DOUGLAS OF BONJEDWARD

Bonjedward spelling variations –

- Over a long period of time a wide variety of spellings have arisen for Bonjedward, with Bonjedworth 1321, 1324, 1397, 1547 and 1613, Bonjedburgh in 1549 and 1608 and Bonjedwart 1633, appearing to be the most interchangeable aliases which appear today.

- Other spellings included Bonjedburght 1324, Bonndiedde ford 1339, Boniedworth in 1342, 1493 and 1549, Bonjeddeworth 1356, Bunejedwrot 1397,1464-1465, Bond Jedworthe 1397, Bonegedworthe 1404, Bunegedworthe 1404, Bonjudworth between 1424 to 1513, Boun Jedvort 1458, Bune-Jedworth 1458-1459, Bonjedworthe 1458, Bonejudworth 1471, Bongedward 1475 and 1488, Bonegedworth 1476 and 1483, Bunjedworth 1482, 1492 and 1548-1549, Bon-Judworth 1485-1486, Bone-Jedworth, Byngedward 1500's, Bon
Jedworthe in 1502, Bone-Jedworthe and Bun Jedward in 1504, Bonjedworch 1508, lard abone Jedworth 1517, Bunjedward 1523, Boonjedward 1529, Bone-Jedburgh and Bone-Jedburgh in 1536, Buinjeduard in 1538, Bone Jedworthe, Boon Jedworth, Bongeworthe and Bune Gedworthe in 1543, Boundjedwourth and Bonjedwoorh in 1544, Boniedburgh, Bune Jedworth, Bonjedwourth and Bonejedбурcht in 1545, Bunjeduard in 1545 and 1548, Bouniedworth 1547, Bon Jedworth 1548, Bunjedworth in 1548-1549, Bonejedburgh 1551, Bonejedburgh 1553, Bonjedburgh 1562, Bunjedburgh 1564, Bonejedburgh 1565, 1572-1573 and 1578-1579, Bounegedworth 1567, Banejedward 1568, Bone Jedburght 1569, Bane Jedburgh 1575, Abundgedwoorde 1576, Bunjedbroche 1584-1585, Bonjedbruch in about 1618, Boon Jedburgh in 1628, 1748 and 1761, Bonjedbrugh 1642, Beansedbrugh 1699, Bonjedard in the late 1600’s, Bonjedbrucht 1642, Bonjedart 1676, Beanjeddart – used by Sir Walter Scott, Bungedwort and Boneydward, Bongedwoirth, Bonjedbrugh and so on.

- However, it seems that Bonjedworth was used (in 1321 and) in 1324 when the lands (husbandlands) of were granted by King Robert Bruce to Sir James of Douglas under the Emerald Charter. Bonjedburgh was also used frequently but Bonjedward is now the common term.

- In about 1356 Bondjeddeworth formed part of a grant given by King Edward 1 of England and Henry Percy and his heirs in exchange for Annandale. The town of Hassendean was also granted to Percy. (Percy had fought under the King in Wales and Scotland and was granted extensive lands in Scotland, which were later re-taken by the Scots).

Preamble

Both the George Douglas 1st Earl of Angus (Douglas line) and his sister Margaret Douglas were ‘natural’ children of William Douglas 1st Earl of Douglas and the Earl of Mar (title ‘inherited from his wife Margaret of Mar) and his mistress Lady Margaret Stewart, Countess of Angus (title inherited
from her father Sir John Stewart, and Mar from her husband Thomas of Mar. Margaret of Mar and Thomas of Mar were siblings.

George Douglas 1\textsuperscript{st} Earl of Angus (Douglas line) and his descendants commenced their line as the Earls of Angus. The Angus title was gifted to George by his mother Margaret Stewart.

While the Bonjedward line of Margaret Douglas, George’s sister, commenced with Margaret Douglas and her husband Thomas Johnson/Johnston and their son John Douglas being gifted with the (unentailed) lands of the Mains of Bonjedward by Isabel/Isabella Douglas, Countess of Mar and Garioch and the half-sister of George and Margaret Douglas. Margaret Douglas and Thomas Johnson/Johnston/Johnstone and their son John took the surname of Douglas to inherit these lands. The father of Thomas was a John de Johnson/Johnston/Johnstone.

Johnstone (the name is spelt in a few ways) –

"This interesting name is of Scottish locational origin from the lands thus called in Annandale, Dumfriesshire. The founder of the family, bearing the forename, Jonis, is believed to have followed his overlords from Yorkshire circa 1174 and was granted the lands to which he gave his name. The second element is the medieval English 'tone' or 'toun', from the Old English pre 7th Century 'tun', a settlement, hence, 'Jonistune', later 'Johnston' or 'Johnstone'. His son, Gilbert, was the first to adopt the territorial surname, (see below). Johan de Jonestone, a knight of Dunfrys, rendered homage to John Balliol in 1296. In some cases the name is locational from the city of Perth, formerly recorded as (St.) Johnstoun, or from the lands of Jonystoun, an estate in the parish of Humbie, East Lothian..." \url{http://www.surnamedb.com/Surname/Johnstone}

Thomas Johnson/Johnston/Johnstone could be linked to the family of Annandale –

- Sir John De Johnstone, a man of great note. In was alive in the reign of King Robert II. He was Warden of the West Marches in 1371, and fought valiantly against the English Borderers in 1378. He died in 1383, and was succeede by his son... (Perhaps he was the father of Thomas of Johnson/Johnston/e c1366?)
• Sir John Johnstone, of Johnstone. He was nominated by the Earl of Douglas the chief Warden of the marches, as one of the sureties for keeping a truce with the English in 1398. He died in 1420 and was succeeded by his son. (Perhaps he was the brother of Thomas of Johnson/Johnston/e c1366?).

• The father of Thomas of Johnson/Johnston/e was John of Johnstone - I think that Thomas (his father was John as was his son) was the son of one of the Johns here - and note the connection with the Earl of Douglas

There are detailed histories of the Johnstones on the web at sites such as Archive Org and Electric Scotland. In the last reference it is stated that ‘it is believed that the grandfather of Thomas Johnson/Johnston/e was a Johnstoun of Annandale’.

The Mains of Bonjedward

The Mains of Bonjedward had been in the ownership of George Douglas 1st Earl of Angus who died in 1403. Before that they were owned by his father William Douglas, 1st Earl of Douglas and Mar.

Occasionally historians and researchers have incorrectly referred to an Earl of Angus (Douglas line) or a descendant of an Earl of Angus (Douglas line) as being of Bonjedward.

The lands of Bonjedward and Jedforest had originally been gifted by King Robert Bruce as part of the lands gifted to Sir James Douglas, ‘the good’ or ‘the black’ in about 1324 as part of the Douglas Emerald Charter.

Another William Douglas was known as the ‘Knight of Liddesdale’ and ‘Flower of Chivalry’. He was a distant cousin and uncle of William Douglas, 1st Earl of Douglas and Mar and was also his godfather.

In 1354 William Douglas 1st Earl inherited the substantial estates of his father Archibald Douglas, Regent of Scotland and of the ‘Knight of Liddesdale’ who he had slain in the Ettrick Forest. The Mains of Bonjedward were part of that inheritance.
Bonjedward

The basic information on Bonjedward and the Lairds or Lords in this paper are from the Heraldry of the Douglases by G Harvey Johnston –

1st Margaret (Marguerite) Douglas c1376. Margaret and her spouse Thomas Johnson/Johnston c1366 took the name of Douglas to inherit.

It was surmised by Lord Lyon in 1952 that the intention of Margaret Douglas was also to keep the Douglas connection with her father William Douglas 1st Earl of Douglas and Mar and to stay connected to her full brother George Douglas 1st Earl of Angus (Douglas line), as a lesser Angus.

Margaret Douglas received the Mains of Bonjedward from her half-sister Lady Isabella, the Countess of Mar and Garioch. These lands were said to be the unentailed lands of Bonjedward. (Charter of 1404 signed at Kildrummy).

It is the unentailed lands of Bonjedward which are of specific interest in this exercise. I understand that unentailed means in terms of a landed estate, that descent is not predetermined before someone's death. There is no fixed inheritance. There are no restrictions on who can inherit the landed estate.

“Surviving documentation from the years following Isabella’s receipt of Mar upon the death of her mother c.1391 depicts a clear attempt to consolidate her authority in the earldom, bartering her inherited Douglas lands to piece Mar back together and divert Angus and Douglas attention away from her northern estates. According to a charter by James of Sandilands, Lord of Caldor to George Douglas earl of Angus between April and May 1397, Isabella’s territorial gains in the wake of her brother’s death (if it is James then he died in 1388) had been substantial. Sandilands’ charter, a resignation of any future claims to Isabella’s unentailed estates should she die without an heir, lists them thus: the barony of Cavers, the sheriffship of Roxburgh with custody of the castle, and all fees pertaining to the said office, with the pertinents; the whole lordship of the town, castle and forest of Jedworth (now Jedburgh), with the lands of Bonjedward… Isabella’s
grant of her demesne lands of Bonjedward to Thomas Johnson and his wife (Isabella’s ‘sister’) Margaret in 1404 could suggest that Isabella was slowly regaining control of her chancery…” [Decline and Fall – the earls and the earldom of Mar – c1281 to 1513. Kay S Jack – PhD Thesis – University of Stirling – December, 2016].

The child of Margaret Douglas and Thomas Johnson/Johnston was John Douglas of Bonjedward c1392. John Douglas also took the name of Douglas and he was mentioned in the Grant of 1404.

2\textsuperscript{nd} John Douglas c1392. The subject of a Retour in July 1439 (it meant that he had died). He died 15 June 1438.

James Douglas the 3\textsuperscript{rd} Earl of Angus as Lord of the Jedburgh Forest ‘presided at an Inquest held at Eicberrnuderake in the Forest on 2\textsuperscript{nd} July, 1439 for the Retour of George Douglas of Bomjedworth as heir to his father John Douglas…’ (The Douglas Book, Angus Memoirs)

John’s child was George Douglas c1419.

3\textsuperscript{rd} George Douglas c1419. The subject of a Retour in 1452 (it meant that he had died). He died in about 1452.

In 1437 (sic 1438) – “James Douglas (Angus) must have been about eleven years old when he succeeded his father in the earldom…The young Earl of Angus presiding as Lord of Jedburgh Forest in an inquest held at “Richermuderake” within that forest for the retour of “Jeorgius” Douglas as heir to his father of Bonjedward, imposed upon the said George a vassal’s fee of one silver penny, to be paid annually, si petatur, on St John’s day (the anniversary of Bannockburn) at the Earl’s Tower of Lintalee…and the Black and the Red were on the eve of mortal feud…”

However, they are both Red.

George’s children were George Douglas c1441, William c1445 and John c1450.

4\textsuperscript{th} George Douglas c1441 Bonjedward. He died after 1515.
A ‘George Douglase de Bonejudworth’ was around between 1424 and 1513. [Register of the Great Seal of Scotland].

A ‘George Douglas of Bongedward’ was mentioned in 1488. [Great Britain. Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts – 1894].

George was Retoured to his father George in 1452.

Renunciation by George Dowglas of Bonjedworthe in favour of the abbot and convent of the monastery of Jedworth of all right or claim to 6 acres of arable land lying near the town of Jedworth [in the Fissaidd] on the west side thereof Date 9 Nov., 1458. (National Archives of Scotland).

Notarially executed notification (in Scots) by William, Lord Abirnethi in Rothimay, and William, Lord Borthwic, justices on south half of Forth...narrating compearance before them on justice ayre held at Jedwort of William Douglas of Drumlangrig, by his forespeaker, Mr David Guthre of Kincaldron, who presented a rolfment of court of last justice ayre anent process on brieve of mortancestry purchased by said William in respect of lands called Kyrktonemanys, with mill of same, and lands of the Flekkis, in barony of Hawic, sheriffdom of Roxburgh, against Alexander Gledstanys, and requested that brieve should now proceed to the recognition of an assize; also compearance of said Alexander and his forespeaker, Sir Thomas Cranstone of that ilk, who alleged that brieve ought not so to proceed, as Alexander had alleged the king to be his warrant, who being under age could not be convened to make warrandice, and offered to find a `borgh' in the sheriff's hand; whereupon the justices had both parties removed from the court, took advice with the barons and freeholders, and, on return of the parties, decreed that the proferred `borowis' should not be received and that the brieve should proceed to recognition of an assize, which was chosen as follows: Sir Walter Scot of Kirkurd, knight., Andrew Ker of Altonburne, James Ruthirforde of that ilk, Sir Robert Colvil of Oxinnname, knight., Andrew Ker, younger, James Tuedy of Drummelior, Dungal Makdowel of Malkerston, Walter Tuedy, Andrew Ormstone of that ilk, Quintine Riddale of that ilk, Robert Ruthirdorde of Chatto, George Douglas of Buniedwort, Thom Ker, George Tayt of the Pren, Archibald Douglas, Walter Scot, HECTOR LAUEDYR, Wil Pringil, Robin Scot of the Haynig, John Ruthirforde of Hundwellee, Adam Scot, Archibald Neuton of that ilk, John Turnbule of Ernhuyth, George Abirnethi and Thomas Grymislaw, which assize gave deliverance in writing by their forespeaker,
Andrew Ker, that deceased Sir William Douglas of Drumlengrig, grandfather of Sir William Douglas of Drumlengrig, died seised of said lands, that said William is his lawful and nearest heir, that said Alexander had wrongfully held said lands and that said William ought to have sasine of same; whereupon doom was given accordingly by the mouth of John Stodart, suitor of Halden, and justices gave said William sasine "be state ryal" and commanded the sheriff or his mair of fee to pass to the "chemys" of said lands and there give him corporeal sasine of said lands. Witnesses: Archibald Douglas, sheriff of Roxburgh, David Scot of Whitchester, David Pringil of Smalehame, Thomas Riklyntone of that ilk, William Hacate of Belsyis, clerk of justiciary, Alexander Scot, notary, William Sheuil. Notary: Alexander Foulis, clerk, St Andrews diocese. [On tag, seal of office of justiciary south of Forth, entire]. 22 Jan 1464/1465. (National Archives of Scotland).

George Douglas was one of the witnesses to a Notarial Instrument in the monastery of Dryburgh in June 1468. (The Manuscripts of the Duke of Athole, K.T., and of the Earl of Home (1891) - no 114). Notarial Instrument setting forth that Sir Alexander Home of that Ilk, knight, Alexander Home his grandson and apparent heir, James Rutherford of that Ilk, Andrew Ker and Walter Ker his son, and Thomas Home of Tenningham have agreed among themselves as to the division of the undernamed lands as follows; that Sir Alexander and Alexander Home shall have the lands of Crailing with mains and mill; James Rutherford shall have-the lands of F ulogy (?) Cuniardon and 20 merks of the lands of Swynside; Andrew Ker and his son shall have Samieston, Ranaldston, Hounam, Cuthbershope and five nobles in Berehope; and Thomas Home shall have Caphope-town with mains and mill and three husband-lands in Swynside which Patrick Douglas and William Douglas presently occupy in farm, and Caylschelfield. Done in the monastery of Dryburgh on 21 June 1468, in presence of Walter Abbot of Dryburgh, George Home of Blook, Alexander Cockburn of Langton, Adam Nisbet, of that ilk, Andrew Ormiston of that ilk, David Dunbar, David Purves, Robert Lauder of Whitslade, George Cranston, James Haig of Bemerside, John Trotter, Archibald Manderston, Thomas Edington of that ilk, Adam Purves, John Anyasley of D olphinston, George Douglas of Bonjedworth, Messrs. Philip Yle and James Newton rector of Bedrule, George Dauison, William Pringle, Robert Rutherford of Chatto, Robert Hall, Adam Hardy and Alexander Hatley. [Another copy of this instrument states that Andrew and Walter Ker were procurators for and acting in name of Henry Wardlaw of Torry].
In 1471, 1486 and 1489 George Douglas was mentioned in the Great Seal Register.

In 1475 -1476 George was mentioned in the Exchequer Rolls along with his brother William.

In July, 1476 George Douglas of Bonjedward is mentioned in the ‘Judicial proceedings: acts of the lords auditors of causes and complaints’. (Parliament of Scotland).


In 1476 and 1479 George Douglas was the Laird of Bonjedworth.

Tack by Archibald, earl of Angus, to David Scott, son and apparent heir of David Scott of Branxhame, of 18 husbandlands in lordship of Selkirk, sheriffdom of the same, with East Mill and West Mains of Selkirk, and lands of Philiphalch, with yearly annual rent owed to granter from the East Mains of that ilk, with capons of the Caponlands, for 9 years following date of outquitting said lands, annual rents and mill, by granter or his heirs after tenor of reversion made to him by said David Scott of Branxhame, to whom he had wadset the same. Witnesses: dean Robert Turnbull, abbot of Jedworth, George of Douglas of Bune Jedworth, Mr James Newtoun, dean of Tevadale, James Riddale of that ilk, William of Kirktoun, William Dowglas, Patrick Moscrop, Patrick Walch, Laurence Pile and Mr Patrick Atkinsoun, notary. Seal damaged. June 9, 1478. (A tack was a lease or tenancy).

George was mentioned in the Buccleuch papers of 1482, 1492 and 1508.

