

Old Worthies
of
Lasswade and Bonnyrigg

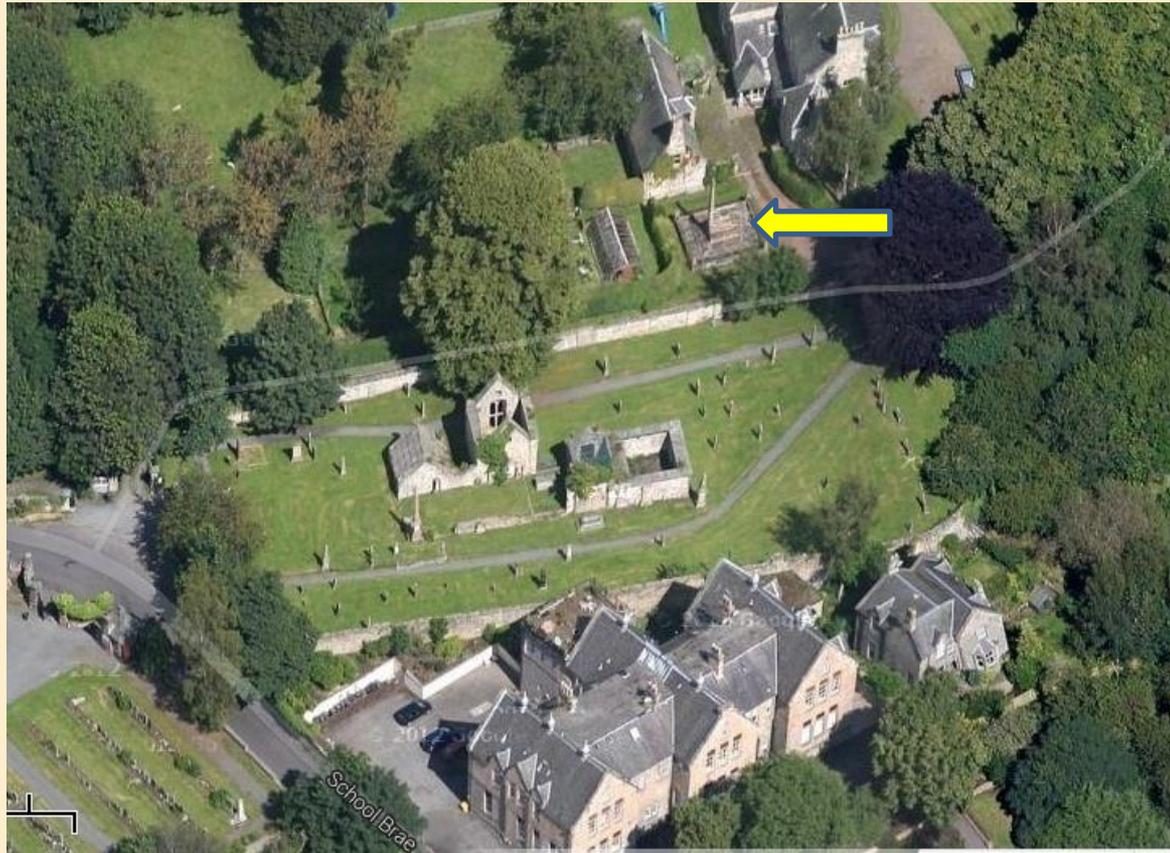
Herbert Dryden
Jim Murray

List of Worthies

- *Dr. Richard Smith ~ Surgeon and GP*
- *Colonel Richard Baird Smith ~ Soldier*
- *Kathleen Fidler ~ Author*
- *Archibald Thorburn ~ Artist*
- *William Johnstone Lamb Paterson (Jack) ~ Engineer*
- *John Lamb Paterson ~ Architect and Art College Principal*

- *Dr John Hislop LLD FRSE ~ International Educationalist*
- *William Young ~ Schoolmaster*
- *Robert Burt Marshall ~ Schoolmaster*
- *Sir James Arnot Hamilton ~ Aircraft Designer*

