

SHEDDEN OF MARSHELAND.

- I. JOHN SHEDDEN, designed "of Hazlehead-toun," acquired the 14/- land of Marsheland in the parish of Beith and Regality of Kilwinning by Disposition from John and Hugh Lyles dated 27<sup>th</sup> May 1686, on which he is infeft and has Charter of Confirmation by Sir John Shaw of Greenock, on same date. He also acquired from Hugh Lyle the 32 penny land of Marsheland commonly called Erestoun's Mailling, or Burnside of Marsheland. He married . . . and had issue: -
  1. John, baptised 31st December 1676, of whom afterwards.
  2. Robert, baptised 10th August 1679, who afterwards acquired a wadset, or redeemable right, over the lands of Roughwood.
  3. William, baptised 22nd February 1691.
  4. James, born circa 1694; married, 24th December 1714, Marion Brown in Gabrochhill, in the parish of Stewarton.
  
- II. JOHN, who succeeded to Marsheland. On 17th November 1746 he granted a Disposition of the lands, under reservation of his liferent use of certain houses and fields, to his eldest son John, designed "younger of Marsheland ;" and on 31st July 1756 he has a Precept of Clare Constat by John Stewart Shaw of Greenock, with consent of Sir Michael Stewart, his father and administrator in law, in his favour, in which he is designed "elder of Marsheland, as heir of the said John Shedden of Hazlehead-toun, his father." He was elected an elder of the Church in 1710, and is one of the deputation appointed on 28th June 1727 by the Presbytery of Irvine to perambulate and value the lands of Mainshill about to be excambied by the Earl of Eglintoun for the old Glebe of Beith. He married, circa 1706, Margaret, only daughter of Matthew Montgomerie, younger of Bogstoun, and had issue :-
  1. John, born circa 1707-8, of whom afterwards.
  2. Robert, born 5th October 1709, afterwards of Morishill (q.v.)
  3. Mathew, born 15th February 1712. He is a witness to the infeftment following upon a Disposition in Security by Hugh Stevenson of Threepwood to his wife and younger children on 14th August 1744.
  4. James, born 12th July 1716.
  5. Margaret, born 27th June 1720.
  6. Thomas, born 24th August 1721.
  7. Elizabeth, born 5th May 1724.
  8. There were two other daughters whose names do not appear on the Register, viz., Mary and Janet, but are mentioned below.
  
- III. JOHN, who had the Disposition from his father as above noted, possessed the lands during his father's lifetime, and was infeft on 26th June 1749. He has Charter of Confirmation by John Stewart Shaw of Greenock, Esquire, with consent of Sir Michael Stewart, his father and administrator, on 31st July 1756. He had previously acquired, on 4th November 1748, from

John Shedden of Headrighead (eldest son and heir of James Shedden of Palmermyre and Janet Fleming, the previous owners), a dwelling-house in Marsheland and yeard thereto belonging and one acre of land, and also an acre of land of the Mains of Braidstane, which were not included in the two Dispositions first beforementioned. He also acquired, on 22nd November 1752, from Neil Snodgrass, writer, the four 12/- lands of Tounhead of Braidstane, which lands he sold to his brother, Robert Shedden of Morishill, on 26th November 1757.

The death of John Shedden, elder of Marsheland, is not recorded, but he seems to have died about 1765, and John Shedden, younger, has a Precept of Clare Constat by John Shaw Stewart, Esquire of Greenock, for infesting him as heir of the deceased John Shedden, elder, in the houses and lands reserved in liferent as beforementioned, which is dated 9th December 1785. The property was soon thereafter sold by John, younger, with consent of William Spier of Deepstone, as trustee for himself the said John Shedden and Mary, Janet, and Margaret Shedden, his sisters, to Robert Service, farmer in Bigholm, the Disposition being dated 26th December 1785.

John Shedden, younger, familiarly known as "The Lang Laird," married Mary, daughter of Hugh Stevenson of Townend of Threepwood, and had issue :—

1. Barbara, who married William Spier of Deepstone, and had one daughter, who succeeded to Deepstone and married William Service—issue: - four daughters.
2. Margaret, born 13th April 1746, who married John Caldwell and had one daughter.
3. Mary, who married Robert Muir, younger of Balgray, and afterwards John Harvie - no issue by either marriage. She was liferented in Balgray, where she died in October 1844.

Her little poly "fleckit cow," which continued giving abundance of milk for seven or eight years without having another calf, and the annual roup of her fields have been celebrated in a volume of Poems by Andrew Aitken Kilmarnock: M'Kie, 1873.

4. Janet, who married David Muir in Smithston of Auchenmade.
5. Elizabeth, who married William VVylie, cloth merchant in Beith, and had issue, William, architect, and Mathew, M.D.
6. John, born 25th April 1756, familiarly known as "Jack the Marsheland." He was a tall powerful man and a notorious poacher, see memoir, page 131. He found it prudent to retire into England for a time, and was employed on a large estate in that country as head gamekeeper, where he saved a considerable sum of money. On his return he acquired the alias of "The Gem—keeper." He married Mary Raeside, but had no issue, and died about 1836. In compliance with a previous compact between him and his compeer with the gun, Thomas Stevenson, that the survivor should fire off his gun over the grave of the other, the "richt and left" was duly performed by Tom to the consternation of the worthy and Revd. George Colville (afterwards D.D.), then minister of the parish.

Robert Service, who bought Marsheland, was succeeded by his son, Robert Service "of Bogside," who, on 19th July 1816, granted a Trust Disposition in favour of George Rutherford and others for behoof of his creditors, and the lands were purchased in 1817 and 1818 by Robert Spier, writer in

Beith. The lands now form part of the Foundation endowment of Spier's School and the site upon which the buildings stand.