1508. ‘Georgium Douglas de Bonjedworch’ was present at the ‘Retour of Adam Hebborne, Earl of Bothwell, as heir to his father Patrick Earl of Bothwell, in the lordship of Liddesdale, the Hermitage etc – 7 November, 1508’. [Details in Latin]. {From the Scotts of Buccleuch – The Buccleuch Muniments}. (Muniments are title deeds or other documents proving a person’s title to land).
In October, 1491 George Douglas of Bonjedworth was listed along with others to a ‘Procuratory of resignation by Thomas Dikisoun of Orimestoun….’ (National Archives of Scotland).


In 1493 George Douglas was mentioned in the Privy Council Register.

In 1493, George Douglas of Bonjedworth was appointed as oversman in a dispute between Douglas McDowell of Makerston and Nicholas Ormiston of Muirdean. [Ormiston of Teviotdale genealogy].


In Jedwurthe 1502 – “…Adam Douglas, and Robert, Henry, Symone and George D, in Swynside, his brothers]. Meaning that Adam, Robert, Henry Symone and George Douglas were brothers.

George Douglas, the Laird of Bonjedward may seem to be too old to be involved in such (violent) activity in 1502, but it seems that he was involved with the next generation even in 1504.

Thomas Rutherfurd was slaughtered in Jedburgh Abbey in about 1504. In this exploit George Douglas the Laird of Bonjedward was accompanied by his brother John and by a younger generation – his son Andrew Douglas the Laird of Timpendean and another son Robert. (Robert was probably the father of the Rev John Douglas c1494 to 1500 who was the Archbishop and Chancellor of the University of St Andrews from 1572 to 1574. He was one of the six Johns who wrote the Scots Confession of 1560).

There were others as well, involved in the slaughter of Thomas Rutherford.


Master Stevin Douglas was likely to have been the young son of Andro (Andrew) Douglas of Timpendean.

Slaughter of Thomas Rutherford by George Douglas of Bonjedburgh and Andrew Douglas of Timpendean and others (c1504) - Remission by King James the 4th to John Forman of Dalvane, Baldred Blacater, Knights, John Tweedy of Drumelzear, Adam Stewart, Robert Blacater, son and appareant heir of Andrew Blacater of that ilk, Adam Blacater, Charles Blacater, John Heryoth, Adam Turnbull of Phillophauch, William Turnbull, his son and apparent heir, George Douglas of Bonjedburgh, John Douglas, his brother, Andrew Douglas in Tympanedene (Timpendean), Robert Douglas, his brother, and others for the slaughter of the late Thomas Rutherfurd within the Abby of Jedworth. Dated at Edinburgh 28 February 1506.
On 11 October, 1503 George Douglas of Bonjedworth was among those present at the dedication of the altar to St Ninian at Jedburgh Abbey.

George Douglas appeared as a witness in 1503-1504. (Douglas Book – Sir William Fraser – Edinburgh 1885)

George Douglas was the Sheriff of Roxburgh in 1508 -1509.

In 1509 George was a witness to a retour of James Douglas as heir to his father William Douglas of Cavers.

I have no information of the involvement or otherwise of the Lairds of Bonjedward and/or Timpendean at Flodden in 1513. It is said that the ‘Bonjedward papers’ have not survived. Who knows, papers by other families may be enlightening?

This George Douglas was also involved in the Skirmish at Sclaterford (Bridge) in 1513. The skirmish was with a large army from England. George Douglas was one of the leaders for the Scots army. The Sclaterford Bridge was at Fodderlee Burn in the Rule Valley near Jedburgh.

George Douglas was the Sheriff of Roxburgh in 1514.

When Queen Margaret (Margaret Tudor who had married the 6th Earl of Angus, Archibald Douglas) fled Scotland for England in about 1515 she had left the keepership of (her) Newark Castle in the Ettrick Forest to the Laird of Bonjedburgh (Bonjedward) George Douglas.

George’s children were James Douglas c1463, William c1467 (Inherited Bonjedward), Andrew (Andro) c1468 (Inherited Timpendean), Robert c1469, likely David c1470, likely Johne c1472 and likely Hugh c1474.


‘A title dated 4th February 1515 was granted to James Lawson who “desired to labour and manure the lands of Dragarn” from William, Lord of
Reidhall. In 1517 Dreghorn was leased to Hugo Douglas under a reversionary right, which was made over to Alexander Cunynghame in 1531, later assigned to James Foulis of Colinton in 1536. In 1545 the Colinton Barony was settled on Henry, son of James Foulis who eventually took up residence at Dreghorn after a Decree of 1554 against John Douglas, son of Hugo “for removing from the mains and fortalice of Dreghorn”. After a money payment Henry Foulis eventually obtained contracts from the Douglas heirs discharging all interest in the lands of Dreghorn in 1558”. [Dreghorn Mains – Canmore].

I have assumed that there was a Hugh (Hugonis), a brother to William Douglas 5th Bonjedward who was at Dreghorn, Redhall. There was a Hugh Douglas c1499 who was a brother to George Douglas 6th Bonjedward but I consider that he was too young to be the Hugh (Hugonis) at Dreghorn.

5th William Douglas c1467. William Douglas probably died around 1543.

William inherited Bonjedward. It was to go to his brother James who must have died.

In July, 1479 George Douglas, 4th of Bonjedward, with the agreement of his older son, James, had made Timpendean over to Andrew, his younger son.

Timpendean Tower was originally part of the estate of the Douglas Lairds of Bonjedward.

In the period 1522 to 1527 William Douglas was ‘Laird of Bonjedworth’. [State Papers – King Henry the Eighth].

In 1537 “Andrew and John Hall were denounced as rebels for not underlying the law of art? and of the inbringing of certain Englishmen to the place of William Douglas (of Bonjedward) and of Cunzeartoune, and Percy Hall and others found caution to answer for the burning of Cunzeartoune. Although it is in the parish of Oxnam, Cunzeartoune seems latterly to have been in the barony of Hounam...” [History of the Berwickshire Naturalists’ Club, Volume 11].

This is relevant to the paragraph above –

In 1510 Robert Hall a notorious villain from Heavyside appeared in the Jedburgh Court accused of a long list of crimes. One such crime was
stealing a cow and 11 hogs from the Laird of Bon-Jedward. In 1537 sheep were stolen from William Douglas. “Andrew Hall, called ‘Fat Cow’ and William Hall ‘Wanton Pintle’ were denounced rebels for stealing sheep from William Douglas of Bon Jedward and his neighbours…” They also stole corn from Douglasses’ place at Cunzierton. Another Hall rebel was John Hall and he was called ‘Wide Hose’ from ‘the amplitude of his breeches’. It appears that the raid where the sheep were stolen ‘ended in serious reprisals’ for all these men ‘were slain later by the Douglasses’.

It also appears that in 1537 Andrew and John Hall stole from William’s farm at Cunzierton rather than at Bonjedward. If there were reprisals by the Douglasses it seems that it was for theft by the Halls and for the Halls leading others to the home of William Douglas at Cunzierton which resulted in its razing and wanton destruction. Plus, as a reprisal for the theft of cattle and oxen which William Douglas claimed as 34 in number.

In May,1536, John Molle of that Ilk, William Douglas of Bonne-Jedburgh (Bonjedward), Thomas MacDougall of Maccaristoune (Makerstoun) found caution to the extent of 1000 merks, to underlye the law at the next justicaire of Jedburgh for oppression and hamesucken (assaulting a person in their own home) done to the dean of Murray.

William Douglas was cautioned at the Criminal Trial in May,1536 and again in 1537.

In the 1531-1538 Accounts of Lord High Treasurer of Scotland, William Douglas of Bone-Jedburgh gets a mention.

From ‘The Earls of Angus…Vol II – Chapter VIII – Angus in Exile by Michael Garhart Kelley – University of Edinburgh – 1973 – “…His son, William (the son of George) does not emerge from obscurity until March,1536-1537 when he was summoned to compear (appear) before the king. In 1538 the laird of Bonjedburgh received a complete remission for ‘certain crimes’ upon payment of 500 pounds. What these crimes where is unknown but he enjoyed the king’s favour by July,1540 when he was granted the lands of Wanles-Terras alias Makbrancheis-landis in the burgh of Jedburgh which he held from the former earl of Angus. In the following month the king granted to William Douglas his paternal estates of Bonjedburgh and Tympenden, which his father George Douglas had held in chief from the Earl of Angus. As a mark of special favour the king erected
these lands into the free barony of Bonjedburgh. The Laird of Bonjedburgh continued to enjoy James’s favour until the end of the reign as in September, 1542 he received royal confirmation of the gift which the abbot of Jedburgh had made to him a tack of the lands of Toftylands and Paddobuyll for nineteen years…” (The Douglas family of Bonjedburgh still held these lands in 1682).

In 1540 William Dowglas, 5th of Bonjedward, was granted a charter from James V which included “… the manorial lands of Bonjedward with the tower and woodland thereof, the estate and fields of B[onjedward], 21 agricultural fields and four adjacent fields and appurtenances, with corn and fulling mills, the lands of Timpendean, with tenants etc., in the regality and demesne of Jedforest…” [Border Archaeology]. ‘Fulling’ was a step in the process of woolen clothmaking.

In 1540 this king (James V) “for good service’, granted to William Douglas of Bonjedburgh, his heirs and assigns, the lands of Bonjedburgh with the tower and the grove, and the Lands of ‘Tynpendale; incorporating them in the free barony of ‘Bonjedburgh’, the holders rendering yearly a red rose ‘in the name of blanchferm’…” [The Annals of a Border Club (the Jedforest): and biographical notices of the families connected therewith – George Tancred – Jedburgh, T S Small – 1899]. Blanchferm being a small or nominal rent, and in this case a red rose.

“In 1540 after Angus’s forfeiture, barony was granted to Douglas of Bonjedburgh…” [The Middle March of the Scottish Borders – 1573 to 1625, Vol. II. Presumably by Anna Groundwater].

There is said to be no trace of William’s 1540 home at Cunzierston in the Cheviot Hills – “There is now no trace of William Douglas of Bonjedward’s house at Cunzeirton in the Cheviot Hills, but of its razing and the theft of his cattle in 1540 (cited in Armstrong, 1883, LI, App. XXXIV) we have the following record: ‘Thai come apon the XXI day of November last bypast, to his house of Cunzertoun, with ledderis, spadis, schobs, gavelockis and axis, cruellie assegit, brak and undirmyndit the said place, to have wynyn the samyn, and tuik his cornis, and caist to the yettis, and brynt thairin VIIJ ky and oxin, and spulyeit and tuik away with thaime XXVJ ky and oxin, an horss…’” (Zeune 1992)
“Zeune mistakenly ascribes Cunzeirton to Dumfriesshire with the suffix ‘DF’ each time it is mentioned, however, the grid reference provided in the index (NT 741 180) is correct and the house would have been up in the Cheviots with a direct route from Douglas’s seat in Bonjedward (near Jedburgh) along Dere Street.

Zeune (1992) supposes that Cunzeirton must have been a pele-house or bastle with livestock kept in the ground floor otherwise eight cattle and oxen ‘therein’ would not have been lost. In general, however, the livestock may have been kept on the property or ‘place’ rather than in the house itself. Given that this record is an official complaint lodged by Douglas against English reivers, it may have been exaggerated in the hope of compensation for 34 animals rather than the 26 that may be recovered…” [The Laird’s Houses of Scotland …1560-1770. PhD by Research – Sabina R Strachan – University of Edinburgh 2008].

Cunzierton Hill in the Cheviot Hills – https://www.themountainguide.co.uk/scotland/cunzierton-hill.htm

At Canmore - https://canmore.org.uk/site/58009/cunzierton-hill

Cunzierton Hill - https://osmaps.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/55.45399,-2.41040,15

In about 1541 William Douglas contributed to the reparation of Jedburgh Abbey (such as it was). The Abbot and the Abbey responded by giving him feu-farms in land in Toftylaws and Padohugh in Houstoun (Ulston). It was said that he already had this land for 19 years. (Presumably meaning that he had already farmed the land, with perhaps paying tenure to the Abbey).

Jedburgh Abbey had been burnt by the Earl of Warwick of England in 1464. It remained untouched as a target by the English until September,1523. At that time if was pillaged and burnt by the Earl of Surrey with a force of 6,000 fighting men. The burgers put up a brave resistance with the number of 1,500 to 2,000 men, but the Earl of Surrey won out.

Connected to this last event it appears that there was a charter granted to John, Abbot of Jedburgh and the Convent in December,1541 and afterwards confirmed by the Great Seal;’that William Douglas of Bonjedward had contributed towards the restoration of the monastery after
the destruction and in return the Abbot and the Convent gave him in fue-
farm lands in Toftylaws and Padohugh in Houstoun (Ulston) which Douglas
held for nineteen years'. [Jedburgh Abbey – J Watson 1998].

William Douglas was mentioned in the Great Seal Register in 1540-1542 as
a son of George Douglas.

There were many attacks on Jedburgh by the English over the years –
1296, 1312, 1320, 1409, 1410, 1523, 1544, 1545, 1547 and in 1548. Before
the destruction in 1523 by the Earl of Surrey, he wrote “There was two
times more houses therein than in Berwick, and well builded, with many
honest and fair therein, sufficient to have lodged a thousand horsemen
therein”. [Undiscovered Scotland].

After this period there are sheriffs and military activities involving a William
Douglas, Laird of Bonjedward and I have attributed those dates and
activities to the next William as this one was a bit too old for such activities!

William’s children were George Douglas c1488, Jane Douglas c1492
(Married Sir Archibald Rutherford – he was a Rev. Archibald and his wife
had three sons William, John and Thomas Rutherford), John c1494,
William c1496 and Hugh c1499.

About John and Thomas Rutherford –
Re: John Rutherford (c1524 to Dec 1577 – son of a Canon of Jedburgh)
and the household of Michel de Montaigne… ”Another Scots tutor …John
Rutherford (Latinised Rhetorfortis), later regent in St Mary’s college and
finally provost of St Salvator’s college in the University of St Andrews…Son
of a canon of an Augustinian house at Jedburgh and a Douglas of
Bonjedward, he must have first met Montaigne when both were students in
Bordeaux under Nicolas de Grouchy at the College de Guyenne, before
Grouchy’s departure to the new college of arts founded by John 3 at
Coimbra in Portugal, to which in 1547 Rutherford accompanied him. Later,
in 1555, Rutherford is found in the chateau at Montaigne as tutor to his
brother, Thomas, aged 21, a year younger then Michel; we do not know
Rutherford’s date of birth, but it seems likely that he was somewhat older
than either. The Scots tutor’s philosophical attitudes met with the approval
of Pierre de Montaigne, their father, and may also be important…in the
formation of Montaigne’s complex intellectual outlook…”
http://www.jstor.org/pss/20676006
The Rev John Rutherford married Christian Forsyth and they had a son John Rutherford. This son John married Janet Inglis daughter of David Inglis of Ardit and they had David Rutherford; and the Rev John Rutherford. This last John Rutherford married Barbara Sandilands and they had John Rutherford; who married Isobel or Margaret Auchmouttie/Auchmutie of Drumdeldie; William Rutherford of Wrightsland and Quarryholes who married Gelis Stewart daughter of James Stewart the 6th Lord of Traquhair; and Christian, Janet and Elizabeth Rutherford.

Rutherford – Ministers in this immediate family – The Rev John Rutherford – of the University of St Andrews and later Minister of Cults, who married Christian Forsyth. Their son the Rev John Rutherford – of the University of St Andrews, who married Janet Inglis. In turn their son the Rev John Rutherford – Minister of Monifieth Parish Church from 1626 to 1632, who married Barbara Sandilands. In turn their son the Rev John Rutherford – Minister of Kirkdean, who married Isobel or Margaret Auchmouttie/Auchmutie of Drumdeldie. (Scotland: Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticanae).

6th George Douglas c1488. George had died by February, 1533 according to a remark below. But I am working on a premise that he died after 1547.

George Douglas of Bonjedburgh was described in May, 1517 as ‘lard abone Jedworth’ and ‘Bonjedward’.

Inquest: Andrew Kerr of Ferniehirst, John Cranstoun of that ilk, George Rutherford of Hundalee, David Pringle of Smailholm, George Douglas of Bonjedward, William Kirkton of Stewartfield, William Kerr, George Pringle, James Pringle, George Turnbull, Archibald Spottiswood, William Ainslie, Patrick Donaldson, Thomas Rutherford and John Wallace. 6 seals, one detached, including seals of George Rutherford… Andrew Kerr of Ferniehirst… George Douglas of Bonjedward. Date 7 Nov 1525. (National Archives of Scotland).

George Douglas was at a Retour of Inquest in 1523 on the death of John Hume at Flodden in 1513.

1523 – ‘Retour of Inquest made in the presence of James Douglas of Cavers, sheriff of Roxburgh, by the following jurors Andrew Ker of
Farnyhirst, George Douglas of Bunjedward, James Murray of Fawlayhill, George Rutherford, son and apparent heir of John Rutherford of Hundolee, George Turnbull of Bedrule, William Halden of that Ilk, William Ker, William Kyrktoun, Lanslet Ker, George Turnbull of Bedrule, Thomas Leirmonth, James Douglas, Richard Alanson, George Fawlay of Wellis, and Robert Richardson, who declared on oath that the late John Hume, uncle of John Hume bearer of the present writ, died at the king’s peace, possessed of the lands of Syndlaws in the sheriffdom of Roxburgh; that John Hume is the lawful and nearest heir of his late uncle, and is of lawful age by a royal dispensation in virtue of a royal act passed at Twizelhauch in Northumberland, before the conflict of Flodden, because the late John Hume died fighting under the king’s banner at Flodden against the English; that the lands of Syndlaws are valued at 10l. Scots and in time of peace, and are held of the king for ward and relief; and that they have been in the hands of the Crown since the death of John Hume at Flodden on 9th September 1513. Dated at the Courthouse of Jedburgh, 28th July 1523.’

