

PETITION

of

**SIR NORMAN MURRAY ARCHIBALD MACGREGOR
PRINGLE OF THAT ILK and of STICHILL Baronet**

**claiming to be entitled to recognition as
Chief of the Name and Arms of Pringle of that Ilk
with a confirmation of the appropriate Ensigns Armorial etc.**

FINDINGS AND REASONS

Introduction

1. Sir Norman Murray Archibald MacGregor Pringle (hereafter referred to as “the Petitioner”) lodged a Petition seeking official recognition in the Name, Style and Dignity as Chief of the Name and Arms of Pringle of that Ilk. Together with the Petition was lodged a Schedule of Proofs 1 to 3 containing 9 documents. The original Petition was dated 18 August 2009 and the matter was sisted by the Lord Lyon of the day until the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council decided the case of *Baronetcy of Pringle of Stichill* 2016 SC (PC) 1. Following completion of that case, the Petitioner was entered on the Official Roll of the Baronetage as the present Pringle Baronet of Stichill as heir male to the body of Sir Robert Pringle of Stichill, created a Baronet of Nova Scotia on 5 January 1682/83. An amended Petition was lodged by Senior Counsel for the Petitioner, Rothesay Herald (Sir Crispin Agnew of Lochnaw Baronet QC) (hereafter referred to as “Rothesay”) on 4 October 2018.
2. By Interlocutor dated 28 March 2019, a hearing was set down for Thursday, 27 June 2019, at George House, Edinburgh, and the Petitioner was ordered to prepare and lodge a note of argument setting out the arguments advanced in support of his claim no later than 20 June 2019.
3. On 20 June 2019, the Lord Lyon appointed the Petition to be intimated on the walls of court, granted warrant for service of the same to be advertised on the Clan Pringle Association website for a continuous period of 30 calendar days, and ordered all persons claiming an interest to lodge Answers within 42 days. No Answers were lodged.

4. The following documents were lodged by Rothesay on behalf of the Petitioner:
- (i) Note of Argument for the Petitioner;
 - (ii) Inventory of Productions for the Petitioner, including Genealogical Charts numbered 1 to 3, at Annexes 1 to 3, listing named individuals [1] to [38], [39] to [48b] and [49] to [55] respectively;
 - (iii) List of Authorities for the Petitioner paginated 1 to 224;
 - (iv) Curriculum Vitae of Gordon MacGregor (witness);
 - (v) The Abstract of Evidence (The Chiefship of Pringle), the Report on Research (The Chiefship of Pringle) and the Schedule of Evidence (The Chiefship of Pringle). All of these documents were prepared by Gordon MacGregor, who was the principal witness at the hearing.
5. As noted above, the Petitioner before the Court sought recognition as Chief of the Name and Arms of Pringle of that Ilk. His claim is set out in the amended Petition of 4 October 2018 and can be summarised as follows:
- that the Petitioner, Baronet of Stichill, residing at Cyprus Cottage, Warrendene Road, Hughenden Valley, High Wycombe, EP14 4LX, claims entitlement to the Ensigns Armorial of Pringle of that Ilk together with the addition of a canton of Nova Scotia and the badge of Baronet of Nova Scotia pendant from its ribbon proper together with a blue chapeau in respect of the Petitioner as Representor of the Baronial House of Pringle of Stichill, with the grant of a standard and pinsel;
 - that the Petitioner married, firstly, on 18 June 1966 (at Nairobi, Kenya), Lysbet Watkins-Pitchford, who died on 17 December 1991; and married, secondly, on 28 August 1992 (at High Wycombe), Patricia Nadine Molloy;
 - that the Petitioner has issue by his first wife a son and heir apparent, born in Nairobi, Kenya on 23 May 1972, namely Alastair Steuart Ronald Pringle of that Ilk and of Stichill younger;
 - that the Petitioner is the eldest son of Sir Ronald Steuart Pringle of Stichill, 9th Baronet, who was the eldest legitimate son of Sir Norman Robert Pringle of Stichill, 8th Baronet;

