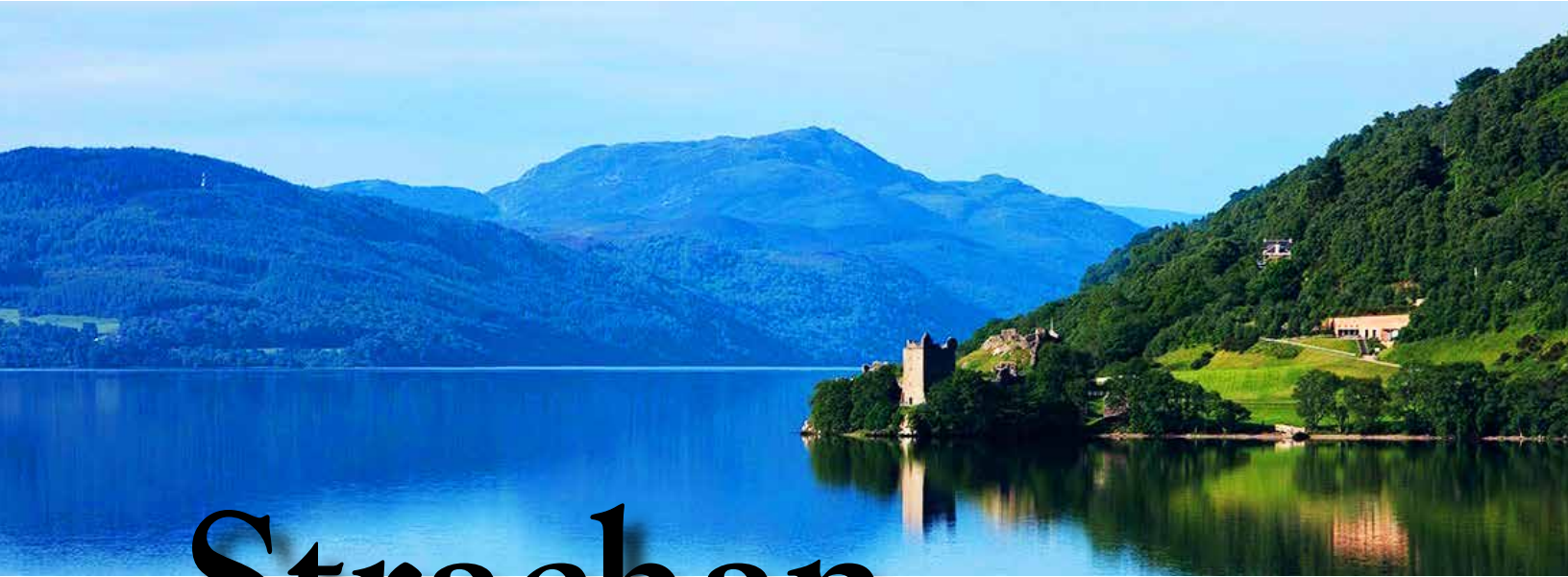




# clan STRACHAN

*Clachnaben!*



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# clan STRACHAN

## *Clachnaben!*

**Newsletter for the  
Clan Strachan  
Scottish Heritage  
Society, Inc.**

**30730 San Pascual Road  
Temecula, CA 92591  
United States of America**

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**We're on the web!  
www.clanstrachan.org**

Incorporated in 2008, the Clan Strachan Scottish Heritage Society, Inc. was organized for exclusively charitable, educational and scientific purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as except organizations under said Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

Specifically, the Corporation will promote the history, tradition, and heritage of the Gaelic-Scottish culture; encourage education, the collection and preservation of records, traditions and historical material related to the history of Gaelic-Scottish culture wherever located; provide instruction on Genealogical research techniques; perform such charitable work as is compatible with the aims and objectives of Clan Strachan Scottish Heritage Society, Inc.; to invest in any property worldwide that has relevance to the needs and objectives of the Society; and, to engage in any other lawful activities permitted under the California Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation Law and Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Law. The recital of these purposes as contained in this paragraph is intended to be exclusive of any and all other purposes, this Corporation being formed for those public and charitable purposes only.

## President's address

**Hello the Clan,**

Another year has come and gone and I hope that all is well with each of you. I, for one, look forward to 2017.

We tried to hold our annual meeting in December but time and events got in the way. We will try to get it done early in the year. One of those reasons was Jim's daughter, Alicia, was married to a fine young Marine named Aaron . . . it was a great wedding and I know we all wish the happy couple a grand life together.

After a long wait, we finally got our parade banners completed and mailed out to those who requested them . . . see the picture provided here . . . they came out looking good and will be a splash of color for Clan Parades.

Remember to start setting aside time and monies for the 2019 trip to Scotland. You will not want to miss it!

Happy New Year to you all!

talk soon d

*Gu Deoch Gu Cairdean Gu Spors*







## Scottish basket weaving

From jewelry to glassblowing, textiles to pottery, Scotland's thriving arts and crafts industry produces a fantastic range of authentic products, with many artisans using traditional methods.

The art of basketry or basket weaving is one of the oldest traditional crafts in Scotland. The skills needed to make baskets were developed in response to the necessities of everyday, rural life in Scotland.

The first settlers who arrived in the Hebrides 9,000 years ago made long baskets out of willow to catch fish. Over the centuries, basketry remained a common and essential skill throughout Scotland and was used to make vessels to store food, catch fish and shellfish, and carry heavy loads, particularly fuels such as peat from the moors to the home.

In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, crofting families in the Highlands and Islands made tightly woven grass containers to store grain and meal, and creel baskets for carrying heavy loads such as fuel, manure, crops and other goods. Baskets were made and repaired beside the hearth during the long, dark winter months.

Creels are deep baskets that can be carried over the shoulder with straps made of leather or grass rope or in pairs across the backs of ponies. Creels are usually woven from strands of willow on a wooden frame. A particular form of creel basket called the kishie was developed in the Shetland Islands. Shetland is a predomi-

nantly treeless environment, so kishie baskets are made with Shetland oat straw and soft rush, both of which are more readily available on the island than wood.

A similar form of basket developed in Orkney was called a cassie, and was often made from woven heather.

Over time basketry has become an art form instead of a necessity. Now, traditional Scottish basketry skills are used to produce decorative, sculptural pieces as well as functional items. In addition to using locally grown materials such as willow, heather and rushes, contemporary makers also experiment with new materials such as recycled newspaper and plastics.

Recently, there has been an upsurge of interest in learning basketry skills and courses are offered across Scotland.

The Scottish Basketmakers' Circle is a membership organization that promotes Scottish basket making and allied crafts through exhibitions, courses, demonstrations and lectures. They have also developed a sister site,

[www.wovencommunities.org](http://www.wovencommunities.org), which traces Scottish vernacular

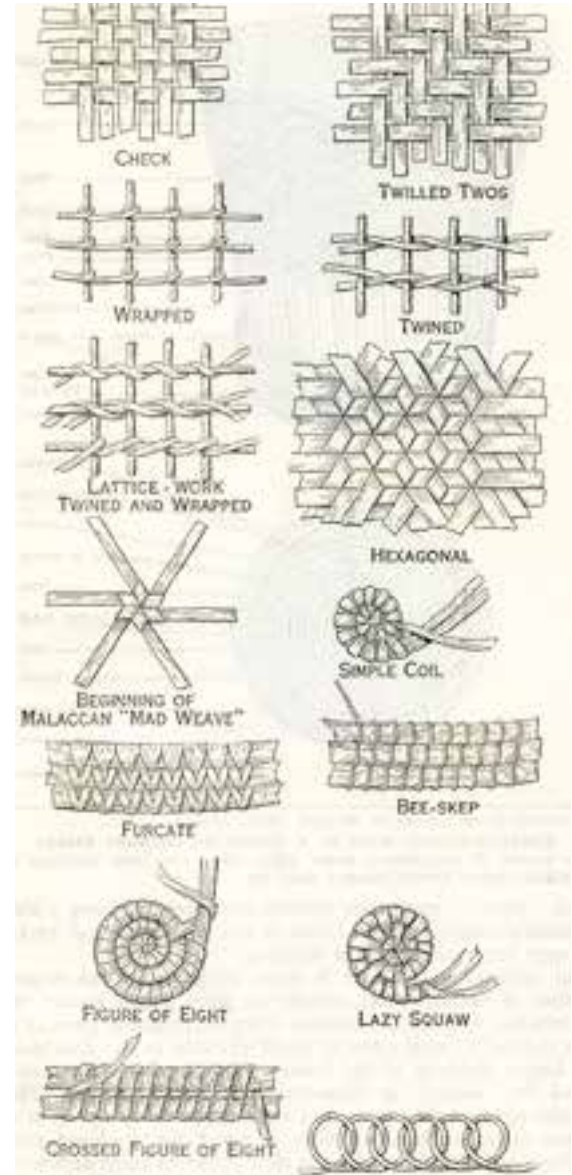
basketry from the perspective of the communities who made and used them as well as the different basket types. SBC also aims to maintain and improve craft standards by organizing training for beginners and holding masterclasses for experienced basket-







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*Above: A Scottish yarn baskets (Baskets by Jim).*

*Right: Typical basket weaving patterns.*

*Bottom right: A Scottish willow basket.*

*Bottom left: Cattails being prepared for weaving.*

*Previous page: A Scottish pine needle basket.*



makers and promoting members' work with arts organizations and the media through networking and presentations. The circle offers a wide range of courses around the country covering all aspects of basketmaking, appealing to people of different skill levels.

