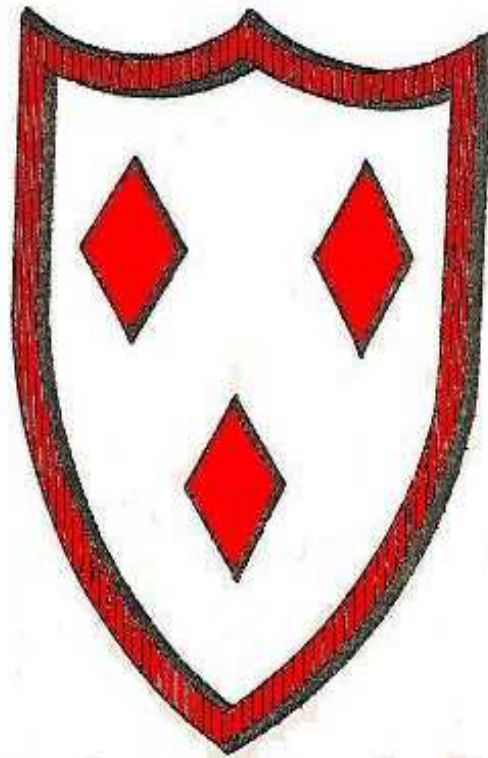


*THE HISTORY OF THE
FIFE PITCAIRNS*

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FAMILY BRANCH 9



ARMS OF PITCAIRN OF DREGHORN

David Pitcairn of Dreghorn Castle d.1709.

Argent, three Lozenges Gules within a Bordure Gules.

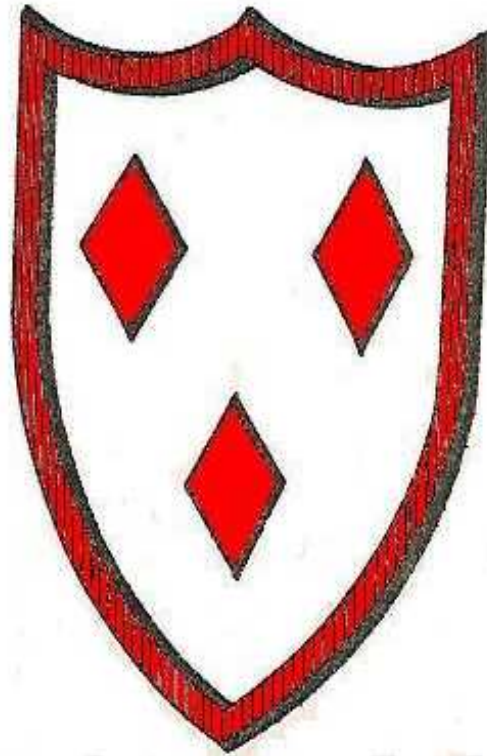
Crest. The Sun, Surrounded with Clouds

Motto. Spes Lucis Eternæ

PITCAIRNS OF DREGHORN

FAMILY BRANCH IX

THE PITCAIRNS OF DREGHORN CASTLE.



ARMS OF PITCAIRN OF DREGHORN

David Pitcairn of Dreghorn Castle d.1709.

Argent, three Lozenges Gules within a Bordure Gules.

Crest. The Sun, Surrounded with Clouds

Motto. Spes Lucis Eternæ

Dreghorn Castle, the old home of this Branch of the Pitcairns, is situated in a romantic and picturesque valley through which runs the Water of Leith. It is about two and a half miles south-west from Edinburgh; but though so near a large town, it still retains its old sylvan beauty. Dreghorn is in the parish of Colinton, and the name of the estate is a very old one.



DREGHORN CASTLE

Amongst the missing Crown charters of Robert II, was one “containing a lease of the barony of Redhall in the shire of Edinburgh, `except Dreghorn and Woodhall, ` by Alexander Meyaners of Woodhall, to the Earl of Fife and Menteith.”¹

The old castle of Dreghorn was built by Sir William Murray, Master of Works to King Charles II. It formerly belonged to Sir James Foulis (afterwards Lord Colinton); but he having warmly espoused the Royal cause, his estates were sequestrated, in 1654, by the Protectorate. He had to sell large portions of them, Dreghorn amongst the number. This estate then came into the possession of David Pitcairn who lived there many years, and died in 1709. The present house was built moe than a hundred

¹ Shankie’s History of Colinton.

years ago; it is now in the possession of Mr Macfie, who has kindly allowed a photograph to be taken of it, and also of David Pitcairn's tomb.

The Pitcairns of Dreghorn have for their coat of arms three lozenges argent, within a border gules, as in the plate of Achievement.¹ Their motto, *Spes lucis eternae*; the crest, a sun with waved rays, like a star, encircled by clouds.

ALEXANDER PITCAIRN, minister of Tannadyce, Forfarshire, was son of David Pitcairne, sixteenth laird of Forthar, Fife and is the same Alexander Pitcairne who later became Dean of Orkney in 1665, born 1600 or before. The family was subjected to much loss and suffering during the civil wars, and Alexander's petition for redress lay before the Scottish Parliament from 1641 to 1661, when it was "recommendit" to the Privy Council.² He married 22 Feb 1661 Lucrece Cairncross with issue and secondly Elizabeth, daughter of John Alexander Dean of St Andrews. No issue. Alexander, and Lucerce Cairncross had son Alexander of whom later who m. 31 Mar 1665 Janet Clark and secondly Rachel Adams. 1) Isobel who d. before 1674, Margaret d. 1697 mentioned in Will 1697 and Jean who d. before 1674.

ALEXANDER PITCAIRN, a celebrated divine, son of above was born 1622³ and entered St Salvator's College, St Andrews, in November 1639, matriculated in February 1640 (University Matriculation Books), M.A. in 1643, became Regent in February 1648, and so continued until December 1656, when he was ordained minister of Dron, Perthshire, - a little village in Glenfarg, near the Bridge of Earn. Although he was deprived by Acts of Parliament and of the Privy Council in 1662, Robert Leighton, Bishop of Dunblane, within whose diocese Dron as included, so highly respected his character, learning, and scruples, that Pitcairne was permitted to continue to discharge his ministerial duties (Register of the diocesan Synod of Dunblane). But after Ramsay had succeeded Leighton as bishop, Pitcairn was charged at a Synodical meeting, held at Dunblane on 8th October 1678, with having "begun of late to doe things verie disorderlie," in admitting people of other parishes to church ordinances.

His case was referred to the moderator of his Presbytery, who, on 8th April brought matters to a crisis, and, Pitcairne being again deprived, the Crown appointed a successor.

¹ Nisbet's Heraldry ² Acts of Parl. vol. vii. ³ Woodrow's History of the Sufferings of the Church of Scotland, vol. iii; Scott's Fasti.

1679, reported that “Mr Pitcairne had verie thankfully entertained the connivance and kindness he had met with,” the matter of offence being “done mostly without his knowledge.” The imposition of the test in 1681 When the latter endeavoured to enter on the charge, so determined a resistance was offered that the Privy Council instructed the Marquis of Atholl to quarter troops on the parish, to hold courts, and fine, imprison, and scourge old and young, men and women, who failed to assist the Crown’s nominee. Ejected from his parish, Pitcairne sought refuge in Holland, where in 1685 his treatise on “Justification” was published. In 1687 he returned to Scotland and in 1690 was by Act of Parliament restored to his parish (Woodrow, Hist., iii.390). At the instance of William of Orange he was appointed Provost of St Salvator’s College, St Andrews, in 1691, and became, in 1693, Principal of St Mary’s College – a post which he retained till his death, September 1695, age seventy-three (Minutes of Synod of Fife, App., p.214).

All the Principal’s books are controversial in tendency and aim – in his own words, “to vindicate orthodoxy and confute ancient and modern error.”

His best known, and earliest work is entitled `The Spiritual Sacrifice; or, a Treatise concerning the Saints` Communion with God in Prayer.` Edinburgh: Robert Brown, 1664 in two volumes quarto, separately issued. The dedication to the Viscountess Stormont is prefixed to vol. ii. Pitcairne also wrote a philosophical and metaphysical treatise, dedicated to Robert Boyle, and entitled `Compendiaria et perfacilis Physiologia idea Aristotelicæ unacum Anatomie Cartesianisme . . . Authore Alexandro Pitcarnio Scoto Philosophiæ quondam professore nunc Dronensis Ecclesie Stratherniæ Pastore,` 8 vo, London 1676; as well as `Harmonia Evangelica Apostolorum Pauli et Jacobi in doctrina de justificatione` 8 vo, Rotterdam, 1685, dedicated to Sir James Dalrymple, first Viscount Stair.

Woodrow says of him that he was “a worthy and learned minister, known through the Reformed Churches by his writings.”¹

The Principal died in 1696. “He was married twice. First, on the 31st of March 1665, to Janet Clark of St Andrews. By her he had four sons – (1) David of Dreghorn; (2) Alexander, Minister of Cupar, was born in 1650 and died 1700; (3) George Pitcairne, Commissary of Dunkeld, who was born in 1675 and died 1744; George Pitcairn married to Beatrice

¹ Woodrow’s History of the Church of Scotland, vol.iii.p.390; and Scott’s Fasti.

Calderwood, heiress of Balgougie, and left two daughters - 1. Janet, b. 17 Dec 1695, m. 1729, John Cunningham, W.S. of Balbougie and had one daughter Alison; 2. Rachel, b. 1695, m. Dr Alex Spence o Berryhole, about 1722. One of her great-great-great-grandchildren is J. M. Morries, Esq. of Gogar Stiring.¹ Fourth son James, b. 1653. The Principal had one daughter Lucretia, b. 1645 a male Twin, by his first wife.

Alexander Pitcairn married, secondly, Rachel Adams, and had two more sons and three daughters. 1) Joseph, of whom later, 2) Andrew, 1) Rachael. 2) Jean, 3) Anne, who m. Walter Wilson, min of Cameron Parish, she d. at Elie 13th Mar 1754.

DAVID PITCAIRN, the eldest son of Alexander Pitcairn, the Principal of New College, St Andrews, became a Writer to the Signet, and purchased the estate of Dreghorn from Sir James Foulis of Colinton, after 1669. He was a W.S. in 1690, 1692, and 1693.

This Sir James Foulis was actively engaged in the civil war, after the death of King Charles I. During the Protectorate he was betrayed into the hands of the English, with the Earls of Leven, Crawford, Marischal, and Lord Ogilvy, and carried in a vessel to London. After the Restoration Sir James Foulis, who was a kinsman of the Earls of Roseberry, was made one of the Senators of the College of Justice, and, in 1704, appointed Lord Justice-Clerk, under the designation of Lord Colinton. He was a friend of David Pitcairn and he and his relation, Sir James Primrose of Carrington (who was elevated to the peerage the 30th of Nov. 1703, as Lord Primrose and Castlefield, and Viscount Primrose), were witnesses to the baptism of David Pitcairn's son James in 1692.

Mr David Pitcairn married Mary Anderson 4 Jun 1678 Edinburgh. Found in Edinburgh Archives under Family papers Bundle 7871 - the following births-

1) Patrick, b. 6 Feb 1679, d. Feb 1734, succeeded to Dreghorn. 2) Alexander b. 3 Dec 1686, m. c. 1718 Margaret Deans. 3). David b. 7 May 1689. 4) James b. 11 Jan 1492, m. 1 Aug 1712, Barbara Gourlay. 5) George, b. 2 Aug 1694. 6) Archibald, b. 27 Jun 1697. 7) David, b. 4 Jun 1699, Merchant in Jamaica, m. Elizabeth Selkirk. 8) Thomas, d. 13 Jun 1751, m. Mary Redpath. . 1) Janet 14 Nov 1679, Edinburgh, m. 20 Dec 1699 William Walwood of Touch, one son Henry Welwood, and married secondly to George Home. 2) Margaret, 3 April 1681, 3) Christine b. 21 May 1682, 4) Rachel, b.12 Oct 1683, d. 26 Feb 1703. 5) Mary, b. 23 Sep 1684, m. c. 1717 Rev J Nisbet. 6) Agnes, b. 2 Dec

1685. 7) Margaret, b. 12 Dec 1687. 8) Grissell b. 25 May 1690. 9) Helen b. 24 Jan 1693. 10) Dorothy b. 29 Aug 1695. 11) Eleanor, b. 20 Aug 1701, m. Rev. W. Robertson, Greyfriars, Edinburgh.

