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A SCOTTISH RENAISSANCE
HOUSEHOLD

SIR WILLIAM HAMILTON
AND NEWTON CASTLE IN 1559

ROSS MacKENZIE
£3

Printed by Walker & Connell Ltd., Hastings Square, Darvel, Ayrshire
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Published by
Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society

Printed by Walker & Connell, Ltd.
Hastings Square, Darvel, Ayrshire
ROSS MacKENZIE

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THE HAMILTON/WALLACE FEUD

On the night of November 17th 1559 at around 10 p.m., John Wallace of Craigie and some forty accomplices broke into and occupied the "tour and fortalice" of Sanquhar-Hamilton. At this time the tower was the residence of Sir William Hamilton the provost of Ayr. Situated at the edge of the small burgh of Newton on Ayr the tower became better known as Newton Castle, and is referred to as such throughout this paper. The tower was one of Ayr's two medieval castles and like its royal counterpart across the river nothing now remains of it, the last remnants having been cleared away by the end of the eighteenth century.

One of the results of Craigie's occupation of the tower was the drawing up of an inventory of the contents and a description of the tower and ancillary buildings, to be used by Sir William Hamilton in furtherance of his case against Wallace of Craigie in the Court of Session. As such, it is considerably fuller than the inventory of the castle which was drawn up in 1587 when it was being transferred by Elizabeth Stewart, Countess of Arran to Wallace of Bumbank, and which is printed in Paterson's History of Ayrshire. The earlier inventory is of considerable value to the local historian—it shows for example the goods available to a wealthy provincial establishment of the period and gives an indication of Ayr's mid-sixteenth century trade links. It will also be of assistance to the archaeologist attempting to make sense of any fragmentary remains of the tower and its out-buildings that may yet come to light. The description and inventory show Newton Castle to have been a sophisticated and luxurious residence, giving a picture of the domestic comforts available in
A Renaissance Household identify him with the Hugh Wallace who was custumar of Ayr between 1448 and 1450. This Hugh Wallace was also granted the office of Hospitaller of Kingcase, with its associated lands of Spittalshiels near Prestwick, on February 14th 1451/2. It is also likely that this Hugh was, in his turn, the younger brother of Sir John Wallace of Craigie, and of Adam Wallace, an auditor of the Exchequer and Comptroller in the 1460s. Hugh Wallace appears to have died sometime before December 4th 1452. The Wallaces of Newton were therefore a cadet branch of the Wallaces of Craigie, and one which died out with Adam’s grandson James at some time after 1587. 

The office of Baillie or Hospitaller of Kingcase and its associated lands of Spittalshiels was intimately connected with the holders of Newton in our period—the Wallaces seem to have had a long term interest in the hospital and its revenues, in time coming to regard it as a hereditary possession. The next holder of Newton Castle was also Baillie of Kingcase—Sir William Hamilton—and it is here that we may have the germ of the feud between Wallace of Craigie and Sir William Hamilton. James II’s grant of Kingcase in 1451/2 certainly implies a Wallace interest prior to this date, and after Sir William’s appointment as Baillie in May 1530 Adam Wallace’s sons Hugh and Arthur kept an interest in the hospital and its administration until at least 1538 when Arthur is described as “Prior of the Hospital of St. Ninian called Kingcase”. Regress to the Wallaces had been granted in May 1530—at this time Kingcase had been apprised to Sir William for a debt—and it may have been this question of re-entry that forced the Wallace’s hands in 1559. The possession of a heritable Wallace interest by Sir William and a refusal to surrender it may have been considered provocation enough for the occupation of Newton Castle. 

The Wallaces of Craigie were an old established family in Ayrshire by 1559. The first Wallace of Craigie was John Wallace of Riccarton, who married Margaret Lindsay, described as the heiress of Craigie in 1371. It is from this date that the Wallaces of Riccarton style themselves ‘of Craigie’. Little now remains of their principal residence at Craigie, but what existed last century was described as ‘containing one of the finest specimens of a vaulted hall to be found in Scotland. Its groined arches are quite equal to any of those in our abbeys and churches, while among castles its only rivals of the same period have been at Tulliallan, Bothwell and Auchendoun’. This is an indication of the wealth and power of a family which rapidly grew in local importance—by the fifteenth century they had become Baillies of 

Little is known of the early history of the castle or indeed its builders, the earliest mention on record of it being as late as 1524. Thanks to a late seventeenth century engraving we do have an indication of its appearance—this shows an L-shaped tower house of the type common in Scotland throughout the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. After some severe storm damage in 1701 it appears to have been demolished and by 1791 the Newton contributor to the Statistical Account of Scotland could only record as still standing ‘some part of the wall which inclosed the garden.’ It is from this that Garden Street in Newton is named.

In common with the castle’s past, little is known of the early owners of the lands of Newton. They formed part of the lordship of Kyle Stewart and the Stewards of Scotland were the earliest owners, but to whom they were granted in turn is not clear. A possible first mention of the lands of Newton is a confirmation by James II to John Lockhart of lands which his father originally held—this mentions the lands of Newton in Kyle Stewart. The confirmation is dated to 1440.

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sixteenth century Scotland somewhat at variance with the popularly received notion of Scotland’s backwardness and poverty during this period—they are published for the first time as an appendix to the present study. 

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Kyle Stewart, customars and Aldermen of Ayr, and had begun to branch out into royal service. Their local offices helped to confirm the Wallaces of Craige as one of the most important families in Kyle. Their local control was consolidated yet further in the sixteenth century when another Wallace of Craige was Alderman of Ayr between 1503 and 1508, to be followed by his kinsman Wallace of Newton through to 1531. Craige was also ‘ovirsman’ of Prestwick, and the Wallaces also seem to have exercised a form of control over the burgh of Newton on Ayr, presumably by virtue of their office of Bailie of Kyle Stewart. That all this created a solid local power was recognised by the Crown in 1488, when by an act passed in Parliament lords undertook to punish criminals in their localities—for Ayrshire these were Lord Kennedy for Carrick, the Sheriff of Ayr for Ayr, Lord Montgomery for Cunninghame, and Wallace of Craige for Kyle. The Wallaces of Craige also held in tack part of the royal lordship of Dundonald, with a junior branch of the family coming to be known as ‘of Dundonald’. John Wallace of Dundonald is described as the “tutor of Craige” in 1545, and by 1547 he had become the Lord of Craige with the death of his cousin. This John of Craige would seem to be the one who seized Newton Castle in 1559. If his son, also John Wallace, had been responsible for the occupation, Sir William’s indictment would surely have styled him ‘junior’ or ‘younger of’. John senior also had a daughter, Annabell, who was later married off to Sir William’s grandson, William. If this was an attempt to settle the feud it clearly did not work—when John Wallace senior died in 1570, his son not only inherited the feud, but it appears to have intensified, with his brother-in-law William Hamilton attempting to kill John Wallace junior after leaving St. John’s Church in Ayr after service in 1578.

The Hamiltons of Sanquhar-Hamilton were not so old an established family in the county as the Wallaces. They first appear on record in the late fifteenth century, and their first holdings of land in the county were the lands of McNairston, lying in the burrowfield and parish of Ayr. The first Hamilton of McNairston is an Alexander, who is mentioned along with his son Patrick in 1479, Patrick then being a student in the University of Glasgow. Nothing more is heard of either, and indeed it is not clear what relationship there was, if any, between them and John Hamilton of McNairston, who was Sir William’s father. The lands of McNairston were wadset (given as security for a loan, but with the right of recovery on repayment) to this John by David Dunduff of that ilk at some time between 1493 and 1501, indicating that the lands had passed out of the family’s hands shortly after they had appeared on record for the first time. It is possible that John may have been a younger brother of Patrick although we have no evidence for this. John Wallace also appears on record as John Wallace of Mauchline before becoming ‘of McNairston’ by 1501. Mauchline was the administrative centre for Melrose Abbey’s large Ayrshire barony of Kylesmuir, and we find both John and Sir William associated with the Abbey. John Hamilton of McNairston witnessed a charter of Melrose in 1511, at which time he was described as a burgess of Edinburgh, and he may be the John Hamilton who was Provost of Edinburgh in 1517-18. He also witnessed an obligation of Hugh Campbell of Loudoun, Melrose’s Baillie of Kylesmuir in 1521. John last appears on record in October 1521, and was dead by May 1524, leaving eight sons by two wives. The eldest of these was Sir William Hamilton of Sanquhar-Hamilton. When Sir William was born is unknown. If he can be identified with the William Hamilton who was incorporated as a student at the University of Glasgow in 1497, he would have been born in the early 1480s and thus have been in his seventies at the time of the occupation of Newton Castle. He succeeded to his father’s estates between 1521 and 1524, but before then he had entered royal service, first as a ‘servitor’ in the King’s Household of James IV by 1511/12. It was to be through his royal service that Sir William acquired his wealth and power in Kyle—by the time that he succeeded his father he had risen to being Royal Pursemaster and a Gentleman of the Royal Household. By 1526 he is described as Depute Master of the Royal Household, a position that he was to hold until at least 1538. He also undertook foreign missions, being sent as the bearer of a letter to Cardinal Wolsey in England in 1528, and later in the same year he undertook an embassy to the Emperor Charles V seeking an imperial bride for James V.

