

EARLY HERRIOTS IN SCOTLAND



The history of the Herriott family in Scotland, with its variant Scottish spellings, can be traced somewhat, however there are gaps in the information that make it impossible to fit it all together with certainty.

The first notice believed to have yet been found of the name used as a surname, is that of Willo de Heryt, who was a witness to a charter granted by William the Lion, prior to 1214.

The next reference found is that of James de Heriot of Nudre Marschele. The next known is John de Heriot, son and heir of the above James de Heriot.

Traubroun, the patrimonial estate, a small property not exceeding four hundred acres, is situated in the parish of Gladsmuir, and was acquired by John Heriot (above) for military service, from Archibald, Earl of Douglas, brother of the King, in 1423.

A pamphlet *Heriots of Traubroun* was compiled by George Willis Ballingall of Scotland in 1894. The pamphlet identifies the sources for the information he compiled and appears reliable. The information he compiled is the basis for much that follows here on the Traubroun family.

Mr. Ballingall identifies how the lands of Traubroun were passed down through the generations from one "laird" to another. In most cases it was to the eldest son, however there is one known exception when Andrew (d. 1530 or 1531) was succeeded at Traubroun by his nephew James (d. 1580). The descendants of this latter James (d. 1580) succeeded him in the lands, ending when James (d. 1618) sold the lands of Traubroun in 1611 to his nephew, John Hamilton, son of Thomas, First Earl of Haddington, subject to a right of redemption which was never exercised. This latter James had a son Robert (d. 1620) who had two daughters, Anna and Barbara, who completed, in 1623, the transaction initiated by James (d. 1618).

Why did Andrew leave the lands of Traubroun to nephew James? We have not found any record of Andrew having children although he was married twice. It appears that Andrew probably had a bother James (d. 1517) and that this James probably was the father of James (d. 1580) who succeeded at Traubroun.

It appears that Andrew also had another brother James (d. 1522)¹ who was a distinguished Canon of Ross Cathedral and Justiciar of Lothian. Andrew also had a sister Agnes who married Thomas Buchanan. They were the parents of 5 sons and 3 daughters. The distinguished Scottish scholar, poet and historian, George Buchanan, was one of the sons.

¹families sometimes used the same name for more than one child

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Another book, *The Heriots of Ramornie from the XVth to the XVIIIth Centuries*, 1931, by R. C. Reid traces the history of that family. The author states:

“It has been impossible to associate any branch of the Heriot family with the parish of that name. Berwickshire provided the oldest, and perhaps the senior branch of the family, the Heriots of Trabroun, (in Berwickshire) who later migrated to Edinburgh, leaving an offshoot, that of Collielaw, behind them. They were also to be found in Haddington (1458), granting an annual rent out of burgh property to the Monastery of Newbottle. In the 16th century many members of this family (Trabroun) were burgesses of Edinburgh and well-to-do tenants throughout Midlothian. But save for the Fife-shire family, (editors note: Traubroun family) no branch of the Heriots has been traced down to the present day.”

“...there are strong reasons for believing that he (Walter Heriot I) was a younger son of the Heriots of Trabroun, in Berwickshire.”

The Ramornie family began with Walter I (d. 1481). Six more Walters followed the first. The last Walter died without issue; however, he had a brother George (d. 1677) who inherited Ramornie. George had only one daughter, Jean who married John Craig. Of her several children, one son took the name Robert Heriot (Craig). He had 4 sons who also took the name Heriot.

Walter I died about the same time as James of Traubroun ca. 1483. Might they have been brothers?

A third family, also a branch of the Traubroun family, was headed by George Heriot (d. after 1570) of Longniddry. We do not know his father but he was of the family of Traubroun and of the same generation as James (d. 1580) of Traubroun. The Heriots who migrated to South Carolina from Scotland in the latter part of the 1700s trace their ancestry to the Longniddry family. Dr Caldwell Woodruff, M. D. of Linthicum Heights, MD, in his pamphlet *Heriots of Scotland and South Carolina, 1939*² traces their ancestry to the George (d. after 1570).

