



# Johnstones of Poldean

Moffat

Craigyburn

Manufactory

Frenchland

Hunter's Leck

Rogerburn

Dumcrieff

Carnal Tower

Cragbeck

Redaires

Dyke

Oderig Loch House

Damhills

Sandbed

Woodhead

Acher Castle

Bealick

Parkend

Broomlands

Breckonside

Tattinsholm

Howbeckes

Kirkpatrick

Juxta

Palace Know

Woodfoot

Millton

Poldean

Swinefoot

Fathill

Steebrigs

Biggarts

Murwhats

Newbigging

Flowlands

Graystonrig

Stenrieshill

Stockholm

Cogrie

Reaknow

Masslands

Killbrook

Ingleston Park

Old Kirk or

Mains

Broomlands Hall

Mimnygap

Drumgree

Lochwood Tower

Wamphray Place

Mimnygap

Burntompin

Barns Orchard

Newhall

Borland

Kilholm

Cleughheads

Annasholm

Kinnellnock

Woodend

Saughtrees

Righedd

Auchendinning

Staywood

Rae hills

Hazel

Gateside

Upper Mollins

Kinnellhall and Bank

Cleugh

Parkend

St. Ann's Bridge

Bargambush

Millhill

Langs

Whiteknow

Goodhope

Craglands

Johnston Mill

Dabmag

Black Burn

CHRISTOPHER JOHNSTON OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND (1750-1819)  
AND THE JOHNSTONES OF POLDENE

**Christopher Johnston** was bapt. 28<sup>th</sup> October, 1750, at Moffatt; d. 6<sup>th</sup> March, 1819, in Baltimore, Maryland, and is buried under Westminster Church on Fayette Street; his maternal uncle, Robert Swan, had for a number of years resided at Annapolis, as a partner of the house of Nelson, Carlyle and Company of Glasgow; d. unmarried, he left bequests to his nephews, John Swan and **Christopher Johnston**, who came to Maryland in 1766, and aided by their uncle's executors, readily found advantageous places in local counting rooms; in 1774, **Christopher Johnston** was a member of the Baltimore Independent Cadets, Capt. Mordecai Gist, and in 1781, being then a member of the Baltimore Light Dragoons, Capt. Nicholas Ruxton Moore, he took part in the Yorktown Campaign; in 1795 he was one of the incorporators of the Bank of Baltimore, and in 1802 he was a member of the Second Branch of the Baltimore City Council, his brother-in-law Thorowgood Smith being Mayor; he was a ruling Elder of the First Presbyterian Church from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1804, until 1817; m. in 1779, **Susanna Stith**, b. 1759, in Northampton County, Virginia, and d. 31<sup>st</sup> March, 1838, at her residence, Eutaw and Fayette Streets, Baltimore, Maryland.

[from: "*Colonial Families of the United States*" by George Norbury MacKenzie, 1917]

In Memory of **Christopher Johnston**. A Native of Moffat, Scotland and for fifty three years a resident of Baltimore who departed this life on the 6th day of March 1819. Aged 68 Years, "Mark the perfect Man, and behold the upright for the end of Man is peace, the memory of the just is blessed."  
[carved headstone inscription from the Old Westminster Burial Ground in Baltimore, Maryland 1819]

Proposed Johnston[e]/Johnstoun Lineage

|Christopher Johnston (b. 1750 Moffat – d. 1819 Baltimore)  
|Susannah Stith (b. Virginia, m. 1779 to Christopher – d. 1838 Baltimore)  
  |John Johnston (b. 1720 Wamphray – d. bef. 1764 Moffat)  
  |Janet Swan (m. 1744) [daughter of James Swan, and sister to Robert Swan]  
    |Christopher Johnston (b. 1664 Hazlebank – d. 1724 Wamphray)  
    |Elizabeth Corrie (m. c.1690-1700)  
      |John Johnston in Newbigging (d. 1673) [brother to the elder Ambrose of Poldean, d. 1644]  
      |unknown spouse  
        |John Johnston (d. bef. 1660) [son of Ninian of Poldean]  
        |unknown spouse  
          |"Black" Ninian of Poldean (d. 1634) [grandson to Herbert, and son of Symon?]  
          |Janet Johnston [daughter of John of Poldean, sister to Helen]  
          |John Johnston of Poldean (father to Janet, and uncle to Ninian)  
          |Catherine Carruthers  
          |Herbert Johnston of Poldean (d. c.1576)  
          |unknown spouse  
          |Symon Johnston of Poldean (d. 1545)  
          |unknown spouse  
          |Herbert of Johnston (d. c.1496) [first crown charter for Poldean]  
          |Elsbeth Carruthers [remarried to Jardine of Apilgirth]  
          |John of Johnston (c.1410 – c.1494)  
          |unknown spouse  
          |Adam of Johnston (d. c.1454) [Laird of the Johnstons]

## Poldean/Powdene

Poldean is a 2000 acre former feudal estate in the old Parish of Wamphray on the eastern bank of the River Annan, just off an old Roman road. It was held almost continuously by various members of the Johnstone clan, from 1484 until around 1748 on behalf of the chieftain of the Jardine clan, the Laird of Apilgirth. The date of its earliest settlement may be indicated by a late neolithic menhir situated on the property. Poldean is a few miles south of the town of Moffat and just north of the settlements of Milkymoss and Newbigging. The town of Wamphray itself, is further south, with Hazlebank (a secondary residence historically maintained by younger sons of the Poldean Johnstones) just southeast of that. Lockwood Castle, the historic seat of the Johnstone Clan chieftains, was on the west side of the Annan, across from Wamphray. By 1827 "six markland" worth of property in Poldean and Milkymoss were held in ownership by the Earl of Hopetoun. Poldean continues to serve its original function as an operational farm, still to this day. Regarding Scottish feudal naming conventions, it should be noted that proprietors of estates were designated with the preposition "of" (for example, Ninian of Poldean) while tenants were described as "in" (for example, John in Newbigging).  
[*nota bene* from your intrepid editor]

## The Johnstones of Poldean

The strong dark Douglas clans were Celtic, so were the Maccas family, afterwards the great Maxwells. The Johnstones are said by Veitch to have been a Norse race. "Johnstone, a bold, brave name in the Lowlands, is a true Norse name, the most common in Iceland, and it is one of the most common in the Lowlands of Scotland, and there associated with deeds of personal daring, among the roughest in Border history." An old verse tells us —

*"Within the bounds of Annandale,  
The gentle Johnstones ride;  
They hae been here a thousand years,  
A thousand mair they'll bide."*

[from: "*Upper Annandale: Its History and Traditions*" by Agnes Marchbank, 1901.]

