



THE CLAN NAPIER *and* *THE NAME OF NAPIER*

Although Clan Napier is one of the smaller clans of Scotland, the name Napier is one of the oldest in the country. Clan Napier has no known septs or dependent names. The name Napier is recorded in Scotland in documents dated before 1300, however, the present spelling only came into common usage in the late 17th century. Up until that time, the most common spelling of our name was Naper, but was also spelt Napere, Nepir, Napeir, Napar, Napare, Napair, Neper, Nepare, Naper, and Naperus.

People bearing the name Napier (or something very similar) existed in England (and possibly in France) prior to the date generally attributed to the beginnings of the Napier families in Scotland. An "Oinus Naperius" is recorded in 1140, a "Peter Napier" in 1148, a "Ralph (le) Naper" or "le Napier" in 1167-71, a "Radnessus le Naper" in 1168, a "Johannes le Naper" in 1239, a "Reginald le Nappere" in 1225, a "Walter de la Naperye" in 1248, and many others in various counties of England. There is evidence that a "Bartholomeus Napare" who had one dapple-grey pack-horse, was in the army of King Edward I of England during his campaign in Scotland in 1298, and specifically at the Battle of Falkirk. He must have been English. However, there is not, as far as is known, any connection between the early English Napiers and the Scottish Napiers. There is no reason why two completely separate families of the same name should spring up in different parts of the country. Nor is there any reason why the names should not have different derivations. The existing evidence of the name Napier in England certainly gives credence to the derivation usually given in existing dictionaries of surnames, namely the "napery" theory. Even the eminent family historian, Mark Napier, writing in his book "The Partition of the Lennox", published in 1835, supports this derivation theory for the English Napiers. However, this does not mean that the Scottish name of Napier is necessarily derived from the same source. Why should the derivation of the Scottish Napier name not be different? Why should we Scottish Napiers not believe in the "nae peer" derivation?

The "napery" theory goes something like this. The Latin word for a napkin or a cloth is "mappa" which became "nappe" in Old French (or sometimes just "nape"), and which itself is defined as a tablecloth in a modern French dictionary. The 1993 edition of the New Shorter Oxford English Dictionary defines "napery" as (1) linen used for various household purposes, especially table linen; (2) The charge or custody of the royal linen; the position or office of naperer (obsolete Middle English, late 15th -early 17th centuries); (3) a storeroom for linen (early 19th century). It also defines a "naperer" as "a person in charge of table linen in a royal or manor house (Historical, late Middle English)". It is interesting to note, in passing, that "naperer" is not mentioned in the New English Dictionary before 1880.

Sur (or additional) names did not really come into use until about the 12th century. On a charter granted by King Duncan to St Cuthbert in 1094, no surnames appear. The king and witnesses made their marks (crosses) and the scribe added the names above them. Even in a charter granted during the reign of David I (1124-53) no surnames as such appear but the beginnings of surnames can be detected; "William of Copeland" and "Adam the Steward" which developed into "William Copeland" and "Adam Stewart". This demonstrates two sources of surnames, place names and occupations or offices. There are three other sources to which surnames can be allocated, some of them overlapping: surnames of relationship (such as patronymics); surnames derived from nicknames, personal traits or characteristics; and divergent surnames derived from plants, flowers, animals, birds, medieval pageantry and religious festivals (such as Mustard, Primrose, Lamb, Swan, Herald, Prophet, and Bishop).

There is no denying that some surnames are derived from occupations or positions (offices) within a royal or lordly household. "A Dictionary of Family Names of the UK" (Lower, 1860), "Our English Surnames, Their Sources and Significances" (Bardsley 1873), and "The Story of Surnames" (Bowman 1931) all tell the same story, namely that because forks were unknown in medieval times, fingers were used and the services of the "Ewer" and the "Napper" were indispensable. The "Ewer" brought water in a bowl or ewer for the diner to wash his fingers and the "Napper" handed the diner the napkin or cloth on which to wipe his fingers. Bowman says "To these old names the present-day Ewers, Nappers and Napiers owe their surnames". "A History of Surnames" (Ewen 1931), "The Origin of English Surnames" (Reaney 1967), and "A Dictionary of Surnames" (Hanks and Hodges 1988) all tell a slightly different story, that our name comes from the office of keeper of the linen (napery) in a household. The use of the word "le" in the name, as in "Johannes le Naper" could be taken to mean "John the Naperer" if one believes this derivation.

There is no doubt that such an office existed both in the early English and Scottish royal courts. In the Scottish Exchequer Rolls (records of the income and expenditure of the Scottish royal court and household) which exist from 1264 to 1600, payments to persons holding such an office are recorded. In Volume I of the Exchequer Rolls (1264-1359) the index indicates that for "Naperer" one should look up "Mappor" and "Mapper". There are two references, one in 1266 for payment for the guardianship and relief of one "Robert Mappor" (no indication of who or what he was), and in 1392 is reported payment of a legacy of ten shillings from Queen Elizabeth (second wife of Robert the Bruce) to "Willelmo de mappariis" (translated as William Mapper, but could it also be translated as "William of the Linen"?). There is nothing, apart from perhaps the surname and its possible connection to the Latin "mappa", to indicate that either of these persons was connected with the royal linen. It is not until 1492 that a Keeper of the Royal Linen is named, one Alexander Stevenson. Incidentally, one "Johannis Naper, janitoris" (a doorman) who is to be paid ten pounds annually, is named in the same paragraph.

The argument that the name Napier is derived from the office of Keeper of the Linen in a royal or lordly household is really quite convincing. In medieval times, positions at court generally went to nobility and members of noble families, and junior positions would more than likely go to the younger sons and daughters of nobles. A tradition which is carried on even to this day. But if this was the case with regard to the Napiers, why was it necessary to invent another story? Having a position at court, or as a member of the royal household, was something to be proud of and not to be ashamed of and hidden. After all, did not the Royal House of Stewart all start with Walter, who was created Lord High Steward of Scotland, in 1158?

Suppose a son of one of the Earls of Lennox in the 12th century, was given the position of "Napper"

(napkin bearer) or "Keeper of the Linen" in the royal household, it is quite possible that he might call himself "Lennox le Napper", or something similar, which in time could have become just Lennox Naper and eventually just Naper. It is reported that early Napiers did call themselves Lennox alias Napier (see below). It is as good a theory as any other one.

In a way, this would tie in with the other postulated derivation of our name, and the almost undoubted descent of the Napiers from the ancient celtic earldom of Lennox, which is shown heraldically by the close similarity between the Lennox arms and the [Merchiston] Napier arms.

In 1625, Sir Archibald Napier of Merchiston, son of John of Logarithms, and who became the first Lord Napier, presented an affidavit to the College of Heralds in London to confirm that certain Napiers who had moved to England in earlier times, were descended from the same branch of the family as he was, namely the Napiers of Merchiston. A copy of this affidavit was kindly furnished by our Chief, Major the Lord Napier and Ettrick. The affidavit has the following introduction.