Additionally, the Scottish Fishing Museum in Fife displays a number of original and replica baskets used in the fishing industry.







## THE GREAT HIGHLAND BAGPIPE

Though they are clearly an instrument of great antiquity, how bagpipes arrived in Scotland is somewhat of a mystery.

The “Oxford History of Music” makes mention of the first documented bagpipe being found on a Hittite slab at Eyuk. This sculptured bagpipe has been dated to 1,000 B.C.E. Biblical mention is made of the bagpipe in Genesis and in the third Chapter of Daniel where the “symphonia” in Nebuchadnezzar’s band is believed to have been a bagpipe.

These early pipes or “Pan” pipes, without the bag or reservoir, were probably the second musical instrument to evolve. (Musical history dictates that pipers have to take a back seat to percussion instruments in this case.) Early pipes were constructed of materials with a natural bore (hollow reeds, corn stalks, bamboos, etc.)

From the Middle East, the bagpipe traveled through and evolved in Europe alongside the diffusion of early civilization. Some historians believe that bagpipes were brought to Scotland by invading Roman Le-



gions. Others maintain that the instrument was brought over the water by the colonizing Scots tribes from Ireland.

Ancient Egypt also appears to have a claim to the instrument, also; from as early as 400 B.C.E. the pipers of Thebes are reported to have been blowing pipes made from dog skin with chanter of bone. Later, Roman bagpipes or “tibia utricularis” represented a major innovation, the addition of the reservoir. Historians have noted that Roman coins depict Nero playing a bagpipe, not a fiddle.

What is certain, however, is that bagpipes have existed in various forms in many places around the world. In each country the construction of the basic

instrument comprises the same component parts; an air supply, a bag with a chanter and one or more drones.

By far the most common method of supplying air to the bag is by blowing with the mouth, although





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some early innovations included the use of bellows. The bag, commonly made from animal skin, is simply an airtight reservoir to hold the air and regulate its flow, thus allowing the piper to breathe and maintain a continuous sound, both at the same time. The chanter is the melody pipe, usually played by one or two hands. Generally comprising two or more sliding parts, the drone allows the pitch of the pipes to be altered.

The French Musette can be seen as a logical explanation for the evolution or refinement of the instrument into a number of examples of chamber

pipes (i.e., those that operate via the use of bellows rather than the traditional bags as a reservoir). Examples of different forms of such chamber pipes can be found throughout Ireland, France and England. The Northumbrian region of England has been a “hotbed” for bagpipe evolution. It has not only witnessed the emergence of its indigenous shuttle pipes, but also its own small pipes, half longs and great war gathering pipes. Likewise, Ireland has experienced the evolution of its own Uilleann (chamber/bellows pipe) and war pipe (Brian Boru). Evidence exists to substantiate a belief that pipes may have been common throughout the remainder of Britain prior to their emergence upon the Scottish landscape.

Historians can only speculate on the actual origins



*Above: A WWII bagpiper leading his regiment.  
Previous page: The Quebec City Pipe band performing.*

of the piob mhor, or great Highland Bagpipe. When bagpipes did arrive in Scotland, they quickly became a part of Scottish life. Every town would hire a bagpiper, usually out of special taxes from the wealthy families in the area, who would pipe for townspeople on all occasions. In some places the piper would play in churches in place of an organ. It was the Highlanders themselves who developed the instrument to its current form.

The Great Highland Bagpipe is classified as a woodwind instrument, like the bassoon, oboe, and clarinet. It is further classified as a double reed. The

original Highland pipes probably comprised a single drone with the second drone being added in the mid to late 1500s. The third, or the great drone, came into use sometime in the early 1700s. A modern set has a bag, a chanter, a blowpipe, two tenor drones, and one bass drone. Other modern developments have included reliable synthetic drone reeds as well as synthetic bags that deal with moisture arguably better than hide bags.

The scale of the chanter is in Mixolydian mode, which has a flattened seventh scale degree.

Highland bagpipe music is written in the key of D major, where the C and F are sharp (despite the key signature usually being omitted from scores). Due to the lack of chromatic notes, to change key is also to change modes; tunes are in A Mixolydian, D Major,



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B Minor, or occasionally E Dorian. For the concert key (notes on the piano) it will be Bb Mixolydian, Eb Major, C Minor, or occasionally F Dorian.

Historically, in the Scottish Lowlands, pipers were used by the traveling minstrel class, performing at weddings, feasts and fairs throughout the Border country, playing song and dance music. Highland pipers on the other hand, appear to have been more strongly influenced by their Celtic background and occupied a high and honored position. It is considered that by the 1700s the piper had started to replace the harpist as the prime Celtic musician of choice within the Clan system.

As a musical instrument of war, the first mention of the bagpipes appears to date from 1549 at the Battle of Pinkie, when the pipes replaced trumpets to help inspire the Highlanders into battle. It is said that the shrill and penetrating sound worked well in the roar of battle and that the pipes could be heard at distances of up to 10 miles. It is said that one Clan still owns a remnant of a set of bagpipes said to have been carried at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314, while records of the Battle of the North Inch of Perth reference “warpipes” being carried into battle.

Due to their inspirational influence, bagpipes were classified as instruments of war during the Highland uprisings of the early 1700s, and following the defeat of Bonnie Prince Charlie at the Battle of Culloden in 1746,

the government in London attempted to crush the rebellious clan system.

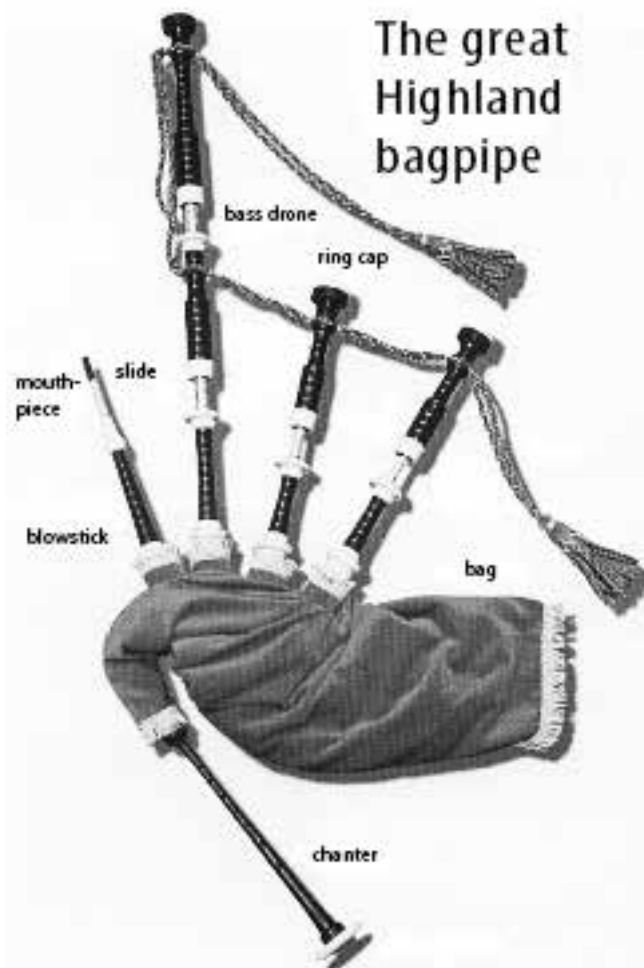
It was the expansion of the British Empire that spread the fame of the Great Highland Bagpipes worldwide. Often spearheading the various campaigns of the British Army would be one of the famous Highland regiments, the Devils in Skirts, and at the head of each regiment would be the unarmed solitary piper leading the troops into and beyond the jaws of death.

The Scottish people have made the bagpipes one of the outstanding parts of their culture. In many songs, stories, and poems, the Scots have celebrated their pipes, and unlike many other cultures they have kept the pipes alive as part of their musical tradition.

To learn to play the bagpipes, one should start out

on what is called a practice chanter. This is a flute-like instrument that provides experience with fingering and timing. Most people are on the practice chanter only for 8 to 12 months before thinking of buying a full set of bagpipes.

One big advantage in this approach is that one is not paying out for a full set of pipes and then determining that one is not interested in pursuing this project after all. Practice chanters are relatively inexpensive and allow the learner develop a good idea whether playing the pipes is something he or she would really like to pursue. Beginner’s Packages with practice chanters are available from merchants online.







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## The Wolf of Badenoch

Alexander Stewart, Alisdair Mor mac an Rìgh, the 1st Earl of Buchan, was more commonly known as the Wolf of Badenoch.

