

IV.

NOTES ON (1) THE PARISH CHURCH OF FALKIRK, AND (2) A FOOD-VESSEL FOUND AT CAMELON. BY R. L. HUNTER, F.S.A.Scot.

The present Parish Church of Falkirk dates almost entirely from 1810. At this time the pre-Reformation building was found to be too small to serve the population of the parish, which had increased greatly with the growth of industry after the founding of Carron Iron Works. The church, which was of cruciform plan, was completely destroyed with the exception of the tower built over the crossing and which was carried on four piers situated at the angles of the walls formed by the transepts. The space below the arches of the crossing was built up, and the area thus enclosed became the entrance hall of the new church, which was erected to the north of the original site.

The lower part of this tower is the only bit of the existing fabric which is pre-Reformation in date. It is almost entirely embedded in later work, but a small part of the north faces of the two southern piers can be seen in doorways. They appear to be of fifteenth-century date, with keeled shafts and the usual mason's marks. The upper part of the tower was rebuilt in 1740, and has the projecting quoins of the period, though the buttresses of the earlier building can be seen projecting from the deeper eighteenth-century work. At this period the steeple was re-erected in stone instead of in timber and slate as previously. Some years ago a door was driven through the south face of this tower about twenty feet from the ground, exposing the mediæval mortar and oyster-shell pinnings.

In the *Falkirk Monthly Magazine* of 1827 there is a drawing of the old church as it appeared shortly before its demolition. It had the cruciform plan common in Scotland in the fifteenth century, but the doors and windows seem to have been largely replaced during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries by the square-lintelled type. The south transept, however, still retained a fine five-light window, with simple tracery, in its gable. There was also in existence some years ago a plan of the old kirk and kirkyard, prepared by John Shaw and dated 3rd September 1788. It was then in the possession of the Kirk Session but now seems to have completely disappeared.

Both the transepts (but not the nave or the chancel) were overlaid with stone slabs.¹ A few fragments of these vaults have been preserved, including two carved corbels and a fine boss which bears the arms of the Livingstones of Callendar. The snake which is the family crest is shown twining round the shield. In 1810 the boss was taken to West-quarter House by Sir Thomas Fenton Livingstone and built into the garden wall. It was restored to the church last year.

The corbels represent human heads, one male and one female, and are assigned by Mr J. S. Richardson to the first half of the fifteenth century.

The south transept served as a chapel for the Knights Hospitallers, who owned the property on the south side of Falkirk High Street. The north transept was probably dedicated to St Michael the Archangel, for there is a charter of James VI., dated 21st December 1580, confirming one by James Oswald, Chaplain of the Aisle of St Michael the Archangel in Falkirk Parish Church, by which he passed on to his nephew four crofts in Stirling belonging to the chaplainry, with the consent of the Patrons of the Chaplainry, namely, the Lyon King and the two Royal Heralds. Robert Kier, writing in 1827, says that "the Livingstones of Callendar buried their dead within the South Aisle of the old Kirk of Falkirk." On the other hand, a visitor to Falkirk in 1697 says: "On the North side of these isles (*i.e.* the transepts) are coates of armes not very visible what they are, but said to be the coates of Livingstones." The former is probably the correct statement as the connection of the Livingstone family with the Order of St John was close. Sir Henry de Livingstone, son of the second Livingstone lord of Callendar, was Preceptor of the Order in 1463, shortly after this chapel was built, and the last chaplain, who died in 1575, was also a Livingstone.

In the two groups of later effigies, the male figures are on the sinister side, indicating that they came from tombs situated on the south side of the kirk. It is therefore possible that their monuments were situated in the south transept and underlying the great window. The arch over each recess forms a canopy over the effigies.

There is in the possession of Miss McLuckie, Falkirk, a stone which almost certainly came from the Parish Church of Falkirk. It bears a shield displaying the emblems of the Passion.

Falkirk can also show two interesting examples of faked antiquities. They were produced in 1810 as having been found during the taking down

¹ Stone slab roofs were usually set on plain barrel-pointed vaults, but sometimes these vaults were ornamented with false ribs, as at Seaton Collegiate Kirk. It would be difficult, however, to work in a boss like the large one. May this not have come from the rib-and-panel vault of the crossing? If there was a rib-and-panel vault here, presumably it was taken down in 1810. The carved corbels might have come from the transepts; if this is so, there must have been "false-vaulting."

of the old church, and were used as evidence in a legal case between the minister of the parish and the laird of Callendar. Their real origin will probably never be known, but they do not appear to be much older than the date of their alleged discovery. The first is now built into the wall of the church, and bears the following legend:—

FVNDATVM / MALCOMO. III / REGE. SCOTIAE / A.M. † 1057

There is no other evidence connecting Malcolm III. with this church.

