

THE LIFE AND ARTISTIC LEGACY OF JAMES BALLANTINE (1806-1877)

by

An Electric Scotland Correspondent

At the outset, for those who have previously studied the life of James Ballantine, I must draw your attention to fact that, up until now, James' birth year has been published as 1808 when it should have been recorded as 1806. My discovery of this arose from scrutiny of the Old Parish Record of St Cuthbert's, Edinburgh for July, 1806 where James was baptised as James Ballington on 3rd of July, having previously been born on the 11th of June.

The only other official GRO documentation post-1854 for James, apart from Census Data, is his death registration in December, 1877, where his son Alexander, as informant to the Registrar, reports that his father's parents had been, James Ballantine (Brewer) and Margaret Anderson. Age at death was wrongly recorded as 69 years, and the cause of death given by the doctor was 'congestion of the lungs – 3 days'.

Also, as James' ages in the 1851, 1861, and 1871 are given as 42, 52, and 62 respectively, it must be assumed, that he himself had either been unaware that his birth year had been 1806, or that he had been economical with the truth.

James Ballantine (1806-1877)
Glass Stainer, Poet, Author



James Ballantine – Dr George Bell – David Octavius Hill

Many of the following extracts appear in David Robertson's book 'Whistle-Binkie' Volume 2 - 1878.

Of that class of gifted men who contributed to *Whistle-Binkie*, one of the last survivors and one of the best known was JAMES BALLANTINE, the warm adviser and life-long friend of David Robertson, who was among the first to discover and to foster his poetic power. It was chiefly to Ballantine's suggestion that the present issue of *Whistle-Binkie* is due. It is a melancholy reflection to the publisher that these volumes, which were to have been enriched by a preface from his pen, have to record his name among the other genial contributors who have gone, but happily not "gone like the singing birds of that time which now sing no more." The death of Ballantine broke another of the few remaining links which bound the Edinburgh of the past to the Edinburgh of the present. In his younger days he was familiar with the forms that figure in the "Noctes." He was the contemporary, and in many cases the friend, of the great men and the great wits of the day that is gone. Jeffrey and Cockburn, Robertson, Ardmillan and Neaves, Wilson and Aytoun, Hugh Miller, D. Moir, Robert Chambers, and, towering head and shoulders above them all, the colossal form of Chalmers. These are men who have left few representatives behind them. In the departure of men like these there has passed away much of the social grace and literary sparkle that brightened up the "grey metropolis of the North," and left it clad in a quieter and soberer grey.

To use the words of one who knew Ballantine well, "In the midst of all this genial life the minor birds of

the time sprang up like the ground flowers of Wordsworth. There was Robert Gilfillan of Leith, David Vedder of Newhaven, Cap. Charles Gony, retired from the Royal Marines and resident in Edinburgh, together with Thomas Smibert, Erskine Conolly, William Cross, busy with his tale of 'The Disruption,' and sundry others who had succeeded in making their mark; while Blackie and Aytoun and Theodore Martin were just beginning to show themselves above the literary horizon. Nor must we forget in this enumeration Peter M'Leod, on whose original melodies many of the new songs floated, William Donaldson, who sang them as few other men could, and Peter Fraser,—wit, mimic, and vocalist—the most brilliant and entertaining society man of the period. The subject of our sketch was known to most of these, and mingled in their coteries."

James Ballantine was born on the 11th June 1846 at the West Port, Edinburgh, one of the quaintest parts of the quaint old town. We can see from his writings that the external features and historical associations of his birthplace were not without their effect in the formation of his literary tastes. Apart from the solid education which was the birthright of every Scottish child the boy had few advantages. His father, a brewer, died when he was about ten years of age, leaving him and three sisters older than himself dependent on his widowed mother, of whom up to the latest year of his life he used to speak with unbounded devotion and respect.

**The Baptism of James Ballington [later Ballantine] on 3rd July, 1806 in St Cuthbert's Parish
Birth Date - 11th June, 1806 in St Cuthbert's Parish, Edinburgh, Scotland**

Ballington James Ballington Brewer & Servant Parish:
bought by Mrs Margaret Anderson his
& spouse had a son born 11th June last named James

CAITHREN BALLINTINE

Christening: 16 OCT 1785 Canongate, Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland

Father: JAMES BALLINTINE

Mother: MARGRATT ANDERSON

Extracted birth or christening record for the locality listed in the record.

JANET BALLINTINE

Christening: 18 JUN 1787 Canongate, Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland

Father: JAMES BALLINTINE

Mother: MARGRAT ANDERSON

Extracted birth or christening record for the locality listed in the record.

MAY BALLANTYNE

Christening: 04 NOV 1788 Saint Cuthberts, Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland

Father: JAMES BALLANTYNE

Mother: MARGARET ANDERSON

Extracted birth or christening record for the locality listed in the record.

MARGARET BALLANTINE

Christening: 06 AUG 1792 Saint Cuthberts, Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland

Father: JAMES BALLANTINE

Mother: MARGARET ANDERSON

Extracted birth or christening record for the locality listed in the record.