The witnesses to the children's births were Mr Alexander Pitcairn, Minister at Dron (David Pitcairn's father); George Pitcairn, Commissary of Dunkeld in 1690, 1692, 1699 (David Pitcairn's brother).

The other witnesses for those years were John Menzies, Advocate; Adam Chrystie, Clerk; Sir James Foulis of Colinton; Sir James Primrose of Carrington. "1692, Mr James Anderson, W. S., Sir Robert Christie (late Lord James Anderson, W.S., Sir Robert Christie (late Lord Provost)." "1699, Mr Newman Lowis of Merchistown; and 1699, William Calderwood, Advocate."¹

Mr Pitcairn resided much on his property, showed a deep interest in all parochial matters, and enjoyed in a remarkable degree public respect and confidence. He was, for example, an active and efficient member of the kirk-session, which he represented for many years at different times, in the Presbytery of Edinburgh, and in the Synod. "In 1694, the Session recommended to Mr Pitcairn's care the provision of our Kirk until the minister (Mr Jas. Thomson) return from the north, where he has been ordered to go by the Synod." He was also the ruling elder of the parish church for many years. Two damask towels are in the possession of the Session, given in 1706 by David Pitcairn of Dreghorn. Mr Shankie, in his book, 'The History of Colinton,' quotes the following:-

"Mr Pitcairn, who, as will soon appear, was so remarkable for illustrious descendants, could boast of progenitors no less eminent. He was sprung from the ancient and honourable family of which, in his day, Dr Archibald Pitcairne, famous as a Latin poet, and 'the honour of his profession in Scotland,' was a member. Dr Webster dedicates his memoirs of that remarkable man (Edin. 1731, 8 vo.) to Dr William Pitcairne of London, his kinsman.

"Both Mr Pitcairn of Dreghorn and the physician were descended from the Pitcairns of that Ilk and Forthar, of whom one was Andrew Pitcairne, who with no fewer than seven sons fell at Flodden (1513), gallantly fighting by the side of their Sovereign."¹

Mr Pitcairn, as we have seen, died 27 Jan 1709, and left a widow (Mary or Marie Anderson) and numerous family. He was succeed in his estate of Dreghorn by his eldest son Patrick,¹ who followed the same

¹ Edinburgh Registers.

honourable profession as his father, and who, for family purposes, sold the property in 1715 to his brother-in-law, George Home of Kello. Mrs Pitcairn survived her husband upwards of twenty years, and died at Bristo, in her near neighbourhood of Edinburgh, as is attested by the following extract from the parochial register of Funerals: “December 27th, 1729. The Lady Dreghorn, from Bristo, buried in her own isle [aisle], mortcloth, nine pounds Scots, being in a hearse.”

The tomb, it may be stated, has not been used by any of the successive proprietors of Dreghorn since Mr Pitcairn’s time, and it contains none but his mortal remains, and those of his wife, *Lady Dreghorn*, as she is termed in the parochial records.

In the churchyard of Colinton there is a splendid monument, which is nearly entire, except as regards the following simple inscription, recently brought to light, and all but illegible, having been covered with rubbish beyond the memory of the present generation: -

“Here lies Mr DAVID PITCAIRN of Dreghorn, who departed this life 27th January 1709, and of his age the 60 year: leaving behind him Mary Anderson, his wife, with five sons and seven daughters by her.” His family erected in the same year this monument to his memory. It was of solid masonry with sculptured armorial bearings.

In 1864 A.D. it was restored, and a plate inserted with the following inscription: -

¹ Biographical Annals of Colinton, by Mr Murray. ² Service of Heirs 29 Apr 1709.



Tomb of David Pitcairn, of Dreghorn Castle
1709

RESTORED,

Under the direction of THOMAS MURRAY, L.L.D., at the request of the undernamed descendants of DAVID PITCAIRN of Dreghorn –

WILLIAM HUGH ELLIOT, 3rd Earl of Minto; Mary ELIZA ELLIOT, 2nd Baroness Dunfermline; FRANCES ELLIOT, 1st Countess Russell; ELIZ. BRYDONE, LADY Adam; WILLIAM PATRICK ADAM, M.P. of Blair Adam; WILLIAM ROBERTSON, of Kinloch Moidart.

The plate was inserted, placed in position, and the work completed in the presence of Lord Dunfermline, the tomb being visited the same day by Lady Dunfermline. A yew-tree was planted in the centre of the enclosure by the Hon. Miss Abercromby.

To this list of descendants may be added the names of Lord Brougham; James Cunningham, Esq., 50 Queen Street; Alex. James Russell, C.S. Shandwick Place; John Richardson of The Kirklands; the Misses Robertson Macdonald, &c.

The property of the interesting tomb in question, the most interesting by far of any rural monument in this county, belongs to the estate of Dreghorn.¹

When David Pitcairn died, Patrick, his eldest son, succeeded to Dreghorn on the 6th of April 1709. He is mentioned in the *Retours*,² vol. i., as being heir special in Dreghorn, and several sums of money secured thereon. His sister, Janet, married, firstly, William Walwood of Touch, and had a son, Henry Walwood (or Welwood) of Touch. She married, secondly, George Home of Kello, who bought Dreghorn from his brother-in-law, Patrick Pitcairn of Dreghorn, in 1715. On April 1, 1719, there was a -

Charter by the Provost and Bailies of Edinburgh to George Home of Kello and Janet Pitcairn his spouse, of a tenement in the City of Edinburgh, which belonged before to various persons in succession, and among others, to William Walwood of Touch and Janet Pitcairn, then his spouse, by a decree of the Lords of Session, dated 23rd November 1705, at the instance of Henry Walwood, heir of the said late William Walwood and others, against Mr David Pitcairn of Dreghorn, Mary Anderson his spouse, Patrick Pitcairn younger of Dreghorn, and the said Janet Pitcairn, then widow of William Walwood, &c.³

Janet Pitcairn had her husband, Mr Home, settled at Dreghorn, and had two children, - one son, William, and a daughter, Mary or Margaret, who became the wife of Patrick, first Viscount Garnock, of the Lindsay family.

¹ Edinburgh Courant, July 2, 1864. No. 1591, box 41.

² Canon Pitcairn's papers.

³ Laing Charters,

Their son George became twenty-first Earl of Crawford; Mr Home's children had a tutor called David Malloch or Mallet, who was with them for some years at Dreghorn. In 1723 he wrote a pretty and well-known ballad at Dreghorn called "William and Margaret."

The next owner of Dreghorn Castle was Robert Dalrymple, W.S., of Arnsfield Dumfriesshire. He owned it from 1735-1754. His daughter, Elizabeth, married Major John Pitcairn, a cadet of the Pitcairns of Forthar, (see FB10 Pitcairns of Dysart).

The Dreghorn estate changed hands very often. The following is a list of the various owners: -

1. David Pitcairn, who died 1709.
2. Patrick Pitcairn, his son, disposed of Dreghorn, in 1715, to George Home of Kello.
3. Robert Dalrymple, W.S. from 1735 to 1754.
4. Dr Andrew St Clair, from 1754 to 1760.
5. George Dempster of Dunnichen and Skibo, from the latter date to 1763-64.
6. John Maclaurin, Lord Dreghorn, from 1763 to 1796.
His son, Colin an Advocate, sold it in the year following to
7. Alexander Trotter, Paymaster of the Navy, who was succeeded (1874) by his son Archibald, and whose grandson, Mr Coutts Trotter disposed of it in 1862 to
8. R. A. Macfie, Esq., merchant in Liverpool, now of Dreghorn.

David Pitcairn had seven daughters and five sons, - (1) Patrick, his heir, who died childless; (1) Christine, born in 1682; (2) Eleanor, married to the Rev. W. Robertson, of whom later; (3) Janet who married, first William Walwood of Touch, secondly, George Home of Kello; (4) Grizzell, born 1690; (2) James, merchant, born 1692; (3) Alexander, born 1690; (4) David, born 1699; (5) Mary, born 1699,¹ Mary married in 1717 the Rev. J. Nisbet, one of the Edinburgh clergy. They had one son, James, born 1718, and one daughter, Mary. The witnesses to their son's baptism were: -

Witnesses – Mr Alexander Nisbet, Apothecary 1718
John Inglis of Auchendinnie 1718
Andrew Inglis, Advocate.

¹ I have not been able to trace the names of David Pitcairn's three other children. ² Edinburgh City Birth Records.

Robert Newton.
Mary Pitcairn's { Patrick Pitcairn of Dreghorn 1718
Brothers. { Alexander Pitcairn, W.S. 1718
John Home of Kello.
Thomas Paterson of West Kirk¹

One of the Inglis family,² Captain John Inglis, R.N., who succeeded to Redhall and Auchendinny, commanded H.M.S. Belliqueux at the battle of Camperdown. John Alexander Inglis, Esq., is the present proprietor of Redhall and Auchendinny. The Rev. Mr Nisbet, Mary Pitcairn's husband, lived in High Street, Edinburgh. He met with an accident when going up the "common stair," and fractured his skull. He survived two days, and died in June 1755 in his eightieth year. His wife died two years afterwards, in 1757, and was buried at Greyfriars': "Mary Pitcairn, relict of James Nisbet" (Greyfriars' Records).

Note - From Moses Index Edinburgh Archives, found Bundles of papers and have selected a few items of interest from Pitcairn family of Dreghorn.

Bundle No.7863. Contract of Marriage between Mr David Pitcairn eldest son of Mr Alexander Pitcairn, Minister at Dron and Marie Anderson, only daughter of Mr Patrick Anderson, minister, and Margaret Thriapland, his wife. Dated at Bass, Edinburgh and Dron, 23, 26 and 29 April 1678.

Bundle No.7868...Assignment by Helen Ker, wife of Mr James Kilpatrick, minister at Carrington, to James Pitcairn third son of Mr David Pitcairn of Dreghorn, dated 8 April 1692.

Bundle 7869. Margaret Pitcairn only surviving daughter of the late Mr Alexander Pitcairn, minister at Tannadyce, her last will and testament bequeathing legacies to Mr David Pitcairn her eldest brother's son, Mr George Pitcairn his brother, Rachael Pitcairn, eldest daughter of the second marriage of Mr Alexander Pitcairn, Principal of the New College of St Andrews. Date 13 Sept 1697.



