HISTORY
OF THE
BERWICKSHIRE
NATURALISTS' CLUB.
INSTITUTED SEPTEMBER 22, 1831.

"MARE ET TELLUS, ET, QUOD TEGIT OMNIA, COELUM."

VOL. XXII.—1912, 1913, 1914, 1915.

ALNWICK:
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1916.
horizontal cord impressions and rows of dotted impressions. Two prominent mouldings encircle the widest point, which also bears four unpierced knobs. In an earlier type of urn, pierced knobs were used to facilitate suspension; later, unpierced knobs were retained as an ornament. The fragments of the drinking-cup urn were quarter of an inch in thickness and bore incised lines made with a notched instrument, and arranged in horizontal bands.

The association of the food-vessel urn with one of the drinking-cup type is an exceedingly rare occurrence. The beaker or drinking cup urn is the earlier type; it is found on the Continent, and from there was introduced to Britain; the race using it does not seem to have reached Ireland. The food-vessel which succeeded it, and is found in Great Britain and Ireland, is peculiarly a native production and is not found on the Continent. The association of the two types might indicate a transition period, or might be the result of a secondary interment in a cist of a much earlier date. That the latter was probably the case in the present instance is suggested by the facts that the beaker urn was found in a fragmentary condition on the floor of the cist, and that the food-vessel urn with unpierced knobs does not belong to the earliest type of its class.

The teeth found in the cist included a molar, a canine, and two bicuspidal. The dentin had been completely eaten away, but the enamel shells were in a fine state of preservation.

The various relics are now placed in the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh. As the cist had to be removed for the widening of the road, I preserved the stones and re-erected it in my garden.

HOME OF WEDDERBURN.
AN EPISODE OF LOYALTY AND DISASTER.
BY WILLIAM MADDAN.

Sir Walter Scott, in his graphic and fascinating novel The Fortunes of Nigel, describes the adventures of a young Scots nobleman, Lord Glenvarloch, who came up to London in the time of James I to endeavour to obtain payment from the king of a large debt due to his family, in order to save his estates from being seized by his creditors. Little did Sir Walter imagine that his friend, George Home* of Wedderburn and Paxton, whom he succeeded as Clerk of Session, had, safely stored away in his charter-room, evidence and vouchers to entitle him legally to claim a very large debt due by the said king for payments and advances made by his ancestor, Sir George Home of Wedderburn, when he was Collector and Comptroller of the Household to King James and his queen, Anne of Denmark. Our esteemed member, the Rev. Henry Paton, M.A., in his Report for the Historical MSS. Commission on the MSS. of Colonel David Milne Home (1902) explains the claim as follows:—

Portions of his (Sir George's) account-books in this last-mentioned office are still preserved and are chiefly valuable for the glimpses they yield of the movements of the King and Queen from day to day. They tell of visits made from time to time by the King to Dumfries, Stirling, Falkland, Dundee, Glasgow, Dalkeith, and other places, and of the visit of the Duke of Holstein, and of the banquets made by the King and Queen to him and others, on which occasions there were generally large contri-

* As Mr. Home was well up in years before he succeeded to Wedderburn and Billie it is quite likely that he never knew the Comptroller's royal account-book was among his family papers, and that he never examined it. He was the last male Home to own the estates, but he was only descended from the Wedderburn family through his mother, daughter of the forfeited laird. His father was Alexander Home of Jardinesfield, eldest son of Mr. Ninian Home by his first marriage. His fine portrait by Nasmyth, who painted the well-known portrait of Burns, is one of the cherished heirlooms of the family.
butions of cattle, deer, fowls, etc., made by the nobles and lairds; of how the King drank all night with the Duke of Holstein, supped with the Duke of Lennox or some one else, and that one morning at four o’clock he left the Queen at Dalkeith, and rode off to Fife, returning two days later. The Queen’s movements are also recorded in her special household accounts.

It is rather sad to think that the wine and other luxuries provided by Sir George for the royal revelry with the Duke of Holstein have never been paid for until this day! Various efforts were made from time to time to obtain payment, but without success. The matter dragged on till the time of Charles I, when we find among the family papers the following curious and interesting memorandum:

Sir George Hume of Wedderburne, being Comptroller to King James VI of Scotland the King being considerably in his debt, his son, Sir David, did, as I remember, in the year 1633 apply himself to King Charles the First, who gave a reference to examine the accounts to the Earl of Morton then Throsuar, qharapone the Earl gave a declaration that he having examined the accounts, did find that the King was owing either six or nine thousand lib. (I remember not which of them) which was due to the petener about 30 years agoe qharof he had neither principall nor annuall rents; which petition, reference and answer I haveing in my hands in the year 1633 did petition King Charles the 2nd. The Earl of Lawerdalde, being then Secretary, desired me to returne home and ther should be care taken that I should be satisfied out of the fines qwhich were not then disposed of, but never any satisfaction to this hour. I left this papers (viz:) Sir David his petition, King Charles his reference to the Earl of Morton, with the Earl’s answer, in London with Sir Alexander Hume, gentleman of the Privie Chamber, who dying ther, they so miscarried that I could never come to them agane, but I suppose they may be found in the Exchague Books quhen the Earl of Morton was Throsuarer.

