

LIFE
OF THE
ADMIRABLE CRICHTON
REVISITED



Engr'd by W. H. Linders

BY
BRIAN LAWRENCE DREADON, LL.B

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*A MONOGRAPH ATTEMPTING TO EXPLAIN HIS
PREVIOUSLY OBSCURE CRICHTON
ANCESTRY*

*WITH
REFERENCES TO PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SOURCES*

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Front cover illustration from Patrick Fraser Tytler's 'Life of James Crichton' 1823

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PREFACE

This published work has resulted from finding a connection that the Crichton family had to the Sinclair of Dryden family when researching material for a new edition of the book “*Dryden – The History and Mysteries of a Family Name*” – first published in 2012.

The third wife of Edward Sinclair 4th of Dryden was Beatrice Renton who had been divorced by her previous husband William Crichton of Drylaw in 1536. Her three sons by that marriage to William Crichton were half brothers to her later family at Dryden and this warranted a little investigation into that particular Crichton family.

Her third son Robert Crichton was identified from an inheritance document of 1566 from Robert Crichton Bishop of Dunkeld that named Robert Crichton the son of William Crichton as a baillie in his barony of Dunkeld. What highlighted the importance of the document was that it was witnessed by both Robert Crichton of Eliok and William Crichton of Drylaw.

Robert Crichton of Eliok has long been recognised as the father of James “the Admirable” Crichton, but it seems that Robert’s own father has never been convincingly identified. By unravelling the various relationships and office-holdings within this one document it seemed that an answer might well be provided to that centuries old question.

The Sinclair of Dryden family were in possession the Dryden estates from about 1415 to 1591 and retained a place in the feudal chain of ownership until a 1681 act of parliament finally removed the last of their diminished property rights. The family were allied to the Crichton family through a number of marriages and the construction of a Sinclair of Dryden family tree for research purposes demonstrated that their intermarriage was with a specific branch of the Crichtons, the Crichtons of Cranston-Riddell.

Edward Sinclair 2nd of Dryden’s wife of about 1488 has been identified only from the heraldry of his son’s seal as a Crichton, but the relevant dates suggest that she was a sister of David Crichton 1st of Cranston-Riddell. Then followed Edward’s grandson Edward Sinclair 4th of Dryden’s with a marriage to the divorced wife of William Crichton of Drylaw and his great-grandson John Sinclair 5th of Dryden’s marriage to a daughter of Patrick Crichton of Lugton in 1555. William Crichton of Drylaw was a brother to both James Crichton 3rd of Cranston-Riddell and to Patrick Crichton of Lugton.

When pursuing the origins of David “Dryden” who paying burgh taxes in Selkirk in the year 1536, the name of David Sinclair was found as a witness to a 1532 instrument of sasine in favour of James Crichton 4th of Cranston–Riddell as heir to his father James Crichton 3rd of Cranston-Riddell in the lands of Nesbit. Again, as always, it seemed that the connections to the “Dryden” family were always from the Crichton of Cranston-Riddell family who possessed a group of secondary estates in Selkirkshire.

If Robert Crichton baillie of the barony of Dunkeld, described as the son of William Crichton of Drylaw in the 1566 document was the same man as Robert Crichton of Eliok and Cluny who witnessed the document, then the mystery of the ancestry of the Admirable Crichton might be solved.

On re-reading Patrick Fraser Tytler’s 2nd edition of the *Life of the Admirable Crichton* (1823), his conclusions were that Robert Crichton was probably from the Crichton of Sanquhar family based mainly on his land-holding of Eliok being firmly placed in the barony of Sanquhar in Dumfriesshire. He relied on the fact that Robert Crichton the Bishop of Dunkeld from the Cranston-Riddell family, described himself as a cousin not an uncle, and that the Crichton of Sanquhar family were listed as nearest of kin in another document.

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In other words, the Tytler's naming of the probable father of Robert Crichton of Eliok, who was also the Crichton grandfather of James 'the Admirable' Crichton, was conjecture.

Nothing further about the Admirable Crichton's life and achievements is discussed in this book, which has consequently has been subtitled as a monograph. It concentrates solely on that question of family origin and ancestry of the Admirable Crichton, and attempts to rely on descriptions of family relationships provided in a wider range of original documents.

Since I had already informally constructed a family tree for the Crichton of Cranston-Riddell family in research for a previous book, it was a small step to strengthening the internal relationships with relationships set out in original and secondary sources.

There was surprisingly a large amount of evidence online from précised archival documents, from which an accurate structure of the Crichton of Cranston-Riddell family tree could be constructed. Not only are there family relationships mentioned in archived documents but the descent of the main family holdings of Cranston-Riddell, Nesbit and the group of Selkirkshire properties collectively known as Catslak, can be followed. This gave the added dimension of land ownership descending through each generation of the Crichton family down to the Admirable Crichton himself, which is always a useful means of connecting various members of the same family.

Unfortunately, the notes and more than 100 references for this monograph were longer than the text, and a decision was made to place all of them together in appendices rather than interrupt the flow of the narrative with copious footnotes. The Crichton of Cranston-Riddell family tree in appendix II of this book has been constructed from primary and secondary source information, with a central reliance on précised online descriptions of archived documents from the National Records of Scotland. There are in fact, extracts from more than 50 documents held by that Archive that can be considered primary source material.

Just as Tytler bases his theory of descent from the Crichton of Sanquhar on a grant of land from that Sanquhar family, a similar case can be made for the descent of the Admirable Crichton from the Crichton of Cranston-Riddell family based on multiple grants of land from that family.

From all the information uncovered, my own conclusion is that James "the Admirable" Crichton was almost certainly a member of the extended Crichton of Cranston-Riddell family. The case is still not proven absolutely, but there is new evidence to be debated and a newly constructed Crichton family tree to consider.

This publication follows many a starting point provided by Tytler's book, it argues the point about some conclusions and presents further information about the Crichton of Cranston-Riddell family.

The book *Balmerino and its Abbey* by James Campbell (new Ed. 1899) was a source of much information about the Crichton of Naughton family, itself a smaller but central part of the Crichton of Cranston-Riddell family.

I hope this book will further the debate on the Crichton family origins of James, the Admirable Crichton.

Brian Lawrence Dreadon July 2018

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The Family Origins of Robert Crichton of Eliok

The use of the word monograph on the title page of this book reflects an intention to keep a focus on the singular topic under discussion. That is to explore and to explain the family origins of the Admirable Crichton's father Robert Crichton of Eliok. If his correct family origins can be discovered, then the full ancestry of James Crichton "the Admirable Crichton" will also be known.

Claims of a Crichton of Sanquhar descent

Patrick Fraser Tytler book on the Life of Crichton published in 1819 and with a 2nd edition of 1823 reached a tentative conclusion based on the evidence of the Eliok estate, that the Robert Crichton of Eliok was descended from Crichton of Sanquhar. It is from both Tytler's 1st and 2nd editions that quotes will be taken and a number of references made. That author has written much to build upon, but one or two omissions within that book and a few extra discoveries do change a number of its conclusions

On page 7 and 8 Tytler wrote on the topic that is central to this task:

*"The possession of the lands of Eliock by the family of Crichton is an event which carries us back to the middle of the fifteenth century. In the year 1468, Sir Robert Crichton of Sanquhar, father of the first Lord Crichton of Sanquhar, obtained from Charteris of Amisfield a charter of the lands of Eliok, which was confirmed by a royal charter, dated 21st of October, 1464. In the books of the Privy Seal, in the year 1513, we find a remission granted to various persons of rank and property in the family of Crichton, among **whom is found Robert Crichton, son of the late John Crichton in Elliok**. At this period, it was not an uncommon practice for the younger sons of opulent families to be portioned, by having a favourable lease granted to them of part of the paternal estate. **John Crichton was probably a younger son of the Sanquhar family**, and obtaining a lease of this nature, of the lands of Eliock, then forming a part of the barony of Sanquhar, he is designed in Eliock, not de Eliock.*

*It cannot be stated as a fact, but **it is at least fair conjecture, that Robert, the son of this John Crichton, was the father of the Lord Advocate, and grandfather to the Admirable Crichton**; and that by some family transaction, of which we have lost all direct evidence, the tenant in the lease became eventually the proprietor of the estate of Eliock."*

(bolded words for emphasis by this author)

Robert Crichton of Eliok's other land holdings

What seems at first to be a reasonable assumption, that Robert Crichton of Eliok was from a collateral branch of the Crichton of Sanquhar family, can be immediately challenged by looking through the contents of the will of Robert Crichton of Eliok, the Lord Advocate. His Will from the year 1582, has been reprinted from Tytler and presented in Appendix IV of this book.

In essence, although Robert Crichton of Eliok took the name of the Eliok estate as a territorial designation, it was not his only land-holding. It was actually one of four significant land-holdings mentioned in his will, which when placed together may lead to a quite different conclusion as to his family origins, based on the same method of analysis employed by Tytler.

Robert's holding were named as Eliok and Euchane which were in the barony of Sanquhar. Next was the barony of Cluny, with Cluny itself mentioned together with Friertoun (which was exchanged for Cluny lands), East Craigy, Balden (presumably Balnadornoch), Rossie Ochill and Forneochis, mostly in Perthshire but spilling out into Fifeshire.

Then a third group of land holdings were to be granted to Robert Crichton of Eliok's second son Robert, named as his infetment of the "Catslak" lands.

The fourth group of estates were mentioned without great certainty, but their inclusion is highly significant. The Will stated that should anything come from the annual rent from "Cranston", or the original sum, it was to be applied to further the marriages of his daughters Marie and Gryssell.

As the oldest son and heir, it was James "the Admirable" who received the Eliok and Cluny grants in their entirety. Some lesser holdings and income from his estates were bequeathed by Robert Crichton to his wife Isabell Borthwick and daughters Marie, Grissell, Helen and Elspeth.

In summary Robert Crichton of Eliok's Will addressed the distribution of four main estates; Eliok in Dumfriesshire, Cluny in Perthshire spilling over into Fifeshire, Catslak in Selkirkshire and the barony of "Cranston" near Edinburgh.

The documentation for the original grant of Eliok and Euchane to Robert Crichton of Eliok has not been found, and it is not known why it occurred or whether it was part of a larger transaction or exchange of properties within the extended Crichton family.

The reason for the grant to Robert Crichton of Cluny in Perthshire by Robert Crichton bishop of Dunkeld is explained by Tytler as a means of alienating church property and securing it for the Crichton family, but little attention is paid to the importance of the particular Crichton family of Bishop Robert Crichton.

The two other land-holdings mentioned in Robert Crichton of Eliok's will of 1582 were "Cranston" and "Catslak". Taken together they form a significant part of the evidence for identifying Robert Crichton of Eliok's likely family origins.

"Cranston" refers to the barony of Cranston-Riddell, which consisted of the central land-holdings of Crichton of Cranston-Riddell family based on the barony of Cranston-Riddell near Edinburgh. Those lands were to be lost to the Crichton family immediately after the lifetime of Robert Crichton of Eliok, having last been granted to James Crichton 5th of Cranston-Riddell in mid 1563, (Refs: 21.1 & 21.2 in Appendix II) then placed in a wardship in 1584. (Ref: 23.2 in Appendix II)

"Catslak" referred to a group of lands in Selkirkshire, later held under a "tenandry of Catslak", that had also descended within the Crichton of Cranston-Riddell family since 1468 when David Crichton 1st of Cranston-Riddell acquired rights from the crown. (Ref: 1.2 in Appendix II).

A letter of reversion for those lands from 1564, in which Robert Crichton of Eliok is listed, described "Catslak" as the "*...lands and forest places of Catslak, Easter and Wester Monbernger and place and lands of Blakgrane, in lordship of Ettrick Forest, sheriffdom of Selkirk, **united in a tenandry of Catslak**, ...*" (Ref: 17.3 in Appendix II)

These Selkirkshire lands were still held by James Crichton 5th of Cranston-Riddell when he and his wife are known to have granted them to James, Earl of Morton in 1573. (Ref: 21.6 in Appendix II). The Earl of Morton would have had some vague claim to the lands as his wife's ancestor John, 2nd Earl of Morton had married Janet Crichton the daughter of Patrick Crichton 2nd of Cranston-Riddell before 1505. The reasons for the grant and the alienation of those Cranston lands from the Crichton family are discussed in some detail later.

Those same Catslak properties were then regained by Robert Crichton of Eliok and settled on his son James sometime prior to 1581. (Ref: 26.9 in Appendix II)

Rather than accepting the conjecture that Robert Crichton of Eliok was from a Crichton of Sanquhar ancestry, it seems more prudent to investigate how, when and why Robert acquired rights to these two other groups of land-holdings previously held by members of the Crichton of Cranston-Riddell family for over a century.

Since the majority of Robert Crichton of Eliok's land-holdings represented by Cluny and Catslak had been granted by or acquired from the Crichton of Cranston-Riddell family it is possible to advance a credible theory that Robert had been a member of that same family.

To investigate that further, it was necessary to construct a reliable family tree for Crichton of Cranston-Riddell and to follow the inheritance of the lands first acquired by David Crichton 1st of Cranston-Riddell in 1468. An understanding of the 100 years of Crichton family land-holding history of “Cranston” and “Catslak” is an important foundation when attempting to discover the ancestry of the Admirable Crichton.

That reconstructed family tree from Crichton of Cranston-Riddell is set out in Appendix I, followed in Appendix II by references to the sources providing the evidence for each family relationship.

Dates for Robert Crichton’s acquisition of Cluny and Eliok

What can be attempted next is to discover how and when each land-holding or rights to land-holdings was acquired by Robert Crichton of Eliok.

In his second edition Tytler asserts on page 21 that Cluny did not become the property of Crichton, the Lord Advocate, till the year 1562. However, an earlier lease for 19 years dated 10 May 1557 clearly demonstrates that Cluny was granted at least 5 years earlier, when Robert Crichton of Eliok was still unmarried. (Ref: 26.1 in Appendix II)

In contrast to that early acquisition of Cluny, the first document discovered by this author of Robert Crichton naming himself as “of Eliok” is on 13 August 1562. Before that date he is described in documents only as Robert Crichton or as Robert Crichton, Advocate.

In summary, Cluny was initially granted on a 19 year lease in 1557 and Eliok apparently in perpetuity for Robert Crichton’s heirs at some date yet to be determined before 1562. While this question is not fully resolved it seems likely that Cluny was acquired by Robert Crichton before Eliok.

As an aside, Tytler’s argument for Eliok being the likely place of birth in 1560 for the Admirable Crichton because of its earlier acquisition, now shifts in favour of Cluny as the earlier land holding.

The question about why Robert Crichton then styled himself as “of Eliok” might have a simple answer. It can be surmised that it was the form of the land-holding that influenced his decision, rather than the date of acquisition.

Cluny was initially granted to Robert Crichton on a 19 year lease, while Eliok in Dumfriesshire seems to have been granted in perpetuity to Robert Crichton and his male heirs. Crichton of Sanquhar was still his superior lord for those Dumfriesshire lands of Eliok and Euchane in the barony of Sanquhar, and it was a much more secure family holding than Cluny. That grant in perpetuity would have established a “family seat” and a credible reason for Robert Crichton styling himself “of Eliok”.

In regard to the reasons for the grant of Cluny, Tytler suspects a perceived need by Bishop Robert Crichton to safeguard Cluny from forfeiture, a not unreasonable theory as the Bishop did in fact lose all his lands to forfeiture in 1571 for a time, due to his ardent support for Queen Mary. But even in more settled times it was a common event to see a bishop make grants of church lands to his own kin in order to secure on-going property rights for his extended family.

Whatever the exact reason, the grant of Cluny which contained the Bishop's palace, continued to be available as bishop Robert Crichton's residence and is known to have been made to a close family member. (See Tytler 2nd Ed footnote p.19)

It is also probable that Robert Crichton of Eliok was a younger son, which would explain why no clear identification has been available through family land grants, and why the bishop made the grant of Cluny to him rather than to a first son who would have his own family inheritance under the prevailing doctrine of primogeniture.

Relationship to the Crichton of Cranston-Riddell family

If the suspicion is that Robert Crichton of Eliok was himself from the Crichton of Cranston-Riddell family it seems a logical step to attempt to identify exactly where he might have been placed within that family.

The tack of Cluny in 1557 by Robert Crichton Bishop of Dunkeld is made to "*Mr Robert Crychtoun his cousin*" and the contract in 1559 to "*Mr. Robert Creichtoun, advocate, his cousin*". (Refs: 26.1 & 26.2 in Appendix II)

This simple naming of a family relationship has caught the attention of commentators including Tytler, for centuries. With a knowledge that Bishop Crichton was from the Cranston-Riddell family, it seemed that his cousin would logically be from a more distant family branch such as Crichton of Sanquhar who were his 6th cousins.

However, according to the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) one of the meanings of cousin is given as:

*"A collateral relative more distant than a brother or sister; a kinsman or kinswoman, a relative; formerly **very frequently applied to a nephew or niece**. Obsolete."*

The information that it was common usage to describe a nephew as a cousin then reverses the old argument that as a "cousin" Robert Crichton of Eliok must have been from the Crichton of Sanquhar family. Instead it becomes evidence that he may have been a nephew from the same family as Robert Crichton Bishop of Dunkeld. As a Bishop without children, a land grant to his nephew would be perfectly understandable.

Bishop Robert Crichton is himself identified by Tytler as a nephew of the

previous Bishop of Dunkeld George Crichton, and placed him within the Crichton of Cranston-Riddell family by naming Bishop George Crichton as a brother of Sir Peter Crichton of Naughton. (See the footnote page 13 of Tytler's 2nd Ed.)

