

# THE MYLNE FAMILY.

---

MASTER MASONS, ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS,

THEIR PROFESSIONAL CAREER

1481—1876.

---



PRINTED FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION BY

ROBERT W. MYLNE, C.E., F.R.S., F.S.A., F.G.S., F.S.A., Scot.,

FEL. INST. BRIT. ARCH.

---

LONDON 1877.



JOHN MYLNE,

MASTER MASON AND MASTER OF THE LODGE OF SCONE.

(Circa 1640—45.)

*From an original drawing in the possession of W. F. Watson, Esq., Edinburgh.*

CS 479

M 88

of  
289646  
4

## CONTENTS.

PREFACE.

REPRINT FROM ARTICLE IN "DICTIONARY OF ARCHITECTURE," 1876.

REGISTER OF ARMS—LYON OFFICE—SCOTLAND, 1672.

REPRINT FROM "HISTORY OF THE LODGE OF EDINBURGH," 1873.

CONTRACT BY THE MASTER MASONS OF THE LODGE OF SCONE AND  
PERTH, 1658.

---

## APPENDIX.

EXTRACTS FROM THE BURGH BOOKS OF DUNDEE, 1587—1604.

CONTRACT WITH GEORGE THOMSON AND JOHN MYLNE, MASONS, TO  
MAKE ADDITIONS TO LORD BANNTAYNE'S HOUSE AT NEWTYLE,  
NEAR DUNDEE, 1589.

EXTRACTS FROM THE BURGH BOOKS OF EDINBURGH, 1616—17.

CONTRACT BETWIXT JOHN MYLNE, AND LORD SCONE TO BUILD A  
CHURCH AT FALKLAND, 1620.

EXTRACTS FROM THE BURGH BOOKS OF DUNDEE AND ABERDEEN,  
1622—27.

EXTRACT FROM THE CHAMBERBLAIN'S ACCOUNTS OF THE EARL OF  
PERTH, 1629.

GRANT TO JOHN MYLNE OF THE OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL MASTER MASON  
TO THE KING, 1631.

EXTRACTS FROM THE BURGH BOOKS OF KIRKCALDY AND DUNDEE,  
1643—51.

GRANT TO JOHN MYLNE, YOUNGER, KING'S PRINCIPAL MASTER MASON,  
OF THE OFFICE OF CAPTAIN AND MASTER OF PIONEERS AND  
PRINCIPAL MASTER GUNNER OF ALL SCOTLAND, 1646.

CONTRACT WITH JOHN MYLNE AND GEORGE 2ND EARL OF PANMURE TO  
BUILD PANMURE HOUSE, ADJACENT TO THE ANCIENT MANSION AT  
BOWSCHIN, NEAR DUNDEE, 1666.

ROYAL WARRANT CONCERNING THE FINISHING OF THE PALACE OF  
HOLYROOD, 21 FEBRUARY, 1676.

CONTRACT WITH ROBERT MYLNE, KING'S PRINCIPAL MASTER MASON,  
FOR TAKING DOWN THE WEST FRONT OF HOLYROOD PALACE AND  
REBUILDING THE SAME, MARCH, 1676.

## PREFACE.

## THE MYLNE FAMILY.

*The following Notice of the Professional Lives of its several members was compiled by WYATT PAPWORTH, F.R.I.B.A., for the "DICTIONARY OF ARCHITECTURE" OF THE ARCHITECTURAL PUBLICATION SOCIETY, published for the Society. London, 1876.*

---

*Printed with a few corrections and additions by  
ROBERT W. MYLNE, C.E., F.R.S., F.S.A., F.G.S., F.R.I.B.A., F.S.A. Scot., &c.*

---

MYLNE (JOHN), the first known member of the family, was appointed about 1481 Master Mason in Scotland by King James III. who granted him a Patent of Office, mentioned with the family coat of arms, in NISBET'S *Heraldry*, fol., London, 1722, i. 127: and in *NOTES AND QUERIES Journal*, 3rd ser., vii. 198. ALEXANDER, his son, was Master Mason to the King. THOMAS, his son, was also Master Mason to the King.

MYLNE (JOHN), his son, Mason, came from the "north countrie" to Dundee, afterwards settled at Perth, "and in process of tyme, by reason of his skill and airt, was perferred to be the Kings Ma'ties Mr. Measone, and Master of the Lodge at Scone." Subsequent to 1580 he was engaged on the new Port or Harbour and Stone Pier, on several public works, and designed the Market Cross, all at Dundee, and 1587 contracted with George Thomson, mason, to build Lord Bannatyne's house at Newtyle, portions of which still exist; 1599 went to Perth in reference to the proposal for erecting a stone Bridge of eleven arches across the river Tay, to which work, in 1604, "he entered

as Master Mason to the brig of Tay ;" in 1610 his son, another JOHN, assisted his father in completing that work, and cutting and fixing on it the royal arms in 1616 : it was destroyed in 1621 by an unprecedented flood from a sudden melting of snow, and was not replaced ; the present Bridge of seven arches was built 1770 by J. Smeaton, over a broader part of the river. He entered King James VI. (1603) as "Frieman Meason and Fellow-craft," at his own desire, of the Lodge of Scone. He died in 1621, and was buried in the Grey Friars Churchyard at Perth, where a slab with quaint lines and a coat of arms thereon still exists.