AGNES BALLANTYNE

Christening: 17 FEB 1796 Saint Cuthberts, Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland

Father: JAMES BALLANTYNE

Mother: MARGARET ANDERSON

Extracted birth or christening record for the locality listed in the record.

JEAN BALLANTINE

born c. 1801 Saint Cuthberts, Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland

Father: JAMES BALLANTYNE

Mother: MARGARET ANDERSON

JAMES BALLINGTON

Birth: 11 JUN 1806 St Cuthberts, Midlothian, Scotland

Christening: 03 JUL 1806 Saint Cuthberts, Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland

Father: JAMES BALLINGTON [Brewer] died c. 1817

Mother: MARGARET ANDERSON

Extracted birth or christening record for the locality listed in the record.

There

is nothing specially noteworthy in connection with his early days. In common with multitudes like him he fought his way upwards through adverse circumstances to an honourable competence. He seems to have employed every opportunity which presented itself of improving his mind, and gave early evidence of artistic taste in the trade which he had chosen. In the same humble profession of decorative painter David Roberts, R. A., who was some ten years older, was his fellow craftsman. Between the two young men, both of whom were

destined to fame, an intimacy sprang up which ripened into a friendship which lasted with life.

In 1830 he commenced business as house-painter under the firm of Ballantine and Allen. At an early period Mr. Ballantine turned his attention to an important branch of art in connection with his profession, which had almost died out in Scotland—the art of glass-staining.

This 1841 Census transcription shows James Ballantine with a Henrietta Ballantine and two young children, Margaret and Alexander. An 1896 death record for this Henrietta, aged 80, gives her maiden name as Miller, and her parents as Alexander Stuart Miller (Farmer) and Catherine Ballantine, both of Cumnock, Ayrshire.

This death record then led to the discovery of Henrietta's birth

HENRIETTA MILLER

Birth: 02 SEP 1816

Christening: 08 SEP 1816 Old Cumnock, Ayr, Scotland

Father: ALEXANDER MILLER

Mother: CATHERINE BALLANTINE

Unfortunately, James and Henrietta never registered their 'marriage' in OPRs, nor did they register any of the births of their children pre-1855.

1841 Census for James Ballantine

Name:	James Ballantine
Age:	30
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1811
Gender:	Male
Where born:	Midlothian, Scotland
Civil parish:	Edinburgh St Cuthberts
County:	Midlothian
Address:	106 Lauriston Place
Occupation:	Painter
Parish Number:	685/2

Household Members:	Name	Age
	<u>James</u> Ballantine	30
	<u>Henrietta</u> Ballantine ms. Miller	25
	<u>Margaret</u> Ballantine	1
	<u>Alexr</u> Ballantine	3
		MO
	<u>Mary</u> Maters	15

His successful competition for the stained-glass windows in the House of Lords at once indicated the proficiency which he had attained in this department of art, and gave a stimulus to the deeper study of its principles, and to laborious and unrewarded exertions in carrying these principles into practice. His views on this important subject were embodied in a work of considerable merit which, in addition to a pretty wide circulation in this country, had the distinction of being translated into German. The work which Mr. Ballantine then successfully began has been carried to a much higher state of perfection under his accomplished son, whose masterly work in stained glass is well known not only throughout Scotland and England, but in almost every quarter of the world. The improvement which is happily taking place in the church architecture of Scotland has created an increasing demand for work of this kind which may be said to be essential to church adornment. It is satisfactory to know that in this, as in other branches of art, our native artists are taking a foremost place.

It is chiefly, however, with the literary work of Ballantine that these brief notes are concerned. Some of the first efforts of his muse were given to the world in the pages of *Whistle-Binkie*, the first series of which began in 1832, when he was twenty-four years of age. From first to last he contributed some fifty pieces: among these are some of his very choicest gems, such as "Ilka blada o' grass," "Castles in the air," "Rory cheekit apples," etc. His first considerable literary effort was "The Gaberlunzie's Wallet," which made its appearance anonymously in monthly numbers, and was published in a completed

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Handwritten scribbles and signatures in the bottom right corner.



Richie's 'Wee Ragit Laddie'

form in 1843, being admirably illustrated by Alex. A. Ritchie. The idea of the "Walter" was, on the whole, a happy one for the purpose which its writer had in view. That purpose was to provide a setting for his songs, and a medium for their circulation. This he found in a story, or rather a series of stories, illustrative of Scottish life and manners, in which the principal speaker and actor is the gaberlunzie, one of the old blue-gowned beggars, the aristocracy of the wandering class, whose visits were ever welcome to the humbler Scottish homes. The homely narrative, the accurate description of scenery and character, the touches of humour and pathos, and above all the fine lyrics imbedded in it like sparkling gems, secured for this work an extensive and well-merited reputation, and made the name of Ballantine known wherever the Scottish tongue was spoken. But the plan was not without its draw-backs and defects. The chief of these is the frequency of abrupt and unnatural transitions from the prose to the poetry, as when the company at Kelpie Cleuch, who had sat up all night in consequence of the death of feckless Phemie, are cheered by the gaberlunzie reciting the ballad of Mary Hay, a pretty enough ballad in its way, but utterly out of place in the circumstances. The wonder is that the song and the narrative are, on the whole, so well wedded together.