There are three archived documents named in appendix II that help clarify those family origins of Robert Crichton Bishop of Dunkeld. There is a charter of 30 May 1510 in favour of "*Robert Creichtoun, son of Patrick Criehtoun of Cranstoun Riddale, the king's confidant, of lands and forest place of Easter Montbernger ..., in lordship of Ettrick Forest, sheriffdom of Selkirk.*" (Ref: 43.1 in Appendix II)

A second record of 1515 from the Scottish Record Society Publications names George Crichton as abbot of Holyrood, who "... *urged Canongate to name Robert Crichton, son of Sir Patrick Crichton of Cranston - Riddale, as the clerk of the parish.*" (Ref: 43.2 in Appendix II)

A third record from 1504 found in the Scottish Record Society Publications outlines that "*Sir Patrick Crehton of Cranston redale, and Sir Peter Crechtone of Nachtane, are brothers german of George Crechtoun, abbot of Holyrood.....Instrument is witnessed by James Crechtone, son of said Sir Patrick Crechtone*". (Ref: 45.3 in Appendix II)

From those documents a few central relationships can be distilled. Robert Crichton who became bishop of Dunkeld was clearly the son of Patrick Crichton 2nd of Cranston-Riddell and a nephew of George Crichton whom he followed as bishop of Dunkeld. Note also that Bishop Robert Crichton had in 1510 been granted one of the Cranston-Riddell properties in Selkirkshire that later formed part of the "tenandry of Catslak". That same group of properties would ultimately find their way to the sons of Robert Crichton of Eliok.

Having established a relationship for Robert Crichton of Eliok as a probable nephew to Bishop Robert Crichton and as a grandson to Patrick Crichton of Cranston-Riddell, the next search is to find his probable father.

To begin with, it seems a logical supposition derived from the descent of the Catslak lands that Robert Crichton of Eliok had been a younger son of the current head of the Cranston-Riddell family in order to have been so close to the legally accepted line of inheritance.

That seems probable, but the descent of the Crichton of Cranston-Riddell family becomes more complex with the failure of the senior line following Patrick Crichton 2nd of Cranston-Riddell's son James Crichton 3rd of Cranston-Riddell and needs to be explained in more detail. (See the family chart in Appendix IV that illustrates the descent of the senior line)

Further clues are embedded in the 1562 Charter of Cluny that granted the lands and barony of Cluny to Robert Crichton and Elizabeth Stewart his

spouse, whom failing to James Crichton fiar of Cranston-Riddell, whom failing to Patrick Crichton of Lugton, whom failing to Edward, Lord Crichton of Sanquhar. (Ref: 26.3 in Appendix II)

The James Crichton 'fiar of Cranston-Riddell' named in that charter was the second son of William Crichton of Drylaw, William being the brother of Robert Crichton, Bishop of Dunkeld.

In the line of reversion for the barony of Cluny, James Crichton was followed by Patrick Crichton of Lugton (another brother to William Crichton and Bishop Robert Crichton) and then by their more distant cousin Lord Crichton of Sanquhar.

The reason why that James Crichton was the heir to Cranston-Riddell was because his cousin James Crichton 4th of Cranston-Riddell was unmarried and a sole surviving son. The next family in line after James Crichton the 4th of Cranston-Riddell was David Crichton of Naughton, an uncle who had died before 1563 leaving Naughton to his brother William Crichton of Drylaw. (Refs: 14.4 & 14.5 in Appendix II)

That series of events saw William Crichton of Drylaw as the current heir to Cranston-Riddell in 1562, but it seems William had designated his second son James as the heir for the Cranston-Riddell lands, leaving his oldest son Alexander Crichton to inherit his more substantial holding of Naughton. (Refs: 17.2 & 17.3 in Appendix II)

A question then arises as to whether Robert Crichton of Eliok was a third son of William Crichton of Drylaw, as that would fit all the known facts; in particular as a nephew of Bishop Robert Crichton and being in the line of inheritance for "Cranston".

A document of 1566 goes most of the distance in answering that question in the affirmative. This was a Precept of Clare Constat by Robert Crichton bishop of Dunkeld, directed to Robert Crichton, son of William Crichton of Drylaw as a Baillie for the barony of Dunkeld. (See ref: 26.7 in Appendix II).

It names Robert Crichton as a son of William Crichton of Drylaw, a son who was also a baillie within the barony of Dunkeld held by his uncle Robert Crichton Bishop of Dunkeld. That same document was witnessed by Robert Crichton of Eliok and William Crichton of Drylaw, which is certainly very persuasive in identifying Robert Crichton of Eliok as William Crichton of Drylaw's third son.

Robert Crichton had been a young lawyer of considerable promise, which might explain how he became involved in the affairs of the Lordship of Dunkeld under his uncle Bishop Robert Crichton of Dunkeld. He would then have been advantageously placed to have become a baillie of the barony of Dunkeld and an obvious individual for the Bishop to utilise when

securing a grant of Cluny for his own family.

Cluny included the Bishop's own residence and was granted on condition of “ ... *not to take possession of the lands and barony of Cluny without the Bishop's leave, and when possessed of the same, to remove therefrom, when the Bishop shall require him, upon forty days' warning.*” (Footnote page 19 of Tytler's 2nd Ed.)

As a young lawyer with a bright future, not yet the Queen's advocate in 1557 or 1559, Robert Crichton of Eliok may well have found himself in this position. This book will attempt to show further evidence and to explain background events that will corroborate his identification as Robert Crichton a known third son of William Crichton of Drylaw and his wife Beatrice Renton.

As part of that, the historic case made for Robert Crichton of Eliok to have been from the Crichton of Sanquhar family needs to be answered. It was not only that Eliok itself lay within the barony of Sanquhar and must have been granted by the Crichton Lord of Sanquhar, but other charters also hinted at a close family relationship.

Evidence previously presented to make the alternative case for a Crichton of Sanquhar family relationship for Robert Crichton of Eliok, included a 1566 Extract of Act from Book of Causes of Commissary Court of Edinburgh appointing curators or guardians to his sons James and Robert. In that document the “*nearest of kin*” on the father's side were listed as Edward, Lord Sanquhar, John Creichtoun of Ryhill and Robert, bishop of Dunkeld. (ref: 26.8 in Appendix II)

The first two names of the “nearest of kin” are of course from the Crichton of Sanquhar family and recognized as prominent individuals within the Crichton clan, but the argument strikes a problem with the third name of Robert Bishop of Dunkeld who was from the Crichton of Cranston-Riddell family and about a 7th cousin to the two Crichtons from Sanquhar.

This document also needs to be read with the knowledge that this document was to record the appointment of curators, a responsible position of great importance to the family. Therefore it was Alexander Crichton, identified as the oldest son and heir of William Crichton of Naughton and Drylaw, who was listed as a curator and therefore likely to have been the closest relative to Robert Crichton of Eliok.

In summary, when this 1566 document is analysed more carefully it argues more in favour of Robert Crichton of Eliok being from the Cranston-Riddell family rather than Sanquhar.

Exchanging of lands within the extended Crichton family

That raises another possible explanation for the grant of Eliok to Robert Crichton. Again it is conjecture, but it may have involved the known practice of transferring lands between land-holders, for mutual advantage.

A good example is available with the lands of Frierton named in the 1582 Will of Robert Crichton of Eliok. In November 1564 Robert Crichton of Eliok and his wife Elizabeth Stewart exchanged West Clentrie in the Lordship of Dunkeld for the lands of neither Frierton in the regality of St Andrews, with Sir William Kirkcaldy of Grange and his wife Margaret Learmonth. This is presumably the Frierton as named in Robert's Will of 1582.

In that particular case the exchange of lands may have also been part of a larger settlement needed after the Queen Mary had in 1562 gifted Sir William Kirkcaldy some rights to the lands of Naughton held by William Crichton of Drylaw, Bishop Robert Crichton's brother.

In this same manner it is reasonable to theorise that either Robert Crichton of Eliok or Bishop Robert Crichton exchanged a land-holding from within the Lordship of Dunkeld for Eliok in the barony of Sanquhar. The Crichton lord of Sanquhar would still hold the superior lordship of Eliok, having it leased in perpetuity to a member of his extended clan, while gaining extra lands newly brought into the extended Crichton family ownership.

It is speculation, but such an idea might be tested by checking the archives for such a Perthshire or barony of Dunkeld grant to Crichton of Sanquhar around the same dates of 1561 or 1562.

The Crichton family reversions to collateral Crichton families

There was obviously a close connection that developed between Robert Crichton of Eliok and Edward Lord Crichton of Sanquhar, despite their more distant family relationship as 7th cousins, assuming for the moment that Robert belonged to the Crichton of Cranston-Riddell family. One charter that demonstrates how Lord Crichton of Sanquhar was included in the plans for the reversion of the Cluny lands granted by Bishop Robert Crichton is illustrated by the feu charter of 10 July 1562, right at the probable time of the Eliok grant to his cousin Robert. (Ref: 26.3 Appendix II).

Lord Crichton of Sanquhar in granting Eliok to his cousin Robert may have been part of a larger Crichton family group who were exchanging property rights and reversions.

The bringing of different branches of the Crichton family into reversions was actually a consistent practice within the extended Crichton family. A practice that apparently dated back to when William Crichton, 1st Lord

Crichton who was chancellor of Scotland and master of the Kings household, chief of the Crichtons, and *“his cousin, sir Robert, lord of Sanquhar, made a mutual entail; whereby, failing heirs-male of any one of their bodies, their estates were to go to the others, which was afterwards confirmed by a charter under the great seal, dated anno 1439.”* (See The peerage of Scotland by Robert Douglas, Esq; Douglas, Robert, Sir, 1694-1770.)

There are a number of contemporaneous instances where Crichton individuals named in charters came from different family branches. In most cases a pattern emerges of the first named individuals being close relatives, followed by the heads of collateral branches of the Crichton family.

Robert Crichton of Eliok can be assumed to be a younger son, rather than the head of any established branch of the Crichton family. Therefore when he is named in charters listing reversions of a property, naming nearest of kin or a family group, it will probably indicate a close relationship to those named before him. It is a theory that can be quickly tested with three sets of Crichton individuals named in archived documents.

The first example is the same feu charter of 16 May 1562 (Ref: 26.3 in Appendix II) where Bishop Robert Crichton granted the lands and barony of Cluny to Robert Crichton and his wife Elizabeth Stewart, the reversion going first to Mr James Crichton fiar of Cranston, then to Patrick Crichton of Lugton, followed by Edward, lord Crichton of Sanquhar.

James Crichton fiar of Cranston-Riddell who is named first was the second son of William Crichton of Drylaw. Unlike the following two names he was not the head of a collateral Crichton line and therefore can be taken as a close relation of Robert Crichton of Eliok. He is followed by Patrick Crichton of Lugton who was a younger brother of William Crichton of Drylaw and part of the Crichton of Cranston-Riddell family.

A second example is a letter of reversion for the Catslak groups of lands from 1564. (Ref: 26.5 in Appendix II). Alexander Crichton listed himself as the heir to his brother James Crichton of Cranston-Riddell for those lands, whom failing to Robert Crichton HM Advocate, followed by John Crichton of Brunston and James Crichton of Frendraught.

The first two named before Robert Crichton of Eliok HM Advocate were the two oldest sons of William Crichton of Drylaw, while the last two named were heads of collateral Crichton families. The same pattern emerges where Robert Crichton must be a close relative of those first two brothers; and as contended, probably a third brother.

A third example comes with the previously mentioned appointment of curators for James and Henry Crichton, the two sons of Robert Crichton of Eliok, on 13th May 1566. (Ref: 26.8 in Appendix II). Among the list of four

candidates for two to be chosen as curators, there is only one Crichton who is named as Alexander Crichton.

Robert Crichton of Eliok and his two sons James and Robert are named next in the narrative. Then, labeled as “nearest of kin” for the father’s side is Edward, Lord Sanquhar, John Crichton of Ryhill, and Robert Bishop of Dunkeld.

The central purpose of the document was the appointment of curators for the two sons of Robert Crichton of Eliok and the only Crichton family member named is Alexander Crichton, oldest son of William Crichton of Drylaw. Only then are Edward Lord Sanquhar and John Crichton of Ryhill listed. John Crichton of Ryhill was the uncle of Lord Sanquhar and had been tutor to Edward’s brother the previous Lord Sanquhar. Finally there is Robert Crichton Bishop of Dunkeld from the Crichton of Cranston-Riddell family.

This document has been often used to connect Robert Crichton of Eliok to the Crichton of Sanquhar family as two prominent members of that family were named as “nearest of kin”. However, when the purpose of the document is understood, the most important clue may be that Alexander Crichton, the oldest son of William Crichton of Drylaw was actually being appointed as a curator.

In 1566 Alexander Crichton would have been 34 years old and the naming of him as a curator for Robert Crichton of Eliok’s sons is again consistent with him having been a close relative and probably Robert’s the oldest brother.

A fourth example is a Precept of Clare Constat from Robert Crichton Bishop of Dunkeld dated 16th July 1566. (Ref: 26.7 in Appendix II). The Bishop was directing Robert Crichton the son of William Crichton of Drylaw as a baillie of the barony of Dunkeld to infest George Stewart of Arntullie in lands within the barony. The document was witnessed by Robert Crichton of Eliok, Alexander Crichton rector of Lundeif, William Crichton of Drylaw and Robert Kincaid.

Robert Bishop of Dunkeld, Robert Crichton son of William Crichton of Drylaw and William Crichton of Drylaw were all from the Crichton of Cranston-Riddell family, while the unidentified Alexander Crichton of Lundeif was a clergyman located at Lundie near to Dunkeld.

Surely Robert Crichton of Eliok who held lands in the same barony of Dunkeld and was the nephew of the Bishop, was the same man as the baillie Robert Crichton son of William Crichton of Drylaw, the brother of the Bishop. Without doubt they then signed the document together as a family group, William as a brother and Robert as a nephew of the Bishop.

Dating relevant marriages and births

There are questions about the date of birth of Robert Crichton of Eliock and the date of his marriage to Elizabeth Stewart that are of course relevant to the grants he was receiving either side of 1560 and relevant to matching Robert's age with Robert, the third son of William Crichton of Drylaw.

In terms of his marriage, Tytler claims that Robert Crichton of Eliok was married as early as May 1558, with a footnote referring to *McFarlane, MS. Index to Diplom. Reg. Vol. X. P. 112. No. 245, lib. 92*. The claimed birth date of their oldest son James in August 1560 is consistent with that information.

For the date of the birth of the Robert Crichton who was the known son of William Crichton of Drylaw, that can be estimated to have been in about 1535; a date derived from being the third and youngest son of William Crichton of Drylaw who divorced his wife in 1536.

If Robert Crichton of Eliok was the same man, he would have taken the 19 year lease of Cluny at age 22 in the year of 1557 and been married at the age of 23 in 1558.

It seems that all the known facts about Robert Crichton, the third son of William Crichton of Drylaw who was also a baillie for his uncle in the Bishop's barony of Dunkeld, are mutually consistent with all the facts known about Robert Crichton of Eliok who is now known to be the nephew of Bishop Robert Crichton.

The descent of the Crichton of Cranston-Riddell lands

The Crichton of Cranston-Riddell family began with David Crichton, second son of James Crichton 2nd Lord Crichton who died in 1469. David Crichton acquired the Cranston-Riddell estates in 1468, and this made up his family inheritance together with other land-holdings. Those included Nesbit with its tower near Haddington and several lands in Selkirkshire later grouped together under the name of Catslak, which also had its tower.

David Crichton 1st of Cranston-Riddell had three sons who were documented and those relationships are proven by documentation in Appendices I and II. The daughters of the family that are known are also included in the family tree, but for matters of inheritance less discussed here in the following story.

David Crichton's sons were his heir Patrick Crichton 2nd of Cranston-Riddell, Peter Crichton who gained the Naughton estates in Fifeshire through his marriage to the heiress Janet Hay, and George Crichton who became bishop of Dunkeld. Peter Crichton of Naughton also distinguished himself as master of the King's wardrobe, and captain of Edinburgh Castle.

After the death of David Crichton in 1485 his son Patrick Crichton 2nd of Cranston-Riddell inherited the various land-holdings of Cranston-Riddell

near Edinburgh, Nesbit and the Catslak group in Selkirkshire. In 1488 Patrick Crichton was master ranger of Ettrick Forest in the ward of Tweed, in 1499 Keeper (Governor) of Edinburgh Castle, in 1503 Panitarius (cup-bearer or Butler) to King James IV, and in 1507 he was granted lands in Gilberton with its mansion and orchards in County Edinburgh. Patrick Crichton was again captain of Edinburgh Castle 1517-18 and died in 1521.

The sons of Patrick Crichton 2nd of Cranston-Riddell were his heir James Crichton 3rd of Cranston-Riddell, David Crichton who inherited Naughton from his childless uncle Peter Crichton, William Crichton of Drylaw who later inherited Naughton from his older brother, Patrick Crichton of Kinglassie and Lugton, Martin Crichton, and Robert Crichton Bishop of Dunkeld.

The Selkirkshire lands were distributed among the sons on leases, but always held by the head of the family as superior lord.

James Crichton 3rd of Cranston-Riddell married Janet Beaton of Creich but died in 1539 leaving a young heir, also named James. Janet Beaton remarried Simon Preston of Craigmillar in 1540 and divorced him in 1543. She then married Sir Walter Scott of Buccleuch, taking control of the Cranston-Riddell estates with her, together with her son and heir James Crichton 4th of Cranston-Riddell.

James Crichton 4th of Cranston-Riddell remained under curators from the Scott family until 1550, when he leased all the Cranston-Riddell properties to his mother Janet Beaton for 19 years. That James Crichton appears to have had no active grip on life, signing over responsibility for his lands, avoiding marriage and siring no legitimate heirs. James became the end of that family line when he died in 1563.

The Crichton family then proceeded to follow the usual lines of property inheritance which would fall to the next oldest son of Patrick Crichton 2nd of Cranston-Riddell, as brother to James Crichton 3rd of Cranston-Riddell. However, the second brother David Crichton had already died without children, leaving his Naughton estates to the next brother William Crichton of Drylaw in 1558.

William Crichton of Drylaw and Naughton, had married Beatrice Renton, the widow of Sir William Sinclair of Herdmanston whose death can be dated to 1530. William Crichton and Beatrice were then divorced very publicly in 1536 after Beatrice's infidelity with William's brother James Crichton 3rd of Cranston-Riddell. This still left William with three documented sons born between 1530 and 1536 who were now in the line of inheritance for the Cranston-Riddell estates.

Drylaw was actually part of the barony of Corstorphine which was held

by the Forrester family from the crown since at least 1406 when according to “The Peerage of Scotland” Thomas Forrester got a charter under the great seal, upon his brother’s resignation.