In 1529 ‘George Douglas of Bonjedward’ was a witness to a Bond of Alliance or Feud Staunching between the Scotts and Kers.

Indenture between Walter Ker of Cessford, Andrew Ker of Ferniehurst and other Kers, on the one side, and Walter Scot of Branxholm, knight, and other Scots, on the other side - Whereby, for the staunching of discord between them, the said Walter Scot undertakes to go or to cause to go to the four head pilgrimages of Scotland, - to wit, Scone, Dundee, Paislaw and Melrose, - and say a mass for the soul of the late Andrew Ker of Cessford and those who were slain with him at the field of Melrose, and shall cause a priest say a mass daily for their souls for five years: and Mark Ker of Dolphinston and Andrew Ker of Graden shall do likewise for the souls of the late James Scot of Eskirk and other Scots slain with him at the above field of Melrose: and the said Walter Scot shall marry his son and heir upon one of the sisters of the said Walter Ker: and they agree to accept the decreet of 6 chosen arbitrators anent all other matters in debate: and they oblige themselves in a bond of mutual support. Ancrum. Witnesses, Mr. George Durie, Abbot of Melrose, George Douglas of Bonjedward and others. Date 16 March 1529-1530. (National Archives of Scotland).

A Seal dated 16th May,1530 was used by George Douglas of Bonjedburgh.
In 1530 George Douglas of Bone-Jedworth was one of the Barons and Lairds of Roxburghshire and Berwickshire that this applies to – May 18, “The following persons surety to enter, when required, before the Justice, to underly the law for all crimes imputed to them: And for which they submitted themselves to the King’s Will: And also, for not doing their utmost diligence to fulfil their Bond’s etc…” (Records of the Supreme Court).

It is said that the levy of a large army under the command of the King (James the King of the Scots) was for the sole purpose of suppressing a handful of Border thieves. But the Borders were actually so ‘lawless’ and the Chiefs so ‘refractory and turbulent’ that nothing short of the strongest coercive measures could restore a better state of society. Those who did not ‘come forward’ were the most severely punished.

1537 – 1553. The Larde of Boniedworth was mentioned in the time of ‘King Edwarde the fixthe’. [Holinshe Project – Holinshe’s Chronicles of England, Scotland and Ireland - 1808]. Which Laird is this?

George Douglas of Bonjedward is mentioned in Calendar of the State Papers relating to Scotland and Mary, Queen of Scots, 1547-1605.

Register of the Council 1553. ‘Item, to mak wardane deputis of cuntremen, anser to this the Lardis of Hundoley and Bonejedburgh’.

From ‘The Earls of Angus…Vol II – Chapter VIII – Angus in Exile by Michael Garhart Kelley – University of Edinburgh – 1973 – “…George Douglas of Bonjedburgh, unlike his distant kinsman of Cavers, appears to have had personal contact and enjoyed the favour of his former superior, Angus. Before February 1518-1519, he had been given a tack of lands of Farnis in Berwickshire by the earl of Angus but, as those lands belonged to the priory of Coldingham, Bonjedburgh was involved in a long and unsuccessful contest with Mr Patrick Blackadder of Tulliallan. Bonjedburgh appears to have had no involvement with Angus in the latter’s rebellion and was dead before February, 1532-1533…”

George’s children were Isobelle Douglas c1512 (Married John Scott c1505 of Roberton, Roxburghshire), William (Willie) c1513, Hugh c1515, Hobbie (Robert) c1517 and John c1519 (John was probably the father of Saint
George Douglas c1541 Edinburgh. He was a Martyr arrested in York and hanged there in 1587).

Degree of Martyrdom of George Douglas the Priest –
Venerated – 10 November, 1986 by Pope John Paul II
Beatified – 22 November 1987 by Pope John Paul II
This was probably another son of John c1519 and brother of George Douglas – Archibald Douglas.

Archibald Douglas also seems to have been a Priest too.

Archibald Douglas was the son of John Douglas, Burgess in Edinburgh. He was pres. (Preservation of James VI?) by James VI on 30 July, 1574, when Linton and Newlands were under his care. He was removed to West Linton before July, 1576, but returned in about 1585. He was refused Collation to Skirling on 20 June, 1592. Archibald Douglas died by 19 April, 1616.

It appears that Archibald was at Kirkurd in 1574 – ie in Linton and Newlands. He was a student at St Andrews University from 1571 to 1572.

John Douglas c1519 was possibly a Brewer and Burgess in Edinburgh in 1556 and attended a mass in Paris in 1574 – the question has been raised - was it his son George’s ordination? It seems so.

There is a connection of the father of George and Archibald Douglas ie John Douglas c1519 as having been a servant of the William Douglas Laird of Whittingham in Edinburgh. This John Douglas was ‘arrainged’ before the Edinburgh Kirk Session in 1574 for attending mass while in France. It seems that it was at his son’s ordination.

In January 1540 - Hobbe (Robert) Douglas of Bunjedward was mentioned as one of 'Scottesmen rebels resete within England'.

It was said that in 1540 Hobb Douglas was hiding in England with some other riders from West Teviotdale.

In January, 1540 Hobbe Douglas (under the heading of Scotch and English Rebels) – Coldstream, 22 Jan. ‘delivered Hobbe Douglas (of Bunjedward) and John Broun, delivered by Sir Will Eure, warden of the East Marches of England’. [British History online]. Did Hobbe survive after this?
Willie c1513 and Hugh c1515 were said to have matriculated. [Lairds and Gentlemen: A study of the landed families of the Eastern Anglo-Scottish Borders c1540 -1603. PhD – Maureen M Meikle – University of Edinburgh 1988].

7th William known as Willie Douglas c1513. Willie Douglas died after 22 May, 1582.


In 1544 Sir Ralph Eure (Evre) burned Bonjedworth. ‘Sir Raff Evre’s Lettres, 26 October, 1544 – Mr Norton, Mr Nesfield, &c, rode to a Town of the Lord of Bonjedworth and burnt it, and brought away 10 Prisoners, 100 Nolt (Cattle), 200 Shepe’. [A Collection of State Papers relating to Affairs in the Reigns of…1532 – 1570].

January, 1544. In the time of Henry VIII – “The King has seen his several letters and writings therewith. Where it appears that George Douglas has desired the laird of Bonjedwourth to sue for safeconduct for ambassadors from the Governor and lords of Scotland, he is to be answered that the King has lately made proclamations upon the frontiers for the entry of prisoners, and unless they enter and relieve their pledges the King intends to grant no such safeconduct. If, however, they do enter, he will grant safeconduct to ambassadors (authorized by the Queen and Governor). To come to the earl of Shrewsbury and declares their charge. Bonjedworth and others who have promised service are to be assured that if such ambassadors come the King will in the treaty have respect to their safeguard…”1. (The Privy Council to Shrewesbury – Hamilton Papers). 2. (British History online).

The King to the Earl of Shrewesberie – February, 1544, “he is not to press the Warden of the Middle Marches to take other hostages of Bonjedworth and Grenehede than he has taken, unless there be more against them than appears...”
Dareton, 8 Feb. 1544 Shewsbury, Tunstall and Sadler to the Council. ‘Enclose letters and writings from Lenoux and from the Warden of the West and Middle Marches. Where it appears by the letters of the Warden of the Middle Marches, and of George Douglas, that the said George eftsoons make means to speak with him, and have written to him to make an appointment for the purpose and to answer the said George’s late message by the laird of Bonjedwoorth, touching ambassadors, as directed by the Council letters of 12 Jan. Signed’. [Letters & Papers, Foreign and Domestic, the Reign of Henry VIII Vol 10 by John Sherren Brewer].

June 1544. From this study, ‘when the Earl of Hertford attacked Jedburgh’ the Rutherfords of Hunthill and Hundalee submitted as the burgh was their stronghold. In July 1544 Ker of Fernihurst and his son were captured and probably forced to assure as Ker left his son as a hostage. By November the Kers of Cessford and Primsideloch, Douglas of Bonjedward and Kirkton of Stewrat field were actively assuring and being paid for it, but this money dried up in February, 1545. The lairds felt betrayed and reneged on their obligations of assurance at the Battle of Ancrum Moor in March, 1545. ‘The horrific devastation inflicted by Hertford’s invasion in September, 1545 led these lairds to re-assure, but they were loath to actually assist Hertford as “the Borderers will not most willingly burn their neighbours and janus-like they attended the Scottish Parliament in October, 1545”. However the English Garrisons that were planted after the Hertford raid ensured that the Border lairds kept their assurance, for resident soldiers were more immediately threatening than previous forays across the border’. [Lairds and Gentlemen: A study of the landed families of the Eastern Anglo-Scottish Borders c1540 -1603. PhD – Maureen M Meikle – University of Edinburgh 1988].

On 28 October, 1544 – Sir Ralph Evre wrote that he had ‘burnt a town of the lord of Bonjedworth’. [British History online].

7 November, 1544 – Shrewsbury and Others to Henry VIII. ‘Have received the Council’s letters of 2 Nov. declaring his pleasure for the stirring of the Scots who have lately entered into bond to do exploits and for the bestowing of their pledges, and that 5,000l. is sent to pay the garrisons and the men of Berwick. Shrewsbury has sent for five of the best of the pledges, viz., of the lairds of Fernyhurst, Cesford, Hundele, Boundjedwourth and the sheriff of Tevydale, intending to bestow them with gentlemen of Nottingham and Derby shires; and will also put the
rest in honest custody. Enclose letters from the Wardens of the East and Middle Marches of their exploits in Scotland. Darneton, 7 Nov. Signed by Shrewsbury, Tunstall and Sadler’. [British History online].

1545 “...About that very time Sir George Douglas sent his friend, the laird of Bonjedward, with a message to the Earl of Shrewsbury at Darlington, to represent that the lords of Scotland really desired peace with England, and to request that the King would send a safe-conduct for ambassadors authorised by the Queen and Governor. The Privy Council, on this, wrote to Shrewsbury to inform Sir George in reply that the King had lately made proclamation on the frontiers for the entry of his prisoners, and, unless they returned into captivity and relieved their pledges, he would grant no such safe-conduct; but if they did this he was willing to give one to such ambassadors to come to the Earl of Shrewsbury. Bonjedward and others who had promised service might be assured that if such ambassadors came the King would have respect to their safeguard. The Earl of Cassillis, it appeared, was willing to make his entry, for he had written to say so...” (Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, Henry VIII, Volume 20 Part 1: January-July 1545 (1905), pp. I-LXII.)

1544 – 1545. “…That Lairds Bonjedworth, Hunthill, Greehead, Hundalee, Linton, the Sheriff of Tividale, and others, had entered into enemies’ pay, and assisted to plant English garrisons in Scotland…” (Miscellany of the Maitland Club …Hamilton Papers).


William Douglas was the Sheriff of Roxburgh in 1545. In was in part a Commission by Queen Mary. In 1545 “Commission by Mary Queen of Scots appointing Rothsay Herald, William Douglas of Boneiedburgh, and Adam Ruthifurd, burgess of Jedburgh, her sheriffs of Roxburgh…Given under the quarter seal at Linlithgow, 2 October 1545”. (Historical Manuscripts Commission 7th Report – Appendix to 7th Report no 34 pages 730 and 731).

During 1545 – “Extract retour of special service before William Douglas of Bone Jedburgh, sheriff of Roxburgh in that part by commission for the Queen...Expede in the Tolbooth (Tollbooth) of Jedburgh, 27 October 1545”. (Historical Manuscripts Commission 7th Report – Appendix to 7th Report no 34 page 731).

In 1545 the Battle of Ancrum Moor took place in the vicinity of Jedburgh Bonjedward and Timpendean. It was part of a campaign by Henry VIII known as the ‘Rough Wooing’. The English Army consisted of 3,000 mainly German mercenaries, 1,500 English Borderers and 700-800 Scottish ‘assured men’. They had been at Melrose and were on their way back to Jedburgh. The army turned to pursue a small Scottish Cavalry. The English appear to have been divided into two battle lines. The Vanguard was led by Sir Brian Layton and consisted of 2,000 spearmen, hagbutters (men carrying portable long barreled guns), and archers. The Second battle was led by Sir Ralph Eure and consisted of 3,000 men. Both battles had spears in the center and one wing of archers, the other wing of hagbutters. They did not know that the Scots comprised a force of 2,500 men, including Fife lancers and Borders Reivers, accompanied by cannon power. The English army attacked uphill and the main Scot’s army came over the brow of the hill, pushing the Vanguard back into the rest of the English army. The ‘assured men’ ripped off the red crosses that marked them out and attacked the English as well. The English army collapsed as a force and a rout began. Both Layton and Eure were killed along with up to 800 of their army, and prisoners numbered about 1,000.

Archibald Douglas the 6th Earl of Angus was in the Battle. The Kelley research paper of 1973 said that the Laird of Bonjedburgh fought on the opposite side to Angus. It probably means that he was one of the 'assured Scots' who ripped off their crosses and changed sides, then consequently fighting for Scotland.

In 1545 ‘William Douglas of Bunjeduard’ had his dwelling house, his town and the two towers of Bune Jedworth destroyed by the English in the expedition of the Earl of Hertford.
1545 – On the River of Tiviot ‘...Bune Jedworth, the two Towres of Bune Jedworth raced, the Lard of Bune Jedworth’s Dwelling-house...’ [A Collection of State Papers...King Henry VIII by William Cecil (Lord Burghley)].

1545 - The Earl of Hertford wrote to Henry VIII about burning towns and corn near Jedburgh, and also the burning of Jedburgh Abbey. The (Douglas) Laird of Bonjedward gets a mention asking for corn to be spared. (British History online).

In 1545 Willyam Douglass off Bunjeduard, with others, signed a bond to provide 1000 horsemen.

The Calendar of State Papers relating to Scotland and Mary, Queen of Scots 1547-1603 Vol 1 (1898) by Joseph Bain - mentions William Douglas of Bonjedworth 1547-1548.

Calendar of state papers relating to Scotland and Mary, Queen of Scots, 1547-1606...Vol 7 Edinburgh HM General Register House 1913 Reign of Elizabeth - Jan 31, 1583-4 - Robert Bowes to Walsingham “...Applegarth, lately escaped out of the Castle of Edinburgh, has for his relief accused Angus and [the Laird of] Bonjedworth of having conspired the surprise of the King’s person, and it is said that he has thereby obtained a respite for five years...”

1547-1548 – 300 men were to be placed at Bonjedworth under Sir Oswald Wylstrop as Captain, in the time of William Douglas of Bonjedworth. [Calendar of State Papers relating to Scotland and Mary, Queen of Scots 1547-1603].

Jan. 17, 1547-1548. Grey of Wilton to Somerset. “On Saturday last I viewed Roxburgh and ordered kilns to burn lime – 100 of the garrison to Wark, and shall remove 100 more to Berwick, till neeed of service. The same day I went to Hume – the new work, and much of the Scot’s rampires, is like to fall, and must be looked into. They can only brew 4 barrels of beer at a time. The same night I returned to Wark to meet the lord Warden of the Middle Marches, with whom and his forces joined by Sir Oswold Wylstropp and Mr Banester with 160 barquebusiers (arquebusiers – armed infantrymen) of Roxburgh, we went to Buccleuch’s house at Newewarke, which he and his wife and children left the dsy before. The
foot entered the ‘barbacanne’ (barbican – fortified post or gateway) burned the stables, &c, but the rest of the house was not ‘pregnable’ without ordnance. We have burned the towns of Buccleuch and got a booty of 3000 sheep and 400 head of beasts. Coldingknowes, Cesforth and Marke Carr were with the lord Warden helping to burn and destroy, and were threatened and railed at by those in the house. To prevent revenge I shall place Mr Oswald with 200 or 300 horse at Bonjedworth, where we shall be at hand to correct the enemy and strengthen the King’s friends… I send copy of my intelligence from Scotland, and pray leave to meet my wife in Yorkshire on her way hither… I conferred with the lord Warden of the Middle Marches as to placing 50 men in Cesford’s house, without horseas it was wasted in the wars. It is not so necessary, however, with the 300 placed at Bonjedworth under Sir Oswold Wylstropp as captain, whose charge being ths increased it seems to me his allowance were according…

Berwick Castle, Signed Wyllyan Grey. [Calendar of State Papers].

February 1547 (Before 22nd). – Angus to Lennox. (In the hand writing of Bonjedworth who penned it on behalf of Angus). “I hear that you and my lord Warden are coming on the Laird of Drumlanrig and my friends, Wherefore I have written to my lord Warden ‘to be gud in that matter’, at more length, to which I believe your lordship will be privy: praying that I may know your good mind to me and my friends, not doubting but ye will – as this bearer will show, to whom give credence… Vritin at Drumlangrik…Your father. Signed Ar, erl of Angus”. Addressed “to my lord and sonne the Erle of Lennox”. [Calendar of Scottish Papers]. It said that it was in Bonjedworth’s hand. This is about Archibald Douglas, 6th Earl of Angus.

February 1547 (Before 22nd). – Angus to Lennox and Wharton. Addressed to Wharton only. (It said that it was in Bonjedworth’s hand).