It is a striking proof of Ballantine's literary vigour and fertility that, amid the labours and distractions of an extensive business, he was able to give to the world, in the year immediately following the publication of the "Walter," another work of a somewhat similar aim, the well-told story of "The Miller of Deanhaugh." Apart from the conception and working out of the story, of which different opinions might be entertained, this work, like its predecessor, has the important merit of preserving specimens of the rich Scottish vernacular, with which its author was so familiar, and which is unhappily fast passing away.

LISTS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY OF
THE ANTIQUARIES OF SCOTLAND.

MDCCCXXI.—MDCCCLI.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN, PATRON.

No. I.—LIST OF FELLOWS OF THE SOCIETY.

1847. Jan. 11. ROBERT BRYSON, Esq., Watchmaker.
ROBERT CADELL of Ratho, Esq.
WILLIAM MURRAY of Henderland, Esq.
25. JAMES BOYD, LL.D., Master in the High School, Edinburgh.
WILLIAM M. GUNN, Esq., Master in the High School, Edinburgh.
ANDREW RICHARDSON, Esq., Writer to the Signet, North Berwick.
- Mar. 15. ALEXANDER HILL, Esq., Printseller.³
Rev. THOMAS THOMSON.⁴
- May 12. Rev. WILLIAM STEVENSON, D.D., Minister of South Leith.
24. Rev. THOMAS M'CRIE, D.D.⁵
WALTER G. BLACKIE, Ph.D., Glasgow.
- July 19. The Honourable WILLIAM LESLIE MELVILLE, London.
JAMES BALLANTINE, Esq., Glass-stainer.
- Dec. 20. ALEXANDER WHITE, Esq., Summerfield, Leith.
WILLIAM B. BAIKIE, M.D., Royal Navy.

James Ballantine at Newhaven

Accustomed to an outdoor life from their early years and in all weathers, the fisherwomen were well known for their strong and healthy figures. Yet even in these days of trains and trams their strength must often have been sorely taxed as they bore their burden of fish up the steep streets, and still steeper stairs, for which Edinburgh was notorious. A fishwife's ordinary load varied from half-a-cwt. to a cwt., and, incredible as it may seem, heavier loads were sometimes carried. A well-known song by James Ballantine, who might be called the children's laureate, takes its name and refrain from an incident that bears out what was often said about the heavy loads the Newhaven fishwife was accustomed to carrying. Ballantine happened to be passing one day when a fishwife was about to hoist on to her back her heavily laden creel. He very gallantly went to her assistance, and after doing so remarked with astonishment on the weight of her burden. Her cheery reply as she adjusted the strap against her forehead showed a happiness and contentment with her lot was as unexpected as was the beauty and poetry of the words in which it was expressed—" Oo, ay, but ilka blade o' grass keps its ain drap o' dew."

1851 Census for James Ballantine

Name:	James Ballantine
Age:	42
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1809
Relationship:	Head
Spouse's Name:	Henrietta Ballantine
Gender:	Male
Where born:	Edinr, Mid
Parish Number:	685/1
Civil parish:	Edinburgh St George
County:	Midlothian
Address:	42 George St
Occupation:	Glass Stainer & House Painter Employing 30 Persons
ED:	6B
Page:	<u>16</u>
Household schedule number:	62
Line:	3
Roll:	CSSCT1851_179

Household Members:	Name	Age
	<u>James Ballantine</u>	42
	<u>Henrietta Ballantine</u>	34
	<u>Marqt Ballantine</u>	11
	<u>Alexr Ballantine</u>	10
	<u>Catherine Ballantine</u>	5
	<u>James Ballantine</u>	1
	<u>Jean Ballantine</u>	49
	<u>Jane Gibson</u>	25

The 1851 Census, now at 42 George Street, Edinburgh, shows two more children in the Ballantine household, Catherine and James, plus James elderly sister Jean. Now in the New Town and employing 30 men, James' painting and staining business appears to be prospering.

This Census also gives the first clear indication that James Ballantine may not have known that he had not been born in 1808, but in 1806.

This misapprehension continues to be suggested in the 1861 and 1871 Census, as well as from the age of his father James given on his death registration document by the informant to the registrar son Alexander.

