

HISTORY
OF THE
COUNTY OF AYR:



WITH A
GENEALOGICAL ACCOUNT
OF THE
FAMILIES OF AYRSHIRE.

By JAMES PATERSON.

VOL. I.



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SHEDDEN OF ROUGHWOOD, &c.

I. **ROBERT SHEDDEN** of Millburn, merchant in Beith, who traded to Holland, and was a farmer of taxes towards the end of the seventeenth century, had two sons—

1. Robert, of Millburn, afterwards of Roughwood.
2. John, who purchased Marshland in 1686, ancestor of Morrishill, of whom afterwards.

II. **Robert Shedden, the eldest son, married Jean Harvey**, daughter of Robert Harvey of Greenend, conform to contract dated 20th June, 1685. He acquired the lands of Roughwood from the ancient family of Hamill, in 1713, and took the titles to himself in liferent, and his eldest son, John, in fee. Of this marriage there were two sons and a daughter, viz.—

1. John Shedden of Roughwood, of whom afterwards.
2. Robert Shedden, merchant in Beith.
3. Elizabeth Shedden, who married George Brown of Knockmarloch, and left issue.

Robert Shedden, the second son, married ——— Dobie, daughter of Robert Dobie, chamberlain of Giffen. Of this marriage there were two sons and a daughter, viz.—

1. Robert, of whom afterwards.
2. John, merchant in Virginia, who was drowned near Whitehaven, on his return from America.
3. Elizabeth, of whom afterwards.

Robert Shedden, the eldest son of this marriage, spent the early part of his youth with his aunt at Knockmarloch, and was educated at Craigie. He was sent, when very young, to Virginia, in the employment of a mercantile house in Glasgow. On attaining majority, he commenced business on his own account at Norfolk, in Virginia, and made an early marriage. On the breaking out of the American Revolution, he took the Royalist side, and escaped with difficulty with his family to the British fleet, and afterwards to Bermuda, where he carried on an extensive mercantile business during the war. The Americans seized all the property he left at Norfolk. He sent his sons, as they grow up, to his sisters at Beith, to be educated. At the peace of 1783, having made a considerable fortune, he returned to Scotland with his family, and afterwards settled in London, where he commenced the business of underwriter at Lloyd's, at which place he came to be held in the highest esteem; and when his name appeared on a policy, it was soon filled up. He also carried on an extensive business with Jamaica. He never forgot his native place, to which he regularly transmitted charitable donations. On the occasion of a visit to Beith, he was requested to attend a public dinner, and to allow his portrait to be put up in the Court-house. The portrait was by that celebrated artist, John Graham Gilbert, and is a first-rate painting, and an excellent likeness. He made the parish a present of a fine-sounding bell, cast at London, at the price of one hundred guineas, on the occasion of the parish church being rebuilt. The estate of Knockmarloch coming to be sold, he purchased it, and left it to his eldest son. He died at London in September, 1826, at the age of 85. By his settlement, also, he charged a perpetual annuity of £50 on the lands of Gatend, to be distributed among reduced tradesmen not receiving aid from the kirk session, either in sums of £10 yearly to five annuitants, or £5 yearly to ten an-

nuitants. The last plan has always been adopted, and the charity has proved of great benefit. Robert Shedden left a large family, both of sons and daughters; and a large fortune. Four of his sons were brought up to business, and admitted partners with himself.

George, the eldest son, who was educated at Beith, has a large family. He resides in Bedford Square, London, and has an estate in the Isle of Wight, to which he retires with his family in summer. He is a gentleman of great wealth, and of high respectability.

John, the second son, went into the army, and rose to the rank of Colonel. He married the sister of Mathew Gregory Lewis, Esq., author of "The Monk," "Castle Spectre," "Tales of Terror," &c., to whose property his wife succeeded on the death of her brother. He died some years ago, leaving several children.

