

Where a River Bends

Stories from a Scottish Village

by Jack Gallacher

I first met Jack Gallacher 32 years ago during which time we have shared a pride in and, enthusiasm for, the village of Bothwell where we have been privileged to be part of village life.

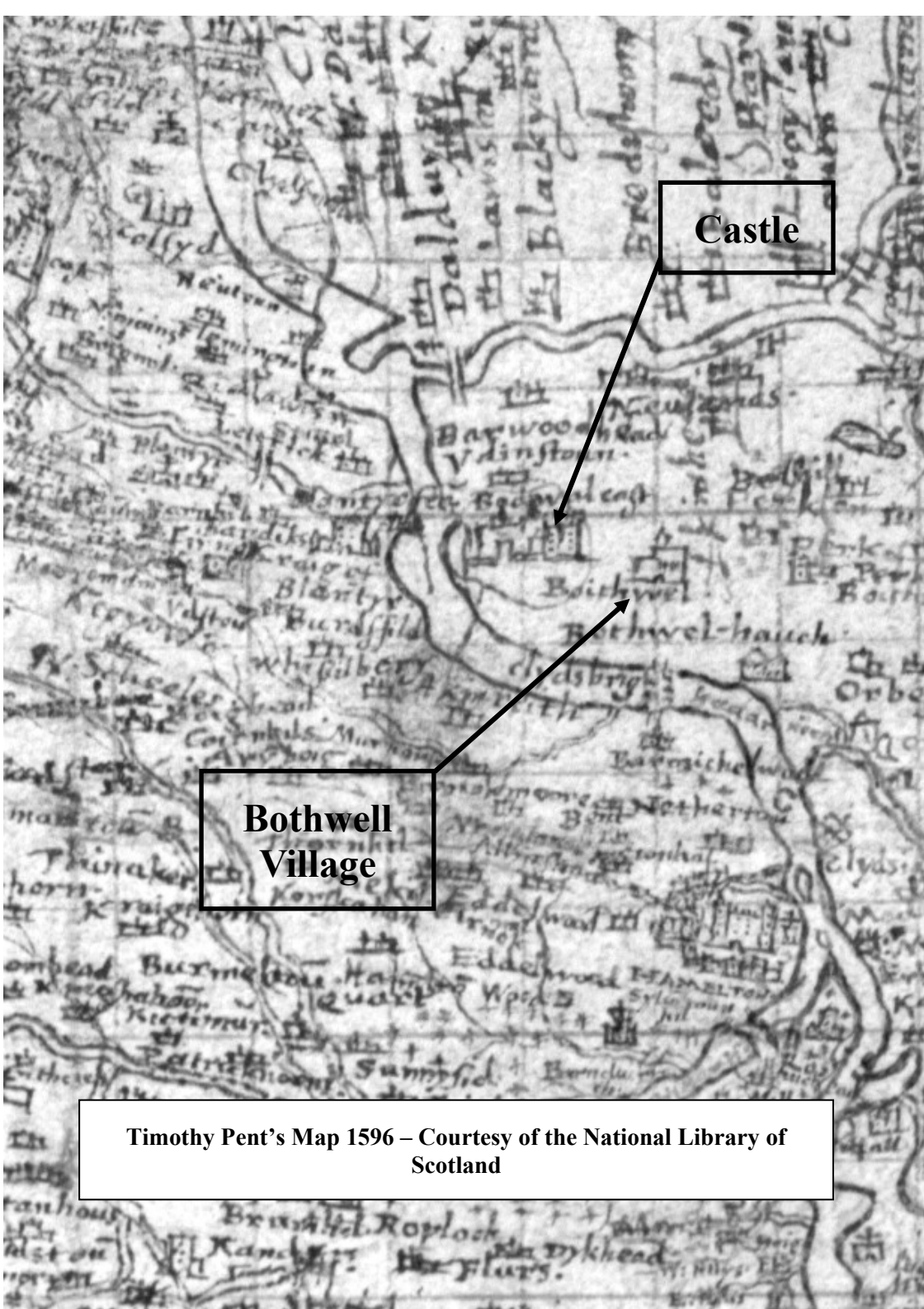
"*Where A River Bends*" has been a labour of love for Jack. It comprises a gripping collection of short stories which chart the fascinating development of the village through the ages up to the present day and beyond and uncovers a rich tapestry of village connections to famous and iconic Scottish figures.

I commend this book to students of history and to visitors and residents of Bothwell alike.

Councillor Henry Mitchell

"*Where a River Bends*" provides a vibrant history of the ancient village of Bothwell with its castle and 13th century collegiate church and excels in telling of the extraordinary significance of the village in Scottish history, both political and ecclesiastical. The narrative tells of the power struggle within Scotland, Scotland's affrays with England and the country's relationship with France. Jack Gallacher skilfully punctuates the history with anecdotes and quotes, many of them amusing. The range of people associated with the village through the ages is astonishing.

Alister Baird 1938 – 2011



Castle

**Bothwell
Village**

Timothy Pent's Map 1596 – Courtesy of the National Library of Scotland

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Stories from a Scottish Village

By

Jack Gallacher

Published in Great Britain 2011

Bothwell Publishing Ltd

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Printed and Bound by

Ink Spot
Superquickprint

FOREWORD

The genesis of this project began over thirty years ago when I was asked to write an article for the Bothwell gala week programme. It struck me then what an incredible amount of “forgotten” history there was in this one small town which had almost but not quite been absorbed by larger surrounding communities. Some of its story had been written up but a great deal remains to be researched and recorded.

Over the years, it has become an exercise in self indulgence for me as I have written about those aspects of Scottish history and personalities with a Bothwell connection of personal interest to me.

There is a thin time line in the book but each chapter is in essence self- contained so some repetition is unavoidable. It is by no means a comprehensive history either of Scotland or Bothwell and a great deal of interesting material remains to be brought into the light of day. It is certainly not an academic treatise

I am grateful to many friends for encouragement and support, in particular to Fiona and Keith Brown in Hamilton for help with editing the manuscript. Sheila and Ian Beckett in Bothwell took a pile of paper and turned it into a book. Ian took the contemporary pictures and organised the other illustrations as well as dealing with the business side of things. Thank you.

I am also indebted to Bothwell Community Council for financial support towards the cost of publishing and to Councillor Henry Mitchell for his unflagging enthusiasm for the project. Brighter Bothwell is an organisation which does a great deal to beautify the village and to foster community spirit. I am in their debt for information on village life and for publicising the book. The Rev Thomas Doyle and Gerry Duffy were generous with help in providing me with information on the history of St Bride’s Church and the Catholic community in Bothwell in more recent times. Alistair Baird, Mr and Mrs W Allan, Hugh Dunn, Minnie Storrie , John Murray. Mrs W McCue and Megan and Alistair Brogan allowed me to publish some of the pictures which enhance the text. Martin Clark of the “Motherwell Times” Ian McLean of the “Bellshill Speaker” and John Rowbotham of the “Hamilton Advertiser” kindly gave assistance in promoting the project. A special note of appreciation must go to Diane Hill in Bothwell Library for all her help and

encouragement and to Mohraig Gwyn-Davies, Head Teacher at Bothwell Primary School and to the children and parents of the school. My thanks to everyone.

While communities should modernise and move forward, looking at our past and preserving its tangible remains does help with community spirit which benefits all of us who congregate and live together in a social group-our village, our Bothwell.

DEDICATED TO EVELYN, SIOBHAN AND CARA

Jack Gallacher,

“Airlie”

April 2011

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BOTHWELL THE PLACE, THE PEOPLE AND A PERSPECTIVE ON BOTH.



View of Bothwell across Strathclyde Loch

Few people hurtling along the motorway leading to the urban attractions of Glasgow or the beckoning mountains of the tourist north pause even for a second to notice an antique bridge, a distinguished church tower or a huddle of sandstone houses which sprawl over a south facing hillside sloping down to a river. Yet there has been a human settlement on this site since before the onset of recorded history. Fertile land, an abundance of water and the ability to defend what was theirs, attracted early man to these slopes. So far in the past are the community's origins that no one may reasonably be certain of how the name came to be. None the less on this site humanity has pursued its course, mainly in obscurity but occasionally blasting on to the pages of the history books. Sometimes the local bus will advertise the name "Bothwell" as its ultimate destination but most public transport simply travels through the narrow main street en route to more significant destinations. The railway now passes it by. Yet here men and women have lived their lives, worshipped their gods and subjected themselves

to the will of the great and good in the land since primitive man first made his way up the fertile valley.

Those with an inclination to romanticism may be prepared to swallow the story that the great mediaeval Lord, Archibald Douglas, known as “The Grim”, desirous of erecting a great church to the glory of God and as a place to pray for the souls of him and his, caused two archers to fire their bolts into the heavens so that where the arrows landed would determine the location of the high altar of his church. An alternative version says that where they crossed would determine the height of the church tower. Legend says that the two arrows landed side by side and the great man cried out, “Both well” and thus christened his settlement.

Sadly this exotic explanation does not match the documentation predating the time of Grim Archibald, referring to the settlement as “BODEUIL” or “BODEWEL” or to other variations on the theme reflecting the more relaxed attitude our ancestors had towards spelling. Few outside the monasteries could read and so spelling wasn’t particularly important. It is worth noting that the site of the earl’s new collegiate church is believed to have been dedicated to Christian worship since the 6th century AD. If that is so then Archibald the Grim’s choir was added to an already antique Norman nave. The 6th century AD was when St Mungo and his acolytes were active in Glasgow and the site of Bothwell’s Parish Church may have been one of their out stations. Creative history is often more colourful and picturesque than mere reality. The writers of the Declaration of Arbroath in 1320 in writing to Pope John XXii created a marvellously dramatic tale of the origins of the Scottish race whose Mother Scota was the daughter of an Egyptian Pharaoh and whose people had come via Scythia carrying the Stone of Destiny with them to found the Scottish nation in the north. This of course was to counterbalance the equally fictitious claims of the crown of England to the northern kingdom. Selfishly our predecessors gave little thought to the questions that their behaviour and lifestyle would raise with their descendants. No matter how it came about the name has a strong northern quality to it which defines Bothwell as an original and unique place.

Unfortunately the current fashion for new housing developments in Scotland is to grace building projects with names more appropriate to gentler climes and softer landscapes and to abandon the native names in

the interests of providing “good addresses” for clients more interested in house values than history. Bothwell has become an upmarket housing location with prices to match. A perspective on this has been recorded on a lamp standard on the road from Blantyre to Bothwell leading from the suspension bridge across the Clyde. It declares for all to see “There are a lot of posh bastards in Bothwell”-- the perspective of someone from another historic community but with fewer “much sought after” housing areas.

Perhaps the suggestion made by the Rev. J.S. Pagan, Minister of Bothwell Parish Church in 1892 is as close as we are likely to get to the origins of the name. Reflecting on the location of a village where a river on its journey to the sea takes a wide loop around high banks, the good minister defined the derivation of the name of his parish as “BOTH” a dwelling and “HYL” a river, Bothwell, a dwelling by the river. Let us be content with that.

What we can be sure about is that the modern spelling of the name Bothwell first appeared in a charter of 1581 and since then the now familiar usage has been accepted.

Thus Bothwell has been shaped by its natural location and this has been reflected in its church, its castles, its bridge, and its dwellings as well as both the great and the ordinary people who have passed across the pages of its story. Four kings have crossed its boundaries, a mighty prince was married in its church, numerous great noblemen and women and prominent churchmen including an Archbishop of Canterbury have known it. Great writers like James Boswell, Joanna Baillie the poetess, and her more famous friend, Sir Walter Scott, Dorothy and William Wordsworth, James M. Barrie and George Pratt Insh have been involved with it. The literary tradition continues in our own time in the person of Scottish writer, Christopher Brookmyre: an honourable list for any community to note with pride.

Yet Bothwell hides its history well behind its modern facades and modern building has destroyed archaeological evidence of the original castle. The site of the Battle of Bothwell Bridge, known as “*The Covenanters’ Field*,” has been threatened by housing development. For the moment this potential desecration has been halted by a national and local outcry suggesting perhaps that deep down local people do care about their heritage.

The Romans had presence in Scotland from 79 or 80AD when Agricola on behalf of Emperor Vespasian erected a chain of fortifications across the isthmus between the Clyde and the Forth. An outer fort was built, together with a bath house and ancillary facilities at



Seventeenth Century packhorse bridge known locally as the Roman Bridge adjacent to the site of the Roman Fort at Bothwellhaugh

Bothwellhaugh across the river from Bothwell village. Traditionally the sixteenth century pack horse bridge across the South Calder Water near the site of the fort is still referred to as “*The Roman Bridge*.” Although not built by Agricola, it may, however, mark the site of a Roman bridge. Just as towns grew around mediaeval castles, Roman camps often had a civil settlement or vicus, nearby. It is totally fanciful and even romantic to suggest that this might have been at Bothwell as there is no evidence either written or archaeological to support this but sometimes it might be permissible to deviate from recorded fact and simply speculate.

By the time that Hadrian erected his great wall in 118AD the Romans had long since left and locals had moved in to take up residence in the abandoned buildings of the Bothwellhaugh fort. The Romans left few physical traces of their presence in Scotland but some would have us believe their legacy is much more insidious. They referred constantly to the people north of the Wall as “*Barbarians*”- with all the connotations

associated with lack of civilisation and culture. They did of course use the term with reference to other peoples in Europe outside Roman dominion but the dominant successors of the Romans in the British Isles, the Kings of Wessex and later England, continued with the propaganda that Scotland and its people were not worthy of inclusion in the ranks of civilised and cultured societies. As is well known, propaganda, if applied often enough, can make fiction believable and so it may be that we have the Romans to thank for what has become “The Scottish cringe”- the perceived national inferiority complex.



Roman bathhouse at Bothwellhaugh Fort

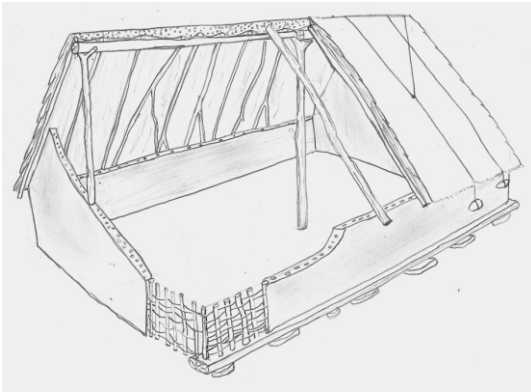
Thankfully a new breed of modern Scottish historians have been looking at the evidence and are coming up with a clearer picture of the reality of early Scotland as being able to hold its own in terms of living conditions and culture with other similar sized countries in the Europe of the time.

Few of the shoppers and walkers in the modern Main Street of Bothwell realise it follows its mediaeval street pattern. Look behind the eighteenth and nineteenth century buildings and you can see the long narrow gardens which stretch back to Ferry Road. These replaced the

former rigs of the more ancient properties which once stood there. Most people locally know about the church, castle and bridge but the outlines of an earlier village may be traced in the modern Main Street.

Mediaeval Scottish villages and towns tended to form a linear, straggling pattern recognisable still in a modern layout. In the bigger towns a single street linked key buildings such as the parish church and the castle along the lines of the Royal Mile in Edinburgh linking the castle, the parish church and the Abbey/Palace of Holyroodhouse. In Bothwell, the non royal original motte (raised mound) and bailey (enclosed by wooden walls) castle was itself close to the parish church and near to the houses of the village.

The majority of buildings in Scottish communities at this time were small, one storey in height and of primitive construction. An outer frame of wooden stakes would be erected into which thin, flexible



Wattle Hut Courtesy of Ian Beckett

branches were woven to form wattle walls which were then covered with mixtures of clay, mud and dung or possibly turf. The roofs would be covered in a thatch of plant material such as rushes, heather broom or whatever was available locally. Stones and ropes would hold the thatch down. Heating and cooking were by open fires in the centre of the main room with smoke issuing out of a hole in the roof. This frequently led to fires burning the building down. Windows were tiny and unglazed with shutters to keep out the worst of the weather. Floors were made of hardened mud and dung. Furniture would be minimal. Water would be drawn from wells and sewage would be disposed of wherever convenient.

Some citizens might have a cow or a pig and these animals lived in close proximity to their owners and these living conditions existed in some remote rural areas of Scotland well into modern times. Stone would eventually be used for grander buildings such as castles and

churches but in the eleventh and twelfth centuries even these buildings might be wooden in construction.

In early mediaeval times, Scotland was divided into parishes, areas of land whose inhabitants were obliged to pay a proportion of their income or the produce of their lands (teinds) to support the church which became very wealthy as a result. By the seventeenth century, the government created civil parishes for the purpose of taxation. By then the boundaries of church and civil parishes were not necessarily contiguous. Bothwell as a civil parish lasted as a unit of local government between 1845 and 1975. With developing populations and an increase in church membership, many of the original mediaeval parish churches could no longer cope and new and more convenient churches were erected. The early Christian missionaries had no compunction about taking over pagan sites and absorbing older beliefs into their own faith. Evidence unearthed during the rebuilding of the nave of the present church in the early nineteenth century suggests that a church building of some grandeur stood on the site. As such it would have towered over the primitive homes in the village and been an ornament and inspiration to its parishioners.

In the mid twelfth century, King David I created and granted to David Olifard, the Justiciar of Lothian, the Barony of Bothwell. As a number of this king's charters were issued from the then royal Castle of Cadzow (present day Hamilton), the king may have been familiar with the lands he had given to Olifard. The historian Richard Oram has described David I as "The King who made Scotland." It was David, son of Malcolm Canmore and St Margaret who just might have made Scotland the dominant power in the British Isles if fate had not intervened to make it otherwise but he did bring the Normans and their political and religious culture peacefully to Scotland. In granting Olifard the Bothwell barony, he helped to bring this area of Clydesdale in to the forefront of European development. The village of Bothwell became the caput of the barony and the parish. It almost certainly had a church but Olifard would require a residence worthy of his status.

The Normans were the first in the British Isles to erect castles to overawe and subdue the population. Having conquered England, William I set about building castles to hold down his new territories. Although the great stone bulk of the White Tower of London remains, most of the earlier castles erected by the Normans were wooden motte

and bailey constructions. Similarly in Scotland, the King and his Norman friends (David had spent some time at the Norman court where his sister Matilda was the wife of King Henry ii) would create comparable castles.

There is some archaeological evidence to suggest that Olifard erected a castle in Bothwell near the church and close to the location of what is now the former manse. The site has some natural defences which could be used and supplemented by earth, turf and timber. Traces of a defensive ditch have been found from which excavated earth would have provided material for ramparts. These would be enclosed with wooden palisades and further wooden buildings erected inside the bailey. Here in his castle at Bothwell, David Olifard would live in a style appropriate to his status. Other sites in Scotland have revealed traces of timbered halls with a private room at the end for the use of the lord and his lady. Although most of the evidence at Bothwell has been destroyed by later buildings, it is certain that the first castle of Bothwell would follow the pattern of other castles of the time. Together with the church it would form the focus of the community. It would provide employment for local people and make use of local produce and services. Peter Yeoman in his book "*Mediaeval Scotland*" records "*As manorial centres ... they were places of consumption and redistribution of produce and livestock, paid as rents by feudal tenants who had no choice but to use the lord's mill which was often located near the castle.*" The site of a later mill is to be found on the Clyde at Bothwell and who can say it wasn't there in Olifard's time. Bothwell at that time because of its church and castle would be a community of relative importance and prosperity. Later, the barony and the castle would pass by marriage to Walter de Moravia a great magnate from the Northern Province of Moray. He would make great changes to Bothwell and its surroundings and would abandon the motte for greater things.

THE MURRAYS

Thirteenth century Scotland was a relatively peaceful and well governed country. The king, Alexander iii (1241-1286), was loved and respected by his people. Marriage to Margaret of England, daughter of Henry iii and sister to the future Edward I, meant that relations with England were, apart from the odd reiver raid across the border, peaceful and stable. Earlier ambitions of the kings of Scots to add the northern counties of England to their territories had been dropped and English claims to the suzerainty of the northern kingdom had been dismissed as a result of the Quitclaim of Canterbury (1189) when Richard Coeur de Lion had given up his claimed rights in return for cash. The country was prosperous. The revenues of the chief town, Berwick upon Tweed were said to be worth one quarter of those of the Kingdom of England and the town was described as a “second Alexandria.” Even allowing for the exaggeration of the chroniclers, this period would be seen by later writers as the proverbial golden age.

In 1242, the Lordship of Bothwell passed by marriage to Walter de Moravia (Moray) on the death of Walter de Olifard. Not for the last time would the great barony change ownership as the result of marriage. David I (1084-1153) was partly responsible for the peaceful Norman “conquest” of Scotland. He granted lands to noblemen from the continent in an attempt to bring Scotland into the mainstream of European politics and ideals. The king granted lands in Duffus and Spynie in the province of Moray to a Fleming called Freskin. Later the name would be changed to de Moravia (Moray) and then to Murray. In the reign of David’s grandson, Malcolm IV, other lands in Lanarkshire were granted to men from Flanders giving rise to the modern Lanarkshire names such as Thankerton, Weston, Robertson and Lamington. Walter de Moravia was a powerful northern lord from the province of Moray which had taken some time to relinquish its semi independent status and be absorbed into the Kingdom of Scotland helped by the king’s settling of lands on his Flemish supporters.

No doubt Walter would be less than satisfied by the condition of his father in law’s motte and bailey castle of Bothwell and would seek a grander residence to reflect his power and status in the kingdom. Then as now the rich and powerful would look around for examples of taste and style and Walter was no exception. Even prior to the Auld Alliance

of 1295 between France and Scotland, there were many dynastic, cultural and trading links between the two countries. The Queen Mother of Scotland, Marie, widow of Alexander ii and mother of Alexander iii was a daughter of the powerful and wealthy French house of De Coucy. The king's French grandfather, Enguerrard, had been responsible for building the great Chateau de Coucy with its five towers on a hilltop in Picardy dominating the approaches to Paris from the north.



Bothwell Castle built on living rock – Photograph by Ian Beckett

The historian, Barbara Tuchman describes the fortress as follows: *“Thrusting from the castle’s centre, a gigantic cylinder rose to twice the height of the four corner towers. This was the donjon or central citadel, the largest in Europe, the mightiest of its kind ever built in the Middle Ages or thereafter. Ninety feet in diameter, 180 feet high, capable of housing a thousand men in a siege, it dwarfed and protected the castle at its base, the clustered roofs of the town, the bell tower of the church, and the thirty turrets of the massive wall enclosing the whole complex on the hill. Travellers coming from any direction could see this colossus of baronial power from miles away and, on approaching it, feel the awe of the traveller in infidel lands at first sight of the pyramids.”*

De Moravia would have access to the French courtiers who had come to Scotland with Queen Marie and he would have known of the

grandeur and status of the great chateau in Picardy. It is a distinct possibility that the new castle of Bothwell, was built by craftsmen from Picardy and the lands of the de Coucys. Situated where the River Clyde makes a long turn on its way to the sea, the rocky outcrop on which the castle was built, forms a good natural defensive site. It would become the finest castle of enceinte in the kingdom of Scotland and the most majestic piece of secular architecture handed down to us from the Middle Ages.

As the great sandstone donjon and its ancillary works rose skywards, the people of Bothwell would no doubt rejoice at the prospect of the protection it offered and they too would bask in the reflected glow of the power of their lord. No doubt too the building works would bring employment and a greater level of prosperity to the people of the village and the barony.



Bothwell Castle showing the south east tower sometimes called the Douglas Tower – Photograph by Ian Beckett

If the castle brought the prospect of protection, it also brought the possibility of attracting the attention of predators, others who would seek to destroy its strength in order to further their own ambitions.

Time was running out for the peaceful Scotland of Alexander iii.

The mediaeval monarchical form of government relied on a stable and secure succession by a male heir on the death of the monarch for peaceful and prosperous times for the country and its citizens. Scotland's king had two adult sons, Alexander and his younger brother David, and a daughter, Margaret, married to the king of Norway. Margaret died in 1281 giving birth to a daughter, another Margaret, known to history as the "Maid of Norway". Alexander's Queen had died in 1275 and his two sons both pre-deceased him, David in 1281 and Alexander in 1284. Both were childless. In an effort to restore the succession Alexander iii married again. His choice of bride was the much younger Yolande de Dreux who seemed a likely candidate to give the king a male heir.

On the night of 19th March 1286, despite all advice not to cross the Forth in a raging storm, the king left Edinburgh to travel to be with his wife to celebrate her birthday the following day at the royal manor of Kinghorn in Fife. He survived the river crossing but while travelling along the cliffs to Kinghorn, he became separated from his party. His body was found the following morning. His horse may have stumbled and thrown the king to his death. Scotland's golden age had come to an abrupt end. One can sense the grief and pain at the king's death and its aftermath in the earliest known piece of Scottish verse.

*"When Alexander our king was dead
That Scotland held in love and le (law)
Away with sons (plenty) of ale and bread
Of wine and wax, of game and glee.
Our gold was changed into lead.
Christ born into Virginity,
Succour Scotland and remedy
That stood is in perplexity."*

There was no immediate crisis following the king's death. Queen Yolande had given cause to suggest that she might be pregnant and time had to be given to see the veracity or otherwise of this. As it turned out, there was no chance that Alexander would leave behind a posthumous heir and so the female child, the Maid of Norway, who had been recognised as the late king's successor by the magnates of Scotland,

would in time be crowned queen. Queen Yolande would marry again and have several children by her second husband but she would not provide a male heir for Scotland.

Meanwhile William Murray who had inherited the barony of Bothwell continued work on his castle. By this time the great donjon and the prison tower were completed together with the formidable ditch and some protective walling. The rest of the defences would be temporary and wooden but the stone buildings would overshadow the wooden workmen's huts and the storage accommodation. None the less even in its incomplete state the castle of Bothwell was a formidable fortress. Not many Scots would have forecast that its defences would be put to the test in such dramatic fashion.

Few of the noble politicians of the thirteenth century kingdoms of England and Scotland could have foreseen what was to come. Many of the nobility held lands on both sides of the border and the question of suzerainty was generally delightfully obscure. From a financial point of view it was in everyone's best interests that peace should be maintained to allow a continuous flow of revenue from lands in both countries. The Kings of Scots recognised the King of England as their liege lord and paid him homage for their English lands but they were careful to exclude the Kingdom of Scotland from any homage paid to the Kings of England. In turn the latter monarch paid homage to the King of France for Plantagenet (the English royal house) lands in France. This was the way the system worked and for a time it worked satisfactorily. The Treaty of York of 1237, in which the kings of Scots renounced any claims to the northern counties of England in return for land in other parts of England, left the border relatively secure and, as long as the Scots behaved themselves, the English were quite happy to let them get on with it. Scotland, however, was one small heartbeat away from trouble.

Edward 1st of England was held in great respect throughout Europe as one of the foremost knights in Christendom and as a great lawgiver. Under him England and his territories in France, formed a rich, politically powerful and militarily strong unit. Even twenty first century English historians still regard him as one of the greatest monarchs ever to grace the English throne. North of the Border, the inhabitants are more familiar with him as "*Proud Edward*" and his legacy of "chains

and slavery” Such is the dichotomy of history. All this was to come later.

Edward was the Maid of Norway’s great uncle so it seemed only reasonable that he would take an interest and make the not unreasonable suggestion that the Scottish Queen should be married in time to his eldest surviving son, the future first English Prince of Wales and later Edward ii. This was laid down in the Treaty of Birgham of July 1291 which guaranteed Scottish independence from England when the marriage went ahead. Sadly the little beating heart holding all this together stopped and the child Queen of Scots died a few weeks later.

For a brief spell, the affairs of the kingdom continued and an uneasy peace operated throughout the land. Thirteen claimants came forward to contest the vacant Scottish throne. No one amongst the Scottish nobility seemed to be able to agree on who had the best right amongst the claimants to the throne and the resulting chaos was seen as leading to the strong possibility of civil war. Outside independent advice was a possible way forward and who better to offer a solution to the problem than Edward, King of England. Both a pragmatist and an opportunist, Edward chose the candidate with the best legal claim, John Balliol. The condition laid down for Edward’s advice was that he, Edward, should be recognised as Lord Paramount of Scotland and the King of Scotland’s liege lord. Those who subscribed to what became known as “The Ragman’s Role” (the document listing those Scottish lords who had accepted Edward 1ST as ruler of Scotland) seemed to have sold the nation down the river but there were pragmatists in this group too. Fire and brimstone and tragedies of biblical proportions were about to fall on the Scottish kingdom. It was to suffer the fate of many small nations throughout history who have had the misfortune to share a border with a larger and more powerful country. History, however, has shown that it is not always the larger unit which prevails in the end and that some will rise out of adversity to challenge the oppressor. Thus Scotland would provide the men to challenge King Edward’s imperial ambitions.

Scattered across the length and breadth of the land we find statues and memorials to one great hero who like another Judas Maccabeus (the first century B.C. Jewish hero) would rise to save his country. In Lanark, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dryburgh we find great monuments to William Wallace. The grandest of all the tributes to Scotland’s martyred hero looms over the field where he won his greatest victory,

Stirling Bridge. No monument seems to exist for an equally heroic man who, in the early days of the struggle, was seen to have more success than Wallace and to have surpassed the better known warrior in acts of valour. Such a man was Andrew Murray brother to William Murray, the Lord of Bothwell who had been taken prisoner by the English after their successful siege of Bothwell Castle in 1296. Wounded at the Battle of Stirling Bridge, Andrew Murray would die some time afterwards from his injuries and thus would be denied the martyr's death which so often in history has created the immortal heroes. Even Blind Harry (1440-1493), who gathered and wrote down in poetic form the stories of William Wallace to be recited at the court of King James IV, dismisses Andrew Murray at the Battle of Stirling Bridge in two lines:

“On Wallace’ side, no man was kill’d of note,

But Andrew Murray, A true hearted Scot”

He deserves better. Some writers would go so far as to say that it was Murray who was the true genius behind the early Scottish successes against the English. None the less, the two men made a formidable team. Following the sack of Berwick, Edward 1st defeated the Scots at the Battle of Dunbar and among the Scottish noblemen captured was the young Andrew Murray. The experience would teach him a great deal. Escaping from prison in Chester, Murray made his way north to his family's lands in the province of Moray and began to wreak havoc on the English by using guerrilla tactics against them. Andrew Fisher, author of “William Wallace” describes him as follows: “Murray was swift to learn and a charismatic leader of the rebellion in the north”. Meanwhile Wallace had killed Heselrig, the Sheriff of Lanark, and by 1297, Murray and Wallace had joined forces. The key to Scotland was the strategic fortress of Stirling and the bridge over the River Forth carrying the road to the north. Here the famous battle took place when the English were decisively defeated and William Wallace was placed on the heroic road to immortality.

Andrew Murray was wounded during the battle but survived afterwards for a few months. Given the high rate of mortality from infected wounds in a pre antibiotic age, it is likely he died from septicaemia or gangrene. Until his death in November 1297 Murray continued to be associated with Wallace in the affairs of the country. Even the apologists for Wallace, recognise the simple equation, Murray

and Wallace equalled victory in battle, Wallace alone without Murray equalled defeat. Murray, who had been schooled in the techniques and beliefs in pitched battles, did put these aside and adopt tactics which were more appropriate to the situation. As a great nobleman, he recognised the talents of his less well born colleague. In this he was wiser than some of his fellow nobles. He well deserves a place in any Scottish pantheon.

His posthumous son, another Andrew Murray would also make his mark on Scottish history. Little is known of his childhood but more than likely he spent some time at Bothwell which he had inherited from his uncle. Although the castle had been held by the English, like other Scottish strongholds, it was handed over to the Scots after the battle of Bannockburn

By the time young Andrew had grown to manhood, the warrior king had died and a child ruler, David I, sat on the Scottish throne. One of the great issues of the late war had still to be resolved in that the position of those who had lost lands through supporting the losing side had not been cleared up. At the same time Edward III, King of England, still felt the shame and humiliation of the English defeat and was anxious for revenge. He encouraged Edward Balliol, son of the former King John to invade Scotland, which he duly did, and was crowned at Scone. Scotland now had more than one monarch and all the work of the great king seemed to have been overturned. Those loyal to the Bruce dynasty had to find a new Guardian of the kingdom. The man chosen was Andrew Murray of Bothwell with patriotic credentials inherited from his father, Wallace's partner, and as husband of Christian Bruce, the late king's sister and aunt to David II. Like his father before him, the Lord of Bothwell was captured following a skirmish with the English and taken to Durham. His successor was Archibald Douglas, youngest brother of the good Sir James, friend of Robert Bruce, and of a family which would eventually take over the barony and castle of Bothwell from the Murrays, but that was to be in the future. Learning nothing from his elder brother's guerrilla campaign, Sir Archibald fought a conventional war and was soundly defeated at the Battle of Halidon Hill in 1333, giving Edward III his revenge for Bannockburn. David II was sent to France for safety and Edward Balliol returned to Scotland as a subject king and vassal to Edward III. Plus ça change.

In a remarkable political error on the part of the English, Andrew Murray of Bothwell was allowed to pay a ransom and was freed from captivity in 1334. Given a second chance, Murray like his father before him, learned from his captivity and the result was considerable success in dealing with the English. He managed to cause Edward Balliol to flee for his life across the border before turning north to deal with the Comyn faction. This of course led inevitably to the intervention of Edward iii himself marching north with a great host to deal with the Scots. The Scots used their scorched earth policy with some success but by 1335, the English were still in control of most of Scotland south of the Forth/Clyde line and held all of the southern fortresses. As usual some Scottish noble lords made their peace with Edward. At this point Andrew Murray was made Guardian of Scotland for the second time. When Edward iii and Balliol went south, frustrated by their inability to bring the Scots to a pitched battle, they left the Earl of Atholl, David de Strathbogie, to finish the job. He attacked Bothwell's great sister castle of Kildrummy in Aberdeenshire, held by Christian Bruce, Murray's wife. Murray defeated Strathbogie at the Battle of Culbean and began a systematic assault on castles held by the English. The king of England came north again. As with his grandfather, things seemed to go better for the English when the king was in Scotland in person. Edward organised a programme of improvements to the defences of major Scottish castles including Bothwell before withdrawing south again.

This allowed Andrew Murray to come out of hiding and to resume his guerrilla warfare and his attacks on English held fortresses. By 1337 Murray was enjoying considerable success in reducing castles. Just as Edward I has used the war machine "The Belfry" against the Murray castle of Bothwell in the first War of Independence, Andrew Murray, in what might be described as the second round, used a siege engine called "Boustour" successfully against Edward iii's fortifications of Murray's own castle of Bothwell. The chronicler Andrew Wyntoun (1335-1420), writer of a long verse history of this period, often refers to earlier sources, now lost, and so may be seen as providing an accurate record of the times. He refers to the siege of Bothwell telling how Andrew Murray,

*"tuk the waye to Boythwille,
And lay assegeande it awhile,*

*And brouct a gyne (engine) men callit bowstoure,
For till asseige that stalwart toure.”*

This indicates that the main fortification of the castle was the great donjon which was destroyed by Andrew Murray after the castle's capture.

Help was to come for Murray from France, not by military, financial or political support from that country, but because Edward iii became more ambitious and launched an all out war against France in his claim to be the rightful king of that country. The heat was taken off Scotland. Like Bruce before him, Andrew Murray launched attacks into northern England. Edward iii's greatest mistake was to attack France without first securing his northern border. Just as in modern times, war on two fronts in the Middle Ages was to prove highly dangerous for the aggressor. What Edward had done was to launch what became known as "The Hundred Years War."

Andrew Murray, Lord of Bothwell, died in Avoch Castle in 1338. Son of a great hero, he too was of heroic stature and was widely mourned not only in his southern estates at Bothwell but across the length and breadth of Scotland. He was honoured with burial in Dunfermline Abbey close to the tomb of the hero king, Robert Bruce.

It seems to have been the lot of members of the Murray family to spend time in English prisons, either as the result of being captured in battle or as hostages for other noble men. It was not seen as good financial sense for the winning side on a battle to kill off noble or knightly prisoners. It was much more sensible to preserve them and ransom them back to their families for considerable sums of money. In the wars between England and Scotland both sides used this expedient to economic advantage. John Murray, Andrew's heir, was an adherent of Robert Stewart (future King Robert ii) and therefore no friend of the King David ii who was constantly at odds with his nephew and heir.

Although David ii was seen by his contemporaries as a brave man, he lacked the military acumen of his father, Robert 1st and so when he invaded England at the behest of his ally, Philip VI of France, he was defeated at the Battle of Neville's Cross in 1346, was captured and sent prisoner to England where he spent 11 years at the court of Edward iii.

Unusually for a grandson of Edward 1st and a son of Robert Bruce, relationships between the King of Scots and the King of England if not intimate were on the whole cordial. After all David had married Joan, a sister of Edward iii. Given the code of chivalry of the time, David was allowed to return north on bail, as it were, conditional upon his return to England at the agreed time. To make sure the Scottish king did not go back on his agreement, hostages were sent from Scotland. This was to be the fate of John Murray of Bothwell who died in 1351 while in English custody as a hostage for the king.

He was succeeded as Lord of Bothwell by his brother, Thomas

Events which were to shape the barony and castle of Bothwell were taking place in Europe at this time Ever since the Mongol conquest of China and the east which had taken them to the gates of Constantinople, trade routes for silks and spices had been opened up with Europe. As with modern day travel and commerce, there were unseen disadvantages for the health of travellers. In this case, bubonic plague was introduced in to Europe by infected fleas living on the bodies of black rats carried on ships from the east. Mediaeval people, living in crowded unhygienic communities, had little idea of the causes of disease, believing that the plague was carried by a miasma in the air. Smell itself rather than the cause of the smell was seen as the problem. When the plague arrived in London in the middle of the fourteenth century, hundreds were dying every day. It spared neither high born or low born, clergy nor lay person. Europe was decimated and even when the worst of the pandemic had passed over the shattered continent, outbreaks would occur from time to time.

Thomas, Lord of Bothwell, like his brother before him, was a supporter of Robert Stewart which was unlikely to gain him any popularity with the King. Christian Bruce, mother of Thomas of Bothwell and aunt of the king had died in 1357 and this had loosened family ties between the royal house and the Murrays. Thomas Murray married his cousin, Joanna, daughter and heiress of the Earl of Strathearn, an advantageous marriage. The lady would be a powerful figure in the history of Bothwell, especially after her first husband's death.

