

PLACE NAMES (OF E. SUTHERLAND)

1

- 1211 totam terram meam (Hugo Freskyn to Gilbert) de Scelbol
in Sguthyrlandia et de Fernebuchlyn, et Inuerchyn
- 1212 de tota terra de Scelbol .. Fernebeuchlin Inuerchyn
- 1214 Scelbolil Fernebuchlyn Inuerchen
- 1222-45 clun (= Clyde) Durnach ~~Ech~~ Echenbol
Durnach methan ~~Durnach~~ (town (uille) de Echenbol
city [↑] civitatis terra [↑]
de ~~Crech~~ Crech, .. de Proinci, de Auelech, de
* Stradormeli Stradormeli, de Athesdale et Ruthuerchar ..
* Rothegorth Durnach, Huctherhinche apud Durnach. Rothegorth
(church of), Scelleboll, church of Larg,
● * ^{Sc+} _{sy} Scitheboll et Sywardhoch ("to the treasury, the
church of larg with its profits + pertinents, the
garbhal teinds of ~~the~~ Scitheboll and Sywardhoch
except the teinds of the precentory at Stradormeli
-") . Far Helgedall Ra (=Reay) Helgedall
Far, Bower and Watne (Watten)
("to the chancellor's treasury + archdeaconry, the
* Pethgrudi whole lands of Pethgrudi and the 2
Herkenys are assigned (totam terram de P,
et totam terram de duabus H)" , The
● church of Kelduninach, 3 parish churches
of Olrick, Donat and Canisby + the church of
Synend Scynand Dyrnes {Thoreboll and Kynald
decimas [↑] garbarum de Tel de K
+ 20 acres of land near Durnach cum tofto et
crofto in eadem civitate.

1235 Katannie

Skellebolle Ferinbeldin Skellebolle Ferinbeldlyn
Ros

1275 Cathannie Suthirlandie. Super castro de Schythe-

* Syth -bolle et sex clauatis de Sythheraw cum passagio
et duabus clauatis terre cum dimidia de

* Mig, Sw Miggewec, Swerdisdale, Creych, cum piscaria de la

* Cut

1275 (cont.) Bunnach de Cuttheldawach, de duabus clauatis de Monimor, (ditto) de Awelec, de tribus clauatis de Promsy, de una clauata de Rowetherchar, de tribus quateriis de Haskesdale, de dimidia clauata de ^{Achoosna} Hachencossy, de tribus clauatis de Thorebolle, de duabus clauatis de Kynalde, et de quatuor clauatis de Largge

(charter re the controversy between the Bishop + the Earl of Sutherland - in the end William Earl of Sutherland granted to the Church the castle of Sythebolle with 6 clauochs of land adjacent, + 6 claus of land of Sytheraw with the ferry, + $2\frac{1}{2}$ claus of Miggewec, Swerdel and Creych, with the fishing of the Bunnach, + 2 claus of Monimor, with their pertinents - to be held forever (in perpetuum) in peace by the church of Caithness. The rest of the lands, namely 2 claus of Awelech, 3 claus of Promsy, 1 of Rutherhard, ^{neargumbar} 3 of ^{Aske} Haskesdale, $\frac{1}{2}$ clau. of Hachencosse, 3 claus. of Thorebol. 2 claus of Kynalde, 4 of Largge and 1 of Cuttheldawach remain in possession of the Earl. And the Bishop gave a clauach of Oweres worth $\frac{1}{2}$ a merk, to the Earl

Dunnach Signed in the cathedral church of Caithness, 22 Sept 1275

c. 1284 (Strathbogie)

c. 1307-8 (French) ^{Comte de} Sutherland et de Cathenesse
le Gardeyn de Moref

1322 (lost charter) the lands of Dingwall + the lands of Frenerosherie (Greek)

1330 ~~Sgt~~ Suthyrlandye (3)
Moravia (3) Culbyn

1345 Sutherlandie

Watson's paper on Sutherland place names in
Celtic Review April 1906, p. 360 and 232.

Assynt Parish

Eddrachaila Eader - dha - chaila 'between the 2
cold streams (kald á)

Up Vnapool - Uni's or Una's ból - Uni's homestead
Sulven Sula - (ven for) fjall - pillar hill (cp. Goar
fell)

L. Borrolan - fort land (borgar land)

Eddrachillis Parish

Merkland - march land - mark land (watershed)

Saval & sabhail - N há fjall high hill (4
of them in Sutherland of which 2 nearⁱⁿ Louig)

Durness Parish

Stona said (loch) stein setr - stone shieling

Solmar solheimar - bright town or ham

Crosspool - kross - ból - cross farm, stead

Eilean Klourig klotar - vik, the cleft bay

Fashven - hvass fjall - pointed hill

Scrishven - skriðar - landslip hill

Fornaven . ? & wart hill or ON vind fjall, wind hill

Farrmheall . ? fær fjall - sheep hill

Maovally & Maobh alaibh. maga fjall - paunch
hill (from its rounded hill)

Doonadill ? þornagil - thorn gill

Armli - Arm hús - bay slope (or pass
(or L. Erriboll.) lead fence slope)

Flirum - Hitarholm - sloping isle

Parish of Tongue

Cuniside & caonasaíd kona setr - woman's
shieling

Dion side & ? dyn - setr noise shieling

Fealaside (Fallside) fjall setr - mountain shieling

Boarscaig Bútar shiki - bothy strip

Laoghall (Benin) & laghal . Lagafjall law
hill or beet hill

Thursligh - thursa hlít - giant's slope

Farr Parish

Coulside G. cúl-saíd, kúl-setr knob-shieling
or rounded hill shieling

Leac bijnón - Björn's flagstone

Bouside Bú setr - dwelling shieling

Poulouriscaig - Pol-eyr - skíki - the hollow of
the gravelly beach strip

Ressal - hross-vallr - horse field

Brawl G. Breithal - breið-vallr - broad field

Clibreck ? kleif brekka - cliff slope

Bagastie, Vagastie - vaka staðr - watch stead

Drum - basbáigh - G drum ridge + ? baðs bærr
bath stead

Ach cheargary - ach G. field + ~~the~~

kjarr-garðr, copse farm

Mudale Múta dalr - muddy dale

Halma dery Halmaðs - erg - Halmað's shieling

Fleuchany fluga - erg 'fly shieling' I wd suggest
(surely nor? Wer shieling?)

