

# THE CELTIC MAGAZINE.

CONDUCTED BY

*ALEXANDER MACKENZIE, F.S.A., Scot.*

---

---

No. CX.

DECEMBER 1884

VOL. X.

---

---

## THE MUNROS OF MILNTOWN.

BY ALEXANDER ROSS.

---

THE family of Milntown and a few of its cadets spelt their name at different periods, and often indiscriminately, *Monro* and *Munro*. The latter is the form adopted in this and the following chapters, as being, on the whole, nearer the general pronunciation, and that which has been used by the Chiefs of the Clan for the last two centuries.

The founder of the family of Milntown, in or about the year 1465, was John, son of Hugh Munro, twelfth Baron of Fowlis, by his second marriage with Lady Margaret Sutherland, daughter of Nicolas, eighth Earl of Sutherland, grand-daughter of William, fifth Earl of Sutherland, and of his wife, the Princess Margaret, eldest daughter of the second marriage of King Robert the Bruce.

John Munro was called the Tutor of Fowlis, on account of his having been for many years guardian of his nephew, John, the young Baron of Fowlis, whose father, George, and grand-father, Hugh, were killed at the battle of Bealach-na-Broige, in 1452. He is recorded as having "purchased the ward of the lands of Fowlis, in favor of his neevy, the sone of his deid brother George Munroe."\*

In a manuscript History of the Munros, written apparently about the year 1712, John Munro is described as a "bold, forward,

\* History of the Earldom of Sutherland.



daring gentleman, esteemed by his sovereign, and loved by his friends." It was he who fought the Battle of Clachnaharry, near Inverness, with the Mackintoshes.

The following is the account of this sanguinary conflict given by Sir Robert Gordon in his *History of the Earldom of Sutherland*:—"John Monroe, tutor of Foulis, travelling homeward on his journey from the South of Scotland towards Rosse, did repose himself by the way in Strathardale, between Sanct Johnstoun (Perth) and Athole, wher he fell at variance with the inhabitants of that countrey, who had abused him. Being returned home to Rosse, he gathered together his whole kinsmen and followers, and declared into them how he had been used, craveing withall their aid to revenge himself of that injurie; unto the which motion they hearkned willinglie, and yeelded to assist him to the uttermost of their abilities. Whereupon he singled out thrie hundred and fyftie of the best and ablest men among them, and went with these to Strathardall, which he wasted and spoiled, killed some of the people, and careid away their cattell. In his return home, as he wes passing by the ile of Moy with the prey, Mackintosh (cheftan of the Clanchattan) sent to him to crave a pairt of the spoile, being persuaded thereto by some evill disposed persons about him, and challenging the same as due unto him by custome. John Monroe, in curtesie, offered into Mackintosh a reasonable portion, which he, thorow evill counsell, refused to accept, and wold have no less than the half of the whole booty; whereunto John Monroe wold not hearken nor yield, bot goeth on his intended journie homeward. Mackintosh conveens his forces with all dilligence, and followes John Monroe, whom he overtook at Clagh-ne-Hayre, besyd Inverness, hard by the ferrie of Kessak. John perceaving Mackintosh and his companie following them hard at hand, he sent fyftie of his men home to Ferrindonald with the spoile, and encouraged the rest of his followers to fight: so ther ensued a cruell conflict, wherein Mackintosh was slain, with the most part of his companie; divers of the Monroes were also ther slain. John Monroe wes left as deid in the field, and wes taken up by the Lord Lovat his predicessor, who careid him to his hous, wher he was cured of his wounds; and wes from thence foorth called John Bacelawigh, becaus he wes mutilat of one of his hands all the rest of his dayes. From this John Bacelawigh



Monroe of the familie of Milntown Monroe descended." The date assigned by Sir Robert for this conflict is 1333.

In a manuscript account of the "Conflicts in Scotland" there is a report of this clan battle of Clachnaharry, which in all important particulars, mainly agrees with the above, except in the date, 1341, which can hardly be accurate; neither can the year 1333; but that of 1454, given by Shaw, is more likely to be correct. At page 219 of his "Province of Morayshire," he says — "A shameful and bloody conflict happened betwixt the Mackintoshes and Munroes in the year 1454. The occasion was this — John Munroe, tutor of Fowles, in his return from Edinburgh, rested upon a meadow in Strathardale, and both he and his servants falling asleep, the peevish owner of the meadow cut off the tails of his horses. This he resented as the Turks would resent the cutting off their horses' tails, which they reckon a greivous insult. He returned soon with three hundred and fifty men, spoiled Strathardale, and drove away their cattle; in passing the Loch of Moy in Strathern he was observed. Mackintosh, then residing in the Island of Moy, sent to ask a *Stike Raide*, or *Stick Crieck*, that is, a Road Collop; a custom among the Highlanders, that when a party drove away spoil through a gentleman's land they should give him part of the spoil. Munroe offered what he thought reasonable, but more was demanded; Mackintosh, irritated by some provoking words, given to his messenger, convocated a body of men, pursued the Munroes, and at Clachnaharie, near Inverness, they fought desperately. Many were killed on each side, among whom was the Laird of Mackintosh; John Munroe was wounded and laimed, and was after called John Bacilach. The Munroes had great advantage of ground by lurking among the rocks; whilst the Mackintoshes were exposed to their arrows. How rude and barbarous was the spirit of men in those days? and upon what trifling, nay shameful, provocations did they butcher one another."

There is another narration of this fight, given in the "Historical Account of the Family of Frisel or Fraser," pages 54-5, on the authority of MSS. of Frasers in the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh (p. 114), as follows:—

"On the 27th of June 1378, the Munroes, a distinguished tribe in Ross, returning from an inroad they had made in the south of



Scotland, passed by Moyhall, the *seat* of Mackintosh, leader of the Clan Chattan. A share of the booty, or road-collop, payable to a chief for traversing his domains, was demanded and acceded to; but Mackintosh's avaricious coveting the whole, his proposal met with contempt. Mackintosh summoned his vassals to extort compliance. The Munroes pursuing their journey, forded the River Ness a little above the Island, and dispatched the cattle they had plundered across the hill of Kinmylies, to Lovat's province. Their enemies came up with them, at the point of Clagnahayre, and immediately joined battle. The conflict was such as might have been expected from men excited to revenge by a long and inveterate enmity. Quarter was neither sought nor granted. After an obstinate struggle, Mackintosh was killed. The survivors of his band retraced their steps to their own country. John Munro, tutor of Foulis, was left for dead upon the field; from the loss of his arm he ever after acquired the name of John Back-Lawighe. The Munroes were not long in retaliating. Having collected a sufficient force, they marched in the dead of night for the Isle of Moy, where the Chief of the Mackintoshes resided. By the aid of some planks which they had carried with them, and now put together, they crossed to the Isle, and glutted their thirst for revenge by murder or captivity of all the inmates."

There are other notices of this fight—in Pennants "First Tour" in Scotland in 1769, as also in Anderson's "Scottish Nation," vol. iii., page 214, and in Brown's "History of the Highlands," vol. i., page 151, which vary very little from those above given. The following account, which was written by Mackintosh of Kinrara, about two hundred years after the event, bears every mark of being an unbiassed statement; he moreover treats of the encounter as one he deploras. It will be seen that, though not generally known, the principal actors were not only reconciled, but became brothers-in-law:—

"In 1454 a sudden and unexpected contest sprung up between Malcolm Mackintosh, commonly called Gillicallum Oig, Mac-Mic-Gillicallum Beg, grandson of the afore-mentioned Mackintosh (of Mackintosh), and John Munro, tutor of Fowlis. A very keen contest followed. The origin of it was this:—John Munro was second son of Hugh Munro of Fowlis, and acted tutor



to John Munro, his nephew, by his brother, George Munro of Fowlis. Returning from a tour to the South for despatching his pupil's business, a dissension took place between him and the inhabitants of Strathardale. He was contemptuously treated and loaded with great abuse. Intent upon revenge he comes home, informing his friends and relations of the injury he has sustained, and implores their assistance. At the head of two hundred chosen men he advances with all possible speed, and before his approach is observed enters Strathardale, ravages the country, and carries off the herds of cattle. At the River Findhorn, on his return, the afore-mentioned Malcolm Oig meets him by accident, and understanding the matter, is urged by the young men that follow him to demand a part of the plunder. John offers him twenty-four cows and a bull, which Malcolm Oig proudly and rashly rejects, insisting on no less than one-third part. John treats his demand with scorn, and proceeds on his way, determined to give none. Malcolm Oig incensed, instantly communicates this to his friends, and immediately commands the inhabitants of Petty and Lochardil to follow John and obstruct his passage until he, with the men of Strathnairn, shall have come up. His commands are obeyed. They pursue John beyond the water of Ness, and overtake him at a place called Clachnaharry. He (John), sends off forty men with the booty, and encourages the rest to fight. A fierce conflict ensues. A few fell on each side. John, almost slain, is left among the dead, but Lord Lovat upon better information takes care of his recovery. John was afterwards called 'Baichlich,' *i.e.* maimed, because he lost his hand in that engagement. From him descended the family of Milntown. Malcolm Oig was not present in that battle, which arose from his temerity, for the conflict took place before he came up. "The same Malcolm Oig afterwards married Janet Munro, sister of John."

The chief difficulty remaining is to fix the correct date of the event, as there are so many discrepancies in the different historians, although they all agree in the main facts — the years 1333, 1341 (in Lawrie's "Scots Wars," page 116), 1378, and 1454, being variously stated by them. Sir Robert Gordon was not over-exact in giving dates to the events which he describes, and the year (1333) given by him may be at once discarded; and, for many reasons, that of 27th June 1378, assigned to it in the



“MS. History of the Frasers,” though the only one stating the month, can hardly be accepted as decisive. I am inclined to accept the year 1454 as the actual date of the battle of Clachnaharry. No chief of the Clan Mackintosh, from Angus, who fought at Bannockburn, and died in 1346, aged 77, down to Malcolm Beg—noticed above—who died in 1457 at the age of 90, is recorded by any writer of their history as having been so killed; yet all the historians above quoted—except Mackintosh of Kinrara—agree in saying that the Chief of the Mackintoshes was slain at Clachnaharry, a circumstance which is quite unaccountable, and I leave it as a *crux* in chronology.

The sobriquet given to John Munro should be spelt “Bac-lamhach.” “Bac-lamh” is a manacle or handcuff; “Bac-lamhach” means disabled in the hand. “Coitach” should be spelt “Ciotach.” “Coit” signifies a “coble” or “coracle.” “Ciotach” is the proper word for “lefthand.” Both words were evidently applied to John Munro “Bac-lamhach,” because he was lame-handed. “Ciotach” because he became so expert in the use of the left hand as to make both terms equally applicable—“Ian Bac-lamhach,” “John Lamchand;” “Ian Ciotach,” “John Left-hand.”

*Clach-na-Faire*, or as it is now spelt, Clachnaharry, literally means, in Gaelic, “the stone of watching.” This stone was placed by the authorities of Inverness in a conspicuous position, with men on the watch, from early morning to nightfall, to give an alarm of any threatened raid from Ross; the view from the place being so commanding as to enable them to see any hostile approach, whether by crossing Kessock Ferry, or coming round by the head of the Beaully Firth. A commemorative monument was, several years ago, erected by the late Hugh Robert Duff of Muirtown, on a site amid the rocks where the conflict took place.

John Munro I. of Milntown, married late in life, and left, at least, two sons—

1. Andrew Mòr, his successor, and
2. John of Kilmorack, who married a daughter of Henry Urquhart of Davidston, in the parish of Cromarty, by whom he had, among others, a son,

Donald, who married Jane, daughter of William M’Vorchie that is, William, son of Murdoch—by whom he had two sons—



(1) Thomas, and

(2) Alexander, who migrated to Lochbroom, where he married, and had a son, John, who entered the Church, and in 1569 was presented to the vicarage of his native parish by King James VI. He died in 1573, and in that year James presented Angus Macneil Mackenzie to the vicarage.

Thomas, III. of Kilmorack, married Jean, daughter of Hugh Ross of Milderg, by whom he had a son, Andrew. He had also a natural son, named Donald.

Andrew married Anne, daughter of Angus M'Vorchie of Inveran, by whom he had two sons—

(1) John, and (2) Alexander.

John married Isabella, daughter of Donald Munro of Milntown of Alness, by whom he had, among others—

(1) Robert, and (2) Donald.

Robert married Christian, daughter of Donald Brown of Acharn, in the parish of Alness, by whom he had two sons—

(1) Donald, and

(2) Hector, who entered the army, and fought at the battle of Worcester, where he was taken prisoner, and banished to the Barbadoes. I have not succeeded in tracing further the descent of this branch.

John Munro, I. of Milntown, died about the year 1475, and was succeeded by his eldest son—

II. Andrew, who is stated to have been "a bold, austere, and gallant gentleman, esteemed by his friends, and a terror to his enemies." It was he who built the Castle of Milntown; and in connection with its erection Sir Robert Gordon makes the following observation, on page 146 of his *Earldom of Sutherland*:—

"About the year A.D. 1500, the Monroes of Milntown began to build the castell of Milntoun. Their next neighbours, the Rosses of Balnagown, endevoard to stop and hinder them from the building of the castell. But Earl John of Sutherland went himself in persone to defend them against Balnagowan, his bragings. Then returning home into Sutherland, he did leave a companie of men at Milntown, for their defence against the Rosses, untill the most part of that castell was finished; which kyndness the Monroes of Milntoun doe acknowledge unto this day."



The Laird, or Chief of Balnagown at that period, was Sir David Ross, Knight, who played a conspicuous part in the history of Ross-shire, of which he was for several years sheriff. It is a remarkable fact that a lineal descendant—Lord Tarbat—of that John, Earl of Sutherland, who assisted the Munros in their contentions with the Rosses of Balnagown and their allies, will, at some future period, inherit the very place that his ancestor defended, now called New Tarbat, formerly Milntown, the vaults of which now only remain at the back-ground of the modern mansion-house of New Tarbat, built by the late Lord Macleod, who died in 1789, and great-great-grandfather of the present Duchess of Sutherland, mother of Lord Tarbat.

According to an entry in the "Kalendar of Fearn," the old castle of Milntown was burnt down accidentally by the nest of a jackdaw, which had been built in some part of the house, taking fire. The entry in the Register quaintly records that on "the 19 of May 1642, the hous of Milntown was burnt negligentie be ane keai's nest."

Andrew married and left one son, Andrew, on account of his low statue, called Andrew "Beg."

Andrew Mòr of Milntown, died in 1501, and was succeeded by his only son.



# THE MUNROS OF MILNTOWN.

BY ALEXANDER ROSS.



## II.

III. ANDREW BEG MUNRO, who is said to have been of a very ferocious disposition, on which account he was called the "Black Baron;" but being hereditary Bailie, or Maor of Ross, during a part of Queen Mary's reign, he had no doubt to exercise great severity in the then lawless state of the country.

