Some Historical & Genealogical Notes on the Family of Provost David Staig (of Dumfries) and his wife Lilias Stewart (of Shambellie)

Notes for the sources of information contained in this paper appear at the end.

Abbreviations used:
b. – Born
c. - Circa
m. – Married
d. – Died
Bart. – Baronet
LDS – Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (genealogical record)
Rev. – Reverend
C.B. – Companion of the Order of the Bath
KCB – Knight Commander of the Bath
KCSI – Knight Commander of the Star of India

Above: The record of Lilias Stewart’s birth.

The Stewarts of Shambellie

The following history of the Stewarts of Shambellie (italicised) is from the Scottish Archive Network.

The Stewarts of Shambellie descend from Alexander Stewart (d.1283), 4th Steward of Scotland, who was granted the barony of Garlies by King Alexander III (1249-1286). The family have a complicated descent thereafter, the Shambellie branch descending from the Stewarts of Dalswinton and Garlies.

The Stewarts of Shambellie were cadets of the Stewarts of Minto, who themselves were cadets of the Stewarts of Garlies, the Earls of Galloway. Sir Thomas Stewart of Minto (d.1500) had various children, including Archibald Stewart who obtained a tack of the lands of Fintalloch etc in c.1534. His younger son, Archibald Stewart of Culgraff and Fintalloch, (died c.1596), had at least four sons. His eldest, Richard Stewart, had a grand-daughter Susanne who in 1625 married John Stewart, the grandson of Archibald Stewart's second son, John Stewart of Auchinleck (died c.1605).
The family's connection with New Abbey (Kirkcudbrightshire) seems to date from the tenure of the last abbot of Sweetheart Abbey, Gilbert Broun, who granted a portion of the abbey's lands there to John Stewart of Auchinleck in 1576. In 1577, this John Stewart sold his land in Auchinleck (in Rerrick parish) and began to build up an estate in New Abbey by purchasing plots granted to the McCartney family by Abbot Gilbert in the dying years of his monastery.

John Stewart (d.c.1672), who was the first family member apparently to be styled of Shambellie, succeeded his father in 1645 in various lands including Shambellie. His children by his second marriage included Sir William Stewart, Lord Mayor of London (1644-1723).

John's successor, Archibald Stewart of Culgruff and Shambellie, left the estate heavily indebted at his death c.1683, and his eldest son and heir, William Stewart of Shambellie (1660-1735), known as the Secretary as he held that post to the 1st and 2nd Dukes of Queensberry, had to struggle for many years to clear the debt. [This William Stewart is the grandfather of Lilias Stewart.]

Note: Charles Stewart (1716-1786) was the son of the above named William Stewart (1660-1735). Charles Stewart was the father of Lilias Stewart. The following extract from History of the Burgh of Dumfries, William McDowall, Edinburgh, Publishers: Adam & Charles Black, 1867, page 820, provides some very brief biographical information for Charles Stewart:

* The Shambelly branch of the Stewarts has been settled in that estate for many hundred years. Captain William Stewart of Shambelly, a gallant officer who served under Sir Robert Rich in Flanders, died in July, 1745, of wounds received in action; and at his death the property devolved upon his brother-german, Charles Stewart, whose services to the Episcopalian body are recorded in the text. Charles Stewart was a devoted Jacobite. He occupied as his town residence the large house in Nith Place which forms part of the premises that belong to the Mechanics' Institute, and was among the first of the Dumfriesians to welcome his royal namesake when he entered the Burgh in 1745. The grandson of Charles, Mr. William Stewart, succeeded to the estate in 1844, and is the present head of the family.

Left: Charles Stewart of Shambellie

William Stewart of Shambellie (1815-1874) was the builder of the modern Shambellie House (pictured above). The final family member to live in the house as its owner was Charles William Stewart of Shambellie (1915-2001), who (because of the cost of running the estate) decided to hand over the house and its contents to become one of the national museums of Scotland.

As landowners, the family played an important (and responsible) part in local affairs and their care for
the land they inherited was exemplary, particularly in their tree planting which is meticulously documented.

The following tree shows the descent of Charles Stewart (1716-86) from the above mentioned Archibald Stewart of Culgruff and Fintalloch, (d.c.1595/96):

While the Shambellie branch descends from the pre-royal line of the Stewarts, they are distantly related to the royal line, being descended from Sir Alexander Stewart, 4th Steward of Scotland (d.1283). All of the Kings and Queens of England, Scotland and Great Britain from King James I (of England), VI (of Scotland) onwards are also descended from Sir Alexander Stewart, 4th Steward of Scotland.
A tree showing selected descendants of Flaad, Steward to the Diocese of Dol in Brittany (the earliest known ancestor of the Stewarts) is available from www.staigfamily.wordpress.com.

Right: The Marriage of Lieutenant-Colonel James Stewart, 1758-1819, (son of Charles Stewart of Shambellie) to Williamina Kerr. Probably painted some time after the actual event.

**The Acquisition of Shambellie**

As noted above, the lands known as Shambellie were owned by the Brouns (or Browns) of New Abbey in the 16th century. In 1626, Florence Broun (the relict of Thomas Broun) sold Shambellie to John Stewart of Allans (son of John Stewart of Auchinleck).

The term “Allans” is likely to have come from a farm known as “Allaine” (and later Allans) which was originally owned by the Abbey. John Stewart of Allans is also recorded as owning several other farms previously owned by the Abbey.

In the 19th century the Stewarts of Shambellie owned approximately 2,400 acres of land.