¹ The Lang Charters 3087 1719. ² History of Colinton, by Mr Shankie. ³ Picture S. Pitcairn

- Bundle No 7871. Patrick, b. 1 bap 9 Feb 1679, Janet b. 14 Nov bap 9 Dec 1679. Margaret, b 3 bap 26 April 1681. Christian, b. 21 May bap 15 June 1682. Rachell b. 12 bap 22 Oct 1683. Mary b. 23 bap 29 Sep 1684. Agnes b. 4 bap 30 Dec 1685. Alexander b. 3 bap 12 Dec 1686. Margaret b. 12 bap 23 Dec 1687. David b. 7 bap 9 May 1689. Grissell b. 25 May bap 5 June 1690. James b. 11 bap 19 Jan 1692. Helen b. 24 June bap 17 July 1693. George, b. 2 Aug 1694. Dorothy, b. 29 Aug bap 28 May 1695. Archibald, b. 27 June 1697. David, b. 4 bap 15 June 1699, E Leonora, b. 20 Aug 1701. Mr David Pitcairn of Dreghorn was baptized 28 Nov 1648 St Andrews, Mary Anderson spouse.
- Bundle No 7874. Draft Assigation by Janet Pitcairn, widow of William Wellwood of Tough, in favour of Patrick, Alexander, James, Archibald, David, Rachael, May, Margaret, Helen and Dorothea Pitcairn, her brothers and sisters an unborn child of her mother and Christian Pitcairn, her sister and her heirs of 10,000 merks. Dated - April 1701.
- Bundle No.7880. Draft Bond and Assigation, by Mary Anderson, widow of Mr David Pitcairn of Dreghorn, and Helen and Dorothy Pitcairn, her daughters to Patrick Pitcairn of Dreghorn for certain sums of money, disposing to him for his security the whole silver plate and household plenishing to which Mary Anderson has right. Date 1711.
- Bundle No. 7881. Discharges to Patrick Pitcairn by Helen and Dorothy Pitcairn, and Mary Anderson Lady Dreghorn on behalf of Archibald, David and Eleanor Pitcairn etc. Dated 1711.
- Bundle No 7884 Assigation by Mr George Pitcairn, of Balbugie, Commissary of Dunkeld, to Patrick Pitcairn of Dreghorn of a bond and ticket by the late Mr David Pitcairn of Dreghorn. Dated 18 Feb 1715.
- Bundle No. 7888 Contract between Elizabeth Brown, widow of John Vallange of Chesters and Patrick Pitcairn, now her husband and John Vallange, now of Chesters, her son, on the one part and John Hepburn, tenant in Chesters, on the other, touching the conditions of repair of the mansion hose of Chesters. Dated 3 December 1720.
- Bundle No. 7889. Copy Disposition by Jean Pitcairn, widow of Walter Clerk of Bridgeheugh in favour of Archibald Pitcairn her nephew

of all debts etc. due to her and in particular of the lands of Broomlands in the parish of Selkirk. Dated 7 June 1723.

Bundle No. 7890. Bond of Provision by Patrick Pitcairn, W.S., to Elizabeth Brown, his wife, of the rents etc., of all lands, tenements, houses, shops etc. belonging to him, and of all his books and household plenishing. Dated 18 September 1723.

Bundle No 7891. Private Papers of the Pitcairn family, date 1672 to 1725. Letter from David Pitcairn in Jamaica to his mother, Lady Dreghorn, 1725,; letter from Alexander Pitcairn to Dr Pitcairn at Perth, chiefly about the iniquities of Colin, 1685; letter from Archibald Pitcairn in London to his mother, Lady Dreghorn, mentioning his uncle Anderson and his brother David n Jamaica, 1725.

Note. - Patrick Pitcairn W.S. b.1 Feb 1679, succeeded to Dreghorn in April 1709, Service of Heirs. He sold Dreghorn to George Home in 1715. Patrick married Elizabeth Brown, widow of John Vallenge of Chester, they had no issue.

ALEXANDER PITCAIRN, David Pitcairn and Mary Anderson's second son, was born 3 Dec 1686, and was Writer to the Signet in 1719. He married Margaret, daughter of James Deans of Woodhouselee, in circa 1718, and succeeded to Woodhouselee in 1720-34.³ They had two children, - James born 18 th of March 1719, and David, 24 th of March 1720. His wife died in 1741. Mrs Margaret Deans, spouse to Alexander Pitcairn of Woodhouselee, 26.3.1741" (Greyfriars' Reg., W. Millar's Tomb).

The witnesses to his children's baptisms were. -

	Sir John Home of Blairadam	1719
	Robert Pringle, younger of Stichill	1719
	James Deans of Woodhouselee	1719
Senators of	{ Patrick Viscount Garnock	1720
The College	{ Sir William Calderwood of Polton	1720
of Justice.	{ Sir Walter Pringle of Newhall (Lord)	1720
	{ Thomas Pringle, W.S.	1720
	Patrick Pitcairn, W.S., of Dreghorn	1720
	- Edinburgh Birth Records.	

¹ Edinburgh City Birth Records. ² Communicated by N. M. Morries, Esq. of Gogar, Stirling.

Patrick, Viscount Garnock, married Alexander Pitcairn's niece, Mary Home, and Patrick Pitcairn of Dreghorn was Alexander's brother.

The three Pringles were distinguished men. Their father, Sir Robert Pringle of Stichill, was made a Baronet of Nova Scotia in 1683. He married Margaret, a daughter of Sir John Hope, Lord Craighall, and had eighteen children!

Sir Walter, the one mentioned here, was made a Lord of session, under the title of Lord Newhall, and created a Knight bachelor.

Robert Pringle became Secretary of State, and Secretary of War.

Thomas, the fourth son, Writer to the Signet, had three sons: Robert, who became a Lord of Session, as Lord Edgefield; John, Clerk of Session, James, a general.

Alexander Pitcairn wrote a pamphlet in Latin proving "The Absurdities of that enslaving and tyrannical doctrine of passive obedience, and non-resistance in all cases, Sovereignty, &c. By Alexander Pitcairn, writer to His Majesty's Signet, A.M. Printed at Edinburgh, 1754. Dedicated to His Grace Archibald Duke of Argyle."

Eleanor, b. 20 Aug 1701, David Pitcairn's daughter, married the Rev. William Robertson: he was the second son of William Robertson of Gladney, near Cupar, Fife, who was a younger son of the proprietor of Muirton, County of Elgin, fourth in descent from Robertson of Struan, Head of the family.

"Robert Robertson of Struan, Perthshire, from whom the Muirton branch sprang, was married to his relative, Eleanora, daughter of the earl of Atholl (Stewart) by his wife Eleanora, daughter of the Earl of Orkney (Sinclair).

The Stewarts, Earls of Atholl (now represented, through a female, by the Duke of the same name), were descended from Sir John Stewart of Bonkill, Berwickshire, who had married the only daughter and heiress of Sir John Bonkyl of that Ilk."¹ The Robertsons, therefore, could boast of the highest lineage.

The Rev. William Robertson, who became minister of Old Greyfriars' Church in Edinburgh, left by his wife, Eleanor Pitcairn, two sons, of whom William, the future historian, was the elder, and six daughters. Of the younger members of this family we shall afterwards speak. Of Mrs Robertson, Lord Brougham, after characterizing her husband as remarkable "for the sweetness of his placid temper and the cheerfulness

¹ See Douglas's Peerage, vol. i. pp. 8, 346, 43.

of his kindly disposition,” writes: “Mrs William Robertson was a woman of great ability and force of character; but, like man of that type, women especially, she was more stern and severe than amiable; and this contrast, unfavorable to the one, redounded to the augmented love of the other.” It cannot be doubted that Principal Robertson’s character was derived from both parents, for although he was mild and gentle in his temper, and of a kindly demeanour, which he derive from his father, his firmness, decision, and his pleasure in the society of his friends, came from his mother’s side.

JAMES PITCAIRN, Merchant, b. 11 Jan 1692 son of David Pitcairn W.S. of Dreghorn and Mary Anderson, married 1st August 1712 at Ceres Fife, Barbara Gourlay. They had three boys and six girls – 1) James b. 23 Oct 1720, 2) Thomas, b. 21 Dec 1729, and 3) John b. circa. 1730, who m. 14 July 1749 Margaret Brouster. 1) Christian, b. 27 Mar 1715, m. 10 Oct 1747 James Marshall. 2) Jannet or Janat, b. 1 Feb 1717, m. 17 Oct 1741 Thomas Watson. 3) Anna b. 9 Nov 1718. 4) Elspeth, 21 Oct 1722 m. 26 Jun 1748 Robert Brouster. 5) Barbara, b. 1 May 1726. 6) Alison, b. 16 Jul 1727.

JOHN PITCAIRN, b.c. 1730, son of James Pitcairn and Barbara Gourlay m. 14 July 1749 at Dunino Fife, Margaret Brouster. They had Robert, b. 12 Oct 1749 and John, b. c. 1756 who possibly m. c. 1765 Christian McFarlane. Also Barbara b. 18 Aug 1751. and Jannet b. 23 Sept 1753.

JOHN PITCAIRN, b.c. 1756 m. 27 De 1776 Christian McFarlane. They had one son William b.c. 1777 who died unmarried 7 Jan 1793 at Carnbee.

THOMAS PITCAIRN, Minister of Lauder and St Cuthberts, son of David Pitcairn of Dreghorn and Mary Anderson was m. 17 Jun 1726 to Mary Redpath, daughter of Patrick Redpath younger of Byreclough. They had as far as we know, James, who succeeded his uncle Patrick Redpath in Gladswood Berwickshire. Jean, who died 9 Oct 1807. Margaret b. 30 Jul 1733 and Elizabeth b.10 Jan 1736, died unmarried 28 June 1809.

GEORGE PITCAIRN, Commissioner of Dunkeld, third son of Rev Alexander Pitcairn, minister at Dron. George Pitcairn married on June 4 1687 Eupham Dempster daughter of James of Balbougie, She married 1) on 11 Feb 1675 David, son of Sir David Carmichael of Balmedie, who died in September 1675, had issue a son David, afterwards of Balmedie. Eupham married, 2) 15 Oct 1677 William Ged, son of Mr William Ged,

fiar of Baldrige, and had 1) William, goldsmith in Edinburgh, inventor of stereotype printing, died on 19 Oct 1724 with issue. She also had Margaret and Susanna. Eupham, married for the 3) time on 4 June 1687, George Pitcairn, Commissioner of Dunkeld, and died in September 1691.¹

GEORGE PITCAIRN married secondly Beatrice Calderwood, and had issue - 1) Janet, m. 24 June 1713 John Cunningham W. S. with issue. 2) Rachel, married Alexander Spence of Berryhop, with issue, William, and died before May 22 1745. On Feb 13 1722, George Pitcairn granted disposition in favour of his son-in-law, John Cunningham, W.S., Edinburgh, who, in 1725, also acquired the superiority of the lands.²

GEORGE PITCAIRNE, Commissary of Dunkeld, who m. 4 Jun 1687 Eupham Dempster of Balbougie who d. Sep 1691. He married secondly Beatrice Calderwood and had, 1) Janet b. 17 Dec 1695, who married in 1729 John Cunningham W.S. 2) Rachel Pitcairn, b. 12 Dec. 1696, and married in 1722 Dr Alex. Spence of Berryhole. One of her great-great-grand-children is J.M. Morries, Esq., of Gogar, Stirling.”³

Noted - in Inverkeithing Burgh Deeds 1716-1884.

PITCAIRN Mr George of Balbougie, and John Gilmer, maltman Burgess of Inv; Contract betwixt; 10 May 1721; (B34/7/1 folio 39-40.)

PITCAIRN Mr George of Balbougie; Disp & Assig. in favour of spouse, Beatrix Calderwood; 24 June 1728 (B34/7/1)

JOSEPH PITCAIRN, son of Alexander Pitcairn, Principal of St Mary's College, St Andrews; and Rachel Adams, his second wife. M.A. (20th July 1695); licen. By Presb. there 7th Nov 1699; ord, to Newburgh 7th May 1700; called 20th May, trans. And adm. 10th Sept 1701; died 11 th Nov. 1737, aged about 63. He mar. 6th Aug 1705 Sophia (died 27 April 1754) eldest daughter. of Robert Innes, W.S., and had issue – 1) Joseph, b. 1708 min. of Carnbee. 2) Sophia, born March 1707; 3) Rev Alexander, of Colonel Gordon's Regiment, who m. Margaret Stuart and had 1) Joseph, Lieut^l of Major General Dundas's Regiment, b. 11 Dec 1760 at Namur, m. 10 Mar 1788 Marianne Enderlin de Montzwick, at Venlo. 2) Charles, b. 23 July 1763, Amsterdam. 1) Margaret b. 2 Oct 1759 at Namur.

