

## John CLAY (1824-1904)

### *1841 Census Kerchesters, Roxburghshire, Scotland*

John CLAY	40yrs	Farmer	b Scotland
Ann CLAY	15yrs		b Scotland
John CLAY	15yrs		b Scotland
Mary CLAY	75yrs		b Scotland
Thomas COCKBURN	15yrs	Farmer	b Scotland
Ann BROMFIELD	30yrs	Female servant	b England
Helen BEARUP	20yrs	Female servant	b Scotland

### *Dundee, Perth and Cupar Advertiser 29 Sep 1848 Alarming Fire at Kerchesters*

About 11 o'clock on the night of Thursday last the farm onstead of Kerchesters, in the parish of Sprouston, possessed by Mr Clay, was discovered to be on fire. Most of the servants and others about the place had retired to rest, and it was first discovered by the glare thrown into the window of one of the cottagers, who gave the alarm. The fire was found to have originated in the stackyard, a stack of turnip seed and a very large stack of hay being then on fire; and the turnip seed stack being close against the wall of the barn, it was evident that nothing could prevent that building from taking fire, which it soon did, and both it and the machinery of the thrashing-mill therein were destroyed, as were also the straw barn, a granary, and a range of feeding sheds below, and, in short, nearly one half of the onstead. The machinery of the steam-engine was also materially damaged. The stacks where the fire was first discovered, as well as three barley stacks, and a large stack of straw, were consumed. There is a strong conviction that the fire originated from some men having indulged in the dangerous practice of smoking in the stackyard. Kelso Mail.

### *1851 Census Muirhouse, Wynnfield, Whitsome, Berwickshire, Scotland*

John CLAY	Head	26yrs	Farmer 500 acres employing 16 laborers	b Coldstream, Berwickshire
Patricia CLAY	Wife	26yrs	Farmer's wife	b England
Janet THOMSON	Sis-in-law	22yrs		b England
Isabella YOUNG	Servt	40yrs	House servant	b England
Elizabeth WILSON	Servt	18yrs	House servant	b Edrom, Berwickshire
Mathew CRAIG	Servt	18yrs	Groom	b Parton, Berwickshire

<i>1861 Census Winfield, Whitsome, Berwickshire, Scotland</i>					
John CLAY	Head	36yrs	Farmer 525 acres Employing 8 men, 6 women & 1 boy	b Whitsome, Berwickshire	
Patricia CLAY	Wife	36yrs		b Northumberland, England	
John CLAY	Son	9yrs	Scholar	b Whitsome, Berwickshire	
Janet T. CLAY	Dau	9yrs	Scholar	b Whitsome, Berwickshire	
Ann Wilson CLAY	Dau	7yrs	Scholar	b Whitsome, Berwickshire	
Patricia CLAY	Dau	3yrs		b Whitsome, Berwickshire	
Charles CLAY	Son	1yr		b Whitsome, Berwickshire	
Agnes G. CLAY	Dau	1 month		b Whitsome, Berwickshire	
Helen Hendmarck	Servt	20yrs	Governess	b Northumberland, England	
Jessie TAIT	Servt	24yrs	Nursery Maid	b Humbie, East Lothian	
Isabella BERTRAM	Servt	36yrs	Cook	b Whitsome, Berwickshire	
Ann WIGHTMAN	Servt	21yrs	House maid	b Whitsome, Berwickshire	
William ANDERSON	Servt	17yrs	Groom	b Buncle, Berwickshire	

*Kelso Chronicle 01 May 1868 Birth*  
At Kerchesters, on the 25<sup>th</sup> ult., Mrs Clay, of a daughter.

*Edinburgh Evening Courant 28 Aug 1869 Kelso – Destructive Fire*  
On Thursday night a destructive fire broke out on the farmsteading of Kerchesters, occupied by Mr John Clay. The flames were first seen issuing from the riding stable, and measures were at once taken to have then extinguished. A messenger was despatched to Kelso for the fire-engine, which, however, arrived too late to be of much service. The fire had got a firm hold before it could be checked, and the building in which it broke out – an old farm-house, the under flat of which was used as a riding stable and coach-house, and the upper flat as a hay loft – was completely gutted, and the most of its contents destroyed. A valuable riding horse, a greyhound, and two terrier dogs perished in the flames, and a pony was got severely burnt. A quantity of harness as well as the hay in the loft above, and the steward's house, closely adjoining the building, were destroyed. The steward and his wife were from home at the time, but a part of their furniture was saved. The steward's son, a lad of about seventeen years of age, who had been in the riding stable with a lighted candle, left the place for a short time, and it is supposed that, in his absence, the candle had fallen amongst some loose straw, and thus caused the fire. The premises were insured, but there will be a considerable loss to Mr Clay, and also to the steward, by the destruction of the house, furniture, etc.

