

JOHNSTON

OF LATHRISK & BAVELAW

DAVID JOHNSTON, 1ST OF LATHRISK, b. at Falkland in 1731, and was a merchant in Sweden for many years where he amassed a considerable fortune which enabled him to purchase the lands of Lathrisk, in Fife, in 1783, and those of Bavelaw, in Lothian. He *m.* Mary Robertson, *d.* at Lathrisk on 4 April 1809,¹ and was father of,

1. David Johnston, *b.* on 17 January 1773, was admitted an Advocate and *dsp* at Lathrisk on 28 February 1809.²
2. William Johnston of Lathrisk, (*see below*).
3. George Johnston, *b.* on 15 January 1781, and *d.* at Edinburgh in 1821.
4. Alexander Johnston, *b.* on 27 July 1782, and *d.* at Ceylon on 14 January 1813.³
5. Mary Johnston, *b.* on 5 May 1774, and *m.* on 26 May 1794, to Charles Maitland MakGill of Rankeilour, and had issue which succeeded to the lands of Lathrisk, Bavelaw, Monzie and others on the death of George Johnston of Lathrisk in 1900.
6. Elizabeth Johnston, *m.* at Lathrisk on 30 April 1821, to Joseph Philip Bertolini,⁴ and *d.* at St. Servan, France, on 8 June 1846.⁵

WILLIAM JOHNSTON OF LATHRISK & BAVELAW, b. on 5 October 1777, was served heir to his father and elder brother, David, in the lands of Easter Lathrisk, Lochnarry, Ballintymore, and others all in the parish of Kettle, on 27 March 1810. He *m.* at Edinburgh on 26 April 1819, to Jean, youngest daughter of Sholto Douglas,⁶ (she *d.* at Edinburgh on 6 June 1824⁷), *d.* at Lathrisk on 25 August of 1868,⁸ and had issue :

¹ Caledonian Mercury, 13th April 1809, edition.

² Scots Magazine, 1st March 1809, edition.

³ Scots Magazine, 6th September 1813, edition.

⁴ Scots Magazine, 1st June 1821, edition.

⁵ Perthshire Courier, 25th June 1836, edition.

⁶ Scots Magazine, 1st May 1819, edition.

⁷ Caledonian Mercury, 17th June 1824, edition.

⁸ Stautory record. See also: Edinburg hEvening Courant, 27th August 1868, edition.

1. David Johnston, *b.* at Lathrisk House on 19 February 1820, and *d.* there on 2 January 1828.¹
2. George Johnston of Lathrisk, (*see below*).
3. Alexander Johnston, *b.* at Lathrisk on 2 May 1823, and *d.* there on 3 April 1824.²
4. A daughter, *b.* on 14 October 1821.

GEORGE JOHNSTON OF LATHRISK, *b.* on 14 October 1820, and succeeded his father on his death in 1868. He *d.* unmarried at Lathrisk on Saturday 29 December 1900,³ leaving a vast fortune, which became the subject of the famous Lathrisk Will Case by which a David Pithie in Dundee came forward with a forged Will which purported to make he and his father legal heirs. This was quickly proved to be a case of fraud and trial and conviction quickly followed, with the fortune being inherited by Maitland MakGill of Rankeilour as nearest heir via by virtue of senior descent in the female line from Mary Johnston, daughter of David Johnston, 1st of Lathrisk.

¹ Edinburgh Evening Courant, 10th January 1828, edition.

² Caledonian Mercury, 5th April 1824, edition.

³ Statutory record.