

The History of the  
Clan Neish or MacNish  
of Perthshire and Galloway

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FOREWORD.

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THE records of the Highland clans, and septs of clans, are the tributaries of the main streams of Highland history. The preservation of these records has been achieved largely by the process of "handing down," which is connoted by the word "tradition." Supplemented, sifted, and sometimes corrected, by documented history, the traditions of the Highlands truthfully convey the atmosphere of the past, and they cannot be safely ignored by the historian. The institution of the *seanachies* as an integral part of the clan system, served a useful function in the preservation alike of clan genealogies and domestic history. The *seanachies* were the repositories

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of accumulated knowledge concerning family affairs, as the bards were the channels through which poetic expression was given to family pride. Stripped of their petals, the fine flowers of bardic imagery are unattractive stalks ; but the *seanachies* have provided material of solid use, if discriminately employed, for their successors, the clan historians of the present day. And the tenacious memory of segregated communities, like those of the Highlands, with limited interests, and an inherited attachment to the past, has been a helpful factor in the retention of family records that would otherwise have been lost.

It is in these circumstances that the history of a Highland clan acquires a significance that, in this country, is peculiar to it. For it is the history of a compact unit, not a series of unrelated biographies. A clan connoted more than an aggregation of individuals of the same name, dwelling in the same district. It represented a community of ancestry, language, customs, and traditions that formed a unifying

bond of enduring strength. We do not find analogous conditions in Anglo-Saxon communities. The compilation of a history of the Clan Smith (for example) offers such difficulties as would daunt the boldest Smith from making the attempt, though the biographies of individual Smiths are not rare. But the compilation of a history of the Clan (or sept) Gow, which is the Gaelic equivalent of Smith, would present none of the difficulties that exist when the cohesive qualities inherent in the clan system are lacking. The Highlander is naturally endowed (or burdened) with the genealogical sense. "Are you of the Johnstons of Glencro or of Ardnurchan," bawled MacLean of Lochbuy in Dr Johnson's totally unresponsive and completely scandalised ear. What did the sage of Fleet Street, with all his learning, know or care for the fine distinctions between Highland families, or what did Boswell (a Lowland Scot) know or care when he confused Johnstons with MacIans (John's sons), and Glencroe with Glencoe? But Lochbuy knew and cared, and

so, according to the Highland enthusiast, does every Highlander worth his salt.

Clan and kindred societies flourish at the present day in the great centres of population, and by maintaining the sentiment of race and of local patriotism, serve a laudable purpose when a sense of proportion is rigorously maintained. But the objects of these 'societies do not permit of any really serious exertion on their part—though there are instances to the contrary—to preserve fast-dying traditions, or promote the study of Highland history. These contributions must be left to individual initiative.

The book now before me is, therefore, a welcome addition to the essays on Highland clans. The 'History of the Clan Neish or MacNish' is a careful compilation from sources of unimpeachable authority, tradition being tapped in a minor degree only. Charters and sasines and other official records may be "lawyers' lumber." They may not be wildly exhilarating in their stimulus, but they are remarkably fortifying in their effects. They

are to the Scots historian what porridge is (or was) to the Scots artisan—"verra sustaining."

The joint authors may not be able to carry with them all their Highland readers—formidable critics where clan history is concerned—in their conclusions about the origin of the clan name and the alleged identity between the MacNishes and the MacNechts. Nor will some of those readers, perhaps, be willing to grant the status of a clan, as distinct from the sept of a clan, to the MacNishes. But all readers, however critical, must needs agree that the authors have stated their case with complete fairness and—once more may one emphasise the fact—with a wealth of reliable evidence that is highly commendable. I must confess that my previous knowledge of the clan's history was confined to the well-authenticated tradition of their feud with their neighbours, the MacNabs, and the ultimate triumph of the latter, the "Abbot's" clan. The last Chief of the MacNishes was, in the sixteenth century, struck down in a Perthshire glen; the descendant of the

MacNab who conquered him, is famous to-day as the subject of one of Raeburn's finest portraits.

Every MacNish, or Neish, or Ness, in this or other lands, should be grateful to the authors of this book for the thoroughness of their research. By their industry and care they have elucidated what is probably all that can be known on an obscure and hitherto untouched subject.

W. C. MACKENZIE.

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# HISTORY OF THE CLAN NEISH OR MACNISH.

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## CHAPTER I.

ORIGIN OF THE NAME—NES, SON OF WILLIAM, LORD OF LEUCHARS  
—ORABLE, DAUGHTER OF NES OF LEUCHARS—ANGUS MACNATH  
OF STRATHEARN.

NEISH and Nish are the modern forms of the Early Irish "Naoise," famous as the name of the son of Usnech, with whom Deirdre eloped. The original form Naoise, or Mac-Naoise, is recorded as late as 1652 in Scotland.

Dr A. MacBain, a great authority, gave MacNish—Gaelic, MacNeis—from MacNaois, the Naois being a dialectic form of Aonghus or Angus. The connection of Naois with

Aonghus, however, appears to be very doubtful. Professor W. J. Watson agrees that Aonghus did not become Naoise in Gaelic at any time.

MacAonghuis and MacNaois(e) are, however, apt to be confused in anglicised forms (1).

The Nish Isle in Loch Earn is in Gaelic "Eilean an Naoisich"; a man of the Nish clan or sept was called "Naoiseach," just as a MacDonald is "Domhnallach," &c. Possibly the Isle was a stronghold of the chief, who would be "an Naoiseach" par excellence (1).

Nesse, Nessius, &c., of the early records may well be for Naoise; the fact that the Latin form is Nessius so often goes to show that the Gaelic form ended in e (1).

Naoise appears in Mid-Irish as Noise and Naise; in Early Irish as Noisiu.

The personal name Ness, Nisse, Nisi, Nissi, or Neise, occurs not infrequently in Early Irish literature and genealogy.

Domangart MacNisi died in A.D. 466. Mac-Nisse, who died in 506 or 513, was the first bishop and founder of Connor.

Domangart, third King of the Dalriadic Scots, who died *circa* 510, was the son of Fergus Mor MacNisse. MacNissi, abbot of Cluain-mic-Nois, died in 590. Clonmacnoise, the Irish form of which is generally written Cluain-mic-U-Nois, "the meadow of the son of Nois's descendant" (2).

Nissi was occasionally equated with Aonghus in Early Irish literature. 'Chronicum Scotorum' gives "MacCnissi"—*i.e.*, Aengus, Bishop of Connor, whose father was called Fobrach and whose mother was Cnes, daughter of Comarde of the Dal Ceithire, from whom he was named MacCnisi. Nes or Neasa was apparently also a feminine name, and not connected with Aonghus.

Neasa, daughter of Eochaidh Salbhuidhe of Connaught, and mother of Conchubhar MacNeasa (3). This takes the form Ness elsewhere. MacNeise, the first name of St Caomhan, a disciple of St Partick (3). The following occur in the 'Leabhar Breac': Ness and MacCarthaind from Cill Nessi; Sinech and mac Nisse and Ethni from the cell of

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Ross; Colman Brecc mac Nisse maic Nemedan; Cellan and Garban, the two sons of Ness.

Nessan is a derivative of Ness. It occurs in Adamnan's 'Life of St Columba' as the name of a peasant near the loch called by Adamnan "Stagnum Aporum"—*i.e.*, Lochaber. It also occurs as an Irish personal name. St Neasan, "the leper," Patron of Mungairid, died *circa* 551 (3). Inis-mac-Nesan (A.D. 701), the Island of the sons of Nesan; the old name of Ireland's Eye, near Howth, Co. Dublin (3).

*Re* the etymology of the Inverness river name Ness: The name Ness appears in Adamnan's 'Life of St Columba' as Nesa. The word must be referred to an original form *nesta* according to Celtic philological laws, and this Dr Whitley Stokes has equated with the Sanscrit word "nadi," signifying river.

We may compare Nessa, the mother of the great mythic King of Ulster, he being Conchobar MacNessa (4).

The Scottish surname MacNaught is by most authorities derived from MacNeachd, son

of the pure one. It is, however, significant that Neachd or Necht does not appear as a personal name in early Irish and Scottish records. The earliest forms of the Kirkcudbrightshire surname MacNaught are Macenaght, Macnacht, Macnath, and Macnaicht. Compare the following early forms of Neish and MacNeish in Perth, Angus, and Fife: Nete (1500), Makniche (1590), Makneth (1491), Naiche (1529), Nethe (1501), Nece (1465), Neitche (1530), Neiche (1541), Nече (1560).

It would appear from the above that MacNaught is also derived from MacNes or MacNeische (*circa* 1500).

Nes or Nesie survived as a Christian name in Scotland until the year 1602, and possibly later.

That there was a saint called Ness in Scotland appears from "Clach mo Neasaig," on the shore near Taynuilt.

The modern Gaelic pronunciation of Nish, which, of course, is of great and practically decisive importance, is strongly in favour of

connecting with the ancient name Naoise. I have good reason to believe that this was Dr MacBain's final opinion also, and that if he had lived to correct the second edition of his Dictionary, he would have altered the statement that Naois is from Aonghuis (1).

The personal name Malsnacht occurred in 1230 in Strathearn, in the area that was the centre of the Neish or MacNeish country. Some authorities derive Malsnecht from Mael-snechta, "Servant of Snow." We find, however, that Maol-nechtan (son of Lulach, Maormor of Mureve) appears as Maolsnechtan in the 'Annals of Ulster' *circa* 1085. Finechta also appears as Finsnechta in the 'Annals of Ulster.' Finsnechta or Finnachta, King of Ireland, slain in 694 (2). Apparently Malsnecht is a form of Mael-necht or Mael-neischt(nes).

The etymology of a similar but quite distinct clan name of Perthshire is as follows: Naughton (modern Gaelic, Neachdan; Irish, Nechtan) represents an early Nectagnos, sprung from Nectos. Here "a" is the form taken by the



stem vowel (which is really "o"); "gn" is contracted from "gen," "sprung from" (compare Dio-gen-es, &c., in Greek). In Old Irish "agnos" appears as "an," and was used as a diminutive ending, but in ancient personal names, such as Nechtan, the force of "an" is not diminutive; these names were formed when the original force of "agnos" was still active (1).

Mael, of course, originally meant "cropped, tonsured," and was applied to persons who were in a servile position (the nobles of the Gael wore their hair long); hence it was naturally applied to clerics, who were "servi Dei," not, of course, as a term of dishonour any more. But in many cases mael appears to be used very much as gille was used, without any notion of service (1).

The personal or Christian name Nes appears occasionally on record in Scotland, from the fifth to the beginning of the seventeenth century.

Domhangard, third King of the Dalriadic race in Alba, was the son of Feargus Mor, son of

Erc (Pictish, Erp). In the 'Annals of Ulster,' Domangart is called the son of Fergus Mor MacNisse; Nisse or Nessa was the mother of Fergus. Apparently the first Bishop of Connor was Aengus, the son of Nes or Nessa, the wife of Fobrach. It was not unusual for the ancient Gaels to be named after their mother. Mureheard, the King of Ireland, was called Mac-Erca, from his mother. The Christian name Nes was used by the Ramsays of Bamff (Alyth); "Nessus medicus noster," the King's physician, was granted a charter of the lands of Bamff by Alexander II. on the 9th October 1232. Nessus was a descendant of Simon de Ramsay, the first of the surname on record in Scotland, who received a grant of lands in Mid-Lothian from David II. *circa* 1130. In the Ramsay charters Nes appears in the Latin as Nessus, Nesius, Neisius, and Neso, and in the vernacular is found as Nes, Neis, Nesse, Nees, and Nece. Neis is the autograph of the last Ramsay of Bamff of that name, who succeeded in 1507.

There were several members of the Lundres family in Haddingtonshire during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries bearing the name of Nes.

Robert de Lundres (or London) was a natural son of King William (5). This Robert married the heiress of the House of Lundin of Lundin, and assumed the surname of Lundin, and from him the family of Lundin of Lundin were afterwards descended (6).

The Haddington family was variously described as "de Lundres, London, Lindores, Londres, and Lundref" (7).

Nesio, filio Nesii, witness to Carta No. 75 *circa* 1180. Nesii, filii Johis de Lundres (Carta 107). Carta Nesius de Londres (Nesii de London) No. 108. Nesii, filii Nesii, Carta *re* lands of Hartburn (No. 109). Nes, son of Nes, Carta No. 110. Confirmaco Nesii de Lundref *re* lands of Pouhou and Hartburn (No. 112). Oliver Nesius and William de Graham perambulated the lands of Haddington and Elbotle (No. 119), see 'Registrum S. Marie Newbotle.'

The personal name Nesse appears on record in Perthshire, the cradle of the clan of Neish, as early as the eleventh century.

Nesse, Cormac, son of Macbeath, and Malnethte, son of Beollani, members of the religious house of Abernethy, were witnesses to a grant by Ethelred, son of King Malcolm III., to the Keledei of Loch Leven *circa* 1093-1197 (8). Beollan is the Early Irish Beollain, now anglicised Boland in Ireland. O'Bealan was the patronymic or Gaelic name of the old Earls of Ross *circa* 1000. A powerful chief in the north of Scotland named Beolan married the daughter of Ganga Rolfe (or Rollo), the celebrated pirate, who became afterwards the first Earl of Normandy (Norse Saga). Hrolf, or Rollo, became Duke of Normandy in 912.

Beollan, son of Ciarmhac (Cormac), King of Loch Gabhar (Co. Meath?), died in 967-8 ('Chron. Scot.').

Malnethte and the Fifeshire Malfnacht form is probably for Mael-necht, which is probably a form of Mael-Nesse.

In 1160 Ness, son of the Countess Ada, and Robert de Quinci were witnesses to the charter of King Malcolm granting the lands and barony of Strathbran to Duncan, Earl of Fife, who had married Ada, a neice of King Malcolm IV. (9).

Malfnacht or Malfnath was a tenant of lands in Fife granted to St Andrews about the year 1200 (8).

It is probable that the Neishes and MacNishes of Scotland are descended from Ness, son of William, who was Sheriff of Perth and Lord of Leuchars. Ness left at least three sons at the period when surnames were becoming fixed among the Gaelic landowners of the Highland border and Fife.

It is evident that Nes, son of William, was a magnate, for the charters mention his Pincerna (cup-bearer), Seneschal, and Chamberlain. Most of the Royal charters he witnessed were dated in Fife or Perth, and the charter of King Malcolm (Dunfermline, p. 25) indicates that he was an official in Fife *circa* 1160, but the Royal

charters witnessed elsewhere are sufficient to show that he occasionally accompanied the King (10).

Nes, son of William, Lord of Leuchars (Fife), a witness to many charters of Malcolm IV. and King William before 1170 (10).

Neis, son of Chiluni (Chilunus), was a witness to the charter by Thor of the church of Tranent to the Abbey of Holyrood ('Chart. Holyrood,' No. 11) *circa* 1155. Chilun appears to be a clerical error for William.

Nesio, filio Willelmi, was a witness to the charter of Moregrundi (Morgan), Earl of Mar, of the church and lands of Tarland to the Priory of St Andrews *circa* 1165-1171 (8).

About the year 1170 Nessio, filii Willelmi, was a witness to a charter (No. 216) by Simon, son of Macbeth, granting to the canons of the church of St Mary of Cambuskenneth (after the decease of Hugh of Rokesburg, the Chancellor's clerk) the church of Tullibody, in free and perpetual alms, &c. Given at Stirling ('Reg. Mary de Cambuskenneth').

The lands of Collessie, the woods of Kyndeloch, and the Moor of Eden, probably came into the hands of the De Quincys in the same manner as the lands of Leuchars (5, p. 276).

Nesio, filio Willelmi, was a witness to Carta 12 of the Prioratus Insule de May, at Perth, during the reign of William the Lion.

Nees, Neisus, Nes, or Nessius appears as a witness to many charters of St Andrews during the latter part of the twelfth century.

In August 1175, William, King of Scotland, went to York to do allegiance and fealty to Henry, King of England. King William had been captured by the English at Alnwick in 1174.

The King of Scotland delivered up to King Henry, his brother David as hostage, with Earl Duncan (of Fife), Earl Waldeve (of Dunbar), Earl Gilbert, the Earl of Angus, Richard de Moreville the Constable, Nes, son of William, and other nobles (11).

Neis, son of William (Latin—Nesso, filio

Vilielmi), witnessed some charters of Cupar-Angus Abbey between the years 1175-1185.

King William granted a charter to Gilbert, Earl of Stradherne, of the lands of Vre (now Meikleour) and Lethendin (Lethendy), by the marches which Nes, son of William, Galfrid de Malvil (Melville), and another perambulated it for Malice, brother of the said Earl (5).

Nessio, filio Willelmi Lineth, vice-comite de Pert (Perth), was a witness to Carta No. 5 of Scone Abbey, in the reign of King Malcolm, at Stirling (12). William Lineth was no doubt the William de Lene who was a benefactor of Scone (12). Two percatas of land in Perth was granted by William, son of Lean, to the monks of Cupar Abbey during the reign of William the Lion (1163-1214). He appears as Willielmo, filio Lene, in Carta No. 21 of Cupar Abbey. This grant was confirmed by Alexander II., at Scone, on the 17th March 1235-6.

Several persons bearing the name of Lene or Lenna are mentioned in the early Drummond Castle charters.



Lene, the father of William, was probably connected with the Lennies of Lennie. The lands of Leny are situated 2 miles north-west of Callander, near Loch Lubnaig. Gillespie Lenny, *circa* 1200, held the lands of Lennie by virtue of a small sword which King Culen (965-70) gave as a symbol to Gillespie Mor, his ancestor, for a particular service.

Allan, the second son of the first Sir Maurice Buchanan (*circa* 1300), married Margaret, heiress of Gillespie Leny of that ilk.

According to a family manuscript pedigree, quoted in Buchanan of Auchmar's account of the Leny branch of the Buchanans, the early proprietors of the estate of Leny had no charters, but carefully preserved a large sword, and one of the teeth of St Fillan, the possession of which was held to be a sufficient title to the lands.

Between 1180 and 1200 Nessyo, fil Willi, was a witness to charters Nos. 4 and 10 of the Abbey of Arbroath *re* lands in Angus and Perth (13). About the year 1200 a "Charter by Seher de Quinci, Earl of Winton, with the

consent of his son, Robert, granting to the church of St Mary of Stirling and the canons thereof, for the welfare of the souls of William, King of Scots, and of his ancestors and successors, the whole land of Duglyn, by the same marches by which Nesus, the son of William, his grandfather, possessed it; to be held of the said Seher and his heirs in free and perpetual alms, as freely as any alms was held by any religious persons in the realm of Scotland. The granter warranting the said land against Duncan, the son of Hamelin, and against all men." Carta 70 (14).

In Carta 73 we find that Duncan, son of Hamelin, and Adam his heir had resigned for himself, to the Earl, in his full court at Locres, all right which they had or could have in the land of Duglyn, and delivered up to him all the charters which he had thereof (14). Duglyn is probably the old name of the lands in the parish of Arngask, now known as Glen Deuglie and Wester Deuglie.

Hamelin or Hamlin is a form of Gaelic,

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Hamelin or Hamlin is a form of Gaelic,

“Amalghaidh”; Irish, Amalgaid, pronounced Aulay. It appears in the old Lennox charters as Aulay, Aulech, Auleth, Amelech, Amhlew, Hameleu, Hamelyn, Havel, and Amelic.

Very little is known about the children of Nes, son of William; the records show that he left at least three sons and a daughter.

The daughter, Orable, married Robert de Quinci, and the greater part of the lands of Nes appear to have passed into the hands of De Quinci with this marriage.

The eldest son of Nes was probably Constantine, who appears as Constant, filius Nesse, in several charters of St Andrews Priory.

Patrick, son of Nes, was a witness to several St Andrews charters with Constant and Math, the sons of Nes; his name appears in Latin as “Patcio, fil Nesii,” and Patricius, fil Nes.

At this period, the early thirteenth century, Gaelic was still the common language of Fife and Strathearn, and Patrick, as well as the other sons of Nesse, would have been known as MacNesses or MacNeises by the native Scots.

It is very probable that Patrick, son of Nes of Leuchars, settled in Nithsdale, where we find, about the year 1210, "Patcio magillnes" as a witness to Carta 340 (Carta super ecclesiam de Killosbern) of Kelso Abbey, with other men of Dumfriesshire ('Liber de Calchou').

Killosbern is now known as Closeburn, where in later years we find many records of MacNeishes and MacNachts.

Roger de Quinci, son of Robert de Quinci and Orable (daughter of Nes), was a nephew of Patrick MacNes. Roger married Helena, daughter of Alan, Lord of Galloway, before 1230, and succeeded to lands in Galloway. Probably Patrick MacNes or his sons obtained lands in Nithsdale through the influence of his relative Roger, who on the death of Alan, Lord of Galloway, in 1233, succeeded to the office of Constable of Scotland.

Math (or Matheus) was probably the third son of Nesse of Leuchars; he appears as Math, fil Nesse, as a witness to some charters of St Andrews. No doubt Nesse left some part of

his Strathearn estates to his sons, probably to Math and Constantine. Math MacNes died about the year 1260, and about 150 to 200 years later we find a Neish clan in Upper Strathearn, and a number of Neishes established in Lower Strathearn, probably descendants of Math.

Orable, mother of Saher de Quincy, is proved by the 'Chartulary of the Priory of St Andrews' (pp. 254-5) to have been the daughter and heiress of Nes. Whether "heir" means sole legal representative is doubtful, for Nes had certainly four sons, probably by another wife.

Large Scottish possessions came to the De Quincys through the marriage of Robert de Quincy (father of Saher, afterwards Earl of Winchester) with Orable, daughter of Nes, son of William Lineth. And the name "Nesgasc" would suggest that this part of Gask had been the property of Nes.

On the back of Carta (Inchaffray) No. 10 is the following memorandum:—

Item ex dono eiusdem Gileberti Comitatus  
ecclesiam de Madernin (Madderty) cum

pertinentiis suis. Et molendinum super pefrin in Balemacgillon (now Bellyclone). Ex dono Orable Matris Seer de Quinci. xiii acras terre in territorio de Gasg (Gask). See the Bull of Innocent III. ; infra. Robert de Quinci by his marriage with Orabilis ; got with her the large estate of Locres (Leuchars) and Lathrisk.

A charter by Seyer de Quinci about Dauch Icthar Hathyn (modern form would be Auchtereden) mentions that the lands were given to the priory of St Andrews by his mother.

There are chronological discrepancies in the printed accounts respecting Orable and her son. Earl Saher is stated to have married about 1170, and to have been a knight in 1172. If so, he must have been about sixty-five when he joined the Crusade, and his mother must have been married not later than 1155. On the other hand, the charter of the church of Leuchars to St Andrews by Nes and Orable conveys the impression that Orable was then a child, and it is clear that it was this charter,

and not that on p. 287 of the 'Chartulary' evidently thought otherwise.

Her style as Countess of Mar is not explained by any known marriage; but, in the opinion of the writer, Robert de Quinci, having gone to the Holy Land in 1191, never returned, and his widow married Gilchrist, Earl of Mar, whom we take to be G. Com de Mar, who witnessed Lady Orable's charters of the Davoch Fethar Hathyn to St Andrews (pp. 290-91).

This suggestion implies that Saher de Quinci confirmed his mother's grant in the lifetime of both his parents. Saher died in November 1219 at Damietta (10).

Orofile MacNes.—Sir J. B. Paul, in 'Scots Peerage,' 1908, says: "Perhaps a solution may be found in the suggestion that she was the wife of De Quincy first, and was divorced from him, after which she became the wife of Adam, son of Duncan, a Fifeshire noble, who was her husband about 1172-80, and between that date and 1199 she married Earl Gilchrist; she died before June 1203."



The form Malsnacht occurred in Strathearn, in the year 1230, in Carta No. LVII. of the Abbey of Inchaffray:—

*Grant of lands by Robert of Methven.*

Robert of Maggefen makes known that, with the assent of Soliue, his wife, and of their children, he had given to the abbot and convent of Inchaffray in pure and perpetual alms two tofts and four acres of land in the ville of Kenandheni, which by another name is called Dolpatrick—to wit, the toft in which Alan of Kyntocher dwelt when the present was given, with the acre which pertained to the same toft at that time, and with the buildings which were then on the toft; and also the toft and land which then lay between the house of Richard and the house of Malsnacht, &c., &c. Witnessed by the Earl of Strathearn and others, 1226-34.

Symon de Nysi (Nesse) was a witness to a Scone Abbey charter during the reign of Alexander II. (1214-49). Symon may have

been the fourth son of Nesse, son of William, Sheriff of Perth.

Angus MacNath and other chiefs and barons of Perthshire signed the "Ragman Roll" at Berwick-on-Tweed on the 28th of August 1296.

The seal of Anegos Makenathe is described as follows :—

"Two lions passant: sigillum en . . . .  
broken, joined by strings" (24).

Angus MacNath of MacNeth was probably the chief of the MacNeishes of Strathearn in 1296.

Note that the head of the MacNaught family of Kilquonnedie, in Kirkcudbrightshire, was, in 1496, described as Fergus Maknath. Makneth was a tenant in Strathearn in 1491; and the form Macnecht occurred in Perthshire in 1525.

## CHAPTER II.

CLAN NEISH OF UPPER STRATHEARN—THE FEUD WITH THE CLAN  
MACNAB—BATTLE OF GLEN BOULTACHAN—THE MASSACRE ON  
NEISH ISLAND—GLENTARKEN—NEISH ISLAND—CRAIGNEICH—  
DUNDURN.

### THE CLAN NEISH OF PERTHSHIRE.

THE Neishes, a tribe which possessed the upper parts of Strathearn and inhabited an island on Loch Earn, called after them Neish Island (6). Very little is known of the early history of the clan; they appear to have been almost exterminated or scattered early in the sixteenth century; various traditional accounts have been handed down in Strathearn concerning them, and the written records of the country contain only notices of individual members of the clan.

During the fifteenth century the Neishes of

Upper Strathearn commenced the struggle with the Clann an Aba; many battles were fought with various success, and the culminated fight ended about 1522 in the defeat of the Clan Neish at the battle of Glen Boultachan.

#### THE BATTLE OF GLEN BOULTACHAN.

The last battle was fought in the glen by the present farm of Littleport, in which the MacNabs were victorious, and the Neishes were defeated, with the loss of nearly all their fighting men. This occurred in 1522.

Finlay MacNab of Bowain gathered all his fighting men for one decisive effort for the supremacy of the northern Loch Earn district, and the two clans met in battle in the wild Glen of Boultachan, between two high and solitary mountains, about two miles north of the lower end of Loch Earn. Each clan was led by its chief, and they rushed at once down the green slope to mingle in close and mortal strife, with wild yells and bitter epithets, while the war-cries rang and the pipers blew with

their might. Conspicuous among the struggling throng was the eldest son of the chief of Clan Aba. He bent all his energies to capture the Neishes' banner, which bore their crest—viz., a cupid with his bow in the dexter, and an arrow in the sinister hand, with the motto "Amicitiam trahit amor."

On the other side the aged chief of the MacNeishes fought with great strength and activity and unparalleled bravery, but the MacNabs eventually bore all before them, and the aged chief, on beholding three of his sons perish by his side, placed his back to a large rude granite block, which still marks the scene of the conflict, and, poising overhead his mighty claymore, stood like a lion at bay. His vast stature, his known strength and bravery, as he towered above the fray, with his white hair streaming in the wind, the blood streaming from his forehead, which had been wounded by an arrow, and from his huge sword, which had a remarkable accessory in the shape of an iron ball that slid along the back of the blade to

give an additional weight to every cut—all this combined made the bravest of the MacNabs pause for a moment ere they encountered him; but after a dreadful struggle, in which he slew many of his assailants, the brave old man sank at last under a score of wounds inflicted by swords and daggers; the MacNeishes were swept from the field, and the majority of them were slain (27).

The red lichens which spot the old grey stone in Glen Boultachan are still believed by the natives to be the encrusted blood of the chief of the MacNeishes.

According to tradition, MacCallum glas, their bard, with about twenty of the tribe, escaped and took refuge on their isle on Loch Earn.

Several accounts of the feud have been handed down, including the following in 'Annals of St Fillans,' by A. Porteous, 1912:—

“Like all the rest of the Scottish clans, the Neishes had their own particular feud. This was with the Clan MacNab.

The feud was the outcome of a long-continued series of petty jealousies and imagined grievances on both sides.

Frequently, isolated parties of the clan met, and a fight ensued.

At last both clans mustered their full force, and, meeting in Glen Boultachan, a regular battle was fought.

The chief of the Neishes for long held his own, standing with his back to a large boulder, until at last he was overcome, and fell covered with wounds. Tradition says that his blood still stains this boulder, and that the marks cannot be obliterated.

The rest of the Neishes fought equally stubbornly, but finally they were completely overcome, a remnant only making their escape.

These settled down on the easter island of Loch Earn under the leadership of a relative of the chief, and became practically freebooters, lying in wait for defenceless travellers, whom they robbed and murdered. Many years elapsed since the battle of Glen Boultachan ere the

Neishes thought themselves once more formidable enough to try conclusions with their ancient enemies, the MacNabs.

The Neishes lay in ambush in Glen Lednoch," &c. &c.

A short account of the Nish feud is also given in the 'Statistical Account of Scotland,' published in 1838.

#### THE CLAN MACNAB ACCOUNT.

In 1487 Finlay (IV.) became chief of the Clan MacNab. At this time the MacNabs seem to have set about the recovery of those of their possessions which had been lost in their struggle with the Bruce. They became involved in a feud with the Dewars concerning certain relics of St Fillan, and at the same time they commenced that struggle with the Neishes which culminated many years afterwards in the defeat of the Clan Neish at the battle of Glen Boultachan, about two miles north of the lower end of Loch Earn.

In 1487 the Dewars obtained a charter con-



firming them in their possessions, and from that date they had no further trouble with the MacNabs.

Finlay (IV.) died (between the years 1502-11), and was succeeded by his son Finlay (V.). It was in the time of this chief that the Neishes were at last defeated, and reduced to a small band of reckless outlaws.

This Finlay MacNab of Bowayne died at Illa Rayne, and he was buried at Killin, 13th April 1525.

Finlay (VII.), chief of the MacNabs, married Catherine Campbell, daughter of the Laird of Glenurchy, and had a family of twelve stalwart sons, of whom the weakest is said to have been able to drive his dirk through a two-inch board.

At Christmas-tide, 1612, MacNab sent some of his clansmen to the neighbouring town of Crieff to purchase the necessary stores for the approaching festivities. On their homeward way the MacNabs were ambushed by a party of the Neishes, who sallied from their island fortalice in Loch Earn and captured the supplies.

Dire was the wrath of chief and clansmen when the plundered messengers returned to Eilean Ran and reported their mishap. Enraged as the MacNabs were, they could think of no method by which they could punish the reivers. In the evening the twelve strong sons of MacNab were assembled in the hall of Eilean Ran, and busily engaged in planning some signal vengeance on their foes, when their father entered and said in Gaelic: "Si an nochd an oidhche nam b'iad na gillean na gillean" ("This night is the night if the lads were the lads"). In an instant the twelve lads were on their feet and arrayed in their war gear. Then hurrying down to the waterside they crossed the stream and took up the family barge, which they bore on their shoulders across the hills to Loch Earn, by way of Glentarken. Having reached the loch, they launched their boat and rowed to the island, where the robbers were holding their carousal with the stolen supplies. On their arrival at the island the grim avengers sunk all the boats in the little harbour, and then

proceeded to the habitation of the Neishes. In the keep was a scene of revelry and confusion, for, holding all the boats on the loch in their own keeping, the Neishes deemed their hold to be impregnable.

Strange, therefore, must have been the thoughts which passed through their minds when, loud above the din of their noisy mirth, they heard a sharp and sudden knocking at the outer door. Immediately their noisy merriment ceased, all became silent, and then in a quavering voice the terrified Neish demanded the name and mission of the one who had thus disturbed their orgy. Swiftly came the answer, "Whom would ye least desire?" The speaker was Iain Min, or "Smooth John," the heir of MacNab, and the strongest and fiercest man in all Braidalbin.

With this stern voice sounding in his ears, and with a foreboding of his doom rising before him, the Neish replied, "Iain Min."

Sharp through the midnight air came again that grim voice, "Then I am he, but rough

enough I'll be this night." Trusting in the strength of the stout door, the robbers attempted to treat for terms. But spurning all thought of parleying, Iain Min, with one swift blow, sent the door reeling off its hinges, and next instant he and his brothers were dealing death to the hereditary foes of their House. The Neishes, surprised and demoralised by the rapidity and ferocity of their assailants, offered but little resistance. When the fighting, if such it can be called, was over, there remained of the Neishes but two survivors: one was a young lad who had succeeded in concealing himself in time to avoid the vengeance which overtook his family; the other was a female child who escaped the notice of the MacNabs by being under an overturned cradle.

Their task having been accomplished, the young MacNabs secured the gory head of the Neish as a trophy of their victory. They then recovered their boat, and retraced their journey of the previous night.

Ere they left Glentarken they abandoned

their boat, as it retarded the news of their triumph. The boat was never removed from the place where it was left by the MacNabs, and men born within the past century have talked with men who have viewed its well-bleached fragments.

Some time early in the past century a portion of the keel was dug out of the moss in which it was embedded. Part of it was given to Mrs MacNaughton who lived near St Fillans, and she had it made into a walking-stick. She was Margaret, daughter of James MacNab, Milmore, near Killin, and was known as "Margaret Innishewen." The bicker is still preserved by her descendants.

In the morning the chief was delighted to find that the mission of vengeance had been successful: the proof was convincing when Iain Min cast Neish's head at his feet, and said in Gaelic, "Na biodh fiamh oirbh," or "dread nought." And MacNab acknowledged as he received the gruesome trophy that the night

had been the night, and the lads were the lads. From this deed are derived the modern arms of the MacNabs. **1135600**

There is a local tradition to the effect that but three of the sons took part in the enterprise, and that the chief in giving the signal for the attack on the Neishes only acted at the instigation of his wife, who had some real or fancied cause of grievance against the three eldest sons. It is said that she hoped that they would be slain, so that her favourite son should be heir to the estates. And, according to the same tradition, the three were by an early marriage. History, however, makes no mention of a second wife (46).

The MacNab arms are: Sable, on a chevron argent three crescents vert, in base an open boat with oars argent, sailing in a sea proper. Crest—The head of a savage affronté proper. Supporters—Two Highlanders with shouldered claymores. Motto—“Timor omnis abesto” (“Be all fear absent”).

John MacNab of MacNab matriculated the modern arms in 1765, but they had been used before that time.

The author of 'The Clan MacNab' informs me that his account of the Neishes was obtained from the following sources: (6), Shearer's 'Traditions of Strathearn,' 'Scottish Wars,' also from some private histories of the Clan MacNab, and from old natives of Braidalban.

The Rev. Samuel Ferguson, minister of Fortingall, mentions the feud in his 'Queen's Visit.'

Malcolm Ferguson also gives the story in his 'Rambles in Breadalbane,' published in 1891.

A short account of the Neishes is given in 'The Beauties of Upper Strathearn,' 1870; also in the 'Scottish Tourist,' 1825, p. 79.

The Neish tradition was utilised by James Grant in 'Mary of Lorraine,' pp. 261-281. Grant's account contains some facts and much fiction. He describes the country of the

MacNeishes as : Glentarkin, Dundurn, part of Glenartney, the Pass of Strathearn, and the Hill of St Fillan (Dunfillan Hill).

It is curious that Grant says that one of the Neish survivors in 1522 was Muriel, daughter of the chief, who eventually married the Laird of Torwood.

The Lairds of Torwood were the Forrester family, the ancient hereditary foresters of Torwood Forest.

Mariot Forester, spouse to James Campbell of Lawers, obtained a charter of the lands of Glentarkin in 1525 (17).

Campbell of Lawers was granted a charter of Glentarcane in 1540, and a confirmation of the grant was given in 1616 by James VI. (17).

Glentarkin was probably held by the Neishes originally by the sword; many of the Gaelic clans in earlier times neglected to obtain charters of their lands from the crown.

We find that the lands of Glentarcai, Morall, and the Fordees were set to John of Murray and his mother before the year 1492 (18).



The lands of Glentarkane were granted to the Drummonds by James IV. in 1511 ('R. M. S.' i. 3574).

Glentarken is a glen in Comrie parish, descending from an altitude of 1150 ft., 2 miles south by eastward to Loch Earn (306 ft.), at a point  $1\frac{3}{4}$  mile west by north of St Fillans.

It contains a huge monolith, "The great stone of Glentarken." It is not a travelled stone, but a mass detached from the low cliff below, which has rolled but a short distance, and is poised in the most singular way upon one of its edges. It measures 70 ft. in circumference at the base, 110 ft. in circumference 10 ft. above the ground, and its solid contents above ground exceed 25,000 cub. ft. The glen probably derives its name from "Tarachin," or "Talargan," an old Pictish personal name.

In the olden days what might be called a clachan existed on the hillside at the entrance to Glentarken, but life on that exposed site was latterly found inconvenient and uncomfortable; accordingly, the families were moved to

more suitable surroundings at the foot of the loch, and the cottages in the glen were allowed to fall into ruins. The remains of these may still be seen in heaps of stones here and there (19).

Loch Earn is one of the most picturesque of Scottish lakes, and next to Loch Ness, the deepest in Scotland, in one part being about 300 ft. deep.

Limited as are the dimensions of Loch Earn, it is exceeded in beauty by few of our lakes. Its style is that of a lake of far greater dimensions, the mountains which bound it being lofty, bold, and rugged. The mighty Ben Vorlich stands majestically above the loch, which is sometimes calm as a mirror, and other times dark and turbulent, its waves dashing wildly against the shores.

At the east end of the loch is a beautiful small wooded island, known for many centuries by the name of Neish Island.

It is an artificial isle, which appears to date back to the era of the lake-dwellers.

In after ages, according to tradition, the island became a Royal fortalice of many of the kings or chiefs of Fortrenn.

The island was a residence of the Clan Neish at an early period, probably from *circa* 1250 to 1420; after that date it was probably only in occupation by the Neishes at periods until 1622, the date of the massacre.

In 1445 we find that Andrew Mercer had a fee of £10 for the custody of the manor of Loch Earn (Louchearn), and in the following year he received 53s. and 4d. for the custody of the island in Loch Earn (*pro custodie insule lacus de Erne*).

On the 9th January 1490, in the presence of King James IV. and his Council at Linlithgow, John, Lord Drummond, engaged to “within 15 dais fra this day furth to ger cast doon ye house of ye Ester Ile of Loch Ern, and distroy all ye strenthis of ye samyn, and tak away ye bate, and put her to ye Wester Ile.”

The keep was a stone building, divided into different chambers, which now lies in ruins;

the great thickness of the walls testifies to the care, foresight, and energy which was expended in the erection thereof.

A small harbour and landing-place for boats still exists on the east side, and at one time the island was connected with the mainland by a kind of causeway formed of large boulders, the remains of which may still be seen in a line between the isle and the villa called Portmore.

The island was once the rendezvous of a desperate banditti of the name of Neish, whose history is as brief as it is tragical (47).

Neish Island was latterly occupied by the family of Ardvorlich, who had an occasional residence and a granary there (48).

The following is an extract from the Stewart of Ardvorlich traditions, in 'The Red Book of Menteith,' vol. i. p. 403:—

“I have heard tell that the Ardvorlichs had once to live for safety on the Neish's Island at St Fillans; once Ardvorlich was in hiding in a cave in Glentiarken, for the Graems were after him,” *circa* 1644.

Craigneich—*i.e.*, the craig or rock of Neish, a place-name in the old Neish district in Strathearn.

There is a standing stone there, of rounded whinstone, 6 ft. 4 in. in height; it is described in 'Proc. of Soc. Ant. Scot.,' xlv. pp. 62-63.

Dun-d-Earn is romantically situated among thick trees at the base of stupendous mountains, and at the junction of a mountain torrent with the Earn.

St Fillan died at Dundurn in the year 649.

The original chapel of St Fillan was replaced some centuries ago by the old church of Dundurn, situated a short distance from the farmhouse of Easter Dundurn.

## CHAPTER III.

THE MACILDUYS—THE MACNEISHES OF ATHOL—THE MACNEISES  
OR MACILDUYS OF RANNOCH—DONALD NEISSON OF DRUNGIE  
—THE NEISHES OF LOWER STRATHEARN—WALTER NEISH OF  
WESTER DUBHILL—DONALD NEISH OF PERTH—DUNCAN NEISH  
OF EDINBURGH.

THE various accounts of the Loch Earn Neishes inform us that the only male survivor of the Clan Neish was a boy who eventually settled in Strathallan, and his descendants became known as MacIlduys. So probably the small group of MacIldowie families living at the present time in the south of Perthshire are descendants of the lad. Therefore, the Neishes of the present day would obviously be sprung from the various Neissons and Neishes who were settled in Menteith, Angus, and Lower Strathearn, at least from the

year 1467, apparently unconnected at the period with the Clan Neish of Upper Strathearn.

In the article on the MacNabs in Anderson's 'Scottish Nation,' the Neishes or MacIlduys are described as a tribe which possessed the upper parts of Strathearn. It appears, then, that the Clan Neish were also known as MacIlduys at an early period. MacIlduy or Macgille-duibh was probably the cognomen of one of the early chiefs of the Neish clan.

The Neishes were said to have been connected with the MacGregors, and some later writers have placed them as a sept of Clan Gregor. It appears, however, that some of the Clan Neish were settled in Athol before the year 1494. John Dow MacNeische was a witness to a Grantully sasine in that year.

From 1552 to 1618 there are many records of a MacNeis-MacIlduy clan or sept of Rannoch, who appear as allies and followers of the Clan Gregor.

It is suggestive that the MacNeis or MacIlduy sept of Rannoch was an early offshoot of

the Neishes of Athol and Loch Earn, and that they were not connected by blood with the Clan Gregor.

The surname MacNeish appears to have been often erroneously anglicised as MacInnes, as some of the following records of the Athol and Rannoch branches indicate :—

1494. Johanne Dow M'Neische was a witness to a sasine (No. 28), in favour of Elizabeth Stewart, of the lands of Garnetully (Grandtullie), dated 12th January 1494 (9).

1521. Death of Donald McNacht, Vicar of Fortingall, 9th June 1521 (49).

The above-mentioned vicar was no doubt one of the MacNeishes of Athol, possibly a son of John Dow MacNeish who appears on record in 1494.

1525. "Death of John More M'Ane Vik Condoquhy, alias Maknecht, at Ewchirvlairis on the 17th day of month of August 1525; and he was buried at Inchaden before the



step of the choir, on the south side of the church, on the 18th day" (49).

No doubt this John Mor MacIan MacDuncan MacNecht, who died at Uachdar Bhlairis (now Upper Blairish, near Dull), was the son of John Dow MacNeish who was a witness to the Grantully sasine in 1494.

John Mor (Big John) MacNecht or MacNeish, who was probably the chief of the northern sept of the Neishes, lived *circa* 1470-1530.

John Dow MacNeish, the father of John Mor, lived *circa* 1440-1500.

Condoquhy (Gaelic Donnchadh) or Duncan MacNecht, the grandfather of John Mor, lived *circa* 1400-1470.

Inchaden is an old ecclesiastical site on the north side of Loch Tay, where many local magnates, including the MacGregor Lairds of Balloch, the Robertsons, Barons of Carwhin, were interred within the walls of the church.

Inchadney church and graveyard was obtained by the Earl of Breadalbane in 1762, and the ancient church was eventually destroyed (20).

1533. Duncan Maknothac was a witness to a Stewart of Grandtully sasine (No. 42), dated 9th May 1533 (9). Duncan was possibly a son of John Mor (son of John, son of Duncan), who died in 1525.

1552. The following Bond of Manrent appears in the 'Black Book of Taymouth':—

Duncan M'Aindew in — (Rannoch),  
Duncane and Malcum, his sons, renounce  
the laird M'Gregour and his heirs their  
chief and chose Colyne Campbell of Glen-  
urquhay and his heirs to be their perpetual  
chiefs. Dated before witnesses Alexander  
Menzeis of Rannocht, John Leyche, William  
M'Olcallum M'Gregour, John M'Yndoir,  
Malcolm M'Nachtane, Thos. Orknay, and  
Patrick M'Carbre, 21 December 1552.

The above sept appears to be the MacInduy-MacNeis family of Rannoch.

1589. Allaster MacNeis, in Rannoch, appears on a list of MacGregor followers.

1590. Extract from the "Lardner expences, household books," in the 'Black Book of Taymouth':—

"off woddiris fra Makniche in Calleloquhane, the said yeir in Ballach."

Callelochan, or Killalochane (1480), was a part of the lands of Eddergoll, at the east end of Loch Tay, near Inchaden Church. MacNiche or MacNecht was apparently one of the MacNeishes of Athol.

1599. James and Finlay McEan Vic Innes, the Laird of Garntully's men (21). They were probably descendants of the MacNeish who was a witness to the Garntully sasine in 1494.

1600. John MacEanduy, in Rannoch. Pledges were entered by Murray of Tullibardine for a number of MacGregor followers, including the said John.

1602. Patrick MacIndowy, in Rannoch, appears on a list of MacGregor retainers.

1610. Duncan McEan Vic Eanduy, in

Rannoch, a captive MacGregor. Many of the followers of the Clan Gregor were not of the MacGregor race. The Fletchers or Macanleisters, and others, were often included on the lists of outlaw MacGregors.

1613. John MacInnes Vic Eanduy, in Lessintullie (Lassintullich, near Kinloch - Rannoch), was fined for resetting (replenishing and assisting) some MacGregors (21).

1618. Gibbon McAllester Vic Innes, in Aulich (Loch Rannoch), was prosecuted by the Privy Council for carrying arms (21).

Gibbon was probably the son of Allaster MacNeis, in Rannoch, 1589.

1618. Donald MacIndoue, in Camferich, and John Oig MacFrankeine (MacRankin), servitor to the Clandaindouey (Clann an duibh, or MacIllduys), in Downane, were prosecuted for carrying arms (21).

1664. John M'Caniss, in Ballechragan, assign to John Campbell of Glenurchay, younger, five head of kye ('Black Book of Taymouth').

It is very probable that the present-day MacAnish, MacAinish, and MacAinsh families of Perthshire are descended from the old MacCanish sept of Athol, and also that they were not of MacInnes or MacAngus origin, but really a branch of the MacNish stock in Athol.

1681. John Roy McNish, saw-master, was charged with riot and malicious damage on the saw-mills and salmon-fishing on the water of the Lyon and the lands of Dalreach, which belonged to Robert Campble of Glenlyon. Dated 3rd March 1681 (21).

Complaint by Campbell of Glenlyon against John Roy McNish and others for wrongously cutting down fir trees in the woods of Glenlyon. Dated 3rd March 1681 (21).

John Roy was probably a descendant of Makniche, in Calleloquhane, who supplied wood to the Campbells of Breadalbane at Taymouth Castle in 1590.

1688. The testament of Christane M'Ansh, in Logierait, was dated 1688.

1689. The testament of Christian M'Canish (probably sister of the above), spouse to Donald Reid, in Dunfallandie, Athol, was dated 28th February 1689 (22).

From the year 1467 many notices of the Neishes of Menteith and Lower Strathearn occur in the written records of the country.

1467. Donald Neissoune, keeper of the Royal Forest of Menteith, was granted sasine of half of the lands of Drumgie, and the office of forester of Menteith by King James III. (23, vol. 7).

“Et de ls de relevio dimedietatis terrarum de Drumgilany et officii forestarie silve comitis de Menteth, regi debito per saisinam datum Donaldo Neysoune de eodem anno regni regis nono. Summa hujus oneris, £19, 16s. 10d.” (23).

Neisson is just an anglicised form of MacNeish.

Donald left his portion of the lands of Drumgy to his daughters, Jonet MacNes and Mariot MacNeis.

1495. Jonet MacNeish, or Neisson, received a sasine of the lands of Drumgy.

“Sa. Jonete Maknes t. (tenant), Drumgy, Menteith” (23).

1496. Mariote Macneis, tenant, received a sasine of Drumgy, Menteith (23).

1500. Jonet MacNeish sells her portion of the lands of Drumgy.

“A Precept of Confirmation to Johne Dormondson of Blarequoich be Jonet Neis, —of xxv s worth of land of ald extent of the landis of Drimgalany, with the pertinentis, liand in the stewartry of Menteth : Salfond to the King’s henes richtis and service aucht and wont before the confirmation, &c., Per Signetum.” Dated 29th January 1500 (17).

The King confirmed the charter of Jonete Nete of Drungie to John Dormond of Drumgy at Stirling Castle, 20th June 1500 (17).

This is the last we hear of the Neissons or Neishes in Menteith.

The lands of Drumgy are first mentioned in 1426, when John de Spensa, burgess of Perth, was granted a charter of the lands of Drumgy and Torrie, in Menteith, by James I. (17). In 1456 Henry Pitcarne received sasine of half of the barony of Drongie (23). In 1467 Dormond Johnstone received sasine of half of Drumgilany. In 1480 Dormund (Diarmid) Dormonstoun received sasine of Drongylany. In 1481 Henry Pitcarne obtained sasine of half of the barony of Drongy.

The son of John Dormondson of Blarequoich and Drumgalany was described as Dormund M'Fersane, alias Johnstoun, in 1509, when he received a charter of the lands of Duchra-Ester, alias Blairbaith, Strauthneawane, Gertnamuck, Drumtone, and Straanduchra, in Menteith (17).

John Dormondy was described as of Drungie, in 1552 (25).

In 1557 James Stirling received confirmation of a charter of the lands of Drongy-Neische (17). John Dormond received a charter of Dronze in 1559, and again in 1583 (17).

The lands of Drongy - Nes and Drongy-



Dormunt, in Menteith, belonged to the Grahams of Craigoctie in 1596 (17).

The place-name Drumgie has disappeared from the maps; the lands were in the neighbourhood of Loch Drunkie, which lies 2 miles north of Aberfoyle.

1480. Brice Neish was a tenant of the King in the lands of Easter and Wester Dalgarus (now Dalginross, near Comrie) in 1480.

In the same year we find Mariot Neisch or Neissoun, widow of Brice, entered as tenant of the lands of Easter Dalgarus and Drummenerenoch (23).

In the Rental of the Lordship of Strathearn, set at Perth on the 24th February 1480 (23), we find that Drummenerenoch was set to Master Alexander Inglis, dean of Dunkeld; he was bound not to move the tenants, among whom was Mariota, relict of Neisch.

At the same time Easter Dalgarus was set to Brice Neisch for the terms prescribed, the sum of 40s. as grassum, &c.

Donald, son of Brice Neissoun, obtained his mother's part of Easter Dalgarus about 1482 (23).

In 1486 Estir Dalgarus was again set to Brice Neisch, for the terms "ut supra," for 40s. money as grassum, with carriages and services usual (23). Apparently this Brice was a son of Brice and Mariot.

The following is an extract from the "Notarial Instrument or Bond by Lord Drummond and Sir William Murray of Tullibardine," submission anent feud between Murrays and Drummonds (18):—

"And if the wife and bairns of umquhile Brise Neson will come and remain at the Tack of the Ester Dalgarous that it be restored to them, they paying the gersum (grassum) of the terms to run, as is above written; and as for the rest that they remain still with their tacks that they are now in." Dated 16th May 1492.

The Neishs were apparently involved in the

feuds of the Murrays and Drummonds at this period.

In 1501 Donald's part of Easter Dalgarus was let to John Murray of Strowan (23).

The Murrays were not slow in obtaining crown charters of the lands they procured. In 1510 John Murray of Strowan received a charter of the lands of Strowan (16 mercatas), Wester Dalgarrous (8 libras), Ester Dalgarrous (4 libras), and Ester Glentraf (Glentarf), in dominio de Stratherne (17).

Drummenerenoch, or Drummondernoch, near Comrie, was afterwards granted to one of the Drummond family.

The present farmhouse of Drummond Ernoch was built in 1702. The old house of this name was the residence of John Drummond, who was slain in the deer forest of Glenartney in 1589 by a band of MacGregors. According to the usual accounts, John Drummond, who had fled to Ireland in 1511, through the benevolence of a Murray was enabled to return from his exile. On account of this

Drummond having been in Ireland, the property obtained the name of Drummondernoch, or the Drummond of Ireland. The lands, however, bore the name of Drummenerenoch in 1480, when the lands were held by the Neish family.

Drummondernoch is in Gaelic "Druiminn Eireannach," and no doubt means "Drummond of Strathearn," to distinguish it from other places called Drummond. Strathearn is in Gaelic "Srath Eireann," "Ireland's Srath" (1).

In 1491 an action was brought by John, Lord Drummond, against John of Murray, son to umquhile David Murray of Tullibardine, for spoliation of lands, including those of MacNeth (MacNeish), a tenant of Lord Drummond, dated 24th February (26).

"Invading and distrubling of his fuads and taki fra maknethis wiff his subtenant a mer pce fiftjs." (and taking from MacNeth's wife, his sub-tenant, a mare, price 50s.).

Apparently the above tenant was Mariot, the widow of Brice Neish. Neish and Neis-

son was the Lowland or anglicised form of the name, and no doubt the family were known as MacNeishes or MacNeths by the inhabitants of Strathearn, who at that time spoke Gaelic.

In 1489 Mariot Neissoun received a confirmation of a charter of the lands of Drumchork, near Comrie, from King James IV. (17):—

“Rex confirmavit cartam Mariote Neissoun de Drumcork,—(qua, cum consensu sponsi sui Joh. Dowsoun, pro certa summa pecunie persoluta, vendidit et alienavit Malcomo Drummond, filio et heridi quondam Jac. Drummond, civis Dunblanensis, heridibus ejus et assignatis,—terras de Drumcork, in dominio de Strathearn, vic. Perth:—Reddend. annuatim rigi unum denarium argenti nomine albe firme:—Test. Ewundo Chesholm burgensi de Edinburgh, D. Jac. Belches subdecano Dunblanensi, Joh. Kilgour, Joh. Smert notario publico, Tho. Row, Tho, Cumnok capela-

nis, Joh. Lauder, et Pat. Dowsoun:—Apud civitatem Dunblanensum, 20 Jan. 1498.”