1861 Census for James Ballantine

Name:	James Ballantine
Age:	52
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1809
Relationship:	Head
Spouse's name :	Henrietta Ballantine m.s. Miller
Gender:	Male
Where born:	Edinburgh, Midlothian
Registration Number:	685/5
Registration district:	Newington
Civil parish:	Edinburgh St Cuthberts
County:	Midlothian
Address:	Warrender Lodge Meadows
Occupation:	Glass Stainer & House Pamter Employes Between 40 & 57 Persons
ED:	83
Household schedule number:	29
Line:	12
Roll:	CSSCT1861_129

Household Members:	Name	Age	
	<u>James Ballantine</u>	52	
	<u>Henrietta Ballantine</u>	44	
	Daughter	<u>Margaret Ballantine</u>	21
	Son	<u>Alexander Ballantine</u>	20
	Daughter	<u>Catherine Ballantine</u>	15
	Son	<u>James Ballantine</u>	11
	Daughter	<u>Joan Ballantine</u>	59
	Sister	<u>Catherine Mackie</u>	9

Death:
1861 BALLANTINE CATHERINE aged 15 - Mother's Name: MILLER -
NEWINGTON EDINBURGH CITY/MIDLOTHIAN 685/05 0360

Blair Castle- situated in the village of Blair Atholl, just to the North of Logierait - the family seat of the Dukes of Atholl. The Castle holds a large amount of Masonic regalia and memorabilia relating to the Masonic activities of the various Dukes. However, it is doubtful whether many are aware of the Memorial to the sixth Duke - which, despite its age and many years of neglect is still a magnificent edifice. The Monument stands today, not only as a tribute to the 6th Duke of Atholl - but, perhaps also as a relic from a bygone age, when Nobility was regarded with awe and reverence; Foundation Stones were laid with Masonic pomp and circumstance; and Grand Lodge came to Logierait. In conclusion; the following funeral dirge was composed by Brother James Ballantine- the Grand Bard for the Grand Lodge of Scotland- on the occasion of the Duke's Grand Lodge Funeral:

"O wild wails the wind o'er the green hills of Athole,
While deep in the valleys the dark waters flow;
The caverns are moaning, the forests are groaning,
The grey cliffs are shrouded in dense wreaths of woe.
Through glen and through corrie the coronach's stealing,
Round shelling and cottage sad sounds thrill the air;
In castle and palace, lorn hearts are revealing
Their soul-stricken anguish, in tones of despair.

O'er the dark night of grief there arose a bright morrow,
And love's morning star shone with warm genial ray,
When our dear widowed Queen and her sister in sorrow,
With pure angel tears washed death's sorrow away.
O heavenly the feeling, that links hearts for ever,
When Royal Humanity points out the way
To life and to love! where no future can sever
Souls blent in harmony, ever and aye.

Well may the Clansmen lament their brave Chieftain!
Well may we Brothers our loved Master wail!
He who maintained in their pure pristine glory
The Light of the Craft, and the fame of the Gael!
And now, though he sleeps 'mid his own native mountains,
While Lowlands and Highlands one sad sorrow share;
Watered and nourished by love's swelling fountains,
His name in our bosoms shall bloom ever fair."

James Ballantine - 1865

In 1866 he issued another volume of one hundred songs "selected," as he says, "from a large number written during five and twenty years. Several of the airs have been contributed by eminent composers, others have been adapted from ancient national melodies, and in the words I have endeavoured chiefly to embody and illustrate the maxims and manners of dear old Scotland."

His last original work was published by William Blackwood and Sons in 1871. It contains "Lilias Lee," a tale, in the verse of Spenser, extending over five cantos, "illustrative of Scottish manners in the beginning of the sixteenth century, and embodying some incidents in the life of James IV. of Scotland;" "Malcolm Canmore," an historical play in three acts; and fifty-five miscellaneous poems, the last of which are—"Ode for the Birthday of Robert Burns," "Ode for the Inauguration of the Ettrick Shepherd's Monument, St. Mary's Lake," and "Song for the Centenary of Sir Walter Scott."

These are the works on which the reputation of Balgaithe rests. They do not, however, exhaust his literary labours. Like all true Scotsmen he was a passionate admirer of Burns. As secretary of the committee who had charge of the preparations in celebrating his centenary in 1859, he undertook the principal part of the work. In addition thereto he took upon him the enormous labour of compiling the reports of no less than 872 similar meetings held all over the world. The result of his labours was presented to the public in a large volume bearing the title—"The Chronicle of the Hundredth Birthday of Robert Burns." In this connection it is worthy of notice that to his persistent efforts the country owes the restoration of the Burns' Memorial on the Calton Hill, and the enrichment of its Museum with many precious MSS., and relics of the great poet. Nor should it be here forgotten that he was one among many to whose earnest advocacy and artistic skill Edinburgh owes its richest architectural treasure, that woodruff poem in

stone, the Scott Monument, in whose recent completion by the filling up of the niches with characteristic statuary he also had an influential voice:

It will complete this notice of his literary labours to say that he more than once produced dramatic work which was performed on the Edinburgh stage, and that in 1866 he wrote a "Life of David Roberts, R.A.," his early and life-long friend.