**Archibald Stewart of Fintalloch**

From my own research, Archibald Stewart of Fintalloch was unlikely to have been Sir Thomas Stewart of Minto’s son. Several sources, (including *The Scots Peerage, edited by Sir James Balfour Paul, 1904*) state that he was in fact a son of Sir Alexander Stewart (3rd of Garlies).

This would seem to be confirmed by a charter (mentioned in *The Scots Peerage*) relating to Garlies made by Sir Alexander Stewart (5th of Garlies) on 23 October 1542 which shows Archibald Stewart of Fintalloch’s succession to Garlies ahead of the senior line of Minto (ruling out the possibility of him being a cadet of Minto or even from belonging to a branch of Minto).

This would place Archibald Stewart of Fintalloch as the uncle of Sir Alexander Stewart (5th of Garlies) and as such, a closer relative than the senior line of Minto (in the person of Sir John Stewart of Minto who was only a first cousin).

It should be noted that both Sir Alexander Stewart (3rd of Garlies) and Sir Thomas Stewart of Minto were sons of Sir William Stewart (2nd of Garlies), so the Stewart ancestry from that Sir William Stewart is obviously identical regardless of whether Archibald Stewart of Fintalloch was the son of Sir Alexander or Sir Thomas.

The entry in the Lyon Register of William Stewart’s coat of arms (in 1732, reproduced below), states: “William Stewart of Shambelly whose ancestor was the third son of Sir Thomas Stewart of Minto....” However, this in itself is of course not evidence of that descent and probably just follows what William Stewart’s genealogist produced (discussed below).
The coat of arms of the Stewarts of Shambellie is shown in Appendix I.

William Stewart (1660-1735) had apparently engaged a genealogist to trace the Fintalloch ancestry. It would appear that the family could be traced to Archibald Stewart of Fintalloch, but the genealogist had no documentary evidence of Archibald Stewart’s parentage and seems to have assigned that paternal parentage to Sir Thomas Stewart of Minto (who died circa 1500).

Personally, I believe The Scots Peerage to have the correct descent. William Stewart’s genealogist could not have been aware of the charter of 1542 made by Sir Alexander Stewart (5th of Garlies). The fact that the family still have the 300 hundred year old tree showing their descent from Sir Thomas Stewart of Minto does not of course mean it is correct.

A complete tree of Lilias Stewart’s ancestry can be accessed at: www.staigfamily.wordpress.com.

**Sir George MacCartney, Earl MacCartney**

John Stewart of Auchinleck’s daughter, Mary, married Bartholomew MacCartney in 1586. Their three great-grandson, Sir George MacCartney (1737-1806) of Lissanoure Castle, Antrim, (pictured at left), obtained an Earldom on 1st March 1794 as Earl MacCartney. He had been made a Baron in the Peerage of Ireland in 1776 (as Baron of Lissanoure), a Viscount in 1792 and was made a Baron in the Peerage of Great Britain in 1796.

He served as Governor of Grenada, Madras and the Cape of Good Hope and was also a Knight of the Bath and a Privy Councillor.

**Dr. James Craik (1730-1814)**

William Stewart (1660-1735) of Shambellie’s daughter, Elizabeth Stewart married (in 1733), William Craik of Arbigland (pictured below left). Prior to his marriage to Elizabeth, William Craik had an illegitimate son named James (pictured above left) who became the personal physician and friend of George Washington.

The following passage is taken from www.mountvernon.org:

*Dr. James Craik was born in the parish of Kirkbean, County Kirkcudbright, near Dumfries in Scotland in July of 1730. Craik was the*
son of William Craik, a member of the British Parliament and the laird of Arbigland, a 1,400-acre estate on the Firth of Solway on the west coast. Despite Craik being born out of wedlock, his father acknowledged his son, providing care and an education. The younger Craik pursued medical training at the University of Edinburgh and provided medical service to the British army upon graduation.

In 1750, James Craik immigrated to the West Indies to serve as an army surgeon. Soon after, however, he resigned his post and moved to Norfolk, Virginia where he opened a medical practice. Craik later moved to the frontier town of Winchester, practicing as a surgeon based at Fort Loudon. In March of 1754, Craik joined the Virginia Provincial Regiment and remained as unit surgeon until the regiment was disbanded in 1762.

Craik served with the regiment during what has become known as Braddock's Defeat, a failed British attempt to conquer the French-held Fort Duquesne in 1755. Craik treated Braddock's wounds until the general's death the next day. It was in this capacity that Craik met George Washington, who commanded the regiment from 1755 until 1758. Washington was given the task of protecting the Virginia and Maryland hinterlands and Craik served as the group's chief medical officer until 1756. Upon retirement from the army, Craik purchased a plantation at Port Tobacco, Maryland and began a new medical practice.

Craik and Washington's relationship continued to grow following their military service. In 1770, Craik accompanied Washington on a westward journey to the Ohio River Valley to view lands deeded to Washington as a result of his service in the French and Indian War. Fourteen years later in 1784, Craik and Washington took a similar trip to observe more of Washington's western lands.

Craik took an early, active interest in the push towards American independence, eventually serving closely with Washington as Assistant Director General of the Middle Department of the Continental Army in 1774. Four years later, in 1778, Craik warned Washington of the burgeoning "Conway Cabal" that sought to replace Washington as Commander-in-Chief with Horatio Gates. Craik eventually rose to the second highest medical post in the army, where he served until the close of the war.

After the war's conclusion, Craik opened a medical practice in Alexandria, Virginia, and visited Mount Vernon frequently, serving as Washington's personal physician. In 1798, with Washington briefly called from his retirement to command the army in preparation for a possible war with France, Craik was named his chief medical officer. With war averted, Craik continued his medical practice in Alexandria.

