

**THE HISTORY OF  
THE  
HALKETT FAMILY  
OF  
PITFIRrane  
FIFE**



The Arms of the Halketts of Pitfirrane  
From Sir David Lyndsay's Original Manuscript p.83.

**NOW DUNFERMLINE GOLF CLUB**



Sir David Lyndsay's  
Scottish Heraldic Manuscripts 1542 p. 83.

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**THE HISTORY OF THE  
HALKETT FAMILY  
OF PITFIRANE  
HALKET COATS OF ARMS**



Sir David Lyndsay's  
Scottish Heraldic Manuscripts 1542 p. 83.

Arms of the Halketts of Pitfirrane, as they appear on the house and are repeated on the heraldic ceilings and on the sign on the Pitfirrane Arms.

Recently in attempting to answer a query from an heraldic writer (living in Portugal of all places) I had to investigate the origins of the coat of arms, and found that the Halketts had never registered their arms with the Lord Lyon as they should have done as early as 1572, and that the achievements had varied throughout the years.

The oldest device is that of the lion in the chief or upper portion of the seal, which was in use as early as 1507, but the three "piles" or triangles descending from the chief were sometimes five in number, and not always joined at the point, the latter being rather unusual.

In fact the only registration was late in the 18th century when they were registered by a Halkett living in England, at the time of the second inheritance by the Wedderburns. He seems to have been descended from a younger son in the early 16th century, and probably considered himself to be the real male heir of the line, as he probably was.

Other Halketts served in the Scots Brigade in Holland in the 15th and 16th century, and some settled there. There was indeed a Halkett Regiment in the Dutch forces at Waterloo, and some of the Dutch Halketts are I believe still flourishing in Holland today.

When a family has been settled so long in one area, one would expect to find descendants of younger sons still around the district. One can occasionally find people of the name of Halkett still around, though usually the mining community in the Dunfermline and Kirkcaldy districts. Without doubt if their ancestry could be traced they might well find themselves connected at some remote point in time with this interesting family.

By Duncan McNaughton.

# **The Early History of the Lands of Pitfirrane**

## **CONSTANTINE II DEFEATED, BUT NOT KILLED AT CRAIL.**

The Picts who went to Orkney, Shetland and Norway, brought the Danes first to invade this country; for Boeth, telleth us, His. Scot. 1 10 f. 206, that the Danes, for the cause of the war, pretended, that the miserable remains of the Picts, who had fled to their country, had transferred to them all the right to the kingdom they had in Albion. The Danes first invaded Fife, under the conduct of Hubba and Hungar (as Boeth, nameth him) two of their king's brothers. Buchanan gives several causes of the war, the first is, That they were invited and intreated by the Picts to make war upon the Scots. And the second is, That Buernus (whose wife had been debauched by Osbreth) desired them to make war. The third is, That the Danes, of all the Germans, abounded most with wealth, and their young people did so increase, tht there was a necessity of seeking new seats for them. And thus they were induced to pass into Britain with a great fleet, it's like some Picts in their company persuaded them to land in Fife, which belonged formerly to them. By their incampments near to the water of Leven, it is like they landed in the bays where Burntisland, Pretticul, Kinghorn, Kirkaldie and Dysert stand, and from thence marched up to the inner part of the country; they killed all they met with, and burnt the churches and houses wherever they came.

This happened when Constantine II son of Kenneth II was king of the Scots, anno 874. He soon raised an army; for none refused to take arms against such cruel enemies as the Danes were. The camps of the Danes were about two furlongs distance from other, and the water of Leven run betwixt them. As the Scots army were advancing towards the camp, upon the north-side of Leven-Water, it rained much, and the water rose so high, that for two days it could not be passed: then it grew fair, Constantine took hold of the opportunity to fight these in the north camp, when, became of the spate of the water, the Danes in the camp upon the south side of the water could not assist their fellows in the north camp. Constantine's men first seized these who were foraging and brining provision to the camp; this did so vex the Danes, that they could not be kept in their trenches as their commanders inclined they should, to wait till those in the other camp should join them. They came out of their trenches in confusion, their fierce countenance and the bulk of their bodies, being big men, the different arms they used, and the accoutrement they had, wearing white shirts, sticht with red silk, upon their armour, made them terrible to the Scots at their first approaching to them; but after they had viewed other a while, the Scots fell in upon them with a loud shout. The fight contained long, face to face, with great fierceness, till that the Danes, oppress'd by the vast numbers of the Scots, (who at the same time attack'd them in the front and rear) flung away their arms, and fled towards their trenches, many of them were killed by these who met them as they went thither; some taking the water, were drown'd; some got safe to the other side, and amongst them was Hubba their general, who by his skill in swimming did escape; others perished in the water, being carried down with the spate.

NOTE - "Some lay the blame of this unlucky accident upon the Picts, who being admitted into Constantine's fealty and army, were the first that ran away, and drew the greatest part of the army after them." Buch. Book VI (in Const. II. at ann. 874)

(The History of Fife by Sir Robert Sibbald, Chapter VIII p.76-8)

LOCHORE, from Lochore in the parish of Ballingry, Fife. The family of Lochore had their seat on an island in the loch (now drained), and the fact that this site was also known as 'Inchgall' island of the foreigners, indicate a Gaelic-speaking population in the vicinity at the time of its occupation by new lords in the second half of the twelfth century. (Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments 11 Report p. xliii).

*Constantine de Lochor* witnessed a gift by Duncan, earl of Fife, to the nuns of North Berwick before 1177 (CMN., 6) and as Costentin (for Côtentin) de Lochor he witnessed a charter by Ernardus, bishop of St Andrews, between 1160-62 (RPSA., p. 128).

*Philip de Lochor* was one of the assize of marches in Fife, 1230 (RD., 196)

*Constantinus de Lochor* acknowledged in 1235 that he had no right to the lands of Kinglassin (Kinglassie) and Pethbokin (Petbachly) near Dunfermline (ibid., p. 101).

*Andreas de Lochor*, his uncle, and *Philip de Lochor*, his brothers are named as witnesses in the charter.

*David de Lochor* witnessed a gift of 10s annually to the monks of Dunfermline, 1231 (ibid., p. 108), and in 1242 he witnessed a confirmation charter of Alexander II (REA., II, p. 237). He is probably the David de Louchor mentioned in a quitclaim of the lands of Drumkarauch, 1260 (RPSA., p. 346), and is in record as sheriff of Fife in 1264-66 (ER., 1, p. 4, 31, 34).

*David de Louchor* witnessed a charter by Gamelin, bishop of St Andrews, 1269 (RPSA., p. 174), and as David de Lothar (for Lochar, c. misread as t) he is mentioned in a mandate by the bishops of St Andrews, 1269 (RPSA., p. 174) and as David de Lothar (Lochar, c misread as t) he is mentioned in a mandate by the bishops of St Andrews and Aberdeen in 1264 (Pap. Lett., 1 p. 408).

*David de Louchoû* witnessed a charter by Alexander III at Rokesburg, 1279 (RD., p. 53; see more on this David in *Inchcolm*, p. 143-144).

*Constantine de Logher*, sheriff of Fife, who swore fealty to Edward I in 1291, was in 1296, along with *Hugh de Loghore*, among the Scots prisoners taken in Dunbar Castle (Bain, II 508, 742). In 1305 Constantin de Loghore was juror on an inquisition made at Perth (ibid., 1670), and

*Hugh de Locwor*, probably the above-mentioned Hugh, was witness to the homage of Duncan, twelfth earl of Fife to the abbot of Dunfermline, 1316 (RD. 349).

*David de Louhore* appears in 1328 (ER., I p. 84) and again c. 1328-32 as David de Louchqwor among the witnesses to a charter by Michael de Wemyss (*Soltre*, p. 48)

\**Philip de Lowchqwor* umquhile lord of the third part of Pitfirrane is in record, 1435 (Pitfirran, 21).

Jonet Lochequoir in St Andrews was executed for witchcraft, 1595 (St Andrews, p. 800)

Margaret Lochoir was retoured heir of her father, William Lochoir, burgess of Kinghorne, 1608 (Retours, Fife, 195) and the Rev Charles Lochore was minister of Drymen from 1824 to 1877.

In Dunfermline Burgh Records (ed. Beveridge) the name occurs as Lochor, Lochquhor, Lochtquor, Locquhor, Lokquhor, and Lokqwhor. (The Surnames of Scotland by G. F. Black p.434.)

*NOTE* - II CONSTANTINE. - Who he was, and how he came to be Earl of Fife, there is apparently no means of knowing. His name is suggestive of a regal origin. The Earl is called, at least once, '*Constantine Macdufe*,' but it is in a charter of King Edgar's, the genuiness of which, though maintained by able authorities, is open to doubt.

It is not known at what date Constantine became Earl, but it was apparently about, if not before, 1107, as he witnessed the confirmation of Etlhelred's grant to the Culdees of Loch Leven, and the translator of the Gaelic memorandum of the great styles him 'a man of the greatest discretion.' He next appears as the leading arbiter in a dispute about the boundaries of Kirkness belonging to these Culdees, and those of Lochore belonging to Sir Robert of Burgon when he is called 'a discreet and eloquent man,' and is also designed *Magnus Judex in Scotia.*' As Constantinus comes he witnessed King David's confirmation charter to Dunfermline, the date of which is variously given as 1126 and 1128. He engaged in a quarrel with the Abbey of Dunfermline about the lands of Kirkcaldy, which he by force kept from the Church. This was not the only occasion on which there was bad blood between the church of Dunfermline and Earl Constantine. There is a letter to him from King David, couched in severe terms, commanding him to allow that church all the 'customs' that were its due, and threatening if he refused to compel him to do so. If Earl Constantine married, the name of his wife is not found. The date of his death has been given as in 1127 or 1129, on what authority is not stated. He left an heir or heirs, but noting apparently is known of them.

*NOTE* - One part of the property this ancient family can be traced to Constantinus de Lochor, who flourished in the thirteenth century, he granted to his son, Adam [Sheriff of Perth], the land of Lumfilan, to be held for his homage and service, and tht grant was confirmed by K. Alexander III, in the 28th yer of his reign, whose charter, beautifully written on vellum, with the great seal of Scotland appended, is still in fine preservation at Pitferrane House.

#### **ORIGINAL CHARTER OF KING ALEXANDER III AT PITFERRANE HOUSE.**

Alexander Dei gracia Rex Scottorum, Omnibus probis hominibus tocius terre sue salutem. Sciant, presentes et futuri, nos concessisse, et hac carta nostra confirmasse donacionem illam quam Constantinus de Louchor fecit Adam, filio suo, pro homagio et seruicio suo de terra sua de Lumfilan. Tenenda et habenda, eodem Adam et heredibus suis de dicto Constantino et heredibus suis, in feodo et hereditate, per rectas diuisas suas, et cum omnibus libertatibus et aisiamentis, ad eandem terram iuste pertinentibus uel que ad dictam terram poterunt aliquo tempore pertinere, Ita libere, quiete, plenarie, et honorifice sicut carta predicti Constantini inde plenius confecta dicto Adam filio suo iuste testatur. Saluo seruicio nostro. Testibus Alexandro Cumyn, Willelmo de Mar, Johanne de Vallibus, Roberto de Meyners, Roberto Byset, Roberto Cumyn. Apud Forfar, nono die Aprilis anno Regui Domini regis vicesimo octauo.

To this charter the Great Seal of Scotland is appended.

Translation.

Alexander, by the grace of God, King of Scotland, to all just men, of his whole land, greeting. Let them know, present and future, tht we have granted, and by this our charter have confirmed that donation which Constantine de Lochor made to Adam, his own son, for homage and service by himself, of his own land of Lumfilan. To be holden and to hold, by the same Adam and his heirs, of the said Constantine and his heirs, in feu and heritage, by all its rightful divisions, and with all liberties and privileges, justly pertaining, or which it is possible to pertain to the said land, in all time coming, as freely, quietly, entirely, and honourably as the charter of the foresaid Constantine, thence more fully granted to the said Adam, his son, justly testifies. Saving our service, Witnesses, - Alexander Cumyn, William de Mar, John de Vallibus, Robert de Meyners, Robert Byset, Robert Cumyn. At Forfar, the ninth day of April, and twenty-eighth year of the reign of our Lord the King. [A.D. 1277] (Historical & Statistical Account of Dunfermline by Rev. P. Chalmers Vol.1 p.526 & 573.)

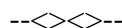
**NOTE - FROM HISTORY OF ANCIENT AND MODERN FIFE AND KINROSS**  
by Sir Robert Sibbald 1803 p. 3726

The tiends of Kinglassie were anno 1234, mortified by William bishop of St Andrews, "Deo, S. Margarete et monachis de Dunfermling:" as the records of that abbacy bear. And imo. Martii; 1234. Constantinus de Lochor, with the consent of David his son and heir, and Philip his brother, renounces in favour of Kinglassie.

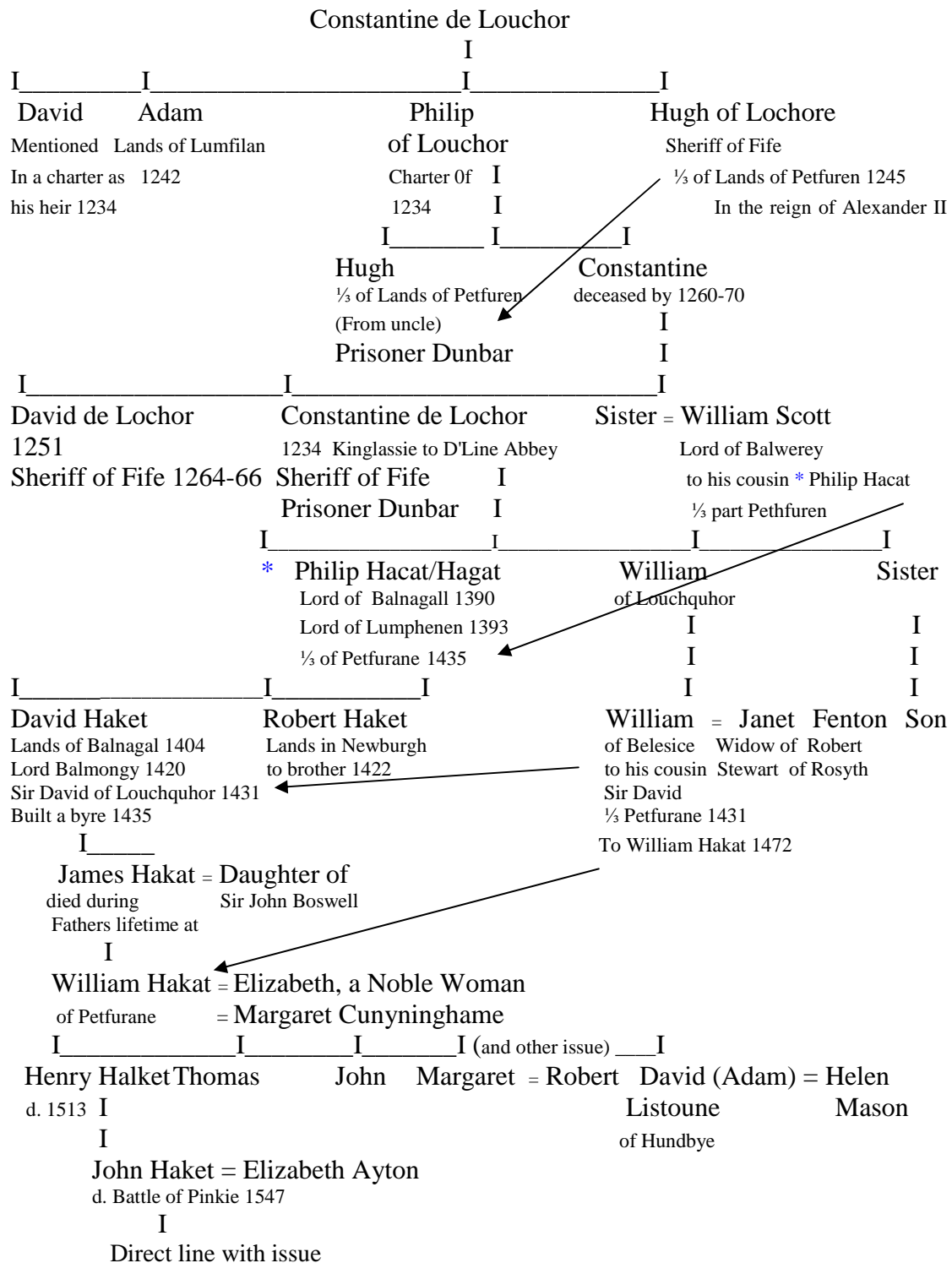
*Note* - Besides Malcolm III. his Queen Margaret, and their eldest son, Prince Edward, there were according to different authors, interred at Dunfermline the Royals and distinguished personages:

including - *Constantine* and William Ramsay, Earls of Fife.

(Historical and Statistical Account of the Town and Parish of Dunfermline by Rev Peter Chalmers. Vol. I p. 133.)



# Time of Alexander II King of Scots - 1242



Scots Peerage Vol. III p.304. see Scots Peerage vol. viii p. 478

NOTE - From Charters etc., William Scot, Lord of Balwery = daughter of Constantine of Lochor to his *cousin Philip Hacat* circa 1400

Hugh Porter, heir of Robert Portar to his *cousin Philip Hagart, Lord of Balnagall 1390*

James of Wallace, knight, Lord of Inchevalle, to his *cousin Philip Haket, lord of Lumphenen 1393*

Sir John of Wemys, lord of Reres, to his *cousin Philip Halket, lord of Balmagall 1435.*

# EXTRACTS FROM THE INVENTORY OF PITFIRANE WRITS

1230 - 1794

1. CHARTER - by Alexander III [*rectius* II] King of Scots, confirming donation by Constantine de Louchor to *Adam* his son, of the lands of Lumfilan, Lophenans, 28 April 1242.
2. CHARTER - by *Constantine*, the son of *Philip of Louchor*, to *Hugh*, his brother of the [third part of his lands of PETFUREN](#), being that third part of the lands of Petfurn [CONSTANTINE](#) which he holds of the King, circa 1245.
3. CHARTER - by *Constantine*, the son of *Constantine*, son of *Philip* of Louchor, to [Hugh of Louchor, his uncle of the third part of Petfuren](#), which the said Constantine, his father had given him and which he held of the King, and a third part of the lands of Petsconhy which in like manner the said deceased Constantine had bestowed on said *Hugh*, and which he held of the Earl of Fife. circa 1260-70.
5. CHARTER - William Scot, lord of Balwery, with consent of his heir to [Philip Hacat](#), his [PHILIP HACAT](#) beloved cousin, of the 2 Muathulies and Capeth and [1/3 part of Pethfuren](#) circa 1400.
7. CHARTER - or Gift Hugh Portar, son and heir of Robert Portar, to his cousin Philip Hagat, Lord of Balnagall, of an annual-rent of 8s. from land in Perth, 10 July 1390.
8. COMMISSION or BRIEVE - by James of Wallance, knight, lord of Inchegalle, to his cousin *Philip Haket*, lord of Lumplhenen etc. 12 July 1393.
- 11 PRECEPT - Robert Stewart, Lord of Lorne and sheriff-depute of Kinross for giving seisin to [DAVY HAKET Davy Haket](#) of the lands of Balnagal with the office of mair of fee, and office of "crownerschippe (coronership) of the wataeris," 3 June 1404.
- 12 "PRECEPT OF LANUDDERMAR (a boundary of land) ..... to ride the marches ..... between the landis of Gartmor and the landis of Lumphenane pertenant til *Phylp Hakat*," 21 Mar 1415.
- 14 DISCHARGE - Henry, bishop of St Andrews, to a noble man *Davy Haket*, his cousin, lord of Balmongy, of the ward of the said lands of Balmongy in the lordship of Morecambous fallen in ward by the death of Schir Jhon of Boswyll, 13 August 1420.
- 15 TESTIMONIAL - Richard of Lundoris that [Robert Haket](#) resigned his lands and tenement in Newburgh in favour of a noble man *David Hakete*, his brother, 15 January 1422.
- 18 TRANSUMPT, dated 17 October 1431 of charter of confirmation by [William King of Scots](#), confirming charter by William of Louchquhor, son of Constantine of Louchquhor, to his cousin [Sir David of Louchquhor, of third part of lands of Petfurane](#), which said Constantine had disposed to him.
- 19 TRANSUMPT, dated 14 November 1431, of charter by Robert Duke of Albany, &., Regent of Scotland dated 12 September 1410, confirming charter by *Constantine*, son of *Philip* of Lochore, to [Hugh, his brother, of the third part of the lands of Petfuran](#).

- 20 INSTRUMENT of Interruption or Deforcement the abbot of Dunfermline against the abbot of Culross respecting a meadow in Pitfirran, 13 August 1432.
- \*21 DEPOSITION Robert Wrych, burgess of Dunfermline, aged 70, that soon after the death of *Philip of Lowchquwor*, umquhile lord of the third part of Pitfurane, the deponent built to *Philip Haket*, his sister's son and heir, a byre and barn, &c., and thereafter built a byre to *Dawy Haket*, son and heir to *Philip Haket*, &c., and that deponent never heard of any claim made by the possessors of the other two-thirds of Petfuran to these buildings, 4 May 1435.
- 21<sup>B</sup> CHARTER by Sir John of Wemys, lord of Reres, to his cousin *Philip Haket*, lord of Balmagall, of the half of the barony of Petconnchquhy (without date, but about this time)
- 23 TRANSUMPT OR NOTARIAL TRANSLATION, 12th September 1432, of decret arbitral or submission the Abbot of Dunfermline and David Hecat "twychand the debatis of the marchis betwix Petfurane and Abercrumby," of same date, 12th September 1432.
- 27.DECREET ARBITRAL, pronounced by Robert of Leueston of Drumry and others on submission by Andrew, abbot of Dunfermline, and *Dauu Hacet of Lumfennen* respecting the *lands of Petfuran* and certain roads, 31 July 1437.
- 28 WADSET by William Leis, son of Walter of Leis, to his, "lufit mastir *Dauid Hakat*, lord of Petfuran al my landis of Tolyllum" lying near the Southgate of the burgh of Perth for 40s. of silver, 6 June 1439.
- 29 INSTRUMENT, 23rd July 1449, of Discharge by John of Cokborn, knight, and Cristyane, his spouse, daughter and heiress of umquhile Sir James the Valandis, to *David Hackate*, lord of Petffuran, for £10 for the ward of the templeland of Lochor, dated 11th June 1439.
- 30 INSTRUMENT OF SASISNE in favour of *David Hakat* of the lands of Clwno lying in the barony of Pettyncref and sheriffdom of Fife, conform to his charter. Witness, *William Hakat*. Dated 14th February 1441.
- 31 SPECIAL RETOUR of *William Hakat* to *James Hakat*, his father, in a certain third part of *JAMES HAKAT* the lands called the "thryd" part of the lands of Ouchtertyre, Balcrag and mill *WILLIAM HAKAT* thereof, in the sheriffdom of Forfar. Dundee, 19th April 1446.
- 33 LETTER OF REVERSION *William Haket* of Beilsice (Belsches) to *William Haket of Petfurane*, who had given him by charter and seisin an annual rent of 40s from his lands of Bawnagaw (Balingal) in the shire of Kinross 23 April 1472.
- 36 CHARTER under the great seal by James III, King of Scotland, to *William Haket* of *WILLIAM HAKET* Petfurane of the said lands of Petconochy, on the resignation of the said David Ogilvy, 3rd September 1472.
37. INSTRUMENT of REQUISITION by *William Haket of Petfuran* that he held certain lands of Lumfynnans of Henry Wardlaw of Torry, and requiring him to enter him to these lands, 16 January 1476.
- 38.AGREEMENT between Michael, abbot of the Monastery of St Columbus, with consent of his chapter and of William of Balmanach, his tenant of the half of Kyrkveth, and *William Haket*, laird of Dumfulan, with consent of Henry Wardlaw laird of Lochor, his superior, respecting the bounds of the lands of Lurnok, &c., 5th July 1468.



- 39 PRECEPT OF SASINE Alexander Conynghame, laird of Polmais and of the sixth part of the lands of Petconochquhy, for infefing conform to charter [William Haket of Petfurane](#) in a seventh part of the said lands of Petconochquhy, 10th January 1484.
40. INSTRUMENT of SASINE following thereon in favour of *William Haket* 29th April 1485.
43. INSTRUMENT of REQUISITION [William Haket of Petfurran](#) to have the lands of WILLIAM HALKET Lumfillans recognosced by Henry Wardlaw of Torry, his superior, 10th January 1496.
44. INSTRUMENT of OBLIGATION by Henry Wardlaw of Torry to enter [Henry Haket](#), eldest HENRY HALKET son of the deceased William Haket of Petfurane, as heir to his father in the lands of Lumphinnanis, 12th January 1500-1.
45. SPECIAL RETOUR *Henry Haket* to his father, *William Haket* of Pitfurane, in a third part HENRY HALKET of the lands of Pitfurane, and in another third part of said lands, in two-sixth parts of Pitconnochy, and in the lands of Cragtowne (one-third of Petfurane is held of the laird of Craghall, the other of the laird of Balwery; one-sixth of Pitconnochy is held of the King, the other of the laird of Polmais; the lands of Cragtowne of the baron of Carnbe). *William Haket* died six weeks prior to the service, 12th Jnuary 1500-1.
46. PRECEPT from Chancery following upon said retour for infefing *Henry Haket* in the lands HENRY HALKET of Cragtoun, 27th March, 13th of the King (1501).
47. PRECEPT of *Clare Constat* by Sir William Scott of Balwery, knight, for infefing the said *Henry Haket* as heir to his father in a third part of the lands of Pitfurran, 29th May 1501.
48. SASINE *Henry Hakkat* of Petfurane of the lands of Lumfannans, on precept by Henry Wardlaw of Torry, 26th January 1500-1.
49. OBLIGATION by Robert Listoune of Hundbye to [Henry Hakkat of Petfuran](#) and Margaret Cunynghame, his mother, that, having received 220 [merks] on his marriage with Margaret (Beggis) Hakkat, sister of said Henry and daughter of said Margaret Cunynghame, he shall not alienate his lands of Hundbye, in barony of Liston and sheriffdom of Linlithgow, to the prejudice of he heirs of the said marriage, 16th January 1502-3.
53. PROCURATORY of RESIGNATION by [Henry Haket of Petfurane](#) for resigning in the JOHN HAKET King's hands certain lands of the third part of Vchtirtire and Balcraig and mill thereof and sixth part of Petconochy in favour of *John Haket*, his son and heir apparent, reserving his liferent, dated 25th June 1509.
58. CHARTER SIR WILLIAM SCOT of Balwery, knight, to Henry Halkeide of the third part HENRY HALKEIDE of the lands of Pitfurane, which had been recognosced in the hands of the King, and Sir William again infeft for a certain composition, 21 July 1513.
59. PRECEPT OF SASINE following thereon for infefing said Henry Halkeide in said lands, 21st July 1513.
60. PRECEPT of *Clare Constat* by Sir William Scot for infefing John Haket of Petfurane as JOHN HALKET heir of Henry Halkheid, his father, in a third part of the lands of Petfurane, 21st July 1513.

76. ASSIGNATION by Mr Rolland Blakater, sub-dean of Glasgow, to John Halkheid of Petfurane and Elizabeth Aitoun, his spouse, and Patrick Halkheid, their son, to a tack and assedation, 3rd December 1520, by Andrew, Archbishop of St Andrews and Abbot of Dunfermline, of the lands of Knokes, and coals, coalheughs, &., 18th November 1524.
77. INSTRUMENT OF OBLIGATION by [John Hakat](#) of Pitfirran to infeft during life Thomas Hakat, his uncle, in 5 merks yearly from the lands of Northir Lumfynnans, on his renouncing an annual-rent to the same amount from the barony of Segy, 30th September 1527.
80. PRECEPT by Sir William Scot of Balwery for infefting Patrick Halket, son and heir [PATRICK HALKET](#) apparent of John Halket of Petfurrane, in a third part of the lands of Petfurrane with mansion-house, &., on resignation of his father, 17th May 1532.
103. HOLOGRAPH TESTAMENT and INVENTORY John Halkeid of Pytfurane, 22nd October 1542.
114. POWER OF ATTORNEY by Queen Mary appointing procurators, for one year for Patrick Halket of Petfurane in *omnibus negotiis*, &c., 28th June, 6th of the Queen [1548].
117. INVENTORY of th goods, &c., of John Hacked of Petfyrrane who died intestate (see W.103) in the battle of Fawsyde, by Elizabeth Aytoun, his spouse, and Patrick Hackeid, his son and heir, 20th November 1548; confirmed 24th March following.
209. TACK of 19 years by Robert, Commendator of Dunfermline to George Hacket, laird of Pitfyrran, of the teinds of Pitfyrrane, Pitconnoquhy, Knokis, Prymrose and half lands of Selytoun, all in parish and regality of Dunfermline, date [ ] 1574.
285. CONTRACT Hary Stewart of Rossyth and George Halkheid of Pitfirran and Isobel Hepburn, his spouse, by which he is bound to dispone to them the quarter lands of Overgrange of Kinghorne Wester, 2nd October 1584.
304. CONTRACT George Halket of Pitfirrane and Isobel Hepburne, his spouse, and Hary Stewart of Rosyth and Margaret Lindsay, his spouse, by which the said Hary Stewart with consent of his spouse obliges himself to infeft the said George Halcet and spouse in an annual-rent of 400 merks (interest of 4000 merks) from the lands and barony of Craigies in the barony of Rosyth, [ ] 1587.
314. SASINE in favour of Robert Halkheid now of Pitfirran, son and heir of the deceased [GEORGE HALKHEID](#) of Pitfirrane, on precept of *clare constat* by George Earl of Huntlie, to him as heir of provision of the deceased Mr George Halkheid, conservator of the privileges of the Scots at Flanders, in the lands of Sillietoun Wester called Halkheid Sillietoun and eighth part of the lands of Southfoid, 2nd June 1589.
454. OBLIGATION Sir Robert Halket to Andrew Hagget in the parish of St Martins in the Fields for £40 sterling, 23rd January 1609.
656. DISPOSITION John Earl of Tweedale, to Sir Charles Halket of the half of the lands of [CHARLES HALKET](#) Lymkilns, teinds &., 26th November 1684, registered in Books of session 6th July 1710.

683. DISPOSITION James Cleland of Pitdinnies, with consent therein mentioned, to Sir Patrick Murray, Dame Elizabeth Murray, Dame Janet Murray, in liferent, and to James Halket, eldest son of Sir Charles in fee, of the lands of Pitdinnies, and in warrandice thereof the lands of Blairhall, &., 19th August 1697, registered in books of Session 29th Jun 1699.
757. RENNUCIATION said Mr George Halkheid to George Halkeid of Pitfirren, assignee of John Stevenson of Burnmouth, of an annual-rent of £30 from lands of Burnmouth 2nd September 1586.
825. LETTER James VI to the Laird of Pitfirran to attend him with his friends, servants &c., at Stirling, dated 28th July 1578.
830. LICENCE from the King to him, his friends, &c to return from his host, 1st November 1585.
831. LETTER from the King to him to fortify the house of Rosyth and to keep all the boats on the north side of the water, 1st November 1585.
832. LETTER from the King to bailies of Dunfermline to prevent the ministers lately returned from England from meeting along with the barons in Dunfermline, 18th November 1585.
834. LETTER from the King to the laird of Pitfirran to desist from halking, slaying pouttis and partrikis, 31st May 1602.

*Note* - (There are 836 writs) giving information on the Rentals, Leases, and transactions of Land, pertaining to this Halket Family of Petfurane.

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HALKET, HALKETT, This surname may be derive from the lands of Halkhead, Renfrewshire, although a family bearing a different name (Ross) have been long (in record) in possession of the property. *As-et* sometimes represents - *wood* (as Aiket = wood) the place name may have been originally Hawkwood, and there is a Hawkwood near Strathaven, Lanarkshire. Sir Henry Hakette witnessed a charter by Henry de Graham, c. 1230 (HMC., 2 Rep. App., p. 166), Richard Haket was juror on inquisition at Dumfries, 1259 (Bain, 1, 2176; APS., 1, p. 88), and Sir Walter Haket was in the service of Robert de Brus, earl of Carrick, 1298 (ibid., 11 995). Thomas Haket was burges of Are, 1415-27 (Ayr p. 11, 82), and David Hacat, a Scotsman had a safe conduct in 1432 (Bain, IV, 1051).

The Halketts of Pitfirrane in Fife are said to have been settled there as early as the reign of David II, from whom they acquired the lands of Lumphanans and Ballingall. Philip Hagat, lord of Balangall (Ballingall) is in record 1390 (Pitfirrane, 7). "Dau hacet of lûfennen" made a contract with the abbot of Dunfermline, 1437 (RD., p. 285). Robert Hacat held land in Stirling, 1463 (RD., 467) and William Hakket of Petfurane had a remission for slaughter committed by him in 1499 (Trials, 1, p. 100). John Halket was chosen kirkmaster of Dysart, 1537 (Dysart, p. 4) Robert Holkat was a prior in Culross, 1569 (Laing, 844), and Archibald Halkhead was an elder in Dysart 1641 (PBK., p. 209). George Halket (d. 1737) was author of the ballad "Logie of Buchan." Hacate 1437, Hached 1560, Hacheid 1543, Hackat 1515, Hackate 1439, Hackatt 1650, Hackeat 1573, Hacked 1574, Hacket 1372, Hacquett 1599, Hagheid 1545, Hakkat 1500, Hakked 1579, Halkede 1526. Halkeid 1509, Halkeit 1585, Halkaide 1632, Halkhead, 1592, Halkhed 1534, Halkeid 1583, Halkheide 1513, Halkhet 1532, Halkit 1634. [From - Surnames of Scotland by Black]

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# *Regality of Dunfermline Court Book*

by J.M. Webster, D.D. p. 168

**The Halketts of Pitfirrane** are said to have settled in Fife as early as the reign of David II, from whom they acquired the lands of Lumfennan and Ballingall (P.W. 7). In 1350 David II confirmed the gift of the lands of Pitfirrane to the abbot and convent of Dunfermline by Margaret spouse of Sir Robert de Meygners (Reg. 389); and in 1399 *Philip Halkett*, 'Dominus de Ballingall et Lumfannans' acquired the third part of the lands of Pitfirrane from his cousin, William de Scott de Balwearie (Chalmers, 1. 293). Urquhart and another third of Pitfirrane followed later:

At Edinburgh, 3 Oct 1544.

Ane Lettir maid to *Johne Halkeid* of Petfurrane, his airis and assignais, ane or ma, of the gift of the ward of all and haile the landis of Urquhart and third part of the landis of Pitfurane, with their pertinentis, liand within the schirefdome of Fyffe, quhilkis pertentit to umqhill Andro Kyninmouth of Craghall, and now throw his desec being, or salhappin to be, in oure soverane ladeis handis be resoun of warde . . . (R.S.S. iii, 907)

That the family was of some standing may be inferred from the following extract:

27 March 1465 - To *William Hakat*, nobleman, lord of the place of Pecfuren, and Elizabeth, his wife, noblewoman, of the diocese of St Andrews, an indult to have a portable altar. (C.P.R. xii. 422) (L4 On chart Line 4)

Dr Chalmers gives a long and detailed account of the family which, however, suffers from a considerable gap in the fifteen and sixteenth centuries. The gap may be largely filled in as follows:

Following *David de Hakket* whom he refers to as the first of the family designed a 'of Pitfirrane' and who appears in a deed of 1437 (i. 293/4), we find *William Halkett* of Pitfirrane above referred to acquiring on 14th October 1472 a part of Piconnochy which David Ogilive of Inchmartine resigned (R.M.S. 1087) Of this laird it is recorded that, on 3rd February 1499/1500, he received a Precept of Remission, along with *his son Thomas* and Thomas Lathangy 'for art and parte of the slauchter of Robert Carnys, land for all cryme that may be imput to him [sic] alanerlie thairfor' (R.S.S. I, 461).

That Thomas succeeded is uncertain. (L5 on chart) In an undated charter, which cannot be before 1510 nor later than the death of James IV (R.M.S. 3883) we find a reference to *Henry Halkett* of Pitfirrane (L5 on chart) whose son and heir-apparent, *John*, (L6 on chart) receives a third of the lands of Ochtertyre and Balcrag, with their mills, in the county of Fortar, and a sixth of Pitconnochy, which Henry resigned. Of this John Halkett of Pitfirrane it is recorded that, long with Elizabeth Aitoun, his wife, and *Patrick Halkett*, their son, he had, on 18th November 1524, a tack of the lands of Knockhouse (P.W. 76) and that, on his resignation, his son, Patrick, was infefted in a third of Pitfirrane, with sasine following thereon (P.W. 80:81). It is also on record that on 9th July 1526 he received, along with more than a score of others, including Charles Denneston, James Henderson in Crombie, Henry Halkett, James Lindsay in Carnock, John Bruce in Luscar, David Anderson in Pitdinnie, Richard Burn in Urquhart, David Anderson in Primrose, and Alexander Lindsay in Keavil, a Precept of

Remission (R.S.S. I, 3420) for being 'airt and pairt' in the slaughter of John Greif '*ex subito commisse*'. Further references to him and to his lands are to be found under dates 20th November 1524 (R.M.S. 282; 2nd October 1529 (ibid. 843); 8th February 1531/2 (ibid. 1128). He was the Laird of Pitferrane who figures in the present record. Following him there comes Patrick Halkett of Pitferrane, (L7 on chart) who, 'for good services' got confirmation 28th February 1548/9 of his portion of Pitconnochy 'occupied by himself' (R.M.S. 300); although later 4th October 1569 and 22nd December 1576, he sold these lands to Robert Ayton of Inchdairnie and Allan Coutts (R.M.S. 1887 and 2610). He is referred to as bailie of the Monastery of Dunfermline 10th November 1548 (Laing Charters, 546) and died about June 1573 (Inchcolm, p. 207) Patrick was followed by George Halkett of Pitferrane, (L8 on chart) his son and heir, 27th December 1580 (R.M.S. 73); and George, as stated by Dr Chalmers, was succeeded by his son Robert, the first baronet in the family.

At least four of them were Provosts of the Burgh of Dunfermline.

John Halkett being Provost at the time of this court, it was natural that burgesses in trouble with the monastic authorities should turn to him for help. The monastery was making one of its periodical calls for the production of charters, etc., by holders of church lands with a view to checking up on non-payment of rents and sub-letting of lands throughout the regality area. The difficulty was that up-to-date charters were expensive and not always available; and the possibility of the lands being forfeited had always to be reckoned with. What made participation in such cases still more distasteful to the burgh authorities was that they might well find themselves involved in the unpopular consequences of the findings of the court.

3 May 1499 - . . . with ane in penny to Allan Cant, burges of the said burcht, of sex schillings and five pennys of annuall rent yerly to be tane of the lands of James Gerwes liand within the foresaid burgh of Dunfermlyn . . . be the vertew of ane percept direct to the sade Allan be the Abbot of the Abbay of Dunfermlyne, quhilk lands wes Sande Westotis and his wiffis and optenit fra thaim in judgement in the covrt of the regalite of Dunfermlyn in the default of payment of xj lib. (D.B.R. 333)

In an inventory of John Halkett's 'goods and gear' drawn up at Dunfermline by Elizabeth Ayton, his spouse and Patrick Halkett, his son and heir, the words occur; '*John Halkede de Pitfirran in infelici conflict de Fauside occisus.*'

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# THE HALKETT FAMILY

The Halketts family has very ancient origins. The exact period of the family's settlement in the county of Fife Scotland is difficult to ascertain. There is mention of a -

**SIR HENRY HALKETTE**, witness to Charter by Henry de Graham, c. 1230, (HMC. 2 Rep. App., p. 88.)

**SIR WALTER HAKET**, was in the service of Robert de Brus, Earl of Carrick, 1298 (ibid., 11 995)

## ROBERT HALKETT

COLLECTOR OF THE THIRDS OF BENEFICES IN FIFE 1360.

**ROBERT HALKETT**, collector of the thirds of Benefices Fife in 1360 (Exch. Rolls II (36) and as Sheriff of Kinross by charter of Robert II on 9th March 1372/3 (Rob. Index P. 98 No. 330) There is no indication of the identity of this Robert, but he was presumably a prominent land holder in Kinross, for shortly after we find - There is a Hugh of Lochore, Sheriff of Fife, when he gave  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the lands of Petfuren in 1245 in the reign of Alexander II to his nephew Hugh ( $\frac{1}{3}$  of Lands of Petfuren from his uncle). Hugh was the father of 2 sons and one daughter, 1. David de Lochor, 1251, Sheriff of Fife, 1264-66, another son 2. Constantine de Lochor 1234, he gave Kinglassie to Dunfermline Abbey, also Sheriff of Fife and a Prisoner at Dunbar. Hugh's daughter married William Scott, Lord of Balwery, with consent of his heir, Philip Hacat, his beloved cousin, of the 2 Mutthulies and Capeth, and third part of Pethfuren. Philip Hacat or Hagat, Lord of Balmagall 1290, Lord of Lumphenen 1393, had a brother William of Louchquhor and a sister, who had a son.

## PHILIP HACAT

THE FIRST OF PITFIRANE

**PHILIP HACAT**, the first ancestor identified, had a Charter from his beloved cousin William Scot, of Balwery, who was married to the sister of Constantine of Lochore, Sheriff of Fife, with consent of his heir, to Philip Hacat, of the 2 Muathulies and Capeth and  $\frac{1}{3}$  part of Pethfuren circa 1400. (Pitfirrane Writ.5) This Philip Hacat/Hagat, Lord of Balnagal or Ballingall to the west of Kinross 1390, who may well be the son of Robert. This Philip is also designated Lord of Lumphanan now Lumphinnans, a part of Cowdenbeath, in a brieve of perambulation in July 1393. (W. 8) Philip acquired about 1400, half of the neighbouring barony of Pitconnochie (W. 21b) from Sir John Wemyss of Rires, though later this has been reduced to a sixth. Philip died after 1415 but before 1432. He had at least two sons He also had a brother

WILLIAM of Lochquhor, and a Sister who had at least one son. (WILLIAM HAKAT, of Louchquhor, *brother* of Philip, above, Lord of Balnagall, he had at least one son William Halket, Hakket, of Belesice. He left to his cousin Sir David of Louchquhor  $\frac{1}{3}$  of Petfurane, 1431. (W.18) Also in a Letter of Reversion *William Haket* of Beilsice (Belsches) to *William Haket* of Petfurane, who had given him by charter and seisin an annual rent of 40s from his lands of Bawnagaw (Balingal) in the shire of Kinross 23 April 1472. (W.33) William Halkett married Jane Fenton, in September 1446 (RMS I 618) co-heiress of Walter de Fenton of Baky in Angus. Janet was his 2nd daughter and was the widow of Robert Stewart, 2nd son of Sir David Stewart of Rosyth, and was said by her own position to have been kept under conditions of extreme severity until she assigned her lands to the Stewarts. (Hist. of Inverkeithing by Dr Stephen p. 184)

Philip Hacat, above died after 1415 but before 1432. He had at least two sons -

- 1) David Haket, of Lands of Balnagal, 1404, also, Lord of Balmongy, 1420 and Sir David of Lochquhor 1431, he built a byre 1435, with issue. (W.21)
- 2) Robert Haket, resigned his lands and tenement in Newburgh in favour of a noble man *David Hakete*, his brother, 15 January 1422. (W.33)

## DAVID HAKAT

### THE SECOND LAIRD OF PITFIRANE.

**DAVID HAKAT**, as second Laird of Pitferrane in had a dispute over boundaries with the Abbot of Dunfermline, son and heir of Philip Hacat, Lord of Lumphenen, 1392 above, Robert Stewart, Lord of Lorne and Sheriff-depute of Kinross for giving seisin to *Davy Haket* of the lands of Balnagal with the office of mair of fee, and office of "crownerschippe (coronership) of the wataeris," 3 June 1404, became Lord of Balmongy 1420, Sir David of Louchquhor in 1431, from his cousin William Hakat. For a time David Halket held the lands of Cluny to the north of Pitferrane but this was in possession of the Wemyss of Pittencrieff by 1455 (W.30) David is later seen to hold the third of Pitferrane from the Kinninmonths of Craighall, and Lumphinnans from the Wardlaw of Torrie who had gained possession of part at least of the old Lochore Lands. (W.45) He possibly was the David Hacat, a Scotsman who had a safe conduct in 1432 (Bain, IV, 1051). In 1432 David Halkett had a dispute over boundaries with the abbot of Dunfermline. David Hakat, Laird of Pitferrane, died in 1451. No evidence is available as to the date of his death, but he was alive in 1441 (W.30) and may have survived a further ten years. Nimmo in his "History of Stirlingshire" (1817) (Note A.A. P. 659) relates that a laird of Halkett fought a tournament along with two Douglasses against two Burgundian knights and a squire, and that he was knighted for the occasion. This was in 1449 but whether this refers to David or his son James cannot be proved. David died 1451.

We have no record of who he married but he did leave issue -

- 1) James Halket, who died during his Father's lifetime, with issue.
- 2) Margaret Halket, who married Alexander Brown.

## **JAMES HAKAT**

### **THE THIRD LAIRD OF PITFIRRANE.**

**JAMES HAKAT**, the third Laird of Pitferrane, son and heir of above David Halket, married a daughter of Sir James Boswell of Balmuto, he died in his father's lifetime, according to Douglas Peerage. Pitfirane Writ. 31, states Special Retour of William Hakat to James Hakat, his father, in a certain third part of the lands called the "thryd" part of the lands of Ouchtertyre, Balcrag and mill thereof, in the sheriffdom of Forfar Dundee, 19th April 1446. We know he had one son -

## **WILLIAM HAKAT**

**WILLIAM HAKAT**, son and heir of the above James Hakat, - He was infeted in 1446 in the lands of Auchtertyre and Balcraig in the Sheriffdom of Forfar, which had been held by his father James. As these lands remain in the family for over a century, it is a proof that this is the same William. (W.31) To *William Hakat*, nobleman, lord of the of Pecfuren, and Elizabeth, (Stewart) his wife, noblewoman, of the diocese of St Andrews, an indult to have a portable altar. (C.P.R. xii. 422) Of this laird it is recorded that on 3rd February 1499/1500, he received a Precept of Remission, along with his son Thomas and Thomas Lathangy 'for art and parte of the slauchter of Robert Carney, and for all cryme that may be imput to him [*sic*] alanerlie thairfor' (R.S.S. I, 461). Sometime before 1484, if not in that year, he married Margaret, daughter of Alexander Cunningham of Polmaise and later Auchenbowie near Stirling, later knighted, and Sheriff of tht shire, and Provost of the town of that name. He is said to have been a descendant of the Cunninghams of Kilmaurs. Alexander Cunningham had an interest in the neighbouring lands of Pitconnochie and William was well acquainted with him, witnessing a charter for him at Pitferrane in 1477. In May 1484 William received another sixth of Pitconnochie from him. (W.39)

There are references in the early charters of Linlithgow to a Laird of Halkett, possibly William, and the family seems to have some connection with that area. His daughter Margaret marries a Liston of Humbie near that town, and in the 16th century there is a David Halkett there, whose seal displays the undifferenced arms of Halkett. If the Laird of Halkett can be equated with William of Pitferrane he seems to have been a boon companion of James IV who draws sums of money from the Treasurer to play cards with the Laird and others in 1489 and 1490. (Lord High Treas. Acc.)

William died in December 1499 (W.45) with the shadow of a murder charge hanging over him, but in February 1499/1500 a Precept of Remission was issued to him (though he had died three months earlier) and his son Thomas for the slaughter of one Robert Carnys. The details have not survived but Robert Carnys is more than probably a member fo the family of Dunfermline tradesmen connected with the Abbey as plumbers. They appear as burgesses of Dunfermline at this time, and a Robert Carnys is Bailie at a later date. (Dunf. Burgh Records)

William left issue -



- 1) Henry, his heir, Provost.
- 2) Thomas Halket of Lumphinnans. (W.77)
- 3) John Halkett, Merchant, Dunfermline.
- 4) Margaret Halkett m. 1502 Robert Linton of Humbie in January 1501/2 with a dowry of 200 merks.
- 5) Katherine Halkett m. Andrew Kinninouth of Craighall, Fife.
- 6) Andrew Halkett of Kirkcaldy, who gifts wax to the Abbey in 1515. (Dunf. Burgh Records) He appeared for Katherine before the Sheriff in Kirkcaldy. He seems to have settled there and may be the ancestor of the Kirkcaldy Halketts.
- 7) Peter Halkett, Merchant.
- 8) David (Adam) Halket, Killed at Flodden Field 1513, m. Helen Mason and had issue -
  - 1) Henry Halkett of Pitliver, who had a son
    - 1) David Halkett of Broughton, Linlithgow, who m. Katherine Danielston of Pitliver, they had a son,
      - 1) Georg Halkett in favour with James IV, who was Special Ambassador to Queen Elizabeth, and Traded with Spain, died, 1586. Halkett was appointed Conservator from 1555 to 1561 and again in 1565, holding the position until his death in March 1589. His was an extremely difficult task, as the revolt of the Netherlands against Spain was flaring up and he had to try to hold a neutral position, representing the British merchants, who ungratefully blamed him for their losses and misfortunes. He had in their interests to keep on good terms with the Spanish authorities when Scottish volunteers were flocking in large numbers to aid their co-religionists. At the same time he was acting as Ambassador for the Scottish Government to the Dukes of Parma and Alva, as well as reporting on the Marian plots in France and Holland. Nevertheless he was successful in persuading Philip II to recognize the privileges of the Scottish merchants of Campvere as early as 1568, pending the final settlement there ten years later. He had already been censured by the Convention of Royal Burghs for the decay of privileges, and that body also insisted that he ensure the strict Protestant religious observances of all merchants resorting to the staple. On the other hand Philip II had insisted on a condition of the grant that the Scottish merchants should behave as good Catholics, a clause accepted by the Regent Moray. Such contradictions were no doubt ignored in practice. (See "Scottish Staple at Vere." Davidson and Gray), part from his duties as Conservator George Halkett was high in favor with the young King James VI. Numerous references in official letters of the period testify to his presence at court between 1576 and 1585. He was employed as special Ambassador to Elizabeth on matters of trade as well as to the Spanish authorities who thought highly of him. He was exempted from returning any gifts of Abbey lands when James VI resumed them (Reg. P.C, III. 712). Also see ( W. 314:757.) It is possible that in his younger days George had been an attendant of Bothwell who married Mary, Queen of Scots, for one account states that Bothwell was informed of the death of Darnley by one Halkett his servant. If that is the case, he must have been particularly agile in shifting his allegiance or securing another patron to escape the fatal interrogations of Bothwell's other servants when he fell

from power. From other evidence it would seem that he got the protection of Regent Morton who ruthlessly seized power after the flight of Mary, but he was dabbling in the intrigues of that stormy and bloody period. (From Duncan McNaughton's notes)

2) Daughter Katherine Halkett who married Charles Danielston of Pitliver.

## THE BATTLE OF FLODDEN FIELD

9 SEPTEMBER 1513

There is no doubt that James IV occasionally resided in Dunfermline, as the palace was built, or at least enlarged by him in 1500, after he had been twelve years on the throne. James was more given to love than wine, and Dunbar's poem, entitled, "*The Tod and Lamb' or the wooing of the King when he was at Dunfermling*" arose from a libertine prank, that took place on one of his visitations.

