

"Holdfast," slashed his long rowels into the flanks of his steed "Baliol" & pressed on as a man would do riding for his life calling at the pitch of his voice - "to him, Holdfast, my good tyke, to him - to him laddie I say, to him - my head or the Buck - my head, or the Buck - to him my gude dog, to him" At this critical moment the Buck made a plunge into the Tweed & "Holdfast" on the top of him, which caused a great struggle, when the Laird came up jumped off his panting horse, dashed into the stream knife in hand & cut the hamstrings of the poor beast - All was now safe, and when the King came up with his retinue they found George Bell sitting on the Bank beside his prize which he most respectfully presented to his Majesty - but refused to part with his horse or his dogs. The King then said, "Laird 'twas a noble chase & good sport, you've saved your head & gained your ground *Habebis quod contraxis* will be the motto of your arms, Supporters we decree that you shall bear The gallant horse you rode so well And the Buck you slew yoursel Your Falcon shall be your Crest" - and here the King presented him with a Signet ring bearing a Coronet on which the Falcon stands to this day - The tract of land was made over to him in Annandale, and to his Heirs, for ever. He became a great favourite with the King and fought under his Standard at Bannockburn on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June 1314 when he defeated 100,000 English troops.

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Signed { A true Extract  
Geo: Bell Lt. Col:  
"The Royal"

Halifax Nova Scotia  
July 25th 1844

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Excuse this hasty copy dear Hattie

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Then I shall affix his Arms & Supporters.

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*N.B.* Spellings and punctuation as the original, however erratic.