

Extracts from The Arms of the Baronial and Police Burghs of Scotland

ON February 3, 1602, James VI. erected the town and lands of Bothwell into a free burgh of barony, at the same time as Kirriemuir, Abernethy, Kirktown of Douglas, Crawford Douglas, Preston, Selkirk, and Drumlethie, in favour of William, Earl of Angus. We find no evidence that a municipality was ever formed here.

ON February 3, 1602, James VI., by a sweeping charter in favour of William, Earl of Angus, erected Kirriemuir, Abernethy, Kirktown of Douglas, Crawford-Douglas, Selkirk, Drumlethie, Bothwell, and Preston into free burghs of barony; but we find no evidence that a municipality was ever formed in any of them in virtue of this charter.

JAMES VI., by the same charter of February 3, 1602, in favour of William, Earl of Angus, by which he erected Kirriemuir, Abernethy, Crawford, Preston, Bothwell, Selkirk, and Drumlethie, into free burghs of barony, similarly erected the Kirktown of Douglas. "As a burgh of barony," says the 'New Statistical Account,' "it possessed a regular magistracy, to whom the lords of the manor appear to have delegated some of their most important prerogatives. Among these was the power of life and death. So late as the year 1675 we find the bailies compelling two persons to come under an obligation . . . to depart furth of the said burgh and lordship of Douglas, and never thereafter to return . . . under the pain of death."

On March 10, 1702, Douglas became the capital town of the regality of the name.

Kirriemuir bears the arms of Douglas.

ON April 23, 1450, James II., as a favour to William, Earl of Douglas, erected Strathaven into a free burgh of barony ; and on October 4, 1580, James VI. repeated the same thing by a charter in favour of James Hamilton of Liberton. The property has descended to the present ducal family of Hamilton, and it is an interesting fact that the name of that family is now Douglas-Hamilton, but we have failed to find any connection in blood between the two grantees. There is no record of the creation of any form of municipal government.