

**Chapter 5: Estrangement, bereavement & rejuvenation in Scotland, 1903 – 1925**

Acland, a chip off a different block

If Herbert and Edith had been blessed with a larger family then their son Acland would almost certainly have been the black sheep – he had impressive qualifications. Although little is known of his life beyond his mid-twenties, such of his story as is known to later British generations appears as a saga of misfortune and misjudgement with a leavening of misconduct. Evidence of personal charm is to be found in his encounters with the British legal system, however, and Lawfords in general would believe that he departed from the straight and narrow only after falling into bad company - dubious friends and the exuberance of youth led him astray. This might be a generous interpretation but when his behaviour appears at its worst, it may be worth remembering that his maternal grandfather suffered from acute schizophrenia and there is the possibility that Acland was affected by mental ill health himself.

Acland grew up in Wimbledon and the family choice seems to have been that his education should follow the conventional path of prep school followed by public school. April 1901 saw him boarding at Stone House School in Broadstairs, Kent<sup>1</sup>, aged twelve in the company of sixty or so other pupils destined for public school. Edward Stone had been an assistant master at Eton for many years and he founded the school in 1884 with a view to preparing boys for Eton<sup>2</sup>. He retired in 1895 and Henry Churchill took over as headmaster<sup>3</sup>. Churchill was a Cambridge blue for Athletics and Association Football and the combination of sporty headmaster and an Eton tradition<sup>4</sup> probably guided Herbert's choice. The school would have enjoyed a good reputation in the upper echelons of society and while still under Churchill's headship in 1910, it was tipped by some newspapers as favourite to enjoy royal patronage as provider of education to Prince Henry of Wales en route to Eton<sup>5</sup>. By the summer of 1902 Acland was installed at Brinton's House, Eton and there he took up rowing and was soon coxing the Junior House Four. The house journal records that in a school regatta his four "started almost bottom of the River and remained in the same position"<sup>6</sup>, which seems to be rowing-speak for coming second to last ("head of the River" being the winner). This was Acland's only mention in the Brinton chronicle and the Eton archives bear no other witness to his prowess at academic or leisure activities, largely because his stay at the school was restricted to just five terms<sup>7</sup>. His days at Eton came to an end just before his fifteenth birthday and although history is silent on the reason for his premature departure, in those days illness was the most common cause<sup>8</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Census 1901 for HAL (p.28) & Stone House College (p.27 to 30), 62 pupils aged 9 to 13.

<sup>2</sup> Times obituary 19/9/1916 p.6 (EDS was a "man of letters, classical scholar, poet and schoolmaster of exceptional powers"); Cambridge Alumni for ED Stone, 2018 ACU; Windsor, Eton & Slough Express 23/4/1910 p.6; Leinster-Mackay p.172.

<sup>3</sup> Cambridge Alumni for Henry W Churchill, 2018. HWC was in place at Stone House in 1896 – Thanet Advertiser 11/4/1986 p.5 & 29/8/1896 p.5. See census 1901 for WHC p.29.

<sup>4</sup> A good number of Acland's 1901 contemporaries moved on to Eton including EH & RS Cockburn, GFA Vernon, C Lambton, AB Vansittart, WGH Beach, RH Lubbock (Eton College Register 1899 – 1909)

<sup>5</sup> *Standard* article reported in Windsor Eton & Slough Express 23/4/1910 p.6; Bournemouth Echo 7/4/1910 p.3. The rumours proved to be false and a different school in Broadstairs was in fact chosen for Prince Henry (Times 6/5/1910 p.11).

<sup>6</sup> Book kept by the Captain of House of Brinton's to record "doings of interest in the House", 1902/03 (per Eton College Archives 18/8/2011). There were some 36 boys in Brinton's.

<sup>7</sup> Eton Register 1899 – 1909, printed 1922

<sup>8</sup> Per comment from Eton College archivist on 18/8/2011.

The next stage of Acland's education was time at a crammer<sup>9</sup> and this would be consistent with falling behind through illness. Then he bade farewell to the academic world and embarked on an apprenticeship in the nascent motor trade, most likely working for gentleman car enthusiasts. He started driving soon after his seventeenth birthday<sup>10</sup> and apparently his father shared his enthusiasm for motorised transport as by the end of 1908 he owned three cars and employed two chauffeurs<sup>11</sup>. Acland was permitted to drive all three cars<sup>12</sup> and it was while exercising this freedom that he fell foul of the Surrey Constabulary. By the end of 1908 he had been summoned at least six times for exceeding the speed limit<sup>13</sup>, been fined four or five times and had had his licence suspended<sup>14</sup>. In 1907, on what was probably his second charge for speeding, he was able to plead mitigating circumstances which, by chance, gave a pointer to the identity of his employer. The Brooklands racetrack in Surrey had been open for just a few months when it suffered its first fatality<sup>15</sup>: on 14<sup>th</sup> September Vincent Hermon rolled his *Minerva* racing car at the end of a race and took the full weight of the machine on impact with the ground while his mechanic was thrown clear<sup>16</sup>. He sustained severe internal injuries and died that evening. The day afterwards Acland undertook the task of fetching Hermon's bereaved mother – a delicate and sombre mission - and while driving along Clarence Street in Kingston to collect her he exceeded the speed limit of 10 mph<sup>17</sup>. The constable who stopped him was unmoved by the plea that he was hurrying to fetch the mother of a Brooklands casualty and proceeded to charge him<sup>18</sup>. Fortunately for Acland the Kingston Borough Bench – Mayor Joseph Francis leading – were won over by his tale of haste on an errand of mercy and dismissed the case while cautioning him to drive with greater care in future<sup>19</sup>. Hermon was a director of *Paddon and Sopwith Ltd*, motor manufacturers and car sale agents, and the likelihood is that Acland was apprenticed to this firm<sup>20</sup>. Hermon was an Old Etonian like Acland but some six years older<sup>21</sup>.

The Sopwith of the company name was Tommy Sopwith, later to achieve fame and honours for his flying exploits and the manufacture of aircraft critical to British success in the two world wars<sup>22</sup>. Sopwith's firm apparently was both a builder and retailer of cars and in 1909 its sales included the supply of an Austin to the Women's Social and Political Union, handed over to Mrs Pethick Lawrence by Mrs Pankhurst herself<sup>23</sup>. Sopwith shared a sporting link with

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<sup>9</sup> Times report of Suffert case 4/12/1908 p.4, 1<sup>st</sup> column

<sup>10</sup> Times report of Suffert case 4/12/1908 p.4, 1<sup>st</sup> column

<sup>11</sup> Cars – footnote 10 above; chauffeurs - per HFL census 1911 (Stacey & Jarvis) & see Leicester Post 16/4/1908 p.4 ref to “second chauffeur” of “Mr Lawford of Wimbledon” (Fatal Motor Accident).

<sup>12</sup> HFL's evidence in Suffert case, Times report 4/12/1908 p.4, 1<sup>st</sup> column

<sup>13</sup> 1st offence (fine imposed) probably that of 9/9/1907 (Surrey Comet 5/10/1907 p.4); 2<sup>nd</sup> on 14/9/1907 (re. Mrs Hermon – see footnote 19 below); then in April 1908 he was summoned and fined on 4 counts & his licence was suspended under threat of imprisonment if he disobeyed (Daily Telegraph 30/4/1908 p.7).

<sup>14</sup> Times report of Suffert case 4/12/1908 p.4, 1<sup>st</sup> col.

<sup>15</sup> Opened June 1907: “www.brooklandsmuseum.com” 18/6/2018; first fatality: “www.historicracing.com” 8/5/2018.

<sup>16</sup> Daily Telegraph 16/9/1907 p.9 & Morning Post 16/9/1907 p.8; mechanic suffered cuts & bruising. Also Berkshire Chronicle 21/9/1907 p.16

<sup>17</sup> Surrey Comet 12/10/1907 p.3. HAL came up before the borough bench of Kingston upon Thames. He was presumably travelling from Wimbledon to the Hermon home town of Wargrave – a long round trip.

<sup>18</sup> Surrey Comet 5/10/1904 p.4

<sup>19</sup> Surrey Comet 12/10/1907 p.3. Joseph MR Francis was mayor of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames for 1906/07 (www.kingston.gov.uk 24/6/2018)

<sup>20</sup> Morning Post 17/9/1907 p.5 (inquest report), Berks Chronicle 21/9/1907 p.16, Hendon & Finchley Times 8/1/1909 p.6, London Times 1/5/1909 p.22 (P&S Ltd advertisement)

<sup>21</sup> Eton College Register 1889 – 1899 p.134 (Horace Vincent Hermon). Hermon left Eton in 1900.

<sup>22</sup> ODNB 2018, Sir Thomas OM Sopwith (1888 – 1989)

<sup>23</sup> *Votes for Women* 14/5/1909 p.667 (Suffragette publication edited by Mrs Pethick Lawrence)

Acland and this lends support to the idea of employment by his firm. By 1908 Acland was playing ice hockey for Prince's Club in Knightsbridge<sup>24</sup> and Sopwith was a fellow member and player. He and Acland travelled out to Chamonix early in 1909 as part of a Prince's squad representing England in what the *Times* labelled the most important European tournament yet held, although it has to be said that only five nations contributed teams (France, Belgium, Switzerland, Bohemia and England)<sup>25</sup>. Acland evidently commanded a regular place in the Prince's team while Sopwith was a reserve<sup>26</sup> (- a goalkeeper, as his skating was said to be rather limited<sup>27</sup>). The teams comprised seven players, and the Prince's squad numbered nine, so the players would have been closely acquainted<sup>28</sup>. Prince's won all their matches and England could claim the title Champions of Europe. A team photo of February 1909 presents Acland as a tall, burly figure<sup>29</sup>.

Only months after the Hermon incident Acland's motoring landed him in trouble again but this time it was a member of the public who took him to task rather than a sceptical officer of the law. The plot was worthy of W.S. Gilbert. One afternoon early in January 1908 Elaine Suffert, ten years old<sup>30</sup>, was walking with her governess and pet dachshund *Nick*<sup>31</sup> beside the road on Wimbledon Common. Simultaneously Acland was returning home across the Common in one of his father's cars and as he came alongside the Suffert group, he hit the unfortunate Nick with fatal consequences. The time was about 3.30 pm<sup>32</sup>. That much both sides were agreed on, with hindsight in Acland's case as he drove on regardless, but the detailed accounts that subsequently emerged from the Suffert and Lawford camps varied considerably.

Acland's story was that as he drove across the Common at 16 mph he pulled out to his right to overtake a cart travelling in the same direction<sup>33</sup>. As he executed the manoeuvre he noticed a dog in the gutter on the right hand side of the road and so he swerved left in order to avoid it. His front wheels missed the dog but later he learned that apparently the dog had run in under his car and been hit by the rear wheels. A Wimbledon Common ranger, John Wing, reported that the dog made "a straight run at the car" and was hit by the back wheel – there was no negligence on the part of the driver<sup>34</sup>. Acland arrived back at Kinellan, unaware of the injury to Nick and Elaine's anguish, and remained in happy ignorance until a police constable called with news of the accident. Herbert was put in the picture and he took action immediately, writing to Elaine's father to say that Acland was sorry to be the innocent cause of the accident<sup>35</sup>. Mr Suffert responded by telephone with an invitation for Acland to visit his

<sup>24</sup> *Times* 10/11/1908 p.15 – report of a tournament in Berlin; Sopwith was not mentioned as playing in the team but he may have been a squad member. (Knightsbridge per *Times* 2/12/1908 p.5)

<sup>25</sup> *Times* 30/1/1909 p.18 (tournament report), *Tatler* 3/2/1909 p.117 (team names & photo).

<sup>26</sup> TS is shown in the squad photos of 9 but is omitted from the *Times* list of 7 players (30/1/1909 p.18)

<sup>27</sup> Profile of Tommy Sopwith by MCH (Ice Hockey historian) from the draft of an account of the GB national ice hockey team at the Olympics, European and World Championships 1910-1989: "Limited skating ability may have dictated his role as goalkeeper at Les Avants" (email 29/6/2018). TS was in goal for the English team in the European Championships at Les Avants 1910 (*Times* 17/1/1910 p.18).

<sup>28</sup> Noel Macklin was another member of the team and he too competed at Brooklands, driving against Sopwith and Hermon in a race in July 1907 (*The Referee* 21/7/1907 p.10, Hollick S' Plate). Macklin was some 2 years older than Acland, an Old Etonian and fellow resident of Wimbledon in the early 1890's (*Times* obituary for Sir NM 12/11/1946 p.7, *Eton Register* 1899 – 1909 p.43a, *Census* 1891 etc).

<sup>29</sup> *Tatler* 3/2/1909 p.117. According to his description on the passenger manifest for SS *Campania* (arriving New York 25/1/1914) he was 6 feet tall ACU.

<sup>30</sup> Birth registered 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 1898, Baptism register 2/5/1898, Upper Armley, Leeds; census 1911 ACU.

<sup>31</sup> *Daily Telegraph* 5/12/1908 p.6

<sup>32</sup> *Times* 4/12/1908 p.4

<sup>33</sup> *Surrey Comet* 5/12/1908 p.10

<sup>34</sup> *Surrey Comet* 5/12/1908 p.10 & *Times* 4/12/1908 p.4

<sup>35</sup> *Times* 4/12/1908 p.4

house in Wimbledon to apologise in person to his daughter and Acland called at his house the following morning to comply, entering what he rapidly discovered to be a lion's den (63 Vineyard Hill Road<sup>36</sup>).

Acland related that he was led up to a room on the first floor<sup>37</sup> by Mr Suffert who then locked the door and launched into a verbal attack prefaced with the words "so you are the scoundrel who killed the dog". Acland responded that he had come to apologise and Suffert accused him of being insincere and asserted that he had run over the dog deliberately – he was a "damned liar"<sup>38</sup>. When Acland begged to disagree Suffert called him a "damned hooligan" and a "damned low-bred cur", expressed a desire to give him the biggest hiding he had ever had in his life and clipped him on the side of the head<sup>39</sup>. The young man made no physical response and seems to have reacted quite mildly to the various provocations by asserting that if a dog was out of control on the road then a driver would not be responsible for any accident that resulted. This prompted more aggression from Suffert who then threatened to "lay him out" and appeared to have a poker near to hand in readiness for the deed. However, rather than indulging his violent desires he left the threat hanging in the air and moved on to his planned retribution, which was partly financial and partly an admission of guilt to be published locally. Under threat of the poker, he demanded that Acland sign an agreement to pay £100 to Wimbledon Cottage Hospital as compensation for killing the dog. He took from his desk a document which read: "I the undersigned, A. Lawford, hereby agree to pay within one month as compensation for having killed Miss Suffert's dog the sum of £100 (one hundred pounds) to the Wimbledon Cottage Hospital, provided no claims are made upon me for damages or otherwise by the owner of the dog I destroyed"<sup>40</sup>. Acland fell in with his wishes (probably reckoning that this was the simplest route to escape the house of a madman), signed the document and then pointed out that as he was a minor the agreement could not be binding. Suffert's reaction was to compel Acland to swear on the bible – to kiss a bible hurriedly fetched up to the room by a manservant. He was then permitted to leave. Subsequently Suffert wrote to a local newspaper (the *Sutton Herald*<sup>41</sup>) announcing that Acland had "magnanimously promised to give £100 to the Wimbledon Cottage Hospital for having killed the dog"<sup>42</sup> and – in the words of the *Times* correspondent – he went on to communicate with all the local papers<sup>43</sup>. The Herald report was reproduced with varying degrees of accuracy in more distant southern journals, such as the *Henley Standard* whose "Canine Benefactor" piece inflated Acland's donation to a princely £500<sup>44</sup>, and would have come to the attention of many in Herbert's social circle. The Lawfords responded with a solicitor's letter complaining at Suffert's action and demanding a public apology. Suffert stood his ground – disputed Acland's account of events and rejected the Lawford request; Herbert took him to court<sup>45</sup>.

Acting on behalf of his son, Herbert sued in the High Court for damages for assault and false imprisonment and for a declaration that the contract to donate £100 to Wimbledon Cottage Hospital was void. Elaine's father, Adolph Albrecht Suffert, rejected the allegations and counter-claimed for damages for the loss of Nick. Mr Justice Grantham of the Court of King's Bench presided, both sides were represented by King's Counsel and trial was by

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<sup>36</sup> Daily Telegraph 5/12/1908 p.6 BNA, Electoral rolls for 1908 & 1910 ACU

<sup>37</sup> Belfast Telegraph 7/12/1908 p.5

<sup>38</sup> Times 4/12/1908 p.4, Column 2 & Gloucestershire Echo 5/12/1908 p.1 TDA

<sup>39</sup> Times 4/12/1908 p.4, Col 1; the word damned was printed by the Times as "d-----".

