

A HERIOT PATCHWORK

EDITORIAL

The title of this little volume is no accident. The researches of a small group of locals have revealed substantial gaps in our knowledge of the history of Heriot, hence the choice of title. Thus we do not pretend that this is in any way a complete document. Indeed it is our hope that the exhibition which is being held to coincide with the publication of this booklet will jog many memories and encourage people to shed new light on the history of our community. Given new material it may well be that another booklet will follow.

It is our desire not just to impart some information about events past, but also to entertain at the same time.

Finally, our heartfelt thanks are extended to all those near and far who have contributed in so many different ways.

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HERIOT VILLAGE

The advent of the railway appears to have changed the centre of Heriot from the hamlet by the church to the station so in effect there are now two parts of the village — sometimes distinguished by terming them Heriot Village and Heriot Station. The road leading up from the station past the school and church to Blakehope and the Dewar has remained largely unchanged and is still a popular route for tourists and "Sunday drivers". The area of Heriot by the station has developed over the past 40 years from a few houses into a small village. The council built 14 bungalows behind the existing row of houses and also provided a small play park. There has been little private development lately, just one new bungalow in the past decade; inadequate water and sewage supplies prevent further building and this enables Heriot to maintain a village atmosphere.

The Police station which was built in 1921 was unmanned in 1979 and then sold as a private house, Heriot now depends on the Constabulary at Stow and the observances of our Special Constable. The old post office on the main road was demolished in 1982 — the original having been closed several years before — in preparation for the new piece of road between Hangingshaw and Falahill scheduled for 1984. The present post office is now situated by the garage at Hangingshaw and also comprises the village shop.

The Skew bridge at Falahill was demolished in 1982 when the first part of the new road was completed. The railway station was sold privately in 1980 and converted into a charming cottage. The land along the tracks is also being sold.

Whilst Heriot still maintains much of its old-world charm the village school has taken great steps into modern day techniques. In 1982 the school won 1st equal prize in the Scotsman magazine competition and last year (1983) were beaten by one point in the Evening News computer competition. There are many varied activities and clubs for such a small community and although membership may be few they make up in enthusiasm what they lack in numbers. The womans rural put on a "Good Old Days" Revue in 1981 and went "on tour" to Toxide with the Show. Last year they celebrated their 60th anniversary. In 1982 they won the Dalkeith Show cup for the best composite entry.

The Womans Guild functions successfully, annually holding a ceilidh and a Sale of Work to provide funds for the church. The present football club are in the 1st division of the Borders amateur league and whilst the badminton club runs along quite successfully each year the Bowling club has had to be temporarily closed due to lack of response this year. The play school is managing to function twice a week although the number of pre-school age children has decreased lately. The Brownies were started in 1983 and is much enjoyed by the members, as is the newly re-opened Sunday School. The Youth Club is now into its third year and is much enjoyed by the older children, particularly the summer camp last year. Mention must be made of our Drama Group who have for the past three years put on their versions of Cinderella, Dick Whittington and Aladdin playing to packed houses each night.

There is a sheep dog trial every summer and amongst our farming community are several breeders of championship level sheep dogs.

The annual sports day has developed into quite a competitive event between the "village and the country" with challenge cups presented to winning teams — one for adults and one for the children. Last year the event stretched over three days to include orienteering, netball, football, bowls and darts in addition to the usual racing events.

Last summer the community council provided flowers and shrubs and the villagers planted out beds in an attempt to soften the bleaker corners of the village and although we are still a long way from becoming winners of the "Britain in Bloom" competition it certainly provided a spot of colour to the community and passing tourists.



SHIELINGS

The movement of people and their livestock to the high pastures in summer goes away back to prehistoric times and was widespread throughout Europe.

The word Heriot itself, according to the learned Dr. Milne comes from the Gaelic word "airdh" which means "shieling". The letter H has been prefixed for easier pronunciation and euphony.

On the high ground estate of Raeshaw, on Heriot Water, which includes the hill farms of Overshiels and Nethershiels, both in the neighbouring parish of Stow, the sites of some of the old summer shielings can be traced. Indeed, the two above named farms take their names from the original shielings there.