Agreement was eventually reached on King David's ransom for his freedom (1358). This meant a huge burden on the kingdom. Ransoms

were often easier to arrange than to pay and this was exactly what happened in King David's case. The follow up to all this was that hostages were required once again to ensure that part at least of the ransom was paid. The king naturally would not be keen to send off his special supporters (he needed all the help he could get at home) and so he would look to find people of noble birth who would be acceptable to the English authorities. Thus in a familiar pattern for the Murrays of Bothwell, Thomas was sent as a hostage to England in 1358. King David continued to use the money collected for his ransom for other purposes and the Scottish hostages, including Thomas of Bothwell, were left to rot, almost forgotten in English custody. In 1360 an outbreak of the plague decimated London further and amongst the victims was Thomas Murray, Lord of Bothwell. He would be the last of his distinguished line to hold the barony and his death would pave the way for the third and greatest family to inherit the barony and castle since its foundation.

IF I HAD A HAMMER

Knightly, crusading, uxorious, sadistic, opportunistic, determined, legalistic, paternal, cruel, imperialist, emotionally coarse, devious, treacherous, fatherly, charismatic, opportunistic, pragmatic, anti-semitic, murderous, pious and religious. All these epithets and titles have been used to describe one man. Well might men have said of him, as Shakespeare has Cassius say of Julius Caesar, "*Why man, he doth bstride this narrow world like a colossus, and we petty men walk under his huge legs and peep about to find ourselves dishonourable graves.*"

This man was Edward I, (Plantagenet) King of England, Lord of Aquitaine and Ireland, conqueror of Wales and would be conqueror of Scotland. Indeed, he has been described by the historian Simon Schama as the "Caesar of Britain." Historians furth of the British Isles, especially Americans, but also some closer to home who should know better, confuse England with Great Britain and the United Kingdom. They talk of British kings when they mean English kings and English history when they mean British history. Edward I was the first ruler in the *story* of these islands who brought a British dimension to the pages of the history of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales. As a major landowner in France, he was also hugely influential in continental Europe. One curious fact is that he was not the first king of England to be called Edward. That honour went to the Saxon king, Edward the Confessor, a saintly man who was later canonised by the Pope and who came to be seen as defining the ideals of kingship, and whose life was presented as a shining example of the perfect monarch to those rulers who came after him Thanks to the piety of Henry iii, the great Abbey of Westminster was built to house the body and relics of St Edward the Confessor to whom the king was especially devoted and the shrine became one of the greatest centres of pilgrimage in England. When his eldest son was born on 17th June 1239, King Henry named him after the holy Saxon monarch and, given the special uniqueness of Edward the Confessor in monarchical history in England, it might have been totally appropriate for Edward Plantagenet when he inherited the throne to describe himself as Edward the First, allowing his saintly predecessor to stand alone as an exceptional one-off king.

Edward I's grandfather had been the unpopular King John whose barons had forced him into signing the much lauded Magna Carta

which, far from being the basis of the universal rights of man, merely set out the rights of the English nobility in their relations with the king and did nothing to improve the lot of the generality of the populace. Edward, however, as king was determined to keep the barons in their place and despite everything, he has come down to us as one of the most popular and successful monarchs in English history. In his life time, Edward inspired awe, devotion and respect in some people and abject terror in others, seeming to be totally invincible in arms as he swept all before him.

Two years after he was crowned King of England in Westminster Abbey, Edward invaded Wales in 1276 to bring the Welsh ruler Llywelyn ap Gruffydd to heel. He invaded again in 1282 when Llywelyn was killed in a minor skirmish with the English. Wales was then thoroughly subdued and held down by a ring of massive fortresses, the remains of which still dominate the Welsh landscape. There was a determined attempt to strip Wales of its cultural identity by shipping off the symbols of Welsh independence to London. It wouldn't be the last time Edward used this tactic in dealing with a conquered country. Then as now the cost of the war was huge (ten times the annual revenue of the crown) and the taxes required were unpopular. Edward borrowed from the Jews of England, seen by Christians of the time as a subspecies of humanity doomed to eternal damnation for their crucifixion of Christ. Later he would be the first ruler in Europe to require Jews to wear distinctive yellow badges. In 1290, after hanging 300 Jewish leaders, he expelled the entire Jewish community of 3,000 from England, much to the delight of the Church leaders who awarded him a huge tax grant from their revenues.

Edward was a devoted husband to Eleanor of Castile and unusually for the time, he seems to have been faithful to his wife. She, in turn, was able at times to moderate his more extreme behaviour. When she died in 1290, the king was overwhelmed with grief. Mediaeval monarchs married for political reasons and the love of husband for wife seldom entered into the scheme of things. There is no doubt that Edward adored Eleanor and he marked her death by erecting crosses at the points where her body rested on its journey to be buried at Westminster. Charing Cross in London is the most famous of these monuments to survive. With Eleanor gone, there would be no one to temper Edward's behaviour.

By 1297 things were not looking good on Edward's northern border. The man who was both pragmatic and opportunistic would not be slow to take advantage of the situation to further his own ends. Historians on both sides of the Border have long debated what prompted the Scottish nobles to ask Edward 1 to intervene in the dispute over the Scottish succession. Some have seen it as an act of supreme naivety given Edward's record in Wales. Others have regarded the Scottish nobles as hard bitten pragmatists (just like Edward) and foreseeing the prospect of Civil War, decided to salvage something for themselves. Personal gain and self preservation for them far outweighed patriotism and anyway one king might be as good as another as long as the revenues from their land in both countries continued to flow. Simon Schama thinks that initially Edward was not bent on conquering Scotland but that "*his appetite grew with the eating*" No matter which explanation is preferred, and despite the propaganda of later Bruce apologists, Edward, in choosing John Balliol, made the correct legal decision. Poor old John Balliol has come down in Scottish history as "*Toom Tabard-empty jacket.*" Despite having some initial success as king, he had sworn to be Edward's man so he was on a hiding to nothing. It was only a matter of time before Edward heaped humiliation after humiliation on the unfortunate Scottish king to provoke a reaction. Balliol entered into a formal alliance with France; what was to become known as "The Auld Alliance". (This alliance between Scotland and France would last in one way or another until the sixteenth century and is seen by some as doing Scotland more harm than good). Edward swept north, sacked Berwick on Tweed in a horrific massacre which sent a psychological shock throughout Scotland. It was said that Edward called a halt to the killing only when he witnessed a baby suckling on its dead mother's breast. The Scots army was defeated in battle at Dunbar and Edward progressed through his conquered territory sweeping all before him before accepting the formal surrender of the Scottish king. As in Wales, he attempted to remove all symbols of an independent Scottish culture and monarchy. The crown, government records and the Stone of Scone on which Scottish monarchs had been invested from time immemorial, were removed to the new British capital at Westminster. Edward had outdone even the Romans or so it seemed. Some believe that the Abbot of Scone, knowing of the approach of the English king, substituted a privy lid or lavatory seat for the real stone. The great seal of the Abbey of Scone shows a much more elaborate stone than the one that went

south to Westminster. What a delicious irony it would be if generations of English royal backsides had been sitting on a lavatory seat to be crowned. The stone is still regarded as an iconic symbol for many people in Scotland today and it now rests in Edinburgh Castle's Crown Room.

Castles surrendered right, left and centre; such was the powerful psychology of the English king's personal involvement in the war. The greatest of them all, Stirling, was abandoned and the English soldiers simply walked into the empty fortress. At Bothwell, William Murray, its Lord, was obliged to surrender his patrimony and was carted off to England as a prisoner. It looked, indeed, as if Edward 1st was the "Caesar of Britain" and as he returned south, leaving officials to run his conquered territory for him, he must have been well pleased. Scarcely had Edward departed the scene when opposition to English rule flared up. Two successful Scottish leaders, William Wallace in the south of the country and Andrew Murray, brother of the Lord of Bothwell, in the north, forced Edward to "*think again.*" They triumphed over the English at the Battle of Stirling Bridge in 1297 but Murray died later of wounds received in the battle. On the basis of "if you want a job done properly, do it yourself, Edward came north again and defeated Wallace at the Battle of Falkirk the following year. Although Falkirk was not as decisive a battle as it might have been, it did enormous damage to Wallace's credibility in Scotland.

After King John Balliol had been deposed, Bothwell Castle was held by Stephen de Brampton for Edward 1st who regarded the castle as being of important military significance as one of the key Scottish fortresses which required to be held by the English both for strategic and psychological purposes.

The same attitude was held by the Scots who were not prepared to see the English ensconced in Bothwell any longer than was necessary and promptly laid siege to the castle. Lacking the appropriate engines to batter down the walls, the Scots had to resort to cutting off supplies to the English garrison and starving them out. Brampton would later complain to his king that he had held Bothwell for over a year and that most of the garrison had died from famine or from the final Scots assault on the castle. Conditions inside castles under siege were just about as unpleasant as it gets. Food would be scarce and lack of hygiene brought about by men in close and cramped conditions would spread

disease quickly. To this had to be added, the feelings of despair of men realising that no help or relief was coming. The besiegers had to contend with similar if less traumatic conditions and with monotony, only relieved by the odd assault on the castle to remind those inside that they were trapped. Brampton's reward for holding the castle for Edward was to languish for three years in a Scottish prison. One has to wonder why Brampton, English constable of such an important Scottish castle, wasn't ransomed. King Edward's hold on Scotland at this point was shaky to say the least.

As was usual, the Scots were almost as fond of fighting with each other as they were of fighting the English and by 1300, Edward was in a position to give his personal attention to Scotland. This, indeed, made a huge difference to the embattled English. When Edward was around, positive things happened for the English. When he wasn't, the Scots could make the most of it. Edward set off to deal with Scotland in 1301 by attacking its castles such as Bothwell. In anticipation of success, he granted the barony of Bothwell, the castle and lands to the value of £1000, to Sir Aymer de Valance. The legitimate owner of Bothwell, three year old Andrew Murray was safely in the north west of the country. Edward had no intention of hanging about and starving out the castle's garrison. They would be dealt with quickly.

In an age prior to western knowledge of the discovery of the use of gunpowder by the Chinese, aggressive armies attacking castles had the choice of undermining the walls, starving out the garrison, using ladders or towers to scale the walls or hurling rocks against the defenders in an attempt to break down the defences. Some castles like Caerlaverock were surrounded by a moat with access by a drawbridge and most had a strong gatehouse defended by heavy wooden gates and a portcullis.

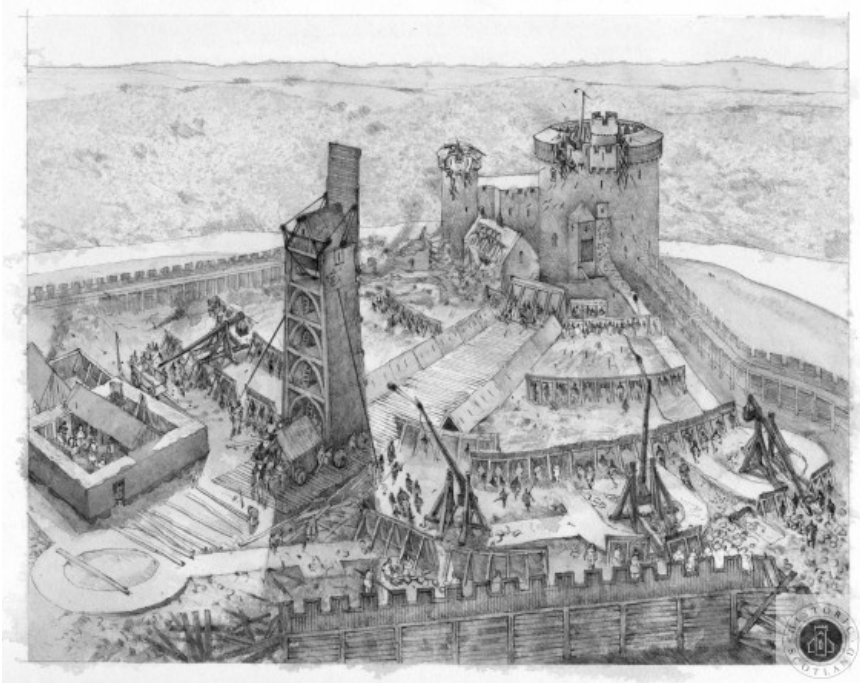
What Edward saw when he arrived at Bothwell ,according to Stewart Cruden in "*The Scottish Castle,*" was a "*manifestation of thirteenth century European as opposed to native military architecture.*" The then unfinished castle was dominated as it still is by the massive round donjon tower, which, unusually, had its own moat, together with the prison tower and a curtain wall. In places the walls were 15 feet thick and the defences would be added to by wooden palisades because of the incomplete nature of the castle's defences. Wooden balconies would have been erected on the exteriors of the stone buildings and walls to provide extra support for the defenders firing on the attackers Building

work on the castle would have stopped at the time of the Edwardian invasion of the country but the workmen's timber structures and storage sheds would still be extant and would constitute a fire risk. The Byzantines had introduced "*Greek fire*", a kind of napalm like substance to siege warfare. The recipe for this unpleasant substance has now been lost but it was often hurled into besieged castles in clay pots to create conflagrations and mayhem. The Mongols had developed an early version of biological warfare by catapulting the dead bodies of animals or plague victims over the walls in an attempt to bring disease and death into the garrison. Thus one can only wonder at the terror the inexorable approach of the English army to Bothwell would generate in the minds of the local population with memories of the sack of Berwick on their minds. As in modern times most would become refugees, trying to get as far away as possible from the conflict and carry with them what they could but again as with present day civilians, the question would be where was safe.



A modern sculpture by Rob McIntyre based on the Great Seal of King Robert the Bruce

Given that Bothwell Castle's foundations were built on an outcrop of solid natural rock, there was no likelihood of Edward being able to undermine its walls. Apart from that, he had no intention of hanging



Siege of Bothwell Castle 1301- Courtesy of Historic Scotland

about and attempting to starve the garrison into submission. He would use his ultimate weapon to bring about the castle's downfall. Apart from the soldiers in his army, the king would bring workmen, especially skilled carpenters to build the necessary siege engines to give him a quick victory. They would build him "*Le Berefrey*" – the belfry, to overcome the donjon. This device was a huge wooden tower, the sides of which were covered in hides usually soaked in water to prevent the defenders using fire to disable it and to protect the soldiers inside it. This siege engine had various platforms for soldiers and it would be pushed against the walls of the castle to allow the troops to move from the top platform directly on to the castle's battlements. This fourteenth century version of a weapon of mass destruction was built from the

plundered woods of Glasgow and brought in prefabricated sections in 30 wagons from Glasgow to Bothwell. A wooden bridge was erected across the Clyde by Edward's busy workmen and carpenters. When the monster tower was put together at Bothwell, a corduroy road was laid down so that the device could be wheeled against the castle walls. Edward was not one for indecision and inactivity. The castle would fall and quickly and that would be that and the King would move on to his next target. It might not have been blitzkrieg but he wouldn't allow the Scots to defy him for long. They lasted for a creditable month before surrendering on 22nd September. Any knights would be taken prisoner probably for ransom; the rest would most likely be summarily hanged. Edward, a pious man, would give thanks for his victory, either in a field chapel, or in the local church. Sir Aymar de Valance was left behind to look after the castle and no doubt to repair anything damaged in the siege. Bothwell Castle would remain an important English bastion right up to the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314.

Wallace was captured in 1305 and was given a death which was barbarous even for the times and which reflected the personal hatred King Edward had for his Scottish opponent. The method of Wallace's death made him a martyr to his cause and galvanised the Scots. In 1306, Robert Bruce, who had a claim to the throne, had himself crowned at Scone. At first it looked as though he too might fail but by persevering and avoiding pitched battles, he began a campaign to defeat his local enemies and to recover the country's towns and castles from English occupation. The fictional story of Bruce and the spider may not have appeared until long after his death, but the theme of the tale was accurate enough. The King of Scots would triumph eventually.

Scarcely able to believe what was happening in Scotland, the old English warhorse made what was to be his final journey north but time had run out for him and he died in 1307 at Burgh on Sands, near Carlisle and within sight of the country which had defied his might. He left instructions that the flesh had to be boiled from his body and that his bones should be carried in front of his army until Scotland was subdued once and for all. It was said that Robert Bruce feared the dead bones of his great adversary more than he did the live body of Edward ii, the new English king. The late king's body, completely intact, went south accompanied by his successor

Edward I was buried in a plain tomb in Westminster Abbey. The well known inscription, "*Edwardus Primus Scotorum Malleus Hic Est, 1308. Pactum Serva*" is believed to have been added in the sixteenth century when Edward's successors were still at odds with the Scots and having a lot less success than he had. Perhaps they needed some reassurance from remembering the past glories of one of their greatest kings. For Scotland, Edward had, indeed, been a "Hammer", someone whose intransigence and hubris had forged a nation.

THREE FURTHER EDWARDS.

The death of King Edward 1st gave Robert Bruce and the Scots time to consolidate their position and provided an opportunity for Bruce to deal with his Scottish adversaries, mainly the Comyn clan and the rump of the support for King John Balliol. Edward ii was no “British Caesar.” Like many “normal” sons of outstanding fathers, he suffered by comparison with his parent and, to be fair, Edward 1st had left him with many unsolved problems, with the barons, with finances, and with unrest in the country over the high taxation to pay for the wars. Similarly in the seventeenth century, “Gloriana”, the charismatic and hugely popular Queen Elizabeth Tudor, left enormous problems for her less attractive successor James 1st of England and VI of Scotland. Perhaps similar parallels may be seen in contemporary British politics. As it was, when his father died, the new king took the body for burial at Westminster rather than follow the old king’s ghoulish wishes about carrying his bones in front of the army. He had more pressing matters to deal with at home.

By the year 1314 Robert Bruce’s success had been such that many powerful fortresses including the major castles of Roxburgh and Edinburgh were in Scottish hands. Only three great strongholds were still held by the enemy and pressure was being directed against them. They were Berwick, Bothwell and Stirling. Since its capture by Edward 1st in 1301, Bothwell had been the headquarters of the English forces in the west of Scotland. By 1312 the Governor of the Castle was Sir Walter Fitzgilbert who had a garrison of 28 squires and 29 archers with possibly some ordinary soldiers too (not a huge garrison but difficult enough to feed under siege conditions). Fitzgilbert was instructed to ensure the castle’s safety and “*delivered to no other person whatsoever without the King’s letters patent under the Great seal of England, directed to himself.*” The Governor and his men had cause to be nervous. Doubtless, the local people who might have been involved in supplying the garrison would have kept the Scottish forces informed of both conditions inside the fortress and the morale of its occupants. Berwick, once Scotland’s wealthiest city port, guarded the east of the country and last but not least was the great royal fortress of Stirling said to be like a brooch clasping the Lowlands and the Highlands together. It was believed that whoever held Stirling held Scotland. Thus Stirling

Castle was under siege by Scottish forces led by the King of Scot's last surviving brother, Edward Bruce.

Members of the family of Robert Bruce, the elder, and Marjorie, Countess of Carrick in her own right were a talented, vigorous and energetic bunch. Marjorie herself was a feisty lady who in a reversal from the norm of the times, kidnapped Robert Bruce the elder and obliged him to marry her. He seems to have been easily persuaded. Their sons were Robert the eldest and future king, Edward, Alexander, Thomas and Neil. The daughters were Isabel, Mary, Christian, Matilda and Margaret. Isabel would become Queen of Norway and Christian would marry Andrew Murray, guardian of Scotland and Lord of Bothwell as her third husband. Every member of the Bruce family would suffer terribly at the hands of Edward 1st who had a vicious streak which he directed at those like William Wallace who opposed him. It wasn't just that he had to take revenge but he had to take it in such a way that even contemporaries used to the brutalities of the age were appalled. In dealing with defeated and captured Bruce supporters, Edward abandoned the rules of chivalry and the custom of ransoming nobles. The men were brutally tortured and killed and some of the women received harsh treatment.

After his coronation, Bruce had sent his family north for safety to the Aberdeenshire castle of Kildrummy which, like Bothwell, was a great baronial stone fortress. Even it wasn't secure and the women fled further north to the sanctuary of St Duthuc at Tain which proved equally unsafe and they were taken prisoner. Neil Bruce remained behind at Kildrummy to defend the castle which eventually fell as the result of treachery. "A young knight of exceeding beauty," Neil Bruce was taken to Berwick, dragged through the streets and hanged, drawn and beheaded. Bruce's Queen, Elizabeth de Burgh, daughter of Edward's ally, the Earl of Ulster, was sent to a convent as was his young daughter Marjorie and his sister Christian. A special fate, for some reason, was prepared for Mary Bruce who was incarcerated in a wooden cage hung from the walls of Roxburgh Castle in full view of everyone passing but she was allowed to use a privy within the walls. Originally Edward had planned to subject Marjorie Bruce to a similar fate to her aunt but even he drew back at treating a young girl in such a barbarous fashion. Two further Bruce siblings, Alexander who had had a brilliant academic career at Cambridge University and who had become Dean of Glasgow,

and his brother Thomas were captured in Galloway and taken to Carlisle to suffer the same fate as Neil Bruce. Of Robert Bruce's brothers, Edward alone escaped from the vengeance of the English king.

Edward Bruce has come down to us as a brilliant but erratic leader, inclined to take chances, unlike his cautious and canny older brother Robert. The story is told that Edward Bruce entered into an agreement with Sir Philip Mowbray, governor of Stirling Castle that if an English force did not relieve the castle by Midsummer Day 1314, he, Mowbray, would surrender it to the Scots and Edward Bruce. John Barbour, archdeacon of Aberdeen and author of the panegyric "The Brus" has the king berate his brother for his actions. It may well be, however, that King Robert knew that sooner or later he would have to face the English in a pitched battle and that it would be at a time and place of his choosing. Edward ii was no general and certainly lacked the charisma of Edward 1st. He was having problems with his barons and some of his most experienced knights refused to join him in an expedition against Scotland. None the less, he could not afford to lose face and he moved north with a large army to relieve Stirling. Robert Bruce was about to take a massive risk. The result was an overwhelming defeat for the English at the Battle of Bannockburn, and Stirling Castle surrendered the following day

King Edward fled to Dunbar and took ship to Berwick, hotly pursued by Sir James Douglas. Immediately after the battle, King Robert instructed Edward Bruce to march to Bothwell where many of the English nobles, including the Earl of Hertford, had fled in the hope of finding refuge there. The king's brother was to lay siege to the castle. The governor, Fitzgilbert, took the shattered refugees in but debated with himself the merits of changing sides. He took care to see that the fugitives were lodged in such a way that they could not join forces against him. Barbour records,

*"and syne to Bothwell sent has he
Schyr Edward with a gret menyhe:
For thar wes fra thine send him worde
That the riche Erll of Herfurde
And other mychtyals, wes thar
Soyne tretit he with Schir Waltar,*

That Erle and castell and the laiff (remainder)

Into Schir Edward's hand he gaf."

Soon after Edward Bruce arrived outside the walls of Bothwell Castle, Sir Walter Fitzgilbert surrendered, opening the gates and handing over the English noble refugees to him for ransom. The Earl of Hertford was the greatest prize and in return for his freedom, the Scottish Queen together with Princess Marjorie and Christian Bruce were released from captivity. The governor of Bothwell, Fitzgilbert, was well rewarded by the Scottish king and was to become the ancestor of the Hamilton family. In the circumstances, the Scots could afford to be generous and spare the common soldiers in the castle. There would be no bodies hanging from the battlements. In accordance with King Robert's policy, the castle would be dismantled to prevent any further occupation by enemy forces. Three hundred years later, Oliver Cromwell would use the same tactics on his enemies' castles after the Civil War. Just exactly what the nature of this fourteenth century spoiling was is not clear but the castle would rise again.

After Bannockburn, the initiative in the war was with the Scots who invaded the north of England in force, terrorising the countryside and carrying off much booty. In the hope of diverting English resources from Scotland, King Robert opened up a second front in Ireland, joining forces with the local people in warring against the English. The king appealed to the common bonds between the Irish and the Scots in an attempt to forge an alliance against the mutual enemy. Robert Bruce was nothing if not a strategist and diplomat, writing to the Irish as follows:

"Whereas we and you , and our people and your people, free since ancient times, share the same national ancestry and are urged to come together more eagerly and joyfully in friendship by a common language and a common custom, we have sent over to you our beloved kinsmen, the bearers of this letter, to negotiate with you in our name about permanently strengthening and maintaining inviolate the special friendship between us and you, so that with God's will your nation may be able to recover her ancient liberty. Whatever our envoys or one of them may conclude with you in this matter we shall ratify and uphold in the future".

Edward Bruce led the Scottish army as the king's right hand man but there was a belief that King Robert had a personal as well as a political

motive for sending his brother to Ireland. Edward was restless and needed an outlet for his energies. Given that the Scottish kingdom needed an adult male to succeed on the death of the king, Edward Bruce had been named as his brother's successor to the throne of Scotland, rather than the King's young daughter Marjorie. This was done on the grounds that Edward Bruce was "*a man of vigour and great skill in war for the defence of the rights and liberties of the Scottish realm.*" The deaths of Marjorie and Edward Bruce before King Robert saw Marjorie's son Robert Stewart named as heir. Things would change again with the birth of the Scots king's son David in 1324. The Scots and their Irish allies had some success and Edward Bruce who had initiated the process which led to the Battle of Bannockburn and who had accepted the surrender of Bothwell castle after the battle, was crowned High King of Ireland in 1316. Rumour at the time had it that Edward Bruce planned to cross the Irish sea and join with the Welsh but Scottish and Irish resources were limited. In the autumn of 1316, the King himself crossed to Ireland to support his brother. They were, however, unable to take Dublin. King Robert could not afford to be away from Scotland for long and he returned in 1317. True to his rash nature, Edward Bruce, High King of Ireland entered into a battle in which he was massively outnumbered and although he fought with his usual bravery, his foolhardiness cost him his life and brought to an end Scottish involvement in Ireland at this time. If Hollywood cast Mel Gibson in the role of William Wallace, then the moguls might consider an actor such as Harrison Ford to play the part of Edward Bruce in any future film of his story. Some success came for the Scots and the Irish out of this venture in that from henceforth the English hold on Ireland could never be guaranteed and the "*other island*" would not be used as a base to attack the western seaboard of Scotland.

The last of the three further Edwards to make his mark on Bothwell was Edward, third Plantagenet of that name to rule England. More in the mould of his grandfather than his father, he was also the son of Isabella of France, known to history as "*The she wolf.*" She and her lover Mortimer had been responsible for forcing her husband to abdicate in favour of their son and then having the deposed king murdered by thrusting a funnel inside his back passage into which was plunged a red hot poker brutally killing him. This meant that when the dead body was examined, there would be no outward sign of violence. Such was the legacy of Edward iii.

In history the third Edward is best known for picking up a lady's garter and, by this romantic gesture, founding an order of chivalry which still allows his successors as monarch to parade around in a somewhat fanciful and uncomfortable looking uniform together with the great and the good who have been honoured with the Order of the Garter. The fact that the story of Edward and the lady's garter, like the tale of Bruce and the spider, does not appear until the sixteenth century is neither here nor there. When was the mundane truth ever allowed to spoil the drama of a good story? "*Hon y soit qui mal y pense.*"

What is a matter of history is that apart from founding an order of chivalry and encouraging a revival of the so called chivalric spirit of the legendary court of King Arthur, Edward began what came to be known as "The Hundred Years War." As a sideshow to that, he revived his grandfather's ambitions in Scotland.

Mediaeval treaties were named after the towns in both countries where the treaties were signed so the Treaty of Northampton/Edinburgh of 1328 in which the English recognised Robert Bruce as King of Scotland and the independence of the country from any suzerainty of England was a bitter pill for the young King Edward iii to swallow. The treaty also made provision for King Robert's young son, David, to marry Edward's sister, Joan. Like the twentieth century Treaty of Versailles after the Great War, the Treaty of Northampton/Edinburgh was simply a precursor to another war which was an attempt by the loser to right perceived wrongs from the earlier war. Scotland would see a third King Edward of England cross her borders and the country would witness the great castles including Bothwell come to prominence again. The name Baliol would also feature once more in the shape of Edward Baliol who would eventually have no more success than his father King John had had.

Encouraged by King Edward, with English support and promising to surrender large parts of southern Scotland to the English, Baliol landed in Scotland in 1332 and managed to defeat the Scots at Dupplin before going on to Scone to be crowned king. It goes without saying that the usual claims by the English crown to the suzerainty of Scotland were again recognised despite the terms of the Treaty of Northampton/Edinburgh. It appeared that all that Robert Bruce had fought for had been lost. There were now two kings in Scotland, David, the second Bruce king and son of King Robert and Edward, the second

Baliol king and son of King John. Two kings in Scotland would be as nothing when compared to two Popes later in the century, one in Avignon and the other in Rome, each claiming to be the successor of Saint Peter. As usual Scotland and England would differ on this as in many other areas with the northern kingdom giving allegiance to the Avignon Pope and the southern kingdom supporting the Pope in Rome. The supporters of King David Bruce were led by Andrew Murray, Lord of Bothwell and the King's uncle by marriage. Unfortunately, in what was almost a Murray tradition, the Lord of Bothwell was captured in the Borders near Roxburgh and sent prisoner to England. It might have been better in the long run for Baliol if he had emulated the policies of his English friends and executed the Guardian. Murray would return later to Scotland and wreak his own revenge. Although Baliol had Scottish supporters mainly from those who had lost out in king Robert's time, it is clear that Baliol needed English help so that when the English support went back home, the Bruce faction gained the upper hand and he was forced to flee across the border

“One leg booted and the other bare”

In the absence of Murray of Bothwell, Archibald Douglas, brother of the “good” Sir James was made Guardian of the kingdom. Meanwhile, back in England, King Edward iii had an excuse to intervene in Scotland. The English parliament had discouraged their king from direct involvement in Scotland. Then, as now, the cost of foreign wars was never popular with those who were taxed to pay for them and Edward had hoped to control Scotland through a puppet king. That had failed so the Hammer's grandson could now attempt to emulate his great namesake and deal with the Scots a people who had been referred to as *“that perfidious race”* by the English Lannercost Chronicler. He would invade Scotland in support of his vassal.

In 1333 Edward crossed the Border with the object of taking Berwick. The town and castle would defy him longer than it had his grandfather. Guns were not in use at this time, but it is believed that Edward ordered saltpetre and sulphur to be brought to the siege so that primitive “bombs” might be catapulted into the town to the great discomfort of the inhabitants. Although the fearsome English longbow had contributed to the defeat of Wallace at Falkirk, it was during the time of Edward iii that it reached its apogee. There is a belief in some quarters that the use of the “v” sign as an insult dates from this time.

When the French captured longbow men, they would cut off two of the archer's fingers making it impossible for him to use a bow any more. In turn those English bowmen whose fingers were still intact would hold up two fingers as a gesture of defiance towards their enemies. In the Scots version it is the Good Sir James Douglas, the Black Douglas who is credited with mutilating the fingers of English archers. Whichever tale you accept and whether it is true or not, it makes for a good story.

In an attempt to relieve Berwick, the Scots took on the English in open battle at Halidon Hill and the result was disaster for the Scots. The English king had his revenge for his father's defeat at Bannockburn and true to his Plantagenet nature; he murdered over a hundred Scottish prisoners after the battle.

In accordance with the precepts of King Robert 1st, the Scots now avoided pitched battles and laid waste the countryside ahead of the English army to make it difficult for the invaders to live off the land. It had always been hard for mediaeval armies to avoid long and expensive overland supply lines which could be subjected to attacks by the Scots. Where garrisons were ensconced in coastal fortresses these could be provisioned by sea, but castles such as Bothwell were well inland and consequently difficult to supply.

One can only wonder at the effect a scorched earth policy would have on the communities, the towns, villages and farmlands which stood in the way of the advancing enemy. Would they stream off as lines of refugees such as we have seen in modern times, or would they disappear unto the woods and hills in a possible vain effort to escape from the predators or would they stay put and face starvation or some other horrific death? Who can tell? The records of this time concentrate on the fates of the great and good in the land and don't have much to say about the "small folk." Suffice it to say that documents do show that together with other Lowland counties, Lanarkshire was put to the torch. People in villages such as Bothwell, particularly if they were sited close to a major castle, would have to endure horrific deprivation and suffering. The local economy would take a long time to recover from this kind of massive destruction.

Andrew Murray of Bothwell, meanwhile, had been ransomed and had come home to renew the struggle on behalf of the young King David who, with his Queen, Edward iii's sister, had been sent to France

for safety in 1334. By November 1336, Edward iii had take up residence in Bothwell Castle. We can only speculate at the state of the building after its spoiling following Bannockburn but it was still a site of great strategic importance to the English. In October 1336, the highly respected English master-mason, John de Kilburne was engaged to effect repairs to the damaged castle. With him he brought to Bothwell eighteen skilled English masons supported by eight masons and four quarrymen from Scotland, a not inconsiderable force. This indicated King Edward's recognition of the importance of the castle. The present day guardians of the castle, Historic Scotland, state that traces of the work done by de Kilburne and his workmen are still extant. By the time the king arrived in November, some significant work on the refurbishment of the castle must have been evident to him. Edward remained at Bothwell for approximately a month during which time, to all extents and purposes, Bothwell became the de facto centre of English government. From here the king issued various edicts, summonses and other government business. He left for England on 16th December 1336.

Modern wars tend to be undertaken in a high moral tone and with an apparent profound sense of regret on the part of those who enter in to them. Advice from God is often given as further justification for attack. Excuses are sometimes made that, if the war was not undertaken against the perceived enemy, then the rest of humanity would suffer badly as a consequence. Invaders like Edward iii, although he suffered from the same hubris as twenty first century leaders, did not manifest the same hypocrisy as modern politicians. War was about gaining resources in land and people and Edward could gain support by offering lands in the conquered country to his followers rather like the modern equivalent of offering contracts to rebuild war torn lands.

Scotland could provide some rich pickings but one country could offer even more to Edward's predatory supporters - France. Given a choice, Edward's barons would rather fight in France where the rewards were potentially much greater than Scotland. In an ironic way, this helped Scotland to survive. Andrew Murray beavered away against the English, capturing castles and towns and gradually pushing the enemy back. He besieged his own castle of Bothwell in 1337 and took it after a short siege. By this time, the Scots had acquired appropriate engines to batter down the walls, in this case "boustour" said to have been like the "berefrey" of the Hammer's siege. This time, Sir Andrew Murray took

no chances and most likely he was responsible for the destruction of the great donjon of the castle which is still evident today. The castle would lie in ruins for twenty five years.

Although the war with England continued, it never reached quite the same scale. David ii would return from France, invade England in 1346 and be defeated and captured at the Battle of Neville's Cross. The money for his ransom, at least the amount he did pay, would place an economic burden on the kingdom but it would survive despite getting attention from the English from time to time. The legacy of Robert Bruce was preserved. Edward iii would go on to give France the benefit of his attention in the Hundred Years War and have no more lasting success there than he did in Scotland. He lived long enough to know of the death of his heir, the Black Prince, and to be aware that when he himself died, the crown would go to a minor, his grandson, with all the difficulties that would entail for his kingdom. He died a senile old man in 1377. His attempted conquests of two kingdoms other than his own were failures. His order of chivalry still survives. The romance lasted longer than the reality.

STICKS AND STONES – THE DOUGLASES

*“Sticks and stone may break my bones,
But names will never hurt me.”*

So sang children from the nineteenth century right down to the present day. Had this proverb been around in earlier centuries when the great Douglas family were pre-eminent in Scotland, they could have done nothing but agree with its sentiments.

Despite having been given nicknames such as William “*Longleg*” Lord of Douglas (died 1274), William “*le Hardi*” lord of Douglas (died 1299), James Lord of Douglas, “*the Good Sir James*” or “*The Black Douglas*” (died 1330), Hugh “*the Dull*” (resigned 1342), Archibald “*the Tyneman*” or “*Loser*” (died 1333), Archibald “*the Grim*” 3rd Earl of Douglas, Lord of Bothwell (died 1400) and James “*the Gross*” 7th Earl of Douglas (died 1443), the Douglas family not only survived the sticks and stones (and they had plenty of these thrown at them) but prospered mightily becoming only slightly less powerful than the Stewarts themselves. Given that the family seemed to have a preference for three names only, Archibald, James or William, the nicknames would be a convenient way of identifying the various personalities.

Mediaeval Scottish monarchs in common with many of their fellow European rulers lacked the resources to maintain standing armies to support their government. They relied instead on powerful noble families to “manage” certain vital areas of their domain for them in return for grants of land and titles. The families who were given the difficult task of taking on responsibility for the border regions with England had to be both powerful and worthy of the king’s trust. Newly ennobled and enriched families had a vested interest in loyally supporting the crown. The risk always is that later generations, inclined to forget the original reasons for loyalty when they take up the reins of authority, could conceivably develop the notion that they were just as entitled to become as powerful as the king and possibly even more so. Like many influential people before and since they had the potential to fall into the trap of hubris. This feeling of power and self importance on the part of a powerful noble family could conceivably be seen as a threat to the ruling dynasty. The family which was in the forefront of support for the Bruce kingship would later clash dangerously with King

Robert's Stewart successors who were seen by some of their noblemen as simply "primus inter pares" and lacking something of the mysticism of ancient monarchy.

Like many of the nobles and aristocrats of fourteenth and fifteenth century Scotland, the Douglas family had their origins in continental Europe, hailing from Flanders and arriving in Scotland as part of the peaceful Norman Conquest initiated by David 1st. They were a fairly low key group until Edward 1st decided to make a takeover bid for Scotland. It might be more accurate to say that in the mode of some modern dictators, he decided to "nationalise" the assets of Scotland and not pay any compensation to the original owners. Instead he was prepared to give over these lands and goods to those English nobles who supported him in his ambitions. Thus it was that thanks to Edward's policies, the Douglas family lost out and the young James Douglas threw in his lot with Robert Bruce and the fight for the restoration of Scotland as a sovereign nation.

James Douglas who came to be known as "The Good Sir James" or sometimes as "The Black Douglas" possibly because of his swarthy complexion became one of the great heroes of the Wars of Independence, only slightly less heroic than the great King Robert himself. His fame came from his deeds of courage and ingenuity, capturing castles, routing the English in battle and carrying the war over the border. Reading the chroniclers of the day might tempt one to liken him to the heroic superheroes of the modern comic book genre. To the Scots he was the great patriot, to the long suffering citizens of the counties of northern England; he was a devil on horseback, a terrorist of the first magnitude. He was the stuff of nightmares of the kind which kept children awake at night. Legend has it that English mothers would croon their children to sleep with the rhyme,

"Hush ye, hush ye, dinna fret ye,

The Black Douglas wilna get ye"

Douglas was given the ultimate task of loyalty, to take the dead Bruce's heart on a crusade to the Holy Land. He died fighting Islamic forces in Spain and the heart of the king was returned for burial in Melrose Abbey. By his efforts on behalf of his king, James Douglas gained immortality for himself and brought power in Scottish politics to

his family. The heart of Bruce became the badge of the Douglas family, carried on their banners and shields and displayed on their coat of arms

The “Good” Sir James may have been the glamorous hero of the Douglas family, but the man who would build up and consolidate the family’s power in the land and its place in the country’s history was quite a different personality. He too had a nickname, one with a “*fee, fie, foe fum*” quality to it. There was, none-the-less, nothing of a pantomime character in the personality of Archibald Douglas, 3rd Earl of Douglas, Lord of Galloway and Lord of Bothwell. He has come down to us as Archibald “*the Grim*”. His nickname was said to have come about by the fact that he was fierce in battle. Walter Bower, the chronicler and Abbot of Inchcolm (1385-1449), was too young to have known Archibald Douglas personally but he would certainly have met contemporaries of the great man. He described Archibald thus: “*He was dark and ugly more like a coco (cook boy) than a noble.*” Jean Froissart (c 1337-c 1405) the great French chronicler was also an early kind of war correspondent, witnessing battles and taking part in sieges. He almost certainly knew Archibald the Grim personally, recording how the Scottish nobleman as a warrior, “*much feared by his enemies*” and as a “*gallant knight*” who alone of his fellow warriors could wield a great sword of such length and weight that it felled his enemies right, left and centre. He was also said to have a swarthy complexion rather like his father, Sir James.