In 1509 James the IV, prevailed on the pope to confirm the donation of the Archbishopric of St Andrews, along with the Abbey of Dunfermline, to Alexander his natural son; and he next entreated the Pope to add to these the Priory of Coldingham. This young pluralist was slain with his father at Flodden field, at the age of twenty-three. (Mercer Hist of Dunf. p. 59)

1513 – Alexander Stuart, Abbot of Dunfermline Slain, the youthful Abbot of Dunfermline accompanied his father, King James IV to Flodden, and was, along with his ill-fated father and the flower of the Scottish army, slain on Flodden Field, on 9th September 1513, being then in the 21st year of his age. (Mercer's Hist. Dunf. p. 59; Chal. Hist. Dunf. vol. i. p. 195.) The great Erasmus was this Abbot's Tutor, from whom he had a noble character. (Crawford's Offices of State, pp. 59, 60; Keith's Scottish Bishops, pp. 33, 34.) His skeleton was found in 1820, near the High Altar site of St Andrews Cathedral. The skull had a deep sword-cut wound, penetrating through the thickness of the bone. (Newspapers of 1820.) (Annals of Dunfermline p. 187)

When King James IV fell at Flodden his son Alexander, Archbishop of St Andrews and Abbot of Dunfermline fell by his side. The youth was but 15 years of age & was not a seemingly victim of the sword. Both the King & his son lay the flowers of the Scottish nobility. There lay 10 Earls and 13 Lords, and 6 peers eldest sons, a bishop fell there too and 2 Abbots and the preceptors of Torphichen. The French Ambassador was also among the slain. The Earl of Angus lost 2 sons and a son-in-law. The Earl of Man lost 1 son. Lord Oliphant lost 1 son. Lord Cathcart 3 sons; Lord Glamis 3 sons & a son-in-law & a grandson. Sir Alexander Lauder, Provost of Edinburgh & his brothers James and Sir George were also Killed at Flodden. So were Lord Rothes & his brother: McDowall of Gartshshane & his son: James of Wedderburn & his son ("The Eldest of seen spears") Boswell of Balmule & his brother Boswell of Auchinleck.

The original gazette of the battle preserved in the college of arms London, says the number of Scots killed was 10,000' the contemporary writer says "Xi to Xii thousand man of the Scots with XIIC of the English" were killed at Flodden.

Mr Jones, Vicar of Brankston, in his "Battle of Flodden Field" admits to the of Scots slain "was 10,000 to 12,000 on the field with their King" he also says "That nearly as many, if not an equal number, fell on the side of the English" and the Bishop

of Durham, writing an account of the battle to Alexander Wolsey, says to the Scots were so surely (securely) h .... To arrows did them no harm, they were so mighty large & great men!"

Hill Burton estimates the number of Scots killed at 8,000 to 10,000 and the English at 6,000 to 7,000. The fact to the Scots kept possession of Flodden Hill all night after the battle, and to the English made no attempt to follow up their advantage, shows how greatly they must have been crippled. See Scottish A. Ja. 1899.

## **ADAM or DAVID HALKETT**

Killed at the Battle of Flodden Field.

Adam Halkett, son of William Halkett and brother of Henry Halkett, Provost of Dunfermline 1511 to 1512 and who died before July 1513. Adam Halkett who along with a contingency of men from Dunfermline were killed at the Battle of Flodden 9th August 1513. He had, at the time of his decease, and for long before that 'the right, title, kindness and possession of the lands of Pitliver and Braidley, with the myln and multures of the same' In virtue of an act passed in favour of the wives and children of those who fell at Flodden, his widow, Helen Mason, received right and possession of the above lands and mill till her death in 1537 or thereby. (Regality of D'Line Court Book by J.M. Webster p.158.)

In that same year Henry Halkett, son of Adam and father of David Halkett, the petitioner, having five years of his tack to run, obtained a new tack subscribed by the Prior and Convent of Dunfermline. Notwithstanding which - so the Petition runs - the late Charles Denneston (or Denielston), husband of Katherine Halkett (presumably a daughter of Adam Halkett and Helen Mason, wrongfully retained and kept possession of these lands and would not suffer the late Henry, David's father, entry thereto; and his widow still retains possession of the lands, so that David, though nearest and lawful heir to his father and grandfather, is wrongfully debarred therefrom. And now the Commendator of the Abbey and the Royal Treasurer intend to 'set' the said lands and mill to Katherine and her three daughters, unless the Lords of the Privy Council intervene. The Privy Council ordered the following to be summoned: the Commendator (Robert Pitcairn), Patrick Halkett of Pitfirrane, Katherine Halkett and her three daughters, with James Mowbray and Robert Fraser, for their interest as husbands of Elizabeth and Margaret.

*Note* - Jean, the second daughter, married, 1) Hew, brother of David Murray of Cars and 2) as his second wife, John Swinton of Inverkeithing (Stephen, Hist., 469. See also Webster, History of Carnock, p. 297). By this time John Swinton was presumably dead.)

In due course all appeared, except the Commendator, when the Lords found: 1) that Katherine Halkett, as relict, and Elizabeth, Jane and Margaret, as daughters of the deceased Charles Danielston, had 'best kindness' to the lands of Pitliver and Braidley; and (2) that the claim of Patrick Halkett of Pitfirrane, in name of his son George, was invalid. The Lords, accordingly, called upon the Commendator, in accordance with the Act referred to, to receive them as tenants - Katherine and her husband having been in undisputed possession of the lands, for the space of fifty years, or thereby, bygone'. (Page 43. Charles Denneston. Petition of David Halkett.)

A Captain Charles Denneston was in charge of the work of fortification at Inchgarvie, 23d December 1514 (Stephen 382) *Note*. - Charles Denneston. Petition of David Halkett: (Regality of Dunfermline Court Book by J.M. Webster p.158)

## HENRY HAKAT

**HENRY HAKAT**, succeeded to the two thirds of Pitferrane, two-sixths of Pitconnochie, Lumphinnans, Auchtertyre, and Balcraig (W.45:43). He also added the lands of Craigton in the barony of Carnbee (W.46). Henry, during his lifetime associates his son, John, in his lands. The process of sasines and resumptions is puzzling, unless Henry wished to ensure the retention of the lands in the family for some reason, and then discovered that he had divested himself of too much.

The other possibility was that John was lending his father money on the security of these lands. In 1509 John receives Auchtertyre, and Balcraig, two-sixths of Pitconnochie and the third of Pitferrane on which the mansion house was erected (W.53) In 1513, however, Henry resumes Pitferrane on a new charter of confirmation from the king (W.58:59).

He was entered Burgess of Dunfermline in 1501, and is elected **Provost** in 1511 and again in 1512. He was thus in office 1513 after which his oldest son, John, succeeds him at Pitferrane.

Precept upon Charter by James Cunynghame of Polmais for infetting John Haket, son and heir of the deceased Henry Haket, in the sixth part of Petconquhy, 3rd September 1514 (W.64)

(Henry Haket was deceased before 9th September 1514 the date of Flodden Field).

Henry Haket wife's name has not come down to us, they left issue-

- 1) John, who succeeded him.
- 2) Peter, later **Provost** of Dunfermline in 1549, though the James and Henry who appear as witnesses in 1522 (W.76) may well be his sons. His wife's name has not come down to us.
- 3) James Haket
- 4) Henry Haket
- 5) William Haket, who married Mary Haliburton of Pitcur, note below.

*Note:* - The Lyon Genealogies 11/40 mention a William Halkett of Pitferrane who married Mary Haliburton of Pitcur. He could be (by other dating) a son of Henry. His son John married Agnes, daughter of Lord Sinclair of Dysart (d. 1615) and their son Nicholas or Nicol was chamberlain to his grandfather at Dysart. He died 1608 (Ed Conn.) His son John was a Bailie of Dysart who married Catrin Cay, daughter of Alexander Cay, merchant and Bailie of Kinghorn. This line ended in a daughter Margaret who married a Duncan Campbell.

## JOHN HALKET

**JOHN HALKET**, took sasine of all his father's lands, (W.60) including Craigton (held from John Mailvyne of Cambee). From a Manuscript fragment in the Pitferrane papers in the National Library of Scotland, it states that John married Elizabeth Stewart, daughter of Stewart of Rosyth. This statement is also repeated in the Haket Genealogies in the Lyon Court Office that does not mention Elizabeth Ayton; but it expressly states in the Pitferrane Papers that John's son Patrick was the son of Elizabeth Ayton. His first wife must, therefore, have died prior to 1512.

By her marriage contract Elizabeth Ayton received Auchtertyre, and Balcraig, which she dispensed to Robert Mercer in Meiklour in 1524. Though the Halketts retain the superiority for the better part of the century, they do not appear to have occupied the land.

Elizabeth Ayton, daughter of Andrew Ayton, former Governor of Stirling Castle, and Master of Works to James IV, killed with his king at Flodden. This Andrew was the ancestor of the Aytons of Dunmure or Ayton in Fife. Elizabeth was the widow of Henry Bothwell of Urquhart near Pitfirrane and had two children by her first marriage, David and Elizabeth, for whom provision is made. We can see that the Halketts were recognised as worthy members of the lesser nobility. If John had been present at the battle at Flodden he survived. Elizabeth was the widow of Henry Bothwell of Urquhart, one of an old Dunfermline family, which gave its name to Bothwell Haugh at the Spittal Bridge, and whose most outstanding representative had been David de Bothwell, Abbot of Dunfermline at the end of the 15th century. On the abbot's death his brother had founded an altar to St Mary in the nave of the abbey, giving a grant of lands, known as the Guildelands lying to the south of the Nethertown, which eventually became incorporated in the barony of Hill. The altar seems to be represented by the base of the Rood altar at the east end of the nave of the Abbey Church.

John's son, **Patrick**, is infeted with the third of Pitfirrane including the mansion in 1532 (W.80) and is associated with his father in a tack of 18th November 1524 (W.76) of the adjoining lands of Knockhouse, with its coals and coal heughs, is first mentioned in connection with the family with coal mining. This became the main sources of the family's income for four centuries. It is also, so far as I am aware, the first record of coal mining in this district since the grant to the monks of the Abbey of the right to mine coal in Pittencrieff Glen in 1291. John Halkett was largely concerned with the affairs of Dunfermline, being **Provost** for at least ten of the years between 1518 and 1547, as well as acting as Bailie of the Regality. He, too, was involved in the rough and turmoil of the times for we find that he has a remission with a body of others for the slaughter of John Grief, but again no details have survived.

John Halkett must have been over sixty years of age when, met his death in the defence of Scotland, being killed at the Battle of Fawside or Pinkie in September 1547 and was succeeded by his eldest son -

- 1) Patrick who succeeded.
- 2) Elizabeth Halkett, she married Patrick Howburn, son and heir of Andrew Howburn of Tullibole.

## BATTLE OF FAWSIDE OR PINKIE

Pinkie, battle of, 10 September 1547.

Duke of Somerset (formerly Earl of Hertford) defeated Scots under Earl of Arran.

John Halkett, Provost of Dunfermline 1518 to 1547, Bailie of the Regality Court, and must have been over sixty years of age when he met his death in the defence of Scotland, being killed at the Battle of Fawside or Pinkie in September 1547. He was succeeded by his eldest son Patrick Halket. who was Bailie of the Regality Court in 1548 and Provost of Dunfermline from 1549 -1553.

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## PATRICK HAKHEID

**PATRICK HAKHEID**, despite a holograph will of 1542 (W.103) he is stated to have died intestate and procurators had to be appointed to take inventory (W.114:117) so that Patrick's actual succession was delayed. He was already married (before 1543/44) to Margaret, daughter of William Ogilvie of Balfour and secondly, but there appears to have been no issue of this marriage to Anna Durie, daughter of Sir James Durie of Durie, of that Ilk (MS. Nat. Lib.) near Leven, the family of the last abbot of Dunfermline, and whether from that connection or not he benefited from being on good terms with Robert Richardson, the Commendator of the Abbey lands. It had become the practice in the later days of the Medieval Church to hand over the administration of church lands to a lay man or Commendator for an annual rental, and he could feu off these lands for his own benefit or the benefit of the crown.

Thus, even prior to the Reformation of 1560, Patrick acquired the remaining third of Pitfirrane as well as shorter term leases of Pitliver and Broadleys, and had further interest in Pitconnochie.

Patrick seems to have been on good terms with the Commendator of Dunfermline. Robert Richardson, who had been given the permission to feu off the Abbey lands, for we find that in 1559 (W.142) Patrick receives a feu of the lands of Primrose, Knockhouse and Pitfirrane (i.e., the Abbey third). There is also a tack of 1566 (W.157) of Pitliver and Braidleys to a Katherine Halkett. This gave rise to a lawsuit to decide the rightful possessor as Patrick had apparently some claim, having had a lease as early as 1553 (W.127). From this we learn of the existence of an David (Adam) Halkett, killed at Flodden, who had married a Helen Mason and had possession of Pitliver. Henry, his son, had allowed his mother to retain the lands along with his sister Katherine when the lease was renewed. Henry, with Patrick of Pitfirrane intervening was now suing Katherine and her husband Charles Danielson, for possession. Adam Halkett must be a collateral of the Pitfirrane family, but the connection cannot be traced with certainty (*vide infra*). Katherine was allowed to retain possession for a time, but the lands passed to Pitfirrane shortly afterwards. We now know David (Adam) was the son of William Halkett, of Pitfirrane above\*

Patrick was associated with his father in a lease of Knockhouse, wherein mention is made of the coal deposits. This is the first mention of coal mining in the Dunfermline area since 1291, though from later sources it is obvious that the coal deposits were being exploited before 1542, the date of this lease. Coal was to play a major part in the finances of the Halkett family, a connection which was to last down into the 19th if not the 20th centuries. We know that the monks of Dunfermline had the right to mine in Pittencrieff since 1291 and it is likely that they would seek further supplies from elsewhere on their lands. All the mines would be surface mines, or at most very shallow pits, but the extent to which Pitfirrane developed the coal on their lands is shown by the grant by Mary Queen of Scots of a monopoly of exporting smithy coal, a monopoly which was in force until 1788 when it was purchased from the Halketts for a sum amounting to £40,000. The coal would be exported from Limekilns, where the Halketts developed salt pans as well as shipping facilities, though the latter would be dependent on loading from small boats. The whole area must have been well explored and developed. Much of the land around Cairneyhill and Crossford was undrained and marshy. In fact the shallow loch existed near Keavil and Logie which accounted for the name Cross ford, and Pitfirrane itself may well have had a marsh as part of its defences in its early days.

These lands around Pitfirrane were all valuable for the surface seams of coal, now coming to be worked as a regular industry. It is not clear whether the Pitfirrane family had the full right to work the coal on lands other than from Pitfirrane, for the tack of Knockhouse may have expired, as we find that in 1560 George, Commendator of Dunfermline, grants Patrick a gift of the ninth load from that holding. Later, the Halkets of Pitfirrane had obtained a Charter in 1814 to export coal free of customs . This was renewed on 2 July 1865.

Ballingall is still held in superiority, though in possession of Robert Porterfield, son of Henry Poterfield (W.123), while Lumphinnans is held from Wardlaw of Torrie. Half of Pitconnochie is secured from Alan Cowtis, Chamberlain to the Abbey of Dunfermline, and burgess of that town, and is disposed to him again in 1569 and 1576 (RMS 1887:2610). Patrick also retained the intimate connection with Dunfermline by being **Provost** from 1549 to 1553 and was also Bailie of the Regality of the Abbey in 1548.

Patrick was succeeded in July 1573 by his son, George, who was absent at his father's death and was represented by his sister Margaret.

Issue -

- 1) George Halkett, who succeeded.
- 2) Margaret Halkett, who was married John Houston of Lanze in Renfrew.

## GEORGE HALKET

**GEORGE HALKET**, of Pitfirrane, he succeeded his father in 1573. He was an officer in the Scots Brigade in Holland and led a rather adventuresome life. In 1575, under the direction of Prince of the House of Orange in England, he bought weapons. A few years later he became a Colonel of a Regiment of Scots in the service of the States (Dutch Alliance and its extended war against the French).

He does not appear to have married until 12 July 1575 when he married Isabel, daughter of Sir Patrick Hepburn of Waughton, and Margaret Lundy, daughter of William Lundy of that ilk. (W.304)

George Halkett of Pitfirrane was undoubtedly a supporter of Regent Morton and later the King in the tortuous dealings with rebellious factions in Kirk and state. (Was he by any chance the servitor of the Earl of Bothwell who brought the news of the murder of Darnley?)

In 1579 he becomes cautioner for 1000 merks for James Hamilton of Ruchbak for being implicated in the charges brought against Lord John Hamilton and Lord Claud Hamilton, brothers of the Earl of Arran, when Regent Morton struck at the power of that family (Reg. Privy Council III 185) and attends the King at court and in his host on several occasions (W.825:830).

He was ordered to fortify the castle of Rosyth and retain all boats on the North side of the Forth in 1585 (W.831) at a time when James was struggling to master a rebellious Kirk, striving to exempt itself from the King's authority. As **Provost** of Dunfermline he was ordered on 18th November 1585 to prevent a meeting in Dunfermline of ministers and the nobles who had returned from England where they had received encouragement from Elizabeth to continue their efforts to reduce James' power (W.832). The story from the point of view of the King is told in Melville's Diary as quoted by Chalmers (Vol. II p.300): "About the end of November 1585

warning was made according to the order of the Kirk the last Moderator athwart the country to the brethren to convene in General Assembly....at Dunfermline, no other town being free of the pest. The brethren frequently 'frequentlie furth' of all parts resorting thither, the parts of the town was closet upon them by the provost for the time. The Laird of Pitferrane, alleging that he had the King's express command so to do.... But God within a few years paid that laird and provost for the holding out of his servants for keeping his Assembly in that town, he made his own house to spew him out. For on a day in the morning he was fallen out of a window of his own house of Pitferrane, three or four house high, whether by a melancholy despair, or by violence of unkind guests within. God knows, for being taken up, his speech was not so sensible as to declare it, but within a few hours he diet."

So far as the estates are concerned we now have many more documents relating to the management of the lands, particularly to rents and produce and the use which the laird of the day made of them. The chief importance of land was that it provided a security for mortgage to provide ready cash to pay for the expenses of attending the King's host and person, and the repayment of previous debts. An examination of the charters show the high yield of land in this area, as well as the high rate of interest demanded.

In 1573/4 George Halkett assigns an annual rate of 10 pounds from Pitferrane to be redeemed by a payment of 218 merks: If this is the sum borrowed the interest is approximately 14 percent. In 1576 he redeems a payment of 12 bolls of meal and 4 bolls from the same lands for 332 merks. During the same period that land is further burdened with a 100 pound obligation to his sister, Margaret, who had been executrix at their father's death during his absence. There is still a further 6 bolls meal and 2 of bere on an old charter of his father. Other possessions were similarly burdened – 18 bolls oatmeal on Primrose as well as many other smaller burdens on practically all of his property.

Most of these were redeemed within a year or two, and he had sufficient money to acquire the lands of Craigies, adjoining Pitferrane on the south in the barony of Rosyth, from Henry Stewart of Rosyth in 1587 (W.304). Earlier he had secured a tack of teinds on his own lands from the Commendator of Dunfermline (W.209), and in addition the Overgrange of Kinghorn as a result of a complicated series of loans and obligations (W.285). He had also secured lands in Dunfermline parish by the purchase of the mill and holdings of Burnmouth, in which his cousin George the Conservator had interests (possibly at the mouth of the Linn burn on Pitliver estate). Georg the Conservator was assisted in redeeming burdens on Burnmouth by George of Pitferrane assigning an annual rent of £30 from Pitferrane in security to his cousin John Houston of Lanye, from whom the money had been borrowed by the Conservator, and assigns an annual of £20 to the vendors, also from Pitferrane. George the Conservator had acquired Burnmouth in security and assigned his rights to his cousin in 1586 (W. 757). He had also acquired in 1575 the lands of Sillietoun Wester alias Halkett to the south of Pitferrane, along with the eighth of the lands of South Fod from Robert Richardson the Commendator, later confirmed by a charter from James VI when he assumed personal rule (W.230) (sold in 1604) to Sir Robert Melville of Garvock). All these passed to the Pitferrane family on the death of the Conservator in March 1588 (W.314).

Apart from the sentiments so agreeably expressed this note does indicate that the extension to the house noted earlier was in occupation by 1590 at least. Certainly at this time a considerable amount of ready cash was being raised by mortgaging portions of Pitferrane, often to Dunfermline merchants, for this was the only way that



land holders could raise money. Sometimes they overdid it and ended up with their lands in the Halketts of the lawyers, but not so in the case of the Halketts. Much of this was on account of the building of the extensions to the square keep which was already nearly two hundred years old, but the payments went on well into the middle of the 17th century, under George's son Robert, who was knighted, the first of the family to be so honoured.

A Renunciation said, Mr George Halkheid (Conservator) to George Halkheid of Pitfirren, assignee of John Stevenson of Burnmouth, of an annual-rent of £30 from lands of Burnmouth, 2nd September 1586. (W.757) This George Halkheid, was in favour with James IV as Special Ambassador to Queen Elizabeth, and Traded with Spain. he died 1588. was married to Margaret Hepburn daughter of Sir John Hepburn of Dalry. His Father was David Halket of Broughton, Linlithgow married to Katherine Danielston of Pitliver. and David's Father was Henry Halket of Pitliver, with a sister Katherine, who married Charles Danielston. Their Father David (Adam) Halket was killed at Flodden Field, mother Helen Mason. All descendants of William Halket and Margaret Cunningham.

He had also acquired in 1575 the lands of Sillietoun Wester, alias Halkett, to the south of Pitfirrane, along with the eighth of the lands of South Fod from Robert Richardson, the Commander. This was later confirmed by a charter from James VI when he assumed personal rule (W.230) (sold in 1604 to Sir Robert Melville of Garvock). All these passed to the Pitfirrane family on the death of the Conservator in March 1588.

As we shall see later George the Conservator had interests in and around Dunfermline and acquired land there, which was inherited by [Robert](#) of Pitfirrane as heir of provision of George Halkheid Conservator of the privileges of the Scots at Flanders, in the lands of Sillietoun Wester called Halkheid Sillietoun and eighth part of the lands of Southfoid, 2nd June 1589 (W.314).

The first members of the family that were knighted, were two sons of George Halket, who lived in the reign of Queen Mary and King James V, and a younger son John was knighted by the same prince.

George Halkett of Pitfirrane and Isabel Hepburn had issue -

- 1) Sir Robert his heir (bapt. 2nd September 1576). His eldest son, Robert, received the honour to be knighted from King James VI., and a served her to his father in the lands of Pitfirrane, in 1595, m. 20 Jun 1595 Margaret Murray.
- 2) Patrick Halkett (bapt. 28th July 1577) who got from his father Lumphinnans having apparently been assigned that part of the family lands. He married Margaret, daughter of Sir John Murray of Blackbarony, and is the ancestor of the Halkets whose seat is [Moxhall England](#). (Chalmers Vol.1 p.294) Patrick's son, also Patrick married Isabel, daughter of Sir John Boswell of Balmuto, and had at least two sons, the second of whom George being designated 'of Parkhall' and was a merchant in Dysart, whose testament is recorded in the Edinburgh Commissariat Register.
- 3) George Halkett (bapt. 13th July 1579) but nothing is known of him.
- 4) Sir John Halkett (bapt. 13th November 1580) was knighted by James VI and attaching himself to a military life, he entered the service of the States of Holland, rose to the rank of a colonel, and had the command of a Scots regiment in the Dutch service. He was likewise President of the Grand Court Marishall, in Holland. He married a Dutch lady, Maria van Loon, his descendants in Holland had a distinguished military service there and was the progenitor of the

Halkets in Holland, as well as in the British Army in the 18th and 19th centuries. Now represented by Charles Halkett the great-great grandson of Sir John married in 1767, Ann, daughter of and heiress of John Craigie of Halhill and Dumbarrie in Fife, and was the ancestor of the Halket-Craigie or Craigie-Halkets of Dumbarney Cramond and Hall-Hill Esquire, the former seat in Perthshire, and the latter in Fifeshire. John Halket, was killed at he siege of Bois-le-Due, Netherlands on 3 August 1629 at the age of 48. He was buried at Huesden, Netherlands on 7 August 1629.

- 5) James Halkett (bapt. 21 January 1581.
- 6) Andrew Halkett (bapt 26th July 1584) disappears from the record, but may be the Andrew who is left half of the lands of Brotherton by his grandmother, and may have shared the legacy with James.
- 7) William Halkett (bapt.13 February1585) of whom nothing more is known.
- 1) Margaret Halkett, b. 15 May 1583, m. Mungo Murray from Craigie, son of Robert Murray from Abercairney and Catherine Murray from Tulliebardine. George of Pitferrane died before 7th August 1588, and his widow Isabel Hepburn married at Holyrood on 7th June 1590 Sir William Stewart, Prior or Commendator of Pittenweem, formerly a Colonel in the Scots Brigade. George was succeeded by his eldest son Robert Halkett -

## **SIR ROBERT HALKET**

**SIR ROBERT**, baptized. 2nd September 1576 and died, 3 August 1653, aged 76). He married on 10th June 1595, Margaret Murray, eldest daughter of Sir John Murray of Eddleston and Margaret Hamilton of Innerwick, and had two sons and eight daughters of whom more later.

Robert Halkett was the first of the family definitely known to have been knighted in the latter half of 1602. Robert was also **Provost** of Dunfermline from 1606 to 1608 and again 1630 to 1631. There was no great change in the extent of the family holdings although there was at first some difficulty with his mother over the retention of certain lands of her original marriage portion, but a settlement was reached by which she was to receive life rents in lieu of actual possession. There also seem to have been a dispute over Pitliver, for in 1588 the Moubrays there, on the one hand, and Robert Halkett and his mother on the other hand, had to enter into caution not to molest or do bodily harm to the other parties (Reg. P.C.). The family retained its interest in the Overgrange of Kinghorn, Lumphinnans and in Ballingall as late as 1597.

Whether knighthood or his father's court connections had induced a higher standard of expenditure or had involved greater commitments is not apparent, but the number of sasines and charters resulting from a widespread pledging of the lands as security for sums borrowed markedly increase at this time. Knockhouse was pledged to William Murray, brother of Sir John, but was redeemed in 1606 when Sir Robert's mother resigned her interests in Pitferrane, and Pitconnochie. £40 sterling was borrowed in 1609 from Andrew Hagget in St Martins in the Fields W.454).

All did not go well however. In 1612 Sir Robert and his brother Patrick of Lumphinnans were summoned by John Bannatyne in Edinburgh for repayment of 1000 merks. In 1633, 5000 merks were borrowed from Robert Wellwood in Touch

who was infested in Pitfirrane as security, with an annual interest of 500 merks a transaction not redeemed until 1643. Half of Limekilns was disposed under reversion for £5284 Scots. Other amounts reveal further the extent to which a landed proprietor made use of his lands to raise ready money to keep up the style fitting to his position. £444 (requiring legal action for repayment), a further 4200 merks from Robert Wellwood in 1638 on a bond involving Sir Robert's son and his wife. 1100 from Robert Aleson, mason in Dunfermline (who is in trouble during the Commonwealth (Wood 160/1) and a further sum bearing on interest of £106 per year (probably a principal of £1060) are further examples. Some may have been for a relatively short term (all the discharges have not survived) but some run on for several years. Despite his involved financial affairs Sir Robert had time in indulge in country sports, perhaps over-indulge, for in May 1602, James VI had to order him to "desist from hauling, slaying pouttis and partricks" (W.834) for James often lived at Dunfermline and was inordinantly fond of hunting and liked sports.

Sir Robert played little part in the troubles of the Civil War, but his son James, also knighted was much more active. Nothing has come to light regarding the activities of Sir Robert during the Covenant and the Bishop's Wars, but by that time he was an elderly gentleman of 62. His son, James, was much more active in the cause, after all his wife was a niece of the great Marquess of Argyll, one of the foremost antagonists of the king.

Some of the sums borrowed may have been for expenses in support of the Kirk, but no evidence can be adduced. Nevertheless, Sir Robert added a little to the family possessions, buying for 3000 merks the lands of Mukil Meadow or New Meadow adjoining Pitfirrane (probably the farm of Meadows today) and the half of Limekilns, which though disposed were to remain under the superiority of Pitfirrane for some time.

Sir Robert died c. 1653 and left a large family by his marriage with Margaret Murray

- 1) Anne Halkett, Annas, b. 9 Jan 1600, m. (1) Sir John Henderson of Fordell (who was dead by April 1619), with issue 1) Jean b. 5 Apr 1616, 2) James bap 3 Feb 1618, Posthumous Military Career. Married secondly Thomas Myretoun of Cambo in 26 Feb 1622. Thomas Myretoun was killed at Kilsyth in 1645. (Stephen His. p. 144 & 472)
- 2) Isobel Halkett, b. 17 Jul 1601, Dunfermline.
- 3) Grizel Halkett (bapt. 19 Oct. 1602) who married Thomas Ker of Cavers in June 1641.
- 4) James Halkett, b. 1 Jan 1605 who died in infancy.
- 5) Sir James Halkett (bapt 12th Aug 1610) who succeeded his father.
- 6) Jean Halkett (bapt 4th Dec 1612) who married on 24th Aug 1647, William Scott, fiar of Itcha (sic) ie. Headshaw, eldest of John Scott of Headshaw. Jean had a portion of 8000
- 7) Captain John Halkett, b. 27 Sept 1614 Dunfermline.
- 8) Robert Halkett, (bapt 9 Dec 1617) who married, 14 May 1652 at Torrie, Jean Hadden, daughter of Sir John Hadden of Gleneagles. He also served in the Covenanting army being designated Captain of horse in Fife in 1650. Robert was much more extreme than his brother James (he had no estates to lose) and is among the Protestors of Remonstrants in the West under the command of the Colonel Strachan who had been Sir James' colleague in the North against Montrose. Robert was associated at this time with extremists such as Andrew Cant, Samuel Rutherford and James Guthrie (vide letter to Lilburne Oct

1651 in "Scotland and the Commonwealth," II Scot. He appears to be the Robert Halkett against whom a warrant for treason was sworn, but as nothing further transpired, he presumably made his peace with the Protectorate. He may be one of two Robert Halketts involved with Argyll & Kintyre. Col. Robert a ruling elder in parish of Lochhead (Cambeltown) 1658. Commissioned as Capt in Reg. of French Guards raised by Lord Kintyre 1643. Fought against Cornwell at Hamilton 1650. fined for attending Conventicles. 1665 imprisoned by Argyll 1665-1667. Another Col. Robert had lands in Kintyre 1619. (Note D. McNaughton)

- 9) Margaret Halket, bapt. 6 Aug 1619, m. Mungo Murray of Myreside near Pitfirrane at Ballingry in 1609. Mungo Murray was a Colonel of the Scots Regiment in Holland. Either he or his son served under David Leslie in the Scots Army in England in 1643. (Parish Records: The army of the Covenant Scot. Hist. Soc.)
- 10) Elspet Halket, bapt. 7 Feb 1620. Married James Gray by 1640.
- 11) Patrick Halkett, whose son William Halkett, occurs in the St Andrews Testaments in 1699, but nothing further is known of him.

## **SIR JAMES HALKET**

**SIR JAMES HALKET**, the eldest son, born 12 August 1610, and d. 24 September 1670, he had been knighted by Charles I, at Dalkeith 14 June 1633, and used the title throughout the time he fought against the King in the Civil War (1642-1651). He was twice married (1) to Margaret Montgomerie, 15th December 1682 (Edin. Marriage Register). eldest daughter of Sir Robert Montgomerie of Lochranza and Skelmorlie, and Lady Ann Campbell, daughter of Archibald 7th Earl of Argyll from this the Halket family trace a connection upwards to King Robert the Bruce, By this marriage he had nine children to follow.

Sir James took an active part in the fighting on the side of the Presbyterians. His brother Robert was even more extreme, but narrowly escaping trial and possible execution for his activities against Cromwell, eventually settling down on lands in Argyllshire. Sir James left the battlefield of Kilsyth rather smartly when the Presbyterians were defeated by Montrose, having to fight his way out with the Marquess, and later was courtmartialled but exonerated for again leaving the battlefield of Dunbar in a hurry without lifting a hand against Cromwell. He was one of the two officers who captured Montrose in the north of Scotland, and who took him to Edinburgh for execution.

The troublous times following the execution of Charles I, the Scottish military authorities, keenly alive to the importance of Inchgarvie in regard to the defence of the Ferry passage, were not satisfied with the condition of its fortifications; and steps were taken to have them put into a stage of proper repair. Following the Report of a Committee, a scheme was approved by Parliament on June 19, 1650. Sir James Halkett of Pitfirrane, General of Artillery, was appointed to see what was necessary for repairing the works. It was agreed that the castle be garrisoned by two "raits" of men with a sergeant from the regiment of Major-General Holburne, &. (.Stephen of Inverkeithing p. 386.)

With the family connection of the first marriage, it is not surprising that we find Sir James taking an active part in the Civil War on the side of the Presbyterians. He raised and commanded an independent troop of horse, and was present at Kilsyth, his force

having been joined with that of Lord Balcarres (Balfour III 295). He escaped with difficulty from that battle having to cut his way to safety. (Howie's *Worthless under Captain Paton*). After the Battle of Philiphaugh, which saw the ruin of the hopes of Montrose, Sir James was sent by the Estates to announce the victory to the English deputies at Berwick. He also took part in the campaign in the north in 1650 that ended with the capture and execution of Montrose. Later when Cromwell marched north to Dunbar, Sir James was summoned before a parliamentary inquiry, the equivalent of a court-martial, for having failed to support David Leslie in an attack on some of Cromwell's forces in a skirmish near Edinburgh prior to the battle of Dunbar. As Balfour puts it "Sir James Halkett received a great fright at a skirmish with the enemy; he should have seconded the Lieutenant General but turned never lowly a pistol against the enemy, but took him to speed of his horse's heels" (Balfour IV 86). Sir James was however exonerated by the committee, though Balfour dryly says for 3rd August 1650 "Sir James Halkett and Colonel Scotte cleared by the committee, yet that did little save their honor among honest men and soldiers of worth and reputation." He was appointed guardian or cautioner for 10,000 pounds sterling for the behavior of his cousin, Archibald Lord Lorne, who was confined in 1651 by Monk to a radius of 25 miles from Gordon castle, and in 1659 he lends his wife's uncle, Archibald, 8th Earl of Argyll, 17,000 pounds Scots. (Argyll Inventory of Charters at Inveraray), so that the family finances must have been on a firm foundation.

Although he signed the Submission of the Gentlemen of Fife at Amsterdam on 6th October 1651, he still retained the more extreme views shared by his brother Robert, though having estates to consider, was more politic. Yet that did not prevent him from being a signatory along with Samuel Rutherford and others to a letter to General Lambert in March 1653 which was referred to in a News letter of the time. The writer of the News letter says "You will perceive by it the drift of their intentions, which is to exalt their government and Kirk into their hands....to let them have a liberty to tyrannize both over bodies and souls of the poor people under pretense of giving them liberty of conscience." (Scotland and the Commonwealth: Scot. Hist. Soc. 33).

He appears to have been deeply engaged with the covenanters in the reign of King Charles I. From this prince he received his knighthood at Dalkeith, 14th June 1633 (Balfour's *Annals*, iv. 364) He was member of Parliament for Fifeshire in 1649, and about the same period was employed to examine into the state of the fortification of Inch Garvey, a small island at Queensferry. He became afterward colonel of a regiment of horse, and died in 1670. With the family connection of the first marriage, it is not surprising that we find Sir James taking an active part in the Civil War on the side of the Presbyterians. He raised and commanded an independent troop of horse, and was present at Kilsyth, his force having been joined with that of Lord Balcarres (Balfour III 295). He escaped with difficulty from that battle having to cut his way to safety. (Howie's "Worthless under Captain Paton").

After the Battle of Philiphaugh, which saw the ruin of the hopes of Montrose, Sir James was sent by the Estates to announce the victory to the English deputies at Berwick. He also took part in the campaign in the north in 1650 that ended with the capture and execution of Montrose. Later when Cromwell marched north to Dunbar, Sir James was summoned before a parliamentary inquiry, the equivalent of a court-martial, for having failed to support David Leslie in an attack on some of Cromwell's forces in a skirmish near Edinburgh prior to the battle of Dunbar. As Balfour puts it "Sir James Halkett received a great fright at a skirmish with the enemy; he should have seconded the Lieutenant General but turned never lowly a pistol against the enemy, but took him to speed of his horse's heels" (Balfour IV 86). Sir James was

however exonerated by the committee, though Balfour dryly says for 3rd August 1650 "Sir James Halkett and Colonel Scotte cleared by the committee, yet that did little save their honor among honest men and soldiers of worth and reputation." He was appointed guardian or cautioner for 10,000 pounds sterling for the behavior of his cousin, Archibald Lord Lorne, who was confined in 1651 by Monk to a radius of 25 miles from Gordon castle, and in 1659 he lends his wife's uncle, Archibald, 8th Earl of Argyll, 17,000 pounds Scots. (Argyll Inventory of Charters at Inveraray), so that the family finances must have been on a firm foundation.

Although he signed the Submission of the Gentlemen of Fife at Auchterderran on 6th Oct 1651, he still retained the more extreme views shared by his brother Robert, though having estates to consider, was more politic. Yet that did not prevent him being a signatory along with Samuel Rutherford and others to a letter to General Lambert in March 1653 which was referred to in a News letter of the time. The writer of the News letter says - "You will perceive by it the drift of their intentions, which is to exalt their government in the Kirke, and so to bring all kind of government into their hands . . . to let them have a liberty to tyrannize both over the bodies and souls of the poor people under pretence of giving them liberty of conscience." (Scotland and the Commonwealth: Scot. Hist. Soc. 33).

Issue from first marriage.

- 1) Mary Halkett, (bapt. 7th September 1633), m. Sir William Bruce of Balcaskie & Kinross
- 2) Charles Halkett, bapt. 5th September 1639, who succeeded him.
- 3) Col. Robert Halkeid, bapt. 7th November 1640, m. Helen Scott, widow of Alexander Spittal, and could be the Robert designated Colonel in a bond of 1690. (Stephen p.481)
- 4) Sir James Halkett, bapt. 13th July 1642, later Knighted.
- 5) Margaret Halkett, bapt. 18th July 1643.
- 6) Thomas Halkett, bapt. 1st October 1646.
- 7) Anna Halkett, bapt. 29th July 1647.
- 8) John Halkett, bapt. 25th February 1649.
- 9) Jean Halkett, bapt. 10th October 1650, who is probably the Jean Halkett who married 15 Dec 1682, John Scott, younger of Headshaw

Sir James Halkett married secondly at Holyrood in 1656 Anne Murray, ( it is noted the marriage took place at Anne's sister's house in Charlton, England on 2 March 1656, after, the couple returns to Sir James estate at Pitfirrane.) Anne was b. 4 Jan 1622 London, d. 22 Apr 1699, Abbot House, daughter of Thomas Murray, Provost of Eton and preceptor to King Charles I, and who was one of the seven sons of Murray of Woodend and Jane Drummond. Her father claimed the honour of being descended from the Earl of Tullibardine's family, and her mother Jane Drummond, from the Earl of Perth's. But her family descent, or marriage relation, was her least distinction. She was a lady of great natural gifts, which she had diligently cultivated, and of decided religious and moral character. She was born in 1622, and, through her father's connection with royalty, was soon known at Court, where she was held in high esteem for her talents, prudence, amiableness, and benevolence, as well as strong attachment to the royal family, to whom she made herself very serviceable. She was appointed by King Charles I, and his Queen first sub-governess, and afterwards, on the death of the Countess of Roxburgh, governess to the Duke of Gloucester and the Princess Elizabeth. Immediately after the death of Charles I, she found it prudent to retire for a while from court to Scotland, and resided for some time in this town with the Earl and

Countess of Dunfermline, who always paid her great attention. It is said that while here, Charles II, having returned to his ancient kingdom, she had the honour of kissing his hand, being complimented by him for the service which she had rendered to his brother, and being told that if ever he came to command what he had a right to, there should be nothing in his power he would not do for her. To which (humbly kneeling) she replied that she had done nothing but her duty, and had recompense enough, if his Majesty accepted of it as a service, and allowed her his favour.

Shortly after this period, and the fatal battle of Dunbar, which caused her and the Earl's family to leave Dunfermline, she became acquainted at Edinburgh in 1652, with Sir James Halket, to whom she was married in 1656. He died in 1670, and she in 1699 (during most of the 28 years of her widowhood, she resided in a house in the Maygate, having a communication with the churchyard the easy access of which she much enjoyed.) Their matrimonial life was mutually happy. She experienced many changes of fortune in the troublous reign of Charles I, which she bore with Christian fortitude and resignation. Her scriptural knowledge and piety, as well as uncommon activity of mind, were her prominent excellencies, of which she has left substantial evidence in some writings still extant, particularly. "Meditations on the 25th Psalm; Meditations and Prayers upon the First Week, with Observations on each day of the Creation, and Instructions for Youth." (Edinburgh, 8 vo. 1778); with a Memoir, containing many interesting and pleasing incidents of her life. She wrote 5 books in folio, 15 in quarto, and 1 in octave, all of a religious and spiritual nature. Some of her MSS are still at Pitfirrane. (History of Dunf. by P. Chalmers Vol.1 p.295-6.)

By this marriage there were issue -

- 1) Elizabeth Halkett, bapt 4 Dec 1656, in the Torrie Kirk, m. 1 Dec 1672, Alexander Gemmel.
- 2) Henry (Harry) Halkett, bapt. June 1658, died 12 May 1661.
- 3) Robert Halkett, bapt. 10th Feb 1660, A Captain served under James II in Ireland, d. 1692.
- 4) Jean Halkett, b. 1670.

Sir James died on 24th September, 1670, His son by his first marriage, Charles Halkett, took over the Pitfirrane estate. Because Charles did not get along with his stepmother he sent Lady Ann Halkett to live with her brother in Dunfermline. Lady Anne lived her last 28 years in the old house once call the Commendator's, now known as the Abbot House . It was in Abbot House where Lady Anne wrote a score of books on religious meditations. She died on 22 April 1699 at age 77. Her adult life covered a span of years, that covered all the troubled history of England and Scotland, during the reigns of James VI and I, of England, Charles I, Cromwell, Charles II, James VII, William and Mary, with all the trials and troubles of religious persecutions. But maybe, secure in the shelter of the old stone house, she was only interested in the writing of her pious reflections, looking out the window at the Abbey and graveyard where in the end she would be buried. She experienced many changes of fortune in the troublesome reign of Charles I, which she bore with Christian fortitude and resignation. Sir James was succeeded by his eldest son.

## LADY ANNE MURRAY/HALKETT OF PITFIRANE

One of the most remarkable occupants of Abbot House, Dunfermline, was Anne Murray, Lady Halkett.

Born 1623 in London, she was the younger daughter of Thomas Murray, Provost of Eton College, tutor and later Secretary to King Charles I. Thomas Murray died in 1623. Her mother, Jane Drummond, was Governess to the Duke of Gloucester and later also to the Princess Elizabeth. Young Anne and her brother William were servants to the Royal Bedchamber and despite lacking conspicuous wealth were in day to day contact not only with the Royal Family but also most of the nobility.

Anne and her elder sister Elizabeth were educated by private tutors who taught them to read and write English and French, embroidery, music (the Lute and Virginalls) and dancing, all attainments required as basic to the future marital prospects of a young gentlewoman of the court. Anne, however, had a singularly unfashionable interest in medicine, drugs and surgery, she was an enthusiastic if unofficial student of Sir Theodore Ryeans, the chief surgeon to the King.

At the age of 19, she fell in love with Thomas Howard, eldest son and heir of Lord Howard of Escrick. After an on off engagement lasting two years, she was abandoned by him in favour of a titled rival, Lady Elizabeth Mordaunt. In 1647 on the death of her mother she resided with her oldest brother Henry and his wife for about a year. In 1648 she became deeply involved in a plot by the royalist secret agent Colonel Joseph Bampfield to effect the escape of the Duke of York, (the future James VII) from the clutches of his Cromwellian guard at St James Palace. Dressing him in women's clothes, Anne and Bampfield succeeded in smuggling him out of the country to France. Impressed by Bampfield's dashing appearance and apparent devotion to the Royal Family, she was tricked by him into a bigamous relationship, and being exposed for her part in the Duke's rescue was compelled to flee penniless to Scotland in 1650.

Once in Edinburgh, her Murray relations and members of the leading Royalists families befriended her. Among these was Lord Dunfermline who invited her to Aberdour and Dunfermline. Here she was introduced to King Charles II who had to be reminded of her role in the rescue of his brother.

Following the defeat of the Royal Forces at the Battle of Dunbar in 1650, Anne joined the enforced exodus north to Aberdeen. While on the road she stopped at Cupar to treat the horrendous wounds of the walking wounded. Her resolute courage in such a situation was again reported to the King at Aberdeen who ordered a gift of 50 guineas from the Royal Purse in recognition of her bravery.

During a two-year stay with the Countess of Dunfermline at Fyvie Castle she again demonstrated her force of character by protecting her pregnant benefactor from the ravages of a marauding troop of Cromwellian Dragoons. She returned to Edinburgh in 1652 where she was introduced to Sir James Halkett, a widower with two sons and two daughters. Sir James was deeply impressed by the beauty and by now legendary courage of this Royalist heroine, a legend further enhanced by her dangerous night crossing of the Forth to warn the royalist Lord Balcarres and his wife of their impending arrest, thereby enabling their escape to France. In 1656, having finally shaken off the persistent and unscrupulous Bampfield, Anne married 2nd March 1656, Sir James and at the age of 33 and became Lady Anne Halkett of Pitfirrane. Her



daughter Elizabeth was born 1656, son Henry born 1658 and son Robert was born 1661, the only one of her children to survive infancy.

Her inability to reclaim her former property in England and the persistence of salacious scandal-mongering regarding her premarital affair with Bampfield combined with her role as stepmother to the Laird's first family made life very difficult for her. After the Death of Sir James in 1670, her ambitious stepson Sir Charles Halkett of Pitfirrane made it quite clear that in spite of the generous scale of Pitfirrane House the continued presence of the 47-year-old dowager under his house would be an embarrassment. Sir Charles Halkett was created a baronet in 1671.

Once again it was her old friends the Setons and their in-law the Marquis of Tweeddale, now in possession of the Lordship of Dunfermline, who came to the rescue by offering the vacant Abbot House to the widow as a dower house. As her surviving memoirs amply demonstrate, Lady Halkett was a very religious woman, haunted by her past indiscretions and viewed her enforced residence in the Maygate as something akin to a free trip to Sodom and Gomorra. It was she rationalised, clearly to be a test of her morality and spirituality, and since she was compelled to go there that she would steel her courage and devote what was left of her life to the remembrance of her beloved husband and to the furtherance of good works. She was to be as good as her word – during the 30 years between her arrival at Abbot House and her death, Lady Anne Halkett acquired a widespread reputation as a teacher, midwife, herbalist and provider of charity and good works. Every Wednesday she ran a free soup kitchen and medical service for the poor of Dunfermline, while Saturday was devoted to prayer and remembrance of her dead husband and children.

Despite her misgivings concerning the infidelity of Charles II and irresolution of James VII, she remained an unrepentant royalist and Episcopalian, thereby providing a further source of embarrassment to her stepson, Sir Charles Halkett. In the war of the 1690 (Battle of the Boyne) he fought on the side of the House of Orange. Sir Charles Halkett died 1697. Anne's own son by Sir James Halkett, Robert Halkett, came out for King James. Captain Robert Halket served under James II, in Ireland, captured and imprisoned in London until he died in 1692. It was this stalwart support of the Stewart cause and her earlier bravery, which singled Lady Halkett out as the ideal governess for the children of the beleaguered Jacobite aristocracy.

Throughout the 1680s and 90s the Abbot House rang with the sounds of children as Lady Anne eked out an often precarious living as tutor and guardian to a succession of aristocratic boarders who, together with their servants and Governors (a combination of manservant and monitor) filled its 12 rooms to capacity. It is clear that despite the patronage of Sir William Bruce, the King's Architect, Sir George MacKenzie, Lord Advocate and many others, the Halkett family continued to disapprove of Lady Anne's educational and charitable endeavours. Sir Charles Halkett, in spite of his debt to her for running his coal mines during his wartime absences, made no effort to assist her in the 30 years of struggle to clear her debts, and by withholding her annuity quite often exacerbated her troubles. Often she despaired of ever being rid of her burdens and in one moment of despair, resolved to sell off her surviving property, abandon her charitable works and retire to live anonymously in England. By this time her furniture, although no doubt derived from Pitfirrane and therefore of good quality, was old and unfashionable and an attempt to sell some of it in Edinburgh proved a disaster when it was returned to her unsold. Finally in 1698 she struck up a deal with Sir Robert Murray, a relative who in return for the signing over of all her property including her still un-reclaimed lands in England, agreed to settle all of her debts. She died in Abbot House on 22 April 1699 at the age of 76. To the very end she had

continued to maintain a vigorous lifestyle, attending ordinary and aristocratic patients with her own herbal meditations which have preserved a vivid, albeit fragmentary account of her long and extraordinary life.

The Memoirs of Anne, Lady Halkett  
Edited by John Loftis

## SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF THIS FASCINATING WOMAN.

Anne and her brother William were Servants to the Royal Bedchamber.

She was educated by private tutors in reading, writing, English, French, Embroidery, Music (lute and virginals) and Dancing. She also had an interest in Medicine, drugs and surgery and was an enthusiastic, if unofficial, student of Sir Theodore Ryeans, Chief Surgeon to the King.

In 1648 she was involved in the escape of the Duke of York (later King James VII) from the clutches of his Cromwellian guard at St James Palace by dressing him in women's clothing and smuggling him away to France. However, she was tricked by the leader of the plot, Colonel Joseph Bampfild into a bigamist relationship. She had to flee to Scotland in 1650.

After the battle of Dunbar, a great many of the routed soldiers retreated to the north in Kinross there were some hundreds of poor wounded soldiers. Lady Halkett of Pitfirrane in passing through Kinross at the time with the assistance of her domestic female attendant "dressed three score (of them), and employed one A.R. to such as were unfit for her to dress."

In Edinburgh her Murray relations and members of the leading Royalists families befriended her. Among those was Lord Dunfermline. He introduced her to King Charles II who had to be reminded of her role in his brother's rescue. Following the defeat of the Royalists forces at the Battle of Dunbar, Anne joined the exodus north to Aberdeen. While on the road she stopped at Cupar to treat the horrendous wounds of the walking wounded. Her resolute courage was again reported to the King who ordered a gift of 50 guineas from the Royal Purse in recognition of her bravery.

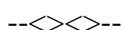
During the two year stay with the Countess of Dunfermline at Fyvie Castle, she demonstrated courage again protecting her pregnant benefactrix from the ravages of a marauding troops of Cromwellian Dragoons. She returned to Edinburgh where she was introduced to the recently widowed Laird of Pitfirrane, Sir James Halkett. Sir James was deeply impressed by the beauty and by now legendary courage of this Royalist heroine. In 1656 Anne married Sir James and at the age of 33 became Lady Halkett of Pitfirrane.

