

SHEDDEN OF MORISHILL.

- I. ROBERT, second son of John Shedden of Marsheland (No. II.), born 5th October 1709; went to Virginia as a merchant, where he remained for many years. On his return to Scotland he bought the 20/- land of old extent of Morishill from William Adam, to whose ancestors it had belonged for several generations. In the Disposition, dated 5th March 1748, Robert Shedden is designed "merchant, residing in Marsheland." In 1755 he purchased from Neil Snodgrass certain parts and portions of the four 12/- lands of Townhead of Braidstane, called the Longcroft, Hillhead, &c., the Disposition being dated 23rd May of that year. He also purchased from his brother, John Shedden, younger of Marsheland, certain other parts and portions of Townhead of Braidstane called the Shortback of the hill, Hillhead, &c. The Disposition is dated 26th November 1757.

Robert Shedden married, on 6th February 1752, Margaret, eldest daughter of Mr William Simson of Willowyard by his second marriage with Elizabeth, daughter of William Moore, younger of Bruntwood, in the parish of Galston. By her he had issue: -

1. John, born 27th June 1753, of whom afterwards.
2. Elizabeth, born ; married William Reid, sculptor in London, of which marriage there was no issue.
3. William, born 10th June 1755, who died young.
4. Margaret, born 7th July 1757; married Charles Watson of London, and had a son, William. Mrs Watson died at Crummock on 23rd April 1841.
5. Janet, born 6th April 1759; married James Scrimgeour of London, eldest son of James Scrimgeour, of Foxhall, West-Lothian, and had issue: -
 1. James, who died s.p. from wounds received at Fuente Guinaldo in Portugal, while leading, as acting adjutant, the successful charge of a small band of the 11th Light Dragoons.
 2. Robert Shedden, of Totteridge, Herts, who married Margaret, eldest daughter of Professor Wilson (see below), and had issue: -
 1. Charles James, who married Lucy Clarendon Mackintosh; died without issue.
 2. Margaret Elizabeth, married to T. J. D. Mackintosh ; issue :——— a daughter, Margaret Isabella.
 3. Janet Shedden, died unmarried.
 3. William Wilson, who married Maria Frances Davis, and has issue :-
 1. Frances Maria, married to Dr Forshall; issue three children.
 2. Elizabeth Gertrude, married to Charles Scot; issue, eight children.
 3. Margaret, married Oliver Lodge, barrister, and has issue, three sons and two daughters.
 4. Mary Constance, married to the Rev. W. J. Law; issue, four children.
 5. William, who died at the age of twenty six, unmarried.

6. Edith Florence, unmarried.
7. Ronald Cameron, vicar of Exton, Rutlandshire, married Mary Barrow; issue, a son and daughter.
4. John Shedden, married Isabella Mackinlay; issue, four sons and one daughter.
5. Margaret, died unmarried.
6. Dorothea, died unmarried.
7. Jessie Janet Shedden, who married her cousin, James Arthur Wilson, M.D., chief physician to St George's Hospital, London, and had issue, three sons and two daughters.

Robert Shedden of Morishill died 7th August 1759, and his relict married James Wilson, parish schoolmaster of Beith, afterwards of London. Their eldest son, James, born 9th February 1766, became an eminent surgeon; when, in 1800, by a new charter, the Corporation of Surgeons was created the Royal College of Surgeons of London, he was, on 10th April of that year, the first Professor of Anatomy appointed to the College. He also conducted Lectures in the Theatre of Anatomy in Windmill Street. Besides other works some of his Lectures were published in 1821, and his portrait by Drummond hangs in the office of the secretary to the College.

Professor Wilson died in the end of 1821, leaving, by his wife Patty (daughter of Mr John Clarke of London, and sister of Sir Charles Mansfield Clarke, Bart, M.D.), a son, James Arthur, above-mentioned; and three daughters - Margaret, married to Robert Scrimgeour, as beforementioned; Martha, married to Alexander Shedden of Morishill (his second wife); and Sophia Maria, who died unmarried in 1889.

Mrs Wilson, widow of Robert Shedden, died in November 1792.

