

Alexander was the son of Duncan Forrester and Margaret Ramsay. The date of Alexander's birth is unknown but in "The Alphabetical Register of the Students, Graduates and Officials of the University of St Andrews 1579-1747" there is the following entry:

Forrester, Alexander

Matriculated from St Salvator's College

1627/28

B.A. 1630, 'potens'.

M.A. []. 1631, 'minus potens'. (thesis)

Divinity student 1631/32 – 1632/33

'princerna'.

Since the average age at first matriculation was 15 this would indicate a birth about 1612.

No record of Alexander's marriage taking place now exist but based on information on his tomb, this must have been about 1636. His wife, Christine McNeil, was the daughter of Torquil McNeil. According to John C Gibson in his 1908 book "Lands and Lairds of Larbert and Dunipace Parishes" they had issue: Alexander, Mr John M.D., William W.S., Mr James, Elizabeth, Barbara, Christian.

What happened to Alexander over the five years of his life following university is not clear. Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae says he was "ane conformist in Ireland, preached three quarters of a year in Edinburgh, and been two years with the armie". A conformist at that time was someone adhering to episcopacy. This would have been true of Alexander since, by the Five Articles of Perth in 1618 James VI forced Episcopacy on Scotland and that remained the case until 1638. Nothing has so far been found to substantiate other parts of this quotation from Fasti..

In 1638 The National Covenant of 1580 in which the Protestant leaders pledged themselves to support the Reformed doctrine and discipline was renewed in Edinburgh. The King (Charles I) was compelled to allow a free General Assembly to meet. The independence of the Church was re-asserted. Alexander Forrester signed the Covenant but it is not known if he signed the original at Greyfriars in Edinburgh or one of the many copies sent throughout Scotland and Ireland.

Civil War commenced in England in 1642. The Scottish Covenanters sent an army to Ulster to protect the Scottish settlers there so this may have been the time when Fasti says Alexander went to Ireland with the army but since there was no regular army at that time there are no records which might have mentioned Alexander.



Fasti says that in 1646 Alexander was "Proposed for parish of Livingston." but it also says that John Lothian MA was inducted in Livingston on 24th November 1646. The Kirk Session records for Livingstone for this year have been searched and an Alexander Forrest (not Forrester) had a child baptized on May 21st. John Lothian first preached on 22nd July and again on July 25th before he was inducted on

24th November. It seems that Fasti is mistaken about Alexander Forrester being proposed for Livingston but it is correct in saying that in 1650 he was inducted to St Mungo's in Dumfries & Galloway, Presbytery of Lochmaben. As the 2017 photo (above) of the ruins of St Mungo's shows it was a very small church. The link below is to an 1862 map of this district. The ruins of St. Mungo's are near the top left corner. <http://maps.nls.uk/view/74426688>



The minutes of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland held in Dundee in 1651 show that Alexander was among the 147 commissioners. (This was held just a month before General Monk sacked Dundee and records are scarce.)

The photo shows the tower of St Mary's church, where the Assembly would have been held. Everything except the tower has been re-built several times following fires.

In the years after Alexander arrived at St Mungo there are a number of relevant letters and bonds preserved in The National Records of Scotland. A summary of them is given below at the appropriate times and transcriptions of the complete documents (where transcription has been possible) are in the Appendix.

Bond RD2_10 This document is almost impossible to read because of 'bleed through' from the reverse side of the document.

John Maxwell of Castlemilk borrows £222:04:00 Scots money from Alexander Forrester.

To be repaid by "Martinmass next to come" [Martinmass is 11th November]

£20 penalty if not repaid on time.

Signed at Dumfries 23 January 1653 J Maxwell. Witnesses: Johne Carsiane, Alexander Maxwell, Herbert Maxwell.

RD2_10 continues and John Maxwell of Castlemilk borrows 400 merks money of Scotland from Alexander Forrester.

To be repaid by Martinmass 1655.

£40 penalty if not repaid on time.

Signed 14 February 1655 by Johne Maxwell, David Mur, notary. Witnesses Herbert Maxwell, William Maxwell.

Cryspen Tropher Halliday Cautioner. (Cautioner is pronounced kayshuner and means guarantor.)

GD219-157 10 August 1658 – a bond of relief by George Murray [George Murray was Alexander Forrester's son-in-law.] in Brocklerigg to William Forrester for his cautionary for Hercules Sinclair in a bond to Alexander Forrester, minister of St Mungo.

Bond RD2_38.

James Fredeing in Echellfechan borrows 200 merks Scots money from Alexander Forrester

Ordinar annual rent for the said prinll somme conforme to the act of parliat.

Repayable by Martimass 1659.

Penalty 20 merks if not repaid on time.

Signed at Echellfechan on 18 December 1658 James Fredeing, Witnesses Christopher Johnston, William Fredering and Harbert Fredeing (sons to Adam Fredeing in Echellfechan.)

Adam Fredeing & Cristopher Johnson Cautioners.

By this time the king, now Charles II had reneged on the promises of 1638 and was intent on introducing Episcopacy to Scotland with himself as spiritual head of the church, something the Scots could not countenance. Having refused to conform to Episcopacy, Alexander was confined to the parish in 1662. At this time many ejected ministers began preaching in houses, barns or in the open air at "field meetings" or conventicles and in view of future events Alexander appears to have been no exception.

Bond RD2_28.

Robert Ramsay preacher of the gospel at Tranent borrows three hundred and forty merks Scots money from Alexander Forrester

Annual rent (illegible)

Repayable by the "feist and tyme of Whitsonday" next to come.

Signed 1 December 1663.

Cautioner Robert Colt.

April 25 1665. A letter from Johne Greirsonne to William Murray of Murraythwaite forwarded to Alexander Forrester by his son-in-law with William's notes.

In 1670 Field-meetings were made treasonable and preaching at such a meeting became a treasonable offence. Despite this these meetings increased rapidly and about this time arms began to be carried for self defence and "field-meetings" began to develop into "armed conventicles."

The next recorded bond was RD3_58.

Mr John Maxwell of Castlemilk had borrowed £222:04:00 Scots from Alexander Forrester.

The agreement was signed 23 June 1653 and the money was repayable by 16 October 1663.

The loan was secured on a piece of land.

