

ASCOG PAPERS.

BY A. D. MACBETH.

[Read 18th February, 1913.]

What follows is part of a calendar of certain papers which are now in the possession of the writer, connected with the affairs of the old proprietors of Ascog in the Island of Bute. The papers came into his possession by gift from the family of the late Mr Thomas Russell of Ascog, who had them from a member of the family of Mr Robert Thom of Ascog.

The earliest known document connected with the estate of Ascog is a charter by Ninian Cochran, designated "*dominus borealis dimidietatis terrarum de Askok*," dated 12th October 1503, by which he alienates, under urgent necessity, his northern half of the lands of Ascog—without mentioning the old extent—to Hugh, Lord Montgomery, for a payment of 30 merks. The deed is still with the titles, but the seal has been removed. The first volume of the printed *Registrum Magni Sigilli*, embracing what few rolls there remain of the reigns of Robert the Bruce, David II., Robert II., Robert III., and the earlier part of the regency of Robert, Duke of Albany, contains no mention of the lands of Ascog, nor does Robertson's print of the Index, compiled about 1629, of certain other records then in existence; and the second volume of the printed Register contains no record of any deed earlier than this. So it does not appear who held the southern half of Ascog at that time, nor how long the northern half had been in the family of Cochran. Nor does it appear when the lands of Ascog, or part of them, came into the possession of the family of Maclachlan, though it must have been before 1544 as in that year Archibald Makclauchlan, son of Archibald Makclauchlan

of that ilk and Katharine Tait his wife, obtained from the Crown a charter of the $4\frac{1}{2}$ merk lands of Ascog, which, according to the charter, had pertained to Archibald Makclauchlan, son of Archibald Makclauchlan of Douard. With the old titles of Ascog, which, by the kindness of Major James Towers-Clark, the writer was permitted to peruse, there are seven other writs dealing with the £3 lands of Ascog, by Maclachlans in favour of Maclachlans, dated before 1568, the purpose and connection of which it is difficult to follow. In the year 1568 the Crown vassal in these lands was Archibald Makclauchlan, a near kinsman of Maclachlan of that ilk.

There is extant, however, a charter by which, in 1510, John Glas of Ardinghu received from the Crown the $4\frac{1}{2}$ merk lands of Ascog which had been resigned in his favour by John Glas of Ascog. As $4\frac{1}{2}$ merks is the equivalent of £3 scots, that charter may refer to the lands which the Maclachlans afterwards held, but this is not certain, though the charter is now with the titles of these lands. The lands which belonged to the Maclachlans and after them to the Stewarts of Ascog were described by Donald Maclachlan in 1578, in the deed conveying them to John Stewart of Largivrechtan, as "*terras meas de ovir askoke cum dimidietate boreali de nadir askoke extenden de totis et integris ad tres libratas terrarum antiqui extentus cum lacu de askokis*," and are afterwards called "the £3 lands of Over and Nether Ascogs;" whereas the lands of the family of Glass—which, according to a tradition mentioned by Dr Hewison,* a Glass received from Robert the Bruce in recognition of a deed of valour—appear to have been called Mid-Ascog. A 20s land of Mid-Ascog was the subject of a disposition by Robert Glas in 1595 and a 40s land of Mid-Ascog was disposed by James Glas in 1606.* The lands of Mid-Ascog Farm, belonging to the Bute Estate, as well as a small piece of land adjoining them which remained in the Glass family till last century*, lie towards the south of Ascog and these lands may have formed the southern part of Nether Ascog and may have come to be called Mid-Ascog for convenience, leaving the name of Nether Ascog to the northern part, upon which the mansion house stood. The

*Bute in the Olden Time, Vol. II p. 166.

name of Ascog was afterwards appropriated to the 20s land of the northern part of Nether Ascog when combined in one property with the 40s land called Over Ascog, the relative position of which parts can now only be surmised from the names. If the $4\frac{1}{2}$ merk (or £3) lands which were confirmed to John Glas of Ardinghu in 1510 were not those which afterwards belonged to the Maclachlans, then besides being of the same value as the lands of the Maclachlans according to the old extent, they were held by the same tenure—"de nobis et successoribus nostris senescallis Scotie in feodo et hereditate imperpetuum," and for performing services described in the same words—"jura et servitia debita et consueta." Probably "Ascog" was originally a £6 land of old extent. A retour of 1637 serving Ninian Stewart of Ascog heir to his father John Stewart bears that the Stewarts' £3 lands of Ascog were part of a £6 land of old extent of that name.‡

The papers are—

1. **Bond** granted by John Gray bailie of Rothissay binding himself to Donald M'Gelroy burgess of Rothissay to take his part in all his actions causes and quarrels, the granter's "allegiance to our sovrane lord and ladie King and Quene of Scottis fealtie and service to my maister allenarlie exceptit." Dated Rothessay, 23rd July, 1560. Witnesses Sir James M'Werarche vicar of Kingarth,† Donald M'Gilchrist, walkar, and Gilchrist M'Onachi. Signed "Johnn Gray burges wt my hand wryt."*

2. **Execution of Intimation** made to Archibald M'Lauchlane of that ilk, and Duncane M'Lauchlane tutor to Donald M'Lauchlane son and heir to umqll Archibald M'Lauchlane of Ascoks, of the crown grant of the ward of the £3 lands of Ascoks to John Stewart of Largabrachtan through "the

‡ The *Origines Parochiales* has several mistakes in dealing with Ascog. In line 8 of p 220 (Vol. II., Part I.), "four" should be "four-and a half." In line 12 "M'Clane" should be "Maclachlane," and in line 21 "£6 and 4 marks" should be "£6."

