

A Summary of Batie and Batison Families in Sixteenth Century Eskdale, Dumfriesshire, Scotland

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The families of so-called “Border Reivers” who lived in the southern part of Scotland near the border with England in the 15th and 16th centuries are difficult to document in detail. The names of a select number of men appear occasionally in a series of contemporary charters, amnesty lists, and court indictments, but these records as a whole provide little information and yield few clues about family relationships. As genealogists, the best anyone can do is to sort them into clusters by place and attempt to discern possible relationships within those groupings. Indeed, the documentary record is so fragmented that such an attempt is akin to working on a jigsaw puzzle with many missing pieces.

The task is further complicated by geography. Many place names referenced in these records have no modern equivalent and in many instances cannot be found even on older maps. Many maps dated from 1750 to present show numerous un-named ruins of settlements and tower foundations. It is reasonable to assume that some of these were named and inhabited in the 15th and 16th centuries and were subsequently abandoned.

Based on existing records, it appears that the Beattie families inhabited primarily the upper reaches of the River Esk and two tributaries of the River Esk, the Black Esk and the White Esk (See Figure 1). Some historians also place Beattie families along the River Esk south of Langholm¹. Herman Moll, in his 1745 map of southern Scotland, identified as Eusdale or Eskdale the watershed of the River Esk from its upper tributaries to roughly the beginning of the Debatable Land shown in Figure 1.

As mentioned above, a number of places named as residences of Beattie families cannot be located on existing maps. Thus, the extent of distribution of Beattie families in southern Scotland in the 15th and 16th centuries cannot be readily determined.

What follows is a first attempt at reconstructing some of the Baty, Batie, and Batison families who lived in this part of Scotland between 1450 and 1600. Many of these families later lost much of their land and moved into Ulster (Northern Ireland) during the first three decades of the seventeenth century, establishing branches that later moved to North America in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

This work, which is, at best, a preliminary effort, suggests at least two possible avenues for additional research. Two sasines or Scottish wills from the fifteenth century, if discovered, might provide names of heirs and serve as a bridge for documenting more family members from the early fifteenth century. They include the sasine of Nicholas Batisoun of 1477 and that of John Batisoun of 1493, both of which are named in the Exchequer Rolls and may still be extant in Scottish archives.² John and Robert Hyslop also make reference to a list dated 1544 that records the names of persons who came under English assurance as a result of Lord Wharton’s raids.³ The list is said to contain some 282 names of Thomsons and Beattisons, and, if located, it might offer important information on an earlier generation than many of the names below, which date from 1569.

It is interesting to note that the Beatty surname has been plagued with spelling variations since the dawn of

surnames. Today, there are at least nine principal spelling variations and several less common variations. The name has been found spelled two and three different ways within the same public document. The reality is that there is no single, “proper” spelling. Hence, the reader will see various spellings herein. Disconcerting though it may be, one must accept that in no case is the name spelled incorrectly.

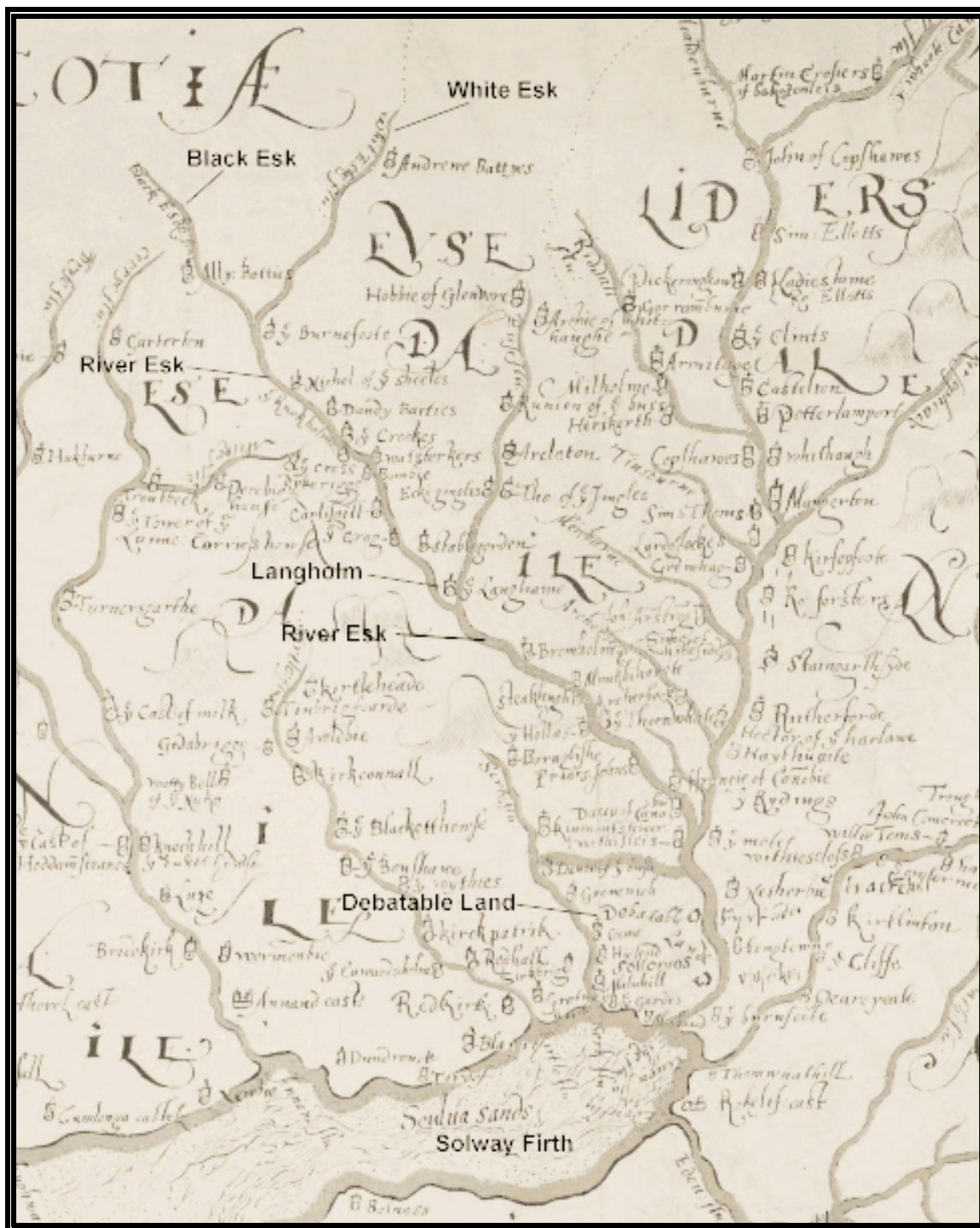


Figure 1. This map from about 1590 shows the drainage of the River Esk from its upper reaches in the Black Esk and White Esk to the point where it empties into Solway Firth. This map depicts the Debatable Land as a much smaller area than is illustrated on other maps (See Figure 2).

