

SHEDDEN OF ROUGHWOOD (ABRIDGED).

- I. ROBERT, second son of John Shedden of Hezilhead-toun and I. of Marsheland, was born at Upper-Hezilhead and baptised 10th August 1679. He became a merchant in Beith. On 28th March 1701 he acquired the 3/- land of Glenhead in the barony of Beltrees from William King, portioner of Glenhead, which he afterwards disposed to his eldest son, John Shedden, who has a Precept of Clare Constat by Col. William McDowal of Castlesempil, dated 13th November 1732, in which both he and his father are designed merchants in Beith. John Shedden disposed the property on 29th October 1759 to William Allan in Barfod, and in the Disposition he is designed "John Shedden of Roughwood." Previous to this date Robert Shedden had acquired a wadset right from Mathew Hammill over his lands of Roughwood in security of advances made to him. Mathew was succeeded, in 1711, by his only son and heir, Hugh Hammill, who has a Precept of Clare Constat by Alexander, Earl of Eglinton, on 29th November of this year, but upon which he was not infeft till 10th December 1720. Hugh Hammill, on 23rd May 1713, confirmed the wadset right to Robert Shedden and to John, his eldest son. On 17th June 1720, an Intimation is given to Hugh Hammill, "now of Roughwood," by Catharine Peebles, relict of the deceased Mathew Hammill of Roughwood, protesting against the said Hugh Hammill redeeming the lands from the wadset right granted to Robert and John Sheddens to the prejudice of her liferent right to the Mains of Roughwood. The Baron Courts continue to be held at Roughwood by Hugh Hammill or his bailies. A Court was held on 25th June 1724, when William Ralston of that Ilk acted as bailie for Hugh Hammill of Roughwood; and another Court is held in August 1725, when Henry Adam of Morshill is bailie for Hugh Hammill. At the Court held on 16th May 1740, Mr Robert Shedden of Nether-ward acts as bailie to John Shedden of Roughwood. In 1734 Hugh Hammill had renounced his right of redemption and disposed the lands irredeemably to John Shedden. In the Summons of Declarator and Improbation at the instance of Alexander, Earl of Eglinton, dated 10th August 1734, *inter alios*, are cited as defenders. ". . . Hammel of Ruchwood and John Shedden, merchant in Beith, for the lands of Ruchwood; "- and the said John Shedden for houses and tenements in the town of Beith and certain portions of the old Gleib of Beith, with certain tenements and houses built thereon, and the lands of Easterbraehead, Townhead, Knockbuckle, Cumingsbraehead and Blairshouses," &c. These seem to have been acquired independently of Roughwood.

Who Robert Shedden married does not appear in the Register, there being a hiatus in the record from 1694 to 1711, but he had issue:-

1. Elizabeth, born circa 1700; married, " 24th October 1719, George Brown of Knockmarloch in the parish of Riccarton."
2. John, born circa 1702, of whom hereafter.
3. Margaret, born 12th May 1704.
4. James, born 3rd December 1706.

5. William, born 19th August 1708; married, 24th January 1736, Beatrix, daughter of Robert Dobie, chamberlain of Giffin (Beatrix was born at Hazlehead, 4th June 1712). They had issue:-

1. Robert, baptised 31st December 1741. In early life he went to America, where for some years he settled in Norfolk, Virginia, as a merchant; but on the revolt of the Colonies was obliged to leave, and took refuge in Bermuda and New York. At the Peace in 1783 he returned to Britain, and afterwards settled in London as a merchant in Gower Street. He acquired Paulerspury Park, Northamptonshire, and several other estates in England. He was noted for his generosity towards his native place, and among other good deeds presented the site and the bell for the present Parish Church. He purchased the farm of Gate-end to be held by his heirs and successors, under the burden of a perpetual annuity of £50, to be bestowed by trustees named, in annuities not exceeding £10 or less than £5 to certain poor but respectable and deserving persons, who had resided three years in the parish and had not received parochial aid. At the request of the community he sat for his portrait. to be hung in the Town Hall. Attached to the back of the portrait was an inscription written on parchment, and of the following tenor:-

"The Portrait of Robert Shedden, Esquire of Paulerspury Park, in the County of Northampton, and of Gower Street, London. Born at Beith, 28th December 1741.