Reay Parish

Ach Ramascaig - G Ach field ~~at~~ ~~the~~

hratr skíki - raven's strip

Trantle more } Thronð + ? dale + G more etc
" beg }

Kildonan Parish

Truderscaig (not juggler's strip) perhaps
trot, pasture + skíki strip

Ben Armin G. armunn hero, ON ármadr
gen. ármanns, steward, controller. (Partly in
Clyne). But N name Ormin is often found

Gricmachany - Grim garðr Grim's farm

Shelabostdale - shel-bolstaðr-dale - shell farm
valley = Scalabsdale

NOTE 2 SIDES
probably pronounced "Ree-ow-er"

reamhar = fat, greasy, oily, gross, coarse

* PTO
Creag Reamhar presumably "Greasy rock", but
any name beginning with Ri or Re in this glen may be a shieling name

Achormlarie

Cuthegormolaye

1557 Auchegormalaye, Auchegormulie, Auchegorm

1746 Achgormlary Auchegormula

Could be achadh - gorm - lar "field of the blue/green soil", but according to Bentinck "there is a ruin of a very ancient dwelling there, and this would give achadh gorm larairigh (this is an old genitive form of larach 'ruin'), so that we may have "field of the green ruins" (I think we may have "the green field of the ruin")

Normally a remote place name ending in -airigh would be seen as an -airigh "shieling" name, as in Garraigh, Sleastaigh a few miles to the west. But in the upper glen of the Evelix, ruidh seems to be the name for a shieling. airidh can also mean "a green place among the hills".

Achraich - achadh a' bhàithich "field of the birch"

Auchivegauch
Some say it is achadh a' bhathaich "field of the byre", but this seems less likely. 1557 is the earliest occurrence, but there seems to have been a holding of the same name near Skibo, which causes confusion.

Achosnich 1275 Hachencossie, and possibly

Achenecolas
1557

Auchenicholas

1557 Achene colas, Auchenicholas, one of two pendicles to Achvaich (the other being Auchegormalaye or Achormlary). The name suggests coisneadh "service, servitude, field-labour" (acc. to Bentinck) but mounds in the vicinity suggest achadh a' chosnaidh "field of warfare". Seems unlikely to me.

Cowan, E J. Caithness in the Saga . pp. 25 - 45.
p. 25: Dornud + Darradar within 5 lines

26 Skarp Hedin, Gudrum cp Guðmundsson, p. 27

Laxdaela

Grettir's saga but Njals Saga, Egils Saga Njals Saga cp p. 33

Ganger-Hrofn's Saga rather reminiscent? Njals Saga

27 Katanesinga Saga, surely?

juor as much? No

end of 2nd par - rubbish. rather blundered?

Sigurd? Guthorm? Hallad?

perplexed? Rogwald?

noteworthy aspect centres upon?

Why accents on Ländmánaþók + nor on Njals,
+ Pálsson Wot

28 settled in the Hebrides?

Breidafjard

ancestor worship?

Eptjalsbakki (Sn. Sturluson Heimster. 78)

Print end of 1st par - misinterpretation
of the text

Sig. corrupted by the natives? ha ha

short stay? 20 years

Sydora in strathoybekk - No

29 if TE did, + if it was T. nes

fled to Scotland where if not Caithness?

Depressingly facetious - 1st par.

33 eponymous. what?

34 ~~Svein~~ Svein Atleiffson??

37 prostitutes poetry - what rubbish

also the bit about Svein's wife - bilge

41 42 Caithnessians?

1345. Sutherlandie Abirdene

1346 " " Kincairdyn Moravia

1352 Sotheyrland Moravia Pytwer & Aldy (Perth??)

1357-8 - lost

1359 Switherland Doung Forfar Kincairdin Abir luthnir
Fethicame Fermartyne Kintar Abirdene

1360 Sotheyrland (2)

in the free barony which is called Thorbol, i.e.

3 daws of Thorbol, 1 of Roueartkar, 1 of Assastel

1 of Proncey superiori (= Over Proncey), 1 of

Proncey inferiori (= Nether Proncey), 1 of Pronce croey,

2 of Euelek, 1 of Grody brook, 1 of Sibyr soc,

2 of Kylpedre, major + minor, with the quarter of
Meyng ferri, 1 of Caden lying on the E. side
of the water of Strathulli, + 1 of Kylpedre lying
on the E. side of the same water

Thorbol

(charter by William, St E. of Sutherland, granting
Thorbol barony to Nicholas Sutherland, his brother)

1361 Strathorne, Cathanense, Orca dense.

Cathanensem Ros

1362 Sothirland

1363 6 clascachs of the land of Ruchy, cum
pertinenciis, in Straflethe infra vice comitatum
de Inuermyss [Sir Robert Gordon, Genealogy
of the Earls of Sutherland, p. 428\$ says
the lands of Ruchy & Rowie were

"Rowie - Craigtoun, Rowie - Kirkton, Kintrayed,
Inchchep, Davegh-beg, Acheywely, Rossole,
and Pittentrayl"

1365 Sutherlandie Fermartyne Abirdene

1400 (~~D~~ Drumroy, Backies, Torrish in Sutherland)

1408 Suthirland(e) Duffous
(ie)

1409 Atholie et Ceithnes

1444 Torboll from John 7th Earl of S to Alex.
S., lord of Torboll (Pontefraer 12 July 1444)

Suthirland, Duffhus. Thurboll Inverness

Thorboll Thurboll (2)

*lik • Thurboll, Stragh agh chann, kilil Thurboll, lik, Prounsecroie,
Nethirprounse, Ouirprounse, Aghaghasshe, Dale,
*Skibers Royaghier, Grodebroerer, Karoumenzhe, Sipursale,
Kilpedder more, Kilpedder beg, acra terre iacente
ex parte australi de Helmesdale, Kabeyn et
Kilpedder, iacentes in Strethulzhe, + the pertinents
belonging to the holding of Thurboll, to the value
of a £40 land

1448 Suthirlandie

• chapel of sr Andrew of Golspi

Ratir (Sir Alexander of Ratter)

villam de Dromroy cumcroftis et terris circa
capellam

apud Dunroben

Thuroboll

1451 Suthirland, ~~F~~ Fors (Scots charter)

tone off Drommy in Suthirland

perpetuall chaplane of sant Andrew's
chapel of Golspy

Cathines Suthirland of Berydall

Duffhouss

1455-6 (No. 31) Sutherland

Suthirlande Inuernis Inuurnis ~~thin~~ Inuurnes

1455-6 (No. 32) Inuurnis Suthirland

Lothis, Cracok, Culnagoure er le ~~thin~~ Vuirglen
(2 towns called Loth, + lands of Cracok, Culnagour and — Ufirglen

1455-6 (No. 33) Suthirlande Inuurnis

Lothis, Cracok, Culnagoure, Vuirglen

1455-6 (No. 34) Suthirlande Dufhous Thurboll Clyne
Inuurnis

1460 Dyngvale Rossensis the Brakbane, Orde, + the
islands commonly called the Eilanis, + the common
pasture towards Vssy

1467 Sasie pro John Earl of S. in the lands
*Spinn. of Pulrossie and SPAINZIDELL (lost charter,
referred to by Sir R Gordon, p. 429).

