

WEDDING OF THE LORD PROVOST'S DAUGHTER

It is probably safe to say that the Watt wedding of 3rd June 1937 was unlike any Watt wedding before or since.



From left to right :

Elizabeth (Betty) Watt (14)
George Watt (24)
Alice Watt (16)
Marjorie Watt (22)
Hamish Robertson (32)
Dorothy Watt (21)
Maysie Lumsden (sitting)

Background

Charles Robertson (1808-97) and Mary Laing (1810-61) had 11 children between 1833 and 1853, all of whom survived childhood.

Their fifth child John Grant Robertson (10.2.40 – 28.12.93) had three children and four grandchildren, one of whom was Hamish Grant Gordon Robertson, born in 1905.

Their 10th child Marjorie Mary Watson Robertson (7.11.49 – 21.6.88) was the mother of Edward William Watt, George Robertson Watt and Theodore Watt, and the grandmother of Marjorie Mary Watt, born in 1915 and daughter of Edward, and George Theodore Roberson Watt, born in 1912 and son of Theodore.

On the 9th of February 1937, Hamish Gordon Grant Robertson, a doctor in the RAMC, and Marjorie Mary Watt, a nurse at St Thomas's Hospital London, announced their engagement. They were second cousins, sharing two great grandparents.

They were married at St Paul Street Congregational Church, Aberdeen on 6th June 1937.

Three weeks earlier on 10th May 1937, the bride's parents Edward and Alice Watt had been in Westminster Abbey at the coronation of George VI as the Lord and Lady Provost of Aberdeen. On 14th May, they led the Coronation Ball at the Beach Ballroom in Aberdeen.

The best man was Dr George Theodore Robertson Watt, aged 24, while the bridesmaids were the bride's sisters, Alice Crombie Watt, aged 16, and Elizabeth Margaret Robertson Watt, aged 14, her cousin Dorothy Mabel Robertson Watt, aged 21, and a friend Maysie Lumsden.

The reception took place at the bride's home, Glenburnie Park, Rubislaw Den North, Aberdeen.

Press coverage

The wedding of the Lord Provost's eldest daughter was a major social event, with extensive coverage in local newspapers. The following combines text from the *Aberdeen Press and Journal* and *Evening Express*.

WEDDING OF THE LORD PROVOST'S DAUGHTER

The big social event in Aberdeen this afternoon was the wedding of the Lord Provost's eldest daughter in St Pauls Street Congregational Church.

Town, gown and county to the number of nearly three hundred flocked to the church to see Miss Marjorie Watt, the daughter of Lord Provost Watt and of Mrs Watt, being married to Captain Hamish Gordon Grant Robertson, R.A.M.C., Edinburgh Castle, the son of the late Mr Herbert Robertson, I.C.S., and of Mrs Robertson, London.

Among the guests were Lady Aberdeen, Sir Philip and Lady Dawson, Sir Thomas and Lady Jaffrey, Sir John and Lady Orr, Sir Charles Grant Robertson and Colonel and Mrs A.H.Rose.

Many waited outside for the duration of the ceremony to see the youthful bride and her groom come arm in arm from the church.

MANY SPECTATORS

Crowds of people flocked round the door of the church. They arrived in the early afternoon, and waited outside for the duration of the wedding service, undaunted by the lashing rain.

In tenement houses opposite the church groups of women and children pressed to the windows and waved and cheered when the bride and bridegroom stood arm-in-arm at the door of the church, the bride winsome in ivory satin, the bridegroom stalwart in the Robertson dress tartan, with plaid and lace truffles.

There was a cheer for the Lord and Lady Provost, and a shout of welcome for Lady Aberdeen, who is known and loved by the people of the east end of the city. The pavements on both sides of the street near the church were thronged with big crowds of spectators who eagerly watched the picturesque scene as the long procession of cars drove up with the guests. Many of those who attended are well known figures in the public life of the city, and as they stepped from their cars they were instantly recognised.

