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Thomas Dick Lauder 1784-1848

Grange Estate owner, author, polymath

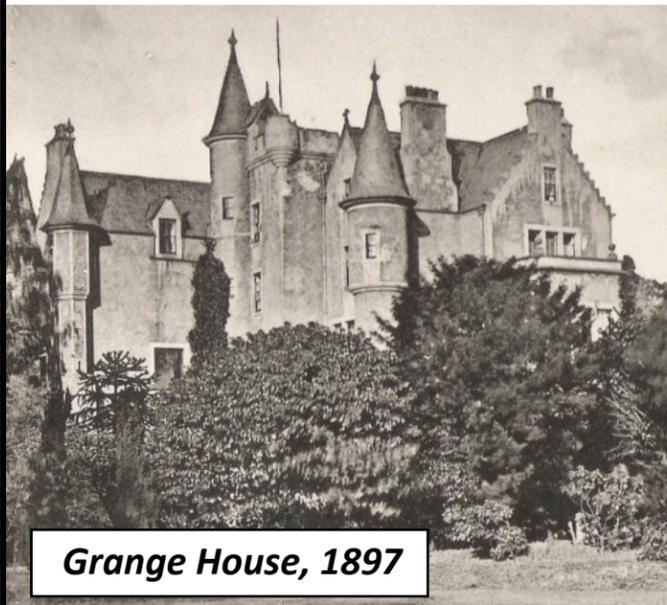
An economic slump stymied his plans, and it was left to a son and grandson to see development happen, but without **Thomas Dick Lauder's** decision in 1825 to get permission from Parliament to make the lands of his Grange Estate available for development, the Grange area, as we know it, might not exist today. But he was much more than a wealthy landowner. He wrote learned papers, was a novelist and story-writer, active in politics, an accomplished artist, and a leading proponent of the Scott Monument.



Thomas Dick Lauder, 7th Baronet of Fountainhall and 5th Baronet of Grange on the death of his father in 1820, was born in Edinburgh in 1784, the only son of Sir Andrew Lauder of Fountainhall [in East Lothian] and his second wife, Elizabeth Brown of Johnstonburn. Andrew's first wife had been Isabel Dick, heiress to the Grange Estate and Grange House.

In 1808, Thomas married Charlotte Cumin (1785-1864) with whom he had two sons - John (1813-67) and George (1820-50) - and eight daughters. Charlotte was heiress to the large Morayshire estate of Relugas, where the family lived until they moved to Grange House in 1832. Grange House, built in 1592 as a modest dwelling and bought by Sir William Dick of Braid in 1631, had been extended greatly by the time it came to Thomas in 1820. He employed WH Playfair to modernise and renovate it but little now remains of this grand mansion, demolished in 1936, that stood east of this monument.

Thomas was a polymath. A Cameron Highlander in early life, he wrote papers and books on science, history and meteorology - his 1830 account of the Moray Floods still regarded as valuable today; contributed to *Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine* - an early tale believed initially to be by Walter Scott; wrote two historical romances with *The*



Grange House, 1897

Wolf of Badenoch (1827) very popular; illustrated many of his essays and books; was an active supporter of the 1832 Reform Bill; wrote works for fishermen after his appointment to the Board of Manufacturers and Fisheries in 1839; founded technical and art schools; was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh; and Secretary of the Royal Institution for Encouragement of Fine Arts.

He died in Grange House in 1848. This large monument commemorates five generations of Dick Lauders.