*Kelso Chronicle 07 Jan 1870 Farm Letting*

The excellent hill farm of Plenderleith, at present occupied by Mr G. Sholto Douglas, has been let to Mr John Clay, Kerchesters, with entry at Whitsunday. The farm is on the estate of his Grace the Duke of Roxburghe, in the upper district of Oxnam Water, and has long been conspicuous for the fine quality of its Cheviot wool.

*1871 Census 16 Kerchesters, Sprouston, Roxburghshire*

John CLAY	Head	19yrs	Farmer Son	b Whitsome, Berwickshire
Janet T. CLAY	Sister	18yrs		b Whitsome, Berwickshire
Patricia CLAY	Sister	13yrs	Scholar	b Whitsome, Berwickshire
Agnes G. CLAY	Sister	10yrs	Scholar	b Whitsome, Berwickshire
Alexander D. CLAY	Brother	7yrs	Scholar	b Whitsome, Berwickshire
Johannah CLAY	Sister	2yrs		b Whitsome, Berwickshire
Helen GRAY	Servt	19yrs	Housemaid	b Coldstream, Berwickshire
Helen HAIG	Servt	18yrs	Nursery Maid	b Westruther, Berwickshire
Agnes HUGGAN	Servt	26yrs	Cook	b England

*Berwickshire News and General Advertiser 30 Sep 1879 Marriage*

At Kerchesters, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> inst., by the Rev Alex. M. Craig, Sprouston Free Church, assisted by the Rev R. O. Broomfield, Sprouston, William Howie, Haddon Down, Murgah, and St. Albans, Australia, and fourth son of the late T. Howie, Haddon, to Patricia, third daughter of John Clay, Kerchesters.

*The Standard 14 May 1880 Marriage*

May 11, at Kerchesters, near Kelso, by the Rev. A. M. Craig, assisted by the Rev. Robert Kirke, D.D., George Muirhead, Paxton, Berwick-on-Tweed, to Agnes Grieve, fourth daughter of John Clay, Esq.

*1881 Census Farm House, Sprouston, Roxburghshire, Scotland*

John CLAY	Head	56yrs	Farmer 1300 arable Employing 18 men, 8 women & 7 boys	b Whitsome, Berwickshire
Patricia CLAY	Wife	56yrs	Farmer's wife	b England
Janet J. CLAY	Dau	28yrs		b Whitsome, Berwickshire
Alexander T. CLAY	Son	17yrs	Lawyer (Apprentice)	b Whitsome, Berwickshire
Isabella HARDY	Servt	28yrs	General Domestic servant	b Jedburgh, Roxburghshire
Mary HUME	Servt	25yrs	Cook	b Jedburgh, Roxburghshire

*South Australian Register (Adelaide) 30 Sep 1887 Death*  
On the 25<sup>th</sup> August, at Haddon Downs, William Howie, aged 42.

*1891 Census Kerchesters, Sprouston, Roxburghshire, Scotland*

John CLAY	Head	66yrs	Farmer	b Whitsome, Berwickshire
Patricia CLAY	Wife	66yrs		b England
Johanna M. CLAY	Dau	22yrs		b Sprouston, Roxburghshire
Annie W. STEWART	Dau	37yrs		b Whitsome, Berwickshire
Margaret HARDIE	Servt	32yrs	Domestic servant	b Jedburgh, Roxburghshire
Mary RICHARDSON	Servt	29yrs	Domestic servant	b Kelso, Roxburghshire

*Brisbane Courier 06 Feb 1892 In the Supreme Court of Queensland – Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction*

In the Goods of William Howie, late of Haddon Downs and St. Alban's Stations, in the District of Gregory South, in the Colony of Queensland, Grazier, Deceased, Intestate. Notice is hereby given that, after the expiration of fourteen days from the date of the publication hereof, application will be made to the said Honourable Court that Letters of Administration of all and singular the goods, chattels, credits, and effects of the abovenamed William Howie, deceased intestate, may be granted to Patricia Howie, of Haddon Downs and St. Alban's Stations aforesaid, the Widow of the said intestate. Dated at Brisbane this sixth day of February 1892. Hart & Flower, Proctors for the said Patricia Howie, Adelaide-street, Brisbane.

