

D.G. to Delord.

17th Oct 1751.

He will make the enquiries you mention
to Mr. Secun Gordon about the Deans
house & kiln? 1 mile.

Nov 29 1753

Dugout has been in prison for debt & has been
liberated. He also encloses the "Execution"
of a Horning at the instance of the schoolmaster
of Clyne - now at Kiltwall. for salaries
due him as well as Clyne & the tenants
on the S's lands. "

The common custom of paying the school-
master's salary in these parts is that the
Heritors pay one half & the tenants the
other, which last the schoolmaster
always took hazard of collecting. There is also
this outrageous schoolmaster is trying to
make the S. responsible for the whole
salary - for which there is no precedence, &
lest other schoolmasters should follow in
this practice he begs for a suspension.

In any case he says Mr. Bethune

for the small part of the time he claims the
Salem language in Carroll's family, for which he
received an allowance from Carroll & did not
attend the public school during that time.
He had been duly paid by D. G. for the S.'s
half.

Aug: 30
175-3.

Nephew-
clergyman

Re the settlement of a clergyman
at Soloply - one Mr. Hugh Sutherland
a truly sensible & gentle young man
of a good natured & agreeable disposition, and
will I think be well adapted to the place.
That will render himself agreeable to the S.
when he comes to reside here; and tho'
he does not relish the people's notions in
some things, it is hoped that in some time
he may reconcile them to more reasonable
ways of thinking. Both the people & the
clergy desire his settling here, & there seems
to be no obstacle but the smallness of the
stipend - which is \$600 & \$50 for commu-
nion elements.

He says that the minister of Soloply

1753

was 'orn' exposed to expense - being in the
neighbourhood of the family & that the poor
man can move that his salary is 'scarcely' in
£150 Scots better than solitary -

In the first part of this letter he says the
people of Rosair made objections to Mr. Hugh S.
but they were frivolous & were overruled by the
clergy - who I must say have proceeded with
due regard to the Earl's rights of patronage -
That the clergy had mentioned that the Earl
not not shown evidence of his rights - D. G.
~~thinks there~~ is says "he has been lately talking
to me, who thinks from some writing that he
saw, that there was a disposition of some
such right of patronage - in the person of the
Bishop of Cairness, granted to the family of
Sutherland by the last Papish Bishop - who was
either Brother or uncle to the then Earl -" ~~that~~
D. G. asks McKenzie if there was any such
paper - as he would know of it.

Jean Gordon
He then refers to Mrs. Jean Gordon again -
relict of Dr. Gordon - who he says died
"about the latter end of April 1751"
His widow is claiming his salary etc -
She is now settled in a wife for a tack of a
house & Kille in Bannock

Jan 1755 -

Letter - 4 drafts.

Captain Geo. Sutherland. Langwell's brother
 James Brodie to Thomas Brodie W.S.
 Charles Gordon

* By letter to Dr. McEugie for his nephew's rent.

I have sent Charles Brodie our Salmon merchant.
 on account of the crop he received - the price being
 £309

* I bestowed a good deal of pains on Robert Gordon's
 son - about the wadset of Halmsday?

He does not know what price to ask M^r Baillie
 for the farms - the crop is indifferent, & prices in the
 South low.

He appeals to John Trow an excise officer - who has
 been removed - & has a family & family of young
 children & is in needy circumstances.

Captain Geo. Sutherland - Langwells' brother

1755 is satisfied to take the wadset of ^{categories} ~~suborder~~ ^{suborder} ~~suborder~~
 for 1000 merks at Whit 1756. He says the

manor house & office houses are in a very
 bad state of repair

1755 April: a dispute as to settling "a parson"
 at Loch. The Earl supports one McCulloch.
 the clergy of Ross & some of the people

Curry
most at
Holt

Support a rival Mr. Rice - ~~the~~ another letter
 An "eternity" presbyter are "deeply engaged" to
 Mr. Rice - "all our clergy are of an strict
 mind extremely bigoted & affect popularity,
 they all in a combination to get in clergy of their own
 sentiments. which they take Mr. Rice to be & certainly
 is so. They look on Mr. McCulloch as of the same
 moderate sentiments as Mr. McPherson - (see
 former letter) & will therefore make use of every
 measure in their power to oppose him. They have
 been always in hunting the whiffling people of
 Holt (whom they can easily sway) in a good
 opinion of Mr. Rice - showing that if they continued
 resolute they'll set the minister they choose. &
 that Mr. McCulloch is not fit for them. So
 giving them impressions & opposing the present
 more all run forward & in utterance than an
 his lately settled of the presentation is Kilborn
 & Report: 11

they mean to give all the trouble they can &
 oppose an ex. Paul Gillerly -

The unfortunate Beagubhai is still in Jail
 & Capernoch insists on his being kept there.
 His cautious will withdraw -
 In some way this debt was connected with the

D. G. - to Debon 1755. (Cont)

Journal of Lady Duffus - of 1481 marks - As from
R. Cant. get out of prison he is sending an
express to Edinburgh appealing to Gen. Sinclair.

