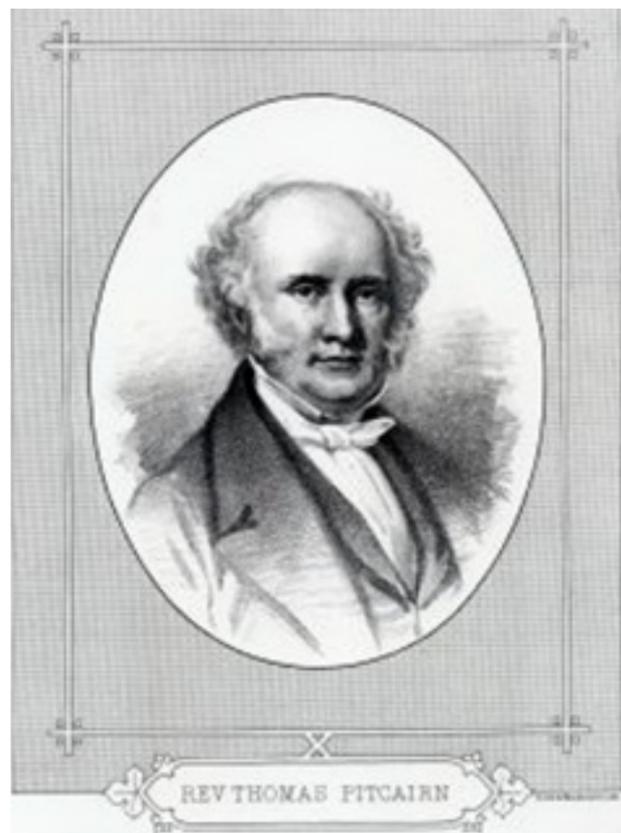


Thomas Pitcairn 1800-1854

Free Church minister

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Thomas Pitcairn was born in Edinburgh on 6 February 1800, the eldest child of Alexander Pitcairn (1746-1819), and his second wife Jean Trotter (1766-1816). Alexander Pitcairn was a merchant in Edinburgh and, from 1790, the sole remaining partner in the important Vitriol manufactory at Burntisland. Alexander



had three sons and a daughter by his first wife, Elizabeth Low, who died in 1793 aged 28. He married Jean Trotter in 1795 and they had four sons and two daughters.

Thomas Pitcairn attended Edinburgh University and followed a business career for several years before studying for the ministry. He was licensed to preach in 1828 and served as an assistant at Erskine and then at Perth before being ordained as assistant and successor to Dr Grierson at Cockpen in 1833. In 1837 he was chosen as clerk of the Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale. As convener of a committee of the Church Law Society, Pitcairn published the Acts of the General

Assembly, 1638-1842 (Edinburgh, 1843). He joined the Free Church at the Disruption and served as minister at Bonnyrigg (within the parish of Cockpen) until his death on 21 December 1854. He was one of the principal clerks of the Free Church General Assembly from its inception in 1843.

Thomas Pitcairn married his cousin Ann Hay Trotter, daughter of Young Trotter of Cruicksfield, Berwickshire, and his wife Jane Cranstoun. Thomas and Ann had three children: Alexander Young Pitcairn (5 April 1837 - 16 Jan. 1921), Jane Cranstoun Pitcairn (17 Jan. 1840 - 2 Oct. 1841) and Thomas Pitcairn (b. & d. 1842). Alexander became a Writer to the Signet and married Jane Wyld in 1863. They had five children - the three commemorated here, and two more sons, Thomas (1866-1952), who farmed in South Africa, and John Wyld (1869-1951), who followed in his father's footsteps by being admitted as a Writer to the Signet in 1900 but by the 1920s had become a Planter in Tobago.