

FOX MONEY IN SUTHERLAND IN THE 18th CENTURY

A contemporary account of Sutherland in the 18th century describes it as " a mountainous country surrounded on two sides by the sea, which is bounded by a rocky coast, where foxes and eagles find such shelter that it is extremely difficult to exterminate them, or in any tolerable degree to protect the country from their ravages."

In those far-off days, it is surprising to find that a system of premiums was organised and administered by the Commissioners of Supply, the nearest 18th century equivalent to a County Council. Over the years this was effective in destroying large numbers of these " ravenous animals" which did so much damage to the sheep, goats and even ^{to} the poultry of the inhabitants of the glens.

At a meeting held on November 5th, 1768, ~~the~~ ^{Sullivan} heritors, gentlemen and tacksmen of two parishes—
Dornoch and Criech—declared that a "proper method

The premiums were raised to 2/- for ^{every} fox - 1/2
for a cub & ~~fox & cub~~ & 1/6 for a cub.
~~Proof~~ ^{charging} 2

The contributions were increased by 2^d from every £
of money rent & the premiums were raised to 5/-
from every £ of money rent, and from the small fund
thus raised 1/- would be paid for every fox killed and
1/8d for every eagle. killed in the 2 parishes

A year later this scheme was extended to the whole
county ~~and~~ from that time and for many years to come
Fox Money formed a regular item in the County finances.

At first records of the numbers killed were not
shewn in the Commissioners annual accounts. But
in 1772, £22 ^{sterling} was ~~paid~~ shewn to have been paid by the
Reay estate ~~for the three previous years~~ for foxes
and eagles killed in the three previous years.

x The scheme did not work very well for some years.
Small though the sums demanded of each landholder were,
several of them were in arrears with their payments.
In particular, Sir George Munro of Pointzfield, Cromarty,
steadily refused to pay anything for the lands he held in
Sutherland. In vain the Commissioners pleaded with
him for payment, and then threatened to point ^{the} his goods,
gears and effects of Sir George, who, by 1789 owed
£10-2-2. In the long run this claim was the cause

185
181

3 6 6

2222
but by 1700 Eagles had gone up to 2/6-

3

of a law suit between the Commissioners² and Sir George,¹
in which evidence was offered on behalf of the Commissioners
of Supply that between 1774¹ and 1780 2,275 foxes
and 148 eagles had been destroyed. (Proof of the useful
effect of the scheme.)

The minutes of the meetings held during those years
show that the premiums were several times ^{altered} changed. and
in 1785 ^{was said} were 5/ for each fox, but (it seems an insult
to the king of British birds that) ^{remained in the talons} the prize of an eagle had
fallen to 1/-.

1784

in the county
in the county
in 1785

To speed up the destruction of these " ravenous
animals" it was next determined to appoint a hunter for
each parish. ^{that excess box} ~~They were each to be paid~~ ^{he} £8 a year, plus what
premiums he earned and had to take an oath that he
would not allow his dogs to "kill, hunt or run after
deer" and that he himself would not shoot deer, roe
or hare, blackcock, muirfowl (~~grouse~~) or partridge under
the most severe penalties. (As proof of his claim
for premium he had to show the ears of each fox
and the talons of an eagle. These were then burnt to

188
366

58-4

AT

to engage a fox hunter for ^{each} parishes in the county
at a salary of £8 a year plus what he earned
in premiums

contribute 1d from every boll of (meal) rent and 1d from every £1 of money rent, and from the small fund thus raised, 1/- would be paid for every fox ~~killed~~ and 1/8d for every eagle killed in the two parishes.

A year later this scheme was extended to the whole county. The premiums were raised to 5/- for a fox, ^{1/6 for a cub & 5/- for an eagle -} and the same for an eagle, & 1/6 for a cub. ^{fox} The contributions were increased by a charge of 2d on every £1 of money rent. From that time and for many years to come, Fox Money formed a regular item in the County finances.

At first the number ^{of} killed were not shown in the Commissioners annual accounts; but in 1772, £22 sterling was shown to have been paid by the Reay estate for foxes and eagles ^{destrayed} killed in the three previous years.

The scheme did not work very well for some years. Small though the sums demanded of each landholder were, several of them ^{put into} were in arrears with their payments. In particular, Sir George Munro of Poytsfield, Cromarty, steadily refused to pay anything for the lands he held in Sutherland. In vain the Commissioners pleaded with

-ments. In particular, Sir George Munro of Foynt^yfield Cromarty, steadily refused to pay anything for the lands he held in Sutherland. In vain the Commissioners, pleaded with him for payment and then threatened to point the goods, gear and effects of Sir George, who, by 1779, owed £10-7-2d.¹ In the long run this claim was the cause of a law suit between Sir George and the Commissioners of Supply in which evidence was offered on behalf of the Commissioners—as proof of the useful effect of the scheme—that between 1774 and 1780, 2,275 foxes and 148 eagles had been destroyed.

The minutes of the meetings held during these years show that the premiums were several times altered. In 1784, 5/- was paid for a grown fox, but the price of eagles had fallen to 1/-.

In 1785, to speed up the extermination of the ravenous animals, it was determined to engage ^a Fox Hunter~~s~~ for each parish in the county, at a salary of £8. 0.0 a year, plus what he earned in premiums. Each hunter had to take an oath that he would not allow

his dogs "to kill, hunt or run after deer." and that he himself " would not shoot deer, roe or hare, blackcock, muirfowl or partridge, under pain of the most severe penalties."

From 1785 to 1794, when these records of Fox Money cease, the annual bag was shown in greater detail. In 1785, it was 336 foxes and 26 eagles, 1788, foxes 233 and eagles 13. 1791, foxes 231, eagles 29 and 1794, foxes 346 eagles 32. Eagles were almost all killed in Assynt, Durness or Edrachillis, but 3 were killed in Kildonnan in 1788. The total number of foxes killed between 1781 and 1794 was 3,716. Eagles were not shown on the returns till 1785, between that year and 1794, 175 were destroyed.

Fox Money was probably continued beyond 1794; but in that year the Collector of Supply for the County, Dugald Gilchrist, ^{was} now nearly eighty. He had kept the records for twenty-six years and age or ill health made him retire from active life. But the premiums must have lapsed early in the 19th century, because in 1819, a Society calling itself the "United

" Association of Noblemen, Gentlemen and Farmers " was
formed which was interested in all aspects of sheep
farming. ~~Losses from the flocks were heavy~~

Losses from the flocks were heavy. At a meeting
held 7th March, 1819, it was resolved that the county
should be divided into ten districts and that a hunter
should be engaged for each district. Wages were to
be :- twenty bolls of meal for the dogs, six and a half
bolls for the hunter; free house and garden; potato
land and the keep of two cows. With the liberal
premiums offered these wages were thought generous.

