

Hi Brian

Regarding your above ancestors whom I came across during research on my Thorburn family, I can give you some more facts on the Thorburn connection.

Isabella had 3 siblings, the last, Betty died within the same month as her mother, Elizabeth Horborough - so I presume Elizabeth died from complications in childbirth.

She is buried in Bowden Church, Roxburghshire. John (Juniper Jock) Thorburn went and married Jean Anderson and had a further 10 children and scioned the distinguished family of Thorburns from Peebles. 3 of his grandsons were knighted and one grt grandson also knighted. There were many grt grt and grt grt grt grandsons who became distinguished army and navy officers with many decorated for gallantry.

Most of his descendants lived in Peebles, Manchester and Newfoundland, Canada.

I have pleasure in attaching part of my book on John together with illustrations which would be of some interest - I Hope.

Many thanks for the info on Isabella.

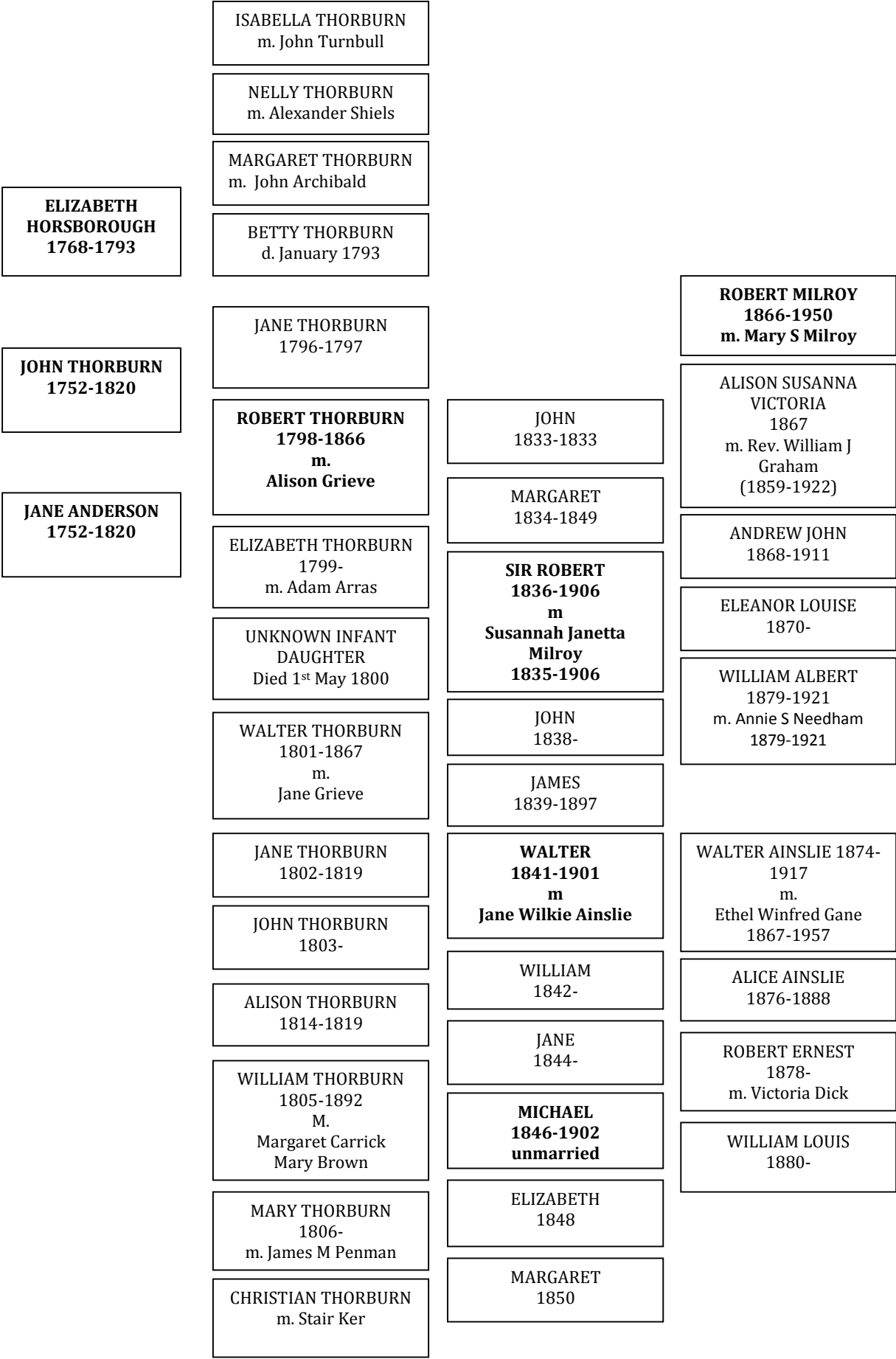
Kind regards

Tony Black  
Edinburgh

PART IV

DESCENDANTS OF  
JOHN THORBURN  
ELIZABETH HORBURGH  
&  
JANE ANDERSON

Son	Robert Thorburn and Alison Grieve
Grandson	Sir Robert Thorburn and Susannah J Milroy
Grandson	Walter Thorburn and Jane Ainslie
Grandson	Michael Thorburn



## Chapter 51

### JOHN THORBURN, ELIZABETH HORSBURGH & JANE ANDERSON

John Thorburn was born on the 5<sup>th</sup> April 1752 at Midlem. He was the 5<sup>th</sup> of 6 children to Robert Thorburn (1716-1796) and Helen Park (1713-1766).

He followed his father into farming and became a tenant farmer at Kaimes. He married Elisabeth Horsborough (1768-1793) in or about 1785 when he was 31 and she was 17. They had 4 children before Elizabeth died from complications following the birth of her 4<sup>th</sup> child in January 1793. Elizabeth was laid to rest in Bowden along with her infant daughter, Betty.

John then went on to marry Jane Anderson and they had 11 children. By this time they had moved to farm at Juniper Bank near Walkerburn on the Peebles Road

He was a very successful farmer and owned several farms in addition to Juniperbank. He owned land at Holylee, Seethope and Gatehopeknowe which amounted to some 2700 acres of woodland and rich pasture. In the Edinburgh Advertiser dated 17<sup>th</sup> August 1810 he was seen letting these properties. These farms were in Selkirkshire some 10 miles from Selkirk and Peebles.