In 1512 King James IV. granted to Andrew Beg "the croft, called the markland of Tulloch" (Tullich) for the yearly payment of one pound of wax, payable at Midsummer within the Chapel of Delny.\* The value of a pound of wax at that time, according to the Books of Exchequer, was ten shillings Scots, or tenpence sterling. The Chapel of Delny, which was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, stood in the old burying-ground, between the present farm-house of Delny and the county road behind it, till near the end of the last century, when James Munro, the farmer of Delny, demolished the old building and used the stones in the erection of his farm premises, and the mortar in improving his land; and ploughed up the burying-ground with the intention of adding it to the contiguous field. The late Rev. John Matheson, parish minister of Kilmuir-Easter, and grandfather of Bailie Matheson, Tain, on hearing of this species of vandalism and

\* *Origines Parochiales Scotiae*, vol. ii. p. 460.



sacrilege, visited the spot, and found it all covered with the bones of the dead, which had been turned up with the plough. He represented to Munro the indelicacy of his conduct, persuaded him to collect the relics, and deposit them again in the earth. This the farmer duly performed, and this neglected spot, where, perhaps, was laid—

“ Some heart once pregnant with celestial fire ;  
Hands that the rod of empire might have swayed,  
Or waked to ecstasy the living lyre ”—

was afterwards enclosed and laid out with grass.

A short distance to the north of the site of the Chapel stood the priest's house, and the spot is on that account called *Cnoc-an-t-Sagairt* (the hill of the priest), Priesthill. In the beginning of the last century, the remains of a cross stood on the hill at the extremity of the hamlet. Thither all the people belonging to the Barony or Maordom of Delny, which comprehended a great part of the County of Ross, resorted once a year to pay homage to their superior. Here, also, the barons held their criminal courts. In ancient times the right of pit and gallows — *furca et fossa* — was the true mark of a true baron, who had jurisdiction in life and limb — *curia vitæ et membrorum*. It was not the peculiar taste of our barbarous ancestors: all feudal lords through feudal Europe were equally fond and proud of the right of executing those whom they had first convicted and sentenced to death. The French had the phrase *avec haute et basse justice*, which meant nothing more than the “right of pit and gallows.” The gallow-hill is still an object of interest, and human bones have been frequently found in its vicinity. The gallow-hill of the Barony of Milntown is situated on the march between Milntown and Balnagown, near Logie Free Church Manse; and the drowning-pool is adjacent to the Manse. Here, in 1864, while excavations were being made in connection with the construction of the railway, a number of human bones were found, the remains, no doubt, of the poor wretches who died at the hands of “Black” Andrew Munro. The “pit” was for the female criminal; for women sentenced to death were, for the most part, drowned. The “gallows” was for the male defaulters, who were invariably hanged. There is a hill within a mile of Delny called *Cnoc-na-Croich*, or the “hill of the gallows”; and on the summit of this



hill was a circular pool of water, many fathoms deep, called *Polla-bhathaidh* (the pool of drowning). Here the barons of Delny drowned and hanged their victims. It is not known when the last execution took place here; but a man who died about the year 1750, in Logie, witnessed the last execution which took place at the Milntown "drowning pool," that of a woman for child-murder.\*

In the year 1512, James IV. granted also to Andrew Munro "the lands of Myltoun of Meath with the mill, the office of Chief Mair of the Earldom of Ross, which lands of Myltoun, with the mill and mairdom, had been granted to Andrew and one heir by a letter under the Privy Seal, the grantee paying eight chalders, four bolls of victual, half bear, half meal, of the lesser measure of the Earldom, and to augment the rental by eight bolls."† The Chief Maors or Maormars, were the greatest officers of great districts, and it is to them, and not to the Thanes, that Shakespeare, in "Macbeth," should have made young Malcolm address his speech—"Henceforth be Earls!" The office of Chief Maor of the Earldom of Ross was a very ancient one, and several of the fees and perquisites belonging to it were peculiar. In 1591 a decret of the Lords of Council and Session was obtained by Andrew Munro, V. of Milntown, then principal Maor, or Maor of fee of the Earldom, against Andrew Dingwall and the feuars, farmers, and possessors of the Earldom of Ross, for his fees of the office, to wit 40s. 8d. for the ordinary fee of the said Earldom yearly, and for every sack of corn brought to the shore to be shipped, "ane gopin of corn," estimated at a half-penny a lippy, and out of every chalder of victuals delivered thereat to the Maor, two pecks, etc. The collection of the Maor's fees seems to have caused some trouble, and the law had to be occasionally invoked to enforce payment.

Besides Milntown, Andrew Beg acquired by grants and purchase large possessions in many parts of Ross-shire, namely, Delny, Newmore, in the parish of Rosskeen; Contullich and Kildermorie, in the parish of Alness; Dochcarty, in the parish of Dingwall; Allan, in the parish of Fearn; and Culnaha, in the parish of Nigg; and was, on that account, and the fierceness of his

\*Old Stat. Acct., vol. iv. p. 378.

† Reg. Mag. Sig., lib. xviii. No. 74, and Reg. Sec. Sig., vol. iv. fol. 195.



temper, called by the natives in the vernacular "*Andra Dubh nan seachd Caisteal*" (that is, "Black Andrew of the seven Castles"), having a castle on each of his properties.

In the present day much interest is excited in catching occasional glimpses of the ancient state of society through the chance vistas of tradition. These glimpses serve to show us, in the expressive language of Scripture, "the rock whence we were hewn, and the hole whence we were dug." They serve, too, as Hugh Miller remarks, to dissipate those dreamy imaginings of the good and happiness of the past in which it seems to be an instinct of our nature to indulge; and enables us to correct the exaggerated estimates of that school of philosophy, which sees most to admire in society the farther it recedes from civilisation.

The following is one of those chance glimpses, preserved by Hugh Miller. It is, however, obviously at variance with strict chronology; and the facts stated apparently apply to some other individual, and not to Andrew Munro III. of Milntown, as he died before Sir George Munro of Newmore was born, who is evidently the "Munro of Newmore" referred to. There was no "Munro of Newmore," contemporary with Black Andrew of Milntown, who was laird of Newmore himself; neither was Andrew Munro the last baron of Newtarbat (Milntown). Hugh Miller records:—"That an old man who died in 1829 told him, that when a boy he was sent to the Manse of Resolis to bring back the horse of an elderly gentleman, a retired officer, who had gone to visit the Rev. Hector Macphail, minister of the parish, with the intention of remaining with him a few days. The officer was a silver-headed, erect old man, who had served as an Ensign at the battle of Blenheim, and who, when he had retired on half-pay, about forty years after, was still a poor Lieutenant. His riding days were well nigh over; and the boy overtook him long ere he had reached the manse, and just as he was joined by William Forsyth, merchant, Cromarty, who had come riding up by a cross-road, and then slackened bridle to keep the officer company. The old man spoke much of the allied armies under Marlborough. By far the strongest man in them, he said, was a gentleman from Ross-shire—Munro of Newmore. He had seen him raise a piece of ordnance to his breast, which Mackenzie of Fairburn had succeeded in raising to his knee, but which no other man, among



more than eighty thousand, could lift from off the ground. Newmore was considerably advanced in life at the time. He was a singularly daring, as well as an immensely powerful man, and had signalled himself in early life in the feuds of his native district. Some of his lands bordered on those of Black Andrew Munro, the last baron of Newtarbat, one of the most detestable wretches that ever abused the power of the pit and gallows. But, as at least their nominal politics were the same, and as the baron, though by far the less powerful man, was in, perhaps, a corresponding degree the more powerful proprietor, they had never come to an open rupture."

Newmore, on account of his venturing at times to screen some of the baron's vassals from his fury, by occasionally taking part against him in the quarrel of some of the petty landholders, whom the tyrant never missed an opportunity to oppress, was, by no means, one of his favourites. All the labour of the baron's demesnes was, of course, performed by his vassals as part of their proper service. A late wet harvest came on, and they were employed in cutting down his crops, when their own lay rotting on the ground. It is natural that in such circumstances they should have laboured unwillingly. All their dread of the baron, who remained among them in the fields, indulging in every caprice of fierce and cruel temper, aggravated by irresponsible power, proved scarcely sufficient to keep them at work; and to inspire them with greater terror, an elderly female, who had been engaged during the night in reaping a little field of her own, and had come somewhat late in the morning, was actually stripped naked by the savage, and sent home again. In the evening he was visited by Munro of Newmore, who came, accompanied by only a single servant, to expostulate with him on an act so atrocious and disgraceful. He was welcomed with a show of hospitality; the baron heard him patiently, and called for wine; they sat down and drank together. It was only a few weeks before, however, that one of the neighbouring lairds, who had been treated with a similar show of kindness by the baron, had been stripped half-naked at his table, when in a state of intoxication, and sent home with his legs tied under his horse's belly. Newmore, therefore, kept warily on his guard; he had left his horse ready saddled at the gate, and drank no more than he could



master, which was quite as much, however, as would have overcome most men. One after one of the baron's retainers began to drop into the room, each on a separate pretence, and as the fifth entered, Newmore, who had seemed as if yielding to the influence of the liquor, affected to fall asleep. The retainers came clustering round him. Two seized him by the arms, and two more essayed to fasten him to the chair; when up he sprang, dashed his four assailants from him, as if they had been boys of ten summers, and raising the fifth from the floor, hurled him headlong against the baron, who fell prostrate before the weight and momentum of so unusual a missile. In a minute after, Newmore had reached the gate, and, mounting his horse, rode away. The baron died during the night, a victim to apoplexy, induced, it is said, by the fierce and vindictive passions awakened on this occasion; and a Gaelic proverb, still current in Ross-shire, shows with what feelings his poor vassals must have regarded the event. Even to the present day, a Highlander will remark, when overborne by oppression, that "the same God still lives who killed Black Andrew Munro of Newtarbat."

The above events are said to have taken place in Black Andrew's Castle at Delny. He resided occasionally at his Castle of Contullich; and tradition states that the people of Boath, in passing up or down, had to perform the most abject obeisance to him, by taking off their hats and throwing themselves on the ground; and woe-betide the man (or woman) who forgot or refused to do so, for a shot from Andrew's big gun would bring him to his senses, or render him incapable of ever regaining that stage.

The following story in connection with Andrew's residence at Contullich I had some years ago from a *Seanachie*, who is now no more:—

The Rothach Dubh, he said, was an exceedingly fierce and cruel man, and ruled over his numerous estates with unlimited despotism, none daring to "make him afraid." For some reason or other he had conceived an inveterate hatred towards a number of his tenants or vassals in Garvary, and he resolved "to remove" them. The poor people having been informed of Andrew's feelings and intentions towards them, were accordingly on the watch for him. There were eight families in all in the



locality, and the system they adopted to defend themselves was this—The eight heads of the families watched together, one night in one house, next night in another, and so on. One exceptionally boisterous night of rain, sleet, and snow, they considered it unnecessary to be so watchful, erroneously believing that the Rothach Dubh would not trouble them on such a night. They were all, however, as usual, assembled in one house; but reckoned without their host. That same night Black Andrew ordered one of his servants to get two wisps of straw and make ready for a midnight ride to Garvary to attack and kill the people there. His servant remonstrated with him on the madness and recklessness of venturing out on such a stormy night, and on the atrocious character of the object of his journey; but his master was inexorable, and they set out on their diabolical mission. All the men, as already stated, were convened in one house. The Rothach Dubh, on arriving at the place, made for that house, being guided by the light shining through the window. Going up to this window, he listened to hear and determine who were inside. He overheard one of the men ask another in Gaelic “to look out and see what the night was doing.” He did so, without noticing the Rothach Dubh, and on his return informed his friends that the night was most unusually fierce and boisterous, adding in Gaelic, “Weel, I know one thing, and that is, that Black Andrew Munro of Contullich wont attempt to come out on such a night, should he be the Devil himself.” Black Andrew, who was still at the window, heard the man’s observations, and gnashed his teeth. The unwary men on hearing what their friend said, and believing it, were completely thrown off their guard. When they had got all seated round the fire, the Rothach Dubh rushed in upon them with his drawn sword and killed them all, ere they had time to recover from their consternation, or to defend themselves. This story is firmly believed by the natives of the heights of Alness parish to this day.

Black Andrew married Euphemine, or Euphemia, daughter of James Dunbar, Laird of Tarbat, in Easter Ross, son of Sir James Dunbar of Westfield, in Moray.

On the 25th of January 1485, the Lords of Council ordained that James Dunbar of Tarbat should pay to Elizabeth, Countess



of Ross, the sum of 100 merks out of the mails (rents in money) of her lands in Tarbat and others, due at the term of Whitsunday last. They further ordained that the consideration of a claim made by the Countess against James Dunbar for 13 chalders of victuals and 100 merks received on her behalf from George, II. Earl of Huntly, should be deferred till the 24th of March, and that the Earl should be summoned to appear for his interest. The Lords of Council deferred till the same date an action raised by James Dunbar against the Countess for payment of £40 of fee, which he alleged remained due by her for five years, and for fulfilment of a condition under which he asserted he held her lands, that the dues should be diminished when the lands were waste.\* On the 21st of January 1489, the Lords Auditors ordained that James Dunbar should pay to the Countess of Ross the sum of 736 merks Scots, due by him for the mails of the lands in Ross-shire which he held of her in lease, as proved by a bond under his seal and superscription; that his lease should be declared null and void, because he had failed to pay his dues at the terms contained in his bond, and that his lands and goods should be distrained for payment. James was summoned in the case, but failed to appear.† He seems, however, to have held the lands still, for on the 26th of February of the following year the Lords of Council ordained him to pay to the Countess 200 merks Scots as the dues of the said lands from Martinmas preceding, as shown by his bond.‡ On the 9th of December 1494, the Countess of Ross brought another action against James Dunbar for wrongfully withholding from her £42 "with the mare of the Witsonday terme" of her lands in Ross, and eighty head of oxen and cows, and for wrongfully occupying her lands of Dolgny (?Delny) and Easter Tarbat, with the rest of her lands in Ross-shire; in which case the Lords Auditors, in presence of the parties, judged that James Dunbar did wrong; that he should cease to occupy the lands; that he should deliver to the Countess the dues and cattle in question, in so far as she could prove her case before Sir William Munro, XII. Baron of Fowlis; that Sir

\* Acta Dom. Conc., p. 100.

† Acta Auditorum, p. 122.

‡ Acta Dom. Conc., p. 126.



William should be empowered to hear the case, and, if it was proved, to distrain accordingly ; and that the lands should forthwith be "red" to the Countess.\*

By Miss Dunbar, Andrew Munro had issue, besides daughters, and an illegitimate son named Thoms, three sons—

1. George, his heir and successor.

2. William, I. of Allan, from whom David Munro, the present popular laird of Allan, is lineally descended.

3. Andrew, to whom his father bequeathed the estate of Culnald, or Culnaha, in the parish of Nigg. He was twice married. His first wife was Ellen, daughter of John Sutherland of Insh, by whom he had one son. (1) David, his successor. By his second wife, Anne, daughter of Hugh Ross of Achnacloich, in the parish of Rosskeen, he had two sons—(2) George of Knocksworth, who married, and had three sons and one daughter—George, Robert, Hugh, and Anne. He died on the 23rd of August 1640, and was succeeded by his eldest son, George, Commissary of Caithness, who married a daughter of Robert Sinclair of Gillhills, by whom he had two sons, George and Robert, of whom nothing is recorded. (3) Hugh, who apparently died unmarried.