GEORGE HERIOT, FOUNDER

Perhaps the most widely known member of the Heriot family in Scotland was George “Jinglin’ Geordie” Heriot, founder in 1624 of the George Heriot Hospital (School) in Edinburgh. He was born in Edinburgh in 1563 and died in London in 1624. A great deal of information about him has been published.

In 1993 we received a copy of a *Pedigree of Heriot of Traubroun and Edinburgh* furnished by the office of the Secretary of the George Heriot Trust, created by the will of George Heriot, Founder of the Heriot Hospital (School). The Pedigree chart, a copy of which follows, shows George, the founder, was of the Traubroun family.

can be found in the Library of Congress and some other libraries

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Because of its source, the Pedigree chart probably reflected the best information available when it was compiled. You will note that the chart is lacking some dates that would have been helpful when comparing the information contained on it with other sources of information. Also, not all names listed are connected by solid lines, indicating lack of proof of some entries and perhaps skips some generations. We know that the information is not complete as to all family members in each generation and appears to have some errors. It does however enable us to compare general ancestral lines with other research information.

His Memoir states that his father was named George (d. 1610) as was his grandfather. Both his father and his grandfather were Goldsmiths. His Memoir also states that his grandfather appears to have been “a son of Trabroun, and probably the first of that family to settle in Edinburgh.” George, the grandfather of the founder, appears to be of the same generation as James of Traubroun (d. 1580) listed below in the Traubroun family.

His first shop was attached at the north east corner of St Giles Cathedral. Later his shop was at the west end of the Cathedral, both locations being central and much frequented spots. He carried on an extensive trade as a goldsmith and money lender.

He was appointed Goldsmith to Anne of Denmark, gay consort of King James VI, by Charter from King James VI of Scotland in 1597. In 1601 he became Goldsmith and Jeweler to King VI, accompanying him to London when King James acceded to the English throne as King James I of both England and Scotland in 1603.

George, the founder, had been impressed by Christ's Hospital in London which provided education for orphans. George in his will left a large estate in Trust to found “ane publick pious and charitable work . . . a hospital for the education, nursing and upbringing of youth, . . . puir orphans and fatherless children of decayet burgeses and freemen of the said Burgh, destitute and left without means.” The cornerstone was laid in 1628, however civil strife and turmoil delayed construction. Finally in 1659, thirty five years after George's death, the School opened with 30 boys taking up residence. Originally for boys only, it was a boarding school until 1886 when it became a day school and admitted fee-paying pupils. The first girls were admitted in 1979. The School continues its mission yet today.

George was twice widowed and the Pedigree Chart states his two sons were lost at sea. Mrs. Shippey's research shows he had four sons, all of whom preceded him in death. He also had two “natural” daughters. Natural meant *illegitimate*.

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We cannot yet show conclusively a relationship to George himself. If there be such, it might be through his half-brother David, Goldsmith, who died in 1661. Evidently, this is also a believe held by some of our ancestors, as seen in the following excerpt from *Prominent Families of New York*, Revised Edition, 1898, about a descendant of the George line.

“HERIOT'S Hospital, one of the historical monuments of the ancient city of Edinburgh, was founded in 1628 Under a bequest by George Heriot, the friend and courtier of King James I of England and VI of Scotland, and a figure of prominence in the times when England and Scotland were united under one crown by the accession of the monarch in question to the throne of the former country. In the capacity of a man of business, as well as a courtier. Heriot accumulated great wealth for those days.

The Scottish philanthropist figures as one of the characters in Sir Waiter Scott's Fortunes of Nigel. His own romance connected him with the Primroses of Rosebery. the family of which the former Prime Minister of England, the Earl of Rosebery, is the representative. George Heriot's wife, Alison Primrose, daughter of James Primrose, clerk of the privy council, having died before her twenty-first year, it was in memory of her that his large fortune was mainly devoted, on his death, to the foundation of the hospital for the education of the children of citizens of Edinburgh, which bears his name, and which to the present day is regarded as one of the chief charitable and educational institutions of the city to which his noble benefaction was dedicated nearly three hundred years ago. All visitors to the historic capitol of the Scottish Kingdom have, without doubt, heard of this fact.