- that the said Sir Norman Robert Pringle of Stichill, 8th Baronet, was officially recognised as in right to the Pringle of Stichill Baronetcy and was entered on the first Roll of Baronets published in the London Gazette of Friday, 20 February 1914;
- that following the decision of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council given on 20 June 2016¹, both the Petitioner's said father, Sir Ronald Steuart Pringle of Stichill, Baronet, and the Petitioner under the name of Sir Norman Murray Archibald MacGregor Pringle of Stichill, Baronet, were entered on the Official Roll of the Baronetage, as stated in the Certificates of Succession.
- that the Petitioner by his succession to the baronetcy of Pringle of Stichill is the heir male of the body descending from Sir Robert Pringle of Stichill [51]², who was created a Baronet of Nova Scotia on 5 January 1682/83 with a destination to the heirs male of his body and who recorded Ensigns Armorial of the Pringles of Stichill in his own name in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland on or about 12 September 1673;
- that the Hoppringills or Pringles of that Ilk, the principal family of the name or clan, were established at Hoppringle in early times but that there is a clear descent of the principal male line from William Hoppringill of that Ilk [1] and his son, Adam Hoppringill of that Ilk [2] (both mentioned in a charter 1407), to John Hoppringill of that Ilk and of Torsonce [16] (c. 1666–1737);
- that following the death of the said John Hoppringill of that Ilk and of Torsonce [16] on 21 December 1737 without male issue, Sir James Pringle of Stichill, 4th Baronet [55], whose family descended from William Hoppringill of Whitton and Craigleith [39], younger brother of the said Adam Hoppringill of that Ilk and of Burnhouse [7], became the male heir of Pringles of that Ilk and of Torsonce;
- that following the death of the said John Hoppringill of that Ilk and of Torsonce [16] on 21 December 1737 without male issue, the succession of the chiefly estate of Torsonce passed to Margaret Hoppringill of that Ilk [22] and her husband, Gilbert Pringle [53a], second son of Sir John Pringle of Stichill, 2nd Baronet [52];

¹ *Baronetcy of Pringle of Stichill* 2016 SC (PC) 1

² Numbers in [00] refer to numbers in the genealogical charts 1 to 3 contained in the Inventory of Productions

- that on the death of said Margaret Hoppringill of that Ilk [22] and her husband, Gilbert Pringle [53a], without issue, the estate passed to Walter Pringle of Torsonce [53b], third son of the said Sir John Pringle of Stichill, 2nd Baronet [52] on or about 1765;
 - that following the death of said Walter Pringle of Torsonce [53b] without issue, James Pringle younger of Stichill [55], later 4th Baronet, was served as heir on 26 July 1769 and succeeded to the estate of Torsonce, thus bringing the estate of Torsonce into the Pringle of Stichill line; and on 22 February 1782 he was also served heir of provision to said Margaret Hoppringill of that Ilk [22] in respect to the lands and estate of Torsonce; therein his succession through the said Gilbert and the said Walter is narrated;
 - that in the foregoing circumstances, the Petitioner is now in right of the Name and Arms of Pringle of that Ilk and Torsonce as (i) the male heir of the Pringles of that Ilk and Torsonce and (ii) alternatively, following the succession of Sir James Pringle of Stichill, 4th Baronet [55], to the chiefly estate of Torsonce;
 - that the Ensigns Armorial of Pringle of that Ilk are not recorded in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland but are known from ancient usage, including being recorded in a manuscript of c. 1542 of Sir David Lindsay, and noted by Alexander Nisbet in Volume 1 of his System of Heraldrie as Argent, on a bend, Sable, three Escallops, Or; Crest, an Escallop as the former; Motto, Amicitia reddit Honores; supporters dexter a deer, and sinister by a gray-hound, Argent, both collared Sable, charged with Escallops, Or; and upon the compartment the words Pressa est Insignis gloria facti.
 - that the Barony of Stichill was acquired from John Gordon of Lochinvar and John Belshes of Tofts by the Pringles of Stichill by Charter of Confirmation dated 30 July 1628 and remained in the family until disposed of in 1853;
 - that in these circumstances, the Petitioner is Representor of the Baronial House of Pringle of Stichill.
6. At the hearing in George House on 27 June 2019, Rothesay led evidence from Mr Gordon MacGregor, whose Curriculum Vitae and record of research were lodged in the Inventory of Productions. Rothesay took me through the experience of Mr MacGregor in this field, including being a witness in previous claims before the Court of the Lord Lyon in the area

of clan chiefship, and the nature of his research work. I accept that Mr MacGregor, for the purpose of this Petition, is a credible witness with regard to the research.

