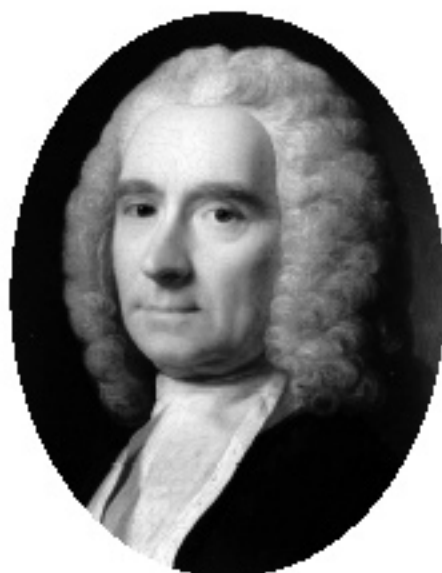


4 WILLIAM GRANT – LORD PRESTOUNGRANGE

The Grant dynasty including the Grant-Sutties owned and occupied Prestongrange House for some two centuries, regular occupation only ending with the death of Lady Susan in 1909. The founding member was William Grant who acquired the Barony of Prestongrange and Dolphinstoun in 1746 for £160 000 Scottish from the bankrupt Morrison family.

William Grant was the second son of Sir Francis Grant, Lord Cullen. According to the *Dictionary of National Biography* he was probably born in 1701 and his mother is wrongly recorded as Sarah Fordyce the second wife of Lord Cullen. Parish Records for Edinburgh confirm absolutely that Grant was born in the City on 4 May 1701 and that his parents were undoubtedly Sir Francis Grant and Jean Meldrum.

William Grant read law at Edinburgh and was called to the Bar on 24 February 1722. As was then common in legal circles he was involved with the Church of Scotland and, on 13 May 1731, was appointed Procurator and Principal Clerk by the General Assembly. Like many of his contemporaries he



William Grant – Lord Prestoungrange

Courtesy of The Scottish Nation at Portrait Gallery and the National Gallery of Scotland

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claimed to despise patronage. In 1736 he wrote a paper on the subject: *Remarks on the State of the Church of Scotland with Respect to Patronages*. But there is evidence that both he his family arranged that chosen Ministers were granted the living at Prestonpans.

His progression through the legal ranks can be described as steady rather than meteoric. It was not until 20 June 1737 – some 15 years after becoming an advocate – that he was appointed Solicitor General when Charles Erskine moved up to become Lord Advocate. Grant sought, and was granted permission, by the Church of Scotland to appoint a deputy for his clerical commitments should they conflict with his new obligations as Solicitor General.

When Charles Erskine resigned as Lord Advocate in 1742 Grant did expect to take his place but Robert Craigie was appointed new Lord Advocate. It is perhaps a measure of the man that Grant wrote Craigie a letter of congratulations on his appointment.

Lord Advocate 1746

William Grant eventually became Lord Advocate on 26 February 1746, receiving something of a poisoned chalice. He had already been elected Member of Parliament for Elgin and now had to balance his Scottish legal responsibilities with those of a parliamentarian. He found favour at Westminster with Prime Minister Walpole in his efforts to achieve justice and, where appropriate, compensation following the ill fated Jacobite rebellion in 1745. The new Lord Advocate resisted the absolute Crown annexation of *all* Highland estates and resolved to contain such impounding to those estates of perceived Highland rebels. He introduced the Bill at Westminster on 24 February 1752 annexing the forfeited estates to the Crown for all time.

Grant was fortunate in not personally having to prosecute many of the rebels who were taken south to Penrith, York or London where they were tried and perhaps inevitably executed. He probably had some undeclared sympathy with the rebels. When the impeachment of the old Jacobite Lord Lovat was considered he wrote to advise London “*there is too much ground to doubt whether a Bill of Indictment would be found against Lord Lovat by a grand jury to be summoned in the County of Inverness.*” That protectionist measure if indeed that is what it was failed. Lord Lovat who had never actually

borne arms for the Prince was instead taken to London and suffered the obligatory show trial prior to his execution.

