

## Research Notes on the Pringles of South Africa

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

**April 2015:**

### Stichill

I believe the Gordon's owned Stichill from the early 13<sup>th</sup> century. Robert in Baitingbush purchased the lands and barony of Stichill on 26<sup>th</sup> April 1628 from **John Gordon of Lochinvar**. Robert was the second son of George Pringle of Craigleith – his ancestry is as follows: **William of that Ilk**, d. 1390/1; **Adam**, younger son of William who obtained a charter from Walter Haliburton of that Ilk to the lands of Yerlsyde, Fans, (quarter of the barony of Fans); **Archibald de Burnhouse**, d. 1479. **William (second son) constable of Cessford Castle**, d. circa 1505; **Alexander** who predeceased his father; **Robert** of Craigleith, d. 1539; **Alexander** of Craigleith, d.1569; **George** of Craigleith, d. 1602; **Robert (second son) first of Stichill**. d. 1649.

### Smailholm

1. Robert Hoppringill, Douglas squire and first of Pilmuir and Smailholm was I believe a younger son of William Hoppringill of that Ilk who died in 1390/1. It was Robert that married Elspeth (Elizabeth) Dishington, not his son David. The Earl of Douglas granted the lands of Pilmuir and Smailholm to Robert in 1408. The Douglas's were not overly keen on granting lands to all and sundry. I have no doubt that Robert's marriage to Elspeth Dishington a great-granddaughter or granddaughter of Robert Bruce helped. Robert the squire was killed at the battle of Verneuil, France, in August 1424.
2. David Hoppringill, second of Pilmuir and Smailholm, is shown as being married to Elspeth Dishington. This cannot be. On page 98 of the 'Records of the Pringles' the inscription over the doorway of the old house of Galashiels is said to have had the following inscription '*Elspeth Dishington Builte me. In syn lye not: The things thou canst not get, Desyre not. 1457*'. It has been **assumed** that this inscription related to David's wife but I firmly believe it related to his mother. It is clear to me that the funds provided to build the house (by 1457) came from his mother, Elspeth Dishington. On his father Robert's death David was referred to as 'of Pilmuir'. In 1433, on bended knee before the Earl of Douglas at Newark Castle (see attachment) he pleaded to have the lands of Smailholm confirmed on him as heir and successor to his father Robert. George Hoppringill, Douglas squire, witnessed this event in Newark Castle. George, Alexander and Robert were not descended from Smailholm. The Earl confirmed the lands of Smailholm on David in 1452. However, David was still referred to as 'of Pilmuir' until 1463. I believe that David married twice or he produced an illegitimate son (a false paternity – words used by King Richard III DNA experts). It seems that James third of Smailholm and Adam of St John's Chapel had different mothers. David died in 1480.
3. James third of Smailholm married a Murray and had six children – David his heir; William first of Torwoodlee; John first of Blindlee;

Isabella who married David Hume of Wedderburn; Robert parson of Morham; and James of Tynnes. **Alexander, first of Trinlyknowe was James' first cousin as was David in Tynnes who also married a Murray.** James died in 1495.

4. David fourth of Smailholm apparently married twice. By his first wife he had David, killed at Flodden in 1513 and John his heir. By his second wife he had **James (Whytbank)**; William; Agnes; Christina; Janet; and Margaret. David died in 1535.
5. John fifth of Smailholm married Margaret Gordon daughter of **Sir James Gordon of Lochinvar and Stichill** and had issue. He died in 1564.
6. Andrew sixth of Smailholm died on 28 February 1585 leaving James his heir and Robert of Houliston
7. James seventh and last of Smailholm died on 20 August 1635. At the foot of page 119 in the 'Records of the Pringles' Alexander the author sets out an extract from '*Our Journal into Scotland*, 5 November 1629 from Lowther, Cumberland, made by C Lowther and two companions'. What he did not include was that Robert Pringle in Baitingbush and now of Stichill gave them a letter of introduction to Sir James Pringle as they entered Scotland and the said Robert informed the travellers that '**he Robert, though several generations from the main stem was a Hoppringill of that ilk**'.

### Whytbank

1. James was a younger son of David fourth of Smailholm and in 1555 was now called of Whytbank. He married Margaret Ker of Linton and had issue:- Mr Robert who predeceased him; James his heir; George; Alexander; William burgess in Edinburgh; John; David; and Marion. He died in 1563.
2. James married Marion daughter of Andrew Murray of Blackbarony. They had James who predeceased him; George; John; Robert; Alexander; David; Margaret; Jane; and Katrene. He died in 1625.
3. James fear predeceased his father and by his first wife Christian Lundie had issue James his heir; George; John; and Katrene. By his second wife Isabella Moffat had issue Thomas and a natural son Robert.
4. James by his wife Sophia Schoneir who died in November 1626 had a son Alexander. He died in 1667 aged 73 [b. 1594]. There was a natural son (false paternity) William who appears in the Register of Deeds on 17 October 1663 said to be ancestor of Thomas Pringle, poet, and reformer [Dictionary of National Biography] and an article by A. Pringle in the Border Magazine on 21st December 1921].
5. Alexander who died on 25th April 1689 aged 66 [b. 1623] had no issue.

### DNA

Norman Murray Pringle and I, James Bruce Pringle, descendants of the Pringles of Stichill have matching DNA with three living Pringles descended from Robert Pringle first of South Africa. More specifically, we (the Stichill's) have the same difference (DYS464C) that no other Pringle has with the

exception of the three SA Pringles. Also, William Pringill, constable of Cessford Castle, settled in East Teviotdale around 1465 and they continued to live there until the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Although we do not have DNA for any known Pringle of Whytbank, I am satisfied, that the Pringles of Stichill and South Africa are both descended from William, constable of Cessford Castle as are many other Pringles living in the US but they do not share the 16 marker DYS464C DNA. Robert, first of SA was born in 1753. This mutation most likely occurred between 1630 and 1753.

### **Conclusion**

The South African Pringles are not descended from Whytbank.

**June 2016:** I believe that I have found the missing link. As I have mentioned before the South African Pringles and Murray and I have virtually identical DNA and we share one particular difference, that no other Pringle (to date) shares.

James Pringle who married Margaret Douglas and had two bairns (sons) William and Alexander. Please refer to 'The Records of the Pringles' under 'Kelso' on page 164. The eldest son William was the progenitor of the SA Pringles and Alexander was the one that migrated to Northern Ireland and named Elder of Templepatrick in 1646 and who was the father of your Samuel. I am confident that I am right but I am not fallible by any means.