Robert Shedden, the third son, was admitted a partner into his father's house, and retired with a considerable fortune. He married M. Munro, of a Ross-shire family, by whom he had one daughter, who married Mr Cury of Torabbej. The estate being burdened with considerable debt, he made a purchase of it, and took up his residence there. Mr Cury having died, leaving a family, the widow and children reside with Mr Shedden, at Torabbej.

William Shedden, the fourth son, was also in partnership with his father. He died young, leaving an only son, an infant, and a large fortune. This young man went into the navy, and made a good appearance as a midshipman in the Chinese war. He now resides in London.

Bridger Shedden, the fifth son, was also in partnership with his father. He died young, leaving an only daughter and a large fortune. She married ——— Leonard, eldest son of Sir ——— Leonard, and died lately, leaving several children.

Elizabeth Shedden, sister of the said Robert Shedden, married John Shedden of Muirston, and has left a son, John Shedden, who settled in London, under the patronage of his uncle, as an insurance broker at Lloyd's. She also left a daughter, Agatha Shedden, who resides at Beith, and takes the chief management of her uncle's charitable donation.

III. **John Shedden of Roughwood, eldest son of Robert Shedden (No. II.), succeeded his father in the lands of Roughwood and Millburn. In 1727, he married Jean Ralston, the eldest daughter of Gavin Ralston of that ilk, by his spouse, Anna Porterfield, eldest daughter of the marriage between William Porterfield of that ilk and Annabella Stewart, daughter of John Stewart of Blackhall, the direct male descendant of John, first of Blackhall, a natural son of Robert III.** It appears, from the Parish Record of Beith, that there were numerous children of this marriage; but most of them died before their father.

1. Marion Shedden, born November, 1733, married John Patrick of Treehorn, in 1762, and left issue (of whom afterwards).
2. Elizabeth, } all died in infancy.
3. John, }
4. Gavin, }
5. John, born in 1741, was a surgeon in the army, and died at the siege of Havana, in 1763, aged 22.

6. Annabella, born in 1742, went to reside with her younger brother, William, in Bermuda, and died there, unmarried.
 7. George, died in infancy.
 8. William Ralston Shedden, of whom presently.

IV. William Ralston Shedden, born 23d April, 1747. He went to Virginia, in the employment of a mercantile house, along with his cousin, Robert Shedden, before mentioned. On attaining majority, he returned home; and having induced his father to make an advance of money, he left this country for Virginia early in 1770, and commenced business as a merchant there. His father died in the end of 1770, on which he succeeded to Roughwood and Millburn, under considerable debt, and was served heir to him in these estates in 1771. He took the Royalist side, and, like his cousin, Robert Shedden, escaped from Virginia, leaving his property behind, which was taken possession of by the Americans. He settled at Bermuda; and being connected in business with his cousin, Robert Shedden, he had realised a considerable fortune at the peace of 1783; but in place of returning to Scotland, he went and settled in New York, and never returned; so that he did not see his property from the time of his father's death in 1770. He was highly respected as a merchant in New York; but in the latter part of his life, having got into bad health and indolent habits, his business was neglected, and his books not made up. He granted bonds and obligations to be charged on the Roughwood estate, to an amount equal to its value. He executed a settlement, in which he appointed executors to wind up his American affairs. But the settlement had no application to, and could not carry, the Scotch heritable property. The executors declined to interfere, or send any powers to Scotland, as they considered the estate to be burdened to a greater amount than its value. The creditors were about to proceed to a judicial sale, when it was thought expedient to avoid this. Accordingly, Robert Patrick, then a surgeon in the army—eldest son of Marion Shedden and John Patrick—was, in 1799, served heir to his uncle, with the benefit of inventory. He afterwards settled with the creditors by paying the value of the estate, and thus avoided the expense of a judicial sale. On the occasion of the purchase of the estate of Hessilhead, adjoining to Trearne, he sold Roughwood and Millburn to William Patrick, now of Roughwood, W.S., his younger brother, who has thus acquired, by purchase, the family estate of his mother; and, from the pedigree of the Ralstons, it will appear that he has since acquired, by purchase, Woodside-Ralston, the family estate of his grandmother.