Dr Richard Smith



Runic Cross in the grounds of Lasswade Churchyard or in, more accurately, the grounds of "Droman", to Dr. Richard Smith and one of his sons Colonel Richard Baird Smith



Dr. Richard Smith and Colonel Richard Baird Smith

Dr Richard Smith

- Born 4th June 1794 in Rutherglen
- Studied medicine and became a surgeon in Royal Navy
- Came to practice in Lasswade around 1818 and carried out his vocation there for 45 years
- Lived at Spring Bank
- Died 16th March 1863

Dr Richard Smith

- Married Margaret Young and they had five children
- Dr Smith was an elder in, the then, Lasswade Parish Church
- Visited patients on a shaggy brown pony named Paddy
- The Memorial was erected within sight of the Old Parish Church (now demolished) which Dr. Smith loved



Colonel Richard Baird Smith

- Born in Lasswade on 31st December 1818
- Educated at Lasswade School and at Dunse Academy
- Entered Military College of the East India Company at Addiscombe on 6th February 1835
- Commissioned as Second Lieutenant in Madras Engineers on 9th December 1836

Colonel Richard Baird Smith

- Joined Bengal Engineers 1839 and was shortly appointed Adjutant
- Involved in the canal and iron bridge department of the public works
- Mentioned in dispatches during the first Sikh Wars, as well as receiving honours

Colonel Richard Baird Smith

- Mentioned in dispatches during the second Sikh War
- After the Sikh War he returned to irrigation duties
- Various military and engineering appointments were awarded to him in the next few years including him being appointed a Companion of the Bath
- In 1856, Richard Baird Smith married Florence Elizabeth de Quincey, daughter of Thomas de Quincey, the writer, who lived for some years at Polton

Colonel Richard Baird Smith

- Appointed Mint Master at Calcutta in 1858
- Appointed Aide -de-Camp to Queen Victoria and to the rank of Colonel in 1859
- Died in December 1861. Buried with full military honours in Madras and a memorial to him is in Calcutta Cathedral

Kathleen Fidler



Kathleen Fidler

- Born 1899 and brought up in Wigan
- Teacher , and eventually a Headmistress, by profession
- Married Mr. James Goldie in 1930
- Spent most of her married life in the Edinburgh area
- Moved to Lasswade when her husband became manager of the local Bank of Scotland

Kathleen Fiddler

- Author of more than 60 books, many geared for children but some of her novels were also enjoyed by adults.
- Her books for children included a series on "The Brydon Family" (19 books), and on "The Dean Family" (9 books)
- She also wrote a number of historical novels
- Obtained as much background material as possible before writing her books

Kathleen Fiddler

- Wrote about 300 radio programmes including material for
"Children's Hour"

and

BBC Scotland Historical Broadcasts for Schools

- A pioneer for the Historical Broadcasts

Kathleen Fidler

- Well known in Bonnyrigg
- Frequent visitor to Library where she gave many talks to children
- Died in August 1980, aged 81

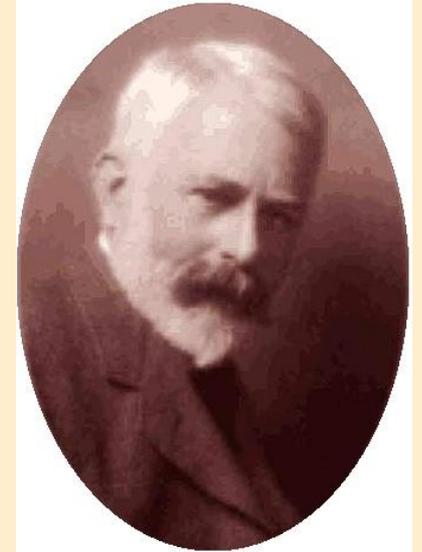
Kathleen Fidler



One of Kathleen Fidler's Residences in Bonnyrigg
Old Bank House, Hillhead

Archibald Thorburn

- Born 1860 at Viewfield House, now demolished subsequently renamed Eldin Brae
- 5th son of Robert Thorburn a miniaturist to Queen Victoria
- Robert taught Archibald to paint



