

Owners of the Lands of Fairburn

Mackenzie family

Murdoch Mackenzie, the 1st of Fairburn was the grandson of Kenneth Mackenzie, VII of Kintail and Agnes Fraser of Lovat and the illegitimate son of Rory Mor Mackenzie I of Achilty and a daughter of William Dubh Macleod.

Rory Mor was a man of great strength and in a fight with Dingwall of Kildun, killed him and took up with Dingwall's wife. This was reported to King James V, 1512-43, who ordered him arrested. He was given up by his brother and imprisoned on the Bass Rock. An Italian arrived in Edinburgh and challenged the Scottish nation to a wrestling match for prize money. A few came forward to take on the Italian but were beaten which irritated the King, James V. The Governor of the Rock informed the King that he had a prisoner who would beat the Italian; the King offered Rory Mor his freedom if he beat the Italian which he duly did. The King offered him a place at Court, but Rory Mor informed the King that after his time on the Rock he was not suited to court life, but he would send his son, Murdoch.



Double portrait of James V and Mary of Guise. Coll. of the Duke of Atholl, Blair Castle, Perthshire.

King James V took control of the Government in 1528, aged 16 and began his reign. He took, as his second wife in 1538, Marie of Guise. James and Marie had palaces in Falkland, Holyrood, Linlithgow and Stirling where Murdoch Mackenzie was a family servant of the King.



FALKLAND CASTLE.



Le Palais de FALKLAND



HOLY ROOD HOUSE.



Murdoch may have begun his working life at the Court as a Groom of the Chamber in around 1538, before graduating to become a Gentleman of the Bedchamber. In 1542 he left the employment of the Court having been Granted the Lands of Fairburn.



A Map of Ross shire where the lands of Fairburn are located
National Library of Scotland

From Volume 3 of Registrum Magni Sigilli (The Register of the Great Seal)

From Volume 3 of Registrum Magni Sigilli (The Register of the Great Seal) Crown Charter given in April 1542

2632. Apud Edinburgh, 1 Apr.
REX ad feodifirmam dimisit familiari servitori suo MURDOCO M'KENZE, pro ejus bono servitio,— terras de Ferbrume (extenden. in firma, grassuma, *lie bondage* &c. ad 5 libras 16 sol., ac unam gallinam *lie reik-hen*), Kirkferbrume *alias* Ferbrume-

ne-egles (ad 3 lib. 8 sol., et unam *reik-hen*), Auchinsoill (ad 3 lib. 5 sol. 4 den., 3 bollas ordei, 3 bol. farine, 3 bol. avenarum, unam martam, unum mutonem et 4 *reik-hennis*), Ballabraid (ad 7 lib. 4 sol. 4 den., et 8 *reik-hennis*), piscariam de Ballabraid vocat. *lie Ess* (ad 3 lib. 4 sol.), in comitatu de Ros, vic. Invernys :—TENEND. dicto Murd. et heredibus ejus masc., quibus deficientibus, seniori heredum fem. absque divisione :—SOLVEND. annuatim 23 lib. 11 sol. 4 den., 3 bol. ordei, 3 bol. farine, 3 bol. avenarum, vel 6 sol. 8 den. pro qualibet bolla, unam martam vel 2 marcas, unum mutonem vel 3 sol., 14 *lie reik-hennys* vel 4 den. pro qualibet gallina ; ac duplicando dict. firmam ad introitum heredum ; necnon edificando domos, ortos et politias necessarias solo corresponden. :—TEST. *ut in aliis cartis* &c. xxviii. 174.

Volume 4 Crown Charter given in 1548-49

280. Apud Edinburgh, 24 Jan.
REGINA &c., confirmavit MURDACHO

M'KENZE de Farebren, et MARIOBELLE URQUHARD ejus sponse,—8 libratas terrarum de Ballevrard, et 40 solidat. de Moy, novi extentus, in comitatu de Ros, vic. Invernys ;—quas idem Murd. personaliter resignavit :—TENEND. dictis Murd. et Mar. et eorum alteri diutius viventi in conjuncta infeodatione, et heredibus inter ipsos legit. procreatis, quibus deficientibus, legit. heredibus propinquioribus sive assignatis dicti Murd. quibuscunque :—REDDEND. firmas feodifirme et devorias debit. et consuet. :—TEST. 23. 29. 4. 26. 33. 30. 32. xxx. 388.