A crown charter of 10th July 1424 makes it clear enough (National Records of Scotland AD1/39): *Extract crown charter to **John Forrester of Corstorphyne, kt.**, master of the king's household, of mains of Corstorphyne, **lands of Drylaw**, lands of barony of Nether Libirtoun and lands of Medeufeld, in sheriffdom of Edinburgh, formerly held in heritage by said John and resigned by him to crown, with grant of lands of Clerkintoun in said sheriffdom, formerly held by Archibald, earl of Douglas, and resigned by him to crown, all said lands now **to be held by said John in free barony.***

That superiority of Drylaw held by the Forrester family of Corstorphine was transferred in 1557 to David Makgill on his marriage to Elizabeth Forrester, daughter of James Forrester of Corstorphine, apparently as a marriage portion.

William Crichton of Drylaw settled his largest estate which was the barony of Naughton on his oldest son and heir Alexander Crichton of Naughton in July 1563. (Ref: 17.3 in Appendix II). Naughton then descended to Alexander’s own heir Ludovic Crichton.

The inheritance of the Cranston-Riddell lands fell to William’s second son James Crichton 5th of Cranston-Riddell who named himself as “fiar” of Cranston-Riddell in a document of 15 March 1563. The settlement of Cranston-Riddell on him is corroborated by an instrument of sasine for his brother Alexander dated 25th July 1563 that refers to him as “*Mr James Crichton of Cranston*”. (Ref: 21.2 in Appendix II)

The barony of Cranston-Riddell constituted a worthy inheritance. However, during the life of James Crichton 4th of Cranston-Riddell, he had leased the lands of Cranston-Riddell (together with the other Selkirkshire holdings known collectively as Catslak), to his mother Janet Beaton for 19 years beginning in 1550. In other words, those lands were producing rent, but tied up in a lease until 1569. The annual rent was set at £26 for Cranston-Riddell and £20 for the Selkirkshire lands, demonstrating the similar worth of the latter lands.

Catslak Tower is infamously the location where Sir Walter Scott’s mother Elizabeth Ker was burnt to death in an English raid of 1548, assisted by her own family the Kers of Cessford who were an “assured” clan.

Possession of the bulk of the Cranston-Riddell lands did move to the family of William Crichton of Drylaw, except for Blackgrane one of the Selkirkshire holdings. Blackgrane appeared to have been detached by the

Scott of Buccleuch family as they were certainly in possession for some time afterward, as evidenced by a contract of wadset dated 1622. (see National Records of Scotland GD224/940/33)

What happened with the lands of Nesbit in the Constabulary of Haddington is not totally understood. From later documents those lands still were held by the Crichton of Cranston-Riddell family, but according to the Scots Peerage "*David Makgill, acquired the barony of Nisbet, of which he had a charter 1561,...*" (The Scots peerage 1904. pp. 593.)

There is no doubt that the superior title to Nesbit was still held by the Crichton family in chief, as evidenced by documents from 1592 when George Crichton acknowledged that David Makgill held the lands of Nesbit in life-rent and his son David Makgill in fee. (Ref: 25.2 in Appendix II). George Crichton being the third son of James Crichton 5th of Cranston-Riddell who had died before 1584.

All of which suggests that Nesbit had been sold to David Makgill by the Crichtons and if the 1561 date is correct, that was done when Janet Beaton still appeared to have had control over her son's affairs.

William Crichton of Drylaw's second son James Crichton who became 5th of Cranston-Riddell in 1563, then married Dorothy Scott the daughter of Janet Beaton and Sir Walter Scott. That created some continuity from the previous holder James Crichton 4th of Cranston-Riddell who was also a son of Janet Beaton from her first marriage to James Crichton 3rd of Cranston-Riddell.

James Crichton and Dorothy Scott had three known sons, James, Thomas and George. A rough date of their marriage and of the birth of their oldest son James can be estimated from the known birth date of the second son Thomas Crichton of Bottomcraig who was killed in February 1619 at the age of 44. (See Appendix V for details). If Thomas was born in 1574, then his older brother James was probably born between 1570 and 1573.

William Crichton of Drylaw was still alive in 1574 when he received a further grant of both Drylaw and Naughton under the great seal, following a recent forfeiture because of his aggressive support for Queen Mary. William probably died soon after, and his death was followed by that of his son James Crichton 5th of Cranston-Riddell in or just before 1584.

James left his oldest son James Crichton heir to Cranston-Riddell as a minor, which saw the Cranston-Riddell estates moved into a wardship that would ultimately dispossess the Crichton family of most of those estates. It was David Makgill, the Crichton's superior lord for Drylaw and already in possession of Nesbit from the Crichtons, who gained control of Cranston-Riddell by means of his 1584 grant of wardship.

The dispersal of Crichton of Cranston-Riddell lands after 1573

The Catslak lands in Selkirkshire. The Crichton of Cranston-Riddell lands held in Selkirkshire that were collectively known as Catslak, do not appear to have entered into the possession of the Makgills at any time. Indeed, they remain part of the central narrative of this book, as they were actually granted to James Crichton “the Admirable” Crichton himself, probably at some date between 1578 and 1581.

James Crichton 5th of Cranston-Riddell was still in possession of the Selkirkshire lands in 1573 as evidenced by the charter from James and his wife Dorothy granting them to James Douglas Earl of Morton, who was Regent of Scotland from 1572 to 1578. (Ref: 21.6 in Appendix II).

This was a feu charter rather than a resignation that contemplated a regrant from the crown. In other words, the Crichtons were losing possession and control of those lands entirely to the powerful Douglas family.

The feu charter of 1573 to the Earl of Morton was then followed by a charter from the Earl to his nephew the Earl of Angus dated 24 March 1575.

“Charter by King James VI confirming a charter by James, earl of Morton and regent of Scotland, to Archibald, earl of Angus, of the lands of Catslak and Eister and Wester Montberneger, and including that part of the lands of Catslak called Schuittingleyis in the sheriffdom of Selkirk” (National Records of Scotland GD111/1/16.)

Informed speculation would suggest that the grant to the Earl of Morton may have been something of a land-grab, taking possession and title of lands from supporters of the defeated Queen Mary. His following grant to his nephew the Earl of Angus certainly looks like an attempt to keep the lands within the extended Douglas family.

The senior Crichtons of Cranston-Riddell had indeed been strong supporters of Queen Mary with Alexander Crichton of Naughton being in the group that held Edinburgh Castle for the Queen, a group who were eventually defeated and suffered forfeiture of their lands for a time.

What eventually changed was that the Earl of Morton lost his role as Regent in 1578 and was then executed in 1581. The overthrow of Morton and the prominence of Robert Crichton as Lord Advocate suggests that the Catslak lands were returned as a political favour, not to the original owner in James Crichton 5th of Cranston-Riddell, but to his nephew the Lord Advocate’s oldest son James.

That Catslak lands did return before 1581 was confirmed by a revocation of grants by King James VI which specifically exempted a grant of those same Catslak lands to James Crichton the son of Robert Crichton of Eliok.

The relevant parts of that declaration by James VI at Parliament in 1581 read:

James VI “ ... *having completed the 14th year of our age, revokes as after follows. First, we revoke, abrogate and annul all manner of infeftments and dispositions whatsoever we or our regents have made during the time that we or they had regiment of our realm in our or their hands, ...*

“Excepting and reserving always out of these our revocations all infeftments, ... , granted to our familiar and domestic servants in reward of their service, ... the infeftments made by us to Master James Crichton, son to our well beloved clerk and counsellor, Master Robert Crichton of Eliock, our advocate, of the lands of Catslack, Easter and Wester Mountbenger and Schuttingleis, lying in the lordship of Ettrick Forest, within our sherifffdom of Selkirk;” “ (Ref: 26.9 in Appendix II).

The inclusion of *Schuttingleis* in both the 1573 charter to the Earl of Morton and the 1581 confirmation of the earlier enfeftment of James “the Admirable” Crichton confirms that the grant made to the Regent by James Crichton 5th of Cranston-Riddell and the lands returned to Robert Crichton of Eliok’s son were exactly the same. The difference being that now the superior lordship of the lands were no longer with James Crichton 5th of Cranston-Riddell but had been gifted to the Crichton of Eliok family who would hold them from the king.

Presumably *Schuttingleis* is another version of the name *Slewinlaw*, lands that were granted to William Crichton of Drylaw by his father Patrick Crichton 2nd of Cranston-Riddell in 1510, and whose superior lordship had stayed with the head of the Crichton of Cranston-Riddell family at that time. (The exchequer records of Scotland Volume XIII (1508 - 1513), page 654)

All this must have happened before the wardship of Cranston-Riddell occurred and while James Crichton 5th of Cranston-Riddell was alive and in possession of those Catslak estates. The grant of Catslak to Robert Crichton of Eliok’s family must have been one that was not able to be overturned by David Makgill when he later gained the wardship of the greater Cranston-Riddell estates in 1584.

It seems that it was a time of “everyone for themselves” when in power, but Robert Crichton did enable the return of traditional Cranston-Riddell lands to the Crichton family.

In fact they were lands that he had previously been in the line of inheritance for, as evidenced by an earlier 1564 reversion from Alexander Crichton of Naughton as the heir to his brother James for the united “*tenandry of Catslak*”, “*whom failing to Robert Crichton HM advocate*”. (Ref: 17.3 in Appendix II).

That reversion list ended with the usual names of collateral Crichton branches, but Robert Crichton of Eliok was named immediately after the first two sons of William Crichton of Drylaw. It certainly demonstrated that Robert was very close to the actual line of inheritance within the Crichton of Cranston-Riddell family, even if his final grant of the Catslak lands was enabled by his influence as Lord Advocate rather than from a strict right of inheritance.

The barony of Cranston-Riddell. A number of secondary sources give the reason for David Makgill's acquisition of Cranston-Riddell as an escheat or a wardship, and this is confirmed by an instrument dated 12th November 1584 that states:

"... Mr. David Makgill, the King's Advocate, is granted the ward of the barony of Cranstoun Ryddill, of the lands of Nesbit -- which were of his own heritage through wardship -- for the terms between the decease of the last lawful possessors up to the time of the entry of the rightful heirs of Cranston Riddall." (Ref: 23.2 in Appendix II)

The 1584 date of this grant of wardship is considerably later than other secondary sources give, but is corroborated to large degree by other charters granted to David Makgill. He is styled as "*Mr David Makgill of Nesbit, King's Advocate*" in charters of 1582 and 1584 and only as "Mr David Makgill of Cranston-Riddell" in charters from 1589, 1592, 1594 and 1598.

This gives more certainty to the fact that James Crichton 5th of Cranston-Riddell must have died on or just before 1584, leaving his oldest son and heir as a minor. The period of minority in Scotland was until the age of 14, as demonstrated by James VI's own accession to power in 1481 at age 14.

If James Crichton the heir of Cranston-Riddell was still a minor in 1584 that gives an earliest year for his birth as 1570. That fits perfectly with the known birth year of his younger brother Thomas in 1574, giving a credible estimate for his birth year of about 1572.

The grant of 1584 also suggests that David Makgill gained this wardship after he had become Lord Advocate in 1582, which followed the death of none other than James Crichton of Eliok Lord Advocate in that same year.

As a new Lord Advocate with influence among the king and authorities, that might credibly explain why David Makgill was granted the wardship of the Cranston-Riddell lands when he was not strictly a superior lord for those estates. He was the superior lord to the Crichton of Drylaw family but only for that Drylaw estate, which was apparently 'close enough' when politics and influence came into play.

David Makgill then must have gained permanent control of the Cranston-

Riddell estates by granting possession to himself and his heirs with perpetual rights of renewal. That would still leave the Crichton heirs holding the lands “in chief” in the chain of feudal ownership but with no possession or authority over the lands. They would have received at most a token annual payment and would be required to recognise future Makgill family rights to possession.

The Crichton of Cranston-Riddell family continued on, but dropped the territorial designation that came with the actual possession of their lands. Although the last James Crichton was technically the heir to the family’s estates he is only ever referred to as the son of James Crichton of Cranston-Riddell, rather than laying claim to the designation himself.

It appears that the sons of James Crichton 5th of Cranston-Riddell received grants of property rights within the barony of Naughton from their uncle Alexander Crichton of Naughton in Fifeshire. That is borne out by the book on Balmerino Abbey by James Campbell.

**Was Robert Crichton of Eliok
the third son of William Crichton of Drylaw?**

The final question to ask again, is whether or not Robert Crichton of Eliok, the “*well beloved clerk and councillor*” to the king was actually the third of William Crichton of Drylaw’s three sons. And if so, was that part the reason for the settlement of the Catslak properties from the Crichton of Cranston-Riddell family on Robert’s oldest son James “the Admirable” Crichton?

One document goes most of the distance in answering those questions in the affirmative. That was the 1566 Precept of Clare Constat by Robert Crichton bishop of Dunkeld, directed to Robert Crichton, son of William Crichton of Drylaw as a baillie for the barony of Dunkeld for the infefting of George Stewart of Arntyullie in various lands within the barony. The four witnesses to the document included Robert Crichton of Eliok and William Crichton of Drylaw (Ref 26.7 in Appendix II).

That document confirms William Crichton of Drylaw had a third son named Robert who was a baillie in the barony of Dunkeld, an office that normally followed the holding of lands within the barony. As a son of William Crichton of Drylaw, that Robert was also a nephew of Robert Crichton Bishop of Dunkeld.

Compare that with Robert Crichton of Eliok who held the lands of Cluny granted by Robert Crichton Bishop of Dunkeld and was identified in other charters as the bishop’s cousin or nephew. In another connection within the 1566 document is George Stewart of Arntullie, whose great-grandfather John Stewart 1st of Arntullie had also held Cluny.

With both Robert Crichton of Eliok and William Crichton of Drylaw witnessing the document, the evidence is strongly in favour of identifying Robert Crichton of Eliok as the third son of William Crichton of Drylaw and Naughton, even if this is not specifically stated. There was in fact, just one nephew of the Bishop named Robert Crichton known from all the records, and he was the third son of William Crichton of Drylaw.

What may be the final piece of evidence is the phrase from the 1582 Will of Robert Crichton of Eliok, presented here in modern English:

*“Item, I declare my will about **the annual rent furth of Cranston, together with the principal sum**, that in case any thing may be recovered thereof at any time, wholly be applied to the furtherance of the marriages of my daughters, Marie and Grissell Crichton.”* (See Appendix III for a copy of the original Will)

The phrase “*annual rent furth of*” a particular estate is a well known and common written formula used in Scottish documents of the period and its meaning is clear. In using that phrase Robert Crichton of Eliok was declaring that he stood in a position very close to the line of inheritance for the Crichton of Cranston-Riddell land-holdings, from which he felt entitled to an annual payment.

It was only after 1584, two years later than the death of both Robert Crichton of Eliok and his oldest son James the Admirable Crichton that possession of the Cranston-Riddell lands was finally lost to the Crichton family. After 1584 it was with the Makgill family who styled themselves as “of Cranston-Riddell, Nesbit and Drylaw”, leaving the “rightful” Crichton family heir still at the top of the chain of feudal ownership and due an annual rent, which was inevitably just a token payment.

That appears to be confirmed by George Crichton, the son of James Crichton 5th of Cranston-Riddell who signed a charter for Nisbet to David Makgill and his son in 1592. (Ref: 25.2 in Appendix II).

It seems then that Robert Crichton of Eliok, the father of the “Admirable” Crichton, was in his own Will declaring himself to be a member of the wider Crichton of Cranston-Riddell family and one “*of the rightful heirs of Cranston Riddall.*”

Even more significant was belief that he was from the particular Crichton family entitled to inherit the Cranston-Riddell estates. That adds to the considerable circumstantial evidence suggesting that he was Robert, the third son of William Crichton of Drylaw and Naughton and brother to James Crichton the 5th and last possessor of Cranston-Riddell.

