

Arbuthnott House, Kincardineshire

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The present house, an eighteenth-century enlargement of a seventeenth-century house, which in turn grew out of periods of development in the fifteenth century of a thirteenth-century courtyard house, is the seat of John Campbell Arbuthnott, 16th Viscount and 33rd Laird of Arbuthnott. The lands have been in the possession of the family of Arbuthnott since the late twelfth century.

To the connoisseur of family history or genealogy the contemplation of the Arbuthnott descent must be a source of intense gratification. There he can, in the words of Miss Nancy Mitford, 'linger with obvious enjoyment over so genuine an object as this family, unspoilt by the ambiguities of female line and deed poll'. From the time of the first Hugh de Aberbothenoth to the present Viscount the lands have passed in the male line from father to son, and from brother to brother on all but three occasions, when cousins have succeeded.

Early in the 12th century the Crown lands of Arbuthnott had been conferred on one, Osbert Oliphant. Osbert having died abroad was succeeded by his son – or nephew – Walter Oliphant. Walter had no male heir, and some time before 1206 had granted the lands to Hugo de Swinton. Tradition accounts for this by marrying Hugo to either Walter Oliphant's daughter or sister. As there is no other apparent reason to explain Hugo's sudden appearance tradition is probably right.

Hugo was styled both Laird and Thane (that is *dominus* and *thanus*) of *Aberbothenoth*, and it is a pity that the latter title has fallen into disuse. Hugo's son Duncan was designated *de Aberbuthenoth* in 1206 when a dispute, in which he had been involved with the Bishop of St Andrews over the Kirkton of Arbuthnott, was decided by a general Synod at Perth.

It was probably Duncan's son Hugh *de Aberbuthenoth*, 3rd Laird, who was the builder of the first stone house on the site, the remains of which are still incorporated in the outbuildings of the present mansion. The parish kirk of Arbuthnott, which was consecrated in 1242 by Bishop Bernham may owe much to Hugh's generosity; it certainly owed much to his masons' work.

On the whole the family history is free from those blood drenched and melodramatic horrors usually only to be found in the pages of Scotch family histories and Gothick novels, and it was possibly the fact that his mother was a Douglas which accounts for the gruesome lapse on the part of Hugh Arbuthnott, the 9th Laird. In 1420 John Melville of Glenberrie was Sheriff of the Mearns, and according to tradition had incensed his neighbours by his tyranny. Probably his fault was that he had interfered too much in the exercise of their own particular tyrannies. On representations being made to the Regent, Murdoch Duke of Albany, that worthy commented '*Sorrow gin that that Sheriff were sodden and supped in broo*'. With this somewhat dubious authority five lairds, Arbuthnott amongst them, invited the Sheriff to a hunting party in the Forest of Garvock. Once there he was knocked on the head, and his body thrown into a

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convenient cauldron. Having simmered this grisly mess for a while each of the friends downed a spoonful of the resulting soup.

As Arbuthnott was, if not the prime mover in this outrage, Glenberrie's nearest neighbour it was expected that he would be the first to feel the wrath of the Melvilles. The house was substantial but not strong enough to '*debait the Invasion of Enemyes*'; measures were quickly taken to strengthen it and the deed which had threatened Hugh with ruin gave him instead a greatly improved house, and considerably enhanced the standing of the family; the latter apparently, according to Principal Arbuthnott, being a result of the former.

Hugh, like his father, had married a daughter of the great house of Keith, and on four further occasions the Lairds of Arbuthnott were to seek alliances with the family of the Earls Marischal. Margaret Keith was not however to see her husband's new house as she had died in 1419 the year before it was built.

Hugh died in 1446 with the new house still unfinished, and work was not resumed until the succession of his great-grandson, Robert, as 12th Laird in 1470. Sir Robert had married, as his first wife, Margaret Wishart, and in 1475 he married a second time. His wife, who was to survive him was Mariota Scrymegour of Dudhope, and it was probably following on this marriage that the house was worked on again. Sir Robert, according to his grandson, Principal Arbuthnott, completed Hugh's work of 1420 and added further buildings of his own. As well as extending and improving his own house he added to the Kirk of Arbuthnott, building the aisle of that name, enlarging the nave with a new W end and bell tower, as well as providing an endowment for its maintenance. In the translation – or *englischit* – of the Principal's latin it is recorded that the new aisle was '*Very gorgeous both in craft and materiallis*', and '*That this wark might be the better exceptid of God he diligentlie foresaw that this costlie building in no wayis suld be hurtful to his puir tenantis sua he carrit the stonis, lyme and all the rest of the materiallis with his avid horses and wald tak no help off his tennantis as the custom was.*'

Both Sir Robert and his wife were of a particularly pious turn, and were greatly attached to the Franciscans of the Observatine reform, who had first been established in Scotland in the mid 1450s. Apart from contributions in 1482 to the cost of a crusade to the Holy Land, being granted the privileges of the Order in 1487 (presumably neither chastity nor poverty being amongst these) and rebuilding much of the parish kirk of Arbuthnott, they obtained a licence in 1491 to have a portable altar for the celebration of Mass and other divine services. This suggests two things: either they were both restless and constant travellers and seldom near settled places of worship, or – and this seems far more likely – that in the rebuilding of Arbuthnott there had been no provision made for a formal chapel. Certainly none is mentioned in the Principal's description.

The most enduring memorials to their piety are however no longer at Arbuthnott. These are the three books, Missal, Prayer Book and Psalter written between 1482 and 1491 by Sir James Sibbald, the Vicar of Arbuthnott. The Psalter and Prayer Book which are the earlier were written for Sir Robert's own use, and the Missal written in 1491 was dedicated to the Service of the Altar of St Ternan and was probably designed as a gift, to mark the completion of the work on the church. These remarkable survivals remained in the possession of the family until 1897 when they were sold following the death of the 10th Viscount, and are now in the Coates Museum and Library at Paisley.

In spite of Sir Robert's efforts he did not live to see the house completed, as Principal Arbuthnott records that the Fore Tower was finished by his *nepot* 'the present head of the family'. This at first appears to be an error; modern usage tends to see *nepot* as *nephew*. The old use of it as meaning '*grandson*' is however confirmed by the translation in which *nepot* is

rendered as *oye*. James Arbuthnott, 13th Laird, had died in 1520-1 and at his death his son could not have been more than 12 years old, so the completion of the Fore Tower dated from the years of his minority, 1520-9.

Robert's son Andrew, the 15th Laird, added some further buildings in the courtyard in the 1580s, but his expenditure must have been curtailed by the demands made upon him by his needy sovereign, although in 1581, when before Royalty became importunate, Andrew had been unsuccessful in an application for a loan to the Earl Marischal - His lordship regretted that he was unable to let him have '*sick silver as ye wreitt*'.

Presumably the small building dated 1588 had been finished when, in November of that year, Andrew was summoned to Holyroodhouse to assist in putting '*sum spedie ordour to the reformation of sindre thingis that ar amiss bayth in religioun and politie*'. By the following April the King was less confident about wholesale reformation; his tone was distinctly tremulous. Bands of armed men were about, '*. . . dangerous to the trew religioun and to the inquieting of oure persone and estait*' and Andrew, with his friends and servants, all armed with spears and hagbuts, was summoned to Edinburgh for the better protection of James.

The King's marriage and the impending arrival of Anne of Denmark in Edinburgh in August 1589 produced another sort of *inquieting*: food was needed at the palace and Arbuthnott was asked for '*such quantity of fat beef and mutton on foot, wild fowels and venison or other stuff meet for this purpose as possible ye might provide and furnish of your own or by your means*'. The Queen's coronation the following spring brought a further request for '*sic support of stuff and provision as ye haif already or is able to gett*'.

In sharp contrast to the tremendous amount of building activity which marked almost every house of consequence in the shires of Aberdeen and Banff in the years between 1560 and 1630 little seems to have been done at Arbuthnott, and this seems to hold generally true throughout the Mearns, except in the areas close to Aberdeen. The outburst of building in the two north-eastern counties has never been properly explained, but its absence in Kincardineshire can perhaps be accounted for by the fact that S of Aberdeen there was hardly a decent harbour or a town of any standing until Montrose was reached, and the polite arts flourish best if not too distant from the influence of cities.

It was not until the time of Andrew's great-grandson Robert, 1st Viscount and 18th Laird, that any further work was undertaken. The first Viscount had signed the first - that is *The Good - Covenant* and suffered as did so many of his neighbours of all degrees when Montrose marched S from Kintore into the Mearns in March 1645. Spalding records the appalling destruction brought about by this brilliant but unstable man, and it makes salutary reading for those sentimentalists who with twaddling cant persist in regarding him as a humane, almost saintly, hero.

Having sacked Aberdeen in September 1644, and Banff in the following February, he marched S from Kintore arriving at Stonehaven on 19 March. Apparently Montrose was infuriated by the Earl Marischal's refusal to come over to the King's aide. The Earl was safely shut up at Dunnottar in the company of 16 ministers who had taken refuge there and were stiffening the Earl's resolve. On the 21st Montrose '*began and burnt up the barnyards of Dunnottar, houses, corn and all, which the Earl, his lady, and all within the place saw; then fired the Tolbooth of Stonehaven, in which there was a store of bere and corn, and the whole town as well, being the King's royal burgh, with all the cornyards, houses and buildings, except James Clerk's building in which Montrose himself was quartered. They plundered a ship lying in the harbour, then set her on fire, together with the fishing boats lying there. They burnt the whole town of Cowie, houses, buildings, corn and cornyards and such like; plundered all the goods and gear,*

horses, cattle and sheep which they could get. They plundered the parson of Dunnottar's house, then set the same on fire. It is said the people of Stonehaven and Cowie came out, men and women, children at their feet, and children in their arms, crying, howling and weeping, praying the Earl for God's cause to save them from this fire as soon as it was kindled. But the poor people got no answer, nor knew they where to go with their children. Lamentable to see. Fetteresso was also fired and a quarter of it burnt; but the whole low building and cornyards utterly destroyed and burnt up. They fired the pleasant park of Fetteresso. Some trees burnt, but others being green could not burn well. But the hart, the hind, the deer, the roe screamed at the sight of the fire; but they were all taken and slain. The horses, mares, oxen and cows were all likewise killed; and the whole barony of Dunnottar and Fetteresso utterly spoiled, plundered and undone. After this he marched to Drumlithie and Urie, pertaining to John Forbes of Leslie, a great covenanter. He fired the place, burning all to the vaults, together with the low buildings, corn and cornyards; and plundered the whole ground. He sent to his own brother-in-law, the Viscount of Arbuthnott; but, as is said by his order, there was burnt and plundered to him about 24 *pleuchis* of land.'

Lord Arbuthnott escaped comparatively lightly as his wife and Montrose's were sisters, daughters of the Earl of Southesk. The Viscount's complaint to Parliament in 1649 drew a much more sorry picture than Spalding had done. According to his Lordship he had 'bene maist maliciouslie opprest and almost ruinated . . . his Landis within the Sherifdom of Kincardine wes burnt and wasted . . . to the soume of fourscoir thousand poundis or thereby, for his Landis was not only destroyed and waisted by burning the haill houses and cornes, but tenantis and servandis wes most cruelly murderit'. In view of Montrose's gentle behaviour elsewhere this is probably not unduly exaggerated; but in any case it was enough to exempt Lord Arbuthnott from any further levis of horses or men for the army. But although the house was spared the outbuildings did not come through unscathed. One, the *Lord's Gирnel* obviously had to be rebuilt for it bears the date 1648, and the initials RA and MA for the Viscount and his first wife, Marjory Carnegie. He also marked his second marriage by adding a new floor with carved dormer heads to the S front. These show the initials KA for his second wife Katherine Fraser whom he married in 1653, 2 years before his death.

No records survive of the furnishings of the house at this time but there is a note in the family papers of the removal of the plenishings of the dowager Lady Arbuthnott from her lodgings at Bervie to the boat at Gourdon in March 1635, probably on the occasion of her second marriage. These included '*A great gilt Flanders coffer; Ane meikle Flanders croil, lockit; A caboneit for WA Keping; Ane wyn seller*', all of which had probably been originally in the Great House.

The next period of work seems to have been in the time of Robert's grandson, also Robert, the 3rd Viscount. In 1683 the year after he succeeded to the title he married Lady Anne Sutherland Gordon, daughter of the Earl of Sutherland. To please her no doubt the superb plaster ceilings were installed in the drawing rooms. These bear a marked similarity to work at Fyvie which dates from 1683. Furniture was brought up from London, and from 1688 onwards there are records of payments which suggest that the house was undergoing considerable repairs, and that the gardens were being laid out in their present form.

The greatest change came to the house in the next century. In 1754 John, 5th Viscount, entered into a contract with John Ferrior of Montrose for the demolition of part of the old house, and its replacement with an extension of considerable size which was to transform Arbuthnott into the semblance – on one elevation at least – of a formal architectural composition. All this for the somewhat surprising sum of £480 sterling (Appendix D).

Why Lord Arbuthnott should have done this must remain a mystery. He was approaching his 70th year, and the heir was his cousin, John Arbuthnott, grandson of the 2nd Viscount who

had been acting as factor to the estate since 1747. There is a family tradition that Lord Arbuthnott was deeply involved in the Rebellion and that the price of his cousin's silence was the factorship and a new house, but there is no evidence to support this. Certainly the 5th Viscount was an unashamed Jacobite and was involved in the '15. An informer writing from Edinburgh in August 1715 noted that 'the Earl Marischal, Viscount Arbuthnott and others have frequent meetings at neight time in the Earl of Southesk's house'; he was also implicated in sending a company of men to Sherriffmuir, and had Robert Thomson, the factor, not taken the blame on his own shoulders there was a danger that the estates might have been forfeited.

He did not appear to have learned from this escapade, and 30 years later he was still sufficiently disaffected for his name to appear on the list of those whom Lord George Murray considered to be suitable as members of the Prince's council. Whether he served or not is not certain but of his sentiments there were no doubts as was shown in a letter which he sent to James Moir of Stonywood after the Battle of Falkirk. In this he commented that 'God has all along in a very surprising manner favoured the Prince's cause and I am hopeful he will ever continue to do so to the end'.

It is perhaps surprising that only 8 months later he could write to Lord Albermarle protesting that he had 'alwaies lived peaceably and quietly under the government and never done anything to provoke its displeasure'; this followed the seizure of his arms by the troops stationed at Bervie; a seizure which was accompanied by threats of burning the house. It also appears that he had hidden a number of compromising papers in the Episcopal chapel which he had built on the estate. These he burned, after Culloden, at the suggestion of John Young, Sherriff Clerk of the County. Mr Young seems to have been less than honest for on one of Lord Arbuthnott's tenants, a farmer named Morgan, offering to betray his landlord, he promised the traitor possession of his farm if another tenant could be found to support his testimony, but none was prepared to come forward. Even after this Lord Arbuthnott was writing in 1747, humanely if indiscreetly, to the Rev Robert Forbes concerning a prisoner at Carlisle. Mr Forbes replied even more indiscreetly, sending his letter by the hand of Donald Macleod of Gaultergill, who had been instrumental in effecting the escape of the Pretender. Perhaps John Napier was right when he described his Lordship as 'a man of Honour and very religious, but not otherwise possessed of great mental endowments'. No doubt much of the trouble was caused by Robert Thomson, factor to the estate, son of the previous factor and a Jacobite like his father, who was quartermaster to Lord Pitsligo's troops, and said to be active in persuading the tenants to pay the levies enforced by the rebels. John Duncan of Stonehaven, who was later to become the family's man of business, considered that this flirtation with Rebellion had cost the family some £60,000. Even allowing this to be an exaggeration it must have been the prospect of further extravagance of this nature and the desire to replace a factor who seemed only too willing to support his patron's political vagaries which brought about the intervention of John Arbuthnott (Appendix C).

A desire to save an old family property from certain ruin and possible forfeiture is not an ignoble one, and the building of the house may have been a token of Lord Arbuthnott's gratitude for having been saved from the consequences of his own folly. John, 6th Viscount, known as the *Rich Lord* to distinguish him from his predecessor, the *Religious Lord*, is said to have shown considerable eccentricity towards the end of his life in the management of the estates, and embarrassed his son by the granting of long leases at low rents. In other words, following the lead of Robert Barclay of Urie, he determined to improve the state of his lands, and as to do this often involved granting long leases to old or unsatisfactory tenants, a number of heirs all over the country showed signs of embarrassment. The low rents may well reflect the period of

dearth which lasted in Kincardineshire for most of the 6 years between 1782 and 1788, and was to drag on until the end of the century.

The new house was further enlarged by John, 7th Viscount, who succeeded in 1791. He added the portico and the great staircase. His son and successor contemplated adding a new wing in the courtyard. He was responsible for re-planning the approaches to the house and the policies. The former involved new lodges, entrance gates and a bridge of imperial grandeur and must together with the necessity of providing for 13 children, 7 of whom were daughters, and a heavy rebuilding programme involving most of the houses and steadings, have contributed largely to the debt of £149,000 with which by 1849 the estate was burdened. The improvements of the 8th Viscount, the agricultural depression, bad management and four successions had by 1920 taken their toll, and the whole future of the house and the estate was by then very uncertain, and eventually caused the sale of much of the land.

Mr Ralston's report, written for the trustees in 1919, when the break up of the estate was contemplated makes sad reading; ' . . . there is something like 600 acres of Woods. It is very evident that for many years past they have received little or no attention, and that during the last thirty years no planting has been attempted. . . . A good few of the farms and holdings are very inaccessible . . . the service roads in these cases being very bad, . . . The farmhouses cannot be classed as good . . . The woodside fences are in a deplorable state; . . . There are no bathrooms in the house nor is there electric light or gas of any sort. The house seems to be of considerable age and is in a bad state of repair. The kitchen apartments all seem damp . . . some of the outhouses are in a ruinous state. . . . nor can he vouch for the statement "that the Sanitary arrangements are in good order"; . . . The garden, which is pleasantly situated, has, during the War been allowed to become derelict, and the place is a scene of desolation. The Policies . . . have been allowed to run wild. Arbuthnott . . . is in bad order, and he would be a bold man who could name a sum – especially in these times – which would put it in order. The reporter does not dare do so.'

After that it is perhaps surprising that the house did not disappear in the spate of country house demolitions that marked the years since 1900 and that Arbuthnott is not one more name on the list of some 300 major country houses that have been lost to Scotland.

THE BUILDING HISTORY (figs 1–4)

In considering the development of Arbuthnott two documents in the family archives are of the greatest importance: the first is the *Originis et incrementi familiae Arbuthnoticae Descriptio Historica* written about 1567 by Principal Alexander Arbuthnott – a grandson of the great Sir Robert – in latin, and *thereafter Englishit* by Mr V Morrison, Minister of Benholm Kirk c 1577 (Appendix A); the second is the contract between the 5th Viscount and John Ferrior of Montrose for the building of the new N wing and E front in 1754.