¹ The History of Inverkeithing and Rosyth by Rev W Stephen p.153-7 ² Communicated by J. M. Morries, Esq., of Gogar, Stirling. ³ Perth Deeds RD4/62 pp 435-436 1888 & SC49.48/24 1694-98. ⁴ Fasti Fife 216.Kingsbarns (St Andrews). & 189 Carnbee (St Andrews)

Note -Service of Heirs of 1760 - Joseph Pitcairn, Minister at Carnbee, to his Uncle Robert Innes, Writer in Edinburgh, - Heir Portioner General – 28 November 1760

JOSEPH PITCAIRN,¹ b. Nov 1708, son of Joseph Pitcairn and Sophia Innes, Minister. of Kingsbarns; educated at Univ. of St Andrews; M.A. (4th May 1726); licen. by Presb, there 30th May 1733; pres. By Alexander Earl of Kellie, Sept. 1741; ord. 16th Sept. 1742; died 14th Oct 1780. He presented the Communion cups to the church of Carnbee, which are still in use. He marr. 20th Oct. 1761, Janet daughter of Samuel M’Cormick, General Examiner of H.M. Books of Taxes, descended from King Robert Bruce, she d. 20 Oct 1802 and had issue – 1) Joseph b. 1 Nov 1761, who probably died a child. 2) Joseph, Merchant, New York,² and benefactor to this parish born 1st Nov 1764. and Helen³ b. 13 Jan 1763 at Carnbee, Fife, and d. 9 Mar 1812 Edinburgh, she married 30 June 1779, Rev. Alexander Brodie. Issue – Janet, b. 30 Mar 1780, d. 1 Jan 1824, mar. 7 Oct 1803 Duncan Cowan, merchant, Edinburgh, James, C.B., brigadier-general H.E.I.C.S., b. 6 Feb 1782, d. 18 June 1831; Joseph, merchant, Hamburg, b. 20 Aug 1783, d. 14 Mar 1826; William, b. 13 July, d. 1 Sept 1785; Alexander Oswald, merchant New York, b. 25 Sep 1787, d. 1856; Edward, b. 28 Sep 1789, d. 1812; Elizabeth, b. 7 Jan 1792, d. unmar 13 Oct 1857; Helen, b. 3 Sep 1696 (mar 23 Aug 1830, Alexander Cowan, paper-maker, Penicuik), d. 18 Dec. 1863.

JOSEPH PITCAIRN, b. 1 Nov 1764, Merchant, New York U.S.A., m. Lady Edward FitzGerald (Pamela), he had one daughter Helen, who married John Cersovius. Joseph left a large fortune when he died in 1837.²

Note – The North Country and History of St Lawrence County, New York Historical Publishing Company Indianapolis Indiana 1932 by Harry F. Landon, tells the story of Pitcairn Place name and its origins.

¹ Fasti Fife Carnbee p.189 & 161. ² Family papers and Will.

³ Helen Pitcairn’s daughter, Janet, married Duncan Cowan, 1780, 1780-1824. Her descendants include the Wahabs. The Cowans, and the Maddens. Their daughter, Janet Cowan, 1809-1895, married Charles Wahab, whose son, Edward Wahab, married Mary Alice Wilson, and has four children – 1, Gladys; 2, Kathleen; 3, Eddie; 4, Colin.

ALEXANDER PITCAIRN, Minister to Colonel Gordon's Regiment, of the Scots Brigade in Holland, bap, 13 Jan 1650, son of Alexander Pitcairn, Principal of the New College, St Andrews; M.A. (22nd July 1692); lichen by Presb. the 24th June 1696; called 29th July that year; ord. 23rd Feb 1697; died between 22nd Oct. 1700 and 14 Sep 1701. He bequeathed £400 for behoof of the poor.

Found - in Scottish History Society – The Scots Brigade in Holland Vol.3. The Regimental Records – Baptism Register –

1759 2 October, Margaret Pitcairn, daughter to R^d Mr Alexander Pitcairns, Minister to Colonel Gordon's Regiments, and his spouse, Margaret Stuart, was born the 2nd of October 1759, and baptized the 4th do, by R^d Mr Cuhe, minister to the frensch church at Namur. 1760 11 Dec. Joseph Pitcairn, son to R^d Mr Alexr Pitcairn, minister to Coll. Gordon's Regim^t and his spouse, Margaret Stuart, was born the 11th of Dec. 1760, and baptized the 17 do by R^d Mr. Cuhe, minister to the frensch church, at Namur.

1763 23 July Charles Pitcairne, son to the Rev^d Mr Alexr Pitcarne, minister to Coll. Gordon's Regt, was born at Nymegen the 23 July 1763, and baptized the 2nd of August in the said year and place by the Reverand Doctor James Blinshall, minister of the English church at Amsterdam.

Regimental Records – Marriage Register –

1783 10 March Joseph Pitcairne, Lieut^t of Major General Dundas's Regiment, son to the Reverend Mr Alex^r Pitcarne, minister to the said Regiment, and Marianne Enderlin de Montzwick, having been three times regularly proclaimed in church, were married the 10th March 1788 by the Revered Mr Alex Pitcarne. Present Capt Bruce and Doctor Hume, in Venlo.

DR WILLIAM ROBERTSON.

WILLIAM ROBERTSON, D.D., Principal of the University of Edinburgh, and Historiographer to the Majesty for Scotland, was born in 1721, at Borthwick, in the county of Mid-Lothian, where his father was then minister, and received the first rudiments of his education at the school of Dalkeith, which from the great reputation of Mr Leslie as a teacher, was at that time resorted to from all parts of Scotland. In 1733 he again joined his father's family on their removal to Edinburgh, and towards the end of the same year became a student at the University. When his studies were finished in 1743 he was presented to the living of Gladsmuir in East Lothian by the Earl of Hopetoun. The income was very small, the whole stipend not exceeding £100 a-year. But the preferment, such as it was, came to him at a time singularly fortunate; for not long afterwards his father and mother died of fever within a few hours of each other, leaving a family of six daughters and a younger son in such circumstance as required every aid which his slender funds enabled him to bestow. He invited his father's family to Gladsmuir, and continued to educate his sisters under his own roof till they were married and comfortably settled. Nor did he think himself at liberty till then to think of his own happiness and union with one whom for years he had greatly loved. This marriage may be justly numbered among the most fortunate incidents of his life. He remained single till 1751, when he married his cousin, Miss Mary Nisbet, daughter of the Rev. James Nisbet and Mary Pitcairn his mother's sister.

There was little to note of his life at Gladsmuir until 1745, when Scotland was in the unhappy throes of civil war, and when he and Dr Carlyle with other friends took part in the defence of Edinburgh. In the Autobiography of Dr Alexander Carlyle of Inveresk there are some amusing descriptions of the expeditions and adventures he and his friend Dr Robertson went through together; and by the kind courtesy of Mess Wm. Blackwood & Sons I am allowed to quote the follow extracts. The first is in 1745, when, having volunteered for the protection of Edinburgh. Dr Carlyle, Dr Robertson, and other friends met to receive their instructions from the commanding officer in the College Yards: -

When we were dismissed from the College Yards we were ordered to rendezvous there again in the evening, as night guards were to be posted round the whole city. Twelve or thirteen of the most intimate friends went to a late dinner to a Mrs Turnbull's then next house to the Tron Church.

Many things were talked of with great freedom, for the company were William M'Ghie, William Cleghorn, William Robertson, John Home, Hugh Ballantine, and I.¹

We endeavoured to engage as many as we could to meet us at Haddington, and there deliberate what was to be done, as we conjectured that, now that the town of Edinburgh had surrendered, Sir John Cope would not land nearer than Dunbar. Upon being asked by two of my friends what I was to do – namely, William Robertson and William Cleghorn – I told them that I meant to go that night to my father's at Prestonpans, where, if they would join me next day, by that time events might take place that would fix our resolution. Our ardour for arms and the field was not abated.²

About mid-day I grew anxious for the arrival of my two companions, Cleghorn and Robertson. I therefore walked out on the road to Edinburgh, when, on going as far as where the turnpike is now, below Drummore, I met with Robertson on horseback who told me that a little way behind him was Cleghorn and a cousin of his own, a Mr Fraser of the Excise, who wished to accompany us to Sir John Cope's camp, for it was now known that he was to land that day at Dunbar, and the city of Edinburgh had been surrendered early that morning to the Highland army.

We waited till our companions came up, and walked together to my father's house at Prestonpans, where I had ordered some dinner to be prepared for them by two o'clock. They were urgent to have it sooner, as they wished to begin our journey towards Dunbar as long before sunset as they could.

As we were finishing a small bowl of punch that I had made for them after dinner, James Hay, the gentleman I mentioned before, paid us a visit, and immediately after the ordinary civilities, said earnestly that he had a small favour to ask of us which was that we would be so good as accept of a small collation which his sister and he had provided at their house – belonging to Charles Sheriff, the most eminent merchant in the place, who had died not long before, and left a widow and four daughters with this gentleman, their uncle, to manage their affairs. We declined accepting this invitation for fear of being too late. He continued strongly to solicit our company adding that he would detain us a very short while, as he had only for bottles of burgundy, which if we did not accept of, he would be obliged to give to the Highlanders. The name of burgundy, which some of us had never tasted, disposed us to listen to

¹ Autobiography of Dr Carlyle, p. 120

² Ibid., p. 124.

terms, and we immediately adjourned to Mrs Sheriff's, not an hundred yards distant. We found very good apples and at Gladsmuir to get a little money, as he had not wherewithal to defray his expenses, and mentioned an hour when he promised to meet us at Bangley Braefoot, Maggie Johnston's, a public-house on the road leading to Dunbar, by Garlton Hills, a mile to the north of Haddington. . .

When we came within sight of the door of the inn, we saw Robertson dismounting from his horse: we got some beer or porter to refresh us after our walk, and having broken off in the middle of a keen dispute between Cleghorn and a recruiting sergeant, whether the musket and bayonet, or broadsword and target, were the best weapons, we proceeded on our journey, still a little doubtful if it were true that Sir John Cope had arrived. We proceeded slowly, for it was dark, till we came to Linton Bridge. Robertson, with his usual prudence, proposed to stay there all night, it being ten o'clock, and double beds for us all. Cleghorn's ardour and mine resisted this proposal; and getting a loan of Robertson's horse, we proceeded on to the camp at Dunbar, that we might be more certain of Sir John's arrival. At Belton Inn, within a mile of the camp, we were certified of it, and might then have turned in; but we obstinately persisted in our plan, fancying that we should find friends among the officers to receive us into the tents. When we arrive at the camp we were not allowed admittance, and the officer on the picket, whom Cleghorn knew, assured us that there was not an inch of room for us or our horse either in camp or at Dunbar, and advised us to return. Being at last persuaded that Cope was landed, and that we had played the fool, we first attempted Belton Inn; but it was choked full by that time, as we were convinced by or ten footmen lounging in the kitchen on tables and chairs. We tried the inn at Linton, with the same success. At last we were obliged to knock upon the minister, Mat Reid, at two in the morning, who, taking us for marauders from the camp, kept us an hour at the door. We were hardly well asleep when, about six, Robertson came to demand his horse, quite stout and well refreshed, as well as his cousin Fraser, while we were jaded and undone: such is the difference between wisdom and folly.¹

In 1758 Robertson was appointed to Lady Yester's Church, and then to the Old Greyfriars', Edinburgh, where both his father and father-in-law had been before him.

