

ANCIENT ORIGINS OF THE CRANTON FAMILY SURNAME

The Cranton surname originated with medieval, Anglo Saxon settlers in the Scottish lowlands, south of the Firth of Forth, in what later became Edinburgh County. During the 13th century, the region became known as the Barony of Cranston, and had long been occupied by ancestors of that noble family.

"Cranton" was originally an Anglo Saxon "place-name," that designated the area or settlement occupied by people who were later identified by appending that name. The first element in the place-name is the Olde-English, "Cran", meaning crane (dating back to the early dark ages, 7th century or before). Cran was a nickname used to denote a tall, thin man with long legs. The second element was derived from the Olde-English "tun," meaning an enclosure or settlement. Various forms of this Cranton place-name were appended to first names of individuals who originated in the "Cran" settlement. The original Cranton clan was thus of Anglo Saxon and lowland Scottish origin—as distinguished from the Highland Gaelic and Pictish Scots, who settled further to the North and West.

Because most or all residents of that Cranton settlement were given the same "place-name," we will never know how many actual founding families existed there. We should consider, however, that during the dark ages, such rural settlements were very small, travel was limited, and most residents eventually became cousins of some degree or other. There is a saying that if they could not walk or ride a horse to a place, they did not go there. This kept their gene pool relatively confined and limited their choice of mates.

Later, during the Middle Ages, as residents migrated away to find jobs or otherwise seek their fortunes, it became the custom to permanently adopt their former village names as a fixed means of identification—leading to wide dispersal of descendants with the same family name. By the 15th century, middle names were slowly added, to designate parents or grandparents or a specific branch of a family trees. The use of such fixed surnames or descriptive family names commenced in France in about the year 1000, and that custom was introduced into Scotland and England by the Normans a hundred years later—although it did not become widespread for many years afterwards.

Written records and ancient charters of twelfth century Scotland list the name Cranestone, and also an Anglo-Saxon spelling variant, Craenston. In those times of limited literacy, Cranton ancestors spelled their names in a many different ways: i.e., Cranston, Cranton, Crantoun, Cranstoun, Crayntoun, Cranystoun, Creinstoun, Craneston, etc. It is believed that all these variable but similar families are related and can be traced back to this common place of origin. Several early Cranton gentry were listed on the Ragman Rolls, where knights and magnates of Scotland subscribed allegiance to King Edward I of England at the Conference of

Norham , in May, 1291. The Ragman Rolls contained the following entries:
Hon. George Cranstoun, Lord Corehouse, (also of The Bannatyne Club)
Richard Styward (Stiward) de Craneston, of Edinburgh County
Huwe vicaire del Eglise de Craneston

There seems little doubt that the later "Cranston" and "Cranton" families in North America shared common ancestral roots in Scotland. There are other examples in Scottish wills, deeds, parish records, genealogical records, etc., where a grandfather, a father and a son would each spell their last names differently, using variations as listed above. This could explain the continued close relationship between Cranton and Cranston descendants in North America—in both 18th century Connecticut and in Nova Scotia. In Guilford, Connecticut, at the time of the 1790 census, the Cranton and Cranston families lived closely clustered together.

After Great Briton unified as the United Kingdom, the Cranton (Cranston, Cranstoun) families spread out across England, and then across the seas to North America and elsewhere. During Victorian times, we increasingly find examples scattered over the global British Empire—India, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, East Africa, Rhodesia, Canada, and especially in the United States. By scanning through 18th and 19th century parish, military, and census records around the world, we find that only a small percentage of descendants used the "Cranton" spelling. Slightly more spelled their name "Cranstoun, and the vast majority spell their names as "Cranston," right down to the present time.

MORE CRANTON FAMILY HISTORY IN MEDIEVAL UK

Variants of the Cranton-Cranston surname were recorded many times in official and parish records of the 12th Century and later.. Thomas de Cranystoun, in the reign of Alexander II (1214-1249), made a donation to the hospital of Soltre of some lands lying near Paistoun in East Lothian for, "the welfare of his own soul and for the souls of his ancestors and successors."

On December 22, 1622, Daniel, son of William and Jane Cranstone, was christened at the church of St. Martin in the Fields, Westminster, London. A Coat of Arms granted to that family has three silver cranes on a red background, within a silver border—the Crest being a crane's head. The motto reads "I desire not to want". An early recorded spelling of that family name was Elfric de Cranston, dated circa 1190, in "Collections concerning Scottish History, by Sir James Dalrymple", during the reign of King William "The Lion" of Scotland, 1165 - 1214.

