Bonjedward (Bonjedworth etc) Lands and Douglas inheritance

[It is the unentailed lands of Bonjedward which are of specific interest in this exercise]
The Emerald Charter and ‘the good’ Sir James Douglas

The Emerald or Emerald Charter initially gave the lands to ‘the Good’ Sir James Douglas in 1324. It can be seen from the charter insert, clause 4, that Bonjedward was part of the forest of Jedburgh.

The Emerald Charter of 1324

‘The first alienation of the whole or any part of it in favour of a Scotch subject occurred in the reign of Robert Bruce, who granted to his companion in arms, ‘the good’ Sir James of Douglas, in about 1321 or 1322, a charter of the forests of Selkirk, Ettrick, and Traquair, in free barony... in 1325 (sic 1324) he granted to the same Lord James, as part payment of 4000 merks, which, at the request of the King of France, Robert undertook to pay as the ransoms of three French knights, taken prisoner by Douglas at the battle of Biland, a charter of all his lands in the regality – including the forest of Selkirk, of which he is our officier, giving sasine, it is said, by placing on his finger an emerald ring, from which last circumstance the writ has been termed ‘The Douglas Emerald Charter’.

A Tug of War for the lands of Selkirk and Ettrick

But after the death of Robert the Bruce and the accession of his son David II, Edward II of England claimed the dominion of the Forest ‘in virtue of his favour by Edward de Balliol’, and in 1334 appointed Robert de Maners the Sheriff of Selkirk, and keepers of the forests of Selkirk and Ettrick – John de Bourbon, Chamberlain and William de Bevercotes, Chancellor. Moreover, in 1335 he granted William de Montacute the Forest of Selkirk and Ettrick and the Sheriffdom of Selkirk, with their pertinents in feu-ferme to the King’s Exchequer at Berwick on Tweed.
However in 1342, David II, renewed the grant of the Forest to William of Douglas, the nephew of the Good, Sir James. At the time a charter recited that Hugh, Lord of Douglas (brother and heir to Sir James) had on 26th May, 1342, resigned into the King’s hands the lands of Douglasdail and Carmyll and the Forest of Selkirk etc, granting the same to William of Douglas, son and heir of the deceased Archibald of Douglas (brother of Sir James) and his heirs male.

This William was created the first Earl of Douglas by the King in 1356/57. William had returned from France during the captivity of David II in England and leading the men of Douglasdale, Teviotdale and the Forest of Ettrick defeated the English under John de Coupland, Captain of Roxburgh Castle and restored the district to the allegiance of the Scotch Monarch.

In “1349/50…Edward III ordered his Chamberlain of Berwick on Tweed to allocate John de Copland (Coupland) 3000 merks from the revenue of Roxburgh, Selkirk, Ettrick (etc) for his custody of the custody of the castle for three years.

By a charter of Robert III, the regality of the Forest of Ettrick was again conferred on the Douglases, in the person of Archibald, son of the Earl, who was married to a daughter of the King”.

It appears that the Douglas referred to was Archibald Douglas, the fourth Earl of Douglas, who married Princess Margaret Stewart, the daughter of King Robert III and his wife Queen Annabella Drummond in about 1390.

This is all a bit sketchy but gives an overview on the passing back and forth of the ownership of the Forest and the other lands mentioned.

Until the beginning of the fifteenth century the English frequently claimed the dominion of the Forest but it was not a claim that they could effectively assert. In 1492/93 Henry VI, granted Henry de Percy, Earl of Northumberland, all the lands of Archibald the Earl of Douglas within the forest of Ettrick and Selkirk. In 1449 to 1451 the Earl William of Douglas, resigned into the King’s hands all and each of the lands of Ettrick and Selkirk, ‘with their pertinents which he possessed by heritage’. “In virtue of this resignation…James renewed the grant of these lands in free regality to the Earl and his heirs…for the payment of one broad headed arrow as brench-ferme to be rendered to the King and his successors, if required, on the festival of nativity of John the Baptist, at the moothill of Selkirk”. However by 1455 James II had declared the lands forfeited and the lordship of Ettrick was perpetually annexed to the Crown.