MYLNE (the third JOHN), succeeded his father in the office of Master Mason, and was Master of the Lodge at Scone. At the latter end of 1616 he was expressly sent for, and was engaged by the town council of Edinburgh to complete a Statue of King James I. in anticipation of that monarch's visit in the following year to his Scottish dominions : the statue had been commenced by Benj. Lambert. He was also engaged on several works in Edinburgh, and shortly afterwards settled in Dundee. In 1620 he entered into a contract with Lord Scone to take down the old and build a new Church at Falkland. On 1st January 1623 one hundred pounds money was paid by the Town Council to "Johne Mylne mesone in Dundie," in part payment for the ashlar stone "worked to design and delivered from Kingoodie quarry," for the Steeple of the Tolbooth at Aberdeen (SPALDING CLUB, *Aberdeen Burgh Records*, 4to. 1848, ii. 379) : this steeple still exists. In 1630 he was engaged

to make extensive additions to Drummond Castle, Perthshire, portions of which remain, as well as the celebrated Sun-dial in the gardens executed by him. In 1633 he with the assistance of his two sons JOHN and ALEXANDER executed the finely worked Sun-dial now standing to the north of Queen Mary's tower at Holyrood Palace, for which he was paid the sum of £408 15s. 6d. Scots. On the death of Wm. Wallace he was appointed, 17th December, 1631, *principal* Master Mason in Scotland to King Charles I. which office he resigned in 1636. From 1643 to 1651 he was engaged at Dundee on considerable works at the Tolbooth and Fortifications; and 1644 on the Steeple of the Town Hall, for which last he was paid 800 marks. He died in 1657.

MYLNE (the fourth JOHN), was born 1611 at Perth. In 1636 he succeeded his father as *principal* Master Mason, and in 1637 was appointed Master Mason to the town of Edinburgh, receiving £100 Scots per annum. He made designs for two new Churches, of which the Tron Church, in the Italian style, was finished in 1647. "The monastery at Glasgow, of the Dominicans, which were brought over soon after 1220, and was founded 1270, stood where is now the College Church; as a fine specimen of Gothic architecture, it excited the admiration of Mr. Mylne the King's Architect, who surveyed it in the year 1638; it being struck by a thunderbolt in 1668, it was rebuilt in 1699" (POPULAR ENCYCLOPÆDIA, 8vo. Glasgow, 1841, iii. 454). In 1640-41 he was with the Scotch army at Newcastle. In 1642 he reported in detail upon the condition



of the whole of the Abbey Church at Jedburgh; in 1643 was, on the death of W. Aytoun, appointed Master Mason to Heriot's Hospital at Edinburgh, then only partly built, and continued the works to 1659. In 1646 he received the appointment from the King of Captain of Pioneers and principal Master Gunner of all Scotland. 1647 made additions to the College of Edinburgh; and later, in 1648, repaired the crown of the great Steeple of S. Giles's Church in that city, which was thoroughly restored and decidedly altered in form by him; in 1650 built the Fortifications at Leith; in 1652 was elected by the Crafts as one of the Commissioners for the formation of a Treaty of Union with England, and went to London towards the end of that year, where he remained till July 1653, being paid with his brother Commissioners £1 sterling per day during the time of his stay there. "John Miln, Master of Wark for the Mesones," was present on the 12th May, 1654, when Cromwell was proclaimed Lord Protector at Perth (MAITLAND CLUB, *Chron. of Perth*, 4to. Edin. 1831, p. 43). 1656 he built the house for the Professor of Divinity, and six additional chambers to the College at Edinburgh; 1657 repaired the Grammar School there. In Oct. 1663 he had made designs for an entire new Palace at Holyrood, associating Queen Mary's tower in the arrangements; a plan is in the Bodleian library at Oxford. As convener of the trades he had a seat in the Town Council of Edinburgh for six years ending in 1664, and on several occasions represented the Metropolis in the Scotch Parliament. 1666 he made designs for and commenced the building of Panmure House, Forfar-

shire, since much altered, but which still retains many portions, especially the handsome staircase; 'made a design for the existing Town Hall at Linlithgow; also for a new Grammar school there: the drawings of all these still exist; executed parts of Leslie House for the Duke of Rothes; and while there at the latter end of 1667, the Town Council of Perth wrote to him to ask when it would be convenient to receive a deputation to consider as to a design for building a Market Cross for that city, "to be equal to none in the kingdom." He left Leslie House for Edinburgh, and after a few days' illness he died 24th December, 1667, in the fifty-sixth year of his age, and was buried in Greyfriars' Churchyard, Edinburgh, on the south side of the eastern entrance gate, where a handsome tomb with an inscription records he was the sixth of the family holding the office of the King's Master Mason, and the fourth John: it is given in MONTREITH, *Theater of Mortality*, 8vo. Edin. 1704. He left no male issue. In 1668 the Incorporation of Mary's Chapel placed an inscription over the entrance door of their Hall (given in LYON, *History*), in which work his portrait is engraved. A curious anecdote occurs in NICOLL, *Diary of Transactions in Scotland 1650-67*, published by the BANNATYNE CLUB, 4to. 1836, indicating a strong party feeling, in which he speaks of Mylne as having brought the Town of Edinburgh to the verge of bankruptcy, by changing the position of the pulpits several times, and dividing the "Tolbuith kirk" into two; altering the "lofts" several times; and wanting to divide the "Gray Frier kirk and the College kirk in twa kirkis."

MYLNE (ALEXANDER), brother of the last JOHN, worked as a Sculptor on the public buildings in Edinburgh, and on many of his brother's buildings, besides the Sundial, noticed under the date of 1633. He died February 1643, it is believed of the plague, and was buried on the site of the old choir of Holyrood Abbey, where his tomb still exists.

