

Sir

Edent 1 March 1808

MP 10

As you have lately expressed a wish to obtain for the purpose of being deposited in the Library of the Faculty of Advocates the Bandrol I showed you many years ago, having painted on it, the Arms & motto of Keith Earl of Marischall; namely three Slugs heads, & the words Veritas Vincit. This Bandrol is now sent you for the Purpose above expressed, and I authorize you in my name, to offer it to the acceptance of the Faculty as a most curious Scots relic.

What I know of its history is, that it has been in Possession of our family (Shirving of Plewlandhill) from time immemorial, and the tradition of the family has been, that my Ancestor Black John Shirving carried it at the Battle of Flodden field, as Standard bearer to Earl Marischall. — At this disastrous battle my Predecessor was taken prisoner but saved the colours by tearing them from the Standard to which they were attached, & concealing them about his body. — That he was kept prisoner in England some years & upon his return, found another man croaching upon his lands but were resigned to the warrior on his re-appearance.

You will see by the map that the lands of Plewlandhill lie to the East of Keith Marischall in the Parish of Gumble, East Lothian and is separated from that estate by the Lands of Laerton

Spurnbie, in the heart of the former estate were a few
acres of Land belonging to Plew landhill which according
to my grandfather's relation had been given by Keith Mar-
-schall to my predecessor to bait his horse on, when he
came to receive the Earl's orders. And it was with
great difficulty & at the intercession of many friends
that my grandfather could be prevented joining Earl
Marshall in the Rebellion of 1715. - He having recei-
-ved orders to follow him & actually did so nearly to Lan-
-der, where having met with some of his friends they
prevailed on him to return for the sake of his numerous
family -

The materials & painted letters of this flag beloken
considerable Antiquity, but I can now give no further
proof w regard to it; having sold the lands and
delivered over the turlings of them forty years ago

I am

Your most obedt servant
William Skirving

To Mr William G. G.

William Shewmy

To

William Gibb

with a Band Role

for the Library

1 March 1868.

See Mr Gibb's edition of the
Battle of Flodden Field, p. 201.