Archibald Thorburn

- First exhibited at RSA at the age of 10
- Archibald specialised in birds, particularly field birds , but also painted deer and other highland animals
- Settled in London in 1885 before moving to Godalming in 1902
- Died in 1935

Archibald Thorburn



William Johnstone Lamb Paterson (Jack)
and John Lamb Paterson

Jack Paterson

- Born 1894 at 8 Union Park, Bonnyrigg
- Son of John Paterson, Plumber, and Mrs. Christina Ann Paterson
- Brother of Christina, who married Joe McTaggart, and of Dorothea (Dora)
- Attended Royal High School in Edinburgh??

Jack Paterson

- Engineer by profession.
- Emigrated to Australia
- Joined Dorman Long in Australia
- Worked on construction of Sydney Harbour Bridge from 1924-1932
- Subsequently went to Shanghai and India
- Died around 1959/1960

Jack Paterson



John Lamb Paterson

- Born 1931 in Sydney, Australia.
- Educated at Royal High School in Edinburgh and Edinburgh College of Art
- Obtained Diploma in Architecture in 1956



John Lamb Paterson

- Joined Robert Marshall, Johnson-Marshall and Partners
- Returned to Art College as a lecturer in 1962
- Devoted his talents to the improvement of design education in Scotland
- Became the College of Art's first Director of the general course in Art and Design
- Became Head of Design and Crafts
- Appointed Principal of Edinburgh College of Art in 1984, an appointment which he held until his untimely death in 1989

John Lamb Paterson



Edinburgh College of Art

John Lamb Paterson

- Designer of numerous exhibitions, including
- 200 Summers in a City - to celebrate the bicentenary of Edinburgh's New Town in 1967
- Diaghilev Memorial Exhibition at the Festival in 1979
- "Spotlight" Royal Ballet Golden Jubilee Exhibition for the London Theatre Museum in 1981

John Lamb Paterson

His major architectural projects included:-
Landmark Visitor Centre at Carrbridge

The conversions of:-

- The Bannockburn Visitor Centre
- The Fruit Market Gallery in Edinburgh
- The Theatre Museum, London
- Recipient of the Royal Scottish Academy Gold Medal in 1976

Dr John Hislop LLD FRSE



- John Hislop, one of New Zealand's foremost pioneer educationalists, was born the son of a ploughman on 7th December 1821 at Old Pentland and baptised in Lasswade
- Succeeded in gaining the first prizes in all classes he attended at the Edinburgh School of Arts, now the Heriot-Watt University
- In 1841, became assistant master at Lasswade, then was successively a master at Colinton, Cults and Kirknewton
- He applied for and obtained an appointment as a teacher under the provincial government of Otago, and arrived in Port Chalmers on the 2nd of October, 1856, by the ship "Strathmore." which was only 683 tons.

Dr John Hislop LLD FRSE

- He taught at the newly opened school at East Taieri in Otago
- In 1861 was appointed Secretary of Education and Inspector of Schools for the province of Otago
- On the establishment of the Otago University, in 1869, Mr. Hislop became its first secretary and registrar
- In 1878 he became the first Secretary of the newly formed Education Department of New Zealand at Wellington
- He took much interest in the Caledonian Society's evening classes for youths.



Dr John Hislop LLD FRSE

- Before leaving the Colony, he was entertained at a public dinner in Otago, and a sum of money was placed in his hands with which to procure a life size portrait of himself in oils. The painting, which was obtained from John Horsburgh, Edinburgh, and now adorns the walls of the University of Otago Library.
- For his well known services in the cause of education, the Senatus of the University of Edinburgh-his own *alma mater*-conferred upon him the honorary degree of LL.D. on the occasion of his visit to the Old Country.
- He was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1879

Dr John Hislop LLD FRSE



John Horsburgh (1835-1924) portrait in the University of Otago Library
By kind permission of the University of Otago

William Young (1839-1867) & Robert Marshall (1867-1899)

Two Headmasters responsible for a golden era in education in the Parish of Lasswade and a relocation of school



William Young

- In the 1839 Penny Post Directory Mr Young was noted as the parochial teacher
- In the 1841 Census he was at home with his wife Susan and daughter Agnes, an apprentice teacher William Dickson aged 20 and a servant Isabella Edington aged 20.
- Extracting from this census the children within Lasswade Village were as follows

Ages	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
No of Boys and Girls	12	9	10	18	9	11	16	
Total								85

William Young

Mr Young would have been the parochial master when the report for the New Statistical Account was written.