One of the last to arrive was Lady Aberdeen and as she emerged from her car she received a special cheer of welcome from the crowds.

Immediately behind her came the bridesmaids, four charming figures in white, for whom also the crowds had a cheer, but the greatest moment was when the bride herself arrived.

She was the last to reach the church, and her car drew up on the stroke of 2.30, the time fixed for the ceremony. A town sergeant in his red coat, seated beside the chauffeur, gave an additional touch of colour to the scene.

As the car stopped, the crowd, in which women predominated, surged across the street and completely surrounded it and waved their good wishes to the bride as she stepped into the church accompanied by her father.

GRACEFUL GOWN

Ivory satin created a graceful gown for the bride, as she walked down the aisle with her father. The bodice of the gown was gathered in front from the waist to

neck, and had a row of buttons down the back, and was adorned with a Luckenbooth pearl brooch, an engagement token used in Scotland centuries ago. The sleeves of Magyar style buttoned at the wrist, and elegantly cut skirt swept into a long train. Over this flowed a net veil embroidered with silver and she carried a bouquet white roses and lilies of the valley.

The bride's two sisters, Miss Alice and Elizabeth Watt, her cousin Miss Dorothy Watt and Miss Marjorie Lumsden were in attendance. They were attired in redingotes of ivory taffeta with net underskirts which showed from hem to neck in front.

PEARL BRACELETS

The square neck and big puff sleeves emphasised the neat waist-lines which were finished with a long sash tied at the front. Their bouquets were of lilies of the valley, and on their wrists they wore the pearl initial bracelets which the bridegroom had given them, and they wore quaintly pretty headdresses of ivory net with frilled brims.

The wedding ceremony was performed by the Rev. A.W. Stevens and the Rev. P.C. Millar. The church was decorated for the occasion with masses of hydrangeas, in shades of blue, mauve, white and pink.

The bridegroom was attended by the bride's cousin Dr G.T.R.Watt.

After the wedding the guests were received at Glenburnie Park, Rubislaw Den North, the residence of the Lord and Lady Provost.

Dove grey marocain fashioned the black and three-quarter length coat of the Lady Provost, and her wide brimmed hat was of blue straw. She carried a bouquet of mauve sweet peas. The bridegroom's mother, Mrs Robertson, was attired in a grey georgette frock, with a black silk coat, and a toque of grey feathers trimmed with ospreys. Her bouquet was of pink sweet peas.

Lady Jaffrey was a charming figure in a turquoise blue woollen suit with hat to match and grey fox furs. Lady Aberdeen was in a black marocain gown and black satin cape, and widow's cap with veil.

CONTINENTAL HONEYMOON

When the bride left for the honeymoon – which will be spent motoring on the Continent – she made a charming picture in her suit of turquoise blue wool georgette, with hat of felt flowers to match and brown veil. Her shoes, gloves and handbag were of brown suede.

Wedding guests and gifts

These are listed below, in information published in the *Press and Journal*.

The guest list included a Marchionness, 4 knights, 9 professors, 3 university principals, 6 colonels, an admiral and a bishop.

The most famous of the guests was probably Sir John Boyd Orr, at that time the Director of the Rowett Research Institute, and already a world famous authority on nutrition.

The list of gifts is prodigious. As they started their married life, Hamish and Marjorie had over 50 new pieces of silverware, 32 cheques, 22 pieces of glassware, 11 vases, 8 travelling rugs, 7 sets of silver teaspoons, 5 travelling clocks, 5 sets of napkin rings, 5 luncheon sets, 3 leather writing cases, 2 Cona coffee machines and many other items, including golf clubs, an electric iron and a tea cloth.

The most exotic present was a set of green silk lingerie from Miss Zina Moncrieff.

Film

Arrivals at the church, the appearance of the married couple after the ceremony, their receiving guests at the Glenburnie Park, their wedding presents and their departure are captured in a 9 minute black and white film. Apart from the wedding party, the bride's father Edward Watt and her uncle Theodore Watt, acting as an usher, and the substantial presence of Lady Aberdeen, few of the wedding guests can be identified.