Surnames became necessary when governments introduced personal taxation. In England, known as Poll Tax. Throughout the centuries, surnames in every country continued to evolve and "develop." This led to astonishing variants of the original spellings. Many factors contributed to the establishment of a surname system. For generations after the Norman Conquest of 1066 a few dynasts and magnates passed on hereditary surnames, but most of the population, who had a wide choice of first-

names out of Celtic, Old English, Norman and Latin, avoided ambiguity without the need for a second name. As society grew and became more stabilized, there was property to leave in wills, the towns and villages grew, and the labels that had served to distinguish a handful of folk in a friendly village were not adequate for a growing population, where many householders were engaged in the same trade. Not even their occupations could distinguish them. Because some first names were gaining a tiresome popularity, especially Thomas after 1170, the hereditary principle in surnames became necessary, first among the gentry. The poorer folk were slower to apply it. By the 15th century however, most of the population in Great Britain had acquired a second name.

Individual variants of the Cranton name occurred in a number of early charters, wills, deeds, political, military, and parish records. Elfric de Cranston was witness to a charter by William the Lion to Holyrood. Thomas de Cranystoun, in the reign of Alexander II (1198-1249), made a donation to the hospital of Soltre of some lands lying near Paistoun in East Lothian, "...for the welfare of his own soul and for the souls of his ancestors and successors." During the reign of Malcolm Ceanmor (1057-1093), the latter directed his noble subjects, after the custom of other nations, to adopt surnames from their territorial possessions. He created, "The first Earls that ever was in Scotland." Thomas de Cranstoun was provost of Edinburgh in 1423. Thomas de Creinstoun was ambassador of James, king of Scots in 1449.

A parish on the eastern verge of Edinburghshire now bears the name of Cranston. In charters of the twelfth century it was written Cranestone, or as the Anglo-Saxon Craenston—signifying the territory or resort of the crane, a bird which, when armorially carried, as by all families of the name of Cranston, was considered an emblem of piety and charity.

In a charter of King William the Lion to the abbacy of Holyroodhouse, Elfric de Cranston is witness. He is also witness to a convention betwixt Roger de Quincy and the abbot and convent of Newbottle in 1170. In the reign of Alexander III., Andrew de Cranston is witness to a charter of Hugo de Riddel—knight, the proprietor of the district, from whom one portion of it acquired the name of Cranston-Riddel—to the abbacy of Newbottle. Hugh de Cranston was one of the Scottish barons who swore fealty to King Edward I in 1296. Radolphus de Cranston, dominus de New Cranston, son and heir of Andrew, lord of Cranston, made a donation to the abbacy of Newbottle 27th May, 1338, and confirmed to the monastery of Soltray, totam illam terram in territorio meo de Cranston, quem habui ab antecessoribus meis, betwixt 1330 and 1340; in which confirmation his son, John de Cranston, is particularly named. From King David the Second, Thomas de Cranston got a charter of the lands of Cranston.

In the year 1582 Thomas Cranstoun of Morristoun, or Murieston was one of the jury on the trial of George Hume of Spott, indicted in the murder of Lord Darnley. Hume was acquitted. In 1591.

John Cranstoun of Morristoun was granted, with his wife, Barbara, a reversion of the lands of Toderick. In the following year Thomas Cranstoun, younger of Moriestoun, and his brother John Cranstoun were amongst the persons summoned on a charge of treason, and forfeited, for assisting the turbulent earl of Bothwell in his nocturnal attack on the palace of Holyroodhouse. Thomas Cranstoun was denounced as a rebel for not appearing to answer for the same. William Cranstoun, the son of the above Thomas Cranstoun and Barbara his wife, married Sarah, daughter and heiress of Sir John Cranstoun, the first Lord Cranstoun. Afterwards noticed. On June 11, 1600, Sir John and his son William were indicted for the reset of the said Thomas Cranstoun, a declared traitor. On 19th June they produced the king's warrant that proceedings should be stayed against them, when they were commanded to their lodgings. John Cranstoun did not receive a remission of his forfeiture till 1611.

Another family of the name, the Cranstouns of Corsbie in Berwickshire, were at one period of some consideration on the borders. In 1530, Jasper Cranstoun of Corsbie was one of the Berwickshire barons who were proceeded against for neglecting to fulfil their bonds, "to keep good rule within their respective bounds," as was also John Cranstoun. They found surety to stand their trial, when required, and also submitted themselves to 'the king's will.' On June 20, 1548, Cuthbert Cranston of Dodds found George Lord Hume security for himself and fifteen others to underlie the law for treasonable assistance afforded to "our old enemies" of England, and on 9th October Cuthbert Cranston of Mains found caution to answer for the same crime.

