

Thomas Alexander 1763 to 1843

Inventory of the Estate of Thomas Alexander 1845

Introduction

Thomas Alexander was born¹ in late 1763 and baptised on the 1st December 1763. The date of Thomas's death² was 14th March 1843 at which time he was in his 80th year. The Statistical Account of Scotland 1845³, indicated that no deaths were recorded except for the years 1761 and 1763 for Logie Parish. A visit to the two cemeteries in the locale of Blairlogie failed to reveal the grave of Thomas Alexander. Either he had been buried in another location or the gravestone was unreadable as his headstone could not be found. Possibly Thomas's death was recorded in Logie Church where he was most likely a member as he had been paying the stipend⁴ or a portion of it to the Logie Minister for a number of years.

Comments on the 1845 Inventory of the Personal Estate of Thomas Alexander²

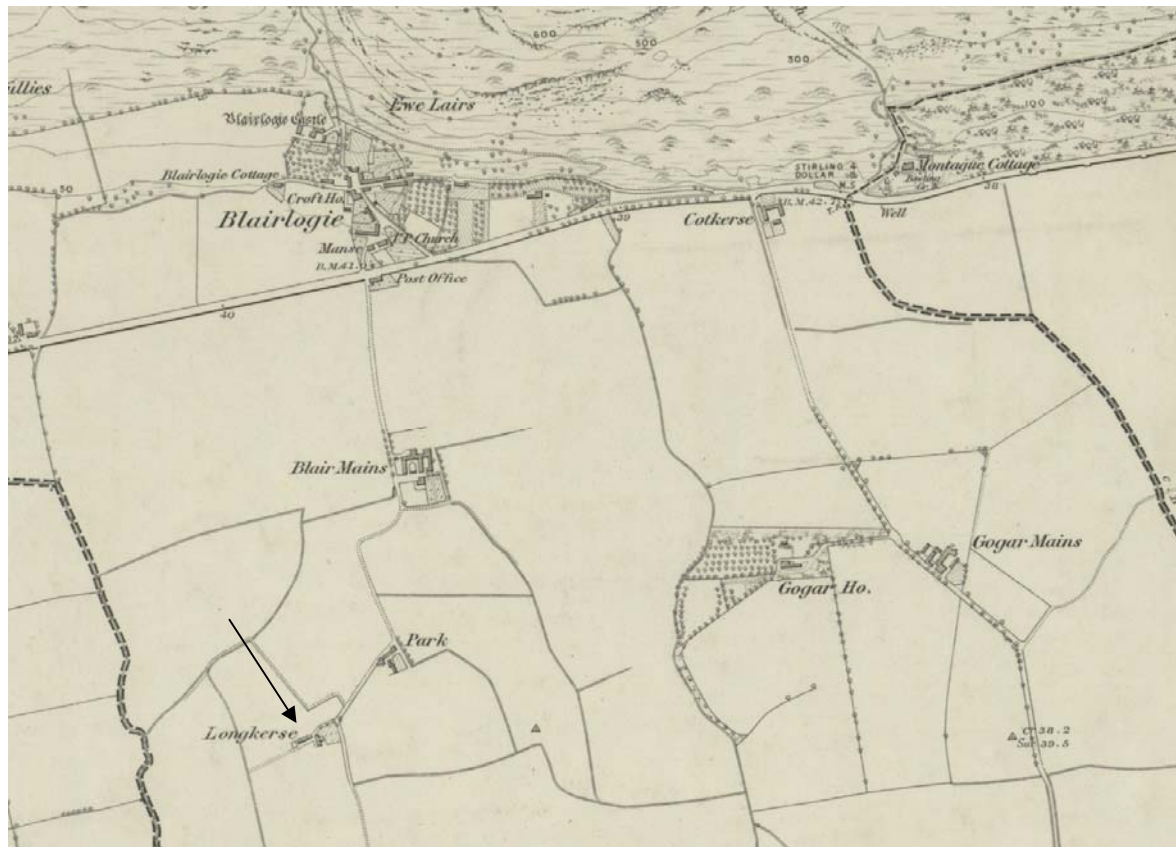
Thomas's son William Alexander born 1816⁴ presented the inventory in January 1845, just over one year after Thomas's death. Page two of the document lists the Inventory and it is interesting to note Thomas's worth at his death was £119.19.00 and this would have been worth⁵ **£9,260.00** using the retail price index to calculate the value today. Page 3 of the Inventory lists the offspring of Thomas at the time of writing his will, i.e. 1838. His family tree can be seen at Appendix A.