The entailed lands of Bonjedward
“Bonjedworth, now Bonjedward, was in 1324 granted by King Robert Bruce to Sir James of Douglas...About 1356 Bondjeddeworth formed part of the grant given by the King to Henry Percy and his heirs in exchange for Annandale. King David 11, probably in 1358 and 1370, granted to William Pettilck, Herald, the three husbandlands of the town of Bonjedward which had been forfeited by Roger Pringill.

In 1398 George, Earl of Angus was infeft by James Sandilands in the (entailed) lands of Bonjedworth, and the infeftment was confirmed by King Robert III.

The unentailed lands of Bonjedward

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In 1407 Isabel countess of Mar granted to Thomas the son of John Douglas and Margaret his spouse (her half-sister) all the (unentailed) lands of Bonjedward, which were confirmed to them by the regent Albany”. In fact the grant was to Thomas Johnson/Johnston, the son of John Johnson/Johnston and his wife Margaret Douglas (full natural sister of the Earl of Angus) and then their son John Douglas (they had taken the name of Douglas, rather than Johnson/Johnston).

“The lands of Timpendean (part of Bonjedward), lying in the territory of Bonjedworth, were in 1479 granted by George Douglas (4th Laird of Bonjedworth) with the consent of James, his son and heir, to his son Andrew, from whom they descended in lineal succession to William Douglas who held them in 1718...” James must have died as a son William became the 5th Laird of Bonjedworth.

The Lairds of Bonjedworth or Bonjedward can be traced through to John Douglas, the 14th Laird who was born in about 1697, while the Lairds of Timpendean can be traced to Archibald Douglas 1718 who became the 10th Laird of Timpendean and as the male line of the Douglastes of Bonjedward had obviously died out he added Bonjedward to his title. Beyond him, either Captain George Douglas c1819 the 12th is the last Laird or his brother Captain Henry Sholto Douglas 1820 the 13th was the last.

Timpendean went out of the family’s hands completely around the time of the death in April, 1834 of their father Sir William Douglas the 11th of Timpendean. Captain George Douglas 12th of Timpendean sold the final lands to the Marquis of Lothian – it has been reported that he sold to the Scotts but it appears that they were tenants rather than owners of Timpendean

A descendant of Captain Angus William Sholto Douglas a son of Captain Henry Sholto Douglas was said to hold the original grant deed for Timpendean – dated 1479.
Some citing of Bonjedward and Timpendede Lairds -

**Judicial Proceedings in 1476**
- William Douglas, bruder to George Dowglas of Bonegedworth. [Parliament of Scotland]

**Granter's Seal – Lands of Rowcastell 1491**
- Mentions George Douglas of Bonjedworth

**Percept to Walter Ker of Cesfurde dated 5th July 1499**
- George Douglas of Bunjedworth gets a mention

**A Respite at Dumfries dated 28th August 1504**
- George Douglas of Bonjedward, John Douglas his brother, Andrew Douglas in Tympandene and Robert Douglas his brother

**Inquest – Andrew Kerr of Ferniehirst on 7th November 1525**
- George Douglas of Bonjedward was present

**Copy Indenture of March 1529/30**
- A witness was George Douglas of Bonjedward

**Linlithgow in 1545 - Mustering of Troops**

**In the time of King Edward the sixthe (lived 1537 to 1553)**
- The Larde of Boniedworth

**Instrument of Possession in 1581**
- Instrument of possession given to Sir Thomas Ker of Pharnihirst in some lands in Ulston, wrongfully occupied by William Douglas of Bonjedward