On December 13, 1799, Craik was summoned to Mount Vernon to attend to a gravely ill Washington. Serving with two other doctors, Craik repeatedly attempted to cure what ailed the sickly former president. Washington passed away the next day, despite the best efforts of his long-time friend and physician. Craik lived the rest of his life in Alexandria where he passed away in 1814 and was buried in the cemetery of the Old Presbyterian Meeting House.

Interestingly, William Craik’s ancestry from King Robert II of Scotland was given in the book: Americans of Royal Descent: Collection of Genealogies Showing the Lineal Descent

**The Maternal Ancestry of Lilias Stewart**

Lilias Stewart’s mother is given as Lilias Hay (daughter of Dr James Hay of Dumfries) in a number of sources, most notably:

*Burke's Peerage, Baronetage & Knightage, 107th edition, 3 volumes.*


The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Community Trees website also sources Sir John Hay (11th Baronet of Park) as the source of this information (in addition to the above published sources).

In *History of the Lands and their Owners in Galloway, Volume 5, Edinburgh, 1879, Peter M’Kerlie*, (page 13), we are told that Ann Hay, eldest daughter of Dr James Hay of Dumfries was the wife of Charles Stewart (of Shambellie):

Whether Lilias Stewart’s mother’s name was Lilias or Ann is not overly important (although, it was more likely to have been Ann rather than Lilias, the latter may have been a middle name)\(^1\). All sources are consistent in stating that she was the daughter of Dr James Hay and his wife Dorothea Crichton.

Below: Ann Hay (wife of Charles Stewart of Shambellie).

James Hay was the second son of Sir Charles Hay (2nd Baronet of Park) and his wife Grizel Agnew [as given in *Complete Baronetage, G.E. Cokayne (Editor of The Complete Peerage), Volume II, 1625-1649, Exeter, William Pollard & Co. Ltd. 1902, and other sources*]. James Hay’s grandson, Sir James Hay, 5th Baronet of Park succeeded to the Baronetcy on 30 April 1794 on the death of Sir Thomas Hay, 4th Baronet of Park (without issue).

Grizel Agnew’s great grandfather was Sir Patrick Agnew (1st Baronet of Lochnah)\(^2\) whose wife, Margaret Kennedy of Culzean, Kirkoswald, Ayrshire was a descendant of King [Robert III of Scotland through his daughter Mary Stewart’s](#)
marriage to Sir James Kennedy ("the younger") of Dunure, Maybole, Ayrshire. It should be noted that there is more than one descent from the Scottish Royal Family.

As Robert III of Scotland was (inter alia) descended from William I, King of England and Duke of Normandy (through his grandmother Marjory Bruce, who was descended from Henry I’s illegitimate son Robert of Caen, Earl of Gloucester), so too then are all the descendants of the above named Kennedys, Agnews, Hays, Stewarts and other descendants of various surnames alive today.

A tree showing some of these descents is available at www.staigfamily.wordpress.com. This tree largely focuses on the immediate ancestors of Lilias Stewart, rather than being a complete tree of all branches of the many families represented (which would be extremely large).

It should also be noted that there is a descent from Edward III (1312-77), King of England through John Stewart, 2nd Earl of Atholl (d. Bet. 1520-22), a great-great-great grandson of Edward III and a 7 greats grandfather of Ann Hay. A tree showing this descent is available at: www.staigfamily.wordpress.com

There is also another possible descent from Edward III through Marion (or Mary) Hamilton, a supposed illegitimate daughter of James Hamilton, 1st Duke of Hamilton (1606-49). The 1st Duke of Hamilton was descended from Edward III through his son, John of Gaunt (1340-99).

Personally, I am not completely convinced that Marion (or Mary) Hamilton was in fact a daughter of the 1st Duke of Hamilton and as such, I have not at this point in time included that particular line of descent in my trees. I have written a short paper on my research on this matter which is available at: www.staigfamily.wordpress.com
David Staig and Lilias Stewart

David Staig (1743-1826) was the son of John Staig (b.1703) and Jannet Waugh (b.1710). David was christened on 28 February 1743 in Canonbie, Dumfries.

John Staig (b.1703) was the son of Hugh Staig (or Stag) and Bessie Elliot. He was christened on 27 November 1703 in Canonbie, Dumfries. He had a brother James Staig who was christened on 21 March 1708 (also in Canonbie, Dumfries).

David Staig (1743-1826) had a brother John Staig who was christened on 10 December 1732 (also in Canonbie) and there were likely to have been other siblings as well, not documented here. John Staig probably married Grizel Armstrong and had a daughter named Janet who was christened on 27 January 1761.

David Staig (and later his sons John and David) held freehold and copyhold property in the Parish of Hesket in Cumberland (Cumbria). The evidence strongly points to the Staigs having originated in Cumbria. The Staigs were probably originally “Staggs”. The Stagg family in Cumbria were merchant farmers from Stanwix and occupied Sowerby Hall farm as late as 1839 (the building was destroyed prior to 1864).

David Staig was the Provost of Dumfries in the following years:

1. 1783-86;
2. 1788-90;
3. 1792-97;
4. 1804-06;
5. 1808-09;
6. 1811-13;
7. 1815-17.

Note: There is one term missing from the above listing (probably relating to the period between 1798 and 1804).

David was also a banker (he was the agent for the Bank of Scotland in Dumfries) and was a Deputy-Lieutenant of the county of Dumfriesshire.