Nov 1755.

How about Reauchair - Capernoch can't release
him because his cautioners refuse it - & he
is so nearly connected to them - C's wife a
Sister of Lamswell?) Reauchair is "heartily
tired of prison." All this dispute is connected also
with Reauchair's vote. he it seems always voted
for 'the family' & received - some - or no -
payment for this -

Another letter - Croft this year suffering from
the badness of the season - peas damaged. Last
year he had destroyed of the whole crop in the
counties & hopes to do the same this year. This is
much more convenient than selling to the merchants
in the south, as they insisted on all the crops
being sent to Ferry-ross - where it had to
be transferred from open boats, exposed it to
damage & put the estate to expense - where
as Mr. Ballie took it at the 3 granaries
of Helmsdale - Ferry-ross & Brora.

note - K. L. Payment of rents etc in kind

had many drawbacks - In years of bad harvest
 the grain was often damaged & difficult to
 distill & - prices varied accordingly -
 but the farmers suffered & having to
 sell up grain badly needed for their own
 use. They were naturally loth to do this
 & in consequence rents were constantly in
 arrears - often not forthcoming at all -
 George paid in good years -

Times of dearth were frequent -
 & involved great hardship on all - we
 frequently read that there was little or
 no food for cattle - & even the in-
 habitants knew what it was to want
 for meal & this chief form of sustenance -

Dec 1755

now about the ministers. The Parish of Golehy was vacant for the half of 1752 & the whole of 1753 Mr James? Sutherland having been transferred to Tain in Aug 1752. Mr. McKersson having been settled in April 1754 The glebe stipend payable by the Heritors. Besides the Earl of Golehy is as follows - viz. £50 glebe scots out of the Earl of Appal - when Sir John Gordon was the proprietor - Mr Ballie's purchase chit of having taken place at Whit-1754 £16. 15 - scots & 3 p. 13? out of Master Abhenscorne & Horrich - a part of the estate of Stelbo under sequestration. & 8 boll of Tain out of the & Abers: a part of Sutherland of Prongie's wadset on the estate of Stelbo.

The Parish of Kildonan has been vacant for the $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1753 - the whole of 1754 & the half of 1755

Disputed as to stipend
Mr Hugh Sutherland, the late incumbent having been transferred to Rogar. in Sept 1753. & Mr Hugh Ross having been settled at Kildonan 12 Sept 1755

list of wadsetters
All the parishes were vacant. The stipends were being uplifted by the Heritors of command of the Earl - a Ball Cakely to be disputed by the Heritors as this was the first time it had been asked for

Dec.
1755

D. G. proposes to set out for Kilbarnock & Skatunauer about the middle of next ^{week} ~~month~~ months - to return about the middle of next month - as usual "

1756

31st March

More about the wadset of Culferen? D.G. says John Clunes has made a very high offer for it - far above what he thinks the land was worth - but he believes this is done "from humour & prejudice against Torse & Capt. Sutherland."

2nd Feb.

Letter about settlement of prize money - the repayment of £1000 to Captain R. The officers have at last been induced to accept Deirin's arbitration so D. G. sends his account of the money.

"Though they have given me a good deal of trouble & some charges about the £100 - by sundry meetings - entering into submissions & raising process - yet in order to be rid of them & on account of matters being settled in an amicable way - I have charged nothing for my own trouble & outlay £421 sterling paid in last years salmon - William Sutherland - son of - & his cousin who was for some time with Anders"

D. G. to Delvin (9)

(9)

4 Mar:

1756.

Re. the appointment of a new Sheriff. Clearly
he must be one that understands Erie

all the seeds for the garden at Remondini
have been lost by the ship being 'cast away'

upset about Alex: Gray trying to set back of
a talk out of them: Delay moving to a house.