He lived from 1343 to 1394 and was the fourth illegitimate son of the future King Robert II of Scotland and Elizabeth Mure of Rowallan. Made legitimate in 1349 upon his parents' marriage, he was also the younger brother of the future Robert III.

The Wolf of Badenoch is one of the most memorable historical characters of Strathspey, considered by some to be one of the most black, most evil, characters in Scotland's history.

The times in which he lived were barbarous, but even by their standards he stood

out, and was feared.

With his parentage came the allocation of vast amounts of Scottish land and titles. Alexander was made Lord of Badenoch and granted large estates in the Highlands by his father. In 1382, he was made 1st Earl of Buchan (there had been earlier Earls of Buchan, but he was the 1st Earl of the title's second creation), and he also served as Justiciar, or the Crown's Chief Law Officer, in northern Scotland. In effect, he exercised the full authority of the Scottish Crown throughout the Highlands.



*The Devil playing chess with the Wolf of Badenoch.*





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The Wolf of Badenoch had a number of lairs. The most notable was Lochindorb Castle on an island in Lochindorb, north of Grantown on Spey, but he was also associated with Drumin Castle near Glenlivet, Castle Garth near Glen Lyon, and Ruthven Castle near Kingussie, a site occupied since the early 1700s by Ruthven Barracks. The Wolf extended and reinforced his castles at Loch an Eilein and Lochindorb, yet made few changes to his Castle Roy at Nethy Bridge.

He ruled the lands of Badenoch in a cruel way, burning the homes of those who crossed or displeased them and demanding labour and goods way beyond any reason.

Alexander added considerably to his landholdings by marrying Eupheme de Ross, Countess of Ross, in July 1382. Alexander also became the jure uxoris Earl of Ross which provided him the Ross lands (but only during his own lifetime). They had no children, a fact that Alexander blamed on his wife (and, to be fair, as he was by then well on his way to fathering a total of around 40 illegitimate children by a large number of different women, he was probably right).



In 1389, Alexander finally sought the intervention of the Bishop of Moray, Bishop Alexander Bur, to bring his marriage to an end. The Bishop came down on the side of Eupheme, and when Alexander then deserted her to make way for his mistress of the moment, Mariota Athyn. He was excommunicated by the Bishop of Moray.

This, of course, outraged the Wolf. It was Alexander's response to his excommunication that resulted in his label as the Wolf of Badenoch. First, the monk who came to Lochindorb castle with the news of Alexander's excommunication was consigned to the castle's bottle pit, or oubliette. Many Scottish castles had these deeply unpleasant dungeons accessible only by a trap door in the roof.

Then, Alexander descended on Moray at the head of a large number of "wild, wykked Hieland men." They sacked the town of Forres, before heading east, destroying Pluscarden Abbey en route to Elgin where they arrived in June 1390 and promptly burned much of the town, terrifying

the people and forcing them to flee with their families into the countryside.

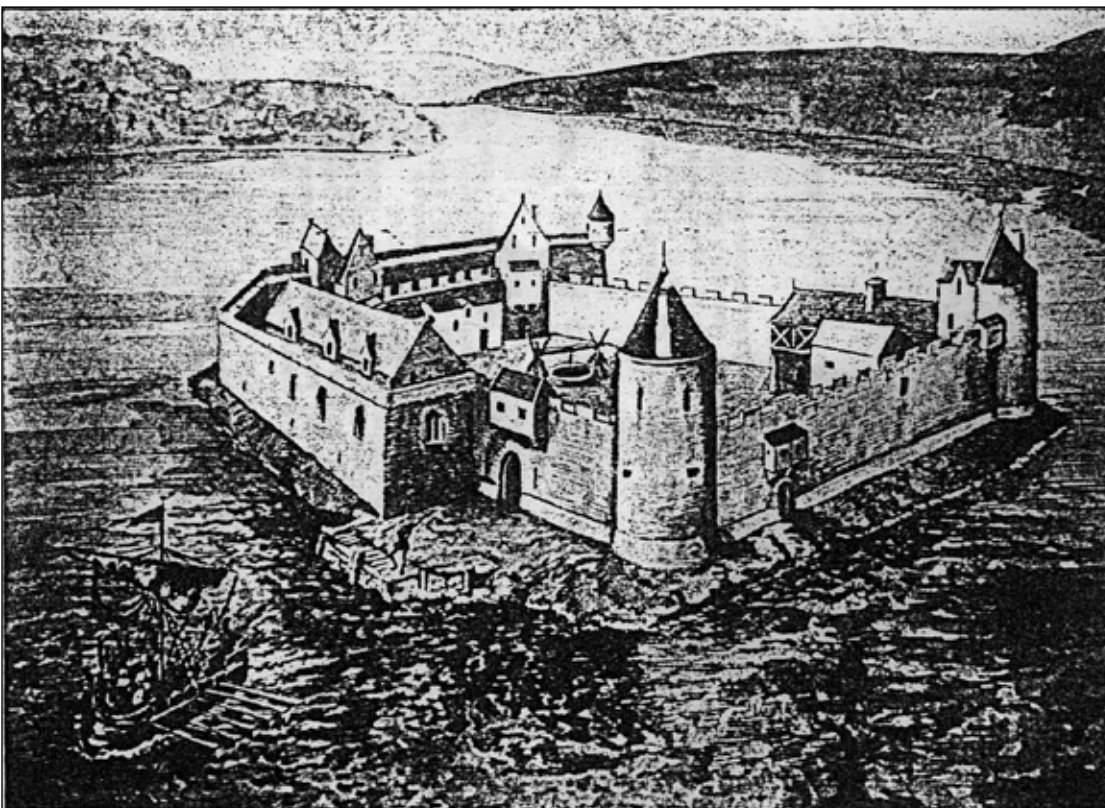
He destroyed Elgin Cathedral, and many of its family, legal and monastic records.

The second largest cathedral in Scotland, Elgin Cathedral was of course,

*Left: Drawing of Lochindorb Castle by W.D. Simpson.*

*Above: Wolf of Badenoch whiskey.*

*Page 10: Ruins of Ruthven Castle and barracks.*





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the ecclesiastical centre of the Bishopric of Moray.

Alexander's older brother, Robert III, who had only just succeeded to the throne and had yet to be crowned, called upon him to do penance for his crimes and to pay significant reparations; then pardoned him.

Whether the Wolf's attack on Moray had simply been a case of getting even with the Bishop, or whether it was, in reality, intended to be the start of a power play to rule Scotland, is a matter of debate among historians. No one, however, believed that he was truly repentant.

He continued generally maintaining a rule of terror across much of the Highlands by imprisoning and murdering those who offended him and pillaging the countryside. This led to him being known to history not only as the Wolf of Badenoch, but also as the Celtic Atilla.

Legend has it that The Wolf of Badenoch died in 1394, when it is believed that he lost a game of chess to the Devil after a visitor dressed in black arrived at Ruthven Castle and challenged the Wolf to a game of chess. That night,

after the Wolf lost the game, Ruthven Castle was beset by a terrible storm.

The following morning, there was no sign of the visitor, but the castle servants were discovered dead outside the castle walls, apparently killed by lightning. The Wolf of Badenoch, himself, was found in the banqueting hall; his body unmarked, though the nails in his boots had been torn out.

It is said that during his funeral procession, held two days later, terrible storms started again as his men's coffins were added to the procession. However, after the Wolf's coffin was moved to the back of the procession, the storms ceased and did not return.

