

10. CORSTORPHINE LINTEL.

At the demolition of "The Mansion House," High Street, Corstorphine, in 1952, a carved stone lintel of 16th-century date was recovered, which had evidently been taken from the ruins of the old Castle of Corstorphine and incorporated in the mansion house, erected about 1750. Reference to it occurs in Selway's *A Mid-Lothian Village*, p. 23.

It commemorates the marriage, possibly between 1570 and 1580, of Henry Forrester of Corstorphine, father of the first Lord Corstorphine, with Helen Preston, said to be connected with the Craigmillar family.

On the lintel are sculptured three shields, two of them bearing three hunting-horns (the arms of Forrester) with the letters H F, and the centre one bearing three unicorn heads (the Preston arms)¹ and the letters H P. The stone is 63 ins. in length, 15 ins. high and 6 ins. thick. Each shield measures 9½ ins. in width and height (Pl. XLIII, 3).

When recovered, the lintel was obscured by ochre-coloured paint over a thick layer of black lead. Having been cleaned and dressed, it is now built into the fireplace of the library at "The Cedars," 199 St John's Road, Corstorphine.

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