<sup>40</sup> Times 4/12/1908 p.4, Col 1

<sup>41</sup> Belfast Telegraph 7/12/1908 p.5 & Daily Telegraph 4/12/1908 p.6

<sup>42</sup> Times 4/12/1908 p.4, Col 1

<sup>43</sup> Times 4/12/1908 p.4, Col 2

<sup>44</sup> Henley Standard 17/1/1908 p.3, Berks & Oxon Advertiser 17/1/1908 p.6, Bicester Herald 17/1/1908 p.7

<sup>45</sup> Times 4/12/1908 p.4, Col 1



special jury<sup>46</sup>. Judging by the frequency with which laughter in court was reported, judge, jury and witnesses were well entertained by the proceedings.

Suffert contradicted nearly all the principal aspects of Acland's account<sup>47</sup>. The car was travelling at 30 mph not 16, the dog was standing still in the road and did not run out, and Acland swerved in order to hit the dog not miss it; at 63 Vineyard Hill Road Suffert neither locked the door to their room nor hit Acland on the head nor expressed a wish to lay him out nor threatened him with a poker (although he accepted there was a poker in the room). He acknowledged that he lost his temper and became abusive - he regretted that - but he had been provoked by the plaintiff's jocular and nonchalant manner. There were no witnesses to the main events upstairs at the Suffert residence – the setting for assault and false imprisonment – so the case boiled down to Acland's word against Suffert's. Adolph - a German by birth<sup>48</sup> but married to an Englishwoman in 1895<sup>49</sup> and naturalised British in 1901 – probably undermined his credibility by claiming that Acland had deliberately run the dog down. His claim prompted the judge to inquire if he was suggesting that Acland conducted "a sort of dog hunt across the road"<sup>50</sup>. The governess's account of the accident likewise probably failed to impress the male jurors – her claim that the Lawford motor travelled faster than any other car she had seen lacked a certain precision<sup>51</sup> - and two of Suffert's other witnesses were said to be casual labourers with past convictions for theft<sup>52</sup>. The actions of Herbert and Acland in their prompt expressions of regret and compliance with Suffert's request to attend at Vineyard Hill Road appeared gentlemanly, in sharp contrast to Suffert's abusive and bullying treatment of a minor and visitor to his house, and the Lawfords comfortably won the battle for hearts and minds. It took the jury just half an hour's deliberation<sup>53</sup> to find for the plaintiffs and award damages of £50 while rejecting the Suffert counter-claim for the loss of Nick<sup>54</sup> (- Suffert had categorised the young dog as a future prize-winner, and drawn the sceptical response from the judge that many young men arrived at the bar expecting to become Lord Chancellor but few could make the grade<sup>55</sup>). The agreement to donate to Wimbledon Cottage Hospital was torn up by the judge and "the fragments thrown on the floor of the bench"<sup>56</sup>.

The case was reported in detail in the *Times* in December 1908 and lengthy accounts appeared in many other newspapers in England, Scotland and Ireland, partly because of the strangeness of Suffert's behaviour. While the Lawfords won their case, and Acland's performance in court seems to have been measured and confident, the Suffert flat contradiction of Acland's account would have raised questions as to his honesty and the opposition's asides on his character and reputation would have been embarrassing. Mud was thrown and some would have stuck. Suffert's counsel in effect asked why a "well built apparently vigorous young man" should feel intimidated, fail to react physically to being struck on the head, and submit tamely to the threats of his aggressor<sup>57</sup>; either his account was inaccurate or his manliness was to be questioned<sup>58</sup>. Suffert mentioned reports he had received

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<sup>46</sup> *Times* 4/12/1908 p.4 Col'n 1 TDA

<sup>47</sup> *Times* 4/12/1908 p.4 Col'n 2, & 5/12/1908 p.3 (governess's evidence)

<sup>48</sup> Certificate of Naturalisation 24/5/1901. Born in Dresden ACU

<sup>49</sup> Marriage register 16/10/1895 Upper Armley, Leeds

<sup>50</sup> *Times* 4/12/1908 p.4, Column 2

<sup>51</sup> *Times* 5/12/1908 p.3, governess's evidence

<sup>52</sup> *Times* 5/12/1908 p.3 & *Daily Telegraph* 5/12/1908 p.6

<sup>53</sup> *Daily Telegraph* 5/12/1908 p.6 Col'n 2 BNA

<sup>54</sup> *Times* 5/12/1908 p.3

<sup>55</sup> *Dundee Courier* 5/12/1908 p.4 & *Belfast Telegraph* 7/12/1908 p.5

<sup>56</sup> *Daily Telegraph* 5/12/1908 p.6 Col'n 3. See also *Times* 5/12/1908 p.3

<sup>57</sup> *Surrey Comet* 5/12/1908 p.10. Acland was a burly ice hockey player by the time the case came to court – see footnote 29 p.3 above

<sup>58</sup> The *Belfast Telegraph* 7/12/1908 p.5 reported that Suffert was "a tall, powerfully-built man"

locally that his accuser was a “road hog”<sup>59</sup> and Acland owned up to four or five convictions and the suspension of his driving licence for speeding<sup>60</sup>. Individualistic as he was, Herbert could be expected to shrug off some local sniping but his whole family was involved and it may be that the case hastened his move to Scotland in 1909. For Acland, slurs on his “manliness” would probably have been water off a duck’s back as in November the *Times* had carried reports of his ice hockey exploits in Berlin<sup>61</sup> and early in 2009 reports followed in *Tatler* and the *Graphic* of his team’s success in competition in France and Switzerland<sup>62</sup>; the latter were accompanied by team photos presenting Acland in manly company looking relaxed and physically imposing. European ice hockey may have been less physical then than it is now, but it was fast<sup>63</sup> and uncompromising and carried an inherent risk of collision and injury<sup>64</sup>.

A number of the newspaper reports of the Suffert case described Acland as being in preparation for Cambridge University and this would seem an unusual next step after an apprenticeship in the motor trade<sup>65</sup>. However, the idea seems to have died a death – he is absent from the roll of Cambridge Alumni<sup>66</sup> and his Eton register entry makes no mention of university<sup>67</sup> - and little is known of his further activities until 1915. His ice hockey with Prince’s appears to have run from 1908 to early 1910<sup>68</sup> and he spent some time with his parents in Scotland as there are reports of his golfing activities in Aboyne in August 1910<sup>69</sup> and his attendance at the county ball in Aberdeen in September the same year<sup>70</sup>. There is no hint that he placed a toe in the water of the London Stock Exchange<sup>71</sup> and he is absent from his parents’ census reports for 1911<sup>72</sup>. He may have spent a longish period in North America as passenger manifests for Atlantic liners indicate stays in 1909<sup>73</sup>, 1913<sup>74</sup> and 1914 but there is no certainty. Most informative is his entry on the manifest for the SS *Campania*, sailing from Liverpool in January 1914. This lists London as his “last permanent residence” in England, records his “occupation or calling” as “Nil”, and nominates Sir Hartley Williams as his nearest “relative or friend in the country whence alien came”. Williams, who had a house in London,

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<sup>59</sup> *Times* 4/12/1908 p.4 Col’n 2, & *Daily Telegraph* 4/12/1908 p.6. The term “road hog” may well have predated the appearance of motor cars on the general road system – eg. *Cheshire Observer* 6/8/1887 p.2 on the “genus ‘road hog’”

<sup>60</sup> *Times* 4/12/1908 p.4, Col’n 1

<sup>61</sup> *Times* 10/11/1908 p.15

<sup>62</sup> *Tatler* 3/2/1909 p.117 (Chamonix), *Graphic* 6/2/1909 p.160 (Grindelwald); team photo also appeared in *Illustrated Sporting & Dramatic News* 6/2/1909 p.921. *Times* report on Chamonix 30/1/1909 p.18

<sup>63</sup> *Times* 2/12/1908 p.5 – article on history of the sport in Britain & Europe & its current state.

<sup>64</sup> *Times* 17/1/1910 p.18: in January 1910 the English team at Les Avants were handicapped by a series of injuries to regular members in matches & practice: Macklin broke a bone in his arm in December then on 9<sup>th</sup> January his right kneecap; Duden broke a bone in his shoulder in December and Nolan broke a rib on 8<sup>th</sup> January.

<sup>65</sup> *Daily Telegraph* 4/12/1908 p. 6, *Surrey Comet* 5/12/1908 p.10, *Belfast Newsletter* 27/1/1908 p.9, *Gloucestershire Echo* 5/12/1908 p.1 etc

<sup>66</sup> ACU 11/5/2018

<sup>67</sup> HAL’s address is given as Drumnagesk, Dess in the register for 1899 – 1909 (printed in 1922)

<sup>68</sup> *Times* 10/11/1908 p.15 & 4/1/1910 p.19 etc. Draft profile of HAL by MCH (Ice Hockey historian) per email of 21/7/2018

<sup>69</sup> *Aberdeen Daily Journal* 9/8/1910 p.8 (prizewinner playing off a handicap of 12) & 15/8/1910 p.7

<sup>70</sup> *Aberdeen Daily Journal* 30/9/1910 p.5 – attendance of some 250 at a “Brilliant Function in Aberdeen”

<sup>71</sup> No mention of HAL in LSE annual members’ application records for Lawfords to 1924 (29/7/2018)

<sup>72</sup> HFL at Drumnagesk, Edith with her sister Louisa in Cheltenham.

<sup>73</sup> SS *Majestic*, White Star Line, ex Southampton 16/6/1909 – “Calling or Occupation: None”, “Final Destination: Kansas, [Fairview?].” ACU

<sup>74</sup> Passenger manifest SS *Campania*, sailing from Liverpool 17 January 1914 p.2 – “Whether ever before in US and if so when and where” ACU

was married to Herbert's sister Jessie<sup>75</sup> and it is possible that Acland was living with them prior to his departure to New York. Acland's final destination was shown as Searles, California<sup>76</sup> – a god-forsaken spot close to Death Valley National Park in the Mojave Desert – and he gave as his contact address “C/o The American Trona Co, Searles, Cal”<sup>77</sup>. *Consolidated Goldfields of South Africa*, a British public company<sup>78</sup>, had formed the Trona Corporation in 1913 to produce potash from Searles Lake and in 1914 it was gearing up for production. Business or employment would have been the magnet for Acland as there was little else to attract - the Trona Corporation was obliged to build its own offices and accommodation and was in the process of establishing its own town<sup>79</sup>.

If Acland was mining in California in early 1914, then the outbreak of the First World War in August that year would have caused a change of plans. He returned to England, took the King's shilling and in February 1915 was appointed Temporary Second Lieutenant in the infantry<sup>80</sup> - no doubt with his father's full approval. Life expectancy for second lieutenants in the line was then rather better than it was to become and Acland followed this entry into honourable employment by getting married; his choice of spouse, however, would undoubtedly have met with Herbert's unalloyed disapproval.

Elspeth, maiden name Sinclair Smith, was twice divorced by the time she married Acland and was the mother of three children. Her adultery was cited as the grounds for both divorces and her two co-respondents were young single males of a military background. The proceedings were uncontested and custody of the children was awarded to her ex-husbands. The national press gave ample coverage to the cases – particularly the second in 1913 – and Acland must have been familiar with her marital track record and under no illusions. Admittedly his mother had died close to the time of the second divorce and he was denied her gentle counsel, but he had aunts aplenty close to London society – not least Jessie Williams - and enough of his wider family would have been familiar with Elspeth's freewheeling past.

Their wedding took place at Paddington register office on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1915 with Acland offering Bisley Camp, Surrey as his place of residence and Elspeth presenting a Maida Vale address along with an improbable age of twenty-six. None of the witnesses' names are familiar and the likelihood is that the Lawford clan kept well away, assuming they even knew the marriage was taking place.

In her second marriage, it took Elspeth a mere six months of extravagance to send her husband cap-in-hand to his father for funds to clear her debts. Her spendthrift tendencies were probably undiminished for her third marriage but Acland's circumstances were rather different to his predecessor's. By June he must already have been in the hands of moneylenders because in September he went missing from the army<sup>81</sup> and by the middle of November three different London moneylenders had initiated bankruptcy proceedings against him in the High Court (lamenting their inability to ascertain his “present residence”)<sup>82</sup>. If Elspeth was looking

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<sup>75</sup>Electoral rolls 1913 to 1915 for Sir Hartley Williams. Tatler 15/1/1913 p.62 – marriage announcement of daughter Lilian gives address 93 Cadogan Gardens, as on manifest

<sup>76</sup> SS Campania manifest of Alien Passengers 17 January 1914 p.1 (of manifest p.55) ACU

<sup>77</sup> SS Campania Alien manifest 17 January 1914 p.2 (of manifest p.55). Fair complexion, six feet tall.

<sup>78</sup> Times 25/11/1914 p.15(Ordinary General Meeting for year to 30 June 2014) & Citizen 12/11/1913 p.9 (agm year to 30/6/1913).

<sup>79</sup> Searles Valley Historical Society 29/7/2018 (“www1.iwvisp.com” – time line) & “tronahistory.com”

<sup>80</sup> London Gazette 26/2/1915 Issue 290984 p.1992 – *Temporary* meant for the duration of the war. HAL may well have spent some time as a cadet in training before being commissioned (eg. 6 months in 1917 for a regular officer – per ECS in the Indian Army).

<sup>81</sup> Supplement to London Gazette 1/12/1915 p.12027

<sup>82</sup> London Gazette 29/10/1915 p.10698: bankruptcy notice issued on 11<sup>th</sup> Oct by Samuel James and Frank S. James of Piccadilly, London; London Gazette 3/12/1915 p.12129: bankruptcy petition filed on 18<sup>th</sup> Nov by P. Saunders of Savile Row and Simon J. Shimberg of Piccadilly. For business refs of petitioners see eg.:

forward to a new phase of life as partner to the affluent son and sole heir of a City magnate, her hopes were soon dashed as she discovered that she was married to a man on the run from his creditors. Acland was dismissed from the army by the end of the year “for absence without leave”<sup>83</sup> (which was an offence under military law quite distinct from desertion) and for the present day Lawford family in England the rest of his life is a closed book; nothing more is known other than that after Herbert’s death in 1925 he challenged his father’s will from the remote outpost of Port Moresby, Papua<sup>84</sup>. His story was in part buried with his father, in part lost overseas in places unknown.

Herbert had lost his Edith after a long illness in 1913 and the events of 1915 must have been a heavy blow. There was probably more trouble to follow and when Herbert drew up a new will in 1922 he hinted at much worse than marriage to a fallen woman, gambling debts and a frivolous lifestyle<sup>85</sup>. In the first paragraph of his will he referred to his disinheritance of Acland but omitted any description of the events behind it: “It is a great grief to me that I can no longer treat my son as my heir owing to the terrible affairs in which he has been involved”. He went on to exclude anyone from benefitting under his will if they became bankrupt – which could suggest that he had discharged Acland’s debts to moneylenders in 1915/16<sup>86</sup> – and then instructed his trustees to arrange an income of £150 per year for Acland for the rest of his life. This small income was made conditional on his son living outside Great Britain “owing to the dangerous company he has kept in London”. The drafting suggests that Herbert has little idea where Acland is or will be in the future: the right to the annuity is to lapse “if the trustees cannot find him” within three years of his death. Father and son were estranged and in 1926 Acland was to take what steps he could to defeat the wishes expressed in Herbert’s last will and testament.

#### Royal Deeside attracts, then provides the setting for a family funeral

After fifty-one years distinguished service in the Royal Navy, Admiral Sir Arthur Farquhar finally retired in 1880 and set about an active civilian life in Aberdeenshire promoting the Primrose League, enforcing the law as an Aberdeen JP, enriching local ceremonial as a Deputy Lieutenant for Aberdeenshire<sup>87</sup>, and living the life of a country gentleman with a large family group for company. Soon after his marriage in 1851 he had taken a long lease of a property in Kincardine O’Neil, near neighbour to Aboyne<sup>88</sup>, and six of his many children were

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James (Yorkshire Post 28/6/1916 advert p.2), Saunders (Manchester Evening News 30/10/1917 p.3), Shimberg (Illustrated Police News 7/8/1913 p.13)

<sup>83</sup> Supplement to London Gazette 1/12/1915 p.12027. HAL’s removal from the Motor Machine Gun Service is dated 29<sup>th</sup> September. About this time, by contrast, HAL’s uncle Sydney Lawford was rising to senior rank in the army and collecting honours for military deeds in Belgium: he was invested CB in July, awarded the order of St Vladimir by the Tsar in August, then in September 1915 promoted to temporary Major General and given command of the 41<sup>st</sup> Division (Army & Navy Gazette 17/7/1915p.643 & 4/9/1915 p.796, London Gazette Supp’t 16/9/1915 p.9204, Surrey Advertiser 6/10/1915 p.2, Pall Mall Gazette 29/12/1919 p.8, obituary Times 17/2/1953 p.11).