In the Edinburgh Advertiser dated 16<sup>th</sup> April 1819, John was leasing the farms of Elibank and the Haugh, which bordered the river Tweed and were mainly sheep farms for the Cheviot breed.

We know a little of John's character from the following information:

Daft Jock Grey of Gilmanscleugh," a wanderer through Roxburgh, Selkirk, and Peebles shires, who was known to Sir Walter Scott, and possessed qualities not unlike those assigned to the character of Davie Gellatley. Jock was a kind of genius, had a great command of songs, and composed a ballad, which, commencing with an allusion to his own infirmity, recited, in jingling rhymes, the names and qualities of a number of persons whose houses he frequented in his extensive rambles. It may be amusing to read this curious jingle of names and places, which, as far as I remember, ran as follows, though it is proper to mention that Jock seldom sang it twice the same way sometimes throwing in a new verse, or leaving out an old one :

#### DAFT JOCK GREY'S SONG.

*" There's Daft Jock Grey o' Gilmanscleugh, And Davie o' the Inch, And when ye come to Singley, They'll help ye in a pinch.  
And the laddie he's but young, And the laddie he's but young, And Robbie Scott ca's up the rear, And Caleb beats the drum.  
" There are the Taits o' Caberston, The Taits o' Holylee, The ladies o' the Juniper Bank, They carry a' the gree.  
And the laddie he's but young, etc.  
There's Lockie o' the Skirty Knows, There's Nicol o' Dick-neuk, and Bryson o' the Priestrig, and Hall into the Heap.  
And the laddie he's but young, etc*

The reference to the ladies o the Juniper Bank refer to John Thorburn's daughters. A further note refers to John being like Dandie Dinmont a local jovial farmer.

John was known locally as "Juniper Jock" and was a member of the local militia during the Napoleonic War. On one occasion, when a hay stack was accidentally set on fire, John thought it was a sign for invasion at the Port of Leith by the French and rode his horse to Edinburgh to take up defence.

John died on the 8<sup>th</sup> April 1820 at Juniper Bank Jane died on the 26<sup>th</sup> March 1828. They were buried in Bowden.

#### The descendants of John Thorburn and Elizabeth Horsborough

##### I. ISABELLA THORBURN

She married John Turnbull

##### II. NELLY THORBURN

She married Alexander Shiels

##### III. MARGARET THORBURN

She married John Archibald

##### IV. BETTY THORBURN

She died January 1793

## **The descendants of John Thorburn and Jane Anderson**

### **V. JANE THORBURN 1796-1797**

Jane was born at Juniper Bank in April 1796. She was the 1<sup>st</sup> of 10 children to John Thorburn (1752-1820) and Jeannie Anderson (d. 1828)

Jane died in infancy on the 8<sup>th</sup> March 1797 and buried with her parents in Bowden

### **VI. ROBERT THORBURN 1798-1866**

Robert was born at Minto, Roxburghshire on the 29<sup>th</sup> April 1798. He was the 2<sup>nd</sup> of 10 children to John Thorburn (1752-1820) and Jeannie Anderson (d. 1828)

Robert married Alison Grieve on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1832 and they had 10 children.

Robert died on the 30<sup>th</sup> May 1866.

*See separate chapter on Robert*

### **VII. ELIZABETH THORBURN 1799-**

Jane was born at Minto, Roxburghshire on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 1799. She was the 3<sup>rd</sup> of 10 children to John Thorburn (1752-1820) and Jeannie Anderson (d. 1828)

She married Adam Arras

### **VIII. UNKNOWN INFANT DAUGHTER**

Died 1<sup>st</sup> May 1800 and buried in Bowden

### **IX. WALTER THORBURN 1801-1867**

Walter was born at Holylee, Peebleshire on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 1801. He was the 4<sup>th</sup> of 10 children to John Thorburn (1752-1820) and Jeannie Anderson (d. 1828)

Walter married Jane Grieve (sister of Alison, now married to Walter's brother, Robert. The marriage took place in Stirling on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 1831. They had 11 children.

Walter died in Springwood, Peebles on the 15<sup>th</sup> February 1867.

*See separate chapter on Walter.*

### **X. JANE THORBURN 1802-1819**

Jane was born at Holylee, Peebleshire on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 1802. She was the 5<sup>th</sup> of 10 children to John Thorburn (1752-1820) and Jeannie Anderson (d. 1828)

Jean died at Juniper Bank farm aged 17 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1819 from scarlet fever. She was buried in Bowden.

### **XI. JOHN THORBURN 1803**

John was born at Innerleithen, Peebleshire on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 1803. He was the 6<sup>th</sup> of 10 children to John Thorburn (1752-1820) and Jeannie Anderson (d. 1828)

John's death is unknown

### **XII. ALISON THORBURN 1814-1819**

Alison was born at Innerleithen, Peebleshire on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1804. She was the 7<sup>th</sup> of 10 children to John Thorburn (1752-1820) and Jeannie Anderson (d. 1828)

Alison died age 15 on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 1819 from scarlet fever and was buried in Bowden.

### **XIII. WILLIAM THORBURN 1805-1892**

William was born at Innerleithen, Peebleshire on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1805. He was the 8<sup>th</sup> of 10 children to John Thorburn (1752-1820) and Jeannie Anderson (d. 1828)

William moved to Manchester and was a Merchant. He married twice and had 5 children.

*See separate chapter on William*

### **XIV. MARY THORBURN 1806- d. after 1891 and before 1901**

Mary was born at Innerleithen, Peebleshire on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 1806. She was the 9<sup>th</sup> of 10 children to John Thorburn (1752-1820) and Jeannie Anderson (d. 1828)

Mary married James Montgomery Penman on the 7<sup>th</sup> August 1831 in Peebles.

James was born at Stobo, Peebleshire in 1798. He was a farmer. Their first farm was at Fens, St. Boswells and they are recorded there in both the 1841 and 1851 census.