The net was cast much wider than the killing
off of foxes and eagles only. Hawks, wild cats, martens
were also included; ^{as well as} carrion crows and even jackdaws
and magpies. For the years 1820 and 1821, the results
were as follows. Old eagles 112, Young eagles 18. ^{7 foxes}
Wild cats and Martens 317. Ravens 516, Hawks 281. ²⁶⁶
Carrion Crows 1,183. " Making a total that fed on
the flocks of 2,638." ^{born 121. was} ~~It is noted that no foxes~~
~~were included in the returns.~~

*offered for a born fox, no foxes were included
in the returns.*

" Association of Noblemen, Gentlemen and Farmers," was formed, which was interested in all aspects of sheep farming.

At a meeting held 7th March, 1819, it was resolved that the county should be divided into ten districts and that a hunter should be engaged for each district. Wages were to be, 20 bolls of meal for the dogs; $6\frac{1}{2}$ bolls for the hunter; free house and garden; potato land and the keep of two cows. With the liberal premiums offered these wages were thought generous.

The gradual increase in the number of families & the preservation of estates & the paper and it is the records of two two year and the only one that have survived is a collection of family papers — the gradual increase in the number of partnerships in estates probably must have rendered the system a whole & system of premiums & hunters paid by a Society unnecessary. unnecessary is

Hawks 281, Carrion Crows 1,183. " Making a total that fed on the flocks of 2,638.

The records of those two years are the only ones that have survived in a collection of ^{county transactions} ~~family~~ papers. ^{but} As time went on, the gradual increase in the number of game-keepers on ~~estates~~ must have rendered the whole system of premiums paid by ^{the} Society unnecessary.

K. J. Lyon

12 Castle Street

Dornoch

Sutherland

Editor: COUNTRY LIFE

1819
1794
1285

Eagles in Sutherland. 1820

Sir.

In the ^{early} years of the nineteenth century when sheep were introduced into Sutherland, the sheep-farmers found that vermin took an increasing toll of their flocks. An association calling itself, "The United Association of Noblemen, Gentlemen and Farmers," was formed, which was interested in all aspects of sheep-farming.

At a meeting held 7th March, 1819, it was resolved that the county should be divided into ten districts (which included Tongue, Eribol, Assynt, Kildonan, Strathnaver, Klibrack and Ben Armine), and that a hunter should be engaged for each district. Wages were to be, 20 bolls of meal for the dogs; 6½ bolls for the hunter; free house and garden, potato land and the keep of two cows. With the liberal premiums offered these wages were thought generous, though ~~15/- for an eagle may not seem impressive to us.~~

For the years 1820 and 1821, the results were as follows:-
Old eagles, 112, Young eagles, 18. Wild cats and marten, 317.
Ravens, 516. Hawks, 281. Carrion Crows, 1,183. " Making a ²⁰⁷⁰
total that fed on the flocks of 2,638." ₂₀₇

It is difficult to realise that eagles were so numerous in those days.

Dornoch Sutherland.

K. Lyon.

K. J. Ryan

12 Castle St.

Dorwich.

Sutcliffe

<u>Sales killed</u>	<u>Foxes</u>	<u>Year</u>
?	286	1782
?	262	1783
?	287	1784
20	261	1785
		1786

1782

165-	
99	
1	
6	
5	
2	
1	
2	
2	
9	
68	
3	
1	
286	

Quins
Way

$\frac{42}{9}$
56

<u>1781</u>	269	?	Fox
<u>1782</u>	286		—

1783 283

1784 181

1785 335 26 eggs

1786 121 for front

1787 143 hart

1788 ~~336~~ 21 ~~28~~

1789 339 6

1790 334 11

1791 231 29

1792 297 19

1793 279 24

1794 346 32

<u>36</u>	<u>175</u>
3716	

1785 335 Fox 26 eggs

Some of the mail coaches have by all a subject
for romance, George the traveller, George Day was
probably more concerned to get a good place for himself
& get to well care of his belongings than troubled by
romantic notions of his journey -

Recently, in a bundle of letters I found a ticket
for the Caledonian Coach, running from Edinburgh to
Inverness. It is dated for Thursday, 14th November, 1818,
starting at 9 a.m. The fare - for an inside place, £1. 10s -
equal to £10 a month to day.

On the ticket is a list of the coaches starting from
the Royal Mail Coach Office, at the British Hotel, P. A.
The mail coach for London left every afternoon at 2.30.

The coach for Liverpool & Carlisle & Manchester left at 1.45 -
There were coaches for Aberdeen, Sterling & Glasgow, all
leaving between 8 a.m. & 9 a.m. The Union coach left for

London every ^{but} morning at 5 a.m. On a cold winter's morning
with an icy wind blowing up Princes St, a chilly start
to a long journey for the outside passengers.

The Princes Saxe Coburg, a coach affair, carrying my
4 inside passengers went to Perth, & the next day
continued to Aberdeen. The Waterloo also ran to Perth
& the Wellington started for London, at 3.30 a.m.

~~The Caledonian ran ~~at~~ between Ed & Inverness
for many years, it~~

~~as a long~~ part of a steady but steady service to
Joseph Mitchell, Telford Chief Inspector for the
in his reminiscences, ^{relates} how he travelled up to
Inverness on the Caledonian, many years later

of fact - on the
line - is the
Wellington

ry 17

-ments. In particular, Sir George Munro of Poyntzfield, Cromarty, steadily refused to pay anything for the lands he held in Sutherland. In vain the Commissioners of Supply pleaded with him for payment and then threatened to point the goods, gear and effects of Sir George, who, by 1779, owed £10-7-2d! In the long run this claim was the cause of a law suit between Sir George and the Commissioners, in which evidence was offered on their behalf--- as proof of the usefulness of the scheme-- that between 1774 and 1780, 2,275 foxes and 148 eagles had been destroyed.

143
160

75-2

4 5-5

The minutes of the meetings show that

The premiums offered were changed as held to

on the premiums offered varied
The Minutes of the meetings held during these years show that premiums were several times altered.

In 1784, 5/- was paid for a grown fox, but the price of eagles had fallen to 1/-.