<sup>84</sup> Scotsman 10/12/1926 p.5 etc

<sup>85</sup> HFL’s will dated 29/12/1922 – he died on 20<sup>th</sup> April 1925

<sup>86</sup> See release of HAL’s trustee in bankruptcy on 29/6/1916 (London Gazette 11/7/1916 p.6914)

<sup>87</sup> Obituary Aberdeen Journal 30/1/1908 p.5. See also Times obituary 31/1/1908 p.14 & Scotsman 31/1/1908 p.8 (which described him as “a genial old sailor” and “a favourite with the Royal Family”).

<sup>88</sup> Valuation Rolls for Parish of Aboyne, Aberdeen County, Farquhar, Carlogie Cottage 1855, 1865 (lease of “57 yrs or upwards”), 1875 (lease “above 21 yrs”) & 1885 SCP; house move 1887 (Aberdeen Jnl 27/5/1887 p.5).



born there over the next quarter century<sup>89</sup>. Carlogie Cottage was the name of his house and at one time or another - as naval appointments permitted - it was home to his thirteen surviving children, nine sons and four daughters<sup>90</sup>. By the end of 1886, ten of his offspring still remained unmarried<sup>91</sup>, although only one was of school age<sup>92</sup>, and his daughter Adeline was a widow with four young sons to support<sup>93</sup>. Most men aged seventy-one living on a pension would have judged this the time to scale down their home, but the admiral – indifferent to the logic of ordinary mortals - chose to do the opposite: he took a perpetual lease<sup>94</sup> of ten acres of land across the Dee a mile or so upriver of Carlogie<sup>95</sup> and built himself a twelve bedroom mansion on three floors with accommodation in and around for a football team of servants<sup>96</sup>; this was the small Drumnagesk estate, developed some two miles east of Aboyne.



5.1 Drumnagesk House c.1895, with the family of Admiral Farquhar posed with croquet mallets. The Admiral and his wife Ellen are second and third from the right. First on the right is his daughter Adeline, widow of Rev Edmund St John<sup>97</sup>.

<sup>89</sup> Birth announcements for a daughter at Carlogie 1853 (London Evening Standard 15/10/1853) and 5 other children to 1874; census Ellen Farquhar 1871 & 1881 at Carlogie (& see 1861); birth record Richard B. Farquhar 12/1/1859 Carlogie SCP.

<sup>90</sup> “A Tale of Two Rivers”, Michael St John (grandson of Adeline), Bushmain 1989, p.101 – “a baker’s dozen of surviving children”. Apart from 6 Carlogie births, 4 children were born in Brighton and 3 in Greenock (see Ellen’s censuses per footnote 89 above).

<sup>91</sup> Censuses, newspaper announcements, marriage records. Only Richard, Ellen and Adeline had married.

<sup>92</sup> Birth record Hobart B Farquhar 16/4/1874 Carlogie & see footnotes 89 & 90 above.

<sup>93</sup> “A Tale of Two Rivers”, p.14; Rev ET St John - Cambridge Alumni 2018; John Bull 4/10/1884 p.651

<sup>94</sup> Obituary Aberdeen Daily Journal 30/1/1908 p.5. A Scottish “feu” interest in land is a perpetual lease

<sup>95</sup> Aberdeen Journal 27/5/1887 p.5

<sup>96</sup> Aberdeen Daily Journal 18/3/1908 p.2, advertisement for sale; Sir AF census 1891; Valuation Roll Drumnagesk Estate 1905 (mansion + 2 houses); HFL census 1911; Valuation Roll Drumnagesk 1915 SCP

<sup>97</sup> Caption from “A Tale of Two Rivers”, p.103; picture from Diana Elliot (owner of Drumnagesk in 1998) with letter 15/8/1998



5.2 Looking north across the Dee towards Drumnagesk House, 1998.



5.3 The Dee, some 700 yards south-west of Drumnagesk, June 1998.

The Farquhar tribe took up residence in May 1887<sup>98</sup> and soon afterwards Adeline was advertising in the London press for a Nursery Governess “to look after and teach Four Little Boys....Fluent French necessary, Swiss Protestant preferred; salary £30”<sup>99</sup>. Over the next twenty years Adeline’s boys grew to maturity at Drumnagesk<sup>100</sup> and most of the admiral’s

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<sup>98</sup> Aberdeen Journal 27/5/1887 p.5

<sup>99</sup> Morning Post 24/9/1887 p.8

<sup>100</sup> “A Tale of Two Rivers”, 1989, p.14

children married and moved out<sup>101</sup>. When his wife Ellen died in 1898<sup>102</sup> Adeline took over the running of the house<sup>103</sup> and the old sailor finally faded away at the age of ninety-two<sup>104</sup>. Within two months of his death in January 1908 the estate was on the market<sup>105</sup> but take up was slow and it was still being advertised for sale in May 1909<sup>106</sup>. Then Herbert Lawford threw his hat into the ring and a bargain was soon struck. The Lawfords appear to have moved in close to the end of July 1909<sup>107</sup> and perhaps rented then bought as they completed their purchase in October<sup>108</sup>.

The sailor Farquhars of Kincardine O'Neil were said to be descended from the Farquhars of Gilmilnsroft, Ayrshire<sup>109</sup>, in much the same way as the City Farquhars of Herbert's close acquaintance<sup>110</sup>, but the links would have been remote – even by Scottish standards – and it is unlikely that Herbert was alerted to the sale of Drumnagesk by the family of erstwhile partner Granville Farquhar.

A selling agent in the 1930's sang the praises of the property as an “exceptionally attractive residence built of granite with slated roofs,... occupying a beautiful situation on Deeside amidst some of the most delightful scenery in the county”; the locality was an “excellent sporting and social neighbourhood” with “ample opportunities of renting shooting and fishing near”<sup>111</sup>. There is no doubting the attractiveness of the surroundings but the facade of the house was austere and the high gables lent a gothic feel, while such ornamentation as was permitted was formal, better suited to an institutional building than a private house. Scottish Baronial it was not - more Aberdeen infirmary than Balmoral Castle with a complete absence of conical turrets, castellation and towers<sup>112</sup>. Function dominated and large dormer windows on the second floor are perhaps symptomatic – worthy but inelegant and spoiling the lines of the roof. Four reception rooms included a dining room large enough to seat twenty in comfort<sup>113</sup> and the twelve bedrooms of the main building were supplemented by cottages for the chauffeur and gardener and accommodation for servants at the stables<sup>114</sup>. The 1911 census listed fourteen staff in residence including butler, cook, footman, two chauffeurs, two gardeners and a ghillie, and given that the new owner's family comprised just three souls the establishment must have reflected an intention to host sizeable country house parties. The Lawford home was chosen and staffed with sport and social life in mind.

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<sup>101</sup> Census for Sir Arthur 1901: only Sir AF & daughter Jane are shown as resident at the time – Adeline is a visitor at Connington Castle, the home of real tennis champion John Heathcote (- Adeline's husband was a cousin of JH's wife Louisa). Nine of Sir Arthur's children were married by this time; Jane never married and Stuart (another admiral) married in 1913 (Marriage register qtr 2 1913, “Two Rivers” p.123 etc).

<sup>102</sup> Times obituary for Sir AF 31/1/1908 p.14 etc

<sup>103</sup>“A Tale of Two Rivers”, p.14 – Adeline became “Châtelaine”

<sup>104</sup> Times obituary 31/1/1908 p.14 & Aberdeen Daily Journal 30/1/1908 p.5

<sup>105</sup> Aberdeen Daily Journal 18/3/1908 p.2

<sup>106</sup> Aberdeen Daily Journal 19/5/1909 p.2

<sup>107</sup> Various newspaper reports of Lawfords attending local functions from Drumnagesk eg. “Dess Picnic and Games” Aberdeen Daily Jnl 31/7/1909 p.6, “Boy's Brigade” 20/7/1909 p.6. Adeline (Mrs ET St John) was installed at Bletsoe by early Sept (Aberdeen Daily Jnl 9/9/1909 p.6)

<sup>108</sup> Aberdeen Daily Jnl 25/10/1909 p.4

<sup>109</sup> Scotsman 2/1/1917 p.5. Gilmilnsroft is some 15 miles north east of Ayr.

<sup>110</sup> Scotsman 1/9/1923 p.8 & Aberdeen Press & Jnl 31/8/1923 p.7 (obituary of Horace Farquhar)

<sup>111</sup> Aberdeen Press & Jnl 19/2/1937 p.2

<sup>112</sup>The architects may have been Jenkins & Marr of Aberdeen (Dictionary of Scottish Architects 1/11/2018; the entry for George G. Jenkins mentions “Drumnagesk” but gives no details). They designed Ballater Bridge, opened by Queen Victoria in 1885 (Aberdeen Evening Express 6/11/1885 p.3, Aberdeen Weekly Jnl 7/11/1885 p.5).

<sup>113</sup> “A Tale of Two Rivers”, p.113

<sup>114</sup> Aberdeen Daily Journal 18/3/1908 p.2, Drumnagesk Estate Valuation Rolls 1905 & 1915SCP



Over the years Herbert and Edith had built up a social circle in the north east of Scotland that overlapped only slightly with their business and family circle in the south of England. Edith was half Scottish, with a mother from the Edinburgh/North Berwick area, and Herbert had travelled north faithfully almost every autumn from 1870 for shooting on the Scottish moors<sup>115</sup>. For some fifteen years prior to the move to Drumnagesk he had taken a shooting tenancy at St Cyrus<sup>116</sup>, just north of Montrose, and he had known links to the Scotts of Brotherton<sup>117</sup>, the Bowes-Lyons of Glamis Castle, and – further afield - the Montgomeries of Eglinton.

Patrick Bowes-Lyon, fifth son of the Earl of Strathmore, played in major tennis tournaments and would have been known to Herbert from at least 1884 when he first competed at Wimbledon<sup>118</sup>. In 1887, the year that Herbert became men's singles champion, Patrick won the men's doubles playing with Herbert Wilberforce<sup>119</sup>. The families soon after formed a close business connection through the London Stock Exchange. In 1888 the earl's fourth son, Herbert Bowes-Lyon, was admitted to the Exchange with Herbert Lawford one of his sureties<sup>120</sup>, and the following year he joined Archibald & Ernest Lawford in partnership with John Gordon as dealers<sup>121</sup> (Gordon, Lawford & Co<sup>122</sup>). Patrick then followed suit – admitted in 1893 with Herbert standing surety<sup>123</sup>, and accepted into partnership with his brother and Ernest Lawford as a dealer in 1894<sup>124</sup>. The relationship with the Montgomeries also probably began on the tennis court as George Montgomerie – later 15<sup>th</sup> Earl of Eglinton<sup>125</sup> – competed in the All England Championships in 1878 in company with Herbert and thirty others and subsequently played the circuit until about 1886, appearing regularly at Wimbledon and the Scottish Championships and several times in the Irish<sup>126</sup>. There was a social relationship between the families and this was cemented in 1893 when Herbert's brother Ernest married George's niece Lady Gertrude Montgomerie<sup>127</sup>. The old Montgomerie family estate was Eglinton near Kilwinning, Ayrshire<sup>128</sup>, and the Eglinton sporting activities – including hunting with the Eglinton Hounds and equestrian race meetings – led to friendships with kindred spirits in the area. Two particular families in their circle were proprietors of estates near Aboyne in the early twentieth century: the Coats and the Bairds – both relatively “new” money in that their

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<sup>115</sup> Aberdeen Weekly Jnl 19/9/1900 p.10, Aberdeen Daily Jnl 25/10/1909 p.4, & see Chapter 4 above, page 54, “Shooting”

<sup>116</sup> Aberdeen Daily Jnl 25/10/1909 p.4

<sup>117</sup> See page 21 below (“The seeds of Herbert's...”). The owner of Lauriston Castle was a Scott descendant whose cousin Rose Scott married HFL's friend Edward Robertson in 1897.

<sup>118</sup> Cambridge Alumni 2018. All England Club record April 2017: Patrick played in the men's singles every year from 1884 to 1888 and in 1885 was beaten in the quarter-finals by HFL (straight sets).

<sup>119</sup> All England Club record April 2017. PB-L joined HFL on the All England Club committee in 1888 (“40 Years of First Class Lawn Tennis”, Hillyard 1924, HWWW p.39)

<sup>120</sup> Oxford Alumni 2018. LSE admission form 1888; the other sureties were John H Daniel (of Mullens, Marshall & Co) and Charles G Robertson. HB-L gave his residence as Glamis Castle, Forfarshire. ACU

<sup>121</sup> LSE re-election form for March 1889 – residence now Whitehall Gardens, London WC. John Edward Gordon was educated in Edinburgh and became MP for Elgin & Nairn in 1895 (Pall Mall Gazette 25/7/1895 p.3).

<sup>122</sup> LSE Member Firms' Book 1895/96, Aberdeen Jnl 30/7/1895 p.5, Ross-shire Journal 1/3/1907 p.7

<sup>123</sup> LSE membership application 1893 ACU

<sup>124</sup> LSE re-election form for March 1894 – Archibald Lawford had left the partnership by this time.

<sup>125</sup> Times obituary 11/8/1919 p.14 – succeeded his brother 14<sup>th</sup> Earl in 1892.

<sup>126</sup> All England Club record April 2017 (last singles year 1885), Tennis Archive record 12/11/2017 (last Irish singles 1885), The Sportsman 20/5/1884 p.3 & Freeman's Jnl 19/5/1885 p.7 (the Irish) etc.

<sup>127</sup> Times 8/2/1893 p.5 & see Chapter 4 above p.40 (“His brother Ernest...”)

<sup>128</sup> Times obituaries for 14<sup>th</sup> Earl (31/8/1892 p.8) and 15<sup>th</sup> Earl (11/8/1919 p.14). GAM was sometime master of the Eglinton Foxhounds.



considerable wealth was derived from industry in the nineteenth century but both prominent in local society.

Cotton thread was the Coats' industry and J & P Coats of Paisley had made millionaires of several family members, including George Coats of the Belleisle estate just south of Ayr<sup>129</sup>. George was described by one newspaper as "a staunch preserver of foxes and a warm supporter of the Earl of Eglinton"<sup>130</sup> (in a piece accompanying a photograph of the Eglinton pack meeting at Belleisle) and such was the closeness of the two families that when Lady Gertrude married her Lawford in 1893, George's younger daughter Maud acted as a bridesmaid<sup>131</sup>. The George Coats became tenants of the Glen Tana estate just west of Aboyne in 1900<sup>132</sup> and then acquired the property in 1905<sup>133</sup>. They were active philanthropists, were social, sporty and musical, and Mrs Coats was soon the queen bee of Aboyne society<sup>134</sup>. When the extension to the Aboyne Golf Club was opened in September 1908 Mrs Coats "was presented with a club to strike off the first ball from the tee near the clubhouse" and she performed the deed "in a very graceful manner"<sup>135</sup>. She lived between Scotland and London and her social activities in the capital were based upon the family house in Hill Street beside Berkeley Square<sup>136</sup>. The family's noble contacts are well illustrated by the marriage in 1909 of her daughter Maud to the Marquis Douro (the Duke of Wellington in waiting)<sup>137</sup> and her son Thomas was later said to be the second most eligible bachelor in England – after the Prince of Wales<sup>138</sup>. Numbered amongst George Coats' philanthropic acts was the funding and endowment of St Thomas's Church, Aboyne, in 1909 and this added to the Coats' local standing<sup>139</sup>. George was elevated to the peerage as Lord Glentanar in 1916<sup>140</sup>.

The Baird family were ironmasters - the founders and owners of the great Gartsherrie Ironworks just east of Glasgow<sup>141</sup>. William Baird, eldest son of Alexander Baird, was the prime mover through the mid nineteenth century<sup>142</sup> and he and his many brothers built a firm which by 1870 was reputed to be one of the largest producers of pig iron in the kingdom<sup>143</sup>. They amassed great wealth and invested in estates across Scotland<sup>144</sup>. When William Baird died in

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<sup>129</sup> Obituaries Thomas Coates (Paisley Gazette 20/10/1883 p.4) & George Coats (Aberdeen Daily Jnl 27/11/1918 p.2 & Times 27/11/1918 p.11); family wealth – Dundee Evening Telegraph 1/11/1927 p.4. Probates - Thomas 1884 £1.3m; his sons: George 1919 £4.3m, Thomas 1922 £1.6m, William 1926 £3.9m

<sup>130</sup> Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News 25/1/1896 p.747 BNA

<sup>131</sup> Glasgow Herald 8/2/1893 p.7, Times 8/2/1893 p.5

<sup>132</sup> Dundee Evening Post 27/7/1900 p.2, census for GC & family 1901. The Countess of Eglinton was a prompt visitor to Glen Tana in September 1901 and accompanied the Coats family at the 1901 Aboyne Games (Pall Mall Gazette 6/9/1901 p.3, Aberdeen Daily Jnl 5/9/1901 p.6).