7. I also accept that Mr MacGregor's evidence is based on a number of years' research into the Pringle genealogies.
8. Rothesay referred me to his Note of Argument and submitted:
 - (i) that there is a clear succession from William Hoppringill of that Ilk [1], who died c. 1390, to John Hoppringill (or Pringle) of that Ilk [16] (c. 1666 to 1737);
 - (ii) that the Pringle of Stichill line (Genealogical Chart No. 3) are the heirs male of the Hoppringills of that Ilk in succession to the Hoppringills of Craigleith & Newhall (Genealogical Chart No. 2);
 - (iii) that Margaret Pringle of that Ilk [22] was the daughter and heir of John Hoppringill (or Pringle) of that Ilk [16] and married Gilbert Pringle of Torsonce [53a] second son of Sir John Pringle of Stichill, 2nd Baronet [52], who succeeded to the Torsonce estate in right of his wife; that on the death of said Gilbert Pringle of Torsonce [53a] without issue, the estate of Torsonce passed to Walter Pringle of Torsonce [53b], third son of the 2nd Baronet; and that, on his death without issue, the Torsonce estate passed to Sir James Pringle [55], later 4th Baronet, who was served heir of provision to Margaret in the disposition rather than as heir of his brother Walter;
 - (iv) that the Petitioner is the heir male of the body of Sir Robert Pringle of Stichill [51], 1st Baronet, further proof of which is the Petitioner's entry on the Official Roll of the Baronetage.
9. At the hearing on 27 June 2019, I raised several issues which were of concern to me in relation to the following:
 - (i) the law of Curators in relation to the appointment of the curators to Margaret Pringle of that Ilk [22];
 - (ii) the extinctions of James Hoppringill [35], George Hoppringill [36], Adam Hoppringill [37] and William Hoppringill [38], the brothers of John Hoppringill of that Ilk [9];

- (iii) the attribution of William Hoppringill of Craigleith [39] as brother of Adam Hoppringill of that Ilk [7].

10. I received a supplementary Note from Rothesay addressing these matters on 11 November 2019. After consideration of the submissions made and the further productions lodged addressing these matters, I was satisfied to the necessary standard of proof based on the evidence before me.

11. Having considered all of the evidence before me and taking into account the oral evidence of Mr Gordon MacGregor and supporting documentation and the submissions of Rothesay, I found the following facts to be established:

- (i) that the Petitioner has established for aught yet seen that he should be granted official recognition as Chief of the Name and Arms of Pringle in linear succession to John Hoppringill (or Pringle) of that Ilk [16] (c. 1666 to 1737) as set out in the evidence;
- (ii) that for aught yet seen the succession from William Hoppringill of that Ilk [1] (who died c. 1390) to John Hoppringill (or Pringle) of that Ilk [16] (c. 1666 to 1737), as recorded on the Genealogical Chart No. 1, is clearly established and correct;
- (iii) that the Pringle of Stichill line (Genealogical Chart No. 3) are the heirs male of the Hoppringills of that Ilk in succession to the Hoppringills of Craigleith & Newhall (Genealogical Chart No. 2);
- (iv) that Margaret Pringle of that Ilk [22] was daughter and heir of John Hoppringill (or Pringle) of that Ilk [16] and married Gilbert Pringle of Torsonce [53a], second son of Sir John Pringle of Stichill, 2nd Baronet [52], who succeeded to the Torsonce estate in right of his wife; on the death of Gilbert Pringle [53a] without issue, the estate of Torsonce passed to Walter Pringle of Torsonce [53b], third son of the 2nd baronet; and, on his death without issue, the Torsonce estate passed to Sir James Pringle [55], later 4th Baronet, who was served heir of provision to Margaret in the disposition rather than as heir of his brother Walter;
- (v) that the Petitioner is the male heir of the body of Sir Robert Pringle of Stichill [51], 1st Baronet, further proof of which being his entry on the Official Roll of the Baronetage;

- (vi) that as the heir male of John Hoppringill (or Pringle) of that Ilk [16], and in any event the Stichill line having inherited the chiefly estate of Torrance as heir of Margaret Pringle of that Ilk [22], the Petitioner is entitled for aught yet seen to the Chiefship.
- (vii) that the Petitioner for aught yet seen is entitled to have maintained, ratified and confirmed the undifferenced arms of Pringle of that Ilk in his name. Although those arms are not recorded in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland, I accept the evidence of ancient user as set out in the manuscript of c. 1542 of Sir David Lindsay and as noted by Alexander Nisbet in Volume 1 of his System of Heraldrie.

12. I have reached these findings in fact for the following reasons:

- (i) The productions contained in the Inventories of Productions satisfied me that all senior lines of the family other than that of the Petitioner are extinct in law and in fact. I have had consideration to the absence of evidence in relation to some of the genealogical links and the conclusion which can be drawn from that absence of evidence and, bearing in mind the historical nature of some of the documents and the evidence in its totality, I was satisfied that these lines are extinct.
- (ii) The documentary and oral evidence of the witness, Mr Gordon MacGregor, on the balance of probabilities, substantially supports the Petitioner's claim. I have found Mr MacGregor's evidence to be reliable and the documents submitted to be supportive of the Petition.
- (iii) The evidence is convergent that the Petitioner is willing and able to assume the Chiefship.
- (iv) The evidence before me in its totality, for aught yet seen, has proven that the Petitioner descends from the chiefly line and is entitled, not only to the chiefly ensigns armorial, but also to the Name and Arms of Pringle of Stichill which are recorded in Volume 1 of the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland.