Cuthbert Cranstoun of Thirlestane and Thomas Cranstou were among thirty-two border barons who subscribed a bond at Kelso, on 6th April 1569, for preserving the peace of the borders, against the thieves of Liddesdale, Eskdale, Euesdale, and Annandale, the Armstrongs, Johnstones, Elliotts, etc. On November 9, 1570, Sir William Cranstoun of Dodds, commissary of Lauder, found security to underlie the law for the slaughter of James Brownlee. In Birrell's Diary, under date October 20, 1596. There is also the following entry: "Gilbert Lawder slain at Linlithgow by the Cranstouns."

In March 1612, Alexander French of Thorniedykes and James Wight, his nephew, were found guilty of the slaughter of John Cranstoun, brother of Patrick Cranstoun of Corsbie, and beheaded on the Castlehill of Edinburgh. On 3d September 1613, Gilbert Cranstoun, uncle of the said Patrick, was tried and found guilty of stealing a gray stallion from the stables of his nephew, and of various other acts of theft, and of shooting George Home of Bassendean in the thigh, committed in September 1609, and hanged for the same on the Castlehill of Edinburgh.

Of the Cranston-Cranton name were several ministers eminent in their day. The first minister of the parish of Liberton, Midlothian, after the Reformation, was Mr. Thomas Cranstoun, who had previously been minister of Borthwick. He entered to his stipend, (which only amounted to two hundred marks, or eleven pounds two shillings

and twopence,) at Lammas 1569, and was translated to Peebles at Whitsunday 1570. Mr. John Cranstoun was minister of Liberton from 1625 to 1627.

In August 1563, a serious disturbance took place at Edinburgh, in consequence of the queen's domestics at Holyrood, during her absence at Stirling, being found attending mass at the chapel there. Patrick Cranstoun, "a zealous brother," as Knox styles him, entered the chapel, and finding the altar covered, and a priest ready to celebrate mass, he demanded of them how they dared thus openly to break the laws of the land? The magistrates were summoned, and peace restored with difficulty.

In the reign of James the Sixth, Mr. Michael Cranstoun was minister of Cramond. Calderwood characterizes him as a timeserver, but he seems to have been decided in his opposition to the measures of the court regarding the church. With other ministers he was ordered to be apprehended for the treasonable and seditious stirring up of the tumult and uproar in Edinburgh. On the 17th December 1596, his share in that memorable affair being that he read the history of Haman and Mordecai to the people assembled in the Little Kirk, while certain commissioners appointed by them went to King James, who was then sitting in the Tolbooth administering justice—in consequence of which he entered in ward, but did not long continue in it, as his majesty's fury was chiefly directed against Mr. Robert Bruce, and the other ministers of Edinburgh.

In the same reign, Mr. William Cranstoun was minister of Kettle in Fife, of whom Calderwood relates that on the 18th August 1607, on the meeting of the Synod of Fife, when the king sent four commissioners to force Archbishop Gladstones on the synod as moderator, Mr. William Cranstoun, moderator of the previous synod, walking in the session house, which was within the kirk, at his meditation, and finding himself troubled at the closeness of the air, went up to the pulpit, not knowing that any other was appointed by the commissioners to preach, and while sitting in the pulpit, a messenger came to him with a letter, which he put in his pocket without reading it. A little while after another messenger was sent, in the lords commissioners' name, to bid him come down. He answered that he came to that place in the name of a greater Lord, whose message he had not yet discharged, and with that named a psalm to be sung, because he saw the people somewhat amazed. Then one of the bailies went and whispered to him that he was commanded by the lords to desire him to come down. He replied, "And I command you in the name of God, to sit down in your own seat, and hear what God will say to you by me." The bailie obeyed at last. When he was commencing his prayer, the conservator of the privileges of the merchants in the low countries, being a councillor, went to him, and desired him to desist, for the lords had appointed another to preach. "But the Lord," said Mr. Cranstoun "and his kirk have appointed me, therefore, beware how ye trouble this work;" and immediately proceeded with his prayer and preaching. [Calderwood's History, vol. vi. page 674.] For his conduct on this occasion he was afterwards put to the horn. On the 10th of May 1620, John Spottiswood, archbishop of St. Andrews, held a court of high commission in that city, when he deprived this aged and worthy minister of his charge.