Principal Arbuthnott's account includes the story of the building of the first Castle of Arbuthnott in 1420 by Hugh Arbuthnott, 9th Laird, but makes it clear that there was already a house of importance on the site then. It details, albeit somewhat sketchily, the extent of Hugh's work, and then goes on to describe how it was completed, enlarged and beautified by Sir Robert in the years between 1475 and 1491. The Principal was not born until 1538, 29 years after the death of his grandfather, but he was helped largely in the compilation of his history by his father, Andrew, and there is no reason to doubt the accuracy of his description, borne out as it is by the evidence of the surviving buildings.

The 1754 contract is equally important for not only does it describe what was to be built,

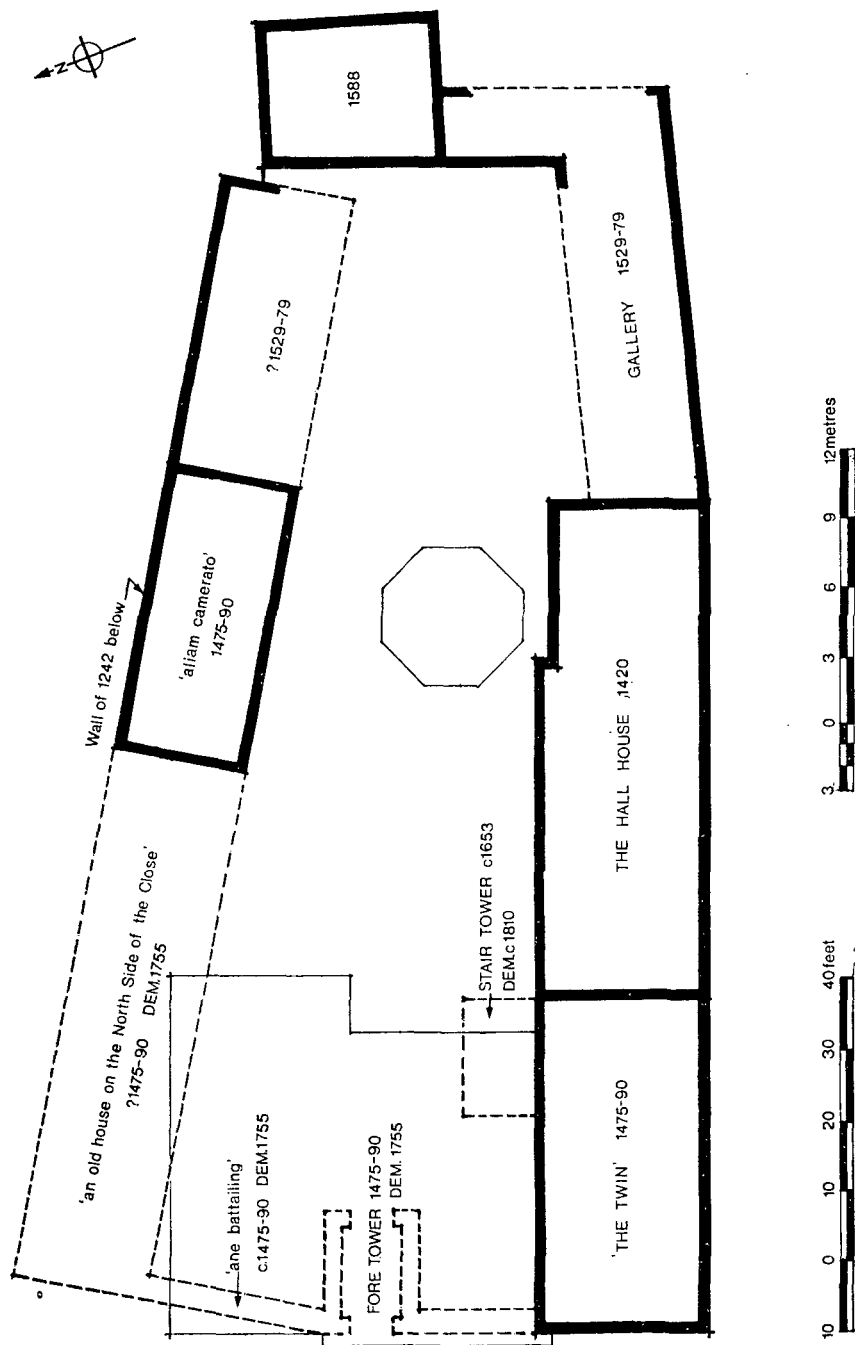


FIG 1 Plan: Development of Arbutnott 1242-1756

but it also gives details of some buildings which were to be demolished, and of others which have subsequently disappeared. It is clear from both documents that Arbuthnott conformed neither to the image of a castle, nor to that of a tower or palace house although it certainly had 'palatial' elements in its planning. From the beginning it seems to have been a collection of individual buildings grouped round a courtyard, and it was not until the mid 18th century that it became in any sense a complete house with any formal architectural pattern.

The house occupies the highest point on a narrow ridge between the Bervie Water and the Bothenoth Burn. The ground drops steeply to the N and E of the ridge and slopes more gently

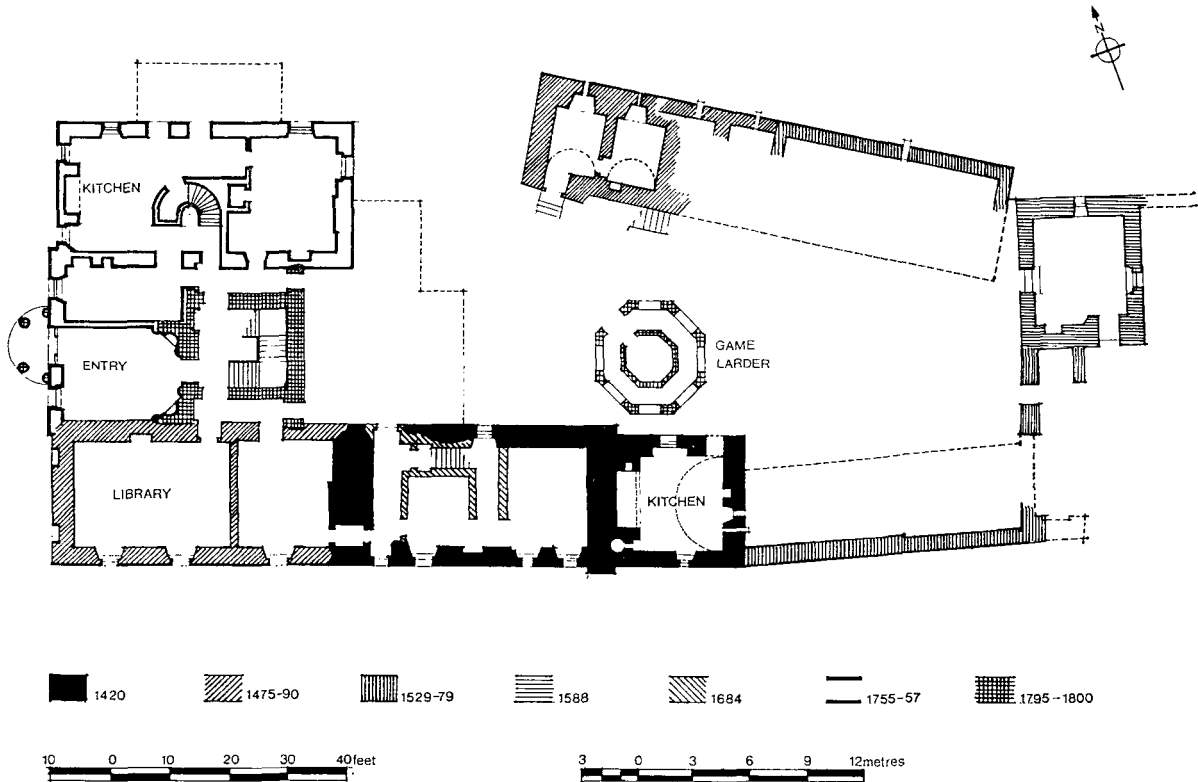


FIG 2 Plan: Ground floor

towards the Bervie to the S. The buildings keep close to the N side of the ridge and the configuration of the ground dictated that the courtyard should be greater in length than breadth, its long axis running E-W. The approach to the house must always have been across the open ground to the W, the Bothenoth and the haughs along the Bervie making any other approach impracticable.

As the name *Arbuthnott* derives from *Aberbothenoth* or *Aberbuthenoth* and means 'confluence of a burn called Buthenot(h) with the Bervie Water (this information is contained in a letter from Professor Geoffrey Barrow to Lord Arbuthnott), and if the burn which now bears the name *Bothenoth* has always borne that name it seems fairly certain that the present house occupies the site of the original Oliphant castle. The position is defensible, and although it lies above the ford at the Kirkton, it effectively dominates the valley. It was clearly never a 'motte'

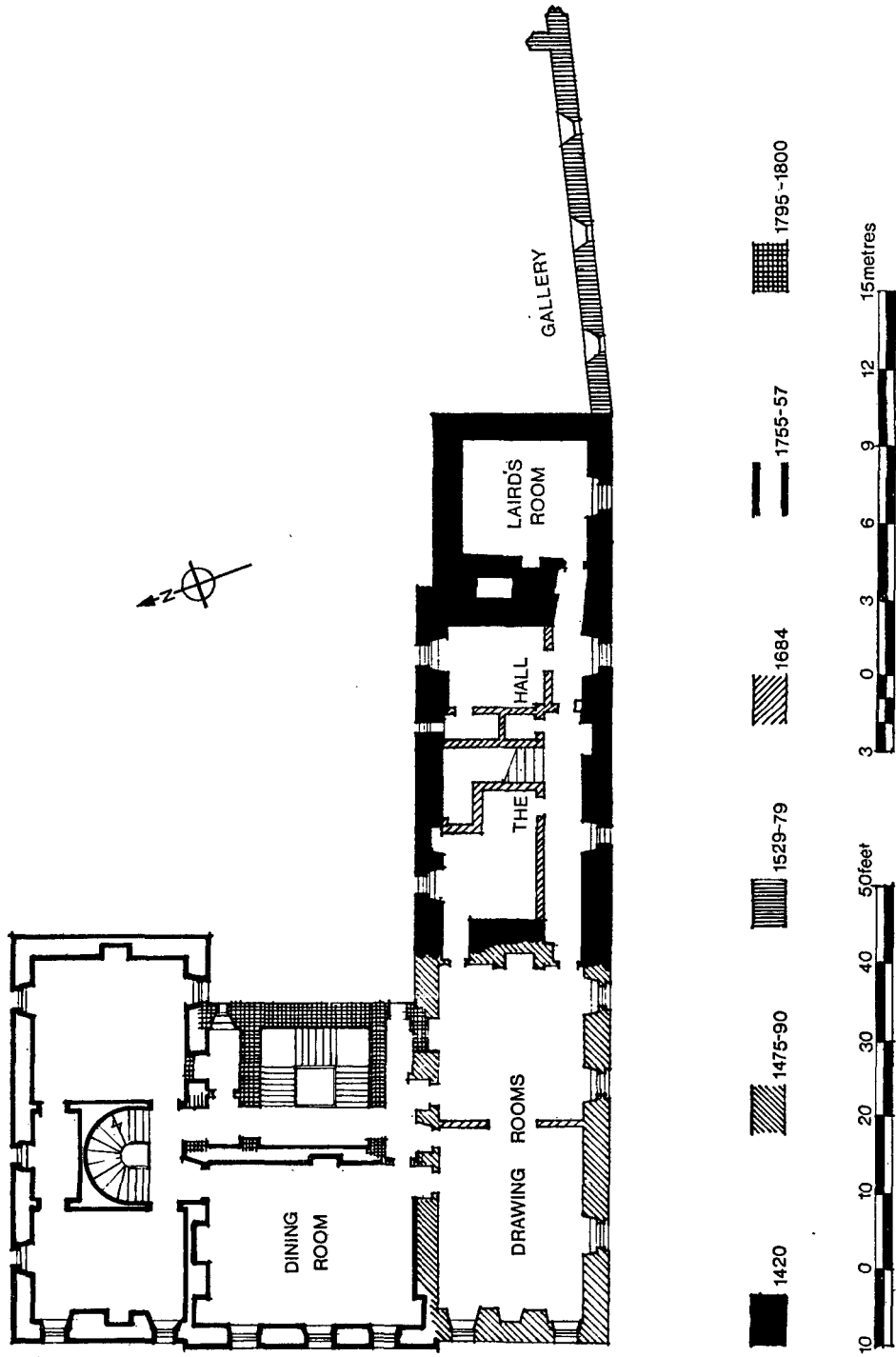
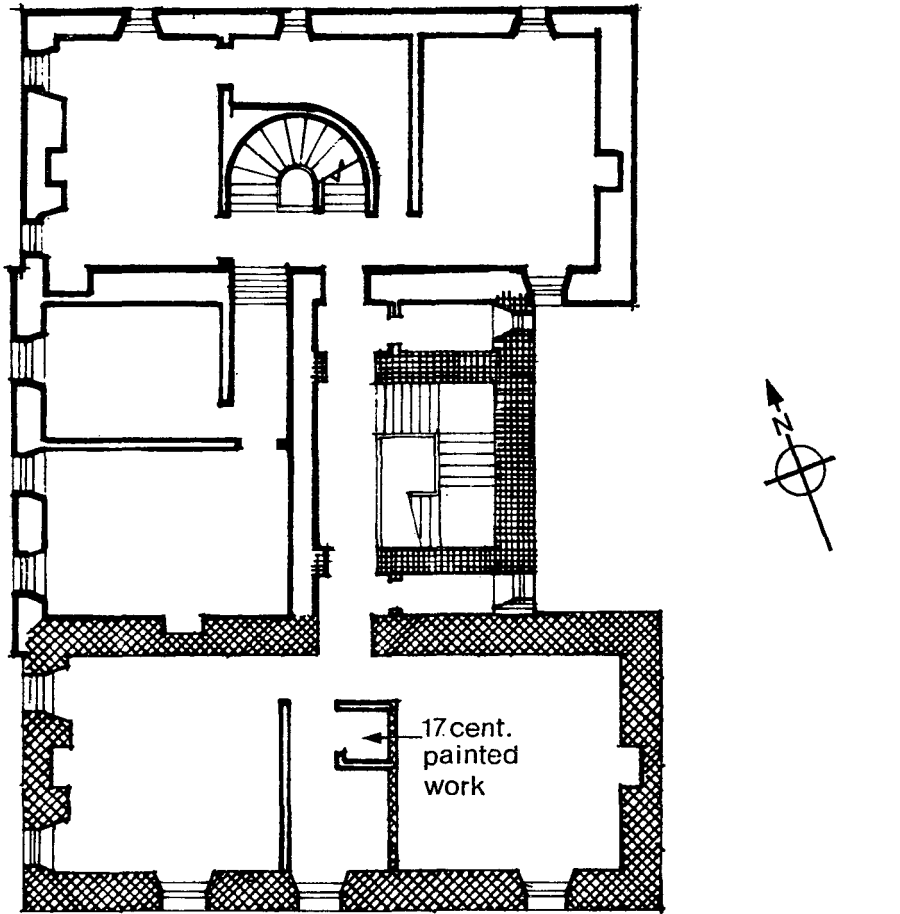


FIG 3 Plan: First floor



1653



1755-57



1795-1800

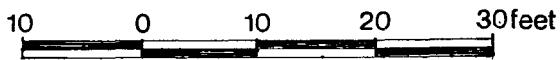


FIG. 4 Plan: Second floor

in the sense of being specially constructed, but equally clearly it was the adaptation of a natural site into a near-motte condition. Certainly when viewed from the low ground to the E the site, in spite of later garden walls and planting, presents a daunting appearance.

HUGH DE ABERBOTHENOTH, 3rd LAIRD, c 1242

Both the 3rd and 4th Lairds were named Hugh and both flourished in the 13th century but the one responsible for the earliest surviving work was probably the elder. When Hugh Arbuthnott built his house of defence, 1420-1, it was not the first building on the site. The old house was described as '*pro regionis consequuntudine inter primus habebatur*'; although not strong it was a house of consequence and, by inference, of stone. The small stretch of walling that survives from it is incorporated in the N wall of a much altered outbuilding on the N side of the courtyard. It measures 23 ft (7.01 m) in length by 5 ft 3 in (1.60 m) in height and consists of a triple chamfered plinth, a plain base wall and a chamfered unprojecting upper member. The building above it although much altered is part of Sir Robert additions of the late 15th century, and clearly does not relate to the lower work, which although very much weathered is of a far better quality of masonry as one would expect from work of the first half of the 13th century. It would be possible to argue that, although unlikely, this was an unusually anachronistic piece of 15th-century work were it not for the fact that a similar though simpler, chamfered plinth is to be found at the kirk of Arbuthnott. It is only partially visible on the E wall of the chancel, where the external ground level has risen. The kirk was consecrated in 1242 by Bishop Bernham, and the chancel dates from this period.

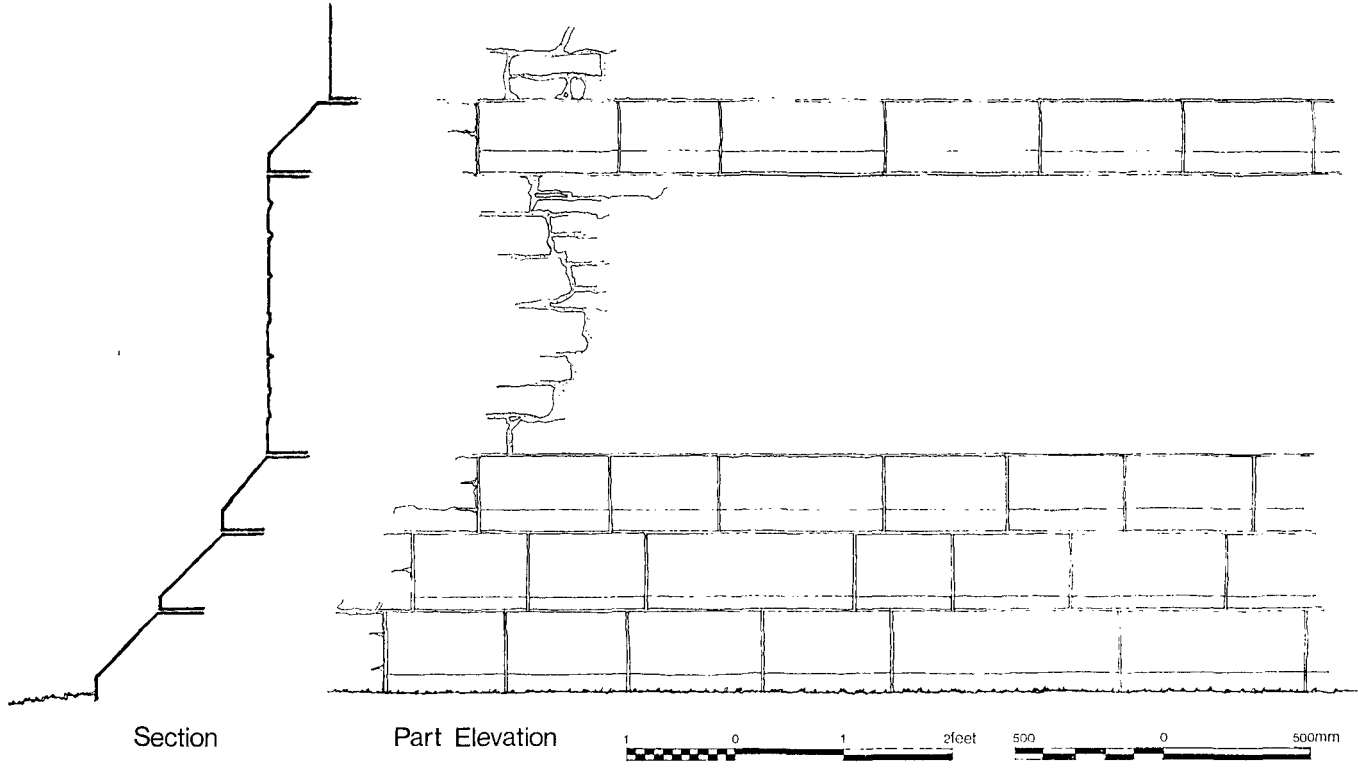
The masonry both at the kirk and in this stretch of wall at the house is regular, in courses of 9 in (229 mm) in height with the individual stones 9 in (229 mm) to 24 in (661 mm) in length, quite distinct, even in its present weathered condition, from the rubble walling of the later work. It is a safe presumption that the same masons worked on both buildings (fig 5).