In 1785, to speed up the extermination of the ravenous animals, it was determined to engage a fox hunter for each parish in the county, at a salary of £8-0-0 a year, plus what he earned in premiums. Each hunter had to take an oath that he would not allow

The premiums offered were altered from time to time & by 1785 - ~~the~~ 5/- was paid for a grown fox (the price of eagles had fallen to 1/-)

17 1/2

...had been destroyed. that between 1774 and 1780, 2,275 foxes and 148 eagles behalf--- as proof of the usefulness of the scheme-- Commissioners, in which evidence was offered on their the case of a law suit between Sir George and the by 1774 owed £10,000. In the long run this claim was to void the goods, etc. and effects of Sir George, who Supply-placed with him for payment and then threatened he held in Ayrland. In vain the Commissioners of Cromarty, absently refused to pay anything for the land-

...of eagles had fallen to 1/- In 1784, 5/- was paid for a grown fox, but the price years show that premiums were several times altered. The Minutes of the meetings held during those years as the business offered were

his dogs "to kill, hunt or run after deer" and that he himself "would not shoot deer, roe or hare, blackcock muirfowl or partridge, under pain of the most severe penalties!"

From 1785 to 1794, when these records of Fox Money cease, the annual bag was shown in greater detail. In 1785, it was 336 foxes and 26 eagles. 1788, 233 foxes and 13 eagles. 1791, 231 foxes, eagles 29. 1794, 346 foxes and 32 eagles. Eagles were almost all killed in Assynt, Durness or Edrachillis, but three were killed in Kildonnan in 1788. The total number of foxes killed between 1781 and 1794 was 3,716. Eagles were not shown on the returns till 1785, between that year and 1794, 175 were destroyed.

Fox Money probably continued beyond 1794; but in that year the Collector of Supply for the County, Dugald Gilchrist of Ospisdale, was now nearly eighty. He had kept the records for twenty-six years and age or ill health made him retire from active life. But the premiums ^{may} must have lapsed early in the 19th

In 1819 a Society known as
the J.A. was formed, & at a meeting
held on March 7th that year, it was
resolved that to counter the heavy
losses suffered by their flocks

known as
century, because at meetings of the Society called

"The United Association of Noblemen, Gentlemen & Farmers'
of the County of Sutherland", there were frequent references
to the heavy losses suffered by their flocks.

plus Society

At a meeting held on March 7th, 1819, it was
resolved that the county should be divided into ten
districts and that a hunter should be engaged for each
district. Wages were to be :- twenty bolls of meal
for the dogs; six and a half bolls of meal for the
hunter; free house and garden; potato land and the
keep of two cows. With the liberal premiums offered
these wages were thought generous.

The net was cast much wider than the killing off
of foxes and eagles only. (Hawks, wild cats and martens
were also included, as well as carrion crows, jackdaws
and even magpies.) For the years 1820 and 1821, the
results of the scheme were as follows. Old eagles
112, young eagles 18. Wild cats and martens 317. Ravens 516.

44
615
759

Council
Whitaker
Sutherland

112	17
18	6
317	<u>23</u>
506	
211	
281	
1,183	
<u>2,638</u>	

Walter Sutherland
on papers about
Sutherland

Foxes 211, Hawks 281, Carrion Crows 1,183. "Making a total that fed on the flocks of 2,638."

The records of those two years are the only ones that have survived in a collection of county transactions. ~~But as time went on, the gradual increase in the number of game-keepers on estates must have rendered the whole system of premiums paid by a Society unnecessary.~~

collected
two hundred years
among another
family of
Sutherland

^{They are just} A page is too long
Campaign of the extermination of 'vermin'
of few and the wild animals which
not come under this classification
by one or other of the sporting, fishing &
farming interests.

^{They are just} a page in the (Long) Campaign
waged during two hundred years for the extermination
of 'vermin'; few and the wild animals which
have not come under this classification
by one or other of the sporting, game or farming
interests during the two centuries.

Her records of these 2 years are the only ones
that have survived in a private collection
of county transactions. In two hundred years
of warfare waged ^{of warfare waged}
what countless thousands have been destroyed
by farming & sporting interests. Now we can ^{can} walk
across ^{many} miles of ^{a Sutherland moor} without
seeing anything more exciting than a few
flocks of the ~~the~~ ^{any} from of wild life ~~at all~~ -
we can walk over miles of moors
now ~~there~~ are miles of ^{Sutherland} ~~moorland~~ & ~~moorland~~
empty of any form of wild life ~~at~~ a man-made
desert.

against wild life
farming &

In two hundred years of warfare waged by sporting
interests, what countless thousands of ^{wild} creatures have been
destroyed. Now we can walk across
many a Sutherland moor

K.J. Lyon
12 Castle Street
Dornoch

Sutherland

empty of any form of wild
life - that includes the grouse for which so much
has been sacrificed.

In two hundred years of warfare waged against wild
creatures by farming & sporting interests, what countless
thousands must have been destroyed. Now we can walk
on many ^a Sutherland moors, which seem to ^{be} ~~have~~
~~reduced~~ to a desert - but for the lonely, silent
lights & shadows chase over the heather &
mossy ridges of the forest more empty than

1768

Destruction of Foxes & Eagles. 18th Century

From Minutes of the Meetings of the Heritors.

This scheme seems to have begun in 1768. When at a meeting held in Dornoch 4th November 1768, the heritors gentlemen and tacksmen of the parishes of Dornoch & Criech met at Dornoch. They considered how great damage is done in the above parishes by foxes and eagles and that a proper method should be fallen upon to destroy foxes & eagles. within these bounds. They therefore agree to pay at the rate of 1d str: yearly out of each boll of rent and at the rate of 2d str: of each pund of str: money rent to be impressed into the hands of Mr MacKay, Skibo, as a fund to be applied as follows vz one shilling str: for every fox killed from the 15th September to the 15th March yearly and 1/8 for every eagle and it is agreed that every heritor shall collect of the lands belonging to them and pay in the aforesaid stent to Mr MacKay. And that Mr MacKay shall upon the 30th April or any day ~~so~~ on which the collector of supply for the County of Sutherland is chosen at Dornoch, pay to all who may produce the two ears of every fox and the two ^aclws of every eagle, upon their swearing that they have been killed in the bounds of the said parishes agreeable to the above regulations and payment in like manner the 6th October thereafter.

