

MANBEEN: Chartulary relating to the Chapel and lands of Manbeen near Elgin, at one time the property of the Maison Dieu in Elgin

What follows is a collection of 'sources' which have the lands of Manbeen in Morayshire as their principal focus. These lands once comprised a complete barony – the *barony of Pittendreich* - but we find them portioned out at various times. Like all land in Scotland in the medieval era, they were the 'property' of the King, but they were gifted by certain monarchs to various tenants throughout this time.

This land is bordered – to the east, by the River Lossie and the barony of Birnie beyond; to the south, by the barony of Kellas; to the west, the *barony of St Andrews* (now known as Pluscarden); and to the north, a collection of lands including *Inverlochty*, and the [Auchteen Part](#) lands (the *Haughlands*) of Elgin.

Manbeen is good, productive, agricultural land and it has abundant forests to the west. These forests provided excellent hunting and the *Royal Forest of St Andrews* was famed throughout the land. There are some mineral resources (principally iron) which have been exploited in the past and extensive 'mosses' which provided peat of a reasonable quality, particularly towards *Miltonduff* and *Mosstowie*. These mosses were worked to provide fuel for Elgin and it was such an important resource that large parts were actually owned by the burgh. This was a desirable property for any landowner and, as we shall see, it was not one that would ever be cast off lightly.

In later times the lands of Manbeen, within the Barony of Pittendreich, came into the hands of a branch of the powerful family of Douglas. However, on the forfeiture of George Douglas and his family, the King, James VI, on 6th September 1528, granted these lands (and others) to his half-brother James, Earl of Moray.¹

Recent discussions with the Managing Director of Moray Estates elicited a map of the property owned and managed by the company, which represents the estate as it was c.1920, at which time it was privately owned by the then Earl of Moray. These maps, which are part of the Estate's archive collection, are reproduced here with the Estate's permission. Mr. Andrew Howard, the current Managing Director, added the following observations:

"The original estate title held by the Earl of Moray is a 1562 Crown Charter with no plan so the 1920's plans are about the first time we can clearly see what the Estate believed at that time it owned. The Pittendreich [sic.] Estate may have been bigger but it would require title searches to establish that or a trawl of the archive.

During the post war era the farms of Easter and Wester Manbeen were sold. I have attached a plan showing the current extent of the Pittendreich Estate. Whilst not directly owned by the current Earl of Moray it is owned by companies owned by Lord Moray and his family. The owned land is shown either pale yellow or green. Commercial woodland is

¹ James Stewart, the 1st Earl of Moray, was the illegitimate son of James IV., King of Scots. His mother was the [in]famous Janet Kennedy, the King's mistress, thought by many to be the "Janet Bare Arse" of Scottish legend.

not shown on the plan but the only area of that relevant at Pittendreich is the woodland directly NW of Nether Bogside.”²



Figure 1: Manbeen & Pittendreich Lands of the Earl of Moray (in green). © Moray Estates.

² Personal communication to the author, 17th October, 2020.

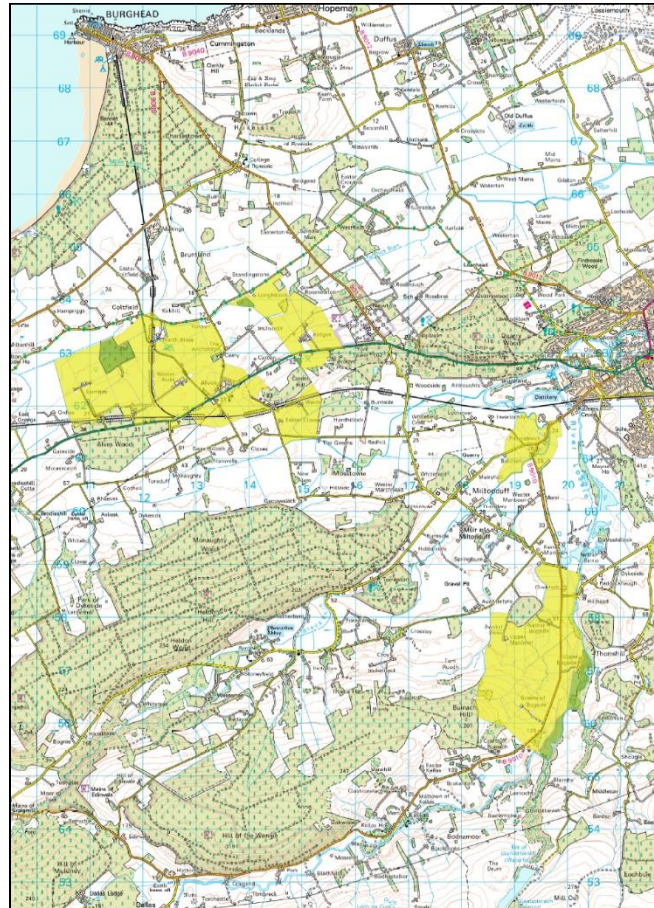


Figure 2: Moray Estate lands near Elgin (in yellow and deeper green). © Moray Estates.

The sources also allow us glimpses into the lives of the inhabitants of Manbeen and its surrounds. They show that there was a small community here which was, in many ways, self-supporting; but these were simple people whose lives were hard and never far from poverty.

Within the burgh of Elgin there was a house known as the *House of Pittendreich*, with a garden and orchard – it lay on the north side of the King's Highway between the lands of William Innes, burgess of Elgyn, the gardens known as the *Canons-yards*, the public road called the *Chanonry-close*, and the common pool of the said burgh [the Order Pot?].

Source 1: R.R.S., ii., no. 272, p. 301-302.

There are two sources for this entry in Barrow's *Regesta Regum Scottorum*, Volume ii.: both are part of the collections of the National Library of Scotland – NLS, MS. Adv. 34.4.10, fo.xxxv^r = A; NLS, MS. Adv. 34.4.10, fo.xiiij^r = B.

Barrow used 'A' as his principal source whilst noting certain variants from 'B'.

15 March 1187 – 23 March 1189³

King William I. confirms to Richard, bishop of Moray, the [lands of] bishopric of Moray, to be held as freely as any of the bishops in his realm hold their bishoprics or as any of his predecessors held this bishopric; and grants in augmentation the (parish) church of Elgin after the death of his [the King's] clerk *Richard de Prebenda* and of Richard's clerk Walter, with the chapel of **St Andrew** [Pluscarden]⁴ and the chapel of **Manbeen**; and the church of **Auldearn**, likewise after the death of Richard *de Prebenda*, with the chapels of **Invernairn** (Nairn), **Rait** (in Nairn[shire]) and **Moyness** (in Auldearn).

Will' Dei gratia Rex Scott' episcopis, abbatibus, comitibus, baronibus, justic[iis], vicecomitibus, prepositis, ministris et omnibus probis hominibus tocius terre sue, clericis et laicis, salutem. Sciant presentes et futuri me concessisse et hac carta mea confirmasse Ric[ardo] Dei gratia episcopo Morau[ie] episcopatum Morau[ie] cum omnibus justis pertinentiis suis, tenendum sibi ita libere et quiete et honorifice sicut aliquis episcoporum in regno meo episcopatum liberius et quocius et honorificencius tenet et possidet, et ita plenarie sicut aliquis antecessorum suorum episcoporum episcopatum illum plenius tenuit. Preterea concessi et dedi de incremento episcopatus Morauie, et predicto Ricardo episcopo Morau[ie] et successoribus suis episcopis, pro salute anime mee et antecessorum meorum, ecclesiam de Elgin, post decessum Ric[ardi] de Prebenda clerici mei et Walteri clerici ejusdem Ricardi, cum capella Sancti Andre et cum capella de Munben, cum omnibus aliis pertinentiis suis, in capellis et terris et omnibus decimis et elemosinis et rectitudinibus ecclesiasticis, et ecclesiam de Eren, post decessum Ricardi de Prebenda clerici mei similiter, cum capella de Inuernaren et cum capella de Rathe et cum capella de Maichas⁵ cum omnibus justis pertinentiis suis, tenendas in liberam et perpetuam elemosinam, ita libere et quiete, plenarie et honorifice, sicut

³ Date determined by the consecration of Bishop Richard and election of Abbot Reiner of Kinloss as abbot of Melrose.