Her old friends, the Setons, came to her rescue by offering the vacant Abbot House, once called the Commendator's to her as a dower house. Lady Anne Halkett was deeply religious woman and she devoted the rest of her life to the remembrance of her beloved husband and to the furtherance of good works. During her 30 years in the Abbot House she acquired a widespread reputation as a teacher, midwife, herbalist and provider of charity and good works. Every Wednesday she ran a free soup kitchen and medical service for the poor of Dunfermline, while Saturday was devoted to prayer and remembrance of her dead husband and children. Lady Halkett acted as tutor and governess to a succession of boarding aristocratic Jacobite children in the 1680's and 1690's that filled Abbot House.

It was in Abbot House where Lady Anne wrote a score of books on religious meditations.

She died on 22 April 1699 at age 77.

Her adult life covered a span of years, that covered all the troubled history of England and Scotland, during the reigns of James VI of Scotland and James I, Charles I, Cromwell, Charles II, James VII and II, William and Mary, with all the trials and troubles of religious persecutions. But maybe, secure in the shelter of the old stone house, she was only interested in the writing of her pious reflections, looking out the window at the Abbey and the graveyard where in the end she would be buried. She experienced many changes of fortune in the troublesome reign of Charles I, which she bore with Christian fortitude and resignation.



## SIR CHARLES HALKETT

**SIR CHARLES HALKETT**, eldest son, was born at Pitfirrane on 6th Sep 1639, and entered Military Service in the 21st Dragoons. There is a Marriage Contract of 5th August 1675, (W.628) to Janet, eldest daughter of Sir Patrick Murray of Dryden, Knight, also designated as of Pitdinnie and Saltcoats. By this marriage he had seven children to follow.

Sir Charles received a patent of baronetcy of Nova Scotia 25th January in 1672 and in 1677 received a charter into a barony, as well as ratified by Parliament in 1681, erecting Pitfirrane into a barony as well as referring to a holding of Nether Kelso in the Sheriffdom of Ayr. The Barony gave him the right to hold a court and to erect markets, though there is no indication that Crossford or Cairniehill ever had the privileges of either weekly market or annual fair. They were too near Dunfermline to infringe on their ancient rights. He was M.P. in 1681-2 and **Provost** of Dunfermline 1678 and Burgess. He also acquired the neighbouring property of Pitdennis, the modern Pitdinnie (W.683) which he feued to his father-in-law, his wife and his son James. The development of his coal seams continued in the possession of the convenient neighboring port of Limekilns was assured by a confirmation of his half from John, Earl of Tweeddale in 1684 (W.656) which were resigned by him in 1686. (W.662) The family tradition was that the family had from an early date the privilege of exporting coal free of duty, a right confirmed to it by Queen Anne in 1706 and ratified by Parliament the following year. No mention of this grant appears in his records except that in 1565, Mary Queen of Scots grants licence to Patrick Halket of Pitfirrane and others to sell and export the smithy coals from Knockhouse and Crombie.

When the Crown bought back the privilege in 1788 the sum of £40,000 was paid. It was to facilitate this trade that Sir Charles built a pier at Limekilns in 1676. His business activities extended further than Dunfermline, for in 1675 he was admitted Burgess and Guild Brother of Edinburgh line. In addition he was the Member of Parliament at the Revolution, raising a troop of Fife horse against Claverhouse.

He was a member of the committee of convention formed by the Scottish Parliament at the Revolution, being then Burges (The committee consisted of nine out of each of the three estates, Nobility, Knights of shires, and Burgesses.) for Dunfermline, and also, in 1689, as one of the Commissioners appointed to treat regarding the Union with England. He was one of those patriotic characters who opposed Dundee, in his attempt to support the cause of James VIII, a professed Papist, by putting himself at the head of his friends in Fife, Kinross &c.

Sir Charles died in 1699 and was succeeded by his only son James, who appears to have been in such obviously bad health that immediate steps were taken to ensure the succession. In 1700 his eldest sister Janet Halkett, secured the possession of Limekilns from the Earl of Tweeddale, and her husband assumed the name of Halkett in virtue of his wife being heiress presumptive. From this we must assume that all the male descendants in the succession had died, unless the collateral lines could not succeed until the failure of the issue of Sir Charles (the patent of baronetcy specifies only heir not just male heirs).

- 1) Sir James Halket, b. 12 Dec 1680 and d. 1779 "non compos mentis" d.s.p.
- 2) Dame Janet Halket, b. 14 Apr 1676, m. 13 Jul 1694 Sir Peter Wedderburn of Gosford, who changed his name to Halket. Morel later -
- 3) Elizabeth Halkett, Authoress, b. 15 Apr 1677, m. 13 Jun 1696, Sir Henry Wardlaw of Pitreavie, she d. in 1727 Dunfermline. (see Note -)
- 4) Mary Halkett, b. 24 Apr 1678, married Robert Murray, Earl of Dunmore.
- 5) Anna Halkett, b. 21 Oct 1670, married 1) David Drummond of Culmalundie and 2) Col James Cathcart of Carbiestoun.
- 6) Margaret Halkett, b. 29 Apr 1662, m. 16 Feb 1710, Sir John Erskine of Balgonie, with issue. (Stephens Hist. p. 29)
- 7) Barbara Halkett, b. 14 Feb 1684, d. 11 Mar 1749, unmarried.
- 8) Charlotte Halkett, married Sir John Hope-Bruce of Kinross.

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## ELIZABETH HALKETT/WARDLAW

The second daughter of Sir Charles Halkett and Elizabeth Murray, she married Sir Henry Wardlaw of Pitreavie, Baronet, in 1696, and died in 1726 or 1727. She was a lady of great accomplishments, and has acquired celebrity, as being considered by many the authoress of an admired poem or ballad entitled "Hardyknute," and "The Ballad of Sir Patrick Spens".

### "HARDYKNUTE"

"Hardyknute was the first poem that I ever leant - the last that I shall forget."  
(MS. note of Sir Walter Scott on a leaf of Allan Ramsay's Tea-table Miscellany.) - Whether Hardyknute really proceeded from the pen of Lady Halkett is disputed, some ascribing it to her brother-in-law, Sir John Hope Bruce of Kinross, and others thinking it to be far more ancient than either of them. The controversy is not likely to be now satisfactorily settled. Each of them, it would appear, disclaimed the authorship; whether from modesty, or some other less worthy motive, it is difficult to say. The lady pretended she had found the poem written on shreds of paper, employed for what

is called the bottom of clues;" and the gentleman, "that he had found it in a vault at Dunfermline, written on vellum in a fair gothic character, but so much defaced by time, that the tenth part was not legible." In support of the lady's title to the authorship, are ranked Mrs Wedderburn of Gosford, her daughter; Mrs Menzies of Woodend, her sister-in-law; Miss Menzies, her niece; Mr Hepburn of Keith; Mr Percy, author of *Reliques of Ancient English Poetry* and Mr Chalmers, biographer of Allan Ramsay. And in favour of the gentleman's title are, Mr Pinkerton and Dr Irving, writers on the Scottish Poets. Lord President Forbes, and Sir Gilbert Elliot of Minto (afterwards Lord Justice-Clerk of Scotland), believing it to be ancient, contributed to the expense of publishing the first edition, which came out in folio, at Edinburgh, in the year 1719; and William Thompson, the Scottish musician, and author of "*Orpheus Caledonius*," "declared he had heard fragments of it repeated, during his infancy, before ever Mrs Lady Wardlaw's copy was heard of." Mr Finlay, author of *Scottish Ballads*, thinks "it was composed at a period unusually dark in the literary history of Scotland and, and when poetical genius seems to have slumbered."

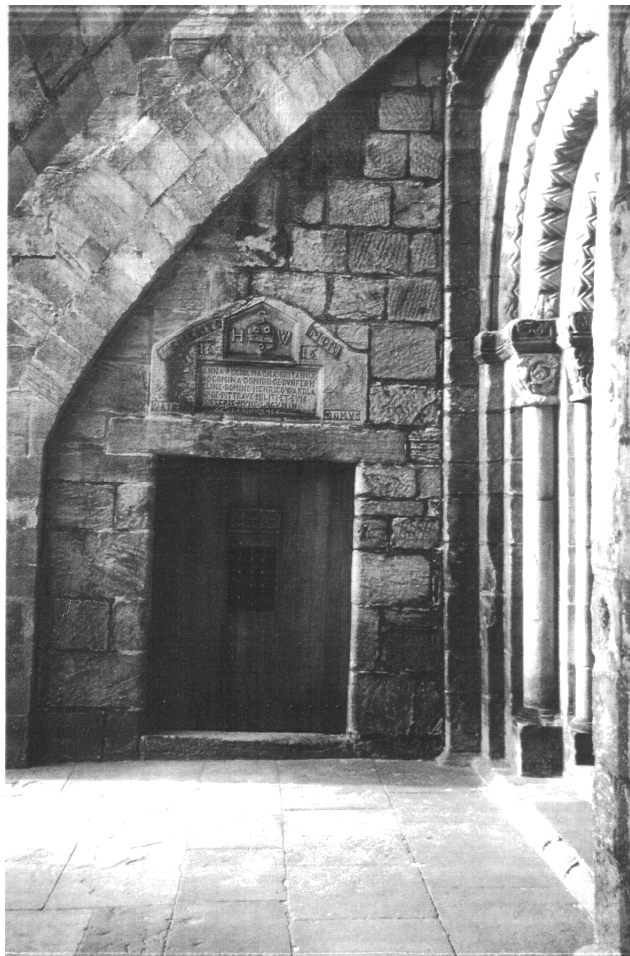
A supplement to it was published by Mr Pinkerton, among his *Select Scottish Ballads*, for which he professed to be indebted "to the memory of a lady in Lanarkshire," but which, in a subsequent work, he acknowledged to have been entirely written by himself. There seems to have been a singular union of desire in all parties connected with this work, from first to last, to have it ushered into the world anonymously, or under false colours.

Sir Walter Scott, without giving a positive opinion as to the authorship of the poem, although seemingly favourable to the claims of lady, pronounces decidedly against its antiquity. "If a young, perhaps a female author," says he, "chooses to circulate a beautiful poem, we will suppose that of Hardyknute, under the disguise of antiquity, the public is surely more enriched by the contribution than injured by the deception. - Hardyknute is irreconcilable with all chronology, and a chief with a Norwegian name is strangely introduced as the first of the nobles brought to resist a Norse invasion, at the battle of Largs; the needle-work so rare,' introduced by the fair authoress, must have been certainly long posterior to the reign of Alexander III. In Chatterton's ballad of 'Sir Chares Baudwin,' we find an anxious attempt to represent the composition as ancient, and some entries in the public accounts of Bristol were appealed to in corroboration. But neither was this ingenious but most unhappy young man, with all his powers of poetry, and with the antiquarian knowledge which he had collected with indiscriminating but astonishing research, able to impose on that part of the public qualified to judge of the compositions, which it had occurred to him to pass off, as those of a monk of the 14th century." The ballad itself, without the supplement, is inserted in Ramsay's *Evergreen*, Finlay's *Old Ballads*, and Percy's *Reliques*. It relates to an invitation of this island, by Haco king of Norway, in 1263, whom Hardyknute was employed by the king of Scotland to oppose. The warrior's residence was Fairly Castle, near Largs, on the Ayrshire coast, one the property of the ancient family of Fairly, now that of the Boyles of Kelburn, ancestors of the Earl of Glasgow. It is a single square tower, which stands "Hie on a hill," and commands a wide and extensive view of the Firth of Clyde with its islands. - Fernie's *History of Dunfermline*, pp. 98-105; Percy's *Reliques of Ancient English Poetry* (Vol ii. London 1765); Thomson's *Orpheus Caledonius* (1733, 2 vols, 18vo); Finlay's *Scottish Historical and Romantic Ballads*, (vol. I, Edinburgh, 1808); Pinkerton's *List of the Scottish Poets*, p. 128; Chalmers' *Life of Allan Ramsay*, p. 31; Irving's *Scottish Poets*, vol. ii. p.301; Sir Walter Scott's *Essay on Imitations of the Ancient Ballad*, in his *Poetical Works*, Edit Edin, 1841, p.556-7.

Though it is not possible to fix with certainty the date and authorship of "Sir Patrick Spens" and "Hardyknute,! Mr Robert Chambers certainly pushed theory to an extreme when he contended that most of the best ancient romantic Scottish ballads were he work of Elizabeth Halket, Lady Wardlaw of Pitreavie, who was born in April 1677, and died in 1727. Still his suggestion that she could claim the original authorship of "Sir Patrick Spens" and "Hardyknute" is dismissed too superciliously in professor Child's note. "I have not felt called upon" he remarks, "to say anything of the attempt of the late Mr Robert Chalmers to prove 'Sir Patrick Spens' a literary work of the last century. . . . (Fife and Kinross by Mackay p. 314)

DEATH OF ELIZABETH HALKET, reputed Authoress of the Ballad, "Hardy-Knute," - She was married in 1695 to Sir Henry Wardlaw of Pitreavie, and according to Fernie, as interred in the Pitreavie burying-vault, on the south-east angle of the Auld Kirk. (Annals of Dunf. by Henderson p. 415.)

Mr Defoe had heard of the Ballad of Hardicanute which had been published a few years earlier and was supposed to be the work of Elizabeth Halkett who had married Henry Wardlaw of Pitreavie. He may even have called upon her on his way south, though the lady was at first reluctant to acknowledge the poem was hers. It was Alexander of Scotland and Haco, King of Norway, and on the title page of the second edition it is stated tht Hardicanute is a Fragment being the First Canto of an Epic Poem with General Remarks and Notes.



Burial chamber of Elizabeth Halkett, Wardlaw - Dunfermline Abbey Nave

This Royal Burying-house, situated between the three south-east buttresses of the auld kirk, (built by William Schaw, the Queen's chamberlain) was probably erected when the repairs on the Church were in progress, and intended for the Royal place of sepulture for the Royal Family, probably when the infant Prince Robert was interred in 1602. King James ascended the English throne the year after the death of the young Prince, and this burying-place thus became useless to them. In the year 1616, Queen Anne gave a gift of the Vault to Henry Wardlaw, her Chamberlain, who inserted an oblong stone above its door, with an inscription, in *alto*, cut on it.

Anne, Queen of Great Britain, and Lady of the Lordship of Dunfermline, gave to Henry Wardlaw, of Pitreavie, Esquire, and to his posterity, this place of sepulture, 1616. Above this inscription, in a shield, together with the initial letters, "H. W." On the top of the stone, in an angular direction, are "MEMENTO MORI" (*remember death*) on the lower corners of the stone are the words "ULTIMA DOMVS" (*the last house*) and, in the space immediately above, on each side, are *skulls* and *cross-bones*.

[John Fernie. *A history of the town and parish of Dunfermline*, Dunfermline, 1815, p. 105.

Peter Chalmers. *History of Dunfermline*. 2 volumes. Edinburgh, 1844-59, volume. I, p. 120.

Ebenezer Henderson. *Annals of Dunfermline*. Glasgow, 1879, p. 276.]

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Finlay's Scottish Hist. and Rom Bal. --- What follows is a Letter from Queen Anne of Denmark, to Henry Wardlaw of Balmule, afterwards, of Pitreavie.

"To Our Right Trustie Servant Henry Wardlaw of Balmule, Chamberlain of our rents of Dunfermline."

Anna Regina

From the following inscription (now very greatly defaced) above the door of the burying vault, belonging to the present Sir John Wardlaw Baronet, Colonel of the 64. Regiment of Foot, it appears tht the vault was a gift by Queen Anne to Sir Henry Wardlaw of Pitreavie.

"Anna Regina Magnæ Britannlæ Ac Domini De Dunfermline Domino Henrico Wardlaw De Pitravie Milit et suis Posteris, hunc locum in Sepulturam dedit 1616."--- The author of Hardyknute was interred in this vault. (History of Dunf by J. Fernie p. 105.)

Proceeding round the church on the south side, we come to a burying vault, from the inscription over the door of which, we learn that it was a gift of Queen Anne to Sir Henry Wardlaw of Pitreavie, 1616. Among other buried in it, is Elizabeth Halket, the lady of Sir Henry, who wrote the fine old ballad of "Hardyknute," a heroic poem which long passed as very ancient. A modern writer asserts, with some show of reason, that this lady was also the authoress of that famous old ballad, "Sir Patrick Spens," long esteemed one of the most ancient of Scottish songs. His opinion is formed from a careful comparison of the two poems, a few verses of each of which we subjoins: -

### HARDYKNUTE.

The king of Norse, in summer tyde,  
Put up with powir and might,  
Landed in fair Scotland the yle,  
With mony a hardy knicht.  
The tydings to our gude Scots king  
Came, as he sat at dyne,  
With noble chiefs, in braif array,  
Drinking the blude-red wyne.  
"Go little page, tell Hardyknute,  
"That lives on hill sae hie.  
"To draw his sword and dreid of faes.  
"And hast and follow me."  
The little page flew swift as dart  
Flung by his master's arm;  
"Cum down, come down, lord Hardyknute,  
"And rid zour King frae harm."

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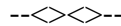
### SIR PATRICK SPENS.

The King sits in Dunfermline toune,  
Drinking the blude-red wine;  
O whare will I get a skeely skipper.  
to sail this ship o' mine!  
O up and spak an eldren knight,  
Sat at the King's right knee,  
Sir Patrick Spens is the best sailor  
That ever sail'd the sea.  
  
To Noroway, to Noroway,  
To Noroway o'er the faem;  
The king's daughter o' Noroway,  
It's thou maun bring her hame.  
  
They hadna sail'd a league, a league,  
A league but barely three,  
When the lift grew dark, and the wind blew loud  
And gurly grew the sea.  
  
The ankers brak, and the tap-masts lap.  
It was sic a deadly storm,  
And the waves came o'er the broken ship,  
Till a' her sides were torn.  
  
O lang, lang may the ladies look,  
Wi' their gown tails owre their croun,  
Before they see their ain dear lords  
Come sailing to Dunfermline toun.



Half owre, half owre to Aberdour,  
It's fifty fathom deep.,  
And there lies gude Sir Patrick Spens,  
Wi' the Scots lords at his feet.

Lady Wardlaw, was an accomplished female, possessing much wit and humour, and played well on sever instruments. [The Strangers Companion Dunfermline, 1848, p.41]



## SIR JAMES HALKET

**SIR JAMES HALKET**, only son of Sir Charles and Janet Murray, b. 12 Dec 1680, appears to have been in such obviously bad health that immediate steps were taken to ensure the succession. In 1700 his eldest sister Janet secured the possession of Limekilns from the Earl of Tweeddale, and her husband Sir Peter Wedderburn assumed the name of Halkett in virtue of his wife being heiress presumptive. From this we must assume that all the male descendants in the succession had died, unless he collateral lines could not succeed until the failure of the issue of Sir Charles (the patent of baronetcy specifies only heirs not just male heirs).

Sir James died in 1705 and Sir Peter Wedderburn-Halkett became Sir Peter Halkett of Pitferrane, resigning Gosford to his younger son stipulating that the two baronies must ever remain separate.

Sir James had made generous gifts to the city of Dunfermline. One was a foot mantle for the Provost to wear at the riding of Parliament; the city had a special cupboard made to store it when not in use. For his generosity the city of Dunfermline discharged him from the payment of various annual rents paid by him to the city, both present and past.

Sad to relate the **Provost**, Sir James Halkett of Pitferrane, died as a result of a fall from his horse only a few months later in 1705, d.s.p.. There is some speculation that Sir James's death occurred while he was riding a horse around the Pitferrane estate. At some point he caught his wig a low-hanging branch that pulled him off his horse backwards and killed him.

As a result of Sir James death the Baronetcy became extinct. James had six sisters. Janet the eldest succeeded to the estates. She was married to Sir Peter Wedderburn of Gosford who had been created a Baronet in 1697 and assumed the name of Halkett.. He was the eldest son of Sir Peter Wedderburn, a Lord of Session under the title of Gosford. As a consequence of Peter's marriage to Janet Halkett he, and his descendants inheriting Pitferrane, were obliged to take the Arms and name of the Pitferrane family.

## **THE WEDDERBURN-HALKETTS**

**(From The Book of the Wedderburns – I 363 - 394)**

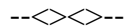
The Wedderburns of Gosford were descended from Sir Peter Wedderburn (1616-1678) third and youngest son of James Wedderburn, clerk of Dundee, and Margaret Goldman. Sir Peter had a distinguished career as an advocate, Clerk to the Privy Council, and Lord of Session as Lord Gosford. He was married three times.

- 1) Christian Gibson whose two sons died in infancy.
- 2) Agnes Dickson, daughter of John Dickson of Harttree, on 20th October 1653, this marriage had five sons and three daughters,
- 3) Elizabeth Goldman, married in 1677.

Sir Peter had acquired in 1659 the estate of Gosford, Longniddrie, with the help of his uncle Sir John Wedderburn, physician to Charles I. Douglas, erroneously states that his uncle left him the estate but Sir John never owned Gosford. Douglas' statement that the family descended from the Wedderburns of Blackness is also erroneous.

He was succeeded by his eldest son,

- 1) John, of the second marriage who died unmarried in 1688.
- 2) Peter (1659-1746) second son of Sir Peter, succeeded Gosford.



## **SIR PETER HALKETT**

### **OF PITFIRANE**

**SIR PETER HALKETT**, born in Dunfermline in 1659 and died in 1746 at the age of 85. His remains are interred in the family's Middle Crypt - Nave, of Dunfermline Abbey. Sir Peter succeeded Gosford, along with its title earlier, Peter had matriculated at St. Andrews University in 1675 and later served as Lieutenant in the Earl of Dumbarton's Regiment (26th March 1686), becoming a Captain of Grenadiers in the same Regiment in 1688. He appears to have left the army on succeeding his brother and entered Parliament, being a Commissioner of Supply in 1690, and was created baronet of Nova Scotia in 1697.

Sir Peter Wedderburn had married 13 July 1694, JANET HALKETT, at Dunfermline. When Sir James Halket her brother died in 1705, there were no surviving male descendants. By virtue of his wife being the eldest surviving daughter Sir Peter Wedderburn assumed the name of Halkett of Pitferrane, entering the estate formally on 26th October 1705. The entail already mentioned, which was thereupon executed upon Sir Peter and his wife, settled the estate of Pitferrane on their eldest son

and that of Gosford on the second son. It provided that if ever the two estates should devolve on the same person, he should immediately divest himself of Gosford in favor of a younger branch of the family. This was supplemented by a later one in 1751, and led to a costly lawsuit. (A. Dec.1706, Reg. Book of Council 1st May 1763, B.W. II 376). The baronetcy remained in the Pitferrane branch.

In 1705 Sir Peter Halkett, seems to have gotten in trouble. The magistrates and the town of Dunfermline were bitterly opposed to the Union of Parliament between England and Scotland. They commissioned Sir Peter, who was their Parliamentary representative to `vote and protest the Union.` They received assurance from Sir Peter that he would do as requested but when the time came he presented the address from the town council, and then voted for the Union! This inconsistency roused a great deal of criticism and ill will against him and it is said, he had to avoid Dunfermline for some later time thereafter. But he must have had a winning way for he was elected Provost of the town for he next twenty seven years (1705-1731).

The Union question had long been a vexed one in the county and the general opinion was that a great deal of corruption and bribery went on behind the scenes. In Scotland thirty-three burghs voted for the Union and twenty-nine against it. No doubt it is a coincidence that the Queen and the Union Parliament in London renewed the privilege held by the Halkett family to export coal abroad, just before the Union became an established fact.

Sir Peter and Janet Halkett had seven sons and five daughters.

- 1) Peter, b. 21 Jun 1705, succeeded to Pitferrane. Killed with his son James at Fort Dequesne.
- 2) Charles Wedderburn who succeeded to Gosford, and married Mary, daughter of Sir Harry Wardlaw of Pitreavie and Elizabeth Halkett, sister of Janet Halkett. Charles and Mary had ten children five sons and 5 daughters.
  - 1) John Wedderburn Halkett, their eldest son succeeded to Pitferrane more later.\*
  - 2) Henry Halkett, succeeded to Gosford when John succeeded to Pitferrane.
  - 3) Peter Halkett, b. Nov 1722, served in the Dutch Military Service, d. 1757.
  - 4) Charles Halkett, he was an Ensign and died in the Black Hole of Calcutta in 1757.

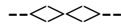
Note: - There were five daughter to date unknown.

- 3) James, died young.
- 4) James (bapt. 26th July 1705) died in South Carolina before 1754.
- 5) Alexander (12th December 1706) who acquired the estate of St. Germain, near Tranent, in November 1750 and which he disposed to John Wedderburn-Halkett in 1778 to relieve himself of debt, and which remained in trust for his wife and family until 1782 when it was sold.
- 6) John (1708) probably died young.
- 7) Robert (bapt. 10th December 1709) who was a merchant in Dunfermline and died in 1748. He had married Rachel, daughter of John Anstruther-Thomson of Charlton in Fife, and left two daughters -
  - 1) Rachel, who died unmarried,
  - 2) Janet who married at Toryburn Fife, on 21st April 1783, George Bruce of Langlees near Melrose. The daughters were -
    - 1) Janet (bapt. 21st May 1700) who married Robert Coville of Ochiltree (Contract 23rd April 1729).
    - 2) Agnes (bapt. 25th September 1701) died unmarried.
    - 3) Christian (bapt, 20th January 1703) married James Carstairs, born about

1680 and died on 6 August 1768 age 88, eldest son of Sir John Carstairs of Kilconquhar, who succeeded to the estates and name of Bruce of Kinross on the death of his mother (Contract 31st December 1724).

- 4) Elizabeth (1704) died young.
  
- 8) Janet b. 12 May 1700, m. Robert Colville of Ochiltree.
- 9) Agnes, b. 25 Sep 1701, died unmarried.
- 10) Christian, b. 20 Jan 1703, m. 31 Dec 1724, James Carstairs, son of Sir John Carstairs of Kilconquhar.
- 11) Elizabeth, b. 1704, died a child.

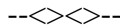
*Note* - Janet Halkett, their mother, died in 1713.



## BLACK HOLE OF CALCUTTA 1757

In Calcutta on a night that was close and sultry, 123 prisoners died of suffocation in a prison cell measuring some 18 square feet. The only available air came through two small barred windows. Tormented by intolerable thirst, lack of fresh air, and the urinous odour of the cell, the prisoners with one another to reach the windows and breathe. The guards passed small amounts of water through the apertures, and held up lights so as to be able to watch the fight that ensued to get the water. Many were and many more were delirious. When the doors were opened next morning out of the 146 who had been crowded into this small cell only 25 were alive.

Charles Wedderburn Halkett, died in the Black Hole of Calcutta, he was the son of Sir Peter Halkett and Janet Halkett. He married Mary Wardlaw daughter of Sir Henry Wardlaw of Pitreavie and Elizabeth Halkett sister of Janet Halkett.



## SIR PETER HALKETT



Sir Peter Halkett 2nd Baronet of Pitferrane  
By James McArdell  
After Allan Ramsay, Scottish National Gallery, Edinburgh

**SIR PETER HALKETT**, of Pitferrane, 2nd Baronet of Gosford, the eldest son of Sir Peter Halkett, was born 21 Jun 1705 and succeeded his father in 1746 as the 1st Baronet of Pitferrane. He was **Provost** from 1752-1755. M.P. for Dunfermline in 1734 and for Inverkeithing in 1739. but made the army his career: Sir Peter was killed on 9th July 1755 in the French-Indian War at age 50.

The younger Sir Peter was a man of great honour and merit. He was a Member of Parliament for the burgh of Dunfermline, in 1734 and for Inverkeithing in 1739 but made the army his career and was a distinguished military officer. Sir Peter was Provost of the City of Dunfermline (1752-1755) - one of ten Halkets of Pitferrane to serve as Provost.

His military career is as follows; Major, Scots Fusileers 1739, Lt. Colonel 1741, of Houghton's Regiment and then of Lee's Regiment, at the Battle of Gladsmuir (1745), where Sir John Cope was defeated in 1745. In 1751 he became a Colonel I that Regiment. Earlier in his career he was captured by he Chevalier's forces at Prestonpans (1745), and with other offers given parole on assurance tht the officer would not engage further against the Highland forces. It is said that the Duke of Cumberland ordered them to disregard their parole on pain of loosing their

commissions. Sir Peter Halkett is recorded as having refused to do so saying, on behalf of five of his fellow officers, that Cumberland might be the master of their commissions, but not of their probity and honour. The Government subsequently upheld the officers.

Colonel Sir Peter sailed from Cork in January 1754 and arrived at Alexandria, Virginia (in the Colonies) in command of the British 44th - Foot Regiment under the command of Major General Edward Braddock. Sir Peter acquitted himself there with bravery and good conduct. He was second-in-command, along with George Washington, in a picked column of General Braddock's forces fighting the French and the Indian War (1750-1760) in North America. During the ill-fated expedition Sir Peter, in command of the 44th Foot Regiment, was killed on July 9 1755, along with his youngest son James, a lieutenant in the same regiment and a youth of noble spirit. The sad event happened in a French-Indian attack against the British forces along the Monongahela River near Fort Duquesne. Braddock was also mortally wounded in the skirmish. Sir Peter's son Capt Francis Halkett, and George Washington survived the ambush.

Young George Washington was one of the principal actors in the dramatic struggle for Fort Duquesne. In 1773 as a young 21 year-old Major Washington had unsuccessfully attempted to have the French "peacefully" relinquish the Fort to the British. In 1755 Lt Colonel Washington was on General Braddock's staff, as the Captain Francis Halkett, in the campaign to capture Fort Duquesne. Both escaped the massacre. Later George Washington became the first president of the United States.

In 1758 Sir Peter's son Francis, then a Major and Aide de Camp to General Forbes, participated in the British expedition that captured Fort Duquesne. It was renamed Fort Pitt after then British Prime Minister William Pitt. The fort gave the name to the town that sprang up around it - Pittsburgh.

Afterwards in November of 1758, Major Francis, with the help of an Indian guide, located the skeletons of his father and brother on the battlefield of the 1755 massacre. He buried their remains, along with those of all other soldiers slain on the battlefield. After the burials an appropriate military funeral ceremony was conducted.

Sir Peter had married before 15th February 1738, Lady Amelia Stewart, 2nd daughter of Francis, 3rd son of Charles 7th Earl of Moray and Jean Elphinstone, 2nd daughter of John Elphinstone, the 4th Lord Elphinstone. Lady Amelia's date of death is unknown but her remains are interred in the family's Middle Crypt in the Nave of Dunfermline Abbey. By their marriage they had three sons, and four daughters -

- 1) Peter Halkett who succeeded his Father as 2nd Baronet, died 1779 d.s.p.
- 2) Francis, a Captain in Halkett's Foot in 1751, and later a Major in the Black Watch, and in November 1758, then a Major and Aide de Camp to General Forbes, expedition that captured Fort Duquesne, he located the skeletons of his father and brother, on the battlefield of the 1755 massacre, and participated in their burial with an appropriate military funeral. Pennsylvania artist Robert Griffith immortalized the depiction of Major Francis's discovery of his father and brother's remains in his painting - "The Reunion." Francis Halkett, was designated "of Pitfirrane" after his father's death, and served as Provost of Dunfermline (1758-1759). After his Father's death he was designated "of Pitfirrane" and was unofficially recognized as the Halkett of Pitfirrane, due to his brother's 'infirmity of mind'. He was a friend and correspondent of George Washington. He died unmarried in Naples in November 1760.



- 3) James, youngest son was killed with his Father at Fort Duquesne July 1755.
- 1) Jean Halkett, b. 6 Oct 1732, probably died young.
- 2) Janet Halkett, b. 14 Aug 1735.
- 3) Jean Halkett, b. 29 Jul 1742.
- 4) Emilia Halkett, b. 20 Jan 1744.

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## **THE STORY OF PITTSBURGH AMERICA**

### **SCOTS ABROAD**

#### **HALKETT'S OF PITFIRANE CROSSFORD - DUNFERMLINE**



PITFIRANE CASTLE

The Halket, Halkett family has very ancient origins possibly from the lands of Halkhead, Renfrewshire. The exact period of the family's settlement in Fife is difficult to ascertain.

Philip Halket, acquired Pitferrane from his cousin, William de Scott of Balwearie in 1399. In turn, his son, David, was the first to be titled 'of Pitferrane' 1404 as was his son James who died in his father's lifetime.

William received a charter under the Great Seal from King James II, in 1472 and his son Henry, in 1511 became Provost of Dunfermline, and died in 1513. John, his son also was Provost of Dunfermline and Bailie of Regality he was killed in the Battle of Pinkie or Fawside in 1547. His son John received a Charter from James VI 1514. He was Provost 1518-47.

His son Patrick also Provost and Bailie of Regality and his son and heir George made extensions the castle Pitfirrane. He was appointed Provost of Dunfermline in 1584. He was killed by a fall from a window at Pitfirrane. He was the progenitor of the Halketts in Holland and had two sons Robert and John who were knighted by James IV.

Sir Robert was also involved in rebuilding and extending Pitfirrane where he entertained the King James VI. He was succeeded by his son Sir James Halkett of Pitfirrane, who was knighted by Charles I, at Dalkeith on 14th June 1633 Colonel of Horse. He purchased the Lands of Lymkilns from James Phin in 1637. Sir James was a Member of Parliament for Fifeshire and in 1649 and about this time was appointed to inquire into the state of the fortifications on Inchgarvie. His second wife was Anne daughter of Mr Thomas Murray, the Provost of Eton, and preceptor to Charles I, He died 1670.

Sir Charles his son was given a Charter of the Great Seal by Charles II and created a Baronet 1661. He also was Provost of Dunfermline, Burgess and Member of Parliament. His second daughter Elizabeth married Sir Henry Wardlaw of Pitreavie and was the authoress of Hardy Knute and the Ballad of Sir Patrick Spence. "The King sits in Dunfermline Toon". She died 1727 in a house in Crosswynd, Dunfermline, and buried in the Royal Vault, on the south side of Dunfermline Abbey Nave, given to the Wardlaw family by Anne of Denmark.

Sir James his son, born 1680 Member of Parliament for Dunfermline 1702-5 Provost 1701 suffered poor health and was killed by being thrown by his horse against a tree within the Pitfirrane policies. He was unmarried and was succeeded by his sister Janet, who married Sir Peter Wedderburn of Gosford, who assumed the name of Halkett of Pitfirrane.

Sir Peter Wedderburn, of Gosford, changed his name and Arms to Halkett of Pitfirrane in 1705. He was Provost and M.P. for Dunfermline and was a man of great honour and merit. He was born 1694 became Captain of the Grenadiers and died 1676. He was by succeeded by his eldest son Sir Peter Halket who married Lady Emilia Stewart who was the 2nd daughter of Frances Stewart the 3rd son of Charles 7th Earl of Moray and Jean Elphinstone, she was the 2nd daughter of John Elphinstone, the 4th Lord Elphinstone. Her uncle, Lord Balmerino, was executed for participation in the "45". The couple had seven children.

Sir Peter his son, born 1705 and succeed his father in 1746. Sir Peter Halket of Pitfirrane was the first titled initiate, joining the Lodge of Free Gardeners in 1720. He became a Member of Parliament for Dunfermline Burgh in 1734.

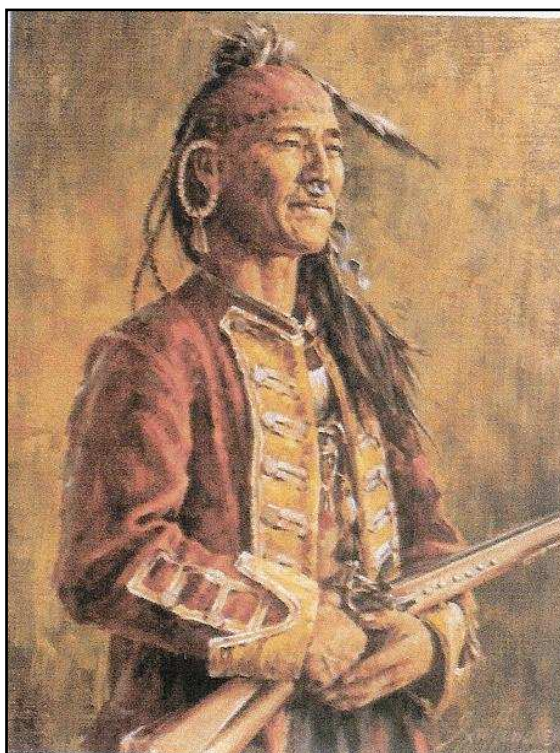
A supporter of the Government, he joined Colonel Lee's Regiment and fought at the Battle of Gladsmuir against the forces of Prince Charles Edward Stuart in 1745. He was captured following the Prince's victory but was released on his own parole of honour. In 1746 the Duke of Cumberland commanded him, under threat of forfeiture of his commission, to rejoin his regiment. He refused replying that his Highness was master of the commission but not of his honour. His refusal to break his word of honour given to Prince Charles was accepted by Parliament and he therefore did not fight at Culloden in 1754 he went to North America in command of the 44th



Regiment of Foot. The expedition also included, from the Irish establishment the 48th Regiment, three independent companies, and a detachment of sailors.

The Carolina provided substantial Provincial soldiers recruited from Virginia, North Carolina and Maryland, as well as a locally recruited company of carpenters, Waggoner's and camp followers.

Under the command of Major-General Edward Braddock, he fell along side his youngest son, James a Lieutenant in the same regiment and a youth of noble spirit in a French and Native Americans (who were in the pay of the French) attacked on 9th July 1755, along the Monongahela River near Fort Duquesne. Braddock was also mortally wounded. General George Washington was aide-de-camp to Braddock. John Forbes of Pittencrieff, was charged with avenging Braddock and Halkett's defeat.



Artist Robert Griffing

It was common for Indian warriors to take trophies as proof of their prowess in battle. The coat of a soldier of the 44th Regiment of Foot is lasting proof of this warrior's participation in the defeat of General Braddock's great army, reminding everyone of his bravery and his exploits for years to come.

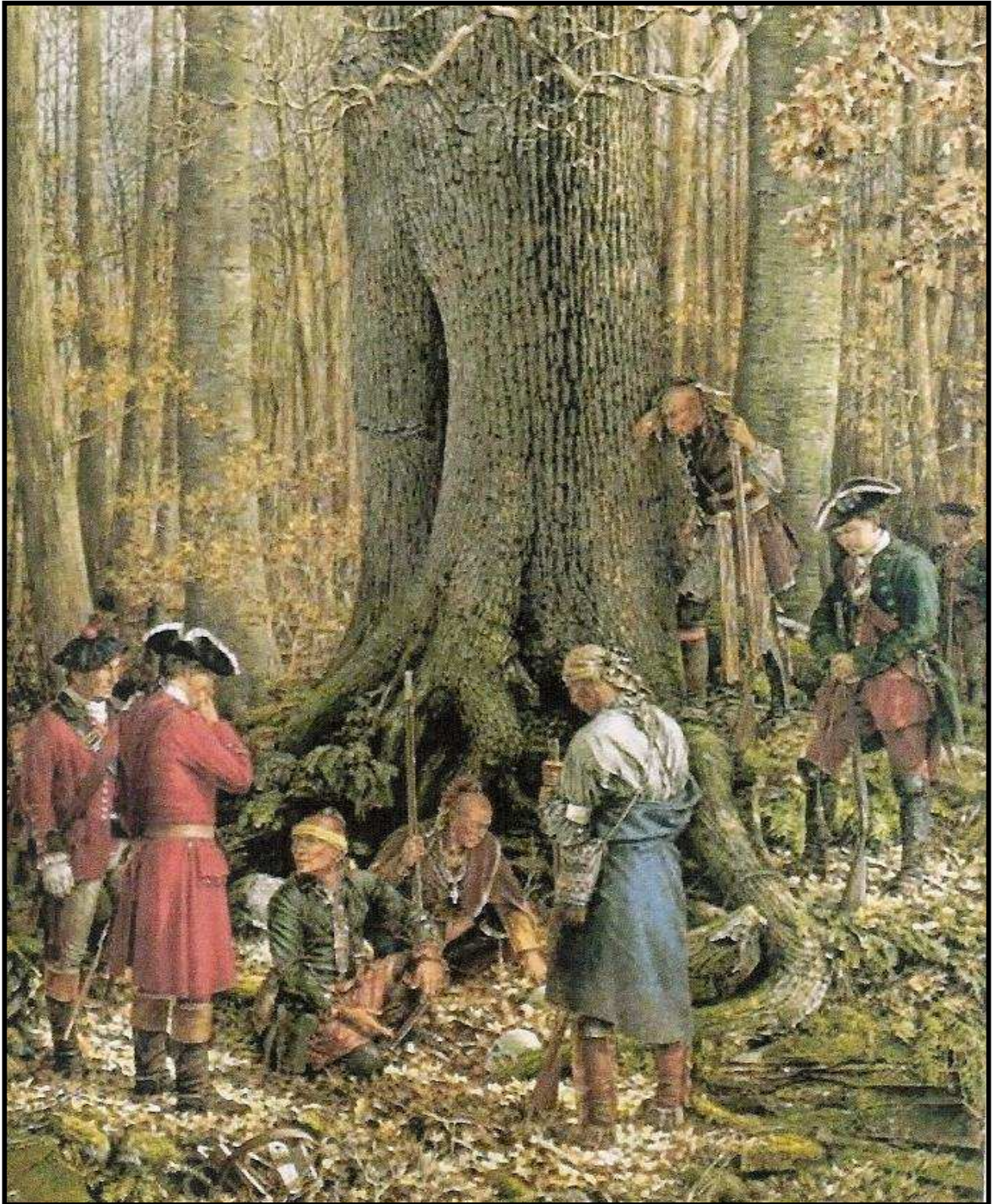
The afternoon of July 9th 1755 Major-General Edward Braddock and his army of 1,300 men marched into a forest ambush near the Monongahela River very close to his objective of felling Fort Dequesne.

Braddock's **1755** defeat, three years later the British *General John Forbes* was successful in taking the point, a part of men was sent out to bury Braddock's fallen soldiers, whose remains were still littering the surrounding woods.

In 1758 young Captain Francis Halkett who had been on the field on the fateful day but had survived, his father Sir Peter was mounted and attempting to rally his men against the onslaught when he was struck and killed by a lead ball. As Sir Peter fell to the ground, his son Lieutenant James Halkett, rushed to his father's side. He too, was shot. Father and son died together. (Web - Braddock's Defeat, for further info.)



*THE REUNION.*



Artist Robert Griffing



## SIR PETER HALKETT

**SIR PETER HALKETT**, son of Sir Peter Halkett and Lady Amelia Stewart, he was the 3rd Baronet. He did not marry and both of his younger brothers had predeceased him when he died in 1779. He had early shown an infirmity of mind that caused his father, in 1751, to settle Pitfirrane on his 2nd and 3rd sons. Sir Peter was found *`non compos mentis`* by inquest in February 1761, and after a long court case he was succeeded by his cousin and a commission was issued to his cousin \*John Wedderburn of Gosford as curator.

When Sir Peter died in 1779 the baronetcy would have descended to a surviving brother but there were none- both had predeceased him. The baronetcy would then have reverted to a brother of Sir Peter's father - Charles Wedderburn (Halkett), of Gosford who had married Mary Wardlaw of Pitreavie, who had been succeeded by his son Sir Peter Wedderburn in 1753/4.

It was obvious that the line of Pitfirrane would again become extinct and his cousin as heir under the entails and entered into possession.

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## SIR JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKETT



By David Allan

**SIR JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKETT**, b. 27 Feb 1720, the son of Charles Wedderburn and Mary Wardlaw and brother of Sir Peter Wedderburn Halkett, who married Janet Halkett. John Wedderburn, had succeeded to Gosford.

He became 4th Baronet of Pitfirrane upon the death of his cousin Sir Peter Halkett in 1779. Complicating this was an involved long and costly lawsuit over the title of Gosford. Sir John's brother, Henry, and his uncle, Alexander claimed that under the earlier agreement he would have divested himself of Gosford immediately when he entered possession of Pitfirrane in 1779. The case dragged through the courts until it was finally settled in the House of Lord in favour of Henry Wedderburn, who became the Baronet of Gosford. (BWII 380)

Sir John Wedderburn now Halkett acquired in 1762 the lands of Balmule and mill, Lochend, Craigdukie, Wester Luscar and Eriot, in the neighbourhood of Dunfermline on the resignation of John McFarlane, Esquire and Writer to the Signet. (BW11 377) Sir John was Captain in the Army and served at the capture of the Island of Guadaloupe in 1750. Sir John died at Pitfirrane on August 1793 and was buried in the family's Crypt in the Nave of Dunfermline Abbey.

Sir John was twice married, first in 1758 to Elizabeth Fletcher, youngest daughter of Andrew Fletcher of Saltoun, one of the Senators of the College of Justice, Lord-Justice-Clerk, and Keeper of His Majesty's Signet in Scotland. There was one daughter -

- 1) Elizabeth Charlotte Wedderburn Halkett, born in France in 1758 and married Tromphime Gerald Lally Tollendal, Marquis of Taly Collender, Peer of France and émigré of the French Revolution. Elizabeth died 6th February 1850 at age 91 and her remains are interred in the family's Middle Crypt - Nave of Dunfermline Abbey. They had two daughters, one of whom married Henry Raymond, Count d'Aux de Lescont.

Sir John married for the second time on 26 March 1762, to Mary Hamilton, b. in 1740, d. 1803 buried in Nave of Dunfermline Abbey, daughter of the Honourable John Hamilton, (2nd son of Thomas, 6th Earl of Haddington) and Margaret Home, daughter, of Sir Home, of Blackadder. Sir John and Mary Hamilton had thirteen children six sons and seven daughters.

- 1) Sir Charles Halkett, b. 6 Jun 1764, Pitfirrane, succeeded his father on 7 August 1793, as 5th Baronet, Served in the Military Service, in the 21st Dragoons and died unmarried at Pitfirrane on 26 February 1837.  
Halkets Troop of Horse 1820. The Courant of 8 Jan (Sat.) 1820, says that on Monday 3rd Corp Capt Sir Char Halket's troop of Royal Fifeshire Yeomanry Cavalry was at drill in neighbourhood of Dunfermline, for the first time since the country recommended the formation of the troop. The troops was consequently very greatly increased and now consists of about 80 effectives, of whom 75 were on the field and inspected by Col. Wemyss, Major of the Regiment. The officers of that troop afterwards gave a dinner to the privates and to the neighbouring country gentlemen to the number of nearly 100. The Lieutenant at the troop in the absence of the captain = unwell; = presided. The Earl of Moray Dr Robertson Barclay of Keavil, Leut. Col. Wemyss, of Wemyss Castle; Mr James Hunt of Pittencrieff, Capt Mowbray of Otterston, R.N. and the Dept Lieut and Magistrates of the town were present. Happy evening. The dinner was given in the Town Hall, by permission of the Magistrates. These conferred the freedom of the city on Earl Moray; Wemyss, Mowbray and Messrs Clerk, and Stewart. (Anent Dunfermline Vol. 9 by Daniel Thomson's)

- 2) Sir Peter, b.16 Oct 1765 at Pitfirrane, 6th baronet, m. Elizabeth Todd more later.
- 3) John Wedderburn Halkett, b. 27 Feb 1768, Advocate, Governor Bahamas, d.12 Nov 1852, buried Petersham, London. (From a silhouette made in London.)



John apparently matriculated to the University of St Andrews (Scotland) in 1786, and was admitted to the Scottish Bar in Edinburgh in August 1789. During the years 1797-1801 he was secretary of presentations to his cousin Alexander Wedderburn, First Baron Loughborough, who was the Lord Chancellor of England. In 1801 he was appointed Governor-in-Chief of the Bahamas and in 1803 Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of Tobago. On his return to London he was appointed first Chief Commissioner of West Indian Accounts.

With two other cousins, Andrew Wedderburn, who in 1814 changed his name to Colville, and Lord Selkirk, John Halkett became interested in the Hudson's Bay Company. Selkirk began buying shares in the Company in 1808, as did John Halkett and Andrew Wedderburn the next year. John Halkett was appointed a member of the HBC's London Committee in November 1811, a months after the company had granted a large tract around the Red River to Selkirk for the establishment of a colony. By training and temperament John Halkett was eminently suited to become the main British defender of Selkirk's efforts in North America, and he spent most of the years 1815 to 1820 trying to counteract what he considered misleading and false statements circulated by the North West Company (NWC) about Selkirk's character and his work. Given the indifference of the colonial secretary Lord Bathurst, and the arrogance of the influential under-secretary, Henry Goulburn, it was a disheartening period. Bathurst regarded the violent acts of 1815-16 at Red River, which culminated in the ruin of the colony (see Cuthbert Grant), as simply quarrels between the two rival fur-trading companies, while John Halkett sought unsuccessfully to impress upon him that justice was being denied the British settlers. He wrote a number of pamphlets and long explanatory letters to bathurst, base on judicious arguments and despite their self-righteous attacks on Selkirk, the Nor'Westers had been the instigators in these events. His letters were dispassionate in tone, outlining point by point the inconsistencies in the various statements made by the NWC. He frequently had reasons to be provoked by the curt replies he received from the under-secretary, but his calm judgement always prevailed.

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punishment for their violent acts. John Halkett's statement to Bathurst in 1819, that Selkirk retrospect to be justified.

Selkirk died in 1820 and in the fall of 1821 John Halkett travelled to Montreal as an executor of the estates. Two former NWC men, disgruntled by John Halkett's treatment of them in print, enlivened his visit. On 18 October Alexander Greenfield Macdonnell met him outside his hotel and threatened him with a horsewhip. John Halkett had him arrested and as a precaution armed himself with a pair of pistols. That evening Jasper Vandersluys attacked him and struck him twice with a whip before John Halkett fired, wounding his assailant. Vandersluys charged him with "Assault with the intent to kill" but the charge was later withdrawn.

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As a director of the HBC John Halkett retained his interest in British North America after his return to England in 1822. He had been favourably impressed by the kindness extended towards the colonials by the *Saulteaux* chief Peguis and his band. He had a high regard for the Indian people but with the events of 1615-16 in mind he held the Metis in contempt, referring to them as "Banditti." He was critical of the HBC for its trade in spirits with the native people and recommended prohibition. These views were given a favourable hearing by the London committee, dominated by men with strong humanitarian views, and it is to the committee's credit that the trade in spirits was gradually suppressed. In 1825 John Halkett published *Historical notes respecting the Indians of North America: with remarks on the attempts made to convert and civilize them.* It is a sympathetic account based on the writings of Claude-Charles Le Roy de Potherie, dit *Bacqueville de La Potherie*, Pierre-Francois-Xavier de Charlevoix, and others, with John Halkett's suggestions

for the "civil and religious advancement" of Indians. He recommended a more sympathetic approach to the native way of life and emphasized that changes should be made slowly and cautiously, attitudes which have only recently been adopted in relationships with Indians. His interest in North American native culture is also reflected in his collection of aboriginal artifacts.