1471 Forse Backies, Tottish, Drumoy (ditto, p. 430)

1472 Sutherlandie Suthirlandie (Angusii Suthirlandie
de Thureboll)

terras de Thureboll micle et Thureboll litle, terras
de Strathacharne, Ruryachare, Askadaile, terras
de Vfir ~~Proa~~ Prounsy, Nethir Prounsy, Prounsy Croy
et Evikik, terras de micle Gillpedir et litle
litle Gillpedir, Grudebrora et Scēberskek
*Skibb (SCHEBERSKEK) in Strathbrora, terras de Caven
er Gillpedir in Strathulze

Dornach in ecclesia cathedrali Cathanensi
NB this charter is signed (among others) by
Farchardo, penitentiarius dicte ecclesie
cathedralis. Also by David Carnegie

1490 (Aboyne area)

1492 Sutherland Thurbell Inverness Dunrobbyn

1494 (lost - see Sur RG, p. 430) Precept of Clare Constable by
John E or S pro. Jean Terrel, in the Terrel's lands
in Strathfleur.

1496 (No 42) (Aboyne area - Adam Gordon)

" 43 " " " "

1509 (no 44) Sutherland Dingwall

1509 (no 46) Sutherland

castro de ~~D~~ Dunrobin

chaplainries of Golspy, Helmsdaill

Cathness

1512 apud Dornoch (first spelling thus)

infra villam de Dornoch

certis terrarumcroftis et tenementis infra villam de
Dornoch situatis

in burgo de Dornoch

(Return of Special Service of Sir Thomas Murray
as lawful son & heir of Alexander Murray, his
father in certain crofts & tenements situated within
the town of Dornoch, & also in 2 crofts
that formerly belonged to Paul Burges, lying
in the earldom of Sutherland, burgh of Dornoch
& shire of Inverness; which crofts & tenements were
held in chief of the bishop of Caithness.)

1512 (No. 50)

castro de R. Dunrobyn

Golspy Helmsdale

Sutherland

Malcolm Malcolm Rathar, Vicar of Culmaly

Angus Murray vicar of Clyne

50 (cont) names of signatories

Malcolm Rathar, vicar of Culmally

Angus Murray " " Clyne

William Clyne " "

Alexander Cruikshank

Robert "

Malcolm Lesly

Charles Langland

Cuthbert Balze

1514 (5th June) ~~Sunderland~~

(No 57) Sutherland Suthirland Helmsdaill Cathanes

Invernes

~~no~~ 1515 No. 59 Helmsdaill

1515 (No 60) Ferne Suthirlandie Golspy Culmally

Golspy Schoderland

Dawee Stewart of the Dell Golspy

1515 No 61 Ferne Golspy Culmally

Petty Latheroun

1516 (No. 62) Spine Cathnes Suthirland Dunrobin

Sutherland Clyne Cavene castle of Dunrobyn

Cathnes Crichtoun of Frendraicht Strathwize

1516 (No 63) Suthirland Helmsdaill Balnawale,

Dowypoll Kildonnan Frisgill Kynbrace Knockfyn Fre

Dunrobin, Weik Girnigo Ballnawale Kildonnan

Swesgill Kilbrace Knockfyn Free Cathnes Helmsdaill

Balnawale Dowypoll Kildonnan Swesgill Kynbrace

Knockfyn Free Spyne

1517 Sunderland (signed I. Mackay in Strathnaver
with my hand on the pen)

1518 (No 67) Suthirland Dornocht Dunrobin

1518 (No. 68) Sutherland Strathnavir Strathflet

1518 No. 68 lands of Straithflet, i.e. lands of Larg,
 Schemeis^{skinness??}, Moy, Ryne, Cragy. "an honorabill man
 the laird of Skelbo" - his seal was borrowed by
 Mackay + affixed to the agreement

1522 Kilmary Straithnavir Suthirlandie Cathanensi
 Johanne Murray de Cambussane

1524 John Terrell of Doill given the lands of
 Kilcatmkil in Strathbrora

● 1524-5 (11th March 1524-5??)

Cathnes Suthirland Suthirland Hilmysdail

1525 (No. 73) PRONSY

Sutherland Duffous. Pronse

the lands + lordship of Pronse videlicet
 the lands of the 2 towns of Turbois with the mill
 thereof, the lands of Dalmanayn, Vuir Pronse, Pronse
 Croy; Pronse Nayn, lands of Ewillec Ewillec with
 the mill thereof, lands of Ruarchar, Austisdail,

*Scibb Grude Broray, Schebriskraig (= Sciberscross) Kilpeddir moir
 ● Kilpeddir beg, Cawen + the lands of Kilpeddir in
 Strathculze and its mill

Signed by both Adam Gordon + Eliz Sutherland
 "with my ^{hand} ~~pen~~ at the pen, becl be Maister Thomas
 Gaderar, notar public"

1525 (No 74) Sudirlandie Skelbo

*Dawoch dubh
 orientis Skelbo - Easter Skelbo, with its brewhouse +
 crofts, Dawauchdow, Auchandro, Paite Mayne, Balnobraid
 Cammesette, Estir Abbirschoir, Vester Abbirschoir,
 Littill Roart, Knock Cartnall, moir-Ench,
 Auchinclowecht, Innirschyn with its fishings, Petin-
 -trall, Assent, ~~Artirikquilles~~ Artirikquilles
 "Eddrachillis"

1527 the portis of Helmiscall, Dunrobin or Broray

1527 no. 78 Cambushaw Dunrobyn Golspetoure

1529^{no. 79} Duffous Skelbo (lands or, with the castle of the same)
Innerschire Auchindowicke with the fishing, lands
or ~~Esty~~ Estyr Abyskoure

1529 (no. 80) Dunrobin Strathneuir Cambusawy Dornoch
Strathneuir

1529 (no. 81) Touchys Reve Kirktown (= Reve Kirkton)
Reve Cragtown, Kintraid, Davauchbege Inchezep
Rossoll, Achhele // Innerbreky Dornoch Quambusave

1529 (82) Cambusarie Touchys Inachbreky Durnoche
Quambusarie

1529 (83) Skelbo Cathnes Dunrobin Duffos Cambusawy
Dornoch.

after 1542 Sutherland Cathanes "north the Ord"
"beneath the Ord" Dornoch Abirscors
↑
partis of Cathanes

1546 Murray Dunrobyn Sutherland

1547 Coulmaly Cathnes Dunrobin Suthyrland

1549 (92) Scrabistur Culmaly
(93) Girnego Cathnes Fær

1554 (94) Skelbo Innerschyn ~~Lynne~~ Culmale

1554 (96) Duffous, lands or Abirscor, Ester Auchindowicht,
or Innerschyn Culmane

1557

(97) John Earl S + Helen Stewart, Countess of Errol, his spouse

* Syth our lands of Wester Skebo, Sythera, Vilest (ullest)