The establishment of the "Secret Society" in Edinburgh, in the year 1754, opened a field for the display and for the cultivation of his talents.

¹ Autobiography of Dr Carlyle, pp. 128-131.

Among the most distinguished speakers in the Select Society were, Sir Gilbert Elliot, Mr Wedderburn, Mr Andrew Pringle, Lord Kames, Mr Walter Stewart, Lord Elibank, and Dr Robertson. The Honourable Charles Townshend spoke once. David Hume and Adam Smith neer opened their lips.

One of the Secret Society was Lord Dalmeny: he was a man of letters and an amateur, and, thought he did not speak himself, generally carried home six or eight of those who did, to sup with him. He died in 1755.

It was during this assembly that the carriers' Inn, in the lower end of the West Bow, got into some credit, and was called the Diversorium.

There lived at that time, in the corner of Pinkie House, by himself, Archibald Robertson, commonly called the Gospel, uncle to the celebrated Dr Robertson, - a very singular character, who made great part of our amusement at Pinkie House, as he came through a passage from his own apartment every night to supper, and dined there likewise as often as he pleased, for which he paid them a cart of coals in the week, as he took charge of Pinkie coal which his brother-in-law, William Adam, and he, had a lease of.¹

Home and I happening to dine with Dr Robertson at his uncle's who lived in Pinkie House, a week before the General assembly, we proposed to . . . make our assembly Parties at the Carriers' Inn. This was accordingly executed, but we could not be concealed; for, as it happens in such cases, the out-of-the-way place and mean house, and the attempt to be private, made it the more frequented - and no wonder, when the company consisted of Robertson, Home, Ferguson, Jardine, and Wilkie, with the addition of David Hume and Lord Elibank, the Master of Ross, and Sir Gilbert Elliot."²

In 1758, Dr Robertson and Dr Carlyle went for a jaunt to London together, the former to arrange about the publication of his 'History of Scotland,' and the latter to see "the lions."³

Dr Carlyle states that they stayed with Dr William Pitcairn, "a great friend of Dr Dickson's" (Dr Carlyle's brother-in-law), and also "a *cousin* of Dr Robertson's." This is indirect valuable evidence that Dr William Pitcairn and Dr William Robertson (through his mother, Eleanor Pitcairn) were both cadet of the Pitcairns of Forthar. There is proof positive of the descent of Dr Pitcairn, and strong presumptive evidence in Dr Robertson's case.

Every time they went to London, they stayed at Dr Pitcairn's for weeks at a time, and were always cordially welcomed. (See Dr W. Pitcairn's Life.)

¹ Autobiography of Dr Carlyle, p. 214.

² Ibid., p.309.

³ See Dr William Pitcairn's Life in the Dysart Branch.

Dr Carlyle describes their visit to London most graphically: -

We were engaged with a party of friends to dine at Billingsgate on fish of the season, so took leave of Mr Jackson, and left him to come at his leisure, while we made the best of our way down the Thames, and halted only at Richmond, where Robertson had never been . . . We were a company of fifteen or sixteen, whose names I can't exactly remember; but when I say that there were Sir David Kinloch, James Veitch (Elliock), Sir Robert Keith, then only a captain in the Scotch Dutch, Robertson Home, &c., I need not say that we were gay and jovial. . . Bob Keith sang all his ludicrous songs and repeated all his comic verses, and gave us a foretaste of that delightful company which he continued to be to the end of his days; His cousin, Charles Dalrymple, was only behind him in humorous description and naive remark. ¹

After we had left Sheffield, where we might have got money, we discovered that we were like to run short, for Dr Robertson, unlike his usual prudence, had only put two guineas in his pocket, rusting to the full purse of his cousin, James Adam, who had taken no more than he computed would pay the fourth part of our expense. Home and I had done the same. I was treasurer, and at Leeds, I believe, I demanded a contribution, when it was found that by Robertson's deficiency and our purchasing some goods at Birmingham with the common stock, I was sensible we would run out before we came to Newcastle. This led us to inferior inns, which cost us as dear for much inferior entertainment. . . .

After leaving Durham, we were obliged to halt at an inn to give our horses a little corn, for we had been four hours on horseback, and we had nine miles to Newcastle. Besides corn to five horses, and a bottle of porter to our man Anthony, I had just two shillings remaining; but I could only spare one of them, for we had turnpikes to pay, and so called for a pint of port, which, mixed with a quart of water, made a good drink for each of us. Our horses and their riders being both jaded, it was ten o'clock before we arrived at Newcastle: there we got an excellent supper, &c., and a good night's sleep. I sent for Jack 'Widdrington when at breakfast, who immediately gave us what money we wanted; and we, who had been so penurious for three days, became suddenly extravagant. Adam bought a £20 horse, and the rest of us what trinkets we thought we wanted – Robertson for his wife and children at Gladsmuir, and Home and I for the children at Polwarth manse. . .

It was very warm weather in May, and we rode in the hottest of the day: we seldom got on horseback before ten o'clock, for there was no getting Robertson and Home to bed, and Jamie Adam could not get up, and had, besides, a very tedious toilet.²

¹ Autobiography of Dr Carlyle, p. 350.

² Ibid., pp. 373-376.

There is something very refreshing in this description of their travels.

One can well believe what a relief it must have been to them to throw off their cares, and have a really free and happy time. In those days, too, there was a spice of danger in a journey from Scotland to London, from high-waymen, &c., which no doubt lent an added zest to their adventures.

One can almost see them jogging on together, full of frolic and fun, and enjoying every inch of the way; even their money falling short hardly disturbed them in the least; everything was right, and any little *contretemps* was only laughed at, and did not ruffle heir equanimity in the least.

No doubt that Dr Robertson would be in good spirits on account of his 'History of Scotland' being taken by Messrs Strachan & Co. The 'History of Scotland' came out, and was a great success: before a month was over another edition was printed.

EXTRACT FROM LETTER *of* Mr WALTR STRAHAN *to*
Dr ROBERTSON, on his 'History of Scotland.'

I DON'T remember to have heard any book so universally approved by the best judges, for what are sold yet have been only to such. The people in the country know nothing of it unless from the advertisements, and 'A History of Scotland' is no very enticing title. But many of the first distinction in town have perused it with great satisfaction. They wonder how a Scotch parson, and one who had never been out of Scotland, could be able to write, in so correct, so clear, so many, and so nervous a style. The Speaker of the House of Commons in particular prefers the style to that of Bolingbroke, and everybody I have either seen or heard of thinks it one of the very best performances that has been exhibited for many years. – I rejoice in your good fortune, and am, with much esteem and sincerity, dear Sir, Your most obedient servant,

WILL. STRAHAN.

From the SAME

The fourteenth edition of your Scotland will be published in the course of the winter, during which it is our intention to advertise all your works strongly in all the papers.

EXTRACT *of* SIR GILBERT ELLIOT'S LETTER *to* Dr ROBERTSON.

ADMIRALTY, *January 20th 1759.*

DEAR SIR, - Millar has just sent me the 'History of Scotland.' You could have sent me no present which on its own account I should have esteemed so much; but you have greatly enhanced its value by allowing me to accept it as a memorial and testimony of a friendship which I have long cultivated with equal satisfaction and sincerity. I am no stranger to your look, though your copy is but just put into my hands; David Hume so far indulged my impatience as to allow me to carry to the country, during the holidays, the loose sheets which he happened to have by him. In that condition I read it quite through with the greatest satisfaction, and in much less time than I ever employed on any portion of history of the same length. I had certainly either leisure nor inclination to exercise the function of a Critic; carried along with the stream of the narration, I only felt, when I came to the conclusion, that you had greatly exceeded the expectations I had formed, though I do assure you these were not a little sanguine. If, upon a more, deliberate perusal, I discover any blemish, I shall point it out without any scruple: at present it seems to me that you have rendered the period you treat of as interesting as an part of our British story; the views you open of policy, manner's, and religion are ingenious, solid, and deep. Your work will certainly be ranked in the highest historical class; and for my own part I think it besides a composition of uncommon genius and eloquence. I was afraid you might have been interrupted by the reformation, but I find it much otherwise; you treat it with great propriety, and in my opinion, with sufficient freedom. No revolution, whether civil or religious, can be accomplished without that degree of ardour and passion which, in a later age, will be matter of ridicule to men who do not feel the occasion, and enter into the spirit of the times. But I must not get into dissertations. – I hope you will ever believe me, with great regard, dear Sir, Your most obedient and faithful servant,

GILB ELLIOT.

Mr HORACE WALPOLE *to* Dr W. ROBERTSON.

HAVING finished (says Mr Walpole) the first volume, and made a little progress in the second, I cannot stay till I have finished the latter to tell you how exceedingly I admire the work. Your modesty will make you perhaps suppose these are words of compliment; but as I can give you very good

reasons for my approbation, you may believe that I no more flatter your performance than I have read it superficially, hastily, or carelessly.

The style is most pure, proper, and equal; is very natural and easy, except now and then where, as I may justly call it, you are forced to *translate* from bad writers. You will agree with me, sir, that an historian who writes from other authorities cannot possibly always have as flowing a style as an author whose narrative is dictated from his own knowledge. Your perspicuity is most beautiful, your relation always interesting, never languid; and you have very extraordinarily united two merits very difficult to be reconciled: I mean that, though you have formed your history into pieces of information, each of which would make a separate memoir, yet the whole is hurried on into one uninterrupted story. I assure you I value myself on the first distinction, especially as Mr Charles Townshend made the same remark. You have preferred the gravity of history without any formality, and you have at the same time avoided what I am now running into, antithesis and conceit. In short, sir, I don't know where or what history is written with more excellences; - and when I say this, you may be sure I do not forget your impartiality. But, sir, I will not wound your bashfulness with more encomiums; yet the public will force you to hear them. I never knew justice so rapidly paid to a work of so deep and serious a kind; for deep it is, and it must be deep sense that could penetrate so far into human nature, considering how little you have been conversant with the world.

EXTRACT OF LETTER *from* DAVID HUME *to* Dr ROBERTSON.

Dr Douglas told me yesterday that he had seen the Bishop of Norwich who had just bought the book from the high commendations he heard of it from Mr Legge. Mallet told me that Lord Mansfield is at a loss whether he shall most esteem the matter or the style. Elliot told me, that being in company with George Grenville, that gentleman was speaking loud in the same key. Our friend pretended ignorance; said he knew the author and if he thought the book good or any thing, would send for it and read it. Send for it by all means (said Mr Grenville); you have not read a better book of a long time. But, I said Elliot, I suppose although the matter may be tolerable, as the author was never on this side of the Tweed till he wrote it, it must be very barbarous in the expression. By no means, cried Mr Grenville; had the Author lived all his life in London, and in the best company, he could not have expressed himself with greater elegance and purity. Lord Lyttelton seems to think that since the time of St Paul there scarce has been a better writer than Dr Robertson. Mr Walpole triumphs in the success of his favourites the Scotch, &c.

Dr John Blair, in a letter dated from London, observes to Dr Robertson that “the only general objection to his work was founded in his tenderness for Queen Mary.” “Lord Chesterfield” (says he), “though he approves much of your History, told me that he finds this to be a bias which no Scotchman can get the better of.”

Among the various circumstances that distinguish Dr Robertson’s genius and taste in the execution of this work, the address with which he interweaves the personal history of the Queen with the general events he records is not the least remarkable.

During the time that the ‘History of Scotland’ was in the press, Dr Robertson removed with his family from Gladsmuir to Edinburgh, in consequence of a presentation which he had received to one of the churches there. His preferments now multiplied rapidly. In 1759 he was appointed Chaplain of Stirling Castle; in 1761, one of his Majesty’s Chaplains in Ordinary for Scotland: and in 1762 he was chosen Principal of the Edinburgh University. Two years afterwards, the office of King’s Historiographer for Scotland (with a salary of two hundred pounds a-year was revived in his favour.