Mr. Samuel Carman Harriot bears the same arms as the famous George Heriot, and is descended from a brother of the latter; members of the family having aided in the establishment of the Colony of West Jersey, where they attained wealth and prominence.”

The work by Ballingall on Heriots of Traubroun shows many interactions with the Edinburgh family, which further suggests they were related.

Research by Dr Harold Booton and by Mrs Danielle Shippey, on behalf of the HHA, provides additional information about the families, especially during the 1600's. There are many records that have not yet been researched. The lack of indexes for certain kinds of records and the scattered locations of various kinds of records makes this a very big (and costly) job.

HERIOTS OF TRAUBROUN

Following is a reconstruction of part of the Traubroun family:

I **James de Heriot**

(a) paid rent on "Nether Liberton" 2 miles south Edinburgh - 1426

II **John de Heriot, 1st of Traubroun**

(a) Obtained Charter to lands of Traubroun - 1423

III **James Heriot of Traubroun** - died 1483 or earlier, son of John

(a) married elder dau. of Richard Congalton; (b) son Robert executor - 1483; (c) had daughter Agnes who married Thomas Buchanan, they had 5 sons and 3 daughters, one son was George, later a distinguished scholar, poet and historian; (d) probably had a son James (d. 1517), who probably was father of James (d 1580) who succeeded Andrew as laird; (e) probably had son James (d 1522) who was Canon of Ross Cathedral;

IV **Andrew Heriot, of Traubroun** - died 1530 or ??31, son of James

(a) record of a lawsuit 1488; (b) had forfeited his lands for alleged acts of treason, lands restored 1516; (c) summoned, together with George and James Heriot and others in a court action concerning property in 1527; (d) Respited (1527) for treasonably arraying against King James V beside Linlithgow - 1527; (e) court action 1529; was infeft³ of certain lands - 1529; (f) married (1) Janet Borthwick (2) Marion Cockburn;

V **James Heriot**, died 1580, nephew of Andrew, became laird 1531

(a) married (1) Janet Cockburn (2) Helen Cockburn; (b) daughter Allison; (c) letter from King James V awarding to James the lands of Traubroun- 1531; (d) infeft in land - witnesses- James, George and David Heriot in Haddington; (e) pardoned in his treasonable attempts against the Lord Governor (Earl of Arran) 1549; (f) pardoned by Earl of Arran for having been guilty of treason - 1554; (g) granted a discharge, witnesses George Heriot in Longniddrie, Alexander Heriot and others - 1559; (h) infeft in lands, on deed, witnesses - George Heriot in Longniddrie; (i) granted a discharge to Sir Richard Maitland of Lothington of Lethington, Knight, for receipt of money due him per contract of marriage between Isobel Maitland, his

³ "to invest with, to give inheritable property"

daughter, and James Heriot, younger, of Traubroun-1560-1; (j) discharged Alexander Heriot, son of John Heriot of Ravelston, witnesses James Heriot Jun., of Trabroun, Andrew Herriott-1565; (k) in army of Queen Mary when they met the forces of the Protestant lords at Carberry Hill (seven miles east of Edinburgh), James Heriot being one of the leaders of the “communers and talkers” between the two forces, following which the Queen surrendered; (l) Named sons George and Peter executors, also names Andrew, daughter Janet and eldest son James in will - 1580;

VI **James Heriot**, died 1618, son of James above

(a) married Isabel Maitland - 1560-61; (b) apprehended when about to sail for France accused of taking counterfeit coins to France - 1571; (c) adjudged heir to his father James in certain lands - 1580; (d) served heir to his father, James Heriot in lands of Traubroun - 1607; (e) sold lands of Traubroun, under reversion to John Hamilton, his grandnephew and son of Thomas, First Earl of Haddington (the sale later became absolute); (f) in his will he leaves his estate to his wife and “his body to be buried in the burial place of his father at Haddington Kirk at the south-east side thereof;” (g) had daughter Elizabeth who married 1595; (h) eldest son Richard, a member of the household of King James VI;