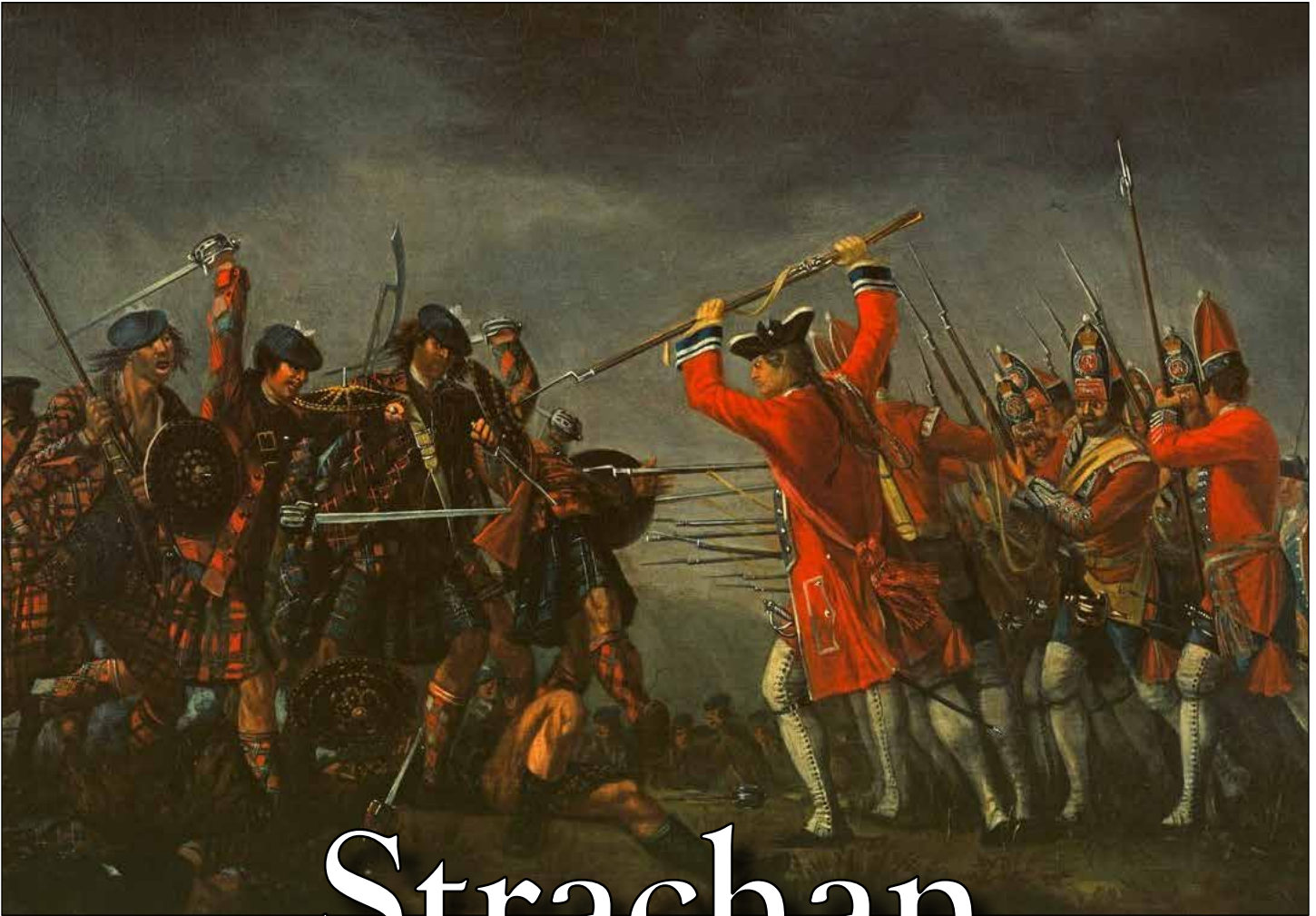
The Wolf of Badenoch is buried in Dunkeld Cathedral. His tomb, topped by an effigy in armor, is one of the few Scottish royal monuments from the Middle Ages to have survived.







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## Strachan involvement in the 1715 Jacobite Rebellion

*Some Account of the Situation in Strathdon at the Time of the 1715 Rebellion, with regard to the Tenants of Forbes of Craigievar and the Career of Patrick Strachan of Glenkindie*

**By Garry Strachan**



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**I**n the year 1715, the Scottish supporters of the exiled Stuart Kings of Great Britain, took part in a rebellion, commonly called the Jacobite Rebellion of 1715.

The leader of rising in Scotland, was John Erskine, 11th. Earl of Mar, who raised his standard for the exiled James VIII on the Braes of Mar (Aberdeenshire) in August 1715. Despite much support from staunch jacobites and the earl's own tenantry in Aberdeenshire, who were obliged to follow his lead, there were other strong factions in the county who chose to remain loyal to the Hanoverian King George I, who occupied the British throne at the time.

The Forbes family headed by their chief William 13th, Lord Forbes, were neighbors of the Earl of Mar (The clan seat was Drumminor Castle), they held numerous and extensive estates centering on the Strathdon area of Aberdeenshire. They mainly withheld their resources and manpower from the rebellion, reenforced by the fact that Lord Forbes had been appointed Lord Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire, prior to the rebellion.

As in many conflicts of this nature, there were exceptions, kin finding themselves in opposite camps.

Black Jock Forbes of Inverernan, was the Earl of Mar's baillie, it was he who rallied Mar's tenants to the Jacobite cause. He joined the rebellion himself at their head, along with his four elder half brothers.

Black Jock died, imprisoned in Carlisle Castle in November 1716.

A map drawn up by the government's military surveyors around the time of the rebellion, is annotated with the names of the clan chiefs in Aberdeenshire and the central highlands, this clearly shows that the Forbes clan, was estimated to be able to raise 250 armed men from Strathdon (this would have included Strachans and other smaller clans).

Lord Forbes was not alone in ignoring the Earl of Mar's call to arms, for even some of Mar's own tenants and lesser lairds who held lands from him, refused to join his forces.

Patrick Strachan of Glenkindie, was one of the lairds who avoided joining Mar, his feudal superior.

We have evidence of Patrick Strachan's stance from a

letter he wrote to George I at the time of the rising. We include some extracts:

*In the month of July last the said Patrick Strachan did observe all the Jacobit families in the Cowntry where he lives keeping private cabals, buying up horses and arms upon prospect of an invasion which they did give out would happen before the 29th. of the said monteth....The said Earle of Marr haveing offten called him to come to him yett he still shifted and hearing he was to be at his house of Glenkindy obliged him to fly south. And the Earle having come to his house and finding him not at home was so intraged at his flight that he caused carie off a considerable part of his victuall which he did order to destribute among the first convention of the rebels.*

Patrick Strachan enlisted with the government supporters led by the Duke of Argyll. He was captured by the Jaco-

## The Jacobite Rebellion

**T**he Jacobite risings, also known as the Jacobite rebellions or the War of the British Succession, were a series of uprisings, rebellions, and wars in Great Britain and Ireland occurring between 1688 and 1746.

The uprisings had the aim of returning James II of England and VII of Scotland, the last Catholic British monarch, and later his descendants of the House of Stuart, to the throne of Great Britain after they had been deposed by Parliament during the Glorious Revolution.

The series of conflicts takes its name Jacobitism, from Jacobus, the Latin form of James.

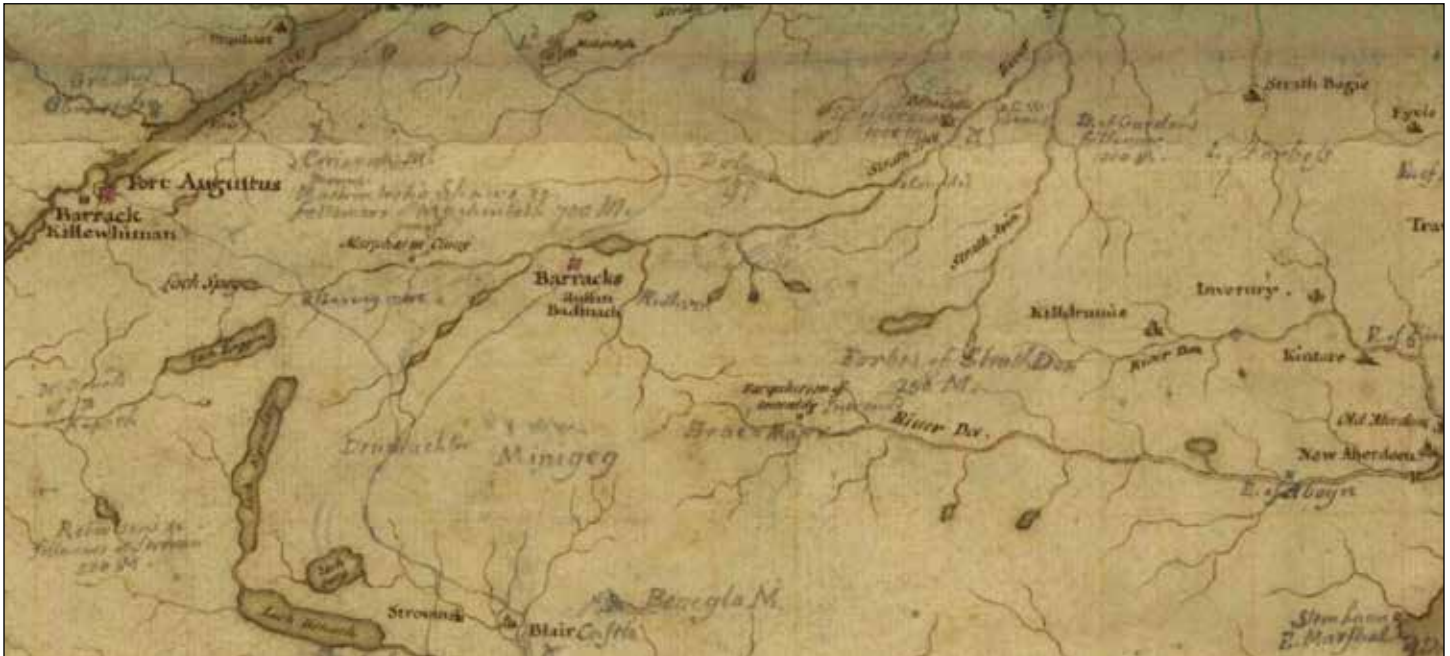
~ Source: Wikipedia

*Opposite: David Morier's painting Culloden shows the highlanders still wearing the plaids which they normally set aside before battle, where they would fire a volley then run full tilt at the enemy with broadsword and targe in the "Highland charge" wearing only their shirts.(Source: Wikipedia)*





# clan STRACHAN



*Map showing Forbes in Strathdon.  
Below: Lochindorb castle today.*

bites at the battle of Sheriffmuir, Nov. 13, 1715, he later escaped and was involved in disarming the rebels after the eventual failure of the rebellion.

