

Peerage extent - This was 2nd Creation

The Lord Ashburton whose letters about Rosehall I found so interesting, was Richard Dunning, 2nd Lord Ashburton, of the 1st creation (1782-1823) His cousin Alexander Baring, was created Baron Ashburton in 1835. (I am quoting Debrett, a 1920 edition) It was this Lord Ashburton's son who, as you say, married Miss Stuart MacKenzie as his 2nd wife.

indeed a
woman I feel
be unlikely
to appreciate
the splendour
of Highland
plains -

My Lady who 'fell' for one of the Prince Regent's friends

"My" Lord Ashburton bought Rosehall from Major General Hugh MacKay Baillie about 1806. In 1805, he had married Anne Selby, daughter of William Cunningham of Lainshaw. Her sister Isabel, married in 1813, one of the MacLeods of Cadboll. This explains why, when Lord A. was at Rosehall, Lady A. often seemed to be paying a lengthy visit to Invergordon! I don't feel she had much use for Rosehall, which must have been very much out in the wilds in those days.

Rosehall was practically burnt down in 1817. and Lord A. rebuilt it. He had already built an addition to the old house, and I suppose it was while this was going on that he lived for a time at Invercarron. After the fire of 1817 he was lent a house on the other side of the Oykel. But I see, from one of his letters in the winter of 1821-22, that a new house was to be built, with a frontage of 114 feet and a depth of 28 feet. Whether that house was actually built or not I don't know. I have not read all his letters and rather forget some of the details of those I did read some months ago.

This Lord Ashburton left all his estates and about £200,000 to his widow---- and in 1826, she married MacDonald of Clanranald. Clanranald was very fascinating---- he must have been--- he had already sold a great part of his estates, but Lady A. redeemed his Arisaig estates from his creditors for £50,000. However this did not turn out very well for Clanranald, as he and Lady Ashburton did not get on ---- (I suppose he was too fascinating!) and she divorced him. So Clanranald lost all his estates and the family were reduced to poverty. ! property

Lady Ashburton left all her property and her husband's estates to her cousin Lord Cranston. (Burke, County families. Cunningham of Lainshaw-- now DuCrae. edition about 1912) (I read about her purchase of the Arisaig estates in Mitchells "Reminiscences of my life

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lands which
at one time
were said to
be worth £200,000
a great -