**Land Proprietors in 1590**
- Included William Douglas of Bonjedburgh and Douglas of Tympenden

**Barons and Lairds in Roxburgh in 1597**
- Douglas of Tymperden

**Marriage contract of 1612**
- Grizel Rutherford married Adam Kirktoun of Stuartfield in April 1612. They had a charter on their marriage contract of the lands of Bonjedburgh on 10th October, 1616; which was confirmed under the Great Seal on 26th December, 1616

**‘Act in favour of Sir John Auchmuty of Gosford’ in 1633**
- William Douglas of Bonjedward. [Parliament of Scotland]
Legislation in 1643
- Mr George Douglas of Bonjedward. [Parliament of Scotland]

‘Act renewing the Commission for Plantation of Kirks and Valuation of Teinds on 24th March 1647’
- Mr George Douglas of Bonjedburgh. [Parliament of Scotland]

‘Act for raising a supply offered to their majesties on 7th June, 1690’
- The Laird of Bonjedward. [Parliament of Scotland]

At the time of an ‘Act for six months’s supply upon the Land Rent on 20th June, 1695’
- The Laird of Bonjedburgh and the Laird of Timpendean. [Parliament of Scotland]

‘Act Anent the supply of eighteen months’ cess upon the Land Rent in 1696’
- Shire of Roxburgh – Douglas of Bonjedward [Parliament of Scotland]

Some Owners, Occupiers and Visitors of Bonjedward since the early 1700’s (estates now likely carved up) -
- At the time of an ‘Act Anent Supply’ on 5th August 1704 – Douglas of Bonjedburgh and Douglas of Timpendean [Parliament of Scotland]
- It has been said that Thomas Rutherford/Rutherfurd acquired (part of) Bonjedward in about 1710 to 1715 – Susan/Susanna Riddell of Minto was his wife.
- The William Douglas was the 9th Laird of Timpendean in 1726 – he was noisy at the old Black Bull Inn at Jedburgh
- Thomas Calderwood of Poulton inherited considerable wealth from his father and in March 1735 married Margaret, the eldest daughter of Sir James Stewart of Goodtrees. The Calderwoods returned to London from the Low Countries in the Spring of 1757 and in the following year Mr Calderwood devolved upon his wife the entire management of his estates and family affairs. Mrs Calderwood with her husband’s consent sold his property of Bonjedward and applied the price to the purchase of Linhouse.
- Horse Farm Tax in 1797-98 – John Riddell of Timpandean, William Turbull of Bonjedward, Andrew Caverhill of Bonjedward and Thomas Caverhill of Bonjedward. (Archibald Jerdon mentioned below - of Bonjedward, was the son of Thomas Caverhill and Jane Jerdon and he gave his daughter who married the Rev Peter Young of Jedburgh, the farm of Bonjedward Townhead and built a suitable house for her as a residence – as ‘a marriage portion’. Susan died there in February 1780 aged 30 years).
- On 17th September, 1809 Mr James Tait married Susan the 5th daughter of Thomas Caverhill at or of Bonjedward
- Members of the Jedforest Club from 1810 onwards – Archibald Jerdon of Bonjedward and Major Forbes of Bonjedward
- In a Roll of Freeholders in 1811, Archibald Jerdon was listed at Bonjedward
- In 1828 Archibald Jerdon was 'of Bonjedward'.
- Timpendean and Bonjedward were both listed in the 1841, 1851 and 1861 Censuses
- In 1842 both Mr and Mrs Jerdon died, within a short time of each other
- In 1845 (more like 1843) the Marquis of Lothian bought Bonjedward and now possesses the whole estate (1899)
- In 1847 Major Forbes was a tenant of the Marquis of Lothian
- In 1849 Bonjedward House was the seat of the Hon Mr Talbot
- It appears that Bonjedward House was owned by Mr Pringle in 1856
- In a Survey of 1858 Mr Jerdon held the estate of Bonjedward
- On 19th February, 1867 the infant son of Vice-Admiral the Hon Charles Elliot died at Bonjedward
- In 1870 William Penney, the Hon Lord Kinloch and Judge of the Court of Session, Scotland was living in Bonjedward House
- In 1876 Miss Jane Hall was residing at Bonjedward Cottage
- In 1877 Bonjedward House, was the house of the Dowager Marchioness of Lothian
- In 1879 Bonjedward and Timpendean were listed in Burke's Landed Gentry of Great Britain and Ireland
- In 1882 the Marquis of Lothian owned Bonjedward House
- Richard Swan may have been the owner of Bonjedward House in 1979 when he married Jean Agnew
- Sometime soon after December 1999 Mrs Maxine Anne Day or Willson acquired Bonjedward House
- In about 2011 Bonjedward House estate was a large commercial holding with agricultural landholdings, associated buildings and other facilities. Bonjedburgh House is on an estate 2.2 miles from Jedburgh's centre
Bonjedward in 1800