“ ‘My lordis’, I have received your letter ,desiring me to ‘performe in deid and set fordwart’ the godly purpose which you have written to me ‘oft and dywers tymis of befor, quhairintil your letter mensoonis that we ar aggret in our writings, and als credence of youris schawin to me be your lordschipis servande Thomas Carltoun, that ye desire to speik with me to the performance of the samin”.

“As to the godly purpose. I trust the King’s noble council, my lord protector’s grace and your lordships will not put such ‘mistraist’ to me, but think it sufficient performance that I send my seal and ‘hand wryt’ thereto,
‘quhilk I nevir brak nor never intedis to breik’. Touching our meeting, I have shown my mind to your servant Thomas Carloun who will declare it at length. I desire your lordships to certify me by this bearer my servant ‘in writing’ if my friends shall be ‘ontrublit’ by you and yours, till such time as we may have leisure to commune, with ‘adwysment’ of my friends, which shall be in all goodly haste it it be your pleasure. Vritin at Drunlangrik, this Weddingsday at nycht 1547. Signed Ar. Erl of Angus”.

22 February,1547 – Lennox and Wharton to Angus. “We have received your two letters of this 22d and also heard the credence of the Laird of Bonjedworth and James Lyndsay, to like effect…Mathow erle of Lynox”.

Feb 22, 1547 – 1548. William Douglas of Bonjedworth wrote to Wharton (on behalf of Angus) – “I have ben in hand with my lorde of Angus twyching the performance of his purpose quhairintall I commonit with your lordshipis; quhair he hes vritin ane answere rafarring sum part of credeit to Thomas Carlton, quhilk I can no vayis dryf hym to no uther puropois that he hes vritin. Thairfor pleis it your lordshipis to the sam for ane sufficient answere. I wald knaw your mynd in that mater, owther be vriting or uthervayis as ye think expedient, that I may schaw the sam to my lorde lewtennande; and forder, gyf it pleis your lordshipis command me with ony uther service, I am on purpoe to rapair to my lord lewtennande the morne, and shall ramane heir quhill xij howris apon yowr besines gyf it lykis yow to send ony with me; for I knaw he is desyru to knaw of your weill fair and gud jurnay…Praying to know your further pleasure ‘the morne’ Drumlangrik, this Weddingsday at nycht”. Signed ‘William Douglas off Bunjeduard’.

1547 – 1563 Calendar of State Papers, Scotland – The Laird of Bonjedworth is described as ‘that crafty Scot’… who escaped with Angus. [British History online].

William Douglas of Bon Jedworth is mentioned in the Calendar of State Papers in February,1548, in relation to Drumlanrig.

Drumlanrig Feb. 22, 1548. William Douglas of Bunjeduard (Bon Jedworth) to Wharton ‘In behalf of Angus. Begs his Lordship to be satisfied with his answers. Offers his own services. Will send copies of two letters to Angus
from the Governor and Queen’. [Calendar of State Papers – Scotland. Great Britain Public Record Office].

‘Bunjedworth’ is mentioned in 1548-1549. [Hamilton Papers].

Between 1548 and 1556 – there was a remission recorded at Jedburgh involving Hugonis (Hugh) Douglas, Stephani (Stephen) Douglas and Andree or Dand Douglas of Tympendane and Hugonis (Hugh) Douglas of Bone-Jedburgh and Alexandri (Alexander) Douglas and Roberti (Robert) Douglas of ‘Auld Jedburgh’. [Scottish Record Office].

7 November, 1549 – Westminster. The Lords of the Council to the Earl of Rutland. ‘We have received letters from Sir Francis Leek purporting that whereas he sent the Lord of Bonjedward (Boniedworth), Andrew Ker (Carre)…and has detained them for special purpose in a good space…We therefore require you to signify to us what sorts of men they may be, and whether it would “conserve to the service of his Majestie” to let them go or to keep them somewhat longer…” (Bonjedward and five other men were detained). [The Manuscripts of His Grace the Duke of Rutland. Great Britain – Royal Commission of Historical Manuscripts – 1888].

Draft of 1549, November, 22 – By the Earl of Rutland to the Lords of the Council. “The lord of Bonjedward (Boniedworth) and the rest of the Kers were sent by Sir Francis Leek upon coming of the French to Jedworth, and detained by him ‘for the saving of the revoult.’ He promised that they should return within a short time after the departure of the enemy from Jedworth, For the conservation of his credit they should be released. Their lands lie within the King’s power, and they are at the discretion of such as have the charge of the King’s garrisons. All the forts remain weak and unfurnished with sufficient numbers of soldiers. Those now in them have either continued there all this year or have travailed all summer in the camp, or have continued in Haddington. They are so naked that they run away sicken, and die daily. If you do not out of hand send a thousand fresh English-men for their relief, the forts will be in great danger. Postscript – The Alamains are now in Durham. I have sent Robert Constable, the Provost Marshal, to conduct them, and they intend to make all the speed they may, as Courtpenigh declared to me. Yesternight Mr Wilford arrived here, very weak. As soon as he is able to travel, he will repair too you”. [Manuscripts of the Duke of Rutland, preserved at Belvoir Castle …]
‘William Dowglas of Bonjedburgh’ was present in Edinburgh on 3rd December, 1549 in regard to “‘Letters of Diligence’ by the Lords of the Council against Witnesses and Havers, at the instance of William Scott of Branxholm, Knycht, against Walter Ker of Cesfur, John Ker of Phairniehirst and others”. [Details in Latin]. {From the Scotts of Buccleuch – The Buccleuch Muniments}. (Muniments are title deeds or other documents proving a person’s title to land).

1550 in the time of Mary. ‘The lords under Walter Ker of Cesfurdm George Ker of Lintoun, and William Douglas of Bonjedburgh to enter Sir Michell Fynnick, Englishman, to Sir George Douglas, James Douglas, now Earl of Morton, and Alexander Somervell, within the iron gates of Dalkeith, or pay 100 pounds sterling conform to Bond of March 2, 1544-45’


William Douglas of Bonjedburgh was acting Deputy Warden of the Middle Marches from February, 1553 to September, 1553.


In 1560 William Douglas of Bonjedward was one of the ‘Eastern Border lairds’ who supported the ideal of Reformation. [Lairds and Gentlemen: A study of the landed families of the Eastern Anglo-Scottish Borders c1540 - 1603. PhD – Maureen M Meikle – University of Edinburgh 1988].

William Douglas was a witness to ‘a retour of service expede’ in Jedworth in 1564 or 1565.

Willie Douglas is referred to as ‘the younger’ in 1566.

Lothian papers, Volume IX. Fernieherst - 1505-1597 Sir John Forster, Sir John Forrester (Forster or Foster), Warden of the Middle March of England, to the Lairds of Fernihirst, Bedrewle, Hunthill, Bounagedworth and Edgerton. 22 May 1567. (National Archives of Scotland).
In 1568 William is mentioned regarding ‘a cousin’ John Mow of that ilk. This John Mow was in Bonjedburgh in about 1536.

On 15 May, 1568 William Douglas of Bonjedwurt wrote to John Mow ‘On Thursday the 13th was a battle between the Queen and the Regent with great slaughter, 2000 slain on the Queen’s side and 1,000 on the Regent’s, to whom was given victory. The Queen is said to be in Dumbarton. (The Letter) gives names of some of the slain and hurt. The Regent has a great spoil of the Queen’s munition and other great riches left in the field – Bonjedwart – Saturday – Signed’. [British History online]. Was William Douglas there?

At Langside it was said that there were only a few thousand strong – ‘Moray’s three or four thousand, Mary’s five to six thousand. She had some artillery, presumably supplied by the Hamiltons, ten brass pieces being captured by Moray. Battle seems to have commenced with the foring of artillery. Douglas of Bonjedwart says there was “ane provyddit battail of artyle” and the Hamilton’s master gunner was slain…There is no mention of what effect Moray’s guns had if any…’ [Guns In Scotland – The manufacture and use of duns and their influence on warfare from the fourteenth century to c1625 – David H Caldwell. University of Edinburgh PhD 1981]. I wonder if William Douglas of Bonjedward was at the Battle of Langside?

This is obviously about the ‘Battle of Langside’. The full contents of this letter is locked behind a British History online pay wall.

The Battle of Langside
https://www.theglasgowstory.com/image/?inum=TGSA05234he
There is a large discrepancy in the numbers given by Bonjedwart in contrast to other accounts on the web.
William Douglas was mentioned in the Buccleuch Muniments in 1569. (Muniments are title deeds or other documents proving a person’s title to land).

In 1569-1579 William appeared in the Privy Council Register.

1569 – “The quhilk day, Williame Dowglas of Bonjedburgh take instruments that he enterit Williame Ormistoun, callit Williame with he Heid, this day;
and of new the said Williame Douglas become souertie for the said Williame Ormistoun, that he call relief the King and Wardene of all attemptattis bigane and to cum, under the pane of …” Work this out if you can? [Register of the Privy Council of Scotland].

In 1570 William Douglas was the Deputy Warden of Teviotdale (Roxburghshire).

Jedburgh, 12 February, 1571 – “Will Oliver in Lustruther plege for certain Olivers in Dykeraw…William Dowglas of Bonjedburgh and Richard Rutherfurde Provost of Jedbrgh being cautioners for the entry of the said plege in Leyth”. [Leith and its antiquities from the earliest times…]

1571 – “Will Oliver in Lustruther plege for certain Olivers in Dykeraw, in Fawside, in Wester Houssis, in the Burne, in the Slakkis, in Mervlinslaw, and in the Bank, and also Stephen Wauch in Waldoishill, Jok Commoun in the Fawside, Michaely and Johnne Young in Rowchleis, and Nichollll Lia in Quarterwood – William Dowglas of Bonjedburgh and Richard Rutherfurde Provost of Jedburgh being cautioners for the entry of the said plege in Leyth”. [Privy Council of Scotlland].

‘William Douglas of Bonjedburgh’ was part of a Band made at Jedburgh in February, 1572. [The Middle March of the Scottish Borders – 1573 to 1625, Vol. II. Presumably by Anna Groundwater].

‘William Douglas of Bonjedburgh’ was a subscriber to the Band of Roxburgh made at Jedburgh in August, 1573. [The Middle March of the Scottish Borders – 1573 to 1625, Vol. II. Presumably by Anna Groundwater].

Willie was Deputy Warden of the Middle Marches in 1576. James Douglas, the Earl of Morton and Regent, in the late 1570's to the period 1578 split the Middle March into two Wardens making William Douglas the 'bewest the strete' (Dere Sreet) Western Warden. Morton wanted to contain the power of the encumbent Warden William Ker of Cessford.

It was said in this study that Regent Morton wanted ‘to favour his kinsman, Douglas of Bonjedward’ in 1576 to 1578. [Lairds and Gentlemen: A study of the landed families of the Eastern Anglo-Scottish Borders c1540 -1603. PhD – Maureen M Meikle – University of Edinburgh 1988].
In 1576 Angus reappointed ‘Douglas of Bonjedburgh’ to the west of Dere Street. [The Middle March of the Scottish Borders – 1573 to 1625, Vol. II. Presumably by Anna Groundwater].


Sir Cuthbert Collingwood complained to the Earl of Angus in about 1576. He wrote from Eslington – ‘…bitter complaints about the lawless proceedings of Douglas of Bonjedworth…I have provyded a huntsman for your lordship, that can blaw a horn excellent well, a yong man…’ [Herbert Maxwell]

William Douglas is mentioned in letters in 1576.

- Alnwick, 21\(^{st}\) February, 1576 – “Sir John Forster to William Douglas of Bonjedburgh, Deputy Warden for West Teviotdale, in the Middle Marches, acknowledging a letter from the latter with rolls enumerating divers disorders to be redressed; stating, with regard to two bills therein referred to, that he would file at the same meeting…”

- Alnwick, 22\(^{nd}\) February, 1576 – “Sir John Foster to Archibald, eight Earl of Angus, referring to the refusal of the Laird of Bonjedworth to answer for Liddesdale or East Teviotdale, the inhabitants of which districts were daily making great spoil within the office of the Middle Marches, regarding which he had before written to his Lordship, but had received no answer…”

- Hexham, 29th May, 1576 – “Sir John Foster to William Douglas of Bonjedward, Deputy Warden of the Middle Marches of Scotland, informing him that a number of persons of the name of Crosier went to Tynedale, with the intention of slaying Archibald Robsone, Stonehouse’s son, and that he being gone to the Queen’s Court at Waewick, they met a young child, Henry Robson, son to Jeffrey Robson of Stonehouse and cruelly murdered him; and demanding that speedy punishment should be inflicted on the murderers”.

- Dalkeith, 13\(^{th}\) June, 1577 – “Archibald, eighth Earl of Angus to Sir Cuthbert Collingwood, in reply to the proceeding, thanking him for the leveret (young hare), ‘ane kind of hawk not to be held in Scotland’, and the first red hawk his Lordship had seen for a year, and
expressing regret that he could not then send back his servant full-handed as he came; stating that Bonjedworth’s bond for the Laird of Mow, if not already discharged, as his son George Douglas understood it was, would be so when his son, who was then at Dalkeith, returned home, etc”. (Presumably referring to Laird William Douglas of Bonjedward’s son George Douglas who was his eldest son). In Scotland a medieval banquet might have included – wild boar, venison, rabbit, fish, grouse and other game birds and even peacocks and swan. [History of Scottish food]. So consuming hare and hawk in that context is not so surprising.

- Eslington, 17th July, 1577 – “Sir Cuthbert Collingwood to Archibald, eight Earl of Angus, in reply to one from the latter with reference to the Laird of Mow, stating that if the Earl would cause the Laird and his men forbear from taking his goods, he (Sir Cuthbert) would consider it the greatest pleasure he could confer on him, and that he would be sure to have the like forbearance at his hands; and that the Laird of Bonjedworth had told him if he took the principal of his bills, The Laird of Mow would not keep assurance with him”.

- Hexham, 29th May, 1586 – another letter on the same matter. Addressed to ‘the worshipfull and my verie lovenge freinde, the Lard Abundgedwoorde’ and Signed off as ‘Your lovenge amd leifull freind John Foster’.


In 1578 William is mentioned regarding information about the Kirk of Scotland.

In August, 1581 – ‘Instrument upon repossession given to Sir Thomas Ker of Pharnihirst in some lands in Ulstoun, wrongfully occupied by William Douglas of Bonjedward’. (National Archives of Scotland).

1581. ‘Sir Thomas Ker of Fernihirst vs. William Douglas of Bonjedward. Concerned lands in Ulston, near Jedburgh that were occupied by Douglas illegally. Ker took legal recourse against him, so he vacated the lands’. [Lairds and Gentlemen: A study of the landed families of the Eastern Anglo-

Willie’s children were –

- George Douglas c1540,
- Patrick Douglas c1544,
- Donald Douglas c1546,
- James Douglas c1548,
- John Douglas c1550,
- Archibald Douglas c1552,
- Andrew Douglas c1566,
- Robert Douglas c1558 and
- Elizabeth Douglas c1562 (Married Alexander Achesoun/Achesone/Acheson/Aitcheson c1557 of Gosford in c1584 and they had three sons – Alexander, William and Patrick. Elizabeth’s father was Willelmi Dowglas de Bonjedward.Gosford in East Lothian was the property of Alexander Achesoun/Achesone/Acheson/Aitcheson in 1577 and was sold by the him in 1629. [Scottish Arms… Robert Riddle Stodart 1881])

Alexander Achesoun/Achesone/Acheson/Aitcheson c1557 appears to have died in 1632. Alexander c1557 was probably the son of an Alexander. Achesoun has many spelling variations.

About Patrick Douglas c1544 - Is Patrick c1544 the Patrick Douglas who was the Scottish Priest, Composer and Musician? It was thought that Patrick may have been related to George Douglas the Martyr. “He may have been related to the musician, Patrick Douglas, also from Edinburgh, who sought refuge in England, in the first days of Reformation, wrote church music there, was studying theology in Paris around 1584, and later lector in philosophy to the Scots monks at Regensburg (Ratisbon), who died there on 10 May, 1597”.

A Post-Reformation miscellany - Edinburgh University Press
About Elizabeth Douglas c1562 - Alexander Acheson is assumed to be a younger brother of the first of Gosford but no proof has been found. He married Elizabeth Douglas, daughter of the Laird of Bonedward. [The Pedigree Register].

Alexander Aitcheson – in 1625 he is thought to have be the Commissioner of Convention of Estates at Haddington, East Lothian. [The Pedigree Register].

On 25 October, 1625 Alexander Acheson is shown in the Parliamentary records of Scotland tp 1707 as being a Commissioner for the Sheriffdom of Haddington.

Gosford, East Lothian was the property of Alexander Achesoun of Gosford in 1577. It was sold in 1629 by Alexander of Gosford who had married Elizabeth Douglas of the Bonjedward family and had three sons. [Scottish Arms, being a Collection of Amoral Bearings – 1881].

