



## EARLSFERRY

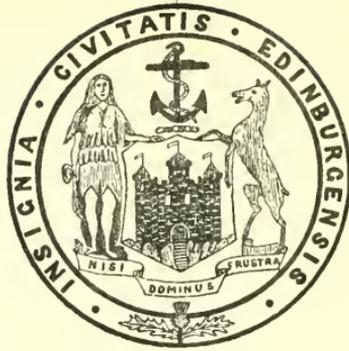
**E**ARLSFERRY is one of the oldest of the Scottish Royal Burghs. Its original charter was accidentally destroyed by fire in Edinburgh, and its date is unknown. King James VI. granted a new charter in 1589, which says, "Wit ye because we understanding the burgh of Earlsferry of old, past memory of men, was erected into ane free burgh," etc. Tradition alleges that it was originally constituted a Royal Burgh by Malcolm Canmore, who did so at the request of Macduff, Thane or Earl of Fife. The reason for Macduff's request was, that while he was fleeing from the vengeance of Macbeth, who had accused him of sending unfit cattle for carrying wood and stone for the building of Dunsinane Castle, he first hid himself in a cave, now known by his name, at Kinraig point, where he received great kindness from the fishermen who resided in a village close by. They at last ferried him over to Dunbar, from whence he made his way to England, and joined the cause of Prince Malcolm, son of King Duncan. His gratitude induced him to ask Malcolm, after he became king, to erect the village into a Royal Burgh under the name of Earlsferry, along with the privilege that when any fugitive should start to cross the Firth from there, no boat should set off in pursuit until the fugitive was half way over.

The Seal of the Burgh bears the representation of an ancient vessel, in remembrance of the boat in which Macduff crossed the ferry.



## EAST LINTON

**E**AST LINTON, at one time a Burgh of Barony, adopted the Lindsay Act in 1863, and under the Burgh Police Act of 1892 the Common Seal was designed by the well-known artist, Mr Robert Noble, A.R.S.A. The Seal shows what is considered to be a Roman bridge, which carried the Great North Road over the river Tyne. From this bridge one of the finest views on the Tyne is seen. The bridge is situated a few yards up the river from the "Linn," from which remarkable pool the burgh derived its name. Chalmers, in his "Caledonia," explains that *Linn* in Gaelic means a pool, and the Saxons when they settled here affixed their word *tun*, meaning "habitation," to the word *Linn*, to indicate their "dwelling place at the Linn."



## EDINBURGH

**E**DINBURGH, or rather the Castle Rock, seems to have been called by the ancient Britons *Mynydd Agued*, meaning the Hill of Agnes, but who this Agnes was is unknown, and *Dineiddyn*. At that period it is doubtful whether it was a fortified place, or simply a place of refuge. One legend narrates that when fighting was going on the daughters of the Pictish kings used to be shut up in the castle, and hence in Latin it was called *Castrum Puellarum*, or the Castle of the Maidens, and the town which grew up around it was called Maidenburgh. In 617 Edwin, a Northumbrian Prince, recovered his ancestral kingdom of Deira, and by force of arms took possession of all the country now known as the Lothians. The Castle Rock naturally attracted his attention from its strategical position, and tradition says that he built a castle thereon, with a town clustering under its base, and called the town, after himself, Edwinsburgh. This name appears in 1128 in the foundation charter of Holyrood. In the reign of Indulph, one of the Celtic kings, the town and castle together were called by one name—Dunedin—meaning either “the face of a hill,” or “the strength of Edwin.”

The Seal of the City may be described as follows: A castle, triple-towered and embattled, masoned of the first, and topped with three fanes, windows and portcullis shut of the last, situate on a rock proper, and on a wreath is set for the crest an anchor wreathed about with a cable all proper. Supported on the right side by a maid richly attired, with her hair hanging down over her shoulders, and on the left by a doe or hind proper. Motto on an escroll beneath “*Nisi dominus frustra.*”

The crest alludes to the Lord Provost of Edinburgh being *ex officio*, Admiral of the Firth of Forth.

It is hardly necessary to say that the castle represents Edinburgh Castle, inappreciably situated on the rock in the centre of the city.

The maid alludes to the legend of the daughters of the Pictish kings. Nisbet says that the Arms of Edinburgh are connected with its impregnable castle where the honourable virgins, the daughters of our sovereigns and of our nobility, were kept from the insults of the enemy in time of war.

The doe or hind refers to a legend connected with St. Giles, the patron saint of the city, and to whom the Parish Church of Edinburgh is said to have been dedicated as early as 854, and it is so recognised in a charter of King David II. in 1359. St. Giles was an Athenian of royal blood, but eventually became a hermit, and took up his abode near the mouth of the Rhone. "Here," says Mrs Jameson, in her "Sacred and Legendary Art," "he dwelt in a cave by the side of a clear spring, living upon the herbs and fruits of the forest, and upon the milk of a hind, which had taken up its abode with him. Now it came to pass that the King of France (or, according to another legend, Wamba, King of the Goths) was hunting in the neighbourhood, and the hind, pursued by the dogs and wounded by an arrow, fled to the cavern of the saint, and took refuge in his arms; the hunters following on its track, were surprised to find a venerable old man, kneeling in prayer, and the wounded hind crouching at his side. Thereupon the King and his followers, perceiving that it was a holy man, prostrated themselves before him and entreated forgiveness. The saint, resisting all the attempts of the King to withdraw him from his solitude, died in his cave about the year 541."

