

References. Chap VII. Gordon. Earledom of Sutherland

P 157

" Heraponth the Morrayes and such as favoured Earle Alexander left the cuntrey of Sutherland and dispersed themselves some one way some another. "

P. 169" The Morrayes and the Gordounes, with the rest who wer banished by the Earle of Catteynes, did returne into Southerland in the later ~~yair~~ end of the yeir of God 1573"

P 173 " In the beginning of Houcheon MacKay his minoritie, John Mor MacKay----- undertook to governe Strathnaver, and begane to show himselff a depender and favourer of Earle Alexander; which the Earle of Catteynes perceaving, he hounded out some of the inhabitants of Strathnaver against him, who apprehended him and carried him into Catteynes wer he was detained in prisson by Earle George untill his death. "

173-4 " In the moneth of September the yeir of God one thowsand fyve hundred and nybteen, John Beg MacKay and William Mack-ean-Mack-Rob, the brother of John Robsone before-mentioned wer invaded at Balnakiel in Durines and ther slain with divers others under silence of the night. "

174 " Upon the death of John Beg MacKay and William Mack-ean Mack -Rob--- followed the inveterate deadly feud between the Clangun and the Slaight-ean-Aberigh. The long and the many, the horrible enormities, with the bloodshed and infinite spoils committed in every part of the dioces "

P. 174. " Upon the death of John Beg MacKay and William-Mac-ean-Mack-Rob,----- followed the inveterate deadly feud between the Clangun and the Slaight-ean Aberigh. The long the manyz many the horrible encounters which happened between these tuo trybes, with the bloodshed and infinite spoils committed in every part of the diocy of Catteynes by them and their associates, are of so disordered and troublesomesse memorie that, with their asperous names, together with confusion of place tymes and persons, would yit be (no doubt) a warr to the reader to overlook them, and therefore----- I doe pass them over. "

p.177-8 This Earle George had lived too long for these adjacent cuntries, wher he had been the mezzsz instrument of civil dissension and shedding of much blood, theunnaturaldestroyer and scourger of his children----- Earle George wes a worldlie-wyse man, politique, craftie and provident. " He left his wealth to his second son George Sinclair of Mey.

p. 194 Death of George Gordon. Sir Robert says " therewer many presages of George his death, and calamities which wer shortlie to follow. The common people whith whom superstition doth strangely work, spread many rumours unworthie to be rehersed ".

p. 182. Marriage of the Earl of Caithness. At this time (1585) a marradge was arranged between the 5th Earl of Caithness and Jane Gordon, sister of the 6th Earl of Huntly. Gordon says Huntly gave his consent to the marriage on condition that Caithness agreed to act aganist the Gunns.

countrie, wher he had been the

This Earle had lived too long for these adjacent

P 177-8

VII

Gordon. p.204. Arbitration between E of Caithness
" and Alexander.

freinds

bureid

They mett at Strathbogie wer a final accord was maid in
the moneth of March 1591 yeirs and all bypast injuries
wer forgiven on either syd,ther freinds oersuading them
that all old grieffs and grudges should be no more revived
bot buried from hencefoorth together with the memorie of
latezities these later tymes "

Jane, Countess of Sutherland.

P. 169

" And by reason of her husband Earle Alexander his seiklie
disposition, together with her son's minoritie at the tyme
of his father's death shoe was in a manner constraind
and forced to tak upon her the managing of all affairs
of that house a good while, which shoe did performe with
great care, to her owne credet and the weill of that
familie , all being committed to her charge by reason of
the singular affection which she did carrie to the pre-
servation of that house, as lykwise for her dexteritie
in managing of business.

do. 169

This lady built the house of Cracock wher shoe dwelt
a long tyme

The castles and pyles of Southerland ar Dornoch, Dunrobin

(the Earle of Southerland his special residence) a house

weill seated upon a mote hard by the sea, with fair orchards
wher ther be pleasant gardens, planed with all kynd of froots
hearbs and floors, used in this Kingdome and abundance of
good saphron tobacco and rosmarie. The frost here is
excellent and cheifly the pears and cherries. Ther is in
Dunrobin one of the deepest draw-wells , all of aister work
from the ground to the topp, called St. John his well, which is
within the castle in the midst of the court. one myle from
the castle there is a fair cunyar three myles in length
along the cost verie weill stored and full of cunnies.

Gordon P 8.