<sup>133</sup> Aberdeen Daily Jnl 28/6/1905 p.4, Manchester Courier 31/8/1905 p.6. Valuation Roll 1905 "occupier".

<sup>134</sup> Elevation of GC to peerage Aberdeen Daily Jnl 5/7/1916 p.4, obituary of GC Aberdeen Daily Jnl 27/11/1918 p.2, report of son's engagement Dundee Evening Telegraph 1/11/1927 p.4

<sup>135</sup> Aberdeen Daily Jnl 25/9/1908 p.6

<sup>136</sup> Daily Telegraph 23/3/1909 p.12, Illustrated Sporting News 21/12/1912 p.742, Dundee Evening Telegraph 1/11/1927 p.4

<sup>137</sup> Scotsman 24/3/1909 p.9. Lady Gertrude Lawford gave the bride "a china inkstand" and attended the wedding (also Daily Telegraph 23/3/1909 p.12).

<sup>138</sup> Dundee Evening Telegraph 1/11/1927 p.4

<sup>139</sup> Aberdeen Daily Jnl 14/4/1909 p.5 & 21/10/1909 p.7

<sup>140</sup> Aberdeen Jnl 5/7/1916 p.4

<sup>141</sup> Obituary HR Baird of Durriss, Aberdeen Press & Jnl 13/2/1929 p.8

<sup>142</sup> Falkirk Herald 12/3/1864 p.2; William Baird obituary in London's *Morning Advertiser* 17/3/1864 p.4 (per *Edinburgh Daily Review*)

<sup>143</sup> Robert D. Corrins, "The Bairds of Gartsherrie", website "www.monklands.co.uk/coatbridge" 5/11/2018; also www.gracesguide.co.uk "William Baird & Co".

<sup>144</sup> Falkirk Herald 19/4/1855 p.3 – 7 brothers acquired some 8 estates in the five years to 1855 at a cost of £955,000. Also obituary of James Baird in the Scotsman 21/6/1876 p.4

1864, he was said to have been worth £2m<sup>145</sup> and on the death of his brother James in 1876, *The Scotsman* offered the view that the family could “be regarded as about the wealthiest in Scotland”<sup>146</sup>. The Bairds would first have become associates of the Montgomeries in the first half of the nineteenth century through business: the Bairds acquired various mineral leases on Montgomerie land, established a major ironworks at Kilwinning in 1845 (called the Eglinton Ironworks)<sup>147</sup>, and the two families worked together for the development of railways in the locality<sup>148</sup>. Later, horses proved to be a mutual leisure interest and William’s sons Douglas<sup>149</sup> and Edward both became racehorse owners while Douglas hunted with the Eglinton Hounds and in his time was joint master<sup>150</sup>. Edward’s *Playfair* won the Grand National in 1888<sup>151</sup>. The families formed social links beyond race meetings and hunting and were to be found gracing each other’s present lists in reports of family weddings – a large silver casket here (from Mrs Baird of Cambusdoon in 1886 for the wedding of Lady Theresa Montgomerie<sup>152</sup>), a silver tea caddy there (from the Earl & Countess of Eglinton in 1893 for the wedding of Henry Robert Baird<sup>153</sup>) and a discrete clock later (from Mrs Baird of Cambusdoon in 1901 for the marriage of Lady Edith Montgomerie)<sup>154</sup>. Henry Baird was William’s fifth son<sup>155</sup> and in 1890 he had acquired the Durriss estate some fifteen miles east of Aboyne<sup>156</sup>. Durriss was to remain in his hands until his death and he was Laird in 1924<sup>157</sup> when his son Kenneth married Ernestine Lawford, second daughter of Ernest and Lady Gertrude<sup>158</sup> (- regrettably Kenneth was only the third son, so instead of becoming mistress of a 17,000 acre estate on Royal Deeside, Ernestine found herself exiled to life on a farm in Kenya<sup>159</sup>). Both Ernestine and her younger sister Adela were to live under their uncle’s roof at Drumnagesk in the early 1920’s, close to the time their parents decided to make Jersey their principal country of residence<sup>160</sup>.

Through his brother Ernest and Lady Gertrude Herbert therefore had some influential contacts in the Aboyne locality to add to any of his own. Lauriston Castle, his regular shooting tenancy, was thirty or so miles away as the crow flies - slightly further by road - but a few years after his retirement from the Stock Exchange he was nevertheless to be found attending the

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<sup>145</sup> WB obituary in London’s *Morning Advertiser* 17/3/1864 p.4

<sup>146</sup> *Scotsman* 21/6/1876 p.4

<sup>147</sup> *Stirling Observer* 12/6/1845 p.2, Supplement to *London Evening Standard* 17/10/1845 p.10, *Glasgow Herald* 21/11/1845 p.4

<sup>148</sup> *Glasgow, Kilmarnock and Ardrossan Railway company*, *Glasgow Herald* 18/6/1845 p.2 etc.

<sup>149</sup> *Ayr Advertiser* 16/4/1885 p.4, *Glasgow Herald* 6/4/1889 p.11

<sup>150</sup> *Dundee Evening Telegraph* 5/8/1909 p.2, *Glasgow Evening Post* 13/2/1879 p.3

<sup>151</sup> *London Standard* 24/3/1888 p.2 & see marriage of EWB, *Glasgow Herald* 10/10/1893 p.5, obituary *Berwickshire News* 14/8/1956 p.1

<sup>152</sup> *Ayr Advertiser* 22/7/1886 p.4. Sister Lady Gertrude Montgomerie was a bridesmaid aged 18. Cambusdoon was the estate of William’s brother James who died in 1876 (*Scotsman* 21/6/1876 p.4); James’s widow died “residing at Cambusdoon House” in 1904 (probate 1905 & 1909).

<sup>153</sup> *Aberdeen Jnl* 1/9/1893 p.6. Mr and Lady Gertrude Lawford contributed an umbrella.

<sup>154</sup> *Ardrossan & Saltcoats Herald* 26/7/1901 p.5. A Miss Lawford was a bridesmaid – cousin of the bride so Lady Gertrude’s daughter Constance, aged 7 (*Times* 23/7/1901 p.5). Mr & Mrs George Coats gave a French enamel pendant, Mr & Mrs H. Lawford a writing pad.

<sup>155</sup> HRB’s obituary *Aberdeen Press & Jnl* 13/2/1929 p.8

<sup>156</sup> *St James’s Gazette* 21/7/1890 p.12

<sup>157</sup> Obituary *Aberdeen Press Jnl* 13/2/1929 p.8 & *Dundee Courier* 14/2/1929 p.3

<sup>158</sup> *Aberdeen Press Jnl* 21/8/1924 p.5

<sup>159</sup> Letter from Ernestine’s niece, Bridget, dated 15/4/2013, *Aberdeen Press & Jnl* 26/7/1937 p.6, *Aberdeen Evening Express* 27/6/1890 p.3

<sup>160</sup> Jersey refs: *Tatler* 12/8/1925 p.viii, *Bath Chronicle* 1/8/1925 p.4 etc. West Sussex address: LSE 1921 re-election form gives Hill Place, Haywards Heath as does 1922 electoral roll; likewise *Aberdeen Press & Jnl* 23/2/1924 p.6, the *Sketch* 16/4/1924 p.96; EBAL had apparently moved out of Hill Place by 20 June 1924 (*Kent & Sussex Courier* 20/6/1924 p.6 etc).

Aboyne highland games. These were held annually on the Aboyne Green and in 1905 Herbert brought a party from Lauriston Castle to witness the traditional feats of highland dancing, bagpipe music, caber tossing, hammer throwing and conventional athletics (with light relief from pillow-fighting on a pole and sack races)<sup>161</sup>. Perhaps surprisingly Herbert was listed as a subscriber to the prize funds and this suggests a relationship with a regular patron led to the twisting of his muscular arm. In 1906 Herbert visited from Lauriston Castle again but this time he ducked the subscribers list<sup>162</sup>. His Aberdeenshire social circle evidently extended to Aboyne and if his mind was set on departure from Wimbledon then the choice of Drumnagesk House made good sense. Aboyne was no backwater – the proximity of Balmoral and fashionability of Royal Deeside saw to that – and for Edith there was a busy and congenial social life with no shortage of local attractions to lure friend and family for visits from England. For Herbert there were first class facilities for his chosen activities in retirement – golf, shooting, fishing and curling – local grouse, salmon and trout were there waiting in trepidation as were the black-faced sheep grazing on Aboyne golf course. Acland was twenty years old, of an age to make his own way, and initially at least the Lawfords kept a London pied-à-terre; by 1913 they had an apartment in Chelsea<sup>163</sup> within easy walking distance of the town house of Herbert's sister Jessie Williams<sup>164</sup>.

The family settled in quickly and in 1909 Lawford attendance was reported at a wide range of social and sporting events: in July, the annual picnic and games at Dess (a typical highland event of bagpipes, dancing, throwing things and eating<sup>165</sup>); in August, a classical concert in Aboyne town hall (organised by Mrs Thursby-Pelham to showcase her soprano friend Miss Margaret Adela<sup>166</sup>); in September, the Aboyne Ball (held in marquees and the school buildings with two hundred guests including parties organised by the Coats of Glen Tanar and the Bairds of Durriss – the Lawfords brought seven guests<sup>167</sup>); in October, the “institution” of the first rector at the Episcopal Church of St Thomas, Aboyne (the keys to the church were handed over to the Rev Edward Cornwall Jones with due ceremony by “the people’s warden” in the presence of the Lord Bishop of Aberdeen and a full congregation<sup>168</sup>); and in November, a curling match in Aboyne (a game of two hours “in hard frost, keen ice and brilliant sunshine...with some brilliant play on both sides...all square coming to the last head, so that things were exciting” - R. Graham prevailed over H.F. Lawford “12 to 11”<sup>169</sup>). It was as though the Lawfords had been part of the community for years.

Herbert seemed set fair for an idyllic retirement with family and friends in beautiful surroundings, his time devoted to the pastimes he loved, but there were clouds on the horizon and he was to lose three of those closest to him by the middle of the next decade. His wife and

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<sup>161</sup> Aberdeen Dail Jnl 7/9/1905 p.6. See also “Portrait of Aberdeen and Deeside”, Cuthbert Graham, 1974, p.97 to 99 – the modern series of games dated from 1867.

<sup>162</sup> Aberdeen Dail Jnl 6/9/1906 p.7. “Mr & Mrs J. Williams and family” are shown beside HFL’s entry and this was probably sister Jessie with husband and children.

<sup>163</sup> Probate for Edith, Dec 1913 – 24 Burton Court; 8 room apartment which in 1911 was accommodating a married couple, an infant & 4 servants (Census for Robert Greathed). See also HFL on Chelsea electoral roll for 1914. ACU

<sup>164</sup> Tatler 15/1/1913 p.62 – 93 Cadogan Gardens, per marriage announcement for Lilian Williams (- see also Hans Town Electoral Roll 1920). The house was less than half a mile from the Lawfords.

<sup>165</sup> Aberdeen Daily Jnl 31/7/1909 p.6 BNA

<sup>166</sup> Aberdeen Daily Jnl 11/8/1909 p.5

<sup>167</sup> Aberdeen Daily Jnl 8/9/1909 p.4. “Miss Williams” was one of the seven – probably HFL’s niece Lilian.

<sup>168</sup> Aberdeen Daily Jnl 1/11/1909 p.7. Mrs George Coats attended but George himself was indisposed, much to the regret of the new rector “who had looked forward to receiving the seals of office at the hands of the patron”.

<sup>169</sup> Aberdeen Daily Jnl 18/11/1909 p.8

close friend Edward Robertson both died premature deaths and his relationship with his son was fractured beyond repair.

Edith was mistress of Drumnagesk for just four years. At the end of 1912, when she was forty-three, she presented symptoms of serious illness and was found to have breast cancer<sup>170</sup>. The disease took nearly a year to run its fatal course. In mid July 1913 she was well enough to attend the London wedding of Arthur Brooke of Fairley, the son of close friends in Aberdeenshire, and her outfit caught the eye of *The Aberdeen Journal* reporter covering the event - "Mrs Herbert Lawford's smart nattier blue gown had a belt of deep rose-coloured satin"<sup>171</sup>. But then some seven weeks later, for the Aboyne Games, the family accompanying Herbert comprised just Jessie Williams and her husband Hartley together with Edith's sister Louisa Duke<sup>172</sup>; it was as though the sisters were there to provide support as the end approached. Edith died at Drumnagesk in the morning of 21<sup>st</sup> October, tended by an army surgeon on leave from India<sup>173</sup>.

Herbert was on the managing council - the Vestry - of the Episcopal Church of St Thomas, Aboyne<sup>174</sup> and Edith was laid to rest three days later in the church's grounds, some twenty yards in front of the church tower. The *Aberdeen Journal* supplied a detailed report of proceedings, devoting almost a whole column to the "Impressive Obsequies"<sup>175</sup>. The burial service was that of the Scottish Episcopal Church, simple and impressive, and it was conducted by the rector with the church choir and organist providing a full musical accompaniment – hymns, a psalm, and music by Chopin and Mendelssohn. The small grey granite building in a clearing surrounded by fir and birch trees<sup>176</sup> provided an intimate and picturesque setting and there were flowers in abundance. The gentry of the district gathered to pay their respects and there was a large congregation. Mr & Mrs George Coats led the cast of familiar friends – as patron of the church, George was an ex officio member of the Vestry<sup>177</sup> - and amongst others there were Davidsons of Dess, Farquharsons of Finzean, Grants of Monymusk, Farquhars, Thursby-Pelhams, St Johns and Scotts of Brotherton. Herbert's particular friend Edward Robertson of Burnside, Forfar came with his wife Rose to lend support. Many brought wreaths - there were more than forty floral tributes - and Mr & Mrs Henry Baird of Durriss sent "a magnificent wreath of lilliums set off with smilax".

All Herbert's surviving siblings attended – Jessie, Ernest, Sydney, Evelyn and Ethel – and Archibald's widow Lucie sent a floral arrangement, "a beautiful cross of lilliums and purple

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<sup>170</sup> Entry in register of deaths, Aboyne 21/10/1913 SCP

<sup>171</sup> *Aberdeen Daily Jnl* 16/7/1913 p.6

<sup>172</sup> *Aberdeen Daily Jnl* 4/9/1913 p.6

<sup>173</sup> Death register, Aboyne 21/10/1913 SCP. The surgeon was Frederic W Lambelle, a Major in the Royal Army Medical Corps who had arrived in England from Rangoon on 25<sup>th</sup> July for 6 months leave "ex India"; he was apparently temporarily based in Middlesborough, Yorks (passenger manifest of SS Pegu 25/7/1913; *Homeward Mail* 28/7/1913 p.938; *Medical Directory* 1915, J&A Churchill, p.1620). How Lambelle came to be in attendance on Edith is unknown, but it is possible that he was a contact of the Rt Hon Robert Farquharson PC of Finzean, a local friend of the Lawfords who acted as a pall-bearer at Edith's funeral. Farquharson was a doctor by profession who became a long-serving MP and was well connected in political circles; he was known as "The Doctor" in the Commons and for a time had been a surgeon to the Coldstream Guards and Royal Artillery (RF obituaries *Aberdeen Daily Journal* 10/6/1918 p.2, *Times* 10/6/1918 p.11, *Lancet* etc). Edward Robertson was also someone with contacts in the medical profession, through his links to the Forfar Infirmary (see page 23 below).

<sup>174</sup> According to the Vestry minutes, the first Vestry meeting took place on 6/9/1909 and Herbert attended his first meeting on 1/11/1909, which suggests a pre-existing relationship with the Coats family (per conversation with Vestry Secretary at the church on 14/6/2019). Herbert last appeared in the minutes for 13/11/1921 (per minutes seen on 14/6/2019), so 12 years service at least.

<sup>175</sup> *Aberdeen Daily Journal* 25/10/1913 p.4

<sup>176</sup> *Aberdeen Daily Journal* 12/6/1909 p.7

<sup>177</sup> *Aberdeen Daily Journal* 21/10/1909 p.7



orchids, crotons, heather...<sup>178</sup>. Edith's sister Louisa was present but son Acland was a notable absentee and his name came up only in the description of floral decorations on the coffin. In the chancel three wreaths from the three closest living relatives adorned the polished oak coffin: Herbert's was in the shape of a cross - a fusion of white chrysanthemums, lily of the valley and stephanotis - which bore the inscription "With undying love from her sorrowing husband"; Louisa's wreath carried the message "In loving memory from Lulu and Charlie"; and Acland's large spray of white chrysanthemums with smilax bore the same words - "In loving memory from Acland".