On the back, in a later hand, is the following note:

It may be mentioned as a piece of family history that a treaty of marriage (at the time of the within application to the Duke of Lauderdale) was going on between His Grace’s only daughter and the Earl of Home; the lady was deformed, and the Earl after seeing her, refused the match. The Duke from that moment paid no more attention to Wedderburn’s claim. The lady was afterwards married to Lord Yester, ancestor to the Marquis of Tweeddale.

Very tantalizing and provoking that the Duke of Lauderdale should have been able to block so successfully a legal and just claim against his royal master on account of his daughter’s rejection by the Earl of Home, spretae injuria formae!

The family claim against the King was quite notorious and is very well and forcibly put by Sir John Scot of Scotstarvet in his very curious book, The Staggering State of Scottish Statesmen:—

Sir George Home, of Wedderburn, was also Comptroller to King James, but had no better success than the rest of his predecessors; for he behoved to quit it, the king being much in his debt; which brought on such a burden on his house, that it is in hazard to perish, albeit there belonged to it a great patrimonio. And the last two lairds, both father and son, were killed (being commanders at the unhappy field of Dunbar) by the English, as seven others of their forfathers had been before; so that never one of that house died in their beds, but only he who was Comptroller.

Through the courtesy of Mr. C. S. Romanes, I am able to give from the Court Records in Edinburgh the following huge list of debts, no doubt all incurred for his Royal master:—

Sir George† Home of Wedderburn, his debts given in by Mr. Alexr. Spottiswoode.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value (marks)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Ninian Laws of Merriestown</td>
<td>5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pat. Buchhead of Whitsewbank</td>
<td>4500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Dundas of Harvieston</td>
<td>23500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Patrick Home, Minr. at Hutton</td>
<td>5700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catherine Home, Wadsetter of Whitsomewaull(?)</td>
<td>12000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airs of Wm. Cunningham</td>
<td>1678</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Samuel Johnston, Sheines</td>
<td>1200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Crawford of Crawfordland</td>
<td>4000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Ramsay</td>
<td>3000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Kerr of Morriston</td>
<td>2700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabella Home</td>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Dunn, Portioner of Gruedlykes</td>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Keuterson, Hilltoun</td>
<td>5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Johnston, Easter Law</td>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walter Johnston in Wedderburn</td>
<td>3000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airs of Captain George Nisbet</td>
<td>2430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Stalker</td>
<td>1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auley McAuley in Ardincaple</td>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airs of Thomas Simson in Dryburn</td>
<td>6000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Robertson, Chamberlain to the Earl of Roxburgh</td>
<td>2500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

†Sir George died in 1616 and this list seems to have been made up in the time of his great-grandson, another George, born in 1641, who married Isabel, daughter of Sir Francis Liddell of Redhugh, some time Mayor of Newcastle. Isabel Liddell had a tocher of £1000, English money, (a large sum in those days) which was soon swallowed up, as disaster was only escaped through the help of Sir Patrick Home of Lumden, who bought up the debts, and whose daughter Margaret married the next Laird, also named George, who brought the family affairs to a final crisis by going out in the Jacobite Rebellion of 1715.
HOME OF WEDDERBURN

James Bowmaker in Whitsome ... 400
Airs of Roberts of Robert Hepburn ... 200
John Edington in Jardinefield ... 10000
Wm. Brown in Kimmerghame Mill ... 2500

23 August 1656.

The unfortunate family of Wedderburn parsonage with lands here and there, such as the barony of Hornedean, Jardinefield (said to have been the dower house of the family in olden times), etc., till a crisis came in the time of George Home, who was hopelessly in debt and joined the Jacobite Rebellion of 1715. He and his son George, with his brother Francis Home of Quixwood, were taken prisoners at Preston, and his estates forfeited. To save the estates, Mr. Ninian Home, minister of Sprouston, afterwards Laird of Billie, a generous friend of the family, though only related by marriage, came forward and bought up the debts and re-established the family under a new entail. Mr. Ninian Home's connection with the family is a veritable romance, too long to be narrated here. The annexed rental is from an abstract of several:

Surveys of the Forfeited Estates—real, lying in Scotland, taken by the Surveyor and his deputy upon the oaths of the several tenants, possessors, etc., by order of the Commissioners of Inquiry in the years 1716-17.*

Estate of George Home, late of Wedderburn

Money—Rent payable in money £206 3 10
Capon—31 at 6d. each, 17 at 2½d. 2 0 11
Hens 57 at 6d. each, £1 3 9
Carriage of Coals—52 loads at 6d. for each load 1 6 0
Carriages—42 at 1s. 8d. per carriage 3 10 0

£218 0 10

The following inventory of the household plundering, etc., at Wedderburn Tower is from the Forfeited Estates Papers at the Register House, and has been supplied through the good offices of the Rev. Henry Paton. It gives a good idea of the domestic accommodation of the old Castle of Wedderburn. It is interesting to record that the stone, with the ancient coat of arms of the family, which adorned this old tower, has been preserved and built into the modern mansion.

