

Gretna Hall Hotel – Gretna Green



A History of its Romantic Past

THE BLACKSMITH'S COURTYARD AT GRETNA HALL



A History of Gretna Hall Hotel and the famous "Runaway Marriages"

Early history

In 1710 Colonel James Johnstone built Graitney Hall, near the site of the ruined Graitney Tower, for his bride Isabella. She was a daughter of Sir Francis Ruthven and a Peeress in her own right. Above the front door is the Johnstone Coat of Arms and family motto *Cave Paratus* — Beware, we are prepared. It is worth noting that this stone came from the ruined "auld hoose" at Graitney Tower, built in 1535, making it more than 450 years old. Colonel Johnstone died in 1730 and was succeeded by his son James, Lord Ruthven. The property remained in the hands of Lord Ruthven's family for a considerable time, but their hold on it had been gradually weakening. In 1790 it passed into the hands of the Earl of Hopetoun who, in 1793, fitted it up as an Inn. Thus began a long period of romance for Gretna Hall.



Gretna Hall. Home of the family. Ruined Graitney Tower in background.

Gretna Hall in 1905.

The really romantic runaway marriages began about 1738 and lasted until 1856 — almost one hundred and twenty years. They became more numerous after irregular or clandestine marriages were made illegal in England in 1754 and increased enormously about 1790, when turnpike roads were established. This brought the coaching trade to and from Gretna. (Turnpike roads were not made in Gretna until 1777 and communication prior to that was by the dangerous Solway fords.)

The illustration is of the Johnson Coat of Arms over the entrance of Gretna Hall.



First connections with weddings

Prior to 1754 irregular or clandestine marriages were accepted as law in England, many of them carried out at a place called 'The Fleet' in London.

Originally called the Prisons de la Fleet, this building had been used as a State Prison as far back as the 12th Century, but in the early part of the 18th Century it was inhabited chiefly by debtors and persons who had been committed for contempt of the Court of Chancery. Its Wardenship was bought and sold, and the institution was rotten with petty graft and corruption.

The first clandestine marriage took place in 1613, and it rapidly became a centre of irregular and disreputable marriages. Touts and 'parsons' haunted the place, marrying couples at 2s 6d a head. The traffic became so objectionable that Lord Hardwicke introduced a Bill in 1754 to

prohibit clandestine marriages in England. When that Bill became the law of England, on March 26th, 1754, the marriages in 'The Fleet' were no longer legal. 'The Fleet,' as a prison, was abolished in 1842, and the building was torn down three years later.

This English Marriage Act did not apply to Scotland, where it was still possible to be married in a hurry under the old Scots law, which enacted that, 'where a single man and woman declare themselves husband and wife in presence of two witnesses, they are in fact legally married.'

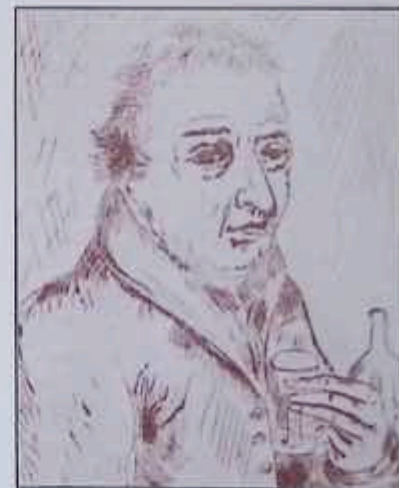
Thus, frustrated by the new legislation of their own country, headstrong English couples who were determined to get married without paternal blessing headed for Scotland. Lying just inside the Scottish Border, Gretna Green became the obvious objective of the runaways from the South.



A 'Fleet' marriage party (from a print of the time).

They were received with open arms. For many years prior to 1754 there had been 'priests' in and around the Border village who married couples under the old Scots law. These men, who were usually horny-handed sons of toil of sufficient shrewdness to recognise easy money when they saw it, quickly appreciated the possibilities of the new business that was coming from England, and they were not long in establishing 'marriage houses,' and letting it be known that they were ready to perform their hasty ceremonies at all hours of the day and night.

