AN OLD BERWICKSHIRE TOWN

HISTORY OF THE TOWN AND PARISH OF GREENLAW, FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES TO THE PRESENT DAY

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OLIVER AND BOYD
EDINBURGH: TWEEDDALE COURT
LONDON: 10 PATERNOSTER ROW, E.C.
1905
reader—the first according to a "List of Stipends at the Reformation," Maitland Club—was "William Fraser, reidare at Grenelawe." His stipend, £16 Scots (£1, 6s. 8d. sterling), was "payit out of the third of Kelso Abbey teinds be the taxman or parochines of Greenlaw, 1569." Upon the supposition that the issue of the case against Johne Afflek was the deprivation of the office of reader, we have here in William Fraser's holding of the office a coincidence of dates, the one a deprivation of office, the other a successive appointment.

In order, as far as possible, to make up for the deficiency of having parishes supplied only by readers, a systematic plan, suggested by the Regent Morton, was adopted in 1574, of combining three or four or even a greater number of contiguous churches under one minister, with the assistance of a reader, to serve each parish. In pursuance of this arrangement, Home, Stitchell, Gordon, Eccles, and Greynlaw, with a reader to each, were placed under the superintendence of Robert Franch, minister of Eccles, who had a stipend of £86, 13s. 4d. Scots (£7, 4s. 5¾d. sterling), with the kirk lands. Each reader had £16 Scots. Under this arrangement William Fraser was continued reader at Greenlaw till 1590. How the cure was served from 1590 till the appointment of

the first minister we have no information to show.

1606. The First Minister was David Home, who was translated from Chirnside in 1606. He was a man of activity and ability, as appears from the part he played in the troublous times of the church. He was a staunch Presbyterian, and stood against the Episcopal innovations sought to be thrust on the kirk by King James and his bishops. When he was nominated constant Moderator of Dunce Presbytery by the Assembly of Linlithgow, he was as averse to accept the office as the Presbytery was to submit to it. But at last, under threats, the latter consented to receive him. He demitted the office shortly afterwards at the bidding of the Synod of Merse and Teviotdale (Dr Hugh Scott's Festi).

Speaking about giving the sacrament on Pasch day and the insistence that it be given by the minister's own hand, Row in his history says: "David Home of Grinlay, Moderator of Presbytery, answered Bishop William of Edinburgh, and announced that the wrath of God would come certainly upon him for insisting so vehemently on ministers doing contrary to the word of God."

For his resistance to Episcopal innovations,
Mr Home was called before the Court of High Commission in 1620. He is frequently mentioned by Calderwood in his *History of the Church of Scotland*.

Mr Home was a commissioner along with Mr John Wymes, minister at Dunse, Sir David Hoome of Wedderburn, Sir Patrick Hoome of Ayton, Sir John Hoome of Blacadder, and Sir Arthur Nisbett of that ilk, appointed under the Signet at Edinburgh, 16th March 1624, “to search for, apprehend, and detain in sure ward Archibald Liddell in Eyemouth, Barbara Flint, his spouse, and Isobel Falconer, spouse to Patrick Sinclair, Eyemouth, who had been long suspect and dilait to be witches and sorceraries.” These persons were to be examined, and the depositions sent to the Lords of Council in writing.¹

Mr Home acquired a feu right to the lands of Tennandrie (Greenlaw) in 1617.

Possessing means, he seems to have been a man of a liberal disposition. He put up a wooden bridge over the Blackadder at the head of the Wester-raw, where the first stone bridge was afterwards built.²

Mr Home died April 1637, aged 69. His free geir at his death amounted to £856, 6s. 8d. (Dr Scott’s *Fasti*). His wife, Magdalane Craw, predeceased him. She is mentioned in a deed of loan from David Home of Ramrig, April and July 1628. Mrs Home was liferenter of the “third part of the lands of the Westmaynes of Chirnside.”¹

1645. Robert Home, M.A., succeeded Mr David Home before 1645. He was translated from Ellem—a parish united to Longformacus in 1712. He was a student of St Leonard’s College, St Andrews; in the register he is entered as being enrolled on the 10th day before the Kalends of January 1614 (23rd December 1613): graduated M.A. 1617. Mr Home was of the Homes of Greenlaw Castle, as his descendants in line possessed it down to 1738. Mr Home was a member of the Assembly’s committee appointed to revise the Metrical Psalms (1650 edition). He was certainly possessed of means, as in the county records he is repeatedly noticed as advancing sums of money on loan. He died on the 12th December 1673, aged 79 (see *History of the Home Family*). During the period embracing the earlier years of Mr Home’s incumbency, the superstitious belief in witch-

¹ In signing the deed “she signed with her hand touching the pen led be the Notar’s underwritten, because she could not wryte.”—*Berwickshire County Records, Deeds*, vol. iii., p. 159.