Signed Robert MacKay. Robert Gray Wm Sutherland
 Geo Sutherland,, George MacKay Siddera. Robert Gray
 Will Sutherland John MacKay. James Sutherland Murray
 (Clyne & Pulrossie)

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

1781 Charles Gordon of Pulrossie was asking ten shilling rent of Pulrossie

178

Destruction of Foxes & Eagles. 18th Century

From Minutes of the Meetings of the Hunters.

for nothing must be omitted that was due to her rank
 and at the same time expense must be considered, for
 Lord Sutherland had incurred heavy ex

They therefore agree to pay at the rate of 1d per
 yearly out of each half of rent and at the rate of
 3d per acre of each pound of str: money rent to be
 impressed into the hands of Mr Mackay, Skibo, as a
 fund to be applied as follows viz one shilling per
 acre for every fox killed from the 15th September to
 the 15th March yearly and 1/8 for every eagle and it
 is agreed that every hunter shall collect of the
 lands belonging to them and pay in the aforesaid amount
 to Mr Mackay. And that Mr Mackay shall upon the
 30th April or any day on which the collector
 of supply for the County of Sutherland is chosen
 at Inverness, pay to all who may produce the
 two ears of every fox and the two claws of every
 eagle, upon their swearing that they have been
 killed in the bounds of the said parishes expressible
 to the above regulations and payment in like
 manner the 6th October thereafter.

signed Robert Mackay, Robert Gray, Wm Sutherland
 Geo Sutherland, George Mackay, Robert Gray
 Will Sutherland, John Mackay, James Sutherland Murray
 (O'Connell & Phipps)

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

181 Minutes of the Meetings of the Hunters
 signed in the year of 1818

1769

At Dornoch 8th December 1769 in a Meeting of the Justices of the Peace for the county of Suthd: in consequence of their adjournment of 10th November last.

Sederunt

Hon: Geo MacKay of Skibo. Robert Gray Esq of Ardens
Robt: Gray Esq of Criech. James Sutherland Murray of Clyne
& pulrossy. Hugh Munro of Achany Wm Suthld: of Shibs:
John Gordon of Garrol and Dug: Gilchrist factor to the
Countess of Sutherland.

Hon. Geo MacKay Preses and Hugh M-Culloch Sheriff
Clerk depute was chosen Clerk.

" Thereafter the Justices of the Peace took under consideration their Minutes of the 4th NovBr. 1768. concerning the destroying of foxes & eagles within the parishes of Dornoch & Criech and were of opinion that the most effective way for destroying the foxes and Eagles would be to raise or ,,,,,, the premiums and to extend it over the whole county & the whole County should be assessed for that purpose.

They therefore for themselves and taking burden on them for all the other landholders in the County. Agree and engage to pay 1d str: yearly out of each boll of rent and 2d str: out of each pound str: of money rent over the whole County for the Crops and Year 1769 and in time coming until this resolution be altered by the Justices to be applied as follows :-

2/- to be paid for every grown fox and Eagle and 1/- for every fox cub or whelp that shall be killed within the Bounds of the County to such person or persons as shall kill the same upon their making proof of their doing so in manner aftermentioned.

Noting for 1970?

At Dornoch 30th April 1771.

In a Meeting of the Comms: of Supply for the County of Sutherland.

Sederunt.
Captain James Sutherland at Dunrobin. Wilm: Suthd: of Shibs: Robt Gray of Criech. Captain Geo: Suthd: of Rhiarchar. Lieut Walter Gray at Rhine. Mr Jas: Campbell, Factor to the Countess of Sutherland, B Duncan, eldest Baillie of the Burgh of Dornoch & John Gordon of Carrol.

The comms: being qualified in terms of law proceeded to the choice of a President & Clerk and the question being put Captain James Suthd: was chosen preses and Hugh MacCulloch Sherriff Clk depute of Suthd: was chosen Clerk.

Thereafter Sir Joh Gordon of Embo was chosen Colltr: of Supply & (cess?) and anent the arrears of cess due out of the estates of Clyne & Fulrossie & ca(?)

Thereafter Mr Gilchrist represented that in consequence of the last appointment of the Comms: respecting the levying & pay out (?) a certain due for the killing of Foxes & Eagles within this county be now produced and account of charge & discharge of the intromissions in that way ~~likewis~~ whereby a ballance arises due him of £1 3 10d. str: which he craves may be reimbursed him out of the money levied on that account by the other collectors appointed by the Comms: for the purpose in different parts of the county or in such other ways as the Comms: shall think proper.

Dugald G was appointed received of the overplus

After that they passed to the consideration of the roads.

Noting about payment of Fox account

and seed cake; confections of "appricots", currants, apples, angellica, etc and a box of sweetmeats. Of wine there was sent twelve dozen of claret, eight dozen of sherry and one dozen of Malaga, which Andrew Munro observes is a sweet white wine, fit for lady's drinking; With what was already in the castle cellars this was considered sufficient for those who would attend.

The wine was sent up by boat, together with more clothes, a pound of "smoaking tobacco" for Lord Duffus and new mourning shoes for Ubster and Hugh Gordon of Carrol. For the bottling of the wine Munro asked that bottles might be sent from Dunrobin as bottles were not to be had in Inverness for any money. It is interesting to note that the skipper of the boat, Captain Reid, had his cargo insured in London.

Handwritten note: ...

30th April 1772

At Dornoch. Meeting of the C's of S:

Sederunt. Capt James S of Oldany. Cap: Goe :Sutherland
of Elohin. Robert Gray of Criech. Wm S Of Shibs:
Lieut Walter Gray. D.G. James Campbell factor to
the Countess of S.

Preses JS. of Oldany. Sir John Gordon chosen Collector
of Supply

Their next proceedings were to give drcret against the
several heritors in the Parish of Dornoch for their
proportions of £40 str: for building the school house
a general decret having formerly been given theron on
27 June 1771 payable to Mr James Campbell---- at
Whits 1772.

Nexy anant arrears of the Cess of Clyne & Pulrossie
Adjourned to 15th May

15 May 1772.

A meeting about dues and rates of payment of the
various estates.

Another meeting in October about the same

To help the speedy destruction of the foxes cubs to
be 5/- same as old foxes

The roads to be carried on this year as formerly and the
same overseers appointed.

Dornoch 4th August 1772.

Various heritors had been written to but only Lieut Charles
Gordon had answered. He had paid the dues of the Reay
Estate for three years, 1769, 1770, 1771. They had come
to £22 7 ld. and taken credit for £36 7 as laid out
on Foxes and eagles killed for that estate.
Then about the wadsets of Tongue and Strathmelvic etc

Hugh Munro of Achany had paid his own and Pointzfields
for three years amounting to £3.11

30th April 1772

1772 Continued

The Commissioners were very dissatisfied with this and told the clerk to write again. But he did not seem to have done much better next time.