One of the first of these 'priests,' and certainly not the least colourful, was the notorious Joe Paisley, who lived in a small cottage near the southern entrance to Gretna Hall until the year 1791. He was a character if there ever was one, so much so that he was singled out for a special mention by the parish minister who furnished the authentic information about the district which appeared, in 1793, in *The Statistical Account of Scotland*. He was a man of tremendous girth, weight, and



Joe Paisley, one of the first 'priests.'

strength, and was known far and wide as a prodigious drinker of spirits. Assisted by another heavy drinker, he once proceeded to drink an anker of strong cognac. An anker contained ten gallons, and we have it on the authority of the parish minister that at the end of sixty hours of what must have been serious drinking, the pair kicked the bottom out of the empty cask in order to register their disgust on finding that it contained no more cognac.

Paisley's fees varied. Sometimes he accepted a bottle of brandy for marrying poor couples, but as a rule, half-a-crown satisfied him. When he was fortunate enough to be called to Gretna Hall to unite couples there, he was not above raising his fee to £10. It goes without saying that his most profitable ceremonies were those he performed at the Inn.

This unorthodox 'priest' had a rough routine which he followed in uniting couples, and a rougher method of registering his marriages. He usually read a part of the Liturgy of the Church of England relating to the marriage

ceremony, and with the words 'with this ring I thee wed,' he declared the parties to be husband and wife. Following the 'ceremony' he gave a certificate of marriage to each couple, retaining a duplicate, by which he 'sanctified' that the contracting parties had 'declared themselves both to be single persons, and now manied by the forme of the Kirk of Scotland and agreible to the Church of England.'

On one occasion — so the story goes — he married two couples simultaneously, and in great haste. When he handed over the certificates it was discovered that the wrong brides and bridegrooms had been united.

Paisley was not excited.

'Aweel,' he said, when the error was pointed out to him, 'just sort yersel's oot!'

A thriving business

There are 1134 entries in the Gretna Hall marriage register, which is still in existence and in an excellent state of preservation. The first of them is dated July 12th, 1825, and bears the signature of Robert Elliot. He was a 'priest' who was frequently called to Gretna Hall to officiate at marriages where speed was the vital consideration. The Inn had been leased by John Linton early in the year 1825, and had entered its most flourishing and romantic period as a marriage house, for Linton was a man who possessed remarkable qualifications for the role of mine host of an Inn which had already become widely known throughout England and Scotland as the terminus of many a romantic matrimonial journey, and as a goodly place in which to stay for a day or two. He had been valet to Sir James Graham of Netherby Hall of Young Lochinvar fame — whose exploits were recorded in galloping poetry by Sir Walter Scott

— before taking over the Inn, and he knew how to deal with people of quality. He made Gretna Hall a safe and dignified sanctuary for aristocratic runaway couples who were married there. He also contrived to make the Inn a changing house for the stage-coaches between London and Edinburgh, and as it was situated — as it is today — on the direct main road between the two capitals, that convenient arrangement helped many a hasty pair of lovers — as well as his business. He was initially only a witness to the marriages, but his name appears as 'priest' on many subsequent Gretna Hall certificates, for after 1828 he had apparently overcome his reluctance to marrying his runaway guests. Indeed he came to be known as 'The Bishop' on account of his almost pontifical dignity. He married couples speedily but with decorum, and kept the Gretna Hall marriage register with meticulous care. Its entries extend from



Gretna Hall in the 1800s.

July 12th, 1825, to April 1855, and number 1134, whilst the certificates actually in existence today number 1120.

'The Bishop' set his face against the vulgar commercialism of the marriage trade on the Border. He refused flatly to marry drunken men or reprobates who had the effrontery, after being married once, to return soon afterwards with another woman. In time it came to be known that Gretna Hall was a marrying house of dignity, and to it, as a result, came the runaway couples of quality who spun the golden web of romance around Gretna Green.