* Vilest Ardalles, Ferretoun with the boar + ferry, Dawatsin,

Ullastair?? Drumdewane, Auchiveyach, with its the pendicles

called Cuthegermoleye and Auchene colas, the mill of

Skebo, the bishop's palace of Dornoch, the lances

of Force with their mill + salmon fishing, Ballze,

Stambuster^{av}, the 10 d. lances of Weik, Canzeouch

Quyis, Bischof's Quayis, North Killumister,

* Killumister South Killumister, the mill of Windelles with 3

aughtens of lands in Myrland Nome, mill of Lyche

with its miltures, 9½ d worth of the granter's

lands of Scrabustar with the fortalice or castle

thereof, John McKewin + Wm. Randelstoun's

lands excepting the crofts of Scrabustar with

¼ of the salmon fishings of the water of Thurso,

all the granter's lands, crofts + acres of his city

of Dornoch with their pertinents: such lands

of Wester Skebo paid yearly 8 bolls of victual

of farm duty, 4 bolls of victual or any milture,

price of the boll 10s.; 2 bolls of home corn,

price of the boll 5s; 2 dozen of poultry at

3d each; £4 Scots money of farm duty, + 16s.

of grassum, extending in whole to £11. 15s. Scots.

And the lands of Sythera and others above

specified paid yearly of rental the quantities

of grain, numbers of poultry, sums of money, etc,

to the sum of £227. 11s. 4d in the old rental.

... Further, because the granter's castle of Scrabustar

+ palace of Dornoch was situated in an Irish

(Hibernica) country among fierce + untamed

Scots (entailing much expence) the Bp appointed

the Earl etc hereditary constables of the castle +

palace for ever.

Ardaris 11

1557 wester Skebo. Sythera Vlesr. Ardallis Ferretoun
 (97 Auchevayich Auchegormuta Adchenicholas Dawauchsin
 com) Drumdewane - mill of Skebo, Force, Ballze, Stambur
 Weik Kennockquyis, Bischopis Quayis, North
 Kilimster, South Kilimster, mill of Windles
 mill of Lychmoir, Scrabuster, crofts of Scrabuster
 Thurso Dornoch Weik

Dawauchsyn. Drum Dowane Wattin Dorno
 Canesby.

Sythera rent. annually 8 bolls firm victuals, 4 bolls
 dry milture, precium bolle decem solidi, 2 bolls horse
 corn, " " quinque " , cleas duodecias
 poultry, pretium pecii 3 denarii (3d each), 4 libras
 morete pefate, Summe. xvi. s. gressume - in all,
 undecim librarum xii s. £ 11. 12s.

1562 Skelbo lands: mains of Skelbo (^{terras} dominicales), unacum
 fortificio (the fortalice) of Skelbo, lands of Ester Skelbo,
 & Petmayne, Cowll, Balleuraat, Cambusawye, Wester
 Abirscons, Morocht, Nurenes, Little Rowart, Ladie,
 Blaricht, Machaell, Langwell (dimedietatem terrarum de)
 Inner schyn, Auchindewich with salmon fishings, cuto
 of Machaell upon the waters of Oyshall, with
 mills etc. Also Pentraell, + the lands + barony
 of Pronsie called Thurbull meikle, Thurbull Little,
 Strathcharne alias Dalnamayne, Ruarachar, Assisedaell,
 Overpronsie, Netherpronsie, Pronsie Croye, Evillik,
 Meikle Kilpedder, Little Kilpedder, Gruclebrera,
 Schiberskeik in Strathbrora, lands of Caven and
 Kilpedder in Strathulzie. Dunrobbin, Sordalle
 (Charter by E. of S to Alexr. Sutherland of Duffus
 of barony of Skelbo).

1566 103 Golspie tower Doill Navadail, Borroboll,
 Eister Killernane, Vaster Killernane with mill, lands of
 Vlbister, Gatzeboll, Bereboll, Askeag, Altreboll,
 Cayen, Kilpedder in strathullzie with mill, Auchadail,
 water of Helmisdaill with salmon fishing, Eister Garthe,
 mya Garthe with mill, Vaster Gartat, Culgour, Melle
 Loch, Cracok, Litill Loch with mill, Glen de Loch,
 Clyne Tradowane with mill, Clyne Mullin with mill,
 middle part of Clyne Kirktown, Clyne Lyss,
 Dalchallum, Brora, Eist et Vast Syde with salmon
 fishings, lands of Doill, Carril, Kilmabrayr,
 Delfoldye, Vast Kelziebeg, Vast Kelziemoir with mill,
 Kylin, Gillecillum Kille, Kilfeddir moir, Kilpeoldar beg
 with mill, Seivirs craig, Groudebrora, Carnameyne, lands
 of Vppat, Inverboll, Clayesyde, Mellok, Dunrobbin
 with tower, fortalice, place, houses, gardens + pertinents,
 mill of Golspye, Glen of Dunrobbin, Allartoun, Bakus,
 Golspetowr, Golspe moir, lands of Ruittis, Kylmailzie
 moir with mill, lands of Drummoye, Kylmailzie
 Cragtoun, Eister Aberscors, Vestir Aberscors, Knockartoll
 Kynnalde with mill, Litill ^{Bearde} Reard, Murenes, Pitfuyr with
 mill, Pitintraill with mill, Kynbraid, Dawachbeg,
 (Rorie) Roy Kirktown, Roy Cragtoun, Inch^(e)Kipe, Rosall, Auchawall,
 Blarocht, Loyadie^{Leadie}, Langoll, Moy, Roynde, Cragge,
 Kynmon^{owye}ay, Leargis^{Largis}, Schegnes^{Schynenes}, Eddauchelis^{edderdachelis}, lands
 of Grayde^{Grade}, Pleddis, Pitfuyr, Pette, Rassie with mill,
 Auchannye, Innerschyn with salmon fishings, Auch-
 inelaucht^{dowycht}, Terebell^{Torreboll}, Dolaye^{Dolge}, Melle Adinche^{machill Arachiche}, lands
 of Casteltoun de Skilbo^{shelbo skibo} with place, fortalice, mill
 and pertinents, Cambussare, Balnabraide, Auchandro^{pr mmye},
 Eister Skelbo, Cowle, lands of Prompsie Castell,
 Prompsie nayne^{Promse}, Prompsie Crag, Averik^{Awelik} with mill,
 Askisdail, Roy Arghuar^{Rearguar}, Dalnameyne, Melle Torboll
 with mill, Litill Torbill.
 Golspie Kirktown, Helmisdaill, Dornicht (3 churches)