- II. JOHN is retoured eldest son and heir to his father in the lands of Morishill, and the two portions of Townhead of Braidstane, on 18th April 1760. In the Charter of Resignation of the lands of Morishill by Alexander, Earl of Eglintoun, dated 5th September 1768, the excambion entered into between the Earl and Robert Shedden, whereby the lands called Daffin's-park were exchanged for Pedderland-meadow is confirmed in favour of John Shedden. He also had a Charter of Confirmation and Precept of Clare Constat, dated 21st October 1793, by John Shaw Stewart of Greenock in his favour, as heir of his father, Robert, in the two different portions of Townhead of Braidstane. On 13th August 1803 he acquired from Hugh, Earl of Eglintoun, the right to the tiends of Morishill and Pedderland-meadow, and also to the tiends affecting his lands of Townhead of Braidstane. In early life John Shedden went as supercargo of a ship to the West Indies, and remained there and in America in a mercantile capacity for several years. On his return home he resided at Morishill, and improved his properties. During the Volunteer movement in the beginning of the century, he was appointed captain in the 3rd battalion of the Ayrshire Volunteer Infantry, Mr Robert Faulds, manufacturer in Beith, being his lieutenant. On 29th June 1804, Captain John Shedden was admitted a Burgess and Guild brother of the Royal Burgh of Irvine, Archibald, Lord Montgomerie, being then Provost; and on . . . he was placed on the Commission of the Peace. On 18th July 1787 he married his cousin, of half-blood, Barbara, eldest daughter of Bailie John Wilson of Kilmarnock, by his

second marriage with Janet, daughter of Mr William Simson of Willowyard by his first wife Barbara, eldest daughter of William Barclay of Warrix. By her he had issue:-

1. Janet, born 28th March 1788; married, 10th August 1807, James Adam, W.S.
(this family is covered in a separate document)
2. Robert, born 19th November 1789, sailed for India as a cadet in May 1808, in the ship *Traverse*, which was wrecked in the Bay of Bengal, when he escaped with nothing but the clothes on his back. On 20th March 1814 he was appointed lieutenant in the 8th, and afterwards received his commission as captain in the 12th Madras Native Infantry. He by his brother officers.
3. Alexander, born 29th April 1791, of whom afterwards.
4. Margaret, born 12th November 1792; married, 18th December 1815, James Dobie, writer in Beith, afterwards of Crummock, and had issue: -
 1. James, born 27th June 1817, educated in the Universities of Glasgow and Edinburgh. He became a Member of the Speculative Society, and at its meeting on 5th March 1839, read an Essay on the Druids, which received great praise. He passed W.S. on [6th July, and died at Crummock on 16th December 1840.
 2. John Shedden, born on St Valentine's Day, 1819, of whom afterwards.
 3. Barbara Wilson, born 26th April 1820; died at Crummock 14th September 1845.
 4. Janet Wilson, born 14th September 1821; died at Crummock 24th November 1842.
 5. William Wilson, born 4th February 1823; subject to an asthmatic weakness of the chest he went to Antigua in March 1841, returning in November 1842 with his health much improved. His father's wish being that he should follow out his profession and business, he attended the law classes in Edinburgh University, and passed Notary Public in 1851. While attending the Lectures on the Law of Scotland by Professor J. S. More in 1848-49, he gave in an "Essay on the Scots Law of Marriage," which was docketed by the Professor as, - "A remarkably excellent Essay, containing many good suggestions, and embracing much valuable information, particularly as to some marriage customs in Scotland which are now obsolete or little known." His health again failing, in September 1852 he sailed in the ship *Ty;won* for Victoria, when, after being dismasted in the Bay of Biscay and refitting at Lisbon, the ship and passengers arrived safely in Hobson's Bay on 6th March 1853. Finding no suitable opening in the colony, he left in 1855, and in 1858 became, for several years, a merchant in Genoa. He returned to England in a very weak state to visit his mother, then residing in Exeter, where he died on 14th December 1864, and was interred in the general cemetery of that city. After his return from Australia his little volume of *Recollections of a Recollection of a Visit to Port Philip, Australia, in 1852-55*, was published by Thomas Murray & Son, Glasgow, 1856.
 6. Jane Elizabeth, born 1st October 1824: Has become a great traveller, first, in company with her widowed mother, and after her death, with other lady friends. She has visited the greater part of Western Europe, Egypt, and the Holy Land; and is now having a tour through India.
 7. Robert Shedden, born 3rd May 1828. On 1st June 1842, accompanied by the gardener, Robert Anderson, he went to the fair of Brinnan's-day, at Kilbirnic