After much deliberation, Dr Robertson resolved to undertake the History of Charles V. – which proved even a greater success than his ‘History of Scotland.’

EXTRACT *from* HORACE WALPOLE’S LETTER *to* Dr ROBERTSON
On the History of Charles V.

In short, sir, I have not power to make you what you ought to be, a Minister of State – but I will do all I can, I will stimulate you to continue writing, and I shall do it without presumption.

With regard to the History of Charles V., it is a magnificent subject, and worthy of you. It is more – it is fit for you; for you have shown that you can write on ticklish subjects with the utmost discretion, and on subjects of religious party with temper and impartiality.

EXTRACTS *from* Mr HUME’S LETTER *to* Dr ROBERTSON
Regarding his History of Charles V.

I got yesterday from Strahan about thirty sheets of your History to be sent over to Suard, and last night and this morning have run them over with great avidity

could not deny myself the satisfaction (which I hope also will not displease you) of expressing presently my extreme approbation of them. To say only they are well written is far too faint an expression, and much inferior to the sentiments I feel: they are composed with nobleness, with dignity, with elegance, and with judgment to which there are few equals. They even excel, and, I think, in a sensible degree, your 'History of Scotland.' I propose to myself great pleasure in being the only man in England, during some months, who will be in the situation of doing you justice, after which you may certainly expect that my voice will be drowned in that of the public.

Lord Lyttelton was another correspondent with whom Dr Robertson had occasional communications. The first of his letters was an acknowledgment to him for a preface of the History of Charles V.

I don't wonder that you sense of the public expectation gives you some apprehensions; but I know that the Historian of Mary Queen of Scots cannot fail to do justice to any great subject; and no greater can be found in the records of mankind than this you have now chosen. Go on, dear sir, to enrich the English language with more tracts of modern History. We have nothing good in that way, except what relates to the island of Great Britain. You have talents and youth enough to undertake the agreeable and who have flourished since the age of Charles V, in every part of the world, and comparing them together, as Plutarch has done the most celebrated heroes of Greece and Rome.

Voltaire writes, 26th February 1770, from the Chateau de Ferney: -

Il y a quatre jours que j'ai reçu le beau présent dont vous m'avez honoré. Je le lis malgré les fluxions horribles qui me font craindre de perdre entièrement les yeux. Il me fait oublier tous mes maux. C'est à vous et à M. Hume qu'il appartient d'écrire l'Histoire. Vous êtes éloquent, sévère, et impartial. Je me joins à l'Europe pour vous estimer.

In a letter from Lord Cathcart to Dr Robertson, dated 20th of July 1761, he says: -

Lord Bute told me the King's thoughts, as well as his own, with respect to your 'History of Scotland,' and a wish his Majesty had expressed to see a History of England by your pen. His lordship assured me every source of information which Government can command would be opened to you; and that great, laborious, and extensive as the work must be, he would take care your encouragement should be proportioned to it.

This history, although the project was deliberated upon with serious consideration, was never written.

In 1769 Dr Carlyle went to London again, and he had an interesting conversation there with Lord Mansfield, who at the time was thrilling every one with his wonderful eloquence and learning in his speeches on the great Douglas Cause in the House of Lords: -

On the 27th I attended the House of Peers on the Douglas Cause. The Duke of Buccleuch had promised to carry me down to the House; but as I was going into Grosvenor Square to meet him at ten o'clock, I met the Duke of Montague, who was coming from his house, and took me into his chariot, saying that the Duke of B. was not yet ready. . . . The Duke of Bedford spoke long, but not half an hour. The Chancellor and Lord Mansfield united on the side of Douglas; each of them spoke above an hour. . . . Lord Mansfield overcome with heat, was about to faint in the middle of his speech, and was obliged to stop. The side-doors were immediately thrown open, and the Chancellor rushing out, returned soon with a servant, who followed him with a bottle and glasses. Lord Mansfield drank two glasses of wine, and after some time revived, and proceeded in his speech. We, who had no wine, were nearly as much recruited by the fresh air which rushed in at the open doors as his lordship by the wine. . . .

In the course of my operations about the window-tax, I had frequently short interviews with Lord Mansfield. One day he sent for me to breakfast, when I had a long conversation with him on various subjects. Among others, he talked of Hume and Robertson's Histories, and said that though they had pleased and instructed him much, and though he could point out few or no faults in them, yet, when he was reading their books, he did not think he was reading English: could I account to him how that happened? I answered that the same objection had not occurred to me, who was a Scotchman bred and well as born; but that I had a solution to it, which I would submit to his lordship. It was, that to every man bred in Scotland the English language was in some respects a foreign tongue, the precise value and force of whose words and phrase he did not understand, and therefore was continually endeavouring to word his expressions by additional epithets or circumlocutions, which made his writings appear both stiff and redundant.

With this solution his lordship appeared entirely satisfied. By this time he perfectly understood the nature of our claim to exemption from the window-tax, and promised me his aid, and suggested some new arguments in our favour.

Mr Gibbon made his appearance as an historian a few months before Mr Hume's death, and began a correspondence with Dr Robertson the year following. From Paris, 14th July 1777, in acknowledgment of a present of Dr Robertson's book, he writes: -

When I ventured to assume the character of historians, the first, the most natural but at the same time the most ambitious, wish which I entertained was to deserve the approbation of Dr Robertson and Mr Hume, two names which friendship united, and which posterity will never separate. I shall not therefore attempt to dissemble, though I cannot easily express the honest pleasure which I received from your obliging letter, as well as from the intelligence of your most valuable present. The satisfaction which I should otherwise have enjoyed in common with the public will now be heightened by the sentiment of a more personal and flattering nature; and I shall often whisper to myself that I have in some degree obtained the esteem of the writer whom I admire.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER written by the great LORD MANSFIELD
to Dr W. ROBERTSON on his History of America.

I DELAYED returning you my warmest acknowledgments for your most valuable present till I could say that I have enjoyed it. Since my return from the circuit I have read it with infinite pleasure. It is inferior to none of your works, which is saying a great deal. No man will now doubt but that you have done judiciously in making this an entire separate work, and detaching it from the general History. Your account of the science of Navigation and Naval discovery is admirable, and equal to any Historical Map of the kind. If I knew a pen equal to it, I would advise the continuation down to the next arrival of Captain Cook. Nothing could be more entertaining or more instructive. It is curious that all great discoveries are made, as it were, by accident, when men are searching for something else. I learn from you that Columbus did not as a philosopher demonstrate to himself that there must be such a portion of the earth as America is, but that, meaning to go to the East Indies, he stumbled on the West. It is a most interesting speculation to consider how little political wisdom had to do, and how much has arisen from chance, in the peopling, government, laws, and constitution of the New World.

Lord Chesterfield's judgement with respect to Dr Robertson was this. He says: -

There is a History lately come out of the reign of Mary Queen of Scots, and her son King James, written by one Robertson, a Scotchman, which, for clearness, purity, and dignity, I will not scruple to compare with the best historians extant, not excepting Davila, Guicciardini, and perhaps Livy.

Dr Robertson received many honours from foreign Academies, including the Academy of History at Madrid in 1781. He was also elected one of the foreign members of the academy of science at Pudia; and in 1783 one of the foreign members of the Imperial academy of Sciences at St Petersburg.

He was now honoured with a very flattering distinction, which was conveyed to him by his friend Dr Rogerson in a letter, from which the following extract is taken: -

ST PETERSBURG.

YOUR History of America was received and perused by Her Imperial Majesty with singular marks of approbation. All your historical productions have been every favourite parts of her reading. Not long ago, doing me the honour to converse with me upon historical composition, she mentioned you with particular distinction, and with much admiration of that sagacity and discernment displayed by you in painting the human mind and character, as diversified by the various causes that operated upon it, in those eras and states of society on which your subject led you to treat. She assigned you the place of first model in that species of composition. As to the History Charles V. she was pleased to add, *c'est le compagnon constant de tous mes voyages; je ne me lasse jamais a' le lire, & particulièrement le premier volume.*

Her Majesty then presented a very handsome gold enamelled snuff-box, richly set with diamonds, ordering me to transmit it to you, and to desire you acceptance of it as a mark of her esteem, observing, at the same time, most graciously that a person whose labours had afforded her so much satisfaction merited some attention from her.

The active part which Dr Robertson took in the foundation of the Royal Society of Edinburgh is well known. The first idea of this Society, and of the plan adopted in its formation, was suggested by him; and without his powerful co-operation, there is little probability that he design would ever have been carried into effect.

In consequence of his various engagements, which arose from his professional duties, and from the interest which he was led to take, both by his official and his public spirit, in the literary or the patriotic undertakings In consequence of his various engagements, which arose from his professional duties, and from the interest which he was led to

take, both by his official and his public spirit, in the literary or the patriotic undertakings of others, a considerable portion of Dr Robertson's leisure was devoted to conversation and society. No man enjoyed these with more relish; and few have possessed the same talents to add to their attractions.

A rich stock of miscellaneous information acquired from books, and from an extensive intercourse with the world, together with a perfect acquaintance at all time with the topics of the day, and the soundest sagacity and good sense applied to the occurrences of common life, endured him the most agreeable and instructive of companions. He seldom aimed at wit; but, with his intimate friends, he often indulged a sportive and fanciful species of humour. He delighted in good-natured anecdotes of his acquaintance, and added powerfully to their effect by his own enjoyment in relating them. He was, in a remarkable degree, susceptible of the ludicrous: but on no occasion did he forget the dignity of his character, or the decorum of his professional; nor did he ever lose sight of that classical taste which adorned his compositions. In the company of strangers he increased his exertions to amuse and to inform; and the splendid variety of his conversations was commonly the chief circumstance on which they dwelt in enumerating his talents, - and yet it was when surrounded by his family or with his intimate friends that he showed to the greatest advantage.

His health began apparently to decline in the end of the year 1791. Till then it had been more uniformly good than might have been expected from his studious habits; but about this period he suddenly discovered strong symptoms of jaundice, which gradually underlined his constitution, and terminated at length in a lingering and fatal illness. He had the prospect of death long before him - a prospect deeply afflicting to his family and his friends, but of which, without any visible abatement in his spirits, he happily availed himself to adorn the doctrines which he had long taught, by example of fortitude and of Christian resignation. In the concluding stage of his illness he removed from Edinburgh to Grange House in the neighbourhood, where he had the advantage of better air and a quieter situation, and, what he valued more than most men, the pleasure of rural objects and of a beautiful landscape. While he was able to walk abroad, he commonly passed a part of the day in a small garden, enjoying the simple gratifications it afforded with all his wonted relish. His daily visits to the fruit-trees (which were then in blossom), and the smile with which he more than once contrasted the interest he took in

their progress with the event which was to happen before their maturity was very pathetic.

Dr Carlyle writes to a friend –

William Robertson you will see no more, - he is dying. He was calm and collected, and even placid and gay. My poor wife had a desire to see him, and went on purpose; but when she saw him, from a window, leaning on his daughter, with his tottering frame, and directing the gardener how to dress some flower-beds, her sensibility threw her into a paroxysm of grief: she fled upstairs to Mrs Russell and could not see him. His house, for three weeks before he died, was really an anticipation of heaven.

He died on the 11th of June, in the seventy-first year of his age.

Nothing was wanting to render his happiness perfect while he lived; and at his death he had the satisfaction to leave, in prosperous circumstances, a numerous family, united to each other and their excellent mother by the tenderest affection.