† Referred to in Dr Hewison's Bute, II. 237.

* It was illegal for burgesses to grant or receive such bonds.

intaking of the said umqll Archibald M'Lauchlane," by reading the same in presence of the said Archibald and Duncane and others their friends and making intimation to all parties having interest by open proclamation at the cross of the burgh of Rothessay at ten o'clock forenoon on the 8th day of April 1568 in presence of Alexander Stewart brother german of the said John Stewart, Ninian Stewart his brother and other witnesses. Signed by Thomas Aulde, notary public of the diocese of Glasgow.†

3. **Renunciation** of possession by Duncane M'Lauchlane, executor of Archibald M'Lauchlane his brother, and tutor to Donald M'Lauchlane, son and apparent heir to the said Archibald Oig, granting him to have denuded himself of the possession of the lands of Ascoks in favour of John Stewart who had received a gift of the ward of the said lands. Containing a declaration that straw effeiring to five horsegang of land was left by the M'Lauchlans on the land, and the same amount was to be left by the said John Stewart at the expiry of the ward. Dated at the Garvie‡ the ninth day of January, 1569. Witnesses: Duncane Campbell, fear of Ormidale, Gilbert Makonoche burgess of Rothessay, "and others." Signed by Patricius Miller notary public.

4. **Contract** dated Rothessay, 21st October, 1575, betwixt Donald M'Lachlane son and heir apparent to umqll Gallespik og M'Lachlane of Askoke with consent of Duncane M'Lachlane of Enyng his curator, tutor and lawful administrator, on the one part, and John Stewart of Largavrechtane on the other part, by which the said John Stewart binds himself to relieve and make free to the said Donald M'Lachlane the £3 land of Askoks from all wodsetts with their byrun annuals since the said Archibald M'Lachlane's decease, with non-entries, reliefs, recognitions, etc., preceding the date hereof, and till the said Donald's perfect age, and also gives the said Donald, and Duncane M'Lachlane his tutor, full power to

† The grant, which includes the casualties of relief and marriage, is signed by the Regent Murray at Glasgow, on 1st April, 1568 (Ascog Titles.)

‡ There is a house of this name at the head of Glendaruel.

uplift and apply to their own use whatever tocher the said Donald can obtain, reserving only thereof to the said John £500 scots, notwithstanding that the said John has the gift of the marriage of Donald; and on the other part the said Donald M'Lachlane binds himself at his perfect age of 21 years or sooner to enter to the £3 land of Askoks and thereafter infest the said John in the same in feu farm for payment of 27 merks yearly; and in further security the said Duncane M'Lachlane binds himself to get Dougall Campbell of Auchinbreck, Archibald M'Lachlane of that ilk, and Duncane Campbell of Duntrune to consent to the performing of the premisses and also to get one of these to infest the said John in as good land, as well-lying and of as great profit, in special warrandice. Witnesses—Archibald Stewart of Killecroy; Niniane Stewart of Langill; Donald M'Gillivra, Kildavalen; Dougall M'Kennye and John Stewart notar public. (Signed) "Duncan M'Lachlane wt my hand." "I Donald M'Lachlane son and heir apparent to the said umqll Gallespic og M'Lachlane of Askoks with my hand at the pen be the notar underwritten." Signed for Donald M'Lachlan by John Stewart, notary, and also signed by John Stewart of Largabrachtan.

5. **Agreement** backed "The first contract of Ascogis," made at Kilmartin Kirk the 22nd day of May 1576, between Donald Makclachlane son and heir apparent of Archibald alias Gillaspic og Makclachlane of Eskoks with consent of Duncane Makclachlane of Enyng his curator and with advice of Archibald Makclachlane of that ilk, Dugall Campbell of Achinbrek, Duncane Campbell of Duntrune, Colline Campbell of Perbrek and Lachlane Makclachlane fear of that ilk, most tender and nearest kinsmen of the father's side and mother's side to the said Donald Makclachlane, and the said Archibald Makclachlane of that ilk, Dugall Campbell of Achinbrek, and Duncane Campbell of Duntrune, Colleen Campbell of Perbrek, and Lachlane Makclachlane of that ilk as cautioners for the said Donald Makclachlane, on the one part, and John Stewart of Largevrachtane on the other part, bearing that the said John Stewart is donatory of the ward and non-entry duties of the £3 land of Over and Nether

