

CALENDAR  
OF  
FEARN

1471-1667

SCOTTISH  
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The Calendar  
of Fearn



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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to record that the publication of the  
Calendar of Fearn, with its importance  
for the history of Easter Ross, has  
been aided by generous sponsorship  
from the Glenmorangie Distillery Coy.,  
an internationally renowned  
malt whisky distillers  
based in the area.*

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The publication of Robin Adam's edition of the Calendar of Fearn represents the culmination of a project which has been of very great interest to the Glenmorangie Distillery Company. With our roots in Tain, only a few miles from the remains of Fearn Abbey, we would naturally welcome any research which increases knowledge of our home district in Ross-shire, but this present project has touched us even more closely. Next year is the 150th anniversary of the official licensing of our distillery outside Tain at Glenmorangie, and it has been especially gratifying to find at this particular time that we have a personal link to the men who compiled the greater part of the original Calendar itself, Thomas Ross, the last abbot of Fearn, and his eldest son, Walter, who converted the former church lands of Morangie into part of their family estate. It is interesting to note that in the 'Tain and Balnagown Documents' reference is made to the 'aqua vitae pot still and ffileak (worm)' which were numbered amongst Thomas's possessions at the time of his death in 1703. It was as laird of Morangie that Walter Ross was to make additions to his father's writings. Our Company's connection with Fearn has been further reinforced by our purchase of the Cadboll estate to the east of Tain, another portion of the monastic lands whose later owners and their doings feature prominently in the Calendar's pages.

N. A. H. McKerrow  
Managing Director  
The Glenmorangie Distillery Coy.





# The Calendar of Fearn: text and additions, 1471-1667

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*edited by R. J. Adam*



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The map of Easter Ross, c.1580, on  
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I. B. Cowan

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## IAN BORTHWICK COWAN, 1932-1990

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### A Memoir by Dr John Durkan

The world of Scottish history finds itself distressed and impoverished by the untimely death of Ian Borthwick Cowan on 22 December 1990. A native of Dumfries, where he was born on 16 April 1932, his father being a local bank manager, Ian's secondary education was at Dumfries Academy. Like many Borders men he had an acute sense of Scottish identity, and loved to revisit Dumfries and Langholm whenever he could spare the time. He went up to Edinburgh University in 1950 as a student of history and there, as his custom was, worked hard and played hard, acting as an official of one of the student clubs, a fit apprenticeship for his future role in the service of students of Scottish history. One of his teachers there was Dr Gordon Donaldson, the present Historiographer Royal, who encouraged his nascent interest in Church organisation in pre-Reformation times. Graduating in Arts in 1954, he emerged as Doctor of Philosophy in 1961 with an as yet unpublished thesis on the appropriation of parish churches in medieval Scotland. Already in 1954 he had won distinction among the history students of his year.

His study period was broken in 1954 by a spell of two years' national service in the Royal Air Force, mostly acting as education officer to service personnel at Peterborough, finally with the rank of Flying Officer. Returning home, he was offered an assistantship in the Department of Scottish History under Professor William Croft Dickinson, but a fortunate deflection at the end of this three year tour of duty took him to Newbattle Abbey College where Edwin Muir's was still an honoured name. As history lecturer there, he encountered the challenge of the mature student whose historical interest had first been stirred by the past of his own locality, a challenge which Ian responded to with verve. His *Blast and Counterblast* (1960) was an attempt, typically judicious, to put in the hands of students the case for and against Mary, Queen of Scots as seen through the eyes of opponents and partisans. His latest contribution to her still enigmatic story was an essay that drew on his Vatican work in a volume edited by Michael

Lynch, *Mary Stewart: Queen in Three Kingdoms* (1988). The Newbattle experience had given him a sure focus for his Scottish studies such that he could bring a touch of cold reason into areas of perennial popular interest. It was in the late 1950s that I personally came across him attending a lecture I delivered in Edinburgh and had to field some shrewd questions from the back of the hall by a very civil youth who introduced himself as Ian Cowan.

Ian's professional career was placed on a surer footing with his appointment in 1962 to the Department of Scottish History in Glasgow University, first at Bute Gardens within the old Gilbert Scott precinct and thereafter in University Gardens. This came just as significant changes were taking place there and the halcyon days of the sixties were beckoning. In the councils of the University Court, Arts Faculty and eventually Senate his forthrightness yet ever courteous approach were appreciated by colleagues who valued his grasp of practical detail and shrewd commonsense, resulting in his rise to a senior lectureship in 1970 and the title of professor in 1983. Past students testify to his unrelenting devotion to his teaching tasks, their sense of dealing with a just man, his personal interest in them and their circumstances well beyond the perception of them as fodder for the machine of further education. Ever the peacemaker, Ian had a penchant for defusing explosive situations, yet as a man of principle he could be combative too, especially if the issue was the present or future status in Scotland of Scottish history. His public lectures could seem to the chance listener terribly tentative, almost every sentence peppered with the word 'perhaps' (a mischievous student once claimed to have counted over a hundred in a single lecture), but just as often the 'perhaps' was counterpoised by another favourite expression, 'in fact'. His room always gave the impression of an interminably busy workshop with several works in progress simultaneously, impeded only by the fact that every committee-builder knew that here was the committee man *par excellence*. As one trudged one's exhausted way home at the day's end, there was Ian on his way back in, miraculously refreshed and ready for further labours with senior people coming to evening class to learn about aspects of local or national history in their leisure time. These contributions earned him a place in the administration of the university's continuing education programme.

Ian was regularly present at almost every public Scottish history occasion and his boyishly fresh face was to be found regularly at the centre of many a congenial circle of clubbable historians around convivial tables in diverse parts of Scotland. He loved walking miles to

some favoured eating spot. He had a teasing humour at such times, particularly evident in the autumn sunshine of Rome. He set a pace as you plodded alongside by shady streets to a remote *cantina*, such as the inexpensive one in the Via Bianchi Novi, where he expanded and expounded under the benevolent eye of the *cantina*'s owners, sometimes in the informed company of such another Rome addict as James J. Robertson, lecturer at Dundee in private law then working on papers of the Roman Rota, intimate friend of Ian's earliest youth. Meantime I personally was glad to rest my chafing feet. He enjoyed the scholarly company at The British School at Rome where he lodged and which in time came to recognise Ian's special interests and experience by appointing him to its administrative body, the Faculty of Archaeology, History and Letters, during the years 1980 to 1984. Unlike the rest of us, Ian was happy to skip the School's breakfast in his anxiety to be at the Vatican Archives by opening time, the long hours broken only by a brief mid-morning spell in the courtyard garden at the soft-drink machines, happily replaced during the present pontificate by a small upstairs coffee bar where our own Charles Burns and workers from several nations congregated to exchange scholarly titbits in a place adjacent to both Library, where I generally was, and Archives. In the 1980s, we adjourned at siesta time to a *cantina* in the Borgo San Pietro, while on Sundays we sallied forth on foot to catch the afternoon bus or train to Frascati where we collected delicious wads of crusty bread, butter and cheese to fetch them to a vine-trellised *cantina* serving a bottle of the local Chianti wine. One memorable day of footslogging with Ian in Assisi almost finished my ageing legs for good and took weeks of medical attention on our arrival home. Ian worked hard and tirelessly at recreation as well.

The central achievement of Ian's academic career was the vast microfilm store of all Scottish material up to 1560 to be found partly in the Roman Archivio di Stato but principally in the Vatican Archives and this in a more systematic continuation of the notable work of that redoubtable pioneer, Dr Annie I. Dunlop. This involved persistent industry in patiently leafing through thousands of Vatican registers, especially of supplications to the pope from Scotland, amplifying and extending the work already undertaken in England and either printed or available in Public Record Office transcripts. The Vatican copyists of the medieval period made hay of many Scots place and personal names which expert attention was needed to decipher and eventually calendar, the last operation only achieved at home. All this was made possible by the Ross Fund of Glasgow University as initiated in 1962, and some



early workers in Rome included Professors A.A.M. Duncan and A.L. Brown, along with Dr Jenny Wormald, latterly of St Hilda's College, Oxford. To these were soon added Dr Tom Graham, now librarian at York University, the Rev Francis Kennedy whose early death inhibited progress and Francis McGurk, Ross Fund scholar of Glasgow in 1966-8, who made use of the microfilm assembled in the Scottish History Department and checked the readings from the Roman originals for his Scottish History Society volume, *Papal Letters to Scotland: Benedict XIII of Avignon 1394-1419* (1976). In the same year appeared *Papal Letters to Scotland: Clement VII of Avignon 1378-1394*, edited by the future Monsignor, Charles Burns, who also was fortunate to find a fragment of Bagimond's Roll for Moray diocese which he edited for the Society's *Miscellany X* (1965), thus supplementing the work for earlier miscellany volumes of Dr Annie I. Dunlop, a sympathetic memoir of whom by Ian as her continuator and inheritor in this field would grace the Clement VIII volume. Ian himself tracked down another fragment of Bagimond which he described in 'Two Early Scots Taxation Rolls', *Innes Review* (1971). Ian had been able to use her unpublished notes for that vital tool of Scots historians, *The Parishes of Medieval Scotland* (1967), a Scottish Record Society publication, produced with a view to rapid consultation and ease of handling, covering a wider selection of parishes than that presented in the massive *Origines Parochiales* of Cosmo Innes and the unwieldy *Caledonia* of George Chalmers. Ian was constantly updating his necessarily brief entries in his own copy of *Parishes*, noting additional information about church dedications, for instance. Other bulky notes of his were also utilised for Professor D.E.R. Watt's *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae Medii Aevi ad Annum 1638: Second Draft* (Scottish Record Society, 1969), another invaluable work which took a rather generous view of the extent of the Middle Ages. A key work then at the disposition of scholars was D.E. Easson's *Medieval Religious Houses: Scotland*, but the newly founded Conference of Scottish Medievalists of 1957 (the year of its first edition) decided that it needed a revision which Dr Easson was by then too ill to achieve personally. Ian was the best man available to do it after Easson's death. Ian was always able to attract fit collaborators, but much back-breaking, behind-the-scenes work fell on him personally. It was 1976 before his revision appeared, effectively a new reference book, but his projected 'Heads of Religious Houses' never saw the light. All these are basic tools taken for granted by the modern scholar.

In 1983, with Duncan Shaw, he was responsible for editing *The*

*Renaissance and Reformation in Scotland*, essays in honour of Professor Gordon Donaldson, to which Ian himself made a characteristic contribution on medieval ecclesiastical administration. Unhappily he never found time to write the overall guide to the medieval Scottish church that many looked for from him. With Dr Grant Simpson he became joint secretary of the Scottish History Society in 1964, and in the following year was elected treasurer. What the Society owed to his tireless energy over the next quarter of a century is scarcely quantifiable, for he was secretary for membership and distribution as well. As a member of Council in the difficult 1980s, when the present blackbound Fifth Series was having its birth, one could observe the constant effort by himself and the late Dr Ian Rae to overcome the ever-fresh hurdles that rose before us. Propositions for future publication had to be discussed and checked while income began to fall short of rising costs. There was the sadness of the break with T. and A. Constable, after a century-old connection with the firm due to its unexpected liquidation, problems connected also with housing our stock of old Society volumes and the protracted negotiations needed to get publication under way again. A cool head and firm resolution was needed to see it through. The Department in Glasgow took the stock under its care. Moreover, the Society's centenary had to be suitably celebrated in 1986 with salvation hopefully on the horizon. It was a nerve-racking time.

Meantime Ian was the back-room boy of Scottish history on other fronts. He had lectured to the Scottish Church History Society while still at work on his thesis and had a long connection thereafter, becoming its president from 1971-74. Church history, with increasing interest in lay involvement, continued to have a high profile for him. Dr Dunlop had left her calendar of Scots petitions to Rome up to 1470 in Glasgow's Scottish History Department and the Scottish History Society's Fourth Series took up her work from an earlier series with its *Calendar of Scottish Supplications to Rome 1428-1432* (1970), for which publication Ian had to take most of the responsibility due to the failing health of his collaborator. He was also series editor for *Calendar of Scottish Supplications to Rome 1433-1447* (1983) with the use again of the Dunlop calendar as checked by himself and David MacLauchlan. This work was, however, printed in the Scottish History Department for Glasgow University Press. Ian was also at the heart of the organisation of the Society's centenary celebrations, one of which involved a joint symposium on Scottish historical clubs organised by the Society's hosts, the Royal Society of Edinburgh, in tandem with the Scottish

History Society on the afternoon of 23 April 1986, followed by a reception in the evening in the Signet Library at which most leading figures in the field were present—a peak occasion. He was ever prominent at the Conference of Scottish Medievalists, formed to encourage collaboration and exchanges of ideas and materials, and was its chairman at his death.

To carry the message to a wider audience, a Scottish Historical Conference was formed in 1962, meeting biennially on a September weekend, and Ian became its long-serving treasurer as well as a trustee once it attained formal status in 1962 as the Scottish Historical Conference Trust. I recall taking Ian with other Conference members around medieval St Andrews, substituting, inadequately I fear, for Ronald G. Cant in that expedition. In 1990 all eyes were on Glasgow for a European Culture Year conference, run again by Ian who himself was a late volunteer required to speak on the city's medieval past. Its success was largely of his making, though he was manifestly ill at the time, yet still staying behind to help with the washing up with that same sense of service that was always his. It was typical of him to be alive to Glasgow's own local history and at that date he was also on the editorial council for the lectures and publications of the Society of Friends of Glasgow Cathedral. Before his death he became a member of the Ancient Monuments Board. Along with P.H.R. MacKay and Alan Macquarrie (the latter of whom accompanied us on one occasion to Rome), he edited *The Knights of St John of Jerusalem in Scotland* (1983) for the Society. Ian often travelled on the business of the Historical Association of which he was a council member from 1971 and ordinary vice-president in the eighties, as well as chairman of its newly formed Committee for Scotland from 1989. He hoped always to put it more squarely on the Scottish map than hitherto, and his advice on the Association's own approach to local history was highly valued. On journeys south by train he could abstract himself from other rail customers by setting about getting rid of the queue of book reviews that always awaited his attention. His one publication under the Association's auspices was the notable *Regional Aspects of the Scottish Reformation* (1976).

As a popular reviewer what irked him in other works by historians was the selective use of evidence. He looked for a middle way and claimed, for instance, to have found it in neither adulating nor denigrating the Covenanters, accusing them nevertheless of a high degree of organised militancy, directed as often as not against fellow Presbyterians. Much of his work could best be called reappraisal. Son of the banker, William McAulay Cowan and his wife, Annie Borthwick,

he naturally looked for economic motives in churchmen of all ages and their lay bankers, rightly priding himself on his uniformly dispassionate approach. *The Scottish Covenanters 1640-1688* (1976) was basically a work of synthesis, lucidly presented, of national and local history, in the latter of which Ian was especially strong, an attempt to bridge the gap between opposing outlooks, particularly on the Restoration times, between those who held that anti-Covenanting policies were born of vindictiveness and mendacity and others who saw them simply as the victims of the necessities of high politics. The Covenanting memorials in Dumfries must first have drawn him to the subject, and this could be partly why he dedicated his book to his three daughters, Gillian, Susan and Ingrid.

*The Scottish Reformation* (1982), a book that can be read as an extended revision article, followed two seminal works, one by Gordon Donaldson and another edited by David McRoberts, that had begun to change the course of Scottish studies on the theme. Typically, Ian had more sympathy for the plight of medieval archdeacons than was usual, more flair for the details of Church organisation and their impact than for matters of doctrine and spirituality. The regional rather than the national or international politics of the movement caught his attention, a focus on local detail being characteristic. The subject had judicious handling. There was a refusal to accept that the pre-Reformation church could be safely described as moribund, or that post-Reformation days lacked total continuity with their predecessors; no conclusive answers emerged, but new questions were posed to which Ian hoped some time to return. Missing as yet were a projected medieval synthesis and a more lengthy scrutiny of Queen Mary's reign, for which his sharply etched Saltire Society pamphlet *Mary, Queen of Scots* (1987) may have been a preliminary draft. Perhaps if he had turned to word-processing, book production might have been speeded up; but no, all was handwritten with neat but tiny letter formations which easily degenerated into hieroglyphics as words tailed off into squiggles defying the best palaeographical skills.

An important feature of Ian's work for Scottish history was his link with *The Scottish Historical Review*, first as a director to the Company of Scottish History which published it, and subsequently from 1983-88 as its editor along with Dr I.G.C. Hutchison. Every now and then, after the initial drudgery of seeking out papers for publication had passed, a heavy bundle of proofs would land on his table where there was much else demanding his immediate attention. However, the issues of that period are sufficient testimony to his skill in coping.

Shortly before his death, Ian became a member of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts. Among his Roman contacts were the Irish scholars, including the historian of medieval philosophy, Michael Haren, and others taking forward the work of editing materials for these isles contained in the papal registers, from the point where the English editors broke off. The outcome was his appointment in 1971 to the Advisory Committee on Papal Records to the Irish Manuscripts Commission. His last Roman visit was in 1987, with the newly available Penitentiary records still beckoning to inquirers. Abroad, the value of his work was recognised by invitations to lecture at the summer schools in Old Dominion University at Norfolk, Virginia, and in Canada as visiting professor at Guelph, Ontario, where he recalled many happy hours spent with the faculty there. In March, 1990, he was conference speaker at San Antonio, Texas. A few months later in June and July, 1990, he delivered the Thomas Burns Memorial Lectures in the University of Otago, New Zealand, on 'Aspects of the Scottish Reformation', when he was able to establish contacts in Australia as well. These six lectures touched on the pre-Reformation need for reform and closed with thoughts on how far the Reformers had advanced in achieving their godly 'Commonwealth'.

Ian's final illness came to us as a thunberbolt out of a clear summer's sky. About his own family, Ian was always very discreet. They appeared as dedicatees in his books and they patently returned his devotion. In July of the year of his first graduation he had married Anna Little Telford, who survives him. Many hearts were touched when, shortly before his death, the Scottish History Society decided to make him a presentation in recognition of a whole quarter of a century of service, a presentation to which his younger daughter, Ingrid, as her father's proxy, responded with a finely crafted speech. His friends and colleagues gathered at his memorial service in Glasgow University chapel on 18 January, 1991, to hear the Historiographer Royal's graceful panegyric and to support his grieving family as all honoured his memory. The hymns sung on that occasion reminded all present of the integrity and courage of the 'bonnie fechter' for our native history that Ian Cowan had always been.

## PREFACE

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Of all the *fragmenta* collected by the Society since 1886, the *Calendar of Fearn* has claims to be the most fragmentary. Beginning as a straightforward Christian calendar, it became an ecclesiastical memorandum-book, a monastic necrology, an incipient chronicle, and for almost a century a family obituary book, ending as an antique curiosity, with parts of its text inked over by novice pensmen. From necessity, the edition here presented imposes artificial order on a chaotic original. It has been reached by a long and tortuous path, with many delays since I first saw the manuscript at Dunrobin Castle over fifty years ago. My first acknowledgement and thanks now go to the Countess of Sutherland, who has continued the consent to edit first given by the late Duke of Sutherland, her uncle, and has over the years encouraged me to continue on what has turned out to be a protracted march. I am also grateful to her for general access to the Dunrobin Muniments (now the Sutherland Deposit in the National Library of Scotland), and for permission to refer to and quote from them.

There are many other debts to be acknowledged. Dr R.G. Cant, the late Dr F.C. Eeles and the late Mr C.T. McInnes gave me major assistance and advice during early wrestling with the manuscript. Superb photography by the late Mr G.M. Cowie of St Andrews made it possible to retrieve almost-vanished passages in the text and establish handwriting patterns amongst hundreds of additions to the original. Numerous scholars have been patient with my often blundering enquiries, bringing to my attention evidence I had overlooked and saving me from many stupidities. Amongst them I would name in particular: my colleagues in the University of St Andrews, Professor D.A. Bullough, Mr H.P. King, Dr N.A.T. Macdougall and Professor D.E.R. Watt; Mr John Ballantyne, the late Professor Ian Cowan, Professor Gordon Donaldson, and Dr John Durkan; above all Dr Jean and Mr R.W. Munro, who have been prodigal in sharing their unique knowledge of medieval and early modern Easter Ross. A number of other individual debts are acknowledged in the text. It is more than probable that I have overlooked the names of other benefactors, to whom I now make a general apology. Despite the best efforts of them all, errors and omissions surely remain, for which the whole responsibility is my own.

I am grateful also to all who have made record material available to

me. The staff of the Scottish Record Office, including the West Register House, have over the years met my sometimes obscure requests with cheerful imagination, forbearance and instruction. I am indebted to the staff of the National Library of Scotland, both at George IV Bridge and Causewayside, for their friendly and efficient assistance. Miss Judith Cripps, Aberdeen City Archivist, Mr John V. Howard, Librarian of Special Collections, Edinburgh University Library, Dr David Iredale, Moray District Archivist, and Mr R.N. Smart, Keeper of the Muniments, University of St Andrews, have all given me ready and friendly access to the records in their care. Through the good offices of Mrs Rosemary Mackenzie of the Tain Museum I have been able, with the kind permission of Balnagown Estates, to consult an important album of original documents (hereafter referred to as the Balnagown Book). The late Professor Cowan drew on his unrivalled knowledge of the Vatican Archive transcripts in the University of Glasgow for me, and Mr J.J. Robertson made available copies of Vatican legal records now held in the University of Dundee. I have specifically to thank: the Earl of Cromartie, for permission to refer to and quote from the Cromartie Muniments now in the Scottish Record Office; the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland, for permission to refer to and quote from material in the Library; Edinburgh University Library, for permission to refer to and print extracts from MSS belonging to the University; and Aberdeen City Archives and Moray District Council, for permission to refer to records in their care. Public records, and others held on deposit in the Scottish Record Office, have been used with the consent of the Keeper of the Records of Scotland; Crown copyright material, where reproduced, is printed with the agreement of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

From the late Dr Evan Balfour-Melville onwards, I have always been fortunate in my encounters with the Society's editors. The current editors, Dr Michael Lynch and Dr Julian Goodare, have been tolerant of my fumbling duels with the word-processor, and have intervened on many occasions to save me from confusion of thought and error of detail. They will, I trust, forgive me if my last - and most deeply-felt - thanks go to the late Dr Ian Rae, whom I knew over many years as student, colleague, editor and friend. Dr Rae helped me immeasurably through the process of giving shape to a recalcitrant project. My stone, with that of Society members over many years, surely goes on his cairn.

## SOURCES AND ABBREVIATIONS

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The left-hand column is a list of abbreviations used to refer to primary sources. Thus, in the text, the Balnagown Castle MSS in the Scottish Record Office are referred to as GD129.

### 1. Primary Manuscript Sources

Scottish Record Office (SRO), Edinburgh

B9/1	Protocol Books of Andrew Wilson
B9/11	Burntisland Burgh Court Books
B22/22/27	Protocol Book of William Logan
B28/1/3	Protocol Book of William Lauder
C2	Register of Great Seal
C114	Register of Presentations to Benefices
CC8/2	Register of Decrees: Edinburgh Commissariat
CC8/8	Register of Testaments: Edinburgh Commissariat
CC19/1/1	Register of Acts and Decrees: Ross Commissariat
CC20/4	Register of Testaments: St Andrews Commissariat
CS5	Acts of Lords of Council
CS6	Acts of Lords of Council and Session
CS7	Acts and Decrees of Lords of Council and Session
CS15	Extracted and Unextracted Processes, First Series
E47	Register of Assumptions and Modifications of Stipend
E82	Burgh Common Good Accounts
GD1/187	Bentinck Deposit
GD1/436	Murray Beith and Murray Collection
GD71	Monro of Allan Muniments
GD86	Fraser Papers
GD96	Sinclair of Mey Papers
GD98	Douglas Collection



GD107	Tulloch of Tannachy Papers
GD125	Rose of Kilravock Muniments
GD129	Balnagown Castle MSS
GD146	Robertson of Kindeace Muniments
GD159	Ross of Cromarty Papers
GD199	Ross of Pitcalnie Muniments
GD237	Tods Murray and Jamieson Collection
GD242	Shepherd and Wedderburn Collection
GD297	J. and F. Anderson Collection
GD305	Cromartie Muniments
NP1/18	Protocol Book of William Douglas
NP1/25, 32, 40	Protocol Books of William Cumming
NP1/67A	Protocol Book of Andrew Fraser
NP1/82	Protocol Book of John Forrester
NP2	Register of Admission of Notaries
NP3	Warrants of Admission of Notaries
PS1	Register of Privy Seal
RD1	Register of Deeds
RD6	Register of Deeds, Minute Books
RH6	Register House Charters
RHP	Register House Plans
RS30	Register of Sasines, Fife
RS36-38	Register of Sasines, Inverness, Ross, Sutherland and Caithness
SC29/1/1, 1A	Sheriffdom of Inverness, Court Books
SC34/28/90	Sheriffdom of Ross (Tain), Papers
SP13	State Papers, 1292-1740
'Subscription list'	GD71/451 [Appendix C, below]
National Library of Scotland (NLS), Edinburgh	
Acc 10225	Sutherland Deposit (additional)
Adv. MS 29.4.2	Hutton Collection
D.175	Gordon Cumming (Altyre and Gordon- stoun) Deposit
D.313, D.314	Sutherland Deposit
Gray	Protocol Book of William Gray (in D.314) [Appendix A, below]
Edinburgh University Library (EUL)	
Blackie	Laing MS III.666 (W.H. Blackie) [Appendix B, below]
MS205	MacCulloch MS

## St Andrews University Muniments

UY305/3	<i>Acta Rectorum</i> , 1578-1730
UY412	Faculty of Arts Bursar's Book, 1456-1853
SS 110 AO 15.5	St Salvator's College, miscellaneous papers
SS 110 E 4.5	St Salvator's College, inventoried papers
SS 150/2	St Salvator's College, Chartulary B

## Aberdeen City Archives

Sasines Reg. V <sup>1</sup>	Protocol Book of David Seton
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## Moray Record Office (MRO), Forres

A52/1/1	Protocol Book of John Dunbar
B2/1,2,3	Forres Burgh Court Books

## Tain Charters

Charters in custody of Town-Clerk of Tain, 1951 (Scottish Record Office survey H/782)

Papal Records (*Archivio Storico Vaticano* [ASV])

Reg. Supp.	<i>Registra Supplicationum</i> (microfilms relating to Scotland, Department of Scottish History, Glasgow University)
SRR	<i>Sacra Romana Rota</i> (photostats relating to Scotland, Faculty of Law, Dundee University)
ASPA	<i>Archivium Sanctae Paenitentiariae Apostolicae</i> (photostats relating to Scotland, Faculty of Law, Dundee University)

## 2. Printed Sources: Abbreviated Titles

<i>Aberdeen-Banff Illustrations</i>	<i>Illustrations of the Topography and Antiquities of the Shires of Aberdeen and Banff</i> , eds. J. Robertson and others (Spalding Club, 1847-69)
ADC	<i>The Acts of the Lords of Council in Civil Causes</i> , eds. T. Thomson and others (Edinburgh, 1839 and 1918-)

- ADCP* *Acts of the Lords of Council in Public Affairs, 1501-1554*, ed. R.K. Hannay (Edinburgh, 1932)
- A.M. Ross* A.M. Ross, *History of the Clan Ross* (Dingwall, 1932)
- APS* *The Acts of the Parliaments of Scotland*, eds. T. Thomson and C. Innes (Edinburgh, 1814-75)
- Anderson, Stewart* P.D. Anderson, *Robert Stewart Earl of Orkney and Lord of Shetland* (Edinburgh, 1982)
- Bannatyne Misc.* *The Bannatyne Miscellany* (1827-55)
- Batten, Beaully* E.C. Batten, *History of Beaully Priory* (Grampian Club, 1877)
- Burghs Convention Recs* *Records of the Convention of the Royal Burghs of Scotland*, ed. J.D. Marwick (Edinburgh, 1866-90)
- Calderwood* D. Calderwood, *The History of the Kirk of Scotland*, eds. T. Thomson and D. Laing (Wodrow Society, 1842-9)
- CP* *The Complete Peerage* (London, 1910-59)
- CPL* *Calendar of Entries in the Papal Registers relating to Great Britain and Ireland: Papal Letters*, eds. W.H. Bliss and others (London, 1893-)
- CSSR* *Calendar of Scottish Supplications to Rome*, eds. A.I. Dunlop and others (vols. i-iii [SHS, 1934-70], iv [Glasgow, 1983])
- Cawdor Bk.* *The Book of the Thaness of Cawdor*, ed. C. Innes (Spalding Club, 1859)
- Cronicle* *Ane Brieve Cronicle of the Earlis of Ross*, ed. W.R. B[aillie] (Edinburgh, 1850)
- Cronicle (G)* *Ane Brieve Cronicle of the Earlis of Ross* [the Balnagown MS], ed. W. Macgill in *TGAS*, new series, vii (1924)
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- Douglas Genealogy* [Rev. G. Aird], *The Genealogies of the Families of Douglas of Mulderg and Robertson of Kindeace* (Dingwall, 1895)
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- Erskine, *Institute* J. Erskine of Carnock, *An Institute of the Law of Scotland* (new edn., Edinburgh, 1824)
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- Gordon Sir Robert Gordon, *A Genealogical History of the Earldom of Sutherland* (Edinburgh, 1813)
- Gordon cont. Gilbert Gordon, *The Continuation of the Historie and Genealogie of the Earles of Sutherland* [in Gordon]
- Gordon, *Tables* Sir Robert Gordon, *Genealogical Tables* (NLS D.314/6: Gordon family genealogies from this MS are printed in *House of Gordon*, ii)
- HMC *Reports of the Historical Manuscripts Commission* (London, 1870-)

- House of Gordon* *The House of Gordon*, eds. J.M. Bulloch and others (New Spalding Club, 1903-12)
- Isles* *Acts of the Lords of the Isles*, eds. R.W. and J. Munro (SHS, 1986)
- Knox, Works* *The Works of John Knox*, ed. D. Laing (Edinburgh, 1846-64)
- Laing Chrs.* *Calendar of the Laing Charters, 854-1837*, ed. J. Anderson (Edinburgh, 1899)
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- MRHS* *Medieval Religious Houses: Scotland*, eds. I.B. Cowan and D.E. Easson (2nd edn., London and New York, 1976)
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- Munro Writs* *Calendar of Writs of Munro of Foulis, 1299-1823*, ed. C.T. McInnes (SRS, 1940)
- OPS* *Origines Parochiales Scotiae*, eds. C. Innes and others (Bannatyne Club, 1851-5)
- OS* Ordnance Survey
- OSA* *Statistical Account of Scotland* (Edinburgh, 1790-98)

Pitcairn, <i>Trials</i>	<i>Criminal Trials in Scotland from 1488 to 1624</i> , ed. R. Pitcairn (Edinburgh, 1833; also Bannatyne and Maitland Clubs)
RMS	<i>Registrum Magni Sigilli Regum Scotorum</i> , eds. J.M. Thomson and others (Edinburgh, 1882-1914)
RPC	<i>Register of the Privy Council of Scotland</i> , eds. J.H. Burton and others (Edinburgh, 1877-)
RSS	<i>Registrum Secreti Sigilli Regum Scotorum</i> , eds. M. Livingstone and others (Edinburgh, 1908-)
Reid	F.N. Reid, <i>The Earls of Ross and their Descendants</i> (Edinburgh, 1894)
<i>Retours</i>	<i>Inquisitionum ad Capellam Regis Retornatarum, quae in publicis archivis Scotiae adhuc servantur, Abbreviatio</i> , ed. T. Thomson (1811-16)
Shaw, <i>Moray</i>	L. Shaw, <i>The History of the Province of Moray</i> (Glasgow, 1879)
SHS	Scottish History Society
<i>SHS Misc.</i>	<i>Miscellany of the Scottish History Society</i>
SRS	Scottish Record Society
SP	<i>The Scots Peerage</i> , ed. Sir J. Balfour Paul (Edinburgh, 1904-14)
Scott, <i>Fasti</i>	<i>Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae</i> , ed. H. Scott (rev. edn., Edinburgh, 1915-81)
Spalding, <i>Troubles</i>	J. Spalding, <i>Memorialls of the Trubles in Scotland and England, A.D. 1624-A.D. 1645</i> (Spalding Club, 1850-51)
Stone, <i>Pont Maps</i>	J.C. Stone, <i>The Pont Manuscript Maps of Scotland</i> (Edinburgh, 1989)
TA	<i>Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer of Scotland</i> , eds. T. Dickson and others (Edinburgh, 1877-)
Tayler, <i>Urquhart</i>	H. Tayler, <i>History of the Family of Urquhart</i> (Aberdeen, 1946)
Temple, <i>Formartyn</i>	W. Temple, <i>The Thanage of Formartyn</i> (Aberdeen, 1894)
TGAS	<i>Transactions of the Glasgow Archaeological Society</i>
TGSI	<i>Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Inverness</i>

- Thirds* *Accounts of the Collectors of Thirds of Benefices, 1561-1572*, ed. G. Donaldson (SHS, 1949)
- Wardlaw MS* *Chronicles of the Frasers: the Wardlaw Manuscript, 916-1674*, ed. W. Mackay (SHS, 1905)
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- Young, Elgin* R. Young, *Annals of Elgin* (Elgin, 1879)

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## INTRODUCTION

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### HISTORY OF THE MANUSCRIPT

#### *Origins*

The Calendar of Fearn was bound in its present form in or soon after 1844.<sup>1</sup> Some forty years ago, through the good offices of Dr. C.T. McInnes, then Curator of Historical Records in H.M. General Register House, this binding was temporarily loosened, revealing two separate manuscripts. The main manuscript comprises four vellum sheets, folded to form eight folios (ff.1-8), approximately 16-17 inches high and 11 inches wide (f.1 has had some 4 inches of width cut away, and carries several slash-marks). Originally only ff.3-8, containing the monthly calendars, were written on. Later painting with galls or a similar varnish has darkened some leaves considerably. Bound in with this is a single vellum sheet folded to form two folios (ff.9-10), carrying parts of the offices of St Stephen and of St John the Apostle, of the same period but not from the same hand, and containing no evidence of provenance. The hand of the main manuscript also wrote the obit of Prior Alexander Fraser of Beaulieu (1), who died in 1471, which may may therefore be taken as a *terminus ante quem* for the original composition. The inclusion of a number of northern saints - Boniface, Duthac, Gilbert, Ruffus (Maelrubha) - suggests that it may have been intended for a northern church. A Fearn origin is unlikely, as the commemoration of Norbert, the founder of the Premonstratensians, was not entered until a later date. The manuscript was possibly written as a private venture.

#### *Early Additions*

Additions to the manuscript began before 1517. One writer (Hand B), who had an interest in the royal house, was responsible for the obit of Bishop Andrew Stewart of Moray (3) and the calendar entry for Queen

<sup>1</sup> Dr J.M. Joass in Forbes, *Kalendars*, pp. xxvi-xxix.



Margaret.<sup>2</sup> Another scribe (Hand C) wrote: a mass-set, introduced by vernacular verses (on f. 1v, which also carries a line of musical notation and a pen-sketch of the Crucifixion); three prayers for the dead (f. 2v); two computational tables (f. 3r); and three Easter Ross obits dated between 1494 and 1507 (2, 4, 5). The prayers have possible royal connections,<sup>3</sup> and suggest that the *Calendar* had come into the hands of the chaplains of the collegiate kirk of St Duthac at Tain. Two charters relating to Tain, dated 1484 and 1487, now in the Douglas Collection, may come from the same hand, although both may be later 'improvements' of earlier originals, designed to provide a title for land in the possession of the college.<sup>4</sup> Notarial instruments drawn up by sir Donald Reid,<sup>5</sup> king's chaplain at Tain between 1494 and 1517, also resemble the work of Hand C.

A third writer (Hand D) was responsible for the elaborate obits of Abbot Thomas MacCulloch of Fearn (6), who died in 1516, and of Bishop Andrew Stewart of Caithness, commendator of the Abbey (7), who died in the following year.<sup>6</sup> These are the earliest obits with Fearn connections. Their writing resembles that of three manuscripts written by a known scribe with Easter Ross connections, though of a slightly earlier period. This writer is Magnus MacCulloch, scribe of Edinburgh University MS 205 and of two texts of the *Scotichronicon*.<sup>7</sup> EU 205, the earliest of the three, contains logic lecture-notes taken at Louvain in 1477.<sup>8</sup> Three MacCulloch names appear in the text: Magnus, John and Mabinus (the latter only in a pen-trial, and possibly a flight of fancy).<sup>9</sup> *Johannes de tain alias Makculloch* wrote an *explicit* on 1 June, in a hand that cannot be distinguished from that of Magnus MacCulloch, who on

<sup>2</sup> For additions to *Calendar* text see 60–63. This commemoration is not entered at 19 June, as was usual for St Margaret of Scotland before the seventeenth century. It may refer to James III's queen, an enquiry into whose possible canonisation was set up on 4 June 1487 (CPL, xiv, 4).

<sup>3</sup> See 58–60.

<sup>4</sup> GD98/X/72, 12 May 1484, grant of land by thirty-two named *convicini et clerici* of the town of the blessed Duthac to Mr Thomas Ross, subdean of Ross (see 32); followed by act of sasine, 2 March 1480 (sic); the witness list is confused (*domino finlao adami fern* may be compared with *adami ferne et finlao andree* in GD98/X/73). GD98/X/73, 24 June 1487, grant of land by Mr Thomas Ross to the chaplains and deacons of the college of St Duthac, specifying liturgical services in some detail; unfinished, ending *et cetera*. GD98/X/74 is a much-damaged and now reconstructed companion piece. See Durkan, 'Tain', 150.

<sup>5</sup> See 25–6.

<sup>6</sup> Bishop Stewart, James IV's Treasurer, had been chamberlain of Ross and Ardmanach and had entertained the king at Tain (TA, iii, 342).

<sup>7</sup> GD/45/26/48 (Dalhousie MS); BL Harl. 712. I am indebted to Professor D.E.R. Watt for information on these MSS.

<sup>8</sup> Ff. 17r (13 March); 136v (1 June); 154v (7 July); 177r (13 Sept.); 181r (28 Sept.). The sequence indicates a year beginning on 1 January.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid. f. 202v.

13 September wrote an *explicit* in the *famosum pedagogium* of the school *de porco* of the University of Louvain.<sup>10</sup> Magnus's name does not appear in the university records, but *Johannes Martollo de Tayn, Rossen dyoc.*, matriculated on 29 August 1477 in the same school.<sup>11</sup> John MacCulloch has not been traced after 1477, but by the beginning of 1481 Magnus MacCulloch was at work in Edinburgh Castle on the *Scotichronicon*, completing both the Dalhousie MS and Harl. 712, written for Archbishop Scheves, by 7 October 1484.<sup>12</sup> He was, he tells his readers, a *magister*, familiar clerk to the archbishop, and a clerk of Ross diocese.<sup>13</sup> There the information stops. Scheves's service was unlikely to be a gateway to fame and fortune after 1482. Mr R.N. Smart has suggested to me that the Gaelic name *Iain mòr* may lie behind the Latin *Joannes* and *Magnus*. The presence of a John MacCulloch amongst the canons of Fearn on 8 May 1509<sup>14</sup> is therefore of interest.

#### *Additions 1517-c.1560*

Between the death of Bishop Andrew and the Reformation further additions were made to the *Calendar*. One scribe inserted three commemorations, including the Nativity and, unusually, St Duthac on 30 December. A Fearn connection is indicated for a writer who added five commemoration days, including that of Norbert, the founder of the Premonstratensian order. In all, fourteen obits (8-21) were added by various hands between 1517 and 1558;<sup>15</sup> the subjects, where identifiable, came from Easter Ross, four being inhabitants of Tain. Apart from these occasional contributors stood the scribe of Hand H, who wrote over forty entries in a neat, old-fashioned script.<sup>16</sup> Almost certainly a canon of Fearn, he had information on the early earls of Ross, and on Ross-shire deaths from 1460 to 1490, including the victims of the fight at Aldecharwis (40). From 1519 he was a contemporary source. He noted the deaths of two abbots of Fearn, nine canons, and two convent servants, but no provosts or chaplains of St Duthac.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid. ff.136, 177r.

<sup>11</sup> *Matricule de l'université de Louvain*, ed. J. Wils (Académie royale de Belgique, 1946), ii, 365; J.H. Baxter, 'Scottish students at Louvain University 1425-1484', *SHR*, xxv (1927-8), 334, reads the name as 'Maccolls'.

<sup>12</sup> Harl. 712, f.276r.

<sup>13</sup> Harl. 712, ff.40, 40v, 150v, 276r.

<sup>14</sup> GD297/231.

<sup>15</sup> Of these, Hand F wrote 8, 11, 15, 16, 17, 19 (and an Easter table); Hand G wrote 18, 20 (and SS Aventinus and Wilfrid).

<sup>16</sup> 22-65 (also Abbot Theonacus).

*Master Thomas Ross*

At an unknown date between 1557 and 1567 the *Calendar* was acquired by Master Thomas Ross, later commendator of Fearn and provost of St Duthac. He inserted two saints' days, noted during a stay in Paris; recorded a benefaction to St Duthac by his great-great-uncle Mr Thomas Ross;<sup>17</sup> listed fair-days at places between Dornoch and Boyndie by Banff; gave sunrise and sunset times for each month in the year; and jotted down two pieces of meteorological folklore (one in Scots verse), an obscure piece of horticultural advice, and what appears to be a dog's death-notice.<sup>18</sup> More importantly, he filled up many of the empty spaces of the *Calendar* with at least 135 notes (66–210). Although continuing on occasion to use Latin until the last years of his life, he was the first annotator to write in Scots, at times producing lively narrative.<sup>19</sup> He was also the only annotator to show any sustained interest in events and personalities outside Easter Ross. Other writings by him are incorporated into what is known as *The Brieve Cronicle of the Erlis of Ross*,<sup>20</sup> and into the original of the *Blackie MS*.<sup>21</sup>

Analysis of Master Thomas's historical additions to the *Calendar* shows a number of earlier sources. He had access to lists of Scottish kings<sup>22</sup> and prelates,<sup>23</sup> and may have known John Bellenden's translation of Boece.<sup>24</sup> He was well-informed on sixteenth-century Moray family history, his most likely sources being his mother-in-law Barbara Tulloch and her brothers. He is unlikely to have written in the *Calendar* before older hands ceased in 1558, but from 1569 he was a contemporary source for events in Ross. A quarrel with Alexander Ross of Balnagown and subsequent retiral to Forres brought a renewed interest in Moray. He may have been an eye-witness of some of the events surrounding the 'Ride of Darnaway',<sup>25</sup> and in his later years followed national happenings with some interest.<sup>26</sup> One-third of his

<sup>17</sup> See 63.

<sup>18</sup> See 62–3.

<sup>19</sup> See 200, 201.

<sup>20</sup> As edited by W. R. Baillie in 1850, this is a conflation of several manuscripts, the oldest of which (the Balnagown MS) was edited separately (with facsimiles) by W. Macgill in *TGAS*, new series, vii (1924), 313–29. Baillie added to this text 'some further particulars in reference to the Abbots of Fearn' (*Cronicle*, 17–23), taken from an eighteenth-century copy. These relate to the abbots from Finlay MacFaid (38) to Thomas Ross, and appear to be the work of the latter.

<sup>21</sup> See 239–40.

<sup>22</sup> 67, 73, 81, 112, 113.

<sup>23</sup> 70, 71, 72, 77, 96, 98, 106, 122.

<sup>24</sup> See *Cronicle*, 3, 13.

<sup>25</sup> See 197, 198, 200, 201.

<sup>26</sup> See 170, 171, 173, 174, 176, 177, 178, 181, 185, and the series of reports on James VI's marriage (186, 189–193).

contributions to the *Calendar* between 1570 and 1595 went beyond simple death-notices. His abiding interest, however, was his family, as shown by an autobiographical passage in the *Cronicle*.<sup>27</sup> By his death the *Calendar* had ceased to have any religious significance, and had become merely a convenient place in which to record deaths. Family - and to a degree neighbourhood - had taken over from Christianity.

### *Walter Ross of Morangie*

On Master Thomas's death the *Calendar* passed to his elder son, Walter Ross of Morangie, who had already written a small number of obits during his father's lifetime (211-220), some of them retrospective notices. After adding his father's death (221) Walter left the MS alone for five years, but when his first wife died in 1600 he began a long series of 116 entries (222-337), which did not end until 1652. The vast majority - some in fairly rudimentary Latin - reported deaths inside his own, related and neighbouring families in Ross and Moray.<sup>28</sup>

### *Final additions*

Twenty-eight entries (338-365) were either written by other hands during the later years of Walter Ross's lifetime, or were added after his death. It is reasonable to assume that his son Mr Thomas, a notary, contributed some of these, but his hand cannot be identified with certainty. No additions were made between Walter Ross's death in 1654 and 1658, when his son died. A single inelegant hand, writing only in Scots, subsequently added eleven death-notices between 1658 and 1662.<sup>29</sup> Many entries appear to have been traced over in this latest phase, suggesting that the MS had become something of a curiosity. The latest notice of all is a Latin obituary for a schoolmaster of Tain, Mr John Ross *adolescens*.<sup>30</sup>

### *Subsequent history*

Nothing certain is known of the *Calendar* between 1667 and 1850, when it was first reported at Dunrobin.<sup>31</sup> Sir Robert Gordon, who professed

<sup>27</sup> *Cronicle*, 20-23.

<sup>28</sup> 222-337. Exceptions were: 225, 311, 335, reports of events; 256, 285, deaths in the royal family; 219, 245, 267, 294, 295, 300, deaths of northern noblemen.

<sup>29</sup> 348-54, 358, 359, 361.

<sup>30</sup> See 365.

<sup>31</sup> *Cronicle*, intro., p.ii. A transcript, made for the Iona Club, was then in the hands of David Laing; this may have been made by James Brichan, who inventoried the Dunrobin Titles while working on OPS.

to have used it as a source,<sup>32</sup> died in 1654, as did in 1656 the polymath Alexander Ross, who claimed to give excerpts from it in a brief Latin 'Lives of the Bishops of Caithness'.<sup>33</sup> Mr James Fraser, minister of Wardlaw, who died in 1709, knew of its existence, attributing to it non-existent information on Bishop John Fraser.<sup>34</sup> There is no firm proof that it was subsequently used as an historical source before the nineteenth century. How it came to Dunrobin is unknown. No connection is known between the male line of the Morangie family and Dunrobin. However, Walter Ross's eldest daughter Isobel married Hugh Ross of Easter Fearn,<sup>35</sup> grandfather of Alexander Ross, W.S. (d. 1753), lawyer in Edinburgh and London, and his brother Capt. David Ross of Little Daan (d. 1735).<sup>36</sup> Alexander Ross was man of affairs to the Sutherland family c.1710 - c.1733, while Capt. David was factor at Dunrobin, 1720-23, during the minority of William, later 16th earl. Both brothers fell out with the Sutherland family, Capt. David being removed from office in 1723.<sup>37</sup> It has been claimed, but without any supporting evidence, that the manuscript was not brought to Sutherland until the nineteenth century.<sup>38</sup>

## THE COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF ST DUTHAC AT TAIN

A 'collegiate structure' was in existence at the sanctuary and chapel of St Duthac in Tain long before Bishop Thomas Hay's formal creation of a college on 12 September 1487.<sup>39</sup> A charter by Earl John of the Isles in

<sup>32</sup> Gordon, ix.

<sup>33</sup> For Ross see *Dictionary of National Biography*, xlix, 251-2. NLS D.314/9 (1631) contains these 'Lives', with Ross's *Sutherlandiae Comitum Annales* (a Latin abbreviation of Gordon; see Fraser, *Sutherland*, i, pp. xix-xxii). It is possible that Ross saw the *Calendar* obituary of Bishop Andrew Stewart (7), but his text contains nothing else that can be traced to it.

<sup>34</sup> *Wardlaw MS*, 120; see 80.

<sup>35</sup> See 286.

<sup>36</sup> See Fraser, *Sutherland*, i, 392, 396; for the family see Reid, 22-3.

<sup>37</sup> NLS D.313 contains numerous papers on these disputes, which dragged on for more than forty years (see e.g. D.313/539, 543-4, 572-3, correspondence; *ibid.*/1603-9, David Ross's accounts as factor; *ibid.*/3056-7, 3060, 3095-6, legal processes).

<sup>38</sup> Rev A.B. Scott, (*TGSI*, xxviii, 410) claimed that the *Calendar* was brought to Sutherland in the nineteenth century 'by one of the Taylors who filled various Crown offices in Sutherland', but gave no supporting evidence. Selections from the MS have been published at various times. See *OPS*, II, ii, 440-41; *HMC*, 2nd Report (1871), 179-80; Forbes, *Kalendars*, pp. xxvi-xxix (from information by Dr James Joass, minister of Golspie 1866-1914 and for many years custodian of the Dunrobin Muniments [see Scott, *Fasti*, vii, 88-9]); Reid, *passim*; Rev. D. Macrae, in *Trans. of the Inverness Scientific Society and Field Club*, ix (1925), 138-53; Dr A.B. Scott, in *TGSI*, xxviii (1912-14), 409-10.

<sup>39</sup> *RMS*, ii, 1694. See Durkan, 'Tain'; Munro, *Tain*, chs. 2, 3.

1467 refers to the burning of the 'collegiata capella' some forty years earlier, while the 'ecclesia collegiata sancti Duthaci' is named in three royal documents issued during James II's northern tour ten years earlier, and the 'college kirk' appears in Alexander Sutherland of Dunbeath's testament, 1456.<sup>40</sup> One of the royal charters endowed the chaplainry of Dunskaith, laying down detailed liturgical duties; it is very possible that the king actually visited the shrine at this time. Stewart devotion to St Duthac was also shown in James III's creation of a new chaplainry of Newmore, designed to provide prayers for the king, his wife, and his parents.<sup>41</sup>

The 1487 establishment provided for a provost and five prebendaries or chaplains with landed endowments. Three of the chaplainries - Tarlogie, Morangie and Cambuscurrie - were in the presentation of the earl of Ross, and may have been endowed before the royal annexation of the earldom. Their lands do not appear in the earliest surviving earldom rental of 1476, nor amongst the retoured lands of John Ross V of Balnagown in 1440.<sup>42</sup> Two of the three, Cambuscurrie and Tarlogie, were certainly held by chaplains in 1486.<sup>43</sup> Payments to an unnamed chaplain of Dunskaith appear in the *Exchequer Rolls* from 1457.<sup>44</sup> The newly-founded chaplainry of Newmore, worth £10 annually, was granted in 1482 to Sir Thomas Monylaw (74), subsequently provost of St Duthac; as 'chaplain celebrating in St Duthac', he had been receiving the same sum since 1479.<sup>45</sup> Bishop Hay's foundation allocated Newmore to the provost of St Duthac, stipulating that he provide a chaplain as deputy, but this appears to have been an arrangement personal to Monylaw. His successor as provost, William Spynie, is not known to have held the chaplainry of Newmore, or to have received the annual payment of £10, which was received from 1494 at latest by sir Donald Reid, on whose death in 1517 it passed to sir John Fearn;<sup>46</sup> Reid was belatedly presented to Newmore in 1515.<sup>47</sup>

James IV's rather showy devotion involved conspicuous attention to

<sup>40</sup> *Isles*, no. 90. *Fraser Papers*, 219-21 (GD86/31), Inverness, 10 Oct., endowment of chaplainry of Dunskaith; GD297/199, Inverness, 12 Oct., confirmation of privileges of kirk of St Duthac and inhabitants of Tain; C. Fraser-Mackintosh, *Invernessiana* (Inverness, 1875), 136 (original in Inverness Museum), Elgin (not Edinburgh), 22 Oct., letter in favour of burgesses of Inverness. I am indebted to Dr Alan Borthwick for advice on these documents. *Bannatyne Misc.*, iii, 96.

<sup>41</sup> *RMS*, ii, 1513, 13 June 1482.

<sup>42</sup> *ER*, viii, 592-6; *Isles*, no. 31.

<sup>43</sup> Macgill, no. 1.

<sup>44</sup> *ER*, vi, 465.

<sup>45</sup> *ER*, viii, 597.

<sup>46</sup> *ER*, xii, 238: for Reid see below.

<sup>47</sup> *RSS*, i, 2599, 17 Aug.

St Duthac and his relics.<sup>48</sup> The liturgical resources at the saint's church were important to him, though he showed no great generosity in providing for them. He maintained the £10 pension, and in addition, from 1503-04 at latest, assigned the revenues of 'Newynmekill' (Nonakiln, Roskeen par.) to a chaplain 'celebrating in the parish kirk of Tain'.<sup>49</sup> The distinction between the chaplain in the parish kirk and the holder of the £10 pension, who celebrated in St Duthac, appears deliberate, though in physical terms it may have been only between the choir and nave of the same building. Both pensions are continued in the *Exchequer Rolls* until 1538-9, but without recipients' names being given.<sup>50</sup> In a late transcript of a royal mandate to pay the pension to Fearn, dated 5 September 1540, it is said to have been founded by James IV and paid for the last thirty-eight years.<sup>51</sup> No holder's name is known for the Nonakiln pension, which had no formal connection with a prebend.

Reid's career is of some interest. He was the king's singing priest,<sup>52</sup> and an accumulator of prebends, holding at various times Cambuscurrie, Newmore, and the sacristanry of St Duthac.<sup>53</sup> Like Provost Spynie, he was a notary, drawing up or witnessing documents between 17 November 1494 and 21 October 1517.<sup>54</sup> He was alive on 21 October 1517, when he witnessed the findings of an inquest at Tain, but dead by 17 February 1518, when Mr Andrew Sinclair was presented to Newmore.<sup>55</sup>

The endowed chaplainries of St Duthac may well have been more desirable than the provostry itself. Apart from the Newmore pension, which does not appear to have stayed attached to the office, and the escheats of court of the burgh of Tain, which inevitably led to tension with the inhabitants and the hereditary bailies of the immunity, the provost received, by the gift of Mr Thomas Ross, subdean of Ross, the revenues of the vicarage-perpetual of Tain, with the teinds of Tarlogie,

<sup>48</sup> See TA, i-iv, *passim*.

<sup>49</sup> ER, xii, 240; xiii, 597, rental of Countess Elizabeth's lands, 1507, 'Neumekill with prest of Tayne'.

<sup>50</sup> ER, xvii, 232.

<sup>51</sup> NLS Adv.29.4.2 (xi) (Hutton Collection), 237.

<sup>52</sup> ER, xii, 238, 304, 450; xiii, 44, 144, 345, 450, 510; xiv, 85, 142, 303, 381.

<sup>53</sup> RSS, i, 1316, 2600, 2599, 2961, 1576. He may also have been vicar of Kiltearn (GD297/201/5) and rector of Uig (RSS, i, 2400).

<sup>54</sup> GD125/Box 2, Nairn, 17 Nov. 1494, witness; GD96/8, Tain, 13 June 1495, witness; *Munro Writs*, no. 26, ?Tain, 22 Nov. 1496, notary; Fraser, *Cromartie*, ii, no. 545, shore of Kyle of Oykel, 27 Feb. 1500, notary; GD305/1/123/521, Meikle Tarrel, 25 Oct. 1505, notary; *Munro Writs*, no. 39, Kiltearn, 18 Dec. 1508, notary; GD305/1/79/13, Chanonry, 25 July 1512, notary; GD305/1/74/86, Tain, 9 Oct. 1515, witness; GD297/201/5, Tain, 22 Oct. 1517, witness. He is to be distinguished from another sir Donald Reid, notary, whose notarial sign is clearly different (GD305/1/10/2, 14 July 1520).

<sup>55</sup> GD297/201/5; RSS, i, 2961.

Morangie and Cambuscurrie. Monylaw's successor, William Spynie, is called vicar of Tain in royal records,<sup>56</sup> and witnessed an indenture on 13 June 1495 as 'Shirr Wilzeam Spyne, Wicar of Tayne',<sup>57</sup> though confirmed as provost by Pope Innocent VIII's bull to him of 17 July 1492, still preserved at Tain.<sup>58</sup> One of the curators named for Alexander Sutherland, claimant to the earldom of Sutherland, when he resigned his rights at Inverness, 25 July 1509,<sup>59</sup> he was more prominent as a notary than as a churchman, both before and after acquiring the provostry.<sup>60</sup> He died at an unknown date after 22 October 1517.<sup>61</sup>

No successor to Spynie is known before 1533, but nominal provosts appear in some profusion in the 1540s. Royal presentations over-riding the bishop of Ross's rights are recorded to George Ogilvy, Hugh Gray and Nicholas Ross (143), on the resignation of sir Donald Munro, sir Magnus Vaus, and sir Alexander Gray respectively.<sup>62</sup> A charter of 1544 carries the signatures of two provosts, Alexander Gray and John Thornton (subdean of Ross).<sup>63</sup> There is some evidence for sir Donald Monro, provost between 28 August 1533 and 14 September 1546,<sup>64</sup> but doubts about his authority are raised by a lawsuit brought in 1543 by Thomas MacCulloch of Plaids against, amongst others, the 'indwellers

<sup>56</sup> TA, i, p. clxii; ii, 467; iii, 170.

<sup>57</sup> GD96/8.

<sup>58</sup> Macgill, no. 2 (see also p. 400). As Dr Durkan observes ('Tain', 152n) Macgill's transcription is unreliable (e.g., in l.2 'diocesis' is rendered 'diacono'). I am indebted to Mr W.D.H. Sellar, who has inspected the bull at Tain; his inspection and my own concur in finding that the full text can no longer be read. There is, however, no reason to doubt that Spynie was the recipient.

<sup>59</sup> Fraser, *Sutherland*, iii, no. 46.

<sup>60</sup> Fraser, *Cromartie*, ii, no. 526, 8 Oct. 1487; no. 541, 6 July 1489; GD305/1/79/12, 16 June 1502; GD297/231, 8 May 1509; *Munro Writs*, no. 41, 4 Sept. 1511; GD305/1/23/2, 7 Sept. 1512; Batten, *Beaully*, 177-81, 18 Jan. 1514; GD305/1/74/86, 9 Oct. 1515; GD297/201/5, 22 Oct. 1517.

<sup>61</sup> GD297/201/5. He had at least two sons (*RMS*, iv, 827, 22 Aug. 1553, letters of legitimation to sir Thomas Spynie, chaplain, and Andrew his brother).

<sup>62</sup> *RSS*, ii, 3870, 22 Feb. 1541; 4841, 17 Aug. 1542; iv, 166, 20 March 1549. For Vaus see Fraser, *Grant*, iii, no. 93; CS7/1<sup>1</sup>, 80v-81r, 26 July 1542.

<sup>63</sup> *RSS*, iii, 676 (original is GD86/131). This is a feu-ferme charter of kirklands by Nicholas Ross, then chaplain of Dunskaith, to his sons, granted at St Duthac, 24 March; it is made with the consent of James, earl of Arran, Governor, and of Bishop Robert Cairncross, who both subscribe, and carries the Queen's privy seal (which survives) and the bishop's round seal (which does not); two provosts and five prebendaries (two of whom, Nicholas Ross and Donald Shearer, hold the same chaplainry of Dunskaith) also subscribe. A precept of sasine, directed to Alexander Ross of Balnagown as bailie, follows on the same day, also signed by Arran, and carrying the bishop's round seal (GD86/132). The Governor's presence in Tain on 24 March 1544 is implausible, as he was engaged in March and April in the siege of Glasgow (TA, viii, pp. xlix-lit, 271-8). The whole document has an anomalous air.

<sup>64</sup> *ER*, xvii, 668, 669. See also *Cawdor Bk.*, 161-2, 28 Aug. 1533, at Cawdor; GD305/1/74/92, 24 May 1539, at Tain; *RMS*, iii, 2380, 31 May 1541, at Inveran; *Munro Writs*, no. 57, 14 Sept. 1546. For sir Donald see *Munro Tree*, M/88. He had Hebridean connections, marrying into the MacLeod of Lewis family, and held both the vicarage and parsonage of Snizort in Skye (*RSS*, i, 3524, 16 Oct. 1626; GD305/1/116/423, 21 April 1530 (see 80).



and neighbours' of Tain, headed by sir Andrew Fergusson, provost.<sup>65</sup> MacCulloch presumably was able to identify where real authority lay, and it is therefore significant that sir Andrew Fergusson (21) was vicar-pensioner of Tain. However, chaplainries and their kirklands were the real prizes. Andrew Fergusson was presented in expectation to the chaplainry of Morangie, but his predecessor sir Simon Blyth was still alive to feu the Morangie kirklands to Nicholas Ross in 1560, and no Fergusson dynasty emerged.<sup>66</sup>

James IV's frequent visits to Tain, and the special nature of his devotion to St Duthac, kept the little group of local clergy in contact with current liturgical developments, as shown by the mass-set and prayers added to the *Calendar*. Things were, however, never the same again after 1513. Only one visit by James V is unquestionable,<sup>67</sup> and royal generosity did not go beyond a new portable relic of the saint, set in silver.<sup>68</sup> The resident chaplains were left much to their own devices, able to concentrate on their endowments and their families, but increasingly on the defensive against both the bailie of the immunity and the community of the burgh.

## THE MONASTERY OF FEARN

The early history of the Premonstratensian house of Fearn is known mainly from the *Cronicle*,<sup>69</sup> which recounts: establishment at Mid Fearn in Edderton parish by canons from Whithorn, under the protection of an earl of Ross; a subsequent removal, after the death of the first abbot, to 'New Fearn' in Tarbat parish; and a major rebuilding c. 1338, with the support of William, fifth earl, and Bishop Roger (1325-50). Although an early Premonstratensian record grouped it with Scandinavian houses, there is no evidence of any Nordic connection.<sup>70</sup> The *Cronicle*'s chronology, however, is confused, attributing the foundation to Ferquhar, first earl (d. 1251), but placing it after the coronation

<sup>65</sup> SC29/1/1, 10v-15v (GD96/28, extract of decret).

<sup>66</sup> RSS, iii, 2469, 30 Sept. 1547. See 143.

<sup>67</sup> TA, vi, 211, 28 March 1534, payment to Ross Herald to take letters to Scots ambassadors in London and to bring their answers to the king at St Duthac.

<sup>68</sup> TA, vi, 248, Aug. 1535.

<sup>69</sup> *Cronicle*, 1-10, 17-23. See also MRHS, 101-02.

<sup>70</sup> See N. Backmund, *Monasticon Premonstratense* (Windberg, 1949-56), iii, 391, 414, 447; T. Nyberg, 'Die skandinavische Kirkarie der Prämonstratenserchorherren', in *Secundum regulam vivere. Festschrift für P. Norbert Backmund* (Windberg, 1978), 267-79. I am indebted to Professor Tore Nyberg for drawing my attention to this evidence, and for discussion of the origins of Fearn.

of Edward I, misdated to 1272.<sup>71</sup> Elsewhere, the foundation is put in the time of Pope Urban IV (1261–4), from whom the canons allegedly had power of free election.<sup>72</sup> No documentary evidence survives for the original grant, or for the alleged confirmation by William, second earl, in 1258.<sup>73</sup> Scottish evidence outside the *Cronicle* for the existence of the community in the thirteenth century appears to be limited to: assessment at seven merks in Bagimond's Roll, c.1275; the presence of Abbot Malcolm as witness to Earl William of Ross's grant of Cadboll to the kirk of Moray, 1255x1271; and the presence of Abbot Martin as a witness to a charter of 1299x1311.<sup>74</sup>

The *Calendar* contains notices, in a sixteenth-century hand, of two early abbots: Donald (26: abbot c.1349–c.1371); and Finlay Faid (38: abbot 1440–c.1485). There is only limited charter support for the succession of abbots given by the *Cronicle*.<sup>75</sup> The *Calendar* throws no light on claims by the priors of Whithorn to present, or at least confirm, the abbots of Fearn. These claims were apparently exercised effectively several times and led to a confrontation between the two houses when Abbot Donald was installed.<sup>76</sup> A century later Finlay Faid claimed the consent of the prior of Whithorn when supplicating at Rome, while the postulate of Whithorn was still protesting for his right in 1517.<sup>77</sup> Like the *Cronicle*, the *Calendar* shows no awareness of two surviving Fearn titles from a period before the burning of St Duthac's chapel at Tain c.1427,<sup>78</sup> or of Earl John of the Isles's important confirmation charter of 1467.<sup>79</sup>

The *Calendar* becomes a contemporary source in the early sixteenth

<sup>71</sup> *Cronicle*, 1–3; see comments by Macgill, *TGAS*, vii, 314.

<sup>72</sup> *Cronicle*, 7–8.

<sup>73</sup> The earliest mention of this charter appears to come in 1789 (NLS Adv. 29.4.2 [xi], 246–51, Capt. David Ross to Gen. Hutton).

<sup>74</sup> *SHS Misc.*, vi (1939), 49; *Moray Reg.*, no. 220 (Batten, *Beaully*, 313, dates this charter c.1281, but Matthew, successor of Ross, who witnesses, was consecrated bishop, 28 Dec. 1272: see Watt, *Fasti*, 267); *Munro Writs*, no. 1.

<sup>75</sup> Malcolm (see above); Martin (see above); Mark (*Cronicle*, 5–7; Fraser, *Cromartie*, ii, no. 522, 30 Sept. 1338; *Isles*, no. 50, n.d.); Donald (see 26); Adam (*Cronicle*, 9: HMC, 3rd Report (1872), 411 [GD297/229], 25–26 Nov. 1380; Fraser, *Cromartie*, ii, no. 525, 14 March 1382; GD297/129, 13 Aug. 1398). 'Machabeus Makhersin, third abbot' is, however, unconvincing (*Cronicle*, 4: Capt. David Ross, in a paper sent to General Hutton in 1799 [NLS Adv. 29.4.2 (xi), 246–51]), plausibly suggested a confusion with Bishop Matthew [1272–4]), and John II Fearn, abbot 1485–6, is a misreading of *Cronicle*, 17, by OPS, II, ii, 436, and Batten, *Beaully*, 314.

<sup>76</sup> *Cronicle*, 5, 7–8.

<sup>77</sup> See 38, 7.

<sup>78</sup> GD297/196, 5 March 1356, confirmation of liberties and freedom from taxation, by William, fifth earl; GD297/216, 5 Nov. 1362, letters by Bishop Alexander Stewart, confirming Earl William's grant of the parish kirk of Tarradale (transumpt of 22 March 1439).

<sup>79</sup> *Isles*, no. 90.

century, recording the deaths of three late fifteenth-century canons,<sup>80</sup> and also of Abbot Thomas MacCulloch (6) and Commendator-Bishop Andrew of Caithness (7). The first surviving record of the whole community comes on 8 May 1509, when a settlement was reached with Sir David Ross VII of Balnagown (47) over the 'mede' on the south side of the monastery buildings.<sup>81</sup> This instrument carries the signatures of seven canons in addition to those of Bishop Andrew and Thomas MacCulloch, suggesting a normal house of eight.<sup>82</sup> The number of canons remained at seven in charters of 1530 and 1534, dropping to five in 1550.<sup>83</sup> On the eve of the Reformation there were still five canons to join Commendator Nicholas Ross in subscribing a series of grants and confirmations to or by Alexander Ross IX of Balnagown (216).<sup>84</sup>

Three canons met again at Fearn on 15 February 1563, to protest that on New Year's Day Alexander Ross of Balnagown had forced them to subscribe a feu-charter allegedly given to him by Commendator James Cairncross.<sup>85</sup> Thereafter the chapter ceased to exist in any recognisable sense. Master Thomas Ross, who got his hands on both monastery and manuscript, recorded one canon's death in 1564 (140), and almost twenty years later that of sub-prior David Reid (168), who had been pensioned off with rooms and a monk's portion.<sup>86</sup> There may have been other pensioners also, for the last trace of the old community is

<sup>80</sup> 35, 37, 42.

<sup>81</sup> Bishop Andrew's arrival clearly lay behind this settlement, which was set down by William Spynie, provost of St Duthac, in an instrument to which the capitular seal is still attached (GD297/231).

<sup>82</sup> Abbot Mark Ross is said to have stayed to supervise the building of a stone kirk at New Fearn while his seven brethren went on a fund-raising tour of Scotland (*Cronicle*, 7).

<sup>83</sup> GD1/436/1, 19 Nov. 1530; RMS, vi, 1545, 9 July 1534 (see also SC29/1/1, 4v-5v, March 1534); GD297/227/1-3, 7 May 1550. Of those subscribing in 1509: Donald McGillemiel (43) d. 1519; John Monylaw (45) d. 1524; John Young I died before 1530; William Calder (53) d. 1543; John MacCulloch (57) d. 1548; Donald Faid (60) d. 1552; Robert Strabrock (63: see RMS, iii, 1750, 20 Jan. 1538) d. 1557. David Reid (168), Donald Bayne and Alexander Roreson entered by 1530; Andrew Dawson (140) entered between 1534 and 1550; John Young II entered before 1557: the dates of death of only Dawson (1564) and Reid (1583) are known. The names of eight persons freed from excommunication by Papal letters of 23 March 1527 (*Laing Chrs.*, no. 354; see 14) do not obviously correspond with those of the known canons, but the use of patronymics makes comparison difficult; some at least may have been tenants or servants.

<sup>84</sup> GD297/214/4, 15 Feb. 1558; GD297/227/4, 15 Feb. 1558; GD297/227/6, 6 May 1559; GD297/227/7, 8 May 1559; GD297/166, 7 Nov. 1559; Reid, Bayne, Roreson, Dawson and Young subscribed.

<sup>85</sup> Macgill, no. 12: Reid, Bayne and Dawson, who protested, had been witnesses, with Roreson and Strabrock, to GD297/227/3, 7 May 1550 (a feu-charter of Invercharron, Wester Fearn, Dounie and the Bonach fishings), on which Dawson's name has been partly erased.

<sup>86</sup> For Reid see SC29/1/1, 30v (21 May 1555), 62r (- June 1556), 72r (12 April 1559); GD129/1/17/57, 20 July 1565; GD1/436/1, 4 July 1568; GD129/1/17/55, 29 Oct. 1571; GD1/436/1, 8 Jan. 1572; *Laing Chrs.*, no. 878, 28 Nov. 1572; GD129/1/22/70, 26 Jan. 1577; PS1/58, 78v, 1 Dec. 1588, gift of his portion, with yard and chamber (see also PS1/66, 26r, 31 May 1593).

found in a grant to John Lindsay of the monks' portions of the whole convent of Fearn, being six persons or thereby.<sup>87</sup>

Virtually nothing can be gleaned from the *Calendar* concerning the life of the Fearn community. The survival of the *Calendar* has a certain significance, but the house, unfortunately, had no Ferrerius. The deaths of two craftsmen are recorded, but the history of the community's buildings is ignored, apart from the burning of the dorter in 1558 (135). The *Cronicle* credits abbots Mark and Donald with the building of a new masonry church in the fourteenth century, and an otherwise unknown Abbot Finlay (d. 1436) with thatching it.<sup>88</sup> The same source reports that Abbot Finlay Faid imported church furnishings, organs and vestments from Flanders, and built St Michael's aisle (still partially surviving, on the south side of the present kirk), the canons' dorter and the cloister. His successor Thomas MacCulloch is reported to have 'biggit furth' the dorter.<sup>89</sup> Master Thomas Ross, very much a practical man, rethatched the fire-damaged dorter, which lay most probably on the east side of the cloister, running south from St Michael's aisle; also, 'in respect the old house was decayed', he converted the dorter range into a two-storeyed house, with hall, chambers, pantry, kitchen and cellars, and with 'turnpicks and easements'.<sup>90</sup> A building contract of 29 June 1637, shortly after the erection of Fearn into a separate parish, provided for the rebuilding of the 'lytill iyill', with new door, a window and a sixteen-foot high bell-house, suggesting that the kirk itself was allowed to fall into disrepair. General Hutton, who dug at Fearn in search of Earl Ferquhar's tomb on 17 September 1819, collected a report that before a rebuilding in 1771 there had been a stone tower, square at the bottom and circular above, projecting from the end of St Michael's aisle, fifty feet high, with access by a turnpike stair, but this may be merely a speculative expansion of the *Cronicle* text.<sup>91</sup> Master Thomas also added two stone barns and a new miln to the west of the monastery. His grant to his son Walter of the principal buildings of Fearn on 28 April 1587 included the cemetery, the cloister both inside and outside the cemetery walls, the house and the garden.<sup>92</sup> With four alehouses, the smith's land, several crofts, the kiln and the miln, which all came to Walter

<sup>87</sup> PS1/63, 132v, 22 Jan. 1592.

<sup>88</sup> *Cronicle*, 7-8, 10.

<sup>89</sup> *Ibid.*, 17 (more probably 'rebuilt').

<sup>90</sup> *Ibid.*, 20.

<sup>91</sup> For Hutton's report see NLS Adv. 29.4.2 (xi), 252-3; for the building contract, 29 June 1637, see *SHS Misc.*, xi (1990), 276-7; for George Ross of Balmuchy, one of the contracting parties, who held land valued at £580 in the parish in 1644 (Fraser-Mackintosh, 366), see 329.

<sup>92</sup> *RMS*, v, 2262.

from his uncle Donald of Rhynie (217), the 'place of Fearn' thus took shape on the site of the old monastery.

## MASTER THOMAS ROSS AND HIS FAMILY

### *The family before Master Thomas*

Master Thomas Ross, commendator of Fearn and provost of St Duthac, was descended from Mr William Ross of Little Allan, a younger son of Hugh Ross IV of Balnagown, who was killed in the fight at Aldecharwis in 1487.<sup>93</sup> There is no evidence to support *Blackie's* claim that Mr William was subdean of Ross and parson of Roskeen, but the same source's list of lands which he held in tack has more substance.<sup>94</sup> His brother, Mr Thomas Ross, was collated to the subdeanery of Ross by 21 February 1477.<sup>95</sup> As subdean, he held the rectory of Tain, and witnessed the foundation of the collegiate kirk. Although there is again no direct evidence to support *Blackie's* statement that he was 'provost of Tain', part of the endowment of the provostry of St Duthac came from his gift of the vicarage dues of Tain.<sup>96</sup> Mr Thomas, on record between 12 August 1478 and 6 July 1489,<sup>97</sup> was dead by 3 July 1494, when the succession to the subdeanery was in dispute.<sup>98</sup>

<sup>93</sup> *Blackie*, 39–40 (see 240); *Cronicle*, 27; see Reid, 8–9. He owed Alexander Sutherland of Dunbeath ten merks, 1456 (*Bannatyne Misc.*, iii, 95); witnessed a charter of Earl John of the Isles, 4 Nov. 1466 (*Isles*, no. 87); as *magister et dominus* William Ross of 'Kildirmiry' (a difficult reading), witnessed a sasine, 29 Aug. 1485 (GD146/22/1). His son Alexander of Little Allan had sasine of Aldie (Tain par.) within a fortnight of Aldecharwis (GD71/1, 22 June 1487).