New Statistical Account, June 1843

"THERE ARE EIGHT SCHOOLS IN THE PARISH. THEY ARE ALL IN AN EFFICIENT STATE. THE ORDINARY BRANCHES OF EDUCATION ARE TAUGHT IN ALL THE SCHOOLS. AN EXCELLENT EDUCATION MAY BE RECEIVED AT THE PAROCHIAL SCHOOL, WHERE, BESIDES THE USUAL BRANCHES, ARE TAUGHT LATIN, GREEK, FRENCH AND MATHEMATICS."

William Young

- The 1860/1 Directory lists Mr Young as schoolmaster, session clerk and registrar, and agent *City of Glasgow Bank*
- In the 1861 Census Index Mrs Young had died in 1857, so only her widower, aged 57, still parish teacher and their daughter aged 28, are listed. The servant Janet Watson, 35, was a native of Lasswade parish.
- Andrew Cuthbert driver of the Lasswade coach was overheard by a clerical passenger using the phrase *perfervidum ingenium Scotorum* "Where did you learn the language?" he was asked "from my teacher, sir, the headmaster of Lasswade school, Mr Young; it means the very ardent temper of the Scots."

William Young

A new parish teacher took over in 1867 - Mr Robert Marshall. On retiring Mr Young did not give up all public offices as he appears in the 1875/6 Post Office Directory as session-clerk, registrar and agent for City of Glasgow Bank. My next directory information is for 1880/1 by which time his successor was session-clerk.

He is also commemorated by the Young Prize currently awarded to the 4th Year dux which was endowed in his memory.

The [current leaflet](#) designed by Carle Murphy is now distributed with the medal



William Young



Susan Stewart
wife of
William Young Schoolmaster
of Lasswade
who died Janaury 1857

Also
William Young
husband of above

upwards of 30 years parish schoolmaster
Died at Lasswade

Family Grave in Old Lasswade Cemetery

Young Prize

Lasswade School in the time of William Young

At the time when William Young was schoolmaster the school premises were this building on School Green, Lasswade. There was also a house provided for Mr Young and his family adjacent to the school .



Some idea of the education available in the area at that time is provided in the **New Statistical Account** of June 1843 which states:

"There are eight schools in the parish, they are all in an efficient state.

The ordinary branches of education (Reading, Writing and Arithmetic) are taught in all the schools. An excellent education may be received at the parochial school, where, besides the usual branches, are taught Latin, Greek, French and Mathematics.

The parochial schoolmaster has the maximum salary, and accommodation for several boarders. The school is numerously attended, and the fees are very considerable in amount."

Daily log books were kept and these provide a few interesting facts. The school day appeared to vary depending on a variety of circumstances including the weather. However generally it lasted from around 9 am until 4pm with half an hour for lunch at 12.30pm.

At this time there were very few school holidays. The end of the school year was the middle of August with the new session starting two weeks later.

The school catered for all ages of pupils and while many left by the age of 13 a few stayed on until they were able to gain a place at university. Numbers would vary but there would have been over 100 pupils on the school roll during this era.

By the time that Mr Young retired Lasswade School had three teachers. Mr Young who taught the upper school, his assistant who taught the lower school and a lady teacher who taught the girls needlework. There would usually also have been an apprentice teacher, often a senior pupil who had stayed on to train as a teacher.



The Young Prize

Award for
4th Year Dux

Young Prize

The Young Prize

To be the recipient of the Young Prize is to have the privilege of winning the most historic of all the prizes awarded to students at Lasswade High School.