No. 103 Golspe Tower, Doill, Dunrobbin, Doill, clynelys,
 conr. Killecallumhille, Barksus, Drummo, Aberscors, Eister
 Kynmaide, Roy Kirkton, Pittintraill, Mele Torbou, --
 Casteltoun de Skelbo, Auchandro, Allertoun, Golspe Tower,
 Golspe Moir, Ruiffus, Kilmailye Moir, Kilmailze, Cragtoun,
 Eister Aberscors, Vaster Aberscors, Litill Reorde, Langoll,
 Motenes, Blaynis, Leadye, Rosseil, Inchekepe, Pittfuyr,
 Roy Cragtoun, Pettintraill, Dawachbeg, Kinttraide,
 Dalnameyne, Litill Torbou, Cambuslye, Ballinabraide,
 Rimeayne, Eister Skelbo, Cowll, Promsenayne, Prompse
 Croy, Prompse Castell, Logie, Rearquhar, Toskedall
 and Awelik. (note Logie + Toskedall (Aistle?) here)

Signed by honest men from ^{John Innes} Roy Kirkton, ^{John Leslie} Claysyde,
^{Tom Suth} Doill, ^{Wm Suth} Clyne, ^{John Williamson} Killecallumhille, ^{Wm MacAnnis} Barksus, ^{James Suth} Drummo,
 Aberscors, Torbou, Skelbo Ewelek, Mele Torbou
 Hugh Murray Alexr Sutherland Nich. Sutherland Wm Sutherland John Sutherland

(Instrum. of Sasine pro E of S. 1566)

1567 (104) John Grey de Swordell

Hugo Murray de Aberscors
 Walter Murray de Spainzedell
 Thomas Poulson de Creychmoir
 John Hay de Park
 Alexr. Murray de Dornoch
 Thos. " " "
 Alexr. Lewall de Craggye

← NB

1567 (105)

J G de Swordell
 H M de Aberscors
 Wm de Spainzedell
 TP de Creychmoir
 etc as above

← NB

1573 (107) Sordell
Abirskorss

(108) Sordall
Abirscroce ← NB
Dor Dunrobyn

109 swordell
Abirscoris

1580 (110) Skelbo Pronse Doill Clyntredwall

1587 (112) 3d land of Blarocht
towne + landis of Moy

Signed by Alexander Gordoun in Sydra
+ Johnne Gordoun of Clyntredvane

1589 (114) may Dunbeth Invermarky

(115) Wike Lathen Wike Cathnes Dunbeth
Knokenan Ladransulzie Langhallow Reisgill
(all in Caithness) Schurane Strathnava
Ariboll murkill Helmsclaill
Strathbroray
Strathulzie

(Deine and
utheris his
scheling places)

1590 117 Lochslyne Strawy Commyr

118 Spynie Dunrobyn Strathulzy
Ballinlone (Hugh Gordon)
Gilbert Gray of Sordall
Adam Gordon of Golspie Kirkton
Alexr. Tarnell of Doll

1591 119 10d land in Wike + Papingo
South + North Kibimsteris

The mill of Windles
Vlgia moir Vlgiambege Esterclaill, Westerclaill
Thornisclaill Straythulze Strathewlze Strathulze
Girnigo

1591 120 Achindoun
lands of Straythwillie: Balnavaliache, Duebill,
Kildonand, Swisgill, Kinbrasche, Knotfin,
Frie, Helmsdall, Auchadallie (Achindallie)
Wik + Pappingo South Kilmeister, N. dito, Wyndles
Wlgrem moir, Wlgrem beg, Thornesdall, ^{+ mill}
Easterdall + Vesterdall, Flakirk + Skynnand
Girnigo

1592-3 121 Forse Foirss Forss
John Gordon in Gillecallumkeil Buikkie
Dornach Pitman

1610 122 Glenheel Tongland Cullindoch (all Galloway)

1612 124 Stranaver Balinhagalis Girnigo
Gospitour Beridall

1630 127 Assinr (Robt Munro)
Strwy (Th. Fraser)

c. 1630 130 Skibo, Sitheray, Gordell etc
Catheynesse Proonsie Ewelik Kininald Laire,
Thorrobol Proonsie
Rowie craighorne in Strathfleur
Drummay Backie Torris Golspe
Olipter Gorseone of Drummay Thon Gorseone of Backies
Golspe Cracock Strathfleur

1647 131 Strathnaver Lochnaver Dunrobin
(Alexr. Clerk ... sent ... with a party to spy the
Free the day of Brekkach before the pacification)
the Free + Brekkach are both places
1647 132 Brekkach (that great clay at Brekkach
foughtin against Cowis)
1656 133 Sir John Gorseone of Embo + Robert Gray
of Skibo, cautioner. Alexandre Gorseone of Siddrie
* Sid

15 1656. 133. Strathnaver

Robert Gray of Arbo

1668 134 Stranawar Southerland & Dumbeth
Rhae Duffus

New Monro of Erriboll

1675 135 Strathnaver Dunrobin Golspie Melmisdall
myne of Golspie, Dyrie Kilmonoway Strathkeer

1715 140. Adam Sutherland of Seiberscross

(loyalty, courage + conductor of, became 3rd
captain in Regiment of Foot

Dunrobin

1716 W.S. Fraser was Proc. Fisc. in Dornoch.

Aberscross Abbirscro¹⁵¹⁶ Abbirschoir Aberscore Abirscors
Abyrskoure

Achavandra 1525 on

Achvaich? near Skibo? 1557

Asdale 1222-45 Askadaile Askesdale Assastel

Assisedaell Austisdale Haskesdale

(and Aghaghasshe Dale?)

Achormlary - Auchegormulie Auchegormuta Auchegormula
Cuthegermolage Stradormeli?

Cuth = Aich

Bakkies 1400

Balwraid 1525

Brora 1566

Cambusarie 1525

Canzeouch Quigis, Kennochquigis (near Wick) 1557

Carbisdale

Coul 1562

Crackaig, Craikaig, Cracock, Cracok 1455-6

Creich 1275

Culmally 1515

Cuthill — 1275

Cydehall Siddera Sythera Sytheran Syuardhoch
Doh — 1566

Dornoch — civitas 1222-45
church " "

Drumdwan 1557

Drummoy 1400

Dunbeth 1589

Dunrobin 1448

Echebol 1222-45

? Embo

Evelix Avelech Aulek Averik Awelec Aweleck

Awelik Euelek Ewiliac Wlik 1222-45

Farr 1222-45

Ferrytown 1557 (Meikle F.)

