

PEEBLES

ROBERT (SHERIFF-DEPUTE)

ROBERT HOPPRINGILL in 1542 as Sheriff-depute of Peeblesshire gives to John Lewis sasine of the half barony of Manor (MS., Reg.). In 1551 the townsmen, including Robert and his son John, protest against the alienation of lands which were pertinents of their commonty of Glentress (B. R.). In 1554 a property in the town is feued to Thomas Hoppringill for payment of 10s. yearly to the chaplain of St Martin's altar for the time. In 1555 Robert and Thomas are amongst 25 persons chosen by the Council to transact all their business, the riding at Easter, the wapinschaws, etc. (B. R.). On 30th September 1555 Robert Hoppringill and John Wightman are elected bailies, and Lord Hay of Yester provost (Burgh Records). In October 1556 two new baillies are appointed. In 1556 Thomas Hoppringill, as heir of his mother Christina Balcaskie, gets sasine of certain property in the town. In April 1557 six burgesses value the stock assigned in steelbow (returnable at end of lease) to his son Thomas (Renwick). Robert and his spouse Christina Balcaskie left issue:—

1. John, his heir, burghess of Peebles.
2. Thomas of Milkiston.
3. James, burghess of Peebles.
4. Margaret, marr. William Bell.

JOHN

On 15th June 1568, Andrew Hoppringill of Smailholm in his charter anent the lands of Galashiels and Mossilee nominates John, son of Robert Hoppringill, burghess of Peebles, as the 4th possible heir (see Smailholm). In 1579 Dion Elphinston, having granted a lease of the half lands of Whitehaugh to

John and his son Charles for five years, though his mother was liferenter, both are ordered to remove in her favour (A. D.). In 1579 the bailies are Alexander Govan and John. In 1582 and 1584 John has trouble about his lands in Langsyde, Kingsmeadows, and Whitehaugh. In 1584 James Hoppringill, when defending his brother John and firing a pistol at a party, unfortunately shot his own wife Mariota Dalmahoy, who had stepped between (P. C.). In 1585 William Hay, Master of Yester, accompanied by some 40 persons, including James and John Hoppringill in Peebles, John Inglis of Manorhead, and Alexander Veitch and son, were accused of appearing at Belstane before sunrise, armed with jacks, steel bonnets, pistols, etc., and pursuing John Livingston there for his life, and, when he got into his house, firing through the windows (P. C.). In 1595 a difference having arisen between Gavin Thomson, servant to Lord Newbattle, and John and his son Charles, each of the parties find cautioners that they will not harm one another; for the former Sir John Murray of Eddleston and Alexander Lauder, fear of that ilk; for Thomson, James Lord Borthwick (A. D., Gibson).

John died before August 1598. He had issue:—

Charles, his heir.

CHARLES

In July 1598 the Presbytery intervened in the dispute between Charles and Gavin Thomson, and after several visitations by the rector, Charles, in August 1600, signified that he was willing to be reconciled to Gavin if Sir James Pringill of Smailholm gave his consent. Sir James said he would if Gavin made as good an offer as he had made to Charles's late father. In December Charles, after being threatened with a public admonition by his pastor, appeared before the Presbytery and said he had communicated at the table as ordered by them, not being reconciled, but he had put away all grudge against Gavin; whereon the Presbytery, after admonishing him, let the matter drop (Dr. Gunn, "The Cross Kirk, Peebles," 1912).

In 1601 Charles appears as an occupier of certain lands in Mailingsland. In 1604 he and certain others find caution in £50 to buy from Sir Michael Balfour a complete stand of Arms.