Andrew of Culnald was succeeded by his eldest son, David, as second laird of Culnaha and Delny. He married his cousin, Janet, eldest daughter of Andrew Munro, V. of Milntown, by whom he had one son, Andrew.

David Munro second of Culnaha and Delny, died on the 12th of November 1596, and his relict married, as his second wife, Hector Munro, XVIII. Baron of Fowlis, without issue. He was succeeded as third of Culnaha and Delny by his only son, Andrew, who married a daughter of James Sinclair of Hemmington, by whom he had one son and two daughters—(1) John of Delny, his heir. (2) Janet, who married Duncan Grant of Lentrane. (3) A daughter, whose name is not recorded. Andrew was succeeded as fourth of Culnaha and Delny by his only son, John, who entered the army as a Major, and subsequently attained the rank of a Lieutenant-general. He was killed at the battle of Worcester in 1651, "dying unmarried, and without issue."

\* Acta. Auditorum, pp. 192-3.



**Andrew Beg Munro, III. of Milntown, died at Milntown Castle, "in great extravagance and profusion," before 1541, and was buried in the east end of the Church of Kilmuir-Easter, near the Meikle Allan Burying-Ground.\* He was succeeded by his eldest son.**



# THE MUNROS OF MILNTOWN.

BY ALEXANDER ROSS.



## III.

IV. GEORGE MUNRO OF MILNTOWN AND DOHCARTY, to whom Thomas Dingwall of Kildun, by deed, dated at Inveran, 20th April 1541, sold his half of the lands of Ferncosky in Brachat, parish of Creich; and on the 22nd of June following James V. granted to George Munro a crown charter of the same. In 1542 James V. granted to George a crown charter of a fourth of the lands of Easter Aird, in the parish of Tarbat, called the Intown of Tarbat, and sold to him by his cousin, James Dunbar of Tarbat. In 1543 John Bisset, Chaplain of Newmore in the College Church of St Duthus in Tain, with the consent of Queen Mary, the Earl of Arran, and Robert Cairncross, Bishop of Ross, granted to George Munro the kirklands of the Chaplainry, namely, the lands of Newmore, with the alehouse, Inchendown, Badachonacher, Rhicorrach, and Strathrory, "which the tenants used to have for the annual rent of 7 merks Scots, 40s. grassum, 30 bolls victual, 4 muttons, 4 dozen poultry, 4 marts, and 12 capons—the grantee paying accordingly, the victual to be half oatmeal, half bear by Leith measure."\* In 1552 Queen Mary granted to George Munro and Janet Fraser, his wife, a crown charter of the lands of Easter Aird and others in Ross-shire,

\* Reg. Sec. Sig. Vol. xvii., folio 14-15.



sold to George in 1542 by James Dunbar, to whom she, at the same time, granted the right of reversion. On the 4th of March 1544, Mary granted to Thomas Dingwall the dues of the half lands of Ferncosky since his redemption of the same from George Munro; and on the 5th of March she granted to Thomas a letter of regress of the same lands, sold by him to George Munro in 1541. In the year 1559 Sir Robert Melville, Chaplain of Tarlogie, granted to George Munro and his third son, Donald, and his heirs male, with remainder to George's male heirs, and to the eldest of his female heirs, the lands of Tarlogie, for the yearly payment to the Chaplain of 29 merks, 4s. 6d., with two dozen capons, 2s. 10d., in augmentation of the rental: Queen Mary confirmed the grant in the same year.

George Munro appears first on record in 1541 as "George Munro of Davochgartie." Between 1561 and 1566 he was feuar of Tarlogie. In 1553 he sold part of the estate of Dochcarty to Duncan Bain of Tulloch, to whom Queen Mary in the same year granted a crown charter of the same, and a letter of reversion to George. In 1555 he (George) sold the fourth part of the lands of Dochcarty to Donald Mac-Ian-Roy, who in 1556 received a crown charter for the same from Queen Mary.

In 1561 Queen Mary appointed George Munro bailie and chamberlain of her lands and lordships of Ross and Ardmeanach, the appointment to continue during her pleasure; and in 1567 she exempted him for life, on account of his age, from all service as a soldier, from sitting on assizes, and from appearing as a witness in any court. His appointment of bailie and chamberlain was renewed in 1568 by James VI., to continue during the pleasure of James and his Regent. In the same year (1568) George sold to Donald Mac-Ian-Roy the half of the east quarter of the lands of Dochcarty, namely, an oxgang, then occupied by Murdoch Macdonald and William Mackay, and an oxgang of the west quarter of the same lands, then occupied by Patrick Macdonald Roy. James in the same year granted to Donald and his heirs a crown charter of the same lands, and to George a letter of reversion.\* Dochcarty is in the parish of Dingwall.

George Munro was a member of an inquest held at Inverness, on the 15th of October 1563, when John Campbell of Caw-

\* Orig. Par. Scot., vol. ii., pp. 493-4.



dor was served heir to his father in the Barony of Strathnairn, before the Sheriff-Principal, James, Earl of Moray. In 1565 George Munro held the Castle of Inverness for the Earl of Moray, and the King and Queen issued the following order requesting him to deliver up the fortress :—

“At Edinburgh, 22nd September, A.D. 1565.—The King and Queen’s Majesties, for certain occasions moving them, ordain an officer of arms to pass, and in their Highnesses’ name and authority, command and charge George Munro of Davochcarty, and Andrew Munro, his son, and all others, havers and withholders of the Castle of Inverness, to deliver the same to Hugh Rose of Kilravock, whom their Majesties have recommended to receive the same within six hours next after they be charged thereto, under pain of treason.

“MARIE R., HENRY R.”

Among the documents in the charter chest of Innes is a charter by Sir Alexander Innes of Plaids and Cadboll “to George Munroe of Dawachcartie, of the lands of Petkandie and Glaktamalenye in Ross,” granted at Elgin on the 15th November 1573, and confirmed by Sir William Douglas, Chaplain of St Lawrence, and Thomas Brabener, Chaplain of St Mary Magdalene, in the Cathedral Church of Moray, “superiors of the said lands.” George possessed considerable literary attainments, and wrote a life of Farquhar Mackintosh, X. of Mackintosh.

George Munro IV. of Milntown, married Janet, daughter of Hugh Fraser of Phopachy, by whom he had three sons and three daughters :—

1. Andrew, his heir.
2. Donald, who received from his father the estate of Tarlogie. He married twice, his first wife being Christian, daughter of Donald Ross of Nonikiln, by whom he had two sons :—(1) George, his successor, and (2) Hugh, to whom in 1580, James V. granted, for seven years, for his maintenance at school, the Chaplainry of Tarlogie, “not exceeding £20 yearly; and in 1586 James renewed the grant.”\* He married Catherine, daughter of John Ross of Ballochshead, by whom he had two sons, John and Donald, both of whom settled in Sutherlandshire, where they married and had issue of whom there is no record. By his second wife—whose name is not recorded—Donald of Tarlogie had one

\* Orig. Par. Scot., vol. ii., p. 423.



son, David, who studied for the church at St Andrew's University, where he obtained his M.A. degree on the 21st of July 1621. Having been duly licenced, he was appointed minister of Tarbat in 1628, and translated to the parish of Kiltearn, prior to 8th February 1630. He was a member of the General Assembly of 1638, and also of that of 1639. He was deposed in 1648 by the Presbytery of Dingwall—for what cause it is not known—and his deposition was approved of by the Assembly in July 1649. He married Florence, daughter of Andrew Munro, I. of Dàan, by whom he had four sons and several daughters—(1) Donald, (2) Robert, (3) John, (4) Hugh, a Writer to the Signet in Edinburgh. They all died unmarried. The names of the Rev. David Munro's daughters have not been recorded.

Donald Munro, I. of Tarlogie, was succeeded by his eldest son, II. George, to whom in 1574 James VI. granted for seven years, "for his education at school," the Chaplainry of Tarlogie, and which was subsequently granted to his brother, "vacant by the demission of Master George Munro (his uncle), who was promoted to the Chancellary of Ross."\* He married Isabel, daughter of William Innes of Calrossie, by whom he had two sons and one daughter:—(1) Donald, his heir. (2) Gordon, who became a writer. He married Catherine Hunter, without issue, and died at Chanonry in 1650. (3) Jane, who married Hector Munro of Nonikiln, with issue. III. Donald Munro succeeded as third of Tarlogie. He studied for the legal profession, was for several years practising in Edinburgh as a writer, and died, apparently unmarried, there. He was in 1628 served heir-portioner, together with his aunts, Beatrix, Margaret, and Agnes Innes, to his maternal grandfather, William Innes, in the lands of Kinrive and Strathrory, in the parish of Kilmuir-Easter.† He appears to have sold the estate of Tarlogie to David Ross of Balnagown, as it was in the possession of that family before the middle of the seventeenth century.

\* Orig. Par. Scot., vol. ii., p. 423.

† William Innes was son of Walter Innes of Inverbreakie, in the parish of Ross-keen, son of Sir Robert Innes of Invermarkie, in Moray. Walter obtained by grant from Queen Mary the lands of Kinrive and Strathrory. His wife was Margaret, eldest daughter of Lachlan Mackintosh, X. of Mackintosh, and that of his son, William, was Catherine, sixth daughter of Kenneth Mackenzie, X. of Kintail. She received a charter of certain lands on her marriage on 19th January 1556. In sheet I. of Sir James D. Mackenzie of Findon's Genealogies of the Mackenzies, she is stated to have been the wife of Walter, but the Reg. Sec. Sig. makes her William's wife.



3. George, Chancellor of Ross, and from whom are descended the Munros of Achenbowie, Argaty, Edmondsham, and others, all of whom shall be given in their order.

4. Janet, who married John Murray of Pulrossie, to whom she bore, among others, two sons—(1) George, and (2) John. In 1579, or previously, John Murray granted to "his wife, Janet Munro, the daughter of the deceased George Munro of Daucharty, and in heritage to the heirs got between them, with reversion to John himself and his heirs, the lands of Pulrossie and the lands of Floid, lying in the Earldom of Sutherland and Sheriffdom of Inverness. In 1579 James VI. confirmed the grant. John Murray died in 1599, when his son George was served his heir in the lands of Spiningdale, with the mill, Achany, Floid, and Pulrossie, "in the lordship of Sutherland, of the old extent of £14. 13s. 4d."\* George Murray appears on record in 1613 "as having, or pretending to have, a right to the lands of Farr; and on the 4th of June 1616 he was a member of the Assize which served John, XVIII. Earl of Sutherland, heir to his father, John.

5. Margaret, who married Hugh Fraser of Culbokie before 1563, for in that year Queen Mary granted to "Hugh Fraser and Margaret Munro, his wife, the western half of Easter Culbokie, and eastern half of Wester Culbokie, with the houses and gardens made and to be made near the shore, in the place called Querrell, in the Lordship of Ardmanach, resigned by Hugh."† Hugh Fraser was one of the gentlemen who sat at the inquest held at Inverness on 15th October 1563, when John Campbell of Cawdor was served heir in the Barony of Strathnairn. He appears on record in 1581, when James VI. granted to him and his heirs male the mill of Culbokie, etc.

6. Anne, who married Hugh Ross of Achnacloich, in the parish of Rosskeen, with issue.

George had also an illegitimate son named John, I. of Pittonachy (now Rosehaugh), and ancestor of the Munros of Novar, of which family R. C. Munro-Ferguson of Novar, M.P. for Ross-shire, is the present representative.

George Munro, IV. of Milntown, died on the 1st of Novem-

\*Orig. Par. Scot., Vol. ii., pp. 187-8.

† Orig. Par. Scot., vol. ii. p. 550.



ber 1576 at Milntown Castle, and was buried in Kilmuir-Easter Church-yard. He was succeeded by his eldest son,

V. ANDREW MUNRO OF MILNTOWN AND DOHCARTY, who embraced the Protestant religion, and became a rigid Presbyterian. His father apparently, some time before his decease, gave him possession of Newmore, for, anterior to that event, he is frequently mentioned as "Andrew Munro of Newmore."

In 1568, James VI. granted to "Andrew Munro of Newmore," the son and heir-apparent of George Munro of Dochcarty, and to Catherine Urquhart, his wife, and to their male heirs, the town and lands of Castletown, with the fishing, croft, and its pertinents; the town and lands of Belmaduthy; the town and lands of Suddie, with the brewhouse (*bruarium*), croft, and mill; the town and lands of Achterflow, with all the pendicles and pertinents of these towns and lands lying in the Earldom of Ross, Lordship of Ardmanoch, and Sheriffdom of Inverness, belonging in heritage to David Chalmers, formerly Chancellor of Ross, held by him of the King, and forfeited on account of treason and lese-majesty — united *in unam integram et liberam particulam et partem terre consolidate vocatam vulgo Casteltown*; the grantee paying yearly the old fermes, victual, grassum, and dues, namely:—For Castletown, £11. 10s. 6d. in money, 1 chalder 4 bolls of bear, 4 bolls of oats, 1 mart, 1 mutton, with the bondages (*bondagia*), or £1 in lieu of them, 4 dozen poultry, and 11 hens, commonly called "reek hens"; for the croft commonly called Castletown croft, 19s. 8d., and 1 boll of bear; for Belmaduthy, £10. 16s. in money, 1 chalder and 1 boll of bear, 1 mart, 1 mutton, and 4 dozen poultry, with the usual bondages of the same, or in lieu of them £1; for Suddie, 13s. 4d., 1 chalder, 5 bolls and 1 firloft of bear, 1 mart, 1 mutton, and 4 dozen poultry, with the bondages, or £1; for the brew-house of Suddie and its croft, £1. 12s.; for the mill of Suddie, 18 bolls of victuals, half meal, half bear, with 1 boll 2 pecks for "the charity," and 8 capons; for Achterflow, £15. 4s. 9½d. Scots, 2 chalders bear, 8 bolls oats, 2 marts, 2 muttons, with the bondages, or £2, 8 dozen poultry, and 14 reek hens, with £1. 6s. 8d. Scots in augmentation of the rental.\*

\* Reg. Sec. Sig., Yol. xxxviii, folios 16, 109, and 110.



The "treason and lese-majesty" committed by David Chalmers, and for which he was denounced a rebel and put to the horn, besides having all his lands and goods forfeited, was his not finding surety to appear and answer for the slaughter of James Balvany in Preston, and other persons slain at the battle of Langside. Among the other lands so forfeited and granted to Andrew Munro by James VI., in 1568, were the escheat of the grant of Meikle Tarrel, which the same monarch confirmed in 1571; and the lands of Easter Airds, in the parish of Tarbat, also confirmed in 1571.