1871 Census - James Ballantine

Name: **James Ballantine**

Age: 62

Estimated Birth Year: abt 1809

Relationship: Head

Spouse's name : Henrietta Ballantine

Where born: Edinburgh, Midlothian

Registration Number: 685/5

Registration district: Newington

Civil parish: Edinburgh St Cuthberts

County: Midlothian

Address: **Warrender Lodge Edinburgh**

Occupation: Painter **employing**
50 Men

ED: 98

Household schedule
number: 27

Line: 21

Roll: CSSCT1871_166

Household Members:	Name	Age
	James Ballantine	62
	<u>Henrietta Ballantine</u>	56
	<u>Alexander Ballantine</u>	30
	James Ballantine	21
	<u>Mary Water</u>	47
	<u>Jessie Tod</u>	13

1971 Census John & Mgt (Ballantine) Hutchison

Name:	John Hutchison	
Age:	38	
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1833	
Relationship:	Head	
Spouse's name :	Margaret Hutchison	m.s. Ballantine
Gender:	Male	Aged 31
Where born:	Edinr, Midr	
Registration Number:	685/2	
Registration district:	St Andrew	
Civil parish:	Edinburgh St George	
County:	Midlothian	
Address:	77 (free Masons Hall)	
Occupation:	Sculptor R S A	

JOHN HUTCHISON

Spouse: **MARGARET BALLANTINE** died 1875

Marriage: **28 JUN 1870** Edinburgh Parish, Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland

Extracted marriage record for locality listed in the record.

HENRIETTA HUTCHISON

Birth: **10 SEP 1871** Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland

Father: **JOHN HUTCHISON**

Mother: **MARGARET BALLANTINE**

Extracted birth or christening record for the locality listed in the record.

Up till a comparatively recent period Mr. Ballantine enjoyed the blessing of vigorous health. The death in 1875 of his accomplished daughter, the wife of John Hutchison, R.S.A., to whom he was devotedly attached, told seriously upon his already falling strength. In 1877 he had a slight shock of paralysis, from which he never wholly recovered. The cheerfulness, the kindly humour, the thoughtfulness for others, the trust in the love and mercy of God in Christ which he manifested through life, and which are ever showing themselves in his songs, remained with him unbroken till the end. He died on the 18th December 1877, in the 71st year of his age, leaving behind him a widow and two sons.

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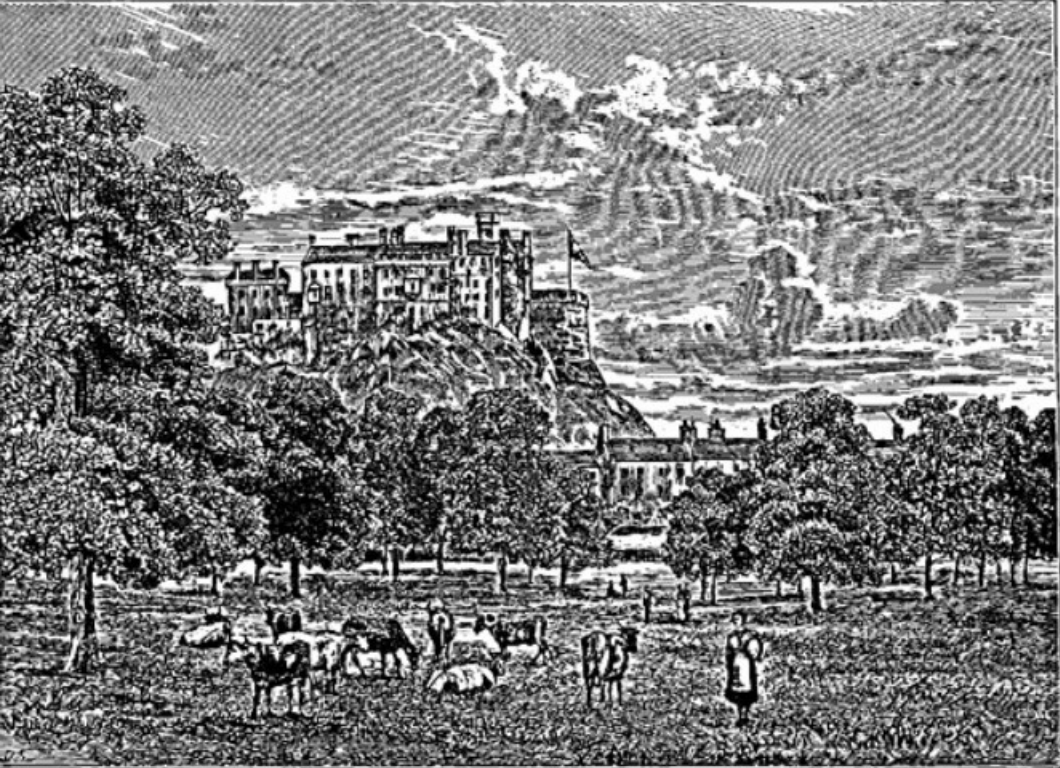
James Ballantine	1871. December Eighteenth	No 69 40	James Ballantine Burgator Breuer deceased	of the Lungs 3 days	Alexr Ballantine Son Present -	1871. December 19 th At Edinburgh
Glase Hamer Married to Henrietta Miller	1 st Son from Warrender Lodge Edinburgh		Margaret Ballantine Mrs. Anderson deceased	Asault James G. Sibb et al		D. P. Newson a/ret Registrar. M

D

Lothian Herald
Registrar



Alexander Ballantine (1840-1906)
Glass Stainer



THE MEADOWS

[From a Painting in the possession of Dr. J. A. Sider.]