If Archibald’s name has connotations of theatricality about it, there was certainly no good fairy present at his birth to dispense golden spoons and other generous gifts to the child Archibald. As the illegitimate son of the “Good” Sir James there was little possibility of anything but a minor role in the family for Archibald. History is full of irony and the fates would eventually single out Archibald for greatness.

He was born sometime around 1328 and died in 1400 at what was for the times a great age. His mother’s name has not come down to us but his distinguished patrimony would eventually stand him in good stead. His father, as is well known in Scottish history, died fighting the Muslims in Spain while Archibald was a child. Archibald was born into a warlike society. Edward iii had revived his grandfather’s ambitions to take over Scotland and although he did mount expeditions northward, including a stopover in Bothwell, Edward’s supporters in England would have preferred to rule the country through a puppet king rather

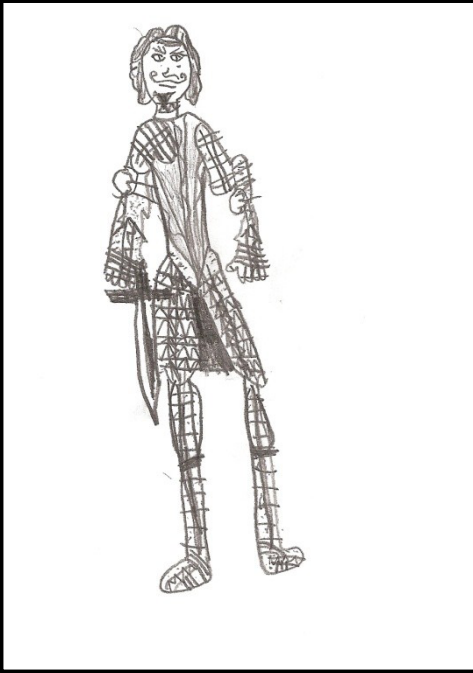
than undertake a direct and expensive conquest. Empires down to the modern age have used the same technique, seeming to stand off from ruling countries directly but keeping control none the less by installing their own candidates in positions of authority. There was, indeed, a potential puppet king in the person of Edward Balliol, son of the former King John and now head of a family which still attracted considerable support in Scotland. The Bruce dynasty represented by the child king David ii was under threat. Not for the last time in Scottish history, it was decided that France would provide a safe haven for the monarch of Scotland and the refugees left for France in May 1334

The exiled Scottish court settled in the immense Chateau Gaillard. This splendid fortification like Bothwell in Scotland was built on a natural outcrop of rock, where a river bent to form a kind of peninsula (in this case the River Seine). The fortress had been built by Richard Coeur de Lion, Duke of Normandy and King of England. History has been kinder to Richard than he may deserve and he has come down to us as a warrior king and valiant knight, a latter day version of King Arthur. To the court in exile, the very walls of the castle might appear to exude the warlike spirit of the Crusader king. At the same time, the area had many shrines to the martyred Archbishop of Canterbury, St Thomas a Beckett and so had cultural and religious links with Arbroath Abbey which had also been dedicated in 1178 by King William the Lion of Scotland to Beckett. Thus the area had a strong tradition of anti English feeling which might reinforce in the minds of the Scottish courtiers in Chateau Gaillard the reasons why they were in exile.

Prominent amongst the Scottish nobility was William, Earl of Douglas and his young cousin, Archibald, as a child, undoubtedly less “grim” than he would become as an adult. No doubt as a companion of the little king and sharing his exile, Archibald would develop strong bonds with his monarch which would stand him in good stead in later life. He would receive training in methods of warfare and of diplomacy. Surrounded by the grandeur of the great castle and its chapel, he would become influenced to be a builder himself. This was The Auld Alliance at work not just for warfare but for opportunities to experience life in a sophisticated society. In 1339 King David joined Philip 1V of France against the English at Buirenfosse. Nothing much happened and Edward iii left in frustration at the lack of battle. But young Archibald Douglas was probably there too

In 1341 the Douglas cousins returned to Scotland as important work had to be done there to consolidate the family's power in the kingdom. Happily for Scotland, Edward of England had entered into what was to become known as "The Hundred Years War" which meant that he could not devote his whole attention to Scotland and the Scots took advantage of this. Few European rulers right down to modern times have relished the idea of war on two fronts. This was the basic hope for Scotland and France in posing a threat of war from the north as well as the south in their struggles with England. By 1356, again by the terms of the Franco Scottish Alliance, the Douglas cousins were back in France fighting against the English at the Battle of Poitiers for King John ii of France against Edward iii of England. The story is told that the twenty eight year old Archibald was keen to go to battle lest his armour should rust. The result was an overwhelming victory for the English which also brought about the French king's capture. Archibald Douglas too was taken prisoner but escaped by trickery as the English were persuaded to believe that he was no one of importance. Perhaps apart from the pragmatic and common sense approach to his situation, Archibald was also evoking the spirit of Richard Coeur de Lion from his childhood days at Castle Gaillard. Richard was known in song and story for wandering in Europe pretending to be someone of no importance and getting away with it.

While Archibald was no pantomime figure, neither would he bear much resemblance to the knights depicted in the stories of Sir Walter Scott such as "Ivanhoe" or of those handsome and heroic personalities much beloved of Hollywood movie moguls. Scotland has a number of statues erected to its mediaeval heroes, all of which have one thing in common; the characters are both tall and handsome. The truth may well be more prosaic but we will never know for sure. The fact is that Archibald the Grim was of dark complexion and that he was very strong. In all probability he, like most of his contemporaries, would stink to high heaven of body odour, stale urine and horse manure and sweat. He would have lice on his body and in his hair and he would scratch constantly. Personal hygiene in fourteenth century Scotland would not be a high priority and no one had yet made the connection between dirt and disease. This was something that would take many centuries to change. Nevertheless, Archibald was a personality who stood, metaphorically at least, head and shoulders above many of his fellows as a soldier, statesman, patriot, builder and man of piety.



**Archibald the Grim by Cara Beckett
- age nine**

King David ii of Scotland was a man who had a chequered career. Sent to France for safety as a child, he returned to Scotland in 1341 to a country which had been devastated by war. In the king's absence, his nephew and heir, Robert Stewart, had sought to consolidate the power of his family against the king. Things would not be easy for the second Bruce monarch. There was hardly time for his backside to warm the throne when he was carried off to England as a prisoner following his defeat at the Battle of Neville's Cross in 1346 only returning home in 1357 after agreeing to pay a huge ransom to the English. On his homecoming, he would

need all the friends he could get.

He appointed his old friend of his French exile days, Archibald Douglas, to the key post of Constable of Edinburgh Castle and Sheriff of Edinburgh in 1361. Not only was this an important political post and a sign of the King's favour, but it was also lucrative. Archibald's greatest coup, however, was to enter into a marriage which would significantly increase his power and wealth. This came about as the King was willing to bend the rules of heredity. The lady in question was the widowed Joanna Murray, the Lady of Bothwell and heiress to the Moravia dynasty. The King saw to it that Joanna was not only allowed to inherit her father's unentailed lands but also those of her late husband. This was most unusual and had been engineered at the instigation of the King to benefit Archibald Douglas and to consolidate the king's support in a prominent part of the kingdom. Thus the great barony of Bothwell and its castle would become a centre of Douglas

power and influence and Archibald would be the first representative of the third great family to rule from Bothwell.

The castle of Bothwell had suffered greatly as a result of the wars with England and it would be barely habitable when Archibald took



Bothwell Castle - the south curtain wall – Photograph by Ian Beckett

over. The historian, Michael Brown has claimed that Archibald created a “*crude fortified base on the ruins of an earlier castle*” It is true that Archibald’s son, the fourth earl built “a great hall, a chapel, a square tower house and stylish round tower in the French style which made Bothwell a “palatial residence” Given that Bothwell was to become Archibald the Grim’s favourite residence and the church he built there his place of burial it is likely that Bothwell castle was more than just “a crude fortified base” and that Archibald the Grim who had a reputation as a builder would construct something of more sophistication and comfort there. Records show that although his main power base was to be in Galloway and the south, Archibald the Grim was a frequent resident in his castle at Bothwell. According to Stewart Cruden in his definitive book “*The Scottish Castle*”: “*Threave is a structure of the first order. It was erected between 1369 and 1390 by Archibald the Grim, third Earl of Douglas, one of the most distinguished warriors and*

nobleman of his age, a benefactor of Sweetheart Abbey and Holyrood Abbey, and a founder of the Collegiate Churches of Bothwell and Lincluden, which are of conspicuous architectural merit.” The man who knew Chateau Gaillard and the great buildings of France and who would build Threave, a castle of the “*first order*” would not be satisfied by Bothwell as he found it.

The border with England in the 1360’s had certain fluidity as the English were at times inclined to invade and occupy parts of Southern Scotland. In 1368, Archibald was appointed to the crucial post of Warden of the Western March at a time when Annandale which formed the greater part of his domain and which offered the prospect of a lucrative income, was under English occupation. This had also formerly been Balliol territory so it was psychologically important for the Bruce king (David ii) to control it through one of his supporters, Archibald the Grim. In 1369, Archibald was further honoured by the king who created him Lord of Galloway. It was this honour and significant title that inspired Archibald to commence the building of Threave castle to provide an appropriate base or caput for his lordship. Now Archibald would further his reputation as a soldier by carrying war to the English and driving them back across the border.

Archibald seems to have been a rare creature in gaining a reputation not only as a warrior but as a statesman. He returned to France in 1369 to support the King at the Papal Court in Avignon in his desire to divorce his second wife, Queen Margaret, who was seeking the help of Pope Urban V in contesting her husband’s attempts to be rid of her. One wonders if two hundred years later Henry VIII’s scholars would advise him of King David’s efforts to involve the Pope in his divorce contest. Two years later Archibald was back in Paris to encourage France by diplomatic means to renew the Auld Alliance. The embassy had been ordered by the new Stewart King Robert ii who had taken over on the death of his uncle King David ii on Saturday 22 February 1371. Although the new king had often been at odds with his predecessor and Archibald Douglas was a prominent supporter of the Bruce regime, he survived the change of government and kept the favour of the new monarch. Drawing on his skills and his experiences of the French politics during his exile in Chateau Gaillard, Archibald was successful and the Treaty of Vincennes was ratified in France and in Scotland. Robert ii has not come down to us with a great reputation but at least he

had enough sense to retain the services of the Lord of Galloway and Bothwell.

In 1369, Archibald Douglas had been appointed Lord of Galloway by David ii. This was a particularly difficult region to govern as it had had a long tradition of semi independence and had been the patrimony of the Balliol family. Who better to take over this wild land than the son of the “Good” Sir James, best loved supporter of the Bruce kingship. Archibald also purchased the Earldom of Wigtown which made him the most powerful lord this region had known for a long time and making Archibald a greater landowner than his cousin the 1st Earl of Douglas. The “Grim” was not finished yet.

Cousin to Archibald the Grim, William, first Earl of Douglas, died of a seizure in 1384 and was succeeded by his son James Douglas, the second earl. The latter was a man very much in the tradition of his family’s reputation as warriors against the English. In 1388 (5th August) he clashed in battle with Henry Percy (Shakespeare’s “Hotspur”) at Otterburn in Northumberland. The result was a famous Scottish victory known as the battle where a dead man won a fight and the story was recorded in one of the border ballads. Douglas was mortally wounded but his condition was kept from his army. When Percy asked to whom he should surrender, he was told:

“Thou shalt not yield to lord or loon

Nor yet shalt thou to me

But yield thee to the bracken bush,

Grows on yonder lily-lee”

The body of the dead Douglas chief was concealed in the bracken bush and so it was that in death, Earl James won the battle and Percy was taken hostage. The disaster for Earl James propelled his cousin, Archibald, Lord of Galloway and Bothwell, Earl of Wigtown to even greater heights. The bastard son of “Good” Sir James who as a child had appeared to have little prospect of being anything more than an obscure knight, became the third Earl of Douglas and inherited all the unentailed lands of his cousin. There was now only one person with a greater title than Earl Archibald the Grim, Robert Stewart, King of Scotland. The seeds of the eventual downfall of the Douglas dynasty, however, would lie in the success of the third Earl of Douglas.

To all intents and purpose, the links between the Douglasses and the monarchy were strong and they were further enhanced by marriage, the mediaeval way of tying families together with strong bonds. His son and heir, William who would become the fourth earl of Douglas, was married to Princess Margaret, daughter of King Robert iii. Even more significantly, his daughter, Marjorie was married to David, Duke of Rothesay, and the heir to the throne. Archibald could now look forward to the possibility of a grandchild becoming the country's ruler. Thus the first Duchess of Rothesay was a Bothwell girl and if history had been kind, she might have been the mother of a king. It wasn't to be.

The title of duke was new to Scotland and the first to be created were Rothesay and Albany. The latter title was given to the king's brother Robert. The king had been christened John but the name John was deemed to be unlucky for Scottish kings and he took the name Robert iii on ascending the throne. The last Duke of Albany was a grandson of Queen Victoria who took over the family German title of Duke of Saxe-Cobourg and Gotha and became a follower of Adolf Hitler. He died in the early 1950's, ostracised by his British relatives. The present Duchess of Rothesay is Camilla, wife of Prince Charles.

The mediaeval church held a powerful sway over its adherents and to the populace of the Middle Ages, the torments of purgatory and the fires of Hell were very real and very close to the everyday lives of the people. Not only would the worshippers be regaled with the details of what lay ahead of them by their priests but there were often illustrations of the fates in store for the damned and the ungodly painted on the walls of the churches. Time in purgatory could be lessened by the prayers of the living and also by generous donations to the Church by those who had the money.

Archibald the Grim was a generous benefactor to the Church in general and in particular to the Abbeys of Holyrood and Melrose where the heart of Bruce had been buried after it had been brought back following the death of Sir James Douglas in Spain. He also founded collegiate churches at Lincluden in Dumfriesshire and at Bothwell.

Collegiate churches were serviced and run by a college of canons or prebendaries. The organisation was similar to the way cathedrals were administered but the collegiate church was not the seat of a bishop. Their most important function was to pray for the souls of their

benefactor and his family so that their time in purgatory might be lessened. Archibald the Grim applied to Pope Boniface IX for permission to erect a collegiate church at Bothwell and this was duly granted by the Pope on 21st February 1398. Collegiate churches were usually adapted from or attached to existing religious buildings. This was the case at Bothwell where later archaeology would suggest that a substantial church building existed already on the site which had already been sacred for approximately 800 years. Collegiate foundations were usually rectangular in shape and were built facing the direction of Jerusalem. The walls would be rendered with lime and mortar and would be brightly coloured with wall paintings and richly decorated stonework. Peter Yeoman records: “*Even the poorest parish church would have glazed windows and many would have a bellcote with a small bronze bell to summon the flock.*” An early pre- 1833 picture of Bothwell church shows a small bell tower. Today we are used to somewhat grey interiors in our modern churches and so we would be greatly surprised at the colour and brightness of mediaeval places of worship.

Archibald’s church at Bothwell was founded on 10th October 1398 and dedicated to St Bride, the patron saint of the Douglas family. It was to have a provost and eight prebendaries who would be accommodated in houses or manses near the church. The fifteenth century Provand’s Lordship in Glasgow was formerly a manse of one of the prebendaries of Glasgow Cathedral. None of the prebendaries’ houses at Bothwell has survived. Earl Archibald donated £20 per annum to his new foundation. The first provost was Thomas Barry. In the 1390’s he wrote a poem on the battle of Otterburn lavishly praising the second earl of Douglas who had been heroically killed in the battle. He may have been encouraged to write his verses by Archibald the Grim to placate some of his Douglas relatives, not all of whom were pleased by his inheriting the Douglas title and lands,

In the year 1400 the new collegiate church of Bothwell was the scene of a splendid occasion, the marriage of David, Duke of Rothesay, heir to the Scottish throne to Marjory (sometimes called Mary) daughter of Archibald, third Earl of Douglas, Earl of Wigtown, Lord of Galloway and Bothwell. This must have seemed the apogee of Earl Archibald’s ambitions, the prospect of Douglas blood sitting on the throne of Scotland. There would be nothing sentimental about the marriage. It was

one of political convenience for both families. Nevertheless, The church would be filled with colour and light, the clergy would chant, the smell of incense would waft through the building and no doubt earl Archibald and his lady would manage to forget briefly at least that their new son on law had in recent times been known for his antagonism towards Earl Archibald and the Douglas family. Sadly the marriage, like that of a much later Duke of Rothesay in the twentieth century, would not have a fairy tale ending.

King Robert iii became more and more enfeebled and the reins of government fell into the hands of the King's younger brother, the Duke of Albany who clashed with his nephew, the Duke of Rothesay, the king's heir. With the connivance of the fourth Earl of Douglas, Archibald the Grim's son, Robert, Duke of Albany, the king's brother captured his nephew, David, Douglas's brother in law and took him prisoner to Falkland Castle where he died in mysterious circumstances in March 1402. No descendant of Archibald, third Earl of Douglas would ever sit on the throne of Scotland. The Duchess of Rothesay would marry again. Widowed ladies of prominent families were never allowed to be widows for long. Her next husband would be Walter de Halliburton, treasurer of Scotland.

Archibald the Grim, third Earl of Douglas, Earl of Wigtown, Lord of Galloway and Lord of Bothwell died in his castle of Threave around Christmas 1400. The little boy who had been a nobody in exile as a child in Castle Gaillard had grown up to be the greatest magnate of his



The Choir of Bothwell Parish Church Built by Archibald the Grim 1398 – Photograph by Ian Beckett

day in Scotland. His last journey was not to the family sepulchre at Douglas in Lanarkshire but to his own foundation of the collegiate

church he had

dedicated to St Bride at Bothwell. Here he was buried almost certainly in the ultimate place of honour close to the high altar. Today his church at Bothwell is the oldest collegiate church in Scotland still used for its original purpose. Here he is remembered in a tablet on the north wall of the church.

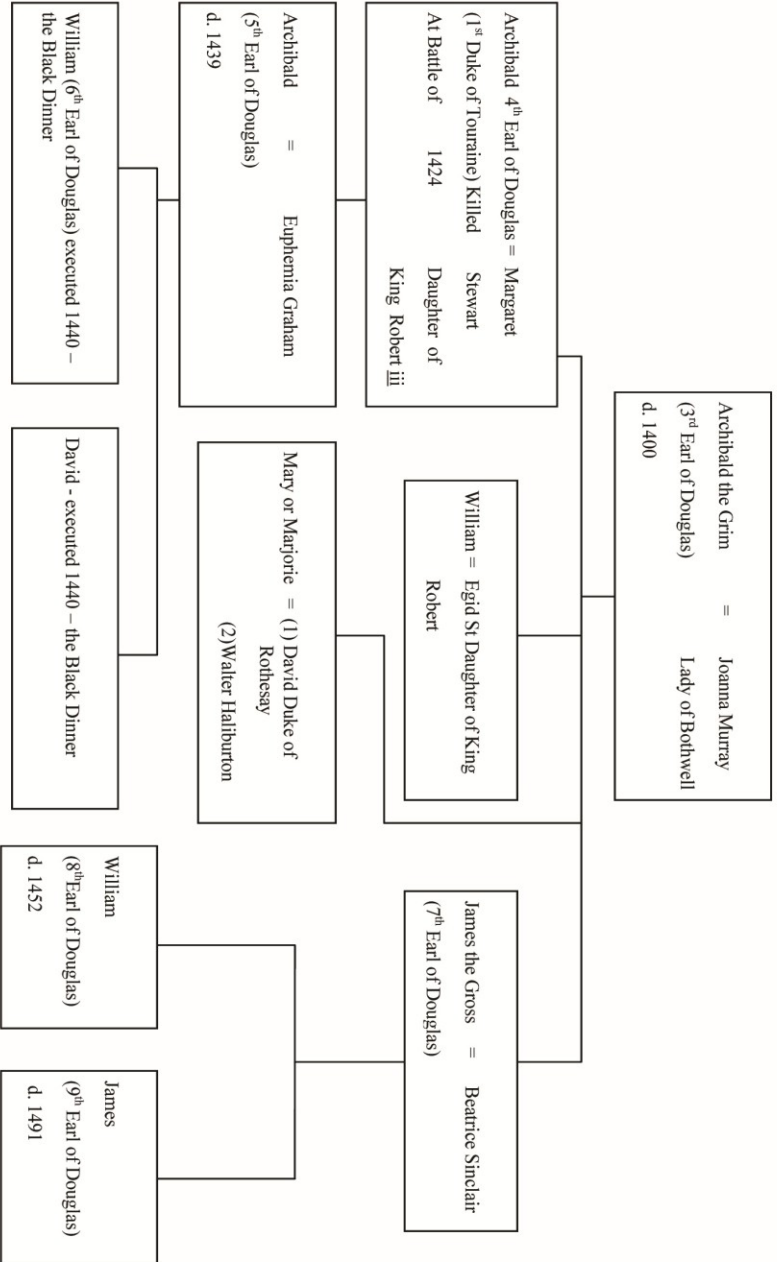
For the glory of God,

This church was built by Archibald

Third Earl of Douglas A.D. 1398

Restored A.D.1898

The Bothwell (Black) Douglasses



A DUKE, A FAT MAN, AN UNUSUAL DINNER AND A FIERY FACE

Archibald the Grim had four surviving children by his wife, Joanna Murray, the heiress of Bothwell. They were Archibald who became 4th Earl of Douglas, James also known as James “the Gross” who became 7th Earl of Douglas, Marjorie, Duchess of Rothesay and wife of the heir to the throne and Helen. One illegitimate son is recorded, Sir James Douglas of Nithsdale. There may have been more. One wonders how Archibald the Grim felt about Nithsdale, given his own illegitimate birth. Was he responsible for knighting his son and helping him on his way or was he totally indifferent? Who knows! The young man, however, did carry the all important Douglas name and in that alone he was guaranteed some place in the scheme of things. He has been described as sharing the crusading zeal of his grandfather but he had no more success than the “Good” Sir James in making it to the Holy Land only getting as far as East Prussia in 1391. Here he became involved in a dispute with some English crusaders and was killed in a fight by Lord Clifford. It was recorded that he fought manfully, true to his Douglas inheritance.

Joanna Douglas, nee Murray of Bothwell who had brought her husband Archibald the Grim, “*tresour untald, towris and towns... with rent and with riches*” is, in common with most women of the time, a shadowy figure who would accept whatever the politics of the day would demand of her. Her marriage to Archibald was political and probably happy enough given the circumstances. She did care sufficiently for her husband’s immortal soul to endow masses for him at Glasgow Cathedral to supplement those which would be offered for his eternal rest at his church in Bothwell

Galloway was the source of manpower for the Douglas’s but the former Murray lands centred in Bothwell was the principal basis of their wealth. Grim Archibald had gradually but systematically built up his family’s power base and his successors would have to do all they could to hold on to it. The rise to power of the Douglas’s had not gone without opposition and history shows that the nobility of Scotland had long memories when it came to perceived wrongs they felt they had suffered. The rise of one family to overwhelming political power was in itself a threat to the monarchy. The Black Douglasses would continue to be

challenged not only by other noble families but by their relatives, the Red Douglases, earls of Angus, and eventually by the king himself

Archibald the Grim's eldest son, another Archibald, was well and truly his father's offspring and he would inherit and demonstrate by his deeds that he too had his father's warlike tendencies and his abilities to generate a loyal following. Manpower, backed up by wealth from the various Douglas estates, was the source of power for the Black Douglases. Archibald the Grim would die in the knowledge that he had a worthy heir to follow him as a warrior, a builder and a pious son of the Church. Archibald, the future fourth earl was born at Bothwell Castle in 1372. As with his father before him, Bothwell became his favourite residence. Here he grew up on the banks of the Clyde and it would be here that he received his training as a knight and a soldier. He would retain affection for the place for the rest of his life and here he would create a palatial building, a residence reflecting his power, wealth and status, which outdid the royal palaces of the day.

Both before and after he became 4th Earl of Douglas, Archibald would harass the English and be the subject of the wrath of Henry IV of England. He was deemed sufficiently important to be married to the King of Scotland's daughter, Princess Margaret, another royal alliance for the Black Douglases. In order to maintain his position in the kingdom, it was necessary for Archibald not only to wage war against the English but to keep his local rivals in their place. He crossed the border in 1402 to raid deep into England. On the way home, he was forced to fight Henry Percy at the Battle of Homeldon Hill. After losing an eye in the fight and following a massive defeat for the Scots, Archibald was captured. Being taken prisoner by the English was almost an occupational hazard for the Lords of Bothwell given that a number of Archibald's predecessors had found themselves in the same sorry state. Edward I would have had the Douglas chief executed but Henry IV kept him as a prisoner but awarded all the Douglas lands to Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland. The Percys were almost as big a problem to the English monarchy as the Douglases were to the Stewarts and it suited the Percys to hold on to Douglas. Being granted the lands by the English king was a different matter to actually taking them over and at one point Archibald Douglas joined Percy against Henry IV. Such were the convoluted politics of the time. The English king's gift to the Percys was on paper only. While the Earl of Douglas was captive

in England, the Douglas interests were looked after by his younger brother James. The latter has come down to us in history by yet another Douglas nickname, James “The Gross”, a rather unflattering reference to the man’s great bulk. Later he would assume a political importance as great as his physical weight. His brother’s absence as a prisoner in England may have given James, the younger sibling, a taste for the kind of power and authority he could never have had, even as a younger son of Archibald the Grim.

The Douglasses and the Percys seemed to have been cross border rivals for generations and almost to have had a love/hate relationship with each other. Following his capture at the Battle of Homeldon Hill, Archibald joined forces with Henry Percy who was in revolt against his master, King Henry IV. The king caught up with the English rebels and their Scots allies at the Battle of Shrewsbury. Percy was killed and Douglas was captured for a second time, having been wounded severely in the battle and losing a testicle. Douglas was eventually allowed to return to Scotland and renew his political power.

At Bothwell, he constructed a magnificent residence worthy of his family’s ambitions. A splendid great hall and chapel, together with a powerful tower house and a second tower in the French style rose above the Clyde. The original great donjon tower was repaired and throughout its long history the castle of Bothwell would look to France for its architectural style rather than to the native Scottish tradition. The great hall would of course be the centre of activity in the complex of buildings and here the Earl and the Countess would entertain in great style, served from the massive kitchens adjacent to the hall and entertained by musicians placed in the gallery above their heads. The huge room would be full of noise and colour and probably smoke from a fire in the centre. The produce prepared for the banquets in the hall would come from the earl’s estates but the wine would be imported from France and the spices and condiments used in the cooking would come from the Middle and Far East. The silks and satins used in the rich clothing of the Douglas family and their guests would be imported as part of the considerable trade Scotland had with Europe. The castle of Bothwell would be the centre for a sophisticated family which had long out grown its Scottish origins and was now well known and respected not only in England but on the continent of Europe.

The Douglasses, renowned for their prowess as warriors, were also famous for their piety. Masses would continue to be sung for the souls of Archibald the Grim and his family in the collegiate church he had founded not far from the castle of Bothwell. The chapel his son built within the walls of his castle would also be richly endowed and beautified by the generosity of the 4th earl and his family. Here the priests would perform the services; beautiful music, plainsong, would rise up to the Heavens and the strong, overwhelming smell of incense would waft throughout the building. Confessions would be heard and the earl might just conceivably at some point consider his own mortality. In a time when life could be both short and brutal, he would want to prepare himself as well as he could for the prospect of death. Meanwhile James the Gross would have to return to his lesser role in family affairs now that his elder brother had returned from captivity in England.

James, 1st, king of Scotland had been sent to safety in France but was captured by English pirates and held in captivity in England for eighteen years. In the meantime, Scotland was ruled by his uncle, the Duke of Albany who was content to focus his interest in Scotland beyond the Forth, leaving the Douglas family as virtual kings in the south of the country. The earl would visit London to see his king and to take part in negotiations for his release.

It is sometime forgotten that the Reformation of the sixteenth century was only one of many schisms and break ups in the Christian Church since its early days. For over a hundred years, the Popes were exiled from Rome to Avignon in France where they were virtually pensioners of the kings of France. For a time, there were two Popes, one in Rome and the other in Avignon. Indeed there came a point when three Popes were all laying claim to be the true successor to Saint Peter. Needless to say in this as in so many other ways, England and Scotland were on opposite sides, supporting different claimants. The Scottish Church and its clergy had always been prominent in defending their church and the kingdom from an English takeover.

Similar arguments had broken out in the Douglas heartlands at Bothwell where there was a dispute arising out of who was to be provost of the Collegiate Church there. This dragged on while Archibald was a captive in England and was only resolved in favour of John Merton

when the earl returned from his captivity in England. Such was the power and influence of the Lord of Bothwell.

Earl Archibald was a leading layman in the attempts to end the schism in the Church and became closely associated with the University of Paris, the leading centre of learning in Europe at this time. He supported Pope Martin who eventually was recognised as the sole successor to Peter and the schism was ended. Archibald Douglas was seen in Europe as having contributed a great deal to ending a great shame in the Church. The Lord of Bothwell was not some minor Scottish robber baron but a great man, worthy of the title of “Prince” and recognised and feted throughout Europe.

The Douglas family since the early days of the “Good” Sir James had had close ties with France. They were powerful supporters of the Franco Scottish Alliance and spent considerable time on the continent. Archibald the Grim had been a leading Scottish delegate in the renewal of the alliance in 1371. It may have been the French master mason, John Morrow, who was responsible for the splendid new building at Bothwell. The Douglas’s were held in high esteem by the French court and there would be many comings and goings between Bothwell and their other residences and the French capital. The great common denominator was of course the imperial ambitions of the kings of England towards both countries. There was also the fact that throughout history Scots had fought abroad as mercenaries in the services of various European rulers, the kings of France in particular. Scots fighting in the armies of Europe was a tradition that would last for many years after the fall from power of the House of Douglas. The armies of General Leslie who gave Charles 1 a hard time in the seventeenth century had honed their battle skills in the service of the King of Sweden and were more than a match for anything in England before Oliver Cromwell.

In 1424, Archibald, 4th Earl of Douglas sailed for France at the behest of the King, Charles VII. He took with him his younger son James and left his heir Archibald, Earl of Wigton in command at Bothwell. So enamoured was the French king with his Scottish ally, that Douglas was created Lieutenant General of the kingdom of France and a short time afterwards, Duke of Touraine, the first non royal duke in the country. The revenues from this wealthy duchy would add considerably to the riches of the House of Douglas. As was often the case during the

period of the Franco Scottish alliance, the Scots were no more popular in France than the French soldiers were when billeted in Scotland. It may have been that the new French Duke intended to spend more of his time in France, leaving his heir to manage the Scottish lands. He wasn't to enjoy his new status for long.

In mediaeval times, generals and leaders of armies did not direct the battle from well behind the lines or even from vantage points overlooking the conflict, they were expected to be right there in front leading their men. This tradition continued on into the eighteenth century when George ii was the last monarch of Britain to lead his army personally into battle at Dettingen in 1742. After this time, army leaders were regarded as too valuable to lead from the front. Thus it was that Archibald, Duke of Touraine, Earl of Douglas and Lord of Bothwell was in the thick of battle. It would never have occurred to him to be anywhere else. The result could not have been unexpected. Both he and his son, James, were killed and the Scots soldiers massacred at the Battle of Verneuil on August 17th 1424. The news would take some time to reach Bothwell and no doubt would cause considerable anguish to Princess Margaret and her son, now the fifth earl. It is unlikely that too many tears would be shed by James I who had returned from captivity in England in April 1424. He was the poet king who is renowned in Scottish history for determining to make "the key keep the castle and the bracken bush the cow." The power of the Douglas's might well prove a threat to a resurgent monarchy so any setback for them could only be to the king's advantage. He would be happy to know that Douglas was safe in his tomb in Tours cathedral. What James the Gross felt has not been saved for posterity but we can speculate that he would not be convulsed by grief.

Archibald, Duke of Touraine would be the only Lord of Bothwell to be immortalised by Shakespeare. In "Henry 1V part 1" he has Hotspur say amongst other things,

"O Douglas, hadst thou fought at Holmedon thus I never triumphed upon a Scot."

Back at Bothwell, the new 5th earl would set about trying to consolidate his family's authority and place in the kingdom following the death of his father. Although he would claim the title of Duke of

Touraine, the French crown would not recognise it and more importantly, the revenues of the duchy and the considerable prestige associated with the title were lost to the Douglases.

The newly restored James I would also take advantage of the situation to cut back the power of the Douglas family. He was determined to restore the authority and the prestige of the crown which had been so sadly diminished during the reigns of his father and grandfather and to try to ensure that his nephew would not inherit the power of his father, the Duke of Touraine. His sister, Princess Margaret the widowed Duchess of Touraine, would be granted Galloway which was central to the power of the Douglas family. At the same time, the king found support from James the Gross who became a second if less influential leader of a Douglas faction based not at Bothwell but at the castle of Abercorn in West Lothian.

Gradually, without directly attacking his nephew, the king whittled away at the power of the Douglas family and where previously the family had been called upon to deal with national problems, the king carried these through by himself. This period would also see the rise to prominence not only of James the Gross but of the Crichton and Hepburn factions. King James would alienate some of his nobility who had become used to a weak monarchy and resented James's attempts to increase the power of the monarchy at their expense. He was assassinated in Perth and things changed for the Earl of Douglas who was now uncle to a new child king, James II. The earl became Lieutenant General of the Kingdom to rule until such time as the six year old king could take over the reins for himself. As in previous times before James I's attempts to curb the power of his nobles, the new Lieutenant General would attempt to run the country through the magnates. More as a result of expediency rather than family affection, his uncle James the Gross was given elevated authority. Archibald, 5th Earl of Douglas died of the plague in June 1439, leaving his young sons to the tender mercies of their great uncle James the Gross now nearing his seventies.

True to his family traditions, William, 6th Earl of Douglas was an ambitious young man but at seventeen lacked the maturity to deal with the enemies who circled round about him. There were those in the country who would be willing to support him if it meant causing problems for James the Gross. Action had to be taken to deal with the

young earl. He was invited to a dinner in Edinburgh Castle by the Chancellor, Crichton, an ally of his great uncle. Following the meal, the Earl and his younger brother were dragged from the hall and without trial executed as traitors to the king. As has happened so often, the details of what came to be known as the “Black Dinner” were embellished by the chroniclers. The story was told that during the course of the banquet, the head of a black bull, the sign of an impending death was brought in and the young Douglases were carted off from the presence of the screaming child king and executed in the castle courtyard, giving rise to the famous rhyme:

*“Edinburgh castle toun and tour. God grant thou sink for sin,
For the black dinner, Earl Douglas gat therein”*

The young earl had not had long to enjoy the pleasure of his grandfather’s castles at Bothwell and Threave. James the Gross who succeeded him as 7th Earl of Douglas and Lord of Bothwell might almost be said to have indulged in a version of what modern scientists call filial cannibalism in his urge for power. Nevertheless, although he would be powerful, he would not enjoy quite the same degree of it as his older brother, the 4th earl. Princess Margaret still held Galloway and Bothwell was under the control of Euphemia, widow of the 5th earl. His great nephew’s widow would also be entitled to some Douglas lands. The inheritance of Archibald the Grim would be somewhat diminished for his son. He would spend much of the time left to him in trying to get these lands back one way or another. Bothwell, the psychological heart of the Douglas inheritance was returned to him when Euphemia exchanged it for other lands. Perhaps old age affected James the Gross’s abilities but he never quite managed to match the successes of his father and brother. He died at Abercorn Castle which had become the centre of Douglas authority in March 1443. Although he had been brought up at Bothwell Castle, there was never any indication that he felt the affection for the place held by his father and brother and he much preferred his castle at Abercorn.

The art of propaganda is an ancient one and in the Middle Ages, narrative poetry was widely used to advance certain views and to recount the exploits of particular personalities with a view to raising their status in the minds of common folk. Even although the vast majority of ordinary folk were illiterate, they could still enjoy and learn

from the oral accounts of heroes like William Wallace in Blind Harry's poem, "*The Wallace*." "*Blind Harry or Harry the Minstrel*" was a popular performer at the court of James IV in the late fifteenth century. "*The Brus*" and earlier (14th century) panegyric to the hero king by John Barbour remained popular long after it was written. This poem had been used by the successors of Robert Bruce to remind Scots how much they owed to their great king and how appropriate it was to give loyalty to his successors.

Service to the king had been the reason why the Douglas family had originally risen to power as a reward from the king to his loyal supporters. In time the Douglasses would come to believe that much of what they had, had been gained by their own efforts and not purely because of royal patronage. Like many persons of power and authority before and since, they would suffer from conceit which in turn would affect their behaviour. Their own view of themselves was encapsulated in another narrative poem, "*The Buik of the Howlat*." This work of literature more or less elevated the family to a semi royal status in which it was expected that the heirs of Bruce would be content not to interfere with the status, powers and authority of the heirs of the "Good" Sir James. Holland, the author, was a clergyman in the service of Archibald Douglas, Earl of Moray and brother to William, Earl of Douglas. The poem was written about 1448.

The sentiments expressed in "*The Buik*" would not go down well with the young king of Scots, James II who had been present at the "Black Dinner" and who no doubt had been brought up by his guardians during his time as a minor to be suspicious of the powers and ambitions of the Douglas family. In time he would embark on a powerful and aggressive campaign to curb their power. James was determined to follow in the footsteps of his father in increasing the strength and wealth of the monarchy at the expense of the nobles. He had been born with a dramatic red facial birth mark and came to be known as "James of the Fiery Face." The king's temper would be as fierce as his birth mark.