This is now 1678 and Mr Alexander Forrester is content to "superseid and containe" the payment of the said principal sum upon the granting of a tack for five years, the details of which follow and include Alexander having the income from this tack.

Signed at Spenmoor 13 September 1678 by John Maxwell. Witnesses Sir Alexander Jarden of Applegreth and William Charters, wryter.

There follows a ratification that John Maxwell is now major and of full age and past the age of 21. This fact is witnessed by the writer of the document, George Peaterson, lawfull son to Mr John Peaterson late minister at St. Mungo on 21 April 1679 before witnesses John Maxwell, Alexander Forrester in Whythill and Thomas Portes," my servitor". [This John Maxwell appears, from other information, to be the grandson of the John Maxwell who took the original loan in 1653.]

Two points about the above document. First there is no mention in Fasti of John Peaterson ever being minister at St. Mungo and second Alexander Forrester in Whytehill witnessed the document in 1679 if this is Rev. Alexander Forrester late of St Mungo it is possibly the last record of him prior to his death in 1686 and would prove that he was released from prison before his death.

Heritable Bond RD4_42.

Mr Robert Bell of Hardriyes? borrows £109 Scots money from Alexander Forrester

Annual rent (Interest) of £6:13:4 to be uplifted at Martinmass

Penalty of £12 if interest not paid.

Written and subscribed by Thomas Veitch procurator. Witnessed by Mr Johne and William Forrester sons to Mr Alexander Forrester,

Signed 16 December 1673 at Kirkconnel.

Secured on a piece of land.

In 1676 under Charles II the Register of the Privy Council records: (*August 3rd**)

“The Lords of the Committie for publick affaires did make report that they had ordered that Mr Alexander Forrester who was taken in Fyff for being at field conventicles and imprisoned in St Andrewes to be transported to the Basse.”

Link to information about St Andrews tolbooth where Alexander is likely to have been imprisoned
<https://openvirtualworlds.org/omeka/exhibits/show/a-virtual-exhibition-of-mediev/tolbooth>

Then in 1677 (*February 8th*) “Mr Alexander Forrester who was formerly prisoner in the Basse, being taken in Fyff for keiping feild conventicles who wes thereafter sett at liberty upon caution to appear before the Committe, he being called and examined thereupon and concerning some papers which were taken upon him when he wes apprehended, which were produced before the committee by which papers it appears that upon the 24th of May, (*20th May*) 1676, there did convene within Edinburgh betwixt fiftie and thriescore outed ministers who did constitut themselves in form of the kirk listed and voted their moderator, appointed a committy of ten of their number at their first meiting to prepare overtures, who accordingly, after the dissolving of the meiting, did convene that same night and condescend upon, prepare and aggrie to the draught of and petition and overtures of a most seditious nature to be offered to their meiting in which they condescended upon wayes of setleing and keiping correspondence in the severall societies and synodes established by them for and for entering into and sending out young men into the ministry in their severall societies and boundes and for one synodes corresponding with another and for and provyding for against any offer from the State in order to church affaires without advertisement given to and consent of the severall societies and for correspondence with gentlemen and judicious elders whilk overtures being upon the said 25th of May presented to the great meiting, the same were voted and approven, which paper containing the said petition and overtures, with another paper bearing the leiting and voeting of the moderator and what votes every minister had and the minutes of what past at these meittings, being found upon the said Mr Alexander Forrester when he was apprehended and being presented to him at his examination, he confet that the saids minutes were his oune hand wryte, and that he wes present at these meittings and that he was elected and did officiat as clerk and confest that they did chuse a preses, and being interrogat who wes the person that wes chosen preses or in what house or place in Edinburgh the saides meittings were kept and who were present at the same, and other circumstances relating to a discovery thereof, the said Mr Alexander Forrester refused to declare anything thereanent, whereupon the committee thought fit to order him to be close prisoner in the tolbuith of Edinburgh until the Council should consider further of the same matter. Haveing revised the Declarations from severall burghes at their last election, they find that the greatest part have made no returne and that many of these who have made returnes are not sufficient conform to the act of Parliament, the committy has appointed letters to be directed against the magistratts council and clerk of several burghes. The Lords of His Majesties Privy Council having heard and considered the report of the forsaid committy, doe approve of their proceidinges and ordaines that the said Mr Alexander Forrester be kept in a chalmer by himself and that no person have access to him, except with meat or drink, and that he be not allowed the use of pen, ink or paper; and that ane order be delyvered to the keeper of the tolbuith to that effect.

It may be that the meeting described above and others like it are why Alexander is referred to in Fasti as ‘Minister in Edinburgh’. This and the strong probability that he was preaching at house conventicles there.

National Records of Scotland catalogue lists the Warding and Liberation books for the Edinburgh Tolbooth from 1657 to 1816 unfortunately it took two visits to find that the records for 1676 and 1677 are in fact missing so no further information can be gleaned there.

On 1st March 1677 the Register of the Privy Council recorded:

“Petition-- Mr Alexander Forrester, prisoner”.

Presumably this was a petition requesting Alexander’s release but there is no further information. The Warding and Liberation books for Edinburgh Tolbooth have been searched without success up to the date of his death in case he passed through there but without success.

The only possible record found of Alexander between this date and his death is that in the bond RD3_58 above. His death is recorded on May 28th in 1686. He was buried in Greyfriars Churchyard, Edinburgh on 30th May. His widow, Christine MacNeil, lived until 1694 and was buried in Greyfriars Churchyard, Edinburgh on 3rd January. The tomb is shown below followed by the inscription and a transcription of the inscription.



VENERABLI VIRO
 [To a] Reverend man
 ALEXANDRO FORRESTER AD ANNUM SANCTI QUINTIERNI
 Alexander Forrester in the 50th year of his ministry.
 PASTORI EVANGELICO PATRI SUO
 An evangelical pastor [for] his father (God).
 EX VETUSTA DOMO FORRESTERORUM GARDENNENSIIUM
 He was from the ancient house of Forrester of Garden
 ORTO
 descended.
 CHRISTINIE MACNEIL EJUS PER ANNOS QUINQUAGINTA
 [Also to] Christine Macneil his wife of fifty years
 CONIUGI MATRI SUÆ,
 and mother of his
 FILYSQUE SUI OCTO FILIABUS TRIBUS EX CO..
 eight sons and three daughters (EX CO..)?
 SUA RACHAELE BALFOUR SUSCEPTIS ET ..TC SH..
 His daughter-in-law Rachaele Balfour erected this stone for him and his family (ET ..TC SH..)?
 ATQUE SIBI SUIQUE SACRUM CONSTITUIT
 *having been undertaken
 GULIELMUS FORRESTER AD SIGNETUM REGIUM SCRI.....
 William Forrester writer to the king's signet
 ANNO DOM MDCCI
 year of our Lord 1701

**Many people have been asked for a translation without getting a clear meaning for this line but it may be saying that this was undertaken on the instructions of her (late) husband, William.*

Appendix.

Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae by H Scott is the record of the ministers of the church of Scotland. The relevant entry here is in vol 2 p 221 St Mungos.

Synods of Merse & Teviotdale, Dumfries & Galloway.

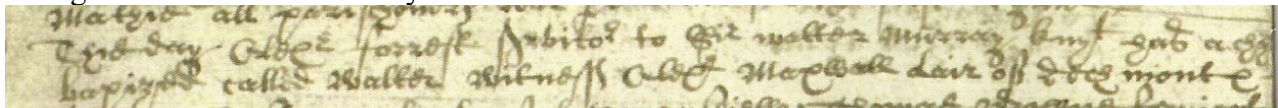
Presbytery of Lochmaben.

St. Mungo. formerly Abermelk or Castlemilk. (Abermelk was a mensal kirk of the Archbishop of Glasgow.) The parish name was changed in the seventeenth century to that of its patron saint. There was a Well of Our Lady

1650 ALEXANDER FORRESTER

"Born 1611, son of Duncan F. and Margaret Ramsay; M.A. (St Andrews 1631); he had been "ane conformist in Ireland, preached three quarters of a year in Edinburgh, and been two years with the armie"; was proposed for the parish of Livingston in 1646; was settled in this charge in 1650. Refusing to conform to Episcopacy in 1662, he was confined to the parish. He was apprehended for holding a conventicle. He acted as clerk to a General Meeting of Presbyterian mins. in Edinburgh, 24th May 1676; was examined by the Privy Council 8th Feb. 1677; sent to the Bass 3rd Aug. 1677. Having been liberated, he died at Edinburgh, 28th May 1686. He marr: Christian, daugh. of Torquil Macneil, and had issue Alexander; John, min. of Stirling; James, advocate, died 1705; William, W.S., died 1st Oct. 1701; Elizabeth; Barbara, died aged 18; Christian (marr. 12th Jan. 1693, George Murray of Murraythwaite)- [Dumfries and Linlith.Presb. Regs.; Dumfries Tests.; Edin.Reg. (Bur); Wodrow's Hist., ii 355 [where he is called Andrew]; Monteith's Theatre of Mortality, i; Bass Rock.]

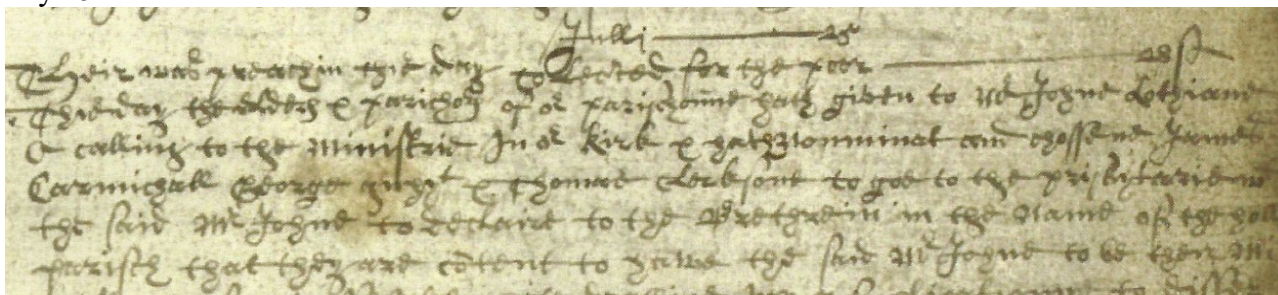
Livingstone Parish Minutes May 17 1646.



Which reads:

This day Alexander Forrest servitor to Sir Walter Murray knight had a son baptized called Walter. Witness Alexander Maxwell laird of lochmont and ... (Note **Forrest** not Forrester)

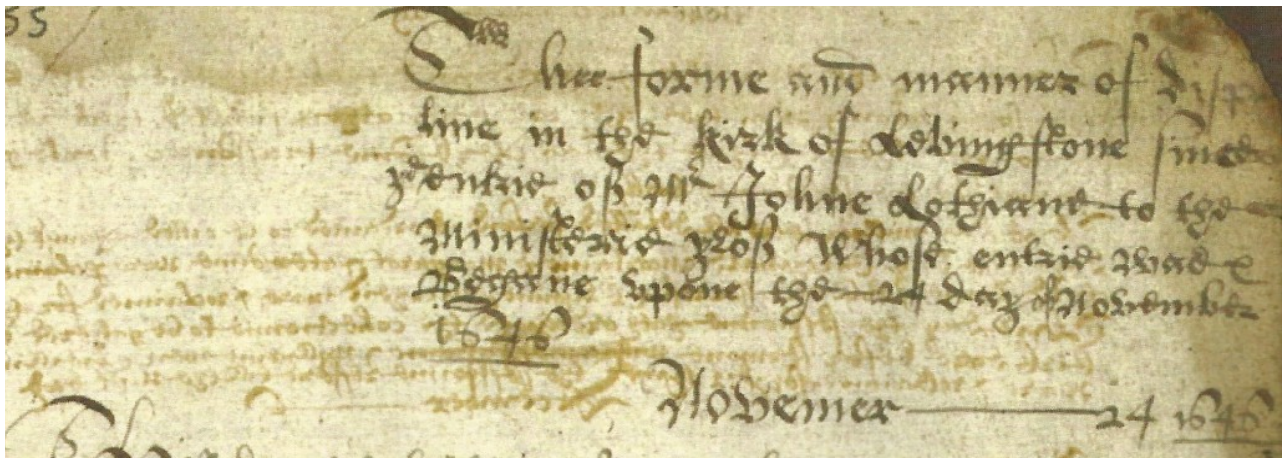
July 25th



There was preaching this day: collected for the poor-----28

This day the elders & parishoners of our parish have given to said Mr John Lothian a calling to the ministrie in our kirk...