Escokis with the colheuchs and pertinents, together with the marriage of the said Donald; that there are three years yet to run of the said ward; that there are sundry annual rents payable from the said lands so that the said Donald could have no profit from the lands; that the said Donald's marriage is at the will and disposition of the said John Stewart who may marry the said Donald upon such agreeable party as he pleases and take the whole profits of the said marriage to himself, for remedy whereof and helping of the said Donald, so that he should have some yearly profit from the lands and should have his marriage in his own hands to marry as he and his friends should please to the most advantage of himself and his house and be free of relief and non-entries, it has been agreed as follows, viz.: the said John Stewart agrees to assign to Donald the ward of the said lands and non-entries thereof, the relief of the same when it shall happen, and Donald's own marriage, and to redeem the lands from the said annual rents, upon the said Donald assigning to him the letters of reversion and right of redemption which he has; as also to relieve Donald from the arrears of the said annual rents since the beginning of the ward; and, the said John having already furnished 300 merks towards relieving Donald at his creditors hands, all which benefits are calculated to amount to 2000 merks, Donald agrees, in consideration of these advantages, to infest the said John Stewart in the lands in feu farm to be holden of Donald and his heirs and assignees for payment of 27 merks yearly at Whitsunday and Martinmas by equal portions, which duty was wont to be paid by the tenants of the said lands to the said Donald's predecessors; and for warrantice the said Donald and his curators and the said cautioners bind themselves to refund the foresaid sum of 2000 merks or else to infest the said John in an equal quantity of as good land and colheuchs lying in as competent a place, as well holden and of as great avail and profit as the foresaid £3 land of Escok; and it is also agreed that upon the said Donald coming of age and ratifying the foresaid infestment, the cautioners will be free of their obligation. Witnesses: Duncane Campbell of Dunuin, Donald Campbell his brother, Neill Fyne alias Campbell, and John Campbell his

son, Archibald Stewart of Killecroy, John Stewart of Rosland notary public. After the witnesses names there follows, in a different handwriting, this clause, "and als the said John Stewart is content to pay yearly to the said Donald and his heirs ane nichtis meit to the numer of ten persones with the said Donald and to extend the same with ane keyne wedder and ane quart aqua-vitie or the price thereof for ane present or gentreis." Donald M'Lachlane signs at Nether Ascog on the 23rd October, 1578, with his hand led on the pen by John Stewart notary public, before these witnesses Duncane M'Lachlane in Henning, James Stewart of Mecknoch, Finlay M'Virarthe of Dunaulint, John M'Neill of Kilmorye, Robert Brisbin yr., and John Fraiser in Ascog.*

7. **Notarial Copy** of an instrument of resignation and sasine in favour of Matthew Spence "*filius liberalis*" of Colin Spence burgess of the burgh of Rothesay, whereby he was infeft in certain lands in Bogany and elsewhere in the burgh, and in an annual rent of 2 shillings scots, under reservation of the liferent of Janet Stewart his "*mater naturalis*" dated 16th Feb., 1579. The deed narrates that the notary and witnesses proceeded to the various pieces of land, the first of which is described as follows:—"Ad suam manssionem tenementa hor. ad terras horti pomeri cappeli sancti bukani una cum fontti sub monticullis et aliis suis singullis pertinentiis annexis et connexis jacen in burgo de Rothissay contigue jacen in burgo de Rothissay et infra libertatem ejusdem inter terras quand Joannis Kelso ex australi parti et terras

* A document in practically the same terms is with the Ascog titles, but in it the clause at the end, also in a different hand from the rest, runs thus:—"John Stewart ye shall put in your charter present kane wedder wit ane nicht's meat as your promise was to me of use and wont or else this present contract sall nocht be fullfillet be me; providing always that the said Donald Mac-lachlane's neighbours or his heirs in uplifting and resaving of the said nicht's meit sall not exceed the numer of ten persons fra the said John and his heirs wit the kane wedder and ane quart of aquavite or the price thereof for the present or gentris; and the said John is content herewith."

The date of signing is within a month or two of Donald M'Lachlan's coming of age. It is strange that the young gentleman had not by that time learned to write.

Joannis Campbell ex boreali parti."* The other pieces of land are a fauld called Faldrobertt, a fauld in Ardochemoir, an acre in the face of Knockardoche, 12 acres lying together near the loch of Ascog having fauld Lundris on the north, an acre called Fercudi having the lands of Auchinkorkis on the south, a piece called Clanneill, a piece called Faldcraigane and 2 acres called Accirtournour. The annual rent of 2s scots (equal to 2d sterling) was payable half-yearly at Whitsunday and Martinmas out of a property inhabited by Robert Hugging. The other persons mentioned in describing the lands are John Stewart, John Crauford, James Campbell, Donald Spence, John Gray and John Campbell. The Bailie officiating was John Stewart of Rosland. Witnesses—David Boyle, George Mongomri in Largs, John Stewart, Sheriff of Bute, John Stewart of Ascog, John M'Ilnew, James Stewart and Andrew Gailli. Certified by Matthew Spence notary to be a word for word copy of the principal infestment. Signed by Thomas Auld.

