

II.

NOTES ON AN ARMORIAL STONE AT CARRICK HOUSE, EDAY,
ORKNEY. BY WALTER L. BELL.

In the Orkney Islands stones carved with armorial bearings occur in fair numbers. These are found on tombs, as in St Magnus' Cathedral, and in many of the old houses now or formerly belonging to families of note. When not inside buildings or otherwise protected from the assaults of a stormy, wet climate, many of these armorial stones are now much weathered and defaced, and to one interested in the subject it becomes almost a duty to record their stories and the information that is available about them.

Carrick House, Eday, stands on the shores of the Calf Sound, opposite the small island known as the Calf of Eday, and looks out to the open sea between the Red Heads of Eday. It is a picturesque, irregular mass of buildings, with crow-stepped gables of early seventeenth-century type.

Since 1854 the island has belonged to the Hebden family, but it has passed through several hands during the last three centuries. In the Register of the Great Seal of Scotland there is an entry of a grant of lands in Eday by William Sinclair de "Ethey" to John Dalgleische in 1617; another in 1623 from Gul. Sinclair to Henry Aitken; a third to John Flemyng in 1627. On 14th January 1632, in the seventh year of James VI., the island of "Athey" together with the Calf and Holmes, were conveyed to John, "Comes de Carrick, dom. Kinclavin." Later on the lands appear to have passed into the Buchanan family, and next to the family of Fea of Clestrain (James Fea married a Margaret Buchanan), and from them to the Laings—Robert, Malcolm, and Samuel Laing being successively owners.

By deed in 1818, Malcolm Laing disposed of "all & whole the Burgh of Barony called the Burgh of Carrick, which were erected into one Burgh of Barony by a charter under the Great Seal of Scotland in favour

of the deceased John Earl of Carrick of date the 14th day of Janry. in the year 1632," with "houses, biggins, yards, crofts, tofts, townmailles, quoys, quoylands, outbrecks, outsetts, annexis, connexis, parts, pendicles and pertinents whatsoever."

The Baikies of Tankerness also appear to have owned property in Eday. In 1854 the island was acquired by Robert James Hebden, and is now owned by his grandson, Harry Hebden, Esq., of the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).

The house itself is of interest from its association with the notorious pirate John Gow or Smith. Local tradition has it that he was apprehended in the dining-room of the mansion; but according to the interesting account of his life and trial written by Daniel Defoe in 1725, and recently reprinted from the only known copy, in the British Museum, his capture was effected on the Calf Island, opposite the house, owing to the courage and "pawkiness" of Mr James Fea, younger of Clestrain, at that time the owner of the property.

Gow has been idealised by Sir Walter Scott in *The Pirate* into the gallant Cleveland; but from the contemporary account it would seem that, though not destitute of ability, he was a bloodthirsty ruffian—"A Superlative, A Capital Rogue," Defoe styles him—who richly deserved the fate which, along with seven of his companions, he underwent on 11th June 1725. The ship's bell of his vessel, *The Revenge*, with the pious motto, "Deo Soli Gloria 1640," is still preserved by Mr Hebden.

The stone which is the subject of these notes (fig. 1) is let into a recess in the wall of the courtyard of the house, above an arched doorway opening on to a path or walk by the seashore. The stone is a large one, nearly 3 feet square, and is sadly weathered, so that some of the details of the armorial shield which it bears are indistinct and defective, but the main features can be readily deciphered.

The quartering is as follows:—

Per pale—Dexter, a lion rampant within a double tressure flory counter-flory. Sinister, quarterly: first and fourth, a lion rampant;

second, two stags lodged in pale; third, three birds. These last have very evident legs, but their species is difficult to determine.