<sup>94</sup> He farmed unspecified earldom lands, 1476–9 (*ER*, viii, 598, 599; cf. *ER*, ix, 407, 1486). Of the lands named by *Blackie*, 39, Easter Tarbat and Meikle Allan were earldom lands held in liferent by Countess Elizabeth (*ER*, xiii, 596–8); Invercassley was a Balnagown property (*Isles*, no. 31, 1440); Kinlochmore and Kinlochbeg (Alness par.) were bishopric lands, later held in feu by the lairds of Balnagown (GD297/203, 10 Feb. 1610, royal confirmation [not in *RMS*, but see PS1/78, 270v]); Kildermorie (Alness par.) was kirkland of a chapel at the head of Loch Morie, later attached to the chaplainry of Tollie (*OPS*, II, ii, 473).

<sup>95</sup> *Blackie*, 39; *Cronicle*, 27; Watt, *Fasti*, 282; *CPL*, xiii, 84. He was described as 'claiming the subdeanery' in litigation in progress at Rome, 1490 (ASV, SRR, *Manualia Actorum et Citationium*, 20A, 158–60).

<sup>96</sup> According to an addition made to the *Calendar* by Master Thomas Ross, he also granted the garbal teinds of Croskay (Tain par.) to endow the ringing of an evening bell (see 63).

<sup>97</sup> RH6/3, 477A, Cromarty, 12 Aug. 1478; GD297/164, Balnagown, 22 Nov. 1488; Fraser, *Cromartie*, ii, no. 541, Innerathie, 6 July 1489. Like his brother, he was in arrears on earldom fermes in 1487 (*ER*, ix, 407, 534), and was deforming the king's chamberlain (*ibid.*, x, 23–6). His name is prominent in two puzzling Tain charters, dated 1484 and 1487 (see 20).

<sup>98</sup> *ADC*, i, 351.

The descendants of Mr William Ross are central figures in the *Blackie* MS. He and his wife, 'Mary daughter to Goirry McOnill John Isles brother', allegedly had four sons and seven daughters.<sup>99</sup> The male line of the eldest son, Alexander of Little Allan, failed early,<sup>100</sup> but his younger brother Walter of Shandwick (50) was credited with six wives and thirteen children.<sup>101</sup> Master Thomas Ross's father William, who lived in Culnaha (Nigg par.), a bishopric land later held in feu by Alexander Ross IX of Balnagown,<sup>102</sup> is presented by *Blackie* as Walter's eldest son, but is not generally accepted as such and did not succeed to Shandwick.<sup>103</sup> William was 'gentleman to the Laird of Balnagown' (Walter Ross VIII) and married, as his second wife, Margaret Murison (131), daughter of Henry Murison of Pitchadly (Fordyce par., Banffshire).<sup>104</sup> There were four sons and at least one daughter of the marriage.<sup>105</sup> William Ross's death is not noticed in any surviving *Calendar* entry, but his wife died in 1556 at Chanonry, where her son Thomas was at the start of his church career.

### *Master Thomas Ross*

Thomas Ross was born at Culnaha on 17 March 1528 (93). He was a graduate – in all probability of Aberdeen University<sup>106</sup> – by 20 April 1555, when he received a discharge of royal taxation for Alexander Ross IX of Balnagown.<sup>107</sup> His parents' Balnagown connections may have helped him to university, although he later complained that Alexander Ross put him out of his father's holdings of Culnaha and Annat.<sup>108</sup> He was a chaplain of the cathedral kirk by 3 October 1556, and was provided to the parsonage of Alness before 31 March 1557.<sup>109</sup> While

<sup>99</sup> *Blackie*, 40. The same source names one of the six wives of their second son, Walter of Shandwick, as 'Fynezart the Chisolm of Strathglass daughter, her mother beand the Lord of the Isles his daughter' (ibid., 43). There is confusion here, but a daughter of Celestine of Lochalsh, brother of Earl John of the Isles, may have been involved (cf. *Isles*, 307).

<sup>100</sup> *Blackie*, 40–41.

<sup>101</sup> See 50.

<sup>102</sup> See 246.

<sup>103</sup> See 50; also Reid, 26; A.M. Ross, 78–9; GCR, 120–23.

<sup>104</sup> She was chambermaid to Walter's wife Marion Grant (110). *Blackie*, 49–52, 86–92, contains considerable detail on the Murison family, collected by Master Thomas Ross at Fordyce on 15 March 1579 from 'ane auld hermit man', sir John Robertson, vicar of the parish (see RMS, iii, 1538, 3 Oct. 1535; RSS, vi, 2652, 30 Oct. 1574). See also 172.

<sup>105</sup> See 202, 206, 217, 221, 226.

<sup>106</sup> '[William Ross in Balloan's] Eldest son called William ane Stout man departed in Aberdeen, sick and virtue and Leters and dyed in Mr Thomas Ross commendator of Fearn his arms, and was buried in the Old Town of Aberdeen, in the Colledge Kirk' (*Blackie*, 70).

<sup>107</sup> GD129/1/7/10, at Chanonry.

<sup>108</sup> *Cronicle*, 23.

<sup>109</sup> RMS, v, 1922; CS7/14, 241r.

retaining a Balnagown connection,<sup>110</sup> he entered the service of Bishop Henry Sinclair (1558–65).<sup>111</sup> In an autobiographical passage preserved in the *Cronicle*, Master Thomas claimed to have served Sinclair for seven years, and to have persuaded the bishop to give Alexander Ross a grant of Ardgay, Kirkton of Kincardine and Edderton.<sup>112</sup> He is not on record in Ross between July 1562 and 10 August 1566,<sup>113</sup> but between 16 March 1563 and 11 June 1564 witnessed four grants by Sinclair and two obligations by Ross landowners to the bishop's factor, all at Edinburgh or Roslin.<sup>114</sup> When Sinclair went to France in 1564 for his health – he died in Paris on 2 January 1565 after an operation for the stone<sup>115</sup> – Master Thomas accompanied him, subsequently adding to the *Calendar* the commemorations of St Louis the King and St Eloi, both pre-eminently saints of the Paris area. In the French capital he also made contact with the family of an uncle who had served in the royal guard.<sup>116</sup>

By late 1566 Master Thomas was back in Scotland. He was provided to Fearn in October, three years before Commendator Nicholas Ross died.<sup>117</sup> In the following year he was doing business again for Alexander Ross of Balnagown.<sup>118</sup> By 13 May Bishop John Leslie had provided him to the provostry of St Duthac, vacated by Commendator Nicholas.<sup>119</sup> Over the next two years he continued to appear in bishopric deeds, even witnessing a receipt by Leslie to Alexander Ross after Langside.<sup>120</sup> The bishop's flight into exile left him in an exposed position, but protection may have come from his family chief. He appeared before the Council at Inverness on 15 June 1569 as procurator

<sup>110</sup> GD297/227/7, 8 May 1559; Macgill, no. 10 (GD129/1/3/7), 20 Jan. 1561.

<sup>111</sup> See Watt, *Fasti*, 270; Dowden, *Bishops*, 228–9; Knox, *Works*, i, 275.

<sup>112</sup> *Cronicle*, 22–3; the description of the lands in the text is hyperbolic, but a charter was actually given at Edinburgh on 5 Aug. 1563 (GD297/203).

<sup>113</sup> GD125/5, 15 July 1562; GD129/1/17/57, 10 Aug. 1566.

<sup>114</sup> GD125/5, 16 March 1563, Edinburgh; GD125/5, 25 April 1563, Roslin; RD1/6, ff.337–8, 20 July 1563, Edinburgh; GD297/203, 5 Aug. 1563, Edinburgh; RMS, v, 1092, 11 June 1564, Roslin.

<sup>115</sup> RSS, v, 1304; *Diurnal of Occurents* (Bannatyne Club, 1833), 77, 79.

<sup>116</sup> His father's brother, Walter beag Ross ('a little man, stout active and hardy') served in the French King's Guard, and was wounded at the battle of Pavia in 1525. Thereafter he 'maryed a Rich widow there who buire him three Daughters, every one of them had a frie honest house in the tyme Mr Thomas Ross was at Paris in anno 1564' (*Blackie*, 59–60).

<sup>117</sup> 'As the said Master Thomas Ross's provision declares at more length, of the date at Edinburgh, the 12th day of October 1566 yeares' (*Cronicle*, 20). He had already ratified a grant by Commendator Nicholas to Alexander Fearn (218) on 10 Aug., styling himself 'abbot of Fearn' (GD129/1/17/57).

<sup>118</sup> Macgill, no. 29 (GD129/1/1), 1 Feb. 1567; Macgill, no. 137, 17 Feb. 1567, St Andrews, payment of board at the New College for Alexander Ross's son George (266).

<sup>119</sup> RSS, v, 3553.

<sup>120</sup> RMS, v, 201, 31 March 1567; v, 1024, 1 April 1567; iv, 2003, 26 Oct. 1567; GD297/203, 2 April 1568; Macgill, no. 15, 24 June 1568; see also *ibid.*, no. 675 (Martinmas 1568).

for Commendator Nicholas and his son Thomas,<sup>121</sup> and three days later witnessed an obligation by Alexander to pay arrears of thirds.<sup>122</sup> His connection with Leslie did not prevent him stepping into Nicholas Ross's shoes. He appeared as 'provost of Tain' by 30 June 1569 and 'commendator of Fearn' by 12 February 1570.<sup>123</sup> His first known action as head of house with his canons followed on 28 March, when they confirmed a grant by Alexander Ross to three of Commendator Nicholas's sons.<sup>124</sup> In an earlier age his combination of offices would have given him an assured position. The times, however, were changing. At Fearn, the community had disintegrated, and its lands had mostly been lost to feu-farmers,<sup>125</sup> while at Tain the provost's authority was under attack from both the burgesses and the bailies of the immunity.<sup>126</sup> As for the diocese, after Lesley there was little episcopal leadership or capitular activity at Chanonry.

Master Thomas never became a minister of the Reformed Church, but he accepted at least one of the consequences of the Reformation, becoming a married abbot. His marriage to Isobel Kinnaird (230) brought him into a family circle which was later to give him refuge in difficult times.<sup>127</sup> Evidence on his religious convictions is hard to find. His additions to the *Cronicle* were more concerned with the monastery buildings than with things spiritual. Clerical bastardy is much noticed in *Blackie*, another text to which he contributed, but without explicit moral condemnation. None of his additions to the manuscript of the *Calendar* offer any comment on the religious changes taking place in his lifetime.<sup>128</sup> There may, however, have been more to his presence at Fordyce on 15 March 1579 than merely a visit to his mother's remaining relations, for the celebrated pilgrimage chapel at Ordiquhill lay just four miles away.<sup>129</sup> A tenuous impression may be formed that Master Thomas did not desert the old faith completely.

<sup>121</sup> *RPC*, i, 671; see 52, 215.

<sup>122</sup> RD1/9, 460r-461r. The obligation (for the thirds of crops 1563-8 of the abbey of Fearn, the parsonages of Kincardine and Logie Easter, the sacristanry of Tain and the subdeanery of Ross) was apparently not kept (*Thirds*, 210).

<sup>123</sup> GD129/1/6/4; Macgill, no. 24 (GD129/1/3/8).

<sup>124</sup> GD129/1/1; the signatures on this deed are no longer fully decipherable.

<sup>125</sup> *OPS*, II, ii, 437-8.

<sup>126</sup> See 143; Munro, *Tain*, ch. 4.

<sup>127</sup> Isobel Kinnaird was daughter of Alexander Kinnaird of Culbin in Moray, who died at Pinkie, and Barbara Tulloch, member of a Forbes burgess family (for which see 247). Her mother subsequently re-married twice, the second time to Hugh Ross of Tollie (212), and it is possible that Isobel came across the Moray Firth with her. The *Calendar* records the births of three children between 1571 and 1577 (149, 155, 160); *Blackie*, 52 (see 241), adds another son, who died young.

<sup>128</sup> The sentence on Patrick Hamilton was, however, known at Fearn (*Cronicle*, 18-19).

<sup>129</sup> See 33. For Ordiquhill see *Aberdeen-Banff Illustrations*, ii, 107-08. The chapel was dedicated to the Virgin, as was Fearn. The feast of the Annunciation of the Virgin on 25 March was added to the *Calendar* in a late hand (see 60).



In the long run family, rather than faith, was his first priority. He had brothers to assist, and after 1571 children – and at least one nephew – to provide for.<sup>130</sup> Land was the great necessity. A grant to his brother Donald of Meikle Rhynie (217) of previously un-feued lands close to the monastery at Fearn was a useful support for the family home he was creating there.<sup>131</sup> Despite a feu secured in 1559 by Alexander Ross of Balnagown, he managed to stay in occupation of Fearn, keeping the conventual buildings in habitable order.<sup>132</sup> With better luck, the 'place and mains of Fearn' might have developed into a 'big house', as did the nearby Milton of Meddat.<sup>133</sup> However, at the turn of the century they passed out of the hands of Master Thomas's son Walter Ross.

A second territorial base was in the burgh territory of Tain, where Thomas, as well as being provost of St Duthac, was uncle and father of a succession of chaplains of Morangie.<sup>134</sup> In addition to Morangie itself, the chaplainry had lands in Tain, for which Nicholas Ross of Dunskaith paid five merks annual tack duty in 1560.<sup>135</sup> These lands subsequently found their way into Master Thomas's hands. The active land transfer market in Tain gave him an opportunity to add to his property, for which the provostry teinds may have provided resources;<sup>136</sup> in 1579 he was both buyer and seller.<sup>137</sup> On 16 February 1580 he consented, as 'provost of our town of Tain', to a splendidly verbose feu-charter and sasine given by Thomas Fiddes and Donald Taylor, bailies of the burgh, with the consent of the inhabitants and burgesses. In reality, this was an annexation of part of the common lands of the burgh by Master

<sup>130</sup> For his brothers see 202, 217, 226; for his nephew see 206.

<sup>131</sup> RMS, v, 1185, 26 Jan. 1577; GD129/1/22/70 (charter); GD129/1/19/61 (sasine). These lands included the miln of Fearn, four alehouses, and a number of crofts, including Balnasirach; they reappear as a group in later charters (e.g. RMS, vi, 1115).

<sup>132</sup> GD297/227/7; in 1575 Alexander paid 100 merks to account of the feu-duties of the 'place of Fearn' (GD129/1/7/10). *Cronicle*, 20–21, goes into some detail on Master Thomas's building activities.

<sup>133</sup> See 311.

<sup>134</sup> Gifts of chaplainry to: Thomas Reid, nephew, 30 Jan. 1574 (RSS, vi, 2290); Walter Ross, son, 9 Sept. 1580 (RSS, vii, 2505); William Ross, son, 15 April 1586 (PS1/53, 162v).

<sup>135</sup> See 143.

<sup>136</sup> He held tacks of the teinds of Tain and Morangie, valued on assumption at 104 merks and twelve merks respectively (OPS, II, ii, 427; *Macgill*, no. 30, 1575, tack from Mr James Thornton, subdean, of teinds of lands in Tain, £43.6s.8d., and of Easter and Wester Morangie, £8). Master Thomas owed the subdean £45 for teinds at his death.

<sup>137</sup> Gray, 103r–v, 106v, 110v–111r (see 232–3). He had accumulated at least twenty-four bolls sowing (Gray, 119r–120v [see 235–6]).

Thomas himself to form a liferent holding for his wife and an inheritance for his son Walter.<sup>138</sup>

Family loyalty and landed right were the dominant preoccupations of the age. Master Thomas Ross's appearances in record are overwhelmingly to do with land-titles. Thus in 1571, with the consent of his prebendaries, he granted Alexander Ross St Duthac's kirklands on the Drum (Hill) of Fearn, and consented, as provost, to Andrew Munro's (248) feu-charter of the chaplainry kirklands of Newmore.<sup>139</sup> In the same year, as commendator of Fearn, he ratified inheritance arrangements between his predecessor's sons.<sup>140</sup> Land-right could – and often did – mean quarrels and litigation, as in the Denoon and Meikle Tarrel successions and the dispute over Cadboll.<sup>141</sup> Master Thomas was inevitably drawn into these clashes. He had to surrender in the Court of Session a box containing over thirty titles relating to the Meikle Tarrel inheritance.<sup>142</sup> The ancient practice of using monasteries as archive stores had evidently not yet disappeared. More seriously, Cadboll, in dispute between Alexander Ross of Balnagown and Alexander Innes of Plaids, was partly Fearn land, involving the monastery in a major inter-generation dispute at Balnagown.

A shared ancestry, the physical intermingling of abbey and lordship lands, and the evaporation of organised religious life at Fearn set Master Thomas on the same footing as lay landholders of the 'name and arms of Ross', with whom he took his place at moments of tension and decision.<sup>143</sup> Alexander Ross's troubles put strains on family loyalty. A warning of problems ahead came on 24 June 1580, when, 'near Tain', Commendator Thomas was served with royal letters requiring him to receive James Scrymgeour as feuar of the Balnagown lands held from Fearn.<sup>144</sup> As Scrymgeour had secured Balnagown through an apprising, Alexander Ross was unlikely to look kindly upon any

<sup>138</sup> Gray, 119r-120r (see 235-6). The new holding included lands on the west side of Tain and on the slopes of 'Binzairak' (see 43). The feu-duty was related to the amount of land brought into cultivation, and permission was given to build sheepfolds, providing the common ways were not obstructed. Thomas Ross was something of a farmer, as shown also in his activities at Fearn and Forres. The granting of the charter was a family occasion. Thomas's two brothers Donald and John attended, as did his wife's two half-brothers Michael and William Cumming (sons of Barbara Tulloch's second marriage to James Cumming of Dallasbraughty [Edinkillie par., Moray]; see *Blackie*, 95), his elderly uncle Sandy Murison (172), and a first cousin George Murison.

<sup>139</sup> GD297/201/6, 17 Sept; RSS, vi, 1127, 28 Feb..

<sup>140</sup> GD129/1/17/55, 29 Oct; GD199/19, 29 Oct. A contract of 10 Dec. shows him settling accounts with the widow of one of them (CS7/68, 149r-152r).

<sup>141</sup> See 14, 52, 211, 216.

<sup>142</sup> CS7/66, 379r-381r.

<sup>143</sup> See 216.

<sup>144</sup> NP1/32, 245r; the bearer paid entry duty and took instruments.

kinsman doing business with him. After 1580 there is no firm evidence for Master Thomas's presence in Ross for almost seven years. In March 1581 he was in Edinburgh, complaining to the Privy Council that Alexander Ross was preventing the tenants of Fearn from occupying 'thair owne rowmes, far less to pay. . . my maill or dewtie'.<sup>145</sup> The *Cronicle*, in a passage of strikingly autobiographical tone, elaborated on what had happened.<sup>146</sup> Record evidence supports its story. Fearn charters given at this time were written at Elgin, and were in favour of young George Ross, Alexander's son. In October 1582, after George had redeemed Balnagown from Scrymgeour, the commendator gave him new charters of the feu-lands held from the abbey and the office of hereditary bailie.<sup>147</sup> From a safe distance, he tried to preserve his family's position in Ross. George Murison, his servant, formally interrupted the building of a 'larach' on his lands in Tain.<sup>148</sup> An old acquaintance, Alexander Fearn of Pitcalzean (218), came to Forres in June 1587, bringing with him Alexander, son of Adam Hay in Plaids, who bound himself to become Master Thomas's teind-collector in Tain, for which he received a sub-tack of one oxgang of teinds in the burgh.<sup>149</sup> Teind-collection had its problems, but was a way of making money, and Alexander Hay (326) was eventually to become provost of Tain. Master Thomas was certainly careful to retain titles. When his son Walter's seven-year grant of the chaplainry of Morangie neared expiry, he secured another for his second son William.<sup>150</sup> Walter, still not much over twelve years old, had already been promoted. In 1584 his father had resigned to him the commend of Fearn and the provostry of Tain, carefully reserving his own liferent and a right of regress on Walter's death; a royal confirmation struck out these reservations, on the grounds that Thomas was not a minister serving a church.<sup>151</sup> As it turned out, however, Walter Ross was to outlive his father by almost sixty years.

<sup>145</sup> *RPC*, iii, 361-2.

<sup>146</sup> 'The said Mr Thomas Ross for the most part of ten years, being boasted be Alexander Ross of Balnagown, was out of Ross, and dwelt in Murray, in the town of Forres, where he conquest lands to build on both the sides of the road, and some field land, and made great expenses in Murray in householding, which he rather to have made in Ross among his own friends if they had suffered him to remain among them, and payed him his own liveing; albeit none held his liveing from him, but the surname of Ross. . . and such reward as the said Mr Thomas Ross got from the said laird, it is known, viz., evil goods for guid, he held and holds ane part of his liveing from him, and put him out of his father's Rounge called Culnaha and Annat, he rests to him of his liveing of Fearn a great sum of money, viz., four thousand pounds Scots' (*Cronicle*, 21-3).

<sup>147</sup> GD297/227/11-13; see 266.

<sup>148</sup> NP1/40, 15r, 19 June 1582.

<sup>149</sup> MRO A52/1/1, 43, 24 June 1587.

<sup>150</sup> PS1/53, 162v, 15 April 1586.

<sup>151</sup> RSS, viii, 1878, 26 Feb. 1584.

Master Thomas spent most of the 1580s in Forres. He is first named in the burgh records on 1 April 1585, but was then no stranger to the Moray town, into which he was fully accepted.<sup>152</sup> By his own account, he was an active and acquisitive landholder, a dispute over 'field land' featuring prominently in the evidence for his time in Forres.<sup>153</sup> In another case he showed some legal knowledge.<sup>154</sup> As his exile lengthened he began to put down family roots in Moray. On 4 April 1587 he resigned three roods of burgh land in favour of his elder son Walter, who was admitted a burgess in the same year.<sup>155</sup> Although there is evidence that he began to visit Ross again towards the end of the decade, he did not abandon Forres immediately.<sup>156</sup>

On 20 November 1590, now over sixty years old, and acknowledging 'weaknes debilitie and infirmitie', Master Thomas resigned his parsonage of Alness to Mr Robert Ross, minister of the parish.<sup>157</sup> It may have been a blow when the Privy Council ordered him to surrender the bells of Fearn for the use of the presbytery,<sup>158</sup> but the family succession was his chief concern. Walter, for whom he arranged a respectable marriage, and to whom he made over the place of Fearn and his lands in Tain, was his intended successor. To protect him, his father called on old loyalties. George Ross, now firmly in control of Balnagown, had a debt of 3,000 merks written off in return for a grant

<sup>152</sup> MRO B/2/1, 9, witness to a deed in favour of Robert Tulloch of Tannachy (247). His mother-in-law was Robert Tulloch's aunt, and his own brother-in-law Walter Kinnaird of Culbin (288) was a substantial local landholder. He was 'sut rollit' on 24 Jan. 1586 on a sasine of 2 Aug. 1584 (MRO B/2/1, 12-13), and was a member of the burgh council between 1585 and 1589 (MRO B/2/1, 11, 48, 128, 199, 255).

<sup>153</sup> See *Cronicle*, 21. On 14 Sept. 1586 the provost and bailies arrested corn grown on two riggs of new land that he had 'revin out' of the 'muirsched'. Despite claiming a seven-year tack, he was ordered to remove on 8 Jan. 1588, but persuaded the council to leave him in occupation for the remainder of his tack (MRO B/2/1, 44, 68, 69, 84, 97, 134, 143-4, 145, 153, 154).

<sup>154</sup> He acted as procurator for his kinsman Alexander Ross Williamson of Invercharron (276) in an action for a debt of two merks, which brought a counterclaim including the slaughter of a goose by Thomas's children or servants. There was a solemn reference to arbiters, Thomas protesting for 'remeid of law conforme to . . . ye act contenit in the bowik calit Leges magistratam' if the case was taken to another court (MRO B/2/1, 266-8, 6 April 1590).

<sup>155</sup> MRO A52/1/1, 30; MRO B2/2/1, 93, 24 April. Walter acted as his father's procurator in court, 26 July 1591 (MRO B/2/1, 339).

<sup>156</sup> GD129/1/1, 10 Dec. 1587, Tain; GD305/1/136/8, 20 Nov. 1590, Tain; but a grant to his son Walter of the monastery buildings, 28 April 1587 (RMS, v, 2262), was given at Forres, not Fearn (cf. GD129/1/17/56, surrender of same lands by Donald Ross of Meikle Rhynie; CS15/Box 81, 1601, claim by Walter Ross's procurator that original, given at Forres, had been destroyed by mice or rats). Master Thomas appeared personally in the burgh court on 6 and 7 April 1590 (MRO B/2/1, 286, 288), and the vivid language of 200 and 201 suggests that he returned from his November 1590 visit to Tain within a few days. Unexpectedly, he apparently subscribed a charter to Alexander Clunes, reader at Nigg, at Edinburgh on 4 Feb. 1592 (GD129/1/17/55).

<sup>157</sup> GD129/1/136/8, 20 Nov. 1590.

<sup>158</sup> RPC, iv, 628, 28 May 1591.

to Walter of 'ane petty grassing in the Highlands'.<sup>159</sup> By another agreement George resigned the Wester Drum of Fearn to Walter; in return, he received a new title to the hereditary bailiary of the abbey lands, and was excused payment of a salmon rent from the Bonach fishings (Kincardine par.).<sup>160</sup> Good lordship, faithful service and blood loyalty remained the best protection for an heir. Provision made for younger children was less clear, and led to complications after Master Thomas's death. His second son William already had a life grant of the chaplainry of Morangie, but his daughter Barbara was left dependent on the good faith of her elder brother. On 10 January 1595, six days after his own marriage, Walter Ross, now 'of Morangie', entered into an agreement on her future with his father.<sup>161</sup> Acknowledging that Thomas 'hes fetherlie of his beneuolence. . . maid me ane competent and reasonable leving eftir his deceis', Walter undertook to pay tocher of £1,000 to his sister and 'hir futur spous quhenseuir God sal apoint hir to be joind in mariage'. Should Barbara die before marriage Walter was to return the money to his father, or if the latter was dead to give it in liferent to his mother Isobel Kinnaird and his brother William. Barbara Ross was in fact married on Midsummer Day 1595,<sup>162</sup> before her father died, but her tocher was not immediately forthcoming.

Master Thomas lived on for another year after making his family arrangements. His last recorded act, on 31 January 1596, was to give George Ross a discharge for his 1595 feu-duties and customs.<sup>163</sup> His testament, given up almost two years after his death, reveals something of his financial position. His reported estate included stock and bere on his Tain lands (six horses, sixteen oxen, ten cows, twenty wedders, and eighty bolls bere), and more bere (forty-eight bolls) in the barns and barnyards of Morangie, the total value coming to £1,174.13s.4d. The free estate for distribution came on paper to £1,878.7s.10d., though the real situation may have been rather more complicated.<sup>164</sup>

The evidence for Master Thomas Ross's career is substantial but somewhat unsatisfying. He was literate in more than a strictly technical sense, with some reading behind him – possibly developed in his days

<sup>159</sup> *Cronicle*, 23; *RMS*, v, 1971, 1 Dec. 1590. The grazing was the former bishopric possession of Garvary on the Wester Fearn burn (Kincardine par.).

<sup>160</sup> GD129/1/18/60, 1 Jan. 1593 (see also RD1/76, 419v-420r). *RMS*, v, 2262, confirmed the abbot's consequent charter of the Wester Drum to his son.

<sup>161</sup> RD1/51, 149r-150r; Master Thomas's brother Donald of Meikle Rhynie and Isobel Kinnaird's half-brother William Cumming were witnesses, with the Tain notary William Fraser (271) and his less reputable colleague Robert Innes (see 218).

<sup>162</sup> *Blackie*, 53 (see 241).

<sup>163</sup> Macgill, no. 37 (condensed); GD129/1/3/8 and GD129/1/7/10, full contemporary texts.

<sup>164</sup> CC8/8/31, 147r-149r. He left no will.

with Bishop Sinclair. It is likely, given the range of his information, that he had the Gaelic. Walter Macfarlane would certainly have found him a rewarding source of information. He was in some degree aware of the origins and history of his monastery, and had some feeling for its buildings and furnishings. Some moral attitudes, and concepts of 'name and arms', can be detected underneath the formidable accumulation of genealogical details in the *Blackie MS*. No real clue emerges, however, as to the nature or the strength of his religious convictions. The Reformation may have posed him major questions of belief, but if so his writings do not reflect it. His hand detached the *Calendar* from its short connection with the house of Fearn and turned it into a record of the deaths of family and friends. Family and land were, it seems, his real concerns.

### *Master Thomas Ross's settlement*

When Thomas Ross died his elder son Walter already held the place of Fearn and the kirklands of the chaplainry of Morangie. His Tain lands went in liferent to his widow. Delay in the settlement of his estate led to his younger children having themselves named executors on 31 January 1598.<sup>165</sup> One reason for the delay was the failure of Walter's father-in-law Hugh Ross of Tollie to pay his daughter's tocher.<sup>166</sup> Her death and the sale of Walter's Fearn lands altered the situation, and the family sought arbitration - interestingly, in Forres rather than Tain.<sup>167</sup> Asked to rule on claims by William Ross against his mother and elder brother for his 'bairns pairt' of the dead man's goods and gear, five Moray arbiters discharged his mother from the claim, but required her to resign a tenement in Tain to him. No mention is made of any payment by Walter Ross to his younger brother. Barbara Ross's husband, Andrew Morison, who demanded his wife's tocher of £1,000 and a further £974 allegedly owed to him by Master Thomas (though not shown in the latter's inventory), was awarded £300 from his brother-in-law and 300 merks from his mother-in-law.<sup>168</sup>

<sup>165</sup> See 42. Three days later Barbara Ross's husband Andrew Morison had a feu-charter of the ruined manse of the chaplainry of Morangie in Tain (RMS, vi, 651); he was called 'indweller in Tain', 10 Jan. 1605 (RD1/107, 59r-59v).

<sup>166</sup> See 42. The marriage contract was registered on 29 Dec. 1601 (RD1/84, 154v-156v), and on the following 27 Jan. Hugh of Tollie and his son Hugh borrowed 1,140 merks from Thomas Ross, merchant burgess of Edinburgh (RD1/86, 267r-v).

<sup>167</sup> MRO B2/2, 474-477, 9 May 1603, decree by five judges-arbital, including Walter Kinnaird of Culbin (288) and Thomas, son of Robert Tulloch of Tannachy (247).

<sup>168</sup> RD1/102, 342r-v, 11 July 1603, receipt by Morison to Walter Ross (William Ross burgess of Forres and Nicol Clephane burgess of Burntisland [son of 214], witnesses).

Isobel Kinnaird died in her own house in Tain in October 1603. By her will, made on 5 October, Walter Ross became her only executor.<sup>169</sup> To her daughter Barbara she left her silver belt and brooches, 'ane litill goldin brotche', and a young cow. To her son William she left two cows – and nothing else. Any substantial bequest would have been difficult to fulfil, for the inventory showed net debts of £448.<sup>170</sup> Walter Ross took over his mother's liferent lands, with the stock and grain on them. William Ross, it appears, did badly.

*Walter Ross of Morangie*

Walter Ross was married on 4 January 1595 to Janet Ross (222), daughter of Hugh Ross II of Tollie (279). There were three children of the marriage: Isobel;<sup>171</sup> Thomas (348), born 24 March 1599; and Hugh,<sup>172</sup> born 2 August 1600. The marriage contract, drawn up at Nigg on 10 December 1594, provided for £1,000 tocher, to be 'dedicate' to Walter's sister Barbara's tocher.<sup>173</sup> The bride was to have a liferent of the wester part of her husband's lands of Fearn, with the dwelling-house built there by his father, and of a tack of the teind-sheaves.<sup>174</sup> Though only a small part of the abbey's original endowment, this was not a negligible holding. When Janet Ross died at the place of Fearn in September 1600, a month after the birth of her third child, the property was valued at £1,122.13s.4d, much on a level with Master Thomas Ross's own holdings in Tain.<sup>175</sup>

From 1 February 1598 Walter found himself with a superior lord, as a result of King James's grant of the old monastery lands to his household servant, Sir Patrick Murray.<sup>176</sup> The new laird sold off his rights to the two most powerful local landowners, George Ross of Balnagown (266) and George Sinclair of Mey (268), at the same time challenging Walter

<sup>169</sup> CC8/8/42, 362r-363v. Andrew Morison and Nicol Clephane were witnesses, but neither of her own sons is named.

<sup>170</sup> The stock and grain on her Tain liferent lands, for which she owed the burgh 40s. annually in land duties, was valued at £664.13s.4d, but she owed Andrew Morison £293 and her son Walter £635 'conforme to certane particular comptis'.

<sup>171</sup> See 47, 241.

<sup>172</sup> His father bought two tenements in Tain for him, 1613 (Macgill, no. 407). No further notice of him has been found.

<sup>173</sup> RD1/84, 154v-156v.

<sup>174</sup> Morangie and forty bolls sowing in the lands of Tain were promised in special warrandice, and Janet was to share equally in any 'conquests' made by the couple.

<sup>175</sup> CC8/8/36, 1 May 1602. Thirty bolls bere, sixty bolls oats and one boll pease were sown on the grounds, and there was stock of two horses, two mares, eighteen oxen, two cows, ten sheep, and, unusually, eight pigs.

<sup>176</sup> RMS, vi, 650. All feuars and hereditary tenants were in future to hold of the new barony of Geanies, and the name and memory of the monastery were to be extirpated.

Ross's titles.<sup>177</sup> After a reference to arbiters, there was some argument before Mr James Dunbar, chanter of Moray, called in as oversman, ruled on 24 October 1600 that Walter's titles were good, but that he should pay Murray 3,000 merks.<sup>178</sup> Coming so soon after Janet Ross's death, this seems to have made Walter decide to get out. On 18 November he sold Fearn, with a tack of teinds over a somewhat larger area, to the ambitious Mr John Munro, minister of Tarbat (289).<sup>179</sup> The price was substantial: 6,000 merks down, 5,200 at Whitsunday 1601, and a final 5,200 at Whitsunday 1602. Some of the ready money was used to pay Murray, who received a speedy royal *novodamus* on 17 December.<sup>180</sup>

Walter Ross had a second territorial base at Morangie, an ancient half-davach land within the immunity of St Duthac, assigned in 1487 to the maintenance of a prebendary in the collegiate kirk.<sup>181</sup> The prebend or chaplainry was held from 1574 onwards by successive members of Master Thomas Ross's family, and the kirklands, at one time held in feu by Nicholas Ross of Dunskaith, were in Walter Ross's hands by 1591.<sup>182</sup> The boundaries then set out were unchanged in 1636, and were still relevant enough to be carefully translated from the Latin in 1764.<sup>183</sup> The lands lay between the burgh fields of Tain to the east and Tarlogie to the west, and ran from the sea south to the ridge of 'Beindyarrok'.<sup>184</sup> The low ground was part of a long-settled coastal strip, where little expansion could take place, but access to the hill, with its peats and pasture, was a major advantage. In 1579 Master Thomas Ross had

<sup>177</sup> GD129/1/21/66, 23 April 1600, contract; RMS, vi, 1709, 1751, 28 Feb. 1601, confirmations; the barony was divided, each part including half of the 'manor, formerly monastery', and 'lie Maines' of Fearn. Murray claimed unsuccessfully before the Lords of Session that Master Thomas Ross had kept possession since 1577, and had inserted a false date into a Great Seal charter (RMS, v, 1184, 10 April 1587; see CS7/190, 373r-378r, 13 Dec. 1600).

<sup>178</sup> GD129/1/21/66, extract submission and decret arbitral. Amongst Walter's arbiters were his uncle Walter Kinnaird of Culbin (288), his father-in-law Hugh Ross of Tollie (279), Robert Tulloch of Tannachy/Fleurs (247), and Hugh Gordon of Ballone (251).

<sup>179</sup> RD1/86, 214r-218v.

<sup>180</sup> RMS, vi, 1115. Steps in the process are contained in GD129/1/18/Bundle 58 (see also GD129/1/19/61, 20 June 1601; RD1/86, 213r-v, 12 May 1602). There is a useful summary relating to the Drum of Fearn in a printed case of 1777 (GD199/56).

<sup>181</sup> RMS, ii, 1694. The teinds, with those of neighbouring Tarlogie, were granted to the provost of St Duthac, but were claimed after the Reformation by the minister of Tain, as successor to the subdean of Ross, *ex officio* rector of Tain.

<sup>182</sup> See 143; RMS, v, 1971, 1 Dec. 1591 ('Doani Kempiche' in boundaries clause is misreading of 'Duncani Kempiche': see C2/38, 158). Morangie paid twelve merks feu-duty; it was valued at 400 merks in 1644 (Fraser-Mackintosh, 365).

<sup>183</sup> RMS, ix, 626, *novodamus* to Mr Thomas Ross; GD242/56/2/13.

<sup>184</sup> From the mouth of the Morangie burn below the present distillery to the height of 'Ben Garrick' (possibly a variant of 'Ben Dearg') is just over two miles in a straight line.



persuaded the burgh community to make over part of their adjacent common lands on the slopes of the hill to his wife and son.<sup>185</sup> Later plans do not indicate the existence of a 'big house' at Morangie, and it is probable that Walter and his successors lived in Tain itself.<sup>186</sup> There was also a miln (or milns),<sup>187</sup> important enough in 1487 to form a separate endowment for the sacristan of St Duthac.<sup>188</sup> By 1598 it was in the hands of Malcolm Ross of Cambuscurrie (275), from whom Walter Ross took a short contract in 1603.<sup>189</sup> Title thereafter went with the feulands of Cambuscurrie, and a valuable economic asset was lost to Walter and his successors.

Walter Ross was also a significant landholder in Tain itself. When the burgh was stented in 1612 for the repair of the parish kirk he was assessed on six tenements and sixty-eight bolls sowing – slightly over 10 per cent of the total arable, and one of the half-dozen largest holdings.<sup>190</sup> His Tain properties were estimated to be worth half as much again as Morangie.<sup>191</sup> He was certainly an active member of the town community, going as commissioner to the Convention of the Royal Burghs in 1592, 1604 and 1609.<sup>192</sup> At a somewhat early age, he presided as provost on 21 January 1594 at an inquest in Tain tolbooth, fifteen years after his father, as 'provost of our town of Tain', had consented to a charter to him.<sup>193</sup> He was provost again in 1612–14, and

<sup>185</sup> See 235–6.

<sup>186</sup> RHP11611 (survey by George Brown for a road from Portinleik [Invershin] to Tain, 1797); RHP14646 (plan by Alexander Smith of Morangie, Tarlogie and Cambuscurrie, 1847). Smith's plan shows a number of crofts along the Tarlogie road, and to the east of these, between the Morangie boundary and the town, fields named 'Abbots Croft'.

<sup>187</sup> Smith's plan (see above) shows two saw mills, a carding-mill and a brewery (predecessor of the present distillery) along the Morangie burn.

<sup>188</sup> RMS, ii, 1694. At the Reformation the milns were valued at twenty merks and said to be held of the bishop of Ross for two chalders victual (*Thirds*, 4; *OPS*, II, ii, 425–6). William Fraser (271), reader and notary, subsequently secured the revenues of the sacristanry.

<sup>189</sup> RMS, vi, 685 (GD242/55/1/2), 20 March 1598 (see also RS36/2, 29v–30v (GD242/55/1/6), 10 June 1606). Walter Ross's wadset was accompanied by letters of reversion for 500 merks, not to be exercised for three years (GD199/18, 11 Jun 1603).

<sup>190</sup> For the Tain Stent Roll see SC34/28/90 (Macgill, no. 53, abbreviated text). The total assessment was on 665 bolls and 184 tenements, held by sixty-two individuals or representatives, with concentrations of up to twelve tenements in single hands. Walter Ross sold thirty-five bolls sowing to Andrew Ross, burgess, for £1,000, 1613 (Macgill, no. 408). He had enough land to give his second wife Alison Clephane and their children title to seventy bolls sowing in the burgh fields (RS37/3, 193r, 16 Jan. 1626).

<sup>191</sup> RS37/3, 343v, 12 Jan. 1627.

<sup>192</sup> *Burgh Convention Recs*, i, 369 (Kirkcaldy); ii, 172 (Perth); ii, 272 (Cupar).

<sup>193</sup> Macgill, no. 941. The full text (in the Balnagown Book) shows that the inquest refused to serve a retoured heir in the absence of George Sinclair of Mey, hereditary bailie of the immunity. Walter may have been a convenient figurehead for the burgesses to use against Sinclair.

possibly at later dates also.<sup>194</sup> He retained his Balnagown connections, sitting on a Balnagown justiciary court at Kincardine in 1627 and presiding over baron courts at Kincardine and Ardmore in 1637-8.<sup>195</sup> On a wider stage, he was one of the gentlemen of Ross who met at Tain on 26 April 1622 to regulate the tanning of hides, and consented to the formation of the Northern Committee of Affairs, 28 February 1640.<sup>196</sup>

Soon after Janet Ross's death Walter married Alison Clephane from Burntisland (355).<sup>197</sup> There were said to be ten children of this marriage,<sup>198</sup> and familiar problems of step-family endowment inevitably arose. The surviving son of his first marriage, Thomas (348), eventually succeeded to Morangie, but not without difficulties. Walter had infested Alison Clephane and her children in Morangie and his house and other properties in Tain, with seventy bolls sowing.<sup>199</sup> This grant was technically a wadset, redeemable by Walter and his heirs, on payment of £4,000 for the Tain lands and 4,000 merks for Morangie (the relative values are noteworthy).<sup>200</sup> Walter received letters of reversion, which were transferred to his eldest son, and were still outstanding when in 1629 Alison Clephane's eldest son, John, was given title to Morangie with his mother.<sup>201</sup> Mr Thomas promptly paid his half-brother 1,000 merks, and the balance of the redemption price in 1633.<sup>202</sup> John Ross gave his discharge at Cupar, where in the same autumn he was contracted to marry Agnes Robertson (309), daughter of David Robertson, merchant burgess.<sup>203</sup> It would appear that the Morangie reversion was used twice to finance John's career. The pressure of two generations and two families on a restricted inheritance

<sup>194</sup> He was provost 1612-14: *Laing Chrs.*, no. 1622, 16 Nov. 1611; Tain Stent Roll, 1612 (SC34/28/90 [Macgill, no. 53, abbreviated]), which he signed as provost; GD129/1/7/13, Ardmore, 2 Dec. 1614. Walter Ross appears as provost, 20 Feb. 1640 (RS37/6, 326r-327r; but Macgill, ii, no. 1016, 31 Jan. 1640 names William Ross as provost). If he was the Walter Ross, provost, who sat with the bailies in 1648, he was still active when over seventy-six (Macgill, no. 239).

<sup>195</sup> GD129/2/353, 22-6, 29, 31-2, 32.

<sup>196</sup> Macgill, no. 496; *ibid.*, ii, no. 1018.

<sup>197</sup> The precise date is unknown, but was certainly before 7 July 1609 (see 355), and probably not later than 1606, as their eldest son John was old enough to witness a deed on 9 June 1620 (RMS, viii, 1134). Walter Ross was in Burntisland on 14 Aug. 1604, when he obliged himself to pay John Lamb, tailor burgess of Edinburgh, £400 for merchandise (RD1/109, 265v-266r); Mr John Clephane of Balintagart was cautioner, and Walter's brother William and Nicol Clephane (son of 214), burgess of Burntisland, were witnesses. The marriage may have taken place at this time.

<sup>198</sup> *Blackie*, 53 (see 241); for John and William, sons, see 48.

<sup>199</sup> RS37/3, 193r; date is unknown, but may have been at the time of marriage.

<sup>200</sup> RS37/3, 193r, 343v.

<sup>201</sup> RS37/4, 192v-193v; Walter Ross's free tenement and his own and his wife's liferents were reserved, and the existing reversion was retained.

<sup>202</sup> RS37/4, 192r-v, 11 Nov. 1629; RS37/5, 111r-112r, 26 Aug. and 26 Sept. 1633.

<sup>203</sup> GD129/1/3/4, 26 Nov. 1633.

was further shown by the fact that Walter and his wife had already renounced three oxgangs of Wester Morangie to Mr Thomas. Hostility between the half-kins was not apparent, for John Ross was a witness when in 1636 his father eventually resigned all of Morangie to his eldest son.<sup>204</sup> The more valuable Tain lands were not included in the resignation, and were possibly kept for the children of the second marriage.<sup>205</sup> By 1636 Walter was already sixty-five, and the active headship of the family was passing to Mr Thomas, who was high in favour with the young David Ross XII of Balnagown. It must have seemed unlikely that the next generation would have to wait long to collect their inheritance. As it turned out, Walter lived for another fourteen years and his wife for over twenty. The combination of multiple marriages, good survival rates, and long-lived senior generations was a formidable threat to the family fortune.

*William, son of Master Thomas Ross*

Master Thomas Ross's second son William (155), born in 1574, was admitted a burgess of Forres, 15 September 1593, and remained one until at least 1603.<sup>206</sup> His escheat on 4 November 1600, at the instance of Mr John Munro, minister of Tain and subdean of Ross (269), suggests that he had some property in the burgh even before the family settlement of 1603.<sup>207</sup> He was stented there on thirteen bolls bere fermes and one tenement in 1612.<sup>208</sup> In addition to having the chaplainry of Morangie for life he may have held the obscure chaplainry of Balnagown.<sup>209</sup> As either 'brother of Walter Ross of Morangie' or 'burgess of Tain', he is recorded until 7 November 1629.<sup>210</sup> He has been held to be 'William Ross Abatsone', burgess, still alive in 1668, aged 94, but this is a confusion with his nephew, William son of Walter of Morangie.<sup>211</sup> Like many other second sons, he was a loser in the inheritance stakes.

<sup>204</sup> RMS, ix, 626, 19 Dec. 1636; RS37/6, 26r-27v, 16 March 1637.

<sup>205</sup> Burgh lands were not included in the 1644 valuation of the sheriffdom of Inverness, in which Walter Ross was entered at 400 merks for Morangie, and Mr Thomas at the same figure for Milton of Westray (Fraser-Mackintosh, 365-6).

<sup>206</sup> MRO B2/2, 89; MRO B2/2, 463v, 10 Jan. 1603.

<sup>207</sup> CS7/260, 216r-v, 5 March 1611.

<sup>208</sup> SC34/28/90 (Macgill, no. 53).

<sup>209</sup> Macgill, no. 293, 1614. For the earlier history of the chaplainry see OPS, II, ii, 460; it was held by sir Richard Hay, grandfather of Provost Alexander Hay (326), who died July 1556 (CC8/8/12, 5 Nov. 1583).

<sup>210</sup> GD129/1/24/80, 28 May 1601; CC19/1/1, 65r, 25 Feb. 1614; GD129/1/4/17, 20 June 1617; RS37/4, 192v-193v, 7 Nov. 1629.

<sup>211</sup> Reid, 59; see 48.

### *The third generation*

Thomas Ross (348), elder son of Walter Ross's first marriage, born on 24 March 1599, was a student in St Salvator's College, St. Andrews, during sessions 1615-19, graduating as Master of Arts.<sup>212</sup> He witnessed his mother's resignation of the kirklands of Monimail, 9 June 1620, became a notary, and was master of the grammar school of Tain in 1628.<sup>213</sup> Called his father's apparent heir in 1627,<sup>214</sup> he had a royal *novodamus* of Morangie on his father's resignation in 1636.<sup>215</sup> After the death of his first wife, Margaret Strachan (291), he married Jean Stewart, to whom he gave a liferent charter of Wester Morangie in 1643.<sup>216</sup> On 24 January 1650, any son of his first marriage being presumably dead, he made over a tack of Milton of Westray (Edderton par.) to his new wife and their children.<sup>217</sup>

Around 1630 Mr Thomas entered the service of David Ross XII of Balnagown (344), possibly as his tutor.<sup>218</sup> After David took possession of his estates Mr Thomas appears to have become his 'man of business'.<sup>219</sup> Like many who served the lairds of Balnagown, he found himself underwriting their debts; on 1 March 1650 he took sasine on a bond of relief given to him by David XII in Edinburgh, 15 January 1647.<sup>220</sup> His operations came under scrutiny by the 'freinds' of Balnagown who tried to sort out David XII's tangled finances in 1649,

<sup>212</sup> University of St Andrews Muniments, UY305/3, 155, 336; and UY412, s.a. 1618, 1619.

<sup>213</sup> See 355; he was a notary by 13 March 1626, when he wrote an instrument of sasine for his sister Isobel (RS37/3, 208r-209v), but his name does not appear amongst the handful of pre-Restoration admissions in NP3/2; according to the Tain Common Good account for 1628 (E82/56/3) he was paid £100 as master of the grammar school.

<sup>214</sup> GD129/2/353, 22-26.

<sup>215</sup> See 46.

<sup>216</sup> RS37/6, 460r-v. Liferents were reserved to Walter Ross and Alison Clephane, with redemption allowed by direct heirs for 3,000 merks.

<sup>217</sup> RS37/7, 145r-v. Walter, son, who witnessed David Ross XII's bond of relief to Mr Thomas, 15 Jan. 1647 (see RS37/7, 73v-74r), may have been of an earlier marriage; there is no further evidence for him (Reid, 60, gives three references, of which only the 1647 bond is accurate). The ultimate heir to Morangie was George Ross, eldest son of Mr Thomas's second marriage (*Retours*, ii, General, no. 7939, 8 Feb. 1698). For the later Rosses of Morangie see Reid, 60-62.

<sup>218</sup> See 344; Macgill, ii, no. 1015, 1639 ('gude and faithful service . . . thir nyne yeris bygane'). Mr Thomas witnessed David Ross's liferent charter to his bride Mary Fraser at Lovat, 13 Feb. 1636 (see 339), and, styled 'servitor of the laird of Balnagown', witnessed a charter by Mary's father Hugh, Lord Lovat, at Dalcross, 30 March 1636 (*RMS*, ix, 1580).

<sup>219</sup> He was a member of Balnagown baron-court assizes in 1637 and 1639 (GD129/2/353, 22-26, 27, 29, 31-32, 36); wrote a tack of teinds to the laird, 21 July 1643 (GD297/186/7); and witnessed instruments relating to David's recovery of his title to Balnagown from Robert Lord Ross in 1647 (GD297/222/8, 13 Sept; GD297/223/1, 2, 29 Sept.). On 3 July 1648 David gave him a commission to go to Edinburgh to 'expede my necessar affaires', which included the passage of a new title to Balnagown 'throw the seallis' (GD199/274, commission; *RMS*, ix, 1980, 31 July, *novodamus*).

<sup>220</sup> RS37/7, 73v-74r.

and continued to manage affairs after his capture at Worcester and subsequent death.<sup>221</sup> Amongst other things, the 'freinds' may have resented a tack of the half-davach of Milton of Westray given to Mr Thomas by David XII on 11 July 1639.<sup>222</sup> This property, valued at 400 merks in 1644, may have caused the occupying Cromwellian garrison to single him out to organise the supply of provisions from the parish.<sup>223</sup>

Most of his ten half-siblings died young. Two brothers are known, John and William, distinguished from other Rosses by the name 'Abbatson'.<sup>224</sup> John, who was old enough to witness his mother's resignation of Monimail on 9 June 1620,<sup>225</sup> was married in 1633 to Agnes Robertson (309). As 'John son of Walter Ross of Morangie', he witnessed the sasine on Mr Thomas's *novodamus* of Morangie, 16 March 1637, and as John brother of Mr Thomas Ross sat with the latter on an assize in the baron-court of Strathcarron, 5 July 1637.<sup>226</sup> He was still alive on 10 January 1663.<sup>227</sup> His brother William, burgess of Tain, with his wife Agnes Brown (337), disposed a tenement in Tain to John Sinclair of Dunbeath (341), 11 July 1636.<sup>228</sup> He was a member of Tain Council, 28 September 1657, and was still alive on 5 March 1668.<sup>229</sup> Like their uncle William Ross, these younger sons had become burghers.

The later additions to the *Calendar* uncover an intricate network of blood, marriage and neighbourhood relationships. This network was intensely local. There is little sign in the *Calendar* additions of curiosity about the minority who broke out of it; rather more awareness is shown in the *Blackie MS.* For the Rosses of Morangie, the Thirty Years War might not have taken place, and even the Wars of the Covenant at home

<sup>221</sup> See 344. For their activities see GD129/2/353, 46-85 (Macgill, ii, pp. 38-41, extracts). At their meeting with the laird at Ardmore on 29 Sept. the 'friends' demanded 'to receave compt of Mr Thomas Ross for his Intromissions with the Lairds rents moneyis and leiving thir mony yeiris bygane' (GD129/2/353, 45). He was named as authority for a virtual payment from crop 1651 'at the Lairds desyr' (GD129/2/353, 59).

<sup>222</sup> RS37/6, 399r-400r, tack for Mr Thomas's lifetime, and thereafter to his heirs for a further nineteen years. Milton of Westray was part of Mary Fraser's liferent lands; she undertook never to revoke the tack (Macgill, ii, no. 1015).

<sup>223</sup> GD129/2/353, 73, 75 (Macgill, ii, nos. 1087, 1089).

<sup>224</sup> There was a precedent from the previous century: Alexander Ross 'ye abbot sone', who witnessed the measuring-out of fourteen chalders of bere 'conform to ye firloft of ye abbot of Fernis' on 2 May 1575 is otherwise unknown, but was most probably a son of Commendator Nicholas (GD129/1/6/5).

<sup>225</sup> See 355.

<sup>226</sup> RS37/6, 26r-27v; GD129/2/353, 27.

<sup>227</sup> RS38/2, 38r-39r.

<sup>228</sup> GD96/544.

<sup>229</sup> Macgill, no. 950; RS38/3, 284v-285v (see also Macgill, ii, no. 1181).

made little obvious impact. The family was not, apparently, adventurous, and marriage connections in Moray and Fife did little to lift its horizons. Nevertheless, by 1660 the awareness of family ties of Master Thomas's day was turning hazy. In the absence of conspicuous success, and lacking effective patronage, families had begun to fragment. For younger children, particularly those of second or subsequent marriages, the only mobility at home was socially downwards. Sixty years after Master Thomas's death a new overview of his kindred would have shown more losers than gainers.

### EDITORIAL METHOD

The *Calendar* carries approximately 450 additions to the original text, of which some forty have proved impossible to recover. After separating off 'non-historical' material, there remain 365 'historical' additions (for convenience referred to as 'entries' or 'obits'). These have been attributed as far as possible to individual hands, which have then been arranged to show the chronological sequence of entry on the manuscript. Within each group, entries have been arranged by date of event. No attempt has been made to set down the criteria used in assigning individual entries to hands. The text as presented bears no physical resemblance to the original, but may be loosely compared to a retrieval of orderly files from a computer disc. Each entry has been given a number (shown in **bold type**), which is used throughout the volume for identification or to direct the reader to relevant comments. These numbers do not form part of the original text.

Entries have been printed as written, with contractions extended but no attempt made to standardise grammar, spelling or capitalisation. Minor corrections and adjustments made by the original scribe have not been reproduced. Where lacking, a final full stop has been added to each entry, but all other punctuation remains as in the original. Within entries, square brackets have been used to show: clarifications of date; damage to the manuscript; alterations to the original text; 'sic' (used to indicate eccentric spellings and errors in the original).

Comments have been added to many but not all entries. In the case of 'national' as opposed to 'northern' entries, comments have been made only where the *Calendar* information disagrees with that in Dunbar, *Scottish Kings* or Watt, *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticanæ Medii Aevi*. For reasons of space, commentaries on entries relating to Moray have been restricted, and only selective notes have been made on Munro family

history, which has been so powerfully illuminated by Mr and Mrs Munro. References in the commentaries to unprinted sources have been given in as much detail as possible; in many cases the date is an essential part of the reference, and account should be taken of the convention noted below. References to printed sources have been given by page-numbers unless otherwise indicated (except to the Great and Privy Seal Registers); they have been supplemented by manuscript references where thought useful.

Dates within entries have been retained as written, but entries have been arranged according to a year beginning on 1 January. Elsewhere in the volume dates have been adjusted to a similar year; thus, 2 February 1583 is given rather than 2 February 1582/3. Personal names have been given in standardised modern form where possible. For Gaelic surnames the conventions used in *Acts of the Lords of the Isles*<sup>230</sup> have been followed. Earls of Ross who were also Lords of the Isles have been styled 'Earl X of the Isles'. Current (or earlier if necessary) Ordnance Survey spelling<sup>231</sup> has been used for place-names; where helpful, these have been located within parishes and counties as shown in the first one-inch edition of the Survey. Obscure and unidentified names have been shown within inverted commas. Variant forms of personal and place names used in the actual text are shown in the index.

<sup>230</sup> *Isles*, p.lxxxii.

<sup>231</sup> *The Ordnance Survey Gazetteer of Great Britain* (Southampton and Basingstoke, 1987).

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## CALENDAR

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The text of the Calendar was printed by Bishop Archibald Forbes (*Kalendars of Scottish Saints* [Edinburgh, 1872], 67-78) from a transcription by Dr J.M. Joass (for whom see p.24). Forbes included saints' days added subsequently (which he indicated by brackets), and also part of fo. 1v, with some vernacular poetry on fo. 3r (*Kalendars*, pp. xxvi-xxix). He did not include fo. 2v, some computational tables, and additions, including two saints' days, made after 1560 by Master Thomas Ross. As Forbes's work may not be immediately accessible, the complete contents of the Calendar are now printed (but omitting blank days, the Roman calendar, dominical letters and golden numbers). The original Calendar is printed separately, followed by fos. 1 and 2, pre-1560 additions and finally material added by Master Thomas Ross. Some corrections to Dr Joass's readings are indicated.

### 1. Calendar

#### January

Prima dies mensis et vij truncat in ensis [sic]. Januarii. xxxi deies.<sup>1</sup>

1	Circumcisio Domini.	18	[P] <sup>2</sup> risce uirginis et martyris.
2	Octava Sancta Stephani.		
3	Octava Sancti Johannis.	19	Marie et Marthe Genophese uirginis. martyrum.
4	Octava Sanctorum Innocencium.	21	Agnetis uirginis.
6	Ephesphanie domini.	22	Vincencii et Leuite martyrum.
12	Octava ephiphanie. Remigie et Hillarii.	23	Emerenciane uirginis.
14	Felicis presbiteri.	24	Timothei apostoli.
16	Marcelli pape.	25	Conuersio Pauli.
		28	Agnetis ij <sup>o</sup> .

<sup>1</sup> Later hand.

<sup>2</sup> Capital left blank.



## February

Quarta subiit mortem prosternit tertia fortem. Februarii. xxviii deies.<sup>1</sup>

1	Brigide uirginis. Ignacii	10	Scolastice uirginis.
	pape.	14	Ultimus terminus septuagesime. Valentini
2	Purificacio Beate Marie.		martyris.
3	Blasii martyris.	15	Colmani episcopi. Sol in
5	Agathe uirginis et martyris.		pisces.
6	Vedasti et Amandi	16	Juliane uirginis.
	episcoporum.	22	Cathedra Sancti Petri.
7	Primus terminus quadragesime.	24	Mathie apostoli.

## March

Primus mandantem dirumpit iiii<sup>a</sup> bibentem. Marcii. xxxi deies.<sup>1</sup>

1	Monani abbatis.	17	Patricii episcopi.
5	Ultimus embolismus.	18	Primus dies seculi. Sol in
6	Duthaci episcopi. Tercius embolismus. Ultimus terminus pascha.	20	Cuthberti episcopi.
		21	Benedicti abbatis. Primus terminus pasche. Equinoctium.
7	Perpetue et Felicitatis.		
8	Prima intencio lune paschalis.	22	Primum pasche.
11	Claues pasche.	24	Sedes concurrencium.
12	Gregorii pape.	25	Passio in ierusalem.
16	Bonifacii episcopi.		

## April

Denus et undenus est mortis uulnere plenus. Aprilis. xxx deies.<sup>1</sup>

1	Gilberti episcopi.	17	Donnani sociorumque eius
4	Ambrosii episcopi.		Sol in tauro.
5	Ultima intencio lune paschalis.	23	Georgii martyris.
6	Prima intencio lune rogacionum.	24	Gheberi <sup>3</sup> confessoris.
		25	Marci euuangeliste. Ultimum pascha.
11	Leonis pape.	26	Cleti <sup>1</sup> pape et martyris.
14	Tiburcii et Ualeriani martyrum.	28	Vitalis martyris.
15	Claues rogacionum.	29	Claues penticostes.
		30	Primus dies ascensionis.

<sup>1</sup> Later hand.

<sup>3</sup> Joass: Gheheri.

## May

Tercius occidit et vij hora relidit. Maius. xxxi deies.<sup>1</sup>

1	Philippi et Jacobi apostolorum.	12	Nerei et Achillei et Pancracii.
3	Inuencio crucis. Alexandri cum sociis suis.	13	Marie ad martires.
6	Johannis ante portam Latini [sic]. <sup>4</sup>	18	Sol in geminos.
9	Primus terminus pentecostes. Translacio Sancti Andree.	19	Potenciane uirginis.
10	Congalli abbatis. Gordiani et Epimathi. <sup>5</sup>	23	Ultimus terminus rogacionum.
		25	Urbani pape.
		26	Augustini Angliorum.
		31	Petronille uirginis.

## June

Denus palescit quindenus federe nescit. Junii. xxx deies.<sup>1</sup>

1	Nichomedis martyris.	18	Marci et Marcellini martyrum.
2	Marcellini et Petri.		
6	Ultimus terminus pentecostes.	22	Albani martyris. Vigilia.
9	Columbe abbatis. Primi et Feliciani.	23	Incipit [unfinished]
11	Barnabe apostoli.	24	Natiuitatis Sancti Johannis baptiste.
12	Basilidis. Cirini. Valoris. Nazarii. martyrum.	25	Moloci episcopi.
13	Ultimum pentecostem.	26	Johannis et Pauli. Sancti Duthaci episcopi in <sup>1</sup>
14	Sol stucium est malo.		Tayne. <sup>1</sup>
15	Viti et Modesti martyrum.	28	Leonis pape. Vigilia.
16	Cirici et Julitte martyrum.	29	Petri et Pauli.
17	Botulphi abbatis.	30	Commemoracio Sancti Pauli.

## July

Tridenus mactat iulii decimus labefactat. Julii. xxxi deies.<sup>1</sup>

1	Octave Sancti Johannis baptiste.	4	Translacio Sancti Martini episcopi.
2	Visitacio Beate Marie. Processi et Martiniani.	6	Octave apostolorum.
		7	Bosilii confessoris. <sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Later hand.<sup>4</sup> Joass: Latinam.<sup>5</sup> Joass: Epimachi.<sup>6</sup> Joass: et sociorum.

9	Octava Beate Marie.	23	Apolinaris episcopi.
10	Septem fratrum.	24	Cristine uirginis. Vigilia.
11	Translacio Sancti Benedicti abbatis.	25	Jacobi apostoli. Christofori martyris.
15	Diuisio apostolorum. Dies caniculares.	27	Septem dormiencium.
17	Kenelmi regis et martyris.	28	Sampsonis episcopi.
18	Sol in leone.	29	Felicis pape. Simplicii cum sociis suis.
20	Margarete uirginis et martyris.	30	Abdon et Sennen martyrum.
21	Praxedis uirginis.	31	Germani episcopi.
22	Marie Magdalene.		

## August

Prima necat fortem sternitque secunda cohortem. Augusti. xxxi deies.<sup>1</sup>

1	Ad uincula Sancti Petri. Machabeorum martyrum.	14	Vigilia.
2	Stephani pape et martyri.	17	Octava Sancti Laurencii.
3	Inuencio Sancti Stephani. Gamalielis Nichodemi Abilon.	18	Magni martyris.
4	Brachani <sup>7</sup> confessoris.	22	Octava Sancte Marie. Thimothei et Simphoriani.
5	Osualdi regis et martyris.	23	Thimothei et Appolinaris. Vigilia.
6	Sixti pape. Felicissimi et Agapeti.	24	Bartholomei apostoli.
7	Donati episcopi.	27	Ruffi martyris.
8	Ciriaci cum sociis suis.	28	Augustini episcopi et confessoris.
9	Romani martyris. Vigilia.	29	Decollacio Sancti Johannis baptiste.
10	Laurencii diaconi.	30	Felicis et Audacti martyrum.
11	Tiburcii martyris.	31	Translacio Sancti Niniani.
13	Ypoliti martyris cum sociis suis.		

## September

Tercia septembris et denus fert mala membris. Septembris. xxx deies.<sup>1</sup>

1	Egidii abbatis. Prisci martyris.	4	Octava Sancti Augustini.
2	Ocul' embolismus.	8	Natiuitas Beate Marie uirginis. Adriani martyris.

<sup>1</sup> Later hand.

<sup>7</sup> Joass: Brathani.

9	Gorgonii martyris.	20	Vigilia.
11	Prothi et Jacincti martyrum.	21	Mathei apostoli et euuangeliste.
14	Exaltatio Sancte crucis. Corneli et Cipriani.	22	Maurici cum sociis suis.
15	Octava Sancte Marie.	24	Macolmi abbatis.
15	Nichomedis martyris.	25	Barri episcopi.
16	Niniani episcopi et confess- oris. Lamberti martyris.	27	Cosmi et Damiani martyrum.
	Sol in libro.	29	Michaelis Archangeli.
		30	Ieronimi presbyteri.

## October

Tercius et denus est sicut mors alienus. October. xxx [sic] deies.<sup>1</sup>

1	Remigii episcopi. Germani episcopi.	16	Reguli confessoris.
4	Francisci confessoris.	18	Luce euuangeliste.
7	Marchii pape. Marcelli et Apulei martyrum.	21	Undecim milia uirginum.
9	Dionisii cum sociis suis.	23	Seuerini episcopi et con- fessoris.
10	Gereonis cum sociis suis.	25	Crispini et Crispiniani martyrum.
11	Translacio sancti Augustini episcopi.	27	Vigilia.
13	Comgani <sup>8</sup> abbatis.	28	Symonis et Jude.
14	Calixte pape et martyris.	31	Quintini et Foillani. Vigilia.

## November

Scorpius est quintus et tercius ad mala cinctus. November. xxx deies.<sup>1</sup>

1	Festum omnium sanctorum.	8	Quatuor coronatorum.
2	Commemoracio omnium fidelium defunctorum.	9	Theodori martyris.
	Eusthasii <sup>9</sup> cum sociis suis.	10	Martini pape et confessoris.
3	Mathie episcopi et con- fessoris.	11	Martini episcopi. Menne martyris.
6	Leonardi abbatis.	13	Bricii episcopi. ix lec- tiones. <sup>1</sup> iij triplex. <sup>1</sup>
		14	Edriani episcopi.

<sup>1</sup> Later hand.

<sup>8</sup> Joass: Congani.

<sup>9</sup> Joass: Cuthberti.

20	Frecani episcopi et confessoris.	25	Katrine uirginis et martyris.
22	Cecilie uirginis et martyris.	26	Lini pape et martyris.
23	Clementis pape et martyris. Felicitatis.	29	Saturini martyris. Vigilia.
24	Crisogoni martyris.	30	Andree apostoli.

## December

Septimus exanguis uirosus denus et anguis. December. xxxi deies.<sup>1</sup>

6	Nycholai episcopi.	21	Thome apostoli.
7	Octava Sancti Andree.	24	Vigilia.
8	Concepcio Sancte Marie.	26	Stephani prothomartyris.
11	Damasci pape et martyris.	28	Sanctorum Innocencium.
13	Lucie uirginis et martyris.	29	Thome archiepiscopi.
14	Nithasii cum sociis suis.	31	Siluestri pape.
20	Vigilia.		

## 2. Folio 1v

Apart from a short detached note, mutilated and indecipherable, the whole written text on this page is in a single hand, of later date than the main Calendar (see pp.19-20). Eight rhymed vernacular couplets recommend and introduce a chain of thirteen votive masses, to be celebrated in order on 'ferial' days (i.e. weekdays not dedicated to specific saints). Eleven of the masses are identified only by the name of the office and by the introit. The rubrics for the masses for the Blessed Virgin (no. 11) and SS. Peter and Paul (no. 12) are set out in full. Mr Peter King, to whom I am deeply indebted for help in decipherment and elucidation of folios 1v and 2v, has suggested that, these two masses being of recent composition, the scribe may have set them down in greater detail because of their unfamiliarity. This, taken together with the mention of a 'rubrik' in line 9 of the verse, suggests that he was copying from a slightly older manuscript. Mass-chains, which cut across the normal sacred calendar, were a late-medieval development which enjoyed considerable popularity. They were legislated against by the Council of Trent (*Conciliorum Oecumenicorum Decretum*, ed. J. Alberigo et al. [1962], 712-13: Council of Trent, session xxii, 17 September 1562, *Decretum de observandis et evitandis in celebratione missarum*). For this session of the Council see H. Jedin, *Geschichte des Konzils von Trient*, iv, pt. i (1975), 174-209. The italic names preceding the masses are not in the original text.

<sup>1</sup> Later hand.

Quha wyl with resoun ande rycht  
 Ye mercy of god almycht  
 Ask ande haff for hym and hys  
 Ffor tribulatioun or for mys  
 Ffrende or ffa he wyl fortall  
 Ffor ony dysess yat may ffall  
 Sway yat his askyn rychtwys be  
 Ye Soverane god wyl grant it fre  
 Ande for . here ye rubrik sais  
 He wyll it grant within x dais  
 Eftyr ye messis endit be  
 Throw his grete benignite  
 On xij dais al in feyre  
 Quhat tyme ye lykis in ye zheir  
 Yir ar ye messis folowande  
 As latyn men may undyrstande.

*Advent Sunday*

Prima missa de aduentu domini sicut in prima dominica aduentus domini officium ad te domine et a. . .

*Christmas*

Secunda de natiuitate officium Puer natus et cetera omnia que in illa missa continentur.

*Epiphany*

Tertia de epiphania domini officium Ecce aduenit dominator et missa ut in die epiphanie.

*Septuagesima*

Quarta de septuagesima officium Circumdederunt me et alia omnia ut in illa dominica continentur.

*Palm Sunday*

Quinta de dominica in ramis palmarum cum passione et alia omnia sicut in illa dominica.

*Resurrection*

Sexta de resurrectione domini officium Resurrexi et alia ut in die pasche continentur.

*Ascension*

Septima de ascensione officium Viri galelei et alia omnia sicut in die ascencionis.

*Pentecost*

Octaua de pentecostes <sup>1</sup> officium Spiritus domini . sicut . . .<sup>1</sup>  
continentur.

*Trinity*

Noua de trinitate <sup>1</sup> officium Benedicta sit et alia omnia sicut in die  
trinitatis.

*Holy Cross*

Decima de sancta cruce officium Nos autem et alia omnia sicut in  
commemoracio eiusdem.

*Blessed Virgin Mary*

Undecima de sancta maria Officium Vultum tuum Oratio concede nos  
Epistola Ego quasi vitis Graduale propter veritatem Alleluia post  
partum Sequentia ut in commemoratione Ewangelium Intrauit Iesus in  
quodam castellum Offertorium maria Sempiterna domina Commu-  
nionem diffusa est postcommunio Sumptis domine.

*SS Peter and Paul*

Duodecima de apostolis Officium Michi autem Orationes de communi  
apostolorum Epistola Hii sunt qui venerunt Graduale In omnem terram  
Alleluia per manibus autem apostolorum Sequentia de commemora-  
tione apostolorum Ewangelium Convocatis Iesus . in ebdomida  
pentecostes Offertorium Constitues eos Communio Ego vos elegi.

*All Angels*

Decimatertia de angelis omnia fiant sicut in festo sancti michaelis  
archangeli.

## 3. Folio 2v

The three prayers on this page, in the hand of folio 1v (see p.56), form a  
set for a mass for the commemoration of the dead. I am indebted to Mr  
King and to Professor Donald Bullough for information and help in  
elucidating them. The form of words used has not been traced  
elsewhere in British service-books following the Sarum Use, and its  
appearance in this northern context is unexpected. Mr King has,  
however, drawn my attention to several passages which appear to refer  
to the Holy Land (*qui in terra promissionis ante omnes terras nasci  
voluisti. . . eandem terram de potestate eripias; terram quam illis christus filius  
tuus dominus noster proprio sanguine consecrauit de manibus  
inimicorum. . . eripias; terram hereditatis tue. . . precioso sanguine consecrare*

<sup>1</sup> Hole in MS, but text possibly written around.

*dignatus es*). James IV was a frequent pilgrim to the shrine of St Duthac (many of his visits are noticed in the introductions to *TA*, vols. i-iv). During the years in which he was considering a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, James went to Tain in September of both 1506 and 1507 (*TA*, iii, pp. xxx, xxxvii). Bishop Leslie later credited him with extraordinary endurance and speed on the second journey (*The History of Scotland from the Death of King James I in the Year 1436 to the Year 1561* [Bannatyne Club, 1830], 75-6: the king, he wrote, rode north 'in post' - as opposed to his slower return 'be jorney accompayneit with the nobilitie of these cuntries' - and rested a few hours in Elgin in the house of one of Leslie's own relations). Further visits followed in the summers of 1508 and 1509 (*TA*, iv, pp. xxii, xxiii). Dr Norman Macdougall has pointed out to me that Archbishop Blacader of Glasgow died in July 1508, either between Venice and Jaffa or in Palestine (though the news can hardly have reached Scotland until the end of the year; see D. Laing in *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*, ii, 232); and also that the celebrated warrior Bernard Stuart, lord of Aubigné, on embassy from Louis XII of France, died at Corstorphine in the same summer (for his will, 8 June 1508, see *HMC, 3rd Report* [1872], 392). A commemoration mass for one or other, using this set, may well have been celebrated in shrines linked to the royal house. James was certainly interested in the services at St Duthac (see pp. 25-6); in October 1504 he had organs taken to Tain from Chanonry (*TA*, ii, 463). The text follows.