8. **Copy** of a sasine in favour of Hector Bannatyne of Cames, dated 11th Oct., 1580, by which he was infeft in seventeen pieces of land upon the resignation thereof in his favour by John Stewart of Largibrachtan. These include Buttlytill, Croft Faik, a piece on the south side of the Glen Ballochdouane, a piece called Nydynoyne, a fauld in Crossmore, a piece called Torchennady, a fauld in Ardoche, a piece called Auchincorkes, a piece lying in Faircuddie, and a piece called the Brakillrud. The descriptions are very brief, for example, "A piece called Nydynoyne, lying between the common lands on the south and the lands of James Campbell on the north." Other place-names mentioned in the course of descriptions are Lundrisland, Grenoche, Lany of Butts, Roisland. Persons mentioned—Wm. Bannatyne, Peter Gray, John Kelburne, Collin Spence, Donald Bannatyne of Grenoche, Ninian Bannatyne of Cames, James Campbell, Andrew Campbell, John Campbell, John Stewart of Roisland. Wit

* This description is puzzling and possibly corrupt. It may be hazarded that the word "*bukani*" resembles the place-name Bogany latinised. No saint of that name is mentioned elsewhere, so far as known to the writer.

nesses: John Stewart Sheriff of Bute, Robert Stewart filius naturalis of Archibald Stewart de Largyaen, John Stewart de Roisland, Coline Spence, Thomas Wryt, William Stewart, James Campbell, Robert Glass.

Docketed as follows:—"Upon the 24th day of April, 15 . John Spence quha dispones the lands above written to my umqhl father and to the sheriff was entered heir to his father Donald Spence and to his brother Ferchuart Spence and to John Spence Ferchuart's son in the Tolbuyt of Rothesay by John Stewart of Roisland, beand bailie at the time, and the rest of the honest men of the burgh beand upon the inquest and was seizit and infeft in all the above namit lands."

Headed—"Coppie of the infetment given be my father to auld Cames of the lands after specifiet."

9. **Bond of annualrent** by Hector Bannatyne fear of Cames and Margaret M'Lauchlane granting an annualrent of £10 scots to be uplifted by equal portions at Candlemas and Patrickmas out of the 40/- land of old extent of Idingmoir in favour of Donald Spence of Wester Kames. Dated at Rothesay 1581. Witnesses: James heir apparent of the said Donald Spence, Donald Bannatyne of Duncane M'Neill. Signed by Thos. Auld, notary, for Margaret M'Lauchlane because she could not write.

10. **Instrument of sasine** dated 10th July, 1587, in favour of Robert Stewart son and heir apparent of James Stewart citizen (civis) of the burgh of Rothesay in half a fald of land lying in Boganie extending to two acres and a half, between the lands of John Kelso and John Kelburne on the north and the common lands of the burgh on the east, west and south, and called Meikle Blairmein, upon resignation in his favour by his said father, in the hands of John Kelburne one of the bailies.

Witnesses, Robert Striveling, Robert Allen, Duncane Forgie, John Or, and John M'Gilchreist. Thomas Stewart acting as notary.

12. **Assignment** of a certain allowance by King James VI., with the advice of the Lords Auditors of his Exchequer,

to John Stewart of Ascog as Captain of the castle of Dunyveg, dated at Holyroodhouse 1st October, 1598.

It sets forth that forasmuch as the King's Majesty with advice of the Lords of his Secret Council has constituted Johnne Stewart of Ascok to be Captain and Keeper of the castle of Dunyveg for the space of six months immediately following his entry thereto, and further during his Majesty's pleasure, there is now assigned to him for keeping of the said castle during the space of six months, £2000 money of this realm and 180 bolls victual, to be paid as follows, viz., by Walter, commendator of Blantyre, 40 bolls meal and 20 bolls malt: by the (Crown) tenants of Bute 120 bolls beir: and by the said tenants of Bute £74 16s 8d as for their feu mailis and silver duties of the terms of Whitsunday and Martinmas, 1598, and £705 10s as the equivalent of 4 chalder 7 bolls beir at £4 the boll, 10 chalders oats at £1 13s 4d the boll, and 1 chalder 8 bolls meill at £3 6s 8d the boll—as likewise the said 120 bolls beir for the crop and year of God 1598; and by Sir George Home, Knight, Comptroller, £1294 10s, to be paid out of the readiest of his Highness' property. The King subscribes "James R.," and at a respectful distance below there follow the signatures "George Houme," "Blantyre," "J. Elphinstone," "Clk Regr," "Mr Young," "Mr T. Hamiltoun." The writer is informed by a friend, who assisted him in transcribing some of these papers, that these are the signatures of Sir George Home, afterwards Earl of Dunbar; Walter Stewart, Prior of Blantyre, afterwards first Lord Blantyre; Sir James Elphinstone, afterwards Lord Balmerino; Sir John Skene, Lord Clerk Register; Peter Young, afterwards Sir Peter Young, who had been one of the king's pedagogues, and Thomas Hamilton, King's Advocate, afterwards Earl of Haddington, ("Tam o' the Cowgate.")* £2000 Scots was then equivalent to £166 13s 4d in sterling money.