...The Johnstouns of Powdene, or Poldean, were an early branch who held their little estate in Wamfray from Jardine of Apilgirth. The first recorded, **Herbert of Johnstoun** of Powdene, was dead in 1496, when his widow, married to Jardine of Apilgirth, disputed with **Symon Johnstoun** of Powdene for the possession of the estate.

**Symon**, with the Laird of Johnstoun, Gavin Johnstoun of Esbie, and John Johnstoun of Wamfray, was a witness in 1514 to the retour of Lord Herries. In 1520 **Symon** of Powdene and David Johnstoun of Harthope formed a bond of manrent with Lord Maxwell. In 1514 **Symon** had a Charter of Poldean and Milkymoss from Jardine, and a year later he received the gift of the ward of a 5 mark land in Wamfray, a 10s. land in Poldean, a \$ mark in Grethead, and other small properties which belonged to Haliday of Brumehills, being, through his death, in the King's hands till the entry of the lawful heir, "for good and thankful service to the King and the Duke of Albany, his tutor."

On Jan. 28, 1532, **Symon** resigned the lands of Smallgills, in Moffat, to his son, Thomas, who is confirmed the same day in these lands, "for great and gratuitous service" against the English, by James V. Later on the same Thomas possessed Craigaburn. **Symon** was occupied less creditably, and was sued for it by James Johnstoun, burgess of Edinburgh, in oppressing the plaintiff's lands (i.e., tenants) at Chapel Hill.

This James was Sheriff of Lanark and lay parson of Lochmaben, in which capacity he sued Gordon of Lochinvar and other Chiefs for debt. He was also Sheriff of Ayr. His son, William, was

made Procurator for the Crown and one of the commissioners for trying heretics at Dumfries, Aug, 25, 1534, when the Reformers were entering Scotland from Holland and Germany. Sheriff James came off the Westerhall branch, but Chapelhill a little later belonged to Craigaburn.

Craigaburn was more important than Powdene, but Thomas got into difficulties, and was deprived of Smallgills "in default of goods distrainable." The King restored it by Charter in Oct. 1541 to Thomas's son, John of Craigaburn, who surrendered to the English in 1547 with sixty-four men, and was outlawed by Act of Parliament the next year.

Besides **Thomas**, Herbert, Gilbert, and James are mentioned in 1545 as sons of the deceased **Symon Johnstoun** of Poldean. John, the son of **Thomas**, appears to have died before 1565, when a full pardon was proclaimed. He was probably elder brother to Thomas of Craigaburn, **Herbert** of Powdene, Gilbert of Corhead, and William — all brothers. In 1550 Thomas Johnstoun of Craigaburn was a witness to the bond of manrent between the Chief and his brother, James Johnstoun of Wamfray, and was also one of the delegates sent by his Chief to Edinburgh in 1576 to adjust their differences with the Maxwell clan.

In 1563 there is a contract between honourable persons, **Herbert Johnstoun** of Powdene and Gilbert Johnstoun of Corhead. They are not described as brothers, although two other documents prove this. **John**, son of the said **Herbert**, consents to the document and signs it. **Herbert** died in 1576. **John** married **Katherine Carruthers**, and had a son, Gilbert...

...**Herbert Johnstoun** of Powdene, brother to Thomas of Craigaburn, mortgaged part of his lands to Thomas, and on the death of their brother, Gilbert of Corhead, Gilbert the younger parted with his share of this estate to his cousins of Craigaburn. **Ninian Johnstoun**, Herbert's grandson, was in the Edinburgh Tolbooth with James Johnstoun of Westraw and others (for slaying Sir John Maxwell of Pook), when he was returned heir by Westraw, Robert Johnstoun of Corhead, Gavin Johnstoun, James Johnstoun of Brakinside, and several more of his fellow prisoners, to his grandfather's (**Herbert** of Powdene) lands in Peebles, which had been in the hands of the superior, Lord Hay of Yester, since 1573 —Powdene and Westraw seem to have been for many years on very friendly terms. In 1621 **Ninian Johnstoun** of Poldean, Gawyne Johnstoun of Carterton, and James Johnstoun of Wylleis (later outlawed for slaughter) were witnesses to the written statement by the Laird of Johnstone and his curators, James Johnstoun of Westraw and Edward Johnstoun of Ryhill, concerning the ejection of Robert Johnstoun of Raecleuch from Newbie Tower.

In 1605 **Ninian Johnstoun** signed the Bond of Peace which Gilbert Johnstoun of Wamfray promoted among his kin, and in return received pardon for all former crimes. Ten other Johnstouns signed it — Ninian's brother (James of Milkymoss, also called of Smallgills and Wylleis), Gavin Johnstoun of Annanholme, John Johnstoun of Howgill, John, William, and Robert of Kirkhill, Thomas Johnstoun of Fingland, Cuthbert, Nicholas, and John.

In Murray's information of the *Feuars of Annandale* (1611-5) he ridicules the pretence of Powdene to be a Laird, as his land was held of Apilgirth, not of the King. He shows that **Ninian Johnstoun** married his cousin, one of two sisters, **Janet** and Helen, who were co-heiresses of four generations of a branch of Powdene.

A precept, signed at Edinburgh March 15, 1553, pardons four brothers — James, William, James, and David Johnstoun in Brumehill— and William and John Johnstoun in Rigfoot for "their treachery with the old enemies of England, and for the murder of John Harknes of Reidhall and the burning of his house." In 1603 two Johnstouns of Brumehill were hanged for theft; so it is pleasant to find that their brother, David, in 1611, "lawful son to the late Gilbert, brother-german to the late **Herbert**, who was son and heir to the late **Symon Johnstoun** of Powdene," was making an honest living as a tailor in Edinburgh when he parted with Brumehill to Symon Johnstoun in Woodheid and Gavin Johnstoun, burgess of Edinburgh [son to James Johnston of Brackenside]. He left three, if not more, sons, William, David, and John, and three daughters, Helen, and Grizel and Bessie, who were

twins. Christopher Johnston, another of the Powdenes, was a sailmaker in Edinburgh in 1618, a trade followed by sailors on shore.