Deus qui es nostre redemptionis summa spes qui in terra promissionis ante omnes terras nasci voluisti ac mortem ibidem sustinuisti libera propicius animam famuli/e tui/e N et animas famulorum famularum-que tuarum de manibus demonum et de penis purgatorii et eandem terram de potestate paganorum eripias et populus qui in te non credit per virtutem tuam emendationem habeat et illis qui in te confidunt pro tua magna misericordia et pietate succurre. Qui vivis et regnas. Secreta Omnipotens et misericors deus redemptor animarum saluandarum et pretium redemptionis totius generis humani miserere clementer anime famuli/e tui/e N et animabus famulorum famularumque tuarum ut quicquid in eis vitiorum fauente diabolo et propria iniquitate ac fragilitate contraxerunt tu pius et misericors abluas indulgendo et terram quam illis christus filius tuus dominus noster proprio sanguine consecrauit de manibus inimicorum per virtutem sancte crucis christi eripias vota-que filiorum israel ad eius liberationis instantiam in viam salutis eterne misericorditer dirigendo. Qui vivis. Postcommunio Deus cuius misericordie non est numerus cui soli competit medicina prestare



peccantibus post mortem qui es vita viuientium spes morientium salus omniorum in te credentium qui terram hereditatis tue propter scelera filiorum esau pollutam precioso sanguine consecrare dignatus es presta quaesimus ut animam famuli/e tui/e N et animas famulorum famularumque tuarum per huius virtutem sacramenti a peccatis omnibus exuas et populum incredulem ac rebellem per gratiam tuam tibi facias peculiarem et illis omnibus qui in tua misericordia confidunt manum auxilii tui piissime largiendo. Qui viuus et regnas deus. Per

#### 4. Additions: Early Hands

Entries in hands found in the historical additions to the *Calendar* are so identified.

##### i. Calendar entries noted by Forbes, *Kalendars*

4 February	Auentini episcopi confessoris : <i>Hand G</i>
25 March	Annunciatio dominica
27 April	Wylfridi episcopi confessoris : <i>Hand G</i>
6 June	Commemoratio Norbarti : <i>Same hand as 18, 19 July, 15, 21 November</i>
10 June	Margarete regine ix lectiones
-July	Columbe abbatis : <i>At top of page: cf. 9 June</i>
18 July	Translatio sancti Thome martyris : <i>Same hand as 6 June</i>
19 July	Arnulphi martyris : <i>Same hand as 6 June</i>
12 November	Theonaci abbatis : <i>Hand H</i>
15 November	Matute episcopi et confessoris : <i>Same hand as 6 June</i>
21 November	Presentatio sancte Marie Virginis : <i>Same hand as 6 June</i>
25 December	Natuitas Domini triplex : <i>Same hand as 27, 30 December</i>
27 December	Joannis apostoli : <i>Same hand as 25 December</i>
30 December	Duthaci episcopi : <i>Same hand as 25 December</i>

##### ii. Other additions not noted by Forbes, *Kalendars*

*On January page*

Prima cadens super a mutacio super d hora iij post meridiem

Prima cadens super b mutacio super e hora sexta post meridiem

*And so to*

Prima super g mutacio super c hora sexta ante meridiem.

*On January page*

Notandum quod quum prima lune cadit super A quarta die precedente  
xix hora erit coniunctio

Item quum super B tertia die precedente hora quarta erit coniunctio  
lune

*And so to*

Item quum super G tertia die precedente xv hora erit coniunctio lune.

*On March page, in hand F*

1584 is written above appropriate number in hand of Master Thomas Ross

Tabula perpetua ad inveniendum Pascha

Xix.a. x.a. xxvij.m. . . .(followed by 92 similar entries). . .

Anno Domini millesimo quingentesimo fuit Pascha in primo numero  
istius tabule. Et sic succesue prout numerus venit. Et numerus  
precedens .a. est in mense Aprilis. Et numerus precedens .m. est in  
mense Martii. Ista tabula semper durabit: nec est opus respicere  
bissexum. Et cum perveneris ad numerum ultimum reiterabis ad  
primum.

*On April page : in hand F*

De inueniendo quadragesimum

Post regum festa quere nouillunia trea

Post domica tertia sacrum pascha celebra.

Post veris equi noctium quere plenilunia

Et dominica proxima sacrum celebra paschae.

Non verius inuenies si mille legas codices.

*On February page : in hand H*

Si pluit in festo quo Virgo purificatur tunc transit hyemes. Si non . esse  
futuram.

## 5. Additions by Master Thomas Ross

### i. Calendar entries not noted by Forbes, *Kalendars*

25 August

Ludovici regis Francorum

2 December

Eligii episcopi confessoris. The sancts day viz.  
sant Alois day : A confused entry with repetitions

ii. Fair-days not noted by Forbes, *Kalendars*

6 March	Ane fair in Tane in Ross ( <i>St Duthac</i> )
21 March	Ane fair in ye Channory of Ross ( <i>St Boniface</i> )
16 May	Brandans day ane fair in ye . of Bwinyde besyid Banff ( <i>St Brandan</i> )
9 June	Ane fair at Aulderne ( <i>St Columba</i> )
24 June	Ane fair in Fores ( <i>Nativity of St. John the Baptist</i> )
29 June	Ane fair in Fores ( <i>SS Peter and Paul</i> )
4 August	Ane fair in Tane ( <i>St Brachan</i> )
10 August	Ane fair in Fores ( <i>St Lawrence</i> )
27 August	Sanct Gawurwiff ane fair in Fores ( <i>St Mael- rubha or St Ruffus</i> )
16 September	Ane fair in Forres ( <i>St Ninian</i> )
25 September	Cleophae discipuli Domini ane fair in Dor- naich ( <i>St Barr</i> )
6 November	Ane fair in Fores ( <i>St Leonard</i> )
20 November	Marcarius his day ane fair in Tane quhilke wes sumtyme in Cromerty ( <i>St Frecan</i> )
15 December	Oustair day ane fair in ye Westfield in Morray
27 December	Ane fair in Fores ( <i>St John the Apostle</i> )

iii. Times of sunrise and sunset not noted by Forbes, *Kalendars*

The ferd day of Januar ye son rysis at viij houris and gois down at iiij houris

The . . . Februar ye son rysis at vij houris and gois down at v

The x day of Marche ye son rysis at vj houris and gois down at vj

The xij day of April ye son rysis at v houris and gois down at vij

The xvj day of May ye son rysis at iiij houris and gois down at viij

The xij day of June ye son rysis at iij houris and gois down at ix

The vij day of Julii ye son rysis at iiij houris and gois down at viij

The xvj day of August ye son rysis at v houris and gois down at vij houris

The xij day of September ye son rysis at vj houris and gois down at vj houris

The xv day of October ye son rysis at vij houris and gois down at v houris

The xv day of Nouember ye son rysis at viij houris and gois doun at iiij houris

The . day of December ye son gois<sup>1</sup> doun<sup>1</sup> rysis at ix houris and gois doun at iij houris

iv. Addition noted by Forbes, *Kalendars*, p.xxviii

*On January page*

Giff Sanct Paullis day be fair and cleir  
 Than salbe tyd ane happie zeir.  
 Gif it chances to snaw or rayne  
 Than salbe deir all kynd of grayne  
 And gif ye vind be hie on loft  
 Than weir sall vex ye contrie oft.  
 And gif ye cloudis mak darke ye skye  
 Boith nowtis and foull that zeir sall dye.

v. Additions not noted by Forbes, *Kalendars*

*On January page*

Memorandum quod magister Thome Ross subdecanus eiusdem<sup>1</sup> ecclesie cathedralis Rossensis dedit ac concessit . . . . sequentibus . dimediam partem decimarum garbalium ville de Croskay pro servitia campanarum pulsatione videlicet hora octaua post meridiem secundum consuetudinem ecclesiarum.

The xij day of May yair sild be ane suidwir pot ondir ye fruit treis to awoiding .. wormis.

*At 4 July*

Martini in<sup>2</sup> festo si quarta dies pluuiam det  
 Quadaginta dies pluuiare solet.

*At 21 March*

Donald Skinars dog died at . . .

<sup>1</sup> Deleted.

<sup>2</sup> Inserted above line.



'Rosse', c.1580

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## TABLE OF ADDITIONS

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### I Earliest Hands (A–D)

- |   |      |   |  |
|---|------|---|--|
| 1 | 1471 | A | Alexander Fraser, prior of Beaully     |
| 2 | 1494 | C | Katherine Munro, widow of John Monylaw |
| 3 | 1501 | B | Andrew Stewart, bishop of Moray        |
| 4 | 1506 | C | Anneta Faid, widow of John MacCulloch  |
| 5 | 1507 | C | William de Caldor, son of Sir William  |
| 6 | 1516 | D | Thomas MacCulloch, abbot of Fearn      |
| 7 | 1517 | D | Andrew Stewart, bishop of Caithness    |

### II Early Sixteenth-Century Hands (E–G)

- |    |      |   |   |
|----|------|---|---|
| 8  | 1517 | F | Stephen Fiddes, burgess of Tain               |
| 9  | 1528 |   | Walter Ross VIII of Balnagown                 |
| 10 | 1534 | E | David Denoon                                  |
| 11 | 1538 | F | William Ross Malcolmson, burgess of Tain      |
| 12 | 1539 | E | Maurice MacGillecallum                        |
| 13 | 1540 |   | Alexander MacCulloch, son of Angus of Tarrel  |
| 14 | 1541 |   | Donald Denoon, abbot of Fearn                 |
| 15 | 1542 | F | Hector Munro of Foulis                        |
| 16 | 1546 | F | John Vaus of Lochslin                         |
| 17 | 1548 | F | Patrick Davidson, chaplain of BVM             |
| 18 | 154– | G | Hugh —  |
| 19 | 1551 | F | Finlay Muldonach, burgess of Tain             |
| 20 | 1555 | G | Alexander Ross, son of Hugh of Balmuchy       |
| 21 | 1558 |   | sir Andrew Fergusson, vicar pensioner of Tain |

### III Unidentified Early Sixteenth-Century Hand (H)

- |    |      |  |  |
|----|------|--|--|
| 22 | 1274 |  | William, second earl of Ross           |
| 23 | 1323 |  | William, third earl of Ross            |
| 24 | 1364 |  | John, son of Hugh, fourth earl of Ross |

- 25 1372 William, fifth earl of Ross
- 26 1373 Donald, abbot of Fearn
- 27 1382 Walter de Lesly, sixth earl of Ross
- 28 1398 Andrew Kylquhous, bishop of Ross
- 29 1402 Alexander de Lesly, seventh earl of Ross
- 30 14— Hugh Ross IV of Balnagown
- 31 1460 Alexander MacCulloch of Plaids
- 32 1461 William Monylaw
- 33 1472 Hugh Our
- 34 1474 Andrew Munro
- 35 1475 William —, canon of Fearn
- 36 1482 John MacCulloch of Plaids
- 37 1484 William Tarrell, canon of Fearn
- 38 ?1485 Finlay McFaid, abbot of Fearn
- 39 1485 — MacLeod
- 40 1487 Battle of Aldecharwis
- 41 1487 Donald Ross of Priesthill
- 42 1490 Magnus son of Ewen, canon of Fearn
- 43 1519 Donald MacGillemeill, canon of Fearn
- 44 1520 Ellen Keith, lady Balnagown
- 45 1525 John Monylaw, canon of Fearn
- 46 1527 sir John Ross, vicar of Edderton
- 47 1527 Sir David Ross VII of Balnagown
- 48 1528 Walter Ross VIII of Balnagown
- 49 1529 Hugh Ross of Rarechie
- 50 1531 Walter Ross of Shandwick, son of Mr William Ross
- 51 1541 William MacCulloch of Plaids
- 52 1543 Angus MacCulloch of Tarrel
- 53 1544 William Calder, canon of Fearn
- 54 1545 Elizabeth Faid
- 55 1545 Walter Fiddes
- 56 1545 Robert Cairncross, bishop of Ross
- 57 1548 John MacCulloch, canon of Fearn
- 58 1549 James Reid
- 59 1552 Mariota MacCulloch, widow of Alexander Clunes
- 60 1552 Donald Faid, canon of Fearn
- 61 1554 George Baxter
- 62 1556 Elizabeth Urquhart
- 63 1557 Robert Strabrok, canon of Fearn
- 64 1557 Thomas Urquhart, sheriff of Cromarty
- 65 15— John MacCulloch of Easter Ard

## IV Hand of Master Thomas Ross

66	1411	Battle of Harlaw
67	1437	James I
68	1446	Battle of Arbroath
69	1452	Battle of Brechin
70	1460	John Winchester, bishop of Moray
71	1465	James Kennedy, archbishop [sic] of St Andrews
72	1466	James Stewart, bishop of Moray
73	1488	James III
74	1491	sir Thomas Monylaw, provost of St Duthac
75	1498	Sir Alexander Dunbar
76	1503	John Stewart, earl of Mar
77	1504	James Stewart, archbishop of St Andrews
78	1504	Hugh Ross
79	1504	Hugh Ross
80	1507	John Fraser, bishop of Ross
81	1513	James IV
82	1518	Katherine Ross
83	1518	Thomas Heriot, treasurer of Ross
84	1521	Andrew Forman, legate
85	1522	David Dunbar of Durris
86	1522	Elizabeth Tulloch, wife of James Urquhart
87	1523	Alexander Urquhart of Burdsyards
88	1523	Robert Fraser, dean of Ross
89	1523	Martin Tulloch, vicar of Ruthven
90	1524	Arthur Urquhart
91	1525	Patrick Dunbar, chancellor of Aberdeen
92	1527	Alexander Dunbar of Durris
93	1528	Master Thomas Ross born
94	1528	Hugh Ross
95	1528	Elizabeth Ogilvy, lady Cumnock
96	1531	George Lermond, bishop of Aberdeen
97	1532	Isabel Dunbar (Grant)
98	1532	Gavin Dunbar, bishop of Aberdeen
99	1534	Harschip of Dyke
100	1535	Margaret, wife of William Urquhart
101	1535	John Vaus
102	1535	Sir James Dunbar, sheriff of Elgin
103	1536	sir Nicholas Tulloch, vicar of Ruthven
104	1538	sir Alexander Ross, chaplain of Dunskaith



- 105 1538 James Hay, bishop of Ross
- 106 1539 James Beaton, archbishop of St Andrews
- 107 1539 James Tulloch, burgess of Forres
- 108 1539 Mariota Brown, wife of James Tulloch
- 109 1540 William Urquhart of Burdsyards
- 110 1541 Marjorie Grant, lady Balnagown
- 111 1541 Elizabeth Urquhart, wife of Andrew Sutherland of Grieshop
- 112 1542 James V
- 113 1542 James V
- 114 1544 Hugh Fraser of Lovat
- 115 1544 Battle of Loch Lochy
- 116 1544 Elizabeth Leslie, wife of James Dunbar of Tarbat
- 117 1544 Mariota Urquhart, wife of Andrew Tulloch, burgess of Forres
- 118 1544 James Stewart, earl of Moray
- 119 1545 Battle of Ancrum Moss
- 120 1545 Paul Fraser, dean of Ross
- 121 1545 John Dunbar of Bennetsfield
- 122 1546 David Beaton, archbishop of St Andrews
- 123 1546 Gavin Dunbar, treasurer of Ross
- 124 1547 Battle of Pinkie
- 125 1547 Battle of Pinkie
- 126 1547 sir James Dunbar, rector of Cumnock
- 127 1549 Janet Dunbar, lady Mayne
- 128 1552 John Denoon of Davidston
- 129 1553 Marjorie Cumming, widow of James Urquhart, burgess of Forres
- 130 1554 Elizabeth Urquhart, lady Lochslin
- 131 1556 Margaret Murison, wife of William Ross of Culnaha
- 132 1556 Elizabeth Dunbar, wife of William Lesley of Akinway
- 133 1557 Alexander Clunes
- 134 1557 Battle of Orkney
- 135 1558 Dortor of Fearn burnt
- 136 1558 Laurence Malysone
- 137 1561 John Grahame, rector of Kirkmichael
- 138 1561 John Mackenzie of Kintail
- 139 1561 Queen Mary comes home
- 140 1564 Andrew Dawson of Brae
- 141 1566 Prince James born
- 142 1567 William Ross of Easter Geanies

143	1569	Nicholas Ross, commendator of Fearn
144	1570	Regent Moray
145	1570	William Ross of Ardgay
146	1571	Mr Duncan Chalmers, chancellor of Ross
147	1571	Thomas Ross of Meikle Rhynie
148	1571	Donald Ross of Priesthill
149	1571	Walter Ross, son of Master Thomas Ross, born
150	1572	Mr Donald Fraser, archdeacon of Ross
151	1572	Gavin Dunbar, rector of Roskeen
152	1573	Edinburgh Castle besieged
153	1573	Walter Innes of Calrossie
154	1573	Edinburgh Castle surrendered
155	1574	William Ross, son of Master Thomas Ross, born
156	1576	Mar ... Ross
157	1576	Ellen MacCulloch, wife of Hugh Ross Walterson
158	1576	George Munro of Dochcarty
159	1577	Hugh Fraser, Lord Lovat
160	1577	Barbara Ross, daughter of Master Thomas Ross, born
161	1578	Alexander Ross in Tarrel
162	1578	Elizabeth Mackenzie, lady Cromarty
163	1578	Alexander Hepburn, bishop of Ross
164	1578	Witch-burning
165	1579	Nicholas Ross of Dunskaith
166	1581	Andrew Munro of Culnald
167	1583	sir Nicholas Nairn in Forres
168	1583	David Reid, canon of Fearn
169	1583	Killing of Captain James Ross
170	1585	Lords take Stirling Castle
171	1585	Parliament at Linlithgow
172	1586	Alexander Murison
173	1587	Queen Mary
174	1587	Triumph at Mercat Cross of Edinburgh
175	1588	Andrew Ross, burgess of Tain
176	1588	James VI answers Assembly
177	1588	Earl of Huntly married
178	1588	Killing of Sir William Stewart
179	158—	Robert Munro, fiar of Foulis
180	1588	Sir James Dunbar, sheriff of Moray
181	1588	Coinage proclaimed
182	1588	Ellen Clunes, wife of Donald Ross of Meikle Rhynie
183	1589	David Dunbar of Little Suddie

- 184 1589 Burning of Forres
- 185 1589 Earls accused of treason
- 186 1589 Earl Marischal sent to Denmark
- 187 1589 Donald Ross of —
- 188 1589 Ferryboat of Burntisland sunk
- 189 1589 James VI sails from Leith
- 190 1589 Earl of Bothwell repents
- 191 1589 James VI married
- 192 1589 News of marriage of James VI
- 193 1590 James VI lands at Leith
- 194 1590 Witches seen at Tain
- 195 1590 Majorie Innes, wife of Alexander Ross of Invercharron
- 196 1590 —, wife of Patrick Dunbar of Blervie
- 197 1590 Ballindalloch Castle taken
- 198 1590 House of Culbin raided
- 199 1590 William Murray, son of Alexander Murray in Dornoch
- 200 1590 Ride of Darnaway Castle
- 201 1590 Lords meet at Forres
- 202 1591 Ellen Thomson, wife of John Ross
- 203 1591 Patrick Dunbar, son of George Dunbar of Avoch
- 204 1591 Andrew Jack, burgess of Aberdeen
- 205 1591 Margaret Simson, wife of Walter Ross in Little Kindeace
- 206 1591 Thomas Reid
- 207 1592 Katherine Mackenzie, lady Balnagown
- 208 1592 Hugh Ross in Meikle Aldie
- 209 1594 Alexander Urquhart in Innerathie
- 210 1594 Battle of Glenlivet

#### V Hand of Walter Ross of Morangie

- 211 1572 Agnes Ross, lady Plaids
- 212 1575 Hugh Ross of Tollie
- 213 1576 Earl of Huntly
- 214 1592 David Clephane
- 215 1592 Mr David Chalmers, chancellor of Ross
- 216 1592 Alexander Ross IX of Balnagown
- 217 1593 Donald Ross in Meikle Rhynie
- 218 1593 Alexander Fearn
- 219 1594 Alexander, earl of Sutherland
- 220 1594 Isobel Munro, wife of Hugh Ross of Achnacloich

- 221 1596 Master Thomas Ross
- 222 1600 Janet Ross, wife of Walter Ross of Morangie
- 223 1601 Ursula Tulloch, wife of Hugh Gordon of Ballone
- 224 1601 Alexander Clunes, burgess of Cromarty
- 225 1601 Fife Adventurers
- 226 1601 Alexander Ross Williamson
- 227 1602 Marjorie Campbell, lady Balnagown
- 228 1602 William Clunes, burgess of Tain
- 229 1603 Donald Ross of Balmuchy
- 230 1603 Isobel Kinnaird, wife of Master Thomas Ross
- 231 1603 Hector Munro of Foulis
- 232 1604 Jean Ross, lady Kintail
- 233 1607 William Ross, burgess and ex-provost of Tain
- 234 1608 Walter Innes of Inverbreakie
- 235 1608 Alexander Ross of Wester Geanies
- 236 1608 Walter Ross Williamson of Tuiteam Tarbhach
- 237 1608 Walter Innes, son of William Innes of Calrossie
- 238 1609 William Innes of Calrossie
- 239 1609 Catherine Gordon of Drainie
- 240 1610 Alexander Clunes in Geanies
- 241 1610 Katherine Urquhart, wife of Andrew Munro of Newmore and Milton
- 242 1610 Hugh Ross of Breakach
- 243 1610 Hector Munro of Assynt
- 244 1610 Finlay Faid of Innerathie
- 245 1611 Kenneth Mackenzie, Lord Kintail
- 246 1611 Nicholas Ross of Pitcalnie
- 247 1611 Robert Tulloch of Fleurs
- 248 1611 Andrew Munro of Newmore
- 249 1612 James Dunbar, commissary of Ross
- 250 1612 Donald Munro of Tarlogie
- 251 1612 Hugh Gordon of Ballone
- 252 1612 Katherine Ross, lady Mey
- 253 1612 Alexander Innes of Coxton
- 254 1612 Thomas Fraser of Strichen
- 255 1612 John Denoon in Little Rhynie
- 256 1612 Prince Henry
- 257 1612 John Corbet, portioner of Arbol
- 258 1613 —, wife of Hector Munro of Assynt
- 259 1613 John Christie, burgess of Tain
- 260 1613 Katherine Vaus, lady Lochslin

261	1613	David Lindsay, bishop of Ross
262	1613	James Innes, apparent of Calrossie
263	1613	Katherine Urquhart, wife of William Ross of Balkeith
264	1614	Rorie Mackenzie of Ardafallie
265	1614	Donald Ross of Balintraid
266	1615	George Ross X of Balnagown
267	1615	John, earl of Sutherland
268	1616	George Sinclair of Mey
269	1616	Mr John Munro, subdean of Ross
270	1616	David Hay of Penick
271	1616	William Fraser, reader at Tain
272	1616	Alison Orrock
273	1616	Alexander Denoon of Pithogarty
274	1616	Mr John Ross of Little Tarrel
275	1618	Malcolm Ross of Cambuscurrie
276	1619	Alexander Ross of Invercharron
277	1619	David Ross XI of Balnagown
278	1620	Janet Tulloch, goodwife of Penick
279	1621	Hugh Ross of Tollie
280	1622	Hugh Ross of Kindeace
281	1622	William Ross of Invercharron
282	1623	George Munro of Meikle Tarrel
283	1623	Alexander Douglas, bishop of Moray
284	1624	William Ross of Annat
285	1625	James VI
286	1625	William Ross of Easter Fearn/Priesthill
287	1625	George Murray of Spanziedaill
288	1626	Walter Kinnaird of Culbin
289	1626	Mr John Munro, minister of Tarbat
290	1628	Isobel Dunbar, wife of Robert Tulloch of Fleuris
291	1629	Margaret Strachan, wife of Master Thomas Ross
292	1630	John Mackenzie of Lochslin
293	1632	Barbara Ross, wife of Andrew Morison
294	1633	Simon Fraser, Lord Lovat
295	1633	Colin, earl of Seaforth
296	1633	Bessie Innes, lady Culbin
297	1633	Bessie Innes, lady Culbin
298	1633	James Innes of Inverbreakie
299	1634	Andrew Morison
300	1636	George, marquess of Huntly
301	1636	Agnes Fearn, wife of Andrew MacCulloch

- 302 1637 Andrew Munro of Delny
- 303 1637 Andrew Fraser, commissary of Inverness
- 304 1637 John MacCulloch of Kindeace
- 305 1638 Isobel Ross, goodwife of Invercharron
- 306 1638 John Forrester
- 307 1639 Margaret Ross, wife of John MacCulloch of Kindeace
- 308 1640 Oliver Gordon of Ballone
- 309 1640 Agnes Robertson, wife of John Ross younger
- 310 1641 Andrew Ross of Shandwick
- 311 1642 House of Milton burnt
- 312 1642 Margaret Abercromby, wife of William Ross
- 313 1642 Sir William Sinclair of Mey
- 314 1642 Janet Sinclair, goodwife of Inverbreakie
- 315 1642 William MacKenzie, minister of Tarbat
- 316 1643 Hugh Ross of Tollie
- 317 1643 George Munro of Tarlogie
- 318 1643 Hugh Rose of Kilravock
- 319 1643 Margaret Dunbar, lady Athie
- 320 1644 Mr Gilbert Murray, subdean of Ross
- 321 1644 Mr Gilbert Murray, subdean of Ross
- 322 1644 Katherine Ross, widow of John Munro
- 323 1645 John MacCulloch, younger of Kindeace
- 324 1646 Helen Fearn, wife of William Ross, burges of Tain
- 325 1646 David Ross of Pitcalnie
- 326 1646 Alexander Hay, ex-provost of Tain
- 327 1646 William Ross, son of Andrew Ross
- 328 1647 Walter Strachan, burges of Tain
- 329 1647 George Ross of Balmuchy
- 330 1647 Donald MacLeod, younger of Assynt
- 331 1648 William Ross of Balkeith
- 332 1648 Alexander Ross of Cunlich
- 333 1648 Alexander Kinnaird of Culbin
- 334 1649 Alexander Ross of Pitkierie
- 335 1650 Battle of Carbisdale
- 336 1650 James MacCulloch Angusson, burges of Tain
- 337 1652 Agnes Brown, wife of William Ross Abbatson, burges of Tain

#### VI Unidentified Seventeenth-Century Hands

- 338 1645 Battle of Auldearn
- 339 1646 Marie Fraser, lady Balnagown

- |     |      |   |
|-----|------|---|
| 340 | 1649 | Charles I                                       |
| 341 | 1651 | Sir John Sinclair of Dunbeath                   |
| 342 | 1653 | William Robertson, burgess of Inverness         |
| 343 | 1653 | Hector Douglas of Mulderg                       |
| 344 | 1653 | David Ross XII of Balnagown                     |
| 345 | 1654 | Walter Ross of Morangie                         |
| 346 | 1658 | David Forrester, burgh clerk of Tain            |
| 347 | 1658 | Anna Fraser, countess of Sutherland             |
| 348 | 1658 | Master Thomas Ross of Morangie                  |
| 349 | 1658 | Walter Innes, apparent of Inverbreakie          |
| 350 | 1659 | Hugh Munro of Ardullie                          |
| 351 | 1659 | Duncan Bayne of Delny                           |
| 352 | 1659 | Alexander Ross of Eye                           |
| 353 | 1659 | Walter Ross of Kindeace                         |
| 354 | 1659 | George Munro, son of Hugh Munro of Achnogart    |
| 355 | 1660 | Alison Clephane                                 |
| 356 | 1660 | Thomas Ross at Resolis                          |
| 357 | 1660 | Christian Urquhart, wife of Alexander Duff      |
| 358 | 1660 | Margaret Gordon, wife of Thomas Ross of Resolis |
| 359 | 1660 | Andrew Ross, provost of Tain                    |
| 360 | 1662 | George Gray, minister of Dornoch                |
| 361 | 1662 | Robert Sutherland, portioner of Wester Geanies  |
| 362 | 1662 | Margaret Murray                                 |
| 363 | 1665 | Robert Gray of Lower Skibo                      |
| 364 | 1665 | George Gordon, formerly of Balkeith             |
| 365 | 1667 | Mr John Ross, schoolmaster at Tain              |

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## ADDITIONS

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### I

#### Earliest Hands

1471

1 Hand A Obitus Alexandri Frisalle prioris de Bewly qui obiit apud idem viii<sup>uo</sup> die mensis Augusti anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> cccc<sup>mo</sup> lx<sup>o</sup> xj<sup>mo</sup>.

Alexander Fraser, described as scholar, priest of Moray diocese, vicar of Abertarff, and subsequently monk of Ardchattan, succeeded Gilbert Macpherson as prior of Beaully in 1431. He was an illegitimate kinsman of Hugh de Fraser, sheriff of Inverness, first Lord Lovat, who supplicated for him (CSSR, iii, 72, 178, 179, 211). Batten, *Beaully*, 90, 329, misdates this entry to 1371.

1494

2 Hand C Obitus Katherine Munro quondam uxoris Johannis Monelaw qui obiit apud Ferne xvij<sup>o</sup> die mensis Septembris anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> cccc<sup>o</sup> nonagesimo quarto. Pro anima ipsius orate.

Katherine Munro's parentage is not known. A John Monylaw sat on the puzzling inquest into the immunities of Tain, 20 April 1439 (*Macgill*, no. 935), but is not certainly John Monylaw, witness on 12 May 1484 (GD98/X/72), 24 June 1487 (GD98/X/73), and 8 October 1487 (Fraser, *Cromartie*, ii, no. 526). See also 74.

1501

3 Hand B Obitus illustris viri Andreas Steuart episcopi Moraue ornatissimi principis Jacobi secundi Scotorum regis illustrissimi frater qui obiit in nocte Sancti Michaelis Archangeli [28/29 September] anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> ccccc<sup>o</sup> primo.



One of the three sons of Joan Beaufort, widow of James I, by her second marriage to Sir James Stewart of Lorne. For his part in the 1482 crisis see N. Macdougall, *James III* (Edinburgh, 1982), 165-8, and for his lack of commitment to James IV see N. Macdougall, *James IV* (Edinburgh, 1989), 60-61, 129, 174, 213. The tone of the obit is markedly favourable.

## 1506

4 Hand C Obitus bone memorie Annete Fayd quondam sponse Johannis McCulloch que obiit apud Ferne secundo die Septembris anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> v<sup>to</sup> vi<sup>o</sup> pro cuius anima orate.

Widow of John MacCulloch (36).

## 1507

5 Hand C Obitus Wilhelmi de Caldor filii Wilhelmi militis qui obiit apud Ester Arde anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> quingentesimo vij<sup>o</sup> [at 23 April].

William, thane of Cawdor, is held to have died in 1503 or soon thereafter (*Cawdor Bk.*, 117), but is recorded on 18 February 1506 (CS5/18<sup>1</sup>, 94r) and 29 January 1507 (CS5/18<sup>2</sup>, 153r-154r). William, his eldest son, resigned the succession in 1488 (*Cawdor Bk.*, 71-3), but may be sir William Calder, vicar of Evan (Barevan), alive 3 January 1509 (*ibid.*, 120). William Calder, sheriff of Nairn, son and heir of deceased William thane of Cawdor, resigned office, 10 February 1511 (*RMS*, ii, 3538). The present entry may relate to yet another son of Thane William.

## 1516

6 Hand D Obitus bone memorie reuerendi in Christo patris et domini Thome McCulloch abbatis de Ferne qui obiit apud eiusdem decimoseptimo mensis Julii anno Domini Incarnacionis M<sup>o</sup> ccccc<sup>o</sup> xvj<sup>o</sup>. Orate ex caritate pro anima eius.

Thomas MacCulloch's relationship to the various families of the name in Easter Ross is unclear, but his forename appears in the Plaids family (31). Information on him comes mainly from the *Cronicle*, 17-18, but is not in the original Balnagown MS. The date of his succession as abbot

of Fearn is also uncertain. *Cronicle*, 17, states that he succeeded Abbot Finlay Faid (38), who died on 17 March 1486. However, a papal commission of 29 March 1485 (*CPL*, xiv, 322) summoned MacCulloch, with Bishop Thomas Hay and the cathedral chapter of Ross, to answer a petition by William Elphinstone, newly translated from the bishopric of Ross to Aberdeen. MacCulloch was a witness to the foundation charter of the college of St Duthac, 12 September 1487 (*RMS*, ii, 1694), and to John Ross V of Balnagown's resignation, 22 November 1488 (GD297/164), and also appeared in connection with the kirk of Tarradale, 1 March 1498 (*ADC*, ii, 126). *Cronicle*, 18, calls Bishop Andrew Stewart (7) 'the first Commendator of Fearn granted be the See of Rome', but there is no contemporary evidence to corroborate the details it gives of MacCulloch's 'exile'. In a concord of 8 May 1509 between Stewart and Sir David Ross of Balnagown (see 7), MacCulloch signed under Stewart and separately from the seven canons of the house. The annotator of the *Calendar* clearly considered him to remain a legitimate abbot. *Blackie*, 62, attributes to him a daughter, Marion, who married a son of Walter Ross of Shandwick (50).

## 1517

7 Hand D Obitus bone memorie reverendi in Christo patris et domini Andree Steward episcopi Cathanensis commendarii monasteriorum de Calco et Ferne perpetui ac camerarii Supremi Domini Nostri Regis comitatus Rossie et dominii de Ardmanach qui obiit in palacio suo de Skebo die decimo septimo mensis Junii anno Dominice Incarnacionis millesimo quingentesimo decimo septimo sueque consecrationis quarto decimo et tumilatu in choro sue ecclesie cathedralis Cathanensis de Dornoch. Orate ex caritate pro anima eius.

Andrew Stewart, bishop of Caithness from 1501, and king's treasurer from 1510, was *consanguineus* of James IV and had letters of legitimation, 26 February 1512 (*RSS*, i, 2377). He is considered a natural son of a member of the house of Innermeath (*TA*, iv, pp. xi-xiii; Dowden, *Bishops*, 247-8). Vatican sources (*MRHS*, 101-02) support the *Cronicle*'s claim that he secured a title to Fearn *in commendam*, possibly in 1508, displacing Abbot MacCulloch (6). On 8 May 1509 he made a contract with Sir David Ross VII of Balnagown (47) concerning the meadows of Fearn (GD297/231), and in 1511 set the mains of Fearn for three years to James Dunbar (*CS5/23*, 127r-v, 14 August 1511). In

addition to being royal treasurer, he was chamberlain of Ross and Ardmanach from 1506 (TA, iv, pp. xi-xiv and *passim*) and a central figure in James IV's government of the north. He was succeeded as abbot of Fearn by Patrick Hamilton. The postulate of Whithorn protested to the Lords of Council that Fearn was a cell of his house, and that he held the right of presentation, 25 September 1517 (ADCP, 103-04). On 26 February 1518 Sir Patrick Hamilton of Kincavill, in name of his son, protested for regress to anything taken from Fearn by the earl of Atholl since Bishop Stewart's death (CS5/30, 202r, 207v).

## II

### Early Hands (pre-1560)

1517

8 Hand F Obitus bone memorie Stephani Fydes quondam burgensis de Tayne ac Aberdonensis qui obiit xxij die Januarii anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> quingentessimo decimo sexto.

Stephen Fiddes, burgess of Tain, witnessed charters on 11 August 1494 (GD305/1/46/1) and 22 November 1496 (*Munro Writs*, no. 26). He was one of the inhabitants of Tain against whom the burgesses of Inverness took action, 16 March 1501 (ADC, ii, 486). His name does not appear in 'Aberdeen Burgess Register' (*New Spalding Club Miscellany*, i, 1890), or in *Aberdeen Council Register* (Spalding Club, 1844). The date of death given in the Calendar is inconsistent with GD297/201/5, 22 October 1517, to which he was a witness. Other obits in the same hand (15, 16, 17, 19) are post-1540, and the present entry may be retrospective and inaccurate.

1528

9 [Heavily overwritten entry: only] xii Maii anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> v<sup>c</sup> xxviiij, Ross [and] Balnagovin [can be distinguished].

Walter Ross VIII of Balnagown was killed on 12 May 1528 (48).

1534

**10** Hand E Obitus Daudis Dunowne qui obiit apud Cathboll anno Domini millesimo quingentesimo trigesimo quarto vigesimo septimo die mensis Septembris.

Possibly a brother of John Denoon of Davidston (128). For family of Denoon see 14.

1538

**11** Hand F Quarto die mensis Martii anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> quingentesimo trigesimoseptimo obiit honorabilis vir Willihelmus Ross Macolmi quondam burgensis de Tayne.

Reid, 9, suggests William Ross was a son of Malcolm son of John Ross V of Balnagown and Christian, daughter of Torquil Macleod of Lewis, but evidence is lacking. William does not appear in surviving contemporary records, but John Ross Malcolmson is found between 20 October 1541 (SC29/1/1, 7r-v) and 17 November 1559 (GD297/227/10).

1539

**12** Hand E Obitus honorabilis viri Moritii Gillecalum . . . Kindeis xv Aprilis anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> quingentesimo xxxix<sup>mo</sup>.

Morris McGillecallum was custumar of Ross, 9 January 1517 (*ADCP*, 73-4).

1540

**13** Obitus Alexandri McCulloch fili Angusii McCulloch qui obiit apud Terrel x<sup>o</sup> mensis Februarii anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> v<sup>o</sup> xxxix<sup>o</sup>.

See 52.

1541

**14** Obitus bone memorie quondam Donaldi Dunnone abbatis de Ferne qui obiit infra monasterium eiusdem nono die mensis Februarii anno Domini millesimo quingentesimo quadragesimo cuius anime propiciatur Deus. Amen.

Donald Denoon, canon of Ross, was provided to Fearn on the resignation of the absentee Patrick Hamilton, for whom a pension was

reserved (ASV, Reg. Supp., 1882, 207v, 7 February 1526, and 208r, 17 February 1526; *ibid.*, 1887, 175v, 5 March 1526). Disputes with Bishop James Hay of Ross over teinds may have made a resident abbot desirable (see ASV, SRR, *Manualia Actorum et Citationum*, 135, 19 March-12 December 1526; *ibid.*, 185, 2 August 1535-27 December 1536; *Laing Chrs.*, nos. 354, 355, 411). A Papal bull of 1 July 1528 (GD297/189), confirming Fearn's existing privileges, suggests that Denoon had official backing.

Abbot Donald does not appear frequently in contemporary records. As judge-delegate, he issued a summons, 26 April 1532 (Batten, *Beaully*, 205-10), and gave a judgment, 27 March 1536 (Fraser, *Grant*, iii, no. 102). He was a member of the earldom court which sat at Delny on 21 April 1530 'till decerne upon ye messeris and firlatts of ye haille countraye'. The thirty-five freeholders and burgesses of Ross who attended told the royal officers that fermes and victual rents were delivered to the girkels of Delny and Balconie by 'ye litill firlat quhilk extendis to thre pekis of ye commond firlot and messor of Leithe' (GD305/1/116/423, recording their findings, carries twelve named seal-tags, with eight seals, including that of the abbot, still surviving; for Exchequer treatment of the little measure see *ER*, xiv, 87-8; xv, 502-03; xvi, 113-14, 202-03, 279). In 1539 the Lords of Council admitted a claim by Abbot Donald, Angus MacCulloch of Tarrel (52), William MacCulloch of Plaids (51), John Denoon of Davidston (128), William Denoon of Pithogarty (see below) and John Vaus of Lochslin (16) that they were tenants-in-chief of the earldom of Ross, and should attend the bailie court at Kinnairdie rather than the sheriff court of Inverness (GD305/1/129/5, 28 August; endorsements show this useful concession was invoked by Commendator Nicholas Ross (143) on 19 October 1558 and by Commendator Thomas Ross (221) on 2 October 1576; see also GD96/333, 7 October 1606).

Abbot Donald's parentage has not been ascertained; his grandson William II Denoon of Pitnellie was a *consanguineus* of John Denoon of Davidston (*RMS*, iv, 1452, 30 January 1562). He was not celibate, as shown by the royal letters of legitimation granted to his sons William and David (*RMS*, iii, 2051, 23 December 1539). *Blackie*, 73-5, gives him nine sons by two mothers. One son, Mr Thomas, was parson of Kincardine by 19 November 1530 (GD1/436/1). An attempt to secure the parsonage of Assynt for another, John, led to the abbot being summoned before the Lords of Council (*ADCP*, 496-7, 5 October 1540; see also SP13/28, 26 July 1540).

For yet another son, William (son of Elizabeth Urquhart [62]),

Donald built up a considerable estate. This included the abbey feu-lands of Little Rhynie (Fearn par.), Easter Fearn (Edderton par.) and Amat Abbot (Kincardine par.: GD1/436/1, 19 November 1530; see also ASV, ASPA, Reg. Matrim. et Divers., 95, 113r-114v, 2 May 1537); one third of Arbol (Tarbat par.: RMS, iii, 1019, 5 May 1531; RMS, iii, 1430, 4 June 1534); Pithogarty (Tain par.: GD305/1/12/2,3, 27 March 1534 [RMS, iii, 1540 reads 27 March 1535]); and Pitnellie and Balkeith (Tain par.: RMS iii, 2043, 4 November 1539; GD305/1/74/93, 31 July 1540). The abbot's relationship to William is shown in an instrument dividing Arbol into thirds, 12 October 1535 (GD199/6; GD199/66), the parties to which were John Denoon of Davidston (128), John Corbet of Easter Ard, and the 'venerable father Donald Denoon, by divine permission abbot of Fearn for himself and for his natural son William Denoon'.

A royal precept of 8 December 1540 (RSS, ii, 3719), two months after Abbot Donald's death, confirmed a liferent grant of Pitnellie by William, presumably with marriage in mind, to Marjorie Grant (110), who died in the following February. By 29 June 1547 he was married to Elizabeth Urquhart (130): RMS, iv, 228; Tayler, *Urquhart*, 22, identifies her as a daughter of Sir Thomas Urquhart of Cromarty, the *paterhemon*, who had already been married to John Vaus of Lochslin (16). Any children of the marriage must still have been very young when William died at the battle of Pinkie in the following September (GD96/163, 2 May 1576).

The Denoon inheritance was fought over for the next thirty years. The lands and marriage of the young heir William II were disputed between his Denoon uncles, his mother's Urquhart kinsmen, and Jasper Vaus of Lochslin, who planned to marry William to his own daughter Katherine, attempting to buy out the claims of his three sisters. The marriage took place, but William II died in 1565 and his eldest sister Margaret was eventually retoured heir (*Retours*, ii, Ross and Cromarty, no. 5, 7 May 1574). The Inverness sheriff court was uncertain whether or not a division should take place, but ten Edinburgh advocates, Thomas Craig amongst them, ruled that the inheritance was a superiority and should not be divided (SC29/1/1, 91r-v; cf. *The Jus Feudale by Sir Thomas Craig of Riccarton*, trans. J. A. Clyde (Edinburgh, 1914), 598, 970-71). The lands, however, were carved up. Walter Urquhart, sheriff of Cromarty, took Nether Pitnellie, Balkeith and the major part of Pithogarty; Jasper Vaus's son John acquired Over Pitnellie, Amat Abbot and the remainder of Pithogarty; and Alexander Ross IX of Balnagown, who had backed the Denoon uncles, took Easter Fearn into Ross hands (see 286). In all of this the heiress and her

husband, Finlay Manson, portioner of Pitcalzean, were nominal figures only. Abbot Donald's attempt to give his family a landed base was thus thwarted by his son's death at Pinkie and the two difficult successions that followed. For some episodes in this complex affair see: SC29/1/1A, 61r-62r, 31 October 1561; NP1/25, 15v, 11 July 1564; CS7/39, 68v-71r, 5 February 1567; SC29/1/1, 91r-v, 7 May 1574; NP1/32, 68v-72v, 9 November 1574.

## 1542

15 Hand F Octauo huius [March] 1541 obiit probus et egregius vir Hector Munro de Foulis apud Carbistoll.

*Munro Tree, S.*

## 1546

16 Hand F Quinto huius [February] anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> v<sup>c</sup> xl quinto obiit honorabilis vir Joannes Wauss de Lochsline.

See Munro, 'Vasses', 35-9. Dr Munro suggests that a later gift of nonentry (RSS, vi, 1062, 31 December 1570), which refers to a John Vaus who died at the field of - , may indicate that he died at Ancrum Moss (see 119). However, the *Calendar* scribes began the year on 25 March, and John Vaus's death was therefore a year later. The 1570 gift, which also names the semi-legendary Paul MacTyre, may refer to John Vaus, killed at Aldecharwis in 1487 (40). For Elizabeth Urquhart, wife, see 130; see also 14 for Vaus involvement in the Denoon of Pitnellie inheritance.

## 1548

17 Hand F Obitus Patritii Daudis olim capellani de altari Sancte Marie Virginis qui migravit ad Christum decimo septimo Octobris anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> v<sup>c</sup> quadregesimo octauo. Qui de eo habuerit pro eo orauerit. Amen. Jesus Maria sit semper mecum in via.

Patrick Davidson has not been identified. The majority of entries in Hand F relate to Tain and its immediate neighbourhood, which may suggest that he served an altar in St Duthac.

154-

18 Hand G Obitus Hugonis [margin lost] xvi mensis Januarii 154-.

1551

19 Hand F Secundo die mensis huius Februarii anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> quingentessimo quinquagesimo obiit discretus vir Finlaius Muldonache burgensis de Tayne.

Finlay Muldonach was a witness in 1530 (Macgill, no. 936) and on 6 August 1540 (GD/305/1/46/4). A tenement in Tain was still called by his name in 1579 (Gray, 117r).

1555

20 Hand G Obitus Alexandri Ross filii Hugonis Ross qui obiit apud Ballemuche xvij die mensis Octobris anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> v<sup>c</sup> lv.

Reid, 35, gives 1571, incorrectly. Balmuchy (Fearn par.) was amongst the lands confirmed to Fearn by John of the Isles, earl of Ross, 2 November 1467 (*Isles*, no. 90). It was granted in feu by Commendator Nicholas to Alexander Ross IX of Balnagown, 15 February 1557 (GD297/227/4; see also Macgill, no. 6). Hugh of Balmuchy was son of Walter of Shandwick (50) and uncle of Master Thomas Ross (221). He married Ellen MacCulloch, daughter of the laird of Cadboll (157), whom he predeceased, and was possibly dead by 15 February 1557, when his son Donald Hughson witnessed GD297/227/4. *Blackie*, 56, lists five sons, of whom Alexander and Walter, killed at Pinkie, predeceased their father. The first-born, William of Balmuchy, who gave a sasine on 15-17 November 1559 (GD297/209/2), died on 2 March 1594 (*Blackie*, 56), and appears to have been displaced from the inheritance by his brother Donald (229).

1558

21 Obitus venerabilis et egregii viri dominus Andreas Fergwssoune pencionarius de Thayne secundo die mensis Decembris anno Domini l<sup>o</sup> viij<sup>o</sup>.

Thomas MacFinlay Ferguson, chaplain of St Duthac, witnessed an indenture at Tain, 13 June 1495 (GD96/8). Sir Andrew Ferguson,



natural son of sir Thomas Ferguson, had letters of legitimation, together with his own son Finlay Ferguson, on 10 February 1547 (RSS, iii, 2138). He was provost of Tain, 26 July 1543 (GD96/28; see also SC29/1/1, 10v-15v). He was vicar pensioner of Tain, 14 April 1545 (*Laing Chrs.*, no. 495) and 5 August 1551 (CC8/8/12, 5 November 1583). He had a presentation in expectation to the chaplainry of Morangie, 30 September 1547 (RSS, iii, 2469), and witnessed as chaplain, 7 May 1550 (GD297/227/1-3). John Ferguson, 'son of deceased Andrew', whose marriage contract was made on 27 April 1579 (*Gray*, 109r [see 233]) may have been his son.

### III

#### Hand H: Unidentified 16th-Century Hand

1274

22 Obitus domini Vilelmi comitis de Ros . . . [margin lost] Maii anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> cc<sup>o</sup> lxxiiij.

Second earl of Ross. *Cronicle*, 4, reads: 'at erlis allane 20 kalends of Junii', giving *Calendar* as source, but the date is impossible and Earl's Allan is not in *Calendar* text; entry is at approximately 18 May. See *SP*, vii, 233; *CP*, xi, 143 (citing *Cronicle* [G], 319).

1323

23 Obitus Vilhelmi secundi comitis de Ros qui obiit apud Delny xxviiij die mensis Januarii anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> ccc<sup>o</sup> xxij.

Third earl of Ross. *Cronicle*, 4. See *SP*, vii, 233-5; *CP*, xi, 143 (quoting *Cronicle* [G], 319).

1364

24 Obitus bone memorie Johannis de Ross filii domini Hugonis comitis eiusdem xxvij die mensis Maii anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> ccc<sup>o</sup> lxxiiij.

Son of Hugh, fourth earl of Ross, and younger brother of William, fifth earl (25). See *SP*, vii, 236. MS is badly faded.

1372

25 Obitus domini Vilhelmi comitis Rossie qui fabricauit et reparauit ecclesiam Noue Ferine qui obiit apud Delny ix die mensis Februarii anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> ccc<sup>o</sup> lxxi.

Fifth earl of Ross. *Cronicle*, 9. See *SP*, vii, 237-9; *CP*, xi, 145-6 (quoting *Cronicle* [G], 321). No entry survives for William's father Hugh, fourth earl, who was alive on 10 May 1333, when he granted a charter of Rarechies to his son Hugh (GD297/161; also in 181, a transumpt of 1450); he is said to have died at Halidon Hill, 20 July 1333. William, returning from exile in Norway, was made earl on Friday before Whitsunday (17 May) 1336 (*Cronicle*, 6). Abbot Mark Ross began rebuilding the abbey church in the second year after William's succession, 'that is ane thousand three hundreth threttie aucht' (*ibid.*, 9). The *Cronicle*'s dating is not entirely trustworthy for this period (see 26).

1373

26 Obitus Donaldi abbatis Noue Ferine xxv mensis Julii anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> ccc<sup>o</sup> lxxiiij.

Donald, known as Donald Pupill, succeeded Abbot Mark Ross (d. 1355) after controversy with the prior and convent of Whithorn, who claimed rights of presentation (*Cronicle*, 6-9). He received a confirmation of liberties from Earl William V, 5 March 1356 (GD297/196), and a precept from Alexander bishop of Ross, confirming the earl's gift of the patronage of the church of Tarradale, 5 November 1362 (GD297/216). He was related to Earl William, *nepos noster* (*Munro Writs*, no. 8, 4 February 1371), and witnessed numerous charters by him and members of his family (*APS*, xii, pt. i, 17-18 [see *Aberdeen-Banff Illustrations*, ii, 384]; RH6/140; GD297/162 [not Abbot Adam, as in SRO inventory], 163, 170-75, 181 [a transumpt of 1450, copying five fourteenth-century documents, including one not found elsewhere in GD297], 190, 194, 196, 216 [a transumpt of 1438]; *Munro Writs*, nos. 4, 5, 6, 8, 10; GD159/32; Fraser, *Cromartie*, ii, no. 523; Fraser, *Grant*, iii, no. 14; A.J. Warden, *Angus or Forfarshire* [Dundee, 1879-84], iv, 69). The datable writs fall between 6 January 1345 and 3 March 1371, with seven coming before 1355, which casts doubt on the *Cronicle*'s date of Abbot Mark's death.

1382

27 Obitus bone memorie Valtiri de Lesly comitis de Ross qui obiit penultimo die mensis Februarii apud Pert anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> octogesimo primo.

Sixth earl of Ross. Son-in-law of Earl William (25). *Cronicle*, 9. See *SP*, vii, 239-40; *CP*, xi, 147-8 (quoting *Cronicle* [G], 321).

1398

28 Obitus bone memorie domini Alexandri Kylquhous episcopi Rossensis qui obiit vj die mensis Julii anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> ccc<sup>o</sup> nonagesimo octauo.

Watt, *Fasti*, 268, gives Forbes, *Kalendars*, xxix (which quotes *Calendar*) as the only source for Bishop Alexander's date of death. John de Kylwos (relationship unknown) was treasurer of Ross, 1417-c.1430 (*ibid.*, 280). *Blackie*, 44-5, has a confused account of sir Thomas Kilghouss, son of Treasurer John, who allegedly went to Rome to get a presentation to the parsonage of Lemlair (sir Thomas of Kylchous, canon of Ross, witnessed a concord at Dingwall, 12 May 1439 [GD199/25]). He is said to have fathered children by two different Aberdeenshire women on his outward and homeward journeys. The outward-bound child, by a daughter of the laird of Philorth, is named as Mr Andrew Kilghouss, also parson of Lemlair (Andrew Kylquhous, priest of Aberdeen diocese and bachelor in decreets, was provided to the perpetual vicarage of Alness, and given a dispensation as son of a priest and an unmarried woman, November 1461 [*CPL*, xii, 140, 151-2]). Thomas appears to have formed a more permanent attachment on his homeward journey, with Marion, daughter of William Gordon of Haddo. Three children are named, one being sir Thomas Kilghouss, chaplain of Tarlogie (Thomas Kylquhous, 'chaplain of Sanct duthois colleg kirk of Thane', witnessed an indenture on 13 June 1495 [GD96/8], and the chaplainry of Tarlogie was vacant by his death, 13 September 1503 [*RSS*, i, 981]). The accuracy of both facts and chronology is uncertain, but family traditions lie behind the story.

1402

29 Obitus Alexandri de Lesly comitis de Ross qui obiit apud Dingwale viij die mensis Maii anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> cccc<sup>o</sup> secundo.

Seventh earl of Ross. Son of Earl Walter (27). *Cronicle*, 10. See *SP*, vii, 241-2; *CP*, xi, 148 (quoting *Cronicle* [G], 321).

## 14—

30 Obitus Hugonis Ross de Balnagovin . . . Decembris anno Domini M° cccc° . . . [at 13 December].

Hugh IV of Balnagown was a member of an inquest into the immunity of Tain, 20 April 1439 (*Isles*, no. 28), and witnessed an agreement between Fearn and the precentor of Ross on the church of Tarradale, 12 May 1439 (GD199/25), but was dead before 21 January 1440, when his son and heir John had a precept of sasine (*Isles*, no. 31). He was a grandson of Hugh, first laird of Balnagown and half-brother of William, fifth earl of Ross (25). See Reid, 8-9. There are duplications in the early Balnagown descent in *Cronicle*, 26-9, and in *Blackie*, 32-5. Hugh had a younger son, Hugh, who was, with his brother John V, a procurator for William de Ross, canon of Moray, 3 January 1449 (GD297/215). For Mr William and Mr Thomas Ross, said also to be sons of Hugh IV, see 32-3 and 240.

No *Calendar* entry survives for Hugh's son, John V of Balnagown (for whom see *Isles*, nos. 37, 50, 87, 104, 128; GD297/214/3, 13 May 1454; GD199/16, 24 January 1457). He was present on 27 February 1483 when William MacTyre protested that he was not bound to attend the bailiary court of Tain (Fraser, *Cromartie*, ii, no. 538). He is said by *Cronicle*, 27, to have had three sons: Alexander VI, killed at Aldecharwis in 1487 (see 40); Mr Donald (41); and Gillecallum (Reid, 9, adds Andrew and John, but gives no firm evidence). Katherine (82) may have been his daughter. John V, who outlived his son Alexander VI, resigned the 'rule' of Balnagown on 22 November 1488 to his grandson David VII, in association with Gilbert Keith of Inverugy, whose daughter David married (GD297/164). Two years later he resigned all his lands to the crown, acting in name of the duke of Ross, for regrant to David (*RMS*, ii, 1978, 1981, 18 and 20 October 1490), retaining his liferent. Easter Rarechie and Cullisse were separately granted to David and Helen Keith, his wife (44), on 20 October (*RMS*, ii, 1982). It may be conjectured that John had made over the fee of Balnagown to his son Alexander before the latter's death, and that after Aldecharwis a protective marriage had to be arranged quickly for his grandson (see 47). John is not noticed after 1490, and was probably dead by 30 June 1494 (*ADC*, i, 346).

According to *Blackie*, 33, Alexander VI was married to Towye Sutherland, daughter of the lord of Duffus (*Cronicle*, 27, calls her Doroie). This has some corroboration from a pleading of 20 April 1512, which alleged that Alexander of Sutherland, lord of Duffus, 'tuk . . . xij scor of merkis, and gaf that in marriage till ane uthir doichtir of his callyt Dowhe Suthirland, with umquhile Alexander Ros, sone and air to the lard of Balnagoun in Ross' (*Family of Rose*, 182-3, 20 April 1512). On 27 July 1501 the Lords of Council ordered Y Mackay and others to make reparations for a raid in 1492 on lands in Strathcarron and Strathoykel (*ADC*, iii, 76: the place-names are somewhat mangled). The reparations were ordered to be paid to, amongst others, Gelis Sutherland, spouse of umquhile Alexander Ross, suggesting that her terce lay in these lands.

Alexander VI had at least two sons, David (47) and Hugh, named in a marriage indenture made by their grandfather and father with MacLaine of Lochbuie, 6 February 1475 (*Isles*, no. 104). There is no evidence that the marriage took place. Little is known of Hugh. His brother David was surety for him, not to harm the bishop of Ross's tenants of Kincardine, 26 January 1498 (*ADC*, ii, 94), and he witnessed an instrument of resignation in favour of David, 24 July 1498 (GD297/228). He appeared before the Lords of Council, 27 July 1501, to pursue the action of spulzie against Y Mackay, and also an action of wrongful occupancy on behalf of Andrew Denoon (*ADC*, iii, 77). The *Calendar* notes the death of one Hugh Ross at Achnashellach in 1504/05 (78, 79), in company with Sir William Munro of Foulis (*Munro Tree*, O), husband of a MacLaine of Lochbuie daughter. The death of another Hugh Ross (49) is recorded in 1529: his designation 'of Rarechie' suggests a Balnagown connection. Yet another son of Alexander VI may be 'Walter the Ross', pursued by John Fraser, postulate of Ross, for wrongous intromission with the lands of Delny, 7 February 1498 (*ADC*, ii, 102). There is, however, little evidence on the early Balnagown cadets.

Alexander VI's daughter Isobel is said to have been the wife of Sir William Munro of Foulis's grandfather George (Reid, 9; *Munro Tree*, M). It is not clear, however, that Alexander's daughter could have had a son old enough to fight in 1452 at Bealach nam Broig. The connection may be better accounted for by Katherine Ross (82), described as holding a terce from Foulis.

For subsequent lairds of Balnagown see 47, 48, 216, 266, 277, 344.

1460

31 Obitus Alexandri McCulloch de Pladis tercia die mensis Nouembris anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> cccc<sup>o</sup> lx.

The text is clear: but see SC29/1/1, 3r (also *Isles*, no. 55) for retour of son and heir John on 10 May 1450. For the family of MacCulloch of Plaids see Reid, 67-8, expanded and corrected by Munro, 'Plaids'. In addition to Alexander I (this entry), the *Calendar* notices the deaths of John II (36), his widow Anneta Faid (4), William IV (51) and the latter's widow Agnes Ross, daughter of Sir David VII of Balnagown (211).

1461

32 Obitus domini Vilelmi Monelau secundo die mensis Septembris anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> cccc<sup>o</sup> lxj<sup>o</sup>.

Sir William Monylaw is recorded on 13 May 1454 (GD297/214/3). He is styled chaplain of Tain (and possibly notary, though two separate men may be involved) on 24 January 1457 (GD199/16 [*HMC*, 6th Report, vi, 716]). For further discussion of this family see 74.

1472

33 Obitus Hugonis Our v die mensis Juni anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> cccc<sup>o</sup> lxxij<sup>o</sup>.

1473

34 Obitus Andree Munro x<sup>o</sup> die mensis Februarii anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> cccc<sup>o</sup> lxxij<sup>o</sup>.

Andrew Munro was among witnesses to a Dingwall family arrangement, 27 October 1466 (Fraser, *Cromartie*, ii, no. 534).

1475

35 Obitus Vilelmi . . . canonici de Ferne . . . Octobris anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> cccc<sup>o</sup> lxxv<sup>o</sup>.

See 30.

1482

36 Obitus Johannis McCulloch de Pladis xvj die mensis Octobris anno Domini M° cccc° lxxij.

See 31. John MacCulloch's relationship to William MacCulloch (51) is left blank in the latter's retour, 10 April 1512 (SC29/1/1, 3v).

1484

37 Obitus domini Vilelmi Terrel canonici de Ferne xxvij die mensis Octobris anno Domini M° cccc° lxxxiiij°.

See 28-32.

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38 Obitus domini Finlai McFaid abb. . . [margin lost] festo Bonifacii episcopi anno Domini . . . [March].

The feast of St Boniface is given by the *Calendar* as 16 June (above, 53). *Cronicle*, 17, dates Abbot Finlay's death '17 March 1485'; his successor Thomas MacCulloch was summoned by papal judges-delegate on 29 March 1485 (CPL, xiv, 322).

Finlay Faidd, called Finlay 'Malbuson', canon, and also Finlay 'Magni', supplicated for a new provision and ratification, 1440-41 (CSSR, iv, 723, 802), claiming conventual election, with consent of the prior of Whithorn (see 7), and confirmation by Bishop John Bulloch, although he had not yet made his monastic profession. He was already called 'Finlay by God's grace abbot of the monastery of New Fearn of the Premonstratensian Order' on 12 May 1439, when he appeared in a dispute with sir Thomas Falconer, precentor of Ross, over the church of Tarradale (GD199/25). Between 1443 and 1463 he received at least ten mandates to collate to benefices or act as judge-delegate (CPL, ix, 348 [see also 532], 431, 449; x, 466, 684; xi, 205, 257, 325, 476, 482). His relationship with John, earl of Ross and lord of the Isles, was good, to judge by the important charter the earl gave to Fearn on 2 November 1467 (*Isles*, no. 90). He witnessed a charter of the earl on 12 April 1463 (*ibid.*, no. 79), and one of his predecessor, Earl Alexander, on 10 October 1444 (*ibid.*, no. 43), and is found in a handful of other documents (GD297/214/3, 13 May 1454; GD297/197, 29 November 1454; Fraser, *Cromartie*, ii, no. 534, 27 October 1466). He was a

considerable benefactor to his house, bringing furnishings and organs from Flanders; he also built the south aisle, the dortor and the cloisters - though 'build' may mean no more than 'repair' (*Cronicle*, 17).

Two family lines are said to descend from Abbot Finlay (for the family of Fearn see 218). Finlay Faid, identified by Mr and Mrs Munro as holding land at Innerathie (Tain par.) in 1470 (*Isles*, 160; Fraser-Mackintosh, 212) is called 'son to Abbot Finlay Faid' (*Blackie*, 69). The name Finlay Faid recurs in a Tain and Innerathie context: GD98/X/72, 1484 (this charter is not entirely convincing: see 20); RMS, ii, 1694, 3 December 1487; GD96/28, 26 July 1543; *Gray*, 53v (see 230), 30 January 1569; PS1/62, 50v, 11 May 1591; GD305/1/98/224, January 1593; GD96/345, 8 November 1608; GD96/381, 17 January 1615; Fraser-Mackintosh, 212, 1628. The family holding appears to have been at the end only one-eighth of Innerathie but the continuity is striking.

## 1485

39 . . . McLoid in festo Petri et Pauli anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> cccc<sup>o</sup> lxxxv<sup>o</sup> [at 29 June].

*Cronicle*, 27, and *Blackie*, 32, name John Ross V of Balnagown's wife as Christian, daughter of Torquil Macleod of the Lews; see W. Matheson, 'The MacLeods of Lewis', *TGSI*, li (1981), 330.

## 1487

40 Aldecharwis.<sup>1</sup> 7<sup>1</sup> huius<sup>1</sup> 1487.<sup>1</sup> Obitus Alexandri Ross de Balnagouin, magistri Vilhelmi Ross et Vilhelmi Ross, Angusii de Terrel, Alexandri Terrel, Johannis Vaus, Johannis Marcel, Vilhelmi Hugonis Tome Vaus, in die Sancti Barnabe Apostolis anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> cccc<sup>o</sup> lxxxvij apud<sup>1</sup> Aldecharwis<sup>1</sup> undecimo<sup>1</sup> huius<sup>1</sup> [June]. [<sup>1</sup> Later hand, probably seventeenth-century.]

For this clan fight between the Rosses and a raiding party of Mackays and Sutherlands see Gordon, 78-9. The year has been variously reported (see *Isles*, 274); Reid, 9, quotes *Calendar* for 1486, but both text and later addition in the MS are clear. Gordon, 78, states that Alexander Ross of Balnagown and seventeen other 'landed gentlemen of the province of Rosse' were killed, but quotes the *Calendar* for only the eleven names above - reading *Angus McCulloch of Terrell* and *John Mitchel*, for which latter *Marcel* is to be preferred: John Marshal of



Dochcarty was said to be a *convicinus* of Tain, 2 May 1484 (GD98/X/72 [see 20]). The disaster was remembered by Clan Ross in the same way as the fight at Bealach nam Broig was by their neighbours the Munros. Alexander of Balnagown's wife was said to 'have had the wit of the fight' (*Cronicle*, 27). *Blackie*, 33, has the same story, also noting that Mr William Ross of Little Allan 'departit in ane battell at Aldcharvesh for defence of his country the eleventh day of June 1487' (*Blackie*, 39). For Alexander Ross VI of Balnagown see 30; for MacCulloch of Tarrel see 52; for Vaus of Lochslin see 16.

The site of the fight has been variously located. *Cronicle* and Gordon give no geographical details; *Wardlaw MS*, 114-15, refers to 'a passe in Strathoickel called Altcharrish', and quotes 'the manuscripts of Fern and Beuly' for the names of those killed. D. Mackinnon, *The Clan Ross* (Edinburgh, 1957), 11 (map), locates the battle on the Carron, between Braelangwell and Invercharron, but evidence for a site in Strathcarron is elusive. There is easy access from Strathcarron to Strathoykel, where, according to Sir Robert Gordon, the raid into Ross began. Loch Mhic Mharsail (see Watson, *PNRC*, 19) may preserve the name of one of the casualties of Aldecharwis.

Another tradition suggests that the battle was fought in Strathoykel. A.M. Ross, 195-6, places it 'at Alt nan Charrais, a small northern tributary of the Oykel, the spot being since called Doir a Chatha, or Grove of the Fight, from the event'; *GCR*, 81-2, converts this into 'Grove of the Flight'. No authority is given in either case, but it may be the minister of Creich's report in *OSA*, viii, 373: 'The names of places are almost all derived from the Gaelic. Some of them have references to combats between the clans, as *Tudamtarbhack*, *plentiful fall*; *Darecha*, *the end of the battle*, etc'. The first of these is Tuiteam Tarbhach in Strathoykel, generally accepted as the site of an earlier and even more obscure fight (Gordon, 61-2). Doir a'Chata, now treeless, lies on a tributary of the Allt Mor, which runs into the Kyle of Oykel at Invernauld; the names survive on current OS maps at NC505028. The interpretation of the name has not been universally accepted; John Mackay, *TGSI*, xx (1897), 122, derived it from 'cadha', a narrow pass, and so 'grove of the narrow pass'.

Timothy Pont, in his northern travels, collected information on Loch Shin and its surroundings, which he later set down in map form (see Map 3 in the NLS collection; also Stone, *Pont Maps*, 33). A panel entered on the south side of the loch contains the following note: 'Item the Laird of Balnagun slayin be Maky at Aldacharvisk [*or possibly Aldacharvyik my reading*]'. This is an early written reference to the

battle, not necessarily younger than the additions made to the *Calendar* entry. The format used suggests a memorandum of information rather than a precise geographical location. However, Pont's representation of Loch Shin, though vague in places, is fairly confident on the south side. It is therefore of interest that OS maps show the Allt Car Beag (named at NC466146) running into the loch in the general location of Pont's panel: Alt-carbeg in Burnett and Scott's map of Sutherland (1831-2); Allt a'Chairr Bhig in OS Sutherland, 6 in. (1st ed., 1876), sheet lxxxiv. The similarity of name is striking. The various locations may preserve traditions of a running chase which finally went disastrously wrong for the pursuers. (I am indebted to Mr R.W. Munro for drawing my attention to Timothy Pont's map.)

41 Obitus magistri Donaldi Ross de Preisthill [last two words inserted above line, possibly in later hand] vij die mensis Octobris anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> cccc lxxvij.

Mr Donald Ross, dean of Caithness, is recorded 1481-7 (Watt, *Fasti*, 63-4). He was alive on 12 September 1487, when he witnessed Bishop Thomas of Ross's erection of St Duthac into a collegiate church (*RMS*, ii, 1694). Reid, 25, makes him second son of John Ross V of Balnagown (see 30). No relationship has been established between him and Thomas Ross, first of the later family of Priesthill (see 148).

## 1490

42 Obitus domini Magni Eugenii canonici de Ferne viij<sup>o</sup> die mensis Decembris anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> cccc<sup>o</sup> nonagesimo.

See 30.

## 1519

43 Obitus domini Donaldi McGillemeill canonici de Ferne anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> ccccc<sup>o</sup> xix<sup>o</sup> [at 9 April].

See 30.

## 1520

44 Obitus Elene Keyth domine de Balnagouin . . . [margin lost] Maii anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> v<sup>o</sup> xx<sup>o</sup>.

Daughter of Gilbert Keith of Inverugy. First wife of Sir David Ross VII of Balnagown (47). *Cronicle*, 27, and Reid, 9, give *Calendar* date of death as 1519, wrongly.

## 1525

45 Obitus domini Johannis Monelaw canonici de Ferne xxij die Mar . . . [margin lost] anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> ccccc<sup>o</sup> xxiiiij<sup>o</sup>.

See 30. For family of Monylaw see also 2, 32, 74.

## 1527

46 Obitus domini Johannis Ross vicarii de Edertane qui obiit in Ballone v<sup>o</sup> die mensis Marcii anno Domini . . . ccccc<sup>o</sup> xxvi<sup>o</sup> [or 'xxxi<sup>o</sup>'].

Said by *Blackie*, 40, to be fifth son of Mr William Ross of Little Allan (see 240). The loss of six pages in the MS copied by W.H. Blackie (*Blackie*, 68) has left its information on John Ross incomplete; what remains suggests that either he or his son William Ross in Ballone held a benefice in Tarbat and was at one time a canon of Fearn, and that either William or his illegitimate son John was killed with 'Alexander Sutherland, who should have been Earle of Sutherland' (see 82; Gordon, 83-4).

47 Obitus Daudis Ros militis dominus de Balnagouin qui obiit apud eiusdem xxii<sup>o</sup> Maii anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> v<sup>o</sup> xxvij<sup>o</sup>.

Seventh laird of Balnagown. Son of Alexander VI, who was killed at Aldecharwis, 1487 (see 40); his grandfather, John V, resigned Balnagown to him in 1488 (see 30). Husband of: Ellen Keith (44); Margaret Stewart (see below). Father by first marriage of: Walter (48); William (145); Hugh (212); Donald, alive in 1550 (GD297/227/1,3) but not recorded thereafter; Agnes (211).

David Ross is first recorded actively in 1494, when the Lords of Council ordered him to restore livestock spulzied out of Kintail (*ADC*, i, 327, 17 June 1494); a payment of £69 into the treasury for him may be connected (*ER*, x, 463). The aftermath of the Mackay raid into Strathcarron and Strathoykel in 1492 (see 30) can be seen in an exchange of pledges four years later (*ADC*, ii, 41, 4 October 1496; see also *ibid.*,

iii, 76, 27 July 1501). Part of a heavy composition imposed on him in the 1497 justice ayre of Inverness was still outstanding in 1502 (*TA*, ii, 192). He was styled *miles* in a concord, 8 May 1509 (GD297/231, double in GD129/1/19/61), and also on 9 May 1514 (Fraser, *Sutherland*, iii, no. 52), but not in the Council record for 9 March 1512 (CS5/24, 187r). He may at one point have been styled sheriff of Ross (*Family of Rose*, 169, before 26 October 1500), though no shire court is known to have existed. He was perhaps dropping into the background by 1517, when his son Walter, 'young laird', started proceedings against the slayers of Alexander Ross in Sutherland (*ADCP*, 142, 15 March 1519).

Shortly after his first wife's death Sir David married Margaret Stewart, daughter of Alexander, duke of Albany, second son of James II (*SP*, i, 153, and ix, 10), who was left a widow by the death of her husband Sir Patrick Hamilton in the 'Cleanse the Causeway' fight on 30 April 1520. Sir David and his new wife had a precept for a charter of conjunct fee at some date in 1521 (*RSS*, i, 3200). There were no children by the marriage, but Sir David acquired several step-children, including the celebrated Patrick Hamilton, who had been presented to the abbacy of Fearn in 1517 (see 7; *ADCP*, 103, 25 September 1517). There is no evidence that Patrick Hamilton ever visited his monastery, and the *Calendar* does not record his death. *Cronicle*, 18-19, contains a summary of the proceedings at his trial, and of the charges on which he was condemned, identical with that printed by Foxe in the *Book of Martyrs* (see copy in Knox, *Works*, i, 510-11). Margaret Stewart survived her husband, and was still receiving tack duty from her conjunct fee and terce, 22 March 1546 (Macgill, no. 670).

## 1528

48 Obitus Valteri Ross de Balnagouin qui interfectus fuit apud Tane xij<sup>o</sup> die mensis Maii anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> v<sup>o</sup> xxvij<sup>o</sup>.

Eighth laird of Balnagown. Son of Sir David (47). Brother of William (145), Hugh (212), and Agnes (211). Husband of Marjorie Grant (110). Father of: Alexander (216); Hugh (see below). One illegitimate son is known: Alexander of Little Allan/Tarrel (161). See Reid, 9; A.M. Ross, 25-6; *GCR*, 83-4.

Walter Ross, first recorded 15 March 1519 (see 47) was assigned ward and nonentry on the death of his father in 1527 (*TA*, v, 290), but died before his own retour. Walter Macfarlane (*Geographical Collections*

[SHS, 1906-8], ii, 547) located his killing at 'Timort a myl from Tayne. . . upon the bank of Alt-Row'. According to an eighteenth-century Balnagown genealogy in the Sutherland Collection (NLS Acc10225), 'He was murdered by a Near Cousin of his own, . . . Called Hugh Ross in his own house of Teabrackie near Taine, the Murderer was shortly thereafter overtaken on Ardross' (cf. 94). His death led to a long minority, during which his brother William of Ardgay (145) acted as head of the family. A Southern constable, William Douglas of Cramond, was put into Balnagown (GD305/1/116/423, 21 April 1530).

Walter's son Hugh, whose death is not noted in any surviving *Calendar* entry, was less well-endowed than his half-brother Alexander of Little Allan. Alexander IX of Balnagown looked for contributions of one and three chalders respectively from them in 1565 (see 243). He granted Hugh Mulderg in feu-ferme, 20 July 1558 (GD297/214/5), and provided land and money when he married Janet Innes of Inverbreakie in 1561 (Macgill, no. 134). Hugh was dead by 22 February 1577, when his son John received a charter of Mulderg from George Ross X of Balnagown (GD129/1/23/74). John of Mulderg was a cautioner for George Ross in his settlement with Nicholas Ross of Dunskaith, 30 April 1577 (see 165), and subscribed the family appeal to Alexander of Balnagown on 2 August following (Macgill, ii, no. 1006). He was a close supporter of George Ross, and may finally have been ruined by becoming too closely involved as his cautioner (Macgill, no. 689). Mulderg was twice resigned in security (SC29/1/1, 140v, 3 June 1590; *Laing Chrs.*, nos. 1296-7, 12 and 15 May 1595), before being apprised in 1612 (GD129/I/23/74, 30 October and 26 November).