Page 4 of the will of Thomas Alexander is very interesting as it makes clear how he and his wife⁶ Margaret Clark had made previous arrangements for two of their daughters when they married. This section was inserted to avoid disputes amongst their children. Thomas also clarifies his and his wife's wishes in the event of the death of his son William. In this event his property should go to his second son Thomas. This is an interesting development as Thomas was the eldest son born⁴ in 1812. It is likely that the eldest son Thomas did not wish to be a farmer as the 1851 census⁷ lists the young Thomas as a draper.

Pages 4/5 of the will outlines the extent of his property which is only 22 acres in size. The 1841 census⁸ shows Thomas aged 75 and Margaret aged 60. By my reckoning Thomas was actually 78 years old at this time. The family appear to have held on to the building if not the land as the 1891 census⁹ shows Elizabeth Alexander, aged 81 as the owner of Longkerse.

Page five of the will clarifies the details of Thomas's father leaving his second son William Alexander 26 acres of Easter Park. Also on pages 5/6, Thomas spells out the duties that his son William Alexander will have towards his mother to ensure that she is kept in an appropriate manner. He also ensures that his daughter Elizabeth is cared for as long as she remains unmarried, even down to how much milk she has to receive. Thomas's will also makes clear that his daughters' inheritance is not to be subject to their husbands will, this was quite radical for the time.

William Alexander remained single until his death¹⁰ on fifth June 1879 at the age of 62 years. By 1881 the farm land had been sold¹¹ to Robert Paterson and it had an annual rent value of £42. Elizabeth Alexander was a Liferentrix of Longkerse in 1881 and the last time Longkerse is noted in the censuses is 1891. Sadly Longkerse no longer exists. The map below shows the land as it was in 1866¹².



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Title: Sheet 39 – Stirling¹²
Publication date: 1887

Thomas Alexander's time in context

Thomas was born a mere 18 years after Culloden and 56 years before the birth of Queen Victoria and he was alive during many innovations in agriculture, medicine, military and science. Between 1750 and 1850 Scotland underwent a major upheaval from being a backwater in 1850 to second only to England and Wales in the league table of urbanised societies in Europe¹³. This huge expansion of cities meant that the old infield/outfield and the rigs & furrows methods were not efficient enough to feed the enlarged town populations. Consequently land reform took place which meant the swallowing up of small farms by larger ones, innovations such as tile drainage and improvements in ploughshares¹³ increased land yield. Long thin rigs of open fields was common pre 1760 and this altered to larger fields with hedgerows, dikes and ditches, in other words the now traditional Scottish landscape was born. Employment was still based on manual labour as the machine had not as yet taken over many of the tasks it was to in the future.

A prime example of the developments in medicine can be seen in the work of James Lind¹⁴ (1716 to 1794) who discovered the value of lime juice in the prevention of scurvy. In 1747 whilst studying at Edinburgh University he treated sailors with scurvy, but it was not until after his death in 1795 that the British navy adopted his system. Hence that is why British sailors are called "Limeys"



Other great medical innovations pioneered by Scots include the following:

- Sir Charles Bell¹⁴ (1774-1842) discovered the distinct functions of the brain.
- John Cheyne¹⁴ (1777-1836) discovered the process of respiration.
- James Combe¹⁴ (1796-1883) wrote the first description of anaemia.

The first Chinese Opium war began¹⁵ in March 1839 and was to last until 1842. This was one of a number of disgraceful episodes in British military history. In the same month, British troops invade Afghanistan¹⁵ and this war also lasts until 1842, with great loss of life. In January 1842, 4500 British troops and 12000 civilians retreated from Kabul¹⁵ and only 1 European reached safety. From 1757 to 1809 Britain was at war in Canada, America and the West Indies¹⁶. During the period 1801 to 1807 Scots were also fighting Napoléon in Egypt¹⁶.