In Warrender Lodge, Meadow Place, lived and died James Ballantine, the genial author of "The Gaberlunzie's Wallet" and other works of local notoriety, but more especially a volume of one hundred songs, with music, many of which are deservedly popular. Celebrated in his own profession as a glass-stainer, he was employed by the Royal Commissioners on the Fine Arts, to execute the stained glass windows for the House of Lords at Westminster.

It is not difficult to estimate the character and works of such a man. Ballantine will live and sing when many higher names than his are utterly forgotten. They who are familiar with his writings, and who knew the man in the flesh, are struck with the accuracy with which he has portrayed himself in his songs. They see the faithful outcome and reflex of the man. The round, full, sunny face, with the massive brow, and the humour flashing round the lips, told of a strong and cheery nature disposed to look at the bright side of things. His social qualities, his fund of anecdotes, the simplicity and transparent truthfulness of his character, the strength of his domestic affections, his love of the right and scorn for the wrong, greatly endeared him to all who had the pleasure of his friendship. Perfect simplicity, truthfulness to nature, healthiness of tone, are the great charm of his songs, as they were the great charm of his character. There is no effort, no forced sentiment. He sang as the

birds sing, because he must. There breathe throughout his writings, whether poetry or prose, an unflinching trust in God and in His kind providence, faith in the right, contempt for the unreal, hatred of the mean and wrong, pity for the weak, and sympathy for the suffering.

It is these things, more than any depth of thought, or any profound insight into the subtler workings of the human mind, or high literary finish, which give to many of the songs of Ballantyne their perennial charm. The range of his powers was neither a high nor a wide one, but he spoke to the common needs of common men; and the line that lightens a heart, that dries a tear, that makes a burden easier to bear, has a right to live. His kindly nature is ever coming out in such songs as "Ilka blade o' grass," "Ye mauna scath the fockless," "A stieve heart and a sturdie step will climb the steepest brae." For tender pathos, for purity and simplicity, for the exquisite rhythm with which it runs limpid and clear like a Highland burn, there are few lyrics that surpass "Rony cheekie apples." In common with all our songmakers, from the days of Barbour downwards, he had a passionate love for everything that was peculiarly Scottish, and his enthusiastic patriotism is ever breaking out in his songs. The reverence of his nature is shown in his love of children and insight into their hearts, and in his singular freedom from a common failing of modern times: in no line he ever wrote will you find a sneer at the religion which he professed in life, and which supported him in sickness and death.

Among the last verses that came from his pen were the following, in memory of the beautiful and gifted daughter of his early friend David Robertson, the much loving and much loved wife of the writer of this notice:—

"How can a simple songster sing,
Worthy of her who tunes his lay!
He cannot back the darling bring
Who from the earth hath passed away,
To heaven, where ever shall endure
Her angel charms so heavenly pure.

- “ One child had died, another child
She left, as if our hearts to cheer,
But soon our hopes were all dispelled—
The left one sought her mother's bier :
And now above, as once below,
The three hearts mingle in one glow.
- “ Her husband, who became my guide
In other paths than that of song,
Thrust every crook and knoll aside
That made the path to heaven seem long,
And showed me all, around, above,
That heaven and earth are filled with love.
- “ Her father first encouraged me
To sing the songs of humble life,
And urged me aye to keep them free
From sight to gender guile or strife.
Read David's genial “ Whistle-Binkie ; ”
To all that's kind and pure 'twill link ye.
- “ Her mother, who still lives and hopes
To meet her daughter in the sky,
Mingles with ours her tearful drops,
And wishes that the time were nigh
When we may hope to meet again,
And with our darling aye remain.”
-

How the family fared after the death of James in 1877

Name:	Alexander Ballantine
Age:	30
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1851 1881 Census
Relationship:	Head
Spouse's name :	Eleanor Francis Ballantine m.s. Hobson b. England
Gender:	Male
Where born:	Edinburgh, Edinburghshire
Registration Number:	677
Registration district:	Colinton
Civil parish:	Colinton
County:	Midlothian
Address:	Deanhaugh, House
Occupation:	Glass Stainer, Artist
ED:	1
Household schedule number:	32
Line:	11
Roll:	cssct1881_275