MYLNE (ROBERT), born 1633 at Edinburgh, eldest son of ALEXANDER, was apprenticed 27th December, 1653, to his uncle, and succeeded him as *principal* Master Mason to King Charles II. He agreed 1688 to build for 4200 merks Scots, the Market Cross at Perth; it had been removed from the High Street (it was sold 1765; *BUILDER Journal*, xxiv. 187); built the Hospital at Largo, and carried on works at Thirlestane Castle. In 1669 he reclaimed a considerable part of the foreshore and built a sea wall at Leith, took the area from the city on a perpetual ground rent, and on one portion erected a large stone Land of tenements, which property still remains in the family. In 1670 he was engaged on making plans for the intended rebuilding of Holyrood Palace, and in the following year the drawings and designs were sent by Sir Wm. Bruce to Whitehall, through the Duke of Lauderdale, for the approval of the King, who made considerable alterations, and directed a fresh set to be drawn. At the end of the same year, Sir Wm. Bruce was appointed Surveyor-General of the Royal Buildings in Scotland, the warrant being recalled 30th May, 1678. The foundation stone was laid 15th June, 1671, by Mylne, whose name is cut on an angle pillar of the arcade in the quadrangle; he erected

the building, which was completed 1679. At the same time he was Master Mason or Surveyor to the city of Edinburgh; and, consequent upon the new regulation that stone buildings should be erected in lieu of timber in the main streets, a vast number of new erections were commenced, in which Mylne was almost wholly engaged, and his style can be traced to this day; among other large undertakings he in 1679 erected Mylne's Square and Court on his own account; and built all the City Conduits after the designs of Sir Wm. Bruce for the water supply brought in leaden pipes from Coniston. He had also an extensive practice throughout Scotland. On 6th March, 1693, he "presented a draught for finishing the Steeple" of Heriot's Hospital, and for the work he was to receive 3100 merks (STEVEN, *Memoir*, 8vo. Edin. 1845, p. 107). He acquired the estate of Balfarge in the county of Fife, as also a property at Inveresk, where he died 10th December, 1710, aged 77 years, leaving eight sons and six daughters. An inscription to him was placed on the monument to his uncle at Greyfriars. The appointment of *principal* Master Mason to the King ceased at this period for some years.

MYLNE (WILLIAM), Mason, eldest son of Robert, was born in 1662; he settled at Leith, and died 9th March, 1728, aged 66 years.

MYLNE (THOMAS) of Powderhall, near Edinburgh, Mason, eldest son of William, was admitted Apprentice in the Lodge 27th Dec. 1721; Master 27th Dec. 1735, and in that capacity represented it at the erection of the Grand Lodge of Freemasons

of Scotland, 30th Nov. 1736, and was Grand Treasurer from Nov. 1737 to Dec. 1755. He designed and built the Infirmary and was engaged on various private undertakings; he became City Surveyor; the style "Architect" was in his later life generally adopted for that of Mason as in former years. He died 5th March, 1673, at Powderhall, and was buried in the tomb of his ancestors, above-mentioned. His portrait by "Gul. Mosman, 1752," is in the possession of R. W. Mylne; and a copy of it was given by him to the Grand Lodge of Scotland in 1858.

MYLNE (ROBERT, eldest son of THOMAS), C.E., F.R.S. in 1767, was born 4th January, 1734, at Edinburgh. After working with his father, he travelled through France to Italy, studying for five years or more at Rome, where he gained in 1758 the gold and silver medals in the Class of Architecture at St. Luke's Academy, being the first Briton to do so. He was unanimously elected a Member of that Academy, and also of that of Florence and of Bologna. He then visited Naples and Sicily, making careful measurements of the antiquities, and returning through Switzerland and Holland. He began in 1774 to arrange his collection of drawings for publication, but his numerous professional engagements obliged him to defer it.

He proved to be the successful competitor, out of sixty-nine other candidates, for a design for a Bridge over the Thames at Blackfriars (GWYNN), and was appointed to build it 28th February, 1760; the first pile was driven 7th June, 1760, and the first stone was laid 31st October: it was opened 19th

November, 1769, and cost £152,840 3s. 10d., being £163 less than the original estimate. The Bridge was 995 ft. long, the nine arches being 100 ft., 98 ft., 93 ft., 83 ft., and 70 ft. respectively, and 42 ft. wide: the design for the centering has been often engraved. The requirements of the present day in larger waterways, greater width for the traffic, and more moderate gradients, weighed in the consideration, and caused the removal of the bridge in 1868. It has been stated that Mylne was appointed at a salary of £300 per annum; and also that he was paid 5 per cent. for work done, 1 per cent. on sales and purchases, and £100 per annum for five years' attendance at meetings, &c. (CRESY, *Encycl.* 428), yet had to resort to legal proceedings before his claims were recognised, which was however effected in 1776 (*BUILDER Journal*, 1855, xiii. 429). The Approaches to the Bridge on both sides of the river were important works.

Among his other architectural works were, 1763, designs for a house for Sir Wm. Knatchbull; another for Lord Garlies; 1764, stables for Earl Morton; house for T. Patterson, Esq., at Norwich; 1763-65, the concert hall called St. Cecilia's Hall, at Edinburgh, after the model of the Opera House at Parma; the Assembly rooms in King Street, St. James's, called Almack's, now Willis's Room's, opened 14th February, 1765, and reported at the time to have been built, in consequence of the severity of the winter, with hot bricks and boiling water; the great room, 100 ft. by 40 ft., was decorated 1767; at Hexham, Northumberland, the Bridge over the River