Above the dexter half are the letters A B, and above the sinister half the letters M B. Below, towards the left-hand side, are the remains

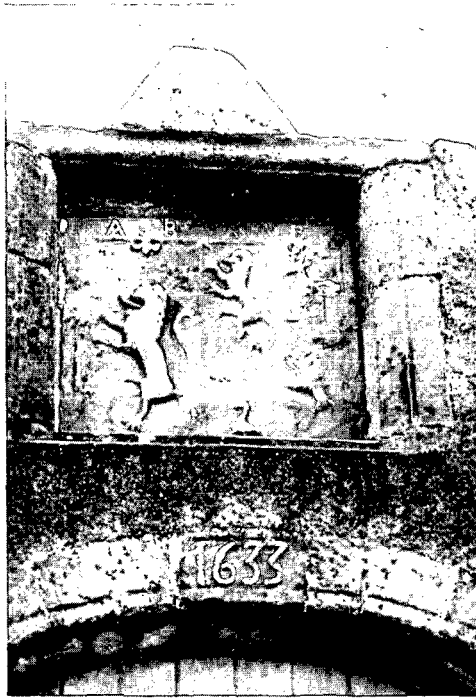


Fig. 1. Armorial Slab at Carrick House, Eday, Orkney.

of a date, of which only two figures, 66, remain. On the keystone of the arch, which is quite distinct from the stone slab bearing the arms, is the date 1633.

In *Orkney Armorial*, by Mr H. L. Norton Smith (1902), this shield is mentioned and briefly described. The writer states that the stone "bears the royal arms of Scotland impaling an achievement; quarterly,

first and fourth, a lion rampant; second, two stags; third, three birds, which are probably pelicans."

This is hardly adequate. I first saw the stone in 1900, and after some investigation am now able to furnish a more full and correct reading.

Carrick House is stated by MacGibbon and Ross (*Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland*, 1892, vol. v.) to have been built in 1633 by the first and only Lord Kinclaven. He was John Stewart, the second son of Robert Stewart, who was created Earl of Orkney, 28th October 1581.

This Earl Robert, formerly Abbot of Holyrood, was a natural son of King James V. by Euphemia, daughter of Alexander, Lord Elphinstone. He married Lady Jane Kennedy, eldest daughter of Gilbert, third Earl of Cassilis, and had, besides four daughters, three sons:—

1. Patrick, his successor in the Earldom, beheaded 1614.
2. John, Earl of Carrick, d.s.p.
3. James. He left issue Captain Robert Stewart of Eday, who married Lady Jane Gordon, daughter of the Earl of Sutherland. Their son, also Captain Robert Stewart of Eday, married Isabella Graeme of Graemeshall.

John Stewart, the second son of Earl Robert, was created a peer of Scotland 10th August 1607, by the title of Lord Kinelevin (also written Kinclaven), and was made Earl of Carrick in Orkney in 1630. There was considerable discussion by the Privy Council as to this latter patent, as it was pointed out that the title of Earl of Carrick is borne by the son of the reigning Sovereign. This, as is well known, dates from the time of Robert the Bruce. Lord Kinclaven explained that he desired to derive the title of Earl of Carrick, not from Carrick in Ayrshire, but from Carrick, a place on his property in Eday, and the patent was finally granted in 1630. The name Carrick is an imported one, being derived from the Gaelic *carraig*, a crag, and contrasts with the Orcadian place-names generally, which almost without exception are of Norse origin.

In old charters relating to the property, the house is called the Mansion-house of Calf Sound, long after Lord Kinclaven's time, and the new name does not appear to occur before the property was erected into the "Burgh of Carrick," by charter, 14th January 1632. What were Lord Kinclaven's reasons for wishing to adopt the style of Carrick one is unable at this date to say.

He married at Chelsea, on 26th October 1604, Lady Elizabeth Howard, daughter of Charles, Earl of Nottingham, and relict of Sir Robert Southwell of Woodrising, in Hertfordshire, and died in 1652 without male issue.

As to the explanation of the arms above the Carrick archway, it might be supposed that they represent those of Lord Kinclaven and his wife.