APPENDICES

CONTAINING

- I. FAMILY TREE FOR CRICHTON OF CRANSTON-RIDDELL
- II. ARCHIVAL AND SECONDARY SOURCE EVIDENCE FOR FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS IN I.
- III. WILL OF ROBERT CRICHTON OF ELIOK 1582, FATHER OF THE ADMIRABLE CRICHTON
[REPRODUCED FROM TYTLER'S "LIFE OF THE ADMIRABLE CRICHTON"]
- IV. CHART FOR THE FAMILY OF CRICHTON OF CRANSTON-RIDDELL ILLUSTRATING THE DESCENT TO THE ADMIRABLE CRICHTON
- V. THE TOMBSTONE OF THOMAS CRICHTON OF BOTTOMCRAIG 1619
[ILLUSTRATION FROM "BALMERINO AND ITS ABBEY" 1899]

APPENDIX I

FAMILY TREE FOR CRICHTON OF CRANSTON-RIDDELL

The Notes for each family member follow in AppendixII

- David Crichton 1st of Cranston-Riddell** (d.1485) Sheriff of Edinburgh (*Note 1*)
 m. Margaret Schaw, daughter of James Schaw 3rd of Sauchie Captain of Stirling Castle (*Note 2*)
- K1 **Patrick Crichton 2nd of Cranstoun-riddell** (d.1521) (*Note 3*)
 m. Katerine Turing, daughter of Adam Turing (*Note 4*)
- L1 Janet Crichton (d.1515) (*Note 5*)
 m (bef. 1493) John Douglas 2nd Earl of Moreton (b. bef. 1466- d.1511/13) son of James Douglas & Joan Stewart (daughter of King James I and Joan Beaufort)
- L2 **Sir James Crichton 3rd of Cranston-Riddell** - oldest son (d.1539) Captain of Edinburgh Castle (*Note 6*)
 m. (before 1535) Janet Beaton (c1510-1569) daughter of Sir John Beaton & Janet Hay (*Note 7*)
- M1 **James Creighton 4th of Cranston-Riddell** (b. c1525 - d. 1563) (*Note 8*)
 N1 James Crichton - illegitimate son (*Note 9*)
- M2 Martin Crichton (b.1526- d. before 1563) (*Note 10*)
- M3 Katherine Crichton (*Note 11*)
 m. Alexander Stewart 5th of Garlies (bc.1507) below at L4
- L3 David Crichton of Naughton (d. before 1553) no children (*Note 12*)
 m. Janet Leslie (*Note 13*) she remarried to John Grant of Frequhie.
- L4 William Crichton of Drylaw & Naughton (alive 1574) (*Note 14*)
 m1. (div 1536) Beatrice Renton daughter of David Renton of Billie (*Note 15*)
 m2. 13th of 16 daughters of Alexander Stewart of Garlies ... above M3 (*Note 16*)
- M1 Alexander Crichton of Drylaw & Naughton (b.c1532 - alive 1574) (*Note 17*)
 m1. Margaret Johnston daughter of James Johnstone of Elphinstone
- N1 Ludovic Crichton (*Note 18*)
 m. Cristian Ramsay of Grange & Corston
- N2 David Crichton (*Note 19*)
- N3 Patrick Crichton MA. Minister of Ruthven (*Note 20*)
- N4 Catherine Crichton
 m1. (bef. 1557) David Balfour of Balledmonth – probably of this family
 m2. Henry Wood in Wormit (alive 1612)
- N5 Janet Crichton
 m. Thomas Graham in 'Sandford of Naughton,' (d.1580)
 m2. (1593) Marion Ridheugh, widow of Alexander Bonar of Colcuquhair
- M2 **James Crichton 5th of Cranston-Riddell** (b.c1533 - d.1575/84) (*Note 21*)
 m. Dorothy Scott daughter Janet Beaton & Sir Walter Scott of Buccleuch (*Note 22*)
- N1 **James Crichton heir to Cranston-Riddell** – in wardship 1584 (*Note 23*)
- N2 Thomas Crichton of Bottomcraig (1574-1619) (*Note 24*)
 m. Jean Cannolie
- N3 George Crichton (*Note 25*)
- M3 **Robert Crichton of Eliock & Clunie** (c1535-1582) Lord Advocate of Scotland (*Note 26*)
 m1. Elizabeth Stewart daughter of Sir James Stewart of Beath and Margaret Lindsay (*Note 27*)
- N1 **James Crichton** (1560-1582) of Eliock oldest son , *the Admirable Crichton* (*Note 28*)
- N2 Henry Crichton (b. bef.1566 - d.bef.1582)
- N3 Robert Crichton (*Note 29*)
 m. Margaret Stewart – daughter of James Stewart 5th of Innermeath

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- N4 Marie Crichton (d. before 1593)
m. (1586) Sir James Stewart of Ballechin & Stuikis (Stix or Sticks)
descendants of Jams I
- N5 Grisell Crichton
m1. Thomas Dunbar of West Grange, Dean of Moray
m2. James Sinclair of Murkle ?
m2.(1572) Agnes Mowbray (*Note 30*)
- N6 Agnes Crichton
- m3. Isabel Borthwick - daughter of David Borthwick (*Note 31*)
- N7 Helen Crichton
m. Thomas Grierson, younger
- N8 Elizabeth/Elspeth Crichton (d. bef. 1593)
m. James Donaldsone, Advocate
- N9 Margaret Crichton
m. Robert Dalzell, younger - of that ilk
- N10 Marion Crichton
m. (1595) ? George Graham Bishop of Dunblane & Bishop of Orkney
- L5 Patrick Crichton of Kinglassie & Lugton (d. by 1561) (*Note 32*)
m. Margaret Hoppringle –daughter of Adam Hoppringle of that Ilk (*Note 33*)
- M1 Patrick Crichton the younger of Lugton (b.1536-1594) (*Note 34*)
m. (before 1557) Elizabeth Leslie daughter of George Leslie 4th Earl of Rothes & Margaret Crichton (*Note 35*)
- N1 David Crichton heir apparent. (*Note 36*)
- N2 Patrick Crichton (*Note 37*)
- M2 Beatrice Crichton - m. her 1st cousin (*Note 38*)
m. John Spottiswood (1510-1585) son of Elizabeth Hoppringle (sister of Margaret above) & William Spottiswood (*Note 39*)
- N1 John Spottiswood (1565-1639) *Archbishop of St Andrews*
m. Rachel Lyndesay
- N2 James Spottiswood *Bishop of Clogher*
- M3 Katherine Crechtoun daughter of Patrick Crechtoun of Logton (*Note 40*)
m. (1555) John Sinclare of Dryden (*Note 41*)
- L6 Martin Crichton (*Note 42*)
- L7 Robert Crichton *Bishop of Dunkeld* (d.1585) (*Note 43*)
- L8 Agnes Crichton (*Note 44*)
m1. George Sinclair of Roslin – heir apparent of Roslin (d.1510)
m2. (after 1510) Andrew Ker of Cessford
- K2 Sir Peter Crichton of Naughton (alive 1553) (*Note 45*)
m. (1494) Janet Hay (a.1522) heiress to her father Sir James Hay of Naughton Fife (*Note 46*)
- K3 George Crichton *Bishop of Dunkeld* (d. 1543) (*Note 47*)
- K4 Marion Crichton - Possibly of this family & generation
m1. John Menzies of that Ilk
m2. James Tweedie of Drumelzier
m3. William Baillie of Wattiston or Lamington
m4. Sir Robert Hamilton (bc.1455) Lord of Preston & Fingeltoun – the 2nd of his 3 marriages. He married 1st Margaret Mowat & 3rd Helen Schaw daughter of Sir James Schaw of Sauchie
- K5 Elizabeth Crichton (b.1472) – which generation is uncertain & perhaps of Sanquhar
m. Sir John Hay of Snaid - 2nd Lord of Yester (bc.1470-1513 Flodden)
- K6 Margaret Crichton – of unknown family - (*Note 48*)
m. (1472) John Cockburn of Ormiston, son of Alexander Cockburn who had m2. Margaret Schaw, widow of James Crichton of Cranston-Riddell

APPENDIX II

Sources evidencing the various relationships within the Crichton of Cranston-Riddell family tree in APPENDIX I

Notes 1. David Crichton 1st of Cranston-Riddell (d.1485)

David Crichton held lands in Edinburgh & Perth, Custodian of Edinburgh Castle 1474-75. "Armiger of the King". Cranston-reddale was granted to David Crichton by the King, previously held by William Douglas. He was also granted Nesbit with its Tower. One of the commissioners for James II in his treaty of marriage with Margaret daughter of the King of Denmark 1469

Ref: 1.1. 1468

Register of the Great Seal of Scotland, II (1424 - 1513), No. 957, dated July 25, 1468

David de Creichtoune of Cranstoune - redale and Margarete Schaw his wife have charter to lands, cottages, of Cranstoune - redale in county Edinburgh, and to lands of Wallastoun, County Perth, confirmed

Ref: 1.2. 1468

The Exchequer Rolls of Scotland Vol. VII p.530

David Crichton was granted the fermes of Montbrengeare, Catslak and Blakgrane in Selkirkshire. And again in 1469 on page 621:

*"Et eidem, de firmis quatuor locorum, videlicet duobus **Monbrengearis, Catslak, et Blacgrane**, occupatorum cum propriss domini regis, pro quibus **David Crechtoune** solvet annuatim quadringentas marcas in anno, ut patent per indentorum suam desuper confectam, de anno computi, xxiiij li. Iij bowky viij fog et fule marte, super quibus computandum est cum dicto David."*

Ref: 1.3. 1477

National Records of Scotland GD40/3/488

*Nisbet: Instrument of resignation in the hands of the king by Robert Luedre of Edrington and Robert Luedre, his son, of the superiority of the lands of **Nesbit** in the constabulary of Haddington and by **David of Crechtone of Cranstone** of the property (tenandria) thereof, all in favour of the said David. 28 June 1477*

Ref: 1.4. 1478.

Register of the Great Seal of Scotland, II (1424 - 1513), No. 1356, dated Jan. 28, 1478.

*The lands of Cranston - Riddale were first held by William de Murray, then by William Douglas; and then King James III granted them to **David de Crichton** who had given faithful service to the deceased King and Queen for a long time. He is also granted land of Nesbit with its tower. All lands are made a part of the free barony of Cranstoun - Riddale.*

Ref: 1.5. 1478

National Records of Scotland GD40/3/529

*Crown charter to **David of Creichtoun of Cranstoune Riddale** of the lands thereof in the sherifffdom of Edinburgh and **lands of Nesbit** in the constabulary of Haddington. 28 Jan 1477/1478*

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Ref: 1.6. 1485

Exchequer Rolls of Scotland ERS, IX (1480 - 1487), page 318.

David Crichtoun is deceased, and his son Patrick of Cranstounriddale succeeds his father.

Notes 2. Margaret Schaw – wife of David Crichton 1st of Cranston-Riddell

Margaret was the daughter of James Schaw 3rd of Sauchie Captain of Stirling Castle, household comptroller for James III. She married 2ndly Alexander Cockburn of Ormestounhall

Ref: 2.1. 1468

Register of the Great Seal of Scotland, II (1424 - 1513), No. 957, dated July 25, 1468

David de Creichtoune of Cranstoune - redale and Margarete Schaw his wife have charter to lands, cottages, of Cranstoune - redale in county Edinburgh, and to lands of Wallastoun, County Perth, confirmed

Notes 3. Patrick Crichton 2nd of Cranstoun-riddell (d.1521)

His father David ceded him Cranston-Riddell in 1468. In 1488 he was master ranger of Ettrick Forest in the ward of Tweed. In 1499 Keeper (Governor) of Edinburgh Castle. In 1503 Panitarius (cup-bearer) to King James IV. In 1507 granted lands in Gilberton with its mansion & orchards in County Edinburgh. Again Captain of Edinburgh Castle 1517-18

Ref: 3.1. 1468

Register of the Great Seal of Scotland, II (1424 - 1513), No. 956, dated July 25, 1468,

Patrick de Creichtoun, son and heir of an armiger of the King, David de Creichtoun, is conceded lands of Cranstoune-redale in Edinburgh which his father has resigned

Ref: 3.2. 1485

National Records of Scotland GD40/3/491

Nisbet: Instrument of sasine in favour of Patrick Creichtoun as heir to David Creichtone of Cranstone Riddall, his father, in the lands of Nesbete, following on precept from Chancery 22 Apr 1485

Ref 3.3 1508

Scottish Record Society Publications, Vol. 74, No. 1819.

Patrick Crichton receives 1/2 of the barony of Logtoun; sasine was given in the vestibule of the collegiate church of St.Giles, Edinburgh. Katherine Turing was his wife ...

Note 4. Katherine Turing married Patrick Crichton of Cranston-Riddell by 1489

Ref: 4.1 1489

Judicial Proceedings: acts of the Lords auditors of causes & complaints. Parliamentary register 14 January 1489 – extract:

“ ... the said Robert produced a letter of tack of sub-tenantry from Patrick of Crichton of Cranston, signed by his hand and under a procured seal without the consent of Catherine Turing, his spouse, who had tack of the said lands from our sovereign lord [from] the time he was a prince, ... “

Note 5. Janet Crichton

Ref: 5.1 1505

The peerage of Scotland: containing an historical and genealogical account of the nobility of that kingdom, by Robert Douglas, Esq. Douglas, Robert, Sir, page 492.

IX. JOHN, 2nd earl of Morton, succeeded, and got a charter from king James IV. to him and Janet Crichton his spouse, terrarum dominicalium de Aberdour, dated in 1505. He married Janet, daughter of— Crichton of Cranston-Riddel, by whom he had two sons, and two daughters.

Note 6. Sir James Crichton 3rd of Cranston-Riddell oldest son (d.1539)

Ref: 6.1 1510

National Records of Scotland GD224/890/13

Great seal charter in favour of James Creichtoun, son and apparent heir of Patrick Creichtoun of Cranstoun Riddale, the king's confidant, of lands and forest place of Wester Montbernger, extending in rental to £66 13s 4d, in lordship of Ettrick Forest, sheriffdom of Selkirk. May 30, 1510

Ref: 6.2 1530

National Records of Scotland GD40/3/494

Nisbet: Special retour in favour of James Crechtoun of Cranstounriddale as heir to Patrick Crechtoun, his father, in the lands of Nesbit

Note 7. Janet Beaton (c1510-1569)

She was the daughter of Sir John Beaton & Janet Hay (daughter of John Hay & Elizabeth Crichton). After the death of her husband James Crichton in 1539, Janet Beaton m2 (1540) & divorced (1543) Sir Simon Preston of Craigmillar

Janet Beaton then m3. Sir Walter Scott of Branxholme & Buccleuch by whom she had several children including Dorothy Scott at Note 22 below.

Then in 1558 she took as her partner James Hepburn when he was only 24.

Ref: 7.1 1535

National Records of Scotland GD40/3/497

Nisbet: (1). Precept under the Quarter Seal in favour of James Creichtoun of Cranstounriddale and Janet Betoun, his spouse, of the lands of Nesbett, following on resignation by said James. 9 Jun 1535

Ref: 7.2 1543

National Records of Scotland GD122/1/184

Charter of Queen Mary, confirming to Symon Prestoun son and heir of George Prestoun and Jonete Betoun his wife his lands in the Barony of Balgawy. 5 Jun 1543

Ref: 7.3 1549

National Records of Scotland GD224/894/1

Great seal charger in favour of Walter Scott of Branxholm and Jonet Beatoun, his spouse, in lands of Easter Craik, in sheriffdom of Roxburgh, forfeited by John Cockburn, formerly of Ormiston. 1548/9 February 2

Ref: 7.4 1550

Abstract of the Scott Muniments, paragraph 178

*“Lease granted by **James Creichtoun of Cranstoun Riddall**, with the consent of his curators, to **his beloved mother Dame Janet Beaton**, spouse to **Walter Scott of Branxholme**, knight ...” dated 20 August 1550.*

Note 8. James Crichton 4th of Cranston-Riddell (b. c1525 - d.1563)

Oldest son and heir of James Crichton 3rd of Cranston-Riddall and his wife Janet Beaton. He must have been born before his brother Martin who is named in a charter dated 1527 (see Note 10).

Granted by his father James in 1531 the lands of Catslack & Eister & Wester Montberngear & Blackgrane in the Lordship of Ettrik Forest and Sheriffdom of *Selkirk*, as son & apparent heir. Sasine of the lands in Nesbit 1532. Leased all his lands to his mother Janet Beaton, wife of Walter Scott in 1550 for 19 years.

Ref: 8.1 1531

National Records of Scotland GD111/1/6

*Crown Charter to **James Creichtoun, son and apparent heir of James Creichtoun of Cranstoun riddell**, captain of Edinburgh Castle, of the lands of Catslak and Eister and Wester Montberngear and Blackgrane in the lordship of Ettrik Forest and sheriffdom of Selkirk on resignation by the elder James. 23 Aug 1531*

Ref: 8.2 1532

National Records of Scotland GD40/3/496

*Nisbet: Instrument of sasine in favour of **James Creichtoun as heir to James Creichtoun of Cranstounriddale, his father**, in the lands of Nesbit, following on precept from Chancery dated 13 May 1532 Witnesses: William Patersoun, Adam Auchinlek, Thomas Blyth, Robert Mylntoun, Walter Dicsoun, John Wythirspune, James Mylne, David Sinclar, Richard Diksoune, John Carnis. Notary (apostolic): Alexander Young, clerk of St. Andrews diocese.*

Ref: 8.3 1539

Abstract of the Scott Muniments, paragraph 156

*“Retour of the special service, before the Sheriff of Selkirk in that part, of **James Creichtoun, son of the deceased James Creichtoun of Cranstoun- riddell**, as heir to his said father, of the place and lands of Cattislak, with the tower and fortalice thereof, the places and lands of Easter and Wester Montberngear, and the place and lands of Blackgrane, in the Lordship of Ettrick Forest and shire of Selkirk....” Dated 22 January 1539.*

Ref: 8.4 1542

Abstract of the Scott Muniments, paragraph 161

Discharge by David, Cardinal Archbishop of St Andrews, and Archibald Beaton of Capildra, tutors of James Creichtoun of Cranstone-riddall, to Janet Beatoun. 11th November 1542.

*We, David, Cardinall Archbishope of Sanct Androis, etc., and Archibald Betaoun of Capildra, Tutouris tesptamentouris to **James Creichton of Cranstoneriddell, sone and aire to umquhill James Creichton of Cranstoneriddall**, his fader, grantis ws, as **Tutouris** forsaid, to have discharit, and be the tenour herof dischargeis, our consignes Janet Beatoun, the relict of the said James, of all malis, fermes, gersumes, proffittis and dewities on the landis of Cranstounriddall, Murhous, liand within the scheref dome of Edinburgh,*

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Blakgrane, Catslak, Montbergeare, Estir and Westir liand within the scherefdom of Selkirk ... etc etc."

Notes: Tutors would normally be discharged of their duties when their ward became of age. James must have been born before the charter of 1527 to his brother Martin, therefore by 1542 he would have been about 17 years old. A minor in Scotland became "of age" at 14. In the next extract the Curators of James Crichton were discharging their duties in 1550, when James would have been about 25 years old. Curators would normally be in place until their charge reached 25 years which does place his birth in about 1525.

Ref: 8.5 1550

Abstract of the Scott Muniments, paragraph 178

*"Lease granted by **James Creichtoun of Cranstoun Riddall**, with the consent of William Scott of Kirkurd, knight, and Walter Scott of Synton, **his curators**, to **his beloved mother Dame Janet Beaton**, spouse to **Walter Scott of Branxholme**, knight, and her heirs and assignees of the lands of Cranstoun Riddall, commonly called the mains of Cranston, with the manor-place, gardens, orchards, parks, and dowercats" thereof, in the shire of Edinburgh and constabulary of Haddington, together with the lands of Catslak, Easter and Wester Montbenger, and Blakgrane, in the Lordship of Ettrick Forest and shire of Selkirk, for nineteen years, for payment of the sum of £46,13s. 4d. Yearly, namely, £26, 13s. 4d. For Cranston Riddell, and £20 for the other lands mentioned, dated at Branxholme, 20th August 1550, ..."*

Notes: Janet Beaton, the mother of James Crichton 4th of Cranston-Riddell gained a lease of all the Cranston-Riddell estates for 19 years – i.e. until 1569. Janet next married her daughter Dorothy Scott to her nephew James Crichton 2nd son of William Crichton of Drylaw, and was likely part of the negotiations that saw her nephew James become the heir to the Cranston-Riddell estates in place of his father William Crichton of Drylaw.