"The original certificate was in the hands of Sir Robert Napier of Luton; when his line became extinct it came into the possession of Sir Nathaniel Napier of Crichel in Dorset, and was later burnt in a fire there. Fortunately it had been copied by other members of the Napier family, but there may of course be slight copiest errors; but probably only in Christian names here and there. Its original title on the folder was –

"The genealogy of the noble and ancient earls of Lennox, out of which descended Napier of Merchiston in the realm of Scotland, Sir Robert Napier of Luton Hoo, Co. Bedford, Knt. and Bt., Sir Nathaniel Napier of Middlemarsh Hall, Co. Dorset, Knt. And Bart., Edward Napier of Hollywell, Co. Oxenford and many other families of that name being houses of good repute.

"Know ye that I, Sir Archibald Napier of Merchiston in the Kingdom of Scotland Knt., Deputy Treasurer and one of His Majesty's privy council there. Forasmuch as my entirely beloved kinsmen Sir Robert Napier of Luton Hoo now of the County of Bedford Knt. And Bart., Sir Nathaniel Napier of Middlemarsh Hall, Nicholas Napier of Tintinhull Esq., John and Robert Napier of Puncknowle in the County of Dorset Esquires, being desirous of being confirmed of their pedigree and descent from my house, I have to satisfy their lawful and laudable request herein declared the truth thereof, and the original of our name, as by tradition from father to son we have generally and without doubt received the same - That one of the Ancient Earls of Lennox in Scotland had issue three sons, the eldest Alexander succeeded him in the earldom of Lennox, the second was named Donald, and the third named Gilchrist (he for killing two of the Abbott of Paisley's servants for fishing in the river of Linfren lived outlawed all his lifetime among the hills of Arrochar) his father gave the lands of Kilpatrick to the Abbey for satisfaction of the offence.

"Alexander the then King of Scots having wars did concreate his lieges in the battle, amongst whom he that commanded was the Earl of Lennox (keeping his eldest son at home) sent his second son to serve for him with the forces that were under his command. This battle went hard with the Scots, for the enemy pressing furiously upon them forced them to give ground until at last the fell to flat running away which being perceived by Donald he pulled his father's standard from the bearer thereof and valiantly encountering the foe being well followed by the Earl of Lennox's men, he repulsed the enemy and changed the fortune of the day, whereby a great victory was got. After the battle as the manor is everyone advancing and setting forth his own acts the King said unto them "Ye have all done well but there is one amongst you who hath Na peer," and calling Donald into his presence he commanded him in regard of his worthy service and in augmentation of his honour to

change his name from Lenox to Napier, and gave him the lands of Gosford and lands in Fife and made him his own servant, which discourse is confirmed by sundry of my old evidencies and testimonies wherein we are called Lenox alias Napier. After this the earldom of Lennox for want of heirs male fell to daughters, the eldest thereof was married to Sir Murdoch Menteith of Rosko who was Earl of Lennox during his natural life; the younger was married to Lord Darnley (of whom is descended the King's Majesty by Henry Darnley who married Mary, Queen of Scots and by a younger branch Lord [undecipherable] and Richmond who died in 1614, the Dukes of Lenox and divers other nobles of Scotland). Sir Murdoch Menteith had two daughters the second married to Halden of Glenegis and the first was married to John Napier of Rosko and Merchiston being the son of Sir Alexander Napier of Merchiston Knt. descended from Donald aforesaid. Amongst them was great strife and controversies for the title and honour of Lennox but the revenue was divided among them and I hold some lands to this day in Lenox which came to my ancestors by the same division as also certain lands which did anciently belong to the said Menteith; for he by the laws and customs of the country enjoyed the same for his life, and left the same to descend to Halden of Glenegis; but Napier of Merchiston besides his marriage bore his ancient arms, surname and descent from the house of the Earls of Lenox: the Lord Darnley was in the King's special favour and inclination which being known to Napier of Merchiston being then in the King's service he relinquished his suit and it is said got Blarnivader for that cause. But I do find that he did give his part of the fishing of Leven and the watermouth of Inch Taverock with the patronage of some churches for Blarnivader. And for the further testimony for this affection of the said Napiers of Merchiston the Lord Darnley did in recompense of their relinquishing their claim to the dignity of Lennox, tie himself to support and maintain the said house of Napier and their heirs in all just occasions and engagements as by ancient evidences is manifested and appeareth. The said Sir John Napier of Merchiston and Rosko had issue Archibald who had issue Alexander, James and John. Sir Alexander had issue Sir Alexander and Alexander commonly called Sandy second son. Sir Alexander had issue Sir Archibald, who had issue Sir John and Sir Alexander. Sir John was my father. Alexander alias Sandy, second son to Sir Alexander and brother to Sir Alexander my great grandfather as aforesaid having spent the greater part of his youth in foreign parts came into England and lived in Exeter in the time of King Henry VIII and had issue the aforesaid Sir Robert Napier Knt and Bart, Richard Napier of Linford, now living and diverse other sons and daughters. John the younger son and brother to Sir Alexander aforesaid came into England and first planting himself at Swyre in Dorset had issue Edward Napier of Holywell in Oxford and Swyre, James of Baglake Co. Dorset, and Nicholas of Tintinhull Co. Somerset. The eldest brother Edward of Hollywell had issue William, who had Edward of Oxford, now living, and others. James of Baglake, second son, had issue John, William, and Sir Robert. John had issue James of Baglake who had issue James of Waymouth and Melcombe Regis now living and merchant adventurers. William Napier of Puncknowle second son of James of Baglake had John and Robert now living. The third son Sir Robert Napier of Middlemarsh Hall sometime chief Baron had Sir Nathaniel Napier now living. John son of William of Puncknowle hath issue Henry, and Robert son of same William has issue William, Andrew, Robert, Edward, John, Arundel, Ann and Catherine.

"These things being found by me as aforesaid causeth me out of the natural affection and love which I bear to my loving Cousins Sir Robert Napier Knt. And Bart., Sir Nathaniel Napier Knt. And Robert Napier Esqre and the rest of my said kindred in England to testify and give all allowance to them to bear my arms supporters and crest with their due differences as their lawful right and ancient inheritance and as the same are depicted in the margin; and do hereby acknowledge them to be kinsmen of my blood and branched from my house according to due proof as is above declared. In witness whereof I have hereby set my hand and seal of arms. Dated the 1st day of June A.D. 1625.

Signed

Archibald Napier of Merchiston."

There is one more piece of evidence to support the "Nae Peer" derivation. That is the Great Vowel Shift which occurred in the English Language in the 15th and 16th centuries. This was prepared by Lt. Col. (now Brig. Gen.) John H Napier III, Lieutenant to the Chief, Clan Napier in North America, and presented in the Spring 1997 issue of the newsletter of that society (Sans Tache)

To quote The Encyclopedia Britannica (1955 Edition, Volume 8, page 562) "The most important change distinguishing the pronunciation of modern from Middle English is the Great Vowel Shift which took place in the 15th and 16th centuries and modified the entire vowel harmony of the language". There seems to be no one explanation for why it occurred, but it may help to explain the change in the spelling of our name, beginning in the 16th century, from Naper to Napier.

