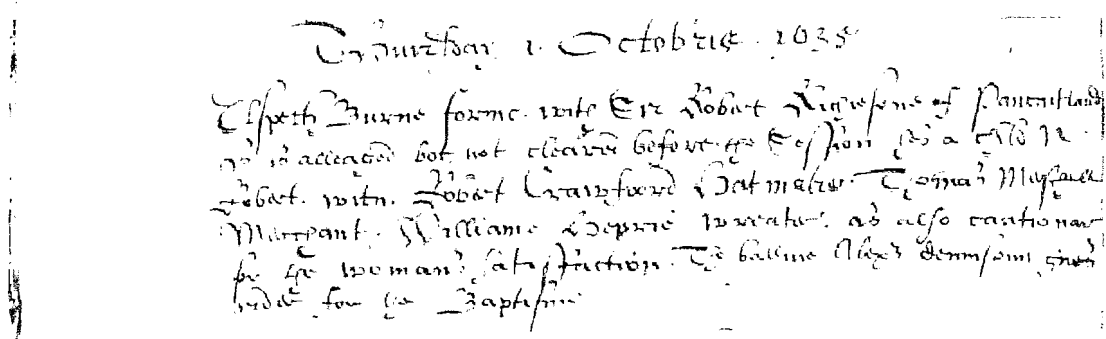


# 01/10/1635 RICHARDSON, ROBERT (O.P.R. Births 685/001 0040 0281 Edinburgh)

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Transcription of baptism

[https://webaccess.fit.edu/mail/src/printer\\_friendly\\_bottom.php?passed...](https://webaccess.fit.edu/mail/src/printer_friendly_bottom.php?passed...)

From: "Diane Baptie" <mail@dbaptie.freeseve.co.uk>  
Subject: Transcription of baptism  
Date: Tue, October 16, 2007 2:32 pm  
To: drichard@fit.edu

Donald

Here is what it says

Thuisrday 1 Octobris 1635

Elspeth Burne fornic[at]rix with Sir Robert Richiesone of Pancaitland as is al bot not cleared before the Session hes a child n[amit] Robert with[esses] Robe Crawford hatmaker Thomas Merschell merchant William Henrie wreater as also cautionar for the woman's satisfaction. The ba(i)illie Alexr Debnistoun give order for the Baptism

You will see that she was not the former wife of Sir Robert Richardson, but ha a child by him in fornication and that she appears to have been before the Kir Session but that the matter had not yet been resolved.

From: "Diane Baptie" <mail@dbaptie.freeseve.co.uk>  
Subject: Re: Transcription of baptism  
Date: Wed, October 17, 2007 2:17 pm  
To: "Donald Richardson" <drichard@fit.edu>

Donald

Thank you for your e-mail. Could I point out that the entry in the parish does not 'imply' that Robert was illegitimate, but states it very clearly. It also indicates that Elspeth Burne had appeared before the kirk session and was in the process of being dealt with by them. There is possibly some material about this in the Canongate Kirk Session Minutes.

Also, could I point out that Scotland had its own legal system and so there was no such thing as UK Common Law then. At that time too, illegitimacy did not have the stigma that it later acquired and most landed gentlemen acknowledged their illegitimate children and looked after them financially and gave them properties. Some also applied to the King to have those children legitimised.

Best wishes  
Diane