VII **Robert Heriot** , died 1620, son and heir of James above

(a) granted a bond to George Heriot, “Jeweller to the Queen's Majesty” - 1608; (b) admitted to burgh of Haddington - 1617; (c) died intestate, the inventory of his personal effects was given up by George Heriot, servitor to Robert, George Heriot of Longniddrie mentioned;

VIII **Anna (eldest) and Barbara (younger) Heriot**

daughters of Robert, above. (a) granted a discharge dated 1623 in favour of Sir John Hamilton the money being the balance of the purchase-money of the estate of Traubroun, sold by their grandfather, James Heriot in 1611.

There are many other references to Heriot family members in Ballingall's works that are not included here. He concludes this section of his work as follows:

“From the preceeding articles it will be seen that the Heriots of Traubroun were a family of eminence in Scotland, and possessed Traubroun and other lands for two hundred years--from 1423 to 1623.....”

HERIOTS OF RAMORNIE

From the book *The Heriots of Ramornie* by Mr Reid, referred to before, we learn of the following family descent:

I **Walter Heriot I of Lothonis and Ballingal**, died 1481

(a) a burges of Cupar, first noticed in 1474; (b) he was a farmer and both owned and rented land, acquiring ownership to various tracts all during his lifetime, said practice continued by his son Walter; (c) had two other sons, Thomas and Archibald;

II **Walter Heriot II**, died 1515

(a) first mentioned in 1489 as having an interest in West Isle of Burnturk; (b) further land transactions through 1512 show he must have been a man of comparative wealth in those times; (c) He must have been well known in Court circles, for the King himself bought horses and dogs from him as several entries in the Lord High Treasurer's accounts testify; (d) did not serve in military, however received Royal remission for failing to serve; (e) married ca. 1506 Margaret Dischington; (f) had four children, Walter III, Henry, Mr Patrick Heriot and Janet;

III **Walter Heriot III**, died 1528

(a) married Grizzel Lislie, sister of George, 3rd Earl of Rothes; (b) avoided military service and received remission for absence; (c) had son Walter IV, and probably a daughter Margaret;

IV **Walter Heriot IV “Long Walter”**, died 1589

(a) based on his tombstone, born 1521, thus nine years old when he was infeft in Ramornie and Lawfield.; (b) had complicated land transaction with James Heriot of Traubroun - 1556, also with Andrew, second son of James Heriot of Traubroun; (c) in 1563, Long Walter and other reformers refused orders in civil strife and their estates forfeited, however Long Walter's transaction with James and Andrew shielded his lands, (d) in 1565 Long Walter received a remission for the crime of rebellion; (e) “it is not improbable that he had distinguished himself among others, friends of the Reformation, by taking arms and fighting for the Protestant interest in the 1559 and downwards;” (f) married Elizabeth Scot; (g) had only one recorded child: Walter Heriot V of Ramornie, also natural son Walter, who received letter of legitimization in 1577, and may possibly have had a daughter Elizabeth who died 1615;

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V

Walter Heriot V, died 1615

(a) married Agnes Aytoun 1577; (b) acquired additional lands in Burnturk by a new Crown grant to create an enlarged Ramornie; (c) involved in litigation with a neighbor - 1602; (d) purchased a Crown license to avoid participation in military service, as had his ancestors; (e) settled a 15 year dispute with the Exchequer concerning rents due - early 1600's; (f) had four recorded children: Walter VI, Patrick Heriot who died 1617, Walter Heriot, a natural son, Isobel, Elizabeth Heriot;

VI

Walter Heriot VI, died 1637 or 1641(?)