Force 1557

Frie, Free 1516

Garty 1566

Golspie 1330

Grodybrorak 1360

Hacchencossy ~~1222-45~~ 1275

Halkirk 1552

Helgedale = Strath Halladale

Helmsdale 1444

Herkkens, the two 1222-45

Hutherhinche, lands of " "

Inchape 1363

Invershin 1211

Kildonan church of 1222-45

~~parish of 1275~~

lands of 1516

Kilminster 1557

Killcolumkill 1524

Kilpedder in Strathullie 1444

Kilpedder (nr. Sciberscross) 1360

~~Kincardine (Ross)~~

Kinnalel, lands of 1222-45

mill of 1566

~~Kintadwell~~

Kyles Kyles of Dybell

Ladroonsulzie 1589

Larg Larg Large Leargis

church of 1222-45

lands of 1275

Langwell 1562 (Strathfleur)

~~last~~ Latheron, parish 1589

Laydie 1562

Lochnaver 1647

Logie, lands of 1566

Loth church 1275

lands 1515

Machaell lands of ~~15~~ 1562 } strathfleur (nr Langwell?)
water of

Mellotz (nr. Dunrobin) 1566

Methandurnaeh 1222-45

Melyng ferri (nr. Strathullie) 1360

Migdale Migdell (Vol I, p. 16) Miggewec 1275

Millenes Vol I p. 158

Monimor 1275 (nr Creich?)

Morness, Morenes Moirenach 1525

Morocht 1562 (~~between~~) = Morvich, nr Rogart

Moy, Muie 1518

Mudel, Mudale Vol I, 161, II 193

Navidale 1566

Olgrimbeg, more (Vlgrimbeg etc) (Caithness) 1591

Olig Olrig, Olrich, church of, 1222-45 (Canisby)

The Ord 1542

Lands of Orde (Dingwall) 1460

Owenes, lands of Vol I p. 16

Oybell, river 1582 (Machell supra aqua de Oy choll)

Papungo nr Wick 1591

Parte 1612 (cd be anywhere)

Pitfour 1566 (Invershin way?)

Pitgrudy, lands of Pitgrudi 1222-45

Pirneane Pitmagne 1525 (nr Achawandra + Balvraid)

Pittarkassie 1566

Pittentail 1363 (lands of)

mill of 1566

Pleddis, lands of (nr Gruids, ~~to~~ Laing) 1566

~~Plewlands~~

Proney, Proinci Proney Prompsie Promse Promsy

Proncey Pronsey Pronsie Prounse 1222-45

(lands + lordship)

Castle - 1566

P. Croy - 1360

P. Nain - 1525

Nether P - 1360

Over P - 1360

Pulrossie, lands of 1467

Rearauhar Rhiarchar Rouarcher Roveaukar Rowearker

Rowecherchar Royaghair Royarauhar Ruriarchar

Ry Runyachar Rutherford Rithenerchar, lands of,
1222-45

Reay, church of Ra, 1222-45

Reisgill (nr Latheron) 1589

Rogart (Rothegarth) 1222-45 Cp Vol I, p. 7, 63,
72, 79, 404 n. 409
446 + 145, 165

Rossail, Rosall, Russall, Rosseil, Rosshed, Rossoll
1363 1529 etc - all the Rossall in Str. Fleet

Roie, Str. Fleet 1363 1529

Rowart, Roart, Reord, Litte 1525

Scrabster 1549

Sewirscraig 1566 (= Schiercross.)

Shinness Cuinnesse Schemeis, Schenes, Schyenes

Schynenis 1518

Sibberscross, Schebriskeig Schiberskek Sibbersoc

Sibyrsoc Sipursale Sewirscraig 1360

see vol II p. 315

Skelbo 1235

Skibo, lands of 1275

castle of 1275

milk of 1557

Wester 1557

Sower 1589 id to anywhere phps nr. Dunkoth?

Spinningdale Spairzidell Spengoodall 1467 see

Vol. I 62, 67, II 272, 347

Stambuster 1557 (Caithness)

Stradorneli 1222-45

Strathbrora 1473

Strathcarnach or Dalnamain (Strathcarnag) 1444

Strathkeer 1363

Strath Halladale (Helgadall) 1222-45.

Strathnaver 1275

Strathwillie ~ 1360

Suisgill 1516

Sutherland 1307-8

*Swordale 1275

Terbell, Torbell, Berbell 1222-45

Terrells Lanes 1494

Trentham Vol I 467 489-91, 502. II 37, 316

Vibister 1566

Unes, ferry at Vol. I 67, 185, 217.

Uppat 1566

Urray Vol I 287

Vuest 1557

Wick 1516

Wmdes 1557

Scandinavians + Celts in Caithness: The Place Name Evidence by W.F.H. Nicolaisen, in Caithness: A Cultural Crossroads, ed. by John R. Baldwin for the Scott. Soc. for Northern Studies, 1982. pp. 75-85

p. 75 Intro Place ~~are~~ names do not give dates, but they do not destroy other evidence - they are neutral + need outside evidence

But they are useful for "relative linguistic stratification" especially when a particular type of name ceases to be used at a certain time + therefore indicates the end of a stratum.

76 Pre-Gaelic / Pre-Scandinavian Evidence

No linguistically ascribable pre G or pre S names at all. "Names like Dunnet, Bower, Ortain have so far resisted any attempts at satisfactory etymologization, but this does not necessarily make them earlier than those names which can with certainty be said to have been created by Gaels + Norsemen. Obscurity is by no means always the hall mark of antiquity ---" Ca be Pictish, as the name on Pettaland's fjartr indicates Picts in Caithness before Gaels or Norsemen. But no PiV names - the most northerly are Pitfour, Pitgrudy, Pitentrail (Rogart ~~Aberdeenshire~~) (Dornoch) (Rogart)

The Caithness Picts, like those in the N Isles + "other parts of the N. mainland" did not speak a Celtic language. Those between the F of Forth + the Moray F did speak a Celtic lang similar to both continental Gaulish and insular Cumbric and British (see Jackson, in The Problem of the Picts, pp. 129-166, + Wainwright The Northern Isles, 1962, pp. 91-112). (The PiV names indicate that SE Sutherland belonged to the S. Pictish province)

Charter 4 1222-1245 Appointment by Gilbert, Bp of Caithness
 of a Constitution for the Chapter of his Diocese.
 1 To support the canons, he assigned to each a particular
 + distinct prebend: to the deanery, the church of
 Clyne, with the pertinents, the garbal lands of the city
 of Durnach + of the town of Echenboll (Embo?)
 with the 4th part of the altarage of Dornoch

from "Skibo" by Joseph Frazier Wall, OUP 1984, p. 19.
 Skibo estate made over by Robert Gray to his
 creditors in 1745:

The townes and lands of Skibo, Castell Maynes
 of Skibo, Castell of Skibo, Mickell Swordaill,
 Tulloch, Migdail, Lill Creich, Lill Swordaill,
 Cuthill, Cuthillhaldail, Alistie, Steanfore,
 Riengollach, Rienrich, ~~Rienta~~ Rien mamie, and
 Culnara, the heritable office of Constabularie
 of the said Castell of Skibo, ~~Milns~~ of Milns
 of Skibo and Migdale, Salmond fishings
 of the Bonar, Lill Creich and Lill Swordaill,
 Towns and lands of Alistie, Auchvaich,
 and Ferrie town, passage of ferrieboat on
 the shoar of Portnaculter, Salmond fishings
 in the waters of Poltchurch, Ferrieness
 and Ardnakalk northmost of the twa milns
 of Siddera.