June 1633 – Parliament of Scotland – “Act in favour of Sir John Auchmuty of Gosford Our sovereign lord, with advice of the estates of this present parliament, has ratified and approved and, by the tenor hereof, ratifies and approves the charter and infeftment granted by his majesty's late dearest father, King James, of most worthy memory, to his highness's beloved John Auchmuty of Scougall, now styled Sir John Auchmuty of Gosford, knight, one of his majesty's late dearest father's bedchamber for the time, his heirs and assignees whatsoever, of all and whole the lands of Gosford, with the mill, tower, fortalice, manor places, houses, buildings, yards, orchards, dovecot, links, parts, pendicles and all their pertinents, erected in a whole and free barony called the barony of Gosford, lying within the sheriffdom of Edinburgh and constabulary of Haddington, proceeding upon the resignation of the late Alexander Acheson of Gosford, Elizabeth Douglas, his spouse, and of Alexander, William and Patrick Acheson, their sons, with advice and consent of Sir John Home of North Berwick, knight, and of William Douglas of Bonjedward, for their right and interest, to be held of his majesty and his successors in feu ferm and heritage, containing a new disposition of the said lands and mill to the said Sir John and his foresaid and erection of the same in a barony, called the barony of Gosford, as the said charter and infeftment under his majesty's great seal,
of the date at Greenwich, 29 June 1632, at more length purports, together with the instrument of sasine following thereupon…"

The William Douglas of Bonjedward mentioned here appears to be a grandson of the William Douglas of Bonjedward who was the father of Elizabeth Douglas c1562.

Robert Douglas c1558 son of ‘William Dowglas in Bonjedward’ was a Witness in May,1582.


8th George Douglas c1540. He died in 1614.

“In 1581 the Rutherfords of Edgerston, Hundalee and Hunthill and Douglas of Bonjedward did not sign their names, but this may have been a clerical error as these lairds had graduates in their families and were literate in 1585.’ [Lairds and Gentlemen: A study of the landed families of the Eastern Anglo-Scottish Borders c1540 -1603. PhD – Maureen M Meikle – University of Edinburgh 1988].

In 1582 George Douglas of Bonjedward (Bonjedburgh) held three bonds – two were G, one was dated 7 Aug. Dal 58 days, the second was Bond of Correct. dated 1 Dec. Dal 59 days and the third was PP dated 19 Dec. Dal 59 days. [Register of Deeds]

From 1587 ‘an Act allowed each county to convene freeholders (in effect Lairds) to elect two parliamentary or shire commissioners…The elected shire commissioners were summoned individually to parliament in the tradition of Barons or Lords of Parliament…in 1594…Douglas of Bonjedward was a sole member from West Teviotdale…’ [Lairds and Gentlemen: A study of the landed families of the Eastern Anglo-Scottish Borders c1540 -1603. PhD – Maureen M Meikle – University of Edinburgh 1988].

‘When the problem of Jesuits was noticed “godlie and weill affected persons” were appointed as Commissioners to detain them in the Shires…the Roxburgh (Teviotdale) Commissioner included Sir Robert Ker of Cessford and George Douglas of Bonjedward’.

3 Sept,1589 – “Warrant, under the seal manual, to Johnne Andro, to delete an act of lawburrows found by Thomas Kirkpatrick of Closeburne to John Kirkpatrick of Dessertland, and Roger Kirkpatrick, his brother, not withstanding any changes to the contrary. Faulkland. Indorsed, George Douglas of Bonjedburgh, Wat of Bedrule”. [Register of the Privy Council of Scotland].

8th April,1613. In the time of James VI. ‘Commission for the trial of Marjory Lyell. Commission under the Signet signed by Jo Prestoun, Sir T Hamilton, Alexander Hay, Sir G Murray, and Sir W Oliphant, to Sir Andro Ker of Phairnihirst, knight, Sir Johnne Cranstoun of that Ilk, knight, George Douglas of Bonjedburgh, Nicoll Rutherfurd of Hundelie, and the Provost and Bailies of Jedburgh, or any four of them…to try Marjorie Lyell, Marioun Hendirsoun, daughter of Johnne Hendirsoun in Edinburgh, and Marie or Mary Elliot, spouse of the late …Douglas in Jedburgh, who are in ward in Jedburgh, on suspicion of witchcraft, sorcery, enchantment and devilish practices’. [Privy Council of Scotland].

In 1613 ‘a commission was issued by William Douglas of Cavers, to try George Douglas of cottle theft’. This could be about George Douglas of Bonjedward?

In 1614 ‘George Douglas of Cavers was excommunicated for the slaughter of Mr George Douglas of Tympenden in 1614’.

However, it might refer to George Douglas of Bonjedwardand and not Timpendale. I have no record of a George Douglas of Timpendale around this time.
A George Douglas was supposedly murdered in 1614 but...15 July, 1615. Douglas against Cheeslie. “In an action pursued by George Douglas of Bonjedburgh contra Marion Cheeslie, the Lords repelled the exception founded upon the act of Parliament 1567, anent sasines to be given within the burgh by the town clerk, in respect of the reply, that it was offered to be proven that Mr George Douglas was repute and holden to be town clerk, and in use to give sasines; and that, notwithstanding, they offered them to prove, that there was another town clerk”. [The Decision of the Court of Session: From Its Institution... Volumes 7 – 8]. So work that out!


Privy Council of Scotland 1562 - Edinburgh. ‘The quhilk day in presence of the saidis Lordis, comperit George Dowglas younger and fear of Bonjedburgh, and becomes cautioun and souirtie for George Turnbull of Barnhils, that he sal enter his persone in ward within the castell of Dunbar within...hours nixt eftir this houre, quhilk is foure eftir none, under the pane of ane thousand markis’. (In the time of Queen Mary).

George Douglas was the subject of a Contact of Marriage in 1566. (The Scotts Peerage: founded on Wood’s Edition of Sir Robert Douglas’s Peerage of Scotland).

In 1566 Douglas of Bonjedward, was the owner of the church in South Dean (Southdean), Roxburghshire as ‘From 1566 the fruits of the rectory (were) held by Douglas of Bonjedburgh’. (Durham University – The church and religion in the Anglo-Saxon border counties 1634 to 1572 – e theses – S M Keeling (1975)

It has also been said that William Douglas the younger of Bonjedward held the fruits of the parish in 1566. While his son George Douglas of Bonjedward held the fruits of this parish from 1568 to 1572. (Scottish Record Publication). Another account states on the “Person and Vicarage of Suddoun (Southdean) – William Douglas, younger of Bonjedburgh 1566 (&) George Douglas of Bonjedburgh 1568 to 1572. (Accounts of Collectors).
Moreover, the parson and vicar at this South Dean church is said ‘with certainty’ as being George Douglas who became the Martyr in 1587. But if so the dates of that certainty are unclear to me.

George the priest, studied at St Andrews in 1552-1555. He went to Rutland and kept a Latin School at North Luffenham in 1568. He claimed to have been ordained at Notre Dame Cathedral Paris in about 1574. He then went to Flanders, teaching and studying for some years before returning home.

In 1571 the French King had made George Douglas, the parson and vicar a gentleman of his chamber for his dutiful attitude to Queen Mary.

George the priest, returned to Rutland from Flanders in 1584 and was re-examined. He was freed and proceeded north to Ripon in Yorkshire where he was imprisoned for ‘making critical remarks’ about Protestant clergy, he was imprisoned for about a year before he was taken to York castle for about a year before his Martyrdom in the very year (1587) Mary Queen of the Scots was put to death.

George Douglas of Bonjedburgh, younger as surety –
- Feb 16, 1571
- June 4, 1575 – surety for Englishmen
- Sep 26, 1576 – surety for Gavin Elliot
- Nov 16, 1577
- Nov 17, 1577 – surety for persons tendering allegiance
[Register of the Privy Council of Scotland]. (Surety – a guarantor or sponsor for a debt).

Between 1566 and 1577 this George Douglas of Bonjedward was sometimes referred to as ‘the younger’. (Register of the Privy Council of Scotland).

14th July, 1571 Edinburgh – George Douglas of Bonjedburgh was “a cautioner for Johnne Turnbull of Mynto, Walter Turnbull in Bewly, Dand Davidson in Kamys, Watt Turnbull in Tronyhill and Dand Turnbull there…William Turnbull in Barnhills, Johnne Turnbull in Howdane, George Turnbull in Hallocle, Adam Turnbull in Bullirwell, Adam Turnbull in Belcheis and Mongo Bennet in …” (Register of the Privy Council of Scotland).
In January, 1573 ‘George Douglas of Bonjedburgh’ was a cautioner. [The Middle March of the Scottish Borders – 1573 to 1625, Vol. II. Presumably by Anna Groundwater].

On 25th December, 1574 George Dowglas of Bonjedworth was a witness to the ‘Bond of Manrent by Andrew Rutherford of Huntley, and others of his surname, to Archibald, eighth Earl of Angus…’ [Douglas book – Charters].

In 1576 ‘George Douglas of Bonjedburgh’ was a cautioner. [The Middle March of the Scottish Borders – 1573 to 1625, Vol. II. Presumably by Anna Groundwater].

In 1577 there was a complaint by Adam of Belchies and his son Hector against ‘Bonjedburgh’ as a cautioner and this was upheld -1,000 pounds. [The Middle March of the Scottish Borders – 1573 to 1625, Vol. II. Presumably by Anna Groundwater].

In 1572-1610 George Douglas was mentioned in the Privy Council Register.

31 March, 1575 Dalkeith. “Gift to William Kirktoun, burgess of Jedburgh, of the nonentry of three husbandlands in the town and lands of Bonjedburgh and sheriffdom of Roxburgh, pertaining to the deceased William Kirktoun of Stewartfield”. [Register of the Privy Seal of Scotland].

This George Douglas was in the Battle of Carter Bar in July 1575. It was said that he was there with a ‘large force from Jedwater’. This battle was also called the Raid of the Redeswire. (Fray of Reidswire or Raid of the Red Swire).

Regarding this Fray, the Earl of Surrey in a letter to Henry VIII wrote that “I found the Scots at this time the boldest men and he hottest that ever I saw in any nation…in all parts of the army, they kept up with such continued skirmishes, that I never beheld the like…” [The Topographical, Statistical and Historical Gazetteer of Scotland -1843].

November, 1576 and ‘George Douglas of Bonjedward, younger’ is mentioned. [The Middle March of the Scottish Borders – 1573 to 1625, Vol. II. Presumably by Anna Groundwater].
In 1576 George appeared as a Witness with his father. (Douglas Book - Sir William Fraser – Edinburgh 1885)

It was said regarding literacy, that ‘Douglas of Bonjedward’ was one laird who ‘did not sign his name’. [Lairds and Gentlemen: A study of the landed families of the Eastern Anglo-Scottish Borders c1540 -1603. PhD – Maureen M Meikle – University of Edinburgh 1988]. I am attributing this to George Douglas as his father William Douglas was a keen and prolific letter writer and did sign his name.

1580 – Archibald, Earl of Agnus made a promise on behalf of George Douglas, younger of Bonjedburgh. [Privy Council of Scotland].

George Douglas participated in the Middle Marches in 1584-1585 with Sir Thomas Kerr of Fernihurst.

6 Jan. 1584-1585 – ‘Will of George Dowglas, son and heir to William Douglas of Bunjedbroche, appointing William Ker, son and heir of Robert Ker of Woodhead, as tutor testamentary’. (National Archives of Scotland).

The Laird of Jedburct (Bonjedburgh) ‘signs bond against Bothwell’. [Calendar of State Papers of Scotland, Volume 10, 1589-1593. British History online].


George Douglas of Bonjedward is listed in the Scottish 'Calendar of State Papers' in 1593-1595 (British History online).

In 1594 Douglas of Bonjedward was a sole Commissioner for West Teviotdale. [Lairds and Gentlemen: A study of the landed families of the Eastern Anglo-Scottish Borders c1540 -1603. PhD – Maureen M Meikle – University of Edinburgh 1988].

In May,1594, Bonjedburgh and it was George, was one of the Nobles etc called to the Parliament of Scotland. It was for the 30th. It was also fulfilling ‘Lords of the Articles, chosen at the Parliament. Bonjedburgh was listed under the heading ‘Barons’.
Extract of Burghs and Barons -


In 1598 George Douglas is listed on a roll to uphold the law and the religion of the Church of Scotland.

In October, 1602 James VI was in Jedburgh and a band of the clans including George Douglas and William of Bonjedburgh (father and son) and were with James VI and they signed ‘to give up all friendship, kindness, oversight, maintenance or assurance … with common thieves and broken clans … answerable to His Highnesses Laws’. (He became also James I of England in March, 1603).

In 1607–1608 – (Sir Nicol) Rutherford of Hundale and Douglas of Bonjedworth were appointed by Parliament to meet twice a year in the burgh of Jedburgh and fix the price of shoes. They were ‘Commissioners’, to take trial of the prices of rough hides and barked hides, and fix reasonable prices of boots and shoes, with penalties upon the shoemaker who should take a higher price.
They were to meet the Bailies of Jedburgh ‘twice or thrice’ a year ‘to fix the price of leather and, prevent the extortionate charges of the shoemakers…’

Edinburgh, May, 1608. Douglas of Bonjedburgh was a Commissioner. [Register of the Privy Council of Scotland].

In 1610 ‘George Douglas of Bonjedburgh’ was a Commissioner of the Peace for Roxburghshire. [The Middle March of the Scottish Borders – 1573 to 1625, Vol. II. Presumably by Anna Groundwater].

15 April, 1612, Wowlie “Grizel (Rutherford), eldest daughter to Adam Kirkton of Stuartfield. They had a charter on their marriage-contract of the lands of Bonjedburgh on 10 October, 1616, which was confirmed under the Great Seal 26 December 1616”. [The Scots peerage… James Balfour Paul]. Probably about husbandlands?

In 1614 there were – ‘Heritable securities (3) over the lands of Williescruik, part of the husbandlands of Bonjedward’. (National Archives of Scotland).

George’s children were William Douglas c1570 Bonjedward (with Isobel Ker/Kerr c1542) and Robert c1574 and Elizabeth c1576 (with Margaret Stewart 1540).

Isabel Ker was the daughter of Robert Ker of Woodend and Ancrum and Isobel Home of Wedderburn.

Margaret Stewart was the daughter of William Stewart 2nd of Traquair and Christian Hay daughter of John Hay of Snaid, 2nd Earl of Yester.


9th William Douglas c1570. William died in about 1637.

‘Discharge by Robert Dowglas, Collector-General to William Dowglas younger of Bonejedbrugh for the teinds of the kirk of Sowden, Sherrifdom of Selkirk, 30 Sept. 1590’. (National Archives of Scotland).
Land Proprietors in 1590- Included William Douglas of Bonjedburgh and Douglas of Tympenden

In 1596-1597 it was noted by English officials that certain lairds like William Douglas of Bonjedward and Lord Home were ‘good and peaceable neighbours to England’. [Lairds and Gentlemen: A study of the landed families of the Eastern Anglo-Scottish Borders c1540 -1603. PhD – Maureen M Meikle – University of Edinburgh 1988].

In December,1597 ‘Williame Douglas of Boun Jedward, younger’ was a witness to a ‘Bond of Union’.

August,1598. “Copies of the Kingis lettre to the Quein of Ingland, anent the taking of young Bonjedwart, and slaying sum vtheris at the hunting, 7 August,1598”. [Report from Commissioners, Volume 47. By Great Britain, Parliament, House of Commons].

It appears that William Douglas and his son were either injured or imprisoned at this hunting incident which occurred at Redesdale.’ [Lairds and Gentlemen: A study of the landed families of the Eastern Anglo-Scottish Borders c1540 -1603. PhD – Maureen M Meikle – University of Edinburgh 1988].

In 1597,1602, 1610 and in 1615 he was referred to as the ‘Fiar of Bonjedward’. (Fair – inheriting while his father is still alive).

“There are many examples of fairs amongst the Border lairds, but it should be noted that this procedure was not designed as a measure to avoid paying feudal relief…It was merely a means of securing property, Examples included John Ker, fair of Corbet, Phillip Nisbet, fair of theIlk and William Douglas, fair of Bonjedward”. [Lairds and Gentlemen: A study of the landed families of the Eastern Anglo-Scottish Borders c1540 -1603. PhD – Maureen M Meikle – University of Edinburgh 1988].

In 1602-1610 and 1615-1637 William Douglas was to be found in the Privy Council Register.

In the period 1613-1616 William Douglas was ‘schireff principall of Roxburgh’ and he was a ‘witnes’. [Scotland Privy Council].
Feb 1617 of 1618 – “Commissions under the Signet, signed by the same, is
given to William, Lord Cranstoun, William Douglas of Cavers, sheriff of
Roxburgh, William Douglas of Bonjedburgh, and Thomas Turnble of Mynto,
or any two of them – the said Lord Cranstoun of the sheriff being one – to
try Andro and Cuthbert McDowell in Stainledge, who were taken on 16th
instant ‘with the bloodie hand’ after the murder of Fergus Loranein
Gaithouslok, and were committed to the tolbooth (tollbooth) of Jedburgh.”
[Register of the Privy Council of Scotland],

1617 – ‘The Register of the (Privy) Council shows that cautions were
frequently taken whereby parties engaged themselves to fulfill certain
obligations, such as to appear in court or to refrain from certain activities.
The General Band was such an obligation, whereby Border landlords
undertook caution for the good behavior of their tenants…’ In
September,1617 such bands were undertaken by the lairds of
Bonjedburgh, Cavers, Wamphray and Dinwoodle. (Thesis ‘Law and Order
on the Anglo-Scottish Border 1603 – 1707 by Catherine M F Ferguson –
University of St Andrews in 1981).

1617 – Register of the Privy Council of Scotland (Renewed Band by a
number of the Border lairds for the good conduct of their men, servants and
tenants). There were many who signed up including ‘Williame Douglas of
Bonjedburgh’ and ‘Stevin Douglas of Tumpendene’.