In concluding this life of Dr Robertson, I will here quote from the interesting paper written by Dugald Stewart after his death, commenting on the value of his historical researches. He says: -

In the respect he has certainly not been surpassed by any writer to the present times; nor would it perhaps be easy to name another who had united to do so luminous an arrangement of his materials, and such masterly skill in adorning them, an equal degree of industry and exactness in tracing them to their original sources. After a minute examination of the most disputed passages of his first performance, a late author had ventured to pronounce him “the most faithful of Historians”; and I have no doubt that this honourable appellation will be sanctioned by those who shall examine his other works with the same acuteness, accuracy, and candour.

“The characteristic of Dr Robertson’s eloquence as persuasion – mild, rational, and conciliating, yet manly and dignified. He was the acknowledged head of his party, and generally spoke last in the debate – resuming the arguments on both sides with such perspicuity of arrangement and expression, such respect to his antagonists, and such an air of candour and earnestness in everything he said, that he often united the suffrages of the House in favour of the conclusions he wished to establish.

"His assiduous attention, amidst his various occupations, to the minutest duties of his office as head of the University was very great - duties which nothing but his habits of arrangement and the severest economy of his time could have enabled him to discharge with so little appearance of hurry or inconvenience. The valuable accession of books which the public library receive while under his administration was chiefly owing to his prudent and exact application of the very slender funds appropriated to that establishment. The various societies, both literary and medical, which in Edinburgh have long contributed so essentially to the improvement of the rising generation, were most of them either planned or reformed under his direction and patronage; and if, as a seat of learning, Edinburgh has of late more than formerly attracted the notice of the world, much must be ascribed to the influence of his example and to the lustre of his name. The good sense, temper, and address with which he presided for thirty years in the University meetings were attended with effects no less essential to its prosperity, and are attested by a fact which is perhaps without a parallel in the annals of any other literary community - that during the whole of that period there did not occur a single question which was not terminated by a unanimous decision."¹

Dr Ebenezer Erskine says of him: "He could feel an injury, and yet bridle his passion; was grave not sullen; steady, not obstinate; friendly, not officious; prudent and cautious, not timid." The praise is liberal, and it is expressed with the cordial warmth of friendship; but it comes from one who had the best opportunity of knowing the truth, as he had enjoyed Dr Robertson's intimacy from his childhood, and was afterwards, for ore than twenty years, his colleague in the same church.

In point of stature Dr Robertson was rather above the middle size; and though he did not convey he idea of much activity, still he had vigour of body, and a healthful, constitution. His features were regular and manly, and his eye spoke at once good sense and good humour. He appeared to greatest advantage in his complete clerical dress, and was more remarkable for gravity and dignity, than for ease or grace in private society. His portrait was painted by Sir Joshua Reynolds. At the request of his colleagues, who were anxious to have some memorial of him placed in the Public Library, he sat again, a few months before his death, to Sir Henry Raeburn; at a time when his altered and sickly aspect rendered the task of the artist peculiarly difficult. The picture, however, is worthy in every respect of Raeburn's high and deserved reputation.

¹ Dugald Stewart's Memoir.

In the Greyfriars' Churchyard a small but beautiful monument is placed on the ground where the remains of Dr Robertson, Principal of the University of Edinburgh were deposited. It is said to have been built from a design of the late Robert Adam, Esq., architect, and is very similar to that which he erected over the burying ground of his own father.



By Sir Joshua Reynolds. P.R.A.

DR. WILLIAM ROBERTSON.

DR ROBERTSON'S DESCENDANTS.

PRINCIPAL ROBERTSON left three sons and two daughters. Mrs Robertson survived her husband for nearly eight years and died in March 1801. Of his sons, the eldest, William, was educated for the profession of the law, was admitted a member of the Faculty of advocates in 1775, and three years afterwards, was elected Procurator for the Church of years afterwards, was elected Procurator for the Church of Scotland. In 1805 he was nominated a judge of the Court of Session, on which occasion he assumed the title of Lord Robertson. He retired from the bench in 1826, and died in 1835, leaving no family. He had been twice married first to Miss Boyd, sister of Mrs Robertson Williamson of Lawers, Perthshire, wife of the late Lord Balgray, one of the Senators of the College of Justice; and secondly, to Miss Cockburn of Rochester, County of Berwick.

Lord Robertson was "and eminent lawyer at the Scotch bar," says Dugald Stewart, and "has been only prevented by the engagements of an active profession from sustaining his father's literary fame."

Dr Robertson's two younger sons,

both of whom very early embraced a military life, carried his vigour and enterprise into a different career of ambition. The one, repeatedly mentioned with distinction in the history of Lord Cornwallis's military operations in India, attained the rank of General and died unmarried at Edinburgh in 1845. The other was Lieutenant-Colonel of a regiment serving in Ceylon, and Deputy Adjutant-General of his Majesty's forces in that island. He married, in 1799, Margaret Macdonald of Kinlochmoidart, sister and heiress of Lieutenant-Colonel Macdonald, Governor of Tobago, who died in 1804. On the death of Colonel Robertson Macdonald (for he assumed his wife's surname) in 1845, he was succeeded by his elder son, William Robertson of Kinlochmoidart, grandson of the Principal, lineal representative of the Robertson, and one of the representatives of the Pitcairns of Dreghorn.

Of Dr Robertson's two daughters, Mary, the eldest became the wife in 1785, of Patrick Brydone, Esquire, of Lennel (rented from Lord Haddington), in the parish of Coldstream. This marriage between his eldest daughter and Mr Brydone, the celebrated traveller, who was well known for his scientific pursuits, as well as distinguished for his charming manners and kindness of disposition, had contributed materially to her father's happiness, for he liked to pass a few weeks in the summer

of autumn at the delightful home of Lennel. Mr Brydone was educated at the University of Edinburgh, and was very talented. The natural bent of his tastes was scientific, and although he “was neither a surgeon nor physician, he applied himself to the study of medicine and Natural Philosophy.” In November 1757 he communicated to Dr Whytt (Professor of the theory and Practice of Medicine) of Edinburgh an account of a cure of palsy which he had effected by means of electricity. Mr Brydone also, in after-life, contributed various articles on electricity and meteorology to the Royal Society of London, of which he was a Fellow in 1772.¹

SIR WALTER SCOTT ON LENNEL.

‘Where Lennel’s convent closed their march;
(There now is left but one frail arch,
Yet mourn thou not its cells;
Our time a fair exchange has made;
Hard by, in hospitable shade,
A reverend pilgrim dwells,
Well worth the whole Bernardine brood,
That e’er wore sandal, frock, or hood.)’

Mr Brydone, after a long life, honourably spent, died in June 1818, at the venerable age of eighty-two.

Three daughters survived their; one of them (Mary) became the wife of Gilbert, second Lord Minto, and was the mother of five sons – 1, William Hugh, third Earl of Minto; 2, Right Hon. Henry George; 3, Charles Gilbert John Brydone; 4, George Francis Stewart; 5, Gilbert; and five daughters – 1. Mary Elizabeth ; 2, Frances Anne Maria; 3, Charlotte Mary; 4, Elizabeth Amelia Jane; 5, Harriet Ann Gertrude. The portrait in this book is of Lady Minto and her two children, which the present Lord Minto kindly gave permission to be copied from his picture at Minto House. Lady Minto is said to have had a very beautiful character. Her charming portrait is by Hayter, R.A. The boy taken with her was Col. the Hon. Gilbert Elliot of the Rifle Brigade, who saw a good deal of service in the Kaffir War and in the Crimea; and the little girl is the Lady Harriet Elliot who died unmarried about 1855.

¹ Dr Murray’s Biographical Annals.



By Hayter. R.A.

**THE SECOND COUNTESS OF MINTO,
AND HER CHILDREN.**

Ralph, second Baron Dunfermline, married, September the 18th, 1838, Mary Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Gilbert, second Earl of Minto, and Mary Brydone his wife. She died April the 10th, 1874. The barony became extinct in 1868. They left only one child, Mary Catherine Elizabeth, who married, October 17th, 1876, Lieutenant-Colonel John Mowbray Trotter, late Bengal Staff Corps, son of Archibald Trotter of Dreghorn, Mid-Lothian, and now of Colinton House, Colinton.

The modern house of Colinton, at present inhabited by Colonel Trotter, stands on a beautiful eminence overhanging the village of Colinton, and was built by the first Sir William Forbes, who unfortunately died just as it neared completion in 1806. It then became the residence of Lord Dunfermline, who was some years Speaker in the House of Commons. He was son of the famous General Sir Ralph Abercrombie. An amusing tale is attached to the Beechen avenue that leads to the village.

Thither one pleasant Sabbath morning before church-time had sauntered Lord Dunfermline in his smoking-cap and dressing-gown, and prone on the path before him lay a tipsy Edinburgh tailor, clad in orthodox black, who raised himself from the gutter upon his elbow, and reproachfully addressed the statesman: "Do ye no think shame, desecratin' the Sawbath wi' sic claes?"¹

He was succeeded by his son, also Lord Dunfermline, Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of the Netherlands, who was father to the Hon. Mrs Trotter.

Lady Frances Anna Maria Eliot, daughter of Gilbert, second Earl of Minto, and Mary Brydone, married the Right Hon. Lord John Russell, first Earl Russell, and third son of John, sixth duke of Bedford. He was born on the 19th of August 1792. Lady Frances was his second wife; he married her in July 1841; they had three sons:- 1, John, Viscount Amberley, who married Lousia daughter of Lord Stanley, Alderley; 2, George Gilbert William; 3, Francis Albert Rollo, born 11th of July 1849, married, firstly, to Alice, daughter of Thomas Godsey of Baldeston Hal, Nottingham, and by her has one son, Arthur John Godsey, born 1866. He married, secondly, Gertrude Ellen Cornelia, eldest daughter of Henry Joachim of Highland, Haslemere, and has by her, John Albert, born 1895; and Margaret Frances, born 1894.

Lady Charlotte Mary Elliot married 9th Oct. 1855, Melville Portal, Esq. of Laverstoke, Hants. Lady Elizabeth Amelia Jane Elliot married 19th Nov. 1848, Colonel Romilly. Lady Harriet Gertrude Elliot died unmarried 9th Feb. 1855.

¹ History of Colinton, by Mr Shankie.

Their other sons were Henry George Elliot, Ambassador; Admiral Charles Gilbert Brydone Elliot, C.B.; George Francis Stewart Elliot; and Colonel Gilbert Elliot, who was in the Scotch Fusilier Guards. The present Earl of Minto is grandson of Mary Brydone; he was born on the 9th July 1845. He has recently returned from his post as Governor-General of Canada, which high position he has filled with such energy, tact, and judgment that he has called for the warmest eulogiums not only from the Canadians, but also from the members of the Government.

Another daughter of Mr Brydone (Elizabeth) was married to her relative, Admiral Sir Charles Adam of Blairadam, whose son was W.P. Adam of Blairadam, M.P., and represented the County of Kinross in Parliament; while the third daughter, Williamina, became the wife of the very Rev. Dr Gilbert Elliot, Dean of Bristol.

Eleanor, the youngest daughter of Dr Robertson, was married in 1778 to John Russell, Esq. ., Clerk to the Signet. She survived her husband, and her eldest son, Mr John Russell, died in 1864 at the great age of eighty-two. We now come briefly to speak of Dr Robertson's sisters and only brother. The eldest sister, Mary, granddaughter of David Pitcairn of Dreghorn, became the wife of the Rev James Syme, minister of Alloa. Previously to her marriage, she superintended the household affairs of her brother, in the manse of Gladmuir. Lord Brougham remarks: "In her sound judgment he (Dr Robertson) always had the greatest confidence, for he knew that to great beauty she added a calm and firm temper, inherited from her mother but with greater sweetness of disposition." The Rev. Mr Morren characterises her as "a woman of a very superior mind"; and another says that "she was a person of very wonderful talents."