² See Broumfield Bequest, p. 124.
craft was strong in the parish, and all who were accused of the sin and crime were prosecuted with the utmost rigour. A commission was issued to Mr George Hoome of Kimergem and remanent commissioners “to minister justice upon Agnes Ankrem, and Johne Hill and his spouse, accused of the cryme of witchcraft.” The commissioners were directed how to proceed: “Being” (says the commission) “desirous that their tryell may not be informall but vpon sume well grounded evidentes, wee thought fitt heirby to recommend to your special care that notwithstanding any special confessions emitted by the parties befor ecclesiasticall judge, you would appoint two or one at least of your number to repare to the parties with some of the ministers befor whom they formerly confess, and cause them to renew their confessioun in thair presence without giveing notice that commissioun is given against them, that so confessioun being made befor some of your number (thoughe the parties sould therefter receide from the same) you may better know how to prosecute the commissioun in a formall way.”

What was the result of the trial I have not been able to find. The following trustworthy tradition relating to a case of witchcraft in the parish tends to confirm the probability that conviction followed in the case of one or more of the accused.

The tradition is that an old woman living at Broomhill—she was said to be a woman of superior intelligence—was accused by some of the neighbours of being a witch. She was tried, condemned, and burned in a field on the south-east of the town, still called by the name of the “Gibbet Lea.” According to the tradition she was brought down by the Wester-raw on the way to execution, and when about to cross the burn, opposite to Greenside she wished to have a drink of water. The crowd shouted, “Don’t let her get a drink; the dryer she is—she’ll burn the better.” And the poor wretch was hurried to her doom by a superstitious, merciless crew. Whatever may be said about the accuracy of the details, I think there is no doubt that the tradition witnesses to some such execution having taken place. And there is no improbability in the belief that the woman at Broomhill was either Johne Hill’s spouse or Agnes Ankrem, who were charged with witchcraft by the aforementioned commission.

1674. John Home, eldest son of John Home, portioner of Kello, succeeded Robert Home. He was licensed by George, Bishop of Edinburgh, 17th June 1673, presented by

1 Historical Manuscripts Commission, Marchmont MSS.
Sir Patrick Hume of Polwarth, 1674, admitted 10th May, collated 11th August 1674, deprived by the Privy Council 17th September 1689, for not reading the Proclamation of the Estates, and not praying for their Majesties, William and Mary, nor observing the thanksgiving. While serving in the meeting-house of Eyemouth he was deposed by the Presbytery of Chirnside, 29th April 1718, for giving baptisms to persons of scandalous character. On the 30th September following, they proposed laying the case before the Justices with an accusation of his not praying for King George. On the Justices declining to interfere with the “Act of Toleration,” the Presbytery prosecuted him before the Court of Justiciary, when he was prohibited by the Circuit Court at Jedburgh, 29th May 1719 (Scott’s Fasti).

Mr Home afterwards retired to Herdrig, a property in the parish of Eccles, long in the possession of a branch of the Homes. But even there his Jacobite proclivities brought him into trouble. On a representation from the General Assembly, the Government, on 30th November 1723, sent instructions to the sheriffs to enforce the law relating to the suppression of popish schools and seminaries within their bounds; to look after so-called Protestants who were seeking to promote the interests of the popish pretender, “one great means of which is the erecting of meeting-houses contrary to law in many places, wherein the preachers neither pray for his Majesty and the Royal family, nor are qualified by taking the oaths to his Majesty as the law directs.”

In obedience to this instruction the sheriff of Berwickshire summoned before him the Episcopal ministers within his bounds. And at a court held at Greenlaw on the 5th March 1721, there appeared John Home, described as “minister of ane episcopal congregation at Herdrig.” In the course of the proceedings, Mr Home being interrogated whether or not he prayed for King George in express words, answered that he prayed as he always had done for the king and royal family, but did not name King George. “And being further interrogated whether or not he prayed and preached in a meeting-house at Herdrig, answered that he had his dwelling-house there, which was likewise his chappell, and that his hearers, besides those of his own family, for some months past have not exceeded the number of eight at the time of service.”

The issue of the case was, that the sheriff charged Mr Home to preach to no more than eight persons at one time, besides those of his own family, with certification that if he con-
travened, his chappell would be shut up, and he should be imprisoned for the space of six months.¹

Mr Home does not appear to have been in any further trouble on account of his procedure.