William the new 8th Earl of Douglas and head of his house was more than well aware of his family's history not only of dominance in the south of Scotland but also as players on the European stage. He was not to be put off by the demands of a king representing a dynasty which in Douglas eyes owed its very existence to an ancestor of the Douglas family. The king would be expected to stay in the background and let

the Earl of Douglas get on with promoting his family's power. A clash was inevitable. William Douglas entered into a bond with the earls of Ross and Crawford to consolidate the Douglas power in the north. The earl was invited to Stirling Castle by James ii to discuss the situation. The King granted the Earl of Douglas a safe conduct to come to the castle on 22nd February 1452 and entertained the earl to a banquet where no doubt the atmosphere would initially be cordial as the king hoped to persuade the earl to break his alliance with Ross and Crawford. When Douglas arrogantly refused, the King lost his temper and stabbed Douglas in the neck calling him "*A fals traitour.*" Just as others had waded in after King James's great great great grandfather had stabbed the Red Comyn in the Dumfries church, the King's supporters too did a "*mak siccar*" and scattered the earl's brains across the room before throwing the body out of the window.

No doubt James of the Fiery Face and equally fiery temper might have cause to regret his actions, particularly as Douglas had come under a safe conduct, but there was no turning back. After James had left the castle, a band of Douglas supporters burned the royal burgh of Stirling and in typical mediaeval dramatic fashion; they tied the safe conduct document to a horse's tail and took it through the burning town.

The writing was on the wall for the Douglas's and although the king as a political expedient would hold back for a time, he would crush them eventually. The murdered earl's brother, James became the 9th earl. King James had a passion for guns and although Earl James was at Bothwell only a few miles away, the king used his guns to batter down Abercorn Castle, the Douglas family stronghold in West Lothian. Bothwell was abandoned before it was attacked and the end was in sight when the Douglases were defeated by local opposition at the Battle of Arkinholme in 1456. The only stronghold left to them was Threave which had been adapted for the age of artillery. The garrison surrendered without a fight on being offered gold by the King. The historian Michael Brown sums it up succinctly Earl James, now an "Inglisman" began a long career as an exile and an enemy of Scotland.

AFTER THE FALL

There was no way back for the Black Douglas family after 1455. The great dynasty which had risen to power on the links between the “*Good*” Sir James and King Robert Bruce had eventually been destroyed by its own overweening ambition and its clash with the heirs of King Robert, the Stewart kings.

After the downfall of the Douglas family, the castle and lands of Bothwell were to begin with taken in to direct ownership of the crown but were eventually granted to various individuals whose political support was sought by the king. Initially it was given to William 3rd Lord Crichton, who ironically was the son of Chancellor Crichton, one of the men responsible for the “Black Dinner” and the deaths of the 6th Earl of Douglas, owner of Bothwell castle, and his brother in 1440. William Crichton learned nothing from the experiences of his predecessors at Bothwell and he too managed to fall out of favour with King James iii following a rebellion in 1482/83. Previously he had not endeared himself to the king by having an affair with the king’s younger sister, Margaret, who bore his child. Royal princesses were important for their marriage possibilities and anyone interfering with their prospects as virgin brides to be offered for dowries or treaties of friendship could not expect to be popular. He was lucky to escape with his head. Crichton forfeited Bothwell and his other lands in 1484.

Next to be granted the castle and the barony was Sir John Ramsay, an intimate friend of King James iii. He had been closely associated with the King’s unpopular policies and was the only one of James’s supporters to survive the execution of the King’s favourites by a group of noblemen led by Archibald Douglas 5th earl of Angus and known to history as “*Bell the Cat*” and a later owner of Bothwell. Ramsay was created Lord Bothwell in 1485 and was given the highly significant and important post of Ambassador to England, the number one position in Scottish diplomatic circles. In 1486 and 1488 he married and then divorced Janet Kennedy who later would become the mistress of King James IV and who would create a love nest for the monarch at Bothwell Castle. With the death of James iii at the Battle of Sauchieburn in 1488, Ramsay did not find favour with the new regime and like many of the dispossessed in Scottish history; he took refuge in England where it is believed he became a spy for the English King. As with many men

involved in the convoluted political relationship between England and Scotland down through the ages, he was received back into the favour of the Scottish king but his peerage was not restored. He was, as a result, the first and last to hold the title “Lord Bothwell.” He became a Privy Councillor and was one of the negotiators for the marriage between James IV and Margaret Tudor which would eventually bring about the union of the crowns of Scotland and England in 1603 and later to the creation of Great Britain in 1707. He was killed with the king at Flodden in 1513.

With the forfeiture of Sir John Ramsay, Lord Bothwell in 1488, the castle and the Lordship of Bothwell was given to Patrick Hepburn who was created Earl of Bothwell. By the fifteenth century the castle of Bothwell was out of date and had lost much of its strategic significance so with the king’s permission, the Earl of Bothwell exchanged it for the strategically important Red Douglas border castle of Hermitage. Thus the castle passed from the ownership of the Hepburns although they retained the title Earl of Bothwell. Most famous of these earls of Bothwell was the fourth earl, James, third husband of Mary, Queen of Scots. Neither the Queen nor her husband had any connection with the castle or village of Bothwell but local legend would have us believe that the unfortunate Queen was ferried across the river at Bothwell on her way to her defeat at the Battle of Langside and imprisonment and execution in England. The fourth earl was to escape to Denmark only to die there after years of imprisonment. For many years his mummified corpse was on display at a Danish church and only towards the end of the twentieth century was he given a decent burial at the request of the Queen of Denmark. The title of Earl of Bothwell was forfeited in 1567, recreated in 1587 for Francis Stewart and finally forfeited in 1612. The earldom and the town and castle of Bothwell were connected in name only.

There was a time when every school child in Scotland knew the story of Archibald “*Bell the Cat*.” The tale was that the nobles of Scotland were said to be a rough lot, insensitive, more inclined to the physical rather than the aesthetic, boorish and uncouth. The King, James iii, on the other hand enjoyed art, architecture, poetry and music and he spent more time with lowly born folk who had talents in these directions, in preference to his nobles. He even had the temerity to elevate common men to the aristocracy and favoured them rather than those who were

high born. Something had to be done about this and the lords rebelled against the king. At least that was how it was told.

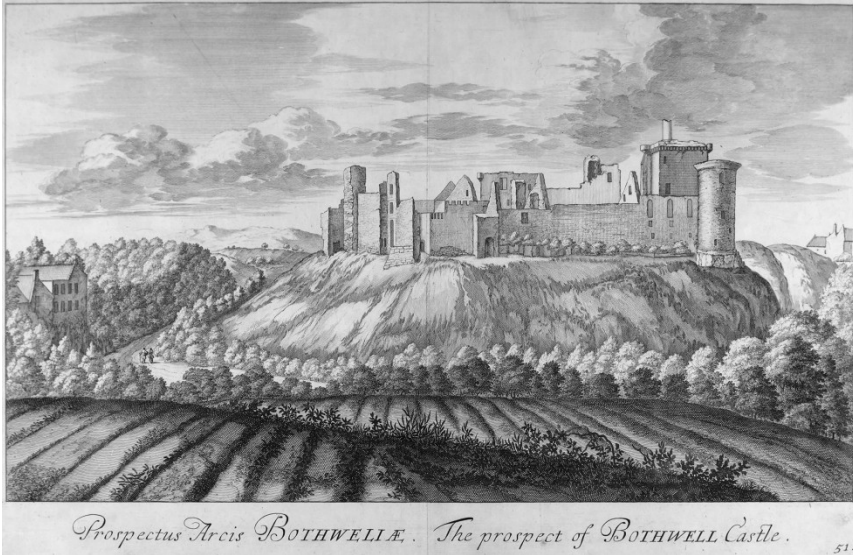
A group of the King's favourites were captured at Lauder but no one amongst the nobles was prepared to take the first action against them. Up stepped Archibald Douglas, Earl of Angus and head of the Red Douglas family who, ripping the gold chain off the neck of the architect, Cochran, the King's favourite, announced, "*I'll bell the cat.*" Cochran and the others were duly dispatched and the name "*Bell the Cat*" was forever attached to Douglas. Rough Archibald may have been but he was educated enough to know his "*Aesop's Fables*" particularly "*The Mice in Council*" from which the quotation comes. The long favoured belief that the Scottish nobles were rough and uncouth may be somewhat unfair. He exchanged the castle of Hermitage with the Hepburns for the castle of Bothwell which he made over to his mistress Janet Kennedy for her lifetime. Thus the great fortress of the Black Douglasses came into the hands of their rivals and Red Douglas relatives. Later Janet Kennedy became the mistress of James IV who visited her there. In 1544 the Crown incurred expenses for work at Bothwell Castle but for what reason is not clear.

By 1584, Margaret, Countess of Angus was in residence with her husband. Some years later it was claimed that Mass had been said in the chapel of the castle which was strictly against the law as the Scottish Parliament in 1560 had forbidden the saying of the Mass in the country. The parish church at Bothwell at this time was being used for Presbyterian worship, having been "*cleansed*" of all vestiges of its former Catholic glory. John Hamilton who had been appointed Provost of the Collegiate Church of Bothwell in 1552 became the first Protestant Minister at Bothwell.

Early in the seventeenth century, William, earl of Angus, petitioned the king to have Bothwell created a burgh of barony. Royal burghs such as Lanark, Rutherglen and Edinburgh were granted their charters directly by the king. Burghs of barony such as Glasgow were granted to a secular magnate or as in Glasgow's case to the bishop, an ecclesiastical landowner. As a landowner holding his estates directly from the crown, Lord Angus was in a position to apply for burgh status for Bothwell. This was duly conferred on 3rd February 1602, the year before King James VI left Edinburgh for London. This should have granted Bothwell preferential trading and taxation privileges and the

right to hold market days. No doubt the intention was to increase local prosperity and to add also to the earl's coffers. Between the years 1450 and 1707 over three hundred burghs of barony were created. Many did not survive and some became known as "parchment burghs" as they never developed in the way their sponsors had intended. Almost certainly Bothwell was one of these parchment burghs so sadly today it does not have a tolbooth or a market cross or indeed, a provost's chain, symbols of burgh status enjoyed by other historic Scottish towns. Burghs, both royal and baronial disappeared with local government reorganisation in 1976. The earl of Angus may have had more to bother him than the creation of a burgh at Bothwell. He became a convert to the Roman Catholic faith which would have caused him no end of difficulty in pursuing a political career.

In 1661, at the age of eight, Archibald Douglas, a younger son of the second Earl of Angus and first Marquis of Douglas was created Earl of Forfar. Ten years later he married Robina Lockhart, daughter of a Lanarkshire aristocrat, Sir William Lockhart of Lee Castle. The young couple took up residence in Bothwell Castle which may have been a grand residence for earlier lords but by the later years of the seventeenth century was grossly old fashioned, cold and damp. Just as the Olifards had moved their castle many centuries before, the latest Lord of Bothwell sought to build a new residence which would reflect more peaceful times, show his prestige and provide comforts not available in the old castle. Like other builders before him, Lord Forfar, would show no sentimentality to old properties which were seen as a useful source of building material. A large portion of the mediaeval castle, the huge gatehouse tower and a secondary tower both built by the Duke of Touraine in the fifteenth century were torn down and the stone recycled to build a new residence adjacent to the mediaeval building. The new castle was to be in the style fashionable at the time and named after Queen Anne. It would be a more appropriate domicile for a man who was Privy Counsellor to King William iii and later to Queen Anne. He also held the post of Commissioner of the Privy Seal and Commissioner to the Treasury. His only son, another Archibald Douglas, was born in 1692.



View of Bothwell Castle by John Slezer c 1693 prior to the demolition of the great gate house by the first Earl of Forfar to build the New Castle - Courtesy of the National Library of Scotland

The late seventeenth century was a time of ferment in both England and Scotland. Old rivalries which had been dampened somewhat since the Union of the Crowns in 1603, were threatening to burst forth again and something had to be done. To the horror of many in Scotland (and it has to be said to some in England too), the solution was seen to be in an incorporating parliamentary union and the creation of a new kingdom, Great Britain. Lord Forfar voted in the Scottish parliament for union with England. Rumour had it that he had received money (a bribe?) to vote for the union and so he may well be worthy of inclusion in the “parcel of rogues in a nation” as described by Robert Burns. He died on the 11th December 1712 having lived long enough to enjoy the comforts of his splendid new house and to witness the birth pangs of the new nation.

A previous lord of Bothwell, John Ramsay had been instrumental in helping to bring about the marriage of James IV and Margaret Tudor which would lead eventually to the union of the crowns of Scotland and England in 1603. The Earl of Forfar, the seventeenth century owner of

Bothwell would be involved in the negotiations which would lead to the union of parliaments in 1707 and the creation of the United Kingdom. Bothwell's seventeenth century lord was involved, as his predecessors had been in the Middle Ages with highly significant events in the history of Scotland and the wider world. Archibald Douglas was buried in the parish church of Bothwell where his tomb may be seen to this day.

The new Lord Forfar was twenty when he inherited his title and the Bothwell estates. In the tradition of his earlier namesakes who had owned Bothwell, he became a soldier and a Brigadier General in the British army in the East Kent Regiment, the Third Regiment of Foot, one of the most distinguished regiments in the forces. Commissions in the army were usually purchased at this time and only the wealthy could afford to buy them. Becoming a soldier was also seen as a way for young aristocrats to gain military fame and sometimes the possibility of a fortune too. Like some of his Bothwell predecessors, he was also given a diplomatic posting. At the early age of twenty two, Lord Forfar was sent to Prussia, a European power noted for its military prowess. No doubt there he would see much to inspire him as a soldier. He must have been a person of some ability as not even his noble birth would have been enough to have given him prominence at such an early age.

Meanwhile back home, there was some unrest in the new Great Britain. Queen Anne, the last of the Stuarts had died and the throne of the United Kingdom had been inherited by the Hanoverian protestant, King George 1st. The supporters of the exiled Stuart dynasty known as Jacobites were always on the look-out for opportunities to restore the old monarchy which was now represented by James, the Old Pretender. In 1715 led by the Earl of Mar, the Jacobites raised their standards in the Highlands and marched south. They were confronted by the government army at Sheriffmuir near Stirling where a battle took place. Lord Forfar led his regiment into battle on 3rd of December 1715 at the age of twenty three. The battle was a confusing melee with both sides claiming victory. An anonymous poet would describe it as follows:

“And some say that they wan,

And some say that we wan,

And some say that nane wan at a' man,

*But ae thing I'm sure
That at Sheriffmuir,
A battle there was that I saw, man,
And we ran and they ran and they ran and we ran,
And we ran and they ran awa', man."*

Whoever was running and in whatever direction, it did not include the Brigadier General of the East Kent Regiment. Lord Forfar suffered multiple injuries in the battle and had to be carried off the field to Stirling where he died on December, 8th 1715. He had lived long enough to know that the rising had not been successful and that the Jacobites had suffered a defeat. Accompanied by a troop of his fellow soldiers, the dead Earl of Forfar made his last journey to be buried at Bothwell close to the tomb of his father in the parish church where like his father's, his memorial may be seen in the choir of the church. He had died unmarried and without an heir.

On the 26th December, 1745 a motley but as yet undefeated army crossed Bothwell Bridge and marched into Bothwell itself, the first army to do so since the battle of Bothwell Brig in 1679. It would not receive much of a welcome from the people of Bothwell who were staunch Protestants and supporters of the Hanoverian monarchy but no doubt they would be sensible enough to keep their distance. The local lord, Archibald, 1st Duke of Douglas was conveniently absent but having fought at the battle of Sheriffmuir like his predecessor, the second earl of Forfar, during the first Jacobite rising; it was unlikely that he would have welcomed the invaders. This army was led by a man whose interests were more personal and selfish than patriotically Scottish and who would be directly responsible for much misery and suffering. He himself after a brief moment of glory would degenerate into drunkenness and self pity but he would end up as the subject of romantic songs and have his portrait decorate many a shortbread box. He was Charles Edward Stuart, Bonnie Prince Charlie, the hope of the Jacobites in their latest attempt to recover the thrones of their ancestors, and he was on his way to deal with the Hanoverian Presbyterian city of Glasgow.

Having spent Christmas at Hamilton Palace and having hunted in the palace's woods, he had no time to linger in Bothwell as he hurried on his way to eventual defeat at Culloden on April, 16th 1746.

In common with most communities in lowland Scotland, Bothwell would celebrate the prince's defeat and prayers for the Duke of Cumberland would be offered in the parish church. The country had eventually become more stable after a shaky start to the union of Parliaments and few people favoured the prospect of the return of the French and Catholic influenced Stuarts. One person who might have enjoyed meeting the prince was the redoubtable Margaret, Duchess of Douglas, chatelaine of New Bothwell Castle, and known to her friends, including James Boswell as "*Peggy*." Even after the death of her husband in 1761 (he had inherited Bothwell from Lord Forfar), Peggy spent a considerable time at Bothwell where she lived in a style that looked back towards an earlier period rather than to the Age of Enlightenment of the Georgian period. She might just have had a sneaking romantic view of Charles Edward (many of her contemporaries in Edinburgh had feted the prince when he took the city and held court at Holyroodhouse). The duchess was known for dressing her man servants in mediaeval costume. She enjoyed the company of attractive and bright young men who responded well to her too. As she and her husband were childless, the inheritance of the Bothwell estate and other Douglas properties became the subject of national interest and some scandal. Sometime during the 1750's, a dower house was built on the estate for the widows of Bothwell's former owners. This attractive Georgian mansion still stands as Bothwellpark House.

The childless first and only Duke of Douglas had willed his estates to his cousin the Duke of Hamilton. Douglas's sister, Lady Jane, had secretly married Sir John Stewart and left for France where she had given birth to twin sons in 1748. She now claimed that her surviving son, Archibald was her brother's heir, thus displacing the Duke of Hamilton. There now broke forth a great society scandal which came to be known as "*The Douglas Cause*" and split the country right down the middle. Nothing as salaciously exciting would happen again in aristocratic circles until Charles and Diana over two hundred years later. There was some scepticism in society as Lady Jane Stewart was fifty when her children were born and the Hamiltons, believing that they had been duped, took the case to court. After much wrangling with one side

appearing to win only to have the other succeed on appeal, the Hamiltons lost and Archibald Douglas inherited his uncle's estates but not his ducal title. James Boswell, friend to Duchess Peggy and her nephew Lord Archibald was involved as a lawyer and he would continue to be welcomed at New Bothwell castle when Lord Archibald took over. Boswell visited the castle to console Lord Archibald on the death of his wife, Lady Lucy. In 1783. Lord Archibald Douglas married as his second wife, Lady Frances Scott, a daughter of the Buccleuch family, descendants of the Duke of Monmouth, leader of the government forces at the Battle of Bothwell Brig in 1679.

With Lady Frances as chatelaine, New Bothwell Castle would become a glittering centre of eighteenth century society. Out went the old fashioned ideas of Duchess Peggy and in came the ideas of the Georgian enlightenment. On the walls of the state apartments hung fine portraits of Douglas ancestors all appearing to smile enigmatically, but so doing, so it is said, to hide their bad teeth. Georgian society loved sugar. The best beeswax candles lit gracious rooms where the floors were covered in fine Turkey carpets. In the drawing room the furniture was ranged against the walls to allow guests promenading or dancing. Small tables would be brought out for card games and family and friends would take part in singing or playing the piano and other instruments, talents required of all well bred ladies.

In the dining room, Lord and Lady Douglas would act as host and hostess for fine meals which at this period were not served in individual courses. Everything on the menu was presented at the same time and placed at the end of the long dining room table. Guests would then be invited to help themselves. The ladies would sit on one side of the table with the gentlemen sitting opposite. Only at the beginning of the nineteenth century would the modern style (twenty first century) prevail and different courses be served in order as happens today. Nineteenth century guests would now dine "promiscuously" with a lady sitting next to gentlemen and then another lady and so on. At the end of the meal, Lady Frances would gather her female guests and lead them to the (with)drawing room while Lord Archibald and his gentlemen guests would remain in the dining room for more drinking which would inevitably lead to full bladders. Even in a building of some pretensions such as New Bothwell Castle, there would be no piped water and so no flush toilets. The men in the dining room had no need to leave the room

to deal with their basic needs. They would simply use one of the chamber pots provided on the premises. Lord Forfar had indeed built a more up to date residence than the old castle but in some respects things had not changed a great deal. The new castle still needed bowls of pot pourri and perfume burners to disguise body odours and the gentry continued to douse themselves liberally with perfume to disguise the fact that they didn't wash much.

The great and the good made their way to New Bothwell Castle to enjoy the hospitality of Lord and Lady Douglas. A frequent visitor was Lady Louisa Stuart, daughter of the sometime Prime Minister to George iii, the Earl of Bute. Lady Frances kept a journal which following her death at Bothwell in 1817 was annotated by Lady Louisa Stuart. It showed the lady of Bothwell, although deeply aware of and understanding of the politics of the time and moving in the highest circles of society, as a person of kindness and sympathy. She was a good mother and wife and loved greatly by all who knew her.

As well as its social and political connections, New Bothwell Castle had literary associations also. "*Young Lochinvar*" was created here on one of the visits made by Sir Walter Scott, a family friend. Bothwell also was the location which inspired the writing of "*Old Mortality*" one of Scott's Waverley Novels. Caroline Douglas (later wife of Captain George Scott) and a daughter of Lady Frances and Lord Archibald Douglas was herself a writer, having been brought up at New Bothwell Castle. She began writing in her forties and although she had some material published under her own name, like both Scott and Joanna Baillie, her novels were published anonymously.

Lord Archibald Douglas, Baron Douglas died in 1827 and was succeeded one after the other by his three sons, none of whom had issue. The Bothwell estates were inherited by a granddaughter of Lord Archibald, the wife of the 11th Earl of Home and the Douglas Homes now became the Lords of Bothwell.

By the beginning of the twentieth century, Bothwell was losing some of the attractions which had made it such a desirable place to live in for earlier generations New Bothwell castle had been seen as sufficiently attractive to have been painted circa 1798 by the English artist Hugh Williams but times were changing. Lanarkshire was still the "Black Country" of Scotland and although mineral assets had brought great

wealth to local landowners such as the Douglas-Homes, the blight of the industry was encroaching on their estates. The modern generation was certainly less inclined to show the respect which their fathers had given to the local aristocracy and the privacy once afforded by high walls was no longer sacrosanct. Buildings on the Bothwell estate were vandalised and high taxation had affected country house owners. Families such as the Douglas Home's had acquired various houses through marriage but now they neither needed nor could afford to maintain multiple homes. Some had to go. At first New Bothwell castle was rented out but was still used on the odd occasion by members of the family.

Like many large mansion houses at the time of the First World War 1914-1918, it was taken over by the government. It was used to house Belgian nuns and other refugees. The nuns, according to local gossip, were so assiduous in scrubbing the floors that they were worn thin as a result. The plain fact was that the building was suffering from damp and dry rot and a great deal of money would have been needed to restore it. The Douglas-Home family did not have the wherewithal to deal with the problems of a house which was surplus to their requirements. The contents were either removed to other houses, notably the Hirsell in the Borders or sold off at auction. No doubt some of these pieces are still extant in homes in the area. The building was then sold off for demolition and the stone taken away for recycling. Thus came about the sad end of the third castle of Bothwell. Despite its demise not being mourned at the time, in its own right it was a building of historical significance and its loss deserves to be recognised by local people. It was demolished in 1930 and few people now have even heard of it. The name "*Bothwell Castle*" is completely associated in the minds of local people with the mediaeval castle. The grandiose entrance façade to the now vanished New Bothwell Castle serves as the gateway to Bothwell Castle Golf Club.

Before New Bothwell Castle was abandoned by its owners, holidays were spent there at his grandfather's house by a young boy who would be the last aristocratic owner of the Bothwell estate and a future Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. He was Alexander Frederick Douglas Home, born in London in 1902 and educated in the traditions of Scottish aristocrats at Eton and Oxford. He entered parliament in 1931 as the Conservative member for Lanark. This was appropriate as his family still owned the Bothwell and Douglas estates as well as large tracts of

lands in the Scottish Borders. In 1935 as Lord Dunglass, he was appointed as Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain. He was with Chamberlain on the PM's ill fated flight to Germany to try to negotiate a peace deal with Adolf Hitler. The latter ran rings round the British delegation and although Chamberlain and Dunglass came back with a piece of paper to wave at the delighted crowds back in England, war was inevitable and Dunglass suffered in the backlash against Chamberlain and the "appeasers" orchestrated by Winston Churchill. This reaction was somewhat



Alec Douglas Home the last aristocratic owner of the Bothwell estate - courtesy of the Glasgow Herald and Henry Mitchell

unfair as the royal family was known to have preferred Lord Halifax who wanted to do a deal with Hitler, over Churchill as PM to follow Chamberlain.

Halifax turned the job down mercifully for the country and Churchill took over and the rest as they say "*is history.*"

Unfortunately Lord Dunglass became seriously ill and spent at least two of the war years in a spinal cast. He recovered sufficiently to serve for a short time in Churchill's last year as a wartime premier before losing his seat in the great Labour landslide of 1945. He became the 14th Earl of Home, owner of his ancestral lands at Douglas and Bothwell in 1951. With the Conservatives back in power, as a member of the House of Lords he held various government posts such as Minister of State at the Scottish Office, Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations and Lord President of the Council. In 1960 his fellow pseudo Scot, Harold Macmillan made him Foreign Secretary, a hugely significant appointment which was controversial as Home was a peer of the realm and not a member of the House of Commons. This allowed Harold Wilson to erupt in full and caustic flight against Lord Home's appointment. In the same year, he sold the Bothwell estate to Loudon, a building firm from Lanark and the castle policies were earmarked for upmarket housing. The mediaeval castle had been handed over to the care of the state in 1935.

In the dying days of the old style Conservative party when a few high party officials chose the new leader, the Earl of Home was supported by Harold MacMillan and others and was made Leader of the Conservative party and MacMillan's successor as Prime Minister. He renounced his peerage in order to be able to sit in the House of Commons and won a by-election in Kinross as Sir Alec Douglas Home. He served for just a few days under a year as PM when he lost the general election to Harold Wilson. Under his successor, Edward Heath he served again as a well respected Foreign Secretary. His final years in politics were again in the House of Lords as a Life Peer. Douglas Castle too had been demolished in the destructive thirties but he retained a much smaller house, Castlemains on the Douglas estates in Lanarkshire. The last nobleman to own the Bothwell estates died age 92 at his home, the Hirsel in the Borders in October 1995. In his long political career it was clear that he had been highly respected on both sides of the House and also out with politics as a decent and kindly man.



The long saga of noble ownership of Bothwell which had begun with the Olifards, then the Murrays, the Douglas's Black and Red and finally the Douglas-Homes had come to an end. Happily the development of part of the estate as a golf course and the creation of riverside walks has left some vestiges of the rural aspects of a once proud family domain. One of the village pubs, a venerable institution in its own right is called the "*Douglas Arms*." A board on the building's exterior relates something of the story of the Douglas family but sadly there is no reference to their involvement in the long history of Bothwell.

A LOVE NEST

The Age of Chivalry was fond of illustrating castles as highly ornamental multi turreted, romantic brightly coloured buildings where one might find damsels in distress waiting for knights to come to the rescue. Many of the illuminated books of the day such as the “*Tres Riches Heures of the Duc de Berry*” show the buildings to have been highly decorated. The recent restoration of the Great Hall of Stirling Castle caused some controversy with its external coating of colour wash; standing out in dramatic contrast to the dour exteriors of the castle’s other buildings. We have become used to our castles being drab and austere buildings reflecting their utilitarian functions as fortresses. At times, they could actually be quite colourful. It is also the case that we tend to forget that in the days before universal literacy, churches too were covered in bright and striking paintings and hangings depicting biblical texts. With some notable exceptions, our historic churches are now also bare and lacking in colour.

Castles are often seen today as places associated with death and destruction, not to mention other dark and unsavoury goings on. In particular, tourists want to view dungeons and prison cells, places of execution, sites associated with a darker age. Often the castle’s defensive outer walls concealed other buildings of sophistication, style and comfort, furnished with luxurious items. In the nineteenth century romantics such as King Ludwig of Bavaria built magical castles such as Neuschwanstein to reflect what they believed was the style of the times of knights in shining armour, tournaments, courtly love and beautiful ladies locked in high towers waiting for their own version of Sir Galahad riding to the rescue. In the stories, the higher the tower, the more it exercised the ingenuity of the knight.

*“Rapunzel, Rapunzel, let down your fair hair,
And fetch me a ladder as good as a stair”*

Amongst many similar fairy stories, the brothers Grimm told the tale of a beautiful young girl whose locks (blond of course) were so long that she could lower her tresses down the tower wall to permit her lover to climb up by means of her hair to be with her. The Victorians exulted in this kind of thing. The group of painters known as “The Pre Raphaelite Brotherhood turned it into a cul Walt Disney in the twentieth

century borrowed this romantic idea of the mediaeval castle for his Disneyworld Parks. Generations of modern children are entranced by his Cinderella's castle. Hoary old piles such as Bothwell Castle may be many things, but places of romance-never, or can we be so sure? Bothwell itself might just at one time have been a location for romance, a love nest.

James IV (1488-1513) was one of the most charismatic kings ever to sit on the throne of Scotland. Polyglot, musician, scientist, builder, historian and devout son of the Church, he ruled over Scotland at a time when the nation was beginning to take its place as a power in European diplomacy. This is reflected in James's creation of a strong Scottish



James IV Unknown Artist Late 16th Century - Courtesy of National Galleries of Scotland

navy and his interest in the development of artillery. For the first time a fleet was created by the king's government to protect the country and its trade and to give Scotland some influence in European politics. His flagship, the "*Great Michael*," was the largest warship in Europe at the time. He was described by the Spanish ambassador, Pedro de Ayala as, "...of noble stature, neither tall nor short, and as handsome in complexion and shape as a man can be..." While not as uxorious as his brother in law, Henry VIII of England who had six wives, James had one, Queen Margaret (Tudor). Like many of his predecessors and some of his successors down to the

present day, James wasn't averse to breaking the seventh commandment, "*Thou shall not commit adultery.*" He enjoyed the intimate company of ladies.

A true renaissance prince with forward looking ideas and a fertile mind, he constantly looked back to the age of chivalry. He revelled in hawking and hunting and in taking part in tournaments. Devout, pious, regular in attendance at Mass and a frequent pilgrim to religious sites ranging from St Duthuc in the north at Tain to St Ninian at Whithorn in the south, he was also pragmatic in that he arranged for his brother, also James, to be installed as Archbishop of St Andrews in order to control the revenues of the rich primatial see. In 1504 his illegitimate son, Alexander, became Archbishop of St Andrews at the age of eleven on the death of his uncle while the king retained the revenues of the diocese. The king's religiousness was somewhat flexible. His love of the fair sex was immovable.

Archibald Douglas, 5th Earl of Angus and Lord of Bothwell (he received the barony of Bothwell from the king in 1492) was a highly influential nobleman at the courts of both James iii and his son James IV. He was for a time Chancellor of Scotland and a power in the land, and is known to history as "*Archibald Bell the Cat*." Even when his influence seemed to be on the wane, he was still a regular companion of the king, especially at card games. One other passion he shared with his monarch was an attraction to the opposite sex, particularly if it could be organised outside the marriage bed. By 1498, Archibald, although married to his wife for many years, took as his mistress Janet Kennedy, daughter of John, Lord Kennedy and wife of Alexander Gordon, a situation which appeared satisfactory to all concerned. In 1498, the Earl of Angus made a generous gift to his mistress, Janet Kennedy of, "*The landis, barony and lordschip of Bothville, with castell, annexis, dependencies and pertinentis, within the schirefdome of Lanryk*" Janet was more or less given life rent of the property which would revert to Angus's son if she died without having a male heir by Angus. Bothwell had a new chatelaine, Janet Kennedy, mistress of the 5th Earl of Angus. She may have been around nineteen at the time which seems remarkably young in modern eyes to be having such a varied sex life and with a much older man but girls in the sixteenth century and earlier were regarded as of marriageable age by the time they were twelve years of age. Margaret Tudor married James IV in 1503 when she was thirteen years old and he was thirty. By the standards of the time it would seem that Janet Kennedy was mature enough to know what she was doing.

By 1499, the earl of Angus seems to have been ready to share more than a passion for cards with his king. His mistress, the Lady of Bothwell, Janet Kennedy transferred her sexual allegiance from Archibald, earl of Angus, to the king and managed to hold on to the gifts, including Bothwell, which Earl Archibald had generously given to her. The king added to this by gifting to her the royal castle of Darnaway in Moray. This meant that the pious king could visit Janet in Darnaway on his way to worship at the shrine of St Duthuc in Tain and visit her again at Bothwell when he went to pay his respects to St Ninian at Whithorn. Janet must have been special to him and going on pilgrimages, even for a religious monarch, might require some consolations on the side. She bore the king several children and their eldest son was given the title Earl of Moray. The new mother was sent rich gifts of gold, velvets and silks by the king in appreciation of services rendered.

Apart from Janet Kennedy, Lady Bothwell, James had a virtual harem of mistresses, Marion Boyd, Margaret Drummond, Isobel Stewart, Bessie Bartram and another lady listed in the records as receiving gifts from the king. This lady was known as “Janet bare- ars.” One can almost hear the tittering of the royal clerks as they noted her name in the records. It might be interesting to speculate what the epitaph on her tombstone might have been. Janet Kennedy, however, would be the longest lasting of the king’s mistresses, surviving in the post after his marriage to Margaret Tudor. Even assuming that the gifts bestowed by the king on the lady with the unclothed posterior were generous, they could never match those James gave to Janet Kennedy.

James presided over a renaissance court with musicians such as Robert Carver and poets of the calibre of Robert Henryson and William Dunbar in attendance. The latter poet would write “The wowing of the king when he was in Dunfermeling,” based on the king’s amorous activities and another long poem “The Marriage of the Thistle and the Rose”, celebrating James’s marriage to Margaret Tudor, sister of Henry VIII of England. This marriage would lead one hundred years later to a union of the crowns of Scotland and England when James IV’s great grandson James VI inherited the crown of England on the death of Queen Elizabeth Tudor in 1603. Despite the marriage alliance with England, James IV did not give up Scotland’s traditional links with

France which would ultimately lead to his downfall and bring about the end of another golden age as with the death of Alexander iii in 1286.

The king was also a builder and massive works were undertaken at Holyroodhouse, Linlithgow, Falkland and Stirling. While there is no record of the king providing money for work at Bothwell for Janet Kennedy as he did at Darnaway, he did confirm the grants of Bothwell which Archibald, 5th Earl of Angus had made to Janet. The castle at Bothwell had been repaired by Archibald the Grim after its spoiling by Andrew Murray and it had been considerably rebuilt by Archibald the Grim's son, another Archibald, 5th earl of Douglas and Duke of Touraine in the French peerage. It would be a fit home for the mistress of the king and a comfortable love nest for the amorous couple. James visited her at Bothwell in 1503 on his way to Whithorn and no doubt he would have had plenty to confess when he arrived at the saint's shrine. James also gave rich gifts to his favourite churches possibly by way of salving his conscience. The chambers of the castle of Bothwell would be richly furnished with hangings to keep out the draughts and fine wax candles would provide lighting. Rich food would be sent up from the castle's cavernous kitchens to tempt the palates of the noble guests. The floors would be strewn with sweet smelling herbs and the privies would be cleaned. The king and the lady might enjoy walking or riding in the countryside around the castle and almost certainly the locals would have a chance to glimpse their monarch as he moved around. The kings of Scots were not shy about mingling with their subjects. They were early proponents of the "royal walkabout" In the evening the lovers would dine in the great hall, perhaps play cards (the king loved to gamble) or engage in dancing or other musical activities as Janet is on record as employing a fiddler at Bothwell. For certain there would be a richly furnished private chamber, a love nest, in one of the castle towers. At this time the king made payments to "*the man who makes the tyle*", the potter at Bothwell Castle, and modern excavations in the ruined castle have revealed many examples of mediaeval pottery, more than at any other site in Scotland. The king continued to make generous gifts to Lady Bothwell including a silver salt cellar, plates for the table, pots, pans, kettles and 100 French crowns. James was undoubtedly a practical man as well as a romantic and he may even have sought advice from Janet as to her needs for managing the household at Bothwell. As was common for ladies of noble birth at this time and for many years afterwards, Janet would spend much of her time in the absence of the

king by sewing, using the materials he sent her as gifts. Janet herself made a pilgrimage to St Ninian's shrine at Whithorn, no doubt to please the king and to make her own confession. For this she was provided with a French saddle, damask, taffeta and velvet. She was not required to be a bare footed, ragged penitent.

In 1503 Janet Kennedy was in residence at Bothwell Castle where her ever attentive monarch and lover sent her the gift of a hat and money for expenses. Entertaining the king and at least part of his court would not be cheap and no doubt Janet was grateful for James's largesse. She was not present at the king's wedding on August 8th 1503 in a magnificent ceremony at Holyrood Abbey followed by splendid ceremonial in the adjacent palace. Her absence was not due to any sensitivity or sense of decorum: she was heavily pregnant but sadly the baby girl died. This was an age of high infant mortality and short life expectancy. James IV and his queen had six children of whom one survived to become King James V.

In 1504, Janet Kennedy was at Bothwell again but suffering from some ailment. Like most people at the time, she was conscious of her own mortality and made her will as medicine in the sixteenth century was more inclined to sorcery than science. The king sent gifts to her to cheer her up and as a measure of his affection; he visited her on June 12th 1504. Their son, James, Earl of Moray was sent together with the king's other illegitimate son, Alexander, the youthful archbishop of St Andrews, to the foremost centre of learning in Europe, the Italian University of Padua to be tutored by the greatest scholar of the age, Erasmus.

In 1505 Janet Kennedy married again. Her husband was Sir John Ramsay. Much to the annoyance of the heirs of the 5th Earl of Angus, Archibald Bell the Cat, she managed to hold on to Bothwell castle and the rich lands of the barony. A certain quiet would now descend on Bothwell. The old castle would revert to its former status and would lose the kudos of being a haven and love nest for a king and his mistress. Janet was now a regular visitor to the court but no longer as the lover of the king.

Pedro de Ayala, the Spanish ambassador who recorded his impressions of James IV for his government in Madrid, depicted the king as follows, *"loves war so much that I fear the peace will not last*

long. He is not a good captain because he begins to fight before he has given his orders...I have seen him often undertake most dangerous things. On such occasions, he does not take the least care of himself." De Ayala was nothing if not a shrewd observer of the character and personality of the Scottish king.

When his brother in law, Henry VIII invaded France in 1513, James sent his fleet to the continent where it achieved less than nothing. The Scots, led by the king, invaded England with a well equipped army with many powerful guns. He was confronted by the English Earl of Surrey at Flodden. By the end of the day, the king was dead together with his son, the Archbishop of St Andrews, one bishop, two abbots, nine earls, fourteen lords of parliament and thousands of rank and file. James had managed to confirm de Ayala's observations on his character.