The Church of Scotland would no longer allow Grant to continue as Procurator and Clerk following his appointment as Lord Advocate, but it is likely he would have had to relinquish those posts anyway because of other commitments. A position on the Bench became available in 1748 but he was passed over and continued as Lord Advocate.

The Appin Murder Trial

What may be seen as a considerable blemish on his career as Lord Advocate was the charade which became known as the Appin Murder Trial. Many Highland estates became Crown property after 1745 with administrators appointed with their duties including rent collection. While under control of the deposed Highland Chiefs such cottage rents were often ignored as the Chiefs saw tenants primarily as sources of power. But the rents for small cottages were now to be vigorously collected for the Crown and failure to pay resulted in eviction.

Colin Campbell of Glenure managed the forfeited estates of Lochiel and Ardshiel and intended to evict a number of tenants on 15 May 1752. But on 14 May Campbell was shot dead while riding at the entrance to Glencoe in the company of an Edinburgh lawyer, a Sheriff Officer and servant. Allan Breck Stewart of Ardshiel, later to figure in Robert Louis Stevenson's *Kidnapped*, and his kinsman James Stewart were soon suspected of the crime, Allan Stewart as the murderer and James as an accessory.

Allan Stewart escaped to France and only James could be arrested. His trial was a farce and by becoming involved where he could have delegated the prosecution to a depute, William Grant did himself no credit. The Circuit High Court of Justiciary was constituted in Inverary, home of the Campbells. Archibald Campbell, 3rd Duke of Argyll and Lord Justice General, assumed personal charge of the trial. In keeping with the procedure at the time Argyll personally selected the Jury. Not surprisingly eleven of the fifteen chosen members were Campbells like himself. Never before had a Lord Advocate gone on Circuit and there is no known reason why William Grant personally conducted the prosecution of James Stewart, unless he felt some moral obligation because the presiding Judge's father had earlier aided his own career.

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Such records as remain leave little doubt that the proceedings were biased, contrived from the start, with no fair hearing accorded to the defence. James Stewart was inevitably found guilty and hanged. *Collins Encyclopaedia of Scotland* states "James Stewart was Ardshiel's half brother and there is little doubt of his being guilty as charged." A sweeping assumption based on an undoubted travesty of justice. Why else were all trial records ordered to be destroyed though one copy of Precognitions has survived to be seen today in the National Library of Scotland. From what evidence is available there it is extremely unlikely James Stewart would have been convicted today.

Lord Prestounrange in 1754

Apart from that Inverary debacle as Lord Advocate Grant was consistently moderate and usually fair in his Scottish prosecutions. That attribute was later recognised in his appointment to the Bench as a Lord of Session on 14 November 1754 and taking the name Lord Prestounrange. Earlier that year he had also been returned for the third time as Member of Parliament for Elgin but had to resign that Commons seat on becoming a Lord of Session. As Lord Prestounrange he remained on the bench until his death in Somerset a decade later on 23 May 1764. He was subsequently buried under the aisle of Prestonpans church and a monument was erected in his memory on the church walls constituting perhaps Prestonpans first mural. The inscription is still to be read inside the organ loft although the that outside is now illegible.

Lord Prestounrange enjoyed a good domestic life. He married Grizel Millar, daughter of a Renfrewshire Minister, in 1729 and they had four daughters. The eldest, Janet, was heir to the baronial lands of Prestounrange and Dolphinstoun and married John Carmichaell, 4th Earl of Hyndford, in Edinburgh on 8 January 1749. In her turn Janet mapped and managed those estates with skill and in 1787 when nearby Wintoun Estates were broken up added the Tranent farms of Myles and Birslic and Fallside to Prestounrange. As Countess of Hyndford she remained at Prestounrange until her death in 1818. She survived her husband by many years and became a great favourite and benefactor in the locality. On her death the baronial lands passed to her nephew Sir James Suttie Bart., and the family henceforth adopted the name Grant-Suttie.

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Grizel Millar, wife of William Grant – Lord Prestoungrange, died in 1792 and so survived her husband by 28 years, but there is no record to show whether she spent her latter years with her daughter Janet at Prestoungrange House.