November 24th



The forme and manner of dispositione in the kirk of Livingstone since the entrie of Mr Johne Lothian to the ministrie therof whose entrie made and begane upone the 24 Day of November 1646.

RD2/10

- 1 In pn. of the Lords of counsel and
- 2 Session compered Mr Johne Rollo advocate
- 3 proc^r for Jon Maxwell ---- ----
- 4 and gave in the band under---- theroff the
- 5 tenor ffollows I Johne Maxwell
- 6 of castlemilk be the tenor heiroff
- 7 grant me to have borrowed and received
- 8 from Mr Alexander Forester minister at
- 9 Sainte mungo the somme of 2 no. Hundred &
- 10 twentie two punds four shillings scots
- 11 money ----somme of 2 no. hudred twentie
- 12 two punds four shillings of money forsaied
- 13 I bind & obleis me my aires & exers and
- 14 assignayes ----- with my ----- rents
- 15 guidis and geir and their --- ---- ---- thank
- 16 ----- -to reseive ----- pay and
- 17 Delyver againe to the said Mr Alexander
- 18 fforester his aires & exers or assignayes
- 19 betwxt the dait heroff and the fiest
- 20 and terme of mertimes next to come
- 21 in this my hand year of God 16 fyftie
- 22 thrie yeires but ---- or delay -----
- 23 or ---- ---- together with the somme of
- 24 twentie punds money forsaied as penaltie

25 and -----of failie
26 and -----
27together? ----- that doe- and ordinar anuel
28 rent for the said prinll somme --- the
29 day and dait of thir pnts. To the somme
30 above -----and – and --- the payment of
31 the said prinll somme conforme to the
32 act of parliament ----- not infest
33 as infest -----thyrto at
34 the pleasur and option ----- of the
35 said Mr Alexander and his forsaid -----
36 ----- and ----- the samme
37 consenting thir pnts. be insert and regrat in the
38 court books of -----threff or commiser-
39 towne books of Dumfries or anie other-----
40 -----and -----
41 to follow heirupon and -----Mr
42 Johne Rollo advocate my procurator in witnes
43 thereof ---- be Herbert Maxwell notar and
44 I have subc. thir pnts. With my hand at
45 Dumfries the twentie third day of -----
46 16 syxtie thrie yeires befor thir
47 witness Jone Carsirne of meikl -----
48 Alex^r Maxwell laull sone to -----
49 Jon Maxwell and the said Hebert
50 maxwell notar writer hieriof sic sub^r
51 J Maxwell Johne Carsirne witnes
52 Alex^r Maxwell witness Hebert
53 Maxwell witness
54 In pents of the lords of counsel and
55 session compeered Mr Johne Rollo ad-
56 -vocat pro^r for Jon Maxwell as
57 prinll and Cr. Tropher haliday as
58 cau^r ----- assigned and gave in
59 the band underwritn theref the
60 tenor follows I John Maxwell
61of Castellmilk grant me be the
62 tenour heiroff to have borrowed
63 and received ----- and –th-
64 ----- numerat and ---- -----
65 money from Mr Alexander Forrester
66 minister at Saint mungo the somme
67 of four hundred marks money of

68 Scotland throff I grant the
69 reseit and discharges the said
70 Mr Alexander Forrester of the same
71 be thir pnt^s ----- the
72 exceptoin? of not numerat money
73 ---- of ----- and all uther
74 exceptoin? of the ---- ----proponit?
75 the ----- ----- somme of four hundred
76 marks money forsaid – the said Johne
77 Maxwell as prinll and with Mr Cryspher
78 fullerday -- ----- as c---- ----- and
79 ---- ----- for and with me binds and
80 obleis as----- prinll and -- --- --- aires exers
81 and assigneys and intromettors with our
82 guidis and geir whatsomever ---- -----
83 --- ----- -- ----- and to pay
84 to the said Mr Alexan^r Forester his aires
85 excers. or assignyes betwixt the dait
86 heiroff and the fiest and terme of
87 mertinemes next to come this ----- yeir
88 of God 16 fyftie? five years but
89 longer delay togeter with the ordinar
90 ----- of the said prinll somme from
92 ---- the said terme of payment
93 ----- ----- the somme off
94 fow---- punds ordney forsaid of
95 prnell – and ----- presents --- --
96 ds-ed and agreed upon ---- the
97 said prinll and ----- ----- and our forsaidis
98 in caic throw not thankfull payment
99 of the said prinll somme in ---- -----
100 tyir pnts ---- ----- and -----
101 heirupon in maner underwrn and --
102 ---- ----- the said Mr allex^r
103 Forrester and his forsaidis to -----
104 and ----- the payment of the
105 said p^r -----somme and longer -----
106 ----- forsaidis ---- and ----
107 ---- ----- prinll and ---- binds and
108 obleis us and our forsaidis conjunctly
109 and severallie and our forsaidis as
110 said as ----- and pay to -----
111 Mr alex^r fforester and his -----

112 -----
113 -----for...said
114 prnill somme during the not payment throf
115 and tje said terme and ----- John
116 maxwell prinll bind and obleis me and
117 my forsaid to -----
118 and ----- the said -----
119 ----- and -----
120 of -----
121 of all -----
122
123
124
125 --- ----- the said Johne Maxwell
126 binds and obleis him and his forsaid
127 ---- ----- hapines ---- ----
128 for payment of the sommes -----
129
130
131
132
133
134
135
136
137
138 thrby and for the mair securitie
139 we ar contente and consents thir
140 pnts be insert and regret in the
141 books of counsel and session ---
142 court books of -----
143 commisser books of Dumfries---
144 ---- and -----
145 to be ----- heirupon -- and
146 simple ----- of -----
147 and fr that effect -- ----
148 Johne Rolls advocate our C.....
149 pror^s ----- throff -----
150 ---- ---- pnts with our hands as
151 followes ---- be David
152 Mur-----notar----- four of castell
153 milk the fourtene day of februarie
154 1655 yeirs before thir

155 witnes Herbert and William Maxwell
156 sones to me the said Johne Maxwell
157 -----Johne Maxwell said David Mur
158 -----far does---- ----off ---
159 pnts. -----thir
160
161
162
163 and sub – ----- Herbert Maxwel
164 witnes William Maxwell witnes.