Crown Charter given in July 1542

2735. Apud Edinburgh, 28 Jul.
REX ad feodifirmam dimisit familiari servitori suo MURDACHO M'KENZE, pro ejus bono servitio,— terras de Myd-Fairbrune (extenden. annuatim in rentali suo in firma, grassuma, bondagiis &c., ad 5 libras 16 sol. monete, et unam gallinam *alias reik-hen*), Kirkfairbrune *alias* Eglis (ad 3 marc. et unam *reik-hen*), Auchnasowle (ad 3 lib. 5 sol. 4 den., 3 bollas ordei, 3 bol. farine avenatice, 3 bol. avenarum, unum *lie mart*, unum mutonem, 4 *lie reik-hennis*), Ballabreud (ad 7 lib. 4 sol. et 8 *reik-hennis*), piscariam de Ballabraid vocat. *lie Ess* (ad 3 lib. 4 sol.), terras de Moymoir

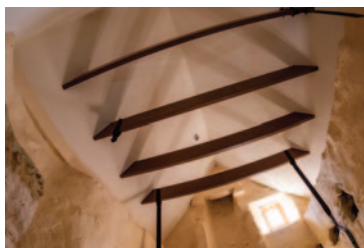
(ad 6 lib. 13 sol. 4 den., 6 bol. ordei, 6 bol. farine avenatice, 6 bol. avenarum mesure ville de Leith, 2 martas, 2 mutones et 9 *lie reik-hennis*), in comitatu Rossie, vic. Invernys :—TENEND. dicto Murdaco et heredibus ejus masculis, quibus deficientibus, seniori heredum fem. absque divisione :—SOLVEND. annuatim 30 lib. 17 sol. 4 den. monete, 9 bollas ordei, 9 bol. farine avenatice, 9 bol. avenarum, 3 mutones, 3 martas, 23 *reik-hennis* ; necnon duplicando dict. firmam ad introitum heredum ; et edificando domos, ortos ac politias necessarias :—TEST. *ut in aliis cartis* &c. xxviii. 289.

Fairburn Tower



It was Murdoch Mackenzie who had Fairburn Tower built, but sadly there are no records of the construction of the Tower. However, The Landmark Trust has done extensive research into the building during the restoration.

On 19th August 1762 Bishop Robert Forbes, 1708-75, Bishop of Ross and Caithness for the Episcopal Church, was invited to meet Sir Alexander Mackenzie, 5th of Coul and Lady Mackenzie, *Janet, daughter of Sir James Macdonald XIII of Sleat*, at Fairburn. The Bishop describes the castle as – “It is a lofty tower of five stories and garrets, only one room on a floor. Here I saw two Cupples of a Creel House, which the late Fairburn had carefully preserved in their own place, by building up stone and lime walls upon them, and making a dining room upon the ground where they stand. They are of oak and near a yard in breadth.”



Information about the history of stone masonry

It is predicted that the art and craft of stone masonry is over 6000 years old. Man was using natural resources to build and use tools in order to create structures and sculpt beautiful monuments out of stone. Masonry was born when people learned that fire can create resources such as plasters, mortars and quicklime resulting in being able to create what they would then refer to, as their home.

Historically it is believed that stone masonry is the oldest trade of civilisation and was considered to be a highly skilled and sought-after trade.

Calligraphy may have been the starting point for stonemasons, which involves using tools to chip away at stone to make writing. This art form is believed to be the first known communication in our history, allowing people to use calligraphy as a form of communication between one another.

Masonry can be as simple, or complex as the stonemason decides upon. A stonemason uses their tools to craft pieces of rock into more appealing shapes, using mortar to form structures.

There are six types of stone masonry:

- Ashlar masonry, where stones are cut.
- Fixer masonry, where masons use mortars and grout to fix the stones onto the buildings.
- Memorial masons, where masons carve inscriptions into headstones they have made.
- Rubble masonry, where stones that have been roughly cut and laid in a mortar.
- Slip-form stone masonry, where using form-work the mason creates stone walls.
- Stone veneer, where decorative walls are created for structures, hiding the structural wall.

Medieval stonemasons traditionally performed a 7-year apprenticeship, using a hands-on approach and learning the tricks of the trade through practical learning. The stonemason apprenticeship is very similar today, however conventionally is 3 years rather than 7.

In medieval times, stonemason guilds had three classes, apprentices, journeymen and master masons. Apprentices were bound to their masters, in debt to them for the price of their training. Journeymen were considered of high skill, allowed to go on journeys with their masters to assist on projects. Master masons were free men, travelling around to work on projects.