The line of succession within the Crichton of Cranston family following the failure of the sons of her husband James Crichton 3rd of Cranston-Riddell would be to James' brother David Crichton of Naughton who died before 1553 without children. Next in line was the 3rd brother William Crichton of Drylaw.

Since James Crichton who married Dorothy Scott was the second son of William Crichton of Drylaw, this grant from his father allocated estates for his second son and kept some continuity with Janet Beaton's lease of the same estates now moving to her daughter's husband.

James Crichton 4th of Cranston-Riddell died in 1563 as evidenced by the charters naming his successor James Crichton son of William Crichton of Drylaw, as fiar of Cranston-Riddell on 15 March 1563 and as "**of Cranston-Riddell**" in a charter of July 1563 (below).

Note 9. James Crichton – illegitimate

Ref: 9.1 1570

National Records of Scotland RH6/2209A

One of the Witnesses was **James Creichton, natural son of umquhile James Creichton of Cranstonriddaill**," 12 Dec 1570

Note: at this date he was logically the son of James Crichton 4th of Cranston-Riddell who died in 1563, rather than his father who died in 1539.

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Note 10. Martin Crichton (born 1526 – d. before 1563)

Ref: 42.2 1527

National Records of Scotland GD328/30

Writs of Mitchelstoun 1527-1650

*Precept of sasine, grant by Egidia Cranstoun, sister and heir of Patrick C. of Rochebyres, with consent of Edward Auchinlek of Kylbank her husband, of her half of the lands of Mychelstoun in the lordship of Weddale to **Martin Creichtoun son of James Creichtoun of Cranstounriddell**, reserving one house and one acre to the superior, 20 Feb. 1527.*

*Charter by Egidia Cranstoun, sister and heir of Patrick C. of Rochebyres, with consent of Edward Auchinlek of Kylbank her husband, of her half of the lands of Mychelstoun in the lordship of Weddale to **Martin Creichtoun son of James C. of Cranstounriddell**, reserving one house and one acre to the superior, 23 Feb. 1528.*

Instrument recording renunciation of right of redemption, 4 Apr. 1531.

*Charter by **Martin Crichtoun** to James Hoppringle, brother of Robert H. of Blindlee, of half of Michelstoun, 7 Nov. 1540.*

Charter by archbishop of St. Andrews to Robert Hoppringle of Blindlee, 5 Nov. 1625.

Notes: *Given the date of 1527 and the fact the Martin would need to be a second son of James Crichton 3rd of Cranston-Riddell after his son & heir James, this transcription might be in error and refer to Martin the brother of James Crichton 3d of Cranston-Riddell?*

The grant dated 1527 would need to have been made to a new-born infant and would mean his older brother James was born by about 1525. That appears to be too early for a marriage between James Crichton 3rd of Cranston-Riddell who died in 1539 and Janet Beaton whose own birth date is usually given as around 1519.

However, the early date of 1531 for James Crichton 4th of Cranston-Riddell to have been granted the Selkirkshire lands (Ref: 8.1) confirms that grants were indeed made to infants and itself places the marriage of James Crichton and Janet Beaton before 1530.

The following charter by Martin himself in 1540 tends to support the accuracy of the 1527 transcription as his minority would have ended at age 14, allowing for him to have been born in 1526.

Rather than doubt a primary source over repeated reports without reference, it has been decided to present this evidence as found and include Martin as a second son. His brother James is named as son and heir in charters dated from 1531 and inherited in 1539.

Note 11. Katherine Crichton

Ref: 10.1

The peerage of Scotland: containing an historical and genealogical account of the nobility of that Kingdom. ... By George Crawford, Esq page 157

*“This **Sir Alexander Steuart of Garlies** was much favoured by King James V. of whose Privy-Council he was. He married first **Catherine Daughter of Sir James Crichton of Cranston-riddel**”.*

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Note 12. David Crichton of Naughton

In 1529 David received possession of Naughton from his uncle Sir Peter Crichton.

Ref: 12.1 1510

National Records of Scotland GD224/890/18

*Great seal charter in favour of **David Creichton, son of Sir Patrick Creichton of Cranston Riddall**, kt, the king's confidant, of lands and forest place of Blakgrane, formerly extending to £66 13s 4d, in lordship of Ettrick Forest, sheriffdom of Selkirk. 1510 May 30*

Ref: 12.2

Balmerino and its Abbey by James Campbell 1867 – The Crichtons of Naughton

“David Crichton of Naughton, son of Sir Patrick Crichton of Cranstoun- Riddle and nephew of the last Laird of Naughton, ...”

Note 13. Janet Leslie

Ref: 13.1 1563

National Records of Scotland RH15/39/116

*Bond by **William Crychtoun of Drylawe and Nauchtane** and **Alexander Crychtoun his son and apparent heir**, renouncing all actions at their instance against **Janet Leslie, relict of David Crychtoun of Nachtane**, and **John Grant of Frequhie**, now her spouse 15 Feb 1562/1563*

Ref: 13.2

Balmerino and its Abbey by James Campbell 1867 – The Crichtons of Naughton

***David Crichton of Naughton**, ..., md. **Janet Leslie, dr. of George, 4th Earl of Rothes**, who, after his death, md., 2dly, **the Laird of Grant**, but had no issue by either marriage.*

Note 14. William Crichton of Drylaw & Naughton (alive 1574)

Ref: 14.1 1424

National Records of Scotland AD1/39

*Extract crown charter to **John Forrester of Corstorphyne**, kt., master of the king's household, of mains of Corstorphyne, **lands of Drylaw**, lands of barony of Nether Libirtoun and lands of Medeufeld, in sheriffdom of Edinburgh, formerly held in heritage by said John and resigned by him to crown, with grant of lands of Clerkyntoun in said sheriffdom, formerly held by Archibald, earl of Douglas, and resigned by him to crown, all said lands now to be held by said John in free barony. 10 Jul 1424*

Ref: 14.2 1510

National Records of Scotland GD224/890/13

*Great seal charter in favour of **William Creichtoun, son of Patrick Creichtoun of Cranstoun Riddale**, kt, the king's follower/confidant [familiaris nostri]; of l ands and forest place and Catslak, extending annually in rental to £66 13s 4d, in lordship of Ettrick Forest, sheriffdom of Selkirk. May 30, 1510*

Ref: 14.3 1533

National Records of Scotland GD122/1/13

*Extract Charter under the Great Seal of King James in favour of Alexander Foresterv of Corstorphyne and his heirs of the lands and **barony of Corstophine including Drylaw**, Clerkintoun, Nether Libertoun and Medowfeild in shire of Edinburgh 12 Sep 1533*

***Note:** This evidence of William Crichton of Naughton and Drylaw holding his Drylaw lands from the Forrester of Corstorphine family becomes central to the reasons why the estates of the Crichton of Cranston-Riddell family ended up in the wardship of David Makgill who had married Elizabeth Forrester, daughter of James Forrester of Corstorphine (d.1547). Apparently Elizabeth took Drylaw to David Makgill as a marriage portion.*

Sir James Forrester, designed of Meadowhead in the lifetime of his father, who bestowed that estate upon him in 1538. Afterwards he succeeded to the whole barony of Corstorphine. The book "The House of Forrester" suggests that his widow Agnes Forrester had a contract to marry Simon Preston of Craigmillar in 1547- the divorced husband of Janet Beaton who was the mother of James Crichton 4th of Cranston-Riddell. That intriguing marriage contract has not been corroborated anywhere else.

Ref: 14.4 1558

Balmerino and its Abbey by James Campbell 1867 – The Crichtons of Naughton

***William Crichton of Drylaw and Naughton**, brother of the last, was served heir to him [his brother David] in Naughton in 1558. ...*

Ref: 14.5 1563

National Records of Scotland GD45/16/2707

*Attested copy of instrument of sasine in favour of **William Creichtoun of Drylaw** of the lands and barony of Nauchtane following on precept from Chancery as **heir to David Creichtoun of Nauchtane, his brother** 20 Apr 1563*

Ref: 14.6 1573

National Records of Scotland GD3/1/11/19/1

*Instrument in favour of **Sir James Forrester** as heir and successor to unquhile **Archibald Forrester of Corstorphine** on his consigning £83 6s 8d Scots upon a bond within the abbey kirk of Haly Croce besyde Edinburgh in the place where sometime Saint Sebastian's altar was situated of before for redeeming a husband land in Longniddry and also an annualrent of 11 merks to be yearly uplifted furth of the said lands of Longniddry from **Alexander Creichtoun, son and apparent heir to William Creichtoun in Drylaw**. Andrew Lowyes, notar.y 9 May 1573*

Ref: 14.7 1574

Balmerino and its Abbey by James Campbell 1867 – The Crichtons of Naughton p.503

*"In December 1574, Bishop Douglas having resigned Naughton and Drylaw in favour of Alexander Crichton, the latter obtained a charter of both under the Great Seal. The charter styles Crichton "**apparent of Drylaw**", which indicates that his father William was still alive,"*

Note 15. Beatrice Renton

Beatrice, the daughter of David Renton of Billie married first William Sinclair of Herdmanston who died in 1530. She then married William Crichton of Drylaw and was divorced in 1536 because of infidelity with William's brother James Crichton 3rd of Cranston-Riddell. She married a third time to Edward Sinclair of Dryden as his third wife. Her son John Sinclair of Herdmanston by her first marriage then married a Margaret Sinclair who is likely to have been a daughter of her third husband Edward Sinclair of Dryden by one of his earlier marriages.

Ref: 15.1 1522

The Saint-Clairs of the Isles by Roland Saint-Clair 1898 page 314

*“ On the 30th July, 1522, confirmation issued to **William Sinclair de Herdmanston and Beatrice Rantoun, his spouse, to Herdmanston, Milton, and Wester Pencaitland, and Myddyll in Berwick.** ”*

Ref: 15.2 1536

Liber Officiate S. Andrece, printed for the Abbotsford Club

“In 1535-36 he [William Crichton of Drylaw] was divorced from Beatrice Ranetoun, lady of Herdmanston.”

Ref: 15.3 1546

National Records of Scotland GD18/462

“17 April 1546. Letters of Regress by David, Cardinal Archbishop of St Andrews, in favour of Edward Synclare of Drydane and Beatrice Rentoun, his spouse, of sixth part of lands of Lessuayd disposed, under reversion etc...”

Note 16. 13th of 16 daughters of Alexander Stewart of Garlies

Ref: 16.1 1558

Balmerino and its Abbey by James Campbell 1867 – The Crichtons of Naughton

William Crichton of Drylaw and Naughton, This was probably that Laird of Naughton who married the 13th of sixteen drs. of Alexander Stewart of Garlies.

Note 17. Alexander Crichton of Naughton (alive 1601)

Alexander was the oldest son and heir of William Crichton of Drylaw and Naughton, brother of James Crichton 5th of Cranston-Riddell and probably of Robert Crichton of Eliok. Alexander received Naughton from his father in 1563, and became the heir to his brother James for the Cranston-Riddell estates, also in 1563.

Ref: 17.1 1562

National Records of Scotland GD137/3651

*Charter by **William Craythorne of Drylaw** with the consent of **Alexander Craythorne his son and apparent heir,** to Lawrence Jack and James Jack his son, of part of the lands of Wormett in feuferme. 7 Nov 1562*

Ref: 17.2 1563

Calendar of Lang's charters held by Edinburgh University paragraph 763

*'Instrument of sasine following on a charter by **William Crichton of Drylaw and Naughtan,** in favour of **Alexander Creichton, younger of Drylaw,** of the granter's barony of Naughtan, with tower, mills, fishings, and mains thereof, the lands of Gelraw, Sandford, Innerdowett,*

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*Byrhylls, with fishing I Tay, fishings of Braidhench there, Caldham, the lands of Sterisland, Sagy, and Wormett, with fishings ,etc., in the Sheriffdom of Fife. Charter dated at Culluthy, 8th July 1563, before **Mr James Crichton of Cranston, the granter's son**, Thomas Blair, brother-german of Andrew Blair of Auldblair, William Crichton son of Alexander Crichton of Newhall, Edward Forsyght, and John lemmell, witnesses. Sasine given by William Grnham , bailie, 25th July 1563. Witnesses etc..”*

Notes: *This dates the granting of Naughton to Alexander Crichton from his father William Crichton of Drylaw and establishes that James Crichton his second son had claimed possession of Cranston-Riddell by July 1563.*

Ref: 17.3 1564

National Records of Scotland GD224/890/13

*Letter of reversion by **Alexander Creichtoun of Nachtane, brother and apparent heir to Mr James Creichtoun of Cranstounriddell**, who has disponed to granter and his heirs, whom failing, to **Mr Robert Creichtoun. HM Advocate, John Creichtoun of Brounstoun, James Creichtoun of Frendrauch** and their heirs male respectively, said James's lands and forest places of Catslak, Easter and Wester Monbernger and place and lands of Blakgrane, in lordship of Ettrick Forest, sheriffdom of Selkirk, united in a tenandry of Catslak, reversion to take place in tolbooth of burgh of Edinburgh, on payment of an angel noble of gold. Witnesses: Mr John Abernethy and Alan Tod. Signed by granter as **Alexander Creichtoun, fiar of Cranstoun**.*

Notes: *In this reversion for the Catslak properties in Selkirkshire – Alexander Crichton of Naughton was heir to his younger brother James for those lands. Robert Crichton of Eliok followed (which would be logical if he was the third son), then came two other Crichton family branches represented by John Crichton of Brunston and James Crichton of Frendraught.*

Ref: 17.4

Balmerino and its Abbey by James Campbell 1867 – The Crichtons of Naughton

***Alexander Crichton of Drylaw. and Naughton**, son of the last [William Crichton of Drylaw & Naughton], **md. Margaret Johnstoun**, dr. of James Johnstoun of Elphinstoun. He had three sons, Ludovic his heir, David, and Patrick, who became minister of Ruthven. Probably of the family of Naughton were Catherine Crichton, who was md. before 1557 to David Balfour of Balledmonth ; Janet C., wife of Thomas Graham in ' Sandford of Naughton,' who died 1580 ; and Catherine C', wife of Henry Wood in Wormit, who was alive in 1612*

Ref: 17.5 1593

National Records of Scotland GD137/2392

*Charter by **Alexander Crichton of Nauchtane**, to **Marion Ridheugh, relict of Alexander Bonar of Colcuquhair, and future spouse of said Alexander Crichton**, in implement of their Contract of Marriage, of the lands and mill of vormett, with salmon fishing, etc. Dated at Nauchtane 6 Oct 1593*

Note 18. Ludovic Crichton

Ref: 18.1 1588

Calendar of Laing's Charters held by Edinburgh University paragraph 1157

*8th April 1588. "Letters by James Hay in the south ferry of Portincraig, heir by progress to the late Janet Hay, sometime Lady Nauchtane, and heiress thereof, and to the late Sir James Hay her father, David Hay, her 'guidschir,' and Sir Hay her 'grandschir,' or to any other, his and her predecessors, with consent of **Alexander Creichtoun of Nauchtane** for himself and **Luis Creicthoun, his son and heir apparent ...**"*

" ... since the making of the said infeftment, it is lately come to the granter's knowledge that there were one or more reversions granted by the late Sir Peter or David Crichton of Nauchtane, or other predecessors of the said Alexander Creichtoun, ..."

Ref: 18.2

Balmerino and its Abbey by James Campbell 1867 – The Crichtons of Naughton

Lodovic Crichton, fiar of Naughton, son of Alexander Crichton who was still alive, obtained in 1601, a crown charter confirming to him the remaining lands of Naughton ... ; and incorporating all of these in a 'free tenandry,' to be called 'the tenandry of Naughton'.

Ref: 18.3

Balmerino and its Abbey by James Campbell 1867 – The Crichtons of Naughton

Lodovic Crichton of Naughton., eldest son of the last [Alexander Crichton of Naughton], **md. Christian Ramsay**, probably of the family of Ramsay of Grange and Corston ; and their eldest son was Ludovic C.

Note 19. David Crichton

Ref: 19.1

Balmerino and its Abbey by James Campbell 1867 – The Crichtons of Naughton

"Alexander Crichton of Drylaw. and Naughton, ... had three sons, Ludovic his heir, David, and Patrick, who became minister of Ruthven."

Ref: 19.2

Balmerino and its Abbey by James Campbell 1867 – The Crichtons of Naughton

"In 1592, Parliament ratified a pension, given by ' the late Robert Crichton, Bishop of Dunkeld, to David, son of Alexander Crichton of Naughton, of £60 out of the barony of Boncle and Preston in Berwickshire, during David's lifetime."

Note 20. Patrick Crichton MA.

Ref: 20.1

Balmerino and its Abbey by James Campbell 1867 – The Crichtons of Naughton

Alexander Crichton of Drylaw. and Naughton, ... had three sons, Ludovic his heir, David, and Patrick, who became minister of Ruthven.

Note 21. James Crichton 5th of Cranston-Riddell (b.c1533 - d. before 1592)

It was William Crichton of Drylaw, father to this James who would have been the next male heir to Cranston-Riddell. It is not known exactly why he determined that the inheritance would go to this James as his second son, but the fact that James married Dorothy Scott the daughter of Sir Walter Scott & Janet Beaton (*Note 7*) may have been significant as Janet Beaton had gained control of her son James Crichton's estates of Cranston-Riddell in 1550 on a 19 year lease.

If, as seems probable, Robert Crichton of Eliok was the third son, he had already been provided with an inheritance by the grant of Cluny by his uncle Robert Crichton Bishop of Dunkeld in 1557 and the grant of Eliok in Sanquhar by his cousin Edward Crichton Lord of Sanquhar in about 1561.

Ref: 21.1 1563

National Records of Scotland GD224/64/5

Mr James Creychtoun, names himself as **fiar of Cranstoun Ryddell** March 15, 1563 (calendar year started on March 25)

Ref: 21.2 1563

Calendar of Lang's charters held by Edinburgh University paragraph 763

'Instrument of sasine following on a charter by William Crichton of Drylaw and Naughtan, in favour of Alexander Creichton, younger of Drylaw, of the granter's barony of Naughtan, with tower, mills, fishings, and mains thereof, the lands of Gelraw, Sandford, Innerdowett, Byrhylls, with fishing I Tay, fishings of Braidhench there, Caldham, the lands of Sterisland, Sagy, and Wormett, with fishings, etc., in the Sheriffdom of Fife. Charter dated at Culluthy, 8th July 1563, before Mr James Crichton of Cranston, the granter's son, Thomas Blair, brother-german of Andrew Blair of Auldblair, William Crichton son of Alexander Crichton of Newhall, Edward Forsyght, and John lemmell, witnesses. Sasine given by William Grnham, bailie, 25th July 1563. Witnesses etc..'