HUGH ARBUTHNOTT, 9th LAIRD, c 1420 (pl 24b)

In order to hazard a guess at the 9th Laird's building activities it is necessary to hold clearly in view the work of the great Sir Robert. It was he who built the house known as the *Twin*, completed Hugh's two-floored house, added a further house containing a kitchen and built the gatehouse. From this it is possible to consider what type of building Hugh had contemplated, apart from the defensive wall which was unfinished - at least as to its more decorative parts - at his death.

Hugh had laid the foundations of his house, and it had been '*bigit two hous hicht*' or as far as the '*secunda tabulata*'. That is to say it was of two floors, and as Sir Robert roofed it without apparently adding a further floor it may be assumed that this was as high as it was intended to go. If this interpretation is correct, and the subsequent building pattern tends to confirm this, then Arbuthnott belongs to a building type that is comparatively rare in Scotland. It is neither a tower house, nor a courtyard house that has developed from an earlier tower as is so often the case. Instead it resembles much more nearly English fortified manor houses of the 15th century in intention, although the planning of Hugh's house harks back in its simplicity to the 13th century and such buildings as Rait, and, on a much grander scale, Morton and Tulliallan.

This view is based on the description of Sir Robert's work contained in Principal Arbuthnott's account of the family: after describing how he completed his predecessor's house the Principal



Section

Part Elevation

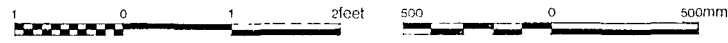


FIG 5 Plinth of 1242

continues, 'He also enlarged the castle adding with considerable trouble and contrivance a new house from the ground up, which was called the *Twin* (*geminam nostri appellanti*). Opposite the castle he built another house raised on vaults. This he roofed with slates, and formed a kitchen on the upper floor'.

From this it is possible to locate Hugh's building. The present S side of the house is made up of two blocks, each 47 ft in length and 25 ft in breadth (14.326 m by 7.62 m). The eastern block has an extension measuring 20 ft by 21 ft (6.09 m by 6.131 m) containing a kitchen. Clearly one of these blocks is the '*Twin*', and the other is Hugh's house to which it was added. It might be argued that the presence of the kitchen is a complication but this is not so. On the opposite side of the courtyard is a much altered outbuilding raised on the 13th-century plinth; this has a vaulted basement, and, if the presence of slop chutes in the walls is taken as evidence, contained a kitchen on its upper floor. From this it would appear that Hugh's house of 1420 stood on the site of the eastern half of the S front, and still largely survives, although most of its details are hidden by later alterations and additions.

Indeed the early house is remarkably easy to identify; it consisted, as has already been said, of a main block running east-west, measuring 47 ft by 25 ft (14.326 m by 7.620 m) with an eastward extension. In spite of later replanning the original arrangements are clear. The ground floor of the main block was devoted to a large space for storage – there seem to have been no crosswalls or vaults – and covered by the timber floor of the Hall which occupied the whole of the first floor. The eastern wing had a vaulted kitchen on the ground floor, and a chamber opening from the Hall on the upper floor. The entrance to the first floor Hall was probably by means of an external staircase on the N side, with the doorway being at the W or lower end, where the arrangement of the existing window openings suggest the position of a blocked doorway (fig 6).

This type of planning would be anachronistic in England in the early 15th century in a house at this social level, and in Scotland had largely disappeared. By the first half of the 15th century where the *palatial* plan was used – as at Druminnor and Huntly – it was generally combined with a sufficiency of upper floors to create the appearance at least of a tower, and at Arbuthnott there is no sign that this was ever contemplated. A possible explanation – but one that is impossible to prove or disprove without stripping the building back to the bare stone – is that this in fact represents an even earlier structure of c 1242 and that in the 1420 re-building Hugh Arbuthnott contented himself with remodelling the older house to which he added a kitchen. This would certainly account for the retention of the older-fashioned plan. None of the surviving details however suggests a date earlier than the 15th century.

Externally the only feature which is unusual is the chamfered course marking the set back in the wall thickness, and which runs on both the N and S elevations at sill level of the first floor windows. This does not occur on either the kitchen block or the *Twin* – a similar course is to be seen at Druminnor which also dates from the first half of the 15th century. Internally the windows of the Hall retain their jambs and heads, though these are now largely obscured by later finishes and by the inserted ceiling. The moulding of the jamb, which is executed in red freestone, and which returns as a segmental head, has the typical 15th-century section of two half rounds with a separating fillet (fig 7). On the surviving evidence the Hall had six of these windows. It seems that the fireplace was in the E gable, its remains probably surviving behind the present panelling. The roof was open and at some stage the plastered walls – plastered on the hard – were painted. The evidence for this can be seen on the E gable in the garret above the Hall. The present roof construction and flooring is later and cuts across the traces of the earlier work in an arbitrary manner. The internal dimensions of the Hall as far as they can be

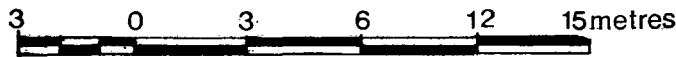
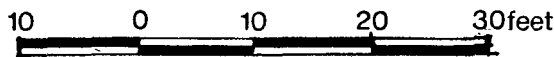
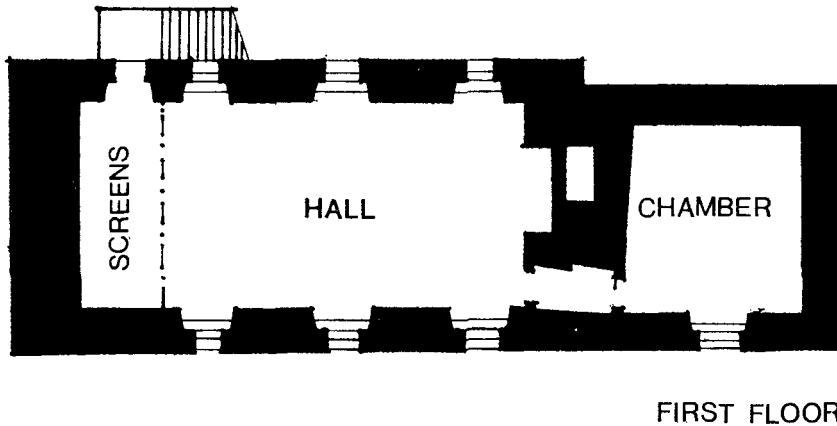
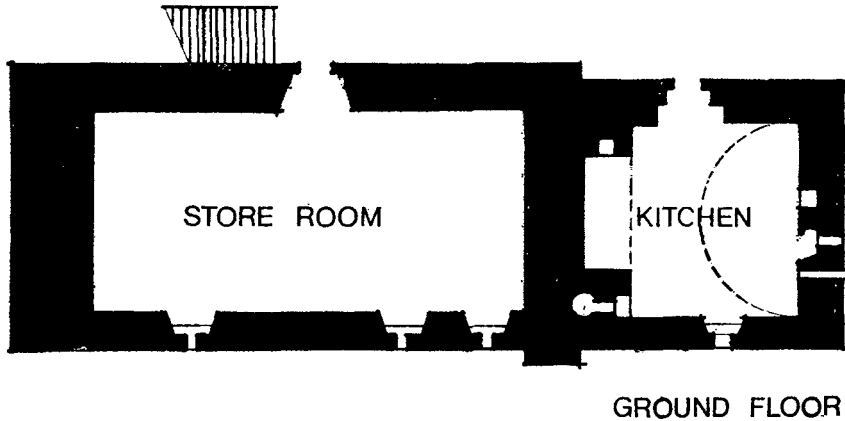


FIG 6 Hugh Arbutnott's Hall and Chamber. 1420: probable arrangement

judged were 34 ft by 17 ft (10.363 m by 5.181 m) with a height to the ridge of approximately 17 ft (5.181 m), so that it fitted into a double cube, and was apparently designed to contain three and a half bays, the half bay being occupied by the entrance and screens passage.

The splayed passage into the chamber beyond the E gable suggests a forcing through which adds strength to the suggestion that these two blocks were not built as one. It is possible that if the Hall dates originally from the 13th century there may have been a latrine closet at this point. If there were it would help to explain the projection on the ground floor at this point as the base

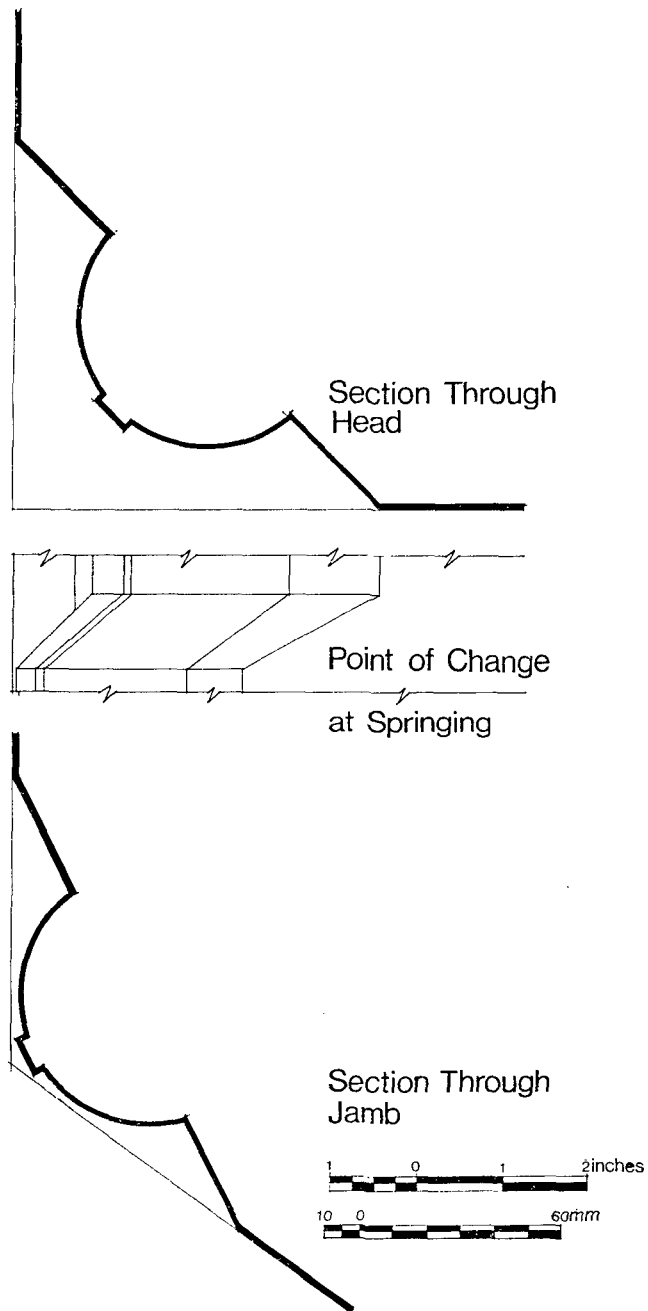


FIG 7 Window in Hall: 1420

of a latrine or pit. It was of course not unknown – although rare – at this period for access between two important rooms to be through a latrine closet as can be seen at Caister Castle.

Of the original details of the chamber nothing can be seen as anything that remains is hidden by the late 17th-century panelling. However two points should be borne in mind: first the original entrance may have been by means of an external staircase from the courtyard, and secondly there may not have been a fireplace; instead the chamber could have relied for its heat on the kitchen below.

The kitchen is the best preserved of all the early rooms at Arbuthnott. It measures 14 ft 9 in by 13 ft 9 in (4.445 m by 3.191 m) internally, rising to 11 ft 6 in (3.256 m) at the crown of the vault. The W side is filled by the great fireplace 9 ft wide (2.743 m) and 4 ft 6 in deep (1.321 m). The segmental chimney arch is chamfered, and set in the N side of the fireplace is the salt box. On the S side is an ashlar-lined oven – its opening however is in the W wall of the kitchen, and not in the S wall of the fireplace as might have been expected. The lum is ingathered just below the present roof line to take the stack; this ingathering is original and is a further indication that this range was not intended to be higher than it is at present. Also surviving in the lum are the heavy cross beams from which the hams were hung for smoking.

The present doorway from the courtyard and the window in the S wall are later openings; the original entrance seems to have been where the window in the N wall now is. This opening has been contracted and its eastern jamb renewed in making this change. In the E wall is a blocked window, which was originally the only source of light apart from the fire. This window must have gone out of use with the building of the extension of the S range, but the blocking has been done with care. The chamfered plinth, which was cut by the window has been carefully pieced in, showing that for some reason the external face of the wall was considered of some importance. There appears to have been a blocked slop chute below this window with a water intake to one side, and a blocked aumbry to the other.

Nothing else identifiable remains of Hugh Arbuthnott's building, but it is extremely likely that some of the lower parts of his enclosing walls – the work that was raised to such a height that it might be a sufficient refuge – are embodied in the later structures.

SIR ROBERT ARBUTHNOTT *12th LAIRD, c 1475–1490* (pls 24a; 25a)

'He eikit also the Castell with ane new houss quhikl wt gryt travell and devys he raisit from ye grund quhilk is callit ye same (GEMINAM).

'He bigit also over aganis ye castell ane yther houss (CAMERATO) supone vout quhilk he theiket with sleat quhosis supermost houss he appointed for ye kitchin. He was ye first yet bigit ane battaling about ye foir part of ye Castell, quhair he biggit ain foir entrance of ye zaitt, and vouted it and set one chalmer above . . .'

So runs the description of Sir Robert's work; this in addition to completing and roofing Hugh's house and its adornment with *'evis galreis and batilement as ye forme is of Castellis'*. Whatever it was he found when he started building it was very much finer and larger by the time he had completed it; unfortunately it is rather more difficult to identify than Hugh's building for much is covered by later work, more has disappeared, and very little detail remains visible.

Perhaps the most problematic part of this is that part known as the *Twin* or *Geminam*. As far as it is possible to judge this forms the body of the western end of the S front. The dimensions of this block – to which a second floor has since been added – are similar to the main block of Hugh Arbuthnott's house and the assumption that this part is basically Sir Robert's work is

reasonable, especially as the work to the E of Hugh's work cannot by any stretch of the imagination be described as a 'Twin'. If the original work was on two floors only there would have been no difficulties of access as an external stair, or a doorway from the lower end of the Hall would have sufficed, and at this stage there is no evidence for a surviving internal stair.

The other house built '*over againis ye castell*' is much more easy to identify', even in its present altered form. Built partly against and partly over the wall of c 1242 are two barrel vaulted cellars. At present they lie largely below the level of the courtyard, but it seems that the level has been raised in part over the years. Entry to the cellars (fig 9) is by means of a roundheaded doorway with a plain continuous chamfer. The cellars measure 9 ft 6 in by 8 ft 5 in (2.896 m by

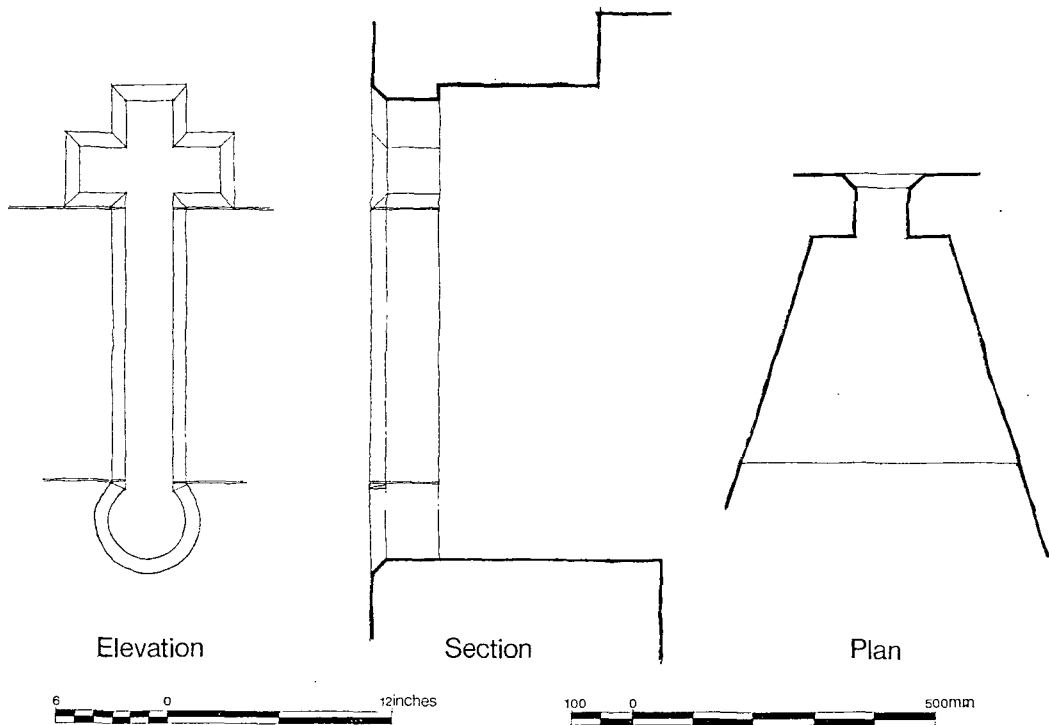


FIG 8 Gunport: c 1490

2.565 m) and in the inner one is an aumbry with a slot for a wooden shelf; it retains the iron pins for its door, as do the entrance doorway and the doorway between the cellars. Both cellars were lit by gun ports; the one for the inner cellar is blocked internally, and largely destroyed externally, but that in the outer cellar survives to a great extent.