"He was eldest son of William Shedden, merchant in Beith (by his wife Beatrix Dobbie), who was third son of Robert Shedden of Roughwood, in the parish of Beith." The Justices of Peace, Heritors, and Inhabitants of the Town and Parish of Beith, having unanimously resolved, at a meeting held on 8th September 1823, as a testimony of their high respect and regard for the said Robert Shedden, Esq., that he should be requested to sit for his Portrait (the expence of which they would defray by subscription) to be put up in the Town hall of Beith, his native place. This portrait was, in consequence of the above request, presented to them as a free gift by Mr Shedden, and put up in this Hall on Monday the 22nd August 1825. J. Graham, pinxit."

Graham, pinxit."

While in Virginia Robert Shedden married, in 1767, Agatha, daughter of John Goodrich, Esq. of Nansemond Plantation, by whom he had George, who succeeded him, and four other sons, who became men of position in London and the south of England.

Mr Shedden died on 29th September 1826.

The armorial bearings of Shedden of Paulerspury Park were matriculated in 1824, and in the Register of the Lyon King of Arms are blazoned thus:-

Azure on a chevron between three griffins' heads erased argent as many cross crosslets fitchée gules, on a chief of the second an escallop of the first between two cinquefoils of the third.

2. Beatrix (misnamed in the Register " Bridget"), born 3rd January 1744, married John Shedden in Crawfield, who afterwards acquired Muirston, and latterly resided at the Cross of Beith. They had issue:- Thomas, William, Agatha, Robert, John, and James, who all died unmarried.

- II. JOHN, who, in 1734, obtained the irredeemable right to Roughwood, as beforementioned, married, 16th September 1727, Jean, daughter of Gavin Ralston of that ilk, by Anna, daughter of William Porterfield of that ilk. In the marriage register he is designed "of Millburn, merchant in Beith." He had issue: - eight children, of whom only four survived infancy, viz.: -
1. Marion, born 14th November 1733 ("daughter to John Shedden of Millburn"), who married, on January 1762, John Patrick of Waterside and Trearne, and had issue :-Jean, Robert, M.D. (afterwards of Trearne and Hessi1-head), John, Elizabeth, and VWilliam, w.s. (afterwards of Roughwood).
 2. Elizabeth, born 18th November 1736 ("daughter to Mr Shedden of Roughwood"); died in infancy.
 3. John, born 25th August 1737; died in infancy.
 4. Gavin, born 3rd July 1739; died in infancy.
 5. John, born 3rd January 1741, a surgeon in the army, and died at the siege of Havannah in 1763, unmarried.
 6. Annabella, born 30th September 1742 ; was with her brother, William, in Virginia, and during the revolution was made prisoner of war, but escaped under a flag of truce to New York ; she rejoined her brother in Bermuda, and died there, unmarried, on 12th October 1780.
 7. George, born 11th May 1744; died in infancy.
 8. William Ralston, born 23rd April 1747, of whom below.

John Shedden died on 1st May 1770, and his wife in June following.

- III. WILLIAM succeeded to Roughwood on the death of his father. He had a short time previously gone to Virginia as a merchant. During the revolt of the Colonies, being a Royalist, he took refuge in Bermuda, and after the Declaration of Independence was recognised, went to New York in 1783, where he remained to retrieve his affairs. While there, he contracted two irregular marriages :—First, in 1785, with Miss Rachel Kennedy, by whom he had a daughter, Annabella; and second, in 1790, with Ann, daughter of Mr David Wilson, formerly in the 27th Regiment of Foot, by whom he had a daughter, Jean Ralston, born 1st March 1792, and a son, William Patrick Ralston, born 8th March 1794. The latter marriage was solemnised according to the rites of the Protestant Episcopal Church in New York on 7th November 1798, and he died on the 13th of the same month and year.