*A few years ago I [JHN III] got into an epistolary argument with a California bookseller specializing in Scottish titles, who, for some unknown reason took strong exception to our "Lennox Legend" - "Tha hast nae peer". He insisted that because our ancestor, the first John Napier of Kilmahew, was listed in the Ragman Roll of 1296 in French as "Johan le Naper", the article "le", or "the", proved that he was the Naperer (but note the extra syllable "-er") or keeper of the royal linen. I tried to refute his argument by getting copies of all early documents mentioning the Napiers. Many were in Latin ("Johanne Naper") which was no help since there is no article in Latin grammar! However, the first citation I saw in English (c. 1343) listed "Duncan Naper" **without the article "the"**. The only other references with "le" were in French in 1304 and 1305, when the first John Napier of Kilmahew was listed as one of the heroic defenders of Stirling Castle, taken prisoner to London and fined three years' rent of his estates.*

*My collection evolved into a **Source List** that Charlie Napier of Morningside, Edinburgh, and I compiled and sent to leading depositories in the UK and USA that already hold my book **Dr Patrick Napier; His Ancestors and Some Descendants**, as a supplement to it. In Appendix II [of the Source List] Charlie mulled over the different spellings of our name and found the first insertion of the letter "i" in a document of 5 September 1531 ("honorabile viro Joanni Napeir de Kilmahew"). In about 1620 began the modern accepted spelling of "Napier". Charlie couldn't account for the change, but recently in re-reading his speculations, I remembered suddenly The Great Vowel Shift and began more research. All the sounds of English vowels and diphthongs changed. Of particular interest to us is that medieval "close |o" was long, rather than short as is the single "e" ("eh") or unvocalized ("uh") today. To preserve its value, the "close |o" had to be re-spelled as "ee", as in "see" and "keen", or "ie", due partly to the French influence, as in "field" or Napier! So, medieval "Naper" and modern "Napier" sounded exactly the same!*

Remember that there was no standardized spelling (or orthography) in English until Dr Samuel Johnson's dictionary in Great Britain in 1755 and Noah Webster's American dictionary in 1828. John Napier of logarithms fame (1515-1617), "Marvellous Merchiston", wrote his name with perfect indifference as Nepair, Naipper, Naper, Napper, Napeir, and Napare. Significantly, as his fame spread to Europe after publication of his Playne Discovery of the Whole Revelation of St John in 1594. 20 years before his Logarithms, German scientists and divines referred to him as "a Scottish gentleman named 'Peerless'", and on the title page of the French translation he is called "Jean Napeir (NOMPAREIL), Sieur de Merchiston".

Let's give our favorite family author, Priscilla Napier, the last word: "If the Napiers were Naperers,

why should they have pretended otherwise, in an age of vain glory, when personal attendance on a king was the sure way to fame and fortune? Who can know the truth? But as long as any of them could remember the Napiers have been Ne parium, Ne par, Unequaled....". *Well put!*

Well, there are the two stories about the derivation of our name. "You pays your money and takes your choice." At the end of the day does it really matter what the derivation of our name was. What matters, surely, is the friendship and fellowship that comes from being able to say that we who bear the name Napier, or are descended from a Napier, belong to the great, extended, world-wide family of Napier. The Clan Napier is not the biggest of the Scottish clans, but it has produced a lot of notable people and we can be justifiably proud of belonging to it.

A word of warning. Beware of mistakes in books. Do not believe everything you read. Some weird and wonderful stories have appeared in print about the derivation of our name. Clifford Stanley Sims, in his book "Origin and Signification of Scottish Surnames" (Albany, NY, 1862) quotes more or less the same story as Sir Archibald except that the king is David II, the year is 1344, and the lands granted to Duncan Na Peer were Gosfield in Fife. All wrong of course! Hanks and Hodges in "A Dictionary of Scottish Surnames" (OUP 1988) state that "An extensive Scottish family called Napier, who once held the earldom of Lennox,.....". Wrong again! David Dorward in his pocket reference book "Scottish Surnames" (Harper Collins, 1995) states "The Napiers were at one time earls of Lennox" (wrong!) and then "a famous branch of the family produced John Napier (1550-1617) the mathematician and engineer who invented logarithms" (correct!) followed by "Another branch became Lords of Napier and Ettrick in 1627 with their seat at Thirlestane Castle." Wrong, wrong, wrong !!! The second edition of the Penguin Dictionary of Surnames (Basil Cottle) says "A family motto is N'a pier 'has no equal'". We know better however. To borrow a phrase from that well known American TV series, Hill Street Blues, "Let's be careful out there" especially when we get into the minefield of historical research.

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THE NAPIERS OF KILMAHEW

The first known documented reference to a Napier in Scotland is in two charters of Malcolm, Earl of Lennox, who lived at the end of the 13th century. This was John Napier, who was granted, by one of the charters, - "all that quarter lands called Kilmahew lying between Muydugwen and Archerreran." The full extent of these lands cannot be determined exactly at this time, but a "quarter-land" was usually a quarter of the area which could be tilled by an eight-oxen plough in a year, usually taken to be 104 Scots acres, thus a "quarter-land" was about 26 Scots acres (32.5 Imperial acres or 13.26 hectares). The ruins of Kilmahew Castle still stand on the north side of the present village of Cardross, which is four miles from Dumbarton on the Helensburgh road. Dumbarton itself lies 14 miles to the north-west of Glasgow. This John Napier was probably also the person listed in an Inhibition by Robert, Bishop of Glasgow, directed at Malcolm, Earl of Lennox, and his adherents, dated 24 August 1294. The present-day Cardross should not be confused with the Cardross where King Robert I (the Bruce) died in 1329, which is actually where the suburbs of Dumbarton, Castlehill and Kirktonhill, are today.

Kilmahew takes its name from St Mahew (or Mochta), a companion of St Patrick, who has been adopted as the patron saint of Cardross. A small chapel has existed there, on a piece of land known as Kirkton of Kilmahew, since earliest Christian times. By the mid-15th century the chapel must have been in ruins because it is recorded that it was rebuilt in 1467 by the then Laird of Kilmahew, Duncan Napier, and rededicated on the Sunday after the Ascension of that year by George Lauder, Bishop of Argyll and the Isles. The chapel was not used after the Reformation and again fell into disuse. It was repaired and refurbished in 1955 and reopened and rededicated by Archbishop Donald Campbell of Glasgow (who was formerly Bishop of Argyll and the Isles), again on the Sunday after the Ascension. On that same Sunday in 1997, Colonel John Hawkins Napier III, of Montgomery, Alabama, USA, a direct descendant of Duncan Napier, took part in a service in the chapel to commemorate the 530th anniversary of the original rededication. Colonel John is the Lieutenant to the Chief, ie the head, of the Clan Napier in North America

The 13th century John Napier was probably the person referred to as "*Johan le Naper del Counte de Dunbretan*" in the "Ragman Rolls", the document which records all the Scotsmen who were forced to swear homage to King Edward I of England between the years 1291 and 1296. As well as John Napier of Kilmahew, two other Napiers signed the "Ragman Rolls", "*Matheu le Naper de Aghalek (del Counte de Forfare)*" and "*Johane le Naper ---(tenant le Roi du Counte de Pebbles)*". This shows that there were other Napier families in Scotland at the end of the 13th century. So far, nobody has shown that they were related to the Kilmahew Napiers. In fact, nothing is known about these other families at this time.