Carta No. 2474. Apud Striveling, 20 Jan.

1505. In 1505 a family of Neishes were in possession of the lands of Wester Glentarf, Duntarf, Glassory (now Glascorry), and Leonach (now Lennoch), all about 2 miles S.E. of Comrie, 1½ miles north of Craigneich, and only 7 miles S.E. of Neish Island.

In 1495 “grassum was allowed to William Neyssone, Strathearn” (23).

In 1505 he is mentioned as the late William Neleson (Neisson), and Murrok his spouse, and Donald Neleson his son, in connection with the lands of Westirglentarf, Duntarf, Glassory, and Leonach (“Ren. Dom. Regis,” Strathearne, ‘Exchequer Rolls,’ vol. 12).

Apparently William Neisson had two sons, Donald and Morice.

1509. The lands of Wester Glentarf were held of the Crown by a family of Neishes during the first half of the sixteenth century.

The following is an extract from the “*Rentalia Domina Regis*,” in the ‘*Exchequer Rolls*,’ vol. 13:—

“Westir Glentarf feued to Morice Nesoun, and Murrok his mother.”

“Westir Glentarf, v  $\text{£}$ , vi s, viii d: nunc de consensu Willelmi Maxtoun qui habiut eandem assedatur in feodifirma in feodo Moricio Nesoun et Murrok sue matri in vitali redditu, inde solvendo annuatim viii  $\text{£}$ , cum parte martarum, et pro introitu nove infeodationis viii  $\text{£}$ .” Dated 4th Feb. 1509.

Again, in 1522, Maurice Nesone and Murrok, his mother, appear as tenants of Wester Glentarf, in *Strathearn* (23, vol. 15).

“In scaccario anno etc xxii, v Aprilis. Wester Glentarf, v  $\text{£}$  vis viii d. Quas prius habuit in assedatione Mauricius Nesone in feodo et Murrok ejus mater in vitali redditu nunc de consensu dicti Mauricii assedatur in feodifirma David

Murray filio Johannis Murray de Strowane. solvendo inde annuatim, viii £, cum parte martarum et pro introitu dicte David, iv £, solutas rotulatori."

1529. "Item to David Naiche for his fe, that past with the cannone to the Ilis" (45).

This David Neiche probably belonged to the Angus or Perthshire branches.

#### WALTER NEISH of WESTER DUBHILL.

Walter Neish of Wester Dubhill, in the barony of Cairdney, in Strathearn, was born about the year 1538, and he died about 1608. He was Chamberlain of Strathearn from 1577 to 1588; Master of the Royal Larder, 1579 to 1588; Chamberlain of the Comptroller of the Mails in 1588; he was also a witness to many charters from 1579 to 1588; and from 1593 to 1602 he appears as a bailie and land-owner in Stirling.

1572. The account of William Norwel, customer (customs officer), of Striveling, was ren-



dered by Walter Neische in name of the same; dated at Leith, 8th July 1572, from 14th October 1570 (23).

1572. Walter Neiche was a witness to a charter in favour of Mungo Murray, son of William Murray of Tullibardin, of the lands of Kildeys in the Earldom of Stratherne; dated at Tullibardin, 23rd May 1572 (17).

1573. The account of Andrew Murray of Dowall, chamberlain (of Strathearn), was rendered by Walter Neische in name of the same, from the 14th October 1571; dated at Edinburgh, 9th October 1573 (23).

1574. Walter Neische was a witness to a charter by William Murray of Tullibardin, Knight, to Alexander Murray, his third son, of the lands of Drumdewan, &c., in the parish of Methven, Perthshire; dated at Tullibardin, 25th October 1574 (17).

1575. The account of David Murray of Kers, chamberlain, was rendered by Walter

Neishe, from 5th November 1574, of Strathearn; dated at Edinburgh, 15th October 1575 (23).

1577. Walter Neis was a witness to the confirmation of a charter by Alexander Toscheoch of Monyvaird to William Murray of Tullibardin, Knight, and Alexander Murray, his third son, of the lands of Monyvaird, &c.; dated at Tullibardin, 26th August, confirmed 5th of December 1577 (17).

1578. The account of Walter Neische, chamberlain of Strathearn, was rendered by him at Edinburgh on the 20th January 1578, for the period from the 1st November 1577 to 1st November 1578 (23).

1579. The account of Walter Neische, chamberlain of Strathearn, was rendered by himself at Edinburgh on the 8th January 1579, for the period from 1st November 1578 to 1st November 1579 (23).

In the account of Sir William Murray of

Tullibardin, rendered at Edinburgh on the 14th March 1579, there is a payment of £15 to Walter Neische, Master of the Royal Larder, for his fee at the term of Pentecost (23).

In the same account reference is made to 390 pairs of rabbits delivered to the late George Danskin and Walter Nische, Masters of the Royal Larder, for the provision of the King's house and family (23).—In the reign of King James VI.

1580. In the account of William Murray of Tullibardin, rendered at Edinburgh on the 7th January 1580, there is a payment of £30 to Walter Neis, Master of the King's Larder, for his term's fee.

In the same account, reference is made to 326 capones of the Lordship of Strivelingshire delivered to Thomas Vandygatis (Windygates) and Valters Nische, pultriemen and lardiner to the provision of the Royal Household (23).

1582. The account of Walter Nische, chamberlain of Strathern, was rendered at

Edinburgh on the 13th August 1582; also on the 17th July 1583 (23).

1584. Account of the bailies of the Burgh of Striveling rendered by Walter Nesche, 6th August 1574, at Edinburgh (E. R. xxi. 239).

Account of Walter Nische, chamberlain of Stratherne, rendered at Edinburgh, 6th August 1584 (E. R. xxi. 244), and at Stirling, 17th August 1585 (xxi. 263).

January 8th. — Caution by Mungo Russell, burgess of Edinburgh, for Robert Sinclair in Auchnahoppill, alias Peill, for payment to David, Earl Craufurd, Robert Graham of Thornik, factor for John, Earl of Montrose, treasurer, or to Walter Neische, chamberlain of the maills, &c., of the said lands for the term of Whitsunday last, in terms of the finding of the Lords' Auditors; horning upon six days' charge obligation of relief by Robert Sinclair and John Wylie, writers (E. R. xxi. 607).

June 26th.—In Royal Letters of Remission granted to the bailies, councillors, community,

and all inhabitants, as well burgesses as others, of the burgh of Stirling, for art and part in the taking and withholding of the Castle and Burgh of Stirling in the month of April 1584, Walter Neische among others is excepted (17).

July 1st. — Walter Neische is witness to charter in favour of John Duncanson, minister of the Word of God, and Janet Watson, his wife, of the lands and town of Coull, Fifeshire. At Falkland, 8th November 1583 (17).

1586. The account of the bailies of Striveling was rendered by Walter Neische at Edinburgh, 14th July 1586; and 20th July 1587; and 9th July 1588 (23).

1586. The account of Walter Neische, chamberlain of Stratherne, was rendered at Edinburgh, 15th July 1586; and on the 9th July 1588 (23).

1588. *Household servants' feis.*

To Walter Neische, Master of the Lardiner, in the year 100 merks. 1588.

*Exoneration of Caponis.*

To Walter Neische, Master in the King's grace lardiner, to the furnishing and sustentation of the King's Grace hous within the tym of this compt as his acquittans beris 400 caponis of Fyiff.

To Walter Neische, chamberlain of Stratherne, for his ordiner fie of the said terms. £20.

To Walter Neische, Maister of his Majesties lardines, for his pensioun grantit to him of the term of Witsunday within the tyme of this compt. Extending yeirlie to £50. Summa—£25 (23).

1593. Walter Neische of Wester Dubhill, burgess of Stirling, was a witness to a Bond of Caution by Robert Forrester of Bowquhone for James Gib of Carriber, not to harm Henry Levingstoun of Greneyairdis. At Stirling, 16th March 1593-94 (21).

1602. Walter Neische of Wester Dubheidis was a witness to a Bond of Caution by Hary

Murray of the Corshill of Cambusbarron for John Murray of Calsayend, not to harm William Bruce of the Myletoun of Gorthie, or Patrik Bruce his son. At Stirling, 14th September 1602 (21).

1608. The testament of Walter Neische of Wester Dubheidis, burgess of Stirling, was registered on the 15th March 1608 (Comm. R. of Stirling).

Extract from the records of Burgh of Stirling :—

“The aires of Walter Neische for two aikeris of land . . . £1 . . . in Auld Mure. Do. . . do . . . three acres of land in New Mure. £1, 1s. od.

1626. Commission for apprehension and trial of George and Donald Stewart in Ballachastell, for stealing six cows with calves from the lands of Wester Dubbett pertaining to Elizabeth Alexander, relict of Walter Neische our Maister Laidner (21).

1628. “The lands of the late Walter Neische,

bounded by the lands of Souttertoun, in the barony of Cairny, Perthshire" (17).

1645. Agnes Neish, spouse to Mr Johne Lothiane, sometime minister at Dundonald, in Ireland, after at Munkland, in Scotland, and now (1656) in Ireland, wt in the parochine of Munkland the time of her deceis, deceissit June 1645. In the inventory of her effects it is stated: "Item, the defunct and her husband had the time foirsaid, adebted to pm be Mr Walter Neish, son lawful to umquhile Walter Neish of Dubheads, her brother, the soume of llc xxxiii li," &c. (42).

1623. James Neische was served heir to his sister Jean Neische in the lands of Threttie-Aikeris; dated 30th July (50).

These lands were probably the "three acres of land in New Mure" belonging to the heirs of Walter Neische in 1608.

1637. On the 13th December Magister Walterus Neische, scriba signeti regii, heir of Walter Neische of Waster Dubheads, was



served heir to his father in the lands of Wester Dubheads in the barony of Cairdneye. E. 40s. No. 473 (50).

1591. Christian Sibbald, spouse to Walter Neische of Wester Dubheids, died on the 10th May 1591. Her testament and inventory mention debts due by John, Earl of Montrose, and Andro Wod of Largo. Her goods and gear were left to her daughters, Margaret and Agnes Neische (41).

1598. Agnes Neische, daughter of Walter Neish, and sometime spouse to James Schort, merchant burgess of Stirling, died on the 28th March 1598.

1638. William Blair of Williamstoun obtained a charter of the lands of Wester Dubheid in the barony of Cairdne, which were sometime held of the Monastery of Inschefray, and resigned by Mr Walter Neisch of Dubheads, Writer to the Signet (17).

1559. John Neish was a witness to a Memorandum, dated at Edinburgh, 6th June 1559 (Gilbert Grote's Protocol).

1595. A payment of a fee of £10 (per annum) was made to Duncan Neish in the King's larder (23).

1599. Janet Neish, spouse to Duncan Makinvallich, alias M'Gregor, of the parish of Comrie; her testament is dated 12th June 1599 (51). The MacInvallichs, a MacGregor sept, have anglicised their name Malloch.

The above Duncan was probably the Duncan Maceanvallich in Comrie, who, with Donald, his brother in Comrie, the MacInvallichs of Ardewnaig, appears on the list of MacGregors proscribed after the death of Drummondernoch, dated 4th February 1590.

Donald Neish, a public notary or writer in Perth, who was born *circa* 1570, was a witness to charters, &c., 1602-1615, and an official of William Murray, Earl of Tullibardine.

1602. Charter by Sir John Murray of Tullibardine to Thomas Dundie, burgess of Perth, of the 8th part of the lands of Fermtoun of Gask, Perthshire. At Perth, 4th December 1602, the precept is directed to Donald Neish, writer in Perth (17).

1606. June 25th. — Donald Neische, notary in Perth, is writer of a Bond of Caution by William Spalding at the Mill of Kethik for Alexander Spalding of Bletoun, &c., not to harm Thomas McEwne, alias McIntosche.

July 18th.—Donald Neische was a witness to a similar Bond by Sir David Herring of Glasclune and Sir Robert Crichtoun of Clunie; dated at Perth 12th July (21).

Donald Neische, servitor to William Robertson, notary public burgess of Perth, is witness to a charter by Sir John Crichtoun of Innernytie, in favour of Sir Robert Crichtoun of Clunie, of the lands of Innernytie, Perthshire. At Perth and Kynclevin, 29th and 31st August 1606.

Donald was also a witness to charter by Sir Robert Crichtoun of Innernytie of the lands of Airliewicht, &c., Perthshire. At Perth, 29th August 1606.

1612. May 21st.—Complaint by John, Earl of Tullibardine, and William, Master of Tullibardine, that Sir Robert Creichtoun of Cluny remains unrelaxed from the horn, for not relieving them at the hands of James Dalzell, merchant in Edinburgh, of payment of 2000 merks. Pursuers appear by Donald Neische; defender not compearing is to be apprehended (21).

#### DONALD NEISH.

1612. Donald Neish, servitor to John, Earl of Tullibardine, was a witness to charter by said Earl to William Mar, servitor to the King, of lands of Blairingone, alias Pitvar, &c., Perthshire. At Edinburgh and Gask, 13th and 14th June 1612 (17).

1613. Donald was a witness to a charter by

John, Earl of Tullibardine, to Patrick, Earl of Kinghorne, of the South and West Mains of Tullibardin, &c., at Canongate and Edinburgh, 23rd June 1613.

Donald was also a witness to the charter by William, Earl of Tullibardine, to Andrew Fute in Glenscherope, of lands of Glenquhoy, Perthshire. At Tullibardin, 5th July 1613.

1615. August 23rd. — Complaint by Donald Neische, servitor to William, Earl of Tullibardin, that Thomas Ferguson of Ballizocan, as principal, Alexander Robertson of Inchinagranoch and others, cautioners, remain unrelaxed from the horning, for not paying to the pursuer 500 merks, &c. Pursuer compearing and defenders not compearing, they are to be apprehended by the Captain of the Guard (21).

#### DUNCAN NEISH.

Duncan Neish, a Bailie and Councillor of Edinburgh, and one of the Strathearn family, was born *circa* 1550, and died in Edinburgh in 1620.

1606. The Minute-Book of Processes gives the following—"Rebellion: Duncan Neish against Douglas of Reidhous (Haddingtonshire)."

1607. 12th August.—Patrik Hairt and Duncan Nesche, burgesses of the Connogait, having on — instant pursued one another with weapons there during the sitting of Parliament and "maid a verie grite commotioun," there is Commissioun to Robert, Lord of Roxburgh, who has the charge of———, Bellindane of Brochtoun, Lord of the Regality of Brochtoun now in his minority to try the matter, and to punish the offenders by wairding or fining (21).

1609. 26th October.—Duncan Neische, bailie of the Cannogait, receives charge to answer in a complaint by John Sutherland and a Fleming against the bailies of the Cannongait for molesting pursuers in the exercise of their craft.

1611. 1st May.—John Drummond in Kirk-toun of Auchterardour as principal, and Duncan Neishe, burgess of the Cannogait as cautioners for him, £500 not to harm David and Robert

Grahams, sons of the late John Graham of Callender.

1612. 4th June.—Complaint by Bellenden of Bruchtoun, &c., against the Bailie and Councillors of the Canongate (among whom is Duncan Neische), for refusing to recognise a duly appointed Constable for the burgh (21).

Instruments of Sasines by Hendry Wardlaw of Balmule, &c., to John Moresoun, junior; given by Duncan Neische, burghess of the Canongate, as bailie; dated 6th August 1612 (30).

1612. 24th November.—Complaint by certain Traders in the burgh of Canongate against the election of Magistrates and council thereof, in which Duncan Neische is continued on the Council (21).

8th August.—The King grants to James Cunnyngame, son of James, Earl of Glencairn, of the lands and barony of Stevinstoun and Kerilaw in the bailliary of Cuningham, which were appraised on 11th February 1612, Duncan

Neische in Canongate being on the Assize (17).

1613. On the 8th July 1624 the King confirmed charter by the Bailies and Council of the Canongate, of whom Duncan Neish is one, in favour of William Chalmer, clerk to the Register of the Treasurer, of a great mansion near the gate of the Monastery of the Holy Cross. At Canongate, 4th February 1613 (17).

1620. July 20th.—Duncan Neische, bailie of the Canongate, is charged to present William Lowrie, cordiner burghess of the Canongate, complainer George Cuninghame, bailie there, for malicious treatment and wrongous imprisonment (21).

July 27th.—Complaint by the King's Advocate against a number of Maltmen for overcharge on their malt; among whom is Duncan Neische, who is fined £25 (21).

The Testament and Inventory of the goods, &c., pertaining to umquhile Duncan Neische, burghess of the Canongate, the time of his deceis



who died 30th November 1620. Given up by himself on the 23rd said month and year. Inventory consists of vitual and domestic furnishings valued at £275, 12s. Total debts to Duncan, £644, 13s. 4d.

By his Latter Will the said Duncan Nasche constitutes Isobell Cunyngham, his spouse, his only executrix, and leaves to Margaret Flemyng, dochter to the said John Flemyng, for his goodwill towards her, ane mask of malt price £8, and the rest of his third to James, John, and Alexander Neischis, his lawful sons, equally among them, except 100 merks which he leaves to David Neische, his eldest lawful son, to supplie him at Lambes next for his lauriatione at the College. (Written by George Norrell, notary.) At Cannogait, 23rd November 1620. Confirmed 8th February 1621; Allester Montgumrie, stabular burgess of Edinburgh, is cautioner.

1618. James Neische, servitor to Sir William Murray of Abercairny, was a witness to the

charter by his said master to Patrick Smetoun, in Leyth, of an annual rent out of Abercairny, Perthshire.

At Holyrudhous, 28th March 1618 (17).

1623. Ewne (Ewen) Neish, in Tullichetill (an old parish near Comrie), 10th May; testament made (51).

The last fight with the MacNabs took place on Neish Island in 1612, so Ewen could not have belonged to the Loch Earn branch of the family.

1629. John MacNeith, in Fadell (Feddall), parish of Muthill (51).

1636. John Neisch, son to the late James Neish in Comrie, was entered as an apprentice to George Admistoun, baxter of Edinburgh, 15th June.

John, son to Robert M'Neish, parish of Muthill, entered with John Phillen, merchant, 24th August (52).

1646. Edward Neasoun, litster, burgess of the Canongate; testament dated 20th June (41).

Some of the Neesons are probably descended from the above Edward.

1656. Hew Neish, parish of Comrie ; testament made (51).

1663. Elizabeth Neish, in Struthill, parish of Muthill ; testament dated 16th April.

1664. Janet Neish, in Aberlednock, parish of Monievairst ; testament dated 3rd November.

1667. Katherine Neish, relict of Malcolm Henderson, in Beddenheth, (Badenheath) ; testament dated 15th August (51).

1670. Alexander Neish, chapman, was buried at Greyfriars, Edinburgh, 27th December.

1676. John M'Neish, servitor to the Laird of Comrie ; his testament is dated 20th April (51).

He was probably one of the Neishes of Ross, near Comrie.

1688. The testament of James Neish, in Strathgath (Stragieth), was dated 23rd August (51).

1691. Three children of Daniel Neish, tailor, were buried at Greyfriars, Edinburgh, on the following dates: 28th July 1691, 10th June 1696, and 25th September 1697.

1692. David Neish, merchant, was buried in Greyfriars on the 28th July 1692, and his widow, Isabella Mures, was also buried there, on 11th September 1694.

1697. Donald and Janet Nish, twin lawful children to Duncan Nish and Elspeth M'Laren in Blainror (now Blairinroar, a rendering of Blar an Ruathair), were born on the 13th, and baptised on the 14th December 1697.

Patrick Neish, lawful son to Duncan Neish and Elspeth M'Laren in Blainror, was born on the 10th, and baptised on the 17th March 1699 (54).

1715. James Neish, in Tarbrex, Stirlingshire, served in the Jacobite Army in 1715.

“Item, to John Robertstone and John Cunninghame for bringing in James Neish, in Tarbrex, to the Tolbooth be the justices

of the peace order, who had been with the Highland armie, 12s. Dated 29th August 1715 (55).

1735. Patrick Neish, in Mewie, son of Patrick Neish, in Easter Dundurn, parish of Comrie, testament dated 6th February (51).

1753. Duncan, in Easter Dundurn, eldest son of the deceased Patrick Neish, there, his testament is dated 19th July (51).

1762. Duncan Neish, in Edinburgh, married Barbara Anderson, 13th September 1762.

1768. Margaret Neish, relict of — Neish, residenter in Edinburgh, died 20th October 1768 (41).

1746. John Neish was one of the Prince's (Charles Stewart) grooms ('The Lyon in Mourning,' vol. II., p. 235).

1854. John Neish, in Ross, near Comrie, was served heir to his father, Duncan Neish, there. Heir General, dated 9th May 1854 (53).

1865. James Neish was appointed Postmaster of St Fillans, in the old Neish clan district, in 1865; he conducted the business for many years in the house now known as Ingleside; he retired in 1889 (19).

WILLIAM NEISH OF AUCHTERARDER,

A native of the "lang toun" of Auchterarder, was born on the 16th July 1867. He wrote at least two songs worth recording. They are extracted from 'The Harp of Perthshire,' by Robert Ford, 1893.

THE BRAES ROUN' ABOUT AUCHTERAIRDER.

At times when I think on my boyhood's bricht oors,  
Its joys and its sorrows, its sunshine and shooers;  
I'm a laddie again, and I'm puin' the flooers  
On the braes roun' about Auchterairder.

I'm list'nin' again to the hum o' the bee  
As it scans ilka flooer on the wet dewy lea;  
Or list'nin' the laverock that sings blyth and free  
'Bune the braes roun' about Auchterairder.

I'm paidlin' ance mair in the cool o' the burn,  
And chasin' the big troots at maist ilka turn;  
Or landin' them oot wi' my new horse-hair gurn,  
On the braes roun' about Auchterairder.

I'm lyin' again on the green whinny knowes,  
 And watching the sheep as they lazily browse ;  
 Or I'm puin' the heather whaur wildly it grows,  
 On the braes roun' about Auchterairder.

In fancy I'm hearin' the heart-stirrin' note  
 O' the siller-voiced cuckoo frae yon woody grot,  
 As loudly it pipes frae its clear trebly throat  
 O'er the braes roun' about Auchterairder.

I'm staunin' again whaur the grass grows knee-deep,  
 Whaur the saft gloamin' shadows their lanely watch keep,  
 And I bend o'er a mither that sleeps her last sleep  
 In the kirkyaird o' auld Auchterairder.

Oh scenes o' my childhood, you're dear, dear to me,  
 My heart's like to break, and the tear blin's my e'e,  
 When I think that I'll maybe again never see  
 The braes roun' about Auchterairder.

But when my lamp's oot—when my sun's shone its best,  
 And draps ower the hills in the far distant West ;  
 I'd like just to think I could lie down and rest  
 On the braes roun' about Auchterairder.

WILLIAM NEISH.

#### THE BURNIE'S SANG.

Oh hoo bonnie rows the burnie  
 At the breakin' o' the morn,  
 When the fragrant breath o' simmer  
 Moves the blossoms on the thorn,  
 When the birdies still are sleepin'  
 And the zephyr scents the hay,  
 O hoo sweetly sings the burnie  
 At the breakin' o' the day.

Oh hoo bonnie rows the burnie  
When the simmer sun is high,  
And naething but a fleecy cloud  
Floats through the azure sky,  
When the birds are whistlin' blythely,  
And the lambkins frisk and play,  
O hoo sweetly sings the burnie  
On a sunny simmer day.

Oh hoo bonnie rows the burnie  
When the nicht-clouds settle doon,  
And the glamour o' the gloamin'  
Flings its mystic shadows roon',  
When the birdies all are nested,  
And the sun draps ower the moor,  
Oh the burnie sings the sweetest  
At the gloamin's witchin' oor.

Oh the music o' the burnie,  
Heard far back in childhood's days,  
Mak's me aftentimes grow weary  
O' the city's buzz and blaze,  
Yet at times ower rigid manhood  
Childhood sheds its sunny beams,  
For I hear the burnie singin'  
In the midst o' happy dreams.

WILLIAM NEISH.



## CHAPTER IV.

THE MACNEISHES OR MACNISHES OF GALLOWAY—ADAM MACNES  
OF BARDONAN—GILBERT MACNAGHT AND THE KILQUHONIDY  
FAMILY—THE MACNEISHES OF GAITGILL.

THE numerous family of MacNishes of Galloway are descended from an earlier race of MacNesches, who appear frequently on record from the fifteenth century. The allied family of MacNaughts of Galloway are no doubt sprung from the same stock as the MacNishes.

The Galloway family would appear to be a very ancient branch of the MacNeishes of Strathearn.

It is probable that Patrick, son of Nes of Leuchars and Strathearn, settled in Nithsdale, where we find about the year 1220, "Patcio

magillness" (Patrick MacGille-nes) as a witness to Carta 340 (Carta super ecclesiam de Killosbern) of Kelso Abbey, with other prominent men of Dumfries (34).

Killosbern is now known as Closeburn, where in later years we find many records of MacNeishes and MacNaughts.

Roger de Quinci, son of Orobile (daughter of Nes) and Robert de Quinci, was a nephew of Patrick MacNes. Roger married Helena, daughter of Alan, Lord of Galloway, about 1220, and succeeded to lands in Galloway; no doubt Patrick MacNes or his sons obtained lands in Galloway through the influence of their relative Roger, who, on the death of Alan, Lord of Galloway, in 1233, succeeded to the office of Constable of Scotland.

The following ancient place-names indicate that the family was in occupation of land in Galloway and Ayrshire at a very early period. The lands of Bischoforrest, called Makknachstoun, in the parish of Kirkpatrik Irnegray, Kirkcudbrightshire ('Instrument of Sasine,' 1656).

The 5s. lands of Maknaythyscroft in the Lordship of Mauchline, Ayrshire, then belonging to Campbell of Kingyeancleucht ('Melrose Regal Rec.,' 1576).

Adam, son of Nes (Adam MacNes) of Bardonan, Dumfries, was slain in the Isle of Man, in the service of the King of Scotland, in 1289 (23).

Bardonan, now corrupted to Bardannoch, near Moniaive, Glencairn, is situated 4 miles east of Neis Hill (1045 ft.), in Nithsdale. (Bardonnenhill, alias Haliedayhill, parish of Dunscore, 1632; is now known as Barddenoch or Halliday Hill.)

"Item, per wardem terre de Bardonan, que fuit Ade, filii Nesonis interfecti in Mannia in seruicio regis, et que jacuit inculta propter guerram motam post mortem regis per duos annos. vt dicit S; excepta dote vxoris eiusdem, quam habuit" (23).

The lands of Bardonan in Dumfries, in ward to the crown, are reported by William Sinclair, the sheriff of Dumfries, to have lain uncultivated

for two years in consequence of the war stirred up after the King's death (23).

The Norse King, Haco, was crushed at the battle of Largs in 1263, and Alexander III. undertook in the following year to put an end to the Norse dominion in the Isle of Man.

Alexander the Steward and John Comyn landed in Man in 1270, and slew Ivor, who had usurped the throne.

Adam MacNes of Bardonan was killed during the last fighting in Man, for Edward I. of England appears to have taken over the island at the end of 1289, or the beginning of 1290. In February 1290, Edward of England informed the keepers of the land of Mann "that he had given a safe conduct to certain merchants for the dispatch of their business there" (Cal. of Patent Rolls, 18 Edward 1).

Thomas de Bardonan of Dumfries, as well as Patrick of Bardonan, were among those who signed the Ragman Roll in 1296.

The seal of Patrick of Bardonan is given

as "an eight - rayed figure, S' patrik de bardonan" (24).

This Patrick of Bardonan may have been the son of Adam MacNes of Bardonan who was killed in 1289, and the grandson of Patrick MacNes of Dumfries, who died *circa* 1250.

Also among the Scottish nobles and land-owners who, on the 28th of August 1296, swore allegiance to King Edward of England at Berwick - on - Tweed, was Gilbert Make-naght (24).

Gilbert MacNaght, whose seal is appended to homage No. 810 of the calendar, was probably the ancestor of the Kilquhonidy family, for we find that later on the MacNaughts of Kilquhannedie used arms in the shape of a shield.

The following is a description of the seal of Gilbert Makenaght:—

"Seal in form of shield; device, foliage and tracery, four-footed beast on top; S' Gilberti fil' melnechra" (24).

Compare "melnechra" with the slightly earlier Fife and Perthshire forms—Malnethte, Malfnacht, and Malsnacht.

The original Ragman Roll, which is in sheets, well written, and still in good preservation, seems to have been penned by the same person, who evidently was guided by his ear as the names were pronounced, which was usual at that period, and now causes so much confusion.

#### THE MACNAUGHTS OF GALLOWAY.

The chief family of the MacNaughts held the lands of Kilquhanidy, in the parish of Kirkpatrick-Durham, in Kirkcudbrightshire, for many centuries.

They are probably a branch of the Galloway MacNeishes.

In 1471 Celestine Maknacht received sasine of the lands of Kilconaughty (23).

In 1474 Duguld M'Nacht (probably son of Celestine) received sasine of the lands of Cohonody (23).

In 1496 Fergus Maknath received sasine of the lands of Culchonachty.

In 1537 John Maknaicht received sasine of the lands of Culquhonite.

In 1546 John M'Naucht received sasine of the lands of Culquhomyte (23).

In 1582 John Maknech, junior, received a charter of the lands of Nether Kilquhennedie (17).

In 1585 John McKnicht of Kilquhennad, Robert McKnicht in twa merk land, Fergus McKnicht in Culsyde, Hendrie Mcknayt in Culsyde, John Mcknayt in Mule, Gillespie Mcknayt in Little Mcquhir, all in the parish of Kirkpatrick-Durham; and Gillespie Mcknayt in Glengopok, James and John Mcknayt in Ernealmery, in the parish of Crossmichell, are all mentioned in 'Acta Parl. James VI.,' page 391.

It is evident that the surname MacKnight is derived from an early form of MacNaught or MacNeischt.

During the years 1580 to 1593, the name

appears as McNache, McNach, and McNach (17).

In 1598 John Maknaucht received sasine of the lands of Kilquhannedie.

In 1612 John M'Naught of Kilquhonity was slain at Carlingwark.

The testament of James McNaught, elder, of Over Killquenadie, was dated 9th November 1629 (35).

The testament of Roger McNaught of Kilquadie, parish of Kirkmichael-Durham, was dated 24th December 1641.

The testament of John McNaught of Killwhannady was dated 1st January 1679 (35).

The following are early records of some of the MacNaught families in Galloway:—

In 1473 Andrew, son and heir of John M'Nacht of Dalcarne and Cragow, Kirkcudbright, received a charter of the said lands (17).

Egidia M'Nacht, who was still in ward, received sasine of lands in Kirkcudbrightshire in 1486 (23).



In 1498 Egidia and Mariot M'Naucht received sasine of the lands of Dalcharne and Creggo (23).

In 1505 the four merk land of Knokinschene and Barneschauch was let to Janet M'Naucht (23).

A part of the lands of Knokkinschene was let to Janet M'Knach after the year 1505, and before 1521 (23).

Gilbert MakNauch was a well-known notary public in Galloway in 1526 (23).

In 1364 Christino McNawych was a witness to "Confirmacio cartarum monasterii de Kilwynnyn," a confirmation of a charter granted by John of Menteith, dom. of Arran and Knapdale, to the monks of Kilwinning, in Cunningham, Ayrshire.

In 1473-4 the following payment was made to the Exchequer:—

"Composition with Gilberto M'Nauth and John Dingalli, Kirkcudbrightshire" (31).

In 1476 a branch of the MacNeish family

held half of the lands of Gaitgill-macgille-Warnoch, in the parish of Borgue, Kirkcudbrightshire.

The lands of Borgis, which John Mowbray forfeited, were granted by David II. to Fergus M'Dowgall by charter *circa* 1350.

In 1465 John Akersane (now Carson) received relief by sasine of the fermes of Gaytgilmcgilwarnok (23).

The Mac-gille-Warnochs long ago shortened their surname to Warnock.

In 1467 the lands of Gaitgill, alias "nuncupatus," Litiltoun, 3 mark lands (£2), in the parish of Borg, vic Dumfres, was granted to the MacDowells of Spotts. Their charter was confirmed on 27th January 1469 (17).

In 1476 John Akersane received a sasine of the lands of Gaitgill-McGilwithnocht (23).

In the same year the King granted a charter of the 25s lands of Gategill, vic Dumfres, to Thomas M'Kelle, which John Kersane resigned (17).

The MacKellies or MacKailes of Gaitgill

were no doubt descended from Gilmalagon MacKelli, who was a witness to No. 107 Carta of Kelso Abbey *circa* 1150. John M'Kelli was clerk of liverance to Queen Euphemia *circa* 1366.

In 1476 the following action was moved by Maurice MacNeish of Gaitgill.

GALLOWAY.

*Acta Auditorum, 5th July.*

1476. In the action and cause movit [moved by] be Morrice McNesche against James McCowlach of Cardness, Rankin Mure, William Mure, James Lintoune, Brice Stewarte, John McKelle, Archibald Mure, Thomas McCowlach, Donald McLellane, Archibald McLellan, John McLellan of Barsallach, Andrew Law, Patrick Kessock, John Adowgane, and Thomas McKelle, anent the error committed by them as was alleged in the serving of a breve of Inquest purchased by Johne Akersane anent 16s and 8d worth of land of the lands of Gaytegill McKilvernak.

The said Morrice being present by his

procurator, and the said persons being lawfully summoned and oftymes called and nocht comperit [appeared]. The allegation of the said procurator and the depositions of witnesses being at length heard and understandin. The Lords Auditors ripely advisit [advised], finds by the depositions of the said witnesses that the said persons has erred in the serving of the said breve in sa [so] far as they have found John Acarsan, cousin of umquhile Margaret Acarsane, lawful heir to umquhile . . . . . [blank in record—probably Margaret] of the said 16s 8d of the said land, whereas they should . . . . . [blank in record] found him but heir of 8s 4d worth thereof, and the said Morice upon 8 . . . . . d [blank in record, possibly the other 8s 4d] worth of the same proportionally. And that Brice Stewart has not erred because he said against all the said persons. And the party to raise a new breve gif it please him. And that the said persons be punished at the King's will after the form of the Act of Parliament thereupon.

In 1477 Maurice MacNeish, tenant of the lands of Gaitgilmakgilvernok, received a sasine of the said lands from King James III. :—

“Kirkcudbricht. Sa. Mauricio McKneishe. t. Gaitgilmakgilvernok.”

“Sasine of Gaitgilmakgilvernok, £8. 6. 4d land thairof to Maurice McKneishe” (23).

1493-8. Thomas M’Kelle again had sasine of the lands of Gategilmakilvernok in 1493 and 1498 (23).

1500. The King confirms to John Makkelle of Gaitgill, son of Thomas Makkelle of Berskeach, of the 3 merk and 10 sol. lands of Gaitgill (17).

- 1502-4. 1. John McKelle, executed at Wigton.  
2. Composition of escheat of John M’Kelle.  
3. Thomas McKelle, escheat of.  
4. Thomas McKelle of Gatyell, ward of lands of (31).

1508. Duncan MacNeish of Gaitgill (who was no doubt the eldest son of Maurice Mac-

Neish) appears to have died in or before 1508. No. 1779, at Edinburgh, 14th December 1508 (Reg. Privy Seal).

A Lettre made to Johne Murehede of Bulleis, his ayris and assignais, ane or maa . . . of the gift of the warde of all and sindri the landis and annuallrentis that pertemit to umquhile (the late) Duncane Makneische of Gaitgill, and now being in the Kingis handis be resone of warde throw (through) the decess of the said umquhile Duncane, and als the nonentreis of the said landis and annuelrentis ay and quhil the richtwis ayre (heir) or ayris of the said umquhile Duncain recover heretable state and sesing (sasine) of the samyn; togidder with the mariage of Henry Makneisch, the sone and ayre of the said umquhile Duncain . . . To be Haldin . . . with power to him and thaim to occupy the sade landis with thare awn gudis (goods), or to set thaim to tenantis. . . .

Subscripta per dominum Regem.

Gratis ex mandato domini M. Roberto

Elphinstoun portandi mandatum domini,  
111, 202.

1511. Non onerat se de xvj £ xiiij s iiij d  
compositionis warde Duncani Makneische de  
Gaitgill cum maritagio heridis venditarum  
Johanni Mureheide de Bullies (31).

1517. An Instrument of Sasine, under the  
hands of Gawin Fullartoun, presbyter of the  
diocese of Glasgow, notary public, setting forth  
that on 10th March 1517, on the grounds of  
the lands after-mentioned, William Hostan,  
bailie in that part, in virtue of a Royal Precept,  
and a Precept of the Steward of Kyrkcubryt,  
gave to Mariota McNess, daughter of the late  
Duncan McNess of Gadgile, of the fourth part  
of the 25s. lands of Gadgill, of old extent lying  
within the Lordship of Galloway, parish of  
Borg and Stewartry of Kyrkcubre. Dated  
10th March 1517. Witnesses—Robert Schaw,  
George Carnis of Siltoun, Fynlay Wilzemsone,  
William Bell, Adam Carnis, and Donald Free  
(Frier) (29).

1517. Charter of Sale by Mariota Makness, daughter of the late Doncan McNess of Gadgill, and Lady superior of the 4th part of the 25s. lands of Gadgill, in favour of Robert Gordoun of Glen, Knight, of the 4th part of the 25s lands of Gadgill, lying in the parish of Borg and Stewartry of Kyrkcubre. To be holden *a me de supremo domino rege*, giving three suits yearly at the Court of the Stewartry with ward and relief. At Gatgill, 12th March 1517. Witnesses—John Aschennane of Park (now Shannan or Cannan), Fynlay Wilzemsone, William Carnis (now Cairns), William Hostan, and Sir Gavin Fullartoun, notary public. (Seal wanting, 29.)

1517. The Steward returned 12s. 6d. as yearly rent due to the King for sasine given to Mariote Makneisch of the 4th part of the lands of Gadgill, in the lordship of Galloway and Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, 27th November 1517 (23).

1518. The Steward returned 12s. 6d. as the



yearly duty for sasine given to Jonet Makneisch of the 4th part of the 25s. land of Gadzell Makilvernok, in the parish of Borg and Stewartry of Kirkcudbright. 3rd December 1518-19 (23).

1519. The Steward became answerable for £4, 7s. 6d. of the fermes of the 4th part of the 25s. lands of Gadgil Makilvernok in Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, being in the King's hands for the space of seven years by reason of ward, of which the yearly rent of 12s. 6d. due to the King for sasine given to Katherine Makneische of the said 4th part. 12th November 1519 (23).

The following charters appear in the Register of the Great Seal of Scotland :—

Charter of Sale by Jonet Makneisch of Gadzell McIlvernok in favour of Robert Gordoun of Glen Knight of her fourth part of the lands of Gadzell McIlvernok extending in whole to 25s. lands of old Extent lying within the parish of Borg and

Stewartry of Kyrkcubryt. To be holden *de supremo domino nostro rege* for service aucht and wont. At Ruschew, 16th May 1519 (Seal wanting).

Charter of Sale by Jonet Makneis of Gadgill McYlvernok in favour of Alexander Gordoun son of Robert Gordoun of Glen Knight of her 4th part of the lands of Gadgill McYlvernok extending in whole to 25s. lands of old extent, lying in the parish of Borg and stewartry of Kyrkcubryt.

To be holden *de supremo domino nostro rege* for service aucht and wont. At Ruschew, 16th May 1519 (seal wanting).

Charter of Confirmation under the Great Seal with consent of the Lords regents in absence of John Duke of Albany protector and governor of the Kingdom Confirming 4 charters in favour of Alexander Gordoun son of Robert Gordoun of Glen Knight—viz. (1) No. 861 *supra*; (2) No. 880 *supra*; (3) Charter by Katherina Makneische of

Gaitgill Makilvernok of her 4th part of said 25s. land (at Ruschew, 16th May 1519. Witnesses as in two preceding charters); (4) Charter by Elena Makneische of Gaitgill Makilvernok of her 4th part of said 25s. land (at Ruschew, 16th May 1510 (19?)) ('R. M. S.', III., 191).

Instrument of Sasine taken by Alexander Gordoun son of Robert Gordoun of Glen Knight in the hands of Gavin Fullartoun presbyter of the diocese of Glasgow notary public on the sasine given to him by William Hostane sheriff in that part by virtue of Precept of Jonet Makneis of Gadgill McYlvernok in her 4th part of the 25s. lands of Gadgill McYlvernok, lying in the Lordship of Galloway parish of Borg and Stewartry of Kyrkcubryt. At the principal mansion of Gadgill McYlvernok 24th July 1520 Witnesses, Alexander Mwr, Fynlay Williamsone, William Carnis, George Carnis of Nuntoun, Donald Frer, and Archibald McKelle.

Instrument of Sasine as the preceding in Katherina Makneiss, fourth part of the same lands. Bailie, notary, and witnesses the same (except that George Carnis is styled of Litilltown instead of Nuntoun), 24th July 1520.

Instrument of Sasine as the two preceding in Elen Makneiss, 4th part of the same lands. Bailie, witnesses, and notary the same (except that Donald Frer is omitted), 24th July 1520 (17).

1520. On the 8th of July the King confirmed four charters by Marion, Jonet, Katherine and Elena Makneissche, sisters, daughters of the late Duncan Makneissche of Gaitgill-Makillwarnok, who, for certain sums of money, sold to Alexander Gordon of Glen, Knight, his heirs and assignees, the fourth part of the 25s. lands of Gaitgill-Makillwernok, in the parish of Borg, Stewardry of Kirkcudbright. Rendering yearly to the King, for the part of the said Marion, three suits at the Stewart Court of Kirk-

cudbright and ward and relief, and for the others, the service used and wont. Witnesses—John Aschennane (now Shannon) of Park, Finla Williamson, William Carnis, William Howstoun (now Houston), D. Gavin Fullertoun, notary public.

The charter of the said Marion was dated at Gaitgill on the 12th of March 1517, the other charters at Ruschew, 16th May 1519 (17).

Henry, the son and heir of Duncan MacNeish of Gaitgill, was probably killed at the battle of Flodden on the 9th September 1513. King James IV. and the flower of the Scottish nation fell on this fateful day.

From the year 1500, notices of the MacNeishes of Galloway become fairly frequent.

In 1513 Nevin Agnew of Croach was prosecuted for raiding various lands, and the stealing of a horse from John McNesche, in the county of Wigtowne (36, vol. 8 p. 90).

On the 18th June 1526, at Edinburgh, a Respite (Remission) was granted to Gilbert,

Earl of Cassillis, and his retainers, including Donald and Johne McNysche, and about 300 other gentlemen, for the treasonable slaughter of Cornelius de Machteme (Machitama), a Ducheman, in the time of the sitting of Parliament ('Reg. Sec. Sig.').

In 1549, "Item to ane callit William Maknath, that wes taiken be the thevis, in xv crounis of the sone, £xvi. xvii s. vi d." (31).

In 1550, "Item to Alexander Maknach, be my lord governoures precept and spetial command, to his support efter his heirscheppis witht the Inglismen and thevis" (31).

The above entries probably refer to members of the MacNaught branch.

The lands of Rais, in Renfrewshire, were held before 1550 by a Master James McNeiss. In 1550 Katren Fergusson appears as heir of the late James; and Hugh Kennedy of Barquhany (Carrick) was procurator for the said Katren (29).

1565. The goods and lands of Sir Robert

MacNeisch, in Carrick, were forfeited to the Crown.

“Macneische, Sir Robert, escheat of, 1565-6.

Item to Andro Bannatyne, messenger, passand of Edinburcht witht lettres to serche, seik, inbring, appris and arreist, and mak penny of the personis gudis and geir underwritten, viz. :—

Gilbert, Erle of Cassillis; Thomas Kennedy of Bargany; John Kennedy Armillan; Schir Robert Macneische: Wm. Cambell, tutor of Cesnok; David Craufurde of Kers, and certane uthiris contenit in the saidis lettres. iiij £” (31).

1576. Mathew M'Kneis, tenant of the 40s. lands of Dunane, in Carrick, was a witness to a charter by George Kennedy of Dunane, of the lands of Dunane, to Oswald M'Knedar (MacNider) in Dunure. Mathew was a witness to another Dunane charter, dated 6th August 1577, also to the sasine dated 7th March 1578 (56).

*circa* 1540. Thomas Makneische, a merchant burghess of Edinburgh, who died in 1582, was

born about the year 1540; he appears to have belonged to a Nithsdale branch of the family. His testament and inventory of goods is dated 30th January 1582; the Inventory consisting of skins, hides, &c.; partly in his dwelling-house at the "fute of Restis Wynd and partly in ships; with money, utencils, etc.; and the third part of a ship in Leith called *The Gift of God.*"

He left legacies to Edward McNeische, his eldest lawful son and apparent heir by Helen Hart; Adam McNeische, his eldest lawful son by Marion Bellenden; and to his youngest bairns, John and Katherine. His first wife, Marion Bellenden, died in 1574, and his second wife, Helen Hart, died in 1581.

On the 30th April 1586 Katherine MacNeiche was returned heiress to her brother, Edward MacNeiche, in some tenements in Edinburgh (50).

1550. John Makneische, merchant in Kerymanoch, Kirkcudbright, was born about the



year 1550, and died in 1593. The following are mentioned in his will, dated 16th October 1593: Jonet Bell, his mother; his wife, Jonet McClamie.

1550. William Makneische, farmer in the clauchane of Dalry, Kirkcudbright, was born about the year 1550, and died in 1603. He married Elizabeth Banoch, and left the following children, John, Robert, and Jonet.

1550. Robert McNeische, merchant burghess of Edinburgh, was born about the year 1550, and died in 1628. He married Agnes Dobie, who died in 1645 (see Appendix, p. 192); he left an only son, John, who in 1628 was abroad. Robert appears to have been a relative (brother?) of William MacNeish of clachan of Dalry.

1560. December 6th.—A Decreet of Council settling the amounts due by a number of persons to the Master of Glencairn, as factor for the Kirk of Glencairn (Dumfries), among whom is

William McNeische in Craufurdoun, of his Merkland thereof (21).

1563. Kirkpatrick of Closeburn, Andro McKnek in Closeburnetoune, and others were slain by John Carruthers of Holmains, in the district of Nithsdale (36).

1567. Jonet MacCanis, relict of William Grierson, in Mermilloch; testament dated 24th November (41).

1623. Caution by Robert McNeische, merchant burghess of Edinburgh, for Gilbert Greirson of Castlemadie in £100, which sum the said Robert consigned in the hands of James Prymrois, Clerk of the Council; therefore the horning against him is suspended (21).

1580. John MacNeish, merchant burghess of Edinburgh, was born about the year 1580. He died in December 1652, leaving legacies to John Blathman, son to umquhile John Blathman, in Balmaclellan, who was son and heir to umquhile Issobell McNeill, "my cow-

signe german and appeirand air to me and nearest of kin on the father's side" (Edinburgh Testaments, vol. 67, dated 10th December 1652).

Jonet Hart, sometime spouse to Johne McKneische, merchant burghess of Edinburgh, died in 1629 (Edinburgh Testaments, vol. 55, dated 19th December 1629).

1583. Robert McNeische, son of William McNeisch, in Balmaclelloquhan, was a witness to an Instrument of Sasine given to Robert Smart, burghess of Edinburgh, of an annual of £20 Scots, out of a house and other property in the town of Leith, 9th April 1583 (C. of C.).

1585. Adam, son of the late Thomas McNeish, merchant, was entered with John McCuir, tailor; dated 21st August (52).

1590. James McNeische appears on a list of excommunicated persons of Galloway, dated 11th August (21).

1612. Johne, son of Gilbert McNeische, in

Traqueir, was born 26th May. (The earliest birth record in Reg. of Dumfries.)

1616. Robert M'Neische, burgess of Kelso, was served heir of William M'Neische, alias Stewart, shoemaker there, son of the deceased Robert McNeische, alias Stewart, shoemaker, indweller in Kelso, nephew of his grand-uncle or grandfather's brother (53).

1622. John McNische, in Crafurtoun (Craufordtoun, Dumfries), appears on the list of persons who refused the authorised instruction in the art of tanning leather; dated 28th March (21).

1628. Gilbert M'Kinshe, cordiner in Brigend of Dumfries; testament dated 6th September (35).

1633. Thomas Nesche, at the Market Cross of Lochmaben, was a witness to the Execution of Summons by Adam Clerk, messenger, at the instance of John, Earl of Annerdaill, against Fergus Graham of Blawetwod (21).

1635. William McNeish, in Over Elschfeild, and others were summoned by John Moresone of Edinburgh ('Acts and Decreeets,' vol. 477).

1639. William McNeish, parishioner of Troquer, married Elspet Cairlell; this the first marriage entry of the family in the Dumfries Registers; the surname afterwards appears as McKnish up to 1680, and McNish from 1689.

1647. John, son of James McNeish, at the Chappell in Galloway, was entered with George Younger, merchant, dated 21st July (52).

1668. Alexander McNish, in Nether Ardwell, a retainer of Sir Andrew M'Culloch of Myretoun, is mentioned in a complaint by William Gordon, of Newton of Cardinis, against M'Culloch of Myretoun (21).

1684. The McNishes and McKnishes were now quite numerous in Wigtownshire. (See Appendix.)

1643. John McNeish, merchant burghess of

Edinburgh, contributed a sum of 300 merks (£2000) for the supply of the Scots in Ireland (21).

1712. Forty-two acres of Kingholm Merse were converted by the plough into arable land, the same being let to John M'Nish, deacon of the weavers, for three years, at rather more than 10s. sterling an acre yearly (15).

1718. There are many McNishes in Antigua, in the West Indies, who claim descent from William McNish of Dumfries, who died in Antigua *circa* 1797.

The first on record of the family in the island was Hugh M'Nish, who was buried at St John on the 13th February 1718. The pedigree of the family is given in the 'History of Antigua,' vol. 2, p. 230.

1731. The testament of Anna, daughter of Robert Gordon of Barharrow, spouse to Robert M'Nish in Irelandton, was dated 1731 (56).

1736. James Nish, in Garlieston, on the 30th

September 1736, had principal sasine of the merklands of Balsarroch, &c.

He was factor to the Earl of Galloway.

Balsarroch is situated in the parish of Penninghame (19).

1750. James M'Nish, merchant in Kirkcudbright, served on the Assizes (Criminal Records of the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright).

1760. The testament of Margaret Gordon, relict of Robert M'Nish of Greenslack,<sup>F</sup> was dated 1760 (56).

#### THE CARRICK BRANCH.

There were a few MacNeish and MacNaught families in Carrick, Ayrshire, dating from the sixteenth century; at that period, and earlier, Carrick formed a part of Galloway.

The following are a few of the early entries concerning them:—

On the 3rd of March 1582, “in presens of me notar publict and witnessis underwrittin,

comperit personalie Mathew M'Kneis in Dunene, and as full dettour for Gilbert Kennedy of Dunene, his maister, oblist him to pay to Thomas Mirrie, the sowme of fiftie merkis, upoun the xv day of Aprile nixt to cum" (51).

The testament of Thomas McNeish, in Daldabie, parish of Girvan, was dated 24th October 1607 (42).

The testament of Elizabeth Kairnochane, spouse to Adam M'Nische in Myllendderdaill, parish of Colmonell, was dated 7th August 1621. The testament of Margaret Kennedy, spouse to Hew M'Nische in Auldames, parish of Colmonell, was dated 30th April 1634 (42).

In 1658 Thomas McNinch held the lands of Blarawart in the parish of Colmonell, in Carrick (see charter by Kennedy of Knockdaw, 'Reg. Mag. Sig.,' lx. 131).

McNinch is probably a corruption of MacNische, not as some authorities give—a form of MacLynch.



The surname MacNinch still occurs in Ayr (1900).

The testament of Robert MacNeish, parish of St Quivox, in Kyle, was dated 1676 (42).

There is a short account of the M'Neights of Barns, who were descended from a MacNaught family in Ayr, given in Paterson's 'Ayrshire.'

## CHAPTER V.

THE NEISHES OF ANGUS—NEISH OF HANDWICK—THE NEISHES OF LAWS, OMACHIE, AND TANNADYCE.

THE Neishes are a very old-established family in Angus or Forfarshire. They are possibly descended from one of the sons of Neis, son of William, who was associated with Angus during the latter half of the thirteenth century. The Angus branch is now the most numerous of all the various branches of the Neish clan.

About the year 1200 we find that Adam de Nesh was a witness to a charter by William Wascelyn, of an oxgate of land in his vill of Newtyle, to the monks of Lundors (27).

We have no proof that Adam de Nesh was the ancestor of the Neishes of Angus, or that he was of the native Gaelic Neish stock.

The Angus family is possibly sprung from a Neis who lived a century or two later than Adam of Nesh.

It is not until the year 1450 that we get a definite record of Neis as a surname in Angus.

Thoma Nesse, a vicar of the Cathedral of Brechin, was a witness to charter No. 68 on the 20th June 1450; as Thomas Neiss, he was also a witness to another charter of Brechin, dated 17th November 1453 (28).

In 1465 John Nece was a witness to a Charter of Sale by Robert Mortymair of Balandrow, in favour of Robert Falconer, burgess of Montros, of the 3rd parts of the lands of Balandrow in Kincardynshire; dated at Estir Matlie, 8th November 1465 (29).

John Nece was again a witness to a charter by Mortymar of Belandrow, in favour of Robert Falconer, of the 8th part of the lands of Balandrow; dated at Balandrow, 27th April 1466 (29).

In 1470 "Sir" William Neische, presbyter, was a witness to a charter by Thomas Ogilvy

of Cleva (Clova) to Robert Rollok, burgess of Dundee, of the lands of Bradowny (Braedownie), Forfarshire; dated at Dundee, 22nd October (30).

In 1498 Thomas Nesche, who was probably a member of the Abbey of Arbroath, was a witness with David, Abbot of Abbirbrocht, and others, to an Aberbrothoc charter (13).