Mr Home was married to Rachel, a daughter of Mr James Home, minister at Lennel. On the death of his father in 1680, he succeeded to the six husband lands of Kello; in 1710 he sold them to Mr George Home, Town Clerk of Edinburgh, for 13,600 merks Scots. Scott's Fasti says Mr Home was preacher at Herdrig in 1731.

1693. ARCHIBALD BORTHWICK, M.A., second son of Andrew Borthwick of Sauchselle, succeeded Mr Home. He was called October 1692, and ordained 21st March 1693.

Being chaplain of Lord Polwarth's dragoons, he was challenged by the Presbytery in 1708 for holding that office as being "contrary to our principles." The case was referred to the Commission in the spring of 1709, which held that no hurt came to Greenlaw parish, as the dragoons, wherever they were stationed, just availed themselves of the services of the parish ministers by waiting on their ministrations.

During Mr Borthwick's ministry, witchcraft again made its appearance, but in the milder form of charming away disease. The records of the Dunse Presbytery of 7th December 1703, contain a reference from the session of Greenlaw given in by Mr Borthwick "anent one Christian Wilkie, living in Angelraw, who was accused as being a charmer." The Presbytery appointed her to be cited before them, and at a meeting on 7th March 1704 she appeared. The records bear that, "being enquired anent her directions for curing Adam Alexander in Greenlaw parish of his sickness, confessed as she had done before the session of Grinlaw, that she had ordered him to go several mornings to a thorn bush and walk round about it, as also that she boiled three stones in water, and after they had been laid up above the door from the evening when they were boiled till the morning, she took them down, and putting them in cold water, caised it boil. After all this the man recovered. Wherupon the Moderator enquired at her where and from whom she had learned these things, to which she replied, that in that part of the Highlands where she lived she saw it done, but never thought there was any ill in it."

The deliverance of the Presbytery was that all this proceeded from the want of the knowledge and fear of God, and appointed two

¹ Sheriff Court : Register of Decrets, 1722-25, p. 356.
opposite to Greenlaw, and was given to the Earl of Marchmont.” About 1828, some Roman coins and pottery were found at Corbie Heugh quarry by the Fraters and John Pennie, masons in Greenlaw. They were claimed by Sir William Purves of Marchmont. A very fine stone axe was found in 1876 by Mr Alexander Lyall, Wester-raw, Greenlaw, in excavating ground at the back of his house. There were traditions of several men in the district having found “a potful of money” while working at Corbie Heugh quarry; but whether there was anything more than rumour in this we cannot say.

CHAPTER XXX

OLD AND EXTINCT FAMILIES

THE HOMES OF GREENLAW CASTLE

After Greenlaw Castle became the property of Sir George Home of Spott, in 1569, we do not know to what extent it was made a family residence by successive owners, till we come down to the branch of the Homes, designed as of Greenlaw Castle. In Greenlaw churchyard, at the north-east end of the church, there is a thruch tombstone belonging to the family. Unfortunately, the inscription, which is in Latin, is much obliterated.

The following is a translated copy:

    formerly
    died on May in the
    year of our Lord 1667 and in
    the 27th year of his age.
    Also Eta
    daughter of William Hume of Greenlaw
    Castle 2nd February in the
    year of our Lord 1700 and in the 22nd year of
    her age. William of
    William Hume of Castle Castle
    died February in the year of
    our Lord 1713 and in the year of
    age.
Adjoining this tombstone there is a mural stone at the end of the church, with an inscription—now quite illegible—which tradition assigns to the Greenlaw Castle Homes.

According to Mr Morrison Hume of Coldingham Law, a member of the family who lived in the first half of the eighteenth century, the family is a branch of the Homes, descended from “Patrick Home of Ye Law” and Margaret Weymss his spouse. Patrick was alive in 1576, and David his son in 1574. We then lose trace of the family till we come to Robert Home, minister of Greenlaw, already noticed in the list of ministers of the parish. He was born in 1595 and died in 1673. In his earlier years, before his settlement at Ellem in 1635, he was “servitor to Earl Patrick” of Redbraes (now Marchmont). He is said to have been married to Agnes Methven, whilst residing at Redbraes. He had two sons, William of Greenlaw Castle, and James, and a daughter Margaret, married to George Holiwell, minister of Polwarth.

William was seized in the lands of Greenlaw Castle, Henlaws, and Claydub in September, 1674 (R. G. S.). In 1696 he had assigned to him by Sir Archibald Cockburn of Langton, the lands of Whiteside, with power to remove tenants till such time as he was repaid a sum of money loaned to Sir Archibald (County Records). William was a Commissioner of Supply and for some time Sheriff-substitute of the county. He died in 1703.

