

# The Political Parties: Squadrone Volante

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## George Baillie of Jerviswood, politician (1664–1738)

George Baillie was born at Jerviswood Tower in Lanarkshire. He served in the army of William of Orange and returned to Scotland in 1688. He entered politics in 1691.

In 1704, Baillie joined the Scottish Privy Council as part of the new administration headed by the Marquess of Tweeddale. Tweeddale's government was dismissed from office in 1705. Tweeddale's new party, known as the *Squadrone Volante*, refused to re-join the opposition and held the balance of power in Parliament. The Court Party saw union as a necessity and reluctantly members of the *Squadrone* took the same view and voted in its favour.

Baillie represented Berwickshire in the first British Parliament. A keen Hanoverian, he served George I in the House of Commons. He resigned as an MP in 1734. He was buried at Mellerstain in Berwickshire.

## John Ker, 1st Duke of Roxburghe, politician (c.1680–1741)

John Ker entered politics in 1703. He served in the Marquess of Tweeddale's administration from October 1704 to May 1705 as a member of the *Squadrone Volante*. Tweeddale's ministry was dismissed following the *Worcester* incident. The Duke of Argyll, a member of the Court Party, headed up the next government. The *Squadrone* remained in the centre of politics, entered into the union debate, and their combined votes were crucial in securing the union.

Ker was created Duke of Roxburghe in 1707 and was elected as one of the 16 Scottish peers who sat in the House of Lords. He joined the Privy Council in 1709 and fought against the Jacobites at the battle of Sheriffmuir.

John Ker retired from politics in 1725 and died at Floors Castle in Roxburghshire in 1741.



John Ker, 5<sup>th</sup> Earl and 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Roxburghe, c.1680-1741, by an unknown artist. Copyright: Scottish National Portrait Gallery, reference PG 1021

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### The Union of 1707

#### John Hay, 2nd Marquess of Tweeddale, politician (1645–1713)

John Hay was the eldest son of the 1<sup>st</sup> Marquess of Tweeddale. He entered public service in 1668 as a Colonel of foot in Haddingtonshire militia and sat on the Privy Council during the 1670s. He remained a council member during the reign of James VII. When William came to the throne, he was appointed sheriff of Haddington.

He became an MP in 1695. When his father died in 1697, he became 2nd Marquess of Tweeddale. In 1704, Queen Anne made him Lord High Chancellor of Scotland. He was voted out of this position in 1705 but remained in Parliament as a leading figure in the *Squadron Volante*.

Tweeddale was involved in the union negotiations and sat on the parliamentary committee that calculated the equivalent, the sum of £400,000 to offset Scottish treasury debts and to compensate shareholders in the Company of Scotland. He voted in favour of the articles of the treaty from November 1706 to January 1707. He was chosen as one of the 16 Scottish representative peers to sit in the House of Lords in the new British Parliament. He died suddenly in 1713 at Yester where he was buried.

#### Sir Patrick Hume, 1st Earl of Marchmont, politician (1641–1724)

Patrick Hume was born at Redbraes in Berwickshire. He was elected MP for Berwickshire in 1689. He sat on the committee that offered the Scottish crown to William of Orange. In 1696, he was made Chancellor of Scotland and the following year, he received the title of Earl of Marchmont.

In 1703, he succeeded in passing an act securing Presbyterian church government in Scotland. As a leading figure within the *Squadron Volante*, he spoke in favour of the treaty of union.

His political career declined after 1707 when he failed to be elected to the House of Lords. He died at Marchmont House in Berwick in 1724 and was buried in Edinburgh.



Sir Patrick Hume, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Marchmont, 1641-1724 by William Aikman. In the collection of the Earl of Haddington. Copyright: Scottish National Portrait Gallery, reference PGL 22