In 1569 King James granted to Andrew Munro the escheat of all the goods upon the quarter lands of Meikle Allan, with the crops of that year, which was forfeited by John Leslie, Bishop of Ross, for treason and lese-majesty. In the same year James granted to him the escheat of all the goods, cattle, and corn upon the piece of land called "Bishop's Shed," in the Chanonry of Ross, which belonged formerly to Bishop Leslie, "of this instant crop and yeir of God 1569 yeiris, and sawin to his behoof," and which were forfeited by Leslie for treason and lese-majesty. The treason committed by Bishop Leslie was his being engaged in the attempt to get Queen Mary married to the Duke of Norfolk. He was imprisoned in the Tower in May 1571, where he remained till January 1574. It should have been noticed, however, that he was banished from Scotland in 1568 "for certane crymes of treasonn and lesemaiestic committit be him," and it was while in exile in England he engaged in the projected marriage of the Duke of Norfolk with Queen Mary, then a prisoner in the hands of Elizabeth, Queen of England.

By a deed dated at Stirling, 10th February, and at the Chanonry of Ross, 28th February 1571, George Munro, Prebendary and Chaplain of Newmore, in the Collegiate Church of St Duthus in Tain, with the consent of James VI., the Regent, Matthew, Earl of Lennox, Kintigern Monypenny, Dean and Vicar-General of Ross, Thomas Ross, Abbot of Fearn, and Provost of the Church of Tain, and the Prebendaries of that Church, for the augmentation of his rental by the sum of six merks Scots, granted to Andrew Munro, the son and heir apparent of George Munro of Dochcarty, and his male heirs, with remainder to his heirs whatsoever, bearing the surname and arms of Munro, the



churchlands of the Chaplainry—namely, the lands of Newmore, with the alehouse ; the lands of Inchendown, with the mill, and Strath of the same ; the lands of Badachonacher, Coilmore, Rhicullen, Rawnvick, Newmore, with the “Straythis of Aldnafrankach, Aldnaquheriloch, and Rewthlasnabaa, in Strathrory, in the Earldom of Ross and Sherifffdome of Inverness,” which were formerly held by the same George, and resigned by him on account that owing to the dearness of the lands, he had reaped no profit from them, but had sustained loss by the payment of the dues, and because the whole yearly revenue of the lands amounted only to the sum of £ 30 Scots, to be held by Andrew Munro for the yearly payment of 7 merks Scots in name of feuferm, £ 2 grassum, 30 bolls victual, or 8s. 4d. Scots for each boll, 4 muttons, or 3s. 4d. Scots for each ; 12 capons, or 6s. ; 4 dozen poultry, or 12s. ; together with the sum of £ 4 Scots for heirages, carriages, bondages, and every other burden, and for the augmentation of the rental beyond what the lands ever before yielded, amounting in all in money to the sum of £ 30. 14s. 8d. Scots for feuferm and customs.\*

Andrew Munro of Milntown was a member of the Assize, held at Golspie in 1591, to serve Alexander, XV. Earl of Sutherland, heir to his great-grandfather, Adam, XIII. Earl, who died in 1538, and to his great-grandmother, Elizabeth, Countess of Sutherland, who died in 1535.



# THE MUNROS OF MILNTOWN.

BY ALEXANDER ROSS.

---

## IV.

ANDREW MUNRO was Captain of the Castles of Inverness and Chanonry, and Chamberlain of the Earldom of Ross. About the year 1567, John Leslie, Bishop of Ross, who had been secretary to Queen Mary, dreading the effect of public feeling against Popery in the North, and against himself personally, made over to his cousin, John Leslie of Balquhain, his rights and titles to the Castle and Castle lands of Chanonry, to divert them of the character of Church property, and so save them to his family; but notwithstanding this grant, the "Good Regent" Murray gave the custody of the Castle to Andrew Munro of Milntown, and promised Leslie some of the lands of the Barony of Fintry, in Buchan, as an equivalent; but the Regent was assassinated before this arrangement was completed—before Andrew Munro obtained titles to the Castle and Castle lands. Yet he obtained permission from the Earl of Lennox, during his regency, and afterwards from his successor, the Earl of Mar, to take possession of the Castle.

Colin Mackenzie, XI. Chief of Kintail, and his clansmen were extremely jealous of the Munros occupying the stronghold; and being desirous to obtain possession of the Castle themselves, they purchased Leslie's right, by virtue of which they demanded delivery of the fortress. This demand Andrew Munro at once refused. Kintail in consequence raised his vassals, and being joined by a detachment of the Mackintoshes,\* garrisoned the

\* In the year 1573, Lachlan Mor, Laird of Mackintosh, favouring Kintail, his brother-in-law, required all the people of Strathnairn to join him against the Munros. Colin, Lord of Lorne, had, at the time, the administration of that Lordship as the jointure lands of his wife, the Countess Dowager Murray, and he wrote to Hugh Rose of Kilravock:—True Friend, after my most hearty commendation, for as much as it is reported to me that Mackintosh has charged all my tenants west of the water of Nairn to pass forward with him to Ross to enter into this troublous action with Mackenzie against the Laird of Fowlis, and because I will not that any of mine enter presently this matter whose service appertains to me, I thought good to advertise you of my mind thereon, in respect ye are tenants of mine and have borne the charge of Bailliary



steeple of the Cathedral, and laid siege to Irving's Tower and the Palace. The Munros held out for three years; but one day the garrison getting short of provisions, they attempted a sortie to the Ness of Fortrose, where there was a salmon stell, the contents of which they endeavoured to secure. They were, however, immediately discovered, and quickly followed by the Mackenzies, who fell upon them in a most savage manner. Weak and starving as they were, they fought with that bravery which was always so characteristic of the Munros; but after a desperate and unequal struggle, they were overpowered by the overwhelming number of the Mackenzies, and twenty-six of their number killed, among them being their commander, John Munro. The Mackenzies had two men killed and several wounded. The defenders of the Castle immediately capitulated, and it was taken possession of by the Mackenzies.

Sir Robert Gordon says that the Munros "defended and kept the Castle for the space of thrie yeirs, with great slaughter on either syd, vntill it was delyvered to the Clancheinzie, by the Act of pacification. And this wes the ground and begining of the feud and hartburning, which, to this day, remaynes betwein the Clanchenzie and Munrois."†

Andrew Munro, V. of Milntown, married Catherine, daughter of Thomas Urquhart, VI. of Cromarty, by whom he had three sons and nine daughters—

1. George, his successor.

2. Andrew of Kincaig, who married "ane Mrs Gray," by whom he had two sons—(1) Andrew, his successor. (2) William, who entered the army, and rose to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in a Regiment of Foot, under the Elector of Brander-

of Strathnarne in times past; wherefore I will desire you to make my will known to my tenants at Strathnarne within your Bailliary that none of them take upon hand to rise at this present with Mackintosh to pass to Ross, or at any time hereafter without my special command and goodwill obtained on such pains as any of them may incur there-through, certifying them and ilk one of them, and they do in the contrary hereof, I will by all means crave the same at their hands as occasion may serve. And this it will please you to make known to them, that none of them pretend any excuse through ignorance hereof; and this for the present, not doubting but ye will do the same; I commit you to God; from Darnaway, the 28th of June 1573—*The Family of Rose of Kilravock*, p. 263.

† Earldom of Sutherland, p. 155.



burg. He married a Mrs Bruce, and acquired an estate in Germany, where he resided till his death. By Mrs Bruce he had issue, both sons and daughters, who settled in Branderburg, and other parts of Germany, and some of their descendants were living there in 1734. Andrew succeeded his father in Kincaig. He married Margaret, daughter of Sir Robert Innes, XXIII. of Innes, and relict of George Munro, VII. of Milntown, by whom he had no issue. He left, however, two illegitimate children, a son George, born in Edinburgh, and a daughter Janet, who married a burghess of Tain. Andrew I. of Kincaig had also a natural son, John, "burghess of Eainburgh," who bought the estate of Culcraigie, in the parish of Alness.

3. John, I. of Fearn, who was twice married. His first wife was Christian Urquhart, by whom he had three sons and one daughter—(1) John, his successor. (2) Andrew. (3) George, who married Mary, sister to Major-General Scot, by whom he had one son, John, who was "cast away" at sea in 1639, in company of John Munro, younger of Obsdale, on their way to Germany, to enter the Swedish service. (4) Christian, who married Malcolm, third son of Lachlan Mackintosh, XII. of Mackintosh, with issue. John of Fearn's second wife was Isabel, fourth daughter of George Ross, XII. of Balnagown, without issue. He was succeeded by his eldest son John, who married Janet, daughter of Thomas MacCulloch of Fearn, by whom he had two sons—(1) John of Logie. (2) Andrew, who entered the army, and went with Robert Munro, Baron of Fowlis to the German wars. He was executed at Stettin for maltreating a surgeon there within his own house during the night, "contrary to his Majestie's Articles and discipline of warre." Colonel Robert Munro of Obsdale, in his "Expedition," states that there was "much solicitation" made for Robert's life by the "Duchesse of Pomereu and sundry noble Ladies, but all in vaine, yet to be lamented, since divers times before he had given prooffe of his valour, especially at the siege of *Frailesound* in his Majestie's service of Denmarke, where he was made lame of his left arme, who, being young, was well bred by his parents at home, and abroad in France, though it was his misfortune to have suffered an exemplary death, for such an oversight committed through sudden passion, being *Summum jus*, in respect that the party had forgiven the fault,



but the Governor, being a churlish Swede, would not remit the satisfaction due to his Majesty and justice."\*

John Munro, II. of Fearn, was succeeded by his eldest son, John, who is designated "of Logie," in a MS. history of the Munros, in the possession of Stuart C. Munro, of Teaninich. John who was a Quartermaster in the army, married Margaret, daughter of the Rev. David Ross, minister of Logie-Easter, from 1638 to 1644, and had by her, among others, a son, Andrew, who succeeded him. Andrew married Christina, daughter of Hugh Munro, II. of Culrain, by whom he had six sons—(1) George, (2) John, (3) Andrew, (4) David, (5) Robert, (6) James. George, Robert, and James entered the army, and were dead in 1734, leaving, apparently, no issue. David became a carpenter, and John learned another trade. I have not succeeded in tracing whether John, David, and Andrew left issue.

4. Janet, who was married to David Munro, II. of Culnald, with issue, one son, Andrew. After David's death she married Hector Munro, XVIII. Baron of Fowlis, to whom she bore no issue.

5. Catherine, who married George Munro, I. of Obsdale, third son of Robert Munro, XV. Baron of Fowlis, to whom she had two sons—(1) Colonel John, who succeeded his father; (2) Major-General Robert, a distinguished military officer, and author of "Munro: His Expedition."

6. Elizabeth, who married Hay of Kinardie.

7. Christian, who died unmarried.

8. Euphemme, who married Hugh Munro, IV. of Balconie, with issue, five sons and one daughter.

9. Margaret, who married Robert Gordon of Bodlan.

10. Anne, who married Hugh Ross of Priesthill.

11. Ellen, who was twice married. Her first husband was Donald Ross of Balmuchie; and her second, John Munro, minister of Tain, and Sub-Dean of Ross, third son of Hugh Munro, I. of Assynt.

12. Isabella, who was also twice married. Her first husband was James Innes of Calrossie. Her second husband, whom she married after 25th July 1614, was Walter Ross, II. of Invercarron. She bore to him, among others—(1) William, who succeeded

\* Munro, His Expedition, part II., page 47.



his father, and, on the 30th of December 1661, grants a charter of Invercarron to his eldest son and heir, Walter, and to Walter's spouse, Margaret Gray, relict of George Murray of Pulrossie; (2) Janet, who, before 12th August 1664, married Kenneth Mackenzie, I. of Scatwell; (3) Christian, who is said to have married Hugh Macleod of Cambuscurry, in the parish of Edderton, ancestor of Robert B. A. Macleod, of Cadboll, Invergordon Castle.

Andrew Munro, V. of Milntown, died about 1593, and was succeeded by his eldest son,

VI.—George, who in 1598 is designated "George Munro of Meikle Tarrel." In that year he became bound "to releve and skaithles keip Elizabeth Rose, the relict of unquhile (deceased) Walter Urquhart, Shiref of Cromertie, and William Gordoun of Bredland, now hir spous, William Rose of Kilrawak, tutor tistamentare to Alex. Urquhart, sone lauchfull to the said unquhile Walter, and the said Alex. self and his aires—at the hands of Donald Ros, Magnus Ferne, and Finlay Manson, cessioneris and assignais constitut be unquhile Alexander Ferne, portioner of Pitcalyeane, to the letters of reversion and redemption following thereupon made by the said unquhile Walter and the said Alexander, to the said unquhile Alexander Ferne and his assignais for redemption of the easter half davoch lands of Pitcalyeane with the pertinentis, and of all redemption and renunciation made thereupon by them to Andrew Munro, sone and air to unquhile David Munro of Culnald, and to his tutour testamentare for their entres, and that at the handis of the saidis foure assignais and their aires: Be their presentis, subscribuit with our hand at Kilrawak the twenty day of August, the yeir of God 1598, beffoir their witness, David Rose of Holme, William Ros, Walter Ros, and John Munro, notar public."\*

George Munro was principal tacksman of the Chantry of Ross. On the 18th of July 1618, the Commissioners of the Bishopric of Ross provided a stipend of 620 merks for the minister of Kilmorack, payable, 465 merks, out of the parsonage or rectorial tithes, by George Munro of Tarrell, principal tacksman of the Chantry of Ross, and, 155 merks, by the tacksman of the vicarage teinds; and the lease was prorogated as compensation for the charge.

\* *Kilravock Papers*, pp. 287-8, and *Priory of Beaully*, p. 251.



In 1584 James VI. confirmed a charter, granted by Alexander Horne, Canon of the Church of Ross, with consent of the Dean and Chapter, to George Munro in heritage, "the churchlands of his prebend called Killecreist, with the parsonage tithes included, lying in the Earldom of Ross and Sheriffdom of Inverness, and also the prebendary's manse with its pertinents lying as above.\*

George Munro was twice married. His first wife was Mariot, daughter and heiress of John M'Culloch of Meikle Tarrel. She was served heir to her father in the estate of Meikle Tarrel in 1577, together with the revenue of £2. 10s. from Easter Airds. In 1578 James VI. granted to her, and her "future spouse, George Munro, the son and heir-apparent of Andrew Munro of Newmore," the lands of Meikle Tarrel, which formerly belonged to Mariot in heritage, and which she had resigned with the consent of her curators, Robert Munro, Baron of Fowlis; James Dunbar of Tarbat; George Dunbar, of Avoch; and George Munro, Chancellor of Ross—to be held of the Crown for the service formerly due.†

By Mariot M'Culloch, George Munro had four sons and one daughter—

1. George, his heir.

2. John; 3, William; 4, David, all of whom went to the German wars with Robert Munro, Baron of Fowlis, "whence they returned not, dying going there."

5. Margaret, who married David Dunbar of Dunphail, she being his second wife.

George Munro's second wife was Margaret, daughter of David Dunbar, Dean of Moray, fourth son of Sir Alexander Dunbar of Westfield, who was the fifth son of James, V. Earl of Moray. By Miss Dunbar he had two sons and four daughters—

6. Hector; 7, John, "of whom there is no account to be given of, their being soldiers, and killed in battle."

8. Janet, who married Hugh Munro of Achnagart, with issue.

9. Helen, who married John Fraser of Inchbreck, with issue.

10. Catherine, who married Alexander Baillie of Dunean, to whom she had, among others, William, VIII. of Dunean; David,

\*Reg. Sec. Sig., Vol. li., folio 90.

