

Whitehaven, Cumbria

William Stirling was born on 12 February 1859 in Park House, Whitehaven, Cumbria. He attended Harrow School, (Druries), Middlesex leaving in 1875 to go to Brasenose College, Oxford.

On 17 February 1877 he is appointed a Sub-Lieutenant in the Ross-shire Militia, promoted to Lieutenant in 1878 and on 25 March 1880 he takes a Captain's Promotion exam, an All Arms Course at Fort George, Inverness-Shire and on 20 June that year he takes an Infantry Course, qualified to command and train a Rifle Company in an Infantry Battalion. Under the Army Reforms of 1881 the Ross-shire Militia became the 3rd (Militia) Battalion Seaforth Highlanders.

5 August 1885

As a Captain he qualified at the School of Musketry, Hythe to instruct in the Practice and Theory of Musketry.



Travels

In 1884 and 86

William travelled to Iceland to fish with W.E. Bowley.

Reykjavík



School House, Reynevelliv

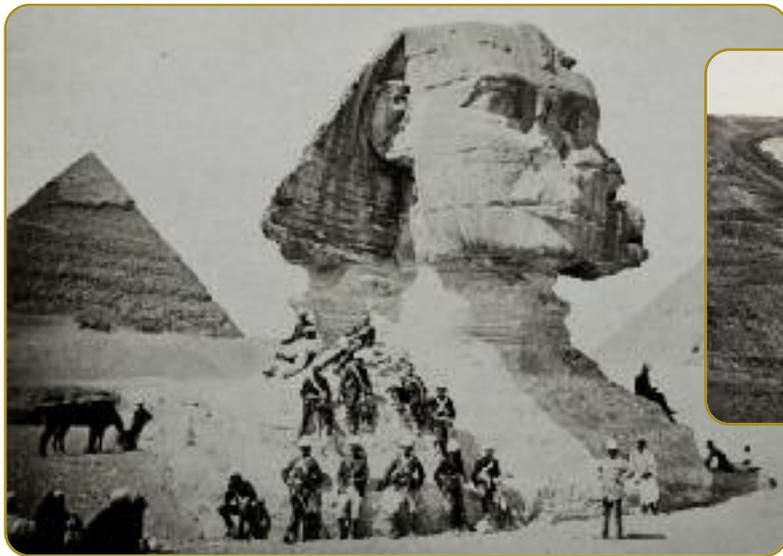
WS

Col Dillon, Gudmundren, Jas S, Col Wybengh, WE Bowley, General Chalmers

India and North Africa



Ahmedabad



The Great Sphinx of Giza



The Suez Canal



Poonah Reversing Railway

North America – Canada 1887

William made an extensive trip to the United States, visiting Niagara, Chicago “*with its stock yards was the finest thing I saw without doubt*” and Rawlins, Wyoming. They possibly continued up to Canada to the Romaine River.



Camp kitchen



Decphis, Romeo and John



View of the Romaine river

Inverness Cathedral

On 7 August 1889 William married Charlotte Eva Mackintosh in Inverness Cathedral. Charlotte was the 2nd daughter of Aeneas Mackintosh of Daviot (born in Canada about 1813) and Louisa Fanny Sybella, (born in India in about 1823), daughter Major Alec Macleod.



William and Charlotte started their married life living in Balavil House, on the Conon Estate, where Charlotte gave birth to 2 children:

Marian Louisa *born Balavil, Urquhart & Logie-Western, Ross shire*

26 June 1890 – 20 February 1971

married 1st 4 January 1911

Capt Ewen Brodie of Lethen

2nd son of James Campbell John Brodie, 12th of Lethen and Fanny Sophia Constance Wood

married 2nd 16 July 1928

Lt-Col Hon Ian Malcolm Campbell, DSO TD

5th son of Frederick Archibald Vaughan Campbell,

3rd Earl of Cawdor and Edith Georgiana

dau of Christopher Turnor of Stoke Rochford



Charlotte Isobel *born Balavil, Urquhart & Logie-Western, Ross shire*

16 May 1892 – 7 November 1968

married 26 August 1915

Lt-Col Ian Leslie Melville

Lt-Co Ian Leslie Melville, son of Ronald

Ruthven Melville, 11th Earl of Leven and Hon

Emma Selina Portman



Kinellan Lodge

William was still in the army as a Captain in the 3rd Seaforth Highlanders, based at Fort George Barracks. He became a Deputy Lieutenant of Ross & Cromarty on 12 October 1893.

In 1893 the family went to live in Kinellan Lodge outside Strathpeffer on the Coul estate.

Charlotte went on to have 6 more children.