*Aberdeen Journal 17 Sep 1898 Death of Mrs Muirhead, Fochabers*

It is our painful duty to have to record the death of Mrs Muirhead, wife of Mr George Muirhead, F.R.S.E., commissioner in Scotland to His Grace the Duke of Richmond and Gordon. The sad event, which took place yesterday afternoon at the residence of Mr Muirhead at Fochabers, was not unlooked for, Mrs Muirhead having been a sufferer from a lingering and painful disease that baffled the best medical skill. The news of her demise will be received throughout Aberdeenshire, and particularly in the Tarves and Methlick district, with sincere regret, she having endeared herself to the people in that locality during her eight years' residence at Mains of Haddo House, where her husband was factor to Lord Aberdeen. Accomplished, tactful, and kindly, Mrs Muirhead did much useful philanthropic work in the district round about Haddo House. Indeed, for acts of charity, and movements for the welfare of the people among whom she resided, Mrs Muirhead's name was a household one. In the Tarves ladies' working party in particular she took a leading part, and on the occasion of her departure the members presented her with a handsomely bound Oxford Bible as a token of respect and esteem. Miss Bean, who made the presentation, referred to the great interest Mrs Muirhead had manifested in the affairs of Tarves generally, and to the untiring efforts she had put forth in behalf of the working party. In the Onward and Upward Association, of which Lady Aberdeen is the founder and hon. president, Mrs Muirhead took a keen interest; and she was also an enthusiastic member and office-bearer of the Tarves Literary and Debating Society, at the meetings of which she occasionally read papers of an interesting and instructive character. Privately she did a great deal of good among the poor of the locality who, on her removing to Fochabers, lost in her a kind friend. In consequence of the illness from which she suffered, Mrs Muirhead was never able to identify herself with the varied interests of her new home. Indeed, she had been an invalid ever since going to Fochabers. Much sympathy will be extended to Mr Muirhead in his sad bereavement. The deceased lady was a daughter of Mr John Clay, a well-known agriculturist in the south.

*Edinburgh Evening News 20 September 1898 Death of a Berwickshire Lady*

The death is accounted of Agnes Grieve Muirhead, wife of George Muirhead, the Duke of Richmond and Gordon's commissioner, formerly factor to Lord Aberdeen at Haddo, and Colonel Milne Home, of Paxton, Berwickshire. She was a daughter of John Clay, Kerchesters, Kelso, an eminent Border agriculturist. A woman of much culture, she was a lady member of the Berwick Naturalists' Club. She largely illustrated with her own hand her husband's standard two-volume work on the birds of Berwickshire.

*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette 09 Dec 1899*

On Thursday Mr and Mrs Stedman, Timpenden, Jedburgh, celebrated their golden wedding. Mr James Stedman is the elder son of the late Captain James Stedman, of Broomfield, Melrose, and on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1849, was married to Johanna Grieve Clay, second daughter of the late John Clay, Kerchesters.

*1901 Census 8 Magdala Crescent, Edinburgh West Coates, Midlothian, Scotland*

John CLAY	Head	76yrs	Farmer	b Whitsome, Berwickshire
Patricia CLAY	Wife	76yrs		b England
Mary J. ANDERSON	Servt	28yrs	Cook	b Edinburgh, Midlothian
Mary A. TAIT	Servt	23yrs	Housemaid	b England

*Edinburgh Evening News 05 September 1904 Death of a Well-Known Border Farmer*

The death took place at his Edinburgh house on Saturday night at the age of 79 of Mr John Clay, a well-known agriculturist. Deceased, who came of a well-known family of Berwickshire farmers, was tenant of the farm of Winfield from 1848 to 1892. On leaving he was drawn into a prolonged litigation with the landlord under the Agricultural Holdings Act, and won one of the cases which was carried to the House of Lords. He held the farms of Kerchesters and Plenderleith for many years, and at the date of his death was tenant of Wedderlie, near Lauder, which he had held for over 40 years. For many years Mr Clay paid between £4000 and £5000 a year in rents, and as an agriculturist he was recognized as eminently progressive and practical. He served on two Royal Commissions on Agriculture, viz., in 1879 and 1893. In politics he was a Liberal. Mr Clay was a member of the Free Church from the Disruption, being at his death an office-bearer in St George's U.F. Church, and was in sympathy with the Union of 1900. He is survived by a widow and family. There are three sons, two of whom are in America – Mr John Clay, jun., who is well-known in cattle and financial circles in Chicago, and Mr Charles Clay. The only son in this country is Mr A. T. Clay, W.S., Edinburgh, who was the Liberal agent in Midlothian at the last General Election.