## **Sir William Forbes, 3rd baronet of Craigievar**

Another great landowner in Strathdon was Sir William Forbes of Craigievar. Sir William supported the views of his cousin, Lord Forbes and therefore did not take part in the rebellion, much to the benefit of his tenants.

Sir William owned the castle of Craigievar, a few miles from the Earl of Mar's seat at Kildrummy castle. Craigievar also held the Barony of Fintray, some 20 miles to the east, close to the Burgh of Kintore.

The Craigievar family descended from William Forbes of Corse and his wife Elizabeth, or Elspeth Strachan, daughter of the laird of Thornton. William Forbes of Menie, a wealthy merchant was one of the sons of William of Corse and Elspeth Strachan.

Merchant Willie as he was locally known, acquired Craigievar in 1600 and completed the castle in 1626. He acquired Fintray in 1617 and a royal charter followed in 1621, erecting his property into the *Barony of Logie Fintray*. His eldest son, also called William, was made a baronet of Nova Scotia in 1630.

William the 3rd. baronet, married Margaret Rose of Kilravock, her father was an ardent anti-Jacobite, involved in raising the siege of Inverness, which was occupied by Jacobites in 1715.

Sir William Forbes, the 3rd baronet of Craigievar, was appointed a Justice of the Peace for Aberdeenshire and in the aftermath of the rebellion, he headed a court to hear the pleas of many of the Earl of Mar's tenants. The session was convened at Alford, 15 March 1716. David Lumsden of Cushnie, appeared with fifteen of his tenants

Lumsden and his tenants, were all vassals of the Earl of Mar, and the fifteen had all been captured at the battle of Preston, Lancashire. Sworn affidavits were taken from nine local witnesses, to the effect that Lumsden's tenants were forced by coercion to serve in Mar's army.

Craigievar, was assisted by two other JP's: Arthur Forbes of Breda and Archibald Forbes of Putachie. The outcome of the trial was that the majority of the defendants were found guilty and transported to Maryland in the USA.

## **The Conditions of the Tenants of Craigievar and Fintray about the time of the 1715 Rebellion**

Moral discipline and censure was provided by the kirk sessions of the respective parishes. Civil order was main-



# clan STRACHAN

tained in the barony of courts of Craigievar and Logie Fintray. The court records from this period are rare survivals for the baronies in Aberdeenshire and elsewhere in Scotland.

The author of the description of the parish of Leochel in the New Statistical Account of Scotland, 1845, saw fit to extract the following, concerning the rules and regulations imposed by the barony court of Craigievar:

“In 1711, the officer was ordered to search out all the men and women capable of service, who are idle, that they may be obliged to enter to service immediately; and to summon all in actual service who are taking extravagant fees, that they and their masters may be punished.” The same year, the heritor complaining that the tenants were wasting their lands, in not “gooding” them once in the three years, it was ordained that none should let the third year pass “ungooding the third of their barlands yearly;” or if any “pretend that their land would bear four crops of bear and oats without gooding, then they shall pay at their outgoing whatever their lands are made worse, or else continue their tacks and pay their duties, aye and while their respective lands should recover the said loss.”

In 1725, another complaint was made against certain tenants for taking six crops of their outfield land, and they were henceforth restricted to five. None but millers were allowed to keep swine, and all were free to kill them if found in their corn of grass and the millers to have them upon chain as soon as the corns begin to fill.”

*Note: A certain George Strachan was the tenant of Craigievar Mill in 1715. The terms of his lease were: 4 Bolls of Meal, £36-6shillings-8pence Scots per annum, custom and mill service.*

In 1726, all the crofters in Corse were limited to a stack each, 8 feet broad, 12 long, and 5 high, under a penalty of L.4; the kindling of fire in any moss was forbidden, under L. 20; and four tenants were fined L. 10 each for laboring moss-ground never labored before. To the following offences, the following punishments were awarded: “Louping and breaking down park dikes, a fine of 40s. toties quoties; applying to any other judicatory than the laird’s court, “where they will get reason.” L.20; breaking and destroying young trees in the churchyard of Lochell, one merk for each tree; letting cattle into mosses and breaking peats, 40s.; beating, bruising, blooding and wounding, L. 50; making a ply betwixt families, L. 50 to the laird, L.5 of assythment to



*The location of Aberdeenshire in Scotland.*

the party injured, and the party offending bound to keep the peace in L.100.

“Giving opprobrious language, L.10, and to satisfy the party offended, or be put in the stocks; putting fire to a neighbor’s door, and calling his wife and mother witches, L.100; a man for blooding and wounding, and preventing all peace where he lives, is ordained to flit, red, and remove himself, his hail goods and gear, wife, children, and all that belongs to him, out of the lands of Craigievar and Corse within seven days; another for abusing the minister, and calling him a liar, and saying in the churchyard that he would prove him a liar, is put in the stocks during the baillie’s pleasure; two neighbors, betwixt whom there are strifes, which cannot be accommodated, are obliged to cast lots, and the one on whom the lot falls to flitt at the next Whitsunday.

By TUBS - Own workThis vector graphics image was created with Adobe Illustrator.This file was uploaded with Commonsist.This vector image includes elements that have been taken or adapted from this: Scotland location map.svg (by NordNordWest), CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=16386753>





# clan STRACHAN

"In 1725, a man for offering a charged gun to shoot the officer, when warning him to do his master's lawful orders, is amerciate in L.5 Sterling for keeping and wearing a gun contrary to act of Parliament, and L.4 Scots for his contumacy and disobedience.

"In 1736, a man for 'dading' another man's wife to the ground, blooding her at the nose, and taking up her clothes and belting her, is fined L.50, and L.4 to the husband and wife for the indignity. By far the most common of these offences is that of beating, blooding, and wounding." The two stations where the court met were the Hall of Craigievar, and Briggs of Leochel. The officials were the baillie, clerk, procurator-fiscal, officer, and dempster.

## Life at Fintray

Given the blood ties between the Forbes and Strachan families, it is no surprise to find a flourishing extended family group of Strachans, tenants of the Forbes family, residing in the Barony of Fintray.

We have extracted some of the records from the barony court proceedings which provide a flavor of life in Fintray circa 1715, including mention of the Strachan family.

In order to set the scene, we quote a summary on the character of Sir William Forbes, 3rd. baronet:

"He stands out in the pages of the Court Book as a good landlord and a laird of the fine old Scottish school. The record reveals him moving about among his tenants in a free and easy way, they in turn showing their trust in him by handing him their rent at any odd time and place, when it was not convenient to do so in the usual way before the Court".

## Extracts from the Court Books 1715

13th June 1715

*"The tenants are ordained to bring necessities to Cothal Mill. The Court ordains the tenants in ye Backside to goe for lime and ye tenants in ye Foreside for ye wood for timber under ye pain of 40 shillings for each man's deficiency and ye tenants belonging to Cothal Mill are ordained to cast and load fail and divvots for the repairing of her."*

Notes: The Strachans were tenants residing at Cothal Mill. Fail = Turf for roofing

*"Anent ye complaint given in be ye Procurator Fiscal against Alexr Clintarty, John Logan, Alexr Lesly indwelling in Cothal Mill, Woodhead, Cowstones for their beating and blooding of [blank] servant to my Lord Forbes at or within ye house of Alexr Melvin in Cowstones in ye month of May last and they being lawfully cited Alexr Clintarty and Alexr Lesly compeared and acknowledged their beating and blodding of the Lord Forbes servant after they were beat by him for which ye said Baillie amerciat each of them in £50 Scots and ordaines them to pay ye same to ye said Pror. Fiscal; and in respect ye sd John Logan compeared and denyed ye crime and there being no evidence against him for proving thereof he was therefore assoyled by ye said Baillie."*

15th August  
1715

Birleymen are appointed: six men for the Foreside of this land (including George Strachan) and six men for the Backside (including William Strachan).

Note: Birleymen or Barleymen, were appointed from among the tenants for the purpose of act-



*Cothal Mill, painted by Peter Forbes.*



# clan STRACHAN

ing as referees in disputes in their respective localities.

George Strachan was a long standing tenant at Cothal Mill and William Strachan was the Boatman at Boat of Fintray, i.e., the ferry that provided a crossing of the river Don at that point.

George Strachan from Cothal Mill, was also an Elder of the Kirk Session, he appears actively in the Kirk Session accounts of Fintray. A list of the officers of the Kirk Session, dated 1718, appears in the session minutes and it is notable that of the thirteen members of the kirk session, three of their number were Strachans:

- \* George Strachan in Braeside (near Cothal Mill)
- \* William Strachan in Spout
- \* Alexander Strachan in Wester Fintray

The kirk session minutes record the moral lapses of members of the congregation and the rebukes handed out by the minister after public confession, witnessed by the whole congregation.