It has been suggested that Beattie families occupied the area along the Scottish-English border known at the “Debatable Land.” As already stated, some places of residence of Beatties have not been located on existing maps. Hence, residence of some Beatties within the Debatable Land is possible. This matter is further complicated by the fact that historians have differed regarding the precise boundaries of these “debatable lands.” The boundary shown in Figure 2 is substantially different than that shown in Figure 1. Obviously, the larger area depicted in Figure 2 increased the probability that some Beattie families may have lived in that area.

What is clear from existing records is that the bulk of the Beattie families lived along the River Esk well upstream of the Debatable Land.

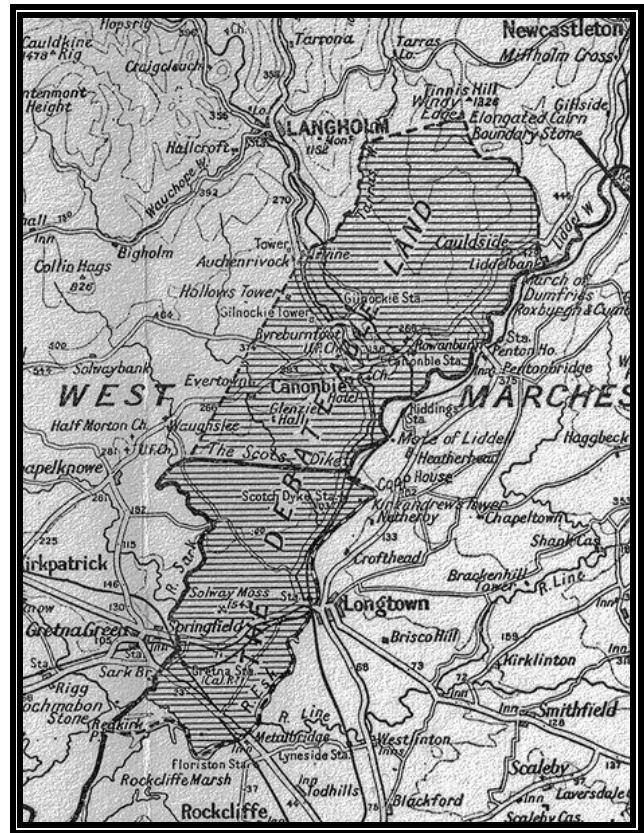


Figure 2. This is a depiction of the Debatable Land found in *The Border Line* by James Logan Mack, Oliver and Boyd, 1926. Note that the area included in the Debatable Land is much larger than that shown in Figure 1.

Figure 3 is part of the c. 1590 map in Figure 1 showing towers in upper Eskdale. Although crudely drawn and lacking in detail, it does show the existence by name and the general location of various fortresses along the River Esk and its two originating tributaries - the Black Esk and the White Esk. The tower identified as Ally Batties is generally considered to be the tower of Black Esk. Some of these towers are also shown on later maps, as discussed below.



Figure 3. A portion of the map in Figure 1 showing towers in upper Eskdale. On the Black Esk is the fortress of Ally Battie. On the White Esk is the fortress of Andrewe Battie. Along the River Esk are fortresses of Nichol of the Sheelds and of Dandy Baitie.

BLACK ESK

The Black Esk is a tributary of the River Esk in northern Eskdale. The river drains a remote part of the region just south of the mountainous Head of Puhorrell. A small fortress or tower, situated on the west bank, was held for most of the sixteenth century by a branch of the Baties, who were identified in contemporary documents as being “of Black Esk.” The tower appears on the 1590 map of towers in Eskdale, when it was held by “Ally Beattie,” and it continued to appear on Blaeu’s Map of 1654 after many others had disappeared.

DAVID BATY was born c.1520. He was living in April 1569 when he received a pardon for his association with Lord John Maxwell. He was likely deceased before 1584.⁴



Figure 4. This 1654 map shows the general location of Black Esk tower in relation to settlements on the White Esk (Carrick, Cott, etc.). [Blaeu’s Atlas of Scotland, 1654]

Children, as evidenced from the 1569 list:

- i. ALIE/ALIC BATY, b. c.1545; he was living in 1584 and was “of Black Esk” when he and his brother David gave an assurance of their support to Liddesdale.⁵ Apparently he was the eldest son of David and became principal of his branch of the family by this date. He was apparently the Alic Baty of Black Esk who was declared an outlaw in 1598 for refusing to pay duties to Lord Maxwell.⁶ In 1590, the stronghold of “Ally Beattie” appears on the west bank of the Black Esk.⁷ He may be the “Awlie” Batie who was listed as the “principal” of the clan in Eskdale.⁸
- ii. ROW [ROWLAND?] BATY, b. c.1548, he was living in 1569 and listed as the son of David. Perhaps he was the Rowie Batie on a list of persons who were declared outlaws in 1598. No specific location is given, but his name follows that of Alic of Black Esk on the list.⁹
- iii. HEW [HUGH] BATY, b. c.1550; he was living in 1569 and listed as the son of David.
- iv. JON BATY, b. c.1553; he was living in 1569 and listed as the son of David.
- v. DAVID BATY, b. c.1555; he was living in 1584 when, with his brother Alic, he gave assurance of his support to Liddesdale.¹⁰ He was probably the same David Batie of Black Esk, who appeared on a list together with Mungoes Jame Batie, Nichollas Johnne Batie, John Batie of the Crose, and Nycoll Batie of Whysgill.¹¹ It is unlikely he was the David Batie, “brother to Hew,” nicknamed John the Braid, who gave a pledge to the regent in October 1569.¹²

ANDRO [ANDREW] BATY, birth date unknown but possibly c.1530-1540. He was living in 1569 at Black Esk and appears on the Maxwell list.¹³ He was not a son of David, but was perhaps a brother or nephew. Perhaps he was identical to the Ando Batie, alias “Steenie Home,” who was declared an outlaw in 1598, though this was more likely Andro Batie of Byre (see below).¹⁴

[] **BATY**, of Black Esk was apparently deceased before 1569. He may have been a brother of David, above. He was the father of at least two sons.¹⁵

- i. ARCHIE BATY, living at Black Esk in 1569.
- ii. NINIAN BATY, living at Black Esk in 1569.