In the 1861 census, James has retired and they live at Bytharn, Edinburgh in the Parish of St Cuthberts.

In the 1871 census, Mary is now widowed and she remains at Bytharn in both the 1881 and 1891 census. Thereafter she must have died. She was 84 in 1891. Her date of death is unknown. There were no children to the marriage.

XV. CHRISTIAN THORBURN (M)

Christian is the 10<sup>th</sup> child. His date of birth is unknown and he married Stair Kerr. No other details yet found.

## Chapter 52

### ROBERT THORBURN AND ALISON GRIEVE

Robert was born at Minto, Roxburghshire on the 29<sup>th</sup> April 1798. He was the 2<sup>nd</sup> of 10 children to John Thorburn (1752-1820) and Jeannie Anderson (d. 1828)  
He was christened on the 8<sup>th</sup> May 1798.

Being the eldest son, he followed his father into farming and took over his father's farm at Juniper Bank, near Walkerburn in Peebleshire.  
He was a successful farmer, increasing the size of the farm from 200 acres to over 1800 acres by 1881 and employing 9 staff.

Robert married Alison Grieve (b. 20 Oct 1806, Killin, Perthshire) on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1832 at Traquair, Peebleshire. Alison was the 2<sup>nd</sup> child of Robert Grieve (b. 6 Jun 1776, Waterhead, Dumfriesshire & d. 1 Oct 1853, Keilator, Glen Falloch), a farmer, and his wife Margaret Johnston (b. 26 Apr 1781, Moffat, Dumfriesshire & d. 14 Jan 1868, 11 Walmer Crescent, Paisley Road, Govan)

Robert and Alison had 10 children.

Robert died of apoplexy (brain haemorrhage) at Juniper Bank on the 30<sup>th</sup> May 1866  
Alison was still alive on the Scottish census of April 1891. Her date of death is as yet unknown.

#### Descendants of Robert Thorburn and Alison Grieve

##### I. JOHN THORBURN 1833-1833

John was born on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 1833 at Traquair, Peebleshire. He was the 1<sup>st</sup> of 11 children to Robert Thorburn (1798-1866) and Alison Grieve (1806 & d. after 1891).  
He must have died in childhood as there is another brother called John who was born in 1838 and there is only one John in the census documents.

##### II. MARGARET THORBURN 1834-1849(abt)

Margaret was born on the 5<sup>th</sup> October 1834 at Traquair, Peebleshire. She was the 2<sup>nd</sup> of 11 children to Robert Thorburn (1798-1866) and Alison Grieve (1806 & d. after 1891).  
She died before 1850 at Juniperbank

##### III. SIR ROBERT THORBURN 1836-1906

Robert was born on the 28<sup>th</sup> March 1836 at Traquair, Peebleshire. He was the 3<sup>rd</sup> of 11 children to Robert Thorburn (1798-1866) and Alison Grieve (1806 & d. after 1891).  
He emigrated to Newfoundland, Canada and married Susannah Janetta Milroy and they had 5 children. He was knighted (KCMG) and became Prime Minister of Newfoundland.  
Sir Robert died on the 12<sup>th</sup> April 1906.  
*See chapter 53 on Robert*

##### IV. JOHN THORBURN 1838-

John was born on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 1838 at Traquair, Peebleshire. He was the 4<sup>th</sup> of 11 children to Robert Thorburn (1798-1866) and Alison Grieve (1806 & d. after 1891).  
In the census of 1891 he is head of the household at Juniper bank farm house and has his mother Alison and sister Elizabeth living with him. He is now running his father's farm.  
John's death is unknown and there is no record that he married. He must have been named after his older brother who died in infancy.

##### V. JAMES THORBURN 1839-1897

James was born on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 1838 at Traquair, Peebleshire. He was the 5<sup>th</sup> of 11 children to Robert Thorburn (1798-1866) and Alison Grieve (1806 & d. after 1891).  
He became President of the Bank of Bombay. James married Grace Gillespie and they had six children.

#### VI. WALTER THORBURN 1841-1901

Walter was born on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 1841 at Traquair, Peebleshire. He was the 6<sup>th</sup> of 11 children to Robert Thorburn (1798-1866) and Alison Grieve (1806 & d. after 1891).

He married Jane Wilkie Ainslie in 1871 and they had 4 children. Walter died on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1901  
*See chapter 54 on Walter*

#### VII. WILLIAM THORBURN 1842-

William was born on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1842 at Traquair, Peebleshire. He was the 7<sup>th</sup> of 11 children to Robert Thorburn (1798-1866) and Alison Grieve (1806 & d. after 1891).

He is recorded living at Juniperbank in the 1851 census and then in the 1881 England census as a shop owner/broker aged 39 and unmarried.

Two of his ships were 4 masted sailing vessels to transport his goods to Newfoundland and bring back his relatives' goods from St John's. They were called the Craigerne and Glenbreck.

Both vessels were built in Glasgow. The *Glenbreck* was lost at sea off South America in 1901 and the *Craigerne* was lost in 1917. However by that time both ships had been sold on.

#### VIII. JANE THORBURN 1844-

Jane was born on the 26<sup>th</sup> August 1844 at Traquair, Peebleshire. She was the 8<sup>th</sup> of 11 children to Robert Thorburn (1798-1866) and Alison Grieve (1806 & d. after 1891).

In the 1881 census she is recorded as visiting Mary Montgomery Penman at Bythorn in Edinburgh. This is her aunt, Mary Thorburn who married James Montgomery Penman.

Ten years later, in the 1891 census, she is now 46 and living with her mother (Alison Grieve) at St Ronans Houee, High Street, Innerleithen, Peebleshire. She is living on her own means and they have one servant. By 1901 she is now living in Greenbank Terrace, Edinburgh with her two younger sisters, Elizabeth and Margaret.

#### IX. MICHAEL THORBURN 1846-1902

Michael was born on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 1846 at Traquair, Peebleshire. He was the 9<sup>th</sup> of 11 children to Robert Thorburn (1798-1866) and Alison Grieve (1806 & d. after 1891).

He went to live and work in Newfoundland, Canada.