Royal service also encompassed more mundane duties—Sir William was an auditor of the Exchequer from 1531 to 1559 and he audited the accounts of both the King’s Master of Works and the Lord High Treasurer during the 1530s. He was also sent to Kintyre in 1541 to help uplift the king’s rent and tacks for North Kintyre at Saddell Castle—despite this experience he does not appear to have been Chancellor of Scotland as is stated by Paterson.

After James V’s death Sir William continued to serve under the Regent Arran, another Hamilton, and he is described as being “the greatest man in power amongst the Hamiltons after the Regent himself”. This was presumably by virtue of his experience as a royal
servant since early in the century. During 1542 to 1543 he was chosen as one of the ambassadors sent to negotiate the marriage of Henry VIII’s son Prince Edward with the infant Mary, Queen of Scots, culminating in the Treaty of Greenwich of July, 1543. Sir William became a member of the Regent Arran’s privy Council between 1543 and 1553, was appointed one of the Ordinary Judges of the Court of Session in May 1546, and was granted a tack of the Edinburgh Mint for 1547-49. A clear example of Hamilton aggrandisement! His importance to Arran is underlined by his appointment to the office of Keeper of Edinburgh Castle between 1548 and 1553, with its salary of £533 6s 8d—one of the “Keys of the Kingdom” in safe hands. And as part of Arran’s attempt to woo public opinion in the capital during his struggle with the Queen Dowager, Marie de Guise, Sir William became Provost of Edinburgh for the year 1553 to 1554, a post that his father may also have held. After 1554, apart from his duties as an auditor of the Exchequer, Sir William gradually dropped out of public life, a process begun by the eclipse of Arran by Marie de Guise, whose regency lasted from then until her death in 1560.

His national career did not preclude a local one—he was Provost of Ayr between 1539 and 1560, he represented Ayr in Parliament throughout the 1540s, was a sheriff-depute of Ayr in 1541 and Custumar of Ayr from 1539 to 1542. Here he was showing signs of consolidating his influence in an area which up until then had been dominated by the Wallaces. Whilst the Wallaces have been described as one of the “new nobility”, Sir William was a ‘new man’, and an example of a new class of lairds who were beginning to make their influence felt.

This influence in and around Ayr was strengthened by marriage. Sometime before January 1516/17 he married Katherine Kennedy, daughter of David, 1st Earl of Cassillis, and the widow of Quentin Mure of Ard who was killed at Flodden. She bore him four daughters, Katherine, Agnes, Isobel and Margare, but no surviving sons, and she herself survived Sir William, dying in September 1576. There appears to be a Hamilton-Kennedy link before their marriage, with a John Hamilton, possibly Sir William’s father, witnessing four charters of Kennedy of Bargany between 1492 and 1502/03. Sir William was thus the brother-in-law of Gilbert, 2nd Earl of Cassillis, who was murdered in 1527 at the instigation of Hugh Campbell of Loudoun, sheriff of Ayr. For this Campbell was outlawed and amongst others Adam Wallace of Newton was amerced for assisting him.

Katherine however was not the mother of Sir William’s son and heir, another William, who was legitimised in 1539 in order that his father’s estates would pass to him. Katherine is unfortunately a shadowy figure with little known of her—the inventory reveals that she was fond of fine clothes and jewellery, whilst her testament shows her to have been a comfortably off widow and a pious woman.

Sir William and Katherine were, after their marriage, settled just outside Dalrymple in the lands of Barbieston, this being Sir William’s first territorial designation. He then succeeded to McNairston on the death of his father between 1521 and 1524. These lands were to form the nucleus of Sir William’s estate, which in time spread widely throughout Ayrshire and had outlying lands in both Wigtownshire and Renfrewshire. The most important grant to him however was the one in October 1527, when, described as a “familiar servant of the king”, he obtained the lands of Sanquhar-Lindsay, and from this time he is described as ‘of Sanquhar’, this being an alternative name for St. Quivox. In September of 1527 he also acquired the lands of Mossgill from the Commendator of Melrose, and by March 1533 he bought Ovir and Nethir Som, again from Melrose thereby maintaining the family link with the Abbey and its barony of Kylesmuir.

On January 11th 1529/30 most of his Ayrshire lands were erected into the barony of Sanquhar—this barony was based on his lands in St. Quivox, and this grant also allowed Sir William the right to bear arms. In 1539/40, for further good service and “in partem recompensationis” (presumably for loans made to James V), the barony of Sanquhar was enlarged and renamed the barony of Sanquhar-Hamilton—this grant included lands and fishings in Newton on Ayr as well as Newton Castle, which had come into the hands of baillies and burgesses of Newton and which had been resigned by them to the king. Newton Castle was to be renamed the “tower and place of Sanquhar-Hamilton” and was to be the principal messuage or dwelling place of the barony—Sir William now had the home to match his estates. Several of the territories that made up his barony of Sanquhar-Hamilton can still be identified today—these include the farms of Newdykes, Shields, Shawhill, Clune, Sandyford and the Sanquhars, scattered around the perimeter of Prestwick Airport. With the erection of his barony and the acquisition of Kingcase and Spittalshiels Sir William had managed to establish a compact block of lands close to the major burgh of the shire of which he was also Provost. This gave him a power base from which to challenge Wallace domination of Kyle. Outside of his barony lands
Tension would have also existed over Sir William's acquisition of Kingcase and Spittalshiels in 1530 and the confirmation in 1539 of this acquisition with its negation of the residual Wallace interest.40

From the little evidence available to us we may postulate the following: Sir William's acquisition of lands in the immediate area of Newton and his rise to local prominence, eclipsing the local branch of a powerful family, caused tensions. The loss of Kingcase and Spittalshiels after some eighty years in Wallace hands, and then Newton Castle after possibly one hundred and forty years in the family finally sparked off the feud—a feud that lasted until the 1580s and led to the occupation of Newton Castle in 1559.

Sir William died early in 1560, and we cannot be certain that he regained possession of the castle before his death. It is possible that his death allowed matters to be settled fairly quickly. However, it is not until February 1582/83 that we know for certain that Newton Castle had been recovered by the Hamiltons, it then being in the possession of Sir William's grandson William. It did not remain in his possession for long, for on January 1st 1584/5 he sold it, along with the lands that had comprised his grandfather's barony of Sanquhar-Hamilton to James Stewart, earl of Arran. This William, styled 'of Sorn' had sold off many of the family's lands during the 1570s and 1580s, with Arran being the major purchaser.41

Arran's fall and forfeititure in late 1585 led to his lands being escheated by the Crown although they were transferred in July 1587 to his son James. As a minor his wardship would be a valuable gift in Crown hands. However, Newton Castle was not to remain in James junior's hands—by July 20th 1587, Wallace of Bumbank, acting apparently on behalf of Wallace of Craige had purchased letters of removal against him. On July 22nd his mother, Elizabeth Stewart confirmed that he (James) had removed himself from the castle, and she was temporarily allowed to remain in residence. She rebuffed an attempt to regain the castle made by William Hamilton of Sorn in November 1587. Possession of the castle was finally vested in Wallace of Bumbank on November 25th 1587—Elizabeth Stewart then vacated the premises, turning them over to the agent of the family who had lost the castle over fifty years previously. Bumbank was a nominal owner only—Paterson states that in April 1588 a James Wallace, son and heir of Hew Wallace deceased, at one time of Newton (Adam of Newton's son Hugh) had resigned all claim that he had, or might have to the castle and fortalice of Newton in favour of John Wallace of Craige. It...
A Renaissance Household

is from this date that the Craigie Wallaces made Newton Castle their main residence, from where they could keep a close eye on the affairs of Newton-on-Ayr and Prestwick and where they were to successfully impose themselves as hereditary provosts. Craigie Castle was now allowed to fall into ruin. The family remained at Newton Castle until at least 1701 when the castle appears to have been badly damaged in a storm. It was demolished sometime after this date and from here the family moved to Craigie House on the banks of the Ayr, built about 1730 and which still survives.42

The Hamiltons had finally lost Newton Castle with its surrounding lands, and as the fortunes of the Wallaces waxed, so theirs waned. By 1603, Sir William’s great grandson, another William, and styled ‘of Mosgiel’ had sold off the remainder of the family lands to Wallace of Craigie and disappears from record after April 1605. After this date the Hamiltons are heard of locally no more.43

NEWTON CASTLE AND ITS FURNISHINGS

Newton Castle having been demolished at some time in the course of the eighteenth century, only Sir William’s inventory and description allow us a glimpse of the structure and complex arrangements of what was not only a house, but the centre for a scattered estate. At its heart lay the tower house of Newton, or Sanquhar-Hamilton, the family home and barony caput. The castle was surrounded by closes, or courtyards, containing ancillary buildings, by gardens and by orchards. In the area surrounding Newton Castle William grew, made or stored most of the necessities of life for himself and his household, with the markets of Ayr available to supplement the household’s needs with a wider range of goods and services than could be provided out of the household’s resources. From this we have an indication of what was available, and considered necessary to uphold the estate of a royal counsellor and provost of the West’s most important burgh.