The elders of the kirk had been put in a difficult situation in 1706, as in that year, Craigievar's son Hugh Forbes, was accused of fornication and confessed his guilt before the kirk session. In most cases the session judged such incidents by themselves but in this case they left the matter to the minister's discretion. Hugh Forbes made a single appearance before the congregation in order to profess repentance, three appearances would be the norm for other parishioners.

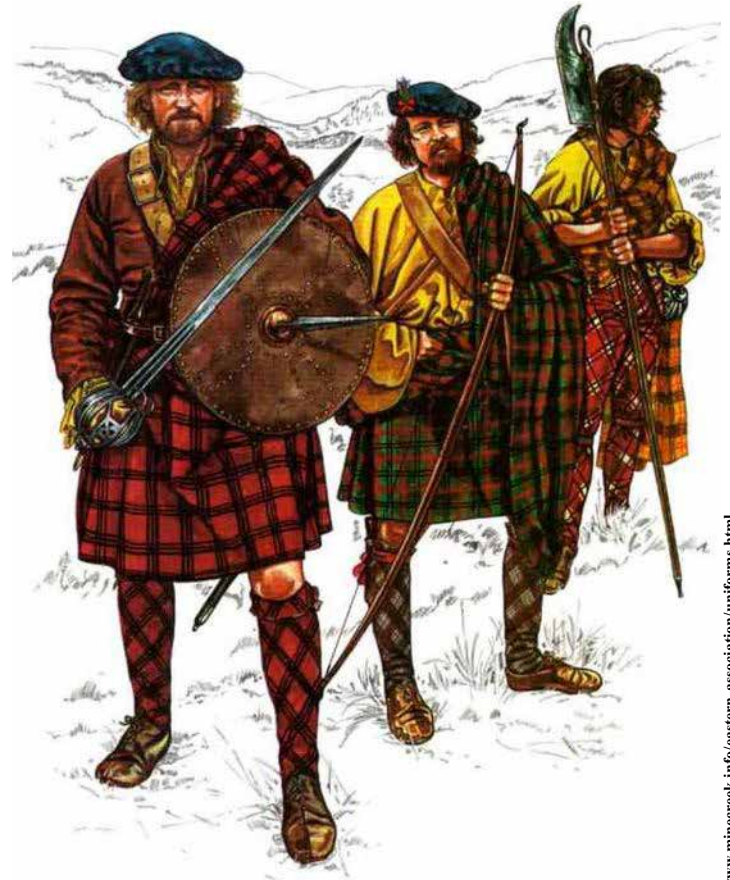
Mr. William Osborne was the minister at Fintray from 1712, during his incumbency Jacobite sympathies ran high in the parish, and public worship was seriously disturbed, especially at the last prayer when King George's name was spoken.

Despite all, in these troubled times, the routine of parish business continued, George Strachan and the other elders collected dues and donations and gave generously to the poor and needy.

We conclude this glimpse into life in Strathdon, by outlining the career of Patrick Strachan of Glenkindie, after the failure of the 1715 rebellion.

## **Patrick Strachan of Glenkindie in the Aftermath of the 1715**

In September 1716, thirteen members of Parliament were appointed to a Commission for the Forfeited Estates. Their agenda was to carry out surveys/valuations of the estates



<http://www.minercreek.info/eastern-association/uniforms.html>

of the peers, barons and clan chiefs who had taken part in the 1715 rising. After each estate had been assessed, further decisions could be taken on the future use of the properties i.e., selling off for the profit of the crown or annexation to the crown.

Patrick Strachan was appointed Surveyor-General for the Commission. The records of the Commission show Patrick Strachan travelling the length and breadth of the highlands in order to carry out the surveys. He was also involved in surveying some of the great estates in the eastern counties, such as Panmure, Forfarshire, and the Earl of Mar's estate, close to his own lairdship of Glenkindie.

Patrick was also chosen as a Justice of the Peace for Perthshire and given special responsibility for the prevention of robbery in the Highlands. The extract below shows the hazardous nature of representing the Commission in the Highlands:

## **Urquhart and Glenmoriston: Olden Times in a**





# clan STRACHAN

## Highland Parish, by William MacKay

Extract:

*"In addition to legal difficulties, the officers of the Commissioners ran considerable risk of personal violence in the performance of their work ; and when their surveyor-general, Sir Patrick Strachan of Glenkindy, came north to make enquiry concerning the lands of Glenmoriston and their rental, he did not venture within*

*the bounds of our Parish, but held his court on the Green of Muirtown, near Inverness. In response to his summons, the Glen-Moriston wadsetters and tenants met him there on 29th October, 1718, and on oath declared the rents and duties payable by them. As so ascertained, the total yearly value of the whole estate amounted only to 691 16s 8d Scots, or 57 13s 02/3d sterling!"*

Patrick Strachan, seems to have relied heavily on the support of Highlanders loyal to the government, in tackling the problems of robbery and the uplifting of cattle. The published papers of the Duke of Atholl provide an example of his methods:

Chronicles of the families of Atholl and Tullibardine Vol. 2; pages 292 & 327-328.

Sir Patrick Strachan of Glenkindy to His Grace (the Duke of Atholl)

KILLYHUNTLY, August 25, 1719.

*"May it please Your Grace Haveing occasion to see the bearer John Macintosh, on of yr. Gr/s. Forresters, with Kilihuntly in persuit of Cattell stollen from one of your Vassalls, Straloch, Kylihuntly plyed me on yr Gr/s accompt to be assisting to him in doeing all possible endeavours for getting intelligence & recoverie, wheranent wee have trysted Keppoch & several others in the braes of his countrie Thursday next, & shall in that, or any thing els concerns yr*



*The River Don, Strachton, Aberdeenshire.*

*G/r interest, use my outmost endeavors.*

*"Finding the bearer a smart fellow, & upon Kyllihuntly's recomendation, I thought proper to make him a constable, it being for yr Gr/s & countrie's interest, in respect that all the highland detachments by their orders are bound to obey him in that Station & give parties for his assistance in the exercise of his office, Therfor have presumed in joyning*

*yr Grace in signeing a warrand for that effect, which he brings alongs with him, which needs be no hinder to him in the exercise of his office as forrester to yr Grace I presume to offer my most humble duetie to my Ladie Dutchess, & shall be still proud to be, May it please yr Grace.*

*Y'r Gr/s most faithfuH, obedient, & humble serv'*

*Pat. Strachan.*

*Yr Gr will be so good as to excuse course peaper."*

Notes: Killyhuntly was a Macpherson Lairdship.

Two men were apprehended and hanged by the Perth Hangman for stealing cattle, acting on orders from the Duke of Atholl .

By March 1721, Sir Patrick Strachan had been relieved of his duties regarding the apprehension of highland robbers. A letter in the Atholl papers, informs us that "a gentleman named Gordon (a cousin to the Laird of Gordonston) had been given a commission to prevent stealing in the highlands".

In order to explain Sir Patrick Strachan's sojourn at Killyhuntly, situated in the Spey valley and highland district of Badenoch, we look back to the year 1718 and an entry in the state papers.

Calendar of Treasury Books 1718, part II, page 466:

*"17 July 1718*

*William Lowndes to the Secretary of War to report on the*



# clan STRACHAN

*enclosed petition of Patrick Strachan of Glenkindie to the King, praying payment of several sums which he claimed were advanced to him for his Majesty's service in the late rebellion for reward of his service and loss."*

It seems that Patrick was rewarded with a knighthood and the appointment of Barrack-Master General, Scotland. The Board of Ordnance had been responsible for a plan to build a number of barracks in the Highlands, in order that the area could be more effectively garrisoned with regular soldiers.

The next two sites for barracks had been selected, they were respectively, the ruined Ruthven Castle in Badenoch and a site called Bernera, at

Glenelg, close to the ferry to the Isle of Skye. The projects had been put out for tender, however the contract to build both barracks was awarded to Sir Patrick Strachan. Ruthven for the sum of £2444-17 shillings and Bernera for the sum of £1555-3 shillings. Both buildings should have been completed March 1720, how-

ever there were delays in purchasing the properties.

Construction at Ruthven, commenced in early summer 1719 and was completed in 1721. The Board of Ordnance had tried to pressure Glenkindie into building both barracks at the roughly the same time but he refused to agree to their

demands. The work at Bernera commenced in May 1720 and was completed in 1723.

The Macpherson residence of Killyhuntly was close to Ruthven, it would have provided Sir Patrick with a perfect base from which to oversee the building work and attempt to police the highlands.