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*Lady Susan (left) with her sister, Lady Charlotte
From the painting by Henry Wyndham Phillips
By kind permission of Rosburgh Estates*

5 LADY SUSAN GRANT-SUTTIE

There is no comprehensive biographical record of Lady Susan who during the latter part of the 19th and into the 20th centuries was an integral part of Prestonpans life. The local historian Peter McNeill only briefly and favourably mentions her in *Prestonpans and Vicinity* but he was unique in that respect. In the absence of any formal record her many good deeds simply became the subject of legend and with the passage of time those legends have begun to diminish.

Born on 13 November 1837 at the Roxburghe ancestral home of Floors Castle, Kelso and christened Lady Susan Harriet Innes Ker, she was a daughter of Sir James, 6th Duke of Roxburghe, 1st Earl Innes and Viscount Broxmouth. His wife was Susanna Stephaina Dalbiac, daughter of Lt. General Sir Charles Dalbiac. As Duchess of Roxburghe, Susanna was Lady of the Bedchamber to H.M. Queen Victoria.

As the daughter of a Duke she was known as Lady Susan from birth. She inherited her mother's striking beauty and from an early age is said to have displayed a high degree of intelligence and a great interest in politics both local and national. An old report in the *Haddington Press* describes her as "like her mother, of great beauty, slim, lithe of figure, with an elegant carriage and healthy complexion." That same report suggests she retained all of these attributes throughout life.

Unfortunately no late portrait photographs of Lady Susan have been found but in the Billiard Room at Floors Castle there is a full length portrait of Duchess Susanna and on another wall, a picture of Lady Susan with her sister Lady Charlotte in a garden setting. The portrait of their mother is thought to be by McKenzie of Graves but the 19th century artist Henry Wyndham Phillips certainly painted Lady Susan and her sister. The pictures display a remarkable likeness between mother and daughters.

At Kelso Church, on 6 August 1857, when she was still only nineteen, Lady Susan married James Grant-Suttie, who was seven years her senior, the son and heir of the extensive estates of Sir George Grant Suttie, 5th Baronet of Balgone and Prestongrange. Lady Susan's husband who would later, but for only a short time, succeed his father as 6th Baronet, was a serving soldier at the time of their marriage. By 1878, he was

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Colonel Commanding the Haddington, Berwick, Linlithgow and Peebles Militia.

James and Lady Susan set up home within the Mansion House of Maines in Chirnside, Berwickshire. Three daughters were followed by a son on November 2, 1870, George Grant-Suttie who was destined eventually to become 7th Baronet. Another second son James who was born prematurely on 13 September 1874 survived only two days.

Sir James' Inheritance

Apart from the sad loss of young James no record exists of serious problems affecting Lady Susan or the family until 1878. But in June Lady Susan's father in law Sir George died while on holiday at Grantham House, Putney Heath in Surrey. Her husband Sir James succeeded his father as 6th Baronet but did not immediately or automatically inherit his father's moveable estate of £46,609/11/8d., or all the heritable Prestongrange property. Sir George, as legal records in the National Archives of Scotland confirm, had always been extremely litigious and new Wills, with inevitable codicils thereto, were an almost annual event. He had been a widower for some twenty years at the time of his death and had heavily entailed Prestongrange. He had consistently sought to ensure that all his surviving children, and not just his immediate heir, were made financially secure from the Prestongrange estate.

Resolution of Sir George's Estate was in its early stages when his immediate heir, Lady Susan's husband Sir James, died of typhus on 30 October 1878 at their Chirnside home. He left a Will written on 10 September 1878 and personal Estate of £15,059/15/2d. That testament also nominated and appointed Lady Susan to be his sole Executrix and Memorialist. He further named his brother in law James, soon to be the 7th Duke of Roxburghe, and a friend Major John Dawson as additional Memorialists, Tutors and Curators to his children.

Although only eight years old, his son Sir George became 7th Baronet – with *prima facie* rights to Prestongrange Estates. The premature death of his father however, when the estate of his grandfather had yet to be fully resolved, was to create many problems before young Sir George could be seen as Laird of Prestongrange.