† Reg. Sec. Sig., Vol. xlv., Folio 68.



I. of Dochfour ; and Catherine, who married one of the younger sons of Hugh Fraser of Culbokie.

11. Isabella, who married Walter Leslie of Elgin, with issue.

George Munro built the tower and belfry of the present Established Church of Kilmuir-Easter, on the top of which is an eagle, the Munros armorial crest, and the monogram, G.M.—George Munro. It bears the date 1616, with the word “biggit.” The Munros’ aisle in the same church is a building of some architectural taste.

George died at Boggs on the 6th of May 1623, and was succeeded by his eldest son,

VII. George Munro, VII. of Milntown who was in 1623 served heir to his father in a fourth of the lands and town of Meikle Allan, containing two oxgangs of the extent of 13s. 4d. and a fourth of the alehouse of the extent of 3s. 4d. He was in the same year served his father’s heir in the lands of Milntown, “with the mills and office of chief mair of the earldom of Ross, of the extent of 8 chalders, 4 bolls of victual ; a croft named the Markland of Tullich, of the extent of one pound of wax ; and the lands and town of Meikle Meddat, of the extent of 6 chalders of bear and oatmeal, and other dues, its alehouse with toft and croft, of the extent of 13s. 4d., and its other alehouse, without toft and croft, of the extent of 6s. 8d.—in the Barony of Delnie, earldom of Ross, and sherifffdom of Inverness.” \*

He married Margaret, daughter of Sir Robert Innes, XVI. Laird of Innes, by his wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Lord Elphinstone, Lord High Treasurer of Scotland, by whom he had one son and one daughter—

1. Andrew, his heir, and

2. Margaret, who married Captain Alexander Forester of Corstorphine, near Edinburgh, with issue.

George had also an illegitimate son, named Hugh, who married Jane, daughter of Robert Dunbar of Dunphail, and had issue.

George Munro, VII. of Milntown, died in 1630, and was succeeded by his only son,

VIII. Andrew Munro, who was the last of his family who held the estate of Milntown. He succeeded in his eleventh year. His maternal uncle, Sir John Innes, never permitted him to possess



the property or inhabit the Castle of Milntown, as he had, immediately after the death of Andrew's father, taken possession of the same by virtue of "an appraising and other diligences"—Sir John holding wadsets over the lands and estates of Milntown which he sold in 1656 to Sir George Mackenzie of Tarbat. Andrew Munro served as a Captain under his kinsman, Sir George Munro I., of Newmore, in Ireland, in the Royal Army, during the rebellion there. He was in 1644 ordered to Scotland with his men, and took a distinguished part in the battle of Kilsyth, fought in 1645, where he fell fighting bravely at the head of his company, in the twenty-sixth year of his age. His friends and relations had great hopes of his being able to redeem the debts, contracted by his father, and his death was a severe blow to the Milntown family. He died unmarried, and without issue, when the family of Milntown, in the main line, became extinct.

Sir George Mackenzie of Tarbat, after purchasing the castle and estate of Milntown, changed the name to Tarbat, after his own title, he being a Lord of Session under the title of Lord Tarbat. He was afterwards created a Viscount. The peasantry to this day call the place "New Tarbat," and in the vernacular, *Baile-Mhuillinn Andrea*. Adjoining the site of the old castle of Milntown is a high mound, near the river, where the pipers played the bagpipes. The only remains of the old castle still extant are the door of the vault, and the high terraces near the place where it stood. In the year 1728 Viscount Tarbat—afterwards Earl of Cromarty—contracted with masons to "throw down Munro's old work," and clear the foundation, and build a new house. Some of the oldest inhabitants of the village of Milntown remember hearing their parents, who assisted in razing Milntown Castle, say that the hall was so large "that the music of fiddles at one end could not be heard at the other." The castle is said to have been the most elegant and highly finished house in the north, and adorned with turrets. It stood near the site of the present mansion. In the grounds near the old building were many large trees. One large beech was called "Queen Mary's tree," and was supposed to have been planted by that queen during her stay at Beaulieu Priory. It was more than 100 feet high, and required a whole week to cut it down. No force was able to remove it, and it was in consequence buried where it lay.



# THE MUNROS OF PITTONACHY.

BY ALEXANDER ROSS.

---

## I.

THE first of the Munros of Pittonachy, now called Rosehaugh, was

I. JOHN MUNRO, natural son of George Munro, IV. of Milntown. He married Margaret, daughter of John Mor Munro, II. of Balconie, by whom he had, besides daughters, six sons:—

1. John, his successor.

2. Andrew, I. of Novar.

3. Hector, I. of Findon, who was twice married. His first wife was Ann, daughter of Hector Munro, I. of Milntown of Katewell, by whom he had three sons:—(1) Neil, his successor. (2) John, Portioner of Swordale, who was twice married. His first wife was Isabella, daughter of Donald Macleay of Alness, by whom he had one son, Donald, who went with Lieutenant-Colonel Alex. Munro, fifth son of John Munro, II. of Obsdale, to France, where he was killed. John's second wife was Isabella, daughter of William Mackenzie, I. of Belmaduthy (by his wife Mary, daughter of John Cuthbert of Draikies), by whom he had three daughters, whose names are not recorded. (3) Andrew, Portioner of Limlair, who married Isabella, daughter of Hugh Ross "Buie," by whom he had, besides several daughters, four sons:—(1) John, who married and had two sons—Robert and John, who entered the army and rose to the rank of Major. On retiring from the army, he took up his residence at Invergordon, and was alive in 1734. (2) Hugh, who married Margaret Guthrie, by whom he had a son, Andrew, and two daughters, Constance and Lucy. (3) Robert. (4) George. Hector Munro, I. of Findon's second wife was Jane, daughter of Thomas Urquhart of Kinbeachie, by whom he had one son and two daughters:—Robert, who married Isabella, daughter of the Rev. John Munro, minister of Alness (1649-1662), by whom he had two sons and one daughter—(a) John, who studied for the church at the University of Aberdeen, and was admitted minister of Halkirk prior to 2nd August 1706. He died on the 18th of April 1743. He



married Anne, daughter of Alexander Gunn of Braemore in Caithness, by whom he had, among others, Sir George Munro, I. of Poyntzfield; (b) William, who married Mary, daughter of Sir George Sinclair of Clythe, with issue; (c) Margaret, who married the Rev. David Munro, minister of Reay, with issue. (s) Anne, who married Hector Munro, IV. of Pitfour, with issue—one son, George. (6) Jane, who died unmarried. (II.) Neil, Second of Findon, married Janet, daughter of John Roy Mackenzie, IV. of Gairloch, and relict of George Cuthbert of Castle Hill (marriage contract dated 29th June 1611.) Her marriage contract with Neil Munro is still preserved in the Gairloch Charter Chest, and is dated 5th February 1627. By Gairloch's daughter, Neil Munro had two sons and one daughter:—(1) Hugh, his successor; (2) Hector; (3) Isabel, who married George Munro, III. of Novar, with issue. (III.) Hugh, third of Findon, married Janet, daughter of Colonel John Munro, I. of Limlair, by whom he had four sons and four daughters:—(1) Neil, his successor; (2) John; (3) David; (4) George; (5) Isabel; (6) Catherine; (7) Ann; (8) Florence. Hugh Munro, III. of Findon, was succeeded by his eldest son, (IV.) Neil Munro, who is designated "Neil of Swordale." He married Janet, daughter of Gilbert Macbean, of Inverness, and had by her three sons—(1) Hugh, his successor; (2) George; (3) Andrew. (V.) Hugh, fifth of Swordale, succeeded his father in the estate of Swordale. He possessed also the lands of Ceanlochglas, Balnacoul, Balnagal, etc., for which he paid in 1695, as Bishop's rents, the sum of £26. 2s. 6d. Scots. He married, and had at least one daughter, Isabella, who married Kenneth, son of John Mackenzie, II. of Davochcairn, to whom she bore no issue. The marriage contract is dated 1684.

4. David, fourth son of John Munro, I. of Pittonachy, became a doctor of medicine. He married a Miss Lumsden, by whom he had four sons and several daughters:—(1) Donald, Regent of Glasgow University; (2) David, a merchant in Glasgow; (3) Andrew, who followed his father's profession, and practised medicine for several years in Glasgow, where he died unmarried; (4) George, who studied for the law, and became Sheriff of Caithness. He married Margaret, daughter of Sinclair of Scrabster, by whom he had, among others, a son George. The names of Dr David Munro's daughters are not recorded.



5. George, who died unmarried.

6. Neil, "Portioner of Swordale," who married, and left a numerous issue.

7. Euphemia, who married George Munro, II. of Katewell, with issue. She was his second wife.

The names of the other daughters of John Munro, I. of Pittonachy, have not been recorded.

He was succeeded by his eldest son,

II. JOHN MUNRO OF PITTONACHY, who married Catherine, daughter of Alexander Ross of Culich (from whom descended the Rosses of Tolly and Achnacloch), by whom he had five sons :—

1. Hugh, his successor.

2. Alexander, who studied for the ministry at St Andrews, of which University he was for some years Regent. He was appointed minister of Golspie previous to 1638, and was a member of the General Assembly of that year—21st November. He was translated to Dornoch prior to 12th August 1639, as on that date he was member of Assembly as minister of Dornoch. He received a gift of 300 merks yearly from Charles I., on the 12th of November 1641, and was a member of the Commission of Assembly for that year. King Charles also gave him a grant of 800 merks, or 8 chalders of victual, in augmentation of his stipend, on condition of his giving 300 merks yearly for "upholding the church," and 200 merks to the master of the Grammar School. The grant was ratified by Parliament on the 17th of November of the same year.\* He was deposed by the Presbytery in 1648, and the sentence of deposition was approved by the General Assembly in July of the following year. He married a daughter of Alexander Ross of Balblair, but left no issue.

3. John, who also became a churchman, and studied at the University of St Andrews, where he obtained his M.A. degree in 1619. He was admitted minister of the Parish of Reay in 1623, but was deposed in 1649 along with all the other members of the Presbytery of Caithness, except one—the Rev. William Smith, minister of Bower,† "for their compli-  
ance with James Grahame,

\* Scottish Acts of Parliament, vol. v., pp. 599-600.

† When the Marquis of Montrose was on his march through Caithness he published a declaration, wherein he endeavoured to clear himself from the aspersion of



excommunicate in his rebellion, and shedding the blood of the countrie.”

The Presbytery Records of Caithness contain the following minute relative to the matter :—“ THURSO, 5th October 1654.—It wes thoght convenient that yr suld be more frequent meetings both of ministers and preachers for consulting about ye affears of ye gospel within ye several congregations, till the Lord by his Providence suld offer occasion for there further capacitating to a more authoritative acting as a Prebrie (the members of the former standing Prebrie being all deposed by the grall [General] Assemblie of this kirk *for yr compliyance wt James Grahame, excommunicate in his rebellio, and shedding the blood of the countrie.*) It is therefor appointed that ye next meeting hold at Thurso, the 5th of Der. next, and so after prayer dissolved the meeting.” The words in italics have been deleted, apparently soon after the Restoration, but they can still be read.

John Munro petitioned the Synod on the 6th of August 1656 “to get his mouth opened that he might assist his son in preaching.” He was accordingly restored to his charge, and died a few years after. He married a Miss Anderson, by whom he had, among others, a son, David, who succeeded him, studied at St Andrew’s University, and was appointed colleague and successor to his father; being admitted prior to 6th August 1656. David married Margaret, daughter of Robert Munro (fourth son of Hector Munro, I. of Findon), and had by her a son and daughter—John, his successor, and Elizabeth,

any sinister ends; that his intention was only against some particular persons; that he intended nothing against the generality of the kingdom; and exhorted his fellow-subjects to free themselves from the tyranny of those who for the present ruled the State; and from the oppression of the Ministry. He presented certain articles consistent with this declaration to the heritors, ministers, and others in Caithness, which he persuaded them to subscribe, except the Rev. William Smith, above mentioned, who refused to do so, notwithstanding many flatteries and threats. Montrose brought him to Thurso, and ordered him to be towed to a boat at the harbour, and dragged through the sea to Scrabster, a distance of two miles, and laid there in irons on board a ship, where he lay until news came that the Marquis was defeated at the battle of *Craigcaoineadhan*, or Kerbester, in the parish of Kincardine. He was then liberated, and he returned to his charge. After the Restoration this pious and faithful minister was ejected. He retired to Thurso, where he resided in great comfort, though low in circumstances, till his death. A friend having called upon him, and finding things of humble appearance in his dwelling, remarked to Mr Smith—“If God had regarded riches there would have been greater plenty in this house.”



who married James Mackay of Borgy, to whom she bore an only daughter, Margaret, heiress of Borgy, who married Captain James, eldest son of John Mackay, I. of Kirtomy, with issue. The marriage contract is dated 8th December 1724. The Rev. David Munro died *circa* 1693, and was buried in the aisle, Reay Church-yard, where he had previously, in 1691, erected a tablet with an inscription, now partly obliterated. The following is a copy of it, as far as it is now traceable, kindly sent me by the Rev. Donald Munro, F.C. minister, Shebster, Reay. Mr Munro writes —“The tablet is of freestone, about two feet long and twenty inches broad, and is built into the wall. The letters are all in raised capitals—bass-relief—and many of them are much obliterated by violence and weather, as there is no roof over the aisle. There is not much information given. The date, 1691, is very distinct and entire; so are the D.M.:M.M. The TIME, imperfect; DEUM, perfect. The last sentence, namely, ‘This ile belongs to Mr David Munro and Margaret Munro,’ is quite legible. The other words cannot be deciphered. One of them ends in RTH, and possibly the words obliterated may have been ‘earth to earth,’ or words to that effect. Mr Munro’s hypothesis is evidently correct; and the effaced words between RTH and THIS were probably DUST TO DUST. M no doubt is the remains of IN MEMORIAM; D.M. is for David Munro; M.M. for Margeret Munro; TIME DEUM signifies *fear, or worship God.*

The Rev. David Munro was succeeded by his son, John, who studied at the University of Aberdeen, where he took his M.A. on the 3rd of July 1679. It is stated that he intruded into the Parish of Reay in that year, but was received into communion by the Edinburgh Committee prior to 6th June 1704, and was duly admitted to Reay in the course of that year. He died in July 1722, aged about 63 years, and was interred in his family burying-ground in the aisle of Reay Church-yard. He married, and had at least two sons—John, who was served heir to his father on the 4th of December 1751, and David, designated of Craigston, who married in 1734, but of whom I have been unable to discover anything further.

4. David, fourth son of John Munro, II. of Pittonachy, also entered the church, and was admitted minister of the Parish of Latheron about the year 1630. He was deposed in 1649 for



subscribing Montrose's "articles," and his successor, Alexander Clark, afterwards minister of Inverness, was admitted prior to 1652. On the 21st of October 1652, he petitioned the Synod to recommend him to some parish in the diocese of Caithness, and he was apparently admitted to Lairg, before 7th May 1663. He died before 7th October 1668. He married a Miss Sutherland, by whom he had, among others, a son, John, who married and left issue.