WILLIE BATY or BATYIS and **ROBIE BATYIS** were both of Black Esk in 1569.¹⁶

DAVINGTOUN / DAVINGTON

Davingtoun (or Davington or Davitoun) appeared on the Blaeu Map of 1654 and was located in a remote part of northern Eskdale. More current maps locate Davington on the west bank of the White Esk, north of Burnclauch (Burncleugh) and south of Nether Cassock (Figure 5). According to Hyslop, the town was a major seat of the Beatties and was held in the eighteenth century by Thomas Beattie, who was styled “laird of Davington.”

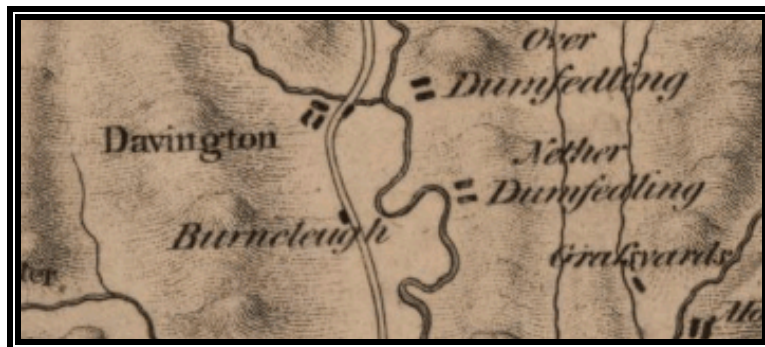


Figure 5. Davington shown along the White Esk north of Eskdalemuir.
[Crawford 1804 map]

JON BATIE of Davingtoun was born c.1520. He was the father of several sons, all of whom were recorded in the 1569 amnesty list. It was possibly this Jon or his son of the same name who, on 28 October 1578, as “Johnne Batie of Daventoun,” appeared on a list of pledges in the custody and keeping of David Boiswall of Balmuto.¹⁷

- i. JON BATIE
- ii. WILLIE BATIE
- iii. WATTIE BATIE
- iv. GEORDIE BATIE
- v. BOBBIE BATIE [Carlyle calls him Hobbie.]

[] **BATEIS** of Davingtoun was evidently deceased before 1569. The amnesty list includes a cluster of names, written together and surnamed “Bateis,” but no relationship was stated. Because they were written together, the implication is that they may be brothers.¹⁸

- i. ROBE [ROBERT] BATEIS
- ii. JOKE BATEIS
- iii. JON BATEIS
- iv. PETER BATEIS
- v. ANDRO BATEIS
- vi. HEW BATEIS

HEW BATY was apparently of Davingtoun and may be identical to the Hew listed in the above cluster. His name is separated on the list by that of Joke Glespie and Adie Littill. He had at least one son, who was named on the 1569 muster roll.¹⁹

- i. ANDRO BATY

NAVING BATY appears on the 1569 amnesty list, though there are no other Batys listed with him.²⁰

ANDRO BATY, like Naving, appears alone on the 1569 list, apparently at Davingtoun.²¹

[] **BETY** was apparently deceased before 1569. He may have had three sons, who were listed together on the list, though no relationship was stated:²²

- i. JON BETY

- ii. PETER BETY
- iii. JAME BETY

[] **BATY** was apparently deceased before 1569 and may have been the father of two sons, who appeared together on the list without a relationship.²³

- i. GEORDIE BATY
- ii. WATTIE BATY



Figure 6. Detail from Blaeu's atlas of 1654 showing Score or Skoire, Rennelburne of "Raynill b." and Bankhead along the White Esk.



Figure 7. This 1904 Ordnance Survey (3rd Edition) of Scotland shows what are probably more precise locations of the settlements shown in the map in Figure 6.

Figure 6, above, is a 1654 map showing the approximate locations of Clerkill (Clerkhill), Skoire, Raynill B. (Rennelburn), Bankhead, and Cott. Figure 7 is a more recent map – a 1904 Ordnance Survey of Scotland. Clerkhill and Bankhead are still named as such on this map. Although Skoire is not named, it is interesting to note the presence of Stone Rings between Rennald Burn and Clerkhill. These are in the approximate location of Skoire identified in Figure 6. It seems reasonable to assume that these stone rings are the remains of a tower at ancient Skoire.

Also, Figure 7 shows an existing hotel called Hartmanor along the highway near Rennald Burn. This hotel is probably near the remains of the old settlement of Rennelburn.

THE SCORE / SKOIRE

The Score or "Skoire," as it was called on Blaeu's atlas of 1654 (Figure 6), was, according to Hyslop, one of the sources of power for the Baty clan in the sixteenth century, the other being at Lynholm (see Figure 10).

[] **BATY** of the Score had at least three sons. Significantly no one of this fortress is listed in the 1569 amnesty list:

- i. **JOHNNE BATISON** in the Scoir, who was the object of a complaint in 1590 registered by Walter Scott on Branxholme that the said Johnne, Nickie Batisonn his son, David and Archibald "Baitiesonnis," all dwelling in Eskdale, stole various cows and oxen from Meineinchald and Mowbray.²⁴ Together with his brother, Archie, below, he was declared an outlaw in 1598, appearing on a list of broken men who had refused to pay a tax to Lord Maxwell.²⁵ He had at least one son:

- a. NICKIE BATIE, who was living in 1590.
- ii. DAVID BATY/BATISON, listed as the brother of Johnne in 1590.
- iii. ARCHIBALD BATISON, listed as the brother of Johnne in 1590, and along with his brother, was declared an outlaw in 1598.²⁶

RENNELBURN

Rennelburn was shown as “Raynill b” on the 1654 Blaeu atlas (Figure 6) and was located on the east side of the White Esk between Bankhead and Score or Skoire.

MIGO [MUNGO?] BATY was evidently deceased before 1569, and it is unclear how he might have been related to Arthur and James, above. He had at least one son:

- i. JON BATIE, called son of Migo in the 1569 amnesty list.²⁷ He was apparently identical to Johnne Batie of Rennelburn who was later declared an outlaw in 1598.²⁸

ARTHOR BATIE was apparently deceased before 1569. According the 1569 amnesty list he was the father of several sons:²⁹

- i. WATTIE BATY, living in 1569.
- ii. ROWE BATY, living in 1569.
- iii. THOME [Thomas] BATY, living in 1569.

BANKHEAD

Bankhead was a tower or fortress located on the east side of the White Esk just south of Rennelburne and the Score and north of Cott. This settlement was identified on Blaeu’s 1654 atlas (Figure 6). Figure 7, above, shows a settlement of Bankhead on the east bank of the White Esk.