At Bournemouth Meeting of the 6th of 8th

James Campbell Factor to the Trustees of St. ...

James Campbell Factor to the Trustees of St. ...

Their next proceedings were to give orders against the several heritors in the Parish of Bournemouth for their proportions of 240 str: for building the school house on a general decree having formerly been given thereon on 27 June 1771 payable to Mr James Campbell --- at White 1772.

Next annual arrears of the Case of Glynne & Purvis as Adjudged to 15th

15 May 1772.

A meeting about dues and rates of payment of the various salaries. Another meeting in October about the same.

To help the speedy destruction of the foxes clubs to be 5/- same as old foxes

The roads to be carried on this year as formerly and the same overseers appointed.

Bournemouth 4th August 1772.

At Dornoch 30th April 1773 in a Meeting of the Commissioners of Supply for the County of Sutherland

Sederunt.

William Baillie of Rosehall, Lieut Wm Sutherland of Little
Torboll. Dugald G;christ Esq. Wm Sutherland of Sibbs:
Capt. James Sutherland of Oldany. Captain Geo Sutherland
of Rearchar James Campbell Esq Factor etc

Wm Baillie chosen preses. Hugh McCulloch Sheriff Clerk
Clerk

sir John Gordon of Embo was rechosen Collector of Supply etc

Thereafter the Clerk represented that in consequence of the order upon him by the Commissioners of the 15th of May he had visited the collectors of the Fox dues in the different districts of the County to pay their arrears in terms of said order & James Campbell Factor for the Countess of Sutherland appearing produced on account his intromissions ~~taxxxx~~ for the said Fox dues for 1772 (his account for the intro: for 1769.170 1771 being lodged before the Commissioners before May 15th last A ballance rises due to the said James Campbell of £8 3.0. Notwithstanding that he has paid no person for killing of foxes for that year except 2 though many have applied to him for payL: And as appears by the minutes of said 15th May that several other collectors of Fox dues ar considerably in advance of the account. It would seem necessary that the Comm: should either augment the Fox dues or diminish the dues payable for the foxes as the funds do'nt seem ~~xxxxxx~~ near equal to answer the purpose.

Thereafter the rate for maintaining criminals in the prison of Dornoch fixed at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d sterling a day

These minutes are evidently extracts from a full report of the business done on each occasion

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Meeting 1774

Among those present John MacKay of Strathy

1779

30th April at Dornoch

In the Sederunt John Clunes of Neilstown. and Col Nicholas Sutherland who was chosen as preses. . D. G. not there

By this time Sir John Gordon was dead or dying and D. G. was chosen Collector of Supply

" Therafter the Collector of Supply produced the Receiver General's two receipts of 29th Jan last for £60 str and a third receipt of the said recoveres for £163.9.8d. Amounting to £223 9.8d str:

Sir George Munro by this time owed £~~63~~ 4d
Andrew Sutherland of Cambusavie also to be pointed *£2-2-3 owing*

This time the numbers have come down and the amount due for the year was only £56 11 6d. Could'nt be bothered adding up numbers

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

1780

Sederunt Col Nicholes Sutherland, Major Sir Roderick MacKenzie of Scatwell. Alex: Baillie of Rosehall
Dugald Gilchrist of Lothbeg and John Gordon of Carrol

D.G. chosen as Collecior of Supply again

Again the numbers have fallen and the amount due is £40. (d.

There was £39 of arrears. Premiums to be ~~£~~7- for each fox young or old

1776 Assessment of £75.

Arrears in the cess by Robert Gray of Airdens £11 0 10d
and James Sutherland Murray £24 4 3d for Pulrossie

In the sederunt of this meeting the name of Walter Gray is given as of Newtown. This cess was appantly due by the tenants though the goods of James Sutherland Murray were to be pointed for the debt.

Also George Munro of Pointzfield

" And also point the goods, gear and effects of George Munro of Pointzfield in whose hands soever the same may or can be found in the hands of Mr John Sutherland Minister of Dornoch Tacksman of Balloan or in the hands of any other tenants on the lands of Gruids to the extent of the sum of £5 17 5dstr: being the amount of the arrears due and that of the expense incurred or that may be incurred in recovering the same to be fully paid up.

234 foxes, (at 5/- each) paid for in 1776.

For 1775 392 £91 12. 1

XX

1777

In the sederunt Captain Geo: Sutherland of Elphane the others as before.

Sir John Gordon of Embo and Duguld Gilchrist chosen as collectors of Supply.

The same as above in trouble again with arrears and pointing

351 foxes for this year. At this meeting 20/- was offered for a bitch in milk

XX

1778

The largest number of fox premiums paid was always to Dunrobin and this year was no exception 160. Next was Stathnaver with 115. Total 301. Cubs to be only 1/- instaeed of 2/6

1781

At Dornoch 30th April 1781. In a General meeting of the Commissioners of Supply for Sutherland

~~xcx8ed6666t~~ Sederunt

Robert Gray of Criech. Robert Gray of ARDINSH
Wm Sutherland of Siberscross
John Clunes of Neilstown & Dugald Gilchrist of Lothbeg.
.. .. .

Robert Gray of Ardinsh chosen as Preses. & Hugh McCulloch, Town Clerk of Dornoch was chosen to be Clerk.

Thereafter the Comms: of Supply proceeded to the choosing of a Collector of Supply for in-gathering of the Land Tax of the County of Sutherland for the service of this current year, 1781, and the question being put, Dugald Gilchrist, Esq of Lothbeg was unanimously chosen to be Collector of Supply for ingathering the same for the current year ~~1781x~~ and the former year's arrears in terms of law(?)
Bond & Cautioners etc.

Cess for the yearx etc.

Road, Rogue and Tool money

A ballance of £39 1. 11 from the previous year's assessment for Fox Money

Demands on the Fund.

Major Sutherland for the estate of Sutherland & Assint £41 4

Major Charles Gordon for Reay 73 pairs £18 5

269 Foxes as near as can be calculated from the lists given.
(No ~~hh~~ numbers given for Assint only the amount of £41)

The sum required for next year fixed at £60

After this business had been settled apparantly two men appeared with more ears. one was George Ross of Brae of Dainmain with 2 pairs of Foxx ears killed last April for which he had not been paid. Also compeared Donald Munro of Langwell of Glencassley with 6 pairs. They were also paid

Now, the roof has fallen, the west gable is partly down and the east gable is cracked and looks as if a few more winter storms might bring it down too.