⁴ Historians, not infrequently, confuse the Chapel of St Andrew with the [parish of St Andrew](#). The Chapel, whose site is unrecorded, was established in the *Vale of St Andrew* before Pluscarden Priory was founded.

⁵ *Moythas* in Version B; *Marchus* in R.E.M., no. 6 (from A?)

alios redditus episcopatus liberius, quiecuis, plenius et honorificencius tenet.

Testibus: Jocelino episcopo Glasguensis, Mattheo episcopo Aberdonensi, Turpino episcopo Brechinensi, Ærkenbaldo abbate de Dunf[ermeline], O[sberto] abbate de Kelch[o], H[enrico] abbate de Aberbruthoc, W[illelmo] abbate de Sancta Cruce, Rob[erto] abbate de Scona, Rad[ulfo] abbate de Cupre, Hug[one] abbate de Neuboth[il], Rainero abbate de Kynlos, comite Duncano justic[ia], Gill[berto] comite de Stradherin, Gillebride comite de Henegus, Rob[erto] et Will[elmo] capelanis meis, Hugone de Sigillo meo clerico, Will[elmo] de Haya, Galfrido de Maleuile, William de Moreuilla. Apud Kyngor' [Kingham].

Source 2: R.E.M., no. 6, p. 6. [POMS 1/6/246]

{This is a charter, published as part of the *Registrum Episcopatus Moraviensis*, recording the same 'agreement' that is detailed in Source 1 above.}

15 March 1187 – 23 March 1189⁶

An agreement between William I. King of Scots, and Richard [de Prebenda] Bishop of Moray.

Confirmatio Regis Ricardo epifcopo de epifcopatu Moravie •

W. Dei gratia Rex Scottorum • epifcopis • abbatibus • comitibus • baronibus • iufticiarijs • vicecomitibus • prepoftis • miniftris • et omnibus probis hominibus tocius terre fue clericis et laicis falutem •

Sciunt prefentes et futuri me conceffiffe et hac mea carta confirmaffe Ricardo Dei gratia epifcopo Moravie epifcopatum Moravie • cum omnibus iuftis pertinencijs fuis • tenendum fibi ita fibere et quiete et honorifice ficut aliquis epifcoporum in regno meo epifcopatum liberius et quiecuis et honorificencius tenet et poffidet, et ita plenarie ficut afiquis antecefforum fuorum epifcoporum epifcopatum illum plenius tenuit • Preterea conceffi et dedi de incremento epifcopatui Moravie • et predicto Ricardo epifcopo Moravie et fucefforibus fuis epifcopis • pro falute anime mee et antecefforum meorum • ecclefiam de Elgin poft deceffum Ricardi de

⁶ Date determined by the consecration of Bishop Richard and election of Abbot Reiner of Kinloss as abbot of Melrose.

Prebenda clerici mei et Walteri clerici ejusdem Ricardi • cum capella Sancti Andree et cum capella de Munben • cum omnibus pertinentijs fuis • in capellis et terris • et omnibus decimis et elemofinis et rectitudinibus ecclesiarum • et ecclesiam de Eren post decessum Ricardi de Prebenda clerici mei similiter • cum capella de Inuernaren • et cum capella de Rathe • et cum capella de Marchus cum omnibus iustis pertinentiis fuis •

Tenendas in liberam et perpetuam elemofinam • ita libere et quiete • plenarie et honorifice • sicut alios redditus episcopatus • liberius • quicquid • plenius et honorificentius tenet • Testibus Jocelino episcopo Glasguenfi • Mattheo episcopo Aberdonenfi • Turpino episcopo Brechinensi • A. abbate de Dunfermelyn • G. abbate de Kelchou • H. abbate de Aberbruthoc • W. abbate de Sancta cruce • Roberto abbate de Scona • Radulpho abbate de Cupre • Hugone abbate de Neubothil • Reinero abbate de Kynlos • comite Duncano iusticiario • Gilleberto comite de Stradherin • Gillebride comite de Henegus • Roberto et Wilhelmo capellanis meis • Hugone de figillo, meo clerico • Wilhelmo de Haya • Galfrido de Maleuile • Wilhelmo de Moreuilla • Apud Kyngorn.

Source 3: R.E.M., no. 27, p. 19. [POMS 4/17/2]

12 May 1223 x 17 December 1242

An agreement between Andrew, bishop of Moray, and Robert Fyndoc over the land that Robert used to have on the south side of the River Lossie, which the bishop said belonged to his land of Tullibardine,⁷ and which Robert said belonged to his land of Kellas, which he held at feuferme of the Maison Dieu of Elgin, and which the bishop accepted in exchange for lands pertaining to the church of Manbeen.⁸ Robert quitclaimed to the bishop in perpetuity all the said land on the south of the Lossie, and the land of Kellas besides. For this quitclaim, the bishop, with the counsel and consent of his chapter, has given, granted, and by this public writing established to Robert in perpetuity that *half-dabhach* of land that Archibald of Inverlochty {NGR: NJ 186618} held of him in the feu of Spynie, by stated bounds, for an annual render of one half mark, half at Pentecost and half at Martinmas, and provisioning three times a year their ploughing (*carucam*), harrowing (*herciam*), and carting (*carrum*), and once in autumn, six good men for the harvest, and performing the forinsec service of the lord king.

⁷ "Tulibardine" is said in POMS to be in Morayshire, but seems to be unknown. The Latin text has "Tulibardyn".

⁸ "The Church of Manbeen", in the absence of an alternative, must mean the [Hospital of Bogside](#) where there was a chapel as part of the hospital buildings.