The then prevailing Law of Scottish Succession was more primitive than that of the current Succession (Scotland) Act 1964. Sir James' brother and two sisters, aided by their

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father's trustees including the formidable legal mind of Robert Dundas of Arniston, actively pursued their prescribed legacies. Fundamentally for cash flow reasons these bequests could not be met and much controversy inevitably arose between the trustees and Lady Susan acting as her husband's Executrix and in the interests of her son Sir George.

It has been suggested that the controversy led to a position where Prestongrange was run by "a large group of lawyers" to the exclusion of Lady Susan and her son. That is not strictly true. Legal opinion was obviously necessary to resolve the numerous problems but Lady Susan was not the type of person to be excluded from negotiations. She was after all a Roxburghe and had direct links to Queen Victoria.

Frequent legal meetings were invariably attended by Lady Susan, her brother James and Major Dawson. Chaired by Lady Susan's kinsman Mr J Innes they dealt with all administrative matters concerning Prestongrange including such renting land and houses, the state of local industry in which there was an interest, local fishermen complaining about ship captains disturbing the oyster beds, even the relatively small matter of agreeing not to collect rent from the local bowling club. In addition these meetings attempted to reach an amicable resolution with the legal representatives of her husband's siblings.

Lady Susan played a key role and her strong signature *Susan H. Grant Suttie* is always first on related Minutes and other legal documents dealing with her son and his inheritance. On the odd occasion when she could not attend a meeting the Minutes were sent to her first for approval and signature.

By early 1879 Innes with the approval of Lady Susan had taken advice from the Accountant of Court who as an interim measure proposed: "*that there should be paid to Lady Susan Grant Suttie an annual allowance (from Prestongrange Estate) of £400 for the maintenance of the Heir, this allowance to begin from 30 October 1878, and that there should be a further allowance to Lady Susan of £140 per annum to cover the salary of Mr Adamson who had been engaged by Lady Susan as Tutor to the Heir*". Innes also advised the meeting that: "*in addition to the aforesaid allowances, it has been arranged that Lady Susan shall occupy Prestongrange House rent free in view that the Heir is to reside with her. That the garden and grounds shall be upheld at the expense of the Heir and that Lady Susan shall pay, at market rates, for all produce taken.*"

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That interim measure was agreed by all involved and by mid 1879 all bills and invoices relating to Prestongrange Estate were being dealt with by the Tutors and Curators of the Heir. Any lawyers involved in such actions were therefore acting on the instructions of Lady Susan, her brother and Major Dawson. An ante nuptial agreement drawn up by the elder Sir George in 1857 at the time of his son's marriage to Lady Susan, granted her an annual income of £2000 per annum from Prestongrange Estate. That payment apparently continued throughout the years of protracted negotiations. Apart from legal negotiations, 1879 was a year of mixed emotions for Lady Susan. Her father died on 23rd April and her first grandchild, John James Dalrymple a future Earl of Stair, was born on 1st February

Not surprisingly with such diverse interests no amicable agreement could be reached concerning settlement of the Prestongrange inheritances so the entire matter was referred for resolution to the Court of Session from which a Judgment was delivered on 12 May 1881. That Judgment, even though it resulted in lesser amounts being settled on the siblings of Sir James, was accepted by all participants and moves were initiated to at last establish young Sir George as 7th Baronet at Prestongrange.

Residence at Prestongrange House

No actual date can be determined to show when Lady Susan and her family took up formal residence at Prestongrange. During his later years her father in law Sir George had badly neglected the big house and much work was required to render it fully habitable. The Census of 1881 shows only six servants in residence, probably in some maintenance capacity, but she was certainly recognised as the Lady of the Manor by 5 September of that year when she formally opened the new Prestonpans Public School. The 1891 Census records Lady Susan in residence at Prestongrange with youngest daughter Victoria Alberta, her son Sir George and eighteen live-in servants. In 1886 daughter Harriet had married Sir Daniel Cooper, 2nd Baronet of Woolahara and taken up residence at Warren House, Newmarket, Suffolk where her husband had sporting interests.