VII

The castles and pyles of Skelbo, Pronsie, Skibo (wher ther is a fair orchard in which ther be excellent cherreis) Dulrossie, Einwershin, Golspietour, Golspie kirkton, Helmsdale (which was re-edified and repaired the year of God 1616 by Sir Alexander Gorcon of Naviedell.

P $\frac{1}{2}$ 11

In Strathnaver ther are tuo castles, Dorne and Tounge. MacKay his special residence is at Tounge, one myle from the place wher the castle doth stand.

TRADE. — Strathnaver. The principal commodities of Strathnaver are cattle and fishing". (there were all sorts of fish even in winter.

P. 4 The rivers of Unes, Broray and Helmsdale " ar good harbours for the ships that do traffique in that ~~country~~ cuntry, to transport from thence their cornes, salt, cole salmond, beiff hyds, wooll, lynning tallow, butter cheese plaids and other commodities

P 5 Sandeels at Spanzidell, in summer six or seven hundred people ----- also at Dornoch and Unes

P 5 Islands He mentions islands with habitations on them in Loch Migdale, Buy, Dolay and uthers. " in Loch Broray ther is ane island wher the erle of Southerland has a delectable habitation and pleasant for hunting reed deir and roes in the woods both sydes of the laik. There are four islands in Loch Shin " all pleasant dwellings in summer". To these islands, he says, resort swans geese and red deer.

Trade Salt made at Brora served other countries and sometimes transported into England and other kingdoms.

Iron ore, which the inhabitants make into good iron

Land Mathew P 140-1

The outlook of the principal lords resembled that of independant princes---- There was constant care for spheres of influence. Dominating every line of action was the determination to retain land and to increase it, to gain vassals and subordinate allies and to dispossess those who supported a rival.

EMBO

P-237

Gordon
Hugh Gordon of Drummoy and John Gordon of Kilmalmkill bought the lands of Drummoy and Backies from the Laird of Forsse. *year 1598.*

Whitchraft

452 Gordon. Angus MacKay of Bighouse. died 1634, suc: by WM: MacKay, son of his first wife. " The death of Angus MacKay 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."

320 " Everie tyme that Sit R.G returned from ~~South-~~ South-erland to the court of England, he still took with him some young gentlemen of his own freinds, that they might sie that cuntrie, and to remark the court, therby to serve the Earle of Southerland, when it should please him to employ them agane. By which means the chief gentlemen of the country of Southerland became more civil than the rest of their neighbouring cuntries.

320 He took John MacKay and Adam Gordon Son of John Gordon of Kilcalkmill. John MacKay stayed seven months with his uncle, who then sent him into France to sie fashions abroad.

P 318

Journeys
Sir R. G. took 15 days to ride from Eltham to Edinburgh.

6 times in 15 months he rode from Scotland to England

Gordon. P 314.

" he was in his infancy noorished and fostered at Culmally-

Kirkcubbin with Margaret MacKreth the widow of John Gordon of Drummoy. After his infancy and childhood he was sent to the school together with his eldest brother John (the Mr: of Sutherland) to be bred in the town of Dornoch with Mr William Pape, the school mr: of that place, wher he stayed until the yeir 1596. Then the yeir of God 1598, John Earl of Southerland went into France and left his bretheren at home in Southerland with his mother the countess. Sir Robert Gordon, weareying of that id~~le~~ life which he then led in his brother's absence and considering the losse of his tyme (which was irrecoverable) he dwelt so with his mother, the countess, that shee yeilded to send him and his younger brother Sir Alex^{dr}, to the universitie of St. Andrews to be instructed in learning and vertue, wher they stayed for the space of six moneths and then transported themselves to Edinburgh. Sir Robert Gordon being at the Universitie of Edinburgh behaved himself in such sort, that he was beloved by the principal and regents ther.

315 Beside his public exercises his learning and studie he was privately and carefullie instructed by mr William Craig and Mr John Rea, regents of that college

236 In July 1598 a convention of the estates held in Edinburgh

The lands of Strathfleet (called the Terrel's lands) were bought by the Gordons from the Inneses.-----Shortlie afterward Hew Gordon of Drummoy and John Gordon of Kilmalkill bought the lands of Drummoy and Backies from the Laird of Forsse.

TRADE " This yeir of God 1598 the cole hugh was bound besuid Broray, and some salt pans were erected a little by-west the entrie of that river, by Jane Countess of Southerland unto whome her aone, Earle John had committed the government of his effairs during his absence in France.

More salt pans were set up be Earl John in 1614.

~~William Gordon~~ Alexander Skibo came to Southerland in the

~~William Gordon~~ William Gordon of Over-Skibo --
came to Southerland in the days of Earl Alexander.