After Egypt came the Peninsular Campaign¹⁶ from 1808 to 1814, not forgetting the



Battle of Waterloo in 1815¹⁶.

With many Scottish soldiers returning either wounded or released after the conflicts had ceased. Up until 1881 soldiers signed on to serve for life. It was only after 1881 that this was reduced to 12 years.

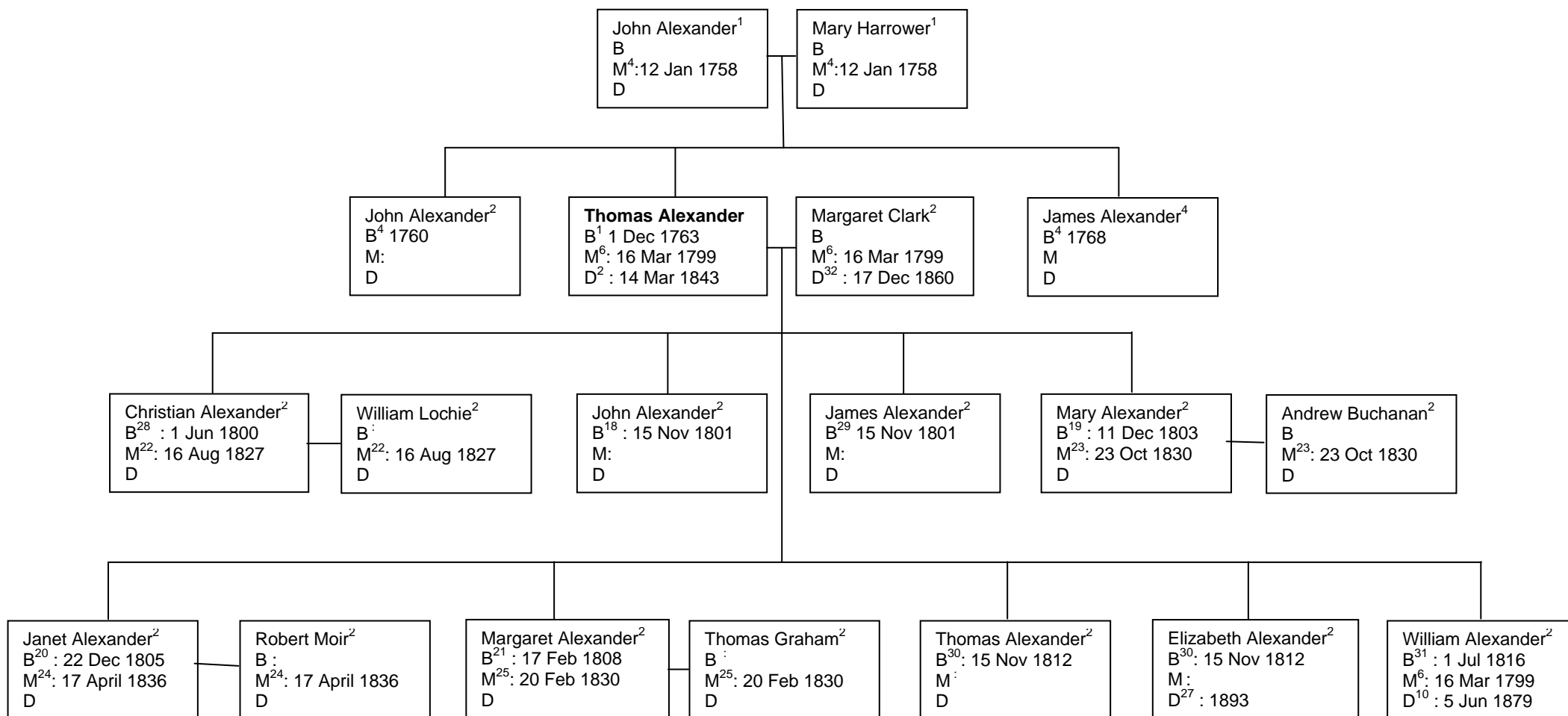
Thomas's life would not have been too placid, with changes in Presbyterianism with the 1840 schism¹³ when the Church of Scotland lost approximately half of its congregation to dissenting groups, and the Weaver's Revolt of 1820¹³ where a number of Stirling weavers lost their lives or were transported after a dodgy trial.