Notes: This James Crichton was a son of William Crichton of Drylaw and had claimed his title to Cranston-Riddell by July 1563.

Ref: 21.3 1564

National Records of Scotland GD224/890/13.

"Letter of reversion by Alexander Creichtoun of Nachtane, brother and apparent heir to Mr James Creichtoun of Cranstounriddell, who has disposed to granter and his heirs, whom failing, to Mr Robert Creichtoun. HM Advocate, John Creichtoun of Brounstoun, James Creichtoun of Frendrauch and heir heirs male respectively, said James's lands and forest places of Catslak, Easter and Wester Monbernger and place and lands of Blakgrane, in lordship of Ettrick Forest, sheriffdom of Selkirk, united in a tenandry of Catslak," Signed by granter as Alexander Creichtoun, fiar of Cranstoun

Notes: Alexander was the oldest brother but the Catslak holdings in Selkirkshire had been passed to his next oldest brother James Crichton who married Dorothy Scott, half sister to the previous James Crichton of Cranston-Riddell. But as Alexander was the oldest son he remained the heir to his brother for those specific lands. The reversion then fell to the third brother Robert Crichton of Eliok, before moving on to the heads of other Crichton family branches. The land being united in a "tenandry" appears for the first time.

LIFE OF THE ADMIRABLE CRICHTON REVISITED

Ref: 21.4 1564

National Records of Scotland GD224/890/13

Alexander Crichton is Fiar of Cranston

Also names James Crichton of Cranston as William Crichton of Drylaw's son. 1564 (no Month)

Ref: 21.5 1566

Calendar of Laing's Charters held by Edinburgh University. Paragraph 797

Renunciation and resignation by **Mr James Creichtoun of Cranston-Reddale**, brother and apparent heir to **Alexander Creichtoun of Nachtane**, narrating that as his brother has sold to him, whom failing, to **Mr Robert Creichtoun, queen's advocate**, John Creichtoun of Bruntstoun, and James Creichtoun of Frendraught, successively, and the heirs male of each, the lands and barony of Nachtane in the Sheriffdom of Fife, under reversion of "ane angell noble, or the valour thereof, " and whereas Alexander had on 26th of June 1565 paid to the granter 'the said angell noble, gude and sufficient gold,' and the granter then renounced the lands; the granter now ratifies the same, grants receipt of 'ane vther angell noble,' and again renounces and resigns the whole lands and barony. At Edinburgh 3rd of May 1566. Witnesses (no Crichtons) **Signed 'James Crechtoun'**. 3 May 1566.

Ref: 21.6 1573

National Records of Scotland GD111/1/12

Feu Charter by **Mr. James Crechtoun of Cranstoun riddale and Dorothy Scot, his spouse**, to James, earl of Morton, Regent of Scotland, of the lands of Catslak and Eister and Wester Montbernger and including that part of the lands of Catslak called Schuittingleyis in the sheriffdom of Selkirk Dated 23 Sep 1573.

Note: James earl of Morton was Regent from 1572 until 1578, and executed in June 1581 a few months before the young James VI took power and issued the instrument recognizing the grant of the Catslak lands to James "the Admirable" Crichton at **Ref:26.9**.

Note 22. Dorothy Scott

Ref: 22.1 1573

National Records of Scotland GD111/1/12

Feu Charter by **Mr. James Crechtoun of Cranstoun riddale and Dorothy Scot, his spouse**, to James, earl of Morton, Regent of Scotland, of the lands of Catslak and Eister and Wester Montbernger and including that part of the lands of Catslak called Schuittingleyis in the sheriffdom of Selkirk Dated 23 Sep 1573.

Notes: Names Dorothy Scot as the wife of James Crichton of Cranston-Riddell, who at this date must be the son of William Crichton of Drylaw & brother of Robert Crichton of Eliok.

Ref: 22.2

Balmerino and its Abbey by James Campbell 1867

"Sir James C. of C.-R. d. before 1619. His mother and paternal grandmother appear to have been of the family of Forrester of Corstorphine. He md. **Dorothy Scott, of the Scotts of Branhholm**. Her mother was **Jean Beaton of the Beatons of Creich** ; and her maternal grandmother was of the Hays of Errol. He had two sons, Sir James and Thomas. - "

Notes: Jean Beaton must be the Janet Beaton who m. Sir Walter Scott of Branhholm after 1540. Her son James Crichton of Cranston-Riddell had signed all his lands to his mother in 1550. Janet Beaton's daughter Dorothy married James Crichton, son of William Crichton of

Drylaw & Beatrice Renton. The two would not have been related by blood, but Dorothy's mother was James' aunt.

Note 23. James Crichton – heir to Cranston-Riddell (in wardship)

This James must have been a minor when his father died after 1574 and his grandfather William had died by a similar date. David Makgill was granted the wardship of the Cranston-Riddell estates and then apparently granted possession in perpetuity to himself and his male heirs. The Crichtons still remained in the chain of feudal ownership but would have received only a token annual payment.

Ref: 23.1

Balmerino and its Abbey by James Campbell 1867 – The Crichtons of Bottomcraig
“James Crichton of Crichton-Riddell (the representative of David Crichton, who was descended from Lord Chancellor Crichton through the Crichtons of Frendraught, and md in 1468 – Riddell heiress of Cranston-Riddell(had two sons, James and Thomas.

Ref: 23.2 1584.

Registrum Secreti Sigilli Regum ScotoruM, Volume VIII (1581 - 1584), No. 2546, dated November 12, 1584.

This instrument says that Mr. David Makgill, the King's Advocate, is granted the ward of the barony of Cranstoun Ryddill, of the lands of Nesbit -- which were of his own heritage through wardship -- for the terms between the decease of the last lawful possessors up to the time of the entry of the rightful heirs of Cranston Riddall.

Note 24. Thomas Crichton of Bottomcraig

Ref: 24.1

Balmerino and its Abbey by James Campbell 1867 – The Crichtons of Bottomcraig
“Thomas Crichton of Bottomcraig, 2d son of the last, was born 1575, and md Jean Canneolie or Carmelie, by whom he had a dr Elizabeth. He was killed in 1619, in which year also his wife died.”

Ref: 24.2 1619

Balmerino and its Abbey by James Campbell 1867– The Crichtons of Bottomcraig
The book describes an old tombstone in the Parish Church of Cupar, with an inscription:
“Heir lyes bvried ane honourable man, Thomas Crichtone of Bodamcraig, sone to vmvhail James Chrichtone of Cranstone-riddell, who deceased the 3rd day of Fenruary, the year of God 1619, being aged 44 years.”

“Along the two sides are placed the arms of four generations of his paternal and maternal ancestors. Beginning with the sinister side as being the more legible, over the first shield are the words: - On the mothers syd the Erle of Bvkclyche; round the second shield – the Laird of Criche; round the third – the Erle of Rokisbrvche; and round the fourth – The Erle of Arrole; the arms on the several shields being those of the persons mentioned respectively. On the dexter side, the first shield bears the arms of Thomas Crichton's father, the second those of Forrester, 'The Laird of Corstarphine' – the only one on the inscriptions that is legible; the third, those of Forrester, with a difference; the arms of the fourth shield cannot be deciphered.”

Note: These arms corroborate the ancestry and land holdings outlined in this book. Thomas Crichton's father was James Crichton 5th of Cranston-Riddell and his grandfather was William Crichton of Drylaw who held Drylaw in the barony of Corstorphine from the Forrester family. The Forrester shields are therefore representative of a superior lordship, rather than an ancestor. See previous Refs: 14.1, 14.2 & 14.3. & the illustration in Appendix V.

Thomas Crichton's mother was Dorothy Scott daughter of Sir Walter Scott of Buccleuch and Janet Beaton of Creich, who descended from Hay of Errol. That leaves the Horsbrugh shield unexplained, although as a family whose seat was in Peebleshire adjoining Ettrick Forest, it might be assumed that the Horsbrugh family held a superior lordship to some lands held by Scott of Buccleuch, perhaps even as a marriage portion to Thomas Crichton's grandmother Janet Beaton.

Note 25. George Crichton

Ref: 25.1 1592

National Records of Scotland GD40/3/500

*Nisbet: Process of service of **George Creychttoun as heir to James Creychttoun of Cranstoun riddell, his brother** in the lands of Nisbit; with extract special retour. 24 Jan-8 Mar 1591/1592*

Ref: 25.2 1592

National Records of Scotland GD40/3/498

*Nisbet: (1)-(2). Charters a me and de me by **George Creychttoun, son of deceased James Creychttoun of Cranstounriddell**, to Mr David Makgill, Lord Advocate, in liferent, and Mr David Makgill, his son, in fee, of the lands of Nisbit. [Seals completely defaced.] (3). 1592, March 25. Instrument of sasine following thereon*

Note 26. Robert Crichton of Eliok & Clunie

Ref: 26.1 1557

National Records of Scotland (NRS) GD16/28/6

*Tack by **Robert, bishop of Dunkeld**, to **Mr. Robert Crychtoun, his cousin**, of lands of the barony of **Cluny** comprising Manis of Cluny with 2 acres of land adjacent to the south part of the loch of Cluny, the old Castlehill with said loch and custody of the castle of Cluny, lands of Concragy and mill thereof, with multures, lands of Drunmale and Balmavado, lands of Brewhous of Concragy, lands of Adamstoun otherwise called Balnadornoch and lands of Wester Craigend, for 19 years, with provision that said bishop may reside in the said Castle and take profits from said lands during which time said Mr. Robert shall pay no rent. Edinburgh Dates 10/5/1557*

Notes: Earliest mention of Robert Crichton being granted **Cluny**. On this first occasion it is a tack or lease, for 19 years.

Ref: 26.2 1559

National Records of Scotland GD16/5/14

*Contract between **Robert, bishop of Dunkeld**, on the one part, and **Mr. Robert Creichtoun, advocate, his cousin**, on the other part. 1559. Whereby the said bishop binds himself to infeft the said **Mr. Robert in the lands of the barony of Clwny** comprising the Mains of Clwny with the east croft, with meadows, loch, castellhill and custody of the castle of Clwny, lands*

of Concragy with mill thereof, lands of Brewhouss of Concragy and lands of Craigend and Adamistoun otherwise called Baldarnoch; and said Mr. Robert, having paid to the said bishop 2000 merks Scots, binds himself to fulfil certain conditions, namely, that he be faithful to Church and Queen, defend the privileges of the see of Dunkeld and grant a reversion on aforesaid lands to the said bishop in case he fail to carry out the aforesaid conditions. Edinburgh. [Registered sheriff court books of Perth 1 June 1566]. [277.12]

Notes: Robert Crichton is an “Advocate” not yet Lord Advocate a position he obtained in 1561. The naming of Robert Crichton of Cluny as the “cousin” of Bishop Robert Crichton in these two documents initially looks problematic. However, according to the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) one meaning of cousin is:

“A collateral relative more distant than a brother or sister; a kinsman or kinswoman, a relative; formerly **very frequently applied to a nephew or niece**. Obsolete.”

This reference to “his cousin” combined with the grant of Eliok in Sanquhar is often utilised as evidence for suggesting Robert was from the Crichton of Sanquhar family, but if the term cousin can mean “nephew” then that is consistent with the 1566 charter (below) that names Robert Crichton as the son of William Crichton of Drylaw.

Ref: 26.3 1562

National Records of Scotland GD16/5/15

*Feu charter by Robert, bishop of Dunkeld, with consent of the cathedral chapter and Henry Mow and David Henry, chaplains of St. Catherine's chapel on Loch Cluny, to **Mr. Robert Creichtoun and Elizabeth Stewart, his spouse**, in conjunct free, whom failing, to **Mr. James Crechtoun, fiar of Cranstoun**, whom failing to **Patrick Creichtoun of Lugtoun**, whom failing to **Edward, Lord Crechtoun of Sanquhar**, of the lands and barony of Cluny - which are at present set in tack to the said Mr. Robert - the castle of Cluny to be the principal messuage of the said lands; reserving the presentation to all benefices in the said barony and fishing in the loch of Cluny; and if the said Mr. Robert or his successors fail in fulfilment of the conditions herein specified they shall forfeit the said lands. Castle of Cluny 10/7/1562*

Notes: In 1562 the fiar of Cranston was Robert's probable older brother James, son of William Crichton of Drylaw; see Ref:26.6. Patrick Crichton of Lugton was Robert's uncle; see Ref: 32. Edward Lord Crichton of Sanquhar was a more distant cousin and his superior for the lands of Eliok in the barony of Sanquhar.

Ref: 26.4 1562

National Records of Scotland GD16/5/17

*Instrument of sasine as in GD16/5/16. With precept furth of chancery appointing William Ramsay, son of James Ramsay in **Cluny**, procurator for Elizabeth Stewart, spouse of **Mr. Robert Creichtoun of Eliok**. Date 13/8/1562*

Notes: First mention of Robert Crichton of Eliok. On the evidence available, Robert Crichton was granted Cluny in 1557 and Eliok before 1562.

Eliok was within the barony of Sanquhar and because it was held by Robert Crichton's descendants must have been granted in perpetuity by the current Lord Crichton of Sanquhar, a cousin to the Cranston-Riddell family. The reason for the grant of Eliok is unknown, but a number of possible reasons can be speculated upon.

The death of Robert Lord Crichton of Sanquhar in 1561 and the succession of his brother Edward Crichton may have provided the background to the grant of Eliok to a related family – or it may have been a grant associated with the marriage of Robert Crichton and Elizabeth Stewart which seems to have been somewhere around 1559 – or it may have been related to an exchange of land-holdings within the extended Crichton family to strengthen their hold on properties elsewhere.

Although the families of Sanquhar and Cranston-Riddell were by this time about 7th cousins with a common ancestor who died in about 1370, there had evolved a tradition of keeping both families in the line of succession for family lands. William Crichton, 1st Lord Crichton who was chancellor of Scotland and master of the Kings household Lord of that Ilk and “his cousin, sir Robert, lord of Sanquhar, made a mutual entail; whereby, failing heirs-male of any one of their bodies, their estates were to go to the others, which was afterwards confirmed by a charter under the great seal, dated anno 1439.”

See page 13 of the text of this book for a number of examples of exchange & reversion of properties between collateral branches of the Crichton family.

Ref: 26.5 1564

National Records of Scotland GD224/890/13.

*“Letter of reversion by **Alexander Creichtoun of Nachtane, brother and apparent heir to Mr James Creichtoun of Cranstounriddell**, who has disponed to granter and his heirs, whom failing, to **Mr Robert Creichtoun. HM Advocate**, John Creichtoun of Brounstoun, James Creichtoun of Frendrauch and heir heirs male respectively, said James's lands and forest places of Catslak, Easter and Wester Monbernger and place and lands of Blakgrane, in lordship of Ettrick Forest, sheriffdom of Selkirk, united in a tenandry of Catslak,” Signed by granter as Alexander Creichtoun, fiar of Cranstoun*

***Notes:** The probable three sons of William Drylaw were listed first in order of birth, then the head of two other branches of the Crichton family; Brunston and Frendraught.*

Robert Crichton was named as HM Advocate, officially appointed in 1561. James, the second son of William Crichton of Drylaw was confirmed as the current possessor of the Cranston–Riddell estates.

Ref: 26.6 1564

National Records of Scotland GD66/1/23

*“Extract Contract of excambion dated 1 October 1564 between Sir William Kyrkcaldy of Grange [Kirkcaldy of Grange], Dame Margaret Leirmonth [Learmonth], his spouse, and Thomas Kyrkcaldy, his brother as cautioner, on the one part, and **Mr Robert Creichtoun [Crichton], advocate to the Queen and Elizabeth Stewart, his spouse**, on the other part, whereby the former agreed to infeft the latter in the lands of Nether **Friertoun** in the regality of St Andrews, and the latter to infeft the former in the lands of Wester Clentray [Clentrie] in the lordship of Dunkeld, sheriffdom of Fife. 13/11/1564*

Ref: 26.7 1566

University of Edinburgh Archives online. La.V/691

*“Precept of Clare Constat by **Robert [Crichton], bishop of Dunkeld**, directed to **Robert Crichton, son of William Crichton of Drylaw**, and others, as bailies, for infefting George*

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*Stewart, now of Arntullie, as nearest and lawful heir of his father, the late John Stewart of Arntullie, in the lands of Arntullie, Over [Upper] Cardines, and Cardines 'inter lacus,' with mill, etc., in the barony of Dunkeld. Dated at Edinburgh, **16th July 1566**, and given without prejudice of the office of forester of the woods of Dunkeld, resigned by the said John Stewart. Signed only by the bishop, a portion of whose seal is still attached. Witnesses, **Robert Crichton of Eliok**, Alexander Crichton, rector of Lundeif, **William Crichton of Drylaw**, Robert Kincaid, and William Paterson, notary. ...”*

***Notes:** In this charter Robert Crichton is named as a baillie of the barony of Dunkeld by Robert Crichton Bishop of Dunkeld. Since it would be normal practice for a baillie to be holding lands within the barony, that seems to align with Robert Crichton of Eliok & Cluny being the same man as Robert Crichton baillie of the Bishop and son of William Crichton of Drylaw. If the description of Bishop Robert Crichton of his "cousin" Robert Crichton meant "nephew" then both Robert Crichton of Eliok and Robert Crichton Baillie of Dunkeld were nephews of the Bishop.*

Both Robert Crichton of Eliok and William Crichton of Drylaw signing as a witness to this document by the Bishop adds more to the certainty.

N.B. John Stewart of Arntullie's grandfather John Stewart 1st of Arntullie (d.c1536) had also held Cluny – probably not a co-incidence.