The following Account of the late Disturbance in the Highlands of Scotland has been lent to us from good Hands

Sir Patrick Strachan, of Glenkindie, suspecting that two of the Camerons had stolen two Horses from him, he, to make Reprisals for this supposed Theft, ordered the commanding Officer at Kileghinan Barracks, to lend a Sergeant and 16 Men to drive away 60 or more of their Cows, which they did, and killed some of the fattest of them, as they had Occasion. The Owners being highly incensed at this Treatment, went with the Number of 20 Men, to demand their Cows, which being refused them (the same Party guarding them that had drove them away) they took them by Force, and lent them home by four of their Men. Afterwards they demanded the Party's Warrant for what they had done, who having but their Officer's bare Command, they fired on them. The Highlanders returned their Fire, and then fell on with Sword in Hand, and killed every Man of them, except the Sergeant and one or two more, who had the good Fortune to escape. Young Lochiel and his Uncle happened to be at this time with the Governout of Inverlochrie, to procure some Redress for carrying away their Tenants Cows, when the Express came of this Action, upon which Lochiel was made Prisoner; but, 'tis believed, he will soon be released; since 'tis certain he knew nothing of the Mateer.

*Above: Fintray Bay, by Jonathan Thacker.*

*Left: The Highlands were far from subdued in the 1720s as we may discern from the report in the recently founded Edinburgh newspaper, the Caledonian Mercury, dated 26 December 1720.*

## Sources not mentioned in the text

Chronicles of the Atholl and Tullibardine Families; Vol. II, Ballantyne Club, 1908.

Highland Barracks 1717-23; Bernera Barracks, G. Stell, RCAHMS.

Third Spalding Club Miscellany - Vol. I, 1935; inc. Court Book of the Barony of Fintray 1711-26.

The House of Forbes; A & H Tayler, Third Spalding Club, 1937.

The Strachans of Glenkindie 1357-1726; J. Allardyce, 1899.

Note: From the last source page 42:

An extract from a contemporary diary - "Glenkindie died in Aberdeen in the beginning of January 1726, but was not regreted by any person. If he had lived longer the Gentry in the Country was to pursue him for taking of souns of money from them for protections etc."





## The Press and Journal

### News notes from the Aberdeen Press and Journal:

#### ➤ NEW STATUES IN MORAY TOWN TO ATTRACT VISITORS FOR GENERATIONS

**By David Mackay**

Three statues depicting Elgin's heritage to create a trail through the town recently went on public display for the first time in a day of celebrations.

Meanwhile, hundreds of skaters enjoyed the open air rink on the Plainstones with the launch of the inaugural Ice Festival. When darkness fell, the side of the historic St. Giles Church was illuminated with images of Moray residents to show the future heritage of the region.

The new statues were hailed as a "fantastic attraction" in the town centre, which should keep attracting crowds back throughout the year.

Jim Royan, chairman of the Castle to Cathedral to Cashmere project, said: "They are already creating a lot of interest – people want to see them and there's something for everybody



in them. There are the classical ones, and the more unconventional, which I think's important."

The afternoon began with the sight of the Wolf of Badenoch sculpture, raising a sword in victory, being unmasked at the west end of the High Street.

Interested spectators then huddled around Vik Quickly's quirky half lion, half mermaid Dandy Lion

sculpture on the Plainstones.

Drummer, Owen Thomson, 12, and town crier, Ken Smith, both dressed in period costumes, headed a procession to the final statue at the east end of the High Street where Owen looked on, as the new Drummer Boy sculpture, which bore a striking resemblance to him, was revealed.

Throughout the afternoon, hundreds of shoppers bought food and gifts at street stalls and took tentative steps onto the rink for the first Elgin Ice Festival. Event director, Jon Behari said: "It's been tremendous so far. All the sessions sold out on Saturday, so everyone has really taken to it. People have booked to come in on Christmas Day, too. It's something that has never been done in Elgin before, so it is a bit special."

#### ➤ ABERDEEN GARDENERS GIVE MAN EARLY CHRISTMAS PRESENT BY FINDING LOST RING

**By Kieran Beattie**

Rob Devlin and Shane Walsh, who both work at Duthie Park, Aberdeen, were approached by a very worried man who said his ring had slipped off his finger. And, with only a general idea of the location he dropped it, the man feared that it would be

lost forever.

But, after a lengthy search through five drains and piles of leaves and mud, Walsh and Devlin spotted the golden ring nestled in the muck.

Devlin said: "We didn't have much hope when we started, we thought it must have been washed away. But

thanks to the drain not being as full of water as normal, we were able to work our way along the drains with our hands until Shane found the ring at the fifth and final hole.

"We had a real feeling of achievement and the owner was overjoyed when we returned the ring to him."





## ➤ LOCHABER DEAL COULD CREATE 2,000 NEW JOBS

**By Calum Ross**

First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, recently heralded an “exciting new chapter” for Scottish manufacturing as the £330 million sale of Rio Tinto’s Alcan plant is officially completed.

The new owners unveiled ambitious plans to create 300 extra jobs by making a further £120 million investment in equipment and establishing an aluminium wheel manufacturing facility at the site.

The move – which would almost triple the directly employed workforce at the Lochaber site – was hailed as a “shot in the arm” for Highland industry.

Almost a year of uncertainty over the future of the smelter ended last month when it was announced that Liberty House and SIMEC – both members of the GFG Alliance – would buy the facility from Rio Tinto. This move secured the future



of 170 directly employed employees at the site, and about 400 workers in supply chains.

But the new owners now say their proposed expansion and diversification into making wheels for the automotive industry can additionally help bring up to 2,000 direct and supply chain jobs to the Highlands. They also believe the proposals could be worth about £1 billion to the local economy over the next decade.

The deal includes the hydro electric

*Rio Tinto aluminum smelter.* station and aluminium smelter at Fort William, the neighbouring hydro plant at Kinlochleven and more than 100,000 acres of estate land which hosts the water catchment area, including the foothills of Ben Nevis, Britain’s highest mountain.

Liberty – under the banner “Liberty British Aluminium” – will operate the smelter and new engineering and downstream manufacturing facility, while sister firm SIMEC will operate the hydro plants.

## ➤ LITTLE LORD FAUNTLEROY’S HOUSE ON MARKET FOR HALF ORIGINAL ASKING PRICE

Teaninich Castle could be yours for £450,000!

Teaninich Castle is situated north of the village of Evanton and just south of the village of Alness in Ross and Cromarty, Scotland.

It is not known exactly how long a castle has been on the site of Teaninich Castle but it is thought to date back to at least the 16th century, when the lands on which the Castle is situated was an area known as Fyrish.

Two worn lintel stones dated 1734 and 1770 built into the rear of the present castle cum mansion suggest an earlier building of some size and style. Part of the old Teaninich Castle was pulled



down by Hugh Munro of Teaninich, 78th Highlanders, who lost the sight in both of his eyes in Nijmegen, the Netherlands in 1794.

However, later, he occupied himself with improving his farmlands and rebuilding Teaninich Castle. The Blind Captain, or blind laird, as he became known, took an enthusiastic interest in the supervision of the building of the present Teaninich Castle, often pacing out the room sizes himself. The asymmetry of the rooms is proof of his “enthusiasm”.

After WWI, it was bought by an American, Charles Fauntleroy Harrison, the man on whom Frances Hodgson Burnett’s book, “Little Lord Fauntleroy” was based. He is remembered by locals for the large American car he drove.

Teaninich Castle is currently a hotel.





## The Shetland pony

The Shetland pony originated in the Shetland Isles located northeast of mainland Scotland. Shetland ponies are hardy and strong, in part because the breed developed in the harsh conditions of the isles.

Shetlands range in size from approximately 28 inches (7.0 hands; 71 cm) to 42 inches. Registered ponies must not exceed 42 inches (107 cm) 10.2 hands (42 inches, 107 cm) at the withers. They have heavy coats, short legs and are considered a quite intelligent and very strong breed of pony, used for riding, driving, and pack purposes.

The exact origins of the Shetland Pony are unknown. Excavations have shown that small ponies have inhabited the Shetland Isles since at least the bronze age, and Shetland Ponies are probably a cross between this native stock, ponies imported by Norse settlers, and the Celtic Pony, which was brought to the islands by settlers between 2000 and 1000 B.C.E. The area's harsh climate and scarce grazing developed ponies into extremely hardy animals.

The first written record of the Shetland Pony dates to 1603 in the Court Books of Shetland and the Shetland Pony became the first pony to have its own breed society with the Shetland Pony Stud Book Society, formed in 1890 to maintain breed purity. In 1957, the Shetland Islands Premium Stallion Scheme was formed to subsidize use of high quality registered stallions to improve the breeding stock.

Shetland ponies were first used for pulling carts, carrying peat, seaweed, coal and other items, and plowing

farm land. Then, as the Industrial Revolution increased the need for coal in the mid 19th century, thousands of Shetland ponies were imported to mainland Britain to serve as pit ponies, hauling coal underground. Coal mine management in the eastern United States also imported Shetland ponies, though the last pony mine in the United States closed in 1971.

Today, Shetlands are popularly ridden by children and it is the dream of many youngsters to have ponies, but as children grow older, the novelty of pony ownership can wear off as reality of the hard work involved with a pony's upkeep becomes apparent. Many ponies that are no longer wanted have to be rescued.