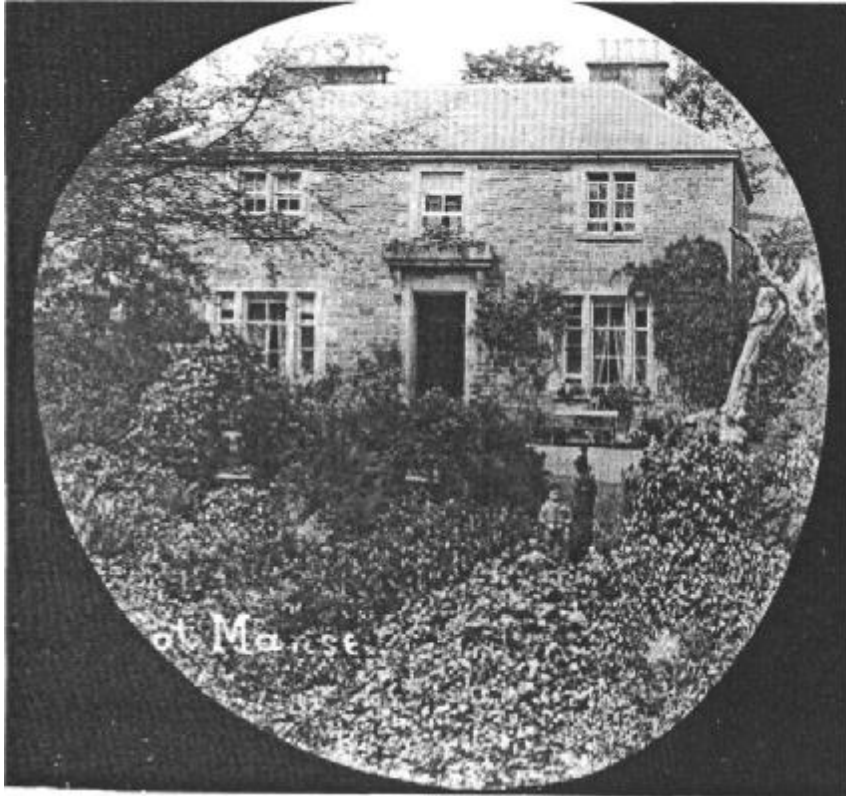
In Scotland in by-gone days, whole settlements or "ferme toons" would be temporarily deserted with the advent of summer, when the population would move with their animals to the shielings. This was an eagerly awaited and happy event, especially after long, hard and often hungry winters followed by bleak barren springs. The men having repaired and put in order the rude turf huts and faulds, would return to work the unfenced fields, now unmolested, in the absence of the sheep and cattle. During the long summer days the women would milk the ewes and make cheese, knit and spin. The children, as was the custom in those days, all had their tasks. The elder ones would guard the sheep on the hill, or as the old ballad has it, "tae wear the tod (fox) frae the flock on the fell". But it was not all work and no play, happy hours would be spent guddling in the hill burns for trout. A welcome addition to the staple diet of

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 "Newbotle". In 1309, William Blair, the vicar of Heriot, resigned his vicarage to Lambertton, 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 Newbottil, 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:-

"Dewar, Garvald, Blakhope, Ladiesyd, Reyschaw, Carcant, Ruchsuyr, Heriot Myllne, Heriot town, Heriothouse, 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 Nettleingflat, 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 ane 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

In 1894 the Reverend Dr. Robert Wright, minister in Heriot 1844-1846, gave £100 to the Kirk session to endow two prizes to the Parish School of Heriot, one for the best general scholar and one for the scholar with the best and most intelligent knowledge of the Holy Scriptures. Midlothian Education Trust took over the Wright Bequest Fund in 1938.

The Engraving "For Christ's Crown and Covenant" was purchased in 1901 and was hung in the Vestry where it still remains. There is a brass plaque on the wall opposite the church door in memory of Mrs Wright (Bessie Wood) "Who gave herself to mission work in China and received an Early Crown. Chao-Chow-Fu. June 15th 1912." and placed there by her friends in Heriot, Her father Mr. William Wood, farmer at Corsehope, gifted an oak community table in 1928 to the church, in memory of his daughter, Bessie. It was carved by John Linton, the village joiner, whose wife was a sister of Bessie. The railing in front of the pulpit platform was removed to accommodate the table and re-erected on the north side of the platform.