Afterwards

Hamish and Marjorie's daughter Phoebe was born 11 months later on 4th May 1938.

Hamish spent much of the second world war as a Japanese prisoner. He died of bowel cancer, aged 44 in Hamburg, while a Lt Colonel in the British Army, on 16th December 1949. Marjorie survived him by 23 years, until she died on 18th July 1973.

George Watt died in 1941, aged 28, in a German air raid on HMS Wryneck, acting as a surgical lieutenant during the evacuation of troops from Crete.

Edward Watt was widowed in 1946, by the death of his wife Alice on 12.4.48. His brother Theodore had died on 5.7.46.

It can be said that the 1937 wedding was the pinnacle of the social progress of the Watt family in Aberdeen. It re-connected the Watt and Robertson families, restoring the Robertson surname, 60 years after Marjorie Robertson married William Watt in 1876, and until Hamish and Marjorie's daughter Phoebe married Martin Christie in 1961.

However, family circumstances were soon to change. Hamish and George died. Many of their generation left Aberdeen, initially as part of the war mobilisation but later to pursue careers and family lives in other parts of the UK and further afield.

Of the bridesmaids, Alice lived to be 74, Dorothy to 86, and Elizabeth (Betty) to 89.

Graham Watt
22nd December 2012
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WEDDING GIFTS

The following is a list of the wedding gifts –

Bridegroom to bride, crocodile handbag; bride to bridegroom, silver-backed brushes; bride's father the bride, cheque; bride's mother to bride, flank musquash coat; bridegroom's mother to bridegroom, silver and gold cigarette case; Misses Alice and Betty Watt, set of golf clubs in bag.

Mr E.W Murray Watt, cheque; bridegroom's mother to bride, mother of pearl and Maltese lace fan and silver and malachite buckle; Sir Charles Grant Robertson, "All Souls" silver cups; Mr and Mrs Theodore Watt, canteen of cutlery; Miss Dorothy Watt, electric iron.

Mrs Birnie, a barometer and clothes brushes; Mr and Mrs R.M.Milne and the Misses Milne, travelling clock; Miss Holland, Japanese fruit dishes; Mrs Henry Kellas, "Punch" for a year; Mr and Mrs Percy Walton, travelling rug; The Misses Walton, linen tea cloth; Mr and Mrs W Mitchell Smith, silver entrée dish, Miss N Brown, pair of silver toast racks; Mr and Mrs G.F.Rose and Miss Hambly, silver rose bowl; Mrs C Milne, oak tray; Dr and Mrs Walter Reid, silver condiment set.

The Misses Milne, earthenware bowl, Miss I.H. Taylor, silver muffin dish, Miss Jean Leith-Ross, perfume spray; Mr Brewis Anderson, travelling rug.

Professor and Mrs Alexander Soutar, sculptured book ends; the Misses Soutar, mask; Miss B. Clark, hand-embroidered linen set; Mr and Mrs R.W.Brown, Chinese vase; Mr and Mrs A.W.Adam, supper cloth and table napkins; Mrs and Miss Crombie, travelling clock; the Misses Hutchison, silver entrée dish; Mr and Mrs W.L.Paterson, silver sugar basin and cream jug.

Mr and Mrs J.G.Burnett, antique silver sauceboats; Mr and Mrs T.B.Maitland, silver condiment set; Dr H.R.Kellas, Italian leather blotter; the Misses Webster, coffee set; Councillor and Mrs F.S.Anderson, Monart glass vase; Mr and Mrs Alex Cromar; silver gift Coronation teaspoons; Professor and Mrs A/C.Morrison, tartan travelling rug; Miss Lawrence, book; Mrs W. Scott, crystal fruit dish.