Kirk. In going there, the ford of the Garnock was nearly dry, but it rained heavily during the day. In the afternoon, in order to get quicker home, the gardener borrowed a horse from his brother George, horse dealer, and took Robert up behind him. The river had risen considerably. After entering the water the horse stumbled, and on being too severely checked, reared, when both riders fell off and were instantly carried down by the strong current. Though several saw the occurrence, no one was able to render assistance. Poor Robin's last appeal - "Oh, what shall I do!"—was of no avail.

The sad event caused great excitement in Beith and the neighbourhood, and many persons turned out to search for the bodies in the "remorseless" river. They were not found till next day, the gardener's being first discovered about half a mile below the ford, and Robert's not till the afternoon, in a pool nearly opposite Kersland House. What a sad scene it was when the cold, wet, lifeless body was brought to the home which two short days previously he had left in such glee to go to the Fair. Much sympathy was shown for the bereaved parents and family from near and far. The funeral, which was largely attended, took place on the 8th, when poor Robert, the youngest, was laid beside his eldest brother in the old kirkyard. The accident had the effect of causing a stone bridge to be built at the ford, which was opened on Brinnan's—day, 1843. Those who died were all unmarried.

For particulars regarding Mr Dobie, see *Mez1zoz'r of Wi/Jim/z l'Vz'/so/z* and Prefatory Notice of the Author. He died suddenly at Crummock on 29th June 1853, aged 64 years and 11 months. Of Mrs Dobie see afterwards.

5. Elizabeth, born 23rd June 1794; married, in June 1819, William Barr, writer in Paisley, afterwards appointed clerk to the Commissioners of Supply for Renfrewshire. On the death of his father he succeeded to the Superiority of Drums, in the parish of Erskine, holding of the Crown Prince of Scotland. He purchased the lands on which stood the old manor place of Ferguslie, and built the house where he and his wife afterwards resided. Mossvale and other lands adjoining were added to the property, which latterly amounted to 173 acres Scots. The estate, on Mr Barr's death on 10th June 1853, passed by mutual Disposition and Settlement to Mrs Barr, who died at Ferguslie Place on 29th January 1869. Of this marriage there was no issue.
6. John, born in April 1796; died in 1797.

Mrs Shedden died at Morishill on 23rd February 1818, and Mr Shedden on 3rd January 1833, when he was succeeded by his second son.

- III. ALEXANDER, named after Alexander Nisbet, N.P., town clerk, and writer in Irvine, his great grand-uncle by marriage with Anne, daughter of William Moore of Bruntwood. In 1808 he was apprenticed to his relative, Professor James Wilson, before-mentioned, with whom he remained for five years, and acquired great proficiency in anatomy. He was admitted a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons on 19th November 1813. Having passed his examinations for the Hon. East India Company's service, he went to India in January 1814,

and, through the influence of Professor Wilson, was appointed assistant-surgeon to the 7th Madras Light Cavalry, with which regiment he was in active service during the Mahratta campaign of 1817-18. Being invalided, he resided for some years in the Neilgherries. Having a natural taste for drawing and painting he made numerous sketches, and also exercised his talent in painting the scenery required for the regimental amateur theatricals. Under proper tuition in his younger days he might have become an artist of some note. On 17th June 1826 he was appointed surgeon to the 17th Regiment of Madras Native Infantry, which was ordered to Rangoon. In 1828 he was appointed surgeon to the King's Army in the East Indies. After serving nearly eighteen years, he was permitted to retire on 1st November 1831, and returned to Scotland in May 1832.