The minister from 1928-1936 was the Rev. Dr. Harry Smith who made a great effort to raise money and help put the church on a more sound basis. A large and regularly attending congregation was established and his love of music was conveyed to the people of Heriot. He re-opened the Sunday school in 1928 and there was also a Sunday school at Falahill which had been in existence in 1923. This took place in two railway carriages in a siding between the A7 and the railway beside the Skew Bridge. Sunday school picnics were held at Borthwick Hall with the help and encouragement of Mrs Macfie. Children were transported from Falahill and outlying farms by horses and carts, and a great time was had by all. Records of there being a Sunday school in Heriot are noted in 1939, 1953 when the average attendance was 25 and 1955 when a Sunday school picnic was arranged — but this time the children travelled by bus. Rev. H. Smith died in 1942 aged 76 years and is buried in the churchyard.

The Rev. J. Wilson Muggoch was minister 1936-1956. He died in 1962 aged 82 years. During this period there are frequent references to repairs and improvement to the heating system, no doubt the good Parishioners of Heriot appreciated their comforts! In 1945 the Kirk session agreed unanimously that it was inadvisable that women should be eligible for the Eldership. This is no longer the case, although there have been no lady elders to date. In 1958 the Woman's Guild was started by Mrs Pirie, wife of the Rev. James Pirie who was minister from 1957-1962. He was the last minister to live in Heriot Manse as it was sold. Heriot and Borthwick Churches were linked, and a new Manse built near Middleton in 1964.

The first mention found of a meeting in Heriot Manse was in October 1731 and there are records of another Manse being built in 1794. Kirk session meetings over the years usually took place in the Manse. Many repairs seem to

have been necessary and in 1862 the building of the new Manse, now Heriot Water, was decided. This is thought to have been built adjacent to the original Manse as the building on the west side of the new Manse dates back to the 1700s. In 1959 there were great problems with the erosion of the river bank near the Manse. The General Trustees financed the work to rectify this and a decision was made to sell the Manse and repay the Trustees.

The Rev. J. Blair Gillon was joint minister of Heriot and Borthwick churches from 1964-1980 and occupied the Manse at Middleton. During this time he was contacted twice by people who had come into possession of a wooden plate with a brass ring inscribed "The Bell Tree, 1855, Heriot Church." They were both returned to the church, one from England and one from a lady in Edinburgh and can be seen at the front of the church. At one time the Church Bell hung on a tree near the gates inside the churchyard. It is rumoured that the tree blew down around 1855 and the Bell was stolen and dropped in a pool in the Heriot Water. No one was able to lift it out as "the devil had a hold of the clapper." The Bell Wood which was planted between Borthwick Hall and Carcant on the Corsehope side was supposed to have been near the position where the Bell sunk. It has now been cut down but its bell shape can still be seen. The two collection ladles, in regular use, are engraved "The Bell Tree, Borthwick Hall, 1857" but it is not certain if these are made from the same tree as the plates. There is also a brass plate which stands in front of the communion table which Mr. Gillon obtained from St. Margarets church in the Pleasance when it closed down. The three chairs behind the communion table were gifted by the widow and son of Mr. Thomas A. Mathieson of Shoestanes Farm. He was an Elder of the church from 1935-1961. The Hymn Board was presented by Mr. John Methven, Kilcouter in grateful appreciation of his long association with Heriot Parish Church. The two lamps at the front of the church were originally oil lamps but were converted to electricity rather than being replaced. The Silver Communion cups date back to 1724 and are still in use along with two more recent silver plates. A lidded pewter jug dates from 1738 and a pewter dish 1824 are in safe keeping. The present organ was presented on 6th November 1966 by John Linton M.M. In 1980 the link was split with Borthwick church and today the minister of Stow church the Rev. Charles Duncan also cares for the Parish Church of Heriot.



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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 Matfie 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 sweeties. 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

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', 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:

1. viz. Marg. Smith spouse to W. Carter Schoolm' Heriot died 7th Feb. 1805 aged 55.
Also Will Carter his son died 7th May 1809 aged 24.
And the above William Carter late schoolmaster at Heriot who died 10th July 1823 aged 60 years.

We read of the slow striving towards a more suitable building for the scholars. Mr. Carter was also the scribe at the church Heritors meetings, faithfully recording their business for many years and making his own requests:- slating for the roof, lime washing for the walls, weatherproofing, a new earth and lime floor, an outside door to shelter them from winter winds, repairs to the school seats! This last inspires thoughts about possible vandalism or graffiti of yesteryear taking its toll of an already dilapidated building.

2. viz. In memory of George Simpson for 48 years schoolmaster of Heriot died in Edinburgh 23rd May 1881 aged 77 years and of Jessie P.E. Simpson his wife who died at Heriot Schoolhouse 20th May 1861. Aged 53 years.