Compositio inter A. episcopum et Robertum Fyndoc •

Noverint omnes hoc scriptum vifuri vel audituri quod cum effet controversia mota inter Andream episcopum Moravie ex una parte et Robertum Fyndoc ex altera • super terram quam predictus •R. habebat ex parte australi de Lofcyn • quam predictus episcopus dicebat pertinere ad terram suam de Tulibardyn • et quam predictus R. dicebat pertinere ad terram suam de Kelleys • quam quidem Kelleys tenebat tanquam feodifirmarius de Domo Dei de Elgyn • et quam predictus Episcopus acceperat de predicta domo in efcambium terre pertinentis ad ecclesiam de Munben • falva tenura predicti R. et heredum fuorum habenda fibi et heredibus fuis et tenenda de predicto Episcopo et fuccefforibus fuis in perpetuum • Ita convenit inter eos amicabilem de confilio et confensu capituli • fcilicet quod predictus •R. quietam clamavit pro fe et heredibus fuis predicto Episcopo et fuccefforibus fuis in perpetuum totam terram predictam quam petebat dictus Episcopus ex australi parte de Loffyn • et preterea totam terram de Kelleys per rectas divifas fuas et cum omnibus iustis pertinentijs fuis • Dictus vero Episcopus pro hac quiete clamazione • de confilio et confensu capituli fui • dedit et conceffit et per hanc scripturam publicam confirmavit predicto •R. et heredibus fuis in perpetuum illam dimidiam dauach terre quam tenuit de eo Archebaldus de Inuerlocthyne in feodo de Spyny • cum omnibus iustis pertinentijs fuis et per eadem divifas per quas dictus Archebaldus eam tenuit • fcilicet a proximo cundos ex orientali parte pontis quem confluxit idem Archebaldus supra Lofflyn ex orientali parte de Sankathel ufque Cranfinleth • Tenendam et habendam fibi et heredibus fuis jure hereditario • Reddendo inde fingulis annis predicto Episcopo et fuccefforibus fuis dimidiam marcam Sterlingorum legalium medietatera fcilicet ad pentecosten et aliam medietatem ad feftum Sancti Martini in hyeme • Et inveniundo fingulis annis tantum ter carucam suam • et tantum ter herciam suam • et ter carrum suum • et femel in autumpno sex homines bene metentes • Et faciendo forinfecum fervitium domini Regis pertinens ad predictam dimidiam dauacam terre • Et fequendo molendinum dicti domini Episcopi et fuccefforum fuorum • In premifforum autem teftimonium illi parti hujus scripture in modum cyrographi confecte que remanet penes predictum Episcopum et fucceffores fuos una cura figillo predicti Roberti appenfa funt figilla Abbatis de Kynlos et Priorum Vallis Sancti Andree et de Hurchard • alteri vero parti que remanet penes predictum Robertum una cum figillo predicti Episcopi appofitum eft figillum capituli cura fubfcriptionibus canonicorum • Teftibus: ... (not given). •

Since ROBERT OF FYNDOC had claimed these lands as being part of his lands (part of Manbeen) and the bishop had claimed them as part of his lands of Kellas, we must assume that the lands in question were somewhere 'between' Manbeen and Kellas. This would exactly describe the lands of *Bogside*. From an entry in the Moray Registrum,⁹ we see that Robert de Fyndoc was a man of some substance who had at least one son, William. Robert owned a toft and croft in the burgh of Elgin, outwith the Eastern Gate, between the toft of Alexander de North' and the land which Andrew, late bishop of Moray, bought from William, the gardener, for 2s. per annum.

Source 4: R.R.S., iii., no. 216.

23 February 1235 (*Regnal Year* 21).

At Aberdeen, Alexander II, King of Scots, for the *Maison Dieu* in Elgin, has given, for the support of the poor, the lands of Manbeen and Kellas, paying suit to the King's Mill of Elgin.

Witnesses: Alan Durward (d.1275); Bartholomew the Fleming, knight; David Hastings, earl of Atholl (d.1247); Robert Mowat, knight, justiciar, sheriff of Forfar; Walter Murray of Petty, son of William II (Freskyn) de Moravia, (d.1226); Walter II Stewart, son of Alan (d.1241); William of Bondington, bishop of Glasgow (d.1258); William Prat, sheriff of Aberdeen.

Source 5: R.E.M., no. 39, p. 33. [POMS 4/5/1]

1237

Let all [everyone] know, by seeing or hearing what is written here, that a friendly agreement is formed between Andrew, bishop of Moray, and the Maison Dieu of Elgin and the brothers and sisters of that house, over certain lands which the bishop said belonged to his land of Manbeen, whereby the Maison Dieu will have in perpetuity all the land that was the bishop's at Manbeen, in pure and perpetual alms, free and quit from all service, exaction, custom and demand pertaining to the bishops of Moray, by the bounds by which the bishop held them, and with all the just pertinents.

The boundary between Manbeen and Birnie will be the River Lossie as it flows at the time of this writing.

Bishop Andrew will have in exchange for this land and for their quitclaim, all the land of Kellas which was the land of the aforesaid Maison Dieu, by its right bounds, and with all its just pertinents, as freely and quietly as Alexander of Douglas and the aforesaid house held it by the donation of King Alexander II, saving the feuferme to Robert Findoc and his heirs. They will also have in perpetuity a croft in Elgin which that house had at the time of this agreement, neighbouring the precentor's house. It was also agreed that Robert Findoc and his heirs will respond in all things to the bishop, saving 5 marks annually which is owed for the land of Kellas.

⁹ R.E.M., no. 98, p. 112-113.

As a firm and indubitable testimony of the foregoing, to that part of this writing, in the manner of a surety, in accordance with the aforesaid house and brothers and sisters of the Maison Dieu, the seals of the said Bishop Andrew and the chapter, along with the signatures of the canons, have been affixed. And to that part [of the charter] which is left with the bishops of Moray are affixed the seals of the Maison Dieu, the Abbot of Kinloss, and the Prior of Urchard. Witnessed by lord Walter de Moravia son of the late William de Moravia, Richard de Moravia, Andrew Wiseman, Thomas Wiseman, Robert Findoc, Alexander, master Warin Herot, John de Inverloch[ty], and others.

Enacted in the year of grace 1237.

Signed and subscribed by Andrew, Bishop of Moray.

Noverint omnes hoc scriptum visuri vel audituri quod cum contentio esset inter Andream episcopum Moraviensem ex una parte • et Domum Dei de Elgyn et fratres et sorores ejusdem domus ex altera • super quibusdam terris quas idem Episcopus dicebat pertinere ad terram suam de Munben • prediis fratribus et sororibus in contrarium asserentibus easdem [terre] de Munben que domus sue est pertinere • per compositionem amicabilem eadem contentio est finaliter sopita et terminata • consentiente et consulente capitulo • sub hac forma • scilicet quod predicta Domus Dei habeat in perpetuum totam terram que fuit et esse debuit episcoporum Moraviensium apud Munben in puram et perpetuam elemosinam • liberam et quietam ab omni servitio • exactione • consuetudine et demanda ad episcopos Moravienses pertinentibus • per easdem divisas per quas idem Episcopus eam tenuit tempore hujus compositionis inite • et cura omnibus pertinentiis suis in terris et aquis • in stagnis et piscariis et molendinis • in pratis et pascuis • in bosco et plano • in moris et maresiis • ita quod aqua de Lossyn erit divisa perpetua inter terram de Munben et terram de Brenath • Sicut currebat tempore compositionis hujus scripture • predictus vero Andreas et successores ejus episcopi Moravienses omnes et singuli habebunt in escambium predictae terre • et pro quieta clamazione terrarum de quibus contendere nitebantur • et pro bono pacis • totam terram de Kelleys que fuit terra predictae Domus Dei de Elgin per rectas divisas suas • et cum omnibus pertinentiis suis • adeo sibi et quiete • plenarie et honorifice sicut Alexander de Douglas et sepedicta domus ex donatione illius Regis Alexandri eam tenuerunt • Salva feodifirma sua Roberto Findoc et heredibus suis • Habebunt etiam predicti Episcopi in perpetuum apud Elgyn croftum quod predicta domus habuit tempore compositionis hujus inite • proximum et vicinum domui Precentoris • Convenit etiam quod predictus Robertus Findoc et heredes sui erunt respondentes in omnibus predicto Episcopo et successoribus suis tanquam

dominis fuis • Salvis quinque marcis annuis quas ipsi annuatim predictae domui solvent de terra de Kelleys donec terra que fuit Episcoporum apud Munben liberetur ab hiis qui eam tenuerunt tempore huius compositionis • quibus cedentibus vel decedentibus erit et plenissime observabitur firmiter et perpetualiter sicut superius continetur in omnibus • predicto Roberto et heredibus responsuris de terra de Kelleys per omnia et in omnibus predictae domui debitis dicto Episcopo et successoribus suis • et fidelitatem eisdem debitam facient • In premissorum autem firmum et indubitabile testimonium illi parti huius scripture in modum cyrogaphi consecte quam habent predicta domus et fratres et sorores ejusdem apposita sunt sigilla dicti Andree episcopi et capituli cum subscriptionibus canonicorum • Illi autem parti que est remansura apud episcopos Moravie appensa sunt sigilla dicte Domus Dei • et Abbatis de Kynlos • et Prioris de Urchard • Testibus domino Waltero de Moravia filio quondam Willelmi de Moravia • Ricardo de Moravia • Andrea Wyfman • Thoma Wyfman • Roberto Fyndoc • Alexandro • magistro Warino Herot • Johanne de Inverloch • et aliis •

Actum anno gratie • Mcc° xxxvij.