John, born Kinellan Lodge, Strathpeffer,
District of Contin
16 September 1893 – 21 March 1975
married 1 June 1915
Marjory Kythe Mackenzie
dau of Sir Kenneth John Mackenzie, 7th Bt of
Gairloch and Hon Marjory Louisa Murray

A son
1 August 1895 Died at birth

William Aeneas, born Kinellan
Lodge Strathpeffer, District of Contin
26 September 1896 – October 1916
(Les Boeufs, The Somme)



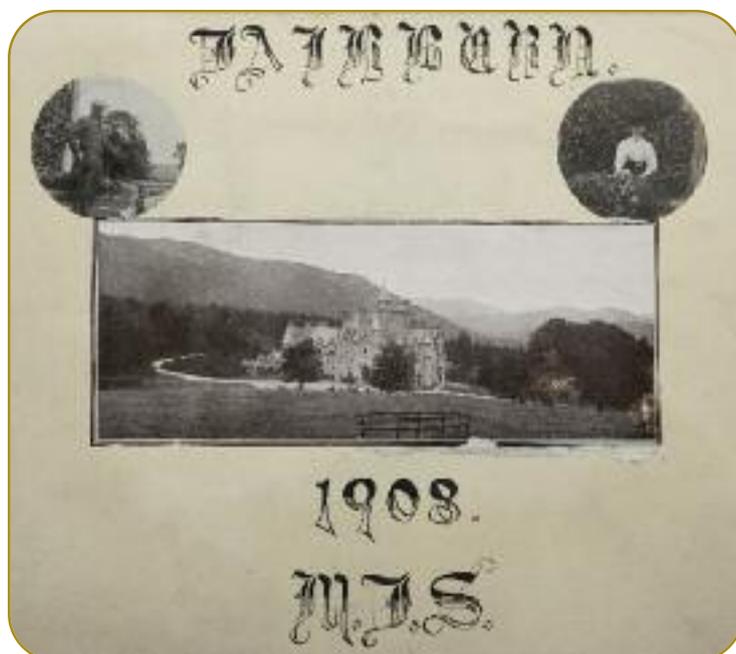
James Erskine, born Kinellan Lodge,
Strathpeffer, District of Contin
27 April 1898 – 20 December 1968
married 14 July 1924
Evelyn Compton Cavendish
2nd dau of Capt Henry Frederick Compton
Cavendish, R.N. and Lady Castalia
Godolphin Osborne

Duncan Alexander, born Kinellan
Lodge, Strathpeffer, District of Contin
6 October 1899 – 15 April 1990
married 27 January 1926
Lady Marjorie Hilda Murray
dau of Alexander Edward Murray,
8th Earl of Dunmore, V.C. and
Dorotheaa Kemble



Robert Mackintosh, born Kinellan Lodge,
Strathpeffer, District of Contin
23 October 1903 – 22 August 1947

In 1908 William,
Charlotte and the
family move to
Fairburn House



John
?, ?, Golly ?
William

Back row – Roderick
Mackenzie of Gairloch
(Roy) Billy Stirling,
Hector Mackenzie of
Gairloch, ?

Middle row – ?,
Sir Kenneth Mackenzie
of Geanies, John Stirling
of Fairburn, ?, ?

