

George MUIRHEAD (1845-1928)*1851 Census Salton Village, East Salton, East Lothian*

Alexander MUIRHEAD	Head	56yrs	Farmer 250 acres 15 labourers Limeburner and 8 labourers	b Preston, Haddingtonshire
Margaret MUIRHEAD	Wife	53yrs	Farmer's Wife	b Preston, Haddingtonshire
John MUIRHEAD	Son	25yrs	Farmer 176 acres 5 labourers 4 & 1 Women Boy	b Salton, Haddingtonshire
James MUIRHEAD	Son	23yrs	Farmer's Son	b Salton, Haddingtonshire
Alexander MUIRHEAD	Son	22yrs	Farmer's Son	b Salton, Haddingtonshire
Helen MUIRHEAD	Dau	16yrs	Farmer's Daughter	b Salton, Haddingtonshire
Margaret MUIRHEAD	Dau	14yrs	Farmer's Daughter	b Salton, East Lothian
Frances MUIRHEAD	Son	11yrs	Scholar	b Salton, East Lothian
George MUIRHEAD	Son	6yrs	Scholar	b Salton, East Lothian
Marion WARY	Servt	17yrs	House servant	b Waddington, East Lothian
Patrick MURPHY	Servt	18yrs	Farm servant	b Ireland

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 Paxton Estate Office, Hutton, Berwickshire

George MUIRHEAD	Head	36yrs	Land Factor	b Salton, East Lothian
Agnes G. C. MUIRHEAD	Wife	20yrs		b Whitsome, Berwickshire
Isabella A. McGILL	Servt	21yrs	General domestic servant	b Granton, Mid Lothian

1891 Census Factors House Mains of Haddo, Tarves, Aberdeenshire

George MUIRHEAD	Head	46yrs	Factor for Estates	b Salton, East Lothian
Agnes G. MUIRHEAD	Wife	30yrs		b Whitsome, Berwickshire
George C. MUIRHEAD	Son	9yrs	Scholar	b Hutton, Berwickshire
Frances C. MUIRHEAD	Dau	3yrs		b Hutton, Berwickshire
Margaret STRACHAN	Servt	29yrs	Cook	b Alvah, Banffshire
Catherine LESLIE	Servt	21yrs	Housemaid	b Tarves, Aberdeenshire
Jeanie IRVINER	Servt	16yrs	Nurse	b Turriff, Aberdeenshire

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 announced 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.

Aberdeen Journal 06 Dec 1907 Marriage

On December 5th, 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 31 May 1910

At St. Giles Cathedral, on the 27th 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.

Aberdeen Journal 30 January 1928 Obituary – Mr George Muirhead, LL.D., Fochabers – [includes a portrait]

The death occurred yesterday at his residence at Speybank, Fochabers, of Mr George Muirhead, late commissioner on the late Duke of Richmond and Gordon's estates in Scotland, at the age of eighty-two years. Mr Muirhead was for many years a conspicuous figure in public life in the north. Before going to the Duke of Richmond and Gordon's estates, Mr Muirhead was factor for the Earl of Aberdeen, succeeding the late Mr A. F. Douglas in 1889. In Aberdeenshire he amply justified the reputation with which he entered office as a gentleman of extensive experience in all departments of agricultural affairs and estate management and a proficient man of business. In 1897 he was appointed to be commissioner on the Duke of Richmond and Gordon's estates in Scotland, an office which he held until a number of years ago. He took an active part in the county life of Morayshire, being a member of the Moray County Council and the Road Board, although for the past two years he had been unable to attend the meetings owing to failing health. A member of the Moray Field Club, he was an ardent floriculturist, and his garden at Speybank was one of the most beautiful in the county. Mr Muirhead was the author of many natural history contributions on birds, salmon and trout. He was a man of remarkable personality, an all-round county naturalist of the Gilbert White type, and did great service in fostering and diffusing an interest in out-of-doors' natural history. He received the honorary degree of LL.D. at the spring graduation in Aberdeen in 1925. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society, Edinburgh, a Fellow of the Zoological Society, and also an M.B.O.U. On the occasion of his marriage to the Hon. Katherine Forbes Sempill, eldest daughter of the late Lord Sempill in 1907, by whom he is survived, he was presented by the tenants of the Gordon-Richmond estates with three magnificent solid silver candelabra, and also with a silver salver from the factors, architects and clerks in the estate's offices at Fochabers, Huntly and Glenlivet, as an acknowledgement of the high respect in which he was held.

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 Berwicker, 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.