines.

The following is the extract of the letter:-

I am much interested in your note about Major Pitcairn. When I was in America I visited a small town called Braddock, in Pennsylvania near Pittsburg, where the battle of Braddock was fought: the name seems to have arisen from that of the officer in command of the British troops there engaged. It was on the banks of the Monongahela River, and a certain Col. Halkett was killed there whose estate Pitferrane, is in the parish of Dunfermline. He was a Dunfermline man, and his tomb occupies the next way to that of Robert Pitcairn. The battle of Braddock is mentioned in the Halkett monument. Major John Pitcairn killed at Bunker's Hill in 1775.

Note: - Robert Pitcairn was born 1752 – Braddock's March and Defeat was where Sir Peter Halkett second-in-command to Braddock along with his youngest son James both killed on July 9th 1755. Major John Pitcairn Robert Pitcairn's father was killed 1775 at Bunker's Hill, is it possible Robert could have been fighting alongside his father? (S. Pitcairn)

ALEXANDER PITCAIRN, Major Pitcairn's fourth son, was a barrister, practiced at the Inns of Court in London, and was married. All Major Pitcairn's sons died childless. One of his daughters, Ann Pitcairn married William Campbell, Commissioner of the Navy, and a younger brother of Admiral John Campbell. They had three sons – Sir John Campbell, General William Campbell, and the Rev. Augustus Campbell. Sir John married a Portuguese lady, Donna Maria Brigidia, of the Lacerda family. They had an only daughter Elise, married to Edward Calvert, Esq., and had two sons – Felix and Walter Calvert of Furneaux Pelham Hall Buntingford. Sir John distinguished himself in the Peninsular war, and afterwards joined the standard of Don Miguel. General William Campbell also served in the Peninsular war, and had (it is said) five horses killed under him at Waterloo.

The Rev. Augustus Campbell married Elizabeth Aspinall, and had three sons: -

- 1) Rev Edward Augustus Pitcairn Campbell, J.P., who married Harriet Humble, and left one son. It is this Mrs Pitcairn Campbell who has given me much valuable help, by loan of papers and letters which have thrown light on this, the Dysart branch of the Pitcairn family.
- 2) James Pitcairn Campbell, married Ellen Eyre, of Eyre Court, County Galway. Their son, Brigadier – General William Pitcairn Campbell, is a distinguished officer. He is best known to fame as the man who helped so materially to get General Penn Symon's force to Ladysmith from Dundee, after the action of Glencoe at the opening of the Boer war.
- 3) Major William Pitcairn Campbell, died of fever at Scutari. Their grandmother, Mrs William Campbell, had also two daughters –
 - 1) Elizabeth, who married Rev J.N. Onslow of Dunsborough, Ripley, Surrey, and had Major Pitcairn Onslow, whose eldest son was Colonel G. Onslow, and two daughters Marion and Francis; 2). Marion Campbell, Elizabeth's sister, married the Rev. Arthur Onslow, Rector of Merrow, and had nine children.

Catherine, Major John Pitcairn's second daughter, married the Hon. Charles Cochrane, son of the eighth Earl of Dundonald, and brother of Archibald ninth Earl of Dundonald.

The Rev. Augustus Campbell was at Harrow with Lord Byron, and his grandson, Mr Pitcairn Campbell, has still the walking-stick given to his grandfather by the poet. When Mr Campbell was Head-boy, Lord Palmerston was one of his fags.



MRS. WILLIAM CAMPBELL.

Mr Campbell's daughter, Anne Pitcairn Campbell, married Sir Alexander Penrose Gordon Cumming of Altyre, and had three sons, and one daughter, Eliza, who married Digby Wentworth Bayard Willoughby, ninth Baron Middleton of Wollaton House, Notts; Birdsall Hall and Settrington House, Yorkshire; Middleton Hall, Warwickshire; and Applecross House, Ross-shire.

Sir Alexander's sons were – 1. Sir William G. Gordon-Cumming; 2. Alexander Penrose Gordon-Cumming.

