

Murder of the Earl of Sutherland

To go back to the origins of the feud between the families of Sutherland and Caithness. In ~~Qzzyz~~ 1561 Hugh Murray of Abiscors killed Iver-Mackean-Mack-Thomas (a gentleman of the Seilt~~Thomas~~), for which he incurred Earl John his displeasure. see Gordon P 139.

Hugh Moray fled to Caithness and sought the protection of the Earl of Caithness, his father Hucheon Murray stayed in Sutherland, and submitted himself to Earl John, who, suspecting him to be a party to his son's crime imprisoned him in Dunrobin. he was however proved innocent when brought to his trial,. " And then not only was he released ,but also by his means and mediation his son ~~Earle~~ Hugh Moray, was again reconciled to his ~~Mr~~ Earle John. Yit this bred such a hatred between the Morrayes and Seilthomas that they continued a long time at variance. "

About this time William and Angus Sutherlands, with the rest of the Southerland of Berridale, killed divers of the Earle of Catteynes his men, brunt the lands of Clynes in that ~~cauntryz~~ cuntry, and spoiled the same.

They were banished out of Caithness by Earl George, but they returned and assisted by Hugh Morray of Abiscors, they took the castle of Berrydale, burnt and wasted the adjoining country, and " molested Catteynes. " When Earle John returned from Flanders he obtained their pardon with the rest of their accomplices thereby incurring the mortal hatred of The Earle of Caithness, not only for the Morays, but for their protector Earle John and for all the inhabitants of Sutherland.

The reign was that of Mary^Q of Scotts

(Four years be fore this the Queen Regent had given a commision to the Earle of Suth against Y- Mackay, and afte reducing the castle of Borwe, and hanging the defender he demolished it)

On the seventeenth of April 1566 the Earl of Caithness obtained the "justisiarie" (heritable jurisdiction) from Port-ne-Gouter to Duncansby, (Dungesby) . This charter he obtained through the favour of Bothwell, with whom he plotted against Darnley , (Gordon) whose sister his eldst son married

After the battle of Corrachie fought between the Huntlys
and The Earle of Murray (Q1567) The Earl of Sutherland
had been banished to Flanders , he returned to Scotland
in 1565

John Earle of Sutherland was three times married,
he was the son of the master of Sutherland, Alexander Gordon
he succeeded when he was a child of ten years old, and
was for some years in the gaurdian ship of his mother
who after her husbands death married Sir Hugh Kennedy
of Griffenmains, and was distinguished by having married
~~four~~ husbands when she died.
five

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John Sont of Sutherland - son of Ge Alexander
master of Sutherland. & his wife Lady Jane
Stuart - daughter of the Earl of Arbuthnot. his
father died in 1529 - & he succeeded to
his grandfather Adam Gordon Earl of Sutherland
who succeeded by right of his wife the
Lady Elizabeth Sutherland. Adam Gordon
was the 2nd son of the Earl of Huntly - he
died in 1537. having out-lived his wife
Lady Elizabeth by two years only.

The new Sont was in his mother's charge
& was brought up by her - till he began to
rule his Earldom in 1545. when he was 18.

He grew up a strong & vigorous character
& held his own against the enemies of the
houses of Sutherland & Huntly - during the
stormiest reign in Scottish history - that
of Mary 2. of Scots.

While he was still a minor this century

was attacked by the Naikays - who descended
on the country from their fastness in
Strathmore -

Gilbert Gordon of Lantay was the 4th son of
Adam Gordon Earl of Sutherland - he married
~~Isobel~~ Isobel Sinclair - sister daughter of the Laird
of Dunbair - (Dunblair.) whose brother
married Beatrice Gordon - daughter of the
Marquis of Sutherland - he being their first brother
in Law - to John Earl of Sutherland, who
was the nephew of Gilbert Gordon & Isobel Sinclair
his wife - who poisoned him & his wife -

Earl John grew up "of a comely stature &
proportion, of a fair & good countenance (149)
kind & courteous to all men, & so mild full
of mercy & affability & so well beloved
that he was "recommended to posterity" &
the name of the good Earl John -

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p 802,3.

Keyth, falconer to William, Lord Berridale, accompanied by forty bowmen armed with bows, darlochs, swords, dirks etc and wearing hacquebuts and pistolets went by the direction of the Earl of Caithness and William Lord Berridale to Lord Forbes lands and the craig of Dunbaith where Johnne Gariauche, his servitor, was keeping his falcon nest for the time." Gariauchex was threatened with a pistol, and then one of the invaders climed the rock ~~and~~ took from the nest a young falcon only a few days old, and threw the rest of the eggs into the sea below. Keyth was fined 10 marks and ordered to be confined in the Tolbooth till he had paid it. In particular, the Earl's spite was directed against Lord Forbes' factor, William Innes, a Morayshire man who lived at Sandset. One night, in the late ^{November} autumn of 1615, the stackyard of Sandset was set on fire and "eight great stacks of beare and eight great stacks of oats" were burnt out. A report was circulated that some of MacKay's tenants were responsible for the fire

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