(a) married Christina Sandilands - 1599; (b) Succeeded Walter V as laird 1615; (c) had following issue: Walter, eldest son who predeceased him in 1634 and who had married Jean Law, George who succeeded him, William, Elizabeth, Agnes, Margaret, Christina, Isobel;

VII

George Heriot, died 1687

(a) always referred to with prefix "Mr." which meant he possessed a University degree; prior to succession had practiced at Edinburgh as a writer at which University he had matriculated; (b) Entailed his lands to heirs, male if any, otherwise to any female heirs, to protect the lands as he was a sympathiser of the Covenanting party - 1665; (c) Married Janet Bruce, daughter of Mr James Bruce of Newbirne - 1642 (d) had one daughter, Jean who married Mr. John Craig, Advocate; (e) records show George provided the family annals with more law-suits than all his forbears; (f) Privy Council issued a commission to George Heriot to try a woman who had confessed herself to be guilty of witchcraft, 1662, and a few months later he was called on again to try John and Agnes Broun and a month or two later to try five other women, all for the same offence (usual penalty was execution, burning at stake or strangulation, however records do not show George's sentences); records speak highly of his character, full of compassion; (g) succeeded by his daughter Jean;

VIII

Jean Heriot Craig, died 1687

(a) served heir general to her father 1678; (b) Under entail of 1665 by George, Craig should have taken name of Heriot, to which he must have raised objections; so under the marriage contract that objection was waived on condition that the heir of the marriage conformed; (c) 1681 left a widow; (d) it is quite evident that Craig's eldest son Robert took the surname Heriot on inheriting the estate of Ramornie from his mother in 1694, Robert Craig alias Heriot of Ramornie is mentioned in a sasine as heir served to the late John Craig, advocate, his father; (e) had children, in addition to Robert: John Craig, Margaret Craig, Catharine Craig, Janet Craig, eldest daughter;

IX

Robert Heriot, died 1751

(a) resigned into the hands of the Crown all of his lands for a new Charter erecting them into the Barony of Ramornie; (b) expanded his lands - 1710; (c) invested in a scheme for a Trading Company in Africa and the Indies, which was lost; (c) ".....within his means Robert Heriot maintained at Ramornie a style and standard of comfort quite equal to the best in Scotland at that period.; (d) married Anna Calderwood - 1713; they had issue: Capt. William Heriot, George Heriot, Dr Robert Heriot, Jean, eldest daughter, Barbara, Elizabeth, Janet, Margaret;

X

Capt William Heriot, died 1762

(a) succeeded to Ramornie, being infeft in 1767; (b) served in military until retirement in 1758; (c) no record of having married; (d) named his youngest surviving brother Dr Robert Heriot his heir and then in the following order failing heirs to Robert, his own sisters, then James Maitland; (e) resigned his lands for a new Crown Charter to consolidate his rights of property with his rights of superiority, eliminating many technical details in title;

XI

Dr. Robert Heriot, died 1790

(a) must have been an old man when he succeeded to Ramornie; (b) went to India when a youngster and practised as a doctor and made a fortune. Returned to London in 1760 and shortly after removed to Ramornie, living with his brother and sister, to whom his fortune was a material asset; (c) appears to have never married; (d) decided to leave his estate as had brother Captain William Heriot, thus was succeeded by sister Jean, then age 81;

XII

Jean Heriot, died 1791

(a) served mistress of Ramornie only one year; (b) apparently without issue; (c) **was the last of the Heriot blood line to live at Ramornie;**

XIII

James Makgill, died 1848

(a) Under entail of Capt. William Heriot, upon death of Jean Heriot, in 1792 James Makgill was served heir to Capt. William H. in the estate of Ramornie and assumed the name Heriot; (b) On the same day a George Heriot, cabinetmaker claimed to be grandson of Robert Heriot of Ramornie. Nine years later the litigation ended, however James Maitland Heriot, victor must have been financially embarrassed as a result and for a short period had to appoint trustee to his estate. He died 1848;

An Andrew Heriot, born 1851, grandson of James Makgill, sold Ramornie thus was the last person carrying the name "Heriot of Ramornie."

HERIOTS OF LONGNIDDRY

From the pamphlet *Heriots of Scotland and South Carolina* by Caldwell Woodruff, MD, 1939, Linthicum Heights Maryland, we learn of the ancestry of the South Carolina family. He traces them back to one George Heriot of Longniddry. Dr Woodruff also relied on the work of G. W. Ballingall on *Heriots of Traubroun* for part of his research.