A curious fact in connection with Lady Gordon-Cumming's second son, Alexander Penrose, is that he went out to America, and there married Frances Campbell Eames, whose ancestor, Tidd, gave the order for the first shot on the American side, whilst his mother's grandfather, Major Pitcairn, fired the first shot on the English side. Lady Middleton has a most beautiful ring which formerly belonged to Anne Pitcairn, her great-grandmother. It is an excellently executed funeral-urn in small amethysts and diamonds, her name and the date inside it.

The Hon. Charles Cochrane, who married Major Pitcairn's second daughter Catherine, was descended from Sir William Cochrane of Cowdon, who, being very zealous for King Charles I, was created a peer by the title of Lord Cochrane of Dundonald 1647. Charles II, advanced him to the dignity of an earldom, Earl of Dundonald, Lord Cochrane of Paisley and Ochiltree, on May the 12th 1669.

Thomas, eighth Earl, was grandson of Sir John Cochrane of Ochiltree, who was the second son of the first Earl of Dundonald. The father¹ of Thomas was William Cochrane of Ochiltree, and his mother was Mary Bruce, eldest daughter of Alexander, second Earl of Kincardine, and heir to her brother, third Earl, who died unmarried Nov. 1706. She contested the title, but without successes.

Thomas, the eighth Earl, married, first Elizabeth, daughter of James Ker of Morristown; secondly, in 1744, Jane, eldest daughter of Archibald Stuart of Torrance, and by her had – 1. Elizabeth, married to Patrick Heron; 2. Argyll, died young; 3. Archibald, ninth Earl; 4. Charles, born Jan. the 23rd, 1749, who was a major in the army. He had one son and one daughter, who both died young. Major Charles Cochrane, like his father-in-law Major Pitcairn, fought in the American war, in which he greatly distinguished himself. Sir Harry Clinton was very anxious to send despatches to Lord Cornwallis, then besieged at York Town, and Major Cochrane was chosen for this difficult and dangerous duty. He managed it in a wonderfully clever way. He went in a vessel as far as the Capes; from there he took a small boat, in which he passed undiscovered through the midst of the French fleet, and arrived safely at York Town, Oct. the 18th, 1781. Earl Cornwallis, to testify his approbation of this bravery, appointed Major Cochrane one of his aides-de-camp. But alas! A day or two afterwards his head was taken off by a cannon-ball at York Town, just before Lord Cornwallis surrendered.

¹ Burke's Peerage.

Eight years after her husband's death, in 1798, on Feb. the 19th, Catherine Cochrane *n'ee* Pitcairn, married, secondly, Charles Owen Cambridge, Esq. of Twickenham, son of the celebrated author of "The Scribleriad" and other poems. They lived at Whitminster House near Gloucester. She died 24th Oct. 1835.

The present Earl of Dundonald's noble and heroic deeds in the African war are worthy of his illustrious forebears; and his countrymen and countrywomen will never forget the immense debt of gratitude they owe to him, and to the splendid fellows under him, for their wonderful ride to the relief of Ladysmith, which not only saved Ladysmith but probably Natal itself.

Johanna, Major Pitcairn's third daughter, married General Wellington, and her death is thus recorded: "Died in 1830, at Woolwich Common, Johanna Elizabeth, widow of the late Lieut.-General Wellington of the Royal Artillery, sister of Dr David Pitcairn."

Major Pitcairn's fourth, and youngest, daughter married General Butler. He also served with his father-in-law in the American war, and was wounded there.

DR DAVID PITCAIRN, F.R.C.P., F.R.S., F.S.A.

Dr. DAVID PITCAIRN. F.R.C.P., F.R.S.F.S.A.