Dunyveg was a castle in the south of Islay, the ruins of which are on a rock close to the sea, not far from Lagavoulin Distillery. It was a stronghold of importance in the pro-

*The Dict. Nat. Biog. has notices of all these University graduates prefixed "M" or "Mr" (Magister) to their signatures, instead of adding "M.A."

tracted fighting between the gallant Macdonalds of the Isles and the King's forces.

13. **Contract** dated 5th May, 1603, between the Right Hon. John Stewart of Askog and Mungow Gray bailie of Rothesay and Margaret Kelso spouses, whereby for a payment of £200, the said spouses bound themselves to infest the said John Stewart in the half of the said Mungow's town and lands of Bogany subject to redemption on payment of the £200 and also subject to the burden of the liferent of Mungow's father John Gray, the right to redeem being postponed till the time that the said Mungow makes himself free from the heirs of Ronald MacDonald and Annabill Bannatyne spouses, and likewise free of Duncan Leitch merchant burgess of Glasgow and his heirs, with power to the said John Stewart and his heirs to sett the half of the lands and houses; the said John and his tenants or servants to keep neighbourhood in labouring for weill of the said toun, the said Mungow and Margaret and their tenants keeping the like neighbourhood to the said John Stewart and his tenants, with a provision that during the lifetime of John Gray, Mungow's father, the said John Stewart accepts Mungow's heich sklate house in the burgh of Rothesay with one quarter of the yard and fifteen foot of the backhouse within the walls of the north end, as the equivalent of £20 being the yearly annualrent of the £200, Mungow to be answerable for the annualrent if the heich house should fall or decay; John Stewart to have power to sett and use the said tenement after the issue of William M'Kinlay's tack 1604, and Mungow to be cautioner for the rent till then and to leave and make the said house water-fast at the said John Stewart's entry. John Stewart to enter to the half of Bogany on John Gray's decease and to accept for his said annualrent of the £200 two horsegang of white land without stock till the redemption, and for the three horsegang of the said lands he is to pay Mungow as much as he gets from any other tenant for a horsegang in setting his own half, doing to the said John Stewart as they do to their own tenants. And in case ("as God forbid") the said Mungow should depart this life without lawful heirs of his body, John

Stewart and his heirs to be bound to give to the said Mungow's nearest heirs whatsoever who happen to succeed to the rest of his lands the sum of £200 in full satisfaction of the kindness of the whole town and lands of Bogany. Written by Master John Maine schoolmaster at Rothesay. Witnesses: John Stewart of Cladich, John Stewart "appeirand of Ascog," Mathew Spence, notary, Hector M'Ilnew servitor to the said John Stewart of Ascog. Mathew Spence signs for Margaret Kelso with her hand led upon the pen. John Stewart appeirand Maister of Ascog and John Maine sign as witnesses. The witnesses John Stewart of Cladich and Hector M'Ilnew do not sign.

14. **Bond** dated 20th Jan. 1605 by Mungow Gray bailie of Rothesay and Margaret Kelso spouses in favour of John Stewart of Ascog for seven score merks of borrowed money. Witnesses: Donald Campbell burgess of Rothesay, Duncan M'Gibbon, burgess there, Hew Allen servitor to the said John, Thomas Stewart writer to the premises, Mr James Crambie, burgess of Rothesay, and Thomas Strang son to the laird of Bukuskie. Signed by Thomas Stewart notary on behalf of Margaret Kelso.

15. **Letter of reversion** dated 18th May 1605 granted by Duncan M'Gibbon burgess of Rothesay and Margaret Boyle his spouse binding themselves to disburden "all and haill that heich sklate house under and above with three couple of houses and an eik, with ane part of the yard on the backside thereof" upon receiving payment of 200 merks in one sum in the parish Kirk of Rothesay on previous warning, together with all other sums for repairing and upholding of the said house warit by them, and to deliver all security writs to be cuttit, cancellit and destroyit. Written by Thomas Stewart notary and subscribed by him "our hands touching the pen." Witness: John Stewart younger of Ascoge, John Stewart of Claddoche, Alexander Glass, Mathew Spence notary, Ninian Cunningham burgess of the said burgh.