At least Jessie had the luxury of a private laying-out, away from curious eyes.

Mr. Simpson's copper-plate hand is first seen in the Heritors records of 1831 right through to 1878 in those fascinating documents of state schools, the log books, the subtle chronicles of slow or even no progress; of plodding obedience to daily timetables; to hours of chanted drills; of brave battles against snow storms, high winds and floods; of fearful epidemics; of the strict observance of the annual but gradually changing cycle of Christian and patriotic feasts; of whole seasons of wet clothes and numb fingers.

Simpson's appointment was a happy choice in 1831, the result of the Heritors quest for a paragon among men, one who should be qualified to teach Latin, English writing, arithmetic and book-keeping and who should also act as beadle. To these skills the Galashiels man added the ability to teach Greek and geography and he acted as Registrar as well as officially administering the paupers fund. All this he performed for £60-4s-4½d and two Chalders of oatmeal upon transferring to his new Victorian residence in 1853.

In 1852 a new school was discussed, situated on Mr. Lawson's land on the south side of the road below Heriot Mill. The estimate accepted from Mr. Doughty of Chirnside was for £379. Upon completion of the building the Heritors refused to make any extra allowance to the builder although he had suffered quite a loss.

A meeting on the 30th March 1854 heard a letter from the architect stating

that the work was complete and satisfactory, and making a record of expenses.

Total Expense	£ 4 3 2 - 1 5 -	4½d
Architect Inspection	£ 2 1 - 0 -	0 d
Pump	£ 3 - 4 -	7 d
Grates and furnishings	£ 1 3 - 1 3 -	4 d
£ 4 7 0 - 1 3 -		3½d

This was for a one room school and residence. The second room for an infants class was added between this date and 1911, but as early as 1855 the Heritors applied for a grant to assist in the employment of an Apprentice Pupil Teacher who would care for 53 children. The single room 40' by 15' with two classes of about 50 each must have solidly packed!

HERIOT SCHOOL



Heriot P. School, (P standing for Parish, Public, Parochial and currently Primary as common usage dictated through the decades) was one of many village schools before the 1870s offering unorthodox curricula, as local worthies brought in various academics to give the parish children a recognisable education. Favoured schools basked in the gracious patronage of local benefactors. Two generous bequests were made to Heriot scholars. In 1868 the Heritors met following the death of Miss Anne Johnston who had left £100 for prizes to be awarded to the best scholars of the Parish school. For such an enormous sum it was decided to set up a trust fund and some healthy stocks in the British Linen Bank were bought. The schoolmaster never logged this prize but a photo in 1895 of two prize winners proves it to be extent for some long time.

The Wright prize, noted annually just prior to the summer break, the result of a bequest in 1894 by a clergyman Dr. Rev. Robert Wright and was to be presented to the top boy and girl scholar in Religious Knowledge. It was not to be given to the same child twice — a rather nice touch.

We might expect that after 1872 when the state assumed responsibility for education these gracious practices would cease, but time and again are reported instances of care and interest by those who might thankfully have heaved the burden from their shoulders. An annual summer picnic at Borthwick Hall continued to be given by the then 'Lairds', Mr. and Mrs David McFie. Mrs McFie also came to the school to administer a children's savings bank and paid regular visits, along with other dignitaries, to check and sign the register. It

is as if the two systems marched together along the road of progress, the Heritors merely changing their title to School Board and working on under this new guise.

Costs had to be met and salaries paid so in 1873 an annual application for a grant was made by the Rev. John Francis Brown acting for the school board. To qualify, the school now had to be inspected annually and in order to make a good impression and receive the maximum, the master notes extra drills in his log several days before the Inspector's visit,

e.g. 13th April 1877 — Average attendance between 50 and 60. Special drill in arithmetic, history, geography, grammar and dictation.

This extract recalls a once familiar sound, the rhythmic chanting of dozens of young voices 'saying' their lessons. These daily rituals were strictly and evenly spaced with periods of dead quiet. To bring about a pin-dropping silence in a class of sixty pupils was considered to be the acme of professional ability. An Inspector's report of the period reads:-

11th May 1877

James Blaikie H.M. Inspector.

Heriot Public School.
Edinburgh.

*»

"The discipline is very good and the instruction is sound and well advanced. The results of the examination in Arithmetic shows a marked improvement on that of last year. The History book used by the Fifth Standard does not cover the prescribed ground, and a fuller one should be substituted. The industrial work of the girls is very good."