The above John Napier of Kilmahew is probably the same person who is listed as being one of the 26 defenders of Stirling Castle who was forced to surrender to King Edward I of England in 1304, and who is listed as a prisoner in Shrewsbury Castle from 23 August 1304 to Michaelmas 1305, and to whom the King ordered William de Bevercotes, Edward's Chancellor of Scotland, to return his lands on 10 October 1305.

There were 18 Lairds of Kilmahew until the last heir sold the last of the estate in 1820, diminished by having to be sold off to pay gambling and other debts incurred by profligate predecessors. The father of the last Laird emigrated to Virginia, USA. There were Napiers still living in Cardross in the latter

half of the 20th century.

The Kilmahew Napiers produced some very eminent men in the field of marine engineering during the 19th century. The most eminent, and probably the most successful, was probably Robert Napier (1791-1876). Called "The Father of Clyde Shipbuilding", he developed a new steam engine for ships which was so successful that between the years of 1840 and 1865, his firm furnished the entire Cunard fleet with engines. He was partnered in his business by his cousin, David Napier, also an eminent marine engineer.

The Kilmahew Napiers also produced the ancestor of most of the Napiers presently in the USA. Mungo Napier (c1579-c1633), a Burgess of Dumbarton, went to London c1603. His son, Patrick, became barber (and chirurgion) to King Charles I, and Patrick's son, also called Patrick, was an apprentice to Dr Alexander Pennycuik, surgeon-general to the Scottish Army crushed by Cromwell at the Battle of Dunbar in 1650. Although it is not known how Dr Patrick Napier got to America, he was there probably about 1651, but certainly before 1658, practising medicine, together with his brother Valentine. However it is from Dr Patrick that most of the American Napiers are descended. Patrick was not the first Napier to go to the "Colonies". The first was probably George Napier, of Oxford, England, who was from a branch of the Merchiston Napiers who had gone down to England in Tudor times.

There are two other branches of the Napier family in Scotland about which something is known, these are the Napiers of Wrychtishousis (Wrightshouses) and the Napiers of Merchiston, both in Edinburgh.

SUMMARY OF THE DESCENT OF THE KILMAHEW NAPIERS TO DR PATRICK NAPIER OF VIRGINIA

This information is taken from Col John H Napier III's book "*Dr Patrick Napier of Virginia. His Ancestors and Some Descendants*" to which reference should be made for fuller details. Apart from the first two names on the list, whose relationship to each other is not absolutely certain, it can be taken that a named person is the father of the person below him in the list (Note: fl = flourished, ie is known to be alive at that time). It should be noted that the modern spelling of the name Napier is used here. In fact, the name was spelt a number of different ways in the documents of the time, up until the 17th Century, when the modern spelling became more or less universal. The more common variations include Napar, Naper, Napere, Neper, and Nepeir.

John le Nae-Peer	pre 1300
Donald le Nae-Peer	pre 1300
John Napier of Kilmahew	fl 1280 - 1304
John Napier of Kilmahew	fl 1333
Duncan Napier of Kilmahew	pre 1400
John Napier of Kilmahew	fl 1407
John Napier of Kilmahew	fl 1441
Duncan Napier of Kilmahew	fl 1462
Robert Napier of Kilmahew	fl 1497
John Napier of Kilmahew	c1500 - 1548
Patrick Napier of Blackyards	1536 - 1585
Mungo Napier, Burgess of Dumbarton - went to London c1603	c1579 - c1633
Patrick Napier, Barber to King Charles I	c1608 - 1659
Patrick Napier, Chirurgion	

Patrick Napier, Chirurgeon
- went to Virginia before 1658

c1634 - 1669

Although there is some circumstantial evidence to indicate that the Merchiston Napiers are descended from the Kilmahew Napiers, it cannot be proved at this time. There is also another branch of the Napiers, the Napiers of Wrychtshouses (or Wrightshouses) in Edinburgh. Again there is some evidence to indicate that the Wrychtshouses Napiers are also descended from the Kilmahew Napiers, but nothing definite has been proved yet. A Merchiston Napier daughter married a Wrychtshouses Napier in 1513 which might suggest that there might not have been too close a relationship between the two families, although it was not uncommon for first cousins to marry each other. (The Wrychtshouses line seems to have died out in the 18/19th century).

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A NAPIER BIBLIOGRAPHY

This is a list of books which contain information about the Napier family. Unfortunately, most of the books are out of print, but can be obtained quite often from second-hand or antiquarian book dealers, some more easily than others. No claim is made that this list is complete. The titles of other books, and other sources of information, are known by the compiler but not all the bibliographic details. When these details are known, the books will be added to the list. Information about books or other publications related to the Napier family would be welcome. For those who live within reach of Edinburgh, the large majority of the books can be consulted in The National Library of Scotland, or the Scottish or Edinburgh Rooms of the Edinburgh Public Library, both in George IV Bridge, Edinburgh. The British Library in London also contains many of the books. Any information about sources in other parts of the world would be greatly appreciated. The books are listed in chronological order, by date of publication.

An Account of the Life, Writings, and Inventions of John Napier of Merchiston.

David Stewart, Earl of Buchan, and Walter Minto LL.D., R Morison and Son, Perth, 1787.

About 90% of the contents deals with the inventions, eg logarithms. The book does state, erroneously, that John Napier was buried in the High Kirk of St Giles in Edinburgh. He was actually buried in the Churchyard of St Cuthbert's Church (The West Kirk) in Edinburgh.

Memoirs of Archibald, First Lord Napier: Written by Himself.

Archibald, First Lord Napier. Published from the original manuscript in the possession of the present Lord Napier (Francis the 8th), Edinburgh, 1793.

Archibald, first Lord Napier, was the only son of John Napier, of logarithms, and his first wife, Elizabeth Stirling. He served King James VI and went with him to London in 1603. He served both King James and King Charles II. He was created a Peer, with the title of Lord Napier of Merchistoun, in 1627. He was appointed Treasurer Depute of Scotland by King James and continued in that position under King Charles. He was accused (falsely) of financial impropriety and this is his defence against the charges.

Memoirs of the most renowned James Graham, Marquis of Montrose.

Translated from the Latin of The Rev. Dr. George Wishart, afterwards Bishop (Episcopalian) of Edinburgh. Archibald Constable & Co., Edinburgh, 1819.

George Wishart spent some time as Chaplain to Montrose during his time on the Continent. He first published his Memoirs of Montrose in Latin in 1647. It was also published in English later the same year. It was not until 1720 that a translation of the Second Part, containing descriptions of the execution of Montrose in 1650 and his State Funeral in 1661. Archibald, first Lord Napier, married Montrose's sister, Margaret Graham. Archibald and his son were great supporters of Montrose. This book is a good source of information about these Napiers and their experiences with Montrose.

A General Description of the Shire of Renfrew, including an account of the Noble and Ancient Families, who, from earliest times, have had property in that county.

George Robertson, Editor. Smith, Glasgow; Constable, Edinburgh; and Fenner, London, 1818.

A compilation of information collected from earlier published and unpublished sources. Contains many engravings and a copy of the map of the county published by Blaeu in 1654. It also contains a genealogical history of the Royal House of Stewart, originally published in 1710 by George Crawford, and updated by the Editor. Of Napier interest is the brief family history of the Milliken Napiers, descended from Robert son of John Napier of Merchiston (inventor of logarithms), and also of the Napiers of Blackstoun, who are descended from Adam, a younger brother of Robert.

