



Fairburn Tower 2011

Murdoch Mackenzie, the 1st of Fairburn, obtained a charter for his lands, dated 1st April 1542 and it was for Murdoch that Fairburn Tower was probably built. Murdoch lived at the Court of St James and was a Gentleman of the Bedchamber for James V.

The last Mackenzie of Fairburn was General Sir Alexander Mackenzie, G.C.H., who died without issue and having sold his estates on 17 October 1853, the title became extinct.



Ayrshire, Scotland

The Reverend Dr John Stirling of Craigie,

Moderator of the General Assembly 1833

21 April 1776 – 13 January 1846

Married 21 April 1862

Mary

26 August 1783 – 28 June 1862

daughter of Reverend William McQuhae DD
of St Quivox and Mary Laurie

*Can you identify these two portraits?
If you can, please get in contact with us*



Mary and John's children

James Stirling

12 February 1807 – 17 October 1823

Mary Laurie Stirling

25 March 1808 – 1 February 1867

married 25 May 1837

Thomas Ainsworth of The Floss, Cumberland

Isabella Stirling

1 September 1809 – 2 February 1826

Jane Erskine Stirling

8 February 1811 – 22 May 1892

Elizabeth Stirling

11 December 1812 – 28 September 1840

married 5 June 1838

William Erskine of the Bombay Medical Services

Lydia Ainsworth Stirling

11 November 1814 – 26 June 1829

William Stirling

12 August 1816 – February 1852

Merchant in Liverpool

Rose Sophia Stirling

27 August 1818

John Stirling

26 June 1820 – 19 August 1907

married 14 September 1852

Marion

4 October 1829 – 2 September 1907

daughter of John Hartley of Moresby
House Cumberland

Laura Margaret Stirling

5 September 1822 – 18 April 1846



Marion Stirling

Annabella Fullarton Stirling

7 June 1824 – 30 April 1913

married 1850

Admiral John Fraser Campbell

James Stirling

2 September 1827 – 11 March 1846

Cumberland, England

John Stirling received business training in a Scottish bank and then travelled to Cumbria to work with his brother-in-law, Thomas Ainsworth, in the Flax Industry in Cleator Moor, Cumberland.

In 1841 a local group of iron ore owners, including JS and Thomas Ainsworth, joined forces and built the Cleator Moor Iron Ore Works which, had closed by 1925. In 1858 JS starting borings on Todholes, near Cleator, and had almost given up prospecting when haematite was discovered. In 1862 he started boring in the Montreal royalty and discovered more haematite and opened the Montreal Mine, which also produced coal.

On 14 September 1852 he and his wife, Marian, went to live at Park House, Whitehaven; Marian had six children while living at Whitehaven:

Margaret Violet Stirling

29 February 1856 – 20 February 1946

married 7 April 1880

Sir Hector Munro of Foulis, 11th Baronet

John Erskine Stirling

6 August – 22 September 1857

William Stirling

12 February 1859 – 10 November 1914

married 7 August 1889

Charlotte Eva

9 January 1862 – 3 December 1935

Second daughter of Aeneas Mackintosh of Daviot and Louisa Fanny Sybella Macleod



Cleator Moor Iron Ore Works



The Stirling children



John Hartley Stirling

23 November 1860 – 22 October 1884 in San Francisco, USA

James Stirling

of Laurieston Hall, New Galloway
7 January 1862 – 22 March 1933
married 30 October 1895
Ann Mary, daughter of John Harris of
Greysouthern, Cumbria

Marion Isabel Stirling

31 December 1863 – 25 January 1950
married 2 June 1890
Sir Wilfrid Emilius Laurie Maxwelton, 5th Baronet



Bridekirk House?

In 1863 – 65 John Stirling and his family moved to Bridekirk, Cockermouth and Marian had 4 more children



Alexander Stirling of Strathgarve

24 May 1865 – 22 February 1946

married 13 October 1896

Helen Katharine

3rd daughter of Crawford Hill, Sheriff Substitute
for Ross & Cromarty

Mary Laurie Stirling

1 February 1867 – 1941

married 12 June 1895

Gilfrid William Hartley of Moresby, North
Berwick (author of *Wild Sport* and some
stories, *Wild Sport with Gun and Rifle* and
Salmon Rod)



Alexander Stirling

Arthur Patrick Stirling

31 March – 9 October 1869

Charles Stirling

10 November 1870 – September 1903,
South Africa

married 8 January 1903

Marion Alston,

21 July 1871 – 13 February 1952

daughter of Charles Henry Alston,
Iron founder, Glasgow



Ross-shire, Scotland

John Stirling had become a keen sportsman and started visiting Scotland in the 1860's. From 1870 he rented Castle Leod, Strathpeffer. In 1876 he purchased four estates and amalgamated them into what is now Fairburn Estate. He had already purchased 17 Ennismore Gardens, London.



John Stirling's business card



Castle Leod, Strathpeffer

Fairburn House

In 1877 John Stirling commissioned the architect, Wardrop & Reid, to build him a mansion house and by 1880 Fairburn House had been completed and the family and their servants moved in.



