

**AN OLD BERWICKSHIRE TOWN:  
HISTORY OF THE TOWN AND  
PARISH OF GREENLAW, FROM  
THE EARLIEST TIMES TO THE  
PRESENT DAY**

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An Old Berwickshire Town: History of the Town and Parish of Greenlaw, from the Earliest Times to the Present Day by Robert Gibson

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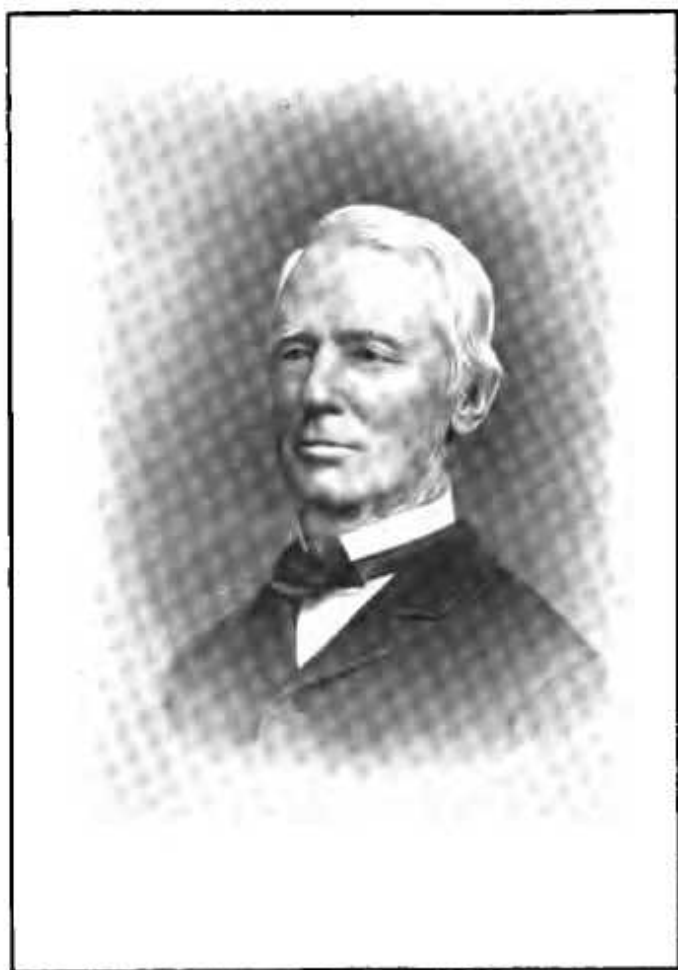
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**ROBERT GIBSON**

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ROBERT GIBSON, J.P.

*Photo by George Bruce, Duns*

*[Book kindly lent by Proprietor of "Border Magazine."]*

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By ROBERT GIBSON

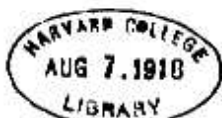
*EDITED BY HIS SON THOMAS GIBSON*



OLIVER AND BOYD  
EDINBURGH: TWEEDDALE COURT  
LONDON: 10 PATERNOSTER ROW, E.C.

1905

1874



*Gift of  
William Endicott, Jr.*

## P R E F A C E

WHEN my father died in 1903, he left behind him in almost completed form the manuscript of a history of the parish of Greenlaw. In the collection and verification of his material he spent years of laborious research, in the course of which he brought to light much interesting information regarding bygone times that gave a new setting to many of the details of local history, and shed a fresh light on many facts hitherto unknown or forgotten.

Not the least important part of his labours was the result of his own personal observation. He recorded place-names, customs, and traditions which, but for his intimate knowledge of the district and acquaintance with people of a past generation, would long since have passed into oblivion.

Immediately after his death several people who were conversant with his work urged that



it would be a distinct loss to local history were the results of his investigations not given to the public in permanent form, and I undertook the preparation of the book for the press.

The ecclesiastical part of the volume treats of the founding of the parish church, with the dependent chapels of Halyburton and Lambden, and its subsequent development both before and after the Reformation. Much interesting material, hitherto unpublished, illustrative of church life in olden times has been drawn from the Church Records. A full account is also given of the Secession, United Presbyterian, Auld Licht, and Free Church congregations.

The burghal part of the history gives in detail the different charters granted to the town, makes particular reference to its position as the county town, and narrates the efforts made by other towns in the county to secure this position, bringing the controversy down to its latest development. The County Records have supplied much information of interest to the present age, as to the methods of administering justice in earlier times.

Wages and Cost of Living, Former Industries, Funeral Customs, Fairs and Markets,

form the subjects of several chapters which show the great changes that have taken place in rural economy, and illustrate phases of rural life now gone or rapidly disappearing.

Four chapters dealing with Old and Extinct Families make, I believe, a considerable contribution to the family histories of the county. Of one of these—the Greenlaw family—little or nothing has been hitherto known, and its history is for the first time presented in definite outline.

Of late years the importance of local history as shedding light on national life and character has been much more fully appreciated, and the present work will, I hope, be found to contain some definite addition to this department of national literature. I trust that it will, in any case, appeal with special interest to natives of Greenlaw and the wider circle of the county of which Greenlaw was so long the capital.

In preparing the book for publication I have sometimes condensed the material, especially in cases referring to more recent times, regarding which information can be obtained in easily accessible books ; but in no case have I altered the substance.

In conclusion, I have to acknowledge my

indebtedness to my brother, Professor George A. Gibson, LL.D., and my brother-in-law, the Rev. Peter Wilson, M.A., for the interest they have taken in the progress of the book, their help in proof-reading, and the preparation of the Index.

THOMAS GIBSON.

7 GLENGYLE TERRACE,  
EDINBURGH, *August* 1905.