So by 1891 Lady Susan was undoubtedly established with her son at Prestongrange. He was 21 that year and really no longer required any kind of guardianship. But his absences

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were frequent and Lady Susan was recognised locally as head of the Prestongrange household with effective control of administration.

Lady Susan became a member of Prestonpans Parish Church soon after her move to the town from Chirnside. Such folklore and legend that remains suggests that from an early stage she became actively and physically involved with church work. In 19th century Prestonpans there was very little help available to sick or unemployed workers and their families. On learning of such cases Lady Susan began an enduring habit of home visits to offer assistance. When income to purchase food and medicine was practically non-existent such visits must indeed have been welcome. At the time houses in miners rows at Cuthill had an average of six residents living in what were very cramped conditions.

Those visits were not without personal health risk to Lady Susan. Town Council records consistently showed a sustained presence of many infectious diseases such as scarlet fever, smallpox, typhoid fever and cholera which were often treated at home with attendant chances of further infection. There was also ongoing concern about obtaining a clean water supply in Prestonpans. The lack of good clean water served to perpetuate typhoid and cholera.

Those same Town Council records dealing with infectious diseases highlight another of Lady Susan's commendable activities. In association with Mrs. Stirling Boyd of Edinburgh she dealt with the Fortnight Holiday Children. Again there is a dearth of historical record detailing that activity but fundamentally it concerned children of Edinburgh and Leith who lived in deprived conditions. Under a scheme organised by Lady Susan and her friends the children were given a free holiday for two weeks beside the sea in Prestonpans. They did not holiday in 1894 however. A medical report to Prestonpans Town Council concerning an exceptionally high incidence of smallpox in Edinburgh caused the Council to ask Lady Susan that she should ensure The Fortnight Holiday Children stayed at home that year.

Prestonpans Town Hall

From the time of her arrival at Prestongrange she became a familiar figure walking around The Pans talking with people and showing a genuine interest in their lives. An old *Haddington Advertiser* report speaks of her "happily walking

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around the town in short skirts (doubtless relative to what was then the norm) and habitually using third instead of first class rail travel so she could meet people.”

She became actively involved in the protracted construction of Prestonpans Town Hall. The need for one had first been identified in 1874, long before she came to Prestongrange. A committee was formed back then to explore the situation, find a suitable site, and raise funds. Some £400 was soon raised but no construction took place. It was ten years later in 1884 before a suitable site was identified opposite old Aldhammer House. A benefactor with a Prestonpans connection offered to bear the entire cost of design and construction. There was, however, continued political argument which resulted in the offer being withdrawn.

However, a core of residents was determined that construction of a Hall should proceed so pressure was maintained on the Town Council. Much later on 4 June 1895 a Poll of Householders in Prestonpans resulted in 50 votes for and 38 against such a new Hall from the electorate of 384.

Plans for construction of the Hall were well advanced when Lady Susan became involved. She suggested an extensive Fair within Prestongrange grounds to raise the building funds and that offer was readily accepted and proved to be a great success. After purchase of the chosen site £1000 still remained available towards building costs. There was still some political argument but eventually the Town's Hall, designed by Peter Whitecross, was opened by R. B. Haldane, Member of Parliament for the County.

Lady Parish Councillor

Lady Susan had been resident in Prestongrange for a relatively short time but her active involvement in the Town Hall project and ready friendship with the people probably led to what was in 1895 arguably her greatest achievement. In the elections held that April she was elected as a Parish Councillor for Prestonpans' Landward Area. This political success was of only parochial effect yet of national significance though no newspaper reported it as such. It was achieved at a time when women had no vote so by implication all of her electors were men. This success was achieved 24 years before the high profile election of Lady Nancy Astor at Plymouth in 1919 as the first ever female Member of Parliament. Although Lady

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Susan's success may have been tempered somewhat initially by the death of her mother The Dowager Duchess Susanna on 6th May 1895, she stayed as a Parish Councillor for the remainder of her life. That same year her eldest daughter Susan was divorced from the Earl of Stair soon afterwards marrying Sir Neil Menzies.