DR DAVID PITCAIRN, a very eminent physician, was the eldest son of Major John Pitcairn and Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Dalrymple, Esq., of Arnsfield, Dumfriesshire, and Dreghorn, Mid-Lothian. He was born on May 1st, 1749, in the house of his grandfather, the Rev. David Pitcairn, minister of Dysart. After being at the High School of Edinburgh for four years, he attended the class of the University of Glasgow until he was twenty, spending much of his leisure time with the family of the Rev. James Baillie. In 1769 Mr Pitcairn entered at the University of Edinburgh, and studied medicine there for three years. In 1772 he went to London, and attended the lectures of Dr William Hunter and Dr George Fordyce. That he might obtain an English degree in Physic, he was sent by his uncle, Dr William Pitcairn, P.R.C.P., to Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, in 1773, where he graduated M.B. in 1779, and M.D. in 1784. In 1779 he began practice in London. In 1780, on the resignation of his uncle, Dr William Pitcairn, he was elected physician to St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, and in 1792 to Christ's Hospital. The former office, on account of the great increase of his private practice, he resigned in 1793.

In 1791 his uncle, William Pitcairn, President of the Royal College of Physicians, died, and bequeathed to Dr David Pitcairn his Gold-Headed Cane, his picture of himself by Sir Joshua Reynolds, and one of Dr Archibald Pitcairn by Sir John Medina. He also left him his fortune, and the Forthar Estate.

The following is an extract from the Returns and Progress of Writs for the County of Fife, when Dr David Pitcairn succeeded to the Pitcairn estates:¹ "David Pitcairn of Forthar, Physician in London, son of the late Major John Pitcairn of the Marines, to his uncle, William Pitcairn of Forthar, Physician in London, who died November 1791, Heir Special in the Barony of Forthar, and lands of Dovan, in the Parish of Kettle, Fifeshire. Dated 26th November 1795, and recorded 14th Dec. 1795"

Dr David Pitcairn was Censor in 1785, 1786, 1791, 1806, Gulstonian Lecturer, and Harveian Orator in 1786.

¹ Returns for the County of Fife; Canon Pitcairn's family papers.



DR DAVID PITCAIRN, F.R.C.P., F.R.S.F.S.A.

Miniature after Hopper.

He was elected fellow of the College of Physicians on the 15th August 1784.

In St Bartholomew's Book the following notice occurs: -

Dr Wm. Pitcairn elected Physician 1st Feb. 1794.

Dr David Pitcairn elected Physician 10th Feb 1780.

"In 1763 Dr Wm Pitcairn, and subsequently Dr David Pitcairn, who were successively physicians to the Hospital, delivered lectures on Medicine. It was in one of these courses that Dr David Pitcairn pointed out, for the first time, the relation between cardiac disease and acute rheumatism."

Further additions to the course of instructions were made by John Abernethy who was elected Assistant Surgeon in 1787. In conjunction with his colleagues, Drs William and David Pitcairn, he established the principal lectures of the present day, himself lecturing in Anatomy, Physiology, and Surgery in the Theatre erected for him by the Governors in 1791, and his high reputation attracted so great a body of students,

amongst whom were Benjamin Brodie and William Lawrence, that it was found necessary, in 1822, to erect a new and larger Anatomical Theatre.

In the East Wing of St Bartholomew's Hospital there is a ward still called the Pitcairn Ward. In the Church of St Bartholomew the Less, which is without the Hospital walls, there is a vault wherein are buried Dr William Pitcairn, Major John Pitcairn, his brother, who was killed at Bunker's Hill, and his son, Dr David Pitcairn.

“This promising young man had realised the expectations formed of him in early life, and, before he took his doctor's degree at Cambridge, had been elected physician to St Bartholomew's Hospital. The commencement of his private medical practice may be dated from about the year 1780. He was a man of great literary accomplishments, joined to much professional knowledge. He was fond of country sports and athletic game, particularly golf. Pitcairn, although he had acquired great practical knowledge, and had made many original observations upon the history and treatment of diseases, never published anything himself. Dr David Pitcairn lived many years in Lincoln's Inn Fields, and was early admitted a Fellow of the Royal and Antiquarian Societies.”¹