The under-mentioned James Nethe was probably the father of John Neiche, tenant of the lands of Petlevy in the barony of Panmure in 1541. "Action by Thomas, Lord Innermeith (Stewart), against Thomas Maule of Panmure, Knight; James Nethe; Fergus Lyne; Robert Boyes and others; for spoliation of foure gunnys with thair chalmaris out of the schip pertenyng til him, the price xli £.

The pursuer and Maule compearing, but the rest being absent, the Lords continue the case till 8th July next, and ordain letters to be written charging the sheriff of Forfar and his deputies to call parties before him and take evidence, and report the same to Council that day; and the depositions of witnesses now

compearing are to be closed till that day." Spuilzie; dated 17th March 1501-02 (26).

On 17th April 1529 King James V. confirmed the charter by David Ogilvy of that ilk in favour of Alexander Neische, burgess of Dundee, and Jonet Rollok, his spouse, of the lands of Handwik, in the barony of Ogilvy, Forfarshire. Holding to them and their heirs, of the King. The charter was dated at Dundee, 11th March 1528 (17).

Alexander Neisch, burgess of Dundee, was a witness to a Precept of Sasine, directed by John Kynnard, Lord of that ilk, of John Lessillis, in Cadam, &c. Dated at Dundee, 19th April 1528 (29).

We again find a reference to the Handwick charter in 1530: "Et de vif in completam solutionem compositionis carte confirmationis (Alexandri Neitche) super carta siba facta per David Ogilvy de eodem, de terris in baronia de Ogilvy infra vicecomitatum de Forfare" (31).

In 1533 the Sheriff of Forfar became answerable for £8 of relief of the fee of the lands of

Handwik, in the barony of Ogilvy, due to the King for sasine given to William Neische of the same, reserving the frank tenement of the same to Jonet Rollok, spouse of the late Alexander Neische, burgess of Dundie, Lady of the conjunct infestment thereof for her lifetime. Dated 11th April 1533 (23).

Apparently Jonet Rollok was married secondly to Laurence Flescheour (now Fletcher); there was an old Dundee family of this name. "Et de iiii £, compositionis carte confirmationis Jonete Rollok et Laurentii Flescheour super carta facta per Willelmum Neische super occidentalibus dimetietatibus terrarum de Sandwick (Handwick)." Dated 1533 (31).

In 1537 George Neische was a witness to a charter granted to Sir John Ker, vicar of Chernesyde, in liferent, and to William Ker, his son, in fee, of the lands of Lumlethin, Forfarshire. Dated 7th March, at Restinot (17).

In 1541 the King confirmed a charter by Thomas Maule, Lord of the fee of the lands and barony of Panmure, to Andrew Barry,

elder, burgess of Dundee, of the lands and town of Petlevy, &c., occupied by John Neiche and John Fold, in the barony of Panmure, Forfarshire. Dated at Dundee, 30th April (17).

In 1543, Thomas Neiche, as one of the Convent of the Monastery of Aberbrothok, signs a Letter of Tack by David, Cardinal priest of the Roman Church and Archbishop of St Andrews, to George Gordon of Scheves, otherwise Gycht of the Mayns of Gycht, &c. Dated 10th May (29).

Andro Neis in Corsbank, barony of Menmuir, is mentioned under date 27th May 1567 in a contract relative to a feud between John Fewell of Linlithgow on one part, and David Betoune of Melgound ('Reg. of Deeds,' vol. iii. p. 432).

On the 28th November 1574 the King confirmed a charter by David Gardin of Conansyth, to Issobella, his spouse, in liferent of the lands of Conansyth (except the town called Eistertoun thereof, occupied by Wil.

Neische, Jo. and Nic. Logy), in the barony of Leis, shire of Forfar. At Edinburgh, 8th September 1574 (17).

Johne Nes, officer, Dundee, was a witness to several documents during 1585-1598 (the Compt Buik of Dav. Wedderburne, merchant of Dundee).

James Nesche, servitor to James Bonar, Sheriff-Depute of Forfar, was a witness to an Instrument of Sasine given by James Bonar to Richard Blyth, portioner of Cragy, as attorney for Theophilus Smettoun, heir of umquhile Walter Smettoun of the toun and lands of Polcak, in the Lordship of Teling. Dated 19th May 1586 (29).

William Neische, farmer in Eister Balgillie, parish of Tannadeis, died on 8th May 1587. His testament and inventory was witnessed by Andro Neische in Tannadeis (probably his brother), Alexander Neische, son of the said Andro, and others. William left Jonet Symson, his spouse, and four bairns—William, John, Alexander, and Janet Neischis (32).



John Neische, farmer in Ballindarge, parish of Kirriemuir in Angus, died on the 21st December 1591, leaving Margaret Neillie, his spouse, and various bairns (32).

James Neische, messenger, and one of the Mairs of the Sherifffdom of Forfar, is mentioned in Privy Council documents dated 10th January 1596 and 8th May 1601 (21).

In a Bond of Caution dated at Brechin 16th March 1603, Thomas Ramsay, bailie of Brechin, gave security for Robert Neish there, and others, for 200 merks each, not to harm Margaret Crawmond, relict of Captain Alexander Ramsay (21).

A complaint by David Ogilvie of Over Kynnatie, and others, upon John Neische in Nether Kynnatie, for violence and oppression, is dated 8th June 1609 (21).

An action was taken by Harie Wood of Bonytoun against Hew Maxwell, foar of Teling, for remaining unrelaxed from a horning of 14th April 1599, executed against him by

Jonet Gibsoun, relict of Andro Neische in Pitslandie, and others, for not restoring certain victual; dated 20th July 1609 (21).

On 26th April 1610 an action was taken by Patrick Orme, brother of the late David Orme of Mugdrum, factor of the New College of St Andrews, against Alexander Neshe at the Mill of Tannades, as unrelaxed from horning of 13th January last, for not delivery of teinds, &c., due by them to the masters of the said college for 1607-8 (21).

A protestation by William Neische, burgess of Dundee, and others, that they be not held further to answer to the letters raised by David Kinloch, Doctor of Physic, against them, charging them with the casting down of a pretty pillor of stane-work erected by the said David on his own heritage, was dated 16th August 1610 (21).

In 1620 John Archibald of Donyface made a complaint to the Privy Council against James Neische in Ravilgrein (parish of Tannadyce), and

others, as cautioners for the Earl of Crawford, who remains unrelaxed at the horn for not paying to the complainer £1000 (21).

David Lindsay, the twelfth Earl of Crawford, was so reckless and extravagant that he acquired the name of the "prodigal earl."

To prevent the continual alienations of the estates of the earldom carried on by this earl, the family got him imprisoned in Edinburgh Castle, where he spent the last years of his life under surveillance, but acting in every respect otherwise as a free agent.

In consequence, he was sometimes styled "Comes Incarceratus," or the "captive earl."

He died in the castle in February 1621, and was buried in the chapel of Holyroodhouse.

The lands of Easter and Wester Ravelgrenes belonged to Lindsay of Balgawes in 1619.

1626. The testament of John Neish, in Auchterlony, parish of Dunnichen, is dated 24th July 1626 (33).

1630. George Neisch, servitor to the sub-

scribing notary Thomas Schewane, was a witness to an Instrument of Sasine in favour of Patrick Livingstone, younger, given on 8th September 1630 (30).

Thomas Shewan was a notary in Kirriemuir in 1620 (17).

1631. George Neish was a witness to No. 186 charter, dated 13th October 1631, of Brechin Cathedral (28).

1635. Robert Neish, burgess of Forfar, was fined for selling tobacco contrary to the law (21).

1638. The following testaments are recorded in the Commissary Record of Brechin :—

Elsbeth Neish, spouse to Thomas Brokhouse, baxter, citiner of Brechin, 6th June 1638.

Euphan Neish, widow in Buttergill, parish of Brechin, 14th February 1640.

Alexander Neish, in West Drums, and Margaret Steinsone, his spouse, dated 12th April 1658.

David Neish, at the Law of Farnail, and

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Barbara Neish, his wife, dated 15th December 1658.

John Neish, in the Mansion of Navar, 15th December 1658.

John Neish, in Middledrums, parish of Brechin, 1663.

Isobel Neish, spouse to Andrew Ogilvie, in Mayns, 13th January 1669.

Margaret Neish, indweller in Brechin, 18th May 1671.

George Jamie, in Brachlaburn, and Margaret Neish, his spouse, 1696.

Thomas Neish of Kincaig, 27th May 1712.

Duncan Neish, merchant in Montrose, 1718-19.

George Neish, in Pitpullox, dated 23rd August 1737.

James Neish of Laws and Omachie, Angus, sometime merchant in Dundee, purchased the estate of Laws from the trustees of William Colville, formerly of Calcutta, on the 16th August 1850.

This family is a branch of the old stem of MacNish.

Arms—Azure, on a chevron, between three ravens, argent, armed, gules, as many cross crosslets fitchee, sable.

Crest—An eagle rising proper, armed or.

Motto — *Animo non astutia* (By courage, not by craft). ('Baronage of Angus and Mearns.')

Laws House stands on the most elevated site in the parish of Monifieth, amid extensive picturesque grounds, about seven miles north-east of Dundee. The lands of Laws were formerly known as the "Lawys of Estyr Athy."

#### THE NEISHES OF TANNADYCE.

The Neishes of Tannadyce, in Angus, are descended from John Neish, in Craigie, who married Janet Anderson about 1654.

John left three sons and two daughters.

1. David, in Mains, married Margaret Grizzel Hazel, 18th August 1674.
2. William, married (1) Janet Whittet, *circa* 1686; (2) Grizzel Lamb, in 1696.

3. Andrew, married Isabel Bathie, *circa* 1692, had by her a daughter, Christian, born 13th June 1694.
4. Catherine, married Alexander Low, and had a son, David, and three daughters.
5. Jean, born 28th July 1660.

William Nish, second son of John, had four sons and three daughters :—

1. Thomas, by Janet Whittet, born 26th April 1688.
2. Janet, by Janet Whittet, born 3rd October 1690, married David Couper.
3. William, by Janet Whittet, born 18th July 1696.
4. Margaret, by Grizzel Lamb, born 14th January 1697, married David Garland Wright.
5. Isabell, by Grizzel Lamb, born 19th February 1699.
6. James, by Grizzel Lamb, born 1st June 1701.
7. Alexander, by Grizzel Lamb, born *circa*

1702, married Helen Smith; died *circa* 1740.

Alexander Nish, fourth son of William Nish, left two sons and a daughter.

1. James Neish, maltman in Dundee, born *circa* 1730, married, 11th August 1759, Margaret, second daughter of Thomas Davidson, Laird of Wolflaw; admitted burgess of Dundee, 25th September 1764. Died 31st March 1810.

The said Margaret Davidson's great-grandmother was Elizabeth Graham, who married Robert Davidson of Balgay in 1671. She was the daughter of Walter Graham of Duntrune, and cousin-german of William Graham of Claverhouse, the father of John, 1st Viscount Dundee. Margaret Davidson was born in 1731, and died 4th July 1824.

2. William, died unmarried.
3. Jean, married David Brown Walker, Dighty Water.



James Neish, eldest son of Alexander Nish, left three sons and three daughters:—

1. Thomas, born 31st March 1761; married Elizabeth Kirkaldy, 23rd October 1784, and had by her three sons and two daughters. He died 14th November 1833.

A son of his, also named Thomas, a merchant, was the first to introduce jute to Dundee, about the year 1824.

John Graham of Claverhouse, 1st Viscount Dundee, was the direct descendant of Sir Robert Graham of Fintry, the son of the Lord Graham of Kincardine by his wife Lady Mary Stewart, daughter of King Robert III. of Scotland.

2. James, born 1st May 1766; married, 14th November 1794, (1) Agnes Moncur; (2) Catherine Playfair. Had family by both; died April 1838.
3. William Neish, manufacturer, burgess of Dundee; born 26th April 1772;

Kiches of Lannadice  
———— Dunder

Alexander b. 1702 d. 1740.  
James (son of above) b. 1730 d. 1810  
married Margaret Lawson.

Great Grand daughter of Elizabeth  
Graham Cousin of William  
Graham of Clackhouse father  
of John McCourt Dunder

James had a son William  
manufacturer, b. 1772 d. 1828

married Abigail daughter  
of William Bisset 1804

Had five sons and six daughters  
The second son William  
barrister at law (of Aberdeen  
and Lannadice) had five  
sons one of whom was

Edward Nelson Nash  
Scribb. Substituted for London  
born 30<sup>th</sup> March 1865 in  
London

married, September 1804, Abigail,  
daughter of William Bisset; died 18th  
September 1828, leaving five sons and  
six daughters:—

1. James Neish of Laws and Omachie,  
born 14th May 1809; married,  
8th June 1841, Janet, second  
daughter of John Walker, Blebo  
Mills, Fife; died 23rd May 1882,  
leaving (1) William of Laws and  
Omachie, born 28th October  
1845; died, unmarried, 19th Feb-  
ruary 1911; (2) John Walker  
Neish, born 1st September 1849,  
died, unmarried, 15th September  
1884; and two daughters.
2. William Neish of Clepington and  
Tannadyce, Barrister - at - Law;  
born 23rd April 1815; admitted  
burgess of Dundee, 25th October  
1842; married, 13th September  
1848, Margaret Ann, daughter  
of George Watson, Calcutta and

Aberdeen; died 16th March 1886,  
leaving six sons.

3. John Elam Neish, born 31st May  
1816, died, unmarried, 1879.
4. Thomas Neish, born 2nd Sep-  
tember 1819, died 5th September  
1819.
5. Charles James Fox Neish, born  
26th October 1823, died 9th  
January 1831.

The sons of William of Clepington.

1. George Watson Neish, born 11th July  
1849; married, 20th September 1876,  
Jane Annie, eldest daughter of James  
Patullo, solicitor (Dundee), of Abertay,  
Broughty Ferry; issue, William Neish,  
born 28th February 1881 in London,  
now Captain Gordon Highlanders; and  
four daughters.
2. James Neish, born 13th October 1854;  
married 1892, Adeline Maud Lambert;  
issue, Hugh Graham Neish, born 10th  
October 1897.

3. Charles Henry Lawrence Neish, C.B., born 6th December 1857; issue, Charles Douglas Hamilton Neish, born 7th June 1891, died 16th January 1906.
4. Colin Graham Neish of Tannadyce, Captain R.H.A., retired; born 30th March 1860 in London; married, 10th August 1896, Helen Lyell, eldest daughter of Francis Balfour Paton of Aucharroch and Cairnbank, Forfarshire; issue, Colin Francis Ian Neish, born 13th May 1897.
5. Francis Hugh Neish, born 14th June 1863 in London; married Alice Katherine, daughter of Colonel Almeric Spenser, late Essex Regiment; Lieut. - Colonel Commanding 1st Batt. Gordon Highlanders in Belgium, 1914; issue, Frances Feodora Spenser Neish, born 21st August 1900.
6. Edward William Neish, Sheriff-Substitute for Dundee, born 30th March 1865 in London.

## CHAPTER VI.

THE NEISHES AND NESSES OF FIFE—THE MACNEECES OF ULSTER  
 —THE MACNISHES OF ARGYLL—THE MACKNIGHTS—DR ROBERT  
 MACNISH—THE NEISHES OF CANADA—THE MACNEISHES OF  
 ARRAN—MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS OF THE CLAN—PROMINENT  
 MEMBERS OF THE CLAN—CRESTS—TARTAN.

NEISH or Nes is also an old Fifeshire sur-  
 name; many belonging to this branch  
 now spell their name Ness; both forms however  
 still occur in the county.

Before surnames were fixed in Fife, we find  
 a Malfnacht or Malfnath (Maol-neis or Maol-  
 nacht) on record as a tenant of lands in Fife,  
 that were granted to the Priory of St Andrews  
*circa* 1200 (8).

1491. Johne Neis served on a Brief of Inquest  
 of the Abbot of Dunfermline on the 11th  
 February 1491 (45).

1510. John Neis, an owner of tenements in Cupar, is mentioned in a charter by John Fouty, burgess of Cupar, to the Parish Church, of an annual rent out of tenements adjoining those of John Neis (17).

1553. On the 17th July, Agnes Moffat, relict of umquhil (the late) Thomas Nesche, sometime citizen of St Andrews, and conjunct fiar of a tenement lying within the said city and on the south side of the Market Street, resigned the same in the hands of John Moffat, one of the bailies of the said city, reserving her life-rent, which resignation being made, the said bailie cognosced William Nesche as son and heir of Thomas Nesche and to the said tenement; thereafter William resigned the same in the hands of the said bailie, reserving the said life-rent and power to himself to redeem according to the tenor of a Letter of Reversion to be made thereupon. The bailie gave sasine of the tenement to Jonet Nesche, sister-german of the said William, &c. (29).



1558. William Nesche held a tenement on the south of Market Street in St Andrews (Jarden sasine, dated 1st July, 'Cal. of Charters').

1559-68. The following forms occur in the St Andrews Kirk Session Records: Neche, Neische, Nesche, and Niesche.

1570. On 2nd January the King confirmed the charter by James, Commendator of St Andrews, to the College of St Leonard there, of the annual rents, including one of 7s. out of the tenement of Wil. Neische, in St Andrews. At the monastery of St Andrews, 20th May 1562 (17).

1592. A dispute between the Magistrates and a majority of the inhabitants of St Andrews, and certain persons of the same city, among whom is Alexander Neishe, of tymmerman, anent improvements and repairs in the said burgh, dated 24th March (21).

1608. David Nes, junior, a burghess of Cupar,

was a witness to a Baxter of Cupar charter, at Cupar, 25th May (17).

1632. Alexander Neische, servitor to Sir James Lundine, is a witness to a charter by John Lundine of that ilk, to the said James Lundine, of an annual rent out of the Maynes of Lundine, &c., Fifeshire. At the Manor of Lundie, 27th February 1632 (17).

1660. William Nysche, citizen of St Andrews, sold to John Black of St Andrews a tenement of land lying on the south side of the Market Street; to be holden from the granted, of the Lord of the Regality of St Andrews, dated 29th January (29).

1678-80. James Ness, in Tassis, and Thomas Ness, in Sassintully, were prosecuted for attending conventicles, and were declared fugitives. Thomas Ness was suspected to be accessory to the death of Archbishop Sharp; he craved liberation, and his release was ordered.

A Thomas Ness was tenant in Nether Praters of Lundy, in Fife, about this time (21).

ARGYLLSHIRE.

There appears to have been an old MacNish family settled for many centuries in Argyll; from this family are probably sprung the McNeecees of Ulster.

1593. Randal McNeece, the chief of the Scots of the Glynnns in Ulster, under Angus McDonnell.

MacNeece: An Ulster family of MacDonald connection.

Neece was an Ulster MacDonald phonetic corruption of the Gaelic form of Angus ('Clan Donald,' vol. 3, p. 409).

McNish, McNeice, McNiece, Mannice, and Minnis are present-day Ulster forms of the name.

The MacNishes and MacNeishes of Argyll, Arran, and Ulster, possibly derive their name from "son of Angus," and they do not appear to have sprung from the older Neis or MacNeish stock of Perthshire.

1793-1800. Archibald, lawful son to Neill McNiesh and . . . . McKinvin in Margmora-gachan, was baptised 15th December 1793.

John, lawful son to Niell McNish and Chirsty McKinnon in Margmonach, baptised 4th January 1797.

Niell, lawful son to Niel McNiesh, tenant in Margmonagach, was baptised 2nd June 1800 (Killean and Kilchenzie Births).

Archibald McNiesh and Catherine Munro, both in Margmonagachan, were married 31st June 1795.

Niell McNish, in Kilcalmonell parish, and Christian MacQuilkan, in the parish of Clonaig, were married on 6th February 1797.

1724. Duncan McKecht, in Auchaline, Inishael (58).

1892. The Rev. Dr Neil MacNish, LL.D., of Cornwall, Ontario, came from Killean, Kintyre. He was one of the leading Canadian Gaelic and classical scholars.

MACKNIGHT.

The MacKnights of Ayrshire and Galloway are a branch of the MacNaughts of Carrick, who were descended from a MacNes.

James MacKnight, D.D., a learned biblical critic and author, the son of the Rev. William MacKnight, minister of Irvine, was born in 1721.

He was ordained minister of Maybole in his native county in 1753; he was, in 1769, chosen Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. For upwards of thirty years he was engaged in the preparation of his last and most important work, 'The New Literal Translation from the Greek of all the Apostolical Epistles, with Commentaries and Notes,' which was published in 1795. He died in the year 1800.

Thomas MacKnight (1829 - 1899) was a political writer.

A small sept of MacNeids lived in the northern parts of Dumbartonshire during the

sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The descendants of these have modernised their name MacKnight.

Donald McKnett, in Easter Ardincaple, 1607 (21). Robert McNait, in Stron of Luss, in 1614, was fined for resetting some MacGregors.

In 1621 Patrick McNeid, in Meikle Innerlawren, and Robert, in Kirkmichael - Stirling, and Robert McNeid, in Over Innerlawren, native tanners, were declared rebels for refusing the authorised instruction in tanning (21).

#### ROBERT MACNISH, LL.D.

Robert MacNish, "The Modern Pythagorean," physician, and miscellaneous writer, was the second son of John MacNish, an eminent surgeon of Glasgow, and was born in Henderson's Court, Jamaica Street, on the 15th February 1802.

He received the elements of his education partly in his native city and partly at Hamilton Academy, obtaining a degree of Master in Surgery when only eighteen years of age, when

he became assistant to Dr Henderson of Clyth, Caithness. He remained there for about eighteen months, and then went to Paris for a year, with the view of completing his medical studies.

On his return to Glasgow in 1825, he became assistant to his father, having, the same year, obtained his diploma from the Faculty of Physicans and Surgeons of Glasgow, when he gave in, as his inaugural thesis, "An Essay on the Anatomy of Drunkenness." Two years afterwards, that is in 1827, this essay, extended and improved, was published at Glasgow, when it formed a thin octavo of fifty-six pages. It met with a very flattering reception from the public, and was still further enlarged in subsequent editions. Translations of it have appeared in the German and French languages.

Dr MacNish's earliest literary attempts were contributed to the 'Inverness Journal' when he was in the north, and afterwards to the 'Literary Melange,' and 'The Emmet,' two Glasgow periodicals.

In 1826 he forwarded his first article to 'Blackwood's Magazine,' being a tale entitled "The Metempsychosis." It appeared with the signature of "A Modern Pythagorean," the name affixed to all his after-productions in that and other magazines.

In 1827 he became acquainted with Dr Moir of Musselburgh, afterwards his biographer. In 1830 Dr MacNish published at Glasgow a treatise entitled 'The Philosophy of Sleep,' which was equally as well received as his former work; this also went through several editions.

In 1834 appeared 'The Book of Aphorisms,' some of which had originally been contributed to 'Fraser's Magazine.' The same year he visited the Continent, and in 1835 he made a tour in Belgium, Holland, France, Switzerland, and Germany.

His last publication was a small treatise in 1835, entitled 'Introduction to Phrenology,' to which science he had become a convert.

From Hamilton College, United States, he



at this time received the degree of LL.D. He died of typhus fever, 16th January 1837, in his thirty-fifth year, and his remains were interred in the burial-ground of St Andrew's Episcopal Chapel, Glasgow.

His Tales, Essays, and Sketches were published at Edinburgh in two volumes in 1838 under the title of 'The Modern Pythagorean,' with a memoir of the author by his friend, Dr Moir of Musselburgh, the "Delta" of 'Blackwood's Magazine.'

Robert's father was John (son of John), who was born in 1776; he became M.F.P.S.G. in 1796, President of that Faculty, 1823-30, Professor in Glasgow. He died on the 11th July 1860, at 47 Greenlaw Place, Paisley Road, Glasgow.

The following record appears in the Matriculation Register of Glasgow, under the date 1789: John MacNish, eldest son of John MacNish, merchant, Glasgow (probably John Killian MacNish, son of John MacNish, surgeon, not merchant).

Alexander MacNish, second son of Andrew

MacNish, farmer in Kirkholm, county of Galloway, matriculated at Glasgow in 1790.

Edmond Dodd, the lawful son of John MacNish, surgeon; Bertha Dodd was born 27th April 1846 (Glasgow Register of Births).

#### THE NEISHES OF NOVA SCOTIA.

The Neishes of Nova Scotia are descended from a Dundee family, probably a cadet of the Tannadyce branch.

David Neish, in Dundee, left two sons and a daughter:—

1. Elizabeth, married ——— McIntosh; issue, David Neish McIntosh, now in Andover, Massachusetts.

2. David, the eldest son, was born in Dundee in 1842; he was educated for the Presbyterian Church at St Andrews (two years), Glasgow (five years), and Edinburgh (two years) Universities. He subsequently took Orders in the Church of England, and emigrated to Nova Scotia. He married Sarah S. Wiswell of Halifax, N.S., who was the maternal granddaughter of James Smith of Old Meldrum,

Aberdeenshire. The Rev. David Neish died at Londonderry, Nova Scotia, on the 8th January 1901, leaving two sons and three daughters :—

- (1) Ethel, died.
- (2) Frances, married.
- (3) Ethel S.
- (4) Charles Wiswell.
- (5) Robert A.

The two sons are both clergymen of the Church of England, within the diocese of Nova Scotia.

The Rev. Charles Wiswell Neish, of Petite Riviere, Nova Scotia, is married, with issue, two sons and two daughters.

#### THE NEISHES OF CANADA AND JAMAICA.

Arthur C. Neish, Professor of Chemistry at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario (1924), is descended from a Rotherham (England) family of Forfarshire origin.

The following information of this family has been communicated by Professor Neish.

The earliest records we know of our family start with my grandparents, George and Jane Neish. George Neish, born in 1795, died 21st October 1862, and was interred in Rotherham cemetery. His wife, Jane, died 5th June 1866, at the age of seventy, and was also interred at Rotherham. This George had a brother named William. George and Jane Neish had, to the best of my knowledge, three sons, William, James, and George. William Neish left England in September 1867, and arrived in Quebec, going direct to Kingston (Ontario), where his brother James Neish owned and operated a newspaper called 'The Daily News.'

William Neish had six children, three girls born in England, and the three sons in Canada. The six children are:—

Alice Jane, Laura Teresa, and Ada Eleanor,  
now of Kingston.

William, died in Pittsburgh *circa* 1899.

George Melvin Neish of Newark, N.J.

Arthur C. Neish of Queen's University,  
Kingston.

George, son of George Neish, born 1841, died in Rotherham, 1913, with issue, one son and two daughters.

Dr James Neish, son of George (1795-1862), came to Canada before 1867, and was interested in newspaper work. While Editor of the 'Kingston News' he attended the Medical College of Queen's University, and graduated in 1865. He was a member of the staff from 1866 to 1874, holding the title Professor of Medicine and Professor of Descriptive and Regional Anatomy.

In 1881 he accepted the post of Medical Health Officer for the port of Kingston, Jamaica.

Dr James Neish left five sons and four daughters:—

George, William, and Donald Neish (deceased). These three brothers were doctors, and they held Government positions in the Island of Jamaica.

(4) Dr James Neish.

(5) Herbert Neish.

- (6) Hattie.
- (7) Isa. (Mrs Hay), deceased.
- (8) Carrie, married.
- (9) Jennie, married.

The Neishes of Saskatchewan and Kelowna, British Columbia, are cadets of the Tannadyce family.

They are many MacNeishes in the province of New Brunswick, in Canada; they are descended from John MacNeish and his spouse, Mary Carr, who left the Isle of Arran with their eldest son, two years old, about the year 1829; they settled in New Brunswick, and had issue: John, William, Mary, Thomas, Alexander, Ann, and Daniel.

Angus MacNeish, son of John, is a big salmon-fisher in the province, where there is a railway stop known as "MacNeishes' Station," in the northern part of that province, near the town of Dalhousie.

MacNeish is an uncommon surname in the Isle of Arran. In 1766 John McNish appears on the rental rolls as tenant in Easter Clauland, and in 1773 John McNinch (probably the

same man) was a tenant in Birrican in the same island.

The form MacNinch also occurred in Ayrshire in the sixteenth century.

The following is the inscription on a gravestone in the cemetery at Scutarie, in Turkey.

“Sacred to the memory of W. L. MACNISH, Lieut. 93rd Highlanders, who was drowned at Scutarie, May 19th 1854. This tablet was erected by his brother officers.”

The 93rd, or Argyll and Sutherland, Highlanders served in the Crimean War, and distinguished themselves as the Thin Red Line at the battle of Balacava, on 25th October 1854.

#### MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS OF THE FAMILY.

1505. Donald M'Nethe was a tenant of the lands of Terradaill in Ross-shire (23).

The name, however, was not perpetuated as a surname in the north of Scotland.

1526. A Precept of Remission was granted to Alexander and William Nesche; they had assisted the late David Home of Wedderburn, Berwickshire, in a raid (44).

1543. Escheat of John Nech and others (45).

It is impossible to locate the district in which he lived.

1579. Complaint of Dame Elizabeth Betoun, relict of James, Lord Invermeith, John Stewart, her son, and others, including John Neische; upon James Gray, son to Patrick, Lord Gray, her second husband (21).

The barony of Innermeith was situated in the south of Perthshire.

1590. John Neishe, tailor, was a witness to a Bond of Caution for 500 merks by James Gordon of Knokaspeck, for Robert Gordon in Towie, his brother. Dated at Knokaspeck in Aberdeenshire, 20th March 1590 (21).

The Neishes were never numerous in Aberdeenshire.



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1598. Thomas Nysche, Sergeant-Major of the Scots, received £80.

Thomas Niche, formerly Lieutenant of Captain Murray (his company), received his commission as Sergeant-Major on the 6th October 1598. He was probably killed before Rheinberg in 1601, for Prince Maurice there appointed Archibald Erskine to succeed him on the 22nd July 1601 (57).

In those days a Sergeant-Major was an important commissioned officer.

1598. Neish (no doubt the Sergeant-Major or Adjutant) succeeded Stewart as Captain about the year 1600.

Sergeant John Nies was a witness to a baptism on the 16th July 1730.

Sergeant John Niesh (the same man) was a witness to a baptism at Veulo on 16th August 1732.

Lieutenant John M'Kinsh (a Galloway form of the name) served in the Scots Brigade in 1694 (57).

1602. Extract from a complaint by William Ros (now Rose) of Kilraak (now Kilravock, in the county of Nairn) against Allaster McEane Oig of Glenko and his followers (MacDonalds of Glencoe).

“and from Nesie McNesie, three horses, four heads of goods, with his whole plenishing, and tyrrit himself, his wife and bairnes, his wife being new delyverit of ane bairne.”

Dated 23rd June 1602 (21).

This is the latest record of the use of the name Nes or Nesie as a christian name. The descendants of the above Nesie probably adopted the surname MacNishie, which occurred in that district in the early part of the nineteenth century.

1606. Gillie Genach MacNicht, in the Lewis, appears on the list of Highlanders who attacked the Lowland settlers in Lewis; he was put to the horn (outlawed) (21).

1629. Rev. David Neish was enrolled on the exercise at Haddington on the 11th March

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1629; he became minister of Eddleston, in the Presbytery of Peebles, in 1639.

1766. Some McNishes were among the earliest colonists in a Scottish settlement at Salem, New York, *circa* 1766.

1835. B. R. McNees was appointed 2nd Lieut. in the 4th Regiment of the British Auxiliary Legion of Spain in July 1835 ('Hist. of the British Legion and War in Spain,' A. Somerville, 1839).

F. G. P. Neison, F.L.S., author of 'Contributions to Vital Statistics,' a Kilmarnock man, was a well-known statistician and the author of several pamphlets between 1840 and 1850; an account of him is given in MacKay's 'History of Kilmarnock.'

Neison is a very uncommon form of the surname MacNeish; some of the name settled in and about London many years ago.

The surname Neisson still occurs in some of the Scottish settlements in the United States of America.

The following are well-known members of the clan: Sir Charles Henry Lawrence Neish, K.B.E., C.B., Registrar of the Privy Council since 1909. He is the third son of the late William Neish of Tannadyce, and was Private Secretary to the Lord Chancellor from 1905 to 1909. He married Rosalie, daughter of the late Sir Edwin Henry Galsworthy. Lady Neish is the well-known writer on feminist topics, Rosalie Neish, whose work is always distinguished by womanly charm and a shrewd wit.

Dr David MacNish, M.A., M.B., C.M., J.P., F.R.G.S., late temp. Captain R.A.M.C., of London.

Colonel George McNish, C.B.E., T.D., J.P., of Glasgow, son of the late Robert McNish of Ardenlea, West Kilbride, Ayrshire, was born in Glasgow in 1866. He married Margaret, eldest daughter of William Frew, Inspector to the Northern Lighthouse Commissioners.

Lieut.-Colonel Francis Hugh Neish, late Gordon Highlanders, of London, fifth son of

the late William Neish of Tannadyce. He registered his coat-of-arms, &c., with the Lyon King-at-Arms in 1892.

Edward William Neish, Sheriff-Substitute of the Lothians and Peebles since 1921, younger son of the late William Neish of Tannadyce.

#### CRESTS.

The following crests are given in Fairbairn's 'Book of Crests,' 1905:—

M'Nish. Scotland. An arm embowed and couped in fess ppr., vested az., holding an oak-sprig vert, fructed or.

M'Nish. An eagle rising ppr.

Motto—*Animo non astutia* (By courage, not by stratagem).

Neish. Cupid with his bow and arrow, all ppr.

Motto—*Amicitiam trahit amor* (Love draws friendship).

M'Naught of Kilquharity, and M'Knight.

A lion's head erased, arg., langued gu.

Motto — *Omnia fortunæ committo* (I commit all things to fortune).

The 'Rothesay Herald' (F. J. Grant, Esq.) says (*in lit.*):—

The crests given by Fairbairn are not by any means all of legal authority. The crest given for McNish was, I find, invented by Alexander Deuchar, a seal engraver, who flourished in Edinburgh about a century ago.

The crest generally adopted by the MacNishes for the last hundred years is the second crest given by Fairbairn, "An eagle rising ppr."

#### TARTAN.

The ancient tartan of the Neishes and MacNeishes of Perthshire is now unknown. It probably fell out of use after the massacre of the clan by the MacNabs.

Frank Adam, in 'Clans and Septs of the Scottish Highlands,' allocates the Neishes, MacNishes, &c., to the MacGregor clan.

Adam does not cite any authority for including

the Neishes and their allied forms as septs of the Clan Gregor.

They were probably included because of the McNeis-McIlduy entries in the list of MacGregor retainers in the records of the Privy Council.

The MacNeishes of Athol were connected with the Stewarts of Athol as well as the MacGregors.

The Arran and Kintyre families are probably sprung from a branch of the MacInnes (MacAngus) clan.

Members of the clan MacNish or Neish may wear the tartan of either the MacGregors or MacInnes.

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## Clan MacNab - Clan MacNeish

### The Great Feud - part one

#### Introduction<sup>1</sup>

The Neishes occupied the land around St. Fillans<sup>2</sup>, in Perthshire near the east end of Loch Earn (Lake of the Irish) and the island at the eastern end of that Loch known variously as the Easter (eastern) or Neish Island. The island is a crannog, a type of artificial island built by the ancient lake dwellers and connected to the mainland by a causeway of large boulders reportedly still to be seen in the water.

Their dwelling is described as an ancient fortalice probably just a large "Black House" similar to those to be found all over the highlands. A windowless stone walled shelter with dirt floors and thatched roofs held up by cabers (timber beams). Easy to build and repaired by throwing new logs across the walls and putting on new thatch. These days the island is heavily wooded and it is not known if there are any visible ruins.

The Neishes were a quarrelsome and troublesome family and in 1490, King James IV gave orders to Lord Drummond to "*cast doon ye house of ye Ester Isle of Loch Ern and destroy all ye strengthis of ye samyn and tak away ye bate and put her to the Wester Isle*"<sup>3</sup> (near Lochernhead). Though the dwelling was demolished the Neishes

repaired it and continued to dwell there, occupying most of the land near round St. Fillans and as far west as Tyndrum.

The Clan Neish or MacNeish and the Clan an Aba or MacNab were great rivals and carried on a long feud over grievances long since lost and forgotten. The seat of the MacNab's lay at Eilean Ran at the western end of Loch Tay while that of the MacNeish was just to the south on the island at the eastern end Loch Earn on the road from Crieff to Killin. The Neish apparently existed largely by raiding their neighbors, including the MacNab's.

The feud came to climax at the Battle of Glen Boultachan in 1522 when the Macnabs, tired of the constant raids, marched over from Loch Tay to St. Fillans. The Neishes gathered their forces to meet this threat but were utterly defeated by the MacNabs who killed the majority of Clan Macnish, the survivors of which fled to refuge on their island in Loch Earn.

In the winter of 1612 the Neishes saw a line of ponies laden with supplies approaching St. Fillans. The opportunity was too good to miss, the party was ambushed and the food and drink removed to their island. They were even more pleased when they discovered that the supplies belonged to their old enemies the MacNabs and were intended for their Christmas feast. Having sent the servants back to Elyen Rayne empty handed the Neishes proceeded to enjoy their ill-gotten gains.

Learning what had happened from their servants, the MacNab's plotted their revenge. according to most accounts the twelve sons of Finlay MacNab, 12<sup>th</sup> chief, carried a boat from Loch Tay over the mountains to Loch Earn, launched it in the lake and approached the Easter Isle in the darkness. By this time the Neishes were drunk or asleep so that it was a simple task to massacre all the inhabitants (excepting a young boy and girl who hid beneath a table). The MacNabs

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<sup>1</sup> The introduction was adapted from "The quarrelsome Neishes from St. Fillans" found on "Perthshire Diary - a daily dose of Perthshire and Scottish History", for the year 2006 and found at [www.perthshirediary.com](http://www.perthshirediary.com)

<sup>2</sup> St. Fillan of Rath Erenn, whose chair and well is situated between Comrie and the eastern end of Loch Earn. He is not to be confused with St Fillin of Glendochart, who gave his name to Strathfillan and whose relics are to be found in Glendochart.

<sup>3</sup> Cast down the house of the Ester (eastern) Isle of Loch Ern and destroy all the strengths of the same and take away the boat and put it at the Wester (western) Isle - reputedly the Neishes had the only boat on the loch.

## Clan MacNab - Clan MacNeish The Great Feud - part one

beheaded the Chief and some of his followers and brought the heads back with them to Killin where they were offered to their father as proof of their revenge.

Growing weary on their way back, and perhaps having found some whisky un-drunk, the MacNabs left their boat in the mountain pass, where it could be seen for years afterwards.



When a the coat of arms was granted to John McNab of McNab (15<sup>th</sup> chief) it was given as a crest "a savage's head erased Proper" or a severed head colored natural! In the base was placed an "open

### **The printed accounts of the great feud**

The earliest printed account of the feud seems to be in a book titled "Historical tales of the Wars of Scotland and of the Border Raids Forays and Conflicts, Vol. II" by John Parker Lawson, published by A. Fullerton & Co. Edinburgh, London, and

Dublin; 1849. The book may be found at [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org)

The story is in a section titled "A Legend of Strathearn" and the author states that:

"The present writer got possession of this story, so singularly illustrative of the habits of the Highlanders in former times, by mere accident. A version of it appeared in a work entitled "Antiquities of Strathearn, with Historical and Traditionary Tales and Biographical Sketches of Celebrated Individuals belonging to the District", by John Shearer, junior. The First Part of it seems only to have been published at Perth in 1836" The story is presented as found in that volume.

### **"A Legend of Strathearn from the Reign of King James V"**

"The night was the night, and the lads were the lads!" Such was an exclamation long known in the neighborhood of Strathearn, and originated in one of the most characteristic instances of Highland ferocity and revenge to be found in the history of the Gael. During the reign of James IV the MacNabs and the Neishes were septs of considerable influence in the vicinity of Loch Earn, and had been long opposed to each other. The families and their adherents lived in a state of mutual warfare, embittered by ancient jealousies, and by real or supposed acts of aggression, of which the one sept accused the other. The retort was of course any thing but courteous; both were equally right in

boat, oars in action in a sea Proper." i.e. colored naturally with oars out.

Sometime in the 1960's a unit of the British army commemorated this event by carrying a boat from Loch Tay to Loch Earn launching it and rowing it to Neish Island. I cannot recall what unit did this and no one else seems to remember reading of it.

On the following pages are reproduced the various printed accounts of the feud between the MacNeish and the MacNabs. Though the basic facts are as I have given above, they differ in detail and several are quite romanized. David Rorer

their own estimation, and consequently the insults and injuries could not be allowed to pass un-revenged.

After a number of years had elapsed, during which skirmishes between the families and followers of Neish and MacNab had been frequent and fatal, a regularly pitched battle was fought on the confines of a glen which divides two hills rising due north of the foot of Loch Earn. In this conflict both clans mustered their followers almost to a man, and it was marked by that ferocity and hatred which long series of animosities had rendered implacable. They assailed each other with savage yells and imprecations, disdaining to ask quarter, receiving none, and

## Clan MacNab - Clan MacNeish The Great Feud - part one

fighting for revenge. At length victory declared in favor of the MacNabs, and only a remnant of the defeated sept Neish remained. Their chief fell covered with wounds, but not before several of the MacNabs had fallen by his broadsword. A large stone still marks the spot where he fell covered with dagger and dirk wounds inflicted by the MacNabs. He long kept the enemy at bay, standing with his back to this stone, on which the inhabitants of the neighborhood credulously believe the stains of his blood are still visible, and can never be effaced.

The few of the sept Neish who escaped retired to an islet at the eastern extremity of Loch Earn, and placed themselves under the command of an old Highlander, a relative of their chieftain slain in the conflict already mentioned. This Highlander seems to have been a complete personification of Donald Bean Lean in Waverley. He and his followers subsisted entirely by plunder, and as they possessed the only boat on Loch Earn, their retreat was inaccessible in a neighborhood at that time, and long afterwards, thinly inhabited. They were thus enabled to carry on their warfare against all and sundry without any opposition, or any attempt on the part of the Government to punish such dangerous banditti, but in reality the Highlands abounded with similar robbers, rendered desperate by their poverty and unscrupulous by their savage life.

The clan Neish continued their freebooting and predatory incursions until an incident occurred which brought against them their old and implacable enemies the MacNabs, in the reign of James V. The then chief of the MacNabs, probably the same who had routed the clan Neish, was a personage more generally feared than respected even by his own feudal followers. He was known to be an absolute despot; his word was considered law, and to contradict, disobey, or offend him in the slightest manner, was certain to incur summary punishment. He resided in his castle, which stands upon a rocky isthmus near the head of Loch Tay, ruling his clan in

the most arbitrary manner, and vindictive and unrelenting to his enemies of every rank and condition.

At the particular time stated the haughty chief of the MacNabs sent one of his domestics to Crieff for provisions of various kinds, intending to entertain his friends and allies with a great carousal on Christmas Day. The man made all his purchases in obedience to his chiefs directions, and was on his way back to MacNab's castle with the goods, when he was surrounded by Neish and his followers, and robbed of every article. He threatened them with dreadful retaliation from his chief and the clan if they did not restore the goods, but the banditti ridiculed all his declarations, and even threatened to dispatch him if he annoyed them by any farther expostulations. It was probably seldom that such a quantity of tempting viands had fallen in their way, and they were determined to enjoy them whatever might be the consequences.

When the servant arrived at MacNab's residence, and informed him that he had fallen among thieves in the way, and that these thieves were the clan Neish, his rage was unbounded, and having informed his sons of the insult, the most sanguinary revenge was resolved to be inflicted. It is traditionally said that MacNab could boast of having twelve sons, all of such bodily and muscular strength that the weakest of them could drive his dirk through a board two inches thick. One of them in particular, in addition to his athletic appearance, and a body of more than ordinary dimensions, was of such rough manners and uncompromising countenance that he was ironically distinguished by the soubriquet of Smooth John<sup>4</sup> MacNab.

The robbery of the provisions had prevented MacNab from inviting his friends to his intended carousal, and on the evening of the Christmas Day in question Smooth John and his brothers

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<sup>4</sup> In Gaelic "Ian Min" Ian = John, Min = Smooth. In Gaelic the descriptor comes after instead of before the name as in English

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were seated round a table which was by no means replenished in the manner it would have been if the provisions had safely arrived, and it was evident from their countenances that they were meditating some desperate deed. The old chief, who recollected with rage that the Neishes were feasting at that very time on what he had been forcibly deprived of by them, entered the apartment after taking a turn in the court-yard. He paced the floor with his arms folded, occasionally looking at his sons, and at length broke silence by exclaiming in Gaelic "This night is the night, if the lads were but lads."

It was not uncommon among the Scottish Highlanders, as among other tribes, for the chiefs and their emissaries to communicate their sentiments and wishes by significant hints, looks, and signs, which were rarely misunderstood. On the present occasion the old chief's laconic expression, which was intended to reprove his sons for their slowness to revenge the insult, was taken precisely as he wanted. Smooth John exclaimed "The night it the night, and the lads are the lads." He and his brothers instantly started to their feet, and each belted his pistol, dirk, and claymore. The old chief viewed their equipment with unspeakable pleasure, and enjoined them to act like lads a recommendation on his part altogether unnecessary.

The Mac Nabs well knew that without a boat the clan Neish were altogether inaccessible, and as they had no time to delay, led on by Smooth John, they proceeded to a creek in Loch Tay, where their pleasure-boat was lying, and drawing it on shore they raised it upon their brawny shoulders, and man to man they carried it between them, six of the brothers occasionally relieving the other six. In this manner, with the boat on their shoulders, they ascended a hill which runs to a considerable height, by steep and irregular slopes in a south direction, till betwixt it and another to the westward there is a crooked narrow pass leading to Glentarkin. Here a mountain stream served them as a guide for several miles, till it precipitates

down the steep copse-covered banks of Loch Earn.

The fatigue which the MacNabs, or the lads, as their father designated them must have undergone on this occasion, carrying on their shoulders a heavy boat over several miles of rugged and mountainous country in a winter night is astonishing, and evinces their determined resolution to inflict on the island caterans a dreadful punishment. None but such men, and so circumstanced and impelled, could have accomplished such a journey. Having arrived at Loch Earn they launched their boat, and plied the oars across the dark and still waters of the lake. All was still and silent. A partially clouded moon afforded them a little indistinct light, and occasionally reflected on the lofty mountains which rise in all directions round this romantic lake, and terminate in various bold and rocky outlines, intersected with precipices and masses of protruding cliffs, deep hollows and ravines, from which innumerable torrents pour into the lake. The MacNabs moored their boat alongside the skiff belonging to the banditti, and lauded on the islet. Proceeding to the low roofed dwelling of the Neishes, which was little better than a hovel, they found that a dead silence reigned within, occasionally interrupted by the sonorous groans and sounds of deep intoxication. Looking through a hole or aperture in the wall, the MacNabs perceived one solitary individual seated besides a few expiring embers of firewood. This person was old Neish, the leader of the caterans. Smooth John MacNab immediately struck the door with his fist, and the unexpected noise made the heart of him within quake. Starting to his feet, he exclaimed "Who knocks at the door?" '\* One whom you have no wish to be here," was the reply. Neish at once recognized the voice "Smooth John MacNab?" he uttered. "If he has hitherto been smooth," replied MacNab, "you will find him rough for this one night."

No sooner had MacNab uttered these words than he struck the door of the hovel in such a manner as to break it in several pieces, and rushing in, followed by his

**Clan MacNab - Clan MacNeish**  
**The Great Feud - part one**

brothers, he seized the old man by his few remaining grey hairs, twisted him below his knee, and deliberately severed his head from his body with his claymore. While thus employed, his brothers were busily slaughtering the drunken caterans, who were lying sound asleep in different parts of the hovel. The only one who escaped was a little boy, who contrived to conceal himself under a bed till the slaughter was over. This boy when he grew up settled peaceably in the neighborhood, and from him, it is said, are descended the Neishes of the present time inhabiting Strathearn and Strathallan, who are known in Gaelic by the name of Macllduie, or sons of the black man.

The MacNabs having completed their bloody work, and satisfied their revenge in this cruel manner, threw the dead bodies into Loch Tay, and left the islet in their own boat, carrying with them the head of the old cateran to present to their father. They resolved to carry back the boat on their shoulders, but when about halfway to their own residence they felt fatigued, as well as retarded by the cumbrous load, and they threw it down on the hill side, where

its moldering planks were long visible, and regarded with superstitious dread by the people. When they appeared in their father's hall, and threw before him the head of the old cateran, who had deprived him of his Christmas supper, the savage chieftain exultingly exclaimed "Dread Nought," which is supposed to be the origin of the motto and of the crest of MacNab of MacNab, the former being Dread Nought, and the crest a bushy head with a beard. The family piper struck up a pibroch of victory; friendly cups of whisky were freely circulated among the domestics, with as many congratulations as if the most important victory had been gained, or as if the sons of MacNab had achieved a most praiseworthy, noble, and generous action, instead of having perpetrated a series of barbarous and cowardly murders on intoxicated robbers in their sleep. The old chief of MacNab made himself drunk with joy, as did also Smooth John and his brothers, and as long as he lived the Laird always referred to this exploit with peculiar satisfaction, using the expression, which was long proverbial in the district "Aye! Aye! The night was the *night*, and the lads were the lads!"

The map depicted below, taken from the Ordnance Survey, One-inch to the mile maps of Scotland 3rd Edition - 1903-1912, shows the eastern end of Loch Earn, with Nish Island, St. Fillans and St Fillans Church while Crieff is off the map to the east.

Clan MacNab - Clan MacNeish  
The Great Feud - part one





## Clan MacNab - Clan MacNeish

### The Great Feud - part one

#### The account from "The Clan Macnab a Short Sketch"

The first printed history of the Clan MacNab, titled "The Clan Macnab a Short Sketch," was written by John McNab of Callander, Historian of the Clan Macnab Association, 13 South Charlotte Street, Edinburgh, published in 1907. In this pamphlet the account of the feud between the Macnab and Macneish was given as follows:

"In 1486 Finlay Macnab<sup>5</sup> obtained a Charter from King James III., under the Great Seal, of the lands of Ardchyle and Wester Durnish, in Glendochart. Again, in 1502, he received from James IV a Charter of the lands of Ewer and Leiragan, in Glendochart.

At the same time he obtained from the Prior of the Carthusian Monastery at Perth a grant of a croft in Killin, paying, therefor, 'Yearly to the parish of Killin three pounds of wax in honor of the Blessed Virgin, and St. Fillan, and All Saints, for the increase of St. Fillan's light before his image, one pound whereof at the Feast of St. Fillan in summer and another at the Feast of St. Fillan in winter.'

Soon after that date, Finlay died and was succeeded by his son, also Finlay (V, Chief), who seems to have been satisfied with merely safeguarding the property which had been recovered by his father. He appears as a witness to a Charter under the Great Seal to Duncan Campbell of Glenurghy<sup>6</sup>, which is dated September 18th, 1511, and wherein he is designated 'Finlaus MacNab dominus de eodem.' It was in the time of this Chief that the Neishes were at last defeated, and reduced to a small band of reckless outlaws. Mr. Christie, in one of his articles, quotes the following notice from the chronicle of Fothergill: "Finlay MacNab of Bokayne, died at Ilia

Rayne, and he was buried at Killin, 13th April, 1525."

At this time the MacNabs seem to have set about the recovery of those of their possessions which had been lost in their struggle with the Bruce. They became involved in a feud with the Dewars concerning certain relics of St. Fillan; and, at the same time, they commenced that struggle with the Neishes which culminated, many years afterwards, in the defeat of the Clan Neish at the battle of Glenboultachan, about two miles north of the lower end of Loch Earn. The Dewars<sup>7</sup> were neither numerous nor warlike, and in their extremity they applied to the Crown for protection. In 1487 they obtained a Charter confirming them in their possessions, and from that date they had no further trouble with the MacNabs. It was probably due to those clan feuds and his own advanced age, that Patrick resigned his honors to his son. Be that as it may, Patrick died at Auchlyne, in the year following his resignation in favor of his son<sup>8</sup>.

At Christmas tide, 1612, Macnab sent some of his clansmen to the neighboring town of Crieff<sup>9</sup> to purchase the necessary stores for the approaching festivities. On their homeward way, the MacNabs were ambushed by a party of the Neishes, who sallied from their island fortalice in Loch Earn, and captured the supplies.

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<sup>5</sup> Note: this is at odds with the modern clan history which lists Finlay as 4<sup>th</sup> chief and indicates he died in 1464 to be succeeded as 5<sup>th</sup> chief by Patrick, d. 1488 at Auchlyne. In turn he was succeeded by Finlay the 6<sup>th</sup> chief who died in 1499 and was the father of Smooth John.

<sup>6</sup> The modern spelling of Glenurghy is Glenurchy

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<sup>7</sup> The Dewars were the hereditary keepers of the relics of St. Fillan and each possessed a croft in right of their keepership.

<sup>8</sup> Patrick 5<sup>th</sup> chief d. 1488, his son would be Finlay 6<sup>th</sup> chief mentioned above as "Finlay (V. Chief).

<sup>9</sup> East of the eastern end of Loch Earn, they would have had to pass through St. Fillan, on the way hence right by Nish Island.

**Clan MacNab - Clan MacNeish**  
**The Great Feud - part one**

Dire was the wrath of Chief and Clansmen when the plundered messengers returned to Eilean Ran and reported their mishap. Enraged, as the MacNabs were, they could think of no method by which they could punish the revivers. In the evening the twelve strong sons of Macnab were assembled in the hall of Eilean Ran and busily engaged in planning some signal vengeance on their foes, when their father entered and said in Gaelic: "Si an nochd an oidhche nam b'iad na gillean na gillean." (This night is the night if the lads were the lads.) In an instant the twelve lads were on their feet and arrayed in their war gear. Then hurrying down to the waterside they crossed the stream and took up the family barge, which they bore on their shoulders across the hills to Loch Earn, by way of Glentarken. Having reached the loch, they launched their boat and rowed to the island, where the robbers were holding their carousal with the stolen supplies. On their arrival at the island the grim avengers sunk all the boats in the little harbor, and then proceeded to the habitation of the Neishes. In the keep was a scene of revelry and confusion, for holding all the boats on the loch in their own keeping, the Neishes deemed their hold to be impregnable.