The Powdene group — Milkymoss, Newton, Annandholme, Hesilbank, Rowantriebrae, etc. — were the "old gang of Wamfray" whom the Government regarded as most troublesome in 1569, and only distant cousins to the descendants of James Johnstoun, who obtained a Charter of Wamfray in 1545. The Laird's domestic retainers seem to have been selected from among them, for they lived near Lochwood and were poor, so they were mixed up in every disturbance in which the Chief or his sons or uncles were engaged. In 1557 a pardon was granted to Gavin Johnstoun of Newton, son of Robert Johnstoun in Newton, and to Robert and John Johnstoun, brothers of the said Gavin, for assent, art, and part in the murder of Robert Moffat (not a fortnight before) during service in the Church of Moffat. It was before the Reformation, and the victim was possibly a church brawler, as the Edinburgh Court evidently thought there were extenuating circumstances.

In 1567 a pardon is granted to Robert and John, sons of the Laird of Johnstoun, to Gilbert Johnstoun of Poldean, and Graham and Carruthers for the murder of James Johnstoun of Middlegill and the mutilation of Gilbert Johnstoun in Howcleuch on his left and right arms. This was possibly done in a skirmish with the formidable two-handed sword used in Mid-Annandale.

Ambrose Johnston was returned heir to his grandfather, **Ninian**, in Poldean, as it was then called, and was living in 1650, when some of the soldiers of Charles II were quartered in the house. It appears to have been haunted by a ghost, which, besides helping the family in many ways, probably kept away any more of these hungry visitors. Ambrose had a brother, **John**, and two sons, Symon, who died *s.p.*, and Ambrose. Their father in 1644 was one of the War Committee, and signed the Covenant.

On March 30, 1724, Marie Johnston, lawful daughter of the late Robert Johnston, son of the deceased Ambrose, younger of Poldean, succeeded to the lands of Poldean and Milkymoss...

...Either from **John**, the brother of Ambrose (1650), or from Habe or Herbert Johnstoun in Hesilbank, it may be assumed that the later Johnstons of Hazlebank descend [*n.b.* **John** is listed as the father of **John in Newbigging** in the book's appended lineal chart]. This Habe, who seems identical with a son of **Herbert** of Powdene (1576), and his three brothers, who would be Thomas, Symon, and Gilbert, were in 1585 ordered to find security for their good conduct. Thomas Johnstoun of Fingland was their pledge. Hazlebank and Poldean are very near, and owned by the same superior. Hazlebank was the appanage of younger sons.

The decrease of the population in Annandale during more than 150 years was partly caused by the enormous emigration to America. Ships, more or less ill-provided for carrying human beings, went direct from Waterfoot, at the mouth of the Annan, and among those who came to Maryland from Moffat was **Christopher Johnston**, the son of **John**, a merchant at Moffat, and his wife, **Janet Swan**, and the grandson of **Christopher Johnston** in Hazlebank, Wamfray, and of **Elizabeth Corrie**, his wife [*n.b.* the Corrie family once held extensive properties in Annandale]. Mutual connections and a similarity in Christian names add to the probability that they came off the Poldean family.

The elder **Christopher**, born 1664, died 1724. The younger **Christopher**, born 1750, married **Susanna**, daughter of **Griffin Stith**, and died at Baltimore in 1819, leaving, with other issue, a son, **Christopher**, born 1800, who married **Eliza**, daughter of Captain **Lemuel Gates**, U.S.A., and died 1835 [*n.b.* their daughter, **Isabella Marr Johnston** (1829-1911), married **Hugh McBirney** (1824-1910) at Cincinnati; they were the grandparents of **Isabel McBirney Stimson** (1890-1979)]. Their son, Christopher, M.D., Professor of Surgery in the University of Maryland, Baltimore, was born 1822, married Sarah Lucretia Clay Smith, of Washington, and died 1891, leaving, with other children, Christopher, born 1856, Professor of Oriental History and Archaeology in John Hopkins' University, Baltimore, married to Madeline Tasker Tilghman, and has a son, Christopher, and two daughters.

Dr Johnston practised medicine, 1880-88, but early devoted much time to the study of ancient and modern languages. He wrote *Epistolary Literature of the Assyrians and Babylonians*, and has contributed many articles to technical journals, chiefly on Assyrian and Egyptology.

**Christopher**, the elder of Hazlebank, presumably had other sons besides **John**, of Moffat, and a Christopher Johnston, married to Elizabeth Campbell, had a daughter, Mary, born in Glasgow in 1718...  
[from: "*History of the Johnstones, with Descriptions of Border Life*" by C. L. Johnstone, 1909]

#### APPENDIX I:

##### Robert Swan's Will

*Swan, Robert, Annapolis, Anne Arundel Co., merchant. 7 Oct. 1763 - 1 June 1764*

...To nephews **Christopher** and Robert Johnston, sons of sister **Janet Swan**, wife of **John Johnston**, dec'd., living in Moffat, in that pt. of Great Britain afsd. called Scotland, 200 lbs. sterl. each. To nieces Elizabeth and Janet Johnston, daus. of said sister **Janet**, living as afsd., sum of 50 lbs. sterl. each, cousin Robert Neilson, merchant in Paisly Nigh Glasgow, in that pt. of Great Britain called Scotland, pay the interest arising thereon to **John Johnston**, father of sd. children...

[from: "Will of Robert Swan," 1764 (excerpt)]

#### APPENDIX II:

##### A Brief Biography of John Swan

(John Swan was the cousin with whom **Christopher Johnston** (1750-1819) emigrated to America)

General John Swan, the great-grandfather of James Swan Frick, was born November 27, 1750, in Dumfries, Scotland, where his family had been prominent since 1599. He came to Maryland in the year 1766 as the heir of his uncle, Robert Swan, who died in Annapolis, May 4, 1764. He was a mere lad of sixteen when he sought the New World, and with the ardent enthusiasm of youth he espoused the patriots' cause and fought gallantly for the liberty of a nation. At first a resident of Annapolis, John Swan soon moved to Frederick county, Maryland, and later to the rapidly growing town of Baltimore. He early entered the army of the Revolution, was wounded at Morristown, and upon his recovery was by order of General Washington commissioned on April 26, 1777, captain of the Third Continental Dragoons, at that time being recruited by Colonel George Baylor at Fredericksburg, Virginia. He was made major of the First Continental Dragoons on October 21, 1780, and served with gallantry until the close of hostilities and was with General Lafayette at Yorktown when Lord Cornwallis surrendered. At the close of the Revolutionary War Major Swan was made general of the Maryland State Militia. He was also one of the signers of the original and the amended constitution of the Society of the Cincinnati, that organization of distinguished brothers-at-arms of which General Washington was president and General Otho Holland Williams, of Maryland, was treasurer [*n.b.* correspondences between Swan and Washington can be found in the National Archives]. General Swan's eldest son, Robert Swan, and his grandson and namesake, John Swan, were also members of the Society by inheritance, and James Swan Frick, great-grandson of General John Swan, now represents him in the Society. General Swan settled in Baltimore after the independence of the United States was assured and became closely identified with the interests and development of the city. Among other offices held by him was the presidency of the Branch Bank of the United States for Maryland. On July 12, 1787, General Swan married Elizabeth Maxwell, born 1757, daughter of George and Elizabeth (Trippe) Maxwell, of Charles county, Maryland, and he died August 21, 1824.