Memoirs of John Napier of Merchiston, his Lineage, Life, and Times, with a History of the invention of Logarithms.

Mark Napier, William Blackwood, Edinburgh, Thomas Cadell, London, 1834.

Mark Napier was a great-grandson of Francis, sixth Lord Napier. He was a Barrister and Sheriff of Dumfries and Galloway. He had access to the papers and charters of Lord Napier. This is probably the most authoritative and definitive description of the life of John Napier. It contains an excellent commentary on the derivation of the name and arms of Napier. A must for any serious student of the Napier family. Very difficult to get.

History of the Partition of the Lennox.

Mark Napier, William Blackwood & Sons, Edinburgh and Thomas Cadell, London, 1835.

Who is the Representative of Duncan, eighth and last of the ancient Earls of "the Levenax"? The Levenax is the old name for the Lennox, that area around the southern end of Loch Lomond. This is Mark Napier's argument about who should have inherited the title and lands. It involves the Napiers, the Haldanes of Gleneagles, and the Stewarts of Darnley. It also contains Mark Napier's "Vindication of the Antiquities of Merchiston and Thirlestane".

De Arte Logistica.

Joannis Naperi, Merchistonii Baronis.

This book is the publication of a previously unpublished manuscript, in Latin, by John Napier. The introduction by Mark Napier and the book was published by The Bannatyne Club in Edinburgh in 1839. The main part of this book, written in Latin, is called "The Baron of Merchiston, His Booke of Arithmeticke and Algebra". This is a collection of John Napier's mathematical investigations over the years. Although probably only of interest to mathematicians, the book is worth reading for the Introduction (94 pages). Unfortunately, only 101 copies were reprinted so it is very difficult to obtain.

Genealogical Notices of the Napiers of Kilmahew in Dumbartonshire.

Robert Kerr, printed by John Carfrae Malcolm, Glasgow, 1849.

The title is self-explanatory. A most useful book when researching this family. Unfortunately, only fifty copies were printed for private circulation, so very difficult to get.

English Battles and Sieges in the Peninsula.

Lieutenant-General Sir William Napier, KCB, etc, etc. John Murray, London, 1855.

William was the third son of Col. George Napier and Lady Sarah Lennox. He was the third General in the family; his elder brothers Charles and George were the others. William wrote a comprehensive history of the Iberian Peninsula War fought against the French. This is an extract from that larger work.

Memoirs of the Marquis of Montrose, 1612-1650 (Two Volumes).

Mark Napier, Thomas G Stevenson, Edinburgh, 1856.

This is the story of the life of Montrose, and thus contains much more information, especially about the early days, than is contained in Wishart's Memoirs. Mark Napier also had access to papers in the Napier and Montrose charter-chests which had only been partly published or referred to in previous publications by him (Montrose and the Covenanters in 1838 and Life and Times of Montrose in 1840). Probably the most definitive source of information about the intertwining of the Napier and Graham families.

The Life and Opinions of General Sir Charles James Napier, GCB.

Lieutenant-General Sir W Napier, KCB etc, etc. John Murray, London 1857. Four Volumes.

Charles Napier was the eldest son of Col. George Napier and Lady Sarah Lennox. He was one of the most outstanding military leaders in the British Army of the 19th century. This book was written by his younger brother, William, who himself had an outstanding military career.

Memorials and Letters illustrative of the Life and Times of John Graham of Claverhouse, Viscount Dundee (Three Volumes).

Mark Napier, Thomas G Stevenson, Edinburgh, 1862.

Thorough history of the life of John Graham of Claverhouse, who was related to the first Marquis of Montrose. Claverhouse was born in 1643, created Viscount Dundee in 1688, and died after being wounded at the Battle of Killiecrankie in 1689. Contains references to the first Lord Napier, the third Lord Napier, the ninth Lord Napier and Margaret, Baroness Napier, as well as Montrose.

Border Memories (or Sketches of prominent Men and Women of the Borders).

Walter Riddell Carre (Edited by James Tait), James Thin, South Bridge, Edinburgh, 1876.

Histories of the Douglas Family, the Scott Family, the Ker Family, the Elliot Family, the House of Riddell, Eminent Roxburgh Men, Eminent Selkirkshire Men, Miscellaneous Celebrities, and Peculiar Celebrities. Members of the Napier Family are contained in the chapter "Eminent Selkirkshire Men". They are: John Napier (of Logarithms) Sir Charles James Napier (born 1732), General Sir William Francis Patrick Napier (brother of Sir Charles), Admiral Sir Charles Napier (cousin of the previous two persons), William John (tenth) Lord Napier, Sir Archibald (first) Lord Napier, and Sir Alexander Napier (uncle to the first Lord Napier).

Old Cardross, A Lecture.

David Murray, James Maclehose, Glasgow, 1880.

Kilmahew, the ancestral home of the first recorded Napiers in Scotland, is in the parish of Cardross, which lies just to the north of Dumbarton. This book contains quite a few references to the Napiers of that area.

The History of Stirlingshire (Two Volumes).

William Nimmo, Thomas D Morison, Glasgow, and Hamilton, Adams & Co., London, 1880.

As the title says, a history of Stirlingshire covering all aspects of its life, including the people. Contains quite a few references to Napiers who lived, at one time or another, in the county. John Napier (of logarithms) at Gartness (Drymen), John Napier of Ballikinrain, Admiral Sir Charles Napier (Black Charlie - see below), and his father Charles Napier of Merchiston Hall, Falkirk and others.

The Book of Scotsmen (eminent for achievements in arms and art, church and state, law, legislation and literature, commerce, travel, and philanthropy).

Compiled and arranged by Joseph Irving, Alexander Gardner, Paisley, 1881.

Although called the "Book of Scotsmen" on the title page, on the spine it is called "The Book of Eminent Scotsmen" and inside, at the top of each page, it is entitled "Dictionary of Eminent Scotsmen". It contains brief biographies, with birth and death dates, of the following: John Napier (of logarithms), his son Alexander (first Lord Napier), Francis (fifth Lord Napier), Francis (seventh Lord Napier), William (eighth Lord Napier), Francis (ninth Lord Napier and first Baron Ettrick), Admiral Sir Charles Napier (Black Charlie - see below), General Sir Charles Napier of Scinde (see below), McVey Napier (lawyer and writer), Mark Napier (lawyer and writer), David Napier (marine engineer), Robert Napier (marine engineer, cousin of David), and Rev. Peter Napier (brother of Robert).

A Historical Account of the Beliefs of Witchcraft in Scotland.

Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe, Thomas D Morison, Glasgow, 1884.

Reference to the trial of Barbara Napier in 1591 as a witch who was accused of plotting, with other witches, to kill the King (James VI). Also mentioned is "the sagacious inventor of logarithms" who was supposed to use magic to find treasure (at Fast Castle - see below) and to have a black cockerel as a familiar. He is identified here as Sir Archibald Napier, but this is clearly a mistake and should be John Napier, Archibald's father. Also mentioned is Sir Richard Napier, a doctor in London in the reign of Charles I, who foresaw his own death.

Life of General Sir Charles Napier, GCB.

William Napier Bruce. John Murray, London 1885.