In the time of Dr Mead's practice, the Royal Society met in one of the professor's rooms in Gresham College, and many of the members used to dine at Pontal's in Abchurch Lane. The house was kept by a Frenchman, who had been cook to M. Pontal, president of the parliament of Bordeaux; and who, from respect to the memory of his master, hung up his effigy as the outward sign of his place of entertainment. Soon after their first incorporation by charter, these convivial meetings themselves were made subservient to the purpose of science, and were intended, as well as their more formal stated assemblies, to further the progress of knowledge. For it is related that on April 1, 1682, at a supper where several of the Society were present, everything was dressed, both fish and flesh, in Monsieur Papin's digesters (then newly invented), a kind the philosophers ate pike and other fish bones, all without impediment; nay, the hardest bones, of beef and mutton made as soft as cheese, and pigeons stewed in their own juice without any addition of water.

The experiments were shown to the King three years before the fire of London, which drove the Society from Gresham College, when they were invited to sit at Arundel House in the Strand by Mr Howard, who also bestowed upon them the noble library that had been collected by his ancestors. After the fire the Society returned to Gresham College which

¹ Mr Munk's Roll of the Royal College of Physicians.

they finally left, and purchased a house in Crane Court, Fleet Street, where their meetings continued to be held until the Government gave them apartments in Somerset House. (Now the Society's rooms are in Burlington House.)

Dr Pitcairn, on the 7th April 1791, met there Prince Poniatowsky, who had been invited as a guest. Sir Joseph Banks was in the chair. His Highness appeared about fifty, had a good face, was of middling stature, was dressed in black, had the Order of Malta in his buttonhole, and wore his hair in a round curl.

By the death of Dr Warren, in June 1797, Dr Pitcairn was placed at the head of his profession in London. It was his friendship for Dr Matthew Baillie which first brought that eminent physician into notice. Although there was a great disparity of years between the two, yet a long and uninterrupted friendship of thirty years existed between them, and the confidence reposed by Dr Pitcairn in the professional abilities of his friend was very great, Dr Baillie being his only medical adviser to the last moment of his existence.

The success of Dr David Pitcairn in practice was great, and although one or two other physicians might possibly have made a larger fortune than himself, certainly no one was so frequently requested by his brethren to afford his aid in cases of difficulty. He was perfectly candid in his opinions, and very frank in acknowledging the extent of his confidence in the efficacy of medicine. To a young friend, who had very recently graduated, and who had accompanied him from London to visit a lady, ill of consumption, in the country, and who, on their turn, was expressing his surprise at the apparent inertness of the prescription which had been left behind (which was nothing more than infusion of roses, with a little additional mineral acid), he made his reply: -

“The last thing a physician learns, in the course of his experience, is to know when to do nothing, but quietly to wait, and allow Nature and time to have fair play, in checking the progress of disease, and gradually restoring the strength and health of the patient.”

Dr David Pitcairn's¹ manner was simple, gentle, and dignified. From his kindness of heart, he was frequently led to give more attention to his patients

than could well be demanded from a physician, and as this evidently sprang from no interested motive, he often acquired considerable influence with those whom he had attended during sickness. No medical man, indeed, of his eminence in London, perhaps ever exercised his profession to such a degree gratuitously; besides, few persons ever gained so extensive an acquaintance with the various orders of Society.

He associated much with barristers, &c., had a taste for the fine arts, and his employment as a physician in the largest hospital in the kingdom made known to him a very great number of persons of every rank and description in life. His person was tall and erect; his countenance during youth was a model of manly beauty, and even in more advanced life he was accounted remarkably handsome. But the prosperous views that all those combined advantages might reasonably open to him were not of long duration.

Ill health obliged him to give up his profession and quit his native country. He embarked for Lisbon in the summer of 1798, where a stay of eighteen months, in the mild climate of Portugal doing which period there was no occurrence of the spitting of blood with which he had been affected, emboldened him to return to England, and for a few years more resume the practice of his profession. His health continued delicate and precarious, and in the spring of the year 1809 he fell a victim to Laryngitis, a disease that had hitherto escaped the notice of medical men, and so had the peculiar and melancholy privilege of enlightening his profession in the very act of dying.