Robert Stewart, first Earl of Orkney, bore—first and fourth quartered the royal arms of Scotland bruised with a baton sinister. In the case of his son Patrick, second Earl of Orkney, Lord Kinclaven's brother, the baton sinister became a ribbon sable turned to the right. The arms of Lord Kinclaven, as given in MSS. in the Lyon Office, Edinburgh, kindly shown me by Sir James Balfour Paul, Lyon King, were:—"Two coats quarterly—first and last, Scotland differentiated with a ribbon engrailed sable. Second and third, a ship with raes (oars) in cross within a double tressure or."

In another MS. they are given as above, excepting that there is no mention of the ribbon, and with the addition "all within a bordure gobonated argent and azure."

As far as can be seen, the Carrick stone shows nothing of a ribbon or bordure. Further, the coat on the sinister half of the achievement is not that of Lady Elizabeth Howard, who would have impaled the Howard coat—Gules, a bend between three cross crosslets fitchee argent.

Some other explanation must be found, and the evidence which I have collected makes it clear that the arms have nothing to do with the royal arms of Scotland, but are those of a member of the Buchanan family,

who some time in the latter half of the seventeenth century acquired property in Eday.

Sir John Buchanan, generally known as Buchanan of Scotsraig, was the second son of Robert Buchanan, laird of Lenny, and was "Elemosinar" to James VI. He married Margaret Hertside or Hartside, daughter of Malcolm Hertside of Kirkwall, who was chambermaid to Princess Anne of Denmark, the King's wife. The couple were tried at Linlithgow in 1608, on the charge that Margaret Hartside had abused her position and stolen some of the Queen's jewels, in particular a "perle" said to have been "sauld to George Hereot, his Majesty's principall Jeweller." There is a strong suspicion that these charges were more or less of a trumped-up character, and that Mistress Buchanan was got rid of because of her too intimate knowledge of certain Court intrigues. Buchanan himself was only charged with being an accessory after the fact; but his wife was found guilty, sentenced to a fine of £400 sterling, and imprisoned in Blackness Castle until she found caution for the payment of the same. This having been forthcoming, she was liberated from prison, but was declared "infamous" and was banished for life to Orkney. However, after some years spent in obscurity, the Buchanans were received back into royal favour, and in 1612 the sentence of infamy and banishment pronounced on Margaret Hartside was revoked. Buchanan must have been knighted previously to this, for in the royal warrant annulling the sentence Margaret Hartside is referred to as "the Spous of Sir Johnne Buchanan Knytt." He became Sheriff of Orkney and Shetland about 1625, and some time afterwards returned south. Between 1622 and 1629 he purchased the estate of Scotsraig from George, Lord Ramsay of Dalhousie. Most of the property he had acquired in Orkney was subsequently sold to his nephew, Thomas Buchanan, who was also Sheriff and Provost of Kirkwall from 1636 to 1647. Sir John died in 1643.

Sir John Buchanan of Scotsraig had a son Arthur, known as Arthur Buchanan of Sound, in Shapinsay. In a family history of the Buchanans, by William Buchanan of Auchinvar (1723), it is stated that

the property of Sound was bought for Arthur Buchanan by his father, Thomas Buchanan, son of James Buchanan, merchant in Edinburgh, a brother of Sir John of Scotsraig; but Bishop Graham says (quoted by Mr Hossack, *Kirkwall in the Orkneys*) that Sir John Buchanan bought the lands of Sound and Shapinsay from James Tullo, and these lands were afterwards sold to Thomas Buchanan.

This Arthur Buchanan of Sound matriculated his arms at the Lyon Office, 1672-7:—Or, a lion rampant sable within a double tressure flory counter-flory of the second: a crescent for difference. He married an Englishwoman named Margaret Buxton. There are several families of that name in whose arms a stag or buck appears.

Buxton of Brissington, Derby, had:—Sable two bars argent, on a canton of the second a buck of the first attired or. Crest, a pelican.

Buxton of Shadwell, Norfolk:—First coat: argent a lion rampant sable, tail elevated or raised over the head. Second coat: as Buxton of Brissington.