Based on Sir William Napier's four volume work on his brother's life, this is an abbreviated version, written because the original "... is far too long to obtain the durable popularity which the reputation of the writer and the interest of the subject deserved. The author also had access to later material which William did not. He also had conversations with General Sir M M'Murdo, Charles' son-in-law, who served on Charles' staff in India, and also Sir Bartle Freer, who "ruled" Scinde for seven years.

Early Military Life of General Sir George Napier.

General W C E Napier, Editor. John Murray, London, 1886.

A book about the early life of the third of three General sons of Col. George Napier and Lady Sarah Lennox. Compiled and edited by his son General William Craig Emilius Napier. Contains a portrait of George.

The Construction of the Wonderful Canon of Logarithms.

John Napier, Baron of Merchiston. Translated from the Latin into English with Note and a

Catalogue of the various editions of Napier's works, by William Rae Macdonald, FFA. William Blackwood and Sons, Edinburgh and London, 1889.

The content of this book is really described by the above. The printing and the form of the book follow the original edition of 1619 as closely as a translation will allow, and the head and tail pieces are in exact facsimile. To this is added a Catalogue of the various editions of Napier's works.

Sir Charles Napier.

Colonel Sir William F Butler, Macmillan and Co., London and New York, 1890.

The life of General Sir Charles James Napier, eldest son of Col George Napier and Lady Sarah Lennox. This book, written by a military man, not surprisingly concentrates on the military life of Sir Charles. A great soldier whose greatness was recognised by the British public when a statue of him was erected in Trafalgar Square, London. On the pedestal of the statue a plaque reads "Erected by Public Subscription, the most numerous Contributors being Private Soldiers".

The Memoirs of James, Marquis of Montrose, 1639-1650.

Rev. George Wishart DD (Bishop of Edinburgh 1662-1671), translated with an Introduction, Notes, Appendices and the Original Latin (Part II now first published) by Rev. Alexander D Murdoch and H F Morland Simpson. Longmans, Green & Co., London and New York, 1893.

A later edition of the work noted above (1819). It contains the same information but the original Latin text of Part II is included. Additional appendices and notes also included.

Reminiscences of Yarrow.

James Russell, DD, Minister of Yarrow, George Lewis & Son, Selkirk, 1894.

The memoirs of the Minister of Yarrow Church with tales of the district and the local people. This included the home of the Napiers (Thirlestane House) in the Ettrick Valley. Stories about the then Lord Napier and Ettrick (Francis, tenth Lord Napier), and also the Napiers of Merchiston Hall, near Falkirk Admiral Sir Charles Napier - Black Charlie - and his family. Good anecdotal material.

Strathendrick and its Inhabitants from Early Times.

John Guthrie Smith FSA Scot., James Maclehose, Glasgow 1896.

This is an account of the parishes of Fintry, Balfour, Killearn, Drymen, Buchanan, and Kilmarnock. It contains many references to the Napiers of Merchiston, Kilmahew, Edinbellie, Culcreuch, Ballikinrain, Blackston, Easter Torrie, Gillets, Inglisoun, Ardmore, Ballacharne, Bowhopple, Craignannet, and Greenhill. In all 103 different Napiers are mentioned! An essential source for researches into the Napier family.

The Life and Letters of Lady Sarah Lennox, 1745-1826 (Two Volumes).

Edited by The Countess of Ilchester and Lord Stavordale, John Murray, London, 1901.

Lady Sarah Lennox was the fourth daughter of the second Duke of Lennox, and thus a great-grand-daughter of King Charles II. After an eventful youth and first marriage, she married, as her second husband, Colonel George Napier, the fifth son of Francis, sixth Lord Napier, and his second wife. They lived in Ireland and had five sons and three daughters. The five sons rose to eminence in their chosen fields. Three became generals and fought in the Peninsular War, one became a Captain in the Royal Navy and also became the first historian of Medieval Florence, and the fifth became a Fellow of All Souls and a notable scholar.

Merchiston Castle and John Napier.

George Smith MA. Headmaster of Merchiston Castle School 1889-1914. Reprinted from "The Merchistonian (the magazine of Merchiston Castle School) of 1912-13.

A 14-page booklet which contains a description of Merchiston Castle (or Tower or House as it is called at times) - the ancestral home of the Napiers of Merchiston, and also a brief history of the life of John Napier, inventor of logarithms, who was born in the Tower in 1550. Contains a plan of the Castle, reproductions of three engravings of the Castle at different times, two interior installations, and two portraits of John Napier. (NB. This article is also published in "Merchiston Castle School Register, 1833-1929" published by H & J Pillans & Wilson, Edinburgh, 1930).

Napier Tercentenary Volume.

Edited by Cargill Gilston Knott. Published for the Royal Society of Edinburgh by Longmans, Green and Company, London and New York, 1915.

This is a collection of articles (addresses and essays) communicated to the International Congress which met in Edinburgh towards the end of July 1914 to commemorate the tercentenary of the publication of John Napier's "Mirifici Logarithmorum Canonis Descriptio". They are almost entirely concerned with logarithms and other related mathematical topics. It does contain the "Merchistonian" article on Merchiston Castle (see above).

History of Dumbartonshire (Revised) in Three Volumes.

John Irving, Bennett and Thomson, Dumbarton, Vol. I 1917, Vol. II 1920, Vol. III 1924.

Volume I - Dumbarton Castle, its place in the general history of Scotland.

Volume II - County and Burgh, from the earliest time to the close of the 18th century.

Vol. III - County and Burgh, from the beginning of the 19th century to the present time.

Many references throughout to the Napiers of Kilmahew and later Napiers connected with the shipbuilding industry. One of the most useful books for information about the Dumbartonshire area and its families.

A History of the Napiers of Merchiston shewing their descent from the Earls of Lennox of Auld and their marriage into the family of the Scotts of Thirlestane.

No author named, privately printed by J & E Bumpus Ltd., London 1921.

This is a compilation of information from many different sources, and therefore repeats a lot of what has gone before. It is a very useful collection. There is only one problem with this book, Francis Scott, who became Lord Napier after the death of his grandmother, Baroness Napier, in 1706, is referred to as the Fifth Lord Napier. Modern accounting, and all other references, refers to him as the sixth Lord Napier (he was the sixth holder of the title). Subsequent holders of the title are therefore one out with other reckonings. Although no author is stated the present Lord Napier (14th Napier and 5th Ettrick) says that it was compiled by Archibald Scott Napier, a son of the second son of William John, Ninth Lord Napier. Despite the accounting, a very useful reference book. Quite difficult to find because of limited number printed.

Some Notes on the Napiers of Merchistoun and on the Scotts of Thirlestane.

Francis, 12th Lord Napier and 3rd Baron Ettrick, 9th Baronet of Thirlestane. 150 copies printed by the author for private circulation only by R & R Clark, Edinburgh, no date (?1921).

As the title suggests, this only deals with the Napiers of Merchistoun (or Merchiston as it is more commonly known) and the joining of the Napiers and the Scotts of Thirlestane. Quite difficult to find because of limited number printed.

Lauriston Castle.

John A Fairley, Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh and London, 1925.

This is a history of Lauriston Castle, Edinburgh, and its owners. It was a Napier home from about 1580 to 1622.

Montrose.