In the Parishes of Jedburgh, and Eckford, and County of Roxburgh.

To be Let, and entered to at Whitunday, 1801.

I. THE FOLLOWING FARMS, part of the Estate of Bonjedward, viz.:

I. The NEUK FARM, as presently possessed by Andrew Caverhill, consisting of 45 acres or thereby.

II. The MILL FARM, possessed by Henry Christie, with Mill and Mill Lands, consisting of 33 acres.

These two Farms will be Let together, or separately, at tenants' option.

III. ANGRIUMBRIDGE FARM, consisting of 65 acres or thereby. Also the Public-house and Offices, as the same are possessed by Thomas Jordan.

IV. The OUTFIELD LAND of TOWNHEAD FARM of Bonjedward, consisting of 479 acres, wherein 125 have been under the plough. This is a very excellent sheep pasture, well sheltered, and capable of great improvement.

The great road from Edinburgh to Newcastle (by Jedburgh) runs through these Farms, from which last mentioned town they are only one mile distant.

V. The FARM of HAUGH-HEAD, in the parish of Eckford, possessed by Thomas Palmer.

VI. SANDILANDS, possessed by James Church.

VII. ECKFORD-KIRK-BANK, possessed by George Cairns.

All these Farms (with the exception of No. 4.) are in a good state of cultivation. Nos. 1, 2, and 7, are in the near neighbourhood of marle, within four miles of Kelso, and six of Jedburgh, both good market towns, and to which there is easy access by excellent roads.

Persons wishing to take these Farms, will transmit their offers in writing to James Elliot, writer to the signet, Queen Street, Edinburgh, or to Thomas Caverhill, at Bonjedward-house, near Jedburgh, and such offers as are not accepted of shall be cancelled. No offers will be received after the 1st February, 1800.

Mr Caverhill will shew Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4, and the tenants of 5, 6, and 7, will shew their respective farms.
Bonjedward in 1808

Caledonian Mercury 9/6/1808

Timpendale in October 1843

Bonjedward and Timpendale – Judgement by the Court of Lord Lyon

Regarding the question of Bonjedward and Timpendale the Court of Lord Lyon found in 1952 (as a result of a petition by Major Henry James Sholto Douglas the son of Henry Mitchell Sholto Douglas, in turn the son of Captain Henry Sholto Douglas - Timpendale) that “…the petitioner is entitled to matriculate arms on ancient user before 1672 and with a different congruent to descent through
Margaret Douglas of Bonjedward from William, Earl of Douglas, and Margaret, Countess of Angus... The petitioner is the great great grandson of Archibald Douglas of Timpendean, who was the eldest son of William Douglas of Timpendean, an estate the family possessed in uninterrupted descent from Andrew Douglas of Timpendean, third son of George Douglas of Bonjedward who, by charter, dated 1st July 1479, received from his father the Timpendean portion of the Bonjedward estate. I am not told when or how Archibald came to possess Bonjedward, or satisfied as to how the senior line of Bonjedward descending from the eldest laird of 1478 has proved to be extinct..."

Sally E Douglas – 15th May, 2013