*See separate chapter on Michael*

#### X. ELIZABETH THORBURN 1848

Elizabeth was born on the 21<sup>st</sup> June 1848 at Traquair, Peebleshire. She was the 10<sup>th</sup> of 11 children to Robert Thorburn (1798-1866) and Alison Grieve (1806 & d. after 1891).

From the 1851 census through to 1881 she is recorded living at Juniperbank in 1891 she is on holiday at the Imperial Hotel, Torquay, England. In 1901 she is at Greenbank Terrace, Edinburgh.

#### XI. MARGARET THORBURN 1850

Margaret was born on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 1850 at Traquair, Peebleshire. She was the 11<sup>th</sup> of 11 children to Robert Thorburn (1798-1866) and Alison Grieve (1806 & d. after 1891).

She lived all her life at Juniperbank until by 1901 she was living with her two sisters, Elizabeth and Jane at Greenbank Terrace in Edinburgh.

Margaret's death is as yet unknown



## Chapter 53

### **SIR ROBERT THORBURN AND SUSANNAH JANETTA MILROY**

Robert was born on the 28<sup>th</sup> March 1836 at Traquair, Peebleshire. He was the 3<sup>rd</sup> of 11 children to Robert Thorburn (1798-1866) and Alison Grieve (1806 & d. after 1891).

Robert was sent to Edinburgh for his education at stayed at 2 Hill square, Edinburgh, the home of the Rev George Dickson, a missionary from Melrose.

In 1852, with his schooling over, Robert was dispatched to St John's, Newfoundland to work for Baine, Johnston and Company, then owned by his uncles Walter and James Johnston Grieve.

In 1855 the former established his own business as Walter Grieve and Company, trading at Greenock and St. John's, and seven years later Robert became his Newfoundland agent and partner.

In 1865, Robert married Susanna Janet Milroy (b.26 Nov 1863, Newfoundland), daughter of Andrew Milroy and Susannah Nixon. Together they had 5 children.

Robert was deeply immersed in his business. His Uncle Walter Grieve had died in 1887 and his share in the business reduced the amount of free capital in the business. Robert sold the premises at Trinity and put the seal hunting ships into a separate limited company.

The rest with him into a new partnership with James C. Tessier. Formed in 1888, Thorburn and Tessier was for a short time one of the largest of the St. John's fish exporters.

Robert was also Chairman of the Union Bank of Newfoundland, an appointment made as a result of his newly acquired knighthood. There were 2 private banks in Newfoundland, the Union and the Commercial. The third, The Savings Bank was government run.

In the late 1880s and early 1890s the fishing catches (the primary industry of Newfoundland) were poor, cod prices fell through the floor (excess supply) and the original merchants had reached the end of their lives so that their capital share in the businesses were being withdrawn.

This is what happened to Walter Grieve & Co, so Robert turned to the Union Bank of Newfoundland for assistance.

This led to increased borrowings from the banks. As the directors and owners of the two private banks were merchants and fishermen themselves, controls were lax and they extended too much credit. Bank reserve levels were inadequate.

In December 1894, a major customer of the Commercial Bank went bankrupt and a run on the banks ensued. The Commercial closed its doors on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 1894. The government run Savings Bank called in its loans to the Union Bank which forced the latter to close its doors a few hours later. Neither the Commercial or the Union re-opened for business.

Many Newfoundland companies had to suspend business and thousands of people were made redundant the only reliable circulating medium had been paper notes issued by the Union and Commercial and their reserves of gold and silver coin had been made over to the Savings Bank (which survived the banking debacle).

Thorburn and Tessier were not immune from the situation and the company suspended operations. It had debts of \$473,000 and assets of only \$385,000.

Fortunately, a superb fishing and seal hunting season followed, together with introducing the Canadian dollar into the community, improved desperate situation. However by 1897, Messrs Thorburn and Tessier was forced to close when offers to repay creditors at 60cents to the dollar were refused.

As Chairman of the Union Bank, Robert was charged with negligence. As with all the directors of both private banks, charges were dropped in 1897 without ever going to court.

He was a moderate and straightforward merchant with conservative views and his foray into politics was part of his sense of public duty and the encouragement of his Uncle Walter Grieve.

He became the compromise leader of the Reform Party due to sectarian problems on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 1885. Although, Robert ran the election in that as the party of Protestants, he personally, held no sectarian views whatsoever. He was more concerned with the economics of Newfoundland and wanted to protect the fisheries and French competition to the Grand Banks. He did not want to spend money on railways and services in a

reckless manner. However to gain support for his Bait Protection Bill, he was forced to embark on a path of major public expenditure.

In 1887, whilst in London attending the first Colonial Conference, Robert was made a Knight Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. (KCMG) by Queen Victoria.

Robert's Reform Party lost the 1889 election and he remained a head of the Tory Party until 1893 when asked to stand down. Robert therefore changed to the Liberals and remained on the legislative Council until 1897 when his company was forced into bankruptcy. Many say that Messrs. Thorburn and Tessier was forced into bankruptcy as an act of revenge by the Tory supporters. There is some credence to this view as there were many companies in a poorer financial situation which survived. ,

When the case against him was dropped in 1897, Robert returned to business on a much reduced scale and was appointed to the Fisheries Board. He refused all invitations to rejoin the government.

Robert also took to writing poetry, much of which was published.

Upon his death in 1906, the obituaries talked of his good sense, kind disposition, and conciliatory manner. Governor Sir William MacGregor called him "a man of high character, and greatly respected in this community." Similar sentiments had been expressed by governors Des Vœux and Sir John Terence Nicholls O'Brien. Prominence had been thrust upon Thorburn, and it cannot be claimed that he was a successful political leader. He was, rather, a decent man with a strong sense of public duty who as a result found himself used by others. Robert was highly respected and in 1906, this silver 3 piece tea set was commissioned from Hamilton and Inches, (Edinburgh's premier jeweller and goldsmith) in 1906. It sold at auction in 2010 for £2650.