Tyne; 1765, works at Clumber; Wormlybury for Sir Abraham Hume; large alterations at King's Weston, Hampshire, for Mr. Southwell, Lord de Clifford, where, it is said, that on making a plan of the house he discovered a small room, on being broken open a quantity of old family plate and deeds were found (NEALE, *Seats*, 4to. Lond. 1819, ii.): the pavilion and wings at Northumberland House, Charing Cross; Blaze Castle, near Bristol; repairs at Rochester Cathedral; house for General Skene in Fifeshire; that for Lord Frederick Campbell at Ardincaple; 1765, Bridge at Welbeck for Duke of Portland; 1766, house for Dr. Hunter in Lichfield Street; 1767, appointed Surveyor to Canterbury Cathedral; 1770, hospital at Belfast; 1772, house for Mr. Trevethick; commenced the Bridge over the River Tyne at Newcastle, which was pulled down 1873 on much the same grounds as those respecting Blackfriars Bridge; 1770-73, City of London Lying-in-Hospital, City Road (MAYLAND, *London*, 4to. Lond. iii. pl. 127); 1773-79, Addington Lodge, near Croydon in Surrey, for the Archbishop of Canterbury (RICHARDSON, *Vit. Britt.* fol. Lond. 1802, i. pl. 33); the embankment at the Temple Gardens, etc.; Tusmore House, Oxfordshire (RICHARDSON, 1802, i. pl. 5); *cir.* 1804, Kidbrooke, near East Grinstead, Sussex, for Lord Colchester (NEALE, *Seats*, 4to. 1821, iv.); 1806, works at Inverary Castle for the Duke of Argyle (MORRIS); and house for Mr. Coutts in Piccadilly. Besides having been consulted on almost all the harbours in England, two of Mylne's great engineering conceptions and works were the design and carrying out of the great Ship Canal,

70 to 90 ft. wide, called the Gloucester and Berkeley Canal, recently completed to Sharpness Point. The other, the design and obtaining an Act of Parliament for the Eau Brink Cut above Lynn, for the improvement of the Fen Level drainage: it was stopped by opposition after the land had been bought, but was carried out in 1817.

He was unsuccessful in his design in 1800 for new London Bridge. In 1767 he was appointed Joint Engineer to the New River Company at a salary of £200, with Henry Mill (who had been with the Company from about 1692, and died 26th December 1770, aged about 90 years); the first stone of the new offices at Clerkenwell was laid 28th June, 1770: the former one repaired and new fronted 1782: was from 1775 Clerk of the Works for about fifteen years at Greenwich Hospital, at about £100 per annum, with £60 for a clerk: was Surveyor to the Stationers' Company, for which he designed in 1800 the east front of the Hall on Ludgate Hill: was appointed Surveyor to St. Paul's Cathedral about 1761, an office he held until his death; put up under the Dome the well-known inscription to Sir Christopher Wren, *Si monumentum requiris, circumspice*; designed the Pulpit, carved by Henry Wyatt and a Frenchman; fitted up St. Paul's in 1789 for the visit of the Houses of Parliament (a view of which is in the "Crowle Collection" of the British Museum, xi. 95); and again in 1797, &c., and for the Charity Children of the metropolis: and was one of the original members of the Architects' Club, established



October 1791. Mylne died 5th May, 1811, in his 79th year, and was buried in the crypt of St. Paul's Cathedral. Five out of nine children survived him. Whilst at Rome in 1757 his portrait was drawn by Brompton; it was engraved 1783 at Paris by Vangeliste; a copy of it with a memoir is given in NICHOLS, *Literary Anecdotes*, 8vo. Lond. 1815, ix. 231-3. Another portrait (1795), from a miniature by Maria Mylne, was engraved 1860 by H. Adlard. (BUILDER *Journal*, 1864, xxii. 8; CHALMERS, *Gen. Biog. Dict.* xxii. 549; CHAMBERS, *Biog. Dict.* 8vo. Glasgow, 1868-70.)

MYLNE (WILLIAM), second son of THOMAS, was born about 1734, became a member of the Town Council, and Architect to the City of Edinburgh, where he practised. He constructed 1765-9 the North Bridge, which had been commenced 21st October 1763, at a contract price of £10,140: an abstract of the agreement, etc., is given in SCOT'S MAGAZINE, 8vo. Edin. 1769, xxi. 461, on the failure of part of the South Land Abutment, which was rebuilt 1722. He also designed the Jamaica Street Bridge at Glasgow, 29th September, 1768-72, of seven arches, 500 ft. long and 30 ft. wide, and cost £9,000, John Adam being the Mason. This bridge was washed away and a new one erected 1833-35 by T. Telford. Mylne in after years settled at Dublin, where he died March 1790, aged fifty-six years, and was buried in the churchyard of St. Catherine, where a tablet was put up to his memory by his brother ROBERT, which states "he formed, enlarged, and established on a perfect

system the waterworks of Dublin" (WARBURTON, &c., *History of Dublin*, 4to. 1818).

MYLNE (WILLIAM CHADWELL), C.E., F.R.S. (in 1826), F.R.I.B.A., second son of ROBERT, was born 6th April, 1781, in London. He assisted his father as Engineer from an early age: was in 1804 appointed Assistant-Engineer to the New River Waterworks Company at a salary of £150, and succeeded in 1810 to the sole conduct of the works until two years before his death, executing many important works and improvements. As Surveyor to the Company he laid out their property near Islington for streets and buildings, and among other buildings designed, 1826-8, St. Mark's Church, Myddelton Square, for 1800 persons at a cost of £16,000. Designed Gerrards Hostel Bridge, of one single iron arch, over the River Cam, Cambridge (given in HANN and HOSKING, *Bridges*, 8vo. Lond. 1843): acted for fifty years as Surveyor to the Stationers' Company after the death of his father: and designed alterations to, and extensions of, many private mansions. As a Valuer he was employed by the Government in connection with the Improvements in the Strand. He died 25th Dec. 1863, aged 82 years. His portrait, painted in 1856 by H. W. Phillips, was engraved 1860 by H. Adlard. (ROYAL SOCIETY, *Proceedings*, 8vo. Lond. 1865, xiv. p. xii.; *BUILDER Journal*, 1864, xxii. 8.)