John Buchan, Thomas Nelson and Sons Ltd., Edinburgh 1928. (A facsimile edition was printed by James Thin, Mercat Press, Edinburgh in 1971).

Another biography of Montrose but this time told by a famous 20th century story-teller. Contains the usual references to the connections between the Napier and Graham families. No illustrations.

Lady Sarah Lennox, an irrepressible Stuart, 1745-1826.

Edith Roelker Curtis, W H Allen, London, no date but after 1939.

Lady Sarah Lennox was the fourth daughter of the second Duke of Lennox, and thus a great-grand-daughter of King Charles II. After an eventful youth and first marriage, she married, as her second husband, Colonel George Napier, the fifth son of Francis, sixth Lord Napier, and his second wife. They lived in Ireland and had five sons and three daughters. The five sons rose to eminence in their chosen fields. Three became Generals and fought in the Peninsular War, one became a Captain in the Royal Navy and also became the first historian of Medieval Florence, and the fifth became a Fellow of All Souls and a notable scholar.

Charles Napier, Friend and Fighter, 1782-1853.

Rosamond Lawrence, John Murray, London, 1952.

The life of General Sir Charles Napier, eldest son of Colonel George Napier and Lady Sarah Lennox. Contains photographs of portraits of Colonel George, Lady Sarah, Charles and his brother William.

The Chapel of St Mahew, Cardross.

No author but published by the Glasgow Archdiocese of the Catholic Church in 1955.

The Chapel of St Mayhew sits on a piece of land known as the Kirkton of Kilmahew. A chapel existed on the site before the 14th century. The land on which it stood came into the possession of the Napiers of Kilmahew in 1357 and the family maintained the chapel. Duncan Napier, Laird of Kilmahew, rebuilt the chapel in 1467 and it was this building that was restored in 1955. This tiny booklet (20 A6 pages) tells the story of the chapel. It contains a map of the area showing the position of the chapel in relation to the other medieval churches in the area and also a ground plan of the chapel.

The Book of the Old Edinburgh Club, Volume XXXI, The Tower of Merchiston.

Helen Armet and Stuart Harris, The Old Edinburgh Club, 1962.

A history and architectural description of the Tower together with information about its restoration. Contains plans and reproductions of old prints. This article was written in 1961 as an interim report, midway through a six-year restoration programme. The Tower became the centre-piece of the newly created Napier Technical College, which has now become Napier University.

The Book of the Old Edinburgh Club, Volume XXXIII, Part 1, the Tower of Merchiston - A Supplementary Report.

Stuart Harris, The Old Edinburgh Club, 1969.

The restoration of Merchiston Tower was completed in 1964. This article supplements the original article (Volume XXXI, 1962), amending and amplifying the original report. Contains further photographs and a plan.

Merchiston Tower, Edinburgh.

Author unknown, Napier Polytechnic of Edinburgh, no date but thought to be about 1970.

A small (A5) leaflet produced by Napier Polytechnic (as it had become by 1970) describing the Tower plus a brief history of John Napier (of Logarithms). Contains some monochrome reproductions of views of the exterior of the Tower, and colour photographs of the interior.

Gold at Wolf's Crag? An Enquiry into the Treasure at Fast Castle.

Fred Douglas, Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh, 1971.

In July 1594, John Napier of Merchiston, inventor of Logarithms, met with Robert Logan, Laird of Restalrig, and agreed a contract (a "contract of magic") with him to try to find the treasure believed to be hidden at Faux Castle or Fast Castle as it is now known) on the east coast of Scotland, between Coldingham and St Abb's Head. This involves Crusader gold, the search for the Holy Grail, Knights Templar, King James VI of Scotland, the Earl of Gowrie, and many others of that period. The contract still exists and a photograph of it is contained in the book.

The Sword Dance. Lady Sarah Lennox and the Napiers.

Priscilla Napier, Michael Joseph Ltd., London, 1972.

Lady Sarah Lennox was the fourth daughter of the second Duke of Lennox, and thus a great-grand-daughter of King Charles II. After an eventful youth and first marriage, she married, as her second husband, Colonel George Napier, the fifth son of Francis, sixth Lord Napier, and his second wife. They lived in Ireland and had five sons and three daughters. The five sons rose to eminence in their chosen fields. Three became generals and fought in the Peninsular War, one became a Captain in the Royal Navy and also became the first historian of Medieval Florence, and the fifth became a Fellow of All Souls and a notable scholar. This is the first book about the Napier family published by Priscilla Napier, the most prolific writer on the Napier Family. This book tells the story of Lady Sarah, her marriage to Colonel George ("Donny") and their family. Contains simplified family trees (no dates) of the Lennox and Napier families.

A Difficult Country. The Napiers in Scotland.

Priscilla Napier, Michael Joseph Ltd., London 1972.

The second book about the Napier family published by Priscilla Napier. It is divided into five parts: I - The Lennox Fountainhead; II - Merchiston and the Five King Jameses; III - Logarithms John; IV - Montrose and two Archies; V -

Survivors of the Volcano: Scotland and England. Also contains simplified family trees (nōdates) of the Royal Family of Scotland and the United Kingdom, and of the Napier family.

Revolution and the Napier Brothers, 1820 - 1840.

Priscilla Napier, Michael Joseph Ltd., London, 1973.

The third book about the Napier family published by Priscilla Napier. It tells the story of the four Napier brother Charles, William, George and Henry, sons of Col. George Napier and Lady Sarah Lennox, during the times of evolution and social upheaval in Europe, and especially in England. Contains an early portrait of Charles plus a family tree of George and Lady Sarah's children and their descendants.

Lauriston Castle.

Text by Ann Martha Rowan, photographs by Bill Banks, ABC Historic Publications, Dunstable, Bedfordshire, 1974.

An illustrated guidebook to the castle with colour photographs, plan of present day house, architectural history and brief history of the owners (Napiers c1580 to 1622).

Montrose, Cavalier in Mourning.

Ronald Williams, Barrie & Jenkins, Communica - Europa, no date but after 1974.

A modern biography of Montrose with references to Archibald, first Lord Napier, and his son. Useful for a modern view of the subject. Contains photographic reproductions of portraits of the main characters.

Thomas Napier. The Scottish Connection.

Alan G Bates, The Early American Industries Association Inc. and The Midwest Tool Collectors Association, 1986.

Born in 1747 in the Glasgow area, Thomas Napier became a tool maker while serving as an indentured apprentice in the woodworking trade. He set up in business in Edinburgh in 1769 when he married. Towards the end of 1774 he and his wife sailed from Greenock to Philadelphia where he set up business as a plane maker. This booklet (30 pages) is his story, somewhat briefly told but fascinating nevertheless. It contains photographs of some of Thomas's existing planes as well as reproductions of some documents.

Lennox Lore.

I M M MacPhail, Dumbarton Public Libraries, 1987.

This book is mainly a collection of articles which were published in newspapers and magazines between about 1967 and 1987. They are concerned with families, trade, industries, and history of the Lennox area. One chapter is dedicated to Robert Napier of Shandon, the 19th century marine engineer.

Warship Building on the Clyde. Naval Orders and the Prosperity of the Clyde Shipbuilding Industry, 1889 - 1939.

Hugh B Peebles. John Donald Ltd., Edinburgh, 1987.

