

blocked the path from Kilcoulter to the hall so that vans had to take the long way round. It is remembered that when the servants were going out he brought them to the main road for the train and picked them up on their return. It is also said that only the cook was permitted to handle the mail and not the understaff. In 1938 he gifted some land to the church for extra burial ground.

Hugh Frank Pakenham Borthwick-Morton from Hampshire owned the property from 1948-51 when it was bought by Eva Sardinia who was the widow of Mr. Hannah an agent for Brownlee, Wood Merchants.

In 1964 Borthwick Hall was purchased by William Munro from 'Munro Spun<sup>1</sup>, clothmakers at Restalrig. He set up a mink farm in the grounds and it is supposed that some of these creatures escaped and are the forefathers of wild mink sometimes seen in the area.

The house was bought in 1970 by Maureen Clamp who is the present owner of Borthwick Hall. Although once a large estate parts have been sold and it now comprises of the house and approximately forty acres which are rented out as grazing land. The house itself comprises twenty-two rooms with sundry boxrooms.

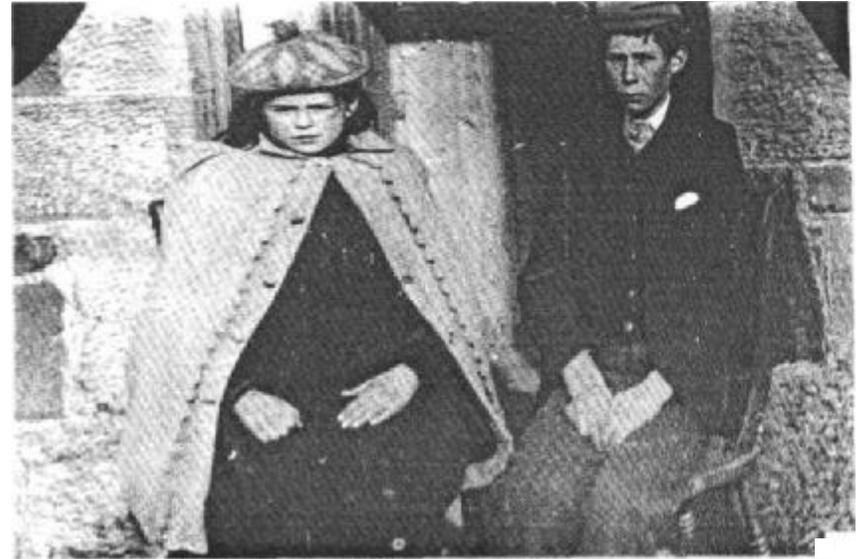
On the summit of Borthwick Hall Hillhead there is a circle of tall stones, 70 or 80 feet in diameter, and three large rings or ditches, about 50 paces in diameter, which are said to be the only druidical remains in Scotland along with some on Heriot-Town Hillhead and also some in the parish of Kirknewton. It is thought that these are the remains of an old British fort, one of a series extending to the Cheviots, all within sight of each other. In 1928 a roman coin and axehead were found in the grounds of Borthwick Hall and in 1931 a polished stone was discovered.

Sauter Syke is a small rill descending from the hill close by the South East side of Borthwick Hall house and runs into the Heriot Water at Lawful Dyke. This dyke was built to repel the encroachment of the water but the opposite Laird, finding fault, went to law where it was declared to be a lawful dyke. Sauter Syke took its name from the Sauters, a rough and sometimes thievish band of traders from Prestonpans who carried salt from the Firth to the borders and generally rested and took a meal at the Syke.

A pool at its foot, near the dyke, was the resort of some young goslings belonging to Kirkhouses and a large hawk who had feasted on two of them was at length caught in a trap and after his eyes were put out a line was written and tied round his neck and let go. About a month afterwards newspapers told a hawk had been found in France with the following verse round its neck:

'At Lawful Dyke baith Stark and shire  
Abune the Kirk of Heriot-Muir  
They cruelly put out my een  
For eaten of a young Goslen.

## THE JOHNSTONE PRIZEWINNERS - 1895



### EARLY SCHOOL HISTORY

"The smallness of the number (of scholars) is owing to the age and infirmity of the teacher who is above 70 years; to his ignorance of languages and particularly to his want of a schoolroom. He has only a small cottage and an area of about 8' by 16' taken off the end as his school and that crammed with furniture and household items for lack of space. He serves as precentor, session clerk, beadle and grave digger and yet his whole income does not exceed £8 per annum."

This extract records, nearly a century prior to the Education Act (Scotland) 1872, the presence of an established (and sanctioned) schoolroom and its master lodged in a wretched hovel off the churchyard at Hallheriot. The Statistical Account of Scotland (1794) notes that the average number of paying scholars was ten. The Rev. Alexander Hunter, Minister of the Parish is moved to deliver an open homily on the dominie's plight, "In these times when there is such a general rise in the necessaries of life, what progress in learning or in science is to be expected in any part of the kingdom, when that useful set of men are depressed by poverty?"

In the days when a loyal life-time of service by the school master was a venerated ideal, the chances were evenly divided between a boon or a curse to the community for two or three generations at a time. Two memorial stones in the East corner of Heriot Churchyard are inscribed: