

RENTON

OF BILLIE

JOHN DE RENTON, was father of,

JOHN DE RENTON OF BILLIE, was a Burgess of Berwick, and who, on 22 August 1344, had a charter from Thomas Stewart, Earl of Angus, for the lands of Billie, with their pertinents, in which it is narrated that this charter follows on from a resignation made by the previous holder, William de Sinclair of Roslin, and a request that he retains them direct from the Earl as superior, and is then styled as son of John de Renton.¹ He also obtained the third-part of the ploughlands of Lamberton from Serle de Cragy and Mabel, his spouse, daughter and heiress of Henry de Orchard the previous possessor, dated 12 November 1344.² From him descended;

ROBERT DE RENTON, LORD OF LAMBERTON, who succeeded to the lands of Lamberton by 29 May 1407, when he granted a tenement in the town of Brugh to his son, James de Renton. He was father of,

1. James de Renton, to whom his father granted his tenement in the town of Brugh to be held by he and the heirs of his body, which failing, by those of his brothers Thurbrand and John in remainder.³
2. Thurbrand de Renton,
3. John de Renton,

JOHN DE RENTON OF BILLIE, was next to succeed to the lands of Billie and Lamberton, and was no doubt son, or grandson of one of the three sons of Robert de Renton. He was living on 1 July 1433, and was father of,

¹ HMC Wedderburn Papers. No. 631/1

² GD52/1033.

³ HMC Wedderburn Papers. No. 500.

1. David de Renton of Billie, (*see below*).

2. Thomas de Renton, a substitute heir to his brother David in the lands of Billie on 1 July 1433.

DAVID DE RENTON OF BILLIE, to whom William de Douglas, Earl of Angus, granted a resignation of the lands of Billie on 1 July 1433, to be held by he and his heirs, which failing, by his brother Thomas and his heirs, which failing, by the heirs of their father John de Renton.¹ In February of 1472, he protested to the Lords of Council that any dispute involving the tenants of Elphinstone and Todrig should not be prejudicial to him or to Alexander de Graham, his cousin, and at the same time he subscribed to lawburrows assuring that they would not be harmed by him in any way which contravened the law.² was father of,

DAVID RENTON OF BILLIE, was infeft as his father's heir in the lands of Edencraw on 4 July 1494,³ and whom he succeeded in the lands of Lamberton in which he infeft his wife Elizabeth Lauder in the liferent on 30 October 1506.⁴ They were infeft in the lands of Fastfurland, in the barony of Bonkle and sheriffdom of Berwick, on 6 April 1508, to be held by the same terms as they were previously held by Alexander Cockburn and his predecessors.⁵ He was alive on 24 April 1511, when he resigned his lands of mill of Billie and Fasturland into the hands of the superior for regrant to his son and heir, David Renton and Janet Stewart, his wife, and *d.* by 18 October 1536. He was father of,

1. David Renton of Billie, (*see below*).

2. Archibald Renton,

3. Alexander Renton,

4. George Renton,

DAVID RENTON OF BILLIE, had a charter from the superior, George Douglas, Master of Angus, for the lands of Billie, with their pertinents, lying in the barony of Bonkle, to he and Janet Stewart, his spouse, and their heirs, which failing by his brothers, Archibald,

¹ HMC Wedderburn Papers. No. 631/3

² Acta. Dom. Conc.

³ GD267/26/9/120

⁴ HMC Wedderburn Papers. No. 501.

⁵ HMC Wedderburn Papers. No. 389.

Alexander or George and their heirs, dated 27 April 1510, and in which he is styled as eldest son and heir apparent of David Renton of Billie.¹ He had succeeded his father by 10 October 1536, when he and Janet Home, his spouse, resigned their rights to the lands of Cumledge in favour of Patrick Slych, her son. He *m.* first, to the said Janet Stewart and secondly, to Janet Hume (Dispensation dated 14 May 1513²), and was father of,

JOHN RENTON OF BILLIE, succeeded his father and was infeft in the lands of Billie as his heir on 26 February 1567.³ He was also infeft as his heir in the lands of Lamberton and the four husbandlands in the town of Renton, in the barony of Coldingham, on 5 June 1584. He *d.* in 1587 having *m.* first, Katherine Lawson, and secondly, to Jean Cockburn and by which two wives he was father of,