5. Hector of Nonikiln, in the Parish of Rosskeen, fifth son of John Munro of Pittonachy, married Jane, daughter of George Munro, II. of Tarlogie, by whom he had a son, John, of Nonikiln and Tearivar, who, in 1695, with Walter Ross, Provost of Tain, paid for Bishop's rents for "the land of Nonikiln, the sum of £11. 3s. 10d. He subsequently obtained by purchase the lands of Tearivar in the Parish of Kiltearn. He was an elder in the parish church of Kiltearn, and took a deep interest in the promotion of religious principles in the parish. He was also a sincere friend of the "poor, fearing the Lord," and at his death left 500 merks to be distributed amongst them. The following is "ane double of the bond" as it appears in the Kiltearn Session Records :—

I, John Munro of Tearivar, be thir pnts (these presents), do mortifie, allocate, and sequestrat of my own proper mean and substance, the soum of 500 merks Scots money, to be distributed and divided amongst the poor fearing the Lord, within the pariochen of Kiltarn, and do hereby enjoin and require Mr William Stuart, minir. of Kiltarn, and the elders of the Session theirof with him to make just, reall dstrubution and division of the said 500 merks money amongst the poor fearing the Lord, within the pariochen of Kiltarn, at the said minir. and elders, their discretion and judgement qnever the samen, be recoverable from my aires and successors in effectual payment. And to that effect I bind and obleige me, my aires and successors, to me in my lands and estate to concent, pay, and deliver the said soum of 500 merks to the said Mr William Stuart and elders of Kiltarn, to be distributed to the poor above specified, betwixt the date heiroy, and the last end of the first year next, and immediately after my decease ; but longer delay with the soum of 100 merks money, of liquidat expence in caice of failzie (failure), together also with the ordinar @ rent (annual rent-interest) of the said prinle. (principal) soum dureing the not payment theiroy after the said yeir is expired, posterior to my decease as saidis ; and for the more security I am content thir prts. be regrat in any books competent, to have the strength of ane decretit that lrs. (letters) of horn-ing may be directed theirupon on ten days charge and others necessar, and theirto constitutes. . . . My prors. (procurators). In witness yrof, I have subt. thir prts. (written be Hugh Munro in Wester Glens) at Tearivar, the 16th day of Decr. 1704 years, befor thir witnesses—Andrew Munro at the Bridge End of Culcairn, and the said Hugh Munro, writer heiroy.

ANDREW MUNRO, Witness.

HUGH MUNRO, Witness."

*Sic Subscribitur.*

JOHN MUNRO.



The minute adds that Captain George Munro of Culcairn, John Munro's son-in-law, deferred giving in a "list of those poor fearing the Lord, so as he may distribute to them the 500 merks left them be the deceast John Munro of Tearivar, by virtue of ane letter directed to him from the said John," the tenor of which letter follows :—

"Sir,—By all probability my time is but short in this world, and withall what I have recommended to you in my last letter I desire this of you, and commits this also to your care, as a duty in the sight of God, to see these bonds I have given you for pious uses payed, and retain discharges for thyself from the persones in whose names the bonds are granted, to witt—Mr William Stuart ane bond of 500 merks, to Gilbert Pope ane bond of 400 merks, to Christian Sutherland ane bond of 100 merks; in all 1000 merks. If the Lord hade spared myself, and seeing it is like I will not see it done, I lay it on you as a duty before the Lord to do it after my decease, and it shall be a kindness and easing of my minde your undertaking a faithful discharge of this duty. I hope (it) will be acceptable to God; and this shall be your warrand from—Dear Sir,  
Your affectionat Cousen,

JOHN MUNRO.

May 9, 1705.

The Session, considering the same, thought it their duty to adhere to Tearivar's bond granted to them.

They appointed a committee of their number to meet and consider as to the most judicious method to be adopted relative to the investment of Tearivar's bond; and at a meeting of session held on 18th December 1706, they gave in the following report :—

"The Committee having considered the tenor of Tearivar's bond of mortification, distribution, and division of the soum of 500 merks Scots money amongst the poor fearing the Lord, within the pariochen of Kiltern, at the minir. and elders their discretion and judgement qnever the samen shall be recoverable: It is our opinion that there may be as much money given of the said 500 merks as may buy a mortcloath, to the effect that the benefitt and profitt thereof may redound to the said poor, and what remains at over the price of the mortcloath may be immediately distributed to the said poor, according as Mr William Stuart, minir., and said elders shall think fitt."

The Session unanimously approved of the committee's suggestion, and appointed another committee—consisting of the Rev. Wm. Stewart, Sir Robert Munro of Fowlis; Hector Munro of Drummond; Captain Andrew Munro of Westerton; John Bethune of Culnaskea; and Gilbert Robertson in Balconie—to make out a list of the poor "as are to get six scor and ten merks condescended on in Session:" Mr Stuart to draw on Captain George Munro of Culcairn for the said amount. A mortcloth



was subsequently obtained from Holland, at a cost of £16 stg., and the dues derived therefrom were periodically divided among the poor.

John Munro of Tearivar, married Janet, daughter of Robert Munro, II. of Milntown of Katewell, and by her had four daughters :—(1), Christian, who married Captain George Munro I. of Culcairn, with issue, four sons and six daughters. (2), Jean, who married Kenneth, second son of John Munro, III. of Inveran, to whom she bore a son, John, and a daughter, Liliass, who married Hector Gray, in Sutherland. The names of Tearivar's other two daughters have not been recorded. This John Munro died before 11th June 1705, as shown by the following extract of that date from the Kiltearn Session Records :—“John Munro of Tearivar having left the soum of 500 merks for erecting ane isle for his burial place and likewise for enlarging of the kirk, the Session do unanimously allow to breakdown ane piece of the wall of the kirk towards the north opposit to the pulpit whereby ane penn may be made.”

John Munro, II. of Pittonachy, was succeeded by his eldest son,

III. HUGH MUNRO, who is designated “of Achnagart.” He married Janet, eldest daughter of George Munro, VI. of Milntown, by whom he had four sons—

1. John, his heir, who entered the army, where he attained the rank of Captain. He died unmarried.
2. George; 3. Hugh, both of whom died without succession.
4. Robert, who succeeded his father as

IV. ROBERT MUNRO of Achnagart who married a daughter of John Ross of Little Tarrel, by whom he had several sons and daughters, whose names have not been recorded. One of his daughters married William, youngest son of John Munro, I. of Achany, with issue.



# THE MUNROS OF CULCAIRN.

BY ALEXANDER ROSS.



THE progenitor of the family of Culcairn was—

I. George Munro, second son of Sir Robert Munro, fifth Baronet and twenty-third Baron of Fowlis, by his wife Jane, eldest daughter of John Forbes, second Baron of Culloden, and aunt of the celebrated President Duncan Forbes.

George Munro was born on the 18th of September 1685. He received a liberal education, was a great genius, and possessed considerable erudition. Besides the branches of learning common to all professions, he acquired an extensive knowledge of theological literature. Before he was seventeen years of age, he was so well acquainted with ecclesiastical history as to be able to give a good account of the advance and decline of the Christian religion in various ages and countries, and the degree and manner by which the corruption and reformation of the Church had been introduced, established, or obstructed.

But his tastes and talents lay particularly in a military life. He therefore entered the army when young, and had attained the rank of Captain previous to the insurrection of 1715. Inheriting the principles of his fathers, he was, during the whole course of that rebellion, actively engaged in support of the reign-



ing dynasty; and, after the suppression of that attempt to restore the Stuarts, he was chiefly employed in reducing the inhabitants of the western Highlands and Islands to submission to the Government.

When General Wightman, who had been sent to repel the Spanish invasion of 1719, had been long detained at Inverness for guides to conduct his troops over the mountains to Glenshiel, where the Spaniards and rebels were encamped, and after all the promises of such guides had failed, Captain Munro (in the absence of his elder brother, Robert the Master of Fowlis, who was abroad), acting for his father, Sir Robert, who was blind, speedily assembled a body of his clan, proceeded to Inverness to the General's assistance, and marched with the regular troops to Glenshiel.

The petty rebellion, which began and ended with the battle of Glenshiel, was projected by Cardinal Alberoni, of Spain, for the re-establishment of Romanism, and he devised an expedition against Great Britain for that purpose. The principal Jacobite leaders in the late rebellion had sought and found refuge in France, among them being Earl Marischall, the Earl of Seaforth, the Duke of Ormonde, and others. The Cardinal organised an army of six companies of Spanish Infantry, which he placed under the command of the Earl Marischall, with a Spaniard, named Don Alonso de Santarem, second in command. The Earl set sail from San Sebastian, and, after a stormy and dangerous passage, landed at Stornoway, in Lewis. After some delay there, he passed over to Kintail, where he was joined by the famous Rob Roy and a company of the Macgregors, and some of the Macraes and Mackenzies.

General Wightman on his way across the country from Inverness, was joined by those clans who had declared for the Government and abandoned Jacobitism. When he reached Glenshiel he had 1600 men under his command. He arrived there on the 14th of June, and found the rebels strongly posted to receive him. The road by which he came followed the course of the stream at the bottom of the Pass of Glenshiel, and could easily be commanded from the precipitous heights on either side. The scantily-covered rocks shelved down towards their base in such a manner that a passage through the glen, whilst an oppos-



ing force held the upper ground, appeared quite impossible. Wightman saw the difficulty of the situation, and paused ere he would venture upon such a dubious conflict. He sent skirmishing parties stealthily to ascend the hills on each side, so as to place themselves upon higher positions than those occupied by the rebels, hoping thus to dislodge them from their points of vantage. The main body of his troops remained in the glen to induce the rebels to begin the attack. His plan was a daring one, but it effected his purpose.

The rebels were distributed in admirable battle array upon the hill which rose on one side of the glen. The Spaniards were posted upon the highest ground, as it was expected that their skill in musketry would be most valuable in that position, whilst next to them were the Mackenzies, under Seaforth, and a small body of Murrays, under the Marquis of Tullibardine. The advanced guard was composed entirely of Macgregors, with Rob Roy at their head, and to them was entrusted the dangerous task of leading the attack.

The forces seemed so nearly equal in strength that both parties stood at bay, each expecting the other to make the first advance. At five o'clock in the afternoon, General Wightman made a movement as if to pass through the glen, and when, deploying in line, his troops had reached a critical position, the Spaniards opened fire upon them, and disordered their ranks. Taking advantage of the confusion, the Macgregors rushed boldly down the hill, threw away their firelocks, after they had discharged them, and met their enemies at the point of the claymore. At this juncture the skirmishers, whom Wightman had placed on the hills, poured their deadly fire upon the assailants, and forced them to retreat, surprised, but not defeated. The Spaniards, somewhat terrified at the simultaneous appearance of enemies, both above and before them, lost heart entirely, and became useless for serious warfare; but the undaunted Highlanders, goaded to greater enthusiasm by the odds against them, repeatedly ventured to the attack, and, at close quarters, did great execution.

Pennant in his *Tour*, vol. ii., page 389, says that "the Highlanders made a poor stand; but were quickly put to flight"—a statement quite contrary to fact, and one that shows that



he was imbued with the same animosity towards the Highlanders as his countryman, Dr Johnson. Once and again did the Macgregors, the Macraes, and the Mackenzies assail their opponents in front, in flank, and in rear; but the defection of the Spaniards had made their conflict almost a hopeless one. For three hours the battle raged tumultuously, without either party gaining much apparent advantage. Had it been possible for Wightman to engage the rebels upon an open plain, he would have made short work of them; but their heroic defence of the strong position which they held forced him to withdraw from the contest, and to recall his skirmishers ere nightfall.

When the rebels reviewed their situation, they found that three of their leaders—Seaforth, Tullibardine, and Lord George Murray—were seriously wounded, and many of the clansmen had fallen in the fray. Great numbers of the Spaniards, unused to the style of warfare adopted, had ignominiously fled from the scene of battle, and those who remained were too demoralised to be of much further service. The most sanguine amongst the rebels could not hope for victory, and under the circumstances it only remained for them to make the best possible terms of surrender. Rob Roy, upon whom the command of the expedition now fell, dared not approach Wightman, since it was not likely the Hanoverian General would treat with a rebel whom his Government had repeatedly denounced. He arranged, therefore, that the Highlanders should quietly disperse for their homes, bearing their wounded chiefs along with them; and that the leader of the Spaniards should yield himself and his men prisoners of war to Wightman, and thus secure a safe passage to their native land. The advice was adopted, and the Highlanders fled by devious paths, best known to themselves, from the place which had witnessed their indomitable but fruitless bravery; and Don Alonso de Santarem led his crestfallen soldiers down into the Valley of Humiliation, and submitted them to the commands of the heretic general. Thus ended the battle of Glenshiel.

Wightman, on reckoning his losses, found he had twenty-one men killed, and one hundred and twenty-one wounded, among the latter being Captain George Munro of Culcairn, who was dangerously wounded in the thigh by the enemy, posted on the declivity of the hill, who kept on firing at him after he had



fallen. After falling, when by their behaviour he realised that they were resolved to dispatch him, he told his servant—a clansman—who was faithfully watching him, to get out of danger, lest he might lose his life, for he could be of no service to him now, and requested him, when he returned home, to let his father and family know that he had done his duty. The faithful Highlander thereupon burst into tears, and asked his master how he thought he could leave him in that condition, and what would they think of him at home if he did so? He told the Captain that he would not leave him, and, to shield him from further injury, he laid himself down on his hands and knees over his master, till Serjeant Robert Munro, son of Hugh Munro, of Tullochue, with a small party, dislodged the enemy, after having previously sworn upon his dirk that he would effect the Captain's rescue. General Stewart, in his "Sketches," records several acts of similar self-devotion and heroism displayed by Highlanders towards their commanders and chiefs; but this act of fidelity of Munro is, so far as we know, only equalled in ancient history by that of Philocratus, slave to Caius Gracchus, who, when he was found by his enemies in a wood, covered his master with his body, in such a manner that Caius could not be killed by them, till they had first dispatched the faithful slave. The man who thus so bravely saved his master's life afterwards became Captain Munro's valet, and was treated more like a friend than a servant.

After recovering from his wounds, Captain Munro continued vigorous and active in the service of the Government, and obtained the command of one of the independent companies, in the national pay, which were first formed in 1729-30. On the 25th of October 1739 these companies, known as the Black Watch, were formed into a regiment, numbered the 43rd—now the 42nd Royal Highland Regiment—and placed under the command of his brother, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Robert Munro. He was made its senior Captain, and accompanied it to Flanders in 1743. In 1744 he was obliged to retire from active service, owing to a severe attack of asthma, aggravated by the air of Flanders. He accordingly sold his commission, and on the advice of General Wade, and his brother, Sir Robert, he returned home to his seat at Newton, in the parish of Kiltearn, intending to spend



his remaining days with his family and friends in that peaceful retreat. But Providence determined otherwise, and had reserved him for some further labours in the military field.

The Rebellion of 1745 broke out soon after his arrival at Newton; and the danger which threatened his country, with its civil and religious liberties, at once brought him renewed strength and energy.