In the spring of 1848 John Halkett retired from HBC's London committee. When he died four years later, leaving four sons from his second marriage, there were signs that the Red River settlement which he had helped to nurture, was beginning to think of itself as the metropolis of western British North America. (Dictionary of Canadian Biography)

John Halkett is the author of several works dealing with the controversy surrounding the events at Red River in 1815 and 1816. In 1817 he published his Statement respecting the Earl of Selkirk's settlement of Kildonean, upon the Red River, in North America; its destruction in the years 1815 and 1816; and the massacre of Governor Semple and his party in London. He subsequently published an expanded version of this work, Statement respecting the Earl of Selkirk's settlement upon the Red River . . . with observations upon a recent publication, entitled "A narrative of occurrences in the Indian countries, &c," (London, 1817 New York, 1818; repr. East Ardsley, Eng. and New York, 1968, and Toronto, 1970, which was translated into French as *Precis touchant la colonie du lord Selkirk, sur la riviere Rouge, sa destruction en 1815 et 1816, et le massacre du gouverneur Semple et de son parti . . .* (Montreal, 1818). He is also the author of Postscript to the statement respecting the Earl of Selkirk's settlement upon the Red River, in North America (Montreal, 1818). A series of his letters appeared in London, probably in 1819, as Correspondence in the years 1817, 1819, between Earl Bathurst, and J. Halkett Esq., on the subject of Lord Selkirk's settlement at Red River, in North America. His reflections on the native peoples of North America are included in Historical Notes respecting the Indians of North America: with remarks on the attempts to convert and civilize them . . . (Edinburgh and London, 1825). In addition there is a collection of his correspondence from the period when he was in the British West Indies):

(Ten holograph letters and two enclosures from John Halkett, Governor of the Bahamas, to Admiral, Sir H.T. Duckworth, Commander-in-chief at Jamaica) (New Providence, Bahamas, 1802-4). (From The Beaver Magazine Sept 1940.)

#### FROM THE DICTIONARY OF ALASKA PLACE NAMES: -

Halkett, Cape: point of land, on coast of Beaufort Sea, W point of entrance to Harrison Bay, Arctic Plain; 70 48"10" n, 152 05" w; BGN 6th Report; (map 149).

Var. Atliggaru, Cape Halkett, Halket cape, Halkett cape, Ishuk, Isuk.

P.W. Dease and Thomas Simpson, (Simpson Thomas), 1843 on July 26 1837, reported that "this remarkable point was named Cape Halket, in compliment to one of the Company's (Hudson's Bay) Directors." Leffingwell (1919, p.26) gives the Eskimo name Isuk, which says Vilhjalmur Stefansson spells "Usuk, "meaning "end." John Halkett married c 1794 Ann Todd whose younger sister married his elder brother Peter Halkett. Ann died in 1805, there was no issue. John married secondly on 6th July 1851,

Lady Katherine Douglas, sister of Thomas Douglas the Earl of Selkirk.

With issue -

- 1) Douglas Halkett, and Army Major who was killed in the Battle of Balaclava, 25 Oct 1854, Russia (Charge of the Light Brigade).
- 2) John Thomas Douglas Halkett.

- 3) Reverend Dunbar Stewart Halkett, Reverenced Halkett wa at one time the pastor of the Little Brookham Rectory, County Surrey, England. It is believed tht he died in England on 24 Jan. 1887.
- 4) Peter Alexander Halkett, was a Commander RN. It is believed that he died in England on 23 March 1885. (O'Byrne's Naval Biography, has an entry - Passed his examination 6 Oct 1765 , and was employed as Mate on board the Hyacinth and Modeste sloops, Capts Wm Warren, Geo Goldsmith and Rundle Burges Watson. Joining, under the latter officer, in the hostilities on the coast of China, he assisted, on 10 March 1842, in towing four fire-rafts clear of the shipping off Ningpo during an attack made by the Chinese; and on 18 of the following May he served on shore at the capture of Chapoo. He was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant 23 December 1842, and next appointed - 27 Aug 1844, to the Éclair stem-sloop, Capt Walter Grimston Bucknall Estcourt, fitting at Portsmouth - 19 Dec 1844; to the Actaeon 26, Capt Geo Mansel, lying at Devonport - 20 Jan 1845, to the excellent gunnery-ship at Portsmouth, Capt Sir Thos Hastings - and 1 July 1845 to the Crocodile 26 bearing the flag of Sir Hugh Pigot at Cork. He has been serving since 22 Nov in the latter year, in th Stromboli steam-sloop, Cat. Thos. Fisher. After his military service he became a land speculator in New Zealand where there is a farming district and school named for him. The first settlers arrived in the Halkett district during the late 1850's and took up sections of what was then the Sandy Knolls Run, consisting of 10,000 acres. Captain Halkett's first purchase ws 300 acres on February 22nd 1864. As time passed it was decided that school was needed in the district and Captain Halkett, after whom the district ws named, kindly offered on acre of land. The school opened on 3 June 1870. Peter died on 23 March 1884. As of August 2001, the Halkett School has been operating as a Montessori school for the past 14 months.
- 4) Henry Halkett b.1770, d.1818 died unmarried in the Army of the East India Company. He is buried in Nave Dunfermline Abbey. d.s.p.
- 5) Alexander Halkett, Major General in 1813 and Lieutenant General in 1825, created K.C.H. and Knight Bachelor in 1837. He was b.20 Sep 1772, d.-1851, and m. Lady Georgina who d.1874. He was Commander of Hanover and served at the capture of the French-Indian Islands in 1794. At St Domingo until 796 and then was Aide-de-Camp to Sir Ralph Abercrombie at the capture of the Cape Good Hope in 1804. During the War of 1812 there was the famous march of the British 104th Regiment of Foot from the friendly and hospitable community of Fredericton through the New Brunswick wilderness to the shoreline of the St Lawrence River and then west to Kingston, Canada. It was a remarkable achievement - the first British Corps tht ever performed such a march during the height of a northern winter, a great part on snowshoes. The march started on 16th February 1813, Colonel Alexander Halkett (1772-1851, who had joined the Regiment in 1810 and was its commanding officer, leading off with the Grenadier Company. It was a Sunday with a morning parade and it was impossible not to feel sadness as the bugles struck up. Sad to leave from the friendly and hospitable community of Fredericton, where a British uniform, worn with credit and conduct, was sure passport without further introduction.' The girls left behind with most of the gallant soldiers destined to never revisit their sisters and sweethearts. The Company presented a most unmilitary



appearance, as it marched without arms or knapsacks in Indian file, divided into squads, so many to each toboggan, the rear of it being nearly half a mile from the front. One Company followed each succeeding day with the Light Company (Captain Shore's) being the last to leave on the 21st. About 500 men took part in the march. Their traverse was on snowshoes through deep snow in the forest wilderness. Always present was the possibility of being frozen to death. The march covered between 800 and a thousand miles in six weeks, with a 10 day halt in Quebec, without the loss of a single man. In Kingston, Colonel Halkett had a series of disagreements with Lieutenant General Sir George Prevost the commander in chief and Major General Francis De Rottenburgh that caused him to apply for an extended leave of absence. Although he later received a brevet promotion to brigadier general, he never returned to the 104th. A member of the upper stratum of New Brunswick society who met Halkett at this time described him as a man "very much given to drink and appears to want common understanding, but is of a good family. (From War of 1812 by Donald E. Graves, Carleton University Press, Ottawa, Canada, 1993.)

- 6) Thomas Halkett, b. 18 Apr 1781, d.1800. He had a Military career - 34th Regiment of Foot and in the Army of the East India Company. Became a Scottish Army Pensioner on 4 June 1823 in Madras, India.
- 1) Janet Halkett, b. 21 Apr 1769, d.1867, married John Erskine of Balogownie.
- 2) Catherine Halkett, b. 17 Oct 1773.
- 3) Sholt Charlotte Halkett, b. 28 Dec 1774, Pitfirrane, d. 1853, m. 1) Lt Colonel Gen Pringle, son of Robert Pringle, Lord of Session, on 29 April 1800 at Edinburgh. m. 2) Stewart Inglis, Esquire.
- 4) Mary Halkett, b. 27 Jan 1776.
- 5) Helen Halkett, b. 1 Nov 1777, d.1867 aged 91 buried Nave of Dunfermline Abbey.
- 6) Margaret Halkett, b. 23 Feb 1779, , m. 9 Nov 1820, AT Cathcart, Renfrew, Hugh Biggar. she d. 12 Aug 1846, and interred in Nave Dunfermline Abbey
- 7) Amelia Halkett, b. 14 Jan 1787, m. Charles Stewart of Annfield, Lt Colonel 63rd Foot, eldest son of John Stewart of Blairhall and Lady Anne Stewart, sister of Lady Amelia Halkett.

Sir John Wedderburn Halkett, died on 11 Dec 1852 age 84. He left a Will, John Halket of Richmond Hill in the County of Surrey, but late of the Albany Piccadilly in the County of Middlesex. Appointed his sons , John Thomas Douglas Halkett, Dunbar Stewart Halkett and Peter Alexander Halkett, his Executors, 30 Nov 1852. [Puget Sound Agricultural Society Register of Wills Book. A. Ledger FO. 62.]

Buried in the Cemetery of the Old Parish Church of St Peter's Petersham, London, now memorialized in the family's Middle Crypt in the Nave of Dunfermline Abbey. Memorial for Lady Katherine Halket, a former member of the H.B.C. Committee, and sister of Thomas Douglas, Fifth Earl of Selkirk, is in St Peter's Church Petersham, April 1848.

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## SIR JOHN WEDDERBURN HALKETT

Born 27 February 1768 in Pitfirrane third son of Sir John Wedderburn Halket and his second wife Mary Hamilton. He died on the 11 Dec 1852 age 84, London. He was an advocate, having matriculated to the University of St Andrews, Scotland in 1786, and was admitted to the Scottish Bar in Edinburgh in August 1789. During the years 1797-1801 he was secretary of presentations to his cousin Alexander Wedderburn, 1st Baron Loughborough, who was the Lord Chancellor of England. In 1801 he was appointed Governor-in-Chief of the Bahamas and in 1803 Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of Tobago between 1804 and 1807. On his return to London he was appointed first Chief Commissioner of West Indian Accounts. Sir John was an active Director of the Hudson Bay Company representing the Earl of Selkirk's interests in the Canadian Company. He took an active role there in attempting to resolve controversies surrounding the Red River Settlement of Kildonan, upon the Red River in North America.

He was quite a famous man - many places in Canada, and Alaska named for him. Also, a Canadian Liberty Ship, "Fort Halkett" that was sunk by German Sub U185, in the South Atlantic during WW2. He was also a watercolorist - several of his paintings were donated to the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature, Manitoba, Canada. They can be viewed on the internet at -

<http://www.achoolnet.ca/collections/hbc/catex9c2.htm>

With two other cousins, Andrew Wedderburn, who in 1814 changed his name to Colville, and Lord Selkirk, Halkett became interested in the Hudson Bay Company. Selkirk began buying shares in the company in 1808, as did Halkett and Wedderburn the next year.

Halkett was appointed a member of the HBC's London committee in November 1811, a few months after the company had granted a large tract around the Red River to Selkirk for the establishment of a colony. By training and temperament Halkett was eminently suited to become the main British defender of Selkirk's efforts in North America, and he spent most of the years 1815 to 1820 trying to counteract what he considered misleading and false statements circulated by the North West Company (NWC) about Selkirk's character and his work. Given the indifference of the colonial secretary, Lord Bathurst and the arrogance of the influential under-secretary, Henry Goulburn, it was a disheartening period, Bathurst regarded the violent acts of 1815-16 at Red River, which culminated in the ruin of the colony as simply quarrels between the two rival fur-trading companies, while Halkett sought unsuccessfully to impress upon him that justice was being denied the British settlers. He wrote a number of pamphlets and long explanatory letters to Bathurst based on judicious arguments and accompanied by affidavits and depositions, in efforts to prove that, despite their self-righteous attacks on Selkirk, the Nor'westers had been the instigators in these events. His letters were dispassionate in tone, outlining point by point the inconsistencies in the various statements made by the NWC. He frequently had reasons to be provoked by the curt replies he received from the under-secretary, but his calm judgment always prevailed.

In 1817 Halkett published, for private circulation, the unsigned Statement respecting the Earl of Selkirk's settlement, in which he blamed the destruction of the colony on the NWC and its agents. The NWC reply was not long in coming: later the same year a rebuttal entitled A narrative of occurrences in the Indian countries of North America was released. The book was unsigned but had been attributed to NWC employee Samuel Hull Wilcocke. In 1818 Halkett reprinted his pamphlet and

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Selkirk died in 1820 and in the fall of 1821 Halkett travelled to Montreal as an executor of the estate. Two former NWC men, disgruntled by Halkett's treatment of them in print, enlivened his visit. On 18 October Alexander Greenfield Macdonnell met him outside his hotel and threatened him with a horsewhip. Haket had him arrested and as a precaution armed himself with a pair of pistols. That evening Jasper Vandersluys attacked him and struck him twice with a whip before Halkett fired, wounding his assailant. Vandersluys charged him with "Assault with he intent to kill" but the charge was later withdrawn.

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In the spring of 1848 Halkett retired from HBC's London committee. When he died four years later, leaving four sons from his second marriage, there were signs that the Red River settlement, which he had helped to nurture, was beginning to think of itself as the metropolis of western British North America.

#### LIBRARY REFERENCES

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## SIR CHARLES HALKETT

**SIR CHARLES HALKETT**, was the 5th Baronet of Pitferrane. He was born at Pitferrane on 6th June 1764, son of Sir John Wedderburn Halkett and Mary Hamilton. He entered Military Service in the 21st Dragoons. He succeeded his father on 7th August 1793 and died unmarried at Pitferrane on 26th January 1837, d.s.p. To his brother -

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## SIR PETER HALKETT

**SIR PETER HALKETT**, who became the 6th Baronet of Pitferrane succeeded his brother Sir Charles Halkett. Sir Peter was born on 16th October 1765, and died in Edinburgh 7 October 1839.. He made the Royal Navy his career becoming Vice Admiral in 1835, and Admiral in 1837. G.C.H. (Knight of the Grand Cross Guelphic Order) and K.C.B., Commander-in-Chief, West India Station and Admiral of the Blue - 1837. He married in Edinburgh 14th October 1802, Elizabeth Todd, younger daughter of William Todd of Millhill, sister of the first wife of his brother John. Sir Peter was the inventor (1844) of the Halkett inflatable boat that was successfully used in several Arctic expeditions. The boat was made of layers of cotton fabric covered with rubber, and provided with brass nozzles for inflation and padded canvas fenders filled with cork. Once inflated, the cloth boat could carry two men or substantial load. Deflated, it folded up into a backpack and was easily carried.

Sir Peter married Elizabeth Todd, younger daughter of William Todd of Millhill, and sister of the first wife of his brother John Halkett, in Edinburgh on 11 October 1802.

He had issue -

- 1) John Halkett who succeeded.
- 2) Janet Margaret Halkett, b. 5th January 1806 married Captain Richard Kirwan Hill (late 52nd regiment) of St. Columbs, County Londonderry, and had three sons and three daughters, one of whom married her cousin Sir Peter Halkett,\* the 8th baronet. Mary Emily Elizabeth b. 7th September 1811 married 10th July 1839 Robert Henry Stewart Jackson, Captain 97th Regiment, and had one son and two daughters.
  - 1) Peter Edward Hill, married Emily Clarke, they had a daughter Blanch Helen Hill, b. 7 July 1880, m. Stanley Adolphus Thomas Champion and had a daughter with issue.
  - 2) Francis Charles, b. 1 Apr 1835 at Dunfermline.
  - 3) Elizabeth Ann Hill, b.c. 1837, in England, married her cousin Sir Peter Arthur Halket, on 6 May 1856, in Elstree, Herford, England. She died on 13 January 1931.
  - 4) Jane Margaret Hill, b.c. 1839 in England, d.13 Jan 1931 at Pitferrane.
  - 5) Helen Caroline Hill, b. 1 Jan 1840
- 3) Mary Emily Elizabeth Halkett, b. 7 Sep 1811, m. 10 Jul 1839 Robert Henry Stewart Jackson, Captain 97th Regiment in Dunfermline. They had four sons and four daughters.

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## **SIR JOHN HALKETT**

**SIR JOHN HALKETT**, 7th Baronet of Pitferrane, a Commander in the Royal Navy, b. 15th January 1805, who married, 8th April 1831, Amelia Hood Conway, daughter of General Conway of the 53rd Regiment, she died 13 Feb 1880 in the Isle of Wight. He died at Southampton 4th August 1847, his wife Amelia died at Ryde Isle of Wight on 13 Feb 1880.

With issue -.

- 1) Peter Arthur who succeeded him.
- 2) George, b. 21 Sep 1839, d. 8 Feb 1858, age 18 at Lausanne, Switzerland d.s.p.
- 3) Wedderburn Halkett, b. 30 Oct 1844, d. 11 Dec 1853, 9 years.
- 4) Catherine, b. 1832, d. 1843 age 11 years.
- 5) Catherine Margaret, d. 1867, 5 years.

## **SIR PETER ARTHUR HALKETT**

**SIR PETER ARTHUR HALKETT**, the 8th and last Baronet of Pitferrane was born on 1 May 1834 in England, and died in 1904. He served in the 81st Regiment but later exchanged into the Black Watch for the Crimean War, and then to the 3rd Light Dragoons. By this time much of the estate had been disposed of over the years. The coal mining interests on the property had long been leased mainly to the Earl of Elgin, who had built the Charleston-Dunfermline wagon way and later railway across Pitferrane lands, not without a great deal of litigation.

Sir Peter Halkett, married 6th May 1856, his cousin Elizabeth Ann Hill, and had one son and five daughters -

- 1) Wedderburn Conway Halkett, b. 1st Feb 1857. Elstree, Herford, England, and served as Captain in the 79th Cameron Highlanders but died 23 Aug 1885 at Woolstone Hants of an illness contracted on the Nile expedition on 23rd August 1885. He had married Jessie Elizabeth Lempriere, daughter of Col. Arthur Reid Lempriere, Royal Engineers, and had one son -
  - 1) Arthur Wedderburn Halkett b. 1882, who died at Gibraltar October 1886 aged four years. Thus the male line of the Halkett Wedderburn of Pitferrane came to an end. Sir Peter Arthur Halkett died in 1904 but was survived by his daughters all of whom died unmarried.
- 2) Adelaide Francis Halkett, b. 13 April 1858, d. 19 Sep 1902, unmarried at Pitferrane.
- 3) Helen Margaret Halkett, b. 21 Sep 1859, d. 13 Jan 1925, unmarried at Pitferrane.
- 4) Katherine Margaret Halkett, b. 26 May 1861, d. 22 Jul 1867, a child at Pitferrane.
- 5) Madeline Halkett, b. 17th May 1868, d. 1 Sep 1951, unmarried at Pitferrane. She was an active member of the Holy Trinity Church in Dunfermline as attested by the following excerpt from the Parish Newsletter in 1931.

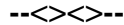
## The Crackit Tea-Pot

I had a crackit tea-pot,  
It wouldna haud ma tea,  
It was a bonnie tea-pot,  
It cost me one and three.  
I showed it to the Rector,  
"The very thing!" cried he,  
"I'll get it filled wi siller,  
And mony a baw-bee."  
He took it round the parish,  
A canny man was he,  
He got it filled wi money a pound,  
But no a pound o'tea  
So now, ma freends, tak' notice,  
If ye've got a crackit pot,  
Just fill it up wi baw-bees,  
It'll help the funds a lot.

---

6) Mabel Halkett, b. 17 May 1868 and d. 14 Jan 1941 at Pitfirrane.

Sir Peter's wife Elizabeth Ann Hill died 3 Jan 1931 age 93.



## THE DEATH OF SIR ARTHUR HALKETT.



(Dunfermline Press 12 March 1904)

We regret to record the death of Sir Peter Arthur Halkett of Pitfirrane, Bart., which occurred at his residence on Tuesday. The deceased baronet had been ill for some months.

He underwent an operation recently but his Dunfermline medical attendant, Dr P. S. Sturrock, did not hold out any hope of complete recovery. The demise of the distinguished patient was not therefore unexpected, although it was not any the less regretted on that account, for in the death of Sir Arthur there has passed away one of the most notable figures in the West of Fife.

Sir Arthur Halkett was born in 1834, and as the eldest son of the late Sir John Halkett he succeeded to the baronetcy in 1847. He was educated at Cheltenham College, and at the age of sixteen he received a commission in the 81st Regiment, which joined at Templemore in Ireland. His career was an eventful one. He served in the Crimean campaign, and had the distinction of carrying the Queen's Colours of the 42nd Highlanders at Alma, Balaclava, and Kertch. Some years ago we reproduced



from one of a series of articles in the *Fife Herald* a sketch of Sir Arthur's interesting history, and part of the story ten told will bare re-telling in its essential features.

In 1852, the 81st Regiment, which as stated, Sir Arthur joined in Ireland, was ordered to India, and Sir Arthur was transferred to the 42nd Royal Highlanders, which, on the declaration of war with Russia, embarked on the "Hydaspes" for Constantinople. On landing, the Highlanders were encamped on the Scutari side of the Golden Horn, close to the great Turkish Barracks, which afterwards became so famous as the hospital for our wounded from Sebastopol. The Regiment soon moved on through the Black Sea to Varna, where the Highland Brigade was formed under Sir Colin Campbell. When the time arrived for the British, French, and Turkish armies to embark for the Crimea, the 42nd were put on board the "Emu," an Australian liner. The Allied Armies disembarked on the shore of the Crimea, and the rigours of the campaign, aggravated by a terrible lack of preparation, at once made themselves felt. In the morning following their first dreary night in the Crimea, the 42nd attempted to make a meal out of the rations - biscuits, cold pork, and cocoa - which they carried in their haversacks; but the only water Sir Arthur was able to get was what was collected in the rut made by the wheel of a gun carriage.

On the morning of the 19th September the whole army - the British on the left, the Turks in the middle, and the French on the right next the sea - formed up and commenced the first march towards the enemy. The thirst produced during this march by the dust and the pollen from the grass became so insupportable that on arriving at the small river, Bulganak, the men of the leading divisions broke their ranks and rushed to plunge their faces in the water. "Sir Colin Campbell," said Sir Arthur Halkett in the interview said from which we are now quoting, "was furious at this breach of discipline, and so well was the Highland Brigade kept in hand that he marched to the bank of the stream, and not a man moved till the brigade was told off in companies to fill their water bottles." The wisdom of the General's discipline was speedily justified. Hardly had the Brigade formed up when the enemy's cavalry appeared and the first shot in the war was fired. "Our Horse Artillery and Light Cavalry," continued Sir Arthur, "drove them back with a few wounded, and this was the first collision with the enemy. We lay down that night in columns of companies as if on parade. The night was very dark and a dead silence prevailed. We could see on the heights a few miles in advance the fires of the Russian Army a long way inland. But the night passed quietly and at daybreak we were all standing in column. We fell out forward to get what breakfast we could before beginning the advance."

Then came on, 20th September 1854, the great battle of the Alma. The Russian forces, estimated at 45,000 to 50,000, were in command of Prince Menschikoff, who had chosen the most favourable position the country afforded. They were entrenched on the commanding crest of a ridge or amphitheatre of heights covered by artillery. The Light Division advanced to the attack supported by the First Division, which comprised the Highland Brigade, the Grenadier Guards, the Coldstream Guards, and the Scots Fusiliers. The action commenced five minutes before one o'clock afternoon, and a position that the enemy declared they could hold for weeks without assistance was taken amid terrible slaughter, and the enemy themselves sent flying to Sebastopol in three hours' time. The Highland Brigade passed through the Light Division, and confronted a battalion of Russians. In storming the centre battery, Highlanders advanced with fixed bayonets to the very guns without firing a musket. Sir Colin Campbell had his horse shot in front of the Colours of the 42nd, and the Queen's Colours were perforated by a couple of bullets in Lieut. Sir Arthur Halkett's hands.

Lord Raglan made special mention in his despatch of the "admirable order and steadiness" with which this gallant Brigade climbed up the high ground.

On the 23rd September, the Allied Army began its march on Sebastopol. The march at some stages was interrupted by a growth of dense brushwood, that compelled the men to halt every hundred yards while parties were sent forward to clear the way. On the 25th October came the battle of Balaclava, signalised for all time by the brilliant charge of the Light Brigade. Major Douglas Halkett, of the 4th Light Dragoons a cousin of Sir Arthur's, was killed in the charge. Balaclava was followed on Sunday, 5th November, by the terrific hand-to-hand fight at Inkerman - a battle in which the British, who only mustered 8000, was enormously outnumbered. It seemed as if the whole 60,000 Russians in the field were at times pitted against the British Force, and for hours the issue wavered in the balance. With the aid of the French artillery our soldiers eventually compelled the enemy to retire into Sebastopol, leaving thousands of their dead and dying on the field. The effect of this action was to teach the Allied Army that Sebastopol was not to fall without a prolonged struggle. Reinforcements and supplies had been poured into the town to an almost unlimited extent, and in the dreary protracted siege which this implied came the sorest trial of all to our worn-out-army. A Russian winter was approaching, with its rain and snow and biting cold, and our men had in turn to spend twenty-four hours at a stretch in the trenches. When the rain was heavy the boots of some of the soldiers were actually sucked off in the mud, and when they retired to their tents there was often no change of clothing. They had to lie down as they were, and take what sleep they could in their damp clothing. The elements were all in favour of the Russians. On 14th November, as Sir Arthur Halkett related, a great gale broke over the Crimea. "Not a tent was left standing, and most of the transports, including the large steamer 'Black Prince,' were wrecked with all the warm clothing and stoves for the troops." Scurvy broke out, and to add to the misery of the situation cholera also stalked abroad. Deaths from all causes were recorded at the rate of about 60 daily, while on the average 1000 men were disabled every week by fatigue and weakness.

"It was in circumstances like these that Sir Arthur Halkett took his turn at the trenches. "If it happened," he said, "to be a moonlight night, the Russians used to pick of the sentries and sometimes send fire-balls out to discover whereabouts we were, and then they would fire grape. One night when I was in command of the piquet in front of our part of the trenches, I was standing looking towards the harbour, and I saw upon the sky line in the misty moon-light what I took to be a hare coming in my direction. I thought I would try a cut at it with my sword, and just as I was preparing for it, I found it to be a round shot which came whizzing past me a few yards, of, and plunged into the trench behind, sending the gabions and earth up into the air." On another occasion, Sir Arthur had a sadder experience "One day," he says, "we were just being relieved of our turn in the trenches, and four of the soldiers were crowding round a Scotch newspaper which had been brought down from camp. I was congratulating myself that we had not had any wounded that turn, when, just as our relief appeared, a shell came over the trench and exploded, killing two of our men, and wounding the other two who were reading the paper."

Reference has been made already to the deficiency of the medical staff in the Crimea. Some of the very worst examples of the neglect of our wounded occurred in connection with the transport of these unfortunate men across the Black Sea to Scutari, and it was Sir Arthur's lot to be told off for one of the voyages. He was sent down with a batch of 350 wounded on board the *Melbourne*, and with only one doctor on board for all these sufferers. A violent gale arose, and the wounded, who had been

laid on deck, rolled from one side to the other with the tossing of the ship. Bandages and splints came off, and the deck resembled a shambles.

In the end of May 1855, an expedition was sent to Kertch on the south-east corner of the Crimea. The garrison at Sebastopol was receiving large quantities of grain and forage from Kertch, and the object of the expedition was to take the town by surprise and burn the granaries. Three Highland and three French regiments composed the fore to whom this undertaking was intrusted, and Sir Arthur was with the Highlanders. They arrived at Kertch very early in the morning, and landing on the beach, found that the enemy was retreating. The inhabitants of the town, had not had time to leave, and the Highlanders and their French allies passed through the principal streets. Among the houses the Highlanders marched past was a young ladies school. Some one kissed his hand to the damsels looking out of the windows, whereupon one of them threw what proved to be a little, cloth doll, which Sir Arthur took possession of and afterwards preserved as one of the mementoes of his Crimean days.

Throughout the whole Crimean campaign, Sir Arthur made a sufficient number of narrow escapes. On one occasion, however, he was a month in the hospital ill with fever; and on another, he was hit on the right ear by a quantity of stones raised by a shell that landed a few yards from where he was standing.

Peace came at last in 1856, and Sir Arthur then exchanged to the 3rd King's Own Light Dragoons and joined at Hounslow. In May of the same year he married Miss Eliza Hill, the eldest daughter of Col Hill, of the 52nd Regiment, and grand-daughter of Admiral Sir Peter Halkett. Their only son, Captain Wedderburn Halkett, served with the 79th Cameron Highlanders in the Egyptian Campaign of 1884-5, and being invalided home died near Southampton in August 1885.

After serving four years with the Dragoons, Sir Arthur took up his residence at Pitfirrane. In 1860 he was appointed Captain-Commandant of the Dunfermline Troop of the Fife Mounted Rifles, or Fife Light Horse, and continued for fifteen years, retiring with the rank of Colonel on 18th May 1888. He was appointed Honorary Colonel of the Regiment in 1895. He was one of the Special Embassy to Madrid in February 1898 to attend the marriage of the King of Spain.

Sir Arthur possessed the following decorations: - The Crimean medal, with three clasps for "Alma," "Balaclava," and "Sebastopol;" the Turkish military medal the Sardinian war medal; the Volunteer Decoration, and "the Royal Order of Isabel la Catolica" of Spain.

## THE FUNERAL

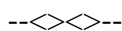
The remains of the deceased Baronet were interred in Dunfermline Abbey Churchyard yesterday. Shortly before two o'clock the coffin was conveyed from Pitfirrane to the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Viewfield Place, where an impressive service was conducted by the Rector, the Rev. G. Ernest Day. While the congregation was assembling, Mr W. H. Morsen played on the organ the pathetic music of Mendelssohn's "O Rest in the Lord." Borne into the church on the shoulders of eight sergeants of the permanent staff of the Royal Garrison Artillery, the coffin, upon which were prominently displayed among numerous wreaths the sword and helmet of the Crimean veteran, was placed on supports in front of the chancel steps. Behind the coffin-bearers walked the chief mourners - Lady Halkett; Miss Helen Margaret Halkett, Miss Madeline Halkett, Miss Mabel Halkett (daughters); Miss Hill

(sister of Lady Halkett); Mrs R. Hill (sister-in-law); and Colonel R. Hill and Colonel F. Hill (Lady Halkett's brothers). Immediately in the rear, and appropriately imparting a military aspect to the obsequies, came Colonel A. G. Daff, Commanding Officer of the Black Watch, who was accompanied by Major Rose Captain S., II Eden, and Captain F.M. B. Robertson, of the same regiment: Colonel Boothby, Capts. Norman and Kavanagh, and Lt. Simson. When the mourners had taken their seats, the Rector proceeded with the service of the Anglican Prayer Book. At the conclusion of the lesson during the reading of which many of the mourners were moved to tears, the organist played "The Dead March" in Saul. The service lasted about fifteen minutes.

A large crowd of people witnessed the departure of the cortege from the church, and the streets traversed on the journey to the churchyard were lined with spectators, the hearse and carriages, of which there were upwards of twenty, including private vehicles, proceeding by way of East Port Street, High Street, Guildhall Street, and St Margaret's Street. Inside the churchyard, which was entered by the east gate, nearly a thousand people had taken up positions as near the graveside as was permissible, and it being the factory dinner hour the number of spectators was considerably augmented as the coffin was lowered into the grave, which is situated on the recently-sold portion of ground in the south part of the churchyard. The Rev. Mr Day performed the concluding portion of the service at the graveside. The pall-bearers were - Colonel R. Hill, Colonel F. Hill, Colonel Sir Ralph Anstruther of Balcaskie; Colonel Duff, Black Watch; Colonel Sir John Gilmour of Montrave; Mr Georg Younger of Valleyfield; Colonel Boothby, Sir Andrews and Mr T. Harry Erskine of Grangemuir.

In addition to the wreaths on the coffin, a waggonette was requisitioned to convey those sent by personal friends and acquaintances, particularly costly and beautiful floral symbols being placed on the grave by the deceased baronet's wife and daughters, Miss Hill, who has long resided with the family at Pitferrane, and Sir John Gilmour of Montrave. Beside those already mentioned, there also paid their last tribute of respect to Sir Arthur the following gentlemen: - Captain Jack Gilmour, Montrave; Sheriff Gillespie; Colonel Dewar of Lassodie; Dr John Ross, Dunfermline; Mr J. S. Soutar, Procurator-Fiscal for west Fife; Mr Laurence Johnston of Sauds; Dr Sturrock, Dunfermline; Mr William Beveridge, solicitor, Dunfermline; Mr Charles H. Beveridge of Crombie; Mr James Glen, merchant, Dunfermline; Canon Bruce Dunimarie; Mr Andrew J. Wilson, representative of the Black Watch Association (of which the late Sir Arthur was President); Erskine Beveridge, St Leonard's Hill, Dunfermline; Mr A. . Smith-Sligo of Inzievar; Mr Sam Davison, band agent, Dunfermline; the Rev. Robertj Stevenson, Dunfermline; Mr George Robertson, Abbey Park Place, Dunfermline; and Mr W. M. Stewart St Colme. In consequence of slight indisposition, Lord Elgin was unable to be present.

The funeral arrangements were conducted by Mr James Philp and Mr John Goodall. It is understood that, in accordance with the desire expressed by the deceased baronet, the wood with which the coffin was made was prepared from one of the valuable trees grown on Pitferrane Estate.

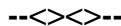




AT PITFIRANE



*Sir Peter Arthur Halkett Bart, 1900 reunion with members of his Regiment, the 42nd Highlanders (The Black Watch), who served with him in the Crimean War; Sir Peter is fifth from the right in the front row*



## DUNFERMLINE ABBEY CHURCHYARD

Lair Number 838

By John F. and Sheila Mitchell

Pitfirran family; from 14th century buried in the adjacent burying ground; removed 1818 and placed near here; Sir Peer Halkett, 1st baronet 1745, 85 years, wife Lady Halkett; Sir Peter Halkett 2nd baronet and his youngest son Jas Killed in action 1755, widow Lady Amelia; Sir John Halkett 4th baronet 1793, wife 1803 63 years, daughters Mary, Amelia; and Cath. since 1818; Sir Chars Halkett 5th baronet 1837, 72 years, Sir Peter 6th baronet, GCH Adm 1839, 74 years; not buried here. Sir Peter 3rd baronet 1779; John Governor Bahamas, 1852, 83 years; Sir Alex KVCB Gen 1851, Henry 1818; Thomas 1801; Eliz 1850, 92 years, wife of Marquis de Lally, Tollendal French Peer; Sholto Charlotte 1853, wife of (1) General Pringle, (2) Stewart Inglis Esq; Margt 184(0) 83 years; Janet . . & Helen 1867 91 years, children of Sir John Halkett 4th baronet; Jane 1857, 51 years, daughter of Sir Peter and wife of Captain R. (B.) Hill, 50th Infantry; Sir John Lausanne 1853, 19 years, Wedderburn, 1853, 9 years, children of the above; Kath Margt, 1867, 5 years, daughter of Sir Peter Arthur Halkett, baronet; Amelia Hood Conway, widow of Sir John Halkett, 7th baronet died Ryde, Isle of Wight, 13.2.1880; Wedderburn Conway Halkett, Captain 79 Cameron Highlanders, born 1.1.1857, died Woolstone Hants, 23.8.1885, only son of Sir Arthur Halkett, baronet, his only child Arthur Wedderburn died, Camberley, Surrey, 15.10.1886, 4 years; Adelaide Frances Halkett, born 13.4.1858, died Pitfirrane, 19.9.1903; Jane Margt Hill, died, Pitfirrane 8.1.1920, 81 years, grand-daughter of Admiral Sir Peter Arthur Halkett; Sir Arthur Halkett, baronet DL JP late 42nd Highlanders & 23rd light dragoons 8th & last baronet of Pitfirrane born 21.5.1834, died Pitfirrane, 8.3.1904; Helen Margt Halkett, 13.1.1925, 65 years; Eliza Anna, 13.1.1931, 93 years, wife of Sir Peter Arthur Halkett, baronet; Mabel Halkett, 14.1.1941, 72 years; Madeline Halkett, 1.9.1951, 89 years, which brings to the end of the family of Halkett of Pitfirrane - possessed Ballingall and Lowfennan in reign of David III and acquired its first third of Pitfirren in 1399 (The Scottish Nation) (Jervise 1134; Chalmers II 300)





# DUNFERMLINE ABBEY NAVE



The Halketts of Pitfirrane Tomb Stones.

I would like to give thanks to Duncan McNaughton, my long term friend and colleague he was a founder member of the Scottish Genealogy Society and who visited and researched the Pitfirrane house many years ago and passed his research onto me. Also thanks to the late Fred Halkett in America who corresponded with me for many years, sending material back and forward, Fred's contribution and encouragement with other Halketts has to be acknowledged. Thanks also to Jean Halkett Swift who also worked with Fred and helped pulled a lot of the material together. There are so many people over the years to thank please forgive me if I do not mention your name. I would thank is Jim Yeats, for checking over material for me.

For many years I have picked up source material on the Halkett family from Register House Edinburgh (Scotlands People), National Library of Scotland, Family Papers, Register of Deeds, Register of Sasines, from other local Archives, Dunfermline Carnegie Library and correspondence from Halkett's from north south east and west.

There are still many Halkett's locally and elsewhere who have not been connected to date. Further research in all aspects can be followed up. Any Halketts who are connected and not mentioned, we would like to hear from you.

There are many articles in the 'House Sale' which are fascinating, it would be good to hear from anyone who has an informant purchase with a crest or... etc.

Family Branch Two, has been recorded by Paul Heerbrant, Belgium, and Maurice Tilmans, Bruxelles. We look forward to sometime in the future on this Branch going on the web.

Sheila Pitcairn F.S.A. Scot, L. H. G.  
Retired golfer, Crossford.

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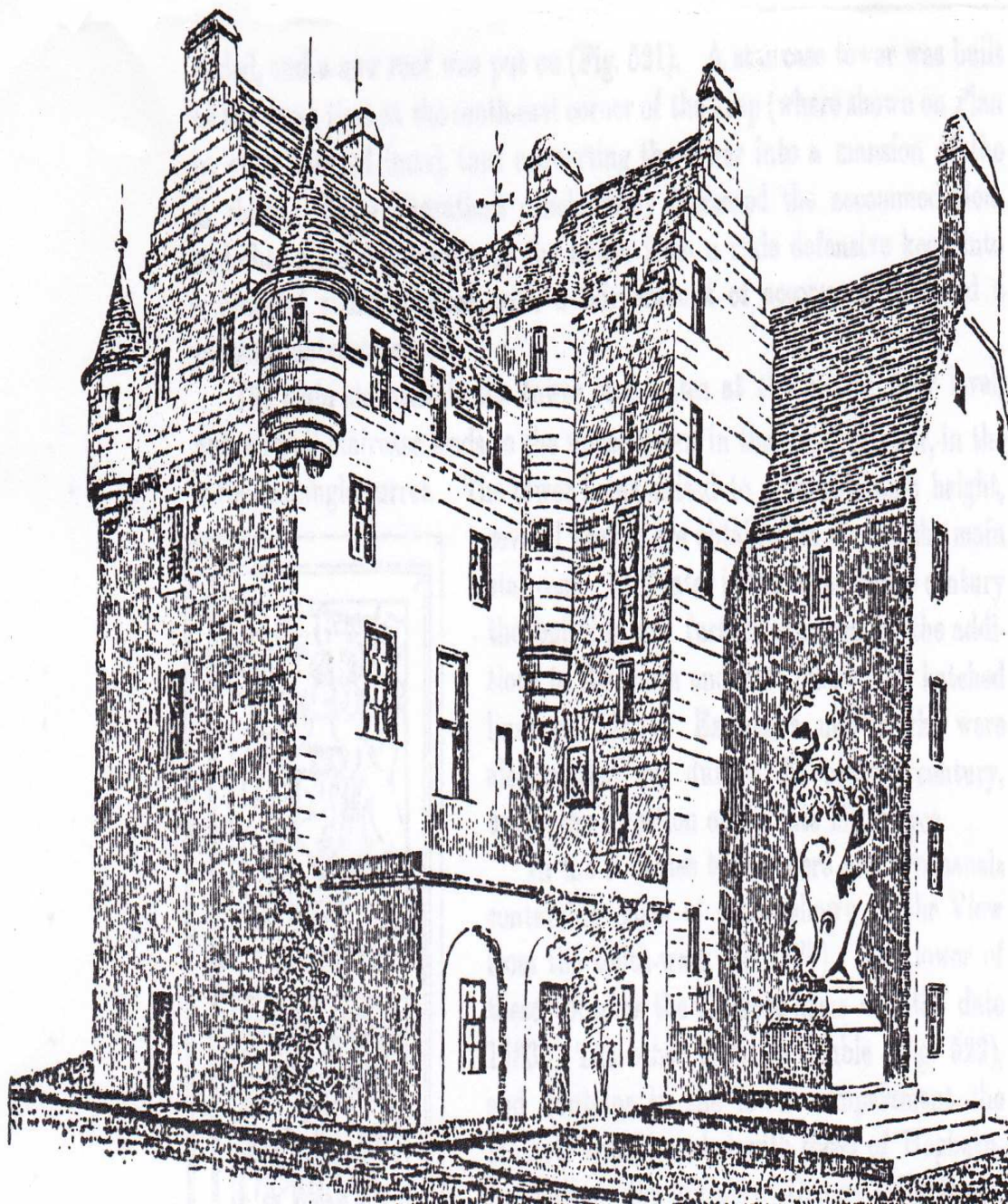
# PITFIRrane CASTLE

## THE ARCHITECTURE OF SCOTLAND

by

David MacGibbon and Thomas Ross

Vol.3.p. 572 Vol. 5 p. 558, 450, 392.

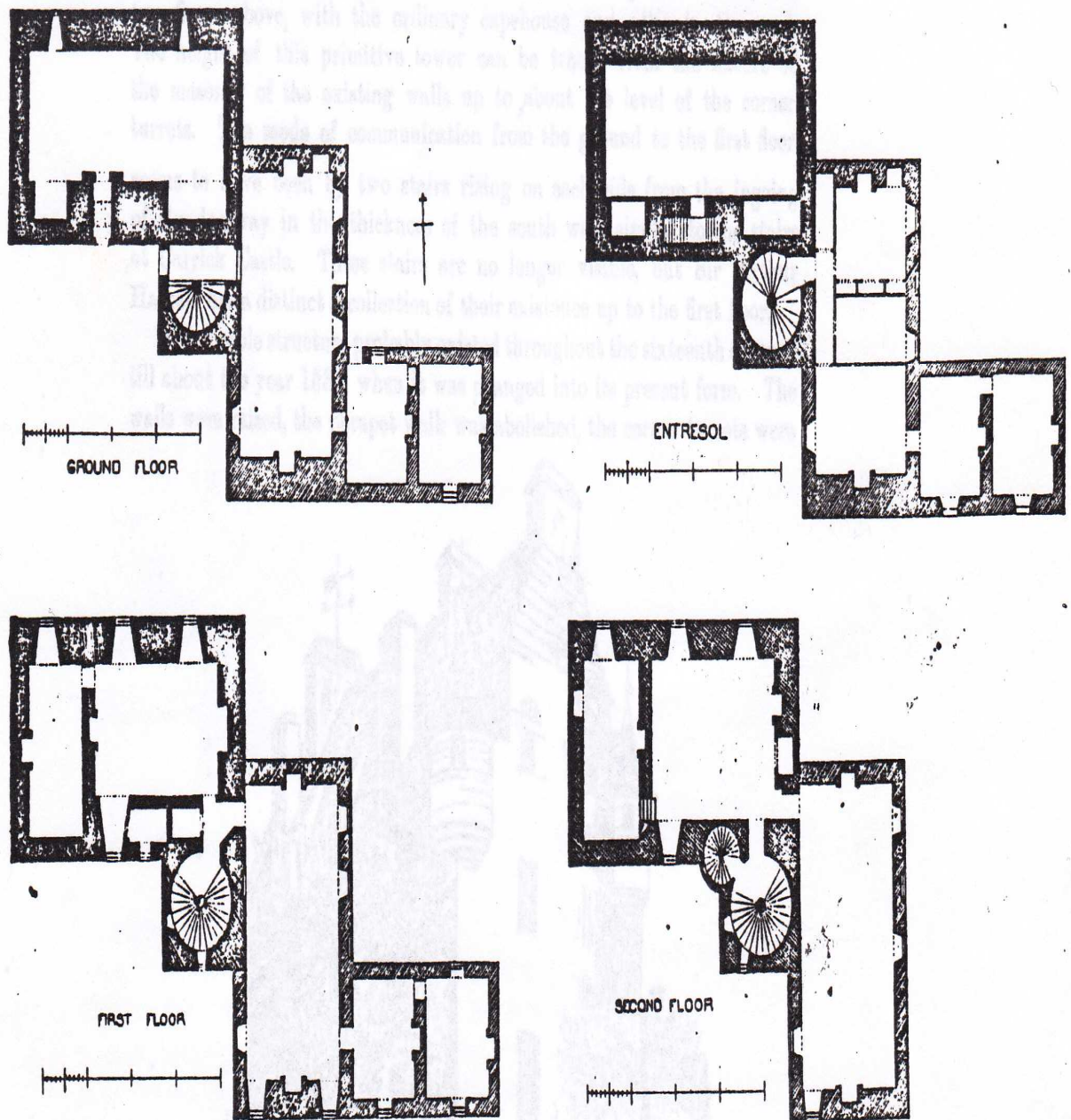


View from South West. (Fig. 520).



A castle situated about two miles west from Dunfermline, in a fine undulating park studded with ancient trees. The structure is in a good state of preservation, having always remained in a habitable condition. At one time it made a very narrow escape from destruction by alterations.

His Arthur Halket (the proprietor) has in his possession plans prepared by an architect about the end of last century or beginning of this, which if carried into effect would have utterly ruined the old house. Another set of plans for additions to the mansion also exist, which were probably prepared in the seventeenth century, and are of considerable merit, but were never carried out. Independently of them abortive attempts, however, Pitfirrane has in its time undergone very considerable alterations.



Pitfirrane Castle Plan (prepared in 1811)

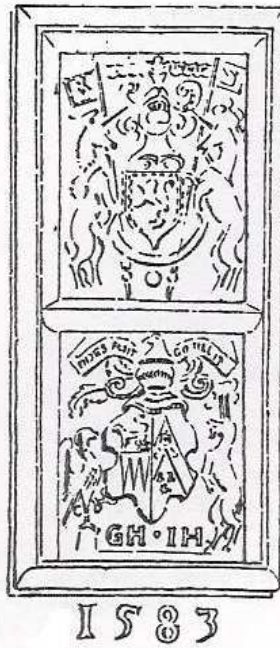
From the evidence presented by the building it would appear that originally this castle was a simple oblong in plan, having battlements round the top with parapet and walk, and consisted internally of the usual ground floor vault (containing an entresol) and two floors above, with the ordinary capehouse and attic in the roof. The height of the primitive tower can be traced from the nature of the masonry of the existing walls up to about the level of the corner turrets. The mode of communication from the ground to the first floor seems to have been by two stairs rising on each side from the ingoing of the doorway in the thickness of the south wall, similar to the stairs at Carrick Castle. These stairs are no longer visible, but Sir Arthur Halket has a distinct recollection of their existence up to the first floor.

This simple structure probably existed throughout the sixteenth century till about the year 1583, when it was changed into its present form. The walls were raised, the parapet walk was abolished, the corner turrets were added, and a new roof was put on (Fig. 521). A staircase tower was built at the same time at the south-east corner of the keep (where shown on Plan by cross hatched lines), thus converting the tower into a mansion of the L. shape. These alterations considerably increased this accommodation, and changed the character of the house from a rude defensive keep into a peaceful mansion-house, with a fair amount of accommodation and a pleasant external aspect.

The main staircase in the tower terminates at the second floor level, and a small staircase leads to the upper floors, in the usual manner, in the corbelled angle turret. The tower being raised to a considerable height, several stories are obtained in it over the main staircase. Still later in the seventeenth century the building was further enlarged by the additions to the south and east (shown by hatched lines on Plan). Extensive new works were also, carried out during the present century, under the direction of the late Mr Bryce.

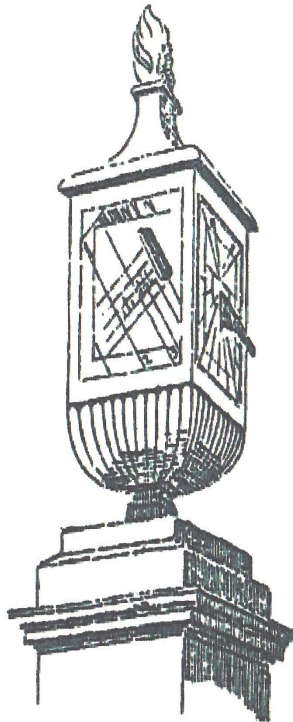
In the staircase tower there are two panels containing coats of arms (shown in the view from the south-west, (Fig 522), and contains in the lower compartment the Halkett arms, impaled with those of Hepburn. Beneath are the initials of George Halkett and Isabel Hepburn (of the Waughton Family), his wife, with the mottoes of their respective families above, viz., "*Fides sufficit*" and "*Go till it.*"





Halkett and Hepburn Arms

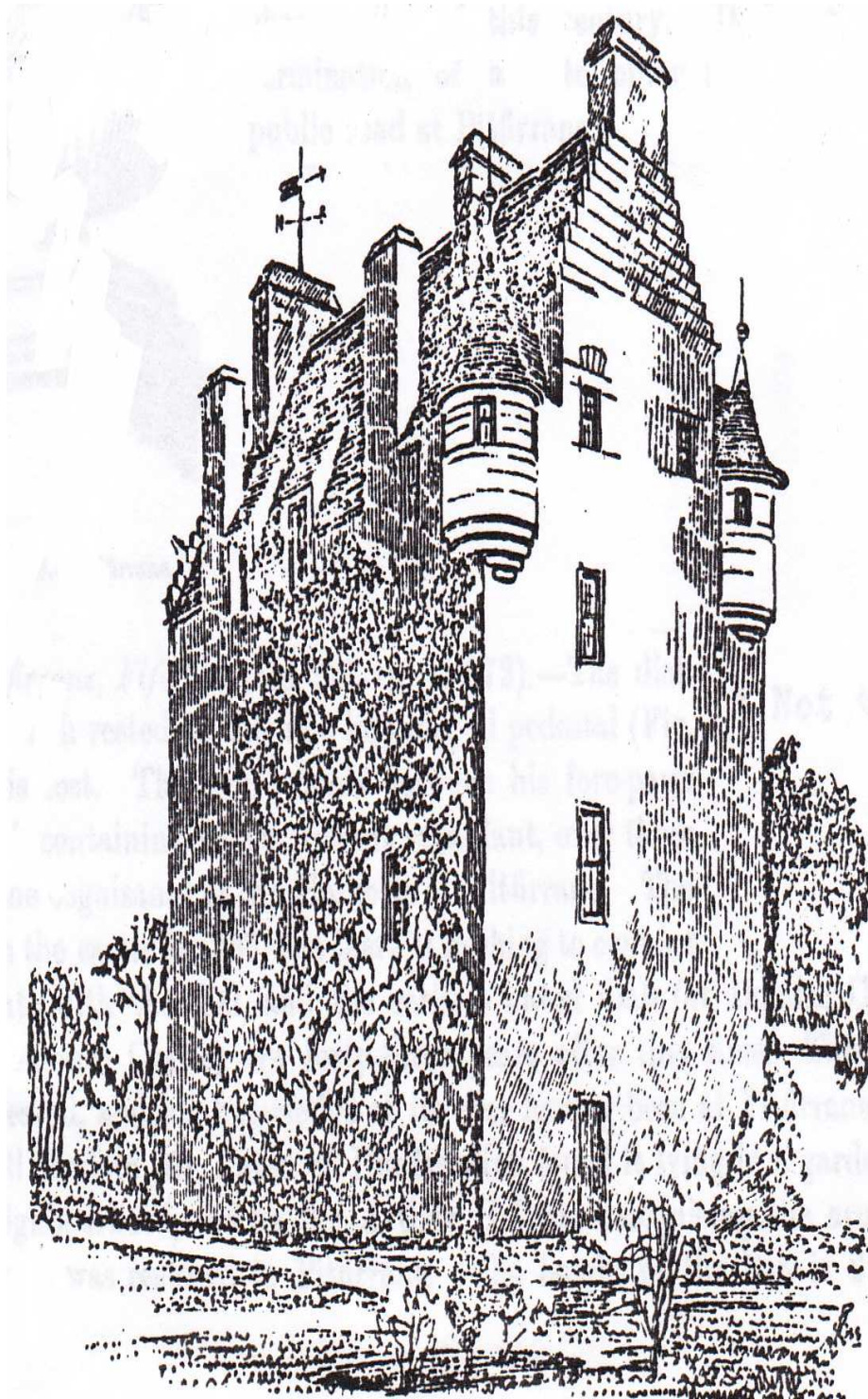
The marriage occurred in 1576, and it is most likely th the alterations above described as having taken place about 1583 were executed under the said George Halkett and his wife.