*"We'll hear nae mair lilting at the yowes milking
 Women and bairns are heartless and wae
 Sighing and moaning on ilka green loaning-
 The Flowers o' the Forest are a' wede awa"*

Janet's son, the earl of Moray was abroad at the time of Flodden and avoided the fate of his father and half brother. He became a significant figure at the court of James V and died in 1544, followed by his mother, Janet Kennedy, Lady Bothwell, a year later. *"The landis, barony and lordschip of Botheville, with castell, annexis, dependencies and pretinentis, within the schirefdom of Lanryk"* returned to the Earl of Angus's heirs.

A GREAT PARTNERSHIP

James Boswell would have been a nightmare of a son for most fathers but for Alexander Boswell, Lord Auchinleck, his son, James (1740-95) was something of a more than average thorn in the flesh. Alexander Boswell (1706-82) had taken the title of Lord Auchinleck when he was appointed as Lord of Session in 1754. The Boswell family were lairds of the estate of Auchinleck in Ayrshire and it had become



James Boswell - Courtesy of the Trustees of the British Museum

something of a tradition for the men of the family to enter the legal profession. Alexander was a classical scholar, educated at the University of Leiden in Holland. Greatly respected both by his colleagues and other important people in Scottish society, he was known for his dry wit and for his inclination to irascibility. It would appear that he had the traditional Scots canniness when it came to spending money. At a time when the cognoscenti of Edinburgh, following the Union with England in 1707, were doing their best to speak English,

Alexander Boswell retained his colloquial Scots tongue. Above all else, he was a staunch Presbyterian. His eldest son would be a trial to him in many respects.

James was the first son and second child of his parents' marriage but his elder sister would die when he was three months old. He would have two younger brothers growing up with him in the old town of Edinburgh, where the Royal Mile was regarded by visitors as one of the great streets of Europe even if its grandeur was somewhat defaced by the washing lines hanging from the houses. In common with most cities of the time, Edinburgh stank to high heaven particularly on a hot day when the stench, euphemistically known as "*The Flours o' Edinburgh*" was a trial to citizen and visitor alike. It was recorded that the smells of the city were noticeable from miles away. The mediaeval cries of

“*Gardy loo*” and “*Haud yer haun*” as the refuse and ordure were thrown out of the windows on to the roadway, were still to be heard the length and breadth of the stately street. There had been improvements in that some of the rubbish and ordure was removed by street sweepers in the morning.

The Kirk still ruled with the proverbial rod of iron but the taverns were lively and the brothels did good business. Right throughout its history, the city of Edinburgh would be seen to present double standards, strict on the one hand in public observation of standard of behaviour but hypocritically enthusiastically indulging in loose morals on the other. Even as late as the twentieth century, one famous Edinburgh madame would claim that she did her best business during the week of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland (purely by coincidence of course). In the eighteenth century dancing was frowned on by the religious establishment and such dances as did take place were strictly chaperoned. Theatre existed but, as in other puritan regimes throughout history, it was semi underground and certainly not respectable. Actors of both sexes were seen as personifications of all that was immoral. Performances were often advertised as musical events with the theatrical performance tacked on at the end.

In 1753 James Boswell at the age of thirteen, as was often the case at this time, enrolled at the University of Edinburgh as an arts student. Youngest of Scotland’s four universities, Edinburgh’s college was a hive of intellectual activity and as always with young folk at university Boswell met people of different backgrounds who would be influential on his life. It was at this time that the young James came to realise that the Presbyterian religion was not for him. Now he became subject to bouts of melancholia which would remain with him for the rest of his life. He also discovered the delights and perils of the flesh for the first time. Like Samuel Pepys before him, he would record the intimate details of his amorous adventures in his diaries which were not published until the twentieth century. On a more intellectual level, he met and discoursed with some of the giants of the Scottish Enlightenment like David Hume. Concerned by the deterioration in his son’s morals, Lord Auchinleck removed him to Glasgow University in 1759 as Glasgow was seen to be a city of “righteousness and sobriety” in contrast to the capital. A further advantage was that the western city had no theatres to tempt young men from the straight and narrow. Here

at Glasgow the young Boswell met Adam Smith who was then Professor of Moral Philosophy at the University.

Feeling smothered by the claustrophobic atmosphere of Glasgow, James Boswell fled to London in 1760 where he promptly fell in love with an actress who had the double misfortune in Lord Auchinleck's eyes not only to be a lady of the stage but to be a Catholic as well. Apart from being bigoted against Catholics, Boswell's father also recognised that if James became a Catholic, he might be debarred from the legal profession. James at this time contemplated being a soldier but returned to Edinburgh with gonorrhoea as his companion. Here he met up with the Irish actor, Thomas Sheridan, who was teaching the elite of Edinburgh how to pronounce English properly. Lord Auchinleck disapproved so much of his son's behaviour that he made James sign a document which allowed him to occupy Auchinleck House on his father's death but not to inherit the estate. James was packed off to Utrecht University in Holland and then, in the manner of most well to do young gentlemen of the age, he went on the Grand Tour of Europe returning home to practise as an advocate in 1766.

A famous legal case had arisen at this time to decide who was to inherit the estates, including Bothwell, of the late Duke of Douglas. He had bequeathed his lands and money to his nephew, Archibald Douglas, and this drew a challenge from the 7th Duke of Hamilton who declared that Archibald Douglas was illegitimate and that he, Hamilton, was therefore the rightful heir. This legal wrangle became known as "The Douglas Cause." The duke lost and Archibald inherited Bothwell. Meanwhile Archibald Douglas and James Boswell had become close friends. Archibald was created Baron Douglas of Douglas in 1790 and when he died without male heirs, the Bothwell and Douglas estates passed to the Douglas Home family.

In London in 1763, Boswell met Samuel Johnson for the first time. It was a meeting which would have a profound influence on both men. The latter was at the height of his literary fame and despite Johnson's scotophobia, the two men related well to each other and, even after Boswell's return to Edinburgh, his desire to spend time in the company of Johnson, drew Boswell back to London. In Scotland, Johnson is famous for his pithy comments about the country and its people.

"Much may be made of A Scotchman if he be caught young"

“*Seeing Scotland, Madam, is only seeing a worse England.*” and most famous of all:

“*Sir, the noblest prospect which a Scotchman ever sees is the high road that leads him to England.*”

Were he alive today, Johnson might well have held the post of editor in a London daily rag.

Boswell persuaded Johnson to accompany him on a journey through the Highlands of Scotland to the Western Isles in 1773. This was a brave venture for an elderly Englishman only 27 years after the Battle of Culloden when the ancient Highland civilisation had been torn apart and was at this time teetering on the edge of entering the modern world. Sir Walter Scott had yet to romanticise the Highlands and the Highlanders, so it wasn't as if Johnson and Boswell were journeying along a recognised tourist route. It was still an alien culture to Johnson and he had a particularly low opinion of Presbyterianism but he did survive the experience and writing about it would bring fame to him and to his younger companion. Johnson reserved some of his most bitter comment on the legacy, as he saw it, of John Knox. Surveying the wreck of the great metropolitan cathedral at St Andrews, (the second longest church in the British Isles) he blamed the Scottish reformer for its ruin. Indeed, church buildings had been “cleansed” of images and other art work at the Reformation which was to be regretted but essentially the buildings had been abandoned as no longer appropriate for the new forms of worship and had subsequently deteriorated through lack of maintenance rather than by the instructions of Knox. Similar ruins existed in Johnson's own country when monastic buildings had been closed and allowed to deteriorate through lack of use and purpose in the reign of Henry VIII. Johnson chose not to mention this. Some former abbeys had been put to use as cathedrals of newly created bishoprics, as at Gloucester and St Albans, and these have survived. In Scotland, some large mediaeval churches such as St Giles in Edinburgh, Holy Rude in Stirling and Bothwell Parish Church were divided into smaller spaces for multiple uses. What Johnson omitted to recognise was that John Knox's chief legacy to his country was to ask for a school in every parish and to encourage general education. This in turn would lead to the very Scottish Enlightenment of which Boswell was a part. At the end of their tour, Boswell and Johnson visited Lord Auchinleck in Ayrshire before travelling back to Edinburgh by way of Hamilton where

they stopped to view the palace. Surprisingly, they did not seem to make the short diversion to see his friends at Bothwell.

Boswell was a great friend of the Douglas family and his diaries record frequent visits to New Bothwell Castle as an honoured guest. James Boswell thus became the first of the literary giants to enjoy the warm hospitality of the Bothwell mansion. In the early days, his hostess was the remarkable Peggy, Duchess of Douglas and chatelaine of the castle. She was a feisty outspoken lady who took to the young Boswell and welcomed him to her house. Perhaps influenced by her home's proximity to the ancient castle of Bothwell, she was said to be the last of the nobility to be attended by halberdiers carrying the weapons of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. No doubt this theatricality appealed to the sense of drama in Boswell. Peggy was also appreciated by her friends for her warmth and wit. When he visited her in New Bothwell Castle in 1767, Boswell requested a "*warm, orthodox room*". The elderly duchess replied that her own bed was the warmest in the house and he was welcome to it.

Throughout the 1780's Boswell made regular visits to his friend Archibald Douglas at Bothwell. On one occasion he had to call off because of a sore toe. In March 1780, his journey to Bothwell was a sad one as he went to pay his sympathies to Douglas on the death of his wife, Lady Lucy, and remained at Bothwell for few days consoling his friend. He would usually travel from Edinburgh by chaise, stopping off at Whitburn for refreshments and arriving at Bothwell in time for tea.

In 1781 he recorded in a note, a profoundly disturbing experience he had at Bothwell, "The very day after my arrival here, I read in Lord Monody's "Ancient Metaphysics" that there could be no such thing as contingency and that every action of man was absolutely fixed and comprehended in a series of cause and effects from all eternity... I saw a dreary nature of things, an unconscious, uncontrollable power by which all things are driven on, and I could not get rid of the irresistible influence of motives." The debates of the Enlightenment would create a sense of melancholy and depression in Boswell from time to time. Earlier in his career in London, to the disgust of his father, he had converted to Roman Catholicism in his search for answers to the problems he saw in life.

His last recorded invitation to visit to New Bothwell castle came in August 1781 when he was asked to meet the Marquis of Graham, later Duke of Montrose, as the nobleman would be “*diverted*” by his company. On this occasion he decided not to go to Bothwell. Again he was suffering from melancholy and even contemplating suicide. Fortunately the depression passed as he considered how his suicide might affect his children. James Boswell inherited the Auchinleck estate in 1782 and Johnson died in 1784. It had been agreed that Boswell would write the great Englishman’s biography which he duly did, capturing the essence and characteristics of Samuel Johnson’s personality and so immortalising him. In a sense, each man owed the other his reputation in that Johnson became truly famous as a result of Boswell’s biography, published in 1791, and Boswell’s place in the pantheon of literary greats was assured by the success of his biography of Johnson. Today it is hard to think of one man without the other. Boswell might have been the kind of Scotsman Johnson had envisaged when he thought of the high road to England as “*the noblest prospect which a Scotchman ever sees*” but Johnson and many other Englishmen and women were and still should be grateful that many Scots did take that road to the benefit of both countries.

THE LAIRD OF CLARTY HOLE



**Sir Walter Scott by Sir Henry Raeburn 1822 –
Courtesy of the National
Galleries of Scotland**

Not many men in any century can lay claim to having reinvented their country and its history. One man in late eighteenth and early nineteenth century Scotland not only did this but took a despised and sometimes feared regional culture and made it internationally recognised as symbolic of the whole nation. This transformation was not the work of a king or, indeed, of a politician but of a poet and novelist. Here the much quoted “*The pen is mightier than the sword*” may be totally apposite. Such a man was Walter Scott (1771-1832). For a time the swords of the Duke of Cumberland’s soldiers would smash the Highland culture but the pen of Sir Walter Scott would revitalise it to the

point where it became identified with the country as a whole. Scott was responsible for organising and directing the 1822 visit to Scotland of George IV, the first monarch of the House of Hanover to cross the Border. What the historian, John Prebble called the “*The King’s Jaunt*” changed the face of a nation when the spectacle of the overweight monarch clad in a kilt and with pink, flesh coloured tights to hide his modesty, caused such an eruption of tartanry and highland sentimentality that Scotland has never been the same since. King George might be prepared to go a long way to restore the reputation of his family in Scotland but he drew the line at becoming a “true Scotsman”, no doubt to the relief of Scott, who was the principal planner behind the great event, and the king’s advisers. Thus Scott with a little help from Queen Victoria later in the century might lay claim to be the architect of the tourist industry in his native land.

None the less, even although his works are still in print one hundred and seventy odd years after his death, Walter Scott’s royalist, unionist and conservative beliefs can never match the affection and regard generated by the socialist nationalist sentiments expressed in the works of his older contemporary Robert Burns. No world wide celebrations are held on the anniversary of Scott’s birthday but he does have a grandiose

Gothic monument on the principal thoroughfare of his native city, Edinburgh. Yet the Scotland of “Caledonia, stern and wild”, bagpipes, whisky, tartan and tins of shortbread: the elements which identify the nation beyond its boundaries and indeed within them for many natives, owes a great deal to the writings of the Laird of Clarty Hole.

When Scott was born in 1771, many in Edinburgh would remember the Jacobite Rising of 1745 and the pogroms and ethnic cleansing following the Battle of Culloden the following year. The clan system was dissolved, weapons forbidden, the tartans proscribed and the bagpipes silenced. The Highland culture which had caused fear and a certain loathing in the minds of Lowland Scots not to mention the English seemed set to vanish from the earth. By 1822 this had changed and Highland culture was to become identified as the culture of the whole country thanks to the efforts of Walter Scott.

As a child born in the heaving, still mediaeval city of Edinburgh, Scott lived through the Enlightenment and the transformation of Edinburgh from an ancient slum to one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. At the age of eighteen months he contracted polio and the energy which might otherwise have gone into physical activities became concentrated on intellectual pursuits. Sent to recuperate on his grandfather’s farm near Kelso, Scott became thoroughly absorbed in the culture of the Borders, soaking in the tales, the oral history and the literary culture of the region. When he eventually returned to Edinburgh he received a good classical education at the city’s Royal High School and afterwards at the University of Edinburgh to prepare him to follow in the footsteps of his father as a lawyer. He worked hard at his legal career becoming the “*Shirra*” or Sheriff at Selkirk but his true vocation was in writing.

His first publication appeared in 1796 but his literary fame first came from his “*Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border*” in 1802. From then on he turned out a huge volume of works, poetry, novels, reviews, biographies and histories. His first novel “*Waverley*” was published anonymously but few in cultured and social Edinburgh of the time were in any doubt as to the authorship. In 1812, he purchased the Border estate of Clarty Hole but a romantic such as Scott could never expect to live in a place with such an unprepossessing name and so the estate was renamed “*Abbotsford*” after a ford in the River Tweed formerly used by the monks of Melrose Abbey. Prior to purchasing this estate, Scott had

looked at property in Lanarkshire, specifically the ruined Craignethan Castle. Ever the Borderer, Scott returned to live in the land of his fathers and not Lanarkshire but he would retain many connections with the county and Craignethan would become the model for Tillitudlem Castle in “Old Mortality” Such was the popularity of this particular novel that the nineteenth century railway boom would see a station in the area of the castle named “*Tillitudlem*” after the fictitious tower of Scott’s story. The station has gone but the name lives on in a local hotel. In January 1829 Scott visited Lanarkshire again in the company of his son in law and biographer J.G. Lockhart. The purpose was to choose a site for a house to be built by William Lockhart MP, the brother of J.G Lockhart. The mansion known as Milton Lockhart on the Clyde near Carluke was designed in the Scottish baronial style similar to Abbotsford by the architect W. Burn. Scott visited the house again in 1831 and admired the building and the grounds. The bridge crossing the Clyde and linking the estate to the main Hamilton to Lanark road was designed to replicate Bothwell Bridge as it was at the time of the battle in 1679. This bridge still exists although the mansion house which had become a ruin was taken down stone by stone in the latter years of the twentieth century and transported to a theme park in Japan.

Scott was also a frequent visitor to New Bothwell Castle, writing to Lord Montague on June 28th 1825, “*I shall have a peep at Bothwell Castle if it is only for half an hour. It is a place of many recollections to me, for I cannot think how changed I am from the same Walter Scott who was so passionately ambitious of fame when I wrote the song of Young Lochinvar at Bothwell; and if I could recall the same feelings, where was I to find an audience so kind and patient and whose applause was at the same time so well worth having, as Lady Dalkeith and Lady Douglas? When one thinks these things, there is no silencing one’s regret but by Corporal Nym’s philosophy: Things must be as they say. One generation goeth and another cometh.*”

Thus one of his best known and most beloved pieces of poetry with its typical Scott themes of a gallant warrior, a beautiful maiden requiring to be rescued, love and action and daring triumphing over cowardice was penned not on the banks of the Tweed but on the banks of the Clyde:

“So faithful in love, and so dauntless in war,

There never was knight like the young Lochinvar."

The mediaeval castle of Bothwell, which he would have been able to see from his window in the new castle, would have inspired Scott, already a great enthusiast for the history of the Middle Ages, and he would revel in the beauty of the surroundings of the castle, the estate and the village and draw on it in his writings.

He would know of the royal wedding held in 1400 in the newly consecrated collegiate church dedicated by Archibald the Grim to his family's patron saint, St Bride, in 1398. Scott would no doubt discuss the family history with his hosts during his visits to the castle and would use the fruits of these conversations in his writings. The Lord of Bothwell's daughter, Mary, sometimes referred to as Marjorie, was married in great splendour in her father's foundation to David, Duke of Rothesay, heir to King Robert iii. No doubt there would be great rejoicing in the local area at the prospect of a Bothwell girl becoming the Queen of Scotland. It was not to be. David was to fall foul of the political machinations of his uncle the Duke of Albany and was to die in mysterious circumstances in Falkland Castle in 1402. Scott used this story in his novel "The Fair Maid of Perth." The title, "Duke of Rothesay", the earliest dukedom in Scotland, would be passed on to the eldest son of the reigning monarch and the present duke is Prince Charles.

It is clear that Scott visited the site of the Battle of Bothwell Bridge as a precursor to writing "Old Mortality", his story of the Covenanting wars of the seventeenth century. In this historical novel, he recounts how, *"The cavalcade which left the Castle of Tillitudlem, after passing the outposts of the insurgents, halted at the small town of Bothwell for a few minutes to take some slight refreshments which their attendants had provided, and which were necessary to persons who had suffered considerably by want of proper nourishment."* Prior to the commencement of the battle, Scott describes how an emissary from the Covenanting army came to see the Duke of Monmouth in his encampment at Bothwell: *"...they approached the commander-in-chief who, surrounded by several officers, was seated upon a knoll commanding an extensive prospect of the distant country, and from which could easily be discovered the windings of the majestic Clyde, and the distant camp of the insurgents on the opposite bank."* The view has changed dramatically since Scott's time when things would not have

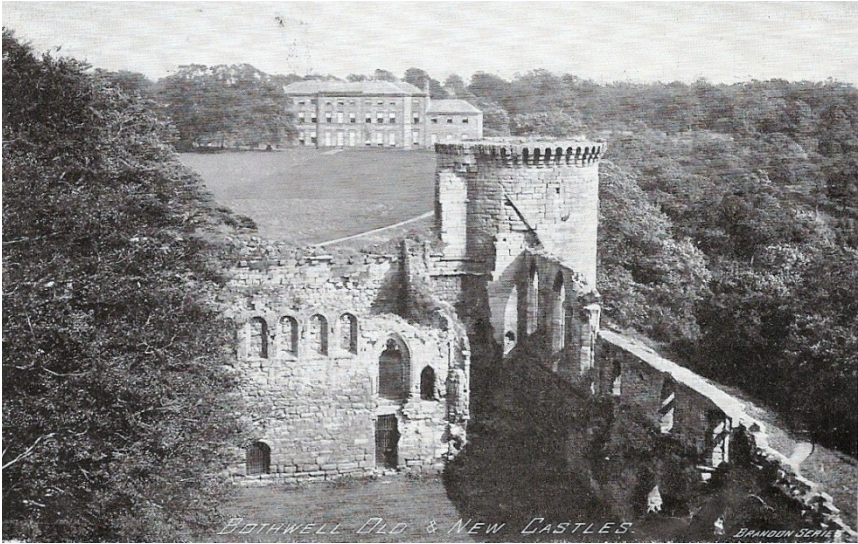
been so much different from the view which Monmouth would have surveyed a hundred years earlier. Buildings now cover part of the south bank of the river where the Covenanters would have encamped but the Clyde continues to be “*majestic*” and the knoll where Monmouth was seated can still be discerned in what remains of the Covenanters’ Field. Even this has been threatened by the demand for high quality housing. For the moment it has been reprieved but its future remains uncertain.

An upmarket housing estate now covers much of the former grounds of Lord Douglas’s castle which was a “place of many recollections” for Scott. The mansion where Scott had enjoyed so much hospitality and kindness had been commenced in the late seventeenth century by Archibald Douglas, 1st Earl of Forfar. In the manner of his ancestors, the earl sought to have a more modern and comfortable residence and just as the motte and bailey castle had been abandoned, Douglas used the mediaeval castle as a quarry to erect a new residence in the fashionable Palladian style of his time. The mansion was completed by the second earl who was killed at the Battle of Sherrifmuir (1715). Both earls are commemorated in monuments in the choir of Bothwell Parish Church.

The building was of three stories with a portico over the front door and with two adjoining wings. The principal rooms were spacious and adorned with fine furnishings and paintings. Here the Douglas family would entertain guests such as Sir Walter Scott in style and comfort. The grounds were extensive and the old castle had become a kind of romantic ruin of a style much fashionable in the gardens of the aristocracy of the time. It was even known for follies to be created in mock mediaeval style in aristocratic estates. The tenth Duke of Hamilton built on to the ruins of Cadzow Castle to give himself a more dramatic view from his hunting lodge at Chatelherault. Lord Douglas had the most dramatic and genuine romantic ruin in Scotland in the form of the ancient castle of Bothwell. There was no need for any pastiche building here. We should be grateful that the Douglas family did not destroy more of their ancestral pile in building their new residence

In the nineteenth and early twentieth century, the castle grounds were made available for visitors on one day per week. The local directory for 1893/4 advertised that the grounds of Bothwell Castle were open to the public from 10.00am until 4.00pm every Tuesday unless otherwise indicated. Entrance was by the main gate in Bothwell Road. There is

also a reference in the nineteenth century Statistical Account of Scotland that Lord Douglas used oxen in his estate, a throwback to mediaeval times. Walter Scott would have approved although he did move with the times and Abbotsford was lit by an early form of gas lighting.



View of New Bothwell Castle form the old castle - early twentieth century

The increase in the local population and a less deferential approach to the upper classes meant that the policies suffered from vandalism and the Earl of Home who had inherited the estate had to demolish a thatched cottage which had served as a venue for refreshments for his guests walking in the policies. The twentieth century saw harder financial times even for the aristocracy and the Douglas Home family had to cut back on the number of homes they were expected to maintain. Bothwell New Castle was doomed.

Sir Walter Scott, ever the historian and romantic would have deplored the fate of the house which had sheltered him and inspired him to write some of the most famous of his works. Let the *“Hamilton Advertiser”* of the ninth of August 1930 tell the tale.

“Such is our natural feeling when we learn that modern Bothwell Castle like Hamilton Palace has come under the hammer of the destroyer.

The building has been acquired by the Dundee contractor, Mr Charles Brand and the work of demolition began on Monday last. It is to be razed to the ground and not to be replaced with another building by its present owner the Earl of Home: so the possibility of the Bothwell estate as a home for the Lords of the soil has come to an end. As a matter of fact, it has for many years ceased to be such. It was dismantled a dozen years ago of its furniture, pictures and books. The library, or a large portion of it, was sold in Glasgow. The house has therefore been empty and incapable of occupation for a term of years. The last period of its occupancy was during the war, when some Belgian refugees and nuns were housed in it. Sir James King Bart was tenant for five years toward the end of the last century. For long before that the Home family lived little in it 50 years ago or more, Lady Antrim who was we believe a relative of the family, was its most constant occupant. The building, of course, though it had received some important guests, Sir Walter Scott was one, has no merit which would cause its loss to be deplored on architectural or antiquarian grounds. We have been told the story--which we believe was inconsistent with the facts--that the architect of the mansion house (which dated back to the middle of the eighteenth century) was an ancestor of Professor Blackie, and that the building was of little credit to him, or gained him so little credit that the poor man committed suicide. The story is probably a myth; but the house although solid, has so little outward beauty to recommend it that the story might be true. Had it been the Old Castle that was to be demolished that, of course would be a different matter, but no one is more interested in its preservation than the present earl and its preservation for future generations has been secured as far as possible, it being placed under government protection as an ancient monument. The demolition of the modern building will no doubt prove a measure of economy to its late owner, as it will not be a rateable subject. The demolition or unroofing of country mansion houses suggests the question whether the increasing of death duties on large estates has not proceeded too far, and is not proving to be killing of the goose that lays the golden eggs."

Thus was described the sad end of the building sometimes known as New Bothwell Castle, sometimes simply as Bothwell House. While its demise can hardly be compared with one of the greatest acts of vandalism in Scottish history, the destruction of Hamilton Palace and the dispersal of its contents to major museums across the globe, it was nevertheless, despite the contemporary comments on it, a building of both architectural and historical interest. No one could possibly claim that the buildings which replaced it are of any great worth except perhaps in monetary terms to their owners but fortunately so far there are no reports of mass suicides by the various architects and builders involved. The creation of a golf course and the preservation of riverside walks provide sufficient rural aspects to remind us of what Sir Walter Scott would have known of the Bothwell estate.



Joanna Baillie - Courtesy of the trustees of the British Museum

Sir Walter Scott was also a friend and patron of Joanna Baillie, the poetess and dramatist who was born in the old thatched Manse of Bothwell on September 11th 1762. Her father was the parish minister and her mother was a sister to the famous Hunter brothers of medical and scientific fame. Although admired by Scott, Joanna Baillie's work was not received with universal acclaim. Francis Jeffrey of the prestigious "*Edinburgh Review*" was highly critical in 1803 and this brought the wrath of Sir Walter Scott down on his head. Mary Cosh in "*Edinburgh: The Golden*

Age" records a description of Miss Baillie: "*Like several contemporary*

women (and men) writers, Miss Baillie was very short. Plainly dressed, small, prim and Quaker like looking, she had few personal attractions, insignificant to the point of commonplace and with a mean and shuffling gate. On the other hand she had a pleasing gentle well bred manner, with none of the affectations displayed by certain blue stocking ladies.” In 1811 Francis Jeffrey made amends for his earlier criticisms by comparing her to Southey, Wordsworth and Coleridge. Her older brother by a year was Matthew Baillie (1761-1823). Matthew would follow in the footsteps of his famous Hunter uncles and would inherit William Hunter’s anatomy school. His book, “*Morbid Anatomy of some of the most Important Parts of the Human Body*” was published in 1795 and was to lead to huge advances in pathology and medical teaching. It was the first systematic book ever published on pathology and Matthew Baillie, the man who spent his childhood in the Manse of Bothwell was honoured by his country with burial in Westminster Abbey.

Joanna Baillie moved to London after the death of her father and lived in Hampstead. There would appear to have been a fashion in the nineteenth century for authors to publish anonymously. Both Scott and the Bronte sisters came into this category as did Joanna Baillie with “*Plays of the Passions*” which some believed were written by Scott himself. He admired her greatly and wrote to her, “*My dear friend. It is too little to say that I am enchanted with the said third volume especially with the first two plays, which in every point not only sustain, but even exalt, your reputation as a dramatist. The whole character of Orra is exquisitely supported as well as imagined, and the language distinguished by a rich variety of fancy, which I know no instance of excepting in Shakespeare.*” Joanna Baillie did receive some critical acclaim but had little popular success. Bothwell was never going to rival Stratford upon Avon as a place of literary pilgrimage.



**Joanna Baillie's monument in Bothwell
Parish Church**

Thanks to the efforts of a Bothwell man, Mr James Donald, Joanna Baillie is remembered in the place of her birth by an attractive monument of terra cotta, 12 feet high and displaying four panels of scenes from the life of the poetess. It was unveiled in January 1899 by Joanna's great grand niece, Miss Hunter Baillie in the grounds of the parish church. It remains today, a delightful piece of Victoriana and an ornament to the village in memory of Bothwell's native poetess.

Sir Walter Scott too would have his memorial after his death in 1832 and as befitting his fame its appropriately gothic bulk is often featured in tourist publications advertising his

native city. The Edinburgh monument, 188feet higher than Joanna Baillie's in Bothwell, was by an amateur architect, George Meikle Brown who did in fact commit suicide in 1844 by drowning himself in the Union Canal. The modern image of Scotland as a land of misty mountains, sad glens echoing to the sound of the bagpipes, fierce warriors and with everything wrapped in tartan and everyone drinking whisky owes a great deal to the influence of Scott. The thousands who flock to the Edinburgh tattoo every year do so to participate in an event which might be said to be the direct descendent of the great pageant organised for George 1V's visit to Edinburgh in 1822. The Lair of Clarty Hole would be pleased.

Two surviving buildings from the estate Sir Walter knew and admired still remain in Bothwell. Bothwell Park House was built around 1750 as the dower house for the estate. Later it became the residence of the Hamiltons of Bothwell Park, a cadet branch of the family whose mausoleum is in the Parish Church graveyard. The grandiose formal entrance to the estate from the Uddingston road has recently been restored and now forms the gateway to Bothwell Castle Golf Club. It provides a sense of what might have been if the house had survived



Bothwell Castle Golf Club gates – formerly the entrance to the new castle – photograph by Ian Beckett



The ruins of the nineteenth century mausoleum of the Hamiltons of Bothwell Park in Bothwell kirkyard showing the iron railings to prevent resurrectionists removing bodies to sell to anatomists - photograph by Ian Beckett

SIBLINGS NOT RIVALS

Few honest men would deny the oft stated belief that behind every successful man is a strong woman. The only exception to this might be a husband enmeshed in an unfriendly and bitter divorce action against his wife. An assumption has been made so far in defining the wife as the supporter and encourager in the man's achievements: not always so.

William Wordsworth, the English poet (1770-1850) who was one of the prime movers in the 18th/19th century Romantic school of poetry was probably one of the most prolific writers in the English language. He composed in the region of 4,500 poems, not all of them worthy of memory. He "*invented*" daffodils as a romantic flower, told us that "*The child is father of the man*" and lauded the view of London from Westminster Bridge.

The woman who most inspired the poet in his literary efforts was not his wife, Mary Hutchinson, whom he married in 1802, but his sister, Dorothy Wordsworth (1771-1855). In her own right, she became a talented writer, keeping a journal from the late 1790's and recording the walks of considerable distance which she made with her brother and the sights they saw on their travels. Some of the sights in the Lake District would be made famous by her brother's writing. She also detailed the minutiae of domestic life surrounded by the glories of nature surrounding her home. Of her potential as a writer, she declared "*I should detest the idea of setting myself up as an author.*" Her role was as mentor and supporter to her brother and in writing "*to give William pleasure by it.*" The contents of many of her brother's poems including "*Daffodils*" were based on her descriptions of the countryside and of their lives together.

The write Thomas de Quincy came to Grasmere in 1807 and met the Wordsworths, husband, wife, two children and sister/sister in law, Dorothy. De Quincy was impressed by Dorothy, describing her as having a dark complexion like a gipsy and having unusually wild looking eyes. He could see how much the sister influenced her brother, humanising him "*by gentle charities.*"

Dorothy and William set off in 1803 to tour Scotland, a big adventure for the time. The journal which Dorothy wrote would only be

published after her death. They were accompanied part of the way by fellow writer, Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

Crossing the Border, they made their way to Dumfries to pay their respects to Jean Armour, the widow of Robert Burns. Unfortunately Mrs Burns was away for the day but they were able to see something of where the much respected poet had lived. Making their way up the valley of the Nith and north into Clydesdale, they stopped off at Lanark. William went off alone to see the "*celebrated waterfall*." Dorothy described Lanark as a town, "Showing a sort of French face and would have done much more, had it not been for the true British tinge of coal smoke." She was less than complimentary about the dress sense of the ladies of Lanark.

Moving on from the royal burgh, the tourists ventured down the valley to Hamilton observing, "*The neighbourhood of Lanark is exceedingly pleasant*." Arriving at Hamilton which reminded her of Penrith, they had difficulty finding accommodation at the inn but were eventually given beds. She noted the "*Lazy impertinence of the waiter*" and "*The house throughout dirty*."

They had little more success in trying to gain entrance to Hamilton Palace where the servants were less than helpful. They had hoped to see the Reuben's "*Daniel in the Lion's Den*" but they had to leave disappointed and frustrated. As today, stately homes in the early nineteenth might be visited by appointment. Today's visitor would have to travel to the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC to see this famous painting.

Having crossed the Clyde at Bothwell Bridge, they passed through the village of Bothwell without commenting on anything they saw, not even the women's dresses. Their plan was to view Bothwell castle and having signed the visitors' book, they entered Lord Douglas's estate. They left their horse and car at the stables. As they progressed through the estate's pleasure grounds, "*It was exceedingly delightful to come thus unexpectedly upon such a delightful region*."

Here at last was a place to delight Dorothy's senses. Her one disappointment was to note that trim flower beds and climbing plants of the formal gardens came right to the walls of the mediaeval castle. Lord Douglas, in the fashion of the eighteenth century had made use of the venerable abode of his ancestors as a garden folly. It must have been the

most magnificent “*folly*” in any noblemen’s garden. She saw the ruined castle as being simply left as a “*Tributary to the mansion*” standing nearby.

“We had only to regret that the castle and the house were so near to each other; and it was impossible not to regret it; for the ruin presides on state over the river, far from city or town, as if it might have had a peculiar privilege to preserve its memorials of past ages and maintain its own character and independence for centuries to come”

Thus spoke the true romantic. Dorothy, never slow to criticise when she felt the need, lavished praise on the old castle and the estate. Commenting on the fact that the castle held prominent English captains after The Battle of Bannockburn, she declared “*If a man is to be prisoner, he scarcely could have a more pleasant place to solace his captivity.*” It is doubtful if her fellow countrymen fleeing from the carnage of Bannockburn would have shared her sentiments. She added, “*I have heard nothing of Bothwell Castle, at least nothing that I remembered, therefore, perhaps my pleasure was greater, compared with what I had received elsewhere, that others might feel.*”

Just to prove that she wasn’t totally carried away by her experiences at Bothwell, she commented, “At our return to the stables, we found an inferior groom, who helped William to yoke the horses and was very civil.”

William returned to visit Scotland in 1831 but was prevented from seeing Bothwell castle again by stormy weather. He could never resist the opportunity to break into poetry.

“BOTHWELL CASTLE PASSED UNSEEN, ON ACCOUNT OF STORMY WEATHER.

Immured in Bothwell’s towers, at times the Brave

(So beautiful is Clyde) forgot to mourn

The liberty they lost at Bannockburn.

Once on those steeps I roamed at large, and have

In mod the landscape, as if still in sight:

The river glides, the woods before me wave

Then why repine that now in vain I crave

Needless renewal of an old delight?

Better to thank a dear and long past day

For joy its sunny hours were free to give

Than blame the present, that our wish hath crost.

Memory, like sleep, hath powere which dreams obey:

How little that she cherishes is lost!"

From 1829, Dorothy sadly led the life of an invalid, eventually developing arteriosclerosis and severe mental illness. Outliving her much loved brother, she died at Rydal Mount on January 25th, (the birthday of a poet she admired) in 1855.

What would Dorothy Wordsworth have thought of Bothwell Castle today? The mansion has gone and the old castle is left in solitary splendour. There are fields of daffodils in spring but much of Lord Douglas's estate is now modern housing. Somehow it is unlikely she would have approved.



*“Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.”*
William Wordsworth
Spring daffodils at Bothwell Castle

FOR CHRIST'S KIRK AND THE COVENANT

Not many individuals or groups demonstrate the dichotomy of history more than the Covenanters. Nor would many people in Scottish life today claim with any certainty to know what exactly the Covenanters represent for them but none the less they seem still to claim a place in the dim recesses of the Scottish psyche. Some see them as fighters for freedom of worship. Others see them as seventeenth century Scottish equivalents of the Taliban. Still others, although knowing the name, have no clear idea of who they were and what they represented. Nevertheless in a recent BBC programme (2010), viewers voted the Covenanters in the top ten of individuals and groups most significant to Scottish history. This lay person's view was confirmed by a panel of historical experts brought together on the programme. The lure of the Covenanters remains with us to this day.

In the 14th century, the Community of the Realm of Scotland had declared with reference to the hero King Robert I:

“...even the same Robert, should he turn aside from the task and yield Scotland or us to the English king or people, him we should cast out as the enemy of us all, and choose another king to defend our freedom...”

In other words, even this greatest of kings was to be subject to the will of his people. If he failed he would be removed and another king chosen. This was a very powerful statement of the place of the king relative to his people in the 14th century.

When the Stewart dynasty took over the throne on the death of David ii, King Robert's son, they were seen by the nobles of Scotland as parvenus or at the very least “primus inter pares”. This may be seen in the long struggle for supremacy between the royal house and the nobles, particularly the Red and Black (Bothwell) branches of the House of Douglas. Nobody in the upper ranks of Scottish society was keen on an over powerful monarchy. Two monarchs, James I and James iii had been assassinated by factions opposed to their policies. Much of Scottish history as in other European states revolved around conflict between king and nobles, one powerful group vying for supremacy with another.

Given this background, it is all the more surprising that the British version of the Divine Right of Kings Theory should originate in Scotland and come to fruition when it was transported to more fertile soil in England when James VI was translated to the greater glory of the throne of that country. James had ruled Scotland with some success but he knew when to back off, especially in relation to church matters. After all this was the King who was told by the Scottish theologian, Andrew Melville, that he, James, was, “*God’s sillie vassal.*” It was a hugely powerful enjoiner on the King.

Thus when James took over in England, he made it clear, “No bishop, no King!” and that he was not going to put up with any of the nonsense he had taken from churchmen in Scotland. As God’s anointed, he was answerable to God alone and not to any convocations of mewling clergy or posturing politicians. He kept a wary eye on church matters in Scotland but the English accustomed to the firm rule of the Tudors, gave in to him.