The following extract on Provost David Staig was taken from History of the Burgh of Dumfries, William McDowall, Edinburgh, Publishers: Adam & Charles Black, 1867, page 690:

At Michaelmas, 1783, a gentleman was elevated to the provostship, who, for more than a generation afterwards, took a leading part in public affairs—Mr. David Staig. If, during much of that time, any one deserved to be termed the king of the town, it was he. It is related of a member of Council, who, being rather deaf, could not well hear the discussions, that he habitually asked, before a vote came to be taken, “What does Provost Staig say? I say the same as Provost Staig.” And to many councillors besides this openly subservient one, Mr. Staig’s word was law. He had a fair share of natural abilities; was shrewd, inventive, enterprising, politic, fond of power, not insensible to flattery; was, withal, warm-hearted and virtuous—using his influence, so far as his judgment went, for the advancement of the public weal. For upwards of forty years he represented the Bank of Scotland in the Burgh—and was thus a monetary potentate, with a host of most obedient subjects; and but for the electoral law, that prohibited one man from being chief magistrate longer than one year, or two at most together, under a penalty of a thousand pounds Scots, he might have reigned as provost for life.
There is a memorial to David Staig, his wife Lilias Stewart and two of their children (Jessie and John Staig) in St. Michael’s Church in Dumfries. The following is an extract from the book: *Memorials of St Michael’s, the Old Parish Churchyard of Dumfries*, William McDowall, Edinburgh 1876. On page 91 of this book the following is written:

> Long our most influential local man, if not "the observed of all observers" — Provost Staig. He was first chosen chief magistrate in 1783, and seven times afterwards; his rule altogether extending over twenty years. Not only was he municipal head of the Burgh for that lengthened period, but he was also, as representative of the Bank of Scotland, a great monetary magnate for fully forty years. He was shrewd, pawkie, intelligent, fond of power and popularity; and in justice to him it must be added that much of his great influence was used to promote the public weal.

A notice of Provost Staig, published in the Dumfries Magazine shortly after his death, states that "he was a main pillar in the building and organizing of the Dumfries Academy;" that "after unwearied exertions and correspondence with the Postmaster-General," he established a mail coach communication between Edinburgh, Dumfries, and Portpatrick in 1805; that he zealously promoted the building of the New Quay and of the New Bridge; and that many other minor improvements were "carried through during his administration."

> He died, as we learn from the monument, "on the 21st of October 1826, in the 84th year of his age."

The monument was first erected, however, in memory of his second daughter, Janet or Jessie, who died in 1801, and of his spouse, Lilias Stewart, a member of the old family of Shambelly, who died in 1809. On the plinth of the monument appears the name of John Staig, collector of customs, son of Provost Staig, who died at his father's age, 30th May 1855.

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Above: Lilias Stewart’s death notice from the London Star (9 February 1809, page 4)

Provost David Staig (1743-1826) and Lilias Stewart (1753-1809) had the following children, all born in Dumfries:

1. Ann Staig (1770-1850) — doesn’t appear to have married;
2. John Staig (1770-1855) m. Abigail Salkeld [nee Mitchinson] (1777-1831), on 1 December 1821. She was previously married to Thomas Salkeld (in 1809). There was no children (or a [second] wife) mentioned in his will of 1855;
3. Janet (Jessie) Staig (1774-1801) m. Major William Miller;
4. David Staig (1775-1860) m. Catherine Peard in Dungourney, Ireland (d.1843);
5. William Staig (1779-1806) d. Kishnagur, Bengal, India (d.1843);
6. Charles Staig (1777-1795) d. Tobago (West Indies);

**John Staig (1770-1855)**

As we learn from the memorial in St. Michael’s Church in Dumfries, John was a collector of customs. He probably married Abigail Mitchinson (d.1831), the daughter and co-heir of John Mitchinson.

Like his father, John was made a Deputy-Lieutenant of the county of Dumfriesshire in 1824 (The Edinburgh Gazette, 16-20 April, 1824).

He appears to have no living wife or children at the time of making his will in 1855. As such, his brother David Staig, (resident in Ireland) is made the primary beneficiary of his will as can be seen from the first extract below.

John Staig also bequeathed some of his estate to various other people who are mentioned in the second extract below.
The second extract above reads:

To the Honourable Mrs. Patricia Young residing at Lincluden House near Dumfries three hundred Pounds sterling, to her sister the Honourable Christina Maule daughter of the late Lord Panmure, one hundred pounds sterling, to Captain Thomas Young eldest son of the before named Honourable Patricia Young, the old and also the modern editions of the Works of Shakespeare left to me by the late Marquis of Queensberry, to William eldest son of the late William Ireland Syme for whom I stood Godfather fifty pounds sterling, to Helen Bell my cook twenty five pounds sterling, to Margaret McGeorge my housemaid fifteen pounds sterling, if they shall be in my service at the time of my death etc.

William Ireland Syme (mentioned later), was the husband of John Staig’s niece (Lilias Staig Babington).

The Marquess of Queensbury referred to was Charles Douglas, 6th Marquess of Queensberry (1777-1837).

Lord Panmure was William Maule (born Ramsay), 1st Lord Panmure of Brechin and Navar (1771-1852), one of the richest men in Scotland at that time and a rather decadent character (portrait at right).

John Staig was involved in an incident and legal action with one William Hyslop which is detailed below:

In October 1814, William Hyslop, in Dumfries, printed and circulated a Letter reflecting on the conduct of Provost Staig, and others of the Magistrates of Dumfries, who were advised to bring an Action of Damages against him, in the name of Provost Staig, for a Libel. This is the Action which was carried on in the Court of Session under the name of Staig v. Hyslop.

Shortly after the publication of the above Letter, John Staig, the Son of Provost Staig, who was also the object of abuse in this Letter, sent a challenge to Hyslop, which was not accepted. John Staig having afterwards met Hyslop in the streets of Dumfries, insulted and abused him by calling him coward, &c. and threatened to strike him. Hyslop then brought an Action of Damages for the Assault against John Staig, which was tried in the Jury Court, under the name of Hyslop v. Staig.