Ego Andreas Episcopus Moraviensis subscribo.

The Witnesses to this charter are of some interest.

- Walter de Moravia was Lord of Petty & Bothwell. He inherited his father's lands in 1226. Bothwell came from his father's wife (an Olifard), adding to the Moravia lands of Petty. Walter was Justiciar of Lothian in 1255 and died c.1284.
- Richard de Moravia was Lord of Culbin, brother of (St) Gilbert de Moravia who had been consecrated Bishop of Caithness in 1222. Richard is thought to have died in 1245 at the Battle of Embo, fighting a band of Northmen.
- Andrew Wiseman and Thomas Wiseman were members of a family which has a long association with Elgin. Here they are both described as being "serviens of the Bishop".
- Robert de Fyndoc has already been noted in *Source 3* above.
- Alexander is unknown.
- Master Warin Herot appears in Watt, *Graduates*, p. 267. This is a fairly common surname in Elgin.
- John de Inverlochty held the lands of Inverlochty, just to the south of the River Lossie, which formed the northern border with Manbeen. In 1244, John is said to have had a son Alexander. In c.1260 these lands of Inverlochty belonged to Eva Murdoch, Lady of Rothes. She gave these lands to Archibald, bishop of Moray, "saving the tenure of Thomas, son of John of Inverlochty." [R.E.M., no. 125]
- Bishop Andrew is, of course, Andrew de Moravia, son of Hugh I (Freskin) de Moravia (d. bef. 1214). Andrew was elected to the See of Ross but resigned his right (without consecration) by Papal Licence 1213x1214. He was provided to the See of Moray in 1222, being

consecrated c. 12 May 1223. Andrew died on 18 Sept x 17 Dec 1242. Andrew and his family together formed an incredible power-block in Moray.

Source 6: R.R.S., vi., no. 49, p. 92-93.

4 April 1343

Charter given by David II, King of Scots, recording that he had 'inspected' the charter of King Alexander II, in which the lands of Manbeen and Kellas had been gifted to the Maison Dieu in Elgin. King David grants additional exemptions to the house, in free alms.

David Dei gracia rex Scottorum justiciariis vicecomitibus prepositis ac ceteris ministris regiis quibuscumque et omnibus probis hominibus tocus terre sue salutem. Sciant presentes et futuri nos inspexisse quandam cartam bone memorie domine Alexandri Dei gracia regis Scotorum predecessoris nostri cuius carte tenor de verbo ad verbum talis est.

A. Dei gracia rex Scotorum omnibus probis hominibus tocus terre sue salutem. Sciant presentes et futuri nos dedisse concessisse et hac carta nostra confirmasse Deo et beate Marie et Sancto Johanni Ewangeliste et domui Dei iuxta Elgyne in perpetuam elemosinam terras de Monben' et de Kellos per rectas diuisas suas et cum omnibus iustis pertinentiis suis ad receptionem pauperum et sustentacionem eorundem in eadem domo. Quare volumus et concedimus vt dicta domus habeat prenomatas terras in perpetuam elemosinam in bosco et plano, in terris et aquis, in pratis et pascuis, in moris et maressis, cum socco et sacca, cum furca et fossa, cum thol et them et infangandtheff et cum omnibus aliis ad easdem terras iuste pertinentibus libere quiete ab omni auxillo consuetudine exactione et demanda. Faciendo tamen forinsecum, seruicium in exercitu, quod pertinet ad dictas terras et sequendo molendinum nostrum de Elgyne. **Testibus:** W. episcopo Glasguensis cancellario, W. filio Alani senescallo justiciario Scocie, Alano hostiario comite Atholie, Waltero de Petyn, Daudid de Hastyngys, Willelmo Pincerna, Roberto de Alto Monte, Bartholomeo Flandrensi. Apud Abirdon vicesimo tercio die Februarii anno regni domini regis vicesimo primo.

Nos insuper videntes et considerantes pauperatem et deuastacionem predictae domus Dei de Elgyn de gracia nostra speciali ac intuitu caritatis et ex certa sciencia concedimus et per presentes confirmamus quod predicta domus Dei predictas terras de Monben' teneat et possideat decetero liberas et quietas ab omni secta et sequela curiis nostris quibuscomque facienda ac

forinseco seruicio quaecumque necnon et ab omnibus secularibus demandis exactionibus prisis captionibus et exercitui salua tamen communi defensione regni nostro. Quare firmiter prohibemus ne quis prefatas terras de Munben' vel homines in easdem habitantes seu bona eorundem contra hanc concessionem nostram specialem sic in liberam puram et perpetuam elemosinam per nos concessam et confirmatam vexare aut grauare presumat quoquo modo sub pena omnium que erga nostram regiam potestatem amitti poterunt. Presentibus predicte domui Dei eternaliter valituris. Et vt hec nostra donacio concessio et confirmacio robur firmitatis teneant sigillum nostrum presentibus fecimus apponi. Dat' apud monasterium de Kynloss' quarto die Aprilis anno regni nostro terciodecimo.

Source 7: R.E.M., no. 114, p. 126. [1/54/47]

12 April 1343

John Pilmore, bishop of Moray, at his Episcopal Palace at Spynie, on 12 April 1343, confirms the charter of King David II,¹⁰ in which the King confirmed that he had inspected a charter of lord Alexander [II], king of Scots, his predecessor, addressed to the Maison Dieu of Elgin [see *Source 4* above]. King Alexander's charter recorded that, "Due to the poverty and devastation of the said Maison Dieu, by his special grace, he has granted that the said Maison Dieu may have the lands of Manbeen free and quit from all suit and profits of his courts for whomever performs it, and from forinsec service and other secular demands, exactions, prises, captions, tallages, and armies [service in the army] saving for the common defence of the realm. He also prohibits anyone from harassing the community or their men living in the lands of Manbeen or their goods as relates to this grant."