In the period 1616 – 1619 (Another Baillie for the Earl of Angus). “The
Lordis ordains that the laird of Bonjedburgh, one other of the Eril of Angus
baillies of Jedburgh Forest…” This was a ‘joint-band’ with Douglas of
Cavers.

1617 – ‘Band by Douglas of Bonjedburgh and Douglas of Cavers, as bailies
for the Earl of Angus in Jedburgh Forest’.
“The quhilk day Douglas of Bonjedburgh, ane of the baillies for Williame,
Erl of Angus, of his landis and lordschip of Jedburgh Firest, actit and oblist
him with James Douglas of Cavers, ane other of the saidis baillies to be
ansuerable for haill inhabitantis of Jedburgh Forest according to the
conditionis of the act abonewritten, ay and quhill the said Erl of Angus
returne within the Kingdome and act him selff to be ansuerable for his
men”. In the time of James VI. [Register of the Privy Council of Scotland].
In the period 1619 to 1622 ‘Bonjedworth’ was ‘to have jurisdiction of within the Jedburgh forest’. He was also ‘summoned to advise for suppression of theft on the Borders’.

In April, 1618 he was referred to as ‘Douglas apparent of Bonjedburgh’. [The Middle March of the Scottish Borders – 1573 to 1625, Vol. II. Presumably by Anna Groundwater].

In about November, 1622 – “Caution for William Douglas of Bonjedward and Mr John Rutherford, provost of Jedburgh…Caution by Robert Ridderfurdo of Edgerston, 1000 pounds for William Douglas of Bonjedwart, and in 500 merks for Mr John Rutherford, provost of Jedburgh, that they shall not reset nor intercommune with Sir John Ker of Jedburgh, and John Ker of Langnewtoun, his son, while they remain at the horn at the instance of Robert, Earl of Lothian – signed ‘Robert Rutherfud’.” [Privy Council of Scotland].

Wil Douglas of Bonjedward and his son Master George Douglas ‘junior’ of Bonjedward were both mentioned in 1622. [Privy Council of Scotland].

Near the end of 1624 William was referred to a ‘Wil Douglas of Bonjedburgh’.

Commission of 1624 to 1630 –
- ‘Commission under the signet to Douglas of Bonjedburgh’. John Gowdie and his son James Gowdie to be tried for the murder of John Halyday. [Privy Council of Scotland].
- 1627 – ‘Commission under the signet to William, Erle of Angus, as justice, to try “Thomas Johnstoun, a commoun and notorious theefe and fugitive, for thift”, who has lately been apprehended by Wiliam Dowglas of Bonjedburgh, and by him delivered to William Dowglas of Cavers, sheriff of Teviotdaill, who has committed him to ward in the tolbooth (tollbooth) of Jedburgh. Charge is given to the said sheriff, and to the provost and bailies of Jedburgh, and any other custodians of the said Thomas Johnstoun, to deliver him to the said Earl of Angus – Signed by the Chancellor, Mortoun, Nithisdaill, Linlithgow, Roxburgh, Melrose, Pa. B. of Rousse, and Melvill’. Reign of Charles I. [Privy Council of Scotland].
23 February, 1625 – ‘Bonjedward alias Bonjedburgh (1) Charter by John Rea, son of Robert Rea, merchant burgess of Jedburgh, and Margaret Kirkton, his spouse to James Ainslie, maltster burgess of Jedburgh, of the lands of Willies Cruick, part of the 21 husbandlands of Bonjedburgh, with a tenement in the Cassagait (Canongate?) of Jedburgh in real warrandice. (2) 1625, Feb. 27 Instrument of sasine following thereon (Registered 1 April, 1625). [National Records of Scotland]

In April, 1625 Bonjedburgh (Bonjedward was said to be made up of 21 husbandlands). [National Archives of Scotland].

In 1626 William Douglas had lands at Toftilaw, Padopuill and Spittlestains ‘worth 48 bolls vict, payes 11, 13sh 4d’ (Tax Roll for the Abbacy of Jedburgh, 1626 – extracted from a Rent Roll from a MS in the Harleian Collection, No 4623 Vol I). The first two were also referred to as Toftilands and Paddapoole, and Toftylaws and Padohugh, and Toftylands and Paddobyull.

There were also ‘Teynd sheaves of Bonjedburgh, worth 5 chald, paie said earl 28 lib’. (Tax Roll for the Abbacy of Jedburgh, 1626 – extracted from a Rent Roll from a MS in the Harleian Collection, No 4623 Vol I).


In 1628 he is mentioned as ‘William Douglas of Boon Jedburgh’.

At Jedburgh in August, 1628 ‘William Douglas of Boon Jedburgh’ was described as the ‘lait Justice conueiner’. (Convener of the Justices of Peace).

23rd January, 1628 at Holyrood House. “Commissions under the signet to the sheriff of Roxburgh, William Dowglas of Bonjedburgh, and John Riddell, apparent of that Ilk, or any two of them, as justices, to hold courts in the tolbooth (tollbooth) of Jedburgh or elsewhere, as they think meet, and try Archibald Elliot of Mewalie, a common and notorious thief and fugitive, who having lately been apprehended and committed ‘to waird within the pitt of Cavers’…” [Register of the Privy Council of Scotland].
In 1628 – “Complaint by William Douglas of Bonjedburgh and Andrew Riddell, apparent of that Ilk, as follows – Their Lordships appointed them to lead and stcak the teinds within the parish of Langnewton which were in debate betwixt Sir Robert Ker of Ancrum and Mr William Jamessoun, minister at Langnewton, and the said minister and his tenants were informed hereof and charged to desist the medling with the said teinds of 1628...” The outcome of this was that “Mr William Jamessoun and others violently opposed the said William Douglas and Andrew Riddell in leading the teinds within the parish of Langnewton”. [Register of Privy Council of Scotland].

In 1629 in the time of Charles I “The Lords, with consent of Ragwell Bennet of Chesters, appoint the Laird of Bonjedburgh and Sir James Ker of Crailing to hear and determine upon the difference between Bennet and Barbara Buckholme, wife of Thomas Browne, and William Rutherfurds, her son, in reference to a decree of removing the lands of Ryknow and Abbotismeadow, recovered against them by the said Ragwell Bennet, and any other differences – the said Ragwell obliging himself to abide in their decision...”

1629 – Williame Douglas of Bonjedburgh, was the ‘conveener of the justices of the peace within the bounds of East Teviotdaill...’ [Privy Council of Scotland].

In 1629 it was charged to Bonjedburgh ‘as convener of the justices of the peace of East Teviotdale to provide carriage for the King's baggage’.

From an index of Charters drawn up in about 1629. ‘to William Pettilllok, herauld, the three husband lands of the town of Bonjedward, by forfaultry of Roger Pringill...de Roxburgh, with the reft of his forfaultrie’.

In 1630 to 1632 William Douglas of Bonjedburgh was a Convenor of the Subcommissioners of the Presbytery of Jedburgh and ‘he was to be put to the horn’. (Privy Council of Scotland).

Horning was a method of publicly declaring a person a rebel. It could be by letter or three blasts of a horn.
26 July, 1632 – Witchcraft – “Issobell Hall, indweller in Jedburgh ‘long tyme bygone suspect and delate’ depositions seen and considered by the Bishop of Caithness. Commission to the sheriff of Roxburgh and his deputes William Douglas of Bonjedburgh and the provost and baillies of Jedburgh or any three of them the sheriff being one to put her to assize…”

William Douglas of Bonjedburgh gets a mention in the ‘Act in favour of Sir John Auchmuty of Gosford’ in June, 1633 (Records of the Parliaments of Scotland to 1707).

It was an Act in 1633 in favour of Sir Johne Achmootie of Goffuird entitled ‘Oure Soverane Lord’. William Dowglas of Bonjedwart was mentioned for his richt and entrieff (I think in terms of contributions to the Act, his corrections and entries).

1633-1635. “Williame Dowglas of Bonjedburgh” is mentioned in Scotland Privy Council papers.

In about the mid 1630’s – “Anent the teinds of Langnewton…On the supplication of Sir Robert Ker of Ancrum bearing that the teinds of Langnewton are in dispute between him and Mr William Jamesoun, minister of Langnewton, that they have sequestrated for several years past, and that there is a like necessity for sequestrating those of the present crop, the Lords appoint the Lairds of Bonjedburgh and Riddell, younger, to ingather the same, and stack them in some neutral place, discharging both the disputants from meddling therein.” William Douglas of Bonjedburgh and Andrew Riddill (Riddell) then both made their own (join) complaint against Mr William Jamesoun…(Privy Council of Scotland).

In November, 1636 a man by the surname of Runsiman was Servitor to William Douglas of Bonjedburgh.

1637 – ‘Mr James Burnet and Mr John Maitland, minister of Lauder, appointed conveners of the justice of peace within the shirefdom of Roxburgh and the bailliary of Lauder respectively’.

“Forsamekle as the office of conveener of the justices of peace within the shirefdom of Roxburgh now vaikes by the deceasess of William Dowglas of Bonjedburgh, late conveener of the said shirefdom, and the office of conveener of the justices of the peace of the bailliere of Launderdaill now also vaikes by the removal of Mr James Burnet, sometime minister of
Lawder, late conveenner there, to the burgh of Jedburgh, where he is minister; and querdhas the necessitie of his Majesteis service and peace of the countrie requires that some fitt person be substitute in their place…Mr James Burnet to be conveenner of the justices of peace within the shirefdom of Roxburgh in place of the said Laird of Bonjedburgh…”
[Register of the Privy Council of Scotland].

Deeds of Bonjedward – 1626, 1642, 1643

William’s children with Rebekah/Rebecca Drummond c1588 were –
• George Douglas c1606,
• Mary Douglas c1610 (Married John Douglas c1608, 6th of Timpendean),
• Rev John Douglas c1616 MA, (Appointed to Yetholm in 1639-1661 and Crailing in 1661. John died in 1671 aged c56),
• Thomas Douglas c1623,
• Rev James Douglas c1625 (MA) University of Edinburgh and
• William Douglas c1630.

Rebekah’s father was John Drummond of Hawthornden, and she was the sister of William Drummond, the poet.

William Douglas c1570 later married Elizabeth Drummond c1590 (sister of Rebekah/Rebecca). I have found no evidence of any issue.

‘William Douglas of Bongedward’ is mentioned in ‘The genealogy of the Most Noble and Ancient House of Drummond – David Laing 1887’.

Thomas Douglas c1623 was mentioned in the Register of Deeds in 1672. It appears to be a Grantee tack dated 23 October. Thomas is referred to as ‘son of William (Douglas) of Boonjedwart’.

In years such as 1623, 1636 and 1637 the borders of England and Scotland were hit by plagues. In May,1636 fairs were prohibited in the Scottish Border towns and Jedburgh was an example.
More about the Rev John Douglas c1616 – he was laureated at the University of Edinburgh on 23rd July, 1635. He got a testimonial from the Presbytery of Jedburgh on 22nd August, 1638. John was presented by Francis, Earl of Buccleuch and his tutors in February, 1639, and by William, Earl of Lothian in the same month. He was ordained on 23rd April following and installed soon afterwards. He was a member of the Commission of Assembly in 1649.

More on the Rev James Douglas c1625. He took his degree MA from the University of Edinburgh in August 1645. He was installed on 15th December, 1652. He was a Minister at Hobkirk and he was buried ‘In Cowdies Knowe a mound in a graveyard says “Here lys Maister James Douglas sone of the Laird of Bonjedward, Minister of Hopkirk (Hobkirk) who died upon 29th May, 1665, his age 40.” James had married Jean Martin who survived him. He was a son of William Douglas of Bonjedward.


10th George Douglas c1606. George died before 15 June, 1682. His Retour was dated 15 June, 1682.

As at 15 June, 1682 Toftylands and Paddapoole in the Barony of Ulstoune were held by Georgius Douglas. He had inherited these lands from (his father) Willielmi Douglas.

It was said by G Harvey Johnston that “George was also retoured to his grandfather William at the same date”?

In 1631 it is mentioned that “George Douglas” was the sheriff of Teviotdale. (Calendar of the House of Lords Manuscripts).

1631, Sept. 6. “Another commission stamped, sealed and signed as before, adding the name of Johne Maxwell of Cogan, deputy of George Douglas, appearand of Bonjedburgh, sheriff of Teviotdale”.

On 6 September, 1631 at Holyroodhouse – the Privy Council ordered ‘under the sign manual (stamp) and signet’. That George Douglas, the younger, of Bonjedward and others…”jointly and severally to convent the King’s lieges
in arms, and search for and take the said Thomas Irving, and bring him to justice…” [Privy Council of Scotland].

6th September, 1631 – Holyroodhouse. “Privy Council order under the sign manual (stamp) and signet…it charges James Earl of Murray and Robert Earl of Nithisdaill, Walter Earl of Buccleugh, William Viscount Drumlanrig, and James Lord of Downe. James Lord Steward of Tracquair, Sir John Charters of Armsfield, Sir Robert Greig of Lug, Sir James Pringill of Gallaschielles, Mr George Douglas, the younger of Bonjedward, John Maxwell of Logane…jointly and severally convent the King’s Lieges in arms, and search for and take the same Thomas Irving, and bring him to justice &c. A decree is added authorizing them to hear harquebuses (shoulder guns) and pistolets (small firearms) in the executing of the Commission…” [Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts].

In 1632 George made a discharge of 20,000 merks to Sir Patrick Murray of Elinbank. He had married Patrick’s daughter Christian Murray c1609 in 1631. Her mother was Margaret Hamilton.

In 1632 George’s sister Mary Douglas married John Douglas 6th of Timpendean.

Maister George Douglas of Bonjedwart was mentioned in about 1633. [The Acts of the Parliaments of Scotland]. He seems a bit too old be a Master, but it depends on his actual Birth date.

In 1636 – ‘Tack by Thomas, Lord Binning, to Mr George Douglas younger of Bonjedburgh of the three corn mills of Jedburgh possessed by Mr John Rutherfurde and Alexander Kirktoun’. (National Archives of Scotland).

Geo. Douglas de Bon-Judworth gets a mention in 1638.

In 1638 ‘Geo (George) Douglas of Bunjedward’ was one of many noblemen, barons, gentlemen, burgesses, ministers and others who subscribed to and signed the Scottish Church ‘Confession of Faith’ originally drawn up and signed in Glasgow in 1580, then signed by others in 1581 and subscribed to and signed by others in 1590. (Fasti ecclesiea scoticanae).
A copy of this document was preserved in Cavers House. (Transactions of the Hawick Archeaological Society). I wonder where it is now?

The Confession of Faith – “Subscribed at first by the King’s Majesty, and his Household, in the year 1580; thereafter by persons of all ranks in the year 1581, by ordinance of the Lords of secret council, and acts of the General Assembly; subscribed again by all sorts of persons in the year 1590, by a new ordinance of council, at the desire of the General Assembly: with a general bond for the maintaining of the true Christian religion, and the King’s person; and, together with a resolution and promise, for the causes after expressed, to maintain the true religion, and the King’s Majesty, according to the foresaid Confession and acts of Parliament, subscribed by Barons, Nobles, Gentlemen, Burgesses, Ministers, and Commons, in the year 1638: approven by the General Assembly 1638 and 1639; and subscribed again by persons of all ranks and qualities in the year 1639, by an ordinance of council, upon the supplication of the General Assembly, and act of the General Assembly, ratified by an act of Parliament 1640: and subscribed by King Charles II. at Spey, June 23, 1650, and Scoon, January 1. 1651”.

George Douglas was a Commissioner of Public Affairs for the Kirk in 1643. The Scottish Kirk, it appears was the religious body trying to bring Protestantism to Scotland.

As at August, 1641 ‘George Douglas of Bonjedburgh’ was one of seven persons who were classified as not being members of Parliament. (Parliament of Scotland). Obviously, they were not being compliant!


15 August 1643 Legislation … of that ilk, Mr George Douglas of Bonjedward, John Kerr of Lochtour, Robert Pringle of … (Parliament of Scotland).


1643 - Act for the committees of war in the shires - In the sheriffdom of Roxburgh, Sir Andrew Kerr of Greenhead, Sir Walter Riddell of that ilk, Sir Thomas Kerr of Cavers, John Rutherford of Hunthill, Andrew Kerr of Linton, Mr George Douglas of Bonjedward, Archibald Douglas, fiar of Cavers, William Elliott of Stobs, John Kerr of Lochtour, Henry Cranston, brother to [John Cranston], lord Cranston, Robert Pringle of Stichill, John Scott of Gorrenberry, William Kerr of Newton, Robert Langlands of that ilk, Mr Gilbert Elliott of Craigend, Walter Scott of Goldielands, John Rutherford of Edgerston, John Beirhope of that ilk, John wells for Jedburgh, Gideon Scott in Harden and the said Archibald Douglas of Cavers (or in his absence, Bonjedward) to be convener. (Parliament of Scotland).

In 1643 George Douglas was rated at 4,000 pounds for his lands and teynds at Bonjedr (Bonjedbrugh) from Roxburghshire land rates. At the same time the rates for Timpendean were 260 pounds liferented by the widow of John Douglas of Timpendean.

The rating of Bonjedburgh in 1643 also included lands at Stewartfield and lands at Timpendean and Langtoun. The latter two may have been liferented to George Douglas?

In 1678 the same lands of Bonjedward as in 1643 were rated at 5078 pounds.

