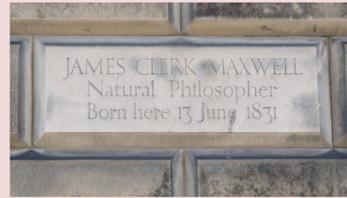


# The Young James Clerk Maxwell: Scotland 1831-1850

- ❖ Born at 14 India Street, Edinburgh, now the home of the *James Clerk Maxwell Foundation*
- ❖ Only child
- ❖ Father a lawyer of independent spirit and means, with an interest in the latest science of the day

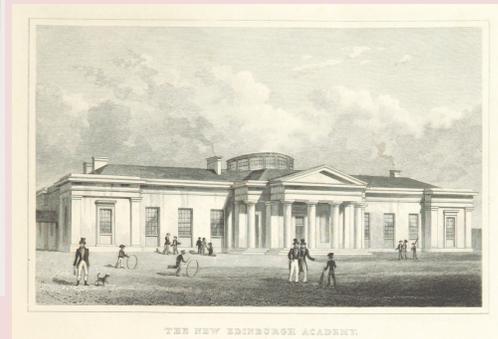


- ❖ Maxwell spent much of his early years on the family estate of Glenlair in Kirkcudbrightshire
- ❖ He enjoyed messing around in the countryside and making youthful 'experiments'
- ❖ He was always asking questions like "What's the go o' that?"
- ❖ The family house burnt down in 1929 but a restoration programme is being organised by *The Maxwell at Glenlair Trust*



James Clerk Maxwell with his mother. Engraving from a painting by Wm Dyce

Glenlair house at the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Maxwell's birth. Some restoration has since been carried out.



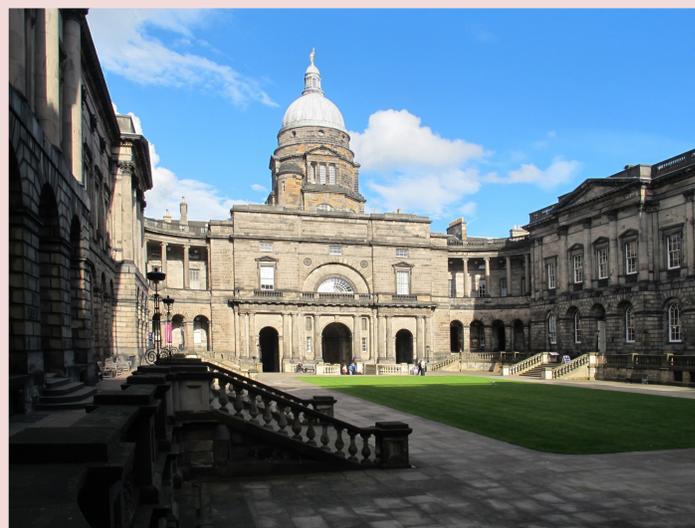
Maxwell tubbing on the river Urr at Glenlair, a drawing by his cousin Jemima Wedderburn, courtesy James Clerk Maxwell Foundation

Maxwell's father (left), young Maxwell and family arrive at 31 Heriot Row in 1841 to stay with his aunt while at school, from a painting by his cousin Jemima Wedderburn, courtesy James Clerk Maxwell Foundation

Edinburgh Academy, Maxwell's school

- ❖ At the age of 8 Maxwell was sent to the then new school of Edinburgh Academy where he met other gifted children
- ❖ Over the years he rose to equal or exceed them
- ❖ He was good at the classics and English literature as well as maths and science
- ❖ Had his first 'scientific' (mathematical) paper accepted by the Royal Society of Edinburgh when aged 14

- ❖ 1847-1850 Maxwell attended Edinburgh University where he studied *Philosophy, Maths, Physics, Logic and Metaphysics* for 3 years as a private student
- ❖ Read works in Greek, Latin and French for fun
- ❖ He made many home experiments



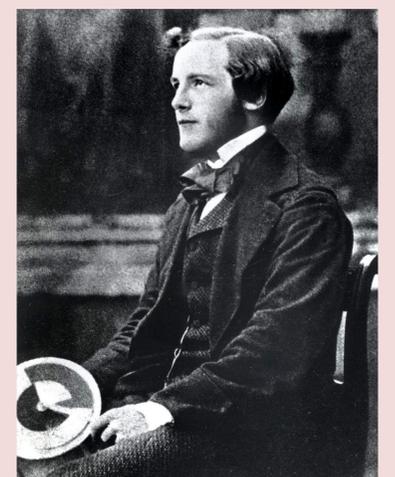
'New College', Edinburgh University, where Maxwell studied

## Cambridge 1850 - 1856



The Great Court at Trinity College, Cambridge, where Maxwell studied for most of his Cambridge days

- ❖ Student at Cambridge University Oct. 1850 – 1854
- ❖ Enjoyed walking, bathing and sculling
- ❖ Acquired a reputation for brilliant and independent thought
- ❖ graduated in 1854 as 2<sup>nd</sup> Wrangler and Smith's Prizeman
- ❖ 1854 – 1856 Scholar and Fellow of Trinity College



James Clerk Maxwell, aged 24, courtesy James Clerk Maxwell Foundation