1. David Renton of Billie, (*see below*).
2. John Renton of Scheills, named with his father, brother David, and his father's first two wives, in an agreement drawn up by their father by which he bound himself to look after his third wife, Alison Heriot, and her five children by her previous husband William Hoppringall, dated 3 October 1580. He had a charter from his father for the lands of Fastfurland, dated 4 November 1583.⁴ He *m.* Elizabeth, daughter of George Gibb of Lumphoy, and was father of,
 - 2a) Robert Renton, acquired the lands of Wester Scheills of Colbrandspath from Thomas Angus of Hoprig for which he had a charter under the Great Seal dated 18 June 1611.⁵ He *dsp* prior to 14 October 1624, when his brother John was retoured his heir..
 - 2a) John Renton of Scheills, succeeded his brother Robert Renton in the half lands of Lamberton and Lamberton Scheills in which he was retoured his heir on 14 October 1624, and in which he was infeft on 16 June 1625.⁶
3. Robert Renton, witness to a Tack of the teinds of Lamberton in favour of his brother David Renton of Billie in 1584, and was witness to a contract by this brother David and Margaret Collace, his wife, by which he exchanged his portion of lands at West Renton with Nicol Paxton for his lands of Auchincraw, dated 1 January 1605.

¹ HMC Wedderburn Papers. No. 390.

² HMC Wedderburn Papers. No. 392.

³ HMC Wedderburn Papers. No. 395.

⁴ HMC Wedderburn Papers. No. 397.

⁵ RMS 1608-1620. No. 506.

⁶ HMC Wedderburn Papers. No. 507.

4. Alexander Renton, to whom the escheat of William Forrester in Leith was granted on 10 January 1580.¹

4. Jean Renton, *m.* William Arnot, son of William Arnot of Colburnspath, (*c/m* 1574²).

He *m.* thirdly, to Alison Heriot, (*c/m* at Pencaitland on 29 September 1580.³ She was widow of William Hoppringall of Torwoodlee, by whom she had issue), and by her, he was father of :

5. **JAMES RENTON OF BILLIE**, is named in the marriage contract of his nephew John Renton of Billie and Margaret Arnot, in 1615, and is styled as a son by Alison Heriot in a decree raised against John Renton of Billie by his sister Agnes, in 1621, for non-payment of sums due by virtue of their parent's marriage contract in 1580. In consideration of this, John Renton of Billie made over his estate of Billie to him by contract dated 22 June 1622.⁴ He *m.* Lilies, daughter of Sir James Oliphant, 2nd Baronet of Newton, (*c/m* at Edinburgh on 9 December 1630⁵), *d.* in 1637,⁶ and was father of,

5a) **JAMES RENTON OF BILLIE**, succeeded his father and to whom he was retoured his heir in parts of the lands of Renton, West Renton, Nunmeadow and Auchincraw on 8 August 1667.⁷ He *m.* Jean, eldest daughter of John Home of Manderston, (*c/m* 27 March and 7 April 1657⁸), but his estate being heavily incumbered by debts due to the behaviour of his tutors during his minority, he was forced to settle elsewhere. This is illustrated by his widow's petition to Parliament on 14 June 1693, in which she gives the following account of his life and death: "showing that the said James Renton of Billie, the petitioner's husband, having his estate mismanaged during his minority by his tutor was left in much debt, which, though the estate was sufficiently able to pay, yet the rigidity of his creditors forced him to withdraw and live some years in England, but afterwards, thinking it was more secure to go abroad than to live, either at his own house or in the north of England, he resolved about six years since to go to Holland, where he might live in security, and in order thereinto, went to Newcastle, and agreed for his passage to Holland in a ship going

¹ RPS Vol. VII. 2186.

² GD216/124

³ HMC Wedderburn Papers. No. 396.

⁴ HMC Wedderburn Papers. No. 406.

⁵ HMC Wedderburn Papers. No. 409.

⁶ HMC Wedderburn Papers. No. 412.

⁷ Retours. Berwick. No. 345.

⁸ HMC Wedderburn Papers. No. 413.

there, but, during the time of the voyage, the sickness wherewith he was formerly affected, then seizing on him, he died by the way, and was thrown overboard at sea, after his death, as the custom is with passengers whose quality is not known. The ship afterwards having arrived at Holland the petitioner got notice of his death by report, but the very same ship having, in its return, been cast away, all that were in it perished, and so the probation of his death was the more difficult.”¹ As narrated, he *d.* during his passage to Holland in 1687, and was father of,

5b) **JAMES RENTON OF BILLIE**, succeeded his father and was admitted an Advocate.

He disposed the lands of Billie to Mr. Ninian Home on 13 April 1709,² and *dsp* by July of 1726, when his nephew and namesake James Renton, son of his brother George, was charged to have himself entered heir to his grandfather James Renton of Billie.

5b) David Renton, who with brother George was witness to the marriage contract between George Home, younger of Wedderburn, Margaret, eldest daughter of Sir Patrick Home of Lumsden, dated 4 October 1695.³

5b) John Renton, apprenticed to Alexander Deas, Merchant in Edinburgh, on 15 April 1674.