Ref: 26.8 1566

National Archives of Scotland GD16/41/28

*Extract of Act from Book of Causes of Commissary Court of Edinburgh appointing **Mr. Alexander Creichtoun**, Mr. John Abercromby, Mr. Alexander Skene and Mr. Thomas Scott, or any two of them to be **curators ad litem to James and Henry Creichtoun, sons of Mr. Robert Creichtoun of Eliok, advocate**; before Mr. Clement Litill and Mr. Alexander Sym, commissaries of Edinburgh and **Edward, Lord Sanchquhar, John Creichtoun of Ryhill and Robert, bishop of Dunkeld** as nearest of kin on father's side and John, Lord of Innermeith and James, commendator of St. Comis Inche, as nearest of kin on the mother's side and William Scott of Baluery, cautioner. Edinburgh. Dates: 13/5/1566*

***Notes:** There were two types of legal guardianship tutors and curators. A curator represented the child until he was 25 and was usually placed in charge of the child's property, whereas a tutor as generally in charge of the child's person. With the addition of ad Litem, these curators were charged with representing the child in legal proceedings in regard to estates*

The Alexander Crichton appointed as a curator is presumed to be Alexander Crichton of Naughton the oldest son & heir of William Crichton of Drylaw & Naughton. That is consistent with Robert Crichton of Eliok being Alexander Crichton's youngest brother.

The next of kin were named as Edward Lord Sanquhar and John Crichton of Ryhill who were cousins from Sanquhar in Dumfriesshire, and Robert held Eliok from Edward Lord Sanquhar. The last "kinsman" named is Robert Crichton bishop of Dunkeld who granted Cluny to Robert Crichton of Eliok, and was a brother to William Crichton of Drylaw .

The contents of this extract are totally consistent with Robert Crichton of Eliok being the 3rd son of William Crichton of Drylaw.

Ref: 26.9 1581

24 October Parliament Edinburgh The revocations of the property by King James VI, **with exceptions**

"We, James, by the grace of God, king of Scots, having now the full administration and ruling of our realm in our own hands,"

"..., therefore now, we, having completed the 14th year of our age, revokes as after follows. First, we revoke, abrogate and annul all manner of infeftments and dispositions whatsoever we or our regents have made during the time that we or they had regiment of our realm in our or their hands, ... "

"Item, we revoke all donations, alienations, feu fermes, gifts and dispositions whatsoever in liferent or otherwise made in our minority, of whatsoever lands, rents, annual rents or other revenues that our said dearest mother had in her possession.."

*"Excepting and reserving always out of these our revocations all infeftments, presentations, gifts and dispositions made by us ... nor to any infeftments or presentations of whatsoever lands and possessions and infeftments following thereupon, **granted to our familiar and domestic servants in reward of their service**, as fallen in our hands through forfeitures led against whatsoever persons, heritors thereof, for the crimes of treason and lese- majesty committed by them since our coronation;*

*"... nor to **the infeftments made by us to Master James Crichton**, son to our well beloved clerk and councillor, **Master Robert Crichton of Eliock**, our advocate, of the lands of **Catslack, Easter and Wester Mountbenger and Schuttingleis**, lying in the lordship of **Ettrick Forest**, within our sheriffdom of Selkirk;"*

Notes: The will of 1582 by Robert Crichton Lord Advocate names his son Robert has having been infefted in the Catslak lands, rather than his son James as named in this parliamentary declaration. It is clear that the Catslak lands have been passed on to Robert Crichton as intended in the 1564 reversion by his brother Alexander Crichton of Naughton (above). See also Robert Crichton's will of 1582 below.

However, this transfer of lands may have occurred as much through political favour as strict line of inheritance, because Robert Crichton the Lord Advocate had remained closer to the dominant forces of power in Scotland than his brothers

Robert Crichton of Eliok left the rent from the lands of the barony of Cranston-Riddell proper (Cranston) to his second son Robert, provided anything could be recovered – which might refer to those lands already having being escheated/forfeited in 1567. Their return to the Crichton family obviously seemed doubtful to the author of the will.

Note 27. Elizabeth Stewart

Elizabeth was the first wife of Robert Crichton of Eliok was the daughter of Sir James Stewart of Beath and Margaret Lindsay, herself daughter of John Lord Lindsay of the Byres.

Ref: 27.1 1562

National Records of Scotland GD16/5/15

*Feu charter by Robert, bishop of Dunkeld, with consent of the cathedral chapter and Henry Mow and David Henry, chaplains of St. Catherine's chapel on Loch Cluny, to **Mr. Robert Creichtoun and Elizabeth Stewart, his spouse, in conjunct free**, ... of the lands and barony of Cluny ... Castle of Cluny 10/7/1562*

Note: The first mention discovered of Elizabeth Stewart as the wife of Robert Crichton is 10/7/1562 with this charter that grants Cluny "In conjunct free" and it might be assumed that

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their marriage had taken place between the original tack for Cluny dated May 1557 and this July 1562 charter. That aligns with other evidence from his university studies that their oldest son James Crichton was born in 1561.

Note 28. James Crichton of Elliock (1561-1582) the Admirable Crichton

Ref: 28.1 1560

Life of Crichton by Patrick Tytler 2nd Edition 1813 p.3.

“James Crichton, afterwards surnamed the Admirable Crichton, was born on the 19th of August 1560.”

A footnote reference says the date was taken from to a handbill pasted within the boards of a copy of Castiglione's Cortegiano.

Ref: 28.2 1570

National Records of Scotland GD16/5/28

*Contract between Mr. **Robert Creichtoun of Eliok and Elizabeth Stewart, his spouse, life-renters of the lands, mains and barony of Cluny and James Creichtoun, their son, fiar thereof, ... 12/5/1570***

Ref: 28.3 1575

National Records of Scotland GD16/5/30

*of the demesne lands of Cluny with the east croft and the loch, custody of the castle thereon and other pertinents, lands of Brewhous of Concragie, Adamestoun otherwise called Baldernoch, Craigend and the lands of Concragie with mill and myltoun of the same and multures furth of the lands of Drummalie as well as aforegoing lands, for resignation to be made to **James, bishop of Dunkeld**; and of the lands of **Nethir Freirtoun** with teinds of the same, sherifffdom of Fife, for resignation to be made to the prior and chapter of the monastery of Sanctandrois; which lands are to be granted in favour of the said **James Creychtoun** himself and the heirs male of his body, whom failing to **Robert, his brother**, whom failing to **Mr. Robert Creychtoun, his father**, whom all failing to the nearest male heirs of the said Mr. Robert whatsoever; reserving to the latter his liferent furth of the said lands. [2 seals appended; subscribed by Mr. Robert and Mr. James]. 20/6/1575
Note that resignation was made at Edinburgh on 22 Mar 1577.
Note: This is the only known signature of Mr. James Crichton, the 'Admirable' Crichton. See D.N.B. where aforegoing document is referred to.*

Note 29. Robert Crichton

Ref: 29.1 1575

*See document immediately above for his older brother James Crichton Ref: 27.3. - 1575
National Records of Scotland GD16/5/30.*

Ref: 29.2 1576

National Records of Scotland GD16/48/24

*Notarial copies of a tack by Mr. John Bartane, dean of Dunkeld, with consent of James, bishop of Dunkeld and the chapter thereof, to **Mr. Robert Creichtoun of Eliok**, advocate, **Mr. James Creichtoun** and **Robert Creichtoun, his son**, the longest liver of them three and for 19 years thereafter to the assignees of the said Mr. Robert, of the teinds of the lands and*

barony of Cluny, Overferinochtis, Balleny and Nader Wester Fernochtis. Dunkeld, 29 January 1576.

Note 30. Agnes Mowbray

Ref: 30.1

Life of James Crichton of Cluny commonly called the Admirable Crichton Patrick Tytler 1819 – page 5

*“After the death of his first wife, the Lord Advocate married **Agnes Mowbray**, daughter of John Mowbray of Barnbougall, by whom he had one daughter Agnes Crichton.”*

Note 31. Isabel Borthwick daughter of David Borthwick

Ref: 31.1

Life of James Crichton of Cluny commonly called the Admirable Crichton Patrick Tytler 1819 – page 6

*“... at a late period in life, he married [Robert Crichton Lord Advocate] for a third time, **Isabell Borthwick**, who bore him two daughters...”*

Note 32. Patrick Crichton of Kinglassie & Lugton (d. by 1561)

Patrick acquired the lands of Lugton near Dalkeith (1528) & later the whole Barony of Lugton.

Ref: 32.1 1507

Register of the Great Seal of Scotland, Vol. II (1424 - 1513), No. 3167.

Patrick Creichton, son of Patrick Creichton of Cranstoun riddale, is granted lands of Gilberton with its mansion and orchards, in county Edinburgh

Ref: 32.2 1528

National Records of Scotland GD224/894/25

*Great seal charter in favour of **Patrick Creichton of Kinglassy and Margaret Hoppringle**, his spouse, of 10 merklands of **lands of Lugton**, in sherifffdom of Edinburgh, resigned by Elizabeth Cranston, daughter and one of heirs of deceased William Cranston of Rathobyres, lady portioner of Lugton. 1528 October 8*

Ref: 32.3 1533

National Records of Scotland GD224/894/25

*Charter a me by Geillis [Egidia] Cranston, elder daughter and one of heirs of deceased William Cranston of Rathobyres, spouse of Edward Auchinleck of Kilbank, with consent of said Edward, to **Patrick Creichton of Kinglassy, of lands of Lugton**, extending to a sixth part thereof, in sherifffdom of Edinburgh.*

Note 33. Margaret Hoppringle

Margaret was the daughter of Adam Hoppringle (of that ilk) of the House Guard of James III. Hoppringle of Torsance Selkirkshire Burnhouse and Caverton Roxburghshire

Ref: 33.1 1528

National Records of Scotland GD224/894/25

*“Great seal charter in favour of **Patrick Creichton of Kinglassy and Margaret Hoppringle, his spouse,**...”*1528 October 8

Ref: 33.2 1540

National Records of Scotland GD224/894/23

*“Letters of reversion by **Patrick Creichton of Kinglassy and Margaret Hoppringill, his spouse**”, 1540.*

Note 34. Patrick Crichton younger of Lugton (b.1536)

Ref: 34.1 1561

*National Records of Scotland GD18/35 Instrument of Resignation and grant of redemption by **Patrick Crechtoun of Lugtoun** of the eastern part of the lands of Burnstoun in barony of Pennycuke and sherifffdom of Edinburgh in favour of John Crechtoun of Bruntstoun, which lands were sold by deceased John Crechtoun of Burnstoun, grandfather of said John Crechtoun, to **deceased Patrick Crechtoun of Kinglassy, father of said Patrick Crechtoun**, under reversion of 300 merks Scots. 10 Nov 1561*

Note 35. Elizabeth Leslie

Elizabeth was the daughter of George Leslie 4th Earl of Rothes & Margaret Crichton

Ref: 35.1 1589

National Records of Scotland GD150/688

*a) Summons, at instance of William, earl of Mortoun, against **Patrick Creichtoun of Lethame, Elizabeth Leslie, his spouse, David Creichtoun, their son, Robert Neil and John Sworde, tenants of Lugtoun**, following on decreet of removing (b) Decreet, same v. same. Jun 1589-Feb 1591*

Note 36. David Crichton

Ref: 36.1

Mentioned as son of Patrick Crichton & Elizabeth Leslie in 1589 summons at Ref: 35.1 above.

Ref: 36.2 1593

National Records of Scotland **GD18/549**

*“Contract between John Sinclair, yr, of Dryden, and Margaret Giffart his spouse, with consent of **David Creichtoun, apparent of Lugtoun**, on one part, and Mr John Nicolsoune advocate, on the other, ..”*

Note: David Crichton's father, Patrick Crichton the younger of Lugton, did not die until 1594.

Note 37. Patrick Crichton

Mentioned as a brother german to David Crichton of Lugton in a will of 1599 – No reference available.

Note 38. Beatrice Crichton

Ref: 38.1 1566

National Records of Scotland GD18/497

*Charter by John Sinclare of Driden and Katherine Creichtoun, his spouse, in favour of **Beatrice Creichtoun, spouse of Mr John Spottiswod**, in liferent, and **John Spottiswod, their son**, in fee, of town and lands of Lessuaid and Coitslaik, under reversion of 400 merks. 10 May 1566*

Note 39. John Spottiswood (1510-1585)

Son of Elizabeth Hoppringle (sister of Margaret at Note 33) & William Spottiswood husband of Beatrice Crichton (see Note 38).

Ref: 39.1

1590 National Records of Scotland RH6/3073

*Charter by **Master John Spottiswoode**, Rector of Calder and his wife, Rachel Lyndesay, with consent of **Beatrice Creichtoun, his mother**, relict of Master John Spottiswode, later Rector of Calder, in favour of George Ferry, portioner of the town and territory of Restalrig, of the lands of Awdeweill in the Barony of Earl's Calder and sheriffdom of Edinburgh. 12 Jul 1590*

Note 40. Katherine Crechtoun

Ref: 40.1 1557

National Records of Scotland GD18/484

*Charter by Edward Sinclare of Dryden in favour of **John Sinclare**, his son and apparent heir, and **Katharine Crechtoun, his spouse, daughter of Patrick Crechtoun of Logtoun**, of fourth and sixth parts of lands of Paradise [Paradykes], fourth and sixth parts of mill of Lessuaid, 6 acres of land and fourth and sixth parts of 2 1/2 acres of land in barony of Kirklistoun, following on marriage contract dated 1555.*

Note 41. John Sinclare of Dryden

Son of Edward Sinclair of Dryden and Beatrice Renton (Note 15) who had divorced from William Crichton of Drylaw. Therefore this John Sinclair was a half brother of the three sons of William Crichton; viz Alexander Crichton of Naughton (Note 17), James Crichton 5th of Cranston-Riddell (note 21) and Robert Crichton of Eliok (Note 26).

Ref: 41.1 1539

National Records of Scotland GD18/456

*Instrument of Resignation by **Edward Singcler of Driden**, of sixth part of town and lands of Lessuad, in favour of himself and **Beatrice Rentoun, his spouse**. 7 Mar 1538/1539*

Ref: 41.2 1557

National Records of Scotland GD18/484

*Charter by Edward Sinclare of Dryden in favour of **John Sinclare**, his son and apparent heir, and **Katharine Crechtoun**, his spouse, daughter of **Patrick Crechtoun of Logtoun**, of fourth and sixth parts of lands of Paradice [Paradykes], fourth and sixth parts of mill of Lessuaid, 6 acres of land and fourth and sixth parts of 2 1/2 acres of land in barony of Kirklistoun, following on marriage contract dated 1555.*

Note 42. Martin Crichton

Ref: 42.1 1535

The Scots Peerage, ed. by Sir James Balfour Paul, Vol IV, Edinburgh, 1906, pp. 123-24

[Sir James Crichton, only son of William, third Lord Crichton] *By charter dated 19 November 1535, following on his own resignation, he made a settlement of his estates comprising the barony of Frenraught in Aberdeenshire, the barony of Inverkeithny in Banffshire, and the lands of Malar and Forgandenny in Perthshire, in favour of himself and the heirs-male of his body, whom failing, to George Crichton, grandson of Gavin Crichton, brother of the late William, Lord Crichton, whom failing, to James Crichton, second son of Sir John Crichton of Strathurd, Knight, to Robert Crichton his brother, to **Martin Crichton**, brother-german of **James Crichton of Cranston Riddell**, Captain of the Castle of **Edinburgh**, to James Crichton, son of John Crichton of Invernyte and heirs-male of their bodies respectively.*

Ref: 42.3 1551

National Records of Scotland AD1/108

*Special retour before Mr. John Sinclare, sheriff depute of Edinburgh and sheriff of Selkirk in hac parte, by John Ker of Farnyhurst, kt., **David Crechtoun of Nachtane**, Gilbert Wauchope of Nudry Mershale, Robert Fairlie of Braid, James Ker of Mersingtoun, John Hoppringle of that ilk, Thomas Fawside of that ilk, **Patrick Crechtoun of Logtoun**, Alexander Crechtoun of Newhall, **William Crechtoun of Drylaw**, John Rutherford of Hunthill, John Halden of that ilk, Michael Tulloch of Hilcarny, David Kincaid of Coittis and Alexander Hume in Northberwik, in favour of **Martin Crechtoun as heir to deceased James Crechtoun of Cranstoun Riddale**, his nephew, in place and lands of Catslak, places and lands of Eister and Wester Montberngear and place and lands of Blakgrane, in lordship of Ettrik forest, sheriffdom of Selkirk .4 Aug 1551*

Note 43. Robert Crichton Bishop of Dunkeld (d.1585).

Provost of St Giles, appointed **Bishop of Dunkeld** to succeed his uncle George Crichton but this was not recognised by the Scottish Government. A strong supporter of Mary Queen of Scots. Named as one of the nearest kin to Robert Crichton of Eliok in 1566.

Ref: 43.1 1510

National Records of Scotland GD224/890/13

*Great seal charter in favour of **Robert Creichtoun**, son of **Patrick Criehtoun of Cranstoun Riddale**, the king's confidant, of lands and forest place of Easter Montbernger, extending in rental to £66 13s 4d, in lordship of Ettrick Forest, sheriffdom of Selkirk. May 30, 1510*

Ref: 43.2 1515

Scottish Record Society Publications. Vol. 74, page 445

*George Crichton, abbot of Holyrood....urged Canongate to name **Robert Crichton, son of Sir Patrick Crichton of Cranston - Riddale**, as the clerk of the parish.*

Note 44. Agnes Crichton

There is a long-standing debate about whether Agnes Crichton was from the Cranston-Riddell or Sanquhar families. However, the circumstantial evidence favours Cranston-Riddell and Burkes Peerage agrees, citing *Acta Dom. Conc.*, xix. 9, 10, 343; *Reg. Mag. Sig.*, 20 Feb, 1508-9, 11 April 1510

Ref: 44.1 1510

The Scots Peerage Vol VII 1910 p.333

Sir Andrew Ker married, before 20 February 1509-10. Agnes, daughter of Sir Patrick Crichton of Cranstoun Riddell, and widow of George Sinclair, son and apparent heir of Sir Oliver Sinclair of Roslin.

Note 45. Sir Peter Crichton of Naughton (alive 1553)

In 1503 Master of the Kings Wardrobe (in gardiroba), Captain of Edinburgh Castle 1543.