Confirmatio Johannis Episcopi •

Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis ad quos presentes litere pervenerint Johannes permissione divina Moraviensis ecclesie minister humilis salutem in Domino sempiternam • Noverit universitas vestra nos inspexisse quandam cartam excellentissimi principis ac domini nostri domini David Dei gratia Regis Scotorum illustris • sigilloque suo autentico signatam •

¹⁰ R.M.S., no. 49, p. 92.

non abolitam • non abrasam • nec in aliqua parte vitiatam • cujus carte tenor de verbo ad verbum talis est:

David Dei gratia Rex Scotorum justiciariis • vicecomitibus • prepositis ac ceteris ministris regiis quibuscunque • et omnibus probis hominibus totius terre sue salutem • Sciant presentes et futuri nos inspexisse quandam cartam bone memorie domini Alexandri Dei gratia Regis Scotorum predecessoris nostri • cujus carte tenor de verbo ad verbum talis est •

“Alexander Dei gratia Rex Scotorum omnibus probis hominibus totius terre sue salutem • Sciant presentes et futuri nos dedisse • concessisse et hac carta nostra confirmasse Deo et beate Marie et Sancto Johanni Evangeliste • et Domui Dei juxta Elgin in perpetuam elemosinam • terras de Monben et de Kellos per rectas divisas suas et cum omnibus justis pertinentiis suis • ad receptionem pauperum et sustentationem eorundem in eadem domo •

Quare volumus et concedimus ut dicta domus habeat prenomatas terras in perpetuam elemosinam • in bosco et plano • in terris et aquis • in pratis et pascuis • in moris et maresiis • cum socco et sacca • cum furca et fossa • cum thol et them • et infangandtheff • et cum omnibus aliis ad easdem terras juste pertinentibus • libere • quiete ab omni auxilio • consuetudine • exactione et demanda • faciendo tamen forinsecum servitium in exercitu quod pertinet ad dictas terras • et fequendo molendinum nostrum de Elgyn •

Teftibus Willelmo episcopo Glafiguenfi cancellario • W. filio Alani senescalli justiciario Scotie • Alano hostiario comite Atholie • Waltero de Petyn • David de Hastyngys • W. Prat • Roberto de alto Monte • Bartholomeo Flandrensi • Apud Abirdon vicesimo tertio die Februarii anno regni domini Regis vicesimo primo.”

Nos insuper videntes et considerantes paupertatem et devastationem predictae Domus Dei de Elgyn • de gratia nostra speciali ac intuitu caritatis et ex certa scientia • concedimus et per presentes confirmamus quod predicta Domus Dei predictas terras de Monben teneat et possideat de cetero liberas et quietas ab omni fecta et sequela curiis nostris quibuscunque faciendis • ac forinseco servitio qualicunque • nec non et ab omnibus feccularibus demandis • exactionibus • prisis • captionibus • talliagiis et exercitu quocunque • salva tamen communi defensione regni nostri • Quare firmiter prohibemus ne quis presatas terras de Monben vel homines in eisdem habitantes seu bona eorundem contra hanc concessionem nostram specialem • sic in liberam puram et perpetuam elemosinam per nos concessam et confirmatam • vexare aut gravare presumat quoquomodo • sub pena omnium que erga nostram regiam potestatem amitti poterunt • presentibus predictae Domui Dei eterniter valituris • Et ut hec nostra donatio concessio et confirmatio robur firmitatis teneant sigillum nostrum

presentibus fecimus apponi • Datum apud monasterium de Kinlos quarto die Aprilis anno regni nostri terdecimo.

In hujus inspectionis testimonium sigillum nostrum autenticum presentibus fecimus apponi • Cum igitur omnes invadentes fraudantes aut auferentes possessiones terras et alia quecunque jura ecclesiastica vel libertates quascunque sint auctoritate sacri concilii Scotici publice et solempniter excommunicati et anathematizati • universitatem vestram monemus in Domino ac ortamur ne quis per se vel per alium aut per alios predictae Domui Dei de Elgin • terris • limitibus • possessionibus • seu aliquibus libertatibus ejusdem per reges et principes vel alios Christi fideles pure et elemosinate ac intuitu caritatis eidem concessis malum • molestiam • dampnum • injuriam seu gravamen faciat vel fieri procuret quoquomodo • contrarium vero facientes quoquomodo sententiam excommunicationis auctoritate privilegiorum dicte Domui concessorum per sedem apostolicam promulgatam • ipso facto merito poterunt formidare •

Datum apud Spyny duodecimo die mensis Aprilis • anno Domini millesimo •ccc^o quadragesimo tertio •

Chronology.

1. King Alexander II's charter was given at Aberdeen on 23 February of the twenty-first year of his reign, i.e. 1235.
2. King David II's charter confirming King Alexander II's gift was given at *Kinloss Abbey* on 4 April 1343. Because it is an 'inspection,' it includes the body of the original charter of King Alexander II.
3. Bishop John's charter, confirming King David II's, was given at *Spynie Place* on 12 April 1343.

Source 8: R.M.S., v., no. 301.

This is a duplicate copy of *Source 9* produced at Holyrood House on the same day – 16 December 1581.

Source 9: R.M.S., v., no. 304.

16 December, 1581.

At Holyrood House, the King, with the agreement of the Privy Council, grants to Patrick, Master of Gray junior, his heirs and assignees, —the town and lands of *Bogsyde*, with its mill, mill lands,

multures and the *Haugh* there, in the Regality of Spynie, sheriffdom of Elgin and Forres; —which (was the property of the former Friars Preachers of Elgin)¹¹ and had returned into the hands of the King following the forfeiture of Archibald Douglas, once of Pittendreich, natural son of the late James, earl of Morton, lord of Dalkeith.

The description of this town (Bogside) seems to confirm that it is the *Bogside* that was a part of Manbeen/Pittendreich.

304. Apud Halyrudehous, 16 Dec [1581].

REX, cum consensu secreti concilii, concessit PATRICIO MAGISTRO DE GRAY juniori, heredibus ejus et assignatis, —villam et terras de Bogsyde, cum molendino, terris molendinariis, multuris et *lie* Hauch earundem, in regalitate de Spynie, vic. Elgin et Fores; —que (olim Fratribus Predicatoribus de Elgin pertinentes) regi devenerunt &c. (*ut in carta 301*): TEST. ut in aliis cartis &c.

Source 10: R.M.S., v., no. 305, p. 99; Records of Elgin, i., p. 246.

16 December, 1581

At Holyrood House, the King grants to Patrick [Leslie of Pitcairnie], Commendator of Lindores Abbey, his heirs and assignees, —the habitation¹² called *the House of Pettindreich*, with its gardens and orchard, lying in the burgh of Elgyn on the northern side of the public road (King's Highway), between the lands of William Innes, burgess of Elgin, the gardens called *the Canons-yards*, the public road called *the Chanonry-close*, and the common pool of the said burgh [Order Pot?]; which had returned into the King's possession because of the forfeiture of Archibald Douglas,¹³ once of Pittendreich, natural son of the late James, earl of Morton and lord of Dalkeith. Granted in *free burgage*.¹⁴

305. Apud Halyruidhous, 16 Dec. [1581]

¹¹ Is this a mistake – should it read Maison Dieu (Domus Dei) rather than the Friars Preachers?

¹² "*edes et habitaculum*" = lit. "food and drink".

¹³ The forfeiture of Archibald Douglas also involved the barony of Kilmalamok [Kilmalemnock] including the town and lands of Foresterseat, the town and lands of Dunkintie, the town and lands of Petgowny [Pitgavenny], the town and lands of Barnethills called Cauldhame, the town and lands of Over Barnethills, with the Haugh thereof.

¹⁴ *Free Burgage* allowed the 'freeholder' the right to buy and sell their properties at will – they did not require the permission of the superior.