*Berwickshire News and General Advertiser 06 September 1904 Death of Mr John Clay formerly of Kerchesters*

The announcement of the death of Mr John Clay will be received by a wide circle of friends with deep regret. For many years he occupied a foremost place in the agricultural life of Scotland, and was well known in English agricultural circles. Until two years ago he was a prominent figure at agricultural gatherings, but since that time he has been subject to a protracted illness, and passed away on Saturday evening at his Edinburgh residence. Mr Clay was born on 5<sup>th</sup> November 1824, and has thus lived under four Sovereigns. He came of a well-known Berkshire farming family, and was the fourth of his name connected with agriculture in that county. During his long life he has farmed many important holdings in the Borders, and would for a number of years pay between £4000 and £5000 yearly in rents. In 1848 he entered upon a lease of the farm of Winfield in succession to his grandfather, and continued as tenant there until about 1892. On his leaving the farm he was involved in litigation with his landlord, mainly arising from his claim under the Agricultural Holdings Act. One of the actions was appealed to the House of Lords, and is still the ruling decision upon the point involved. Mr Clay was successful in all the actions raised against him, but never ceased to regret that he should have had a difference with one landlord out of the several under whom he farmed. In 1867 he succeeded his father in the farm of Kerchesters, on the estate of his Grace the Duke of Roxburghe, and held the lease of that farm till 1896. He also, in 1872, entered into a lease of the farm of Plenderleith, upon the same estate, from which he retired about 1897. At the date of his death he was tenant of the farm of Wedderlie, near Lauder, which he has held since 1852. Mr Clay was a shrewd business man, with great force of character, and would have been successful in almost any line of life. He early made his mark in the farming world, and was for many years a progressive, energetic, and successful agriculturist. His abilities were recognized by the Government, when he was appointed one of the Commissioners for Scotland in the Royal Commission on Agriculture in 1879. He was again honoured by being appointed in a similar capacity on the Royal Commission on Agriculture of 1893. In both of these Commissions, while signing the report of the Commission, he tabled in separate memoranda advanced views on remedies for agriculture in Scotland, some of which have been since to some extent met by legislation. In politics Mr Clay was a Liberal. He followed Mr Gladstone on the Home Rule question, and latterly his views have been in sympathy with those of the Liberal League. In his earlier years he was actively engaged in political campaigns in Berwickshire and in the election of 1880 he was asked to stand as Liberal candidate for the North Division of Northumberland, against Earl Percy and Mr Matthew White Ridley. He was unsuccessful in his candidature, but it was admitted that he opened the way for the success of the Liberal candidate in that division after the passing of the Franchise Act. He left the Established Church at the Disruption, and has since been a Free Churchman; he has been an elder in the Free Church since 1861. He was in full sympathy with the Union of 1900. From an early age until a few years of his death Mr Clay was a keen follower of hounds. His recollections date back to the well-known period when the late Earl of Wemyss hunted in the Border County, and he was well to the front in many a famous run. Mr Clay rode not only straight, but with judgment, was never far from the first flight, and few figures were better known at a meet of the Buccleuch or Berwickshire Hunt. Socially he was one of the most genial of men, and had a large circle of friends, not only in this country but extending to the United States. He is survived by his widow (who also belongs to a well-known Berwickshire family), four daughters and three sons.