So John Linton prospered. His marriage fee was never less than 10s 6d and sometimes, if the contracting parties looked excessively opulent, a fee of £20 was not deemed too high. Then there were charges for the bridal chamber, and for the wine that flowed freely when rich and generous young couples were married, so that 'The Bishop's' urbanity became more noticeable with the passing of the years, and his worldly goods increased.

John Linton married, for the first time, in 1811, an Elizabeth Herring of Penrith by whom he had twelve children (he married a second time and had a son). So over the years with his wife as housekeeper, his daughters and sons in the gardens, on the farm or in the stables looking after the guests' horses and himself as Major Domo, Gretna Hall became very profitable to Linton. Under him the Hall was not only an hotel but was the centre of social activity. In it the best balls were held, the most important meetings and functions as well as activities from the school which was situated at the front gates. In the grounds cricket matches, pigeon shoots, etc., took place. He carried on in this way until his death in 1851 and his widow carried on for a few years after.

Some famous weddings

Near the entrance gates of the old mansion was a school, and when wedding parties arrived the school bell was tolled to summon the ostlers attached to Gretna Hall. The summons, as may be supposed, was answered by others than the ubiquitous horse-tenders. Whenever it rang, the curious school-children rushed out to catch a glimpse of the steaming horses and the agitated bridal couple, and the display of youthful curiosity was changed to intense excitement when, as sometimes happened, a second carriage dashed up, conveying the angry father of the blushing bride, his grim-faced lawyers and—if the case was sufficiently serious—Bow Street officers. On these occasions the language used was picturesque to say the least, and when it did not suffice to turn the young couple from their matrimonial escapade, heavy horse-pistols were brandished by the Law officers. It was a glori-

ous spectacle for the children. At this time hundreds of marriages took place at Gretna Hall every year. Many of the couples were of good but more or less obscure families, but among them were couples whose marriages interested a wide public. One of the most publicised at the time was the celebrated Wakefield-Turner fiasco of 1826, which had an unpleasant sequel in the criminal courts. Edward Gibbon Wakefield abducted Ellen Turner, a fifteen-year-old schoolgirl and an heiress, by telling her a heartless lie. He said her father was dangerously ill, and that he, Wakefield, had been sent to take her to Scotland. In the course of the journey the rascal told the distracted and glib girl that her father had been ruined and that he, Wakefield, had loaned him £60,000. Having broken that devastating bit of spurious news to the girl, he suggested that a marriage with himself would be the easiest way of refurbishing her father's tarnished honour. The girl agreed.



The marriage room in Gretna Hall. Practically unchanged today. The reception desk occupies the right-hand wall, this is the view as you come through from the Bar to the Reception Foyer.

In due course the pair arrived at Gretna Hall, and Ellen Turner seemed well enough pleased with her persuasive suitor. They were duly married and departed for France. Soon afterwards they were followed there by the outraged relatives of the duped bride, who rescued her and brought about the arrest of her scoundrelly husband. He was sentenced at Leicester Assizes to three years' imprisonment for abduction. The marriage was afterwards annulled by a Special Act of Parliament. During his term of imprisonment, Wakefield became a zealous student of Imperialism, and drew up a scheme for the colonization of South Australia, New Zealand and Canada. Soon after he was liberated he emigrated and carved out a brilliant career for himself, becoming private secretary to Lord Durham, Governor-General of Canada, in 1838. His bust occupies an honoured position in the Colonial Office in Whitehall today.

In the year 1830, Sir Thomas Dunlop Wallace eloped with Anne Catherine Thirion Melineth, and the pair became man and wife in the entrance of the Inn.

On May 17th, 1835, Robert Brinsley Sheridan, a

grandson of the celebrated dramatist, came to Gretna Hall to be hastily married to Marcia Grant, only surviving child and heiress of Sir Colquhoun Grant of Frampton Court.

In 1839, Benetick Welbore Doyle, a high-spirited young blood from Ireland, came to Gretna Hall and was married there to Mary Macdonald, a beauty from the Western Isles of Scotland.