GD219/157 (Assignation by William Murray of Murraythwaite to Margaret Murray, Parish of Middleby)

01 Be it kend till all men be this present te-s me William Murray of Murraythwaite
02 that for saemeikle as I am justlie adebted to Margrett Murray my sister the
03 somme of three hundred and aught punds Scotts money and therefore I being
04 most willing that she be satisfied of the said sum will -- me to have
05 made create and constitute and ordained and by thir pnts. makes creates and
constitutes
06 and ordaines the said Margaret Murray my ----- lawfull cessioner and
07 assignes cum libera disposition in and to the nobilie mailes and duties of
08 my forty shilling land of stockbridges land within the parishine of midleby
09 which land pays yearly the somme of forty pounds Scotos money and that att
10 Martinemes yeirlie the somme of forty pounds and tht. for all the days years and
termes of seven years
11 that is to say seven years rent and ane half of the said lands which makes up the
12 somme forsaid of three hundred (pounds) excepted the aught pound and
13 surrogates and substitutes the said Margaret Murray her aires and assigneys
14 and exectores in my full place therof during the space forsaid with power to her
15 or her forsaid or ane uther in her name to call follow and persew for the saids
16 yeirle rents before ane ----- competent in this nation decreis and souton
17 ces to recover thereof discharges and ----- to give and subscribe in hail
18 or in pairt I affirm also good valid and effectualle of the law as ---
19 I had doen the saimmine myself before the making heirof and generallie
20 all other ----- to doe thereanent as becometh anent the hail promises
21 obleisses me never to come in the contrarie heirof and I the said W^m Murray
22 of Murraythwaite binds and obleisses me my aires and excetores to warrand
23 and defent this present assignatione and towarrand the yeirlie rents of the said
24 lands induring the space above written to the said Margaret Murray and her
forsaid
25 against all having entres or pretending entres against all de-----e as lawfull
26 and that I never have done nor shall doe ane thing in the contrair heirof and
27 the said Margrett Murray is to begine to uplift the said yeirlir duties att Martine-
28 –mes next to come in this instant year of God 16 and fiftie aught years and

29 Sure to continue from that tyme till the forsaid seven years and ane half be expired
30 and for the mair securitie consents thir pnts. be ----- in ane judges bench
31 competent within this nation and therto remain ad futuram --- memoriam and
32 ffor that effect constitutes
33 My lawfull procurators in witness therof I have
written
34 and subscribed thir pnts. in my hand att the Murraythwaite the (blank) day of May
the
35 yeir of God 16 and fiftie aughtn years before thir witnesses

GD219/157 (On the back of the above. Bond of relief by George Murray in Brocklerigg to the said William for his cautionary for Hercules Sinclair in a bond to Alexander Forrester, minister of St. Mungo)

01 Be it kent til all men Mr George Murray in Brockelrig for as
02 mikel that William Murray of Morigahat (Murraythwaite) is cautioner to me
03 Patrick Murray in Brockelrig in ane band of ane hundreds
04 for Mr Hercules Sinclair to Mr Alexr. Forester minister
05 at St Mungo and because at said soume of land grant
06 my proper reason affaire with me the said George Murray to be bound
07 and obliged by is I be content hereof binds and oblidge me my aires copy to be kept
the
08 said Mr Murray of Murraythwaite free of
09 all cost staithe and expenses that his aires or successors may incur
10 range the said contents and for the mair security I am content
11 this presents be incert regrat in ye comisher court books
12 of Dumfries and that and may pas heir upon
13 on a single charge of six days only and for that effect.
14 my laul. Procutor in witness heirof I
15 Have written an subscribet the presents in my hand at ye Murraythwaite
16 ye 10 Aug 1658

Geo: Murray

RD2_ /38.

1 In the presence of the Lords of Councill and session Compeired William
2 Heman advocate as procurator for James Fredeing prinll Adam fredeing
3 Cristopher Johnston Caurs as ----- in desyne and ---- in the band ----
4 ----- therof the tenor follows I James Fredeing son of Adam fredeing
5 in Echellfechan Grants me be the tenor heireoft to have borrowed and
6 received from Mr Alexander fforester minister at St Mongoe the somme of
7 two hundred merks scots money wheroff I Grant the recept and re---cound
8 the ----ption of not numerat money and all esceptions of ----
9 that can be alledged or plwponned in the contrair for ---- whlk
10 somme of two hundred merks forsaid I bind and obleis me my aires -----

11 and assigney and --- mr Adam fredeing my father Ja. Echell
 12 forgan and Cristopher Johnston my brother in law in Banklanes
 13 and full ----- doe bind and obleis -- ---
 14 aires ----- or assigneys ----- goods and geir whtsomever
 15 thankfulle to content pay and delyver again to the said Mr Alexr.
 16 fforester his aires or assigneyes betwixt the dait and day theirow
 17 the feist and terme of Mertinmes next to come in the year of
 18 God 16 ffiftie nyne years but longer delay fraud or guile
 19 ----- of twentie merks oney forsaid as -----
 20 expenss incaise of failye and for the said prinll somme Conform
 21 also the ordinar annual rent for the said prinll somme conform
 22 to the act of parliat yearly ----- quarterly and proportionally
 23 foras long as the prinll somme shall ----- payed after pro
 24 the terme forsaid apoynted for payment throff and that at also will not
 25 infest as infest the may but ----- all days of -----
 26 to follow thrupon and—but any premonition or -----
 27 made for that effert and I the said James Fredeing binds and
 28 obleys me my aires ---- or assyneyes ----- at my ---- and
 29 thir ----- to ----- and ---- my forsaid caurs of all
 30 ----- of the prinll somme and ----- and
 31 for the mair security---- my foresaid caurs are content and
 32 consents that thir presents be insert and regrat in the Cou'el
 33 books of Sessione ----- or Court books of Demm-
 34 -fries or any other books competent ----- this nation
 35 to have the strength of our decreit of any of the ----- therof the -----
 36 ----- p---il therto the ---- and ---- ----- upon ane
 37 simple charge of sex days only piynding and ---- now full may pass
 38 heirupon in --- as ----- and for ----- heiroff constituts
 39 Jone Yeman advocate my lawll pro^r in witwitnes theirow written
 40 and subst. Be Christopher Johnston at Echellfechan the --
 41 eighteenth day of December 16 fiftie eight years beffor
 42 witness William and Harbert Fredeing sons to
 43 Adam Fredeing in Echellfechan Sic Subt. James Fredeing
 44 [his mark] Christopher Johnstoun William Fredeing witness
 45 Harbert Fredeing witnes.