A well shaped dial of this century. It forms the termination of a gate pillar adjoining the Public road at Pitfirrane. (Fig. 1545).  
Architecture of Scotland V.5 p.392.

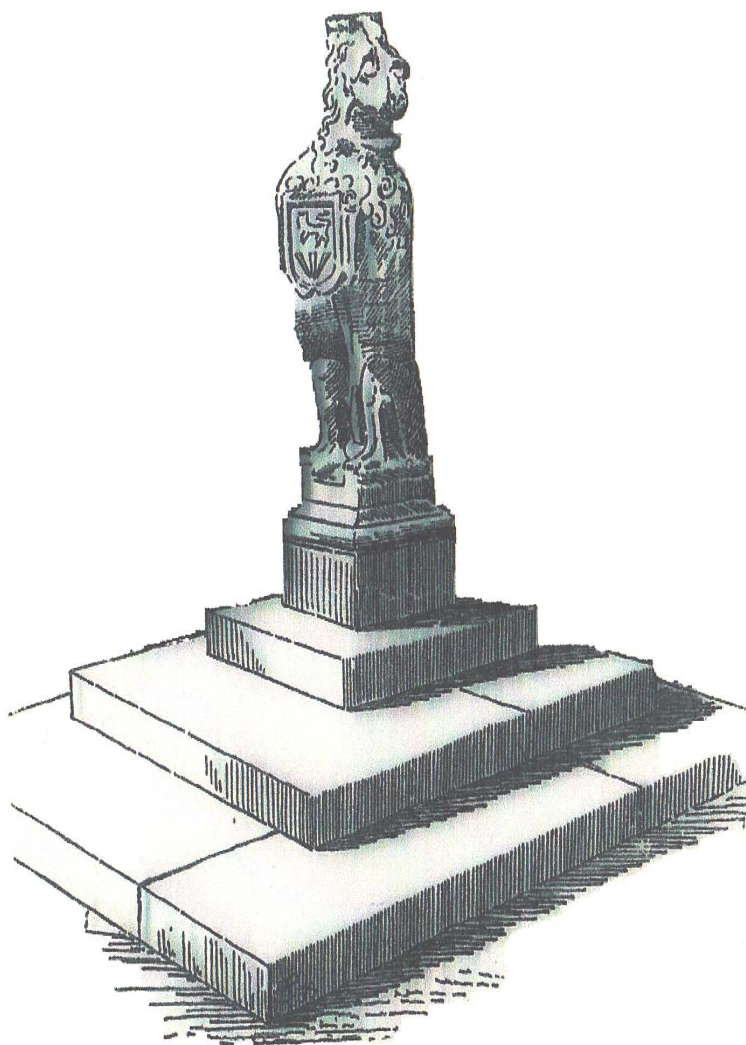


## PITFIRrane CASTLE



View from North West. (Fig.521).

## PITFIRRANE SUN DIAL



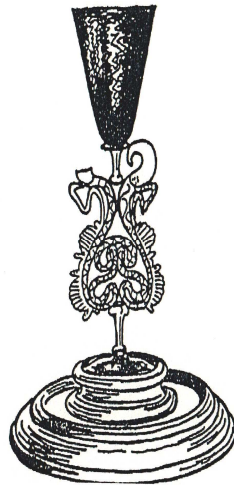
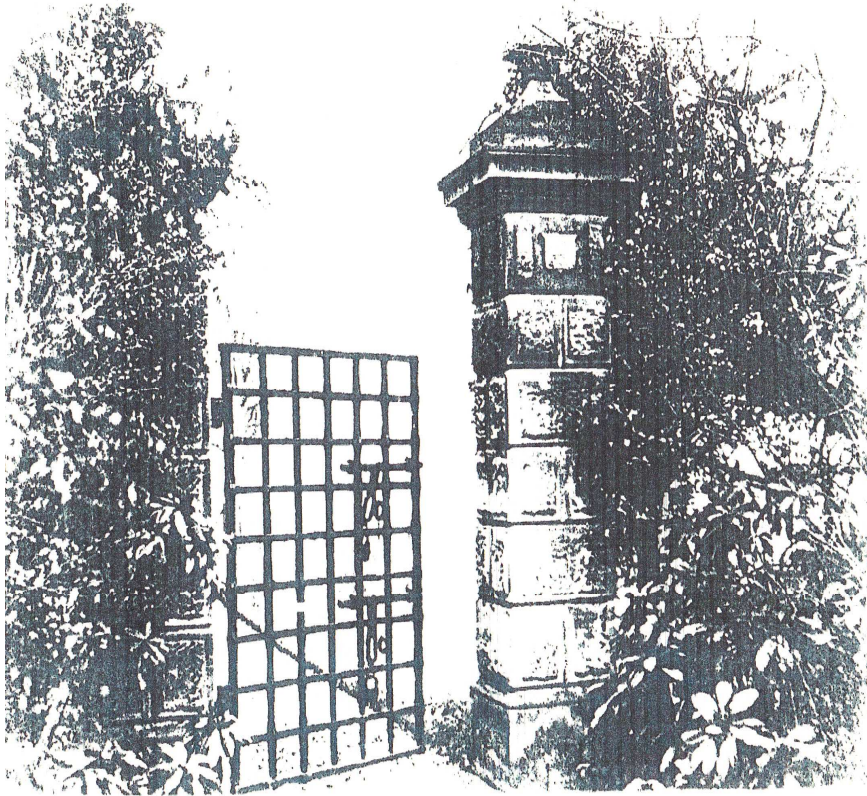
The dial-stone which rested on the fine lion-shaped pedestal (Fig.1625) is lost. The figure holds between his fore-paws a shield, containing a lion passant regardant, over three piles, the cognisance of the Halketts of Pitferrane. The date on the castle is 1580, but there is nothing to connect this date with the dial, and the earliest date dials (at Dundas Castle and Kenmure Castle) are forty-three years after this time. This dial disappeared, and all knowledge of its ever having been at Pitferrane was lost, till the late Mr Paton of Dunfermline found it lying in a garden in the neighbourhood, and on Sir Arthur Halkett recognizing the arms as his own it was restored at Pitferrane. The height of the lion is 2 feet 6 inches, and including the base 3 feet 3½ inches; breadth of base, 12½ inches; breadth across shield, 9½ inches.

Pitferrane Castle, - *The Castellated & Domestic Architecture of Scotland from 12th to the 18th century* by David MacGibbon & Thomas Ross 1892. Vol. V p.451

*Note* - The Lion was found in pieces in Comley Park the sun dial was missing, but was found in the House itself, Bob De Rose kept it safe. The sun dial has been replaced complete in the grounds near the House for all to see.



## PITFIRrane GATE



Presented by James VI to the Halkett family before he left for London  
as James I of Great Britain  
Original in the Nation Gallery of Scotland, a copy in Abbot House.



## MEMORIALS OF 17TH CENTURY DUNFERMLINE

by

NORMAN M. JOHNSON, B.SC., F.R.B.E.

Dunfermline Journal c. 1941.



Pitfirrane House.

Pitfirrane or Pitferren, says Chalmers, is derived from the Gaelic pit, a hollow, and feasan, land; - the hollow of the land.

The family of Halket is the most ancient in the parish and has had many members "eminent for their public services and private worth." It does not seem definitely known as to when the family settled in Fife, but David de Halket, who owned the lands of Lumphennans and Ballingall (i.e., Lumphinnans and Ballingry), lived in the



14th century. His son Philip, who lived in the reign of Robert II and III, acquired the third part of the lands of Pitfirrane from a cousin, William Scott of Balwearie (near Kirkcaldy), in 1399. From the printed edition of the Chartulary of Dunfermline 'it appears that these lands were originally gifted to the Abbot of Dunfermline II in 1360.

The first members of the family to be knighted were the two sons of the George Halket who lived in the reigns of Queen Mary and King James VI. The elder of the sons, Sir Robert, was served heir in the lands of Pitfirrane in 1595. He was succeeded by his son, Sir James Halket, "who appears to have been deeply engaged with the Covenanters in the reign of Charles I." Sir James was succeeded by his son, Sir Charles, born in 1639, and the first of the family to become a baronet.

Sir Charles had seven daughters, the second of whom married Sir Harry Wardlaw of Pitreavie in 1696. This lady is usually reputed to be the authoress of the ballad entitled "Hardy Knute," and it appears possible that she was also responsible for the familiar ballad of "Sir Patrick Spens."

Sir Walter Scott was conversant with "Hardy Knute." Indeed it is said that he wrote the following on a leaf of Allan Ramsay's "Tea-table Miscellany" - "Hardy Knute" was the first poem that I ever learnt - the last that I shall forget." The ballad was first published in 1719 and a second edition followed in 1740. It commemorates the battle of Largs. The following is only one of many stanzas: -

"The King of Norse in Summer Tide,  
Puff'd up with Pow'r and Might,  
Landed in fair *Scotland*, the Isle,  
With many a hardy Knight.  
The tidings to our good *Scots* king  
Came as he sat at Dine;  
With Noble chiefs in brave Array,  
Drinking the bluid-red Wine.

A Sir Peter Halket who was a Member of Parliament for the burgh of Dunfermline, in 1734 with a distinguished military career. In 1754 he embarked for America in command of an infantry regiment and fell, with his young son James in the Fort du Quesne in action under Braddock, in 1755.

Another Sir Peter been Admiral of the Red, and at a time was in command of North American Station.

Chalmers (1844) says the family still preserve some memories of their intimacy and familiarity with royalty and mentions particularly a dark-coloured drinking cup out of which James VI drank wine and water when he stayed at Pitreavie House en route to the South to take possession of the English throne.

## Charters and Deeds.

It is said that one part of the ancient family of Halket can be traced to one Constantine of Lochor (i.e. Lochore) who lived in the 13th century. To his son Adam, who appears to have been Sheriff of Perth, he granted the lands of Lumfilan (i.e. Lumphinnans), and this grant was confirmed by Alexander III. This charter says Chalmers, "beautifully written on vellum, with the great seal of Scotland appended, is still in fine preservation at Pitferrane House." It is dated 1277.

Among other papers, such as letters and deeds, also preserved, Chalmers makes mention of the following: -

1. A letter from James VI, to the Laird of Pitferrane "to attend him with his friends, servants, and dependents at Stirling," and "to assist him in feir of weave (array of war) with nobles and others." The letter was countersigned by George Buchanan, Keeper of the Privy Seal, and also preceptor to his Majesty, then a youth. Actually the letter begins - "Truist friend we greit zow weill," and concludes: "Thus we commit zow to God frome our castell of Striveling the xxviiij day of July, 1578."
2. "A warrant by Queen Mary to the treasurer to desist from craving our silver platis resting in his handes, fra our servitour Mr George Hacket." The date is 19th Sept 1568. The word Regina appears at the top, and Marie R. at the left corner.
3. License from James VI, to George Halkeid of Petferran to return from his host. Dated at Stirling Castle, 1st Nov. 1585.
4. Charter by Ann of Denmark, Lady of Dunfermline, to Henry Wardlaw of Balmule, of the lands of Balmule. This was "dated at Halirudous 3 March 1603.  
A long deed of Queen Anne, as Lady of Dunfermline, on vellum.
5. License by Mary to Patrick Hakket of Pitfyran to sele the "Smydde coal and transported the same out of the Kingdom." Dated 2nd July 1565.
6. License or passport by Queen Elizabeth to the Commendator of Dunfermline to return from England to Scotland. Dated 31 May 1570.
7. Chalmers also mentions letters from the Marquis of Argyle, and Sir John Cope, and no fewer than about 200 letters of Lord Lovat, covering a period of twenty-seven years (1716-1743).

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# Romantic Pitfirrane

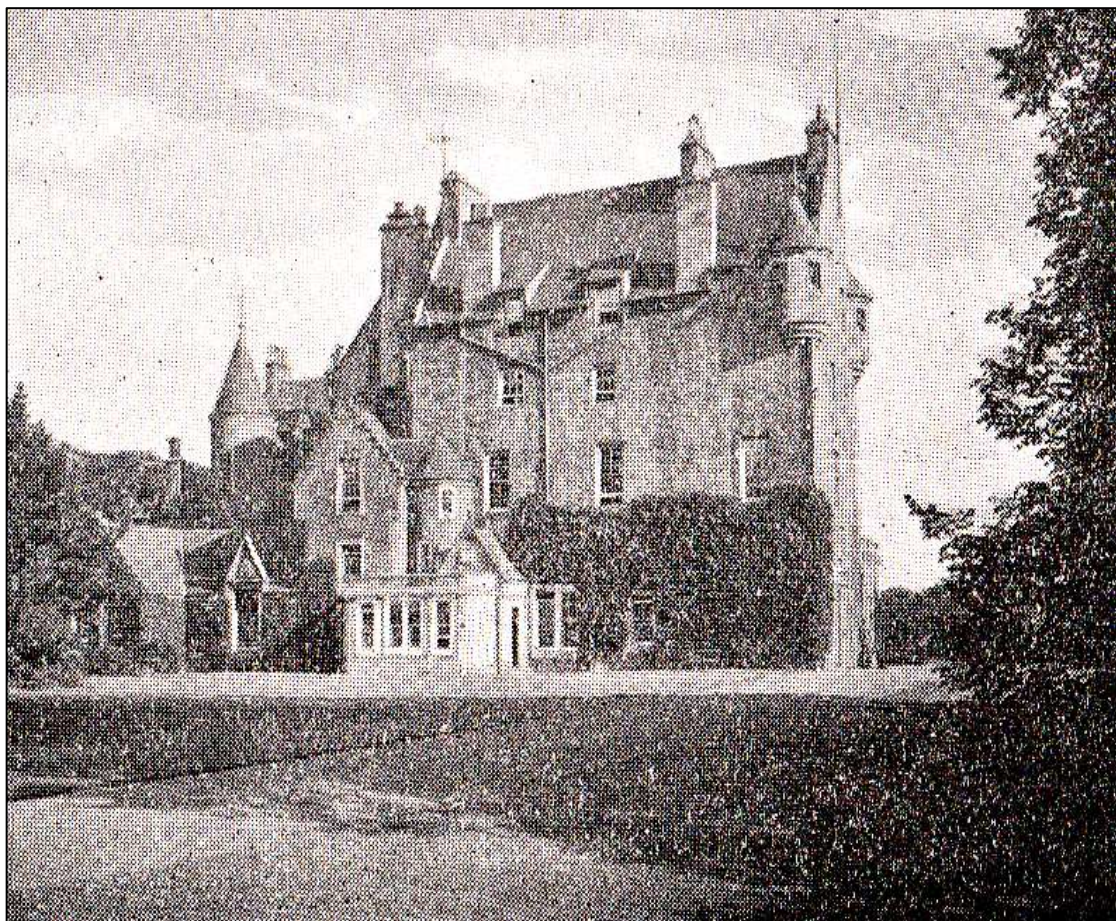
The South-West Fringes of  
Dunfermline Parish.

by  
Andrew S. Cunningham

## Pitfirrane Castle and the Halkett Family.

Pitfirrane grounds form the south-western fringes of the parish of Dunfermline. The castle is pleasantly situated in a pretty park, in which there are many trees of ancient growth. The home dates as far back as 1437.

The original building was simple in its construction; but in 1573 the walls were raised, and a staircase tower and corner turrets added.



Pitfirrane Castle

In the staircase tower we have the arms of the Halkett family, with the date 1583, and the arms of Scotland before the Union. Pitfirrane has been in the hands of the Halkett family since the fourteenth century. The first of the family found to be designed by the title of Pitfirrane was David de Hakett. He is styled in a discharge from Henry Wardlaw, Bishop of St Andrews, dated 13th August 1420. "A nobleman Davy Halkett, his cousing, Lord Balmungie." John Halkett was killed in the Battle of Fallside in 1547. The extensions were made on the castle by George Halkett, who

was appointed Provost of Dunfermline in 1584. Just a year after his appointment to the Provostship Mr Halkett had a some-what peculiar experience. The pest was raging throughout Scotland in 1585, and Dunfermline being reported clear of the scourge, order were given to convene the General Assembly in the ancient city. The brethren repaired from all parts of the country to Dunfermline on the 23rd November, but they found on their arrival that the forts of the town were closed against the ecclesiastical visitors, Provost Halkett alleging that he had the King's express command to prevent the meeting. The brethren met in the fields and there agreed to assemble at Linlithgow before the time of Parliament. The following note on the incident appeared in Melville's Diary: -

"About the end of November 1585 warning was made, according to the order of the Kirk, be the last Moderator athort the country, to the brethren to "conveen" in General Assembly (conform to custom before the Parliament) at Dunfermline, na vther meit town being free of the pest. The brethren frequentlie furth of all parts resorting thither the ports of the town was closit vpon them be the Provost or the time, the Laird of Pitfirren, alleging he had the King's command so to do; therefore, the brethren commending that wrang to God, the righteous Judge convenit sa mony as might in the fields, and comforting themselves mutually in God, appointed to meet in Linlithgow certain days before the Parliament. But God within few years peyit that laird and provost his hire for that piece of service, when, for the halding out of His servants from keiping His Assemblie in that own. He made his awin house to spew him out; for on a day in the morning he was fallen out of a window by a melancholy despair casing himself, or by violence of unkynd guest lodged within, God knaws; for being taken ump his speech was not so se sible as to declare it, but within few hours after deit."

Two sons of George Halkett were knighted by James IV - Robert and John. Sir Robert was succeeded by Sir James Halkett who was knighted by Charles I at Dalkeith on 14th June 1633. He was member of Parliament for Fifeshire in 1649 and about this time was appointed to inquire into the state of the fortifications on Inchgarvie. His second wife was Anne daughter of Mr Thomas Murray, the Provost of Eton, and preceptor to Charles I. She was a woman of great ability, and was the authoress of a great many religious works. Sir James died in 16170, and between this date and the date of her death his widow spent a good deal of time in the Abbot House, Dunfermline, in which she died. Sir James was succeeded by his son, Sir Charles, who was created a baronet of Nova Scotia by Charles II on 25th January 1662. He was Provost of Dunfermline from 1678 to 1683, and was returned to Parliament for Fifeshire in 1681. He was member of the Scottish Parliament for the Burgh of Dunfermline in 1689, and was elected one of the Commissioners on the Union question. Sir Charles died on 21st October 1697, and his remains were interred in Dunfermline Abbey. His funeral was attended by the Provost Magistrates and Town Council of the city. The second of Sir Charles' seven daughters was married to Sir Henry Wardlaw of Pitreavie. She was the authoress of the fine old ballad entitled "Hardyknute." The MS. of this ballad is in the charter chest of Pitfirrane. Sir Walter Scott says: - "Hardyknute was the first poem I ever learnt - the last I shall ever forget." Sir Charles' son Sir James, was the appointed Provost of Dunfermline in October 1700, and represented Dunfermline in Parliament from 1702 till 1705. He was killed by being thrown by his horse against a tree within the Pitfirrane policies. He was unmarried, and was succeeded in the estate by his sister Janet, who married Sir Peter Wedderburn of Gosford who assumed the name of Halkett of Pitfirrane. It is therefore the Gosford baronetcy that is now running. On



25th June - just three months after the death of his brother-in-law - Sir Peter was appointed Provost of Dunfermline, and also succeeded his brother-in-law as the representative of Dunfermline in the Scottish Parliament. The Town Council was "literally opposed to Union." On 4th November 1706 they elected "ye deacon convener" to convey a letter to Sir Peter instructing him to vote against the Union. The deacon was called upon to wait "ane answer," and the terms of the answer are indicted in the following minute:- "6th November 1706 - This day the Counsell having got a letter frae Sir Peter that he was content to give in ane address frae the Counsell to the Parliament against ye Union, and yr for ye Counsell ordain an address to be drawn up to be presented to ye Parliament, and commissioned ye clerk to go over and deliver it to Sir Peter, and to wait on till ye address he presented." Sir Peter, presented the address in ordinary course, but he voted for the Union. The vote gave great offence in Dunfermline; but strange to say the Council at the first election following the union of hearts re-appointed Sir Peter as Provost. Perhaps the city folks had a feeling that after all, the Union might not be a bad thing for "Old Scotland." Sir Peter sat in the first Parliament of Great Britain (1707-8), and for many years continued to take a lively interest in the municipal affairs of the city of Dunfermline. Sir Peter died on 20th March 1746, and was succeeded by his eldest son of the same name, who represented the Stirling District of Burghs in Parliament from 1734 to 1741. Sir Peter was a Lieutenant-Colonel in Lee's Regiment at the battle of Gladsmuir, where Sir John Cope was defeated in 1745. He was taken prisoner at Gladsmuir by the troops of Prince Charles Edward, and was released. Having been released on parole, he refused to rejoin his regiment when commanded by he Duke of Cumberland, replying that His Royal Highness was master of his commission, but not of his honour, and his plucky action was affirmed by Parliament.

He embarked for America as a Colonel of the 44th Regiment, and with his youngest son James he fell in the battle with the French and Indians on the river Monongahala under General Braddock. All the sons of Sir Peter having died unmarried, the estate of Pitfirrane and the baronetcy descended on the decease of the eldest of them in 1779 to his nephew Sir John Wedderburn of Gosford, who assumed the name of Halkett. Sir John was a captain in the Army, and served the capture of the island of Guadaloupe in 1759. He died at Pitfirrane on the 7th August 1793, aged 73 years. He was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir Charles Halkett, Bart., who died without issue in 1837, age 72 years. Sir Charles was succeeded by his brother, Sir Peer Halkett, Admiral of the Red and Grand Cross of Hanover, who died in 1839, aged 73 years. Sir John Halkett, the seventh baronet of Pitfirrane, was the only son of the Admiral. He died in 1847. Sir Peter Arthur Halkett, the eighth and present baronet, was the eldest son of Sir John. He was born in 1834, and succeeded to the title in 1847. Sir Arthur, like many of his ancestors, chose the Army as a profession. He heard the first and the last shots of the Crimean War, and how much he is entitled to the distinction of one of our Crimean veterans will be evident when it is stated that he carried the Queen's colours of the gallant 42nd Highlanders up the heights of Alma and at Balaclava and Kertch. Sir Arthur was transferred to the 42nd Highlanders. When war broke out with Russia Sir Arthur was among those who embarked with the gallant 42nd on the Hydaspes for Constantinople. Sir Arthur has vivid recollections of the great struggles of the Alma, of Balaclava, and Kertch. When Sir Colin Campbell had his horse shot under him on the heights of Alma, the Queen's colours, which were being carried by the young laird of Pitfirrane, were perforated by bullets. Sir Arthur had many narrow escapes, and he has many trophies of the great campaign hung in the hall of Pitfirrane. When peace came in 1856, Sir Arthur Halkett joined the 3rd

King's own Light Dragoons, and in May of the same year he married the eldest daughter of Colonel Hill of the 52nd Regiment, and granddaughter of Admiral Sir Peter Halkett. After serving four years with the Dragoons Sir Arthur took up his residence at Pitfirrane. A desire for more active life led him in 1860 to accept the post of Captain Commandant of the Dunfermline Troop of the Fife Mounted Rifles, and this position he held for 22 years. In 1868 Sir Arthur was offered a majority in the Fife Militia Artillery and in 1873 he was gazetted to the command of the Fife Militia. He retired with the rank of Colonel in May 1888. He was appointed Honorary Colonel of the regiment in 1895. The following is a list of Sir Arthur's decorations: - The Crimean Medal with clasps for "Alma," "Balaklava," and "Sebastopol"; the Turkish Military Medal; the Sardinian War Medal; the Volunteer Decoration and the "Royal Order of Isabel la Catalica" of Spain, and the Volunteer Decoration for 22 years service. Sir Arthur is the master of the West Fife Fox Hounds from 1874 to 1878, and although 68 years of age there is nothing to-day gives him greater pleasure than a day with the hounds. Visitors with an antiquarian turn of mind will spend a profitable day among the relics of bygone days in Pitfirrane Castle. There are many examples of old carving in the dining and other rooms, and in the entrance hall there is a handsome oak cabinet designed by Sir Noel Paton, which contains a venetian wine glass bearing the following inscription: - "James VI, drank his stirrup cup from this glass on leaving Dunfermline palace to take possession of the throne of England 1603"

Sir Peter Halkett accompanied King James to London on the historic occasion, and beside the glass there is a gold ring, and here is its history as setforth by a label: -

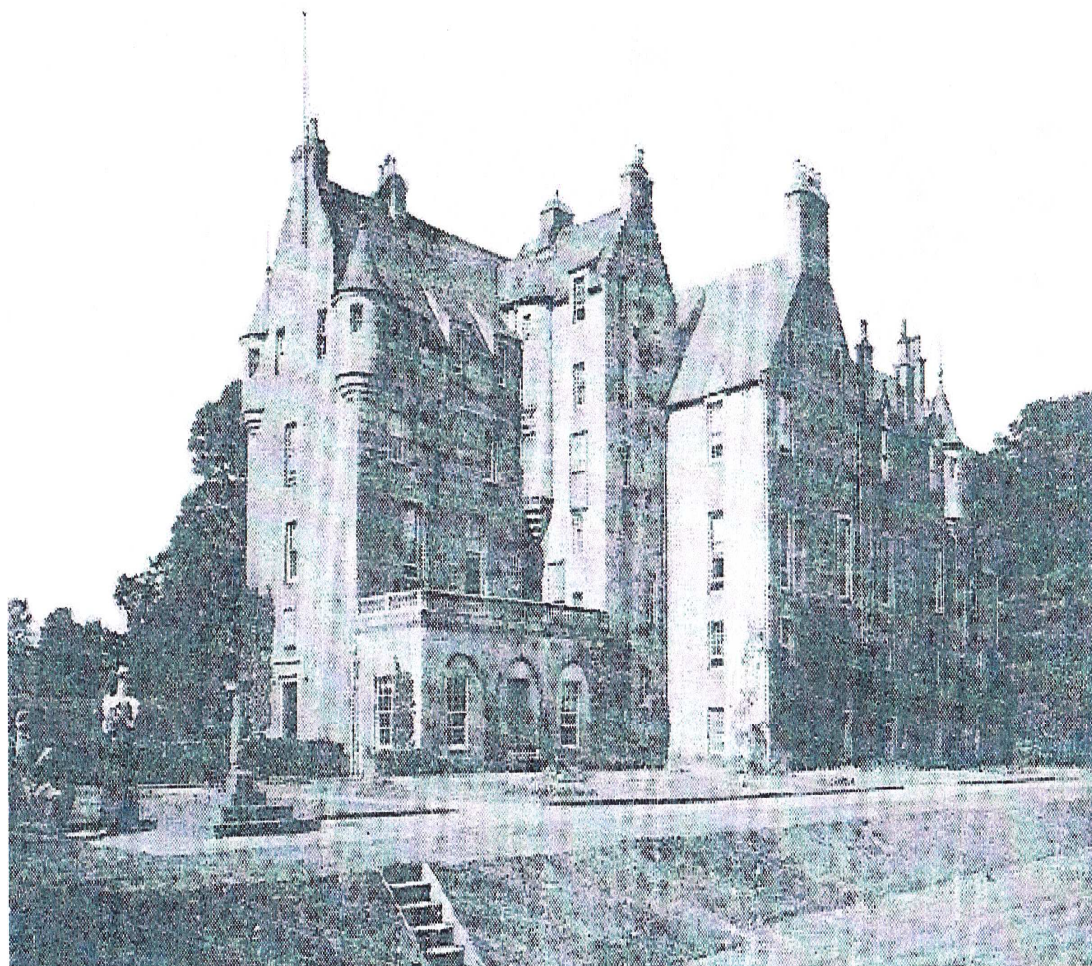
"Ring containing the King's hair and initials presented to Sir Peter Halkett by His Majesty's own hand the night he left St James'." On the walls of the dining and drawing rooms of the ancient castle there are many portraits of Sir Arthur's ancestors by famous artists, and in the library there are several charters conveying certain rights to the Halketts of Pitfirrane. One of the charters was granted by Queen Mary in July 1655, and gives Sir Peter Halkett the right to export coals outwith the Kingdom. It was renewed by Queen Anne in 1706, and in 1788 the right was purchased by the Government for £40,000. One of Sir Arthur's treasures is an old rusty bayonet which was found on the spot where Sir Peter fell in the battle of Monongahala on July 1755. The Carnegie Braddock Steel Works are built on the site of the battle, and the trophy was presented to the late Provost Walls by Mr Andrew Carnegie. On the Provost's return from America he handed the bayonet to the laird of Pitfirrane. The latest additions to Pitfirrane Castle were designed by Mr David Bryce and carried out by Sir Arthur. Mr Joseph Paton, father of Sir Noel Paton, spent many pleasant hours at Pitfirrane and on the occasion of one of his visits he discovered a magnificent sun dial composed of a lion *sejant* holding a shield, with the sculptured arms of the Halkett family. The sun dial stands to-day on what is believed to be its original position. There are several medieval crossed-barred doors of hammered iron in Scotland, and one of the finest examples is to be seen at Pitfirrane House. The dooks on which the "yett" was hung and the holes in the stones for receiving the massive bolts still remain. The "yett" was removed in connection with changes on the castle more than 200 years ago, and Sir Arthur had the good fortune to discover it on the top of a disused well in the park. Anxious to preserve the relic of bygone days, Sir Arthur had two handsome pillars erected at the east entrance to the garden, and here it is hung. Sir Arthur and Lady Halkett have four daughters alive.

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# PITFIRRANE CASTLE

THE OLDEST INHABITED HOUSE IN FIFE

BY G.M. LENDRUM



Nestling in the sheltering protection of gigantic trees, of sixteen feet and more, is the ancient Castle of Pitferrane, with its beautiful green lawns and gracious old gardens. It has a double distinction of it is the oldest inhabited house in Fife and for nearly seven centuries has been in the possession of succeeding generations of the same family. This wonderful old place has managed to sweep aside the modern tide of destruction, and to preserve intact, amid its surroundings of undulating pasture lands, all the loveliness, grace, and charm that age alone can bestow.

The demesne of Pitferrane was acquired from William de Scott of Balwearie (descendant of the famous Sir Michael of that Ilk) in the fourteenth century, by a grandson of David de Halkett proprietor of Ballingall and Lumpinnans.

Its great age has set some pretty problems for archaeologists, some of whom date it fourteenth century. Others declare that there are certain outward and visible signs which prove the original keep to have been built round about tenth century. Be this as it may, their chill controversies cannot rob this venerable pile of its chequered history and Romanic connections.

In 1583, history records, considerable alterations and additions were made. The old battlements and parapet were removed and corner turrets added. A staircase tower, always a notable feature of sixteenth-century architecture, was built at the south-east corner of the keep, leading up to the top storeys.

The main stairway is of stone (also sixteenth century) and is flanked on either side by wonderful old oak panelling, the carving on which is of particular interest and beauty. In one panel appears the Halkett arms with the date 1553; and in another the Halkett arms impaled with those of Hepburn, a lovely record of the romantic marriage between George Halkett and Isobel Hepburn, which took place in 1576. This panelling is continued to the first landing where the old Scottish linen-fold pattern is in evidence.

The dining-room is L-shaped and completely panelled. The carver certainly reached the zenith of his art in this room, and one can only bemoan that the secret of this beautiful handiwork belongs to the past, the machine-turned woodwork of modern times can never come up to this delightful craft of bygone days.

The old masters are well represented, and the pictures in the various rooms would make the most fastidious of art collectors green with envy, the portraits are the work of such giants as Vandyke, Romney, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Sir Peter Lely, Allan Ramsay, Sir Thomas Lawrence, and many other well-known artists.

The walls of the entrance hall of this ancient stronghold are hung with beautiful tapestries, the work of the Halkett ladies of bygone generations. We can imagine them in stiff farthingale and jewelled ruff plying their busy needles to the accompaniment of gay chatter and bantering repartee, or perchance some cavalier looked on, while gently fingering his lute.

Near the door in the oaken and glass case, designed by the late Sir Noel Paton, is a treasured memento of royal favour - a stirrup cup and ring. Just before setting out from Dunfermline Palace in 1603, on his journey to London to be crowned king at Westminster, King James VI called for wine, the cup out of which he drank is the one now enshrined at Pitfirrane. It is extremely ornate, the vase and handles, which are dolphin shape, are of clear crystal, while the bowl is a deep rich purple. The ring was presented personally by King James to Sir Robert Halkett on the night he left St James's after accompanying the royal retinue to England.

Old-world pictures are conjured up to mind by the sight of the old "loupin' stane," so rarely seen now, silent witness of caparisoned steeds and armoured knights and lovely ladies of the long ago.

The present-day smoking-room was the cow-byre in the fifteenth century. Naturally, it bears no evidence of troughs and halters or other bovine occupation, but the front gate, or rather "yett" - a masterpiece of the medieval blacksmith's handicraft - is still in existence. No marauder, however skilful, could circumvent, and no kine, however deft the horns, could loosen a "yett" of so quaint yet efficient design. It now bars the way to a part of the grounds and shows no sign of wearing out. Stark testimony to the workmanship of bygone days.

From time immemorial the Halketts have acquitted themselves with valour, ever putting their country's needs before selfish gain. In different parts of the Empire they have served their kings. In 1662 Sir Charles was created a baronet of Nova Scotia; he died 21st October 1697 and was buried in Dunfermline Abbey. There is a quaint reference in the records of Dunfermline Town Council which says that the Magistrates considered "it their duty to do all in their power to honour the funeral of Sir Charles Halkett, their honourable and worthy Provost." The Treasurer was ordered "to buy as much black serge" as cover the Council "laft" in the Abbey. Burgesses were asked to go on horseback to Pitfirrane on the day of the funeral, and



ordinary inhabitants, who were not mounted, were "not to presume" to go to the castle but were to wait for "the cortege at the Port." All this is quaintly reminiscent of the past.

Another of the Halketts, Sir Peter, fought against the Jacobites at the battle of Prestonpans, 1745, where he was taken prisoner. He had the chance of escaping but refused to break his parole, much to the wrath of the Duke of Cumberland, who, on the strength of this, deprived him of his commission. To which unwarrantable treatment Sir Peter replied, "Your Highness may deprive me of my commission but not of my honour." But so flagrant a piece of injustice could not be allowed to remain unrectified. The case was brought before Parliament where ingenuous conduct was understood and harsh injustice suitably admonished. The dictates of honour may have been outside the understanding of a Hanoverian Duke, but it was within the cognisance of a gentleman of the Halkett family. Reinstated in the army, Sir Peter went to America as Colonel of the 44th Regiment, only, alas, to fall with his son at the battle of Monongohela, 1755. Years later a bayonet, believed to be his, was found near the spot where he died, and some time ago it was given back to the Halkett family.

The late Sir Arthur Halkett died in 1904, and with him the baronetcy became extinct. His daughters still lived at Pitfirrane. The army claimed the late baronet, and he fought in the Crimea, where he had many narrow escapes. A keen horseman, he was Master of the West Fife Foxhounds for a number of years.

One could fill a volume with accounts of the members of this fine old family for each one has distinguished himself nobly. The army and navy, to say nothing of political and municipal affairs (as the ancient charters of Dunfermline testify), have claimed the attentions of the succeeding generations of the sons of Pitfirrane. But not only have the men comported themselves with honour, but the ladies also have played prominent parts in the history and literature of the country, while the piety and good deeds of the Lady Anne Halkett will ever be remembered.

Born in 1622, she lived in a turbulent age. She was the daughter of one Mr Robert (Thomas) Murray, a cadet of the Tullibardine family, who was preceptor to Charles I, and afterwards Provost of Eton. Her mother coached the Duke of Gloucester and Princess Elizabeth, so that Lady Anne was cradled in learning. Her favourite studies were theology and physics, and she became thoroughly proficient in the science of surgery. One can easily visualise the uplifted eyebrows and imagine the stinging remarks which last accomplishment wrung from her contemporaries. She undoubtedly was the pioneer of women surgeons, and as such would come in for much caustic criticism. Lady Anne's devoutness was no sinecure - and she had left behind her some twenty volumes of religious literature, MSS. of which are still at Pitfirrane. She married Sir James Halkett in 1656.

A keen royalist, she was ready to serve members of royal family. During the anxious treacherous days of the Civil War preceding the execution of Charles she contrived to escape to Holland of Duke of York (afterwards James VII), an action by which the Lady Anne hazarded her life; but never once did this woman think of herself. Procuring a gown from her tailor, she disguised the Duke near the west side, and provided him with a "west street" cake before he entered the barge which conveyed him down the Thames to Greenwich, where he boarded a Dutch ship. When he eventually succeeded to the throne, he rewarded her, but his grant was mean considering the great danger to which the Lady Anne exposed herself. But greed avarice was a Stuart failing, they always found it more bl... to receive than give.

Another lady of renown is Elizabeth Halkett (1677-1727), granddaughter of the Lady Anne and afterwards wife (1696), of Hendry Wardlaw, Bart, of Pitreavie.

What Scotsman hasn't thrilled reading the fine old ballad Hardyknute? Sir Walter Scott, it was the first poem he ever learnt off, and it would be the last to forget. There is no shadow doubt that the talented daughter Pitfirrane was the writer of this ringing poem, for the MS, in Lady Wardlaw's own handwriting is one of the treasured possessions of her descendants at Pitfirrane Castle to-day. In fact, in a letter she confessed to the authorship, and said she had written it to entertain some people who were guests in her own house.

"And stately stapt he wast the wa',  
And stately stapt he cast;  
Full seventy years he now had seen,  
With scarce seven years of rest;  
He lived when Britain's Breach of Faith  
Wrought Scotland mickle wo,  
And ay his sword tell'd tae their cost,  
He was their deadly foe.  
Hie on a hill his castle stude

With wall and touris a hicht,  
And guidly chambers fair to se,  
Quhair he lodgit mony a knicht,  
His dame sae peirless ane and fair  
For chast and bewtie deniet,  
Nae marrow had in all the land  
Saif Elenor the Quene.

`To horse, to horse, my royal liege,  
Your faes stand on the strand,  
Full twenty thousand glittering spears  
The King of Norse commands'  
`Bring me my steed, Mage dapple gray.'  
Our guid king raise and cried,  
`A trustier beast in all the land  
A Scots king never tried.'

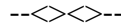
`Go, little page, tell Hardyknute,  
That lives on hill so hie,  
To draw his sword and dreid of facs.  
And haste and follow me.'  
The little page flew swift as dart  
Flung by his master's arm,  
`Come down come down,  
Lord Hardyknute,  
And rid your king frae harm'."

There are, I think, forty-two stanzas in all, and I believe was first published in 1719. It is written in the old Scots style, which suits the historic occasion depicted.

Near the house is the old sundial, its exact age is unknown but it is believed to be between 300 and 400 years old, and is regarded as one of the oldest in Scotland. It is composed of a lion "segant" holding a shield with the sculptured arms of the Halkett family. It disappeared, but was subsequently found in a neighbouring garden, and the late Sir Arthur Halkett had it erected on what he believed to be the original site.

Arboriculture has been a special hobby of the respective owners of Pitfirrane, and to-day the great trees are a glory to all beholders. Unfortunately recent storms have taken their toll, and among the fallen monarchs are the famous "Doule," or hanging tree, where miscreants of barbaric days paid the full price for their misdemeanours.

Pitfirrane Castle is still in the Halkett family, and long may it remain so. Though times are ever changing, the aura of romance still permeates the atmosphere of castle and grounds. The delicate fragrant of bygone days hangs over the garden, and all seems blessed that quiet peace - which passeth understanding.



# HERALDIC CEILINGS AT PITFIRrane HOUSE, FIFE

BY

Duncan McNaughton

Pitfirrane House near Dunfermline, Fife, was for centuries the mansion of the Halkett family, since died out in the male line. On the death of Miss Madeline Halkett in 1951, the house and grounds were purchased by the Dunfermline Carnegie Trust, and now form the clubhouse and course of the Dunfermline Golf Club. While there appears to have been a mansion on the site in the early fifteen century, the main buildings of the present day date largely from the end of the sixteenth century, though the central keep is probably older. Two armorial ceilings decorate the Dining Room and what was the Blue Drawing Room. they are comparatively modern having been painted by the last baronet Sir Peter Halkett just after his marriage in 1856, no authoritative description has survived apart from two sketches by the late Miss Halkett which are not detailed. The following account therefore attempts to give as full a description as possible.

The authority followed in planning the original work was obviously that of the Douglas Baronage and Peerage and reflect the errors of these works. Unfortunately no authentic family history has come down to us, though Chalmers in his history of the family in his *Historical and Statistical Account of Dunfermline* mentions a genealogical treatise in the possession of the family which has not survived the dispersal of the library. It cannot be traced in the family papers in the National Library of Scotland.

The Halketts of Pitfirrane stemmed from Philip de Hacet of Lumphinnans in Fife and Ballingall in Kinross in the fourteenth century. A third of Pitfirrane and Lumphinnans was held from the family of Lochore, with whom Philip was connected by marriage. A further third was acquired in 1399, and Philip's son David was the first to be designated `of Pitfirrane`. The remaining third was acquired from the Abbey lands of Dunfermline at the Reformation in 1560. In addition, much of the adjoining land was acquired throughout the centuries. The direct male line died out with Sir James Halkett in 1705, when the name and estates were assumed by Sir Peter Wedderburn of Gosford, East Lothian, in the right of his wife Janet, sister of Sir James. Again the name and the estates passed to the Wedderburns in 1779, in the person of Sir John Wedderburn, descended from Elizabeth Halkett, sister to Janet, who had married Sir Henry Wardlaw of Pitreavie, and whose daughter Mary had married Charles Wedderburn of Gosford. Sir Peter Arthur Halkett who died in 1904, was the last male representative of this family.

The Wedderburns of Gosford were descended from the family of Wedderburn, long associated with Dundee. Sir Peter Wedderburn, the founder of the Gosford branch, was the third son of James Wedderburn, Clerk of Dundee, and Margaret Goodman. Sir Peter, with the help of his uncle, physician to Charles II, acquired the estate of Gosford. The Douglas account of the origin of this branch is erroneous.

The ceilings consist of thirty-six shields in all, twenty-five in the Dining Room, and thirteen in the Blue Drawing Room with casts of the Rose of the Wedderburns and the Falcon of the Halketts appearing between each.

The arms displayed are indicative of the family to which the person belonged rather than their right to display the particular coats. The following descriptions are numbered from left to right from the door of each room.

The arms of the two families are repeated in the various shields, impaled, with those representing their respective wives.

**Arms of Halkett of Pitfirrane:** *Sable, three piles conjoined in base Argent, and on a chief Gules a lion passant guardant Or.* [Lyon Register (c. 1740): Chief Argent, lion Gules]

**Arms of Wedderburn of Gosford :** *Ermine, a chevron between three roses, barbed Vert, all within a bordure Azure.* [on ceiling: no Ermine, no bordure]

Authorities : The Book of the Wedderburns (BW)  
The Pitfirrane Writs, Scottish Record Society (PW)  
The Douglas Baronage (DB); The Douglas Peerage (DP)  
Chalmers' *Historical and Statistical Account of Dunfermline* (Chalmers)

## THE DINING ROOM

- 1 Arms of **Wedderburn**, impaling **Forrester** for James Wedderburn, b.c. 1500, Dieppe c. 1553, eldest son of James Wedderburn c. 1450-1514, burgess of Dundee, and his wife Janet, eldest daughter of David Forrester of Nevay (BW 1 58). Douglas states that he was an ancestor of the Gosford branch, but this is erroneous.

**Arms of Wedderburn**

**Arms of Forrester :** *Argent, three buffalo horns, Sable, stringed Gules.*

- 2 Arms of **Halkett**, impaling **Cunningham** for William Halkett of Pitfirrane, d. 1500/01, grandson of David Halkett of Pitfirrane who married before 1484 Margaret, daughter of Alexander Cunningham of Polmaise and Auchenbowie, Sheriff of Stirling, descended from the Cunninghams of Kilmaurs. (PW 60. Nisbet I 193)

**Arms of Halkett**

**Arms of Cunningham :** *Argent, a shakefork Sable.*

- 3 Arms of **Wedderburn**, impaling **Ogilvie** for Peter Wedderburn, Lord Chesterhall, 1693-1756, eldest son of Alexander, youngest son of Sir Peter Wedderburn, Lord Gosford, who married Janet, daughter of David Ogilvie, Captain 11th Dragoons, son of David of Inusto. The undifferenced arms of Ogilvie of Airlie are not appropriate here. (BW. I 401)

**Arms of Wedderburn**

**Arms of Ogilvie (Airlie) :** *Argent a lion passant guardant Gules, crowned with an imperial crown, and [not on ceiling] collared with an open one.*

- 4 Arms of **Halkett**, impaling **Lundy** (Lundin) for Patrick Halkett of Pitfirrane, d. 1573, who married (2) after 1560 Elizabeth, daughter of John Lundy of that ilk.  
**Arms of Halkett**  
**Arms of Lundy** : *Paly of six, Gules and Argent, and on a bend Azure three cushions Or.*  
 There are a number of variations for the arms of Lundy prior to the reign of Charles II who allowed the use of the Royal Arms in virtue of their descent from the Royal Family in Scotland.
- 5 Arms of **Wedderburn**, impaling **Lawson** for David Wedderburn of Craigie, Dundee, 1495?-1560, son of David Wedderburn, burgess of Dundee, who married Helen Lawson before 1534. Douglas connects her with the Lawsons of Humbie, but this is incorrect. (BW.1.58)  
**Arms of Wedderburn**  
**Arms of Lawson**: Here *-Argent a saltire Azure, and on a chief of the last three garbs Or.*  
 This is the same achievement of the Lawsons of Humbie but the metals and colours are different.
- 6 Arms of **Halkett**, impaling **Murray of Blackbarony** for Robert Halkett of Pitfirrane, eldest son of George Halkett and Isobel Hepburn, who married June 1594, Margaret, eldest daughter of Sir John Murray of Ettleston and Margaret Hamilton of Innerwick (Burke's Peerage 1959 p. 1632. PW. 348)  
**Arms of Halkett**  
**Arms of Murray of Blackbarony** : *Or, a fetterlock Azure, and on a chief of the last three mullets [on ceiling : estoiles] Argent.*
- 7 Arms of **Liston of Humbie**, impaling **Halkett** for Robert Liston of Humbie, Linlithgow, who married January 1502/3 Margaret, daughter of William Halkett of Pitfirrane and Margaret Cunningham. (PW)  
**Arms of Liston of Humbie** : No arms of Liston of Humbie can be traced, but appear here as : *Azure, nine bezants, 3, 3, 2, 1.*  
**Arms of Halkett**
- 8 Arms of **Halkett**, impaling **Murray** for Sir James Halkett of Pitfirrane who married (2) 1656 Ann, daughter of Thomas Murray, Provost of Eton, a son of Murray of Woodend, and Jane Drummond, who claimed descent from the Earls of Perth. Ann Murray was at one time governess to the children of Charles I and died in 1699 at the Abbot's House, Dunfermline. (Chalmers.)  
**Arms of Halkett**  
**Arms of Murray (Tulliebardine)** : *Argent, a cross patee between three mullets Argent, all within a double tressure, flory counter flory Or.*  
 The arms of Murray should also carry the bade of Nova Scotia, not shown here. These should not have been displayed for Ann Murray.

- 9 Arms of **Wedderburn**, impaling **Ramsay of Brackmonth** for Alexander Wedderburn of Kingennie, who married in 1582 Helen Ramsay of Dundee. The arms of Brackmonth appearing here are due to an erroneous statement in Douglas that this was Helen Ramsay of Brackmonth. (BW. I 129)
- Arms of Wedderburn**  
**Arms of Ramsay of Brackmonth** : *Argent, an eagle displayed Sable, beaked and membered Gules.*  
 The proper arms of Ramsay of Brackmonth should also display another eagle displayed on the breast of the first eagle. This is not shown here.
- 10 Arms of **Halkett**, impaling **Ayton** for John Halkett of Pitfirrane who married early in 1516 Elizabeth, daughter of Andrew Ayton, Governor of Stirling Castle and Master of Works to James IV, Elizabeth was the widow of Henry Bothwell of Urquhart. Andrew Ayton was of the family of Ayton of Dunmuir, now Ayton, Fife. The family assumed the arms of Ayton of that Ilk shown here in the eighteenth-century. Andrew's seal shows: *Quarterly, 1 and 4, a chevron between two stars in chief, and a crescent in base; 2 Ayton; 3 an anchor.* (Nisbet I 123. PW.69)
- Arms of Halkett**  
**Arms of Ayton of that Ilk** : *Argent within a cross engrailed four roses of the second, dipped Vert [on ceiling : a saltire engrailed Gules [=Lennox]]*  
 These are merely indicative of the family connection and not the arms which would have been displayed by Lady Amelia.
- 11 Arms of **Halkett of Pitfirrane**
- 12 Arms of **Wedderburn of Gosford** and on an escutcheon of pretence the arms of **Halket of Pitfirrane** for Sir Peter Wedderburn of Gosford who assumed the name and arms of Halkett in 1705 on succeeding to Pitfirrane in right of his wife, Janet Halkett, sister of Sir James Halkett. (PW. 675, 691)
- 13 Arms of **Wedderburn** originally ascribed by the family to James Wedderburn of Blackness as the founder of the Gosford branch. This was based on an error in Douglas. The founder was Sir Peter Wedderburn, third son of James Wedderburn of Kingennie. (BW. I 454)
- 14 Arms of **Halkett**, impaling **Hill** for Sir Peter Arthur Halkett, the last baronet who married 1856 Elizabeth Anna Hill, eldest daughter of Captain Richard Kerwan Hill of St Colombs, Londonderry, and Margaret Halkett, daughter of Sir Peter Halkett and Ann Todd. (BW. I. 390,
- 13)
- Arms of Halkett**  
**Arms of Hill** : No arms of Hill of this family can be traced but appears here as : *Argent three cats' [leopards'?] heads cabossed Or, and on a chevron of the second five arrow heads [Ermine spots] Sable.*



- 15 Arms of **Wedderburn**, impaling **Wardlaw** of Pitreavie for Charles Wedderburn of Gosford, second son of Sir Peter Wedderburn and Janet Halkett, who married c.1719 Mary daughter of Sir Henry Wardlaw of Pitreavie and Elizabeth Halkett, younger sister of Janet Halkett. (BW.)
- Arms of Wedderburn**  
**Arms of Wardlaw of Pitreavie** : *Quarterly 1 and 4, Azure three mascle Or; 1 and 3, Azure three water bougets Or* [on ceiling : Azure is Sable]
- 16 Arms of **Halkett**, impaling Moray for Sir Peter Halkett who married before 1734 Lady Amelia Stewart, second daughter of Francis, third son of the 7th Earl of Moray and Jane Elphinstone, second daughter of John 4th Lord Balmerino, (BW. I 380. DP. 504 Peerage of Scotland)
- Arms of Halkett**  
**Arms of Moray** : *Quarterly, 1 and 4 Or, a lion rampant Gules within a double tressure (Scotland) all within a bordure compone Argent and Azure (Stewart of the Royal Family); 2 Or, a fess chequy Argent and Azure (Stewart of Co. Down); 3 Or, three cushions pendant within a double tressure flory counter flory Gules (Randolph Earl of Moray).*  
 These are merely indicative of the family connection and not the arms which would have been displayed by Lady Amelia.
- 17 Arms of **Halkett**, impaling **Hamilton** for Sir John Wedderburn of Gosford who married (2) Mary, daughter of the Hon. John Hamilton (second son of Thomas 6th Earl of Haddington) and Margaret, daughter of Sir John Home of Blackadder. Sir John Wedderburn assumed the name of Halkett in 1779. (PW. 718, DP. 319)
- Arms of Halkett**  
**Arms of Hamilton (Haddington)**: *Quarterly, 1 and 4 Gules, on a chevron between three cinquefoils [on ceiling : saltires coupé] Argent, a buckle Azure between two muchetors (spots of Ermine), all within a bordure Or, charged with eight thistles Vert as the paternal coat of Hamilton of Innerwick, with a suitable difference; 2 and 3 Argent, a fess wavy between three roses Gules, barbed and seeded proper as a coat of augmentation for the earldom of Melrose.*  
 This should not be displayed for the daughter of a second son.
- 18 Arms of **Halkett**, impaling **Montgomerie of Skelmorlie** for Sir James Halkett who married c. 1649 Mary (Margaret) daughter of Sir Robert Montgomerie of Lochranza and Skelmorlie and Lady Anne Campbell, daughter of Archibald 7th Earl of Argyll. (PW.568)
- Arms of Halkett**  
**Arms of Montgomerie of Skelmorlie** : *Quarterly, 1 and 4 Azure, three fleur de lis Or (Montgomerie); 2 and 3 Gules three annulets stone Azure (Eglinton), Over all a sword in pale proper.*
- 19 Arms of **Wedderburn**, impaling **Dickson** for Peter Wedderburn of Gosford, who married c. 1653 Agnes, daughter of John Dickson of Hartree.