The lands of Roughwood consisted of 160 acres in the parish of Beith, and 85 acres in Dalry.

They were chiefly moss and clay land; and as no improvement had been made on them since 1770, they were in a very poor state: no road, scarcely any enclosures, and the farm-houses nearly ruinous. Mr Patrick commenced by making a road through the lands, enclosing them, rebuilding the farm-houses, and ornamenting the property with plantations. He has also since drained the whole of the lands, so that their appearance and value are entirely altered. He has also purchased several adjoining properties, to a much greater amount, both in extent and value, than the original estate of Roughwood.

There being coal in the lands of Barkip and Bankhead—part of the lands purchased by William Patrick—and as his property extended from the coal-field to near the Glengarnock Iron-works, he let the coal in the above lands to the Glengarnock Iron Company, with privilege to carry a railroad to their works, which railway has been executed; and they are allowed, also, to carry the coal from Colonel Smith Neill's estate of Swindrigemuir by this railroad. They have now found a seam of good clay ironstone on the side of the railroad. As the lime rock at Broadstone, on the estate of Trearne, was found to be most suitable for the furnaces, and a railroad could be carried from the lime quarry through the property of William Patrick, the Glengarnock Iron Company have also become tacksmon of the lime rock, and have made a branch railroad from Broadstone to join the main railroad about the middle of it. By these railroads, the coal, ironstone, and limestone are now carried in large quantities to the Glengarnock Iron-works. The railroad and branch are about four miles in length, and occupy above fourteen acres of land.

Arms—Azure, on a Cheveron, betwixt three Griffins' Heads, erased, Argent; as many Cross Croslets fitchee, Gules; on a chief of the second, an Escalop Shell of the first, inter two Cinquefoils of the third.

Crest—A Lion Rampant, Azure.

Motto—"Virtute Fidelitate."

SHEDDEN OF MORRISHILL.

The house of Morrishill stands a short distance south-west of Beith. It commands an excellent view, and is well sheltered with trees. The lands are fertile, and have been recently much improved.

Lineage.

I. JOHN SHEDDEN, second son of Robert Shedden, merchant in Beith, and younger brother of Robert Shedden of Roughwood, acquired the lands of Marshyland, part of the barony of Beith, in 1686. He married Margaret, only daughter of Mathew

Montgomerie of Bogston, by his wife, Janet Muir, daughter of William Muir of Bruntwood. Their eldest son, John, succeeded his father in the lands of Marshyland. Their second,

II. Robert Shedden, bought the lands of Morrishill, in 1748, and afterwards the lands of Broadstone. He married, in 1752, Margaret, daughter of William Simson of Willowyard, and had

1. John.
2. William, who died young.
3. Elizabeth, married William Reid, sculptor.
4. Margaret, married Charles Watson, upholsterer, London.
5. Janet, married to James Scrimgeour, London, by which union there were four sons—James, Robert, William, and John; and three daughters—Margaret, Dorothea, and Jessie Janet, married to her cousin, Dr James Arthur Wilson, London, only son of James Wilson, who was Professor of Anatomy to the Royal College of Surgeons in London for many years, and was acknowledged to be one of the first anatomists of his time. He was son of Margaret Simson (Mrs Shedden), by her second husband, James Wilson, who was parochial schoolmaster of Beith, and afterwards resided in London.