A flattering tribute to his memory, written by Dr Wills, was inserted in the 'Gentleman's Magazine' soon after his decease. Dr Matthew Baillie attended him, and has described his case, with the similar one of Sir John Macnamara Hayes, who died of the same disease three months later. Pitcairn's body was examined by Sir Benjamin Collins Brodie the elder, in presence of Matthew Baillie, Sir Everard Home, and W. C. Wells.

On the 13th of April he complained of a soreness in his throat, which, however, he thought so lightly of that he continued his professional visits during that and the two following days. In the night of the 15th his throat became worse, in consequence of which he was copiously led, at his own

1 Dr Munk's Roll of the Royal College of Physicians.

desire, and had a large blister applied over his throat. On the evening of the 16th Dr Baillie called upon him accidentally, not having been apprised of his illness; and, indeed, even then, observed no symptom that indicated danger.

But the disease advanced in the course of that night, and a number of leeches were applied to the throat early in the morning. At eleven o'clock the forenoon Dr Baillie again saw him. His countenance was now sunk, his pulse feeble and unequal, his breathing laborious, and his voice nearly gone. In this lamentable state he wrote on a piece of paper that he conceived his windpipe to be the principal seat of his complaint, and that this was the croup.

At eight the patient's breathing became suddenly more difficult, and in a few minutes he was dead. This was the first case of this peculiar affection of the throat that had been distinctly recognised and described. It was an inflammation of the larynx, or upper part of the windpipe, of so insidious a nature as hitherto to have passed unnoticed. Although approaching to the well-known complaint called croup, it differs in some respects, particularly by the presence of the following symptoms: painful deglutition, and a perpetually increasing difficulty of breathing. The mouth of the larynx, or aperture by which air is admitted into the lungs, is so much narrowed that the vital functions are actually extinguished by the stricture. And yet the apparent inflammation in the throat is so inconsiderable that upon a superficial observation it would hardly be noticed; but in its progress the voice is changed becomes altogether suppressed, and the disease terminates in suffocation.

Dying on the 17th of April 1809, in Craig's Court, Charing Cross, he was buried in St Bartholomew's the Less, in the same vault with his father Major Pitcairn and his uncle Dr William Pitcairn. Dr Pitcairn is also commemorated in a mural tablet in the church of Hadham Magna, Herts: -

To the Memory of

DAVID PITCAIRN, M.D., F.S.A., F.R.C.P., F.R.S.,
Who departed this life, April 17th 1809
Aged 59 years.

His portrait by Hoppner was engraved by Bragg.

His portrait shows him to have been a handsome man, with a peculiarly frank and open countenance. He married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of William Almack, and she bequeathed this picture to the College.

Mrs Pitcairn's will, 11th of August 1837, says: "I give and bequeath to the Royal College of Physicians in London the portrait of my beloved husband, Dr David Pitcairn, painted by Hoppner; also the portrait of Dr William Pitcairn, painted by sir Joshua Reynolds; and the portrait of Dr Matthew Baillie, painted by Sir Thomas Lawrence. I give and bequeath to Sir Ralph Anstruther, Bart., my picture of his great-grandfather, Dr Archibald Pitcairn, painted by Sir John Medina.

"I give to his brother, Hamilton Lloyd Anstruther, Esq., my little silver cup, with the Greek motto, that was his great-grandfather's, Dr Archibald Pitcairn."

Mrs Pitcairn at her death left her other property to Sir John, George, and the Rev. Augustus Campbell, who were Dr David Pitcairn's nephews.

Dr John Latham, M.D., in his book on gout and rheumatism, states that David Pitcairn was the first to discover that valvular disease of the heart was a frequent result of rheumatic fever, and that he published his discovery in his teaching at St Bartholomew's Hospital.

His young cousin, William Pitcairn, brother of Sir James Pitcairn to whom he had shown the greatest kindness was much attached to him, and as with him when he died. He calls him his "dear Doctor, and greatest benefactor in early life."