The motto seems to be an abridgement of the first verse of the 127th Psalm—*"Except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain."*



## ELGIN

**E**LGIN seems to have been erected into a Royal Burgh by King William the Lion, but its first known charter is from King Alexander II. in 1234. Once it was the cathedral seat of the great Bishopric of Moray, as the magnificent ruins of its once stately cathedral show. Bishop Barr characterised the building as "the glory of the kingdom, and the admiration both of foreigners and natives."

The name of Elgin is supposed to have been derived from a Norwegian general named Helgy, who, about 972, conquered the north of Scotland, and probably founded a colony at Elgin. In corroboration of this the word "Helgyn" is still used in the inscription round the Burgh Seal.

The Seal bears a representation of St. Giles or Ægidius dressed as a bishop, holding in his right hand an open book, and in his left a crosier. Above him is the inscription *scs (for sanctus) egidius*. St. Giles is the patron saint of the burgh, and the Parish Church is dedicated to him. The present church was built in 1828, the old church, known as "the muckle kirk," having been pulled down to make way for it. When the original St. Giles was built is not known, but it was very ancient, and in the days of the cathedral's glory was in charge of the bishop himself.

Sheriff Rampini, in his "History of Moray and Nairn," tells us that in 1606 one of the most distinguished statesmen of the day, Alexander Seton, Earl of Dunfermline and Chancellor of the kingdom, occupied the civic chair, and he proceeds—"There is perhaps only one other Provost of Elgin who can vie with Lord Dunfermline in distinction. This was St. Giles, the patron saint of the town. The burgh records state that on the 3rd October 1547 he was duly elected provost for a year; and tradition has improved the story by asserting that the Council under his chief magistracy, passed an edict to the effect that no widow should marry without the consent of the provost and magistrates!"



## ELIE, LIBERTY, AND WILLIAMSBURGH

**E**LIE, a Burgh of Barony, along with the adjoining villages of Liberty and Williamsburgh, adopted the Lindsay Act in 1864, and under the Burgh Police Act of 1892 took, for the Common Seal of the conjoint Burgh, the crest and motto of William Baird, Esquire, of Elie House, the superior. This crest is a griffin's head and neck, while the motto is "*Dominus fecit*" (the Lord made). Nisbet, writing about 1804, tells us that the Bairds of Auchmedden, in Banffshire, were then the principal family of the name, and bore this crest, and that for several generations they had, by Royal appointment, been sheriffs of that shire.

The "Old Statistical Account" says that the name Elie is from the Gaelic *A Liche*, meaning "Out of the sea," or "out of the water," because the town is built so near the sea that the water washes the walls in some places. The writer of the "New Statistical Account," however, maintains that it came from the Greek word *elos*, meaning a marsh.



## ELLON

**E**LLON came under the provisions of the Burgh Police Act of 1892 in 1893, and under it took for the Common Seal the three sheaves of grain which are borne on the first quarter of the escutcheon of the Earls of Buchan, at one time superiors of the Burgh. These, known in heraldry as "garbs," are the feudal Arms to the Earldom of Buchan.

Originally the Earldom was in possession of the Comyn or Cuming family. The first of the family seems to have been John Cuming, who obtained lands from King David I., and later on his son, William Cuming, was created Earl of Buchan, and made Justiciar of Scotland by King William the Lion. This family became very powerful, but as John Cuming or Comyn attached himself to the Baliols in opposition to Robert Bruce, when the latter succeeded to the throne of Scotland, John Comyn was outlawed, and his estates forfeited to the crown. The Earldom then remained with the crown till King Robert II. granted it in 1374 to Alexander Stewart, his third son. This is he who was known as the "Wolf of Badenoch," and Tytler remarks that he was little less than a cruel and ferocious savage, and that the above appellation is "characteristic of the dreadful attributes which composed his character, and who issued from his lair in the north, like the devoted instrument of the Divine wrath, to scourge and afflict the nation." The Earldom then continued in the Stewart and afterwards in the Douglas families, till by the marriage of Lady Mary Douglas and James Erskine, it descended in the new line of the Erskines, who still hold the dignity.

The three garbs, which appear on the Arms of all these holders of the title, refer to the fertility of the country from which the Earldom has its name, and probably the presentation of three sheaves of grain was the tenure under which the original Earls held their lands.

Ellon seems to have been, from a very ancient period, the head place of jurisdiction, or capital, of the Earldom, and in Pratt's "Buchan" it is mentioned that "Ellon was not then an insignificant village, but the assize town of a populous

district—the scene of penal trial, the ‘doomman’s’ place of execution, and the scene of mortal agony. Ellon must have possessed a metropolitan importance.”

The name Ellon is supposed to be derived from the Gaelic *Eilean*, meaning an island, and the “New Statistical Account” remarks that—“Its appropriation as the name of this parish may be accounted for by the circumstance that a small island in the river Ythan, adjacent to the site of the village of Ellon, marks the position of the ferry formerly used on the principal line of road leading from Aberdeen to the north-eastern districts of Scotland. In support of the origin here assigned to the name Ellon, it may be remarked that in an inscription on some old communion cups, presented to the kirk-session by the Forbeses of Watertown, the word is written Elleann.”