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### **BORTHWICK HALL**

There has been a house on the site of Borthwick Hall since the 12th or 13th Century. The earliest known Lord of the Manor was Roger de Quincey, Earl of Winchester. He was married to Helena, one of three daughters of the Lord of Galloway. De Quincey became joint Lord of Galloway and was also Constable of Scotland. The land was inherited by Elena, the youngest of three daughters, who married la Zouche, an English baron. Elena gifted the Church of 'Hergeth' to the Newbattle Monks. At that time the church was part of the estate. At the Reformation both the church and lands belonged to Newbattle and this is confirmed in Borthwick's account in 1627.

From the 13th Century the history is unclear. In the 16th Century "Halheriof, as it was then called (name derivative 'den of thieves'), was owned by Thomas Adinston. When one of the Adinstons married a daughter of Borthwick of Crookston, he called it Borthwick Hall after his wife.

The next traceable owner of Borthwick Hall was Thomas Cranston of Dewar who sold the property to John Clerk Maxwell of Middlebie in 1813.

In 1851 Charles Lawson (Lord Provost of Edinburgh 1862-1865) purchased Borthwick Hall. He found the old house so dilapidated that it was pulled down and the present mansion was built in its stead. The architect was John Henderson (1804-1862). It was built in the Baronial style with Tudor hood moulds, its complex composition dominated by a central tower and corner stair turret and tied together with a rope moulded string course. The entrance

hall is effectively lofty. A corbelled stair turret breaks into one corner as do other turrets into bedrooms. One moulded ceiling designed in the Jacobean manner remains, the other ground floor rooms being discreetly remodelled c 1930. In an alcove at the end of the now sub-divided billiard room (it was made into three rooms by an owner who needed rooms for servants) there is a chimney piece with armorial tiles by G. & H. Potts of Edinburgh, designed by de Hoenische. The Macfie crest is to be found on this fireplace. The main building (1852) comprises of four floors. Two wings extend parallel to the West which have rooms on the first floor only, underneath them are corridors and cupboards. They were built at the turn of this Century and are separated by a cobbled courtyard. At that time there was a coach-house and perhaps the coachmen used at least one of the wings.

Not only did Charles Lawson rebuild the house but he also made improvements to the grounds and roads were made over the estate for agricultural purposes. Mr. Lawson also reclaimed about 700 acres from the moor. On the estate he planted a great variety of hardy trees and many of the plantations were of a very ornamental shape. In the neighbourhood of the house were some old Scots firs and some fine plane and ash trees, from 100 to 200 years old. In the grounds there were (and still are) many varieties of the Coniferae, the Wellingtonea gigantea, the Cupressus Lawsoniana — which Charles Lawson introduced to this country from California — and a collection of the hybrid Himalayan Rhododendrons.

In 1870 Borthwick Hall was sequestered to the British Linen Company. In 1873 it was bought by David Johnstone Macfie of Kilmore. He lived there till his death in 1915 and his wife, Mary Jane Lloyd or Macfie lived there until 1926. The older villagers have fond memories of their schooldays during that time. Mrs Macfie took a great interest in the local children by collecting their savings at the school and taking charge of the Band of Hope meetings at Borthwick Hall. On the last day of the school term there was a party for the children at Borthwick Hall. The maids made rhubarb and ginger jam, which is reputed to have been excellent, and the local folk entertained. All the youngsters left the party clutching a bag of sweets. In 1921 Mrs Macfie provided the money for a hall to be built for the use of the villagers on the condition that alcohol was not consumed on the premises — she was firmly against the consumption of liquor and had thrown bottles found in the house into the burn.

1926 saw William Blair housed in the property and some changes took place. There is a walled garden on the estate which was built by Blair. He employed gardeners until the Second World War and they tended to the lily pond, the clipping of a yew hedge, greenhouses and the orchard where they grew exotic fruits among other things. In spring they lit open air paraffin heaters in the orchard, when a frost seemed likely, to stop the buds freezing. He