One Hundred Pounds were the Damages assessed in each Case, and Expenses being found due in each Case to the respective Pursuers, they were taxed by the proper Officers, namely, the Pursuer’s account in Staig v. Hyslop, by the Auditor of the Court of Session, and the Pursuer’s account in Hyslop v. Staig, by the Clerk of the Jury Court.

The Pursuer’s Costs or Expenses in Staig v. Hyslop, in the Court of Session, as taxed by the Auditor of Court, amounted to £. 250. 15 s. 11½ d. The Pursuer’s Costs in the Case in the Jury Court, as taxed by the Officer of that Court, amounted to £. 114.

Notably, John is the only one of Provost Staig’s sons to have died on Scottish soil.

Janet or Jessie Staig (1774-1801)

The famous Scottish poet, Robert Burns (1759-1796) was known to Provost David Staig when Burns lived in Dumfries.

Burns was particularly enamoured by Jessie Staig (who was by all accounts a very beautiful woman). So taken by Jessie was Burns that he wrote the song (reproduced below) about her, effectively immortalising her.
Jessie married Major William Miller, the second son of Robert Burns’s landlord, Patrick Miller (1731-1815) of Dalswinton and had issue. Patrick Miller became a director of the Bank of Scotland in 1767 and was responsible for the issue of the one guinea bank note. In 1790 he was made deputy-governor of the Bank of Scotland. He was also a partner in a private banking company in Edinburgh and in addition a partner and subsequently a director of the British Linen Bank.

William Miller was a Captain in the Horse Guards and an M.P. for Dumfriesshire.

Jessie and William Miller’s son, Charles Staig Miller died as a child in 1806.

After Jessie Staig’s death, William Miller married Frances Every of Egginton Hall, daughter of Sir Edward Every (1754-86), 8th Baronet of Egginton.

David Staig (1775-1860)

David went to Fermoy, County Cork, Ireland (he resided in Fermoy for approximately 40 years) and went into partnership in the banking business of John Anderson (1747-1820) and his son Sir James Caleb Anderson (Bart.) 1792-1861.

John Anderson was from Portland near Dumfries. He had made a fortune in the provision trade in Cork, Ireland.

He founded the modern town of Fermoy (in the early 1790s) and made considerable land purchases which included the manor and town of Buttevant from the Earl of Barrymore. Anderson had obtained a banking license in 1800. Around 1816 he suffered greatly with the fall in the value of land after the Napoleonic Wars and the (ultimately) ruinous agreement he had entered into with the Earl of Barrymore for the purchase of the manor and town of Buttevant. He also lost over £30,000 in a Welsh Mining venture and his bank ended up collapsing in 1816.
John Anderson, his son Sir James Anderson and David Staig were all (apparently) bankrupted as a result of the failure of the bank. Sir James Anderson denied he was ever bankrupt, placing the notice (at left) in the *The Freeman’s Journal* of 21 August 1838.

David Staig married Catherine Peard (d.1843) in 1806. Catherine was the daughter of Henry Peard of Coole Abbey.

Above and below: Marriage announcements for David Staig and Catherine Peard (the above announcement from the *London Gazette* of 10 June 1806 and the announcement below from *The Scots Magazine* (Vol. 68, page 485 of 1806).

The Peards were Anglo-Irish landed gentry. Their forebear, Richard Peard (1595-1683) had come to Ireland from Devon, England (parish of Welcombe)\(^3^3\) in circa 1641.\(^\text{34}\)

The coat of arms used by the Peards of Coole Abbey and Castlelyons is identical to that of the Peards of Devon (i.e. Or, two wolves passant in pale, sable).\(^\text{35}\) This coat of arms is reproduced in Appendix II to this paper.

The famous poet Robert Burns had written a letter to Provost Staig (reproduced below) and David Staig inherited this letter from Provost Staig.

On page 51 of a publication called: *The Catalogue of the M’Kie Burnsiana Library, published by James M’Kie, Kilmarnock 1883*, we have the following reference to the letter:
It should be noted that “Butterant” above is actually Buttevant and that is the town (near Fermoy) which John Anderson had purchased (along with the manor) from the Earl of Barrymore.

The actual Burns letter is reproduced below (note that some words are incorrect on account of this text of the letter being a digital scan):

LETTER TO DAVID STAIG, Esq.,
Dumfries.

I know, Sir, that anything which relates to the Burgh of Dumfries's interests will engage your readiest attention, so shall make no apology for this letter. I have been for some time turning my attention to a branch of your good town's revenue, where I think there is much to amend; I mean the "Twa pennies" on Ale. The Brewers and Victuallers within the jurisdiction pay accurately; but three Common Brewers in the Bridgend whose consumpt is almost entirely in Dumfries, pay nothing; Annan Brewer, who daily sends in great quantities of ale, pays nothing; because in both cases, Ale Certificates are never asked for: and of all the English Ale, Porter, &c. scarcely any of it pays. For my part, I never recorded an Ale Certificate in Dumfries, and I know most of the other Officers are in the same predicament. It makes no part of our official duty, and besides, until it is universally assessed, on all Dealers, it strikes me as injustice to assess one. I know that our Collector has a percentage on the Collection, but as it is no great object to
him, he gives himself no concern about what is brought in to the town. The Supervisor would suit you better. He is an abler and a keener man, and, what is all-important ill the business, such is his official influence over, and power among, his Off'**, that were he to signify that such was his wish, not a "pennie" would be left un-collected. It is by no means the case with the Collector. The Off", are not so immediately among his hands, and tiicy would not pay the same attention to his mandates.