At ground level, two large rooms have a vaulted roof. In the lists of repairs made to the house in the 18th century these rooms are referred to as 'the cellars' though there is a fireplace in both. There is no mention of a kitchen in any of the repairs done

1781 Continued

After this business done there was a claim about Pulrossie valuations

Process against Sir George Munro of Pointzfield for arrears of cess for Fox Money. From this it appears that though eagles do not appear in the record of premiums paid, 148 eagles were killed between 1774 & 1780 and 2200 foxes.

1782 30th April 1772 Foxes were still 5/-
Eagles only 2/6

1784 Foxes 5/- Bitches in milk 20/ and eagles only 1/-
~~142 foxes~~ 287 foxes

second meeting 10th June 1784.

Among the demands considered were the jail expenses. for jailers fees, maintenance of prisoners, mending one of the prison doors and making a coffin for one of the prisoners. all for £9 plus 18/311. " Reserving nevertheless to themselves (Commissioners of S^c) to enquire further into these accounts of jailor's fees and prisoners maintenance and into the Intromissions had with etc disposal of the effects of the several criminals

1785

30th April 1775

Discontinued
Sederunt Coll^x James Sutherland of Oldany. D. G. of Loth-
beg. Major Geo Sutherland of Elphin. Captain Donald
Matheson of Shiness. Capt John Gordon of Carrol.

D.G. chosen Collector of Supply again

92 pairs of large fox ears and 6 pairs of eagles claws put
in by Captain Chales Gordon and 11 cubs

*May 2
Stratmann
Summit*
70 ears 60 cubs and 2 milking bitches and 13 eagles claws
given in by Lt Coll James Sutherland

66 large fox 14 cubs 4 milking bitches 7 pairs of
eagles claws

*given in in 1785 7 & signed by the persons
& vouches on a separate paper signed by the persons
(261 foxes & 20 eagles)*

List of the persons who could sign

1785

261 Foxes - 20 eagles -

1774 to 1780.

2,200 Foxes.

148 eagles.

" All which being considered by the Comms They upon the whole find that the whole assessments paid for the year ending 25 March 1785

Thereafter the Comms: taking into consideration the minute of 20th January last of a quorum of their number at Golspie relative to a plan for appointing fixed fox hunters and definite salaries for a term of years in lieu of the plan hitherto followed for destroying the foxes. The meeting judging such a plan may be more successful than that hitherto followed Resolved to adopt the same and that it be continued for six years beginning as from the date and that the fox hunters who shall be appointed must find sufficient caution for indemnifying all losses which shall be sustained within their ---- districts from and after the expiry of the first two years of the said six and that they shall be bound by oath during the time of their Service not to allow their Dogs to kill hunt or run after so far as they can prevent and not themselves to shoot deer, roe or hare, blackcock, muirfowh or partridge under the most severe penalties, reserving & recommending them to shoot & kill as many eagles as they can for each of which to be killed they are to be paid annually the 30th April 1/-str: on producing the ~~skins~~ tallons. And resolved to assess the county of the sum of £94 10 str: to be collected yearly for paying the fox hunters-----

£7 per parish for the hunter. Names of the hunters appointed follow

Dornoch 29th April 1786

Sederunt. Col Sutherland. D.G. Ardins
 Major Sutherland and Carrol. All these minutes
 seem to be in D. G. 's handwriting

D.G. was again elected Collector of Supply for the County
 of Sutherland for 1786

Foxes killed. 1776

1776

Dunrobin	135 prs ears	£33	15
Paid Lieut Charles Gordon		31	10
Reay	65 " "	16	5
Skibe	11 " "	2	15
Carrol	11 " "	2	15
Gruids & Achany	1769 - 1776	2	2 9
John Murray			
in Achosnich	3 " "		15
Various	6	1	10
Various	2		10
	<u>243</u>		

1774 2. 275-1780

269
282

1784. 281
3,107

10 years -
3,107.

3,117
2,275

832

1774 to 1780 2,275 Foxes and 148 eagles.

x1781

Major Sutherland			
for the estate of			
Sutherland & Assint	no numbers	£41	4
roughly	156		
Captain Charles Gordon			
for Reay	73 pairs	18	5
Angus MacKay Bettyhill	17 pairs	4	5
James Leith Ardens	4 "	1	
Various	10	2	10
Thos Ross Sallachy	9 "	2	5
Back payment for someone			
in Assint		1	10
		<u>269</u>	
			<u>73 4</u>

They had a surplus of £10.

Nothing for 1783

1783. 282 foxes - no eagles

Note Pulrossie and Ch. Lands
not Saltburn - Murray of Clapham

Assessment for 1783 was £90

Lieut Col Sutherland	4 milk:		
	79 large	£23	17
	17 subs		
Captain Gordon of Pulrossie	112 fox		
	2 bitch	33	2 6
	33 cubs		
various others	36		
	<u>283</u>		
Premiums for next year			
Fox 5/-	Bitch in milk 20/-	Cub 1/-	Eagles 1/-

XX

A lot about jailors & keep of criminals deferred to next meeting but at that meeting only Col: Sutherland turned up. So the meeting was defferred to the 15 June when the Commissioners " were entreated to attend "

15th June 1784 Sederunt Col James Sutherland, Ardens
Major Geo Sutherland. D.G & Shibs:

Cess for the whole county apparently £457. 4 3d
Expenses included a coffin for a prisoner who died in jail

A reward of 20/- to any informer who reported someone for " digging the very sands and pulling up bent Roots for making halters and other uses of husbandry. The informer's name was to be kept secret if he so desired it

1774 - 1780 - 2.275
1781 - 269
148 eagles

Eagles 1/- cubs 1/-

ca875 Cap: Charles Gordon 92 Fox 11 cubs & 6 prs eagle claws

Lt Col: James Sutherland

1785 70 Fox 60 cubs 9 bitch 13 eagles.