It is of the comparatively rare crosslet type – derived from the older cross arrow slit – with a short head and arms, and a roundlet at the base. This type is known in a group of related late 16th-century castles in the north-east – Towie Barclay, Gight and Craig – and at the late 15th-century castle of Ravenscraig, which was licensed in 1491. It is to this last that the Arbuthnott port relates. At Arbuthnott the loop is 2 ft 6 in (760 mm) in length and with the opening 2 in wide (51 mm), splayed back to an opening 3 ft 8 in wide (1.118 m) (fig 8).

The presence of this type of gunport at Ravenscraig c 1491, and at Arbuthnott c 1475-90 may not be entirely coincidental. Ravenscraig belonged to the Keiths, the family of the Earl Marischal, a family with which the Arbuthnotts had close ties.

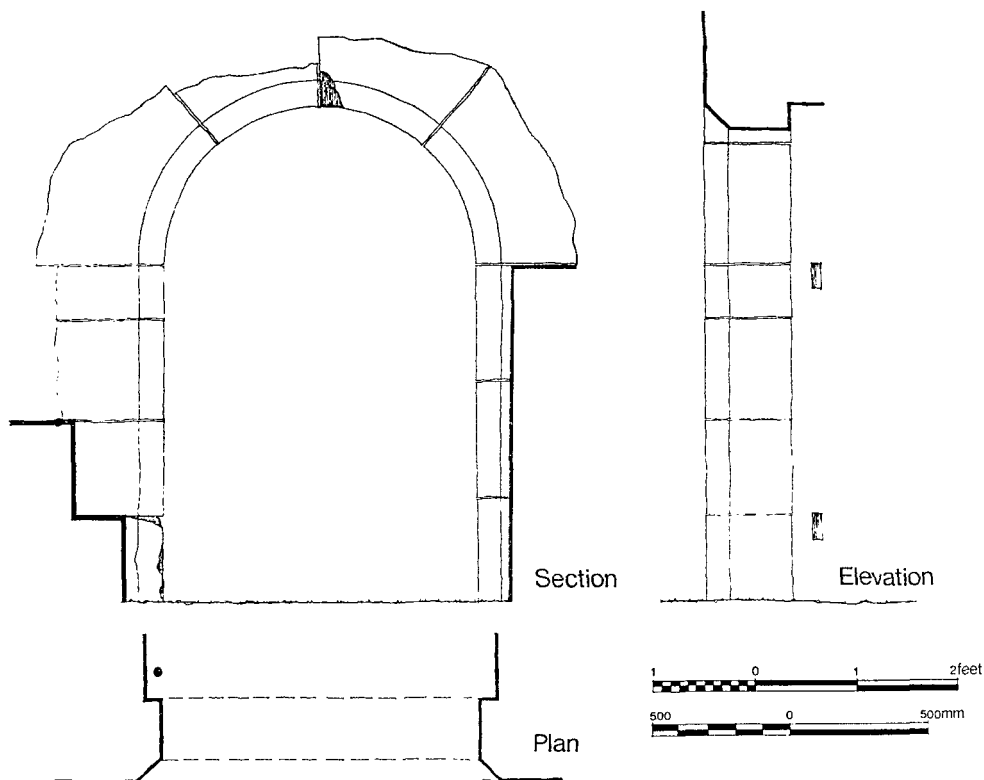


FIG 9 Entrance to vaults. c 1475–90

Of the kitchen on the upper floor of this house some remains are incorporated in the N wall of the present building. These most conveniently are the two slop chutes. The overall dimension of this building was about 34 ft by 20 ft (10.353 m by 6.096 m), the breadth is less certain as the S wall splayed out giving a greater width to its eastern end. Presumably the kitchen was necessary to serve the household which Sir Robert maintained, the old kitchen being only just adequate to serve the family's own needs.

The other works of this period, the curtain walls and the Fore tower have vanished; the latter finally disappearing in the 1756 rebuilding, although parts of the former may be incorporated in the outer walls enclosing the courtyard.

In the 1755 contract there are instructions for the demolition of '*an old house on the North side of the Close and which makes part of the North wing*'. This refers to a westward extension of Sir Robert's *camerato*: although it may be a later addition it suggests that the N side of the court was enclosed by a very substantial range.

ROBERT ARBUTHNOTT, 14th LAIRD, c 1529–1579

When Robert reached his majority in 1529 he had 50 years of life ahead of him in the course of which he married three times, and fathered at least 17 children. In spite of this he was able to continue building – possibly the size of his family made some building necessary.

It is known that he completed the Fore tower by adding a further chamber on an upper floor and roofing it. This is recorded by Principal Arbuthnott, but his interest seems to arise

largely because this was the completion of the great Sir Robert's work, and not because he was otherwise concerned at his cousin's activities. Had Sir Robert been responsible for the extension of the S range beyond the old kitchen the Principal would have mentioned it, and it is to Robert, the grandson, that this may be attributed.

What this addition was is not clear, but it has the appearance of a gallery; unfortunately the remains are obscured by later blockings, and by lean-to buildings against the inner face of the wall. What does survive is the outer wall of a narrow two floored building about 42 ft long (12.802 m), leading to a further chamber block at the E end of the courtyard. There do not appear to have been any openings of importance on the ground floor, but on the upper floor, which because of the fall in the ground level is at a lower level than that of the 1420 block, there are three blocked windows. These are regularly spaced, their external openings being 1 ft 8 in wide (0.58 m), with the inner embrasure having a width of 4 ft (1.219 m); the moulded external jambs are of red freestone with the standard mid 16th-century roll, and there is some evidence to suggest that the internal jambs were similarly moulded. As has already been noticed when this range was added it led to the blocking of the E window of the old kitchen and the piecing in of the chamfered plinth across that blocking. This care for the appearance of the blocked opening suggests that the lower floor was of some significance.

As in all the other early buildings at Arbuthnott the problem of access to the upper floor remains a mystery. By now the house seems to have consisted of a series of loosely connected chamber blocks – the use of the term *camerato* suggests this – with Hugh's Hall still central to the plan, and a gallery: all the principal accommodation was at first floor level with either direct staircase access from the courtyard, or with a continuous timber gallery rather like an inn courtyard. In either case it was a plan which managed to combine inconvenience and discomfort to a remarkably high degree.

ANDREW ARBUTHNOTT, *15th LAIRD, 1588*

Andrew's work seems to have been confined to the single floored building with a garret, which closes the E end of the courtyard. The date 1588, and the initials *AA* appear on one of the skewputs. This is yet another building the purpose of which is not clear. There appears to have been a fireplace in the SE corner but it has since been transformed into a doorway, and the building may have provided accommodation for one of the senior household officers. Care has gone into the detailing, the remaining original ceiling joists are chamfered – these measure 5 in by 5 in (127 mm by 127 mm), and 5 in by 6 in (127 mm by 152 mm) and the latter are chamfered top and bottom. The small garret windows in the gables have fixed glazing grooves with triplet ventilation holes.

SIR ROBERT ARBUTHNOTT, *18th LAIRD AND 1st VISCOUNT, c 1653* (pl 25b)

It is with the last Sir Robert that at last an attempt was made to rationalise the house and curtail its ramblings. This can be dated to the years 1653-5, between his second marriage to Katherine Lovat, whose initials appear on the house, and his death.

As far as can be judged Sir Robert added a further floor to the *Twin*, thus improving the accommodation. The three new windows on the S front were given carved stone heads, and the new rooms, and possibly some of the old ones were given painted decorations. A small fragment remains on the second floor in the stair lobby to the attic. It includes part of an astral ceiling with winged heads in the corner; the vertical planking is painted with a decorative frieze whilst

the lower parts are given a very free waved graining, which appears to have been added between shelves as if this corner originally formed part of a library. This painting continues over a larger area but is now hidden behind later ceilings. The roof above this wing appears to be the original; with collared principal, ashlar and sole pieces in Baltic pine it follows the traditional pattern for roofs in the north-east between 1560 and 1660; there are twenty-four trusses, all with their assembly marks.

Again the staircase access is a problem, but with the additional floor it is clear that the old external stairs would have been useless. Unless it is completely concealed there is no mural or newel stair in this block. Fortunately there is, in the 1755 contract a clue to what has disappeared. In discussing the provision of the stair for the N wing it is stated that '*as there is presently a stone stair on the South Wing the same is to remain*'. This does not refer to the stone stair – to which reference will be made – that has been inserted in the 1420 block, and which in any case rises only to the first floor. The reference is clearly to a stair rising the full height of the house, and, by the use of the word '*on*', one which is in a projecting tower or jamb. This must have stood against the N wall of this block, and would have fitted into the angle formed with the 18th-century cross-wing. By the 1650s a square tower with a scale-and-platt stair could be expected; a similar solution was adopted at Balbithan. This stair survived until the building of the present grand stair in the late 18th century.

ROBERT ARBUTHNOTT, 3rd VISCOUNT AND 20th LAIRD, c 1683–4 (pl 26–27)

The 3rd Viscount succeeded in 1682, and married Anne Gordon, the daughter of the Earl of Sutherland in the following year. From the family papers it is clear that from 1688 until 1691 there was a considerable amount of work being paid for on the house and the garden and it would seem that Lord Arbuthnott was bringing his house, or rather his collection of lodgings – for that is what it still was despite his grandfather's efforts – into more fashionable trim. His most important work was the provision of the new entrance and stone staircase in the 1420 wing and the formation of the two drawing rooms with their magnificent plaster ceilings in the S wing.

Without documentary evidence it is necessary to consider the reasons for attributing this work to him, and to the years 1683–4, and this evidence, both historical and stylistic is circumstantial. On his succession and marriage in 1682–3 Lord Arbuthnott had every incentive to undertake this work. His early death in 1694 followed ten months later by that of his wife limit the time during which the work would have been done to those years, and as this wretched young couple's first son was born in 1685–6, and they subsequently had nine more children in nine years it is more than probable that the work on the house was largely completed by 1685. It would not have been carried out by his successor who did not reach his majority until 1707 and spent most of his adult life until his death in 1710 in England.

The ceilings, which are paralleled by work elsewhere – Brodie, Kellie and Fyvie – can be dated c 1670–90. On historical grounds a date of 1683–4 seems most likely. On stylistic grounds the resemblance is greatest to the ceiling installed in the Great Room at Fyvie for Lord Dunfermline in 1683 (Appendix B). It is likely that Robert White who did the work at Fyvie was also responsible for the ceilings at Arbuthnott.

The two drawing room ceilings must be regarded as amongst the finest of their kind in Scotland. They are heavily moulded with deeply modelled sprays and swags, and extensive use of egg-and-dart on the ribs separating the panels. The design in the E drawing room is a circular centre piece with flanking roundels and spandrels, whilst that in the W drawing room has an

octagonal centre piece. The centre pieces, roundels and ribs with their formal mouldings, and elaborate detail are remarkable for the quality of the work but are not otherwise in anyway unusual for this time. The same cannot be said of the work in the spandrels; which are archaic in the extreme. In the E room they are formed of loose and somewhat indeterminate vegetation emanating from an even more indeterminate limbless figure – a torsoed Jack-in-the-Green. Those in the W room are filled by vines in a way that is almost entirely unrelated to the spaces so filled. It is this particular motif and its treatment which is so like the work at Fyvie.

When the ceilings were installed it seems likely that this floor was re-planned to a certain extent. The present partition seems to have been moved further E, and as a result of this the middle of the three windows, which is now out of line with those on the ground and second floors had to be re-positioned. The panelling which was introduced at the same time is bolection moulded and arranged in two tiers with a shallow skirting and chair rail, and a deep box cornice. It has been altered around the windows and chimney pieces to accommodate the changes of the 18th and 19th centuries.

In the bedrooms above the drawing rooms are two ceilings of simpler but related design. Clearly they date from the 1680s with their closely moulded ribs of oak leaves, acorns, and the open vines; and it is equally clear that one overlays the painted ceiling of c 1650. Yet incorporated in one of the ceilings are cartouches containing portrait busts. These would not be out of place in a plaster ceiling of 1580-1620. Either the designer was being remarkably anachronistic, or he incorporated these fragments from an earlier ceiling; judging by the lion in the ceiling of the E drawing room it could be the former, and that old forms were still in use.

The other major work undertaken by Lord Arbuthnott was the re-modelling of the 1420 house. This involved the provision of a new front entrance with a simply moulded architrave, which gave onto a lobby from which a stone staircase rose at right angles to the first floor. The steps have moulded nosings. The first floor was apparently divided into two rooms but later alterations have obliterated the original arrangement and destroyed much of the 17th-century trim. The room over the kitchen has survived. This was given new panelling with bolection mouldings, and a stone bolection chimney piece flanked by pilasters over which the deep cornice broke forward. This was presumably to be either the principal bedchamber or private room – the retention of the title '*the Laird's Room*' – could indicate either – and was entered from a passage formed on the S side of the Hall.

Even so with these alterations, and with the provision of usable attics in the roof space, the house had not more than seven decent rooms in the main block; everything else was strung around the courtyard. Part of the description of Cold Comfort Farm comes forcefully to mind – 'A long corridor ran half-way through the house on the second storey and then stopped. One could not get into the attics at all. It was all very awkward'.

JOHN ARBUTHNOTT, 5th VISCOUNT AND 22nd LAIRD, 1754-56 (pl 23)

If the family tradition is correct the Jacobite 5th Viscount was a builder *malgré lui*, and must have been cooling in his grave as the builders moved out of the new house, which was due to be completed by Whit Sunday 1756. He died in May of the same year (*Appendix D*).

The builder was John Ferrior of Montrose; who the designer was is not known although plans are referred to in the contract. Probably Ferrior provided the plans himself. The handling of the plan, and even more that of the elevation suggests the hand of a country builder. Remaining true to the Arbuthnott tradition the principal room – the Dining Room – is on the first floor with the remaining rooms contrived around, over and under it, and the staircase arrangements

remain of no architectural importance whatsoever. The treatment of the elevation is equally curious, we see it as the entrance front of a country house because that is what it is meant to be. Of course it is no such thing, and if taken out of its context and placed in the middle of Montrose it would be instantly recognisable. A new three-bay three storied house with a pediment inserted between two of its older neighbours, which still turn their gable ends towards the street, and are known locally as *Gable endies* – the nickname of Montrose's football team is *Gable Enders*. Indeed the treating of the house in the specification as made up of a *N wing* and a *mid-building* is indicative of its never having been considered as a whole.

With the aid of the contract and the building as it now stands it is possible to discover what alterations were made in the plans before the building was completed and what alterations have been made as a result of subsequent building.

The contract is remarkably detailed not only as to what was to be done but also what materials were to be used and from whence they were to be obtained; the time allowed for the work; the amount and number of payments; the responsibilities of both parties; and the penalties that would be incurred for failing to honour the contract.

After the demolition of the old house on the N side of the close, and of the entry wall by 1 April 1755, work was to start on the new house. This was to consist of a N wing and mid-building both of three storeys with garrets agreeing in height with the existing S wing. The building was to be of stone with a slated roof, the face of the mid-building – that is to say the three-bayed pedimented pavilion – being of dressed and rusticated ashlar. The pediment is described as a 'limkin'.

The accommodation was to consist of nine fire rooms, four closets, and a kitchen and scullery; the largest room being the Dining Room, for which special mention had to be made as its height caused an adjustment to be made in the floors of the rooms above. Either this provision was changed during the course of the building or later alterations have affected it, as it is now only possible to identify seven fire rooms – that is rooms with fire places – and two closets apart from the kitchen and scullery. Probably the change came during building for even allowing for the 19th-century alterations to the entry it is difficult to find space for two more fire rooms and closets.

It is specified that the entry is '*to be pended in the fore and back wall, and plastered between*': that has given rise to the pleasing fiction that carriages drove through the house to the courtyard due to a confusion between the word 'pend' – *an entry passage or lane*, and 'pended' – *arched*. Indeed later on the kitchen fireplace is described as pended – that is 'arched' as indeed it is. The original arrangement of the entry has been lost due to the 19th-century re-building, but its original form can be identified. It was eight feet wide running through the house with arched openings at either end with double leaf doors – in fact a non-vehicular pend. On the S side lay a long narrow room which opened off it probably used as a porter's lodge. On the N side was '*to be a Passage and Door for the said New Building, and a Timber scale stair*'. This passage is concealed in the small room between the present hall and the 18th-century kitchen, but the scale stair – that is a stair without landings as distinct from a scale-and-plat-stair – still survives, although its form is obscured by the service lift filling its well.

The inconvenience of this arrangement is obvious; the new house interposed its not inconsiderable bulk between the entry and the 17th-century front door, and the new stair served principally to link the dining room and the kitchen. The stone stair on the S wing, which was to remain, presumably occupied part of the angle between the S wing and the mid-building, and was the reason the entry was so congested and mean.

The internal finishes, apart from the garrets and ground floor were of a decent quality

with lime plaster, fir joinery, brass locks, Crown glass (the lesser floor making do with Common glass) and chimney pieces of Turin stone. Alas! this was not a wild extravagance imported from Savoy, but a stone of high quality from the hill of Turin at Forfar.

The materials were all local; the building stone came from Lord Arbutnott's own quarry on the Dava not far from the house, the slate from Drumms, Turin or Fleemington, the lime from Easter Mathers, the chimneys from Turin, and the iron, timber, glass and lead from Montrose, or rather from no further than any of these places for the Viscount undertook to provide men, horses and carts to transport all the necessary materials, and he respected his beasts.

None of the original 18th-century interiors remain complete, although most rooms show some details of surviving trim or a Turin chimney piece, although some of these have been moved about; one from the first floor finding its way into the kitchen. The finest room is the Dining Room, some 27 ft by 20 ft (8.230 m by 6.096 m) and 11 ft high (3.352 m). It has three windows in its W wall, and its original panelling and box cornice survive. The doorways in the end walls, with balancing closet doors are in their proper positions, but the principal entrance now in the SE corner dates from the 19th century, although a better arrangement would have been an entry placed centrally on the axis of the new staircase. The chimney-piece in the N wall is a 19th-century replacement and it appears that there was formerly a second fireplace in the S wall. There is no mention of a decorated ceiling in the contract and the present ceiling is a 19th-century addition. Certainly it lacks the slightly rustic note which gives Ferrior's work much of its charm.

The roof over the N wing is not specified in detail save that it is to be '*sufficiently lathed and timbered, the Couple and couple room being about two feet*': that is to say the couples were to be at two feet centres. There had however been a change in roof construction in the hundred years since the roof over the S wing had been made. Principals and collars were still substantial and in use, but ashlar and sole pieces were no longer considered necessary for stability.

JOHN ARBUTHNOTT, 7th VISCOUNT AND 24th LAIRD, 1791-1800

It is probably to the efforts of John, 7th Viscount of Arbutnott that the house owes its present form. The addition of the main staircase, which made the house a much more convenient place to live in, and an architecturally more coherent whole has always been ascribed to the 8th Viscount about the year 1820. On stylistic grounds this is difficult to accept; the staircase is earlier in fashion than the decoration of the dining room by some fifteen years at least, and the dining room work would seem to fit into the early 1820s. It was unlikely that the 8th Viscount would have been able to embark on any large scale building work until after the death of the dowager Viscountess in 1818; certainly none of the estate improvements date from earlier than the 1820s.