Robert died on the 12<sup>th</sup> April 1906 and he held estate worth \$80,000. In today's values in sterling this would be worth £1.6 million. Susanna died in August 1906 leaving \$30,600. In comparison with his cousin Walter Bain Grieve, who died in 1921, with an estate of \$348,548, equivalent to £4.53 million in today's values. Walter was also a director of the Union Bank of Newfoundland which was dissolved in 1894 and his business Baine Johnston also went into liquidation. Fortunately Walter has surety from his share of the family's Globe Sugar Refining operation in Greenock and also had more time to recover until his death in 1921.

#### *Will of Sir Robert Thorburn*

*from Newfoundland will books volume 8 page 75 probate year 1906. In the Estate of Sir Robert Thorburn K.C.M.G. deceased.*

*This is the last will and Testament of me Robert Thorburn of St. John's merchant. I appoint Joseph Outerbridge of St. John's merchant and Marmaduke G. Winter of St. John's merchant Executors of this my last will. I desire that my Executors shall have power to combine and carry on my business and to employ the money and capital invested therein for such time as to them shall seem necessary for the most profitable realization of my property and estate before making a final distribution thereof. I bequeath to Michael Murphy if living and in my employ at the time of my death the sum of two hundred dollars.*

*I bequeath to Thomas Bates if in my employ at the time of my death the sum of two hundred dollars.*

*I bequeath to James Landry if in my employ at the time of my death the sum of two hundred dollars.*

*After payment of the said legacies and of all debts and claims upon my estate I desire that the whole of my property estate and effects shall be realized and divided among my sons and daughters in the following shares and proportions namely one share and a half to each of my daughters. Alison wife of the Reverend Alexander Graham and Eleanor Louise and one share to each of my three sons- Robert Milroy Andrew John and William A. the said bequests to my said daughters to be for their sole and separate use and free from the control of any husband. I bequeath to my said Executors the sum of two hundred dollars each in recognition of their services in carrying out the provisions of this will. I revoke all former wills and testaments made by me.*

*Dated at St. John's this 9<sup>th</sup> day of April 1906. Robert Thorburn. Witnesses J.S. Winter Catherine M. Colton.*

*I certify the foregoing to be a correct copy of the last will and Testament of Sir Robert Thorburn deceased*

*D. M. Browning Registrar*

*Probate granted to Marmaduke G Winter on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of September 1906*

*value of est \$80,000 (very faint)*

*This is the last will and Testament of me Susannah Janettha Thorburn of St. John's, in the Island of Newfoundland, married woman.*

- *First. I direct that my executor hereinafter named shall out of my general estate first pay all my just debts and funeral and testamentary expenses.*
- *Second. I give devise and bequeath to Lawrence E. Keegan of St. John's, Doctor of Medicine, the sum of one thousand dollars.*
- *Third. I give devise and bequeath to the Dorcas Society the sum of two hundred dollars.*
- *Fourth. I give devise and bequeath to the St. Vincent de Paul Society the sum of two hundred dollars.*
- *Fifth. I give devise and bequeath to the Poor asylum Mission the sum of two hundred dollars.*
- *Sixth. I give devise and bequeath to the Home for Incurables the sum of two hundred dollars.*
- *Seventh. I give devise and bequeath to the Flannel and Shirt Club the sum of two hundred dollars.*
- *Eighth. To my sister-in-law Mary Milroy, at present residing in Halifax, Nova Scotia, I give devise and bequeath the sum of one hundred dollars.*
- *Ninth. To my niece Isabella Milroy I give devise and bequeath the sum of one hundred dollars.*
- *Tenth. To the Womens Christian Temperance Union I give devise and bequeath the sum of two hundred dollars.*
- *Eleventh. To George England I give devise and bequeath the sum of two hundred dollars.*
- *Twelfth. I will and direct that all the rest residue and remainder of my estate of whatsoever kind or nature and wheresoever situated shall vest in my husband Sir Robert Thorburn to be by him used and applied as he may deem fit for his own special use and behoof. Upon the decease of my said husband, should he survive me, I will and direct that any remainder over shall be divided in shares in manner following:*
  - a. *To my son Robert one seventh of my estate less the amount due by him to his father the said Sir Robert Thorburn on account of a loan on his life policy if the same be not paid off at the time of my death*
  - b. *To my son Andrew one seventh of my estate.*
  - c. *To my son William one-seventh of my estate.*
  - d. *To my daughter Alison, wife to the Rev. William Graham, one-seventh of my estate. In the event of the death of the said Alison Graham, then to her surviving children equally share and share alike, and in the event of the death of any child or children then to the survivors or survivor of them to be divided in any event amongst them equally share and share alike upon the youngest survivor attaining the age of twenty-one years*
  - e. *To my daughter Eleanor Louise three-sevenths of my estate.*
- *Thirteenth:- Should one or any of my aforesaid children die unmarried in such case his, her or their share or shares shall revert to my general estate to be divided amongst my surviving children in the proportions before mentioned*
- *Fourteenth. I invest my executor with full power to change in his discretion from time to time any investment or investments that may be my name and generally to deal with the whole of my estate real and personal as he shall think fit.*
- *Fifteenth:- I hereby appoint my said husband Sir Robert Thorburn to be the sole executor of this my last will and testament.*

*Dated at St. John's aforesaid this twenty-fourth day of June A.D. 1905.*

*Susannah Janette Thorburn*

*signed by the said Susannah Janettha Thorburn as and for her last will and testament in the presence of us both being present at the same time who in her presence at her request and in the presence of each other have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses Emily Day Frank D. Lilly*

*This is a Codicil to the last will and testament of me Susannah Janettha Thorburn made in or about the month of October last and now in the possession of Mr. Frank D. Lilly who is now absent from St. John's, Having since the making of the said will and upon the death of my husband the late Sir Robert Thorburn became entitled to the sum of fourteen thousand six hundred and eighty dollars under a Policy of Insurance upon his life in the Equitable Life Assurance Society and payable to me. I desire to dispose of the said money as follows:*

*I bequeath to the Reverend Andrew Robertson Presbyterian Clergyman St. John's the sum of one hundred dollars.*