## 1529

49 Obitus Hugonis Ross de Rareche qui obiit apud idem xxij die mensis Octobris anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> v<sup>o</sup> xxix<sup>o</sup>.

See 30.

## 1531

50 Obitus Valteri Ross filii magistri Vilhelmii Ross qui obiit apud Schandowak x<sup>o</sup> die mensis Junii anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> cccc<sup>o</sup> xxxj<sup>o</sup>.

Second son of Mr William Ross of Little Allan, who died at Aldecharwis (see 40). Grandfather of Master Thomas Ross (221). The

greater part of *Blackie's* text (39-86) relates to his descendants, though with many digressions (see 240-42).

The male line of Mr William's eldest son, Alexander of Little Allan, failed early (*Blackie*, 41-2). Walter of Shandwick, however, if the writer is to be believed, was married six times and had numerous children, amongst them William Ross of Culnaha, father of Master Thomas Ross (221). Celtic secular marriage customs (for which see W.D.H. Sellar, 'Marriage, divorce and concubinage in Gaelic Scotland', *TGSI*, li [1981], 464-93) appear to have survived in Easter Ross in the early sixteenth century. Shandwick (Nigg par.) was a bishopric property, to which Bishop Robert Cairncross's (56) brother William and nephew Robert claimed title (GD305/1/118/460-61, 12 May and 5 June 1567), but actual possession was more probably in other hands. Robert Cairncross contracted to resign it in favour of Donald Ross in Shandwick, 27 June 1567 (GD305/1/118/462, 27 June 1567, procuratory of resignation to Master Thomas, narrating that money had passed hands on 18 September 1565; see GD305/1/118/463 [not recorded in *RMS*]).

Donald Ross, from whom the inheritance descended, is held to be the eldest son of Walter of Shandwick. See Reid, 26-7 (which makes him full brother of William of Culnaha, father of Master Thomas); A.M. Ross, 78-9; *GCR*, 120-21. According to *Blackie* he was the son of Walter Ross's sixth wife, Agnes Forbes. This statement infuriated one reader, who added his own note: 'This piece of this history concerning Donald Ross of Shandwick seems to be perverted upon some purpose or prejudice. For Declare constat, that Donald Ross was Eldest son to Walter Ross of Shandwick, oyrwise he had not possessed the heritage and kepted the name of the family' (*Blackie*, 67). A passage has been lost or removed at this point, *Blackie's* copy having nothing more on Donald or his family.

Donald Ross - 'in' and later 'of' Shandwick - was husband of: Marion or Helen, sister of Alexander Clunes (224; *Blackie*, 74-5; CC8/2/10, 3 November 1581); and Margaret Murray, widow of Andrew Denoon in Cadboll Fisher (CS7/53, 382r-385r, 20 September 1574). He is recorded between 15 October 1551 (GD305/1/126/571) and 20 September 1574 (see above). Several documents associate him with Alexander Ross IX of Balnagown (GD96/99, 22 November 1563; RD1/7, 42r-v, 3 July 1564; CS7/39, 68v-71r). He was rated at one chalder, which he paid, in Alexander's 'subscription list' of 1565 (see 243). His date of death is not known, but he may be the subject of 187. His successor was his son Andrew (310).

## 1541

51 Obitus Vilelmi McCulloch de Pladis qui obiit apud Folis xv die mensis Octobris anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> cccc<sup>o</sup> xlj [partly erased]

See 31, 36, 211. Thomas MacCulloch, son, was retoured on 20 October 1541 (SC29/1/1, 7r-v).

## 1543

52 Obitus Angusii McCulloch de Terrell qui obiit apud idem ultimo Julii anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> v<sup>o</sup> xliij.

For the family of MacCulloch of Tarrel, see Munro, 'Plaids', 46-7. Angus I of Tarrel, son of John Reoch MacCulloch of Plaids and Eufemia Tarrel (*Blackie*, 79-80), who gave what appears to be a bond of manrent to Alexander, earl of Huntly, 7 January 1466 (amongst thirty titles brought to court by Commendator Thomas Ross, 5 March 1577 [see below]), was killed at Aldecharwis (40), with 'Alexander Terrell' who may have been his son. A transumpt of 8 October 1487 appears intended to establish a title for Alexander's infant son Angus II (Fraser, *Cromartie*, ii, no. 526: 'Angus Terrell son of Alexander Angusson, formerly apparent heir of Angus McCulloch of Terrell').

Angus II was retoured as heir to his grandmother Eufemia Tarrel on 21 July 1505 (GD305/1/123/520, 21 July, precept, and 521, 25 October, sasine). He is recorded between 10 April 1512 (SC29/1/1, 3v) and 8 March 1542, when he resigned Meikle Tarrel to his grandson John, whom failing his own younger sons Hugh and Angus (GD305/1/123/524, 525; *RMS*, iii, 2614). Angus II reserved free tenement and reasonable terce for his wife 'whomsoever', and appears to have made a late new marriage. A crown precept of 10 March 1579 confirmed a charter by John MacCulloch to Elizabeth Ross, relict of his grandfather, giving her one-half of one-third of Meikle Tarrel in full satisfaction of all due to her on Angus's decease (*RSS*, vii, 1840). The confirmation was belated, for John MacCulloch had died in April 1567, and may have been connected with the marriage of his daughter and heiress Marion. Elizabeth Ross herself married Alexander Ross of Little Allan (161), and lived long enough to collect a second terce on his death in January 1578 (SC29/1/1, 107v-108v, 10 January 1581).

John MacCulloch of Meikle Tarrel, of full age, was retoured as general heir to his grandfather on 23 June 1564 (GD305/1/123/520). He had already been involved twice in marriage negotiations, with Janet,

natural daughter of Alexander Ross of Little Tarrel (161: GD305/1/126/572, 31 November 1552), and with Christina, sister of Thomas Monypenny of Kinkell (*RMS*, iv, 828, 28 August 1553). Neither marriage appears to have taken place. He is recorded between 21 May 1555 (SC29/1/1, 29r), and 17 October 1566 (GD1/187/6), and was one of the few non-Ross landholders who subscribed to Alexander Ross of Balnagown's 1565 appeal (see 244). He eventually married Isobel (or Elizabeth), another daughter of Alexander Ross of Little Tarrel (*Blackie*, 80), who was served to 'ye secund terce of Mekyll Tarrell' on 15 February 1567 (SC29/1/1, 84v); a contract of 10 December 1571, taking account of her surviving step-grandmother, described her as 'lady tertiar of ye tua partis of ye mekill tarrell' (CS7/68, 149r-152r). Like most sixteenth-century widows, she had not remain unmarried long. Her second husband was Thomas Ross of Meikle Rhynie (147), son of Commendator Nicholas Ross of Fearn, from whom she had a liferent of part of Wester Geanies (CS7/68, 149r-152r, contract with the incoming abbot, Master Thomas Ross, to settle her dead husband's feu-duties). With her third husband, John Ross, provost of Nairn, she complained that Alexander Ross of Balnagown and others were detaining her liferents (CS7/53, 111r-v, 18 February 1574). Years later they were in dispute with her daughter Marion and son-in-law George Munro over rights of commonty (PS1/61, 74r, 18 November 1590; PS1/62, 106r, 15 July 1591).

John MacCulloch died in April 1567 (SC29/1/1, 102r-v), leaving an under-age son and at least one daughter. Within a month the wardship and marriage of Angus, his son and apparent heir, were gifted by Queen Mary to Mr David Chalmers (215; *RSS*, v, 3496, 6 May 1567). After Langside the gift was transferred to Andrew Munro of Newmore (248; *RSS*, vi, 455, 28 August 1568). Chalmers had assigned his rights to his uncle Mr Duncan (146), who found it expedient to cede them to Munro (GD305/1/167/1, 19 June 1569). On 16 June 1569 Master Thomas Ross, acting as procurator for Commendator Nicholas Ross (143) and his son Thomas (147), denied before the Privy Council that they had any title to the ward and marriage of John MacCulloch's heirs (*RPC*, i, 671). Young Angus must have died fairly soon after his father, for on 3 October 1569 Mariota or Marion MacCulloch was served general heir to her 'guidschir Robert' (SC29/1/1, 84r; the entry is merely a one-line note, in which the clerk appears to have confused the families of Meikle Tarrel and Plaids).

Andrew Munro had plans for Meikle Tarrel and its heiress. He also had a challenger. Walter MacCulloch, 'fader broyr sone to umquhile



John MacCulloch of Meikle Tarrell' (presumably a son of Hugh or Angus, sons of Angus II, and so Marion MacCulloch's first cousin once removed), was ready to fight the issue in the Court of Session. Meanwhile, with the probable connivance of her mother, and the assistance of Alexander Ross of Balnagown, he took custody of Marion herself. When the case came to court, Walter's procurator claimed that Meikle Tarrell had been 'tailleit off auld to the airs mail'. For Andrew Munro, it was argued that John MacCulloch had broken the entail by not specifying heirs male when he granted the lands to Cristina Monypenny in 1553 (*RMS*, iv, 828, confirms this). That done, he asserted, the 'nearest and lafull air of lyne necessarilie behuffit to succeed'. This convinced the Court, Walter MacCulloch and his backer Alexander Ross being charged to hand over the heiress (GD305/1/154/67, 28 June; for the case see CS7/53, 20v-21v [26 January 1574], 182v [15 March 1574], 435r-436v [16 June 1574]). Walter still styled himself 'Walter McCulloch heir apparent of Meikle Tarrell in Ross' (Macgill, no.677, 5 August 1574), but he had to let Marion go.

In the following year Marion was again retoured generally, this time to her father (GD305/1/129/7, 23 June 1575); a special retour to Meikle Tarrell followed (*Retours*, ii, Ross and Cromarty, no. 9, 30 July 1577; SC29/1/1, 102r-v, 30 July 1576 [sic]). Her future was by then arranged: she was to marry Andrew's own minor son George (282). Before that, to recover her 'evidents', her lawyers had to pursue several of the parties involved (CS7/66, 27r-v, 6 November 1576). Her stepfather John Ross of Nairn produced a handful and Walter MacCulloch's agent several more, but the main catch was made from Master Thomas Ross, who came to court on 5 March 1577 (CS7/66, 379r-381r) with a box containing thirty deeds and a book of copies of 'divers infestments' belonging to John MacCulloch's predecessors, the earliest being a sasine of 4 March 1402. It is possible that, like Alexander Sutherland of Dunbeath a century before (see *Bannatyne Misc.*, iii, 94), the MacCullochs had deposited their 'evidents' with the abbot for safe-keeping.

Marion MacCulloch's marriage contract was drawn up on 28 November 1577 (GD305/1/127/2). She brought with her tocher of 8,000 merks, receiving in return a modest liferent and remission of her own ward, non-entry and relief. On 10 April 1578 she came to the Ross consistory court with an edict served on Alexander MacCulloch of Moy and Angus MacCulloch in Craighouse (see 65), 'as tua of ye maist honest and famous kynnismen', to attend to hear her curators chosen. The two did not appear, and Marion ratified the choice of Robert

Munro of Foulis, Mr George Munro chancellor of Ross, James Dunbar of Tarbat and George Dunbar of Avoch as curators. Despite a final protest from Walter MacCulloch, the curators then consented to the marriage (GD305/1/129/8: *Munro Writs*, no. 93; *RMS*, iv, no. 2792, 26 July 1578).

1544

53 Obitus dompni Vilelmi Caldor canonici de Ferne qui obiit vº Februarii anno Domini Mº vº xliijº.

See 30n.

1545

54 Obitus Elizabeth Faid qui obiit . . . Ballone ['prima' apparently deleted] mensis Martii . . . Domini Mº cccccº xlvº.

Possibly Isobel, daughter of Finlay Faid of Innerathie (*Blackie*, 69: see 38), wife of an unnamed Ross.

55 Obitus domini Valteri Fudes qui obiit apud Tane ultimo Maii anno Domini Mº vº xlvº.

Walter Fiddes, priest of Aberdeen diocese and notary, is recorded between 10 December 1529 (GD305/1/46/2,3) and 6 August 1540 (GD305/1/46/4, a very detailed charter and sasine of Tain burgh lands). He was one of three notaries witnessing the findings of the earldom court on the measures of Ross, 21 April 1530 (see 14), and made an instrument recording a sentence by Abbot Donald as papal judge-delegate, 27 March 1536 (Fraser, *Grant*, iii, no. 102). His relationship to Stephen Fiddes (8) is not known.

56 Obitus bone memorie reuerendi in Christo patris et domini domini Roberti Carncorss episcopi Rossensis ac commendatari de Ferne qui obiit apud Cananiam de Ross ultimo Nouembris anno Domini Mº cccccº xlvº.

For Bishop Cairncross see Dowden, *Bishops*, 225-6; Watt, *Fasti*, 270. James V recommended him to Paul III, 9 March 1541 (*Letters of James V*, eds. R.K. Hannay and D. Hay [Edinburgh, 1954], 420-21). He was admitted to the bishopric temporality on 23 June 1539 (*RSS*, ii, 3058),

and to the Fearn temporality on 21 October 1541 (RSS, ii, 4267). He was in his diocese in 1543, when he allegedly took part in an attack on Mr Gavin Dunbar, treasurer (123), and made a number of feu-ferme grants (for a grant of Kilmuir Meddat, 18 May 1543, see 311). On a later visit he was at Fearn on 14 April 1545, where he made an agreement to divide pastures with the young Alexander Ross IX of Balnagown (*Laing Chrs.*, no. 495).

Bishop Robert tried to establish his own family in Ross, giving Charles Cairncross lands which included Culnaha (Nigg par.), formerly occupied by Master Thomas Ross's father (*HMC*, 6th Report, 716, nos. 2, 3 [1543]); Cardinal Beaton ordered an investigation into this grant after Bishop Robert's death (*ibid.*, no. 5 [1545]). Robert's brother William, who had enjoyed the mails of the temporality before his admission (RSS, ii, 2736, 3 October 1538), received a feu which included Little Tarrel and Shandwick (*HMC*, 6th Report, 716, no. 4 [1543]). Without the advantages of a local family structure to support him, however, Robert Cairncross did less well than his predecessor as abbot of Fearn, Donald Denoon (14). He secured royal support for an application to Rome to be allowed to resign the abbacy in favour of William Cairncross's son James, clerk of Glasgow diocese (Dowden, *Bishops*, 226), stipulating, in a manoeuvre which Master Thomas Ross was to repeat forty years later (see 38), that he should retain the revenues and a right of regress. On his death, however, Alexander Ross of Balnagown intruded Nicholas Ross, chaplain of Dunskaith (143). The resulting row was considerable, ending up in the Court of Session (CS6/23, 32r-33r, 23 March 1547). Alexander Ross finally agreed with James Cairncross's curators that he should not molest James further, and that the latter should keep the stock on 'the place of Fearn'. The status of Alexander's guarantors - who included Robert Reid, bishop of Orkney, George, fourth earl of Huntly, and John, tenth earl of Sutherland - suggests that some pressure was being put upon him. The situation may not have been clear-cut, as the *Cronicle*, 19, counts Nicholas Ross's term of office as beginning in 1547. A papal bull in favour of Nicholas, however, states that Cairncross resigned by procurator at Rome on 13 September 1550 (see 143).

David Painter, who had a gift of the temporalities of both the bishopric and Fearn, 23 December 1545 (RSS, iii, 1446) was unable to make it effective, but Alexander Ross was more difficult to repel. William Cairncross sold his bishopric feu-lands to him, 28 July 1548 (*HMC*, 6th Report, 716, nos. 7, 8 [1548]), and his brother Charles's lands followed. Of all the feu-lands granted by Bishop Robert to his

relations, only Little Tarrel and Shandwick did not appear in Bishop Henry Sinclair's charter to Alexander Ross and his second wife, Katherine Mackenzie, 22 April 1563 (*ibid.*, 716, no. 10 [1563]). A deal on Fearn soon followed. On 7 May 1550 James Cairncross and his canons gave Alexander Ross feu-ferme titles to a large part of the monastery's landed endowment, and appointed him bailie, with jurisdiction over the tenants (GD297/227/1-3; GD129/1/23/74; GD297/166/3, undated copy). For this, Alexander paid a total of 3,000 merks, of which 1,000 were said to be for James' sustentation 'in Gallia ad scholas'. Grants of the two Rarechies and Cullisse to William Cairncross on 21 April gave security for the money (*RMS*, iv, 445-6). There is something of a question-mark over what took place. On 15 February 1563 three canons protested that on the previous 1 January Alexander Ross had forced them to sign 'a certain pretended charter' by James Cairncross (*Macgill*, no. 12). All three canons, David Reid (168), Donald Bayne, and Andrew Dawson (140), were witnesses to the charters of 7 May 1550, on which there are signs of attempted erasure of Dawson's signature.

William Cairncross was dead by 6 December 1554 (*RSS*, iv, 2869). His son Robert had a royal confirmation of the Rarechies and Cullisse, 23 July 1557 (*RMS*, iv, 1194), and as late as 21 July 1563 a tenant in Wester Rarechie was taking title from him (*Macgill*, no. 135 [GD129/1/Box 1]). He does not appear in the Balnagown subscription list of 1565 (see 243-4), and it may be doubted whether he ever did more than receive rents from a distance. The title was sold after his death (*RMS*, iv, 2783, 16 May 1578).

1548

57 Obitus dompni Johannis McCulloch canonici de Ferne qui obiit v die mensis Aprilis anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> ccccc<sup>o</sup> xlvijj.

See 30. For family of MacCulloch see also 6, 31, 52, 65.

1549

58 Obitus Jacobi Reid qui fabricauit fontem in clauistro qui obiit apud Ferne v<sup>o</sup> die mensis Nouembris anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> ccccc<sup>o</sup> xlix<sup>o</sup>. Pro eius anima orate.

1552

59 Obitus Mariota McCulloch quondam sponse Alexandri Clunes qui obiit apud Ferne xxiiij<sup>o</sup> die mensis Octobris anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> ccccc<sup>o</sup> liij<sup>o</sup>. b littera dominicalis.

Wife of Alexander Clunes (133).

60 Obitus domini Donaldi Faid canonici de Ferne ac subprioris eiusdem qui obiit tercio die mensis Nouembris anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> ccccc<sup>o</sup> liij<sup>o</sup> 61 [later hand].

See 30n. For family of Faid see 38.

1554

61 Obitus Georgii Baxter faber lignarii qui obiit apud Ferne ultimo die mensis Octobris anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> v<sup>o</sup> liiij.

1556

62 Obitus Elisabeth Urquhat que obiit apud Lityl Rane xij die mensis Octobris anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> ccccc<sup>o</sup> lvj<sup>o</sup>.

Mistress of Abbot Donald Denoon (14) and mother of William Denoon I of Pitnellie. For family of Denoon see 14.

1557

63 Obitus domini Roberti Strabrok canonici de Ferne secundo die mensis Augusti anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> ccccc<sup>o</sup> lvij.

See 30n.

64 Obitus domini de Urquhat vicecomitis de Cromartay qui obiit in suo palacio . . . [tear in MS] die mensis Augusti anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> ccccc<sup>o</sup> l. . . .

OPS, II, ii, 562, n. 9, quotes *Calendar* for the death of Andrew Urquhart, sheriff of Cromarty, 'a person who so far as other records are concerned never existed': but the MS is as shown and the death recorded is of Thomas Urquhart. Thomas Urquhart's son Alexander of Inchrorie was served heir to his father Thomas (Sir Thomas Urquhart's

*paterhemon*) in the barony of Cromarty, 5 October 1557 (SC29/1/1, 36r: Macfarlane, *Gen. Coll.*, ii, 361, adds commission of 23 August, dating Thomas's death 6 August; the commission was necessary because Alexander, as sheriff of Cromarty, could not be retoured before himself or any other judge ordinary). Tayler, *Urquhart*, 9, 15, gives both 1557 and 1561 for Alexander's succession, the latter from *Retours*, i, Aberdeen, no. 30, 21 March 1561, when he was served heir to his father in barony of Fischarie. See *Fraser-Mackintosh*, 202-18, inventory of Cromarty titles, 1658.

## 15—

65 Obitus Johannis McCulloch de Ester Ard vj<sup>o</sup> die mensis Maii anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> v<sup>o</sup> . . . [margin lost]

John MacCulloch in Craighouse held one-quarter of Easter Ard (Tarbat par.) as a subtenant of James Dunbar (RMS, iii, 289, 9 December 1524; *ibid.*, iii, 547, 18 November 1527). On 10 February 1548 John MacCulloch was retoured as heir to Andrew MacCulloch in 'eistyr quarter of Eistyr Ard, the craghous of the samyn and vii bolls beyre sowing of Locheryn' (SC29/1/1, 20v). On the same day Robert MacCulloch of Plaids was served heir to his father Thomas MacCulloch, and James Corbet to John Corbet in another quarter of Easter Ard, also held of James Dunbar. Thomas MacCulloch died at Pinkie (Munro, 'Plaids', 43), as possibly did Corbet and Andrew MacCulloch. John MacCulloch of Craighouse was dead by 3 April 1568, when Angus MacCulloch of Craighouse was retoured to him (SC29/1/1, 84v; the relationship is left blank). The inventory of Angus MacCulloch, who died 2 August 1599, includes seventy bolls grain sown on Craighouse and Easter Ard, and another twenty-two bolls on land at Innerathie (CC8/8/35, 391r-393r). His son John owed Alexander Dunbar of Tarbat 100 bolls for the farms of Easter Ard for 1603 (CC8/8/45, 243r-244r).

## IV

Hand of Master Thomas Ross

## 1411

66 The battell of Harlaw one Sanct James ewin 1411 [24 July].

1437

67 James the first ves slain the xxj day of Fabruer M iiiic<sup>e</sup> xxxvj zeiris.

1446

68 The battell of Ardbroth ye xvj day of Januar anno M<sup>o</sup> . . .

1452

69 The battell of Brichen on the Assumssion of Our Ladie Assumtione of Our Ladie . . . anno M<sup>o</sup> iiij<sup>e</sup> lij zeris [August].

See Dunbar, *Scot. Kings*, 199, for evidence for 18 May: the Assumption of Our Lord fell on 18 May in 1452 and the Assumption of the Virgin Mary on 15 August. Master Thomas Ross appears to have misunderstood his source.

1460

70 Obitus Johannis Wynchister episcopi Morauensiis 1460 [March].

Watt, *Fasti*, 215-16, 22 April 1460.

1465

71 Obitus Jacobi Kennade archiepiscopi [sic] Sanctiandre 25 [March] 1465.

1466

72 Obitus Jacobi Stewart episcopi Morauensis quinto Augusti 1466.

1488

73 Jamis the tyrd ves slane at Banachburne the x day of June anno M<sup>o</sup> iiiic<sup>e</sup> lxxxviiij zeris.

1491

74 Obitus bone memorie quondam domini Thome Monilaw prepositi ecclesie sancti Duthaci qui fabricauit opus argenteum capitis sancti Duthaci: et donavit capellanis . . . [margin lost] pro celebratione misse

Corporis Christi ac diuersa alia opera ecclesie et obiit in conversione sancti Pauli anno Domini 1490 mensis vero . . . [25 January].

Thomas Monylaw, priest of Ross diocese, was granted a pension from the teinds of the archdeaconry, 10 October 1480 (*CPL*, xiii, 85-6). He was the first holder of King James III's new chaplainry in St Duthac, founded on the lands of Newmore (*RMS*, ii, 1513, 13 June 1483), but was already receiving £10 as chaplain in St Duthac (*ER*, viii, 598). He is styled vicar-perpetual of Tain in two uncertain charters (GD98/X/72, 12 May 1484, and GD98/X/73, 24 June 1487 [see 20]), and in another, 16 May 1486 (Macgill, no. 1). He is also recorded three times as provost of St Duthac: on 8 October 1487 he authorised a transumpt (Fraser, *Cromartie*, ii, no. 526); on 22 November 1488 he was a witness to the resignation of John Ross of Balnagown (GD297/164); and on 6 July 1489 he witnessed a sasine (Fraser, *Cromartie*, ii, no. 541). The present entry shows that he was not deprived, but died in office (so supporting Durkan, 'Tain', 150, against Macgill, p. 3). The lands he held as chaplain of Newmore were still identifiable in Tain, 6 August 1540 (GD305/1/116/4). The silver head of St Duthac, which Master Thomas Ross claimed Monylaw made, passed into the hands of Alexander Ross of Balnagown in 1560 (Macgill, no. 8) and is not heard of thereafter.

Thomas Monylaw was a member of a clerical family, which included sir William (32) and sir John, canon of Fearn (45). A second sir William Monylaw, vicar-perpetual of Alness, and John Monylaw (for Katherine Munro, possibly his widow, see 2) were witnesses on 12 May 1484 (GD98/X/72), 24 June 1487 (GD98/X/73) and 8 October 1487 (Fraser, *Cromartie*, ii, no. 526). By a charter of 16 May 1486 (Macgill, no. 1) sir William granted two tenements in Tain to his *consanguineus* Donald Monylaw, who may have been the ancestor to whom the bailies of Tain were ordered to enter 'Esse' Monylaw as heir, 3 December 1494 (*Acts of Lords Auditors*, ed. T. Thomson [Edinburgh, 1849], 189). On 22 October 1517 an inquest found that John Neilson and Elizabeth Monylaw his wife had granted a tenement in Tain to sir John Polson, who assigned it to sir Thomas Polson (GD297/201/5). Lands attaching to the tenement were known as Tobernaveacht or 'Elizabeth Monylaw's land' as late as 22 April 1579, when Thomas Ratter, burgess of Tain, sold two bolls' sowing in them to Master Thomas Ross (*Gray*, 103r-v [see 232]).

1498

75 Alexander Dunbar miles obiit 10 die mensis Martii anno Domini 1497.



For the family of Dunbar of Westfield see Douglas, *Baronage*, 118-23; Shaw, *Moray*, ii, 101-04; Young, *Elgin*, 671-2; Macfarlane, *Gen. Coll.*, ii, 526. Sir Alexander of Westfield, son of the fifth and last Dunbar earl of Moray, had at least six sons, including Gavin bishop of Aberdeen (98), David of Durris (85) and Patrick chancellor of Aberdeen (91). Other descendants of Sir Alexander entered in the *Calendar* by Master Thomas are his grandson Sir James of Westfield and Cumnock (102), the latter's great-grandson Sir James (180), and Alexander (92) and Isobel (97), children of David of Durris. Master Thomas Ross's wife, Isobel Kinnaird (230), was the grand-daughter of Marjorie Dunbar, another daughter of David of Durris (*Blackie*, 94-5). Much of Master Thomas's Moray information may have come from his wife's family.

## 1503

76 Obitus Joannis Stwort [sic] comitis de Mar filius tercus Jacobi tercii 1502 [March].

## 1504

77 Obitus Jacobi Stewart . . . Sanctandre . . . 1503 [January].

Archbishop of St Andrews: Watt, *Fasti*, 296, 13 January 1504.

78 Obitus Hugonis Ross apud . . . Augusti 1504.

See 79: these two entries appear to relate to the same incident.

79 Obitus Hugonis Ross qui occisus fuit apud Achonasellache 1504 [at 19 September].

See *Munro Tree*, O, for the killing of Sir William Munro of Foulis at Achnashellach in 1505 by Cameron of Locheil. Hugh Ross's place in the Balnagown family is not clearly established (see 30), but *Munro Writs*, no. 34, shows him, as procurator for Sir William, summoning Sir David Ross VII of Balnagown to present Roderic Donalnmurchouson to justice, 16 November 1503.

## 1507

80 Penultimo Aprilis 1507 M quingentesimo septimo obiit Joannes Fresser episcopus Rossensis postea Joannes Cokburne episcopus obiit.

This entry is confused. No Bishop John Cockburn existed, Fraser's successor being Robert Cockburn. John Fraser's death is usually given as 5 February 1507 (Watt, *Fasti*, 269; Dowden, *Bishops*, 223, on authority of *Wardlaw MS*, 120, whose writer claims to have 'found the exact account of his death in the Abbacy book of Fearn: how much good he did, his charitable offices, the general grieve and lamentation for his death: interred in my Lady Ross her chappel': nothing resembling this can be found in the *Calendar*). The bishop was alive on 29 January 1507, when he was named, with Robert Fraser, dean (88), as judges arbitral between William thane of Cawdor and Thomas Lord Lovat (CS5/18<sup>2</sup>, 153r-154r). He was dead by 27 November 1507, when Andrew bishop of Caithness (7) took instruments that Robert Fraser acknowledged himself to be an executor. As the executors had a year's gift of the Ross temporalities on 1 May 1507 (RSS, i, 1469) it is likely that the normally accepted date for Bishop Fraser's death is the more accurate.

Bishop Fraser may have been of Lowland origin. No evidence connecting him with Ross can be shown before his election to the see. *Wardlaw MS*, 116-21, traces the descent of a Fraser family of seven brothers and one sister, allegedly brought by him to Ross from Fruid in Tweeddale (see also 120). In office, he granted to the vicars and chaplains of his cathedral an annual rent from a tenement in Linlithgow (RMS, ii, 2791, 10 May 1504), and received from the crown two-thirds of Arboll, Tarbat par. (RMS, ii, 2991, 15 September 1506). Alexander Fraser witnessed the former transaction, was one of the bishop's executors, and, designated burgess of Linlithgow, had a grant of Arboll (RMS, ii, 3123, 16 August 1507: the land was stated to be an escheat in bastardy [cf. CPL, xiii, 172, 11 October 1483]). James Dunbar of Tarbat (see 116), then in process of building up his holdings in Easter Ross, bought part of Arboll from Alexander's son John, also a burgess of Linlithgow (RMS, iii, 21, 10 July 1514).

## 1513

81 Obitus regis Jacobi 4 apud Flodin ix Septembris anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> quingentesimo xiiij nono die mensis Septembris [last four words later addition].

## 1518

82 Obitus bone memorie quondam egregie . . . famose femine Katerine Ross domine tertie partis terrarum de comitisse Soderlandie

Fowlis ac Loyslin que . . . in . . . quarto Januarii anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> quingentesimo decimo septimo.

This obit, unfortunately not completely decipherable, adds a little to our knowledge of the much-discussed Sutherland succession following the death of Earl John VIII in 1508. The *Exchequer Rolls* (xiii, 268, 447) show that a Countess Katherine received her terce out of the earldom during the period when it was in royal hands, Andrew, bishop of Caithness (7), being the accounting officer. As this was in the first instance a second terce, it may be taken that Katherine was the widow of the newly-deceased earl. The present obit names her as a Ross, supporting Sir William Fraser's caution (Fraser, *Sutherland*, i, 67) over identifying her as the mysterious Countess Fingole. Given the attraction of her terce, she is unlikely to have remained a widow after Earl John's death. If Alexander Sutherland, half-brother of Earl John IX and Countess Elizabeth, who claimed the earldom and was killed fighting for it c.1519 (Gordon, 95-7), was her son, her Fowlis marriage must have preceded her Sutherland one, as Mr Robert Munro, Alexander's procurator in 1514, was his brother (Fraser, *Sutherland*, iii, no. 56). John Vaus of Lochslin, who sat on the inquest which served Elizabeth Sutherland as heir to the earldom in 1514 (*ibid.*, no. 55) is a possible third husband, but evidence is lacking.

Katherine Ross's status has been obscured by Sir Robert Gordon's claim that Alexander Sutherland was Earl John VIII's bastard by 'a daughter of the laird of Balnagoun' (Gordon, 75), though later he made Alexander claim that his mother had been 'hand fasted and fianced to his father' (*ibid.*, 95). Sir Robert, however, was not an impartial man where Gordon fortunes were concerned, and there is no compelling reason to believe that Katherine Ross was considered by contemporaries to be unmarried; her terce argues to the contrary. Ross tradition believed that her son had a claim to the Sutherland earldom (*Blackie*, 69, refers to Alexander, 'who should have been Earl of Sutherland'). The argument over the Sutherland succession did not in fact turn on the validity of Katherine's marriage. When the young Alexander renounced his claim to the earldom in 1509, the undertaking reserved the right of succession should the heirs of his half-brother and half-sister totally fail (Fraser, *Sutherland*, iii, no. 46), which does not suggest complete illegitimacy. Five years later his main argument was that a royal charter had entailed the earldom. No such charter was ever produced, though Lord Hailes was inclined to think that a claim might have existed, 'not in right of blood, but as an heir of provision *per cartam*

tallie' (*Additional Case of Elisabeth . . . Countess of Sutherland* [Edinburgh, c. 1770], 139). Even if a charter had existed, it is doubtful if it would have changed the situation. Alexander Sutherland was not the only aggrieved claimant to find that there was not, in the last resort, an unquestioned male right of succession; the cases of Denoon of Pitnellie (see 14) and MacCulloch of Tarrel (see 52) are instructive.

83 2<sup>o</sup> Maii obiit Thomas Heriot thesaurarius Rossensis anno 1518.

## 1521

84 Obitus Andree Forman legati 1520 xj Martii.

Archbishop of St Andrews and *legatus a latere*: Watt, *Fasti*, 296-7.

## 1522

85 Obitus quondam egregii viri Daudis Dunbar de Durris in Granyhill 23 mensis Februarii anno 1521.

Son of 75; brother of 91, 98; father of 92, 97.

86 Obitus Elizabethe Tulloch uxoris Jacobi Urquhart burgensis de Fores 1522 [at 20 May].

## 1523

87 Obitus honorabilis viri Alexandri Wrquhat de Buris Zardis 15 Aprilis 1523.

Father of William (109), retoured heir, 31 July 1522 (NLS D.175/184/2/14). The *Calendar* year may be incorrect. Alexander Urquhart was sheriff-depute of Elgin and Forres before 1505 (RMS, ii, 2621, 2865, 2887). For family of Burdsyards see Tayler, *Urquhart*, 224-41.

88 10 Julii obiit Robertus Fraser decanus Rossensis anno 1523.

Watt, *Fasti*, 234. As executor of Bishop John Fraser, he had the temporality of the bishopric for one year, 1 May 1507 (RSS, i, 1469).

**89** Obiit magister Martinus Tulloch vicarius de Ruthuen ac capellanus de Logy ultimo die mesis Nouembris 1523.

Chaplain of Bishop William Tulloch of Moray, 22 April 1480 (*RMS*, v, 1008). See also **103**.

## 1524

**90** Obitus Arthuri Wrquhart xxiiij Augusti 1524.

## 1525

**91** 8 huius 1525 obiit Patricius Dunbar cancellarius Aberdonensis et Catanensis [September].

Son of **75**; brother of **85**, **98**. Watt, *Fasti*, 13, gives no date for his death.

## 1527

**92** Obitus honorabilis viri Alexandri Dunbar de Durris nono Junii 1527 et sepultus est in Pluscarden.

Son of **85**; brother of **97**. He resigned Durris to his son Robert on 14 November 1526, reserving liferent (*RMS*, iii, 390).

## 1528

**93** Meus est horus magister Thomas Ross. Si Deus nobiscum quis contra nos? MTR natus in Culnyhay in Marche the xvij day anno 1527. God bryng . .

For Master Thomas Ross, the principal annotator of the *Calendar*, and the family of Ross of Morangie, his descendants, see 32-49.

**94** Obitus Hugonis Ross qui occisus fuit apud Strasse 1528 [September].

**95** Obitus Elizabet Ogilwy domine de Cumnok 3<sup>o</sup> Decembris 1528.

Wife of **102**.

## 1531

**96** Obitus Georgii Lermound episcopi Aberdonensis 1530 xviiij Martii.

## 1532

**97** [margin lost] probe mulieris Ysibelle . . . bar filie quondam Daudis Dunbar de Durris et sponse honorabilis viri Patricii Grant 15<sup>o</sup> Februarii 1531.

Daughter of **85**; sister of **92**. Her husband may be Patrick Grant, first of Ballindalloch, for whom see *SP*, vii, 457.

**98** Obitus Gauinus Dunbar episcopi Aberdonensis 1531 ix Martii.

Son of **75**, brother of **85**, **91**. Watt, *Fasti*, 4; died 10 March 1532.

## 1534

**99** The harschipe of Dyke was . . . on Vitson evin the . . . off May in anno of 34 xxxiiij zeiris and sansyne it is fyfttie fyue zeiris cum Vitson day in fowir scoir nyne vretin on ye ix day of May in anno afoirsaid.

For sources for the Macintosh raid on Dyke and Brodie see Dunbar, *Scot. Kings*, 232; John Smyth's *Chronicle (Records of the Monastery of Kinloss*, ed. J. Stuart [Edinburgh, 1872], 8) gives the date as 'in nocte precedente vigiliam Pwnthecostes' (22 May 1534). Thomas Ross's note was therefore written in 1589.

## 1535

**100** Obita probe mulieris Margaret . . . [margin lost] sponse Wilelmi Wrquhard de . . . xxxj Martiii 1535.

Margaret Stewart, wife of William Urquhart of Burdsyards (**109**): see NLS D.175/184/3/24, 15 October 1534.

**101** Joannnes Vau . . . [margin lost] eodem anno.

Written immediately after **100**. For the family of Vaus of Lochslin see **16**.

**102** Obitus honorabilis viri Jacobi . . . [margin lost] visicomitis de Elgin . . . ac domini de Cumnok . . . Domini 1535 [at 16 April].

Son of Sir James Dunbar of Westfield and grandson of **75**; he succeeded to Cumnock on the resignation of his mother, 12 December 1507 (*RMS*, ii, 3164).

1536

**103** Obiit dominus Nicolaus Tulloch vicarius de Ruffen ac capellanus de Logy 26 Octobris 1536.

Nicholas Tulloch is recorded between 8 March 1524 and 14 July 1536 (RMS, iii, 1867, 2699). His successor as vicar of Ruthven and chaplain of Logie (Forres) was sir Nicholas Tulloch, brother of Thomas Tulloch of Tannachy/Fleurs and Barbara Tulloch, mother-in-law of Master Thomas Ross (see 247). The younger sir Nicholas had papal provision, and maintained himself despite litigation by competing royal presentees (ADCP, 490-91; CS6/11, 219r; CS6/13, 99v).

1538

**104** Obitus domini Alexandri Ross capellani de Dunskaith 23<sup>o</sup> Augusti anno Domini 1538.

Alexander Ross was presented to the chaplainry of Dunskaith, 14 June 1500 (RSS, i, 539). His parentage has not been traced. Reid, 56-7, thought him a member of the Shandwick family, but he must have been a contemporary of, or older than, Walter Ross of Shandwick (50). His son sir Nicholas (143) was called 'cousin' of Alexander Ross of Balnagown, 23 March 1546 (CS6/23, 32r-33r). The chaplainry of Dunskaith in the kirk of St Duthac at Tain was instituted in 1457 by King James II, and endowed with the lands of Dunskaith (Nigg par.) and an annualrent out of the ferry of Cromarty (*Fraser Papers*, 219; GD98/Box 5/14, inventory of Dunskaith writs, no. 1). See Durkan, 'Tain', 151.

**105** 24<sup>o</sup> Septembris . . . 1538 Jacobus Hay episcopus Rossensis obiit. Watt, *Fasti*, 270, by 3 October 1538.

1539

**106** Obitus Jacobi Betoune . . . [margin lost] anno 1528 . . . iij<sup>o</sup> Februarii.

An obvious error of dating: Archbishop Beaton died 14 February 1539 (Watt, *Fasti*, 298).

**107** Obitus honorabilis viri Jacobi Tulloch burgensis de Fores ultimo Maii 1539.

James Tulloch, burgess, and Mariota Brown, wife, bought eight roods in Forres, 21 August 1503 (GD107, inventory of Tulloch of Tannachy Muniments [1905]). With others of his surname, he was escheated for disobeying letters purchased by one of the claimants to the vicarage of Ruthven (RSS, ii, 3005, 27 April 1539: see **103**).

**108** Obitus Mariota Browne uxor Jacobi Tulloch burgensis de Fores 10 Nouembris 1539.

See **107**.

# 1540

**109** Obitus Vilhelmi Wrquhat de Burris Zerdis anno Domini 1540 [at 6 September].

Son of Alexander (**87**). Father of Alexander, to whom he resigned Burdsyards, 1 April 1536, reserving liferent and reasonable terce (RMS, iii, 1564). Alexander was served his father's heir, 11 October 1540 (NLS D.175/184/4/35). Husband of Margaret Stewart (**100**) and Janet Brown, who survived him. His widow subsequently married Alexander Cumming of Altyre (RMS, iii, 2853, 21 November 1540), who killed cattle belonging to Alexander Urquhart, 1548 (Pitcairn, *Trials*, i, 336, 356-7).

# 1541

**110** Obitus Marierie Grant domine de Balnagouin . . . Februarii 1540.

Widow of Walter Ross VIII of Balnagown (**48**). *Cronicle*, 28, and *Blackie*, 33, call her daughter of the laird of Grant, although she is not recorded amongst the children of John Grant II of Freuchie (Fraser, *Grant*, i, 71). However, *Blackie*, 51, states that Margaret Murison (**131**), mother of Master Thomas Ross, came to Ross as chamber maid to Marion Grant, 'daughter to the Laird of Grant, and her Mother being daughter to the Laird of Findlater'. John Grant II of Freuchie's wife was Margaret, daughter of Sir James Ogilvie of Deskford and Findlater (Fraser, *Grant*, i, 71; *SP*, iv, 19, corrected, ix, 89). This family tradition appears convincing. After Walter Ross's death Marjorie Grant married



Ruaraidh mor MacKenzie of Achilty, son of Kenneth of Kintail, who died 17 March 1534: see Macfarlane, *Gen. Coll.*, i, 115; Mackenzie, *Mackenzies*, 506-07; Reid, 76; *SP*, vii, 488, makes her daughter of an improbable 'Lady Balnagown Grant'. She may have subsequently married, or been contracted to marry, William Denoon of Pitnellie (*RSS*, ii, 3719, 8 December 1540; see 14).

**111** Obitus Elizabethe Wrrquhat sponse Andree Sudirland de Greschop 1541 [May].

1542

**112** Penultimo Novembris anno M<sup>o</sup> v<sup>c</sup> xliij zeris James ye fyif . . . in Faulkland.

**113** Jacobus quintus rex Scocie obiit 15 Decembris in Falkland 1542.

1544

**114** [margin lost] domini Hugonis Fresser . . . qui occisus fuit . . . Johannem Muddart . . . x mensis Junii 1544 [between 15 and 17 June].

See 115.

**115** The xx day of Julii 1544 ane battell betuix Hew Lord Lowet and Jhone Mwdart in ye quhylk battell wes slane ye said Lord and his tway sonnes viz Huchone and James with mony of ye best of ye said Lordis kynirs.

For the battle of Loch Lochy, generally dated 15 July, see *Wardlaw MS*, 134-8, which reports the death of Hugh, third Lord Lovat, and his son Simon. There is no other record of the deaths of sons called Hugh and James; Hugh son of Hugh, born 1539, was still alive in 1565 (*SP*, v, 527). *SP*, v, 525, states that James, son of Thomas, second Lord Lovat, was killed at Loch Lochy. Master Thomas Ross's information appears confused.

**116** Obitus Elizabeth Leslye uxor Jacobi Dunbar de Tarbat 3 Augusti 1544.

Daughter of William Leslie of Balquhain (Macfarlane, *Gen. Coll.*, ii, 10). Her husband, son of David Dunbar of Durris (85), was one of the

major beneficiaries of James IV's settlement of Ross. Lessee of the mains of Fearn and the monastery's bailie in 1511 (see 7), he bought two-thirds of Arbol from John Fraser, 10 July 1514 (see 80). He subsequently became lord of Easter Tarbat (tack for nine years, 6 May 1516 [RSS, i, 2762]; feu-ferme charter, 21 August 1526 [RMS, iii, 372 (GD305/1/120/479-81)]; charter, 11 May 1542 [RMS, iii, 2661 (GD305/1/120/ 484, 486)]). The Corbet lands of Easter Ard (see *Isles*, no. 79) also passed to him, through the ward and marriage of the heirs of John Corbet, 13 February 1527 (GD305/1/79/17; this royal letter is not recorded in RSS). He died in August 1560, according to a belated inventory given up by his son James on 16 May 1582 (CC8/8/10, 343v-345r).

For other Dunbars settled in Ross see 121, 123, 151, 183, 203, 249.

**117** Obitus Mariotae Wrrquhat sponsae Andree Tulloch burgensis de Fores 23 Augusti 1544.

**118** Obitus Jacobi Stuart comitis Moraue 1544 xvj Decembris.

Illegitimate son of James IV: *SP*, vi, 311, gives his date of death as 12 June 1544, inaccurately: *CP*, ix, 181, shows him alive 2 December 1544 and dead 14 March 1545; he witnessed a royal charter, Edinburgh 15 December 1544 (RMS, iii, 3035).

# 1545

**119** 27 Februarii 1544 Ancram Moss.

**120** 13<sup>o</sup> huius [September] 1545 obiit Paulus Fresser decanus Rossensis.

Watt, *Fasti*, 274. As official, sitting in consistory, 25 October 1530, he authorised the transumption of a precept of John, earl of Ross and lord of the Isles, in favour of Angus MacCulloch of Tarrel (6 February 1475) and a declaration by John of Foulis, bailie (1 April 1475), both relating to an annualrent out of Easter Ard (GD305/1/79/18-20). He was present in Dornoch Cathedral, 23 April 1545, when John Gray of Culmailly purged himself on the relics of St Gilbert (Prot. Book Seaton, 24r). His four sons had letters of legitimation, 28 March 1544 (RMS, iii, 3006). *Blackie*, 76, lists the same sons, including Donald, archdeacon (150), and also four daughters, giving their mother as Anny, daughter of Andrew MacCulloch in Little Tarrel. This descent is supported by

GD199/108/1 May 1555 (charter by Archdeacon Donald, with consent of Agnes MacCulloch his mother and John Fraser his *germanus*). But see **150** for an alternative ancestry for the archdeacon, based on the *Wardlaw MS*. The legends concerning Sir Paul Fraser, chaplain of Roskeen (*Wardlaw MS*, 120-21), may be relevant.

**121** Quinto Decembris 1545 occisus est Johannes Dunbar de Benegfeild in Canonia Rossense.

Brother of Alexander, prior of Pluscarden (*RMS*, iii, 2642, 4 March 1542) and George Dunbar of Avoch (*RMS*, v, 1006, 8 August 1558; see **203**); they are said to have been sons of Patrick, chancellor of Aberdeen and Caithness (**91**: see Shaw, *Moray*, 101-04; Young, *Elgin*, 671). Father of David Dunbar (**183**). He had letters of legitimation, 20 March 1544 (*RMS*, iii, 3000), and is recorded between 2 May 1542 (*Munro Writs*, no. 53) and 7 October 1544 (SC29/1/1, 18v, 7 October 1544). The circumstances of his death are unknown, but see **123** for evidence of other violence at Chanonry involving Dunbars.

## 1546

**122** . . . tus [margin torn] Daudis Betoune archiepiscopi . . . 1546 [February].

Cardinal Beaton was murdered on 29 May 1546 (Watt, *Fasti*, 298).

**123** 1<sup>o</sup> Septembris 1546 obiit Gauinus Dunbar thesarius Rossensis.

Watt, *Fasti*, 280, dead by 13 September 1546. Son of David Dunbar (**85**). Brother of James Dunbar of Tarbat (see **116**: see also CS7/1, 541r, 1 December 1544, where the relationship of the two men is given). His relations with Bishop Robert Cairncross were apparently bad. The Lords of Session declared themselves not competent in an action he brought against the bishop and others (CS7/1, 296r, 21 April 1543). Mr Mungo Monypenny, subdean, one of those acting against Dunbar, was subsequently required to find surety to underly the law for attacking and wounding him in the cathedral at Chanonry, in company with the bishop (Pitcairn, *Trials*, I, i, 328, 12 March 1543).

## 1547

**124** The battel of Buhlinbrae alias Pinchart Cleuche or Falsyd 1547 10 Septembris.

125 The x daj of September anno 1547 Falsyde alias Pinhert.

126 Obitus venerabilis viri magistri Jacobi Dunbar olim rectoris Cumnok qui interfectus fuit in bello Puinkey Cluich 10 Septembris 1547.

James Dunbar may possibly be added to Sir James Fergusson's list of Ayrshire casualties at Pinkie (*The White Hind* [London, 1963], 34-40), although his three appearances in *RMS* are all as a witness to Moray deeds (*RMS*, iii, 1580, 2642, 3259).

1549

127 Obitus Janete Dunbar domine de Mayn que obiit apud Sandowak 23 Aprilis anno Domini 1549.

1552

128 Obitus Johannis Denowne de Daidston x Augusti 1552.

See 10, 14.

1553

129 Mariorie Cumyng sponse quondam Jacobi Wrquhat burgensis de Fores que migravit ad Christum 4<sup>o</sup> Maii 1553.

1554

130 Obitus Elizabet Urquhard domine de Locheslyn xxiiij Julii 1554.

Daughter of Thomas Urquhart of Cromarty, the *paterhemon* (64; see Tayler, *Urquhart*, 22). Wife of: John Vaus of Lochslin (16): William Denoon I of Pitnellie (see 14).

1556

131 1555 undecimo huius [March] obiit Margareta Muirsone apud Canoniam Rossensem 1555. Margareta Muirsone uxor Wilelmi Ross de Culnyhay.

Mother of Master Thomas Ross: see 33.

**132** Obitus Elizabet Dunbar uxor Wilhelmi Lesly de Akinway quinto Decembris 1556.

Macfarlane, *Gen. Coll.*, ii, 70-71, names the second wife of William Leslie, second of Akinway, as 'Isobel, sister to - Dunbar - of Moray'; Leslie, *Leslie Records*, ii, 146, calls her Isobel, sister of the sheriff of Moray: possibly daughter of Sir Alexander Dunbar of Cumnock and sister of Patrick Dunbar, sheriff (RMS, iv, 113, 14 June 1547).

## 1557

**133** Obitus Alexandri Clunes ultimo die mensis Julii anno 1557.

Husband of Mariota MacCulloch (59). Alexander Clunes, burgess of Cromarty, witnessed a charter of Thomas Urquhart (64), sheriff of Cromarty, 4 March 1533 (RMS, iii, 1266). See also 224, 240.

**134** Ane Inglis . . . Sinclair . . . his schipe cald Weirwell of Kirkwell in Orkney. The xj of August 1557. The . . . day of Agust anno 1557 [later hand] fyftie sewin . . . schip withe men of weir to the number of fyfteine . . . schipsis withe victuallis to furneis . . . schepis and . . . off Scottis schipsis taine be thame landit on Orknay and war focht be the Orknay men upon the xiiij day of the said moneth quhair thay war defeatit and ane greit nummer drownit in the saye. Sua that it was nocht knawin of the haill nummer that war slaine albeit thair come fywe hundreth to . . .

For this episode see Anderson, *Stewart*, 32; Gordon, 136-7, agrees with *Calendar* on date.

## 1558

**135** The third day of Januarie the zeir of God j<sup>m</sup> v<sup>c</sup> fyftie sevin zeiris the dortor of Ferne wes brint be negligence of ane boy callit Huchon McCulloch.

*Cronicle*, 20, dates this episode '16 years before the said Mr Thomas Ross was Abbote'; this can hardly be accurate, as Thomas succeeded at latest by 1569 (see 143). It also describes Hugh MacCulloch as 'now in Reifadden', suggesting that part at least of the text was written before 1596 (see below). Rifadden was within the burgh territory of Tain, between the town and the burn of Aldie (boundaries are given in

GD98/Box 10/12/3, 11 May 1603). Hugh MacCulloch was an illegitimate son of Thomas MacCulloch of Plaids (see 51). He paid his grandmother Agnes Ross (211) fifty merks for an infeftment in the croftlands and miln of Aldie, 29 June 1564, and became her assignee in an action to reduce a title claimed by Walter MacCulloch; on the same day he had sasine of Skardie and lands in Tain (NP1/25, 13v-14r). He was active in the opposition to Alexander Innes of Plaids over the MacCulloch succession (see 211; see also RSS, vi, 2675, 3 September 1574). He is called Alexander Ross of Balnagown's 'gudesone', 31 July 1574 (GD96/147), his widow Elizabeth being sister of George Ross X (RD1/87, 21v-22v, 24 March 1602). He died a bastard, before 9 December 1596 (RMS, vi, 495).

**136** 8<sup>o</sup> huius [December] 1558 obiit magister Laurentius Malysone vir doctus in arte grammatica in Canonia Rossense [last three words in different hand].

Laurence Mollison witnessed a charter at Elgin, 23 November 1540 (RMS, iii, 2239). Designated a chaplain of the cathedral kirk of Moray, he was present when an instrument was made on the arrival of Sir Walter Scott of Branhholm at Elgin, 17 May 1541 (W. Fraser, *The Scotts of Buccleuch* [Edinburgh, 1878], ii, no. 160). For books owned by him see *The Bibliothek*, xi, no. 3 (1987), 58.

## 1561

**137** 23 huius [January] obiit Magister Johannes Grame rector de Kirkmichal 1560.

**138** Obitus honorabilis viri Johannis McKenzie de Kintail 1560 [January].

Grandfather of Katherine Mackenzie, lady Balnagown (207) and Roderick Mackenzie (264).

**139** The xix day of August 1561 Marie Quene of Scotland cam hame and landit in Leith.

## 1564

**140** The xxvj day of August in the zeir of God j<sup>m</sup> v<sup>c</sup> lxiij ze. . . Andro Dausoun of Brae in the plac of Ferne decessit quhom God assolze.

See 30.

1566

**141** The xix day of June 1566 the quyneg ves lychter of ane prince ['calid James Stewart the vj kyng of thatt souenye' overwritten in later hand].

1567

**142** Obitus Vilelmi Ross de Estir Gane qui obiit apud Ferne vij Februarii anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> v<sup>c</sup> lxxvj.

Son of Commendator Nicholas of Fearn (**143**, which see for family), brother of Thomas (**147**) and Nicholas (**165**).

1569

**143** The xvij day of September in the zeir of God M v<sup>c</sup> lxxix zeiris 1569 Nicolas Ros ye commendatar of Ferne and provest of Tane decesit quhom God assolzic. [entry overwritten in hand of Walter Ross]

Nicholas Ross was son of sir Alexander Ross (**104**), whom he succeeded as chaplain of Dunskaith before 16 August 1533 (*RMS*, iii, 1304; GD305/1/74/88). He had letters of legitimation, 20 February 1544 (*RMS*, iii, 2995). Alexander Ross IX of Balnagown, a kinsman, attempted to intrude him into Fearn on the death of Bishop-Commendator Robert Cairncross (**56**). The attempt was for the time unsuccessful (*Cronicle*, 19, implies that Nicholas succeeded in 1547, but see CS6/23, 32r-33r, 23 March 1547). Nicholas was presented to the provostry of St. Duthac, 20 March 1549 (*RSS*, iv, 166); he resigned the chaplainry of Dunskaith on the same day (*RSS*, iv, 165). As provost, he attended Archbishop Hamilton's provincial council at Edinburgh, 1549 (*Statutes of the Scottish Church*, ed. D. Patrick [SHS, 1907], 88). He eventually became commendator of Fearn in 1550, on the demission of James Cairncross. A bull of Pope Julius III, 13 September 1550, provided him to the office, to be held in conjunction with the provostry of St Duthac, and dispensed with his irregular birth ('son of a priest of noble race'). It was brought from Rome by Mr John Thornton, parson of Advie and Cromdale, to whom Nicholas paid £300 on 2 May 1554 to bring him a provision to Fearn, making 'the said abbacy als ane commend to his said provestrie', and dispensing with defect of birth (CS7/10, 215r-v; *ADCP*, 633). By an unknown route it later came into

the hands of the Shetland family of Bruce of Sumburgh, from whom it reached its present home in the Shetland Archives (I am indebted to Mr Brian Smith, Shetland Islands Archivist, for a transcript of this document and for information on its archive history).

Relations with local landowners provide the main evidence for Nicholas's activities at Fearn. He was soon drawn into an old dispute with the lairds of Plaids over marches and rights in the moss lying between Fearn and Cadboll (Macgill, no. 902, 5 November 1553). The dispute, which had a pre-history (SC29/1/1, 4v-5v, March 1534), also involved rights on the seashore (SC29/1/1, 29v-30v, 21 May 1555; SC29/1/1, 74r-75r, 2 November 1560). Complications were caused by an earlier division of Cadboll between Fearn and chaplains serving altars in the cathedral kirk of Moray (*Isles*, no. 90; *OPS*, II, ii, 441-3); the 'fortalice' of the lairds of Plaids was at Cadboll, on land held from the chaplains of Moray. The new laird of Plaids, Alexander Innes, one of Bishop Robert Reid's Orkney captains, had a decret against Fearn and its tenants in the sheriff court in June 1556 (SC29/1/1, 62r-63v), but on 11 May 1558 the parties were still arguing over the wording of titles produced in evidence by Nicholas (SC29/1/1A, 13r-14v; the titles were a charter of John lord of the Isles, 2 November 1467 (*Isles*, no. 90) and Pope Clement VII's bull to Fearn; 1528 (GD297/189; see 14). George Sinclair of Mey (268), Innes's successor at Cadboll, was still pursuing the same issues in 1591 (GD96/236; see also RMS, vi, 1709, 17 February 1606).

Nicholas was unable, and perhaps unwilling, to resist the encroachments of his kinsman and patron Alexander of Balnagown on the lands of Fearn. Between 15 February 1558 and 8 May 1559 Nicholas and his canons made three feu-ferme grants to Alexander (GD297/227/4; GD297/227/6, 6 May 1559; GD297/227/7). Apart from some crofts adjacent to the monastery, the only part of the 1467 patrimony which was excluded was Easter Fearn (for which see 14, 286). In addition, Alexander was granted the heritable bailiary of the abbey, with power to hold courts, for which he was to receive £40 annually (GD297/214/4, 15 February 1558). Nicholas and his canons also confirmed a feu-charter by which Alexander transferred most of the Fearn feu-lands to his son George (GD297/227/10, 17 November 1559). In return, Alexander promised to maintain and defend Nicholas, and gave back to him the services owed by the tenants of the feued lands, 'provyding yat ye saids tenents knaw me as yair maister and ansr me in my courts' (Macgill, no. 6, 18 November 1559). He leaned on the monastery, however, to fill loopholes in his legal defences. On 15 February 1563 the



canons protested that Alexander had forced them to subscribe a pretended charter by Commendator James Cairncross (see 56). Nicholas himself may have found the relationship profitable, leasing back feu-lands such as Wester Fearn and the Bonach fishings (Macgill, no. 4, 27 May 1558). He had enough land under his control for Alexander to put him down for a six chalder subscription in 1565, twice as much as anyone else (see 243).

Evidence on Nicholas Ross's activities in Tain is not plentiful. He could still preside over a chapter of five prebendaries on 30 December 1560 (GD242/56/1/1), but the relics of St Duthac had left the kirk five months previously, before Nicholas went south to attend the Reformation Parliament (Macgill, no. 8; APS, iii, 25; see 74: there is no evidence that Alexander Ross, who received them, ever returned them). The chaplainry lands were significant prizes. Nicholas stood behind his son Nicholas of Dunskaith when the latter bought out the endowment of the prebend of Morangie from the absentee sir Simon Blythe (RD1/4, 11v-12v, Edinburgh, 1 November 1560). Young Nicholas acquired: the farm-toun of Morangie itself (fifteen merks annual duty); an oxgang of land in Navity, with a house and yard in Cromarty (five bolls bere to be paid annually at the haven of Cromarty); and houses and lands in the town, territory and crofts of Tain (five merks annually). The first two were given in feu, and the Tain properties on a nineteen-year tack. For this Nicholas paid a barrel of salmon, fifteen double ells of white plaid, and a black mantle (RD1/4, 11v-12v, 1 November 1560: the black mantle may be compared with the custom of 'the Lady's gown' [Erskine, *Institute*, i, 129]). Morangie was a desirable acquisition. In the long run, however, it was not Provost Nicholas's descendants, but those of his successor Thomas Ross, who were to use it as the base for a new landed family (see 43-4).

The provostry of St Duthac gave Nicholas a theoretical authority over the town community which had grown up around the shrine of St Duthac. Mr and Mrs Munro have shown that Tain was meeting most of the tests of burgh status long before it received a royal charter on 10 January 1588 (RMS, v, 1432), and was on occasions during the preceding century actually called a burgh (Munro, *Tain*, 38-42). Against this background, it is hard to define the secular authority of the provost of St Duthac (but see Durkan, 'Tain', 151). Further complications were created by the hereditary bailiary of the immunity (granted by Earl Alexander to Alexander MacCulloch of Plaids, 6 January 1437 [*Isles*, no. 23]). Alexander Innes of Plaids, as successor to the MacCulloch lairds, pursued the rights of this office against Provost

Nicholas and the bailies of Tain. The profits were eventually divided between Innes and the provost in a decret arbitral of 20 June 1566 (Macgill, no. 14; *Familie of Innes*, 120-22 [SC34/28/90, original]).

Nicholas faced serious difficulties with the town after 1560. The bailies and burgesses complained to the Lords of Session on 23 December 1564 that he was demanding teinds of 'aill, caill and aquavitie' for the years 1561-3, as pertaining to his provostry of St Duthac (CS7/32, 343v-344r). They claimed that such teinds had been considered part of the peace-fines and reckonings of the parish, which had always been exempt from teind as such (a claim perhaps drawing on traditions of immunity). The Lords, judiciously, ruled that teinds of kale were in order, but not those of a liquid kind. The burgesses came back to the Court on 25 May 1565, alleging that Nicholas was withholding the common seal and firloft, without which they could not raise funds to sustain taxes and stents (CS7/33, 327v-328r). He had failed to produce the seal in court, claiming that the provost of St Duthac was also provost of the burgh, and that the tenements, crofts and field-lands of Tain were held from the college kirk (Macgill, no. 13 [SC34/28/90, original]). His defence showed detailed knowledge of both the 1439 inquest into the immunity (*Isles*, no. 28) and the royal confirmation of the 1487 foundation deed (RMS, ii, 1694). These were, Nicholas asserted, the only charters in his possession. He pointed out, sharply, that tenements in Tain were not held in free burgage, that no burgage duties were paid to the Exchequer, and that the burgh was not called to Parliament; in fact, the inhabitants could not use the common seal even if they were given it, for they had no property or commonalty to set. Historically, his case had some merit. The 1439 inquest carefully avoided any mention of a burgh or burgesses (though burgesses of Inverness were named) and found that the inhabitants did not make a common contribution to either king or earl, beyond the lord king's custom.

However, if history was on Provost Nicholas's side, contemporary realities were not, for the Lords ordered him to hand over the seal to the bailies and community. The royal charter of 10 January 1588 (RMS, v, 1432) asserted that James VI's ancestors had erected Tain into a royal burgh, and that the provosts, bailies, burgesses and inhabitants observed the conventions of parliaments and burghs, and paid their part of taxation with the other burgesses of the realm. In one sense, all this had begun to happen less than thirty years before. Indeed, the first clear reference to a secular provost does not come until November 1588, when Sir William Keith of Delny, provost, demitted office in favour of

Alexander Ross IX of Balnagown (Macgill, no. 940; the wording indicates the existence of a burgh court book).

The end of Nicholas Ross's rule at St Duthac and Fearn was imprecise. *Cronicle*, 20, claims that his successor, Master Thomas Ross, was provided to Fearn on 12 October 1566. Nicholas's resignation in favour of Master Thomas, with reservation of £100 annual pension, was registered at Rome, 30 January 1567 (ASV, Resignationes Series A, 237, 224v). Bishop John Leslie's provision of Master Thomas to St Duthac was confirmed on 13 May 1567 (RSS, v, 3533, 13 May 1567), but its actual date is unknown. The charter evidence is ambiguous. A feu-ferme grant made by Nicholas on 20 July 1565 was confirmed by his successor, 10 August 1566 (GD129/1/17/57). On the other hand, Nicholas called himself commendator in a charter of 10 June 1568 (GD1/436/1), and was still so styled as late as 16 June 1569, when Master Thomas was procurator for him at Inverness (RPC, i, 671). A private arrangement clearly existed.

Commendator Nicholas's four sons - Nicholas (165), William (142), Donald and Thomas (147) - were all born before 20 December 1543 (RMS, iii, 2979). Their father feued the chaplainry lands of Dunskaith to Nicholas, with succession to his brothers, 24 March 1544 (GD98/Box 5/14, inventory of Dunskaith writs, 26 and 29 October 16—, nos. 2,3,4; RSS, iii, 676). The younger brothers were provided for in 1559, when their father and Alexander of Balnagown carved up the Fearn temporality. Meikle Rhynie, Balblair and crofts around the monastery went to Thomas Ross, with succession to William and Donald (GD129/1/20/65, 7 November 1559, charter by Alexander Ross; GD297/166/2, same date, confirmation by Commendator Nicholas; Macgill, no. 5, 8 November 1559, sasine; GD129/1/1, 7 November 1570, confirmation by Commendator Thomas Ross). William Ross appears to have had a similar grant of Easter and Wester Geanies (Macgill, p. 7). There is no direct evidence of a grant to Donald, but he was living in Little Kindeace on 29 June 1564 (NP1/25, 13v, 14r) and was styled portioner of Little Kindeace on 25 October 1571 (GD129/1/17/55; unlike his brothers, he does not appear in Alexander Ross's 1565 subscription list [see 243]). The dynasty was short-lived. William of Easter Geanies died in 1566 (his widow Beatrice Innes was cast to her terce in the sun side of Easter Geanies, 14 June 1567 [NP1/25, 76v]). His feus passed, on a *clare constat* by his father, to his brother Thomas of Meikle Rhynie. Thomas, who married Elizabeth Ross, widow of John MacCulloch of Meikle Tarrel (see 52), also appears to have died without direct heirs, for on 29 October 1571 his

brother Donald had sasine of the various feued lands on a precept by Commendator Thomas (GD199/19). On the same day Donald made over the title to his only surviving brother, Nicholas of Dunskaith (GD129/1/17/55). It is hard to uncover the realities behind the formal titles. In April 1573 Donald had acquired a liferent of two bovates of Dunskaith from Nicholas; Alexander of Balnagown was in some way concerned, Donald calling him 'my cheyff' (Macgill, no. 676). Donald retained effective possession of part at least of Meikle Rhynie, for he was one of the defendants in an action brought by his brother Thomas's widow for wrongful occupation of her terce lands (CS7/53, 111r-v, 18 February 1573; see also RD1/14, 175r-v, 11 June 1575). Commendator Nicholas's inheritance had been consolidated - but not, time was to show, in safe hands (see 165).

## 1570

**144** The xxiiij day . . 156- James Stewart regent of Scotland ves slain be ane of . . . . James Hamiltoun of Bodwell Haich [January].

**145** The v day of December ye zeir of God j<sup>m</sup> v<sup>c</sup> lxx zeris departit ane nobill and valzeand man [deleted] captin callit Wilelmus Ross Sir David Ross knycht Lard of Balnagouin his sone quha ves zerdit in ye parris kirk of Tane at ye south syde of Our Lady alter.

Son of Sir David VII of Balnagown (47). Brother of Walter VIII of Balnagown (48) and Hugh of Tollie (212), whom he preceded in the Balnagown succession in 1550 (GD297/227/1). Father of Alexander of Invercharron (276) and Walter of Tuiteam Tarbhach (236). See Macfarlane, *Gen. Coll.*, i, 78; Reid, 18; A.M. Ross, 64; *GCR*, 228.

On the death of his brother Walter VIII of Balnagown William Ross was granted the ward, relief and nonentry of Greenyards, Langwell, 'Cnocan', Cullisse and 'Pellavelnie', in king's hands by decease of his father (RSS, i, 3967, 28 May 1528; see also OPS, II, ii, 690). He came first, as William of Ardgay, in Alexander of Balnagown's 1565 subscription list (see 243), his assessment of 100 merks being the only one not containing victual. Ardgay and the adjacent Kincardine, which controlled valuable salmon fishings, were bishopric lands, held by Alexander of Balnagown under feu-ferme charters of 5 August 1563 and 2 April 1568 (GD 297/207 and 203; see also Macgill, no. 675). There was a 'house' at Kincardine in 1576 capable of holding a prisoner with his servants (Gray, 82r [see 231-2]). Mr and Mrs Munro have drawn my

attention to the 'castle site' at Kincardine shown on OS, 1 in., 1st ed., sheet 93 (cf. *OSA*, iii, 505, and *New Statistical Account*, xiv, 410), the location of which is still distinguishable on the ground.

## 1571

**146** 13 Januarrii [sic] obiitt Magister Duncanus Chalmer cancellarius Rossensis 1571 ['1571' is overwritten, and may cover an earlier '1570'].

Son of John Chalmers of Strichen (Temple, *Formartyn*, 83-4). Uncle of Mr David Chalmers (215). See Watt, *Fasti*, 279; *HMC, Salisbury*, ii (1888), 46-7: 'Master David Chalmer, born in Buchan in Aberdeenshire. His father was named the *gudeman of Strechin*, who had a brother named Duncan Chalmer, Chancellor of Ross, an aged priest.'

Mr Duncan, who was provided to the chancellorship, 27 January 1526, consented to the grant of a pension, 12 June 1530 (*Munro Writs*, no. 48). He subscribed charters as a member of the cathedral chapter over the following four decades (SC29/1/1A, 152r, 30 November 1538; GD305/1/71/41, 18 May 1543; GD125/5, 12 November 1552; GD129/5, 29 March 1563; GD297/203, 15 June 1563; GD297/203, 2 April 1568). He served under five bishops, and was at various times vicar-general (SC29/1/1A, 152r, 30 November 1538; *Munro Writs*, no. 66, 10 November 1554; GD129/5, 29 March 1563) and official and commissary (*RMS*, iv, 856, 1 October 1533; *Munro Writs*, no. 79, 11 March 1566). He was twice a judge-arbital (SC29/1/1A, 62v-63v, 29 November 1561; Macgill, no. 14, 20 June 1566), and was collector of royal taxation in 1555 (GD129/1/7/110, 20 April). He was present in Dornoch cathedral on 23 April 1545 (see 120).

According to *HMC, Salisbury* (see above), Mr Duncan intended to make his nephew David his successor. The two actually gave a feu-charter jointly in 1567, Mr David being called 'successor' (GD305/1/14/1, 6 April and 21 May). When Mr David fled the country after Langside Mr Duncan stayed on. He was one of those ordered to surrender the house of Chanonry on 19 February 1569 (*HMC, 6th Report*, 671). He was still chancellor on 19 June 1569, when he assigned to Andrew Munro of Newmore (248) the ward, marriage and nonentry of Meikle Tarrel passed to him by his nephew on 27 October 1567 (RH6/10/2099: for the ramifications of this affair see 52). He was considered to have died in office, and David Chalmers to be only 'a pretended successor' (*RSS*, vi, 1200, 4 July 1571).

**147** The penult day of Aprill in ye zear of Gode<sup>j<sup>m</sup></sup> v<sup>c</sup> lxxj zeiris Thomas Ross of Mekill Rane de..set [tear in MS] in Culbin ves bureitt in Tane.

Son of Commendator Nicholas of Fearn (**143**, which see for the family). Brother of William (**142**) and Nicholas (**165**). Husband of Elizabeth Ross (see **52**). As 'son naturall to Nicolas commendator of Fearn', he witnessed a contract between Hugh Ross of Tollie (**212**) and Alexander Ross of Little Tarrel (**161**) 12 September 1563 (RD1/10, 133r-135r). His escheat was gifted, 2 December 1571 (RSS, vi, 1387). Culbin, where he died, was in Dunskaith (Nigg par.).

**148** 9 huius [June] 1571 obiit Donaldus Ross de Preist Hill.

Son of Thomas Ross (see below). Husband of: Margaret Ross; Agnes Paterson. Father of William of Easter Fearn/Priesthill (**286**). Grandfather of Donald of Balintraid (**265**). See Reid, 25.

Thomas Ross 'in Ballintrad' had a feu-ferme grant of Balintraid and other earldom lands in Kilmuir Easter parish, 4 December 1527 (RMS iii, 521: for the place-names involved see Watson, *PNRC*, 64-5). No firm connection can be established between him and Mr Donald Ross (**41**), although an addition to the latter's *Calendar* obit styles him 'of Priesthill'. With his wife Elizabeth Dunbar, he was granted the kirklands of Priesthill and Ulladale (Kilmuir Easter par.) by David Dunbar, chaplain of Delny, 20 March 1541 (RSS, ii, 3938). He died between 12 April and 23 June 1562, when his widow Agnes Paterson brought an action in the Inverness sheriff-court against five of his sons (SC29/1/1A, 114r-v). Although not listed, Thomas's eldest son Donald was involved, for his brother William appeared for 'Donald of ye Priesthill'. Alexander Ross IX of Balnagown and Commendator Nicholas Ross were called in as arbiters, but their findings are not known (SC29/1/1A, 118r-v, 127v, 128r). Agnes was finally bought out on 23 June 1579, when she discharged her step-grandson William Ross's cautioners (GD71/3).

Thomas Ross's son Donald and his wife, Margaret Ross, had a tack of Achoyle and Knockgarty (Kilmuir Easter par.) from Alexander Ross of Balnagown, 15 January 1545 (GD71/261). With another of Kildary on 28 May 1553 (GD71/262), this was given to last during the lifetime of Donald's parents. David Dunbar re-granted the kirklands of Priesthill to Donald and his wife, 3 August 1568 (GD305/1/76/106). Donald, who was rated one chalder in Alexander Ross's 1565 subscription list (see **243**), had resigned the fee of Priesthill to his son William (**286**) by 6 February 1572, when the latter had a discharge for the feu-mails from David Dunbar (GD71/2).

**149** Sabato 7 Julii 157- hora 10<sup>a</sup> ante meridiem natus est Valterus Ross filius magistri Thome Ross abatis de Ferne.

Walter Ross of Morangie (345). The year was 1571 (*Blackie*, 52). For family of Master Thomas Ross see 32-49.