If the date of the staircase can be put back to the last years of the 18th century, probably 1795-1800, it makes more sense. The year after his succession in 1791 the 7th Viscount commissioned a new design in the current taste for the policies and gardens, and had built the new steading at the Mains in 1792, and it seems unlikely that if he wanted the newest fashions outside the house, he would have been prepared to accept the measure of inconvenience, and old fashioned shifts to which the absence of a proper staircase put the family within.

His addition was straightforward and went directly to the heart of the problem which had always bedevilled the house. Unlike his predecessors he had no dislike of large staircases, and the one he built was very large in proportion to the rest of the house. The space behind the mid-building was enclosed to a depth of 15 ft (4.572 m) by a cross wall between the N and S

wings. In the centre of this a space 15 ft (4.572 m) square, flanked by service passages on the ground floor, was devoted to the staircase. Rising from the ground to the second floor it was top lit by a circular domed light carried on plastered pendentives. A full landing crossed the back of the mid-building and on the upper floors the staircase was flanked by small lobbies and closets. The staircase is designed with restrained simplicity with cantilevered stone treads and an iron balustrade.

The provision of this stair hall made some alterations in the entrance inevitable. The 1756 entry and the porter's lodge were thrown into one to give an entrance hall of reasonable proportions. This produced problems; the entrance was now off centre, whilst the doorway to the stair hall was central in the E wall. To minimise this broken axis the NE and SE corners were splayed and the angles disguised with engaged columns, niches being placed between them, and the flank walls were broken with pilasters. At the same time the entrance door was dignified by a small semi-circular portico.

The opportunity was also taken to form the door in the SE corner of the dining room opening onto the lobby between the stair hall and the drawing rooms.

For the first time since 1420 the house had a plan which actually worked, and with one staircase giving access to all floors and all parts; this was at the expense of the stone stairs on the S wing, which had disappeared in the process. The scale stair in the N wing was relegated to the secondary or service rank.

JOHN ARBUTHNOTT, *8th VISCOUNT AND 25th LAIRD*, c 1820–1839

If the 8th Viscount is to be denied credit for building the grand staircase he must be allowed the re-decoration of the dining room, with its handsome neo-classical ceiling. Less handsome perhaps are a number of chimney pieces with strange and slightly gothic corbel heads which he introduced into the house. He was also responsible for the now-demolished low service rooms behind the staircase, and the octagonal game larder in the courtyard. Both these had been built before 1839 as they are shown on a set of sketch plans of that date.

In that year the architectural practice of R and W D Dickson of Edinburgh prepared sketch drawings for an extension to house in the courtyard. It was a design which, to use the words of Miss Austen on another subject showed 'a strong natural, sterling insignificance'. This wing was to contain a servants' hall, men-servants' bedroom, and wine and beer cellars on the ground floor, and two large bedrooms with their dressing rooms and a water closet on the first floor. That it had a measure of convenience in providing space that could be occupied may be granted; to find any other merit would be difficult and fortunately it was never built.

THE GARDEN AND THE POLICIES

The first references to any garden works at Arbuthnott occur in the year 1688 when 14 shillings were paid 'to Robert Scott when he was sent to Urrie for trees' and '16s to ye post that brought hom the gairden seeds'. In June of the following year 7 shillings were paid to William Morray 'for nails for the wall trees'. So it would appear that by 1688 Lord Arbuthnott had laid out his garden and it was being planted, and still largely survives today. It lies on the slope S and SW of the house, and is an excellent example of a formal lay-out of the 17th century adapted to an extremely difficult terrain. The site slopes steeply away from the house, and the obvious solution would have been a series of formal terraces linked by staircases. Possibly on grounds of expense this very formal solution was not adopted. Instead the four grass terraces are linked

by long diagonal terraces running across the slope, but at such a gentle gradient that the steepness of site is largely disguised, and there is the illusion of the garden being on a gentle slope. It is separated from the haughs along the Bervie by the mill lade, which was made into a formal canal. The long walk at the top of the garden is sheltered from the N by a wall and terminates in a small garden house or tea room. It is of harled rubble with free stone dressings, the quoins towards the garden being rusticated. Internally it is provided with a fireplace, and with windows giving views originally over the adjoining parkland.

Although the original form of the garden has always been maintained, and although it has survived proposals in the 18th century to remove it altogether it has been re-planted on a number of occasions. One of the most drastic must have been in the early years of the 19th century when the 8th Viscount was ordering seeds, plants and shrubs from *Dicksons and Co* of Edinburgh, some of which still survive. The account, which covers the years 1801-9, was not finally settled until 20 years later. In 1801 and 1802 the expenditure was for herb, salad, and vegetable seeds. 1803 was largely devoted to shrubs with a number of old fashioned flowers and herbaceous plants. Contrary to popular belief *Sweet Williams* are not listed as *Stinking Billies*. A small rose garden seems to have been planted in 1804, and shades of Beatrice Lillie hover over roses of the double damask family. The most interesting year is 1809 when a large and varied collection of plants and shrubs was ordered. The outstanding item was a collection of twenty seven *Ericas* – all were separate specimens and clearly there was to be an impressive display. *Ericas* were becoming fashionable, and therefore popular; readers of *Mansfield Park* will remember that one of the odious Aunt Norris's 'spongings', on the memorable visit to Sotherton, had been 'only a beautiful little heath which that nice old gardener would make me take'. Geraniums too appeared: 13 specimens are listed (Appendix E). George Robertson was able to say in 1807 of Arbuthnott that 'its extensive garden hanging with a fine slope towards the river is amongst the best in the county.'

The earliest indication of the lay out of the policies is to be found on General Roy's map of 1750 from the *Survey of Scotland*. Although this is extremely schematic it suggests that nothing at Arbuthnott approached the scale or formality of the plantings at Fasque or Inglismadie. The policies are shown as a general enclosure protected by a belt of trees without being further sub-divided into parks, well-wooded with a long avenue running NW from the house. To the S of the Water of Bervie were two large plantations divided by a ride.

In 1792, the year after the succession of the 7th Viscount, a scheme for '*improvements and alterations at Arbuthnott*' was prepared by James Abercrombie, a surveyor whose work was largely in the Lothians. This shows the old plantings and avenue swept away and the house set in a Reptonish landscape with a great lawn in front planted with clumps of trees. Some of these clumps were unhappy survivors of the old avenue. The garden had been banished to a large walled enclosure to the E of the house in the Kemlinn Haugh, where it was concealed amongst a heavy planting of trees. The public and common roads had all been laid out afresh, and the principal approach to the house was by a long drive from the W which ran parallel to a new Laurencekirk Road, both road and drive being contained within the same tree belt. At the entrance to the drive was a pair of lodges with stone gate piers and quadrant railings, and a similar entrance led onto the Bervie road to the E of the house.

The approach to the house from the N, across the Bothenoth had assumed neither its present form nor its present importance. A tremendous amount of planting was envisaged: the policies were sheltered from the public and common roads by continuous belts, and thicker continuous stands lined the valley of the Bervie and the Bothenoth, as well as enclosing the gardens. The field boundaries were planted, and elsewhere there was a judicious disposition of

clumps to add interest and diversity to the landscape. Some of this planting seems to have been carried out and lasts to this day: the lawn in front of the house, the planting along the Bothenoth, and many of the field boundaries and enclosures seem to result from Abercrombie's proposals. Fortunately the garden survived.

When Alexander Irvine Ross drew the estate map of 1810 he showed a lay-out which had incorporated some of the 1792 proposals, together with the approach to house on W side of Bothenoth, and the old mill still standing. The mill survived until 1829 when John Morgan surveyed the Mains, but this plan shows an additional approach along the E side of the Bothenoth, with the drive crossing on a small bridge. This may only be an indication of what was to be done. By 1838 however the new approach and bridge had been completed as they form part of the background to Wilkie's portrait of the 8th Viscount.

The bridge (pl 28) is a splendid piece of Graeco-Roman stage scenery in the French, rather than the British, taste, Built in a red freestone with a pierced parapet, curving wings and great vases it is of heroic proportions. Who the architect was is not known, as no estate papers have so far come to light which mention it. The only architects known to have worked in connection with Arbuthnott are E and W D Dickson who had prepared a scheme for extending the house in 1839. Their normal run of estate building was in the Tudor or Jacobean taste, but they were admirers of Cockerell who was strongly influenced by work in France, and it seems reasonable to suspect them of being responsible for it, even if to some other architect's designs.

In connection with, though hardly relevant to, the 18th-century estate survey and its replanning, it is a pity that the connection of the 6th and 7th Viscounts with their neighbour Robert Barclay of Urie had not led them to engage the services of Peter May, the greatest perhaps of the north-eastern land surveyors of the 18th century, and great-great-great-great grandfather of the present Viscount.

THE ESTATE SURVEYS

There are a number of drawings and surveys of the estate, in part and as a whole, amongst the Arbuthnott papers deposited in the library at King's College, Aberdeen. They cover the years 1792 to 1850 and show remarkably clearly how the holdings were rationalised over the years.

The first drawing in the collection, Abercrombie's proposed improvements to the policies of 1792, has already been considered. The following year the farm of Alpetty was surveyed by James Richmond – the spelling on the drawing is in fact *Elpite*, but the spelling of place names on all the survey drawings is wildly inconsistent – and may have marked an intention to have the whole estate covered. If this was so then it was never carried out, and it was not until 1808 that work in this field started again.

In that year George Robertson made two surveys, one of Crombie Haugh and Kirkstyle, and the other of the Farm of Boghall. The latter is a drawing of considerable interest for it shows graphically some of the problems facing any improving landowner and the consequences that resulted, with the best will in the world, from these improvements. The Farm of Boghall covered an area of 189 acres, divided between 12 holders. This gave an average size for each holding of 15.8 acres which would have been a very respectable sized croft had this simple arithmetical calculation given a true picture, which it did not.

The farm was divided by the road from Laurencekirk to Bervie; 76 acres lay to the S of this road, and this area was split between divided and undivided lands, the former consisting of 14 acres held by George Wylie and 4 acres held by Robert Hutcheon. Both these men held

land in the northern half of the farm, George Wylie having 52 acres and Robert Hutcheon 13 acres. Robert Hutcheon would appear on paper to have had a very good sized croft, whilst George Wylie's 66 acres placed him in the ranks of the modest farmers rather than those of the crofters – or they should have done. But as the holdings were divided into a number of separate and separated plots it is doubtful if they produced anything in proportion to their size. The same would certainly have been true of the 8 acre holding of Robert Wilson or that of John Alexander, which was of 5 acres. The only other large holding on the farm was Lady Arbuthnott's; this was of 27 acres and divided into two parcels. The larger of the two was 11 acres, and was the largest single enclosure on the farm. Of the remaining 16 acres, 1 was devoted to roads, and 2 to common land. This left 13 acres to be divided between seven families, and even then the holdings were divided. It is difficult to see how these people existed unless they went as day labourers on the larger neighbouring farms.

A much larger survey was carried out in 1810 by Alexander Irvine-Ross for the purpose of dividing the rents for the payment of the Dowager's jointure. This only covered part of the estate extending to 3,400 acres. It showed the improvements of the 6th Viscount which had caused his heir so much trouble. On this section of the estate there were 18 farms and 25 crofts. Significantly Boghall is not shown, but the name of a new farm – Townhead – has appeared on the boundaries of the farms which formerly marched with Boghall. The latter had been cleared in the intervening years. An interesting point about the farms surveyed and presumably dating from the 1756-91 improvements, is their size. Three are over 200 acres, 7 between 100 and 200 acres, and 8 between 50 and 100 acres. The largest of all was the farm of Peatie which reached the staggering size for those days of 402 acres. Already the amount of land down to arable was considerable. On each of the 3 largest farms this was more than 100 acres, and on all the second rank farms it was in excess of 50 acres. Even 3 of the third rank farms were shown as having more than 50 acres of arable.

The crofts varied from under 1 acre to one – the Croft of Greenend – of 29 acres. They were generally scattered, although two, the Huntsman's and the Gardener's, were related to the service of the big house, and there was a concentration of 8 crofts on Resque which almost constituted a Township. It seems from this survey that some houses had already disappeared in the first round of improvements; on the farm of Nether Whitfield was a field called Cotter's Bank, and on South Whitfield are two fields, Hen's Croft and Cottshade, all of which may mark earlier inhabited sites.

Three years before this survey George Robertson had described the estate in his *General View of Agriculture in Kincardineshire*: 'There are nearly 6,000 acres in this property of which the soil is very similar to that of Allardice; but it is not so generally cultivated, the improvement being retarded by the less ready means of access. An excellent road lately made through the whole parish from east to west, opening up the communication between the coast-side at Bervie and the How has already had a very happy effect on the cultivation of this state in particular.' He also records the amount of livestock in the whole parish, setting the total of cattle at 1,501 of which 40 were draught oxen. Horses played a more important part than oxen, there being 149 employed in husbandry but curiously only seven riding horses. Did the horses for the carriages have to be spared from the farms? Sheep were of little importance in the agricultural economy, there being only 153, whilst pigs hardly figure; there were only 11 recorded. So much for the myth of plentiful supplies of bacon.

After the 1810 survey nothing, apart from two small surveys of the Croft lands of Drumlithie and Alpety, was done until 1824, a date marking the start of a period of improving the farms. In that year John Morgan was employed to survey Upper Craighall – Mr Irvine-Ross

having become bankrupt. He was to work for the estate for the next 20 years, and 15 of his surveys survive. There may well have been more. In 1825 he produced a survey of the farm of Townhead. This had grown considerably from the original 189 acres of Boghall to 256 acres of which 226 were cornland. The increase in size was at the expense of the farms of Hercules Haugh and Drumyoche. Apart from the main house and the Ground Officer's only two other buildings are shown with gardens attached. Otherwise all the buildings on the farm, many of which were shown on the 1808 survey of Boghall, are in cultivated fields. As no formal steading is indicated it is likely that some of the abandoned croft houses and barns were in agricultural use. This is likely as the present steading at Townhead was only built in 1827 according to the date on one of the gables.

By 1849 – and no doubt helped by the large amount of building which had been done on all the farms – the estate was financially in a very serious position, and this was probably the reason for the survey of 1850 by William Blackadder, of which only a copy by Robert Milne survives. This covers the lands of both Arbuthnott and Fordoun. Once again Townhead has been enlarged; the Ground Officer's house has disappeared, but a cottage has appeared on the Blacksmith's lands bearing the old name of Boghall. No cottages are shown on the farm lands and presumably the labour force was largely made up of single men living in the bothy. After 1850 a number of cottage houses were built at Townhead as a result of the collapse of the bothy-ing system towards the end of the century. These in turn are largely derelict, and there are now council cottages at Boghall.

Whatever Blackadder's survey may have been like, the copy is a poor thing. Excellent no doubt as working drawings for the lawyers struggling to clear the estate of its load of debt, but thin and characterless compared with the earlier drawings. One of the smaller side effects of the agricultural depression was the disappearance of the splendid sets of estate maps and surveys which had marked the century of improvements.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

My thanks are due to Colin MacLaren and the staff of Aberdeen University Library for their help whilst I was working on the Arbuthnott papers; to the Scottish Academic Press for permission to re-produce, from *The Lyon in Mourning*, the correspondence between Lord Arbuthnott and the Rev Robert Forbes; to Sir Andrew Forbes-Leith who has kindly allowed me to publish the contract for the plaster work of Fyvie from the Fyvie papers; to Miss Whiteford of the Natural History Museum, London, for her very helpful comments on the plant seed lists; but especially I must record my thanks to Lord and Lady Arbuthnott for their hospitality whilst this paper was in preparation and without whose enthusiasm and encouragement it would never have been undertaken.

APPENDIX A DESCRIPTIONS OF THE HOUSE OF ARBUTHNOTT FROM 'ORIGINI ET INCREMENTI FAMILIAE ARBUTHNOTICAE DESCRIPTIO HISTORICA'

Principal Alexander Arbuthnott c 1567 '*thereafter Englishit be Mr V Morisone persone of Benholme Kirke*' 1577–87, together with a further Englishing by the author

1. 'And because ye houss qrin Henr dwelt (althochte conforme to ye sessionne of ye countrie was nt ye formost) zit it was not strong eneuche to debait the Invasion of Enemyes yairfoir with gryt expedition of warkmen yai ley ye fundacions of ye p̄nt Castell of Airbuthnot and reais ye wark to such hicht: zat

it might be ane sufficient refuge to ony nichtbor seid And so zat died whilk threatened Henry wrack gaif ye occaisioun to bige ane moir fensid castell, and to honor ye kin fordir yan befoir.

[*'Et quoniam domus quam tum incolebat Hugo (et si pro regionis consuetudine inter primas habebatur, non tamen satis munita ad hostiles impressiones arcendas videbatur magna operariorum diligentia, acis qua nunc est Arbuthnot fundamenta iaciunt, et eousque deducūt donec satis tutum persugiū adversus vicinorum omniū incursiones redderetur. atq̄ ita factam illud quod Hugonis domi ruinam minitari, extruenda munitiores arcis et amplificanda laudis, familiae occasionem prebuit'*]

2. 'Thairfour I will returne to Robert ye eldest; yis was ane singular mane and of gryt estimatun in ye Mernis quho be his wisdome, magnificence, liberalatie, godlines, hono^{le}, houghalding, nomber of Denderis and be many notable deids honorit and advancit ye hous. For having joynit reasonabill guid leirning to his avin guid naturall, and conformed both be gryt experience, it was not mervell yet he became ane gryt mane. He was ye first quho dvyding amang his servandis to Everie ane a severall charge, set doune a form rewling ye familie of Arbuthnot: off ye quhilk order zit yeir remainis sum sutsopsis (*supersuit*). And seing ye castell off Arbuthnot sen ye deysis of Henr his foir-grandschir, quho laid ye foundations yairoff and bigit two houss hicht (*secunda tabulata*), was unendit Nor zit was ye rest of ye place in any pt augmentid. This Robert wt gryt expensis compleited ye wark, and theiked ye same and decorated ye head yairoff with evis galreis and batilment as ye forme is of Castellis. (*Hic Robertus magnus sumptibus operis supremam imposuit manum tectum summum addidit murorum summitatem primis suggrundis et pergulis ut mos arcium est ornavit*).

He eikit also ye Castell with ane new houss. quhilk wt gryt travell and devys he raisit from ye grund quhilk is callit ye same (*geminam nostri appellant*).

He bigit also over aganis ye castell ane yther houss (*aliam camerato*) supone vout quhilk he theiket with sleat quohis supermost houss he appointed for ye kitchin. He was ye first bigit ane battaling about ye foir pt of ye Castell, quhair he bigit ane foir entrance off ye zaitt, and vouted it and set ane chalmer above, whilk zai called ye foirtoure, which was eftirward main hicher and sklaited be his oye (*nepotem*) quho is now laird of the place. Now yis was his diligence in prophane building; But quhow zeluse he was in decoring and biging of helie bigingis his warkis yat zit ar extant bearis witness for ye wast gavill of Arbuthnot kirk he gart bige in trimer wark not it was befoir (*elegantiore quam pris erat*); and eikit ane round turratt to it, for to hing bellis on it. As also he hang twa bellis on ye same.

