

Research Notes on William Hoppringill, Constable of Cessford Castle, Alexander Hoppringill of Trinlyknowe and David Hoppringill in Tynnes

by James Bruce Pringle (brother of Sir Murray Pringle of Stichill, 10th Bt).

My long term quest to identify 'the father of William, constable of Cessford Castle' has been solved to my satisfaction at least. Over forty years I considered and have now eliminated David, second of Smailholm; George, Douglas squire; Alexander, Douglas squire; Robert of Wrangholm; and Thomas who resigned his share of Philiphaugh in 1461.

The evidence points to Archibald the father of Adam. In 1480, the Lords confirmed his son Adam in the lands of Hoppringill as against Mariote Hoppringill, heiress of William Hoppringill of that Ilk (who had successfully defeated Robert's claim) but seemingly following the death of Archibald his father in 1479 and David of Smailholm who died before May 1480. Adam, royal guardsman, was elder brother to William of Craigleith and constable of Cessford Castle, Alexander of Trinlyknowe and David in Tynnes. The two older brothers held lands between the Gala and the Leader and in Teviotdale. The younger three held lands in Etrick Forest and all four were active in Roxburghshire between 1465 and 1509. All were associated with the important families in their localities. Their father, Archibald, married Elizabeth Hoppringill, daughter of Robert Douglas squire and first of Smailholm. David second of Smailholm was their maternal uncle. This close relationship confused genealogists and the three younger brothers were erroneously thought to be of Smailholm; as were George, Alexander and Robert. In fact everyone except Adam. As a result family historians have significantly increased the status of Smailholm at the expense of Hoppringill of that Ilk and their later cadets.

You will see from the notes below that David held Torwoodlee from at least 1482 (assuming the existing lease was for three years). The lease on Torwoodlee past from David to William in 1501. David in Tynnes married Mariote Murray. James third of Smailholm married Elizabeth Murray daughter of Patrick Murray of Philiphaugh. Thomas Pringle (shown under that Ilk by the author Alex P) resigned lands in Philiphaugh in 1461 and the king granted them to John Murray, the reputed outlaw. David in Tynnes was John Murray of Philiphaugh' business partner and he 'adopted' William (Torwoodlee). Thomas may have been the son of George Douglas squire and I think both went into exile in England. I also think George may have been senior to Archibald, which may have led to the 22 year gap between the death of William of that Ilk in 1458 and the death of Archibald in 1479. Archibald was not designated of that Ilk either during his lifetime or following his death.

The Arms of Smailholm were those of that Ilk differenced only by the engrailing of the bend up to and including the time of John, fifth of Smailholm and probably beyond. Smailholm is the oldest cadet (branch) of that Ilk. There is no 'source' for the statement 'The Earl of Douglas granted the lairdship of

Galashiels and Mossilee to the Pringle family who were their hereditary shield bearers. The fall of the House of Douglas in 1455 did not affect the Hoppringills of Galashiels as the Crown continued to recognise their position'. The Douglas records were in a poor state and there are very few records of any leases within Ettrick Forest. It was not until 1452 that the earl of Douglas confirmed David's (second of Smailholm) charter as successor to his father Robert of Smailholm (who died in 1424) let alone either holding leases to Galashiels or Mossilee. No lands whatsoever are associated with the Douglas squires George and Alexander during their thirty year (1425-1455) stint as Douglas squires. George and Robert were master rangers of the Tweed ward between 1455 and 1470. David of Smailholm and later his son James were rangers.

Alexander Hoppringill of Trinlyknowe

Compotum Jacobi Hoppringill de Smalehame, cursoris foreste de Ettrik infra wardam de Tweda, redditum apud Edinburgh per Alexandrum Hoppringill, [26 July 1484, from 26 June 1483], that is to say that on 26 July 1484 in Edinburgh, Alexander Hoppringill submitted the accounts for the Tweed Ward on behalf of James Hoppringill of Smalehame [Rotuli Scaccarii Regnum Scotorum, vol. ix, p. 270]. There is no mention that Alexander was a son of James.

Compotum Jacobi Hoppringill de Smalehame, cursoris foreste de Ettrik infra wardam de Tueda, Edinburgh, 4 July 1485, per Alexandrum Hoppringill, ejus deputatum, from 26 July 1484 [Rotuli Scaccarii Regnum Scotorum, vol. ix, p. 317].

Weststeid de Windedurris, in minibus Alexandri Pringill per literas regis, ut patet in eisdem. [Rotuli Scaccarii Regnum Scotorum, vol. ix, p. 609]. 1484

The Weststeid of the Windedurris callit the Trynlynknollis, j stede, assedatur Alexandro Pringill et Rogero Pringill filio suo et eorum diucius viventi pro terminis quinque annorum a festo Sancte Crucis in anno Domini LXXXVIII proxime futuro, inde pecunia ivy tt., cum devoriis consuetis, gressuma xij tt [Rotuli Scaccarii Regnum Scotorum, vol. ix, p 610]. Granted a five year lease [10 June 1485] on the termination of the existing lease.

Weststeid de Windedurris in minibus Alexandri Hoppringill et Rogeri filii sui per literas regis pro certis terminis futuris, ut patet in eisdem [Rotuli Scaccarii Regnum Scotorum, vol. ix, p. 619]. In the same rentals is mentioned Cragleth, j steid, assedatur Willelmo Hoppringill et Alexandro filio suo pro terminis trium annorum post exitum terminorum quos habuerunt prius, videlicet post exitum iiij annorum sequencium festum Invencionis Sancte Crucis immediate post vicesimum octavum diem mensis Octobris in anno Domini etc. LXXXIII, inde pecunia vj tt., cum devoriis etc., grassuma vjs. Vij d. In the same rentals is mentioned Toftness, ½ steid, in minibus David Hoppringill et Mariote sponse sue per literas regis pro certis terminis futuris. Torwodlee, j steid, in minibus

dicti David et prefate sponse sue eciam per literas regis. Blindle, j steid, in minibus Jacobi Hoppringill per literas regis pro certis terminis futuris.