[from: "*Baltimore: Biography*" by Clayton Colman Hall, 1912]

APPENDIX III:

Select Public Documents Regarding “Black” Ninian of Poldean

Remission under the great seal granted by KING JAMES THE SIXTH to SIR JAMES JOHNSTONE of Dunskeillie, and his clan, for various crimes. 28<sup>th</sup> September 1605. [Portion of great seal appended.]

Jacobus Dei gratia Rex Magne Britannie, Francie et Hybernie, fideique defensor, omnibus probis hominibus suis ad quos presentes litere peruenerint, salutem. Quia ex nostris speciali gratia misericordia et remittimus dilectis nostris domino Jacobo Jolmestoun de Duniskellie, Carmichaell de Medoflat, Roberto Johnestoun de Raecleuch, naturali prefati domini Jacobi, eius fratri, Jacobo Johnestoun de fratri Johnestoun de Kellebank, Willelmo Middilgill, Roberto Moffet de Grantoun, Nigello Ewart de Johnestoun de Jacobo Johanni militi, Simoni Johnestoun, **Niniano Johnestoun de Powdene**, Jacobo Johnestoun, Roberto Johnestoun de Newtown, Boydisbek, Sciatis presentium tenoreque remisimus, Brekanesyid, Simoni Johnestoun in Wodheid, Johanni Johnestoun de Howgill, Johanni Johnestoun in Kirkhill, Willelmo Jolmestoun, eius Willelmo Johnestoun in Kirkholnie, Johanni Johnestoun in Brumelbank, filio, Johanni Johnestoun in Rikkardrig, Roberto Johnestoun in Kirkhill, Daudi Johnestoun in Baittok, Gilberto Johnestoun...

[from: “*The Annandale Family Book of the Johnstones...*” by William Frazier, 1894]

Edinburgh 20<sup>th</sup> December 1621

Sederunt [*n.b.* sitting (in judgment)]—Chancellor; Treasurer; Nithisdail; Lotheane; Melros; Lauderdaill; Lord Erskene; Carnegy; Master of Ephinstoun; Clerk of Register; Advocate; Kilsayth; Merchinstoun; Innerteill; Craigtoun; Foistersait; Mr Peter Rollok.

Complaint by the King’s Advocate, and James Johnstone of that Ilk and his curators for their interest, as follows:—In terms of a decree of removing against Robert Johnstone of Raecleugh, the said James Johnstone recovered possession of his lands and barony of Newbie, with the fortalice thereof, and expected peaceable occupation. But Douglas, spouse to the said Robert Johnstone, James Langtoun and Arthur Grahame, his servants, Sir William Douglas of Cashogill, knight, Robert Johnstone, younger of Raecleugh, Robert Johnstone of Howcleugh, Fergus Grahame of Blaawood, George Johnstone of Milnefield, John Tynding in Howes, and David Gask in Filsykrib, with some fugitives and outlaws in their company, have come armed to the place of Newbie “and surprysit ane kill besyde the same, hes plantit ane number of brokin men within the kill armed with hagbuttis [*n.b.* arquebus or similar firearm] and pistollis, and hes fortifeit the same with a wearlyke provisioun, intending by that meanis to withhald and debar the said complener fra the possessioun of his saidis landis and plaice.”—The pursuers appearing personally, as also do Robert Johnstone of Raecleugh and the other defenders, with the exception of Arthur Grahame, George Johnstone of Milnefield, and David Gas, who do not appear, the Lords find Sir William Douglas, Robert Johnstone, younger of Raecleugh, Robert Johnstone of Howcleugh, and Fergus Grahame guilty of violating the laws against wearing hagbutts, &c., and order them to remain within the burgh of Edinburgh till they procure remissions. They assoilzie [*n.b.* release from blame] Robert Johnstone of Raecleugh, James Langtoun, and John Tynding from all the charges, and also the four defenders above named from the charge of seizing the kiln.

“The quhilk [*n.b.* which] day in presence of the Lordis of Secreit Counsaill compeirit personallie Fergus Grahame of Blawatwood and become actit and oblist [*n.b.* bound by oath] as cautionar and souertie for Arthour Grahame, his brother, and siclyk compeirit personallie Robert Johnstoun of Raecleugh and become actit and obleist as cautioner and souertie for George Johnstone in Milnefield and David Gas in Foulseyke, that the saidis personis sall compeir personallie befor the Lordis of Secreit Counsaill this day tuintie dayes, and ansuer to the complaynt foirsaid maid upoun thame be the Laird of Johnstoun and his Majesteis Advocat for his Hienes entres, ilk ane of thame under the pane of fyve hundreth merkis.”

“The quhilk day in presence of the Lordis of Secreit Counsaill compeirit personallie Sir William Douglas of Cashogill and become actit and obleist as cautionar and souertie for James Langtoun, that the said James sall compeir personallie befor the Lordis of Secreit Counsaill quhenevir he salbe laughfullie chargeit to that effect upoun sax dayes warneing, under the pane of fyve hundreth merkis.”

