



GATEHOUSE-OF-FLEET

The Bridge where Girthon and Anwoth meet
as reconstructed 1965



Extract Act of Parliament in favour of the Laird of Broughton anent a Bridge on the Water of Fleet, 1661.

At Edinburgh the fourth day of June One thousand six hundred and sixty one years. Our Sovereane Lord and Estates of Parliament haveing heard, seen and considered a supplication given in to them be Richard Murray of Bruchton, Shewing that at the Gatehouse of Fleet there was ane Bridge verie usefull upon the Water of Fleet for the whole Country, by the decay wherof not only the supplicant and his tennents but the whole country has suffered prejudice beside the loss of many lives, it being upon a road betwixt Port-Patrick and Dumfries from Ireland to England, and the want wherof is a great impedement to His Majesties service in the meetings of the shirriffdome of Wigton and stewartrie of Kirkcudbright in time of rain, Therefore craveing that warrand might be granted to the suppliant for building and reparation of the said bridge in the place where the same was formerly and that warrand might also be granted to the supplicant for levieing such pettye customes for horse, bestiall

and sheep and other moveables and commodities as should pass that way, as the Commissioners Grace and States of Parliament should think expedient, for building and upholding the said bridge be advice of the noblemen and others concerned in the country, And haveing likewise considered ane attestation to the said work and opinion therof under the hand and subscriptions of severall noblemen and others within the said shire and stewartrie, whereby they attest the said work to be usefull and necessarie and did think fitt and gave their opinion that twelve pennies Scots be levied of each ten sheep that passes along the said way for repairing and maintaining thereof, together with ane report made and given in be the Lords and others Commissioners appointed for Trade and Bills, shewing that they upon consideration of the said supplication, attestation and opinion abovescribten did ordain the same to be given in open Parliament as their opinion, And being with the said supplication and report weel and ryplie advised, His Majestie with advice and consent of the saids Estates of Parliament have approven and hereby approve the said report and ordains the said custome of twelve pennies Scots money to be payed for each heid of bestiall and twelve pennies for each ten sheep that passes alongs the said way and impowers the said supplicant to exact the same accordingly and ordains him to build, repare and uphold the said bridge therewith.

Extracted furth of the Records of Parliament in the Laigh Parliament House upon this and preceeding page by Mr. Thomas Gibsone, one of the principal Clerks of Session, as haveing power for that effect from Charles, Earl of Selkirk, Lord Clerk Register.

THOS. GIBSONE.

Copy Petitione for Mr. Murray of Broughton with Report from the Barrons of Exchequer, 1729.

To the King's most Excellent Majesty The Petitione of Alexander Murray Esquire most humbly sheweth,

That the tack or lease of the petitioner's estate within the parioches of Whitehorne and Sorbie in the county of Galloway and the tack or lease of the teinds in the parioch of Girthon in the Steuartry of Kirkcudbright which formerly belonged to the Bishop of Galloway and now to Your Majesty are expired,

That the petitioner payes £9. 6. 1½ yearly to Your Majesties Exchequer in Scotland of feu and tack duty for the saids teinds,

That the petitioner was att very great charges and expences for Your Majesties service dureing the late unnaturall rebellione,

That the River of Fleet within the said parioch of Girthon and steuartry foresaid is not passable by man or horse for most part of the winter seaseone, which is a great disadvantage to strangers as weel as to Your Majesties subjects travelling from England to Ireland, and the building of a stone bridge over the same would be very great charges in regard the stone which is proper for building it must be caryed from England and the lyme stone from Ireland both by sea, and the foresaid feu and teind tack duty being att Your Majesties gift and dispositione,

Your petitioner therefore most humbly prays that Your Majesty will be graciously pleased to grant him a new tack or lease of the feu and teinds of the foresaid lands for the space of nyntien years free of any compositione for the payment of yearly in name of feu and teind tack duty dureing the said lease to enable him to build the said bridge. And the petitioner will as in duty bound ever pray. Sign'd

ALL. MURRAY.

Whitehall March 17th 1721

His Majesty is graciously pleased to refer this petition to the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury to consider thereof and report their opinione what is fitting for His Majesty to doe therein, whereupon His Majesty will declare his farder pleasure. Sign'd

ROXBURGHE.

Whitehall Treasury Chamber 15 Apryle 1721

The Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of His Majesties Treasury are pleased to referr this petitione to the Lord Cheife Barron and the rest of the Barrons of His Majesties Court of Exchequer in Scotland, who are desyred to consider the same and report to their Lordships a true state of the facts therein contained together with their opinione what is fitt for his Majesty to doe therein. Sign'd

R. WALPOLE.

To the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of His Majesties Treasury,
May it please your Lordships,

In obedience to your Lordships commands signified to us by Mr. Walpole the 15th Apryle 1721 wee have considered the petitione of Allexr. Murray Esquire here unto annexed and doe hereby humbly certifie unto your Lordships,

That wee find the petitioner for twenty years past hes been in use of paying to the Crown as come in place of the Bishop of Galloway the yearly sum of £5. 11. 1½ in name of tack duty for the tythe of the lands of Broughton,

That the said petitioner hes been lykewayes in use of paying yearly certain feu duties for the lands of Owtoune Gallows and others held of the late Bishop of Galloway amounting to £3. 15., both which sums make up the sum mentioned in the petitione.

That the lease of the tythes of the saids lands of Broughtoune being no doubt expired and if renewed in common forme with the said reserved rent or tack duty there will be a compositione due in respect thereof of about the sum of £82.

That it appears by the certificate of two Justices of the Peace of the county of Galloway and from the informatione of other creditable persons that the want of a bridge over the River of Fleet, mentioned in the petitione (which was lately destroyed and carryed off by a violent flood) is not only a great loss to that pairt of the countrey but prevents for the most part in the winter seaseone all communicatione and travelling between Portpatrick and the western pairts of Scotland and Carlyle and western pairts of England,



Best Wishes for Christmas
and New Year

from

Mrs Murray Usher

Cally Estate Office,

Gatehouse-of-Fleet

That it appears by the certificate and affidavits of two masons who viewed the said river and place for building a bridge that it may cost 300 £ str. to build a stone bridge over the same, in respect propper stone must be cutt and brought over from England with coal for burning the lymestone and the lyme stone from Ireland,

That tho' the building of bridges is a publick work and by law ought to be done by the county, yet from the circumstances of that countrey wee are of opinion its not practicable to have the said bridge built,

That wee are humbly of opinione His Majesty may (if he is graciously pleased) allow the compositione of the new lease of tythes to be granted by Court to the petitioner to be retained by him and to allow him lykewayes to retaine the tack duty or reserved rent payable in respect thereof for the terme of nyntien years with the other feu duties payable by him for the lyke terme which may be computed and valued to about £260 str., upon his giveing security in this Court to build a good and sufficient stone bridge over the said River of Fleet as soon as conveniently may be and to expend thereon att least the said sum of £260 str.

All which is humbly submitted to your Lordships great wisdom. Sign'd

J. SMITH
JOHN CLERK
GEORGE DALRYMPLE
THO. KENNEDY

Edinburgh Exchequer Chamber 8 Febr'y 1723/4

A true copy from the register kept by, Sign'd, W. BOWLES D. R. Rs

5 Decr. 1729