*Berwickshire News and General Advertiser 13 September 1904 Funeral at Sprouston of Mr John Clay*

On Wednesday the remains of the late Mr John Clay of Kerchesters, Kelso, were conveyed by special train from Haymarket, Edinburgh, to Sprouston for interment, the only stoppage on the way being Kelso. A brief service was conducted at the house in Magdala Crescent by the Rev Dr Whyte, of St George's U.F. Church, of which deceased, since taking up residence in the city, was a devoted member. A number of mourners joined the train at Kelso, and a very large number met the train at Sprouston. An impressive funeral service was held in the Parish Church, the officiating clergyman being the Rev Hunter Smith of St. Stephen's United Free Church, Edinburgh. The praise was well led by a choir under the direction of the organist, Mr John Wright, whose opening voluntary was, "I know that My Redeemer liveth." After prayer appropriate passages of Scripture were read, and the succeeding praise included the 2<sup>nd</sup> Paraphrase and the favourite hymn "Now the labourer's task is o'er." In his concluding prayer the rev. gentleman thanked God for the life of deceased as father, friend and counsellor; he also prayed that the widow and fatherless might be comforted and solaced in the hour of affliction and sorrow. "Compass them," he said in closing, "with Thy mercy, and teach them through this affliction to know more of Thy love." As the mourners left the church, after the benediction, the organist played the Dead March in "Saul." The coffin was borne from the church to the grave by old servants of Mr Clay, or by their representatives. Those forward for this duty were Walter Brown, Sprouston, who for long acted as steward at Kerchesters; James Gray, Redden (formerly at Kerchesters); Matthew Craig, steward at Wedderlie, and his son, Alexander Craig; William Anderson, the aged shepherd at Wedderlie; and William Whitelaw, shepherd, Wedderlie. The shell was enclosed in a polished oak coffin, having heavy brass mountings, and it was surmounted by some exceedingly pretty floral tributes. Gifts of flowers, however, were restricted, by special request, to the family circle. The chief mourners were Mr A. Thomson Clay, W.S. (son) and Mrs Clay; Mr George Muirhead, commissioner to the Duke of Richmond, and Gordon (son-in-law) and his three sons; Mr Robert Stewart, Glasgow (son-in-law), Mrs Stewart (daughter) and Mr J. C. Stewart (grandson); Miss Johanna M. Clay, military nurse in the service of His Majesty (daughter); Nurse Williamson, who nursed deceased in his last illness; Mr David W. B. Tait, W.S., Kelso, agent of deceased; Mr J. A. Borthwick, Oxnam Row, and Mr Borthwick, Mindrum (nephews); Mr James Stedman, Middleon, Galawater, and Mr W. Charles Stedman, solicitor and Clerk of the Peace, Jedburgh (nephews). The pall-bearers were Mr A. T. Clay, Mr George Muirhead and Mr F. C. Muirhead, Mr Robert Stewart and Mr J. C. Stewart, Mr J. A. Borthwick, Mr James Stedman and Mr D. W. B. Tait. The grave, alongside that of deceased's grand daughter, Miss Patricia Stewart, was specially lined with wood, this again carrying a covering of moss and ivy, and from the boundary the proceedings were watched with mournful interest by a large crowd of people from the village and district. Rev A. M. Craig, of East (Sprouston) United Free Church, Kelso, conducted the service at the grave. In his prayer he thanked God for the long life now closed, for the activity of this life, and for its usefulness and prosperity. He also thanked God for the gifts which deceased had been endowed – gifts of intellect, of head, and of heart. Specially remembering the bereaved wife and family, he likewise spoke of the end of the period of suffering, and of the blessed hope of resurrection. Other mourners included Sir George B. Douglas, Bart., Springwood Park; Mr James Stormouth Darling, Edenbank; Mr George Tait, Edenside; Mr John Smith, Galalaw; Mr Adam Deas, solicitor, Duns; Mr James Turnbull, Lempitlaw Eastfield; Mr J. S. Johnston, Crailinghall; Mr James Robertson, Morebattle Tofts; Mr W. R. Smith, Windywalls; Mr W. Dunn, Redden; Mr William Brown, St. Helens, Kelso; Mr Alexander Johnston, Todrig; Mr David Herriot, ex-Mayor of Berwick; Mr Alexander Darling, Berwick; Mr H. Alder, Berwick; Mr William Elder, Berwick; Mr T. Gibson, formerly of Torwoodlee; Mr Henderson, Upper Keith; Mr Stark, Mellendean; Mr Alexander Lyall, Edington; Mr William Davidson, Cornhill; Mr John Turnbull, Sunslawshill; Mr A. Balsillie, Dykegatehead; Mr R. V. Mather, Abbey View, Kelso; the Rev. John Watson, Bo'ness; Mr Thomas Park, Haddington; Mr John Allan, Edinburgh (formerly of Berwickshire); Mr Alexander Gilmour and Andrew Scott, Edinburgh; Mr John McArthur, "Kelso Chronicle"; Mr John Hutton, F.R.C.V.S., Kelso; Mr William Black, Schoolhouse; Mr C. Dodds, Lime House, Kelso; Mr John Brown, Ashlea, Kelso; Mr Andrew Walker and Mr Tom Walker, Sprouston; Mr T. Chisholm, Victoria Cottages; Mr George Wright, Tweedview; Mr George Bruce, Mr H. Peattie, Mr R. Hall, Kelso.