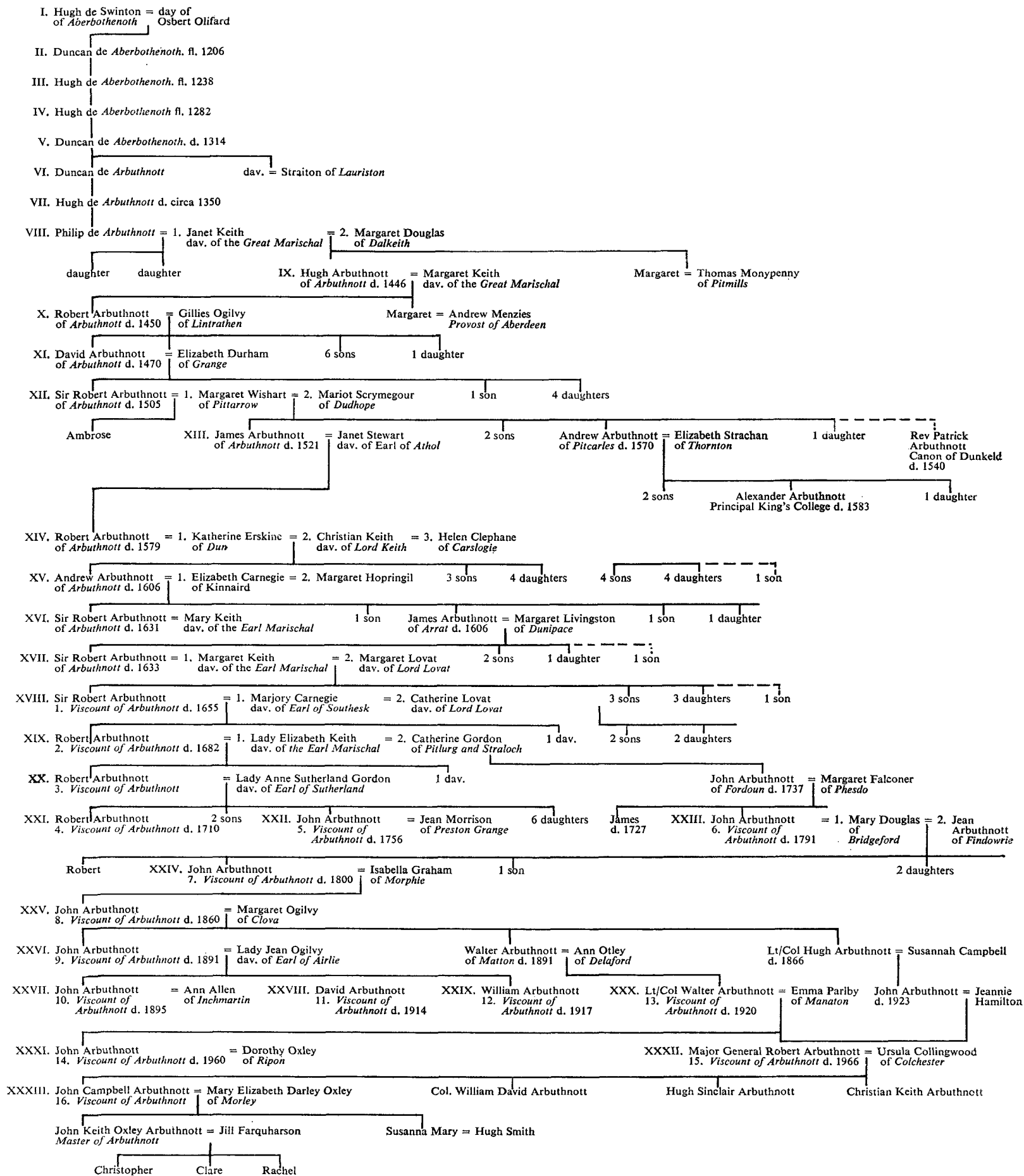
Thairefter he buildit ane Ill on ye southe neir to ye eist gavill verie gorgiuss both in craft and materiallis, for it is a biggin off fyn hewin stone cassin furthe in squaril butreis going up to the head and having little turrattis upon yame (*pinnis superimpositis*). It is callit ye Ille of Arbuthnott quhair of ye laich houss he coverit withe ane vout, as also pleneschit with ane altar and all Instrumentis (*omnibus ornamentatis*) yan usit in holie service (*in divino cult*). The over houss he appoynted to be an chalmer for him yat suld be cheplen and keiper of ye same. Lykwayis he pavedment the nayer houss with squared stones (*tesselatis lapidibus*) to be a common burial of ye houss of Arbuthnott.

And leist so gorgiuss ane bigging suld haif appeirit to haif bein buildit in vain or be ye negligence of ye keiperis nicht haif decayed he dotit to ye chapillane yairoff ye zeirlie rent of ten pundis Scottis and sumquhat moir to be brukkit p petuallie. And yat yis wark nicht be ye bettir excepted of god he diligentlie foirsaw yat yis cotlie building in no wayis suld be hurtfull to his puir Tennantis; sua yat he carriet ye stonis, lyme and all ye rest of ye materiallis with his avin horsse, and wold tak no help of his Tennantis as ye custome was'. Mr Morisone for some reason best known to himself rendered the name *Hugo as Henry*. The correct version is, of course, *Hugh*.

1. 'And because the house in which Hugh lived (although it conformed to the pattern of other houses in those parts, and of which it was one of the most important) was not strong enough to withstand an attack, the foundations of the present Castle of Arbuthnott were laid, and such was the speed of the workmen that the walls were quickly raised to such an height that it could serve as a refuge for any neighbour in need. And so that crime, which seemed to threaten Henry with destruction, served instead as an excuse to build a stronger and more easily defended castle, and to make the family's pretensions greater than before.

2. 'I now return to Robert, the eldest son: he was a remarkable man, and held in great esteem in the Mearns: where, by his wisdom, magnificence, liberality, honourable dealing and hospitality, as well as by the numbers of his dependents and by many notable deeds, he greatly increased the standing of his family and the respect in which it was held. Having combined a sound education with a naturally good

THE ARBUTHNOTTS OF ARBUTHNOTT



understanding and wide experience it was not surprising that he was held to be a great man. He was the first who, assigning particular duties to each of his servants, laid the rules for ordering the household at Arbuthnott, some traces of which still survive.

'Seeing that the castle of Arbuthnott had remained unfinished since the time of his great-grandfather Hugh – who laid the foundations and raised the house to the level of the first floor – and that no further work had been done, Robert completed it at considerable expense. He roofed the building, and decorated the wall head with eaves, galleries and battlements as is the custom in castles.

He also enlarged the castle, adding with considerable trouble and contrivance a new house from the ground up, which was called the *Twin*.

Opposite the castle he built another house, raised on vaults. This he roofed with slate, and formed a kitchen on the upper floor. He was the first to build the forepart of the castle, in which he formed a fine gatehouse for the yett, vaulting it and building a chamber over it. This is called the Fore-tower, and has been heightened and roofed by his grandson who is now laird of the place.

Such was his diligence in secular building; to his zeal in church works the existing remains bear witness. He rebuilt the west gable of Arbuthnott Kirk in a more splendid style than before, enlarging it with a round bell-tower in which hung two bells which he had given.

After that he built an Aisle at the south-east corner of the nave, handsome both in materials and workmanship. It was built of fine dressed stones, with square buttresses rising to the wall head, and terminating in pinnacles. It is known as the Arbuthnott Aisle: the lower part is covered with a vault, and it was furnished with an altar and all ornaments necessary for divine worship as it was then practiced. The upper part was to be the chamber of the chaplain and keeper of the place. He also paved the lower part, which was to be the burial vault for the Arbuthnott family, with square stones.

And lest it should appear that this fine structure had been built in vain, or decayed through the negligence of its keepers, he endowed the Chaplain with the annual sum of ten pounds Scots (and something more) to be paid perpetually.

And so that this work might be more acceptable to God he ensured that this costly building should not be at the expense of his poor tenants; to this end he carried the stones, lime and all the other materials with his own horses, rather than levy forced labour from his tenants as was customary then'.

APPENDIX B CONTRACT FOR PLASTER CEILINGS AT FYVIE: 1683

At Fyvie, the nyynth day of August 16 hundred and fourscore thrie years. It is appoynted and agreed upon Betwixt Ane noble and potent Earle, James Earl of Dunfermling &c., and Robert Whyte, plaisterer in Edgr (Edinburgh) on the ane and other pairts for manner following, that is to say – the said Robert Whyte oblidges him to plaister the great hall of Fyvie and dyning rome within the samen, together with the great rounge above the said dyning rounge and rounge above the said hall commonly called My Ladies' chamber, and closet within the samen with handsome architave freis and cornish. Together with the painted chamber, Bed chamber, Lady Anne Erskine's chamber, Middle Chamber, Wardrob chamber, and the two laigh gallery chambers. Together with the haile closets and studies belonging to each of the said chambers with handsome plain cornish work. And that betwixt the date hereof and the last day of Junii nixt to come. And upon the other part of the sd. noble Earle binds and oblidges him to furnish materials for the sd. work, viz: sowen (sawn) dailes, lyme, haire, and nails and to pay to the said Robert Whyte the soume of Two Hundred merks Scots money and ffour bolls meal after compleiting the sd. work. And in the meantyme when he is at work to furnish him such pairt hereof for his mantenance as is needful and also to furnish him beds and fyre within the house whyle he is at work. And both pairties oblidges them to perform the premisses each of them to other, under the failzie of ane hundred pounds Scots money to be paid by the pairtie failzier to the pairtie observer. And consents to the registration hereof in the books of Counsell and Session or other ways but within this Kingdom. That all necessary execution may pass hereon in forme as effeirs and thereto constitutes. . . . Their procrs, in witness grof (written be John Kempitie servitor to the sd. noble Earle) both pairties have subscribed this present day month place and yeire of God written forsd. Before these witnesses William Davidson and Alexander Kempitie also servitors to the sd. noble Earle and the Sd John Kempitie wrytter for sd.

John Kempitie (*witnesse*)
William Davidson *Witnesse*
Al Kempitie *Witnesse*

Dunfermling
Robert White

APPENDIX C THE 5th VISCOUNT AND THE REBELLIONS

(i) *An Informer: 13 August 1715*

'We hear from Strathbogie that the Marquis of Huntly has been wholly taken up with preparations this summer, specially in buying horses and using them to the Drum. He is said to have 600 of them scattered up and down the country well equipped and a great number of foot as well appointed. He has employed one Peter McKoul, an old trooper, to list men for the Pretender. From Angus and Mearns we hear that the Earl Marischal is fitting up Dunottar for a garrison, and is already said to have a good Magazine of arms and Ammunition. Also that he has bought up and dyed great parcels of cloath for soldiers cloathes. This is reported by those who sold the Cloath and spoke with the man who dyed it. That the Earl Marischal, Viscount Arbuthnot and others have frequent meetings in the night time at the Earl of Southesk's house, that the like meetings are kept at the laird of Powry's house, where also Ogilvie of Boyn is said to be, against whom this was a proclamation emitted in 1708'.

State Papers. 54,7,40.

(ii) *From John Napier's MS in Sir William Fraser's Papers*

'Lord John, having been a stiff jacobite, set out a company of men to join King James at Sherrifmuir but his factor, a Rob' Thompson, having taken the blame on himself the Estate was secured from forfeiture.

Mr Thompson was afterwards recalled to the Viscount's service when the state of affairs admitted of this being done . . .' (His son was also taken into the Viscount's service and may have been the Robert Thomson mentioned in Lord Roseberry's lists rather than his father).

(iii) *The Lord Arbuthnott to the Laird of Stonywood*

To Colonel James Moir of Stonywood

In the Princes Camp

Sir

I have putt the inclosed under this cover, which you'l please take the trouble to deliver to Lord Pitsligo with your conveniency. Lady Nicolson has not recovered her own saddle horse which was a blue pownie and can be of little use for a camp. I am hopefull you'l be able to prevail with Captain M'Innes and Birkenbuss, to return him, which will do the Lady a singular favour, as it will not be an easy matter for her to find out any other horse that pleases her so well as this does. The bearer gave me a very particular and distinct account of the late battle near Falkirk, in which the Princes army gain'd a complete victory, and without very great loss on this side, which was a very extraordinary thing, considering the regular army they had to encounter with, and the experienced generals that commanded it; but God was all along, in a very surprizing manner, favoured the Princes cause, and I am hopefull will ever continue to do so to the end. The town of Aberdeen is in the greatest confusion and disorder imaginable; and if something is not done soon to preserve peace and order in it, it is much to be feared that the inhabitants will enter into blood with each other, which I wish may be prevented in time. God Almighty preserve you from all the dangers you should be exposed to in the field and every where else, and keep you alwaies under His special care and providence. I offer my compliments to your uncle and all friends, and am, Sir

Your most humble Servant

Arbuthnott

Arbuthnot, January 31st 1745/6

(iv) *Viscount Arbuthnott to the Earl of Albermarle*

My Lord

Tho I have not the good fortune of your acquaintance, yet I am under a necessity to give your Lordship the trouble of this letter in order to lay before you a late act of injustice committed against me by Lieutenant Draper and his Dragoons of Cobhams Regiment now lying at Bervie, and at the same time to demand such reparation and redress as my case requires: how soon my Lord Ancrams order for delivering up the Arms of Rebels and others was published, I acquainted Mr Draper by a letter what Arms I was Master of, and which were no more than what I am privileged to have by Law, viz a silver handed sword, two mourning ones, two pair of pistols for my own use and my servants, and a fouling piece for my own diversion when I go to sport. I should have thought that Mr Draper woud not have adventured so far as to take these Arms from me, which are so necessary for me to have, but he has done

it in the most arbitrary and forceable manner imaginable; for on Munday last he sent up a party of Dragoons here under a Sergeant, who had orders to demand from me in his name the delivery of these Arms mentioned in my letter to him, and with all assuring me that if I did not comply, that the party he had sent would either burn my house, or committ such other outrages as it shoud think proper, so I was obliged to deliver up all these Arms, and have none now of any kind whatsoever either for my own proper use, or for my Servants when they travel with me abroad; as this is a very hard case, so I am persuaded your Lordship will grant me such satisfaction as I have a good title to demand, both as a Peer and a subject that has alwaies lived peaceably and quietly under the government, and never done anyone thing to provoke its displeasure. I must moreover plead that your LoPs would grant me a protection to my Mansion house of Arbuthnott here, for if I do not soon obtain this, I cannot live here in any tolerable peace or tranquility, when I have an Officer in my neighbourhood who is ever molesting and disturbing me all that lyes in his power, and creating me all the trouble and uneasyness imaginable. I expect from your LoPs Justice, honour and fair character that you will grant a favourable return to this my letter, which will be most acceptable and obliging to him, who is with all respect, my Lord

Yours LoPs most Obedient and most humble Servant

ARBUTHNOTT

Arbuthnott House
August 3th 1746

if your LoPs shall vouchsafe me a return to this letter, you'l please direct for the Viscount of Arbuthnott at Arbuthnott near Bervie by Edinburgh.

(Endorsed:—A.27th)

(v) *Lord Arbuthnott to the Rev Robert Forbes*

REVD SIR, – I am to address you at this time on behalf of William Baird, a very misfortunate man, and now lying prisoner under sentence of death in the jayl at Carlisle, and every moment expecting to be transported with others that are in the same situation with himself there. This poor man went up to Carlisle in September last as an exculpatory evidence for the late Revd Mr Lyon, who was execute at Penrith in October last; but he no sooner appeared in Carlisle in this capacity, than he was tried for high treason, and condemned to die with the other prisoners that were tried, though he produced in court a protection from an officer in Montrose, upon the delivering up of his arms in terms of the Duke of Cumberland's order. But the judges had no regard to this, as they wanted by all means to try and condemn this poor man, in order to debar him from being evidence for Mr Lyon, whom they were to destroy at any rate. As this poor man is in great misery just now, so I wish you would use your interest in order to procure him some supplies of money from well-disposed persons, which would come in good stead to him, as he is just now in the most miserable condition imaginable, being destitute of cloaths, linen, and everything else that is necessary for him to have, and of bread too, of which he has but a scanty portion every day, and such as keeps in life, and that is all. If you can get any money collected for him, Mr James Wright will direct you as to the way and manner you are to remit to him. This poor unlucky man has a just title to the regard of every well-disposed person, as he has resigned his own life to preserve Mr Lyon's; and if he had not done so, he would not have been in so miserable a condition as he is just now. He is a married man, and has a wife and children here, which have no subsistence but from myself. I pity their case very much, as every good person must. May God raise up friends for all that are in their situation. – I am, Reverend Sir, your most humble Servant,

Arbuthnott, September 8th, 1747

ARBUTHNOTT

NB – The original of the above is to be found among my Papers.

ROBERT FORBES, AM

(vi) *Copy of a return to the above letter, wherein a character of honest Donald MacLeod*

My Lord, – Your lordship may be justly surprized at me having been honoured with yours of September 8th, without making any return to it before this time. But to tell the truth, as I had a view of this bearer, I delayed writing till I could do it with a good grace. And sure I am I could never do it with a better one than at present, when I gladly embrace the opportunity of affording your lordship the happiness to salute one of the first men in the world.

I know, my Lord, you feel a sensible pleasure beyond many in the world in conversing with worthies, men of rigid virtue and integrity, and such indeed this man is.

Know then, my Lord, that this will be put into your hands by the renowned SCOTS PALINURUS, Donald MacLeod, tenant at Gaultergill, in the Isle of Sky, that most faithfull and honest steersman of the eight-oar'd boat from the continent to the Isles of Benbicula, South Uist, Lewis, etc, etc, etc, and who had the Prince among his hands for about ten weeks after the battle of Culloden. While a prisoner on board a ship he went through an uninterrupted series of the greatest hardships and severities for several months together. In a word, he was reduced to the lowest ebb of misery, and had the mortification of seeing others dying about him like rotten sheep. But his gray hairs (by a remarkable blessing of Heaven) have survived the trials of adversity, while many younger and in appearance much stronger, submitted to the fate of a lingring death.

Although his history be most extraordinary in all the several instances of it, yet, my Lord, when he arrived here from London, he had not wherewith to bear his charges to Sky, where he has a wife and children (under the Laird of Macleod) whom he has now been absent from for nineteen or twenty months. Something has been done for him in and about Edinburgh, but far from what his merit justly entitles him to, and what his circumstances really call for, So many and frequent are the demands that have been made, that I must frankly own I was turned quite bankrupt in applications before I had the honour of your Lordship's letter; so that it was altogether out of my power, though my inclination was great, to make anything for poor William Baird, whose affecting history and character were no strangers to me.

