

## WRANGHOLM

In 1459 Robert Pringill got sasine of Wrangholm and Smailholm, and was appointed Master Ranger of the King's Ward of Tweed (see above).

In 1493 Katherine, spouse of the late William Cranston, appeared before the Lords and protested that as Alice Hoppringill, spouse of the late Thomas Hoppringill, did not compear to follow her, the action was at an end (L. A.).

## THOMAS 2

In 1502 at the Justice Ayre, Jedburgh, Thomas Hoppringill is reported to have had a horse and four cattle stolen out of Wrangholm. In 1503 Adam Hoppringill of St John's Chapel, David of Smailholm, Thomas of Wrangholm, and David of Tynnes are on an Inquest together (L. C.). In 1505 Thomas witnesses at Edinburgh a lease granted by Alexander Lord Home to Sir David Home of Wedderburn. In 1510 he acts as bailie at the sasine of his cousin David Hoppringill of Smailholm in the annual rents from eleven places in Lauderdale. In the rent roll of Dryburgh Abbey about 1535 Wrangholm pays in victual 4 bolls beer and 14 bolls oats. Thomas and his spouse Margaret Sinclair had issue, George, John, Thomas, and James.

## GEORGE 1

In 1550 George acts as Curator of Henry Haitlie, fear of Mellerstain, when he sells the south quarter thereof to John Hoppringill of Smailholm; also in 1554 when he sells the west quarter to Alexander Wardlaw of Warriston and his spouse Mariota Hoppringill (P. B., Corbet). In 1551 John Hoppringill on a precept from John Cranston gets sasine of Boyd's lands in Smailholm, as son and heir of Christina Boyd, his mother, and of lawful age (P. B., Corbet). In 1555

the Commendator of Melrose Abbey appoints 4 persons, and Andrew Haig of Bemerside 4 (including George Hoppringill), to determine the Marches between Redpath and Craig (R. M.). In 1574 Andrew Hoppringill of Smailholm grants to George a feu charter of the lands of Smailholm Craigs (G. S., 1609) (see Smailholm). George died in May 1576. He left, according to his executors Margaret Haitlie his widow and James his brother, farm stock, corn, etc., worth £695. In his latter Will he left the house at Wrangholm to his widow, and the Tower to his brother John, he to pay to their brother James six bolls victual annually (T. E.).

### JOHN

John succeeded his brother George in Wrangholm and Smailholm Craig.

In July 1576 John, Andrew Haig of Bemerside, and Thomas Ramsay of Wylliecleuch, become cautioners in £5000 that the Haitlies of Lambden, Mellerstain, and Broomhill, and in Hurdlaw, the Sneip, and Haliburton shall keep good rule and not molest the Bromfields, and present any contravener before the Council on 10 days' charge; John subscribing with his own hand, while Andrew and Thomas's were led by the notary (P. C.). In 1577 Andrew Hoppringill, the superior, gives John notice to quit the Tower, followed by the Lords charging him simpliciter to restore the place (A. D.).

The Testament of Margaret Gordon, relict of John Hoppringill of Smailholm and Galashiels, at the time of her decease on 1st January 1580, spouse to John Hoppringill of Smailholm Craig: inventory, farm stock, corn, etc., on the lands of the Craig and Stitchill, and teinds of Sunderlandhall £1366; owing to her £802, together £2168; owing by her to relations and servants, and for rents, £1141, leaving free gear £1027 (T. E.). In February 1580 Sir John Gordon summons John to produce the books to show how much his spouse Margaret owed him at her decease for the Mains and Mill of Stitchill which he had given her in tack (A. D., 1582). John died on 5th December 1580; inventory, farm stock, corn, etc., at Smailholm Craig, Smailholm town, and Stitchill, £1091; owing to and by him various sums; leaving free gear £797. John had issue, Thomas and James (T. E.).

## THOMAS

In 1594 David Hoppringill of Bardarroch, son and heir of Margaret Gordon, spouse at the time of her decease of John Hoppringill of Wrangholm, summons Thomas son and heir of the late John to deliver to him his mother's goods, gear, jewels and others there and in Smailholm Craig (P. C.). Thomas died in February 1595; inventory, farm stock, corn, etc., on Wrangholm and Smailholm Craig, £1612; owing to him £808, together £2420 free gear. He left his brother James as Tutor to his children Margaret, Agnes, Marion, John, Isabella, and Jane (T. E., 1598).