REX concessit PATRICIO COMMENDATARIO DE LUNDORIS, heredibus ejus et assignatis, —edes et habitaculum appellatum *the hous of Pettindreich*, cum horto et pomario, jacen. in burgo de Elgin ex boreali latere vie publice ejusdem (inter terras Wil. Innes burgen. de Elgin, hortos *the Channownis-yairdis*, viam publicam appellatum *the Channonrie-clois*, et communia stagna dicti burgi); —que regi devenerunt &c. (*ut in carta 301*): —TENEND. in libero burgio: —TEST. *ut in aliis cartis &c.*

The House of Pittendreich was the town-house of the laird, whose estates included Manbeen and, therefore, Bogside.

Source 11: R.M.S., vi., no. 249, p. 83.

22 March 1594-95 at Holyrood.

The KING, —because the town of Elgin was anciently erected into a royal burgh, and was situated far from any suitable port, and had had no or little commerce for many years, and for that reason, and the civil tumult which had recently taken place there, the burghers were reduced to such impoverishment that the king would not derive any advantage from their customs, &c.; — He ratified all the grants made by himself or his predecessors to the said burgh, and especially of the lands of *Mostolly* (Mosstodloch {NGR: NJ 333600}), *Dovelegrene*,¹⁵ *Glasgrene* (Glassgreen {NGR: NJ 222608}), with the *lie* of *Greisschip* and the mosses of *Strakaynt*, with free entry to the ports of Lossy and Spey, customs, anchorages and other customary privileges, and recognises the market in the said town, with the tolls, &c.;

249. Apud Halyrudhous, 22 Mar.

REX, — quia OPPIDUM DE ELGIN in burgum regium antiquitus est erectum, atque in fundo procul ab ullo idoneo portu situm extitit, nullumque aut parvum commercium multis annis elapsis habuerat, eaque occasione, ac civili tumultu ibi nuper grassante, burgenses eo paupertatis reducti sunt quod rex commodum nullum ex eorum custumis reciperet, &c., —ratificavit omnes concessiones per se aut suos predecessores dicto burgo factas, et presertim de terris de *Mostolly*, *Dovelegrene*, *Glasgrene*, cum *lie Greisschip*) et marresiis de *Strakaynt*, cum libero introitu ad portus

¹⁵ The author believes that *Dovelegrene* is Darkland {NGR: NJ 269622}, a famous 'moss' in the same area as *Mostolly* and *Glasgrene* - but this is speculation.

de Lossy et Spey, custumis, devoriis anchorariis aliisque privilegiis consuetis, ac nundinis in dicto burgo observat., cum theloniis &c.; necnon omnia infeofamenta per prepositum &c., quibuscunque personis concessa de terris &c. dicti burgi : — Ulterius de novo dedit dicto burgo, ejus preposito, ballivis, consulibus et communitati, eorumque successoribus, — dictum burgum de Elgin cum ejus terris &c., presertim Mostolly &c. (*ut sup.*) cum dictis portubus de Lossy et Spey, et cum ceteris portubus, porticulis et *creikis* inter aquas de Spay et Findorne ubi navis, cimba levis, scapha aut quodcunque aliud vas hujus generis recipi posset; cum potestate portus edificandi &c., et liberas nundinas consuetas tenendi, et alias nundinas prout eis videretur expediens statuendi, tholonias levandi &c. (nec liceret fora publica aut nundinas apud ecclesias parochiales, capellas aut alibi infra 4 miliaria dicto burgo adjacentia tenere, sed quod bona infra dictas bondas solvi solita ad dictum burgum portarent et venderent custumasque solverent); — ac cum potestate burgensibus prepositum, ballivos, thesaurarium, gilde decanum, consules &c., eligendi, leges pro boni ordinis observatione statuendi, liberos burgenses per consules et gilde decanum creandi; cum potestate suffarcinandi et decortandi et decortandi *lie to pak* et *peill*, emendi et vendendi &c.; cum potestate terras dicti burgi in feudiferma sive alias disponendi, resignationes recipiendi &c.: — Insuper rex, — quia hospitale *lie massindew* apud dict, burgum fundatum extitit ad alendas quasdam indigentes personas ad exercendos quosdam superstitiosos ritus tunc verbo divino et legibus regni abolitos ; et nihilominus terre et redditus dicti hospitalis a tempore reformationis religionis ad usus particulares quorundam hominum applicati erant absque respectu habito ad dictos pauperes aut ecclcsie servitia aliosque pios usus, — concessit dictis preposito &c. — dictum hospitale, et preceptoriam et jus patronatus ejusdem, cum terris &c.; cum potestate preceptoris officium ludimagistro idoneo ad docendam musicam aliasque artes liberales intra dict, burgum (qui magister in officiis ecclesie prout eis videretur expediens servire teneretur) concedendi, pauperesque quoti in prima fundatione statuti sunt imponendi ; cum potestate dictis preposito &c. prosequendi pro reductione infeofamentorum, assedationum &c. de possessionibus predicti hospitalis : — REDDEND. servitium burgi debitum et consuet.; et pro hospitali sustinendo ludimagistrum et pauperes secundum consuetudinem ejusdem : — TEST. ut in aliis cartis &c.

Source 12: R.M.S., vii., no. 2141, p. 778.29th February 1620

The King [James VI], who by his charter (No. 249 in a previous volume¹⁶) gave to the provost, baillies, burgesses and community of the Burgh of Elgyne, the hospital and preceptory of the Domus Dei commonly called the *masindew*, in that burgh, for the nourishment [relief] of the poor &c.; and which by a charter dated 5th December 1599, —with consent &c., —granted to the said provost &c., and his successors, —the said hospital and its lawful patronage, and the hospital's lands, arable lands of the Masindew within the said burgh, the vills and lands of *Over* and *Nether Manbeines* and the *Haugh*, with the fiefdoms &c., in the sheriffdom of Elgin and Forres; with [all] the other lands, annual rents and all that the said hospital owned in Scotland, with the tenants &c. —**HOLDING** in free ferme and pure charity; —therefore, —with the consent &c., —ratified these charters, and all the charters of the said provost, &c., or the so-called hospital made above for the poor; —and gave anew to the said provost, the said hospital, and specifically the lands named above, and the lands of *Over* and *Nether Cardellis* [Kirdells]¹⁷, *Over* and *Nether Pettinseires* [Pittensair]¹⁸ (which anciently belonged to the said hospital, in the Regality of Spynie, sheriffdom of Elgin and Forres: **PAYING**. One penny in feu ferme; and supporting the poor of the said hospital, and the qualified teacher of music for the instruction of the youth of the said burgh and the performance of the ordinary service in the same church; and as well the said poor and the *beidmen* offering daily prayers for the soul of the king and of the king's successors.

WITNESSED. as in other charters &c.

2141. Apud Edinburgh, 29 Feb.

REX, — quia per cartam suam (No. 249 precedentis tomi) concesserat preposito, ballivis, consulibus et communitati BURGI DE ELGYNE hospitalo ac preceptoriam domus Dei nuncupate *masindew* apud dict. burgum pro alimonio pauperum &c. ; — et quia per cartam de data 5 Dec. 1599, — cum consensu &c. (93.), — concesserat eisdem preposito &c., et eorum successoribus, — dictum hospitale et jus patronatus ejusdem, et terras dicti hospitalis, viz. arabiles terras *lie* Masindew apud dict. burgum, villas et terras de *Over* et *Nether Monbeines* et *lie* Hauch, cum feudifirmis &c., vic. Elgyne et Forres; cum ceteris terris, annuis redditibus et aliis ad dict. hospitium pertinentibus infra Scotiam, cum tenentibus &c. ; — Tenend. in alba firma et pura eleemosina; — igitur, — cum consensu &c. (213. 185.), — ratificavit dictas cartas, et omnes cartas dictis preposito &c. aut pauperibus dicti hospitalis desuper factas ; — et de novo dedit dictis preposito &c. — dictum hospitale &c., et speciatim terras supradictas, et terras de *Over* et

¹⁶ R.M.S., vi., no. 249, p. 83-84, dated 22nd March 1594-95.