*The Berwick Advertiser 25 Nov 1904 Will of the Late Mr J. Clay*

Mr John Clay, of 8 Magdala Crescent, Edinburgh, and of Wedderlie Farm, Berwickshire, and late of Kerchesters, Kelso, a director of the California Pastoral and Agricultural Company (Limited), who unsuccessfully contested the Northern Division of Northumberland in the Liberal interest in 1880, member of several Royal Commissions on agricultural matters, who died at Edinburgh on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September last, aged 79 years, left personal estate in the United Kingdom valued at £39,740 16s 11d, of which £3,492 0s 7d is English estate. The trustees of his deed of deposition and settlement of the 19<sup>th</sup> January 1899, with a codicil of the 6<sup>th</sup> June 1901, are his sons, Mr Alexander Thomson Clay, Writer to the Signet, Edinburgh and Mr John Clay, jun., commission agent, of Chicago, U.S.A.; Mr John Alexander Borthwick, of Oxnam Row, Jedburgh; Mr David Herriot and Mr Thomas Darling, merchants, of Berwick-on-Tweed, to whom probate has been granted.

*Aberdeen Journal 06 Dec 1907 Marriage*

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, in the Private Chapel, Forbescourt, Broughty Ferry, by the Lord Bishop of Brechin, George Muirhead, Speybank, Fochabers, to the Honourable Katharine Forbes-Sempill.

*Berwickshire News and General Advertiser 11 Jan 1910*

Miss Johanna Clay, daughter of the late Mr John Clay, Kerchesters, Kelso, has resigned her appointment as a nurse in connection with the Army Service.

*Berwickshire News and General Advertiser 31 May 1910*

At St. Giles Cathedral, on the 27<sup>th</sup> May, by the Rev the Hon. Arthur Gordon, Francis Clay Muirhead, second son of George Muirhead, Esq., Spey Bank, Fochabers, to Alice Isabella, eldest daughter of William Robertson, 11a Grange Road, Edinburgh.

*Berwickshire News and General Advertiser 21 Dec 1915 Border Children's Club*

Mr George Muirhead, Fochabers, Morayshire, who for many years was Factor for several Estates in Berwickshire, and resided at Paxton, near Berwick-upon-Tweed, offered last spring to Border Children's Club, of "Berwick Journal" and "Berwickshire News," prizes for best collection of dried wild flowers, grasses, and sedges. Capt. Norman, R.N., Cheviot House, Berwick, and Rev J. J. M. L. Aiken, B.D., The Manse, Ayton, at the request of Mr Muirhead, kindly agreed to act as Judges of the collections. Mr Muirhead, who is a Fellow of Royal Society of Edinburgh, Botanical Society, and other scientific societies, is Author of "The Birds of Berwickshire." For many years past he has been Commissioner for Duke of Richmond and Gordon on his Grace's vast estates in North of Scotland. In Border Children's Club Corner To-day we announce the result of the interesting Competition so kindly promoted by Mr Muirhead, who thus once more evinces this practical interest in the Borderland.

*Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer 27 Oct 1919 War Honours*

By the King of Serbia – Order of St. Sava 5<sup>th</sup> Class – Matron Johanna M. Clay, 38<sup>th</sup> General Hospital, Q.A.I.M.N.S.



*Aberdeen Journal 04 Jun 1928 King's Birthday Honours Lists*

Officers – Civil: Miss Johanna Margaret Clay, R.R.C., principal matron for Scotland, Ministry of Pensions.

*National Probate Calendar 1934*

Clay or Stewart Annie Wilson of Tweedbank Peebles widow died 28 May 1934 at sea. Confirmation of Richard Gibson solicitor. Sealed London 28 September.