The feud between Charles and Gavin Thomson broke out afresh. In December 1608 the King's Advocate complained that in September 1607 Charles with nine or ten others, including Andrew Pringill of Milkiston, David and William his brothers, Andrew's son John, and Alexander Dalmahoy in Peebles, all armed with swords and whingers, pursued Gavin in the High Street of Peebles, wounded him in the left hand, and drove him back to the house of Isabella Anderson, where they would have slain him if he had not been relieved by the parson of Peebles. From that date to now, December 1608, the said Charles and the other defenders have not ceased to carry arms for Gavin's pursuit, so that he dare not for fear of his life go to church or market place. On the 2nd inst. they pursued him in the High Street, and after wounding some who intervened chased him into the house of William Elliot, where they would have slain him but for the said interveners. The said Charles and Andrew Pringill and Dalmahoy being present, the Lords found the assaults in 1607 and 1608 clearly proven, and order them into ward in the tolbooth of Edinburgh, but absolve them from the charge of bearing arms (A. D.). Within a week they would be set free, Alexander Lauder of Halton having become surety for Charles Pringill in 1000 merks, and William Pringill of Cortleferry in 500 for Andrew Pringill and 300 for Dalmahoy, that they would not harm Gavin Thomson (P. C.).

In 1618 the Provost and Bailies of Peebles complained that John Govan having for an assault been ordered into ward by Charles Pringill, bailie, not only refused but struck him, and having been arrested by neighbours and put in ward, by his persuasion his friends at night broke open the tolbooth door and set him free (P. C.); and are by the Lords denounced rebels.

In 1623 Charles and his son John are summoned by the parson of Peebles before the Presbytery "for night-walking, carding, and diceing in his own house." After they had satisfied the discipline of the kirk, Charles and his accomplices John Burnet and Patrick Paterson bound themselves under a penalty of £100 to observe the authority of the kirk session (Dr Gunn).

In 1624 at the Wapenshaw held by the Provost appeared

Charles and his son John properly armed with sword, hackbut, two pistols, steel bonnet, and jack (Renwick).

Charles died before February 1642. By his spouse Bessie Threipland he left as heir—

JOHN 2,

his son, most of the notices of whom have been given along with his father's.

In 1636 he complained that he was kept arrested in the ward house of Peebles by his creditors, 24 in number, to whom he had granted bonds, all of which he was ready to pay *pro rata*, disposing to them all his goods movable and immovable, except certain sums provided to his spouse Bessie Tweedie by marriage contract, and therefore he ought to be set at liberty conform to the law in such cases. His procurator having produced an Assignation to that effect, the Lords ordered the Provost and bailies to set him free (A. D., Scott).

In January 1654 John Hay and John Pringill are reported to the Presbytery as using scandalous language in their cups a year previously about playing cards in Hell, saying it would be hot work, etc. In September John Pringill's minister reported that he had prayed for him publicly. In October he compeared, fell on his knees, and declared his innocence, and he and Hay are ordered to appear before the Synod. After much dealing in May 1656 Hay, now Sir John, confessed, and in July is ordained to come to the public place of repentance in linens and be admonished by his minister, but was a scandal by his coming there. After his long imprisonment Sir John came to the Presbytery in December and promised to obey their injunctions. Such was the power of the Kirk in those times (Dr Gunn).

In 1674 Bessie and Agnes, daughters of John Pringle and his spouse Bessie Tweedie, as heirs portioners of their uncle Thomas Tweedie, whose wife, leaving no children, had assigned to a party her tocher of 1000 merks, are ordered to enter heirs to their said uncle and pay the money to the said party (A. D., Dalrymple).

John appears to have left as his heirs only these two daughters.