## 1572

**150** 13<sup>o</sup> 1571 obiit Magister Donaldus Fresser archdiaconus Rossensis qui occisus fuit apud Awfurd. [February]

Watt, *Fasti*, 287. D. Warrand, *Some Fraser Pedigrees* (Edinburgh, 1934), 129, 132, suggests Donald Fraser was the son of John, eldest of seven brothers of the house of Fruid on Tweedside brought north by their kinsman, Bishop John Fraser (80). *Wardlaw MS*, 116-21, has a lengthy account of the seven brothers and their families, making John Fraser the bishop's chamberlain at Nigg. But see 120 for an alternative parentage; see also 271. He was an active supporter of the Earl of Huntly, and was killed by the 'reckles' shooting of his own soldiers (*Cal. State Papers, Scot.*, iv, ed. W.K. Boyd [Edinburgh, 1905], 135).

**151** 12 huius [December] 1572 obiit Gauinus Dunbar rector de Roskin.

Gavin Dunbar was rector-elect of Roskeen, 23 September 1546 (*Protocol Book of James Foulis, 1546-1553* [SRS, 1927], 4). In an action before the Court of Session against his parishioners, 29 July 1555, he claimed to have been in possession for seven years (CS7/12, 130r-v). His place in the complex Dunbar family has not been established.

## 1573

**152** The first day of Januar 1572 the castell of Edinbruch seigit be ye Englis men and haldin be ye lard of Greneiss:

**153** The vi of Januar in ye zeir of God v<sup>c</sup> lxxij Walter Innes of Calrossie decessit quhom God assolze. [Entry is overwritten in hand of Walter Ross.]

Father of William (238). Grandfather of Walter (237) and James (262). The family of Innes of Calrossie, like that of Inverbreakie (see 234), descended from Walter Innes of Touchs (*Familie of Innes*, 31-2). Walter Innes first appeared in Ross in 1526, when he accounted for the earldom

revenues as deputy-chamberlain (*ER*, xv, 319-42 [1526-7], 405-13 [1527-8]) and received feu-ferme grants of a number of earldom lands (*RMS*, iii, 380, 382, 486, 618), only two of which remained in his hands in 1539 (*ER*, xvii, 662-81). In 1529 he married Janet Tarrel (see 234), and on 21 April 1530, as bailie, held an earldom court at Delny to determine the measures used for victual payments (see 14).

Walter of Calrossie was a younger son of Walter of Touchs (see *RMS*, iv, 2297, where his three sons come next in succession to the male line of Touchs), recorded frequently between 23 March 1547 (*CS*6/23, 32r-33r) and 1572 (*Macgill*, no. 903). Calrossie (*Logie Easter par.*), which he acquired after 1539, was an earldom land, then rented at a substantial three chalders (*ER*, xvii, 662-81). On 5 February 1549 he bought Kinrive and Strathrorie (*Kilmuir Easter par.*) from John Denoon of Davidston (*RMS*, iv, 289), being subsequently known as 'of Calrossie' or 'of Kinrive' fairly indiscriminately. He also acquired the bishopric land of Roskeen (*GD*125/5, titles of Roskeen: tack, 12 November 1552; feu-charter, 16 March 1562; confirmation, adding Diebidale [*Kincardine par.*], 25 April 1563). He witnessed many of the titles wrung by Alexander Ross of Balnagown from Fearn in 1550 and 1559 (*GD*297/227/1-9). In 1565 Alexander rated him at three chalders (see 244). With his wife Margaret MacIntosh, he had a new crown grant in conjunct fee, 1563 (*GD*146/1/1, 6 September; see *RSS*, v, 1297). She outlived him, her liferent being reserved when their son William was retoured heir, 30 July 1575 (*SC*29/1/1, 96v; *Retours*, ii, Ross and Cromarty, no. 7).

154 The xxix day of May 1573 ye castell of Edinbruch wes renderit.

1574

155 Dominica ultimo Octobris 1574 natus Wilhelmus Ross apud Pitcary: et est filius magistri Thome Ross abbatis de Ferne et prepositi de Tane.

For family of Master Thomas Ross see 32-49.

1576

156 The xxvj dai of Mai anno Domini M° ccccc° lxxvj° Mar ... Ross duelland in Fern disest.



**157** . xvijj day of October ye zeir of God . . lxxvj zeiris Elene McCulloch spous to umquhile Huchon Ross Valterson in Balamoche decessit quhom God assolze.

For Hugh Ross Walterson see **20**.

**158** The xxvijj day of November ye zeir of God j<sup>m</sup> v<sup>c</sup> lxxvj zeiris George Munro of Dauachcartie departit quam God assolze. [Entry overwritten in hand of Walter Ross]

*Munro Tree*, L/4, died 18 November. Father of Andrew of Newmore (**248**), whose retour gives date of death as 3 December (SC29/1/1, 123v).

## 1577

**159** The v day of Januar [gap in MS] Fresell Lord Lovet decessit anno lxxvj.

Hugh, fifth Lord Lovat, grandson of Hugh, third Lord (see **114**); *SP*, v, 528-9.

**160** Die martis 6<sup>o</sup> Augusti nata in Tane Barbara Ros 1577 filia M T Ros abatis de Ferne.

See also **293**. For family of Master Thomas Ross see 32-49.

## 1578

**161** The v of Januar in anno 1577 lxxvij zeiris 1577 Alexander Ross in Terrell was . . .dit in Tayne.

Son of Walter Ross VIII of Balnagown (**48**). 'Brother natural' of Alexander Ross IX (**216**: RD1/14, 173v-174v). Husband of Elizabeth, widow of Angus MacCulloch of Meikle Tarrel (**52**). Father of Mr John Ross (**274**). He came third in the Balnagown line of succession in 1550 (GD297/227/1), after Alexander and his brother-german Hugh (see **48**), but his descendants do not appear in the succession in 1615 (GD297/208, 9 February 1615). He made his will on 3 January 1578 (CC8/8/9, 368v-369r). See Reid, 37.

Alexander Ross held Upper Little Allan (Fearn par.), 15 January 1545 (GD71/261) and was legitimated, 24 March 1547, as 'of Little Allan'

(RSS, iii, 2222), continuing to be so named on occasions (e.g. SC29/1/1, 41r-42r, 4 April 1559). He also acquired the bishopric lands of Little Tarrel (Tarbat par.), possibly in the aftermath of the battle of Pinkie. In 1549 Margaret Murray, widow of William MacCulloch in Little Tarrel, brought an action against Alexander Ross and Alexander MacCulloch for the recovery of Little Calrichie and Little Tarrel, held by her dead husband (CS7/3, 21r, 79r-v, 6 April, 21 May). William MacCulloch had fallen at Pinkie, and his widow was claiming five years' possession 'by vertew of the greit act made before the said feild' (the so-called 'act of Monktonhall', 8 September 1547 [APS, ii, 599]).

Alexander is recorded between 20 May 1547 (RMS, iv, 203-04) and 18 January 1576 (SC29/1/1, 94v). He acquired Esbolg in Strathcarron from the lairds of Balnagown (RSS, vii, 1862, 10 March 1579). He held Newnakill (Roskeen par.) on a feu-ferme grant by Bishop John Leslie (SC29/1/1A, 144r, 9 April 1567; PS1/54, 17r, 18 May 1586), but was already in possession 7 February 1563 (RD1/10, 133r-135r, 7 February 1570). His rights in Skardie and Balcherry (Tain par.) were contested by Alexander Innes of Plaids and his successor George Sinclair of Mey (268: CS7/34, 48v-49v, 31 March 1565; GD96/218, - May 1585; GD96/266, 23 May 1597). There are indications that he lent money on landed security (GD129/1/6/2, 8 July 1576; GD199/19, 8 September 1572; Macgill, p. 267, 1576). He was one of only two Rosses put down for a three-chalder subscription in 1565 (see 243); like his half-uncle Hugh of Tollie (212), he paid up. His death-bed inventory showed stock and crops of £1,525 (CC8/8/9, 368v-369r).

Alexander of Little Tarrel's eldest son Alexander (of whom Reid, 37, gives a confused account) sat as 'apparent' on an assize, 9 April 1573 (SC29/1/1, 87r), and was the active head of the family by 1577, when he was one of the 'kin and freinds' who tried to restrain Alexander IX of Balnagown (Macgill, ii, no. 1006, 2 August). His succession to his father's lands was not a formality, for he had an ambitious younger brother, Mr John (274). On 13 April 1576 the latter resigned an infeftment and sasine made to him by his father of all the lands already named, together with holdings in the field and burgh lands of Tain. He further bound himself 'by his greit aythe sworne upon ye halie evangell never to revoke or cum ye contrar in ony time coming'. His brother Alexander then required an act of court in name of his father (GD199/71). An attempted disinheritance, it seems, had been foiled. When Alexander senior died in January 1578 Alexander younger was retoured as his general heir (SC29/1/1, 84v, 8 April 1578). As for Mr John, he secured a presentation to the parsonage of Logie Easter (RSS,

viii, 244, 25 April 1581), by which title he was still known at the time of his death.

Alexander II of Tarrel was dead by 4 June 1582, when Mr John, styled of Hilton', paid 700 merks for the ward and nonentry of Little Allan, the third of Arbol, and Esbolg, with the marriage of his dead brother's three daughters (RSS, viii, 846). The freeholders of the sheriff court appear to have had some reservations about this, for on 20 March 1583 they found that Mr Walter, another brother (see Macgill, no. 41, 1596; GD305/1/46/52, 24 February 1596), was the nearest relative on the father's side to Marjory, Cristine and Isobel Ross, was not their immediate successor should they die, and was over twenty-five and competent to administer their goods (SC29/1/1, 113v-114r). Marjory and Isobel Ross were retoured on 31 July 1596 (*Retours*, Ross and Cromarty, nos. 173, 174; their sister Cristine is not recorded). By 23 May 1597, when George Sinclair of Mey finally got his decree against the Little Tarrel family (GD96/266), the name of Hugh Ross apparent of Mulderg (see 48) had been added to the list of defenders. *Blackie*, 58, explains why: 'The said Huchon Ross son and appearand heir to John Ross of Maldcoy (a misreading for 'Mulderg') is Married on young Alexander Ross of Little Tarrel his Eldest daughter called Marriion Ross, and Mr John Ross parson of Logie payit her tocher thinkand to get the principal house of Little Tarrel to himself in respect she is Eldest Daughter to ye aire of Little Tarrel'. In one way or another, he achieved exactly that. On 4 July 1599, still called rector of Logie, he had a precept for a charter of all the lands of his nieces, on three decreets of apprising totalling £197,570.13s.4d. - a figure which made the allowed right of reversion of limited relevance (PS1/71, 16r; CS8/8, General Minute Book, lists an act, Ross against Ross, 3 July 1599, but the relevant volume of Acts and Decrees is not extant). Once in possession, Mr John quickly assumed the style 'of Little Tarrel'. For his later career see 274.

**162** Obitus Elizabeth McKenzie domine de Cromartie primo Aprilis 1578. [Written over older entry at 2 April]

First wife of Walter Urquhart, sheriff of Cromarty (for her marriage contract, 17 March 1551, see Macfarlane, *Gen. Coll.*, ii, 361-2; RMS, iv, 634, 13 September 1551; RSS, vii, 945, 9 March 1577). Henry Urquhart, son, was alive when his father made his will on 26 February 1586 (CC8/8/20, 5 August 1589), but did not give up the inventory with his step-mother Elizabeth Rose (who was served to her terce, 15 April 1587 [SC29/1/1, 119v]) and Mr Thomas Urquhart of Davidston, the other executors.

**163** 22 huius [September] 1578 obiit Alexander Hepburne episcopus Rossensis.

**164** Combustio nouem sagarum in Canonia Rossense . [gap in MS] die Decembris anno Domini 1578 per Robertum Munro de Fowlis et Walterum Wrquhard vicecomitem de Cromartie in illo tempore et unus vir vstru' [sic: the sense is 'burnt' or 'baked' (cf. *ustrinum*: a kiln)] in Dingwall eodem mense et anno nomine Caschindonische.

Proceedings against witches under the commission of 25 October 1577 to Robert Munro and Walter Urquhart (*ER*, xx, 522-3, 25 October 1577) were incorporated in the dittay brought against Katherine Lady Foulis (daughter of Alexander Ross IX of Balnagown) in the better-known trial of 1590 (Pitcairn, *Trials*, I, ii, 192-203). This retrospectively identified Thomas Cassindonisch, who had 'suffered death', as her alleged helper; called Thomas McAnemoir McAllan McHenrik alias Cassindonisch, he was amongst the accused in the subsequent commission of 23 January 1578 (*Munro Writs*, no. 92). Dingwall is given as his place of execution only in the *Calendar*. The dittay dates the trial and burning to 28 November 1578. The day and month, but not the year, are the same as in a protestation made at Chanonry on 28 November 1577 (NP1/32, 184v):

In presence of me nottir publict and witnis ondirwritin comperit ane honorabill man William Sudderland of Awlik and opynlie examinitt William Mcillemore in Dane gangand to ye deyd besyd ye stob and fyr quhayr eftir yis his confession wes brint conforme to dome giffin on hym, gyf Allexander Ross of Balnagown or George Ross his son and apirand ayr wer partipant of ye vichedom done be hym and his complicis, or war art and part red or counsell yrof odr be yar selfs or mediat person or personis in yr namis; quha tuk on hym as he mot anssr befor god and be ye deid he was gangand nodr of yam wir art part red or counsell of nane of ye said wichcraft. And siklyk [blank] Nyne Gillecillum Garrowe, being in lyk manyr examinitt be ye said William Sudrland, ye lyk, and tuk on hyr befor god and be ye deid sche was gangand to nedr of yam wir participant or had art or part yrwith. Super quibus William Sudrland a me notario publico petit instrumentum, presentibus honorabilibus et discretis viris Allexandro Bane de Tullich, Willelmo Mcperson in Ardirseyr, Johne Roy Mcdonald Mcallan, Donald Mcdowll Mcperson, William Mcdowll Mcperson, Gillecillum Mcfarhyr Mcperson, [Fawlis Lachlan Mc yr ?Chessm: *these words are entered in the margin, with an insertion mark in the main text; they appear to be notes for names omitted at the original writing*], Murdo Mcallan apud

Redcastell, Allexandro Sudrland in Inchefuyr, Kennito Baxtar, Donald Ross de Ballmukke, Thoma Denvne de Milton de Ferne, magistro Thomass Heweson minister of Inverness, Donald Adamson subchantr of Ross, Jamys Burnet rydar in Cromertie, testibus cum multis aliis. Acta fuit hora prima postmeridiem aut eo circa.

This document is described in the margin as 'protestatio nomine Balnagowyn'. The 1590 dittay alleges that in November 1577, with accusations already being made, Katherine Lady Foulis made a declaration (which does not survive) before two notaries and then fled to Caithness. It is, at the least, remarkable that her father and brother should go to the length of extracting this point-of-death statement.

William Sutherland of Evelix (Dornoch par., Sutherland) was a brother of Alexander Sutherland of Duffus, and implicated in the burning of Dornoch by the Mackays in 1570, for which St Gilbert took a thoroughly medieval revenge (Gordon, 156-8; see C. Bentinck, *Dornoch Cathedral and Parish* [Inverness, 1926], 130, for local traditions of his bad reputation). Both the condemned can be identified in the 1590 dittay. William McIllemor in Dane (Daan, Edderton par.) was clearly 'Williame McGilliveri-dame', who allegedly brought Lady Foulis poison from Elgin to kill her own brother's wife, Marion Campbell; the unnamed daughter of 'Gillecallum Garrowe' was either Gradoch or Cristian Ross Malcolmson, who took part in the making of clay-images. The dittay states that both were convicted by the assize on 28 November and burnt. The three men of religion here associated with the burnings were: Thomas Howeson, burgh clerk and schoolmaster of Inverness in 1561 and minister in 1565, dying in 1605 (Scott, *Fasti*, vi, 455); Donald Adamson, exhorter in Dingwall, 1567, schoolmaster there in 1569, minister from 1573 (Scott, *Fasti*, vii, 49), vicar of Urray, 13 December 1569 (C114/1/1, 33), parson of Urray, 18 September 1573 (C114/1/1, 97), dead by 28 January 1592, when his successor as minister, John Mackenzie, was presented to both benefices (PS1/63, 148r); James Burnet, reader at Cromarty by 1569 (Scott, *Fasti*, vii, 4; *Thirds*, 209), and still in office, 1581 (E47/2).

For a discussion of these burnings see W. Matheson, 'The Historical Coinneach Odhar', *TGSI*, xlv (1969-70), 67-88.

## 1579

**165** The yeir of God 1578 Nicolas Ross of Dunskeyth second sone to Sir Nicholas Ross . of Ferne wes . besyed Ardmoir ye . day of February.

Son of Nicholas Ross, commendator of Fearn (143). Brother of William (142) and Thomas (147). Reid, 56-8, confuses this family with Master Thomas Ross and his descendants.

Nicholas Ross had a feu-ferme grant of the chaplainry lands of Dunskaith from his father, held the chaplainry lands of Morangie, and inherited Fearn lands held by his brothers (see 143). He was on bad terms with Alexander Ross of Balnagown, and is not marked as having paid a contribution in 1565 (see 243). There were also problems over his Fearn possessions. When he gave a feu-charter of Easter Geanies to his under-age son William on 26 June 1576 (GD129/1/17/55), Alexander imprisoned him in the house of Kincardine, from which he was not released until 4 September (*Gray*, 82r [see 231-2]). Whilst in captivity he was forced to sign over his Fearn feu-lands to Alexander for a fictitious 1,000 merks. In April 1577 he negotiated a settlement with Alexander's son George at Edinburgh, by which he was promised entry to a quarter and two oxgangs of Easter Geanies, presently detained by Alexander, or forty bolls victual yearly if Alexander continued to molest him. Nicholas claimed to have lost the profits of his Easter Geanies lands for six years, the 1577 crop of Dunskaith (including £20 profit from hawks taken on the cliffs), an ox taken from his tack of Morangie, and, improbably, a horse taken from his 'chalmer' in Tain. Arbiters awarded him 200 merks, and ordered Easter Geanies to be restored within forty days (RD1/16, 135r-136v, 137r-139v). Later in the same year he conveyed Dunskaith to his son (GD98/Box5/14, no. 14, 20 September).

William of Dunskaith was a minor at the time of his father's death, and remained so for some years, still having tutors on 30 March 1585 (GD305/1/124/550). Less than two months before Alexander of Balnagown's death he contracted to marry the old laird's daughter Agnes, widow of Neil Hutcheon Angusson of Achimmoir (*Macgill*, no. 681, 4 September 1592; for Neil Angusson's identity see 216). Two years later William resigned Easter Geanies to Alexander Clunes (240: *RMS*, vi, 194, 16 December 1594), whose son-in-law he had become by 1 May 1604, when he gave him a discharge for 225 merks in full payment of 4,000 merks purchase price (GD98/Box 5/14, no. 16). He is recorded as a witness at Nigg, 6 September 1604 (RD1/19, 9v-10r).

The background to the new marriage was spectacular, as shown on 26 July 1605, when William appeared before an assize in a Justiciary Court in the Tolbooth of Edinburgh on charges of lèse-majesté, theft and murder (*Pitcairn, Trials*, ii, 481-4, contains the dittay and subsequent proceedings). The central charge was the murder of

Alexander Gibson in Nigg on 4 February 1605, carried out by William and three of his servants by a burn-side on a dark night after a day's hard drinking at a house in Pitcalzean. His servants were taken, confessed that William was the principal murderer, and were condemned and put to death. William himself, who escaped, was captured and brought to trial. In court, he was also accused of arranging the murder of his wife Agnes in May 1604 (the month in which he sold Dunskaith to his new father-in-law). The dittay is detailed. William was keeping 'ane harlot' called Marie Rannaldoche, who was pregnant with his child. The pair, with the help of William MacStevin, servant and hired man (also involved in the murder of Alexander Gibson), first attempted to poison Agnes Ross. When this failed, MacStevin strangled her in her bed. After being taken for Gibson's murder, he confessed to the earlier crime. William himself, examined the day before his trial, admitted that he left home that night and went to his brother-in-law's house at Balnagown; around midnight, being troubled in his mind, he dressed and went home to stop the killing, but found he was too late. The assize, which included three Ross-shire residents and a number from Moray, unanimously found him guilty of both murders. His property was forfeited and he himself 'justified to death' (GD98/Box 5/14, no. 17, 26 July 1605). Years later his son Alexander (by which marriage is not stated), renounced any title or claim to Dunskaith to Alexander Clunes's son Alexander (GD98/Box 5/14, no. 28, 26 May 1623). See also 224.

## 1581

**166** The xi day of Januar <sup>jm</sup> v<sup>c</sup> lxxx zeiris ane honorabill man Androw Munro of Cullinald decesit:

Grandfather of Andrew of Delny (302). See *Munro Tree*, L/101: in the retour of his son David (*Munro Tree*, L/102) his death is dated December 1580 (SC29/1/1, 108v-109v, 27 February 1581). Both father and son were portioners of Nigg, and were frequently so styled.

## 1583

**167** Obitus domini Nicolaii Narne qui obiit in Fores in domo propria xi<sup>o</sup> Aprilis anno Domini 1583.

**168** Third of Julii 15803 [sic] departit dominus Dauid Reid channoun of Ferne in Ross.

See 30.

**169** Ye viij day of yis instand [November] beand Fryday 1583 Capitane James Ross brodyr sone to ye Lard of Achlossin and Patryk Zoar with him weir slaine in Tane in Andro Rossis chalmir at viij horis afoir none or yairby be Nicolas Ross and Walter Ross with yair complexis.

James Ross was a member of the Aberdeenshire family of Auchlossan (Lumphanan par.); 'Zoar' appears to be a misrendering of 'Rollok'. The killers included Alexander Ross of Balnagown's second son, Nicholas Ross of Pitcalnie (246) and Walter Ross Williamson in Tuiteam Tarbhach (236). Letters of fire and sword were issued against Walter and others (Macgill, no. 678). Nicholas and Walter Ross received letters of remission on 14 August 1595 (RMS vi, 341) on the grounds that sufficient letters of slains had been given by Captain Ross's relatives and friends. These do not survive, but for similar letters from Walter Rollo of Pitmedden, tutor of Duncrub, and others of the 'chief men and prinsipalls of our kyn', given at Dundee on 10 August and 22 March 1595, see *HMC*, 6th Report, 717, no. 15, and GD199/28. Alexander Ross 'sumtyme of Balnagown' was named as ringleader in the letters of fire and sword, while his son George was one of those commissioned to pursue the culprits (see also Macgill, no. 679, 1586). A decreet arbitral of 22 April 1585, which attempted to compose Balnagown family differences, provided that Alexander and George should assist in apprehending all who were art and part of 'ye horrabill murther of umquhile capitaine James Ross and Patrick Rollok and all uthir fugitaves fra ye lawes far ye said cryme except ye said Nicholas Ross' (RD1/25, 23v-26v, 5 July 1586).

## 1585

**170** The first day of November 1585 the lordis come to Stirling and spwilzeit it, wan ye castell the third day Hammiltowne Dowglass Erskein Glamis with yair confideratis.

**171** The first day of December 1589 [sic] ye parliament in Linlithco quhair Hamiltoun Dowglas Erskein Glammis and yair confideratis wes restorit.

## 1586

**172** The ferd day of Januare 1585 Alexander Muresone the Abbat of Fearnis [overwritten 'Fearnis'] mothris brother depairtet at Ferne and erdit in Nyg.



According to *Blackie*, 51, 92, Alexander was son of Henry Murison of Pitchadly (Banffshire), 'served Forbes long', and 'being strucke with Age and his gaize departed fra him, came to Ross and remained with Mr Thomas Ross Abbot Fearn whyll he departed at Fearn and was burried in Nigg the 2d day of January 1584'. He was a witness at Tain, 16 February 1580 (*Gray*, 119r-120v; see 235-6).

## 1587

**173** The viij of Februar 1587 Marie Quein of Scotland wes crewalie murderit in England the xxv zeir of hir renye.

**174** The xv of May 1586 ye triwmph at . . of ye lordis . be ye king at ye Mercat Cross upon ye Hie Streit of Edinbruch.

This banquet, an attempt by James to reconcile 'the noblemen who were at variance', in fact took place on 15 May 1587 (*Calderwood*, iv, 613-14).

## 1588

**175** Johannis 5<sup>o</sup> Maii obiit Andreas Ross burgensis de Tane anno 1588 [the feast of St John at the Latin Gate falls on 6 May].

Father of William Ross (233). Grandfather of Andrew Ross (359). Andrew Ross, burgess and bailie of Tain, is recorded between 15 February 1558 (GD297/227/4) and 24 July 1585 (*RMS*, v, 895). He may have been Andrew Ross, who bought a tenement in Tain, 4 August 1563 (GD129/1/4/17 [*Macgill*, p. 371]), and more doubtfully, Andrew Ross, burgess, who witnessed three Fearn titles on 7 May 1550 (GD297/227/1-3). His wife in 1579-80 was Mariota MacTyre (*Gray*, 117r, 124r; see 234-5, 237). His seal was frequently used to authenticate Tain transactions (a good specimen survives in GD199/108, 26 April 1582, written by William Gray).

**176** The xxx of Junii 1588 ye king maid ane answeire to ye generall assemblie of ye ministrie thair hedis.

**177** The xxj of Julii 1588 ye triwmph at ye erle of . mariage with . . .

George, sixth earl of Huntly, married Henrietta Stewart, daughter of Esmé, duke of Lennox, at Holyrood, 21 July 1588 (*SP*, iv, 544).

**178** The xxx day of Julii 1588 Sir William Stewart . . . wes slane . . . Erle . . .

Sir William Stewart of Monkton, son of Andrew, second Lord Ochiltree (*SP*, vi, 513) was murdered by the Earl of Bothwell on the High Street of Edinburgh, 30 July 1588 (Calderwood, iv, 679-80).

**179** Obitus honorabilis vir Robertus Monro feoditarius . Fowlis . die Augusti anno Domini M v<sup>c</sup> octagesimo . .

Robert Munro predeceased his father Robert mor Munro. Mr Hector Munro was retoured on 7 October 1589 to his father Robert mor (died October 1588), brother german Robert, and brother german Hugh of Clynes (died October 1588). See *Munro Tree*, R, R/1, S; SC29/1/1, 128r, 130r, 131r.

**180** Obiit Jacobus Dunbar vice comes Moraue 1588 cuius epitaphus est: Magnanimus, justus, prudens, pius, atque modestus, mortuus prorsus hoc requiescit humo [at 26 September].

For family of Dunbar of Westfield see **75**. Sir James Dunbar was fifth hereditary sheriff of Moray.

**181** The xiiij of October 1588 ye penyis and twa penyis proclamit.

*RPC*, iv, 317-18, 30 August 1588: Thomas Ross presumably recorded the date of proclamation in Forres or Tain.

**182** The xv 1588 [sic] day of yis instand month [November] beand Fryday 1588 departit Ellein Clunes spowss to Donald Ross portionar off Mekill Rany.

Wife of Donald (**217**), brother of Master Thomas Ross.

# 1589

**183** Secundo Februarii anno 1688 [sic] obiit egregius vir David Dunbar de Littill Sudde apud Bonachfelde ett est sepultus in templo Cannone Rossense in insula Sancti Andree.

Although '1688' is clearly written, a scribal error must be presumed. David Dunbar was son and successor of John Dunbar of Bennetsfield (**121**). On 6 February 1549 he had a feu-charter of an enlarged free tenandry of Bennetsfield (*RMS*, iv, 288). In the following year he

acquired the escheat of Alexander Dunbar of Urquhart (CS7/4, 169v-170r, 24 July 1550), thereafter being at times called David of Urquhart. With his wife Grissel Leslie, a daughter of Sir John Leslie of Balquhain (Macfarlane, *Gen. Coll.*, ii, 10-11), he had a feu-charter of Little Suddie (Knockbain par.) from Bishop John Lesley, 6 April 1567 (RMS, v, 803). He sold Suddie to his uncle George Dunbar of Avoch, rector of Kilmuir (see 203), under a reversion that could be operated only by himself or heirs male of his body, 7 April 1568 (RMS, vi, 445).

David Dunbar's marriage was stormy, his wife leaving him and bringing an action for divorce in the Edinburgh Commissary Court, alleging that she could not obtain justice at Chanonry, where none 'dar to uyrwayis nor hir said spowss commands thame quha is ane greit clमित man in the partis of Ross. . . And sche being put away fra hir said spowsss for his uncurtess handeling of hir remains now besyde abirdene mair nor fowre scoir myllis fra the chanrie of Ross' (CC8/2/7, 24 November 1575). The case proceeded inconclusively until 10 March 1581 (see CC8/2/8 and 9), and at one stage sent William Cumming, town-clerk of Inverness, in midwinter to within five miles of Aberdeen to summon Grissel to 'aduer to hym and to return to hyr awyne biggyne' (NP1/32, 207r, 8 January 1578). For unknown reasons the couple eventually drew back from divorce. Grissel Leslie lived after her husband's death at Little Suddie, where she died in February 1596 (CC8/8/31, 36v-37v). There were no surviving children of the marriage, and Little Suddie passed to George Dunbar of Avoch, one of her executors. David Dunbar was succeeded at Bennetsfield by his brother, or half-brother, Mr John Dunbar of Meft (see RMS, v, 1006).

**184** The xvij of Apryll 1589 ane notabill delyuerance of ye towne off Fores fra fyre be burnynge of Jhone Dunbar Davidssons hows in ane wehement tempest of wynd.

**185** The xxiiij day of Maii 1589 ye Erllis of Huntlye Boduell and Craferd wer accuseit of tresoun in ye Tolbuith of Edinbruch.

**186** The xvij of Junii 1589 ye Erlle Mersell wes sent ambessedar for ye queing to Denmark.

**187** Obitus honorabilis viri Donaldi Ross de . qui obiit apud Catboll .. nono Augusti 1589.

This entry may relate to Donald Ross of Shandwick, son of Walter Ross (50) and father of Andrew Ross (310). For family of Ross of Shandwick see 50.

**188** 17 of September 1589 the feirebott off Bruntiland was pereist quharin was Jhoin Robertstone and Androw Robertune [sic] in Chanonrie with mone other gentill men and sundry geir.

John Robertson, merchant in Chanonry 'decessit intestate in sey betuixt Leyth and Kinghorne upone ye xij day of September 1589' (CC8/8/21, 87r-90r, 30 January 1590). His inventoried stock-in-trade, valued at £790.10s.5d, included a range of textiles and spices, and tartan buttons, iron pots, spurs, bowstrings, looking-glasses, inkhorns, paper, catechisms and animal skins and hides. At the time of his death he was owed £263.5s.4d. by some forty customers, including George Ross X of Balnagown (266) and Hugh Ross of Tollie (279).

The Burntisland ferry-boat was run down by a ship during a 'vehement storm': *Memoirs of his own Life by Sir James Melville of Halhill* (Bannatyne Club, 1827), 369-70. Amongst those lost was Melville's sister-in-law Jean Kennedy, once maid-of-honour to Queen Mary. On 14 January 1590 three Leith seamen were delated for the slaughter of threescore persons 'quhilk wes in ane boit, be rinnand of the said boit undir see' (Pitcairn, *Trials*, I, ii, 185). Sir Andrew Melville was a pursuer, as was Alison Orrock (272), whose husband John Clephane, bailie of Burntisland, also drowned. The case was claimed for the Canongate regality court, to which the men were repleged to appear on 25 February. There, unfortunately, the trail runs cold. The relevant volume of the Canongate Bailie Court Book (from which extracts were printed in *Maitland Club Miscellany*, ii [1840]) has long been missing, and remains so (I am indebted to Mr A.T. Wilson, Edinburgh City Archivist, for confirming this). The Diet Books and Protocol Book (B22/22/27, 1588-91) kept by James Logan, clerk to the court, contain nothing relevant. The sinking took place a month before King James's voyage to Denmark (see 189). After his return it became one of the accusations against the North Berwick witches: Melville, *Memoirs*, 395-7; *News from Scotland*, 1591, ed. G.B. Harrison (London, 1924), 17; Pitcairn, *Trials*, I, ii, 213-23: see also C. Lerner, 'James VI and I and Witchcraft', in *The Reign of James VI and I*, ed. A.G.R. Smith (Glasgow, 1973).

**189** The xxij of October 1589 the King tuik schipping in Leith at xj houris in ye nycht to Denmarke for his Quene.

**190** The xix day of November 1589 Bodwell maid his repentance in ye kirk of Edinburgh.

**191** The xxij of November 1589 King James ye saxt maried with Quene Anne dochter to ye king of Denmarke in Huxslo in Norwe.

**192** The xv of December 1589 schipping from ye King yat he was maryit in Huxslo in Norroway with Annas ye kyng of Denmarks dochter.

## 1590

**193** The first of May 1590 king James ye saxt hes quine dochter to ye king of Denmarke landit in Leith and ye vj day ye king assendit to ye abby of Holiruidhows . thair gretit . .

**194** 4<sup>o</sup> Octobris 1590 in ye ewening George Dunbar in Thane sa and mony may with him ane battell abue them upone ane hill callit Knok bane quhilk did last twa owris and vanist away. It is alegit yat it wes ye sche wychtis.

An oblique reference to the Foulis witchcraft trials of 1590. See also **164**.

**195** The penult of October anno 1590 Margre Innes spowss to Alexander Ross off Innercharrone departit.

Wife of Alexander Ross (**276**). She was, according to Reid, 19, 'a daughter of the laird of Calrossie'.

**196** The penult of October 1590 departit ane honorabill . . . spouse to Patryk Dumbar off Blarye.

Patrick Dunbar of Blervie was related to Alexander Dunbar of Conzie, who had a feu-ferme charter from the bishop of Moray of lands around Forres, including Blervie, 20 May 1567 (*RMS*, v, 388). Robert Tulloch of Tannachy (**247**), Master Thomas Ross's first cousin, married Isobel (**290**), daughter of Alexander Dunbar of Conzie, 5 December 1566 (*MRO* B2/3, 192). Patrick Dunbar in Blervie made a grant of fishings on the Findhorn to the couple, 28 November 1590 (*MRO* A52/1/1, 84, 86-88).

**197** The second day of Nowember the castell of Ballandallaich wes tane be the Erle of Huntlie in anno 1590.

See also **200**, **201**; Gordon, 215. For a discussion of the events that followed see K.M. Brown, *Bloodfeud in Scotland, 1573-1625* (Edinburgh, 1986), 152-3, and references there given.

**198** The xij of Nouember 1590 the Lard of Cwilbins howss wes brokin and his geir tane away: be [entry unfinished].

Walter Kinnaird of Culbin (288) was Master Thomas Ross's brother-in-law. A connection with contemporary disturbances (see 197, 200, 201) is probable.

**199** The xiiij of Nouember 1590 departit William Morray sone to Alexander Morray in Dornaich.

William Murray and his wife, Janet Ross (see SC29/1/1, 119r, 4 October 1586), had a charter and sasine of a tenement in Dornoch, 12 and 13 November 1586 (NLS D.313/147 [Titles V/14/153, 154]).

**200** The xxiiij day off Nouember anno 1590 ye Erll off Huntly come be ye dawing off ye day thoroche ye toune off Forress and reid nyetvarttis to ye place off Darnway he beand accompainit vith three hundreth horss or theirby and fourscoir off yair horsmen pickit about ye place. Yair was dywers schottis off artaillerie schott and ane schot off ane hagbut lichtit wpone ye Lard of Cluneis broyer callit Johne Gordoune quhe is mairit with ye Lard Bandallachis wyff. He departit ye fourt day of December in Alter and buryit in ye kirk yair.

See also 197, 201; Gordon, 215. The *Balbithan MS* (*House of Gordon*, i, 21) states 'the said John Gordon of Bissmoir was killed at the ride of Tarnway by ane shott from the House, 1591'. John Gordon of Birsmoir was second son of John Gordon of Cluny, married to Margaret Gordon, widow of Patrick Grant of Ballindalloch (d. 1586; Fraser, *Grant*, i, 520).

**201** The xxvj of November 1590 convenit in Forres ye Erll of Athoill ye Erll of Moray ye Laird of Grant Makintoschie ye barronis of Kilroak with yair haill forces and ye haill surname of ye Dunbaris and Cumingis and ye Laird of Cathellis forces and himself war all anis apurpoissit till haif passit on ye Erll of Huntlie quhill God pat ane better mynd into yame and stayite.

See also 197, 200; Gordon, 215. Thomas Ross, who may have been in Forres at the time, puts this meeting after the ride of Darnaway, a fact not brought out in Sir Robert Gordon's narrative.

## 1591

**202** The vij of Marche 1590 departit Ellein Thomeson in ye Chanorie of Ross spous to Jhone Ross brother german to ye Abote of Ferne.

John Ross was son of William Ross of Culnaha and his second wife Margaret Murison (131), and so brother of Master Thomas Ross (see 33-41), Donald Ross (217) and Alexander Ross (226). According to *Blackie*, 55 (see 242), he lived in Chanonry (where he had a feu of the manse of the parsonage of Alness), married Helen Thomson, was a messenger, and was 'man of Kilmuire' (*Blackie*, 55).

John Ross's feu-charter came from Master Thomas, as parson of Alness, 14 June 1561 (*RMS*, iv, 1744). He married Ellen, daughter of Alexander Thomson, burgess of Rosemarkie, in 1564 (NP1/25, 14v, 1 July). He was dead by 23 June 1592, when David Ross (relationship not stated) was retoured as his heir (SC29/1/1, 142v). As John Ross, messenger, he was listed amongst the officers of the Lyon Court in the North, 26 April 1569 (*RPC*, i, 660). Recorded between 4 August 1564 (*RMS*, iv, 2272) and 21 September 1589 (RD1/36, 54r-v), he was one of the family witnesses to Master Thomas's transfer of Tain burgh lands, 16 February 1580 (*Gray*, 119r-120v [see 235-6]). A tack of teinds by Mr David Chalmers (215) calls him 'John Ross messenger vicar of Kilmyr Wester' (GD305/1/136/7, 23 October 1588). He was therefore John Ross, vicar of Kilmuir, who was presented to the vicarage, 12 December 1573 (*RSS*, vi, 2227), was reader between 1574 and 1592 (*Wodrow Misc.*, 336; E47/1-5), and was succeeded in the vicarage by Mr Andrew Crambie, 28 May 1592 (PS1/63, 271v). He died 'at Tayne, in My Lord of Fearn's house' (*Blackie*, 55).

**203** The ix day of Marche 1590 departit in ye Channorie of Ross ane weill conditionit zoung man callit Patrik Dunbar son and appeirand air to George Dunbar of Awache.

Mr George Dunbar was brother of John Dunbar of Bennetsfield (121). He was presented to the vicarage of Rosemarkie, 12 May 1549 (*RSS*, iv, 245) and was rector of Kilmuir Wester by 12 November 1552 (GD125/5). He had a feu-ferme charter of three quarters of Avoch from Bishop Henry Sinclair's commissioner, 23 July 1563 (*RSS*, viii, 59). Little Suddie, which he purchased from John Dunbar of Bennetsfield's son David (183), 7 April 1568, came into his hands after the death of David's widow Grissel Leslie in February 1596 (*RMS*, vi, 445). He is recorded between 7 November 1555 (GD305/1/80/28) and 15 August 1606 (GD129/1/7/10). He was a frequent litigant and arbiter, being involved in the Cadboll affair (see 211), the Meikle Tarrel inheritance (52), the Denoon inheritance (14) and the action by Nicholas Ross of Dunskaith against the lairds of Balnagown (see 165). He was commissary of Ross at various dates between 7 October 1577

(CC8/8/18, 100r) and 15 August 1606 (GD129/1/7/10), but may not have held the office continuously. He was still alive on 15 February 1607 (RMS, vi, 1859), but his son John was styled 'of Awach' on the following 26 March (RMS, vii, 1249).

Mr George's 1563 charter of Avoch (see above) gave the succession to his 'natural sons' George and Patrick. They were the sons of Jonet Thomson, to whom their father gave a liferent of the manse of Kilmuir in Chanonry, with succession to her three sons George, Patrick and John (PS1/57, 180v, 6 April 1588; as Bishop Leslie's consent is stated the gift cannot have been later than 19 August 1568). Jonet was later called Mr George's wife (RMS, v, 1920, 11 June 1591). Patrick Dunbar had a chaplainry grant, 7 April 1574 (RSS, vi, 2439). Like his elder brother George, he predeceased his father.

**204** The . of Marche 1590 departitt in Tayne in Ross . . . callit Androw Jak burges of Aberdein and wes buryit in Our Ladie kirk in ye north syid of ye queir.

Andrew Jack has not been traced in Ross-shire sources, and his presence at Tain is unexplained. He is recorded between 21 March 1565 (RD1/7, 135v-136v) and 5 November 1588 (RD1/30, 379v-381r), usually as a merchant trader. Two contracts (RD1/30, 379v-381r; RD1/31, 272v-274r) and his consequent escheat (PS1/62, 38r, 21 April 1591) suggest that he shipped butter south from Orkney.

**205** Obiit Margareta Simsoun alias Galdy in Lytill Kindeiss, spousa Valteri Ross ibidem xvij Octobris 1591.

*Blackie*, 58, calls Margaret Simson's husband 'Walter Ross Walterson portioner of Kindeace Little'. Kindeace (Nigg par.) was a much-divided property, whose sixteenth-century holders are difficult to distinguish. Walter Ross, variously styled as in or of Kindeace, Wester (Meikle) Kindeace, or Easter (Little) Kindeace (see RD1/31, 199r-203r, 7 May 1587; GD146/22/14, 4 June 1594; GD129/7/10, 31 January 1596), appeared as 'Walter Ross in Kynteiss' on Alexander of Balnagown's 1565 subscription list (see 243). He was sixty years old on 5 March 1589, when he had exemption from host service (PS1/59, 51v), but nevertheless had acquired a new wife, Agnes Vaus, by 13 October 1595 (Macgill, ii, p. 6 [GD129/1/1]). His son Hugh (280) witnessed as 'of Kindeace', 2 September 1600. Walter's testament is listed at 1 January 1608 in *Edinburgh Testaments*, i (SRS, 1897), but neither testament nor inventory survives.



The original compiler of *Blackie* was interested in the Little Kindeace family. He knew the date (10 May 1591) and some of the details of Hugh Ross's marriage contract (*Blackie*, 56-8). The bride, Catherine Ross, who brought 600 merks tocher, was the daughter of a first cousin of Master Thomas Ross, and her husband witnessed the old commendator's last formal act on 31 January 1595, a fortnight before his death (GD129/1/7/10, 31 January 1596 [Macgill, no. 37]).

**206** The xxij of December 1591 Thomas Ross alias Reid departit in Taine. He wes ye Abat of Fernis sustir sone: and wes sustenit be ye said Abat ay sen he was fowir zeir of age: and at ye scowlis.

The personal tone of this entry is unmistakeable (cf. *Blackie*, 55 [see 242]). Thomas Ross, son of the deceased John Ross or Reid in Annat (Nigg par.), had a grant on 30 January 1574 of the chaplainry of Morangie, 'to sustain him at ye scowlis' (RSS, vi, 2290). He lived long enough to marry and have a son (*Blackie*, 71).

#### 1592

**207** The xij day of Apryll 1592 Katharene McKenze departit in Daan and wes erdit on ye morue in Ferne: sche beand Lady of Balnagown 1592.

Daughter of Kenneth Mackenzie of Kintail (d. 1574). Sister of Roderick of Ardafallie (264). Second wife of Alexander Ross IX of Balnagown (216). Mother of Nicholas Ross of Pitcalnie (246) and Malcolm Ross of Cambuscurrie (275). She was married to Alexander Ross by 16 September 1559 (GD199/16, liferent sasine).

**208** Obitus Hugonis Ross in Mekill Aldie 1592 qui fuit sepultus in ecclesie de Tane apud Andream Ross olim ballium de Tane [at 18 May].

Hugh Ross's relationship to Andrew Ross (175) has not been established.

#### 1594

**209** The xxvj sext of Aprill 1594 Alexander Wrquhatt in Innerathie wes bureitt honorabillie in the kirk of Tayne and departit the xxv of the said moneth 1594 at the plessir of God in his awin hous.

Alexander Urquhart was a member of the Tain burgh court, 21 January 1594 (Macgill, no. 941). The Urquhart portion of Innerathie (Tain par.) was acquired through marriage. Katherine Vaus, who was retoured in 1592 to her great-grandmother Marcella MacTyre (from whom the lands may have descended), became the wife of David Urquhart (SC29/1/1, 141v, 20 April 1592; GD96/348, 25 February 1609). The remainder of Innerathie was held by the Faid family (see 38). Alexander Urquhart and Finlay Faid in Innerathie served on the inquest which retoured Katherine Vaus, and David Urquhart and Finlay Faid, lords of Innerathie, jointly granted a feu-ferme charter of the salmon fishings, 1593 (GD305/1/34/2). David Urquhart was the largest holder of bere farms (120 bolls) in Tain in 1612 (SC34/28/90, Tain Stent Roll [Macgill, no. 53]).

**210** The 4 day of October 1594 Huntley ower threw Argyle at Glenliwet.

3 October, according to Gordon, 227, and sources in Dunbar, *Scot. Kings*, 270.

## V

### Hand of Walter Ross of Morangie

1572

**211** Obitus Agnete Ros domina Plaids aput Hilton xxiiij Aprilis anno Domini M<sup>o</sup> cccc<sup>o</sup> lxxii. [On February page]

Daughter of Sir David Ross VII of Balnagown (47). Widow of William MacCulloch of Plaids (51), to whom married by 12 August 1511 (CS5/23, 126r-v). After the death of her son Thomas at Pinkie (Munro, 'Plaids', 42) she fought a long legal battle to keep control of part of Cadboll (Fearn par.). The MacCulloch title went back to 1478, when the bishop of Moray and the chaplains of Cadboll in the cathedral kirk of Moray granted a lease to John MacCulloch and three successive heirs (see OPS, II, ii, 441-2; *Moray Reg.*, no. 197); a further charter by Bishop James Hepburn and chaplains was confirmed at Rome, 30 September 1524 (ASV, ASPA, Reg. Matrim. et Div., 73, 1548v-1549v). Agnes Ross's husband, the second heir to hold after John MacCulloch, had a judgment in the sheriff court to protect his title against Abbot Donald

Denoon and the canons of Fearn, lords of another part of Cadboll (SC29/1/1, 4v-5v, - March 1534). Agnes's opponent was Alexander Innes, formerly 'captain of Orkney', who bought Plaids and the other MacCulloch lands, with the hereditary bailiary of St Duthac, from Thomas MacCulloch's son Robert, 23 January 1552 (RMS, iv, 681). Agnes claimed that Thomas had given her a nineteen-year tack of two thirds of Cadboll in 1542, and that at the same time she herself had given to him and his assigns a similar tack of her terce lands of a third of Cadboll, with Skardie (Tain par.). This tack, she further claimed, had been assigned by him in 1546 to a lady described as 'young Agnes Ross in Skardie'. The ensuing legal complications stretched over a decade (see CS7/18, 35r-v, 299v, 321v-322r; CS7/19<sup>1</sup>, 34v-35v, 204r; CS7/22, 96v-97v; CS7/23, 185v; CS7/24, 449r-v; CS7/25, 65r-66v; CS7/28, 305r-v; SC29/1/1, 81v-82v; SC29/1/1A, 19v, 34r-35r, 37r, 43r, 51v, 67r-70r, 133r-135v, 139v-140r, 161r-v; entries in this volume are not in strict chronological order, many being drafts and notes of legal arguments).

In 1555 Innes, relying on the Moray connection, tried to bring the younger Agnes before the justice-ayre of the regality of Spynie, he himself being conveniently justice-depute. She complained to the Lords of Session on the ground that she lived in Skardie, inside the girth and immunity of Tain, and the matter dropped. She was still in Skardie in 1560, when she obtained a sheriff court decret against Innes over tree-cutting. Although her identity has not been established, it is possible that she was of the Balnagown family and the mother of Hugh MacCulloch (see 135) by Thomas of Plaids. Innes's major attack came in 1558, when he sought the women's removal from Cadboll for 'wrangous occupatioun'. The court ordered them to prove their titles and to produce witnesses, which had not been done by 11 March 1559. In April 1560 documents were finally produced for the elder Agnes, including her original tack from Thomas of Plaids in 1541, with a further liferent grant by him of the west third of Cadboll, 31 August 1547 (suspiciously close to the date of Pinkie). There was also included a testimonial by Alexander Ross IX of Balnagown that, acting as cautioner for Robert MacCulloch, he had received various 'evidents', in particular Thomas MacCulloch's charter and sasine of Cadboll. This seems to have been an attempt, probably disingenuous, to fill a critical gap in the evidence. An attempt to call witnesses was resisted by Innes's lawyer, who claimed that it was contrary to the laws and practice of the realm for heritable title to be referred to proof of witnesses, without 'ye attentyk ewident in wrot selet and subscrivit'. The sheriffs-depute

agreed on 12 May that 'na hereditabill mattir ma be prowyn be witness' and Agnes Ross's defence collapsed (Erskine, *Institute*, 224-5, supports the argument). Judgment, however, did not necessarily mean peaceful possession. Agnes Ross continued to occupy the south-west third of Cadboll, and was ordered to remove, but came back to court to ask for reduction of the sheriff court decret of 12 May 1561. This time the decision went her way, the Lords annulling the decret on 4 December 1562, on the extremely limited ground that a meeting of the sheriff court on 28 April had been insufficiently summoned, neither the pursuer nor his procurator being present when the writs were issued.

Innes must have wondered exactly what he had to do to lay his hands on Cadboll. The two women were still on the scene in 1565, both appearing in Alexander Ross of Balnagown's subscription list (see 243). It was not until more than a decade later, and two years after Agnes Ross's death, that he was able to come to an agreement with her nephew Alexander of Balnagown, acting for all his kin, including Hugh MacCulloch (GD96/147, 31 July 1574: see also 216). By this Alexander agreed to hand over Cadboll Tower, which he had seized and demolished, and with it all the lands of Cadboll, including a third which had reverted to Innes and his wife on Agnes Ross's death, and a third which had been seized by Hugh MacCulloch. Exactly how close Hugh MacCulloch was to the Plaids succession is unclear. Technically, he died a bastard, but contemporary opinion may have seen things differently.

## 1575

**212** The xiii day of Januar ye zeir of God ane<sup>m</sup> v<sup>c</sup> lxxiiii zeiris ane honorabil man Huchon Ross of Tolle decessit quhom God assolze.

Son of Sir David VII of Balnagown (47: GD297/227/1, 7 May 1550). Father of Hugh II (279). Four generations of the family of Tollie in the male line, all named Hugh, are noticed in the *Calendar*: see also 242, 279, 316. See Reid, 24, 104; A.M. Ross, 74; GCR, 232.

Hugh I is recorded between 1 June 1538 (see below) and 1572 (Macgill, no. 903). He had a tack of the earldom lands of Brakach, Achnacloich, Cuillich and Milncraig (Roskeen par.) on 1 June 1538 (RSS, ii, 2580), and at an unknown date before 15 February 1558 (when styled 'of Tollie' [GD297/227/4]) a feu-ferme charter of the kirklands of the chaplainry of Tollie (RMS, vi, 343, 15 August 1595). He was rated at three chalders in his nephew Alexander of Balnagown's subscription-list, 1565 (see 243). He was married at least twice, lastly to Barbara,

daughter of Alexander Tulloch and widow of Alexander Kinnaird of Culbin (so Master Thomas Ross's mother-in-law). She was retoured in her terce, 19 October 1575 (SC29/1/1, 84v), and had a judgment against his son Hugh II for failing to buy out her title and kindness to her husband's crown lands (CS7/63, 96r-v, 13 April 1576).

## 1576

213 The xx day of October ye zeir of God j<sup>m</sup> v<sup>c</sup> lxxvj zeris George Gordon Erle Huntlie deceisset suddentlie quhom God assolze at Straboge eftir noune cumyn fra ye fuitbau.

'After ane eccesse at playing at some violent exercise' (Gordon, 171). Sir Robert considered that football was 'ane exercise much in request then among the Scots, bot decayed of late' (*ibid.*, 180, reporting an alleged murder during play by the Earl of Caithness).

## 1592

214 Decimo Octobr 1592 obiit honorab [sic] vir Daudid Clepen burg— in Leyth apud Ferne in domo Allexandri Ferne apud Balnasyrach et sepultus in templo Sancti Duthaci in Tayne.

David Clephane in Leith was a member of a Burntisland family (RD1/24<sup>1</sup>, 2r-3r, 18 May 1586) and related to John Clephane of Montagart, and so to his wife Alison Orrock (272) and granddaughter Alison Clephane (355). He traded in company with an older man, David Vaus (possibly of the Lochslin family), whose daughter he married. They sailed to Flanders in 1575, where they were to collect bullion from Mr George Halket, the Scots conservator (RD1/15, 75v-76v, 24 March 1575). David Clephane traded extensively in Ross-shire, buying grain, cattle and salmon (for contracts with the Rosses of Balnagown see RD1/12, 407r-v; RD1/14, 163v-164r; RD1/14, 268r-269r [including thirty-four cattle, to be 'sichtit' at Balnagown and driven beyond Spey at Ross's expense]; RD1/24<sup>1</sup>, 3r-5r, 10 October 1585). Some of his purchases were secured on heritable titles (RD1/20<sup>2</sup>, 65v-66v, 12 June 1582, sixty bolls bere yearly out of Edderton parish, for which he advanced 1,000 merks and had a title to Little Dallas and Leichston [NP1/40, 14r-v, 13 July]).

The market inside which Clephane operated depended greatly on good local contacts. He was on close terms with Master Thomas Ross

and Alexander Fearn (218). On 10 August 1566 he witnessed the commendator's ratification of a charter by his predecessor Nicholas Ross to Fearn (RMS, iv, 2220; the original [GD129/1/17/57, 20 July 1565] carries the ratification). Alexander Fearn witnessed at Nigg a receipt by David Clephane to a servant of Alexander Ross of Balnagown, 2 May 1575 (GD129/1/6/5). David, in his turn, witnessed at Fearn a charter by Alexander to his third son, Magnus, 5 December 1578 (GD129/1/17/57), and ten years later the sasine given on it (GD129/1/17/57, endorsement of 6 December 1588). David bought girdles at Nigg from Alexander (RD1/51, 166v-168v; David Fearn, 'succeeding in my father's life to his portion of Nig', warranted the sale, 5 December 1588). As the present entry shows, Clephane was staying in Alexander's house when he died. One subsequent twist may be noted. On 19 December 1598 David Clephane's son and heir Nicholas and his wife, Elizabeth Mowbray, resigned a tenement in Burntisland (B9/1/3, 156r-157v): one of the witnesses was 'Phinlay Pherne', to be identified as Alexander Fearn's unfortunate son (see 218). Friendship with Master Thomas Ross continued also. When Thomas was forfeited for failing to pay four monks' portions out of the revenues of Fearn David Clephane bought up his escheat for £10 (PS1/62, 40r, 23 April 1591). Later in 1591, on one of his many visits North, he witnessed a charter by George Ross of Balnagown for Thomas's son Walter of Morangie (GD146/1/2, 13 October 1591). His own son Nicholas was a witness of the will of Thomas's widow, Isobel Kinnaird, at Tain on 5 October 1603 (CC8/8/42, 362r-363r).

David Clephane's Northern connections went beyond Ross. He did business with, amongst others, John Campbell of Cawdor (*Cawdor Bk.*, 198-9). On 30 April 1587 he arranged the marriage of his eldest daughter Janet to Alexander Cuthbert, burgess of Inverness, and took instruments that he would give her 'a cheyne of gold', upon which Cuthbert undertook that he would give her another 'as guid as hyr fader sall gyf hir at ye day of hyr marriage' (NP1/40, 97r, 97v). He appears to have run into financial problems in his later years, possibly through the failure of a lawsuit in the Edinburgh commissary court against an heir who refused to honour a 'ticket' for £680 (CC8/2/17, 7 August 1587).

215 18 Octo obiit honorabilis vir magister Daudid Chalmer de Ormondy cancellarius Rossensis et praeses sedis justitie apud Canoni-  
am Rossensem . in ye lady . . .

Mr David Chalmers was nephew of Mr Duncan Chalmers (146), and younger son of Andrew Chalmers of Strichen. See RMS, iv, 973, 1295,

1358; *HMC, Salisbury*, ii (1888), 46-7; Temple, *Fermartyn*, 84; Watt, *Fasti*, 279; G. Brunton and D. Haig, *An Historical Account of the Senators of the College of Justice* (Edinburgh, 1832), 123-5. The comments that follow are confined to his activities in Ross. I am grateful to Dr Julian Goodare, who is presently studying Chalmers's wider career, for information on and discussion of the subject.

David Chalmers was his uncle's successor-designate (see 146), but evidence of his first tenure of the chancellorship of Ross is limited. The official view, following his flight after Langside, appears to have been that he had never actually become chancellor (though so described before the Lords of Session, 8 July 1566 [CS7/38, 24r-24v]). Sasine of his one substantial Ross acquisition (a feu-ferme grant of Castleton, Belmaduthy, Meikle Suddie and Auchterflow [RSS, v, 3147, 23 December 1566; APS, ii, 549-553, 1567]) was taken for him by attorney, with Chancellor Duncan as a witness (NP1/25, 65v-67r). His signature is not found on any surviving charters by the bishop and chapter, and when he and his uncle gave a joint feu-ferme charter of the kirklands of Kinnettes in 1567 he consented at Edinburgh on 21 May, more than six weeks after his uncle had done so in Chanonry (GD305/1/14/1). Despite his subsequent forfeiture, the next chancellor, Mr George Munro (*Munro Tree*, L/42; Watt, *Fasti*, 279), was not presented until 5 July 1571, after Mr Duncan Chalmers's death (RSS, vi, 1201). David's forfeited feu-lands had already been granted to Andrew Munro (248), Chancellor George's brother (RMS, iv, 1826, 28 August 1568).

Although back in Scotland in the latter part of 1582, David Chalmers did not formally return into royal favour until 4 September 1583, when he was given a somewhat guarded pacification (APS, iii, 314-15, c.37, ratification of May 1584). Andrew Munro, whose grant of Chalmers's lands had been ratified in 1581 (APS, iii, 272-3, c.88), was petitioning urgently for a confirmation as early as 22 February 1583 (RPC, iii, 553-5). Chalmers's testament, showing steelbow contracts with tenants in Auchterflow and Castleton, and forty 'gymmers and dymonts' on the mains of Castleton, indicates that he recovered a certain amount (CC8/8/25, 134v-136v), but his *novodamus* of 2 July 1591 is unlikely to have guaranteed him full control (PS1/62, 101r; APS, iii, 601, c.113). When he tried to collect the chancellorship revenues Mr George Munro summoned him to show his letters of presentation (NP1/40, 68v, 30 July 1585), and complained to the Privy Council about his behaviour (RPC, iv, 68-9, 3 May 1586). The dispute came eventually before Chalmers's colleagues of the Session, who found that

he had secured 'ordourly' letters against those holding the chancellor lands, and that his titles were valid (CS7/110, 369v-371r, 16 May 1587). This stretched the facts somewhat; crown approval of his title only came in contorted letters of 31 July 1587 (PS1/55, 217r), which ratified a provision 'in the Court of Rome', allegedly made possible by Mr Duncan Chalmers's resignation into Papal hands in 1553, and subsequent resignation in 1560 of a reserved liferent (see 146). After Chalmers's death George Munro resumed the chancellorship for life, by contract with the new patron, Sir William Keith of Delny; see RMS, v, 1331, 1 August 1587; RMS, v, 1625, 3 February 1589; RD1/47, 300v-302v, 9 March 1594.

As a senator of the College of Justice, David Chalmers could do something to influence the course of legal battles. In the real world of the 1580s, however, local support was essential. So, no longer constrained by religion, he took a wife. On 26 January 1586 he contracted to marry Christina, daughter of Alexander Ross of Balnagown (216), giving her liferent sasine of Castleton, Belmaduthy and Suddie (GD199/20). At the request of Alexander Ross and his sons George and Nicholas, he bought up escheats under which they had fallen for non-payment of taxation (PS1/62, 14r, 16 March 1591; PS1/64, 113v, 25 August 1592), for which they owed his estate £300 after his death. What favours Chalmers received in return is unclear. He was trying, like Bishop Cairncross, to establish his family inside an intensely local society, but after his death the structure crumbled. His widow married again, this time into the rising Mackenzie family (see 216). His only son William married the daughter of a small Banffshire landholder (RS36/2, 57r-59r, 6 May 1606) and sold the Castleton feu-lands to Kenneth Mackenzie, Lord Kintail (245) in 1607 (RS36/2, 299v-300r, 30 October, and 312r-313r, 7 and - November).

**216** 24 Octob 1592 obiit honorabilis vir Allexander Ross de Baal-nagounne et sepultus in Ferne . 28 eiusdem.

Ninth laird of Balnagown. Son of Walter VIII (48) and Marjorie Grant (110). Brother of Hugh of Mulderg (see 48), and half-brother of Alexander of Little Tarrel (161). Husband of: Janet Sinclair, daughter of John, third earl of Caithness (married before 27 September 1546, died before 11 June 1558: RMS, iv, 9; GD297/184/2,3; GD297/201/2; Macgill, no. 674); and of Katherine Mackenzie (207). Father of: by first marriage, George (266), who succeeded him; Katherine, second wife of Robert mor Munro of Foulis (*Munro Tree*, R); Janet, Margaret and Elizabeth (Macgill, no. 674; for Elizabeth see 135); and by second



marriage, Nicholas of Pitcalnie (246); Malcolm of Cambuscurrie (275); and Christina, wife of Mr David Chalmers of Ormond (see 215) and Kenneth Mackenzie of Davochmoluag (RS36/2, 222v-223r, 26 May 1607; see also GD199/108, 21 May 1607). Another daughter of Alexander is known: Agnes, married in 1592 to William Ross of Dunskaith (see 165: Macgill, no. 681). She had previously been married to Neil Hughson Angusson in 'Achimmoir' (possibly Achmore in Assynt); Neil Hughson of Achinmoir in Assynt was in escheat, 28 November 1581 (RD1/20<sup>1</sup>, 161r-163v), and was later killed by his son-in-law, who was captured and executed at Tain by 'the Laird of Balnagown's friends' (Gordon, 263-5). Agnes Ross, wife of Duncan Campbell of Boath, grandson of Sir John Campbell of Cawdor, said to be of the Balnagown family (*Cawdor Bk.*, 178; Reid, 10) was a daughter of John Ross of Belivat (CC8/8/12, 293v-295v). See Reid, 9-10; A.M. Ross, 26-31; GCR, 84-7.

Alexander Ross's date of birth is unknown; he was in the ward of his uncle William Ross (145) after his father's death, but was old enough to sit on a retouring inquest, 20 October 1541 (SC29/1/1, 7r-v), and to receive a precept to give sasine, 24 March 1544 (GD86/132). He was specially retoured to Balnagown as heir to his grandfather Sir David VII (47), 5 May 1544 (SC29/1/1, 17r-18r; GD297/184/5, 25-29 October, sasine). The 'old barony' of Balnagown he inherited can be traced, substantially unchanged, in a series of retours and charters between 1440 (*Isles*, no. 31, 21 January) and 1560 (GD297/184/1, 11 April). In addition to Balnagown itself and holdings in the low ground parishes of Easter Ross, it included farms in Edderton parish around the house of Ardmore and the major part of Strathcarron and the south bank of Strathoykel. When Alexander went to the sheriff court in 1559 for a new retour of his lands he produced a rental of £102, with twenty chalders of victual and a few marts and sheep, which the court estimated at £249.10s. (SC29/1/1, 38v-40r).

The increase in the feuing of kirklands from the 1540s enabled him to increase his estates at the expense of the bishops of Ross and the abbots of Fearn. From the relatives of Bishop Cairncross (see 56) he acquired a group of lands on the west side of the Hill of Nigg (Pitcalnie, Culnaha, Annat, Culderare), some of which became the endowment of his second son, Nicholas of Pitcalnie (246). Others lay on the south side of the Dornoch Firth between Ardgay and Edderton, forming the later tenantry of Kincardine (GD297/203, 15 June 1563; RMS, ix, 1980: *Cronicle*, 21-2, claims that Master Thomas Ross persuaded Bishop Henry Sinclair to make this grant, on which the writer waxes lyrical). A

family strong house can be identified before the end of the sixteenth century on the shore below Kincardine kirk (see 145). Cairncross weakness and the acquiescence of Commendator Nicholas Ross (143) enabled Alexander to do even better at Fearn, where he secured feu-charters of lands producing 60 per cent of the money rent (£99.12s. out of £165.7s.) and 75 per cent of the grain rent (twenty-four chalders out of thirty-two: see *OPS*, II, ii, 437-8). Amongst lands passing in this way were holdings close to the monastery, including Balmuchy (see 229) and Mulderg (see 48), on which Ross cadets were installed. Further to the west were Dounie in Westray and Wester Fearn (Edderton par.), which had belonged to the canons since the original foundation. Invercharron (Kincardine par.), which like Balmuchy and Mulderg went to a cadet branch (see 276), completed a line of Balnagown lands linking Ardmore to the grazing lands in Strathcarron and Strathoykel. Most economically significant of all was the salmon fishing of the Bonach (at present-day Bonar Bridge), which led to long-running disputes with the Grays of Swordale (Creich par., Sutherland), the inheritors of the bishops of Caithness (see *Gray*, 45v-47r [see 228-30]). Alexander was not so successful, however, at Tain, where Plaids and the bailiary of St Duthac escaped him. He acquired only Cambuscurrie (see 275) out of the five territorially endowed prebends of St Duthac, although there was a long battle over the adjacent Tarlogie (see 250).

By the middle of the sixteenth century the lairds of Balnagown had a clear position as leaders of 'the name and arms of Ross', as the wording of contemporary charters demonstrates. Despite tenurial complexity the 'Ross country' was an entity, inside which Balnagown provided natural leadership. A large part of the estate was in the hands of relatives or supporters, providing the armed loyalty on which the laird's status and position depended. The economic dimension was important also, but in the last analysis it took second place to the relationship between the laird and his natural followers.

Alexander Ross was fully involved in the disputes of his time. Support of family, household, kin and friends was expected from him. Such support operated in a 'statesmanlike' way when he agreed to arbitration with Dunbar of Tarbat over the killing of one of his followers (NP1/25, 7r-8r, 13 April 1564), but he was basically a violent man (though his importation of a culverin and habergeons from Flanders in 1553 [Macgill, no. 673] was not unusual for the age). Churchmen certainly found him oppressive. The relics of St Duthac, which Provost Nicholas Ross entrusted to him on 16 July 1560, never reappeared (see 143); the canons of Fearn protested that he intimidated

them into retrospectively subscribing a feu-charter (see 56); and the reformed presbytery of Tain was outraged by his appropriation of the chapter-house of St Duthac as a girdle and larder (Macgill, no. 43, 1588). Master Thomas Ross, a loyal kinsman, complained bitterly at the loss of family land and his own enforced exile from Ross (*Cronicle*, 21-3). One of his complaints is noteworthy: Alexander, he alleged, 'usurps his Hienes authoritie in taking of fre personis. . . and detening of thame in ward in irlis' (*RPC*, iii, 361-2, 1 March 1581).

In two crucial respects Alexander Ross fell short of the ideal standards of his age: he lost the confidence of the chief men of his name; and he quarrelled with his own heir. Two surviving documents throw light on the 'name and arms', and on the strains which Alexander put on its loyalty. A much-handled paper of 1565 (see 243-4) lists twenty-three Rosses and twenty-seven other 'gentillmen in this cuntry' who were approached in 1565 to give him victual or money to help him to redeem lands given out in wadset. Such an 'aid' was not unique. Fifty years later Earl John of Sutherland was given a five-year levy by the inhabitants of his shire (Gordon, 382-3). In 1565 Alexander Ross had a good response from those of his own name, only three of whom did not agree; only six neighbours, however, contributed. By 1577 loyalty was under more pressure. On 2 August of that year fourteen of his 'kin and freinds' (all but two Rosses), led by his son and apparent heir George, sent emissaries with four 'heddis' to the old laird (Macgill, ii, no. 1006, abbreviated text; original in the Balnagown Book). The house of Balnagown, they told Alexander, had always been respected for its loyalty to 'the prince and autoritie', but now by disobedience to the government he was risking 'uter wrak', with 'tinsal of the riggis that his elders wan', and with the prospect, they feared, of 'ane stranger to cum in his rouse'. The danger was acute, for his lands were to be appraised on 10 September. The fourteen therefore asked him to fix a tryst to discuss remedies, to which they invited him to bring 'sa mony or sa few of his freinds' as he pleased. Family loyalty was under considerable strain.

How had this situation come about? Though there is no evidence on the use made of the 1565 'supply', and very little on Alexander's financial situation, later evidence (see 266) suggests that long-range problems had already developed. The reverse side of landed title was heritable debt. Wadsets, even when accompanied by 'lease-back' tacks, carried the obvious danger that in the end no redemption might take place. Large-scale trading deals in cereals and salmon also had built-in debt risks, which could lead to lands passing to merchants in security

(see 214, 266). It is also clear that Alexander's private war with Alexander Innes of Plaids, culminating in the 'casting down of the batellit tour of Cadboll' and the capture of Innes (Macgill, no. 677; Innes was forced to resign Cadboll, Plaids, and the bailiary of Tain [ibid., no. 903, 1573]), brought him into the sights of central government. In March 1574 he was warded in Edinburgh Castle for four months, and compelled to contract to pay Innes 4,000 merks and to repair 'sum voltis and houses' at Cadboll (RD1/13, 381r-383v, 31 July). When he revoked the contract on 5 August (Macgill, no. 677), he found himself warded in Tantallon, from which he was released under surety to remain in Edinburgh or Leith until 11 November (RPC, ii, 409). His son George, who had come to Edinburgh, had to go north to find cautioners that his father would appear before the Council (RPC, ii, 443, 10 April). In the event three of the four named guarantors would not act, and it was not until 9 July that the fourth, John Campbell of Cawdor, was joined by James Scrymgeour of Dudhope, constable of Dundee (RPC, ii, 457).

Back in the North, Alexander sowed the seeds of further trouble. In 1576 he imprisoned Nicholas Ross of Dunskaith in Kincardine for over two months (Gray, 82r [see 231-2]; see also 165). By early 1577 he had defaulted on a contract with William Wauch, burgess of Forres (RD1/15, 50r-51r, 17 June 1575). His cautioners were unable to produce him in Edinburgh, and a decreet of apprising was issued against both him and his son (RPC, ii, 594-5, 22 February). Alarmed, George Ross went to Edinburgh. There he found himself a new surety (RPC, ii, 710, 25 March), paid William Wauch £200 in full settlement (RD1/16, 75r, 16 April), and tried to come to terms with Nicholas of Dunskaith. He paid off a debt of 173 merks for Nicholas on 11 April (RD1/16, 77v), and obliged himself to reinstate him in the lands Alexander had invaded, to keep him skaithless of the old laird, and to pay damages to be assessed by arbiters (RD1/16, 135r-136r, 12 April; 137r-139r, 30 April: see 165). Clearly George Ross was extremely anxious to defuse an explosive situation.

Alexander Ross, it appears, remained defiant as the date set for the apprising approached. The wording of the appeal of 2 August suggests that he had taken to the hills with unnamed supporters. Responsible Ross figures were urging him to submit to authority, 'rather not to parische his hous' (the words, omitted in Macgill, ii, no. 1006, are taken from the original in the Balnagown Book), but the laird was not to be drawn. On the day of the apprising George Ross appeared in the sheriff court in Inverness and made a formal protest for his right

(NP1/32, 182r). From this date Alexander Ross's effective headship of the 'name of Ross' may be said to have ended. It was his son who had to untangle the complications and to invent new defences for a threatened inheritance (see 266). The family atmosphere must have been tense that autumn, the more so as it was involved at the same time in a major witchcraft scandal (see 164).

Alexander's capacity to cause trouble was by no means exhausted. He still had his own household to maintain, and the children of his second marriage to provide for (see 246, 275). A decret arbitral of 22 April 1585, which regulated his son Nicholas's position, rather optimistically provided for 'good, friendly and natural friendship, amity, perfect love and kindness. . . as becomes the law of God and nature. . . between father and son'. It prescribed a division of the lands of Balnagown between father and son, giving Alexander Ardmore and the milns and teinds of Little Dallas, with ten chalders and ten bolls bere annually out of lands in Westray and forty-seven merks of silver. Until the wadsets on 'the leving of Balnagoun' were redeemed he lost all title to the place, mains and barony of Balnagown and the lands held from the bishopric, but thereafter was to have two-thirds of the reclaimed lands. His pride was salved, however, by the right of hunting on the Balnagown forests, with the service of his son, vassals and tenants, 'with all honor usit and wont as ye lairdis of ballnagowne possessit ye same of before and to have the first place' (RD1/25, 23v-26v). He remained improvident, however. On 20 April 1587, at Tain, 'speciall freindis of surname' advised George Ross on fresh terms to be granted to his father. Alexander was to retain the barony of Westray (a new term), with Edderton and Dounie, but he was not to interfere with tacks given by his son or intercept feu-duties. George took to himself the right to redeem most of the lands, reserving to his father only the remote Achnagullan in Strathoykel and the forest of Freevater. Alexander was to have all hawks to be bred and 'cleikit' (hatched) within the bounds of Balnagown - a concession that may have mattered more to him than the hard financial details (RD1/34, 264r-265r).

By this date Alexander was an old man in sixteenth-century terms. He was not present at Balnagown on 22 April 1588, when Nicholas Ross, now married and in possession of Pitcalnie, promised to assist his half-brother George 'for the standing and weilfair of the housse of Balnagown', the two men binding themselves 'as ane cheiff to ane kinsman' (Macgill, ii, no. 1008). His last recorded appearance was on 4 September 1592, when his daughter Agnes's marriage contract was drawn up (see above). Any judgement on him must be speculative. He

appears to have conformed after the Reformation, though in itself that tells little. He fell foul of central government, but he was not rebellious in a political sense. For all his acquisitiveness, he seems to have paid his feu-duties and his taxes as often as not. His financial confusion was not exceptional for his class and age. The long-running quarrel with his son George was serious, but never spilled over into real violence, and the cohesiveness of the Ross gentry when confronted by it was striking.

## 1593

**217** Obitus Donaldi Ros in Mekill Ranye ultimo die Maii anno 1593 [rectius '1595'] in Lytil Rane et sepultus est in Ferne.