We are fortunate in possessing an illustration of the castle, that of Captain John Slezer made in 1693, towards the end of its existence. This shows the L-shaped tower house, of likely fifteenth or sixteenth century date—it was possibly the product of two building periods, with a later wing added at a right angle to the original block to create more accommodation and a securer entry in the re-entrant angle.44 The engraving also shows several windows, two garderobe chutes similar to those on the Abbot’s Tower in Mauchline, chimney stacks, attic accommodation and crenellations. Details of the castle’s immediate surroundings are indistinct, and apart from a walled garden immediately adjacent to the tower, little of importance can be made out. Whilst the Slezer engraving was made some one hundred and thirty years after the Wallace occupation, and further development to the castle is likely as the Wallaces adapted it over the years to their uses, it is nonetheless a useful indication of the castle’s appearance in 1559, and lets us see what was described in c.1612 as a “castle and palace”.45

Within the tower itself was the great hall, around which the life of the castle and its community revolved—here meals were taken, entertainments provided and rents paid. From Sir William’s inventory the hall was clearly a place of some splendour—his description of its furniture and hangings shows that these items were meant to impress the observer with Sir William’s wealth and status as baron of Sanquhar-Hamilton. The tower also appears to have contained the kitchens, flesh (meat) larder, a pantry for storing breads, ale and wine cellars and a salt house, which was presumably for storage of salted and preserved foods. Within the tower were a further five chambers providing private accommodation for Sir William and his family. In the 1587 inventory mentioned above these are described as the “lache gret chalmer, mid gret chalmer, the ruif chalmer, wther ruif chalmer and ane wther litill ruif chalmer”.46 From the two inventories’ bare descriptions we cannot be certain of specific uses for these five chambers. Another chamber however we can be certain of a use for, and that was listed in Sir William’s inventory as an oratory, or private chapel. Two of the five chambers described above were lined, or panelled, with “eistland brods”—this was pine panelling from the Baltic. They were also floored in oak, this possibly coming from southern Ireland. We may identify these two rooms as the mid and laich great chambers, for this type of panelling was expensive and usually reserved for the best rooms in a house. The other three chambers are described as being panelled in red fir, another variety of panelling from Norway, and are probably the three roof chambers. Panelling of both Baltic and Norwegian pine was increasingly fashionable, not only for warmth, but also for decorative reasons. It was often painted, either with mythological or biblical scenes...
A Renaissance Household

and mottoes, and if Sir William’s panelling was painted, some indication of what it looked like can be seen in the surviving painted decoration in ‘John Knox’s House,’ Edinburgh and in the ‘Palace’ at Culross. The oratory is also described as being panelled, and had “pictures of rasit werk of eistland brod”. This may refer to decorative woodcarvings similar to the Beaton panels of c.1530 or the Montrose panels of c.1515. Sir William may have been fashionable and kept a private chaplain to staff the oratory, but there is little direct evidence other than a set of priest’s vestments for this.47

Also associated with the tower were a munition store containing gun-powder, spears, axes, Jedburgh staffs and varieties of hand-guns, what is described as a “chertir hous” or presumably muniment room, and a “gemale hous” or grain store. Newton Castle was surrounded by a series of courtyards described in the inventory as “closes”—these contained the ancillary buildings and offices necessary for the day to day running of Sir William’s adjacent lands. From the descriptions given, there is clearly a complex arrangement—for example there was a stable close containing two stables within which were fodder racks, hurdles and mangers. At the same time as Newton Castle was occupied, Sir William had three haystacks taken by the Wallaces and their men at what is called the “House of the Muir” lying nearby. These contained some 6000 stones of hay, valued by Sir William at 12d the stone, and represented a serious loss of winter fodder for Sir William’s animals. The complex arrangements of each close with their separate entrances or yetts perhaps indicates that they had grown up organically as the need for more accommodation arose.

Any major household of the period was intended to be as self-sufficient as possible, growing and making what it could and buying only what could not be produced from its own resources. Food is the most obvious case in point—households tended to be large (family members and servants) and Sir William will also have had obligations of hospitality to meet as Provost of Ayr. In Sir William’s case, if he required to buy anything the nearest big market lay just across the river in Ayr, but from the arrangement of his household, it is obvious that Sir William’s estates would have provided the bulk of the household’s requirements. However, Sir William was also prepared to go further afield for his requirements—as we can see from the inventory he had sent out from Edinburgh ironwork and loose Baltic timber. In the markets of Ayr Sir William would also find ready purchasers for his estate’s surplus grain, livestock, fish and fruit (and given the location of the estates, possibly coal and salt too). The money raised in this way would be used to pay for the plate, fine cloth and the wines that helped to proclaim Sir William’s wealth and status in what was a status-conscious society.48

The grain from Sir William’s demesne and that paid in kind as rent, along with the peats and coals stored in their respective “houses” found an immediate use at Newton. There was a brew-house and a bake-house. Here the large quantities of breads and ale required for the household were produced, ale in particular, as water was regarded with deep suspicion as a drink. The use of this grain would have helped keep Newton Castle relatively independent of Ayr’s baxters and brewers, although they would be used to supplement the household’s own produce should the occasion arise. Sir William also had a cheese store—with lands in pastoral Carrick and the uplands of Kyle some of the cheese is likely to have been of the estate’s own produce, with some possibly paid in rent by tenants.

From the description of the closes we can therefore get some idea of the household’s diet. It consisted mainly of bread, ale, cheese, beef and mutton, fish, and to a lesser extent, wine. These would have been supplemented, in season at least, by the products of the gardens and orchards. Surrounded by stone walls and a ditch, these provided apples, plums, cherries, almonds, gooseberries and redcurrants and there was also much more mundane kale. We are also told of “herbis”, but what this means is unclear—at this time herbs meant anything green grown in a garden, ranging from lettuces and carrots to what we today would consider herbs, such as chives or parsley. Together the kale and herbs are valued at the not inconsiderable sum of £10. From all this it is clear that the household did eat well in times of plenty—the remainder of the inventory indicates that Sir William had the necessary financial reserves to ensure that he and his household did not starve in times of scarcity.

The Inventory shows that the furnishings of Newton Castle were both splendid and costly. Sir William however was complaining that his possessions were being unlawfully withheld from him—in these circumstances it is unlikely that he would underestimate the value of his effects, and no indication is given of their condition which would also affect their valuation. What we have in Sir William’s inventory is therefore a maximum valuation, and indeed, the frequency with which the price xl (£40) occurs perhaps suggests a stylised system of accounting. That said, Sir William was still a wealthy man in sixteenth
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Katherine, Sir William's wife, possessed some fine pieces of jewellery, consisting of gold and enamel work set with pearls, rubies and sapphires. Some of it is described as of Parisian workmanship, and although there was a goldsmith in Ayr during the 1520s and 30s, one Thomas Kennedy, there is no indication in the inventory to show that Katherine ever patronised him. Her jewellery is listed as being worth another £528 6s 8d Scots—display was an important element in establishing rank in the sixteenth century, and Sir William had both his plate and his wife's jewellery as an indication of his rank.51

When the inventory moves on to the furnishings of the castle, we get an impression of a richly equipped and almost crowded dwelling, at a time when most households were much more sparsely furnished. As an example we may look at the household goods left by a burgess of Ayr in 1589—"his best sark; his best coat; his best breeks; short hose, cloak, hat, tippet, dagger and belt; his sword buckler and steel bonnet; a silver whistle price £10. A compter board, a board cloth of Domik, a serviette and towel; a plate and trench, a salt fat, a quart stoup and a pint stoup, a chapin and mutchkin, all of pewter. An iron chimney, an iron cruik, iron tangs, an iron spit, leipelt (?) and rapis of iron. A brass pot and a brass pan; an iron ladle. A stand bed, furnished with a feather mattress, bowstair and cod, codwairis, sheets, blankets and coverings. A chair, a forme, a kist and a long settle bed. A meat almery, a vessel almery; a lead and albindis and all its furnishings. A mashing fat; a gyling fat; a beef tub and a cow."