13. Accordingly, I allow the prayer of the Petitioner to the extent that I find the Petitioner entitled (i) to be recognised in the name, style and title of Sir Norman Murray Archibald MacGregor Pringle of that Ilk, Baronet, Chief of the Name and Arms of Pringle; and (ii) to maintain, ratify and confirm the plain undifferenced Arms of Pringle of that Ilk, with supporters and the additaments appropriate to him as a Baronet of Nova Scotia in his name.
14. The Petition is allowed in terms of paragraph 13 above. I put the Petition out by order to discuss the blazon of the badge, standard and pinsel for which the Petitioner also seeks a grant. I leave the claim to be Representor of the Baronial House of Stichill for further discussion, as I am considering the whole issue of the baronage following the decision of the Court of Session in *Hamilton of Rockhall v Lord Lyon King of Arms* 2019 SLT 1380.

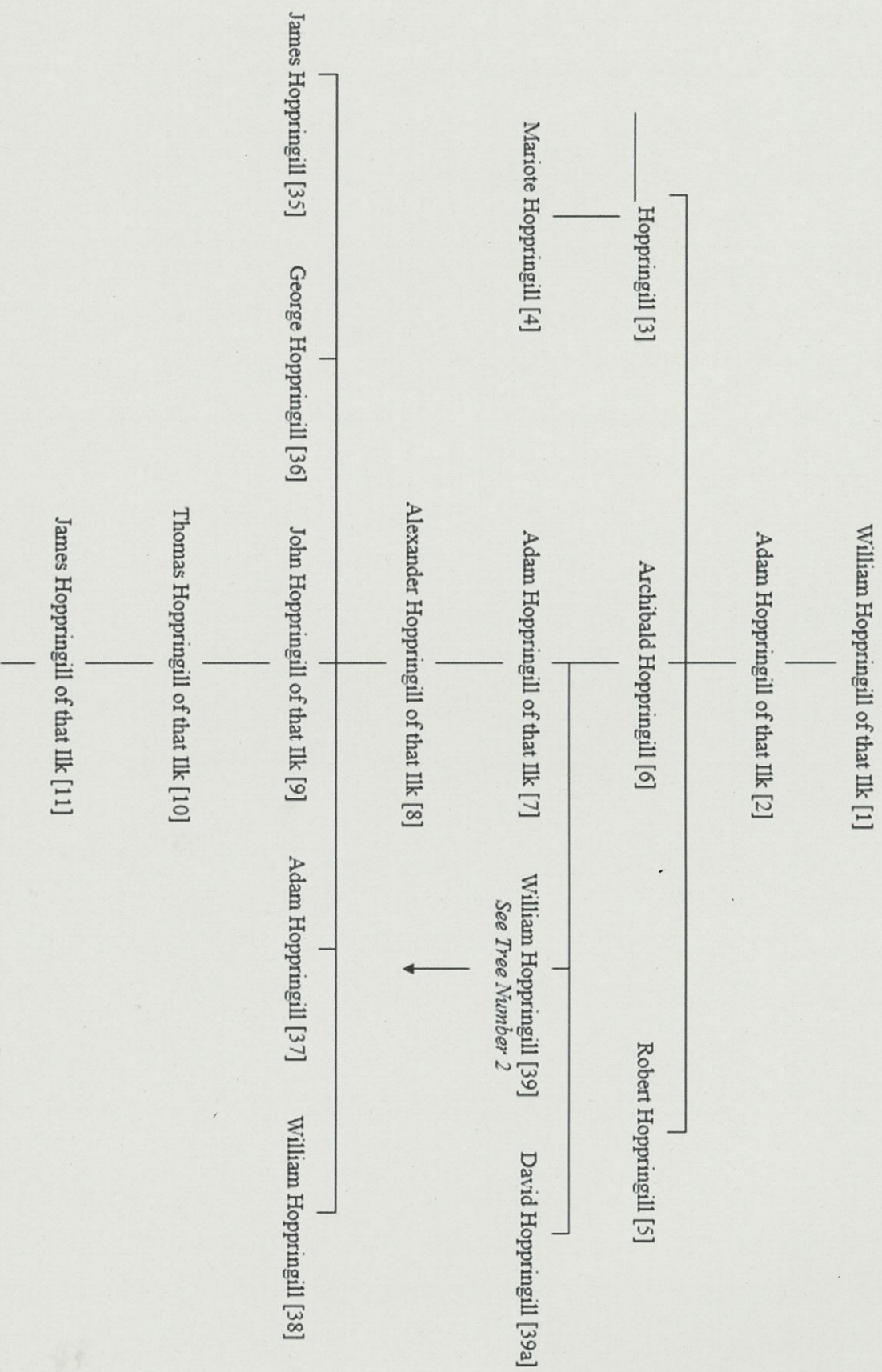
A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Joseph John Morrow", written over a dotted line.