Strange, therefore, must have been the thoughts which passed through their minds, when loud above the din of their noisy mirth they heard a sharp and sudden knocking at the outer door. Immediately their noisy merriment ceased, all became silent, and then in a quavering voice the terrified Neish demanded the name and mission of the one who had thus disturbed their orgy. Swiftly came the answer, "Whom would ye least desire?" The speaker was Iain Min, or "Smooth John," the heir of Macnab, and the strongest and fiercest man in all Braidalbin. With that stern voice sounding in his ears, and with a foreboding of his doom rising before him, the Neish replied, "Iain Min."

Sharp through the midnight air came again that grim voice: "Then I am he, but rough enough I'll be this night." Trusting in the strength of the stout

door the robbers attempted to treat for terms. But spurning all thought of parleying, Iain Min, with one swift blow sent the door reeling off its hinges; and next instant he and his brothers were dealing death to the hereditary foes of their House. The Neishes surprised and demoralized by the rapidity and ferocity of their assailants, offered but little resistance.

When the fighting, if such it can be called, was over, there remained of the Neishes but two survivors. One was a young lad who had succeeded in concealing himself in time to avoid the vengeance which overtook his family. The other was a female child who escaped the notice of the MacNabs by being under an overturned cradle. Their task having been accomplished, the young MacNabs secured the gory head of the Neish as a trophy of their victory, they then recovered their boat and retraced their journey of the previous night. Ere they left Glentarken they abandoned their boat as it retarded the news of their triumph. The boat was never removed from the place where it was left by the MacNabs, and men born within the past century have talked with men who have viewed its well-bleached fragments. Some time early in last century a portion of the keel was dug out of the moss in which it was embedded. Part of it was given to a Mrs. MacNaughton who lived near St. Fillans, and she had it made into a bicker and a walking stick. She was Margaret Macnab, daughter of James Macnab, Milmore, near Killin, and was known as "Margaret Innishewen." The bicker and certain Macnab heirlooms which belonged to her father are still preserved by her descendants. But this is a digression from our narrative.

In the morning the chief was delighted to find that the mission of vengeance had been successful. The proof was convincing when Iain Min cast Neish's head at his feet and said in Gaelic, "No, biodh fiamh oirbh" or dread nought. And Macnab acknowledged as he received the gruesome trophy that the night had been the night and the lads were the lads.

## Clan MacNab - Clan MacNeish The Great Feud - part one

From this deed are derived the modern arms of the MacNabs. There is a local tradition to the effect that but three of the sons took part in the enterprise, and that the chief in giving the signal for the attack on the Neishes only acted at the instigation of his wife who had some real or fancied cause of grievance

against the three eldest sons. It is said that she hoped that they would be slain so that her favorite son should be heir to the estates. And according to the same tradition, the three sons were by an earlier marriage. History, however, makes no mention of a second wife.

The map below taken from the Ordnance Survey, One-inch to the mile maps of Scotland 3rd Edition - 1903-1912 shows Killin, Kinnell House and Finlary Castle.



## The Clan MacNab - Clan MacNeish The Great Feud - part two

This chapter contains the account of the great feud between Macnab and Macnish as given in "*The History of the Clan Neish or MacNish of Perthshire and Galloway*" by David Macnish, M.A., M. B. and William A. Tod, F.S.A. SCOT, published by William Blackwood and Sons, Edinburgh and London MCMXXV.

If I read the roman numerals correctly, this book was printed in 1925 and since Mr. William A. Tod's name is followed by F.S.A. SCOT therefore it seems reasonable to assume that he is the actual author of the "*History of the Clan Neish or MacNish.*" I also assume that he was employed by David Macnish to research the history of his family and name. In the text Mr. Tod gives numerous sources for the story and he seems to have taken some literary license in relating it, though how much license is hard to ascertain as few of these sources are available for comparison except "The Clan Macnab a Short Sketch," by John McNab of Callander,

There are some notable differences between this version and the two given in part one of **The Great Feud**. No mention is made of James IV ordering the Neish's dwelling demolished and the battle of Glen Boultachan is presented in a more romantized version. In this version, as in "The Clan Macnab a Short Sketch," the events on Nish Island are presented as though there was a real battle instead of a massacre of some passed out drunks, thus showing this incident in a far better light.

The dwelling of the Neishe's is also referred to as an "island fortalice" though it was probably nothing more than a large version of the traditional "black house" with walls of dry laid stone and a thatched roof held up by cabers (wooden beams). It would have had only one entrance, dirt floors and been occupied by both humans and livestock. Being set in an ideal location, just offshore on a trade route, easily defended but not impossible of access, it probably was occupied from before recorded history.

The island is also referred to as an "artificial island" one of the "crannogs" or artificial islands built by the prehistoric peoples, known as lake dwellers. The lake dwellers built their villages just offshore in shallow lake waters all over Scotland, and there is a restored crannog near Killin in Loch Tay. Because of the size of the island there may have been a natural islet already there which was "improved" by subsequent occupiers who put up the buildings and laid the stone foundations for a wooden causeway to the mainland. The dwelling would not have to be fortified as the lake would serve as an impassable moat, so long as the

causeway was pulled in at night and the inhabitants insured that they had the only boats on the lake.

This picture is a view from St. Fillans, down Loch Earn with Nish Island in the distance to the right, beyond the white motorboat and the spit of land. (The original can be found on Google maps)

On the last page is a map taken from

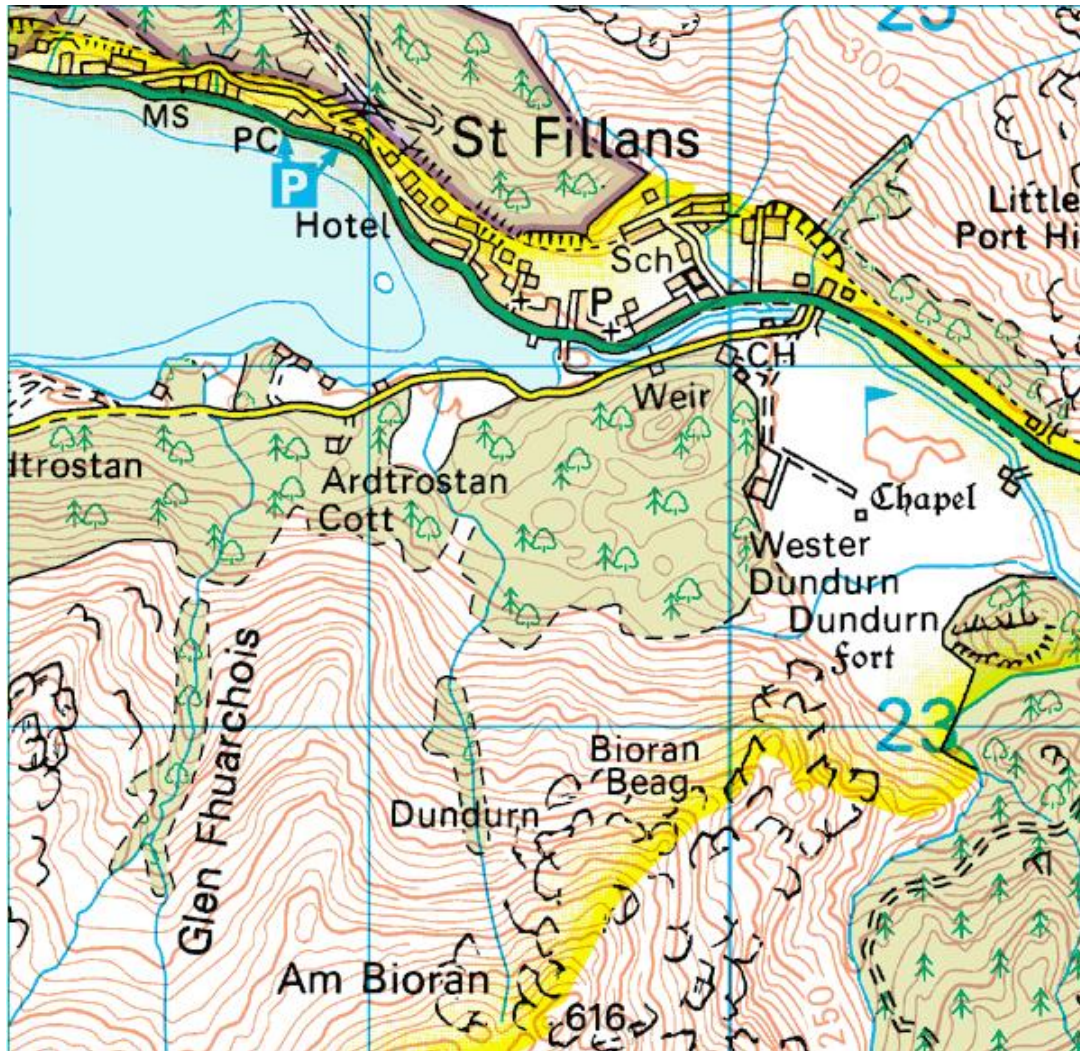


**The Clan MacNab - Clan MacNeish**  
**The Great Feud - part two**

MapQuest which shows the island as a small white circle in the lake, just offshore from St. Fillans.

In the pages that follow the text is presented as it was in the book, with only a few minor changes (mostly of spelling) and the addition of footnotes where it seemed an explanation was in order.

The Clan MacNab - Clan MacNeish  
The Great Feud - part two



The above map shows the eastern end of Loch Earn one of the most picturesque of Scottish lakes, and next to Loch Ness, the deepest in Scotland, in one part being about 300 ft. deep. Limited, as are the dimensions of Loch Earn, it is exceeded in beauty by few of our lakes, its style being that of a lake of far greater dimensions, the mountains that bound it being lofty, bold, and rugged. The mighty Ben Vorlich stands majestically above the loch, which is sometimes calm as a mirror, and other times dark and turbulent, its waves dashing wildly against the shores.

At the east end of the loch is a beautiful small wooded island, known for many centuries by the name of Neish Island. It is an artificial isle, which appears to date back to the era of the lake-dwellers.

In after ages, according to tradition, the island became a Royal Fortalice of many of the kings or chiefs of Fortrenn.

The island was a residence of the Clan Neish at an early period, probably from 1250 to 1420; after that it was probably only in occupation by the Neishes at periods until 1622, the date of the massacre.

**The Clan MacNab - Clan MacNeish**  
**The Great Feud - part two**

The keep was a stone building, divided into different chambers, which now lies in ruins; the great thickness of the walls testifies to the care, foresight, and energy expended in the erection thereof.

A small harbor and landing-place for boats still exists on the east side, and at one time the island was connected with the mainland by a kind of causeway formed of large boulders, the remains of which may still be seen in a line between the isle and the villa called Portmore.

## The Clan MacNab - Clan MacNeish The Great Feud - part two

### The Battle of Glen Boultachan - 1522

The MacNeish of Perthshire possessed the upper parts of Strathearn and inhabited an island on Loch Earn, called after them Neish Island. Very little is known of the early history of the clan; they appear to have been almost exterminated or scattered early in the sixteenth century; various traditional accounts have been handed down in Strathearn concerning them, and the written records of the county contain only notices of individual members of the clan<sup>1</sup>.

During the fifteenth century the Neishes of Upper Strathearn commenced a struggle with the Clann an Aba<sup>2</sup>; many

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<sup>1</sup> In the book Mr. Tod suggests that the Macnishes are descended from the ancient kings of Dalrida, as the Macnab's also claim, but he gives no source for this. A number of clans make this claim, however, that does not mean the claim is valid as it was common, at this time, for professional genealogists to claim a family had noble or royal descent.

Frank Adam and Sir Thomas Innes of Larney in their source book *The Clans, Septs, and Regiments of the Scottish Highlands* merely list MacNeish as a sept of the Clan MacGregor and state "This small sept were all but exterminated during a feud with the Macnabs."

Since the ancestral lands of the Clan MacGregor adjoin those of the Clan Macnab on both north and south it is quite possible that this family of Macnish did spring from that source. However, as Neish is a form of the name "Angus" doubtless there are other unrelated families who adopted the surname Macneish.

<sup>2</sup> The Clann an Aba, or Macnab, supposedly is a rendering of the Gaelic Mac-an-Aba (or Abba), which in English means "the children of the Abbot. In those days there were lay Abbots as well as clerical Abbots and even the

battles were fought with various success, and the culminated fight ended about 1522 in the defeat of the Clan Neish at the battle of Glen Boultachan.

The last battle was fought, by the present farm of Littleport, in the wild Glen of Boultachan where the MacNabs were victorious over the Neishes who lost nearly all their fighting men.

Finlay MacNab of Bovain<sup>3</sup> gathered all his fighting men for one decisive effort for the supremacy of the northern Loch Earn district. The two clans met in battle in the glen between two high and solitary mountains, about two miles north of the lower end of Loch Earn. Each clan was led by its chief as they rushed down the green slope to mingle in close and mortal strife, with wild yells and bitter epithets, while the war-cries rang and the pipers blew with their might. Conspicuous among the struggling throng was the eldest son of the chief of Clan Aba.<sup>4</sup> He bent all his energies to

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latter were allowed to marry. It was the Celtic custom for abbots to be chosen from among the kin of the founder of that abbey and the office eventually became secularized. Gaelic manuscript genealogies supposedly trace the mediaeval Macnab chiefs through some *twenty* generations from Saint Fillan's brother Ferchar mac Feradach, however there are significant gaps in the historical record.

Those gaps in the record throw serious doubt that the MacNab's actually go back that far, though the Lord Lyon King at Arms, Scotland's chief heraldic officer, has been persuaded to recognize the chief of the Clan MacNab as the hereditary Abbot of Glendochart.

<sup>3</sup> Bovain was the residence of the Chief and name of his estate.

<sup>4</sup> Probably Finlay the 8<sup>th</sup> chief who died at Eilean Ran 12 April 1525 and was buried in Killin



## The Clan MacNab - Clan MacNeish The Great Feud - part two

capture the Neishes banner, which bore their crest, a cupid with his bow in the right hand and an arrow in the left hand, with the motto "Amicitiam trahit amor."<sup>5</sup>

On the other side the aged MacNishe chief fought with great strength and activity and unparalleled bravery, but the MacNabs eventually bore all before them, and the aged chief, on beholding three of his sons perish by his side, placed his back to a large rude granite block, which still marks the scene of the conflict, and, poising overhead his mighty claymore, stood like a lion at bay. His vast stature, his known strength and bravery, as he towered above the fray, with his white hair streaming in the wind, the blood streaming from his forehead, which had been wounded by an arrow, and from his huge sword, which had a remarkable accessory in the shape of an iron ball that slid along the back of the blade to give an additional weight to every cut. All this combined made the bravest of the MacNab pause for a moment ere they encountered him; but after a dreadful struggle, in which he slew many of his assailants, the brave old man sank at last under a score of wounds inflicted by swords and daggers; the MacNeishes were swept from the field, and the majority of them were slain.

The red lichens which spot the old grey granite in Glen Boultachan are still believed by the natives to be the encrusted blood of the chief of the MacNeishes. According to tradition, MacCallum-glas, their bard, with about twenty of the tribe, escaped and took refuge on their isle on Loch Earn.

### Other Accounts of the Feud

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<sup>5</sup> "Love draws friendship" in Latin no less! This banner seems a bit farfetched for this period; perhaps the original author was taking some literary license. There is, however, no way to ascertain the truthfulness of this story

Several accounts have been handed down, including the following in the Annals of St Fillans, by A. Porteous, 1912: "Like all the rest of the Scottish clans, the Neishes had their own particular feud; this was with the Clan MacNab." The feud was the outcome of a long-continued series of petty jealousies and imagined grievances on both sides. Frequently, isolated parties of the clans met, and a fight ensued.

At last both clans mustered their full force, and meeting in Glen Boultachan, a regular battle was fought. The chief of the Neishes for long held his own, standing with his back to a large boulder, until at last he was overcome and fell covered with wounds. Tradition says that his blood still stains this boulder, and that the marks cannot be obliterated.

The rest of the Neishes fought equally stubbornly, but finally they were completely overcome, a remnant only making their escape. These settled down on the eastern island of Loch Earn under the leadership of a relative of the chief, and became practically freebooters, lying in wait for defenseless travelers, whom they robbed and murdered. Many years elapsed since the battle of Glen Boultachan ere the Neishes thought them selves once more formidable enough to try conclusions with their ancient enemies, the MacNabs.

The Neishes lay in ambush in Glen Lednoch," &c &c<sup>6</sup>

A short account of the Nish feud is also given in the Statistical Account of Scotland, published in 1838.

### The Later Massacre at Nish Island - Christmas 1612

In 1487 Finlay (of Bovain who is recognized as 6<sup>th</sup> chief) became chief of

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<sup>6</sup> This account ends here; presumably the rest of it concerns the hijacking and massacre as related below in the Clan Macnab Account

## The Clan MacNab - Clan MacNeish The Great Feud - part two

the Clan MacNab. At this time the MacNab seem to have set about the recovery of those of their possessions, which had been lost in their struggle with the Bruce<sup>7</sup>. They became involved in a feud with the Dewar's concerning certain relics of St Fillan, and at the same time they commenced that struggle with the Neishes which culminated many years afterwards in the defeat of the Clan Neish at the battle of Glen Boultachan, about two miles north of the lower end of Loch Earn.

In 1487 the Dewars<sup>8</sup> obtained a charter confirming them in their possessions, and from that date they had no further trouble with the MacNabs.

Finlay died (between the years 1502-11)<sup>9</sup>, and was succeeded by his son Finlay. It was in the time of this chief that the Neishes were at last defeated, and reduced to a small band of reckless outlaws.

This Finlay MacNab of Bowayne died at Illa Rayne,<sup>10</sup> and he was buried at Killin, 13th April 1525.

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<sup>7</sup> The Macnab backed the Comyn family in the struggle for the crown and when Robert the Bruce emerged the victor their estates were seized and their writs burnt and their lands given to Dundas of Weed, as punishment for having chosen the wrong side.

<sup>8</sup> The Dewars were the hereditary custodians of the relics of St. Fillan, founder of the Abby of Glendochart. The Macnab's descend from a holder of that Abbacy. There were five of them and each had possession of a croft for fulfilling his office.

<sup>9</sup> According to the official clan history, Finlay died in 1499 and was succeeded by John who was in turn succeeded by Finlay

<sup>10</sup> According to the official Clan Macnab history, Finlay of Bovain who died at Eilean Ran, 12 April 1525 was the 8<sup>th</sup> chief. He was buried at Killin. The Lord Lyon counts Gilbert of Bovain as

Finlay 7<sup>th</sup> chief of the MacNabs, married Catherine Campbell, daughter of the Laird of Glenurchy<sup>11</sup>, and had a family of twelve stalwart sons, of whom the weakest is said to have been able to drive his dirk through a two-inch board.<sup>12</sup>

At Christmas-tide, 1612, MacNab sent some of his clansmen to the neighboring town of Crieff<sup>13</sup> to purchase the necessary stores for the approaching festivities. On their homeward way the MacNabs were ambushed by a party of the Neishes, who sallied from their island fortalice in Loch Earn and captured the supplies.

Dire was the wrath of chief and clansmen when the plundered messengers returned to Eilean Ran and reported their mishap. Enraged as the Macnabs were, they could think of no method by which they could punish the reivers. In the evening the twelve strong sons of MacNab were assembled in the hall of Eilean Ran, and busily engaged in planning some signal vengeance on their foes, when their father entered and said in Gaelic: "Si an nochd an oidhche nam biad na gillean na gillean" (This night is the night if the lads were the

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the first chief of the Clan Macnab and has issued a recognized list of chiefs. The spelling "Bowayne" and "Illa Rayne" presumably follow that of the original source the modern spelling is "Bovain" and "Eilan Ran" respectively

<sup>11</sup>Modern Glen Orchy or Glenorchy

<sup>12</sup> In the official Clan Macnab history this Finlay is the 12<sup>th</sup> chief, and though he did marry Katherine, a natural daughter of John Campbell of Glenorchy, these were actually the children of his previous wife (name unknown) and it speculates that the second wife hoped they might be slain so one of her sons would be heir.

<sup>13</sup>Crieff may be found south of Loch Tay on the A85. The route to it runs along the shores of Lock Earn

**The Clan MacNab - Clan MacNeish**  
**The Great Feud - part two**

lads).<sup>14</sup> In an instant the twelve lads were on their feet and arrayed in their war gear. Then hurrying down to the waterside they crossed the stream and took up the family barge, which they bore on their shoulders across the hills to Loch Earn, by way of Glentarken. Having reached the loch, they launched their boat and rowed to the island, where the robbers were holding their carousal with the stolen supplies. On their arrival at the island the grim avengers sunk all the boats in the little harbor, and then proceeded to the habitation of the Neishes. In the keep was a scene of revelry and confusion, for, holding all the boats on the loch in their own keeping; the Neishes deemed their hold to be impregnable.

Strange, therefore, must have been the thoughts which passed through their minds when, loud above the din of their noisy mirth, they heard a sharp and sudden knocking at the outer door. Immediately their noisy merriment ceased, all became silent, and then in a quavering voice the terrified Neish demanded the name and mission of the one who had thus disturbed their orgy. Swiftly came the answer, "Whom would ye least desire?" The speaker was Iain Min, or "Smooth John," the heir of MacNab, and the strongest and fiercest man in all Braidalbin.<sup>15</sup>

With this stern voice sounding in his ears, and with a foreboding of his doom rising before him, the Neish replied, "Iain Min."

Sharp through the midnight air came again that grim voice, "Then I am he, but rough enough I'll be this night." Trusting in the strength of the stout door, the robbers attempted to treat for terms. But spurning all thought of parleying, Iain Min, with one swift blow, sent the door reeling off its

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<sup>14</sup> In other words "Do something about this outrage now if you have the stones!"

<sup>15</sup>Modern Breadalbane

hinges, and next instant he and his brothers were dealing death to the hereditary foes of their House. The Neishes surprised and demoralized by the rapidity and ferocity of their assailants, offered but little resistance. When the fighting, if such it can be called, was over, there remained of the Neishes but two survivors: one was a young lad who had succeeded in concealing himself in time to avoid the vengeance which overtook his family; the other was a female child who escaped the notice of the MacNabs by being under an overturned cradle.

Their task having been accomplished, the young MacNabs secured the gory head of the Neish as a trophy of their victory. They then recovered their boat, and retraced their journey of the previous night.

Ere they left Glentarken they abandoned their boat, as it retarded the news of their triumph. The boat was never removed from the place where the MacNab left it, and men born within the past century<sup>16</sup> have talked with men who have viewed its well-bleached fragments.

Some time early in the past century a portion of the keel was dug out of the moss in which it was embedded. Part of it was given to Mrs. MacNaughton who lived near St Fillans, and she had it made into a walking stick (and a bicker). She was Margaret, daughter of James MacNab, Milmore, near Killin, and was known as "Margaret Innishewen."<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> The book this was taken from was printed in 1925 and this account probably comes from "The Clan MacNab, by Jo. MacNab printed in 1907. Therefore, "within the past century" probably means the early portion of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. *David Rorer*

<sup>17</sup> Innishewen is a cadet branch of the chiefly family, it is named after a farm they held in Glendochart. In previous accounts Margaret Innishewen is said to have "had it made into a bicker and a walking stick." For some

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The bicker is still preserved by her descendants.

In the morning the chief was delighted to find that the mission of vengeance had been successful: the proof was convincing when Iain Min cast Neishes head at his feet, and said in Gaelic, "Na biodh fiamh oirbh," or "dreadnought."<sup>18</sup> Moreover, MacNab acknowledged as he received the gruesome trophy that the night had been the night, and the lads were the lads. From this deed are derived the modern arms of the MacNabs.

There is a local tradition to the effect that but three of the sons took part in the enterprise, and that the chief in giving the signal for the attack on the Neishes only acted at the instigation of his wife, who had some real or fancied cause of grievance against the three eldest sons. It is said that she hoped that they would be slain, so that her favorite son should be heir to the estates. Moreover, according to the same tradition, the three were by an early marriage. History, however, makes no mention of a second wife.

The MacNab arms are: Sable, on a chevron argent three crescents vert, in base an open boat with oars argent, sailing in a sea proper. Crest the head of a savage affronte proper.<sup>19</sup>

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reason the bicker was left out here but still mentioned in the final sentence of the paragraph.

A "bicker" is a small wooden vessel made of staves with one or two staves prolonged to form lugs.

<sup>18</sup> In the official Clan Macnab history "Gun Eagal" or "Dreadnought" was the watchword with which Smooth John answered the lookout and Ian Min told his father that "the night had been the night and the Lads were the Lads."  
*David Rorer*

<sup>19</sup> Black (shield), on which is a silver chevron bearing three green crescents,

Supporters Two Highlanders with shouldered claymores.<sup>20</sup> Motto "Timor omnis abesto" ("Be all fear absent"<sup>21</sup>). John MacNab of MacNab matriculated the modern arms in 1765, but they had been used before that time. The author of The Clan MacNab<sup>22</sup> informs me<sup>23</sup> that his account of the Neishes was obtained from the following sources: Shearers Traditions of Strathearn, Scottish Wars, also from some private histories of the Clan MacNab, and from old natives of Breadalbane.

The Rev. Samuel Ferguson, minister of Fortingall, mentions the feud in his "Queens Visit."

Malcolm Ferguson also gives the story in his "Rambles in Breadalbane," published in 1891.

A short account of the Neishes is given in The Beauties of Upper Strathearn,

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in the base (of the shield) an open boat with silver oars sailing on a sea (rendered natural). The boat is usually depicted with four oars and two rowers. The crest is usually described as the head of a savage facing front rendered natural, but it is understood to be the severed head of the Macnish

<sup>20</sup> The coat of arms as depicted, in The Clans Septs and Regiments of the Scottish Highlands is as described, however, instead of the highlanders as supporters, it has two black dragons, with claws and tongues of gold and erect wings of silver, on which are three green crescents each, which is also the coat of arms depicted in the official clan history.

<sup>21</sup> Or alternatively "Dreadnaught" as the official clan history would have it

<sup>22</sup> This would be the Jo. MacNab who wrote a Clan MacNab history in 1907, quoted by Mr. Tod as one of his sources

<sup>23</sup> William A. Tod, FSA SCOT. The presumed author of the "History of the Clan Macnish or Nish" from which this is taken

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1870; also in the Scottish Tourist, 1825, p. 79.

The Neish tradition was utilized by James Grant in Mary of Lorraine, pp. 261-281. Grants account contains some facts and much fiction. He describes the country of the MacNeishes as: Glentarkin, Dundurn, part of Glenartney, the Pass of Strathearn, and the Hill of St Fillan (Dunfillan Hill).

It is curious that Grant says that one of the Neish survivors in 1522 was Muriel, daughter of the chief, who eventually married the Laird of Torwood.

The Lairds of Torwood were the Forrester family, the ancient hereditary foresters of Torwood Forest. Mariot Forester, spouse to James Campbell of Lawers, obtained a charter of the lands of Glentarkin in 1525. Campbell of Lawers was granted a charter of Glentarcane in 1540, and James VI gave a confirmation of the grant in 1616.

The Neishes probably held Glentarkin originally by the sword; many of the Gaelic clans in earlier times neglected to obtain charters of their lands from the crown.<sup>24</sup>

We find that the lands of Glentarcai, Morall, and the Fordees were set to John of Murray and his mother before the year 1492.

James IV granted the lands of Glentarkane to the Drummonds. In 1511 (R.M.S.i. 3574)

Glentarken is a glen in Comrie parish, descending from an altitude of 1150 ft., 2 miles south by eastward to Loch Earn (306 ft.), at a point 1 ¼ miles west by north of St Fillans.

It contains a huge monolith, "The great stone of Glentarken." It is not a traveled stone, but a mass detached from the low cliff below, which has rolled but a short distance and is poised in the most singular way upon one of its edges. It measures 70 ft. in circumference at the base, 110 ft. in circumference 10 ft. above the ground, and its solid contents above ground exceed 25,000 cubic ft. The glen probably derives its name from "Tarachin," or "Talargan," an old Pictish personal name.

In the olden days what might be called a clachan existed on the hillside at the entrance to Glentarken, but life on that exposed site was latterly found inconvenient and uncomfortable; accordingly, the families were moved to more suitable surroundings at the foot of the loch, and the cottages in the glen were allowed to fall into ruins. The remains of these may still be seen in heaps of stones here and there.

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<sup>24</sup> Charters, historically, were a relatively recent development. Many families and clans held their lands from before the time when writing and written charters were known and often preserved a relic such as a sword, knife or even tooth that had been given to an ancestor as token of their ownership. Only later did it become common to obtain charters from the crown. Many families, of course, did not get charters and were displaced, as happened to the Clan Gregor or Macgregor when the Campbell's were granted title to the lands they had held from time immorial

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The most colorful account of the final conflict in the feud between Macnab and Macnish comes from Roland Wilds book "Macnab the Last Laird" published in 1938 by The Macmillan Company, New York. The similarity of this book title to that of a previous book by Alexander Fraser titled "The Last Laird of Macnab, an episode in the settlement of Macnab Township, Upper Canada", published in Toronto in 1899 (a copy of which may be downloaded from [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org)) suggests this as Wild's source. However, he claims as his inspiration a newspaper article from Ottawa and as his sources the Clan Macnab Association (possibly the clan history by John Macnab of Callander, which can also be downloaded from [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org)) and the Hamilton Spectator as well as a number of other individuals both in Scotland and in Canada.

Except for the story of the raid on Nish Island related in The Great Feud - part one "Tartan Background" the books are very similar. Wild's highly fictionalized account of the raid on Nish Island is related below on pages 1-3. Except for the conversion of words from British to American English the text is as found in the book.

FINLAY, VIII CHIEF OF MACNAB, stared out of the windows of the ancestral home of his Clan. Snow fell, and in the dusk the whole Valley of the Dochart, seen in the twilight of this winter night, was transformed. The roads were almost impassable, and the only sound was the thud of hoofs as a crofter made his way home to the cottages in the dark village of Killin.

The Macnab was cold. For seven days the snow had fallen and blocked the road that led from Perth. Provisions were low in the great mansion of Eilean Ran, and it was no place for a man who flattered himself that his taste was too good for the home-made potions that his servants could brew on the premises. The Macnab household was out of good whisky.

Three days before, servants had been dispatched to Perth to bring back provisions sufficient to make an adequate Christmas and New Year for The Macnab and his household. They were overdue, and though in the year 1612 it was not always possible to ensure a regular supply of provisions, this enforced delay made the Macnab angry and short-tempered. 'He was a man of giant height, like all the members of his Clan. He exerted supreme domination over his twelve sons, each one of whom, it was said, was able to drive a nail through a twelve-inch board with his fist. He was always aggravated by the fact that his second wife, a Campbell, resented the prowess of her step-sons.

And this night it was a very testy Chieftain who watched through empty windows and strained his ears for the sound of a servant who would herald the approach of the consignment of food and drink.

An important feature of the generous board of the Macnab was the whisky. True, there was spirit now in an earthenware jug, but it was uisge-beathe, distilled on the estate, and as such it was not considered worthy of being poured from the giant bottle, named the 'Bachelor', which now awaited the good whisky that could be bought in Perth. The 'Bachelor' was eloquent of the prestige of the Macnab; it passed slowly round the table among his twelve sons, but it remained usually at his elbow; he was accustomed to drink deeply before going in stately manner to bed; and often the servants rendered aid to his guests.

He turned round savagely as one of his sons came into the cold, stone-flagged hail. He uttered only a curt monosyllable of greeting, for he was a man of few words, and the fear was growing in his mind that he would pass another night with only the solace of coarse spirit. The light failed as he stood there, a kilted silhouette against the long, narrow window, his plaid flung over his shoulder enhancing his great stature; a granite face, old, but still arrogant; a mouth that showed impatience and intolerance; clear eyes that were

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used to the Highlands a hand on the dagger at his waist, his feet planted squarely; the most famous of the Macnabs, descendant of seven hundred years of Chieftainship.

Moreover, a thirsty Laird and it was not the sound he wished to hear that made him start to the door, not troubling to call for a servant. There was no welcome hail, nor the jingle of the bridle of a pack-horse. The door shook with an agitated drumming, and when the Chief opened and let in the snow flurries, a man tumbled across the threshold with blood on his forehead and his clothes bedraggled and torn. Macnab flung the door shut and dragged the man to his feet, thrust his glowering face up to that of his servant and bellowed for an explanation.

"Laird! Cried the servant." It's the McNeish, Laird! As we came along the road with the load, the MacNeish fell upon us and have taken the whisky to their-selves! Donald is near to dead on the road, Laird, and Angus Mcnab is badly wounded. They have taken the whisky, and they're on the island near to Glentarkin, in the loch. . ."

Macnab flung the man from him and stared round the hall, his color rising, to find that the commotion had brought all twelve of his sons round him. They made a silent circle, afraid to speak, and when he found his voice, the old Laird looked at them, turned his head round slowly to stare at each in turn. Then he spoke, a phrase that has come down the years. Softly he said it: "The night is the night, if the lads were the lads. . ."

He stalked from the hail without another word. But behind him there were mutterings and frightened looks from one to the other of' those twelve stalwarts. The mother was there too, that Campbell woman who was jealous of the prowess of her step-sons, and who fancied a favoritism towards them from their father. "If the lads were the lads. . ."

"She resolved that the step-sons should take up the dangerous challenge.

The McNeishes had always been troublesome. Down through history they had harried and chivvied the Clan Macnab, until after the epic battle of Glenbultacher only thirty McNeishes survived of a force of five hundred. These were the remnants, caterans and robbers, who now offered supreme insult to the Macnab. The McNeish robbers were bold and undignified, and delighted in tweaking the nose of a Macnab. But now they had impaired his comfort as well as his dignity, and with the cunning of cowards, had retreated to the island, little more than a foothold in Loch Earn, that was called Neish Island. They were thinking that on this winter night they were secure from all interruption. Time and again they toasted the Macnab in ribaldry, and the rafters of the old fortress that offered them shelter on the island rang with their oaths. There were eleven of them there, and a woman or two and a child. The whisky tasted better for being stolen; and thrice as good because it was stolen from Macnab.

In the house of Eilean Ran few words were spoken as the Laird left the room. But the brothers knew what was in the mind of their father, and knew full well the meaning of that phrase with which he had taken his leave. Revenge could not wait until the morning; during the night the insult must be avenged. The mother urged the four eldest of the brothers to volunteer; they needed little encouragement; the Laird had given sufficient intimation of his wishes.

There are some who say that the Laird's wife chose the eldest of the family to make that fateful errand because of her jealousy, and because it was unlikely that in a feud with the McNeishes any would return alive. But it was an obvious choice, and it was not long before they had agreed upon a desperate venture. The road to the island was some eleven miles, and it would be dawn before they could reach the extremity of Loch Earn. By morning the McNeishes might be sober, and it was the intention of the brothers to surprise them while still in their cups. To ram their

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insults down their throats while they were still drinking stolen whisky.

"We know the route over the hills," said one."

"That is so," said another, "But there is the loch. The water is likely to be high at this time, and it is a tidy way from the shore. . . . There isna' a boat. . . ."

Then the voice of Iain, the eldest son, the mightiest of them all, cried with a voice of thunder, and there seemed to be triumph in his mind.

"Man!" he cried. "We have a boat in the loch here, and it's no more than a wee rowing-boat that we could carry, the four of us, over the shepherd's way to Glentarkin! Before the dawn we could be over on the road and the boat in the water, and the McNeishes will tremble at the hammering of our dirks on the door! The night is the night, and the lads are the lads!"

The incredible project was begun, and there is not a ghillie in Loch Tayside to-day that will not see an insult in the suggestion that such is not true history. The hall of Eilean Ran was in sudden commotion, as with high spirits they buckled on dirks and belts, flung their plaids over their shoulders, and tossed down a mugful of the raw home-brewed whisky to strengthen their courage and their sinews during that terrible night. They did not dare to tell the old Laird of their intentions, but flung out of-the door with an oath and a challenge to the storm; down to the lake a mile away where there rocked a tiny fishing-boat, the timbers of which were to be preserved in Perthshire history long after their own bones were scattered and forgotten.

The snow blew in flurries, and, save to a Highlander, the shepherd's path over the hills was indistinguishable. But they knew the contour of every knoll and slope from innumerable hunting expeditions, and this was their own heath. The whisky in their stomachs lost its fire, but their heads were singing

with another inspiration, the glory of revenge. The boat was heavy on their broad shoulders and they staggered before ever they reached the gradual slope that leads near to the summit of Creach Uchdag. Their feet were slipping in the snow, and a cruel wind came from the east into their young faces; but the Laird had been right when he said: "The night is the night . . ." there was not a McNeish who would believe that he was not impregnable in his island sanctuary on such a night. The Laird's phrase rang through their brains. They sang the old gathering cry of the Clan Macnab as they labored, and foot by foot they covered a mile, another mile, and found themselves on the heights of the hill, in the teeth of the storm.

Up Achmore Hill and close to Breachioch. Up into the snowdrifts, along a path that they knew, they carried the rowing-boat fifteen hundred feet high to save a few miles round by Glen Ogle. There might be watchers on the loch track, and such a feat as carrying the boat over the direct path would be dismissed as impossible.

They crossed Glen Beich, came down to the level of the loch by the side of Glentarkin Burn, and marched another three miles to where the island showed dimly. It was Iain, Smooth Iain as he was called, who led them and whipped up their courage. He knew the path better than his brothers, and in him there burned, stronger than in the others, the fire of Clan-pride. When they came to the steep path leading down to the road near Glentarkin, he led their songs, for victory was very near. The boat was a crushing weight on the shoulders of men who would have hesitated to undertake such a journey unencumbered; but they had achieved the impossible; they had proved that the lads were the lads.

From Glentarkin the snowdrifts were deep, but a few travelers during that day had cleared a path, and they ran along the side of the loch shouting with triumph. A roisterer coming home late that night would have bolted for fear;



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here were four storm-lashed giants running with a row-boat through the snow, laughing as they went. But the laughter was grim, with a note of fearful anticipation. These were Macnabs, with anger in their hearts.

They halted and took their breath, tightened their belts and made their dirks ready to hand. Then they launched the boat, and leapt in to paddle their way across awkwardly with the branches of trees broken by the storm. The island loomed no more than a hundred yards ahead, and there was a light shining from the little fortress. The sound of song and laughter came across the water.

"Ye will beach the boat and follow me," whispered Iain. "Don't trouble yourselves wi' thoughts of mercy. We have an insult to think over. . ."

The door showed no chink of light. But the dark shape of Iain showed through the snow, and they gathered round him. His dirk thundered on the timber, and within the fort, there was silence.

"Open the door!" shouted Iain. "Open the door we set the place on fire!"

Still silence. But there came a voice that trembled, and the question was asked: "Who's there?"

"Who would ye least like to hear?" bellowed Iain, and his brothers knew he was grinning with relish. "Answer me. Who would ye least like to hear?"

"Smooth Iain Macnab" came the voice of a McNeish.

"Then I am he, but tis rough I'll be this night!"

The crash of a tree-trunk splintered the wood, and the four brothers tumbled into the room, dirks drawn, their eyes alight. The McNeishes had no time to rush to arms, and, mellow though they were with the Macnab whisky, they could not conceive that on such a night, retribution had indeed come to an island stronghold where they had felt doubly secure. The dirks with the crest of the Chief on the handles flashed and fell on

drunken and defenseless men, and high above the sound of combat, through the sounds of awful carnage, there came the laughter of Smooth Iain as he dealt out death without mercy. Eleven men, the heads of the Clan McNeish, lay dead and dying on the floor, and the only other note in that room of debauch was the whimpering of a child found hidden under a rough bed. At last they were finished, and Iain stood, sweating and bloodstained, with a gory trophy in his hand.

"A trophy for, the Laird!" he cried. "A trophy for the Laird o' Macnab!" It was the head of the Chief of McNeish, through which had passed the Macnab whisky, and then the Macnab dirk.

But there was still work to do that night. They stumbled over lifeless forms and dragged out half-finished pitchers of whisky, poured them into one, and spilled the remainder over their faces and their blood-soaked clothes as they drank. They were drunk with fighting, and before they reached the shore again in their boat, they were drunk with spirit. But they set off down the track again with the pitcher and the head of McNeish hanging by the hair, and never noticed the ever-raging storm.

Before dawn they were back at Eilean Ran. The Laird was still keeping watch on the old house, knowing that Clan history was being made that night. They marched in and flung the gory head at his feet.

"Na biodh fiamh oirbh" said Iain, "Dread naught!" They called for mugs, and in silence toasted the old man whom they had honored with their courage. They had crushed the Clan McNeish for ever, and they had given the Clan Macnab its crest.

The head is still the crest of the Clan, and wondering tourists gaze at it in the windows of the hotel at Callander, guessing at its meaning. For years the rowing-boat lay on the shore near Neish Island, and when it began to rot, the crofters took its timbers away to keep

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for their families, telling them the story of that famous journey. The little boat found its way into the crest also, and the ghillies of the Highlands to-day have their own convictions as to the route taken over the hills that night, some saying they went right over to

Ardeonaig before they climbed the heights. But all agree that the Macnab brothers of 1612 were men whose strength and courage will never be known again.

So runs the most famous legend of the Clan Macnab.

## The Clan MacNab - Clan MacNeish The Great Feud - part three

### Scottish fighting men of the era of the Macnab - Macnish feud

These images and the accompanying text were not part of the Wild book but are my own additions. Authentic illustrations, for this period would be hard to come by. These particular illustrations, while not historically accurate were chosen because they come close to depicting clansmen from about the period of the Macnab - Macnish feud. They were originally done by R.R. McIan for his book "The Clans of the Scottish Highlands" published in 1845. The text is partly from that book and from "The Clans, Septs and Regiments of the Scottish Highlands" by Frank Adam and Innes of Learney. These illustrations were copied from the Electric Scotland website.

The artist had been an actor before becoming a painter and his works take their look from stage paintings of the time as well as the romantic view of the highlands held by the Victorians. One of the purposes of the illustrations was to depict various clan tartans, most of which were actually of 19th century development. Some of the weapons were modeled after authentic examples but the short kilts are not authentic. At this period clansmen probably wore a one piece garment wrapped around the body and secured in place at the waist with a belt. Falling to the knees it was then draped over the shoulders and fastened on the breast with a pin of wood or bone.

Before the large scale introduction of sheep they were woven of linen, those worn by gentlemen were dyed yellow with saffron; those of the humbler classes were painted or daubed with pitch. In cold weather it would be covered with deerskin or a mantle.

The first illustration was labeled Ferguson though the figures garment has no pattern; instead what is shown is the saffron dyed plaid over a long sleeved shirt in what the accompanying text referred to as the "Irish style." Some kind of sleeveless vest, presumably made of leather has been thrown over all. In reality, the mantle would be discarded in preparation for battle and he would fight in just his shirt with the tails tied between his legs.

If he wore shoes, which would just be pieces of hide laced over his feet, they would be discarded with for the better grip his bare toes could achieve on the moss.

The figure wears a steel cap, with a plant badge affixed at the peak and in



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his left hand is the traditional round targ or target made of thin strips of wood with a round iron boss in the center to protect his hand. The targ was both shield and weapon; it could be used to punch and strike an opponent as well as deflect knife and sword thrusts and some had a spike which could be fixed to the boss increasing its utility.

His sword, has the down turned hand



guards that are typical of Scottish swords, and was modeled after an original believed to be 600 years old. It appears to be a hand and a half sword, held one handed for thrusting or two handed for slashing.

The next illustration was labeled MacInnes. The clansman is depicted wearing a short sleeved mail shirt, of iron links, worn over his shirt which is dyed saffron. The plaid is the short kilt which wasn't invented until the 18th century. In this era he would have worn a long shirt and the belted plaid over all, which would have most likely been discarded so as not to impede his movements

He has caught several arrows with his targ which seems a risky thing to do since they have penetrated it. In his right hand is a spear tethered to his wrist by a short rope. The spear has an iron or lead ball on the butt. Presumably the rope allows the spear to be recovered after being thrown so it was not a long range weapon. Probably it was meant to be used for stabbing with the point or throwing butt first as an impact weapon.

This clansman is also shown bare foot, and the ground appears to be snow covered. I have read that the Scots went bare legged because it was easier to wash mud from bare skin than to wash and dry stockings.

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The next illustration was labeled Macquarie and shows an archer. Note that he is drawing his bow to the



chest, not to the eye as modern archers do. His two handed Claymore, being too large to carry any other way is slung across the back. He is still wearing his foot gear which is just hide, worn fur side out, with rawhide laces, though he has dropped his bonnet.

The arrows are carried in a hide quiver, presumably hooked to his belt as is the targ which appears to have an iron rim. The rest of his costume is the short kilt which is probably more appropriate for the 18th century than the 15th century and undoubtedly owes much to the artist's stage background.



The Macnabs of Barachsalain were Hereditary Armorers to the Chiefs of the Clan and produced broad swords and chain mail at their forge.

This last figure, labeled MacLaurin, is probably the most accurate of all. The clansman is depicted wearing the belted plaid, fastened at the shoulder with a broach. He has a short sleeved mail shirt under a vest, presumably of hide, and carries a bow with a quiver of arrows.

His conical iron cap was may have been inspired by those worn by the Vikings many of whom settled in the Isles and West of Scotland. They were made of several pieces riveted together and worn over a round cap for padding.

His plaid would have been handmade and if it was patterned it would be in

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muted rather than bright colors. At this period any sort of crisscross pattern is mere conjecture since only a very few examples of plaids, dating from before the 19th century exist. The material was wool instead of linen. This being much warmer, it was unnecessary to wear anything over it, even in winter, and the mantle became the upper part of the single garment which was now worn. This was called the "breakan or plaid." The plaid does not mean the patterned cloth we call by that name, but the single garment, which included kilt, coat, waistcoat, and plaid in one. It is described as "made of fine wool of diverse colors, its length is commonly seven double ells tied on the breast with a bodkin of bone or wood; it is pleated from the belt to the knee." it was a reproduction of the linen shirt in cloth, a good deal heavier, because the material was thicker, and including four parts of the modern dress instead of three.

Among other symbols of Scottish culture, the plaid was outlawed after the last attempt by the Stuarts to reclaim the throne in 1745 and it would not be legal to wear it again until the time of King George IV in the 19th century. Shoes were pieces of the hide of a cow, horse or deer, with the hair on, being tied behind and before with a piece of leather.

As there was no pocket in any part of the old Highland dress they wore a deer hide purse fastened to the front of the belt, which evolved into the modern sporran. This man's purse is just visible below the folds of the plaid.

**The Clan MacNab - Clan MacNeish**  
**The Great Feud - part four**

A.C. McKerracher wrote and published a number of stories about Perthshire. His stories were collected and published in a book titled "Perthshire in History and Legend." The following version of the Macnab Macnish feud also comes from the Scot's Magazine

The MacNab's Revenge by A. C. McKerracher - Reprinted from Scot's Magazine

The story of how the Clan MacNab exterminated the Clan Neish is to be found in many books. The versions vary, but briefly the usual account goes something like this: the Macnabs had been suffering at the marauding hands of the smaller Clan Neish, and after a bloody battle in Glen Boltachan the Neishes retired to their island refuge off St. Fillans on Loch Earn. Some time after this they ambushed the servant of the chief of the Macnabs who was returning from Crieff to Killin laden with delicacies for the Christmas season. When news of this reached the Macnab chief at his stronghold, Ellanrayne Castle, he was in despair for his larder was empty and the appetites of his twelve sons were immense. Calling them together, he uttered the cryptic words; "Si an oidche an oidche na b'iad na gillean na gillean" ("Tonight is the night, if the lads were the lads!")

His sons at once seized their weapons, hurried to their boat on Loch Tay, and rowed down to Ardeonaig where they lifted it from the water on to their shoulders and carried it overland to Loch Earn. Here they launched the craft and silently made their way to the Neishes' island. After a challenge from the chief of the Neishes the sons broke down the door of the small castle and slaughtered everyone inside, except one small boy who was crouched under the table. They cut off the chief's head, and in the dawning light carried it and the boat back over the hills. When the boat grew too heavy it was abandoned at the head of Glen Tarken.

Their arrival back at their castle at Killin was greeted with joy, their father crying out, "Tonight was the night, and the lads were the lads!" The sons proudly handed over the sack containing the gory head to their

mother, telling her to give it to the younger children as a plaything.

Well, that's the story as it appears in many books, and yet there seem many conflicting aspects to the tale. Why, for instance, should the Macnab chief say to his sons, "Tonight is the night . . ." These almost contemptuous words hardly seem those a proud father would use to his grown-up sons, who had already proved their manhood.

Why again do the books say that twelve sons took part when the clans crest portrays a boat with only four oars?

Why should the sons have taken the long overland route from Ardeonaig on Loch Tay to St. Fillans on Loch Earn? A Black Watch T.A. exercise "John Macnab" was carried out in 1968, and it was proved to be impossible to carry even a light coracle over this route in less than eight hours.

Lastly, it seems highly improbable, even in those violent times, that the sons would present a severed head to their mother, with the ghastly suggestion that the younger children play with it.

Unfortunately, the clan papers were destroyed when Ellanrayne Castle was burnt by Cromwellian troops, and this, coupled with a gap of more than three centuries, makes it a difficult task to unravel the true facts behind the legend. However, much new evidence has come to light, particularly through the work of the 22nd chief, the late Archibald Corrie Macnab, and research in other areas persuades me that the real story is probably as follows:

The Clan Macnab descends from one of the lay abbots of Strathfillan, and tradition has it that the founder was a son of King Kenneth Macalpine. The early chiefs are first mentioned in 1124 A.D., and in 1306 the then chief joined forces with McDougall of Lorn

## The Clan MacNab - Clan MacNeish The Great Feud - part four

against Robert the Bruce. For this the Macnab lands were forfeited, but in 1336 Gilbert Macnab of Bovain received a Charter from David II, and Gilbert is recognized as the first proper chief of Clan Macnab.

During the next two centuries the Macnabs consolidated their lands until these stretched from Tyndrum to beyond Killin. Their castle stood at Ellanrayne, or Eillan Ran, an island commanding the strategic Port of Ran at the mouth of the River Lochay at Killin, and from here the Macnabs held power over Loch Tay and Glendochart.

Their nearest neighbors to the south were the small Clan Neish. They descended from Ness, son of one William, who was Sheriff of Perth and Lord of Leuchars around 1100 A.D. Ness gave his sons land in Angus, Fife and Galloway, but to his youngest son, Math, he gave land in Strathearn. Far removed from the rest of the family, Math established a small, independent clan, and in 1250 A.D. their headquarters were in a keep on a crannog, or artificial island, at St. Fillans on Loch Earn.

They seem to have been an unruly and troublesome lot, for at a Council held at Linlithgow on January 9, 1490, James IV gave orders to Lord Drummond: "Whin 15 dias fra this dai furth to ger cast doon ye hoos of ye Easter Isle of Loch Ern, and distroy all ye strengthis of ye samen, and tak away ye bate, and put her to ye Wester Isle (at Lochearnhead)."

However, the MacNesses, or Neishes, as they were now called, still inhabited the ruins of their tower, and continued their unlawful activities mainly at the expense of their northerly neighbors, the Macnabs. The enmity between the clans grew stronger, and there was always fighting whenever isolated groups of clansmen encountered each other.

Then in the year 1522 the Neishes made a major raid on the Macnab herds. Finlay Macnab, 8th chief of the House of Bovain, summoned all his clan and they marched over the hills from Loch Tay to Glen Boltachan. The Neishes

were alerted, and they, too, summoned all their men and advanced up the glen carrying their banner of a cupid armed with bow and arrow. The site of the conflict was around a huge boulder on what is now Little Port Farm, and as the Macnabs rushed downhill they threw away their plaids and, naked apart from their brogues, flung themselves upon the Neishes. The Neishes threw off their plaids as well, and soon the glen was packed with naked, screaming warriors locked in mortal combat.

The Neishes were no match for their adversaries and they fell like ninepins. The aged chief saw his three sons killed before his eyes. He retreated until he stood against the boulder and fought off his attackers with his claymore, which had a remarkable accessory in the shape of an iron ball that slid on a chain along the blade to give added weight to his blows. But the attackers were too many, and the old man finally succumbed to a hail of stabs from dirks and claymores. It is said that the unusual red lichen that covers the stone is still stained with the blood of the Chief of Clan Neish.

The clan bard, and relation of the chief, MacCallum Glas, managed to drag away only twenty survivors to the island refuge on Loch Earn. During the next century their numbers increased little, and they were now nothing more than thieves and freebooters who preyed upon helpless travelers. However, they were no longer a major threat, and they might have continued their wax of life but for a dreadful error in the year 1612.

Just before Christmas of that year the chief of the clan Macnab had dispatched his servants to Crieff to bring back food and drink for the festive season. The laden line of ponies was returning slowly by way of Comrie when the party was suddenly surprised and ambushed by the Neishes. There was great rejoicing when it was discovered who the goods were destined for, and they gleefully carried them off to Loch Earn.



**The Clan MacNab - Clan MacNeish**  
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As they were nearing the shore they were suddenly confronted by an aged crone who lived nearby. She was reputed to be a witch, being wild of face and deformed, and the Neishes respectfully saluted her and offered her a share of the plunder. She rejected it, pointed her finger at the Neishes moored boat, then raised her arms to the sky and cried out, beware, sons of Ness, beware of the time when there will be two boats on Loch Earn."

The Neishes looked at each other uneasily, and then remembered that they owned the only boat on the loch, and burst out laughing. They conveyed the goods across to their island in the boat, while the remainder used the secret causeway of boulders that can still be seen in line with the islet and the villa called "Portmore" at St. Fillans.