Lord Cranstoun, a title in the peerage of Scotland, was possessed by a family of the same name, descended from Thomas de Cranyston who, in the reign of King David the Second, had a charter from the earl of Mar, of the barony of Stobbs, within that of Cavers, in the shire of Roxburgh. His grandson, Thomas de Cranstoun, scutifer regis, was a personage of considerable influence in the reign of James the Second. Along with Sir William Crichton, the chamberlain, and William Fowles, keeper of the privy seal, he was in May 1426, sent ambassador to Eric, king of Denmark, Norway and Sweden, to adjust the debt due to him for the relinquishment of the Hebrides to King Alexander the Third, which they amicably settled. He was afterwards much employed in negotiations with England. He had letters of safe conduct, with Lord Crichton, chancellor, and others, commissioners for treating of peace, 3 April 1448; again in 1449, 1450, and 1451. In the latter year he was one of the conservators of the truce with England, and in 1453 he and William de Cranstoun, his son, were conservators of the truce; again in 1457 and 1459; and in the latter year Thomas de Cranstoun was one of the wardens of the marches. He died about 1470. On a pillar on the north side of where the altar stood in the church of St. Giles, Edinburgh, is his family crest. He had two sons, the younger of whom was ancestor of the Cranstouns of Glen.XXX

William de Cranstoun, the elder son, is designed of Crailing in a charter to William Lord Crichton, 7th April 1450, in his father's lifetime. On 2d March, 1451-2, he had a charter to William Cranstoun of Cralyn. He appears among the barons in parliament, 18th March 1481-2. He died in 1515. William de Cranstoun had two sons, John and Thomas. John, the elder son, married Janet Scott, and died in 1552. His eldest son, Sir William Cranstoun, had a charter to himself and Elizabeth Johnstone his wife, and John Cranstoun, their son, of the lands of New Cranstoun, in the county of Edinburgh, 30th May 1553. On the 25th June 1557, dame Janet Bethune, Lady Buccleuch, and several persons of the name of Scott were accused of going to the kirk of St. Mary of the Lowes, to the number of two hundred, 'bodin in feire of war,' (that is, arrayed in armour,) and breaking open the doors of the said kirk, in order to apprehend the laird of Cranstoun, for his destruction, and for the slaughter of Sir Peter Cranstoun. On July 14, 1563, William Cranstoun of that ilk, James his brother, and another, found caution to underlie the law at the next court at Selkirk, for art and part going to the steading of Williamshope, belonging to Alexander Hoppringill of Craigleith, and hamstringing and slaying three of his cattle. By his wife, who was the daughter of Andrew Johnstone of Elphinstone, Sir William Cranstoun had two sons, John and Thomas, and two daughters. The elder son, John, married Margaret, eldest daughter of George Ramsay of Dalhousie, by whom he had a son, also named John, who seems to have died without succeeding to the estate, and seven daughters.

On the 23d August 1600, Mr. Thomas Cranstoun, one of the earl of Gowrie's attendants, was, with two others of his retainers, executed at Perth, for drawing swords in the time of the tumult during the mysterious transactions of the Gowrie conspiracy. He was the brother of Sir John Cranstoun of Cranstoun, a zealous professor of religion, with whom Mr. Robert Bruce the celebrated Edinburgh minister passed some time in retirement at Cranstoun in 1603, when persecuted by the court.

Sarah, the eldest of the seven daughters of the above John Cranstoun, married William Cranstoun, first Lord Cranstoun. He was the son of John Cranstoun of Morriestoun, and captain of the guard to King James the Sixth, by whom he was knighted. He was raised to the peerage by the title of Lord Cranstoun, by patent, dated 17th November 1609, to him and his heirs male bearing the name and arms of Cranstoun. On the 20th August 1617, his lordship, with the lords Sanquhar and Buccleuch, William Douglas of Cavers, sheriff of Teviotdale, and three others, the landlords of the east and west marches, appeared personally before the lords of council, and bound themselves to make their whole men, tenants and servants, answerable and obedient to justice, and that they should satisfy and redress parties wronged, conform to the laws and acts of parliament, and general bond made in 1602, which was the strictest ever made on the borders. The first Lord Cranstoun died in June 1627, having had four sons and one daughter. James, the second son, was in 1610 brought before the council for sending a challenge to the son of Sir Gideon Murray, and committed to Blackness castle, while the latter for concealing the same, with the intention of meeting his opponent, was warded in Edinburgh castle. James Cranstoun, for repeating the offence, was afterwards banished forth from his majesty's dominions. The fathers at the same time were bound for all of their sons come to man's age, under the pain of ten thousand marks, that they should keep the peace with each other.

