**IVORY'S BUILDING, HIGH STREET**

On 31st December, 1744, Captain David Crichton inherited a tenement of land which had once belonged to Sir Alexander Wedderburn of Blackness, and thereafter to Alexander Wedderburn, sailor in Dundee. On 24 September, 1706, Mr Wedderburn sold the property to Thomas Crichton, maltman in Dundee and Margaret Skirling, his spouse, grandparents of the said David Crichton. By 1739 the property was owned by George Crichton, maltman in Dundee and others. The property is described as bounded by the Fleuchargate (later Nethergate) on the north; the property formerly belonging to the heirs and successors of David Hunter now of the heirs of David Ramsay, maltman, at the west; the property formerly belonging to the heirs and successors of William Alexander, now of Robert fowler, mariner at the east; the lands formerly of the heirs and successors of Sir John Fletcher now of the heirs of Andrew Husband, merchant on the south.

Mr George Dempster, MP for Dundee wrote to Town Council telling them that Mr John Crichton was home in London from India. Mr Dempster offered to act for the Council in negotiating for the purchase of the house belonging to his Mother, Mrs Crichton of London, in life-rent and Mr John Crichton in fee. Mr Dempster pointed out that the purchase of this property would be for the public benefit by enabling the Magistrates and Town Council to open a new and better Communication between the High Street and the Shore. On 1 October, 1776, the Council empowered Mr Dempster to act of their behalf and also authorised him to assure Mr Crichton, that whenever the said street shall be made out, it shall bear the name of Crichton's Street, as a testimony of their respect to the memory of the late Captain Crichton and of their grateful sense of the favour done by his widow and son in granting this accommodation to the Town and County. The sale went ahead and part of the property was used to lay down the top of Crichton's Street.

In April, 1782 the Council agreed to sell of the remaining part of the property purchased from Mr Crichton of London by public Roup. The property stood on the east side of Crichton's Street then carrying down from the Nethergate to the fish market (latter Greenmarket) and bounded by the High Street on the and William Gibson's property on the south. At the Roup the property was purchased by James Ivory, watchmaker in Dundee for £330 sterling.

James Ivory (1762-1795), watchmaker, was admitted Burgess on 22nd September, 1767 having paid 50 merks Scots in full. He rose to considerable eminence as a watchmaker in Dundee, and made the clock for the steeple of St Andrews parish Church. He served as a Town councillor from 1768 till 1789. His son, James Ivory, the famous mathematician, afterwards Sir James Ivory, was born in Dundee in 1765 and educated at the Grammar School. He studied at St Andrews University and Edinburgh University, and for a time taught at Dundee -Academy. He obtained an appointment as Professor of Mathematics at the Royal Military College, which was established at Marlow, but was afters moved to Sandhurst. This appointment he held till his failing health necessitated his retirement in 1819. He died in London in 1842.

'Thomas Ivory (d 1825), watchmaker, Dundee was the third son of James Ivory, watchmaker, and was admitted Burgess in 1795. He became an engraver and executed illustrations for an edition of Rollin's Ancient History, published in Dundee in 1800. His best known work

was a set of copy lines prepared for teaching handwriting, published in 1811. He made education of the youth of Dundee his special study and it was largely owing to his letters to the local press that important education reforms were accomplished within the Burgh. His son, James Ivory (1792-1866), advocate, was admitted Burgess 1816. Educated at Dundee Academy, he studied for the legal profession at Edinburgh. Made a Lord-Ordinary of Session in 1840. He was appointed a Lord of Justiciary in 1849 and served both in the Court of Session and the High. Court of Justiciary until his retirement in October, 1862. His eldest son, William was admitted Advocate in 1849 and was Sheriff of Inver,ness-shire. Thomas Ivory also had a son William who was a writer (solicitor).

In 1920 The North of Scotland and Town and County Bank Limited sold that tenement of land which was built by the now deceased James Ivory, watchmaker in Dundee, which consisted formerly of three flats and two shops and thereafter consisted of three flats and one shop together with the cellars and garrets thereto belonging lying on the south side of the High Street of Dundee. The Town council demolished the building and built a bank on the site. Today it is the site of Barclay's Bank, Thomas Cook, travel agent and council offices.

Courtesy Friends of Dundee City Archives