¹⁷ {NGR: NJ 179399} *Kirdells* was anciently episcopal land and there is *Bishop's Croft* at {NGR: NJ 17933}.

¹⁸ {NGR: NJ 282607}

Nether Cardellis, Over et Nether Pettinseires (que antiquitus ad dict, hospitale pertinuerunt), in regalitate de Spynie, vic. Elgene et Forres : — Reddend. unum den. albe firme ; et sustentando pauperes dicti hospitalis, et qualificatum ludimagistrum musice pro iustructione juventutis dicti burgi ac prestatione ordinarii servitii in ecclesia ejusdem ; necnon dicti pauperes et *lie breadmen* offerendo quotidianas preces pro salute regis et regis posterorum : — Test, *ut in aliis cartis &c.*

Source 12a: Elgin. Recs., i., p. 180.

4th June 1645

Burgh Court Book. William Hay wobster [weaver] in Neither Manbeines to get back his gray plaid taken be the Irishes he giving to Christian Gordon ane halfe dollar.

The fact that William Hay, a weaver, is said to be a resident of Nether Manbeen shows that there was a small community there with a number of bothans wherein lived both agricultural workers and, it would seem, at least one craftsman. Such communities were as self-supporting as possible since, for the common people, travel was difficult. The “Irishes” is a term found regularly to describe the highland *caterans* who would often come down to raid the lowland areas. The use of the monetary term “dollar” is uncommon. In the time of King Charles II. (1660-1685) it is found having a value of 4 merks, a not insubstantial amount of money!

Source 12b: Elgin. Recs., i., p. 296.

14th November 1653

Falconeris entrie to Monbeins. Johne Falconer, warden of the mint, presented a supplicatione for his entrie to Over Monbeins which was granted for payment of fourtie pundis to the thesaurer with the bygone few duties.

Source 12b: Elgin. Recs., i., p. 324.

14th June 1680

Muirtounes entrie. The Counsell appoynts Muirtoune's charter to be exped and subscrivit of the lands of Boigsyde, Nether Manbein and Haughe therof Diwellagrein and Thrie Crooks all pertaining to the laird and ladie Pettindreich, upon ane adjudicatione deducit be him agaynst him he hawing submitted himselft to be counsell for his entrie.

Source 12c: Elgin. Recs., i., p. 325.

6th December 1680

Robert Donaldsones compositione anent Boigsyd. The Counsell hes condescendit that Robert Donaldsone's compositione for entrie to the lands of Boigsyde shall be ane hundreth pundis Scotts money.

Source 13: Elgin. Recs., i., p. 330.

31st January 1683

Anent the Earle of Murrayis entrie. The Counsell appoyntit James Chalmer, clerk, to goe with ane baillie and taik the Earle of Murray his saisingis and his sones Sir Charles Stewart in fye of the Lands of Diwellagrein, Nether Manbeins, Haugh therof and Boigsyd, holdin of the burgh of Elgin conforme to tua charteris contening ane *novodamus* of the saids lands grantit be the magistrats and counsell of Elgin to thame.

David Stewart, commissar of Murray, makes payment therefor of £200 Scots money to James Winster [Winchester], clerk of the burgh.

It would appear that the Earl of Moray was feuing these lands from the Town. These were the lands which the Town had by virtue of their 'inheriting' the properties of the Maison Dieu.

Source 14: Elgin. Recs., i., p. 421.

20th December, 1725.

Assignation made this day in the magistrats' hands of the toun and lands of Overmanbeens made in favours of Mr. James Allan, late minister at Rothies, disponed to him by the deceased James Spens, writer in Edinburgh.

Source 14a: Elgin. Recs., i., p. 483.

13th May 1775.

Deed of mortification by the now deceased John Laing of Over Manbeen of a park in the Cattails in favour of one decayed merchant burgess and guild brother, the magistrates, &c., being Trustees and the nearest relation of John Laing, Patron.

Source 14b: Elgin. Recs., i., p. 205.

Michaelmas (September) 1780

At the Michaelmas Head Court, amongst the "Lands in non-entry" are: the Earl of Findlater's lands, the lands of Pittensair, Kirdels and Decroy, Nether Manben and Bogside ...

These would appear to be the lands once held by the Maison Dieu, now in the hands of the Earl of Findlater.

Source 15: Elgin. Recs., i., p. 208.

Michaelmas (September) 1793

Michaelmas Court. In the list of lands in non-entry are included: Pittensear, ... , Kirdles and Delcroy [Pitchcroy?], Nether Manbeen and Bogside.

Delcroy {*Dalchroy* is at NJ 14127 35680; *Pitcroy* is at NJ 17696 37967}. Both of these are close to the Episcopal lands at Kirdells {NJ 17870 40003} but Pitcroy is closest.

Source 16: Elgin. Recs., i., p. 211.

28th September 1799

Michaelmas Court. In the list of lands in non-entry are included: Pittensear, ... , Kirdles and Delcroy [Pitchcroy?], Nether Manbeen and Bogside.

Source 17: Elgin. Recs., i., p. 471.

3rd May 1755

The Council give a contribution of a guinea towards building a bridge on Lossie on the road from Elgin to Manbeen.

Source 18: Elgin. Recs., i., p. 471.

17th November 1755

The Council give a contribution of £3 Stg. towards building a bridge over that part of Lossie leading from Pittendreich and neighbourhood towards Elgin.

These two records show the importance of the road from Elgin to Pittendreich and onwards to Manbeen. What is not clear is whether it is Pittendreich Bridge {NGR: NJ 19644 61608} or Palmerscross Bridge {NGR: NJ 20152 61954} that is being planned. Moray Historic Environment Records give a date c.1814 for Pittendreich Bridge. The same source has no date for Palmerscross Bridge. However, it is possible that a number of bridges have existed at both locations.

Source 19: Elgin. Recs., ii., p. 55.

3rd August 1597 – Kirk Session Records.

Andro Hoissak in Over Manbeins and remanentis duellaris within that toun being suorne to gif up delation and in speciall the said Andro to declair upoun his conscience gif euir he haired his wyiff bruitit¹⁹ of witchcraft quha ansuerit that George Warrand his nichtbour in his flytting²⁰ callit her witche, that passit in the likness of ane bee quhilk thing my wyiff and myself complainit upoun him to the Session. George Warrand there being suorne deponit that Andro Gordon and Archibald Annand in Elgen said that they hard ane callit Raye quha dwelt in Mostowie saye that this Andro Hoissakis wyiff callit Megot Layng appeirit upone a certane tym in the lyknes of ane bee and zeid²¹ in with a zirning²² and incontinent²³ as he tuk down the zirning and pat it under ane tub scho returned in her awin schaipe agane. William Mitchell being suorne deponit that he hard that this — Raye suld caus sic ane bruit as that. Jhonne Mill in Over Manbeins and David Hoissak thair being suorn deponit that Georg Warrand and wyiff in thair flyting callit this Megot Layng ane witch bot they hard of na particular thing.

We have here the mention of certain inhabitants of Over Manbeen who, in the course of a squabble, called one Megot Layng a witch, but two witnesses said that although they had heard such name-calling they had heard nothing specific.