Meanwhile the Macnab servants had reached Ellanrayne Castle and gasped out the story to Finlay Macnab, 12th chief of the clan. Finlay had married twice. His first wife was Katherine Campbell, the natural daughter of Sir Duncan Campbell of Glenorchy, and she had borne him two sons and a daughter. The name of his second wife is unknown, but she gave him ten sons. This lady, on hearing the story, suddenly saw an opportunity of removing her two stepsons, and making her own children the heirs. She looked at the eldest, Iain Min ("Smooth John") and sneeringly remarked, "Tonight is the night - if the lads were the lads! "She knew the fierce pride of Iain Min - a giant of a man who was nicknamed Smooth because he was anything but that - and knew that her words would goad him into hasty action. They did. Iain Min leapt to his feet shouting for his brother Duncan to arm himself. His two eldest half-brothers, John Roy and Patrick, also demanded to go, and their mother bit her lip but dare not refuse. Iain Min brushed aside his father's protests that the entire clan should be called out, and the brothers hurried to the lochside and unmoored their skiff. From here they rowed down

Loch Tay to Cloichran where they hoisted the boat from the water on to their shoulders, and began the long trek up the side of Alt Breaclaich to the lochan at the top.

Gasping and staggering in the deep snow, they climbed over the saddle and down across the desolate plateau that leads to Glen Tarken. The descent down the steep, boulder-strewn glen was severe, but by the middle of the night they had launched their boat on Loch Earn.

The moon shone fitfully from behind scudding clouds as they rowed stealthily toward the island. Quietly they steered their craft into a tiny creek from where they could see a glimmer of light from the ruin. They crept up to a straw-filled window and peered inside. There lay the entire gang, gorged and drunk, and on a chair, snoring, the uncouth elderly chief. The four sons of Macnab made their way round the ruin to the makeshift door where Iain Min drew his dirk, and hammered on the wood.

"Who knocks?" called out the sleepy voice of the MacNeish chief. Iain Min replied in true Highland manner with another question: "Who would you least like to see?"

There was a drunken laugh from inside. "Smooth John Macnab!" "Smooth John it is, but you'll find him a rough man tonight!" shouted Iain Min as he kicked the door open. The brothers rushed inside and began slaughtering all that were there - except for a boy and girl who cowered in terror under the table and were overlooked. Iain Min cut off the head of the chief of Clan Neish and instructed his brothers to cut off several others. With the heads stuffed in a sack, they set out on the long journey home.

They rowed back up Loch Earn, and, pulling the boat from the water, struggled up Glen Tarken, probably stopping to rest at the giant monolith that lies a short distance up the glen. From here it was a lung-wracking climb to the head of the glen.

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Eventually they could carry the boat no farther and left it in the heather.

Then they hurried on and down to Loch Tayside, to make their way along the shore to Ellanrayne Castle.

About mid-morning they arrived back, to be greeted by their anxious father. "Dreadnought!" cried out Iain Min - an expression that is now part of the clan slogan.

His stepmother appeared, looking disappointed, and the chief turned to her and said in delight, "Tonight was the night - and the lads were the lads! "She inquired what was in the sack, and Iain Min gave her a cold stare. "Bowls for your bairns!" he said, and opened the bag and rolled out the heads at her feet.

The girl who had hidden under the table during the massacre was the daughter of the Neish chief, and she eventually married the Laird of Torwood in Stirlingshire. The boy made his way to South Perthshire where he settled. The MacIldowie families in this area are descended from him - their name meaning "Son of the Black-haired Lad."

The Macnabs' boat lay rotting in the heather high up on the watershed between Loch Tay and Loch Earn, and is said to have been still visible around 1900. All traces of it were destroyed in a peat fire early this century, although a walking-stick made from the keel is supposed to be still in existence. Iain Min later fought for Montrose and was captured while defending Kincardine Castle. He was condemned to death, but escaped from Edinburgh Castle. In 1651 he fought for Charles I at the Battle of Worcester along with three hundred of the clan. He returned home, but was killed in 1653 in a skirmish with Cromwellian troops who were raiding his cattle. The following year Ellanrayne Castle was burnt to the ground and the chiefs moved residence to Kinnell House on the other side of the River Lochay.

From that time the fortunes of the clan went into decline. Of latter chiefs, probably the most famous was Francis, born in 1734, whose celebrated picture by Raeburn now hangs in the London offices of the Dewars whisky firm. It epitomizes the proud arrogance of a Highland chief, even if Francis conducted himself in a manner more appropriate to an earlier age while his debts steadily increased. His nephew, Archibald, who succeeded him in 1816, inherited impossible debts, and a writ of foreclosure was served in 1823. Archibald fled to Canada where he obtained a grant of 80,000 acres in the valley of the River Ottawa. He named his estate Macnab, and his house Kinnell. Many clansmen were persuaded to leave Scotland and join him, although he continued his feudal jurisdiction. Some clansmen objected to this when they learnt the land was free, and the chief had to repay all the rents.

His intentions were not altogether dishonorable - he was hoping to recover the ancestral lands. Alas, these were sold in 1828 to the fourth Earl of Breadalbane, even the beautiful burial ground of Inch Buie on the Falls of Dochart. Nothing was left, and curiously at this time the prophecy of the Lady of Lawers came true - that when a fir tree fell against another on Inch Buie, and grafted on to it, then that would be the end of the Macnabs. Archibald died in poverty in France, and his Canadian house of Kinnell was burnt to the ground in 1938 by a clanswoman to prevent it being turned into a museum. The clan's folk are scattered to Canada, Australia, British Honduras (where they became celebrated pirates), United States and to almost every corner of the globe.

However, in 1949 the late Archibald Corrie Macnab, 22nd chief, repurchased Kinnell House, and about 7000 acres of the old clan lands from the Breadalbane estates. Strange to relate, the tree graft on Inch Buie

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which had marked the fall of the clan, withered and died shortly after.

While researching for this article I visited Kinnell House and was welcomed by the present chief, J. P. Macnab of Macnab. The house is little changed and contains much of its 17th century nucleus, while attached is the long conservatory containing the celebrated Black Hamburg vine, planted in 1832. The Macnab supplied me with much helpful information, and then took me up a hill road by Land-Rover to point out the only possible route his ancestors could have taken on their epic overland raid. The present chief is descended from John Roy, the third son who followed Iain Min on the raid on the Neishes.

Just before Christmas of 1976 I followed the path of Iain Min and his brothers, almost 364 years to the day since they annihilated the clan Neish. With three companions I first visited the site of Ellanrayne Castle at Killin, now marked only by a grassy mound on a swampy peninsula. From here we drove to Cloichran on the south side of Loch Tay, just past the Edinburgh University Field Station, and climbed uphill through deep snow to the Hydro Electric dam which now engulfs Lochan Breaclaich. From there it was uphill again, and over the saddle to the desolate plateau that is the watershed between Loch Tay and Loch Earn. It was a beautifully clear, crisp winter's day, and the only signs of life in the white wilderness were the deer and mountain hares that bounded away at our approach as we headed to the top of Glen Tarken. The descent of the glen was heavy going, but eventually we were at Loch Earn, and the comfort of a roaring log fire in a St. Fillans hotel.

We agreed that an overnight crossing by this route was quite feasible, even if a boat were being carried, and our time for the crossing of just over four hours would certainly have allowed a return trip the same night.

Back at Killin, we visited Inch Buie on the Falls of Dochart, where all the

tombstones bear the head of the Neish chief. On this wooded island, justifiably described as the most beautiful burial ground in the world, lie Iain Min and his brothers, whose daring exploit gave the Clan Macnab its crest, its slogan, and who created a legend that has passed into immortality.

## The History of the Clan Neish or MacNish of Perthshire and Galloway

Introduction to the version prepared by David Rorer

In "The Surnames of Scotland, Their Origin Meaning, and History," (published by The New York Public Library in 1946) George F. Black explains that Macneish, Macnish, Macneice, Macness and Mackness are all forms of *MacNeis* which is derived from the Gaelic *MacNgois* or "son of Naos." He then goes on to state that Naos is a dialectal form of Aonghus, or "Angus" and therefore is the same as Macangus and MacInnes.

Mr. Black also cites the following occurrences in existing records (note the wide variation of spelling):

Gilmore Macnesche held the lands of Knocbane, Dumfrieshire, in 1376

John Dow Macneische witnessed a Grantully charter in 1494

Jonete Maknes was tenant of Drumgy, Menteith, in 1495 and in the following year

Mariote Macneis received sasine of the same lands.

The name of Jonete appears in January and June, 1500, as Jonete Nete or Neis.

Mariot Makneisch had sasine of the fourth part of Gadgill, Kirkcudbrightshire, in

1517, and two years later there is on record confirmation of four charters by

Mariot, Jonet, Katherine and Elena Macneissche, daughters of quondam Duncan

Makneissche de Gaitgill-Makillwarnok in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright.

Donald McNysche and John McNysche, followers of the earl of Cassilis, were respited for murder, 1526, and mention is made in 1552 of "a venerable and learned man, Mr. James Makneis, deserving well of the city," i.e. of Glasgow.

Thomas McNnoise or McNoaise "confest his malicious imprecaones against the minister" in 1650, Marion Maknish was charged with being a disorderly person (i.e. non-conforming) in the parish of Kirkmabreck, 1684. Other mentions noted and the years are: McKneische, 1629; McKneishe, 1477; Makneisch and Makneische, 1508; Makneiss and Makneissche, 1520; McNeiss, 1550; McNeische, 1574; McNische, 1622 and McNish, 1718.

The account of the Clan MacNish which follows came from a book in The Allen County Public Library, Genealogy Collection, 900 Webster St. Fort Wayne, Indiana (219) 424-7241.

<http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/> If anyone reading this would like to have a copy of the original I would be glad to make one. (The book is out of copyright so it is legal to make copies).

Gail Baker <[SCOTSENGL@aol.com](mailto:SCOTSENGL@aol.com)>, who alerted me to the existence of this book, believes that there are only two copies, the one in the Allen County Library and one in a library in Edinburgh, Scotland. I do not know if this is true.

Of the given authors, David MacNish M.A., M.B, and William A. Tod F.S.A. SCOT, it seems most probable that David MacNish paid for the research (and also is the Dr. David MacNish, M.A. M.B. J.P. of London of the pedigree on page 165 of the original book), while William A. Tod most probably did all the actual research and writing.

How W.C. Mackenzie came to write the foreword and his possible relationship to the authors is unknown.

Whoever the actual author is, he did a lot of research; at least he quotes a prodigious number of old documents. However, at the same time, the author makes many assertions about the descent of one person from another, while presenting little or no hard evidence. Therefore one should be cautious about taking any of his assertions as fact.

The author also made no distinction between quotes from existing documents and his commentary, which makes the narrative somewhat difficult to follow. I have changed the text font to indicate when an original document is being quoted, but that was not always possible and care must be taken in reading the material.

Two pedigrees were included, that of Dr. David Macnish of London and the family of Dr. Robert MacNish of Glasgow and the Australian MacNishes. These families do not appear to be related but the family trees can probably be taken at face value.

The original book was printed in large type; double spaced with wide margins and ran some 198 pages. I am presenting it in smaller type, single-spaced with much narrower margins and in newspaper columns. The result is that approximately five pages of the original book are compressed into one page in this version.

To avoid having to renumber the index, the original page numbers are included in the text at the left margin with the first line of that page indented behind the number. Therefore, when using the index, it will be necessary to look for the original page number, not the one at

the bottom of the page. By chance the columns almost exactly correspond to the sentence length of the original book.

The text is presented as written but with added footnotes in order to explain unfamiliar terms. The source of each footnote is noted therein. Some of the information in the footnotes came from web pages maintained by Glasgow University. However, since downloading this information those pages seem to have disappeared. None of them had been updated since 1996 and it may be that they just time lapsed from the server.

# The History of the Clan Neish or MacNish of Perthshire and Galloway

by

DAVID MACNISH, M.A., M. B.  
WILLIAM A. TOD, F.S.A. SCOT.

With a foreword by

W. C. MACKENZIE

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## FOREWORD

THE records of the Highland clans, and septs of clans, are the tributaries of the main streams of Highland history. The preservation of these records has been achieved largely by the process of "handing down," which is connoted by the word "tradition." Supplemented, sifted, and sometimes corrected, by documented history, the traditions of the Highlands truthfully convey the atmosphere of the past, and the historian cannot safely ignore them. The institution of the seanachies<sup>1</sup> as an integral part of the clan system, served a useful function in the preservation alike of clan genealogies and domestic history. The seanachies were the repositories of accumulated knowledge concerning family affairs, as the bards were the channels through which poetic expression was given to family pride. Stripped of their petals, the fine flowers of bardic imagery are unattractive stalks; but the seanachies have provided material of solid use, if discriminately employed, for their successors, the clan historians of the present day. And the tenacious memory of segregated communities, like those of the

Highlands, with limited interests, and an inherited attachment to the past, has been a helpful factor in the retention of family records that would otherwise have been lost.

It is in these circumstances that the history of a Highland clan acquires a significance that, in this country, is peculiar to it. For it is the history of a compact unit, not a series of unrelated biographies. A clan connoted more than an aggregation of individuals of the same name, dwelling in the same district. It represented a community of ancestry, language, customs, and traditions that formed a unifying bond of enduring strength. We do not find analogous conditions in Anglo-Saxon communities. The compilation of a history of the Clan Smith (for example) offers such difficulties as would daunt the boldest Smith from making the attempt, though the biographies of individual Smiths are not rare. But the compilation of a history of the Clan (or sept) Gow, which is the Gaelic equivalent of Smith, would present none of the difficulties that exist when the cohesive qualities inherent in the clan system are lacking. The Highlander is naturally endowed (or burdened) with the genealogical sense. "Are you of the Johnstons of Glencro or of Ardnamurchan," bawled MacLean of Lochbuy in Dr Johnsons totally unresponsive and completely scandalized ear. What did the sage of Fleet Street, with all his learning, know or care for the fine distinctions between Highland families, or what did Boswell (a Lowland Scot) know or care when he confused Johnstons with MacIans (Johns sons), and Glencroe with Glencoe? But Lochbuy knew and cared, and so, according to the Highland

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<sup>1</sup>An *Seanachaidh* (the Sennachie or Genealogist of the Chief's House): --It was his duty to keep the clan register. It's records, genealogies and family history; to pronounce the addresses of ceremony at clan assemblies and to deliver the chier's inauguration, birthday and funeral genealogical orations; also as Inaugurator, to invest him on succession.

*The Clans, Septs, and Regiments of the Scottish Highlands* by Frank Adam, revised by Sir Thomas Innes of Learney. Seventh Edition 1965, p 573

## The History of the Clan Neish or MacNish of Perthshire and Galloway

enthusiast, does every Highlander worth his salt.

Clan and kindred societies flourish at the present day in the great centers of population, and by maintaining the sentiment of race and of local patriotism, serve a laudable purpose when a sense of proportion is rigorously maintained. But the objects of these societies do not permit of any really serious exertion on their part--though there are instances to the contrary--to preserve fast-dying traditions, or promote the study of Highland history. These contributions must be left to individual initiative.

The book now before me is, therefore, a welcome addition to the essays on Highland clans. The History of the Clan Neish or MacNish is a careful compilation from sources of unimpeachable authority, tradition being tapped in a minor degree only. Charters and sasines and other official records may be "lawyers" lumber." They may not be wildly exhilarating in their stimulus, but they are remarkably fortifying in their effects. They are to the Scots historian what porridge is (or was) to the Scots artisan--"verra sustaining." The joint authors may not be able to carry with them all their Highland readers--formidable critics where clan history is concerned in their conclusions about the origin of the clan name and the alleged identity between the MacNishes and the MacNechts. Nor will some of those readers, perhaps, be willing to grant the status of a clan, as distinct from the sept of a clan, to the MacNishes. But: all readers, however critical, must needs agree that the authors have stated their case with complete fairness and--once more may one emphasize the fact with a wealth of reliable evidence that is highly commendable.

I must confess that my previous knowledge of the clan's history was confined to the well-authenticated tradition of their feud with their neighbors, the MacNabs, and the ultimate triumph of the latter, the "Abbots"

clan<sup>2</sup>. The last Chief of the MacNishes was, in the sixteenth century, struck down in a Perthshire glen<sup>3</sup>; the descendant of the MacNab who conquered him, is famous to-day as the subject of one of Raeburns finest portraits.<sup>4</sup>

Every MacNish, or Neish, or Ness, in this or other lands, should be grateful to the authors of this book for the thoroughness of their research. By their industry and care they have elucidated what is probably all that can be known on an obscure and hitherto untouched subject.

W. C. MACKENZIE. LONDON, 15 December 1924.

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<sup>2</sup>In Gaelic, Macnab is Clann-an-Abba or children of the Abbot see chapter II

<sup>3</sup>See chapter II for the description of the battle of Glen Boultachan

<sup>4</sup>This is Francis Macnab (1734-1816), 16<sup>th</sup> Chief of Macnab in his uniform as Lt-Colonel of the Royal Breadalbane Volunteers. The portrait now hangs in the office of John Dewar and Sons in the Haymarket in London. *Clan Macnab a History*

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44. -Reg. Sec. Sig.
45. Acta Auditorum.
46. The Clan MacNab, by Jo. MacNab, 1907
47. Scottish Tourist, 1825.
48. Stat. Acct. of Scot. 1838.
49. Chron. of Fortingall.
- 50 Retours
51. Masons Prot. Book.
52. Edinburgh Reg. of Apprentices.
53. Services of Heirs in Scotland.
54. Parish Reg. of Muthill.
55. Records of the Burgh of Stirling.
56. Commissariat Records of Kirkcudbrightshire.
57. Scots Brigade in Holland.

# The History of the Clan Neish or MacNish of Perthshire and Galloway

## HISTORY OF THE CLAN NEISH OR MACNISH

### CHAPTER I

ORIGIN OF THE NAME --NES, SON OF WILLIAM, LORD OF LEUCHARS --ORABLE, DAUGHTER OF NES OF LEUCHARS --ANGUS  
MACNATH OF STRATHEARN

NEISH and Nish are the modern forms of the Early Irish "Naoise," famous as the name of the son of Usnech, with whom Deirdre eloped. The original form Naoise, or MacNaoise, is recorded as late as 1652 in Scotland.

Dr. A. MacBain, a great authority, gave MacNish - Gaelic, MacNeis-- from MacNaois, the Naois being a dialectic form of Aonghus or Angus. The connection of Naois with

2. Aonghus, however, appears to be very doubtful. Professor W. J. Watson agrees that Aonghus did not become Naoise in Gaelic at any time.

MacAonghuis and MacNaois(e) are, however, apt to be confused in anglicized forms (1).

The Nish Isle in Loch Earn is in Gaelic "Eilean an Naoisich"; a man of the Nish clan or sept was called "Naoiseach," just as a MacDonald is "Domhnallach," &c<sup>5</sup> Possibly the Isle was a stronghold of the chief, who would be "an Naoiseach" par excellence (1).

Nesse, Nessius, &c, of the early records may well be for Naoise; the fact that the Latin form is Nessius so often goes to show that the Gaelic form ended in e (1).

Naoise appears in Mid-Irish as Noise and Naise; in Early Irish as Noisiu. The personal name Ness, Nisse, Nisi, Nissi, or Neise, occurs not infrequently in Early Irish literature and genealogy. Domangart MacNisi died in A.D. 466. MacNisse, who died in 506 or 513, was the first bishop and founder of Conner.

3. Domangart, third King of the Dalriadic Scots, who died circa 510, was the son of Fergus Mor MacNisse. MacNissi, abbot of Cluain-mic-Nois, died in 590. Clonmacnoise, the Irish form of which is generally written Cluain-mic-U-

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<sup>5</sup>This symbol is used throughout this document for the abbreviation "etc."  
David Rorer

Nois, "the meadow of the son of Noiss descendant " (2).

Nissi was occasionally equated with Aonghus in Early Irish literature. Chronicum Scotorum gives "MacCnissi"-- i.e., Aengus, Bishop of Conner, whose father was called Fobrach and whose mother was Cnes, daughter of Comarde of the Dal Ceithire, from whom he was named MacCnisi. Nes or Neasa was apparently also a feminine name, and not connected with Aonghus.

Neasa, daughter of Eochaidh Salbhuidhe of Connaught, and mother of Conchubhar MacNeasa (3). This takes the form Ness elsewhere. MacNeise, the first name of St Caomhan, a disciple of St Patrick (3). The following occur in the Leabhar Breac: Ness and MacCarthaind from Cill Nessi; Sinech and mac Nisse and Ethni from the cell of

4. Ross; Colman Brece mac Nisse maic Nemedan; Cellan and Garban, the two sons of Ness.

Nessan is a derivative of Ness. It occurs in Adamnans Life of St. Columba as the name of a peasant near the loch called by Adamnan "Stagnum Aporum"-- i.e., Lochaber. It also occurs as an Irish personal name. St. Neasan, "the leper," Patron of Mungairid, died circa 551 (3). Inis-mac-Nesan (A.D. 701), the Island of the sons of Nesan; the old name of Irelands Eye, near Howth, Co. Dublin (3).

Re. the etymology of the Inverness river name Ness: The name Ness appears in Adamnans Life of St Columba as Nesa. The word must be referred to an original form nesta according to Celtic philological laws, and this Dr. Whitley Stokes has equated with the Sanskrit word "nadi," signifying river. We may compare Nessa, the mother of the great mythic King of Ulster, he being Conchobar MacNessa (4).

The Scottish surname MacNaught is by most authorities derived from MacNeachd, son

5. of the pure one. It is, however, significant that Neachd or Necht does

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not appear as a personal name in early Irish and Scottish records. The earliest forms of the Kirkcudbrightshire surname MacNaught are Macenaght, Macnacht, Macnath, and Macnaicht. Compare the following early forms of Neish and MacNeish in Perth, Angus, and Fife: Nete (1500), Makniche(1590), Makneth (1491), Naiche (1529), Nethe (1501), Nece (1465), Neitche (1530), Neiche (1541), Neche (1560).

It would appear from the above that MacNaught is also derived from MacNes or MacNeische (circa 1560).

Nes or Nesie survived as a Christian name in Scotland until the year 1602, and possibly later.

That there was a saint called Ness in Scotland appears from "Clach mo Neasaig," on the shore near Taynuilt. The modern Gaelic pronunciation of Nish, which, of course, is of great and practically decisive importance, is strongly in favor of

6 connecting with the ancient name Naoise. I have good reason to believe that this was Dr. MacBains final opinion also, and that if he had lived to correct the second edition of his Dictionary, he would have altered the statement that Naois is from Aonghuis (1).

The personal name Malsnacht occurred in 1230 in Strathearn, in the area that was the center of the Neish or MacNeish country. SoIne authorities derive Malsnecht from Maelsnechta, "Servant of Snow." We find, however, that Maol-nechtan (son of Lulach, Maormor<sup>6</sup> of Mureve) appears as Maolsnechtan in the

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<sup>6</sup>Mormaor or Mormaer, a title used to designate the rulers of the seven provinces into which Celtic Scotland, i.e. the part of the country north of the Forth and the Clyde, was divided (Gael. Mor, great and maor, steward or bailiff). These seven moraorships, or original "earldoms" of Scotland, as they were afterwards called were: Angus, Athole with Gowry, Cathness with Sutherland, Fife, Mar with Buchan, Moray with Ross, and Stratherne with Mentith. *Encyclopedia Britannica* 14<sup>th</sup> edition c. 1929

Annals of Ulster, circa 1085. Finechta also appears as Finsnechta in the Annals of Ulster. Finsnechta or Finnachta, King of Ireland, slain in 694 (2). Apparently Malsnecht is a form of Mael-necht or Mael-neischt(nes).

The etymology of a similar but quite distinct clan name of Perthshire is as follows: Naughton (modern Gaelic, Neachdan; Irish, Nechtan) represents an early Nectagnos, sprung from Nectos. Here "a" is the form taken by the

7 stem vowel (which is really "o"); "gn" is contracted from "gen," "sprung from" (compare Dio-gen-es, &c, in Greek). In Old Irish "agnos" appears as "an," and was used as a diminutive ending, but in ancient personal names, such as Nechtan, the force of "an" is not diminutive; these names were formed when the original force of "agnos" was still active (1).

Mael, of course, originally meant "cropped,"<sup>7</sup> tonsured," and was applied to persons who were in a servile position (the nobles of the Gael wore their hair long); hence it was naturally applied to clerics, who were "servi Dei," not, of course, as a term of dishonor any more. But in many cases mael appears to be used very much as gillie was used, without any notion of service (1). The personal or Christian name Nes appears occasionally on record in Scotland, from the fifth to the beginning of the seventeenth century. Domhangard<sup>8</sup>, third King of the Dalriadic race in Alba<sup>9</sup>, was the son of Feargus Mor, son of

8 Ere (Pictish, Erp). In the Annals of Ulster, Domangart is called the son of Fergus Mor MacNisse; Nisse or Nesss was the mother of Fergus. Apparently the

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<sup>7</sup>Gallic nobility wore their hair long and to have it cut was to lose status. *David Rorer*

<sup>8</sup>Also spelled Domhangart, king of Dalriata, killed 672.

<sup>9</sup>The Scots originally came from the Irish kingdom of Dalradia to "Alba" the area that now is called Scotland. See any history of the Scottish Monarchy. *David Rorer*

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first Bishop of Conner was Aengus, the son of Nes or Nessa, the wife of Fobrach. It was not unusual for the ancient Gaels to be named after their mother. Mureheard, the King of Ireland, was called MacErca, from his mother. The Christian name Nes was used by the Ramsays of Banff (Alyth); "Nessus medicus nester," the Kings physician, was granted a charter of the lands of Banff by Alexander II on the 9 October 1232. Nessus was a descendant of Simon de Ramsay, the first of the surname on record in Scotland, who received a grant of lands in Mid-Lothian from David II, circa 1130. In the Ramsay charters Nes appears in the Latin as Nessus, Nesius, Neisius, and Neso, and in the vernacular is found as Nes, Neis, Nesse, Nees, and Nece. Neis is the autograph of the last Ramsay of Banff of that name, who succeeded in 1507.

9 There were several members of the Lundres family in Haddingtonshire during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries bearing the name of Nes.

Robert de Lundres (or London) was a natural son of King William (5). This Robert married the heiress of the House of Lundin of Lundin, and assumed the surname of Lundin, and from him the family of Lundin of Lundin were afterwards descended (6).

The Haddington family was variously described as "de Lundres, London, Lindores, Londres, and Lundref" (7). Nesio, filio Nesii, witness to Carta No. 75 circa 1180. Nesii, filii Johis de Lundres (Carta 107). Carta Nesius de Londres (Nesii de London) No. 108. Nesii, filii Nesii, Carta re lands of Hartburn (No. 109). Nes, son of Nes, Carta No. 110. Confirmaco Nesii de Lundref re lands of Pouhou and Hartburn (No. 112). Oliver Nesius and William de Graham perambulated<sup>10</sup> the lands of Haddington and Elbotle (No. 119), see Registrum S. Marie Newbotle.

10 The personal name Nesse appears on record in Perthshire, the cradle of the

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<sup>10</sup>Perambulate, to walk through or over; to survey the boundaries of. The Webster Encyclopedic dictionary of the English Language, 1980 edition

clan of Neish, as early as the eleventh century.

Nesse, Cormac, son of Macbeath and Malnethte, son of Beollani, members of the religious house of Abernethy, were witnesses to a grant by Ethelred, son of King Malcolm III, to the Keledei of Loch Leven circa 1093-1197 (8). Beollan is the Early Irish Beollain, now anglicized Boland in Ireland. O'Bealan was the patronymic or Gaelic name of the old Earls of Ross circa 1000. A powerful chief in the north of Scotland named Beolan married the daughter of Ganga Rolfe (or Rollo), the celebrated pirate, who became afterwards the first Earl of Normandy (Norse Saga). Hrolf, or Rollo, became Duke of Normandy in 912.<sup>11</sup>

Beollan, son of Ciarmhac (Cormac), King of Loch Gabhar (Co. Meath?), died in 967-8 (Chron. Scot.).

Malnethte and the Fifeshire Malfnacht form is probably for Mael-necht, which is probably a form of Mael-Nesse.

11 In 1160 Ness, son of the Countess Ada, and Robert de Quinci were witnesses to the charter of King Malcolm<sup>12</sup> granting the lands and barony of Strathbran to Duncan, Earl of Fife<sup>13</sup>, who had married Ada, a niece of King Malcolm IV. (9).

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<sup>11</sup>Ganger Rolf, "the Viking" (or Rollo), banished from Norway to the Hebrides c. 876 - 890 participated in Viking attack on Bayeux, where Count Berenger of Bayeux was killed, and his daughter Poppa captured and taken, 886, by Rollo (now called Count of Rouen) as his "Danish" wife. Under Treaty of St. Claire, 911, Rollo received the duchy of Normandy from Charles III, "the Simple" d. ca 927.

*Ancestral Roots, seventh edition by Frederick Lewis Weis*

<sup>12</sup>Malcolm III (1058-93), known as Canmore, eldest son of Duncan I. *The Scottish Monarchy*

<sup>13</sup>Fife, eastern county of Scotland, bounded north by the firth of Tay, East by the North sea, south by the firth of forth and west by the shires of Perth, Kinross and Clackmannan. The term Fife was once applied to the peninsula lying between the estuaries of the Tay and

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Malfnacht or Nialfnacht was a tenant of lands in Fife granted to St Andrews about the year 1200 (8).

It is probable that the Neishes and MacNishes of Scotland are descended from Ness, son of William, who was Sheriff of Perth and Lord of Leuchars. Ness left at least three sons at the period when surnames were becoming fixed among the Gaelic landowners of the Highland border and Fife.

It is evident that Ness, son of William, was a magnate, for the charters mention his Pincerna (cup-bearer), Seneschal<sup>14</sup>, and Chamberlain<sup>15</sup>. Most of the Royal charters he witnessed were dated in Fife or Perth, and the charter of King Malcolm (Dunfermline, p. 25) indicates that he was an official in Fife circa 1160, but the Royal

12 charters witnessed elsewhere are sufficient to show that he occasionally accompanied the King (10).

Ness, son of William, Lord of Leuchars (Fife), was a witness to many charters of Malcolm IV<sup>16</sup> and King William<sup>17</sup> before 1170 (10).

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Forth and separated from the rest of the mainland by the Orchil hills. It is owing to the long continuance of an independent king that Fife itself came to be called distinctively The Kingdom. *Encyclopedia Britannica* 14<sup>th</sup> edition c. 1929

<sup>14</sup>Seneschal, a title equivalent to "steward" the chief officer of a household. *The New Webster Encyclopedic Dictionary of the English Language* 1980 Edition

<sup>15</sup>The servant in charge of his "chamber" originally the bed chamber but now evolved into an office in charge of financial and household affairs. *IBID*

<sup>16</sup>Malcolm IV, 1153-65 successor to David I, known as "the Maiden", because of a long-standing belief that his life had been strictly chaste. *The Scottish Monarchy*

<sup>17</sup>William I the Lion, 1153-65 is credited with adopting the lion Rampant as the Royal Arms of Scotland. *The Scottish Monarchy*

Neis, son of Chiluni (Chilunus), was a witness to the charter by Thor of the church of Tranent to the Abbey of Holyrood<sup>18</sup> (Chart. Holyrood, No. 11) circa 1155. Chilun appears to be a clerical error for William.

Nesio, filio Willelmi, was a witness to the charter of Moregrundi (Morgan), Earl of Mar<sup>19</sup>, of the church and lands of Tarland to the Priory of St Andrews circa 1165-1171 (8).

About the year 1170 Nessio, filii Willelmi, was a witness to a charter (No. 216) by Simon, son of Macbeth, granting to the canons of the church of St Mary of Cambuskenneth (after the decease of Hugh of Rokesburg, the Chancellors clerk) the church of Tullibody, in free and perpetual alms, &c. Given at Stirling (Reg. Mary de Cambuskenneth).

13 The lands of Collessie, the woods of Kyndeloch, and the Moor of Eden, probably came into the hands of the De Quincys in the same manner as the lands of Leuchars (5, p. 276).<sup>20</sup>

Nesio, filio Willelmi, was a witness to Carta 12 of the Prioratus Insule de May, at Perth, during the reign of William the Lion.

Nees, Neisus, Nes, or Nessius appears as a witness to many charters of St Andrews during the latter part of the twelfth century.

In August 1175, William, King of Scotland, went to York to do allegiance and fealty to Henry, King of England. King William I had been captured by the English at Alnwick in 1174.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>18</sup>Holyrood Abby founded by David I of Scotland, which in turn founded the burgh of Canongate.

<sup>19</sup>Mar, Earldom of, Mar one of the ancient divisions of Scotland, comprised the larger portion of Aberdeen shire, extending from north of the Don southward to the Mounth. *Encyclopedia Britannica* 14<sup>th</sup> edition c. 1929

<sup>20</sup>See below in section 18

<sup>21</sup>In 1174 King William joined Henry II's son in his rebellion against his father, and invaded England. He was captured at

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The King of Scotland delivered up to King Henry, his brother David as hostage, with Earl Duncan (of Fife), Earl Waldeve (of Dunbar), Earl Gilbert, the Earl of Angus, Richard de Moreville the Constable, Nes, son of William, and other nobles (11).

Neis, son of William (Latin--Nesso, folio

14 Vilielmi) witnessed some charters of Cupar-Angus Abbey between the years 1175-1185.

King William granted a charter to Gilbert, Earl of Stradherne, of the lands of Vre (now Meikleour) and Lethendin (Lethendy), by the marches which Nes, son of William, Gaifrid de Malvil (Nlelville), and another perambulated it for Malice, brother of the said Earl (5).

Nessio, filio Willelmi Lineth, vice-comite de Pert (Perth), was a witness to Carta No. 5 of Scene Abbey, in the reign of King Malcolm, at Stirling (12). William Lineth was no doubt the William de Lene who was a benefactor of Scone<sup>22</sup> (12). Two percatas of land in Perth was granted by William, son of Lean, to the monks of Cupar Abbey during the reign of William the Lion (1163-1214). He appears as Willielmo, filio Lene, in Carta No. 21 of Cupar Abbey. This grant was

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Alnwick, Northumberland and brought to Henry II with 'his feet shackled beneath the belly of his horse.' He was released by the terms of the Treaty of Falaise of 8 December 1174, having been forced to agree to do homage to Henry II 'for Scotland and for all his other lands'. (Neither the first nor the last time did a King of Scotland have to do so) *Encyclopedia Britannica* 14<sup>th</sup> edition c. 1929

<sup>22</sup>Alexander I founded Scone Abbey in 1115, but long before this date Scone had been a center of ecclesiastical activity and the seat of a monastery. Kenneth is alleged to have brought the Stone of Destiny, on which the Celtic kings were crowned from Dunstaffnage castle on Loch Etive and to have deposited it in Scone. *Encyclopedia Britannica* 14<sup>th</sup> edition c. 1929

confirmed by Alexander II<sup>23</sup>, at Scone, on the 17 March 1235-6.

Several persons bearing the name of Lene or Lenna are mentioned in the early Drummond Castle charters.

15 Lene, the father of William, was probably connected with the Lennies of Lennie. The lands of Leny are situated two miles northwest of Callander, near Loch Lubnaig. Gillespie Lenny, circa 1200, held the lands of Lennie by virtue of a small sword, which King Culen<sup>24</sup> (965-70) gave as a symbol to Gillespie Mor, his ancestor, for a particular service.

Allan, the second son of the first Sir Maurice Buchanan (circa 1300), married Margaret, heiress of Gillespie Leny of that ilk.

According to a family manuscript pedigree, quoted in Buchanan of Auchmars account of the Leny branch of the Buchanans, the early proprietors of the estate of Leny had no charters, but carefully preserved a large sword, and one of the teeth of St Fillan<sup>25</sup>, the

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<sup>23</sup>Alexander II 1214-49 only son of William the Lion, *The Scottish Monarchy*

<sup>24</sup>Culen son of Indulf, wrested the throne from Dubh, but was himself killed in Lothian in 971 by Riderch, King of Strathclyde, whose daughter he had seized. *The Scottish Monarchy*

<sup>25</sup>Fillan, Saint or Faelan, the name of two Scottish saints. Of Irish origin. Whose lives are of a legendary character. The St. Fillan whose feast is kept on June 20 had churches dedicated to him at Ballyheyland, Queen's county, Ireland, and at Loch Earn, Perthshire (see map of Killin and Glendochart). The other, who is commemorated on Jan 9, was specially venerated at Cluain Mavscua, Co. Westmeath, Ireland, and about the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> century at Strathfillan, Perthshire, Scotland, where there was an ancient monastery dedicated to him. This monastery became a cell of the abbey of canons regular at Inchaffray, and was supposed to possess the Saint's crozier, the head of which is now deposited in the National museum of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

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possession of which was held to be a sufficient title to the lands.<sup>26</sup> Between 1180 and 1200 Nessyo, fil Willi,<sup>27</sup> was a witness to charters Nos. 4 and 10 of the Abbey of Arbroath re lands in Angus and Perth (13). About the year 1200 a "Charter by Seher de Quinci, Earl of Winton, with the

16 consent of his son, Robert, granting to the church of St Mary of Stirling and the canons thereof, for the welfare of the souls of William, King of Scots, and of his ancestors and successors, the whole land of Duglyn, by the same marches by which Nesus, the son of William, his grandfather, possessed it; to be held of the said Seher and his heirs in free and perpetual alms, as freely as any alms was held by any religious persons in the realm of Scotland, The granter warranting the said land against Duncan, the son of Hamelin, and against all men." Carta 70 (I4).

In Carta 73 we find that Duncan, son of Hamelin, and Adam his heir had resigned for himself, to the Earl, in his full court at Locres, all right which they

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The legend of the second saint is given in the Bollandist *Acta SS.* (1643) see also D. O'Hanlon, *Lives of Irish Saints* (Dublin 1825)

*Encyclopedia Britannica* 14<sup>th</sup> edition 1926

<sup>26</sup>Of course historically charters are a, comparatively, late development. Early on nearly everyone was illiterate and so objects were given as symbolic tokens of ownership. Many families would keep an ancient knife, cup or some other token of their having been granted a farm or office in the distant past. Of course this caused many problems later when others obtained written charters from the crown for the same lands and displaced those whose ancestors had settled there in times long gone.

Then of course there was the problem of authenticity. Once the principals had all died off the only proof of the giving was the tradition and the acceptance that those making the claim were being truthfull.

<sup>27</sup>Ness son of William

had or could have in the land of Duglyn, and delivered up to him all the charters which he had thereof (14). Duglyn is probably the old name of the lands in the parish of Arngask, now known as Glen Deuglie and Wester Deuglie.

Hamelin or Hamlin is a form of Gaelic, 17 "Amalghaidh"; Irish, Amalgaid, pronounced Aulay. It appears in the old Lennox charters as Aulay, Aulech, Auleth, Amelech, Amhlew, Hameleu, Hamelyn, Havel, and Amelic.

Very little is known about the children of Nes, son of William; the records show that he left at least three sons; Constant or Constantine, Patrick, Math and a daughter Orable.

The eldest son of Nes was probably Constantine, who appears as Constant, filius Nesse, in several charters of St Andrews Priory.

Patrick, son of Nes, was a witness to several St Andrews charters with Constant and Math, the sons of Nes; his name appears in Latin as "Patcio, fil Nesii," and Patricius, hi Nes.

At this period, the early thirteenth century, Gaelic was still the common language of Fife and Strathearn, and Patrick, as well as the other sons of Nesse, would have been known as MacNesses or MacNeises by the native Scots.

18 It is very probable that Patrick, son of Nes of Leuchars, settled in Nithsdale, where we find, about the year 1210, "Patcio magillnes" as a witness to Carta 340 (Carta super ecclesiam de Killosbern) of Kelso Abbey, with other men of Dumfriesshire (Liber de Calchou). Killosbern is now known as Closeburn, where in later years we find many records of MacNeishes and MacNachts. Math (or Matheus) was probably the third son of Nesse of Leuchars; he appears as Math, fil Nesse, as a witness to some charters of St Andrews. No doubt Nesse left some part of

19 his Strathearn estates to his sons, probably to Math and Constantine. Math MacNes died about the year 1260, and about 150 to 200 years later we find a Neish clan in Upper Strathearn, and a number of Neishes established in Lower

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Strathearn, probably descendants of Math.

Orable, mother of Saher de Quincy, is proved by the Chartulary of the Priory of St Andrews (pp. 254-5) to have been the daughter and heiress of Nes. Whether "heir" means sole legal representative is doubtful, for Nes had certainly four sons, probably by another wife.

Large Scottish possessions came to the De Quincys through the marriage of Robert de Quincy (father of Saher<sup>28</sup>, afterwards Earl of Winchester) with Orable, daughter of Nes, son of William Lineth. And the name "Nesgasc" would suggest that this part of Gask had been the property of Nes.

Roger de Quinci, son of Robert de Quinci and Orable (daughter of Nes), was a nephew of Patrick MacNes. Roger married Helena, daughter of Alan, Lord of Galloway, before 1230, and succeeded to lands in Galloway. Probably Patrick MacNes or his sons obtained lands in Nithsdale through the influence of his relative Roger, who on the death of Alan, Lord of Galloway, in 1233, succeeded to the office of Constable of Scotland.<sup>29</sup>

On the back of Carta (Inchaffray) No. 10 is the following memorandum:--

Item ex done eiusdem Gileberti Comitus ecclesiam de Madernin (Madderty) cum

20 pertinentiis suis. Et moiendinum super pefrin in Balemaccgillon (now Bellyclone). Ex done Orable Matris Seer de Quinci. xiii acres terre in territorio de Gasg (Gask). See the Bull of Innocent III; infra. Robert de Quinci by his marriage with Orabilis; got with her the large estate of Locres (Leuchars) and Lathrisk.

A charter by Seyer de Quinci about Dauch Icthar Hathyn (modern form would be Auchtereden) mentions that the lands

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<sup>28</sup>Mahler de Quincy, b. 1155, d. 3 Nov 1219, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Winchester, Magna Charter Surety, 1215, Crusader 1219 (son of Robert de Quincy, Lord of Buckley and of Fawsied) m. Arabella, dau. Of Ness. *Ancestral Roots, seventh edition by Frederick Lewis Weis*

<sup>29</sup> By this time the office had become hereditary in this family

were given to the priory of St Andrews by his mother.

There are chronological discrepancies in the printed accounts respecting Orable and her son. Earl Saher is stated to have married about 1170, and to have been a knight in 1172. If so, he must have been about sixty-five, in 1191, when he joined the Crusade, and his mother must have been married not later than 1155. On the other hand, the charter of the church of Leuchars to St Andrews by Nes and Orable conveys the impression that Orable was then a child, and it is clear that it was this charter,

21 and not that on p. 287 of the Chartulary evidently thought otherwise. Her style as Countess of Mar is not explained by any known marriage; but, in the opinion of the writer<sup>30</sup>, Robert de Quinci, having gone to the Holy Land in 1191, never returned, and his widow married Gilchrist, Earl of Mar, whom we take to be G. Com de Mar, who witnessed Lady Orables charters of the Davoch Fethar Hathyn to St Andrews (pp. 290-91).

This suggestion implies that Saher de Quinci confirmed his mothers grant in the lifetime of both his parents. Saher died in November 1219 at Damietta<sup>31</sup> (10). Sir J. B. Paul, in Scots Peerage, 1908, says: "Perhaps a solution may be found in the suggestion that she (Orable MacNes) was the wife of De Quincy first, and was divorced from him, after which she became the wife of Adam, son of Duncan, a Fifeshire noble, who was her husband about 1172-80, and between that date and 1199 she married Earl Gilchrist; she died before June 1203."

22 The form Malsnacht occurred in Strathearn, in the year 1230, in Carta No. LVII. of the Abbey of Inchaffray:---

Grant of lands by Robert of Methven: "Robert of Maggefen makes known that, with the assent of Soliue, his wife, and of their children, he had given to the abbot and convent of Inchaffray in pure and perpetual alms two tofts and four acres of land in the ville of Kenandheni,

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<sup>30</sup>Probably William A. Tod, FSA. Scot. See title page

<sup>31</sup>Damietta is a town in Lower Egypt on the Nile River.



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which by another name is called Dolpatrick--to wit, the toft in which Alan of Kyntocher dwelt when the present was given, with the acre which pertained to the same toft at that time, and with the buildings which were then on the toft; and also the toft and land which then lay between the house of Richard and the house of Malsnacht, &c. &c" Witnessed by the Earl of Strathearn and others, 1226-34.

Symon de Nysi (Nesse) was a witness to a Scone Abbey charter during the reign of Alexander II (1214-49). Symon may have

23 been the fourth son of Nesse, son of William, Sheriff of Perth.

Angus MacNath and other chiefs and barons of Perthshire signed the "Ragman Roll"<sup>32</sup> at Berwick-on-Tweed on the 28 of August 1296.

The seal of Anegos Makenathe is described as follows: "Two lions passant: sigillum en broken, joined by strings" (24).

Angus MacNath of MacNeth was probably the chief of the MacNeishes of Strathearn in 1296.

Note that the head of the MacNaught family of Kilquonnedie, in Kirkcudbrightshire, was, in 1496, described as Fergus Maknath. Makneth was a tenant in Strathearn in 1491; and the form Macnecht occurred in Perthshire in 1525.

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<sup>32</sup>Ragman Rolls, the name given to the collection of instruments by which the nobility and gentry of Scotland were compelled to subscribe allegiance to Edward I of England between the conference of Northam in May 1291 and the final reward in favor of Baliol in November 1292, and again in 1296. Of the former of these records two copies were preserved in the chapterhouse at Westminster (now in the Records Office, London), and it has been printed by Ryder (*Foedera*, ii. 542). Another copy, preserved originally in the Tower of London, is now also in the Record Office *Encyclopedia Britannica* 14<sup>th</sup> edition c. 1929

## The History of the Clan Neish or MacNish of Perthshire and Galloway

### CHAPTER II.

CLAN NEISH OF UPPER STRATHEARN -THE FEUD WITH THE CLAN MACNAB -BATTLE OF GLEN BOULTACHAN -THE MASSACRE ON NEISH ISLAND-GLENTARKEN -NEISH ISLAND CRAIGNEICH -DUNDURN.

#### THE CLAN NEISH OF PERTHSHIRE.

THE Neishes of Perthshire possessed the upper parts of Strathearn and inhabited an island on Loch Earn, called after them Neish Island (6). Very little is known of the early history of the clan; they appear to have been almost exterminated or scattered early in the sixteenth century; various traditional accounts have been handed down in Strathearn concerning them, and the written records of the county contain only notices of individual members of the clan.

During the fifteenth century the Neishes of

25 Upper Strathearn commenced a struggle with the Clann an Aba<sup>33</sup>; many battles were fought with various success, and the culminated fight ended about 1522 in the defeat of the Clan Neish at the battle of Glen Boultachan.

#### THE BATTLE OF GLEN BOULTACHAN 1522.

The last battle was fought in the wild Glen of Boultachan, by the present farm of Littleport, in which the MacNabs were victorious, and the Neishes were defeated, with the loss of nearly all their fighting men.

Finlay MacNab of Bovain gathered all his fighting men for one decisive effort for

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<sup>33</sup>The Clann an Aba, or Macnab, is a rendering of the Gaelic Mac-an-Abba (or Abba), which in English means "the children of the Abbot. In those days there were lay Abbots as well as clerical Abbots and even the latter were allowed to marry. It was the Celtic custom for abbots to be chosen from among the kin of the founder and the old Gaelic manuscript genealogies trace the mediaeval Macnab chiefs through some twenty generations from Saint Fillan's brother Ferchar mac Feradach. Indeed the chief of the Clan MacNab is still recognized by Scotlands chief heraldic officer, The Lord Lyon King at Arms, as hereditary Abbot of Glendochart. *History of the Clan Macnab by James Charles Macnab of Macnab, Chief of the Clan Macnab.*

the supremacy of the northern Loch Earn district. The two clans met in battle in the glen between two high and solitary mountains, about two miles north of the lower end of Loch Earn. Each clan was led by its chief as they rushed down the green slope to mingle in close and mortal strife, with wild yells and bitter epithets, while the war cries rang and the pipers blew with

26 their might. Conspicuous among the struggling throng was the eldest son of the chief of Clan Aba.<sup>34</sup> He bent all his energies to capture the Neishes banner, which bore their crest viz., a cupid with his bow in the dexter<sup>35</sup>, and an arrow in the sinister hand, with the motto "Amicitiam trahit amor."

On the other side the aged MacNishe chief fought with great strength and activity and unparalleled bravery, but the MacNabs eventually bore all before them, and the aged chief, on beholding three of his sons perish by his side, placed his back to a large rude granite block, which still marks the scene of the conflict, and, poising overhead his mighty claymore, stood like a lion at bay. His vast stature, his known strength and bravery, as he towered above the fray, with his white hair streaming in the wind, the blood streaming from his forehead, which had been wounded by an arrow, and from his huge sword, which had a remarkable accessory in the shape of an iron ball that slid along the back of the blade to

27 give an additional weight to every cut. All this combined made the bravest of the MacNab pause for a moment ere they encountered him; but after a dreadful struggle, in which he slew many of his assailants, the brave old man sank at last under a score of wounds inflicted by swords and daggers; the MacNeishes were swept from the field,

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<sup>34</sup>Probably John 9<sup>th</sup> chief married Eleyne Stewart, died 1558

<sup>35</sup>Dexter = right hand, Sinister = left hand.

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and the majority of them were slain (27).

The red lichens, which spot the old grey granite in Glen Boultachan, are still believed by the natives to be the encrusted blood of the chief of the MacNeishes. According to tradition, MacCallum-glas, their bard, with about twenty of the tribe, escaped and took refuge on their isle on Loch Earn. Several accounts of the feud have been handed down, including the following in Annals of St Fillans, by A. Porteous, 1912 :

"Like all the rest of the Scottish clans, the Neishes had their own particular feud. This was with the Clan MacNab.

28 The feud was the outcome of a long-continued series of petty jealousies and imagined grievances on both sides. Frequently, isolated parties of the clan met, and a fight ensued.

At last both clans mustered their full force, and meeting in Glen Boultachan, a regular battle was fought.

The chief of the Neishes for long held his own, standing with his back to a large boulder, until at last he was overcome and fell covered with wounds. Tradition says that his blood still stains this boulder, and that the marks cannot be obliterated.

The rest of the Neishes fought equally stubbornly, but finally they were completely overcome, a remnant only making their escape. These settled down on the easter island of Loch Earn under the leadership of a relative of the chief, and became practically freebooters, lying in wait for defenseless travelers, whom they robbed and murdered. Many years elapsed since the battle of Glen Boultachan ere the

29 Neishes thought themselves once more formidable enough to try conclusions with their ancient enemies, the MacNabs.

The Neishes lay in ambush in Glen Lednoch," &c &c A short account of the Nish feud is also given in the Statistical Account of Scotland, published in 1838.

THE CLAN MACNAB ACCOUNT.<sup>36</sup>

In 1487 Finlay (IV.) became chief of the Clan MacNab. At this time the MacNab

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<sup>36</sup>Another, very colorful and fictionalized account may be found in "Macnab, The Last Laird by Roland Wild, The MacMillan Company, 1938. Long out of print but available in some libraries. I was lucky enough to find a it in my local library and have made a copy.

seem to have set about the recovery of those of their possessions, which had been lost in their struggle with the Bruce<sup>37</sup>. They became involved in a feud with the Dewars<sup>38</sup> concerning certain relics of St Fillan, and at the same time they commenced that struggle with the Neishes which culminated many years afterwards in the defeat of the Clan Neish at the battle of Glen Boultachan, about two miles north of the lower end of Loch Earn.

In 1487 the Dewars obtained a charter con-

firming them in their possessions, and from that date they had no further trouble with the MacNabs.

Finlay (IV) died (between the years 1502-11), and was succeeded by his son Finlay (V). It was in the time of this chief that the Neishes were at last defeated, and reduced to a small band of reckless outlaws.

This Finlay MacNab of Bowayne died at Illa Rayne,<sup>39</sup> and he was buried at Killin, 13th April 1525.

Finlay (VII), chief of the MacNabs, married Catherine Campbell, daughter of the Laird of Glenurchy<sup>40</sup>, and had a family of twelve stalwart sons, of whom the weakest is said to have been able to drive his dirk through a two-inch board.<sup>41</sup>

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<sup>37</sup>The MacNab's backed the Comyn in the struggle for the crown and when Bruce emerged victor their estates were taken away.

<sup>38</sup>The Dewars were a sept of the Clan Macnab, and the hereditary guardians of the relics of St. Fillan. I.e. his bell, arm bone, alter, staff and missal.

<sup>39</sup>According to the official Clan Macnab history Finlay of Bovain who died at Eilean Ran, 12 April 1525 was the 8<sup>th</sup> chief. He was buried at Killin. The Lord Lyon counts Gilbert of Bovain as the first chief of the Clan Macnab and issued a recognized list of chiefs.

<sup>40</sup>Modern Glenorchy

<sup>41</sup>In the official Clan Macnab history this Finlay is the 12<sup>th</sup> chief, and though he did marry Katherine a natural daughter of John Campbell of Glenorchy,

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At Christmas-tide, 1612, MacNab sent some of his clansmen to the neighboring town of Crieff to purchase the necessary stores for the approaching festivities. On their homeward way the MacNabs were ambushed by a party of the Neishes, who sallied from their island fortalice in Loch Earn and captured the supplies.

31 Dire was the wrath of chief and clansmen when the plundered messengers returned to Eilean Ran and reported their mishap. Enraged as the MacNabs were, they could think of no method by which they could punish the reivers. In the evening the twelve strong sons of MacNab were assembled in the hall of Eilean Ran, and busily engaged in planning some signal vengeance on their foes, when their father entered and said in Gaelic: "Si an nochd an oidhche nam biad na gillean na gillean" (This night is the night if the lads were the lads). In an instant the twelve lads were on their feet and arrayed in their war gear. Then hurrying down to the waterside they crossed the stream and took up the family barge, which they bore on their shoulders across the hills to Loch Earn, by way of Glentarken. Having reached the loch, they launched their boat and rowed to the island, where the robbers were holding their carousal with the stolen supplies. On their arrival at the island the grim avengers sunk all the boats in the little harbor, and then

32 proceeded to the habitation of the Neishes. In the keep was a scene of revelry and confusion, for, holding all the boats on the loch in their own keeping, the Neishes deemed their hold to be impregnable. Strange, therefore, must have been the thoughts which passed through their minds when, loud above the din of their noisy mirth, they heard a sharp and sudden knocking at the outer door. Immediately their noisy merriment ceased, all became silent, and then in a quavering voice the terrified Neish demanded the name and mission of the one who had thus disturbed their orgy.