240 13th Febuary 1602. Great storm Earl and his train nearly
overwhelmed in Glen Loth.

Earl Alexander

Gordon 232-

233

-233-

---- he wes by nature framed to wind and insinuate
himself so into everie man's affection, that not onlie
from thencefoorth they did alwise remayn constantlie
faithful unto him, bot also they did easalie hazard their
lyves and their fortunes in any extremitie of danger for
his sake; he wes verie upright in all his actions, unfitt
for these our dayes, wherin integritie lyeth speechless
and upright dealing is readie to give up the ghost.

Gordon
256

Mr William Paper (Pope) "reasonable good scholar
of a quicke and reddie will" -- This man was first admitted
to be schoolmaster in the toun of Dornogh; then he was
appointed to be resident minister in that same place
and withal he came to be chantour of Catteynes.

Patrick Stewart.
Sail of Orkney.

Earl John returned from France in 1600, just in time
~~to discomfit~~ to discomfit the Earl of Caithness, who, having received permission

Calder 144. "imprisoned & directed of his estates -"
"The Sail of Caithness who happened to be in Sdinburgh
at the time offered to proceed to Orkney -- provided
he were furnished with sufficient troops for
the purpose. --"

He received troops & set sail for Orkney -- He
besieged & took various forts -- "The last was
the castle of Kirkwall, which Robert Stewart ---
bravely defended for the space of time. At last
it was delivered through treachery." The prisoners
were all conveyed south to Sdinburgh where they
were executed. Patrick Stewart was beheaded
for high treason at the market Cross of Sdinburgh."

Calder-
144-50.

the session records of Wick
Whisky 1st mentioned in ~~Caitness~~ in 1758 -
11
that would appear to be the period when it began to
be ~~from the King~~ distilled in the county.

Caldes - Appendix I note on P. 243.

Potatoes were introduced in 1754 - & for some years -
(Caldes - Caitness 276) were cultivated only in
the gardens of the better classes - From 1760 till
1780 the Lincolnton planted a few of them annually
in what were called "bazy beds."

Previous to 1780 - there was not a single cart
in the whole county of Caitness
Caldes - 276.

Patrick Stewart - Earl of Orkney -

16/11 The Earl of Caitness employed by the crown
Caldes 11th of Caitness 15.1. to punish Patrick Stewart, who was
P. 149. accused of many acts of oppression both in
Orkney & Shetland - "He was one of the worst
& most despotic of Tyrants".

Bishop Law of Orkney "transmitted to the King
a long list of the many crimes & misdemeanors
committed by the Earl, who was in consequence

Having provided them selves with food & arms including
some powder shot boys -

Not about 16 of the high school pupils - all sons of
gentlemen. Baracade them selves in the
school & spent the night there [they had collected
some arms, including powder & shot.] The next
day some of the Town Council, headed by Bailie
John Macmoran called on the boys to surrender
when they refused to take orders for the door
was forced. Some came to the aid of the
threats ^{of violence} from both sides. One Sinclair fired
at the Bailie ^{during a confusion} killing him instantly. In the
uproar that followed several of the boys escaped
but Sinclair & Murray's son ^{with} the others were
seized & rushed to prison. They remained
confined for two months while the Bailie's
relations clamoured for vengeance & the death
penalty. In the end they were brought before
the Prig Council who, on the score of their
youth, & the plea of the relations ordered that
all the boys ~~to be released~~ should be released

Cabden
app. 7.
P. 297.

Chambers
Dom. An.
Prig Council.
Prig Council.

at Fethie. This had taken much preparation. She herself, had sewn yards and yards of pink ruffles for the cottage curtains. There was a large party in the house and the night before they had danced till one in the morning, but they were up early to see to the last preparations and arrange the flowers for the tables.

" There was amusement for everybody. The military band, bright lights and shadows on the waters of the lake,⁷ boats arriving and landing smart ladies in white, later, quadrilles and lancers being danced upon the grass at the water's edge. Rowing and fishing, and for those who were sentimental, tête à têtes in quiet paths, and finally, a capital floor in the cottage for waltzing. Everybody seemed pleased; and the population of Forfar, at one time nearly a thousand strong, confined themselves to the opposite side, from which, as the lake is narrow, they could enjoy the band and watch the proceedings. The final entertainment was when Mr Carnegie drove his four-in-hand with all the ladies of his party on top, right round the lake. As the trees met closely overhead, the poor ladies' hats and bonnets caught it ! "

Next day the house-party was photographed, "and I hear it was successful ! " Photography still required a long pose

Tain & B. Documents

wood.

