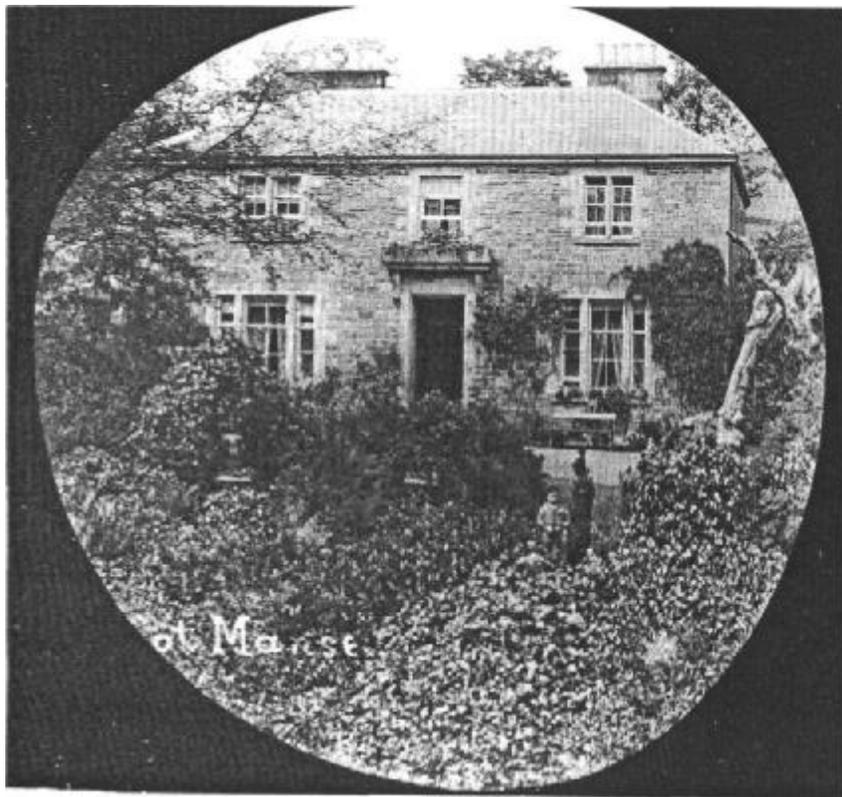


oatmeal. With the approach of harvest the men would bring the families home. The pack ponies loaded down, the beasts sleek and fat. According to tradition, this was a time of great celebration.

The decline of the shieling system was gradual. One important factor, the steady advance of settlement and cultivation. This turned many shielings into permanent farms, as in the cases of the aforementioned Overshiels and Nethershiels. There were of course other causes, too many and complex to go into here.

As might be expected, in the Highlands and Islands the shielings survived much longer than in the Southern Uplands. A way of life for centuries, gone and almost forgotten now. Some mouldering mounds in lonely glens the only memorial, with the melancholy call of the whaup for a requiem.

#### THE OLD MANSE



#### HERIOT CHURCH

Heriot Parish Church is situated on the South side of the B709 approximately two miles from the A7 in the old village of Heriot. It stands in pleasant wooded surroundings in the Heriot Water valley. It is built in a traditional style of red stone, probably freestone or whinstone, with a belfry at its East end. The old Glebe or churchyard is mainly to the south and west with a sweeping drive leading up to the church, whilst the more recent addition to the churchyard in 1938 occupies the ground to the east. The wrought iron War Memorial gates at the entrance have the date 1914 and 1919 and there are two plaques at the sides in memory of those from the Parish who fell in the Great War. There is also a plaque to the right in memory of those who gave their lives in the Second World War 1939-1945.

The earliest records of a church existing in Heriot date back to the 12th century when it was of considerable value and rated at 30 marks. The patronage of the church seems to have belonged during the 12th and 13th centuries, to the Lord of the Manor, Roger de Quincey, the constable of Scotland. He probably derived it from the Lords of Galloway, who may have enjoyed it from the Morvilles. In the division of de Quincey's great estates, Heriot fell to Elena, youngest of his three daughters, who married Alan la Zouche, an English baron. Elena granted the church to the monks of "Newbottle". In 1309, William Blair, the vicar of Heriot, resigned his vicarage to Lamberton, the bishop of St. Andrews, and the diocesan conferred on the monks of Newbattle the whole vicarage revenues. The monks also acquired the lands of Heriot, but it is not known whether from the liberal Elena or from her son la Zouche who lost his estates in the succession war. It is certain that both the church and the lands of Heriot belonged to the monks of Newbattle at the Reformation.

In 1834 the minister of Heriot, the Reverend E. Hume, copied a document found in the Register Office which was dated 16th May, 1627 and written at Heriot Kirk. It gives an account of the church at that time as follows:-

"It is a kirk of the abacie of Newbottill, the benefice is ane parsonage and a vicarage. It is ane laick patronage: before reformation the benefice was in the abots hands; the patrone for the present is, and should be, the airis of the house of Borthwick. The Stipend is fyve hundreth markis, and twentie for the elements, and pay it out of the teyndis be the Succesors of the house of Borthwick. Ni foundaticoun for a Schoole, nor provisions bot necefsar to be ane. Thair is no foundaticoun for a Schoole, nor provisions bot necefsar to be ane. Thair is no foundaticoun of hospitals."

The valuations of the following lands in the Parish are then given. Anyone familiar with the area will be interested in the original, spellings of some place names:-