9 April. 1756 ?

Sir

I had not time in my last to make you a return of your favours of the 19th inst. By it I observe that My Lord is determined that all his farmers, those in bad as well as those in good circumstances shall be charged the same ? as the farmers were told to meet viz seven pounds Scotts per boll, his Lordships orders in this shall be obliged, tho' it must be owned that it's very easy and reasonable conversion to the ^{se} that are in good circumstances, yet the bulk of them are in very mean circumstances, and the easiest conversion that could be proposed ~~for them~~ will be too much for them considering those three seasons bad crops they have had. The reason I had to propose a ---? -- to some country gentlemen that my Lord could confide in, was that they could best judge which of the farmers ^{ought} ~~could~~ be charged a lower and which a higher o conversion, after proper inquiry into some necessary circumstances, which it could not be supposed My Lord himself would take the trouble to do. But as My Lord does not seem to relish anything of this nature, I shall say no more about it, and have therefore filled up the ? price of the arrears agreeable to your last. It is uneasy matter for me to turn good parts of several parishes waste, and ~~to~~ ^{struggle} to beggary, by taking up what ? have for payment of their arrears, which otherwise will not soon be paid, but the consequences to the Earl's interest would be worse if there was not a prospect of other tenants to those possessions for ^{that} let land become waste, it wo'nt be an easy matter to get the

two lines illegible. ----- if my Lord is positive on that .
head likewise.

D. G. To Belbin.

11

1754

no more letters for 1756?

10th June
May.

Letter on the case for Dornoch -

which has been "raised to eight months"
D. G. says Dornoch will never be able to
pay it - as there were not funds to pay the
case before - & Carrol who was Commissioner
of Supply, was always in arrears -

13 May

He asks Belbin for instructions as to what
is to be done in the way of repairs to the bridge &
Harrow this season. He also tells him that
the bridge at Bowra has half fallen, & must
be pulled down & rebuilt - as the salmon fishing
will suffer - Says there is no one in the country
capable of doing this - & arrangements must
be made to get a workman from Norway. The
workman would have "be he agreed with
this season, so that the timber could be
brought over with the salmon boats.

12th Oct 1754

He had a letter from McKenzie (Belvoir) in Sept-
last regarding Kearsnachans' ^{wadset} bond - which he &
Swelicks are to their wives are to sign up to the
Sail - & to receive a bond instead. 'Young'
Kearsnachan had been to see D. G. but 'Old'
Kearsnachan had not.

2nd Nov. 1754

some about the conversion of the Kearsnachans'
wadset. D. G. encloses "their modest"
proposals "on the subject:

He says that Belvoir himself had allowed
that "the lands of Leathie were irredeemable
they being no part of the estate of Duffus -
but part of the estate of the Murrays of
Aliscro. of which Kincauld was also a part

Reas: said that the late Lord Duffus - on his
death had begun a process to try & recover it
from them; but had to desist - & that they now
think that neither Leathie nor Mowich can

Reauchan's wadset (cont)

be taken from them.

He writes about the price that the 'tailmen & tenants' are to pay — the same as they are in arrears for the last year's crop — of £7 Scots he tells. "This price may be exacted, but a great many of the small tenants have not got substance to pay the arrears they already owe, although the whole of their effects were now roused, & the only effect of charging such a high price will be to enlarge the list of arrears & to discourage the tenants.

He recites part of his letter, & says — that a great many of the small tenants are very poor & unable to pay their arrears, although the whole of their substance was taken up for them.

Jan 1758.

a warning against Reauchan — they are now turning to Tordarroch — for a copy of his tale of the lands of Siddera, & all we can find is one of his father's. The house of Siddera was pillaged in 1746 — & no

doubt- papers are not set up. He says the
 no rent was - the lands of Ouesleibo for over
 40 years have paid two tolls of day
 & ^{multure} multure? to Siddena mill. This can be
 verified by taking the oaths of Tondarscho & the
 brothers of Ouesleibo - but the latter is "old &
 kinder" & his oath should be taken without delay

He has £5,000 or £6,000 to remit to Edinburgh -
 (Scotts?) & but has only been able to find draft for
 £1-30 - Does he advise D. G. to remit what
 banknotes he has in the Dornoch bag - &
 what precautions does he advise to prevent
 miscarriages.

The price of cattle has fallen, & many of
 the tenants have their cattle still on their
 hands, with which they had hoped to pay their
 arrears of rent. The crops also is bad & with
 last years death the poorest sort an undue
 to great straits. . Some of them can no
 hold their possessions no longer - but must
 go to service - or beg their living -