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these were actually the children of his second wife who's name is not known.

Swiftly came the answer, "Whom would ye least desire?" The speaker was Iain Min, or "Smooth John," the heir of MacNab, and the strongest and fiercest man in all Braidalbin.<sup>42</sup>

With this stern voice sounding in his ears, and with a foreboding of his doom rising before him, the Neish replied, "Iain Min."

Sharp through the midnight air came again that grim voice, "Then I am he, but rough

33 enough I'll be this night." Trusting in the strength of the stout door, the robbers attempted to treat for terms. But spurning all thought of parleying, Iain Min, with one swift blow, sent the door reeling off its hinges, and next instant he and his brothers were dealing death to the hereditary foes of their House. The Neishes, surprised and demoralized by the rapidity and ferocity of their assailants, offered but little resistance. When the fighting, if such it can be called, was over, there remained of the Neishes but two survivors: one was a young lad who had succeeded in concealing himself in time to avoid the vengeance which overtook his family; the other was a female child who escaped the notice of the MacNabs by being under an overturned cradle. Their task having been accomplished, the young MacNabs secured the gory head of the Neish as a trophy of their victory. They then recovered their boat, and retraced their journey of the previous night.

Ere they left Glentarken they abandoned

34 their boat, as it retarded the news of their triumph. The boat was never removed from the place where it was left by the MacNab, and men born within the past century have talked with men who have viewed its well-bleached fragments.

Some time early in the past century a portion of the keel was dug out of the moss in which it was embedded. Part of it was given to Mrs. MacNaughton who lived near St Fillans, and she had it made into a walking stick. She was

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<sup>42</sup>Modern Breadalbane

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Margaret, daughter of James MacNab, Milmore, near Killin, and was known as "Margaret Innishewen." The bicker is still preserved by her descendants. In the morning the chief was delighted to find that the mission of vengeance had been successful: the proof was convincing when Iain Min cast Neish's head at his feet, and said in Gaelic, "Na biodh fiamh oirbh," or "dreadnought."<sup>43</sup> And MacNab acknowledged as he received the gruesome trophy that the night

35 had been the night, and the lads were the lads. From this deed are derived the modern arms of the MacNabs.<sup>44</sup> There is a local tradition to the effect that but three of the sons took part in the enterprise, and that the chief in giving the signal for the attack on the Neishes only acted at the instigation of his wife, who had some real or fancied cause of grievance against the three eldest sons. It is said that she hoped that they would be slain, so that her favorite son should be heir to the estates. And, according to the same tradition, the three were by an early marriage. History, however, makes no mention of a second wife (46).<sup>45</sup> The MacNab arms are: Sable, on a chevron argent three crescents vert, in base an open boat with oars argent, sailing in a sea proper. Crest The head of a savage affronte proper.<sup>46</sup> Supporters Two

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<sup>43</sup>In the official Clan Macnab history "Gun Egal" or "Dreadnought" was the watchword with which Smooth John answered the lookout. *David Rorer*

<sup>44</sup>See second paragraph below

<sup>45</sup>The official Macnab history also states that the three eldest sons were by a previous wife and speculates that the second wife hoped they might be slain so one of her sons would be heir. *David Rorer*

<sup>46</sup>Black (shield), on a silver chevron three green crescents, in base (of the shield) an open boat with silver oars sailing on a sea (rendered natural). The head of a savage facing front rendered natural. *David Rorer*

Highlanders with shouldered claymores.<sup>47</sup> Motto "Timor omnis abesto" ("Be all fear absent"<sup>48</sup>).

36 John MacNab of MacNab matriculated the modern arms in 1765, but they had been used before that time. The author of *The Clan MacNab*<sup>49</sup> informs me that his account of the Neishes was obtained from the following sources: (6), *Shearers Traditions of Strathearn, Scottish Wars*, also from some private histories of the Clan MacNab, and from old natives of Braidalban.

The Rev. Samuel Ferguson, minister of Fortingall, mentions the feud in his "Queens Visit."

Malcolm Ferguson also gives the story in his "Rambles in Breadalbane," published in 1891.

A short account of the Neishes is given in *The Beauties of Upper Strathearn*, 1870; also in the *Scottish Tourist*, 1825, P. 79.

The Neish tradition was utilized by James Grant in *Mary of Lorraine*, pp. 261-281. Grants account contains some facts and much fiction. He describes the country of the

37 MacNeishes as: Glentarkin, Dundurn, part of Glenartney, the Pass of Strathearn, and the Hill of St Fillan (Dunfillan Hill).

It is curious that Grant says that one of the Neish survivors in 1522 was Muriel, daughter of the chief, who eventually married the Laird of Torwood. The Lairds of Torwood were the Forrester family, the ancient hereditary foresters of Torwood Forest. Mariot Forester, spouse to James Campbell of Lawers,

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<sup>47</sup>The coat of arms as depicted, in *The Clans Septs and Regiments of the Scottish Highlands* is as described, however, instead of the highlanders as supporters, it has two black dragons, with claws and tongues of gold and erect wings of silver, on which are three green crescents each. *David Rorer*

<sup>48</sup>Or "Dreadnaught" as the official clan history would have it. *David Rorer*

<sup>49</sup>This would be the Jo. MacNab who wrote a clan history in 1907 *David Rorer*

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obtained a charter of the lands of Glentarkin in 1525 (17).

Campbell of Lawers was granted a charter of Glentarcane in 1540, and James VI gave a confirmation of the grant in 1616. (17).

Glentarkin was probably held by the Neishes originally by the sword; many of the Gaelic clans in earlier times neglected to obtain charters of their lands from the crown.

We find that the lands of Glentarcai, Morall, and the Fordees were set to John of Murray and his mother before the year 1492 (18).

38 The lands of Glentarkane were granted to the Drummonds by James IV. in 1511 (R.M.S.i. 3574)

Glentarken is a glen in Comrie parish, descending from an altitude of 1150 ft., 2 miles south by eastward to Loch Earn (306 ft.), at a point 1 ¼ miles west by north of St Fillans.

It contains a huge monolith, "The great stone of Glentarken." It is not a traveled stone, but a mass detached from the low cliff below, which has rolled but a short distance and is poised in the most singular way upon one of its edges. It measures 70 ft. in circumference at the base, 110 ft. in circumference 10 ft. above the ground, and its solid contents above ground exceed 25,000 cubic ft. The glen probably derives its name from "Tarachin," or "Talargan," an old Pictish personal name.

In the olden days what might be called a clachan existed on the hillside at the entrance to Glentarken, but life on that exposed site was latterly found inconvenient and uncomfortable; accordingly, the families were moved to

39 more suitable surroundings at the foot of the loch, and the cottages in the glen were allowed to fall into ruins. The remains of these may still be seen in heaps of stones here and there (19).

Loch Earn is one of the most picturesque of Scottish lakes, and next to Loch Ness, the deepest in Scotland, in one part being about 300 ft. deep. Limited as are the dimensions of Loch Earn, it is exceeded in beauty by few of our

lakes. Its style is that of a lake of far greater dimensions, the mountains which bound it being lofty, bold, and rugged. The mighty Ben Vorlich stands majestically above the loch, which is sometimes calm as a mirror, and other times dark and turbulent, its waves dashing wildly against the shores. At the east end of the loch is a beautiful small wooded island, known for many centuries by the name of Neish Island. It is an artificial isle, which appears to date back to the era of the lake-dwellers.<sup>50</sup>

40 In after ages, according to tradition, the island became a Royal fortalice of many of the kings or chiefs of Fortrenn.

The island was a residence of the Clan Neish at an early period, probably from circa 1250 to 1420; after that date it was probably only in occupation by the Neishes at periods until 1622, the date of the massacre.

In 1445 we find that Andrew Mercer had a fee of £10 for the custody of the manor of Loch Earn (Louchearn), and in the following year he received 53s and 4d for the custody of the island in Loch Earn (pro custodie insule lacus de Eme). On the 9 January 1490, in the presence of King James IV and his Council at Linlithgow, John, Lord Drummond, engaged to "within 15 dais fra this day furth to ger cast doon ye house of ye Ester lie of Loch Ern, and distroy all ye strenthis of ye samyn, and tak away ye bate, and put her to ye Wester Ile." The keep was a stone building, divided into different chambers, which now lies in ruins;

41 the great thickness of the walls testifies to the care, foresight, and energy, which was expended in the erection thereof.

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<sup>50</sup>The prehistoric peoples, known as lake dwellers, built their villages on artificial islands, called "Cranogs" in shallow waters, just offshore in Scottish lakes. These islets can be found in lakes all over Scotland. There is a restored Crannog in Lock Tay near Killen. David Rorer

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A small harbor and landing-place for boats still exists on the east side, and at one time the island was connected with the mainland by a kind of causeway formed of large boulders, the remains of which may still be seen in a line between the isle and the villa called Portmore.

The island was once the rendezvous of a desperate banditti of the name of Neish, whose history is as brief as it is tragical (47).

Neish Island was latterly occupied by the family of Ardvorlich, who had an occasional residence and a granary there (48).

The following is an extract from the Stewart of Ardvorlich traditions, in The Red Book of Menteith, vol. i. p. 403: "I have heard tell that the Ardvorlichs had once to live for safety on the Neishs Island at St Fillans; once Ardvorlich was in hiding in a cave in Glentiarken, for the Graems were after him," circa 1644.

42 Craigneich i.e., the craig or rock of Neigh, is a place-name in the old Neish district in Strathearn where there is a standing stone of rounded whinstone, 6 ft. 4 in. in height; it is described in Proc. of Sec. Ant. Scot., xlv. pp. 62-63.

Dun-d-Earn is romantically situated among thick trees at the base of stupendous mountains, and at the junction of a mountain torrent with the Earn.

St Fillan died at Dundurn in the year 649. The original chapel of St Fillan was replaced some centuries ago by the old church of Dundurn, situated a short distance from the farmhouse of Easter Dundurn.

### CHAPTER III.

THE MACILDUYS THE MACSEISHES OF ATHOL THE MACNEISES OR MACILDUTS OF RANNOCH DONALD NEISSON OF DRUNGIE THE NEISHES OF LOWER STRATHEARN WALTER NEISH OF WESTER DUBHILL DONALD SEISH OF PERTH DUNCAN NEISH OF EDINBURGH.

The various accounts of the Loch Earn Neishes inform us that the only male survivor of the Clan Neish was a boy who eventually settled in Strathailan, and his descendants became known as MacIlduys. So probably the small group of MacIldowie families living at the

present time in the south of Perthshire are descendants of the lad. Therefore, the Neishes of the present day would obviously be sprung from the various Neissons and Neishes who were settled in Menteith, Angus, and Lower Strathearn, at least from the

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44 year 1467, apparently unconnected at the period with the Clan Neish of Upper Strathearn.

In the article on the MacNabs in Andersons Scottish Nation, the Neishes or MacIlduys are described as a tribe, which possessed the upper parts of Strathearn. It appears, then, that the Clan Neish were also known as MacIlduys at an early period. MacIlduy or Macgille-duibh was probably the cognomen of one of the early chiefs of the Neish clan.

The Neishes were said to have been connected with the MacGregors, and some later writers have placed them as a sept of Clan Gregor. It appears, however, that some of the Clan Neish were settled in Athol before the year 1494. John Dow MacNeische was a witness to a Grantully sasine in that year.

From 1552 to 1618 there are many records of a MacNeis-MacIlduy clan or sept of Rannoch, who appear as allies and followers of the Clan Gregor.

It is suggestive that the MacNeis or MacIlduy sept of Rannoch was an early offshoot of

45 the Neishes of Atholl and Loch Earn, and that they were not connected by blood with the Clan Gregor.

The surname MacNeish appears to have been often erroneously anglicized as MacInnes, as some of the following records of the Athol and Rannoch branches indicate:

1494. Johanne Dow M'Neische was a witness to a sasine<sup>51</sup> (No. 28), in favor of Elizabeth Stewart, of the lands of Garnetully (Grandtullie), dated 12th January 1494 (9).

1521. Death of Donald McNacht, Vicar of Fortingall, 9 June 1521 (49). The vicar was no doubt one of the MacNeishes of Atholl, possibly a son of John Dow

MacNeish who appears on record in 1494 (9).

1525. "Death of John More M'ane Vicar Condoquhy, alias Maaknecht, at Ewchirvlairis on the 17 day of month of August 1525; and he was buried at Inchaden before the

46 step of the choir, on the south side of the church, on the 18 day" (49). No doubt this John Mor MacIan MacDuncan MacNecht, who died at Uachdar Bhclairis (now Upper Blairish, near Dull), was the son of John Dow MacNeish who was a witness to the Grantully sasine in 1494. John Mor (Big John) MacNecht or MacNeish, who was probably the chief of the northern sept of the Neishes, lived circa 1470-1530. John Dow MacNeish, the father of John Mor, lived circa 1440-1500.

Condoquhy (Gaelic Donnchadh) or Duncan MacNecht, the grandfather of John Mor, lived circa 1400-1470.

Inchaden is an old ecclesiastical site on the north side of Loch Tay, where many local magnates, including the MacGregor Lairds of Balloch, the Robertsons, Barons of Carwhin, were interred within the walls of the church. Inchadney church and graveyard was obtained by the Earl of Breadalbane in 1762, and the ancient church was eventually destroyed (20).

47 1533. Duncan Maknothac was a witness to a Stewart of Grandtully sasine (No. 42), dated 9 May 1533 (9). Duncan was possibly a son of John Mor (son of John, son of Duncan), who died in 1525.

1552. The following Bond of Manrent appears in the Black Book of Taymouth: Duncan M'Aindew in (Rannoch), Duncane and Malcum, his sons, renounce the laird M'gregour and his heirs their chief and chose Colyne Campbell of Glenurquhay and his heirs to be their perpetual chiefs. Dated before witnesses Alexander Menzeis of Rannocho, John Leyche, William M'Olcallum M'Gregour, John M'Yndoir, Malcolm M'Nachtane, Thos. Orknay, and Patrick M'Carbre, 21 December 1552. This sept appears to be the MacInduy-MacNeis family of Rannoch. 1589. Allaster MacNeis, in Rannoch, appears on a list of MacGregor followers.

48 1590. Extract from the "Lardner expenses, household books," in the Black

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<sup>51</sup>Register of sasines: The General Register of Sasines is used to record the transfer of ownership of land. Only when a purchaser of land has the deed relating to the transfer of land recorded in the Register of Sasines can he be regarded as having full ownership over the property. See also 'Land Register'. *Scottish land law terms*.



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Book of Taymouth: "off woddiris fra Makniche in Calleloquhane, the said yeir in Ballach."

Callelochane, or Killalochane (1480), was a part of the lands of Eddergoll, at the east end of Loch Tay, near Inchaden Church. MacNiche or MacNecht was apparently one of the MacNeishes of Atholl.

1599. James and Finlay McEan Vic Innes, the Laird of Garntullys men (21). They were probably descents of the MacNeish who was a witness to the Garntully sasine in 1494.

1600. John MacEanduy, in Rannoch. Pledges were entered by Murray of Tullibardine for a number of MacGregor followers, including the said John.

1602. Patrick MacIndowy, in Rannoch, appears on a list of MacGregor retainers.

1610. Duncan McEan Vic Eanduy, in

49 Rannoch, a captive MacGregor. Many of the followers of the Clan Gregor were not of the MacGregor race. The Fletchers or Macanleisters, and others, were often included on the lists of outlaw MacGregors.

1613. John MacInnes Vic Eanduy, in Lessintullie (Lassintullie, near Kinloch-Rannoch), was fined for resetting (replenishing and assisting) some MacGregors (21).<sup>52</sup>

1618. Gibbon McAllester Vic Innes, in Aulich (Loch Rannoch), was prosecuted by the Privy Council for carrying arms (21).

Gibbon was probably the son of Allaster MacNeis, in Rannoch, 1589.

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<sup>52</sup>The Clan Gregor was driven into conflicts with the authority of the Crown which culminated in their victory in 1603 at Glen Fruin over the Colquhouns, who held the King's commission. This was the fatal event which decided the Government to exterminate the Clan. Those who had fought at Glen Fruin became outlaws, any of whom being captured were tried and executed. Innocent MacGregors had to change their name, under pain of death. They were prohibited from carrying arms, except a pointless knife for use at their meals and no more than four of the clan were permitted to meet together at one time.

1618. Donald MacIndoue, in Camferich, and John Oig MacFrankeine (MacRankin), servitor to the Clandaindouey (Clann an duibh, or MacIllduys), in Downane, were prosecuted for carrying arms (21), 1664. John M'Caniss, in Ballechrangan, assign to John Campbell of Glenurchay, younger, five head of kye<sup>53</sup> (Black Book of Taymouth).

50 It is very probable that the present-day MacAnish, MacAinish, and MacAinsh families of Perthshire are descended from the old MacCanish sept of Athol, and also that they were not of MacInnes or MacAngus origin, but really a branch of the MacNish stock in Athol. 1681. John Roy McNish, saw-Master, was charged with riot and malicious damage on the sawmills and salmon fishing on the water of the Lyon and the lands of Dalreach, which belonged to Robert Campbell of Glenlyon. Dated 3rd March 1681 (21).

Complaint by Campbell of Glenlyon against John Roy McNish and others for wrongously cutting down fir trees in the woods of Glenlyon. Dated 3rd March 1681 (21).

John Roy was probably a descendant of Makniche, in Calleloquhane, who supplied wood to the Campbells of Breadalbane at Taymouth Castle in 1590.

1688. The testament of Christane Mansh, in Logierait, was dated 1688.

51 1689. The testament of Christian M'Canish (probably sister of the above), spouse to Donald Reid, in Dunfallandie, Athol, was dated 28 February 1689 (22). From the year 1467 Many notices of the Neishes of Menteith and Lower Strathearn occur in the written records of the country.

1467. Donald Neissoune, keeper of the Royal Forest of Menteith, was granted sasine of half of the lands of Drungie, and the office of forester of Menteith by King James III. (23, vol. 7).

"Et de Is de relevio dimedietatis terrarum de Drungilany et officii forestarie silve comitis de Menteth, regi debito per saisinam datum Donaldo Neyssoune de eodem anno regni regis none. SumMa hujus oneris, £19, 16s. 10d." (23). Neisson is just an anglicized form of MacNeish.

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<sup>53</sup>Cattle

## The History of the Clan Neish or MacNish of Perthshire and Galloway

Donald left his portion of the lands of Drumgy to his daughters, Jonet MacNes and Mariot MacNeis.

52 1495. Jonet MacNeish, or Neisson, received sasine of the lands of Drumgy. "Sa. Jonete Maknes t. (tenant), Drumgy, Menteith" (23).

1496. Mariote Macneis, tenant, received a sasine of Drumgy, Menteith (23).

1500. Jonet MacNeish sells her portion of the lands of Drumgy.

"A Precept of confirmation to Johne Dormondson of Blarequoich be Jonet Neis, of xxv<sup>54</sup> s worth of land of aid extent of the landis of Drimgalany, with the pertinentis, liand in the stewartry of Menteth: Salfond to the Kings henes richtis and service aucht and wont before the confirmation, &c, Per Signetum." Dated 29 January 1500 (17).

The King confirmed the charter of Jonete Nete of Drungie to John Dormond of Grungy at Stirling Castle, 20 June 1500 (17).

This is the last we hear of the Neissons or Neishes in Menteith.

53 The lands of Drumgy are first mentioned in 1426, when John de Spensa, burgess<sup>55</sup> of Perth, was granted a charter of the lands of Drumgy and Torrie, in Menteith, by James I (17). In 1456 Henry Pitcarne received sasine of half of the barony<sup>56</sup> of Drongie (23). In 1467 Dormond Johnstone received sasine of half of Drungilany. In 1480 Dormund (Diarmid) Dormonstoun received sasine of

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<sup>54</sup>"xxv s" = twenty-five shillings

<sup>55</sup>Burgess, a term in its earliest sense, meaning an inhabitant of a borough, one who occupied a tenement therein, such tenement, unlike the county freeholds, being devisable by will and constituting "brugge-tenure," but now applied solely to a registered parliamentary or more strictly municipal voter. The *Burgess-roll* is the register or official list of burgesses in a borough. In English local government law, all the burgesses and not merely the mayor and town council are members of the municipal corporation.

*Encyclopedia Britannica, 14th edition, 1929.*

<sup>56</sup>In Scotland a 'barony' is any large estate wether owned by a noble or commoner

Drongylany. In 1481 Henry Pitcarne obtained sasine of half of the barony of Drongy.

The son of John Dormondson of Blarequoich and Drungalany was described as Dortmund M'Fersane, alias Johnstoun, in 1509, when he received a charter of the lands of Duchra-Ester<sup>57</sup>, alias Blairbaith, Strauthneawane, Gertnamuck, Drumtone, and Straanduchra, in Menteith (17). John Dormondy was described as of Drungie, in 1552 (25).

In 1557 James Stirling received confirmation of a charter of the lands of Prongy-Neische (17). John Dormond received a charter of Dronze in 1559, and again in 1583 (17).

The lands of Drongy-Nes and Drongy

54 Dormunt, in Menteith, belonged to the Grahams of Craigochtie in 1596 (17). The place-name Drungie has disappeared from the Maps; the lands were in the neighborhood of Loch Drunkie, which lies 2 miles north of Aberfoyle.

1480. Brice Neish was a tenant of the King in the lands of Easter and Wester Dalgarus (now Dalginross, near Comrie) in 1480.

In the same year we find Mariot Neisch or Neissoun, widow of Brice, entered as tenant of the lands of Easter Dalgarus and Drummenerenoch (23).

In the Rental of the Lordship of Strathearn, set at Perth on the 24 February 1480 (23), we find that Drummenerenoch was set to Master Alexander Ingles, dean of Dunkeld; he was bound not to move the tenants, among whom was Mariota, relict<sup>58</sup> of Neisch. At the same time Easter Dalgarus was set to Brice Neisch for the terms prescribed, the sum of 40s. as grassum,<sup>59</sup> &c

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<sup>57</sup>In Scots English the terms Easter or Wester are used instead of the prefixes East or West

<sup>58</sup>Relict = surviving spouse *Terminology of Scots Law*

<sup>59</sup>Grassum: A single payment made in addition to a periodic payment such as rent or feuduty. A Grassum can also mean any payment made to a landlord by a person wanting to obtain the tenancy of

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55 Donald, son of Brice Neissoun, obtained his mothers part of Easter Dalgarus about 1482 (23). In 1486 Estir Dalgarus was again set to Brice Neisch, for the terms "ut supra," for 40s. money as grassum, with carriages and services usual (23). Apparently this Brice was a son of Brice and Mariot.

The following is an extract from the "Notarial Instrument or Bond by Lord Drummond and Sir William Murray of Tullibardine," submission anent feud between Murrays and Drummonds (18):- "And if the wife and bairns of umquhile<sup>60</sup> Brise Neson will come and remain at the Tack of the Ester Dalgarus that it be restored to them, they paying the gersum (grassum) of the terms to run, as is above written; and as for the rest that they remain still with their tacks that they are now in. Dated 16 May 1492. The Neishs were apparently involved in the

56 feuds of the Murrays and Drummonds at this period. In 1501 Donalds part of Easter Dalgarus was let to John Murray of Strowan (23).

The Murrays were not slow in obtaining crown charters of the lands they procured. In 1510 John Murray of Strowan received a charter of the lands of Strowan (16 mercatas), Wester Dalgarrous (8 libras), Ester Dalgarrous (4 libras), and Ester Glentraf (Glentarf), in dominio de Stratherne (17).

Drummenerenoch, or Drummondernoch, near Comrie, was afterwards granted to one of the Drummond family.

The present farmhouse of Drummond Enoch was built in 1702. The old house of this name was the residence of John Drummond, who was slain in the deer forest of Glenartney in 1589 by a band of MacGregors. According to the usual accounts, John Drummond, who had fled to Ireland in 1511, through the benevolence of a Murray was enabled to return from his exile. On account of this

57 Drummond having been in Ireland, the property obtained the name of Drummondernoch, or the Drummond of Ireland. The lands, however, bore the name of Drummenerenoch in 1480, when the Neish family held the lands.

Drummondernoch is in Gaelic "Druiminn Eireannach, and no doubt means "Drummond of Strathearn," to distinguish it from other places called Drummond. Strathearn is in Gaelic "Srath Eireann," "Ireland's Srath" (1).

In 1491 an action was brought by John, Lord Drummond, against John of Murray, son to umquhile David Murray of Tullibardine, for spoliation of lands, including those of MacNeth (MacNeish), a tenant of Lord Drummond, dated 24 February (26). "Invading and distrubling of his fuads and taki fra Maknethis wiff his subtenant a mer poe fiftjs." (and taking from MacNeths wife, his subtenant, a Mare, price 50s).

Apparently the above tenant was Mariot, the widow of Brice Neish. Neish and Neis

58 son was the Lowland or anglicized form of the name, and no doubt the family were known as MacNeishes or MacNeths by the inhabitants of Strathearn, who at that time spoke Gaelic.

In 1489 Mariot Neissoun received a confirmation of a charter of the lands of Drumchork, near Comrie, from King James IV. (17):-

"Rex confirmavit cartam Mariote Neis soun de Drumcork, (qua, cum consensu sponsi sui Joh. Do~soun, pro certa summa pecunie persoluta, vendidit et alienavit Malcom Drummond, filio et heridi quon dam Jac. Drummond, civis Dunblanensis, heridibus ejus et assignatis, -terras de Drumcork, in dominio de Strathearn, vie. Perth: Reddend. annuatim rigi unum de narium argenti nominie albe firme: Test. Ewundo Chesholm burgensi de Edinburgh, D. Jac. Belches subdecano Dun blanensi, Joh. Kilgour, Joh. Smert notario publico, The. Row, The, CuM'Nok capela

59 nis, Joh. Lauder, et Pat. Dowsoun: Apud civitatem Dunblanensum, 20 Jan. 1498)." Carta No. 2474. Apud Striveling, 20 Jan.

1505. In 1505 a family of Neishes were in possession of the lands of Wester Glentarf, Duntarf, Glassory (now Glascorry), and Leonach (now Lennoch), all about 2 miles S.E. of Comrie, 1 ½ miles north of Craigneich, and only 7 miles S.E. of Neish Island.

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it. Comparable to a premium in England. *Scottish land law terms.*

<sup>60</sup>umquhile: former, late, formerly (deceased). *Terminology of Scots Law.*

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In 1495 grassum was allowed to William Neyssone, Strathearn" (23). In 1505 he is mentioned as the late William Neleson (Neisson), and Murrok his spouse, and Donald Neleson his son, in connection with the lands of Westirglentarf, Duntarf, Glassory, and Leonach ("Ren. Dom. Regis," Strathearne, Exchequer Rolls, vol. 12).

Apparently William Neisson had two sons, Donald and Morice.

1509. The lands of Wester Glentarf were held of the Crown by a family of Neishes during the first half of the sixteenth century.

60 The following is an extract from the "Rent alia Domina Regis," in the Exchequer Rolls, vol. 13: "Westir Glentarf feued to Morice Nesoun, and Murrok his mother."

"Westir Glentarf, v £, vi s, viii d<sup>61</sup>: nunc de consensu Willelmi Maxtoun qui habuit eandem assedatur in feodifirMa in feodo Moricio Nesoun et Murrok sue Matri in vitali redditu, inde solvendo annuatim cum parte Martarum, et pro in troitu nove infeodationis viii £." Dated 4 Feb. 1509.

Again, in 1522, Maurice Nesone and Murrow, his mother, appear as tenants of VVester Glentarf, in Strathearn (23, vol. 15): "In scaccario anno etc xxii, v Aprilis. Wester Glentarf, v £ vi s viii d. Quas prius habuit in assedatione Mauritius Nesone in feodo et Murrok ejus Mater in vitali redditu nunc de consensu dicti Mauricii assedatur in feodifira David

61 Murray filio Johannis Murray de Strowane. solvendo inde annuatim, viii £, cum parte Martarum et pro introitu dicte David, iv £, solutas rotulatori. "

1529. "Item to David Naiche for his fe, that past with the cannone to the Ilis"<sup>62</sup> (45).

This David Neiche probably belonged to the Angus or Perthshire branches.

WALTER NEISH OF WESTER DUBHILL.

Walter Neish of Wester Dubhill, in the barony of Cairdney, in Strathearn, was born about the year 1538, and he died

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<sup>61</sup>Five Pounds, six shillings and eight pence

<sup>62</sup>Payment to David Niche for taking his cannon to the Isles. (The Isles are usually thought of as the Hebrides domain of the MacDonald of the Isles but there is no clue as to what these particular "Isles" are. David Rorer

about 1608. He was Chamberlain of Strathearn from 1577 to 1588; Master of the Royal Larder, 1579 to 1588; Chamberlain of the Comptroller of the Mails in 1588; he was also a witness to many charters from 1579 to 1588; and from 1593 to 1602 he appears as a bailie<sup>63</sup> and landowner in Stirling. 1572. The account of William Norwel, customer (customs officer), of Striveling, was ren-

62 dered by Walter Neische in name of the same; dated at Leith, 8 July 1572, from 14 October 1570 (23).

1572. Walter Neiche was a witness to a charter in favor of Mungo Murray, son of William Murray of Tullibardin, of the lands of Kildeys in the Earldom of Stratherne; dated at Tuilibardin, 23rd May 1572 (17).

1573. The account of Andrew Murray of Dowall, chamberlain (of Strathearn), was rendered by Walter Neische in name of the same, from the 14 October 1571; dated at Edinburgh, 9 October 1573 (23).

1574. Walter Neische was a witness to a charter by William Murray of Tullibardin, Knight, to Alexander Murray, his third son, of the lands of Drumdewan, &c, in the parish of Methven, Perthshire; dated at Tulli bardin, 25 October 1574 (17).

1575. The account of David Murray of Kers, chamberlain, was rendered by Walter

63 Neische, from 5 November 1574 of Strathearn; dated at Edinburgh, 15 October 1575 (23).

1577. Walter Neis was a witness to the confirmation of a charter by Alexander Toscheoch of Monyvaird to William Murray of Tullibardin, Knight, and Alexander Murray, his third son, of the lands of Monyvaird, &c; dated at Tullibardin, 26 August, confirmed 5 December 1577 (17). 1578. The account of Walter Neische, chamberlain of Strathearn, was rendered by him at Edinburgh on the 20th January 1578, for the period 1 November 1577 to 1 November 1578 (23).

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<sup>63</sup>Ballie, the representative of the estate owner on the estate. *Scottish land law terms.*

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1579. The account of Walter Neische, chamberlain of Strathearn, was rendered by himself at Edinburgh on the 8 January 1579, for the period 1 November 1578 to 1 November 1579 (23).

In the account of Sir William Murray of

64 Tullibardin, rendered at Edinburgh on the 14 March 1579, there is a payment of £15 to Walter Neische, Master of the Royal Larder, for his fee at the term of Pentecost (23).

In the same account reference is made to 390 pairs of rabbits delivered to the late George Danskin and Walter Nische, Masters of the Royal Larder, for the provision of the Kings House and family (23) in the reign of King James VI.

1580. In the account of William Murray of Tullibardin, rendered at Edinburgh on 7 January 1580, there is a payment of £30 to Walter Neis, Master of the Kings Larder, for his terms fee.

In the same account, reference is made to 326 Capones of the Lordship of Strivelingshire delivered to Thomas Vandygatis (Windy gates) and Valters Nische, pultriemen and lardiner to the provision of the Royal Household (23).<sup>64</sup>

1582. The account of Walter Niche, chamberlain of Strathern, was rendered at

65 Edinburgh on the 13 August 1582; also on the 17 July 1583 (23).

1584. Account of the bailies of the Burgh of Striveling rendered by Walter Nesche, 6 August 1574, at Edinburgh (E. R. xxi. 239).

Account of Walter Nische, chamberlain of Stratherne, rendered at Edinburgh, 6th August 1584 (E. R. xxi. 244), and at Stirling, 17 August 1585 (xxi, 263). January 8. Caution by Mungo Russell, burgess of Edinburgh, for Robert Sinclair in Auchnahoppill, alias Peill, for payment to David, Earl Craufurd, Robert Graham of Thornik, factor for John, Earl of Montrose, treasurer, or to Walter Neische, chamberlain of the Maills, &c, of the said lands for the term of Whitsunday last, in terms of the finding of the Lords Auditors; horning

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<sup>64</sup>Capons delivered to the poultrymen and larderers of the royal household. *David Rorer*

upon six days charge obligation of relief by Robert Sinclair and John Wylie, writers (E. R. xxi. 607). June 26. In Royal Letters of Remission granted to the bailies, councillors, community,

66 and all inhabitants, as well burgesses as others, of the burgh of Stirling, for art and part in the taking and withholding of the Castle and Burgh of Stirling in the month of April 1584, Walter Neische among others is excepted (17).

July 1st. Walter Neische is witness to charter in favor of John Duncanson, minister of the Word of God, and Janet Watson, his wife, of the lands and town of Coull, Fifeshire. At Falkland, 8 November 1583 (17).

1586. The account of the bailies of Striveling was rendered by Walter Neische at Edinburgh, 14 July 1586; and 20th July 1587; and 9 July 1588 (23).

1586. The account of Walter Neische, chamberlain of Stratherne, was rendered at Edinburgh, 15 July 1586; and on the 9 July 1588 (23).

1588. Household servants feis. To Walter Neische, Master of the Lardiner,<sup>65</sup> in the year 100 merks. 1588.

67 Exoneration of Caponis. To Walter Neische, Master in the Kings grace lardiner, to the furnishing and sustentation of the Kings Grace hous within the tym of this compt as his acquittans baris 400 caponis of Fyiff.

To Walter Neische, chamberlain of Stratherne, for his ordiner fie of the said terms. £ 20.

To Walter Neische, Maister of his Majesties lardines, for his pensiou grantit to him of the term of Witsunday within the tyme of this compt. Extending yeirlie to £50. Summa- £ 25 (23).

1593. Walter Neische of Wester Dubhill, burgess of Stirling, was a witness to a Bond of Caution<sup>66</sup> by Robert Forrester of Bowquhone for James Gib of Carriber, not to harm Henry Levingstoun of Grenepairdis. At Stirling, 16 March 1593-94 (21).

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<sup>65</sup>Master of the Larder i.e. in charge of foodstuffs for the king's household. *David Rorer*

<sup>66</sup>Caution: security in civil matters *Terminology of Scots Law.*

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1602. Walter Neische of Wester Dubheidis was a witness to a Bond of Caution by Hary

68 Murray of the Corshill of Cambusbarron for John Murray of Calsayend, not to harm William Bruce of the Myletoun of Gorthie, or Patrik Bruce his son. At Stirling, 14 September 1602 (21)

1608. The testament of Walter Neische of Wester Dubheidis, burgess of Stirling, was registered on the 15 March 1608 (Comm. R. of Stirling).

Extract from the records of Burgh of Stirling:

"The aires of Walter Neische for two aikeris of land<sup>67</sup> .. £ 1 .. in Auld Mure. Do.. do.. three acres of land in New Mure. £1, 1s. 0d.

1626. Commission for apprehension and trial of George and Donald Stewart in Ballachastell, for stealing six cows with calves from the lands of Waster Dubbett pertaining to Elizabeth Alexander, relict of Walter Neishe our Maister Laidner (21).

1628. "The lands of the late Walter Neische,

69 bounded by the lands of Souttertoun, in the barony of Cairny, Perthshire" (17).

1645. Agnes Neish, spouse to Mr. Johns Lothiane, sometime minister at Dundonald, in Ireland, after at Munkland, in Scotland, and now (1656) in Ireland, wt in the parochine of Munkland the time of her deceis, deceissit June 1645. In the inventory of her effects it is stated: "Item, the defunct and her husband had the time foirsaid, adebted to pm be Mr Walter Neish, son lawful to umquhile Walter Neish of Dubheads, her brother, the soume of Illc xxxiii Ii," &c (42).

1623. James Neische was served heir to his sister Jean Neische in the lands of Threttie Aikeris; dated 30 July (50).

These lands were probably the "three acres of land in New Mure" belonging to the heirs of Walter Neische in 1608.

1637. On the 13th December Magister Walterus Neische, scriba signeti regii, heir of Walter Neische of Waster Dubheads, was

70 served heir to his father in the lands of Wester Dubheads in the barony of Cairdneye. E. 40s. No. 473 (50).

1591. Christian Sibbald, spouse to Walter Neische of Wester Dubheids, died on the 10 May 1591. Her testament and inventory mention debts due by John, Earl of Montrose, and Andro Wod of Large. Her goods and gear were left to her daughters, Margaret and Agnes Neische (41).

1598. Agnes Neische, daughter of Walter Neish, and sometime spouse to James Schort, merchant burgess of Stirling, died on the 28 March 1598.

1638. William Blair of Williamstoun obtained a charter of the lands of Wester Dubheid in the barony of Cairdne, which were sometime held of the Monastery of Inschefray, and resigned by Mr Walter Neisch of Subheads, Writer to the Signet<sup>68</sup> (17).

71 1559. John Neish was a witness to a Memorandum, dated at Edinburgh, 6th June 1559 (Gilbert Grotes Protocol).

1595. A payment of a fee of £10 (per annum) was Made to Duncan Neish in the Kings larder (23).

1599. Janet Neish, spouse to Duncan Makinvallich, alias M'Gregor, of the parish of Comrie; her testament is dated 12 June 1599 (51).

The MacInvallichs, a MacGregor sept, have anglicized their name Malloch. The above Duncan was probably the Duncan Maceanvallich in Comrie, who, with Donald, his brother in Comrie, the MacInvallichs of Ardewnaig, appears on the list of MacGregors proscribed after the death of Drummondernoch, dated 4 February 1590.

Donald Neish, a public notary or writer in Perth, who was born circa 1570, was a

<sup>67</sup>The heirs of Walter Neische for two acres of land...

<sup>68</sup>c. Sc. Writer to the Signet (abbrev. W.S.), originally, a clerk in the Secretary of State's office, who prepared writs to pass the royal signet; in later use, one of an ancient society of law-agents who conduct cases before the Court of Session, and have the exclusive privilege of preparing crown writs, charters, precepts, etc. *Oxford English Dictionary, second edition 1989*

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witness to charters, &c, 1602-1615, and an official of William Murray, Earl of Tullibardine.

72 1602. Charter by Sir John Murray of Tullibardine to Thomas Dundie, burgess of Perth, of the 8th part of the lands of Fermtoun of Cask, Perthshire. At Perth, 4 December 1602, the precept is directed to Donald Neish, writer in Perth (17).

1606. June 25 Donald Neische, notary in Perth, is writer of a Bond of Caution by William Spalding at the Mill of Kethik for Alexander Spalding of Bletoun, &c, not to harm Thomas McEwne, alias McIntosche.

July 18. Donald Neische was a witness to a similar Bond by Sir David Herring of Glasclune and Sir Robert Crychtoun of Clunie; dated at Perth 12th July (21). Donald Neische, servitor to William Robert son, notary public burgess of Perth, is witness to a charter by Sir John Crichtoun of Innernytie, in favor of Sir Robert Crichtoun of Clunie, of the lands of Innernytie, Perthshire. At Perth and Kynclevin, 29 and 31st August 1606.

73 Donald was also a witness to charter by Sir Robert Crichtoun of Innernytie of the lands of Airliewicht, &c, Perthshire. At Perth, 29 August 1606.

1612. May 21. Complaint by John, Earl of Tullibardine, and William, Master of Tullibardine, that Sir Robert Creichtoun of Cluny remains unrelaxed from the horn, for not relieving them at the hands of James Dalzell, merchant in Edinburgh, of payment of 2000 merks. Pursuers appear by Donald Neische; defender not compearing is to be apprehended (21).<sup>69</sup>

### DONALD NEISH

1612. Donald Neish, servitor<sup>70</sup> to John, Earl of Tullibardine, was a witness to

<sup>69</sup>The merchant James Dalzell is represented by Donald Neische (solicitor, advocate or some other lawyer) and if Sir Robert doesn't trap (attends court to give evidence) he'll get huckled (arrested). *David Rorer*

<sup>70</sup>Servitor from Latin *servio*, to Serve, male servant; an attendant; a retainer. *The New Webster Encyclopedic Dictionary of the English Language, 1980 edition*

charter by said Earl to William Mar, servitor to the King, of lands of Blairingone, alias Pitvar, &c, Perthshire. At Edinburgh and Gask, 13th and 14th June 1612 (17)

1613. Donald was a witness to a charter by

74 John, Earl of Tullibardine, to Patrick, Earl of Kinghorne, of the South and West Mains of Tullibardin, &c, at Canongate and Edinburgh 23rd June 1613. Donald was also a witness to the charter by William, Earl of Tullibardine, to Andrew Fute in Glenscherope, of lands of Glenquhoy, Perthshire. At Tullibardin, 5 July 1613.

1615. August 23rd. Complaint by Donald Neische, servitor to William, Earl of Tullibardin, that Thomas Ferguson of Ballizocan, as principal, Alexander Robertson of Inchinagranoch and others, cautioners, remain unrelaxed from the horning, for not paying to the pursuer 500 merks, &c Pursuer compearing and defenders not compearing, they are to be apprehended by the Captain of the Guard (21).

### DUNCAN NEISH

Duncan Neish, a Bailie and Councillor of Edinburgh, and one of the Strathearn family, was born circa 1550, and died in Edinburgh in 1620.

75 1606. The Minute-Book of Processes gives the following "Rebellion: Duncan Neigh against Douglas of Reidhous (Haddingtonshire)."

1607. 12th August. Patrik Hairt and Duncan Nesche, burgesses of the Connogait, having on instant pursued one another with weapons there during the sitting of Parliament and "Maid a verie grite commotioun," there is Commissioun to Robert, Lord of Roxburgh, who has the charge of, Belline of Brochtoun, Lord of the Regality of Brochtoun now in his minority to try the Matter, and to punish the offenders by wairding or fining (21).

1609. 26 October. Duncan Neische, bailie of the Cannogait, receives charge to answer in a complaint by John Sutherland and a Fleming against the bailies of the Cannongait for molesting pursuers in the exercise of their craft.

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1611. 1st May. John Drummond in Kirktown of Auchterardour as principal, and Duncan Neische, burgess of the Cannogait as cautioners for him, £500 not to harm David and Robert

76 Grahams, sons of the late John Graham of Callender.

1612. 4 June. Complaint by Bellenden of Bruchtoun, &c, against the Bailie and Councillors of the Canongate (among whom is Duncan Neische), for refusing to recognize a duly appointed Constable for the burgh (21).

Instruments of Sasines by Hendry Wardlaw of Balmule, &c, to John Moresoun, junior; given by Duncan Neische, burgess of the Canongate, as bailie; dated 6th August 1612 (30).

1612. 24 November. Complaint by certain Traders in the burgh of Canongate against the election of Magistrates and councilthereof, in which Duncan Neische is continued on the Council (21).

8 August. The King grants to James Cunynghame, son of James, Earl of Glencairn, of the lands and barony of Stevinstoun and Kerilaw in the bailliary of Cuningham, which were appraised on 11th February 1612, Duncan

77 Neische in Canongate being on the Assize (17).

1613. On 8 July 1624 the King confirmed charter by the Bailies and Council of the Canongate, of whom Duncan Neish is one, in favor of William Chalmer, clerk to the Register of the Treasurer, of a great Mansion near the gate of the Monastery of the Holy Cross. At Canongate, 4 February 1613 (17).

1620. July 20. Duncan Neische, bailie of the Canongate, is charged to present William Lowrie, cordiner burgess of the Canongate, complainer George Cuningham, bailie there, for Malicious treatment and wrongous imprison mint (21).

July 27. Complaint by the Kings Advocate against a number of Maltmen<sup>71</sup> for over charge on their Malt; among whom is Duncan Neische, who is fined £25 (21).

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<sup>71</sup>Maltman, malt is the grain, usually barley steeped in water and made to germinate and used in brewing and distilling beer. The Company of Maltman was their guild.

The Testament and Inventory of the goods, &c, pertaining to umquhile Duncan Neische, burgess of the Canongate, the time of his deceis

78 who died 30th November 1620. Given up by himself on the 23rd said month and year. Inventory consists of vitual and domestic furnishings valued at £ 275, 128. Total debts to Duncan, £ 644, 13s. 4d.

By his Latter Will the said Duncan Nasche constitutes Isobell Cunyngham, his spouse, his only executrix, and leaves to Margaret Flemyng, dochter to the said John Flemyng, for his goodwill towards her, ane Mask of Malt price £ 8, and the rest of his third to James, John, and Alexander Neischis, his lawful sons, equally among them, except 100 merks which he leaves to David Neische, his eldest lawful son, to supplie him at Lambes next for his lauriatione at the College. (Written by George Norrell, notary.) At Cannogait, 23 November 1620. Confirmed 8 February 1621; Allester Montgaumrie, stabular burgess of Edinburgh, is cautioner.

1618. James Neische, servitor to Sir William Murray of Abercairny, was a witness to the

79 charter by his said Master to Patrick Smetoun, in Leyth, of an annual rent out of Abercairny, Perthshire. At Holyrudhous, 28 March 1618 (17).

1623. Ewne (Ewen) Neigh, in Tullichetill (an old parish near Comrie), 10 May; testament Made (51).

The last fight with the MacNabs took place on Neish Island in 1612, So Ewen could not have belonged to the Loch Earn branch of the family.

1629. John MacNeith, in Fadell (Feddall), parish of Muthill (51).

1636. John Neisch, son to the late James Neish in Comrie, was entered as an apprentice to George Admistoun, baxter of Edinburgh, 15 June.

John, son to Robert M'Neish, parish of Muthill, entered with John Phillen, merchant, 24 August (52).

1646. Edward Neasoun, litster, burgess of the Canongate; testament dated 20 June (41).

80 Some of the Neesons are probably descended from the above Edward.

1656. Hew Neish, parish of Comrie; testament Made (51).

1663. Elizabeth Neish, in Struthill, parish of Muthill; testament dated 16 April.



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1664. Janet Neish, in Aberlednock, parish of Monievaired; testament dated 3rd November.

1667. Katherine Neish, relict of Malcolm Henderson, in Beddenheth, (Badenheath); testament dated 15 August (51).

1670. Alexander Neish, chapman<sup>72</sup>, was buried at Greyfriars, Edinburgh, 27 December.

1676. John M'Neish, servitor to the Laird of Comrie; his testament is dated 20 April (5I). (He was probably one of the Neishes of Ross, near Comrie.)

1688. The testament of James Neish, in Strathgath (Stragieth), was dated 23rd August (51).

81 1691. Three children of Daniel Neish, tailor, were buried at Greyfriars, Edinburgh, on the following dates: 28 July 1691, 10 June 1696, and 25 September 1697.

1692. David Neish, merchant, was buried in Greyfriars on the 28 July 1692, and his widow, Isabella Mures, was also buried there, on 11 September 1694.

1697. Donald and Janet Nish, twin lawful children to Duncan Nish and Elspeth M'Laren in Blainror (now Blairinroar, a rendering of Blar an Ruathair), were born on the 13th, and baptized on the 14 December 1697.

Patrick Neish, lawful son to Duncan Neigh and Elspeth M'Laren in Blainror, was born on the 10, and baptized on the 17 March 1699 (54).

1715. James Neish, in Tarbrex, Stirlingshire, served in the Jacobite Army<sup>73</sup> in 1715.

"Item, to John Robertstone and John Cunning, ahame for bringing in James

Neigh, in Tarbrex, to the Tolbooth be the justices

82 of the peace order, who had been with the Highland armie, I2s. Dated 29 August 1715 (55).

1735. Patrick Neish, in Mewie, son of Patrick Neish, in Easter Dundurn, parish of Comrie, testament dated 6th February (51).

1753 Duncan, in Easter Dundurn, eldest son of the deceased Patrick Neish, there, his testament is dated 19 July (5I).

1762. Duncan Neish, in Edinburgh, married Barbara Anderson, 13th September 1762.

1768. Margaret Neish, relict of Neish, residenter in, Edinburgh, died 20th October 1768 (41).

1746. John Neish was one of the Princes (Charles Stewart<sup>74</sup>) grooms (The Lyon in Mourning, vol. II., p. 235).

1854. John Neish, in Ross, near Comrie, was served heir to his father, Duncan Neish, there. Heir General, dated 9 May 1854 (53).

83 1865. James Neish was appointed Postmaster of St Fillans, in the old Neish district, in 1865; he conducted the business for many years in the house now known as Ingleside; he retired in 1889 (19).

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<sup>72</sup>Chapman, one who buys or sells, a trader or dealer, especially an itinerant peddler. The word "chap," now a slang term meant originally a customer. The word chapman is from Mid. Eng. cheap to barter, from which we get the name of the famous London thoroughfare, "Cheap side". *The New Webster Encyclopedic Dictionary of the English Language. 1980 edition*

<sup>73</sup>This means that he fought for the Stuart Pretender in the 1715 rising. *David Rorer*

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<sup>74</sup>Bonnie Prince Charlie the Young Pretender. *David Rorer*

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WILLIAM NEISH OF AUCHTERBRDER,  
A native of the "lang toun"<sup>75</sup> of  
Auchterarder, was born on the 16 July  
1867. He wrote at least two songs worth  
recording. They are extracted from *The  
Harp of Perthshire*, by Robert Ford,  
1893.

### THE BRAES ROUN ABOUT AUCHTERAIRDER.

At times when I think on my boyhoods bricht oors,  
Its joys and its sorrows, its sunshine and shoovers;  
Im a laddie again, and Im puin the flooers  
On the braes roun about Auchterairder.  
Im listnin again to the hum o the bee  
As it scans ilka flooer on the wet dewy lea;  
Or listnin the laverock that sings blyth and free  
Bune the braes roun about Auchterairder.  
Im paidlin ance Mair in the cool o the burn,  
And chasin the big troots at Maist ilka turn;  
Or landin them oot wi my new horse-hair gum,  
On the braes roun about Auchterairder.  
84

Im lyin again on the green whinny knowes,  
And watching the sheep as they iazily browse;  
Or Im puin the heather whaur wildly it grows,  
On the braes roun about Auchterairder.  
In fancy Im hearin the heart-stirrin note  
O the siller-voiced cuckoo frae yon woody grot,  
As loudly it pipes frae its clear trebly throat  
Oer the braes roun about Auchterairder.  
Im staunin again whaur the grass grows knee-deep,  
Whaur the saft gloamin shadows their lanely watch keep,  
And I bend oer a mither that sleeps her last sleep  
In the kirkyaird o auld Auchterairder.  
Oh scenes o my childhood, youre dear, dear to me,  
My hearts like to break, and the tear blins my ee,  
When I think that I'll Maybe again never see  
The braes roun about Auchterairder.  
But when my lamps oot when my suns shone its best,  
And draps ower the hills in the far distant West;  
Id like just to think I could lie down and rest  
On the braes roun about Auchterairder.

### THE BURNIES SANG.

Oh hoo bonnie rows the burnie  
At the breakin o the morn,  
When the fragrant breath o simmer  
Moves the blossoms on the thorn,  
When the birdies still are sleepin  
And the zephyr scents the hay,  
O hoo sweetly sings the burnie  
At the breakin o the day.  
85  
Oh hoo bonnie rows the burnie  
When the simmer sun is high,  
And naething but a fleecy cloud  
Floats through the azure sky,  
When the birds are whistlin blythely,  
And the lambkins frisk and play,  
O hoo sweetly sings the burnie  
On a sunny simmer day.  
Oh hoo bonnie rows the burnie  
When the nicht-clouds settle doon,  
And the glamour o the gloamin  
Flings its mystic shadows roon,  
When the birdies all are nested,  
And the sun draps ower the moor,  
Oh the burnie sings the sweetest  
At the gloamins witchin oor.  
Oh the music o the burnie,  
Heard far back in childhoods days,  
Maks me aftentimes grow weary  
O the citys buzz and blaze,  
Yet at times ower rigid Manhood  
Childhood sheds its sunny beams,  
For I hear the burnie singin  
In the midst o happy dreams.

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<sup>75</sup>Long town, probably stretched out along  
a road as opposed to a compact village  
at a crossroads. *David Rorer*

## The History of the Clan Neish or MacNish of Perthshire and Galloway

### CHAPTER IV.

THE MACNEISHES OR MACNISHES OF GALLOWAY --ADAM MACNES OF BARDONAN --GILBERT MACNAGHT AND THE KILQUHONIDY FAMILY --THE MACNEISHES OF GAITGILL.

The numerous family of MacNishes of Galloway<sup>76</sup> are descended from an earlier race of MacNesches, who appear frequently on record from the fifteenth century. The allied family of MacNaughts of Galloway is no doubt sprung from the same stock as the MacNishes.

The Galloway family would appear to be a very ancient branch of the MacNeishes of Strathearn.

It is probable that Patrick, son of Nes of Leuchars and Strathearn, settled in Nithsdale, where we find about the year 1220, "Patcio

87 "Magillness" (Patrick MacGille-nes) as a witness to Carta 340 (Carta super ecclesiam de Killosbern) of Kelso Abbey, with other prominent men of Dumfries (34). Killosbern is now known as Closeburn, where in later years we find many records of MacNeishes and MacNaughts.

Roger de Quinci, son of Orobile (daughter of Nes) and Robert de Quinci, was a nephew of Patrick MacNes. Roger married Helena, daughter of Alan, Lord of Galloway, about 1220, and succeeded to lands in Galloway; no doubt Patrick MacNes or his sons obtained lands in Galloway through the influence of their relative Roger, who, on the death of Alan, Lord of Galloway, in 1233, succeeded to the office of Constable of Scotland.