Complaint by the King’s Advocate, and by Robert Johnstone of Over-Howcleugh, as follows :—On \_\_\_\_ [*n.b.* this date was left blank], Captain James Johnstone, with James Johnstone called “James of Braikinsyde,” James Johnstone called Croftheid, **Ninian Johnstone of Powdene**, James Johnstone, his brother, Jaffray Irwing called of Robgill, James Irwing of Cleughhead, William Irwing of Bonshaw, David and George Irwing, his brothers, William Irwing, son to Jaffray, Edward Irwing, his brother, William Armestrang called of Kinmonth, Edward Johnstone of Ryhill, Edward Johnstone called of Brigholme, Gawane Johnstone of Cairtertoun, Richard Storie, servitor to James Johnstone of that Ilk, George Johnstone called of Corie, George Johnstone called of Doungergart, James Johnstone called of Rigfuttis, and others, of whom most were outlaws, thieves, rebels, and fugitives, came armed, at the instigation of James Johnstone of that Ilk, under cloud of night, to Robert Johnstone’s house in Birkrig, and there, “being all missellit with missellis [*n.b.* scarves] on thair faices,” they “brasheit” up the door of the house, and, entering with drawn swords, searched the place for complainer, swearing they would kill him. They found Barbara Johnstone, his sister, and, as it was “mirk,” they mistook her for the complainer, and struck her upon the head “with the doghead of a pistoll, and thairwith almost feld and dammeist hir dead,” giving her other blows and leaving her for dead. Next day, James Johnstone of that Ilk, with the persons above named, came to the complainer’s house of Newbie, and “with grite jeastis and foirhammeris” broke up the gates and doors, entered with drawn swords, and violently “schoit furth” the servants, striking them and presenting “bendit hagbuittis and pistolletis to thair breastis.” They so struck James Lintoun, one of the complainer’s servants with the guards of their swords, pistols and other weapons, on his head, breast, back, and shoulders, that he has since lain bedfast; and he would have been killed had he not “tied in to ane laich house and cloisit himself thairintill.”—Pursuers appearing personally, as also do the Laird of Johnstone and Edward Johnstone of Brigholm, and the Laird appearing also for the other defenders, except Jaffray Irwing of Robgill, Edward Irwing, his son, James Johnstone of Lochhous, James Johnstone of Croftheid, and James Johnstone, called “auld Jamie,” who do not appear, the Lords assoilzie James Johnstone of that Ilk from the first and second charges in the complaint, but, as heh as contravened the laws as to hagbuts, &c., order him to compound with the King’s Treasurer for a remission thereanent. They wholly assoilzie the said Edward Johnstone; and they remit the part of the complaint as to taking Newbie, removing and shooting the servants, to be tried before the judge competent. They further order the absent defenders to be denounced rebels.

Edinburgh 8<sup>th</sup> January, 1621 [*n.b.* Old Style]

This day appear personally George Johnstone of Corrie, George Johnstone of Tundergarth, James Johnstone of Rigfuttie, James Irwing Cleughheid, Edward Johnstone of Ryhill, Richard Storie, servitor to James Johnstone of that Ilk, William Irwing, son to Jaffray Irwing called of Robgill, Gawan Johnstone of Cairtertoun, **Ninian Johnstone** of Cowbene (Powdene), and James Johnstone, his brother, for obedience of the act by which James Johnstone of that Ilk took this day for presenting them to answer to the complaint against them by Robert Johnstone of Over Howcleugh and the King’s Advocate (*ante*, pp. 621, 622).—The said pursuers also appearing personally, and having, in default of other proof, referred the various heads of their complaint to the oaths of verity of the defenders, the Lords, in consequence of these oaths, assoilzie all the defenders from the first head of the complaint, viz. the attack on the house of Birthrig and the striking of Barbara Johnstone; also assoilzie George Johnstone of Tundergarth, James Irwing of Cleughheid, Edward Johnstone of Ryhill, William Irwing, and Gawan Johnstone from the charge of wearing hagbuts, &c., and taking the place of Newbie; also assoilzie James Johnstone of Rigfoot from the whole of the complaint; but find George Johnstone of



Corrie, Richard Storie, and James and **Ninian Johnstone** guilty of wearing hagbuts, &c., and of taking Newbie, and order them to remain in the burgh of Edinburgh till they have compounded for the King's remission. The Lords further remit the question anent the removal of the servants from Newbie to the judge competent.

Edinburgh 29<sup>th</sup> March, 1622

Caution by William Johnnestoun of Caldhome that James Johnnestoun of that Ilk, **Niniane Johnnestoun of Poldeane**, James Johnnestoun of Willeyis, **Johne Johnnestoun**, son to the said Niniane Johnnestoun, George Johnnestoun, called of \_\_\_\_\_ [left blank] and Richard Johnnestoun, servitor to James Johnnestoun of that Ilk, shall not wear nor shoot with hagbuts or pistolets under the penalty of 500 merks for every offence.

[from: "The Register of the Privy Council of Scotland, Volume XII]

#### APPENDIX IV:

##### The Battle of Dryfe Sands (1593)

The feud between the Maxwells and the Johnstones was one of the most bitter in the history of Scotland. In the second half of the 16th century, the heads of both families were at different times Wardens of the West Marches, each holding the office several times. Often the appointment came after a period of rebellious activity such as the weakness of the government of King James VI. The Maxwells, whose leader lived in Caerlaverock Castle, were more powerful than the Johnstones, whose chief was usually based at Lochwood Tower, near what is now Johnstonebridge. The fortunes of the families depended partly on the machinations and changing alliances at the Court of King James. For a time Lord Maxwell was abroad trying to arrange a Spanish invasion of Scotland in conjunction with the Spanish Armada, in an attempt to restore Roman Catholicism in Scotland. This did not bring about the retribution that might have been expected, partly because the King liked to keep his options open. Among the many events of the feud before Dryfe Sands were the burning of Lochwood Tower by the Maxwells, in 1585 ("We shall give Dame Johnstone light to set her hood by"), the partial burning of Lockerbie later in the year and then the capture of Sir John Johnstone and his imprisonment in Caerlaverock Castle. The hardness of this imprisonment probably hastened Sir John's death in 1587, although he had resumed the feud after his release in the last year of his life.

Now his son, James Johnstone, soon to be knighted as Sir James Johnstone of Dunskeillie (a tower in Kirkpatrick Fleming parish), became the chief of the Johnstones. After the Armada failure Lord Maxwell was able not only to escape punishment but also in due course to become Warden of the West Marches again in 1592. In the same year Sir James Johnstone made an agreement with Lord Maxwell with the intention of ending the feud. In the following year William Johnstone of Wamphray, known as the "Galliard" led a raid on the Crichtons of Upper Nithsdale. Johnstone was captured and hanged. The Wamphray Johnstones, now led by William Johnstone of Kirkhill, launched a revenge raid on the Crichtons, during which at least 15 Crichtons were killed. Their widows carried their bloody shirts to Edinburgh, and these were paraded through the streets to shame the King into taking action.