The pallbearers were a mixture of family and friends. Herbert and his brother Ernest represented the Lawfords and then there were six others from the Aboyne district, some at least members of the Episcopalian congregation. All six had worked as professionals in their time – a doctor, a barrister, two civil engineers and two infantrymen – and at least half had inherited estates. They included Major Davidson of Dess (former officer of the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, "a considerate and kindly laird", Chairman of the Kincardine O'Neill Parish Council and an organiser and promoter of the Aboyne Games<sup>179</sup>); the Right Hon. Robert Farquharson of Finzean (doctor, distinguished MP, Privy Counsellor, laird and brother of the well known artist Joseph Farquharson ARA<sup>180</sup>); and Captain Harry Brooke of Fairley (retired officer of the Gordon Highlanders – "a father" to the interests of the regiment who worked ceaselessly for the welfare of its soldiers past and present – a Deputy Lieutenant and Justice of the Peace for Aberdeenshire, knighted in 1920<sup>181</sup>). One of the younger ones – Francis Outram aged forty-five – would have felt a particular kinship with Herbert as he had himself lost his wife at the beginning of the year and her funeral service too had been at St Thomas's<sup>182</sup>.

After the pallbearers had completed their duties and the casket had been lowered into a grave lined with mountain heather and flowers, the proceedings finished with a short service at the graveside.

Acland's absence would have excited comment. Edith's illness was longstanding and the outcome would probably have been signalled well in advance. Even if Acland had commitments in America he might have been expected to be home for the final days and to have numbered amongst the mourners at St Thomas's. Records for the Cunard line show that he visited New York at some time in 1913 and that on 17<sup>th</sup> January 1914 – just under three months after his mother's death – he embarked on the RMS Campania at Liverpool for passage back to New York<sup>183</sup>. Perhaps he visited his mother in the autumn and avoided the ceremony, or perhaps he just arrived too late.

Many were those who sent messages of condolence to Herbert and the Aberdeen Journal report of the funeral was accompanied in the *Society and Personal* column by his acknowledgement: "Mr Lawford is more touched than he can express at the kindness and sympathy shown in his bereavement. As there are some hundreds of letters and telegrams, he trusts his friends will see that he must have time to reply individually".

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<sup>178</sup> Aberdeen Daily Journal 25/10/1913 p.4

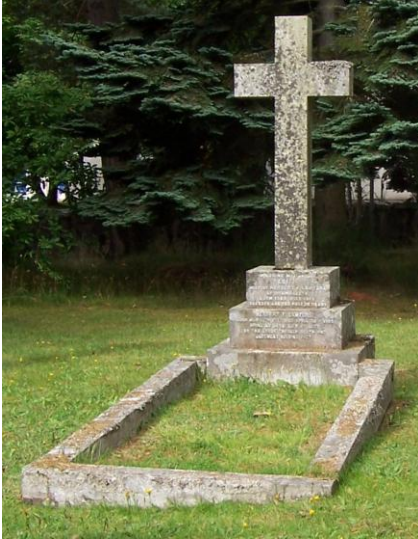
<sup>179</sup> Obituary Aberdeen Press & Journal 20/2/1928 p.8

<sup>180</sup> Obituary Aberdeen Daily Journal 10/6/1918 p.2 etc - see page 16, footnote 173 above re. Dr Lambelle

<sup>181</sup> Obituary Aberdeen Daily Journal 13/6/1921 p.3. The other three pallbearers were Francis Outram (Civil Engineer, formerly officer in the Royal Engineers), William Coltman (barrister and estate owner [obituary Aberdeen Press & Jnl 10/9/1937 p.8]), and Albert Clayton (engineer, road surveyor for Deeside).

<sup>182</sup> Aberdeen Daily Jnl 8/2/1913 p.9, Scotsman 5/2/1913 p.9

<sup>183</sup> Passenger Manifest for RMS Campania 17/1/1914



5.4 Herbert & Edith's gravestone at St Thomas's Church, 2013<sup>184</sup>



5.5 St Thomas's Church, Aboyne, 2013. The Lawford gravestone is out of the picture on the left, facing the left buttress to the tower.

### Tennis trophies, Scotts and Robertsons

When late in 1922 Herbert drew up a new and detailed Will, he bequeathed the majority of his tennis trophies and a generous legacy to one Freda Robertson who he described as “the daughter of my greatest friend”<sup>185</sup>. Freda was the youthful proprietor of the Burnside estate near Forfar which she had inherited after the death of her father in 1915<sup>186</sup>. Aged twenty-two and unmarried she was much the same age as Herbert's favoured niece Adela Lawford and also Lady Elizabeth Bowes Lyon, who she knew as a neighbour and the daughter of close associates of her parents<sup>187</sup>. Herbert's will included reference to twelve trophies in all and of these he left nine to Freda. The collection embraces all the leading men's singles tournaments of the first ten years of the tennis circuit and represents the fruits of encounters with many of the first generation of lawn tennis champions, most notably the Renshaws. Unfortunately the descriptions given in the will are sufficient just for physical identification and omit years and often titles, so they call for interpretation:

*Wimbledon* – “Bowl Allcomers prize Wimbledon (called Gold prize)” [left to Freda]

- “Silver flask marked Wimbledon” [left to Lt. John Farquhar]
- “Silver flask marked Raynes Park” [left to Violet Farquharson]
- “Silver salver The Worlds Championship” [to Freda]

*The Irish* - “Large jug Irish Championship” [probably 1886, to Freda]

- “Claret jug Allcomers prize at Irish Championship” [1881 or 1884, to Freda]
- “Cup Irish Doubles Championship” [1880, to Freda]

<sup>184</sup> Edith's inscription reads: “In loving memory of Edith, wife of Herbert F Lawford of Drumnagesk, born 1869, died 1913, Blessed are the pure in heart”

<sup>185</sup> Will dated 29/12/1922 p.2. Read literally, the “greatest friend” could have been father or mother, but it would be an odd description for a female friend in those days and mother Rose was alive and 53 in December 1922, well able to inherit the trophies in her own right.

<sup>186</sup> Forfar Despatch 11/3/1926 p.3 etc (Freda was a widow by 1926, Mrs J. Callander-Brodie)

<sup>187</sup> Freda – birth registered in Edinburgh April 1900; Adela – Oxted baptism register as born Feb 1899; EBL - birth registered in July quarter 1900 (said to be 4 Aug)

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- Prince's* - "Tea urn Princes Championship with stand" [1880 or 1883, to Freda]  
- "Bowl Princes Championship" [1880 or 1883, to Freda]

*London Covered Court*

- "Bowl or cup Covered Courts Championship" [1885, to Freda]

*London Athletic Club*

- "Cup old London Athletic Club" [to Freda]  
- "Teapot London Athletic Club" [to Adela Lawford]

These were pioneer days for the tournaments and there can have been little by way of standard practice for prizes even within regular events – custom and practice was evolving. It is unlikely that the list covers all the trophies that passed into Herbert's ownership during his career. He won the All Comers singles at Wimbledon five times (1880 and 1884 to 1887) and became champion in 1887 when William Renshaw failed to defend his title through injury.<sup>188</sup> In 1887 the winner of the All Comers received "a Cup value 30 Guineas" – which is perhaps the first trophy on Herbert's list - and the Champion won "the right to hold a 100-Guinea Challenge-Cup, offered by the A.E.L.T.C., until 1st July 1888"<sup>189</sup>.

In Dublin, he won the All Comers singles twice, in 1881 and 1884, and he was Irish Champion for the three years 1884 to 1886 which gave him ownership of the trophy<sup>190</sup>; in 1880 he combined with Mulholland to take the Irish doubles crown, defeating the Renshaws en route to the final<sup>191</sup>. He claimed the Prince's Club open singles title twice, in 1880 and 1883, and won the London Covered Court in its first year in 1885<sup>192</sup>. London Athletic Club he won three years running, 1882 to 1884.

For the first All England Doubles tournament of 1879, clubs were competing at Norham Manor, Oxford for possession of a silver challenge cup for a year<sup>193</sup> while all four finalists were to be presented with jackets in the colours of the host club<sup>194</sup>. Herbert won the doubles title with Erskine but his will is predictably silent on the fate of his jacket, which was reported in the Norham Gardens tennis club's history to have been an eye-catching melange of vermilion and chocolate stripes. His clothes – knickerbocker suits and motor coats apart – were left to his butler William Roberts<sup>195</sup>, who no doubt was loyal enough to the memory of his employer but would have shied away from a garment best suited to young noblemen bent on adorning the banks of the Thames on Ladies Cup day at Henley (had it survived the moth)<sup>196</sup>.

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<sup>188</sup> "Fifty Years of Wimbledon", A Wallis Myers, The Field 1926, p.79

<sup>189</sup> See image from 1887 Wimbledon programme below.

<sup>190</sup> "Fitzwilliam's First Fifty", J.J. Treacy, 1927, p.18

<sup>191</sup> See Appendix 1 to Chapter 4 above – playing record 1878 to 1890, also Treacy p.12 & Freeman's Journal 29/5/1880 p.7 .

<sup>192</sup> Morning Post 27/4/1885 p.2

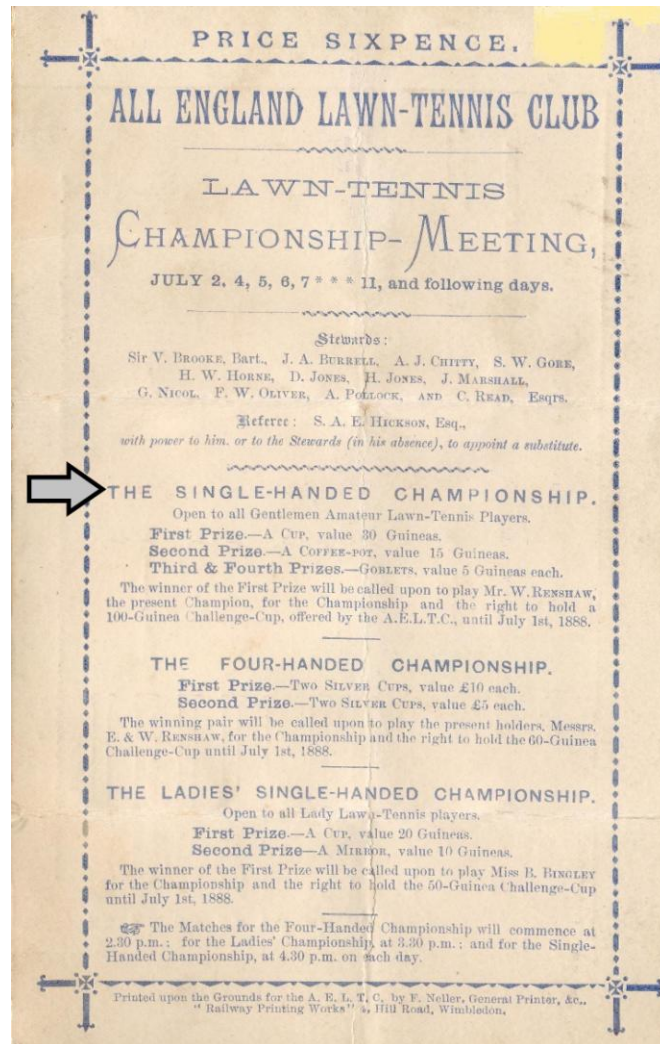
<sup>193</sup> Illustrated Sporting News 24/5/1879 p.226 & 31/5/1879 p.251. Oxford University LTC was host club and provided the trophy.

<sup>194</sup> Oxford University Herald 31/5/1879, as reported on the website of Norham Gardens Lawn Tennis Club, "norham.org.uk" May 2014

<sup>195</sup> Will dated 29/12/1922 p.3 & see HFL census 1911. Frank Jarvis – chauffeur - was the lucky recipient of the knickerbockers and coats.

<sup>196</sup> Ladies Cup: London Daily Telegraph 29/6/1876 p.5, Dublin Daily Express 21/6/1879 p.3 etc.





5.6 Section of the Wimbledon programme for 1887, inter alia describing the prizes (Reproduced by kind permission of AELTC)

The principal beneficiaries under Herbert's will, after the provision of annuities for servants, appear to have been those closest to him in the years after he lost Edith and they were all female: his sister Jessie (together with daughter Mrs Lilian Miles as her successor), nieces Ernestine & Adela Lawford (daughters of brother Ernest), and Freda Robertson. The will makes no mention of sisters Ethel and Evelyn and some six other nephews and nieces, while brothers Ernest and Sydney were left just token possessions such as the cigar cabinet (Ernest)<sup>197</sup>. Freda, like Jessie, Ernestine and Adela, was the recipient of income from £10,000 in trust but the two nieces and Lilian<sup>198</sup> were also to take equal shares in the income from the residuary estate. Why of the four young women was Freda chosen to receive the tennis silver?

<sup>197</sup> Will dated 29/12/1922 p.3

<sup>198</sup> Lilian was married in Ceylon in 1913 (Bath Chronicle 1/3/1913 p.7, Tatler 15/1/1913 p.62) and her husband was probably based there for his career, apart from war service. Nevertheless, she visited HFL at Drumnagesk in 1921 (Aberdeen Daily Jnl 10/9/1921 p.4, Aboyne ball in company with Adela, HFL & Miss Robertson) and also 1922 with her husband William Miles (Aberdeen Daily Jnl 7/9/1922 p.3, Aboyne Games in company with Adela & HFL); she sailed alone to Ceylon from Liverpool in May 1923. Mother of three by 1920 (Sevenoaks Chronicle 17/10/1941 p.1 [funeral of son Charles] etc).



Because of her proximity in Scotland, Herbert probably knew her at least as well as his nieces and he would have known her from early childhood<sup>199</sup>. Perhaps she was the only one who showed any enthusiasm for the game (- Adela being given the London Athletic teapot because she could use it and the competition was of lesser standing) and we do know from her son that she was a keen player, and indeed played with Elizabeth Bowes Lyon in the years when they were both single and fancy-free<sup>200</sup>; perhaps it was because she owned one mansion and Herbert knew she was due to inherit Brotherton Castle on the death of her aunt Anna – there would be rooms enough to accommodate one extra display cabinet and servants enough to polish the silver<sup>201</sup>. Certainly Herbert had a soft spot for her and years later after his death Adela would jokingly refer to her as his “girlfriend”<sup>202</sup>. In the event Freda seems to have missed the opportunity to own a unique sporting collection as it is her son’s firm belief that she never took possession of the trophies; their fate is unknown to both families in England and the All England Club could shed no light on the matter<sup>203</sup>. Adela’s teapot does seem to have passed into her hands, only to be appropriated years later by a burglar local to her youngest daughter<sup>204</sup>, but her daughter Bridget never glimpsed any of the Lawford silver allocated to her in Herbert’s will<sup>205</sup>.

The seeds of Herbert’s friendship with Freda’s father, Edward Hercules Robertson, probably lay in Lawford links to the Scott family of Brotherton as Edward lived and worked in Edinburgh until his father died in 1902 and Herbert was his senior by nearly sixteen years<sup>206</sup> - neither work nor sport nor social life would naturally have brought them together until Edward inherited his father’s Forfar estate and took his place as laird in residence<sup>207</sup>. Scotts and Robertsons were close and it was probably no accident that Edward carried the same unusual Christian name as Hercules Scott, the proprietor of Brotherton Castle<sup>208</sup>. Brotherton Castle near Benholm was a few miles north of Lauriston Castle and St Cyrus. Hercules’ sister Helen was the widow of one Alexander Porteous and her son David was the proprietor of Lauriston Castle<sup>209</sup>. Hercules died in 1897 and was survived by two daughters: one, Anna, took over Brotherton<sup>210</sup>, and the other, Rose, married Edward Robertson – then of Edinburgh - and became mistress in waiting for the Forfar family estate<sup>211</sup>. By 1904, with the passing of a generation of male proprietors, Scott family first cousins were in occupation at all three estates: David Scott Porteous at Lauriston (when it suited him to visit from London), Rose Robertson at Burnside, and Anna Scott at Brotherton. Herbert’s first shooting tenancy of

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<sup>199</sup> She was born in 1900 & her family moved to Forfar after 1902 & by 1904 (p.22 & 23 below)

<sup>200</sup> Telephone call with JG 15/12/ 2011. Elizabeth Bowes Lyon married the Duke of York in April 1923 (Times 27/4/1923 p.13) and Freda announced her engagement the following November (Dundee Courier 14/11/1923 p.8).

<sup>201</sup> Aberdeen Press & Jnl 26/7/1948 p.6

<sup>202</sup> Letter from BR dated 4/3/2012

<sup>203</sup> Telephone call with JG 15/12/2011 & letter from Alan Little of AELTC, 23 April 1998

<sup>204</sup> Telephone call with BR 23/12/2011

<sup>205</sup> Letter from BR dated 4/3/2012

<sup>206</sup> Obituaries for EHR: Aberdeen Daily Jnl 23/9/1915 p.4, Dundee Evening Telegraph 22/9/1915 p.2, etc. Census for EHR 1901, Oxford Alumni 1880 – 1892 p.516 (DoB 24/1/1867)

<sup>207</sup> EHR took up various local appointments in 1904 (Dundee Courier 11/5/1904 p.3 & 13/10/1904 p.3) and the 1905 Valuation Roll shows him in occupation at Burnside mansion.