This prize was originally the Young Medal which was awarded to the dux of Lasswade School. It was instituted after William Young retired from his position as schoolmaster of Lasswade School in 1867, and named in his honour.



Early examples of the Young Medal

In those early years it would appear that the medal was paid for by various former pupils of Mr Young who had since been successful in life, and who still took an interest in maintaining the high standards of the school. The design of the medal varied considerably due to the fact that it was gifted by different people from year to year.

Around the middle of July each year a single day was set aside for the school examinations to be held. Many of the local clergy were present that day to supervise. At the end of these exams it was decided which pupil from the highest class would be awarded the dux medal.

Afterwards pupil's parents, and other interested members of the community, were invited to attend the school to view an exhibition of the work undertaken during the year and to watch the presentation of prizes.

In 1900 the Marshall Memorial Medal replaced the Young Medal as the award for the dux of the school, however a Young award was retained. Since then the Young Prize has taken a variety of forms but has remained to this day as one of Lasswade High School's top awards.

William Young (1803 - 1881)

William Young was born around 1803 in Lilliesleaf in the Scottish Borders.

He trained as a teacher and by 1837 he had arrived in Lasswade, with his wife Susan and daughter Agnes, to take up the position of Schoolmaster.

At that time there was no legal requirement for children to attend school. Lasswade was a parochial school, provided for the local children by the heritors of Lasswade Church, however the heritors did not pay for everything as families were charged fees for their children to attend.

In Lasswade Mr Young soon became a highly respected member of society. By 1860, in addition to his duties as schoolmaster, he was also the Session Clerk of the Lasswade Church, the Registrar and the local Agent for the City of Glasgow Bank.

Mr Young retired from the school on 16th August 1867. He moved from the schoolhouse to Beaconsfield Cottage, Lasswade where he died fourteen years later in 1881 at the age of 78.

Robert Burt Marshall

- "On 1 October, 1867 ROBERT MARSHALL, one of the very best of all Lasswade teachers", replaced Mr Young. "He raised the reputation of Lasswade school higher than it had ever been and laid the foundation of its excellence as a higher-grade school and a senior secondary school,,"
- During Mr Marshall's headship there were several important national changes with the *1872 Education (Scotland) Act* making schooling compulsory, the introduction in 1883 of a leaving certificate and the 1890 Act made schooling free.

Robert Burt Marshall

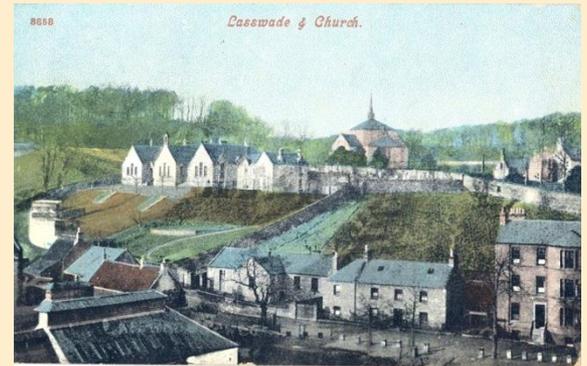


(Extracted from Bright and Early by J B Cairns)

Group of Lasswade Schoolboys with Robert Marshall around 1899

Robert B Marshall

The major development during Mr Marshall's tenure was the building of the new School at the top of School Brae. The school was originally build as a single storey and an upper storey was later added. Details of the opening are give in this extract from the Dalkeith Advertiser in July 1881.



Original Single Storey School



Upper Storey Added

Extract from Advertiser

'Mr Wiliam Tod, Chairman of the Board then addressed the parents and visitors. He began by stating that the attendance at the School had increased so greatly that in 1878 H.M. Inspector ordered that additional accommodation should be provided at once. A great many of the ratepayers objected to the building of a new school and the present Board was elected to prevent this, if possible, by making such additions to the old school as were required for the accommodation of the pupils. Suitable plans were then prepared for this purpose, but the Government Inspectors objected on the ground that the site was bad, lying too low and near the river, and therefore unhealthy.'