Brother of Master Thomas Ross (221), Alexander Ross (226), and John Ross (see 202). Husband of: Ellen Clunes (182); and Grissel Dunbar, daughter of George Dunbar of Avoch. He is recorded between 10 June 1568 (GD1/436/1) and 10 January 1595 (RD1/51, 149r-150r). *Blackie*, 54 (see 242), which gives his date of death as 30 May 1595, describes him as holding a quarter of Little Rhynie in tack and a quarter of Meikle Rhynie in feu. He had a feu-ferme charter of Meikle Rhynie from Alexander Fearn (218: *Laing Chrs.*, no. 878, 28 November 1572; *RMS*, v, 1184, 23-24 August 1580), and another from his brother Thomas of small properties close to the abbey buildings of Fearn (GD129/1/22/70, 26 January 1577; *RMS*, v, 1185), which he surrendered to his nephew, Walter of Morangie, 28 April 1587 (GD129/1/17/56). His widow owed the abbot for the farms of the quarterland of Meikle Rhynie and the mails of Little Rhynie for crop 1594 (CC8/8/31, 147r-149r). By 13 October 1595 'that quarter land of Mekill Rany that pertained heritably to umquhile Donald Ross portioner' was in other hands (GD129/1/1). His daughter Elizabeth married George Murison, son of Master Thomas Ross's uncle.

**218** Obitus Alexxander Ferne 20 Februarii apud Balnachirie et sepultus in Ferne 1592 [corrected from '1595' in text; his testament was registered on 30 July 1593 (see below)].

According to *Cronicle*, 17: 'in time of the said John [lord of the Isles and earl of Ross, 1449-1493] was Abbot Finlay Mackfaid (whose succession by the King's desire was called Fearn to this day. The first was Mr John Fearn, father to Alexander Fearn of Balnasirach)'. This passage does not appear in the Balnagown MS which forms the basis of the printed text,

and a descent from Abbot Finlay (38) cannot be verified, but evidence on the family of Fearn exists.

Sir John Fearn, priest and notary, was present on 22 November 1488 at the drawing-up of John Ross of Balnagown's resignation instrument (GD297/164), witnessed a similar instrument in favour of David Ross, John's grandson (GD297/228, 24 July 1498), and was presented in expectation to the chaplainry of Newmore in St Duthac, 23 November 1517 (RSS, i, 2948). He was notary and witness, 5 March 1522 (GD199/9), witness, 9 December 1524 (RMS, iii, 2894), and authenticated a mandate presented for Abbot Donald Denoon of Fearn in Rome, March 1526 (ASV, SRR, *Manualia Actorum et Citationum*, 139, 374). He was dead by 26 September 1544, when his escheat, as a bastard, was gifted to sir John Nicholson, chaplain (RSS, iii, 900).

Alexander Fearn, son of sir John Fearn, had a precept of legitimation on 28 January 1552 (RSS, iv, 1494). He is recorded between March 1559 (SC29/1/1, 71r) and 4 October 1586 (SC29/1/1, 118v). He acquired one quarter of Nigg and half of Pitcalzean in feu-ferme from the bishop of Ross, 25 June and 28 July 1563 (RMS, v, 201); crofts adjacent to Fearn, including Balnasirach, from Commendator Nicholas, 20 July 1565 (GD129/1/17/57; RMS, iv, 2220); and a further oxgang of Pitcalzean from the bishop, 31 May 1567 (RMS, v, 201). Alexander Ross of Balnagown thought him good for a one-chalder contribution in 1565 (see 244). His parcel of lands remained with his family until his death. His testament (CC8/8/25, 199r-200r, 30 July 1593) and that of his wife Janet Farquharson (CC8/8/20, 19 July 1589) show that he was a substantial farmer. His nearness to the bishopric girdles at Nigg made him a useful local contact for the Leith merchant David Clephane (214), who died in his house.

Alexander Fearn had four known sons: Alexander, servant of Commendator Thomas Ross (recorded between 28 October 1570 [GD129/1/1] and 28 November 1572 [*Laing Chrs.*, no. 878]); Finlay (in occupation of Pitcalzean with his father, 25 June 1563 [RMS, v, 201; it is possible that his name was inserted retrospectively at the date of confirmation, 5 June 1581]); Magnus, who had a charter of Balnasirach and the crofts of Fearn from his father, 5 December 1578 (GD129/1/17/57; GD129/1/17/57, 24 May 1593; PS1/65, 81v, 24 May 1593); and David, who had a similar charter of the Fearn half of Nigg, 8 May 1593 (PS1/65, 66v; see also RMS, vi, 371, 27 August 1595). In each case Alexander reserved his own liferent. Family partition was being prepared in a sensible way.

There was, however, a background of discord. Alexander younger

died early, and the next brother, Finlay, was on bad terms with his father, who wadset Pitcalzean to Walter Urquhart, sheriff of Cromarty, his wife Elizabeth Rose, and their heirs, in a contract apparently designed to disinherit Finlay (GD305/1/110/337, 13 June 1586). Alexander kept control by a 'lease-back' tack to himself, his wife and his assignees, and then assigned the reversion to his two younger sons, together with Donald Ross of Ballone and Finlay Manson, minister of Nigg, another portioner of Pitcalzean (*Family of Rose*, 287; see also OPS, II, ii, 457-8). This led to violence at the end of Alexander's life. On 25 April 1593 Finlay was escheated for suborning various men to kill his father (PS1/66, 41r). He managed to persuade the commissary of Ross on 24 July to declare him his father's executor (CC8/8/25, 199r-200r; Alexander's date of death is here given as 24 March), but over the summer the three Fearn brothers were required to find cautions not to harm each other (RPC, v, 593-4, 597, 602-03). These cautions show Finlay Fearn on one side, and his brothers on the other, with amongst others David Munro of Culnald (*Munro Tree*, L/102).

Munro was acquisitive. In March 1594 Magnus Fearn sold Balnasirach to him under reversion (GD129/1/17/57). Two years later, he sold it again, this time to George Munro of Meikle Tarrell (RMS, vi, 370, 3 September 1595). David Munro, who had brought an action against Finlay for wrongful occupation of Balnasirach and the crofts of Fearn (CS7/161, 117r, 12 March 1595), also bought David Fearn's half of Nigg on 27 August 1595 (RMS, vi, 371). With George of Meikle Tarrell (282), he now took out letters against Finlay, alleging that he was claiming possession of Magnus's and David's lands under false titles and reversions. Munro of Culnald's death in November 1596 (CC8/8/32, 8 January 1599) stopped the legal action for a time, but by 6 August 1599 the tutors of his son and heir Andrew (302) were ready to join George Munro (himself one of them) in wakening it (CS7/187, 1v-4v, 158r-v, 243r-244v, 247r-249v, records the subsequent civil proceedings, 23 November 1599-2 February 1600).

The Munros stood on sasines taken in 1595 and on an extract of Andrew of Culnald's retour to his father, 23 June 1597, but Finlay played a more complicated hand. Choosing to secure himself as heir to his dead elder brother Alexander, he submitted to the court an extract of a retour to this effect on 25 June 1593 and a *clare constat* from Commendator Thomas Ross, given at Tain on 9 April 1593. The commendator was not perhaps a completely reliable authority, but the retour suggests that local opinion recognised some right in Finlay's claims. It was crucial for him, however, to produce a title strong



enough to override his father's grants to Magnus and David and the wadsetting of Pitcalzean. As in the Cadboll case (see 211), testimony was an uncertain guarantee without written title to back it up. Fatally, Finlay tried to remedy this. His advocate produced an alleged charter and sasine by his father to his elder brother Alexander, granting him all his lands, dated at Balnasirach, 20 March 1575, and carrying Alexander Fearn elder's seal and subscription. The pursuers fastened on this charter and sasine, seeking to prove them 'fals and feinzeit'. The Lords were convinced by five examples of the deceased Alexander Fearn's handwriting produced in court, and ruled on 23 November that both charter and sasine were forgeries.

The consequences were drastic. On 15 February 1600 Finlay, with Robert Innes, notary, and James Tarbat, writer in Edinburgh, came before the Justiciary Court in Edinburgh, accused of forgery (Pitcairn, *Trials*, ii, 104). The dittay charged that Fearn had supplied Tarbat, at some time in the last nine or ten years, with paper on which to write the purported charter. The date, it was claimed, was part of the body of the text, and written fourteen or fifteen years after the actual event. Three days after the charter was written, it was alleged, Finlay, 'in Kait Thomas taverne, at the drinking of ane pynt of vyne with ane John Irving', forged his father's subscription. The charges convinced the assize (containing no north-country members), which found Finlay and Innes guilty, and ordered them to be hanged at the mercat-cross of Edinburgh. Tarbat evidently suffered the same fate, as his escheat was bought for 500 merks on 18 February (PS1/71, 148v).

A footnote may be added. When Finlay Fearn was bound in 1593 not to harm his father and brothers his principal cautioner was John Irving of Kinnoek, Rosemarkie par. (*RPC*, v, 593-4, 597). The connection may have been a troublesome one for Irving, who was pursued by the Treasurer to pay £40 as the price of Finlay's escheat, with a further £10 for the escheat of two burgesses of Tain who had been his fellow-cautioners in 1593; he obtained letters of suspension, but failed to pursue them, and the money went to the Treasurer (*RPC*, v, 645; vi, 26, 617). Irving's action failed on 6 September, just one month after the Munros took out their letters of wakening. It is tempting to identify him as Finlay Fearn's fellow-drinker, and to speculate that he may have turned informer. He was certainly in Edinburgh at the time of the civil action, for on 24 November he sat on an assize to try a group of alleged forgers (Pitcairn, *Trials*, ii, 98-101).

Finlay once gone, the Munros' operations were simplified. The four assignees of the Pitcalzean reversion had already in 1598 made it over to

Andrew Munro (*Family of Rose*, 287; see *RMS*, vi, 2112). Now the inconvenient Urquhart wadset was formally redeemed (CS7/187, 320r-322r, 27 February 1600). The Fearn family, however, kept a foothold in Pitcalzean. Finlay's brother Magnus had a grant of one quarter from Bishop Patrick on 22 March 1631 (RS37/4, 299r-v, 22 March 1631), and his son Andrew a *clare constat* and sasine in the following year, as heir to his father and his deceased uncle David (RS37/5, 211r-212r, 6 June 1632). In 1644 Andrew Fearn held land valued at £88.18s.4d. in Nigg parish (Fraser-Mackintosh, 367), and Pitcalzean was still the family's landed designation in 1662, when a younger Andrew Fearn was retoured to Alexander of Balnasilrach, his *proavus* (*Retours*, ii, Ross and Cromarty, no. 119).

## 1594

**219** The sext day of December 1594 dyed Alexander Gordone Earle of Sutherland and was buried at Dornoch.

Gordon, 233; Fraser, *Sutherland*, i, 166.

**220** Obitus Issobelle Munro spnse [sic] Hugonis Ros de Achnacloche 24 die Decembris anno 1594 sepulta apud Ferne.

Daughter of George Munro of Milton (*Munro Tree*, L/4). Wife of Hugh Ross II of Tollie/Achnacloich (279). Mother-in-law of Walter Ross of Morangie (345).

## 1596

**221** Obitus Magistri Thome Ros abatis Ferne qui obiit in Tayne 14 die Februari ano 1595 et sepultus in Ferne.

See 32-49.

## 1600

**222** Obitus Jonete Ros spnse [sic] Walteri Ros de Morinchie que obiit apud Ferne 2 die eodem [September] 1600 et sepulta est ibidem.

Daughter of Hugh Ross II of Tollie/Achnacloich (279) and Isobel Munro (220). Wife of Walter Ross of Morangie (345). See 42.

## 1601

**223** 3 Julii 1601 Wrsele Tulloch sponse Hugonis Gordone de Ballone obiit ett sepulta in Dornoch.

Daughter of Thomas Tulloch of Fleurs (for the Tulloch family of Fleurs/Tannachy see 247). Wife of Hugh Gordon of Ballone (251). Possibly mother of Oliver Gordon of Ballone (308).

224 Undesimo Octobris 1601 obiitt Alexander Clunes burgen de Crombertty.

Son of John Clunes in Mulderg and Gradoch Denoon, daughter of Abbot Donald Denoon of Fearn (*Blackie*, 74-5). Husband of: Marion, daughter of William Ross in Ballone (*Blackie*, 72), who died 31 May 1585 (CC8/8/20, 19 July 1589); and Agneta Cromy (*RMS*, vi, 776, 15 August 1598; *Blackie*, 72, calls her 'ane gentlewoman in the south called Nans Abercromie'). Father of: by first marriage, seven sons and two daughters, including Alexander (240) and William (228); by second marriage, two sons and a daughter (*Blackie*, 72). Recorded between 19 April 1568 (*RMS*, v, 719) and 28 October 1596 (*RMS*, vi, 2123).

Alexander Clunes's father, John Clunes, had a heritable tack of Achintoul (Roskeen par.) from John Urquhart, tutor of Cromarty, 5 July 1589, which he was able to inflate into a feu-ferme (for the Clunes titles to Achintoul see GD125/5). He had a charter of an oxgang of Dunskaith, with the pendicle of Culbin, half of the ferry and the salmon fishings, from Nicholas Ross of Dunskaith (165) on 28 June 1574 (GD98/Box 5/14, no. 5), which he subsequently granted to his second son Alexander, 21 September 1578 (GD98/Box 5/14, n. 10). His first wife's testament (see above), with a supplementary one given up after her husband's death (CC8/8/36, 25 December 1601), shows them in possession of Achintoul, lands in Cromarty and grazings at Dunskaith.

225 The xx of Nouember 1601 the lardis of Wirmistone and Anstruder Johne Forett of Finzeis and . Fersars wyfe beinge in Leows accompanyitt with sindrie others their campe is brund sindre off the prinsipalls tane and monye slane.

For contemporary accounts of the Fife Adventurers in Lewis see *RPC*, vi, 420-23; Gordon, 270-74; J. Spottiswoode, *The History of the Church of Scotland*, eds. M. Napier and M. Russell (Bannatyne Club, 1850), iii, 101-03; and 'The Ewill Troubles of the Lewis' (*Highland Papers*, ii [SHS, 1916], 270-74); see also D. Gregory, *The History of the Western Highlands and Islands of Scotland* (Edinburgh, 1836), 290-316. The lady's name is not mentioned in any other source.

**226** Undesimo Decembris obiit Alexander Ros Willihelmi in Rarichie 1601.

Son of William Ross of Culnaha and Margaret Murison (131). Brother of Master Thomas Ross (221), John Ross (see 202) and Donald Ross (217): for the relationship see *Laing Chrs.*, no. 878, 28 November 1572. Recorded between 30 June 1569 (GD129/6/4) and 30 April 1577 (RD1/16, 137r-139r).

## 1602

**227** 6 Octobris 1602 obiit Mariore Cambell domina Balnagoun.

Daughter of Sir John Campbell, first Campbell laird of Cawdor, and Muriel, heiress of the old line of Cawdor. First wife of George Ross X of Balnagoun (266: see *RMS*, v, 162, and *Cawdor Bk.*, 178, 30 August 1572, marriage contract). A contract of 29 June 1593 for an elaborate wardrobe of clothes for the laird of Balnagoun's wedding on 22 July (RD1/47, 410v-411v) most probably relates to the marriage of her daughter Jean (232). Marjorie Campbell was alive on 7 November 1600, when she had a deed registered against George Sinclair of Mey (RD6/1 [Scott], under date).

**228** Obitus Wilhelmi Clnis [sic] burges . Tayne 25 Decembris 1602 . sepultus ibidem.

Son of Alexander Clunes, burgess of Cromarty (224). Brother of Alexander Clunes in Geanies (240). Husband of Isobel Ross, who occupied a tenement in Tain belonging to Master Thomas Ross's widow, Isobel Kinnaid, 31 March 1603 (MRO B2/2, 477). Recorded between 10 December 1587 (GD129/1/1) and 1 October 1602, when he was a member of the burgh council (SC34/28/90, decret arbitral on multures of Aldie: Macgill, no. 136, reads 'Walter', wrongly).

## 1603

**229** 10 Julii 1603 obiit Donaldus Ros de Ballemuckade.

Son of Hugh Ross of Balmuchy (see 20). Grandson of Walter Ross of Shandwick (50). Brother of Alexander Ross (20) and first cousin of Master Thomas Ross. Husband of: Isobel, daughter of John Innes of Inverbreakie (died before 18 April 1573, when an inquest found Donald

to be married to Catherine daughter of Jasper Vaus of Lochslin [SC29/1/1, 87v]; Catherine Vaus; Margaret Innes. Father of *inter aliis*: by first marriage, Walter, to whom he resigned Balmuchy, saving his liferent, 10 April 1596 (*RMS*, vi, 1642); by third marriage, James, who succeeded to his father's holding in Mid Geanies (CC19/1/1, 19r, 21v, 48r): *Blackie*, 57, lists in all thirteen children. On record between 15 February 1557 (GD297/227/4; GD297/214/4) and 16 October 1601 (GD297/186/4). See Reid, 35-6. He was a 'one chalder man' in Alexander Ross's 1565 list (see 243), and had feu-ferme grants of Balmuchy, 24 February 1575 (*RMS* v, 1195), and a quarter of Mid Geanies, 17 May 1593 (*RMS* v, 2301) from Commendator Thomas Ross, *consanguineus*.

Walter of Balmuchy married Margaret, daughter of Andrew Munro of Newmore (*Munro Tree*, L/35: *Blackie*, 57; CC8/8/33, 27 February 1598; both sources name seven children). Walter, who granted the fee of Balmuchy to his eldest son Hugh on 2 October 1603 (*RMS*, vi, 1642), was still alive on 1 June 1613 (*Laing Chrs.*, no. 1685; Macgill, no. 431). Hugh fiar of Balmuchy wrote to Sir Robert Gordon from Paris, 15 January 1612, and from Edinburgh, 12 June 1619, and was recruiting in Ross, 1623 (NLS D.175/65/10, 96, 132-4). He appears to have taken loans of 6,000 merks over Balmuchy and Mid Geanies, and to have transferred rights in them to his brother George (329). He is said to have entered royal service abroad, dying in London in 1649 (Reid, 106-07). His will, made at Westminster on 19 June 1649, declared that he had a right of reversion over lands in Scotland wadsetted to his brother's son.

**230** Obitus Isobelle Kinnard sponse magistri Thome Ros abbatis Fearn apud Tant et sepulta in Ferne 5 Octobris 1603.

Daughter of Alexander Kinnaird of Culbin and Barbara Tulloch. Wife of Master Thomas Ross (221). See 35.

**231** 15 Nouembris 1603 obiit magister Hector Munro de Foullis.

*Munro Tree*, S.

1604

**232** The xij of Maii 1604 departitt Jane Ros Ledi off Kintail.

Daughter of George Ross X of Balnagown (266) and Marjorie Campbell (227). Wife of Kenneth Mackenzie, Lord Kintail (245). Her

marriage contract was agreed at Chanonry, 22 June 1593 (GD129/1/7/13; RD1/47, 410v-411v, tailor's contract for clothes for wedding on 22 July). Her date of death is given in her testament as 9 May (CC8/8/43, 355v-357r).

## 1607

**233** Obitus Willihelmi Ros burgensis ac olim prepsitus [sic] Tane ultimo huius [February] 1607.

Son of Andrew Ross (175). Father of Andrew Ross (359). William Ross was bailie in 1593 (Macgill, no. 941) and 1605 (see below), and provost, 1601 (RD1/86, 356v-357v; RD1/88, 186v). Recorded between 30 July 1589, when he failed to sit on the Foulis witchcraft assize (PS1/62, 50v, 11 May 1591; PS1/64, 189v, 23 November 1592) and 14 March 1605, when as bailie he was escheated for not making count at the Exchequer (PS1/74, 276r). He had a royal grant of a tenement adjacent to the ruined manse of the chaplainry of Morangie in Tain, 3 February 1598 (RMS, vi, 651). His son Finlay was retoured as his heir to a tenement in Tain, 18 October 1608 (GD199/10), and was stented on it for the repair of the kirk of Tain in 1612 (SC34/28/90 [Macgill, no. 53, abbreviated text]).

## 1608

**234** Obitus Walteri Innes de Inderbrackie 18 huius [March] 1608.

Grandson of Walter Innes of Touchs, who in 1529 married Janet Tarrel, lady of Inverbreakie (RMS, iii, 825, 25 August). The family of Tarrel was prominent in Ross and Sutherland in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries (see, e.g. *Munro Writs*, nos. 6, 8, 10, 15, 17; Fraser, *Cromartie*, ii, no. 526; Fraser, *Sutherland*, iii, nos. 22, 41). Janet Tarrel had a sasine of Inverbreakie (Roskeen par.) and Balnagall (Tain par.) as early as 3 July 1492 (GD242/56/3/13, inventory of 1713, certification by David Denoon, who gave the sasine as king's bailie). She was in possession in her own name on 12 December 1505, when the executors of Sir James Dunbar of Cumnock brought an action against her (CS5/17, 115v). She had a child, Alexander Stewart, for whom she resigned her lands on 9 January 1511 (RMS, ii, 3528); on his death a year later she received the lands back again (RMS, ii, 3675, 2 January 1512). Some unusual family history lies behind these entries; nothing, however, is known of Andrew's father, beyond his surname.

By the 1529 charter (see above) the succession to Inverbreakie went to the children of Walter Innes and Janet Tarrel, whom failing to Walter's heirs. On 13 January 1534 Walter, with his wife's consent, granted the fee of the lands to his own second son John (*RMS*, iii, 1346; GD242/56/3/13, 3 March 1534, sasine). The charter narrates that it had been intended that Walter's eldest son, James, should succeed, and should marry Mariota, daughter of Donald Tarrel, whose relationship to Janet is unknown. James, however, stayed in Aberdeenshire to inherit the original family lands of Touchs, and Inverbreakie went to his younger brother. John Innes, in his turn, resigned the fee of Inverbreakie to his son Walter, while reserving liferent and his wife Mariota's terce (*RMS*, iv, 78, 22 March 1547). His stepmother Janet Tarrel was still alive shortly before this date, for on 22 July 1546 she discharged John's elder brother James for her terce out of Touchs (GD305/1/110/342).

John Innes, whose name appears in two deeds of April 1538 (GD305/1/80/25, 26, precept and sasine on *RMS*, iii, 1765), had a grant of Wester Tarbat from William Cairncross of Colmislic (see 56) in 1549 (GD1/187/1; *RMS*, v, 2329, 30 May 1597 is a belated confirmation). He is also recorded between March 1559 (SC29/1/1, 71r) and 1 November 1567 (GD125/5). Alexander Ross thought him good for three chalders in 1565 (see 244).

John Innes's son and successor Walter married Margaret, daughter of Kenneth Mackenzie of Brahan (*RMS*, iv, 1144, on contract of 24 November 1556; she died in June 1570 [CC8/8/9, 336r-337r]). The couple had a conjoint charter of Wester Tarbat, 30 October 1564 (GD1/187/4); Walter is styled 'in Tarbat' in Alexander Ross's 1565 list, where he is put down for one chalder (see 244). He is recorded between 11 April 1564 (SC29/1/1, 52v) and 17 September 1599 (*RPC*, vi, 621). With his son James, he clashed violently with James Corbet of Arbol and his sons in 1599 (*RPC*, v, vi, contain numerous cautions demanded from members of the Innes, Corbet and Vaus families not to harm each other, 1599-1600). By his will, witnessed by his cousin's son Walter of Calrossie (237), he left everything to his son James (298), but desired him 'to be guid to his sister Jonet and to give her part of my geir be his awne discretoun' (CC8/8/45, 302r-303r).

**235** 2 Augusti obbiitt [sic] Allexander Rose de Wester Gane 1608.

Natural son of George Ross of Balnagown (266): so styled in a feu charter of Wester Geanies from his father, 31 January 1601 (Tain, no. 4). He was one of the 'broken men' who raided Carbisdale (Kincardine par.) in January 1592 or 1594 (see 266).

**236** Penult heirop [November] 1608 Walter Ros Wiliamsone off Tuttimtaroch departitt thair and bureitt in Kincarne.

Son of Alexander Ross of Invercharron (276). Brother of William Ross of Invercharron (281). Husband of Elizabeth Sinclair, natural daughter of George Sinclair of Mey (268), who had an annual rent of victual from a house and lands in Tain (GD96/242A, 20 January 1593). He was involved in the Tain killings of 1583 (see 169).

**237** Obitus Walteri Innes filius Willihelmi Innes de Calrossie 3 huius 1608 [December].

Son and apparent heir of William Innes (238). He died one month before his father, the succession then passing to his brother James (262).

## 1609

**238** 4 Januari obiitt Will-helmus Innes de Calrossie 1609 ett sepultus in Roskeine.

Son of Walter Innes (153): under age at his father's death (*RSS*, vi, 1862, 24 February 1573), but retoured of age, 30 July 1575 (see 153). Husband of Catherine, daughter of Murdoch Mackenzie of Fairburn (GD125/5, 12 February 1577; *RMS*, iv, 2673, 27 March 1577; NP1/32, 192r-193v). Father of Walter Innes (237) and James Innes (262). Recorded between 10 June 1568 (GD1/436/1) and 17 September 1594 (SC29/1/1, 144v-148v). He was one of the 'kin and friends' of Alexander Ross of Balnagown who met at Tain on 2 August 1577 (see 216).

**239** xv huius [January] 1609 obiitt Catarina Gordoun de Dreyne in Kokstoune et sepulta Elgin.

Wife of James Innes of Drainie (*RMS*, iv, 760 [20 December 1552], 1040 [13 April 1555]), who was dead by 6 December 1579 (*RMS*, iv, 2932). Her place of death suggests a subsequent marriage to Alexander Innes of Coxton (253), who, with Katherine Gordon, his wife, bought Darklein (Lhanbryde par., Moray) on 8 May 1601 (*RMS*, vi, 1617).

## 1610

**240** 8 Februar 1610 obiitt Allexander Clunis in Ganye et sepultus aputt Fene [sic].



Second son of Alexander Clunes (224). Brother of William Clunes (228). Husband of Elspeth, daughter of Alexander Ross of Little Tarrel (see 161). Father of two sons and three daughters (*Blackie*, 72), including an unnamed daughter who married William Ross of Dunskaith (see 165). Recorded between 21 September 1578 (GD98/Box 5/14, no. 10) and 5 July 1608 (*RMS*, vi, 2123).

Alexander Clunes had a charter of parts of Dunskaith from his father, 1579 (see 224). William Ross of Dunskaith resigned Easter Geanies to him before 16 December 1594 (*RMS*, vi, 194). A decade later William was his son-in-law and in process of making the whole of Dunskaith over to him on suspiciously easy terms, accepting 225 merks as full payment of 4,000 merks purchase price (GD98/Box 5/14, no. 16, 1 May 1604). The new marriage had a background of murder, for which William Ross was put to death just over a year later (see 165). The day after he was 'justified to death' Dunskaith and Culbin were granted to William Hay of Mayne (*RMS*, vi, 1654, 27 July 1605). Alexander Clunes bought Hay out within three years (*RMS*, vi, 2123, 5 July 1608; GD98/Box 5/14, no. 21, 22 and 30 March 1608). Prudently, his son later secured a renunciation from William Ross's son (GD98/Box 5/14, no. 28, 26 May 1623). The story raises many unanswered questions.

**241** 2 daye off Appryle 1610 depatitt this lyffe Kattereine Wrquhartt spous to Androu Munro off Neuwmore and Miltoun.

Wife of Andrew Munro (248). Her date of death is confirmed by a letter from her husband to David Ross apparent of Balnagown, 4 April 1610 (Macgill, no. 876). She was married before 28 November 1577, when her eldest son George, still a minor, was contracted in marriage to Marion MacCulloch, lady of Meikle Tarrel (*Munro Writs*, no. 93). Said to be a daughter of the laird of Cromarty (*Munro Tree*, L/5), she is not named with other married daughters in the will of Walter Urquhart, sheriff of Cromarty (CC8/8/20, 5 August 1589), and may have been his sister (see 64).

**242** 15 Septembris 1610 obiitt Hugo Ros de Brackoche.

Son of Hugh II of Tollie/Achnacloich (279). Husband of Margaret, daughter of John Gordon of Golspie Tower and Embo (NLS Acc 10225, marriage contract, Dornoch, 27 June 1601). Father of Hugh III (316). He was denounced for assisting George Ross of Balnagown in kidnapping John Ross at Chanonry (*RPC*, v, 30, 26 December 1592), and his servants destroyed Balnagown salmon nets on the Oykel (*RPC*, viii, 311, 4 July 1609).

**243** Decimo quarto huius [October] 1610 obiitt Hector Munro de Assin.

*Munro Tree*, Q/19.

**244** 9 huius [December] 1610 obiitt Findlaius Faid de Inuer Athye et sepulus [sic] Taine.

For the family of Faid of Innerathie see **38**.

1611

**245** Obitus Kenethi McKeinzie domini de Kintail 27 huius [February] 1611 Keneth lord McKeinzie 1611.

Son of Colin Mackenzie of Kintail, retoured heir 12 September 1594 (SC29/1/1, 144v-155r, including list of forty-two pieces of evidence produced to instruct the retour). Great-grandson of John of Kintail (**138**). Husband of Jean Ross (**232**). Father of Colin, earl of Seaforth (**295**), and John of Lochslin (**292**). See *SP*, vii, 504; *CP*, viii, 344.

**246** 02 huius [July] obiitt Nicolaus Ros de Pitcalnie 1611.

Elder son of Alexander Ross IX of Balnagown (**216**) by his second marriage. Half-brother of George Ross X (**266**). Husband of Margaret, daughter of Hugh Munro of Assynt (*Munro Tree* Q/43), and widow of Alexander Ross II of Little Tarrel (see **161**). Father of David of Pitcalnie (**325**) and William of Annat (**284**). See Reid, 11-12; A.M. Ross, 47; *GCR*, 114.

Alexander Ross made provision for sons of his second marriage by resigning his bishopric feu-lands to Bishop Henry Sinclair for regrant to himself, his wife, and their heirs male (GD199/2, 22 April 1563; see also *HMC*, 6th Report, 716-17, no.10). Most of these lands (Culderare [now Strath of Pitcalnie], Culnaha, Pitcalnie, Annat [now part of Castlecraig]) were in Nigg parish; others were a quarter of Wester Tarbat, Amat na h-eaglais (the northern part of Amat in Strathcarron [Kincardine par.]), and Boath, Kinlochmore and other lands in the upper Alness valley (Alness par.). An agreement between Alexander and his heir George at Tain on 10 August 1581 recognised Nicholas's right and title after his parents' decease, but bound him to pay his brother 3,300 merks (RD1/25, 23v-26v). For the time he had to be content with a lifetime tack (with extension to one heir for nineteen years) of the remote shieling and grazings of Corriemulzie (Kincardine

par.: GD199/16, 24 May 1581). Nicholas's subsequent behaviour was predictable. By 1583 he had become the centre of a group of restless young men, fugitives, and 'broken men'. The result was the 'Tain killings of 1583 (169), which were serious enough to bring some of the most important men of the region to Chanonry in April 1585 to settle the problems of the house of Balnagown (RD1/25, 23v-26v). They ruled that Nicholas should cut down his retinue and co-operate in the maintaining of good order. In return, his brother George agreed to give him a title to Wester Fearn (Edderton par.), once redeemed from wadset, but on condition that Nicholas gave it back to him in tack. Arrangements for Nicholas's future were then made. Alexander Ross secured royal confirmation of Bishop Henry's grant in May 1587 (GD199/2; PS1/55, 221r, 12 May 1587). George Ross then made over his rights to 'all my kirklands and feu farms' to his brother (GD199/2, 7 November 1587). On 23 January 1588 Alexander and George Ross contracted with Hugh Munro of Assynt that Nicholas would marry Hugh's daughter Margaret; he had a charter of his lands on the following day (GD199/2; *HMC*, 6th Report, 717, no. 14). His gratitude may have been limited, for Alexander had reserved his own liferent. However, he was now formally a landed man, and as such entered into a 'band of alliance' with his brother at Balnagown on 22 April (Macgill, ii, no. 1008). Relations were further smoothed on 29 May 1596, when George paid him 1,000 merks for the bishopric lands in the Alness valley (GD237/266/2); the full price was 4,000 merks, against which was presumably set the 3,300 merks of the 1581 contract; these lands were not included in Bishop David Lindsay's new grant to Nicholas, 16 March 1608 (*RMS*, vii, 482).

Evidence for the remainder of Nicholas's life is sparse, though there are indications that it may have been turbulent (*RPC*, v, 31, 643; vi, 657, 658, 672, 706; vii, 599). He was caught up in the 'Thomas of Bergen' affair (see 266), paying George Munro of Meikle Tarrel (282) £25 as his share of the costs of organising legal defence in Edinburgh (GD237/266/2, 30 October 1596).

**247** xxix huius [July] . . . Robertus Tulloche de Fleuris . . . Fores.

Son of Thomas Tulloch, 'chalmer cheld' and subsequently chamberlain and constable of Bishop Reid of Orkney (see autobiographical note in *Bannatyne Misc.*, iii [1855], 27-8; Anderson, *Stewart*, 32-40). Brother of Ursula Tulloch (223). Husband of Isobel Dunbar (290).

Thomas Tulloch, who held land called 'the Fleuris' in the burgh territory of Forres (under which designation he witnessed Bishop

Reid's charter to Kirkwall cathedral, 1547 [RMS, iii, 3102]) had a feu charter of Tannachy (now Invererne beside Forres) from Reid's nephew, Abbot Walter of Kinloss (RSS, viii, 1865, 21 February 1584 is a late confirmation). On his death in December 1574 (CC8/8/7, 364r-366r) this, with burgh lands in Forres, passed to his son Robert. Thomas Tulloch was brother of: sir Nicholas Tulloch, chaplain of Logie (Forres), vicar of Ruthven, and vicar of Westray in Orkney, who died 20 November 1582 (CC8/8/12, 305v-307r); Janet Tulloch (278); and Barbara Tulloch, wife of Alexander Kinnaird of Culbin (see 288) and of Hugh Ross of Tollie (see 212).

Robert Tulloch, who was thus first cousin of Master Thomas Ross's wife Isobel Kinnaird, was dead before 11 February 1612 (MRO, B 2/3, 191-198); his son Alexander was retoured heir, 21 April 1612 (MRO, B 2/3, 202-206).

**248** 25 huius [December] 1611 obiit Andreas Munro de Neoumoir.

Son of George of Dochcarty (158). Brother of Donald of Tarlogie (250). Husband of Katherine Urquhart (241). Father of George of Meikle Tarrel (282) and Mr John of Fearn, minister of Tarbat (289). For family of Munro of Milton/Newmore see *Munro Tree*, L/1-13; Mackenzie, *Munros*, 265-89; Alex. Ross in *Celtic Magazine*, x (1885), 49-56, 103-12, 151-8, 230-37.

## 1612

**249** The xv of Januar 1612 James Dunbar Commissar of Ros depairtit.

James Dunbar of Newton, son of George Dunbar of Avoch, and brother of Patrick Dunbar (203). Mr Alexander Mackenzie of Kinnock had a commission as his successor, 10 February 1612 (CC19/ 1/1, 20r).

**250** The . off Januarii 1612 Donald Munro off Tarloge deiseist.

Son of George of Dochcarty (158). Brother of Andrew of Newmore (248). Husband of: Janet, daughter of Donald Ross of Nonakiln (Roskeen par.), who died 22 March 1593 or thereby (CC8/8/26, 250v-252r); and - Denoon. Father of George of Tarlogie (317). Recorded between 27 February 1587 (SC29/1/1, 108v-109r) and 21 May 1604 (GD129/1/3/7). See *Munro Tree*, L/36.

The chaplainry of Tarlogie in St Duthac was in the presentation of the earl of Ross (Durkan, 'Tain', 153). Tarlogie (two miles west of Tain)

does not appear in the 1476 earldom rental (*ER*, viii, 592-5), and may have belonged to the kirk of Tain before the founding of the college. Sir Robert Melville, chaplain, granted it on 5 September 1559 to George Munro of Dochcarty in liferent and his son Donald in fee, for an annual feu-duty of £20, of which half was 'to satisfie and susteine ane chaplane' (RD1/3, 273v-274r; see also GD242/56/3/17; *RSS*, v, 673; *RMS*, iv, 1368, 5 September). The chaplainry itself followed its endowment into Munro hands. When Melville resigned in 1566 George of Dochcarty's son Mr George, later chancellor of Ross, received a seven-year gift of it for his education (*RSS*, v, 3061, 17 September). He was succeeded by his brother Donald's sons George (317: *RSS*, vi, 2520, 3 June 1574), Andrew (PS1/54, 57r, 21 July 1586: a grant for a second term) and Hugh (PS1/63, 100v, 1 January 1592: a grant for life).

George of Dochcarty and his son, who took sasine of Tarlogie on 28 November 1559 (GD242/56/3/19), had difficulties with the occupying tenants, who had backing from Alexander Ross of Balnagown. There was a good deal of litigation, possible fabrication of evidence, and some violence (see SC29/1/1A, 29v-30r, 35v-36r, 37v-39r, 41r-42v, 45v-46r, 80v, 83v, 86v, 89r-91v, 109v-110v, 138r; the case throws light on the working of the Act of Parliament of 1555 [*APS*, ii, 494, c. 12] regarding 'the manner of warning of tenants to flit and remove').

**251** Obitus Hugonis Gordoun de Balloin 3 huius [March] 1612.

Son of John Gordon of Drummie and Ballone (Golspie par.: Gordon, *Tables*, in *House of Gordon*, ii, 145-6). Husband of Ursula Tulloch (223). Father of Oliver Gordon (308). See Gordon, 104-05, 157, 236-7, 278-9).

Hugh Gordon was at some date bailie to the earl of Sutherland and sheriff-depute, dying at Dunrobin at the age of 82 (Gordon, 278-9, confirms the date here given). After the harrying of Dornoch c.1570 he went to Orkney 'to eschew the Earle of Catteynes his furie, and duellt ther with good credit, wher he mareid a gentlewoman called Urslay Tallogh' (Gordon, 157). He was a witness at Kirkwall, 7 May 1569 (RD1/9, 404r-407v), and was there again in 1593 (RD1//48, 51r, Kirkwall, 25 May; RD1/48, 167v-168v, Stronsay, 11 May; see also Anderson, *Stewart*, 174). With Ursula Tulloch, he had sasine of Ballone on a charter from Earl Alexander of Sutherland, 13 May 1585 (NLS D.313/198 [Titles /VI/10/86]), making over the fee to his son Oliver and his wife Jean Munro, 16 July 1592 (NLS D.313/198 [Titles/VI/10/87]). He was a witness to agreements between Earl Alexander and George Ross of Balnagown in November-December 1583 (see 266), and between George and his father, 20 April 1587 (see 216).

The date of Hugh's marriage to Ursula Tulloch is not known, but must have been later than 25 December 1574, when her father, Thomas Tulloch of Fleurs, instructed his executor to marry her 'upon ane honest man' (CC8/8/7, 364r-366r). If Ursula Tulloch was the mother of Oliver Gordon, who witnessed an instrument at Forres, 12 February 1588 (MRO A52/1/1, 62), he may have been born before his parents' marriage (Sir Robert Gordon names no other wife). Walter Ross of Morangie, who entered Oliver Gordon's death in the *Calendar*, was the son of Ursula Tulloch's cousin Isobel Kinnaird.

**252** 5 Julii 1612 Kathrein Ros Ladye Maye departitt . Tayne. [Followed by two lines of text, heavily scored-out].

Daughter of George Ross X of Balnagown (266). Wife of William, eldest son of George Sinclair of Mey (268: RMS, vi, 1467, 23 April 1600). The marriage had been long in the making, for George Sinclair had agreed to it on 28 January 1591 (Macgill, no. 801: original in the Balnagown Book). Reid, 10, gives date of death as 5 July 1603, wrongly.

**253** 8 Octobris 1612 obiitt Alexander Innes de Kokstoun.

Husband of Katherine Gordon (239). See *Familie of Innes*, 43; Shaw, *Moray*, i, 342, date of death 5 October.

**254** 9 Octobris 1612 obiitt Thomas Fraser de . in Innernes.

Thomas Fraser of Strichen, second son of Alexander, fourth Lord Fraser of Lovat, died 2 October 1612, at Inverness (*Wardlaw MS*, 241. See *SP*, v, 543-4).

**255** . Octobris 1612 obiit Johannes Denoune in Lytill Rane.

John Denoon, possibly a son of Abbot Donald Denoon of Fearn (14), resigned a quarter of Little Rhynie (Fearn par.), 31 May 1576 (*Laing Chrs.*, nos. 935, 949; the latter carries Master Thomas Ross's seal as provost of Tain, and also the capitular seal of Fearn). He witnessed a sale and sasine of land in Tain to Master Thomas, 22 August 1579 (*Gray*, 103r [see 232]). He was escheated, with his son David, for looting the wrecked 'Thomas of Bergen' (PS1/71, 148r, 8 February 1600). David succeeded his father in half of Little Rhynie, and was one of his executors (CC19/1/1, 50r, 11 January 1613).

**256** The 6 off Nouember 1612 Prinse Henrie sonne to King James the 6 of Greaitt Britane departit att Lundone of ane phrinsie.

**257** 13 Nouembris 1612 obiit Johaness Corbett portionarius Arkboll.

Son of James Corbet, rated at eight bolls in Alexander Ross's 1565 list (see 244), who resigned his third part of Arbol (Tarbat par.) to him, 15 December 1602 (*RMS*, vi, 1379), and was dead by 13 July 1607 (*RMS*, vi, 2111-2114). The grant of 1602 created a free tenandry, with superiority over the 'Middil-thrid pairt' of Arbol, which was, and had long been, in the possession of the Vaus lairds of Lochslin (*RMS*, iv, 1879, 9 March 1568; John Vaus was in occupation in 1602). John Corbet, with a small patrimony, looked to make his fortune outside Ross. He was in the service of Bishop David Lindsay (*RMS*, vi, 2111-2114, 13 July 1607) and subsequently of Alexander, earl of Dunfermline (*RMS*, vii, 695, 24 June 1612). He married Jean, daughter of John Dunbar of Moyness, to whom he made a liferent grant of the western half of his two-thirds of Arbol (*RMS*, vii, 693). He died less than five months later, leaving a probably posthumous son, Alexander, who was retoured generally on 12 January 1613 (*Retours*, ii, General, no. 8495) but did not come of full age until 1633 (*Retours*, ii, Ross and Cromarty, no. 80).

## 1613

**258** . . . Hectoris Munro de Assin 22 huius [March] 1613.

See 243. This entry may refer to Isobel Dunbar, widow: a previous reading of the date as '1612', supplied by the editor to Mr R.W. Munro, was erroneous (see *Munro Tree*, Q/19). Isobel Dunbar was alive on 18 December 1612, when she brought an action in the Ross commissary court (CC19/1/1, 36v).

**259** 6 Julii 1613 obiit Johanis Chryste burgen de Tayne.

John Christie, tailor, was one of the burgesses and inhabitants of Tain who sought letters against Walter Ross of Morangie and other heritors over the miln of Over Aldie (Macgill, no. 423; SC34/28/90 contains full text, dated 6 December 1608, but in name of King Charles, suggesting a carelessly-made post-1625 copy; Macgill, misled by an endorsement, read 1606). Christie has not been traced in any contemporary deeds, and neither he nor his widow, Agnes Thomson, were stented for the repair of Tain kirk in 1612 (SC34/28/90, Tain Stent Roll [Macgill, no. 53, abbreviated]). As executor, his widow obtained a decret against his debtors in the Ross commissary court on 25 February 1614 (CC19/1/1,

64v-65v; Macgill, no. 943, is a misdated and incomplete version of this decret, giving only twenty-one out of a total of thirty-three debtors). The decret shows total debts owed to Christie of £1557.2s.2d. Twelve of the debtors appear in the *Calendar*, owing in all £689.4s.6d.

**260** 10 Julij 1613 obiit Katherina Vaus de Lochsclin.

Daughter of John Vaus of Lochsclin (16) and Elizabeth Urquhart (130). Half-sister of William Denoon II of Pitnellie (see 14). Wife of John son of Jasper Vaus. For family of Vaus of Lochsclin see Munro, 'Vasses'.

**261** The 14 of Agust [sic] 1613 Mr. David Lindsay Bischope of Ros departit at Leith.

Watt, *Fasti*, 271; Scott, *Fasti*, vii, 355.

**262** 2 Octobris 1613 obiit Jacobus Innes apparens de Calrossie.

Son of William Innes (238). Grandson of Walter Innes (153). Brother of Walter Innes (237). Husband of Isabel Munro (CC19/1/1, 65r, 25 February 1614). He was under age when he succeeded his father in 1609 (PS1/78, 141r, 20 July), and left no direct heir. Sasine of Kinrive and Strathrorie went (see GD146/1/2, 29 April 1629) to his three sisters Margaret, Beatrice and Agnes (see 265, 331) and to Donald, son of a fourth sister, Isobel, wife of George Munro of Tarlogie (317). Only Beatrice appears to have been still unmarried by 26 June 1623, when her sisters' husbands became joint tacksmen of the Calrossie teinds (GD146/1/2). Margaret Innes's husband, Mr John Mackenzie archdeacon of Ross, subsequently bought out all four heirs (GD146/1/2, 16 January and 13 May 1630). Possession of Calrossie itself passed by 1644 to Robert Innes of Calrossie, youngest son of James Innes of Inverbreakie (298; RMS, x, 426, 29 June 1655; Fraser-Mackintosh, 367). The superiority of Calrossie went with the barony of Delny to Sir Robert Innes of Innes, 12 February 1631 (RMS, viii, 1720).

**263** . Octobris 1613 obiit Katerina Wrquhat sponsa Wilhelmi Ros de Ballacuith.

Wife of William Ross (331). Katherine Urquhart's parentage has not been established, but she was possibly a daughter of Walter Urquhart, sheriff of Cromarty (see 164). Walter left one daughter Katherine, to whom he bequeathed 1,200 merks in gold and silver, and also another of the same name, whom he put under the protection of his second wife



Elizabeth Rose (CC8/8/20, 5 August 1589). Elizabeth Rose held the two-and-a-half bovates of Balkeith as part of her terce (PS1/73, 134r, 16 December 1602).

## 1614

**264** The 29 1614 [sic] of October departitt Rore McCenze off Ardufalie 1614.

Son of Kenneth Mackenzie of Kintail (d. 1574). Brother of Katherine Lady Balnagown (207). Uncle of Kenneth, Lord Kintail (245). Also known as Roderick of Redcastle, he had a feu-ferme grant of the kirklands of the chaplainry of Ardafail (Killernan par.) from sir David Barchan, chaplain (PS1/55, 221v; Barchan was dead by 16 November 1569 [CC8/8/1, 341v-342v]). For a confused account of the family see Mackenzie, *Mackenzies*, 536-43.

**265** 15 huius [December] 1614 obiit Donaldus Ros de Ballintraid.

Son of William of Priesthill/Easter Fearn (286), whom he predeceased. Husband of Agnes Innes, one of the co-heiresses of Calrossie (see 262), with whom he had a grant of Balintraid and Wester Pollo (Kilmuir Easter par.) from his father, 1601 (Macgill, nos. 196, 906 [two notices of the same charter]). Recorded between 28 October 1595 (RD1/54, 154v-155r) and 27 May 1613 (GD297/226/8). He left no testament, the procurator-fiscal being decerned executor-dative (CC19/1/1, 73v, 6 January 1615).

Donald Ross's widow subsequently married William Ross of Balkeith (331). She was summoned with him to the Ross consistory court on 4 July 1623 to hear an act of 6 February 1588 (by which her late husband's father, William of Priesthill, astricted himself and his tenants to the milns of Meddat and Milton) transferred to George Munro of Milton (GD305/1/76/107). She was still alive on 2 August 1639 (RS37/6, 223v-224v), and her new husband had valued rent of 400 merks in Kilmuir Easter parish in 1644 (Fraser-Mackintosh, 367). Thomas Ross, servitor of Mr Adam Hepburn, son of her first husband, apprised Easter Fearn from his cousin Hugh, son of Hugh Ross, 14 December 1637 (see 286; *RMS*, ix, 842).

## 1615

**266** 14 of Februar 1615 George Ros off Balnagoinn departitt at Balnagoin and bureitt at Nig ye 8 off Marche.

Tenth laird of Balnagown. Son of Alexander IX (216) and Janet Sinclair. Half-brother of Nicholas of Pitcalnie (246) and Malcolm of Cambuscurrie (275). He married, first, soon after 13 March 1572 (*RMS*, v, 162) and before 29 February 1576 (*RSS*, vii, 486), Majorie Campbell (227): known children of this marriage are David XI (277), Jean (232), wife of Kenneth, Lord Kintail (245), Katherine (252), wife of William Sinclair apparent of Mey (313), and Muriel, wife of Duncan Grant, apparent of Rothiemurchus (*SP*, vii, 468-9). He married, second, Isobel, daughter of Angus MacIntosh of MacIntosh: no children are known of this marriage; the widow subsequently married Mr John Munro of Fearn, minister of Tarbat (289: GD129/117/55, 8 July 1615), and thereafter William Macleod of Talisker (Macgill, no. 693, 1628), and did not die until March 1672 (Macgill, p. 276, 1671, her will; GD129/123/75, 1686, information for David XIII of Balnagown [George Ross's great-grandson]). One illegitimate son is known: Alexander Ross of Wester Geanies (235). See Reid, 10; A.M. Ross, 31-2; *GCR*, 87-90.

George Ross's date of birth is unknown. While he was still a minor, his father made over to him the fee of the lands he had acquired from Fearn (GD297/227/8, 4 November 1559; GD297/227/10, 17 November 1559, confirmation by Commendator Nicholas and chapter), and subsequently the fee of the lordship itself (GD297/184/1, 11 April 1560). He was a student at St Andrews in 1567 (Macgill, no. 137 [17 February 1567]; *ibid.*, ii, no. 1005 [9 January 1568]), but does not appear to have matriculated. Alexander Ross's behaviour and the apprising of the Balnagown estates for James Scrymgeour of Dudhope (GD297/207/1, 23 April 1578, crown charter; *RSS*, vii, 1532) effectively transferred the headship of the Ross name to his son. George was able to come to terms with Scrymgeour through a decret arbitral on 22 February 1581 (RD1/19, 205r-206v) and had a new crown charter of the lordship, on Scrymgeour's resignation, 15 June 1582 (GD297/207/4; *RMS*, v, 411). Commendator Thomas Ross, exiled in Forres, obligingly provided him with new titles to the feu-lands held from the abbey (GD297/227/13, 30 October 1582, Elgin, charter of lands; GD297/227/11-12, 27 and 28 December, Fearn, sasines in feu-lands and office of bailie; the notary in both sasines was William Gray [see 225-6]). In return George undertook not to molest the abbot or his chamberlain during Thomas's lifetime (Macgill, no. 35).

The sums involved in buying out the apprising were serious, and could not be raised from the estate revenues alone. Small amounts may have been extracted from feuars in return for new titles: John Ross (see

48) had a new title to Mulderg and Torrandow (GD129/123/74, 1 January 1583) and still owed 300 merks on 4 January 1609 (CS7/239, 211r-v). More serious money came from a wadset to David Clephane (214) of Little Dallas and Leichston (Balleigh) in Edderton parish (RD1/20<sup>2</sup>, 65v-66v, 12 June 1582, contract; NP1/40, 14r-v, 13 July, sasine). Clephane, who provided 1,000 merks, promptly gave the properties back to George Ross in tack, for an annual rent of 60 bolls bere. On 13 July also Hugh Munro of Assynt (*Munro Tree*, Q/18) had sasine of Invercassley (Creich par., Sutherland) on a wadset sum of £1,000 (NP1/40, 14v; GD297/217/Bundle 10). Earlier plans to reduce the heritable debt on Balnagown (see 216) became even more unrealistically optimistic.

Having recovered the family inheritance, George Ross quickly compromised it again. In the late autumn of 1583 he visited Earl Alexander of Sutherland at Dunrobin, where arrangements were made for the earl's second daughter, Mary, to marry his son and apparent heir, David. The prospective bridegroom was at most twelve years old, and the bride less than sixteen months (according to her brother, Sir Robert Gordon, she was born on 14 August 1582 [Gordon, 169]). To guarantee the alliance, George gave a bond of manrent to the earl, promised not to marry off any of his daughters without Alexander's consent, and in the event of a failure of heirs-male to marry his eldest daughter Jean (232) to the earl's heir, John Master of Sutherland (NLS D.313/385 [Titles XIV/7/4], 11 October 1583; see Fraser, *Sutherland*, i, 146-8). As security, Mary Gordon was given liferent charters of lands, mainly in Strathoykel and Edderton parish, on which sasine was taken on the following day (NP1/40, 29r, 30r-v); crown confirmation followed on 3 March 1585 (NLS D. 313/385 [Titles XIV/7/8]; see PS1/52, 20r).

None of this was in itself remarkable. Family alliance plans were often ambitious and complicated. However, on 1 December George Ross made over all his lands to Earl Alexander (RMS, v, 790; GD297/201/9, 7 July 1584, sasine). To Sir William Fraser, this was a 'remarkable transaction', for which he could see 'no apparent adequate reason' (Fraser, *Sutherland*, i, 147-8). It was, in fact, a wadset, and was specifically so called by Earl Alexander's successor Earl John (GD297/208, 2 and 27 February 1615). Alexander also gave letters of reversion for a single rose noble, indicating that George's motives were not financial (GD129/11, 23 December 1583). Although loose drafting led to much legal wrangling over the next decade (for which see Fraser, *Sutherland*, i, 161-4), there were attractions in putting the fee title to

Balnagown one remove away from another apprising. Also, the Balnagown succession was by no means assured. George had only one son, and a step-brother, Nicholas of Pitcalnie, with whom he was on difficult terms.

As Mary Gordon's sixteenth birthday approached friends of the laird of Balnagown went across the Meikle Ferry with a list of terms to be satisfied (Macgill, no. 685), and a final contract was agreed (GD129/123/75, 21 February 1598; Fraser, *Sutherland*, i, 184). Amongst other things, it provided for the succession to Balnagown, should there be no direct male heir. Earl John and George Ross each nominated six men, who in that eventuality would meet at Dornoch on the last day of November to choose an heir bearing the name and arms of Ross. The Ross electors included Nicholas of Pitcalnie (246), Hugh of Tollie (279), and Alexander of Invercharron (276) - all very much interested parties. The arrangement was in all probability intended to cover any mischance before the intended marriage, rather than as a standing arrangement for the future. George Ross had still no other legitimate son and he was uneasily aware of possible complications ahead.

Mary Gordon's death in 1604, without children, led to further complications. Earl John, it is clear, had not kept his undertaking to resign all titles to Balnagown. He had, in fact, failed to take up his father's titles when he died in 1594. Sir Robert Gordon, his brother, seeing an opportunity for profit, bought up the nonentry right and sold it to George Ross and his son for 4,000 merks, undertaking to collect Earl Alexander's 'evidents' and deliver them up (Gordon, 278; Macgill, nos. 690, 934 [two versions of the same document, neither entirely accurate]; GD297/208, 2 October 1612). Three years later, at the north end of the Meikle Ferry at Portinculter, Earl John acknowledged that the lands had been wadset and that the wadset sums had now been received, and undertook to resign them in favour of George Ross and the heirs male of his body, with tailzie to David of Pitcalnie (325), Alexander of Invercharron, and Hugh of Tollie (GD297/208, 2 and 27 February 1615). A precept for a new crown charter was issued on 9 February (PS1/83, 295v-298r), but five days later George was dead. The inheritance he left to his son David (277) was not in good shape, but at least the complications created in 1583 had finally been removed.

George Ross could be as lawless as his father had been. At a tryst with James Dunbar of Tarbat on 7 September 1588 he 'presentit ane pistollet. . . of intention to have slane him thairwith, quhilk he had not failit to have done, wer not, be the providence of God, the pistollet misgave'. For this George was denounced a rebel (RPC, iv, 369, 26

March 1589). He was again in trouble with the Council for kidnapping John Ross in Edinburgh at Chanonry and imprisoning him in Balnagown for more than a month (*RPC*, v, 30, 25 December 1592). John Ross may have offended in some way against family solidarity, for the list of the laird's accomplices includes most of the important Ross names. Disagreements with Robert Munro of Carbisdale (*Munro Tree*, M/26) over salmon fishings and teinds in the Oykel and Cassley valleys (the subject of a decret arbitral on 25 April 1588 [GD297/186/10]) flared into violence on 18 January 1594 with a raid by 'broken men' of George's kin, who carried off the Carbisdale cattle to Westray. Hector Munro younger of Assynt (*Munro Tree*, Q/19), Robert's grandson, traced the beasts, recovered them, and took them to Tain for replugging. On George's instructions his bastard son Alexander of Wester Geanies, with a hundred accomplices (including many burgesses and inhabitants of Tain, with the burgh officer), attacked Hector and his three companions, 'schoit arrows at thame, woundit thame with dirkis, and had not faillit to have slane them, wer not Nicolas and Gillecallum Rossis, brethir to the said George, saulffit thair lyveis' (*RPC*, v, 292-3, 302: a heavily scrubbed entry on the February page of the *Calendar*, in Master Thomas Ross's hand, which is too fragmentary to be reconstructed, contains the name 'Angus Mcallaster' and the words 'schoitt ane arrow', and may relate to this episode).

George's difficulties, however, were not always of his own making. When the 'Thomas of Bergen', belonging to Abraham Dewar, burgess there, was wrecked at 'Undreauchboll', probably in 1594, it was promptly spulzied by the local inhabitants; the precise location cannot be identified, but names given in the ensuing litigation show that it was within looting distance of Tain. Dewar went to the Council on 30 January 1595, and had six prominent local men put in caution of 2,000 merks each not to harm him (*RPC*, v, 643-4). On 10 July George Ross was bound in 10,000 merks that he and all for whom he was answerable (twenty-eight named individuals) would keep the peace (*RPC*, vi, 48-9). None of this brought back Dewar's goods, however, and he appealed to King James. George, as the main local landowner and as provost of Tain, was ordered to bring the offenders to justice (Macgill, no. 683, 4 December 1598). The Council was still pursuing him on 20 June 1600 to enter twelve of the offenders, but abandoned the action on 20 November (*RPC*, vi, 120, 175). There is no evidence that Dewar ever recovered anything, though the escheat of all concerned had been sold for 1,000 merks on 8 February (PS1/71, 148r).

George Ross's days of active lawlessness were passing by 1600. He

was excused by the Council from appearing before it with the other lairds of the Highland mainland on 28 March 1609, though required to find £5,000 caution (*RPC*, viii, 750-51). His excuse, vouched for by Mr Robert Ross, minister of Alness, and Mr Robert Munro, minister of Roskeen, was ill-health. When the Ross clansmen went north in September 1613 to assist the earl of Sutherland against the earl of Caithness their chief's place as leader was taken by William Ross apparent of Invercharron (281: Gordon, 278).

Financial problems did not diminish in these later years. Sir Patrick Murray, who in 1598 received the manor ('of old called the monastery') of Fearn and its former lands, incorporated into the free barony of Geanies (*RMS*, vi, 650, 2 February), was a formidable intruder, as shown by his dealings with Walter Ross of Morangie (see 42-3). George Ross and George Sinclair of Mey had to buy out his superiority rights for £12,000 (GD96/293, 23 April 1600; also GD129/121/66: see also *RMS*, vi, 1709 and 1751, 28 February 1601). George Ross paid up 4,000 merks on 1 December 1600 (GD129/1/23/75), and on 11 October 1601 contracted with Alexander Christie, burgess of Dysart, and his son David to pay Murray over £1,500 outstanding, promising them fifteen chalders bere of crop 1601 and sixteen of crop 1602 in payment (GD129/1/24/80). His finances were increasingly confused. When Alexander Ross of Invercharron's son paid 400 merks for his escheat in 1603 twenty-six separate items were involved; not all were costed, but obligations of £2,206 and eighty-six chalders of grain can be counted (PS1/73, 244v, 22 February). Nine merchants from Edinburgh and Leith were chasing debts going back almost a whole decade. One, John Lawrie, had bought from George sixty chalders bere and nine lasts salmon, spread over three seasons, for which he paid £4,104 (RD1/51, 44r-45v, 20 January 1595); in 1603 he was still owed 1,000 merks for non-delivered goods. Nearer home, on 19 May 1597 George had borrowed 1,000 merks from John Murray of Spanziedail (Spinningdale, Creich par., Sutherland), promising an annual rent of thirty bolls bere out of Leichstoun (GD129/124/80); in 1603 payment had not been made since 1598.

How far these problems were due to extravagance and irresponsibility is unclear. George's position involved responsibilities, as his father had been reminded in 1577 and 1585. The lairds of Balnagown were not enthusiastic tax-payers, but George had discharges for over 2,500 merks between 1591 and 1614. Like all Highland lairds, he drew his income from seasonal and unpredictable products. His purchasers were his lenders of last resort and main sources of ready cash (though it is

interesting to find a master mason employed on 'ye new wark of Balnagown' undertaking to deliver him seven gold coins, each carefully priced [Macgill, no. 510, 21 October 1593]). Both wadsets and merchant debt went on increasing. A late and incomplete list shows fourteen wadsets originally given between 1582 and 1615 (GD297/217/Bundle 10); when four known others are added, George Ross can be shown to have raised a minimum of £15,000 by this method. Even allowing for some repetition (Dounie in Westray [Edderton par.], one of the more 'realisable' properties, was the subject of four wadsets between 1591 and 1614, for sums ranging from 500 to 3,400 merks), this must have involved a large reduction in annual revenue. David Clephane's son Nicol was less prominent than his father had been, but another merchant from Clephane's home-town of Burntisland, James Brown, became increasingly central to George's finances. The laird had a discharge from him at Tain on 16 May 1606 for all past obligations except a number of cautionries (GD199/44), but by 17 May 1610 he was again in Brown's debt for £2,294 in silver alone (GD129/17/9, 'compt' at Ardmore). In 1614 George wadset Dounie to Brown for 3,400 merks (GD129/17/6 and 9, 25 July [also *RMS*, vii, 1879]). This wadset was made over by Brown to his son Mr James on 22 July 1618 (GD129/17/13), and was eventually sold by the latter to John Forrester, notary in Tain and Balnagown man of business (306: GD129/16/2, 15 November 1626). The financial agonies of later lairds of Balnagown had their origins in the careers of George Ross and his father.

267 . . . —anis Gordoun de Sutherlandie . . . 12 Septembris.

John Gordon, twelfth earl of Sutherland, died 11 September 1615 (Gordon, 313; Fraser, *Sutherland*, i, 189).

#### 1616

268 8 huius [January] 1616 obiit Georgius Sincklar de May.

Son of George, fourth earl of Caithness (*SP*, ii, 351). Father of Sir William of Mey (313), Sir John of Dunbeath (341) and Janet Innes (314). Treasurer of Caithness (Watt, *Fasti*, 68).

George Sinclair bought Cadboll, Plaids and the bailiary of St Duthac from the Innes family (*RMS*, v, 895, 24 July 1585; *RMS*, vi, 1709, 9 December 1584), and half of the barony of Geanies from Sir Patrick Murray, 28 February 1601, so creating the barony of Cadboll (*RMS*, vi, 1709). These acquisitions involved him in long-standing disputes over marches, commonities, 'wrack and weir' and sea-havens with the

abbots of Fearn and the lairds of Balnagown (see 143, 211, 216), which he took up with enthusiasm. He also clashed with the burgesses of Tain over his rights as bailie, which he eventually sold to the burgh in 1607 (RD4/83, 662-7; cf. PS1/57, 172v, 14 August 1588). The Sinclair family were major landholders in Easter Ross in the first half of the seventeenth century; the laird of Mey was the largest holder in Fearn parish in 1644, and also had lands in Tarbat, Tain and Kincardine parishes (Fraser-Mackintosh, 365-7).

**269** 9 huius [January] 1616 obiit Magister Johannes Munro sub decanus Ros et sepultus Tayne.

Son of Hugh Munro of Assynt (d. 1596). Husband of: Helen, daughter of Andrew Munro of Newmore/Milton (248) and Katherine Urquhart (241). See *Munro Tree*, Q/42; Watt, *Fasti*, 284 (d. by 5 January 1616); Scott, *Fasti*, vii, 70-71 (d. shortly after 1 June 1630, incorrectly).

John Munro became minister at Tain and Edderton, 1598 (E47/7), with the subdeanery of Ross assigned for stipend (PS1/57, 142v, 14 August 1588). One of the rebels of the Aberdeen Assembly of 1605 (RPC, vii, 83, 124n, and numerous other references), he appears to have broken his subsequent internal exile by resuming preaching in Tain (RPC, viii, 624). His name, dropped from the Stipend Register in 1608, reappeared in 1614 (E47/9).

**270** 3 huius [March] 1616 obiit Daud Haye de Penick.

Meikle and Little Penick (Auldearn par., Nairn) are shown as separate by Timothy Pont (Stone, *Pont Maps*, 61-2). Archibald Dunbar of Penick, husband of Janet Tulloch (278), held Meikle Penick in feu from Pluscarden priory at his death on 22 March 1575 (CC8/8/6, 28 April 1578). Little Penick, part of the regality of Spynie, was a divided property: Mr Thomas Dunbar, dean of Moray, held three quarters, 4 June 1602 (RMS, vi, 1313); the remaining quarter, with Boathhill, was held by Alexander Dunbar of Craighead (RMS, v, 980, 11 January 1555), who had a confirmation of his 'great new stone house' built on Boathhill, 28 February 1596 (RMS, vi, 409): Pont shows Little Penick as a fortified house. The two portions were still separate in 1637 (RMS, ix, 774). David Hay of Penick was third in succession to the barony of Lochloy, 9 December 1608 (RMS, vi, 2179). The will of Janet Tulloch's brother, sir Nicholas, 18 November 1582 (CC8/8/12, 305v-307r), discharged him of an obligation for £100 by the deceased Archibald Dunbar, suggesting that he may have married Dunbar's widow.



**271** 3 Maii 1616 William Fresser redar at Tayne decesit at Innesnes.

Father of Andrew (302). *Wardlaw MS*, 116-17, 234, calls him a descendant of the Fruids line, cousin of Archdeacon Donald Fraser (150), and provost of Tain. His stipend is recorded 1574-90 (*Wodrow Misc.*, 334; E47/1-4), thereafter being the responsibility of the minister of Tain. The revenues of the miln of Morangie, assigned to the sacristanry of St Duthac at the erection of the collegiate church (*RMS*, ii, 1694; Durkan, 'Tain', 151, 154), were paid to him (GD237/2, 14 July 1614; GD199/190, 9 May 1618, discharge by his son Andrew). He was also a notary, recorded between 26 January 1577 (GD129/1/19/61; GD129/1/22/70) and 25 January 1615 (GD297/226/16). His two sons James and Andrew frequently acted with him (e.g. GD199/10, 24 June 1602, James Fraser witness, Andrew Fraser writer). He was town clerk of Tain, 18 November 1588 (Macgill, no. 940), and was stented on two tenements in the burgh in 1612 (SC34/28/90 [Macgill, no. 53]). His notarial functions led him into violence at least once, for on 21 April 1599 he had to find caution not to attack Innes of Inverbreakie (*RPC*, v, 724). His career, like that of John Ross, vicar of Kilmuir Wester (see 202), shows the artificiality of any attempt to set the post-Reformation clergy apart from the society in which they lived.

**272** 27 huius [May] anno Domini 1616 obiit Alisona Orack in Bruntelland.

Wife of John Clephane, burgess of Burntisland, drowned 12 September 1589 (see 188). Widow of William Syme in Strathmiglo (CS7/35, 307r-308r, 30 May 1566). Grandmother of Alison Clephane (355).

John Clephane 'of Montagart' or 'of Balintagart' took his designation from the kirklands of Monimail (Fife), which he and his wife acquired in 1565 from George Cook, vicar (*RSS* v, 2379, 18 October). He was a witness on 2 June 1557 (*Laing Chrs.*, no. 676) and by 31 October 1563 was trading abroad in the 'Johannes de Brint Iland' (*RSS*, v, 1484). He also went on a foreign voyage in the summer of 1589, leaving his wife with a 'poware and commissioun', in the exercise of which she discharged a debt in Edinburgh, 17 July (RD1/34, 20r-v, 59v-60v). He had been provost in the previous year, and was a bailie when he was lost in the sinking of the ferry-boat on 12 September 1589. At his death he owned a third share of the 'Sey Flowr of Bruntiland', twelve double nets, and 10,000 barrel staves stored in his close at Burntisland (CC8/8/21, 74r-75v). His eldest son Henry either predeceased him or was drowned at the same time (see 355).

Alison Orrock appeared personally before the Edinburgh Commissary Court to present the inventory of her husband's goods on behalf of his remaining children, all of whom were under age (CC8/2/20, 16 January 1590). There is evidence that she retained an interest in business, appearing on occasion in the Burntisland burgh court (B9/11/2, 28r, 8 November 1593; B9/11/2, 106v, 30 October 1596), and on 6 May 1594 buying a reversion to lands in Orkney (RMS, vi, 129, 24 July); her son, John Clephane, was trying to get possession on this title five years later (RD1/72, 269r-272r, 23 July 1599). John, elder surviving son, had possession of a burgh tenement from his mother, 18 March 1597 (B9/1/1, 186r-187r); he took the designation 'of Ballintagart', but not apparently the lands (see 355); when he died intestate in 1625 he had an estate of only £30 (CC/20/4/8, 241r-v, 15 September 1626). His mother was still alive in 1609, when her grand-daughter Alison and her husband Walter Ross of Morangie took sasines of family tenements in Burntisland (see 355), but her death left no trace in the burgh records.

**273** Penultimo huius [August] 1616 obiit Alexander Denoone de Pithigartie.

Possibly grandson of Abbot Donald Denoon (14: *Blackie*, 73-4; RMS, iii, 2051). Recorded between 21 July 1585 (NP1/40, 66v-67v) and 3 December 1613 (CC19/1/1, 58v). He bought the 'thrie half oxgate lands' he already occupied in Pithogarty from Thomas Urquhart of Cromarty, 7 March 1612 (GD305/1/13/8,9). The contract, which cost £750, brought him titles which included a grant by William MacCulloch of Plaids to Abbot Donald and his son William of Pitnellie (GD305/1/12/2, 27 March 1534; see RMS iii, 1540).

**274** 22 huius [October] obiit magister Johannes Ros de Lytill Tarrell rector [deleted] persona de Loge anno 1636 [sic: but an error for '1616': see below].

Second son of Alexander Ross of Little Tarrel (161, which see for his part in the Little Tarrel succession). Father of Hugh (see below) and Alexander of Pitkerrie (334). Recorded between 1576 (Macgill, p.267) and 21 February 1616 (GD1/436/1). Presented to the parsonage and vicarage of Logie Easter on 25 April 1581 (RSS, viii, 244), he was minister there from at latest 1585 until 1615 (E47/3-10): Scott, *Fasti*, vii, 62 confuses him with John Ross, reader and vicar at Kilmuir Wester. A translation to Tain in 1580-81 (E47/2) was apparently abortive. He was

named constant moderator of the presbytery of Tain, 17 January 1607 (*RPC*, vii, 301), but had been succeeded by Mr Robert Ross, minister of Alness, by 28 March 1609 (*RPC*, vii, 750). See Reid, 38.

Mr John Ross is first styled 'of Little Tarrel' on 12 October 1599 (*Munro Writs*, no. 142). He subsequently bought the wards of Easter Little Allan from his brother Mr Walter Ross (see 161), and late in life acquired a title to Logie Easter from Mr Thomas Ross of Logie (GD297/226/15, 2 January 1615), though it is not clear that he had effective possession. He was one of these accused of breaking up the bailie court of Delny, 27 December 1587 (*RPC*, iv, 254-6). His heir was his son Hugh (*RMS*, vi, 2096, 7 June 1608, 'apparent of Little Tarrel'), to whom he made over the fee of his lands before his death. Hugh was still alive in 1643 (*RMS*, ix, 1991, 7 July) and held Little Tarrel in the 1644 valuation of the sheriffdom of Inverness (Fraser-Mackintosh, 366).

## 1618

**275** 1618 15 huius [September] obiit Malcolmus Ros de Cambuscirrye.

Son of Alexander Ross IX of Balnagown (216) and Katherine Mackenzie (207). Brother of Nicholas Ross of Pitcalnie (246). Half-brother of George Ross X of Balnagown (266). Husband of Janet, daughter of William Innes of Calrossie (238: RS36/2, 28v-29r, 20 February 1606). Recorded between 9 August 1598 (*RMS*, vi, 771) and 3 August 1618 (GD129/1/7/6). See Reid, 10.

The kirklands of the chaplainry of Cambuscurrie were granted to Alexander Ross of Balnagown by Mr Alexander Dingwall, chaplain, 12 March 1560 (GD199/18: see also 326). The chaplainry itself passed after Dingwall's death to Robert Colville (*RSS*, vii, 1749, 16 December 1578), whom Alexander Ross bought out for 100 merks, 9 November 1580 (GD129/1/7/10), following a new gift to his own unnamed son, most probably Malcolm Ross (C114/1/2, 46r, 18 September 1580). Malcolm had a new grant, 9 August 1598 (*RMS*, vi, 771), and in the same year a regrant of the grain milns of Morangie, previously held from the sacristan of St Duthac (GD242/55/1/2 [*RMS*, vi, 685], 20 March 1598; see also 271). Sasine on the milns was not taken until 30 April 1606 (GD242/55/1/6; RS36/2, 29v-30r), possibly because they were held under reversion by Walter Ross of Morangie (GD199/18, 11 June 1603).

1619

**276** The 15 of September 1619 Alexander Ros of Innercharron depairtit.

Son of William Ross of Ardgay (**145**). Brother of Walter of Tuiteam Tarbhach (**236**), with whom called 'Williamson' (Macgill, ii, no. 1006, 2 August 1577; GD96/266, 23 May 1597). Husband of: Marjorie Innes (**195**); and Isobel Ross (**305**). Father of William Ross (**281**). First cousin of Alexander IX of Balnagown (**216**). Recorded between 12 April 1577 (RD1/16, 135r-136r) and 5 June 1604 (GD199/44). See Reid, 18-19; A.M. Ross, 64-5; GCR, 228, is confused. He had a feu-ferme charter of Invercharron, on resignation of George Ross X of Balnagown, at an unknown date before 20 April 1587 (RD1/34, 264r-265r; RMS, v, 2302), and was one of the kinsmen who remonstrated with Alexander of Balnagown, 2 August 1577 (Macgill, ii, no. 1006; see **216**).

**277** 20 huius [November] obiit honorabilis vir Daudid Ross de Ballangawne 16— ['36' erased] apud Ardmoir qui sepultus erat apud Ferine 23 eiusdem.