Her husband Mr Syme, was the eldest son of the Rev. Walter Syme, minister of Tullynessle, Aberdeenshire, and was ordained at Alloa in November 1750; he died in January 1753, after a short incumbency of little more than two years. He left a widow, who survived him for upwards of half a century, and died in April 1803, and an only child, Eleanor who was married on the 22nd May 1777 to Henry Brougham, younger of Brougham Hall. They had five children, of whom Henry, Lord Brougham, was the eldest, and great-great-grandson of Mr and Mrs Pitcairn of Dreghorn. The family of Brougham is of Saxon descent and derives its surname from Brougham, afterwards called Brougham, a parish in Westmoreland.

Mr Brougham *d.* 13th February 1810, aged sixty-eight; and his widow 31st December 1839, aged eighty-nine. He was succeeded in his estates in Westmoreland and Cumberland by his son and heir, Henry Brougham. This eminent statesman, orator, philanthropist, philosopher, and writer was born in St Andrews Square, Edinburgh, 19th September 1778, and was educated at the High School and University of Edinburgh. He was admitted a Scotch Advocate in 1800, and was called to the English bar in 1808,¹ He was appointed Attorney-General to Queen Caroline in April 1820, and received a patent of precedence 1827. He was successively M.P. for Camelford, Winchelsea, Knaresborough, and Yorkshire.

He was Lord Chancellor from 1830 to 1834, and was, 22nd November 1830, created Baron Brougham and Vaux of Brougham, Co. Westmoreland; he obtained another patent, dated 22nd March 1860, giving him the title of Baron Brougham and Vaux of Brougham, Co. Westmoreland, and of Highland Castle, Co. Cumberland, with limitation, in default of male issue, to his brother, William Brougham, Esq., and the heirs-male of his body. He married, first April 1819, Mary Anne, eldest daughter of Thomas, fourth son of Sir Robert Eden, Bart. Of West Auckland, Co. Durham, niece of the first Lords Auckland and Henley, and widow of John Spalding, Esq. of the Homes Scotland, by whom (who died 12th January 1865) he had issue, two daughters, Sarah Eleanor, born 1820, died an infant, and Eleanor Louisa, born October 1822, died 30th November 1839.

He was heir-general and representative of a branch of the ancient and noble house of Vaux.

He died at Cannes, France, 7th May 1868, and was succeeded by his brother William, second Lord Brougham and Vaux.

*Extract from a LETTER of Mr CREEVEY on Lord Brougham's
Speech vindicating the Innocence of Queen Caroline*¹

January 19th 1821.

¹ Bruke's Peerage, 1869.

I dined with (Lord) Brougham on Wednesday, but had not much good of him, as we were not alone.

Yesterday I met Brougham in the streets, and had a long walk with him, and found him much improved in temper – al sunshine, in fact. He says he never saw any one so improve as the Queen; that she is really very entertaining, particularly upon the subject of her travels. He is to manage a dinner for me there at an early date, and at her early hour, which is 3. Meantime, her establishment is on the stocks and is getting on – the Duke of Roxburgh Grand Chamberlain, a young nobleman of 86, so that the breath of sandal can never touch this appointment. He is however a very excellent old man, and a Wig, and is worth at least £50,000 per annum. Poor Romilly gained him his estate, and had the highest possible opinion of him. Te poor old fellow declined at first and indeed now has consented with reluctance. It seems he married for the first time 5 or 6 years ago, and has children. He asked Brougham, therefore, if her Majesty is fond of children, and if he may bring his little ones from Scotland to present to her; and then he says he will only undertake the office of Chamberlain upon condition that he (Brougham) will be guardian to the Marquis of Bowmont, aged 4 years and a half- the Duke's son. This condition, however, is a secret. Bruffam affected to be squeamish as to accepting this trust, but the job is done.

On 5th February 1821, Brougham redeemed his pledge to testify publicity on his honour to his belief in the innocence of Queen Caroline. He concluded as follows a speech on Lord Tavistock's motion of want of confidence in Ministers because of their conduct of the proceedings against the Queen. "It is necessary, Sir, for me, with the seriousness and sincerity which it may be permitted to a man upon the most solemn occasions to express, to assert, what I do now assert, in the face of this House, that if, instead of an advocate, I had been sitting as a judge at another tribunal, I should have been found among the number of those who, laying their hands upon their hearts, conscientiously pronounced her Majesty 'Not guilty.' For the truth of this assertion I desire to tender every pledge that may be most valued and most sacred. I wish to make it in every form which may be deemed most solemn and most binding; and if I believe it not, as I now advance it, I here imprecate on myself every curse which is most horrid and most penal."

¹ Copied by the kind permission of Sir Herbert Maxwell and John Murray, Esq.



LORD BROUGHAM and VUAX.
Lord Chancellor.
b. 1778. *d.* 1868.

Mr CREEVEY to MISS ORD. ¹

CANTLEY, *August 8th*, 1831.

On the Death of Queen Caroline.

LORD BROUGHAM was here for a very short time on Sunday night, having left London at six on Saturday evening, travelled all night, and being obliged to go to York that night (40 miles) so as to be ready for the assizes in the morning.

The Queen's will and certain deeds have been got all ready by Friday night, according to her own instructions. Brougham asked her if it was her pleasure then to execute them, to which she said, "Yes, Mr Brougham; where is Mr Denman?" in the tone of voice of a person in perfect health. Denman then opened the curtain of her bed, there being likewise Lushington, Wilde, and two Proctors to the Commons. The will and papers being read to her, she put her hand out of bed and signed her name four different times in the steadiest manner possible; in doing so she said with great firmness: 'I am going to die, Mr Brougham; but it does not signify.' Brougham said, "Your Majesty's physicians are quite of a different opinion." "Ah," she said, "I know better than them. I tell you I shall die, but I don't mind it."

VISCOUNT HOOD to HENRY BROUGHAM, M.P. ²

BRANDENBURGH HOUSE, *August 8th* 1821.

. . . The melancholy event took place at 25 minutes past 10 o'clock last night, when our dear Queen breathed her last. Her Majesty has quitted a scene of uninterrupted persecution, and for herself I think her death is not to be regretted. She died in peace with all her enemies. "Je ne mourrai sans douleur, mais never beheld a firmer mind, or any one with less

¹ The Creevey papers.

² Ibid.

feelings at the thought of dying, which she spoke of without the least agitation; and at different periods of her illness, even to very few hours of her dissolution, arranged her worldly concerns.

It is sad that Lord Brougham should, notwithstanding his splendid talents, have lowered a noble reputation by his greed of power and place, towards the end of his life.

One of Dr Robertson's sisters was married to Mr James Cunningham, who inherited Hyndhope from his father (small estate in Yarrow). His son, Alexander Cunningham, W.S., is well known as "the principal Edinburgh friend" of Robert Burns. Another son, William, was a Lieutenant-Colonel in the Honourable East India Company's service, and was present at the siege of Seringapatam. He was for several years on the Duke of Wellington's staff in India: the Duke thought highly of him. He died at No. 10 Hope Street, Edinburgh, on the 20th April 1851.

A fourth sister of Dr Robertson married a Mr Bruce. Another married Archibald Hope, Secretary to the Bank of Scotland. The youngest sister, Eleanor, died unmarried in 1816.

Such were the numerous and distinguished descendants of "Mr David Pitcairn of Dreghorn" and of "Mary Anderson his wife." Dr Murray, the author of the "Annals of Colinton" says: -

"Perhaps no private gentleman (though of aristocratic descent, and not a large landowner) was ever the progenitor of so many persons remarkable in themselves, or who, by intermarriages, formed such a high connections as to rank, intellectual abilities, and acknowledged public service. The monument to the memory of Mr and Mrs Pitcairn, in the churchyard of Colinton, should ever be regarded as a just ground of virtuous pride to the inhabitants of the parish."

JOSEPH PITCAIRN

MERCHANT IN USA

PITCAIRN - Is a Town in St Lawrence County, New York.

From the History of St Lawrence County, New York we learn Joseph Pitcairn was Mr McCormick's agent and had much to do with the early settlement of the towns in that area. In 1817 he came into the northern part of the State, appointed agents, and took measures for commencing settlements in Pitcairn, Edwards, Brasher, and other places, which he had acquired from Daniel McCormick, the Northern New York Landowner who took a great interest in his affairs and to whom he is believed to have been somewhat related.

With the building of the St Lawrence Turnpike, many settlers came in to locate. A number of Scottish emigrants settled in the town named Edwards (named after Daniel McCormick's brother) in 1817, they proved to be a thrifty and superior class of settlers. The town of Pitcairn, which was under the same management, by these prominent men and pioneers was erected in 1836. Joseph built a fine stone mansion in the village of Helena in Brasher as his summer residence. He died in New York in June 1844 and by his will, dated May 9th 1837, made Alex O Brodie (his nephew) his executor and heir to his estate, including those lands. The Brodie interest was sold in 1868 to John H Gilbert of Otsego.

Joseph Pitcairn was born 15th November 1764, in Carnbee, Fifeshire, Scotland, there had been an earlier son Joseph born 1st November 1761 who had most probably died a child. Joseph was the son of a Scottish clergyman, Joseph Pitcairn, Minister at Carnbee and his wife Janet MacCormac or McKormick, daughter of Samuel McCormick, General examiner of HM Taxes, said to be descended from King Robert the Bruce. In early life young Joseph came to the United States subsequently for several years he had resided in the East Indies. At one time he held the office of Consul for the Government at Paris, Joseph had been in the Diplomatic Service of United States, but being a Federalist, he had been removed by President Jefferson. Most of his life was spent in the capacity of a Merchant, at Hamburg, in Germany.

Joseph Pitcairn, married Lady Edward Fitzgerald (Pamela), and had one daughter Helen, who married John Chersovius. Joseph left in his will over one hundred thousand dollars when he died and bequeathed one thousand dollars to the Minister and Elders of the Parish Church of Carnbee in the County of Fife in Scotland.

Joseph's father was the Rev Joseph Pitcairn Minister of Carnbee and was born in 1708. He had a brother the Rev Alexander and sister Sophia. This Joseph gave the Communion Cups to the Church of Carnbee they are still in use, and have his name on them. He left two children Joseph, above and Helen who married the Rev Alexander Brodie.

Joseph's grandfather was also Rev Joseph Pitcairn, Minister of Newburgh & Kingsbarns. He married in 1705 Sophia Innes and died 1737.

Joseph's great grandfather was Alexander Pitcairne who was a celebrated Divine Minister of the Gospel. He was born 1622 and entered St Salvator's College, St Andrews. He was Minister of Dron, a little village in Glenfarg, near the Bridge of Earn. Woodrow says of him "that he was a worthy and learned Minister" he was known throughout the Reformed Churches by his writings, and died in 1695. He was the second son of Alexander Pitcairne Dean of Orkney and ancestor of the Dreghorn Branch.

Alexander Pitcairne had by his first wife Janet Clark, David Pitcairn W.S. of Dreghorn along with three other sons and a daughter. By his second wife Rachel Adams he had five children including Rev Joseph Pitcairn Minister of Newburgh above ancestor of Joseph of New York

The old home of the Dreghorn Branch of the Pitcairn's was situated in a romantic and picturesque valley through which runs the Water of Leith. It was about two and a half miles southwest from Edinburgh; but though so near a large town, it still retained its old sylvan beauty. Dreghorn is in the parish of Colinton, and the name of the estate was a very old one.

Note - Search Google: Dreghorn castle for further information.

Note - History of St. Lawrence County, New York. PITCAIRN Town.

Note - The North Country, a History Embracing Jefferson, St. Lawrence, Oswego, Lewis and Franklin Counties, New York, by Harry F Landon. Vol.1, 1932