Whilst not without its comforts, this was certainly a more spartan household than Sir William's, and one that would have approached more closely the sixteenth century Scottish norm.52

In the great hall at Newton we are told of a high board or table, where Sir William and his family and their guests sat to meals. This had a covering made in Flanders and which had Sir William's arms woven into it. There were also table cloths of green cloth and of Breton linen, presumably for less festive occasions. Large quantities of napkins, serviettes and towels, all of linen, are also listed showing the contemporary concern for table cleanliness was shared by Sir William's household. We are told that these were of both Breton and Scots linen, presumably with the best Breton linen being kept for special occasions and important guests. The Scots linen would make do for every-day use. As well as his silver, Sir William possessed large quantities of pewterware—some fourteen score dishes (280)—indicative of the requirements of hospitality in sixteenth century Scotland. The household is likely also to have possessed quantities of pottery and treen ware—this however being cheap and easily replaced is unlikely to have been considered valuable enough or even worthy enough to be listed in the inventory. The great hall also contained four chairs, "of eistland werk", which would have been used only by Sir William, his immediate family and guests. The remainder of the household would make do with benches or formes, which were high backed benches, made more comfortable by the addition of cushions and bowsters.53

When not in use the pewter and silver were displayed on the almerys and cupboards found in the great hall, some of oak and one of "eistland werk", which would have been used only by Sir William, his immediate family and guests. The remainder of the household would make do with benches or formes, which were high backed benches, made more comfortable by the addition of cushions and bowsters.53

Within the five other chambers of the castle would be found the beds
listed in the inventory. These range from four poster affairs, with feather mattresses and richly embroidered hangings, to simple stand beds (so called because they were free standing and not box beds). There were seven beds described as being of "eistland burd .... of cervit rasit werk in the most courtlie maner beyth on bed, sydis, heidis and ruffis", these being the four posters. The best set of bed hangings was a set of linen, embroidered with silk and with hanging tassels, and probably was used on Sir William and Katherine's bed. There were other bed curtains and hangings of both linen and wossett, coloured blue, green, red and yellow. The beds were of fine workmanship and clearly in the most modern style with hangings to match. There were another six stand beds and with them all the five chambers must have been somewhat crowded if all used at once, although stand beds could be folded down when not in use. In the chambers were also kept kists and presses, used for the storage of bedding, clothing and personal objects. The household possessed large quantities of bedding, fusitan and woolen blankets, and sheets, some of which were embroidered with silk thread. Also listed are considerable quantities of "unshapin" cloth—that is rolls of cloth ready to be cut up for use as the need arose. Their proximity to the bedding in the inventory may indicate that they were largely intended for bedding.

The finest cloth listed in the inventory was that used for clothing. Linen was the usual material for napery, but for clothing a wide range of fabrics was available, and the inventory allows us a glimpse of some sixteenth century Scots finery. Listed are gentlewoman's gowns of damask satin and velvet—some are described as of "fyne pareis blak", but this gives little indication of what material was used. The colours of the dresses do seem fairly sombre, being largely black—black was however a fashionable colour as many surviving sixteenth century portraits show. There were skirts of both satin and velvet, with matching sleeves, which could be attached to different bodices or waistcoats with little fasteners called points. These were less sombre, being in tawny, yellow and white. Katherine's wardrobe also contained furred hoods, collars sewn with gold and silver thread and silk, and, most luxurious of all, a night gown of silk lined with black rabbit skins. Her clothing, for presumably the dresses and other woman's apparel did belong to Katherine, shows how well dressed a Scots woman of the period could be, and gives an indication of her own status, that of the daughter of an earl. Little men's clothing is listed, apart from twenty men's sarks, and this may indicate that Sir William was away from home when the occupation took place. Another type of clothing is listed in the inventory—this, a set of professional clothing, the vestments of a chaplain for Sir William's oratory. These consisted of a chasuble, a stole and fanon, and an alb and amice. The chasuble was the vestment worn by a priest officiating at mass, and was often stiff and heavy with embroidery—the stole and fanon were both made of the same type of cloth as the chasuble. The alb, a white tunic with sleeves was worn under the chasuble and was generally made of the best quality of linen available, whilst the amice was a white linen rectangle worn at the neck to prevent perspiration staining the more important vestments. Also kept in the oratory were towels, a chalice, cruets and salt, a mass book and other altar ornaments, as well as a shrine kist. This is presumably a tabernacle or altar piece, possibly with folding leaves. As an oratory was often used as a private study at this time, we find that Sir William also kept his books here—these are described as "three scoir Inglis books", i.e. in English or the vernacular Scots, as opposed to Latin, of sundry histories, and "translations of scriptour". Only one title is given unfortunately, that of Sir William's copy of "Regiam Maiestatem", a handbook of Scots law. This is valued separately at £5, and would appear to be a manuscript copy rather than a printed book. It is interesting that Sir William also owned translations of scripture—this surely marks him out as having Protestant sympathies (although the priest's vestments and altar gear may indicate some ambivalence in the matter of religion), and may not be unconnected with the fact that Sir William was provost of one of the first burghs in Scotland to openly embrace Protestantism.

Sir William's description and inventory of Newton Castle is a fascinating social document, showing us as it does the household goods and furnishings of a sixteenth century Scot. Of course Sir William is out of the ordinary, but the very fullness of his description and inventory indicates the rewards available in sixteenth century Scotland. Coming from a relatively obscure background, Sir William prospered in royal service, investing in lands and in a title as a mark of his success. In all this it is quite clear that Sir William intended to establish his family in the county. However, it took only two generations for his "tour, fortalice and place of Sanquhar-Hamilton", and his carefully acquired estate to pass out of family hands, and indeed, for the family itself to descend into obscurity. If this paper helps to clear away some of that obscurity from Sir William and his family it will have served its
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purpose, whilst at the same time giving a view of Ayrshire’s sometimes
turbulent sixteenth century.

The description and inventory of Newton Castle can be found in the
volume of Acts and Decretals of the Court of Session for the period
June 8th 1559 to March 11th 1560/1 held in the Scottish Record Office,
Edinburgh, under the reference CS 7 20. The entry, in an extremely
careless hand, runs from folio 105r to folio 110v, thus covering over
eleven full pages. After an initial entry on February 3rd 1559/60, the
case of Sir William against Wallace of Craige, including the inventory
and description begins in earnest on February 15th 1559/60. At neither
sitting was John Wallace of Craige present. The original spelling of the
document, with the exceptions of ‘thorn’ and ‘yogh’, which have been
rendered as ‘th’ and ‘y’ respectively, has been preserved along with its
original layout. Any alterations that have been made, have been made to
clarify difficult text and any minor deletions of clerical errors have not
been transcribed. All punctuation given is modern—it is the hope that it
will clarify what at times can be confusing text. Contemporary
contractions have been expanded without further note. As the official
year did not begin until March 25th, all dates given in this introduction
as for example 1559/60 indicate a date between January 1st and March
24th 1560 in modern dating. This style changed in 1600 when January
1st was adopted as the official start of the New Year.
Hamiltons of Sannquhar

Alexander Hamilton of McNairston, alive 1479

Patrick, alive 1481

John (?), of McNairston, c. 1521

William of Sannquhar, c. 1547, alive 1556, 1582, alive 1556, 1591

Adam, James, Bernard, Robert, George, William of Sannquhar, c. 1547, alive 1556, 1582, alive c. 1591

James, George of Sannquhar, c. 1595

Wallaces of Craigie

William, Katherine, Aches, Isabel, Margaret, alive 1572

Annabel = William, John, Agnes, Margaret

Wallace, c. 1589, 1615, alive 1572, 1593

William, Henry, Hugh, Jane, Margaret, Elizabeth, alive 1605, 1614

Notes:
- O = died by
- O.S.P. = died without heirs

Sir William Hamilton's Landholdings in Ayrshire

1. Auchendrane
2. Barrie
3. McNairston
4. Newton & Sannquhar
5. Kingcase & Spittalshiel
6. Symington
7. Barnwell
8. Mosgiel
9. Auchinglen
10. Sorn
11. Glenmuir
12. Glencairn
DESCRIPTION AND INVENTORY SENT TO THE COURT OF SESSION