The following ancient place-names indicate that the family was in occupation of land in Galloway and Ayrshire at a very early period. The

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<sup>76</sup>Galloway a district in southwest Scotland, comprising the counties of Kirkcudbright and Wigtown. Though the designation has not been adopted civilly, its use historically and locally has been long established. Thus the Bruces were lords of Galloway and the title of earl of Galloway (created 1623) is now held by a branch of the Stewarts. *Encyclopedia Britannica, 14th edition, 1929.*

lands of Bischofporrest, called Makknachstoun, in the parish of Kirkpatrick Irnegray, Kirkcudbrightshire (Instrument of Sasine, 1656).

88 The 5s<sup>77</sup> lands of Maknaythyscroft in the Lordship of Mauchline, Ayrshire, then belonging to Campbell of Kingyeancleucht (Melrose Regal Rec., 15T6).

Adam, son of Nes (Adam MacNes) of Bardonan, Dumfries, was slain in the Isle of Man, in the service of the King of Scotland, in 1289 (23).

Bardonan, now corrupted to Bardannoch, near Moniaive, Glencairn, is situated 4 miles east of Neis Hill (1045 ft.), in Nithsdale. (Bardonnenhill, alias Haliedayhill, parish of Dunscore, 1632; is now known as Barddenoch or Halliday Hill.)

"Item, per wardem terre de Bardonan, que fuit Ade, filii Nesonis interfecti in Mannia in seruicio regis, et que jacuit inculca propter guerram motam post mortem regis per dues annos. vt dicit S; excepts dote vxoris eiusdem, quam habuit" (23).

The lands of Bardonan in Dumfries, in ward to the crown, are reported by William Sinclair, the sheriff of Dumfries, to have lain uncultivated

89 for two years in consequence of the war stirred up after the Kings death (23).

The Norse King, Haco, was crushed at the battle of Largs in 1263, and Alexander III undertook in the following year to put an end to the Norse dominion in the Isle of Man. Alexander the Steward and John Comyn landed in Man in 1270, and slew Ivor, who had usurped the throne. Adam MacNes of Bardonan was killed during the last fighting in Man, for Edward I of England appears to have taken over the island at the end of

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<sup>77</sup>5s = Five Shilling land, the evaluation of the land. The Scots adopted the Norse method of valuing land against a quantity of silver. *David Rorer*

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1289, or the beginning of 1290. In February 1290, Edward of England informed the keepers of the land of Mann "that he had given a safe conduct to certain merchants for the dispatch of their business there" (Gal. of Patent Rolls, 18 Edward I)

Thomas de Bardonan of Dumfries, as well as Patrick of Bardonan, were among those who signed the Ragman Roll in 1296. The seal of Patrick of Bardonan is given

90 as "an eight-rayed figure, S patrik de bardonan" (24). This Patrick of Bardonan may have been the son of Adam MacNes of Bardonan who was killed in 1289, and the grandson of Patrick MacNes of Dumfries, who died circa 1250.

Also among the Scottish nobles and landowners who, on the 28 of August 1296, swore allegiance to King Edward of England at Berwick-on-Tweed<sup>78</sup>, was Gilbert Makenaght (24).

Gilbert MacNaght, whose seal is appended to homage No. 810 of the calendar, was probably the ancestor of the Kilquhonidy family, for we find that later on the MacNaughts of Kilquhanniedie used arms in the shape of a shield. The following is a description of the seal of Gilbert Makenaght:-

"Seal in form of shield; device, foliage and tracery, four-footed beast on top; S Gilbert fil melnechra " (24).

91 Compare "melnechra" with the slightly earlier Fife and Perthshire forms- Malnethte, Malfnacht, and MIALsnacht.

The original Ragman Roll, which is in sheets, well written, and still in good preservation, seems to have been penned by the same person, who evidently was guided by his ear as the names were pronounced, which was usual at that period, and now causes so much confusion.

### THE MACNAUGHTS OF GALLOWAY

The chief family of the MacNaughts held the lands of Kilquhanidy, in the parish of Kirkpatrick-Durham, in Kirkcudbrightshire, for many centuries. (They are probably a branch of the Galloway MacNeishes.)

<sup>78</sup>See footnote on "Ragman Rolls" at end of chapter I *David Rorer*

In 1471 Celestine Maknacht received sasine of the lands of Kilconachty (23).

In 1474 Duguld M'Nacht (probably son of Celestine) received sasine of the lands of Cohonody (23).

92 In 1496 Fergus Maknath received sasine of the lands of Culchonachty.

In 1537 John Maknacht received sasine of the lands of Culquhonite.

In 1546 John M'Naucht received sasine of the lands of Culquhomyte (23).

In 1582 John Maknech, junior, received a charter of the lands of Nether Kilquhennedie (17).

In 1585 John McKnight of Kilquhennad, Robert McKnight in twa merk<sup>79</sup> land<sup>80</sup>,

Fergus McKnight in Culsyde, Hendrie Mcknaye in Culsyde, John Mcknaye in Mule, Gillespie Mcknaye in Little Mcquhir, all in the parish of

Kirkpatrick-Durham; and Gillespie Mcknaye in Glengopok, James and John Mcknaye in Ernealmery, in the parish of Crossmichell, are all mentioned in Acts Parl. James page 391.

It is evident that the surname MacKnight is derived from an early form of MacNaught or MacNeischt. During the years 1580 to 1593, the name

93 appears as McNache, McNach, and McNaich (17).

In 1598 John Maknacht received sasine of the lands of Kilquhanniedie.

In 1612 John M'Naught of Kilquhonity was slain at Carlingwark.

The testament of James McNaught, elder, of Over Killquennadie, was dated 9 November 1629 (35).

The testament of Roger McNaught of Kilquadie, parish of Kirkmichael-Durham, was dated 24 December 1641.

The testament of John McNaught of Killwhannady was dated 1st January 1679 (35).

<sup>79</sup>In Scotland the merk (merk) Scots was a silver coin worth 13 1/2d, issued first in 1570 and afterwards in 1663. *Encyclopedia Britannica, 14th edition, 1929.*

<sup>80</sup>Twa merk land = land valued at two merks (marks) *David Rorer*

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The following are early records of some of the MacNaught families in Galloway:- In 1473 Andrew, son and heir of John M'Nacht of Dalcharne and Cragow, Kirkcudbright, received a charter of the said lands (17).

Egidia M'Nacht, who was still in ward<sup>81</sup>, received sasine of lands in Kirkcudbrightshire in 1486 (23).

94 In 1486 Egidia and Mariot M'Naucht received sasine of the lands of Dalcharne and Creggo (23).

In 1505 the four merk land of Knokinschene and Barneschauch was let to Janet M'Naucht (23).

A part of the lands of Knokkinschene was let to Janet M'Knach after the year 1505, and before 1521 (23).

Gilbert MakNauch was a well-known notary public in Galloway in 1526 (23).

In 1364 Christine McNawych was a witness to "Confirmacio cartarum monasterii de Kilwynnyn," a confirmation of a charter granted by John of Menteith, dom. of Arran and Knapdale, to the monks of Kilwinning, in Cunningham, Ayrshire.

In 1473-4 the following payment was Made to the Exchequer: "Composition with Gilberto M'Nauth and John Dingalli, Kirkcudbrightshire" (31),

In 1476 a branch of the MacNeish family

95 held half of the lands of Gaitgill-Macgille-Warnoch, in the parish of Borgue, Kirkcudbrightshire.

The lands of Borgis, which John Mowbray forfeited, were granted by David II. to Fergus M'Dowgall by charter circa 1350.

In 1465 John Akersane (now Carson) received relief by sasine of the fermes of Gaytgilmcgilwarnok (23).

The Mac-gillie-Warnochs long ago shortened their surname to VWarnock.

In 1467 the lands of Gaitgill, alias (nuncupatus," Litiltoun, 3 Mark<sup>82</sup> lands

<sup>81</sup>Not yet of legal age and had a guardian. *Terminology of Scottish Law*

<sup>82</sup>In England the "mark" was never a coin, but a money of account only, and apparently came into use in the 10th century through the Danes. It first was taken as equal to 100 pennies, but after the Norman Conquest was equal to 160 pennies (20 pennies to the oz.) = two thirds of the pound sterling, or 3s. 4d,

(£2), in the parish of Borg, vic Dumfres, was granted to the MacDowells of Sports. Their charter was confirmed on 27 January 1469 (17).

In 1476 John Akersane received a sasine of the lands of Gaitgill-McGilwithnocht (23).

In the same year the King granted a charter of the 25s lands of Gategill, vic Dumfres, to Thomas M'Kelle, which John Kersane resigned (17).

The MacKellies or MacKailes of Gaitgill

96 were no doubt descended from Gilmalagon MacKelli, who was a witness to No. 107 Carta of Kelso Abbey circa 1550. John M'Kelli was clerk of liverance to Queen Euphemia circa 1366. In 1476 the following action was moved by Maurice MacNeish of Gaitgill.

GALLOWAY.

Acta Auditovum, 5 July.

1476. In the action and cause movit (moved by) be Morrice McNesche against James McCowlach of Cardness, Rankin Mure, William Mure, James Lintoune, Brice Stewarte, John McKelle, Archibald Mure, Thomas McCowlach, Donald McLellane, Archibald McLellan, John McLellan of Barsallach, Andrew Law, Patrick Kessock, John Adowgane, and Thomas McKelle, anent the error committed by them as was alleged in the serving of a breve of Inquest purchased by Johne Akersane anent 16s and 8d worth of land of the lands of Gaytegill McKilvernak.

The said Morrice being present by his

97 procurator, and the said persons being lawfully summoned and oftymes called and nocht comperit [appeared]. The allegation of the said procurator and the depositions of witnesses being at length heard and understanding. The Lords Auditors ripely advisit [advised], finds by the depositions of the said witnesses that the said persons has erred in the serving of the said breve in sa [so] far as they have found John

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and therefore in Scotland 13 ½d English; the mark (merk) Scots was a silver coin of this value, issued first in 1570 and afterwards in 1663.

*Encyclopedia Britannica*, 14<sup>th</sup> edition, 1929.

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Acarsan, cousin of umquhile Margaret Acarsane, lawful heir to umquhile ...[blank in record--probably Margaret] of the said 16s 8d of the said land, whereas they should.. [blank in record] found him but heir of 8s 4d worth thereof, and the said Morice upon 8 ... d [blank in record, possibly the other 8s 4d worth of the same proportionally. And that Brice Stewart has not erred because he said against all the said persons. And the party to raise a new breve gif it please him. And that the said persons be punished at the Kings will after the form of the Act of Parliament thereupon.

98 In 1477 Maurice MacNeish, tenant of the lands of Gaitgilmakgilvernok, received a sasine of the said lands from King James III: "Kirkcudbricht. Sa. Mauricio McKneishe. t. GaitgilMakgilvernok." (Sasine of GaitgilMakgilvernok, £8. 6. 4d land thairof to Maurice McKneishe) (23). 1493-8. Thomas M'Kelle again had sasine of the lands of Gategilmakilvernok in 1493 and 1498 (23). 1500. The King confirms to John Makkelle of Gaitgill, son of Thomas Makkelle of Berskeach, of the 3 merk and 10 sol. lands of Gaitgill (17). 1502-4. 1. John McKelle, executed at Wigton. 2. Composition of escheat of John M'Kelle. 3. Thomas McKelle, escheat of; 4. Thomas McKelle of Gatyell, ward of lands of (31). 1508. Duncan MacNeish of Gaitgill (who was no doubt the eldest son of Maurice Mac-

99 Neish) appears to have died in or before 1508. No. 1779, at Edinburgh, 14 December 1508 (Reg. Privy Seal). A Lettre Made to Johne Murehede of Bulleis, his ayris and assignais, ane or Maa ... of the gift of the warde of all and sindri the landis and annuallrentis that pertentit to umquhile (the late) Duncane Makneische of Gaitgill, and now being in the Kingis handis be resone of warde throw (through) the decess of the said umquhile Duncane, and als the nonentreis of the said landis and annuelrentis ay and quhil the richtwis

ayre (heir) or ayris of the said umquhile Duncain recover heretable state and sesing (sasine) of the samyn; togidder with the Mariage of Henry Makneisch, the sone and ayre of the said umquhile Duncain....

To be Haldin... with power to him and thaim to occupy the sade landis with thare awn gudis (goods), or to set thaim to tenantis.....

Subscriptis per dominum Regem.

Gratis ex Mandate domini M. Roberto

100 Elphinstoun portandi Mandatum domini, 111, 202.

1511. Non onerat se de xvj £ xiiij s iiiij d compositionis warde Duncani Makneische de Gaitgill cum Maritaggio heridis venditarum Johanni Mureheide de Bullies (31).

1517. An Instrument of Sasine, under the hands of Gawin Fullartoun, presbyter of the diocese of Glasgow, notary public, setting forth that on 10 March 1517, On the grounds of the lands after-mentioned, William Hostan, bailie in that part, in virtue of a Royal Precept, and a Precept of the Steward of Kyrkcubryt, gave to Mariota McNess, daughter of the late Duncan McNess of Gadgile, of the fourth part of the 25s. lands of Gadgill, of old extent lying within the Lordship of Galloway, parish of Borg and Stewartry of Kyrkcubre. Dated 10 March 1517. Witnesses--Robert Schaw, George Carnis of Siltiltoun, Fynlay Wilzemsone, William Bell, Adam Carnis, and Donald Free (Frier) (29).

101 1517. Charter of Sale by Mariota Makness, daughter of the late Doncan McNess of Cadgill, and Lady superior of the 4 part of the 25s. lands of Gadgill, in favor of Robert Gordoun of Glen, Knight, of the 4 part of the 5s lands of Gadgill, lying in the parish of Borg and Stewartry of Kyrkcubre. To be holden a me de supreme demino rege, giving three suits yearly at the Court of the Stewartry with ward and relief. At Gatgill, 12 March 1517. Witnesses--John Aschennane of Park (now Shannan or Cannan), Fynlay Wilzemsone, William Carnis (now Cairns), William Hostan, and Sir Gavin Fullartoun, notary public. (Seal wanting, 29.)

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1517. The Steward returned 12s. 6d. as yearly rent due to the King for sasine given to Mariote Makneisch of the 4 part of the lands of Gadgill, in the lordship of Galloway and Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, 27 November 1517 (23).

1517. The Steward returned 12s. 6d. as the

102 yearly duty for sasine given to Jonet Makneisch of the 4 part of the 25s. land of Gadgell Makilvernok, in the parish of Borg and Stewartry of Kirkcudbright. 3rd December 1518-19 (23).

1519. The Steward became answerable for £4, 7s. 6d. of the fermes of the 4 part of the 25s. lands of Gadgil Makilvernok in Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, being in the Kings hands for the space of seven years by reason of ward, of which the yearly rent of 12s. 6d. due to the King for sasine given to Katherine Makneische of the said 4 part. 12 November 1519 (23).

The following charters appear in the Register of the Great Seal of Scotland : Charter of Sale by Jonet Makneisch of Gadzell McIlvernok in favor of Robert Gordoun of Glen Knight of her fourth part of the lands of Gadzell McIlvernok extending in whole to 25s. lands of old extent lying within the parish of Borg and

103 Stewartry of Kyrkcubryt. To be holden *de suprema domzltto nostvo rege* for service aucht and wont. At Ruschew, 16 May 59 (Seal wanting).

Charter of Sale by Jonet Makneis of Gadgill McYlvernok in favor of Alexander Gordoun son of Robert Gordoun of Glen Knight of her 4 part of the lands of Gadgill McYlvernok extending in whole to 25s. lands of old extent, lying in the parish of Borg and stewartry of Kyrkcubryt.

To be holden *de suprema ctomino nostra rege* for service aucht and wont. At Ruschew, 16 May 1519 (seal wanting). Charter of Confirmation under the Great Seal with consent of the Lords regents in absence of John Duke of Albany protector and governor of the Kingdom Confirming 4 charters in favor of Alexander Gordoun son of Robert Gordoun

of Glen Knight-- viz. (1) No. 861 *supra*; (2) No. 880 *supra*, (3) Charter by Katherina Makneische of

104 Gaitgill Makilvernok of her 4 part of said 25s. land (at Ruschew, 16 May 1519. Witnesses as in two preceding charters); (4) Charter by Elena Makneische of Gaitbrrill Makilvernok of her 4 part of said 25s. land (at Kuschew, 16 May 1510 (19?) (R.M.S., III., 191)

Instrument of Sasine taken by Alexander Gordoun son of Robert Gordoun of Glen Knight in the hands of Gavin Fullartoun presbyter of the diocese of Glasgow notary public on the sasine given to him by William Hostane sheriff in that part by virtue of Precept of Jonet Makneis of Gadgill McUlvirnok in her 4th part of the 25s. lands of Gadgiil McUlvernok, lying in the Lordship of Galioway perish of Borg and Stewartry of Kyrkcubryt. At the principal Mansion of Gadgill McYlvernok 24 July 1520. Witnesses, Alexander Mwr, Fynlay Williamsone, William Carnis, George Carnis of Nuntoun, Donald Frer, and Archibald McKelle.

105 Instrument of Sasine as the preceding in Katherina Makneiss, fourth part of the same lands. Bailie, notary, and witnesses the same (except that George Carnis is styled of Litilltown instead of Nuntoun), 24 July 1520.

Instrument of Sasine as the two preceding in Elen Makneiss, 4 part of the same lands. Bailie, witnesses, and notary the same (except that Donald Frer is omitted), 24 July 1520 (17).

1520. On the 8 of July the King confirmed four charters by Marion, Jonet, Katherine and Elena Makneissche, sisters, daughters of the late Duncan Makneissche of Gaitgill-Makillwarnok, who, for certain sums of money, sold to Alexander Gordon of Glen, Knight, his heirs and assignees, the fourth part of the 25s. lands of Gaitgill-Makillwernok, in the parish of Borg, Stewardry of Kirkuldbright. Rendering yearly to the King, for the part of the said Marion, three suits at the Stewart Court of Kirk-

106 cudbright and ward and relief, and for the others, the service used and

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wont. Witnesses --John Aschennane (now Shannon) of Park, Finla Williamson, William Carnis, William Howstoun (now Houston), D. Gavin Fullerton, notary public.

The charter of the said Marion was dated at Gaitgill on 12 March 1517, the other charters at Ruschew, 16 May 1519 (17). Henry, the son and heir of Duncan MacNeish of Gaitgill, was probably killed at the battle of Flodden on the 9 September 1513. King James IV and the flower of the Scottish nation fell on this fateful day.

From the year 1500, notices of the MacNeishes of Galloway become fairly frequent.

In 1513 Nevin Agnew of Croach was prosecuted for raiding various lands, and the stealing of a horse from John McNesche, in the county of Wigtowne (36, vol. 8 p. 90).

On the 18 June 1526, at Edinburgh, a Respite (Remission) was granted to Gilbert,

107 Earl of Cassillis, and his retainers, including Donald and John McNysche, and about 300 other gentlemen, for the treasonable slaughter of Cornelius de Machteme (Machitama), a Ducheman, in the time of the sitting of Parliament (Reg. Sec. Sig.).

In 1549, "Item to ane callit William Maknath, that was taiken be the thevis, in xv cronis of the sone, fxxvi xvii s. vi c. (31).

In 1550, "Item to Alexander Maknach, be my lord governoures precept and spetial command, to his support efter his heirscheppis witht the Inglismen and thevis" (31).

The above entries probably refer to members of the MacNaught branch.

The lands of Rais, in Renfrewshire, were held before 1550 by a Master James McNeiss. In 1550 Katren Fergusson appears as heir of the late James; and Hugh Kennedy of Barquhany (Carrick) was procurator for the said Katren (29).

1565. The goods and lands of Sir Robert

108 MacNeisch, in Carrick, were forfeited to the Crown.

Macneische, Sir Robert, escheat of, 1565-6.

Item to Andro Bannatyne, messenger, passand of Edinburght witht lettres to serche, seik, inbring, appris and arreist, and Mak penny of the personis gudis and geir underwritten, viz.: Gilbert, Erle of Cassillis; Thomas Kennedy of Bargany; John Kennedy Armillan; Schir Robert Macneische: Wm. Cambell, tutor of Cesnok; David Craufurde of Kers, and certane uthiris contenit in the saidis lettres. iiiij f" (31).

1576. Mathew M'Kneis, tenant of the 40s. lands of Dunane, in Carrick, was a witness to a charter by George Kennedy of Dunane, of the lands of Dunane, to Oswald MKnedar (MacNider) in Dunure. hIathew was a witness to another Dunane charter, dated 6th August 1577, also to the sasine dated 7 March 1578 (56). circa 1540. Thomas Makneische, a merchant burgess of Edinburgh, who died in 1582, was

109 born about the year 1540; he appears to have belonged to a Nithsdale branch of the family. His testament and inventory of goods is dated 30th January 1582; the Inventory consisting of skins, hides, &c; partly in his dwellinghouse at the "fute of Restis Wynd and partly in ships; with money, utencils, etc.; and the third part of a ship in Leith called "The Gift Of God."

He left legacies to Edward McNeische, his eldest lawful son and apparent heir by Helen Hart; Adam McNeische, his eldest lawful son by Marion Bellenden; and to his youngest bairns, John and Katherine. His first wife, Marion Bellenden, died in 1574, and his second wife, Helen Hart, died in 1581.

On the 30th April 1586 Katherine MacNeiche was returned heiress to her brother, Edward MacNeiche, in some tenements in Edinburgh (50).

1550. John Makneische, merchant in Kerymanoch, Kirkcudbright, was born about the

110 year 1550, and died in 1593. The following are mentioned in his will, dated 16 October 1593: Jonet Bell, his mother; his wife, Jonet McClamie.

1550. William Makneische, farmer in the clauchane of Dairy, Kirkcudbright, was born about the year 1554 and died in



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1603. He married Elizabeth Banoch, and left the following children, John, Robert, and Jonet.
1550. Robert McNeische, merchant burghess of Edinburgh, was born about the year 1550 and died in 1628. He married Agnes Dobie, who died in 1645 (see Appendix, p. 192); he left an only son, John, who in 1628 was abroad. Robert appears to have been a relative (brother?) of William MacNeish of clachan of Dairy.
1560. December 9. A Decree of Council settling the amounts due by a number of persons to the Master of Glencairn, as factor for the Kirk of Glencairn (Dumfries), among whom is
- 111 William McNeische in Craufurdton, of his Merkland thereof (21).
1563. Kirkpatrick of Closeburn, Andro McKnek in Closeburnetoune, and others were slain by John Carruthers of Holmains, in the district of Nithsdale (36).
1567. Jonet MacCanis, relict of William Grierson, in Mermilloch; testament dated 24 November (41).
1623. Caution by Robert McNeische, merchant burghess of Edinburgh, for Cilbert Greirsoun of Castlemadie in £100, which sum the said Robert consigned in the hands of James Prymrois, Clerk of the Council; therefore the horning against him is suspended (21).
1580. John MacNeish, merchant burghess of Edinburgh, was born about the year 1580. He died in December 1652, leaving legacies to John Blaithman, son to umquhile John Blathman, in Balmaclellan, who was son and heir to umquhile Issobell McNeill, "my cow
- 112 signe german<sup>83</sup> and appeirand air to me and nearest of kin on the fathers side" (Edinburgh Testaments, vol. 67, dated 10 December 1652).
- Jonet Hart, sometime spouse to Johne McKneische, merchant burghess of Edinburgh, died in 1629 (Edinburgh Testaments, vol. 55, dated 19 December 1629).
1583. Robert McNeische, son of William McNeisch, in Balmacllellouhan, was a witness to an Instrument of Sasine given to Robert SMart, burghess of Edinburgh, of an annual of £20 Scots, out of a house and other property in the town of Leith, 9 April 1583 (C. of C.).
1585. Adam, son of the late Thomas McNeish, merchant, was entered with John McCuir, tailor; dated 21st August (52).
1590. James McNeische appears on a list of excommunicated persons of Galloway, dated 11th August (21).
1612. Johne, son of Gilbert McNeische, in
- 113 Traqueir, was born 26 May. (The earliest birth record in Reg. of Dumfries.)
1616. Robert M'Neische, burghess of Kelso, was served heir of William M'Neische, alias Stewart, shoemaker there, son of the deceased Robert McNeische, alias Stewart, shoemaker, indweller in Kelso, nephew of his grand-uncle or grandfathers brother (53).
1622. John McNische, in Craufartoun (Craufordtoun, Dumfries), appears on the list of persons who refused the authorized instruction in the art of tanning leather; dated 28 March (21).
1628. Gilbert MKinshe, cordiner in Brigend of Dumfries; testament dated 6th September (35).
1633. Thomas Nesche, at the Market Cross of LochMaben, was a witness to the Execution of Summons by Adam Clerk, messenger, at the instance of John, Earl of Annerdail, against Fergus Graham of Blawetwod (21).
- 114 1635. William McNeish, in Over Elschfeild, and others were summoned by John Moresone of Edinburgh (Acts and Decrets, vol. 477).
1639. William McNeish, parishioner of Troquer, married Elspet Cairleil; this is the first marriage entry of the family in the Dumfries Registers; the surname afterwards appears as McKnish up to 1680, and McNish from 1689.
1647. John, son of James McNeish, at the Chappell in Galloway, was entered with George Younger, merchant, dated 21 July (52).
1668. Alexander McNish, in Nether Ardwell, a retainer of Sir Andrew

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<sup>83</sup>Cousin German, having the same grandfather. *The New Webster Encyclopedic Dictionary of the English Language, 1980 edition*

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M'Culloch of Myretoun, is mentioned in a complaint by William Gordon, of Newton of Cardinis, against M'Culloch of Myretoun (21).

1684. The McNishes and McKnishes were now quite numerous in Wigtownshire. (See Appendix.)

1643. John McNeish, merchant burghess of

115 Edinburgh, contributed a sum of 300 merks (£2000) for the supply of the Scots in Ireland (21).

1712. Forty-two acres of Kingholm Merse were converted by the plough into arable land, the same being let to John M'Nish, deacon of the weavers, for three years, at rather more than 10s sterling an acre yearly (15).

1718. There are many McNishes in Antigua, in the West Indies, who claim descent from William McNish of Dumfries, who died in Antigua circa 1797.

The first on record of the family in the island was Hugh M'Nish, who was buried at St John on the 13 February 1718. The pedigree of the family is given in the History of Antigua, vol. 2, p. 230.

73. The testament of Anna, daughter of Robert Gordon of Barharrow, spouse to Robert M'Nish in Irelandton, was dated 1731 (56).

1736. James Nish, in Garlieston, on the 30th

116 September 1736, had principal sasine of the merklands of Balsarroch, &c

He was factor to the Earl of Galloway. Balsarroch is situated in the parish of Penninghame (19).

1750. James M'Nish, merchant in Kirkuldbright, served on the Assizes (Criminal Records of the Stewartry of Kirkuldbright).

1760. The testament of Margaret Gordon, relict of Robert M'Nish of Greenslack, was dated 1760 (56).

### THE CARRICK BRANCH

There were a few MacNeish and MacNaught families in Carrick, Ayrshire, dating from the sixteenth century; at that period, and earlier, Carrick formed a part of Galloway.

The following are a few of the early entries concerning them:-

On the 3rd of March 1582, "in presens of me notar publict and witnessis underwrittin,

117 comperit personalie Mathew MKneis in Dunene, and as full dettour for Gilbert Kennedy of Dunene, his Maister, oblist him to pay to Thomas Mirrie, the sowme of fiftie merkis, upoun the xv day of Aprile nixt to cum" (51).

The testament of Thomas McNeish, in Daldabie, parish of Girvan, was dated 24 October 1607 (42).

The testament of Elizabeth Kairnochane, spouse to Adam M'Nische in Myllendderdaill, parish of Colmonell, was dated 7 August 1621. The testament of Margaret Kennedy, spouse to Hew M'Nische in Auldames, parish of Colmonell, was dated 30th April 1634 (42).

In 1658 Thomas McNinch held the lands of Blarawart in the parish of Colmoneli, in Carrick (see charter by Kennedy of Knockdaw, Reg. Mag. Sig., Ix. 131). NicNinch is probably a corruption of MacNische, not as some authorities give -a form of MacLynch.

118 The surname MacNinch still occurs in Ayr (1900).

The testament of Robert MacNeish, parish of St Quivox, in Kyle, was dated 1676 (42).

There is a short account of the M'Neights of Barns, who were descended from a MacNaught family in Ayr, given in Patersons Ayrshire.

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### CHAPTER V

THE NEISHES OF ANGUS --NEISH OF HANDWICK --THE NEISHES OF LAWS, OMACHIE, AND TANNADYCE

The Neishes are a very old established family in Angus or Forfarshire. They are possibly descended from one of the sons of Neis, son of William, who was associated with Angus during the latter half of the thirteenth century. The Angus branch is now the most numerous of all the various branches of the Neish clan.

About the year 1200 We find that Adam de Nesh was a witness to a charter by William Wascelyn, of an oxgate of land in his vill of Newtyle, to the monks of Lundors (27).

We have no proof that Adam de Nesh was the ancestor of the Neishes of Angus, or that he was of the native Gaelic Neish stock.

120 The Angus family is possibly sprung from a Neis who lived a century or two later than Adam of Nesh. It is not until the year 1450 that we get a definite record of Neis as a surname in Angus. Thoma Nesse, a vicar of the Cathedral of Brechin, was a witness to charter No. 68 on the 20th June 1450; as Thomas Neiss, he was also a witness to another charter of Brechin, dated 17 November 1453 (28).

In 1465 John Nece was a witness to a Charter of Sale by Robert Mortymair of Balandrow, in favor of Robert Falconer, burgess of Montros, of the 3rd parts of the lands of Balandrow in Kincardynshire; dated at Estir Matlie, 8 November 1465 (29).

John Nece was again a witness to a charter by Mortymar of Belandrow, in favor of Robert Falconer, of the 8 part of the lands of Balandrow; dated at Balandrow, 27 April 1466 (29).

In 1470 "Sir" William Neische, presbyter, was a witness to a charter by Thomas Ogilvy

121 of Cleva (Clova) to Robert Rollok, burgess of Dundee, of the lands of Bradowny (Braedownie), Forfarshire; dated at Dundee, 22nd October (30).

In 1498 Thomas Nesche, who was probably a member of the Abbey of Arbroath, was a witness with David, Abbot of

Abbirbrocht, and others, to an Aberbrothoc charter (13).

The under-mentioned James Nethe was probably the father of John Neiche, tenant of the lands of Petlevy in the barony of Panmure in 1541. "Action by Thomas, Lord Innermeith (Stetvart), against Thomas Maule of Panmure, Knight; James Nethe; Fergus Lyne; Robert Boyes and others; for spoliation of foure gunnys with thair chalmaris out of the schip pertenng til him, the price xli £;. The pursuer and Maule compearing, but the rest being absent, the Lords continue the case till 8 July next, and ordain letters to be written charging the sheriff of Forfar and his deputies to call parties before him and take evidence, and report the same to Council that day; and the depositions of witnesses now

122 compearing are to be closed till that day." Spuilzie; dated 17 March 1501-02 (26) On 17 April 1529 King James V. confirmed the charter by David Ogilvy of that ilk in favor of Alexander Neische, burgess of Dundee, and Jonet Rollok, his spouse, of the lands of Handwik, in the barony of Ogilvy, Forfarshire. Holding to them and their heirs, of the King. The charter was dated at Dundee, 11th March 1528 (17).

Alexander Neisch, burgess of Dundee, was a witness to a Precept of Sasine, directed by John Kynnard, Lord of that ilk, of John Lessillis, in Cadam, &c Dated at Dundee, 19 April 1528 (29). We again find a reference to the Handwick charter in 1530: "Et de vif in completam solutionem compositionis carte confirmationis (Alexandri Neitche) super carta siba facta per David Ogilvy de eodem, de terris in baronia de Ogilvy infra vicecomitatum de Forfare" (31).

In 1533 the Sheriff of Forfar became answerable for £8 of relief of the fee of the lands of

123 Handwik, in the barony of Ogilvy, due to the King for sasine given to William Neische of the same, reserving the frank tenement of the same to Jonet Rollok, spouse of the late Alexander Neische, burgess of Dundie, Lady of the conjunct infeftment thereof for her lifetime. Dated 11th April 1533 (23) Apparently Jonet Rollok was married secondly to Laurence Flescheour (now

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Fletcher); there was an old Dundee family of this name. "Et de 1111 £, compositionis carte confirmationis Jonete Rollok et Laurentii Flescheour super carta facta per Willelmum Neische super occidentalibus dimetietatibus terrarum de Sandwick (Handwick)." Dated 1533 (31).

In 1537 George Neische was a witness to a charter granted to Sir John Ker, vicar of Chernesyde, in liferent<sup>84</sup>, and to William Ker, his son, in fee, of the lands of Lumlethin, Forfarshire. Dated 7 March, at Restinot (17)

In 1541 the King confirmed a charter by Thomas Maule, Lord of the fee of the lands and barony of Panmure, to Andrew Barry,

124 elder, burgess of Dundee, of the lands and town of Petlevy, &c, occupied by John Neiche and John Fold, in the barony of Panmure, Forfarshire. Dated at Dundee, 30th April (17).

In 1543, Thomas Neiche, as one of the Convent of the Monastery of Aberbrothok, signs a Letter of Tack by David, Cardinal priest of the Roman Church and Archbishop of St Andrews, to George Gordon of Scheves, otherwise Gycht of the Mayns of Gycht, &c Dated 10 May (29).

Andro Neis in Corsbank, barony of Menmuir, is mentioned under date 27 May 1567 in a contract relative to a feud between John Fewell of Linlithgow on one part, and David Betoune of Melgound (Reg of Deeds, vol iii. P. 432).

On the 28 November 1574 the King confirmed a charter by David Gardin of Conansyth, to Issobella, his spouse, in liferent of the lands of Conansyth (except the town called Elstertoun thereof, occupied by Wil.

125 Neische, Jo. and Nic. Logy), in the barony of Leis, shire of Forfar. At Edinburgh, 8 September 1574 (17) Johne Nes, officer, Dundee, was a witness to several documents during 1585-1598 (the Compt Bulk of Dav. Wedderburne, merchant of Dundee)

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<sup>84</sup>Liferent: There are two types of liferent, proper and trust. A proper liferent is one created by a disposition. A trust liferent is where a trust is interposed. *Scottish land law terms.*

James Nesche, servitor to James Bonar, Sheriff-Depute of Forfar, was a witness to an instrument of Sasine given by James Bonar to Richard Blyth, portioner of Cragy, as attorney for Theophilus Smettoun, heir of umquhile Waiter Smettoun of the toun and lands of Polcak, in the Lordship of Teling. Dated 19 May 1586 (29)

William Neische, farmer in Eister Balgillie, parish of Tannadeis, died on 8 May 1587. His testament and inventory was witnessed by Andro Neische in Tannadeis (probably his brother), Alexander Neische, son of the said Andro, and others. William left Jonet Symssoun, his spouse, and four bairns-William, John, Alexander, and Janet Neischis (32).

126 John Neische, farmer in Ballindarge, parish of Kirriemuir in Angus, died on the 21 December 1591, leaving Margaret Neillie, his spouse, and various bairns<sup>85</sup> (32).

James Neische, messenger, and one of the Mairs of the Sheriffdom of Forfar, is mentioned in Privy Council documents dated 10 January 1596 and 8 May 1501 (21).

In a Bond of Caution dated at Brechin 15 March 1503, Thomas Ramsay, bailie of Brechin, gave security for Robert Neish there, and others, for 200 merks each, not to harm Margaret Crawford, relict of Captain Alexander Ramsay (21).

A complaint by David Ogilvie of Over Kynnatie, and others, upon John Neische in Nether Kynnatie<sup>86</sup>, for violence and oppression, is dated 8 June 1509 (21). An action was taken by Harie Wood of Bonytoun against Hew Maxwell, fear of Teling, for remaining unrelaxed from a horning of 14 April 1599, executed against him by

127 Jonet Gibsoun, relict of Andro Neische in Pitslandie, and others, for not restoring certain victual; dated 20 July 1509 (21).

On 26 April 1510 an action was taken by Patrick Orme, brother of the late David Orme of Mugdrum, factor of the New

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<sup>85</sup>Bairn = Scots for child *David Rorer*

<sup>86</sup>Over Kynnatie, Nether Kynnatie would be "Upper and Lower Kynnatie. *David Rorer*

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College of St Andrews, against Alexander Neshe at the Mill of Tannades, as unrelaxed from horning of 13 January last, for not delivery of teinds, &c, due by them to the Masters of the said college for 1607-8 (21).

A protestation by William Neische, burgess of Dundee, and others, that they be not held further to answer to the letters raised by David Kinloch, Doctor of Physic, against them, charging them with the casting down of a pretty pillar of stane-work<sup>87</sup> erected by the said David on his own heritage, was dated 15 August 1610 (21).

In 1520 John Archibald of Donyface Made a complaint to the Privy Council against James Neishe in Ravilgrein (parish of Tannadyce), and

128 others, as cautioners for the Earl of Crawford, who remains unrelaxed at the horn for not paying to the complainer £1000 (21)

David Lindsay, the twelfth Earl of Crawford, was so reckless and extravagant that he acquired the name of the "prodigal earl." To prevent the continual alienations of the estates of the earldom carried on by this earl, the family got him imprisoned in Edinburgh Castle, where he spent the last years of his life under surveillance, but acting in every respect otherwise as a free agent.

In consequence, he was sometimes styled "Comes Incarceratus," or the "captive earl." He died in the castle in February 1621, and was buried in the chapel of Holyroodhouse.

The lands of Easter and Wester Ravelgrenes<sup>88</sup> belonged to Lindsay of Balgawes in 1519.

1626. The testament of John Neish, in Auchterlony, parish of Dunnichen, is dated 24 July 1626 (33).

1630. George Neisch, servitor to the sub-

129 scribing notary Thomas Schewane, was a witness to an Instrument of Sasine in favor of Patrick Livingstone, younger, given on 8 September 1630 (30).

Thomas Shewan was a notary in Kirriemuir in 1620 (17).

1631. George Neish was a witness to No. 186 charter, dated 13 October 1631, of Brechin Cathedral (28).

1535. Robert Neish, burgess of Forfar, was fined for selling tobacco contrary to the law (21).

1638. The following testaments are recorded in the Commissary Record of Brechin: Elspeth Neish, spouse to Thomas Brokhouse, baxter, citiner of Brechin, 6th June 1638.

Euphan Neish, widow in Buttergill, parish of Brechin, 14 February 1640. Alexander Neish, in West Drums, and Margaret Steinsone, his spouse, dated 12th April 1658.

David Neish, at the Law of Farnail, and 130 Barbara Neish, his wife, dated 15 December 1658.

John Neish, in the Mansion of Navar, 19 December 1658.

John Neish, in Middledrums, parish of Brechin, 1563.

Isobel Neish, spouse to Andrew Ogilvie, in Mayns, 13 January 1569.

Margaret Neish, indweller in Brechin, 18 May 1671.

George Jamie, in Brachlaburn, and Margaret Neish, his spouse, 1696.

Thomas Neish of Kinraig, 27 May 1712.

Duncan Neish, merchant in Montrose, 1718-19.

George Neish, in Pitpullox, dated 23 August 1737.

James Neish of Laws and O'Machie, Angus, sometime merchant in Dundee, purchased the estate of Laws from the trustees of William Colville, formerly of Calcutta<sup>89</sup>, on the 15 August 1850.

This family is a branch of the old stem of MacNish.

130 Arms--Azure, on a chevron, between three ravens, argent, armed, gules, as many cross crosslets fitchee, sable. Crest--An eagle rising proper, armed or. Motto -- Animo noll astutia (By courage, not by craft). (Baronage of Angus and Mearns)

Laws House stands on the most elevated site in the parish of Monifieth, amid

<sup>87</sup>A pretty pillar of stone work...

<sup>88</sup> East and West Ravelgrenes

<sup>89</sup> Calcutta in India, evidently he was a traveled man.

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extensive picturesque grounds, about seven miles northeast of Dundee. The lands of Laws were formerly known as the " Lawys of Estyr Athy. "

### THE NEISHES OF TANNADYCE

The Neishes of Tannadyce, in Angus, are descended from John Neish, in Craigie, who married Janet Anderson about 1554. John left three sons and two daughters:

1. David, in Mains, married Margaret Grizzel Hazel, 18 August 1574.
2. William, married (1) Janet Whittet, circa 1686; (2) Grizzel Lamb, in 1696.

131 3. Andrew, married Isabel Bathie, circa 1592, had by her a daughter, Chrstian, born 13 June 1594.

4. Catherine, married Alexander Low, and had a son, David, and three daughters.
5. Jean, born 28 July 1560.

William Nish, second son of John, had four sons and three daughters:

1. Thomas, by Janet Whittet, born 26 April 1688.
2. Janet, by Janet Whittet, born 3rd October 1690, married David Couper.
3. William, by Janet Whittet, born 18 July 1596.
4. Margaret, by Grizzel Lamb, born 14 January 1597, married David Garland Wright.
5. Isabell, by Grizzel Lamb, born 19 February 1599.
6. James, by Grizzel Lamb, born 1st June 1701.
7. Alexander, by Grizzel Lamb, born circa

133 1702, married Helen Smith; died circa 1740.

Alexander Nish, fourth son of William Nish, left two sons and a daughter.

1. James Neish, Maltman in Dundee, born circa 1730, married, 11th August 1759, Margaret, second daughter of Thomas Davidson, Laird of Wolfaw; admitted burgess of Dundee, 25 September 1764. Died 31 March 1810.

The said Margaret Davidsons great-grandmother was Elizabeth Graham, who married Robert Davidson of Balgay in 1671. She was the daughter of Waiter Graham of Duntrune, and cousin-german of William Graham of Claverhouse, the father of John, 1st Viscount Dundee. Margaret Davidson was born in 1731 and died 4 July 1824.

2. William, died unmarried.
3. Jean, married David Brown Walker, Dighty Water.

134 James Neish, eldest son of Alexander Nish, left three sons and three daughters:-

1. Thomas, born 31 March 1761; married Elizabeth Kirkaldy, 23rd October 1784, and had by her three sons and two daughters. He died 14 November 1833. A son of his, also named Thomas, a merchant, was the first to introduce jute to Dundee, about the year 1824. John Graham of Claverhsuse, 1st Viscount Dundee, was the direct descendant of Sir Robert Graham of Fintry, the son of the Lord Graham of Kincardine by his wife Lady Mary Stewart, daughter of King Robert III of Scotland.
2. James, born 1st May 1766; married, 14 November 1794, (1) Agnes Concur; (2) Catherine Playfair. Had family by both; died April 1838.
3. William Neish, manufacturer, burgess of Dundee; born 26 April 1772;

135 married, September 1, 1804 daughter of William Bisset; died 18 September 1828, leaving five sons and six daughters:-

1. James Neish of Laws and Omachie, born 14 May 1809; married, 8 June 1841, Janet, second daughter of John Walker, Blebo Mills, Fife; died 23rd May 1882, leaving (1) William of Laws and Omachie, born 28 October 1845; died, unmarried, 19 February 1911; (2) John Walker Neish, born 1st September 1849, died, unmarried, 15 September 1884; and two daughters.
2. William Neish of Clepington and Tannadyce, Barrister-at-Law; born 23rd April 1815; admitted burgess of Dundee, 25 October 1842; married, 13 September 1848, Margaret Ann, daughter of George Watson, Calcutta and

136 Aberdeen; died 15 March 1886, leaving six sons.

3. John Elam Neish, born 31 May 1816, died, unmarried, 1879.
4. Thomas Neish, born and September 18rg, died 5 September 1819.
5. Charles James Fox Neish, born 26 October 1823, died 9 January 1831.

The sons of William of Clepington.

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1. George Watson Neish, born 11th July 1849; married, 20th September 1876, Jane Annie, eldest daughter of James Patullo, solicitor (Dundee), of Abertay, Broughty Ferry; issue, William Neish, born 28 February 1881 in London, now Captain Gordon Highlanders; and four daughters.
2. James Neish, born 13 October 1854; married 1892, Adeline Maud Lambert; issue, Hugh Graham Neish, born 10 October 1897
- 137 3. Charles Henry Lawrence Neish, C. B., born 6th December 1857; issue, Charles Douglas Hamilton Neish, born 7 June 1891, died 15 January 1906
4. Colin Graham Neish of Tannadyce, Captain R.H.A., retired; born 30 March 1860, in London; married, 10 August 1896 Helen Lyell, eldest daughter of Francis Balfour Paton of Aucharroch and Cairnbank, Forfarshire; issue, Colin Francis Ian Neish, born 13 May 1897.
5. Francis Hugh Neish, born 14 June 1863 in London; married Alice Katherine, daughter of Colonel Almeric Spenser, late Essex Regiment; Lieut. Colonel Commanding 1st Batt. Gordon Highlanders in Belgium, 1914; issue, Frances Feodora Spenser Neish, born 21 August 1900
6. Edward William Neish, Sheriff-Substitute for Dundee, born 30 March 1865 in London

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### CHAPTER VI.

THE NEISHES AND NESSES OF FIFE --THE MACNEECES OF ULSTER --THE MACNISHES OF ARGYLL --THE MACKNIGHTS --DR ROBERT MACNISH--THE NEISHES OF CANADA --THE MACNEISHES OF ARRAN --MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS OF THE CLAN -- PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE CLAN ---CRESTS ---TARTAN.

Neish or Nes is also an old Fifeshire surname; Many belonging to this branch now spell their name Ness; both forms however still occur in the county. Before surnames were fixed in Fife, we find a Malfnacht or Malfnacth (Maol-neis or Maolnacht) on record as a tenant of lands in Fife, that were granted to the Priory of St Andrews circa 1200 (8). 1491. Johne Neis served on a Brief of Inquest of the Abbot of Dunfermline on 11 February 1491 (45).

139 1510. John Neis, an owner of tenements<sup>90</sup> in Cupar, is mentioned in a charter by John Fouty, burghess of Cupar, to the Parish Church, of an annual rent out of tenements adjoining those of John Neis (17).

1553. On the 17 July, Agnes Moffat, relict of umquhil (the late) Thomas Nesche, sometime citizen of St Andrews, and conjunct fiar of a tenement lying within the said city and on the south side of the Market Street, resigned the same in the hands of John Moffat, one of the bailies of the said city, reserving her liferent, which resignation being made, the said bailie cognosced William Nesche as son and heir of Thomas Nesche and to the said tenement; thereafter William resigned the same in the hands of the said bailie, reserving the said liferent and power to himself to redeem according to the tenor of a Letter of Reversion to be made thereupon. The bailie gave sasine of the tenement to Jonet Nesche, sister-german of the said William, &c (29).

140 1558. William Nesche held a tenement on the south of Market Street in St Andrews (Jarden sasine, dated 1st July, Cal. of Charters).

1559-68. The following forms occur in the St Andrews Kirk Session Records : Neche, Neische, Nesche, and Niesche. 1570. On 2 January the King confirmed the charter by James, Commendator of St

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<sup>90</sup>Tenement = Law, any species of permanent property that may be held; Scottish land law terms.

Andrews, to the College of St Leonard there, of the annual rents, including one of 7s. out of the tenement of Wil. Neische, in St Andrews. At the monastery of St Andrews, 20th May 1562 (17).

1592. A dispute between the Magistrates and a Majority of the inhabitants of St Andrews, and certain persons of the same city, among whom is Alexander Neishe, of tymmerman, anent improvements and repairs in the said burgh, dated 24 March (21).

1608. David Nes, junior, a burghess of Cupar,

141 was a witness to a Baxter of Cupar charter, at Cupar, 25 May (17).

1632. Alexander Neische, servitor to Sir James Lundine, is a witness to a charter by John Lundine of that ilk, to the said James Lundine, of an annual rent out of the Maynes of Lundine, &c, Fifeshire. At the Manor of Lundie, 27 February 1632 (17)

1660. William Nysche, citizen of St Andrews, sold to John Black of St Andrews a tenement of land lying on the south side of the Market Street; to be holden from the granted, of the Lord of the Regality of St Andrews, dated 29 January (29).

1675-80. James Ness, in Tassis, and Thomas Ness, in Sassintully, were prosecuted for attending conventicles<sup>91</sup>, and were declared fugitives. Thomas Ness was suspected to be accessory to the death of Archbishop Sharp; he craved liberation, and his release was ordered. A Thomas Ness was tenant in Nether Praters of Lundy, in Fife, about this time (21).

142 ARGYLLSHIRE.

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<sup>91</sup>Conventicle, an assembly or gathering, especially a secret assembly; a meeting of dissenters from the established church for religious worship; a secret meeting for religious worship held by the Scottish covenanters; *The New Webster Encyclopedic Dictionary of the English Language. 1980 edition*



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There appears to have been an old MacNish family settled for many centuries in Argyll; from this family are probably sprung the McNeeces of Ulster.

1593. Randal McNeece, the chief of the Scots of the Glynns in Ulster, under Angus McDonnell.

MacNeece: An Ulster family of MacDonald connection.

Neece was an Ulster MacDonald phonetic corruption of the Gaelic form of Angus (Clan Donald, vol. 3, p. 409).

McNish, McNeice, McNiece, Mannice, and Minnis are present-day Ulster forms of the name. The MacNishes and MacNeishes of Argyll, Arran, and Ulster, possibly derive their name from "son of Angus," and they do not appear to have sprung from the older Neis or MacNeish stock of Perthshire.

143 1793-1800. Archibald, lawful son to Neill McNiesh and... McKinvin in Margmoragachan, was baptised 15 December 1793.

John, lawful son to Niell McNish and Chirsty McKinnon in Margmonach, baptised 4 January 1795.

Niell, lawful son to Niel McNiesh, tenant in Margmonagach, was baptised 2nd June 1800 (Killean and Kilchenzie Births).

Archibald McNiesh and Catherine Munro, both in Margmonagachan, were married 31st June 1795.

Niell McNish, in Kilcalmonell parish, and Christian MacQuilkan, in the parish of Clonaig, were married on 6th February 1797.

1724. Duncan McKecht, in Auchaline, Inishael (58)

1892. The Rev, Dr Neil MacNish, LL.D., of the leading Canadian Gaelic and classical scholars.

144 MaCKNIGHT.

The MacKnights of Ayrshire and Galloway are a branch of the MacNaughts of Carrick, who were descended from a MacNes.

James MacKnight, D.D., a learned biblical critic and author, the son of the Rev. William MacKnight, minister of Irvine, was born in 1721. He was ordained minister of Maybole in his native county in 1753; he was, in 1769,

chosen Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. For upwards of thirty years he was engaged in the preparation of his last and most important work, The New Literal Translation from the Greek of all the Apostolical Epistles, with Commentaries and Notes, which was published in 1795. He died in the year 1800.

Thomas MacKnight (1829 -1899) was a political writer.

A small sept of MacNeids lived in the northern parts of Dumbartonshire during the

145 sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The descendants of these have modernized their name MacKnight.

Donald McKnett, in Easter Ardincaple, 1607 (21). Robert McNait, in Stron of Luss, in 1614, was fined for resetting some MacGregors.

In 1621 Patrick McNeid, in Meikle Innerlawren, and Robert, in Kirkmichael-Stirling, and Robert McNeid, in Over Innerlawren, native tanners, were declared rebels for refusing the authorized instruction in tanning (21).

ROBERT MaCNISH, LL.D.

Robert MacNish, "The Modern Pythagorean," physician, and miscellaneous writer, was the second son of John MacNish, an eminent surgeon of Glasgow, and was born in Hendersons Court, Jamaica Street, on the 15 February 1802.

He received the elements of his education partly in his native city and partly at Hamilton Academy, obtaining a degree of Master in Surgery at only eighteen years of age, when

146 he became assistant to Dr Henderson of Clyth, Caithness. He remained there for about eighteen months, and then went to Paris for a year, to complete his medical studies. On his return to Glasgow in 1825, he became assistant to his father, having, the same year, obtained his diploma from the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, when he gave in, as his inaugural thesis, "An Essay on the Anatomy of Drunkenness." Two years afterwards, in 1827, this essay, extended and improved, was published at Glasgow, when it formed a thin octave of

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fifty-six pages. It met with a very flattering reception from the public, and was still further enlarged in subsequent editions. Translations of it have appeared in the German and French languages.

Dr MacNish's earliest literary attempts were contributed to the Inverness Journal when he was in the north, and afterwards to the Literary Melange, and The Emmet, two Glasgow periodicals.

147 In 1826 he forwarded his first article to Blackwood's Magazine, being a tale entitled "The Metempsychosis." It appeared with the signature of "A Modern Pythagorean," the name affixed to all his after-productions in that and other Magazines.

In 1827 he became acquainted with Dr Moir of Musselburgh, afterwards his biographer. In 1830 Dr MacNish published at Glasgow a treatise entitled The Philosophy of Sleep, which was equally as well received as his former work; this also went through several editions. In 1834 appeared The Book of Aphorisms, some of which had originally been contributed to Frasers Magazine. The same year he visited the Continent, and in 1835 he made a tour in Belgium, Holland, France, Switzerland, and Germany.

His last publication was a small treatise in 1835, entitled "Introduction to Phrenology"<sup>92</sup>, to which science he had become a convert.

From Hamilton College, United States, he

148 at this time received the degree of LL.D. He died of typhus fever, 16 January 1837, in his thirty-fifth year, and his remains were interred in the burial-ground of St Andrews Episcopal Chapel, Glasgow.

His Tales, Essays, and Sketches were published at Edinburgh in two volumes in 1838 under the title of The Modern Pythagorean, with a memoir of the author by his friend, Dr Moir of Musselburgh, the "Delta" of Blackwood's Magazine.