The other exists only in the form of a replica in cast iron, and reads as follows:—

FVNERATVS / HIC DEIN / ROB GRAHIM / ILLE EVERSVS / VALL.
SEVERVS / A.C. 415 / FERGVSIVS II / R. SCO.

A stone which is said to have formed part of the well-head near the town steeple seems to have been originally a gargoye of mediæval workmanship, and if so, no doubt also came originally from our Parish Church, as the only large ecclesiastical building within a wide area.

The site of the chancel of the old church is occupied by the vault of the Zetland family, as owners of the Estate of Kerse. It seems that the chancel, or at least the eastern part of it, was never used as part of the church since the Reformation, but was "separat from the body of the kirk and queire thair of by ane rail of three ells hight." In 1645 there was a dispute between the Kirk Session and Lady Hope of Kerse, who wished to bury her daughter in the family burying place in this part of the church. The Session objected, as they had previously enacted that no bodies were to be buried within the kirk, but the Provincial Assembly of Lothian and Tweeddale ruled that "as the people hes never mett nor sat within the samen for hearing of the word and receaving of the sacraments past memorie of man" the Session could not "impede the owners in the frie use of the said ile."

When the church was rebuilt, some objectors to the change of site pointed out that the "scite" of the new church could not be made suitable "without digging up many corps." The reply was that "these belonged to persons of small consideration and the magistrates of Stirling lately repaired the church of the burgh, and removed the ashes of kings as well as other illustrious personages and deposited them in another situation."

The external monuments have survived the passage of time rather better than the church itself.

The oldest is a carved crosshead of late Norman workmanship (fig. 1), dated by Mr J. S. Richardson as about A.D. 1200 and fully described in a paper given by me to the Scottish Ecclesiological Society last year. It has lain in the porch of the church for at least thirty or forty years,

and there is no record of when and where it was discovered. It may have been a sanctuary or boundary cross.

In the churchyard is the reputed tomb of Sir John de Graham, slain at the battle of Falkirk in 1298. The original stone has an effigy of a knight in armour. This was covered by a second slab in order to preserve

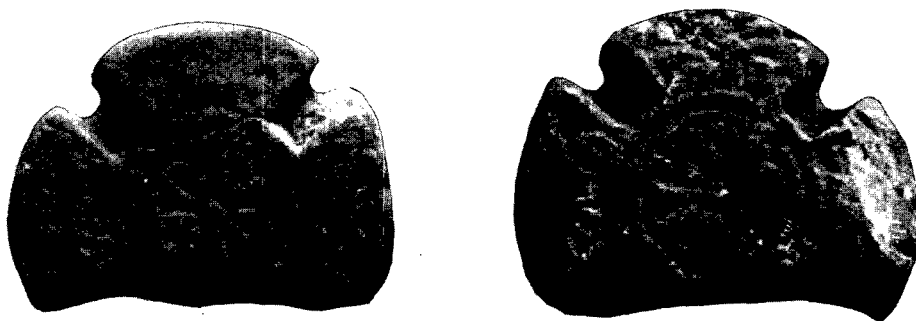


Fig. 1. Head of Cross—front and back.

it from further attack by the weather, and the arrangement was repeated until there are now four slabs. One bears the couplet:

Here lyes Sir Jhonn the Greme baith wight and wise
 Ane of the chief rescuit Scotland thrise
 An better knight not to the world was lent
 Nor was gude Greme of trueth and hardiment
 Anno 1298

At a little distance from this tomb is a stone which is said to cover the remains of Sir John Stewart, also killed at the battle of Falkirk. This stone is simple, without carving or inscription, and may well be of this date.

Two effigies, obviously mediæval, lie at present in an arched monument on the north wall of the churchyard. This monument is dated 1723, and was erected by George Preston of Valleyfield for his grandparents, Thomas Murehead of Rashey-hill and his wife. The effigies represent a man in civilian dress and his wife. They are carved from a single block of sandstone 6 feet $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long by 27 inches wide. Both figures have the hands joined in prayer on the breast, and the wife's left arm overlaps her husband's right. The dress is very simple, and is almost exactly the same for both figures. It consists of a cloak or mantle with low V-neck and opening down the front. In the wife's case the left side is draped over the right, and the husband's the opposite way,

to give a symmetrical effect. The sleeves are moderately wide. The wife's feet are bare, and probably so were the husband's, but the stone is badly worn at this part. The feet rest simply against the end of the block, without cushion or supporting animal.