5b) George Renton, was admitted a Writer to the Signet and *m.* in October of 1697, to Helen Douglas. He *d.* on 17 December 1703, aged 29 years, and was father of,

5c) James Renton, against whom Ninian Home obtained a decree charging him to enter heir to his deceased father, and James Renton of Billie, his grandfather, on 20 July 1726.⁴

5c) Jean Renton, *m.* at Edinburgh on 20 June 1736, to Mr. John Crockat, Minister at Dallas.

5b) Robert Renton, apprenticed to Alexander Kincaid, Goldsmith in Edinburgh, on 15 July 1696.

5b) Helen Renton, to whom her mother, Jean Home, assigned a Bond of Aliment on 8 May 1714.⁵

5a) Anna Renton,

5a) Lillias Renton, all of whom are mentioned in their father's Testament in 1637.

¹ Acta Parl.

² GD267/27/16/144

³ HMC Wedderburn Papers. No. 260.

⁴ GD267/27/15/139

⁵ GD267/27/13/108

6. Agnes Renton, *m.* by 18 September 1621, to James Pringle, *fiar* of Buckholme, when she executed a decree of apprising against her nephew John Renton of Billie for 6,400 merks Scots overdue by the terms of her mother's marriage contracted dated 1580.¹

DAVID RENTON OF BILLIE, succeeded his father and was retoured his heir in the lands of Billie with the mill and tower thereof, on 12 May 1590.² He *m.* Margaret Collace with whom, as his future, spouse, he had a Tack of the lands of teind sheaves from the lands of Lamberton in 1584, *d.* by 3 April 1606, and was father of,

JOHN RENTON OF BILLIE & COLDBRANDSPATHSCHEILS, succeeded his father and was retoured his heir firstly in the lands of Billie on 3 April 1606,³ and then in those of Lamberton, Scheills, Cranslaid, Ross and others on 21 September 1615.⁴ He was retoured heir to John Renton of Billie, his grandfather, in the lands of Billie on that same day.⁵ He *m.* Margaret, daughter of William Arnot of Colbrandspath, (*c/m* at Edinburgh on 4 November 1615⁶), and had the lands of Billie appraised by his nephew, James Renton, and his neice, Agnes Renton, in September of 1621, following which he made over his estate to them by contract dated 22 June 1622. He afterwards obtained the lands of Colbrandspathscheils and exchanged his remaining rights to the lands of Billie with his uncle James Renton of Billie for those of Lamberton by contract dated 3 April 1634. He *d.* by May 1642 and was father of,

1. Alexander Renton, *fiar* of Lamberton, to whom his father resigned his lands of Lamberton and for which he had a charter under the Great Seal for the fee thereof dated 10 October 1639, and by which the King erected them into the Barony of Lamberton.⁷ He *dsp* by 25 May 1642.
2. John Renton of Lamberton, (*see below*).
3. Anna Renton, *m.* Alexander Leslie, 1st Earl of Leven, (*c/m* 23 June 1651), and had issue.

¹ HMC Wedderburn Papers. No. 405.

² HMC Wedderburn Papers. No. 399.

³ Retours. Berwick. No. 59.

⁴ Retours. Berwick. No. 99.

⁵ Retours. Berwick. No. 100.

⁶ HMC Wedderburn Papers. No. 404.

⁷ RMS 1634-1651. No. 923.

JOHN RENTON OF LAMBERTON, styled as son and heir to his father in the contract by his father exchanging the lands of Billie for those of Lamberton in 1634, and was retoured his heir general on 25 May 1642.¹ He was appointed Governor of Edinburgh Castle, *m.* Anna, sister of Colonel John Home of Prendergast, and *d.* prior to December 1652, being father of,

1. John Renton of Lamberton, (*see below*).
2. Anna Renton, *m.* Alexander Udney of that Ilk.

JOHN RENTON OF LAMBERTON, succeeded his father, to whom he was retoured heir general on 9 December 1652,² and in whose favour his mother, Anna Home, made a resignation of the lands of Lamberton and for which he had a charter under the Great Seal dated 27 December 1652.³ He *m.* at Edinburgh on 6 April 1676, to Cecilia Gibson, and was father of,

JOHN RENTON OF LAMBERTON, succeeded his father and *d.* on 27 June 1742. He was father of,

JOHN RENTON OF LAMBERTON, succeeded his father and was served his heir in the lands of Lamberton, and others, on 21 October 1742. He *m.* Susanna, daughter of Alexander Montgomery, 9th Earl of Eglinton, (*c/m* 1 August 1739. She *d.* at Blackadder on 27 July 1754⁴), *d.* on 2 August 1772, and was father of,

1. Alexander Renton of Lamberton, (*see below*).
2. Cecilia Renton,
3. Eleanora Renton, *m.* on 22 August 1770, to Charles Kilpatrick Sharpe, and *d.* at Hoddam Castle on 8 August 1836, with issue.

¹ Retours. Gen. No. 2687.