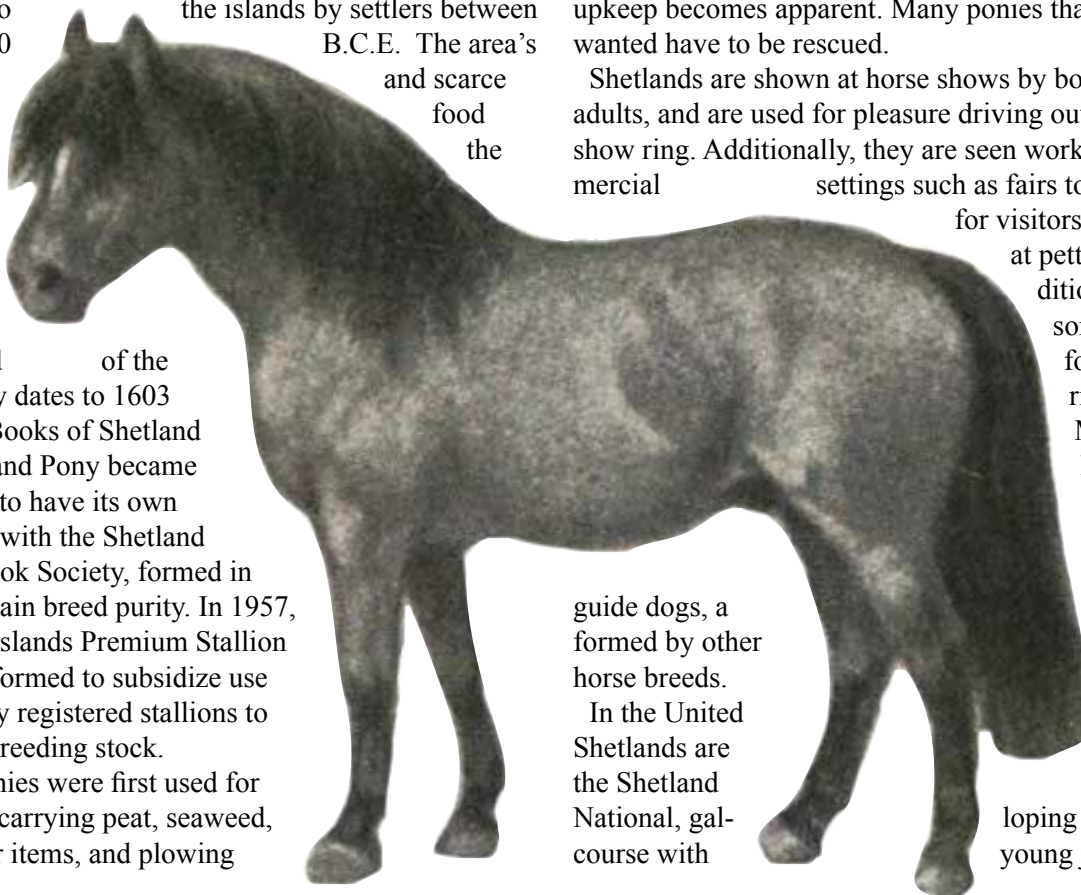
Shetlands are shown at horse shows by both children and adults, and are used for pleasure driving outside of the show ring. Additionally, they are seen working in commercial settings such as fairs to provide rides

for visitors and on display at petting zoos. Additionally, they are sometimes used for therapeutic riding purposes. Miniature Shetlands, trained as guide horses, serve in the same role as task also per-miniature

guide dogs, a formed by other horse breeds.

In the United Kingdom, Shetlands are the Shetland National, galloping around a race-course with

Kingdom, featured in Pony Grand loping around a race-young jockeys. Junior





# clan STRACHAN

Harness Racing was founded in Queensland, Australia, by a group of breeders to give young people aged 6 to 16 an opportunity to obtain a practical introduction to harness racing. Here, children have opportunities to drive Shetland ponies in harness under race conditions. No prize money is payable on pony races, although medallions are awarded.

The Royal Regiment of Scotland and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders adopted the Shetland as its regimental mascot and names each new mascot Cruachan, and numbers them consecutively.

In appearance, Shetlands have small heads, sometimes with dished faces, widely spaced eyes and small, alert ears. The original breed has a short, muscular neck, a compact, stocky body, short strong legs, and a shorter than normal cannon bone in relation to its size. A short broad back and deep girth are universal breed characteristics, as is a springy stride. Shetlands have long thick manes and tails and dense double winter coats to withstand harsh weather.

They can be almost every color, including skewbald and piebald (called pinto in the United States), but are mainly black, chestnut, bay, grey, palomino, dun, roan, cremello, and silver dapple. Registered Shetlands are not leopard spotted, also called Appaloosa, nor do they carry the champagne gene, though these colors are sometimes seen in Shetland sized crossbreeds.

Shetland ponies are generally gentle, good tempered, and very intelligent by nature. They make good children's pets, and are sometimes noted for having a "brave" character. They can be very opinionated or "cheeky", and can be impatient, snappy, and sometimes uncooperative. Due in part to their intelligence and size, they are easily spoiled and can be headstrong, if not well trained.



*Queen Elizabeth II meeting Cruachan IV.*

For its size, the Shetland is the strongest of all horse and pony breeds. It can pull twice its own weight under circumstances where a draft horse can only pull approximately half its own weight. They are found worldwide, though mainly in the UK and North America. In general, UK ponies tend to preserve more of the original characteristics of the breed and are often stockier than their American cousins.

Many ponies are long lived and it is not unusual

for a Shetland to live more than 30 years. Conversely, their small size predisposes some to a greater probability of heart problems. Shetland ponies, like many hardy small horse and pony breeds, can easily develop laminitis if on a diet high in non structural carbohydrates. Therefore, owners must pay careful attention to nutrition, and regulate feed quantity and type.

As opposed to the Shetland pony, a miniature horse is a pint size equine. Developed in Europe in the 1600s, they weren't generally designated as a distinct breed of horse until fairly recently. Ponies, on the other hand, are recognized as small horses and there are many different breeds. People often get the two confused, or think that they're synonymous. While the two do share many characteristics, of course, they're entirely different types of equine.

A miniature horse is also built differently than a pony. Ideally, a mini is a scaled down version of a horse, with a slimmer build than a pony, and longer legs for its size. The head is also in proportion to the body, as are the feet. Also, a miniature horse does not have the heavy bones often associated with pony breeds. In essence, a miniature horse is usually more refined than a typical pony. They have an average life span of 25 to 35 years.





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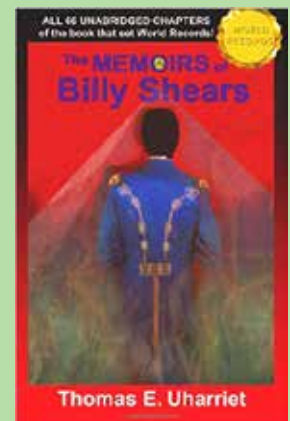
**Rob Strachan, Sir Hew Strachan, Roddy Strachan of Benholm**

## *Book review: The Scots Beatle*

*The Memoirs of Billy Shears*, ghostwritten from the personal perspective of William Wallace Shepherd, allows the world a glimpse of purported secrets concealed since the Sixties, revealing evidence that Paul McCartney died in 1966 and was replaced by Shepherd, nicknamed "Billy Shears." In promotion, the book is described as fiction. Chapter 4 reveals how and why it was proven in court, in Germany, that Sir Paul does not have the same

DNA as the earlier Paul McCartney. Chapter 34 identifies the professor in Florida who published the fact that the new and old Pauls have different voiceprints, proving that they are not the same person (since voiceprints are as unique as fingerprints). Chapter 59 recounts the trouble that Sir Paul got into in Japan when his fingerprints did not match those of the original Paul McCartney. William, who, according to this book, has been playing the part

of Paul, recording and performing as Paul since his fatal automobile accident all those years ago, is said to be a direct descendent of Scotland's beloved William Wallace.







# clan STRACHAN

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First name: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle name: \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

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Interests in Society: \_\_\_\_\_

Genealogy: \_\_\_\_\_

Clan affiliation or Scottish surname history: \_\_\_\_\_

History provided from Black's *Surnames of Scotland: Their Origin, Meaning and History*

Membership application also available on the Internet at [www.clanstrachan.org](http://www.clanstrachan.org)

### Method of payment

- ☐ Cheque
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- ☐ Visa
- ☐ MasterCard
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*If paying by cheque,  
please make it payable  
to "The Clan Strachan  
Scottish Heritage  
Society Inc."*

### Clachnaben!

Newsletter for the Clan Strachan Scottish Heritage Society, Inc.

30730 San Pascual Road  
Temecula, California, 92591  
United States of America

Phone: 951-760-8575  
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- ☐ Full voting rights: to elect Officers and Directors and the eligibility to hold office.
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  - ⊗ Additional information on heritage
  - ⊗ Genealogy links and information
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Security code: \_\_\_\_\_

### Member acknowledgement

Society bylaws and membership terms and conditions are available online at [www.clanstrachan.org](http://www.clanstrachan.org).

If applicable, the Clan Strachan Heritage Society has my authorization to bill my credit card provided above.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_