Mr Bill Wigner says Ryre was the old name
 for Clashmore

76 Name Caithness is "the oldest recognizable place name in this part of the world" - a tribal, not a place, name cp. Orc in Orkney - both given to the tribe by their Celtic-speaking neighbours (How does he know this, I wonder? pm) It is a Celtic animal name, & why wd non-Celts call themselves this? (Because to them it wasn't a Celtic animal name? pm) The Norsemen & the Gaels knew the Picts of Caithness & Sutherland as "the Cats", hence Katanes. Possibly meant Duncansby 'Hd originally (see D B Nicolson, Place names, in Horne, J. ed. The County of Caithness, 1907), name spread as Norse settlement area grew. Caithness = Norse name incorporating a pre-Norse specific. No close relation between N + pre-N, however.

77

N. Katanes or Nes was the N. settled area, but they referred to the other, much larger part, settled by Gaelic speakers, Scots from Ireland, as Sutrland "South land", anglicised from 13th c as "Sutherland" - implies a point of view in the N. The Gaels, however, called their share of ex-Pictish territory *Cataobh or rather Cataibh, an older dative-locative plural Cataib "among the Cats" (+ a Sutherland man is still a Catach in Gaelic, while a Caithness man is a Gallaeh, from Gallaibh ("among the strangers, foreigners") cp. Gaelic Innse Gall "islands of the Strangers" for the Hebrides.

Norse and Gaelic Place Names in Caithness

9 - 13th c "quite clearly marked separation of the 2 spheres of interest" (N + G) "with a later, gradual, but still limited encroachment of the G settlement area on the Norse one, probably not before "... the Scottish crown estab. in these parts.

77 But G was never spoken throughout Caithness, not even in post-Norse times - because there are no Norse names > Gaelicized before > Anglicized

Some like Inbhir-Theorsà = Thurso
Inbhir-ùig = Wick
Liabost = Lybster
Hacraig = Halkirk
Langal = Langwell

are G. names for places in the S. portion of Caithness, but used only in the G. speaking western part, detached + not interfering with the process of anglicization. NB the G forms were

78

oral, the anglicized were oral + written, part of cartographic tradition

79

Caithness not fully G speaking before Norsemen. Nor are N names with earlier G. element, unless perhaps Duncansby (O Saga Dungalsboer), anyway a G pers. name. Other way round in fact - see Achkeester, Achlibster, Badlibster, Achscrabster, Achsteen elate, Achnabust, Achvarasdal. No evidence that N. names ever obscured, translated or wiped out earlier G names (in Caithness)

80

Map of N + G names in Caithness - are the names from same period?

N. stadir names are common in the Hebrides (Lewis but not in the S. Hebs) + N Skye, Orkney + Shetland (stadir - "which is the earliest element for which a distributional pattern of any significance emerges which is of more than just local value" [- a very dubious statement. Bm]) but stadir does not occur anywhere on the mainland, let alone Caithness, (I doubt this, too, Bm). Why? Because the landscape or settlement pattern did not warrant it? Or, more likely, stadir "had ceased to be a place-name generic when the Vikings began to settle in Caithness."

77

80 (I doubt this too; it doesn't make sense ^{BM}) The implication of this 'is' that "the earliest phase of Norse settlement in Caithness must have been at least two generations later than the initial Scand. settlement in the N. Isles, Lewis + parts of Skye;" "and we should perhaps be reckoning with the middle rather than the beg. of the 9th c as the time when Norsemen first gave names to places in Caithness in order to create a structured, familiar habitat" (see Nicolaisen, Early Scand. Naming in the Northern + Western Isles, in Northern Scotland 1979-80 III, 2.)

86 Gaelic Generics

Dating the G. speakers' arrival in w. Caithness depends on the absence of cill, dat-locative of Gaelic ceall "church". The N. most e.g. is Kilphedra "St Peter's Church" in Kildonan, Sutherland. Kil names are v. common in areas settled by G. speakers in first 4 centuries after they came from Ireland - are datable because there are none in the Pictland between the Firth of Tay + the Moray F (on p 76 he says For Forth, not Tay. ^{BM}), which means that cill ceased to be "productive or fashionable or appropriate as a toponym about the time that G. speakers moved into Celtic Pictland proper, ie about the middle of the 9th c." (Why ~~it~~ did it cease? ^{BM}) ~~And it is unlikely that~~ ^{And it is unlikely that} It is unlikely that G. place names were coined in Caithness much before this date, since otherwise some Kil- names wd be found (this seems v. sweeping to me ^{BM}). And $\therefore$ the boundary G/N must have been establ. before the end of the 9th c. (I don't see this argument at all, ^{BM}) The confrontation along the G/N line in Caithness must

have stopped the G. $\nearrow^{N\ NE}$ and the N. $\swarrow^{SW}$ movements,
 + this remained the same until the
 12th or even 13th c. (Very sweeping conclusions, surely? BM)

81

Toponymic markers for G settlements are baile
 "farm, homestead, village" and achadh "field". Common in
 all G speaking areas. Difficult to date - any time between
 1st G speakers + last, or before earliest recorded
 documentation for that area. eg. Balnabruich
 (Baile na Bruaich "Bank - stead") in Latheron parish,
 a span of 8 possible centuries - 1st recorded
 in 1657. Balantsionnaeh, Balantrath, Balbeg,
 Balcladich, Balcraggie, Ballachara, Ballone, Balmore
 etc, similarly - but "the semantic transparency of
 most of these names suggests a later rather than an
 earlier date" (Why? Cp p 76 "Obscurity is by no
 means always the hallmark of antiquity" - Unwise to
 base dating on this criterion (too true BM))

Achadh was orig a field name, later >
 settlement name + also indicative of human
 activity on the land (?). Achalone, Achastle,
 Achavarn, Achavrole, Achcomhairle, At-Achlachan,
 Achnamouine, Achow, etc. - did they begin as
 field names + ? habitation names, or were they
 orig. late habitation names? Who knows? Prob.
 both. But achadh + Norse name is several,
 but bal + N name never. $\therefore$ "it looks as if
achadh came really into its own as a productive
 favourite toponym after the 12th c. Obviously
Achlibster is not the "field of Libster" but
 'the farm of Libster' in which the G
achadh duplicates the orig. N. bólstaðr. (But
achadh cd mean a smaller parcel of land
 taken from the bólstaðr of Libster, ie.
achadh = a field, croft, a different unit from
 a bólstaðr already there BM)

phonological context rather than in a Scand. one
(??)