Battle of Waterloo 1815¹⁶
Cuirassiers charging Highlanders in square

From the Victoria and Albert Museum

Family Tree of Thomas Alexander Born 1st December 1763



Line		
1	202	
2	Inventory of the	At Dunblane the fifteenth day of January
3	Personal Estate	Eighteen Hundred and forty five years in pre-
4	of	sense of Robert Mathieson Esquire advocate
5	Thomas	Commissary of the Commissariat of the County of Perth, Com-
6	Alexander	peared Patrick James Stirling, Writer in Dunblane a procu-
7		lator for William Alexander after designed, who gave in an
8		Inventory of the Personal Estate of Thomas Alexander
9		also after designed desirory the same to be registered in the
10		Commissary Court Books of the Western District of the
11		said Commissariat which deine the said Commissary finding
		reasonable he ordained the same to be done accordingly
12		203
13		Whereof the tenor follows viz t[he] Inventory of the Personal
14		Estate of the deceased Thomas Alexander Portioner of Long-
15		kerse of Blairlogie who died there upon the fourteenth day
16		of March Eighteen hundred and forty three with interest
17		due on principal forms at that date.
18	First	back in the house about. £4.0.0
19	Second	Principal sum contained in a Deposit Receipt by
20		the agent of the Bank of Scotland at Stirling
21		to the deceased Dated 5 April 1839 £30
22		Interest due therein at the deceased death [£]2.8.6 £32.8.6
23	Third	Stipend prepaid by the deceased to the Minister of
24		Logie Parish for some years previous to the deceased
25		death the am[oun]t of which has not yet been accurately
26		ascertained but which could be statet at more than £10.0.0
27	Fourth	The deceased Farm, Stocking, household furniture as
28		per inventory & valuation by Peter Stodart, Licensed
29		Appraiser in Stirling. £69.10.6
30	Fifth	The deceased body clothes <u>£4.0.0</u>
31		£119.19.0
32		Dunblane 15 January 1845. The above is the inventory referred
33		to in the amended affidavit (signed) William Alexander, Cha[rle]s
34		Macara Esq. (widows affidavit) At Dunblane the fifteenth day of
35		January Eighteen hundred and forty five years. In presence
36		of Charles Macara Esquire Commissary Depute of the Commis-
37		sarriot of Perth at Dunblane. Compeared William Alex
38		ander residing at Longkerse of Blairlogie who being solemnly
39		sworn and examined upon oath Depones that Thomas
40		Alexander, late Portioner of Longkerse aforesaid his father did
41		upon the fourteenth day of March Eighteen hundred and
42		forty three and the Deponent has suted upon the possession
43		and management of the deceased personal Estate as
44		Executor nominated by him in a Disposition and letter that

Line		
45	204	executed by him with consent of Margaret Clark his spouse
46		upon the twentieth day of September Eighteen hundred and
47		thirty eight which is now exhibited and signed by the De-
48		ponent and the said Commissary Depute as relative heirs. That
49		the deposiant does not know of any attainment or other writing
50		left by the deceased relative to the dispersed or management
51		of the Personal Estates and Effects or any part of them other
52		than that now exhibited. That the foregoing Inventory which
53		is signed by the Deponent and the said Commissary Depute as
54		relative hereto is a full complete and Inventory of all the
55		personal or moveable Estate and Effects of the said deceased
56		Thomas Alexander whosoever situated already mentioned or known to
57		be existing, belonging or due to him beneficially at the time of
58		his death in so far as the cause has come to the De-
59		ponents knowledge. And that the said Estate situated in
60		Scotland is of the value of One hundred pounds and under
61		the value of Two hundred pounds Sterl[ing]. All which is truth
62		as the Deponent shall answer to God (signed) William
63		Alexander, Cha[rle]s Macara (PS) follows Disposition
64		and Settlement by Thomas Alexander in favour of William
65		Alexander father dated 20 December 1838. I Thomas
66		Alexander Portioner of Longkerse of Blairlogie. Considering
67		That I have the following children in life of my marriage
68		with Margaret Clark my Spouse Viz Christian Alexander
69		spouse of William Lochie Farm in Ditch of Tillibody, John
70		Alexander, Mary Alexander Spouse of Andrew Buchanan
71		Portioner of Cowie Bank, Janet Alexander Spouse of Robert
72		Moir, Smith at Port Dundas, Margaret Alexander spouse of
73		Thomas Graham at Bridge of Allan, Thomas Alexander with
74		Mr Johnstone, Merchant in Stirling, Elizabeth Alexander and
75		William Alexander and that my said married Daughters
76		received certain mounting and furnishing on their marriage
77		and also Considering that there was no contract
78		of marriage or other deeds herto executed between me & my