Dr Pitcairn had two or three country places; one was at Hadham Magna, Herts, and one at Hawley, Kent. His wife was devoted to her husband, unceasingly mourned his loss, and was always alluding to her married happiness in most touching terms in her letters to his sister, Anne Campbell, which are still preserved.

William Pitcairn as with her and helped her at Craig's Court all through the time of the doctor's illness and after his death. He treasured every scrap of his writing, and even kept a list of his patients.¹

LETTER *from* Mrs WILLIAM CAMPBELL, DAVID PITCAIRN'S
Sister ANNE, *to* her Cousin, WILLIAM PITCAIRN.

¹ From Canon Pitcairn's family papers. See Forthar Pitcairns.

DEAR WILLIAM, - I am quite wretched at being obliged to go out of town to-day; but it cannot be helped, and I shall take it as the greatest favour if you will write me a line by th post to-day and also to-morrow, - direct it to Dunsborough House, Ripley, Surrey. If you cannot give me very good intelligence, I shall come to town on Wednesday. Give my kind love to Mrs Pitcairn. – Yours sincerely, A. CAMPBELL.

There was a short letter by Dr David Pitcairn to William Pitcairn in the latter's scrap – book. Under it he writes: -

“The above is the writing of my benefactor and best friend in early life, the late Dr David Pitcairn; the 12th of January 1803 is the date. I prize it very highly.” (Then follows Sir Everard Home's post-mortem report of Dr Pitcairn.) “The good doctor died the 17th April 1809.”

Dr Pitcairn's valuable prints and drawings were sold at Christie's, and also his house at Hawley, soon after his death. His estate of Forthar as sold by Sir John and George Campbell to General Robert Balfour of Balbirnie some years after Mrs David Pitcairn's death, whose heirs they were.

To be sold by Christie in his great room, Pall Mall, a genuine assemblage of highly finished modern drawings, and a complete collection of the works of Sir Robert Strang the celebrated engraver, the property of the late David Pitcairn, M.D., F.R.S., and F.A.S., brought from his late dwelling Craig's Court. The drawings comprise the very choicest productions of those admired artists Cipriani, Zuccarelli, Clerisseau, M. Ricei, Cosway, Weatley, Hamilton, Hearne, Sandby, Barrett, Glover, C.L. Smith, Metz, Fiesinger.

PARTICULARS OF SALE.

A most delightful freehold estate, with house, offices, stabling, kitchen-garden, pleasure-grounds in the finest order, shaded by lime and chestnut trees of the finest growth, and washed by the Darent, a rapid trout-stream, and meadows, in a beautiful vale, in the whole about 11 acres, situated at Hawley, 2 miles from Dartford, and 3½ miles from Farningham, in a beautiful part of Kent, which by order of the executors of David Pitcairn, M.D., deceased, will be sold by auction by Mr Christie at his great room, Pall Mall, London, on Thursday, the 23rd June 1809, punctually at 2 o'clock.”

Note in his cousin William Pitcairn's handwriting: "I passed many happy days at Hawley, one of the dear doctor's country seats."

In the Censor's room in the College of Physicians there are still the two fine Pitcairn portraits left to the College by Mrs Pitcairn; also the one of Dr Baillie by Sir Thomas Lawrence. The Gold-Headed Cane is in a glass case in the Censor's room, and the arms of Dr William Pitcairn are also in the window of the College. They are: a shield, with three mascles, two and one, for Pitcairn surrounded with a bordure ermine.

Not: - The Pitcairns of Kinnaird, Newburgh, Fife, also claim descent from the Rev. James Pitcairn of Kettle.

ADDITIONAL NOTES: -
(Miscellaneous source.)

DYSART MANSE 200 YEARS AGO.

