

## Lady Grizell Baillie

Grizell Hume was the daughter of Patrick Hume. Patrick Hume was Baron of Polwarth in Scotland. Grizell grew up in sad times. In Scotland Christians were not allowed to worship freely. The King, Charles II and his brother the Duke of York were cruel. They caught Christians who worshipped in the open air. "You may only worship how we say," they said. The Christians were put in prison.



Sometimes they were put to death. Grizell's father was sent to prison. When she was 10 he was set free.

Grizell's father had a friend. His name was Robert Baillie of Jerviswoode. Robert Baillie's brother-in-law, James Kirkton, had been captured. A cruel man called Captain William Carstairs had captured him for the king. Robert Baillie managed to rescue his brother-in-law. For this he was put in prison himself. The prison was in Edinburgh. Grizell's father wanted to help him escape. How could they get messages to Robert Baillie in prison? No one would be let in to see him in prison. It would be hard to help him escape.

Grizell was only a girl. But she was a brave girl. Her parents trusted her. She was only a girl. But she could keep secrets. She was only a girl. But she was strong. She could walk a long way. Her father thought of an idea. No one at the prison would suspect a little girl. Could Grizell carry a message to the prisoner? It was a long way to Edinburgh but Grizell set off. She was only a girl. But she found the prison. The guards let her in to see Robert Baillie. She was only a girl. "She cannot help a prisoner escape," thought the guards, "she is only a girl." Grizell told her message perfectly. She took a message back again to her father.

Robert Baillie's son, George, was with his father in the prison. Grizell was only a girl. But he took a lot of notice of her. George remembered Grizell. He thought about her every day.

Then came a plot to kill the wicked king and his evil brother. The plot failed. Many people were put in prison. There were many good people whom the king did not like. "You were in the plot!" the king would say. Then those good people would be put in prison. Some were in the plot. Many were not. It did not matter to the king. He could get rid of all his enemies this way. Robert Baillie was caught in London. "You were in the plot!" said the king. Robert Baillie was sent to prison in Scotland.

Now Grizell's, father, Mr Hume, was afraid. "They will put me in prison again next!" he said. For a year nothing happened.

Then the order came: "Catch Mr Hume and put him in prison!" Soldiers came to his house. He was not there. They came again. Once more he had escaped. "I must hide," said Mr Hume. Do you know where he hid? It was not a nice place. A mile from his home was Polwarth Church. In the church yard was a big tomb called a vault. It was under the ground. All his dead ancestors were buried in the vault. Mr Hume got into that vault. He was shut in with the coffins. Only three people knew where he was. His wife knew. James Winter the carpenter knew. And Grizell knew.



"We must not tell anyone else," said Mrs Hume. "We must not tell the servants. They will be questioned. They will be asked to swear that they do not know. If the king's men think they know they will

torture the servants to find out where he is.<sup>1</sup>

The vault was large. James Winter managed to get a bed and warm bedding into it for Mr Hume. He stayed there for a month hidden away. There was a tiny chink in the vault. It was in a wall at one end. Just a little light could get in through the chink. No one could see into the vault through the chink.

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<sup>1</sup> Image courtesy of Scottish Covenanter Memorials Association. Polwarth church was rebuilt in 1703. The vault is still underneath but now there is a grating as in the picture.

Grizell loved her father. What could she do to help him? “I will look after him,” she said. “He will need food. I will take it. He will want to hear how we are. I will go and tell him. I cannot go in the day time when I might be seen. I will go at night.”

Grizell went every night. She went at midnight. Everyone else was asleep. She took food. She took something to drink. She stayed as long as she could. She went home before it got light. No one saw her. She told her dear father everything that was happening at home. She was very cheerful. She made him feel cheerful too. She told him all the family's doings. Sometimes there were funny things in what she said. That made them both laugh.

In the end Mr Hume escaped. He went to Holland where he was safe. Grizelle and her mother went too. Wicked King Charles II died. The evil Duke of York became king. He was King James II of England and VIII of Scotland. Prince William of Orange came over to England from Holland. The people flocked to him. “Please be our king instead of James,” they said. James ran away to France. William became king and his wife Mary was queen. God had sent England, Wales and Scotland a good king again. Mr Hume and his family came home from Holland. They were safe now.

George Baillie had not forgotten Grizell. He had remembered her every day. Now George Baillie could marry Grizell. How happy they were at last!

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