Take a view, my Lord, of this truly noble (though poor) worthy in this single point – that he had the courage and integrity of heart to despise the tempting bait of thirty thousand pounds sterling, and not only so, but that in spite of the infirmities attending the hoary head he struggled through as great dangers and difficulties of life for the preservation of etc, as it is in the power of the most fertil fancy to paint; and then I leave it to your lordship to draw the immortal character of this amiable instance of herioc virtue.

I dare venture to say that no man of bowels can hear honest Donald's interesting story without a mixture of joy and pain, and even without shedding tears. Well do I know all the several parts of it, and the more I think upon it, to the greater height is my admiration raised of the wondrous good man.

He has a large silver snuff-box which serves as an excellent medal of his history, to which I refer your lordship after asking your forgiveness for this too long letter. But while I would fain flatter myself with the hopes I am giving you pleasure, I indulge a self-satisfaction, for I could dwell upon the subject.

I shall be glad to know when this reaches your lordship's hands, for I will be sorry if it should happen to be of an old date before it is delivered.

That God Almighty may bless and reward your lordship with all happiness both here and hereafter, for the many seasonable instances of compassion and relief you have shewn to the necessitous and deserving, is the hearty and earnest prayer of, My Lord, Your lordship's very much obliged and most humble servant.

ROBERT FORBES.

Citadel of Leith, October 21st, 1747.

(vii) *From John Napier's MS in Sir William Fraser's Papers*

'After Sherrifmuir Viscount Arbuthnott had a Chapel of his own but after Culloden the articles in it were taken out and burnt at the suggestion as was reckoned of John Young, then Sheriff of the County.

At this time the Viscount ran some risk of forfeiture. A tenant of the name of Morgan, who occupied one of his best farms, had given such information to Young the Sheriff that he was promised his farm in property if he could procure another person to join with him in giving testimony. This he attempted but without success, the tenants to whom he applied spurning at his proposals.

After a toleration was granted for Chapels the Viscount again fitted one up, and J N has often seen him walking to it in great state, his dependants walking uncovered in rainy weather. His Lordship was a man of strict honour and very religious, but not otherwise possessed of great mental endowments!' (*Appropos of a drunken and hypocritical servant*) . . .

'yet he suspected him – from his grovelling manner to be a Whigg at bottom, tho' he was certain of his not being a rebell, and he knew he loved his Lordship, as he gave Morgan (Before ment^d) a cudgelling and some times used very approbrious epithets which Morgan deserved'.

'Some young Probationers having thought fit to place a print of the Pretender as a mark for shooting at, were kept by his Lordship from getting kirks as long as his Lordship lived'.

'The late John Duncan, writes, Stonehaven told J N that the Pretender cost the family of Arbuthnott

£60000, which money he, Mr Duncan, as agent for the Viscount gave to Mr Forbes mert Abⁿ who remitted the same to Hamburgh. Perhaps others had contributed’.

(viii) *From Lord Roseberry's Lists:*

‘Robert Thomson. Factor to Lord Arbuthnot and late Shiriff Deput. Living at Parkside, Arbuthnott. This gentleman is said to have been very active in Engaging Lord Arbuthnot's Tenents to pay up the Levy money to the Rebels. It is said he was Quartermaster for Lord Pitsligo's men on their march to join the Rebel Army at Edinb^r but upon his waiting upon the Young Pretender and not getting a Station from him suitable to his ambition he returned home and has lived quietly ever since’.

APPENDIX D CONTRACT FOR REPAIRING THE HOUSE OF ARBUTHNOTT BETWEEN THE VISCOUNT OF ARBUTHNOTT AND JOHN FERRIOR

These Contracts entered into and concluded upon between the Right Honorable Viscount of Arbuthnott Lord Inverbervie etc on the one part and John Ferrior Wright in Montrose on the other part Bears whereas the said Viscount being to Enlarge the mansion house of Arbuthnott lying within the parish of Arbuthnott and Shire of Kincardine in manner hereafter described. The said John Ferrior for and in consideration of the sums of money after mentioned and other causes after specified, has Agreed and undertaken and hereby Agrees and Undertakes to build perform and finish the Additions underwritten to the said Mansion house as contained in the following Articles.

First to pull down an old house on the North Side of the Close and which makes part of the North wing and is joined to the South wing by the entry wall, and also pull down the said entry wall, and to remove the Rubbish and clear the said ground betwixt (now) and the first day of April next to come.

Second the said ground being so cleared the said John Ferrior is to causens build a North wing of Stone and Lime work three Storeys from the ground with garrets, the same dimesnions height and length as shall correspond to the present south wing of the house at the distance of Thirty one feet therefrom. And betwixt the said two wings to Interject a Midbuilding of three storeys High with garrets, and carry the same Eastwards twenty four feet overwalls from the front. And to make a Compleat Westward front to the Mansion house of Arbuthnott, Which front Including the west ends of the said Wings will take up a space of ground Measuring Seventy nine feet.

Third in the Middle of the said front is to be the Entry and gateway of the said House, and the Said entry to be pended in the fore and back walls, and plaistred between, and the breadth thereof to be eight feet, and as high as the Lower Storey will admit.

Fourth the Joinings of the Midbuilding of the Front to the wings to be hewen stone in the Rustick order jeting out from the faces of the walls, and in the same manner is the Gate to be faced, and a two leaved Door hung thereon. The windows of the said Midbuilding to be of hewen Stone with Cornices and Backfillets, and the said midfront to be carried up and raised above the heights of the side walls with a limkin And three vases sett thereon.

Fifth the Roof of the Middle of the front to run roof with the Roofs of the wings so as to make one compleat and Intire Roof.

Sixth the front of the said Midfront to be polished Easleir – and the faces of the North wing to be broached easleir.

Seventh the said building to be finished and compleated of Stone and Lime meason work in manner aforesaid, and the rooff joined and slated as said is. And in the said Midfront and North Wing are to be fourteen Windows placed in the manner, and of such dimensions and proportions, as the said house requires, agreeable to the plan hereafter referred to And there is to be two mock windows placed in the South wing ground storey to answer those on the North wing.

Eighth the said New Building is to Consist of Nine fire Rooms, four Closets, with a Kitchen and Sculerie. And for the more exact description of the Seize and proportions of the Rooms and other situations and dimensions thereof, and the order of the said building reference is hereby made to the plans therof as Intended to be execute, And which are signed by both parties of the date of their presents.

Ninth when the said Rooms are to be laid out In case the Viscount of Arbuthnott shall desire any alteration in the Division and demensions of the said Rooms, and office houses, the said John Ferrior is to be then directed by him, and to follow any new plan in relation thereto, providing the plan does not require a greater number of Rooms than is laid down in the said plan signed as said is.

Tenth In the Entry there is to be a Passage and Door for the said New Building and a timber Scale stair carried up from the ground to the uppermost flats of the said House, and the said stair as to serve both for the Midbuilding and the North Wing, and as there is presently a Stone Stair on the South Wing the same is to remain.

Eleventh the Rooms in the said newbuilding excepting the ground Storey and garrets are all to be sufficiently boxed with fir wood, bound Doors hung on the Rooms, brass locks thereon with Keys and Chimneys of such fashions of Turin Stone as the Viscount shall chuse, excepting the Kitchen Chimney which is to be pended, and the roofs of the said Rooms to be plaistered, And as to the apartments on the ground storey thereof to be plaistered, and the walls set with plaister lime, and the Garrets in the ordinary manner.

Twelfth as to the Entry to each Room, Doors and Partitions, and the Situation and description thereof reference is hereby made to the said plan, And the same is to be executed in the manner therein sett forth excepting alternately in case the Viscount shall propose any alterations at the time, which the Said John Ferrior is to comply with.

Thirteenth the said John Ferrior is to pay for furnish and provide all trademen, Quarriers, barrow men and others, And all materials proper requisite and necessary for the building aforesaid, and all such timber, Iron, slates, glas lead, Lime, sand, scaffolding and every other thing that shall befit for carrying on the said work and compleating the same in a good and sufficient manner And the timber for the Couples and joists, Doors and floor and walls shall be of proper dimensions and fitness for the said building, And the Roof to be sufficiently lathed and timbered, the Couples and couple room being about two feet, The Dining Room to be made eleven feet high, But in regard that will take off from the height of the Rooms above the same, the said John Ferrior is to be allowed to take off what shall be necessary for making them commodious from the Garrets.

Fourteenth the said John Ferrior is Not only to make Windows in the front of the said Houses in the manner described in the said plan But also a sufficient Number of Windows to each room and apartment in the said newbuilding, all Sashed, so as the same may be well and sufficiently lighted and the said Windows to be of Oak with Crown glass, coloured on the outside, excepting on the ground storey and garrets in which the windows are to be oak with common glass.

Fifteenth that as the said John Ferrior is to have the use of the Stone Quarry belonging to the Viscount in the Dava, for winning and using all the Stones there shall be occasion for about the said building, the said John Ferrior is to be at the whole charges and expenses in winning and quarrying the said Stone, and shall cause winn Stones of proper seizes and dimensions for all parts of the said work.

Sixteenth the said John Ferrior is to Erect the said buildings and to have the same compleately finished in manner aforesaid, and the Doors locked so as the same may be fitt for Habitation betwixt [*now?*] and the Term of Whitsunday One Thousand seven hundred and fifth six years. For the Which Cause and on the other part the said John Viscount of Arbuthnott, hereby binds and obliges himself, his heirs, exeutors and Successors First to Consent and pay to the said John Ferrior his heirs, Executors or assigneys the sum of Four Hundred and Eighty pounds Sterling money of Great Britain in full of all he can ask claim and demand for the foresaid work (excepting as is aforementioned). And that at the terms and by the proportions following to wit: One Hundred Pounds Sterling at the Term of Martinmas next to come, the like sum of One Hundred Pounds at the term of Whitsunday next thereafter the like sum of One Hundred Pounds at the term of Martinmas [*One Thousand seven hundred*] and fifty five years, and the Remaining Sum of One Hundred and Eighty Pounds Sterling to compleat the same At finishing the said works and delivering the Keys of the said House. With an *fifth part more* of each terms payment as liquidate expenses in case of failzie and the due and ordinary interest of the principal sum so long as the same shall remain unpaid after the said next terms of payment. Second the said Viscount Gives and Grants to the said John Ferrior the uses of the foresaid Stone Quarry and Stones therein with Liberty to use such part thereof as there shall be occasion for to the building aforesaid.

Third the said Viscount obliges himself to furnish all Carriages with Men and Horses and to cause transport all the materials and Implements that shall be wanted to the foresaid building and work from the beginning to the full and final compleating thereof and cause lay the same at the said Mansion House, providing none be required to be brought at further distances than as follows to witt: the Stones from the foresaid Quarry, the Sclates from these - Drums, Turin, or Fleemington as they can be best and readiest had. The timber Glass lead, and Iron from Montrose, the lime from Easter Mathers, and the Chimneys from Turin. And both parties condescend and agree In case any differences shall arise betwixt

them touching the meaning and Import of these articles and the executing the said work that such differences shall be referred, And they hereby Refer the same to the amicable determination of Robert Barclay of Urie who is hereby appointed Sole Judge and Arbiter for accomodating, thereof, And his sentence to be final And lastly they oblige them to perform to other banor their several parts hereof under the penalty of One Hundred Pounds Sterling to be paid by the failier to the observer as willing to observe attour performance Consenting to the Registration hereof in the Books of Council and Session or others competent to have the strength of a Decreet Interponed hereto that letters of Horning on Six days charge only and all other execution necessary may pass hereupon in forms as effeirs and thereto they constitute their promise.

In witness whereof these present consisting of this and the three preceeding pages all wrote on stamped paper by George Petrie Writer in Montrose and subscribed by both parties at Arbuthnott the Sixth day of November One Thousand Seven hundred and fifty four years.

Before the witnesses Robert Barclay younger of Urie, William Fielden servant the said Viscount and the said George Petrie.

ARBUTHNOTT

John Ferrior

B. Yr

Wm. F

Geo Pet

APPENDIX E 'ACCOUNT FOR GARDEN PLANTS, SHRUBS AND SEEDS'

The Right Honorable Viscount Arbuthnott

To Dicksons and Co

1801	Mar: 14	1 lb	Strasburgh onion	£	9.	—
		¼ lb	Deptford onion	—	2.	6
		4 oz	Orange Carrot	—	—	8
		2 oz	Early horn Do	—	—	6
		6 oz	London Leek	—	2.	6
		1 oz	Italian Cauliflower	—	2.	8
		½ oz	Cauliflower Brocoli	—	—	9
		½ oz	Purple Ditto	—	—	8
		2 oz	Sugar Leaf Cabbage	—	1.	4
		2 oz	Early May Do	—	2.	—
		2 oz	Early York Do	—	1.	4
		2 oz	Parsnip	—	—	4
		2 oz	Red Beet	—	—	8
		½ lb	early white Turnip	—	1.	3
		½ lb	early yellow Do	—	1.	3
		4 oz	Curled Cress	—	—	6
		4 oz	White Mustard	—	—	4
		4 oz	Round Spinnage	—	—	4
		4 oz	Prickly Do	—	—	4
		2 oz	London radish	—	—	6
		2 oz	Short topt Do [short topped]	—	—	4
		2 oz	Black Spanish Do	—	—	8
		½ oz	Red dutch Cabbage	—	—	4
		1 doz	Long green Cucumber	—	—	3
		1 oz	Solid Celery [solid leaved]	—	—	1
		1 oz	Green Cos Lettuce [Cilicia]	—	—	2
		1 oz	Silesia Lettuce	—	—	2
		1 oz	Brown dutch Do	—	—	2
		6 lbs	Dwf Marft Pease [dwarf marrowfat peas]	—	—	3

1801	Mar: 14	1 oz	Sweet Marjoram	-. -. 3
		1 oz	Thyme	-. -. 3
		10	Sorts flower seeds at 3d each	-. 2. 6
		2	Pruning Knives	-. 2. 6
1802	Mar: 9	4 lbs	Green Imperial pease	-. 2. -
		4 lbs	Blue Prussian Do	-. 2. -
1803	Mar: 10	2	Althea frutex [Hibiscus Syriacus]	-. 2. -
		2	Cnina Arborvitae [Thuja Orientalis]	-. 2. 6
		2	Sweet Bays	-. 2. -
		2	Five leavd Bladder nuts [Staphylea pinnata]	-. 1. 4
		2	Pococks Celutria [? Celosia, the Cockscomb]	-. 1. 6
		2	Gold edge Box	-. 1. -
		2	Scarlet flowring Chestnuts	-. 4. -
		2	Cinquefoot [Cinquetoil]	-. 1. 6
		2	Dwarf Cistris [Cistrus]	-. 1. -
		2	Gold Stript Elder	-. 1. -
		2	Silver stripd Elder	-. 1. -
		2	Spindle trees [Evonymus]	-. -. 8
		2	Dutch Myrtles [Myricagale]	-. 1. -
		2	American Myrtles [Myrica Caroliniensis]	-. 1. 6
		2	Candleberry Myrtles [Myrica cerifera]	-. 1. 6
		2	Double Sovelder Roses	-. -. 8
		2	Silver stripd Hedge Hog Hollies	-. 2. 6
		2	Gold Stript Hedge Hog Hollies	-. 2. 6
		2	Hipericum frutex [Hypericum]	-. -. 8
		2	St Johns wort	-. -. 8
		2	Laurel Bays	-. -. 6
		2	Stript leavd ditto	-. 1. -
		2	Tongue upon Tongue [Ruscus hyperglossum]	-. 1. -
		2	Shining leavd Lauristinus	-. 1. 4
		2	French Lavender	-. -. 8
		2	White Lilacs	-. -. 6
		2	Purple Do	-. -. 6
		2	Blue Do	-. -. 6
		2	Dwarf Mountain Maple	-. 1. 4
		2	Scarlet Do	-. 1. -
		2	Stript Barkd Do	-. 2. -
		2	Passion flower	-. 3. -
		2	Gold stripd Periwinkle	-. 1. -
		2	Silver stripd Do	-. -. 4
		4	Rose Mary's [Rosmarians officinalis]	-. 1. 4
		2	Scarlet Spirias	-. 1. -
		2	Service Leavd Do [Service tree = Sorbus ornimalis]	-. 1. 4
		2	White Panicled Do	-. -. 8
		2	White Pennsylvanian Do [Cornus circinata]	-. 1. -
		2	Doctor Walker's Do	-. 1. 6
		2	Willow leavd Do [? Pyms salicifolia]	-. 1. -
		2	Dwarf Syrengas	-. -. 8
		2	Travellers joy [Clematis vitalba]	-. -. 8
		2	Tulip Trees [Lionodendrum]	-. 4. -
		2	White Virgins Bowers [Clematis flammula]	-. 1. 4
		2	Double Purple Do [Clematis viticella]	-. 5. -
		2	Single Do Do	-. 2. -
		2	Sweet Scented Do	-. 7. -
		1	Mat Package and Shipping	-. 3. 6
1803	Mar: 26	24	Double Carnations	1. 4. -

1803	Mar: 26	4	Ditto Polyanthuses	-	2.	-
		4	Ditto Primroses	-	2.	-
		4	Ditto Sweet Williams	-	2.	-
		4	Ditto Wallflowers	-	1.	4
		4	Ditto Catchfly	-	1.	4
		4	Ditto Camponela [Campanula]	-	1.	4
		12	Auriculuses	-	5.	-
		24	Herbacious Plants of Sorts	-	8.	-
			Mat and Package	-	-	6
1804	Mar: 5	2	Single Yellow Roses	-	1.	4
		2	Double Do	-	3.	-
		2	Double damask Do	-	1.	6
		2	Moss Do	-	2.	-
		2	double Burnet leavd Do [Rosa pimpinellifolia]	-	2.	-
		2	Rose de Meaux	-	3.	-
		1	Austrian Rose [Rosafœtida]	-	-	8
		6	Rose Marys [Rosmarinas]	-	1.	6
		2	Plants Levander	-	-	6
		1	Mat Package and Shipping	-	2.	-
		4 lbs	Scots fir	1.	-	-
		2 lbs	Larix	-	10.	-
		½ lb	Weymouth Pine	-	5.	-
		1 lb	Silver fir	-	4.	-
		2 lbs	Common Birch	-	5.	-
		1 lb	Weeping Birch	-	4.	-
		1 lb	Allar [probably Alder]	-	2.	6
		1 bag 1/6	and Shipping 1/-	-	2.	6
	April: 4	2	Pecks early Potatoes	-	6.	-
		2	Bags with Do	-	2.	6
	April: 13	2	Large Bass Mats	-	3.	-
		1	Packing needle and Twine	-	-	8
1805	Mar: 25	18	Sorts Perennial flower seeds + 3d	-	4.	6
		60	Sorts Annual Do	-	15.	-
1808	Feby: 9	½ lb	Deptford onion	-	4.	6
		½ lb	early dutch Turnip	-	1.	6
1809		1	Erica currii [cinerea or carnea]	-	3.	6
		1	„ grandiflora	-	5.	-
		1	„ lutea	-	3.	6
		1	„ mucosa	-	4.	6
		1	„ vestita purpurea?	-	7.	6
		1	„ „ alba	-	7.	6
		1	„ „ Corcinea	-	6.	6
		1	„ Curvifolia [? corifolia]	-	3.	6
		1	„ Vesicaria	-	4.	6
		1	„ Ummosa [? Comosa]	-	3.	6
		1	„ Consina [? Concinna]	-	4.	6
		1	„ Mamosa [Mammosa]	-	5.	-
		1	„ Fulgida	-	5.	6
		1	„ Leoparia	-	4.	-
		1	Erica Sibana ? Silvana [Sebana]	-	4.	6
		1	„ „ lutea?	-	3.	6
		1	„ „ coccinea	-	5.	-
		1	„ Cerinthoides	-	5.	6
		1	„ persoluta alba	-	3.	6
		1	„ „ rubra	-	2.	6
		1	„ baccans	-	4.	-