The following copy of an old letter which has been passed onto us by Rev. W. Stevenson, Auchtertool, shows the condition of matters in Dysart Parish about 200 years ago, when Rev. Mr Pitcairn, minister of the First Charge of Dysart, wrote, on 29th September 1729, as follows: - "At my accession in the year 1708 I found a very dismal home, yet, having a family, I declined for some time to alarm the parts on that account; thus after some two or three years the late Lord Sinclair being taken ill of the palsy and several misfortunes happening to that family, I reckoned that the world would have thought me ungenerous to have pushed that affair while matters stood in this situation, and so I contented myself rather to give a little patch now and then at my own proper charges till that family should be extracted from their difficulties.

I indeed frankly own that some years ago when I was necessitated to quit my closet for the convenience of my children and servants and retire to a cold, open garret for the space of two years, the late Lord Sinclair, having heard of it, did repair that garret into the form of a closet. Upon this foot matters stood till the present Lord Sinclair returned from his travels about three years ago, whom I addressed in all civility; yea the Presbytrie did

interpose that it might be made a lodgeable house, but all to no purpose, upon all of which I have been obliged to take this legal way of a visitation. As to the third ground of my conterprotest, I hope the reverend committee will consider that ane old house built of mudwalls and repaired fourtie years ago must be very much decayed by this time and rendered unlodgeable; upon which I beg leave to give only a hint of the present situation. To the doors, about twentie-four in number, all rotted and consumed excepting one; secondly, the widows, about twentie in number, scare any sufficient of proof against wind or weather, to which the manse is much exposed; thirdlie, the mudwalls do rott and consume hangings, bedclothes, and everything else, then the house is till moist, cold, unwholesome and breads much vermin; fourthlie in of fourtie years above said, several floors are rotted and consumed, and the kitchen ruinous wholly, yea, I must add that there's but three bedrooms in the whole of this house, all narrow and confined, so that I have been necessitated these eighteen years and above to lodge my children and two or three several maids still in one little room together, while my wife had a second, and the third I behooved in decencle to keep for any friend, all which particulars above mentioned I submitt to the reverend committee.”

DYSART HERO HONOURED – 227 YEARS ON

THE FIFE FREE PRESS 19 APRIL 2002

A plaque to commemorate a hero of the American War of Independence has been unveiled in Dysart.

Major John Pitcairn is still honoured by his former enemies on the other side of the Atlantic, but it is only recently that mot people in the town of his birth have been aware he existed.

John Pitcairn (1722-75) was the youngest surviving child of the Rev. David Pitcairn, a former regimental chaplain who served as minister at Dysart for 49 years.

Becoming a Major in the Marines, John Pitcairn was one of several Fife service-men who played a part in the American War of Independence.

He played a significant role at Lexington and Concord before being morally wounded at the famous battle of Bunker Hill.

Fife-based historian and writer Dr Marianne Gilchrist researched an exhibition on his life at Dysart's John McDouall Stuart Museum two years ago.

It did much to raise the profile of a man who until then had been largely unheard of in his home town.

Now Kirkcaldy Civic Society and the Dysart Trust have erected a plaque near the site of his birthplace at St Serf's Manse. The site of the manse is now covered by the grounds of Dysart's Bay House and the plaque was placed on the exterior of the garden wall.

It was unveiled by Sheila Pitcairn, who is related to the family through marriage and has researched the family history.