## GEORGE 2

In 1603 George Pringill de Wrangholm gets a tack for 10 years of the teinds, and in 1605 he is retoured, as son and heir of the late Thomas, in the 5 husbandlands and 3 cotlands, with the hill and Tower towards the west, of Smailholm Craig. In 1609 James Pringill of Smailholm refused as superior to infest George, but was overruled by the Lords. In January 1610 the said James granted George a fresh charter, in which it was provided that the non-payment of the feu duty of six bolls victual three times running on to the fourth should oblige him to double it so often as it should happen (A. D., Scott, 1635). In 1617 George gets from Home of Whitrig sasine of 4½ husbandlands in Smailholm. In 1618 the seven tenants thereof having failed to pay their quotas of bear and hens, George gets an order of Council for their removal. In February 1622 George borrows 500 merks from an Edinburgh burgess, and in November, with consent of his wife — Bromfield, 2500 merks from John Dickson there, dispoing to him the lands of Smailholm Craig, and, failing to pay the first year's interest (250 merks), the right of reversion as well, for a further loan and a backtack (A. D.). In July 1635 Sir James Pringill summons George Pringill for not paying him any feu duty for Smailholm Craig for four years past, so that according to the terms of the charter of 1610 he was now owing to him 36 bolls victual, 2 parts bear at £8 per boll: and 1 part meal at 10 merks per boll: the Lords having seen the charter, which was shown to them, ordain George's goods to be poinded and

apprised, and order letters to be directed to that effect (A. D., Scott). Thus the Pringills lost Wrangholm which they had held since at least 1459. The Earl of Home had granted George a lease of Fogorig near Duns, which on his death was transferred to his son Mr John Pringill, minister of Eglingham, Northumberland.

In 1565 George Trotter of Charterhall, who had granted the said Mr John a bond for £200 and £100 expenses, and taken over the lease, was sued for payment, and the Lords ordain Trotter to pay the £300 with annual rents from Whitsunday 1659, and Mr John to compensate him for repairs of the farm buildings (A. D.).

#### SMAILHOLM TOWN

In 1551 John Hoppringill got from John Cranston sasine of Boyd's lands in Smailholm, as son and heir of the late Christian Boyd his mother and of lawful age (P. B., Corbet). He died in December 1586. His effects were inventoried at £289; his debts to Hoppringill relatives at £441, so that the debts exceeded the goods by £152 (T. E.). He left two sons, Thomas his heir and Andrew. 2. Thomas married Marion Cranston, and had issue, Alexander his heir, and Elizabeth. In 1600 Elizabeth with a tocher of 500 merks contracted to marry George Pringill, younger, of Lempitlaw. 3. In 1610 Alexander is retoured heir of his father in Boyd's lands in Smailholm. He appears in various transactions; and from his lands he was called the Laird of the Hill. In 1654 he was a witness to the marriage contract between George Pringle of Torwoodlee and Janet Brodie of Lethen.

#### NOTE

Something must be said about the famous drawbridge over the Tweed at Brigend, a mile above Melrose, called Pringill's bridge, which Sir Walter Scott makes use of to so much effect in *The Monastery*. It is said to have borne on the middle pillar the Pringill coat of arms and this inscription—

"I, Robert Pringill of Filmore steid,  
Gave a hundred nobles of the goud sae reid,  
To big my brigg upon the Tweed."

A stone taken from the river is said to have borne a similar triplet, reading, however, "Sir John" in place of Robert, and "markis" in place of nobles.

On 25th August 1526 when the Earl of Angus was returning from Jedburgh, with the boy King James V. in his retinue (whom he practically kept a prisoner, governing in his name), and was about to cross the bridge, he found an array of west Borderers under Sir Walter Scott of Buccleuch barring the way, Buccleuch's object being, in response to a secret message brought by James Hoppingill, to set the King free.

Patten, writing after the battle of Pinkie in 1547, says "there hath here been a great stone bridge with arches, the which the Scots in time past have allto broken because we should that way come to them."