*Memoirs* of the family prefixed to LAURIE, *Hist. of Freemasonry*, 8vo. Lond. 1859, p. 514: and D. M. LYON, *History of the Lodge of Edinburgh*, 4to. 1873, p. 91-5. This completes

the notices of eleven generations of a family all following the same profession, which is continued by Robert Wm. Mylne, C.E., F.R.S , F.R.I.B.A., eldest son of the last-mentioned, who is in possession of a large accumulation of professional and private papers and original portraits, of which use has been made especially for the earlier portions of these condensed notices

**JOHN MYLNE,**

**KING'S PRINCIPAL MASTER MASON, CAPTAIN OF PIONEERS AND MASTER GUNNER OF ALL SCOTLAND.**

*(Circa 1660.)*

*From an original painting in the possession of Robert W. Mylne, London.*

## ARMS OF ROBERT MYLNE OF Balfarge—FIFE.

1672.



REGISTER OF ARMS—LYON OFFICE—SCOTLAND—1672.

ROBERT MYLNE of Balfarge his Majesties M<sup>r</sup> Measone Nevoy and representer of the deceast JOHN MYLNE late M<sup>r</sup> Measone to his Majesties and which John was lawfull sone to the deceast.

JOHN MYLNE also his Majesties M<sup>r</sup> Measone and which John was lawfull sone to y<sup>e</sup> deceast JOHN MYLNE likewise his Majesties M<sup>r</sup> Meason and which John was lawfull sone to y<sup>e</sup> deceast.

THOMAS MYLNE in like manner his Majesties M<sup>r</sup> Measone which Thomas was sone to the deceast.

ALEXANDER likewise his Majesties M<sup>r</sup> Measone and which Alexander was sone to y<sup>e</sup> deceast JOHN also his Majesties M<sup>r</sup> Measone be vertue of ane gift granted to him thereof be K. James the third of ever blessed memorie of the date the            day of            years.

Bears, Or a Cross moline azure, quarter peared of y<sup>e</sup> field betwixt three Mollets of the second; On ane helmet befitting his degree with a mantle gules doubled argent and torse of his collours is set for his Crest Apelles head couped at the shoulders proper Vested about at y<sup>e</sup> neck Vert, on y<sup>e</sup> head a helmet Azure Beaver turned up and a plumaish gules. The Motto in ane Escroll. Above *Tam arte quam marte.*



ROBERT MYLNE,

KING'S PRINCIPAL MASTER MASON.

*From a painting by Roderick Chalmers.*



ROB<sup>T</sup>. MYLNE ESQ.<sup>R</sup>

*Architect. &c. F.R.S.*



## THE MYLNE FAMILY.

---

*From the HISTORY OF THE LODGE OF EDINBURGH (Mary's Chappel, No. 1).  
By D. MURRAY LYON (Blackwood, Edinburgh, 1873), pp. 91-95.*

---

Through the signature of JOHN MYLNE, attached to certain minutes in the preceding chapter, the reader is introduced to a family of famous masons and architects, whose connection with the Lodge of Edinburgh extended over two hundred years. According to an ancient manuscript possessed by the Lodge Scone and Perth, No. 3, a John Mylne, mason, came to Perth from the "north countrie," and "in process of tyme, by reason of his skill and airt, wes preferred to be the Kings Ma'ties Mr Measone, and Mr of the said Lodge at Scone." On his death he was succeeded in the office of King's Master Mason by his son, John, who is represented in the Perth Charter as having in the capacity of Master of the Lodge of Scone, and at his Majesty's own desire, entered James VI. as "frieman meason and fellow craft." His son, a third John Mylne, mason, was called in 1616 to the Scottish capital to undertake the erection of the King's statue. His signature appears twice in the records of Mary's Chapel. On the death of William Wallace, in 1631, he was appointed Master Mason to Charles I., which

office he in 1636 resigned in favour of his eldest son, "Johnne Mylne, younger," who had in October 1633 been made fellow of craft in the Lodge of Edinburgh.

This John Mylne, whose portrait is prefixed, was "Deacon of the Lodge and Warden" in 1636, to the former of which offices he was ten times re-elected during a period of twenty-seven years. In 1640-41 he was with the Scotch Army at Newcastle; in 1646 he received the appointment from the King of Captain of Pioneers and Principal Master Gunner of all Scotland; and in 1652 he was elected by the Crafts as a Commissioner for the formation of a Treaty of Union with England. As Convener of the Trades he had a seat in the Town Council\* for six years

\* Nicoll, in his Diary of Transactions in Scotland, while animadverting on the "instabilitie that was in particular churches and congregatiounes in Edinburgh" about the middle of the seventeenth century, and which he regards as "a prognostick of a havy judgement," refers to John Mylne, as having by his advice in matters relating to certain alterations that were about this time effected upon the ecclesiastical buildings of the metropolis, brought the town of Edinburgh to the verge of bankruptcy: "The ministrie not content with the station of their pulpites as they stuid, thay causit chaynge thame in sindry of the churches of Edinburgh, viz. thrie severall tymes in the kirk callit the Tolbuith Kirk, quhilk wes so callit becaus it wes laitie the pairt and place quhair the Criminnall court did sitt, and quhair the gallous and the maydin did ly of old; lykewyse, this kirk alterit and chayngit, and of this kirk thair did mak two. Farder in the new kirk, callit the Eist Kirk of Edinburgh, the pulpite was twyse transpoirtit, anes fra the north to the south, quhair of befor it stuid on the north syde. By these divisiounes of the kirk and pulpites, the loftis on all sydes, quhich war verrie costlie, war alterit and chayngit to the havy expensis and charges of the Toun of Edinburgh, and the moir grieff it was to the Toun, in respect of the havy burdinges contracted and lyand thairon, in these dangerous and evill tymes. The rest of the churches, viz. the Gray Frier Kirk and the College Kirk is now resolvit, by the Toun Counsell, ather of thame to be devydit in twa kirkis. This work wes affermit to be projected by ane maisoun callit Johnne Mylne, and by a wricht callit Johnne Scott,