It is interesting to note that Roy’s 1746 Military Map does not identify a settlement of Bankhead but does show an un-named settlement in the general location of Bankhead as shown on Blaeu’s map. It is possible that this settlement is the abandoned Bankhead and that later a new Bankhead was established closer to the White Esk.

[] **BATY** was deceased before 1569. He had at least two sons at Bankhead who were named as brothers on the 1569 amnesty list:³⁰

- i. DAVID BATY
- ii. NEKE [Nicholas?] BATY

JHONN [John] BATY of Bankhead was enumerated on the 1569 amnesty list.³¹

CRISTY BATY of Bankhead was declared an outlaw in 1598.

WAT CARRICK

Wat Carrick is located on the west side of the White Esk south of Eskdalemuir (Figure 8). In Blaeu's 1654 atlas it was depicted as "Carrick" (Figure 4). The cemetery at Wat Carrick contains a number of Beatty headstones and a Beatty lives in Wat Carrick today.

DAVID BATY lived at Watcarrick in 1569 and was enumerated with David Dalgles, James Achesone, and Ade Glendonig on the list of persons receiving a pardon for his association with Lord Maxwell.³²



Figure 8. Wat Carrick is an ancient settlement and is still shown on modern maps of Scotland. It is located south of Eskdalemuir on the west side of the White Esk. [Crawford 1804 map]

MILGILL

A settlement by the name of Milgill has not been located. However, modern maps suggest that the location of Crurie is generally at the house symbol near the White Esk (see Figure 8). The double bar symbol above "Crurie" indicates a town named Allangillfoot on those modern maps. Notice that the map in Figure 8 shows a stream named Millgill Burn feeding the White Esk. It is possible that this settlement called Allangillfoot on modern maps was once called Millgill, or Milgill, in the 16th Century. That would follow the old tradition of naming settlements for adjacent streams, Millgill Burn in this case.

JHOUN BATIE was living in Milgill on the 1569 amnesty list.³³ His name was not listed contiguous to any others in this area. Others here included Bartill and Syme Glendonig, Syme Scot, Nikie Scot, Willie Banet, John Boy, and Jhonn Litill.

ANDRO BATY was of Milgill in 1569 and appears on the amnesty list.³⁴

SYME BATY was of Milgill in 1569 and appears on the amnesty list.³⁵

YETBYRE

Yetbyre was located on the west side of the White Esk across the river from Yards. It was north (upstream) of the confluence of the Black Esk and White Esk and was south (downstream) of Eskdalemuir.

This group of Baties was closely associated with the Baties of the Schield or Schiel, another stronghold in Eskdale.

JOHN BATIE of Yetbyre was deceased before 1532 and was evidently the father of Adam, below.

ADAM BATIE, born c.1505 or earlier, apparently son of John, may have been a close relative of an earlier Adam Baty, who was convicted in 1504 "of art and part with the king's rebels at the horn, being of Eskdale, in their thefts and treasonable deeds, and for favouring, supplying, and assisting them in their thefts, and of common treason" and was thereby hanged.³⁶

This younger Adam was signatory of a charter dated 27 July 1532, together with Adam Batie of the Schiell, and John Batie of Moffett. They were closely associated with Robert Maxwell and with John Glendinning of Belhome.³⁷ It was apparently this Adam, or another of the same name, who was living in 1569 and appeared on the amnesty list.

CHARLIE BATIE, born c.1520, resided at Yetbyre and appears on the 1569 amnesty list.³⁸ He had at least one son:

- i. **MATHEW BATY**, born c.1550; living in 1569 and named as Charlie's son on the amnesty roll.

JAME BATY resided at Yetbyre in 1569 and was included in the amnesty roll, though his relationship to Charlie was not stated.³⁹ Carlyle places him as a son of the Charlie, which appears to be an error.⁴⁰



Figure 9. Yetbyre was located on the west side of the White Esk across the river from Yards. [Crawford 1804 map]

THE YARDS

The “Yards” is not listed by name on the 1569 amnesty list. Its location is shown in the map in Figure 9, above.

JOHN BATIE of “the Yards” offered a pledge of loyalty in 1569, together with Johnne Batie, son to Wat in the Corse, Nickoll Batie of Carlisgill, Mungois Arthour Batie, David and Hew Batie (John the Braid).⁴¹ He was probably the same John, who, on 18 August 1573, with Andrew Batie, borderer, was named in a document of the Privy Council.⁴²

ADAM BATIE of the Yards was declared an outlaw in 1598.

THE SHIEL OR SCHIELL

The Shiel, often referenced as Shield, was a stronghold on the north side of the River Esk opposite the settlement of Lynholm (or Lynam). The Batys of the Shield were closely associated with those of Yetbyre. There were other settlements in southern Scotland named Shiel or Shield, but it is believed that the one pictured in Figure 10 is the one where the Baties lived.

ADAM BATIE of the Shield, perhaps a son or grandson of the Adam Baty hanged in Eskdale in 1504, was born c.1500. On 27 July 1532, he joined with Adam Batie of Yetbyre, heir of John, and John Batie of Moffet in signing a charter or deed granted them by Lord Maxwell.⁴³ He was deceased before 1569 and was perhaps the father of the two men listed there on the amnesty list of that year:⁴⁴



Figure 10. Shiel was located north of the River Esk between Dalbeth and Westerker. [Crawford 1804 map]

- i. **WAT [Walter] BATIE**, living in 1569.
- ii. **JOK BATIE**, living in 1569 and listed as the brother of Wat.

NICHOLL BATIE, perhaps also a son of Adam of the Shield, does not appear on the amnesty list, but his name appears together with that of David, brother of Hew Batie, Mungois Arthour Batie, Nickoll Batie of Carnisgill, Johnne Batie in the Yardis, and Johnne Batie son to Wat in the Corse who pledged to the regent in 1569. He could be the Nichol Baty nicknamed “Bullman Ryddin” on a 1569 list of outlaws, though this may be another person, and the Nicholas name was common among the clan. In 1590, “Nicoll of ye Sheelds” appears as the owner of a stronghold on a map of the River Esk.⁴⁵

LYNHOLM

As shown in Figure 10, above, Lynholm, or Lyneholm, is a town on the southwestern side of the River Esk, nearly opposite from the Shiel. The 1745 Roy Military Map identifies Lynholm as Lynum. According to John and Robert Hyslop, this tower, along with the one at Score, were the centers of power of the Batys in the first half of the sixteenth century.⁴⁶ The branch of the family who held them was known for a time as the lairds of “Lymin” or Lynholm.