In 1840 a local man, strangely enough, chose the old Inn as the scene of his marriage. This was Pantus Emelius Irving Smith, and his bride was Georgina Kirkby Barker. Both were well known—especially after their precipitate marriage!

On the morning of May 20th, 1840, Lord Archibald Drumlanrig, son and heir of the Marquis of Queensberry, rode up to 'The Hall' with Caroline Clayton, daughter of General Sir William Robert Clayton. The bridegroom was 22 years old, and his bride only 17. Quite naturally, General Clayton decided that his daughter was too young to wed, and he requested the lovesick pair to wait a while before they rushed into matrimony. The expostulation was useless. Young Lord Archibald was a Douglas and, like the majority of that notable breed, had a mind of his own.

If not for you dear Gretna Green,
My love would wed another.
I was too poor to come between
Her and her proudsome mother.

But she is mine now, and my life
No greater joy hath seen:
In love and law, she is my wife—
God bless you, Gretna Green!

JIM JACKSON.

He would not wait. So to Gretna he hurried with his Caroline—on horseback! The gods smiled on his romantic union. From the first rapturous days spent at Gretna Hall, it proved to be a most happy one. A few years afterwards Lord Archibald inherited Kinmount Castle, and there, almost within sight of Gretna Hall, he established his bride. She lived there, loved and respected by all, until 1904.

In November of 1844, Captain Park Ibbetson eloped with Lucy Maud Villiers and headed for Gretna Hall in a great hurry. They had need to make speed. Captain Ibbetson was a comparatively poor young officer of the 11th Hussars, and Lady Maud—whose grandmother, by the way—had eloped to Gretna with the Earl of Westmorland in 1782—was the daughter of the Earl of Jersey, who expected his lovely daughter to marry into wealth. The Earl remonstrated sternly with the young couple, but it only spurred them into their adventure. North they rode, with the furious Earl in hot pursuit. The urbane but speedy Linton had just completed the marriage ceremony at Gretna Hall when the angry father-in-law appeared on the scene.

What happened after that may be imagined, for the frustrated Earl departed in high dudgeon, and he must have nursed his wrath for a considerable period, for it is recorded that the Duke of Wellington tried to reconcile him to his son-in-law, who was a great favourite with the hero of Waterloo. He probably succeeded in softening the old man, for the young couple lived happily as man and wife.

In 1846 a Prince came to Gretna Hall. This was Carlo Ferdinando Bourbon, Prince of the Two Sicilies and of Capua, and brother of the King of Naples. He married Miss Penelope Caroline Smythe of County Waterford, Ireland. Miss Smythe inherited £30,000, and was noted for her virtue and her great beauty.

The following year the Duke of Storza Cesarine, a member of one of Italy's most noble families, was married to Caroline Shirley, of Charley Castle, Staffordshire. The young lovers arrived at the Inn on August 25th, when the harvest moon hung low in the sky, and remained at the scene of their romance for several days.

The Gretna Green "priests"

What characters they must have been and what tales they could tell us now! In chronological order the most documented ones were:

WALTER COULTHARD 1730-1780*

Watty Coulthard was a fisherman at Sarkfoot near Gretna, where he had a marriage trade from couples coming to the Scottish side of the Solway Firth by boat. He had a "smokey house and a bad-tempered wife" so he was forced to conduct the ceremonies in the whins on the shore-side! He later moved to a small house which stood at the entrance gates to Gretna Hall.

JOSEPH PAISLEY 1753-1811*

Joseph Paisley was born about 1728 in a village about one mile from Gretna; he is the best known of the early priests. The son of a dissenting clergyman, he was an apprentice

KINGDOM OF SCOTLAND County of Wigtown—Parish of Gretna

Given are to Certify to all whom these presents come

That
I am
in the County of _____ and
I am
in the County of _____
being now both here present and being the said _____
Persons and that I am not in the marriage bonds then have they
they were married unto each other by contracting and acknowledging
each other as husband and wife after the manner of the laws of
Scotland: the names are hereby in Gretna Hall Blacksmith's Shop,
Groom, this _____ day of _____
and _____
Gretna