Who? 66 14 " 4 " 7

At this meeting they determined to have hunters 26 eagles

336 foxes

xx

1786 131 killed by the hunters

1784 Charges of fees due to jailors for attendance on criminals from 6th September 1782 to this date (30th April 1784 £11 4 4d. Account of Hugh Leslie Procuator Fiscal for writing etc and utlays respecting bringing criminals to justice from 21 April 1783 to 27th March 1784 including victual furnished to -----? £3 0 4d str:

1785

Sederunt Cap: James S of Oldany. D.G. of Lothbeg, Major George Sutherland of Elphin. Cap: John Gordon of Carrol

1786 29th April 1786

Sederunt. Coll Sutherland D.G. Ardins, Major Sutherland and Carrol

" Therafter the Convener presented to the Meeting a letter addressed by the Receiver General to him of date 13 April re ? a letter wrote by the Commissioner of the Taxes to him, the Receiver General recommending to him to lose no time in writing circular letters to the several Collectors of the Land Tax in Scotland requiring them hereafter to levy and remit the land tax to the Receiver General as the Act of Parliament directs (that is 4 times in the year) directing the Receiver General of the Collectors of Supply fail in so doing to apply to the Commandaer-in-chief for his assistance with the Military in the usual way to enforce the payment accordingly.

The Meeting recommend to the Collector to levy & remit the Cess to the Rec: Gen: in terms of the Act of

Parliament and recommends and enjoin the gentlemen concerned to pay their ~~less~~ quarterly to the Collector to enable him to remit accordingly. And in case the collector shall, to keep the County free from Quartering be obliged to make advances to the Rec^d. Gen: through the failure of the gentlemen concerned or any one of them, they authorise the Collector to exact interest on his advances from the time of advancing the same till payment from such as shall fail to pay quarterly.

Thereafter the Convener presented a letter addressed to him by the Provost of Inverness of 27th march last enclosing a printed copy of a memorial for the Provost Majestates & Councillors of Inverness setting forth the ruinous state of their Court House and their being inadequate to the Accommodation of the Circuit Courts and of prisoners and that it is therefore necessary to have them rebuild on a larger scale and that the expense of so doing and ~~that the expense of so doing~~ will conform to a plan and estimate amounting to £150 str: and requesting the assistance of the Burghs and Counties concerned in the Circuit Justiciary Court held at Invs: for carrying the plan into execution

The Meeting delay the Consideration of the letter & application till the Meeting of the heretors at the ensuing Michaelmas head Court.

Fox Hunters. The hunters appeared and swore as to the numbers of foxes they had killed.

Glyne 36 Golspie 21 Dornoch 14 Rogart 20 7
Lairg 20 Criech 24. 121

The man who killed only 7 was in trouble!
A certain number did not appear.
Charles Gordon factor for they was to pay the hunters up north.
Lairg parish was so big that another hunter was appointed £10 given for the expenses of their meetings and Lieut Col James Sutherland of Uppat to be their Convener for these expenses

quarters assigning it as a Reason for such losses the departure in the plan first laid down in this county for the destruction & extirpation of that Vermine and for the adopting a different mode as to the killing of foxes & eagles. That tho the gentlemen who occasioned an alteration in this system had done so in the general good of the county yet as the alteration has not produced the desired effect the Preses begs leave to move to this Meeting that the meeting should resolve now to return to their first system-- --- £33, 5/- for every fox & cub & 2/6 for every eagle young or old that shall be killed within this county, and £5 to a person who should kill the greatest number-- not below 50--- £4 additional premium for numbers not below 40 and £3 for a number not below 30, £2 for number not below 20, £1 for number not below 10 and £1 for each 10 foxes above the number of 50 up to 100.. Ears & feet to be produced by each killer and each killer to take an oath that he actually was the killer. The ears etc were immediately burnt to prevent any fraud in being exhibited again.

2 eagles killed to be equal to one fox.

The Meetin agreed unanimously and told the clerk to write to the ministers and tell them to make the announcement at the end of their services

Various accounts were then considered. £6 7 3 for mending the windows of the town House

The Sheriff Officer was paid £1 for apprehending Janet & Jean Ross

A long list of people who could to whom fox killers could present the bodies of the foxes

Jail Inverness They considered the letter. Rose had also received a letter proposing to establish an Accademy for intruction of youth and asking for help in establishing it

The meeting deferred coming to any decision on this knotty subject.

They were waitin till Sir Gordon, Mr Dempster etc could come to the meeting

Meeting 30th April 1787

Sederunt. D.G. Esq. of Lothbeg Major Hugh MacKay Baillie
of Rosehall. Hugh Rose esq, of Aitnearh (?) Chamberlain
to the Right Honorable Countess of Sutherland. Carrol
& Capt Matheson. Hugh M'Culloch Town Clerk

D.G. Collector of Supply again.

The Cess laid for the year was :- 2/6 for each £100 Scots
valued rent within the said county.

Next the Fox Hunters appeared.

The numbers were 27 Clyne, Golspy 14, Dornoch 16
Rogart 36, Criech (two hunters) 46, Loth 4
143. Total

Kildonan & Assint hunters "not compeared"

The Meeting considered that the full salary should be
given to Clyn & Rogart hunters & £8 str: to Criech
with one guinea as premium for their having killed
the greatest number. Dornoch Golspy Lairg & Loth
not killed enough foxes satisfactory to the meeting.

Others who may have killed foxes in those districts may
claim the premium of 5/-

The Minister of Assynt Mr MacKenzie said that the hunters
of the Assynt districh had done no part of his duty
eith that year of the one previous. and that other
individuals who had killed foxes should get the £/-
on showing the ears. The meeting decided that 5/-
ought to be paid for each fox & cub killed--- on the killer
exhibiting the fox ears at the next meeting on August 1st
-P--- providing the premiums did not exceed £14 str:

Thereafter the Preses (Hugh Rose(Aitneach?) represented
to the meeting that he had in the course of last
summer travelled over the greater part of the countryx
and everywhere heard great Clamour & Complaint of the
loss sustained by foxes & Eagles the people in all

1789 continued.

D.G. chosen as Collector for ingathering of Land Tax

The rates of assessment had nearly doubled apparently now 4/6 str for every £100 (Scots) valued rent.

also Clergy & gents: Mr Rose represented that there were a vast number of whisky houses over the county at large . The people in general were very much hurt in their (,) as well as in their morals.---- they were to consider where proper stations in the county at large where Public Houses ought to be kept for the reason (,) & accommodation of ledgers and that such houses may be licensed according to law for such purpose.. (Other houses to be suppressed.)

£24 paid to various overseers for the roads about £1 to £2 each

Total of Foxes 339 Eagles 6

Meeting at Golspie 15 December 1789.

---- The Meeting in the first place consider & expect that a bridge shall be built across the Suth: Kyle or firth called " Porlich" (?) or Culrain of which there has been a survey already made under Mr ? Swinton.