² Retours. Gen. No. 3718.

³ RMS 1652-1659. No. 64.

⁴ Caledonian Mercury. 29th July 1754, edition.

4. Susan Renton, *m.* Sir Robert Murray, 6th Baronet of Hillhead, (he was widow of Janet, daughter of Alexander Murray, 4th Lord Elibank, whom he had *m.* on 22 June, 1750, and *d.* on 21 September 1771).

ALEXANDER RENTON OF LAMBERTON, succeeded his father in his estate and in which he was served his heir on 3 November 1774. He *m.* at Edinburgh on 24 March 1785, to Margaret, daughter of Adam Cairns, *d.* at Edinburgh on 27 March 1823, aged 91 years,¹ and was father of,

SUSAN RENTON, *m.* at Symington Lodge on 31 March 1811, to Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Campbell of Dalsersf,² (he *d.* at Mordington House on 19 June 1850, aged 81 years³), and had issue :

1. **ALEXANDER CAMPBELL RENTON OF LAMBERTON**, *b.* on 3 May 1812, succeeded to the lands of Lamberton and was served heir to his granfather, Alexander Renton of Lamberton, on 16 March 1831. He *dsp* on 17 March 1839, and was succeeded by his brother John.
2. **JOHN CAMPBELL RENTON OF LAMBERTON AND MORDINGTON**, *b.* on 22 April 1814, succeeded his brother Alexander and was served heir to him in the lands of Lamberton, and others, on 17 June 1840. He was afterwards served heir to his mother on 13 June 1842, and *dsp* at Malta on Monday 25 February 1856, from the effects of a ruptured blood vessell.⁴
3. William Mark Campbell Renton, *b.* on 13 April 1815, entered the army and served as Captain in the 2nd West India Regiment. He *dsp* at Nassau on 25 January 1848.⁵
4. **ARCHIBALD COLIN CAMPBELL RENTON OF LAMBERTON AND MORDINGTON**, *b.* on 4 May 1818, and entered the army, serving as a Major in the 42nd Highlanders. He fought in the Crimea campaign being present at Alma, Balaklava and Sebastopol, and returned home to take possession of the family estates following the death of his elder brother John although it was commented at the time that due to the effects of the war, he was in very poor health. He *d.* at Mordington House on 23 November 1866.⁶

¹ Inverness Courier. 10th April 1823, edition.

² Mordington OPR See also Scots Magazine. 1st May 1811, edition.

³ Durham County Advertiser. 28th June 1850, edition.

⁴ SC60/44/4

⁵ Aberdeen Journal. 9th February 1848, edition.

⁶ Statutory record. See also SC60/44/5

5. Charles Frederick Campbell Renton of Lamberton and Mordington, (*see below*).

CHARLES FREDERICK CAMPBELL RENTON OF LAMBERTON AND MORDINGTON, *b.* on 2 May 1819, and succeeded his brother Archibald on his death in 1866. He *m.* on 6 August 1866, to Liliash, daughter of George Stirling, *d.* at London on 30 May 1891,¹ and was father of,

1. Robert Charles Campbell Renton of Lamberton, (*see below*).
2. Pauline Campbell Renton, *b.* on 12 July 1868, and *m.* at St. Philip's, London, on 22 October 1901, to Captain Herbert Cayley-Webster.²
3. Susan Lilian Campbell Renton, *b.* on 1 June 1870, and *d.* unmarried at Edinburgh on 18 February 1955.³
4. Jane Eleanora Campbell Renton, *b.* on 16 January 1872, and *d.* unmarried at Mordington on 29 October 1941.⁴

ROBERT CHARLES CAMPBELL RENTON OF LAMBERTON AND MORDINGTON, *b.* in 1867, succeeded his father in his death in 1891, and *m.* in January 1896, to Grace, second daughter of Joseph Cawthra, Toronto, Canada, (*she d.* in 1940). He *d.* on Wednesday 16 September 1948,⁵ and was father of,

1. **MARGARET CAMPBELL RENTON OF MORDINGTON**, succeeded to the remainder of her father's estate on his death in 1948.
2. Beatrice Campbell Renton, *m.* at Holy Trinity, Brompton, London, on 11 February 1924, to Digby Coddington Cayley, eldest son of Arthur Cayley of Carham.⁶

¹ Statutory record. See also SC60/41/37

² Statutory record. See also Berwickshire News and General Advertiser. 29th October 1901, edition.

³ Statutory record. See also Berwickshire News and General Advertiser. 1st March 1955, edition.

⁴ Statutory record. See also Berwick Advertiser. 6th November 1941, edition.

⁵ Statutory record. See also Berwickshire News and General Advertiser. 21st September 1948, edition.

⁶ Statutory record. See also Berwickshire News and General Advertiser. 12th February 1924, edition.