Witness
I am
Groom

Gretna Hall Blacksmith's Shop
Marriage Certificate.

tobacconist but left to become a fisherman under "Auld Watty Coulthard." Walter Coulthard lived near Sarkfoot, then a port, and was smuggler, fisherman and priest (probably in that order!). Joe Paisley was a man of immense strength and was therefore very useful to Watty; he was often a witness at the weddings and, after performing a marriage when Watty was away on a smuggling trip to the Isle of Man, discovered that he could rivet the matrimonial band equally as good as his master! He began business on his own account and soon overcame all opposition. At this time, Joe Paisley was tall and spare and could bend a poker over his arm and straighten out a horse-shoe with his bare hands. He said that whisky was a drink for women and that the only drink fit for a man to drink was undiluted brandy! All in all he was a fearsome man; in his late years he became enormously stout and weighed upwards of 25 stones. He began to conduct wedding ceremonies about 1754 and continued for most of his life. He died in 1814 age 62 and is buried in Gretna Churchyard. Paisley and Coulthard performed in many marriage houses and inns around this time. They both had cottages at the

entrance gates to Gretna Hall; there was also a school, a church, Gretna Court House and Tolbooth and a few houses close by.

THE THREE LANGS:

DAVID LANG 1792-1827*

David Lang was born in 1755, a nephew of Joe Paisley. He became a pedlar and made his way to Lancashire where he was press-ganged into the Navy where, some years later, his ship was captured by John Paul Jones (the founder of the American Navy). By a curious twist of fate, the ship was smuggling along the Solway Coast and Lang was able to escape to his native Springfield. He set himself up as a 'priest' in 1792 and continued his trade until he died in July 1827.

SIMON LANG 1827-1872*

Simon Lang was born in 1792; he took up the marriage trade on the death of his father in 1827. He was a weaver by occupation and a great friend of John Linton of Gretna Hall. He took his job very seriously and, when summoned from



David Lang.



Simon Lang.



William Lang.

the loom, he would put on a tall 'lum' hat and a long-tailed black coat and carried his register. Simon Lang witnessed many changes in the habits and manners of the population. Chaise and four gave way to railway carriages; many 'touts' set themselves up as rival priests waiting at Gretna Junction to 'capture' a young couple. Such scenes were the undoing of the trade and this, along with local opposition, brought about Lord Brougham's Marriage Act of 1856 stating that one of the contracting parties must stay in Scotland for 21 days before any marriage could take place. This halted the trade to almost non-existence and whilst being described as "extraordinary alert and agile" at the age of 81, Simon died peacefully on 24th April, 1872.

He is buried in Gretna Churchyard.

WILLIAM LANG 1872-1896*

William Lang was born in 1821 and succeeded his father as 'accepted' priest but the trade in runaways was now very quiet. As a young man he was a weaver and, for a number of years, was district postman. He was very proud of the marriage registers he had inherited and this was

enhanced by his having occasionally to produce them in court! The last of the Langs to officiate as 'priest' died quietly in Springfield on 30th November, 1896, age 75.

ROBERT ELLIOT 1811-1839*

Robert Elliot was born in Northumberland on 11th February, 1784. The son of a farmer, he went in for stable work and served in various places. He was with the Carlisle firm of Wilson and Fairbairn, stage coach proprietors, at their Springfield establishment and whilst there he married Anne Graham, granddaughter of Joseph Paisley. Elliot went to live at the Queens Head Inn in Springfield and set up his marriage house in 1811. For some reason he gave up the trade in 1839 and he was known to be living in London in 1843 (he wrote his memoirs dated 1842 from London). He appears to have been in ill-health during the latter years of his life when he moved to Carlisle. He died there in March of 1847 and is buried in West Walls, St. Cuthbert's Church.

JOHN LINTON 1828-1851*

John Linton took up the tenancy of Gretna Hall

in 1825. His name appears regularly as a witness, but by 1828 he began to sign as 'priest'. (Unlike the previous priests, he married only in his establishment; the others were roving priests and would marry in the ale-houses and inns.) He continued his trade of marriage-maker to the nobility until his death in March of 1851. He is buried within sight of his beloved Gretna Hall at Gretna Churchyard.