John, the eldest son, second Lord Cranstoun, married first, Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Walter first Lord Scott of Buccleuch; secondly, Helen, youngest daughter of James, seventh Lord Lindsay of Byres, but had no issue by either. He was succeeded by his nephew, William, son of James, master of Cranstoun, above mentioned, the second son of the first lord. This gentleman was twice married; first, to Margaret, only daughter of David Macgill of Cranstoun-Riddell, by whom he had a daughter Margaret, who became the wife of Thomas Craig of Riccartoun, in the county of Edinburgh; and, secondly, to Lady Elizabeth Stewart, eldest daughter of Francis earl of Bothwell, and had a son, William, third Lord Cranstoun, and three daughters.

William, third Lord Cranstoun, marched into England with King Charles the Second in 1651, and being taken at the battle of Worcester, was committed prisoner to the Tower. He was particularly excepted out of Cromwell's act of grace and pardon, April 1654, by which his estates were sequestrated, but a portion of the lands, of the yearly value of two hundred pounds, were settled on his wife and children. He married Lady Mary Leslie, third daughter of Alexander, first earl of Leven, and had a son, James, fourth Lord Cranstoun, who married Anne, daughter of Sir Alexander Don of Newton, in the county of Roxburgh, baronet, and had two sons, William, fifth Lord Cranstoun, and the Hon. Alexander Cranstoun, who died at Darien, without issue.

William, fifth Lord Cranstoun, the elder son, supported the treaty of union in the last Scots parliament. He died 27th January 1727. By his wife, Lady Jane Ker, eldest daughter of William, second marquis of Lothian, who survived him forty-one years, he had seven sons and five daughters.

About the history of the Hon. William Henry Cranstoun, the fifth son, born in 1714, there is something very uncommon. He was a captain in the army, and married at Edinburgh on the 22d of May 1744, Anne, daughter of Mr. David Murray, merchant in Leith, who was the son of Sir David Murray of Stanhope, baronet. The marriage was a private one, on pretence that its being known might prevent his preferment in the army, as she was a Roman Catholic. No witness was present but a single woman. The clergyman was brought by Captain Cranstoun, and was not known to Miss Murray or the other woman. They lived together, in a private manner, till sometime in July thereafter.

Then the lady went to an uncle's house in the country, while the captain staid among his own relations till November, and then proceeded to London. A close correspondence was kept up between them as husband and wife. Before he left she acquainted him of her being in the way of becoming a mother, and he, in consequence, in his absence wrote very affectionately both to herself and her uncle, acknowledging her to have been his wife from the middle of the preceding May, but still insisted on the marriage being kept secret. He afterwards informed all his relations of it, and they visited and corresponded with her as his wife. At her confinement she was attended by one of his sisters. A daughter was born at Edinburgh, on February 19th, 1745, and was baptized by a minister of the established church, in presence of several of the relations on both sides. The child was held up to baptism by one of the captain's brothers, and named after his mother, by express orders from himself.

Notwithstanding all this, Captain Cranstoun disowned his marriage in 1746, alleging that they were never married; that he had only promised to marry her in case she should turn protestant; that double the time agreed for her changing her religion was now elapsed, without her doing so; that what he had said to his friends was only to amuse them and save her honour; and that now he would never marry her, but was willing to support her to the utmost of his power.

The lady raised a declarator of her own marriage, and of her daughter's legitimacy, before the commissaries of Edinburgh, the summons of which was executed in October 1746. In the process a great number of letters written by the captain and the lady were produced, and after a tedious litigation the commissaries, on the 1st March 1748, decreed them to be married persons, and the child to be their lawful daughter; on the 7th of April following, they decerned the captain to pay the lady an annuity of forty pounds sterling for herself, and ten pounds for their daughter so long as she should be alimented by her, both to commence from the date of citation, and on the 11th of May, they ordained him to pay her forty pounds of costs, and nearly sixty pounds for extracting the decret. Captain Cranstoun advocated the case to the court of session, but he was equally unsuccessful there. It seems that during the proceedings he courted a young lady in Leicestershire, but all hopes of a union with her were put a stop to, when the match was nearly concluded, on the lady's friends hearing that he was already married.