However, by 1707 circumstances had changed in that Bonjedward’s landholdings and tiends had been downsized. With the rated value being 2642 pounds. Besides in 1707, the Laird of Bonjedward was William Douglas 12th.

A large proportion of the lands appear to have been sold to the Laird of Wells. This Laird was likely to have been Thomas Rutherford/Rutherford. Half of these lands were sold to Wells with the Lairds of Bonjedward and...
Wells effectively having half shares each (of disjoined areas) – Bonjedward mains, Ploughstilt, farm-acres, mill and teinds. Besides, the Laird of Bonjedward had half shares of lands at Mounthooly (Admiral Elliot) and lands at Woodend, Roundhaugh and Newmill. The Laird of Bonjedward was rated at 1533, with 200 additionally being for Timpendale and Langtoun.

The Laird of Bonjedward also owned some of Bonjedward Mains on his own, rated at 909.

The Bonjedward Laird had also liferented (and this was taken into account in the Roxburghshire land rate calculations above) – East end of Bonjedward Mains, Westmains of Bonjedward, Ashiebank and Cray’s Park, Pastureground, West Huntknow, Parktown and Sheeprig, Horsepark at Place and Sunnybraepark. Haugh now belonged to Sir John Scott of Ancrum and some grounds into Simpson’s Yetts was now owned by John Reid.

It is a complex picture and it lacks detail.

Oct.1644 – ‘Order by the Committee of Estates as to ‘pest’ and infection brought by certain persons from England to Nisbitt and Bonjedburgh’. (National Archives of Scotland).

On 24 March, 1647 Mr George Douglas of Bonjedburgh is mentioned in the ‘Act renewing the commission for plantation of kirks and valuation of teinds’. George Douglas a representative from 1641 was said to be ‘deceased’. But the Commission in fact classed him as deceased ‘for complaine with the rebels, therefore the estates of parliament nominate David Beaton of Creich in place of Mr George Douglas…” (Parliament of Scotland).


In 1661 there was – ‘Information for the laird of Bonjedburgh and his curators, anent (concerning) settlement to be made for his only sister, to provide for her necessary ailment and such a provision for advanceing hir (her) to a condition of marriage with a gentleman of hir (her) awin (own) qualitie’. (National Archives of Scotland).
This concerns George's sister Mary Douglas who had married John Douglas 6th of Timpendean. John Douglas had died by 1643 as the lands of Timpendean were life-rented by his widow. (Land Tax Rolls for Roxburghshire)

In July, 1665 regarding Bonjedburgh (Bonjedward) – ‘Titles (3) to the teinds of the lands of Bonjedward or Bonjedburgh, dispone (disposed) by the Earl of Lothian to George Douglas of Bonjedburgh…’ (National Archives of Scotland). A teind was a tithe.

George is mentioned in Border Deeds in 1665, 1672, 1673 and 1682.

From the 1673 Register of Deeds George Douglas of Bonjedburgh had Granter Bonds on 16 January, 19 February and 8 April and a Grantee Bond on 14 May.

The Lady Bonjedburgh is mentioned in 1641. It was to do with a market place “Adam Brown the Bailie ‘his stairfoot upwards to the Lady Bonjedburgh her stairfoot on both sides’”. It was probably about the Jedburgh market.

Anna Shields (Shiells) servitrix to the Lady Bonjedburgh was prosecuted for riot in the period 1676 to 1678.

The children of George Douglas c1606 with the Hon Christian/Crystane Murray were George c1632, John c1633, Master Alexander c1634 and Henry (Harry) c1635.

Master George Douglas of Bonjedburgh is mentioned in 1638. [Records of the Kirk of Scotland…]


In 1641 there is mention of Maister George Douglas and Maister Johne Douglas of Bonjedburgh and in 1643 Maister Alexander Douglas of Bonjedburgh was mentioned in the Acts of General Assemblies.
Harry ie Hendrie (Henrie) Douglas was the subject of an ‘Act and percept in favors of Hendrie Dowglas’ on 23 May, 1649 at Edinburgh. (Parliament of Scotland).

In 1658 the Douglastes of Bonjedward had Tutors.

February, 1671 – Court of Session – Mark Cass against Douglas and Others – An act against some of the Laird of Bonjedburgh’s Tutors, the pupil being Henry Douglas.

11th George Douglas c1632. He died before 7 May, 1695.

September, 1675 – Mr Mathew Selkrig was Servitor to the Laird of Bonjedburgh. [Records of the Burgh of Edinburgh].

1678. “…Douglas of Bonjedburgh fined 27,500 merks for irregularities…” (The Decisions of the Lords of Council and Session, June 6th).

About 1682-1683 “Douglas of Bonjedburgh was fined by the Laird of Meldrum, as the council’s sheriff of Teviotdale, twenty-seven thousand merks for his own and his lady’s irregularities, in being absent from the church and private baptisms…”. See 1678 above. [Annals of the persecution in Scotland from the restoration to the revolution. By James Aikman 1779-1860].

George Douglas was fined 6,000 pounds Scots in 1680. I think that the fine was for not attending church.

George inherited the Bonjedward title in 1682. He was retoured to his father George in 1682.

It appears that George Douglas of Bonjedburgh inherited Toftilands and Paddapoole in Ulston from his father William Douglas of Bonjedburgh in June, 1682 [Inquisition Ad Capellam Domini Regis Retornatarvm…Vol 2…in the Reign of King George III – March, 1831].

George Douglas of Bonjedburgh was mentioned in 1683. (Gentlemen and others imprisoned).
George was sent to prison at the time of 'the Sufferings' in 1683 and again in 1685. In 1685 he was reported ‘having now lien in prison three months, being sickly…’

In 1684 a Burgess ticket was issued to ‘Alexander Kerr, servant to the laird of Bonjedward’. [National Records of Scotland]

In 1685 – 1686 George Douglas of Bonjedburgh remitted a petition. The petitioner ‘has lyen in the toolboth of Edinburgh, these three months bygaine…and the supplicant by his imprisonment is become very sickly and tender in this season of the year…’ He was to be ‘set at Liberty’. [Register of the Privy Council of Scotland].

George Douglas of Bonjedburgh had remitted a petition to the Committee (which Committee?). It showed ‘the petitioner has been lyen incarcerat in the tolbooth (tollbooth) of Edinburgh these three months bygaine (having been apprehended there by Captain Grahame) and the supplicant by his imprisonment is become very sickly and tender…”

1685 – George Douglas of Bonjedburgh – “Anent a petition presented by George Douglas of Bonjedworth, shewing that the petitioner has lyen incarcerat in the tolbooth (tollbooth) of Edinburgh these three months bygaine (having been apprehended there by Captain Grahame) and the supplicant by his imprisonment has become verry sickly and tender in this seassone of the year, besides the petitioner has a numerous family of tuelve children many whereof are presently sick…” [Register of the Privy Council of Scotland]. One would imagine that at least some of the twelve children, besides William Douglas would have reached adulthood.

This was punishment for refusing to attend the parish church and he was also fined 40,500 pounds for the first offence. For the second offence for ‘himself and his lady’ he was fined 1,500 pounds and for the third offence he was fined 1,750 pounds.

For a similar offence of not attending church the Lady of Timpendean was fined 1,405 pounds.

Mr George Douglas of Bonjedburgh. [Parliament of Scotland] - ‘Act for raising a supply offered to their majesties on 7th June,1690.’
The date of George’s Testament was 7th May, 1695. George Douglas of Boonjedburgh’. (Peebles).

George’s child who inherited his title was William Douglas c1652. Some of the other 12 children of George Douglas may have been – Isabell, Margaret (1), Janett, Margaret (2) or Christian, Agnes, John, Thomas, Adam and George. (IGI).

George Douglas may of even had a couple of wives seeing that he probably had young children when in his 50’s,

12th William Douglas c1652 Bonjedward. William died after 29 November, 1709.

William Douglas of Bonjedward was mentioned in 1685. [The Laws and Acts of Parliament made by King James the First…].

In 1695 he was mentioned as the ‘Laird of Boon-Jedburgh’.

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’. (Records of the Parliaments of Scotland to 1707).

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

In 1696 ‘Douglas of Bonjedburgh’ was one of the representatives for the Shire of Roxburgh, in an act of the Parliament of Scotland. It ‘Followes the Commissioners of Supply given in by Noblemen and Commissioners for the several Shyres as was ordered in Parliament’. It was the ‘Acta Parliamentorum Gulielmi’.

In September, 1696 William Douglas of Cunzierton represented Roxburgh as did Douglas of Bonjeward (they were separate individuals). It was about legislation ‘Act anent the supply of eighteen month’s cess upon land rent’. (Parliamentary Register – Edinburgh).

In another entry in 1696 along with ‘Douglafs of Bonjedburgh’, ‘William Douglaufs of Cungiartoun’ was listed for Roxburgh. [‘Acta Parliamentorum Gulielmi’].
‘William Douglas of Cunyertoun’ was on the Roxburghshire Land Tax Roll between 1645 and 1831. (Scotlands Places).

In 1691 to 1695, four persons paid Hearth Tax at Cunyertoun. (Scotlands Places).

William Douglas c1652 was mentioned on the Parliamentary Register in July, 1704.

In November, 1709 – ‘Extract commission by William, Marquess of Lothian, to William Douglas of Bonjedward as baillie of the lordship, bailiary and barony of Jedburgh and all others within the sheriffdom of Roxburgh’. (National Archives of Scotland).

William Douglas and Margaret Scott c1652 were married on 12th October, 1670 at Jedburgh.

William’s children with Margaret Scott were –

- George Douglas c1671,

Sundial – “a small two-faced tabular dial inscribed Mr W D 1699, for Walter Douglas, Minister of Linton from 1698 to 1727… has been set up on the SW angle of the nave. [Canmore]

Rev Walter Douglas had three daughters probably with Jane Weir -

- Elizabeth c1701, Isobel/Isabel c1702 (Married the Rev Charles Douglas, Minister of Cavers) and Wilhelmina c1705 (Married Dr John Tait, Physician, Dalkeith).

The Testament for ‘Isabel’ Douglas widow of ‘Mr Charles Douglas minister at Cavers, in Teviotdale’ is dated 1 Mar, 1749. [Edinburgh Testaments].

- Isobell Douglas 4/4/1677,
- possibly Sir Charles Douglas c1679 and
- likely Marion Douglas 25/12/1683 and
• John Douglas c1685 (An Apprentice Pirriewigmaker in September, 1699 in Edinburgh).

The Rev Charles Douglas was Minister of Cavers in 1738.


There was possibly another son of William Douglas and Margaret Scott. I am talking about a Richard Douglas born c1673? It is stated in the thesis below that “...Criminals of greater stature, such as Richard Douglas, son of the laird of Bonjedburgh, were banished from the realm of Scotland”. The banishment could have taken place under the Peebles Court in 1699? However, there could be incorrect identification as to which Douglas family Richard Douglas belonged to?

Richard Douglas may have been banished to Ireland or to the American plantations? Or he may have been encouraged to leave and serve as a mercenary in one of the continental armies in Europe?

William Douglas married a second time to Beatrix Scott c1678 in October, 1699 at Askirk, Roxburghshire. (Clan MacFarlane genealogy). However, Family Search shows Jedburgh as their marriage location (advice from Douglas Scott of the Hawick Word Book).

Family Search also shows that Beatrice Scott and William ‘Duglass’ had Isobella Douglas born 3rd June, 1703 at Hawick, Roxburghshire.

Douglas Scott also advised that he found John Douglas born 1705 to William Douglas and Beatrice Scott in the Hawick baptisms. A Witness was Walter Scott who added that he was ‘old Watt’. Old Watt was probably the father of Beatrice or Beatrix Scott. It appears that old Watt may have been of a Scott family of Hawick.

The second witness to the baptism was Andrew Riddell in Goldiland.
From Clan MacFarlane genealogy - ‘Wat Wudspurs’ Walter Scott was 1st of Raeburn and his wife was Anne Isabel MacDougall. They are listed as the parents Beatrice or Beatrix Scott who married William Douglas of Bonjedward. Wat Wudspurs' father was Sir William Scott, 3rd of Harden, Sheriff of Selkirk and his mother was Agnes Murray.

However, it appears that ‘old Watt’ was a Walter Scott of Hawick and was not the same person as ‘Wat Wudspurs’ Walter Scott of Raeburn.

13th George Douglas c1671. He died in about 1750. George’s Retour was in 1754.

In the Scottish Convenanter Genealogical Index this George Douglas is estimated as being born in Bonjedward (Bonjedburgh) around 1650 to 1655.

However, George’s parents William Douglas and Margaret Scott did not marry until 12 October,1670 in Jedburgh, Roxburghshire.

On 13 May,1711 ‘Douglas of Bonjedward’ was a Witness to the marriage of Andrew Douglas, Baillie and Jean More in Melrose. [Scottish Record Society – Melrose Parish Register 1642 – 1820].

In about 1713 ‘George Douglas of Bonjedburgh’ was on a roll call of prominent local lairds.

In 1739 George Douglas was granted a heritable bond over his lands of Bonjedburgh to Lord Cranston “for infefting Lord Cranston in an annual rent of L120, and for infefting him in the property of the lands themselves for payment to him of the sum of L2400. Infeftment followed”. Soon after, Lord Cranston and George Douglas granted a heritable bond to James Bogle for L2000 Sterling and for his further security, Lord Cranston in the same bond, disposed to him his heritable bond in the lands of Bonjedburgh.

“…And the whole includes with this provision, that this present right and disposition, annualrents, lands and others above disposed in security, shall be redeemable by payment, making to James Bogle the principal sum of L2000 Sterling. Annualrents thereof that shall become due, and liquidate penalties engaged therefor, and that thereupon our said former right and
infeftments shall revert to us, as if his present right and disposition had never been made: Infeftment followed. Bogle’s debt coming into the person of Lord Cassilis, he, in the year 1747 adjudged from Lord Cranston this heritable security upon the estate of Bonjedburgh.” These transactions were made under the Court of Session.

The Earls of Cassilis were Kennedys. Perhaps James Bogle was indebted to Lord Cassilis?

‘Infeftments in security’ were those in which land was pledged or burdened but not transferred. These infeftments were as a security for a loan or of a cautioner or security for his engagement.

It was stated that “…the vaults at Abbotshall (which was within the Abbacy and Barony of Ulston) had been removed in 1748 by the Laird of Bonjedward, to whom they had been sold…” (Jedburgh Abbey by J Watson). (these stones could be used for building purposes).

A reference to George in 1772 was Geo. Douglas ‘juniore de Bonjedburgh’.

Children of George Douglas, possibly with Margaret Gilry/Gilray were –
- John Douglas c1697,
- George (1) Douglas c1699,
- William Douglas c1701,
- Christian Douglas in c1702,
- George (2) Douglas 1704,
- Thomas Douglas c1710,
- Margaret Douglas c1712,
- James Douglas c1715,
- Jennet Douglas c1717 and
- Hellin Douglas c1718.

In the 18th Century – ‘Petition to the Barons of Exchequer by Christian Douglas, daughter of deceased George Douglas of Boon-Jedburgh, for inclusion in the Charity Roll’. (National Archives of Scotland).

14th John Douglas c1697. He died after 1761.

John was retoured to grandfather William in 1754? (G Harvey Johnston).
In 1748 John Douglas of Bonjedburgh paid tax on 14 windows. (Scotlands Places). At the same time Archibald Douglas of Timpendale paid tax on 28 windows – ‘Arch, Douglas Timpintoun’. (Scotlands Places). There were 4 other householders who paid window tax at ‘Timpintoun’ in 1748.

John Douglas c1697 may have had a son Andrew Douglas c1718 who was a factor on the Lothian Estates of Bonjedward in 1733. (National Archives of Scotland).

What happened to the Douglas family of Bonjedward and their lands held for hundreds of years?

George Douglas having died in about 1750 his Bonjedward estate was sold by his apparent heir (John Douglas) to Archibald Jardine in March, 1751.

However, it took many years for the sale of Bonjedward to be completed due to the complications of tenancies, rent, infeftments, fragmented ownership of Bonjedward (many titles covering small and large titles, and there were also numerous owners), and the Bonjedward estate being not only at Bonjedward but scattered over many localities in the vicinity of Jedburgh.

In January, 1754 regarding Bonjedburgh (Bonjeard) – ‘Titles (15) to the lands of Bonjedburgh or Bonjedward, disponed (disposed) by John Douglass of Bonjedward to Archibald Jardine, factor for Colonel William Elliot of Wells…following on decreets of sale and ranking’. (National Archives of Scotland).

In December, 1757 regarding Bonjedburgh (Bonjedward) – ‘Titles (33) to the lands of Williescrook, part of the 21 husbandlands of Bonjedburgh or Bonjedward, disponed (disposed) by John Ainslie, merchant in Bellingham, to Alexander Jerdan linen draper in Newcastle’. (National Archives of Scotland).

In 1761 John Douglas of Boonjedburgh was a Commissioner for Land Tax in Great Britain representing Roxburghshire. It was at the time of the Reign of George III. This indicates that John Douglas was still regarded as the Laird. Archibald Douglas of Timpendean also represented Roxburghshire in 1761.
In September, 1767 regarding Bonjedward – ‘Titles (13) to the Waulk-Mill and Mains of Bonjedward, disposed (disposed) by Mr Thomas Caderwood of Polton, advocate, to Archibald Jerdon of Boonjedward (Bonjedward)’. (National Archives of Scotland).