(A glossary is appended)

In The Actioun and causs persewit be Schir william hammiltoun of Sancher knycht Aganis Jhone Wallace of cragy quhom aganis the said sir william Intentit his actioun in the mater vnderwrittin allanerlie. ffor the wrangus, violent and maisterfull cuming, assaulting, seging and laddering of the barmkyn wallis of the castell, touris and fortalice of sancher hammiltoun, with the pertinents pertening to the said sir william in lifrent lyand in the baillerie of kyle stewert and serefdom of Air, entering perforce and violence therintill haill houssis therof and their pertinents, eiection and spoliatioun of the said sir william of his possessioun therof contening the houss, orchestis and zardis, biggit, garneiss and apperrellit as after following be him self, his servandis, complices and vtheris in his name, of his causing command, assistance and ratehabition. with convocatioun of our soveranis lord and ladeis leges to the nowmer of fourty personis bodin in feir of weir with jakkis, steilbonettis, speiris and culveringis Recentlie vpoun the sevintene day of Nouember lastbypast, at ten houris or therby vnder silence of nycht Within the tyme of vacance, and continwale detructioun and withhalding fra him of the samin ay sensyne. The samin than and as zit pertening to him as said is and being in his possessioun lik as the samyn wes be the space of diverss zeris Immediatlie preceding. That is to say ane greit hall, five chalmeris, twa of thame Ribsylit with eistland burd and floorit with aikyn tymmir and the vthir tlire cammer sylit with Ryd fyr and trymle mullerat: Ane keching, ane Wardrop, ane mvnitioun houss, Ane fleshc lardnair, Ane Wyne sellar, ane salt houss, ane gemale houss, ane panitre, ane salt houss, ane chertir hous, Ane oratour sylit Round about with greit mullaris and pictouris of rasit werk of eistland brod in the trymest sort. Ane stabill cloiss with ane hingin zett with twa leiffis, and ane Rownd cloiss aboue ane porter luge, Ane houss aboue the said zett callit the cheis hous, Ane coilhous, Ané peithous and ane fische lardnair, And ane vther cloiss contening ane gerdyn chalmer, Ane greit fore Interes with ane double zett of bundin burd werk theairto of twa leiffis, twa gret orchardis and zaideris havand thre zettis, And sett and plenissit with hegis of hauthorne busche, grosser tres rissour berry tres, roiss treis, apill treis, plomv treis, cheretres, bulland tres davr treis, almont treis, plane treis, birk treis, asheis, hauthornis and vtheris treis of pastyme and fermit with twa stankkis and dikit Round about with stane wall and cappit with lyme. In the quhilk castell, tour and fortilice ar sex double greit zettis and twa lokkis, twa keyis and tua Irne slots to euery ane of thame. And ane of thame ane Irne zett, And tua of thame appermand with tua leiffis. And five of the saidis zettis of aik. ffourty durris of the quhilk xii ar double durris, and the Remanent singill durris of aik, with lokkis, keyis, bandis, slottis, snekkis, ringis and likwiss efferand to euery duir. xxiii gret wyndois caissit with fyne aikyn tymer, bandit, glassit, with coss thame thame fraceouris glass bandis, binddis, ryngis and snekkis efferand theairto. Quhilk haill place and houssis is all thekit with skailze, beyth tofallis and beych houss, And the Ruiffis and halil gersing of the samyn all of aik, And the haill stane werk of the said place is brochit werk. And the haill durris, windois, chymnais, cunzeis, akingis, patestanis, halil battelling, Rigging stanis and pavimentis all of hewin axiom werk, with xii chanis vpoun the hedis of the cymnais and tumypye of the said place.

And als ffor the wrangus, violent and maisterfull spoliatiouin be tham selfis, ther servands complices and vtheris in ther names, of ther causing command, assistance and ratihabiition fra the said sir william of the Insycht gudis of gold, siiuer, cunzeit and uncunzeit, Jowallis, clothing and vtheris gudis vnder writtin of the proces following And him of his possession therof Recentlie the tyme forsaid than pertening to the said sir william and being in his possessioun in the said castell, touris and fortilice houssis therof kistis, shrynis, cofferis almercis, boxis, burd press and vtheris partis being within the samyn as his awin proprioj gudis, lik as the samin wes in his possessioun therintill be the space of twa monethis Immediatlie of befor. That is to say thre siiuer basingis, with duerris vtheris gudis, geir, jowells, siiuer werk and sovmes of money, lik as at mair lenth is contenit in the pricipale sumondis rasit in the said mater, actis, letres and haill proces led and deducit thervpyoun. The said Sir william hammiltoun being personalie present And the said Jhone wallace of cragy being lauchfullie summond...
to this actioun, oftymes callit and nocht comperit. The said sir william Rychtis, ressonis and allegationis to geder with the deponis of diueris famous witness, ressauit, admittit, sworn and examinit in the said mater, and diueris vtheris probationis herd, sene and vnderstand, and therwith being Riplie avisit. The Lordis of counsale Decretis and deliviris that the said Jhone wallace of cragy Has done wrang in the

wrangius violent and maisterfull cuming, assaliting, segeing and laddering of the barmkyn wallis of the said castell, touris and fortillce of sancher hammiltoun, with the pertinentis perterning to the said sir william hammiltoun in lifrent as said is, entering perforce and violence therintill haiłl house therof and thair pertinentis eictioun and spoliatioun of the said sir william of his possessioun therof. Contening the hous, zerdis and orchardis aboue writtin, biggit, gernesit, furnessit and aparrellit in maner aboue rehersit be him self, his servandis, complices and vtheris in his name, of his causung and command as said is, with
covcution of sadis soveranis leges to the noverm of fourty personis aboue written, bodin in feyr of weir with Jakkis, steilbonetis, speris and culverinis, Recentlie vpoun the said xvii day of november last bypass at x hours or thairby, vnder silence of nycht and continewale detrucuion and orhalding of the samyn fra him ay sensyne. The samyn than as zit pertening to him as said is, and being in his possessioun lik as the samyn was be the space of diuerss zeris Immediatlie of befoir. And als to halft done wrang in the violent and maisterfull spoliatioun be him self, his servandis, complices and vtheris in his name, of his causung command, assistance and rathabilition as said is fra the said Schir William of the Insycht gudis, gold, siluer, cunzeit and vncunzeit, Jowellis, clothing and vtheris gudis vnder written of the quantitie and peces following, And him of his possessioun therof Recentlie the tyme foresaid Than pertening to the said William and being in his possessioun therof in the said castell, touris and fortillce houssis therof, and ther pertinentis as his awin proper gudis lik as thai wer be the space of twa monethis or thairby Immediatlie of befoir And to desist and ceis fra the said place, castell, touris and fortillcies, hous, zardis, orcherdís and pertinentis therof, And to restore and deliuir the samin to the said sir william and to his possessioun, conten ting and being biggit, gernesit, furnessit and aparrellit as is aboue written. And in the samyn estait as thai war at the tyme aboue specifteit, and in maner aboue rehersit, Sua that the said schir William may be him self and vtheris in his name peciable broik, Jois, occupy and Inhabit the samyn at his plesor in all
tymes cuming during his lifetyme. And to Restore and deliuir all and syndry the Insycht gudis, geir, gold, siluer, cunzeit and vncunzeit,

Jowellis and vtheris vnder specifteit to the said sir william, and his possessioun, ground and place that the samyn was spulzeit and tane fra als gude as thai war the tyme of the spoliatioun therof, or the avale and quantiye of the samyn peces vnder writtin.

That is to say Twa siluir basyngis and tua siluir lawaris of the finess deliviris that the said Jhone Wallace of cragy Has done wrang in the of pareis wark, partiallie gilt with gold Ane of thame with the lawar weyand five scoir tuelf vnces And the vthir with the lawar weyand thre scoir ten vnces, price of Ilk vnce with the warkmanschip xxxii^.

Ane siluer salt fatt double oergilt with gold, weyand threty vnces, curious wark of the fynees of pareis, price of the vnce with the fassoun xi^.

Ane vthir salt fatt, partiale gilt, weyand xiii vnces, price of the vnce with the fassoun xxxii^.

Tua dosane of siluir spvnis weyand xliiii vnces, price of the vnce with the fassoun xxxii^.