Mr and Mrs William McKay, silver servealls; Miss Flora Mitchell, grapefruit spoons; Mrs and Dr Dorothy Chrystall, Doulton china figure; Mr and Mrs J.C. Mitchell, Japanese vases; Major and Mrs Alex Lyon, mahogany coffee table; Colonel and Mrs A.M. Rose, silver sauceboat.

Councillor George Duncan and Miss Duncan, silver fruit dish; Mrs Margaret Wilson, leather writing satchell; Miss Peggy Wilson, diamante brooch; Mr and Mrs W.R. Wisely, water jug and glasses; Mr and Mrs W.A.Davie, lampstand

and shade; Mr and Mrs E.R.Lumsden and family, picnic case; Mr and Mrs N.J.J.Walker, cut crystal vase; Dr and Mrs H.M.Steven, silver sandwich dish; Professor and Mrs A.Fyfe Findlay, silver entrée dish.

Rev. and Mrs William Kirk, initialled table napkin rings; the Misses King, crystal flower bowl; Councillor James Hay, onyx ashtray; Mr and Mrs James Scott, pigskin handbag; Mr and Mrs A.M.Watt, Morocco leather dressing case; Colonel and Mrs A.G. Nicol Smith, travelling clock; Miss Alice Law, petit point crystal box; Mr and Mrs James Dawson, Copenhagen vase; Mrs J.C.Clegg and Miss Glegg, silver cake dish; Dr and Mrs Dods Brown, silver Coronation teapot stand.

Mrs J.C.Lyon and the Misses A and M Lyon, green tea stand; Messrs Watt and Grant Ltd, petit point evening bag; Mr and Mrs James Fiddes, antique vases; Mr and Mrs William Adams, silver cakestand; Mrs Robert Bruce, evening bag; Mr and Mrs B.D.Kaye, silver teaspoons.

Sir John and Lady Irvin, silver sugar sifter and cream jug; Mr and Mrs C.I.Beattie, Cona coffee machine; Mrs H.M.Grant, Wedgwood fruit dish; Dr Cromar Watt, navy blue and gold evening scarf; Professor and Mrs Alexander Findlay, luncheon set; Councillor and Mrs J.D.Munro, crystal butter dishes; Rev. and Mrs P.C.Millar, grapefruit spoons.

Mr and Mrs William Veitch, silver coffee percolator; Mr and Mrs Kerr Smith, silver pyrex dish, Miss Lena Cruickshank, crystal pickle set; Miss Agnes Fleming, petit point brushes; Mr and Mrs Fred Martin, travelling rug.

Colonel and Mrs H.J.Butchart, antique silver salts; Mrs J.D.Mackie, Morocco leather sewing case; Miss I Morrison, Chopin's waltzes, nocturnes and waltzes in red leather; Miss Kellas, silver tea spoons.

Lord Aberdeen, hand embroidered tablecover; Mr and Mrs Cruickshank, travelling clock; Mr and Mrs William Fraser, sherry glasses and decanter; Professor and Mrs Shirreffs, antique silver spoons; Dr and Mrs G.A.Morrison, silver Coronation salver; Mr and Mrs F.K.Smith and Mr Alastair Smith, silver fish knives and fork and slice; Councillor and Mrs W.Carry, silver condiment set; Mr and Mrs Hugh R.Barr, silver fruit dish; Miss Yeats, cheque and silver tea strainer; Mrs Ian Clark, antique crystal decanters; Mr William Alexander and Miss Alexander, silver sugar sifter and cream jug.

Mr and Mrs W.Stewart Smith, Morocco leather writing case; Mr Bennett Mitchell and Miss Mitchell, green lustre vase; Dr Gilbert Parker, Ronson cigarette lighter; Mr and Mrs John Russell, crystal flower vase; the Misses

Wisely, mother of pearl egg spoons; Mr and Mrs Hay Petrie, upholstered oak stool.