In May 1621 the Earl of Melrose, writing to the Rev. John Knox with reference to the proposed rebuilding or repairing of Melrose church, adds, "as for the brig, I shall have care of it in due time and place."

In 1629 Christopher Lowther, in his *Journal into Scotland*, says, "a little below the junction of the Gala with the Tweed hath been a very strong fortified bridge, having the tower yet standing which was the gate to the bridge in old times."

In 1726 Gordon, in his *Iter Septentrionale*, gives a drawing of the bridge, and says, "I saw the remains of a curious bridge over the Tweed, consisting of three octagonal pillars, or rather towers, standing within the water, without any arches to join them. The middle one, which is the most entire, has a door towards the north, and I suppose another opposite one towards the south. In the middle of the tower is a projection or cornice surrounding it; the whole is hollow from the door upwards, and now open at the top, near which was a small window."

In 1743 Milne in his *Description of the Parish of Melrose*, speaking of the bridge, says, "three of the pillars are still standing. It has been a timber bridge. In the middle pillar there have been chains for a drawbridge, with a little house for the convenience of those who kept the bridge and received the tolls. On the same pillar are the arms of the Pringles of Galashiels; it is likely that family has contributed largely for the building of it. It is obvious to any that it has been a very considerable drawbridge, and very necessary at this place. There has been a plain way from the bridge through the moors to Soutra Hill, called the Girthgate; for Soutra was an hospital for the relief of pilgrims to the Border Abbeys, and had the privilege of a sanctuary."

In 1772 Pennant in his *Tour of Scotland* says, "at a place called Bridgend stood, till within these few years, a large pier, the remaining one of four, which formed here a bridge over the Tweed. In it was a gateway large enough for a carriage to

pass through, and over that a room 27 ft. by 15 ft., the residence of the person who took the tolls. This bridge was not formed with arches, but with great planks laid from pier to pier. It is said that it was built by King David I. in order to afford a passage to his abbey of Melrose, which he had newly transplanted from its ancient site."

Finally, Sir Walter Scott says that he had seen the foundations of the piers when fishing at night with a torchlight for salmon.

Now as to the Pringills quoted above as builders or renovators of the bridge: On the expulsion of the Black Douglases in 1455 Ettrick Forest was annexed to the Crown, and for purposes of management divided into the three Wards of Ettrick, Yarrow, and Tweed, at the head of each of which was a Master-Ranger and a Ranger. The first Master Ranger of Tweed, comprising eighteen farms on the north side of the river, was George Pringill, who was succeeded in 1459 by Robert Pringill of Pilmuir, Wrangholm, and Smailholm 1459 to 1470; while the first Ranger of the Ward was David Hoppringill of Pilmuir 1455 to 1466, followed by his son James who held the office till 1492, who again was succeeded by his son David 1492 to 1498, when both offices were discontinued.

On 28th August 1510, this David Hoppringill was granted a feu charter of Redhead (Whytbank) by the King, James IV., stipulating his building a sufficient mansion of stone and lime, with stables, orchard, etc., and bridges for the passage of the lieges (*pontibus pro passagio liegeorum*); and on the same day he was granted by the King another charter of annual rents from eleven places in Lauderdale, varying from 40s. to 6s. 8d., and amounting to £9, 13s. 4d. yearly; one half of which he personally, and the other Fergus Kennedy of Drumnellan by procurators, resigned. As no reason is given for this grant, which was hereditary, we may infer from its allocation that it was for bridges for the lieges on the Girthgate or pilgrims' road that ran from Soutra Monastery to Melrose Abbey and crossed the Tweed at Bridgend.

On 1st November 1587 on letting Gladwood the Abbot of Dryburgh stipulated that 40s. feu duty (its quota) was payable to David Hoppringill's heirs; and in August 1593 David's great grandson James Pringill of Smailholm and Galashiels was retoured as his heir in the annual rents; on whose death in 1635 they may, in the changed conditions of the time, have ceased.

The bridge across the Tweed at Berwick, preceding the stone one built by James VI., was somewhat similar to that at Bridgend, being made of wood with a tower, probably of stone, and a gateway midway across.