His son William was served heir to his father, 14th October 1703 (County Records). He married, 6th October 1705, Anne, second daughter of Sir Alexander Purves of Purves (Purveshall). The marriage was celebrated in Eccles Church. On 10th July 1734 he was appointed Chamberlain and Baron Bailie of the lands and barony of Coldstream by Thomas, Earl of Haddington; and after receiving these appointments he seems to have changed his residence from Greenlaw Castle to Mellerstain.

The last mention in the parish register of his residence at the castle is in connection with the burial of Mrs Home in February 1729. In 1730 there is an entry of a tenancy of Greenlaw Castle by William Mason. And on 10th December 1731, there is an entry of the mortcloth and great bell charges at the funeral of Mary Home, daughter of William, who was interred in Greenlaw churchyard on the 9th September 1731.

On 3rd March 1738, William renounced Greenlaw Castle, Claydub, and Henlaws, in favour of Alexander, Earl of Marchmont (R. G. S.). He died in 1743, probably at Sharplaw, Roxburghshire, which he had previously purchased. His wife predeceased
him in February 1729, and was buried in Greenlaw churchyard (Parish Register).

William had three sons, Patrick and William who both died young, and Robert Boyne, born July 1713; and four daughters, Jean Isoble, Mary, Helen (married to Rev. Dr Alexander Duncan), and Elizabeth (married to John Jack), all born at Greenlaw Castle. The Rev. Dr Duncan and Helen Home had a daughter Agnes, who married Thomas Cleghorn, Inspector of Customs. They had two sons, Rev. Thomas Cleghorn, minister of Smailholm (who died 1841), and Mr David Cleghorn, W.S. (who died 1842).

Robert, who was a surgeon to Burgoyne’s Regiment of Light Horse, succeeded his father in the lands of Sharplaw. He died 6th January 1786, at Hull, where he had established his home, practising as a surgeon. He was married to Mary Hutchison, daughter of Col. Alexander Hutchison. Five sons and four daughters were born of the marriage. William, Hutcheson (both d.s.p.), Robert, William (married in 1805 Ann Gosset, and had issue: William Duncan, Anne, Emily, and Elizabeth, who married L. C. Rooke, R.N.), and Everard; Anne (married John Hunter the great anatomist), Mary (married Robert Mylne, Milngreaden family), Helen, and Elizabeth. Everard was born at Hull 6th May 1756, studied surgery under his brother-in-law, and became a great surgeon. He was surgeon to the king, and was created a baronet 2nd January 1813. He married Jane Tunstall, daughter and co-heiress of James Tunstall, D.D., and widow of Stephen Thompson, Esq., and by her had two sons, James Everard, Captain R.N., and William Archibald, who entered the Church; and four daughters: Jane, Mary Elizabeth (married C. P. Rushworth), Harriet Catherine, Charlotte (married Captain B. Yeoman, R.N.). Sir Everard died 31st August 1832, at his apartments in Chelsea College, aged 76 (Gentleman’s Magazine, October 1832).

His successor, Sir James Everard Home, 2nd Baronet, died without issue 2nd November 1854, when the baronetcy became extinct.

Sir Everard’s sister Anne, who married Dr John Hunter, was a woman of great personal attractions and mental accomplishments. In 1802 she published a volume of poems, amongst which is the well known song, “My mother bids me bind my hair,” which lives for ever in Haydn’s setting. She also wrote the words for Haydn’s “Creation.” She died at London in January 1821.¹ Mrs Hunter had four children: John (who became a colonel in the

army), James (died in infancy), Mary Ann (died young), and Agnes (who married (1) Captain, afterwards Sir James, Campbell, and after his death Col. Charleywood. She had no children by either marriage).

Robert, third son of Robert Home, surgeon, was born at Hull, August 1752. He was a great painter. After studying at Rome he lived for some time in Dublin and London and then went to India, where he became painter to the King of Oude. He died at Calcutta 12th September 1834. He was twice married, the second time to Anne Alicia Paterson, who had no issue. By his first wife, Angelica Kauffmann, he had five children:—

1. Anne, who married John Walker.
2. William James, born 1786, Captain, E.I.C., d.s.p. 1809.
3. Robert Home, born 1789, Major-General, C.B., married Harriet Campbell his cousin, and had issue:
   (1) Robert, born 1839, d.s.p. 1849;
   (2) Harriet Mary, married Rev. H. C. D. Chandler;
   (3) Sophia.
Robert Home died 12th May 1842.
4. John Home, born 1787, Major-General, married Susan Batsford; no issue; died 1860.
5. Richard Home, born at London, 1789, Major-General, married Frances Sophia Fraser, by whom he had seven sons and six daughters:
   (1) Richard Raper; (2) John, died in childhood;
   (3) Duncan Charles, Lieutenant Bengal Engineers;

Lieutenant Duncan Charles Home led the storming party in the blowing-in of the Kashmere gate at the siege of Delhi, 20th September 1857 (Indian Mutiny). For this exploit he was promised the V.C., which, however, he did not live to receive.