The School Board would have been well satisfied that year and probably would spend some of the forthcoming grant to provide those new history texts.

Heriot P. School then, like the average Victorian rural school is a potent and powerful piece of utilitarian architecture, a present memorial to its scholars and masters.



THE RAILWAY — ITS IMPACT ON HERIOT

As the motorist of the 1980s sweeps off Middleton Moor he is hardly aware of the existence of the old railway line running down beside Gala Water. The demolition, in 1982, of the Skew Bridge below Nettlingflat removed yet another trace of the once-great Waverley Line. This was a route of considerable beauty to the traveller, but to the railway enthusiast a line which posed a formidable challenge to the locomotive and its crew as they struggled to haul a heavy train over Falahill and Whitrope summits. These two climbs were so steep that many trains required 'banking', that is, another engine had to push the train from the rear. Because of the severity of these gradients the North British Railway employed their largest locomotives to copy with the Waverley Line. Early in the 20th century these were the famous 'Atlantic' 4 — 4 — 2 engines, the only ones of their type ever used by the old Scottish railway companies and their full and remarkable story can be found in 'The North British Atlantics' by John Thomas (David & Charles 1972).

Our motorist passing the now defunct station at Heriot could be forgiven for thinking that the centre of the village was always in the vicinity of the station. It was not so before the coming of the railway. The older properties are generally situated up by Heriot Water but the presence of the new railway encouraged building close to Heriot Station. This is the one effect of the railway which has outlived the railway itself. It has left the school and church somewhat removed from the population centre of the village and with the Post Office, once situated

beside the station, now located at Hangingshaw it gives every encouragement to those who wish to indulge in the craze of the 1980s — jogging.

Why was the line built in the first place? It was not the prospect of handling commuter traffic because there was no 'commuting' in the 1840s. Neither was it built for the movement of large amounts of goods traffic for there was little industrialisation in the Borders. The real reason had a great deal more to do with railway politics than economics. In the 1840s the North British Railway was in a highly expansive mood even by the standards of that decade. (1845 was the year of 'Railway Mania'). Although the N.B. was the Northern partner in the East Coast route it also wanted a share of the lucrative West Coast traffic and in order to get trains to Carlisle it had to run on the rails of the hated Caledonian. The 'Caley' was suspected of deliberately delaying traffic between the N.B. and its English partner, the Midland. Thus, because of events taking place elsewhere, the little communities down the Gala Water found themselves with a railway; a main line which could take the residents of Heriot directly to the Capital of the British Empire!

Besides offering a mobility hitherto unknown, at least to those locals who could afford it, the farming community found the railway of immense benefit. The old practice of 'droving' quickly ceased when they realised that livestock could be transported to market in just a few hours instead of days. As livestock arrived in better condition it usually fetched higher prices. To facilitate the loading of animals a loading bay was provided in the little goods yards. All the other usual accoutrements of a country station were provided; station house, up and down platforms, signal box, level crossing, goods shed etc. Heriot Station itself was opened on 4th August, 1848 and the line to Hawick on 1st November, 1849, although the Waverley route throughout was not completed until 1862. An extract of the timetable of 1850 is shown below and the surprise is to find trains running on Sundays!

TO EDINBURGH

	MONDAY TO SATURDAY			SUNDAY	
HERIOT	8 .32 a.m.	11 .35 a.m.	7.05 p.m.	9.50 a.m.	6.35 p.m.
EDINBURGH	9 .30 a.m.	12 .35 p.m.	8.00 p.m.	10.45 a.m.	7.35 p.m.

FROM EDINBURGH

		MONDAY TO SATURDAY			SUNDAY	
EDINBURGH		8 15 a.m.	10 45 a.m.	4.30 p.m.	8 15 a.m.	5.00 p.m.
HERIOT		9 15 a.m.	11 .45 a.m.	5.30 p.m.	9 15 a.m.	6.00 p.m.

Single Fares were:-	1st Class	3/9d	(19p)
	2nd Class	2/9d	(14p)
	3rd Class	1/10d	(9p)
	4th Class	1/7d	(8p)



Where Have All The Pringles Gone?

Today in the Parish of Heriot, there is no-one with the surname Pringle and yet a perusal of the older gravestones found at the back of the churchyard reveals that this well-known Border name was once very numerous in the locality. The name certainly has not died out in the Borders; the nearest members of the clan live near Stow to the South and at Arniston to the North. The latter can easily trace their ancestry back to Pringles resident during the last century in Heriot.