Peter, later Sir Peter Wedderburn was he first of Gosford. (BW. I 369)

**Arms of Wedderburn**

**Arms of Dickson** : (Dickson of Bughtrig in 1672) *Azure three mullets Argent on a chief Or three pallets Gules* (BW. I 369)

- 20 Arms of **Halkett**, impaling **Conway** for Sir John Halkett 9th baronet, who married Amelia Ann Conway daughter of Colonel Conway of the family of Conway of Ragley, Warwickshire. (Chalmers, BW. I 3380)

**Arms of Halkett**

**Arms of Conway** : these cannot be traced in the English Records but are here : *Sable, a rose between two annulets Gules on a bend Argent, between two bendlets of the same.*

- 21 Arms of **Halkett**, impaling **Fletcher** for Sir John Halkett wo married (1) 1758 Elizabeth, daughter of Andrew Fletcher of Saltoun, Lord Justice Clerk. (BW. I 387)

**Arms of Halkett**

**Arms of Fletcher** of Saltoun : *Sable a cross fleury between four escallops Argent.*

- 22 Arms of **Halkett**, impaling **Hepburn of Waughton** for George Halkett of Pitfirrane who married July 1575 Isobel daughter of Sir Patrick Hepburn of Waughton and Margaret Lundy, daughter of William Lundy of that Ilk. (PW. 213)

**Arms of Halkett**

**Arms of Hepburn of Waughton** : *Quarterly, 1 and 4 Gules, on a chevron Argent a rose between two lions combatant Gules* (Hepburn); *2 and 3 Argent three martlets Gules* (Gourlay) - used until 1604.

- 23 Arms of Wedderburn, impaling **Halkett** for the marriage in July 1694 of Sir Peter Wedderburn of Gosford and Janet Halkett, eldest daughter of Sir Charles Halkett of Pitfirrane and Margaret Murray (W. 628).

## THE BLUE DRAWING ROOM

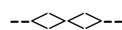
(The seventeenth-century wing containing the Blue Drawing Room was, alas, demolished during the refurbishment of 1975)

- 24 Arms of **Halkett**, impaling **Lundy** as No. 5.
- 25 Arms of **Halkett**, impaling **Conway** as NO. 19.
- 26 Arms of **Halkett**, impaling **Hepburn** as No. 22.
- 27 Arms of **Halkett**, impaling **Stewart** of Moray as NO. 16.

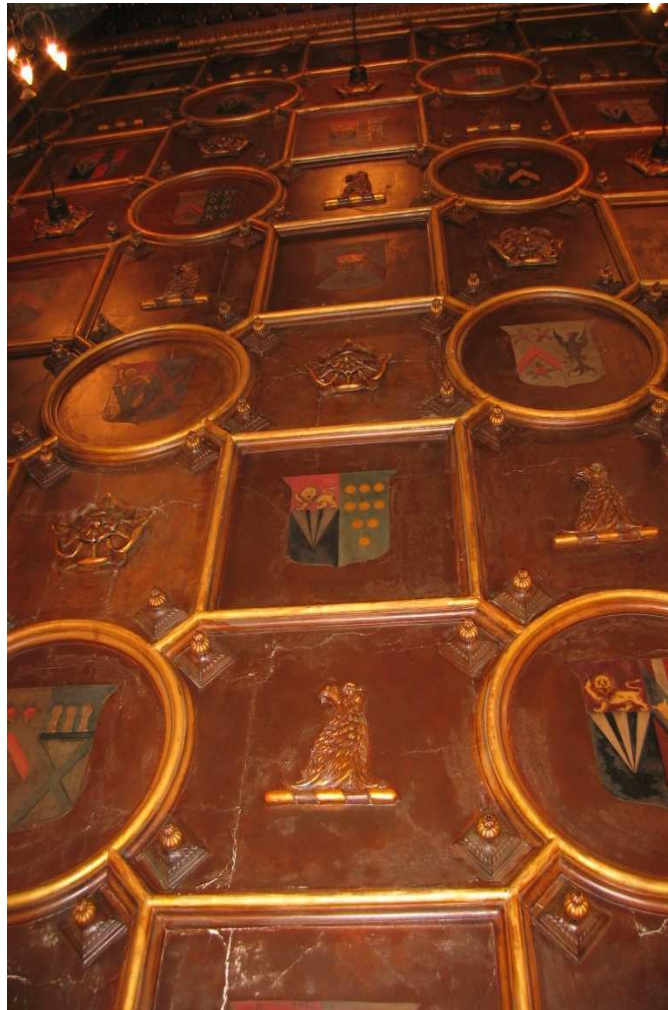
- 28 Arms of **Halkett**, impaling **Hill** as No. 15.
- 29 Arms of **Halkett**, impaling **Ogilvie of Balfour** for Patrick Halkett of Pitferrane who married (1) before 1543 Marjorie, daughter of William Ogilvie of Balfour and Anne Durie, daughter of Durie of that Ilk.  
**Arms of Halkett**  
**Arms of Ogilvie (Airlie)** : *Argent, a lion passant, guardant Gules crown with an imperial crown and collared with an open one.*
- 30 Arms of **Wedderburn**, and on an escutcheon of pretence the arms of **Halkett of Pitferrane** as No. 12.
- 31 Arms of Halkett, impaling...? The arms shown here are stated in the late Miss Halkett's plan to represent a J. Halkett who married c. 1597 a Janet Wedderburn but this cannot be traced. The only marriage of a J. Halkett at that time was that of John Halkett second son of George Halkett who married Maria Van Loon, a Dutch lady whose coat of arms is not known. Nevertheless the arms of Wedderburn seem to appear in the coat here viz.  
**Arms of Halkett**  
**Arms of ...**: *Quarterly, 1 and 4 (Wedderburn); 2 Argent pale engrailed Azure, impaling Argent a pallet Azure; 3 Argent a pallet Azure impaled Argent a pale engrailed Azure.*
- 32 Arms of **Wedderburn**, impaling Hamilton as No. 17.
- 33 Arms of **Halkett**, impaling **Montgomerie of Skelmorlie** as No. 18.
- 34 Arms of **Halkett**, impaling **Murray of Blackbarony** as No. 6.
- 35 Arms of **Halkett**, impaling **Murray** for Sir Charles Halkett who married 1675 Janet daughter of Sir Patrick Murray of Dryden and Pitdinnie and Mary Alexander, daughter of William 1st Earl of Stirling.  
**Arms of Halkett**  
Arms of **Murray**: *Azure, three mullets Argent.*
- 36 Arms of **Halkett**, impaling **Ayton** as No. 10.

*Note*: - This article first appeared in The Scottish Genealogist (Vol VII. No.2. April 1960) and is reproduced by kind permission of the Scottish Genealogy Society.

*Note*: - Again this article appeared in the Double Treasure and is reproduced by kind permission of The Heraldry Society of Scotland.



THE DINING ROOM CEILING AT PITFIRANE  
 SHOWING THE FALCON OF THE HALKETTS  
 AND THE ROSE OF THE WEDDERBURNS.



Wedderburn/Halkett  
 Halkett/Montgomerie  
 en-surtout No. 12



Wedderburn/Wardlaw of  
 Pitreavie No. 15  
 Skelmorlie No. 18



of



## PITFIRRANE HOUSE THROUGH THE CENTURIES

### MANY NOTABLE PAINTINGS



Pitfirrane: the south front

PITFIRRANE House is hardly two miles to the south west at Dunfermline, in Fife, and only about a mile and a half from the north shore of the Firth of Forth. Pitfirrane Park lies between the villages of Crossford and Cairneyhill, and the house stands almost in the middle of the Park. occupied by two Misses Halkett, the descendants of a long line bearing that name which is one of the oldest in Scotland.

The house is a real example of "sermons in stones: "for one who has studied ancient Scottish architecture, even in a merely moderate extent, is able to see in the building the march of time, the progress of the centuries. It may be described as a composite building; that is, it is unlike a building planned and completed in a single period. It represents the ideas of various periods and a walk round the house enables a visitor to follow the changes which have been made from time to time.

After a general circuit of the building, the most instructive view to study at first is that of the west end. The length of the house lies from west to east, practically as the points of the compass; and its width is from north to south. The west end presents a very typical elevation - a wall, rough-cast, to a height of three or four storeys, the stone courses being clearly marked above that level, and indicating later work. The width of that west end is about thirty feet, and it is evident that the rough-casting - harling, as it is called marks, the original height. The early building doubtless had a plan parapet surrounding a flat roof; and quite possibly a cape-house had been built before the walls were raised to the present level.

## **The Original House**

This part is the original house, with its original length between west and east, its north and south walls being about thirty-five feet in length - almost the standard dimensions of the ancient "peel" towers which arose in Scotland at any time after the War of Independence.

David de Halket held the lands of Lumphinans and Ballingal in Fife in the reign of David II, and David de Halket's son Philip designated "dominus de Ballingal and Lunfinans" in the reigns of Robert II, and Robert III, acquired a third of the lands of Pitfirrane from his cousin, William de Scot de Balweary in 1390. These facts show the Halkets of Pitfirrane as already an old family in that distant time. The house existed before the year 1300, and is mentioned in the Annals of Dunfermline Abbey.

The upper part of the west front has corner turrets of rounded form, with slated ogee roofs. The turrets are thrown out on four courses of excellent corbelling, and the part between the turrets rises in a crow-stepped gable. To make a full estimate of the time value of this construction we have to look round to north and south, where the fronts remain very plain, with windows where the fronts remain very plain, with windows rising slightly above the slating, but not in the dormer form. The alteration of the upper part of this west front dates from the year 1583, a date which notes the beginning of measures to increase the accommodation and comfort of the residence.

## **Seventeen Century Vogue**

But the beautiful turrets and their crow-stepped gable remind me of similar additions to other houses which I have studied, in those cases definitely dated after the year 1600. So I should be inclined to place the actual completion of this part between 1600 and 1630. I think that this estimate corresponds with the time when Sir James Halket was the Laird and was prosperous as he was knighted at Dalkeith on June 14, 1633.

Probably the completion of the west end was accompanied or soon followed by the addition of the part which projects south and the east end of the peel. This extension would give the house the Scottish form of the letter L, much favoured in the early seventeenth century, and consisting of two blocks at right angles to each other at their ends, the joining being known as a "re-entering" angle. When a house was originally built in this form the main entrance was usually in an angle tower which rose from the foundation to the roof, or in the wall on one side of the tower.

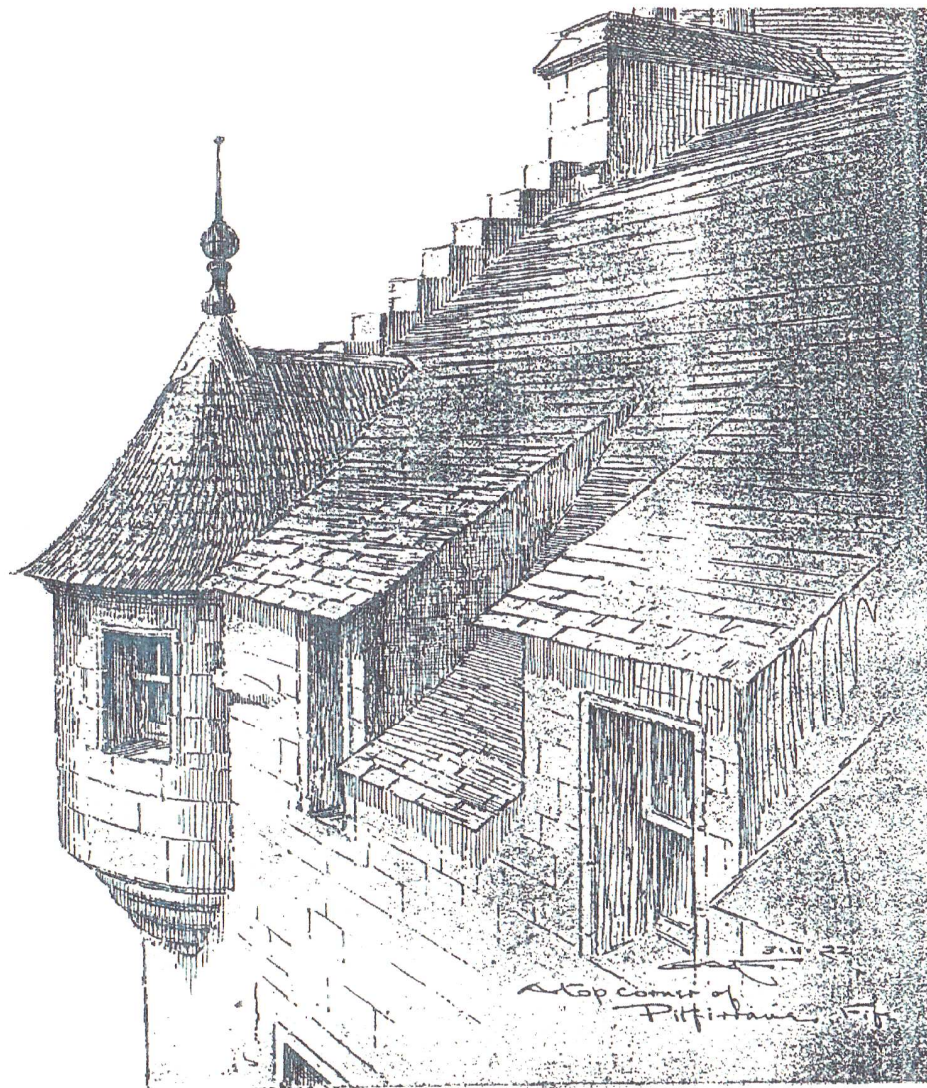
In Pitfirrane there is an angle tower here, or rather it is a long turret, for it does not rise from the foundation, but is corbelled out from the top of the second storey. The entrance was evidently in the west front of the new extension, and is now a doorway at the east end of "The Corridor." The doorway leads to a wheel stair giving access to the drawingroom and diningroom floor, and then by the round turret to the upper rooms. Probably the doorway was only used as a subsidiary entrance, with the principal entrance where it now is, in the west wall of the peel.

## Fine Round Towers

The large block still further to the east, and projecting further to the south, must be dated in the seventeenth century, possibly late in that century. It does not extend as far on the north side as to be in line on that side with the older buildings, but forms an angle with the older part, giving occasion for a fine round tower with a conical roof. To the north of the tower is a low building of three short stories with a crow-stepped gable.

As we look at the north front we see that this gabled part has a round tower to our right, filling up an angle with a very short side. Further to the right, against the north wall of the peel a pediment is visible, which at one time covered an entrance to the house. That entrance is now concealed by a vestibule which is surmounted by an open classical balustrade.

There are further buildings of varied height and features, forming the east end and enclosing a courtyard. These show a less varied aspect on the south side, with greater uniformity of style and in unbroken front. All these later additions show pedimented windows on the south front, and some on the north. Towers and turrets are numerous.





The Catalogue of sale 18 December 1951 - Pitferrane House Sale by Dowell's Ltd.  
This catalogue gives an opportunity to know what was in this room at the time of the sale.

The Entrance Hall.

Oak oblong side table, with undershelf, 54 ins. wide.

Child's wicker arm chair, small folding stool, carron fender.

Carved oak hall stand, surmounted by figure of an eagle, 39 ins. wide.

Riding crop, nine walking sticks, and five umbrellas.

Carved oak oblong side table, with drawer in end, on fluted bulbous supports, 7 ft. wide.

Copper post horn, I leather case.

Native bow three whips, two swords and two scabbards.

Wall barometer in oak and glazed case.

Metal circular table, marble top 20 ins. diam.

Wicker arm chair and cushion.

Grandfather clock, engraved brass dial, by Reid & Auld Edinburgh, in mahogany case.

Antique oak hall chest, enclosed by hinged cover, brass handles to sides, 49 ins. wide.

Two wood and red baize wall panels old Highland sporran, busby, waist-belt, and two native wood clubs.

Two officers' dress swords and sheaths, and naval disk with ivory handle and sheath.

Crossbow with walnut butt, rapier, engraved steel flintlock pistol, dagger, native paddle, and three clubs.

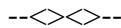
Two halberds.

Two decorated leather bridles two deer heads, and eight sets horns.

Steel breast-plate and helmet, and two swords with basket hilts and arm guards.

Two circular leather targes and nine curved swords.

Large coco mat and rubber door mat.



"The Corridor" has already been mentioned. It covers a rectangular space marked out by the south front of the original "peel" and the west front of the first addition. It was added 300 years ago as an inner entrance hall, and in this fact and its architectural style it marks the beginning of an era of taste in Scottish domestic buildings. It has in its external appearance two large window spaces with flattened Gothic arches, and is surmounted by a parapet of open balusters.

The Catalogue of sale 18 December 1951 - Pitferrane House Sale by Dowell's Ltd.  
This catalogue gives an opportunity to know what was in this room at the time of the sale.



The corridor, looking east

- Grandfather clock, chased brass dial, by William Nicol, Edinburgh, in oak case.  
Georgian mahogany domed-top hall chest, bras handles to sides, on stand with cabriole legs and hoof feet, 4 ft. wide.  
Antique elm chair with vase-shaped splat, seat in green plush, on cabriole les and club feet.  
Cared walnut arm hall seat.  
Brown wool driving apron.  
Oak chair, the back carved scrolls and crown, with cane panels, on shaped legs and carved front stretcher, seat cushion in sewed work.  
Normandy oak hall coffer, with hinged cover, the front panel carved figures, figures to corners, on fluted ball feet, 44½ ins. wide.  
Plaster bust and wood pedestal.

Mahogany miniature cannon.

Georgian mahogany oval cellerette, with hinged cover, brass-bound lion mask and ring handles, on square taper legs 24½ ins. wide.

Walnut and brass-bound casket, handles to sides, 12 ins. wide.

Brass measure, alabaster double-handled bowl, copper powder horn, oriental knife and sheath, two ivory rods, two pairs oriental shoes, and eleven other items.

Two cared oak pedestals with bird-head crest, 4 ft. 3 ins. high.

Two bronzed figures of ladies with sheaf of corn and fruit, fitted for gas, 27 ins. high.

Four carved oak chairs, panel backs and seats in crimson plush, spiral pillars to sides, the top rail cared mitre, the front stretcher with crown.

Two Chinese porcelain famille rose baluster-shaped vases, brass bound with hinged covers, and masks in relief, on black wood stands, 32 ins. high.

Gas radiator.

Georgian mahogany blanket chest, enclosed by hinged cover, with drawer, heavy brass handles to sides, on stand, with two drawers, carved cabriole legs, claw and ball feet, 4 ft. 8 ins wide.

Steel breast-plate, four swords, busby, and steel mace.

Native shield, two swords, two foils, and two sets horns.

Two native clubs, two swords, two wood paddles, and steel mace.

Steel breast-plate, two native guns, two swords, and two leather helmets.

Flintlock blunderbuss, with walnut stock, and brass hall lantern.

Broadsword with mask basket hilt and armguard, another broadsword and battleaxe.

Steel breast-plate and helmet, four swords, naval sword and sheath, two daggers, and wood club.

Old regimental standard, G.R., and crown.

Two naïve funs and spear.

Elmroot pane and Minimax fire extinguisher.

Oil portrait - Bust of a Gentleman in Wig and White Collar, in painted oval, artist unknown. 28 x 23.

Flemish Tapestry Panel Mercury and Three Other Figures at Fountain Landscape and buildings in background in formal border 7 ft. 8 ins. x 11 ft. 3 ins.

Flemish tapestry panel with two female figures crowning a Bullock with flowers, in landscape, formal border, 7 ft. 6 ins. x 5 ft.

Flemish tapestry panel, landscape with hunting party of four figures pony and dogs, floral border, 7 ft. 6 ins x 12 ft. (sewed up the middle).

Two modern tapestry panels - The Boar Hunt and Dog and Game, 8 ft. 2 ins. x 4 ft. 2 ins. and 6 ft. 4 ins. x 3 ft.

Two pairs floral tapestry cloth window curtains and loopers, 9 ft. x 4 ft. each curtain.

A similar pair, 7 ft. 6 ins. x 4 ft. each curtain.

Pair floral tapestry cloth portiere curtains and loopers, 9 ft. x 5 ft. 6 ins. each curtain.

Axminster bordered rug, 4 ft. 4 ins. x 2 ft. 3 ins. and piece coca matting.

Axminster rug 4 ft. 3 ins. x 2 ft. and brown skin rug.

Axminster bordered carpet, floral designs on pink ground, and felt, 13 ft. 4 ins. x 16 ft.



## The Main Drawingroom



Interior of the Drawingroom

On ascending the stair we arrive at the main drawingroom. In it is an interesting case of medals and decorations won in various forms of service for the Empire. One is the Royal Order of "Isabella Catolica." In the case are the medals of the late Sir Arthur Halkett, Baronet, for service in the Crimea.

Among the paintings are the following: - Sir Peer Halkett, Admiral of the Blue, by J. Watson Gordon; Mrs John Halkett, formerly Miss Tod, by Sir Thomas Lawrence; Sir Peter Halkett, killed in battle at Monagheela in 1755, and next to him his son James, killed in the same battle, painted by Allan Ramsay and Hudson; Sir James Halkett, who was killed by a fall from his horse in his own park in 1705, painted by Jubenet.

Sir Robert Halkett, who accompanied King James VI, to London had a son James, who succeeded him as Laird of Pitfirran; and Sir James who was also knighted, had a son Charles, who became the first baronet, being created one of the Order of Nova Scotia in 1662. His son was the Sir James who was killed in his own park in 1705, and the baronetcy of Halkett of Pitfirrane ceased, as he died unmarried.

The estates of Pitferrane went to his eldest sister Janet, who married Sir Peter Wedderburn., Baronet of Gosford. Thus the estate became associated with a different baronetcy, and as Janet Halkett declared that she would never leave Pitferrane, Sir Peter left Gosford, which in time became the property of the Earl of Wemyss. Lady Wedderburn-Halkett, as Janet thus became, continued the Halketts of Pitferrane.

The Catalogue of the sale 18 December 1951 - Pitferrane House Sale by Dowell's Ltd. This catalogue gives an opportunity to know what was in this room at the time of the sale.

- Highland dirk, bog oak handle, with knife and fork, gilt mounts, set cairngorm "The 79th Highlanders."
- Five Bavarian china plaques, painted landscape, with buildings, figures and birds, 6 ins. x 4 ins. on plush frame.
- Old oak octagonal-shaped table with inlaid and carved top, on carved baluster legs and stretches, 2 ft. 5 ins.
- Japanese decorated china miniature tea set (twenty-five pieces).
- Oak escritoire, with folding writing board and drawer, 2 ft. 9 ins.
- Nest of Japanese black and gold lacquered boxes, on stand, 15 ins wide.
- Tale mirror, in carved and gilt scroll pattern frame, 24 ins. high.
- Boudoir grand painoforte, by Hagspiel in walnut case.
- Victorian oblong dressing stool, on cabriole legs, upholstered seat in woolwork, 3 ft. 4 ins.
- Mahogany nest table, on spindle legs, and oak and brassbound box.
- Antique ebony box with hinged cover, 1 ft. 10 ins.
- Ebonised conversational settee, in printed linen.
- Victorian walnut teapoy, on pillar and claws.
- Antique green tortoiseshell work box, with hinged cover, 10 ins.
- Old cut-glass boat-shaped comport, on circular base, 11 ins.
- Sevres china card tray, in chased ormolu stand, two decorated glass powder bowls and elmroot casket.
- Aneroid barometer, in brass case, brass miniature dome-topped chest, gem set, and antimony box.
- Carriage timepiece, in brass and glazed case, and leather carrying case.
- Dresden china miniature tea set, painted flowers and encrusted forget-me-nots (seven pieces), and three miniature glass wine lasses and decanter, on stand with glass shade.
- Georgian mahogany Pembroke gable with drawer, on lozenge-shaped legs, and tassel feet, 2 ft. 8 ins.
- French buhl wall bracket, with chased ormolu mounts, 16 ins. and French blue china double-handled vase, on ormolu base (faulty).
- French china wall plaque, painted a boar hunt, with huntsmen and hounds, leaf pattern border, encrusted flowers, 20 ins. wide, on plush shield.
- Two-draw telescope, by Dolland, London (Admiral Sir Peter Halkett's telescope).
- Chinese porcelain double-handled jardiniere, decorated flowers in colours, 8 ins.
- Two walnut wool winders.
- Dutch walnut and marqueterie commode of two drawers, serpentine-front, with chased ormolu handles, on four legs, with chased ormolu mounts, 2 ft. 4 ins. wide x 2 ft. 8 ins. high.

Parian china comport, pierced, with crimson glass liner, three female figures supports, 2 ft. 2 ins. high.

Parian china comport, pierced, with three cupid supports, 1 ft. 3 ins. high.

Small china plaque, Madonna and Child 4 ins. in ebonised frame, jewelled and chased ormolu mounts.

Carved oak book-trough oak bookside, stationery case Chinese brass writing set, small glass casket with perfume bottles, and coramandel wood portable desk.

Sgian Dubh, with gilt metal mounts, and eight small daggers, paper knife and scissors.

Two small fragments of tartan plaid, "Prince Charles Edward Stuart, given to Countess of Eglinton at Holyrood 1745."

Old Russian triptych icon, 8 ins. high.

Maple circular table, on scroll pattern legs, with stretchers, 4 ft.

Ebonised pole firescreen, with old sewed-work panel, man with plant in pot.

Ladies' walnut circle-back chair in printed linen.

Square back easy chair, in printed linen.

Carved ivory chess men (sixty-two-pieces).

Two Japanese lacquered nests of boxes (different), and Japanese lacquered box.

French walnut and marqueterie oblong-shaped table, on cabriole legs, and chased ormolu mounts, 3 ft. 10 ins.

Mahogany inlaid wine table, on pillar and claws, and mother-o'-pearl inlaid candle table.

White marble group of three figures after the antique on pedestal, 27 ins. high.

German amber glass vase, with reserve panels of buildings, 5½ ins. Bohemian glass vase, with gilt mounts, gem set, 8 ins. high.

Green marble figure of a boar, Imari vase, two alabaster figures, and five other items.

French ebonised and buhl pier cabinet, enclosed by panel door with chased ormolu plaque, cupids in a garden, and chased ormolu mounts, 3 ft. wide.

Companion cabinet.

Mahogany pole firescreen on triangular base, with gilt claw feet, with old sewed-work panel, man seated at a table.

Victorian walnut shaped-back settee, on cabriole legs, upholstered in printed linen.

Cushion in printed linen.

Elmroot pole firescreen, with silk sewed -work and glazed panel.

Old English china double-handled vase, painted flower panels, gilt borders, 11 ins. high, and two wine coolers to match, 7 ins. high.

Bohemian crimson and gilt glass vase, with painted flower panels, 7½ ins. Bohemian glass perfume bottle, and Venetian glass jug.

Small marble bust of a man, on hardstone pedestal two Japanese miniature bronze kettles, and three other items.

Fine Dresden china figure of a lady, decorated in colours, with lace head-dress, seated at a dressing table with mirror, and toilet requisites, 5½ ins. high on wood stand with glass shade.

Pair Georgian upright wall mirrors, in gilt gesso frames, scrolled pediment, with carved shield and leaf designs, each with two brass candle brackets, size overall 62 ins. x 35 ins.

Seven Sèvres and Dresden cabinet cups and four saucers, decorated birds in colours and four other items.

Miniature portrait bust of a lady in white dress, in brass and glazed frame.

Two Bohemian glass miniature carafes and tumblers, miniature glass water jug, miniature wine glass, and six other items.

Choice French walnut and Kingwood cabinet, with inlaid coloured marqueterie panels, enclosed by two glazed and one panel door, drawer in frieze, chased ormolu mounts and ormolu vase finials, 3 ft 9 ins. wide x 5 ft. 10 ins. high..

Chinese porcelain blue and white circular bowl 14 ins. diam.

Walnut octagonal-shaped occasional table, on turned legs, with undershelf, 2 ft. 2 ins.

Six Regency rosewood chairs, on turned legs, with upholstered loose seats.

French tulipwood and kingwood work table, with two Sèvres china plaquettes, hinged top on cabriole legs, with undershelf, chased ormolu mounts 16 ins.

Old carved oak square table, on spiral legs and stretches.

Bush portable wireless receiving set, Type B.P. 90.

Chinese porcelain circular bowl, decorated flowering plants, 14 ins. diam.

Walnut circular, table, the top inlaid designs in vari-coloured woods, on pillar and claws, 27 ins.

Walnut Sutherland table, on turned legs, 22 ins.

Three-level draught screen, with floral sewed-work panels, 5 ft. 8 ins. high.

Gilt console table, carved ram masks, medallion head, leaf and wreath designs, plush covered top, 2 ft. 10 ins. wide.

Ivory fan, painted figures in panels, gilt floral borders.

Old tortoiseshell comb, in engraved tortoiseshell case.

Old steel pocket knife, in shagreen case, old embroidered work case, onyx cylindrical box with gilt mount, and small onyx vinaigrette, with gold mounts.

Gold circular pendant, set agates, gold signet ring, set intaglio, gold and enamelled mourning ring, gem set, gold mourning ring, set hair, and agate fob seal.

Silver filigree double scarf pin, gem set, and silver filigree chatelaine.

Gold coin, five other coins, gilt mounted oval pendant, small glass perfume bottle, and miniature cup, gem set.

Carved oak display table, with glazed hinged top and sides, on stand with bulbous legs.

Eight miniature portraits, in oval gilt frame, glazed, comprising:

- Bust of a Gentleman in Military Uniform - Col. F. Tod. attributed to G Engleheart.
- Bust of a Gentleman in Military Uniform, Red Coat with Gold Facing, in gold frame.
- Bust of a Lady in White Dress, with Blue Sash and White Head-dress.
- Bust of a young Man in Blue Coat, with White Cravat - Thomas Halkett.
- Bust of a Lady in White Dress wearing Black Velvet Neck-band.
- Bust of a Young Man in Naval Uniform.
- Bust of a Lady in Black Dress wearing Pearl Necklet and Ear-rings (small).
- Bust of a Lady in Blue and White Dress and Pearl Head-dress, by H. J. 1701 (small).

Eight miniature portraits, in oval gilt frame, glazed, comprising:

- Bust of a Gentleman in Naval Uniform, wearing Badge and Silver Chain, in gold frame.
- Buist of a Gentleman in Uniform with gilt epaulettes and facings, wearing badge.
- Bust of a Young Man in Blue Coat with White Collar.
- Bust of a Young Man in Blue Coat, with White Cravat.



Bust of a Lady in White Dress wearing Yellow Bonnet - Madame De Lally Tolandal, by Isabey, in gold frame, with hair inset at back.  
 Bust of a Lady wearing Black Shawl and White Mutch.  
 Bust of a Gentleman in Wig, in gold frame (small).  
 Bust of a Gentleman in Military Uniform, by I, Voegelé, 1799.  
 Miniature portrait of a Gentleman Seated at a Bureau with Quill in Right Hand - Mr. Todd, oval in ebonised and gilt frame.  
 Miniature portrait, Bust of a Young Man in Naval Uniform - Henry Halkett, oval, in ebonised and gilt frame.  
 Table mirror, in chased ormolu and enamelled frame, 10 ins.  
 Sèvres china vase, with figure and flower panels, gilt ormolu handles and mounts 9½ ins., and china basket comport, encrusted flowers, 8 ins.  
 Chinese porcelain mug, with flower panels, blue and white teapot and forty pieces if cups, saucers, and plates,  
 Ebonised inlaid plant stand, with nubian figure support, 19 ins. high.  
 Oak Sutherland table, on turned legs, 2 ft. 5 ins.  
 Carved oak open dwarf bookcase, 4 ft. 8 ns. wide.  
 Bird's-eye maple Davenport desk 1 ft, 11 wide,  
 Eleven Minton plates decorated "Mr. Jorrocks" hunting scenes, pierced borders, 9 ins.  
 Imari shaving bowl, decorated in red, blue and gold, 10 ins., and Chinese porcelain oblong ashet, 14½ ins.  
 Imari baluster-shaped vase, decorated with flowering plants in colours 16 ins., and two Imari beakers.  
 Rosewood circular breakfast table, on pillar and block, 4 ft. 2 ins.  
 Ladies walnut cair, panel back, and seat in printed linen.  
 Two old Delft blue-and-white plates (different).  
 Georgian mahogany inlaid kneehole table, with eight drawers and cupboard to centre enclosed by panel door, on bracket feet, 2 ft 7 ins.  
 Walnut easy chair in printed linen.  
 Oriental stripped sofa blanket, and cushion in biege damask.  
 French ebonised and buhl writing-table, with two drawers, on tapering fluted legs, 4 ft. 5 ins. wide.  
 Letter scales and weights, leter rack, stationery case and blotter.  
 Two walnut Havelock easy chairs in printed linen.  
 Two cushions in weave cloth.  
 Gas radiator in metal case.  
 Steel rail fender, set brass fire implements, poker and pair coal tongs.  
 Louis XV bracket clock, chased ormolu dial with china numerals, by Delisle, Parish, in buhl case, with chased ormolu mounts surmounted by winged figure with trumpet, 2 ft 8 ins. high.  
 Pair Dresden white china, male and female figures, with baskets and vines, 9 ins. high, with glass shades and stands.  
 Pair Dresden china urn-shaped vases and covers, decorated panels with figures in gardens, on shaped supports and bases, 6 ins. high.  
 Chippendale mantle mirror with numerous plates, in gilt frame, carved scrolls and acanthus leaves, size overall, 6 ft. x 5 ft.  
 Two sewed-work bannerettes with brass brackets.  
 Walnut two-leaved firescreen with silk sew-work panels, 3 ft 8 ins. high.

Georgian mirror in carved mahogany inlaid frame, with pierced gilt eagle pediment, 3 ft. x 1 ft. 7 ins.

Walnut settee, in printed linen, and embroidered seat cover.

Two shaped cushions in bieve damask.

Walnut arm easy chair in printed linen.

Five pairs cretonne curtains 9 ft. x 2 ft. 7 ins. each curtain and loopers.

Pair chenille portiere curtains, 10 ft. x 4 ft. 6 ins. each.

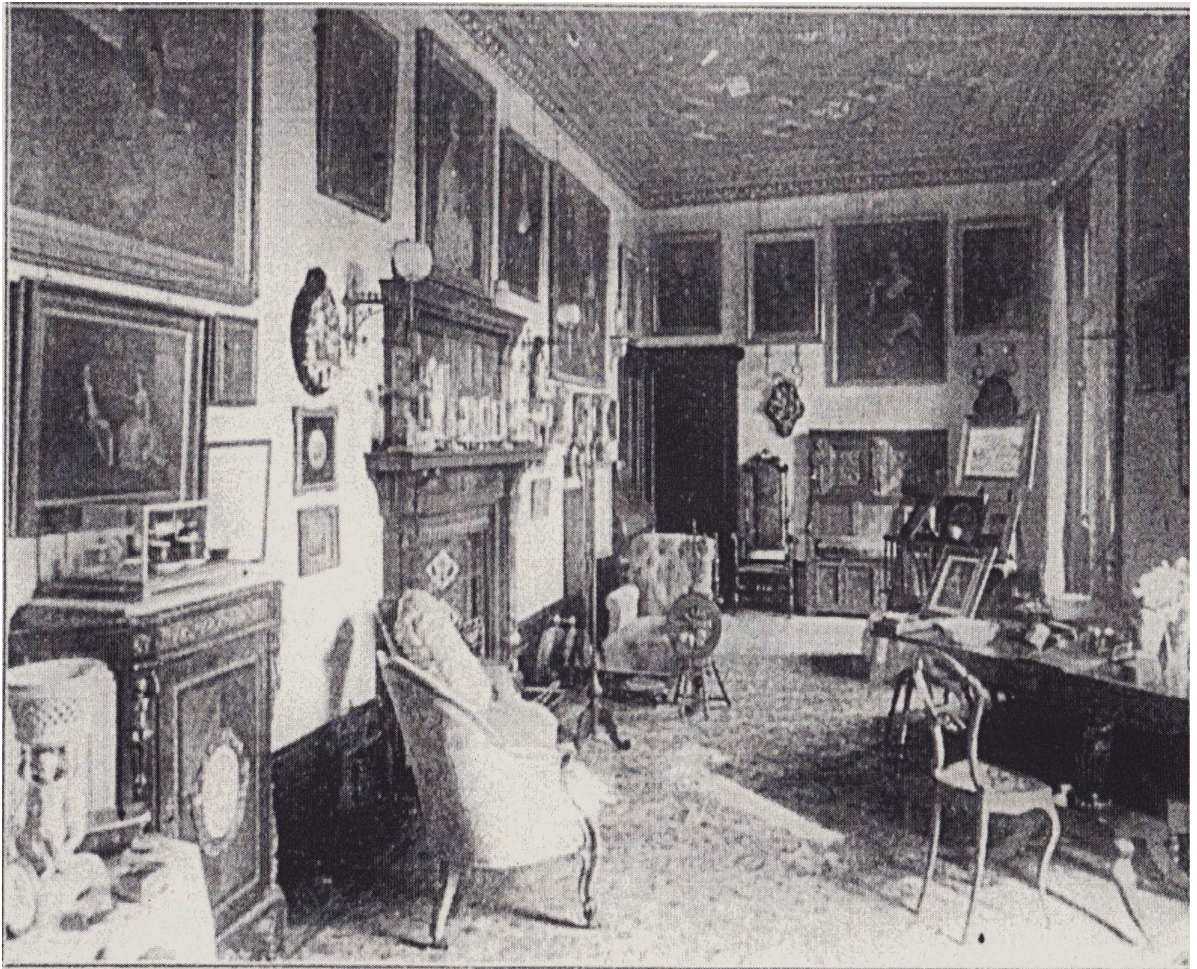
Reversible rug, pink ground, 10 ft. 6 ins. x 3 ft.

Two Axminster hearth rugs.

Axminster hearth rug, Brussels rug, and portiere curtain.

Axminster carpet, crimson ground with floral designs, 24 ft. x 11 ft. 3 ins. and underfelt.

## Family Paintings



The Blue Drawingroom, looking from the main Drawingroom

The blue drawingroom is entered from the main drawingroom to which it lies at a right angle. Its panelled ceiling is remarkable, as is similarly that of the diningroom,

for the coats of arms of the family and its connections, painted by the late Sir Arthur in the panels.

Among the paintings hanging on the walls are Anne Hyde, Duchess of York, by Sir Peter Lely; the Duke was afterwards James II, of Scotland and II, of England, and was Commissioner for his brother, Charles II, in Scotland, before he became King.

In the diningroom are also many paintings. One is of Sir Charles, the first baronet, painted in 1662, the year of the patent, by Sir John de Medina. Another is of Sir Peter Wedderburn of Gosford, by Sir Godfrey Kneller. One of very great interest is the fine three-quarter length portrait of the late Sir Arthur Halkett, by Sir Richard Gibb. Sir Arthur appears in an actual portrait, in the famous "Battle of the Alms," by the same artist, in which he carried the colours of his regiment, the "Forts Sacred." This painting is in the Glasgow Gallery, which bought it from the artist. Of a different kind of interest is the large painting over the mantelpiece of Sir John Halkett with his second wife and his fourteen children, of whom thirteen were that lady's. The boy on the right of Sir John was the one who became the Admiral represented in the main drawingroom.

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Amber glass flower holder and flat, and fourteen flower vases (various).

Folding card table.

Oblong seat in crimson plush and wool work.

Maple settee on cabriole legs, upholstered in tapestry cloth.

Two Cushions.

Ottoman box in plush and wool work.

Hand fan and pieces of Brussels lace, in inlaid box.

Inkstand antimony box, small jewel box, Indian chased tray elmroot candle stand, and ten other items.

Elmroot and brass inlaid sofa table, with two drawers and two folding leaves, on pillar and claws, with brass terminals, 5 ft. 6 ins. wide.

White china circular basin, in mahogany frame, with cover.

Antique oak double corner cupboard upper part with three drawers, enclosed by four doors with carved panels, 7 ft. 5 ins.

Two lengths of Victorian wool work, 10 ft 6 ins. x 13 ins. and 7 ft. 6 ins. x 13.

Old walnut spinning wheel.

Walnut work table with hinged cover, on end supports, 2 ft.

Two pairs opera glasses, in cases.

Pair field glasses, in case.

Pair lustre cups, on stems, decorated flowers in colours, 3½ ins. high.

Lustre cup on stem, 4¼ ins., and lustre cream jug, 3 ins.

Pewter measure with hinged cover, Bohemian glass perfume bottle, in metal stand, and another item.

Dresden china jug in the form of a bear, decorated with flowers and butterflies in colours, 8 ins.

Four Dresden china shell salt cellars, painted birds, on fish supports, 2½ ins.

Dresden china miniature table, decorated landscape with figures, encrusted flowers, on four feet, 5 ins. diam.

Capo di Monte cup and saucer with raised figure and flower festoon design, and Dresden china cup, cover and flat.

Tortoiseshell oblong snuff box, fold mounted, the lid inset hair and monogram in gold 3½ ins., and tortoiseshell patch box.

Silver miniature table and two chairs, chased cupids and coats of arms.

Silver miniature taper stick, silver paper clip, chased cupids, and silver inkwell.

Chinese carved lacquered snuff bottle, Bohemian glass perfume bottle in case, small ivory horn with silver mounts, and five other items.

Miniature portrait of a Gentleman in Military uniform, miniature water-colour portrait, and pair gilt metal spurs, in case.

Lady's mother-o'-pearl manicure set, in ormolu shell-shaped case on claw feet, the lid with carved mother-o'-pearl shell.

Sheraton mahogany inlaid corner cupboard enclosed by glazed astragal doors, 3 ft. 4 ins. high.

Antique oak inlaid corner cupboard, enclosed by panel doors, 3 ft. 6 ins. high.

Six marble portrait busts in carved and gilt ribbon-design frames, on plush shields.

Ten glass flower vases (various).

Eight glass flower vases, five mirror plateaux, and two other items.

Two brass jardinières on claw feet.

Ebonised and gilt oblong table with plush top.

Minton white china boat-shaped comport with figure of a cupid, 9 ins. high.

Two Minton white china boat-shaped comports with cupids, 5 ins.

Minton china fern pot with figure, and Minton white china group of Horse and Boy.

French walnut tulipwood and parqueterie pier cabinet, the panel doors with Sevres china plaquette, chased ormolu mounts and figures of cupids, white marble top 2 ft. 4 ins. wide.

Maple high-back chair, panel back and seat in sewed work.

Antique mahogany powdering stand.

Lady's Victorian walnut chair, panel back and seat in sewed work.

Pair continental china wall sconces, painted loch scenes with figures, building and boats, the scroll borders encrusted flowers in colours, each with two candle brackets, 15 ins. high, on plush shields.

Two Sèvres china plaques decorated cupids, turquoise blue and gilt scroll borders, 5½ ins diam., in plush and carved and gilt frames.

Two Wedgwood blue and white jugs with silver hinged doomed covers, 7½ ins. high.

Two Chinese blue glazed figures of Kylins, 8 ins. high.

Pair French ormolu candlesticks, on circular bases, 10 ins. high.

Dresden china bowl, cover and flat, decorated figures and flower panels, and Chinese porcelain bowl and cover, flower panels.

Chelsea china figure of Neptune with dolphin, the base encrusted shells and seaweed in colour 9 ins. high on wood stand and glass shade.

Two Chelsea china figures of Lady and Gentleman with lamb and dog, on rocaille base, encrusted with flowers in colours, 8½ ins. high, on wood stands with glass shades.

Metal and steel dog grate with andirons,.

Brass and glazed firescreen, and three steel fire implements.

Walnut two-leaved firescreen with tapestry cloth panels.

Brass telescopic lamp stand, on circular base.

Oak pole firescreen with sewed-work sampler.

Embossed brass log box with hinged cover, 20 ins wide.

Walnut easy chair in tapestry cloth.  
 Old sand glass, white china fern pot bird flower holder, and nine other pieces decorative china  
 Brass lantern clock, by *Edward Bilbie*, the front fret with lion, unicorn and shield, engraved *E.B. and date 1731*, 16 ins. high.  
 Dutch walnut and marqueterie bureau chest of three drawers, folding writing-board enclosing drawers with coloured marqueterie panels, on claw and ball feet, 3 ft. 9 ins. wide.  
 Two bird's-eye maple chairs, on cabriole legs.  
 Italian china wall bracket with demi figurehead and leaf design, in colours, 10½ ins. high.  
 Three lengths Victorian sewed work.  
 Two Italian carved and gilt wood wall sconces, figures of cupids and scroll designs, each with two scroll pattern candle branches, 2 ft. 6 ins. high on plush shields.  
 Bird's-eye maple chair, fretwork back, upholstered seat in sewed work. Victorian sewed-work picture - St John and Peter The Hermit, 36 ins. x 30 ins., in ebonised frame, glazed, "awarded first prize" Edinburgh Industrial Exhibition 1907.  
 Antique carved oak hall settle, the back and front panels carved figures and scroll panels, hinged lid, and loose seat cushion, 4 ft. 6 ins. wide.  
 Carved mahogany wall bracket, with pierced gallery, 14 ins. high.  
 Full-length portrait in enamel of A Lady in White Dress with Red Shawl, landscape background, Mrs. J. Halkett, daughter of J. Todd Esq., married J. Halkett Esq., son of Sir John Halkett, 5th Baronet, by Hendry Bone, after Sir Thomas Lawrence, R.A., 12 ins. x 8 ins. in gilt frame, with glazed door and key, on oak cased.  
 Pair old Flemish tapestry portiere curtains, with rep borders, and brass loopers.  
 Two pairs blue printed linen window curtains lined 12 ft. x 5 ft. 6 ins. each curtain, and cord loopers.  
 Axminster bordered carpet, 30 ft. x 13 ft. 9 ins., underfelt and piece carpet.



## Walls Ten Feet Thick

As is always the case where there is a wheel stair of ancient date, the space on this drawingroom landing is restricted, with the rooms radiating from it and the doors not far separated. One other door, close to that of the diningroom, is of no modern use, as it covers the entrance to the stair which has been blocked up - not a "secret stair" in the ordinary sense, but one which led from below, where the old vaulted room of the ancient peel was one of the important parts of the residence, which comprised one large room on each of the first floors, those above being perhaps divided. These two lower rooms always had very thick walls, and the diningroom is an illustration of this, for its walls are ten feet thick.

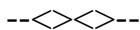
Most of the outstanding personages of the family have been mentioned as this description of Pitfirrane has progressed. But three remain for special notice. The first of the family who was styled "of Pitfirrane," was David de Halket, grandson of Philip, who had already been mentioned and son of Robert, who was Sheriff of Kinross in 1372.

Elizabeth, sister of her who carried the estate into the Wedderburn connection was a poetess and married Sair Henry Wardlaw of Pitreavie ie in 1696. She died in 1726 or 1727, and is famous as the author of a poem entitled "Hardyknute," which had great vogue in her century.

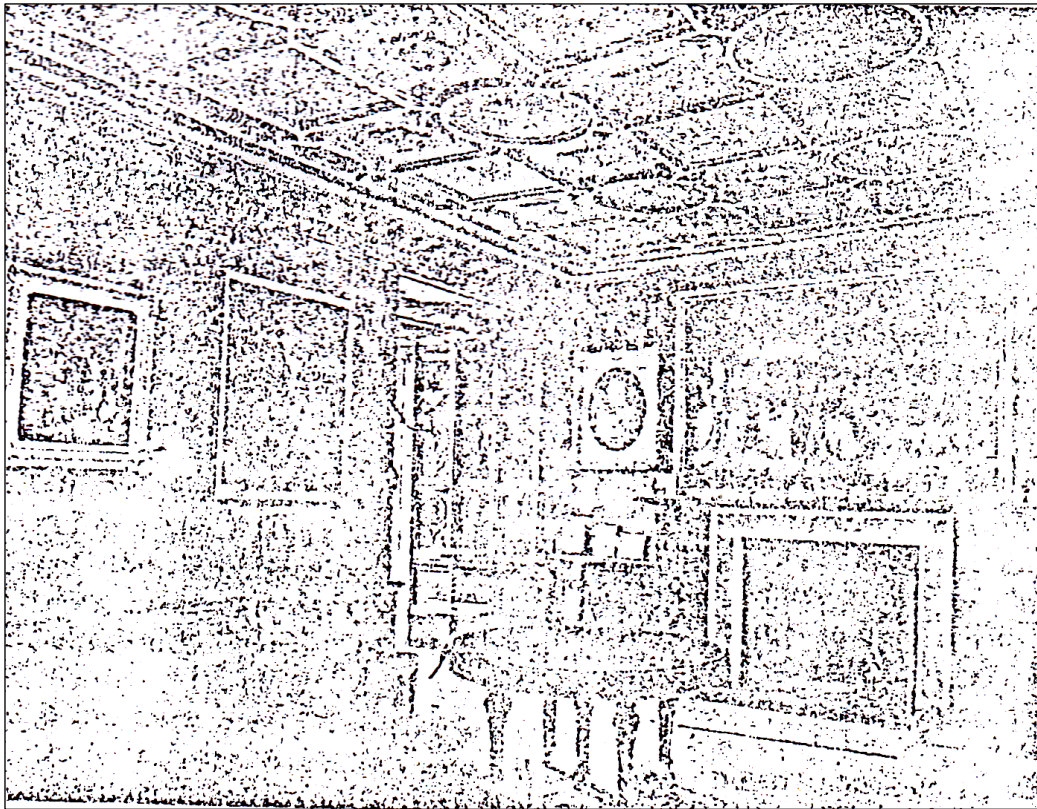
And the third is the last of the baronets, Sir Peter Arthur Halkett, father of the ladies who now represent the family "of Pitfirrane." He was born on May 2, 1834, and died on March 8 1904. He was the son of Sir John, Commander in the Royal Navy, and grandson of Admiral Sir Peter, the sixth baronet. His service in the Crimea has already been noted; in that war he gained the medal with three clasps, and the Sardinian and Turkish medals. Afterwards, he was captain in the 3rd Light Dragoons, and honorary colonel of the 4th Brigade of the Western Division of the Royal Artillery. The baronetcy which ceased with him was the Wedderburn baronetcy of creation 1697.