16. **Extract** of a decree pronounced 1st June, 1605, in the action before the Lords of Counsall at the instance of

James Jamieson, Colonell of Bute, as assignee of John M'Keune of Barnauld under assignation dated 23rd Jan., 1599, against Hector Bannatyne of Cames for the wrongous spuliatione of a gray horse four years old, narrating that the pursuer had obtained a decreet of spulzie on 21st Jan., 1604, decerning the said Hector Bannatyne to deliver to the pursuer the said horse as good as he was or pay the avail or price of the same; that the said Hector Bannatyne still detains the horse and in the meantime has violently uptaken the profits which the pursuer might have had of the said horse from the date of the summons (1st July 1602) to the date of the decreet of spulzie (21st Jan. 1604); that the defender failed to appear and that the pursuer proved the points of his summons sufficiently, and decerning the said defender to have done wrang in the wrangous, violent and masterful spoliatio and withholding of the said gray horse, and ordaining the said Hector to pay the pursuer the profit of the said horse at three shillings a day with £10 as expenses of the action and 40s to the said Lords' Collector.

Extracted by John Skene of Curriehill, Clerk Register, 8th July 1605.

17. (Copy) **Tack** dated 6th March 1607 granted by Andro bishop of the Isles with consent of the dean and chapter, by which, for a certain sum of money paid to them in name of grassum, he settis to his loving friend Mr Patrik Stewart minister at Kingarth, kindly possessor and tacksman of the teinds aftermentioned, and Agnes Craufurd his spouse and the longest liver of them two and their assignees, for the lifetime of the longest liver and three years more, the teind sheaves of the lands underwritten so far as appertains to the bishop of the Isles; namely, the teind sheaves of the lands of Mid Ascog, the 40s lands of Bruchak, half the 5 merkland of Kerelamont, the 40s land of Keretonlia, the 50s land of Birgadleknoch, the 43s 4d land of Largizane, the 60s land of Lubasbeg, the 43s 4d land of Meikle Garachte, and that part of the £5 land at Kelspok called the half merkland, all in Kingarth parish, being 24 bolls teind, two parts meall and third part bear, at 13s 4d for ilk boll thereof, and that by and

atour that part of the teinds of the said lands belonging to the parson and vicar of Kingarth. Entry at Lammas 1606. Written be John Hennerson clerk of the burgh of Paisley.

Signed with the hands of the bishop and the dean and chapter and the seal of the chapter appended before these witnesses, James Crawford of Slatertoune, John Hamiltoune of Thankartoune, John Knock of Fernie, and the said John Hennerson.

Here follows a clause providing that in case of nonpayment of the said yearly maill of 16£ betwixt Yuill and Candlemas or within 80 days after Candlemas when required, the tack to expire *ipso facto*. Signed, Andreas Insularum episcopus, J. Hamiltone witness, John Knock witness, John Hennerson witness, Andreas M'Lean pastor of Killelan, "and all the rest of the chapter here."

Backed "Thomas b. of the Isles has approbation of the within written tack in all its heids clauses and articles of the date at Edinburgh the 29th Nov. 1620."

18. **Assignation** dated 7th April, 1609, by John Stewart elder of Ascog in favour of his weel-beloved son John Stewart feear of Ascoig of the bond of 140 merks granted by Mungow Gray and Margaret Kelso of date 20th Jan., 1605.

Written by Donald M'Gilchrist notar.

Signed at Rothesay before these witnesses Duncane M'Gibboun, John Stewart of Claddich, and the said Donald M'Gilchrist.

Only Donald M'Gilchrist signs as witness.

19. **Assignation** dated 3rd Feb., 1610, by Margaret Kelso relict of Mungow Gray burgess of Rothesay in favour of John Stewart of Ascog of one horssgang of the four horssgang of Boganie pertaining to her in liferent, at the least during the minority of Mungow Gray her eldest son, in lieu of the annual-rent of 140 merks contained in the obligation granted by her and late husband dated 12th Jan., 1605, which she is unable for the present to pay; so that the half of the said lands might be possessed by the said John Stewart and his foresaids

namely two horssgang by virtue of alienation made to him and the third horssgang by virtue of this assignation, until the redemption by payment of the said 140 merks: the said John Stewart to pay her yearly during the non-redemption of the said horssgang one furlot meal.

Subscribed at Rothesay by Donald M'Gilchrist notary public for the said Margaret Kelso with her hand on the pen.

Witnesses: Duncan M'Gibboun, John Stewart burgess of Rothesay indweller in Kintyre, (who signs), and John Boill servitor to the said John Stewart of Askoge. "T. Stewart" also signs as witness.

20. **Renunciation and discharge** dated 1st July 1611 by Duncan Leitche maltman burgess of Glasgow in favour of Margaret Kelso relict of Mungow Gray burgess of Rothesay, by which, in consideration of "the sum of 300 merks money usuall of this realm of Scotland now callit the North of Great Britain" paid to him by the said Margaret Kelso, liferenter of the tenement and yard thereafter disposed, for herself and behalf of Mungo Gray her son and heir apparent to his said father, he renounces an annual rent of £20 Scots to be uplifted yearly out of "all and hail the tenement and yaird bak and fore with the pertinentis lyand within the said burgh of Rothesay betwix the heich sklate house and John Ors yaird on the north part, Robert Stewart yaird and tenement south, the he street eist and John Glass and Willum Glass on the west."