They thought that a surveyor would have lay down the line of road, but they knew of no person suitable

1790

Dornoch 30th April DG. Carroll, Maj Geo Suth: Cap: Matheson & Achany.

Preses John Gordon of Carrol & Hugh McCulloch Clerk

D. G. Collector of Land Tax.

Foxes & Eagles Foxes 334 Eagles 6. H
Premiums now over £100

Next they considered the roads & bridges and the police

The unam: decided that the inhabitants should do 3 days statute labour in the summer on the roads.

Various people were to look after the work,

Roads of a sort all over the county evidently.

1780 1780 1788

Sederunt Lieut Col James Sutherland of Uppat and 6 other Commissioners their names not given.

J. S preses and Hugh McCulloch clerk

Foxes altogether ~~333~~²⁴³ Eagles 13 all in ~~sigs~~ single- numbers except for Achness where 4 were killed.

3 in Kildonan

Many of the Assint & Farr persons with claims could not come to the Meeting as they wanted to sew their crop and the season was so backward

Again the premiums were altered 25/ for Milking bitch nothing for the cubs

Carrol then made observations on the roads. That they were in such a bad state

Another meeting with more premiums paid for Durness including 9 eagles there Alto gether 18 making 28 in all anoth 78 foxes 321 altogether The eagles were all killed in Assint, Erdrachalis Durness. 9 were killed in Durness, 4 in Assynt, none on this side of the county

xx

1789 Sederunt; D.G. of Ospisdale. Carroll. Joseph Gordon
Lt Wm Gordon, Captain Alexander Sutherland, Captain
Matheson, Mr Rose, Cap: Clunes

Carrol chosen as Preses Hugh McCulloch Clerk.

Mr MacCulloch now Sheriff Substitute and David Rose
Sheriff Clerk Depute. The Sheriff asked for
compensation for repairs to the Court House and the
Clerk Do for getting presses to keep the records.
£4 10

The Gaol keeper asked for £1 8 4 for jailors fees
& dues for John Jain (?) a Prisoner banished the
county for theft

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

1791

Dornoch 30th April
John Gordon of Carrol. D.G. Joseph Gordon of
Navidale Cap D. Math of Shiness Cap Gordon
Clunes of Cracaig Col M Hugh Baillie of Rosehall
Maj Geo Suth: of Elphin. Cap Alexander Suther *and*
at Culmally & H Houston of ~~Erora~~. Criech.

D. G Collector

Foxes & Eagles.

Foxes 231 Eagles 29 #2 killed in
Durness & 12 in Ererachillis.. 3 in Farr 2 in CLYNE

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

1792

30 April 1792

Carroll D.G Houston Cap Math;
Mr Fraser Achany Cap Sutherland

Eagles 19 7 in Farr Foxes 297
Refers to Mr Boog the tenant of Skelbo

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

1793

24 eagles

Foxes 279

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

1794

At Dornoch 30 July 1794

Sederunt D.G. Major Gordon Clunes of Barybeg
Hugh Houston of Criech. Wm Munro of Achany
John Fraser Fraser. Factor on Sutherland estate.
Clunes Preses & Hugh McCulloch Clerk

D.G. to be Collector of Supply for the ingathering of
the Land Tax

The Commissioners received the report of the Premiums
for Fox etc

198	Foxes	
68	bitches	
80	Cubs	
<hr/>		
346		32 Eagles.

Repairs to the Town House

That the present town Ho of D be new roofed with a
strong roof and slated

That 2 of the low vaults be sufficiently strongly made
up ~~as gaols~~ as gaols to receive and detain
prisoners charged with capital crimes and that one of
these vaults have an iron grate door within that of the
timber one

3 That another of the vaults receive some repair
by plaistering and putting a glass window in with a new
door for the accommodation of the Town Guard to prevent
their abasing ~~any~~ any part of the upper apartments of
the house .

4 That a sufficient stair be built with an iron "revel Cd"
(?) from the ground to the upper apartments.

from 5 That ~~the~~ the door to the east gable be set apart~~ment~~ for
the Court Room having a Bench erected to the Gable for
the Judges--- a ~~ground~~ ground seat (round?) with a table
thereto affixed for the Clerks & other members of the
Court & 2 seats in a ~~saw~~ each pew behind such round
seat for witnesses & others necessarily attending &
that such as is occupied by the bench & seats be
deal floored and the whole be encircled with a timber
circle of 4½ feet and 9 timber rails of ~~the~~ 4 feet above
the timber circle. The entrance to the Court Room
being by a door of the same kind of railing .

6 That the Court Room be "coum?" ceiled to the first
joisting and the whole court room plaistered.

7 That the 2 rooms west from the Court Ho. entry(each

of them having now fireplaces) to be fitted up as hereinafter directed for the accommodation of prisoners for debt & other Civil matters. That is that the south room be plaistered deal floored and ~~counceiled~~ coun ceiled with plaister and that the north room receive the same repair as to plaister and coun ceiling but that the floor be laid w: earth & stone

8 That garret room above said 2 prisons be made up by a partition with a stair leading therto plaistered & counceiled with plaister and that for the accommodation of the , and for keeping of the Burgh & Council records ~~therevbevyvurgrvpressvventstingvivevseparate~~ ~~compartments~~ x a storm window to be put in the S. side as additional lights with the one already in the gable and that the room be furnished with a table and chairs.

9 That as the County has already provided the Sheriff Clerk with two large presses for keeping the Sheriff Court records. Therebe a large press containing 4 separate appartments to be made with shelves (as the Clerks shall direct to contain the Commissary supply Justices of the Peace & Burgh records separately each seperate keeping having seperate locks and

At least 4 successive buildings

- 1 The building in High St to the North East of the Cathedral, wholly or partly pulled down in 1730
2. The building erected on the same site in 1730 pulled down in 1813
- 3 Castle of Dornoch used at interim 1814 to 1830
- 4 present buildings, the Court House erected in 1840-50 and the jail in 1842-43.

See Minutes of meeting quoted by MacKay

To pull down the old Council House and to build a new Town house, consisting of a grand council house a Gentleman prison and Clerk's room with 4 shops in the lower story & a stairs ascending in the outer"

MacKay thinks that this building was never entirely erected but only partly rebuilt, but that possibly the Council house suffered damage in 1746 (Cromarty)

At any rate the building was not completed in 1750

Quoting a minute 18th June 1750

In this it says Hugh Gordon of Carrol was one of the Councillors of the Burgh. Baillie John Gordon of Golspie Tower was Dr John Gordon.