WILLIAM JARDINE 1851-1856*

William Jardine never described himself as a priest; he was a shoemaker but he witnessed many weddings. His name appears on certificates from Gretna Hall after Linton's death.

THOMAS LITTLE around the 1840s*

Thomas Little, known as Tom the Piper, was a blacksmith in his youth in Northumberland. He was a huge man weighing 23 stones and delighted in playing the bagpipes. He took a two-storey house in the centre of Springfield, called it the Gretna Wedding Inn, and his son painted a sign depicting a blacksmith's shop. Unfortunately, Tom was illiterate and no certifi-

cates of his marriages are in existence. He 'married' around the time of Simon Lang.

PETER DIXON

Peter Dixon married in the Maxwell Arms, which was later named the "Wedding Inn" (this was the same place that Tom Little had).

DAVID RAMSEY McINTOSH

Married until marriages over Anvil became illegal in June, 1940. Photographs of many of the Priests can be seen on the walls of the Blacksmith's Shop in the Hotel grounds.

JESSIE GRAHAM

Gretna Green had a lady priest who performed many weddings. She was brought out of retirement to perform the very last legal marriage over the Anvil at Gretna Hall on 30th June, 1940.

*All these are approximate dates of the length of time these 'priests' performed ceremonies during their lifetime.



Robert Elliot.



Peter Dixon.



David McIntosh.

Changes in the Hall

John Linton, as we have seen, married over a thousand couples at Gretna Hall. He died there in the year 1851, and was buried in Gretna Churchyard, within sight of the lovely old Inn where he saw so much true romance in the heyday of the runaway marriage period. His widow carried on in his place for a few years, but unfortunately for her new laws on marriages were made which put an end to the romantic matrimonial flights from England.

Lord Chancellor Brougham—who eloped himself to Gretna with Sarah Buck, his mistress—drew up the Marriage Act of 1856, which ruled that one of the contracting parties had to prove that he or she had resided for at least 21 days in Scotland prior to being married.

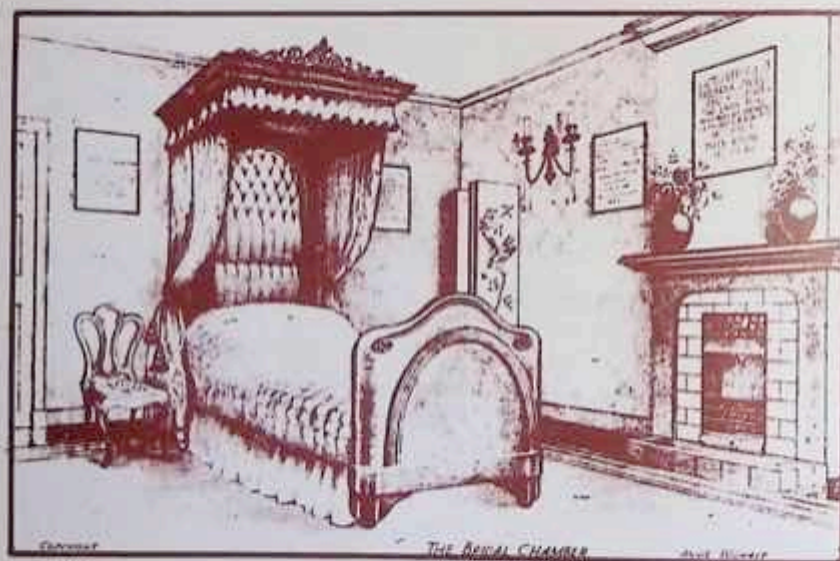
Gretna Hall eventually became a private residence once more, taking its place as Manor House to a wide parish. It was finally sold as a single portion when Gretna Estate was broken up in 1889. Since then it has briefly been a private mental home as well as a private house, but for many years now it has been an hotel. North British Trust Hotels purchased it in 1983 and, after a complete renovation and modernisation pro-

gramme, the hotel now has 116 bedrooms—all with private facilities.