THOMAS HANNAN, The Weekly Scotsman 10

December 1932.







The finely decorated ceiling is a feature of the Dining-room.

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#### SOLID SILVER

Twelve table spoons, Old English pattern, engraved crest (nine London 1803, two London 1805, one Edinburgh 1802). 25 oz.

Twelve table forks. Old English pattern, engraved crests, London, 1804, 1806, and 1813, 25 oz.

Nine dessert spoons, Old English pattern, engraved crest (five London 1803, three London 1805, two Edinburgh 1802). 10 oz.

Three sauce ladles, Old English pattern, engraved crest (one London 1803, two London 1821), 5 oz.

Six dessert forks, fiddle pattern, engraved crest, London 1829, and dessert fork, Old English, 9 oz.

Ten antique tea spoons, Old English pattern.

Five antique tea spoons, Old English, feather edge.

Pair sugar tongs, pair plated sugar tongs, two plated jam spoons, six plated dessert forks fiddle pattern, and three plated dessert spoons Old English.

Circular card tray, engraved, chased border, 8½ ins., 10 oz.

Circular shaped teapot, plain, 15 oz.

Circular shaped cream ewer, plain, 7 oz.

Vase-shaped cream ewer, engraved, 3oz.

Oval-shaped mustard pot, with hinged cover, plain, and mustard spoon.

Child's mug, engraved panels, with knife, fork and spoon in case.



Handsome circular punch owl, chased view of Pitfirrane Hose, with huntsman and hounds, fox and hound handles, 18½ ins diam. on wood plinth, with silver presentation inscriptions 130 oz.

Oval bowl, chased flowers and oblique panels, scroll handles, 6½ ins. diam.

Oval snuff box with hinged lid, engraved flowers panels, 5 oz.

Oddfellows order, gem set, in case, and small quantity silver and copper coins.

Tumbler cup, engraved flowers and scrolls, gilt interior, 3½ ins., foreign.

Antique oval nutmeg box, engraved crest.

Small circular double-handled bowl, with ring handle and small cup on three ball feet, foreign.

Small vase-shaped pepper pot, hart-shaped bonbonnière, miniature pepper pot, and two fancy spoons.

Small trinket tray, chased, and three ash trays (different).

Spoon with flat handle (foreign), pocket fruit knife, leaf taper holder, bookmark, glass gum bottle with silver mounts, medal, miniature photo frame and four other items.

Pair table candlesticks, on square shaped base, 8 ins. high, engraved crest, London 1751 (one with Sheffield-plated nozzle) 27 oz.

Octagonal-shaped snuff box, with hinged cover, engraved crest.

Six Jubilee (1935) coffee spoons, in case.

#### PLATED ARTICLES

Four Sheffield oblong entrée dishes with covers and handles, gadroom borders.

Sheffield double-handled tea urn with cover, chased border, on ball feet, 12 ins. high.

Pickle frame with three cut-glass bottles and stoppers.

Two glass jam dishes with plated covers and flats, shell-shaped bon-bon dish with swing handle, and sugar basin, fluted.

Three toast racks, two tumbler holders, two tea strainers, and three other items.

Hot-water jug with domed hinged cove.

Circular muffin dish with liner and cover, beaded border, egg boiler with spirit lamp and hot-water kettle stand.

Hot-water jug and three cruets (different).

Circular salver, engraved crest, chased border, 12½ ins.

Pocket spirit flask, with cup and champagne tap.

Sheffield oval teapot stand, and three snuffer trays.

Sheffield dish cover, with handle, engraved crest.

Twelve apostle-topped tea spoons, in case.

Six dessert knives and six forks, mother-o'-pearl handles.

Six fish knives, threaded handles.

Twelve tea knives and twelve cheese knives, ivory handles.

Six stainless dinner knives, white handles.

Oval-shaped inkstand, partly fluted, on ball feet.

Three Sheffield chamber candlesticks, with extinguisher and glass shades (two and one).

Wine glass with air-twist stem, individual whisky decanter with silver mounts, and six glass salt cellars.

Six nip tumblers, three coloured glass cups, and four small glass flower holders.

Six cut-glass valinches.

Cut-glass goblet, on bulbous stem and circular base, 9 ins. high.

Five cordial glasses with spiral air-twist stems and domed circular bases, 7 ins. high.  
 Five amber liqueur glasses on green spreading stems.  
 Twelve liqueur glasses, cone-shaped, with gilt rims.  
 Nineteen port and sherry glasses engraved Greek key.  
 Sixteen tumblers (various).  
 Twenty-one sherry glasses, etched leaves.  
 Thirteen green cone-shaped hock glasses.  
 Fourteen wine glasses (various).  
 Fifteen wine glasses with knopped stems, folded feet.  
 Twelve champagne glasses (similar), and decanter with knopped stopper.  
 Three Bristol blue glass finger basins.  
 Six champagne glasses, crimson bowls, clear stems.  
 Twelve cut champagne glasses.  
 Six cut sherry glasses.  
 Twelve champagne glasses (plain).  
 Thirteen glass ice plates (various).  
 Three opaque glass jelly dishes with Greek key borders, and three opaque glass circular bowls.  
 Georgian glass syllabub sand, 10½ ins. diam., and another 4½ ins. diam.  
 Eight cut double-lipped finger basins (four and four), and three other finger basins.  
 Twelve moulded glass circular bowls (eight and four).  
 Four Dutch glass descanters (different), two Dutch glass water carafes with cork stoppers, mell-shaped decanter, and two water jugs (different).  
 Pair cut quart decanters and stoppers, and two other quart decanters and stoppers (different).  
 Two cut quart decanters with stoppers, and two pint decanters (similar).  
 Five decanters (different).  
 Five decanters and claret jugs (different).  
 Pink opaque glass dessert set, gilt borders of: twelve plates, seven comports, on stems, and flower vase.  
 Pair Georgian ivory and tortoiseshell tea caddies, hinged lids, with silver shield mounts, 5 ins. high.  
 Mahogany telescopic dining table, on turned legs, with six loose leaves, full extent 13 ft. 6 ins.  
 Worcester armorial china coffee cups handleless cups and saucers, decorated monogram in oval, gros bleu and gilt borders (fifty-one pieces).  
 Seen handleless china cups and saucers, painted monogram and leaf design.  
 Royal Worcester blue and white breakfast plates and saucers (twenty pieces), and twenty-six other breakfast plates and saucers.  
 Carved oak side table on bulbous legs, with undershelf, 5 ft. 6 ins.  
 Antique mahogany box, with hinged lid, brass mounts and handles, on bracket feet 2 ft. 4 ins. wide.  
 Old English tea china, gilt floral border (seventeen pieces).  
 Dresden china part dessert set, painted birds and butterflies gilt borders, of: twelve plates and eight comports.  
 Georgian mahogany inlaid circular breakfast table, on pillar and claws, 3 ft. 6 ins. diam.  
 Wemyss ware flower holder, decorated cockerel in colours in relief, 16 ins. high.  
 Part china dinner set, painted flower centres (seventy-four pieces).

Oak sideboard enclosed by three doors with carved panels, carved panel back, with shelves 7 ft. wide.

Coalport china tea set, decorated flower sprays (forty-one pieces).  
two Georgian mahogany half-circle tables, on turned legs and club feet, deal tops, 4 ft. wide.

Four gilt metal bon-bon baskets, and six eggshell china coffee cups and saucers.  
Woods ware decorated coffee set (fifteen-pieces).

Georgian mahogany circular two-tier revolving dumb waiter, with brass galleries, 3 ft. 3 ins. high.

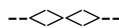
Eight china dessert plates and four comports, painted flower centres, pierced borders.  
Pair Sheraton mahogany inlaid knife boxes, with hinged covers, 13 ins. high.  
Mahogany oblong table, with two drawers, on turned legs 4 ft. 5 ins. wide.  
Ivory ware part breakfast set (twenty-four pieces).  
Two Dutch glass spirit decanters, with stoppers, in mahogany fitted case.  
Five Derby china double-handled bowls, and six flat pierced, decorated in the Chinese style, with bamboo trees and flowering plants, in red, blue and gold.  
Mahogany oblong table, with drawer on turned legs 3 ft. 4 ins.  
Aneroid barometer and thermometer, by Peter Primauesi, Edinburgh, in Sheraton mahogany inlaid case.  
Standard china part tea set, decorated birds and flowers (twenty-seven pieces).  
Decorated ware fruit set (seven pieces).  
Stained mahogany circular snap table, on pillar and claws, 3 feet.  
Oak rule jointed four-leaves draught screen, with crimson baize panels and carved oak coat of arms, 5 ft. 7 ins. high.  
A similar draught screen, 4 ft high.  
Eleven oak chairs, on turned legs, panel backs and seats in morocco.  
Pair chased ormolu candelabra, for five lights each, with scroll pattern branches 21 ins. high.  
Bohemian crimson and gilt glass trinket set (six pieces).  
Bracket Clock, by Joseph Knibb, London Square Brass dial with silver cherub head spandrels, silvered hour ring, engraved scrolls, back plate engraved "Joseph Knibb Londini Fecit" figure of time, sandglass and flowers in ebonised case, spiral pillars, with silver Corinthian chapters, surmounted by silver female figure and four vase ornaments 16 ins high on stand with bal feet.  
Bracket table with Italian carved walnut cupid support 37 ins. High.  
Pair Benares engraved brass vases, and covers, 13 ins. High, and pair alabaster jugs.  
Two Chinese porcelain figures of sitting ducks, decorated in colours, 8 ins.  
Hoof inkstand, and trinket box, with plated mounts.  
Two bullock horns, with silver mounts, each on claw feet 11 ins. "Horns of ration bullock 42nd Highlanders Sebastopol, 1853."  
Two walnut wine cups, with silver rims, engraved "Walnut wood grown on Pitfirrane Estate," 7 ins. high.  
Two Benares brass circular trays and three finger basins.  
Engraving - Flora Macdonald proof impression, oval with four small fragments of tartan worn by Prince Charles Edward Stuart at Holyrood, presented by her son Col. John Macdonald.  
Line engraving - Prince Charles Edward Stuart, and six small fragments of tartan plaid present to the Countess of Eglinton by Prince Charles Edward Stuart at Holyrood September 1745, and reproduction of fragment of tartan plaid, framed and glazed.

Pencil sketch- Charles Fox, in gilt frame glazed.  
Mantelpiece flock, china dial, in oak case.  
Metal dog grate.  
Pair brass and metal andirons, set steel fire implements , and pair bellows.  
Gas radiator, in metal case.  
Oak octagonal-shaped table, with inlaid top, on baluster legs, and flat stretchers, 2 ft. 6 ins.  
Mahogany marqueterie inlaid double handled tea tray, with brass handles, 23 ins.  
Antique mahogany dining table with two oval folding legs, 4 ft. wide.  
Turkey bordered carpet, crimson ground 20 ft. 9 ins. x 14 ft. 6 ins. and felt surround.  
Persian bordered rug, 5 ft. x 2 ft. 9 ins.

**Note:** - The late Mrs Watson who lived with her daughter Alison, in the cottage on the course, Mr Watson was the gardener at that time. She gave me her Catalogue of the Sale, by Dowell's Edinburgh many years ago.

The Catalogue of Furnishings, etc. of Pitfirrane House has also listings for the -

Business Room  
The School Room  
Telephone Room  
Telephone Room  
Billiard Room  
Oil Paintings in Gilt Frames  
Oil Portraits in Gilt Frames  
9 Bedrooms  
Corridors  
Tapestry Room.



# HISTORIC BUILDINGS COUNCIL FOR SCOTLAND

## PITFIRANE CASTLE, COSSFORD

### DUNFERMLINE DISTRICT, FIFE REGION

#### INSPECTOR'S REPORT: DAVID WALKER

##### HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

The lands of Pitfirrane were granted by the Abbot of Dunfermline to David Halkett in 1437. He built an oblong tower, roughly 51 ft x 31 ft, which is still the core of the present house. In 1583 George Halkett, Provost of Dunfermline, who had succeeded in 1573, removed the parapet and reconstructed it as a small up-to-date tower by the addition of an angle-turreted fourth floor and a staircase jamb rising a storey higher, all in fine ashlar. The stair jamb is of notable design in that the large wheel stair rises to second floor level the turret stair beginning at second floor level, and is distinguished by three magnificent armorial panels. In the early 18th century a wing was added on the east side turning the house into a stepped L-plan; in the late 18th century a 3-bay arched porch was built filling the re-entrant angle at ground floor level; and in the mid and late century further eastern additions were made, resulting in a somewhat straggling composition. In the course of the mid 19th century alterations and window embrasures of the hall were fitted up with some very remarkable 16th century Renaissance panelling with portrait heads, not all by the same hand. The RCAHM inventory does not mention these, but they appear to be of mixed Scottish and northern European provenance. The soffits have swagged heads of early-mid 18th century date evidently salvaged from somewhere else, while the sideboard recess and chimneypiece are again a mixture of 16th or 17th century salvaged elements and new work. The ribbed compartment ceiling with painted armorial panels is entirely 19th century. At or about the same date some very fine 16th century German Renaissance glass was inserted in the windows of the stair.





**THE ROUND STAIRCASE  
WITH WOOD CARVING AND FLEMISH GLASS WINDOWS  
WITH SHUTTERS  
WOOD CARVING IN DINING ROOM**



Carved oak wall panel, poker-work panel-Man with Spoon, and small carved wood wall racket.

Twelve curved swords with bone handles and brass mounts.

Two steel beast-plates, and two back plates.

Two large Gres de Flanders jugs, 18 ins high.

Plaster bust - Mary Queen of Scots, 26 ins. high, and plush covered pedestal.

Length hair carpet, 16 yds x 27 ins. wide, and felt pads, and piece landing carpet, fitted.

From -Catalogue of sale December 1951 - Pitferrane House Sale by Dowell's Ltd.

EARLY GLASS WINDOW AT THE BOTTOM OF WHEEL STAIRCASE



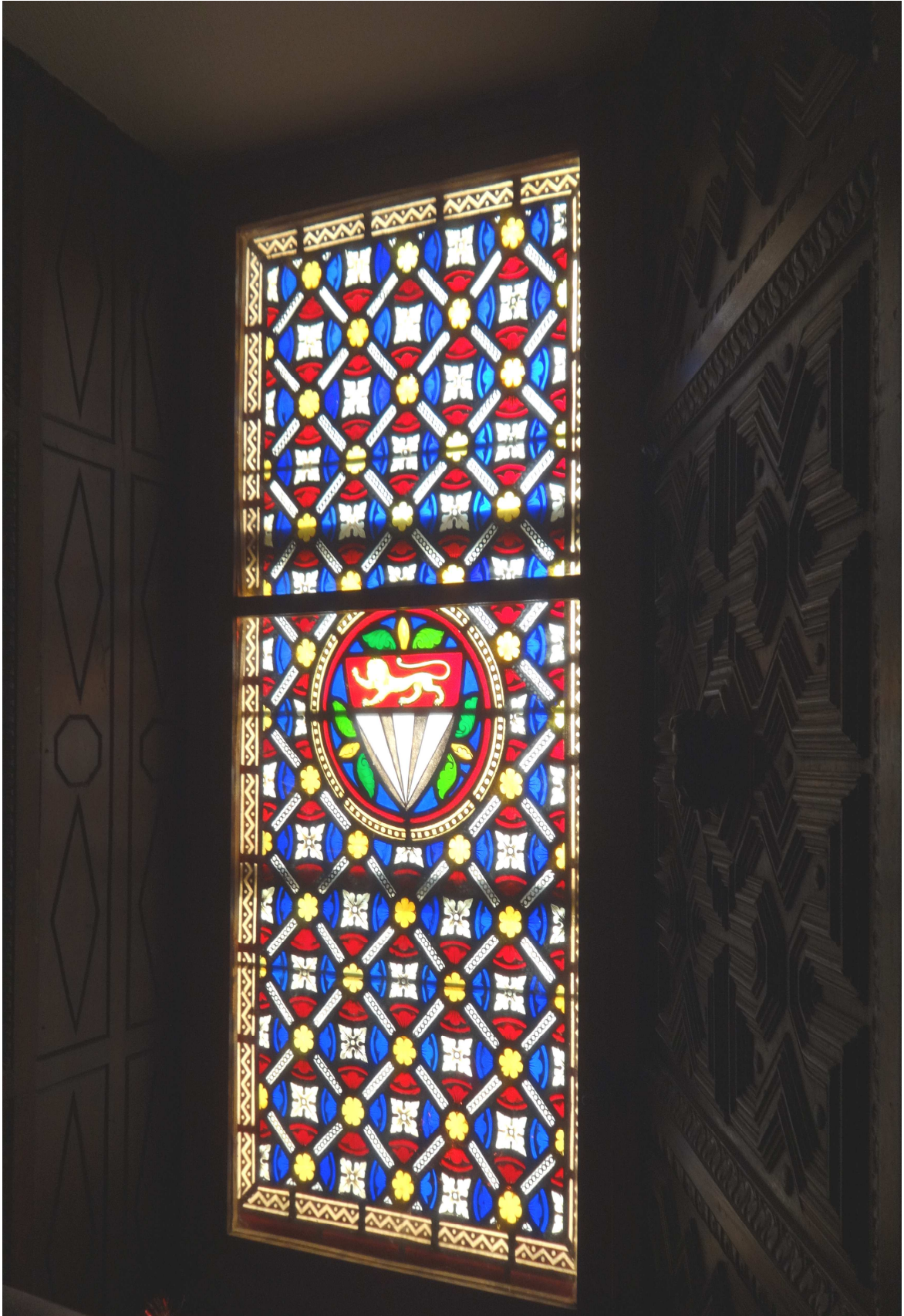
EARLY GLASS AT BOTTOM LEFT OF THE STAIRCASE

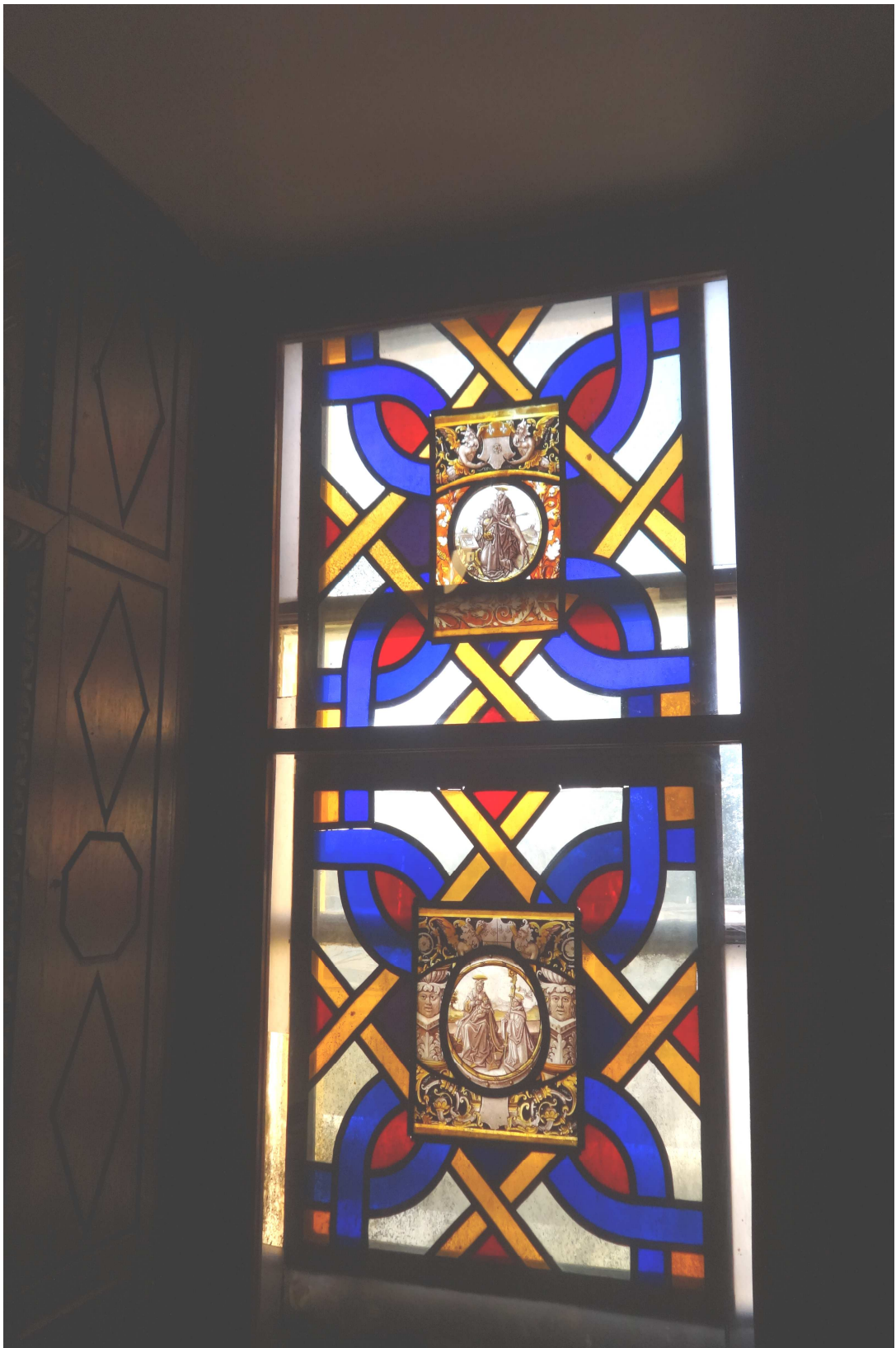




The first window on the right of the staircase  
was damaged during alterations  
The centre missing panel had  
The head of JOHN the BAPTIST  
On a Plate











WOOD CARVING OF LINEN FOLDS



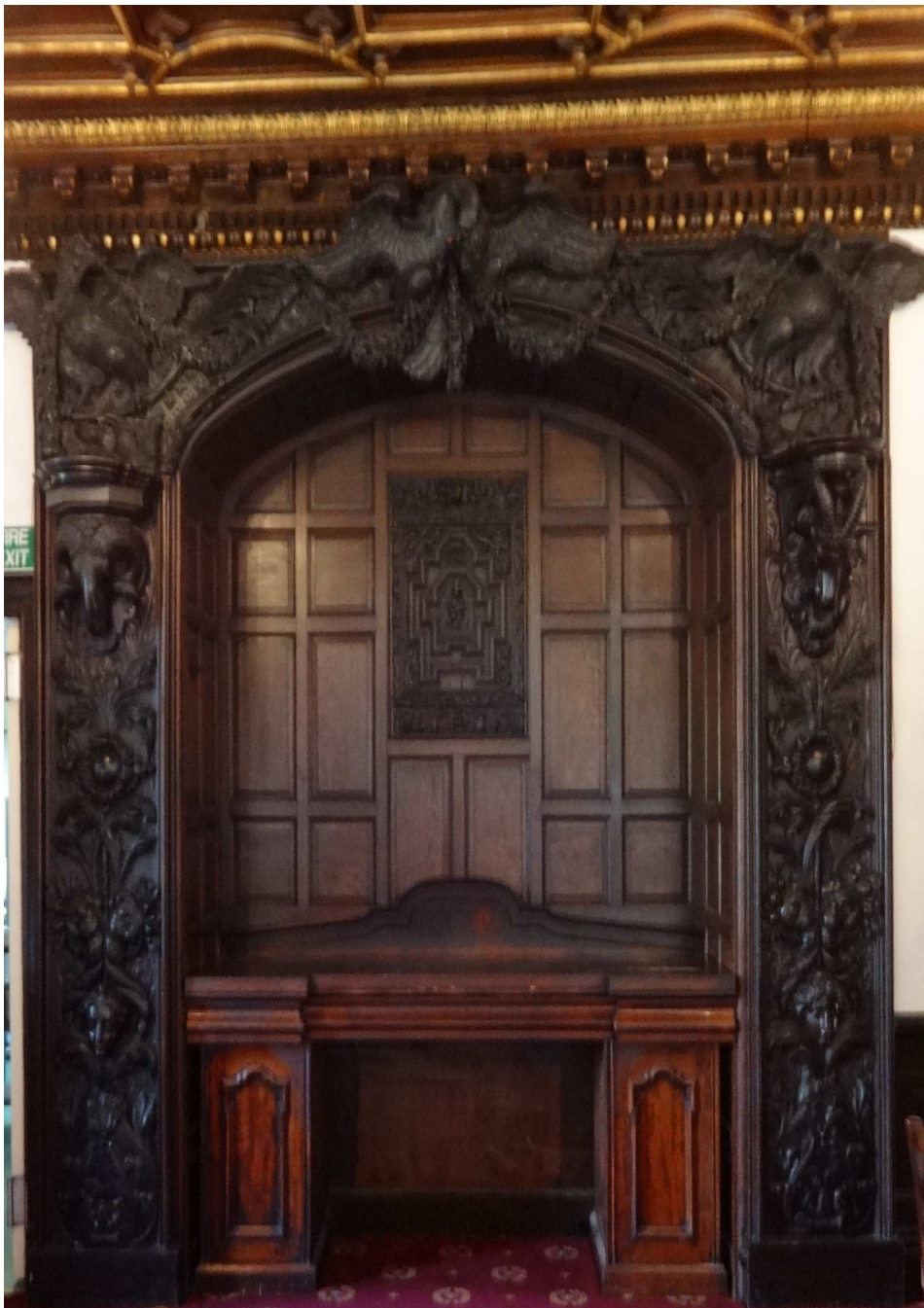


The two doors on the stairs has handles with Tirling Pins. The Handle is twisted and the Pin is hanging at the bottom. One rattles the pin up and down for someone to answer the door.

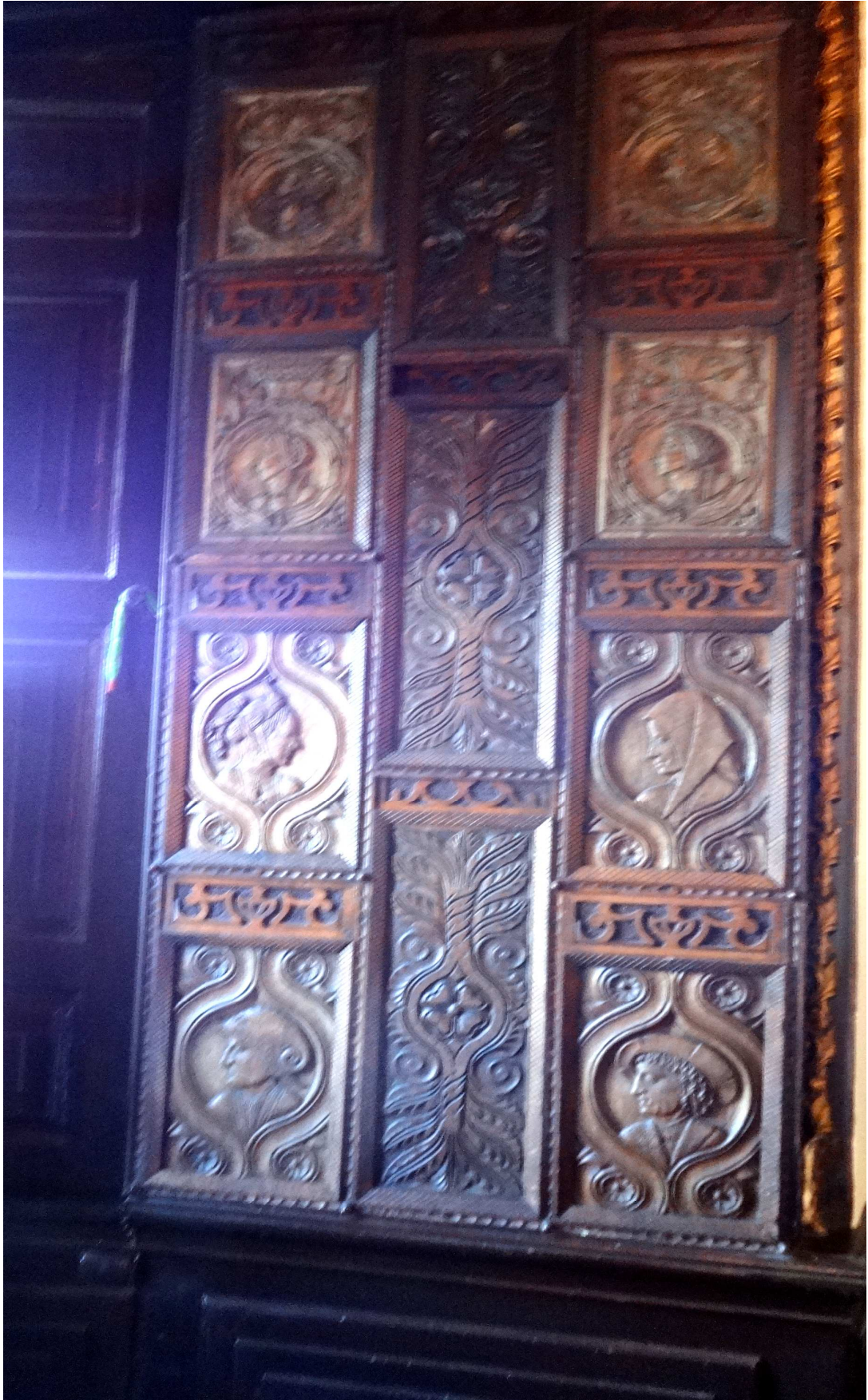
## TOP OF THE FIRST FLOOR STAIRCASE

In the Dining Room there are in all five sets or panels of the carvings, and although several are probably later copies many of the individual medallions seem to be 16th-century craftsmanship.

The medallion head, usually a human head or bust set within a circular frame such as a wreath of fruits and Flowers's was a favourite decorative motif of Renaissance designers and was extensively used for both external and internal embellishment of buildings of the period. when employed in schemes of internal decoration the medallions were usually of wood; they were used in many different ways but were perhaps most frequently incorporated in furniture or panelling. The closest Scottish parallel to the Pitfirrane series is probably the fine group of oak panels from James V's Palace, Stirling Castle, now preserved in the Smith Institute, Stirling; these can be ascribed to the second quarter of the 16th century.









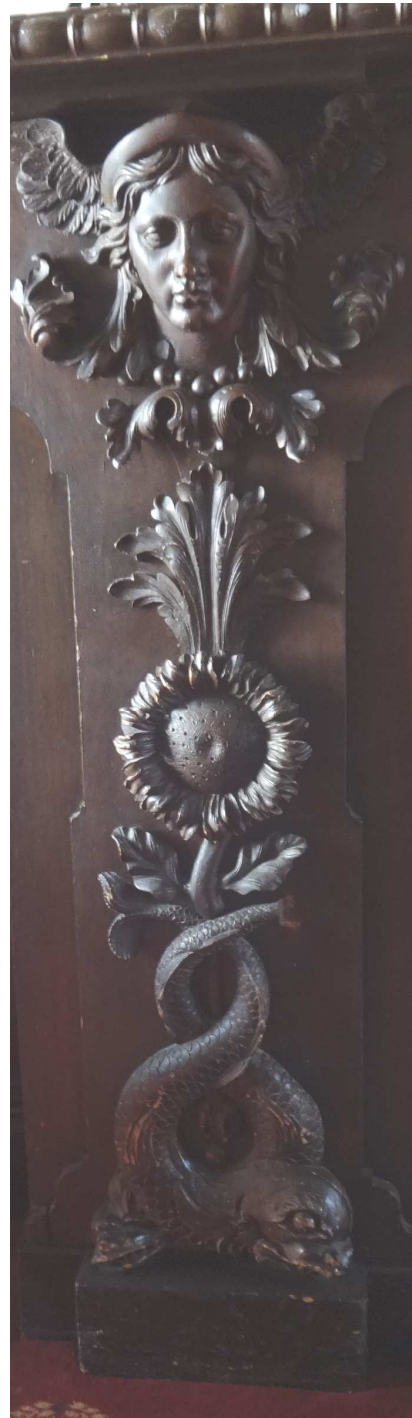
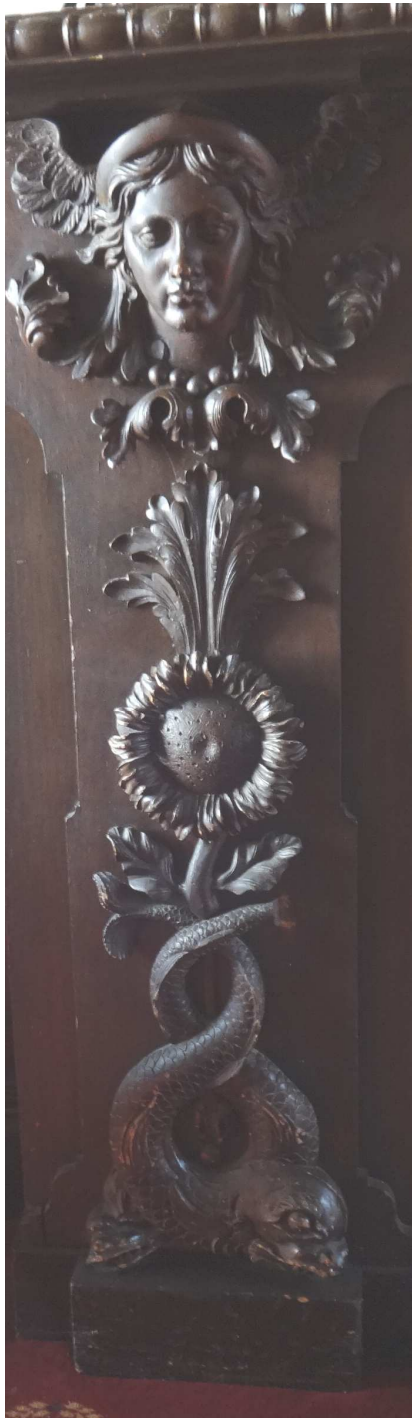












CARVINGS ON EITHER SIDE OF THE FIREPLACE



LOOKING OUT TO THE LEFT OF THIS WINDOW, SHOWS THE COATS OF ARMS ON THE WALL





THIS WINDOW ON THE RIGHT OF THE STAIRCASE GOING UP TO THE APPATMENTS

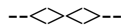


- Green ware double-handled vase, decorated flowers in colours.
  - Carved wood wall bracket, head of a lady, and old oak panel in oak frame.
  - Machine-woven tapestry panel, Stag and Hounds, in land-scrape, 6 ft. 4 ins. x 4 ft. 2 ins.
  - Canton gong, on oak stand, with beater.
  - Copper chestnut roaster with metal handle.
  - Old oak hall settle on turned legs and flat stretchers.
  - Wall clock, by Bryson & Son, Edinburgh, in ebonised case.
  - Metal gas radiator.
  - Two lengths hair carpet, 27 ins. wide approx, 16 yards, and felt pads.
  - Italian carved walnut bracket, female figure head and acanthus leaves 28 ins. high and carved oak panel, eagle head.
  - Oil painting - Madonna and Child with Figures, "The Adoration," 58 ins. x 80 ins. in gild slip frame.
- The Catalogue of the sale 18 December 1951 - Pitferrane House Sale by Dowell's Ltd.  
This catalogue gives an opportunity to know what was in this area at the time of the sale.

## INTERESTING RELICS.

Pitfirrane Castle has been in possession of the Halkett family for over five hundred years - viz., since 1399. Some of the relics preserved within the Castle are of an interesting description. On a large, richly-engraved oak cabinet in the entrances hall stands a glass case containing a Venetian wine glass with the following inscription attached: - "King James VI, drank his stirrup cup from this glass on leaving Dunfermline Palace to take possession of the throne of England, 1603" Sir Peter Halkett accompanied King James to London on that important mission, and beside the glass lies a gold ring with the written explanation: - "Ring containing the King's hair and initials presented to Sir Peter Halkett by his Majesty's own hand the night he left St James." The handsome cabinet was designed by Sir Noel Paton, and was made from beams from the roof of the Old Abbey Church Dunfermline. Choice samples of tapestry - the handiwork of the ladies of Pitfirrane of another day - adorn the same apartment; while interesting family and other portraits by such painters as Vandyke, Allan Ramsay, and Sir Peter Lely hang from the walls of the principal rooms. One of these paintings is the portrait of Sir Peter Halkett, who was member of Parliament for Dunfermline from 1734 to 1744, and was also its Provost. On a table near this picture rests an old rusty bayonet. When Mr Carnegie, the American millionaire, entertained a party of Dunfermline gentlemen to a trip through the States he presented Provost Walls with the bayonet which had shortly before been picked up almost at the very spot where Sir Peter Halkett was killed. The Provost on his return to Dunfermline handed the weapon to Sir Arthur Halkett.

One of the most interesting paintings in the house represents the "Battle of Alma." It is from the brush of Mr Robert Gibb. The picture is entitled, "Forward, the 42nd," and in scene has been painted from descriptions by eye-witnesses of the battle - one of whom as Sir Arthur Halkett of Pitfirrane, Bart. - the young Ensign who is shown carrying the Queen's Colours, and who greatly assisted the painter with valuable information during the progress of the work." Among other objects of interest in Pitfirrane Castle are the feathered bonnet worn by Sir Arthur in the Crimea, and his plaid, sword, dirk &.







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**LIMEKILNS**  
&  
**PASSAGIUM**  
**REGIMAE**

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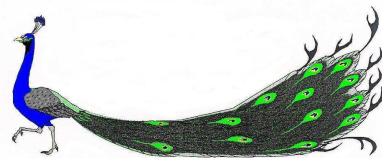
by

T. & A. Constable Ltd. Edinburgh -1929

Compiled under the instructions of

The Right Honourable

**THE LORD WAVERTREE OF DELAMERE**



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LIMEKILNS  
&  
PASSAGIUM  
REGIMAE







**PLATE I**  
**THE BAY, LIMEKILNS.**



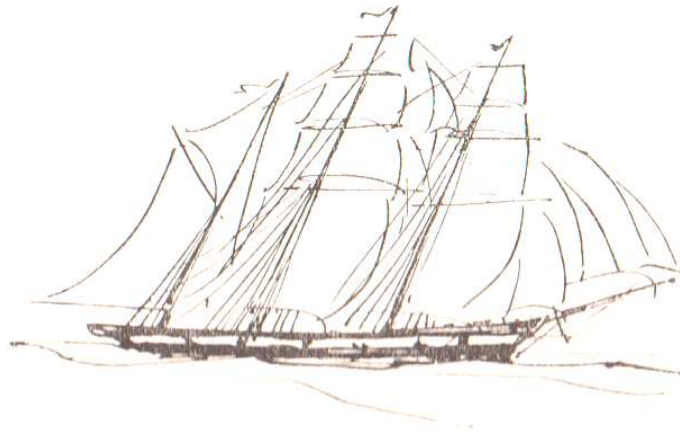


**EXTRACTS FROM: -**

# **LIMEKILNS**

**&**

**PASSAGIUM REGINAE**



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## CHAPTER V: LANDOWNERS AT LIMEKILNS (Continued): THE HALKETTS OF PITFIRrane.

**T**o-day the Halketts of Pitfirrane, an ancient and well-known

Fifeshire family have no territorial connection with Limekilns, but at one time considerable part of it belonged to them. They are the most ancient family residing in the parish, and their history goes back many centuries. Pitfirrane, which has always been their seat, lies about three miles north of Limekilns, two miles west of Dunfermline, hard by the small village of Crossford.



The surname Halkett, which appears in some old charters as 'hacet,' was anciently written Halkede or Halkeide, and is derived from the 'hawks head' which forms the family crest. The exact period of the Halketts in Fife cannot now be accurately

ascertained; but here is undoubted proof that they were free barons at a very remote period. David de Halkett, who lived in the time of King David Bruce, is the of the family we find designated by the title of Pitfirrane, and that was in 404. His son Philip flourished in the reigns of Robert II, and III, and acquired the third part of the lands of Pitfirrane from his cousin, William de Scot of Baliveary in 1399.

Concerning the origins of the Halkett family, Dr Chalmers in his History of Dunfermline, published 1844, says: -

It is interesting to note that one Sir James Halkett, who received his Knighthood from Charles I, in 1633, married a daughter of Sir Robert Montgomery of Skelmorley, niece to the seventh Earl of Argyll, and thus the family can trace a connection upwards to King Robert the Bruce.

‘This Sir James Halkett was succeeded by his son Sir Charles, who was born in 1639. He was the first of the family created a baronet. The second of his seven daughters was a lady of great accomplishments who married Sir Henry Wardlaw of Pitreavie, and who has acquire celebrity as being considered by many as authoress of an admirable ballad entitled *Hardy Knute*. Concerning this there is a MS. note of Sir Walter Scott on a leaf of Allan Ramsay’s *Teatable Miscellany* which runs “Hardy Knute as the first poem that I ever learnt – the last that I shall forget.:’

It was in 1637 tht SIR JAMES HALKETT OF PITFIRRANE KNT., purchased the ‘Lands o’ Lymkills’ from James Phin. We read his son, Sir Charles Halkett,\* renting in 1677 from John 2nd Earl (afterwards Marquis) of Tweeddale ‘ye customs of Lymkills for ye space of sevin years for payment of 100 merks yearlie.’ This was the introduction locally of the family whose name is perpetuated in that portion of the village lying west of the harbour, and known by the curious name of Hackett’s Ha’. How the 2nd Earl of Tweeddale came to be the proprietor of these rights, and thus connected with Limekilns, had not been ascertained; but since his father, John 1st Earl, married for his first wife Jane, daughter of Alexander, Earl of Dunfermline, this lady may have brought with her certain rights of the foreshore of Limekilns, which would descend to her son.

George Barclay in 1723 described Limekilns as ‘a little thriving village belonging to Sir Peter Halkett of Pitferrane with a commodious harbour for shipping his coal, which has long been esteemed the best for Forges in foreign countries.’ If this attribution be correct, then we have just reason to think that the ‘auld doo-cot’ and garden (now Broomhall green) were also once the property of the Halkett family.

\* Created a Baronet of Nova Scotia, 25th January 1662. This gentleman was a member of the convention formed by the Scottish Parliament at the Revolution, and afterwards one of the Commoners appointed to treat regarding the union with England.

We know they owned the land west of Academy Square as well as the land a bit east of the 'King's Cellar' – the land which in 1782, Sir John Halket granted to the people of Limekilns for a church, and whereon stands the present kirk. It is therefore more than likely that most, if not all, of those parts of the village which now belong to Lord Elgin were the property of the Halketts previous to 1815.

The name Pitfirrane is derived from the Gaelic *pit* a hollow and *fearan*, land the hollow of the land. The house stands in a spacious park full of very fine trees, including sycamores, elms, beeches, horse-chestnuts, and limes, some of them of considerable age. There is one tree in particular, standing on the west side of the house, a gigantic lime, remarkable for its spread, which is formed by seven lower boughs that sweep downwards and fan out into smaller branches until they make almost an unbroken circle. Having touched the ground they curl up again in manner of horse-chestnuts, and at the points of contact some of the branches throw up vertical shoots ten and twelve feet high.

Eight feet from the ground the bole of the tree is enormous. A portrait of this giant and its measurements, have been published in *The Scottish Field*. As recorded on the tree itself, they are; height, 78 ft.; girth 18 ft.; spread 298 ft.

The house dates back to a very remote antiquity, the earliest portion having been built in the eleventh century. Considerable additions were made in the fifteenth century. The walls are in many places eight to ten feet thick contain several secret passages. One of these is reached by a 'secret' door at the foot of the fine stone spiral staircase which leads to the drawing-room. It too has a staircase, very narrow, and long since closed up, with a secret exit that is now, and probably always was, high up on the south wall of the room which the late Sir Arthur Halkett used as his study. This comparatively large stone-vaulted chamber, all plastered over, was probably once a pen into which cattle were driven during a Highland raid; for many country houses of this size 500 years ago had such places for the shelter and protection of cattle at night. An enormous malleable-iron gate of the ancient prison type, hanging now between two stone pillars near the garden, and which was found some years ago lying derelict, is supposed to have been the gate of the pen, and the 'secret' door high up in the wall would be the one through which the family could enter the house by means of a ladder.

There are many works of art at Pitfirrane, and the history of the Halketts may be traced far back on its walls. An early link in its



lengthy chain of notable events, and one of the most interesting, is, however, not a picture, but a stirrup-cup, which stands in the corridor close to the front door – a tall dusky claret-coloured wine-glass with a colourless glass stem of elaborate and fanciful design. It is of the type known as *Flûgel-gläser* (winged glass), made in Italy in the sixteenth century and later in Germany and Holland. Inside the stem runs a scarlet thread which saith tradition quivered if there was poison in the wine. From this cup James VI, quaffed a few mouthfuls of sack just before he left Dunfermline Palace for England. It was taken back that very night by Sir Robert Halkett to Pitfirrane, and there it has remained ever since. The attractive bit of glass-work now stands in a large canopied case, designed and built by the late Sir Noel Paton, R.S.A., out of oak from the old Abbey Church at Dunfermline. On the floor of the case beside the cup is a gold ring, which as presented to Sir Robert Halkett by James VI, the King who knighted him. The card beside it says: ‘Ring containing the hair of King James VI, with his initials was presented to Sir Robert Halkett, Knight, by His Majesty’s own hand the night he left Dunfermline for London, 1603.’

In the same county, in the possession of Lieut.-Colonel Scrymgeour-Wedderburn of Wedderburn and Kingennie, Birkhill, Cupar, is preserved another ‘ring of his own finger,’ which King James VI, gave to Alexander Wedderburne of Kingennie, whose great-grandson, Sir Peter Wedderburne (created a baronet of Nova Scotia in 1697) married Janet Halkett, the heir to Pitfirrane, and changed his name to Halkett, though ‘only for himself and his eldest son.’ These two appear to be the Sir Peter Halkett of Pitfirrane and Captain Halkett his son who figure in the title-deed referred to on p.16; And Captain Halkett would be the future Lieut.– Colonel Sir Peter Halkett, Bart., M.P. for Dunfermline, of whom we shall hear more later.

To return to the pictures from which so much of the history of the Halkett family may be gleaned.

The first person of note represented on the walls is Sir James Halkett, 2nd baronet, who was killed while riding in the park in 1705. We see an uninspired portrait of him in the scarlet coat of the period. His horse ran away with him and he was caught Absalom-like by an elm. It is said he was caught by his wig, but it is not easy to see how this could have happened without its coming off. He died without issue and the estates passed to his sister Janet, whose picture hangs close to his. It is by Medina, a rather stiff and formal piece of work, yet not displeasing. Janet Halkett, as we have seen, married Sir Peter Wedderburne of Gosford, the Baronet of Nova

Scotia, a dour-faced Scot, whose portrait is also here. The story runs, that on the marriage he asked his bride where she would rather live, at Gosford or Pitferrane, and she replied; 'I prefer my ane hame.' Accordingly he changed his name too and became Sir Peter Wedderburne-Halkett, the first of another line of Halkett baronets, of which the late Sir Arthur Halkett was the last.

The third baronet (of the second line), dying unmarried in 1779, was succeeded in the baronetcy by his first cousin, John Wedderburne of Gosford, who also assumed the surname of Halkett. Gosford went to a brother, and was eventually sold in 1781, to an accountant, who in time disposed of it to the Earl Wemyss. This Sir John Halkett married twice. He died in 1793, having been the father of a family of fourteen, whose portraits together with those of himself and his second wife (Mary, daughter of the Hon. John Hamilton) have been preserved in one of the most remarkable family groups ever painted.

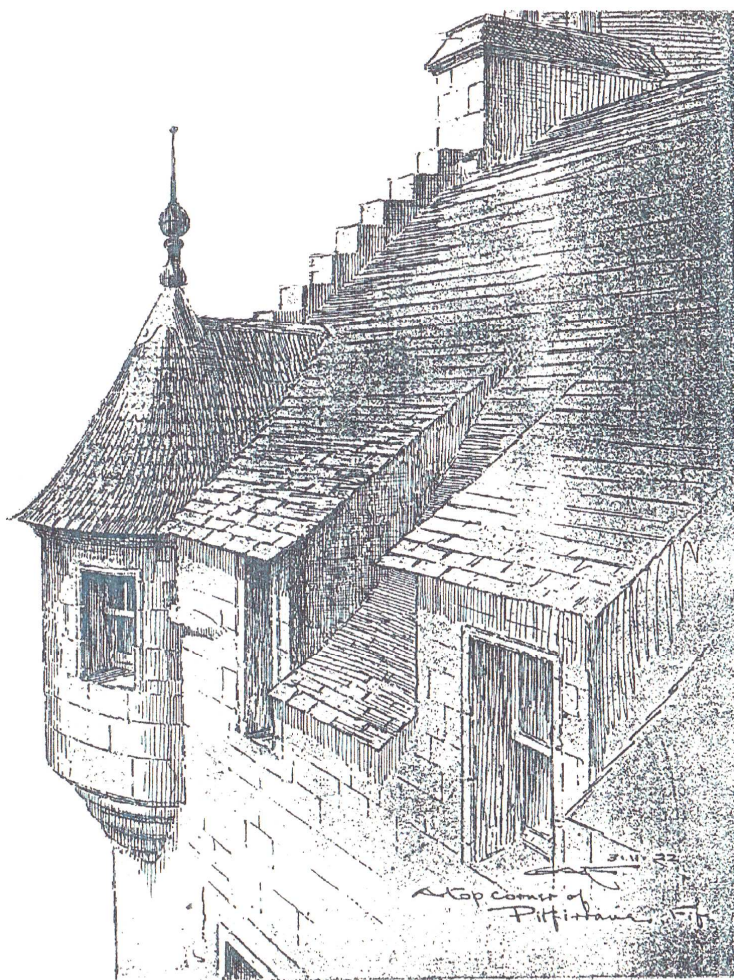


PLATE X

A TOP CORNER OF PITFIRANE

This picture hangs in the dining-room of Pitferrane. The eldest son, Peter, who eventually became an Admiral, is seen on the right of the large canvas, dressed in that delightfully picturesque uniform of the 'middy' of Nelson's day, such as one sees some of the 'Wet Bobs' at Eton garbed in on the 4th of June. The three or four 'babies' of the family are in the white frock and sash of the period and seated on the grass on one side of the picture; the rest of the children are extended in a gambolling line right across the canvas. The father and mother (she alone seated) survey the juvenile host with looks of satisfaction. David Allan painted this unique group roundabout 1784. He was born in 1744 at Alloa, not far off Pitferrane and Limekilns.