*I bequeath to Mr. Frank D. Lilly, Solicitor the sum of fifty dollars*

*I bequeath to Sir James S. Winter K.C. the sum of fifty dollars*

*The remainder of the said money I desire and direct be divided among my sons and daughters in the following shares or proportions namely the whole to be divided into six shares or parts of which two shares or parts shall go to my daughter Eleanor Louisa and one share or part to each of my other children namely Alison Victoria wife of the Reverend Alexander Graham my son Robert John my son Andrew and my son William. I desire that the said bequests to my daughters shall be for their sole and separate use and free from the control of any husband.*

*Dated at St. John's this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April A.D. 1906 Susannah Janettha Thorburn*

*witnesses J.S. Winter Sarah Roach.*

*I certify the foregoing to be a correct copy of the last will and testament of Susannah Janettha Thorburn deceased with one codicil*

*D. M. Browning, Registrar (Listed in the margin next to this will) Estate sworn at \$30,600.00 (amount very faint)*

## The descendants of Sir Robert Thorburn and Susanna Janet Milroy

### I. ROBERT MILROY THORBURN 1866-1950

Robert was born in St. John's, Newfoundland on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1866 and christened on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 1866. He was sent to Edinburgh, Scotland to attend Merchiston Castle School from 1881-1884.

He was an accountant in Messrs. Thorburn & Tessier

He married his cousin, Mary A S Milroy (b. May 1865, St. John's, Newfoundland) on the 26<sup>th</sup> May 1909 in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

*At Halifax, May 26, at the residence of the bride's father, 32 Queen Street, by the Rev. H. W. WARING, Mary A. S. MILROY to Robert M. THORBURN, eldest son of the late Hon. Sir Robert THORBURN, K.C.M.G., formerly Premier of Newfoundland.*

*Endnotes*

*1. Ann Nixon, Charles Talbot witness*

*2. Maria Jane REED witnessed*

Robert died on the 29<sup>th</sup> March 1950.

### II. ALISON SUSANNA VICTORIA THORBURN 1867-

Alison was born in St. John's, Newfoundland on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 1867.

She married the Reverend William J Graham (1859-1922) and they moved to Jamaica where William was the Minister of the St Andrews Scots Kirk, Kingston, Jamaica

They had 7 children:

ROBERT GRAHAM, b. Oct 1893, Jamaica.

JANETTA GRAHAM, b. May 1895, Jamaica.

WILLIAM GRAHAM, b. Nov 1887, Jamaica.

MELVILLE GRAHAM, b. Oct 1899, Jamaica; m. BERYL FACEY, Oct 1927, La Ceiba, Honduras.

Children:

Ruth Allison Graham b. April 1929, Honduras & m. Peter Singley children: Will and Lisa (m. Davis)

William Graham (b. Dec 1930, Jamaica)

Marjorie Graham (b. May 1933, Jamaica)

Robert graham (b. Oct 1941, Honduras)

GUY GRAHAM, b. Nov 1900, Jamaica.

IAN GRAHAM, b. Mar 1904, Jamaica.

CYRIL GRAHAM, b. Mar 1904, Jamaica.

William Graham was noted for his support of equal rights for black people. He was also the co- executor (along with Sir Robert Thorburn) for his wife's maternal grandmother Susannah Sawers Milroy who died in 1894 leaving an estate worth \$7500 Alison also received a bequest:

*To Alison Graham wife of Reverend William Graham my silver fish slice the largest of the silver salvers and my brooch which contains my sisters hair.*

### III. ANDREW JOHN THORBURN 1868-1911

Andrew was born in St. John's, Newfoundland on the 7<sup>th</sup> July 1888.

Like his older brother Robert Milroy Thorburn, he too was sent to Edinburgh, Scotland to be educated at Merchiston Castle School from 1882 -1886.

He was an accountant in Messrs Thorburn & Tessier.

He died on the 19<sup>th</sup> September 1911 in Clyde, Sandusky, Ohio, USA and buried on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September in Elsworth County, Clyde, Ohio.

### IV. ELEANOR LOUISE THORBURN 1870

Eleanor was born in St. John's Newfoundland on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 1870. Nothing is much recorded about Eleanor though she must have still been alive when her mother died in 1906. She leaves 3 times as much to Eleanor as to her sisters. Suspicion falls on Eleanor being the child who looked after her mother. She resided in Toronto in 1909. She was 5'4" tall with light brown hair, fair complexion and dark blue eyes.

#### V. WILLIAM ALBERT THORBURN 1879-1921

William was born in St John's Newfoundland on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1879.

He worked in Thorburn & Co as an accountant/storekeeper before emigrating to the USA and resided at 150 Manchester Place, Buffalo, New York in 1910. He worked as an accountant.

He served with the US army in WW1. He was 5'6" tall with fair hair and dark blue eyes.

He married Annie S Needham (b.1879, England) on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 1908 in Buffalo, New York, USA and they had two boys:

Robert W Thorburn (b.1910, New York state)

James A Thorburn (b. 1916, Wisconsin, USA)

William and Annie moved to Interlachen, Putnam, Florida about 1919 and resided at Washington Street, Interlachen, Putnam County, Florida where he worked as an auto mechanic.

Annie died in 1920 and William the following year on the 13<sup>th</sup> August 1921.

## Chapter 54

### WALTER THORBURN AND JANE WILKIE AINSLIE

Walter was born on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 1841 at Traquair, Peeblesshire. He was the 6<sup>th</sup> of 11 children to Robert Thorburn (1798-1866) and Alison Grieve (1806 & d. after 1891).

Like his brothers, William and Robert, he set off at a young age to St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada to seek his fortune amongst his many relatives there. Following in brother William's footsteps he became a commission agent and returned to Scotland to settle in Greenock, Renfrewshire.

He married Jane Wilkie Ainslie in Nottinghill, London on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 1871. Jane was born in 1843 at Cousland Park House, Cranstoun, Edinburgh, the daughter of a farmer's widow, Hanna Ainslie (nee Love, b.1813, Maybole Ayrshire).

Cranstoun was a prosperous farm near Dalkeith on the outskirts of Edinburgh.