THOMAS OF MILKISTON AND HIS SONS

Milkiston and Windilaws lie on the east side of Eddleston Water within four miles of Peebles. Thomas Hoppringill first appears in 1558. He was a son of Robert, Sheriff-depute of Peeblesshire. In 1561 he appears as a Curator of John Lows of Manor. In the same year the Gladstones of Cocklaw offer to the town of Peebles and the son, brother, and relict (Margaret Hoppringill) of the late William Bell, £200, and to the relict of the late Thomas Peebles £100, in satisfaction for their slaughter in the struggle between the citizens and them for Cademuir. The town rejected the offer (Renwick). In 1564 Thomas protested against a certain sale as prejudicing his right to the chaplaincy of St Martin in the parish church of Peebles (Renwick). In 1565 died Margaret Dagleish, Thomas's spouse, and her testament was given up by him as administrator for their bairns Andrew, John, Marion, and Margaret (T. E., 1575). In 1568 a dispute having arisen about the escheat of the goods of a person who absented himself from the levy ordained to assemble at Lamington in 1565 with 20 days provisions, which had been granted to William Hoppringill, Thomas acted as arbiter for him (A. D., Scott). In 1570 the Council give orders to pursue all petty thieves according to the Acts made in the time of the late Robert Hoppringill, bailie.

In March 1572 it is ordained "that the whole town (Peebles) walk nightly," James Hoppringill (Thomas's brother) and three others to be quarter-masters, every man without exception when a fray occurs to be ready upon the Highgate with his arms, on warning given by the watch, under a penalty of £10 for the first offence, and £20 for the second. This was during the struggle for Edinburgh, which was held by Kirkcaldy and the partisans of Queen Mary. Coal was not allowed into the city; and when James got a licence to carry two tons of wine from Leith to Peebles he had to find caution not to take it into Edinburgh. In May a wapenshaw was held, and James appears in the list as "armit" (Renwick).

In 1573 David Hoppringill, student, was appointed to the chaplaincy of St Martin's in the parish church, for seven years by Thomas Hoppringill of Milkiston, undoubted patron thereof, and the Lords ordain the feuars and occupiers to pay him the

duties for 1573 and in time to come (A. D.). In 1573 Thomas Hoppringill of Milkiston and John of Chapelhill were amongst the twelve Hoppringills summoned to appear before Regent Morton and the Council anent the feud between them and the Elliots, under a penalty of £100. In 1586 a contract of marriage was made between Andrew, Thomas's son, and Elspeth daughter of Thomas Ker of Kippilaw, and in return for infefting them in all his lands, burgh and landward, Ker was to pay Thomas £800 and an annual rent of 30 merks, and for security infeft him and his son David in his lands of Kippilaw and Smailholm: thereafter Thomas assigned the contract to his said son Andrew (A. D.). In 1591 George Hoppringill in Hattonknowe is cautioner in 1000 merks that Thomas, as a Border laird, would keep the King's peace.

In 1597 David, Thomas's son, appears as the husband of Marie, daughter of William Veitch of Dawick, who by her first husband James Geddes was infefted in the lands of Glencotho (A. D., Hay).

In 1601 Andrew, Thomas's son, having been guilty of oppression done to a fellow portioner of Windilaws, was committed to the tolbooth of Edinburgh till he found 500 merks for his indemnity; whereon John Spottiswood of that ilk became security for him (P. C.).

Thomas was alive in 1607. He had issue:—

1. Andrew, his heir.
2. David, successor to Andrew.
3. William, marr. Agnes Lowrie.
4. John, chaplain.
5. Marion. 6. Margaret.

ANDREW

The part that Andrew Pringill, his son John, and his brother David took in the dispute between Charles Hoppringill and Gavin Thomson in Peebles is given above. In 1610 he obtained an order for the removal of the tenants from his lands in Smailholm, which he had appraised from Ker of Kippilaw for refusing to fulfil the marriage contract quoted above. Andrew does not appear to have left a son; and was succeeded by his brother,

DAVID

who, according to the marriage contract referred to, undertook to pay Andrew's female heirs, if any, 800 merks. David married Marie, daughter of William Veitch of Dawick, who by her first husband James Geddes was infefted in the lands of Glencotho. In 1621 he sued Sir Gideon Murray of Darnhall to fulfil a contract made in 1581 with Sir John Murray, but the contract was declared faulty (A. D., Scott).