1770 – National Records of Scotland. ‘Plan of the subjects in Jedburgh belonging to John Douglas and Thomas Turnbull particularly of the Middingstead in dispute between them’. RHP682. I wonder which John Douglas?

By 1779 Land Tax records show an Archibald Jardine at Bonjedward - Archibald Jardine Esqr of Bonjedward

East end of Bonjedward Mains and others £406.1.1
West Mains of Bonjedward Mains and others £407.18.9
Bonjedward farm Mill. Mill lands & others £407.7.2
Ashibank, Craigs park and others £406.5.8
Pasture Ground to the west of Huntknow park Town Sheeprig & others £403.16.0
Horse park of Bonjedward place Sunnybrae park & others £406.8.8
(Scotlands Places)

Particular Register of Sasines Minutes Book (Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles)

Sasines of 3 July, 1773 –

- 24 March, 1780 – Roxburghshire – Archibald Jordon (Jardine/Jerdon) of parts of he lands of Bonjedburgh or Bonjedward viz. the west part or Westend of Bonjedward mains, Bellshaugh Garden at Bonjedward, and two enclosures and grass between the plantations at Bonjedward House, Ancrum Bridge End Farm, Williescrook Park, Mains Sheepriqs, and houses and yards of Bonjedward, Parish of Jedburgh, Roxburghshire, on a charter under the Great Seal in favour of Archibald Douglas of Douglas dated 3 July, 1773, and a disposition by him to the said Archibald Jordan.

- 24 March, 1780 – Roxburghshire – Hay Donaldson writer in Haddington of parts of the lands of Bonjedward or Bonjedburgh viz. the Horsepark at Place, Sunnybraes Park, Triangle, Greenleaves Park, Douglas Park and planting arable to the west of the turnpike road and Sharplaw, remainder of Ancrum Bridge Farm above the road, Shooetrades and Boomlands Parks, Williesland Park, Monklaw
Park and planting, Williescrook Park and muir pasture, and planting on four plots south of Hardenburn, and of some houses and yards in Bonjedward, Parish of Jedburgh, Roxburghshire, on a charter under the Great Seal in favour of Archibald Douglas of Douglas dated 3 July, 1773 and a disposition and assignation by him to the said Hay Donaldson.

- 24 March, 1780 – Roxburghshire – Henry Hall tenant in Linthaughlee of parts of the lands of Bonjedward or Bonjedburgh viz. the Eastpart or Eastend of Bonjedward Mains, Bawhaugh, Bankend Park and Waulkmiln and lands possessed with the same, Burn Park and some houses and yards in Bonjedward, Parish of Jedburgh, Roxburghshire, on a charter under the Great Seal in favour of Archibald Douglas of Douglas dated 3 July, 1773 and a disposition and assignation by him to the said Henry Hall.

- 24 March, 1780 – Roxburghshire – Charles Rankine chirurgeon in Douglas of parts of the lands of Bonjedward or Bonjedburgh viz. the farm of Bonjedward, the Milllands, Mill and multures of Bonjedward with the haugh above the water and two parks on the east of the lower yard of Bonjedward, a clover park on the north and two other parks on the south side of the village of Bonjedward, the lower yard of Bonjedward with two parks at the foot of the Middle Muir with arable lands lying above the said yard and park at Williescrook, and some houses and yards in Bonjedward, Parish of Jedburgh, Roxburghshire, on a charter under the Great Seal in favour of Archibald Douglas of Douglas dated 3 July, 1773 and a disposition and assignation by him to the said Charles Rankine.

- 24 March, 1780 – Roxburghshire – Thomas Maitland Esq late of Loutrie of parts of the lands of Bonjedward or Bonjedburgh viz. Ashiebank, Craigs Park, Simples Yatt, West Craig Inclosure, Calf Park and Easter Stonnybraes, Tuupark at Bonjedward Town, three houses and yards at Bonjedward, Night Park, Whitelawhaugh Park, Upper Whitelaw Park, Wellpark, Huntkno Park, Calderwood’s Plantation and the grass grounds on the west thereof, Longpark and farm acres, and some houses and yards in Bonjedward and the Birney Common, with houses, biggings, yards, multures and tiends parsonage and vicarage if the said lands, Parish of Jedburgh, Roxburghshire, on a charter under the Great Seal in favour of Archibald Douglas of Douglas dated 3 July, 1773 and a disposition and assignation by him to the said Thomas Maitland.
24 March, 1780 – Roxburghshire – Alexander Mckonochie writer in Edinburgh of parts of the lands of Bonjedward or Bonjedburgh viz. the pasture ground to the westward of Huntkno Parh, Town Sheeprigs, Wester and Easter Meadow, Short and Long Sheeprigs, Easter Bank Park, Wester Bank Park, Backcrop Park, Barn Park, Townhouse Park, Town Cow Park at the Place, Wester Stonnybraes, Calf Park, and Planting Coastly or Crossly Park, and some houses and yards in Bonjedward, and the houses, biggings, yards, multures and teinds parsonage and vicarage of the said lands, Parish of Jedburgh, Roxburghshire, on a charter under the Great Seal in favour of Archibald Douglas of Douglas dated 3 July 1773 and a disposition and assignation by him to the said Alexander Mckonochie.

Who was this Archibald Douglas of Douglas?

He appears to have been Archibald James Edward Douglas 1748 to 1827, who became 1st Baron Douglas in Lanark in 1790. His father supposedly was Sir John Stewart, 3rd Baronet of Grantully and his mother was Lady Jane Douglas, sister of Archibald Douglas, 1st Duke of Douglas. He had changed his name from Archibald James Edward Stewart (ie Archibald 1748 to 1827). This decision led to the high profile ‘Douglas Cause’ or ‘Douglas Case’ in the 1760's, when the Duke of Hamilton (who inherited the Marquessate of Douglas) and his kin unsuccessfully contested Archibald’s legitimacy.

Before the above Archibald Douglas there was Archibald Douglas, 1st Duke of Douglas 1694 to 1761. He was created Duke of Douglas, Marquess of Angus and Abernethy, Viscount of the Jedburgh Forest and Lord Douglas of Bonkill, Prestoun and Robertoun. The Duke held vast tracts of land worth a fortune. With strong persuasion he entailed his estates upon his nephew Archibald Douglas, who became 1st Baron of Douglas. From the Scottish Indexes Archibald Douglas appears to have been the owner in 1788 of Baxtonless (Peel), Casterton Parish, Lintalee near Jedburgh and Swinnie near Hallrule. Besides, in 1780 he owned substantial parts of Bonjedward (but not Timpendean, which still had a Douglas Laird).

So were in fact was the Douglas of Bonjedward family always considered as vassals of the King (Kings) and or vassals of descendants of the Earls of Angus? Payment for the honour being blanchferm by a nominal silver penny or a red rose. Or was it a bluff by Archibald Douglas that he owned
many of the lands of Bonjedward? Where does Timpendean fit into this picture?

In 1797 – John Riddell of Timpadean (Timpendean) had 11 farm horses. While William Turnbull of Bonjedward had 8, Andrew Caverhill of Bonjedward had 2 and Thomas Caverhill of Bonjedward had 3. Henry Christy of Bonjedward had 1. (Scotlands Places).

Between 1780 and 1833 – ‘Titles vesting the whole lands and estate of Bonjedward or Bonjedburgh in the person of Archibald Jerdon of Bonjedward, grandson of the first Archibald Jerdon thereof, and related papers’. (National Archives of Scotland).

This grandson was originally Jerdon Caverhill but he made a name change to Archibald Jerdon.

Between 1814 and 1839 – ‘Titles (18) to parts of the lands and estate of Bonjedward, disponed (disposed) by Archibald Jerdon of Bonjedward’. (National Archives of Scotland).

In 1845 – ‘Titles (21) to the superiority of the lands of Bonjedward, acquired by the Hon John Chetwynd Talbot of the Middle Temple, London’. (National Archives of Scotland).

During November, 1845 – ‘Titles (17) to parts and portions of the lands and estate of Bonjedward, disponed (disposed) by the trustees of deceased Archibald Jerdon of Bonjedward to the Hon John Chetwynd Talbot of the Middle Temple, London’. (National Archives of Scotland).

The National Archives of Scotland has numerous references to the history of ownership of Bonjedward when the lands were changing hands from 1625 onwards (bearing in mind that it was the unentailed lands of Bonjedward which were granted to ‘Douglas of Bonjedburgh’ – these records make no obvious distinction between the entailed and unentailed lands).

This Douglas line of Bonjedward seems to have petered out sometime in the mid 1700’s to late 1700s. Some of the lands being sold off as early as the 1600’s. It seems that the Douglas line of Bonjedward finished as there was no substantial property held by that family by 1780? Douglas
individuals in the Douglas family of Bonjedward itself probably survived but they were no longer the factors of Bonjedward.

Because of the sasines instigated by Archibald Douglas of Douglas 1694, I presently hold the view that the Bonjedward lands in Jedburgh were for hundreds of years held in blanchferm as part of the Regalty of Jedburgh Forest and the Angus line of Douglasses and the Douglasses of Bonjedward rather than being gifted these lands outright held them for a token rent. Subject of course to the Will of the King (Kings).

1813 – National Records of Scotland. ‘Sketch plan of part of the Estate of Bonjedward showing lots for sale’. RHP37908

1844 - Colourful sketch (from plan surveyed by William Crawford, junior, surveyor, Edinburgh, 1821) of the estate of Bonjedward in the parish of Jedburgh, Roxburghshire: the property of the trustees of the late Archibald Jerdon. (National Archives of Scotland).

Heraldry of the Douglasses by Harvey Johnston lists the Bonjedward Lairds as –
1 Margaret Douglas and Thomas Johnson
2 John of Bonjedward
3 George
4 George
5 William (split to Andrew of Timpendale)
6 George
7 William
8 George
9 George
10 William
11 George
12 John

An old family tree of Douglas crests (sent to me by William Douglas of the Douglas Archives) I think shows –
3. George
4. George (or John)
5. William
6. William
7. John
8. William – and Cunzierton?  
9. William

I list them as – 
1 Margaret Douglas and Thomas Johnson  
2 John  
3 George  
4 George  
5 William (split to Andrew of Timpendean)  
6 George  
7 Willie (William)  
8 George  
9 William (an additional Laird found by me)  
10 George  
11 George (an additional Laird found by me)  
12 William  
13 George  
14 John

Lord Lyon – 1952

Major Henry James Sholto Douglas, representative of Douglas of Timpendean presented a petition to the Lord Lyon praying for matriculation in his name of the Arms appropriate to him as representative of the family of Douglas of Timpendean.

On 2nd January 1952, the Lord Lyon King of Arms, found in fact:

1. That the petitioner's descent through Andrew Douglas, 1st of Timpendean, younger son of George Douglas of Bonjedward, is satisfactorily established from Margaret Douglas, 1st of Bonjedward, natural daughter of William, Earl of Douglas, by Margaret, Countess of Angus, in favour of whose natural son, George Douglas, the said Countess resigned the Earldom of Angus.

2. That the issue of the said Margaret Douglas, 1st of Bonjedward, by her husband, Thomas Johnson, bore the name and arms of Douglas of Bonjedward.
3. That John Douglas of Bonjedward, in 1450, bore arms differenced by a label of three points charged with as many mullets, on what ground is not known.

4. That in a painted armorial pedigree seen by Alexander Nisbet (System of Heraldry, Vol. I, p. 79) the descent of Douglas of Bonjedward was incorrectly deduced from a third son of the Earl of Angus, which may have been induced by the difference in the seal of 1450.

His Lordship found in law:

“That the petitioner is entitled to matriculate arms on ancient user before 1672 and with a difference congruent to descent illegitimately through Margaret Douglas of Bonjedward from William, Earl of Douglas, and Margaret, Countess of Angus.

Grants warrant to the Lyon Clerk to matriculate in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland in name of the petitioner, Major Henry James Sholto Douglas, representative of Douglas of Timpendale, the following ensigns armorial, videlicet, argent, a man's heart gules on a chief azure three mullets of the field, debruised of a riband sinister wavy sable charged with three round buckles or, alternatively, with as many mullets of the field, all within a bordure of the second; above the shield is placed an helmet befitting his degree with a mantling azure doubled argent, and on a wreath of the liveries is set for crest a dexter hand holding a scimitar, both proper, between two ostrich feathers, one on either side, argent, and in an escrol over the same this motto Honor et Amor, and decerns”.

The Lord Lyon, King of Arms (Innes of Learney) stated that.

“The petitioner is the great-grandson and representative of Major-General William Douglas of Bonjedward and Timpendale in the County of Roxburgh. The Major-General was the son of Archibald Douglas of Bonjedward and Timpendale, and this Archibald was the eldest son of William Douglas of Timpendale, an estate which the family had possessed in uninterrupted descent from Andrew Douglas of Timpendale, third son of George Douglas of Bonjedward who, by charter, dated 1st July 1479, received from his father the Timpendale 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 son of the laird of 1479 has been proved to be extinct. It was, of
course, a laudable and proper act of Timpendean to acquire Bonjedward, if
he did so by purchase upon its loss by the heirs of the senior line, or indeed
if he had an opportunity to reacquire it. But in the circumstances, and
without further proof of the conditions under which Bonjedward was
recovered, I think the historic title of Timpendean is the appropriate one to
be borne by the petitioner and his successors as the representers of the
House of Timpendean, no proof having been offered that the main line of
Bonjedward is extinct.

Reverting to Andrew Douglas, 1st of Timpendean, third son of George
Douglas of Bonjedward, in 1479, the pedigree of this House of Bonjedward
is carried back to Margaret Douglas, illegitimate daughter of William
Douglas, Earl of Douglas, by Margaret Stewart, Countess of Angus, eldest
daughter and heiress of Thomas Stewart, Earl of Angus. By a Countess of
Angus the Earl of Douglas had also an illegitimate son, George, upon
whom the Countess settled, by due feudal procedure, the dignity and
estates of the Earldom of Angus, which have since descended in the line of
that George, who duly became Earl of Angus, which line, following the
events of 1455 and a grant of the forfeited duthus, Douglasdale, was taken
to have become chief by settlement and came to be recognised, and bore
arms, as chief of the name of Douglas.

The position of Margaret Douglas, the Earl of Douglas's illegitimate
daughter by Margaret, Countess of Angus, is different, because no step
was taken, as in the case of her brother, George, to bring her in as an heir
of tailzie even to the Angus succession, and accordingly she remains in the
status of the Earl's natural daughter, but her children took or bore the name
of Douglas and, as we see, have done so for five and a half centuries. Her
husband appears as Thomas filio Johannis, and by this person Margaret
Douglas was mother of John Douglas of Bonjedward, ancestor of the
Bonjedward and Timpendean line above mentioned. There is nothing to
say who Thomas and his father, John, were. They may have been
Douglasses, early cadets of the main line of Douglas, but on the other
hand, the presence of a saltire (a diagonal cross – by me) in chief in the
arms in one seal of Douglas of Bonjedward and Timpendean suggests that
Filio Johannis was a latinisation of Johnston.
Anyway, I do not consider it necessary to investigate the origins of Margaret's husband further, since there is no doubt about the foundation of the house originating in Margaret herself and her grant of the lands of Bonjedward in 1404. There is evidence of use of the arms by members of the family prior to 1672, first in the person of John Douglas of Bonjedward, 1450, who bore the paternal coat of arms with a label of three points gules charged with three mullets argent for difference. This suggests to me that Margaret and John sought to hold themselves out as the next line in “remainder” to the Angus inheritance after issue of her father, Earl George (cf. also Nisbet's System of Heraldry, p. 79). (Margaret's father was Earl William - by me). The painting of the genealogical tree of the House of Douglas to which he refers shows that an effort was there made to deduce Bonjedward legitimately from a third son of Angus. In the light of modern knowledge this is evidently incorrect, and it probably just shows the result of the self-assumed label difference on the painter of the pedigree. That is what correct differencing by the Lord Lyon is to guard against…”

Any theories that Margaret Douglas and the Bonjedward line commenced from any of the Earls of Angus are incorrect suppositions. (by me).

Note that (on many versions of) the Johnston coat of arms it is decorated at the bottom with a large saltire or diagonal cross. A saltire is also called Saint Andrew’s Cross or the crux decussata. Another variant is the Cross of Burgundy (Flanders).

I am wondering whether this cross as used by John Douglas of Bonjedward was to also reinforce the Flemish ancestry of the early Douglases.

About the Unentailed Lands of Bonegedwort/Bonjedward (translated from Latin) –
Carta Isabelle comitisse de Marre de Bonegedwort AD 1404 “…of our own free will gave our faithful Thomas son of John and our beloved sister Margaret of Douglas his wife all our demesne land of Bunegedwort with appurtenances with 20 (marcates) marked …lands of earth lying next to our demesne land of Bunegedwört. Beginning the east part of the aforesaid husbandry land and thus extending to the west part until the aforesaid 20 marcates of land with appurtenances shall be satisfied in full. Belonging by inheritance to us in the forest of Jedwort within the viscountcy of Roxburgh for homage and service of the said Thomas and Margaret his wife our sister and whichever lives longer and after the death of the said Thomas
and Margaret our nephew John of Douglas son of the aforesaid Thomas and Margaret and heirs of the said John of Douglas lawfully begotten of his body...In proof in which case our seal is appended to our charter at Kyndromy 12 Nov in the year of Our Lord 1404 with noblemen as witnesses...”

SALLYE DOUGLAS

27TH MARCH, 2019

MELBOURNE