Its historical features have been carefully preserved. The rooms in the old Hall are the same rooms the 'Bishop' Linton knew, with the same beautiful outlook, for the masonry, interior plan and grounds of the mansion have not been altered since the days when it flourished as a 'marrying house' for the elite of this country and many others.

The plans of the stairways and lounges are most attractive. Visitors will notice as they walk through these rooms that some of the windows have been walled in. These 'blind' windows were a retaliation against the old Window Tax, or, more properly, an evasion of that strange taxation method.

The Bridal Chamber is still a letting bedroom and the main features have been retained, with a four-poster bed and tasteful period decoration. The original old canopied bed can now be seen in authentic surroundings in The Bridal Chamber, located in the Blacksmith's Courtyard.



The original Bridal Chamber, now on view in the Blacksmith's Courtyard.

Why blacksmiths?

So where did the myth arise that, in the early days, there was a marrying blacksmith at Gretna Green? None of the 'priests' we know about were blacksmiths (other than Thomas Little who was apprentice blacksmith in his youth, but not in Gretna Green). And yet the fleeing lovers come looking for the blacksmith, romantic novelists wrote about marrying over the anvil, artists painted blacksmith shop weddings and, in any court cases which arose to which the priests were called, they were addressed as 'Mr Blacksmith.' So was it the media who created the myth? One solution is that it must be remembered that there were Hanoverian Kings on the English Throne George I, II and III up to 1790 and the German word for Blacksmith is GROBSCHMIDT, Grob meaning clumsy or rough and Schmidt meaning forger—hence, one who forges roughly! Also, Robert Elliot writes in his memoirs "—in 1810 I became acquainted with the celebrated Gretna Green Parson, Joseph Paisley, the reputed blacksmith, but who only got that name from his quickness in uniting eloping parties, for the common saying there

was "Strike while the iron is hot, Joe." Certainly, local people, at the time of these marriages taking place and being written about and who had lived in the village all their lives had never heard of a blacksmith performing weddings.

Another theory is that of Mr Justice Rokeby who travelled the Western Circuit in 1693 and tried a case in which the man claimed his wife by "a blacksmith's marriage" and gained a verdict. This seems to prove that there was some now-forgotten custom of irregular marriage in England during the 17th Century, and it is probable that this legend was carried over the Border into Scotland to become particularly and intimately associated with a Gretna Green marriage. Another theory is that a minor 'priest' erected a sign on his house depicting a blacksmith's shop, with a young couple joining hands over the anvil, with the honest smith bringing down the hammer to give the union heat. However, if the anvil wedding was a legend at one time the legend became a fact, and now that fact has become a living legend.

Modern day marriages at Gretna Green

Recently, many couples have been married at the Anvil by a minister. This ceremony incorporates a Christian ceremony in a traditional setting. Gretna Green has such a romantic appeal that many couples, young and old, still come to the village to be married. Each year there are over 4000 weddings at the Registry Office in Gretna. Many of these went to the Office for the legal ceremony, but then came straight up to Gretna Hall for an Anvil marriage. First the marriage of the law, then the marriage of the heart! Thus associating themselves with two and a half centuries of Gretna Green Romance.

The law now says that you do not require residential qualifications for the Civil Ceremony. You can simply apply by post with a minimum of 15 days notice.

So things have gone full circle and many couples come to Gretna Green just for the day in order to get married!

You are here in the Blacksmith's Shop to reaffirm your marriage vows and, in doing so, you become yourselves part of the history and tradition of Gretna Green.

And your witnesses are not only we who are here with you. Your witnesses are also in spirit, the countless thousands of others who, over the centuries, have made the same journey, and the same commitment. As the Blacksmith joined two metals together over the anvil and made them one, so I now join two lives together—

NEVER TO BE PARTED.

Jim Jackson,
Blacksmith,
Gretna Green.

Thanks are due to Val Phillips of Gretna Hall Hotel. Her research into the history of the Hall has been invaluable in contributing to the publication of this leaflet.