<sup>208</sup> Montrose, Arbroath etc Review 11/6/1897 p.6

<sup>209</sup> Helen’s funeral: Montrose, Arbroath etc Review 21/10/1892 p.5, probate 23/12/1892

<sup>210</sup> Funeral of Anna’s mother: Montrose Review 13/1/1905 p.3; Will of Hercules Scott p.320 “Sixth” etc per Stonehaven Sheriff Court; Valuation of Brotherton Estate 1905.

<sup>211</sup> Dundee Advertiser 15/7/1897 p.2. Rose’s first name was Margaret but she was known by her second name of Rose (JG email 27/2/20).

Lauriston was reported to be 1894<sup>212</sup> and over the next eight years his path is known to have crossed with Edward's at two funerals and at least one wedding.

The death of Hercules Scott in 1897 was horribly mistimed and occurred shortly before the wedding of his daughter Rose. Edward Robertson and his father Alexander (and also David Porteous) numbered amongst the eight pall-bearers at the funeral on 4<sup>th</sup> June at the parish church in Benholm<sup>213</sup> and then on 14<sup>th</sup> July Rose processed down the aisle of St Mary's Church, Montrose to be given away by her bereaved mother in marriage to Edward. Not surprisingly the wedding was reported as "quiet": "On account of the recent death of Mr Scott of Brotherton no invitations were issued; but a large company assembled in the church to manifest their interest in the bride and bridegroom"<sup>214</sup>. Herbert attended the funeral, and he and Edith donated a wreath<sup>215</sup>, but the newspaper report of the wedding gave only a partial guest list and the Lawfords – if present – gave pride of place to close family and prominent local friends (such as Herbert's golfing friends, the Millars, who were to entertain the Lawfords at a garden party at Rossie Castle a few days later<sup>216</sup>). The bride's published present list was more comprehensive, however, and featured two Lawford donors – Mrs Herbert Lawford (travelling tea basket) and – intriguingly - Master Acland Lawford (silver photograph frame)<sup>217</sup>. The family relationship extended to a youngster of eight, and related to Scotts rather than Robertsons. Edith Lawford's mother was born Elizabeth Scott and although there is no readily identifiable blood link between the two Scott families, it is conceivable there was a remote connection.

The second funeral was that of Edward's father Alexander in June 1902<sup>218</sup>. The press once more failed to report the attendance of any Lawfords but they did mention that Mr and Mrs Herbert Lawford sent a wreath, in company with the Earl and Countess of Strathmore, Anna Scott of Brotherton and others. By this time at least Herbert was a friend of the Robertsons as well as the Scotts.

Edward must have been the first laird in Scotland to be described as both a first class electrician and a botanist, with orchids his speciality<sup>219</sup>. He was said to have kept one of the finest collections of orchids in the county<sup>220</sup> and as late as December 2018 seven of his orchids were still alive and well in the collection of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh<sup>221</sup>. His capabilities and range of interests were startling. Educated in England at Marlborough College and Oxford University, where he read history<sup>222</sup>, he chose to train as a lawyer in Edinburgh and after being called to the Scottish bar, entered practice as an advocate in the capital. While in Edinburgh he was a member and sometime president (1894/95) of the ancient Speculative Society, a society for the development of literary composition and public speaking skills which

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<sup>212</sup> Dundee Advertiser 16/7/1895 p.2 ("From The Field")

<sup>213</sup> Dundee Advertiser 5/6/1897 p.7: "the large assemblage....included the elite of the county gentlemen of Angus and Mearns..." and the funeral service was that of the "Scotch Episcopal Church". Also Montrose, Arbroath etc Review 11/6/1897 p.6

<sup>214</sup> Dundee Advertiser 15/7/1897 p.2

<sup>215</sup> Montrose etc Review 11/6/1897 p.6

<sup>216</sup> Dundee Advertiser 19/7/1897 p.3: "It goes without saying that the ladies were very stylishly dressed for the occasion....Mrs Lawford, Lauriston Castle, wore a purple cloth costume with folded band of black satin and smart hat, massed heliotrope and purple flowers".

<sup>217</sup> Dundee Advertiser 15/7/1897 p.2

<sup>218</sup> Dundee Courier 26/6/1902 p.5 & Montrose etc Review 27/6/1902 p.3

<sup>219</sup> Montrose etc Review 24/9/1915 p.8, obituary

<sup>220</sup> Dundee Evening Telegraph 22/9/1915 p.2 etc

<sup>221</sup> The orchids were donated in November 1915 (stories.rbge.org.uk, "orchid centenarians" 20/12/2018)

<sup>222</sup> Oxford Alumni, Matriculations 1880 to 1892 p.516 ACU

numbered Sir Walter Scott and Robert Louis Stevenson among its former members<sup>223</sup>. After his father's death he moved to Burnside, Forfar and there personally managed one of the estate farms as well as pursuing his varied interests and immersing himself in local affairs<sup>224</sup>. Over a relatively short period he became vice-president then president of the Forfar Golf Club<sup>225</sup>, a director then president of the Forfar Infirmary<sup>226</sup>, and County Director for the Red Cross<sup>227</sup>. A role as honorary vice-president to the Forfar Operatic Society – with the Earl of Strathmore as honorary president<sup>228</sup> – may have had more to do with tangible patronage than musical accomplishment and likewise his honorary presidency of the Forfar Philharmonic Society (- his neighbour, JS Callander-Brodie of the Idvies estate, presided over the Forfar Instrumental Brass Band)<sup>229</sup>. His involvement with the Forfar Horticultural Society was as patron but embraced the practical, so that for instance in 1912 he provided a special display of orchids at the Forfar Flower Show<sup>230</sup>. At Marlborough he was a keen sportsman and represented the school in the football first fifteen in 1884 and the shooting eight in 1885, his final year<sup>231</sup>. As an adult his enthusiasm for sports continued but was channelled into motoring, golf and shooting and here we find interests in common with Herbert<sup>232</sup>. Rose his wife devoted considerable energy to the Forfar Mission to the Blind<sup>233</sup>, as well as the Forfar District Nursing Association<sup>234</sup>, and the Robertsons' voluntary work brought them into close contact with the Earl and Countess of Strathmore who were great patrons of local charities and societies. Freda's social contact with the Bowes-Lyons would have extended beyond the tennis court as both families gave their support to local events such as garden parties, fetes and the occasional ball<sup>235</sup>.

The laird of Burnside was forty-eight years old, and Freda fifteen<sup>236</sup>, when he died suddenly in an accident on the estate. Just two years after Edith's death, alone in his gunroom late one night<sup>237</sup>, Edward suffered a gunshot wound as he handled a rifle. No one heard the shot or realised that anything was amiss at the time and his body lay undiscovered until the following morning<sup>238</sup>. The authorities were then alerted, a doctor called and the body

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<sup>223</sup> “The History of the Speculative society, 1764 – 1904”, printed by TA Constable 1905, p.180 for 1890/91 (archive.org); Sir Walter Scott 1790 p.84, Robert L Stevenson 1870 p.157. HFL's friend JJ Reid was also a member in his time (1868/69 p.156). See also [www.cityoflitterature.com/the-speculative-society](http://www.cityoflitterature.com/the-speculative-society), 20/12/2018

<sup>224</sup> Montrose etc Review 24/9/1915 p.8, obituary

<sup>225</sup> Vice-President Dundee Courier 11/5/1904 p.3, President 20/4/1905 p.3

<sup>226</sup> Dundee Courier 13/10/1904 p.3 (director), Dundee Evening Telegraph 15/1/1908 p.3 (president). The hospital was relatively small and was serviced by some 6 doctors (Forfar Directory and Yearbook for 1905, p.61); during 1909 it admitted 160 patients (Dundee Courier 14/10/1909 p.7)

<sup>227</sup> Montrose etc Review 8/12/1911 p.5

<sup>228</sup> Dundee Courier 22/1/1912 p.6 & 28/5/1914 p.3

<sup>229</sup> Forfar Directory 1909 p.62 (nls, p.82) & Dundee Courier 5/4/1912 p.4

<sup>230</sup> Dundee Courier 17/8/1912 p.3 & 26/9/1919 p.6.

<sup>231</sup> “Marlborough College Register From 1843 to 1904” p.351; also p.769 (football) & p.779 (shooting)

<sup>232</sup> Montrose etc Review 24/9/1915 p.8

<sup>233</sup> Montrose etc Review 2/9/1910 p.3, Forfar Dispatch 27/5/1915 p.1, Dundee Evening Telegraph 30/9/1915 p.2 (Strathmore presiding at annual meeting, Countess present), Forfar Dispatch 26/6/1919 p.1

<sup>234</sup> Dundee Courier 18/9/1909 p.7 (EHR presiding at annual mtg, Mrs EHR present) & 2/10/1912 p.6 (Strathmore presiding at annual mtg, Mrs EHR appointed hon. vice president); Forfar Dispatch 14/8/1919 p.1 (Countess president, Rose a VP)

<sup>235</sup> See for example: 1909 Strathmores attend Burnside Garden Party (Dundee Courier 5/8/1909 p.7), 1912 Forfar Flower show (Dundee Courier 17/8/1912 p.3 – Freda & Elizabeth B-L both present), 1921 Forfar garden fete (Dundee Courier 19/9/1921 p.3 – Elizabeth B-L opened fete, Freda present) & Forfar ball (Dundee Courier 27/9/1921 p.4 – Duke of York, Elizabeth B-L, Freda present).

<sup>236</sup> Birth Register, 22/4/1900, St George, Edinburgh

<sup>237</sup> Montrose etc Review 24/9/1915 p.8

<sup>238</sup> Montrose etc Review 24/9/1915 p.8, Forfar Dispatch 23/9/1915 p.3, Aberdeen Daily Jnl 23/9/1915 p.4

examined<sup>239</sup>. The doctor - George Peterkin, who attended at Forfar Infirmary and would have known Edward for many years<sup>240</sup> - pronounced that death was instantaneous<sup>241</sup>.

The year was 1915, the second year of the Great War, and by then stories of sudden death and bereavement had become commonplace. The edition of the Aberdeen Journal that carried a report of Edward's death devoted a full column to publication of the names of the latest military casualties<sup>242</sup> and on the page of his report a *Roll of Honour* named and paid tribute to three local men recently killed in the Dardanelles campaign. Nevertheless, there was wide coverage of his death in the Angus and Aberdeenshire press and this seems to have reflected in part his work and support for so many Forfar activities and good causes, and his popularity with the tenants and employees on his estate<sup>243</sup> (he was said to have effected many improvements to Burnside and it had come to be regarded as a model estate<sup>244</sup>). The *Forfar Dispatch* in particular mourned his passing: "As a landlord and laird he was known as one whose estate was always in first-rate condition as anyone can see who walks through it. A man of many parts, of wide interests, generous and public-spirited, he will be greatly missed, all the more that, in spite of his white hair, he was still in the prime of life"<sup>245</sup>. The Earl of Strathmore attended his funeral<sup>246</sup> and a week later at the annual meeting of the Forfar Mission to the Blind publicly deplored his tragic death and invited the assembly to join with him in sending heartfelt condolences to his widow<sup>247</sup>.

After his death Rose Robertson stayed on at Burnside and followed the example of her sister Anna at Brotherton in taking on the role of mistress of a major estate<sup>248</sup>. Freda reached the age of majority in 1921 and to mark the occasion a deputation of estate personnel and the tradesmen of Forfar visited to make a presentation<sup>249</sup>. At a small gathering in the presence of Freda, her mother and her paternal grandmother, farmer George Thoms - the oldest tenant - spoke warmly of relations with the family over the years and delivered "a massive solid silver rose bowl"; then Mr David Low, the oldest employee, presented a second gift by fastening "a gold wristlet watch" around Freda's wrist. The bowl was inscribed: "Presented to Miss Robertson of Burnside by the tenants and employees of Burnside Estate, along with the merchants and tradesmen of Forfar, on the occasion of her attaining her majority. 22<sup>d</sup> April 1921". Freda expressed her great pleasure at receiving such beautiful and handsome gifts and offered her warmest thanks to all the subscribers. The deputation were then treated to cake and wine<sup>250</sup>.

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<sup>239</sup> Dundee Courier 23/9/1915 p.2, Dundee Evening Telegraph 22/9/1915 p.2 (rifle & Peterkin). The official death register entry of 22/9/1915 gives cause of death as "Gunshot wound of head"; an entry in the Register of Corrected Entries of 16/10/1915 shortens cause of death to "Gunshot wound" and includes minor additional information such as Dr Peterkin's Christian name.

<sup>240</sup> Peterkin obituary, British Medical Journal 7/3/1925 p.486; Forfar Directory 1905 p.61 & Dundee Courier 14/9/1915 p.7.

<sup>241</sup> Dundee Evening Telegraph 22/9/1915 p.2

<sup>242</sup> Aberdeen Journal 23/9/1915 p.7

<sup>243</sup> Dundee Courier 23/9/1915 p.2: EHR "was one of the best known and most popular landed proprietors in Forfarshire".

<sup>244</sup> Aberdeen Journal 23/9/1915 p.4

<sup>245</sup> Forfar Despatch 23/9/1915 p.3

<sup>246</sup> Dundee Evening Telegraph 24/9/1915 p.2

<sup>247</sup> Dundee Evening Telegraph 30/9/1915 p.2

<sup>248</sup> In the Burnside estate valuation rolls for 1920 and 1925, Rose is shown as tenant and occupier of the mansion; the proprietors are the representatives of EHR in 1920, and Freda in 1925. SCP

<sup>249</sup> Dundee Courier 3/8/1921 p.3

<sup>250</sup> Dundee Courier 3/8/1921 p.3. Forfar Golf Club had presented Freda with "toilet requisites" for her 21<sup>st</sup> in recognition of her father's contribution to the club over the years.



Burnside remained in Robertson ownership for the rest of Herbert's life and in 1925 Rose was still tenant in occupation of the mansion<sup>251</sup>.

The final years, enlivened by two twenty-something nieces

Herbert came from a large family and had a wide circle of friends and associates in Scotland but in the space of two years he had lost two of those closest to him and he had no children who could provide emotional support. He was living alone with his servants; of human contact there was plenty but for a man wounded by the loss of wife and son, slipping sadly into his final years, there must have been a yearning for gentle day-to-day companionship. He was a warrior, he would soldier on without complaint – particularly when so many around him were bereaved through war service – but he was ailing in spirit, in his way a “knight-at-arms alone and palely loitering”.

His brother Ernest's situation and state of mind were rather different. Four years younger than Herbert<sup>252</sup>, Ernest was still a member of the Stock Exchange at the end of the Great War and he remained in a dealing partnership of eight as late as 1922<sup>253</sup>. He had married late, when he was thirty-eight<sup>254</sup>, and according to his granddaughter Bridget, parenthood proved a disappointment to him. No son materialised and three daughters were no consolation – they were to be treated as inconsequential<sup>255</sup>. Constance was born in 1894, Ernestine (Billie) in 1897 and Adela in 1899<sup>256</sup>. Constance – the favourite – was married in 1917<sup>257</sup> and from that time on Ernest seems to have regarded Billie and Adela as excess baggage. Not so Herbert, and Royal Deeside opened its arms to them. There was a mutual attraction and over a period the two nieces took up residence in Drumnagesk and joined the Aberdeenshire social whirl, with an outcome of marriage to suitable local gentlefolk. Ernest and Lady Gertrude made Jersey their principal residence from around the middle of 1924<sup>258</sup> and although they summoned up the energy to attend Billie's wedding in Scotland in August 1924<sup>259</sup> (if Bairds and Coats were to be there, so should Lady Gertrude), they passed on Adela's London wedding in 1926<sup>260</sup>.

Writing in 1988, Michael St John, whose grandmother was mistress of Drumnagesk directly before Herbert's acquisition in 1909<sup>261</sup>, provided a first-hand outline of “the Deeside Autumn season and its glories during the inter-war years”<sup>262</sup>. From the age of eight in 1923 he had spent every summer school holiday in Aboyne, staying with his grandmother Adeline St John, and thereafter visited as a young man whenever naval service permitted<sup>263</sup>; after leaving

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<sup>251</sup> Valuation Roll for 1925 (tenant), Forfar Dispatch 11/3/1926 p.2 (sale by Freda)

<sup>252</sup> Register of births for 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 1855, Kensington; baptised 24/7/1855, Paddington

<sup>253</sup> LSE re-election form for Hon. Claud Biddulph 25/3/1922 & for EBAL 25/3/1921 (address Hill Place, Haywards Heath)

<sup>254</sup> Times 8/2/1893 p.5 – married on 7 Feb

<sup>255</sup> Communications with Bridget (“BRcoms”) between 2011 & 2013 – letters, telephone & meetings

<sup>256</sup> Oxted [*sic*] baptism record: Constance 1894, p.25; Ernestine 1897 p.46; Adela 1899, p.53.