Charles 1 was a different matter and although he was a Scotsman by birth, born In Dunfermline Palace in 1600 as the second son of James VI and Queen Anne, he was less sensitive to the complexities of Scottish politics and the Scottish church than his canny father had been. In 1637, he determined to standardise worship in his two kingdoms based on the English model and sought to introduce the Book of Common Prayer. The High Kirk of Edinburgh, the church of John Knox, was declared a cathedral and when the Dean tried to read from the new prayer book, a riot broke out. The story of Jenny Geddes throwing her stool at Dean Hannay may be of doubtful provenance but the Scots were having none of Charles’s prayer book. The National Covenant of 1638 stated the direct Scottish relationship with God without the intervention of popish elements such as bishops and prayer books. It was seen also as an attempt to anglicise the kingdom. Politics and religion had come together in the Covenant and as in the present day it was an explosive mixture. The Church of Scotland would be independent of the king. This was no attempt to overthrow the monarchy but was an effort to separate the affairs of church and state. Huge crowds came to Greyfriars Church in Edinburgh and to other locations in Scotland to demonstrate their support by signing the Covenant. An estimated 300,000 signed a remarkable achievement in a time before mass communication. Charles didn’t take the hint. The

result was the Civil War and the eventual execution of the King, who became for some people a martyr in the mould of his grandmother Mary, Queen of Scots, albeit for different churches, Charles for the Anglicans and Mary for the Roman Catholics. On the death of his father, Charles ii was the last king to be crowned in Scotland (1651) and as an expedient he was obliged to sign the Covenant. Later he was forced to flee abroad and the first union of England and Scotland took place under the Commonwealth. Cromwell was much more successful than Edward I had been.

A relic of these times remain with us in that, although it is no longer the seat of a bishop and is regarded as the Mother Church of world Presbyterianism, the High Kirk of Edinburgh is still referred to as "St Giles Cathedral." The cathedral of the modern Episcopalian diocese of Edinburgh, St Mary's, contains a chapel to King Charles The Martyr.

With the restoration of the monarchy in 1660, it would appear that Charles ii like many rulers or politicians before and since his time had remembered little and learned less than he might have done. His brother and successor, James VII and II was even less inclined to learn the lessons of history. Charles ii broke his oath to the Covenant and restored the episcopacy revoking all acts of the Scottish parliament from 1640.

This is the period which has come down to us as "*The Killing Times*." Many Presbyterians refused entry to their church buildings, worshipped in the open air, preferably in remote places where they might be safer from attacks by government troops. These conventicles were protected by lookouts, some of whom might be armed. These were harsh times and, unlike the earlier period, there was no Covenanting general such as David Leslie with the military skills and experience to unite the warring factions within the Covenanting movement to oppose the government forces. Prior to the first Civil war and Covenanting period, it is estimated that some 35,000 Scottish mercenaries were fighting abroad and gaining military experience on the Continent. David Leslie himself had fought in the armies of the Swedish King, Gustaphus Adolphus. The contribution of the Scots to the defeat of Charles I was considerable. These skills were no longer available to the Covenanters in the 1670. Much bitterness ensued and as is often the case in such circumstances, fanaticism and extremism was endemic on both sides.

James Sharpe who had earlier been a Presbyterian minister had changed sides and been created Archbishop of St. Andrews. He had the misfortune to be apprehended while crossing Magus Muir near St Andrews, dragged from his coach and while his screaming daughter watched, hacked to death within sight of the steeples of the Episcopal city by a band of ruthless Covenanting fanatics, some more motivated by a personal vendetta than by religious zeal. To this day, the horror of the populace at the assassination of the Archbishop is reflected in the testaments carved on his elaborate tomb in Holy Trinity Church in St Andrews.

Extremism was not one sided. One man, John Graham of Claverhouse, was known to the Covenanters as “*Bluidy Clavers.*” His name would go down in Covenanting annals as the spawn of the devil.

Portraits of Graham show him to have been handsome in a pretty boy kind of way but the fine features concealed a hard heart to those he saw as the King’s enemies. The Covenanters managed to agree amongst themselves long enough to defeat Graham of Claverhouse at Drumclog in Lanarkshire in June 1679. After the battle he left to defend Glasgow. Covenanting unity had disintegrated long before Graham reached the city. He would, however, soon have his revenge.

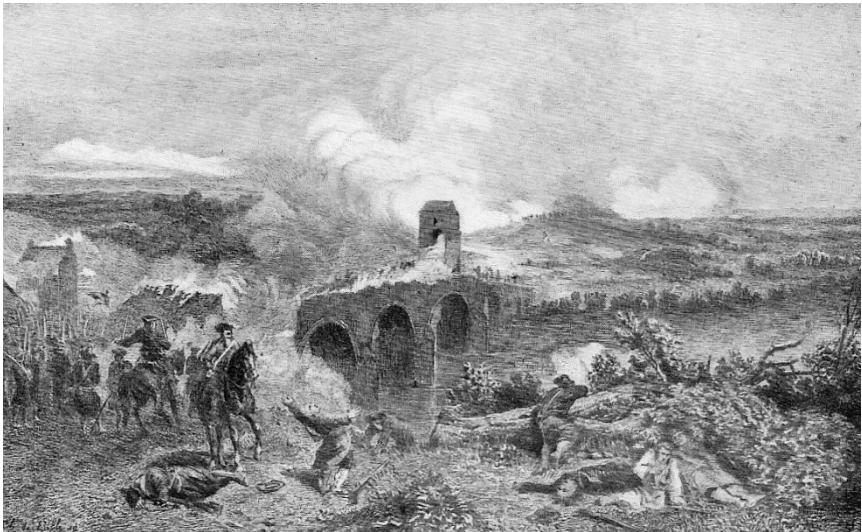
Eventually the government had managed to organise itself sufficiently to move to deal with the Covenanters. James, Duke of Monmouth and Buccleuch, an illegitimate son of Charles ii was appointed the royal commander. Monmouth was seen by some as vacillating, prepared to look for compromise with the Covenanters and for some way out to avoid bloodshed. Claverhouse was for having none of it. The Covenanting leader, Sir Robert Hamilton of Preston, was of a similar mind to his enemy, believing, “It is not the endurance but the infliction of pain that makes a true soldier of Christ.” Battle was inevitable. Thus as ever fanaticism would overrule reason and those who believed that they were supported by the strong arm of the Lord would prevail over others who sought compromise through a peaceful solution.

*“Where Bothwell’s bridge connects the margin steep,
And Clyde, below, runs silent, strong and deep,
The hardy peasant, by oppression driven,*

*To battle, deemed his cause the cause of Heaven;
Unskilled in arms, with useless courage stood,
While gentle Monmouth grieved to shed his blood,
But fierce Dundee inflamed with deadly hate,
In vengeance for the great Montrose's fate,
Let loose the sword and to the hero's shade
A barbarous hecatomb of victims paid"*

"Clyde" by Wilson 1803

Monmouth's reputation as a man of kindness lives on in a local Bothwell legend. The day before the battle, a small village child, a girl, was nowhere to be seen. Given that the royal army was camped at the very edge of the village to the south, the mother was frantic with worry and a search ensued. Eventually the searchers, driven by anguish at the disappearance of the girl, as a last resort, ventured into the royal camp. To their absolute astonishment, there was the child sitting on the Duke's knee, happy and contented, unaware of the concern she has caused. The site of the camp is remembered today in the name of a local hostelry, the "*Camphill Vaults*"



The battle from a print in the author's collection

The royalist army occupied the high ground to the south of Bothwell village overlooking the bridge across the River Clyde. No records exist to show who built the bridge, legend claiming it as being the work of Archibald the Grim. Nevertheless a bridge of some kind had been at this important river crossing since earlier times. The bridge was narrow and was raised in the centre where there was a gate, no doubt for the purpose of collecting tolls in peaceful times but capable of being fortified in time of war. When Sir Walter Scott in the 19th century advised his son-in-law John Gibson Lockhart concerning the site of a house to be built at Milton Lockhart near Carluke, the bridge which gave access to the estate was modelled on old Bothwell Bridge and today it still stands with its gatehouse over the central span, perhaps showing what old Bothwell Bridge may have looked like.

The Covenanting army held the south bank of the river in the policies of the Duchess of Hamilton. They fortified the gatehouse knowing that it was essential to prevent the crossing of the royalist cannon. The sole covenanting cannon was placed here to defend the crossing. Early in the morning of June 22nd, a party of Covenanters, led by the heroic David Hackston of Rathillet crossed the bridge and came in contact with the royal vanguard just outside the village. After a brief skirmish, the Covenanters returned to their side of the bridge.

The royal guns opened a withering fire on the enemy and if decisive action had been taken by the Covenanters who at first succeeded in driving off the royal gunners, the guns might have been taken and the course of the battle altered. As the Covenanters had no clear battle plan, no action was taken and the royal guns soon resumed the bombardment of the bridge and the Covenanting army.

One covenanter recorded, *“We were not concerned with an enemy, as if there had not been one within a thousand miles of us. There were none went through the army to see if we wanted powder and ball... I do really think there were few or none that had both powder and ball to shoot twice.”*

Fierce fighting took place over the next two hours before the royal army forced a bridgehead. Hackston of Rathillet begged for reinforcements to hold the bridge but none came. This was not to be another Battle of Stirling Bridge. Monmouth’s cannon cut a swathe through the covenanting ranks and the screams of dead and dying men

and horses rose in the air drowning out the singing of psalms by the godly. Panic ensued and the stench of death blew over the Clyde. Despite the prayers and the psalms, the Lord was not with the Covenanters at Bothwell Bridge. The battle was lost and the rout began. Around 400 men had been killed, although the figures vary. And the rest fled. By ten o'clock it was all over and a messenger was sent hot foot to Edinburgh to appraise the capital of the result of the battle. Ever the gentleman, the Duke of Monmouth who had tried up to the last to avoid bloodshed responded to the pleas of the Duchess of Hamilton not to invade her estate "*Lest he disturb the game,*" (The Covenanters had taken refuge in the Low Parks of the estate) Anne, Duchess of Hamilton in her own right, was known to have Covenanting sympathies. This feisty lady had been evicted from Hamilton Palace during the Commonwealth period to Strathaven Castle from where she had ordered guns to be fired on a troop of Cromwellian soldiers much to the amusement of the troop's commander who with his soldiers was well out of range. The intervention of the Duchess and the Cavalier gallantry of Monmouth saved many lives. The people of Bothwell village would no doubt be involved in helping to clear the detritus of the battle on their doorstep. The dead would be buried near where they fell. Although Duchess Anne and her husband now lie buried in the Bent Cemetery in Hamilton, her monument to her husband, formerly in the Collegiate Church of Hamilton was placed in the choir of the Parish Church in Bothwell when the Hamilton church was demolished in the 19th century.

Fortunately for the Covenanters, their implacable foe, General Tam Dalyell arrived to take over the command of the royal army but was too late to participate in the battle. He took Monmouth to task for his clemency declaring that if he had come sooner he would have made sure that the Covenanters never caused any trouble again. Contemporary belief averred that General Tam had played cards with the devil and beaten him much to the fiend's chagrin whereupon he threw the card table into a nearby pond. This table may now be seen in the Binns in West Lothian, the ancestral home of the Dalyell family. General Tam is also credited with the introduction of the thumb screw from Russia. Those who seek to trace their ancestry and find the odd poacher or sheep stealer among their antecedents can only marvel at the magnificent skeletons in the family cupboard of the Dalyells. The present head of the family, the former MP and anti devolutionist, Tam

Dalyell, is the progenitor of the West Lothian question which so occupies the minds of our modern politicians.

Hackston of Rathillet, one of the Covenanting heroes who had stoutly defended the bridge, escaped from the battle, joined the Cameronians and was captured at Airds Moss in July 1690 and taken to Edinburgh where he had his hands chopped off before being hanged, disembowelled and decapitated (shades of William Wallace). His head was later placed on the Netherbow Port, the principal entrance to the City of Edinburgh. A house in Orchard Avenue in modern Bothwell near to the site of the battle is called "*Rathillet*" honouring the name of the Covenanting commander. Sir Robert Hamilton of Preston, the fanatical opponent of the government's forces is believed to have fled the field when the outcome of the battle became clear "*Leaving the world to debate*" says one who was there, "*whether he acted most like a traitor, coward or fool.*" He escaped to Holland and disappeared from Scottish history. Thus ended the battle fought on Sunday, 22nd June 1679.

The gallant Duke of Monmouth returned to court life in London and as a staunch Protestant, he was banished from court in 1683 for plotting against the Catholic policies of the king. When the openly Catholic James VII and II came to the throne, Monmouth was persuaded by a number of people opposed to King James to declare himself the rightful king by claiming that Charles II had secretly married Monmouth's mother before entering into a bigamous marriage with Catherine of Braganza. (Charles may have been generous with his sexual favours but unlike his predecessor, Henry VIII, he refused to divorce his childless wife.) This was a claim that more than one illegitimate offspring in the course of history had made, so few were impressed and the Monmouth rebellion was put down with great severity. The Duke was executed on Tower Hill in London. To this day the Beefeater guides at the Tower will tell tourists that it was the custom of the time for the condemned man to pay the executioner a suitable fee for a swift clean cut. Monmouth, according to the tale, was less than generous and in revenge, the executioner hacked rather than cut his head off. It makes for a gory end for the gallant Duke. One wonders what the people in Bothwell who had met him might have thought of such an end. Would the little girl who had sat on his knee recount the tale to her grandchildren of how she had met the gallant Cavalier just before his victory at the Battle of

Bothwell Bridge? Almost certainly she would. A female descendant of Monmouth's would become the chatelaine of New Bothwell castle in the nineteenth century.

James Graham of Claverhouse was created Viscount Dundee in 1688 and come the "*Glorious Revolution*" of 1688 he would become a leading supporter of the exiled King James VII and II. Even although he had married in 1674 into a Covenanting family (his wife was Jean Cochran) and even although he was reputed to have saved the life of William of Orange in a battle in Holland in 1674, he became a leading Jacobite as the former king's supporters would come to be known. He would later be victorious in the bloody Battle of Killiecrankie on 27th July 1689 but was himself killed in his hour of victory. It may well be that Sir Walter Scott who romanticised so much of Scottish history may have been responsible for his epithet "*Bonny Dundee*." After the battle of Killiecrankie, the body of Dundee was buried in the Kirk yard of St Bride in Blair Atholl. St Bride, of course, is the Patron Saint of Bothwell

*"Come fill up my cup, come fill up my can,
Come saddle my horses and call out my men,
Gae doon the West Port and let us gang free,
For it's up wi' the bonnets o' Bonny Dundee"*

Sir Walter himself a frequent visitor to Bothwell wrote a ballad, "The Battle of Bothwell Bridge"

*"O hold your hand," then Monmouth cried,
"Gis quarters to yon men for me!"
But wicked Claver'se swore an oath,
His cornet's death revenged sud be,
"O hold your hand," then Mommouth cry'd
"If onything you'll do for me;
Hold up your hand, you cursed Graham
Else a rebel to our King ye'll be"
The wicked Clavers turned about,
I wot an angry man was he;*

*And he has lifted up his hat,
 And cry'd, "God bless his Majesty!"
 Than he's awa' to London town,
 Aye e'en as fast as he can dree;
 Fause witnesses he has wi' him ta'en
 And at'en Monmouth's head frae his body.
 Alang the brae, beyond the brig,
 Money brave men lies cauld and still;
 But lang we'll mind, and sare we'll rue,
 The bloody battle of Bothwell Hill.*

Prisoners taken at the Battle of Bothwell Bridge were indeed treated harshly. Ironically many were imprisoned in appalling conditions in the churchyard of Greyfriars in Edinburgh where the original Covenant had been signed. Some were sentenced to be transported to the plantations as slaves. Some 257 prisoners were incarcerated on the ship, "The Crown of London". The Captain, Thomas Teddico, a brutal thug and sadist, treated them as less than human. One of the prisoners, James Corson, wrote to his wife. "All the troubles we met since Bothwell were not to be compared to one day in our present circumstances. Our uneasiness is beyond words. Yet the consolations of God overbalance all; and I hope we are near our port, and Heaven is open for us." It was nearer than he would know. On December 10th 1679, the ship sank off the coast of Orkney in a storm and 211 prisoners were drowned. The names of two Bothwell men, William Breakenrig and another called More, Christian name unknown, are recorded as having drowned in the shipwreck. They are remembered in monuments in Orkney.

After the battle, a broadsheet ballad entitled, "*New Scotch Ballad: Call'd Bothwell Bridge: Or, Hamilton's Hero*", sung to the tune "*Fortune my Foe*", became popular in London. Thirty eight verses in the mode of the times, recount the story reflecting the fact that the Scots have never been popular in London particularly as so many of them seemed to have followed James VI, seeking fame and fortune at the

expense of the native English. Could this be a distant ancestor of the controversy surrounding the Barnett Formula?

*“When valiant Bucklugh charg’d his foes,
And put the rebel Scots to flight,
Full many a gallant squire arose,
And rushed into the fight
At two months age from mother’s paps,
He sucked out bullets ‘stead of milk,
Which rowling in his warlike chaps,
They turned as soft as silk
He now as England’s Champion reigns,
‘Tis he alone is born to rule.
To bind the quarrelsome in chains,
And call a giant fool.”*

One can only hope that it had a lively tune to support the 38 verses. Sixty six years later another ballad with similar sentiments would be popular in the theatres and streets of London.

*God grant that Marshall Wade
May by thy mighty aid,
Victory bring,
May he sedition hush,
And like a torrent rush,
Rebellious Scots to crush,
God save the King”*

The memory of the battle of Bothwell Bridge lingered on and in 1897, the first open air conventicle style service was held at the bridge and later annually in the field which had been the encampment of the royalist army but which had come to be known as “*The Covenanters’ Field.*”



The Covenanters Monument at Bothwell Bridge

Field.” The field originally belonged to Mrs. Wilson of nearby Hay Lodge. When she died in 1941, the field was bought for £300 by public subscription by the local Commemorative Committee under the chairmanship

of Lieutenant Colonel Vandeleur to be “*held in*

perpetuity for commemorative services.” Like some many other areas of religious observance, attendance fell away in the seventies and the service was transferred to the parish church. The last act of worship in the field was held in 1979, to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the battle, on a blazing hot day with the singing of psalms, bible readings and with the young soldiers guarding the conventicle dropping with heat exhaustion. The field was disposed of to Hamilton District Council on the 13th May, 1987. It is now owned by South Lanarkshire Council who recently formulated plans to build twenty luxury homes on the site but after much local and national opposition the plan was shelved, no doubt temporarily.

The building of a monument to the battle was first suggested by a retired Uddingston merchant, Mr. William Cullen and an obelisk was erected to the designs of the Glasgow firm of Scott and Rae in 1903. The inscription on the monument is as follows:-

*IN HONOUR OF
THE COVENANTERS
WHO FOUGHT AND FELL IN THE
BATTLE OF BOTHWELL BRIDGE
22ND JUNE 1679
IN DEFENCE OF
CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY*

*ERECTED BY PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTIONS
BOTHWELL BRIDGE
22ND JUNE 1679*



Covenanters' field (2011) site of the battle of Bothwell Bridge 1679

Mr. BROWN, THE MIKADO'S MAN

Most people today are familiar with the impact that Japanese industry has had on lives in the Western World. Cars, ships, televisions, household appliances, information technology and many other areas of modern life are dominated by the Japanese, a people, not so much noted for invention and innovation in industrial ideas but for their great ability to adapt, improve and develop the technology of others. Lines of Japanese tourists, swathed in cameras and moving in highly organised groups are familiar sights at every Western tourist attraction. Japan is very much at the centre of the twenty first century.

One hundred and fifty years ago, things were different. Japan was a group of secretive islands in the Far East cut off from the rest of the world. Having survived a sea invasion of Kublai Khan's Mongol hordes by the intervention of the Kamikaze or "*Divine Wind*" in the Middle Ages, the Japanese had come to see themselves as a chosen people with a civilisation superior in all things to the lesser Barbarian races around them, especially the Chinese. They were ruled by a divine Emperor and protected by the Samurai warrior class. Japan had closed its gates firmly against any cultural pollution or involvement with other countries.

Occasionally a breakthrough was made and limited access was given to the Dutch and the Chinese for trading purposes. William Adams from Kent was the first Englishman to arrive in Japan where he acted as an advisor to the Shogun who ruled Japan technically in the name of the Emperor who was actually ruler in name only. Others would follow including the Royal Navy who in typical British gunboat diplomacy saw HMS "*Phaeton*" enter Nagasaki harbour in 1808 to attack Dutch shipping- no diplomatic niceties required by the "*Ruler of the waves*" then.

The western breakthrough came in July 1853 when four "*giant dragons puffing smoke*" entered the bay on which the Emperor's capital Edo (Tokyo) was situated. These "*dragons*" were in fact the warships of the young American navy which was flexing its muscle in the Far East. The Japanese quickly realising that they were powerless, were persuaded by Commodore Perry, the American commander of the fleet, to enter into treaty negotiations opening Japan's ports. An American fleet would be back in Tokyo Bay in 1945 but that is another story.

Not to be left out, the nineteenth century's super power, the United Kingdom entered into a treaty in 1854. This opened Japan to enterprising British adventurers and, as always, the Scots were first in the queue. Thomas Blake Glover, an Aberdonian, settled in Nagasaki and began trading in ships and weapons. He helped the Japanese rebels to overthrow the Shogun and restore political power to the Emperor and commissioned three warships from the Hall Russell shipyard in Aberdeen for the Japanese. The Scotsman did everything he could to encourage the development of railways and shipbuilding by the Japanese for themselves. He built his own shipyard in Nagasaki and this grew into the Mitsubishi Company. His Japanese wife Tsuru became the model for Puccini's "*Madam Butterfly*" and he was the first non Japanese to receive the country's top award, "*The Order of the Rising Sun*" He died in 1911.

A contemporary of Glover's was fellow Scot, Albert Richard Brown (1839-1913) who would later live in Sweethope House in Bothwell as Japanese Consul. Brown had a varied career starting in merchant shipping and following a spell of employment with the Scottish dominated P and O line (founded in 1834), he then entered the service of the Japanese Government and helped to chart the coasts of Japan, so necessary for the safety of shipping.

The government of Japan had also to agree by treaty to supply lighthouse services at the treaty ports such as Nagasaki and others. As Scotland was at the forefront of nineteenth century lighthouse building techniques, the Japanese turned to the famous lighthouse building firm of David and Thomas Stevenson in Edinburgh, relatives of the writer Robert Louis Stevenson. They in turn recruited the Aberdonian engineer Richard Henry Brunton (1841-1901), who had the great fortune to obtain the services of Captain Albert Brown as master of the "Thabor", the lighthouse tender. Brown's efficiency and highly professional management of the "Thabor" was seen as being absolutely vital to the smooth running of the project and to its ultimate success

The English speaking "*Japan Weekly Mail*" of 27 July 1872 recorded,

"Three years ago, the name of the Japanese Empire was rarely seen in print in Europe or America. Now, it is hardly possible to open a newspaper without finding a reference to all this progress, and a kindly

word in favour of those who are pursuing it...Of its history, antiquities, geography, its manners and customs, its art and its literature, we know little or nothing, and unless some definite effort is made to dispel this ignorance, we, or those who come after us, will know little more..."

Thanks to the efforts of Captain Albert Richard Brown and other pioneers, the world came to learn a great deal about Japan.

In 1874 Brown returned to Scotland charged with a contract to purchase two merchant steamers on behalf of Glover's Mitsubishi Company. While in his homeland he dispatched the twin screw steamer "*Meiji Maru*" from the Robert Napier yard at Govan on the Clyde to Japan for lighthouse work. It had auxiliary steam engines but was built along sailing ship lines. It was also to have a magnificently designed cabin for the sole use of the Emperor. Brown was enjoined to engage a crew and contact agents in London to deal with the details of payment for the crew and for the coal needed as fuel. His was the task also to bring the ship back to Yokohama which he did with his usual verve and efficiency.

"*Meiji Maru*" still exists in the Tokyo Maritime Museum's dry dock as a tribute to the values and skills associated with the term "*Clyde Built*."

Albert Brown was also involved in dealing with pirates and other maritime problems on behalf of his clients. Over fifty shipwrecked Japanese sailors were murdered on the Chinese owned island of Taiwan in 1874 and the Japanese government could not stand idly by and not respond to the deaths of its citizens. The unfortunate thing was that the government lacked the appropriate shipping to deal with the crisis. A contract was issued to the Mitsubishi Company to transport men and supplies to Taiwan. Once again Captain Brown and some of his fellow foreigners were called upon to man the ships and to ensure that the expedition was a success which it undoubtedly was.

A new company Nippon Yusen Kaisha (The Japanese Mail Steamship Company) was founded in 1885. Captain Albert Brown visited the UK frequently to supervise the ordering and building of ships for Mitsubishi. He toured Korea, Northern China and Russia in 1886 recommending changes and improvements in the services offered by NYK. His task was to examine harbours and advise on which ports were likely to be successful, more so than others. He suggested that NYK

should seek out better facilities in ports such as Shanghai and Vladivostok and also advised the company, through its Japanese officials, on what issues they should raise with their government. Captain Brown's contribution to the development of a professional and efficient merchant marine in Japan was second to none. He brought a western expertise, professionalism and commitment to the task which was not readily available in Japan at that time

Back in Scotland in 1889, Brown founded AR Brown, later AR Brown and McFarlane a shipping firm with many dealings with Japan, placing orders for ships, preparing designs, drawing up the contracts with the shipbuilder, managing everything to do with the successful



Sweethope House Bothwell - the home of AR Brown

building and launch of the ships which brought considerable business to the Clyde. The firm would even organise crews to deliver the ships to Japan. This kind of service might reasonably be described as “comprehensive” From the 1870's Captain Brown became well known in British shipyards doing business on behalf of Japanese owners.

His refuge from all this was Sweethope House in Bothwell, a charming Georgian edifice now “C” listed and divided into two homes. Today it is surrounded by a plethora of modern buildings but its still

extant 19th century pillared facade masks some earlier work. What a different life Captain Brown would lead here although his duties as Japanese consul in Glasgow would no doubt keep him in touch with his previous connections. Sweethope remains the charming edifice which Captain Brown would have known well. Were he to return today, he would undoubtedly regret the disappearance of his open views along Green Street or across the haughs of the Clyde but such is the march of progress. For over twenty years Captain Brown was Honorary Consul for Japan and it is highly likely that this was reflected in the furnishings at Sweethope. Almost certainly there would be a variety of souvenirs from his extensive travels. His position as consul was to provide a service to Japanese citizens in Scotland and the UK. With his help, young Japanese were drafted into all areas of the shipping business operating from the Clyde. Like his contemporary and fellow Scot,



**Meiji Maru Build by A R Brown
Now in Tokyo Maritime Museum in Japan**

Thomas Blake Glover, he was decorated by the Emperor of Japan with the Order of the Rising Sun. He died in 1913 and a letter of condolence was sent to his family by the Japanese Glasgow Society in Tokyo. A much

respected and admired Scottish hero had passed from his home village, his country and the wider world. The Japanese Consulate in Glasgow closed in 1941 after Pearl Harbour. In these more peaceful times the Consulate is now located in Edinburgh.

THE LITTLE BOY WHO NEVER GREW UP

The red sandstone houses of mid- nineteenth century Kirriemuir straggled up and down hills and braes overlooked by the grandeur of the Angus landscape. Here was a douce little Scottish country town far away from all the great events of the wider world in general and Queen Victoria's British Empire in particular.

Nothing much out of the ordinary had ever happened here in this centre of handloom weaving. People went about their lives quietly demonstrating the Northern European Protestant worth ethic, devoting much of the little leisure time they had to the Established Church and the various Presbyterian sects and groups which had split from it. Prominent amongst the breakaway groups were the Auld Lights, an extreme puritanical, fundamentalist group believing that any show of gracious living was opposed to God's will and that life on this earth had to be an endurance test. Music, written sermons and prayers were anathema to them but they did have a profound influence on family life in Kirriemuir at the time and they encouraged a strong sense of oral tradition.

The other great influence on the people of the town and indeed in Scotland in general was the value placed on education. At a time when education was far from universal, 19th century Scotland together with German Prussia could boast the highest rates of literacy in the western world. This tradition had been handed down since the Reformation of the 16th century and John Knox's belief that every parish in the land should have a school. The ultimate ambition for many Scottish families was to give a son to the Church as a Minister and many a "lad o' pairs" left the Scottish countryside for one of the nation's four universities. An example of this could be found in the career of Alexander White, born in Kirriemuir in poverty and later Principal of New College, Edinburgh. The people of Kirriemuir had one of their own as a shining example of achievement through learning. Emphasis on education had seen the flowering of the Scottish Enlightenment in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Here in a so called backward and poverty stricken country, men educated in the native tradition helped to shape the science, philosophy, literature and politics of the modern world.

In a little end house of a row of cottages in modest Brechin Road lived weaver David Barrie and his wife Margaret Ogilvy. In the tradition

of her time which carried on right into the early 20th century, Margaret was known more familiarly by her “ain” (own) name. Nevertheless she was married truly in the sight of God and the eyes of the law to David Barrie and she bore him 10 children of whom eight survived.



Margaret Ogilvie Barrie holding her son James on her knee - courtesy of the National Trust for Scotland

Originally the house also contained a room, a “web room” where David Barrie worked at his loom but as his fortunes improved this room too became part of the living accommodation. Nevertheless it was a modest home which required careful and canny management.

Margaret by the custom of the time changed her religion from the Auld Lights to her husband’s Free Church of Scotland on her marriage. She would still retain, however, many of the tenets

and influences of her former faith. Both husband and wife were at one in basing their lives around religion and in their convictions of the value of education in providing a better life for their offspring.

David had learned to read at an early age and was proud of his small library and the opportunities he had to borrow books from others in his community. He was a typical Victorian father, affectionate and concerned for his offspring but somewhat distant from them, leaving the day to day upbringing to his wife, as was the custom and expectation of the time. Thus Margaret would become a powerful influence in the lives of her children.

Alexander, the eldest son, was a tall upstanding and handsome boy who had also been blessed with considerable intellect. Beginning his education at a church school in Kirriemuir, he later went to the high school in nearby Forfar where he won a bursary to Aberdeen University. After graduating MA with First Class Honours in Classics, his plan was to become a teacher. His sister Mary had become a pupil teacher and in time his younger sisters Sara and Isabella would follow the same path. Education would take the Barrie family offspring out of their humble beginnings and give them opportunities which otherwise might have been denied to them.



David Barrie husband of Margaret Ogilvie Barrie and father of J M Barrie courtesy of the National Trust for Scotland

David and Margaret had two other sons, David junior born in 1853 and James born in 1860. Margaret Barrie would have found it hard to deny that although loving all her children, David was undoubtedly her favourite and this appears to have been accepted by the others without rancour towards the favoured one. Young David was an attractive and personable boy showing early signs of academic promise which his mother hoped would lead to an MA and later a Doctorate in Divinity. Thus it would be that David in becoming a Minister would achieve his mother's ultimate ambition to give a son to the Church.

On the other hand, the third and youngest son, James showed no sign of any particular aptitudes. He was small for his age and had not been blessed with the physical good looks of his brothers and their father. He played games, got into trouble as little boys do and like his siblings, he was good at reading and was inventive and imaginative. One of his friends, the son of a local bookseller, had a toy theatre and both boys enjoyed playing with this piece of magic. Later they would graduate to the wash house opposite the Barrie home and here they would charge modest non monetary admission fees to other children. James had gone to a school run by two local sisters but was later moved to a church school in the town.

Alexander had set about his ambition to become a school teacher and had moved south to Bothwell where there were excellent opportunities for an aspiring schoolmaster in a prosperous and thriving village where families too had aspirations for their offspring. In the 21st century many of Bothwell's aspiring middle classes send their children for private education outwith the community and 19th century Bothwell's richer citizens were of the same mind. There were, however, opportunities locally for private education.

A McPherson's "*Handbook of Hamilton, Bothwell, Blantyre and Uddingston 1862*" records

“The premises of Bothwell Boarding School have been built specially for the purpose of boarding a limited number of pupils in

BOTHWELL BOARDING SCHOOL

Albert Villa, Silverwells Crescent,

Conducted by

MR MACPHERSON

Formerly of the Glasgow Collegiate

connection with the Educational Institution. The physical, moral and religious training of the boarders is carefully attended to. The domestic arrangements are under the superintendence of Mrs. Macpherson.”

The following information is on record:-

“1867 August 3rd - THE BOTHWELL ACADEMY will reopen on Monday, the 5th August, under the management of Mr. Barrie.

In accordance with the intention of the directors in establishing this institution, Mr Barrie has made arrangements which he feels confident will secure a First Class Education for the boys and girls of the higher classes of Bothwell and its neighbourhood. The departments of boys and girls will be kept perfectly distinct. The senior classes in both will be under the sole charge of Mr Barrie, who has secured the aid of well qualified teachers to assist him in the instruction of the junior classes “

Alexander Barrie was setting off confidently to bring enlightenment to the equally aspiring middle classes of prosperous Bothwell.

The eldest Barrie son was well aware of his mother's ambitions for his younger brother David, and with this in mind and based on his own experiences, he wrote to his parents in Kirriemuir suggesting that David should join him at Bothwell Academy in order that his abilities should be nurtured and developed. Alexander was certain that the boy would get a bursary to either Glasgow or Aberdeen Universities, if necessary with extra coaching from Alexander and there would be his sister Mary to look after him. She was employed as Alexander's housekeeper and there was plenty of room in the comfortable lodgings adjoining the school.

Margaret Ogilvy was torn between parental common sense and her obsessive love for her second son. The father had no doubts whatsoever and it was obvious to him that the boy must take his chance of a higher education. He was certain that David would do well under his elder brother's tutelage. Margaret was convinced that he would do more than well and again came her constant dream that he would one day attain the highest honours and be a Minister whose name would bring prestige and honour to his parents and family. Thus she agreed to Alexander's suggestion though at what cost to her to part with her dearest child can only be guessed.

Young David made the train journey south to Bothwell and settled happily in his brother's school. Theology was one of his strongest subjects and there was no question but that he was destined for service in the Church as a Minister. He was not, however, a solemn youth: he was as cheerful and as full of high spirits as the next in spite of his formidable capacity for learning. The village and the surrounding countryside provided many opportunities for lively boys like David.

Regular reports were sent home on David's progress and at the end of 1866 Alexander was able to give the family some good news of his own. He had applied for and been appointed to the position of Classics Master at Glasgow Academy and would be selling his school to take up this important post in September 1867. Mary would still be his housekeeper and David would of course go with them. It would be a wonderful opportunity for both brothers as Glasgow Academy was a school with a high academic reputation.

Margaret Ogilvy had never ceased to miss her favourite son but she could only rejoice at the news and it was a proud and happy family who stopped on their way home from Kirk on Sunday, giving news of the two scholars to anyone who cared to ask.

January came with an extra cold bite in 1867 and the pond on the flood plain of the River Clyde at Bothwell froze over hard enough to permit skating. Alexander had given his brother a pair of skates which he shared with a school friend. On the eve of David's 14th birthday, the two boys went skating. After a few turns on the ice, David took off his skates and gave them to his friend who strapping them on, went spinning away at great speed in typical boys' fashion. In so doing he

cannoned into David Barrie, causing him to fall heavily, head first on to the ice.

David's skull was badly fractured. While there was a glimmer of hope, Alexander sent a telegram to his parents telling them to come as soon as possible. David survived but a few short hours, remaining unconscious before succumbing to his injuries. A second telegram had to be sent to Kirriemuir with the dreadful news.

The terse death notice recorded:-

"1867 February 2nd

DEATHS

At Bothwell Academy, on the 29th ult., David Ogilvy Barrie, aged 13"

One can only imagine the effect this news had on the family in Kirriemuir. As far as young Jamie Barrie was concerned, his biographer Lisa Chaney records, "It made an impression on him which would last to the end of his life" Even in an age when Death was a Familiar stalking the land and child mortality was high, Margaret who had already lost two daughters was totally incapacitated by the death of her second son .Not only had her other children been affected by their brother's death but they had been traumatised by their mother's collapse. This was especially true of Jamie who had always tried hard to please his mother. The writer, Janet Dunbar observes, "*The next day he was a substitute for one who could never be replaced, and so, he knew with a deep instinct, it would always be.*" Jamie would do his best to clown and joke in a vain effort to cheer his mother up. When she regained enough composure to talk about her dead son, her living boy would ask, "*Do you mind nothing of me?*" but he would still do his best to try to replace his brother even to the extent of dressing in his clothes. Jamie was a little boy who even when he grew to manhood would live in two worlds, the real one and the world of fantasy generated by the sad event in Bothwell.

Jamie eventually grew up in his own way, attending Forfar Academy and following the family tradition of academic success, especially in literary skills. Alexander Barrie, the erstwhile headmaster of Bothwell Academy became an Inspector of Schools and took a house in Dumfries, again suggesting that his younger brother (Jamie this time), should join

him there and attend Dumfries Academy which enjoyed a high reputation for academic standards. Here young Jamie honed his storytelling and writing skills and developed a talent for inventing games, especially games dealing with pirates. Dumfries had and still has its "*Theatre Royal*" and the pupils were encouraged by the far sighted staff at the academy to attend the theatre, not that the young Barrie needed any encouragement as he already had an innate love of the stage and of performing.



Peter Pan's Statue in Kensington Palace Gardens London - Picture by Bob Culley

Jamie had ambitions to earn his living as a writer but back in Kirriemuir, his mother was keen for him to go to university in Edinburgh, no doubt remembering the lost boy who would have taken his MA degree and fulfilled his mother's plans for him. University for Jamie was a must even if only to please his mother. He promised her that one day he would be a great writer and make her proud of him in the way that she would have been of his dead brother David, if fate had not intervened so cruelly on the ice in Bothwell.

James Matthew Barrie did become one of the most successful writers of his day,

first as a journalist, then a novelist and most successfully of all as a playwright. His

mother died in 1895 having lived long enough to know that Jamie had kept his promise and gained even more respect and admiration for the Barrie name than he might have had as a church minister.



**J M Barrie courtesy of the
National Trust for Scotland**

A chance encounter with three young boys in Kensington Gardens in London when he was exercising his dog would lead to a strong friendship with the Llewellyn Davies family, Sylvia, the mother, Arthur, the father and five boys, George, Jack, Peter, Michael and Nicholas. Barrie would delight in inventing stories and games for these children and having no offspring of his own, “*Uncle Jim*” adored his adopted family. Sometimes his “*family*” found his attention and obsessive affection rather overwhelming but Barrie could always charm them round to joining in his games.