Your Brewers here, the Richardsons, one of Avhom, Gabriel, I survey, pay annually in "twa pennies," about thirty pounds; and they complain, About great justice, of the unfair balance against them, in their competition with the Bridgend, Aiman, and English Traders. As they are respectable characters, both as Citizens and Men of Business, I am sure they will meet with every encouragement from the Magistracy of Dumfries. For their sakes partly I have interested myself in this business, but still much more on account of many obligations which I feel myself to lie under to Mr Staig's civility and goodness.

Could I be of the smallest service in anything which he has at heart, it would give me great pleasure. I have been at some pains to ascertain what your annual loss on this business may be, and I have reason to think that it will amount fully to one third of what you at present receive.

These crude hints. Sir, are entirely for your private use. I have by no means any wish to take a sixpence from Mr Mitchel's income: nor do I wish to serve Mr Findlater: I wish to show any attempt I can, to do anything that might declare with what sincerity I have the honor to be, Sir, your obliged humble servt.

Friday Noon,
ROBT. BURNS.

David Staig died in Clonmel, Ireland on 10 May 1860.36

David Staig had the following children:

1. David Dalzell Staig (1811/12-1862), of him, see below;
2. James Anderson Staig (1813-1864) m37. Mary Elizabeth Nicholson (d.1841). They had one daughter who died in infancy, Mary Isabella Staig (1840-41).

James Staig (like his brother David), went to India, serving the East India Company in West Bengal as a surgeon. He was recommended by his Uncle John Staig of Dumfries (mentioned above). James Staig’s parent’s certificate (part of his application in 1836 to join the East India Company as an assistant surgeon) is shown below:
He finished his career as a Surgeon-Major (Bengal Medical Staff, Indian Army)\textsuperscript{38}. He died in London.

3. Marianne Staig (d.1890);
4. Catherine Elizabeth Staig (1816/17-1897) m. George Ingram Madder (1815-1891)\textsuperscript{39};
5. Lillias (Lilly) Stewart Staig (d.1862).

The three sisters are all named in David Dalzell Staig’s will (dated 12 November 1861) and also in his father’s will (dated 12 August 1856). David Dalzell Staig mentions that all of his sisters were born in Fermoy, Ireland (where he was presumably born as well).

Marianne and Lillias never married. Catherine married in 1863 (at the age of 46) and had no issue.

The family is later resident in Clonmel, Ireland as is evidenced by John Staig’s will referring to his brother David as being resident in Clonmel, Ireland at the date of John making his will on 6 March 1855 in Dumfries.

There is a memorial stone to David Dalzell Staig’s father and the three above named sisters in Old St. Mary’s Church, Clonmel (not far from Fermoy)\textsuperscript{40}.

Above is the notice of Lillias Stewart Staig’s death from the \textit{The Cork Examiner} of 22 July 1862.

David Staig (1811//12-1862), like his uncle William Staig, went to India and became a Captain (Commanding Artillery) in the 1\textsuperscript{st} Nair Brigade, Travancore Service and Staff Officer to his Highness the Rajah of Travancore. He was one of only a few Europeans in the
service of “Native Powers” (in this case the Rajah of Travancore). He had entered the Travancore Service on 13 May 1831 as a Lieutenant in the 2nd Battalion of the Nair Brigade. He died of Dropsy (an old term for what today would be called oedema) on 16 April 1862.

This David Staig had the following children:

1. Marianne Staig (1837-1865);  
2. Catherine Staig (1839-1911) m. William Augustus Hart (1827-1869), Dep. Controller, Public Works Accounts, (Madras);  
3. Lilly Staig (b.1840) m. William Montague Graham;  
4. William Staig (b.1842) (likely to have died in infancy);  
5. Laura Staig (1844-1925) m. Jacob Janes (1844-1920), Assistant Surveyor in the Travancore Revenue Survey (at the time of the marriage in 1866);  
6. Annie Staig (1846-1939) m. Samuel Edward Carrapiett (1840-1908), Senior Assistant Surgeon and Honorary Captain, IMD.

David Staig died in Trivandrum, India on 16 April 1862 and his death notice from The Cork Examiner of 24 June 1862 is shown below (Dalzell is misspelled as Halzell in the notice).

The descendants of David Dalzell Staig are the only living descendants today of Provost Staig’s four sons, however, being descended through female lines, none of them bear the surname Staig (although many have borne it as a middle name).

Charles Staig (1777-1795)

Charles died in Tobago in the West Indies in 1795 (without issue).

A John Staig was appointed Provost-Marshal of Tobago in 1793 and was likely to have been a relative. This may explain Charles’s presence in Tobago.

William Staig (1779-1806)

William died 31 July 1806 at Kishnagur, Bengal, India (without issue). William was a Lieutenant in the 3rd Regiment of the Bengal Native Infantry. Ten years earlier in 1796, he is recorded as being a 2nd Lieutenant in the Marine Forces. His death notice from the Scots Magazine, Volume 69 of 1806 is reproduced below.
William Staig’s Certificate of Age (required for entering the Indian Army) is reproduced below:

Lilias Staig (1778-1827)

Lilias Staig married the Reverend Charles Maitland Babington (1775-1841), portrait at left. Charles Babington was the second son of Rev. William Babington D.D. (1746-1818), Episcopal Minister at Dumfries.