Index on page 764 shows:

Alexander, rendering the accounts of Tweed ward as deputy for James of Smalehame [he was not the son of James] pp. 270, 317, 467. Alexander of Windedurris [Trynlyknollis] in his hands, 609; Trynlyknollis let to him and his son Roger, 610, 619. Roger, joint tenant of Trynlynknollis with his father [Alexander], 610, 619.

Alexander, joint-tenant with his father William in Cragleth, 620. William, Cragleth let to him and his son Alexander, 620.

David, Toftnes and Torwodlee in his hands with Mariote his wife, 610, 620; pays grassums of Torwodle and Toftnes, 318 [this David was not son of James of Smalehame, later in Tynnes].

William [Craigleith], Alexander [Trinlyknowe and David [Torwoodlee and Toftness] were brothers. In fact, they were the younger brothers of Adam of that ilk. Their parents were Archibald and Elizabeth, daughter of Robert, Douglas squire, first of Smailholm. All were of the same generation as James of Smalehame. Robert who obtained sasine to Wrangholm in 1459 is not of Smalehame. Wrangholm is part of Smailholm but the document is lost.

William [Cessford & Craigleith] is mentioned on p. 163 [1490] as having been in receipt of monies with Walter Ker and Ralph Ker [as depute wardens] for and on behalf of William, Lord Borthwick, Warden of the Middle March.

Compotum Jacobi Hoppringill de Smalehame, cursoris warde de Tweda infra forestam de Ettrik [Edinburgh, 3 July 1487,] per Alexandrum Hoppringill, ejus deputatum, from 11 July 1486; 2 terms, [Rotuli Scaccarii Regnum Scotorum, vol. ix, p. 467].

Appendix Rentalia Domini Regis pp. 652-3 shows on 6 July 1488 the Weststede de Wyndedurris is let to Alexander Hoppringill and his son Roger for three years per literas domini regis from the end of the existing lease. The Midstede is let to Robert Rutherford de Chatto and George his son, plegio James Hoppringill. The Eststede is let to Walter Ker de Cessford and Lord Robert his son, knight for three years. Craigleith is let to William Hoppringill and Alexander his son for three years following the expiry of the existing lease, plegio James Hoppringill. Caldanele is let to William Hoppringill son of James Hoppringill, plegio David Hoppringill [his (first) cousin (once removed), later in Tynnes – otherwise it would have said his brother]. Redehede in the hands of David, son of James de Smalehame, pro officio cursoris. Toftnes and Torwoodlee left blank [in hands of David Hoppringill, (first cousin twice removed) to David, son of James of Smalehame]. Galashiels and Mossilee in hands of James Hoppringill. Blindlee in hands of James Hoppringill per literas domini regis.

David Hoppringill in Tynnes

David Hoppringill is recorded as holding the lease to Torwoodlee and Toftnes [Rotuli Scaccarii Regnum Scotorum vol. ix, p. 318] – Nec de x ii. De grassuma David Hoppringill [David in Tynnes] de loco de Torwodle et medii loci de Toftnes, quia solvit magistro Alexandro Lummysdene, compotorum rotulatori, fatenti receptum super compotum et pro quibus respondebit.

On the next page [319], we see 'Et per solucionem factam dicto rotulatori de grassuma loci de Wyndidurris nuncupati Tryndlinknollis, fatenti receptum super compotum, xij ii. Pro quibus eciam respondebit.

Torwodlee, j stede, Toftnes, ½ stede, assedantur David Hoppringill et uxori sue pro terminis quinque annorum post exitum terminorum quos nunc habet dictus David, inde pecunia ix tt., cum devoriis consuetis, grassuma x tt. 10 June 1485. Five year lease granted upon conclusion of existing lease

David was joint-tenant with John Murray of Falahill of Sithop and Caudanehede, of Eldinhop and Douglascrag. Allowed fermes of Sithop, Eldanehop and Douglascrag. Torwoodlee and Toftnes let to him. Pledge for John Murray of Falahill, David Pringill, jnr, the earl of Bothwell, John Wauche and William Pringill for Torwoodlee & Toftnes

David is in receipt from comptroller and is mentioned paying reduced rents for Eldanehop, Sithop, Douglascrag and Caldenheid with John Murray of Philiphaugh 1502-1507 and is in receipt of payments for sheep mentioned with Ralph Ker, John Murray and Robert Colvile in 1504 [Rotuli Scaccarii Regnum Scotorum vol. xii, pp. 36-38, 111-113, 175, 203-204, 390-392 & 536].

In Edinburgh on 6 May 1509 the King confirms the charter of the lands of the barony of Oxnem to Robert Colvile of Uchiltre resigned by Andrew Ker de Farnyhirst, witnesses: James Herisoun, Ralph Ker de Prymsideloch, David Hoppringill in Tynnes and others [G.S. 3340].

In Edinburgh on 5 Jul 1509 the King confirms the charter of the lands of Maxtoun to Robert Colvile de Uchitre resigned by Mark Ker, witnesses: James Henrisoun, David Hoppringill in Tynnes and others [G.S. 3362].

In Edinburgh on 8 August 1509 the King confirms the charter of James Henrisoun, burgess of Edinburgh, for the singular love of David Hoppringill in Tynnes giving the quarter lands of the barony Clifton to William Hoppringill, son of James Hoppringill of Smalem [G.S. 3370].

In Edinburgh on 30 July 1512 the King grants David a lease to the lands of Seithope and Douglascrag [G.S. 3758].