ending in 1664, and on several occasions represented the metropolis in the Scotch Parliament. To Mr. Mylne's professional position, and intimacy with gentlemen frequenting the Scottish Court at the time, may be attributed the admission into the Lodge of Edinburgh of the many distinguished persons whose reception as Theoretical Craftsmen marks an important era in the history of the Scotch Masonic Lodges. He died in 1667; and in 1668 the Incorporation of Mary's Chapel placed the following inscription in his honour over the entrance door of their Hall:—

UPON THE MEMORY OF JOHN MYLNE, MASTER MASON TO HIS MAJESTY, WHO  
CARRIED THE CHARGE FOR TWELVE YEARS DEACON IN THIS PLACE, WHEREOF  
FOUR HE PRECEDED THE CONVENER.

#### JOHN MYLNE.

Who maketh the Fourth John  
And by descent from Father unto Son  
Sixt Master Mason to a Royal Race  
Of seven successive Kings, sat in this place.  
Rare man he was, who could unite in one  
Highest and lowest occupation:  
To sit with Statesmen, Councillors to Kings;  
To work with Tradesmen in mechanick things.  
May all Brethren Myln's steps strive to trace  
Till one, withall, this house may fill his place.

---

quhilk massioun and wricht being persones of the commoun Toun Counsell, did misleid the rest, and did hold the Toun in continuall alteration and chanyges, to the havy chairges, wrak, and expensis of the inhabitantes; quha, notwithstanding of the plak of every pynt of aill and bier allowit to thame by the Protector, withiu Edinburgh, Leith, Cannongait, West Poirt, Potterraw, and uther suburbes; yit nevertheles, and of many uther caswaliteis allotit to the Toun of Edinburgh, they wer abave ellevin hundreth thowsand markis in dett, and quhilk at this tyme thair wer not able to pay."

ALEXANDER MYLNE, the next of the family who belonged to the Lodge of Edinburgh, was passed fellow of craft, June 2, 1635, in presence of his brother, John Mylne, Lord Alexander, Sir Anthony Alexander, and Sir Alexander Strachan. As a sculptor he was engaged in the embellishment of the Parliament House and other public buildings in Edinburgh. He died in 1643, and was buried at the Abbey of Holyrood.

ROBERT MYLNE, mason, who acquired the estate at Balfarge in the county Fife, was entered prentice to his uncle, John Mylne, in the Lodge of Edinburgh, December 27, 1653; and was made a fellow-craft on 23rd September, 1660. He was chosen Warden of the Lodge in 1663, and was re-elected in 1664. He filled the Deacon's chair during the years 1681, '82, '83, '87, and '88, and took a leading part in the business of the Lodge till 1707. He appears to have succeeded to the post of Master Mason to Charles II. on the death of his uncle; at least he is so designated in an agreement entered into between him and the Magistrates of Perth (1668) for rebuilding the Cross that had been removed from the High Street through the operations which followed upon Cromwell's possession of the place. In 1671 Mylne was employed to rebuild the Palace of Holyrood. He was the builder also of Mylne's Court and Mylne's Square. He died in 1710.

WILLIAM MYLNE, mason, eldest son of Robert Mylne, was admitted and entered in the Lodge of Edinburgh, at Mary's Chapel, December 27, 1681. William Murray, the King's Justice Depute (an office analogous to that of the present Lords

of Justiciary), was present on the occasion. He was passed as fellow-craft; November 9, 1685. His signature appears along with that of other apprentices at occasional minutes of a date previous to his passing, and is attached to almost every minute between 1692 and 1723. He was Warden of the Lodge in 1695, '96, and '97. He died in 1728.

THOMAS MYLNE, mason, eldest son of William Mylne, and subsequently proprietor of Powderhall, a small but now valuable property near Edinburgh, was entered and admitted as apprentice December 27, 1721; "elected and chosen Eldest Prentice for ensuing year," December 27, 1722; admitted and received fellow-craft December 27, 1729. He was chosen "Master of the Society," December 27, 1735, and in that capacity represented the Lodge at the erection of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, November 30, 1736, as he had also done in the meetings which preceded that event; was re-elected Master December 27, 1736, at which date he presented a report of the proceedings at the election of the first Grand Master, and was re-appointed to represent the Lodge in the Grand Lodge. In 1737-38 he was Depute Master, and again in 1743-44—having in the interim, and while holding the post of Deacon of the Incorporation (December 28, 1741), been recalled to the chair of the Lodge as "Worshipfull Master," to which he was re-elected in December of the following year. Elected in November 1737, he discharged the office of Grand Treasurer to the Grand Lodge during eighteen consecutive years, retiring from that post in December 1755. He died March 5, 1763.

What renders this brother's connection with the Lodge of Edinburgh distinguishable from that of any other member of his family, is the fact of his having been *entered* in what may emphatically be termed the transition period of its existence,—of his having been *advanced* during the Masonic twilight which preceded the institution of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, in the acceleration of which event, and adoption of that system of Freemasonry of which the English Grand Lodge was the expositor, he bore a conspicuous part,—and of his having maintained a connection with the Lodge until every vestige of its Operative character had disappeared.