Line		205
79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112		<p>said Spouse and that she has in her own right the pro [??]divies half of the lands of Cowie which belonged to her deceased Father John Clark, and that she has of this date in pursuance of certain arrangements agreed upon between her and me executed a Disposition and Settlement in favour of the said Thomas Alexander under certain bur- dens to our said daughters Christian, May and Janet Alex- ander. And that it become proper in further implement of said Agreement between me and my said Spouse to execute the present settlement of my affairs in manner after written in order to prevent disputes amongst our said Children after my decease. Therefore I the said Thomas Alexander with consent of the said Margaret Clark my Spouse and I the said Margaret Clark for myself and interest and we both of one advice and assent Do hereby under the burdens and conditions declara- tion and reservations after expressed give, grant, assign, dispose, Convey, Make over from me the said Thomas Alexander and my Heirs and Successors to and in favour of the said William Alexander and the heirs of his body whom failing to Thomas Alexander my other Son and his heirs and assignees whomsoever. All and sundry Lands, heritages, Tack, rooms, dwellings and possessions, heritable Bonds and all other heritable sub- jects, together with all and sundry Goods, gear, debts, sums of money, corn, cattle, Farm stocking, implements of husbandry, household furniture and other moveable effects. And in general my whole estate, means and Effects heritable and moveable seal and personal that shall be pertaining and belonging or addebted and resting owing to me at the time of my death heirship moveable in- cluded and particularly without prejudice of said generality. All and Heall these Twenty two acres of Land called the Longkerse of Blairlogie sometime possessed by Findlay Athol Bounded by the Lands of Manor on the South and East the</p>

Line		
113	206	Lands of Blair belonging to W Dundas on the North and
114		the Lands of Powis on the West lying within the Parish of
115		Logie and the Sherrifdom of Perth but excepting always from the
116		said twenty two acres of land that past disposition of the said
117		Lands disponed by the deceased John Alexander my father to the
118		now deceased William Alexander his second Son called the Easter
119		Park consisting of eight acres over fields and eighteen also
120		conform to a Disposition thereof also in favour of the said William
121		Alexander dated the Twelfth day of September Seventeen hundred
122		and ninety four and Twenty fifth day of February there-
123		after and Registered in the Commissary Court Books of Stirling
124		the twenty eighth day of November Seventeen hundred & ninety
125		five together with the whole, parts, particles and prevailing
126		and pertuints of the said Lands herby consigned to
127		which Lands I the said Thomas Alexander succeeded as
128		eldest son and heir of the said John Alexander my Father
129		and in which I was duly infeft upon the thirtieth day of
130		July Eighteen hundred and one conform to my instrument
131		of herein recorded at Perth the eighth day of August thereafter
132		But always under the burden conditions and sanctions after
133		expressed which the said William Alexander whom failing as
134		aforesaid, the said Thomas Alexander by acceptation hereof
135		becomes bound strictly to pay, implement and fulfil viz.
136		To satisfy and pay all my just and lawful debts asked
137		and financial charges as well as the sickbed & Funeral
138		charges of the said Margaret Clark his Mother. Here To allow
139		the said Margaret Clark his Mother the use & possession of
140		Two rooms in my Dwelling house and as much furniture
141		as she may choose to please the same, likewise a suitable
142		portion of the yard and to maintain for her sufficiently
143		a good coat Summer and Winter and drive for her what coal
144		she may require. As also to make payment to her of a
145		free yearly annuity of Eight Pound Sterling payable at
146		two terms in the year, Martimas and Whitsunday by