Walter concentrated his business interests in exporting/importing wine and spirits between Greenock and St. John's Newfoundland. They first set up home at 53, Esplanade, Greenock, Renfrewshire.

In those days, Greenock was establishing itself as a major port to Canada and the Americas. Sugar refining was fast becoming a major industry, to which many of our Thorburn family became part of.

In the Census of April 1871 they are recorded at 53 Esplanade along with his younger sister, Jane, now 26. They has 2 servants

Business must have been good, as 10 years later they had moved to 97 Eldon Street, which was one of the town's premier addresses.

The 1881 census records 3 children: Walter Arnold Thorburn (age 6), Alice Ainslie Thorburn (age 4), Robert E. Thorburn (age 2) and William L Thorburn (age 10 months). There are also 4 servants.

In 1892, Walter was running his merchant's business at 28 Cathcart Street, Greenock. Cathcart Street was one of the two main commercial centres in Greenock.

He even bought whisky wholesale, bottled it and exported to Canada under his own patented label.

Walter seems to have been plagued by ill health – perhaps became too fond of his own whisky as he is recorded in both the 1891 and 1901 Census staying at the Kilmacolm Hydropathic Hotel.

Meanwhile Jane was recorded living at 53 Forsyth Street, Greenock with only Walter (26) and William (20) staying with their mother. This is a smaller house with only 1 servant. Jane is recorded living on her own means.

Walter died at Kilmacolm Hydro on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 1901.

His obituary appeared in the Greenock Telegraph

*Walter Thorburn, wine merchant Greenock, 5th son of late Robert Thorburn, Juniper Bank, Peebles, died at Kilmacolm Hydro on 23rd November 1901 – obit p2 23.11.1901.*

*(Greenock Telegraph 25.11.1901)*

Jane's death is as yet unknown

Walter and Jane had 4 children.

#### **The descendants of Walter Thorburn and Jane Wilkie Ainslie:**

##### **I. WALTER AINSLIE THORBURN 1874-1917**

Walter was born on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 1874 in Greenock.

*A son to Mr & Mrs Walter Thorburn born at Roseneath House, Greenock on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1874.*

*(Greenock Advertiser 1.12.1874)*

Walter went to Canada where he became a rancher in the Kettle Valley, British Columbia. He met and married Ethel Winifred Gane on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 1916 at Rock Creek, British Columbia, Canada. Ethel was born in January 1876, Fordingbridge, Hampshire, the daughter of Richard Gane (b.1839, Newington, London), a Manager of Wilts and Dorset Bank, and his wife, Mary (b.1847, Fordingbridge, Hampshire).

Ethel had gone to the USA to visit her older sister Maude.

They were not married long before Walter enlisted as a Private, 931372, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Mounted Rifles. He was killed in action on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1917 whilst defending the capture of Vimy Ridge at Thelus.

Ethel never remarried and went to live in the USA near her sister, before eventually returning to her birth county of Hampshire, England. She died in Bournemouth in July 1957.

## II. ALICE AINSLIE THORBURN 1876-1888

Alice was born in Greenock on the 4<sup>th</sup> August 1876

*A daughter to Mr & Mrs Walter Thorburn, born at Roseneath House, Greenock on 4th August 1876.  
(Greenock Advertiser 5.8.1876)*

She died, age 12, on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 1888

*Alice Ainslie, only daughter of Walter & Jane Wilkie, Thorburn, commission merchant, died at Silwood, Greenock on 4th Dec 1888 age 12.  
(Greenock Telegraph 4.12.1888.)*

## III. ROBERT ERNEST THORBURN 1878-

Robert was born in Greenock on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1878.

*A son to Mr & Mrs Walter Thorburn, born at Roseneath House, Eldon Street, Greenock on 2nd July 1878.  
(Greenock Advertiser 3.7.1878 & Greenock Telegraph 3.7.1878)*

He appears in the 1881 census but not on the next one ten years later. There is a possible record of a sea voyage to Canada. However we do know that he married Victoria Dick prior to 1922 and they had a son: Robert Ainslie Dick Thorburn (b 2 May 1922).

Robert jnr. married in 1942, Margaret Irene Arthur (1924-1992) and they had possibly 2 daughters. Robert's death is recorded in Manchester in Feb 1976.

## IV. WILLIAM LOUIS THORBURN 1880

William was born in Greenock on the 10<sup>th</sup> May 1880.

*A son to Mr & Mrs Walter Thorburn, born at Roseneath House, Greenock on 10th May 1880.  
(Greenock Advertiser 11.5.1880 & Greenock Telegraph 11.5.1880)*

He was an apprentice mechanical engineer in 1901 living with his mother.

## Chapter 55

### MICHAEL THORBURN 1846-1902

Michael was born on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 1846 at Traquair, Peeblesshire. He was the 9<sup>th</sup> of 11 children to Robert Thorburn (1798-1866) and Alison Grieve (1806 & d. after 1891).

Under the influence of his mother, Michael, aged 16 went to St John's, Newfoundland, Canada to work for his maternal uncle, Walter R Grieve.

Walter R Grieve and his brother, James Johnston Grieve, went to Newfoundland in the 1820s and worked in the trading firm of Baine Johnston & Co in which their maternal uncle, William Johnston, was a partner. When the other partner, Walter Baine, retired both Walter and James assumed control of the business

However, Michael remained independent and set himself up as a commission merchant and broker. Judging by his business address, shared much business with his uncles Grieve and later on in the late 1880s and 1890s with his brother Robert (Sir Robert) Thorburn who had also come to St John's and had been given control of Walter Thorburn & Co, a new business set up by his uncle, Walter Grieve (having disposed of his interest in Bain Johnstone & Co to another nephew, Robert Grieve).

Michael prospered and lived at 22 Monkstown Road, St Johns

He conducted his business in the town's business centre which was at 362 Water Street and coincidentally next door to Thorburn & Tessier owned by his brother Robert.

Michael was a private man, and unlike his brother, Robert and his Grieve uncles, did not go into politics.