WILLIAM MYLNE, mason, second son of Thomas Mylne, was “admitted and received an entered apprentice in the ordinary forme, for which he paid nyne pounds Scots to the theasurer,” December 27, 1750; was present in the Lodge as eldest apprentice, November 25, 1751; and, on giving “proof of his qualification as entered apprentice and fellow of craft, was passed and raised operative master, and paid into the treasurer two pounds sterling for the use of the Lodge,” December 20, 1758. He does not seem ever to have held office in the Lodge; but he was deacon of the masons in 1765, in which year he was also a member of town-council. The largest undertaking with which his name is associated was the construction of the North Bridge of Edinburgh, described in the language of the period as “a stone bridge across the North Loch, from the High street, where the Cap-and-Feather Tavern now stands, to the opposite bank at Multrees Hill,”—the contract price being

£10,140. The foundation-stone of the North Bridge was laid with Masonic honours on the 21st October, 1763. Mr. Mylne removed to Dublin, where he died in 1790.

ROBERT MYLNE (eldest son of Thomas Mylne) was, at a meeting of the Lodge of Edinburgh, January 14, 1754, "admitted entered prentice as honorary member, and paid to the Lodge one pound one shilling sterling, with the ordinary dues to the Grand Lodge and entered prentices." Having, on the 24th of the month, "been examined in presence of the Lodge, and given satisfaction as to his proficiency in the duty of apprentice, he [in company with a brewer and others] was past to the degree of fellow-craft as honorary member;" and, upon "giving satisfaction to the Lodge of his proficiency as fellow-craft, was (April 8, 1754) raised to the degree of master mason." The fact that, though an architect by profession, he was admitted as a gentleman mason, marks the progress the Lodge had at that time made in the practice of Symbolical Masonry. His name last appears in the sederunt of the meeting on St. John's day, 1759. Mr. Mylne in pursuit of his profession went to Rome, where he studied. On returning to London, a friendless competitor, the superiority of a plan which he presented amongst those of sixty-nine other candidates, for the contemplated Blackfriars Bridge, gained him the prize for the design, and the execution of that great public work, which was commenced in 1761. He died in 1811, and was buried in St. Paul's Cathedral, having been Surveyor to that edifice for fifty years.

With the death of Mr. Robert Mylne terminated this family's connection with the ancient Lodge of Edinburgh—a connection that had been maintained through five successive generations. We are indebted to the kindness of Mr. Robert W. Mylne, F.R.S., architect and engineer, London, the representative of the family, for the portrait which heads this chapter; whose father William Chadwell Mylne, F.R.S., also Architect and Engineer in London, was second son of the above-mentioned Robert Mylne, Master Mason of the Lodge of Edinburgh.



ARMS OF THE CITY OF PERTH.



PRO REGE, LEGE, ET GREGE.

---

CONTRACT BY THE  
MASTER MASONS AND FELLOW-CRAFTSMEN OF THE  
**Ancient Lodge of Scone and Perth,**

ON THE

DECEASE OF JOHN MYLNE, MASTER MASON AND MASTER OF THE SAID LODGE.

---

AT PERTH, 24 DECEMBER, 1658.

In the Name of God. Amen.

To all and sundrie persones whome thir presenttis doe belong.  
Witt ye us the persones under-subscryvers Maisters Friemen  
and Fellow Crafts Measones resident within the Brugh off  
Perth—Thatt whair forsameikle as We and Our Predecessores  
have and haid from the Temple of Temples building on this

*d*

earth ane uniforme Communitie and Unione throughout the whole World from which Temple proceeded one in Kilwinning in this our Nation of Scotland and from that of Kilwinning many moe within this Kingdome off which ther proceeded the **Abbacie and Lodge of Scone**, built by men of Art and Architectorie wher they placed that Lodge as the Second Lodge within this Nation, which is now past Memorie of many Generationes, and wes upheld by the **Kings of Scotland** for the tyme both at Scone and the decayed Citie of Bertha when it stood, and now at Perth heid Brugh of the Shirefdome therof, to this verie day which is now Four Hundreth Thrie Scoir and Fyve Yeires since or therby, and during that ilk space the saidis Maisters Friemen and Fellow Crafts, inhabitants within the said Brugh of Perth, were allwayes able within themselves to mantayne ther first liberties, and are yet willing to doe the same as the Masters Friemen or Fellow Crafts did formerlie (whose names we know not)—But to our record and knowledge of our predecessores ther cam one from the North Countrie named **JOHNE MYLNE**, ane Measone, a man weill experted in his calling, who entered himself both Frieman and Burges of this Brugh \*, who in proces off tyme by reasone off his skill and airt wes preferred to be the **Kings Majesties Master Measone and Master** of the said **Lodge at Scone**, and his Sone **JOHNE MYLNE** being efter his fathers deceis preferred to the said office, and Master off the said Lodge, in the reigne of **His Majestie King James the Sixt**

of blessed memoriet, who, by the said second JOHN MYLNE wes be the Kings owin desire entered Frieman Meason and Fellow Craft, and during all his lyftyme he mantayned the same as ane member off the **Lodge off Scone**—so that this Lodge is the most famous Lodge (iff weell ordered) within this Kingdome—off the which name of MYLNE ther bath continowed severall gennerationes Masters Measones to **His Majesties the Kings of Scotland**, and **Masters** off the said **Lodge of Scone** till the yeir One thousand Six hundreth and Fiftie-sevin yeires, at quhich tyme the last Master MYLNE, being **Master** off the **Lodge off Scone**, deceased and left behind him ane compleit Lodge of Measones Friemen and Fellow Crafts, with such of ther number as Wardens and others to oversie them, and ordained that one of the said number should choyse one of themselves to succeid as Master in his place, the names of whose persones followes, to witt THOMAS CRAICH, Measone and Warden, then JAMES CHRYSTIE, JAMES WILSONE, ANDROW NORIE, JOHN WAST, and JOHNE YOUNG, all Measones Friemen and Fellow Crafts—who, efter ther true and lauffull deliberatione, understanding that the said Lodge could not stand without ane Master, therfor they all in ane voice unanymouslie for keipeing of union and amity among themselves did nomynat and mak choyce of the said JAMES ROCH to be Master of the said Lodge during all the dayes of his lyftyme, and the said ANDROW NORIE to be Warden theroff, also during his lyftyme, or as the saids Masters and Fellow