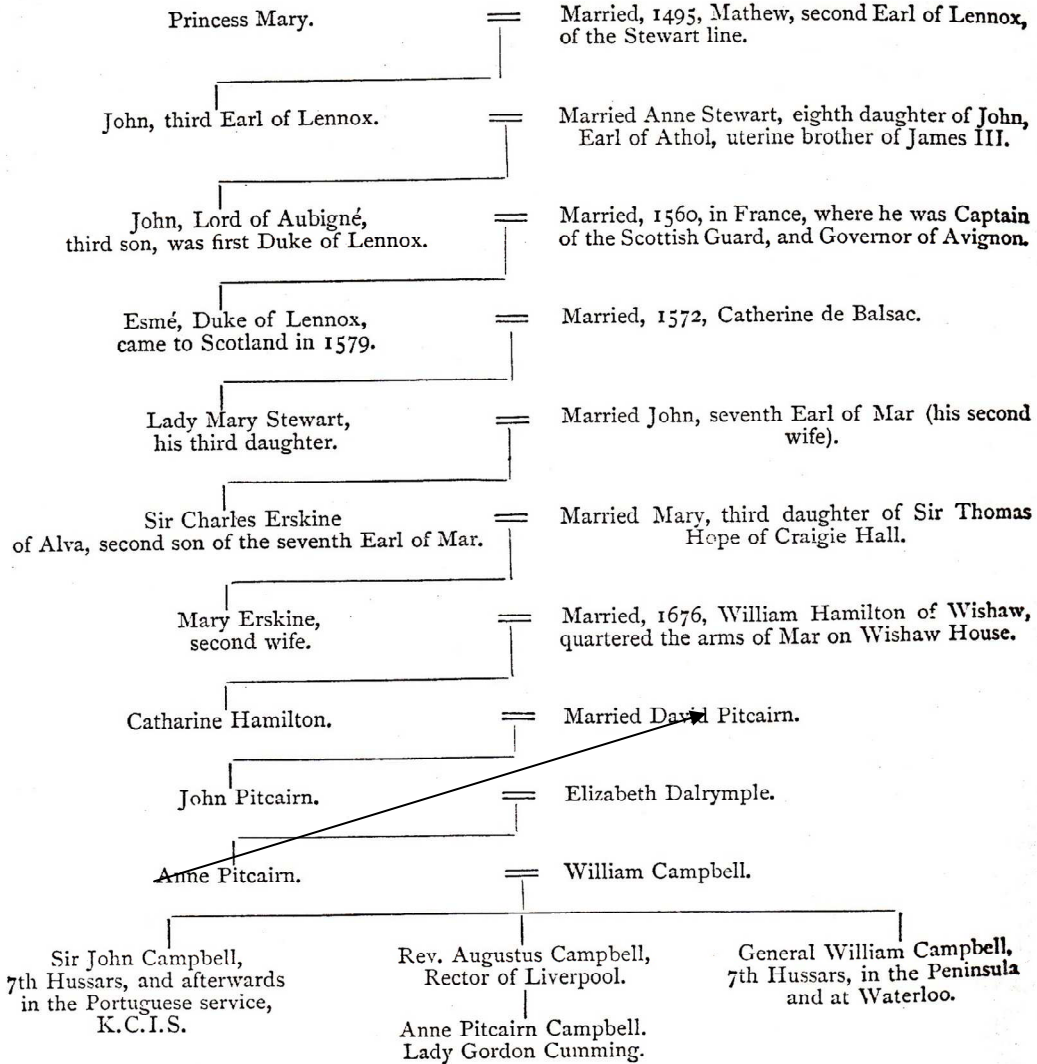


At the unveiling ceremony are (from left) David Galloway, vice chairman of Kirkcaldy Civic Society, Ann Watters, chairman of Kirkcaldy Civic Society, Sheila Pitcairn, Dr Marianne Gilchrist, and Jim Swan, chairman of Dysart Trust.

THE PITCAIRNS.

APPENDIX TO CUMMING, p. 477.

Nov. 27, 1845. Sir Alexander Penrose Gordon Cumming married Anne Pitcairn, only daughter of the Rev. Augustus Campbell, Rector of Liverpool, whose mother was a Pitcairn. The Pitcairns of Pitcairn were an old family in Fife, and had, through the Hamiltons of Wishaw and Erskines of Mar, royal descent from King James II., whose daughter the



Robert Pitcairn, son of David Pitcairn of that ilk, succeeded George Durie as **Com-** mendator of Dunfermline, circa 1564. He was born in 1520, was appointed a **Lord of** the Articles 29th July 1567, and attended the coronation of the infant king **James VI.**

From - "The Bruces & the Cumyns" by M.E. Cumming Bruce. Dysart Pitcairns.