Son of George Ross X of Balnagown (**266**) and Marjorie Campbell (**227**). Husband of: Mary Gordon, daughter of Alexander, earl of Sutherland, who died childless (Gordon, 252); and Annabel Murray, daughter of John, earl of Tullibardine (RS36/2, 139v-144v, 15, 16, 29 October 1606); she subsequently married William Ross of Annat (**284**) and Alexander Sinclair of Canisbay, younger son of George Sinclair of Mey (**268**). Father of David XII (**344**); Katherine, wife of Alexander Corbet of Arboll; and Margaret (for the last two see GD199/219, 1648, testament of Alexander Corbet). Recorded (excluding marriage negotiations while still a minor) between 4 November 1602 (GD129/1/6/2) and 17 July 1619 (GD129/1/24/80). See Reid, 10-11; A.M. Ross, 32; GCR, 90-91. All three give date of death as 20 November 1632, which is certainly wrong (see RMS, viii, 558; *Munro Writs*, no. 174). The late Dr T.I. Rae, who examined the *Calendar* MS with me, confirmed that the last two figures of the date are erased in the present entry. As David Ross was alive on 17 July 1619 and his widow had remarried by 24 May 1620 (see **284**), the present entry establishes the date of his death as 20 November 1619.

David Ross, who had an encumbered feu-ferme grant from his father on 4 November 1602 (GD129/1/6/2), was retoured as his general heir on 18 July 1615 (*Retours*, ii, General, no. 602; see also GD297/203, 10

May 1616, *clare constat* for feu-lands held from the bishopric; and *Retours*, ii, Ross and Cromarty, no. 40, 8 September 1615, lands formerly held from Fearn). As part of his inheritance, David came to the 'manor' of Fearn on 11 November 1616 and held court as hereditary bailie (GD129/1/7/9). The occasion, used to rehearse titles and demand payment of overdue feu-duties, was repeated at the beginning of his son's minority (see 344).

The family's financial difficulties (see 266) persisted. In 1615 David gave a charter of the mains and miln of Balnagown to William Rig, merchant burgess of Edinburgh (RMS, vii, 1525, 16 October). This wadset was no formality. Rig's son Mr Thomas warned in 1647 that his rents should not be interfered with, and that David XII, who had moved into the house of Balnagown, should not occupy the mains (Macgill, no. 695). Also in 1616, he wadset Little Dallas to James Brown for £2,000 (GD129/1/7/6, 10 June), and in 1617 made over his lands in Edderton parish to John Sinclair, merchant burgess of Edinburgh (RMS, vii, 1703, 18 November 1617). Lenders often found it sensible to leave the borrower in possession with a tack, as James Brown did at Dounie (RMS, vii, 1879, 25 June 1614; GD199/17, 8 June 1617, receipt to David Ross). Some creditors, however, went to law. Alexander Lindsay of Pittairlie, assignee of his brother Patrick, bishop of Ross, brought a successful action of apprising on 28 January 1619 (RMS, viii, 38), as a result of which he had a grant of the whole Balnagown estate at the start of David XII's minority (see 344).

Widows' liferents were a familiar problem of the age. David Ross had problems with his stepmother Isobel MacIntosh's second husband, Mr John Munro (289), over the miln of Balnagown, which the laird claimed had been given in tack to his stepmother without his consent (Macgill, nos. 54, 56). Munro appears to have got his way, as instructions given by David XII, on the eve of departure on the Worcester campaign, refer to Isobel MacIntosh's liferent of the miln rents (Macgill, no. 695, 21 April 1651). The two men reached an agreement on 8 November 1616 (GD129/1/7/6), but non-fulfilment led Munro to seek an apprising, which he got on 26 August 1619 (GD129/1/7/6; see also RMS, vii, 2082). By this, Isobel MacIntosh received Achnagullan and other lands in Strathoykel, with lands and shielings in the forest of Freevater, and superiority rights over parts of the Drum of Fearn - rights she was to profit from for another half century.

Daughter of Thomas Tulloch of Fleurs/Tannachy. Widow of Archibald Dunbar of Penick and David Hay of Penick (270). For family of Tulloch of Fleurs/Tannachy see 247.

## 1621

279 10 Septembris 1621 obiit vir vera pietatis imagine preeditus Hugo Ros de Tollie et sepultus apud Ferne 15 eiusdem.

Son of Hugh I of Tollie (212). Husband of Isobel Munro (220). Father of Hugh of Breakach (242), George (see below) and Janet, wife of Walter Ross of Morangie (222). Grandfather of Hugh III (316). Recorded between 2 August 1577 (Macgill, ii, no. 1006) and 24 December 1620 (GD129/II/353, 1-3). See Reid, 24, 105; A.M. Ross, 74; GCR, 232.

Hugh Ross was one of three emissaries sent by 'kin and friends' to Alexander Ross of Balnagown, 2 August 1577 (Macgill, ii, no. 1006). He inherited his father's feu-ferme lands and the kirklands of Tollie (RMS, vi, 343, 15 August 1595), and gave his younger son George a feu-charter of Pitkerrie (Fearn par.), 20 December 1605 (RS36/2, 10v-11v), which George sold to Mr John Ross of Little Tarrel, 19 May 1619 (RS37/1, 138r-139r), at which date his father transferred Brakach to him (RS37/1, 139r-v). Three oxgangs of the kirklands of Tollie, in all probability tocher lands of Janet Ross, were granted on 25 November 1605 to her widower Walter Ross of Morangie (see 42), acting for their son Thomas (348: RS37/1, 30r-v).

## 1622

280 5 huius [August] 1622 obiit Hugo Ros de Kindeice.

Son of Walter Ross and Margaret Simson (205). Husband of: Catherine Ross; Margaret Gordon (358). Father of Walter Ross (353). Noticed between 2 September 1609 (GD129/1/7/13) and 20 July 1615 (RMS, vii, 1294). See Reid, 51-2.

Hugh Ross's first wife Catherine Ross was dead by 23 October 1609, when her widower made a marriage contract with Margaret Gordon, widow of Charles Pope, portioner of Meikle Rhynie (RS37/7, 75r-v, 8 June 1650: for Pope, 'publict notary and messinger at arms', killed in Dornoch in 1607, see Gordon, 256-8; Blackie, 45, traces his ancestry to Bishop Henry Cockburn [d. 1476]). Barbara Pope, Margaret Gordon's daughter, contracted to marry her mother's stepson Walter Ross,

apparent of Kindeace, on 22 July 1622, very shortly before Hugh Ross's death (RS37/7, 74r-75r, 22 March 1650). When Walter Ross lost Kindeace almost thirty years later his wife and his stepmother had to renounce their rights (RS37/7, 74r-75v, 22 March 1650). Margaret Gordon had remarried, and was now the wife of Thomas or Hugh Ross of Resolis (356; RS37/7, 75r-v gives both names).

**281** 13 huius [October] 1622 obiit honorabilis vir Gulielmus Ros de Innercharron et sepultus apud Kincairdin 15 eiusdem.

Son of Alexander of Invercharron (276). Father of Walter (GD199/19, 29 June 1610, 'apparent of Invercharron'). Recorded between 1 January 1593 (RMS, v, 2262, 'apparent of Invercharron') and 24 September 1622 (GD297/223/6). Named in several royal commissions for the pursuit of offenders, including the killers of Charles Pope in Dornoch (see 280: RPC, viii, 189, 3 November 1608), and the perennially troublesome MacGregors (RPC, xii, 612-13, 6 December 1621; for other commissions see RPC, x, 223; xi, 29-30, 204-05, 352). See Reid, 18-19; A.M. Ross, 65; GCR, 229.

## 1623

**282** 6 huius [May] obiit Georgius Monro de Meikle Tarrell 1623.

Son of Andrew of Newmore (248) and Katherine Urquhart (241). Brother of Mr John Munro (289). Husband of: Mariota or Marion MacCulloch, heiress of Meikle Tarrel (d. 4 May 1600 [CC8/8/35, 30 December 1600]; see 52): and Margaret Dunbar (319). Father of *inter aliis* George of Milton, successor (*Munro Tree*, L/7). Recorded between 11 June 1574 (RSS, vi, 2533, a minor) and 23 May 1622 (RMS, viii, 351). For Munros of Milton/Newmore see *Munro Tree*, L/1-13; 248, and references there given.

George Munro, who held the chaplainry of Newmore, 1574-9 (RSS, vi, 2533; vii, 2018), was still a minor when contracted to marry Marion MacCulloch on 28 November 1577. He bought Easter Ard (Tarbat par.) from Mr James Dunbar of Tarbat, 23 December 1606 (RMS, vi, 1817). His father Andrew made over the fee of Kilmuir Meddat to him (RMS, vi, 2114, 13 July 1607). He had a new charter of Meikle Tarrel, with succession to Munros only, 20 November 1608 (RMS, vi, 2170), and succeeded his father in Milton and the kirklands of Newmore, 19 May 1612 (*Munro Writs*, no. 153). This accumulation of lands did not long survive him. When his son George of Milton was retoured on

17 June 1623 (*Retours*, ii, Ross and Cromarty, no. 65) Newmore had passed to John Munro of Pittonachy (*Munro Tree*, L/54; *RMS*, vii, 2048, 1 April 1619), and the incoming heir himself sold Easter Ard and Meikle Tarrel to Sir Roderick Mackenzie of Coigach (Fraser, *Cromartie*, ii, 427; *RMS*, viii, 509, 31 July 1623). Milton of Meddat was apprised from George of Milton by Robert Innes of Innes, 25 June 1627 (*RMS*, viii, 1094), and went out of Munro hands on his death in 1629 (see 311). Involvement with Mr John Munro may have been disastrous (see 289).

283 9 huius [May] 1623 obiit Alexander Douglas episcopus Morrauiensis.

Watt, *Fasti*, 217; Scott, *Fasti*, vii, 350-51. As minister of Elgin, he was an arbiter between Sir Patrick Murray of Geanies and Walter Ross of Morangie (GD129/1/21/66, 26 April 1600: see 43).

## 1624

284 The 12 of Junie 1624 William Ros of Annat perished on ye water of Oikell and was buried in Ferne.

Son of Nicholas of Pitcalnie (246). Brother of David of Pitcalnie (325). Second husband of Annabel Murray, widow of David Ross XI of Balnagown (see 277). Recorded between 16 April 1619 (RS37/1, 147v-148r) and 6 February 1624 (*RMS*, ix, 1943).

Annat (Nigg par.) was sold in 1612 by Donald Ross, apparent of Priesthill (265), executor of Robert Ross (died April 1602: CC8/8/45, 286r-287r), to David Ross of Pitcalnie, who granted it to his brother William, 16 April 1619 (GD199/3; RS37/1, 147v-148v). William Ross was involved in his brother's attempts to control the Balnagown inheritance. Alexander Lindsay of Pittairlie, who secured an apprising of the Balnagown lands and a subsequent grant under reversion, 22 June 1620 (*RMS* viii, 38), dispooned them to William of Annat, who took sasine of those held from the bishopric on 16 December 1620, obliging himself to give letters of reversion to the laird of Balnagown and his heirs male, and stipulating that 'the same shall nawayis be preiudiciall to Annable Murray and me now hir spous anent her conjunct fee landis' (RS37/1, 289r). Although still called 'of Annat', William Ross sold the property to his sister Cristina Ross and her husband Donald Macleod Neilson, younger of Assynt (*RMS*, ix, 1251, 1 June 1622). He was one of the gentlemen of Ross who 'took order' to have hides tanned and stamped at Tain, 26 April 1622 (Macgill, no. 496).



1625

285 27 huius [March] obiit Jacobus 6 Magnae Brittaniae Galliae et Hiberniae Rex 1625 apud Tibboldis in Angliae.

286 .<sup>1</sup> huius [April] 1625 obiit Gulielmus Ross de Eister Ferne. [Written over earlier entry in hand of Master Thomas Ross].

Son of Donald of Priesthill (148). Husband of: Elizabeth Munro, died 15 March 1584 (CC8/8/24, 119r-120r); and Isobel, daughter of William Innes of Calrossie (238). Father, by first marriage, of Donald of Balintraid (265); by second marriage, of Hugh of Easter Fearn. Recorded between 17 September 1571 (GD297/201/6) and 4 March 1622 (GD71/295). See Reid, 25-6; A.M. Ross, 69; GCR, 231.

William Ross inherited the kirklands of Priesthill and Ulladale, and a tack of Balintraid (Kilmuir Easter par.) from his father Donald. He had long-running differences over marches and commonties at Ulladale with his kinsman William Ross of Logie (GD297/204 and GD297/205/5, 31 March 1591; for an episode in this dispute see *Gray*, 113v [see 234]). He also held Easter Fearn (Edderton par.), with the salmon fishing of 'lie yair and nes', which had belonged to the monastery of Fearn since at least 1467 (*Isles*, no. 90), and in all probability since the thirteenth-century foundation of the house. It was given in feu by Abbot Donald Denoon to his son William of Pitnellie, 19 November 1530 (GD1/436/1, transumpt, 18 December 1576), but was in William Ross's hands by 10 June 1568. GD1/436/1 includes titles which appear to be cover for an appropriation by Alexander Ross of Balnagown, from whom William finally held; Margaret Denoon, heiress of William Denoon, eventually sold out her right on 7 January 1576.

After the death of William's heir-apparent Donald in 1614 the Priesthill inheritance fell apart. On 25 May 1615, acting with Hugh, his second son, William sold Priesthill and Ulladale, 'equally and by equal division', to his neighbour Thomas Ross of Logie and David XI of Balnagown (GD297/232, 25 May 1615). He made Easter Fearn over to Hugh, reserving a liferent for his wife Isobel (GD1/436/1, 9 June 1615; *RMS*, vii, 1722, 9 December 1617), who after his death married George Munro of Tarlogie (317). He was still called William of Priesthill in a discharge of 4 March 1622 (GD71/295): the *Calendar*, more accurately, made him 'of Easter Fearn'.

Hugh Ross, who inherited Easter Fearn, married Walter Ross of Morangie's eldest daughter Isobel (RS37/3, 208r-209v, 24 March 1626, drawn up by her brother, Mr Thomas of Morangie [348]). Hugh

himself was dead before 14 December 1637, when Easter Fearn was apprised from his son, Hugh, by Thomas Ross, son of his father's half-brother, Donald of Balintraid (*RMS*, ix, 842). As so often, the formal evidence leaves much of the reality of family history undisclosed (see also 265).

**287** Ultimo huius [April] 1625 obiit Georgius Morray de Spainzedoll.

Son of John Murray (see 266), to whom he was retoured heir in Spinningdale, Acharry, Fload and Pulrossie (Creich par., Sutherland) in 1599 (*Retours*, ii, Sutherland, no. 18, 31 March); these lands, although in the shire of Sutherland, were at one time in the hands of the earls of Ross (see *Isles*, no. 82, 1464). George Murray married Bessie, daughter of Gilbert son of John Gray of Swordale (RS37/3, 85v-86v, 13 December 1599: for John Gray see *Gray*, 45v-47r, 117r-v [see 228-9, 234-5]) and Christian, daughter of Robert mor Munro of Foulis (*RMS*, v, 112, 17 August 1575; *Munro Tree*, R/39). For family of Murray see Gordon, 105.

1626

**288** 14 huius [February] obiit Walterus Kynaird de Culbin anno 1626.

Son of Alexander Kinnaird of Culbin, who died at Pinkie, and Barbara Tulloch (see 212, 247). Brother of Isobel Kinnaird (230). Husband of Elizabeth Innes (296). Father of Alexander Kinnaird (333). Brother-in-law of Master Thomas Ross, and witness to charters by him (e.g. *RMS*, v, 1184, 1196 [GD129/1/23/74, 1 January 1583], 1244; GD129/1/17/55, 4 February 1592). *Blackie*, 92-7, gives a somewhat fanciful genealogy of the family.

**289** Obitus Magistri Joannis Munro pastoris ecclesiae de Tarbat 18 Martii 1626.

Son of Andrew of Newmore and Milton (248) and Katherine Urquhart (241). Brother of George Munro of Meikle Tarrel (282). Married twice, secondly to Isobel MacIntosh, widow of George Ross X of Balnagown (see 266): *Munro Writs*, no. 157, 10 July 1615, liferent sasine; her liferent from Balnagown was in dispute (see 277). Recorded between 18 August 1579 (*RSS*, vii, 2018) and 14 February 1624 (*RMS*, viii, 613). See *Munro Tree*, L/27; Scott, *Fasti*, vii, 74-5. For Munros of Fearn see *Munro Tree*, L/27-34.

John Munro had a gift of the chaplainry of Newmore, 18 August 1579, later renewed (RSS, vii, 1904; PS1/54, 57r, 21 July 1586; PS1/63, 98v, 1 January 1592), and was presented to the parsonage and vicarage of Tarbat, 15 March 1594 (PS1/66, 98v). The resources of these benefices may have enabled him to buy the 'manor' or 'mains' of Fearn from Walter Ross of Morangie in 1600 (see 43). The price of 16,400 merks was large, and appears to have left him in debt. The purchase may have been resented, for he subsequently complained to the Council that Walter Ross of Balmuchy and others broke into the girdel of Fearn by night (*RPC*, vii, 154). The most significant asset he acquired at Fearn was the miln, one half of which he wadset for £6,000 on 19 December 1610 (GD129/1/18/60, 14 June 1614), and the other for 4,000 merks on 31 May 1611 (GD129/1/18/60). Between 1617 and 1621 he entered into at least twenty-three bonds and obligations, with a total face value of over £27,000 (GD305/1/148 and 150); many of the bonds were bought up by Sir Robert Innes of Innes, who later had Mr John's nephew George of Milton's lands appraised (see 282). A forced disposal to meet debts is suggested by the sale of the Fearn properties to his brother George of Meikle Tarrel on 1 June 1622 (GD129/1/20/64). The sale was for money to be received by George for his brother's behalf, and obligations for 2,000 merks each were acknowledged to six cautioners, including Patrick MacAulay, tailor in London. The subsequent passage of the property to Hector Douglas of Mulderg (see 282, 343) may already have been in train.

## 1628

**290** 18 huius [December] 1628 obiit Isobella Dunbar spnse [sic] Robeti [sic] Tulloch de Fleuris.

Daughter of Alexander Dunbar of Conzie. Wife of Robert Tulloch of Tannachy/Fleurs (247), whose father, Thomas Tulloch, gave the couple three burgh roods in Forres to implement their marriage contract, 5 December 1566 (MRO B2/3, 192). Her husband subsequently gave her liferent of Meikle Tannachy, 10 March 1591 (MRO, A52 1/1, 93-94). When her son Alexander was retoured heir to his father's burgh lands, 21 April 1612, she protested for her liferent right, which the inquest ruled she should have according to her infestments (MRO, B2/3, 191-198). For the family of Tulloch of Tannachy/Fleurs see 247.

## 1629

- 291** 8 huius [February] 1629 obiit Margareta Strahan uxor MTR [sic]. Wife of Mr Thomas Ross of Morangie (348). For the family of Ross of Morangie see 32-49.

## 1630

- 292** 23 huius [October] 1630 Johanes Mackeinze de Lochslin obiit apud Canoniam Rossensem.

Son of Kenneth, Lord Kintail (245) and Jean, daughter of George Ross X of Balnagown (232). Brother of Colin, earl of Seaforth (295). He bought Lochslin, formerly the property of the Vaus family (see Munro, 'Vasses', 38-9) from James Cuthbert of Drakies, 3 June 1624 (*RMS*, viii, 691), and died without a direct male heir. See Macfarlane, *Gen. Coll.*, i, 100-01.

## 1632

- 293** 24<sup>o</sup> Nouembris anno 1632 obiit Barbara Ros sponse Andree . in Canoniam Rossensem et sepulta est ibidem.

Daughter of Master Thomas Ross and wife of Andrew Morison, collector depute (299). For family of Ross of Morangie see 32-49.

## 1633

- 294** Simon dominus de Louat obiit 8 huius [April] anno 1633.

*SP*, v, 529-32, and *CP*, viii, 189-90, date of death 3 April 1633; *Wardlaw MS*, 252, date of death, 15 April 1633.

- 295** Colinus comes de Seaforth obiit 15 Aprilis 1633.

*SP*, vii, 506-07; *CP*, xi, 582-3. Son of Kenneth, Lord Kintail (245) and Jean Ross of Balnagown (232). Brother of John of Lochslin (292). He was under age at his father's death (CC19/1/1, 18r, 8 April 1611, election of curators).

**296** The 13 heirof [October] 1633 Bessi Innes Ledi Culbin departitt.

Daughter of Catherine Gordon (**239**) and James Innes of Drainie (*Blackie*, 97, gives 'Douny', wrongly). Wife of Walter Kinnaird of Culbin (**288**). See NP1/18, 56v-59v, 28 July 1564, sasine for her on a liferent grant by Kinnaird, with consent of his curators, Thomas Tulloch of Fleurs and Sir Nicholas Tulloch, 14 January 1564 (*RSS*, v, 1580, 20 February 1564). The marriage had been contracted for Walter Kinnaird by his mother, Barbara Tulloch (see **212**), his grandfather, Alexander Tulloch, burgess of Forres, and the family's patron, Bishop Robert Reid of Orkney, abbot of Kinloss (the date is unstated, but must precede Reid's death on 6 September 1558). Her liferent in Culbin was reserved when her son Alexander Kinnaird (**333**) resigned the fee to his son Walter and wife Griselda Brodie (*RMS*, viii, 1434, 26 June 1629). For a second notice of her death see **297**.

**297** Obitus honorabilis mulieris domine de Culbin . . . 1633 et sepulta . Forres. [January]

See **296**.

**298** Penultimo huius [December] 1633 obiitt Jacobus Innes de Innerbraccye.

Son of Walter Innes (**234**). James Innes (GD199/16, 3 April 1593, 'apparent of Innerbreakie') was involved in the Easter Ross violence of 1599 (see **234**), and was retoured heir to his father, 2 May 1608 (*Retours*, ii, Ross and Cromarty, no. 30). He was one of the gentlemen of Ross who 'took order' at Tain on the control of tanning, 26 April 1622 (*Macgill*, no. 496). His son Walter, retoured heir on 29 April 1634 (*Retours*, i, Inverness, no. 55), was a member of the Northern Committee of Affairs, 1640 (*Macgill*, ii, no. 1018), and had valued rent of over £1,700 in Roskeen, Tain and Kincardine parishes, 1644 (*Fraser-Mackintosh*, 365-6, 368). The fall of the house of Inverbreakie, which so impressed Duncan Forbes in 1698 (*Familie of Innes*, 43-4), was not yet apparent half a century earlier.

1634

**299** 19 huius [July] 1634 obiit Andres Morisoune collector depute.

Husband of Barbara Ross (**293**). Son-in-law of Master Thomas Ross (see 41). Andrew Morison, born in Leith, unmarried, aged twenty-two or thereby, and a clerk of St Andrews diocese, having been 'at

Latyne scoles', was admitted a notary on 16 June 1577 (NP2/2, 95r-v). He was appointed collector-depute of the superplus of benefices not given up in rental, 1 February 1589 (PS1/59, 31r), and of the thirds of benefices and superplus, between Dee and Duncansby, 23 September 1590 (PS1/61, 46r). He was also collector of taxation (RD1/48, 48r-49r, 7 February 1594; RD1/55, 389v-390r, 22 May 1595) and of bishopric mails (GD129/1/7/9, 12 June 1594). He was styled 'chamberlane of His Majesties rents benorth Forth' when he acknowledged receiving two tuns of 'burdeaux wyn guid and sufficient wyneis of taist and cullar' at Dundee, 23 February 1596 (RD1/54, 109r-v). In addition he was commissary-depute of Ross, 1610 (CC19/1/1, 4r, 9r, 18r, 19r), and tacksman of the customs of the Water of Spey and 'hail boundis benorth', 1610 (*RPC*, viii, 838).

Andrew Morison was resident in Ross before 3 July 1593 (RD1/48, 16v), and occupied the manse of Cullicudden in Chanonry (*RMS*, vi, 2164, 12 November 1608). He also held the ginel of Nigg, important for the storage of bishopric victual rents (RS37/1, 11r-12r, 17 October 1617). He was still collector-depute in 1621 (*RMS*, viii, 875, 22 May), and was later remembered as 'Collector Morison' (Macfarlane, *Gen. Coll.*, i, 87). Though almost eighty years old, he was still writing and witnessing deeds in 1633 (Macgill, no. 64; GD297/266/20-25). As an early resident professional revenue-collector in the North, his career might repay examination.

## 1636

**300** The 12 of Junie 1636 George Marques off Huntlye Lord Gordonne departitt this lyfe att Dundie.

*SP*, iv, 544, and *CP*, vi, 680, 13 June; Gordon, cont., 479, 15 June.

**301** The 27 Junie 1636 Agnes Ferne spus to Androu McCulloche zounger departitt att Tayne.

Daughter of Mr Charles Fearn or Ferme, minister of Fraserburgh (Scott, *Fasti*, vi, 220-21). Wife of Andrew, 1st of Glastullich, son of John MacCulloch of Kindeace (**304**: marriage contract at Aberdeen, 26 July 1625 [RS37/7, 38r]).

## 1637

**302** Undecimo huius [April] obiit Andreas Monro de Delny anno 1637.

Son of David Munro of Culnald. Grandson of Andrew Munro of Culnald (166). Father of John Munro, killed at Worcester, 1651. For family see *Munro Tree*, L/101-07.

Andrew Munro inherited the largest Ross-shire estate entered in the early Edinburgh Commissariat registers. His father, who made his latter-will on 15 October 1596, left goods valued at £4,861.3s.4d., almost all in stock and grain on seven separate farms (CC8/8/32, 6 January 1599). The lands shown in the inventory were not in his descendants' hands by 1644. Andrew Munro sold Culnald, a part of Nigg which both his father and his grandfather had held, to John Forrester (306; RS37/3, 112v-113v, May 1625). Other parts of Nigg went to Walter Ross of Kindeace (see 280; RS37/3, 104v-105r, 5 May 1625), and part of Wester Kindeace to John MacCulloch, merchant in Tain (304; GD146/22/31, 26 April 1622). Kilmachalmack in Strathoykel, where David Munro had kept horses, passed to Walter Ross of Invercharron (RS37/5, 358r-v, 22 October 1636). Delny itself, old earldom land (*ER*, xiii, 597), which had been occupied by both David and his father, was held in 1644 by Duncan Bain (351: Fraser-Mackintosh, 367).

**303** Vigesimo tertio huius [April] obiit Andreas Fraser commissarius de Innerness anno 1637.

Son of William Fraser (271). Recorded as writing to his father's dictation, 28 July 1601 (GD297/227/16), and as notary, 11 May 1603 (GD98/Box 10/Bundle 12), he wrote the testament of Master Thomas Ross's widow Isobel Kinnaird (230), 5 October 1603 (CC8/8/42, 362-363r). He was at various times provost, commissary and sheriff-clerk of Inverness (*Wardlaw MS*, 116-17); as commissary, he witnessed Mary Fraser's liferent charter from David Ross XII of Balnagown (344) at Lovat, 13 February 1636 (RS37/5, 296v-299v), accompanied by Mr Thomas Ross of Morangie (348). His protocol book (NP1/67A) contains Ross-shire material, 1607-19.

**304** Vigesimo quinto huius [April] obiit Joannes McCulloch de Kindeice anno 1637.

Son of Andrew MacCulloch, burgess of Tain (recorded between 3 March 1575 [GD129/1/6/4] and 16 April 1611 [*Laing Chrs.*, no. 1622]). John MacCulloch, burgess of Tain, is recorded frequently between 1602 (Macgill, no. 136) and 16 May 1628 (GD129/1/6/1). He was stented on sixteen bolls and eight tenements in 1612 (SC34/28/90

[Macgill, no. 53]), and was bailie, 1611 (*Laing Chrs.*, no. 1622), and provost, 1628-31 (RS37/4, 125v-127r, 5 November 1628; *RMS*, viii, 1796, 5 May 1629; *Munro Writs*, no. 190, 25 June 1631). He acquired the easter half of Wester or Meikle Kindeace under reversion from Andrew Munro of Culnald (302), 26 April 1622 (GD146/22/31), and gave it by charter to Andrew, his second son, and Agnes Ferne or Fernie his wife (see 301). His title must have been more ample than this transaction suggests, for on 12 August 1631 he gave a charter of the whole of Meikle Kindeace to Thomas MacCulloch, his eldest son (GD146/22/41: see 323).

There is uncertainty over his marriage or marriages. Reid, 46, 68, names his wife as Janet, daughter of John Ross of Mulderg. *Blackie*, 78-9, gives him two wives: Janet, daughter of Thomas Ross Walterson, whose children included Thomas, 2nd of Kindeace and Andrew, 1st of Glastullich; and Margaret (307), daughter of Walter Ross of Morangie. The only daughter of this marriage, Alison, had a son who was 'drowned in a boat that was brok to pieces betwixt Tarbat ness and the bridges' (*Blackie*, 79: sandbanks at the mouth of the Dornoch Firth are traditionally known as the 'Gizzen Briggs').

## 1638

**305** The 4 of Januar 1638 Issobbel Ros gudwyf off Innercharon desesit [last five words repeated].

Widow of Alexander Ross of Invercharron (276).

**306** Penultimo huius Julii 1638 obiitt Johanes Froster notarius ett toume [sic] clericus ett burgen de Tayne.

Father of David Forrester (346). Husband of Margaret, daughter of Donald Ross in Glastullich (RD1/97, 170r-171v, 31 October 1602). Recorded between 13 June 1596 (GD237/266/2, servitor of Nicholas Ross of Pitcalnie) and 11 February 1635 (*RMS*, ix, 1293), he was heavily employed as a notary in Easter Ross and Sutherland during the first three decades of the seventeenth century (see RS36/2 and RS37/1,3,4, *passim*; a fragment of his protocol book survives as NP1/82). He was clerk of the bailie court of Fearn, 11 November 1616 (GD129/1/7/9) and 19 February 1620 (GD129/2/353, 1-3); common clerk of Tain, 5 June 1603 (GD96/312); burgess, 22 June 1609 (*RMS*, vii, 84); and commissioner to the Convention of Royal Burghs, 1609, 1611, 1614, 1624 (*Burghs Convention Recs.*, ii, 269, 309, 442; iii, 156). He was stented



on four tenements and thirteen bolls, 1612, but paid only half-stent (SC34/28/90 [Macgill, no. 53]). David Ross XI of Balnagown resigned the easter half of Edderton to him, 2 August 1615 (B28/1/2, 86v-88v), and he acquired Culnald (Nigg par.) from Andrew Munro, 5 May 1625 (302: RS37/3, 112v-113v; see also *RMS*, ix, 202, 26 July 1634). His son Alexander Forrester was entered as proprietor of both in 1644 (Fraser-Mackintosh, 366-7). His father also secured smaller properties in Nigg and Fearn for younger sons (RS37/3, 271v-272v, 10 August 1626 [Robert]; RS37/3, 322r-v, 12 July 1626 [Andrew]). Financial strength was clearly one reason for this success. He was able to advance 8,200 merks to David Ross of Pitcalnie, who called him 'my good friend' - progress for someone who had been David's father's servant (GD199/72, 31 October 1631).

## 1639

**307** 7 huius [December] obiit Margareta Ros uxor Joannis McCulloch de Kindeice anno Domini 1639 et sepulta apud Ferne.

Daughter of Walter Ross of Morangie (see 203, 241). Second wife of John MacCulloch (304). Reid, 46, dates this entry to 1629, wrongly.

## 1640

**308** 6 huius Februarii 1640 obiit Olifeirus Gordoun de Ballone.

Son of Hugh Gordon (251) and his successor in Drummie and Ballone. Husband of: Jean Munro (said by Gordon, *Tables*, in *House of Gordon*, ii, 145-6, to have been a daughter of Andrew Munro of Milton [248], and so possibly the unnamed daughter in *Munro Tree*, L/5, L/35); and Catherine Clunes, daughter of John Clunes of Achintoul, burgess of Cromarty (Gordon, *Tables*, in *House of Gordon*, ii, 145-6).

**309** The 6 off Julii 1640 [corrected from '1604'] Agnes Robersoune spus to Jhone Ros zouner desesitt att Taine.

Daughter of David Robertson elder, merchant burgess of Cupar, and wife of John, son of Walter Ross of Morangie (345) and Alison Clephane (355): see RS37/5, 111r; GD129/1/3/9, 26 November 1633.

1641

**310** 6 huius [August] 1641 obiit Andreas Ros de Sanduick.

Son of Donald of Shandwick (see **50**, **187**). Recorded between 31 May 1576 (*Laing Chrs.*, no. 935, as 'apparent') and 31 May 1626 (GD305/1/118/466). See Reid, 27; A.M.Ross, 79; GCR, 121.

Andrew Ross had a grant of the fee of Shandwick from his father at an unknown date (PS1/66, 197v, 26 July 1594), and made it over to his son Donald before 16 October 1622, when Donald wadset part with his consent for 1,120 merks (GD305/1/118/465). The wadsetter was Mr William Ross, parson and minister of Kincardine (Reid, 28; Scott, *Fasti*, vii, 60), son of Andrew's younger brother, who two years later bought out his uncle and cousin (GD305/1/118/466, 25 March and 31 May 1626). The price allowed 3,000 merks for Donald's wife's liferent, quitclaimed the 1,120 merks wadset sum, and relieved father and son of an old debt of 800 merks. Donald himself moved to a smaller property at Meikle Rhynie (Reid, 27; RS37/6, 410).

1642

**311** The 19 of Maiye 1642 the hous of Miltoun was brint neeligentli be ane keais nest.

Milton of Meddat (Kilmuir Easter par.) was amongst the lands allowed for the 'honourable sustentation' of Countess Elizabeth of Ross, 8 February 1476 (RMS, ii, 1227). After her death it was set in feu to Andrew Munro (*Munro Tree*, L/3; ER, xiii, 597), who received a charter, 19 June 1512 (RMS, ii, 3746). For the family of Munro of Milton see **248** and references there given.

The date of the building of the house of Milton is not known. Sir Robert Gordon (Gordon, 146) put it in the time of Earl John X of Sutherland, who intervened to protect the builders from the laird of Balnagown. Earl John was under age when he succeeded in 1535, and does not appear to have taken any active part in affairs before 1543 (Fraser, *Sutherland*, i, 99-101). Andrew Munro's son George of Dochcarty (**158**) had a feu-ferme charter of the adjacent Kilmuir Meddat from Bishop Robert Cairncross on 18 May 1543, with power to 'restore, repair and build a sufficient stone house of defence' (GD305/1/71/41), but there are no firm grounds for identifying this as the house of Milton.

After the death of George Munro of Meikle Tarrel (282) in 1623 Milton was given in liferent to his widow, Margaret Dunbar (319), by her stepson George of Milton (*Munro Tree*, L/7; *RMS*, viii, 613, 14 February 1624). It was appraised from him for 41,410 merks on 25 June 1627 by his father-in-law Robert Innes of Innes (*RMS*, viii, 1094). George's brother-in-law Robert Innes is said to have taken possession of the house and property on George's death, never allowing the latter's only son, Andrew (who died, unmarried, at the battle of Kilsyth in 1645) to enter it (Mackenzie, *Munros*, 288-9). The 1644 valuation of the sherifffdom of Inverness shows no property in Andrew Munro's name, but gives the laird of Innes £1,200 in valued rent in Kilmuir Easter parish (Fraser-Mackintosh, 367). According to Spalding (*Troubles*, ii, 142), 'the staitlie houss of Milntoun of Ross, pertening to his [the young laird of Innes's] father, wes rekleslie brynt (except the tour) with mekill good insicht and plenishing; a thing to be notit'. The minister of Wardlaw, writing of the 'tedious Assembly' of July 1649, with its 'many rigid Acts and od proceedings, part of which I understand not', noted: 'Reference Laird of Innes, younger, to the presbytery of Tain; it seemes he lived there att Miltoun in Rosse' (*Wardlaw MS*, 344). The damage caused by the jackdaw's nest clearly did not destroy the house completely, as it was occupied in 1658 (see Fraser, *Cromartie*, ii, 430-35).

**312** 1642. The 18 of Maye Margrat Abercromie spus to William Ros desesitt in Taine.

Wife of William Ross (327) and daughter-in-law of Andrew Ross, provost of Tain (359). Stated by one eighteenth-century source (NLS Acc 10225; see 359) to be a daughter of the laird of Birkenbog, but not named in C.D. Abercromby, *The Family of Abercromby* (Aberdeen, 1927).

**313** The 16 off Junye 1642 S [sic] William Sincklar off Maiye departitt thair.

Son of George Sinclair of Mey (268). Brother of Sir John Sinclair of Dunbeath (341). Husband of Katherine Ross (252). See Douglas, *Baronage*, 252-3.

**314** The 25 of Junii Janett Sincklar gudwyff off Innerbakie departitt at Tarbertt 1642.

Daughter of George Sinclair of Mey (268; see GD96/428). Wife of Walter Innes, son and successor of James Innes of Inverbreakie (298).

**315** The 29 of September 1642 Mr William McCkinze minister att Tarbertt departitt and buritt thair.

Grandson of Alexander Mackenzie I of Davochmoluag (but not noted in Mackenzie, *Mackenzies*, 499-500). See Scott, *Fasti*, vii, 75. Macfarlane, *Gen. Coll.*, i, 80, dates his death 1664, in Skye, but this may relate to a son.

1643

**316** The 29 of this monethe [January] 1643 Heu Ros off Tollie with tua off his serviands died suddenly in ane chamber in the castall of Cromartie and vas buried at Fern the second off Februar the said yeir.

Spalding, *Troubles*, ii, 228-9, dates Hugh's death 1 February. Son of Hugh of Breakach (**242**). See Reid, 24, 104-05; A.M. Ross, 74-5; *GCR*, 232. For the family of Tollie/Achnacloich see **212**, **242**, **279**.

Hugh III of Tollie was retoured general heir to his father, and special heir in Tollie to his grandfather Hugh II on 1 October 1622 (*Retours*, ii, General, no. 1042, and ii, Ross and Cromarty, no. 62). He was a close supporter of David Ross XII of Balnagown (**344**), giving him a band of service, 1637 (Macgill, no. 544), and accounting to him for the purchase of arms and ammunition, 1643 (Macgill, p. 273). David Ross gave him tacks of the offices of bailie of Strathoykel and Westray, and keeper of the forest of Freevater 1637 (see **344**). His widow and unnamed heirs appear in the 1644 valuation (Fraser-Mackintosh, 368), but Tollie was apprised from John Ross, son and apparent heir, before 28 May 1644 (*RMS*, ix, 1568).

**317** The 8 off Marche 1643 George Munro of Tarlogie departitt att Teainrian in Str—.

Son of Donald of Tarlogie (**250**). Husband of: Isobel, daughter of William Innes of Calrossie (**238**), to whom, with her three sisters, the Calrossie inheritance passed on the death of their brother James (see **262**); she was the widow of William Ross of Easter Fearn/Priesthill (**286**: marriage contract 21 March 1629 [RS37/4, 227v-228v]). Recorded between 21 May 1604 (GD129/1/3/7) and 30 June 1639 (GD242/56/1/24). See *Munro Tree*, L/37. The place of death is obscure.

George Munro had sasine as heir to his father Donald, 25 May 1612 (GD242/56/3/16). He held a tenement in Tain, 1612 (SC34/28/90 [Macgill, no. 53]), and received heritors' payments towards upholding

the kirk (GD237/266/2, 2 July 1614). His fortunes went downhill towards the end of his life. Mr Gilbert Murray, minister of Tain and subdean of Ross (320, 321), lent him 8,000 merks on the security of Tarlogie (GD242/56/1/18, 4 June 1635; GD242/56/1/24, 30 June 1639). Murray undertook to renounce on payment of 14,560 merks (RS37/6, 245r-256v, 5 November 1639), but there is no sign that this was ever forthcoming. Murray was entered as holder of Tarlogie in the 1644 valuation of the sheriffdom (Fraser-Mackintosh, 365).

**318** The 24 Junii 1643 Heou Ros barroun off Kilraack departitt att Kilraack.

*Family of Rose*, 91-2, 10 June 1643.

**319** The 3 of December 1643 Margatt Dunbar Ladie Athie departitt att Athie.

Daughter of Alexander Dunbar of Grange, dean of Moray. Wife of: Robert, son of Robert Leslie of Dewglie (Macfarlane, *Gen. Coll.*, ii, 75; *Leslie Recs.*, ii, 155-76); and George Munro of Meikle Tarrel (282: CC19/1/1, 88r, 18 January 1616). Robert Leslie was granted the fee of the kirklands of Athie and Muirhead (Rosemarkie par.) by Bishop Alexander Hepburn, 3 December 1576 (RMS, v, 2112). These lands, erected into the barony of Athie (RMS, vi, 3) were held in liferent by his widow (RMS, vi, 2113, July 1607). On her second husband's death in 1623 Margaret had a liferent charter of Milton of Meddat (Kilmuir Easter par.: see 311) from his son and successor George Munro of Milton (RMS, viii, 613). The present notice suggests that she spent her later years at Athie.

#### 1644

**320** October 29 1644 Mr Gilbertt Murray Subdeane of Ros departit at Tayne.

Watt, *Fasti*, 284, where no date of death is given; Scott, *Fasti*, vii, 71. He was second son of John Murray of Pulrossie, and younger brother of George Murray of Pulrossie and Spanziedale (NLS D.314/6; Gordon, *Tables*, no. 21).

For his financial activities see 317. As Mr Gilbert Murray of Tarlogie, he had the largest land valuation in Tain parish in 1644 (Fraser-Mackintosh, 365).

**321** 29 huius [November: 'Octobris' inserted above line: an evident correction: cf. **320**] 1644 obiit magister Gilbertus Morraye subdecanus Rossensis et sepultus in Tayne in reuestorie eiusdem.

**322** 25 heiroff [November] Katereine Ros spous to Johin Munro in Tayne departit thys lyff and bureitt in Tane besyd hir husband 1644 zeir of God.

Daughter of Walter Ross of Balmuchy and wife of John Munro burgess of Tain (*Munro Tree*, M/19).

## 1645

**323** The 4 of Januar 1645 Johne McCullche zounger off Kindis departitt att Tayne.

Son of Thomas, 2nd of Kindeace and grandson of John, 1st of Kindeace (**304**); he appears to have predeceased his father.

## 1646

**324** 13 huius [October] 1646 obitt Helena Ferne sponse Willihelmi Ros burgensis ac . de Tayne.

See **233**, **359**.

**325** 14 huius [October] 1646 obitt Daid Ros de Pitcalnye et sepultus apud Ferne.

Son of Nicholas Ross of Pitcalnie (**246**). Husband of Jean Dunbar, widow of John Corbet, portioner of Arbol (257: GD199/6, 27 February 1614). He succeeded his father, 11 August 1612 (GD199/7) and was retoured as heir to his father's brother, Malcolm Ross of Cambuscurrie, in half of Cambuscurrie, 27 October 1618 (see **275**). See Reid, 12; A.M. Ross, 47; GCR, 114.

The early death of David Ross XI of Balnagown, leaving an under-age heir, made David of Pitcalnie the natural head of the Ross family. He became 'tutor of Balnagown', and his brother, William Ross of Annat (**284**), married the late laird's widow, Annabel Murray. For his part in the complicated story of David XII's minority and the Ross of Halkhead claim to Balnagown see **344**.

**326** 22 huius [November] 1646 obittt [sic] Allexander Haye olim prepositus de Tanne et sepultus in collegia ibidem.

Son of Adam Hay (legitimated son of sir Richard Hay, chaplain of Balnagown [*RSS*, iv, 1604, 16 May 1552]), servitor of Alexander Ross of Balnagown (*CS7/192*, 334, 22 April 1559), from whom he had a nineteen-year tack of half of Cambuscurrie (*Gray*, 31r, 17 February 1565 [see 228]). Adam Hay was rated at eight bolls in the 1565 Balnagown subscription list (see 243) and held property in Tain (*Gray*, 113r) and Plaids (*SC29/1/1*, 113v-114r, 20 March 1583).

Adam Hay's second son Alexander is recorded as burghess of Tain between 7 May 1589 (*RD1/36*, 54r-v) and 18 February 1617 (*GD199/44*). He was depute for George Sinclair of Mey, bailie of St Duthac, 23 January 1594 (*Macgill*, no. 941); was involved in the 'Thomas of Bergen' affair in 1599-1600 (see 266); and was one of the feuars of Over Aldie miln, 1608 (*SC34/28/90* [*Macgill*, no. 423, 1606, wrongly]). He was a burghess of substance in 1612, with twelve tenements, more than anyone else, and bere fermes of sixty-two bolls (*SC34/28/90* [*Macgill*, no. 53]). He was bailie in 1605 (*PS1/74*, 276r, 14 March), provost in 1616 (*GD96/273*, 17 June), 1626 (*RPC*, 2nd series, i, 259) and 1628 (*RPC*, 2nd series, ii, 576); and a member of a witch-hunting commission in 1628 (*RPC*, 2nd series, ii, 489).

Alexander Hay also invested in land, not always successfully (see *GD129/1/24/80*, 1617). In 1642 he failed to repay a debt of 1,200 merks to Sir James Sinclair of Canisbay, and had to make over to him for life all the grain crops on his lands in Plaids, with the teind-sheaves, in addition selling him twenty-six drawing oxen (*RS37/6*, 434v-435v, 9 July). In the 1644 valuation he held the teinds of Plaids only (*Fraser-Mackintosh*, 365).

**327** 4 huius [December] 1646 obiitt Villihelmus Ros filius Andree Ros in Catboll ett seputus [sic] in Tayne.

Son of Andrew Ross, provost of Tain (359) and Margaret Ross. Husband of Margaret Abercromby (312). Recorded between 16 February 1624 (*RS37/3*, 29r) and 1 July 1641 (*RS37/6*, 370r, at Cadboll). The latter, a grant of Wester Geanies to Mr Alexander Munro, minister of Dornoch, left the 1644 valuers uncertain about ownership (*Fraser-Mackintosh*, 366, parish of Fearn: 'William Ross or Mr Alexander Munro, £232.13s.4d'). He is to be distinguished from William Ross 'Abbatson' of the Morangie family, husband of Agnes Brown (337).

1647

**328** 12 huius [February] 1647 obiit Walterus Strachoun burgensis de Tayne.

Recorded between 22 May 1606 (RS36/2, 76v-78v) and 24 April 1641 (RS37/6, 393v-394r). He was stented on three tenements in 1612 (SC34/28/90 [Macgill, no. 53]), and was a bailie, 4 September 1627 (GD199/41). A dyer, he was one of the burgesses and inhabitants of Tain who complained against the feuars of Over Aldie miln, 1608 (SC34/28/90 [Macgill, no. 423]).

**329** 11 Septembris 1647 obiit Georgius Ros de Ballemuchie et sepultus aputt Ferne 15 eiusdem.

Son of Walter of Balmuchy. Grandson of Donald of Balmuchy (229). Brother of Hugh, who relinquished rights in Balmuchy to him. His son Walter was retoured heir in Balmuchy, 28 December 1647 (*Retours*, ii, Ross and Cromarty, no. 97). See Reid, 35-6, 106-07. For Rosses of Balmuchy see also 20.

**330** The 13 heiroff Nouember 1647 Donald McCloid zounger off Assin depairtted thair att Assin.

Son of Donald Macleod Neilson of Assynt and Cristina Ross, daughter of Nicholas Ross of Pitcalnie (246).

1648

**331** 22 huius [March] 1648 obiitt Willihelmus Ros de Balleculhe in Ballintaried ett sepultus in Tayne.

Son of John Ross, who 'Dwells now in Bellacuith ane honest man who conquest Land and heretage in Tayne' (*Blackie*, 69). Husband of Katherine Urquhart (263). John Ross witnessed three successive sasines of the Denoon inheritance in 1573-4 (see 14), and may have acquired part of Balkeith (Tain par.) by marriage; his two wives were named Denoon, *Blackie*, 69).

William Ross 'in Balkeith' (*RPC*, v, 641, 9 December 1594) was styled 'of Balkeith', 24 January 1611 (GD199/190/19). He sold the property, now under Urquhart superiority (*Retours*, ii, Ross and Cromarty, no. 25, 11 May 1607) to George Gordon of Rovie, *adolescens*, 28 May 1631 (364: RS37/4, 305v-306v, 28 May 1631).



William himself was married by 4 July 1623 to Agnes Innes, one of the four co-heiresses of Calrossie and widow of Donald Ross of Balintraid (265). He had land valued at 400 merks in Kilmuir parish in 1644 (Fraser-Mackintosh, 367), and retained a tack of teinds of Balintraid as late as 31 July 1647 (GD305/1/137/3). Like the MacCullochs of Craighouse (see 65), the Rosses of Balkeith had greater resources than appears at first sight.

**332** The 9 off Juni 1648 Allexander Ros of Cunliche departitt [sic] att Cunliche.

Son or grandson of Nicol, son of Alexander Ross of Little Tarrel (161). Mr John Ross (274), Nicol's brother, granted him the east part of Newnakill and Cunlichnakill (Roskeen par.: *Munro Writs*, no. 142, 12 October 1596). Alexander of Cunlich and Alexander 'apparent' had titles to part of Wester Geanies, 21 May 1627 and 10 June 1629 (Tain Charters, 13-15). Alexander of Cunlich had valued rent of £209.14s.8d. in Roskeen parish in 1644 (Fraser-Mackintosh, 368).

**333** The 26 off Nouember 1648 Allexander Kinnard off Culbin departitt thair.

Son of Walter Kinnaird (288) and Elizabeth Innes (296, 297). He was served heir to his father, 4 April 1626 (*Retours*, i, Elgin and Forres, no. 41), and conveyed the fee of Culbin to his son Walter Kinnaird and wife, Griselda Brodie, reserving liferents to himself and to his mother, 26 June 1629 (*RMS*, viii, 1434).

#### 1649

**334** The first off Februar Allexander Ros off Patkirye departit [this word inserted above line in different hand] was bureitt att Tane 1649.

Son of Mr John Ross of Little Tarrel (274). Pitkerrie (Fearn par.) was acquired by Mr John from the Rosses of Tollie (see 279). It was in the hands of his son John, 1621, who gave a charter to his brother Alexander, servitor of Hugh, master of Lovat (RS37/1, 287r-288r, 12 January). The property appears to have been treated as a family reservoir by the younger Little Tarrel sons. Alexander Ross gave his brother George and his wife the eastern quarter, and his brother John, now burges of Tain, the western quarter (RS37/3, 34r-v, 83r-v, 9 June 1624; in each case the odd-brother-out was a witness). The three acted

together again in 1632, when Alexander and John had a charter of half Leachclavack (Gledfield) and other lands in Strathcarron from George Munro of Tarlogie (317: RS37/4, 346r). The lands went in liferent to their mother, Christine Munro, and thereafter were to be divided between them; their brother George, portioner of Pitkerrie, gave sasine. The 1644 valuers of the sheriffdom returned this in the brothers' names, but found it impossible to separate the various interests in Pitkerrie, entering the whole under 'Alexander, John and George Ross' (Fraser-Mackintosh, 366).

## 1650

**335** The 27 of Appryle 1650 Muntrois withe ane greatt companie of weriouris wes discomfitt be ['Strachan and ye Erle of Sutherland': these words heavily scored-out] at Cragconachane in Stracharin.

For a contemporary account of the battle of Carbisdale see Gordon cont., 551-5; for the place-name see Watson, *PNRC*, 20.

**336** The 7 off November 1650 James MacCulloche burges off Tane Angussone desesitt att Tane and bowriett thair.

## 1652

**337** The 26 of this moneth [April] 1652 Agines Broune spous to William Ros burges off Tayn departit thyr.

Wife of William Ross Abbatson, son of Walter Ross of Morangie (345). Both Walter Ross and his son John married Fife women, and it may be noted that James Brown, merchant burges of Burntisland, and his son, Mr James Brown, were active in Ross in this period (see 266, 277). James Brown's testament (B9/1/5, 10r-11v, 17 August 1618) lists numerous debtors in Ross.

## VI

## Late Hands

## 1645

**338** The nyntt of May 1645 ane feild fechtin att Alderne betuix betuix [sic] ye Irische the Erlle of Muntrois being generall to yame and ye Erllis of Sieford and Suyrlan on ye oyr syd with ye Mester Frasier quhair Muntrose wan ye feild and tuentie fyue hundir slane on baithe ye sydis.

1646

**339** The xx daiye off December 1646 Marie Fraser Ladie of Balnagoun depatitt [sic] att Ardmore.

Eldest daughter of Hugh, seventh Lord Lovat. Wife of David Ross XII of Balnagown (**344**). For children of the marriage see **344**. *Wardlaw MS*, 256-7, which reports 'a long courtship', dates the marriage to June 1634, incorrectly. *Blackie*, 35, places it at Lovat on 14 February 1636. This is confirmed by sasines taken on a liferent charter to Mary Fraser by David Ross, 13 February 1636 (RS37/5, 296v-299v). The charter is stated to have been subscribed by David's curators, but the only signatures noted are those of witnesses, including Mr Thomas Ross (**348**) and Andrew Fraser (**303**).

1649

**340** Charles King of Great Britain was unlauffullie exsecutit ye last of Januarie and headit 1649 at Lowdoune 1649.

1651

**341** 4 Septembris 1651 S [sic] Jhone Sinklar off Dunbeathe departit in Dunbeathe.

Second son of George Sinclair of Mey (**268**). Brother of Sir William Sinclair of Mey (**313**). Husband of Katherine Fraser, sister of Mary Fraser of Balnagown (**339**). *Wardlaw MS*, 284-5, has a second-sight story concerning the marriage. See Douglas, *Baronage*, 252.

1653

**342** Obitus 8 Februarii Gulielmus Robertson burgensis de Invernues et sepultus in Nig 1653.

William Robertson acquired a liferent of Easter or Little Kindeace from Walter Ross of Kindeace (**353**), the fee going to his son Mr George (*RMS*, viii, 1757, 19 March 1631). On Mr George's death his brother Gilbert was retoured as his heir (*Retours*, ii, Ross and Cromarty, no. 84, 7 June 1636). In 1644 William Robertson held lands valued at £483.16s.8d. in Roskeen parish and £53.6s.8d. in Kincardine (Fraser-

Mackintosh, 366, 368). For the family of Robertson of Kindeace see *Douglas Genealogy*.

**343** Obitus Hector Duglas de Mulderg 12 Februarii anno 1653 et sepltus [sic] in Ferne 17 huius mensis.

Hector Douglas has been held to be the first identifiable member of his family (*Douglas Genealogy*, 9). He was in fact son of Walter Douglas, burgess and bailie of Tain, who died 6 September 1602 (see GD199/9, 13 February 1573; *Gray*, 122v [see 236], 7 July 1580; SC29/1/1, 107v-108v, 10 January 1581; Macgill, no. 940, 14 November 1581; CC8/8/42, 118r-119v, his testament). He was a small-scale trader, most of whose estate of £1,056.6s.8d. lay in stock and grain.

Hector's earliest recorded appearance was on 21 April 1585, when he had a gift of his father's escheat (PS1/52, 96v). He was literate, able to guide his father at the pen by 1597 (GD129/1/7/9, 30 April). First named as a burgess of Tain on 8 December 1602 (RD1/112, 64r-65r), he was a bailie on 27 March 1607 (GD199/90) and on 30 April 1608 (GD129/1/24/80), and was one of the feuars of Over Aldie miln (Macgill, nos. 136, 423; *RMS*, vii, 84, 1609). In the Tain stent roll of 1612 (SC34/28/90 [Macgill, no. 53, abbreviated]) he was entered for sixty-eight bolls of bere ferms and ten tenements - a figure exceeded only by David Urquhart (120 bolls and one tenement) and Robert Munro of Assynt (eighty-four bolls and two tenements). He was provost on 3 September 1623 (GD297/185/1), and already becoming a landed proprietor. The stent roll shows that he had the resources to make this possible, though it gives no clues as to their source. He was married at least twice: to Agnes Reid (died 2 March 1603 [CC8/8/42, 117r-118r]); and to Janet Ross, to whom he gave a liferent charter, 19 January 1633 (RS37/5, 240r-v).

Hector Douglas became a landed proprietor by the acquisition of Mulderg and Torrandow (Fearn par.). These lands, the property of John Ross of Mulderg (see 48), were appraised by David Christison, burgess of Dysart (GD129/1/23/74, 30 October 1612), from whom they passed to Mr John Munro of Fearn (289: GD129/1/23/74, 26 November 1612), and eventually to Hector Douglas (GD129/1/23/74, 1614). Hector was styled 'of Mulderg' on 9 September 1617 (GD129/1/20/63), and took sasine three days after David Ross XI of Balnagown's death (GD129/1/23/74). His other acquisitions came through the misfortunes of Mr John Munro, whose debts forced him in 1622 to give a title to the 'mains of Fearn' to his brother George of Meikle Tarrel (282). On George's death in the following year his son

and successor George of Milton made these holdings over to Hector Douglas (GD129/1/18/60). At both Mulderg and Fearn Hector Douglas supplanted the son of an older family: Hugh Ross at Mulderg, John Munro (*Munro Tree*, L/28) at Fearn.

Hector Douglas was active on the Covenanting side in the Wars of the Covenant (Macgill, nos. 550, 552). His lands in Fearn parish were rated at £1,540 in the 1644 valuation of the sheriffdom of Inverness – a figure exceeded in the nine parishes of Tain presbytery only by the lairds of Balnagown, Tarbat, Mey and Innes, and by the absentee security-holder Mr Thomas Rigg of Athernie (Fraser-Mackintosh, 365–9). They were consolidated into a new barony of Mulderg by a crown charter of 30 July 1647 (*RMS*, ix, 1819; *APS*, vi, ii, 83–5, 11 May 1648), and he still held them when he died (*Retours*, ii, Ross and Cromarty, no. 107, 6 September 1653). The power of money was real and formidable, even in a society with a strong sense of family. Where Hector Douglas's money came from, however, remains an open question. He was, apparently, a Northern merchant who made his fortune from a combination of agriculture and local trade, but on this caution remains in order.

**344** 29 off December 1653 David Ross off Balnagoun departit at Londone and was buried at Vestmaster.

Twelfth laird of Balnagown. Son of David XI (277). Husband of Mary Fraser (339). Father of David XIII (born 14 February 1644, died 17 April 1711, last of the direct line). See Reid, 11; A.M. Ross, 32–3; *GCR*, 92–3.

David Ross was born on 18 October 1615 (Macgill, ii, no. 1012, certificate by Mr Robert Ross, minister of Alness, 1636). The natural head of the family during his minority was his father's cousin David of Pitcalnie (325), who held bailie courts at Fearn, 19 and 29 December 1620 (GD129/2/353, 1–3), and styled himself 'legitime deservitus et retornatus tutor' (RS37/4, 54r–54v, 17 August 1622). His brother, William of Annat, who had married the young heir's mother, Annabel Murray, held an apprising over the estate (see 284). John, earl of Mar, exercised some form of wardship; the titles of Balnagown were taken from an Edinburgh advocate and kept in a kist in his house, 'to be furthcumand for the weill of ye house of balangoune' (GD199/17, no date). On his advice, letters of reversion to young David Ross were added to William of Annat's title.

Whether Mar was responsible for the appearance on the scene of James, Lord Ross of Halkhead (who had no blood connection with the Balnagown family), or whether Pitcalnie and other 'friends' invited

him in the hope of finding financial backing to clear their chief's debts is uncertain. For whatever reason, Lord Ross received a disposition of the appraised lands on 16 June 1622, William Ross of Annat's consent being specifically stated (GD297/223/5; see also GD297/223/10). Pitcalnie was described in an undated memorandum as 'he wha be the providence of God aught to succeed as also be ye band of nature aught to defend and maintain the bairne' (Macgill, ii, no. 1013), but admitted elsewhere that Lord Ross had right to the 'leiving of Ballangown' both by apprising and by right of tutory (Macgill, ii, no. 1014, no date). Lord Ross in fact came to Tain on 7 September 1623, and with the laird of Kilravock and 'uthir freinds of ye houss' reviewed the Balnagown finances (GD129/1/23/75). 'Frie rent', they discovered, was limited, on the most optimistic reckoning, to £784, with 167 bolls victual. Lord Ross was not persuaded to invest in the North. His title to Balnagown, however, was retained by his family until 1648 (RMS, ix, 1980, 29 July).

David XII may have begun to form his own household as early as 1630; a document of 1639 refers to 'gude and faithful service done to him be Mr Thomas Ross (348) this nyne yeris bygane' (Macgill, ii, no. 1015). He had protection against his father's creditors on an annual basis in 1630, 1631 and 1634 (*RPC*, 2nd series, iii, 514-15; iv, 163; v, 420 [for one year while at college in Edinburgh]). Pitcalnie continued to act as tutor and then curator until the young laird's coming-of-age and his Lovat marriage. On 2 February 1637 the two met at Tain, in the presence of six gentlemen of the name of Ross, including Mr Thomas of Morangie, and agreed on a 'condescendace' to be put in proper legal form (GD199/17). By this, Pitcalnie undertook to hand over the baronies of Strathoykel, Strathcarron and Westray, and to renounce his tutory at Whitsunday. Rather optimistically, he promised to 'purge' the baronies of all wadsets and impignurations (sixteen separate items were listed, amounting to at least 27,850 merks, not including a bond in favour of the now-dead Lord Ross for 4,400 merks). All of this was to be 'pewrfytitt' by 30 April, after which five arbiters (including David of Balnagown's uncle-by-marriage James Fraser) were to fix a payment to be made by Balnagown. What actually happened is unclear.

With a new laird came new men. One of David Ross's early actions was to give tacks of the offices of bailie of Strathoykel and Westray, and keeper of the forest of Freevater to Hugh Ross of Tollie (see 316). The bailiary grant does not appear to have been effective, for Hugh Ross did not preside at any of the eight baron courts held between 1637 and 1639 (GD129/2/353, 27-44, Balnagown Court Book). Another personal

follower was Mr Thomas Ross. David Ross's lifetime tack to him of Milton of Westray, part of Mary Fraser's liferent, was accompanied by her formal undertaking never to revoke it (RS37/6, 399r-400r, 11 July 1639; Macgill, ii, no. 1015, 11 July 1639). When, a decade later, David of Balnagown was forced to negotiate with his 'friends' – the leading heads of Ross families – one of their first stipulations was an inspection of Mr Thomas's accounts and moneys received by him 'this many yeirs bypast' (Macgill, ii, no. 1078, 28 September 1649). Friends of the laird's youth were not necessarily general favourites.

Full consideration of David XII's career requires examination of the troubles of the 1640s, and is beyond the scope of this note; the Balnagown archives contain a substantial amount of correspondence from the period, some of which has been printed, in a rather arbitrary form, in Macgill, nos. 540-559, 1016-1050. On balance a cautious Covenanter, he found the confusions of the years after 1645 difficult to cope with. His personal situation had by then become precarious, as the old indebtedness of the estate persisted. Between 28 September 1649 and 3 May 1651, when he left Tain to join Charles II's army on its fatal march to Worcester, he found himself forced to negotiate with a group of prominent clansmen (see above), who tried to regulate his household expenditure and style of living as well as the management of his estates, in a manner more than one medieval king had had to suffer (GD129/2/353, 45-71, Balnagown Court Book, contains notes of their proceedings, with related tacks, bonds and accounts, partially condensed in Macgill, ii, nos. 1078-81). David's capture at Worcester, followed by his death after more than two years' detention in London, left yet another minor heir to succeed at Balnagown. Between 1500 and 1653 the lordship had been subjected to two long minorities, two very short 'reigns', and a major quarrel between generations. The career of the thirteenth laird opened against a background of occupying garrisons, discontented great men, and administrative and financial weaknesses: it was never to escape from the consequences. For David XIII of Balnagown see Reid, 11; A.M. Ross, 33-8; *GCR*, 93-5; Fraser-Mackintosh, 63-76.

#### 1654

**345** 9 huius [August] 1654 obiit Walterus Ros de Morenchie.

Son of Master Thomas Ross (221) and Isobel Kinnaird (230). Husband of Janet Ross (222) and Alison Clephane (355). Father of Mr Thomas Ross (348). A principal annotator of the *Calendar*. For the family of Ross of Morangie see 32-49.

1658

**346** 4 huius [June] obiit Daud Forrester clericus burgi de Tayne anno Domini 1658.

Natural son of of John Forrester (**306**: letters of legitimation, 8 July 1623 [*RMS*, viii, 483]). A notary, recorded between 23 June 1613 (NP1/82, 7r-8r) and 4 December 1647 (GD129/2/353, 60-63), frequently with his father. He was Tain commissioner to Convention of Royal Burghs, 1 July 1628 (*Burghs Convention Recs.*, ii, 263). He does not appear to have received heritable property outside the burgh from his father.

**347** 29 Julii anno 1658 Anna Fraser Countess of Sutherland depairted at Dunrobin.

Daughter of Hugh, seventh Lord Lovat. Second wife of John, 13th earl of Sutherland (Fraser, *Sutherland*, i, 278, date of death 29 July 1658: so *SP*, viii, 350, but v, 533, gives 23 July).

**348** Obbit [sic] magister Thomas Ross de Morinchie decimotertio Septembris anno Domini 1658.

Son of Walter Ross of Morangie (**345**) and Janet Ross (**222**). Husband of Margaret Strachan (**291**). For family of Ross of Morangie see 32-49.

**349** Valter Innes apirand of Inverbrakie died the tuentie tuo day of this moneth [December] the yeare of God 1658 yeares.

Grandson of James Innes of Inverbreakie (**298**). His father Walter outlived him by several years and was retoured heir to him in parts of Wester Tarbat, Balintraid and Wester Pollo, 2 November 1661 (*Retours*, ii, Ross and Cromarty, no. 116).

1659

**350** Hew Monro of Arddulie depairtit the sext of Januorie 1659 and was buried the 8 day of ye samen instand.

*Munro Tree*, M/51. Son of Mr William Munro, minister and parson of Cullicudden (*Munro Tree*, M/42: Scott, *Fasti*, vii, 21). He bought Arddulie (Kiltearn par.) from Alexander Munro (*Munro Tree*, M/70), his second cousin's son, 10 April and 14 May 1619 (RS37/1, 185v-186v).



**351** 3 Aprill depairtit Duncan Bayne of Delnyes and buried at Kilmure ye 5th in anno 1659.

Duncan Bain, son of Alexander Bain of Logie Wester (*RMS*, viii, 1343, 20 April 1622), had possession of Delny (see **302**) by 1644, when he held lands valued at £391.13s.4d. in Kilmuir Easter parish (Fraser-Mackintosh, 367). He subsequently took sasine on a charter of apprising, 2 June 1656 (RS37/7, 257r).

**352** Alexander Ross of ye Yie died ye 5th [April] and interred ye 7th at Ferne 1659.

Son of Mr Walter Ross of Easter Little Allan. Grandson of Alexander Ross of Little Tarrel (**161**). See Reid, 44–5. His father was declared by the sheriff court of Inverness to be the nearest of kin to the three daughters of his brother Alexander younger of Little Tarrel, but was unable to prevent another brother, Mr John (**274**), from taking over their inheritance (see **161**). Mr Walter subsequently made over parts of Easter Little Allan to his brother (RS36/2, 365v–366v, 4 March 1608; *Laing Chrs.*, no. 1685, 1 June 1613). His son Alexander Ross retained lands in Fearn parish valued at £133.6s.8d. in 1644 (Fraser-Mackintosh, 366). Eye, from which he and his descendants took their designation, was on the south side of the loch of the same name. It was renamed 'Mounteagle' in the eighteenth century (Macgill, no. 349).

**353** The ninth of this monthe [September] depairtit Walter Ross of Kindes ye yeir of God 1659 and was buried att Nigg.

Son of Hugh Ross (**280**). Grandson of Walter Ross (see **205**). See Reid, 52. He was retoured to his father in Easter Kindeace, 29 July 1623 (*Retours*, ii, Ross and Cromarty, no. 66), but sold it to William Robertson, younger, merchant burgess of Inverness (**342**), and his son Mr George Robertson before 19 March 1631 (*RMS*, viii, 1757). He retained the style 'of Kindeace', but appears to have died landless.

**354** George Monro second son to Hew Monro of Achnogart depairtit the 18 [sic] day of this month [September] 1659 yeares and was buried ye sixteenth [sic].

Hugh Munro (*Munro Tree*, L/55) had a grant of Nether Contulich (Alness par.) and Achnagart (Kincardine par.) from his father, John Munro, 15 May 1626 (RS37/3, 217v–219v). His lands in Kincardine parish were valued at £261.6s.8d. in 1644 (Fraser-Mackintosh, 366).

1660

**355** 15 July 1660 Alisone Clephan depairtit at Tayne and buiried in coleg kirk yairof being 16 off yis instant.

Daughter of Henry Clephane in Burntisland. Grand-daughter of John Clephane of Montagart, ex-provost of Burntisland, one of the victims of the ferry-boat disaster of September 1589 (see **188**), and his wife Alison Orrock (**272**). Second wife of Walter Ross of Morangie (**345**), whom she married after 2 September 1600, when his first wife, Janet Ross (**222**) died, and before 7 July 1609 (see below).

Henry Clephane, bailie of Burntisland on 13 February 1588 (B9/1/1, 32r-33v), was dead by 16 January 1590, when he was not named amongst the children of John Clephane (CC8/2/20); it is possible that he went down in the ferry-boat with his father. Alison Clephane was served his heir general, 11 February 1590 (*Retours*, ii, General, no. 8380). She inherited the kirklands of Monimail, retaining them until 1620, when, with the consent of her husband Walter Ross, she sold them to Sir Robert Melville of Burntisland (*RMS*, viii, 1134, 9 June 1620, at Tain, Nicholas Clephane, burgess of Burntisland, son of David Clephane (**214**) witnessing; RS30/7, 15, 10 July 1627). Her husband came to the Burntisland burgh court in 1609 to secure service for her to two tenements, one occupied by her mother, Margaret Bonar, and the other by her grandmother, Alison Orrock (B9/11/4, 51r-v, 7 July; B9/11/4, 54r-v, 4 August 1609). She and her husband promptly sold the former to Mr William Forbes of Meny, the later laird of Craigievar (B9/1/3, 144v-146v, 2 September).

**356** Huius mensis [September] 1660 5 obiit Thomas Ross a Risolis et sepultus apud Cromartie 7 eiusdem.

Husband (third) of Helen Ross and (also third) of Margaret Gordon (**358**). Recorded between 23 May 1618 (when with his first wife he made over two oxgates of Resolis to Sir Thomas Urquhart of Cromarty [RS37/1, 64r-65v]) and 19 May 1648 (RS37/7, 10v-11r). Reid, 63, gives his date of death as 1600, wrongly.

**357** The second of September 1660 Crestane Wrqhart spouse to Alexander Duff and daughter to Alexander Wrqhart of St. Martins departed at Catbol and was buried at Fearne the 4 of September.

Alexander Urquhart of St Martins (Cullicudden par.), was second in succession to Mr Thomas Urquhart, minister at Ardersier, 11 July 1631 (*RMS*, viii, 1812). He was not, as suggested by Tayler, *Urquhart*, 39, Alexander of Dunlugas, younger brother of Sir Thomas Urquhart the translator, but may possibly have been Alexander, son of Walter sheriff of Cromarty's second marriage to Elizabeth Rose (see 162).

Alexander Duff was chamberlain to Lady Mey, 20 January 1665 (Macgill, no. 75). He was still alive, 26 March 1686 (*Munro Writs*, no. 280).

**358** The 5 of this moneth [September] departed Margaret Gordone spouse to Thomas Ross of Risollis and was buried in Nigg 1660.

Wife of Thomas Ross (356), and widow of Charles Pope, portioner of Meikle Rhynie, and of Hugh Ross of Kindeace (see 280).

**359** The 4 of this moneth [October] Androw Ross Provost of Taine departed this life and was buried in Taine the 6 therof 1660.

Son of William Ross, burgess of Tain (233). Husband of Margaret, daughter of William Ross apparent of Invercharron (281), 1602 (Macgill, p. 371). Father of William Ross (327). Recorded as burgess of Tain between 1613 (Macgill, no. 408) and 7 January 1658 (RS37/7, 313r). He was bailie, 4 September 1620 (Macgill, no. 692; GD199/41/22) and provost at various dates between 4 July 1627 (GD129/2/353, 7-11 [Macgill, ii, no. 1070]) and 7 January 1658; but title frequently used loosely). In the Tain Stent Roll of 1612 (SC34/28/90 [Macgill, no. 53, abbreviated]) he held eleven tenements and thirty-eight bolls bere sowings. An inquest of 1643 retoured him as heir to his grandfather Andrew, burgess (Macgill, no. 937). His lands in Fearn parish were valued at £503.6s.8d. in 1644 (Fraser-Mackintosh, 366). When his property was appraised on 28 October 1653 it was listed as: three quarters of Meikle Allan; the wester half davach of Wester Geanies; arable ground in and around Tain; three-quarters of the teinds of Tain; the teinds of Kirkskaith (Tain par.); and a great lodging or tenement in the town (GD71/66). There is evidence that he lent money on some scale against landed security (e.g. RS37/1, 148v-149v, 8 May 1619; RS37/3, 108r-109r, 4 May 1625; RS37/4, 258r-v, 4 June 1630, wadset of Glencalvie, with fishings and sawmills; English 'wood-smiths' were at work in Strathcarron in 1625 [RS37/3, 168r-169r, John Wayner and Laurence -, witnesses to sasine of the sawmills]).

Andrew Ross has been considered, improbably, to have been a son of Master Thomas Ross (Reid, 64-5). An eighteenth-century account 'Off the Family of Balnagown and their Succession and Cadents' (NLS, Acc 10225: from internal evidence a copy, not entirely accurate, of an original written before 1764) gives the following descent: Andrew, burgess of Tain, son of John V of Balnagown (see 175) - William, son, provost of Tain, married 'Fearn of Nigg and Babristracks [sic; possibly Balnasirach] daughter' (see 233, 324) - Andrew, son, provost of Tain, married Margaret daughter of William Ross of Invercharron (present entry) - sons William, married 'Abercrombie daughter to the Laird of Birkenbog' (see 327, 312), and Andrew, provost of Tain, died without issue. John V of Balnagown, alleged father of the oldest Andrew, died before 1494, and the relationship is implausible, if not entirely impossible. Later links in the chain appear more reliable.

## 1662

**360** Maister George Gray minister at Dornoch depairtit the 18 of Aprile and was buried at Dornoch the 21 in anno 1662.

Scott, *Fasti*, vii, 84. Son of Mr James Gray, minister at Lairg and treasurer of Caithness (Watt, *Fasti*, 70; Scott, *Fasti*, vii, 92). Grandson of Mr William Gray, minister at Dornoch and treasurer of Caithness (see 225-6).