Some twelve months after her election success Lady Susan's youngest daughter Victoria Alberta married Prestonpans' Church of Scotland Minister the Rev. George Stuart Smith at Prestonpans Church. The lifelong family association with Dunbar was continued with the Dunbar Minister William Borland conducting the ceremony. Sadly Victoria Alberta died prematurely on 5 January 1900 of a fever soon after the birth of her second daughter. She is buried just within the gate of Prestonpans Churchyard. In his book Peter McNeill refers to that sad event and emphasises the subsequent greater involvement of Lady Susan in raising her two granddaughters.

Despite such examples of adversity Lady Susan sustained active community work. She initiated and was first chair of Prestonpans Women's Guild. She was also executively involved with and one time president of the local YWCA. That organisation had evolved from classes held during the mid 19th century by the Misses Alexander of Aldhammer House, sisters of Thomas, Director General of Army Medical Services. She was also a member of the School Board as indeed was her son in law the Rev. George Smith.

Coffee Shop and Recreation Centre

A new Coffee House and Recreational Centre was opened in the town on 28 July 1887. That new establishment, in addition to providing refreshments, contained a series of games such as draughts, bagatelle and billiards. Lady Susan was the motivating force behind the project which issued share capital of £300 being 1200 × 5/- shares and she was its major shareholder. The prospectus for that company states: "*It is felt that a great need exists in Prestonpans of a place of resort for the inhabitants, where they can meet together for social intercourse and recreation without the necessity of partaking of intoxicating liquors.*" Unfortunately, due to illness, Lady Susan was unable to attend the formal opening but local businessman James Mellis deputised and opened the project in her name.

Closure at Prestongrange

Lady Susan died at Prestongrange on the morning of Saturday 16 October 1909 after a short illness just one month before her 72nd birthday. Next day the Prestonpans morning church service was curtailed as a mark of respect and the evening service was cancelled. During Sunday afternoon between two and three o'clock the church bell tolled in her memory.

On Thursday 21 October a funeral service took place within Prestonpans Parish Church conducted by the Rev. Smart of Chirnside, preserving the association of Lady Susan and her family with that village. The burial took place later in the day at Dunbar.

After the Prestonpans service her oak coffin was carried in relays from Prestongrange House to the local railway station. Estate workers carried it first to the south gate from where it was borne by members of the Kirk Session before her fellow Parish Council members carried her on the last leg of the journey.

All Prestonpans shops and businesses were closed from mid day as a mark of respect. School children many of whom had been personally known to Lady Susan lined the route followed by her cortege. A special train carried the coffin plus a large number of friends and relatives from Prestonpans to Dunbar railway station.

On arrival at Dunbar the coffin was carried shoulder high from station to churchyard. Pall bearers were her sons in law Sir Neil Menzies and the Rev. George Smith, her grandson Viscount Dalrymple, her nephew the Duke of Roxburghe together with Lord Charles Innes Ker, Robert Grant Suttie, Lord Montgomerie and John Russell.

The pre-burial service at Dunbar was attended by many hundreds of people including a large representation of the people of Prestonpans along with many members of the aristocracy. An unusual feature was the considerable female presence at a time when women did not normally attend burials. The service was jointly conducted by the Rev. Donald MacLeod of St Columba's London and the Rev. William Borland of Dunbar. The grave was surrounded with ivy and chrysanthemums.

It may seem strange that Lady Susan and her family are buried at Dunbar rather than within the family vault at Prestonpans. Perhaps it was simply due to the long family association with Broxmouth – which was particularly strong

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at the time of her husband's death. However, when Prestonpans Parish Church was reopened on 10 September 1911 after extensive renovations the internal changes included a plaque in memory of Lady Susan. In addition to that church memorial the only other obvious indication of her name within Prestonpans is at *The Lady Susan* inn which is situated on what was once part of the Barony of Prestoungrange.

Lady Susan left personal estate of £10,267/3/3d. Her daughters Dame Susan Menzies and Lady Harriet Cooper were appointed and confirmed at Haddington on 17 January 1910 as Joint Executrices.