Most of what follows here is from the work of Dr Woodruff:

I **George Heriot**, died after 1570

(a) a tenant farmer in Longniddry, East Lothian - 1549; (b) he appears to be of the same generation as James Heriot of Traubroun d. 1580. If this be true and if he was a brother of James, then his father would have been James Heriot d. 1517. He could have been a son of Andrew Heriot of Traubroun d. 1530-31.

II **George Heriot**, his son, died 1625

(a) a tenant farmer in Longniddry;

III **Robert Heriot**, his son, died after 1667

IV **George Heriot**, his son, died between 1692-98

(a) born 1636; (b) tenant farmer, Castlemains, Dirleton Scotland and Chamberlain to Sir John Nesbet, Kings Advocate;

V **John Heriot**, his son, died 1725

(a) born 1664; (b) married Jane Sinclair - 1688; (c) had son James, b 1700, d. 1762 who had sons John, Robert (b. 1739, d.1792, emigrated to SC 1759), James of Castlemains d. 1762, William to SC 1768;

VI **George Heriot**, his son, died 1753

(a) born 1688; (b) married Mary Tannoch (d. 1769); (c) Sheriff-Clerk East Lothian, Haddington;

VII **George Heriot**, his son, d. 1807

(a) born 1746-Haddington; (b) to SC 1765; (c)married 1775 Charleston SC, to Sarah Tucker (b. 1754 - d. 1820, interred Prince Georges);

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VII **Sophia C. Heriot**, daughter, died 1839

(a) born 1799 - Georgetown; (b) married Geo. W. Eggleston 1821 (b. 1795, Lenox, MA - d. 1863 Winsboro SC, both interred St Pauls Churchyard, Charleston SC); (c)

VIII **Maria Elizabeth Engleston**, daughter, died 1865

(a) born 1828 - Charleston SC; (b) married Julian Woodruff, MD, 1847, Aiken SC - (b. 1826 d. 1879 Reidsville NC, interred Zion Church Yard Eastover SC) (c) d. Holly Hall, Eastover, Richland Co. SC);

IX **George Eggleston Woodruff**, son, died 1920

(a) born 1851 - Holly Hall; (b) married Betty Caldwell 1876 Charlotte NC (b. 1855 Mecklinburg Co. NC, d. 1927 Charlotte NC, interred Charlotte NC); 8

X **Caldwell Woodruff** MD, son,

(a) b. 1882, Charlotte NC; (b) married Beatrice DeForest 1909 (b. 1882) (c) residence Lindthicum, Anne Arunde Co. Maryland;

Dr Woodruff's genealogical research contains many details of the Longniddry family both in Scotland and the USA. He stated that papers relating to the family can be found at Library of Congress, SC Historical Society, Georgia Historical Society at Savannah, and Historical Commission of SC at Columbia SC.

This is by no means a complete recitation of the records of the Heriot family in Scotland but it does give us a broad picture of the family. The records cited above show that they were involved in acquiring lands, were involved with civil affairs, sometimes being on the winning side and sometimes on the other side. They were ? well connected? and some were quite wealthy by standards of the day.