Ref: 45.1 1493

National Records of Scotland GD150/232

Instrument of resignation and sasine in favour of Sir John Douglas, ... Witnesses included: Patrick Creichtone, of Cranstone-Riddale, Mr. George Creichtone and Peter Creichton brothers german. 4 Jun 1493

Ref: 45.2 1494

National Records of Scotland RH1/6/134

Instrument of Sasine under the hand of William Barre clerk of St Andrews diocese notary public, narrating that James Hay of Nathane personally gave sasine to Peter Crechtone of Povis, of the lands of Sandfurd, Inverdovat and Caldham in the barony of Nachtane and sheriffdom of Fife; conform to charter granted to him thereof .29 Jul 1494

Ref: 45.3 1504

Scottish Record Society Publications, Vol. 74, "Protocol Book of James Young", No. 1396.

Sir Patrick Crechton of Cranston redale, and Sir Peter Crechtone of Nachtane, are brothers german of George Crechtoun, abbot of Holyrood.....Instrument is witnessed by James Crechtone, son of said Sir Patrick Crechtone

Ref: 45.4 1524

Balmerino and its Abbey by James Campbell 1867 – The Crichtons of Naughton

In 1524, the name of Sir Peter Crichton of Naughton occurs amongst those of the Scottish lords who signed the engagement to Queen Margaret, widow of James IV. In 1529, Sir Peter and his wife sold Naughton to David, son of ' his late brother Sir Patrick Crichton, of Cranstoun-Riddel, reserving to himself free possession ; and the charter, which was confirmed under the Great Seal, was signed by Sir Peter for himself, and by a notary having the mandate of his wife Jonet, who ' did not know how to write ' (nescientls scribere).

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Note 46. Janet Hay (a.1522) -heiress to her father Sir James Hay of Naughton Fife.

Ref: 46.1 1494

National Records of Scotland RH1/6/136

Charter by James Hay of Nachtane, granting to Peter Crechtone of Powis master of the king's wardrobe, and to Jonet Hay his spouse, daughter and apparent heir of said James, and the longer liver of them, and the heirs to be begotten betwixt them, whom failing, to said Peter's heirs whomsoever, the lands of Galraw, as of old divided from the Mains of Nachtane, extending yearly to 40 merks, in the barony of Nachtane and sheriffdom of Fife. To be held de me for payment of one penny Scots in name of blench duty. 30 Jul 1494

Ref: 46.2 1522

National Records of Scotland GD4/402

Charter of Sale by Jonet Hays lady of Nauchtane with consent of Peter Crichtoun of Nauchtane knight her spouse, granting to James Hay, son and heir of the deceased Thomas Hay burgess of Dundee, the lands of the Seymillis, with the fishing of the Braidhuch, in the barony of Nauchtane and sheriffdom of Fife. Dated at Nauchtane 4/9/1522

Note 47. George Crichton (d. 1543)

Masters degree 1479. Regent & principal of Glasgow University 1485-88. Earlier at St Andrews and quarreled with provost of St Salvadors. 1510 Abbot of Holyrood. When at St Andrews University was a friend of the Poet William Dunbar.

Ref: 47.1 1504

Scottish Record Society Publications, Vol. 74, "Protocol Book of James Young", No. 1396. *Sir Patrick Crechton of Cranston redale, and Sir Peter Crechtone of Nachtane, are brothers german of George Crechtoun, abbot of Holyrood.....Instrument is witnessed by James Crechtone, son of said Sir Patrick Crechtone*

Note 48. Margaret Crichton

“The House of Cockburn” (1888) says Margaret was probably the daughter of “David de Creichton of Cranstoune Redale.” Her husband John Cockburn of Ormiston was son of Alexander Cockburn who had married secondly Margaret Schaw, widow of James Crichton of Cranston-Riddell. There was therefore, a close family relationship.

APPENDIX III

Copied faithfully from Patrick Fraser Tytler's 2nd Edition 1823
"Life of the Admirable Crichton"

330 TESTIMONIA REGARDING CRICHTON.

No. XV.

*Will of Mr. Robert Creychtoun of Ellock, 24th January,
1586.*

**Preceding the Will, there is inserted in the Commissary
Books a very particular Inventory of the Testator's
Effects, which is curious, but too long to be here print-**

TESTIMONIA REGARDING CRICHTON. 891

ed.—The following account of his *Debts* and *Gear* may be interesting :—

Summa of the dettis awand be the deid,	£1214	11	4
Resteth of frie geir, the dettis deducit,	4652	2	8
To be divided in thrie partis, the deid's			
part is	-	-	-
		1550	14 2

Qr of the quot is componit for 50 merkis.

Followis the deidis Legacie and Latter Will.

At Ed^r the xviii day of June, the yeir of God i^mv^e lxxxii yeiris. The quhilk day, I, Mr Robert Creychtoun of Eliok, advocat to our Soverane Lord, knawand perfytlie that nathing is mair suir than deid, nor nathing sa uncertane as the hour of deid, thairfore now being of guid sence and judgement, althocht debilitat and waik in person, makis my testament, and declaris my latter will to be in manner following: First, I commend my saull in the hands of the Lord, beand surlie persuadit with myself that their is na salvatioun for man bot in the bluid of the Immaculat Lamb Jesus Chryst, according to the promeis maid immediatlíe efter the fall of Adame, and I haif sure hope to be savit heirby, and that he sall not remember the synes of my youth, nor my rebelliones, bot sall be mereifull to me, according to his greit kyndness; I hoip to see the gudness of the Lord in the land of the leiving: Prayes to the Lord evermair, sobeit, evermair sobeit, even sobeit. Nixt, I leif my bodie to be bureit quhair my wyf and freindis thinks gude. Thridlie, as to my guidis and geir, I am not very ryche thairin, yet I mak Isobell Berthwik, my wyf, to be my onlie executrix and intrommes-

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satrix with my haille guidis, geir, and dettis auchtand to me, and to mak Inventar thereupon as scho thinks expedient; and failyeing of hir, be deceis or non-acceptation of the said office, I nominat Mr James and Robert Creychtouns, my sounes, my executors, for I am auchtand to hir saxtene hundreth merkis of the sex thousand merkis that was destinat to be laid on land be the contract of marriage maid betwix me and hir. Item, because that my wyf hes lyfrent gevin be me to hir in hir virginite, of the lands of Eliok and Euchane, within the baronie of Sanguhair, conforme to our contract of marriage, Thairfoir it is my sempill desire and maist cairfull request, that my friendis following, viz. my Lord Erle of Arrane, my Lord Erle of Gourie, James Lord Doune, Ar^d Stewart. burges of Edr, his broder, William Creychtoun, tutor of Sanguhare, James Creychtoun of Carte, Robert Dalzell, appeirand of that ilk, James Herrot of Trabroun, George Home of Broxmouthe, Mr James Borthuik of Lochill, Alex. Creychtoun, fear of Naughten, Patrick Creychtoun of Lugtoun, and John Creychtoun of Burnstoun, for the gudewill and loue that has been amangis us, that thai will take the maintenance of hir and hir tennentis, in cais ony persone wald do hir wrang, quhilk is not believit, for it war the will of God and dewtie constrains me that scho be not hurt, for scho has bene to me an honest lowing wyf, chest in hir persoune, and ane that feiris God: I nominat thir self same persounes to fortifie and mentene hir, hir bairnis and tennentis, in the lands of Eist Cragy, quhilk wer conquiest with hir awin tocher at the leist, ay and quhill my sone returne out of Italie, and thane ordains him to honour and mentene hir, as he will answer to God and half my blessing. Item, I ordane the said

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Isobell Borthuik, my wyf, to ware the sextene hundreth merkis forsaidis upoun sic lands, rounes, and possessiouns as may be conquiest thairwith, the lyfrent thair of to herself, and the fie to hir twa bairnis, quhilkis failying to my airis whatsumever, conforme to the contract of mariage, and that be the advyse of my freinds foirsaidis, or ony four of thame at hir optioun. Item, I leif to my said spous ane maser of silver, with ane fute haifand baith our names and armes gravit thairupon. Item, ane uther littell maser without ane fute. Item, I leif to hir ane littell silver peice, with ane silver cover ourgilt, quhilk Agnes Stewart gaif in gift to Margaret Creychtoun, our dochter. Item, ane silver saltfatt ourgilt, haifand bayth our names and arms ingraven thairupon. Item, ane half dussone silver spounes, markit with bayth our names. Item, ane silver pece, with bayth our names and armes grawn thairon; becaus the haill silver wark above written was made in hir awin tyme with her awin guidis and gear, and thairfoir maist properlie appertenis to hir; And this far concerning my wyf, to the glorie of God, subscryvit wite my hand, befor thir witnesses, Johne Haliday and Mr William Kellie. *Sic subscribitur*, R. Creychtoun. Item, I haif appointit Marie to remane with the Laird of Kinaird and the Lady, my faythfull and constant friends ever from the beginning; and quhan scho enteris, I ordane that hir infetment of Balden be delyverit to hir self; that sho be not overchargeable to hir friends, I haif assignit to hir twa yeiris profit of Cluney and Friertoun, quhilk wilbe ane sufficient tocher to hir, being weill keipit and gadderit togidder, and yit we houp to provyde uther wayis in the menetyme. Sicklyke I haif appointed Grisell to remane with my lord of Downe, and my ledly his

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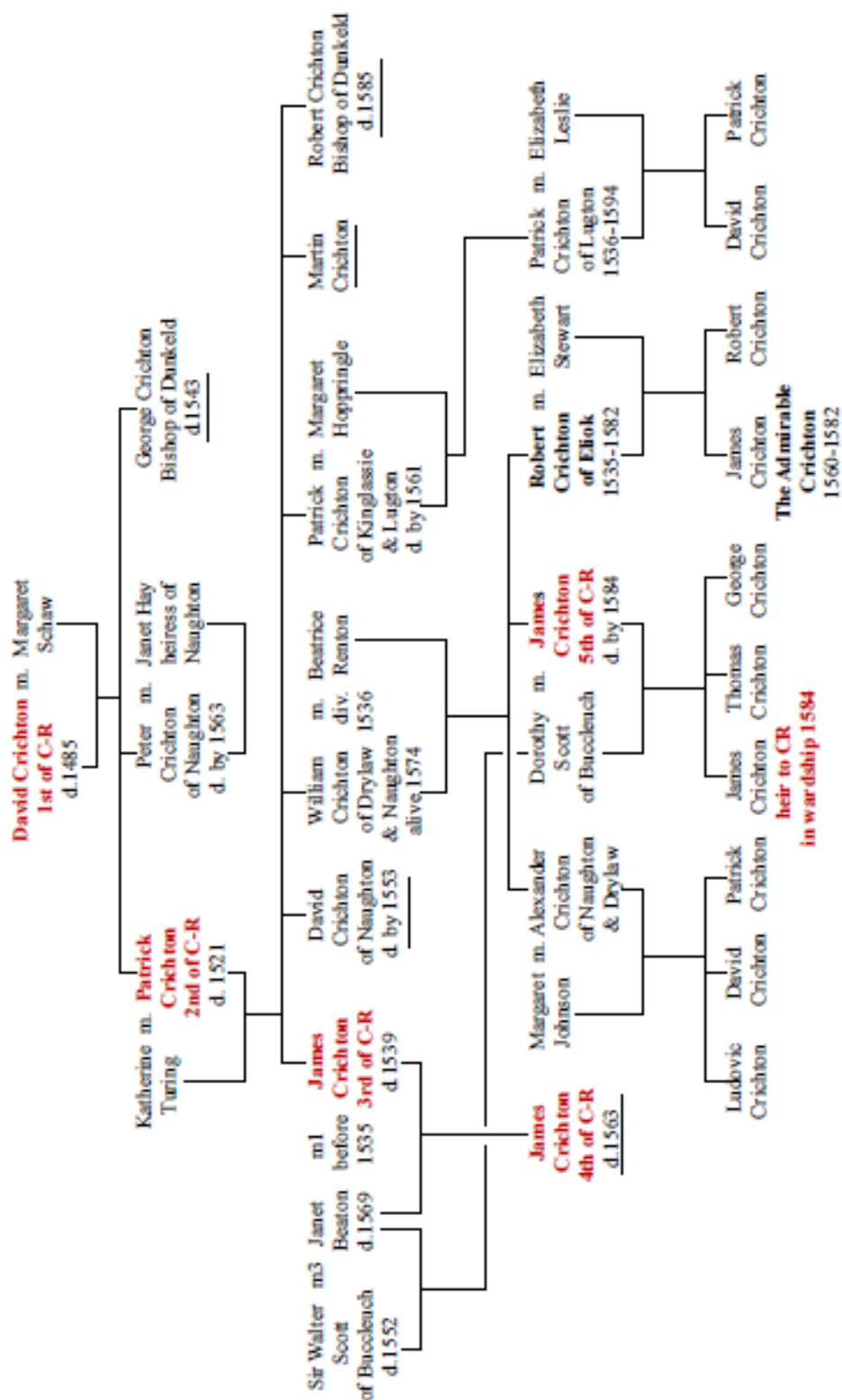
bed fallow, my faythfull and constant friendis ay from the beginning; and quhan scho enteris, I ordane that hir infestment of Rossie Ochell be delyverit to himself; that scho be not overchargeabill to hir freindis, I haif assignit to hir twa yeiris profit of Cluney and Friertoun, quhilk will be ane sufficient tocher to hir, being weill keipit and gadderit togidder, yit hoipis to provyde utherways in the mene tyme. Item, I haif appointit Helene to remane with the mastres of Ochiltree, my faythfull, constant, and godlie freind, ay from the beginning, and that scho haif her assignation of the teinds of Forneochis, quhairthrow scho be not overchargeabill to hir freinds, quhilk will mak her ane honest present lyf, single as scho is and hes gude rycht thairto aye and quhile her broder lay down to her i^mli. Item, I haif appointit Elspeth to remain with my wyf, and that sho haif hir assignatioun of the teindis of Cluney, quhairthrow scho be nocht over chargeabill to hir freindis. To the quhilk scho hes gude rycht ay and quhilk hir broder pay to hir i^m merkis. Item, I haif appointit Robert to remane with Archibald Stewart and Helene Aichesoun, my gude brother and sister, and that he haif his ryghts delyverit to thame, To witt his lettir of pension of the priorie of St Andrews of thrie chalder Kerse aittis, with the kingis confirmation and decreit, and four formes past thairupon, togidder with his infestment of Catslak, quhilks lands ar worth all the leving I haif, gif thai culd be defendit fra bangisteris, theiff and traitor. I nominat my Lord of Downe and the said Archibald tutoris testamentaris conjunctlie and severallie to the said Robert. Item, as to Agnes Creychtoun, my dochter, gottin betwix me and Agnes Mowbray, my second spous, I left her to be brocht up with her guddame, the Lady

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Barnebowgall, and I assigne to hir that thousand merkis of tocher gude, promisit to me be her gudsir and his cautioneris, and giffis hir full power to persew the samyn ; and I sall schortlie provyde hir ane present lyfe, quhill the hous cum in division, that it may be lernit quhat scho fallis, I nominat Mr James Creychtoun, my eldest sone, hir tutor testamentar. Item, I will that my lord of Downe and Archibald Stewart, his broder, haif the insyght and handling of all my evidentis concerning my sone, Mr James, and that Johne Haliday and Mr Wm. Kellie, haif the keiping of the key of the kest to that effect quhilk is in Donhill. Item, I declair my will anent the annuelrent furth of Cranstoun, togidder with the principall sowme, That incais ony thing may be recoverit thair of at ony tyme, the same halelie be applyit to the furtherance of the marriages of my dochteris, Marie and Grissell Creychtouns. Subserivit with my hand at Edr the xviii day of June, the yeir of God m^cxlxxii yeiris, befor thir witnesses, George Lawsons, John Haliday, and Mr William Kellie, with utheris diversis, *sic subscribitur* R. Creychtoun.

We, Mr John Prestoun, &c. be the tennour heirof, ratifies, approvis, and confermis this present testament or inventar, in sa far as the samyn is deulie and lawfullie maid, of the gudis and gear abone specifiet allanerlie, and gevis and committis the intromissioun with the samyn to the said Isobell Borthuik, only executor testamentar nominat be the said unquhile Mr Robert Creychtoun, reservand compt to be maid be hir thereof as accords of the law. And scho being sworne, mayd fayth treulie to exerce the said office, and hes fundin cation that the guds and geir forsaid sal be furthcumand to all parties, haifan intres, as law will, as ane act maid thereupon beiris.

APPENDIX IV



Crichton of Cranston-Riddell [C-R] – male lines of descent from David Crichton 1st of Cranston-Riddell down to James “the Admirable” Crichton

APPENDIX V



TOMBSTONE OF THOMAS CRICHTON OF BODUMCRAIG

A. D. 1619

*Photo reproduced from "Balmerino and its Abbey" by James Campbell,
New Edition 1899 Page 560*

There are notes explaining these coats of arms on page 40 & 41 of this book

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Royal Collection Trust

Castle on Loch Cluny

Photograph c. 1866 by George Washington Wilson (1823-93)

Photograph of Loch Cluny in Perthshire, Scotland, with an island in the middle of the loch on which is built a tower house or Clunie Castle.

Castle Clunie was the former residence of the Bishops of Dunkeld. The loch was named after the village of Cluny in Perthshire which is situated on the western side of the loch.

The first record of Cluny being granted to Robert Crichton the father of James “the Admirable” Crichton is dated May 1557.

“Tack by Robert, bishop of Dunkeld, to Mr. Robert Crychtoun, his cousin, of lands of the barony of Cluny comprising Manis of Cluny with 2 acres of land adjacent to the south part of the loch of Cluny, the old Castlehill with said loch and custody of the castle of Cluny, lands of Concragy and mill thereof, with multures, lands of Drunmale and Balmavado, lands of Brewhous of Concragy, lands of Adamstoun otherwise called Balnadornoch and lands of Wester Craigend, for 19 years, with provision that said bishop may reside in the said Castle and take profits from said lands during which time said Mr. Robert shall pay no rent. Edinburgh Dates 10/5/1557”

National Records of Scotland GD16/28/6