Written by Thomas Stewart notary. Subscribed by the said Duncan Leitche with his hand, at Rothesay. Witnesses: James Stewart bailie of Rothesay, his brother, Ronald Bannatyne, Patrick Ker, John Orr, Walter Stewart burgess of the said burgh, Donald M'Gilchrist notary and Alexander Stewart, John and John Ker brother to the said Patrick, Thomas Stewart, D. M'Gilchrist and Ronald Bannatyne sign.

21. **Renunciation** dated 10th Nov., 1611, by John M'Neill of Kilmorie and Neill M'Neill in favour of Donald M'Neill burgess of Rothesay whereby for love favour and affection they resigned quitclaimed and simpliciter overgave

an annalrent of three bolls victual yearly furth of the lands of Knochanbochill lying in the burgh of Rothesay betwixt the lands of John Stewart of Rosland on the west and the fauld called Fauldwerche on the south, and furth of the lands of Buttrobert lying in the lands of the Boganie, with all right which they or either of them had thereto as heir of Donald M'Neill guidysr to the said Neill M'Neill. Written by Donald M'Gilchrist notary at Rothesay. Witnesses: John Stewart elder of Askoge, Thomas Stewart and Donald M'Gilchrist notaries, and Robert M'Neill son of the said John M'Neill. (Signed) John M'Neill of Kilmorie, Neill M'Neill fear of Kilmorie, T. Stewart notar witness, John Stewart of Askoge witness, D. M'Gilchrist notar witness.

22. **Assignation** dated 14th Feb., 1612, by Donald M'Neill burgess of Rothesay in favour of his good friend John Stewart of Askoge, whereby, for a certaine great sum of money, he assigns the annual rent of three bolls victual, half meal half bear, owing to him yearly out of all and hail twelve acres of land of Knockbochill lying in Boganie in the burgh of Rothesay and further the said annual rent these twenty two years bygone.

Written by M'Gilchrist notar and subscribed by him for the granter because he could not write, at Rothesay before these witnesses George Thomson notar in Innerkip, Ronald Bannatyne some time of Dunalunt, John Allan officer, John Stewart son to Allain Stewart, and Alexander Stewart son to John Stewart of Kilquhinlek. Ronald Bannatyne signs.

23. **Assignation** dated 9th Dec., 1618, by Ninian Bannatyne son of Ronald Bannatyne sometime of Dunalunt granting him to have received from John Stewart of Askoge and Thomas Bannatyne of Achtrassan, cautioners for umqhll Ninian Bannatyne fear of Kames, 100 merks Scots owing by the said umqhll Ninian and the said John and Thomas as cautioners for him conform to obligation dated 7th June 1617, and assigning the said obligation to them pro rata.

Written by Donald M'Gilchrist notary and subscribed by him for the granters at Rothesay before these witnesses

Ninian Stewart of Kilcatten, Mr Ronald Stewart his brother, and Mr Patrick Stewart minister at Rothesay. Mr Patrick Stewart and Ninian Stewart sign.

24. (Copy) **Tack** dated 1620 by Thomas bishop of the isles with advice of the dean and chapter, by which, in consideration of a certain great sum of numerate money paid to him by Mr Patrick Stewart minister at Rothesay in name and behalf of Agnes Craufurd his spouse, Patrick and Robert his sons, in name of grassum, he setts to the said Agnes Craufurd and failing her by decease to the said Patrick and Robert Stewart her sons the teind sheaves of the lands underwritten so far appertains to the bishop of the isles namely :

The 40s land of Mid Ascoge, the 40s land of Bruchag, the $\frac{1}{2}$ of their part of the teind sheaves of the 5 merkland of Kirrielamount, the teind sheaves of the 40s land of Kiritonlay, the 50s land of Birgadilknock, the 43s 4d land of Largizean, the 60s land of Lubasbeg, the 43s 4d land of Meikle Garachty, the part of the £5 land of Kelspoks called the $\frac{1}{2}$ merk land, our part of the teind sheaves of the four merk land of Nether Scoulag, our part of the teind sheaves of the 40s land of Langibounigh, all lying in the parish of Kingarth; and siclyke, our part of the teind sheaves of the 16/8 land of Chapelton and of the 40s land Cranslagwerachtie lying in the parish of Rothesay and also all and sundrie that one third of the vicarage small teinds of the parish kirk and parish of Rothesay callit the Broks, which is part of the patrimony of the said bishopric; and that for 19 years from the term of Lammas 1621, the said Agnes Craufurd her sons and their heirs and assignees paying therefor to the bishop of the isles 7 merks 5/- betwixt the feasts of Yule and Candlemas yearly. Place and date of signing blank.

"Sic subscriber Th. insular. eps. M. Knox decanus M. Patricius Stewartis sub decanus, M. Patricius Stewartis archidiaconus, Mr Thomas Muir prebender of the isles. Knox prebender. James M'Vurachie minister at Kilmorie." Having endorsed thereon: "Tack by Andrew bishop of the isles and Rapho in favour of Mr Patrick Stewart minister at Kingarth and Agnes Crawfoord his spouse of 4 bolls 2 firlots teind

victual, 2 parts meal the third part bear, 3 bolls thereof to be paid forth of our part called the bishop's quarters of the lands of Nether Scoulag within the parish of within the isle of Bute and 6 furlots thereof furth of the lands of Cranslagwerache within the parish of Rothesay for all the days year and space of our lifetime after their entry thereto in the year 1611 last bypast, they paying therefor the feirs of the commissar of Glasgow allenerly."