Unlike his sisters, Lady Susan's son Sir George never married. Therefore there was no direct line of descent bearing the Grant Suttie name. Sir George was never a regular occupant of Prestongrange House after the death of his mother and the house was for a long time unoccupied before passing to the Royal Musselburgh Golf Club as their clubhouse which use it still has some 80 years later. Lady Susan, from the Roxburghe family, was ironically the last private resident there just as Mark Ker of the same Roxburghe family had been its first post-Reformation owner.

Acknowledgements

Information contained in this record derives mainly from the Prestongrange legal records, Minutes of Prestonpans Town Council and other biographical documentation held within the General Archives of Scotland together with *Haddington Press* articles accessed within the History Department of Haddington Library. The research assistance provided by staff at both venues is most gratefully acknowledged. Information contained in Peter McNeill's ubiquitous reference work *Prestonpans and Vicinity* also provided considerable basis.

6 ALEXANDER HUME

The education of its young has always been a major preoccupation for the Scottish nation. Indeed, the first attempt in Europe to prescribe a system of compulsory education was the 'First Book of Discipline' in 1560, which proposed a national plan for schools at all levels, from elementary to university, to be set up throughout Scotland.

During the period immediately following the Reformation, the newly-established parishes and their ministers were concerned with the issue of educational provision for their congregations. The first post-reformation minister of Prestonpans, the Reverend John Davidson, shared this preoccupation and, although he did not live to see it open, one of his major contributions to the parish was the founding and financing of a school for the education of the sons of gentlemen in 'Latin, Greek and Hebrew Tonguis'.

Thanks to Davidson's generous endowment, the school attracted staff of high quality and its first master was the highly respected figure of Alexander Hume, known as 'The Grammarian'. By the time Hume arrived in Prestonpans in 1606, he had already established a considerable reputation as an educator of the young. He came to his post after a period as master at the Edinburgh High School. Previous to this, Hume spent many years teaching in England, including two years as a private tutor at Oxford.

Although Davidson's intended curriculum included three languages, by far the most important of these was Latin. Fluency in Latin was an essential element in the education of the young at this time. Lectures at university were customarily delivered in Latin, while many of the essential texts were written in this tongue. Latin was the language of government and the law, and provided an international means of communication amongst scholars. Anyone who lacked fluency in both spoken and written Latin would have found it impossible to participate in the intellectual and political society of the day.

It was during his ten-year period as a teacher at Davidson's school in Prestonpans that Hume completed the work which established his reputation as one of the foremost educators of the day. His '*Grammatica nova in usum juventutis Scotiae ad methodum revocata*', was a Latin grammar intended to

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provide a sound basis in the language for young students between the ages of ten and fourteen. This grammar was a response to the concern at this time that a lack of uniformity in the teaching of Latin in Scottish schools meant that some pupils were not developing the level of skill required for their later studies.

In 1612, in response to the need for a consistent approach to the teaching of Latin, Hume's work was adopted as the standard text in all Scottish schools. Interestingly, although the grammar created a standardisation in terms of Latin, a number of peculiarly Scottish words provided in some of the book's translations demonstrate that standardisation of the English tongue in an educational context was far from complete at this time.

Although Davidson had originally emphasised a combined curriculum of Latin, Greek and Hebrew, these latter languages were taught to provide basic understanding. The majority of the curriculum was devoted almost entirely to developing fluency in Latin, even to the extent of requiring pupils to use Latin when talking not only to their teachers, but among themselves, so long as they remained on the school premises.

Hume maintained his responsibilities at Prestonpans for a period of ten years, until 1626, when he left to become master of the grammar school at Dunbar. It is a testimony to the considerable respect he enjoyed in the parish that the inheritor of Davidson's personal papers, John Johnstone, subsequently left these papers jointly to Alexander Hume and Robert Wallace.

The school at Prestonpans flourished for over a hundred years and continued to maintain its reputation. However, as the value of the original endowment shrank, the school gradually declined until, by the date of The First Statistical Account of Scotland in the 1790s, Davidson's school was no longer in existence.

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