

Research Notes on the Pringles of Muirhouse

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

The lease to Muirhouse past to Mariote, heiress of William Hoppringill of that Ilk, in 1459. Muirhouse was later in the hands of William, constable of Cessford Castle. As on 1st Mar 1482-83, David Turnbull, William [?], Thomas [?] and Thomas Craick were in an action against William for occupying the lands of Muirhouse [**GD246/27/8/3**]. William's lease to Muirhouse was renewed in 1489. I do not know the circumstances that gave rise to his lease or when he gave it up. I know that William and his grandson Robert resigned a number of tenements in Lauder in 1501.

Archibald, father of Adam of that Ilk, married Elizabeth, daughter of Robert 1st of Smailholm [confirmed by a marriage between Thomas of that Ilk and a daughter of Torwoodlee within the fourth and fifth degrees of consanguinity [Torwoodlee writs]. Adam of that Ilk was therefore the nephew of David, 2nd of Smailholm. Why it took the Lords 22 years [1480] to confirm him as of that Ilk is still a mystery to me.

William [in Cessford] was, I believe, the grandson and son of one of the following pairs: Adam [1] and Archibald [in which case he would have been a younger brother to Adam [2] of that Ilk, or George, Douglas squire and master ranger [until 1460] and Thomas [who resigned his lands in Philiphaugh in 1461] or Alexander, Douglas squire [last mentioned in 1456] and Robert who obtained sasine to Wrangholm in 1459. William was most definitely not a son of David of Smailholm – although he might have been a nephew. Alexander, in his book, did not pick-up on the marriage between Archibald and Elizabeth. Probably because he did not have access to the Torwoodlee writs. There is now no doubt in my mind that William came off that Ilk after Robert first of Smailholm.