After his father's death he began by making improvements on the old house and offices, and erected gates and gatehouse at the entrance to the avenue. The garden in front of the house was transformed into a shrubbery of laurels, rhododendrons, and other evergreens, and flower plots. The high well—trimmed beech hedge' on the north side of the avenue, his father's great pride, having become so tall as to be unmanageable, was converted into a row of detached trees, which still remain. He then commenced laying off new and extensive policy grounds, which eventually occupied about fourteen acres. In 1838 a site for the new mansion house was chosen on the top of the brae, commanding an extensive view all round towards the west and north. The building was finished and occupied in 1842. A two-storeyed octagonal tower detached from the house to the north was erected about the same time, and a walled-in garden to the south. At the foot of the hill what had previously been a marsh or bog, supplied with water from a spring called "Tam's well," was converted into an ornamental pond or small lake, with three islands. The grounds were planted with forest trees and laid off in lawns and walks, ornamented with rhododendrons and various evergreens, all which he carried out with great taste and judgment. He became an enthusiastic curler, and, not content with the ice on the pond, he had an asphalt rink made; and in order to carry on the game during summer, invented, as a substitute for the curling stone, a perfectly round ball, about 10 inches in diameter and 23 lbs. in weight, of lignum vitae or other hard heavy wood, sheathed with copper, and nicely balanced while being floated in quicksilver. The handle, which had to be drawn out by the aid of a small book, was acted on by a spiral spring, and immediately on being let go from the hand returned into its socket as part of the sphere. On 17th February 1846 the curlers of Beith entertained Mr Shedden to a dinner, at which he was presented with a silver claret jug, the lid being surmounted by the figure of a curler in the act of playing a curling bowl. The jug bore the following inscription :—" Presented to Alexander Shedden, Esq" of Morishill, by a number of his friends, as a mark of their esteem for his uniform kindness in inviting them to join in the various games which he has so liberally encouraged within his grounds; and particularly for the ingenuity displayed by him in the Game of Bowls, which he has invented as a substitute for Curling. Beith, January 1846." A report of the dinner and presentation was published by John Smith & Son, Beith.

On the death of Mr Wilson of Crummock, Alexander Shedden by special destination, succeeded to the property of Willowyard, in which he was infeft on 31st October 1842. He had previously sold his two portions of Townhead of Braidstane to Dr Robert Patrick of

Trearne, in May 1834; and, in 1839, a strip of the lands of Willowyard extending to nearly five and a half acres was taken up by the Glasgow, Paisley, Kilmarnock, and Ayr Railway Co., now the Glasgow and South—Western, the Disposition being dated 4th November 1842.

Alexander Shedden married, on 15th June 1841, Jessie Glasgow, eldest daughter of the late James Henderson, merchant in Greenock, by Janet, daughter of Dr James Caldwell of Johnshill, Lochwinnoch. By this marriage he had an only child, Jessie Caldwell, born 1st June 1842, of whom afterwards. Mrs Shedden died 15th February 1850.

He married, secondly, on 22nd April 1851, Martha, second daughter of Professor James Wilson and Patty Clarke, of which marriage there was no issue.

Mr Shedden died on 14th January 1867, and his wife on 21st September following.

IV. IV. JESSIE CALDWELL succeeded to Morishill and Willowyard, her Special and General Service being expcde at Ayr on the 19th, and recorded on the 20th March 1359. On the death of her aunt, Mrs Barr, in January 1869, she succeeded to Ferguslie and her other properties, including the Superiority of Drums. From a combined attack of measles and diphtheria she died at Morishill on 20th October 1869, at the early age of twenty—seven. Having made no will or settlement, her various properties fell to be divided between John Shedden Adam, as representing his mother Janet, eldest daughter, and Mrs Margaret Shedden or Dobie, second and only surviving daughter of John Shedden of Morishill.

V. MARGARET SHEDDEN—DOBIE, along with John Shedden Adam, had a Writ of Clare Constat by Archibald William, fourteenth Earl of Eglinton, dated 8th May 1871. An arrangement having been come to whereby Mrs Shedden—Dobie acquired from John Shedden Adam his share of the properties of Morishill and Willowyard, thus becoming sole proprietor, her title was completed by a joint Disposition by herself and Somerville Greig, W.S., as commissioner for John Shedden Adam to herself, dated 17th May and 9th June 1871. Thereafter she reassumed her patronymic, combining Shedden with Dobie. The Ferguslie properties were sold on 13th February 1872 to Thomas Coats, thread manufacturer, Paisley, the price being £20,000

Mrs Dobie had been long noted for her generosity and kindness in visiting the poor and the afflicted. After her husband's death the establishment at Crummock was given up, the library sold, and the place let. Accompanied by her only surviving daughter, she resided for a time in the island of Jersey; and after the property was sold, in 1857, visited various parts of the Continent. On the opening of the succession to Morishill she took up her abode there, receiving a most hearty and respectful welcome from all who had previously known her. She was enabled to resume her favourite occupation in her garden and among her flowers. After a long life, during which she had suffered many and great bereavements, borne with Christian fortitude and resignation, she died on 8th January 1833, at the age of ninety years and fifty-seven days.