Subscribed in the year 1612 (place, day and month blank) before these witnesses (names not filled in) An: inses: John Bruce witness George Knox witness."

25. **Contract** dated 3 Sept. 1623 between John Stewart of Ascog and Mungo Gray son and apparent heir of Mungo Gray bailie of Rothesay by which the said Mungo in consideration of 900 merks paid to him binds himself to infeft the said John Stewart in his lands called the Heich Boganie, both heritage and common lands thereof, to be holden in free burgage for payment of the common and burgh mailles thereof used and wont; and the said John Stewart binds himself to grant a letter of reversion entitling Mungo to redeem the lands by repayment of the 900 merks within the parish kirk of Rothesay within the space of seven years next following the date of the contract and failing redemption the lands to remain and abide thereafter with the said John Stewart and his heirs. This contract not to prejudice or derogate from any former contracts or writs made by the granter's father to John Stewart of Ascog father of the grantee.

Written by Thomas Stewart and subscribed by the parties with their hands at Ascog before these witnesses James Stewart of Ardinho, James Stewart brother to the goodman of Kilchatten, Donald M'Gilchrist notary, Andrew Boill and John Miller, servitors to the said John Stewart of Ascoge and the said Thomas Stewart notary. (Signed) John Stewart of Askoke, Mungo Gray appeirand of Boganie, T. Stewart, notr, wrytter and witness to the premises.

6. **Renunciation** dated 10th June, 1577, by Gilbert M'Conquhye as tacksmen of Crofterson under a tack from

Jonatt M'Kawe and Robert Stewart her spouse, and also tacksman of two commony faulds from the burgh of Rothesay, which lands appertained kindlily to the late Donald M'Gilroye and now to his son Donald M'Galroye, and also as having obtained intromission from Ninian Stewart of Kilchattan, tutor to the said Donald, of the said Donald's lands within the burgh, and also as constituted assignee by Jonatt M'Conquhye relict of the late Donald M'Gilroye for uplifting the duty of the half of the said lands appertaining to her in liferent; setting forth that John Stewart of Largivrechtan tutor in place of his father to the said Donald, had taken intromission with the said Donald and, for the other causes therein specified, renouncing all right to the said lands and pertinents in favour of the said Donald M'Gilroye and the said John Stewart his tutor, they paying yearly to the said Gilbert or Jonett the sum of 5 merks for her half of the said lands with 16 stooks yearly of straw, and two tenements, the one inhabited by John M'urarthe and the other possessit by the said Jonatt on the east part of John M'Kynlaye's tenement, which straw is given to theik the houses foresaid yearly, to be possessed sett and usit by the said Gilbert and Jonatt for her lifetime; and further the said John and Donald setts the said Crofterson and half labouring to the said Gilchrist (*sic*); and further, for as much as the said Gilbert intromitted with 22 merks of stock which appertained to the said Donald for of his heirship, and has now made account how he disbursed the said sum for obtaining new tacks of the said Donald's lands, paying of byrun maills thereof and obtaining of tacks also of the said croft for the said Donald's utility, and also disbursed part thereof for the said Donald's prentice fee at the couper craft (albeit he furthered not thereat in respect of his sickness), for which disbursing John and Donald allows the sum of 22 merks to the said Gilbert and discharges him of all byrun intromission, providing always that he shall relieve the said lands of commony maill and King's maill to the date hereof. Subscribed at Rothesay before Robert Brasben in Kilmorye, John Stewart of Rosland, John M'Angus Glas and Gilchallum M'Conquhye. (Signed) John Stewart of Largabrachtan. I

Gilbert M'Conquhy wt my hand writ, Robert Brisbeine, witness; John Stewart of Roisland, witness.

II. Discharge or Letter of Redemption dated 8th June, 1595, by Janet Kelso relict of Robert Crawford in Quhytliburne, and John Montgomery in Flat, now her spouse, in favour of John Stewart of Eskogs, discharging, in consideration of a payment of 200 merks, a yearly annualrent of 24 merks payable out of the said John Stewart's 4 merk land of Largibrachtan wherein they were infeft upon the day of 1580. Subscribed at the Kirktoon of Largs before Robert Fairlie of that ilk, John Fraser of Knok, Ninian Stewart, fear of Kilchattan, James Crawford yr. of Flowerbony, Henry and George Kelsos, sons to And. Kelso of that ilk, Hew Crawford, son to the said Janet Kelso, and John Wilson in Flat our servitor. Signed by Archibald Connell notary by authority of Janet Kelso because she could not write. Also signed, "John Montgomery in Flat."