¹⁹ *bruitit* – accused.

²⁰ *flytting* - a dispute or exchange of personal abuse.

²¹ *zeid* – buzzed.

²² *zirning* – buzzing-bee?

²³ *incontinent* – without delay / as soon as.

Source 20: Elgin. Recs., ii., p. 67.

24th November 1598 – Kirk Session Records.

In the list of those appointed Church Elders for the 'landward' lands, James Chalmer, Alexander Russell, John Gadderar and John Mylne are listed as elders appointed for Myltoun, Langmorn, Boigsyde (Bogside), Hauche, Nether Manbeins, and Hew Falconer and Thomas Hepburn, for Mayne Pettindreiche and Aikinheid the lairds of Pettindreiche and Mayne.

This item emphasises the extended nature of the parish of Elgin. On the south-west side, its boundaries it extended almost to the hills and the parish of Kellas whereas to the east, south and north its was almost immediately bounded by the parishes of St Andrews, Birnie and Spynie. There is a very good map showing the parish boundaries in *Elgin Records, Volume 2.*, facing page 88.

Source 21: Elgin. Recs., ii., p. 87.

15th February 1601 – Kirk Session Records.

The list of 'landward elders' included: the Laird of Pittendreich for Pittendreich, George Rob for Kellas Easter, James Chalmer for the Bougsyid and Scherestoun, Alexander Russell for Hauche and Nether Manbenis, John Mill for Over Manbeynes and David Torrie for Douelliegrene.

John Mill at Over Manbeen was mentioned in *Source 19*.

Source 22: Elgin. Recs., ii., p. 92.

24th July 1601 – Kirk Session Records.

Alexander Russall, for Nether Monbeins and Hauche, delatis²⁴ Thomas Gadderar passing to Cheppell Veil with a menzie with him.

The Chapel and Well in question was that at [Orton](#) much frequented by 'pilgrims' through the ages.

Source 23: Elgin. Recs., ii., p. 92.

5th August 1601 – Kirk Session Records.

John Fairer in Doveliegrein accusit for ganging to chepple and well callit Ladie Grace, deponit on his consciens that neither him selff, his wyfif, nor bairnis, wes thair this yeir, bot confesses that upone a four yeir bygane he zeid thair in pilgrimage.

This is again a case of the accused having gone to the Lady Grace (holy) well at Orton.

Source 24: Elgin. Recs., ii., p. 97.

1st January 1602 – Kirk Session Records.

James Cock in Nether Manbeins confessit that he and James Murdoche thair, yeid [went] upon a tyme to Alues [Alves] to ane vitche [witch] quha thaireftir wes brint [burnt] in Darnevay [Darnaway]; and the said James confessit that he gaif hir half mark stik quhilk scho said behouit to be cast in the sea and granttis that thair vves vatter [water] brocht out of Schinakes well quhen he was seik at that tyme.

²⁴ *delatis* – accuses.

Source 25: Elgin. Recs., ii., p. 97.6th January 1602 – Kirk Session Records.

Comperit William Warrand in Over Manbeins and confessit that he yeid in [went on] pilgrimage to the chappell of Speysyid [Orton] bairfut and bairleggit and drank of the well besyid the chappell, that he yeid about [walked round] the chappell bairfut and thair vves with him his brother Williame (*sic*) Warrand and his sister Jonet Warrand in the same forme and did the same thingis as he did. James Hoissak and Margaret Hoissak grantis that thei yeid to S. Geretynes caue²⁵ bairfut and bairleggit. The said James declairis that he had a sair arme [sore arm] quhilk he pat in the hoill [hole] that is in that cave and wes nocht the bettir and sayis that his sister wes nocht seik. Cristen Farquhar, spous to Hossak thair confessis that scho haid a sair leg quhilk wes the occasiune of hir gangang thair and sayis scho wes the bettir of hir jorneying to the caue. Williame Walker and Williame Tailyeour in Douelliegrein confessis that they yeid in pilgrimage to Cheppell bairfut and bairleggit and kneilit about the chappell and declarit that they gaif [gave] sum of thair meat to the puir that wes thairat. It is appointit sic personis that passed in pilgrimage in coniunct idolatrie be puneist in wairding of thair persones and makand thair repentans in sacclothe.

It is apparent from this extract that the 'pagan/popish' habit of going on pilgrimage to holy sites was still popular amongst the common people, in spite of the punishments threatened by the Kirk Session. The actions of the above-mentioned 'delinquents' resulted in a decree from the Session, only five days afterwards, to the effect that:

It is speciallie appointit decreed and ordanit that sick persones within this parochie as confessit thair going to the idolatrous places of the chappell at Speysyid and to the caue besyid the seysyid [seaside] of Stotfauld in superstitious pilgrimage salbe puneist and censurit in this soirt viz. that ilkane of thame sail mak thair publict repentans in sacclothe ilk Sondag betuix Trinitie Sondag next to cum and the first day of August thaireftir bairfut and bairleggit, siclyk to enter ilk Satirday during the space forsaid at sevine houris in the mornyng in the steipill of S. Gelis kirk thairin to remane in waird that day and that nicht quhill thai entir on the morne to thair piiblict repentans and ilk Sondag to be callit in befor the Sessioun quhairby they may ken quhow the spirit of God hes wrocht with thame and also thai mon sueir [swear] neuir to do the lyk in tymes cumiing and in the meyntym that the saidis idolaters provide thame selues habitis of sacclothie upone thair awin expenses. William Walker and William Tailyeour, servitouris to Thomas Hays, ar realie, presentlie and solempnlie suorne on thair grypt aith that they sail neuir go a superstitious pilgrimage in lyk manner without consent of thair pastour and siclyk Thomas Hays their maister is becum actit caution for thame under the paynis of ten lib. that they sail accompleis and obey the injunctionis heir aboue expressit and within fourtie dayis sail provide themselves habitis of sacclaith.

²⁵ S. Geretynes caue – St. Gerardine's Cave above Kinneddar at Stotfield, Lossiemouth.

This is a rare occasion where we see the use of the steeple of St Giles Kirk being used as a form of prison by the Session.

Source 26: Elgin. Recs., ii., p. 112.

3rd June 1603 – Kirk Session Records.

James Murdoche in Nether Monbeins pretendis excuis that his stay fra the Communion was be ressoun that another callit James Cok bewitched him and he houpit to get amendis of him.

Source 27: Elgin. Recs., ii., p. 114.

16th August 1603 – Kirk Session Records.

Convenit the minister with the landvaird and townis elderis. Johnne Mill, elder of Monbeins, declairis that thair is mony folkis seik as his wyff Margat Hoissak, Agnes Brabner.

It is apparent here that the elders of the kirk are being considered as two distinct groups – the *landward elders* and the *town elders*. This entry goes on to note the declaration of various other ‘landward’ elders, naming those in their wards who were sick – and so unable to attend church.

Source 28: Elgin. Recs., ii., p. 145.

10th November 1615 – Kirk Session Records.

This day the elderis war nominat and to be publisched on Sondag nixt and chairgit to be heir again Tuysday.

They included: William Douglas of Erlsmilne for Boigsyd; Alexander Russell for Hauche, Over and Nather Manbeines; Hew Sutherland for Pettindreiche, Diviligrein and Broymhillis.

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POMS The numbers are the 'Hammond Numbers' of the charters which may be entered in the 'search' facility of the POMS Website in order to view the entry for that charter.