Local School Statistics 1991-1892

School	Accommodation		Average Attendance		Government Grant	
	1881	1892	1881	1892	1881	1892
Lasswade	238	420	348	372	£337 9s	£441 19s
Loanhead Roman Catholic	260 -	494 205	307 -	417 184	£243 10s	£421 0s 6d £118 0s 7d
Rosewell	260	292	203	242	£153 18s	£242 17s 6d
Roslin	160	274	201	280	£166 1s	£270 16s 6d

Marshall Memorial Medal

He is also commemorated by the Marshall Memorial Medal presented to the dux of the school which was endowed in 1900 with money invested in perpetuity & a School Plaque erected by pupils and friends in 23.11.1901 (now in Lasswade High School).

Marshall Memorial Medal

The Marshall Memorial Medal is the highest honour awarded by Lasswade High School.

When the dux of Lasswade High School receives their Marshall Memorial Medal they are joining a lineage of winners which stretches back unbroken to the beginning of the 20th century.

Following the death of Robert Marshall it was decided that a lasting memorial to him should be created. On 17th July 1900 the Lasswade School Board announced that a fund was to be set aside to provide a Marshall Medal "in perpetuum" for the dux of Lasswade School.

The first medal was awarded in 1901 and the design of the medal has remained more or less unchanged to this day.



Robert Marshall (1833-1900)

Robert Marshall was born in 1833 in Dumbartonshire. He had been married to his wife Susanna for 10 years by the time he became schoolmaster of Lasswade School on 1st October 1867.

During his 32 years in this post Mr Marshall oversaw many major changes. The first was in 1872 with the introduction of the Education (Scotland) Act which made schooling compulsory. This was quickly followed by the introduction of a Leaving Certificate, and in 1890 an Act which made schooling free. In 1892 he supervised the move to a new school building.

Under his leadership the school made good progress and indeed it was his efforts that ensured Lasswade kept its secondary department, paving the way towards the Lasswade High School we know today.

Mr Marshall became a very well respected member of the teaching profession. A few years before he retired he was elected President of the Educational Institute. He also served as Session Clerk of Lasswade Church.

Mr Marshall retired in July 1899, but sadly did not have long to enjoy his retirement as he died less than a year later on 25th April 1900.



The Marshall Memorial Medal

Award for School Dux



Marshall Memorial Medal

Lasswade School in the time of Robert Marshall

At the time that Mr Marshall became schoolmaster in 1867 Lasswade was still a parochial school provided by the heritors of Lasswade Church, although families were charged fees for their children to attend.

The following report provides a flavour of the subjects taught at that time:

Summary of Inspector's Report for year ended May 1st 1871

"The School fully maintains its character as one of the first class of Parish Schools. In 336 marks on the standard subjects (Reading, Writing and Arithmetic) there are 334 passes, while all that made the attendances and have not left the school, are presented on the Examination Schedule. The elementary extra subjects are about equally well taught, especially in the Bible and Catechism lessons. Miss Scott having prepared for the first three standards and in the earlier steps of Grammar and Geography. Mr Marshall prepared for the fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh standards, and partly for the second and third. Under him also, in three classes for Latin, are forty boys and five girls; of these thirteen reading in Virgil, and some in Cicero and Horace are so well taught that all may be admitted to the Humanities classes in a Scotch

University. 25 boys and 13 girls have made progress in French, and 8 boys made, on the whole, a fair appearance in the first four books of Euclid. The same may be said of two in Quadratic Equations."

The new Education Act in 1872 changed all that, and with the introduction of compulsory schooling for all, Mr Marshall had to cope with many extra pupils as well as the new rules and regulations.

The school premises on School Green became overcrowded, and by 1878 HM Inspector ordered that additional accommodation should be provided at once. Plans were drawn up to extend the existing school but this was going to be a difficult and costly exercise and it soon became clear that a new school could be built at not much greater expense and would provide much more satisfactory accommodation.