<sup>257</sup> Bexhill on Sea Observer 28/4/1917 p.4

<sup>258</sup> See footnote 160 p.14 above. New residents at Hill Place in June 1924 (Kent & Sussex Courier

20/6/1924 p.6), Jersey residence 1925 (Bath Chronicle 1/8/1925 p.4, Kelly's directory 1927 p.66)

<sup>259</sup> Aberdeen Press & Jnl 21/8/1924 p.5 col'n 2. “Lady Glentanar, in black, brought members of her house party...”

<sup>260</sup> BRcoms, Aberdeen Press & Jnl 16/12/1926 p.8

<sup>261</sup> “A TALE OF TWO RIVERS”, Michael St John, Bushmain 1989, p.14

<sup>262</sup> M St John 1989, p.157

<sup>263</sup> M St John 1989, p.91; born 13/5/1915 (p.11). MStJ took up golf around the age of 7 and was playing on the Aboyne course by the age of 10 (p.52 & 138)

Drumnagesk Adeline took up residence in central Aboyne and she occupied a house on the village green until her death in 1937<sup>264</sup>.

“Most of the estates were still occupied by the families who had owned them for many generations and the big houses, many of them castles, full of shooting parties. In addition, from July to October, came a regular clientele of summer visitors renting villas or hunting lodges up and down Dee and Donside, many like the Farquhars with strong local connections. A host of people of all ages, from four to God knows what, and all bent on taking full advantage of everything the Highlands had to offer. It was the Glorious Twelfth and the grouse-shooting that took pride of place, often enhanced for house-parties by evenings fishing dry-fly for sea-trout on the Don or trying the Autumn salmon run that then still prevailed on the Dee. Grouse and fish were plentiful in those comparatively unpolluted and better controlled days.

Then there were the big social occasions like the Northern Meeting in Inverness, the Aboyne Ball of which my father was for many years the secretary<sup>265</sup>, the Perth Hunt Ball, the Braemar and Aboyne Games and all with what I might term a running base accompaniment of picnic dances, theatre shows in Aberdeen, tennis tournaments, golf, elaborate expeditions to beauty spots and so forth.”

In 1919, the Miss Lawfords made their first entry into press reports of Aboyne social functions. The Aboyne Highland Games had been discontinued for the duration of the war and when it was revived in September 1919, Herbert played his part as a “subscriber” to the prize fund and host to a small party of spectators from Drumnagesk<sup>266</sup>. He was accompanied on the village green, as men in kilts flexed their muscles and “the bagpipes kept the air lively with the stirring strains familiar to the north”, by his sister Jessie & husband Hartley Williams, Freda & Rose Robertson, Mr Maurice Sladen (King’s Royal Rifles), and Miss Lawford (who we can choose to be Billie). The Davidson party, from Durriss, included both a Miss Lawford (“Drumnagesk”) and a Mr Murphy (“Gordon Highlander”<sup>267</sup>) and it is tempting to guess that this was a first encounter between Adela and her future husband Robert Graham Murphy – but if so, the relationship was to be something of a slow burn. Henry R. Baird, the father of Billie’s future husband, was in the Durriss party as well so this Miss Lawford had her marital bets hedged. The games brought together Herbert’s four principal heirs – Jessie, Freda, Adela and Billie – and they were all to meet up again over the next two years.

The main events in the “season” which Herbert supported and which brought female guests to Drumnagesk were the Aboyne Games, the Aboyne Ball and the Braemar Games (less faithfully attended by Lawfords). Freda Robertson was in company with Herbert and the Drumnagesk group at the Aboyne Balls of 1920<sup>268</sup> and 1921 (in 1920 dressed in “pale pink crepe de chine”<sup>269</sup>) but 1921 seems to have been Herbert’s swansong and thereafter he and

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<sup>264</sup> M St John 1989, p.104 & 127 (MSJ gives date of death as 1934 but it is 1937 per probate 1937). MSJ describes this house as “a very happy second home for us all” – it seems to have been the second house she lived in on the green (p.155, & Adeline’s valuation rolls 1915 & 1925)

<sup>265</sup> Michael’s father, Tudor St John, grew up at Drumnagesk as part of his grandfather’s household. As an adult, he lived in the south of England until retiring to Deeside in 1941 (M St John 1989, p.14, 34 & 65).

<sup>266</sup> Aberdeen Daily Jnl 4/9/1919 p.3. “In pre-war years the Highland Gathering was the outstanding social event of the season at Aboyne and yesterday the huge concourse of spectators, representing every town and village on Deeside, as well as many visitors, was testimony to the abiding popularity of the games.”

<sup>267</sup> Aberdeen Daily Jnl 4/9/1919 p.3

<sup>268</sup> Aberdeen Daily Jnl 11/9/1920 p.5. Party of 4: HFL, Jessie, Miss Lawford & Miss Robertson.

<sup>269</sup> Aberdeen Daily Jnl 11/9/1920 p.6. “Miss Lawford wore a dress of copper satin embroidered with gold.”

Miss Robertson were absent from the reported Company<sup>270</sup>. In 1922 the *Aberdeen Journal* recorded “Drumnagesk: Miss Adela Lawford and party”<sup>271</sup> and by then arthritis may have robbed Herbert of his dancing legs.

1921 saw reports of Miss Lawfords in Aboyne two months before the first ball and this may well be the year that Adela moved her principal residence to Scotland. In early July Herbert attended the Aberdeenshire Girl Guides rally in nearby Kincardine O’Neil and he was accompanied by Miss Lawford<sup>272</sup>. His presence at such a gathering might seem surprising, as none of his favoured pastimes were featured and he was not to be numbered amongst the proud parents and relatives, but society had chosen to lend its support and Aboyne’s patrons were out in fair strength - Farquhars, St Johns, Grants, Outrams, Farquharsons and so on (together with a bishop and a canon but no Coats). Amidst picturesque surroundings under a bright summer sun, some two hundred and forty girl guides from eleven Aberdeenshire divisions (Aboyne to the fore) paraded under the command of County Commissioner Lady Forbes. The guides saluted their commander, a colour party hoisted the Union Jack and then the assembly sang the National Anthem. An inspection party then moved amongst the guides and once they had been examined to the satisfaction of an assortment of local Commissioners – rather a military exercise – a programme of competitions commenced. Companies vied with each other in an Eightsome reel, an Imaginary Accident exercise<sup>273</sup> and an obstacle race, while the Oakbank Pipe Band played away in the background. There was a break for tea in the middle of it all and at the end the girls formed a square to be addressed by their leaders. The Huntly Guides ran out comfortable winners, with the Aboyne company second and Inverurie a close third – initially, but later Aboyne were found to have been credited with twenty phantom marks and fell out of the top three<sup>274</sup>. The girls were complimented on their smart appearance and work (in that order) and their display of “the true guide spirit”.

In early September Billie (“Miss B. Lawford [in] a green and gold broche gown with gold sash”) attended the Gordon Highlanders’ ball in Aberdeen as a guest of Mrs Barclay-Harvey of Dinnet (with “Mr Grahame Murphy” present amongst the officer corps)<sup>275</sup> and later the same month she accompanied Mrs Barclay-Harvey to the Aboyne ball. Herbert’s party to the Aboyne function included Adela, Miss Robertson, Lilian Miles and her brother Roy – three nieces and a nephew all there to dance the night away<sup>276</sup>.

A local presentation in October was supported by Herbert and his two Lawford nieces<sup>277</sup>. The Coats family had funded the construction of a public hall as part of the war memorial for Aboyne and on the first Friday of the month Lord Glentanar formally handed it over to the community of Aboyne and Glentanar. The war memorial was a functional building rather than a stone monument and came in three parts: a shrine with the names of the fallen, a recreation room for ex-servicemen and others, and the Coats public hall - named Victory Hall - capable of accommodating around six hundred people with service rooms and conveniences for both public and performers. The hall was designed “in Scottish Gothic of the fifteenth century” but was heated “by hot water”, lighted by electricity and came fully equipped for stage and cinema performances with movable stage front, chairs for the audience, curtains

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<sup>270</sup> Aberdeen Daily Jnl 10/9/1921 p.4.

<sup>271</sup> Aberdeen Daily Jnl 9/9/1922 p.5

<sup>272</sup> Aberdeen Daily Jnl 8/7/1921 p.6

<sup>273</sup> In Trowbridge, Wiltshire this was described as an “ambulance competition” (Wiltshire Times 13/5/1922 p.2). After an imaginary accident, there was a patient requiring first aid and teams of guides had to deal with broken bones, burns, scalds and sprains and improvise stretchers.

<sup>274</sup> Aberdeen Daily Jnl 9/7/1921 p.3 – “a mistake made at the marks table”

<sup>275</sup> Aberdeen Daily Jnl 7/9/1921 p.3

<sup>276</sup> Aberdeen Daily Jnl 10/9/1921 p.4

<sup>277</sup> Aberdeen Daily Jnl 8/10/1921 p.6. Among the company were “...Mr H.F. Lawford of Drumnagesk; Miss Lawford, Miss A. Lawford, Lord and Lady Burgh...”.

and blinds; Lady Glentanar had even provided “a handsome three-leaved cheval mirror for the ladies’ cloakroom”. Admiral Sir Arthur Farquhar presided over the ceremony before some seven hundred residents of the parish and district, there were speeches and then a concert. Lord Glentanar led the singing with renderings of “Sea Fever” and “Scots Wha Hae” and apparently displayed a rich tenor voice. Herbert’s friend Lady Burgh also sang but the Lawfords kept their vocal powder dry and no hidden family talents were revealed.

Perhaps most telling of Adela’s involvement in the local community was her participation in a Balmoral charity event at the beginning of September the following year. The royal family were in residence on the occasion of the Crathie “sale of work” in aid of the Crathie Parish Woman’s Guild and the Crathie ex-Service Men’s Club<sup>278</sup>, and the Queen visited before the opening to present some items for sale to the Fancy Work and Plain Work stalls and to make purchases from most of the stalls. Adela was assisting the wife of the King’s Commissioner at Balmoral - Mrs James Ramsay - as one of a team of four manning the “Italian and curiosity stall”<sup>279</sup>. The sale opened at noon and several thousand attended to browse the various stalls and mingle with the Balmoral dignitaries and local gentry. At three o’clock the providers of music - the band of 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion the Gordon Highlanders - struck up the national anthem and the Queen and Duke of York joined the throng – not as idle observers of the proceedings but as vendors. The Queen took over the curiosity stall, with the Duke of York assisting, and Mrs Ramsay and Adela must have watched in admiration at the brisk trade that ensued. “Money poured into the till of which the Queen had charge”. Initially the Duke contented himself with dispensing change for the Queen’s sales but tiring of this, he took charge of the Italian stall and was soon doing a roaring trade. The royal couple maintained a presence amongst the stalls for over three hours – several policemen were needed to control the crowd when the Queen commandeered the Fancy Work stall - and when they finally returned to the castle they left behind them “rows of bare boards, smiling stallholders and a contented parish minister”<sup>280</sup>. It sounded very much as though Mrs Ramsay was tipped off in advance of the Queen’s intentions<sup>281</sup> and Adela would have taken it all in her stride.

Billie was absent from the reports of the Balmoral fête and her name also failed to appear in coverage of the Aboyne Games on 6<sup>th</sup> September<sup>282</sup> and the Aboyne Ball on the 8<sup>th</sup><sup>283</sup>. Adela, the younger sister, hosted the Drumnagesk party to the ball and she seems to have been well established in Aboyne by this time. Her portrait had been painted at Herbert’s expense and was in place at his house<sup>284</sup>. In the twenty-first century, her eldest daughter Bridget could not recall when precisely she made Drumnagesk her home but she was well aware that she did and that she acted as hostess in Herbert’s final years<sup>285</sup>. In Bridget’s view, she had the whale of a time<sup>286</sup>, apart from courting the Gordon Highlander who was to wed her

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<sup>278</sup> Aberdeen Daily Jnl 4/9/1922 p.5

<sup>279</sup> Aberdeen Daily Jnl 4/9/1922 p.6. Adela was said to be wearing “a heather-coloured tweed with small black hat”. Mrs Ramsay’s son David was a page at Billie’s wedding in 1924, see p.30 below. The Commissioner looked after the interests of the estate – in charge inter alia of employees, tenants and livestock – and needed to be something of a diplomat (Aberdeen Daily Jnl 31/7/1901 p.4 on James Forbes & Bonhams 7/4/2019 on letters of JF 1896 – 1901). Aberdeen Press & Jnl 1/1/1926 p.6 for profile of JDR.

<sup>280</sup> Aberdeen Daily Jnl 4/9/1922 p.6

<sup>281</sup> Aberdeen Daily Jnl 4/9/1922 p.5, column 6: “Before returning to the Castle, Her Majesty intimated that she would be present in the afternoon to give a helping hand in selling the contents of the stalls”.

<sup>282</sup> Aberdeen Daily Jnl 7/9/1922 p.3

<sup>283</sup> Aberdeen Daily Jnl 9/9/1922 p.8

<sup>284</sup> Per FR, daughter of Adela, in conversation 25/2/2012; it was left to Ernestine in HFL’s will of 29/12/1922 p.3 - *Glencoe* by Farquharson is the only other picture mentioned.

<sup>285</sup> BRcoms. Adela was registered on the 1925/26 electoral roll for the parish of Aboyne next to Herbert, p.240.

<sup>286</sup> BRcoms



in kilted splendour in 1926, and she would have brought youthful energy and a female touch to Herbert's home.

Billie may have missed Aboyne events in 1922, but she made a strong comeback in 1923 starting with a *Café Chantant* in the Victory Hall in August<sup>287</sup>. This event, a charity fête built around a programme of music, proved of little interest to young men-about-town but the Aboyne Games, the Braemar Games and then the Aboyne Ball provided both sisters with the company of eligible males<sup>288</sup>. Mr Graham Murphy graced the Drumnagesk party on all three occasions but Kenneth Baird was only to be found in the Durriss House party for the Aboyne Ball. This though was enough. Billie, whose dress of "Lemon French moire draped with lace"<sup>289</sup> must have found favour with the young Baird, made the most of her opportunity and her engagement to Kenneth was announced the following February<sup>290</sup>, under six months later. (The good news came just a day or two after the Aberdeen Journal felt obliged to report the double divorce resulting from Sir Sydney Lawford's relationship with Mrs May Ayles<sup>291</sup> - there was soon to be a new Lady Lawford.) Adela's relationship grew more slowly and only matured into engagement a year after Billie's marriage; she was perhaps enjoying herself too much<sup>292</sup>.



Photograph MISS "BILLIE" LAWFORD (Hay Wrightson)  
Whose engagement to Mr. Kenneth Baird, of Durriss, Aberdeenshire, was recently announced. Miss Lawford is a kinswoman of the Earl of Eglinton and Winton, her mother, Lady Gertrude Lawford, being a daughter of the fourteenth Earl

5.7 "Billie" (Ernestine) Lawford, on her engagement, the *Bystander* 16<sup>th</sup> April 1924 (Image © Illustrated London News Ltd/Mary Evans<sup>293</sup>)

<sup>287</sup> Aberdeen Press & Jnl 13/8/1923 p.5

<sup>288</sup> Aboyne games: Aberdeen Press & Jnl 6/9/1923 p.5; Braemar: Aberdeen Press & Jnl 7/9/1923 p.5; Aboyne ball: Aberdeen Press & Jnl 8/9/1923 p.3 & Scotsman 8/9/1923 p.8

<sup>289</sup> Aberdeen Press & Jnl 8/9/1923 p.3

<sup>290</sup> Aberdeen Press & Jnl 23/2/1924 p.6: "An engagement is announced between Kenneth Alexander, third son of Mr and Mrs Henry Robert Baird of Durriss, Aberdeenshire, and Ernestine Teresa Wilhelmina ("Billie"), second daughter of Mr and Lady Gertrude Lawford, of Hill Place, Haywards Heath".

<sup>291</sup> Aberdeen Press & Jnl 21/2/1924 p.4. MA married Sir Sydney 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 1924 (ACU).

<sup>292</sup> Bath Chronicle 1/8/1925 p.4: "The Earl of Eglinton and Winton's cousin, Miss Adela Lawford, daughter of Mr Ernest and Lady Gertrude Lawford, of Gorey, Jersey, is engaged to Mr R.A. Graham Murphy, of the Gordon Highlanders, and son of the Rev. F.E. and Mrs Murphy, of Walcot Rectory".

<sup>293</sup> www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk.