Wear on folds at the left edge and down the centre make the following letters more difficult than usual to transcribe.

RE78/102

1 ---ye may understand by the letter on the back heirof
 2 the reasone of my wryting to you I am confidend that
 3 ane ----- the extract of that article is soe much de-

4 -syred is to gett a supplie for Mr Johne his -----
5 and for no other thing and therfore – I shall
6 desyre (if possible it may be) that it might -----
7 such will ---h put a con----- upon the gentleman ---
8 --s so pressing for it ther nd me tht has
9 a relatione tht --- and -----(I conceive) ane act
10 act of charitie to thes ---- ch—reon tht as in great ---
11 ----- of charitie att this tyme for expecting
12 your answer – the bearer ---- my best wishes to your
13 self and familie remembrid ----- remain
14 Sir yours to have and serve you
15 William Murray
16 Moriquhat [Murraythwaite] Apryle 25 1665.

Letter on the back of the above

2 Affectionat brother
Cappinoch the
13 Apryle 1665

3 I must employ you with a little business worth while
4 you have occasion to gett better done than I can, In
5 respect the gentleman leive neirer to you than
6 to me, the thing that I desyre you would be
7 assistant to me in is this, either to wryht or speak your
8 sellfe to Mr Alexander Foster sometyme minister
9 at St. Mungo, and clerk to the synod heldne at
10 Dumfreis the tyme of the deposition of our
11 Johne Nimo and try give you can gett the
12 extract under his hand of Mr Johne Nimo sometyme
13 minister at Hollwood [Holywood] his deposition which was at
14 that tyme searved malignant ---- therfour
15 I intreat you will be carefull either to speak
16 to him or wrytt to him anent the same and ----
17 him that he will presentlie gett a summons of
18 exhib-- of ye doe not delyver it by and
19 if ye desyre a dollar or such a thing (--- I would
20 not give ---es it were for the necessitie of it) pay
21 it out to him and you shall be payed back againe
22 so expecting your return att the first occasion.
23 I shall add no more at present but my love
24 to my sister and your children -----.
25 Your affectionate brother
26 and servant
27 Johne Greirsonne.

RD3/58

In the presence of the Lords of Councell & Session Compeared

Mr Robert Deans advocat -----

for John Maxwell and gave in the tack so undirwritin

subscribed with his hand therof the tenor fall-

-ows Be it kend to all men be thir present

letters Mr John Maxwell of Castlemilk

for so mikle as the decest John Maxwell of

Castlemilk my Grandfather the father ---- be his

obligatione subc. with his hand off the date the twe-

-ntie third day of June 16fyftie thrie

years for the ---- --- herin ----- bind and oblidge

him his aires & successors to have payed

to Mr Alexander Forrester minister

of the gospel at Saint Mungo his aires ass[ignees]

the somme of two hundre & twentie two pounds

four shillings scotts money betwixt of the said

band & the terme of Martimes next to come.

but longer delay together with the somme of

twentie pound scots money of liquidat expen-

-ses in case of failyie together also with the

ordinar annual rent of the prinll somme fra the

said bond to the terme of payment above writ

threfter to the not payment of the ----- also

the said obligation of the daite foresaid insert ----

in the books of Counsell & sessioine and decreed

of the Lords interponed therto upon the third day

of October 16 thriescore thrie years att

mair lenth ----- upon the whlk -----

----- the said Mr Alexander Forrester mayset be

of horning as in thr samyne at mair length

is Containde and now seing the said Mr Al[exander]

Forrester and William Forrester his third

laull sone factor for his intrest is Content to

superseid & containe the payt. of the forsaid prinll.

somme & liquidat expenses above mentioned upon

my granting the securitie & tack ----- the...

for wit ye --- to be bind & oblinded lykas I the

said John Maxwell be the tenor heirof in Corrobor-

-ione & for ----- Catione of the forsaid band decreital

----- therto & b---- of horning raysit

therupon & but ----- or done therein any further

or in any novatione of the samen sed -----

primo peribus bind & obleidge me my aires & executors in-
-tromitors with my goods & geir & successors in my
Lands and heritages whtsomever to Thankfullie ---
out & pay to the said Mr Alexr. Forrester or Willi-
-am forrester his factor for his witnese ther..
----- the forsaid prinll somme & liquid[at]
expenses in case of failzie above -----
And hail annual rents that happine to be ---- and
--- and for the tyme & tht at the Terme of mertinmes
In the year of God 16 & eightie thri years but
longer delay together with the ordinar annual rent of the
said prinll somme efter the said terme during the
not payment of the samen And ffarder to the effect
that the said Mr Alexr & William fforesters his said
factor may be ----- anent the payt of the haille
bygone grants & in tyme coming with the-- to have
sett & in tack & assidatione sett in lykeas of the said
John Maxwell be the tenor heirof sett & in
tack & assidatione letts to the said Mr Alexander
forrester & William fforester his said factor for his in-
-trest all and hail the [<-----blank----->] lands off
Essellridge pertaining heritable ----- & presently
possessed be Ronald Gibsone tenent the by and within
the pareeshin of st Mungo near adjacent to the towne
of kastlemilk together with all privileges
infeofs and pertinent lands middens marshes moss
privis & all & sundrie ---- priviledges & pertinents of the
Samyne lands as the samyne is presently possest be
The said Robert Gibsone & his cottares & subtennants
or be John Smith or Thomas Bell sometyme
& possest as of the samen And that for the hail space
& tyme of five years nixt & immediat hireof together
entrie to the samen which is heirby ordained to be &
begane at the terme of Candlemas nixt to come
in the year of God 16 & thriescoir and niyntanne years
with fullpower to the said Alexr. & William fforreste-
-ers & their forsaid to enter to the possesione of the said land
& houses at the said terme of Candlemas and the samyn
To be peaceably belike possessed manured laboured &
occupyed during the years and space forsaid be the said
Mr Alexr. & his above ----- the said Mr Alexr. and his
forsaid being always astricted be the bond and
obliet to ffurnish and servant to my work conforms

to use & wont & tothe saids lands and houses in as good Condit-
-ione at the expyryng of his tack as they shall be in at his
Entrie I the said John Maxwell always allowing & being
Obliged to furnish timber for keeping up the said
----- which timber is to be cutted with consent &
at first of the ---- or my wood ffoster whilk obligat
---- & tack above p.....