Household Members:	Name	Age
	<u>Alexander Ballantine</u>	30
	<u>Eleanor Francis Ballantine</u>	29
	<u>Cathrine Ballantine</u>	5
	<u>Mary Elizabeth Ballantine</u>	4
	<u>James Ballantine</u>	2
	<u>Cathrine McLeod</u>	31
	<u>Jane McKenzie</u>	24
	<u>Elizabeth Anderson</u>	28

1881 Census Henrietta & James Ballantine

Name:	Henrietta Ballantine	
Age:	64	
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1817	
Relationship:	Head	
Gender:	Female	
Where born:	Cumnock, Ayrshire	
Registration Number:	685/5	
Registration district:	Newington	
Civil parish:	Edinburgh Newington	
County:	Midlothian	
Address:	Warrender Lodge	
Occupation:	Annuitant	
ED:	103	
Household schedule number:	141	
Line:	1	
Roll:	cssct1881_294	
Household Members:	Name	Age
	<u>Henrietta Ballantine</u>	64
	<u>James Ballantine</u>	31
	<u>Henrietta Hutchison</u>	Grandaughter 9
	<u>Janet Mackenzie</u>	72
	<u>Janet Muray</u>	28
	<u>Catherine Finlayson</u>	26

1881 Census James Ballantine Jnr.

Name:	James Ballantine														
Age:	31														
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1850														
Relationship:	Son														
Mother's Name:	Henrietta Ballantine														
Gender:	Male														
Where born:	Edinr														
Registration Number:	685/5														
Registration district:	Newington														
Civil parish:	Edinburgh Newington														
County:	Midlothian														
Address:	Warrender Lodge														
Occupation:	Painter & Decorater Master Employing 12 Men														
ED:	103														
Household schedule number:	141														
Line:	2														
Roll:	cssct1881_294														
Household Members:	<table><thead><tr><th>Name</th><th>Age</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td><u>Henrietta Ballantine</u></td><td>64</td></tr><tr><td><u>James Ballantine</u></td><td>31</td></tr><tr><td><u>Henrietta Hutchison</u></td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td><u>Janet Mackenzie</u></td><td>72</td></tr><tr><td><u>Janet Muray</u></td><td>28</td></tr><tr><td><u>Catherine Finlayson</u></td><td>26</td></tr></tbody></table>	Name	Age	<u>Henrietta Ballantine</u>	64	<u>James Ballantine</u>	31	<u>Henrietta Hutchison</u>	9	<u>Janet Mackenzie</u>	72	<u>Janet Muray</u>	28	<u>Catherine Finlayson</u>	26
Name	Age														
<u>Henrietta Ballantine</u>	64														
<u>James Ballantine</u>	31														
<u>Henrietta Hutchison</u>	9														
<u>Janet Mackenzie</u>	72														
<u>Janet Muray</u>	28														
<u>Catherine Finlayson</u>	26														

1891 Census Alexander Ballantine

Name:	Alexander Ballantine
Age:	50
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1841
Relationship:	Head
Gender:	Male
Where born:	Edinburgh
Registration Number:	685A/1
Registration district:	St George Landward
Civil parish:	Edinburgh St Cuthberts
County:	Midlothian
Address:	Brae Lodge
Occupation:	Glass Stainer
ED:	5
Household schedule number:	47
Line:	17
Roll:	CSSCT1891_333

Household Members:	Name	Age
	<u>Alexander Ballantine</u>	50
	<u>Catherine Ballantine</u>	15
	<u>Mary E Ballantine</u>	14
	<u>James Ballantine</u>	12
	<u>Eleanor F Ballantine</u>	9
	<u>Margaret Ballantine</u>	7
	<u>Constance Ballantine</u>	8
		MO
	<u>Barbara Cook</u>	27
	<u>Jessie G Campbell</u>	22
	<u>Helen L Stirling</u>	30
<u>Jane Stirling</u>	24	

1891 Census Henrietta Ballantine

Name:	Henrietta Ballantine
Age:	74
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1817
Relationship:	Head
Gender:	Female
Where born:	Cumnock, Ayrshire
Registration Number:	685/5
Registration district:	Newington
Civil parish:	Edinburgh St Cuthberts
County:	Midlothian
Address:	7 Warrender Park Rd
Occupation:	Annuitant
ED:	105
Household schedule number:	11
Line:	2
Roll:	CSSCT1891_357

Household Members:	Name	Age
	<u>Henrietta Ballantine</u>	74
	<u>Henrietta Hutchison</u>	19
	<u>Marjorie Eaton</u>	28
	<u>Agnes Edington</u>	37
	<u>Mary Darqe</u>	24

Death

807

Hensietta	1896,	27	50	Alexander Stuart	Chronic Bronchitis	Alexander Ballantine	1896,
Ballantine	September		4th	Miller, James	4 months mitral		September 15
	thirtieth			deceased	Disease of Heart	son	At Edinburgh
widow of	Whomson				5 months		
James Ballantine	Waverley Lodge			Katharine Miller	ascert. by	11 Belgrave Place	10 th Kirkaldy
Winter of Glasgow	Waverley Hill			M. S. Ballantine	J. B. Carruthers		Assistant Registrar.
	Road, Edinburgh			deceased,	M. S.		MD