5.8 Adela Lawford, c1920, perhaps painted for her 21st birthday<sup>294</sup>

The Lawford-Baird wedding took place at St Thomas's Episcopal Church, Aboyne late in August 1924. Some two hundred guests "from castles and mansions on Deeside" (as the Dundee Courier put it<sup>295</sup>) converged on Herbert's chosen place of worship to celebrate the union. The Aberdeen Journal's Lady Representative pronounced it "a truly highland wedding....with kilt, clan tartans, piper, white heather and typical Scots weather – all complete", although it has to be said that the kilt was on the piper rather than the bridegroom, who favoured trousers<sup>296</sup>. The rain seemed to hold back out of consideration during the ceremony – fell just intermittently - but once the bridal pair had left the churchyard it cast aside its inhibitions and poured down in torrents.

Billie arrived leaning on Herbert's arm, "softly gowned in white diamante georgette with an old Brussels lace train...and a tulle veil caught up with orange blossom", and processed down the aisle with her train tended by a page and a flower girl while Adela and a cousin of Kenneth's watched over behind as bridesmaids. Herbert gave her away. David Ramsay, son of the King's Commissioner at Balmoral, was the page and Jean Grant, daughter of Herbert's friends from Monymusk, the flower girl. Ernest and Lady Gertrude Lawford had made the long journey from the south but few other family members were mentioned as present in the congregation. The Aberdeen Journal reported that "some of the most notable of the lower Deeside county folks" were witness to the event, including Lady Glentanar with certain of her house guests, and the Bishop of Aberdeen lent an august presence. The Lawford name was not much to conjure with in highland parts but there were Montgomeries on one side, Bairds on the other, and Coats somewhere in the middle of the church they had built - something of a Kilwinning reunion but missing an Eglinton hound or two and a fox. It was in season for Deeside and nearly all the usual supporters of Aboyne social events were to be found on the list of guests. After the ceremony, as the echoes of Mendlesohn's wedding march faded

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<sup>294</sup> By family permission 2020

<sup>295</sup> Dundee Courier Jnl 21/8/1924 p.5

<sup>296</sup> Aberdeen Press & Jnl 21/8/1924 p.5

behind the granite walls, a swiftly moving throng passed along the rain-sodden paths from the little church back to their cars for passage to Drumnagesk. There “the guests were regaled with wedding cake and champagne, and gathered round the tables where the presents were laid out...”<sup>297</sup>. The gifts to Billie from the staff of Drumnagesk told almost of standing as a daughter of the house: “a sugar basin and spoon from the indoor servants, a cake basket from the outdoor, and a fruit bowl and early morning tea set from the head staff”<sup>298</sup>. Herbert for his part donated “a cheque and a dessert service” and could have been mistaken for her father.

The sands of time, though, were running out for Herbert – he was seventy-three and heart disease was taking hold. Both Billie - as the newlywed Mrs Kenneth Baird – and Adela attended the usual Deeside highland games and the Aboyne Ball that September as part of Drumnagesk parties but Herbert was missing after the Aboyne games<sup>299</sup>. Most significantly perhaps he was absent from the Remembrance Day service in Victory Hall on 11<sup>th</sup> November, while Miss Lawford and the Bairds duly paid their respects<sup>300</sup>. He died at Drumnagesk in the afternoon of 20<sup>th</sup> April 1925<sup>301</sup>, “after a long illness”<sup>302</sup>, and was laid to rest at St Thomas’s to share Edith’s grave. His inscription, below Edith’s on the plinth to the cross, reads:

HERBERT F. LAWFORD,  
BORN MAY 15<sup>TH</sup> 1851 DIED APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup> 1925

BRING US JESU SAFE AT LAST  
BY THY CROSS THROUGH DEATH AND  
JUDGMENT HOLDING FAST.

The quotation is slightly obscure and seems to be a modified version of the last verse to an Easter hymn “On the Resurrection morning” by Sabine Baring-Gould<sup>303</sup>.

His tennis epitaph was less Delphic. In his obituary of 2<sup>nd</sup> May in *Lawn Tennis and Badminton*, Harry Scrivener described him as “one of the makers of early lawn tennis history”: “Lawford shares with the Renshaws, whose greatest rival he was, the credit of having fostered, with the aid of his fine physique, his strong right arm, and his indomitable courage, the healthy young child that was destined to become the giant of today”. (The child in question is the game of lawn tennis but he might just as well have referred to the great tournament itself.) He saluted him as “the ancestor of all baseliners”<sup>304</sup>, and sports historian Arthur Wallis-Myers<sup>305</sup>, writing at the same time, endorsed the view: when Herbert won Wimbledon in 1887,

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<sup>297</sup> Aberdeen Press & Jnl 21/8/1924 p.5

<sup>298</sup> Aberdeen Press & Jnl 21/8/1924 p.5. The wedding register recorded both Billie and Adela as resident at Drumnagesk, Adela being included as a witness.

<sup>299</sup> Aberdeen Press & Jnl: Aboyne games 4/9/1924 p.4; Braemar 5/9/1924 p.8; Aboyne ball 6/9/1924 p.3

<sup>300</sup> Aberdeen Press & Jnl 12/11/1924 p.4

<sup>301</sup> Aboyne parish register of deaths, 1925 SCP

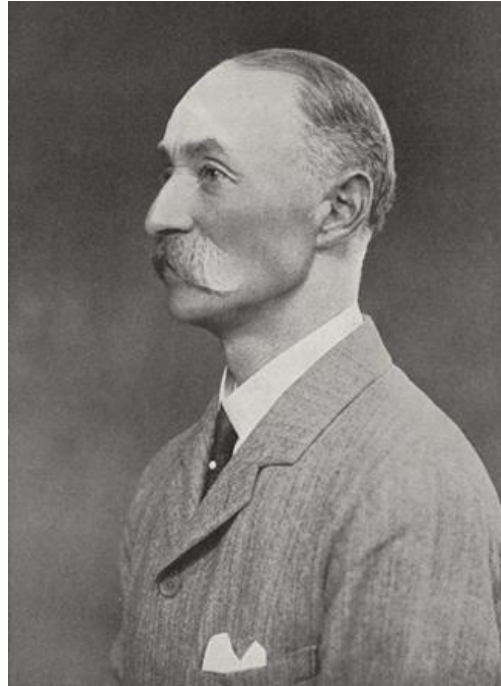
<sup>302</sup> Times 23/4/1925 p.1 & Aberdeen Press & Jnl 24/4/1925 p.8. See also The People’s Journal 25/4/1925 p.18 – “He had been in delicate health for some time but the end came very suddenly”.

<sup>303</sup> SB-G (1834 to 1924) was the author of both “Onward Christian soldiers” and “Now the day is over”. The final verse of his hymn read: “To that brightest of all meetings/Bring us, JESU CHRIST, at last;/To Thy Cross, through death and judgment,/holding fast.” (Website of the SB-G Appreciation Society 2019)

<sup>304</sup> Lawn Tennis and Badminton 2/5/1925 p.9. Scrivener was a schoolboy at the time of the first Wimbledon championships in 1877 but he saw Herbert play in later years and himself competed in major tournaments from the late 1880’s. He was president of Oxford University LTC in 1888 (Tom Todd p.122).

<sup>305</sup> AWM wrote the Official Jubilee Souvenir history “Fifty Years of Wimbledon” for the AELTC in 1926 (published by *The Field*).

he had “withstood the prestige of the volley when it was deemed invincible” and “singlehanded he had maintained the value of back play”<sup>306</sup>. Herbert was his own man until the very end.



5.9 Herbert Lawford c1920 (by permission of the Museum at the International Tennis Hall of Fame)

#### Postscript – Adela, the Will and Acland

On 15<sup>th</sup> April 1925 Adela’s name appeared beside Herbert’s on the Aboyne electoral roll entitling her to vote in local elections<sup>307</sup>, but it was inopportune timing and she was to be lost to Royal Deeside along with her benefactor - Drumnagesk was advertised for sale that August<sup>308</sup>. Also in August the society pages of various journals carried news of Adela’s engagement to Lieutenant Robert Graham Murphy<sup>309</sup>, soon to become adjutant to 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion the Gordon Highlanders<sup>310</sup>, and they were married in December 1926. Aberdeen was the headquarters of Murphy’s battalion and Adela was soon once more resident north of Edinburgh<sup>311</sup>.

The wedding this time was in Chelsea under the patronage of Herbert’s sister Jessie and Adela was given away by Sir Hartley Williams in the Church of St Simon Zelotes, Lennox Gardens<sup>312</sup>. Parents Ernest and Gertrude were notably absent but sisters Constance and Billie were both there as was nephew John Withers, actively involved as a page. Billie was just two

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<sup>306</sup> Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News 2/5/1925 p.278

<sup>307</sup> Electoral roll for Aboyne parish dated 15/4/1925 p.235 & 240

<sup>308</sup> Aberdeen Press & Jnl 29/8/1925 p.1. 1925/26 Valuation Roll shows Stewart & Jarvis in residence in the Gardener & Chauffeur houses with HFL’s trustees as Proprietor & Occupier of the Mansion House SCP.

<sup>309</sup> Bath Chronicle 1/8/1925 p.4, Dundee Courier 3/8/1925 p.8, Tatler 12/8/1925 p.viii.

<sup>310</sup> Bath Chronicle 6/3/1926 p.4, London Gazette 9/4/1926 p.2470

<sup>311</sup> Aberdeen Press & Jnl 13/6/1927 p.4; Electoral roll for Rosemount Ward, Aberdeen 1930 p.67 (Summerhill House); Dundee Courier 9/1/1930 p.4

<sup>312</sup> Aberdeen Press & Jnl 16/12/1926 p.8



months away from giving birth to her first child (Evelyn Janet) in Ayr<sup>313</sup>. Jessie's daughter Lilian attended with her husband William Miles<sup>314</sup>. Adela wore "a simple white satin gown with a long full skirt and plain bodice, and her train was of white satin trimmed at the foot with Carrickmacross lace". Gordon Highlander pipers greeted her as she arrived at the church with the tune "Woood an' married an' a" which may sound incomplete to English ears but is apparently as the Scottish poet wrote it (an alternative title is "The Bride Cam' Out O' the Byre"<sup>315</sup>). After the ceremony, a reception was held in Cadogan Square, at the London home of Mrs William Askew, and the happy couple then departed to honeymoon in the New Forest<sup>316</sup>.

Probate of Herbert's Will was granted in early September 1925 and his solicitors went to work<sup>317</sup> – as also did lawyers acting for his son Acland. The principal beneficiaries under the will were the three nieces Adela, Ernestine (Billie) and Lilian, but Freda was to receive a large legacy, Jessie a large income for life under trust, and Edith's sister Louisa a smaller life income (based on capital of £5,000). Acland was to receive an annuity of £150 on condition he lived outside Great Britain. Generous provision was made for servants at Drumnagesk and Herbert left instructions for five - including William Roberts and Rose Dixon - to be purchased annuities of £150, specifically from "London Life or Equitable Insurance offices". To put this sum in perspective, when in 1914 Herbert's first cousin Arthur Lawford retired from his role as a senior clerk at the London head office of Martin's Bank after nearly thirty-seven years of service, he was awarded a pension of £150 per annum<sup>318</sup>. At the time Herbert wrote his will the most service any of his servants had given him at Drumnagesk was thirteen years - he went well beyond the line of duty.

When Herbert wrote his will, he assessed the cost of his investments to be "over £100,000" and he laid down that if their value had fallen by the time he died then the legacies should be funded as necessary partly from the proceeds of sale of Drumnagesk. He added: "Having no one dependent on me I have sunk a large sum in annuities otherwise I could not, owing to heavy taxes, have lived as before & given away as much as I have always done"<sup>319</sup> – almost as though he wanted to explain why his estate was no larger.

Meticulous instructions were given for the distribution of his physical possessions and these were to be divided between fourteen of his relatives, friends and servants<sup>320</sup>. Amongst the recipients, Sir Arthur Grant was to have "all fishing things & contents of cellar & store room" and "12 horn & silver cups"; Lady Burgh "(Phyllis) picture of Glencoe by Farquharson"; brother Sydney "all shooting gear & golfing [gear], & silver cigar box on wheels"; Ernestine "pianola rolls & cupboard for them, also crested fire screen in dining room, also picture of Adela"; and Jessie was to have the use for life "of jewellery lent to her if she insures it annually & hands trustees a receipt for it" – on her death it was to be divided "between my 3

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<sup>313</sup> Scotsman 23/2/1927 p.16 - DoB 20/2/1927; Billie's address shown as "Les Naitolia, Kenya". See also SCP 2019 – Evelyn born in Ayr 1927.

<sup>314</sup> Bridget recalled that Lilian Miles was bridesmaid (letter 25/1/2012), but as Jessie's daughter was a mature 36 at the time, this would have been Lilian's daughter, then aged 12 (full name Lilian Mary Miles; married Alan G Maby in 1939 [Sevenoaks Chronicle 23/6/1939 p.2] & see his probate 1965).

<sup>315</sup> Attributed to Scottish poet Alexander Ross (1699 – 1784), per [www.scottish-country-dancing-dictionary.com](http://www.scottish-country-dancing-dictionary.com). He apparently chiefly wrote in the Kincardineshire dialect ("which differs in many expressions....from the lowland Scotch of Burns") so presumably most Scots also needed a translation.

<sup>316</sup> Bath Chronicle 18/12/1926 p.21. The Askews were friends of the Williams. They owned the Ladykirk estate in Berwickshire and had 82 Cadogan Square as a London home; their daughter held her wedding reception at No.82 on 1<sup>st</sup> December (Berwickshire News 7/12/1926 p.7).

<sup>317</sup> Aberdeen Press & Jnl 21/9/1925 p.1 & copy of the will p.4

<sup>318</sup> Barclays Bank Group Archives 8/3/2001, copy of entry for AJ Lawford in Clerks' Register.

<sup>319</sup> Will of 29/12/1922 page 2

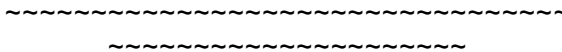
<sup>320</sup> Will of 29/12/1922 page 3

nieces Ernestine & Adela Lawford & Lilian Miles in portions of equal value, the large diamond ornament may have to be divided and a jeweller had better divide the portions". Butler William Roberts was to have Herbert's clothes "but all knickerbocker suits & motor coats to F. Jarvis" [Chauffeur in 1911<sup>321</sup>]. Freda was awarded most of the tennis trophies and the family silver was divided between the three nieces.

Herbert's Will began with what could be seen as a patriotic declaration of loyalty to England and St George: "I Herbert Fortescue Lawford of Conservative Club St James's St London, where I have furnished a room to have permanent English domicile, & of Drumnagesk Dess NB<sup>322</sup>, whose domicile has always been & will continue to be English, declare this is my last will". There is no doubting Herbert's patriotism but with hindsight this must have been drafted with legal intent: his lawyers were nervous of the will falling within Scottish jurisdiction. Acland's lawyers, on the other hand, had just this in mind as Scottish law gave rights to close relatives that overrode the provisions of a will. In Scotland, the assets of an estate were split into two categories: *heritable* (essentially land, buildings, minerals and mining rights) and *moveable* (everything else – investments, cash and possessions less the debts of the estate). The Heritable could be disposed of according to the wishes of the deceased but the Moveable was subject to the rights of any wife and children; if the wife died before the husband then the children were entitled to half the Moveable property, and their share was known as the *legitim*<sup>323</sup>. As an only child Acland had nearly half Herbert's entire estate to play for, as Drumnagesk's basic value was probably no more than £5,000<sup>324</sup>.

Acland went to law – at long range as by 1926 he was based in Port Moresby, Papua – and the Scottish Court of Session gave its judgment in December 1926<sup>325</sup>. The Lord Constable held forth: Acland had brought an action for a declaration that his father at the date of his death was a domiciled Scotsman and for payment of *legitim* out of his estate; the moveable estate amounted to at least £80,000; Herbert's executors and trustees were defending the action on the grounds inter alia that at the date of his death he was a domiciled Englishman. The judge made no pronouncement on Herbert's domicile but held that there was clear authority for the view that in the present circumstances the existence of heritable estate in Scotland was sufficient to confer jurisdiction in the courts of Scotland in an action to establish the common law rights of the widow or children.

Herbert may or may not have won this last battle but we know for sure that if he had been part of the legal team, he would have fought to the last.



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<sup>321</sup> Census for HFL at Drumnagesk

<sup>322</sup> North Britain

<sup>323</sup> SCP "www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk" 25/7/2013 "Wills & Testaments".

<sup>324</sup> The estate's "upset price" in 1937 was £4,500 (Aberdeen Press & Jnl 19/2/1937 p.2)

<sup>325</sup> Scotsman 10/12/1926 p.5 & Aberdeen Press & Jnl 10/12/1926 p.6