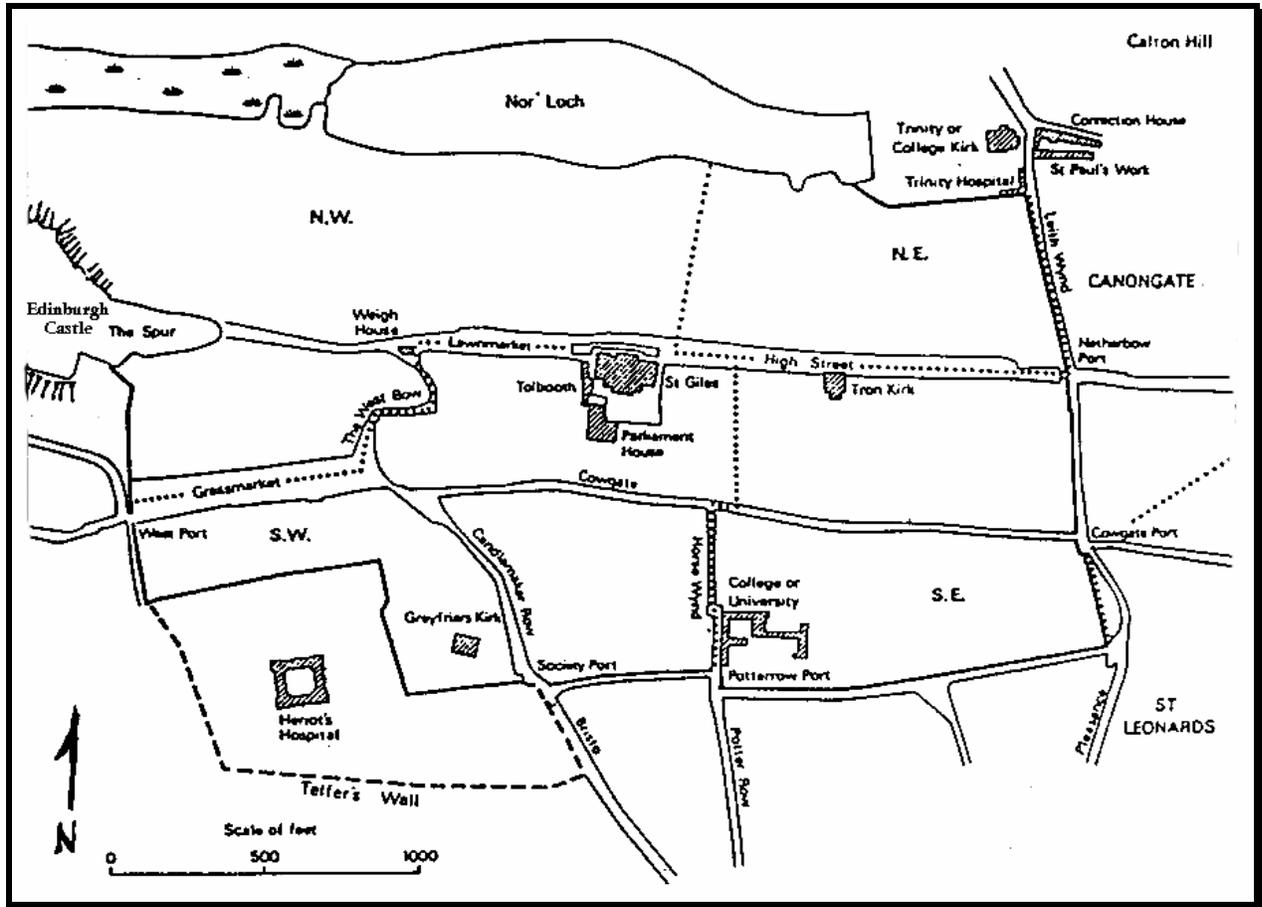
Sources:

Balligall, George W., "Selections From Old Records (with Notes), regarding the HERIOTS OF TRAUBROUN, Scotland," 1894

Reid, R. C. of Mouswald, "The Heriots of Traubroun from the XVth to XVIIIth Centuries," 1931

Woodruff, Caldwell, M.D., "Heriots of Scotland and South Carolina," 1939

EDINBURGH IN THE MID SEVENTEENTH CENTURY



For a description of lands allegedly owned ca. 1650-1700 by David (our American progenitor) and his father (also a David) see the Dr. Boonton Report. Their approximate locations can be found on this old map of Edinburgh, Scotland.

High Street, also known as the “Royal Mile”, connects Edinburgh Castle with the Palace of Holyroodhouse (off the map on the right). It is the main street of “Old Edinburgh.”

David’s alleged father owned land near St. Giles, which is one of the world’s largest cathedrals.

His son’s land which he allegedly rented out when banished to America, was nearer Holyroodhouse at the east end of High Street. Holyroodhouse is “home” to the Queen of England when she is in Scotland.