Tliire masseris trels price of Ilk pece ourheid v". Tlie sadis thre masseris trels price of Ilk pece ourheid v". Tlie hault caissis of the saidis basingis, lawaris, salt fattis, spvnis, pecis, And als to half done wrang in the violent and maisterfull spoliatioun be him self, his servandis, complices and vtheris in his name, of his causung and command as said is fra the said Schir William of the Insycht gudis, gold, siluer, cunzeit and vncunzeit, Jowellis, clothing and vtheris gudis vnder written of the quantitie and peces following, And him of his possessioun therof Recentlie the tyme foresaid Than pertening to the said William and being in his possessioun therof in the said castell, touris and fortillce houssis therof, and ther pertinentis as his awin proper gudis lik as thai wer be the space of twa monethis or thairby Immediatlie of befoir And to desist and ceis fra the said place, castell, touris and fortillcies, hous, zardis, orcherdís and pertinentis therof, And to restore and deliuir the samin to the said sir william and to his possessioun, conten ting and being biggit, gernesit, furnessit and aparrellit as is aboue written, And in the samyn estait as thai war at the tyme aboue specifteit, and in maner aboue rehersit, Sua that the said schir William may be him self and vtheris in his name peciable broik, Jois, occupy and Inhabit the samyn at his plesor in all
tymes cuming during his lifetyme. And to Restore and deliuir all and syndry the Insycht gudis, geir, gold, siluer, cunzeit and vncunzeit,
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Burden Alexander price of the pece xvi\textsuperscript{i}. Auchtene gret cusheanis of fyne worsettis walwyn in the cusheane stile lynit with leddir and stuffit with hart hair price of the pece xxx\textsuperscript{e}. Tua fair bouchouris of fyne worsettis of diueris colloris walwyn in the cusheane stile for covering of the two lang fromes to the hie burd Ilk ane of lenth five elnis or therby price of the pece iii\textsuperscript{e}.

A greit brasyn bawsett contenand ten gallownis or thairby to sett stoupis in price therof xxx\textsuperscript{i}. Tua greit hart homis gameis with fair candilistikkis flour delices lang chenzes of Ime fra the crovn of the wole with knoppis all weill laid with Reid leid and vthir fyne collouris price therof xili\textsuperscript{i}. Sex doune beddis and vi compteris price of Ilk bed & compter xii\textsuperscript{i}. Aucht vthir feddir beddis and viii compteris price of Ilk feddir bed & compter xii\textsuperscript{i}. Tuelf codeill fillit with downis price of ilk cod with thair waris xxx\textsuperscript{e}. Auchtene coddiss fillit with pavy fedderis price of Illk cod with thair waris xviii\textsuperscript{i}. Thre pair of fusstane blanketis price of Ilk pair therof iii\textsuperscript{ii}, foutry pair of wolwyn clayth blanketis price of Ilk pair x\textsuperscript{i}. Thre fyn arress warkis lynit with canvas price of the pece xii\textsuperscript{i}. Tuelf grosser arres warkis price of Ilk pece ourheid x\textsuperscript{i}. Aucht scottis coveringis to beddis price of the pece xxxvi\textsuperscript{i}. Thre mantill coveringis price of the pere xxxvi\textsuperscript{i}. Thre wobbis of blanket quhit vnschappin, Ilk wob contenand xxx elnis of lenth and six quarteris of breid, price of the eln x\textsuperscript{i}. Ane wob of scoftis blak contenand xxii elnis of lenth & vi quarteris of breid price of the eln xii\textsuperscript{i}. Foure burd coveris of small lynning clayth courtlie sawit with shorne wark cutlit burd claythis price of Ilk pece xxvi\textsuperscript{i} viii\textsuperscript{i}. Tuelf pair of small shetis Ilk pair therof of thre bredis sawit curiouslie with silk and fyne nedill wark price of the pair iii\textsuperscript{ii}. Twenty four pair of fyne small shetis of braid lynning of twa bredis sawit with fyne silk and nedle wark price of the pair iii\textsuperscript{ii}, xlvi pair of schetis of Runder braid lynning clayth price of Ilk pair ourheid xxx\textsuperscript{e}. Tua hundredth elnis of scottis lynning vnschappin price of the eln ii\textsuperscript{ii} vi\textsuperscript{ii}. Ane covering of the hie burd of the hall of fyne flanderis worsettis of diuerss collouris walwyn in the cashean stile with the said sir williamis ermes in the middly therof contenand five elnis and ane half of lenth and sex quarteris and ane half of breid price thereof xii\textsuperscript{ii}. Ane vthir covering to the said hie burd of fyne grene clayth contenand five elnis and ane half of lenth and sex quarteris of breid price of the eln lxx\textsuperscript{i}. Ane vthir covering to the said hie burd of grosser grene of the samyn lenth and breid price of the eln lxx\textsuperscript{i}. Ane vthir covering to ane compte burd of fyne grene clayth contenand ten quarteris of lenth and sex quarteris of breid price of the eln therof lxx\textsuperscript{i} ili\textsuperscript{ii}. Tua coveringis to the said hie burd of
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hewis price of Ilk skirt and pair of slevis ourheid viii. f-four skirtis of sating of the quhilkis ane quhite ane zellow & twa blak with four pair of slevis of sating of the samin cullouris price of Ilk skirt and pair of slevis ourheid vii. f-four meit gowinis for gentillwomen of fyne pareis blak barrit and wanit with waluett price of the pece xxii. Tua chamllett gowinis ane of thame tauny and ane vhthir blak barrit with waluett price of the pece xvi. Tua blak worsett gowinis barrit with waluett price of the pece xvi. f-four furieiss hudis for gentillwomen of blak waluett price of the pece vii. Tuel crapis of gold price of the pece xxvi vii. Thre pattilottis of blak waluett price of the pece iii. Thre pair bardi gardis of bukreem bordourit vnder with trip waluett price of the pece 1s. Twenty mennis sarkis of small lynning Rassit with small holland clathy price of the pece xx. Twenty wommenis sarkis of small lynning price of the pece xx. Ane nycht gowin of vn watterit chamllett lynit with blak cunning sconnis price xi. Sex collaris sawit with gold siluer and crammesy silk price of the pece iii. Tua pair of laun slevis and tua pair of holane clathy slevis sawit with blak silk price of Ilk pair ourheid x. Tuelf pair of curtingis and hingenis of fyne worsettis callit lylis worsett grene zallow blaw and Ryd haill furmeist price of Ilk pair xli. Tua cannapis of fyne small bertane lynning clathy Ilk pece contandxxx elnis weill bordourit with small beche thred price of the pece vii. Ane haill hingeing and curtingis of ane bed of small lynning Weill sewit with silk and bourdourit with fyne beche thred with penediclis & ruif of the samyn, price thairof xili. Sevin cofferris price of ilk pece ourheid xii. Ane liill coiff price thairof 1s. Certane altar graith viz. twa towallis Ane chezable Ane stoll Ane fannoun Ane alb ane amiter. Ane tyn chelleis Ane crewett Ane Salt Ane mess buik with uthir ornamentis pertening to ane altar, price thairof xlii. Ane greit schryne kist and vthir twa kistis price of thame ourheid xiii. Thre scori Inglis buikis of syndy historis and translatioun of scriptour price of thame to gidder xlii.

Ane compt burd Weill lokkit with thre folding levis price thairof vii. Ane superfl of lynning price iii. four chyriss of fyne eistland burd of rasit wark price of the pece iii. Nyne Wattir pottis of Ingis tyn price vii. Thre brasyn watter pottis price thairof all togidder xxx. Tualf greit brasyn chanderilliers of the maist commellie maner price thairof togidder xxvii. Ane washing mashling besing price xi. Ane roundall of brass maid for heting of ane bed price 1s. Ane greit brasyn chaffett to heit watter in girrit with Ilme price vii. Ane Brasyn morter and ane pestill price thairof xli. Ane vhthir brasyn chaffer for halding of meit warme price thairof xxvi. Ane Bell of fyne mettel lingand on the wall heid callit the cale