The woman appears to be wearing a wimple, and the man has curly hair cut straight down from the brows nearly to the neck, almost like a wig, completely covering the ears. There seems to have been a small beard under the chin.

Nothing is known of their history, nor of how they came to be in their present position.

The other two pairs of effigies have been mentioned by previous writers (see *Proceedings*, vol. xxix. p. 390), but, as far as I know, no one has attempted to identify the persons commemorated. I am indebted to Dr Mackay Mackenzie for assistance in dating, and thus in identifying, the figures.

The first pair of effigies date from the third quarter of the fifteenth century. They are much worn, especially the male figure, due to their having lain neglected and exposed to the weather and accidental damage in the churchyard for over forty years. The head is completely worn away, but the breastplate bears very faint traces of what may have been a coat of arms. Below the breastplate are the overlapping plates known as taces, covering the hips, round which is a broad ornamental belt which carries the sword. There is no sign of the additional diagonal belt which came into fashion later. The sword has fairly short, curved quillions. The plate on the genouillères for protecting the back of the knee is unusually large.

The lady's dress consists of a close-fitting bodice from which the skirt hangs in folds, and a mantle from the shoulders almost to the ground.

As the Livingstones of Callendar were by far the wealthiest and most important family in the Parish of Falkirk throughout the mediæval period this effigy most probably represents a member of that family. Sir Alexander Livingstone, Guardian of King James II. and Justiciary of Scotland, died in 1451, and his son, first Lord Livingstone of Callendar, Great Chamberlain of Scotland, died in 1467. Either of these two persons would fulfil the requirements as to date.

The second pair of effigies, though much more worn even than the first pair, are obviously at least a century later in date. The upper arm and the thigh of the male figure are protected by overlapping plates. The sword, however, is very similar to that of the first figure, as it has a simple cross-hilt with curved quillions. The female figure has puffed-out sleeves and a low head-dress, with a curious groove round the waist.

Assuming that these figures also represent Livingstones of Callendar, the most likely person is William, sixth Lord, who died in 1592. His father, who died in 1550, has a tomb elsewhere in the church, and his son, who died in 1621, is rather late for our period.

Two grave slabs in the porch are of considerable interest.

The first bears a rather crudely cut coat of arms, in which the arms of Livingstone of Callendar are impaled with two other coats, presumably the arms of two wives of the person commemorated. The Livingstone arms lack the tressure. The arms on the second quarter seem to consist solely of a label of three points, and the fourth quarter shows something resembling a rose or cinquefoil, with three mullets on a chief.

The lettering is much worn, but clearly refers to someone who spent his later life at the Court of the King of France (PROVECTAM AETATEM IN AVLA REGUM GALLIE). It is therefore almost certain that this stone commemorates Alexander, fifth Lord Livingstone of Callendar, who was Guardian of Mary Queen of Scots in her youth, and died in France in 1550. He was twice married, first to Janet Stewart (probably of the Menteith Stewarts, who carry a label of three points on their arms), and secondly to Agnes Douglas, daughter of the second Earl of Morton. The arms in the fourth quarter of the shield probably represent the Douglas arms, but if so the heart has been very carelessly cut.

The second slab is more difficult to assign to any family. It is dated 1690, but most of the inscription is undecipherable. The arms, a fess between six mullets, with the letters R.I., differ from any recorded coat, but may refer to some member of the family of Innes, whose arms are not dissimilar.

I have to acknowledge the great help I have received from Professor Hannah, from Dr Mackay Mackenzie, from Mr J. S. Richardson, and as regards the heraldry, from Sir Francis Grant, Lord Lyon King of Arms.

FOOD-VESSEL FOUND AT CAMELON.

An urn of Bronze Age food-vessel type was unearthed last summer by a workman engaged in excavations for a new housing scheme on the outskirts of Falkirk (fig. 2). The exact spot is at the western end of the suburb of Camelon, a few yards south of the main road to Glasgow.

The vessel is of reddish pottery, and is intact. It is $4\frac{7}{8}$ inches high and $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches in external diameter. The outer surface is ornamented by a series of rouletted lines, mostly arranged in a sort of arrow-head

design, which have been made by an instrument impressed on the clay while still soft.

The vessel was found at a depth of about 3 feet below the surface of the ground, in sandy soil. Two or three rounded boulders (not slabs),



Fig. 2. Food-vessel from Camelon.

about 12 inches to 18 inches in diameter, were found at the same time, but did not seem to be arranged in any formation, although they could scarcely occur naturally in this type of soil. There was nothing in the nature of a cist.

The vessel is now in the Museum at Falkirk.