The family first came to prominence on 1 May 1455 at the Battle of Arkinholm. The battle pitted the Earl of Douglas, known as “Black Douglas,” against forces loyal to the Scottish king James II. John, Nicholas, and Robert Battison or Batisoun, all brothers, sought revenge against Douglas for slaying a fourth Battison brother, whose name is not recorded. In the course of the battle, Archibald and Hugh Douglas were captured by the Battisons and executed. In gratitude for their loyalty and service, the king granted the brothers large tracts of land in and around Dalbeth, near Roxburgh, in the barony of Westerker in Eskdale.

[] **BATY or BATISOUN**, whose name is not recorded, lived in the first half of the fifteenth century and was possibly deceased before 1458. He had at least four sons:

- i. **JOHN BATY/BATISOUN**, discussed below.
- ii. **NICHOLAS BATY/BATISOUN**, was born c.1430-35, and like his brothers participated in the Battle of Arkinholm in 1455. The grant to Nicholas was dated the same day as that of his brother John and also included land at Dalbeth in Westerker.⁴⁷ Nicholas died in 1477 and left a sasine or will, which was registered that year, but the text of this document is not known.⁴⁸ He probably left descendants.
- iii. **ROBERT BATY/BATISOUN**, who participated with his brothers at the Battle of Arkinholm against the forces of the Earl of Douglas. He received land in Whitshiels (called “Quihitscheles”) in a subsequent royal grant, which was located to the northeast of Langholm on the Arkinholm River.
- iv. [] **BATISOUN**, killed at the Battle of Arkinholm.

JOHN BATY/BATISOUN born c.1430, participated in the Battle of Arkinholme in 1455. For his loyalty to the king he received a royal grant on 20 October 1458 for two and a half of the merk-lands of Dalbeth:

*Rex consessit Johanni Batisoun et heredibus ejus, pro singulari favore quam gessit erga ipsum pro eo quod interfuit in conflictu de Arkinholm in occisione et captione quondam Arcchibaldi et Hugonis de Douglas olim comitum Moravie et de Ormonde, et aliorum rebellium Regis in eorum comitiva existentium ibidem captorum et infectorum, 2 mercatas cum dimedia mercata terre terrarum de Dawech in baronia Westir Ker.*⁴⁹

[Charter by King Jems the Second in favour of his beloved and faithful John Batisoun, granting to him, on account of his presence in the conflict of Arkinholme at the slaying and taking of our rebels the late Archibald and Hugh of Douglas, formerly Earls of Moray and Ormonde, and of others our rebels being in their company, there captured and slain, two merklands, with a half merk land of the lands of Dalbeth, lying in the barony of Wester Kir, within the sheriffdom of Roxburgh; To be held the said lands by the said John and his heirs, of the King and his heirs and successors, in fee and heritage for ever, freely and quietly, etc., performing the services due and wont from the said lands ...]⁵⁰

John may be identical to John of “Linholme” who left a sasine or Scottish will dated 1493, though its contents are not known.⁵¹ He had descendants, including at least one son:

- i. NICHOLAS BATY/BATYSOUN, born c.1450-1460, who was known as the Laird of Lyneholm. During the first decades of the sixteenth century he acquired additional land in Eskdalemuir. Hyslop notes his family controlled Enzieholm, Lyneholm, and Ershewood, while the chief on the land lived at the Score (or Skoire). In 1504, King James IV held a criminal court in Eskdale and called out Nicholas Batisoun for his land in Dalbeth, but he failed to appear and was fined £10. This may have been the king’s attempt to obtain a feudal bond of support from Nicholas.⁵² By 1532, strain had begun to develop between the Batisouns/Beattisons, descendants of John (above), and Lord Maxwell, who had received charters for other Eskdale lands between 1532 and 1537. Hyslop writes:

“There was an old tradition that when Maxwell came up into Eskdale to take effective possession of his lands, the Beattisons did not take kindly to the arrangement, and forcibly resisted his action. Things were looking very threatening for the Lord Maxwell, when one of the Beattisons, Rolland of Watt-Carrick, urged him to escape, and offered him the loan of his white mare. Maxwell, it is said, was wise enough to recognize the golden moment, and sped with all haste to Branhholme. There he offered to sell his rights in Eskdale to [Walter] Scott ‘for a cast of hawks and a purse of gold.’ Scott closed with the bargain and speedily mustering his retainers proceeded to Eskdalemuir to take forcible possession of his purchase. He expelled the Beattisons, but on Maxwell’s appeal granted to Rolland Beattison the perpetual tenant-right of Wat-Carrick, for a consideration.”⁵³

Hyslop goes on to say that the legend, while possibly having some grounding in truth, should not be viewed as accurate in every aspect. “It scarcely requires to be pointed out that the Beattisons were not in such an easy manner ‘scattered’ from Eskdale. They remained a fairly compact clan until the dawn of the seventeenth century.”⁵⁴

JHONN BATIE “of the Linhoime” was listed on the amnesty list of 1569.⁵⁵

[] **BATIE** of Lynholm had two sons:⁵⁶

- i. ANDRO BATIE, who served as the servant of Jhonn, above, appeared on the 1569 list.
- ii. THOME BATIE, brother of Andro, and listed on the 1569 list.

ROW BATIE was of Lynholm on the 1569 amnesty list.⁵⁷

NIKIE BATIE was of Lynholm on the 1569 amnesty list.⁵⁸

CORSS

The Corss or Corse, sometimes also referred to as the Cross in some sixteenth century documents, was evidently a stronghold in Eskdale at this time, though it has not been located definitely on contemporary maps. Cross is shown on the 1590 map of towers as situated on the south side of the River Esk opposite Crooks and Dandy Baities. It appears to be back from the river with Knokholme between Cross and the river.

A modern “MultiMap” of this area shows the ruins of two settlements between Shiel and Westerkirk on the north side of the River Esk. These could possibly be the Dandy

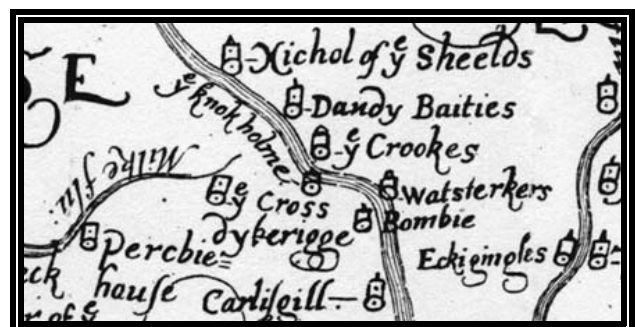


Figure 11. 1590 map of towers showing the Crookes on the northeast side of the River Esk and the Cross on the southwest side.