Cultiv wood green. P. 83 - 212 - 213.
1685 - 1670.

1638.
Beggins & Poaching. David Ross of Balnagowan. P. 85 - No 216

Thatch P 123 Balnagowan was thatched in 1763 441

Seeds for Balnagowan P 175 No 440. 1740 - Gmorn, carrot -
parsneap, leek, spinnaig, Beet. early turnip, yellow do -
Curled parsley, Battered Cabbage - Savoury, collyflower
Radish - Hasting Peas, Windsor Beans - Spanish
Turkey do

Balnagowan Farm 1763. An english manager John Baldry
not to have Oxen no longer (than this year) & able horses will
do twice the business - 20 acres of Turnips
^{in this room.}

Garden Balnagowan - see above. ~~1745~~ 1745 - Ye gardeners at
B. seems to be a sensible man - No 445 - P 177

Fishing No 451. 1584 - 7. P 1702 Cabill for fishing of

Kyllisokell & Invershim. 20 merks ilk year.

Barrels of salmond were exported to Schimburgh from Balnagowan
1595 & 1555. No 453 & 454. P 179.

1744 No 459. Page 181 Lord Strathmore & George Burns of
Newmore were exporting cod (dried) they were in a fish
curing venture at Hirdhorn -
George Burns Newmore was engaged in the export
of herring - to be cured at Cromarty.

Tomber was sent down the cannon & shipped at Bona
by David Ross of Padua from — No 467 - 1673 - P. 180.

Andrew Turner - 3rd son of ^{Heclor} Robert Turner, Novar — went into
business at Inverness when he became a ballie No 470.
1744 - Page 186

Bear paid as rent in kind had to be sow & the birds
Law Duffus. was

Boswell P 224. at Coriechatachan — there was "no
garden at all, not even a turnip, or carrot, or cabbage —"

Gardens of Sombu etc.

D 104

"born to small means by birth" but by
favour of the early & their own industry increased
their possessions.

178-4

In the month of Sept^r last year of '80
 1 thousand two hundred & 16 hundred
 thousand eight, John Ben Mackay &
 Wm Mack - can - Mack - Rob, the brother
 John Robson before mentioned, were
 invaded at Balnebrill in Dorinish &
 their slain with divers others under silence of
 the night.

John Breg
killed

Gordon +
 177 +

Sir R. L. gives the date as 1803.
Sail Alexander was made the King's
Lieutenant & Justice - deputy collector
the bounds of Saltun and Strathairn -

Earl George
dead.
H 8 -

This Sault George had lived too long for
these adjacent countries, where he had
been the instrument of civil dissension
& shedding of much blood; the unnatural

170-

an unnatural destroyer & scourger
of his own children - - - - -

George was a worldly-wise man, politique
crafty & provident

Gardens

Smile.

257-

Hugh Garden of Drumnoy & John Garden of Kilsalmonkell
bought the lands of Drumnoy & Backies from the
daird of Fosse.

1898.

Colliery found at Broira - salt pans erected
by Jane Cairns of S. - "This was good salt made at
Broira then at Brody which served not only
Lowland & the neighbouring provinces
but also was transported into England &
elsewhere" - The coal was first found by John
(6th Earl.)

259

Sir R. G.
and Alex.

Sir Robert & his brother Alex^d sent by the
Countess Jane to St. Andrews where they stayed
6 months - & then went on to Edinburgh
as "to be instructed in learning & virtue"

1600

His great wharfe of large bignes, was
casten in y^e the sea upon the sands under the
town of Dornoch -

259

two ships wrecked. one with timber at
Lorne - & with various commodities at the sands
Kintadwell.

History of the Fraltray 302-3-4-5-6-7

See also 201

Gordon

Methods of Ascert their genealogy. 263-4-5-
see nothing in Brown-

Caithness - Dractoy & John Sulistall - 266-7-
see also Brown Vol.

Mathews

140-

* P. 140-1.

The out-work of the principal lords resembled that
of independent princes in their system of alliances
--- there was constant care for spheres of
influence. Dominating every line of action
was the determination to attain land & to
increase it, to gain vassals & subordinates
allies & to dispossess those who supported
a rival family. ---

To Balnagowan Documents

P. 6 No. 5. 1559 Sasine. Nicholas Ross, commendator of
Ferne - transferring as Provost of Tain
to his son Thomas Ross. Gille Meikle Rhynio
Ballablain etc. - & from Alex^d. Ross of
Balnagowan, a charter conveying to another
son the lands of Mid Garry, Pitkerry, Balmuchie
& the fishings of Bonar.