Front row – Jim Stirling,
Golly Stirling





William and John at Monar



William with his sons



Fairburn gardens

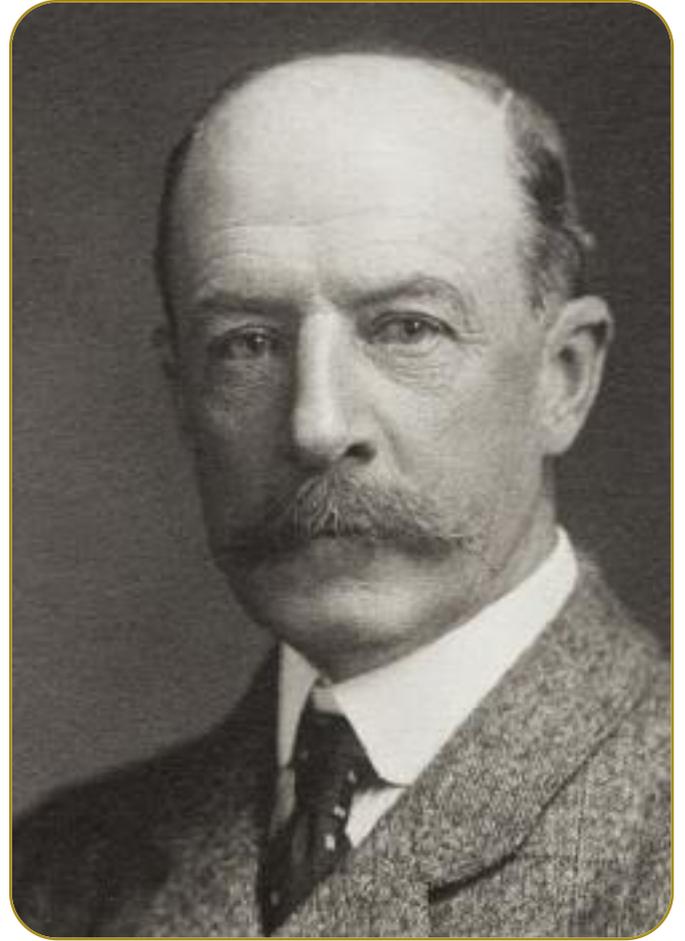
November 1914

William died

The death of Major William Stirling, which took place at Fairburn on Tuesday was impressively sudden, and was due to heart failure. He had breakfasted, and was just about to set out in his motor car for Inverness when he passed away. The sorrow of his widow and family will be shared sincerely by the tenants and others on Fairburn estate, and by all who were acquainted with the deceased. He was a generous and popular landlord, and was esteemed as a kindly friend by many in Ross-shire and the North of Scotland generally. Until the last day of his life, Major Stirling took an active and conscientious interest in public affairs. The welfare of our troops on active service was a first consideration with him. He was an old soldier himself, having serviced for a considerable period in the Ross-shire Militia, and, when war was declared, he placed himself at the disposal of the War Office. He was sent to Aldershot, where he took up military duties, but had to relinquish them in a short time, his health not proving equal to the strain.

The late Major Stirling was a Justice of the Peace and Deputy-Lieutenant of Ross and Cromarty; but his participation in the affairs of the county was far from being casual or nominal. He was an elected member of the County Council for many years, and filled the important position of chairman of the Mid-Ross District Committee, and filled it well and ably. Even more important to the general public were his services as chairman of the District Board of Lunacy. Major Stirling was appointed a member of that Board in 1883, and was elected to the chair in 1896. It can be said that his experience of the administration of the Inverness Asylum and his knowledge of kindred institutions were unrivalled. His death is regarded as a personal loss by the members of the Board and by all interested in the Asylum. Major Stirling's love of sport and of agriculture brought him wide circles of friends, who, owing to his affable and manly nature, were pleased sincerely by his success in both spheres. His keen love of curling was inherited from his father, who is remembered for his prowess on the ice.

The Stirling family has been held in popular esteem for generations. When the later Major Stirling came of age, over thirty years ago, the people of all classes demonstrated their friendship for him and for his relatives in the most warm-hearted manner, the toast of the evening at the public dinner, being proposed by the late Sir Kenneth Mackenzie of Gairloch, who spoke in name of the whole county. There was another display of the friendship felt for "Young Fairburn" on the occasion of his marriage in 1889.



The bride, Charlotte Eva Mackintosh of Daviot – who belonged to an old and well known Inverness-shire family received an enthusiastic welcome to Fairburn. It is the simple fact that Mrs Stirling is now held in affection by all connected with the beautiful and extensive estate. A soldier himself, the deceased gave two sons to the service of the country. The eldest son, Lieutenant John Stirling, came of age less than three months ago. The festivities of that happy event were postponed owing to the young man's absence with the Lovat Scouts. His younger brother is in training with the Seaforths at Cromarty. There are in all five sons and two daughters. The deceased son-in-law, Captain Brodie of Lethen, is serving at the front. The deceased was 55 years of age and succeeded to the ownership of Fairburn and Monar, and of large mining property at Cleator Moor, Cumberland on the death of his father in 1907. The funeral will take place to the family burial-place at Fairburn tomorrow.

Inverness Courier – November 13, 1914

Deceased also evinced an almost life-long interest in the Ross Memorial Hospital, of which he was a manager for many years. On the death of his father in 1907, he, along with Mrs Stirling, endowed a bed in the hospital, which will be an everlasting memento to his late lamented father, who also took the deepest interest in the institution. Only a year ago Major Stirling was appointed a manager of the Nicolson-Mackenzie Memorial Hospital, Strathpeffer, another institution which had his most cordial support.

Deceased excelled as a sportsman, and in the North he was known as one of the best. In his earlier years he travelled extensively abroad, and with his rifle secured many trophies which he brought home, and which to-day can be seen in the magnificent hall at Fairburn. He was also an enthusiastic curler, following in this respect the example set by his father, whose memory will be long cherished by northern curlers. The Fairburn rinks at the bonspiels were doughty opponents, while on their own ice at Fairburn they were almost invincible. Major Stirling took the keenest interest in both the county bonspiel and the Northern Counties bonspiel.

As a landlord he was kind and considerate and he worthily maintained the generous management of the estate established by his late worthy father.

Excerpt from Ross shire Journal.



Orrin
Curling rink



Fairburn curling rink



William in
front of
Fairburn
curling hut

The following people were in service to William at the time of his death:

William Gunn, Factor

Ramsay, Gardener

Robert Burns, Keeper

Frederick Cowell

Donald Macdonald, Stalker

William Shaw, Oddman

Rorie Mackenzie, Keeper

Donald Macpherson

John Mackenzie, Keeper

Kate, Laundrymaid

Joseph Jackson, Coachman

Mina, Housemaid

William Maclean, Chauffeur

Robert Jukes, Mine Manager, Montreal

William Mackenzie, Roadmaker

Mrs Potts, Housekeeper, Montreal

Roderick Forbes, Fisherman

Alice Groombridge, Housekeeper, London

George Simpson, Gardener

At the time of William's death, the First World War had begun and his eldest son, John, had joined the Lovat Scouts and was serving in England before leaving for Gallipoli. The running of the estate would fall mainly on William Gunn, the estate factor.

*For enquiries, and if you have information relevant to the Stirling Family contact:
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