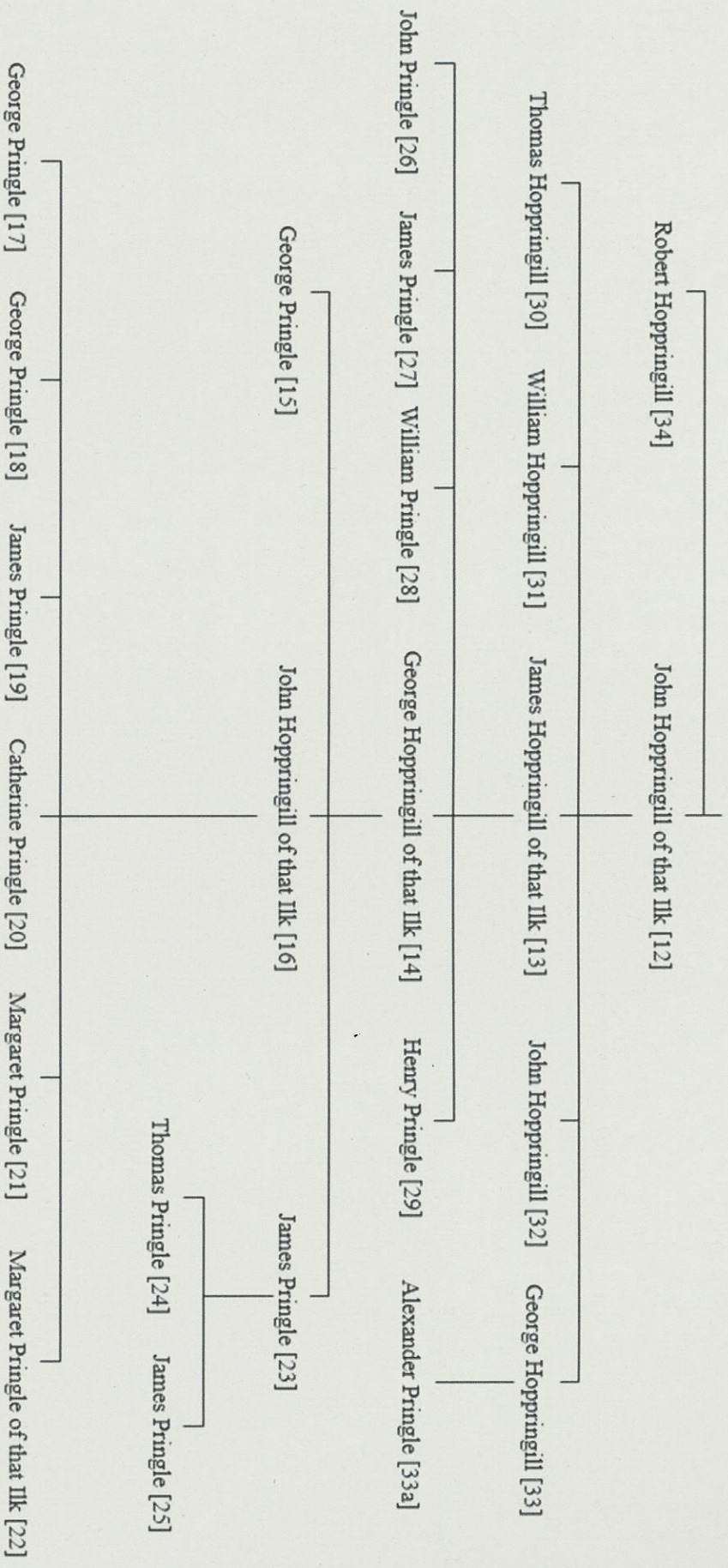
Joseph John Morrow CBE QC LLD
Lord Lyon King of Arms

Dated: 18 February 2020

GENEALOGICAL CHART NO: 1 - HOPPRINGILL OF THAT ILK & TORSOCE

ANNEX 1





GENEALOGICAL CHART NUMBER: 3 - PRINGLE OF STITCHILL