Principal and Mrs Fyfe, old Spanish pastry evening bag; Mr and Mrs Jackson, Wedgwood bonbon dishes; Mr James Johnston, silver condiment set; Mrs Maurice Crombie and Mr Ian Crombie, lampstand and shade; Baillie and Mrs MacDiarmid, Coronation travelling rug; Dr and Mrs Gammie Ogg, crystal grape fruit dishes; Miss Skinner and Miss Nicol, mahogany work box; Mr and Mrs William Crombie and the Misses Crombie, Spode fruit set.

Dr and Mrs G.A. Williamson, coffee set; Miss Gladys Winship, Spode teaset. Marchionness of Aberdeen, wedding book; Miss Jean Twort, enamelled powder box; Sir George and Lady Adam Smith, luncheon set; Professor and Mrs W.M.Calder, silver condiment set; Miss Sheila McDonald, morning teaset; Mr T.S.Robson, Wedgwood flower bowl.

Mr and Mrs J.W.Milne, Cona coffee machine; Mrs J Edmond, egg boiler; Miss Catherine Butchart, oak fruit board and cutter; Mr and Mrs W.A.Stewart, etching; Mr and Mrs John McBain, silver salver; Miss Zina Moncrieff, green silk lingerie; Miss D.M.Munro, Celtic silver spoons; Mr and Mrs John Angus, antique candlesticks; Mrs John Brown, Japanese fruit dish.

Mr J.J. and the Misses Williamson, cheque; Mrs E.M.Campbell and Miss Campbell, crystal vase; Miss Catherine Wallace, Bridge set; Mrs J.R.Thompson, lingerie; Mr and Mrs MacEchran, Chinese cosy and tray cloth; Mr and Mrs Rankine, evening bag.

Mrs Walker and Mr Eric Walker, carvers; Miss Ethel Cox, book ends; Dr and Mrs John Mcleod, hand-embroidered cushion; Professor and Mrs Black, China flower ornaments; Dr and Mrs T.H. Monies, picnic basket; Baillie and Mrs Duncan Fraser, petit point brushes; Miss Kathleen Crombie, hand-knitted rug; Treasurer and Mrs A.T. Morrison, Coronation clock; Councillor and Mrs Dewar, etching; Dr Louis Findlay, travelling clock.

Mr and Mrs James McGowan, luncheon set; Mr and Mrs Graham Glegg, cushion; Colonel and Mrs Lachlan Mackinnon, silver coffee spoons; Mr D.M.Andrew, Crystal sweet dishes; Miss Cumming, Italian bowl; Miss Whyte, beige kid handbag; Dr and Mrs W.A. Edward, silver teaspoons; Lady Marnoch, etching; Miss Hester Stewart and Mr Fred Stewart, supper cloth.

Bishop of Aberdeen and Mrs Deane, travelling rug.

Mr and Mrs H. Oliver Horne, tea cloth; Mr and Mrs J.W. Crombie and Mr Anthony Combie, Mrs Beeton's Cookery Book; Rev. and Mrs Donald Macfarlan, Robertson tartan travelling rug; Miss Margaret Rennie, liberty evening bag; Mr and Mrs J.A. Ross, powder blue blankets; Miss Phyllis Davidson, silver cigarette box; Mr J. Hector Gray, silver sugar sifter and cream jug; Miss Kathleen and Mr Jimmie Johnston, tea cloth and serviettes; Professor and Mrs J.A. Robertson, ivory and silver paper cutter; Dr and Mrs Patrick Nicol, antique crystal jug.

Principal and Mrs John Murray mother of pearl and silver tea knives; Professor and Mrs A.C. Baird, untanned hide suitcase; Miss M. Scott, embroidered linen handkerchiefs; Miss Anella Munro, "Songs of the North"; Miss Nancy Russell, hand-embroidered cosy and tray cloth; Colonel and Mrs Peterkin, Winchester china figure; Mr and Mrs D.B. Gunn, nut crackers and grape scissors; Mr and Mrs G.S. Fraser, clock; Mr and Mrs John Orr, silver table napkin rings.