Baities and Crookes Towers shown in the 1590 map. Across the River Esk from these settlements are named and un-named settlements shown on Roy's 1745 Military Map of Scotland. None of these are named Cross.

WAT BATIE was of the Corse in the early 1500s. He had apparently at least two sons, listed below:

- i. HEW BATIE, known as John the Braid, born c.1540.
- ii. DAVID BATIE, who co-signed with his brother Hew, alias John the Briad, a document that was also co-signed by Munois Arthour Batie, Nicholl Batie of the Schield, Nickoll Batie of Carlisgill, and Johnne Batie in the Yards.⁵⁹

HEW BATIE, also called **BRAID JOHN BATIE** or "John the Braid," apparently for his long braided hair, was born c.1540. He was of the Corss in 1569, when he was recorded on the amnesty list as "Braid John Batie." In the same year he was called John of the Corse, "son of Wat Batie," when he pledged his support to the Lord Regent.⁶⁰ In yet another document dated October 1569, he was apparently identical to Hew Batie, who was nicknamed "John the Braid." As "Hew Batie callit Johnne the Braid," he entered his pledge to the Lord Regent and declared that all of his sons and heirs would thenceforth have the name of "Batesonis" or Bateson.⁶¹ The document implies that he was closely allied with the Glendennings and Thomsons. He was still at the Cors in 1586, when he pledged his support to Liddesdale.⁶²

Carlyle identifies the three brothers listed on the 1569 amnesty list as brothers of this John, but this would appear to be a misinterpretation of the original document.⁶³

[] **BATY** of the Cors was apparently deceased before 1569. He had at least three sons, who were identified as "thre brether" on the 1569 amnesty list:⁶⁴

- i. ANDRO BATIE
- ii. SANDIE BATIE, living in 1569, and possibly a variant of Sander. In 1544, according to Hyslop, following the notorious raid by Lord Wharton, a Sander Batie was recorded as head of the clan, which numbered 282 persons, which also included Thomsons.⁶⁵ Perhaps it was he, or a son of the same name, who was recorded as "Dandy Baities" on the 1590 map of towers along the River Esk.⁶⁶
- iii. WATTIE BATIE

TRURIE BATY was likely deceased before the 1569 amnesty list was compiled. He had at least two sons:

- I. BRA ANDRO BATIE, mentioned in the 1569 pardon as the son of Trurie.⁶⁷ He had at least one son, Jok Batie, who was recorded as the "man" or servant of Jon Batie, who may be distinct from Jon the Braid.
- ii. ADIE BATIE, recorded on the 1569 lists as the brother of Bra Andro.

WESTERKIRK

Westerkirk is a town in Eskdale located on the northeast bank of the River Esk, east of the tower at Shiel (Figure 12).

ROW BATIE was listed in Westerkirk on the 1569 amnesty list.⁶⁸

[] **BATIE** was apparently dead before 1569. He may have been the father of three sons, who were listed together on the 1569 amnesty list, though no specific relationship was stated.⁶⁹

- i. **CRISTIE BATY**, who was living in 1569. This is an unusual name for the family and it is worth noting that Cristy Batie of Bankhead was declared an outlaw in 1598.⁷⁰ This may be the same individual or someone who was closely related.
- ii. **ARCHIE BATY**, living in 1569.
- iii. **WILLIE BATY**, living in 1569.



Figure 12. Westerkirk is located on the northeast side of the River Esk at the confluence with Meggot Water. Westerkirk is downstream (east) of Shiel and upstream (north) of Langholm. [Thompson 1820 map]

BURNE

Burne was a small town or fortress evidently located near Byken in the parish of Westerkir and was referenced later in a ballad by William Park, known as “Burn and Byken.” In 1605, Hugo or Hugh Batye of “Boykyne” received a royal grant in the parish of Westerkir, which he later sold in 1610 to Walter Scott of Tushielaw.⁷¹

ADAM BATY of Burne or Byrne was the father of at least two sons:

- i. **JHOUN [JOHN] BATY** was living in 1569. He was apparently the father of several children, all living in 1569,⁷² including:
 - a. **HEW BATY**, possibly identical to the Hugo Batye of Byken, referenced above, who received a royal grant in 1605.
 - b. **GEORDIE [GEORGE] BATY**
 - c. **JINKIN [JAMES?] BATY**
 - d. **WATTIE [WALTER] BATY**
 - e. **ADE BATY**
- ii. **JAMES BATY**, brother to Jhoun, listed above.

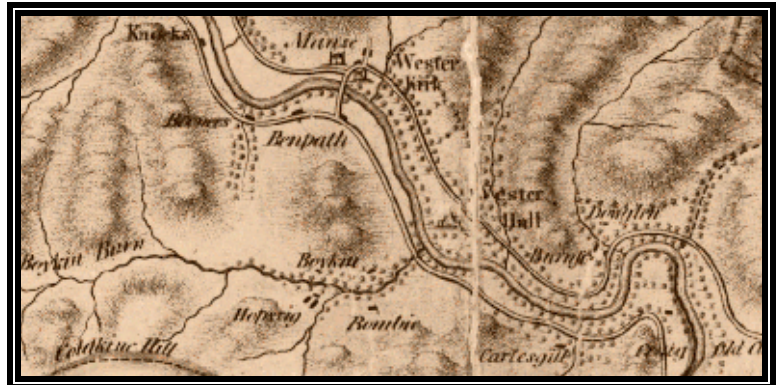


Figure 13. Boykin, on Boykin Burn, and Burne, south of Wester Hall, along the River Esk. Carlesgill is located on the south side of the River Esk across from Burne and downstream from Westerkirk and Wester Hall. [Crawford 1804 map]

BYRE

The location of this settlement is uncertain. Figure 14 shows one possibility. This map shows Byre Burn, a tributary of the River Esk south of Langholm and north of Canonbie. Two settlements are shown on the south side of Byre Burn. One is labeled Byreburnside; the other Burnfoot. It is possible that one of these settlements was referred to as Byre two centuries earlier.