Lord Maxwell as Warden now made an agreement with other leading Nithsdale families to deal with the Johnstones. In December 1593, Maxwell led an army of perhaps 2000 men out of Dumfries. As well as Maxwells, it included Robert Crichton, Lord Sanquhar, and his followers, and contingents led by Douglas of Drumlanrig, Kirkpatrick of Closeburn, Grierson of Lag, Charteris of Amisfield and various others. Meanwhile Sir James Johnstone had been warned by Johnstone of Cummertrees of Maxwell's intentions, and he gathered a remarkable army, perhaps up to half the size of Maxwell's. As

well as many Johnstones, it included Scoffs from Teviotdale, Elliots from Liddersdale, Irvines, Murray's, Carruthers, Grahams, and even "divers Englishmen."

An advance party of Maxwell's army, led by a Captain Oliphant, was beaten near Lochmaben by a Johnstone force led by James Johnstone of Kirkton. Oliphant was killed, along with some of his men. The rest sought refuge in Lochmaben Kirk, but the Johnstones set fire to the building and forced its occupants to surrender. That night Maxwell's main army may have camped on the hill near Skipmyre. Next day he took up a position on the left bank of the River Dryfe near the present day farm of Dryfesdalegate. Some accounts suggest that part of the Maxwell's army moved into Lockerbie and set fire to the Johnstone Tower at Netherplace, before returning to the main army at Dryfe Sands. Meanwhile Sir James Johnstone had placed his men on higher ground overlooking Maxwell's army. Johnstone's horsemen provoked some of Maxwell's men into pursuing them into an ambush, as a result of which the main Johnstone army was able to fall upon the advancing Nithsdale force and throw it into confusion. This confusion quickly spread to the whole of Maxwell's army, where movements were restricted by their confined position. The Lairds of Drumlanrig, Closeburn and Lag rode hastily from the battlefield, doubtless followed by many of their men. Maxwell, his army in ruins, was killed on the battlefield, either by William Johnstone of Kirkhill, or by Sir James Johnstone himself, or even, if tradition is to be believed, by the wife of Johnstone of Kirkton Tower. The lady is said to have struck Lord Maxwell repeatedly on the head with the massive key of Kirkton Tower.

Maxwell's head is said to have been carried on the point of a spear by William Johnstone who claimed the reward of a "five pound land" offered by Sir James Johnstone. Some of the escaping Nithsdale men were drowned trying to cross Annan at Gotterbie, while others seem to have been killed while trying to escape through Lockerbie. Some who escaped are said to have had "Lockerbie licks" on their faces, caused by being slashed by the swords of pursuing horsemen. The numbers killed in Lord Maxwell's army have been variously estimated between 20 and 700, the truth no doubt lying somewhere in between.

Nearly two years after Dryfe Sands, Lord Herries led a Maxwell army to Lockerbie to subdue the Johnstones, and several leaders of the family were captured, only to be rescued when a Johnstone force drove the Maxwells out of Annandale. The weakness of the King's position was again revealed when Sir James Johnstone, far from being punished for Dryfe Sands, was made Warden of the West Marches in 1596. Various events followed which showed that the new Lord Maxwell had not forgiven his father's death. For a time Lord Maxwell was detained in Edinburgh Castle, but he was able to escape. Eventually a meeting was arranged between Lord Maxwell and Sir James Johnstone, each to have only one companion, in April 1608, probably near Shieldhill. A quarrel began during which Lord Maxwell shot Sir James Johnstone who died soon afterwards. Times had changed and Lord Maxwell had to escape abroad, being sentenced to death in his absence.

He finally returned to Scotland in 1612 and, while hiding in Castle Sinclair, he was handed over to the authorities by the Earl of Caithness. He was executed in 1613 after a brazen attempt to suggest marriage alliances between the two families. Some years later the old feud came to an end, and it is now no more than a very distant memory.

[from: "*The Battle of Dryfe Sands*" an undated essay written by John H. D. Gair]

The theft of a horse by Willie of Kirkhill (a Wamfray) led to fresh bloodshed. He seized on one (1592) at Gretna and rode to Wamfray on it, but a letter followed from Sir John Carmichael, the Warden, to the Chief at Lochwood — "Willie Johnstoun of Kirkhill has ane black hors of my couseing Willie Carmichael of Redmyre. It will please your lordship to cause deliver him to the Laird of Gretnay." The Chief seems to have ordered restitution at once, but Kirkhill recompensed himself by stealing a horse belonging to his neighbour, Lord Crichton. A battle ensued, in which several Johnstouns and fifteen Crichtons were killed, and, as the widows appealed to the King with very lively

demonstrations, Maxwell was ordered to arrest the Chief for the act of his dependent and imprison him in the castle at Edinburgh. He escaped and returned to his stronghold at Lochwood but was proclaimed an outlaw; and Maxwell, brushing aside two agreements between the families — one signed only the previous year — formed a secret bond of manrent with Douglas of Drumlanrig, Crichton, Kirkpatrick of Closeburn, and others who agreed to support him to carry out the Royal command. According to Spottiswode, a copy of the agreement fell into the hands of Johnstoun of Cummertrees, one of the Newbie family, and he gave it up to his Chief, who scornfully received Maxwell's formal summons to surrender and prepared for battle.

Maxwell was assisted by some of the Royal troops, and mustered 1500 or 2000 men. He offered a, £10 land to anyone who brought to him Johnstoun's head or hand. On hearing this, Johnstoun offered half that value, as he had not more to give, for the head or hand of Maxwell. With the junior branches of his own clan and his relatives, the Scotts of Eskdale, the Eliots, and some of the Grahams, Irvings, Moffats, and others he assembled about 800 followers. The young Laird of Newbie was an outlaw for hearing Mass, and for having his children baptized by Roman priests, and his name does not appear in the subsequent respite granted to those who took part in the fight; but as his maternal grandfather, Maxwell of He, was on the opposite side with eighty followers and his wife's relatives, the Stewarts of Garlies, the Kirkpatricks and the Douglasses, it is easy to see how Cummertrees heard of the secret bond. Robert of Newbie was with his Chief, also two Johnstouns of Cummertrees (one of whom was killed), and the Johnstouns of Graitney, of Elsieshields, **Powdene**, Lockerbie, Kirkton, etc. They were entrenched in a good position when the Maxwells crossed the Annan near the modern railway bridge between Lockerbie and Lochmaben, but it is said that Johnstoun disdained to take this advantage of the enemy and came down into the open plain, where the battle of Dryfe Sands was fought. Johnstoun is allowed to have handled his men with much skill, and gained a complete victory (Dec. 6, 1593). Maxwell was killed by a Johnstoun of Wamfray, the nephew of the original cause of the feud, and Douglas, Kirkpatrick and Grierson fled on horseback. The victors were at once outlawed, "no man daring," as a contemporary diarist writes, "to take any of them into his house."