About the year 1746, having gone to Henley to recruit, Miss Mary Blandy, the daughter of a retired attorney at Reading, possessing, according to report, ten thousand pounds, fell in love with him, and as her father disapproved of the captain's addresses, on account of his having a wife alive in his native country, she poisoned him on the 5th of August 1751, with some powder which Capt. Cranstoun had sent her from Scotland, in a packet containing Scots pebbles, and labelled "to clean pebbles with," having mixed it in his gruel. For this heinous crime she was tried at Oxford in February 1752, and being found guilty she was hanged on the Castle green of that city, on the 6th of April thereafter. In Miss Blandy's statement after her condemnation, she alleged that the powders were sent to her by her lover to be given to her father as love-potions, to make him kind to them both, and induce him to consent to their marriage, and that he had written to her that he had consulted a Mrs. Morgan, "a cunning woman" in Scotland, who had assured him that they would have that effect, which she thoroughly believed. There does not appear to have been any grounds for supposing that the captain was in any way accessory to the murder. He died 2d December 1752, a few months after Miss Blandy's execution.

His younger brother, the Hon. George Cranstoun of Longwarton, the seventh son of the fifth Lord Cranstoun, married Maria, daughter of Thomas Brisbane of Brisbane, in Ayrshire, and had by her, two sons and three daughters. He died at Edinburgh 30th December 1788. The second son, George Cranstoun, was an eminent judge of the court of session, under the judicial title of Lord Corehouse. He was originally designed for the army, but studied the law. He passed advocate, 2d February 1793, was appointed one of the depute advocates in 1805, and sheriff depute of the county of Sutherland in 1806. He was chosen dean of the faculty of advocates, 15th November 1823, and elevated to the bench, on the death of Lord Hermand in 1826, from which he retired in 1839. His title was taken from his seat near the celebrated fall of Corra linn in Clydesdale, one of the most beautiful and romantic places in Lanarkshire, where he was visited by Sir Walter Scott in 1827. His acquaintance with the author of *Waverley* began in the winter of 1788, when they were both students of civil law in the university of Edinburgh, and their intimacy lasted during life. When practising at the bar, Mr. Cranstoun was the author of the celebrated *jeu d'esprit*, entitled the "Diamond Beetle Case," (inserted in *Kay's Edinburgh Portraits*, vol. i. pp. 384-387,) in which the judicial style and peculiar manner of several of the judges, in delivering their opinions, are most happily imitated. He was a superior Greek scholar, which rendered him a great favourite with Lord Monboddo, who used to declare that Cranstoun was the only scholar in all Scotland. Lord Corehouse was an excellent judge and a first-rate lawyer, especially in all feudal questions.

His eldest sister, Margaret Nicolson, married, 25th February 1780, William Cuninghame of Lainshaw, in Ayrshire. The second, Jane Anne, afterwards countess of Purgstall, was an early confidant and correspondent of Sir Walter Scott. She was the first person to whom, in April 1796, he read the manuscript of his first published piece, the translation of Burger's *Lenore*, and she early predicted his poetical excellence; writing to a friend in the country at that period, she said, "Walter Scott is going to turn

out a poet – something of a cross, I think, between Burns and Gray.” On the 23d June 1797 she married Godfrey Wincellaus, count of Purgstall, a German nobleman who had been some time residing in Edinburgh. He was a count of the Holy Roman empire, of noble and ancient descent, and possessed large estates in the province of Styria. “This lady,” says Lockhart in his *Life of Scott* (under date 1821,) “had undergone domestic afflictions more than sufficient to have crushed almost any spirit but her own. Her husband, the count Purgstall, had died some years before this time, leaving her an only son, a youth of the most amiable disposition, and possessing abilities which, had he lived to develop them, must have secured for him a high station in the annals of genius. This hope of her eyes, the last heir of an illustrious lineage, followed his father to the tomb in the nineteenth year of his age. The desolate countess was urged by her family in Scotland to return, after this bereavement, to her native country, but she had vowed to her son on his deathbed, that one day her dust should be mingled with his, and no argument could induce her to depart from the resolution of remaining in solitary Styria (south-central Austria). By her desire, a valued friend of the house of Purgstall, who had been born and bred upon their estates, the celebrated orientalist Joseph Von Hammer, compiled a little memoir of ‘The two last Counts of Purgstall,’ which he put forth in January 1821, under the title of ‘Denkmahl,’ or Monument.” The copy of a letter of acknowledgment of the receipt of this work by Sir Walter Scott to the countess, but which by some inadvertence was never sent, will be found in Lockhart’s *Life of Scott*. An account of a Visit to the Countess de Purgstall during the last months of her life by Captain Basil Hall, has been published. See his *Schloss Hainfeld*. Of Helen d’Arcy, Lord Corehouse’s youngest sister, the wife of Professor Dugald Stewart, a notice follows.