Of particular interest is the many references to Robert Napier (of West Shandon), "The Father of Clyde Shipbuilding", and his cousin and brother-in-law, David Napier, who were instrumental in starting the great shipbuilding tradition on the Clyde.

Dr Patrick Napier of Virginia and Related Families.

Vava Knepp and Harry Hollingsworth. Privately printed by the authors, Santa Monica, California, USA, 1988.

This book traces the descendants of Dr Patrick Napier (son of the barber to King Charles I, who was in America prior to 1655) of the surname Napier, but also of other related families descended through female Napiers. It does not try to establish the British ancestors of Patrick Napier (for this see Dr Patrick Napier by Lt. Col. John H Napier III below).

Flesh and Bones.

Francis Shennan, Napier Polytechnic of Edinburgh, 1989.

The life, work, and legacies of the great Scot, John Napier, inventor of Logarithms. Contains some interesting photographs of Merchiston Tower, before, during, and after restoration.

I Have Sind. Charles Napier in India 1841-1844.

Priscilla Napier, Michael Russell (Publishing) Ltd., Salisbury, 1990.

The story of General Sir Charles Napier, eldest son of Col. George Napier and Lady Sarah Lennox, who was sent at age 60, to pick up the pieces after the disastrous invasion of Afghanistan by Britain in 1839. Contains a similar family tree of Col. George and Lady Sarah and their descendants as is contained in "Revolution and the Napier Brothers" (see above).

Raven Castle. Charles Napier in India 1844-1851.

Priscilla Napier, Michael Russell (Publishing) Ltd., 1991.

This is the continuing story of General Sir Charles Napier and his involvement in the affairs of India that was tied up to the Indian Mutiny in 1857. It also tells of his short life after he returned to Britain in 1851 and his death in 1853. Contains three maps of India and areas within it, plus an engraving of General Napier.

Dr Patrick Napier: His Ancestors and Some Descendants.

Lt. Col. John Hawkins Napier III, The Guild Bindery Press, Oxford, Mississippi, USA, 1991.

This book traces the ancestry of the author back to Dr Patrick Napier, son of the barber to King Charles I, who was in Virginia (USA) by 1655. A large proportion of Napiers in the USA is descended from Patrick. The author also traces the ancestry of Patrick Napier to the Napiers of Kilmahew (Dumbartonshire) and thus the Earls of Lennox. It also has a good description of the early history of the Celtic Lennox family.

The Aristocrats.

Stella Tillyard, Chatto & Windus, London, 1994.

The story of the daughters of the second Duke of Richmond, a grandson of King Charles II. A story of high politics, romance, family life, and tragedy. Sarah, the fourth daughter, married Col. George Napier, fifth son of Francis, sixth Lord Napier, and his second wife. Sarah had a scandalous and rather tempestuous youth before meeting George. Sarah and George had a very happy marriage and produced eight children, including five boys who all rose to eminence in their chosen professions, three in the Army, one in the Navy, and one in Learning. The book gives a good description of their life in Ireland and the involvement of the sisters in Irish and British politics.

Barbarian Eye. Lord Napier in China, 1834. The Prelude to Hong Kong.

Priscilla Napier, Brassey's, London and Washington, 1995.

This is the story of William, ninth Lord Napier, who was sent to China by the British Government in 1834, not to stop the opium smuggling, but to seek a settlement between the British sea-traders and the Cantonese authorities. It was Lord Napier who noticed the advantage of the small island called Hong Kong. It also describes life in both England and Scotland in the early 19th century, and life at the court of William IV, who was close friend and mentor of Lord Napier. Contains portraits of Lord Napier, his wife, and William IV.

Black Charlie. A Life of Admiral Sir Charles Napier KCB, 1787 - 1860.

Priscilla Napier, Michael Russell (Publishing) Ltd., 1995.

The life of Charlie Napier, son of another Charles Napier, fifth son of the sixth Lord Napier. Black Charlie, so-called because of his jet-black hair and unusually swarthy skin, was brought up in Edinburgh and went to sea at the age of twelve. In later life he argued vehemently with the Admiralty.

A Source List (of documents) concerning mostly the Napier Family of Kilmahew, Dumbartonshire, Scotland, leading to Dr Patrick Napier of Virginia, the ancestor of the majority of Napiers in North America.

Charles Napier of Morningside, Edinburgh, and Col. John H Napier III of Kilmahew, Ramer, Alabama, USA. Produced privately by the authors in 1996 and deposited in various British and US libraries.

As well as containing a list of source document dating from pre-1300 to 1668, it contains a list of sources of additional information, and information about the system of double-dates, Scots money, and the spelling of the family surname. Copies are available from the authors.

St Mahew's Cardross, 1467-1955-1997.

Produced by Fr. Coleman McGrath, Parish Priest of St Mahew's. Privately printed and first available Sunday 11 May 1997 (Sunday after Ascension).

On the Sunday after Ascension in 1467, the Church of St Mahew was dedicated by Bishop George Lauder of Argyll and the Isles. It had been rebuilt on land donated by, and with funds from, Duncan Napier, Laird of Kilmahew. On the Sunday after Ascension in 1955, St Mahew's was re-opened, having been rebuilt by the Catholic Archdiocese of Glasgow after falling into ruin after the Reformation. It was rededicated by Archbishop Donald Campbell of Glasgow (formerly Bishop of Argyll and the Isles). On the Sunday after Ascension in 1997, Col. John H Napier III of Ramer, Alabama, USA, a direct descendant of the above Duncan Napier, was present at the dedication of a new sanctuary lamp and lit it, to celebrate the 530th anniversary of the original rededication. This little 16-page booklet is a copy of an article printed in St Peter's College magazine of June 1949 by Fr. David McRoberts, lecturer in church history at the college. The college was housed on the Kilmahew estate which once belonged to the Napier family. The estate is derelict, the college having been closed some years previously. The booklet contains an old map of the Cardross area showing the relationship of St Mahew's to other churches in the area. It also contains a map of the Kilmahew estate and a photograph of the church.

Henry at Sea. Part One of the Life of Captain Henry Napier RN 1789-1853.

Priscilla Napier, Michael Russell (Publishing) Ltd., Norwich, 1997.

Henry Napier was the fifth son of Col. George Napier and Lady Sarah Lennox. This is the story of his life up to 1823. He joined the Navy aged fourteen but did not go to sea until he was seventeen. He served all over the world, including the 1812 war against the USA. Both he and his eldest brother Charles, who also served in the 1812 war, urged friends and relations in Britain to take the Americans more seriously.

Henry Ashore. Part Two of the Life of Captain Henry Napier RN 1789-1853.

Priscilla Napier, Michael Russell (Publishing) Ltd., Norwich, 1997.

Henry Napier was the fifth son of Col. George Napier and Lady Sarah Lennox. This is the story of his life from his marriage in 1823 to Caroline Bennett, the natural daughter of his uncle Charles Lennox, third Duke of Richmond, to his death in 1853 after suffering ill health and much pain during the latter years of his life.

My thanks to our family author, Priscilla Napier, for her helpful suggestions in compiling this bibliography.

Compiled by:
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 Morningside, Edinburgh, Scotland,

Last modified by C Napier at 9:32 PM on 15/02/98

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[Diary Clan Chattin'](#)