D. G. to Delvin ~~WAZZ~~ Jan 25 / 58.

..... about the money on my hands, I cannot yet tell you. The price of cattle having unexpectedly fallen this last season has made the payments on this country in general more backward than otherwise they would be, as the people kept their cattle on hand in expectation of the prices at the later markets, in which they were disappointed, and by that means several have their cattle still on hand that they had in view to answer their credit. This with the last year's dearth of corn and low price of cattle, has rendered the poorest sort to great straits, several of whom are not able to hold their possessions longer, but must go to service or begging, and some possessions must inevitably be waste, and as this year's crop is by all appearance not much better than the last years, the tenants straits and arrears must still increase, more especially that the price of all country commodities are fallen as well as the cattle. The most of the tenants on this estate have but small possessions, and small stocks and a few bad crops will sweep away their substance. These are truths that will be disagreeable to my Lord to hear, but I assure you are in no ways exaggerated (as likely some will be apt to believe) but will be more and more felt by his Lordship the more he is acquainted with his estate and affairs, and while the maxim continues (which has been pretty much followed of late) of bringing all the small tenantry into the Earl's hands, and raising the rents without any adequate improvements on the lands, the payment of the rents will be more and more precarious; and the grounds in several places are really run out, and yield no crops owing to their constantly labouring the same without any rest. I have rather said too much on this subject.

I am dr Sir

May / 58

Lady Evelix's jointure was only £25. odd sterling per annum

June 17 / 58

The clergy are now trying to get in Hugh Rose as minister for Dornoch, They apparently failed to get him in to Loth

Dec. 58.

Hugh Rose is now trying to get appointed to Crieach, if he hears that the Earl is opposing his presentation he will raise all the opposition he can, and his new alliance with Glastullich's sister may bring several of the heritors to his

side.

28th Dec/ 58

Carrol is in tender health

59 27 Jan.

Carrol had departed this life on the 14th, while D. G. was on his annual trip to Strathnaver. In him the Earl has lost a true and steady friend, and the country a useful worthy man. He had unluckily delayed settling his affairs till his last sickness, and though he then laboured

assiduously to put them on a proper footing, he was too ill for anything effective to be done. His hear is in Jamaica following the business of surgeon

17 / 59

Evelix is now in a very destitute condition, he wants to get

acsess to the office houses of Evelix, and has not been given permission. His possession of Dalnamain also kept by Tordarroch. He wants to get the mansion house and offices of Evelix for some years and if he cannot get them he has no where to go with his family. D. G. is evidently sympathetic.

13-Oct. 1759

.....
Last week and this I have been with the Earl in Strathnaver and the Parish of Kildonnan, and naext week and the wek thereafter will nearly complaet our circuit thro' the rest of the estate on the recruiting business. The method we take is to appoint a rendezvous of the men of each parish, and at thees meetings such as are fitt to be soldiers are selected, and from these we again (select?) such as are not tennants whom we immediartely engage for the regiment, and those that remain who are tennants, are told that if the Earl cannot otherwise complete the regiment, they are to be afterwards called upon. Tho' the Earl has not hitherto met with any untoward

26 / Oct 59.

..... D. G. says that the Earl is anxius to have Captain George Sutherland (Langwell's brother) at MidGarty, only the mansion house and office houses are ruinous. The earl has a particular regard for the Captain, and in order to save an out lay of money he tells D. G. to look round for some other suitable place for him. D. G. can only think of Rearquhair's place, some buildings

put up there by Captain McKay should be in good condition when his lease expires. The wretched R. is still in debt to General St. Clair, though young R is going to 'make a push' to regain possession when the lease expires,

16 April. Aug. Sun. July

1716	1797
1746	1766
1716	8.1
30	

Decurion
31

July 1746

in the Highlands an

uneasy place had succeeded the disasters of last year. In the west ~~the~~ English soldiers recruited for the Prince ~~at~~ ⁱⁿ perils & dependant on the charity of humble people who might have betrayed him for a reward but would have been rich lieutenants for themselves & their families. Sutherland was not suspected of harbouring Jacobites - ~~it has~~ ^{it has} ~~but~~ but life was disrupted & remote from trade - such as it was at a distance. The Earl was in the south where he had gone in the hopes receiving the payment promised by the English Government for the expenses in raising the two Loos - for the English Government & in keeping a sword ~~below~~

His principal factor Duncan Gilchrist was left in charge of the estate. ~~He~~ lived in the castle. He was to write as Ruggie was truly active & shrewd &

devoted to the family he served -

One can imagine him sitting

His correspondent was Robert McAlister

one of the McAlisters of — who was father

for the secret estate of Skelbo

$$\begin{array}{r} 16. \\ 7 \\ \hline 23 \\ 7 \\ \hline 30 \\ 7 \\ \hline 37 \end{array}$$

7 Harry

14 "

21 "

28 "

4 James —

11 James

7
18 James

$$\begin{array}{r} 31 \\ 7 \\ \hline 15 \\ 7 \\ \hline 17 \\ 2 \\ \hline 24 \\ 7 \\ \hline 31 \\ 1 \end{array}$$