He never married

However, Michael was a generous man, as can be seen by a copy of his will. His estate in 1902 was only valued at \$19,545. Whilst probably not as wealthy as his brother, there is every chance that he gave Robert financial help when his firm Thorburn and Tessier entered into liquidation in 1897. Michael may also have lost money when the Newfoundland Banks closed their doors or just simply poor trading conditions which were prevalent in the 1890s.

*Last Will and Testament of Michael Thorburn of St. John's, Broker deceased.*

*This is the last will and testament of me, **Michael Thorburn**, of St. John's in the Island of Newfoundland Broker.*

*I give and bequeath to my housekeeper **Kate Lacey**, provided she shall be in my service at the time of my death, the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars.*

*2. I give and bequeath to my servant **Clara Mooney**, provided she shall be in my service at the time of my death, the sum of fifty dollars.*

*3. I give and bequeath to my brother **Sir Robert Thorburn**, the sum of five thousand dollars.*

*4. I give and bequeath to my executor hereinafter named the sum of Two hundred dollars to recompense him for his services as such executor.*

*5. I give and bequeath all the rest residue and remainder of my estate after paying thereout my debts and all funeral and testamentary expenses, to my sisters **Jane Thorburn, Elizabeth Thorburn, and Margaret Thorburn** all of Edinburgh in Scotland, or to such of them as shall survive me, share and share alike.*

*6. I appoint **Herbert E. Knight** of St. John's Barrister at law to be executor of this my last will and Testament.*

*Dated at St. John's Newfoundland this 1<sup>st</sup> day of January A.D. 1902.*

*(Sgd) **Michael Thorburn**.*

*Signed published and declared by the said Testator as and for his last will and Testament in our presence who in his presence and at his request have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses in the presence of each other*

*(sgd) **Wm. Summers** (sgd) **Walter Morrissey**.*

*I certify the foregoing to be a correct copy of the last will and Testament of **Michael Thorburn** deceased*

***D. M. Browning** Registrar*

*(Listed in the margin next to this will the following)*

*Fiat D. Morison JP*

*Probate granted on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of February 1902 to Herbert E. Knight the Exor Value of Est. \$19,545.20*

Michael drew up this Will and Last testament on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1902. Probate was granted on the 12<sup>th</sup> February 1902. Therefore we can assume that Michael probably died at some point in early January 1902.



PART IV  
PLATES



*Juniperbank Farm today*

*Juniper Bank farm*



*ELIZABETH HORSBOROUGH 1768-1793  
1<sup>ST</sup> wife of JOHN THORBURN 1752-1820  
& INFANT DAUGHTER, BETTY  
Bowden Church*



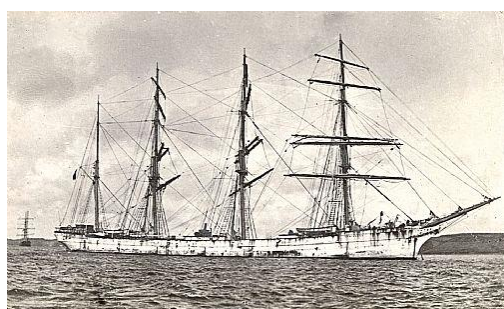
*JOHN THORBURN 1752-1820  
& 2<sup>nd</sup> wife JEAN ANDERSON*



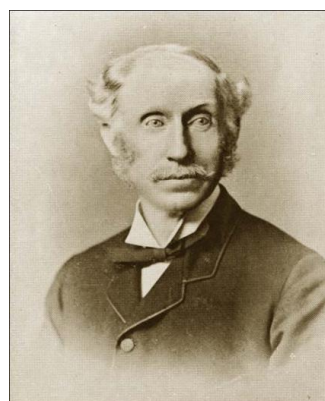
*Sv Glenbreck*



*Sv Craigerne*



*Greenbank Terrace, Edinburgh*



*SIR ROBERT THORBURN KCMG  
1836-1921*

*Baine, Johnstone & Co, St. John's  
Newfoundland*





SS Lion (lost at sea with all hands in 1903)



Union Bank of Newfoundland, St John's



## Hoisting of the Banners.

By Sir Robert Thorburn, K.C.M.G.

REAR high the Crimson Banner of St. George,  
Beneath whose ample folds Britannia guards,  
'Neath Southern Cross, or by the Arctic gorge,  
Her gallant sailors on the quiv'ring yards;  
Or on the bloody field of Africa's velt,  
Where sailors, soldiers, share a common grave;  
That flag, a shroud for those whose honor felt  
No stain should ever mark the fallen brave.

Rear high the Golden Harp, enshrined in green,  
Old Erin's banner of the Sister Isle,  
Inwoven with the Shamrock leaves between  
By maiden fingers deft, in ornate style.  
No braver race 'ere trod the tented field  
To strain of music, or in silence stern,  
Disdaining death, ne'er yet as cowards yield,  
Has Celt been found the backward step to learn!

Uphold the Briton's flag, then, brothers all,  
Where're it waves by land or surging sea—  
At home, abroad, respond to Duty's call—  
No tyrant's yoke we wear, or bend the knee,  
Except to Him who rules by sovereign grace,  
And "holds within the hollow of His hand  
The mighty deep," that cradle of our race!  
"God save the King," and bless our Mother Land.

Rear high St. Andrew's flag of azure hue—  
The banner of the gallant Scots unfold;  
Her Patron Saint wore Cross of White and Blue,  
And "Scots wha hae wi' Wallace bled," were told  
Grow thistles still, and hold their heads full high—  
Still "welcome to their gory bed" of yore  
Are Highland clans, when in the van they ply  
The foe with bayonet thrust, or fell claymore.

Rear high once more old Terra Nova's flag,  
As well becomes her Norsemen's sons of old;  
Her colors on those Cabot Towers, no brag,  
They fill the Post of Honor, and uphold  
Our Country's claim to mark the sacred spot  
Where Cabot's welcome to our Newfoundland  
Burst forth in lusty cheers from British throat  
That echo still around her ancient strand!

Extract from the  
Newfoundland Quarterly,  
1901

silver 3 piece tea set was commissioned from Hamilton and Inches,  
(Edinburgh's premier jeweller and goldsmith) in 1906.



The Thorburn family crest: Vivimus In Spe (We Live In Hope)