VI. JOHN SHEDDEN-DOBIE succeeded his mother, assuming the combined form of the name.

His father intending him for the legal profession, he went to Edinburgh, and attended the

law classes in the University there, having matriculated in the session of 1836-7. Preferring a more active life, in the winter of 1838-9 he forsook his Alma Mater, and attended a course of lectures on the Veterinary Art by Professor Dick. In August 1839 he was present at the ever memorable Eglinton Tournament, and sailed from Leith, on 27th September following, for Port Phillip, as the colony of Victoria was then called. Touching at the Cape de Verd Islands and at Adelaide, he arrived in Hobson's Bay on the 14th March 1840. Melbourne he found to be "a nice little town," and soon after became a squatter and sheep farmer, along with his friend John Hunter Kerr, on the river Yarra. The financial affairs of the colony having become very unsatisfactory, he returned home, 'via Cape Horn, in 1844. In 1850 he joined a party of East Lothian farmers' sons, and sailed from Leith to the island of Gottland, which was said to offer a fine opening for farmers, but they all returned. Tired of idleness, in 1851 he went to California, via New York and the Isthmus of Panama; joined his old friend Tom Macredie, and had a season at the Diggings, chiefly on the American river. When the winter floods set in they retired on San Francisco, and meeting with some others on the lookout for a venture, one of whom had been master of a merchant vessel, it was agreed to go in for a trading voyage to the Hawaiian Islands. A square-rigged schooner of about 130 tons was purchased, and the voyage to Honolulu made. After visiting several of the islands, they returned to San Francisco with a very heterogeneous assortment of live stock and other produce. Having received very good news from their friends in Australia, they sold out, and took passages in a Hobartown trader for Sydney. Calling for a few days at Apia, in the beautiful island of Upolu, one of the Samoan group, they had an opportunity of seeing that handsome race of people, in their green leaf kilts or petticoats, and Eden-like surroundings. What a pity that the tendency of civilisation should be to spoil so beautiful a picture of primitive life!

From Sydney they proceeded by steamer to Victoria, and arrived in Melbourne, now a large and bustling City, on 28th August 1852. After some time spent in visiting old friends, and inspecting the various diggings, his friend Tom went in for quartz crushing at St Arnaud, while he took to gold buying at Korong. Eventually he entered into a partnership arrangement with his cousin William Wright, undertaking to convert one of his sheep stations, called Langi-geren, into a cattle run. An entirely new homestead had been completed, and pronounced to be one of the most prettily situated and best planned stations in the district, when, in little more than two years, a new gold field was discovered on the run, causing a rush of thirty thousand diggers. The township of Ararat followed, with a total population of forty or fifty thousand, and the land all around was surveyed for selection. The cattle, which could no longer be kept on the run, were, when found, obliged to be sold, for the most part, as store cattle, and the partnership arrangement collapsed. Without consulting him, the Government surveyor, in laying off the main line of road to Ballarat, named the stone bridge built over the river Hopkins, close to the cattle yards, "Dobie's Bridge," which name it retains unto this day, - but there is no revenue derived from it. On 14th June 1862 he left the colony in disgust, and sailed, via Mauritius, for Natal in South Africa. While there, he was one of a party that made three very pleasant and successful yearly waggon treks through Kaffirland to the Eastern Province for sheep, returning with them to Natal. Diseases peculiar to the country, and for which no cure is known, made the increase of sheep so unsatisfactory that he resolved to try South America.