There are also separate portraits of Sir John Halkett, 4th baronet, and Mary, his wife, done by Sir Joshua Reynolds. The artist probably painted them about eighteen years before his death, which occurred in 1792. The portrait of Sir John shows a fine, manly squire, fit sire of fourteen, who looks as if he did himself well, yet not too well. Both pictures, while falling short of what Sir Joshua has achieved in other canvases, still stand out like thoroughbreds from the lesser here around them.

On the wall opposite is a full-length life-sized portrait of Peter, the 6th baronet, now become Admiral of the Blue, by Sir John Watson Gordon, P.R.S.A., R.A., whose practice as a portrait-painter in Scotland was only inferior to Raeburn's; during his day most of the leading Scotsmen sat to them. Near this very good-looking sailor are several of earlier Halketts, including an excellent painting by Allan Ramsay of the Sir Peter who represented Dunfermline in Parliament in 1734, and was Lieut.-Colonel of Lee's Regiment at the battle of Gladsmuir, where Sir John Cope was defeated in '45. Sir Peter was taken prisoner by the Chevalier's troops and released on parole. Later he was one of the five officers who, in February 1746, refused to break it and rejoin their respective regiments on the Duke of Cumberland's command, and threat of forfeiting their commissions. Their reply 'that his Royal Highness was master of their commissions but not of their honour' was approved by the Government. Nine years afterwards, while in command of the 44th Regiment, he fell, with his youngest son James (also on the wall, by his side) in General Braddock's defeat by the Indians in America in 1755. At one end of the same room is a full-length portrait by Sir Thomas Lawrence of Elizabeth Todd, who married John Halkett, one of the family of fourteen. This boy lived to be Governor of the Bahama Islands and died about 1840. The portrait, a beautiful example of Lawrence's art, shows a full-blooded dark-eyed young

English woman, in a high-waisted white dress against a distant landscape.

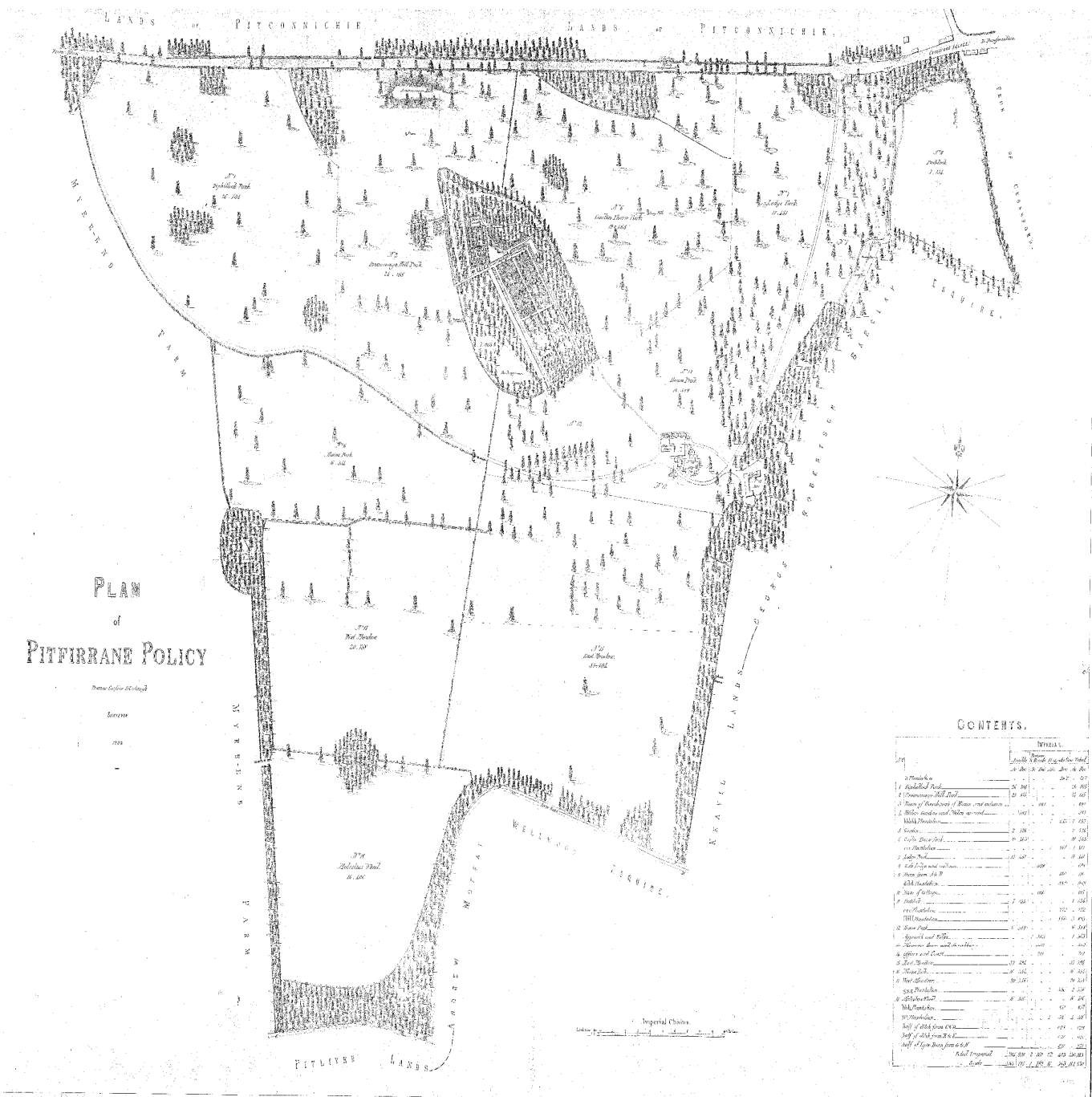
Finally, in the dining-room hangs a fine and dignified portrait by Sir Robert Gibb of Sir Arthur Halkett, 8th and last baronet. He is shown in the uniform of the Fife Artillery Militia, of which he was Colonel, wearing his Crimean medals and the badge of the baronets of Nova Scotia. It was Sir Robert Gibb who painted the battle pictures, 'Forward the 42nd' and the 'Thin Red Line.' The latter picture, which shows the 42nd Highlanders advancing across the Alma to attack of the Great Redoubt, was constructed with Sir Arthur's aid, and he appears in it as an ensign, carrying the Queen's Colour.

It is sad to think that there is now no heir to the baronetcy, and that this illustrious family is doomed to extinction. Sir Arthur died in 1904, having been predeceased by his only son in 1885, and by the latter's only child, an infant of four, a year later. Lady Halkett, who married Sir Arthur in 1856, celebrated her ninety-first birthday in December 1928 still survives, and with her two daughters resides at ancient Pitfirrane.

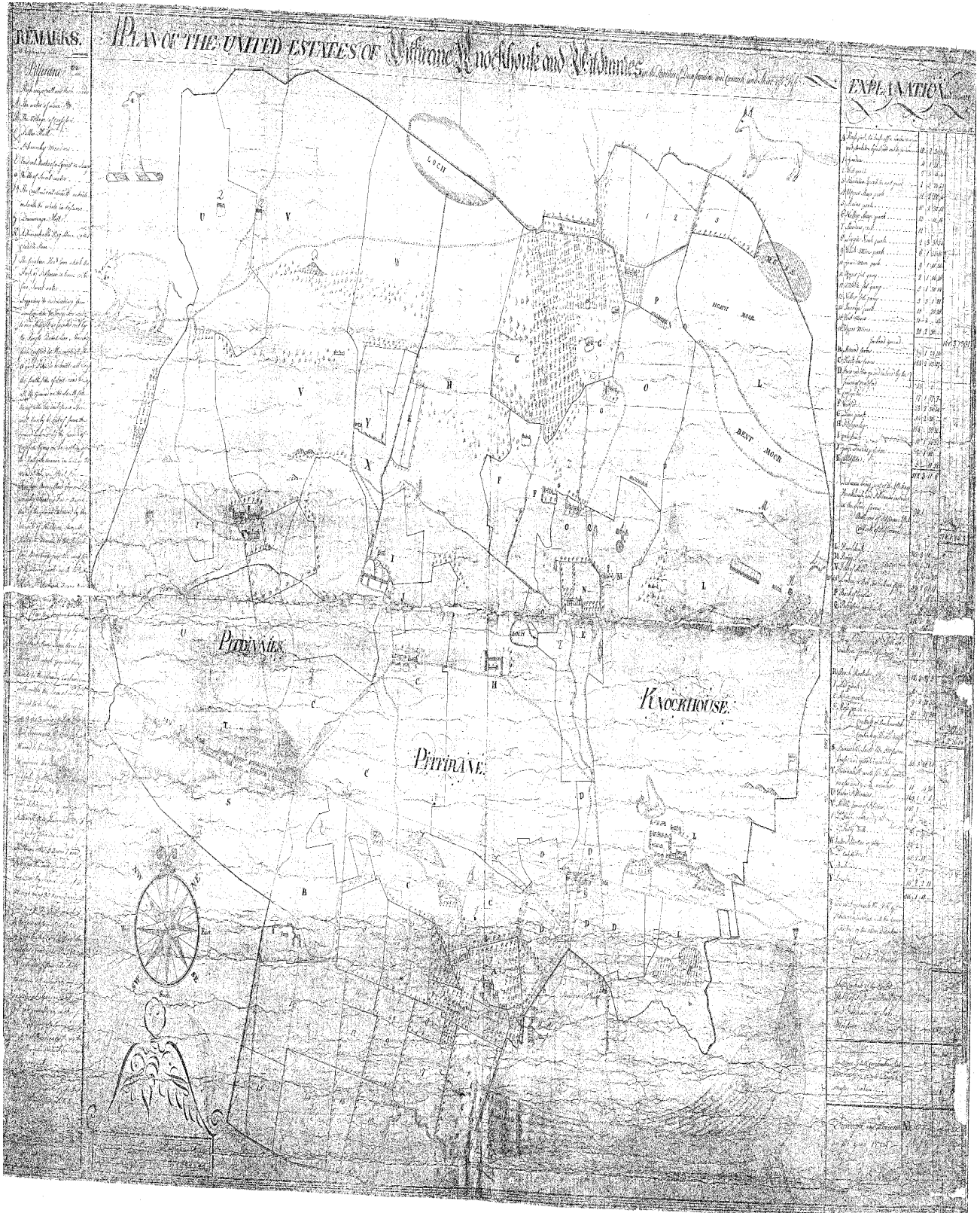




# ESTATE MAPS AND CATALOGUE OF MANUSCRIPTS SOURCES FOR FURTHER RESEARCH PLAN OF PITFIRANE POLICY



PLAN OF THE UNITED ESTATES OF *PITFIRANE, KNOCKHOUSE*  
and *PITDINNIES* in the Parishes of Dunfermline and Carnock and Shire  
off Fife.



## CATALOGUE OF MANUSCRIPTS 1925

### VOL. V. P.1

6406-511. PITFIRANE PAPERS. Papers from Pitfirrane House, Fife, 16th-19th cent. The papers derive from four main source: material relating to the Halketts of Pitfirrane, to the Wedderburns of Gosford, to Sir Patrick Murray of Saltcoats, and to John McFarlane, W.S. (ad. 1709). The last male heir in the direct line of the Halkett family, Sir James (succ. 1697), died in 11705, ending the baronetcy created in 1671. On the death his eldest sister, Janet, succeeded to Pitfirrane. She had married Sir Peter Wedderburn, 1st Bart., of Gosford, who now took the name and designation 'Halkett of Pitfirrane'. In 1779, a Wedderburn of Gosford again held the estate of Pitfirrane and the baronetcy of Gosford. Thus, papers of both families are présent. Sir Patrick Murray of Saltcoats was the father of Janet Murray who married Sir Charles Halkett, Bart., of Pitfirrane (cr. 1671). John McFarlane was legal adviser to the Halkett family. His papers contain correspondence with friends and clients. McFarlane's third wife, Elizabeth Wardlaw, was of Halkett descent and possibly this accounts for the presence of his papers in the Pitfirrane archive.

During the nineteenth century some of the material was bound into seven volumes (MSS.6406, 6408-9, 6415-18). Charters and accounts were bound with correspondence, chronological order was not strictly observed, and dating ws not always, accurate. Certain alterations have been made to this arrangement, notably by the additions of material to MSS.6416-18/ The remainder of the collection has been divided into correspondence, financial and legal papers, individual sections, and miscellaneous, which are described below. The papers include a large number of charters, which are described separately (see Ch.6001-7360). Except where specially noted, each volume contains papers of various sizes, folio and under.

- Bought, 1951-2    *Reid Fund.*  
6406-18. CORRESPONDENCE  
6419-80. FINANCIAL PAPERS  
6481-5.    LEGAL PAPERS  
6486-8.    SIR PATRICK MURRAY PAPERS  
6489-502. ANNE LADY HALKETT'S MEDITATIONS  
6503-11    MISCELLANEOUS

#### CORRESPONDENCE

**6406-9.** General correspondence and papers of the Halkett and Wedderburn families. MSS.6408 were bound in the nineteenth century and certain anomalies occur. For instance, MS.6408 has a large section of deeds. One item of interest is the way the Halketts are connected with the Argyll family in different ways in the seventeenth century. The Marquess of Argyll was friendly with Sir James Halkett, and MS6408 conclude with twenty-five letters from the Marquess, some of which touch on the Civil War (nos. 81-5). MS.6406 contains a number of letters (nos. 139-52) containing Sir Charles Halkett, Bart. (cr. 1671), as commander of the Fife and Kinross Militia during the Argyll Rebellion of 1685. Coal was one of the main economic interests of the Halkett family, and MS.6407 contains some early letters on this subject.

- 6406. 1575-1699, n.d. 158 items.
- 6407. 1578-1759, n.d. 156 ff.
- 6408. 1582-1656, n.d. iv ff, + 98 items.
- 6409. 1649-1726. n.d. iv ff. + 148 items.

**6410.** Letters, 1772-95, n.d., mostly to Sir John Halket, Bart. (succ. 1779),. This volume includes twenty letters from Sir William Erskine, 1st Bart., of Torrie, describing the American War of Independence.

136. ff.

**6411-12.** Correspondence largely of Admiral Sir Peter Halkett, Bart. (succ. 1837). Much of this material concerns the use of steam packets on the London to Portsmouth canal. Other matters of economic interest in MS.6412 are unemployment in the Dunfermline area during 1842-3 (ff.123-35). and railway development in Scotland in 1845 (ff.159-203).

- 6411. 1799-1830 220 ff.
- 6412. 1831-97. 246 ff.

**6413.** Admiralty correspondences, 1836-7, being letters to Admiral Sir Peter Halket Bart., when he was Commander-in-Chief of the American and West India Stations. a number of these letters concern the Slave Trade.

700 pp + xxii ff.

**6414-18.** Legal correspondence and papers of John McFarlane, W.S. (adm. 1709). MSS.6414-15 contain general McFarlane correspondence, including (in MS.6414) a small amount of martial relating to McFarlane's father, John McFarlane. W.S. (adm. 1678),. (MS.6409, one of the volumes bound in the nineteenth century, also contains some miscellaneous McFarlane material.) MS.6415 contains forty-one letters of Duncan Forbes, of Culloden. MSS.6416-18 contain over 300 letters of Simon Fraser, 11th Lord Lovat, one of McFarlane's principal clients, as well as letters to him and a few legal papers concerning his affairs. Some of the Lovat letters were printed in the introduction and appendix to Alexander Ferguson's edition of *Major Fraser's Manuscript*, published in Edinburgh, 1889.

Additional Lovat material has been added to MSS.6416-18.

- 6414. 1692-1754. n.d. 164 ff.
- 6415. 1716-60. n.d. v. ff. + 144 items.
- 6416. 1716-18 n.d. vi ff. + 142 items.
- 6417. 1717-1719-26. n.d. vi ff. + 147 items.
- 6418. 1672, 1716, 1726-43, n.d. v ff + 118 items.



## FINANCIAL PAPAERS

**6419-23.** Financial papers of the Halkett family consisting mainly of bonds, discharges and receipts.

- 649. 1517-99 16TH CENT. 197 ff.
- 6420. 1600-28. 129 ff.
- 6421. 1629-42. 110 ff.
- 6422/ 1643=82. 125 ff.
- 6423. 1683-94. N.D. 121 ff.

**624-55.** Pitfirrane estate accounts. MSS. 62424-53 ae a reconstruction of loose numbered accounts kept by the factors. This series, as also in the case of the bound volumes (MSS.6454-5), is arranged on the crop year system, generally estimated from Whitsunday to Whitsunday. Thus Whit 1705 to Whit 1706 equals Crop 1705. Sometimes the crop year runs from one of the other Scottish Quarter Days, such as Lammas. This causes an overlap and consequently a crop year maybe represented thinly or not at all as in the case of Crop 1727. In addition, some of the crop years are weak due to lack of material. The arrangement is not always chronological; for example, the factor might place together a bond of, say 1705, with the final discharge of tht bond, say 1739. In such cases the last date, by which the items were placed, is given. MSS.6424-53 concern agriculture and general estate management, and also include detailed accounts of the annual costs of coal mining. MSS.6454-5 concern agriculture and general estate management, and also include detailed accounts of the annual costs of coal mining. MSS.6454-5 relate only to agriculture land estate management.

- |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 6424. 1696-1704. 129 ff. | 6425. 1705. 178 ff.      |
| 6426. 1706. 161 ff.      | 6427. 1707. 115 ff.      |
| 6428. 1708. 102 ff.      | 6429. 1709. 162 ff,      |
| 6430. 1710, 149 ff.      | 6431. 1711. 136 ff.      |
| 6432. 1712-16. 211 ff,   | 6433, 1717. 136 ff.      |
| 6434. 1718. 104 ff.      | 6435. 1719. 109 ff.      |
| 6436. 1720. 127 ff.      | 6437. 1721. 138 ff.      |
| 6438. 1722-3. 99 ff.     | 6439. 1724. 118 ff.      |
| 6440. 1725. 150 ff.      | 6441. 1726. 151 ff.      |
| 6442, 1728-9. 151 ff.    | 6443. 1730. 132 ff.      |
| 6444. 1725. 150 ff.      | 6445. 1732. 130 ff.      |
| 6446. 1733. 166 ff.      | 6447. 1734-5. 123 ff.    |
| 6448. 1736. 107 ff.      | 6449. 1737. 114 ff.      |
| 6450. 1738-9. 127 ff.    | 6451. 1740. 115 ff.      |
| 6452. 1741. 127 ff.      | 6453. 1742. n.d. 170 ff. |
| 6454. 1840-55. 555 pp.   | 6455. 1856. I + 550      |

pp.

**6456.** Gosford estate accounts, 1703-46. This bound volume, also based on the crop year system, contains the charges and discharges of the Gosford rent. Apart from entries relating to agriculture there are miscellaneous items concerning dress, housekeeping, education, etc. The volume was kept by Sir Peter Halkett, Bart., of

Pitferrane (cr. 1697), formerly Wedderburn, during whose life-time the estate of Pitferrane and Gosford were held together. Consequently MS.6456 is interspersed with Pitferrane references and a section (ff. 178-99 inv.) is wholly devoted to Pitferrane.

if. + ff. 1-177 + many blank + ff.178-99 (inverted), Small folio.

**6457-78.** Household accounts. MS.6457 concerns the family of Sir Peter Halkett, Bart., of Pitferrane (succ. 1746). This volume also contains a small number of miscellaneous financial papers (ff.150-92), such as banking accounts of Sir John Halkett, Bart., of Pitferrane (succ. 1779), formerly Wedderburn, MSS.6458-78 are household accounts concerning the English homes of Sir Peter Halkett, Bart., of Pitferrane (succ. 1837); some relate to particular houses or tradesmen, others are general.

- 6457. 1744-95. 192 ff.
- 6458. 1805-7 15 ff, Octavo.
- 6459. 1807-9. 13 ff. Octavo.
- 6460. Catherington, 1707-25, I + 34 ff, Octavo.
- 6461. 1808-36. u f, + ff. I-19 + ff.20-2 (inverted).
- 6462. John Diaper, Portsmouth, 1822-7. 39 ff. Octavo.
- 6463. Robert Pink, 1825-36. 30 ff. Octavo
- 6464. Smith's book, 1828-36. 29 ff. Octavo.
- 6465. Powell, 1830-3. ff.1-11 + ff.12-16 (inverted).
- 6466. 1830-5. ii + 51 ff. Octavo.
- 6467. 1835-6. 3 ff. Octavo.
- 6468. John Diaper, 1835-6. 8 ff. Octavo.
- 6469. 1837. 4 ff. Octavo.
- 6470. Uplands, postage 1827. I + 3 ff. Octavo.
- 6471. Coachman, 1837-8. 6 ff. Octavo.
- 6472. 1838-40. 13 ff. Octavo.
- 6473. 1840. I + 9 ff. Octavo.
- 6474. 1806-30. 254 ff.
- 6475. 1831-2 267 ff.
- 6476. 1833-4. 306 ff.
- 6477. 1835-6. 327 ff,
- 6478. 1837-40, n.d. 223 ff.

**6479.** Accounts of the Halkett family, 1791-1828. This volume consists mainly of statements of annuities paid out by John Wauchope, W.S. There are a few related legal papers (pp.1-17).

129 pp. Folio.

**6480.** Business accounts of the successive Halkett baronets, 1799-1845, n.d. This volume includes economic material on subjects similar to those found in the correspondence, i.e. the use of steam-packets, from 1816-30, on the London to Portsmouth canal (ff.3-30), unemployment in 1842 amongst the Dunfermline weavers (ff.159-72), and Scottish railway development during 1845 (ff.173-96).

196 ff.

## LEGAL PAPERS

- 6481.** Miscellaneous legal papers of the Halkett and Wedderburn families, 1582-1837, n.d. including inventories of writs.  
175 ff.
- 6482.** Legal papers of the Halkett and Wedderburn families concerning three subjects. The first group, 1706-75, n.d. relates to the exemption of Pitferrane coal from export duties. The Halkett family argued that the coal veins were small and only profitable to work if free from duty (ff.1-90). In 1788 the Government bought this right from the family for £40,000. (See Peter *Chalmers, Historical and Statistical Account of Dunfermline*, Edin., 1844, p.21) The second process, 1716-27. concerns a boundary dispute affecting Limekilns and Broomhall which brought the Halkett family into conflict with the Earls of Kincardine (ff/9157). Thirdly, there are a few papers, 1732-3, concerning a process brought - against Sir George Wardlaw. Bart; , of Balmule (succ 1730). The process was raised on behalf of the daughters of Sir Henry Wardlaw (ff.158-71). (See John C. Gibson, *The Wardlaws in Scotland*, Ed., 1912, p.144-9).  
169 ff.
- 6483.** Inventory of Pitferrane Writs, ca. 1230-1746. n.d..., made in the late seventeenth century with some eighteenth-century additions. This describes some of the same material which is more fully calendared in MS. 6485.  
ff.1-31 + ff.32-4 (inverted). Quarto.
- 6484.** Incomplete legal notebook kept in the eighteenth century by Alexander Hart, Writer, Edinburgh, probably when a student. He acted as legal agent for Sir John Halkett, Bart., of Pitferrane (succ. 1779), formerly Wedderburn.  
I + 17 ff. Folio.
- 6485.** 'Inventory of Papers of Pitferrane. Prepared by W. Whytock.' This is a manuscript of the work published from another copy by the Scottish Record Society in 1932 as *Inventory of Pitferrane Writs*, 1230-1794. The preface of the above publication given the date of the calendar as 1834.  
175 pp. Folio.
- 6486-7.** Financial papers. 1648-1722, n.d., of Sir Patrick Murray of Saltcoats, the son of Sir William Murray, Bart., of Dunerne (cr. 1630), and Lady Margaret Alexander, daughter of William, 1st Earl of Stirling, Janet, his daughter and heiress, married Sir Charles Halkett, Bart., of Pitferrane (cr. 1671). Sir Patrick was a successful financier who obtained a number of estates and consequently had various landed designations. Family and business interests are inseparable in these papers. His career began in the Border area, and one of his most impotent posts was as factor to the Buccleuch family. There are valuable estate papers concerning the lands and teinds of the Duke of Buccleuch, 1648-70 (MS.6486, ff.1-82, passim).  
1160 ff.: 154 ff.

**6488.** Correspondence and legal and official papers of Sir Patrick Murray, 1611-12, 1654-1720, n.d. This volume has been divided into the following sections: correspondence (ff.1-26), family legal papers (ff.17-70), official legal papers (ff.71-80), official accounts (ff.81-154). The Receiver of Crown Rents and Foreign Excise. A small number of formal documents concerning Sir Patrick Murray has been placed in the charter section (see index).

154 ff.

#### ANNE LADY HALKETT'S MEDITATIONS

**6489-502.** Anne Lady Halkett was a daughter of a cadet of the Murray of Tullibardine family and lived from 1622-99. She was the second wife of Sir James Halkett of Pitfirrane who died in 1670. Lady Halkett was a royalist and author of religious meditations. There are now extant fourteen bound volumes of the 'Meditations', out of a series of twenty-one, viz., numbers v-vii, ix-x, xii-xiii, xv-xxi according to the numbering in an appendix to *The Life of the Lady Halkett*, Edin. 1701. The dedication of this work is signed 'SC', and it is probably by Simon Couper, a Dunfermline minister who knew Lady Halkett well (see MSA.6502, pp.226-9).

Apart from religious reflections the volumes were used as a diary and contain thoughts of the writer on historical events, e.g. the Popish Plot of 1678, as well as comments on her financial troubles consequent on the Civil War and later widowhood. The volumes present here were written from the middle of the seventeenth century until the death of the writer. The other seven volumes were already missing in 1870 when John Gough Nichols was editing the text of *The Autobiography of Anne Lady Halkett*, Camden Society, 1875 (see also MS.6412, f.213.) Loose papers relative to each volume have been bound in at beginning or end and paginated in Roman numerals.

6489. ii + 259 pp. Folio.	6490. ii + 380 pp. Octavo.
6491. V + 326 pp. Quarto,	6492. xxii + 352 pp. Quarto.
6493. ix + 336 pp. Quarto.	6494. iii + 380 pp. Quarto.
6495. v + 506 pp. Quarto.	6496. iii + 378 pp. Quarto.
6497. vii + 392 pp. Quarto.	6498. v + 372 pp. Quarto.
6499. iv + 370 pp. Quarto	6500. iii + 375 pp. Quarto.
6501. vii + 373 pp. Quarto.	6502. iii + 314 pp. Quarto.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

**6503.** Miscellaneous material covering the period 1558 to 1885. One of the most important sections is that on poetry (ff.1-18). Included here (f.1) is an anonymous translation into English made in ?1710 of George Buchanan's *Francisci Valesii et Mariae Stuartae regum Franciae et Scotiae, epithalamium*. This translation was first published in Edinburgh, 1711. An interesting and anonymous ballad (f.8) is called 'The Westland Letany', being a satire on the misgovernment of Scotland by Lauderdale, written ca.1673. There is also a copy of *Hardyknute* (f.14-16), a ballad attributed to Lady Elizabeth Wardlaw of Pitreavie who was a member of the Halkett of Pitfirrane family. Medicine is represented by a few prescriptions of the seventeenth to eighteenth centuries (ff. 22-5). A genealogy of the descent of



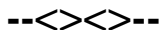
Alexander Wedderburn, 1st Earl of Rosslyn, is included here (ff.18-49) (for a criticism of this work see Alexander Wedderburn, *The Wedderburn Book*, n.p., 11898, vol.ii, pp.109-10). There is also a somewhat inaccurate genealogy of the Halkett of Pitferrane family in the sixteenth century (f.50) (cf. Sir Robert Douglas, *The Baronage of Scotland*, Edin., 1798, pp.284-6). Another section concerns Anne Lady Halkett. John Gough Nichols, the editor of *The Autobiography of Anne Lady Halkett* for the Camden Society, published a few extracts from her religious meditations at the end of that volume (pp.109-16), and some of the notes he made when choosing passages are present here (ff.98-139). A final item of interest is in the House of Commons by Sir Peter Halkett, Bart., of Pitferrane (cr. 1697) after the Act of Union of 1707 (ff.140-54). He spoke against the idea of establishing a separate Privy Council for Scotland.

154 ff.

**6504.** Commonplace-book of Sir John Wedderburn (1599-1679). He was a doctor of note and served both Charles I and Charles II as a royal physician. This volume contains miscellaneous material of the late seventeenth century some of which is of much interest. There are copies of poems, chiefly by John Donne (ff.3-90v., passim); on these, see Alan MacColl, 'A New Manuscript of Donne's Poems', *Review of English Studies*, new series vol.xix, 1968, pp.29333-5. Important medical material is unfortunately small in quantity. Sir John Wedderburn bought Gosford in 1659 for his favourite nephew, Sir Peter Wedderburn, Lord Gosford, etc.

*Note:* - Other entries in this volume pertaining to Pitferrane estate.

*Note:* - Further research could be worked on the above, adding to the History of the of the Halketts of Pitferrane.



**THE GARDEN  
AND  
VIEWS ON THE HOUSE**

**The Wealth of Trees**



The Larch tree near the Crossford Road

This magnificent Larch Tree looks like one of the venerable larch, which were believed to have been brought from Switzerland. Two trees of the same species imported about the same time are preserved at Dunkeld and two others beautifully the grounds of Duneina at Crieff. The Pitfirrane larch, exposed as it has been to the blasts of three centuries, now presents an appearance somewhat suggestive of having been sheltered unlike the Pittencrieff Lark Tree.

Taking the house in all its fronts, Pitfirrane is one of the most interesting of old houses of Scotland, illustrating several periods of architecture without incongruity. We see it as a natural growth. It is a very large house, as the old houses go. From end to end I take the length to be at least 130 feet, the width varying according to the sections. To the south-west of the house, in a corner of the terrace stands an old and weather-worn sundial, the shaft being a lion sitting upright on a slab which is reached by three steps surrounding it.

As is unusual in houses of such age, armorial panels are set in the walls, in the case of Pitfirrane three. Two are on the wall of the first addition - one above the other in the wall which contains the stair. The third is above the present entrance, which is in the centre of the west wall. It must be noted that the ancient windows which must have been very small, have given place to others. But the walls have been altered and cut as little as possible.

The park is very extensive and commands a wide view in the direction of the Firth. It is undulating in character, and is remarkable for its wealth of trees, many of them of great height. One lime tree a little to the north-west of the house has a height of 78 feet, a spread of 241 feet, and a girth of 18 feet.

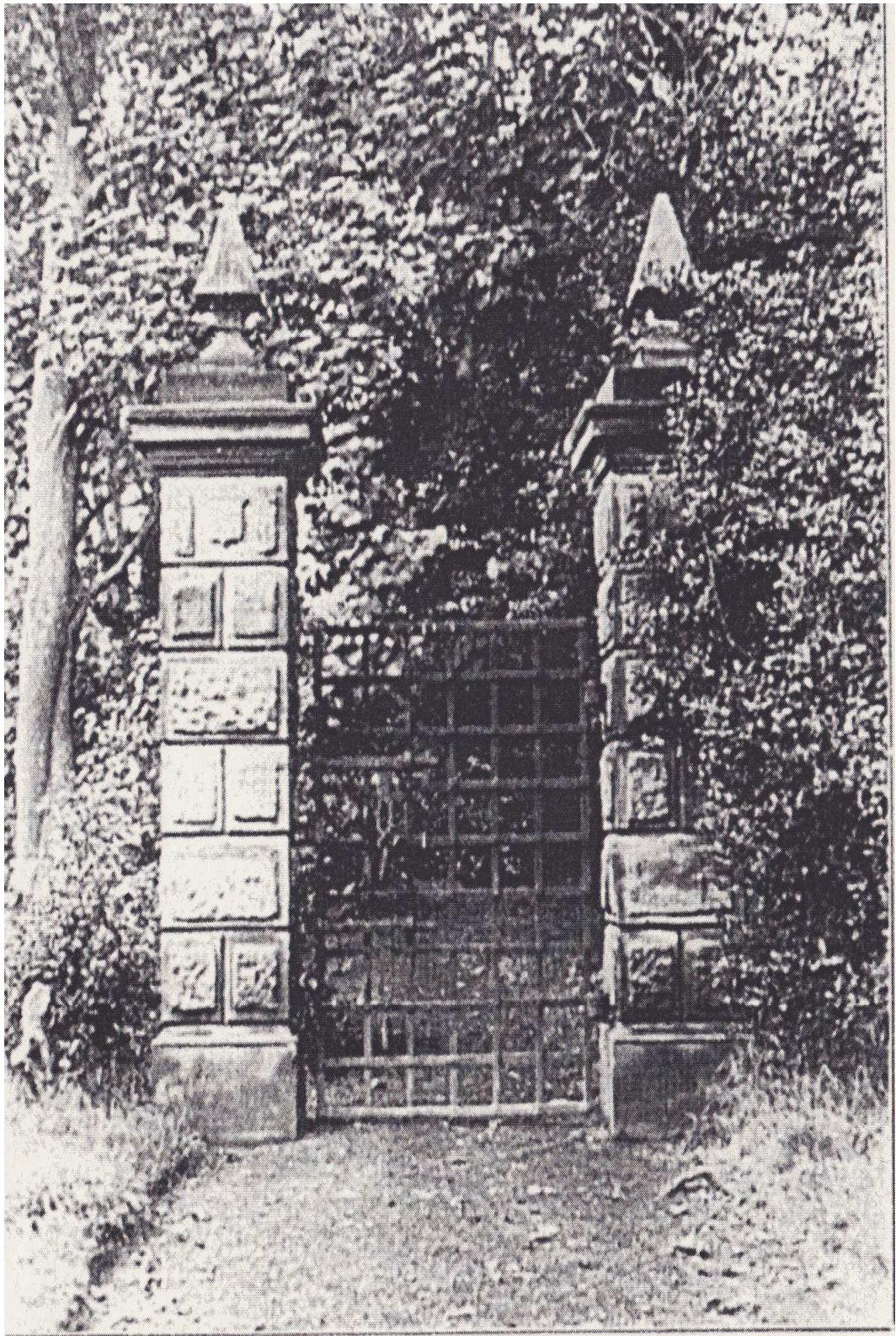
The gardens lie to the north-west of the house and are, as might be expected, very well kept and very beautiful, a rock-garden, which the Misses Halkett make their special care, is an attractive feature. In that part is a curious piece of statuary, a figure of Buddha built into a niche. (Now missing)





Image of Buddha, in the garden





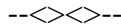
The Old Yett, north-west of the house



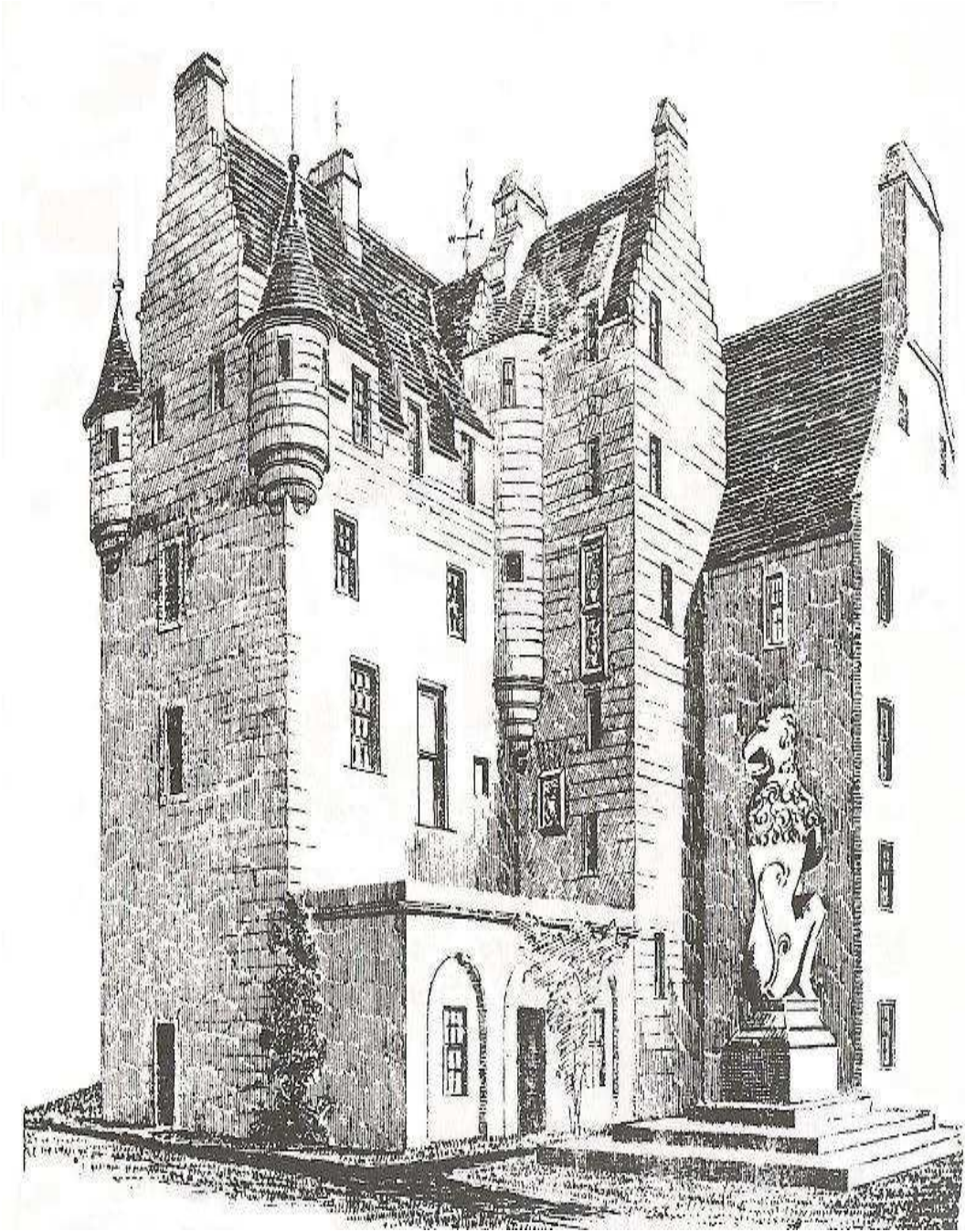
One feature which must not be missed is the "old yett," at the north-west extremity of the gardens. It is one of the ancient examples of interlacing iron bars, extraordinarily heavy and strong. The bars interlace by passing through each other, not merely round each other, and in this case the pattern which the interlacing bars make is different from that of others which I have seen. They are not numerous now, and where they exist the owners preserve them with great care and pride. This example is in especially good preservation.

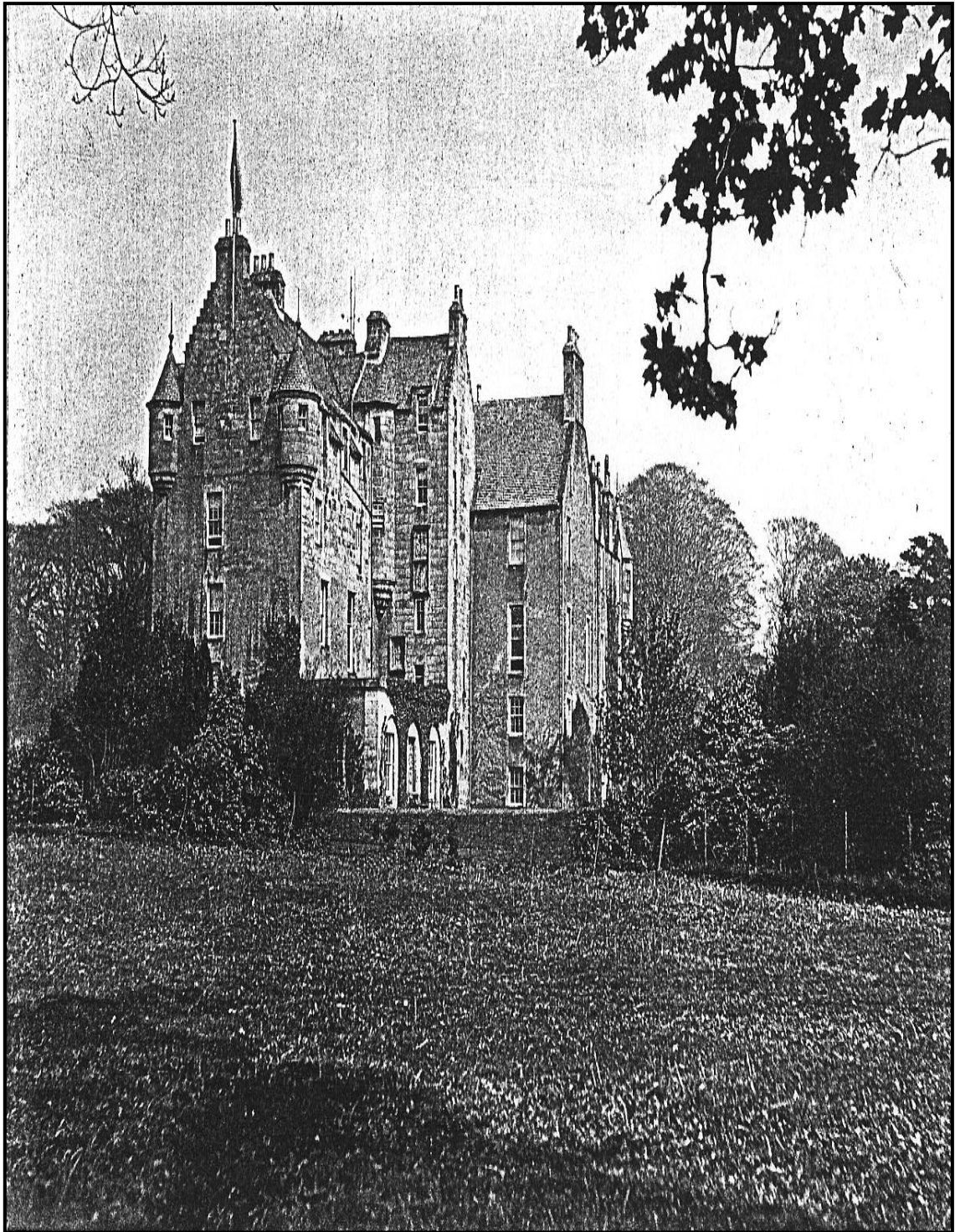
In the interior the most interesting rooms are the two drawingrooms, the diningroom, and the corridor, while the wheel stair has an interest all its own. The corridor is on the ground floor, approached on the right from the entrance hall in the west wall. It contains some fine examples of old cared furniture, among them a highly decorative large chest and a carved and panelled long seat. On the side occupied by these hangs a piece of fine old tapestry.

In some ways the most interesting objects are two which are contained in a cabinet. The cabinet is of oak, with glass panels, and was designed by Sir Noel Paton. The objects are a drinking glass of Venetian make, and a gold ring. The drinking glass has an inscription - "James VI, drank his stirrup-cup from this glass on leaving Dunfermline Palace to take possession of the throne of England, 1603."



**OTHER VIEWS OF THE HOUSE**





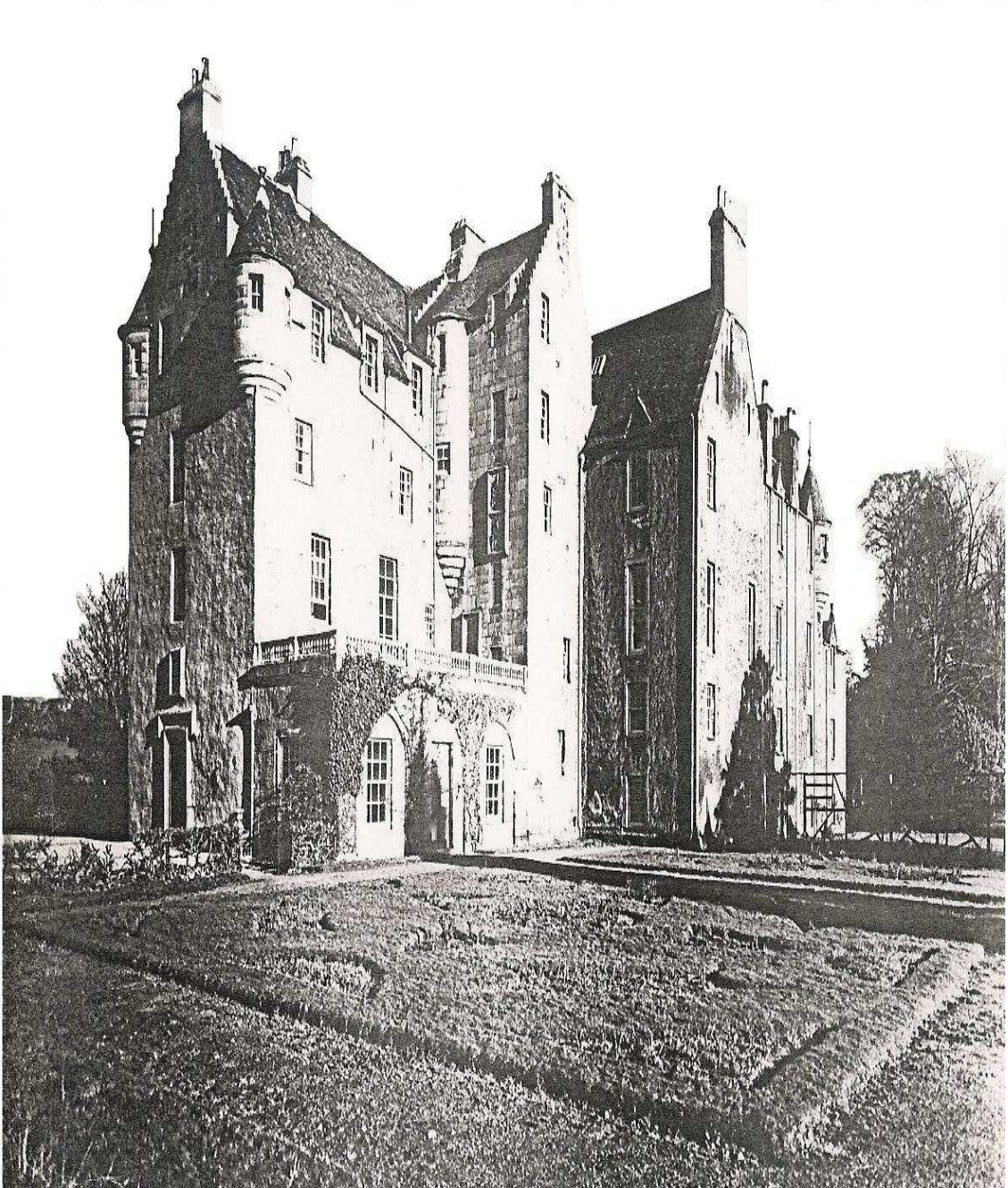




Note: - There are many view of the Castle and House, it would be good to add more here.



## PITFIRrane HOUSE





**PITFIRrane HOUSE - 7 SEPTEMBER 1994**



MICHAEL DONNELLY, CHARLOTTE MCNAUGHTON AND SHEILA PITCAIRN





Michael Donnelly's visit looking at the exposed gable end of the roof when it was taken off and his discovery of the evidence of it having been painted on the inside was another example in the long list of continued discoveries regarding the Pitfirrane House.





FOUND BEHIND AND ON THE DOOR IN THE LADIES LOCKER ROOM

This painter door, looks like it could have been the top of a wooden chest.



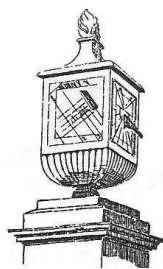


These exiting discoveries will continue with further research by interested parties, not just into the Family History but the grounds themselves. This delightful picture shows History.



On entering the now widened entrance into the Pitfirrane estate through its two pillars with vases on top, further up the path there was a lovely ornamented arch which we are told was decorated with two lions and with a weather vane in the centre

The weather vane is still to be seen on the house opposite the entrance.



Inside the gate to the left was the lodge cottage now removed. Upon reaching a fork in the road, passing by on the left the burn called the red burn which was fed from minerals underground, the road to the left was for the merchants and domestics etc. It is here the ghost of the Grey Lady to this day is reported as being seen. This path led to the back door. The main road took the horse or coach to the main entrance of the house where there was a mounting stone (now lost) to help the ladies or gents off their horses.

At the back door, which is now the main entrance to the House, there is a bell still



in situ. This was used to call, we are told, the servants to Chapel on Sunday and for any other occasion when they were needed to be brought together.

The Chapel building we understand was to the right of the back door and is now a locker room. There is the possibility of a connecting door to the Ladies locker room, with an entrance near the recently discovered beautiful Fireplace. This Ladies locker room has a door in the wall above head height. We do not know for what purpose this door served, but the room also has a ghost which has been felt or seen. The presence is usually known by the opening and closing of this door. Through each generations there are the stories of ghosts! Still at the back door, through the trees, across the now car park, there is another building. It is in ruins but must have been a fine building when in use and could have been the stables and out-houses possibly for stable workers and gardeners.

In the car park there is now a path at the far left down to the new marshes, called Pitfirrane Mine Water Treatment Scheme. This is a scheme to divert the red burn by pipeline through the existing day, to level and utilise the water pressure to drive the water to the reed beds in fields south of the house and outwith the Golf course.

Although part of Pitfirrane house has gone, the original Tower remains. Inside the Tower, just before you turn left towards the wheel stairs, in the wall are two pieces of metal that once held the iron yett or gate. We are told this was to hold the cattle in if the house was under attack and there was an escape door above the bell on the east side of the house, where a ladder could have been dropped to allow an escape.

The area south facing from the house is where the sundial now stands with benches and seats to enjoy the sun. To the right (west) of the house, used to be the gardens, where peacocks roamed and there is still evidence of this as the steps have survived. If you continue walking over to a walled area in the middle of the Golf course there was a Wash House which has now gone and a Well. This part of the grounds inside the wall is a large area and further west there is a small cottage which is now empty. This was for the gardener who looked after the kitchen garden for the house. Also in this area is a Pets cemetery and it was on the north side the Buddha seat stood. It is also called the snowdrop wood. The centre of this area where the gardens stood has been cleared and is now grassed over. There were and are many very old trees on the estate.

A path, still in evidence, from the house went west through the estate to a gate-house which has now gone to the Cairneyhill Road.

We are told Pitfirrane was a most romantic setting, and that the Kings of Scotland, mainly the James's, liked to hawk and hunt on the estate for wild boar, fox and probably deer. Not only did the Royals hunt but the playing of cards and gambling were other hobbies.

The women in this family are mentioned in the history books as they too found their place in society. Many of the Halkett men served as Provosts of Dunfermline and were active in the local and national community.

The fountain head from which the House of Pitfirrane is served with fine sweet water, is mentioned on the maps along with the property of Pitdinnie and surrounding areas. It also mentions the big stone called the Craddle Stone which the locals called The Witches Stone. We understand this was a Cope stone shown on early maps and identifying an early grave. It was situated on the Cairneyhill Road, north side until a local farmer blew this stone up.



THE END