ROBE [ROBERT] BATY was listed at Byre in 1569 and appears on the amnesty list.⁷³

LONG ANDRO BATY, born c.1510 or earlier, was clearly a figure of some prominence in Eskdale, as he was referenced in relation to his sons in the 1569 amnesty list, even though he was apparently deceased by this date.⁷⁴ He had the following sons, all living in 1569:

- i. SIM BATY
- ii. MATHEW BATIE

[] **BATY**, who was deceased before 1569, was the father of several sons, all of whom were listed as brothers on the amnesty list:⁷⁵

- i. GEORDIE BATY
- ii. ANDRO BATY, born c.1540 or earlier; he is called “Steine” on the 1569 amnesty list and was likely identical to Andro Batie, alias “Steenie Home,” who was declared an outlaw in 1598.⁷⁶ It was likely this Andro who is shown on the 1590 tower map with a fortress on an eastern fork of the Esk River.
- iii. SIM BATY
- iv. DAVID BATY



Figure 14. Possible location of Byre. (William Roy, Military Survey of Scotland, 1747-55)

CARLESGILL

Carlesgill was a small settlement on the south side of the River Esk in Eskdale, located upstream from Langholme. It appears to have been the site of a tower on the River Esk in 1590, though the family that occupied it was not identified on the tower map. (See Figure 13, above.)

JON BATY was of Carlesgill in 1569 and was included on the amnesty list.⁷⁷ Carlyle calls him son of Arthur, though this is not supported by the transcription of Morrison and McCartney.

NICKOLL BATIE of Carnisgill [sic] offered a pledge to the Lord Regent in October 1569, a list that also included Hew Beattie alias Johnne the Braid, Mungois Arthour Batie, Nicholl Batie of the Schield, Johnne Batie in the Yardis, and Johnne Batie, son to Wat in the Corse.⁷⁸ Perhaps it was he who was nicknamed “Bullman Ryddin” who was included on a list of outlaws in 1569, though the Nicholl name was common at the time and could refer to any number of individuals.⁷⁹ (See for example Nicholl Batie of Shiel, above).

[] **BATY** of Carlesgill, deceased before 1569, was apparently the father of a group of Baty men, who were not specifically identified as brothers, but were grouped together on the 1569 amnesty list:⁸⁰

- i. GEORDIE BATY
- ii. NIKIE BATIE [perhaps identical to Nickoll, above]

- iii. DAVID BATY
- iv. WATTIE [Walter] BATY

[] **BATY** of Carlesgill, possibly deceased before 1569, was possibly the father of another cluster of Baty men, listed together on the 1569 amnesty list.⁸¹

- i. SIME [Simon?] BATY/BATYIS
- ii. WAT [Walter] BATY/BATYIS
- iii. JOK BATY/BATYIS

[] **BATY** of Carlisgill, possibly deceased before 1569, was possibly the father of two sons, mentioned together on the 1569 amnesty list.⁸²

- i. ANDRO BATY
- ii. JOK BATY

ANDRO BATY/BATYIS was listed at Carlisgill in the 1569 amnesty list and was separate from the above Andro, possible brother of Jok.⁸³

The following settlements have not been found on available maps.

TIMSHELBURNE

DAVE BATY was listed at this unknown locality, called “Tuimschelburne,” in the 1569 amnesty list, or another reading might suggest he lived at Serkwater.⁸⁴

LOGAN/LOGANE

MATHO BATY was of Logane on the 1569 amnesty list.⁸⁵

JOK BATY and **ARCHIE BATY** were listed together on the 1569 amnesty list.⁸⁶ They may have been brothers, though no relationship was stated.

CATGILL

ADE and **JON BATY**, perhaps brothers, were listed together on the 1569 amnesty list.⁸⁷

BETHOIME

ANDRO BATY was listed at Bethoime on the 1569 amnesty list.⁸⁸

GYNGILLS

ARCHIE BATY was of “Gyngillis” on the 1569 amnesty list.⁸⁹

QUHITHAUCH [WHITHAUCH?]

NICKIE BATY was listed at Quhithauch in 1569 and appears on the amnesty list.⁹⁰

ROBE [ROBERT] BATY was listed at this locality in 1569 and appears on the amnesty list, though his relationship to Nickie was not stated.⁹¹

GLENBERVELL

JON BATIE was listed as being in Glenbervell in the 1569 amnesty list.

CAULDKIN

DAVID BATY lived at Cauldkin in 1569 and was included on the amnesty list.⁹²

[] **BATY** lived at Caulkin and was perhaps a brother of David, above. He had at least two sons, who were listed in 1569.⁹³

- i. JON BATY, living in 1569.
- ii. WAT [Walter] BATY, living in 1569.

TROWHOILLIS [TROW HILL?]

JHONN BATIE appears on the 1569 amnesty list as “Jhonn Batie als Nekeis.”⁹⁴ Carlyle translates this reference as “Nickie’s John,” the implication that this Jon was the son of an earlier Nickie or Nicholas.⁹⁵ Perhaps the names listed are his sons, though the reference is ambiguous:

- i. JHOUN BATIE
- ii. ARCHIE BATIE
- iii. NEKIE BATIE
- iv. ADAME BATIE
- v. WATTIE BATIE
- vi. DAVID BATIE

[] **BATIE** also lived at Trowhoillis and had at least two sons. Alie, below, is identified in 1569 as the brother of Andro.⁹⁶

- i. ALIE BATIE
- ii. ANDRO BATIE

KILLCLEWIS/KILCLERVIS

The families living here were evidently associated with the name Mungo, but the precise origin of the nickname is not known. Mungo was a Scottish saint, and there was a St. Mungo’s altar in St. Giles Church. The name was evidently used to describe a group of Baties in Eskdale. It is unclear how they were related, unless they were all sons of Mungo. The group includes:

MUNGO'S ARTHUR BATIE, who signed a pledge to the Lord Regent in October 1569, together with Hew Baty (nicknamed Johnne the Braid), David Batie (brother of Hew), Nicholl Batie of the Schield, Nickoll Batie of Carnisgill, Johnne Batie of the Yards, and Johnne Batie, son of Wat on the Corse or Cross.⁹⁷

MUNGO'S JAME BATIE, born c.1530, possibly earlier, was included in 1569 in the list of persons pardoned with Lord Maxwell.⁹⁸ In October 1569, as "Mungo's Jame Batie," he was recorded on a list together with Nichollas Johnne Batie, John Batie of the Crose, and Nicholl Batie of Whysgill.⁹⁹ He was still living as late as 1584, when he appeared on a list together with David Batie of Black Esk, Nicollas Johnne Batie, Jon Batie of the Crose, and Nycoll Batie of Whysgill.¹⁰⁰ He had at least two sons:

- i. WATTIE [Walter] BATIE, living in 1569.
- ii. MIGO [Mungo] BATIE, living in 1569.