Line			
147		Equal portions and beginning the first term payment at the	
148		first of these terms that shall happen next after my	
149		death with interest of the said termly payments from the	
150		time they are due, till paid all yearly during the lifetime	
151		of the said Margaret Clark. Moreover the said William	
152		Alexander whom failing, the said Thomas Alexander shall be	
153		farther bound to allow his said sister Elizabeth Alexander	
154		the use and possession of one of the rooms in my said Dwel-	
155		ling house to be occupied by her mother with the furniture	
156		thereof after her death and to deliver to her at least one [??????]	
157		of milk from the cow daily as long as the said Elizabeth	
158		Alexander shall remain unmarried. And shall further make	
159		payment to the said Elizabeth Alexander of the sum of one	
160		hundred pounds, to the said John Alexander to the sum of	
161		One hundred and fifty pounds and to the said Margaret	
162		Alexander of the sum of Seventy Pounds all Sterling money	
163		and which sums shall be payable at the first term of	
164		Whitsunday or Martimas that shall happen two years after	
165		the death of the longest liver of me and my said Spouse	
166		together with a fifth part more of penalty in case of	
167		failure and the legal interest of the said sum from the	
168		said term of payment till paid. Declaring that the	
169		sums payable to my said Daughters shall not be subject to	
170		the per month and administration of their husbands	
171		nor liable for their debts or deeds nor affectable by the	
172		Diligence of their Creditors but shall be entirely at their	
173		own disposal without the advice or consent of their said	
174		husbands. And also Declaring that failing the	
175		said William Alexander and the heirs of his body and that	
176		the said Thomas Alexander shall succeed to the said Lands	
177		and others in virtue hereof that he shall be bound at the	
178		first term of Whitsunday or Martimas happening twelve	
179		months after his succession to pay to the said John Alexander	
180		his Brother Forty Sterling and to each of his said sisters	

	208	
181		Christian, Mary, Janet, Margaret and Elizabeth Alexander
182		and their heirs Ten Pounds Sterling with penalty interest as
183		aforesaid. In which Lands and particiants before dis-
184		poned under the burdens and conditions above expressed.
185		I Bind and Oblige myself and my Heirs and successors
186		whatsoever duly and validly to infeft and cease the said
187		William Alexander whom failing the said Thomas Alex-
188		ander and his foresaid on their own charge and expenses
189		in deed and completed form, and that by two such
190		Infeftments and manners of holding <u>a me [??]de me</u> in
191		the same manner and as freely in all aspects as I hold
192		or might hold the same myself. And that ather by Re-
193		signation or Confiscation the one without prejudice of
194		the other and for expeding the said Infeftment by Re-
195		signation Thereby Make and Constitute.
196		and each of them jointly
197		and severally my Procurators with full power to pass to
198		the pressure of my immediate lawful Superiors of the
199		said Lands and others or their Commissioners having power
200		waive resignations and thereupon to grant new
201		Infeftments and these for me and in my name and
202		by staff and baton as use is to resign and surrender
203		as I by these present Resign, renounce, surrender,
204		upaive, overfire and Deliver All and Heall
205		the foresaid twenty two acres of Land called Long-
206		Kerse of Blair Logie with the pertinents lying bounded
207		and described aforesaid but always with and under the
208		exception of the foresaid piece of ground called Easter
209		Park disponed by my said father to the said William
210		Alexander my Brother and also under the burden and
211		conditions before expressed. In the hands of my said
212		Superior their Commissioners foresaid in favour and for
213		new infeftments of the same to be given back by them
214		to the said William Alexander whom failing as afore-

