

Our Little Ancestors

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Context

1. Joseph Little b. 1721 Torthorwald, Dumfries, Scotland m. Margaret Craig 21 Jan 1747d.

Torthorwald, Dumfriesshire (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Torthorwald> and https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Torthorwald,_Dumfriesshire,_Scotland_Genealogy

Torthorwald is a village and civil parish in Dumfries and Galloway, south-west Scotland. The parish contains the villages of Collin and Roucan, 4¼ miles (E. N. E.) from Dumfries. This place derives its name, signifying in the Saxon language the "Tower of Thor in the wood," from the ruins of an ancient castle nearly in the centre of the parish, which is said to have been originally surrounded by an extensive forest. The area was the property of the de Torthorwald family until the end of the 13th century, when the estate passed by marriage to the Kirkpatricks. In 1418, William de Carleil married the Kirkpatrick heiress. He may have been the builder of Torthorwald Castle, which was erected around this time, possibly on top of an earlier a motte. Torthorwald was erected as a burgh of barony in 1473. Torthorwald Castle was occupied until 1715; only two of its walls still stand, to a height of around 18 metres (59 ft).

The parish is bounded by the river Lochar. The church, conveniently situated nearly in the centre of the parish, is a neat substantial structure, erected in 1782, and containing 500 sittings. It is located 6 kilometres (3.7 mi) east of Dumfries on the A709 road to Lochmaben. The pre-Reformation church at Torthorwald belonged to the Trinitarian Friars of Fail in Ayrshire. The present parish church was erected in 1782 on the site of this earlier foundation. Torthorwald is now within the united Parish of Kirkmichael, Tinwald and Torthorwald, which was created in 1981. The 19th-century missionary John Gibson Paton (1824–1907) grew up in Torthorwald. His evangelical work in the New Hebrides is commemorated in the church gate piers.

An annual Scarecrow Fun Day involves villagers erecting scarecrows in their front gardens. There is a frequent bus service to Dumfries which takes about 15 minutes. The village was also previously served by the nearby Racks railway station which closed in 1965.

1. Joseph Little Margaret Craig

Joseph Little, son of _____ was born in 1721 Torthorwald, Dumfries, Scotland. He married Margaret Craig 21 Jan 1747 in Torthorwald, Dumfriesshire, Scotland. They had the following children,

- i. Mary Little b. 28 Feb 1748 Torthorwald, Dumfries-shire, Scotland, d. 14 Jun 1827 Torthorwald
2. ii. Rachel Little b. 28 Feb 1748/49 in Torthorwald, Dumfries, Scotland, m. James Richardson 20 Jul 1780 Torthorwald, Dumfries-shire, Scotland.
- iii. Catherine Little b. 1750 Torthorwald d. 20 Nov 1764 Torthorwald
- iv. William Little b. 1752 Torthorwald, d. 16 Jan 1788 Torthorwald
- v. Joseph Little b. 1753 Torthorwald d. 16 Jan 1788 Torthorwald
- vi. Janet Little b. 1756 Torthorwald d. 25 Jun 1825 Torthorwald

2. Rachel Little 1753 – 1829 James Richardson 1751 – 1828

Rachel Little, daughter of Joseph Little and Margaret Craig was born 28 Feb 1748/49¹. (For double year explanation see

They had children,

- vii Janet Richardson b 1783
- viii Samuel Richardson b. 27 Apr 1786 Torthorwald, Dumfries, Scotland, m. Helen McMin, d.

Appendices

Abbreviations

Abt.	About	Aft.	After
b.	born	Bef.	Before if associated with birth probably date of baptism
Bp	baptism	bur	buried
d.	died	m.	married

Calendar Old Style-New Style, Julian & Georgian ²

The old calendar used up to about 1752 in Protestant countries was the Julian Calendar based on 365.25 days. In 1582 Great Britain and empire switched to the Julian Calendar and since the actual year is 365.2422 days long the switch over caused a 11 day out of synch problem. To solve this problem, it was proclaimed that September 2 would be followed by September 14. As well the old-style calendar the calendar year began on Lady Day 25th of March i.e. the year ran from 25 March to 24 March. Hence January 24, 1712 old style would be January 24, 1713 new style. The correct way to describe a date in the “overlap” period from January 1 to March 24 is to state the Old/New Style as 1712 /1713 which means

“January 24, 1712 old style is what we call January 24, 1713”

Also, since the calendar began in March the months if numbered are as follows

¹ See Calendar Old Style – New Style, Julian & Georgian

² Greenwood, Val D. The Researcher’s Guide to American Genealogy, 3rd Ed. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co Inc 2000

March 1
 April 2
 May 3
 June 4
 July 5
 August 6
 September 7
 October 8
 November 9
 December 10
 January 11
 February 12

Sources

The New Statistical Account of Scotland (pub. 1834-45) offers uniquely rich and detailed parish reports for the whole of Scotland, covering a vast range of topics including history, agriculture, education, trades, religion and social customs. The reports, written by the parish ministers, are available online at <https://stataccscot.edina.ac.uk/static/statacc/dist/support/introduction> Also available at the [Family History Library](#).

The Established Church of Scotland was Presbyterian. The pre-1855 records that exist for this parish. Established Church—Old Parochial Registers[

	<u>Years Covered</u>	<u>FHL Film Number</u>
Births:	1696-1854	1067971 item 5-6
Marriages:	1696-1807, 1812-1854	1067971 item 5-6
Deaths:	1697-1808, 1819-1854	1067971 item 5-6

Births: There are no entries August 1701–November 1730. After the record for November 1745 there are two pages containing entries for 1726–1752. Mothers' names are not recorded until April 1810.

Marriages: There are no entries January 1701–1727, February 1741–July 1743, October 1750–April 1752, November 1755–June 1758, 1778, 1787, 1796, and August 1807–October 1821 except two entries for 1812.

Deaths: There are no death or burial entries August 1701–January 1734, and January 1808–December 1819 except one, 1733. Entries after 1764 often contain information relating to the last illness of the deceased.

Established Church—Kirk Session Records[[edit](#) | [edit source](#)]

The Kirk session was the court of the parish. The session was made up of the minister and the land owners and business men of the parish, chosen to serve on the session. The Kirk session dealt with moral issues, minor criminal cases, matters of the poor and education, matters of discipline, and the general concerns of the parish. Kirk session records may also mention births, marriages, and deaths.

List of the surviving Kirk session records for this parish:

Accounts	1729–1750, 1762–1769, 1808–1840
Minutes	1696–1701, 1729–1852
Miscellaneous Documents	1738, 1800

Websites

Scottish Church Records https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Scotland_Church_Records

Lewis, Samuel A., *A Topographical Dictionary of Scotland* (1846), pp. 546-567. <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/topographical-dict/scotland/pp546-567#h3-0019>