Writing plays made J. M. Barrie a very rich man and successes such as “*The Wedding Seat*” 1897; “*Quality Street*” 1901 and “*The Admirable Crichton*” 1902, poured money into his bank accounts. His most famous play, however, and the one for which he is best remembered is “*Peter Pan*” 1904. This was written for the Llewellyn Davies boys and is a fantasy tale about pirates, led by the infamous Captain Hook together with an eight day clock, a crocodile and some fairies. It tells the story of Peter Pan, a little boy who wouldn’t grow up. Here the influences of experiences in Kirriemuir and Dumfries come together and especially the happenings on the fateful day in Bothwell in January 1867. Barrie had lived his life since then with the memory of the little boy who never grew up but always remained young and vital. David Barrie had never grown up but his memory was treasured by his mother and through her by his brother Jamie. A skating accident in Bothwell would help to inspire JM Barrie to create his masterpiece, “*Peter Pan*“, the little boy who never grew up.

JM Barrie died in 1937, famous, rich and much admired by his contemporaries. He is buried in Kirriemuir beside his mother and close to his brother David. “*Peter Pan*” is still popular with children’s audiences and many go to Kensington Gardens to admire his statue

there. Kirriemuir too has a copy of the statue. The red sandstone houses are still there together with the humble weaver's house in Brechin Road which is now a shrine to one of Scotland's most famous writers. Margaret Ogilvy Barrie can rest in peace.

A SECRET PASSAGE

Most children love the idea of a secret passage, a dark mysterious place generally used by adventurers to escape from whatever horror has been assailing them. Children's stories from the earliest times right down to the modern Harry Potter tales are redolent with derring-do incidents associated with secret passages. Many historic tourist sites tactfully cover over the facts that so called secret passages were either former latrines or efforts to hide the comings and goings of servants from their masters.

Adults too enjoy similar feelings especially if there is some ghostly frisson attached to the experience of the visit. This can be demonstrated in Mary King's Close in Edinburgh where tourists flock to its underground streets believing it to be the site where plague victims were walled up in the fifteenth century. Some have been known to leave toys and gifts for the child said to haunt the place. The truth is rather more prosaic in that the close was abandoned in the middle of the eighteenth century to provide foundations for the Royal Exchange, later the City Chambers of 1753-1761. Once again the romance is preferable to the reality.

Legend has it that an underground passage linked Bothwell Castle with Blantyre Priory on the other side of the River Clyde. Even those outstanding men who planned and executed the building of the castle would have been hard pressed to excavate through the solid bedrock of the river between Blantyre and Bothwell. Bothwell, indeed, does have a secret passage but it has nothing to do with castles, chivalry or knights in shining armour. None the less it is just as historic and involved heroes of a different kind.

Mining has been known in Scotland since ancient times. Mediaeval travellers from Europe noted with astonishment that the poor were sometimes given stones as alms. The monks of Newbattle Abbey mined coal on their Monklands lands, the next parish to Bothwell and the monks of the priory at Lesmahagow did so too in their parish. In the late eighteenth century, records for the parish of Bothwell show that fifty colliers were employed in mining in the area.

Bothwell in the later years of the nineteenth century still provided an elegant escape from the horrors of the industrial revolution all around it. The wide streets with their sandstone residences, the fine trees and the rural aspects of the tidy village were in contrast to what existed not very far away. The Clyde Hotel of 1860 still provided commodious accommodation and good service for visitors and tourists.



Miners' children in Castle Square in the Late 1920's courtesy of Minnie Storrie

It was well known that seams of coal existed in the area and the ever increasing demands of the iron and later steelworks of Lanarkshire meant that it was inevitable that industry would come to Bothwell.

William Baird and Company undertook to develop the Bothwell Castle Colliery in the very heart of the village behind the Clyde Hotel. The Bairds had originally been farmers at Kirkwood near Coatbridge and the family consisted of eight sons and two daughters. The sons were to go on to become the greatest dynasty of iron masters in the land. In old age the brothers would recall sleeping in the attic at Kirkwood with the bedding covered in snow. Later their wealth, part of which came from profits at Castle Colliery Bothwell, would provide them with more luxurious accommodation.

By 1910, 401 people were employed underground at Bothwell Castle Colliery with a further 71 working above ground. The miners lived in tied houses owned by their employers. Bairds had erected ten houses

adjacent to the colliery in 1896. The Medical Officer of Health, Dr John T Wilson recorded conditions in these houses in a report in 1910:-

“8 two apartment houses, rental £7 8s

2 three apartment houses, rental £10.6s

These houses are of one storey, built of brick, no damp proof course, plastered with hollow walls. Wood floors, ventilated, internal surface of walls and ceilings in good condition and not damp.

No overcrowding- apartments large

No garden, but have wash houses and coal cellars

Gravitation water-outside

One privy midden 20 feet from front of houses

Scavenging at the owners' expense.”

What a contrast this must have been, and these house were regarded as appropriate for their occupants, to the fine villas and gardens in the rest of the village.

The task of mining coal was, and remains, even in modern times, a highly dangerous occupation. The history of mining is scarred with disasters, some larger in terms of numbers killed and injured than others but even a single fatality is a disaster to the families, friends and the communities of the individuals involved. The local and national press of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century are full of reports of mining accidents leading to serious injuries and even death.

HAMILTON ADVERTISER 11th June 1879

PIT ACCIDENT”

“On Wednesday Wm Irving, 40, brusher, Eadies Square, Bothwell, had his left leg broken below the knee and was severely bruised about the head, while firing a shot in the splint coal seam , No 2 Pit, Bothwell Park Colliery”

SCOTSMAN 2nd Feb 1882

EXPLOSION OF FIREDAMP

“On Tuesday morning an explosion of firedamp occurred in the splint coal seam of No 3 pit Bothwell Castle Colliery, belonging to

Messrs William Baird and Co. At a point about 200 yards from the pit bottom the brattice cloth was accidentally knocked down by a miner named Thomas Mc Gough, as he was passing with a hutch, and was allowed to remain in this state for a couple of hours. The interruption of the ventilation led to a considerable accumulation of fire-damp, which was ignited as Mc Gough and a fireman named James Docherty or Devlin were engaged putting their brattice to right. Both men were severely burned about the arms, hands, legs and face, that by Dr Milroy's instructions they were removed to Glasgow Royal Infirmary. Only safety lamps are allowed at the spot, and it is supposed the poor men had incautiously lighted a match, or brought a naked light to the scene, and thus set fire to the gas"

HAMILTON ADVERTISER Feb 1st 1886

LAD KILLED AT NEWLANDS COLLIERY

"A lad named Robert Baillie (18) a stoker, residing at Nackery, parish of Bothwell, was killed on Monday afternoon at No1 pit, Newlands Colliery. He had been shifting the points for an engine on a line of rails at the pit, and as he made to jump upon the engine, which was running down the incline, he came in violent contact with one of the pithead standards, fell forward, and was crushed between the engine and the standard, death being almost instantaneous."

SCOTSMAN 27th December 1888

TERRIBLE FALL DOWN A COAL PIT

"At midnight on Tuesday, Francis Mackay (21), pit-bottomer, met with a terrible death in the shaft of No 1 pit, Bothwell Castle Colliery, belonging to Messrs William Baird and Company. Some extra work was being done in the Ell coal seam, and about eleven o'clock deceased came to the surface for his supper. About midnight he came on to the cage along with John Lindsay, labourer and James Archibald, bricklayer, with the intention of descending the pit again. They had only been lowered about four yards when the cage gave a jerk, causing the deceased to fall over the side to the bottom, a depth of 180 fathoms"

As the nineteenth century moved into the twentieth and technology in mining became more advanced, the catalogue of injury and death continued. Just as men were dying on the front in World War One, so too were miners in local pits.”

THE SCOTSMAN 12TH JUNE 1915

“Yesterday forenoon, while a pit contractor named Thomas Daly, residing at Freebairn’s Land, Main Street, Bothwell was at work in Messrs Baird’s Bothwell Castle Colliery, Bothwell, a fall took place. When extricated, it was found that Daly was seriously injured on the body and legs. He was conveyed home in a stretcher”

AIRDRIE AND COATBRIDGE ADVERTISER 8th July 1916

BOTHWELL MAN-KILLED IN A PIT

“An accident occurred in Messrs Baird’s Bothwell Castle Colliery on Wednesday night whereby a young man, Thomas Mullen, pony driver, Spring wells, Blantyre lost his life. Deceased is reported to have been found in a manhole shockingly injured and life extinct. It is presumed he had been run down by a rake of hutches and thrown into the manhole”

HAMILTON ADVERTISER 26TH AUGUST 1922

BOTHWELL-A DOUBLE PIT FATALITY

“A double pit fatality occurred on Wednesday morning at Bothwell Castle Colliery, belonging to Messrs William Baird & Company Limited. Two men, James McGinlay and John McFadden both residing at 10 Leechlee Street, Hamilton were employed as brushers, and were working in the ell coal seam, which is between 200 and 300 ft from the bottom of the shaft. It is supposed that the men, thinking the cage was waiting, stepped out into the shaft, and, being unable to draw back, dropped to the bottom. When recovered their bodies were badly mutilated. The accident occurred when the men had finished their shift, and it is suggested that it might have been caused by their hurry to get to the surface, although no satisfactory explanation has yet been

reached. It was stated that the management could not understand how the men had fallen into the shaft”

SCOTSMAN 24TH AUGUST 1922

TWO MEN KILLED IN BOTHWELL COLLIERY

“An accident took place in Messrs William Baird and Company’s Bothwell Castle Colliery, Bothwell yesterday, where two men were instantly killed. It is stated that John McKinley (James in the previous newspaper report) and John McFadden both residing at 10 Leechlee Street, Hamilton, were working in a seam about 250 feet from the bottom, and were stopping work when they both stepped into the shaft, believing that the cage was there. Both fell to the bottom and were killed”

HAMILTON ADVERTISER AUGUST 8TH 1925

BOTHWELL- COLLIERY ACCIDENT

“On Monday afternoon two miners named J Griffen, 101 Baird’s Rows, Blantyre and Edward Murphy, 12 Clova Terrace, Uddingston, were seriously injured by a fall from the roof while employed at Bothwell Castle Colliery, and were removed to their homes in Uddingston Ambulance wagon”

SCOTSMAN 28th APRIL 1920

FIRE IN BOTHWELL COLLIERY-FOUR MEN SUFFOCATED

“At Messrs William Baird & Company’s Castle Colliery, Bothwell, on Monday night, a motor engine underground took fire, and smoke enveloped the workings. The men at work moved to the pit bottom, several having narrow escapes.

Rescue parties were formed, Mr Park (manager), Mr McPhee (manager) and his son and others giving willing service. Four men who were at work in the vicinity were found to be missing, and after the fire had been subdued the bodies were found where they thought they had good shelter. All were suffocated. They were identified as Donald

McFarlane, Low Blantyre, married, with six of a family, his son, William aged 18 years; a Pole named Anthony Novecitis, and a lad named John McGinn both residing at Springwells Blantyre”

HAMILTON ADVERTISER APRIL 1920

BOTHWELL-SERIOUS PIT FIRE-FOUR MEN LOSE THEIR LIVES

“Bothwell Castle Colliery, belonging to Messrs William Baird Ltd and situated near the main road between Uddingston and Bothwell, was on Monday night the scene of a serious fire, as a result of which four men lost their lives and seven others had a narrow escape,. A motor engine underground took fire and, being saturated with grease, was blazing at once like a roaring furnace. Several men at work in the vicinity endeavoured to run to safety, but their escape was cut off by the fire and smoke, and they were overcome. Rescue parties were speedily arranged. Messrs. Park and McGhee (underground managers), Farquhar, Miller and A. Kerr made desperate efforts to reach the men, but they worked for several hours before they came upon the men, four of whom had suffocated in a bye road. The names of the deceased are:- Donald McFarlane and his son William M Farlane, 18, residing at Low Blantyre; Anthony Novecites, a Pole; and John McGlenn, 17 both residing in Springwell Place, Blantyre. Other seven men rescued alive were working near the four men who lost their lives. Mr John Robertson, MP. and several other miners’ leaders were also present, and along with Mr JT Forgie, general manager, rendered valuable assistance. The bodies were recovered shortly before midnight”

HAMILTON ADVERTISER 1ST MAY 1920

FUNERALS OF VICTIMS OF BOTHWELL CASTLE COLLIERY MISHAP

“The funerals of the four victims of Bothwell Castle Colliery mishap, all of whom resided in Blantyre, took place at High Blantyre Cemetery. The two residing in Springwell were buried on Wednesday, the burial being attended by a large number of their workmates. The funeral of Donald McFarlane and his 18 year old son took place the day following, fully 200 joining in the procession. The cortege was preceded by four pipers from Cambuslang Pipe Band of which William was a

member. Much sympathy is expressed for Mrs McFarlane in her double loss”

HAMILTON ADVERTISER 9th APRIL 1998

50 YEARS AGO

An improved ambulance carriage for underground use at collieries, the invention of a Bothwell man, Mr James Fleming, foreman joiner at Bothwell castle No 1 and “ colliery, enabled injured miners to be conveyed more speedily to the pit bottom

Mr Fleming drew the plans for his improved carriage in a single night and the actual working time spent on its construction was just over a week.



James Fleming - Courtesy of his daughter Iris Allan

The carriage had three advantages over the few that are in use in Scottish collieries. It is lighter, is fitted with shock absorbing springs, and has self locking guard rails which make it impossible for the patient to fall out even if it has to be lifted from one set of rails to another.

Even the factual reporting of the newspapers cannot disguise the anguish of the families, friends and co workers of those killed in mining accidents. Conditions below ground were harsh and unremitting. Wages were poor, welfare was basic if it existed at all and housing conditions were often substandard and could deteriorate quickly into slums. Those miners who survived into later years could anticipate poor health, especially chronic lung conditions brought about by working underground in clouds of coal dust, even when mechanisation had taken over from pick and shovel.

The landscape of Lanarkshire was covered in huge spoil heaps of waste coal material known locally as “bing.” Not only were these blots on the landscape but as they were often attractive to children as playgrounds, they could be dangerous. Frequently they went on fire as a result of spontaneous combustion. Former residents of the village of Bothwellhaugh (Hamilton Palace Colliery) across the river from Bothwell recall as children playing on the bing and sliding down its dangerous slopes. Bothwell Castle Colliery too had a bing close to the main road to Uddingston and the mediaeval castle itself was overshadowed by a huge mountain of coal waste on the Blantyre side of the river.

The “SCOTSMAN” of 11th December 1888 records the death of a child attracted to the possible adventures to be found in the area of a pit., *“On Sunday a number of boys were playing themselves by swinging and jumping by means of the haulage rope at No 1 Pit Newlands Colliery, occupied by the Provanhall Coal Company, when one of their number, John McLachlan, 14 years of age met his death in a shocking manner. He had been swinging upon the rope and had held on too long to have a safe jump. He was immediately hauled up to the pulley wheel, between which and the rope he was crushed to death”*

The mining community in Bothwell continued until the closure of Bothwell Castle Colliery in 1950 as a result of flooding. Soon after Bothwell’s two railway stations which had been built at the height of the railway boom closed too. The tenements which had been built at Waverley Place and Castle Square to house the miners were not thought worthy of being part of the conservation village plans of the day which had been drawn up to protect the core of the eighteenth and nineteenth century village landscape. They were torn down. The Miners’ Welfare Institution became a Catholic Church but it too disappeared when the new St Bride’s Church was built.

Little remains of Bothwell’s mining heritage. What is left of the bing has been sanitised and landscaped with trees. The site of the pit, having been an industrial site and waste ground for a number of years is now the location of high quality flatted apartments. Where the railway stations once stood has upmarket properties too. Recently the walkway and nature trail created along the former railway line was refurbished and a piece of sculpture resembling the winding gear of the former pit was erected close by the site of Castle Colliery.

The miners' houses have been replaced by a sheltered housing complex and a garden. Bothwell has returned to its pre industrial condition. Signs at both entrances to the village depict "Historic Bothwell" and show illustrations of the mediaeval castle, the church and the bridge - no sign of any industrial heritage here.

One thing does remain although it is now blocked off: the secret passage. In the nineteenth century, not everyone in the village took kindly to the influx of miners, especially as many of them were Irish immigrants as witnessed by the names of those recorded in the newspapers as being killed or injured. As a result of this, a passage was built under the main road to link the miners' housing and the pit itself. This meant that the other members of the community did not need to see the men going to and from the colliery. Last used as an air raid shelter in World War Two, it is now closed for safety reasons and may be of interest to future archaeologists and social historians.

C G L CANTAUR

Cosmo Gordon Lang just had to grow up to be someone famous. George Bernard Shaw's dictum, "*Always be kind to your schoolmates. One of them may grow up to be a great swell*" might have been written with C.L.G in mind. His birth in the Manse at Fyvie in Aberdeenshire on Hallowe'en 1864 was not presaged by a visitation of witches and warlocks, comets or stars or the appearance of wise men from the East. Given that his father was the local minister and given the strong tradition of education and learning in the Scotland of the day, there would have been wise men in abundance visiting the manse as well as the poor seeking succour of a more practical nature but the wise ones would, of course, have been Scottish and from the East of Scotland. The name Cosmo too had distinctly Un-Scottish associations with its Florentine Medici connotations. He was in fact named after Cosmo Gordon, the aristocratic Laird of Fyvie whose family in earlier times had connexions with the great Italian family. One might ask, "*What's in a name?*" Quite a lot as it would turn out.

It is recorded that when Cosmo was born the nurse attending the birth, with a sad intensity recorded, "*Puir wee lamb, it'll be a mercy if the Lord takes him*". The Lord clearly had other things in mind for this particular child as he survived, becoming a "*great swell*" and only dying after a long, healthy and fulfilling life.

Cosmo's family may not have been aristocratic but they were of good Scottish salt of the earth stock. One of his ancestors had been a surgeon in the Royal Navy at the beginning of the eighteenth century. Another was said to have been a merchant in the West Indies while yet another had fought for the Covenanters at the Battle of Bothwell Brig in 1679. His paternal grandfather, Gavin Lang was the minister of Glassford in the windswept Covenanted country of Lanarkshire near to the border with Ayrshire while his maternal grandfather was the Minister of the prestigious Collegiate Church in the ducal town of Hamilton. Thus from both sides of his family, Cosmo inherited a strong Presbyterian tradition with its emphasis on "*The preaching of the Word and the praising of his Name*". The buildings of the Established Church of Scotland at this time tended to be cold, barn like structures, unadorned and plain so that the congregation would not be diverted in any way from listening to the central Word as defined in the Minister's

sermon. This was Cosmo Gordon Lang's inheritance in which Lanarkshire played a big part.

The sons of the Manse have had a profound influence in all areas of the life of Scotland since the Reformation and this tradition continues down to the present day. John Marshall Lang, Cosmo's father was to become a very distinguished clergyman in the Church of Scotland. His first charge had been at the East Church in Aberdeen, then the country parish of Fyvie, followed by a spell at Anderson Church near Glasgow before moving to the fashionable Edinburgh suburb of Morningside. Given the strict Presbyterian traditions of the time, some of John Marshall Lang's preaching innovations raised more than one fiercely traditional eyebrow in an age when the post reformation suspicions of the influences of Popery were still extant in the Church of Scotland. In his church, the congregation stood to sing rather than sit while singing which was the custom. The suspicion of High Church attitudes associated with his father would not go unnoticed by the young Cosmo.

In 1873, John Marshall Lang became minister at the Barony Kirk of Glasgow across the square from the city's mediaeval cathedral. The Barony Kirk had formerly been one of a number of congregations occupying the cathedral buildings after the Reformation. It had moved to its own building across from the High Kirk into a new building noted more for its functionality than aesthetic pretensions.

This situation would not do for John Marshall Lang and in his tenure as Minister he would oversee the raising of a considerable sum of money for a new church building in the Gothic style with pillars, chancel and nave, something that hadn't been seen in Scotland since before the Reformation. This period coincided with the rise of Glasgow as "*The Second City of the Empire*" and a new appreciation of Gothic architecture. Cosmo would see the potential in his father's church building for "*Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness*". He would develop a passion for beautiful church buildings. With the new building would come more changes in ritual for his father's congregation. Despite initial conservative reaction, John Marshall Lang, an eloquent preacher with a powerful delivery would fill his church to its 2,000 capacity. In 1893 he was honoured by the Church in being elected as Moderator of the General Assembly. His son, Norman, described him as "*A man of deep, unaffected, undemonstrative piety whose religion was the inspiration of his life*". His mother too had a profound influence on

the development of Cosmo's character. She was utterly devoted to her husband and seven children and was a huge support to her husband in the work of the parish. This was Cosmo Gordon Lang's inheritance.

C.G.L had an idyllic childhood, a close relationship with his older brother Patrick and was blessed with a vivid imagination which he would use in his childhood games of knights in shining armour. At one stage he even pretended to be a Christian martyr suffering in the flames of a heathen bonfire. In his fertile mind, he imagined himself as a politician, occupying all the great offices of the state and eventually marrying an aristocratic wife. All this was recorded in an entry in his own imaginary and personal version of "*Who's Who*". School -as in Park School in Glasgow - must have seemed like an intrusion into his world of fantasy. He had great gifts of imagination but was also articulate beyond his years.

Like many boys before and since, he was adored by his grandmothers, Hannah Keith in Hamilton and Anna Lang in Bothwell and he would spend holidays with them. The Lang grandparents had retired to Bothwell, although Cosmo would have faint memories of both his grandfathers. In her earlier years as the minister's wife in Glassford, Anna Lang who had been born in 1807 had a reputation for being more forceful than her husband. The Lady of the Manse in a country parish can be a powerful and influential figure in the life of the community and Anna Lang carried out her obligations in full to her husband and his congregation. She personified the belief that to be the wife of a Minister is almost as much a sacred calling as that of the minister himself. In the days before the ordination of women into the Church, personalities such as Anna Lang were powerful reminders of the importance of women to the life and work of the Church. People who knew them both would declare that Cosmo Gordon Lang not only resembled his paternal grandmother in physical appearance but also in her personality. The example of the old lady in Bothwell would remain with him until the end of his days.

By tradition which is still implicit today, the manses of the Church of Scotland had spare rooms in order to provide both hospitality and succour to those in need. Anna's son, remembering his mother described her as charming, full of humour, lively and articulate and a singer of "auld Scotch songs". No one was ever turned away from the Manse door and plain honest Scotch fare was available to those who called in times

of need or perhaps simply socially. Cosmo adored his grandmother and he would visit her in her comfortable home, Whitehall House in Bothwell where the traditional hospitality she had dispensed as the wife of a Minister continued in her widowhood. He loved the novels of Sir Walter Scott and would revel in the places in the village of Bothwell which had inspired the great novelist. In his imagination, the young Cosmo would see himself as another “Young Lochinvar” or as the hapless David, Duke of Rothesay who had married Archibald the Grim’s daughter in the brand new collegiate Church of Bothwell in 1400. Which personality of vivid imagination could fail to be moved by the ruins of the mediaeval castle or the site of the battle in which his Covenanting ancestor had fought in 1679? In later life Cosmo would be at the centre of historical events but he would retain something of the boy who loved Bothwell.

In 1878 Cosmo was enrolled in Glasgow University at 14 years of age. This may seem to be rather precocious to the modern eye, but it was not uncommon for bright young men pre twentieth century to start their university careers in adolescence. Fellow Scot, Adam Smith, the economist and author of “*The Wealth of Nations*” had also enrolled at Glasgow University at the age of 14 in 1737. Cosmo’s time at Glasgow coincided with a period of great scholarship in the university’s staff. Unfortunately it was also to prove that brilliance of intellect and inspired teaching are not necessarily represented in the same person. Nevertheless a promising career seemed to be in the offing for the minister’s young son as a lawyer or a politician. Cosmo would take refuge from his studies by visiting his grandmothers in Hamilton and Bothwell. He recalled Anna Lang as follows.

“My father’s mother was a woman of outstanding ability of mind and fervour of piety. Though as I remember her she was always more or less an invalid, in the extent and power of her influence she was a true “Mother in Israel”. Even as a boy I felt the moving power of her prayers: in long and eloquent letters she used to pour out her longings for my young soul: yet all this fervour was saved from oppressiveness by her rich sense of humour and width of sympathy and interests.” - A wonderful tribute from a devoted grandson to his beloved grandmother. Her letters to Cosmo survive in the archives of Lambeth Palace Library, the London residence of the Archbishops of Canterbury.

Cosmo graduated from Glasgow University, having won prizes for a political essay and for a discourse on church history. The world beckoned and in 1881 CGL crossed the border into England for the first time. Soon afterwards he ventured further afield and visited Paris, then at the height of its fame as Europe's capital of the senses and the sensual. He wasn't impressed. His most daring venture as a Scottish Presbyterian youth was to attend Mass at Notre Dame. As always he was impressed by the theatre of the Church, by the sights, sound and smells and by the dramatic and beautiful vestments of the priests: such are our lives shaped and altered by experiences. He was keen not to let his Scottish grandmothers in on his "*brush with popery*." "*Tell it not in Gath (Bothwell), publish it not in Askelon (Hamilton)*."

Lang was keen to further his studies and after a failed attempt to enrol at Kings College, Cambridge (he was overwhelmed by the beauty of Kings College Chapel), he entered Balliol College, Oxford. This was not inappropriate for a young Scotsman as the institution had been founded by Devorguilla, the mother of King John Balliol of Scotland. The future of the putative lawyer/politician seemed assured.

His beloved grandmother Anna Lang died in Bothwell in 1886. The two had kept up a voluminous correspondence in which he had revealed his love and respect for the singer of "*auld Scotch sangs*", for the lady who kept a generous table and who would always call on the youngest present to bless the food. When he gained the position of scholar at Balliol, one of his greatest joys was in sending the news to Granny Lang who would wisely warn against letting success go to his head. In her old age, she declared that her chief pleasure was in thinking of her grandchildren, especially her "*own beloved Cosmo*." Two other grandchildren would occupy important positions in both the Church of England and the Church of Scotland. Cosmo's brother, Norman, would become Suffragan Bishop of Leicester and another brother, Marshall, would become Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 1935 creating a unique situation when the two most important posts in the Established Churches of England and Scotland would be held by brothers. Her death came as a blow.

Granny Lang would never know that her God had chosen a different path for her favourite grandson. Not for him the power of politics or the awesome dignity of the law. He would, indeed, enter the portals of number 10 Downing Street and be familiar with the gothic splendours of

the Palace of Westminster but in a way that Granny Lang could never have contemplated. He would become an Anglican priest and eventually gain the highest ecclesiastical post in that Church.

As an Anglo-Catholic, he might have gone over to the Church of Rome. In his early years he was extremely handsome and had the kind of appearance which would not have looked out of place in a Raphael painting. In old age, his fine features took on considerable ecclesiastical and priestly dignity and showed an inner kindness. Had he taken the great step from Presbyterianism through Anglicanism to Catholicism, he might well have been seen as “*papabile*”. He remained an Anglican.

After going down his own personal road to Damascus, he was ordained an Anglican priest in 1891. By 1898 he was Vicar of Portsea and a neighbour of Queen Victoria in Osborne House. Victoria had given her name to a world wide era and she had a great affection for Scotland and for the Scottish people. The paradox was that as the Supreme Head of the Church of England on Earth and Defender of the Faith, she worshipped as a Presbyterian when she came to Scotland to reside at Balmoral. She seemed to prefer the robustness of Scottish preachers to the homilies of her Anglican clergy. It was even said that when the Queen came to Scotland, she spoke with a Scottish accent. Thus Lang began a long friendship with the Royal family.

Although involved in the Queen’s obsequies in 1901, he was not present at the death bed when the dying queen was cradled in the arms of her grandson the Kaiser. Lang had begun his priesthood in a slum area but by 1908, he was appointed Archbishop of York, the second highest post in the Church of England. During World War One, he criticised the excessive anti German propaganda when German biscuits became Empire biscuits, dachshund dogs were kicked in the streets and when the House of Saxe Coburg Gotha was obliged to become the House of Windsor. It didn’t make him popular with the general public but it didn’t stop him becoming Archbishop of Canterbury in 1928. As a friend of the Royal family, he had christened Princess Elizabeth (the present Queen) in the chapel at Buckingham Palace. To outsiders, he was “*proud, pompous and prelatial.*” Granny Lang would not have approved. To her worldly success was all very well but not at any price. As a liberal priest he presided over the Lambeth Conference of 1930 when the Anglican Church approved the use of artificial contraception in certain circumstances. Under his leadership in 1936, the Anglican

Church took a more liberal view on divorce, which may seem surprising given what was to come for King Edward VIII when he indicated his intention to marry a twice divorced American woman. The English upper classes were not sure which was worse, Wallis Simpson being an American or being twice divorced.

As an old friend and as Archbishop of Canterbury, Cosmo Gordon Lang was present at the death bed of King George V in 1936. As he prayed over the dying king, Lang would witness Lord Dawson administer the large dose of morphine which would send the king to meet his Maker slightly earlier than the latter might have intended. Dawson had been responsible for the bulletin posted on the gates of Buckingham Palace, "*The king's life is moving peacefully to its close.*" The king died at 11.55pm. The cynics were to say that Dawson dispatched him at that time so that the death notice would be printed in the "*Times*" rather than in some less salubrious undignified journal. The archbishop did not comment on what was undoubtedly seen by some as euthanasia.

After the death of his friend, King George V, the archbishop found no great favour with the new king who was about to trigger a constitutional crisis by seeking to marry a twice divorced American lady, Mrs Wallis Simpson. No doubt as Archbishop of Canterbury, Lang was involved in what came to be known as "*The Abdication Crisis*" but it was Stanley Baldwin, the Prime Minister who called the tune. Lang had no great input into the proceedings. On the 11th December 1938, Edward VIII departed his former kingdom for a tedious and weary exile.

Lang would crown the new King and Queen in May 1937, although he had made a rather indiscreet radio broadcast in which he appeared to be kicking his former monarch when he was down and also making well meaning if patronising comments on the new King. He did show considerable concern for the activities of Hitler and the Nazi party but he was associated with the appeasement policies of Chamberlain. He endured the bombing of his London residence, Lambeth Palace during the Blitz. He resigned as Archbishop of Canterbury in 1942 and was elevated to the House of Lords as Baron Lang of Lambeth.

If ever anyone should have had a peaceful death bed scene, surrounded by grieving acolytes in an odour of sanctity, comforted by the magnificent prose of the prayers for the dying, it should have been

Cosmo Gordon Lang. His love of the theatre and the ceremony of the church almost demanded it. It was not to be. He collapsed in the street on his way to the tube station. His condition was witnessed by a number of people, none of whom recognised him. He was dead on arrival at the hospital. The body was then removed without ceremony to the public mortuary. Although he was accorded funeral rites appropriate for an Archbishop of Canterbury, perhaps Granny Lang would have approved the manner of his going

Sic transit gloria mundi.

ENGLAND EXPECTS: SCOTLAND PROVIDES

Since 1707, the Royal Navy has been universally known as The British Navy. Not unreasonably many will see it as the continuation of the historic English navy of Henry VIII, Drake, Frobisher and Raleigh. It is quietly ignored or forgotten by Anglo-centric naval historians that Scotland too had its own navy, particularly during the reign of James IV. When he was not paying court to his mistress at Bothwell, James, regarded by many European diplomats of the time as a true Renaissance prince was also engaged in building a powerful navy. His brother in law, Henry VIII's great warship "*Mary Rose*" is well known having been rescued from its watery grave by archaeologists towards the end of last century. There was, however, one larger and more powerful warship in the British Isles at the same time as the "*Mary Rose*" was helping to inflate Henry VIII's ego. It was "*The Great Michael*" the flagship of James IV's Scottish navy.

Built at the King's new dockyard at Newhaven between 1507 and 1511, the "*Great Michael*" was the largest ship of her day in Europe. It was said that all the woods of Fife were chopped down to provide her timbers. She carried many great guns forged in the armoury of Edinburgh Castle. It was reported that the King's navy had many ships, both large and small but this claim may have been made for propaganda purposes. Nevertheless James's navy was a bargaining counter in the diplomacies of Europe at the time. After the death of the King at Flodden in 1513, the Scottish navy was sold off. The "*Great Michael*" went to France and was left to rot in harbour.

A number of small Scottish naval ships joined the British Royal Navy in 1707.

A Royal Navy Captain, Andrew Thomson on 21st December 1802 purchased one acre, one rood and six and one tenth falls of ground being part of the lands called Gateside and Crossbrae in Bothwell from Robert Burns of the Westport in Bothwell. Here together with his wife Barbara Hamilton who had originally come from the town of Hamilton, he built a house in the Georgian style of the day and named it "The Anchorage." The belief at the time and subsequently was that he had built the house as a place to retire to after his naval service was over. It was an attractive building with an open view across the Clyde valley and on the

edge of the village some distance from the road to Hamilton and the south. Although the Clyde became tidal at that time a mere six miles from Bothwell, the peaceful, wooded Bothwell banks would be a long way from the turmoil of a naval life. Andrew Thomson had been made a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy on Sept 27th and a captain on October 17th 1801.

The greatest British hero of all time is probably Horatio Nelson famous for his naval victories and for having as his mistress, Emma, the wife of Sir William Hamilton a relative of the Duke of Hamilton. His most famous victory was at Trafalgar, 21st October 1805. His stirring message to his fleet prior to the battle still resounds: “England expects that every man will do his duty.”



Model of HMS Victory, Nelson's flagship at Trafalgar 1805 - Courtesy of Keith Brown

Tim Clayton has revealed that almost a third of the seamen who fought at Trafalgar were Scots and a high percentage of petty officers and skilled seafarers were from north of the Border. Surprising to modern eyes, there were Scottish women at the battle too, one of them

even giving birth during the action. England may have expected every man to do his duty but a big contribution to the success of Nelson and his successor naval officers in the naval wars of the nineteenth century and beyond was provided by Scottish seamen

Local legend in Bothwell has it that Captain Andrew Thomson of “The Anchorage” was Nelson’s flag captain at the battle of Trafalgar. What a lovely adventurous tale that would have made had it been true. Sadly it belongs to the realm of fiction. Nelson’s flag captain at Trafalgar was Thomas Hardy, a Dorsetshire man who became famous as the man who cradled the dying Nelson “Kiss me, Hardy,” the dying admiral is said to have requested of his flag captain.

As the whole of the British navy was not at Trafalgar, Captain Andrew Thomson was almost certainly performing valiant duty elsewhere. He was definitely not at Trafalgar. Two other Thomsons (Thompsons) were- Andrew Thompson a boatswain’s mate from Fife on “HMS Eurelus” and Andrew Thomson a twenty three year old clerk on another warship.

“The Anchorage” was sold on June 3rd 1815 by Captain Thomson for £500 to Dr James Dalziel also of the Royal Navy. Although he didn’t fight at the greatest naval battle of his times, Captain Thomson must have been a worthy gentleman and a fine seaman. He died in 1828.

The original avenue from the house led on to the old road opposite Silverhill. When the new road was constructed through the grounds in 1826, a lodge house and gate was built opening on to the road. A number of new feus were created and building took pace over the course of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Today “*The Anchorage*” remains a Georgian gem surrounded by later buildings.



Anchorage House Bothwell – picture by Ian Beckett

A SOLDIER OF THE QUEEN

When Queen Victoria ascended the throne in 1837 many soldiers were required to police her far flung empire and Scottish regiments were at the forefront of the expansion of British imperialism. After the Battle of Culloden in 1745, the British government made a big effort to channel the warlike tendencies of the Highlanders into the armed forces of Britain and then as now, the army was a source of employment where there was little else. Kilted Highlanders and their Lowland brethren were a familiar sight everywhere the Union Jack flew.

In 1857 trouble was brewing in India, the jewel in the crown of the Empire. Sepoys (native soldiers) employed by the East India company which was to all intents and purposes the de facto ruler of India, felt that they were the victims of race and religious based injustices and harsh treatment, mutinied and the rebellion spread across North Central India. The Mutiny or the First War of Indian Independence is remembered today for the brutalities on both sides. British women and children were killed and maimed in the most horrific of circumstances while British retaliation demonstrated that Europeans could be as barbarous as any of the peoples the British regarded as primitive.

In 1854, following the Crimean War, Queen Victoria instructed the War Office to strike a new medal that would stand above birth or class: to be awarded to all ranks of servicemen and not just officers. It was to be called the Victoria Cross, the VC, and would be “*awarded to soldiers who had served in the presence of the enemy and performed some signal act of valour and devotion.*” The medals were to be made of bronze from Russian cannons captured at the siege of Sebastopol. It was to be and still is the highest honour which servicemen can be given in The British army.

William Gardner was born in the Lanarkshire hamlet of Nemphlar near Lanark on March 3rd 1821. By profession he was a gardener but the lure of service to the Queen and Empire found him joining the army and having been sent to India he was caught up in the Mutiny. He had entered the service into the 42nd Royal Highland Regiment of Foot -later the Black Watch - in Glasgow in 1841 and by July 1855 he had risen to the rank of Colour Sergeant.



William Gardner VC

During an action in Barielly in Northern India, William Gardner was responsible for saving the life of his commanding officer who had been unseated from his horse and who was about to be dispatched to Eternity by three mutineers. Although wounded, Gardner bayoneted two of the attackers and was about to deal with the third when the rebel was shot by another soldier.

THE LONDON GAZETTE 23rd August 1858

“The Queen has been graciously pleased to signify Her intention to confer the decoration of the Victoria Cross on the Officers and Non Commissioned Officers who have been recognised by Her Majesty for the decoration on account of acts of bravery, performed by them in India, as recorded against their several names, viz:-

42nd Regiment Colour –Sergeant William Gardner. Date of act of bravery, 5th May 1858.

For his conspicuous and gallant conduct on the 5th May last, in having saved the life of Lieutenant-Colonel Cameron, his Commanding Officer who on that day had been knocked from his horse, when three fanatics rushed upon him. Colour-sergeant Gardner ran out, and in a moment bayoneted two of them, and was in the act of attacking the third when he was shot down by another soldier of the regiment.”

William Gardner became a sergeant in December 1859 and was finally discharged from the army at Stirling Castle on March 4th 1862. Apart from his VC medal, he had gained the Military Service Medal in 1855, the Crimean Medal/1 clasp Sebastopol, The Indian Mutiny Medal/1 clasp Lucknow, the Turkish Crimean Medal and the Long service and good conduct Medal in 1866. He retired with a VC annuity of £20 and an army pension.