Lord Scrope, writing from Carlisle to Lord Burghley the day after the battle, says: "The Larde Johnston having called together his friends, did encounter with Lord Maxwell, and hath not only killed the said Lord Maxwell, but very many of his company."

It is probable that Johnstoun's loss was heavy, for in 1594 he obtained a respite from the King for himself and only eight score surviving followers. In the preceding twelve months all the Johnstouns had need of their fortified towers; and William Johnstoun, the young "reader" of Lockerbie Church, was assassinated three years after his appointment, on the pretext that he bore the name. Those respited are recorded in the following order: Sir James Johnstoun of Dunskeillie, John Carmichael, Robert Johnstoun of Raecleuch, next of kin to Sir James, Symon, (half) brother to the Laird of Johnstoun, Robert Johnstoun in Brigholme, William, the heir of Graitney, and John Johnstoun in Cummertrees. Then come Johnstouns of Wamfray, Kirkton, William, Adam and James of Elsieshields, Howcleuch, Milnbank, Craigaburn, Corrie, Lockerbie, and Clochrie, besides Irvings, Moffats, Carruthers, Scotts, Eliots, Stewarts, one Chisholm, Arthur Graham, one Armstrong, and several Murrays. All offences were forgiven them except passing bad money. It was the greatest tribal fight that had ever taken place in Scotland, and it was the last.

Lord Hereis (Johnstoun's brother-in-law) succeeded his cousin, Maxwell, as Warden, but he paid no attention to the respite. He tried to capture Johnstoun's followers, till he kept the country in such a state of confusion that the King ended by superseding him with Johnstoun himself. This Chief stated that "the last unhappy and ungodly work arose out of the grit skaithis of fire, and heartless slaughters" done by Maxwell upon Johnstoun's father, "which was his death. Nevertheless he had buried these materials in his heart and entered into a hand agreement with Maxwell, when he found that he had made another bond for the wrecking of him and his friends."

[from: "*History of the Johnstones, with Descriptions of Border Life*" by C. L. Johnstone, 1909]

APPENDIX V:

Child's Ballad Number 184A, "The Lads of Wamphray"

- 184A.1 TWIXT the Girthhead and Langwood-end  
Livd the Galiard and Galiard's men.
- 184A.2 It is the lads of Lethenha,  
The greatest rogues among them a'.
- 184A.3 It is the lads of Leverhay,  
That drove the Crichtons' gier away.
- 184A.4 It is the lads o the Kirkhill,  
The gay Galiard and Will o Kirkhill,
- 184A.5 But and the lads o Stefenbiggin,  
They broke the house in at the riggin.
- 184A.6 The lads o Fingland and Hellbackhill,  
They were neer for good, but aye for ill.
- 184A.7 Twixt the Staywood Bass and Langside Hill,  
They steld the broked cow and branded bull.
- 184A.8 It is the lads o the Girthhead,  
The diel's in them for pride and greed.
- 184A.9 . . . .  
. . . .
- 184A.10 The Galiard is to the stable gane;  
Instead of the Dun, the Blind he's taen.
- 184A.11 'Come out now, Simmy o the Side,  
Come out and see a Johnston ride!
- 184A.12 'Here's the boniest horse in a' Nithside,  
And a gentle Johnston aboon his hide.'
- 184A.13 Simmy Crichton's mounted then,  
And Crichtons has raised mony a ane.
- 184A.14 The Galiard thought his horse had been fleet,  
But they did outstrip him quite out o sight.
- 184A.15 As soon as the Galiard the Crichton he saw,  
Beyond the saugh-bush he did draw.
- 184A.16 The Crichtons there the Galiard hae taen,  
And nane wi him but Willy alane.
- 184A.17 'O Simmy, Simmy, now let me gang,  
And I vow I'll neer do a Crichton wrang!
- 184A.18 'O Simmy, Simmy, now let me be,  
And a peck o goud I'll gie to thee!
- 184A.19 'O Simmy, Simmy, let me gang,  
And my wife shall heap it wi her hand!'
- 184A.20 But the Crichtons wadna let Willy bee,  
But they hanged him high upon a tree.
- 184A.21 O think then Will he was right wae,  
When he saw his uncle guided sae.
- 184A.22 'But if ever I live Wamphray to see,  
My uncle's death revenged shall be!'
- 184A.23 Back to Wamphray Willy's gane,  
And riders has raised mony a ane.

- 184A.24      Saying, My lads, if ye'll be true,  
                   Ye's a' be clad in the noble blue.
- 184A.25      Back to Nidsdale they are gane,  
                   And away the Crichtons' nout they hae taen.
- 184A.26      As they came out at the Wallpath-head,  
                   The Crichtons bad them light and lead.
- 184A.27      And when they came to the Biddess-burn,  
                   The Crichtons bad them stand and turn.
- 184A.28      And when they came to the Biddess-strand,  
                   The Crichtons they were hard at hand.
- 184A.29      But when they cam to the Biddess-law,  
                   The Johnstons bad them stand and draw.
- 184A.30      Out then spake then Willy Kirkhill:  
                   'Of fighting, lads, ye's hae your fill.'
- 184A.31      Then off his horse Willy he lap,  
                   And a burnishd brand in his hand he took.
- 184A.32      And through the Crichtons Willy he ran,  
                   And dang them down both horse and man.
- 184A.33      O but these lads were wondrous rude,  
                   When the Biddess-burn ran three days blood!
- 184A.34      'I think, my lads, we've done a noble deed;  
                   We have revengd the Galiard's blood.
- 184A.35      'For every finger o the Galiard's hand,  
                   I vow this day I've killed a man.'
- 184A.36      And hame for Wamphray they are gane,  
                   And away the Crichtons' nout they've taen.
- 184A.37      'Sin we've done na hurt, nor we'll take na wrang,  
                   But back to Wamphray we will gang.'
- 184A.38      As they came in at Evanhead,  
                   At Reaklaw-holm they spred abroad.
- 184A.39      'Drive on, my lads, it will be late;  
                   We'll have a pint at Wamphray Gate.
- 184A.40      'For where eer I gang, or eer I ride,  
                   The lads o Wamphr[a]y's on my side.
- 184A.41      'For of a' the lads that I do ken,  
                   The lads o Wamphr[a]y's king o men.'

