

This was ten years ⁸ being Charles added
to his attempts to force a new liturgy on
the scotch with orders but it ~~was~~ ^{was} all

But Sir Robert Gordon's journey to Sutherland
in the autumn of 1633 was chiefly concerned with
disputes between the Earl of Sutherland and Lord Reay.
The Chief of the Mackays had returned to Strathnaver
overwhelmed by debts he had incurred in raising thousands
of men for service in the armies of Gustavus Adolphus.
The money owed to him by King Charles had never been
repaid, ~~and~~ matrimonial troubles had added to his liabilities:
For the remainder of his life he would never be free
of debt ~~and~~ there were not wanting enemies waiting
to take advantage of his unhappy situation. To the
Earl of Sutherland he relinquished the warrandice of
Strathnaver and received from the Earl a feu charter
of the lands of Durness. By this charter, Mackay
acknowledged the Earl of Sutherland as his Superior,
and accepted all the bonds this imposed under Scotland's
mediaeval system of Land Tenure.

1634^t was a year of famine in the north, a bad
used in all churches — See not in St Giles
on the first day it was allowed to be ^{to} ^{the}

had succeeded as

now Marquis of Argyll - His
alliance with the King (James)
the opposition to the Charles plan
for a change in the Liturgy
opposition to the King would
place the King in secular power

now Marquis of Argyll - His alliance
with the King strengthened the opposition
to the King's plan for a change in the
Liturgy & his opposition to the King's
wish to place the Bishops in civil
power

1684

was a year of famine in the north & had
been a full summer - the north was
in the first year of the famine & was

harvest in the autumn of 1633, meant a loss of seed for the following spring and a shortage of meal throughout the year. In Caithness the poorer sort of people were reduced to such an extremity that they killed their very dogs and eat them and multitudes died in the open fields. The Privy Council was appealed to but recommended the sufferers to the charity of their countrymen. They afterwards sent supplies of vitual, but not in time to save a most deplorable mortality.

~~x2xixx~~
Chamers
11. p 75.

Calder
161

Angus Mackay of Bighouse died in this year; Gordon of Sallachy says of him " he was much lamented in that dyacie, being a very active and able gentleman. He was taken away be witchcraft. The witch was afterwards apprehended and executed, who at her death confessed her cryme. " The people of Sutherland were much troubled by witches in the 17th century, and doubtless a story of superstitious fears, torture and death, lies behind this statement. No form of brutality was condemned if it was used to extract a confession

Gordon
p 473.

uncle, ' suspending by mutual agreement the redemption thereof until Whitsunday, 1638.

Chambers
11 p75

Calder p161

In the northern Highlands the harvest of 1633 was a failure. This meant a loss of seed for the following spring and a shortage of meal throughout the year. In Caithness, the poorer sort of people were so reduced by famine that they killed their very dogs and eat them and multitudes died in the open fields. Appeals to the Privy Council produced no relief in time to prevent a ~~great~~ ^{deplorable} loss of life. Angus Mackay of Bighouse in 1634, Gordon says of him " he was much lamented in that dyacie, being a very active gentleman. He was taken away be witchcraft. The witch was afterwards apprehended and executed, who at her death confessed her crime. ' The people of Sutherland were much troubled by witches in the 17th centurey and doubtless a story of superstitious fears, torture and death lies behing this statement.

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Loom

Printed
458

Angus Mackay of Bighouse died in this year, Gordon of Sallachy says
 says " He was much lamented in that dyacie, being a very
 active and able gentleman; he was taken away by witchcraft;
 the witch was afterwards apprehended and executed, who
 at her death confessed the crime.

Handwritten notes:
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Granby House,
95, Southwark Street,
London, S.E.1.

Telephone:- 01-928 2711

K.J. Lyon
12 Castle Street
Dornoch
Sutherland.

Date as postmark

Dear Sir(s), *your Ref Letter*

As desired by your letter we enclose the relative duplicate Tax Certificate(s) in respect of Dividend/Interest paid by this Company.

Kindly Remit fee of 2/-
Yours faithfully,

Registrars.

(2)

a very thick wall, on ~~the left hand~~
at the side of the room on the left hand
side of the front door, & ~~the~~ may be
part of the lower mentioned of p. 12 p.