In retirement, he returned to his earlier youthful pursuit of gardening and he became the gardener on the Anchorage estate in Bothwell. He had married Margaret Watson and they settled in Anchorage Lodge and brought up their four sons there. Although the gardens of the Anchorage

would be a place of tranquillity for him he must have missed some aspects of the military life. He became the much respected drill Sergeant for the Lanarkshire Rifle Volunteers who awarded him a gold watch for his services. With his military bearing, his heroic reputation and his great beard, of the kind so much beloved by Victorian gentlemen, he would cut an impressive figure in the village. He was described by one contemporary as *“a man of lion heart and iron will: tall and handsome, wearing a full beard and mustache: and dressed in his regimentals had a most imposing appearance.”* His last appearance at the annual social of the Black Watch Association saw him honoured by being placed on the Colonel’s right hand. He died at home in Bothwell on the 28th October in 1897 aged 76 and was buried in Bothwellpark Cemetery on the hill above the Anchorage with full military honours. The coffin was covered in the Union Flag and carried shoulder high by four sergeants from the Black Watch Regiment. All the shops in the village were closed as a mark of respect. The service was conducted by The Rev. Dr Pagan and Rev. Mr Mackie and a firing party gave the customary three volleys over the grave and a piper played *“Lochaber no More.”*

It was recorded that, *“returning from the grave the veterans, some with three or four or five medals pinned to their vest, were seen in groups recalling reminiscences of the stirring times of the fifties. Afterwards nearly all the strangers from a distance enjoyed the hospitality of “E” company in the Clyde Hotel, where dinner was served and where Major Ralston appeared and thanked all for their attendance, and made a few kind remarks in reference to the day’s proceedings paying a high tribute to the character of the late Sgt Gardner, with whom he had come into contact almost daily for the last 26 years. Sgt Major Lyons warmly thanked the members of the Bothwell Company for their generous hospitality.”*

The story was not to end there. In 2008, Sergeant Gardner’s VC was put up for sale by his great grandson, Dr David Gardner, a former scientist. It raised £135,000. The money was donated to various charities with a Scottish and a military background. Glasgow University was also a beneficiary in the form of a William Gardner VC undergraduate scholarship. The VC was bought by the owner of the largest collection of VC’s in the world, Lord Ashcroft. It is planned that Gardner’s medals will go on permanent display with the other medals in Lord Ashcroft’s collection in London.

FROM HANOVER TO WINDSOR

The nineteenth century in Scotland saw the country prospering with the advent of the Industrial Revolution. This was especially true for the upper classes and the rising middle classes but as always the poor were there. Lanarkshire had become the industrial “Black Country” of Scotland. The towns of Coatbridge, Airdrie, Motherwell, Wishaw and Hamilton had become swollen with people from the Highlands of Scotland and from Ireland seeking work in the factories and mines. Glasgow had grown from a small Cathedral and University City to a great metropolis of trade and industry. Overcrowding, disease and poverty were familiar experiences for many people who took to excessive use of alcohol as an escape from the sordid nature of their lives.

Religion played an important part in the lives of most people and churches and evangelical groups were to be found everywhere. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, the parish church of Bothwell was in a sorry state. Christian worship is believed to have been carried on here since the time of St Mungo in the 6th century. The Olifards had erected a significant religious building on the same site sometime in the twelfth century. In 1398 Archibald the Grim, Earl of Douglas added the choir and petitioned the Pope to have the church raised to collegiate status. It was dedicated to St Bride or Bridget, patron saint of the Douglas family and in the Middle Ages, the people of Bothwell and other areas dedicated to St Bride would plait rushes in the shape of a cross on the evening of the 31st January. The dandelion was also one of the saint’s emblems and was prominent in the celebrations of her day on February 1st.

By the beginning of the 19th century, the choir of the church had become derelict and no longer fit for worship. The nave was falling down and in a dangerous condition so something had to be done.

If a survey was taken today on the streets of Glasgow asking passers by what they know of Glasgow’s famous architects, most would have heard of Charles Rennie Mackintosh. Fewer would have heard of Alexander “Greek” Thomson and virtually no one would have heard of David Hamilton (1768-1843). Yet the last named architect has more surviving buildings visible in his native city than the other two. These

include the George Hotel in Buchanan Street, Hutchison's Hospital in Ingram Street, The Nelson Monument on Glasgow Green, the entrance to the Necropolis next to the Cathedral and the Royal Exchange, now part of the Gallery of Modern Art. Glasgow's urban landscape owes a great deal to David Hamilton.



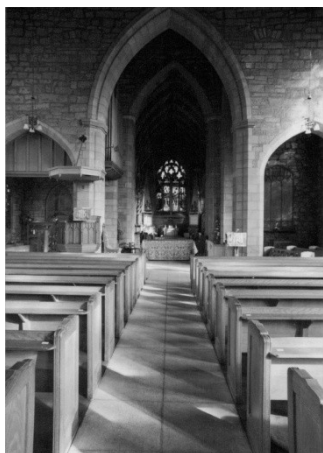
Bothwell Parish Church 1833 by David Hamilton

Photograph by Ian Beckett

When it came to choosing an architect to design the new parish church for Bothwell, David Hamilton was given the task. Already well

known in the area for his work on Hamilton Palace, he constructed for the parishioners of Bothwell a large Gothic edifice with a soaring tower. He had come third in a competition to design the new Houses of Parliament after the destruction of the Palace of Westminster by fire. Bothwell like Glasgow owes a great deal to David Hamilton.

An Edinburgh architect Sir Rowland Anderson (1834-1921) who had originally trained as a lawyer also deserves to be remembered and appreciated by the people of Bothwell. He is known in the capital for designing the National Portrait Gallery in Queen Street and the McEwen Hall and Medical school both for Edinburgh University. He was responsible for formalising the education of architects in Scotland. Called in by the heritors of Bothwell Parish church, he was given the task of restoring the mediaeval choir and this he achieved in 1898, the 500th anniversary of its foundation.



**Union of old and new
churches by J Jeffrey Waddell
1933**

It was left to one other architect to make his mark on the great building which is the Parish Church of Bothwell. He was J. Jeffrey Waddell who lived in Uddingston. Waddell is responsible for what has been described as, “*The happiest marriage between May and December in Scottish Church architecture.*” Archibald the Grim’s building of 1328 and David Hamilton’s church of 1833 were united in one harmonious whole in 1933. It is to J. Jeffrey Waddell that we owe the union of the 14th and 19th century buildings to form

what has often been described as “*The cathedral of Lanarkshire.*”

J. Jeffrey Waddell has another claim to fame in that in 1904 together with George Henderson, he wrote the book, “*By Bothwell Banks*” recording the history of Bothwell and Uddingston and giving us a fascinating insight into Bothwell as it was a hundred years ago. The book is illustrated with charming drawings made by Waddell himself. As with other writers, the authors of the book record the outstanding scenery of the Bothwell estate and the countryside around, together with histories of the castle,

the church and the villages of Bothwell and Uddingston. Details are given of both the exterior and the interior of New Bothwell castle in its days of glory. It is a fascinating and definitive account of Bothwell's past and of life in the area as it was at the beginning of the twentieth century

For the better off in the middle years of the nineteenth century, there was the prospect of some leisure time and city dwellers would indulge themselves by using the new railways to visit rural areas on the outskirts of their conurbations. Bothwell remained an oasis of greenery and tranquillity although surrounded by industry. A book entitled, "Rambles around Glasgow in the 1850's" records the following:-

"Bothwell like most other ancient Scottish towns is somewhat irregular and scattered: but unlike the majority of them, it is remarkable for a characteristic appearance of cleanliness and comfort. It is composed principally of one or two storied edifices, built with peculiar and somewhat highly coloured red sandstone, which seems to be abundant in the neighbourhood. Most of the houses have garden plots attached to them and the neatness and luxuriance of these attest to the general taste and industry of the inhabitants. A love of flowers, we are happy to observe is becoming more common among our population generally; but it is evident, from the fine condition and profusion of rarer kinds around Bothwell, that this is no new love among her people. In the vicinity a considerable number of elegant villas and cottages have been built in tasteful situations. Many of these, we understand are, during the summer months, occupied by families of some of our most respected citizens, and by invalids who find here the benefits to health which result from a genial atmosphere, and an exquisite series of walks amidst scenery of the loveliest description."

"Tweed's Guide to Glasgow and the Clyde" of 1872 continues on the same theme: *"Both Uddingston and Bothwell are favourite summer quarters of Glasgow people. The scenery is charming and the climate one of the mildest in Scotland...About a mile from the castle is the village of Bothwell, rapidly assuming the appearance of a fashionable little town. It contains several churches, and in the parish manse, Joanna Baillie was born, her father being the minister of the parish. In the neighbourhood of Bothwell is the farm of Bothwellhaugh, near which an old tree marks the site of the house occupied by Hamilton, the*

assassin of the Regent Murray. The present bridge is comparatively modern but part of the old “brig” remains.”

(James Hamilton of Bothwellhaugh assassinated James Stewart, Earl of Moray, half brother of Mary, Queen of Scots and Regent of Scotland in Linlithgow on 22nd January 1570. Moray had been indirectly responsible for the death of Hamilton’s wife and the Hamilton family were in a long standing power struggle with Moray and his supporters.)

As for Bothwell gardeners, a hundred years earlier than “Tweed’s Guide” a native of Bothwell Parish, William Aiton, had gone to London and entered the service of the Dowager Princess of Wales, the mother of George iii. Having written a three volume discourse on botany, together with the princess, he helped to found Kew Gardens in London. He died in 1793 and was succeeded at Kew as director by his son.

All large mansions in Scotland had walled gardens and often surprisingly exotic plants were grown there and in the greenhouses on the estates. New Bothwell castle had a large walled garden to supply fruit and vegetables for the house which also had flower gardens. The derelict walled garden at Bothwell survived after the demolition of the new castle up to the latter years of the twentieth century until it was finally given over for housing. The present worthy hardworking citizens representing “Brighter Bothwell” have distinguished predecessors.

The middle years of the century saw the building of the many splendid houses which still distinguish Bothwell today. Sweethope,



On the lawn at Westwood - 4 Mill Road Bothwell - Courtesy of Alister Baird

Fairfield House and the villas and mansions of Silverwells are from this time. Glasgow's second great architect, Alexander "Greek" Thomson was responsible for building the great bulk of Gleneden in Laighlands Road which was formerly known as Crosshill Brae. An earlier dwelling house and barn had existed there in the 18th century. He gained his epithet from his reputed love of Greek and Egyptian architecture which influenced his designs.

Alexander Thomson was born in Balfron, Stirlingshire in 1817 and died in 1875. By building churches, warehouses and tenements he gave Glasgow much of its outstanding Victorian architecture including the United Presbyterian Church in St Vincent Street, now recognised as a building of World Heritage Status. His villa "Homewood" in Cathcart in Glasgow is now in the care of the National Trust for Scotland. He would take his inspiration for the Cathcart villa from an earlier house he had designed in Bothwell - "Gleneden", built between 1851 and 1854. It still stands today, often proudly flying a flag and reminding us that "Greek" Thomson is now recognised as being able to stand alongside Rennie Mackintosh in any pantheon of Glasgow architects

Nor was Bothwell lacking in sophistication in other areas. James Crawford at the "Douglas Arms Inn" was advertising wines, brandies, Campbeltown and Fettercairn whiskies, champagne, not to mention London and Dublin porter as well as Edinburgh and Alloa ales together with Bass and Whitewall Ales. For those interested in travelling round to view the sights rather than walking, he would rent phaetons and dog carts at moderate charges.



Clyde Hotel 1910 – now the Bothwell Bridge Hotel

At the beginning of the next century, Mirrlees Chassels, the proprietor of the Clyde Hotel was proclaiming, *“Bothwell is famed for its health giving qualities the health rate being one of the highest in the United Kingdom. Convenient to the hotel and on the Lanarkshire tramways route, is the Hamilton Golf Course, within the policies of the Duke of Hamilton while places of amusement in the immediate are healthy in tone and abundant.”*

The tramway system mentioned by Mr Chassels was first proposed in 1872 when the Bothwell, Hamilton and Wishaw Tramways Act received the royal assent to establish a tram system linking Glasgow to Bothwell and Hamilton with branch lines to Motherwell and Wishaw. Nothing came of this. Trams finally came to Bothwell in 1909 courtesy of the Lanarkshire Tramways Company and lasted until 20th March 1926 when motor buses took over the route.

Golfers would have to wait until 1922 to play golf in Bothwell itself. Bothwell Castle Golf Club was founded in that year in the Earl of Home’s policies at Bothwell Castle.



Tramcar to Hamilton on Bothwell Bridge. Watch out for lady cyclist – 1910 – courtesy of John Murray

It is interesting to note how much interest there seemed to be in the Victorian age on matters pertaining to health, and all this before the

creation of the National Health Service. Given the number of references to the fine climate of the times, we must wonder if the people at the time were either hardier than we are or that indeed there has been a climate change. The fine climates of the South of France, Spain or Italy were as yet unknown to most people with the exception of the very rich.

On the domestic front, Bothwell laundry would hand wash and grass bleach linen with all orders receiving prompt attention. If the spirits on sale at the “Douglas Arms” were not to your taste, George Murray in the West Port would sell a bottle of “Old Bothwell” fine matured whisky-“not an ordinary whisky, but something special for an invalid perhaps or for general use” all for the price of 3/9 per bottle or 21/- per gallon. Butchers, William Frame and Paterson in Main Street provided residents with all their needs in bacon, beef, poultry and game. A and K Downie, drapers at 41 Main Street were children’s outfitters who also advertised art needlework and fancy work as a speciality. Winning’s stores were there to provide for ladies’ clothes including toques, Paris model hats, gloves, nursing outfits, “Famed J.B and C corsets, new shapes, every pair guaranteed.” There was no need for villagers to travel elsewhere for shopping. In the days before supermarkets and retail parks, local traders supplied all the necessities of life.



Main Street, Bothwell

The Fountain on Main Street in the 1900’s – Courtesy of John Murray

A hundred years ago, children could play safely on the streets of Bothwell, even on the Main Street, scarcely disturbed by the odd passing tramcar or horse drawn vehicles. Motor cars were virtually unknown. Even by the beginning of the thirties, the United Kingdom had only 1.5 million cars on the road compared to today's figures of 31 million.

In the thirties, the English writer H.V Morton was the first to popularise the idea of using the car to travel for enjoyment and to visit places of scenic or historic interest. Morton wrote two books on his travels around Scotland in a bull-nosed Morris and included a poignant description of the demolition of Hamilton Palace in one of his books.

George Pratt Insh, (1883-1956) a Bothwell man who lived in "Ardhvor" in Silverwells, wrote a travel book in a similar style to Morton but with one startling difference. Dr Insh travelled by bus and not by car. For many years (1923-1945) he was the Head of the History Department at Jordanhill College of Education for the training of teachers in Glasgow. He was acknowledged as a world expert on the Darien Scheme (1698-1700), the failed attempt by Scotland to establish a colony on the Isthmus of Panama which almost bankrupted the country and was a major factor in bringing about the Union of the Parliaments of England and Scotland in 1707. Insh travelled extensively giving lectures and writing papers on the Darien Scheme.

He also wrote a book, "*The Elusive Clyde*" in which he sought to trace the Clyde from its source in Upper Lanarkshire to the sea. The years between the world wars are a curious period when the world waited with almost baited breath for the unknown horrors to come. George Insh's book is gentle and poetic and gives us some fascinating glimpses of Bothwell and Scotland before the outbreak of the Second World War, the horrors of Auschwitz and the mushroom clouds of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. He wrote,

"On the May morning when I set out on my long- deferred pilgrimage to Little Clyde a light mist lingered, a filmy curtain, about the great lime trees and the candle-decked chestnuts of the Bothwell crescents. At Bothwell Bridge which I approached by the old steep coach road that breaks away from the modern highway at the end of the

village, a darker mist hung over the broad, smooth pool above the bridge, for the smoke from the tall mine chimney at Bothwellhaugh floated slowly upwards expanding into a billowing, ragged cloud, and then melted away into a lighter vapour that hung above the winding river channel. It was a curiously fascinating atmosphere."

As a historian he was conscious of his village's long story and its close proximity to the Roman Empire's most northerly boundary, the Antonine Wall. Again he travelled north towards the Wall by bus, one of the Lanarkshire Traction Company's red buses, once so familiar and now as much part of history as the legions of Rome. He describes a scene now changed beyond all recognition.

"From our serpentine main street we struck, one Sunday afternoon, down by the long gentle slope of Langside Road towards the level plain, where the miner's houses of Bothwellhaugh cluster at the foot of the great spoil-heap of the Palace Colliery, in the midst of the hayfields and potato fields and almost on the river bank.

The wide flat plain in the neighbourhood of Bothwellhaugh was of old, the geologists tell us, the bend of a great lagoon into which the Clyde expanded."



Winning's Store on Bothwell's "serpentine" Main Street in the 30's – courtesy of Iris Allan

Now the scene has changed. Today there are no buses taking the direct route to Bellshill, the cultivated fields have gone together with the spoil heap of the colliery and the miners' rows. All this has been replaced by Strathclyde Park and in Strathclyde Loch there is something that just might be seen as George Insh's "*great lagoon*."

He knew of the dismantling and demolition of the new castle at Bothwell and described the scene as he walked through the former policies.

"Our path now led away from the river and towards that part of the policies where the modern castle, that building in which, according to tradition, Sir Walter Scott had penned some cantos of "Marmion", had once stood. And when we approached its site we found some fragments of it. Beyond a great, thick, circular clump of rhododendrons- a black-green island rising from the smooth gray-green surface of a small lawn- we came upon some woodwork laid out carefully on the grass; a small pile of debris; some fragments of walls still undemolished; a windlass and a coil of wire rope. The whole scene, so lonely and desolate in the winter gloaming, gave one the impression that one had stumbled upon a gross caricature of some unwritten episode in the "New Arabian Nights" "The reception was over, and not only the furniture but the mansion itself was being trundled off. As the action was taking place not in the North West of London but in douce Presbyterian Scotland, the process of scene -shifting had been delayed owing to the Sabbatarian scruples of the workmen."

George P. Insh's Bothwell and his Scotland are now as remote from us as the Scotland of Archibald the Grim or Sir Walter Scott.

Following the Reformation in Scotland in 1560, the Catholic Faith virtually disappeared from the country. There remained, however a small number of indigenous Catholics scattered across the land, particularly in the Western Isles. There were too groups of "closet Catholics" in the cities where worship was carried out secretly in private houses. Scotland was dangerous place for those who sought to follow the "Old Faith." Despite this, as Daniel MacLeod the Canadian historian records, "Religious executions were extremely rare in Scotland during the Reformation period. At 'best' thirty people were executed for religious reasons in the century or so surrounding the Reformation parliament. Compared to England this number is quite small."

It was not until Catholic Emancipation in 1793 that Catholics were able to practice their faith openly. It would be nearly a hundred years later that the Scottish Catholic hierarchy would be restored in 1878

The nineteenth century industrialisation of Scotland and the famine in Ireland forced many from that country (both Catholic and Protestant) to emigrate to Scotland to look for work. This created tension and civil unrest as the Irish were seen by the native born Scots as being strike breakers as well as undercutting the locals by working for smaller wages.

New Catholic churches were established across Scotland particularly in the west of the country to cater for the needs of the faithful. In 1878 the first significant Catholic presence in Bothwell since the Reformation came when the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception founded a convent school and chapel in Elmwood House



Langside Road Church

This was followed in 1910 by the erection of a primary school and church at the foot of Langside Road, then a rural site on the edge of the village but convenient also for the Catholics of Bothwellhaugh. Underground mine workings meant that this building had to be closed in 1940 with the result that the parish was now without a church.

By 1955, the Miners' Welfare halls in Fallside Road were no longer required as the Bothwell Castle Colliery had closed. This building was purchased and converted for worship, opening in 1958. At best this could only be a temporary measure and as the



The New Church in Fallside Road

population was increasing through the building of more housing, a site was purchased again in Fallside Road for the new church. This was dedicated to Bothwell's patron saint, Saint Bride and the striking new building of modern architectural style was opened in June 1973. Next door to the new church, a monastery was erected for the Order of Poor Clares

Nearly a hundred years after the Franciscan Sisters had founded a school at Elmwood it closed and the pupils were transferred to a new school, Cardinal Newman in Bellshill. The familiar brown blazers of the "Elmwood ladies" disappeared from the streets of Bothwell. Today, Bothwell has in St Bride's RC Primary school, a much respected educational institution, newly reconstructed after a fire. Secondary education for all pupils is now provided furth of the village in Hamilton at Holy Cross High School and in Uddingston Grammar. All four schools catering for Bothwell children are of recent construction.



Garden Party at Elmwood Convent 1899 - Courtesy of the Rev Thomas Doyle

LET THE WOMAN LEARN IN SILENCE WITH ALL SUBJUGATION.

“But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over a man, but to be in silence.” The Bible 1st Timothy 2: ii

When people in the United Kingdom criticise the attitude to women demonstrated today by some societies particularly in the Middle East, it is sometimes forgotten that women’s rights and freedoms now enjoyed in the West are far from being ancient in origin.

The Great Reform Act of 1832 which extended the franchise specifically excluded women from voting. Women’s resentment simmered away for the rest of the nineteenth century and burst forth in 1903 with the founding of the WSPU, the Women’s Social and Political Union by Emmeline Pankhurst.

Women were excluded from anything other than the most basic education. University admission was deemed totally inappropriate for women of all classes, a situation which had the complete approval of Queen Victoria and other ladies of the Royal Family. The Queen wrote, *“The Queen is most anxious to enlist everyone who can speak or write to join in checking this mad, wicked folly of women’s rights.”* The idea of women lawyers, politicians and doctors, especially the latter was anathema to those in the ruling classes. Florence Nightingale may have gone some way to improving nursing in the Crimean War but she was no enthusiast for female political emancipation.

Marion Gilchrist was born in 1864 at Bothwellpark Farm where her father William was a comfortably-off tenant farmer on the estate. He was able to send his daughter to nearby Hamilton Academy, a school with a proud academic record which had been founded as Hamilton Grammar in 1588. Here she proved an apt pupil but was recalled to the farm at the age of fourteen to work for her father. Such was the accepted lot of young women at that time.

She was a girl with a pretty face and dark hair and with an intensity of purpose indicating that she would never be content to spend the rest of her life on the farm. Marion Gilchrist would be one of a brave band who would do much to improve the status of women in a male dominated society.

Her efforts to improve her education initially had to be in secret but she enrolled at Queen Margaret College in Glasgow in 1887 with the possible intention of becoming a teacher, just about the only profession deemed appropriate for ladies at the end of the nineteenth century. She graduated in 1890 as an LLA (Lady Literate in Arts.). Not only was she determined to pursue her education but also she was prepared to take part in political activities to further the cause of women's suffrage. She would in time become an active member of the brave band of women known to history as the Suffragettes.

By 1889, the passing of the Universities (Scotland) Act had opened the doors of the great tertiary educational institutions to women and in 1891 Marion Gilchrist applied for admission to the Medical Faculty at Glasgow's prestigious university. She graduated in July 1894 with high commendation as the first female graduate of the university notably in a profession which had been dominated by men since the earliest recorded history of medicine.

Technically the first female to graduate in medicine in Scotland was Dr James "*Miranda*" Barry who graduated from Edinburgh Medical School in 1812 and became a distinguished medical surgeon. Only on death in 1865 was it discovered that "he" was a "she." Masquerading as a man was the only way possible at that time for a woman to become a doctor. Marion Gilchrist pioneered women as doctors in their own right openly and without deception. By the beginning of the twenty first century women have become a powerful force in the medical profession and today may now outnumber men.

By 1904 the movement for women's suffrage was becoming more militant and politicians were becoming increasingly subjected to heckling. Women undertook civil disobedience not to mention the destruction of property through arson and bombings. Famous paintings in the National Gallery were slashed. This was behaviour which was totally at odds with the Victorian and Edwardian perception of gentle meek and mild ladies. Politicians were outraged including Winston Churchill who was antagonistic to the idea of women having the vote. As always the authorities over reacted and women were imprisoned and treated to the brutality of being fed by force, having tubes thrust down their throats when they refused to eat.

Marion Gilchrist had been a founder member of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Association for Women's Suffrage but left in 1907 to join the more politically active WSPU, the Pankhurst led Women's Social and Political Union.

Following the death of her father in 1903, her inheritance allowed her to set up practice at 5 Buckingham Terrace off Great Western Road in Glasgow's fashionable West End. Here she remained for the rest of her life. Although active in women's politics, Marion Gilchrist never took part in militant action but gave a great deal to the movement through her voluntary work.

Suffragette militancy reached a climax in 1913 when Emily Davidson threw herself in front of King George V's horse at the Epsom Derby and was killed. The First World War had proved the vital contribution that women could make to society and after that there was no going back to a secondary status for women. In 1918 the franchise was extended to women over 30 provided they were householders, married to a householder or were university graduates. Marion Gilchrist and women in general had the vote at last. Universal suffrage for all adults over twenty one came in 1928 with The Representation of the People Act. The voting age for all adults was reduced to 18 in 1970 and some political parties today would like to see it reduced to 16.

Although deeply interested in politics, Marion Gilchrist's primary purpose in life was her work as a doctor. She developed an interest in ophthalmology and became an assistant surgeon in the Victoria Infirmary Glasgow in 1914, taking over from the chief surgeon when he was away on wartime duties. Women interested in a career in what was still a male dominated profession benefited from both the efforts and the example of Dr Gilchrist in enhancing the role of women in medicine. Her sense of duty to her patients was exemplary and she worked tirelessly throughout the Second World War becoming an influential member of the British Medical Association. In 1936 she had gifted a stained glass window in the parish church of Bothwell in memory of her parents William and Marion and donated money to purchase land in the village to create Gilchrist Gardens.

After a remarkable career in which she challenged and overcame the prejudices of her times, she died at her home in Glasgow on September 7th 1952 and was buried in the kirkyard at Bothwell close to the



Gilchrist family monument in Bothwell kirkyard – photograph by Ian Beckett

life were that of a normal child brought up in a loving home. At nineteenth months old she developed a severe illness possibly meningitis which left her deaf and blind and in total darkness and isolation.

Fortunately for Helen, her mother sought advice from eminent people including Edinburgh born Alexander Graham Bell whose interest in the teaching of deaf children led him to develop the telephone. At the Perkins Institute for the Blind she met twenty year old visually impaired Ann Sullivan. Together they would form an inspirational partnership which would last for forty- nine years with Ann as her teacher, governess and latterly companion.

With the help of Ann Sullivan, Helen Keller learned how to communicate again. In 1904 she graduated from Radcliffe College to

monument to another famous Bothwell woman, Joanna Baillie. She is remembered to day in her Alma Mater in the Marion Gilchrist Prize awarded to the top female medical graduate.

In over a thousand years of history and having been visited by many famous people, there can have been fewer more distinguished and unusual personalities to come to the village than Helen Keller.

Born in 1880 in the American southern state of Alabama, Helen Keller was of pioneering Confederate stock, a hardy and tenacious breed used to adversity. She was a distant relative of the Confederate hero, General Robert E. Lee. Her first eighteen months of

become the first blind deaf person to be awarded a BA degree. It was at this time that it was discovered that she had a remarkable literary talent.

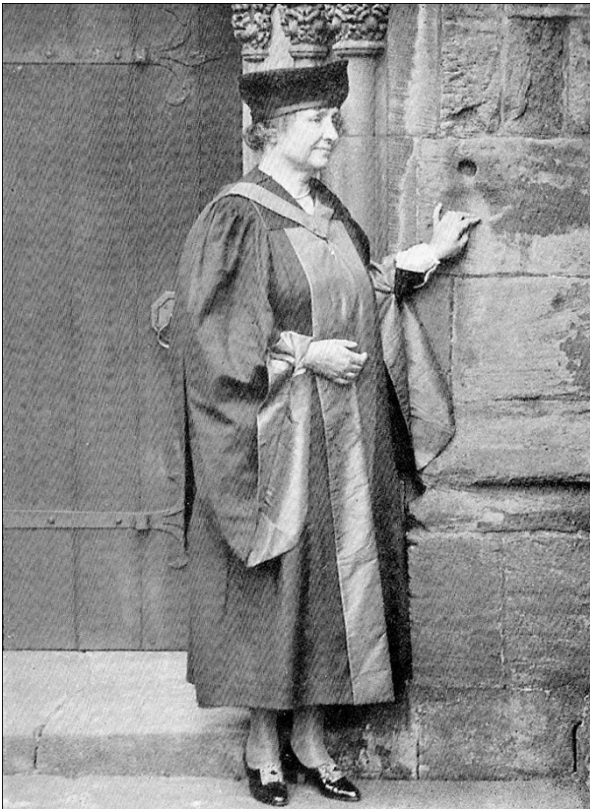
She was to become a noted speaker and author and was a great friend of the famous American writer, Mark Twain. More than this, she was to become an advocate for and an example to others with profound disabilities.

In politics she was a Suffragette, a socialist and an early supporter of birth control, at that time an extremely controversial and divisive issue in American society. She was a prime mover in the foundation of the Helen Keller International Organisation to support research into problems of deaf/blind people. Not only was she a radical but she was a

radical woman, an unusual phenomenon in early twentieth century America.

Around 1914 she hired a young Scottish girl, Polly Thomson who although she had no experience of blind or deaf people went on to become Keller's secretary and companion.

In 1932 she was invited by the University of Glasgow to become an Honorary Doctor of laws at the university. On June 26th 1932, she visited Bothwell Parish Church where Polly Thomson's brother, the Rev. R.J



HELEN KELLER IN HER DOCTOR'S ROBES
AT THE PRIEST'S DOOR, BOTHWELL KIRK

Thomson was the minister. Seldom in the long history of the ancient edifice would any preacher be more inspiring than this great American lady. She said:

"I should like to say to you, my friends, no matter what our creed or our interpretation of the Scriptures, that the Bible is our sure balance amid the confusion and wavering elements of earth-life. It gives us the right perspective of the great things God asks of us and the little things in which we waste our energies. It is a faithful reminder of our high capabilities, a fearless monitor against belittling aims. A daily walk in the sweet fields of the Word renews our faded enthusiasm and enlarges our aspirations. We have not learned the Lesson of Life if we do not every day open the word for a moment of spiritual refreshment."

Her socialist views were not particularly popular with right wing America and she had to endure criticism that her physical abilities meant her political beliefs should be called in question. Politics can, indeed, be a dirty business.

She wrote more than one autobiography and her life was the subject of a play and a television biopic. In 1964 President Lyndon B Johnson honoured her with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, one of the highest civilian honours in the USA

In 1961, she suffered a series of strokes and lived in quiet retirement until she died at the age of 87 in June 1968. Ann Sullivan her original teacher had died in 1936. Her devoted Scottish companion Polly Thomson pre-deceased her in 1960. Helen Keller was listed in 1999 by Gallup as one of the most widely admired personalities of the twentieth century. The emancipation of women to equality with men in all walks of life remains a powerful issue even today.

"Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is above rubies."
Proverbs 31:10

NOT QUITE THE LAST CHAPTER

Like most communities in the United Kingdom, Bothwell entered the twentieth century with the anticipation of good times to come. Queen Victoria had survived into the new century but only just. She died in January 1901. If there were cracks in the fabric of the British Empire, they were still as yet not visible to the mass of the population. Thanks to the ambitions of the Queen's eldest grandson, the Kaiser and his military equivalents in London and other European capitals, the safe and secure world of a Europe ruled by ancient dynasties was about to come to an end. The American Civil War 1861 to 1865 should have given Europeans a vision of modern warfare but the war which began in 1914 and which would be "over by Christmas" dragged on for four bloody years followed by a breathing space of twenty years before the continent and the world went back to war again in 1939

The fabric of small Scottish town life changed little in Bothwell in the early years of the century. In 1914, seventy one young men went to war and never came back. A new monument appeared on the Main Street. New housing "fit for heroes" came into being at Wooddean and Woodlands and Bothwell began to change and grow. A further twenty six names of young village men were added to the roll of honour on the memorial following the Second World War. The archetypical house of the twenties and thirties, the bungalow made its appearance in the village. The Victorian and Edwardian core remained much as it had been with the exception that some of the larger houses were subdivided to create more than one home.

The pit closed in 1950 and the railways followed soon after. The miners' housing was not deemed worthy of inclusion in the new conservation area status which had been designated to protect the village's historic core and was demolished. A light engineering firm took over the abandoned station and industry occupied the site of the mine. The shops remained pretty much as they had been for years and the familiar and ubiquitous cooperative occupied a prime site on the main street until the advent of supermarkets changed the face of British shopping. As recently as the twentieth century, pigs were being kept in Ferry Road and there was also a smithy there. Both have now long disappeared no doubt to the relief of residents.

Writing of Bothwell in 1953 for the “Third Statistical Account of Scotland”, T Coughtrie noted:”*There is a strong civic spirit indicated by a very general interest in all that concerns the wellbeing of the community and a Public Interest Committee enables the interest to find expression No extraordinary social cleavages are evident between the older and the newer inhabitants nor between people of different social habits and origin, but in such an old community with fairly deep roots, the experience of newcomers in regard to their acceptance into the life of the community differ considerably. In general it takes a little time for incomers to be accepted.*”

One wonders what Mr Coughtrie’s successors would write for a fourth statistical account if it ever came to pass They would certainly note the disappearance of all industry except perhaps the service industries, the arrival of the designer shops and new, exciting restaurants and bars. In 1891 Bothwell Parish decreed fast days on the Thursday before the first Sunday in May and November. Today people would laugh at the very idea of fasting but for many of us it might not be such a bad idea after all. Bothwell has lost the scars of its industrial past. Some vestiges of the old rural village remain. In 1893, local people could visit Bothwell castle grounds every Tuesday from 10.00am until 4.00pm. Today the mediaeval castle is in the care of Historic Scotland and is open to the public. There are riverside walks and the beautiful golf course is a haven for wild life as well as for the sporting activities of golfers. Older properties once sufficiently large to accommodate Victorian families now require extensions to cope with nuclear families. It is still a visually attractive, vigorous and vital community and no doubt history will continue to be made here.

The old Bothwell primary School of 1887 which itself replaced an earlier building close to the parish church has been turned into flatted residences. The school moved to new premises in Blantyre Road in 1978 and this in turn was replaced by a state of the art building in 2010. Bothwell Primary School now has facilities worthy of its excellent reputation.

As it has done for centuries, Bothwell Bridge connects the village to Hamilton and the south. There is no clear evidence as to who built it but repairs were made to it in the seventeenth century. Archibald the Grim gets the credit as he does for many things when the clear evidence runs out and speculation takes over and why not. Pont’s seventeenth century

map, the earliest cartographic record of Lanarkshire shows it as “Clydesbridge.” It was much altered in the nineteenth century but the core of the mediaeval bridge remains encased in the modern structure. It has seen many changes in its existence and remains a busy river crossing.

A veritable eczema of modern development has allowed Bothwell to be described as “an affluent area” by the estate agents anxious to sell off their properties. One street in the village is listed in the top twenty most expensive areas of housing in Scotland. Maybe there is and maybe there isn’t some truth in the epithet on the lamp post in Blantyre Road described in the first chapter, *“There are a lot of posh bastards in Bothwell.”* Whether *“posh”* or not many people seem to want to live in the village and who can blame them.

Affluent or not and most Bothwell people would not lay claim to that status, its citizens can take pride in an ancient community which has not stood still but has moved with the times. As in most societies, Bothwell has many admirable people prepared to give of their time and money and energy, and in so doing are not discouraged by the indifference of others, to promote civic pride. In this these worthy citizens do all of us who come together to constitute this community of Bothwell a great service. We should encourage our children to follow their example.

Let us all cherish the past, appreciate the present and plan for the future. Remember, in the immortal words of Sir Alexander Gray

*“This is my country, the land that begat me,
These windy spaces are surely my own,
And those who here toil in the sweat of their faces,
Are flesh of my flesh and bone of my bone”*



THE PAST –BOTHWELL PARISH CHURCHYARD



THE PRESENT (2011) – Main Street



**THE FUTURE – THE CHILDREN OF BOTHWELL PRIMARY
SCHOOL COUNCIL MARCH 2011**

- Back row Adnan Iqbal, Katie Trainer, Amy Johnston,
Grant Menzies, Rebecca Steven, Cara McSherry,
Ryan Hamilton,
- Middle row Heather Smyth, Holly McKay, Ben Hetherington,
Carla McVay, Claudia Harper,
- Front Row Zoe Gall, Daniel McQuaid
-

Events in Book

Roman fort at Bothwellhaugh 79/80 AD

Mud and wattle church possibly erected at Bothwell on a Pagan site circa 500AD

Olifards granted the Lordship of Bothwell

Motte and bailey castle erected c 1230

Waiter de Moravia acquires Bothwell By marriage 1242

Bothwell castle besieged by Edward 1st. 1301

Battle of Bannockburn. Edward Bruce relieves Bothwell castle 1314

Andrew Murray recaptures Bothwell Castle from English 1337

Archibald the Grim erects collegiate Church at Bothwell 1398. Dies 1400

Fall of the Black Douglas dynasty 1455

James IV at Bothwell 1544

James Hamilton first Protestant minister at Bothwell 1552

John Slezer surveys Bothwell Castle 1693

Battle of Bothwell Brig 1679

Events in History

Hadrian's Wall built 118AD

Church at Glasgow founded by St Mungo c 500AD

Extension of Ottoman (Turkish) Empire 1299

Avignon Papacy (Popes leave Rome for Avignon) 1309-1379

Beginning of Hundred Years War between England and France 1337

Columbus discovers America 1452

Turks capture Constantinople 1453

Battle of Flodden. Death of James IV 1513

Reformation in Scotland 1560

Union of Crowns of England and Scotland 1603

English Civil War 1642-1648

Restoration of the Monarchy Charles II 1660

Execution of the Duke of Monmouth 1685

"Glorious Revolution" William and Mary

Events in Book

Building of New Bothwell Castle c 1690

1707 1st. Earl of Forfar (owner of Bothwell) Elected Commissioner to Scottish parliament for treaty of Union with England

Death of 2nd Earl of Forfar at Sherrifmuir. Buried Bothwell Parish Church 1715

William and Dorothy Wordsworth at Bothwell 1803

Sir Waiter Scott visits Bothwell between 1800-1825

Rebuilding of Bothwell Parish Church 1833

Birth of Cosmo Gordon Lang 31st Oct 1854

William Gardner wins VC 1858

Birth of Marion Gilchrist 5th Feb 1864

Foundation of St Bride's R.C Church Bothwell 1910

71 Bothwell men killed in action 1914-1918

Helen Keller visits Bothwell 1933

26 Bothwell men killed in action 1939-1945

Bothwell estate sold for building 1960

Events in History

1688

Darien Scheme. Failed attempt by Scotland to colonise Panama 1698-1700

Union of Parliaments of England and Scotland 1707

1st. Jacobite uprising. Battle of Sherrifmuir 1715

Battle of Culloden. Defeat of Jacobites 1746

Trafalgar 1805. Waterloo 1815

Abolition of Slavery in the British Empire 1834

Indian Mutiny or First Indian War of Independence 1858

Abraham Lincoln re-elected President of the USA 1864

Foundation of Scottish Football Association 1873

Restoration of Roman Catholic hierarchy in Scotland 1878

Death of Queen Victoria 1901

First World War 1914-1918

Abdication of Edward VIII 1933

World War II 1939-1945

Swinging Sixties 1960