**361** The 15 of December 1662 Rober Sytherland pertioner of Vest Ganes . and buryit att Tayne.

**362** 29 huius [December] 1662 obiit Margareta Murray uxor . . . .

## 1665

**363** Huius [January] 13 1665 obiit vir admodus honorandus Robertus Gray de Skibol Inferiori.

The identity of Robert Gray of Lower Skibo, which appears as a place-name in 1579 (Gray, 117r [see 234-5]), is unclear. According to Gordon, *Tables* [NLS, D.314/6, Table 20]), Gilbert Gray of Skibo and Swordale (*Retours*, ii, Ross and Cromarty, no. 13, 13 June 1597) had three landed sons: George of Skibo and Robert of Creich by his first marriage, and Robert of Overskibo by his second. In the next

generation, George of Skibo was succeeded by his son Robert, also of Skibo, and Robert of Creich by two sons, Alexander of Creich and Robert of Balloan (Dornoch par.). Robert Gray in Overskibo had a charter of the two davachs of Skibo from John earl of Sutherland, 10 December 1642 (RS37/6, 460r-v), and witnessed a charter by which Robert of Balloan bought two-thirds of Arbol, 9 June 1647 (RMS, ix, 2027). He was still alive in March 1661 (RS38/2, 50v-52v), as was Robert of Arbol on 4 July 1666 (RMS, xi, 1032).

**364** George Gordoun quondam de Balquith huius [January] 13 1665 obiit.

George Gordon bought Nether Pitnellie and two-and-a-half bovates of Balkeith from William Ross of Balkeith in 1631 (see **331**). Gordon, *Tables* (*House of Gordon*, ii, 148-9), makes him John, second son of John Gordon of Embo, but this appears to miss a generation. He had disposed of Balkeith before 29 December 1655 (RS37/7, 267-v). Like Hugh Gordon of Ballone (**251**), he was a descendant of John Gordon of Drummie, who came to the North as a follower of Adam Gordon of Aboyne (died 1537), husband of Countess Elizabeth of Sutherland (see Gordon, 104, 278-9).

#### 1667

**365** . Julii 1667 obiit egregius adolescens magister Joanes Ros scholarius scholae Taniae ibique sepultus est.

Mr John Ross, late schoolmaster, was about to leave the burgh at Michaelmas 1665 (Macgill, ii, no. 1173); Mr John Ross, schoolmaster, was dead by 1668, with salary still owed to him (*ibid.*, ii, no. 1181). Three recent graduates of the name can be traced: John Ross, of Ross diocese, M.A. Aberdeen 1663 (*Fasti Aberdonenses* [Spalding Club, 1854], 476, 518); John Ross, of Inverness, M.A. Aberdeen 1664 (*ibid.*, 477, 520); John Ross, M.A. St Andrews 1665 (Univ. St Andrews Muniments, UY305/3, 419).

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## APPENDICES

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### APPENDIX A

#### Ross Entries in the Protocol Book of William Gray

William Gray, aged thirty-six or thereby, unmarried, a native of Dornoch and living in Sutherland, was admitted notary on 28 February 1564 (NP2/1, 136-137). He then declared that he had been so created by Mr Alexander Gordon, postulate of Caithness, which indicates a date between 12 December 1544 and 6 August 1548 (Watt, *Fasti*, 61: Gordon retained a pension for several years after his resignation). Sir David Seaton, notary, who drew up the instrument of creation, is on record in Sutherland between 7 July 1540 (RH6/6, 1240, 1241) and 6 August 1549 (GD96/52). Gray wrote an extracted copy of an act in the books of the official of St Andrews, dated 21 July 1542 (University of St Andrews Muniments, SS 110. AO15.5), but this is not necessarily contemporary with the act itself. At his admission he produced a protocol book, beginning on 8 April 1553; this book of 125 folios, with entries up to 25 August 1580, remained in Sutherland after his death, reached Dunrobin at an unknown date, and is now part of the Sutherland Deposit in the National Library of Scotland (NLS, D.314/25). Out of some 215 entries in the book, forty-two relate to Ross, and are here printed in calendar form.

William Gray's parentage is unknown, but Thomas Gray, notary, who appears in Sutherland deeds between 1518 and 1529 (Fraser, *Sutherland*, iii, nos. 68, 69 [6 July 1522, clerk of consistory court], 81), had a *camera* in Dornoch, and on 10 April 1545 resigned a tenement and croft in the city in favour of William Gray, his heir (Prot. Book Seaton, 19r-v, 19v-20r). William Gray, notary, is to be distinguished from his contemporary, William Gray, minister of Dornoch and treasurer of Caithness (Watt, *Fasti*, 70; Scott, *Fasti*, vii, 83; viii, 673). Treasurer Gray is said by Sir Robert Gordon (NLS, D.314/6, Table 22) to have been the illegitimate son of Thomas Gray, subchanter of Ross (RSS, vii, 2627, 3 December 1580, legitimation of William Gray in Dornoch, bastard of Thomas Gray, vicar of Kilmuir); Thomas Gray *de Rossia* matriculated at Louvain in 1487 (*Matricule de l'université de Louvain*, iii [1958], ed. A. Schillings, 33). William Gray 'younger' was exhorter 'in the Yrish toung' at Dornoch by 1569 (*Thirds*, 209) and minister in the same year, when Bishop Robert of Caithness presented him to the chaplainry of Kinnauld in Dornoch Cathedral (NLS, D.313/356 [Titles/XIII/1/11], 29 July). He set the teinds of his chaplainry in tack to Alexander Sutherland apparent of Duffus on 29 May 1572, when William Gray, notary, was a witness (NLS, D.313/373 [Titles/XIII/18/8]). The two Williams were together again on 6 July 1576, when the notary drew up a reversion 'in the chalmer of William Gray minister of Dornoch' (Gray, 80v), and on 31 December 1584, when the minister/treasurer, as commissioner for Bishop Robert Stewart, admitted Donald Logan as minister of Creich (NLS, D.313/356 [Titles/XIII/1/10]). Logan took

possession by 'entereing in the pulpit place', where William the treasurer 'deleuer[ed] to him the buik of god callit the bybel', and then witnessed an instrument drawn up by William the notary. The preceding letters of admission, 8 August 1584 (NLS, D.313/356 [Titles/XIII/1/9]), show the treasurer's signature to be clearly different from that of the notary. William Gray 'elder', exhorter at Rogart and Lairg (*Thirds*, 209), cannot be certainly identified as either treasurer or notary.

William Gray was presented to the chaplainry of Rottenrow in St Salvator's College in St Andrews on 30 October 1552 (University of St Andrews Muniments, SS 110. AE2). The chaplainry was in the gift of the earls of Cassillis (R. G. Cant, *The College of St Salvator* [Edinburgh, 1950], 21-3). Kennedy patronage may have reached William through Hugh Kennedy of Girvan-Mains, father's first cousin to Earl Gilbert, who was the second husband of Janet Stewart, widow of Alexander, master of Sutherland (Fraser, *Sutherland*, i, 96-7). Kennedy is said to have leagued with the earl of Caithness in 1545 to prevent his stepson, Earl John, from being served heir to the earldom (Gordon, 113). The chronology is confused, but Janet Stewart had remarried by 5 June 1545 (RMS, iii, 3118). Hugh Kennedy was involved in fighting at Ferry Unes (Littleferry on Loch Fleet) in October 1544, for which Murdoch Murray in Proncy and Walter Murray in Auchterflow (Dornoch par.) cleared themselves on the relics of St Gilbert, 23 April 1545, on which Kennedy remitted all rancour against them (Prot. Book Seaton, 24v-25r). Lands in Dornoch were still known as 'Sir Hugh Kennedy's crofts' in 1568 (*Gray*, 51r-v, 22 November).

William Gray wrote forty protocols in St Andrews between 8 April 1553 and 30 April 1559, many of them in St Salvator's College or Chapel, and none further afield than Kinaldy. Other St Andrews documents show him as a chaplain in 1558 and 1559 (University of St Andrews Muniments, SS 150/2, 131v, 21 August 1558; SS 150/2, 132r, 29 December 1558; SS 110. E4.5, 23 April 1559). His last St Andrews protocol was written on 30 April 1559 (*Gray*, 15v). He then returned to Sutherland, the next entry in his book coming at Dornoch on 17 October. Thereafter, with the exception of his formal admission on 28 February 1564 (*Gray*, 26r), and a single out-of-place protocol at St Andrews on 4 January 1565 (*ibid.*) there is no evidence that he ever worked outside the North. He was in Caithness on several occasions, going as far as Freswick, Keiss and the salmon fishings on the Thurso river, but his business came predominantly from Dornoch and the coastal parishes of east Sutherland, though with a significant amount in Tain. He was at the kirk of Latheron 'in time of preyar' on 10 April 1586 to give an instrument to the Earl of Sutherland's procurator (GD199/219), and was still working on 27 April 1587 (NLS D.313/147 [Titles V/19/55]).

The Protocol Book does not contain all Gray's known work (see RMS, iv, 2437; v, 561, 1054, 1283). Eleven additional Ross acts by him survive from between 19 February 1580 and 22 January 1583 (GD96/186, 19 February 1580; GD96/198, 22 January 1582; GD129/1/1/30 June 1582; GD146/1/1/7 August 1582; GD199/10/1 March 1580, 12 June 1581, 30 June 1582; GD199/108/26 April 1582; GD297/227/11, 27-28 October 1582; GD297/227/12, 27 October 1582; RD1/20<sup>2</sup>, 53v-54v, 10 May 1582). It may also be noted that *Gray*, 117r, is clearly Macgill, no. 925 (misdated to 1571), and that *Gray*, 29r, is identical with GD96/109, though lacking a date.

The great majority of William Gray's Ross protocols relate to sasines of burgh properties in Tain. These, which in the original vary greatly in detail and legibility, are here calendared in a simplified form. Formal details, and descriptions of property boundaries, often extensive, have been omitted. Documents in Scots have been given more fully, though some notarial exuberance has been pruned. Documents of interest for

the career of Master Thomas Ross are also given more fully, and in the original language. Editorial additions have been confined to identification of individuals who appear in the Calendar – but Andrew Ross, bailie of Tain (175), and Master Thomas Ross (221), whose names recur frequently, are noticed on their first appearance only. Unless otherwise stated, 'bailie' and 'burgess' refer to Tain, and lands and other subjects are located in the burgh or its territory. Dates are given by the modern historical year.

27r-v. 31 January 1565. Charter of sale by Alexander Innes of Plaids, with consent of Elizabeth Innes, spouse, to Robert Munro Hectorson in Carbisdale, his heirs and assignees, of one bovate of arable land of Plaids, occupied by Andrew Wrycht; paying 1d blench-ferme; with precept of sasine to Thomas Futhes, Alexander Davidson, Andrew Wryt and Donald McWilliam, bailies; subscribed by donor, and by donor's wife, touching pen, and with donor's seal of arms appended, at Cadboll, in the donor's house; witnesses Andrew Wryt, Hugh Anderson, Jasper Browne and Thomas Innes.

28r. 31 January 1565. Sasine given on 27r by Thomas Futhes, bailie; witnesses Donald McWilliam, Donald Duf, Andrew Wryt, Alexander McAlexander Moir, William McDonald miller in Plaids, John Munro, servant of said Robert Munro, and Hugh Anderson.

28r-v. 31 January 1565. Charter of sale of one bovate of arable land of Plaids, occupied by Donald Duf, in same terms as 27r.

28v. 31 January 1565. Sasine given on 28r-v, in same terms as 28r.

29r. Be it maid kend till all and syndre to quhome this present lettres sall to cum That notwithstanding that ane honorabill man Alexander Innes of Pladdis, with consent and assent of Elizabeth Innes his spous, has be chartour and precept of sasine alienit to me the said Robert, my airs and assignais, ane oxgang of his lands arabill of Pladdis, occupat be Donald Duf, lyand within the erledome of Ross and shirefdome Inverness, nottheless quhowson and qunhattyme the said Alexander, Elizabeth his spous, thair airs or assignaiss, debursis deliveris and compleitlie pais to me the said Robert Munro, Inyane McAne McKennethe my spous, our ayrs or assignais, the sowme of three scoir of pounds and ten usuale money of Scotland, for the quhilk sowmes the said oxgang land lyis in wod, on Our Lady altar within the paroche kirk of Tane or besyd the samyn, on ane day betuix the sone rysing and passing . . . thair of, we being lauchfullie warnit fourtthe dais immediatlie afor the fest of Witsunday, personalie apprehendit, or at our duelling plaiss befor ane notar and lauchfull witnes or in our paroche kirk be open proclamatioun in tyme of devyne seruise, than and in that caiss I oblis me, my ayrs and assignaiss to remite and ouergif the said chartour, precept of saising and saising, with all ryt and titill of ryt, bayth petitour and possessour, that we haiff or ma haiff to the said oxgang land, sua that the said Alexander, his spous forsaidd, thair ayrs and assignes, ma haiff full regress, access and ryt to the said oxgang, with all pertinentis thairto, as thair awin propir heretage, but fraud or gyll. And in caise we absent us thairfra and ressait of the said sowme thaine it salbe lesum to the said Alexander, his spous, thair airs and assignaiss, to conseng and put the said sowme in suir keeping of the bailzeiss of Tane, to the utilitie and profit of me, my said spous, our ayrs and assignaiss. In witnes heirof to this presents, subscrivit with my hand at the pen led be the notar underwritin, the seill of the said notar, procurat be me becauss my ane seill was not to hand, is affixit. Upon the quhilk all and haill the premiss the said Alexander and Elizabeth ['Bessie' stroked out] askit and tuik instrumentis fra me,



notar underwrittin. This was done at Cathboll, in the said Alexander's hall thairrof, the hour about sex eftir nowne, the aucht indiction, of our souerane ladeis Queen Mareis regne the xxij zeris, befoir this witnesss: Donald Duf, Andrew Wryt, Huchon Anderson, Jasper Browne and Thomas Innes. Robert Monro with my hand at the pen led be the notar.

30v. 17 February 1565. Sasine given by Donald Dingwall, son of Mr Alexander Dingwall in Tain, to Joneta Ross, his future spouse, on charter of liferent by him to her, bearing seal of said Mr Alexander, of half of Wester Cambuscurrie, with alehouse, and ferry-boat of passage of Portinculter, to which sasine given by a little rope; witnesses William Ross, Donald Ross, Adam Hay, Homer Paterson, Donald McAne Moir, Donald McThomas, sir John Falconer and John Ross.

31r-v. 17 February 1565. Sasine given by Donald Dingwall, bailie, to Adam Hay in Cambuscurrie, on following assedation: Be it maid kend till all men by this presents that I, Alexander Ross of Balnagown [216], haff sett and lett for maill, and be thir presents settis and for maill lattis to Adam Hay this half of my towne and lands of Cambuscurrie, lyand within the erledome of Ross and shirefdome of Innerness, for all the dais and termes of nynetein zeiris immediatlie following the said Adams entress, quhilk salbe at the fest of Witsunday next to cum in the zeir of God ane thousand v<sup>c</sup> and sextie zeris, and fra thyne furt to . . . and to be peaceable brukit, joisit, occupeit, set, disponit, usit, manurit and laborit be him, his subtenentis, servandis and cottaris, ay and quhill the ische and compleit end of the said xix zeris, as the said lands lye in leynthe and broid, in houses biggings muwrs feilds pasturis and lesuris, with common pastur for . . . and . . ., with moiss, myr, myrneiss, turffs, pets, fewall and fyerfaill, dowcat, cuning and cuningars, dow and dowcat [sic], fische and fischeings, fwling, halking, hunting, wood and watter, milne and milne multuris, and with all and syndrie utheris commoditeiss far and weir, als well nor . . . as . . ., under the erd as aboun the samyn, perteining or that justlie may perteine to my said half dawache of the said towne and lands of Cambuscurrie with thair pertinentis, lyand as said is, fre, quietlie, weill and in peace, bot ony revocatione, obstacull, impediment or ganecalling quhatsumever, Payand thairfor the said Adam his subtenentis to me the said laird, my ayrs or assignaiss, maill zeirlie usit and wont induring the said tack, and I . . . sall warrand the said Adam his subtenentis and servands in joyssing ony of the samyn induring the said tack contrar all mortall be this my assidatone; witnesses Homer Patersone, Donald McAne Moir, Donald McThomas, sir John Falchonar and John Ross.

45v-47r. 3 July 1565. The third day of the moneth of Julii in the zeir of God ane thousand v<sup>c</sup> and sextie fyue zeris, the aucht indiction, and of our souerane ladeiss reigne the twenty thre zeris, Personaliter comperit befoir me notar publict and witness under writtin ane honorabill man Johne Gray of Suerdell and presentit to me ane copy of ane precept direct in nayme and behalf of ane nobill and potent lord James Erle of Murray etc., sherif of Innernes, at the instance of the abbat of Ferne [221] and Laird of Balnagovin [216] agains the said Johne Gray, anent cognition to be had be the said shiref or his deputs of the fischeing of Boniche as at mayr lynthe is contenit thairin, the quhilk precept the said Johne requirit me notar publict to reid oppenlie befoir ane grait multitud of pepill, the quhilk I did reid with ane lwid woce and distinctlie, and thaireftir incontinent the said Johne declarit that he was summond, warnit and chargit to compeir befoir the said shiref or his deputs, ane or ma, on this third day of Julii upon the grownds of the said fischeing of Boniche and corhouss of the samyn, in ane shiref curt thair to be hald, to heir and se said

matirs tryit etc., and considering thair was ane auld antient corfhouss on the northe syd of the said wattir of Boniche, quhair of the larche and place as yit is kennebill, the said Johne past thairto, belevand the said shiref curt suld be haldin zair, and failzeing thairof at the recent and new corfhouss bewest the said auld larche, to the quhilk corfhouss new and recent the said Johne passit in case the said curt suld be haldin thair, in respect of the generalitie and douts—n— of the said place in that pairt, and thair he comperit, shawand and declarand he was at baith thas placis respectiue prompt and redie to anssr at the instance of the saids pleiss befor the said shiref or his deputs, ane or ma, that northsyd of the said Boniche and corfhouss thairof, as the said Johne jugit wes maist peciabil and to be had in contrauersie be narracioun and mediatioun of his pertie aduersar, ay dubius and in dout quhair he suld or aucht to compeir in respect in syt of the said generale precept generalie in that part libellat berand bot to compeir at ane corfhouss quhair thair wes syndrie corfhoussis, ane on the said northe syd of Boniche and ane uther on the sowthe syd of the samyn, and sua declarit that the said precept suld beir in its self ane speciale corfhouss on ane speciale syd, ether northe or southe, and sua it wantand this specialitie it followit that he aucht not and was dubius and in dout to compeir in ane speciall place or at ane speciall corfhouss, thairfoir the said Johne protestit solemnly that he did his uther and exact diligence to obey and anssir to the samyn in all points attending to the said generale precept and that pairt generallie libellat. Upon the quhilk all and syndrie the premissis the said Johne Gray of Suerdell requirit askit and tuik fra me notar publict underwrittin documents and instruments, protestand alway gif thay pretendit to sit in ony uther place onkawn to him and not cumand to his ayrs, that the samyn suld not preiuge him his possession ryt or titill of the fischeing, quhair upon the quhilk the said Johne desyrit instruments as said is. This was done at the larche and grownd of the said auld corfhouss and at the grownd of the said new and recent corfhouss of the Boniche on the northe syd thairof respectiue, about a lawin houris afoir nowne, befor this witness, James Wedddarspowne, James Fressr, Thomas Litle, Gauin Murray, George Murray and Alexander Lowell, to the premissis callit and requirit. And incontinent but ony space or interuale, the said Johne heirand certaine numer of men gangand and mowand wpon the grene thair ouir by the wattir syd of the Boniche and at the corfhouss thairof on the said southe syd, na jugement being set in the eiss or syt of the said Johne or of ony persone or personis that myt aduertis him thairof, and as he declarit menit to haif justice procedand and to wit quhat wes his partie aduersaris mynd and quether thay wold liti cedere vel contendere and quhair thay thot to persew him or in quhat place for he was uncertand of ony jugement at the tyme sittand in any place towart this pleyabill mattir, and thairfoir to be certifiit the said Johne directit ouir to the said southe syd ane discreit man Sir James Dempster, chalmerlane to ane reuerend father in God Robert be the mercie of the samyn bishop of Cathnes, with certane uther personis and witnes underwrittin, with me notar publict under mentionat, and effir thair passing and cuming ouir to the said southe syd with the said perones witnes, and me notar, and thair persauit and fand George Monro of Dawachgarte [158], Andrew Monro his son and apperand air [248], and Jaspere Wauss of Lochsln with Mr Martine Logy scribe sittand on the west syd of the corfhouss of the said southe syd, quhair thay myt not be sene afoir be the said Johne Gray or ony that myt aduertis him, and he not being callit be thaim or thair officaris or messingeris, but quietlie jugeing as jugeis deputs forsaid betuix the said parteis and the said Johne, the quhilk being considerit be the said Sir James incontinent directit he for the said Johne fra the said northe syd, and sua the said Johne in all possibill haist came and comperit personalie befor and in presence of the said jugis, and thair instantlie he desyrit the principale precept to be red and collationat wt the copy thairof having in his hands, to

consider gif thay war contendad as use is in sicklike casis, the quhilk jugis refasit to do the samyn and that becauss that thay allegit the said Johne comperit not in the hour of causs befor thaim, and the said Johne allegit that the hour of causs wes not bygone bot it wes half hour to tuelff afoir nowne, and that he knew not of thair pretendit jugement or place or sitting thair, untill now schortlie he was cryit on fra the northe syd of the Boniche to the southe syd thair of and that he was yay redie to anssr and defend his just action befor the said jugis or juge deputts, ane or ma, under protestand not admittand thai or ony of thaim as jugis or juge, pledir, witnes and members of cuirt, notwithstanding the saids jugis all togidder with ane voce wold not admit him to defend his action and refusit to lat reid and collationat the principale precept with the copy of the samyn, bot allegit that thay had procedit in his absence to the production of certane witnessis in the said matter for his aduersar partie agais him comperit, and wald not begin new proces againe becauss the said Johne came not in the hour of causs, and the said Johne allegit the contrar for he allegit it wes in dew tyme as it wes in deid according to justice, ordour of law and practick of this realme. Upon the quhilkis and . . . the said Johne Gray desyrit and tuik in my hands, notar publict underwritten, documentis and instrumentis. The premisss wes don fra the said lawin hour afoir nowne forsaid or thairby unto half hour or thairby immediatlie thaireftir afoir nowne forsaid, on the northe and southe syds of the said Boniche and at the west syd of the southe corf houss of the samyn. Befoir this witnes James Fressr, George Murray, Donald Murray [?], John Leithe, Alexander Lowell and Thomas Litle to the premiss desyrit and requirit.

And sa the said Johne protestit solemnie as said is for remeid of law, tyme and place, nullitie of proces and for reduction of the samyn. . . . Upon the quhilk the said Johne Gray tuik instrumentis in my hand, notar publict under writtin, befor the forsaid witnes, immediatlie preceding and eftir nowne in this day and place of jugement on the west syd of the southe corffhouss of Boniche forsaid, fre the said half hour afoir nowne and half hour eftir the samyn or thairby.

Mairattour the said Sir James Dempster, chalmerland to the said reverend father, protestit solemnie by the northe syd of Boniche, at the said larache of corfhouss and at the new houss of the northe syd of Boniche, about the said lewin hour afoir nowne, that quhateuer the said jugis suld pretend or do in the said mattir the said suld not preiuge nether petitour nor possessor of the said bishop his maister, and siclyk he comperit at the west syd of the said corfhouss on the southe syd of Boniche under protestatione, not admittand the jugeis . . . nor members of curt, and under that protestatione protestit quhateuer thay did or pretendit suld . . . agais his said maister or his patrimonie, ryt or titill, petitour or possessor. And this wes don about half hour to tuelf afoir nowne. Upon the quhilks the said Sir James tuik instrumentis fra me, notar publict, befor this witnes forsaid immediatlie nominat and specifit to the premiss askit and requirit.

48r. 14 December 1565. Sasine given by Andrew Ross, bailie [175], to Alexander Thomas Alistersone in Tain, on resignation by Donald Pederson, burgess, of two bolls' sowing of bere; witnesses John Moir, Alexander McGillechreist and William McGillray.

49v. 13 June 1566. Sasine given by Thomas Fides, bailie, to Andrew Ross, burgess, on resignation of Andrew Gardin in Tain, of land with kiln; witnesses Thomas Fairguson, John Paterson, John and Charles Syderson in Tain.

53v. 30 January 1569. Sasine given by Thomas Fuddess, bailie, to Moris Brebnar, on resignation of Robert Monro Huchonson, of tenement, portion of garden, and house; witnesses Finlay Faid, portioner of Innerathy, William Makgull and Alexander Donaldson, burgesses of Tain, and Adam Hay in Cambuscurrie.

63r. 25 August 1574. Sasine given by William McFewnar in Innerbrekie to Andrew Ronaldson in Delny, on precept in charter by Walter Innes of Innerbreaky [234] to said Andrew, heirs and assignees, of east third part of Ord of Innerbrekie, within lordship of Innerbrekie; given under his seal and manual subscription at Chanonry of Ross, 18 August 1574; witnesses William Ross rector of Roskene, Finlay McThomas Brebnar in said east third part of Ord of Innerbrekie, John McWilliam Moir there, Donald McFindla McKenzie in west Ord of Innerbreaky, and John Gray servitor to the notary.

72v. 20 May 1575. Sasine given by Andrew Ross, bailie of Tain, to Alexander Thomas Alexanderson, indweller in Tain, on resignation of Alexander Dingwall, indweller, son of Mr Alexander Dingwall, of one 'ly rig' sowing of one firloft . . . end; witnesses John Reid Farquharson burgess of Tain, Alexander Wryt there, John Cuik there, and Donald Davidson Mor there.

78v-79r. Tain, 13 May 1576. Sasine given by Andrew Ross, bailie of Tain, to John Davidson, on charter by Alexander Davidson, burgess, to said John, his son, and heirs male of his body, whom failing to Thomas Davidson, son of John, whom failing to Andrew Davidson, son of John, of eleven bolls' sowing of oats, a half-boll's sowing of oats, unmanured land extending if sown to a half-boll's sowing of bere, with buildings thereon, and a tenement and garden, paying 4s 8d annually to chaplains of St Duthac, and reserving liferent, with power to dispoine during lifetime only; with subscription and seal of donor and seal of Andrew Ross, bailie; witnesses William Munro in Innverane and Donald Donaldson Johnson in Tain.

79v. 14 May 1576. Sasine given by Andrew Ross, bailie of Tain, to Thomas Smart, on resignation by William McAne Smart, indweller in Tain, with consent of Margaret Inyne William Moir his wife, in favour of said Thomas, heirs and assignees, whom failing Alexander, brother of said Thomas, of one 'ly rigg' of two firlofts' sowing of bere, and a booth ['domuscula vulgariter vocata ane bwithe'] adjoining the house ['domus magna'] of said William and Margaret; witnesses Donald Monylaw, Thomas Brebner and sir Walter Smart.

82r. 6 September 1576. In presence of me, notary public, and of the witnesses underwritten, a discreet man, Nicholas Ross of Dunskeyth [165], compeared and declared as follows in our modern tongue, namely. Nicholas Ross forsaide, in presence of me notar publict and witnessis under wrettin, comperit and allegit that he wes haldin captiue be ane ryt honorabill man Alexander Ross of Ballnagwin [216] wranguslie and againss the law in Kyncardin within Ross fra the last day of Junii inclusiue unto the fourt day of September instant being in irlis straitlie kept as ane presonar, quhill that God relauit him out of the said pains . . . the said fourt of September, and also the said Nicholass allegit thait he wes in feir of his lyff compellit on the fourt day of August last, wes in the zeir of god ane thousand v<sup>c</sup> lxxvj zeris being haldin captiue in the mentyme as said is be the said lard, to subscribe certane writts sic as contract, mandat and acquittance of the sowme of ane thousand marks usuale money of Scotland in favor of the said lard concerning the landis of Estir Gany, Vest Gany, Mekle Rany, Ballblair, Dowcroft, Brighouss, Weitlands and milne croft of Kincardine with thair pertinents, wrettin be Robert Innes notar of the dait the fourt day of August forsaide anno domini m v lxxvj foirsaid, quhilk lands with thair pertinents pertain in heretage to the said Nicholass as he allegis, and compellit to gif ouer the samyn to the said lard being under feir of his lyf as is afoir expremit by all ordir of justice and law. Theirfoir the said Nicholas himself, his ayres, executoris, assignaiss, hes agane callit and simpliciter reuokit the said contract,

mandat and acquittance contractit and subscriuit be him in favor of the said Alexander Ros of Balnagowin, his ayrs, executoris or assignais, sua that the samyn sall haife na fayth, strenthe, force, forme nor effect in jugement or . . . the samyn in all tym cuming, bot euer to be as null in thaimselfs, and that be ressoune as the said Nicholass allegit he wes in feir of his awin lyf in that tyme, quhilk feir myt fall in ane constant man, and sua the said Nicholass protestit solemnie for nullitie and reduction of the said contract, mandat and acquittance and . . . protesting his . . . in ony tyme cuming and for remeid of law, tyme and place agains the said lard and all utheris quhome efferis. On all of which the said Nicholas sought instruments. This was done in the house of Donald Reid Neilson in Dornoch, around three hours after noon, witnesses Angus McKenyt McKellane burgess of Dornoch, Donald Monylaw burgess of Tain, Donald McMichell in Meikle Torboll, and Donald McPedrson burgess in Tain.

101r-v. 11 February 1579. Sasine given by Andrew Ross, bailie, to Andrew MakRonalld in Delny, on charter by Hugh Ross Alexanderson in Lemlair, with consent of Agnes Monro, his wife, liferentrix, to said Andrew, his heirs and assignees, of lands in Tain, rendering to clerks of St Duthac the render paid from similar lands in burgh; with subscriptions of the donor and his wife, led at the pen, and the donor's seal, with the seal of Andrew Ross, bailie; witnesses John Reid Farquharson burgess of Tain, Alexander Crysty there, Andrew McGillecallum alias Braquhatur [?] there, William Ross son of the said Andrew Ross, and Donald Davidson clerk of Tain.

103r-v. 22 April 1579. Sasine given by Andrew Ross, bailie, to Mr Thomas Ross, commendator of Fearn, on charter by Thomas Rattar, burgess of Tain, of two bolls' sowing of bere 'in Elizabeth Monylaw's lands', rendering to clerks of St Duthac the accustomed rent; with subscription of the donor, his personal seal, and the seal of Andrew Ross; witnesses John Denwne in Litill Rany, Thomas Fuddes burgess of Tain, and Donald McAne Doy in Tain.

104r. 25 April 1579. Sasine given by Andrew Ross, bailie, to Donald Dingwall, burgess, lawfully served and recognosced heir of the deceased Mr Alexander Dingwall, burgess, as is contained in an act of the burgh court of [blank] day of [blank] 1557, of a house and garden, and five 'lie riggs', one boll's sowing of bere, belonging to the said deceased Mr Alexander; witnesses Thomas Fuddes burgess of Tain, Thomas Fergusson there, Alexander McAne Smart, William McWarden [?] and Donald MakAw.

104v-105r. 23 April 1579. Sasine given by Andrew Ross, bailie, to Hugh Clyne, indweller in Tain, on resignation by Thomas Fergusson, son of deceased Henry Fergusson, burgess of Tain, to Hugh Clyne, of a tenement and garden lying in the east part of Tain, paying usual render to clerks of St Duthac; with subscription of donor, led at the pen, and seal of Andrew Ross: witnesses Gilbert Gellane burgess of Inverness, Thomas Fuddes burgess of Tain, Thomas Ratter burgess of Tain, Alexander McFindlay Dow indweller there and Alexander McHosssak there.

105r. 23 April 1579. Sasine given by Andrew Ross, bailie, to Margaret Holine [?], on charter of liferent by Hugh Clyne, burgess, her husband, of tenement and garden in 104v, paying accustomed renders to clerks of St Duthac; with subscription of donor, led at the pen, and seal of Andrew Ross; witnesses as in 104v.

106v. 28 April 1579. Resignation in hands of Donald Tailzeour, bailie, by Janet Rattar, wife of Thomas Rattar citiner of Dornoch, on her faith made on the Gospels out of the presence of her husband, of all right to land in 103r, granted in liferent to her in her

virginity by her husband, and resigned by him to the reverend father in Christ Thomas Ross commendator of Fearn; for 36 merks, for which she and husband quitclaim commendator; in 'ly gardin' of commendator; witnesses Thomas Fuddes burgess of Tain, Donald Ross in Litill Rany, Alexander Clunes son of Alexander Clwness, burgess in Cromarty [224] and Donald McHendrie.

108r-v. 1 May 1579. Sasine given by Andrew Ross, bailie, to Pheak, daughter of Helen Davidson and William Cordinar, burgess, and Alexander Smart her husband, of three bolls two firlots' sowing of bere, on charter by said Helen and William to said Pheak and Alexander, in conjoint infetment, to longer liver, and to heirs procreate between them, whom failing to heirs and assignees of said Alexander, rendering accustomed render to clerks of St Duthac if sought; to fulfil contract, and as dowry of Pheak, their eldest daughter; subscribed by both, with seal of bailie; witnesses Thomas Fuddes burgess of Tain, Donald McAne Dowy indweller, Donald McTagart alias Paip there, John McHuchon McWalter there and Donald Davidson mair of Tain.

109r-v. 1 May 1579. Sasine given by Andrew Ross, bailie, to Pheak, daughter of William Cordinar, wife of Alexander Smart, burgess, of a tenement, with 'camera', garden, buildings and 'locus s'ruinii', on charter of resignation by said Alexander; to hold in liferent, paying after said Alexander's decease 4d to the collegiate church of Tain, in name of blench-ferme; subscribed by said Alexander, led at the pen; witnesses as 108r.

109v-110r. 4 May 1579. Sasine given by Donald Tailzeour, bailie, to John Fargussone, son of deceased sir Andrew Fargussone [21], and Pheak Ross, his wife, daughter of Donald Ross Finlayson, burgess, of a tenement, garden and buildings, on charter by said Donald Ross Finlayson to said John and Pheak in conjoint infetment, to longer liver, and to heirs procreate between them, whom failing to heirs and assignees of said John, rendering 13s 4d blench-ferme to commendator, abbot or canons of Fearn; to fulfil contract of 27 April 1579, and as dowry of Pheak, his daughter; subscribed by said Donald, led at the pen, and bearing his seal and seal of bailie; witnesses Thomas Fuddes burgess of Tain, Alexander Manson burgess there, Thomas Manson his brother, John Schot indweller there and Donald McKay mair there.

110v-111r. 7 May 1579. Sasine given by Andrew Ross, bailie, to Andrew Ross Donaldson Huchonson in Tain, and to John Ross, son of said Andrew Ross Donaldson Huchonson and Elizabeth Fargusson, of a garden, on charter by Mr Thomas Ross, commendator of Fearn and provost of collegiate church of Tain; to Andrew Ross in liferent, and to John Ross and his heirs and assigns in fee; rendering 6d to said provost if sought; bearing seals of commendator and bailie; witnesses Donald Talzeour, bailie, Andrew Reid, burgess, Donald Neilson, indweller, Magnus Manson, indweller, and Donald Davidson, mair.

113r. 24 June 1579. Sasine given by Andrew Ross, bailie, to Andrew, son of Thomas McGele Moire alias Brebnar, of a booth [*le buyt*], in west part of, and contiguous to, dwelling-house [*domus habitacionis*] of said Thomas, on resignation of said Thomas; witnesses John Reid Farquharson, burgess, William Corbet, burgess, John Reid Donaldson in Tain, and Donald Davidson, officer.

113r. 24 June 1579. In presence of me notar publict and uthris under wrettin Johne Donaldson Glassen nychbour in Tane resignit within the hands of Andrew Ross balle of Tane ane tenement with zeard heritable pertening to the said Johne . . . in favor of William Ross Huchonsson his aysr and assignaiss. Be vertew of the quhilk resignation the

said Andrew Ross gaif stait and possession reale actuale and corporale of the said tenement with zear'd to the said William Ross be erth and stone. Upon the quhilk the said William askit fro me notar publict underwrettin instrumentis. Befeir thir witnes Alexander McFindla Duf, Johnne Moir McFarquhar burgess in Tane, Donald McMurquho McBane thair and Donald Daidson offcar, to the premiss requirit etc.

113v-114r. 24 June 1579. The xxfort day of Junii the zeir of God ane thousand v<sup>c</sup> threscoir xix zeris, befoir this witnes Donald Ros vicar of Logy, John Toache thair in Logy, Alexander McThomas Beg thair and Donald Davidson officer in Tane, in presence of me notar publict and witnes under wrettin personalie constituit ane honorabill man William Ros persoun of Roskene fewar of Logy with the pertinents, past to the lands callit Redorquhe and thair quhair William Ross of Priesthill [286] causit till the said Redorquhe wranguslie as he allegit quhilk pertenis as common pastur equale betuix the said person and William his brother son, in signe and seasing of common pastur the said persounn turnit certane furis of the said Redorquhe upsthed down as interruption, and als past to ane fild callit Reflwquhe quhilk he allegit pertenis to him heritable pertening the said Logy and shew the vestmost rig thairof with aits and causit harow the samyn in teakin of possession, and als maid interruption thrie . . . sheils with ane brokin sheall and utheris botheis biggit upon the grownd of Reflwquhe, of the quhilks he brak doun certain failis and . . . [torn]. And sua the said William Ross persoun of Roskene for himself his ayrs executours and assignass solemnie protestit agains the said William Ross of Priesthill his ayrs executours and assignass for remeid of law, tyme and place oportune. Super quibus omnibus et singulis dictus Wilhelmus Ross rector de Rosken a me notario publicto subscripto petiit unum seu plura publictum seu publicta instrumentum seu instrumenta. Acta erat hoc super solum et fundum dictarum terrarum hora circiter tertia post meridiem, sub anno, die, mense et regno quibus supra, presentibus ibid testibus prescriptis ad premissis rogatis et requisitis.

114v. 24 June 1579. Renunciation by Ellene Donaldson Williamson, wife of Andrew McGillecallum, burgess, out of the presence of her husband, of her liferent of a house and garden in Tain, in favour of her husband, that he might be able to dispoine the same as he might think fit; witnesses Thomas Fargusson, burgess, Gavin Fuddes in Tain, and John Fargusson son of deceased Thomas Fargusson Hectorson of Tain.

115r-v. 8 September 1579. Sasine given by Andrew Ross, bailie, to Donald Talzeour, burgess, of two bolls' sowing of bere, with other five bolls' sowing in warranty, on charter of sale by Alexander Cryste, burgess, to fulfil contract of 10 August 1579, paying 1d blench-ferme to said Alexander if sought; subscribed by said Alexander, led at the pen, and bearing seals of said Alexander and bailie; witnesses Thomas Fuddes, burgess, Andrew Cryste there, Andrew Reid there, Duncan McAlexander Bane there, William Fresser reader there, and Donald Davidson officer in Tain.

117r. 14 August 1579. Sasine given by Thomas Fuddes, bailie, to Andrew Ross, burgess, and Mariota Andirson or Maktyr, his wife, of four bolls' sowing of bere, a croft of four bolls' sowing of bere or thereby, twelve bolls' sowing of bere, with waste land, garden and buildings built or to be built, and a croft of one boll's sowing of bere, on charter of sale by John Gray of Swordale, with consent of Bessie Barclay, his wife, to said Andrew and Mariota, in conjunct fee, to longer liver and heirs procreate between them, whom failing to heirs and assignees of said Andrew, for certain sums of money, rendering accustomed renders to clerks of St Duthac; subscribed by said John and Bessie, and bearing seal of said John; at Skibo, 13 August 1579, witnesses Alexander Lovell in Pitgrudy, Gilbert . . .

servant in Lower Skibo, John Barclay, Gilbert Milnes of Golspie Kirktown, and William Gray, notary public; sasine given on resignation by Donald Monylaw, procurator for said John Gray; witnesses William . . . royal messenger, John Reid in Tain, Alexander Ross there, Andrew Johnson . . . there, Magnus McDonald there, the said Donald Monylaw, burgess.

119r-120v. 16 February 1579. Omnibus hanc cartam visuris vel audituris Thomas Fuddes et Donaldus Talzeour ballivi et burgenses burgi de Tane, cum ceteris nostre civitatis convicinis et burgensaviis, ac cum consensu et assensu venerabilis in Christo patris magistri Thome Ross de Ferne commendatarii ac nostri ville de Tane prepositi, salutem in Domino sempiternum. Sciatis nos unanimi consensu et assensu unaque voce dedisse concessisse et hac presenti carta nostra confirmasse dilectis nostris Isobelle Kinarde [230] et Waltero Ros eius filio legitimo [345] ac eorum alteri diutius viventi, et heredibus suis et assignatis quibuscunque, unam portionem seu peciem terrarum nostrarum communium et pasture vocatam *wlgo ly Tobar na Feathe*, unacum terris et pasturis eiusdem contigue adiacentibus, ad occidentalem partem dicte ville de Tane. . . ; preterea sciatis vos nos quo supra dedisse concessisse et hac presenti carta nostra confirmasse dictis nostris dilectis Isobelle et Waltero . . . unam alteram portionem aut peciem terrarum nostrarum communium, jacentem ad austrum orientem *ly south est*. . . ubi dictus Magister Thomas de Ferne commendatarius unum horreum ex lapidibus constructum cum aliis edificiis tendentes ad prout montem vocatum Binzarrak sibi edificari causavit; et similiter sciatis nos mora et forma prescriptis dedisse . . . dictis nostris dilectis nostras terras communes que jacent ad austrum occidentalem *ly southe west*. . . nunc in manibus dicti commendatarii existentes et tendentes ad dictum prout montem *ly Binzairak* supra et inter duas terras et prout montem *ly Binzairak* prout ventus aer conscindunt *wlgo as wind and wedder scheris*. Tenendas et habendas antedictos portiones vel pecies nostrarum terrarum communium respective bondatas et limitatas ut supra dictis Isobelle et Waltero eius filio et eorum alteri diutius viventi, heredibus suis et suis assignatis quibuscunque, de nobis, heredibus nostris et nostris assignatis imperpetuum, cum omnibus justis pertinentis . . . in feodo et hereditate, in omnibus et per omnia ut premissum est . . . Reddendis inde annuatim dicti Isobella et Walterus . . . pro dicto horto *wlgo Tobber na Feathe*, pastura eiusdem *ly gressing* et terras eiusdem adiacentibus, summa quatuor solidarios usuales monete Scotie ad duos terminos consuetos et solitos, viz. Sancti Martini in yeme et Penthecosten, per duas equales portiones; item pro alias portiones seu pecies dictarum nostrarum communium jacentes ad austrum orientalem *ly southe est*. . . unacum aliis nostris terris communibus que jacent ad austrum occidentalem *ly southe west*. . . nunc in manibus dicti domini commendatarii existentibus, per dictos Isobellam et Walterum, suos heredes et assignatos, servitores, factores et actores eorundem manurandiis, colendis, laborandis, perlustrandis ad multuram, annuatim pro semmatura uniuscuiusque bolle ordeï ipse Isabella et Walterus . . . solvent nobis nostris heredibus et assignatis dicte communitate de Tane summa octodecim denariorum monete prescripte proportionaliter ad dictos duos anni terminos . . . Cum plenarie potestate dicti Isobelle et Waltero suisque heredibus et assignatis ut premittitur ad aedificia et domos hortos ovilia *ly faild* super dictis terris et bondis dicti nostri civitatis prout eisdem et cuilibet eorundem visum fuerit et expediens. Et si contingerit dictos Isobellam et Walterum . . . aliquos tritium aut aliquid aliam semen in dictis terris de novo colendis semmare in hoc casu inde . . . [the remainder of this clause, inserted as a footnote, is illegible]. Provisio tamen omni modo quod communes vie solite et consuete dictarum terrarum nostre communitatis non sunt impeditæ vel impediende per dictos Isobellam Walterum suos heredes assignatos aut



alios quoscunque eorum nomine rathabitione aut mandato sed quod sunt semper patentes nobis et convicinis nostris dicte ville de Tane omnibus temporibus futuris . . .

Insuper dilecto nostro Andree Ross uno ballivorum dicte ville de Tane salutem. Tibi . . . precipimus et mandamus quatenus accendas ad dictas nostras terras communes communitatis unacum *ly girs well* vocatam *Tober na Feiche* dicte ville et super solum earundem respective statum et saisinam hereditariam atque possessionem realem . . . dictis Isobelle et Walteri . . . per terre et lapidis traditione ut mos est des . . . et hoc nullo modo omittas. Volumus quod unica saisina sufficiet pro omnibus terris prescriptis, ad quod faciendum tibi dicto Andree nostram tenore presentium committimus potestatem ac mandatum specialem.

Et ad maiorem rei securitatem nos vero communitas antedicte ville de Tane superscriptas cartas et evidencias . . . approbamus, ratificamus et pro nobis heredibus nostris et assignatis imperpetuum confirmamus et contra omnes homines mortales warantizabimus . . . In fidem cuius omniumque et singulorum premissorum sigillum nostrum commune . . . appendamus unacum sigillis nostris et subscriptionibus manualibus et manuali subscriptione dicti comendatarii in signo eiusdem consensus. Apud dictam villam de Tane die decimo sexto Februarii ['secundo mensis Januarii' scored out] anno Domini millesimo quingentesimo septuagesimo nono, coram his testibus discretis viris Donaldo Ross in Litill Rany, Johanne Ross nuncio in Canoniam Rossense, Michaelae Cumming, Willelmo Cumming eius germano fratre, Johanne Hay burgense de Tane, Donaldo Ross Henderson ibidem, Donaldo McDonald McDonald McAne, Andrea Denowne, Georgio Murison et Alexandro Clwnes cum diversis aliis ad premissis requisitis.

Post vero quarumquidem . . . discretus vir Andreas Ross ballivus predictus ad fundum premissarum portionum seu petierum terrarum communium secundum tenorem superscripti precepti attendens saisinam et status hereditariam earundem omnium et singulorum portionum seu petierum unacum dicte *ly gressing et well* vocatam *Tober na Feathe* . . . dictis Isabelle Kinnaird et Willelmo Ross eius filio et eorum alteri diutius viventi contulit dedit tradidit et deliberauit. Super quos omnes et singulos dicti Isobella et Walterus a me notari publicto subscripti petierunt unum seu plura publictum vel publicta instrumentum seu instrumenta mihi fieri.

Acta est hoc super solum dictum portionis vel petionis dicti *ly gressing et well* vocate *Tober na Feathe* hora circiter tertia post meridiem, die vero mensis Februarii decimo sexto, anno Domini quo supra regnique domini nostri Jacobi sexti Scotorum regis anno decimo tertio, coram his testibus Donaldo Ross in Litill Rany, Johanne Ross eius germano fratre apud Cillemwr [Kilmuir Wester] lectore, Alexandro Mwirson servo dicti domini comendatarii, Alexandro Clwnes lectore apud Nig, Andree Denowne, ad premissa vocatis.

121r. - [torn] March 1579. Sasine given by Thomas Innes, son of deceased John Innes formerly in Achinwill, to Donald John Henderson, attorney for Alexander Innes of Cromy, of (i) sunny third of Catboll, with fortalice and pertinents, on precept by sir William Douglas and sir Thomas Brabner, chaplains of the altars of St Lawrence and of the Holy Magdalen in the cathedral church of Moray, called the chapel or chapels of Catboll, at Elgin and Milare [?] in Ba. . . ndell [torn], 1 and 6 March 1577; and (ii) Kilmure, on precept by Alexander bishop of Ross [163], superior, Chanonry, 20 January 1577; witnesses Donald John Henderson, servant of said Thomas, and John Gray, son of notary.

122v-123r. 7 July 1580. The sevint day of Julii the zeir of God ane thousand Vc four scoir zeris, of our souerane lords regne zeir a<sup>o</sup> 1580 In Walter Douglass houss in Tane about allavin houris afoir nowne befoir this witness, the said Walter Douglass burgess of Tane, William Fressr redar thair, John Reid Donaldson burgess thair and Gavin Fuddess the

said Donald's german brother, Personalie comperit the said Donald Fuddess befor me notar publict and witness foirsaid, quha in favor of Thomas Fuddess his brother german, sone to umquhill Thomas Fuddess burgess of Tane, his brother lachfull and full, purlie and simple hes renuncit fra the said Donald Fuddess his ayrs executors and assignass all ryt and titule of ryt that the said Donald had hes or ony way may haif in and to ane tenement of land with all pertinents thairof lying in the nether est end of Tane betuix the common gait on the southe northe and west and the burn and myr on the est partis, with all utheris landis with thair pertinents to the quhilk the said Donald Fuddess hes or may haif ony ryt titill or claime within the immunitie of Tane and towne thairof, and the said Donald Fuddess hes transferrtit puir and simple the said fra him and his foirsaidis in and to the said Thomas Fuddess his lachfull brother his ayrs and assignass quhatsumeuer without any revocatione reduction or agane calling. Super quibus omnibus et singulis dictus Thomas Fuddess a me notario publicto subscripto . . . petiit instrumentum publicum fieri. Acta erant hec ut supra.

123r-v. 7 July 1580. Resignation by Donald Fuddess, son to deceased Thomas Fuddess, burgess, to Donald Talzeour, bailie, of all his lands and tenements in favour of Thomas Fuddess, his brother; for fraternal love and sums of money; in house of Andrew MacCulloch, burgess; witnesses Andrew MacCulloch, John Reid Farquharson, burgess, and William Lasly. And said John Reid Farquharson protested that said resignation and sasine thereon should not prejudice his right.

124r. 14 August 1580. Sasine given by Thomas Fuddess, bailie, to Andrew Ross and Mariota Maktyr, his wife, of a tenement, resigned by Donald Monylaw in assedation; witnesses William . . . [torn] Rhifadden, John Reid in Tain, Alexander Ross there . . . , John . . . , Magnus McDonald Our, Thomas. . .

124r. 15 August 1580. Eodem anno 1580 mensis vero Augusti decimo quinto, coram his testibus Willelmo Corbet Johneson convicino in Tane, Johanne Reid Donaldson ibid, Andrea MakGelicallum ibid, Johanne MakDonald Glas et Donaldo Watson officuario, personale constituit ane honorable man Andrew Ross balle of Tane be resignacone of Johne McDonald Glas to Johne Ross Williamson in Balleculhe of ane housse tenement and yeard with pertinents lying in the nether syd of Tane be erd and stanes, on the quhilks the said Johne Ross tuik in my hands notar publict instruments. This wes done on the grownd of the said tenement and yeard about viij houris afoir nown.

125r. 25 August 1580. Die xxvto Augusti 1580 anno octuagesimo coram testibus . . . [torn], Thomas Fuddess ballivus de Tane, Paulo eius filio et Angussio Fade in Tane ac Thome Fargusson, hora circiter quinta post meridiem, in domo Alexandri Ros McAne Our in Tane, qui Alexander . . . [torn] ane Inventar of certane schip greyt and geir pertening to James Logan and James Robertson burgess in Kingorne in his keeping to wit as the said Inventar purports the greyt foirsaid to be deliuerit as it salbe requirit conforme to the said Inventour of the dait at Tane the xxv of Merche 1580. Upon the quhilks boyth the saids tua Jamess tuik instrumentis fra me notar publict.

125r-v. 25 August 1580. Eodem die et anno Domini 1580 Alexander Monro in Carbistell, balle in that part, gaf stait and sasing possession reale et actuale be vertew of ane chartour given be ane honorable man Robert Monro of Folis of the salmond fishings of thre cobills pertening the said lard of the Watter of Kilmachalmackk and netts thairof, and that to Anor [?Ewir] Wryt nychbor in Tane. Super quibus dictus Anorus [?Ewirus] Wryt procurator et in nomine domini David Clepen [214] et nomine et ex parte eiusdem Davidi

a me notario publicto petiit instrumentum. Acta erant hoc apud aquam pasture de Kilmachalmack, hora circiter undecima ante meridiem, coram his testibus Johanne MakCallum in Kilmachalmack, Alexandro McAne McDonald ibid, Johanne Ewir McGillicallum ibid, et Richardo McGillemartin in Mekill Rogart ad premissis requisitis.

125v. That day and zeir foirsaid about tua eftir nowne the said Alexander Monro balle in that part gaf seising and possession of the cobills and netts of the Inuer of the lards of Folis syd of the salmond fishing thair of and that to Enor Wryt nychbor of Tane foirsaid conforme to the euidencis thairon and that in nayme of David Clepen [214] as his lachfull procurator knawin to me notar under wrettin. Super quibus dictus procurator a me notario publicto subscripto nomine et ex parte dicti Dauidi Clepan petiit instrumenta publicta. Acta erat hoc apud dictam aquam salmon' de Inuer coram his testibus Thoma Gall [?] in Teanewer, Donald McDonald Dowy ibid, Gillepatrik Brebnar ibid, Richardo McGillemartin in Mekill Rogart ad premissis requisitis.

125v. 26 August 1580. Sasine given by Alexander Monro to Enor [?Ewir] Wryt, procuratoir of David Clephane [214], of yair of Kiltearn.

## APPENDIX B

## Extracts from the Blackie MS

W.H. Blackie, herald painter and genealogist, was the scribe of Edinburgh University Laing MS III.666. As W.H. Blackie, painter, he had an address at 299 The Canongate between 1819 and 1823, and at 90 High Street in 1824-5. As 'herald painter' he was at 204 High Street in 1825-6, before moving to Covenant Close, 162 High Street, where he remained until 1847 (see *Post-Office Directory for Edinburgh and Leith*, under relevant years). His name does not appear in the *Directory* from 1847 onwards, but no death notice has been traced in the *Edinburgh Courant*, whose office was next door to Covenant Close, between June 1846 and December 1847. He is not on record at the Court of the Lord Lyon as having held any official position as Herald Painter (I am indebted to Mrs C.W.G. Roads, Lyon Clerk, for this information).

Laing MS III.666, and a bundle of papers also in Edinburgh University Library (Laing MS II.607), also written by Blackie, show that at least in his later years he was a professional genealogical researcher, who used Register House and private sources as well as printed works. There is no evidence as to how David Laing acquired his papers. Laing II.607 contains many family genealogies, and some accompanying correspondence. On 15 November 1836, writing from the New Club, one of Sir John Sinclair of Ulbster's sons invited Blackie to call at 133 George Street; and on 18 September 1840 Blackie made a copy of a report to an unnamed client on the descent of Forbes of Pitsligo. Some 'Notes as to the family of Forbes of Culloden taken from the family Bible there', included in the bundle, may indicate a visit to the North.

Laing III.666 confirms a Northern interest. As well as further genealogies, with dates up to 1847, this volume contains a copy of a 'MS relative to the family of Ross'. This MS, which Blackie believed to have been written shortly after the death of David Ross XII of Balnagown in 1653, comprised eighty pages in small quarto, of which six were missing (Blackie, 97). It contained a text of the *Brieve Cronicle of the Earlis of Ross* with additions, as printed by W.R. Baillie in 1850. Inserted in the text was a list of the abbots of Fearn, not printed by Baillie, which makes it unlikely that Blackie's source was the 'Deuchar MS' used by Baillie (*Cronicle*, p. ii). It is possible that Blackie had access to Laing MS III.504, an eighteenth-century compilation (the latest date given in it is 3 November 1729), which also includes a text of the *Cronicle*, but not the list of abbots.

In addition to the *Cronicle*, the Ross MS copied by Blackie contained a lengthy account of the descendants of Mr William Ross of Little Allan. Mr Thomas Ross may well have been the original writer. Out of twenty-four dates given in this account, fifteen relate to members of his immediate family, and the majority of the remainder to other connections by blood. The text also contains lengthy digressions on the families of his mother, Margaret Murison (131), and his wife, Isobel Kinnaird (230). The last date given is 15 August 1607 (the birth of his granddaughter Barbara Murison); the deaths of his granddaughter-in-law, Margaret Strachan (291) in 1629 and his daughter, Barbara Murison (293) in 1632 are not noted. It is likely that additions were made in various hands over a number of years, much as in the *Calendar* itself. An irate comment that Mr Robert Ross, minister of Tain (1665-99), had detained the volume and had added a passage on the Ross of Shandwick descent shows that the volume was still in circulation in the late seventeenth century (Blackie, 67).

Blackie's transcript does not distinguish between hands, or give any indication of the layout of the original; as a result, it is at times difficult to attach details to names. Further,

his copying is often clearly unintelligent. The extracts here given relate to Mr William Ross of Little Allan, his second son Walter Ross of Shandwick (50), Walter's son William of Culnaha, and the latter's four sons (including Mr Thomas) and one daughter by his second marriage. People or events appearing in the *Calendar* are identified by number, and obvious copying infelicities are noted. For discussion of some aspects of the value of the account as an historical source, see 32-3.

[pp. 39-40] The names of the sonnys and daughters of umquhile Mr. William Ross of Little Allan, son to the Sixt Laird of Balnagown callit for the tyme Huchon Ross, beand descendit fra the second son to Huchen the 4 Earle of Ross of that surname, and his mother beand the Earle of Orkney's daughter callit Ellen Sinclair. The quhilk Mr. William Ross departit in ane battell at Aldecharvesh [40] for defence of his country the eleventh day of June 1487. He was takesman of Easter Tarbat, Inverchasly, Easter Little Allan. He was sub Dean of Ross and Parson of Rosskeen. He gave over the subdeanery of Ross to his Brother Mr. Thomas Ross, Provost of Taine. He had the most part of the lands of Taine betwixt himself and the said Mr. Thomas. Also the said Mr. William was tacksman of Mullierch, Kildermorie, tua Kanlochis, Kandloch more and Kandloch beg, in quhilk Island Lochmore. He bigget ane House in ane Island within the loch of Kandlochmore and dwelt there as oft as he pleased. Also the said Mr. William Ross was takesman of ane quarter land of Mickie Allan, had ane house and dwelt in the west end of the town. And the said Mr. William was marryit on McOniles daughter Mary, daughter to Goirry McOnill, John Isles brother, quhilk was McOnill Lord of the Isles and Earl of Ross. The said Mary McOnill buire to the said Mr. William Ross four sons, viz. Alexander, Walter [50], Huchen, and Sir John Ross [46], also she buire to him 7 daughters.

[p. 43] The second son of the said Mr. William Ross, called Walter Ross of Shandwick (50), had a tack of the King, the wester quarter of Meikle Earles Allan, quhilk now William Munro possesses. He had in tack the haille town of Dunskeath with the chapel-land of the same for the tyme he was parson of Contin, Clerk of Rosskeen, and had forty pounds of pension out of the parsonage of Rosskeen. He was brother [sic] to the Bishop of Ross and had ane quarterland of Kindease Little. The said Walter Ross of Shandwick had six wyffes viz. Janet Tulloch, Agnes McCulloch the laird of Cadboll's daughter, Bessy Hay the Earl of Errol his brother's daughter, Fynzeart the Chisolm of Strathglass' daughter, her mother beand the Lord of the Isles his daughter, Isobell Monro the laird of Fowles his brother's daughter, and Agnes Forbes daughter to Duncan Forbes in Shuglass.

[pp. 47-8] The said Janet [Tulloch] her first son to Walter Ross of Shandwick was callit William Ross of Culnaha, who had two wives, the first callit Katherine Mureson, and who dwelt in Taine, thereafter in Cadboll fishar, and last of all dwelt in Culnaha who remained there as long as he lived.

The said Katherine buire to the said William 3 lads and eight lasses, and not one of them liveand except one son called Walter and 2 daughters, the one of them called Catherine and the other called Christian. The said Walter begate ane bastard son callit Alexander upon Meg Smith. Therafter the said Walter was married upon ane widow in Westray callit Effock, daughter to William Alexander his son, who buire him divers bairnes, and nane of them living except one callit John, passit to Ireland. Catherine Ross daughter to the said William Ross of Culnaha was marryit to one called John Moir in Meikle Kindeass. She buire him aught bairnes and none of them living except 2 sons, Alexander

and William, and ane daughter callit Catherine. The said Christian Ross, daughter to William Ross of Culnaha, was married to ane honest husband man in Rarichies, called Alexander Anguson. She buir him 5 sons and 2 daughters, and all departit except John, Andrew and Donald. Therafter the said Christian was married on ane Donald Rayne in Rarichies. She buir him 4 bairnes, and none alive except Anguiss, Alexander and John. The said Janet [sic] is marryed with ane craftsman called Donald Roy Webster. She buire him Agnes marryed on ane cordiner called William Gough [?Tuach].

[p. 49] His [William Ross of Culnaha's] second wife Margaret Muresone [131], daughter to Hendry Muresone of Pitchadly calid of the Boyne, buire to him divers bairnes who all departit at the pleasure of God except 4 sones and ane daughter, viz. Mr. Thomas Ross [93, 221] and Alexander Ross [226], Donald [217] and Ongues [sic].

[p. 51] Margaret Murison daughter to the said Hendrie Muireson came to Ross with the Lady Balnagown called Marrion Grant [110] daughter to the Laird of Grant, her mother being daughter to the Laird of Finlater, the said Marion being marryed to the Laird of Balnagown called Walter Ross [48] who was slaine in Taine the 12th day of May 1528 years. The said Margaret Muireson being chamber maid to Lady Balnagown, through the favour she had with the house of Finlater, left her own country of Boyne and came to Ross. The said William Ross of Culnaha being then gentleman to the laird, marryed with her, and by her begate six bairnes as befoir mentioned.

[pp. 52-5] We . . . will come to Margaret Muireson's eldest son to William Ross of Culnaha, called Mr Thomas Ross, Commendator of Fearn, Provost of Tayne, Parson and Vicar of Alness, who marryed Isobell Kinnaird [231], daughter to Alexander Kinnaird, Laird of Culbin in Morray. She buire him 2 lads and two lasses and leaves but Walter Ross [149, 345], who was born the 7th day of July at 10 hours forenoon anno 1571, and William Ross [155], who was born the last of October being Sunday anno 1574, and Barbara Ross [160, 293] who was born the 6th of August 1577.

Walter son to Mr. Thomas Ross commendator of Fearn was marryed on Hugh Ross [279] of Auchnaclogh's daughter upon the 4th day of January 1594, her name beand Jannet Ross [222], who buire to him Mr Thomas Ross [348] 24 March 1599, Hugh Ross the 2d of August 1560 [rectius 1600], and one daughter called Isobell. Therafter the said Walter Ross marryed Alison Clephane [355], only daughter to Hendry Clephane burgess of Bruntland, who buire him sundry bairnes, viz. William, John, Walter, James, Robert Rosses, Margaret, Barbara, Hellen, Jannet and Anne Rosses. The most of them all dyed in their young age and Barbara being marryed . . . dyed.

Barbara Ross daughter to the said Commendator of Fearn was marryed on Andrew Murison Collector Depute [299] upon Midsummer day being the 24 of June 1595, to whom she buir ane daughter called Isobell Murison the twelfth day of January ane thousand five hundred fourscore sixteen years, who dyed young, and annothir daughter called Margaret upon the sixt day of April anno 1601, who was marryed with Mr. David Ross of Logie, and buire him sundry bairnes. Therafter she [Barbara Ross] buire to the said Andrew in December 1602 ane son called Thomas, who dyed being 17 years of age. Therafter she buire the said Andrew Barbara Murison, upon the 15th of August 1607, who was marryed to Kenneth McKenzie, son to Mr John McKenzie of Dingwall, and buire him sundry bairnes.

The second son of Margaret Murison whom she buire to William Ross of Culnaha was called Alexander [226], and was marryed on Marrion Angusson, daughter to Angus Angusson in Rarichies, who buir him divers bairnes, and non of them living but Donald Ross. The said Alexander marryed a widou thereafter who buire him nae bairnes.

The third son of William Ross called Donald Ross [217] begate 2 daughters one ane Laird [sic] in Caithness, the one of them marryed William Ross portioner of Little Kindeass and the other marryed ane George Murison in Little Allan. Thereafter the said Donald marryed Helen Clunie and dwells in Little Reynie, and has an quarter of the samen in nineteen years tack, and has ane quarter of Meikle Reynie in few payand therefor the Abbot's duty. The said Donald marryed thereafter Grisell Dunbar daughter to George Dunbar and begate on her ane daughter called Isobell Ross, Janet and Barbara, whilk Barbara departit. And the said Donald departed the 30 day of May 1595, and was buried in Fearn in the sepulchre of his guidsir viz. Walter Ross of Shandwick [50] within the Abbey Kirk.

The fourth son of William Ross of Culnaha called John Ross, messenger, who is dwelland in the Channorie of Ross and has the few croft and mans of the parsonage of Alnes in the said Channorie, and is man [sic] of Kilmuire, and is marryed with Helen Thomson [202]. She buire him divers bairnes. The said John Ross departed at Tayn in My Lord of Fearn's house, and was buried in Fearn beside his grandsire Mr. William [sic] Ross.

The said Mr. William Ross of Culnaha begate ane daughter on Magaret Muirson called Nans Ross, who was marryed by the said Mr. Thomas Ross her brother upon ane good husband man, called John Ross alias Reid, because he had reid hair. She buire him divers sons and daughters, and none of them alive except ane called Thomas [206] and two lasses called Marion and Isobell. The said Thomas departed at Tayne the 22d of December 1591 years.

## APPENDIX C

## Alexander Ross of Balnagown's Subscription List, 1565

This document from the Monro of Allan Papers (SRO GD71/451) is printed without commentary. Numbers have been added in square brackets for individuals recorded in the *Calendar*.

Forsamikill as It is thot neidfull and expedient be Alexr Ross of Balnagown and his awyn surname to tak ordour In raleving of ye saids allexrs wotset lands that thai and thair houss may be in eis and honor and Ilkane of tham to tak pairt of —astnes [?assistance] to ye samyn effect in this present zeir of thrie scwir fyv zeris and to reiss ye samyn as eftir folowes

Item In primis allexr ross of balnagown [216] to perfurneiss for hymself xvi chalder and ane thousand merks money

The Supplee that ye lard chargis his awyn friendds of as he belevis thai will do gladly

Item sacuntlie nicholas commendator of ferne [143] vj chalders victual *grantit*

Wm Ross in Ardy [145] ane hundreth merks money *grantit*

Huchon Ross of Tollie [212] thrie chalders victual *grantit*

Allexr Ross of Allan Lytill [161] thrie chalders victual *grantit*

Huchon Ross of Muldarg ane chalder victual *grantit*

Nicholas Ross of Dunskaith [165] ane chalder victual

Wm Ross of Eister Gane [142] ane chalder victual *grantit*

Donald Ross of Priesthill [148] ane chalder victual *grantit*

Allexr Ross in Pitcalnie ane chalder victual *grantit*

Donald Ross in Sandwok [?187] ane chalder victual *grantit*

Wm Ross in Ballone ane chalder victual *grantit*

Donald Ross in Ballamwche [229] ane chalder victual *grantit*

Wm Ross in Balmwche viij bolls victual *grantit*

Alexr Ross Huchonson in Catboll viij bolls victual £10

Allexr Ross in Annot viij bolls victual *grantit*

Thomas Ross of Rane Mekill [147] viij bolls victual *grantit*

Thomas Ross in Tarbat viij bolls victual *grantit*

Donald Ross Williamson in Ballablaire viij bolls victual *grantit*

Walter Ross in Kyntheiss viij bolls victual

Allexr Ross in Badferne viij bolls victual *grantit*

Donald Ross Williamson in Vestir Gane viij bolls victual *grantit*

Agnes Ross in Pitzere [211] ane chalder victual *grantit*

Agnes Ross Skarde viij bolls victual

Summa xliij chalders victual



Thirdly It is thot expedient that the said Alexander Ross of Balnagoun and his awyn kyn desyrs in harthynes and kyndnes The Supple that may be had thee said zeir fra awthr gentill men in this cuntray to ye honor and veillfayr of ye howss of Balnagoun

In primis James Dunbar of Tarbat thray chalders victual  
 George Monro of Dawachcarte [158] thray chalders victual  
 Allexr Innes of Plaidis thray chalders victual *denyit*  
 John Innes of Innerbrakie thray chalders victual  
 Jasper Vaus of Lochslyne thray chalders victual  
 Valter Innes of Kandruf [153] thray chalders victual  
 John Mccullot of Tarrell 1 chalder victual *grantit xx lib.*  
 Andrew Munro of Newmoyr [248] 1 chalder victual  
 Andrew Munro in Nyg [166] 1 chalder victual  
 Valter Innes in Tarbat [234] 1 chalder victual  
 Androw Denowne of Catboll 1 chalder victual *grantit xx marks*  
 Thomas Denowne in Rarechie 1 chalder victual  
 Wm Munro in Mekill Allane viij bolls victual *grantit*  
 Allexr Ferne in Pitknellie [218] 1 chalder victual  
 Fynlay Mansoun in Pitknellane viij bolls victual  
 James Corbat in Arkboll viij bolls victual  
 John Denowne in Arkboll viij bolls victual *grantit*  
 Robert Sudderland in Gane viij bolls victual  
 Gilbert Keyt of Lytill Allane viij bolls victual  
 Donald Munro of Tarlokke [250] viij bolls victual  
 Adam Hay in Cambuscurrie viij bolls victual  
 Androw Suddrland in Inschefuir viij bolls victual *grantit*  
 Johne Suddrland William Suddrland George and Robert 1 chalder victual  
 Thomas Forbes in Roskane viij bolls victual  
 Mangus Angussson in Rarechie viij bolls victual *grantit*

Summa xv chalders victual

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Page references are given in **bold type** where the item is the subject of an Addition to the text of the *Calendar*, and precede all other references. Footnote references are given where these are the only references on a page. For convenience, personal names are indexed by the last element, unless clear family names (e.g. MacCulloch, Ross) appear earlier. Landed family names precede others, and are given in order of descent. Other names are listed alphabetically. Where the same person appears as burgess/bailie/provost only the highest designation is given. Spelling variants are given in brackets at the first appearance of the word concerned. Place-name variants are given geographically, unless they appear only in landed family names.

### Abbreviations

arch. archdeacon; b. burgess; bl. bailie; bp. bishop; can. canon; chanc. chancellor; minr. minister; pars. parson; pr. provost; rect. rector; vic. vicar.  
 Alex. Alexander; And. Andrew; Arch. Archibald; Cath. Catherine; Don. Donald; Eliz. Elizabeth; Kath. Katherine; Mgt. Margaret; Nich. Nicholas; Rob. Robert; Wm. William; Wr. Walter.

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1990-1991

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*Membership of the Scottish History Society  
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*For an annual subscription of £15.00  
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*Enquiries should be addressed to the  
Honorary Treasurer, whose address  
is given above.*

## 104th ANNUAL REPORT

*Presented to the Annual General Meeting  
by the Council, 8 December 1990.*

The third volume of the new Fifth Series, *The Calendar of Fearn: Text and Additions, 1471-1667*, edited by Professor Robin Adam, has regrettably been delayed in its final stages. Work on it, however, progresses satisfactorily. It is a wide ranging volume, full of interest to historians of the late medieval and early modern periods alike.

Following the appeal made in last year's annual report, the Council received a number of proposals for future publications. The following volumes, which cover a pleasingly wide range of period, have been accepted for future publication: *The Black Book of Coldingham, 1298-1430*, edited by Dr Joseph Donnelly; *The Scottish Office: Depression and Reconstruction, 1919-1959*, edited by Dr Ian Levitt; and *British Linen Company Papers, 1745-1775*, edited by Dr Alastair Durie. Along with an edition of *De Imperio Britannico* by Sir John Clerk, edited by Professor Douglas Duncan, which has already been accepted by the Council, the schedule of future publications now extends to 1995.

In financial terms, the ever increasing cost of producing volumes was met by a raising of the annual Society subscription from £12 to £15. The response of members has been encouraging, and the Society's financial position is healthy. The move this year to the Bank of Scotland's new Treasurer's Account, which will mean that the Society can now receive interest on current account, should be beneficial; the Carnegie Trust has again granted £600 to the Society; and the sale of past Society volumes has been going well.

The two members of Council who now retire by rotation are Mr George Dalgleish and Dr E.P.D. Torrie. Dr Jean Munro, who would have been due to retire this year, was last year elected as Chairman of Council. To replace Mr Dalgleish and Dr Torrie, Council nominates the following for election by the Annual General Meeting: Dr Alan Borthwick and Dr Jane Dawson. Any other nominations made by at least two other members of the Society should reach the Honorary Secretary not less than seven days before the AGM.

During the past year two members of the Society have died, eight have resigned and eight have been removed for non payment of subscription. Fourteen new members have joined. The total membership, including sixteen joint members and 200 libraries, is now 731 compared with 735 in 1989.

ABSTRACT ACCOUNT OF CHARGE AND DISCHARGE OF THE  
INTROMISSIONS OF THE HONORARY TREASURER

1 October 1989 to 30 September 1990

I. GENERAL ACCOUNT

CHARGE

I	Cash in Bank at 1 October 1989	
1.	Sum at Credit of Savings Account with Bank of Scotland	£400.00
2.	Sum at Credit of Premium Account with Bank of Scotland	10,838.11
3.	Sum at Credit of Current Account with Bank of Scotland	63.18
		<hr/>
		11,301.29
II	Subscriptions received	9,682.41
III	Past Publications sold	783.25
IV	Interest on Premium Account with Bank of Scotland	3,137.12
V	Interest on Savings Account with Bank of Scotland	390.76
VI	Income Tax Refund, 1988-897 (awaited)	
VII	Donations	12,500.00
VIII	Grant from Carnegie Trust	600.00
IX	Sums drawn from Bank Current Account	£10,611.75
X	Sums drawn from Bank Savings Account	nil
		<hr/>
		38,394.83

## DISCHARGE

I	Cost of publications during year	nil
	Cost of printing Annual Reports, Brochures, Notices, Postage etc	492.20
		<hr/> 492.20
II	Office Bearer and Secretarial expenses	431.00
III	Insurance	70.86
IV	Postage on Past Publications	298.00
V	Bank Charges	251.26
VI	Miscellaneous Payments (AGM, Refunds etc)	359.19
VII	Sums lodged in Bank Current Account	£11,128.84
VIII	Sums lodged in Bank Savings Account	£35,975.23
IX	Funds at close of this Account:	
	1. Balance at credit of Savings Account with Bank of Scotland £9,500.00	
	2. Balance at credit of Premium Account with Bank of Scotland 26,475.23	
	3. Balance at credit of Current Account with Bank of Scotland 517.09	
		<hr/> 36,492.32
		£38,394.83

GLASGOW, 14 November 1990. I have examined the General Account of the Honorary Treasurer of the Scottish History Society for the year from 1 October 1989 to 30 September 1990 and find the same to be correctly stated and sufficiently vouched.

JOHN A. SMITH  
Auditor













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