Particulars of claims by Ninian Home, Sir Patrick Home, Earl of Marchmont, and about a dozen other similar, in all amounting to £6,063 sterling, for which the estate is burdened. Claims of creditors, etc., etc.

In the last bundle there is one giving an:

Inventor of what is found in the house of Wedderburn 1716.

In the old tour—Imprimis, in the old ston hall a press to which Mrs. Home, Wedderburn's sister, pretends right to, true old chairs.

In the laigh room—a curious press to which Mrs. Home pretends right to also.

In the mid room—ane old bed, two pair old blankets, a furn (form), two chairs, ane old bed, old hanging the room hung.

In the far room—an old table, a bed with hangings, a pair of sheets, two pair of blankets, a boulster, four chairs, a stool, a furn, the room hung, bars in the chimnie, a slack reel.

In the mid room in the under storay—a table, four chairs, with old hangings.

In the ladies room in the same story—a table, half a dozen chairs, a hung bed, a room hung, a feather bed, two pair of blankets, a pair of sheets, a long sadle (settle), with the chaff bed, two pair of blankers, a pair of sheets, a footstool with a cushion, a chimnie, a cradle for a child.

A room in the stair—hung, with one chair and a chimney.

In the oatmost room in the high storey—the stumps of a bed, six clickens (?), bars in the chiminey.

In the mid room in the high storry—two bedsteads on (one) with courtings with old coarse furniture; in the Trans, ane old chest, a little chair.

In the far room in the high storry—seven chairs, a table, a bed hung, with a feather bed, a pair of sheets, two pair of blankets, a boulster, a little footstool, a grait with a back.

In the pantrie—a cupbord, a churn, a table, a voider, half a dozen milk bowies, seven and twenty servets and tools (towels), three table claiats, five knives and three forks, a salt and ane pether (pewter) spoons.

In the kitchen—ane awrie (cupboard), a bed and chaff bed, with two pair of blankets, a pair of sheets, two old lint wheels, a water tub, four little coiges (wooden vessels), a pat, and little kettle, four stools, two raxes, a spit (spit), fifteen trunchers, six plates, a dropping pan, and skellet pan, a morter stone, two old fying pans, a brander, a pether (pewter) porringer, a chiminey, three old candle-sticks, nine pether spoons, four timber cups, a pair of toungs.

[As many of the rooms are half empty the best furniture and valuables (plate, etc.) must have been removed before the survey.]
MEMORIAL TO JAMES MELVILL, THE SCOTS REFORMER.

COMMUNICATED BY THE REV. J. F. LEISHMAN, M.A.

Couched in racy 16th century Scots, Melvill’s *Diary, or Buik of My Life, must ever remain an invaluable record for the historical student of his period, and on Tuesday, 20th January, 1914, being the Ter-centenary of Melvill’s death at Berwick, a memorial tablet was unveiled within the parish church of the Holy Trinity. The scheme having originated within the Berwickshire Naturalists’ Club,* a brief account of its fulfilment may not be out of place.

James Melvill, as is well known, found his second wife in the daughter of Richard Clerke, Vicar of Berwick, which, in those days, served as a cave of Adullam for Scottish refugees. During his first exile, in 1514, Melvill preached twice a week in the parish church. No trace of that ancient building now survives save perhaps the old “Gate Heads,” still to be seen at the entrance to the churchyard, over the name of “William Temple Esq., Mayor, 1760,” great-grandfather of Frederick Temple, the late Archbishop of Canterbury. The spot is historic. Here in 1328, on the Sunday after St. Mary Magdalene’s Day, David Bruce was married with great pomp to Joan, sister to Edward II, The Bruce himself being absent, having already sickened of the leprosy which, next year, carried him off at Cardross; here James I, on his progress south to take possession of the English throne, halted to hear a sermon from Toby Matthews, Bishop of Durham; and here John Knox had preached for two years to the soldiery of Edward VI. Seeing it only went to the hammer in 1657, Melvill probably preached from the same pulpit.

At Berwick he was joined by his wife, Elizabeth Durie, sister-in-law to Gladstanes, Archbishop of St. Andrews. Melvill’s

* See vol. xxi of this series, p. 63.