*Berwickshire News and General Advertiser 06 Sep 1938 Berwickshire Factor who Wrote Border Book*

Gordon Castle, Fochabers, ancestral Home of Gordon-Richmond Family for generations, is being closed. A daughter of Duke of Gordon and Richmond is present Duchess of Northumberland, of Alnwick Castle. For several years, Mr George Muirhead, Paxton, was Factor for this great Scottish Estate of Fochabers. He had previously been, and for many years, Factor on Berwickshire Estates of Milne-Home Family, and he resided at Paxton, and was in his time, one of the senior members of Berwick Corn Exchange. His fine commanding figure was to be seen in Berwick Market regularly each Saturday. Mr Muirhead married the daughter of Mr John Clay, of Kerchesters, Kelso, and Winfield, Norham, one of the greatest of Border farmers and expert in agriculture, member of Royal Commissions on Farming, and Candidate for Parliament, and his son, John Clay, junior, of Chicago, U.S.A., was known as "The Cattle King of America," and was a former Master of North Northumberland and Berwickshire Hunt. Mr Muirhead wrote the standard work on ornithology, "The Birds of Berwickshire," in two volumes, and thus put on record a wonderful history of the feathered animals of Borderland, and conveyed to the public much new and authentic information in his records as a talented and observant author. He was, too, one of the most expert members of Berwickshire Naturalists' Club and a zealous collaborator in literary and scientific work on Borderland, with Doctor James Hardy, LL.D., of Oldcambus, the learned and erudite Secretary and President of Berwickshire Naturalists' Club, a voluminous and scholarly student, writer, and speaker, on nature subjects and the established order of things. This recalls the life-work of the accomplished and versatile lady Mrs Jane Barwell-Carter of The Anchorage, Woolmarket, Berwick, daughter of Doctor George Johnston, M.D., of Berwick, Founder of Berwickshire Naturalists' Club, who was born in Berwickshire at Simprim, Coldstream, where his father was the farmer, and afterwards lived at Ilderton, North Northumberland. Mrs Barwell-Carter it was who collected and arranged the correspondence of her father, which was edited by Dr Hardy, and published in a volume which is a valuable Border Book. Dr Johnston was thrice Mayor of Berwick; and he was also Sheriff of Berwick. Berwickshire Naturalists' Club was founded over 100 years ago. On the occasion of Berwick annual meeting of the Club, in October of each year, Mrs Barwell-Carter opened her home to the members of the Club, and displayed there many records and relics of the first years of the Club, to view which interesting collection the writer had regular invitation from this illustrious Berwickier, and always enjoyed Mrs Barwell-Carter's shrewd acumen and inborn penetration of nature life and study. It is interesting to recall that Mr Frank Muirhead, brother of the author of "The Birds of Berwickshire," succeeded at Paxton, Mr George Muirhead, as Factor of the Milne-Home Estates of Wedderburn and Billie, and Paxton, in the era when Colonel David Milne-Home, M.P. for Berwick upon Tweed, Freeman of the good old Border Town of Berwick, and Colonel Commanding of Royal Horse Guards Blue, was Chief of the great Berwickshire and Border Family of Milne-Home. The father of Col. Milne-Home was David Milne-Home, notable and distinguished Convener of Berwickshire; and his brother, Admiral Milne, of Inveresk, near Edinburgh, was Admiral-of-The-Fleet in his day. Mr Frank Muirhead, like his brother George, also married a Border lady – Miss Bird, of Fishwick, Hutton, daughter of one of our best-known Berwickshire farmers of 50 years ago.

*Berwickshire News and General Advertiser 04 Jul 1939 Death*

Lombard, Ill., U.S.A., 30<sup>th</sup> June, 1939, Charles, second son of the late John Clay, of Kerchesters, Kelso, in his 81<sup>st</sup> year.

*Berwickshire News and General Advertiser 29 Apr 1947 Death*

At Walkerburn, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 1947, Johanna Margaret Clay, O.B.E., R.R.C., Q.A.I.M.N.S. (retired), youngest and only surviving daughter of the late John Clay, Kerchesters, Kelso.

*Berwickshire News and General Advertiser 12 Dec 1950*

The death has occurred in Edinburgh after a long illness of Mr Alexander Thomson Clay, W.S., a former Auditor of the Court of Session in Edinburgh. Mr Clay, who was 87, was born in Kelso and was educated at Edinburgh Academy. In 1887 he became a law agent, and was admitted to the Society of Writers to the Signet in 1894. From 1884 to 1888 he was well known in the Rugby football world as a member of the Edinburgh Academical's team, and was capped for Scotland in 1886 and the two following years, playing against England 1886-7, Ireland 1886-7 and Wales 1886-87-88.