James, sixth Lord Cranstoun, succeeded his father in 1727, and died at London 4th July 1773. He married Sophia, daughter of Jeremiah Brown of Abscourt in Surrey, with whom he obtained twelve thousand pounds, and she afterwards succeeded to a larger fortune. She had an estate in the West Indies, and a jointure of seven hundred pounds. Her ladyship remained only four months a widow, as she took for her second husband, on 10th November, 1773, Michael Lade, Esq., councilor at law, and died 26th October 1799. By this lady, Lord Cranstoun had five sons and two daughters. The eldest, William, and the third, James, successively enjoyed the title. The Hon. George Cranstoun, the fifth son, born in 1761, was captain of an independent company of foot in Africa, which was reduced in 1783. In 1795 he became captain in the 131st foot, was appointed major of a West India regiment in 1796, and the same year was promoted to the lieutenant-colonelcy of that corps. In 1801 he was appointed lieutenant-colonel of the 64th regiment of foot, which regiment he commanded at the capture of Surinam in May 1804, when he was wounded. He had the rank of colonel in the army 1st January 1805, and died at Surinam, 8th March 1806, in his 45th year, unmarried.

William, seventh Lord Cranstoun, the eldest son, born at Crailing, 3d September, 1749, succeeded his father in 1773, and died unmarried at London, 1st August 1778, aged 29.

His brother James, the third son, eighth Lord Cranstoun, was a distinguished naval officer. He was born in 1755, and had the rank of lieutenant in the royal navy,, 19th October 1776, and of captain, 31st January 1780. He commanded the Bellequieux, of 64 guns, in the engagements between Sir Samuel Hood and the Count de Grasse, off St. Christophers, 25th and 26th January, 1782. After the victory over De Grasse gained by Admiral Lord Rodney, 12th April 1782, he was sent home with the dispatches announcing it, in which his lordship declared that Lord Cranstoun had acted as one of the captains of the Formidable during both actions, and that he was much indebted to his gallant behaviour, on both occasions. He commanded the Bellerophon in Admiral Cornwallis' squadron, 17th June 1795, when, with five ships of the line and two frigates, he sustained an attack of the French fleet, of thirteen ships of the line, seven frigates, seven rasees and two brigs, and obliged them to give over, after a running fight of twelve hours, wherein eight ships of the line were so shattered that they could not engage any longer. In his dispatches the admiral stated that he considered the Bellerophon as a treasure in store, having heard of her former achievements, and observing the spirit manifested by all on board, joined to the activity and zeal showed by Lord Cranstoun during the whole cruise. The thanks of parliament were, on 17th November 1795, voted to the admiral, captains, etc., "for the skill, judgment, and determined bravery displayed on this occurrence, which reflected as much credit as the achievement of a victory." In 1706 his lordship was appointed governor of Grenada and vice-admiral of that island, but before he could set out to his government, he died at Bishop's Waltham in Hampshire, 22d September 1796, in the forty-second year of his age. His death was occasioned by drinking cyder impregnated with sugar of lead, from being made in a leaden cistern. He was buried in the garrison chapel at Portsmouth. His character, both as a man and a naval officer, was most honourable. The contemporary journals said that "his death would be felt as a public loss by those who knew his professional merits, and will be long and deeply lamented by all who were acquainted with his exemplary worth in private life." He married at Darnhall, 19th August 1792, Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Lieutenant-colonel Lewis Charles Montolieu, sister of Lady Elibank, but had no issue by her. She died at Bath, 27th August, 1797, aged twenty-seven. His lordship was succeeded by his nephew, James Edward, ninth Lord Cranstoun, the son of the Hon. Charles Cranstoun, (who died in November 1790,) fourth son of the sixth lord by his wife, Elizabeth Turner, of the county of Worcester.

James Edward, the ninth lord, married at the Retreat in St. Christophers, 25th August, 1807, Anne Linnington, eldest daughter of John Macnamara, Esq. of that island, by whom he had two sons and two daughters, and died 5th September 1818.

His elder son, also named James Edward, tenth Lord Cranstoun, born 12th August, 1809, is unmarried. His brother, the Hon. Charles Frederick Cranstoun, born in 1813, is the heir presumptive.