When General Sir John Cope came to Inverness, and having been assured of being joined by a number of Highlanders to conduct him and his small army through the rebel counties between that town and Aberdeen, Captain Munro, with two hundred Munros, were the only persons found willing to perform the promises which were made by others. He conducted Sir John Cope to Aberdeen, whence he was ordered home. On the homeward journey, Munro had to pass through a district invested by a detachment of the rebels under the command of Gordon of Glenbucket, who seemed disposed to oppose his return, but finding that the Captain was determined to force his way, he retired and allowed the Munros to proceed without further molestation.

Not long afterwards the Earl of Loudon, who held command for the King at Inverness, sent Captain Munro with six hundred men—all Munros and Macleods—to relieve the city of Aberdeen, and the neighbouring country, and counteract the Jacobite rising in Aberdeenshire, which place was greatly oppressed by the outrages committed by Lord Lewis Gordon, a brother of the Duke of Gordon, who was himself in the service of the reigning Royal family. Captain Munro proceeded as far as Inverury, a small town a few miles west from Aberdeen, where he halted to receive intelligence. Owing to the narrowness of the pass, he was obliged to quarter a great number of his men in different places throughout the neighbourhood. In the meantime a considerable reinforcement from the main body of the rebel army, then stationed at Perth, was sent under the command of a French officer, supported by their picquets and Irish brigades, to Lord Gordon's assistance. On their arrival, Gordon resolved to surprise and cut off the Captain and his whole party. With this object in view, the youthful Jacobite leader, taking advantage of the Highlanders being quartered on the inhabitants in the town and district of Inverury, moved towards that town in the dusk of



the evening of 23rd December 1745, after Captain Munro had sent his men to their quarters. But though the Captain did not get so early an intimation of the enemy's approach as he would have wished, they were providentially discovered in sufficient time to enable him to post the men he had in the town in such a manner that they were prepared to give the rebels so warm a reception (which they did by attacking them in front and in flank) that many of them were left dead on the field. The brave little band made a stout resistance, their gallant Captain continuing cool, intrepid, and active during the heat of the skirmish; but, being taken by surprise and overpowered by far superior numbers, they were unable to hold out against an enemy who knew the ground better, supported by seven hundred insurgents under the immediate command of Lord John Drummond. Captain Munro, in the circumstances, thought it advisable to retire, and succeeded in bringing off his men safe and in good order, with the exception of one or two who were killed or taken prisoners. Adam Gordon of Ardoch (now Braelangwell) Captain Munro's nephew, was captured by the rebels and detained for a considerable time, during which he was treated with undue rigour and severity. He ultimately made his escape and joined his uncle. Lord Lewis Gordon did not attempt to pursue, but retired with the loss of a number of men, and marched with his followers to the Jacobite rendezvous at Stirling.

The following letter, published for the first time in the *Inverness Courier* of 27th December 1883, gives some additional information relative to the skirmish at Inverury:—

“ H. D. S. (Honoured Dear Sir),—Yesternight I understood our minister had a letter from Mr Irvine, minister at Elgin, shewing that the Prince's party was defeated in England, the Lords Elcho and Nairn taken, together with 300 of the Prince's Guards and the whole artillery, and that he was retreated to Carlisle, and that the English were killing them like dogs on the highway. This news came by a ship from Leith, who heard the Castle firing just as he set sail; Gen. Campbell is at Stirling with 6000 men, and Gen. Wade is ordered with his whole army for Scotland.

“ This morning we were alarmed with the affecting news that the Lord Drummond, with a body of 2000 men, attacked the Macleods and Munroes at Inverury at five o'clock yesternight, beginning with the Guard, who, I fear, were mostly killed, as I'm informed there were only about 400 men in town, who all engaged. The rest were quartered in the country, who, upon the first notice of the fire, for the most part fled, and some were at this place by two or three o'clock in the morning. Most of the Macleods and Munroes, as did Colcairn and Macleod, passed this place by 9 or 10 o'clock in the morning in great disorder. Several have come dropping up since in



great fear, hiring horses, fearing the enemy at their heels. Of those that past many were wounded, but coming of in hurry and confusion, could give no distinct account of the loss, only some that I talked with, who were in the heat of the action, told me that they lost many men, and that he saw the Prince's men upon the first platoon fall in heaps. They spak very bitterly against Lord Lowdon that he did not come to their assistance, and also against Grant, and Macleod himself was heard to exclaim against him. They talk of gathering their scattered forces at Elgin, and calling up Lowdon to make head against the enemy, who are coming up flushed with victory, and we hear that there are billets demanded at Huntly this night for 3000 men—what will come of this poor place God only knows. We hear it reported that Avachie's men suffered much, and that the Macleods fired desperately from their windows in their quarters, and did considerable execution, and several of the townspeople and women are killed. In this hurry I have scarcely left room to congratulate yourself and lady upon the safe arrival of your son, and wish all honour and happiness to yourself and family ; and am, with the utmost respect and gratitude, H. D. S., your most obliged servant,

"JEAN BAYLIE.

"Keith, Decr. 24th, 1745."

Addressed on the back to—

"Thomas Grantt of Achoynanie, Esq., at Airndilly."

Upon the retreat of the rebels northward before the Duke of Cumberland, the Earl of Loudon had not sufficient strength to maintain his position at Inverness, and in consequence he, with Lord President Forbes and Captain George Munro, retreated through Ross into Sutherlandshire, with the intention of defending themselves there till the season allowed the Duke to march his troops to Inverness. But in this interval, the rebels, having spread themselves over the Counties of Ross, Moray, and Inverness, got possession of a number of boats, by means of which, under cover of a dense fog, they transported a large body of their men to Sutherland. This action of the enemy compelled Loudon, the President, and Captain Munro, to retreat through the west of Ross-shire into the Isle of Skye, where they remained till the rebel army was broken up and dispersed at Culloden.

On his return from Skye, Captain Munro was constantly employed on expeditions through the rebel districts, reducing them to order and submission to the Government, which duties he diligently and zealously, yet always most humanely, performed. This the rebels themselves acknowledged, as he never did the least injury to any man, and in all his vast circuit over the North and West Highlands, he neither himself seized, nor allowed those under his command to seize, anything but



arms. Yet, notwithstanding all his humanity, his diligence and zeal during the whole of the Rebellion had rendered him so obnoxious to the rebels that they vowed his destruction upon the first opportunity ; and, as they had not the courage to face him, they resolved to assassinate him, which resolution they carried into effect on Sabbath, 31st of August 1746, although at the time he was shot his assassin mistook him for another man.

After the suppression of the Rebellion, an order was issued to the Highlanders to deliver up their arms. A Lochaber man named Dugald Roy Cameron, sent his son to Fort-William with his arms to be delivered up. When proceeding down by Loch-Arkaig, the young man was met by an officer of the name of Grant, who was conducting a party of soldiers to Knoydart. Grant immediately seized young Cameron, and shot him on the spot. His father swore to be revenged, and hearing that the officer rode a white horse, he watched behind a rock for his return, on a height above Loch-Arkaig. Captain Munro had unfortunately borrowed the white horse on which Grant rode, and while he was passing—between the advanced guard and the main body of his men—the spot where the irate Cameron lay in ambush, he met the fate intended for Grant, Cameron firing and killing him on the spot. Dugald Roy escaped, and afterwards became a soldier in the British army.

Dr Browne, in his *History of the Highlands and Highland Clans*, gives a different account of the manner in which Captain Munro met his death. He says that Dugald Roy Cameron's house was burned, his cattle plundered, and his son killed while defending his family, who were turned out in the snow by Grant's orders. Vowing vengeance, Cameron "watched the officer who was the author of this inhuman outrage, and who, he was informed, was to be distinguished by a cloak of a particular kind. This officer, riding one day with Captain George Munro of Culcairn in a shower of rain, lent him his cloak ; and while marching in it with a party of men along the side of Loch-Arkaig, the Captain was shot by the enraged Highlander, who perceived the cloak, but could not distinguish the difference of person. The man escaped, and although he was well known, and might have been apprehended afterwards, he was allowed to pass unpunished."



General Stewart\* states that Colonel Grant of Moy (who died in April 1802, in his ninetieth year), was walking along the road with a gun upon his shoulder, when Captain Munro was shot. A turn of the road concealed him from the soldiers at the moment, but when he came in sight with his gun, they immediately seized him upon suspicion, and carried him to Fort-William. After making investigations into the matter, Colonel Grant was declared innocent of the crime laid to his charge, and he was at once set at liberty.

Thus died the brave, humane, and pious Captain George Munro of Culcairn, to the great grief of his relatives and friends, and to the irreparable loss of his country. One of Dr Doddridge's correspondents—probably the Rev. James Fraser, then minister of Alness, and author of an able and learned work on "Santification," writes of him as follows:—

"The great foundation of all his other virtues was laid in a most sincere and steadfast regard to the Supreme Being. He carefully studied the great doctrines of our holy religion, which he courageously professed, and, as it was requisite, defended, in whatever company he might be cast. He did this with the greatest freedom, as his practice was always agreeable to it; and in particular his regard, both to the Book and to the Day of God. He had from his infancy been trained up in an acquaintance with the Scriptures; and he daily perused it with pleasure, and doubtless with advantage. And tho' the natural cheerfulness of his temper inclined him on other days to facetious turns in conversation, yet on the *Sabbath* he was not only grave and devout, but carefully attentive that *all his speech might tend to edification*, and as far as possible *minister to the hearers*.

"He was exemplary in the *social virtues*, temperate in the use of food and sleep, and rose early for devotions (wherein, as in many other respects, he remarkably resembled his beloved friend Colonel Gardiner). He was also thoroughly sensible how much a faithful discharge of relative duties is essential to the character of a Christian. He approved himself, therefore, as a brave and vigilant officer, a most active and faithful servant of the Crown, and a true patriot to his country in the worst of times, and in domestic life was exemplary as a husband, a faithful friend, a constant benefactor, and a sure patron of the oppressed; and, to crown all, was at last in effect a martyr in the cause of that religion he had so eminently adorned, and of those liberties he had so long and so bravely defended."

Captain Munro took a deep interest in ecclesiastical matters, was for several years an elder in Kiltearn Parish Church, and frequently represented the Presbytery of Dingwall, as one of its Commissioners in the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. He was for many years a Justice of the Peace, and for several years a Sheriff-Depute of Ross-shire. As heritors in the

\* *Sketches of the Highlanders*, Foot-note, vol. i., p. 280.



Parish of Alness, he and John Munro, V. of Novar, strongly opposed the settlement of the Rev. James Fraser as minister of Alness. They had no objection to Mr Fraser's life and doctrine, but they wished John Munro, probationer, son of Mr Donald Munro, alias "Caird," in the Parish of Kiltearn, to be appointed to the parish. Mr Munro had officiated in Alness for some Sabbaths during Mr D. Mackillican's illness, and Culcairn, Novar, and many others were well pleased with his ministrations. The majority of the parish was for Mr Fraser, and the Presbytery therefore sustained the call in his favour, and he was inducted to Alness on the 17th of February 1726. Mr Munro was afterwards admitted to the Parish of Halkirk.

Captain George Munro, I. of Culcairn, died in his sixty-first year.

He married Christian, daughter of John Munro of Tearivan, by whom he had a family of four sons and six daughters—

1. John, his heir.
2. Andrew ; 3. George ; 4. George. All three died unmarried.
5. Anne, who died unmarried.
6. Jane, who married Alex. Gordon of Garty, to whom she bore two sons—William and Alexander. Garty appears to have died shortly after the birth of Alexander, and William died in infancy. The following letter written by Captain Munro, and addressed to "Hugh Munro of Teaninich, Esq.," the original of which is still preserved among the archives in Teaninich Charter Chest, is interesting as a specimen of the Captain's literary style, and requires no apology for its insertion here :—

"Dr. Cousine,—David Munro sent me in June last a summonss agst Gairtys only son Sandie, after Willie's death, for leading ane adjudicature at my instance for what soumes Gairtie was due to me after paying the tocher before the Lords, and after the same with the execution were returned he found he could not compleat the same this session before the Lords ; and it was necessary it should be done before the Sheriff before the end of the Dispensatione, &c., and therefor sent north the vouchers for doing the same there ; and as it is necessary for a Tutor *ad literi* to be named for the child, and as Albert of Coul was named such in the Process before the Lords for Willie, so he would be the same for Sandie if the Process was caryd on yr. But since it is to be caryd on here, I beg you'l allow yourself to be named Tutor *ad literi* for Sandie, and you'l only renounce before the Inferior Court, &c.

If it happens that I cannot be at home on the 17th of Augt. next, being the day before the meeting of the Committee of the Comn. of Suply, for making out the Cess book at Alness, you'l please that day to go my house and call for the keys of my



drawer, from my eldest daughter, and open the drawer in my room, and in the top of the 2nd keeping, in the 2nd shelf to the left hand, you'll find together two books of the valuation of the shyre of Ross, one done by Hugh Baillie, as clerk of supply, where the severall parishes, and every heritor's lands in the severall parishes are notted; and the other done by Aldie, as collector, yrin every heritor's proportion in the different parishes are marked; and I think you should call from (? on) Culniskeath (David Bethune) for a valuation book he hath of the shyre, but I am of opinion he will not give (it) out of his own hands, yr being severall other things in it also; and therefore if you'll want it you must call for himself with it.

I have no news here. We have fine growing weather this week and much raines the two former weeks, which mended the corn much. Oat meal is sold at Crief at 6 pence the peck, and bearmal at 4 pence the peck by weight, but it is not so cheap here. My service to the Lady Teaninich, your sisters, and all friends.—And I am,  
Dr. Sir, your aff. Cousine and Humble Servant,

GEO. MUNRO.

Moness, 30th July 1742.



# THE MUNROS OF CULCAIRN.

BY ALEXANDER ROSS.

---

## II.

GEORGE MUNRO, the first and founder of his family, was succeeded by his eldest son,

JOHN MUNRO, II. of Culcairn, who did, like his father and uncles, not enter the army, but appears to have led a quiet country life at home. In 1751 he established a bleachfield on the spot where the present Culcairn mills stand; and it was the only one then in the County of Ross. For several years after its establishment it succeeded pretty well, but after Culcairn's death it passed through the hands of different managers, and was not so successful. In 1779 William Tait, from the Salton Bleachfield in Haddingtonshire, was appointed manager. He carried on the works with considerable skill and perseverance, and the proprietor, Duncan Munro, III of Culcairn, appreciating his industry, gave him every encouragement, granted him a lease of the bleachfield, and built for him a comfortable house. As a proof of Tait's good management of the bleachfield it is stated that in 1779, there were only 440 pieces of cloth bleached, while in 1790, the number of pieces amounted to 2242. In 1786 the Honourable Board of Trustees, being informed of Mr Tait's industry and success, granted him £50 to enable him to erect a drying house. The bleachfield, soon after Mr Tait's death, rapidly fell back, and ultimately ceased to exist.

John Munro, II. of Culcairn, married Mary, daughter of Alexander Ross of Calrossie, and had by her three sons and one daughter :—

1. George, who adopted his grandfather's profession, and rose to the rank of Captain in the 71st Regiment. He died unmarried in 1776.