Why did they leave? The answer at this stage is conjectural. John Pringle (born 1748) had six children born around the turn of the century and three of his sons followed in their father's footsteps as wrights, presumably cartwrights. Now was there sufficient business to support three sons where it had only supported their father? For some time it appeared there was, but in 1850 James became a tenant farmer on the Arniston Estate and his descendents are still there to this day.

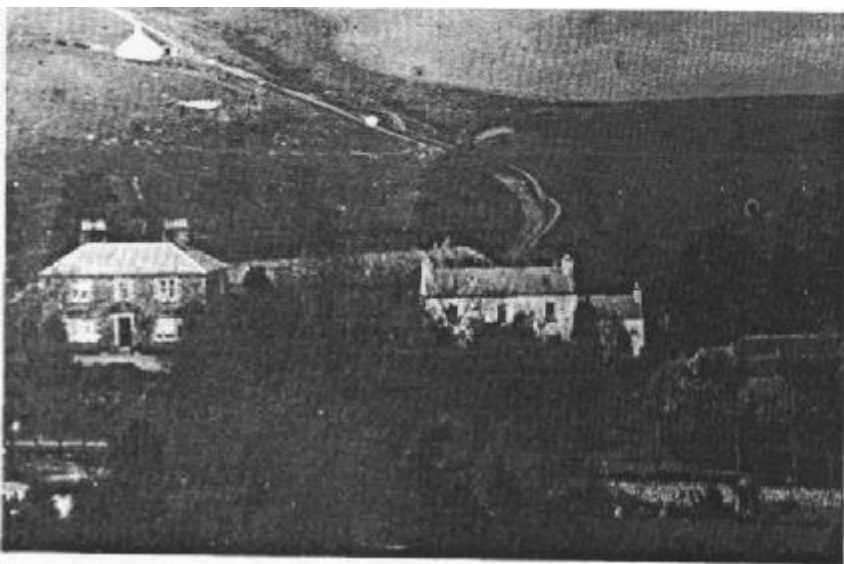
Thomas also went into farming about this time. One theory is that they had accumulated enough capital to make a move into a better occupation. The author of this article suggests that business for the three sons was probably rather thin anyway. The opening of the railway in 1848 (4th August) quickly killed stage coaches and any other long-distance horse-drawn traffic so the

cartwrights' business could have further suffered. Thus two of the three brothers may have been forced to seek different work. A less romantic theory perhaps, but it may be nearer the truth.

The "Lost" Farmhouse

Taking the road from Heriot to Kilcoulter as you come down the rise, there you will see an old tree and a gate into the field on the left. Looking at the field round the tree, you will see nothing of note except a few old stones and mortar. What you are looking at is the site of a farmhouse called Broomyknowe, where almost two centuries ago John Pringle (another John) lived. The Ordinance Survey of 1853 shows this to be as big (or small) as other farmhouses and up the rise another building is shown but not named. Is this "Ashiebank"? Were teas served to travellers here? We are keen to know of further details. Do you have any information?

HERIOT MILL



The Tragedy of David Pringle

John Pringle of Broomyknowe had a son, David, born 1822 who, when he grew up, married Margaret Hastie and took over the adjacent farm at Kirklandhill. In January 1846, Margaret gave birth to a son James. Two years later, Margaret was again pregnant and on Christmas Day 1848 she produced another son. David never saw his second child because a few months earlier he had been kicked in the head by his horse. Margaret named the baby after his deceased father.

The departure or demise of Pringles in the Parish seems all the more surprising when one considers how numerous their numbers were a century or so ago. Further, the population of Heriot has not declined the way it has in other rural communities, e.g.

Population in 1755:- 209

Population in 1851:- 352

Population in 1983:- 220

The name Pringle, according to a book written in 1922, "The Records of the Pringles", is derived from Hoppringle (trjere are various spellings), a hill cottage ½ mile up a cart track beyond Hazelbank Quarry. Hoppringle was originally the site of an old pele tower and from here the descendants spread out over the Borders becoming involved in a variety of occupations including, in times past, the Border practice of reliving! Those living in Heriot in the 18th and 19th centuries generally seem to have been of modest means, engaged in farming or country crafts. Their absence from the Parish intrigues us. To paraphrase an old song, where **HAVE** all the Pringles gone? Please tell us.