Crafts finds it convenient. And we the saids Masters Warden and Bodie of the said **Lodge off Scone**, resident within the Brugh of Perth, doe bind and obleis us and our successors to stand and abyd to the whole acts maid be our predecessors, and confirmes the samene wherof the tennor of a pairt of them are to follow,—To witt, that no Frieman not residing within this Brugh tak upon him to contradict any true thing that the Friemen resident within the Brugh speakis acts or does, nor goe to no other Lodge, nor mak ane Lodge among themselves, seing this Lodge is the principall within the Shyre; and if any Frieman or Fellow Craft tak himselff to any other Lodge, he shall not be holdin to returne hither againe to this Lodge till he first pay the triple of that which he payed either to our Lodge or to the Lodge wher he wes last, and to be put cleane from the Company of the Lodge he wes last in and to suffer the law of our Lodge at our pleasure. Lykas we doe confirme the said **JAMES ROCH** Master of the said Lodge, and **ANDROW NORIE** Warden foirsaid, with the consent of us all for themselves and their successores foirsaid to put the foirsaid act to executione (with our consent) agst. the transgressors, as also the acts following,—To witt, that no Master within this Brugh or without shall tak another Friemans work till he first give it over and be payit for what is done. Secondlie, that no Master goe betwixt another Master to seik work from any person with whome the first Master is aggrieing till once he quyt the bargane. Thridlie, that no Frieman tak another Friemans pren-

teis or journeyman to work with him, either belonging to this Lodge or any other, except they have ane frie dischairge from ther Master, nor resave any entered or unentered, except for twentie dayes space onlie, and if they be dischairgit of ther Master, they are to have ther vott in the Lodge and law therof, iff they serve heirefter. Fourthlie, that all Fellow Crafts that are past in this Lodge pay to the Master Warden and Fellow Crafts of the samene the sowme of sixteine pund Scottis money besyd the gloves and dewes therof with thrie pund Scottis at ther first entering to the Lodge efter they are past and that every entered prenteis shall pay twentie merks money with fourtie shilling at ther first incomeing to the Lodge besyd the dewes thereof, and that non shall be holden to be cautioner for other, but if they doe not immediately pay the sowmes afoirsaid, they are to have a cautioner not belonging to the said Lodge for the dew and lawfull payment therof. Fyftilic, that no entered prenteis shall leave his Master or Masters to tak any work or task work aboue fourtie shilling Scottis, nor tak a prenteis; and if they doe in the contrair, they are to be debared from the libertie of the said Lodge as ane Fellow Craft in all tyme to come. And lastlie, wee and all of us of one mynd consent and assent doe bynd and obleidge us and our successors to mantayne and uphold the haille liberties and pre- viledges of the said Lodge of Scone as ane antient frie Lodge for entering and passing within ourselves as the bodie thereof, residing within the Brugh of Perth, as said is, and that soe

long as the sun riseth in the east and setteth in the west, as we wold wish the blessing of God to attend us in all our wayes and actiones. In testimony wherof we have subscriuit the samene with our hands at Perth the Tuentie-fourth day of December j<sup>m</sup> vj<sup>c</sup> and fiftie eight yeires.

*Roche m<sup>r</sup> meafone*  
*Andro Norie warden*

JAMES CHRYSTIE,	THOMAS ROCH,
JOHN STRACHANE,	JOHN ROBERTSONE,
LAWRENCE CHAPMAN,	ROBERT STRACHANE,
ANDROW CRISTIE,	JAMES ROCH <i>younger</i> ,
MATTHOW HAY,	EDWARD KICHING,
DAWID MALDSON,	ANDREW BATHIOK,
ALEXANDER CHRYSTIE,	ANDRO BALCANQUALL,
ANDROW NORIE,	JOHN FYFE,
WILLIAM GRAHAME,	JOHN WATSON,
JOHN NEWTON,	A. DONALDSON,
G. RATRAY,	D. BROUNE,
ALEXANDER RITCHIE,	JAMES WHYTT,
JAMES MASSONE,	WALTER THOMSON,
ANDRW STEWART,	DAVID COCHREN,
THOMAS CRAIGDELLIE,	JAMES RIDACH,
JOHN MILL,	JAMES ALLEXANDER,
JOHNE HAGGARTT,	JAMES †
JAMES IRVINE,	MATTHOW BARLAN,
MATHEW †	M <sup>r</sup> L. DOBIE.

† These Surnames are illegible in the original.

*Indorso, 1742.*

Att Edinburgh, the 19th day of May, j<sup>m</sup> vij<sup>c</sup> and forty tuo years, the which day the within contract and agreement was presented by GIDEON SHAW, Esqr., and recorded in the books of the Grand Lodge of free and accepted Masons in Scotland by their ordor, by me, Clerk to and Keeper of the records thereof—

R°. ALLISON,  
Grand Clerk.

## APPENDIX.