Lasswade School, opened 1881

A convenient plot was acquired on the hillside behind the old school. It was big enough to build a spacious new school and a house for Mr Marshall, and was considered a healthy spot due to its bright and sunny position and being away from the river. The new school was formally opened in July 1881 by which time the school roll stood at 348 pupils, and by 1892 this had risen to 372.

The new school had been built to accommodate up to 420 pupils, but within a short space of time this must also have proved to be inadequate because, as old photos reveal, the single story building, pictured left, quite quickly had been altered and an upper floor added.

The school continued to flourish and by the time Mr Marshall retired there were 13 members of staff at the school.



Mr Marshall, seated centre wearing a top hat, surrounded by his staff. This photo would have been taken not long before his retirement in 1899.

Robert Marshall's Grave in Lasswade Kirkyard



**Robert Marshall for 33 years Master of
Lasswade Public School**

**Born December 29 1833
Died April 24 1900**

Also his wife

Susanna H Ross

Died September 26 1900

Note: Married in Anderston, Glasgow on the 8th Sept 1857

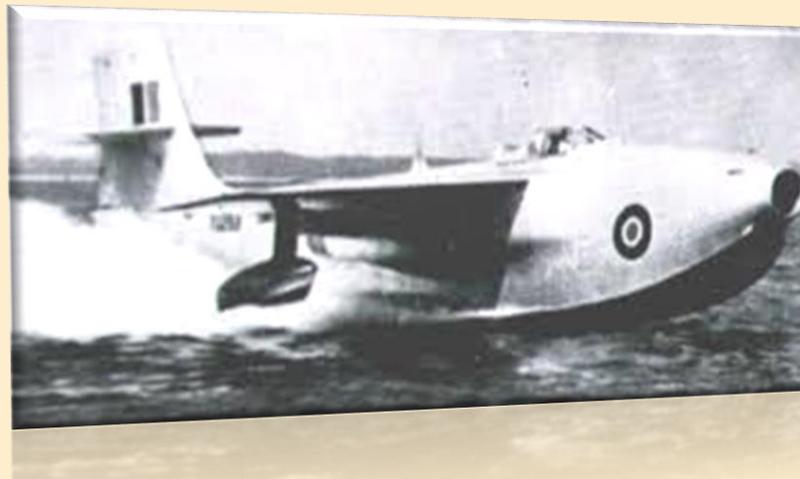
Sir James Arnot Hamilton ~ aircraft designer

- Born in Penicuik, Midlothian, on May 2 1923, James Arnot Hamilton was educated at Lasswade Secondary School where he was Dux, and graduated from Edinburgh University with a first class degree in civil engineering.*
- In 1943, after leaving Edinburgh University, James Hamilton joined the Marine Aircraft Experimental Establishment at the Rhu-based RAF Helensburgh.*



Sir James Arnot Hamilton ~ aircraft designer

- He started to specialise in the hydrodynamics and aerodynamics of flying boats and seaplanes
- He was in the Short Scion experimental seaplane when it crashed into the Clyde Estuary, killing a senior colleague, Graham White, and injuring the pilot.
- After the War his projects included the turbojet-powered Saunders Roe SRA/1, the world's first jet flying boat.



Sir James Arnot Hamilton ~ aircraft designer

- He became head of project assessment at RAE and, in 1966, was project director for the Anglo French Jaguar tactical fighter aircraft.*
- Later that year he became Director General for the Concorde project and was largely responsible for the swept-back delta wing on Concorde, which enabled it to fly at speeds of Mach 2. He led the project until 1970.*



Sir James Arnot Hamilton ~ aircraft designer

- Knighted in 1978 for his contribution to aircraft design, he was Deputy Secretary of the Aerospace Industry, Department of Trade and Industry, from 1971-3 and by 1976 was Deputy Secretary of State to the Cabinet, then becoming Permanent Under Secretary of State for the Department of Education and Science, a post he held until 1983.*
- Sir James was a director of the Hawker Siddeley Group from 1983-91 and held various other high positions, including Trustee of the Natural History Museum in London.*



Sir James explains an aeronautical model to Princess Margaret at Farnborough.