Proceeding by mail steamer to Cape Town, he sailed on 28th July 1866, in the brig Silver Cloud, for St Helena and Rio de Janeiro, and from thence by steamer to Monte Video, where he arrived on 3rd October, after being aground on the notorious "English Bank" for three quarters of an hour. In the city some of the gentlemen to whom he had letters of introduction kindly invited him to visit their estancias, and gain knowledge and experience of the ways and language of the country. He found it a grand pastoral country, with a people who did not like work except what could be done on horseback, and subject to the evils attendant on a very unstable Government and an equally weak Executive. He had not seen his way to make an investment, but had been offered the management of an estancia, when, on 26th January he received letters from his mother, then in San Remo, telling him of the death of Miss Shedden, and of her prospective accession to Morishill, earnestly beseeching him to return to her, - "Come! and be the John Shedden of Morishill in room of your grandfather for whom you were named." He gladly prepared to obey the call, and after a short run across to see Buenos Ayres, and to realise the Pampas, he left Monte Video on 17th February in R.M.S. Douro. On his arrival in London on 19th March, finding his mother and sister were still in the Riviera, he joined them at Mentone on the evening of the 1st of April, after a separation of a little over nineteen years. They soon after started on their homeward journey, via Paris and London, arriving at Morishill on 6th June 1870.

In 1874 he edited his father's unpublished MSS. on Cuninghame Topographised by Timothy Pout; and in 1877 was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. He was one of the original members of the Ayr and Galloway Archaeological Association, was made a member of Council, Honorary Secretary for Cuninghame, and has contributed to some of its volumes of Collections. He became a member in 1884-5, and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society in 1888. Of his many note-books of travel, a few have been re-written and bound in three volumes. These consist of: - "A Trip to the Island of Gottland;" - "Journals of South Africa;" - "Hawai-i;" and "Athwart the Pacific"-(this latter in royal 4to); and all are interspersed with numerous sketches taken en passant.

The work of improvement at Morishill has not been neglected. Among the changes made may be noticed:- A new line of road to the stables, and the removal of the low wall and line of shrubs on the north side of the avenue, both sides being now open lawn: The old house which had existed prior to the acquisition of Robert Shedden, and had by him been enlarged and repaired, bears on the chimney of the south gable a panel containing the date 1752, which is that of his marriage with Margaret Simson. It underwent further alterations in the time of John Shedden, and also of Alexander; latterly it had been set apart as the coachman's quarters, but as it encroached too much on the amenity of the avenue, and had become seriously affected with dry rot, it was resolved to remove it. In anticipation, and to supply the accommodation thus to be sacrificed, a storey was built over the coach-house and washing-house, consisting of three apartments and scullery. On its front gable a stone bears within an oblong panel the initials J.S.D. in monogram and the date 1887, cut in relief. In the following year the old building was unroofed, and the north gable and part of the adjoining walls were taken down, the remainder being kept up as an ivy-clad ruin, including the little window of the upper room in the south gable, where his mother first saw the light.

Like his worthy old forbear of Bogston, he has induced crows to form a rookery on the trees on the lower side of the avenue, which was effected by tying small bundles of twigs in the forks of the upper branches.

It may also be mentioned that the facsimile of the principal pinnacle of the monument in Skelmorlie aisle at Largs, cut by the Beith sculptor Logan from the drawings made by Mr William Dobie, has been transferred from Grangevale to a central position on the top of the wall connecting Morishill house with the laundry. It was dedicated to his favourite sister, and around its base is cut: -

"Designed for Elizabeth by W. Dobie, 24th May 1845." As it was intended to occupy a niche in one of the gable walls at Grangevale, the fourth side of the pinnacle was left plain.

MORISHILL: —The oldest form of this name met with occurs in the Retours of the early part of the seventeenth century. At that period Robert Peibles was owner of Maynshill, Morciseills, and Pedderland. On 10th February 1637, he granted a charter of his 20s. land of old extent of " Morishill " to John Stewart, in Woodside, and Janet Stewart, his spouse, who, in 1660, resigned the lands in favour of Henry Adam, son of John Adam, portioner of Bowfield, in the parish of Lochwinnoch, and his spouse, Margaret, daughter of the above John and Janet Stewart. In subsequent transfers the name is sometimes written "Moorishill," "Moricehill," and "Morrishill."

Moreishiells was probably so named from the large shiellings or huts erected on the lands.)