Some members of the Babington family are also commemorated in St. Michael's Church in Dumfries. We are told the following in Memorials of St Michael's, the Old Parish Churchyard of Dumfries:

"In memory of the Revd. William Babington, D.D., of Trinity College, Dublin, for 46 years minister of St. Mary's Episcopal Chapel here, who died April 4th 1818, aged 72; also of Janet his wife, daughter of Charles Maitland, Esq. of Eccles, who died May 1st 1814, aged 66; also of Mary, their daughter, born June 16th 1780, died June 16th 1826."
"Dr. Babington's wife belonged to one of the oldest of our County families, and it will be seen from the following inscription, which is on the east side, that his son had for his father-in-law the greatest burghal magnate of his day, Provost Staig."

"In memory of the Revd. Charles Maitland Babington, M.A, of Balliol College, Oxford [founded by Devorgilla], Rector of Peterstow, Herefordshire, and for 22 years minister of St. Mary's Episcopal Chapel here, second son of the Rev. William Babington, D.D., born May 4th 1775, died August 5 1841. Also of Lillas his wife, daughter of David Staig, Esq., born March 26th 1778, died April 20th 1827."

"The west tablet is dedicated to John Babington, Esquire, for many years in the Madras Civil Service," died 22d April 1852, aged 66, and two of his children, Anne Amelia, aged 30, and A. Melville, aged 21, by his wife Eliza."

Some of the descendants of Lilias Staig and Charles Maitland Babington are given below, but a more comprehensive tree is available at www.staigfamily.com

Lillas Staig and the Reverend Charles Maitland Babington had the following children:

1. Lillas Staig Babington (1794-1843) m. William Ireland Syme (1790-1846), grandson of John Syme (d.1790), Laird of Barncailzie;
2. Jessie Miller Babington (1803-1881) m. John Gunning (1801-1845), a Major in the service of the East India Company;
3. Lieutenant-General David Staig Babington (1804-74) m. Maria Anne Sutherland (1816-1906);
4. Grace Babington (b.1810);
5. Helen Babington (b.1816).

Jessie Miller Babington’s husband John Gunning was the son of Sir William Gunning, 2nd Baronet of Eltham. Jessie Babington’s great grandson, Sir Robert Charles Gunning (1901-1989) became the 8th Baronet of Eltham in 1950. The Baronetcy of Eltham was created on 23 November 1778.
The most famous member of the Gunning family was probably Peter Gunning (1613-1684), Bishop of Chichester and Ely (portrait on previous page at right). This Peter Gunning was the 1st cousin, five times removed of Jessie Babington’s husband, John Gunning.

John Gunning’s maternal grandfather was Henry Bridgeman, 1st Lord Bradford (1725-1800). The 1st Lord Bradford’s father was Sir Orlando Bridgeman, 4th Baronet of Great Lever (1695-1764). John Gunning was also descended from Francis Russell, 4th Earl of Bedford (d.1641) and Edward Clinton, 1st Earl of Lincoln (1512-1584/85).

Like some other branches of the Staig family, this branch also had a very strong connection to British India.

David Staig Babington married Maria Anne Sutherland (1816-1906). Maria was the daughter of Major-General Sir James Sutherland (1784-1850) and Maria Cherry (b.1789 in Gujarat, India, d.1869).

David Staig Babington’s military record is detailed in the following obituary:\textsuperscript{56}:

![Obituary]

David Staig Babington and Maria Anne Sutherland had the following children:

1. David James Babington (b. & d.1839 in Bellary, Madras, India);
2. William Marshall Babington (b.1840 in Bellary, Madras, India);
3. Mary Gunning Babington (1841-1911, b. in Moulmein, West Bengal);
4. Alexander Charles Babington (1842-66, b. 23 Nov 1842, Moulmein, West Bengal, India);
5. Lillias Catherine Babington (b. 1844, Cape of Good Hope, South Africa);
6. Rev. Basil Blogg Babington (1846-1928, b. Ootacamund, India);
7. Frances Charlotte Babington (1848-1914, b. Bangalore, India);
8. Rev. James Sutherland Babington (1851-1912, b. Bengal, India, d. Hobart, Australia);
Lillias Staig Babington and William Ireland Syme’s daughter, Lilias Syme (1828-90) married Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Rodney Phillott (1812-76) in Madras, India on 4 October 1849. Henry Phillott was the son of Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Phillott C.B. (1773-1839).

Henry Rodney Phillott had previously been married to Catherine Sophia Sutherland (1821-47), another daughter of Major-General Sir James Sutherland (who is mentioned above).

Lilias and Henry Phillott’s children were:

1. Margaret Phillott (b.1850, Janluah, Madras, India);
2. Rodney Phillott (b.1851, Madras, India);
3. Grace Anne Phillott (1852-1923, b. Ootacamund, Madras, India) m. William Russell Blackett (1837-93), they were the parents of Sir Basil Phillott Blackett KCB, KCSI (1882-1935), an outstanding financial administrator who was, inter alia, secretary to the Royal Commission on Indian Finance and Currency (1913–1914) and First Controller of Finance at the UK Treasury.
4. Harry Phillott (b.1854);
5. William Phillott (b. & d. 1856, Ootacamund, Madras, India);
6. Lillias Jane Phillott (b.1857, Ootacamund, Madras, India);
7. Douglas Craven Phillott (b.1860 Cambridge, England);
8. Lucy Isabella Phillott (b.1865, Douglas, Isle of Man);

Below: Lilias Syme’s husband Henry Rodney Phillott (1812-1876), left, and her paternal grandfather John Syme (1755-1831), right.
Appendix I: The Arms of the Stewarts of Shambellie

Arms of Stewart of Shambelly, as recorded 1732.—Gold, a fess chequy blue and silver, surmounted by a red engrailed bend charged with a white rose. Crest: A dove with a rose in its beak, proper. Motto: “Soli Deo honor” (Lyon Register). [Plate VII., fig. 100.]
Appendix II: The Arms of Richard Peard (1595-1683) of Coole, Ireland

End Notes

1 A number of the Scottish Clan websites state that Charles Stewart was born in 1705 and died in 1775, however, in the book, A Scion of Heroes, by Stuart McCulloch, it states (on page 64) that Charles Stewart was born in 1716. We also know for a fact that he died on 22 May 1786 from documents associated with his estate held by the Dumfries Commissary Court.