1901 Census Alexander Ballantine

Name:	Alexander Ballantine	
Age:	60	
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1841	
Relationship:	Head	
Gender:	Male	
Where born:	Edinburgh	
Registration Number:	685/1	
Registration district:	St George	
Civil parish:	Edinburgh West Coates	
County:	Midlothian	
Address:	Murrayfield Avenue "warrender"	
Occupation:	Artist Of Stained Glass	
ED:	87	
Household schedule number:	18	
Line:	1	
Roll:	CSSCT1901_366	
Household Members:	Name	Age
	<u>Alexander Ballantine</u>	60
	<u>Catherine Ballantine</u>	25
	<u>James Ballantine</u>	22
	<u>Eleanor F Ballantine</u>	19
	<u>Margaret Ballantine</u>	17
	<u>Jessie Gunn Campbell</u>	31
	<u>Agnes R Fairbairn</u>	35
	<u>Jane E Duffield</u>	26

1901 Census James Ballantine Jnr

Name:	James Ballantine
Age:	51
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1850
Relationship:	Head
Spouse's name :	Emily Ballantine
Gender:	Male
Where born:	Edinburgh, Edinburghshire
Registration Number:	691
Registration district:	Lasswade
Civil parish:	Lasswade
County:	Midlothian
Address:	Eckgrove
Occupation:	Painter
ED:	2
Household schedule number:	60
Line:	10
Roll:	CSSCT1901_396

Household Members:	Name	Age
	<u>James Ballantine</u>	51
	<u>Emily Ballantine</u>	37
	<u>Edward I Ballantine</u>	13
	<u>Alexander S Ballantine</u>	12
	<u>Harry Ballantine</u>	9
	<u>Henrietta M Ballantine</u>	4
	<u>Charles L Ballantine</u>	2
	<u>Isabella F Harley</u>	26
	<u>Elizabeth K Harley</u>	27
	<u>Elizabeth S Laidlaw</u>	38
	<u>Janet Lyme</u>	15

No.	Name and Surname. Rank or Profession, and whether Single, Married, or Widowed.	When and Where Died.	Sex.	Age.	Name, Surname, & Rank or Profession of Father. Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Cause of Death, Duration of Disease, and Medical Attendant by whom certified.	Signature & Qualification of Informant, and Residence, if out of the House in which the Death occurred.	When and where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
538	Alexander Ballantine	1906, October Eleventh	Male	65 Years	James Ballantine Glass Stainer	Enlargement of Prostate Gland	James Ballantine Son	1906, October 11 th At Edinburgh
	Glass Stainer	10h. 50m. A.M.			deceased	Leishiosis of Kidney	Warrander Murrayfield Avenue	
	Widower of	Murrayfield Avenue			Henrietta Ballantine	Hypertrophy of Heart		John Ritchison Registrar.
	Eleanor Frances Wilson	Edinburgh			deceased	As cert. by Alexander Bruce		
	Oliver Wilson					deceased	Alexander Bruce	
							deceased	
							deceased	

The Artistic Legacy of James Ballantine (1806-1877)

Examples of this follow

Stained glass windows are a distinctive feature of Corstorphine Old Parish Church.

The majority of the windows in the church are by Alexander Ballantine [1840-1906] who succeeded his father, James Ballantine on his death in 1877. James Ballantine had established his Stained Glass firm in 1837 at the age of 31. He was born in Edinburgh in 1806 and began his career, like many other stained-glass artists, by training as a house painter and decorator. It is not known where Ballantine acquired his knowledge of glass staining, but Michael Donnelly in his book 'Scotland's Stained Glass' suggests it is most likely that he spent some time in an English studio, perhaps at Newcastle, before establishing his own firm.

"Alexander's, characteristic was his strong figure composition and his lighter colour schemes. This gave the firm a new lease of life with hundreds of technically competent if rather traditional windows to his credit," says Michael Donnelly.

Alexander became a partner with Gardiner in the 1880's, and the window in the north transept at Corstorphine is part of their joint work. Alexander also lectured frequently on the subject of stained glass, a measure of the craft's growing respectability.

James Ballantine, Alexander's son, joined the family firm sometime between 1898 and 1904 and he succeeded his father on his death in 1906. James modernised his pallet, but never quite escaped the pictorial style of his father. He was the first Scot to broadcast on the art of stain glass windows on radio in 1925.



An Alexander Ballantine Stained Glass Window In The Old Parish Church, Corstorphine

42nd Royal Highland Regiment (The Black Watch): by James Ballantine & Son of Edinburgh, 1868. Accompanied by plaque inscribed: *"In memory of Colonel Edward Ramsden Priestly, Lieut. Colonel 42nd Royal Highland Regt "The Black Watch". Died at Stirling 25th March 1868 in his fifty first year. Erected by his brother officers."*



Three Ballantine Stained Glass Windows in Kingairloch Church