B. 6 1559 p. 4.

Nicholas Ross

p. 4. 1560

Nicholas Ross - abbot of Fern - & Provost of Tain
he conveyed to Ross of B. the lands of Pitkerrie in return
his breast-plate - in gold, & his shrine

Before

his marriage with B. S. had been dissolved & he had married

When Earl Alexander returned to Sutherland he had

divorced Barbara Sinclair and had married Jane Gordon,

daughter of George, 4th Earl of Huntly, who had been the first wife of Bothwell; "a vertuous comelie lady, judicious of excellent memorie and great understanding above the capacitie of her sex." This marriage was a happy one and

of their seven children, the second surviving son was Sir Robert Gordon, the historian, who pays tribute to his mother's wise and gentle character and to her affection for her children. She was a devout catholic all her life.

His first task was to

Earl Alexander set himself to restore order peace

among the inhabitants of Sutherland, wearied with the calamities of the past few years. Many of the Murrays and Gordons, adherants of the Earl of Sutherland, had fled to other districts during the reign of the Earl of Caithness now returned to their homes, but though the power of the Earl of Caithness had been checked, it was

Gordon
168-9

168.

ibid 168

* 169

Food

Bowell P. 135. Rassay.

We have been a variety of preservatives -
we had a plentiful fatted dinner

P 134 "A good chocolate ^{Rassay} as ~~the~~ ^{the} tasted" (tea bread) &
butter, marmalade & jelly. There was no loaf bread
but very good scones.

at Kinshergu P. 159 with Flora MacDonald - They had "excellent"
roast Turkey - as fatted a supper as one would wish to see - in particular
Port to drink at table - after supper claret & punch -
They drank 3 bowls of punch after Tolson had gone to bed.

Dunnegan P. 176 "We talked of the Highlanders having no shell"

Dunnegan P. 164 "admirable tea" - The drawing room had a nice
carpet, a good table, ^{the} tea in civilised order. At dinner next day "admirable"
beefsteak from Harris, good soup - in a word all that a good table has" P. 164
grain carried on horse back - a few sledges on sledge.

137 Cottage in Rassay a Farm House "It was somewhat
circular in shape. At one end sheep & goats were lodged; at the
other the family. The man & his wife had a better bedstead
The place where the servants lay was marked out upon the
ground with whinstone & strewn with fern. The fire was
towards the upper end of the house. The smoke went out of a hole
in the roof."

Bowell had great difficulty in getting L. Gill for 130
changed in 1845 - P 225

Johm Sall of Sutherland. 12th Sept

Duke -

33. visited the Duke of Lennox

Mary Gordon - dau. of Alexand - married - David M^r
born 1582 - of Balnagordy

239

1600 14 Wales & beautiful cart on the shore upon
Dornoch sands - Came in April & was promptly slain
90 feet in length.

2 great ships cast away, 1 of Norway timber at cones
the other a Dutch ship - on the sands of Kintyre
crew of this ship saw.

240. While I. J. in France. Tried to get permission from
Highway to hunt in Dornoch - I was told he
might if he brought only his own household & a few
friends - - but the S. had determined to bring
all his own people - the return of the Sall
& his determination of force discouraged the S. C.
thence of force & dare.

240. Feb: 1600 married Anna Elph: dau. of Alex. R. M^r.
Lord High Chancellor of Scotland.
Solemnized in the town of Edinburgh
Arthur Lord Forbes = the 2nd daughter
Robert - in law helped him to be Clerk

248. Went to Orkney with Robert. Highway the Lord
of Assint & Orkney other parts. to visit Sall Patrick
August 1602.

249. Robert 1603 went to France - acc by
Mr John Gray - now dean of Calcey
returned 1605

1604 Patricia S. of B. returned on visit & became
Godfather to John's eldest son - (died)
stayed at Dornoch - entertained with 'Comedies'
& all other sports & recreations

252. John water diverted & made to run in a
straight dried - passage to the sea.
Cairnes hills Gray's servant
Sail with sells few kind of Bickerton
Centers to E. of C.

253. Angus Mack - Kenneth Mack Alder
1605 slain by Robert Gray & 1100s:

of great understanding about the capability
of her sex 2 sons lost in infancy

snaw storm Mackay loses 10 men 1644