Other generics are important too, + used simultaneously (he produces this with the air of a great discoverer - as if anyone ever thought bólstafr was the only generic used. Bm). Ownership is expressed Duncansby "Dungall's settlement", Assery "Asgrim's shieling", Auckingill "Hákon's ravine", Owsdale "Oystein's valley", Thurdis toft "Thurd's farm", Ulbster "Ulf's farm", Occumster "Hákon's farm", Thuster "þjóðrek's steading" (why says Ulf's when later you say þjóðrek's - does the nom. ~~th~~ -r ending stand or doesn't it? Bm) etc. (Another annoying etc.)

Another large group is noteworthy quality of a feature: Sorlat "sour clearing" (what word for clearing is this? Bm), Master "high farm", Nybster "new farm", Greenland "green land", Holborn "high brow" (which N. word? Bm), Ulleraway "outer farm", Sibster "south farm", Sordale "sour valley", Langwell "long field", Braal "broad field", Halkirk "high church", Sannick "sandy bay", Whitegar "white enclosure" etc (again): position, shape, colour, + geology dominate.

Another group with reference to another feature nearby: - Wester "homestead by the loch" (WHY doesn't he give the N. name + documentary evidence for his interpretation? Bm), Stenster "homestead near the stone (circle)" (see Oftedal, Steinn in Hebridean Place-Names, in Fróðskaparrit 1964 XIII.), Berriedale "valley at the rock", Brubster "bridge homestead", Camster "ridge homestead", Lybster "homestead on the slope", Stroma "island in the current", Braxside "slope farm" + many others. (Ah!)

§3 "In order to orient themselves in unfamiliar terrain, the Scandinavians clearly structured the emerging landscape toponymically by relating features to each other [gosh. Typical Nicolaisen statement of the obvious. Is this not true of all place names + place name givers?] ^{BM}

§3 Some generics only (as you wd expect BM) - Brua "brae", Ham "haven", Reiss "(rounded) ridge", Reiss "ridge", Wick "bay", Howe "mound", Skull "hall", Watten "water", Lyth "slope", Garth "enclosure", + 2 places called Fosse "waterfall", + 3 called Borgie "fort" (More typical Nicolaisenisms): "The comparatively large numbers of simple names is especially surprising in view of the fact that the generics involved are not very discriminatory in their semantic burden and do consequently not allow of much precision. Nevertheless they must have had sufficient deictic force as identifying markers." (What rubbish. He seems to think that scattering words like deictic covers up a total lack of commonsense. Obviously these are very local names - used only within the area for a close (+ virtually closed) society. Stands to reason. And Wick used to have a specific, I think) (He is the living example of the rule that long words ain't scholarship. BM)

The G names are much more complex + wider in association - indistinguishable from Sc. G. place names elsewhere "and quite a few of them look as if they have been coined in recent centuries" (oh yeah? Which? and how does he know? BM). Norse did not cease at the end of Scand domination politically, or even when N. ceased to be the daily means of communication. Many

83

Norse words > English dialect of Caithness, perhaps via "Caithness Norn". But "not all place names containing N words of N origin are $\therefore$ necessarily themselves of Norse provenance" (Gosh!!) eg - geo, goe "narrow inlet": ~~Fresgoe~~ Fresgoe, Staxigoe, Görnigoe, Whaligoe are prob. N, but Hobbie Geo, Samuel's Geo, Castle Geo, Corbiegeo, Broad Goe are prob. English in origin, like Geo of Nether town, and Geodh nam Fithach "ravens' inlet" is Gaelic (Gosh!!) Such names are not evidence of N. speaking Nmen in Caithness.

84

Conclusion

Not cultural crossroads so much as divided province - slight overlap after N period when G advanced slightly - English later diluted the basic differences - No evidence of ^{N+G} bi-lingualism, and N + G place names hardly ever interwine. P.S. The name "Thurso" could be Thorsá "Thor's river", or Thjors á "bull-river", or Thors haugr "Thor's mound". So exciting not to know (he seems to be saying).

(In my opinion this article is a disgrace - he says virtually nothing except that Caithness was divided betw. N + G areas, basing it on bólstaðr names. Too much reference to his own works, + others not to hand, not enough evidence of the points he does make, and enough pompous Germanisms to convince us that he is a famous scholar. Huh.)

Old Lore Miscellany of Ork, Shet, Caith + Suth, vol 4
(Viking Club, 1911)

p 70

Crakaing - twist in Lothbeg Burn, which diverted eastwards towards Kilmote formed a lake or creek, drained by "Earle John" (see vol III, p. 131) This twisted creek was the Króka or Kráka vík (crook-creek)

Uppar : ford here, over Brora river. N. Upp-vat
upper ford op Oppera in Shetland

Unes from unnr, ndr, the waves, sea + nes point
cp Unesvøe in Helge Lög I. (D.B.)

p. 140-2 / Adam Gunn, Durness (Rev.)

cp vol III p. 234

Keoldale - G. Ceall-dail, i. NOR Kaldadalr,
which gives Calladail nearby.

Kelda is OK but the soil is sand, no well, spring, or marsh. It is at the narrowest part of the Sound of Durness, + then the sd broadens out to 3 ~~times~~ times the breadth; at low tide 3-4 miles drains dry. Current strong at the throat of the Kyle.

01 kill "inlet", "canal" ∴ "the dale at the inlet" of the K of D

Unes Uggj-ness or haugsnes (Gray) Ufr (out), Vri proper name (Stefánsson) Unnr or Uðr (Gray)
eit 'isthmus' or 'stream joining 2 waters'

> G. ui-, uidh-, foi-, i- etc

Uppat - N upp vat (Gray) upper ford

G. upaid. ON upp-beir, upper pasture
or upp-at (adv + prep) (up-to)

p. 169 Unes vík nes bay headland'

Old Lore Miscellany, p. 6.

Pronsy

1222 Proinci

1472 Pronnsy

1505 Spronse

1525 Pronse

Spronase 1538

Pronsie 1562

1563 Spronsie

1563 Promesy

Prompse 1566

Can this be ON Prófenda or Próvenda,
Latin Præbenda, OG. Pfriinde, 'a prebend'?
(ie of Dornoch cathedral)

But people
called Graun
are also
called Pronsaich

Cleashy says men of wealth + rank in late life
retired into convents and bequeathed to the
church a portion in money or estates, which
was called prófenta in ON. Such a man was
prófentu-madr (or kona, if female)

Dornoch - nor 1) horse's hoof

nor 2) Dornácon 'place of rounded
pebbles

NO

but 3) ON turn 'tower' + ahr 'field'
'Tower field or land', from St
Barri's Cathedral Tower, more
ancient than Gilbert's. The
oldest spelling is Durnach.

Golspie - Watson says possibly Guls (gold's)
Unes, (Owness 1275) Houghsner