1809	1	„ Conspima [? Conspicua]	-. 5. -
	1	„ Ventricosa hirsuto	-. 7. 6
	1	„ Cyllendrica [Cylindrica]	-. 4. -
	1	„ Capitata	-. 3. 6
	1	„ ignesens	-. 3. -
	1	„ tubiflora	-. 3. 6
	1	Geranium fulgidum [Geranium]	-. 2. 6
	1	„ gibbosum	-. 2. -
	1	„ menstrosum [Monstrosum]	-. 3. 6
	1	„ Vitifolium	-. 1. 6
	1	„ glutinosum	-. 2. -
	1	„ graveolens	-. 2. -
	1	„ pattatum varigatum [piltetum variegatum]	
	1	„ citro octora [citriodorum]	-. 2. -
	1	„ triste	-. 2. 6
	1	„ tricolor	-. 2. -
	1	„ grandiflora	-. 2. 6
	1	„ tricolor	-. 3. 6
	1	„ speciosum	-. 2. -
	1	Dracania furia [? Dracaena ferria]	-. 7. 6
	1	Diosma imbricata	-. 3. 6
	1	„ umbellat	-. 3. 6
	1	„ scoparia	-. 2. 6
	1	Diasma ericoides	-. 2. -
	1	Glyunea bremocolata [Glycine bimaculata]	-. 3. 6
	1	Gordorea unigens [? Gorteria ringens]	-. 2. 6
	1	Hermannia odorata	-. 2. 6
	1	„ micans	-. 3. 6
	1	„ lavandulifolia	-. 2. -
	1	Hypericum caninensil [? canariense]	-. 2. 6
	1	Jasminum cirricum?	-. 5. -
	1	„ glaucum	-. 5. 6
	1	Vitex lucida	-. 3. 6
	1	Taxus elongata	-. 2. 6
	1	Xerantemum fulgidum	-. 3. 6
	1	„ proliferum	-. 5. -
	1	Camellia japonica - double white	1. 5. -
	1	„ „ double red	2. -, -
	1	„ „ double stript	1.10. -
	1	Rosa indica	-. 2. -
	1	„ semperflorans [semperflorens]	-. 2. 6
	1	Conneraria cruenta [Cineraria cruenta]	-. 3. -
	1	Sophera tibraptrosa [Sophora tetaptra]	-. 4. 6
	1	Gnaphallium congestum	-. 2. 6
	1	Lychnis cononata	-. 3. -
	4	Matted Hampers package and shipping	£ 1. 8. 6
			<hr/>
			31.15. 5
		Interest to 20 March 1819	15.11. -
			<hr/>
			£47. 6. 5

Enclosed Account
The Right Hon Viscount Arbuthnott
To
Dicksons and Co.

APPENDIX F THE CONTENTS OF ARBUTHNOTT HOUSE: INVENTORY,
DECEMBER 1812

<i>Dining Room</i>	1 Sideboard. 1 Long dining table in different pieces. 1 small Do. 1 round Do. 1 Dining Do. 1 Dozen Chairs. 2 Arm Do. Complete set of fire irons. Carpet. Rugg besom and fire screen. 1 spirit case. 3 window curtains. The tables sideboards have all covers.
<i>Drawing Room</i>	1 Carpet with Green Cover. 2 Card tables. 1 double table. 1 Tea Do. 6 arm chairs. 4 Cane Do. 2 Sophas. 3 Window curtains. 3 blinds. 2 pier tables. 3 Mirrors. 1 complete set of fire irons and besom. The tables have all covers.
<i>Parlour</i>	1 Carpet. 1 crumb Cloth. 1 Rugg. 1 Side table. 2 Dining Tables. 1 Card Table, 1 Tea Do. 2 Work Do. 8 Chairs. 2 Arm Do. 1 Sopha. 2 Window Curtains. A complete set of fire irons, bellows and besom. 1 wine Cooler.
<i>East Bedroom</i>	1 Mahogany Bedstead with Morine Curtains. 1 Feather Bed. A Down Bolster. 4 Mattresses. 5 Pillows. 4 English Blankets. 1 Binding Do. 1 Burden bed. 1 feather bed. 1 Pillow. 2 Bason stands. 1 Toilet Table. 2 Mirrors. 2 Basons. 2 Water Ures. 4 Chairs. 1 Arm Do. 1 Close Box. 2 Small Tables. 1 Leg Tub. 2 Chamber Pots. 1 Screen. 1 Wardrobe. 1 Carpet. 1 Rug. A complete set of fire irons. 1 Besom. 2 Window Curtains.
<i>Small East Room</i>	1 Tent Bed with printed curtains. 1 feather bed. 3 prs Scotch Blankets. 1 Bolster. 2 Pillows. 1 Carpet. 1 Bason stand of Hardwood. 1 Bason. 1 Ure. Chamber Pot. 2 Large Tables with covers. 1 round hardwood Do. 2 Mirrors. 1 Stool. 1 besom. 1 pr bellows. 2 chairs. 1 Chest Drawers.
<i>Red Room</i>	A Mahogany bedstead with Morine Curtains. 2 Mattresses. 1 feather bed. 1 down Do. 1 bolster. 4 Pillows. 3 English Blankets. 1 binding do. A printed Bed cover. 6 chairs. 1 sopha. 1 bason stand. 1 bason. 1 water ure. 2 Chamber Pots. 1 night table. 1 Toilet Do. 1 Small Do. 1 Chest Drawers. 3 (2) Window Curtains. 1 Carpet. Complete set of fire irons. 1 large screen. 2 mirrors.
<i>Green Room</i>	1 Bedstead, with Morine Curtains. Window curtains the same. 4 Mattresses. 2 feather beds. 1 bolster. 2 Pillows. 3 English blankets. 1 binding Do. White Mansiled bed cover. 1 Night table. 1 Chest Drawers. 1 Toilet Table. 2 Mirrors. 2 Window Curtains. 6 Chairs. 1 Sopha. 2 Chamber Pots. 1 Carpet, A complete set of fire irons. 1 besom.
<i>The Bedroom</i>	1 bed cover white. 1 bedstead with printed curtains. 2 mattresses. 1 Down bed. 1 bolster. 6 pillows. 4 English blankets. 1 Binder. 1 Tent Bed with white curtains. 1 mattress. 1 bolster. 2 English blankets. 1 Pillow. 3 Chairs. 1 arm do. 1 Screen. 1 Toilet table. 2 mirrors. 1 bason stand. 1 night table. 1 chest of Drawers. 1 Carpet. 1 Rugg. A complete set of fire irons. 1 bason. 2 Chamber Pots. 1 White Mansile bed cover.
<i>Best Bed Room</i>	1 Mahogany bedstead with Morine curtains. 3 Mattresses. 1 feather bed. 1 Down Do. 1 bolster. 4 Pillows. 1 White Mansiled Bed Cover. 3 English Blankets. 1 Binder. 3 Window Curtains. 6 Cane Chairs. 2 Arm Do. 1 Wardrobe. 1 Dressing Table. 1 Toilet Do. 2 Mirrors. 1 Bason stand. 1 China Bason and Ure. 2 Chamber Pots. 1 Complete set of fire irons. 1 Besom. 1 Night Table. 1 Leg Tub.
<i>Printed Room</i>	1 Bedstead with Printed Curtains. 4 feather beds. 1 Mattress. 1 Bolster. 5 Pillows. 4 English Blankets. 1 Binder. 1 White Mansiled Bed Cover. 1 Chest Drawers. 4 Chairs. 3 Arm Do. 1 Toilet Table. 2 Mirrors. 1 Hardwood Bason Stand. 1 Bason. 1 Ure, 2 Chamber Pots. 1 fine Night Table. 1 Carpet Rug. Complete set of fire irons. 1 besom. 2 Window Curtains.
<i>Miss A's Room</i>	1 Tent bed with Morine Curtains. 2 feather beds. 1 bolster. 2 English blankets. 1 Pr Scotch Do. 1 White Bed Cover. 1 Carpet. 2 Tables. 1 Night table. 1 Chest Drawers. 1 Rug. 1 Napery Press.
<i>Closet</i>	2 Beds with Printed Curtains. 3 feather Beds. 2 Bolsters. 1 English Blanket. 4 pair Scotch do. 3 Chairs. 2 cane do. 1 Bedcover.
<i>Nursery</i>	3 Feather Beds. 3 Mattresses. 2 pr blankets. 4 bolsters. 4 bed covers.

<i>The Bothie</i>	5 Pear of Scots Blankets. 1 Feather Bed. 1 Mattress. 2 bouldsters. 1 Cover.
<i>John Murray's Room</i>	2 Feather Beds. 3 bolsters. 4 Pr Scotch Blankets. 1 Cover.
<i>Farmer Duncan's Room</i>	1 Feather Bed. 1 Bolster. 4 Pairs blankets. 1 Cover.
<i>The Hall Closet</i>	1 Feather Bed. 1 Bolster. 4 Pr Scotch Blanket. 1 Cover.
<i>Ann Jacks (? Dairy Maid)</i>	1 Feather Bed. 1 Bolster. 4 pair blankets.
<i>The Cooks Bed</i>	1 Mattress. 1 Feather Bed. 4 pairs blankets. 1 Bolster.
<i>The Gardiners Bed</i>	1 Feather Bed and Bolster. 4 prs Scotch Blankets. 1 Feather Bed in the spare bed in John Murray's room. 3 pr new silver bedroom candlesticks complete. 4 Old Do. (Cooke)

A List of Washhouse and Laundry 1812

5 Washing Tubs
 3 Old Do
 2 Washing Pans
 3 Old Do
 1 Mangle
 3 Rollers
 1 Dressing Table with Blanket
 3 Mangle Cloths
 1 Clothes Press
 3 Screens
 3 Dressing Irons with holder and heater

*Inventory of Beds and Bedding at Arbuthnott House
 Given in charge to Mary Farquharson March 8 1816*

37 prs English Blankets
 55 prs Scotch Do
 13 Binding Blankets
 27 Feather Beds
 3 Down Do
 3 Chaff Do
 23 Mattresses
 29 Bolsters
 35 Pillows
 5 White Bed Covers
 3 Printed Do
 4 Nursery Covers (? Mansile)
 5 Servants Do
 2 Bothie Do

APPENDIX G ESTATE MAPS AND DRAWINGS

- 1792 : *PLANS of ALTERATIONS and IMPROVEMENTS at ARBUTH-*
NOTT the seat of the Right Honble John Viscount Arbuthnott. : J Abercrombie
- 1793 : *Plan of the Farm of Elpite* : James Richmond
- 1808 : *Plan of the Farm of Boghall* : George Robertson
- 1800 : *Plan of Crombies Haugh and Kirkstyle* : George Robertson
- 1810 : *Plans of Several Parts of the Lands of Arbuthnott;*
 Mains of Arbuthnott and Crofts adjoining.
 Milton, Pitcarles, and Crofts adjoining.
 Over Craighall, Nether Craighall, Dunream, and Crofts adjoining
 Old Cake, Deep, and Loanhead.
 Resque, Ward of Craighill - and Crofts adjoining.
 Granend.
 Couton, Puttyburn, Cookshill and Laes.
 Farm of Peattie.

- 1810 : Three Wells.
East Banff.
Over and Nether Whitefield.
Banff Hill and Cockrigg.
Hercules Haugh.
Skene.
Chapel of Barras and commonty : Alexander Irvine-Ross
- 1811 : Sketch of the Croft Lands of Drumliethie : Alexander Irvine-Ross
- 1818 : Plan of Alpety : William Rickard of
Lochtie
- 1823 : A Copy of the Plan of Forthie Water
- 1824 : Plan of the Farm of Upper Craighall (bound in with 1810 surveys) : John Morgan
- 1825 : Sketch of the Farm of East Cairnegg
- 1825 : Sketch of the Farm of Cairntown
- 1825 : Plan of the Farm of Townhead : John Morgan
- 1825 : Plan of the Lands of Fordon (6 sheets) : John Morgan
- 1828 : Sketch of the Farm of Fordon : John Morgan
- 1829 : Plan of the Mains of Arbuthnott (bound in with 1810 survey) : John Morgan
- 1830 : Plan of the Farm of Gritsmyre : John Morgan
- 1832 : Sketch of Mountgoldum : John Morgan
- 1832 : Sketch of Mountgoldum (surveyed in 1832) : John Morgan
- 1836 : Section of a Proposed Embankment through the Den of Pitcarles
- 1838 : Sketch of the Farm of Whitefield : John Morgan
- 1839 : Elevations of proposed additions to the house : R and W D Dickson
- 1839 : Ground floor plan of proposed additions to the house : R and W D Dickson
- 1839 : First floor plan of proposed additions to the house : R and W D Dickson
- 1840 : Milltown of Arbuthnott : George Stephen
- 1841 : Plan of the Farm of Banff : George Stephen
- 1842 : Sketch of Drumyochoer : ? John Morgan
- 1842 : Sketch of Alpety : ? John Morgan
- 1843 : Sketch of Catterline (copied from plan in 1823) : ? John Morgan
- 1844 : Plan of the Farm of Bringieshill : John Morgan
- 1850 : Book of Sketches of the Farms on the Lands of Arbuthnott and
Fordoun. Copied from plans dated 1850, made by William Blackadder.
(21 drawings bound in one volume) : Robert Milne
- undated Bamphs Farm (probably pre-1810)

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The Arbuthnott papers and estate maps: Kings College Library, Aberdeen.
The Fyvie papers: Fyvie Castle, Aberdeenshire.



a Arbuthnott House: S front: 1755-56 (RCAHMS)



b Arbuthnott House: W front (RCAHMS)



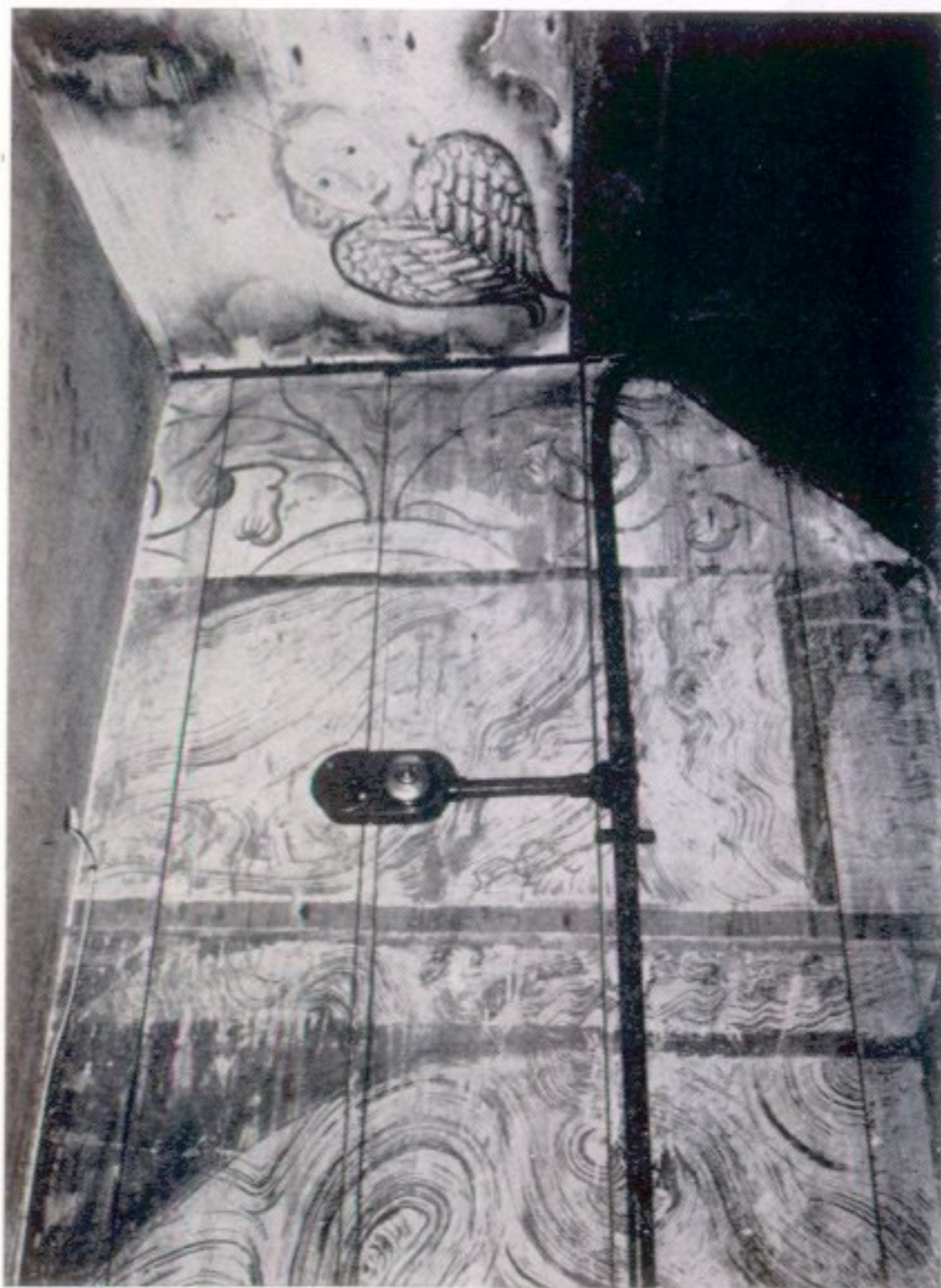
a Arbuthnott House: N Curtain: c 1242 and c 1480 (RCAHMS)



b Arbuthnott House: Kitchen. c 1420 (RCAHMS)



a Arbuthnott House: Outbuilding: incorporating kitchen vaults c 1480 (RCAHMS)



b Arbuthnott House: Painted ceiling and wainscot in Library (?) c 1653 (RCAHMS)



a Arbuthnott House: E Drawing Room. 1684 (RCAHMS)



b Arbuthnott House: E Drawing Room: ceiling 1684 (RCAHMS)



a Arbuthnott House: W Drawing Room: ceiling 1684 (RCAHMS)



b Arbuthnott House: Fyvie Castle: ceiling in Great Room 1683 (RCAHMS)



Arbuthnott House: Entrance Bridge c 1829–39 (RCAHMS)