After some correspondence with the Heralds' College, London (department of the Somerset Herald), I was enabled through the kindness of Mr A. T. Butler to obtain a reference to the Visitation of Norfolk, 1613. The following arms were then allowed to the family of Buxton of Dickleburgh, Co. Norfolk:—Quarterly, first and fourth, argent a lion rampant, tail elevated or raised over the head sable; second, or two bucks lodged gules; third, azure three herons or.

This is clearly the coat on the sinister side of the Carrick stone, and we are thus also able to explain the initials above the shield "A B, M B," which are evidently those of Arthur Buchanan and Marjory Buxton, his wife.

With regard to the date (1633) on the keystone of the arch, if this represents the date of the armorial achievement, the stone was erected during Lord Kinclaven's lifetime; but the remains of another date (probably 166-) below the shield seem to suggest that the stone bearing the Buchanan and Buxton arms has been inserted in its present position at some period subsequent to 1633.

The explanation of the Carrick stone which I have here given is confirmed by the fact that in the grounds of Balfour Castle, Shapinsay, there is another armorial stone (fig. 2) on which the same arms appear. This is placed over an ornamental archway in a wall bounding the "policies," and is a much more elaborate achievement than that at Carrick. I believe it stands on, or at any rate near, the former site of

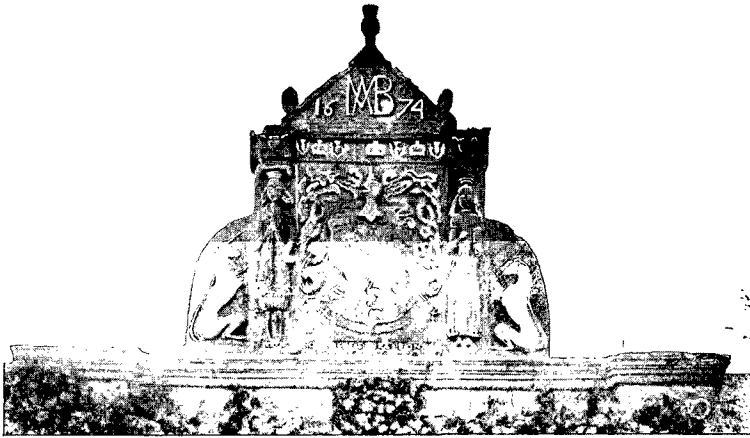


Fig. 2. Armorial Slab at Balfour Castle, Shapinsay, Orkney.

the old mansion-house of Sound, burnt down after Culloden by way of punishing James Fea of Clestrain, who acquired it through his wife, Janet Buchanan, for his activity in the Prince's cause.

The carving appears to have been well executed, but is considerably weathered and defaced.

The arms represented are exactly those on the Carrick stone. The shield is surmounted by a helmet in profile, with visor open and the usual mantling. On the helm are some indications of a crest. Under-

neath is the Buchanan motto, "Nobilis est ira leonis." (This is now borne "for Lenny" over crest "a lion's paw erased proper" by Buchanan Hamilton of Spittal, Lenny and Bardowie). The upper border of the stone is ornamented by thistles and crowns alternately. Above is a triangular pediment, with a large monogram (for A B. M B.) and the date 1674. On either side, but not forming part of the achievement proper, is a figure, a man on the right side and a female on the left, while two unicorns "sejant" form supporters to the whole.

Though the Shapinsay stone is in somewhat better preservation than that at Carrick, both are much weather-worn. They are already so much defaced as to be deciphered only with difficulty. A few more years, with their rains and wintry gales, will complete the process of destruction, and the last traces of the quaint heraldic bearings will have perished.

Note.—The photographs of the Carrick stone from which the illustrations to this paper have been made are enlargements from a photograph lent me by the late Mr Harry Hebden of Eday. That of the stone on Shapinsay was most kindly presented to me by Mr Thomas Kent of Kirkwall (1900).