JOHN BATYE of Warrik, alias "Mungo's Johnne," was listed with Andro Batye, called Hew's Andro, on a list with several Armstrongs and was ordered to appear before the warden of the West March in 1590.¹⁰¹

WHYSGILL

NYCOLL BATIE of Whysgill was listed in 1584 on a list of allies of the Armstrongs of Liddesdale.¹⁰²

End Notes

1. George MacDonald Fraser, *The Steel Bonnets*, Skyhorse Publishing, New York, NY, 2008.
2. *Exchequer Rolls of Scotland*. (Edinburgh: General Register House, 1908), 9: 678, 10: 316.
3. Robert Bruce Armstrong, *History of Liddesdale, Eskdale, Ewesdale, Wauchopedale, and the Debateable Land*. (Edinburgh, Scotland: D. Douglas, 1883), 296.
4. "Pardoned or Amnesty List Transcribed from an Act of Parliament in the Reign of James VI A.D. 1585," in Brenda I. Morrison and R. Bruce McCartney, *The Ewes Valley*. (Langholm, Scotland: R. B. McCartney, 2000), 106, cited hereafter as "Pardoned or Amnesty List." Although the document is dated 1585 - the time of John Maxwell, Earl of Morton's raid against Stirling - the pardon antedates April 1569, and the names appear to be from this earlier date. A variant of the same list also appears in T. J. Carlyle, *The Debateable Land*. (Dumfries, Scotland: W. R. M'Diarmid, 1868), 36-38. Carlyle claims that the names are from 1585 and not 1569. He also alters some of the names with modern spellings and infers some relationships that are not supported by a careful reading of the original list.
5. *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, cited on "Medieval Bats", Nunclose Genealogy Home Page website (www.geocities.com/Heartland/Lane/1886/mediaeval.html?200830: accessed 30 May 2008).
6. John and Robert Hyslop, *Langholm as It Was*. (Sunderland, England: Hills and Company, 1912), 301.
7. "Towers on the Debateable Land in 1590," in *ibid.*, 320.
8. Robert Bruce Armstrong, *History of Liddesdale, Eskdale, Ewesdale, Wauchopedale, and the Debateable Land*. (Edinburgh, Scotland: D. Douglas, 1883), 1: cxv.
9. Hyslop *Langholm as It Was*, 301.
10. *Ibid.*, 299.
11. Joseph Bain, ed., *Calendar of Letters and Papers Relating to the Affairs of the Borders of England and Scotland*. (Edinburgh: General Register House, 1894), 1: 170. Hereafter cited as "Border Papers."
12. Hyslop, *Langholm as It Was*, 301.
13. "Pardoned or Amnesty List, 106.
14. Hyslop, *Langholm as It Was*, 301.
15. "Pardoned or Amnesty List," 106.
16. "Pardoned or Amnesty List," 106.
17. Hyslop, *Langholm as It Was*, 304.
18. "Pardoned or Amnesty List," 106.
19. "Pardoned or Amnesty List," 106.
20. *Ibid.*, 107.
21. *Ibid.*
22. *Ibid.*
23. *Ibid.*
24. Hyslop, 300.
25. *Ibid.*, 301.
26. *Ibid.*

27. "Pardoned or Amnesty List," 106.
28. Hyslop, *Langholm as It Was*, 301.
29. "Pardoned or Amnesty List," 106.
30. "Pardoned or Amnesty List," 106.
31. *Ibid.*
32. *Ibid.*
33. "Pardoned or Amnesty List," 107.
34. *Ibid.*
35. *Ibid.*
36. Armstrong, *History of Liddesdale*, 192.
37. Hyslop, *Langholme as It Was*, 226.
38. "Pardoned or Amnesty List," 106.
39. *Ibid.*
40. Carlyle, *Debateable Land*, 36.
41. Hyslop, *Langholm as It Was*, 299.
42. "Mediaeval Batys," Nunclose Genealogy Home Page.
43. Hyslop, *Langholm as It Was*, 225-226.
44. "Pardoned or Amnesty List," 106.
45. "Towers on the Debateable Land in 1590," in Hyslop, 320.
46. Hyslop, *Langholm as It Was*, 296.
47. Armstrong, *History of Liddesdale*, no. 633, 140-141.
48. *Exchequer Rolls of Scotland*. (Edinburgh: General Register House, 1908), 9: 678.
49. *Register of the Great Seal of Scotland [Registrum Magni Sigilli Regum Scotorum]*. Reprint (Edinburgh: Scottish Record Society, 1984), 1424-1513, no. 632, page 140.
50. Translation in Armstrong, *History of Liddesdale*, xi.
51. George Burnett, ed., *Exchequer Rolls of Scotland*. (Edinburgh: General Register House, 1886), 10: 316.
52. Hyslop, *Langholme As It Was*, 297.
53. *Ibid.*, 244-245.
54. *Ibid.*
55. "Pardoned or Amnesty List," 107.
56. *Ibid.*
57. *Ibid.*

58. *Ibid.*
59. Hyslop, *Langholm as It Was*, 299.
60. Hyslop, *Langholm as It Was*, 299.
61. *Ibid.*
62. *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, cited in the Nunclose Genealogy Home Page.
63. Carlyle, *Debateable Land*, 36.
64. "Pardoned or Amnesty List," 106.
65. Hyslop, *Langholm as It Was*, 296.
66. Map in *ibid.*, 320.
67. "Pardoned or Amnesty List," 106.
68. *Ibid.*
69. *Ibid.*
70. Hyslop, *Langholm as It Was*, 301.
71. Hyslop, *Langholm as It Was*, 302.
72. "Pardoned or Amnesty List," 106. Carlyle places this group at Kilclervis, and not Burne.
73. *Ibid.*
74. *Ibid.*
75. *Ibid.*
76. Hyslop, *Langholm as It Was*, 301.
77. "Pardoned or Amnesty List," 106.
78. Hyslop, *Langholme as It Was*, 299.
79. Armstrong, *History of Liddesdale*, xlviii.
80. "Pardoned or Amnesty List," 106.
81. *Ibid.*
82. *Ibid.*
83. *Ibid.*
84. "Pardoned or Amnesty List," 108.
85. *Ibid.*
86. *Ibid.*
87. *Ibid.*
88. *Ibid.*
89. *Ibid.*, 109.

90. "Pardoned or Amnesty List," 106.
91. *Ibid.*
92. *Ibid.*
93. *Ibid.*
94. *Ibid.*
95. Carlyle, *Debateable Land*, 36.
96. "Pardoned or Amnesty List," 107.
97. Hyslop, *Langholm as It Was*, 299.
98. "Pardoned or Amnesty List," 106.
99. Bain, *Border Papers*, 1: 170.
100. Bain, *Border Papers*, 1: 170.
101. *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, cited in the Nunclose Genealogy Home Page website.
102. *Ibid.*