Robert Shedden was succeeded by his eldest son,

III. John Shedden of Morrishill and Broadstone, who, in 1787, married Barbara, daughter of Bailie John Wilson of Kilmarnock, and by her had three sons and three daughters—

1. Janet, married to James Adam, W.S.
2. Robert, who was a Captain in the 8th Regiment of Madras Native Infantry, died in India in 1828, unmarried.
3. Alexander, who was a surgeon on the Madras establishment.
4. Margaret, married, in 1815, to James Dobie, writer and banker in Beith.
5. Elizabeth, married to William Barr of Drums, writer in Paisley, Clerk of Supply for Renfrewshire.
6. John, who died young.

IV. Alexander Shedden, now of Morrishill, studied medicine in London; and having been appointed a surgeon in the East India Company's Service, was settled on the Madras Establishment. He remained on active duty for upwards of twenty years, and returned to Morrishill in 1832. On the death of his father in January, 1833, he succeeded to the lands of Morrishill and Broadstone, which last property he sold to Dr Patrick of Hessilhead. In 1836, on the death of his maternal uncle, William Wilson of Crummock, he succeeded to the property of Willowyards, which adjoins Morrishill. He built the present mansion-house, which is a commodious and tasteful residence. In 1841, he married Jessie, eldest daughter of James Henderson, sometime merchant in Greenock, by Janet, daughter of Dr James Caldwell of Johnshill, and has issue a daughter, Jessie Caldwell.

Arms—Azure, on a Cheveron, betwixt three Griffins' Heads, erased, Argent; as many Cross Crosslets fitchee, Gules; on a chief of the second,

an Escalop Shell of the first, inter two Cinquefoils of the third.

Crest—A Lion Rampant, Azure.

Motto—"Virtute Fidelitate."

HAMILTOUNS OF BROWNMUIR.

Douglas, in his Baronage, says that Troilus Montgomerie, son of Adam Montgomerie of Giffen, sold his patrimony of Brumemuir to the Hamiltons of Wishaw; but he is so obviously wrong in various other statements in reference to the Giffen family that little reliance is to be placed on this assertion. It is more probable that the Hamiltons of Brownmuir were descended from Udston, ancestor of the Wishaw family. The first we meet with is

I. HEW HAMILTOUN of Brownmuir, about 1610 or 1612.*

II. William Hamiltoun of Brownmuir is mentioned in the testament of William Montgomerie, merchant in Rakerfield, Beith, February, 1615.† He is also mentioned in the inventory of Hew Montgomerie of Boghall, as having a claim for "dry multures" of xls. vid. He was a witness to a clare constat of a tenement in Irvine, of Robert Kerr of Auchingrie, 3d November, 1618. He appears to have been a cautioner for William Neill of Newhill, 8th June, 1624; or cautioner to the testament of umquhill Isobel Hamilton, his spouse. He was on a retour at Hamilton in 1632.‡ He stands in the roll of the Lochwinnoch heritors, in 1635, as the feuar of ane 9s. 6d. land of Auchinbothie-Blair, under his usual style, "William Hamiltoun of Brownmuir."§ "William Hamiltoun, elder of Brownmuir," is mentioned as a creditor in the testament of Robert Gawane, Beith, 1643. His name also again occurs in a similar document in 1646. Issue—

1. William, his heir.
2. Ursula, who was married to John Fultoun of Boydston, in 1662. Brownmuir and Mainshill were cautioners for their consignations.||

III. William Hamiltoun of Brownmuir was "ane ruling elder" in 1648.¶ Brownmuir was a feuar of a farm of Auchinbothie-Blair, again, about 1653, supposed to be worth £53, 6s. 8d. Scots a year. He had a charter—13th February, 1680—to him and to his spouse, of the lands of Brownmuir.** There was, in 1677, an agreement be-

* Timothy Pont, p. 8.

† Commissary Records of Glasgow.

‡ Anderson on the House of Hamilton, &c., p. 253.

§ Prepared State in proving the tenor of a valuation of Teinds, in the process of augmentation brought in that year by Mr James Fullarton, minister of Beith.

|| Beith Record.

¶ Record of the Irvine Presbytery.

** Anderson, p. 253.