Lord Roberts, in his *Forty-one Years in India* (vol. i., pp. 229-30, 263), speaks of Home as “the hero of the Kashmere gate.”

Colonel Robert Home, previously mentioned, the fourth son of Major-General Richard Home, was born at Calcutta in 1834, and
died at Cheltenham in 1896. In 1868 he
married Elizabeth Georgiana Elton, and had
issue:—Eliza Blanche (married to Major J. G.
Day), Ethel Frances, and Kathleen Minette,
Richard Duncan Elton, Royal Engineers,
John Elton, William Elton, and Robert Elton
Home, D.S.O., Captain in the Royal Artillery,
who is the present representative of the family
in the direct male line of descent, born 29th
May 1869.

The following shows the direct line of
representative succession:—

Patrick Home of Ye Law, who was alive in
1576.
David Home, his son, who was alive in
1574.
After David the trace is lost till we come to
1. Robert Home, minister of Greenlaw,
born 1595, died 1673.
2. William Home, of Greenlaw Castle, died
1703.
3. William Home, of Greenlaw Castle and
Sharplaw, died 1743.
4. Robert Home, of Sharplaw, Surgeon,
born 1713, died 1786.
5. Robert Home, Artist, born 1752, died
1834.
6. Richard Home, Major-General, born
1789, died 1862.

1834, died 1896.

8. Robert Elton Home, Captain, D.S.O.,
Royal Artillery, born 1869.

In September 1897, Lieutenant Home
visited Greenlaw and Smailholm in quest of
information relative to the ancestry of the
family, and other particulars, but he found
very little. Some of the earlier family
documents had been in the possession of a
lady member of the family, who, out of bad
feeling towards some other members, had
destroyed them. The Rev. Thomas Cleghorn,
previously noticed, had in his possession some
letters and various papers which had belonged
to the William Homes of Greenlaw Castle.
Of none of these could Lieutenant Home find
any trace.¹

William Home of Greenlaw Castle bore—
Crest on a wreath of the Coat (argent and
vert), a lion's head erased p.p. collared sa: the
collar charged with a fleur de lis, or.

Greenlaw Castle stood about a quarter of a
mile east of Greenlaw and a little south of the
river Blackadder, in what is now the second
field on the north side of the Castle Loan road
going south-east. Three old ash trees still

¹ For a great deal of the information about the genealogy
of the Home family, I am indebted to Lieutenant [now Captain]
Robert Home, the present representative of the family.
mark the site. There is no extant description of the castle, but we may presume it would not be of great size. In keeping however with the times when Border raiding was frequent, there was near the castle a large stone building with strong folding doors, strengthened with iron ribs, in which were placed the cattle and other stock when a raid was feared. This is the description given of it by an old woman who had seen the building. The castle ceased to be occupied as a manor-house after 1729. After that the farmer of the lands had part of it as his farm-house. Latterly, the rooms were occupied by the farm-servants on Castle Mill farm down to about 1820. A few years after that date it was taken down. When the castle lands were let to a tenant, the name Castle Mains was given to the farm. The present South Acres were a part of the castle domain lands, and the land entry that runs along the foot of these acres was the line of the approach to the castle from the west and was formerly known by the name of "the avenue."

CHAPTER XXXI
OLD AND EXTINCT FAMILIES—continued

SCHORESWOOD OF BEDSHIEL
This was an ancient family. In the writs of Bedshiel lands, there is noted a precept for infecting Thomas Schoreswood, son of Thomas Schoreswood in the lands, of date 1458. They continued in possession of the family down till 1639, when they came, as the result of a wadset, into the hands of George Home of Kimmerghame; and they passed successively into the hands of his son Robert in 1659, of his grandson, George, in 1684, and of his great-grandson, Robert, in 1705. This Robert died in 1710 without issue, when they passed, by heirship, into the possession of Patrick, Earl of Marchmont, who was a nephew of the first George.
In June 1494, the Earl of Buchan resigned the superiority of the lands in favour of Alexander, Lord Home (R. G. S.). In the writs of the land, it is stated that the