I the said John Maxwell bind & oblidge me & my
forsaids to warrand a ----- & defend be good
would affect withall & sufficient in all & to be all
things as is above written to the said Mr Alexr. &
William fforesters & their forsaids at all grounds
and against all deed by under the paine of
fourtie pounds scots money forsaide of liquidat
penaltie for ilk failzie And – obleidge me to
wreat & remove thir presente ----- above I shall
be required keeping always the effect & sub-
-stance above mentioned providing all wayes Lykas
it is heirby expressly provided & agried upon & th..
in case it shall happine the said Mr Alexr. Will-
-iam fforesters to intromit with more money or
goods be ----- of this present tack nor payes
the hail by your annual rents & in tyme comeing that
shall happine to be rest and awand at the expyr-
-ing of this tack then & in that case the super..

more than payes the annual rent as said it shall be allow-
-ed in pairt of payment of the said prinll somme

Pro tanto (ie for more) and that the said Mr Alexr. & William
fforesters shall improve this present tack to h..-

best advantage & be countable to me for the
hail intromissions & allow the samen in for paym-
-ent of the forsaide annual rent and prinll somme in sua-
-forn as the samen shall extend unto and for the m[air]
securitie I am content & consents their presents be
insert & registrat in the books of counsel [&]

sessioine or any other register competent to have
the strenth of ane decreit that letters of horn-
ing ane six days pinding and ---- ---- ma[y]

pas heir upon & for that effect coust it into maist[er]

Robert Deans advocat my procurator In witness
therof I have subc. thir presents --- br...

John Glass servitor to sir Alexr Jarden

Of Aplegirth – with my hand at Spewmoor[e]

The thirteen day of September 16 seventie
eight years Befor these witneses Sir Alexr. Jarden
of Applegreth & William Charters wryter [illegible]
visitor of the date & witneses also of the penaltie
above expressed sicsubscribatur John Maxwell Sir
Alexander Jardin witness William Charters witness
ffollows the ratifications I John Maxwell of kastl-
-milk within specified Being now major & past the
age of twentie one years compleat doe heir by rati-
-fie approve and declair the within writtten tack
& obligations within specified to be also with effect-
-uall & sufficient in all presents as if I had beine
at the granting throf Major & of full age -- witn-
-ess throf this presents is written be George peater-
-sone Lawll sone to the deceist Mr John Peatersone
laite minr. at st mungo & subc. with my hand at Kast-
-lemilk the twentie ane day of Appriell 16 thrie
scoir & nyntiene years before these witneses Thomas
portes my servitor Alexr. fforester in Whythill
and the said George peatersone wryter heirof John
Maxwell George peatersone witness Alexr. fforester
Thomas Portes witness

RD2/28

1 In the presence of the Lords of Counsell and Session compeird -----
2 --- advocate as pro^r for Mr Robert Ramsay prin^e Ro^t Colt his
3 cau^r ----- & gave in the band under ----- whereof the
4 tenor follows I Mr Robert Ramsay preacher of the gospel [at]
5 Tranent ----- grants me to have borrowed & receave[d]
6 frome Mr Alexander fforester minister at St mung the somme
7 of three hundred & fourtie mks scots money whrof I grant
8 the receipt & discharge him throf for over the somme of three hund-
9 -red & fourtie mks money forsaide ----- annual rent throf to the -----
10 of pay^t ----- I as ----- & -- Mr Robert Colt sone laull to
11 the deceist Mr Robert Colt in Tranent as caut^r for me binds &
12 obleiss us ----- & seally. our aires & exer. Thankfully to -----
13 & pay to the said Mr Alex^r forester his aires exers & assigneys betwixt
14 the day and dait heirof and the feist & time of witsonday next to come
15 16sixtie four years years ----- -- the somme of thirtie mks
16 money forsaide of liquid expenss in caise of failie -----
17 also – the ordinar annual rent of the said prinll somme yearly & -----
18 ---- lang as the same shall remain & -----
19 time of payment but-----& to the said Mr Alex^r & his forsaide ----
20 ----- execution heiron of the said time of payment or any -----
21 or tyme threfter they pleiss but any payment --- of
22 befor lykas I the said Mr Ro^b Ramsay binds & obleiss me
23 & any forsaid to warrand ----- & ----- --- keep the
24 Ro^t Colt my caut^r & his forsaid of the said Cautry and of all caust
25 skaith damages expenss that they - and incure & thrthre--
26 at call hands& for the mair security we are content & consents
27 thir presents be insert & registrat in the books of Counsell & session
28 to have the strength of ane dat of below throf interponed
29 thrto the --- of horning – six days & ----- --- in
30 sor--- as effeirs may pas heirupon & constituts ----
31 ----- also our pre^s -- in witness whereof ---- be
32 the said Ro^b Colt we have sub^t thir pnts at our hands at *E-^r the
33 first day of November? 16 sixtie three years before thir witness
34 James Caringtonne in Dunbar & Lowry Lawrie servitor to
35 Ro^b penmane wry^t in E-^r sic sub. R Ramsay Ro:Colt
36 Louerie Laurie witness James keringtouine witness