bell with the heid geir stok bandis and vthir furmeist price viii. Ane vhthir small bell that hang in the laich chamer stokkitt and hingyn with all necessaris efferand thairof price xii. fourtene scor of plattis counterfutis and braid disches of fyne Ingis powder Ilk pece to mend vthir weyand twa pound and ane half price of the pound iii. Thre dwsane of tyn transheouris Ingis powder price of Ilk dwsane xli. Ane tym salt fatt price vi. Tua tym stouppis contand Ilkane of tham contand twa quaritis four tym stouppis Ilkane of tham contand ane quart Ane tym pynt and ane tym choppin Weyand all togidder xlii wecht price of the pvnd iii. Ane dwsand of trene stouppis for houshald service price xli. Tuelf brasyn pottis price of tham togidder xxx. Tuelf pannis of brass boulit and bandit with Ilme price thairof xx vii. Ane greit brandreith of Ane Inme greit chymnay with standartis oerlayis, Rynnaris crukkis and Ringis on thame all of Ilme in the keicheing Ane vthir greit Inme chymnay in the hall five Ilme chimnais in the five chameris Ten greit Ilme spellis thre pair of greit Ilm rakris ten pair of greit tangis Ane Ilme chenze to the well Ane bukkett therat with Ilme girthis The said haill Ilme wark being of gud estimatioun of aucht scoir stanis weyct price of the stane of maid wark with the cariage of the samyn fra Edinburnght to the said place xvi vii. Tua tym dressing kniffis Thre leishing kniffis, twa flesche axis price thairof togidder iii. Tua frying pannis And twa drepping pannis, price thairof togidder viii. Ane Braid steill paring Ilme price thairof xx. Ane greit brewing brass fatt sett in ane fornace within the brewhous contenand fifty six gallovnis price lx. Ane shule of Ilme price x. Ane greit massing fatt sett vpoun ane greit stane trouch with twa gib fattis and sex vthir tubbis for wort price thairof all togidder xxvi. Tuelf fleshe fattis price of thame ourheid xii. Sex greit tubbis in the fishe lardnair price thairof vii. Ane hundred knoppald to mak fattis of price xli. Twenty barrassis and Rubbouris for aile price thairof vii. Ane greit almerie in the panitre of fyne aikyn tymmer of four hous heicht weill bandit and lokkit and ane panitre brod price thairof xii. vii. Ane greit gurallie of aikyn tynmir devidit in twa housis quhilk will hald xl chalderis victuale with twa syndry durris lokkit bandit and pathit with stane price thairof xxii. Ane green burdis sett in

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the keithing dresrie befor the ketching duir fleshe lardnair fleshe lardnair (sic) sellaris brawhouse clois and baihous with crestis and formes offerand therto price therof all to gidden xiii

Sex hagbuttsis of sound stalkit with calmis and chargeouris price of the pece xiiii. Fifteenne half haggis and culverinis with ther calmis and flacksis price of the pece ourheid ii. Ane greit barrell of fyne pulder callit tinnche pulder stak zerd therof, lyand Within half ane myle to the said place of price xl.

In the hall Ane hie burd sett in ane cradill with thaire almereis to the said sir william as his awin propir gudis and being than in his possessioun extending to the availl of x.

And als becaus the said Jhone Wallace wes chargit lauchfullie be our soueraun lordis letters decretis and deluiris That the said Jhone Wallace of cragy hes done wrang in the violent and maisterfull spoliatioun, avaytaking, leding, acting, distruction and Intrometting with, be thaimselfis, thair servandis, houss, complices and vtheris in thair names of ther causing and command as said is fra the said sir william Recentlie vpoun the xviiij day of november last bypast, and dayle and continwale senysyn furth of his land callit the hous of the mwre and hay stk zerd therof, lyand Within half ane myle to the said place of Sancher hamiltoun of all and hail thre greit stakkis of hay contemmand sex thousand stanis of hay, price of the stane weight xiiid than pertaining to the said sir william as his awin propir gudis and being than in his possessioun within the said stk zerd, led and stakkit be him and his servandis in his name thairintill lyk as the samyn wes continwalie in his possessioun be the space of three monthis or therby Immediattle of befor. And therfor deernisi and ordanis the said Jhone wallace to restore and deluier the said hay agane to the said sir william and his possessioun, ground and place that the samyn wes spulzeit and tane fra als gude as thai wer the tymes of the spoliatioun therof, or the availl and quantitie of the samyn, proces forsadis. Becaus and sikk the spoliatioun and intromission of the sadis hay stakkis, the violent and masterfull assaltung, lederring segeing and spoliatioun of the said sir william of his possessioun of his said place and gudis being therintill being sufficientlie provin at the tymes respecitie respeactiue In maner aboue rehersit and hay stakkis, The availl and quantitieis of the gudis and geir spulzeit and intrometit with, be the said Jhone fra the said sir william at the tymes respecitie forsaid. In maner aboue rehersit wes refferrit to the said sir williammis ayth, Quha maid feyth that the samyn extendit to the availl of x. Ane pair of greit cabillis with thair cabben, ane chess burd with the chess men, price of thame ourheid xl. Ane gret baikiious burd of Reid fyr substancouslie maid sett him and he falzeit therin, he suld be balden pro asisso and ane decreit gevin aganis him according to the desire of the principale sunimondis bandit effering thairto price therof togidder vi. Twenty bollis aitt meill rasit in the said mater. And he being lauchfullie summond to that effect in the gemale price of the boll xxxii v. Ane daks of hydis price therof v. Half ane Ryem of lumbartIndorsit be thomas lamb messinger, schawin and producit befoir the paper price of the quair therof v. Ane dwsane of gret skynnis of saidis lordis proportit and vrut failzeit therintill, lik as wes clerlie parchement price therof xxx. Ane buik callit Regiam maiestatem price of the samyn vi.
NOTES AND REFERENCES.


3. Prot. Bk. Ros, No. 736, An entry in the Ayr Burgh Court Book ms. for 1549-60, fo. 18v (Carnegie Library, Ayr), has John Wallace of Craigie claiming that his predecessors had occupied the “hous of Newtown” for eight score years prior to 1560. This indicates a fifteenth century date for the castle's construction.


6. The lands surrounding Newton lay largely in the parish of St. Quivox, then also known as Sanquhar. Part of the parish had been granted to the short lived Gilbertine foundation at Dalmilling, and after its demise they went to Paisley Abbey by c.1238—Cowan & Easson, Religious Houses, p.105-6. The remainder of the parish appears in lay hands in 1280—Paisley Registrum, p.227-9. After this date little is heard of them. Newton itself first appears as a villa or township in 1208x14, and again in 1280, and appears to have been created a burgh in 1307-71—George S. Prude, “The Burghs of Ayrshire”, Ayrshire Colls., ii, p.20-21. What link there was between the proprietors of St. Quivox and Newton is unclear—the next recorded owners of St. Quivox were the Lindsays who appear in 1497—R.M.S., ii, No. 2376. An indication of some link is provided by John Wallace of Craigie’s claims in 1599 and 1603 that his ownership of the barony of Sanquhar-Hamilton also comprehended the burgh of Newton—Prude, op. cit., p.32-3.

7. R.M.S., ii, No. 258.


9. Ayr Burgh Chrs., p.92-3. Smithston, between Tarbolton and Mauchline was originally in Wallace hands, but by 1552/3 had passed into the hands of Bernard Hamilton, the brother of Sir William—see R.M.S., iv, No. 749. Hugh Wallace is still described as ‘of Smysthstoun’ on August 27th 1490—Crossraguel Chrs., i, p.50-3.

10. Ayr Burgh Chrs., p.102-5. Adam died before March 1532—see Prot. Bk. Ros, No. 1274. Prude in the Ayr Burgh Accts has an Adam Wallace of Newton in 1559/60—this Adam is however usually described as ‘in Vennel’, and seems to have had no direct connection with the Newton family—see Common Good Accounts of the Burgh of Ayr ms, fo 42v (Carnegie Library, Ayr). Adam of Newton was Alderman of Ayr in 1516-18, 1520, 1522-26 & 1529-31.

11. Rogers, Wallace, i, p.36.


13. This appears borne out by the following—in 1446 John Wallace of Craigie and Hugh Wallace of Smithstoun are named as bailiffs of Kyle Stewart, and in the same document Adam Wallace appears as a witness. From 1448-50 a Hugh Wallace is custumar of Ayr and becomes Hospitaller of Kingcase in 1451/2. Both offices were royal gifts, and similar to the office of bailiff of Kyle Stewart—it is probable that the two Hugh Wallaces are the same person. Rogers describes Hugh Wallace as an administrator of his brother, Sir John Wallace of Craigie’s estate. In 1452 Adam Wallace, brother of the late Hugh Wallace is distrained for Hugh’s unpaid fermes of Holmes in the royal lordship of Dundonald and an area of later Craigie interest. In the 1460’s Adam Wallace was Comptroller and an auditor of the Exchequer, and we can identify this Adam with the Adam Wallace of 1452. The three would therefore appear to have been brothers, with the Newton branch descending from Hugh of Smithstoun. See Rogers, Wallace, i, p.36-40; E.R., v, pp.298, 336 & 523; R.M.S., ii, No. 528; E.R., vii, p.520; Paterson, History, i, p.270-1.


18. Paterson, History, i, p.283ff; Rogers, Wallace, i, p.33ff.


20. as Alderman of Ayr, see Ayr Burgh Court Book 1428-78 ms, fo 34v (Carnegie Library, Ayr).