#### APPENDIX VI:

#### The Poldean Ghost

“Also in the southwest border of Scotland, in Annandale, there is a house called Powdine belonging to a gentleman called Johnston; that house hath been haunted these fifty or sixty years. At my coming to Worcester 1651, I spoke with the gentleman (being quartered two miles from the house). He told me many extraordinary relations consisting in his own knowledge; and I carried him to my master to whom he made the same relations—noises and apparitions, drums and trumpets heard before the last war; yea he said, some English soldiers quartered in his house were soundly beaten by that

irresistable inhabitant . . . He tells me that the spirit now speaks, and appears frequently in the shape of a naked arm.”

[cited in: “*Law’s Memorials*” edited by Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe, 1818]

In 1646 [James] Johnstone was made Lord Advocate for Scotland, and his last act in that capacity was to proclaim Charles II, King. Charles II took the oath and came to Scotland, where he was received with great joy by the people. In Edinburgh the town was almost mad in their delight. Bonfires blazed, and men and women turned the dull grey streets into a huge ball-room. Charles II had now the people of Scotland with him, and marched south. He and his army, in an August morning in 1651 breakfasted in Poldean Holm, four miles below Moffat, among the fine old trees beside the sweet flowing Annan.

The Rev. William Bennet, in his "Guide," says, "A letter written by a soldier of that period, who was quartered at Poldean, was lately published, where he described his interview with a ghost, which was said to have haunted the house for many years. The spectre itself does not seem to have alarmed him, but he expresses his surprise on finding that the politics of the ghost differed from those of the Laird of Poldean, Ambrose Johnstone."

“What *were* the politics of Ambrose Johnstone? Was he fool enough to have any mind of his own in such days? And why did the ghost wander about Poldean when the young king lay there? Was it to warn him of a coming defeat?”

[from: “*Upper Annandale: Its History and Traditions*” by Agnes Marchbank, 1901.]

## APPENDIX VII:

### The Johnstons of Poldean, A Brief Timeline Sketch

- c. 1430 – Herbert of Johnstoun is born (grandson to Clan Chief Sir Adam Johnstoun?)
- c. 1450 – Herbert marries Elsbeth Carruthers (daughter to Symon Carruthers of Mouswald)
- 1454 – Herbert takes Lochmaben Castle from John Carruthers of Mouswald (King James II allows it)
- c. 1475 – Symon of Johnstoun is born
- 1484 – Herbert is chartered 2000 acres in Poldean
- c. 1495 – Herbert of Poldean dies
- 1496 - Herbert’s widow marries William Jardine of Applegirth (estate is disputed with her son, Symon)
- 1514 – Symon receives the charters for Poldean and Milkymoss from Jardine (the region’s feudal lord)
- 1520 – Symon of Poldean (marks) & David of Harthope (signs) a bond of manrent with Lord Maxwell
- 1545 – Symon of Poldean dies (his surviving sons are: Thomas, Herbert, Gilbert, and James)
- 1554 – *Charge by Queen Mary: All surnamed Johnstone to assist their Laird in service on the borders*
- 1560 – Herbert of Poldean is listed among Johnstons commanded by Queen Mary to help keep order
- 1563 – Brothers Herbert of Poldean and Gilbert of Corhead enter into a contract
- 1565 – Herbert of Poldene witnesses a document naming John of Newbie as heir to William of Newbie
- 1567 – Johnstones of Poldean implicated in murder of chief Robert Moffat, disempowering the Moffats
- 1569 – The “Old Gang of Wamprey,” of concern to the crown, includes the Johnstones of Poldean
- 1576 – Herbert of Poldean dies
- c. 1582 – John of Poldean dies
- 1584 – Lockwood Castle is burned by the Maxwells (sons of John of Poldean are killed in the battle)
- 1587 – *Execution of Mary “Queen of Scots”*
- 1593 – At “*The Battle of Dryffe Sands*” Johnstones defeat the far superior army of Clan Maxwell
- 1594 – Thomas of Poldean dies
- 1603 – *Accession of King James VI of Scotland to the English throne (on the death of Elizabeth I)*

1605 – “Niniano Johnnestoun” signs a bond of peace and is pardoned by King James VI for past crimes  
1606 – Ninian recognized as the heir to his grandfather Herbert upon his marriage to Janet (d. of John)  
1621 – Ninian of Poldean witnesses the order for removal of Robert Johnstoun from Newbie Tower  
1621 – Ninian of Poldean is among those cited for a “violent intrusion” against Newbie  
1622 – “Niniane Johnnestoun of Poldeane” and his son “Johan” are prohibited from carrying firearms  
1632 – Ninian of Poldean dies  
1644 – Ambrose of Poldean (eldest son of Ninian and holder of the charter to Poldean) dies  
1644 – The Earl of Hartfell purchases Newbigging (and others) from Alexander Jardine of Applegirth  
1649 – *Execution of King Charles I*  
1650 – Prince Charles’ (Charles II) troops quarter at Poldean (held then by Ambrose, the younger)  
1671 – Ambrose, the younger of Poldean (first cousin to John of Newbigging) dies  
1673 – John Johnston of Newbigging dies  
c. 1690-1700 – Christopher Johnston in Hazlebank marries Elizabeth Corrie  
1720 – John Johnston is born at Wamphray (Hazlebank?) to Christopher and Elizabeth Johnston  
1720 – Christopher Johnston in Hazlebank dies  
1724 – Marie, daughter of Robert (son of Ambrose the younger) holds both Poldean and Milkymoss  
c. 1742-8 – Poldean is sold to pay off debt  
1750 – Christopher Johnston, son of John Johnston in Newbigging is born at the town of Moffat

#### APPENDIX VIII: IMAGES



The ruined remains of Lockwood Castle (Lockwood Tower).  
It was the historic seat of clan chieftains, the Lairds of Johnstone, until around 1710. [PDS]



This enlarged detail is from a copy of a map of the region held in the collection of the British Museum. It is dated December 1590. Poldean (Poodine) is depicted here among the numerous feudal fiefdoms that were situated along the upper reaches of the River Annan. [PDS]





This portrait may be a depiction of Christopher Johnston (1750-1819).

It is included as part of a family album assembled by his great-great-great granddaughter, Molly Stimson Bareiss. A small photograph of the portrait is accompanied by this handwritten notation, “a Johnston? in Baltimore. Portrait belonging to wife of Christopher Johnston.” Of particular interest are his distinctive eyeglasses, which are identical to a unique design invented by Christopher Johnston’s brother-in-law, Thorowgood Smith (his wife’s sister’s husband). [PDS]

THE JOHNSTONS  
OF  
POLDEAN