Line		
215		said the said Thomas Alexander and his foresaid in due
216		and competent form and thereupon Acts, Instruments and
217		documents to act and taks and generally every other thing
218		in the premises which I could do myself if present
219		or which to the office of procuratory is known to belong.
220		Which Land and other before disponded I Bind and Oblige
221		me and my heirs and successors to warrant to the said William
221		Alexander whom failing to the said Thomas Alexander this
222		aforesaid at all hands and against all deadly as Law will. And
223		Hereby Assign and convey to my said disponce not only
224		the writs, titles and securities of and concerning the said
225		Land and other and likewise the rents made and duties
226		from and after my death and in all time thereafter. More-
227		over I hereby nominate and appoint the said Wil-
228		liam Alexander and whom failing by death without heirs of
229		his body the said Thomas Alexander and his foresaid
230		to be my sole and only executor to the exclusion of all
231		others. Declaring always that the provision before con-
232		ceived in favour of my said Spouse are exclusive and over [???
233		any income which she may desire from her said pre interest
234		share of the Land of Cowie Bank which are to be entirely
235		at her own disposal declaring also as it is hereby specially
236		provided and declared that it shall not be in the power
237		of either of her or me to alter the destination or other prov-
238		isions herein contained and those contained in the other
239		Conveyence and Settlement now executed by her knowledge less
240		reference to each other without the consent of the other
241		and which provisions herein contained in favour of any said
242		Spouse and Children before named are in full to them
243		respectively of all they can ask or claim by and through
244		my death any manner of way. And I the said Margaret
245		Clark not only accept said provisions in my favour but also
246		nominate and appoint my said husband whom failing
247		the said William Alexander our son and failing him the

Line		
248	210	said Thomas Alexander to be my sole and only Executor to the
249		exclusion of all others. And to whom I hereby convey my per-
250		sonal possessions and estate accordingly. And I Thomas Alexander
251		Reserve to myself during the lifetime of my said Spouse &
252		with her consent full power to alter, annul these presents in
253		whole or part as I shall think fit and also the liferent
254		use and possession of the whole premises hereby conveyed during
255		my life. Declaring this present Deed if found lying by me
256		or in the custody of any confident at my death shall
257		have the effect of a delivered evident of this date any law or
258		practices to the contrary being hereby dispensed with and for
259		greater security I Consent to the Registration hereof in the
260		Book of Council and Session or others competent for preservation
261		and if necessary that all legal diligence pass hereon as accords
262		and theredo Constitute
263		Procurator Attour to the effect the said
264		William Alexander whom failing as aforesaid the said Thomas
265		Alexander and his foresaid may be infet and said in the
266		Lands and other before disposed. I hereby Desire & Require
267		you
268		and each of you my Balies in that part hereby specially
269		constituted that on eight hereof ye pass to the grounds
270		of the said Lands and there Give and Deliver Heritable
271		state and saxine seal actual & corporal possession to the said
272		William Alexander whom failing as aforesaid the said
273		Thomas Alexander and his foresaid of All & Heall the
274		foresaid Twenty two acres of Land called the Long Kerse
275		of Blairlogie with the portinents lying bounded & described
276		as aforesaid but always with and under the exception of
277		the foresaid piece of ground called the Easter Park disposed
278		by my said Father to the said William Alexander my
279		Brother. And also under the Burdens, conditions, declarations
280		and reservations before expressed and that by delivering to the
281		said William Alexander whom failing the said Thomas Alexander

282		or his foresaid or their certain Attorney or Attornies in their
283		names bearers hereof of castle and stone of and upon
284		of the ground of the said Lands and other and all other
285		symbol usual and necessary and thus in nowise ye
286		leave undone the which to do I commit to you and
287		each of you full power by this my Precept of Saxine
288		directed to you for that effect. In Witness whereof
289		these present consisting of this and the three preceding
290		pages of stamped paper together with the marginal
291		addition on pages Second all written by John Gourlie, Clerk
292		to Andrew Hutton, Writer in Stirling. Are Subscribed
293		by us the said Thomas Alexander and Margaret Clark
294		At Stirling the Twentieth Day of December Eighteen
295		hundred and thirty eight before these witnesses Andrew
296		Hutton Junior Writer in Stirling, and the said John Gourlie
297		(Signed) Thomas Alexander, Margaret Clark And[rew] Hutton
298		I writing John Gourlie witness Dunblane 15 January
299		1845. This is the Disposition and Settlement of the deceased
300		Thomas Alexander referred to in the Affidavit entered by
301		me of this date of the Inventory of his Personal Estate
302		(Signed) William Alexander, Cha[rle]s Macara CD
303	H	

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