2. Thomas, who, like his elder brother, adopted the army as his profession. He was drowned at sea in 1778. He also died unmarried.

3. Duncan, who, being the only surviving son, succeeded his father.



4 Catherine, who married, on the 17th of October 1783, the Rev. Alexander Fraser, A.M., minister of Inverness. Mr Fraser studied at the University of Aberdeen, where he obtained his degree, in 1771. He was licensed by the Presbytery of Inverness on the second of December 1777 ; and presented by George III. to Inverness Third Charge, and ordained thereto on the 22nd of September 1778. He was translated to the Second Charge on the 3rd of July 1798, and to the First Charge—now the High Established Church—on the 3rd of March 1801. Mr Fraser died on the 20th of May 1821, in the 70th year of his age, and 43rd of his ministry. Conjointly with his colleagues, the Revs. George Watson and Alex. Rose, A.M., he was the author of the Old Statistical Account of the Parish of Inverness. By Miss Catherine Munro he had issue, among others :—(1.) Catherine, who married Hugh Denoon, a scion of the Denoons of Cadboll, in Easter Ross, and went with her husband to Pictou. (2.) Anne, who married Dr Donald Macpherson, who was assistant surgeon in the 42nd Regiment “Royal Highlanders,” 1st June 1809, and on half pay in the 62nd Foot, 24th July 1835. He died at Chatham on the 25th June 1839, leaving issue, besides two daughters, a son, Andrew John Macpherson, who entered the army, and retired on half pay, as Colonel, on the 27th of December 1868. Colonel Macpherson still survives, and resides in Rochester. (3.) Jane, who died in Inverness in 1841. (4.) Mary, who married Dr Rankin, Inverness, and died in 1873.

III. DUNCAN MUNRO succeeded his father as third of Culcairn. Like his brothers, he entered the army at an early age, and became a Captain-Lieutenant in the 78th Highland Regiment of Ross-shire Buffs, first battalion, on its embodiment on the 8th of March 1793.

The first battalion of this gallant regiment was raised by Francis H. Mackenzie, afterwards Lord Seaforth, and a second battalion in 1794. Both battalions were amalgamated in June 1796. Another second battalion was subsequently raised in 1804, and both battalions amalgamated in 1817. The regiment has ever since remained as a single battalion. After its embodiment it was inspected on 10th July 1793, at Fort-George, by Lieutenant-General Sir Hector Munro of Novar, and pronounced “an excellent body of men, healthy, vigorous, and efficient.” In



September 1794, it embarked, with the 80th, to join the British troops in Holland, and early in October landed at Quil. On the 4th of November, the 78th was for the first time under fire at the siege of Nimeguen, where it did so much execution with the bayonet, as to call forth the highest encomiums from experienced and veteran officers. The loss sustained by the regiment in this engagement was Lieutenant Martin Cameron and seven men. Among the wounded was Captain Hugh Munro, IX. of Teaninich. The next action in which the 78th was engaged was the battle of Geldermalsen, which was fought on the 5th of January 1795. The French were completely defeated, and retired in great confusion. In this battle Captain Duncan Munro took a conspicuous part, and behaved with great coolness. He was, however, severely wounded. All the rest of the officers escaped scathless; but of the soldiers there were four killed and seven wounded.

On the 6th of March 1796, the 78th sailed for the Cape of Good Hope, under the command of Lieut.-General Alexander Mackenzie of Belmaduthy, in the Black Isle, and arrived at Simon's Bay on the 10th of May. It landed on the 1st of June, and marched to Capetown, which was taken from the Dutch. On the 4th of November the regiment embarked for India, and arrived at Calcutta on the 10th February 1797. On arriving in India, Captain Duncan Munro was appointed *aide-de-camp* to the well-known Lieut.-General Mackenzie-Fraser of Inverallochy and Castle Fraser, fourth son of Colin Mackenzie of Kilcoy, by his wife, Martha, eldest daughter of Charles Fraser of Inverallochy, to which property General Alexander succeeded in right of his mother, and assumed the additional name of Fraser. He died in Sept. 1809, from a fever contracted in the Walcheren expedition.

In 1802, Captain Munro retired from the army, and on his arrival home in 1803, he was appointed Lieut.-Colonel Commanding the Wester Ross Regiment of Militia, numbering 810 men.

Colonel Munro married, on the 5th of December 1782, at Inverness, Jean (born at the Manse, Dornoch, in 1754), eldest daughter of the Rev. Robert Kirke, minister of Dornoch (from 1713 to 1758), by his second wife, Jean, daughter of Andrew Ross



of Pitkerrie, in Easter Ross, and sister of George Ross of Cromarty, the "Scotch Agent" referred to in the letters of Junius, and whose heir Mrs Munro eventually became.

By Miss Kirke Colonel Duncan Munro had one son and two daughters :—

1. George Ross, who was born in 1781. He entered the army, and was for some time a Captain in the 85th Regiment of Light Infantry. He accompanied his regiment to Jamaica, where he died in 1821.

2. Catherine, who succeeded her brother.

3. Jean, who died unmarried, at Cromarty House, on the 5th of January 1874, aged 88 years.

Colonel Duncan Munro died in 1820, and was succeeded by his only son,

IV. GEORGE MUNRO, who survived his father for only one year. He was succeeded by his elder sister,

V. CATHERINE ROSS MUNRO, who was born in 1783. She married, on 15th February 1815, Hugh Rose of Glasstullich (she being his second wife), to whom she bore two daughters and one son :—

1. Catherine, who was born in 1820, and married Thomas Knox Holmes, barrister, London, and son of William Holmes, Irish Whip in the House of Commons.

2. Arabella, who was born in 1822, and married, as his third wife, the late Duncan Davidson of Tulloch, to whom she bore no issue. She died in 1847, and was buried at Dingwall.

3. George William Holmes Ross.

Mrs Ross's right to the estates of Cromarty gave rise to tedious legislation before it was decided in her favour by the highest legal tribunals. She died on the 20th of February 1852 ; and on a marble tablet erected to her memory in the Established Church of Cromarty, is the following inscription :—

" Sacred  
To the Memory of  
CATHERINE,  
Relict of Hugh Rose-Ross, Esq. of Glasstullich  
and Cromarty, and eldest daughter of  
DUNCAN MUNRO, Esq. of Culcairn.  
*Born, March 1783.*  
*Died, 20th February 1852.*



She inherited  
The Estate of Cromarty  
From her Maternal Grand-Uncle,  
GEORGE ROSS, Esq.  
of Pitkerie and Cromarty ;  
and  
In Memory of her Sister,  
JEAN MUNRO of Culcairn.  
*Died at Cromarty House,  
5-1-1874. Aged 88."*

Mrs Rose Ross was succeeded by her only son, the late,

VI. GEORGE WILLIAM HOLMES ROSE ROSS of Cromarty. He entered the army as ensign in the 92nd Highlanders on the 21st of April 1846 ; became Lieutenant on 23rd June 1848 ; and retired from the service in 1851. On the 3rd of November 1854, he was gazetted Captain of the Highland Rifle Militia Regiment of Ross and Cromarty, Sutherland and Caithness ; Major on the 26th of November 1855 ; and Lieutenant-Colonel, with the honorary rank of Colonel, on the 19th of January 1856.

Colonel Ross was a magistrate for the County of Ross, Deputy-Lieutenant and Convener of the County of Cromarty, Justice of the Peace, &c. As a landlord he was kind and humane, and was most deservedly honoured and highly respected by his tenantry. He took all along a warm and fatherly interest in the welfare of the Burgh of Cromarty and its inhabitants.

Colonel Ross was prohibited by his great-grand-uncle's entail of Cromarty from bearing any other name than Ross, and from carrying any other arms than that of Ross of Balnagown—with the proper mark of cadency—of whom, in the words of the entailer, "I have the honour to be descended."

If it were not for this prohibition, Colonel Ross would have been entitled, according to the laws of Heraldry, to quarter the arms of Munro, having inherited the property of Dalmore, or Obsdale. He, however, in 1878, obtained, by petition from the Lord Lyon, authority to bear the *Crest and Motto* of the Munros with the Ross arms.

The Lord Lyon sets forth that as Colonel Ross is "the Heir of Line of the family of Munro of Foulis, as proved by documentary evidence produced with the said petition, and although precluded by the aforesaid deed of entail from bearing the arms of Munro, is desirous of obtaining our sanction to bear as his crest the crest formerly borne by the Culcairn branch of



the family, viz:—‘an eagle with wings closed proper,’ along with the motto ‘Dread God.’” The deed goes on to say that the “The Lord Lyon grants authority to G. W. H. Ross of Cromarty and his successors to bear in future the aforesaid crest and motto of the Munroes.” In submitting his petition to the Lord Lyon, Colonel Ross pointed out that the arms referred only to the *Shield* and not to the *Crest*. The Lord Lyon agreed completely with him, and accordingly granted the prayer of his petition, viz:—The Balnagowan arms thus differenced—a mulet argent and the Lion Rampart and armed argent. He also got the Lord Lyon to put in the forked tails of the lions, as formerly borne by the Rosses of Balnagowan.

After the death of Miss Munro, daughter of Sir Hugh Munro of Foulis, Colonel Ross became the lineal representative of the family through his mother, the eldest daughter and heiress of Duncan Munro of Culcairn. The present chief, Sir Charles Munro, is descended from the Newmore and Culrain family, which branched off from the main stock at a much earlier date (1610) than that of Culcairn (1685).

Sir Robert Munro, sixth Baronet of Foulis, was a brother of Duncan Munro, I. of Culcairn. His descendants became extinct on the death of Miss Munro, in 1848, and Colonel Ross as great-great-grandson of George Munro of Culcairn, became the heir of line. Miss Munro left all the unentailed property to George Munro, a natural son of Sir Hugh’s, and amongst the rest a small property called Knockrash, immediately behind the village of Evanton. Mr Munro, however, found that his father, Sir Hugh, had never been served heir to this property. As soon as he had ascertained this, he, in the most honourable manner, acquainted Colonel Ross with the same, stating that doubtless the property belonged to the Colonel. Sir Charles Munro, however, opposed Cromarty’s claim, and the case was tried before the Court of Session, who decided that Colonel Ross was heir-general and heir-at-law of Sir Harry Munro, Sir Hugh’s father, and that as such he was entitled to the property, to which he accordingly succeeded, and sold it for the sum of £2000.

In early life Colonel Ross took a leading part in the politics of the North, and, when quite a young man, contested, in 1852, the combined Counties of Ross and Cromarty in the Conservative interest with the late Sir James Matheson. Cromarty made



a gallant fight, but was defeated, the number of votes being—Matheson, 288 ; Ross, 218 ; Liberal majority, 70. The Lews being the property of Sir James, and there being in those days no Ballot Act, every tenant voted for their proprietor, the only vote in the Islands obtained by Colonel Ross being that of the Rev. John Macrae, minister of Stornoway. There was, however, a majority of *one* for Sir James even on the Mainland. Cromarty referred to that on the hustings, after the declaration of the poll, and said that that one was Sir James's own vote. He was, however, corrected by Sir James, who reminded him that he (Cromarty) voted for himself, and to neutralise that vote he (Sir James) recorded his vote in his own favour. Cromarty accepted the correction, but expressed a wish "that the Lews might be speedily attached to the Northern Burghs."

Colonel Ross married on the 20th of April 1849, Adelaide Sucey, second daughter of the late Duncan Davidson of Tulloch, by his first wife, Elizabeth Diana Bosville, eldest daughter of Sir Godfrey Macdonald Bosville, third Lord Macdonald, by whom he had three sons and four daughters :—

1. Duncan Munro, his successor.

2. Hugh Rose, who was born on the 31st of May 1854, and in early life entered the service of his Queen and country as a Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery. On the outbreak of the war with Afghanistan in 1878, Lieutenant Ross volunteered to join any field battery going to the front. He was at once posted to G Battery, 4th Brigade, which formed a part of General Sir Donald Stewart's army. He was attacked by dysentery at Quettah, and did not report his illness, but marched with his battery, doing his duty to the last. When the forces reached Pishin Valley his illness increased to such an extent that he was unable to proceed farther. Here, in camp, he died unmarried on the 12th of January 1879, a bright example of that soldier-like zeal and devotion to duty, so characteristic of the ancient and honourable family of Culcairn and Cromarty.

3. Walter Charteris, who was born on the 5th of August 1857. Like his brother he also adopted the army as his profession, and is at present a Lieutenant in the Haddington Artillery Militia, or old 68th Light Infantry. He is still unmarried.

4. Catherine Elizabeth Julia, who married in 1874, Francis Mauld Reid, captain in the Highland Light Infantry, without issue.



5. Louise Jane Hamilton, who married at Inverness, on the 1st of October 1875, Sir Ronald Archibald Bosville, sixth Lord Macdonald of Sleat (born on the 9th of June 1853), her cousin, with issue :—(1.) Somerled Godfrey James, born on the 31st of July 1876. (2.) Godfrey Evan Hugh, born on the        of 187 . (3.) Archibald Ronald Armadale, born on the 20th of May 1880.

6. Ida Eleanora Constance, who married on the 15th of June 1881, Godfrey Ernest Percival Willoughby, second son of the late Lord Middleton, and brother and heir-presumptive of the present Lord Middleton. He was born in 1847; entered the army, and was a captain in the 9th Lancers. Captain Willoughby sold out in the beginning of 1878. No issue.

7. Matilda Elizabeth, who died in infancy.

Mrs Colonel Ross died in Jersey on the 3rd of March 1860, aged 30 years. Her remains were brought to Scotland, and interred in the family burying-ground at Cromarty.

Colonel Ross died at Cromarty House on the 19th of November 1883. The following battalion order, in connection with the event, was issued by the officer commanding the 3rd Battalion Seaforth Highlanders, which regiment Colonel Ross so long commanded :—

“ Dingwall, N.B., 30th Nov. 1883.

“ Lieutenant-Colonel Macleay has learnt with deep sorrow of the death of Colonel George William Holmes Ross of Cromarty, late Colonel Commanding the Highland Rifle Militia (now 3rd Battalion Seaforth Highlanders) at Cromarty House, on the 19th inst.

“ Colonel Ross joined the battalion in 1854, having previously served in the 92nd Highlanders, and succeeded to the command in 1856, and continued to command until 1882, when he was compelled through ill-health to resign.

“ To his untiring energy and deep attachment to the regiment is due in a great measure the present high state of efficiency of the battalion.

“ In his death the battalion has to deplore the loss of an old and sincere friend, and her Majesty and the Militia Service generally a most zealous and competent officer.

“ As a mark of respect to his memory, officers of the battalion, when in uniform, will wear mourning for one month from the date of this order.

By order.

(Signed)

“ C. ROBERTS, Captain Adjutant,  
3rd Battalion Seaforth Highlanders.”

Colonel Ross was succeeded by his eldest son,

VII. DUNCAN MUNRO, present laird of Cromarty, who was born on the 29th of September 1851, and at an early age entered the Royal Navy, from which he retired on attaining the rank of Lieutenant. He is still unmarried.