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CRANSTOUN, HELEN D'ARCY, authoress of the beautiful and pathetic song of 'The tears I shed must ever fall,' was the third daughter of the Hon. George Cranstoun, youngest son of William, fifth Lord Cranstoun, and was born in 1765. On the 26th of July 1790 she became the second wife of Dugald Stewart, of Catrine, Ayrshire, professor of moral philosophy in the university of Edinburgh, and died at Warriston House, in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh, 28th July 1838. A copy of verses, attributed to her, beginning "Returning spring, with gladsome ray," which breathe the same strain of tender feeling as her justly admired song, 'The tears I shed,' is inserted among the Notes to Johnson's Musical Museum, last edition.

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Excerpted: The Snell Exhibition

From the University of Glasgow to Bailliol College, Oxford, 1901

GEORGE CRANSTOUN of Corehouse. 26th November, 1789. Born 1771. Second and youngest son of the Hon. George Cranstoun, who died at Edinburgh, 30th January, 1789 (seventh son of the fifth Baron Cranstoun), and Maria (who died at New Cairnmuir, 27th October, 1807), daughter of Thomas Brisbane of Brisbane, Ayrshire.

The Exhibitioner had three sisters, (i) Margaret Nicholson, who married, 25th February, 1780, William Cuninghame of Lainshaw, Ayrshire, (2) Jane Anne (an early confidante and correspondent of Sir Walter Scott), who married, 23rd June, 1797, Godfrey Wincelous, Count of Purgstall, a German nobleman who had been for some time residing in Edinburgh, (3) Helen D'Arcy, who married, 26th July, 1790, Dugald Stewart of Catrine, Ayrshire, Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh. She was authoress of the beautiful and pathetic song, "The tears I shed must ever fall."

The Exhibitioner's uncle, Captain William Henry Cranstoun, fifth son of the fifth Baron, figured in a tragedy, arising out of his secret marriage with Miss Murray, of Leith, and consisting of a parricide committed by a Reading lady who also fell in love with him. The latter was hanged for the crime in the Castle Green of Oxford on 6th April, 1752, and Captain Cranstoun died on 2nd December of that year. It is not supposed that he was really accessory to the murder.

The Cranstoun Peerage became extinct in 1869. The Exhibitioner studied at the University of Glasgow for at least four Sessions, namely, 1785-86 to 1788-89. Gained the following Class and other Prizes: 1785-86, Logic (first Division), second for the best Specimens of Composition, on various Subjects of Reasoning and Taste, prescribed and executed during the Session; Greek, first for Exemplary Conduct during the Session. 1786-87, Second Mathematics Class, second for general eminence ; Moral Philosophy, first for the best Vindication of Divine Justice and of a Moral Administration, and first for the best Illustration of the Natural Rights of Mankind ; Logic, first for the best Vacation Essay on Sublimity of Style ; Greek, first for the best Critical Essay on the Nubes of Aristophanes, and first for the best Poetical Translation of the first Chorus of the Choephorae of Ischylus. 1787-88, University Silver Medal for the best Essay on Volcanoes. 1788-89, the Gartmore Gold Medal for the best Essay on the Revolution.

Studied at the University of Edinburgh for three Sessions, namely, 1791 (Civil Law and Scots Law), 1792 (Scots Law), and 1801 (Ethics).

Became acquainted with Sir Walter Scott, when both were members of the Civil Law Class in 1791, and their intimacy lasted during life. Matriculated at Balliol College 26th March, 1790, and remained there three years. Resigned Exhibition early in 1793. Was originally in the Army, but for a short time only. Admitted Advocate 2nd February, 1793. Advocate- Depute, March, 1805. Sheriff of the County of Sutherland, 1806. Dean of the Faculty of Advocates, 5th November, 1823.

Senator of the College of Justice (Lord of Session) under the judicial title of Lord Corehouse, 21st November, 1826. Retired from the Bench in 1839. His title was taken from his estate near the celebrated fall of Cora Linn, one of the most beautiful and romantic places in Lanarkshire, where he was visited by Sir Walter Scott in 1827. The estate, which he placed under entail, is now possessed by Charles Joseph Edmondstone-Cranstoun, Esq. When practising at the bar, the Exhibitioner wrote the celebrated jeu cFesprit entitled "The Diamond Beetle Case" (inserted in Kay's Edinburgh Portraits, vol. I., pp. 384-387, and in the Court of Session Garland, p. 99), in which the judicial style and peculiar manner of several of the Judges, in delivering their opinions, are most happily imitated. His superiority as a Greek scholar rendered him a great favourite with Lord Monboddo, who was wont to declare that Cranstoun was the only scholar in Scotland.

Died at Corehouse, unmarried, 26th June, 1850.