

"Dewar, Garvald, Blakhope, Ladiesyd, Reyschaw, Carcant, Ruchsuyr, Heriot Myllne, Heriot town, Heriohouse, Schustanes, Falahill, Hangingshaw, Kirklandhill, Courshopp, Halheriot." The document continued to say:-

" Union may be made to us of some soumes from the Kirk of Stow, at Nettlingflat, half of Hangingshaw; the lands of Crookston, Haltree and Brokhouse; first in respect they have all the benefits of our kirk, ze, they haue thair buriallis with us, and the farthist of them from us will not be an mylle, and the farthist of them from the Stow Kirk fyve mylles." It is signed "William Calderwood, William Borthwick (Halheriot), William Scott (Elder in Heriot towne).

A collection ladle dating back to 1672 can be seen hanging on the right behind the pulpit. On the left is a sermon timer which is thought to be very old and there are believed to be only two remaining in Scotland. It appears to be an hour glass and one trusts that the Sermons did not always last until the sand had completely run through.

The earliest Church register is dated 23rd May, 1731. At that time the Principle Heritor was Sir John Dalrymple and the Schoolmaster was Mr. James Cuming. In 1795 the church was recorded as being old and insufficient.

In the Heritors records it states that "The foundation of Heriot Kirk was laid on 28th June 1804" and names the following Heritors:- Sir John Dalrymple — Patron, Earl Roseberry, Thomas Adinston of Carcant, George Cranstoun of Dewar, Simon Fraser of Ford, John Borthwick of Crookston, James Baillie of Falahill. Minister — Alexander Hunter, Schoolmaster — William Carter, Undertaker — Charles Sanderson, Builder — David Hill.

This is believed to have been a small church standing on the present site. Rents were collected from the Heritors and tenants of the Parish by the Beadle and his clerk. Meetings were held to consider the state of the poor of the Parish and provision made for them. There were also occasions when assistance was given to others in need, for example in January 1807 the sum of seven shillings was paid to a man with a cart for conveying "a widow and distressed daughter" from Heriot to Borthwick and two shillings and sixpence paid for their "Bed and" Board" for one night. In 1808 there is a record that the minister did not approve of the games of Cockfighting and Football in the school and that they should be discontinued.

Over the next fifty years there seem to have been problems with the church roof and in 1836 it was proposed by the minister, the Reverend Robert Court (minister 1834-1843) to raise the walls of the church by four feet and build a new roof. Mr. Borthwick and Mr. Adinston wished to erect a gallery, at their own expense, in the west end of the church to relieve congestion in the pews. However these proposals were rejected and repairs to the roof were made the

following year as presumably it was preferable to be overcrowded than to be wet! In September 1842 a donation of ten pounds was sent to the Royal Edinburgh Lunatic Asylum and a letter returned stating that the Parish had become entitled to recommend one patient for admission at the lowest state of board. Unfortunately this place had to be filled by an incomer to the area shortly afterwards.

In 1845 the following names are recorded:- Heritors — The Earl of Stair — Patron; T. Adinston, Carcant; William Baillie, Fala; The Earl of Roseberry; J. Borthwick, Crookston; Trustees of Dewar. Minister — Rev. Robert Wright, Schoolmaster — George Simpson.

In 1874 Public worship was held in Heriot School whilst the present church was being built. The new Parish church of Heriot was opened on 13th June, 1875 by the Rev. T.B.W. Niven, Minister of Linlithgow. Minister of Heriot at that time was the Rev. John Francis Brown, who served the Parish for fifty six years, 1872-1928, twenty eight years in each century, which is surely a rare distinction. He died in 1928 and is buried in Heriot churchyard with his child Leslie who drowned in the river at the Manse at the age of one in 1898, and his first wife Jane, who never recovered from losing her child, and died in 1902. His second wife, Winifred, asked if a tablet could be erected in his memory and his daughter started the Brown Memorial Fund in 1931. There is a brass plaque on the wall inside the church door and a framed photograph of him in the vestry.

In 1893 the church received the gift of an American organ from Mr. William Torrance of Carcant. This is believed to be the same harmonium which stands in the pulpit area today.

#### A DAY OUT IN STYLE —



MR. T. MATHISON