(~~On the other hand~~) There is however
a ~~belief~~ ~~some~~ another theory, ~~is~~
that the name is derived from
~~Scandinavian~~ ^{more} ~~Scandinavian~~ ^{written} & on this the letter
written in answer to my enquiry explains
itself - To support this theory is the fact
that a Scandinavian ~~brooch~~ ^{brooch} was found up &
the plough in the field that is on the
right hand side of the gate & this is
now in the Museum of Antiquities in O.
'it is a woman's brooch - the kind they
as a 'lover's brooch' & originally the
would have been a hair ornament on the forehead
there was also part of a stone tablet and
which was broken by the plough -
This finds must undoubtedly have
been the cause of a Scandinavian woman's

I

Then are the theories as to the origin
 of the name of Ospidale ~~it should be~~
~~always remembered that various forms~~
~~of the name~~ as in old documents
 the name always appears as Hospidale
 and that is the Gilchrist, believed
 that the house original building was
 the Bishop's rest house - or inn, where
 travellers could find shelter for the night:
 he believed that Hospidale was derived
 from Hospidale, the same name that
 I have seen in Austria to show travellers
 in mountainous districts that shelter
 could be found for a ^{any one} traveller in danger
 from a storm. Ospidale is listed in
 the R.G. list of houses in Sulzbach
 which includes such names as Pung,
 Invershin, Emblo, Shells - etc -
~~the ground floor of the front of the~~
 house was believed to be 600 years old
 part of the original building - there was

an encounter between the Gordons and the supporters of the Earl of Caithness. They met in the High Street, where the fashion of Edinburgh were used to take the air. There was jostling and shouting, swords were drawn and blows given, but the Earl of Caithness ignored the efforts of the Gordons to provoke him by parading up and down outside his lodging.

The arbiters who had been appointed failed to come to a decision. The parties were ordered to make a new submission and the Earl of Huntly was to adjudicate between them, but he too failed to bring about an agreement and the case was again referred to the privy council. Perhaps the councilors were wearied by the wrangles of the two adversaries; they were requested to return the following spring. Sir Robert Gordon returned to his service at Court. In February 1613 he married

I

There are two theories as to the derivation
of the name 'Caspisdale'. In old documents
the name ~~is~~ always appears as 'Hospidale'
i.e., that is the Gilchrist family, believed
that ~~this~~ originally 'Hospidale' was the
Bishop's rest house, or inn, where travellers
could find shelter for the night, the believed
the name was derived from Hospidale:
- The same name that I have seen
abroad in Austria in a mountainous
district, where it pointed to a building
that could shelter ~~two~~ walkers or clerics
that who got caught in a storm.
It looked so familiar! we had no doubt
that it was the same name -

anthondbathbetween theyendon and the supporters of the

the heart of the old Earl
was taken from its case of
lead

1967

Calder

Gordon?

The town of Wick was burnt but the church was saved; the heart of the old Earl of Caithness, which was in a case of lead was taken from the church and burst open by a Highlander named John Macgill-calum Rasey, but finding it contained no treasure, he threw it away. Finally, the siege of Girnigo was abandoned and the warriors returned to Sutherland, laden with a collection of loot and cattle which was divided among those who took part in the raid.

It would seem that the death of George Gordon was only used as an excuse for an attempt to destroy the Earl of Caithness; but Girnigo was impregnable to such weapons as they could be brought against it, and the Earl survived to make further raids on Sutherland in reprisal.

To-day Girnigo is a solitary ruin: it stands on rock and is almost surrounded by the sea. To anyone acquainted with its history it is an eerie place. The keep is a hollow shell, only the lowest rooms remain, including the cell in which the unhappy Master of Caithness is believed to have been imprisoned. ~~part of~~ beam, embedded in the

which stands

wall is believed to be part of the gallows, where many a poor wretch met his end. Castle Sinclair, a more compleat ruin than Girnigoe, is a building of later date when the cramped conditions of the older castle were no longer tolerated.

After the return of Earl Alexander to Sutherland arrangements were made for submitting both sides to arbitration. The Earl of Huntly was chosen as 'overman' and a truce was concluded until a meeting could take place. But the ink was scarcely dry on the terms of the truce before a fresh series of raids began. ~~Earl Alexander~~ Badenloch was invaded and the Earl of Sutherland's herdsman was killed Earl Alexander retaliated by sending another expedition into Caithness, which returned with much booty. It was followed by an invasion of 3000 Caithness men into Strathullie led by the Laird of Murkle. At Liribel they set fire to a hut occupied by four men who had

G
196-7

G 198

S.B. 152

... wall is believed to be part of the gallows, where

many a poor wretch

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3. B. 125

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108-1

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been set to keep a look out in case of attack. ~~Three~~ were killed but the fourth broke through the flames and got away in time to give warning of the enemy's approach. Then Hugh Mackay, who was at Dunrobin, hastily gathered five or six hundred of the inhabitants and set out in pursuit; he came up with the Caithness men at Crissaleigh, at the head of Strathbrora. After some hard fighting the invaders were driven back and the stolen cattle recovered. After this a guard was kept under John Gordon of Mid-Garty, who moved from place to place wherever danger threatened.

G 198

As every raid called for retaliation, Earl Alexander prepared once more to carry the war into Caithness. With a large force of his own followers he advanced ~~into~~ as far as Corriehoigh. Earl George gathered all his forces at Spittal, where he awaited the coming attack. But Huntly having heard of this fresh outbreak sent his uncle, Sir Patrick ^{Gordon & Achin' Don} to try to induce the two Earls, both of whom were his near relations, to reach a

G. 200