3 Ibid, page 102.


5 Stewart Clan Magazine, Tome H, Volume 37, Number 6, December 1959.


8 Ibid.

9 Ibid.

10 See: http://www.mountvernon.org/research-collections/digital-encyclopedia/article/james-craik/
The book, *A Scion of Heroes*, by Stuart J. McCulloch, Matador, 2015 also states (on page 64) that her name was Ann. Her eldest daughter was also named Ann.


LDS record: Indexing Project (Batch) Number: C11814-2, System Origin: Scotland-VR, GS Film number: 1067956, Reference ID: 2:16L9WTC.

LDS record: Indexing Project (Batch) Number: C11814-2, System Origin: Scotland-VR, GS Film number: 1067956, Reference ID: 2:16LB38T.

LDS record: Indexing Project (Batch) Number: C11814-2, System Origin: Scotland-VR, GS Film number: 1067956, Reference ID: 2:16LBJ1M.

LDS record: Indexing Project (Batch) Number: C11814-2, System Origin: Scotland-VR, GS Film number: 1067956, Reference ID: 2:16LDF2L.

Will of David Staig (12 August 1856) & will of John Staig (6 March 1855). Also see Catalogue of the Howard Family Papers relating to Cumberland, HNP C214/13, 22 May 1783.


LDS record: Indexing Project (Batch) Number: C11821-7, System Origin: Scotland-VR, GS Film number: 1067960.

*The Scots Magazine* of 1 June 1806 (also mentioned in at least four other publications) and recorded in the Public Record Office of Ireland, Marriage Licence Bonds, Diocese of Cloyne (Ireland Diocesan and Prerogative Marriage Licence Bonds indexes 1623-1866).

*LDS record: Indexing Project (Batch) Number: C11814-2, System Origin: Scotland-VR, GS Film number: 1067956, Reference ID: 2:16L6D2F2L.*


*Reports from Commissioners: Caledonian Canal; Highland Roads; Courts of Justice. Session - 27 January to 10 June 1818.*, Volume X, Page 63.

*This is widely documented, but see for example, The Complete Works of Robert Burns* by Robert Burns & Alan Cunningham.

*Dictionary of National Biography*, 1885-1900, Volume 37, [under Patrick Miller], by Richard Bissell Prosser.

Ibid.

Ibid.

See: [http://landedestates.nuigalway.ie/](http://landedestates.nuigalway.ie/)

Wikipedia.

This is inscribed on Richard Peard’s tomb in St. Nicholas’Cemetery, Castletelyons, Cork.

*A Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Landed Gentry* (1863), pages 1165-1166, by Sir Bernard Burke. (Although it should be noted that Burke’s information was not always complete or entirely accurate).

As shown on Richard Peard’s tomb in St. Nicholas’Cemetery, Castletelyons, Cork.

*The Cork Examiner*, 21 May 1860. We are told he was a former partner in the firm of Sir James Caleb Anderson of Fermoy.

They married on 10 April 1839 in Arracan, Bengal, India. See LDS records and India Office record (British Library) - L/MIL/9/384 f.292
See The London Gazette of 20 September 1864, page 6650. See also: India Office record (British Library): L/MIL/9/384 f.292 and N/1/54 f.117. He appears to have been named after his father’s banking partner, Sir James Anderson.

See also: India Office record (British Library): L/MIL/9/384 f.292 and N/1/54 f.117. He appears to have been named after his father’s banking partner, Sir James Anderson.

LDS record: Indexing Project (Batch) Number: M70228-4 , System Origin: Ireland-EASy , GS Film number: 101445 , Reference ID: 43

Apparently this stone states that David (senior) was in his 80th year at his death in 1860, however he was actually in his 85th year. The stone was placed in the church at least 37 years after David (senior’s) death and at a time when all his children were deceased (and he had no grandchildren resident in Ireland), so there may have been inaccuracies concerning his birth year.

See Allen’s Indian Mail & Register of Intelligence for British India, China and All Parts of the East, Vol. VI, Jan.-Dec., 1848, page 117. A Calendar for the Leap-Year 1840, Adapted for the Meridian of Travandrum, Published by permission of his Highness the Rajah of Travancore, Travandrum, Government Press, 1839, page vi.

Indexing Project (Batch) Number: C00067-8 , System Origin: India-ODM , GS Film number: 521844.

Ibid.

Ibid.

Ibid.

INDIA OFFICE RECORD REFERENCE: Z/N/11/2 (REGISTRY OFFICE MARRIAGE INDEX1852-1911) .

Indexing Project (Batch) Number: C00067-8 , System Origin: India-ODM , GS Film number: 521844.


LDS record: Indexing Project (Batch) Number: M00550-0 , System Origin: India-EASy , GS Film number: 521854.

LDS record: Indexing Project (Batch) Number: C00068-7 , System Origin: India-EASy , GS Film number: 521850 , Reference ID: v 39 p 263.

Marriages solemnised at Vepery, St Matthias’s Church, 8 February 1871.

The London Gazette of 1897. Title given on announcement of his retirement from the Indian Medical Department (as approved by the then Queen [Victoria]).


Most of the information in this section comes from clanbarker.com.

They had six sons and seven daughters (which included three sets of twins) according to The Snell Exhibitions, W. Innes Addison, 1901, page 70.