Roberts father was John (son of John), who was born in 1776; he became M.F.P.S.G, in 1796, President of that Faculty, 1823-30, Professor in Glasgow. He died on the 11 July 1860, at 47 Greenlaw Place, Paisley Road, Glasgow. The following record appears in the Matriculation Register of Glasgow, under the date 1789: John MacNish, eldest son of John MacNish, merchant, Glasgow (probably John Killian MacNish, son of John MacNish, surgeon, not merchant). Alexander MacNish, second son of Andrew

149 MacNish, farmer in Kirkholm, county of Galloway, Matriculated at Glasgow in 1790.

Edmond Dodd, the lawful son of John MacNish, surgeon; Bertha Dodd was born 27 April 1846 (Glasgow Register of Births).

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<sup>92</sup> Phrenology is a theory which claims to be able to determine character, personality traits, and criminality on the basis of the shape of the head

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### THE NEISHES OF NOVA SCOTIA.

The Neishes of Nova Scotia are descended from a Dundee family, probably a cadet of the Annadyce branch, David Neish, in Dundee, left two sons and a daughter:--

1. Elizabeth, married -- McIntosh; issue, David Neish McIntosh, now in Andover, Massachusetts.

2. David, the eldest son, was born in Dundee in 1842; he was educated for the Presbyterian Church at St Andrews (two years), Glasgow (five years), and Edinburgh (two years) Universities. He subsequently took Orders in the Church of England, and immigrated to Nova Scotia. He married Sarah S. Wisweli of Halifax, N.S., who was the Maternal granddaughter of James Smith of Old Meldrum,

150 Aberdeenshire.

The Rev. David Neish died at Londonderry, Nova Scotia, on the 8 January 1901, leaving two sons and three daughters: -

- (1) Ethel, died.
- (2) Frances, married.
- (3) Ethel S.
- (4) Charles Wiswell.
- (5) Robert A.

The two sons are both clergymen of the Church of England, within the diocese of Nova Scotia.

The Rev. Charles Wiswell Neish, of Petite Riviere, Nova Scotia, is married, with two sons and two daughters.

### THE NEISHES OF CANADA AND JAMAICA

Arthur C. Neish, Professor of Chemistry at Queens University, Kingston, Ontario (1924), is descended from a Rotherham (England) family of Forfarshire origin. The following information of this family has been communicated by Professor Neish.

151 The earliest records we know of our family start with my grandparents, George and Jane Neish. George Neish, born in 1795, died 21 October 1862, and was interred in Rotherham cemetery. His wife, Jane, died 5 June 1866, at the age of seventy, and was also interred at Rotherham. This George had a brother named William. George and Jane Neish had, to the best of my knowledge, three sons, William, James, and George. William Neish left England in September

1867, and arrived in Quebec, going direct to Kingston (Ontario), where his brother James Neish owned and operated a newspaper called The Daily News. William Neish had six children, three girls born in England, and the three sons in Canada. The six children are: -- Alice Jane, Laura Teresa, and Ada Eleanor, now of Kingston. William, died in Pittsburgh circa 1899. George Melvin Neish of Newark, N.J. Arthur C. Neish of Queens University, Kingston

152 George, son of George Neish, born 1841, died in Rotherham, 1913, with issue, one son and two daughters.

Dr James Neish, son of George (1795-1862), came to Canada before 1867, and was interested in newspaper work. While Editor of the Kingston News he attended the Medical College of Queens University, and graduated in 1865. He was a member of the staff from 1866 to 1874, holding the title Professor of Medicine and Professor of Descriptive and Regional Anatomy.

In 1881 he accepted the post of Medical Health Officer for the port of Kingston, Jamaica.

Dr James Neish left five sons and four daughters:--

George, William, and Donald Neish (deceased). These three brothers were doctors, and they held Government positions in the Island of Jamaica.

- (4) Dr James Neish
- (5) Herbert Neish.

153 (6) Hattie.

(7) Isa. (Mrs. Hay), deceased.

(a) Carrie, married.

(g) Jennie, married.

The Neishes of Saskatchewan and Kelowna, British Columbia, are cadets of the Tannadyce family.

There are many MacNeishes in the province of New Brunswick, in Canada; they are descended from John MacNeish and his spouse, Mary Carr, who left the Isle of Arran with their eldest son, two years old, about the year 1829; they settled in New Brunswick, and had issue: John, William, Mary, Thomas, Alexander, Ann, and Claniel.

Angus MacNeish, son of John, is a big salmon-fisher in the province, where

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there is a railway stop known as "MacNeishes Station," in the northern part of that province, near the town of Dalhousie.

MacNeish is an uncommon surname in the Isle of Arran. In 1766 John McNish appears on the rental rolls as tenant in Easter Clauchland, and in 1773 John McNinch (probably the

154 same man) was a tenant in Birrican in the same island.

The form MacNinch also occurred in Ayrshire in the sixteenth century. The following is the inscription on a gravestone in the cemetery at Scutarie, in Turkey: "Sacred to the memory of W. L. MacNish, Lieut. 93rd Highlanders, who was drowned at Scutarie, May 19 1854. This tablet was erected by his brother officers."

The 93rd, or Argyll and Sutherland, Highlanders served in the Crimean War, and distinguished themselves as the Thin Red Line at the battle of Balaclava, on 25 October 1854.

### MSCCELLANEOUS RECORDS OF THE FAMILY

1505. Donald M'Nethe was a tenant of the lands of Terradaill in Rossshire (23). The name, however, was not perpetuated as a surname in the north of Scotland.

155 1526. A Precept of Remission was granted to Alexander and William Nesche; they had assisted the late David Home of Wedderburn, Berwickshire, in a raid (44).

1543. Escheat of John Nech and others (45).

It is impossible to locate the district in which he lived.

1579. Complaint of Dame Elizabeth Betoun, relict of James, Lord Invermeith, John Stewart, her son, and others, including John Neische; upon James Gray, son to Patrick, Lord Gray, her second husband (21). The barony of Innermeith was situated in the south of Perthshire.

1590. John Neische, tailor, was a witness to a Bond of Caution for 500 merks by James Gordon of Knokaspeck, for Robert Gordon in Towie, his brother. Dated at Knokaspeck in Aberdeenshire, 20th March 1590 (21)

The Neishes were never numerous in Aberdeenshire.

156 1598. Thomas Nysche, Sergeant Major of the Scots, received £80. Thomas Niche, formerly Lieutenant of Captain Murray (his company), received his commission as Sergeant Major on the 6th October 1598. He was probably killed before Rheinberg in 1601, for Prince Maurice there appointed Archibald Erskine to succeed him on 22 July 1601 (57).

In those days a Sergeant Major was an important commissioned officer. 1598. Neish (no doubt the Sergeant-Major or Adjutant) succeeded Stewart as Captain about the year 1600.

Sergeant John Nies was a witness to a baptism on 16 July 1730.

Sergeant John Niesh (the same Man) was a witness to a baptism at Veulo on 16 August 1732.

Lieutenant John M'Kinsh (a Galloway form of the name) served in the Scots Brigade in 1694 (57).

157 1602. Extract from a complaint by William Ros (now Rose) of Kilraak (now Kilravock, in the county of Nairn) against Allaster McEane Oig of Glenko and his followers (MacDonalds of Glencoe).

"and from Nesie McNesie, three horses, four heads of goods, with his whole plenishing, and tyrrit himself, his wife and bairnes, his wife being new delyverit of ane bairne." Dated 23rd June 1602 (21)

This is the latest record of the use of the name Nes or Nesie as a Christian name. The descendants of the above Nesie probably adopted the surname MacNishie, which occurred in that district in the early part of the nineteenth century.

1606. Gillie Genach MacNicht, in the Lewis, appears on the list of Highlanders who attacked the Lowland settlers in Lewis; he was put to the horn (outlawed) (21).

1629. Rev. David Neish was enrolled on the exercise at Haddington on the 11th March

158 1629; he became minister of Eddleston, in the Presbytery of Peebles, in 1639.

1766. Some McNishes were among the earliest colonists in a Scottish settlement at Salem, New York, circa 1766.

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1835. B. R. McNees was appointed 2nd Lieut. in the 4th Regiment of the British Auxiliary Legion of Spain in July 1835 (Hist. of the British Legion and War in Spain, A. Somerville, 1839). F.G.P. Neison, F.L.S., author of Contributions to Vital Statistics, a Kilmamock man, was a well-known statistician and the author of several pamphlets between 1840 and 1850; an account of him is given in MacKays History of Kilmamock.

Neison is a very uncommon form of the surname MacNeish; some of the name settled in and about London many years ago.

The surname Neisson still occurs in some of the Scottish settlements in the United States of America.

159 The following are well-known members of the clan: Sir Charles Henry Lawrence Neish, K.B.E., C.B., Registrar of the Privy Council since 1909. He is the third son of the late William Neish of Tannadyce, and was Private Secretary to the Lord Chancellor from 1905 to 1909. He married Rosalie, daughter of

the late Sir Edwin Henry Galsworthy. Lady Neish is the well-known writer on feminist topics, Rosalie Neish, whose work is always distinguished by womanly charm and a shrewd wit.

Dr David MacNish, Ma MB CM JP F R G S, late temp. Captain RAMC, of London Colonel George McNish, CBE, TD, JP, of Glasgow, son of the late Robert McNish of Ardenlea, West Kilbride, Ayrshire, was born in Glasgow in 1866. He married Margaret, eldest daughter of William Frew, Inspector to the Northern Lighthouse Commissioners. Lieut. Colonel Francis Hugh Neish, late Gordon Highlanders, of London, fifth son of

160 the late William Neish of Tannadyce. He registered his coat-of-arms, &c, with the Lyon King-at-Arms in 1892.

Edward William Neish, Sheriff-Substitute of the Lothians and Peebles since 1921, younger son of the late William Neish of Tannadyce.

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### CRESTS.

The following crests are given in Fairbairns Book of Crests, 1905:

M'Nish. Scotland. An arm embowed and couped in fess ppr., vested at., holding an oak-sprig vert, fructed or.

M'Nish. An eagle rising ppr.

Motto--*Anilzo Non astzltin* (By courage, not by stratagem).

Neish. Cupid with his bow and arrow, all ppr.

Motto--*Amicitiam trahit amor* (Love draws friendship).

M'Naught of Kilquharity, and MKnight. A lions head erased, arg., langued gu.

161 Motto--*OM'Nia fortuna committo* (I commit all things to fortune).

The Rothesay Herald (F. J. Grant, Esq.) says (in Llit.):- The crests given by Fairbairn are not by any means all of legal authority. The crest given for McNish was, I find, invented by Alexander Deuchar, a seal engraver, who flourished in Edinburgh about a century ago.

The crest generally adopted by the MacNishes for the last hundred years is the second crest given by Fairbairn, "An eagle rising ppr."

### TARTAN.

The ancient tartan of the Neishes and MacNeishes of Perthshire is now unknown. It probably fell out of use after the Massacre of the clan by the MacNabs.

Frank Adam, in Clans and Septs of the Scottish Highlands, allocates the Neishes, MacNishes, &c, to the Macgregor clan. Adam does not cite any authority for including

162 the Neishes and their allied forms as septs of the Clan Gregor.

They were probably included because of the McNeis-McIlduy entries in the list of Macgregor retainers in the records of the Privy Council.

The MacNeishes of Athol were connected with the Stewarts of Athol as well as the MacGregors.

The Arran and Kintyre families are probably sprung from a branch of the MacInnes (MacAngus) clan.

Members of the clan MacNish or Neish May wear the tartan of either the MacGregors or MacInnes.

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### APPENDIX

MACNISH PEDIGREES, SASINES, BIRTHS AND MARRIAGES IN DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY.

REGISTER OF SASINES FOR KIRKUDBRIGHT.  
1771 TO 1880

1782. March 4. Sasine of John Livingston, minister Glasgow, in lands of Tormollan and Slogary, on disposition by him for creditors of James M'Nish of Slogary, 24 July 1781

1784. May 10. Sasine of Grizel M'Nish, spouse of George Gillespie, laborer; Carlingwark mentioned.

1785. January 19. Sasine of Anthony M'Nish, merchant, Gatehouse of Fleet, in tenement in Gatehouse of Fleet; on Disposition by Gilbert Livingston, Whinnyhill, 12 January 1785.

1789. December 30. Sasine of Isobel M'Nish, spouse of John M'Haffie of Trostrie, in lands of Trostrie, parish of Twynholm: on Bond of Provision by the said John M'Haffie.

1794. July 25. Sasine of Robert Ramsay of Dumfries, parish of Troqueer; on disposition by Elizabeth M'Nish in Portadown, Ireland, dated 18 May 1781 and 16 July 1794.

1802. November 23. Sasine of Joseph M'Nish, minister, Gatehouse of Fleet, and Mary Richardson, his spouse in subjects there.

1803. February 16. Sasine of James Milrae, tanner, Castle-Douglas, in croft called the Glencroft, part of Largs, under burden of £10 to William M'Nish, mer-

168 chant, London, and £20 to Nathaniel M'Nish, jr., sons of Nathaniel M'Nish in Blackpark.

1804. August 3. Sasine of William M'Nish, now William M'Nish, Porter (no designation), in lands of Blairinnie or Blairennie, portioner of Balmaclennan.

1810. February 14. Sasine of Christian M'Nish, spouse of William M'Clure, merchant, Gatehouse of Fleet, mentioned

1811. September 20. Sasine mentions Disposition to Thomas Birkett, wood merchant, Gatehouse on Fleet, and Henrietta M'Nish, his spouse, with consent of Robert M'Nish, merchant, Gatehouse on Fleet, dated 12 February 1811.

1812. March 18. Sasine of William M'Nish, in village of Newabbey, as heir to William M'Nish, miller, Newabbey, his uncle, in subjects in Abbacy of Newabbey; also in 1823 to lands called Welltrees, &c

1818. April 8. Sasine of Robert M'Nish, merchant, Gatehouse of Fleet, in 20s land of Easter Glen.

1824. April 12. Sasine of Martha and Menzies M'Nish, residing in Gatehouse, and Jane M'Nish, relict of John McCartney of Nassan, in the island of New Providence in the Bahamas, in a tenement in Gate house of Fleet, parish of Girthon, on disposition by commissioners for William M'Nish of Great Satilla, in the county of Camden, in the State of Georgia, U.S.A., planter, February 6-13, 1824; also Made up title in 1823 as heir to James Menzies of the Bahamas, his uncle.

1825. May 14. Disposition by William M'Nish, residing at Nethermiln, of subjects in Newabbey.

169 1828. May 7. Sasine of Patricia M'William, executrix dative and relict of Robert M'Nish, merchant, Gatehouse on Fleet, for behoof of herself and Harriet, Mary, and John M'Nish, his children, in security of Bond by Thomas Birkett.

1829. July 6. James M'Nish, writer, Gatehouse, gets Bond.

1831. August 20. Sasine of James Wood, residing in Savannah, Georgia, North America, as heir to Joseph M'Nish, sometime merchant, Halifax, afterwards at Gatehouse of Fleet, his uncle, in subjects in High Street of Gatehouse of Fleet.

1833. April 15. Sasine of Marq. M'Nish, residing at Gatehouse of Fleet, relict of Alesander Galloway, farmer, Culreoch

1836. November 28. Sasine of Charles M'Nish, surgeon, residing in Northampton Square, London, as heir to Menzies M'Nish, Gatehouse of Fleet, his aunt.

1838. January 3. Sasine of Jane M'Nish, Gatehouse of Fleet, relict of John McCartney of the Island of New Providence

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1839. October 14. Renunciation by tutor at law to Agnes and Margaret Jane M'Nish, presently residing in Kirkcudbright, children of James M'Nish, writer, Gatehouse of Fleet, of a Bond to said James M'Nish.

1841. November 12. Renunciation which mentions Mary Mathison, residing in Maxwelltown, relict of James M'Nish, carter there, children of James Mathison in Braecroft of Terregles.

170 1842. June 2. Bond by William M'Nish and Alexander M'Nish in New Abbey village

1843. October 9. Sasine of John M'Nish, residing in Belfast (afterwards in New Orleans), as heir to Robert M'Nish, merchant, Gatehouse of Fleet, his father; on disposition by Anthony M'Nish to said Robert M'Nish; also Henrietta and Mary M'Nish, residing in Belfast, sisters to said John M'Nish.

Parish Register of Borgue: Baptisms, 1742 to 1819.

1749. May 20. Marron, lawful daughter to Alexander Nish and Jean Rammage in Gitgale, was baptized.

1750. June 5. Mary, lawful daughter to Alexander M'Knish and Jean Rammage in Gaitgall, baptized.

1753. April 30. Jean, lawful daughter to Alexander M'Nish and Jean Rammage, was baptized.

1758. October 31. Joseph, lawful son to Alexander M'Nish and Jean Rammage, was baptized at Laigh, Gategale.

1765. October 27. Isobel, lawful daughter to Thomas M'Nish and Marrison Gordon in High Borgue, baptized.

1766. April 20. John, lawful son to Nathaniel M'Nish and Isobel Porter in Aughenhair, baptized.

1767. August 2. ... lawful ... to Nathaniel M'Nish and Isobel Porter in Crosswood, baptized.

1770. December 26. Agnes, lawful daughter to Thomas M'Nish and Marion Gordon, baptized at High Borgue.

1771. April 25. Isobel, lawful daughter to Nathaniel M'Nish and Isobel Porter in Drumoer, baptized.

171 1773. September 29. David, lawful son to Nathaniel M'Nish and Isobel Porter in Barharrow, baptized.

1773. October 17. Mary, lawful daughter to Thomas M'Nish and Marion Gordon in Borland, baptized.

1776. February 20. Nathaniel, lawful son to Nathaniel M'Nish and Isobel Porter in Barharrow, baptized.

1793. September 27. William, lawful son to William M'Nish and Elizabeth Wallace in Kinganton, was baptized.

1815. March 30. William, lawful son to William M'Nish and Margaret Proudfoot, was born at Little Carleton.

1817. May 6. Janet, lawful daughter to William M'Nish and Margaret Proudfoot, was born at Carleton.

1818. November 11. William, son of Samuel M'Nish and Anne Heughan, was born at Auchenhay.

Marriages, 1741 to 1799.

1743. July 19. Robert M'Knish and Janet Tait married July 19.

1757. November 3. William Henrey M'Nish were married at Littletown.

1760. October 23. Nathaniel M'Nish, Porter, married at Mickle Carletown.

1763. October 13. Thomas M'Nish and Marrison Gordon married.

1777. April 28. Robert M'Nish and Janet Tait married at Kelton.

1796. July 18. Settled with Thomas Nish, paid him in full for one years salary £1 sterling.

172 1818. June .. Samuel Nish and... married.

1840. December 2 William Nish and Jane Bell married.

*Parish Register of Kelton.* Marriages and baptisms, 1717 to 1770: mixed. (Blank, 1727 to 1762.) Found nothing.

*Parish Register of Berwick.* Marriages and baptisms, 1736 to 1770. Found nothing.

*Parish Register of Crossmichael.* Baptisms, 1757 to 1770. Nothing. Marriages only begin 1783.

*Parish of Kirkpahrick-Irongray.* -- Baptisms, 1757 to 1770. Nothing. Marriages only begin 1772.

*Parish of Lochrutton.* - Baptisms, 1698 to 1770. Nothing. Marriages, 1697 to 1770. (Blank, 1699 to 1736; 1741 to 1749; and 1752 to 1756.) Nothing found.



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*Parish of Terregles.* Baptisms, 1724 to 1770. (Blank, 1747 to 1774.) Nothing found.

*Parish of Troqueer.* Baptisms, 1690 to 1770. (Blank, 1718 to 1734; 1737 to 1742.) Nothing found. Marriages, 1690 to 1770. (Blank, 1700 to 1718; 1723 to 1754; 1764 to 1766.) Nothing found.

*Parish of New Abbey,--*Baptisms, 1691 to 1770. Nothing.

*Parish of Balmaclellan.* --Baptisms, 1747 to 1790. (Blank, 1747 to 1770.)

Marriages, 1751 to 1770. (Blank, 1744 to 1751.) Nothing found.

173 *Parish of Dalry.* Baptisms and Marriages, 1691 to 1705: mixed. Baptisms, 1740 to 1790. Nothing found.

*Parish of Kells.* Baptisms, 1741 to 1795. Nothing.

*Parish of Minnigaff.* Baptisms, 1740 to 1795. Nothing.

*Parish of Troqueer.*

1771. John, son of David Nish and Jean Hanna, spouses in Bridgend, was baptized at Bridgend, 29 May 1771.

1775. Robert, son of David Nish, was born at Bridgend upon the 9th day of February 1775, and baptized there 10th of said month.

*Parish of Anwoth.* Baptisms and Marriages, 1727 to 1820: mixed.

1735. November 27. James M'Millan, in Grobble of Girton, and Nicolas M'Nish, in Arckland of Anwoth, married.

1735. December 30. John, son lawful of John M'Nish and ... Wilson in Lagg of Girton, baptized.

1737. March 3. John M'Whae, in Killern, and Jean M'Nish, in Archland, married.

174I. June 16. Robert M'Nish, in Whiteside, and Mary M'Whork, at Skyreburn, married.

1742. March 6. Jean, daughter lawful of Robert M'Nish and Mary Whork in Whiteside, baptized.

1743. December 29. John, son lawful of Robert M'Nish and Mary Whork, baptized.

1746. July 11. James, son lawful of Robert M'Nish and Mary Whork in Whiteside, baptized.

174 1748. November 6. James, son lawful of Robert M'Nish and Janet Tait at Skyreburn, baptized.

1749. June 29. Margaret, daughter lawful of Robert M'Nish and Mary M'Whirk in Whiteside, baptized.

1751 March 3. John, son lawful of Robert M'Nish and Janet Tait at Skyreburn, baptized.

1752. August 16. William, son lawful of Robert M'Nish and Mary M'Whirk in Whiteside, baptized.

1755. November 30. Robert, lawful son of Robert M'Nish and Mary Whirk in Whiteside, baptized.

*Parish Register of Buittle.* Baptisms, 1736 to 1770, and marriages, 1737 to 1770: mixed.

1737. March 6. Baptized a child called George, lawful son to John M'Nish and Mary Caig in Guffockland.

1738. August 13. Baptized a child called Margaret, lawful daughter to John M'Nish and Mary Coupland in Almorness.

1740. May 11. Baptized a child called James, lawful son to John M'Nish and Mary Caig in Guffockland.

1740. December 11. James Johnston from Kirkbean and Mary M'Nish in this parish regularly married.

1744. July 7. Baptized a child called Betty, lawful daughter to John M'Nish and Mary Copland, Butterhole.

174I. April 5. Jean, lawful daughter to Jean M'Nish and Mary Coupland in Butterhole, baptized.

1745. July 24. Baptized a child called Betty, lawful daughter to John M'Nish and Mary Coupland in Butterhole.

1748. July 14. Robert Watson and Agnes M'Nish in Logan were regularly married.

175 1750. May 24. Baptized a child called George, lawful son to John M'Nish and Mary Coupland in Butterhole.

1760. April 29. John Thomson and Mary M'Nish at Halketleaths were regularly married.

1761. March 1. Baptized a child called Thomas, lawful son to Robert M'Nish and Mary M'Jore in the Cull.

1764. March 29. Baptized twins called Janet and Sarah, lawful children to Robert M'Nish and Mary M'George in the Cull.

1769 March 26. Baptized a child called Mary, lawful daughter to Robert M'Nish and Mary M'George in Breech.

## The History of the Clan Neish or MacNish of Perthshire and Galloway

*Parish Register of Parton.* Baptisms, 1714 to 1770. (Blank, 1717 to 1745.)  
1747. May 5. Margaret M'Nish, daughter to William M'Nish, baptized at Nether Ervie.

1749. February 21. Anthony, son to William M'Nish, baptized at Nether Ervie.

1751. June 4. John, son to William M'Nish, baptized at Nether Ervie.

1756. January 1. Janet, daughter to William M'Nish, baptized at Nether Ervie.

1758. October 17 John, son to Robert Nish, baptized at Glenlair.

1763. May 25. Robert, son to William M'Nish in Burnfoot of Ervie.

1763. September 15. Patrick, son to Robert Nish in Hole of Glenlair, baptized.

176 Marriages, 1714 to 1770. (Blank 1717 to 1744.)

1746. May 31. William M'Nish in Nether Ervy and Jean Thomson in Nether Dullarg gave in their names for proclamation, and were wedded in the church, Tuesday, 11 June.

1758. August 26. Robert Nish and Janet MMLillan in Glenlair gave in their names in order to proclamation, and were wedded at Lavickmill on Tuesday, 5 September.

1768. February 4. Archibald Campbell in Balmaghie and Margaret M'Nish in this parish, after regular proclamation, were married at Boot of Nann.

*Register of Deeds of Kirkcudbright.* 1744 to 1798.

1746. February 18. Obligation by William M'Nish in Balmacriell to Janet Mlroy, widow of Edward M'Nish, in Carsbuie, acknowledging receipt of 200 merks of legacy by the said Edward M'Nish's testament, dated 28 January last (under condition of his granting security to her of an annuity of 10 merks); and seeing she has been threatened with action for reduction of the said will by Robert M'Nish in Whitesaid, the said William grants security as above, and obliges himself to repay the said 200 merks if the will is reduced.

1779 December 30. Trust Disposition by James M'Nish of Slogary to Thomas Goldie, Commissary of Dumfries, of his

whole estate for satisfaction of creditors, dated 4 December 1779.

177 1796. August 12. Disposition and Assignment by John M'Nish, slater in Dalbeaty, and Mary Coupland, his spouse, in favor of John M'Nish, slater in Kirk cudbright, their eldest son, of the estate belonging to them at death, reserving their liferent with the burden of paying their debts and legacies, i.a., to Mary M'Nish, their eldest daughter, spouse to Thomas Coverly in Bouze of Terregles, £12 sterling; Alexander, John, and James Cavens, children of the marriage between Agnes M'Nish, their second daughter, and William Caven in Dalbeaty, £1 sterling equally among them; to Janet M'Nish, their third daughter, spouse to John Porter in Butterhole, £1; to Margaret M'Nish, spouse to James Napier in Bouze of Terregles, £2 sterling; and to John, Hugh, and Mary Lindsay, children of the marriage of Elizabeth M'Nish, their fifth daughter, and Hugh Lindsay, dyer at Dalbeaty, equally £15 sterling among them; and to George M'Nish in Dalbeaty, their second son, £12, dated 18 and 21 June 1781.

1770. February 22. Protest, Robert M'Nish, merchant in Ayr, against Robert Craig.

177I. March 28. Bond by William Muir of Dildawn to Nicolas M'Nish, widow of James M'Millan in Grobdale and children.

1773. October 4. Indentures David Fisher, wright at Kirk of Girthon, and William M'Nish, son of Robert M'Nish and Mary Whork in Whiteside, in the parish of Anwoth, for the latter's apprenticeship to the trade of wright and carpenter for four years, dated 1st November 1769.

178 1797. June 13. Disposition, Henry Alexander selling to Samuel and Joseph M'Nish, merchants in Halifax, Yorkshire, a piece of ground on the south side of the High Street of Gatehouse on Fleet, dated 3rd October 1789.

*Kirkcudbright Commissariat Processes.* 1750 to 1823.

1750. January 22. Petition and claim by William M'Nish in Balmagreal against Samuel Kennan in Calside, uncle to John Keenan, who was sister's son of the

## The History of the Clan Neish or MacNish of Perthshire and Galloway

petitioner. The said John died about eighteen years ago, leaving a bequest to Marion Conchy, wife of Peter Herron in Muirfad, his half-sister, and the petitioner was appointed executor, but on account of financial troubles came to some arrangement with the said Samuel, which has not been fulfilled.

1750. December 18. Claim by James M'Nish in Old Miln of Twynholm against John Ramsay in Beoch for the balance of the price of a horse and some victual.

1751. January 11. Claim by James M'Nish in Kilcroft of Twynholm, lawful son and executor to the deceased Robert M'Nish in Greenslaik, against David Shennan in Blackbridge for payment of £24 Scots, due to the said deceased Robert for about twenty years past.

1766. October 30. Petition by James M'Nish, merchant in Kirkcudbright, for the sealing up of the papers, &c, belonging to Mr Hugh Allison there, his brother-in-law, who has just died. There is an inventory submitted by Robert, Henrietta, and Marion Allison, brother and sisters-german of the said deceased Hugh Allison of Dunjop.

179 1776. May 17. Petition by Andrew Muir, merchant in Kirkcudbright, for refund of funeral charges out of the estate of James M'Nish, merchant, late bailie of Kirkcudbright. William M'Nish in Lag, nephew of the said James and nearest of kin to him, consents thereto.

1789. July 25. Petition by Jean M'Nish, widow of Samuel Brown in Carsluith, for a valuation of his effects.

1798. July 25. Edict of curatory upon petition by Robert M'Nish, eldest son of the deceased James M'Nish at Old Miln of Twynholm, for the compearance of Grizel M'Nish, spouse to Robert Richardson, shoe Maker in Gatehouse of Fleet, and Janet M'Nish, spouse of Hugh McConnel at Old Miln of Tvcynholm, two of the nearest of kin on the fathers side, and Euphemia Carter, spouse to Robert Cawmock in Barwhinnock, and Mary Carter, spouse to Thomas M'Nae, labourer in Kirkcudbright, two of the nearest of kin on the mothers side. There is also Nomination by the said Robert M'Nish (over fourteen and under twenty-one years of age) of Rev. Dr John Scott, minister at Twynholm, Andrew Carter in

Mark of Twynholm, and John Bell at Bridge of Kenn, as curators to him, dated 8 March 1799.

### *Parton B. County Kirkuldbright. Births.*

1747. May 5. Margaret M'Nish, daughter to William, baptized at Neth. Grew.  
180 1749. February 21. Anthony, son to William M'Nish, baptized at Nether Grey.  
1751. June 11. John, son to William M'Nish, baptized at Nether Ervie.  
1751. January 1. Jannet, daughter to William M'Nish, baptised at Nether...  
1758. October 17. *John*, son to Robert Nish, baptized at Glenlair.  
1763. May 25. Robert, son to William M'Nish in Burnfoot of Ervie.  
1763. September 15. Patrick, son to Robert Nish in Hole of Glenlair.  
1812. September 11. James, son to John Nish and Mary Jardine, baptized at Charlesfield.  
1816. Joseph, son to John Nish and Mary Jardine in Charlesfield, born 23rd March, baptized 14 April.

### *Marriages.*

1746. May 31. William M'Nish in Nether Ervoy and Jean Thomson in Nether Dullarg gave in their names for proclamation, and were wedded in the church, Tuesday, 11th June.  
1758. August 26. Robert Nish and Janet M'Millan in Glenlair gave in their names in order to proclamation, and were wedded at Lavick Miln on Tuesday, 5 September 1758.

### *Parton D.*

1753. October 9. Robert M'Nish, a young man at Nether Ervie.

181 1754. January 11. Daniel M'Nish, a traveling chaoman at Meikle Mochrum.  
1764. July 28. William M'Nish in Burnefoot of Ervie.

### *KirkMabreck Births.*

1785. January 25. William M'Nish and Jean Heron, at Broach, had a son named James.  
1788. April 10. William M'Nish and Jean Heron, in Broach, had a son, *John Hannay*.  
1790. July 2. William M'Nish, at Kirkdale, a son, William Hannay.  
1792. October 3. William M'Nish, at Kirkdale, had a daughter named Sarah.

## The History of the Clan Neish or MacNish of Perthshire and Galloway

- 1798 June 25. William M'Nish and Jean Heron, in Creetown, a son named Samuel.
1801. December 15. A son, *Andrew*.
1808. July 30. James Nish and Lilly Linni, a son, Peter Stewart.
1810. July 18. James Nish and Lilly Linn, a daughter, Margaret Stewart.
1811. November 17. James Nish and Lillie Linn, in Creetown, a daughter named *Dunlope Stewart*.
1814. May 12. James Nish and Lille Linn, Creetown, a son, *William*.
1816. August 10. A daughter, *Harriot Stewart*.
1819. November 12. A daughter, *Sarah*.  
*Girthon Births*.
1704. January 23. Marie, daughter to James Knish in Borg, was baptized.
- 182 1718. June 2. *Elizabeth*, daughter to John M'Knish and Agnes Cairns in Endrig, baptized.
1720. September 4. *Nicolas*, daughter to John M'Knish and -- Cairns in Endrig, baptized.
1722. May 20. *John*, son to John M'Knish and Agnes Cairns in Endrig, baptized.
1725. January 24. *Marin*, daughter to John M'Knish and Agnes Cairns in Lohans, baptized.
1727. July 2. William, son to John M'Knish and Agnes Cairns in Park of Cally, baptized.
1729. September 8. -- Nathanael, son to James M'Knish and Jean Clinton, his wife, baptized.
1738. March 22. William, son to John M'Knish in Lag.
1744. April 15. . . daughter to Robert M'Knish in Endrig.
1745. June 30. William, son to Robert M'Knish in Endrig
1762. December 16. Jean, daughter to Nathanael M'Nish and Isobell Porter, Seggynook
1767. January 2. James, son to William M'Nish and Mary Minzies in Lagg
1768. June 15. Janet, son to William M'Nish and Mary Minzies in Lagg.
1768. September 8. Janet, daughter to W. M'Nish and Elizabeth Martin Airds
1770. February 23. William, son to William M'Nish and Mary Minzies, Lagg
1777. January 28. Mary, daughter to W. M'Nish and Mary Minzies, Lagg
- 183 1779. January. Jean, daughter to W. M'Nish and Mary Minzies, Lagg
- 1780 December 21. John, son to W. M'Nish and Mary Minzies, Lagg
1784. Henrietta, lawful daughter to Anthony M'Nish and Jean Clugston, Gatehouse; born 8 and baptized 12th December.
1811. George M'Nish and Mary Hanning in Gatehouse, a son, John; born 24 April.
1819. George Nish Jolne and Mary Hanning, Gatehouse, twins, David and Isabella.  
*Porteous*; born 25, baptized 29, September.
- Twynholm Births and Marriages*.
1764. February 20. Isobel, daughter to Robert M'Nish at Old Miln, was baptized.
1782. November 16. Was born Robert, son to James M'Nish in Bearlochan.
1784. December 3. Jean, daughter to James M'Nish in Barlochan, was baptized.
1791. February 4. William, natural son to David M'Nish at Oldmiln, was baptized.
1792. William M'Nish, in the parish of Borgue, and Helen Wallace, in this parish, gave up their names for proclamation in order to marriage, which was done according to the rules of the Church.
- 1793 March 24. James, son to James M'Nish in Bearlochan, was baptized.
- 1794 July 12. David M'Nish and Mary M'Lachlan,
- 184 both in this parish gave up their names for proclamation in order to marriage, which was done according to the good rules.
1796. May 8. Isobell, daughter to James M'Nish in Newton, was baptized.
1796. October 31. Grizall, daughter to James M'Nish at Old Miln, was baptized.
1800. December 28. James, son to James M'Nish in Campbelton, baptized.
1803. December 11. Mary, daughter to Robert M'Nish and Marrison M'Millan in Bearlochan, was baptized.
1805. August 25. William, son to Robert M'Nish, Bearlochan.
1807. December 23. David, son to Robert M'Nish, Village.
- Girthon Marriages*.

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1731. July 16. John M'Knish, in Litletoun, and Nicolas Wilson, in this parish, married.
1731. July 28. Robert M'Knish, in Irelandtoun, and Margaret Gordon, in Hinton, married.
1731. October 28. John M'Knish, in Callie, and Marie Carson were married.
1819. July 19. Robert M'Nish and Patricia M'William, both in Gatehouse. Kelton B.
- Robert M'Nish and Jannet Tait, spouses at Keltonhill, had a child baptized 3rd September 1779 called Isabel. And another on 13th September 1780 called Mary.
- 185 *Kirkcudbrightshire* .  
*Parish of Buittle*. Baptisms, 1770 to 1819; also Marriages and deaths.
1791. April 25. Was born John, lawful son to John M'Nish and Margaret Raffel in Corbiton.
1794. April 12. Robert, lawful son to John M'Nish and Margaret Raffel in Cockleaths; baptized by the Rev. George Maxwell.
1797. November 1. Was buried a lawful son to John M'Nish and Margaret Raffel in Cockleaths, aged...at Buittle.
- 1801 July 25. Was buried Marion, lawful daughter to John M'Nish and Margaret Raffel in Cocmeaths, aged 1 ¼ years, at Buittle.
1809. November 28. Was born Margaret Weir, lawful daughter of Robert Nish and Janet Telfer, Scroggiehill; baptized by the Rev. Alexander Crosbie, 19 December. *Parish of Troqueer*. Baptisms, 1770 to 1819; also Marriages.
1794. March 14. Charles, son of David M'Nish and Jean Hanah, Bridgend, baptized.
1795. September 18. William, son of James M'Nish and Betty Morrison, baptized.
1798. September 16. Henry, son of Henry M'Nish and Mary M'Neil, baptized.
1799. July 28. Thomas, son of James M'Neish and Tabitha Donaldson, baptized.
- 186 1808. December 2. George, son of James M'Nish and Mary Matheson, baptized.
1811. June 17. John, son of James M'Nish and Mary Matheson, baptized.
1812. December 17. James, son of James M'Nish and Mary Matheson, baptized.
1816. January 6. John, son of James M'Nish and Mary Matheson, baptized.
1819. January 6. William, son of James M'Nish and Mary Matheson, Maxwelltown, baptized.
- Parish of New Abby*. Baptisms, 1770 to 1819; also Marriages.
1773. January 16. Nathaniel, son to David M'Nish and Jane Hanna in Clachan, baptized.
1778. June 20. Robert, son of Alexander M'Nish and Margaret Nicholson, baptized.
1780. June 17. William Wright, son to David M'Nish and Jane Hanna in Clachan, baptized.
1780. July 9. William, son to Alexander M'Nish and Margaret Mcholson in Clachan, baptized.
1782. May 26. Allan, son to David M'Nish and Jane Hanna in Clachan, baptized.
1805. September 30. William M'Nish and Sarah Bell confessed irregular marriage before Whitsunday last.
1808. July 24. Jane, daughter to William M'Nish and Sarah Bell in the village, baptised.
1809. December 25. Alexander, son to William M'Nish and Sarah Bell in Clachan, baptized.
- 187 1811. March 8. Sarah, daughter to William M'Nish and Sarah Bell in this village, baptized.
1812. July 30. William, son to William M'Nish and Sarah Bell in the village, baptized.
1813. November 22. Robina, daughter to William M'Nish and Sarah Bell in this village, baptized.
1815. May 8. Andrew, son to William M'Nish and Sarah Bell in the village, baptized.
- 1817 April 1. Elizabeth, daughter to William M'Nish and Sarah Bell in the village, baptized.
1819. March 11. Jessie, daughter to William M'Nish in the village, baptized. *Parish of Kelton*. Baptisms, 1770 to 1819; also Marriages .
1780. September 10. Robert M'Nish and Janet Tait, spouses at Kelton Hill, had a child baptized called Margaret. *Parish of Kirkpatrick-lrongray*. Baptisms, 1770 to 1819.

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1777. May 26. William, lawful son of James M'Nish and Margaret Halliday, baptized.  
(Marriages, blank, 1774 to 1855.)

The following parishes have been searched, but no entries of the name have been found:-

Colvend  
Rerrick  
Crossmichael  
Kirkpatrick-Durham  
Caerlaverock  
Holywood  
Kirkmahoe  
Parton  
188 Lochrutton  
Terregles  
Kirkbean  
Carsphairn  
Balmaclellan  
Kells  
Dairy  
Minnigaff

### *Dumfries Births.*

1612. May 26. Johne M'Nische, lawful son to Gilbert M'Nische in Troqueir.

Witnesses: John M'Kie, Hew Costein, merchants.

1658. January 17. Adam, lawful son to William M'Kneish, cordinaer<sup>93</sup> in Troqueir parish, baptized.

1668. May 23. Johne, lawful son to George M'Knish. Witnesses: James Lasone and John Lowrie.

1680. December 3. Agnes, lawful daughter to William M'Knish, pirieweik<sup>94</sup> maker.

Witnesses: John Mairtein and Robert Gibsone, fleshars.

1699 April 23. Baptized James, lawful son to George M'Nish, merchant, and Janet Twyname, his spouse. Witnesses: John Smith, kirk officer, and Thomas Atkin, shoemaker.

### *Dumfries Marriages.*

1698. June 2. George M'Nish, merchant, and Janet Twyname (born in Glencarne now), both in this parish, gave up their names to be proclaimed, and consigned their dollars. And after proclamation

were married upon the 22nd of that instant. Witnesses: George M'Nish, his son, and Robert Richardson, merchant.  
1699. June 29. John Jardine in Glencaple, in the

189 parish of Carlavrock, and Agnes M'Nish, lawful daughter to George M'Nish, merchant in this burgh, gave up their names to be proclaimed, and consigned their dollars; and after solemn proclamation were married upon the 27th of July following. Witnesses: George M'Nish, younger, and Harbert Anderson, smith.

1718. January 2. Thomas M'Gorm, son to umquhile Thomas M'Gorm in this place, he residing in Troqueir, and Marion M'Nish, daughter to John M'Nish, deacon of the weavers, married 23rd January 1718.

1636. January 28. In presence of the whole session, William M'Neish, parishioner of Troqueir, gave up his name to be proclaimed upon Elspet Cairlell of this parish. John Cairlell, his father, is become actit cautioner for both parties.

1644. October 10. Robert Nicolsone of this parish gave up his name to be proclaimed upon Helen M'Neish, parishioner of Troqueir. John Nicolson, his father, cautioner for both.

1667. August 4. Thomas Aickine and Helen M'Knish gave up their names to be proclaimed in order to marriage, and were married according to order.

1668. February 15. George M'Knish and Marione Corsbie, both in this parish.

1680. February 29. William M'Knish and Janet Mairtein, both in this parish.

1680. May 17. Robert M'Knish and Janet Wwright, both in this parish.

1689. October 2. John M'Nish, weaver, gave up his name to be proclaimed on Margaret Little, both

190 in this parish. Cautioners: George M'Nish, merchant, and Thomas Gibson, deacon. married 23rd October.

1720. December 7. Arthur Graham, merchant in this burgh, and Margaret M'Nish, daughter to the deceased John M'Nish, in the parish of Colvend, gave up their names for proclamation in order for marriage, were orderly proclaimed, and married 30th December 1724.

<sup>93</sup>Cordwainer = shoemaker

<sup>94</sup>Periwig from French *perruque*. A small wig.

*The New Webster Encyclopedic Dictionary of the English Language* 1980

## The History of the Clan Neish or MacNish of Perthshire and Galloway

1732. September 29. married James M'Neish, taylor in the parish of Irongray, and Janet M'Cartney, daughter of the deceased John M'Cartney, in this parish.

1746. May 25. William M'Nish, taylor, son to James M'Nish, taylor in this burgh, and Margaret Johnston, daughter to the deceased Peter Johnston, in the parish of Mousewald, both in this place.

### NOTES FROM PARISH REGISTERS OF GALLOWAY.

*Parish of Kirkgunzeon.* Marriages, 1812 to 1854, nil; baptisms, 1818 to 1854.

1838. March 17. Born Robert, lawful son of William MacNish and ... Austin in Shankfoot; baptized 29 April.

1840. June 9. Born Elizabeth, lawful daughter of William M'Nish and Janet Austin in Shankfoot; baptized 26 July. *Parish of Urr.* Baptisms, 1769 to 1819, nothing of the name; marriages, 1770 to 1819.

1819. February 11. John M'Nish, in Dalbeattie, and

191 Jasper Armstrang, as representing Mary Armstrang, his sister, requesting the banns of marriage might be duly proclaimed between the said John M'Nish and Mary Armstrang three times on Sabbath.

### *Kirkcudbright Testaments.*

1731. May 28. Edict of executry for confirming Elizabeth, Janet, and Agnes M'Knish, lawful children procreated of the marriage between Robert M'Knish in Irelandtoun and the deceased Anna Gordon, lawful daughter of the deceased Robert Gordon of Barharrow, as executors to their said mother (their father being administrator in law for them).

There is also an inventory of debts, and the signature of the said Robert M'Nish. 1760. February 15. Confirmation of John Bell of Arkland and William Lenox in Greenslack, sons of the deceased Margaret Gordon, widow of Robert M'Nish in Greenslack, as executors to their said mother, who died in January last.

### *Glasgow Testaments.*

Adam M'Neish in Myllenderdaill (Elizabeth Kairnochan, his spouse), 1621, August 7.

Agnes M'Neish, spouse to John Gardiner in Milton Dalmelling, in the parish of St Quiver, 1668, May 5. Christian, spouse to William Gerddane, younger, in Knokclache, in the parish of Girvan, 1630, July 20.

192 Elspeth, spouse to John Scott in Cumrie in Preston, in the parish of Colmonell, 1628 September 2.

Hew in Auldames (Margaret Kennedy, his wife), 1634, April 30.

Robert, in the parish of St Quiver, 1676, July 5.

Thomas in Daldabie, in the parish of Girvan, 1687, October 24.

### *Edinburgh Testaments,*

John M'Neish, merchant, burgess, Edinburgh, 1654, March 10; Janet Hart, his wife.

Robert M'Neish, merchant, burgess, Edinburgh, 1629, January 3; Agnes Dobie, his wife.

William M'Neish in Clachen of Dairy, 1603, October 18.

*Wigton Sasines.* -1781 to 1820.

1786. February 21. Sasine of William M'Nish, Surveyor of Customs, Stranraer; he also gets a bond for 1615.

1797. July 25. Sasine on a feu<sup>95</sup> to John M'Nish in Kirkbride, dated 8 October 1785, and Disposition by him, 2nd June 1797, of part of the lands of Stranraer.

1807. August 29. Sasine of David M'Nish, merchant, Newton Stewart, and Margaret Blain, his spouse, and William M'Nish Porter, merchant, London, in liferent<sup>96</sup>

<sup>95</sup>Feu: Land or property owned and possessed by a person known as Feuar or Vassal who holds it on Feudal tenure. The property owner is constrained by certain requirements, such as having to pay Feuduty sometimes to the Superior, the person who owns the "Superiority" of the Feu. However, a Feu is not regarded as being equivalent to a leasehold interest in English land law, and is treated like a freehold. *Scottish land law terms.*

<sup>96</sup>Liferent: See 'Fee' above. There are two types of liferent, proper and trust. A proper liferent is one created by a disposition. A trust liferent is where a trust is interposed. *Scottish land law terms.*

## The History of the Clan Neish or MacNish of Perthshire and Galloway

and fee respectively, in a piece of ground and house thereon on the east side of the High Street of Newton Stewart, parish of Penninghame, on Disposition by James Jamieson to the said David M'Nish, 27 June

193 1806, and Disposition and Conveyance by him, 29 August 1807.

EXTRACTS FROM THE PARISH LISTS OF WIGTOWNSHIRE AND MINNIGAFF, 1684.

Robert M'Nish in Colhorn, parish of Inch.

Margaret M'Nish in Maharr, parish of Inch.

Elizabeth and Jonet M'Nish in Kilmurren, parish of Inch.

John and Robert M'Nish in Innermessen.

Margaret M'Nish in Baalnab.

Donald M'Knish in Milltone, parish of Kirkcolm.

Agnas M'Nish in Barronrie Roll of the Gerlis, Minnigaff parish.

Janet M'Knish in Float, parish of Stoneykirk.

Nivin M'Knish in Port of Spittall.

Andrew, Alexander, John, John (2),

James, James (2), James (elder), Janet, Margaret, Margaret (2), Ochtrie, Patrick, and Thomas M'Knish in Port of Spittall, parish of Stoneykirk.

COMMISSARIAT RECORDS OF DUMFRIES, 1624-1800.

1676. November 1. M'Neishe, Helen, spouse to Thomas Aitkine, cordiner<sup>97</sup>, burgess of Dumfries.

1678. January 15. Isobel Wright in Laubraich, and John M'Nishe, her spouse.

1681. January 15. Margaret M'Nishe, spouse to James M'Nishe, in Meikle Richorne.

194 Sheriff Court Books at Dumfries. 1716 to 1800.

1778. September 18. Registration of Mutual Settlement by Robert Watson, in Crockatford, and Agnes Nish, his spouse, in favor of trustees for payment of debts, and after the death of the survivor to pay to Robert Watson, their son, for aliment of himself and family, the interest of the whole estate. Dated

at Crockatford, 17 September 1776.

Signed "Robert Watson," " Agnes M'Nish." Commissary Court Books at Dumfries. 1716 to 1800.

1779. April 26. Registration of contract between Mr William Wright, minister at Newabbey, and others on the one part, and William Newal of Poindfold and William M'Nish, miller in Newabbey, on the other part, whereby the latter agreed not to demolish any part of the Abbey of Sweetheart (of which they are proprietors) except the chapter house and some other ruinous parts, and they are to preserve the said fabric as a picturesque ruin, receiving a payment of £42 sterling from the subscribers to a fund for prevention of the demolition foresaid. Signed "William M'Nish."

1786. April 20. Registration of contract of marriage between Robert Brown, in Nether Locherwoods, and Janet Nish there, containing mutual disposition of goods. Dated at Dumfries, 20 February 1782, and signed " Robert Broun." Register of Sasines at Dumfries. 1716 to 1800.

1732. March 18. Sasine of George M'Nish, Mariner in Dumfries, son of the deceased John M'Nish, weaver

195 there, and heir to the deceased George M'Nish, merchant burgess there, his grandfather, in a tenement on the north side of Lochmabengate, and acre of land in Pannerhill, and other subjects, as heir to his said grandfather.

1753. January 8. Sasine of William M'Nish, tailor in Dumfries, only lawful son procreated between James M'Nish, tailor, some time in the parish of Iron gray, now in Dumfries, and deceased Janet Hood, his spouse, daughter of Robert Hood, some time merchant traveler in England, deceased, brother-german to the deceased John Hood, merchant burgess of Dumfries, as heir served and retoured to the said John Hood, his grand-uncle, in a tenement of land in Lochmabengate on the south side thereof, and a tenement at the back of the Mealmarket. 1754. January 4. Sasine of James M'Nish, tailor in Dumfries, and Janet M'Cartney, his spouse, on disposition by James Smith to them of a tenement of land at Friarvannel Head.

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<sup>97</sup>Cordwainer = shoemaker David Rorer



## The History of the Clan Neish or MacNish of Perthshire and Galloway

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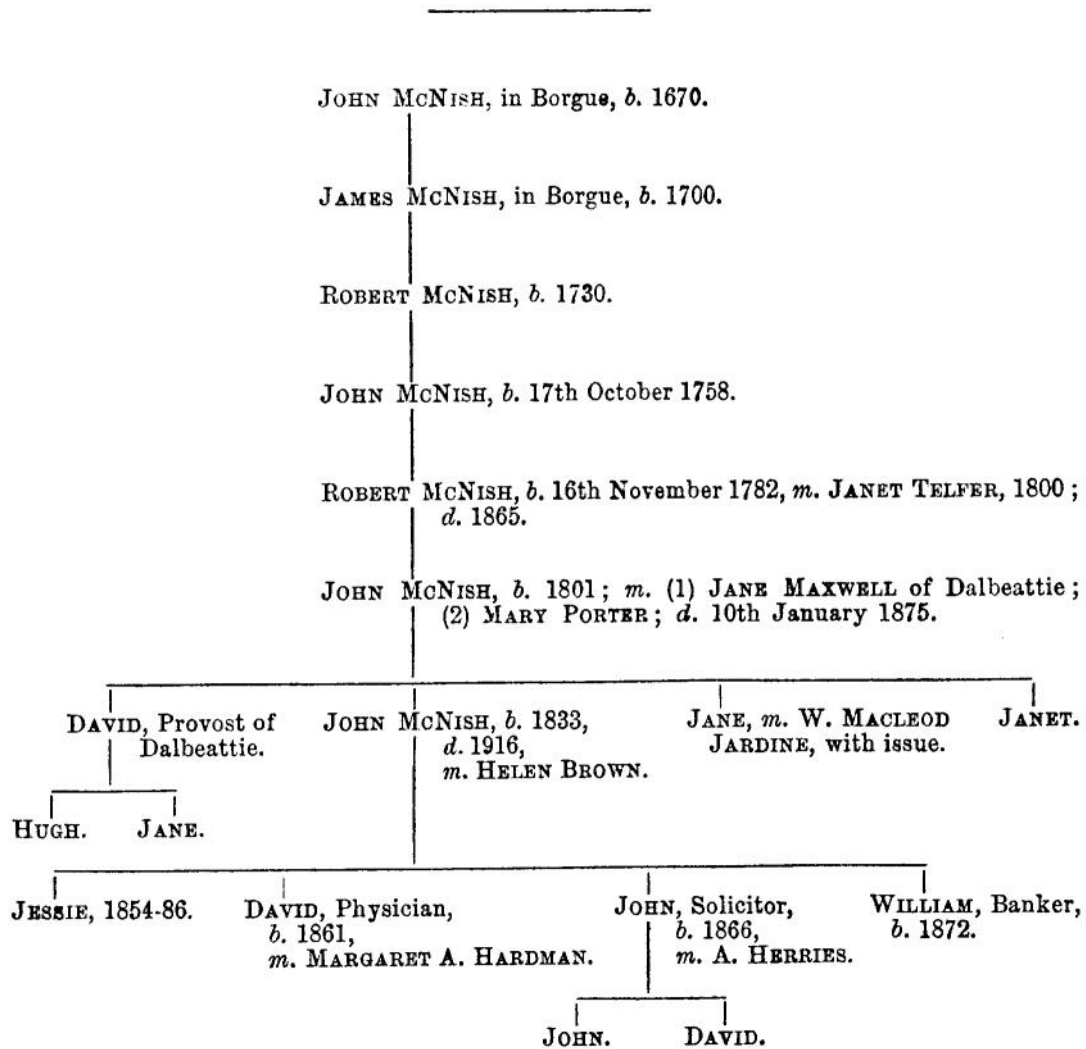
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PEDIGREE OF DR DAVID MACNISH, M.A., M.B., J.P.,  
OF LONDON.

(Probably connected with the Gaitgill Branch.)



There is a tradition in the family that land in Galloway was granted to them by Robert the Bruce, when a fugitive from his enemies, as a reward for their services to him if ever he regained the Crown of Scotland.