**Possibly Edinburgh.*

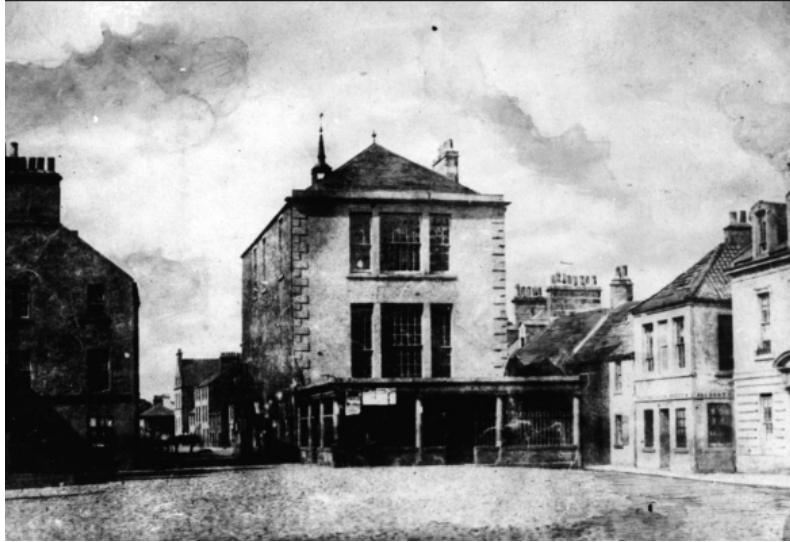
Heritable Bond **RD4/42.**

1 In the presence etc. Compeaeid Mr Thomas writer
2 advocat procurator for Mr Robert Bell after desiynit And[]
3 in thir ---- under writine thereof the tenner follows Be it
4 kend to all men be thre presents ---- ---- Master Robert B---
5 of Hardriyes? fforsameikle as Mr Alexander Forrester La[wll]
6 minister att St Mungo has payd and delyvered.to me all and h[ail]
7 the somme of ane hundred.and nyne punds Scots mony therof I[acknowledge]
8 the receipt & renunceand the exceptione of not nu---
9 -usal money & all othr exceptions of not lau. that can be [de-]
10 -poned or alleadged in the whir for ever Therfor
11 bind and obliege me my aires & exr^s sufficiently to m...
12 & sease the said Mr Alexander Forrester his aires and assignees
13 in ane annual rent of six pund thretein shillings four [pence]
14 money forsaid yeirlie to be uplifted att Maritimes
15 forth of the twentie shilling land of Northfield ---
16 posessed by the deceased mark Loch of the whlk
17 of six pund thretein shillings four pennies money
18 forsd I faithfully bind & obleig me my aires ...
19 exrs successors to me and my landes & heritages & [in-]
20-tromtters n^t.my goods & geirs whatsoever to make
21 good and thankefull payment to the forsaid Mr Alexr.
22Forrester & his forsaid att the terme above spee^d.
23 ale well not infest as infest beginning the first
24 payment thereof at the first terme of martinmess
25next to come in the year of God 16 seventie four
26 years as for the first years annual rent in respect th...
27 if no annual rent payed nor received befor hand conforme to
28 the act of parliat. soe forth yearly & tremely [---]
29 time coming during the not payment of the prinll so[mme]
30 above ---- & failyieing of good & thankfull payment of th[e]
31 said annual rent yerly and termly as said is In That
32 caice I faithfully bind and obleis me and my forsd ...
33 ----- & pay to the said Mr Alexander Forrester & his forsaid..
34 the somme of twelve punds money forsd of liquid expence
35 for alle times failye ----- ---- annual rent of six
36 punds thretn shillings foure pennies mony above writne be--
37 always redeemable to me & my forsd be payment of the
38 said prinll somme & hail by rin--s of the said annual rent a[nd]
39 ----- above mentionet that sall be fund restand an...
40 for the tyme ----- the saids feist & tyme of Martinm[ess]
41 ----- or at any other feist & tyme of Martinmas thr---
42 or any year of God and that but --- ----- or reg----

Perhaps Northfield, Annan?

43 to be in --- for that effect And notwithstanding s...
 44 the premiss --- sall please ---- the said Mr Alexr. Forester
 45 fforester or his forsaid to give the forsaid prill somme of ane
 46 hundred & nyn punds payed back again to them nor to retain
 47 the ryt. -----forsaid of the annual rent above -----In
 48 that caice I faithfullie bind and obleys me & my forsaid to re-
 49 sonne content pay & delyver ---- again the forsaid prinll somme
 50 of ane hundred & nyne punds mony forsaid no^t all -----
 51 of the -----annual rent of sex punds threitin shillings and foure
 52 pennies & penalties above mentioned that rests ----- for
 53 the tyme ay^e at the said feast & tyme of Martimas next to cum
 54 in the year of God 16 seventie four year forsaid or at any
 55 other tyme of martinmes in any other year of God to the said Mr
 56 Alexr. Forester & his forsaid that by any ----- or
 57 ----- to be made for that effort and that under the paine
 58 of twelve pund mony forsaid as ----- expense ----- of
 59 failyne and ----- of thir puts Accone for the said
 60 Mr Alexr. Forester & his forsaid the -----
 61 – me the said Mr Robert Bell to have made constrat & oe-
 62 ----- & be the tenor heiroff maks constitutes & -----
 63 -----And --- ane of thm Co---- & (Two lines mostly or all
 dashes in original)
 64 -----
 65 ----- -full ----
 66 expresse mandate commissione & charge for me and in my behalfe
 67 to passé to the grund of the said Twentie shilling land and
 68 ther at ----- days & Places ----- to give herell state
 69 & seasn ----- reall & corporall possessone to the said Mr
 70 Alexander fforester or his forsaid or to his certain attorney in
 71 in his name berar of thir presents be deliverance of earth and stone
 72 of the said land & that in comtenta-nr & satissactione to them
 73 of the sommes of mony prinll anualrent penaltie & expense
 74 -- & and ---- they be complete payit & satissret of the sammen
 75 the ---- to doe I comitt to yow or other of yow my frosaid
 76 baillies in that place ----- & ----- my full ---- plan and
 78 irrevocable ----- And for the mair securatie I am content
 77 & concents that thir presents be inssrt & reg^tat in the books of
 79 Counsell & ssessione or any other ----- books competent --- --
 80 this----- to have the strength of ane de^t of any of the -----
 81 threof interprned ---- that ---- & ---- of horneing upon ane sompte
 82 charge of sex days ---- pynding & mindful may passe heirupon
 84 in prino as effeires & C----- Mr Thomas veitch advocat
 85 my procr. – in witnes therof I have writne & subscribed thre presents with

86 my hand Kirkconnel the twentie fourt day of Decr. 16
87 & seventie three yiries befor thir witnesses Mr Johne & W^m fforesters
88 sones to the said Mr Alexander Forester Sic subs. Mr Robert Bell
89 Forrester witness Wil Forrester witness.



St Andrews tolbooth.