The family on the steps of Fairburn House



Carriage at the Stables of Fairburn House

John Stirling used estate workmen to build a turbine house at the Orrin Falls and one further up river under the supervision of Mr Bagot from Glasgow and electric light was installed in 1898. He also commissioned the building of the Home Farm, a Stable Block, Kennels, a Gate Lodge at the south approach road to the Mansion House and a walled garden complete with glasshouses and a house for the gardener.

Around the house and within the policies John Stirling planted one of the finest collections of exotic Silver Firs, Spruces and Pines in the country, many of which remain today and include a number of 'Champions', – the biggest trees of their species in this country.

By 1883 John Stirling had also purchased the estate of Monar consisting of 21,000 acres.

In 1907 John Stirling died and Fairburn estate passed to his son, William, who had been living in Kinellan House, Strathpeffer, with his wife, Charlotte and their children.



Bob Burns house



Orrin Falls

Extracts from John Stirling's Will

Mr John Stirling, of 17 Ennismore Gardens, London and of Fairburn, Muir of Ord, Ross Shire, one of the largest ironmasters in Cumberland and Northumberland, D.L., J.P. for Ross-shire, and J.P. for Cumberland, a well-known exponent of the sport of curling, who Died, domiciled in Scotland, at Muir of Ord, on 19th August last, aged 88 years, son of the Rev Dr John Stirling of Craigie, Ayrshire, some time Moderator of the Church of Scotland, left a considerable estate in the United Kingdom.

The testator confirmed the gift of the Monar Estate in Ross-shire to his son William, of his Estate of Foulton, Ayrshire, to his son James, And of his Holm Hill estate at Dunblane to his son Alexander.

The bequests of his Will are as follows:

Family Bequests:

His London residence, 17 Ennismore Gardens and all his effects there, horses, carriages, and consumable stores, to his son William, he making provision for the testator's widow to reside there during her life.

He left financial bequests to his wife, his son James, Alexander, his daughters, Margaret Violet, wife of Sir Hector Munro, Bart.; Marion Isabel, wife of Wilfred Emilius Laurie; and Mary Laurie, wife of Gilfred William Hartley; and his son Charles and their Respective issue. Also his sister Annabella Fullerton Mackenzie, and his second cousin Florence Ainsworth; and each of his grandchildren, Sylvia Marion Laurie and Marion Louisa Stirling and to Mrs Maria Erskine. To his sister's-in-law, Margaret wife of Mr Henry Potts, and Anne, wife of Henry Hartley. To each of his god-children, Gilfred William Hartley, Archibald Wyberg, Philip Stanley, and Marion Hartley, and to Caroline Mary Louisa and William, children of his late Uncle, Dr McQuhae. A life annuity to his cousin McQuhae.

Bequests to Employees:

To his agent, William Gunn of Dingwall.

To his head keeper, John Burns; his farm manager Joseph Chalmers; his coach man, Joseph Jackson; his wife's maid, Margaret Esplin; and Mrs Gotthold, of Frankfort, Germany, formerly governess to his children.



Mrs Stirling



Fairburn House



John Stirling wearing the uniform of a Deputy Lieutenant

To his mine manager, Robert Inkes; his mining engineer, William Black; his Butler, William Parker; his road maker at Fairburn, Duncan McKenzie; and his housekeeper at Montreal, Mrs Peats.

To his trustees for distribution at their discretion amongst his servants not mentioned above.

To his trustees similarly for distribution amongst his clerks and employees at his mines (not being miners) other than those mentioned above.

Life annuities to Sarah McKenzie and Farquhar McPhael, formerly in his employ at Monar, and to Mrs Stenning, widow of his gardener, James Stenning.

Charitable Legacies

To the Ross Memorial Hospital at Dingwall.

To the Whitehaven and West Cumberland Infirmary at Whitehaven.

To the Royal Albert Asylum at Lancaster.

To the Northern Counties Infirmary, Inverness.

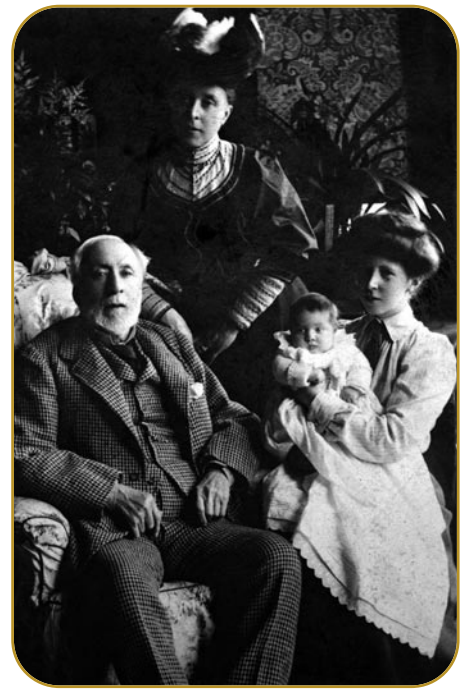
To the Highland Orphanage, Inverness.

To the Liverpool Eye and Ear Hospital.

We will be adding more information about the Stirling family, the estate and the people who lived and worked on the estate in the near future.

For enquiries, and if you have information relevant to the Stirling Family contact:
Charlotte Hingston.

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John Stirling (four generations)



On the hill



Muirton House which was demolished to make way for Fairburn House