21. Annie I. Dunlop (ed.), The Royal Burgh of Ayr, Edinburgh, 1953, p.316-7; Rogers, Wallace, i, p.92-3. Smithston, between Tarbolton and Mauchline was originally in Wallace hands, but by 1552/3 had passed into the hands of Bernard Hamilton, the brother of Sir William—see R.M.S., iv, No. 749. Hugh Wallace is described as ‘of Smythsstoun’ on August 27th 1490—Crossraguel Chrs., i, p.50-3.

22. quoted in William Robertson, Ayrshire—its History and Historic Families, Ayr, 1908, vol i, p.132.

23. Rogers, Wallace, i, p.43 has this cousin dying in 1538. However as John Wallace is described as ‘tutor of Craigie’ as late as 1546 it is possible she was still alive. See R.M.S., iii, 3136 & 3151.


25. Glasgow Univ. Muniments, ii, p.89. An Alexander Hamilton is listed as a bailiff of Ayr in 1470 and may be related. Ayr Burgh Court Book ms. 1428-78 fo 112r.


28. Metrose Liber, ii, p.612 & 632; Hamilton, History, p.772; Michael Lynch,
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29. Glasgow Univ. Muniments, ii, p.113 & 274.


34. Treasurer Accts, ix, p.300 & 433.


38. R.M.S., iii, No. 2064.


41. Prot. Bk. Masoun, Ayr-Galloway Colls, vi, Edinburgh, 1889, No. 40 shows that he is in possession of his grand-father’s lands in 1578, when he begins to dispose of parts of the barony of Sanquhar-Hamilton. Other sales occur at Nos. 59 & 69. Newton Castle is mentioned as the place where an instrument was made out in 1582/3 with William present—see No. 91, sec No. 95.

42. for a more detailed description of this period in the castle’s history see Paterson, History, i, p.165-9; Murray, Burgh Organisation, ii, p.180-90.


46. Paterson, History, i, p.168.


SELECTED GLOSSARY

Almureis a cupboard or pantry: a separate piece of furniture made of wood.

amamellit enamelled.

angell noblis English coins, of gold.

apperrellit furnished, equipped.

arres a piece of tapestry, originally from Arras, but also used as a generic term.

avale the wort, or value of.

axlar stone facework of uniform size, hewn and polished, used in all major buildings. Ashlar.

babeis bawbees or billon coin, originally valued at 6d Scots.

band a hinge or fastening for a door or window.

bardi gardis trappings or caparisons, worn about the arms.

barmkyn the outer walls of an establishment, surrounding the ancillary buildings creating an enclosure.

begereis ornamented with trimmings or stripes of another material or colour.
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bertane Breton, from or pertaining to Brittany.

boll measure of grain, approximately 1401bs or 63.5kg.

boulit handled, as in pots or pails.

brandreith a grid iron.

brasillatis bracelets.

bredis breadths.

brochit rough hewn.

broik to enjoy the use or possession of something, usually property.

bulland tre wild plum tree (from bulaace).

burd board, but used in the sense of a table.

burdclaythis table cloths.

calles chamber, or room (perhaps in the same sense as Ayr's Cammergate or Chambergate, misread as Cannibergate in Ayr Friars Chrs., p 11).

cammer chambre, or room (perhaps in the same sense as Ayr's Cammergate or Chambergate, misread as Cannibergate in Ayr Friars Chrs., p 11).

chaffet a chafing dish used for keeping food or liquids warm.

chamlet camlet, a light cloth of various materials used for cloaks, originally an expensive Eastern material.

chenzeis chains.

choppin a liquid measure, ½ Scots pint, or a vessel of this capacity.

chyris chairs.

coddis pillows.

compte burd an accounts table, or desk.

compter counterpane or coverlet.

copboard a free-standing cupboard.

counterfutis a kind of plate or dish.

courtlie fashionable, fashionably.

crapis band of crepe serving as an ornament or addition to an article of dress.

crovinis of the abbay gold coins minted at Holyrood during the reign of James V, 20s.

culveringis a type of hand gun.

cunzeit coined, of silver or gold.

cunzens corners.

dakir a quantity of 10 hides.

dammes a figured woven material, originally of silk, with the pattern visible on either side, damask.

decenmis decides, decrees.

domik a linen cloth used for table cloths, originally from Tournai in Flanders.

doun beddis feather mattresses.

dresie a room, generally beside the kitchen in which food was dressed.

dwir, duir: a door.
efferand belonging to, pertaining to.
ein ell, a measurement of length, equivalent to 37 inches.
famous of good repute, used in the sense of a witness's reputation.

feir of weir in warlike array.

flour delices fleur de lys, the French royal symbol perhaps indicating a French origin for Sir William's candle holders.

furreiss furs, or furrings.
fusteane fustian, a thick twilled, short napped cotton cloth, usually dyed in dark colours.
garneiss garnished or ornamented.

gesale an armouring chamber.
gemale a gimnale or granary, a storage chest for meal.
gersing gear, effects, tools.
girrit encircled, hooped, girded.
graith materials or equipment.
groser tres gooseberry bushes.
hagbutts hackbuts; type of hand gun.
hokkis a rack for cattle, in a stable or barn.

heych hous literally high house, or tower house.

insycht furniture, plenishings of a household.

intromettit interfered with, handled or dealt with another person's property, with or without his permission.

ime chynmay a grate or fire place.
jakkis short coats of mail, generally for horsemen. From the French 'jacque'.

jowallis jewels or jewellery.

knoppald clapboard, split oak smaller than wainscoting, used as panelling, boarding or as barrel staves.

lawaris lavars vessels used for the washing of hands at the dinner table.

leddir leather.

lifrent the use of, during a lifetime, of someone else's property. Often, as in this case, parents made over to their children property and income, reserving the use of it in their lifetime, and in effect provided themselves with an income through their old age and guaranteed their heir's succession.

lowrimar wark the metal parts of a horse harness, else all small metal work.

lumbart a type of paper, originally from Lombardy in Italy.

lylis worssett worset as made in Lille, Flanders.

lyning linen.

lyonis lions; Scots billon coin, worth 1½d. Scots.

maseris masers; drinking bowls, often of maple wood with silver mounts. At this period more exotic shells were often used, such as coconuts, for the bowl.

mashing fatt a mash tun used in brewing.

meit fitting, proper.
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>mertis</td>
<td>oxen or cows fattened for slaughter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mullerat</td>
<td>furnished with a moulding or ornamental frame, in woodwork.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pattilottis</td>
<td>women's ruffs, part of costume.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plakkis</td>
<td>placks: Scots billion coin, valued at 4d Scots.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plessor</td>
<td>pleasure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>portallis</td>
<td>an inner door or partition, sometimes a moveable piece of furniture.</td>
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<tr>
<td>portingall</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ducattis</td>
<td>Portuguese gold coin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pressis</td>
<td>chests or shelved cupboard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pulder</td>
<td>powder, generally used in the sense of gunpowder.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rib</td>
<td>a horizontal roof timber.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rissour berry</td>
<td>red currant bushes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>treis</td>
<td>casks or barrels, usually for ale.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ruid</td>
<td>the rood, a measurement of length.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>runder</td>
<td>the border of a web of cloth, bordered, fringed cloth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ryem</td>
<td>a ream, 20 quires or 480 sheets of paper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>salt fatt</td>
<td>a salt container, often of precious metal.</td>
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<tr>
<td>sawit</td>
<td>sewn, sewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>segeing</td>
<td>besieging</td>
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<tr>
<td>sensyne</td>
<td>from then</td>
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<tr>
<td>shule</td>
<td>a shovel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>skailze</td>
<td>slate, slate-work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>slottis</td>
<td>bars or bolts for both doors and windows.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spulzeit</td>
<td>despoiled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stand beddis</td>
<td>a free standing, as opposed to a box bed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stik</td>
<td>piece or pieces, generally of cloth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>surplus</td>
<td>a surplice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sylit</td>
<td>to ceil or cover, a roof rafter or couple.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>taffety</td>
<td>taffeta, a fine plain woven silk fabric.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>testonis</td>
<td>Scots silver coins, testons, worth 4s Scots.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tofallis</td>
<td>a building annexed to a larger one, offices, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>transheouris</td>
<td>trenchers, wooden plates for serving food at table.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>trene</td>
<td>all items made of wood.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>trough</td>
<td>trough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>trymle</td>
<td>aspen wood (?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>valwyn</td>
<td>woven</td>
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<tr>
<td>vnicornis</td>
<td>unicorns; Scots gold coin of the reign of James V, originally 20s. Scots.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>waskynnis</td>
<td>waistcoats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wob</td>
<td>a web, or roll of cloth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wort</td>
<td>brewing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>zett</td>
<td>a door made of interlacing iron bars.</td>
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