Mrs Douglas Stewart and Mr David Stewart, picture; Mr and Mrs Norman Stephen, satin covered hot water bag; Mr and Mrs John Macfarlan, silver cream scoops; Mr and Mrs Fred Sudlow, silver nut basket and nut crackers; Mr and Mrs J.C. Duffus, crystal fruit dish; Baillie and Mrs W.D. Reid, crocodile leather writing case.

Mr and Mrs D.R. Bishop, silver table napkin rings; Sir John and Lady Boyd Orr, silver pyrex dish; Professor and Mrs David Campbell, Lalique bowl; Miss Elizabeth Rae, cookery books; Mr T.F. and Miss Henderson, crystal toilet set. Sqdrn-Ldr and Mrs G.M. Anderson, luncheon set; Miss J. Boyd Orr, crystal cigarette holders; Mrs L.W. Lane, crystal vase; Rev. and Mrs A.W. Stephens and family, salad bowl; Mr and Mrs R.M. Neil, hors d'oeuvres set; Mr A.R. Horne and the Misses Horne, hand-knitted jumper.

Baillie and Mrs Andrew Ross, canteen of cutlery; Miss Betty Williams and Miss Betty Williams, etchings; Mr and Mrs Ranald Esslemont, Madeira table cloth; Mr and Mrs J.A. Mackie, mahogany cabinet.

Cheques were received from Mrs Chitty, Mrs A. Macgregor, Mrs W.S. Macgregor, Mr E.V. Simpson, Miss B.M. Simpson, Mrs Spooner, Miss Holgate, Miss M.S. Holgate, Mrs A.F. Grant, Mr J.M. Simpson, Mrs Phillpotts Williams, Lady Dawson.

Mr Grant Robertson, Mr and Mrs Reginald Nevil, Mr and Mrs Rognvald Livingstone, Miss Duncan, Mr and Mrs David Scott, Mr George Milne, Mr and Mrs G. A. Mackay, Mr George Lawrence, Mr and Mrs Henry Alexander, the Misses Robertson, Mr and Mrs Robert Littlejohn, Mr and Mrs John Crombie, Mr and Mrs

G.D. Collie, Sir Thomas and Lady Jaffrey, Mr and Mrs Bevan Whitney and Mrs W.M. Cellar.

Mrs C.W.H. Welldon, razor strop; Mr G.W. Currie, book; Mrs Blaxland, shooting stick; Captain and Mrs P. Dwyer, silver tea spoons; Mrs Macnab, cigarette box; Mr and Mrs C.E. Welldon, wool rug; Captain and Mrs J.J. O'Dwyer, hors d'oeuvres set; Mrs C. Wigram, pyrex entrée dish; Miss R. Simpson, glass bowl.

Captain and Mrs Brandon, crystal water jug; Mrs Boyle, "Scots Weekend Book"; Captain and Mrs Macqueen Ferguson, crystal vase; Colonel and Mrs L.L. Bilton, Swedish beer mugs and tray; Captain H.V. Simpson, trolley.

Mr and Mrs V Shipley, table lamp; Mrs C. Lewis, table lamp; Miss V.A. Simpson, revelation suit case; Mr and Mrs T Mackintosh, travelling rug; Mrs Crawley, bridge set; Mr and Mrs Price, Coronation spoons.

Bridegroom's brother officers, Edinburgh Castle, silver salver.

Mrs H.C. Walker, silver ash trays and matchbox; Dr F. Hinds, glass vase; Captain G.F. Harrison, table lamp; Mrs Black, enamelled spoons; Mr and Mrs J.S. King, silver napkin rings; Admiral and Mrs Simpson, silver sauceboat; Miss E.M. Simpson, silver toast rack; Mr and Mrs Valentine Daniel, crystal decanter; Dr B. M carter, silver table napkin rings.

Miss Isabel Moir, linen handkerchief; Nurses at St Thomas's Hospital, lace handkerchief. Mrs and Miss Rose, lace handkerchief. Dr John Clarke, Cairngorm brooch; Dr and Mrs William Brown, picture; Miss Margaret Maitland, luncheon set.