As a form of 'quality assurance' Freemasons often carved personal symbols on their work so that it could be differentiated from other mason's work, almost like a signature.

Traditionally, stonemasons use a variety of tools for shaping stones. These include, a mallet, a chisel, a hammer and a straight edge. Most stonemasons will have a variety of chisels ranging in shapes and sizes, some stones require different chisels and to get the perfect finish a stonemason must use a chisel of a particular size and shape. A mason's hammer is different from a hammer as we know it. They have a longer, thinner head and are used alongside a chisel to chip away at the stone. Animals were used as muscle power to help move the stones, however in modern times stonemasons have access to tools such as cranes and forklifts to help make their job easier.

Once cultures met, stonemasons shared techniques and tricks with one another, learning from each other to create unique architecture and sculptures. A great example of this is Europeans settling in foreign lands, a lot of architecture outside of Europe has a massive European influence and can be very easy to spot in foreign countries.

www.finessemasonry.co.uk/stone-mason/stone-masonry-history



A fine example of the modern stonemasons' skill, blending the old with the new in the restoration of Fairburn Tower.

Murdoch, 1st of Fairburn married first, Mirabell/Mariobell, daughter Thomas Urquhart, Sherriff of Cromarty and Helen Abernethy of Saltoun

They had: – Alexander
John, died 22 August 1620, I of Tolly, Minister of Dingwall who married Margaret, died 27 October 1601, daughter of Grant of Ballindalloch
Mirabell, who married first Thomas Mackenzie of Lochluichart and Ord; secondly Alexander Mackenzie, Progenitor of Coul
Agnes, married William Munro of Kildermorie

He married second, Christian, daughter of Rory Macfarquhar *Maclean*

They had:- Roderick of Knockbaxter
John, I of Corry, who married a daughter of Donald Clark Hector, Chamberlain of Lochcarron
Isabel, who married as his second wife, John Roy Mackenzie IV of Gairloch died at Talladale in 1628, in his 80th year
A daughter, who married Donald Glas Macdonald

Murdoch died in 1590

Alexander, 2nd of Fairburn, died c.1620, married a daughter of Walter Innes of Inverbreakie

They had:- John
Hector
Isobel, who married John Mackenzie, died 1601, eldest son of John Roy Mackenzie IV of Gairloch. She married secondly Bayne of Tulloch, thirdly Colin Mackenzie of Kinnock
Katharine, married Murdoch, a younger son of Colin (Cam) Mackenzie of Kintail

John, 3rd of Fairburn married Janet, daughter of Torquil Macleod of Coigeach, without male issue. He died in 1645 and was succeeded by his brother

They had:- Isobel, who married Alexander Mackenzie of Sand
Annabell, who married John Mackenzie of Pitlundie
Agnes, who married Rory Mackenzie of Letterewe

Hector, 4th of Fairburn, died December 1663, married first Agnes, his cousin, daughter of Wyland Chisholm of Kinkell. In 1513 Wyland gets the Barony of Comer, Strathglass

They had:- Rory
A daughter, who married Kenneth Mackenzie of Dochcairn, a younger son of John Roy Mackenzie of Gairloch
Agnes, who married 1st Rory, younger son of Duncan Bayne of Tulloch, 2nd Angus, a younger son of Alexander Mackenzie of Gairloch
A daughter, who married Rev Alexander Mackenzie of Lochcarron
A daughter, who married Rory, second son of Colin Mackenzie, I of Kincaig
A daughter, who married Rev Alexander Mackenzie, third son of the Rev John Mackenzie of Tolly

Hector married second, a natural daughter of Alexander Mackenzie I of Kilcoy

They had:- Colin, who married Florence Innes, widow of Rev John Macrae, minister of Dingwall
Charles
A daughter
A daughter, who married Rory, eldest son of Alexander Mackenzie, younger son of Murdoch Mackenzie, 2nd of Redcastle
Agnes, who married Duncan, son of William Mackenzie of Tolly, Gairloch

Roderick, 5th of Fairburn married first Margaret, daughter of Patrick Grant of Glenmoriston

They had:- Murdoch
Colin, living in 1722
Alexander, living in 1738
Margaret, who married David Munro of Killichuan
Mary, who married Alexander Mackenzie II of Ballone

He married secondly in 1663, Margaret, daughter of Donald/Daniel Mackenzie III of Loggie, who died around October 1683 and Annabella, eldest daughter of Alexander Mackenzie, V of Gairloch.

They had:- John, died c.1724, married Jean Mackenzie
Colin, died c.1724
Donald, married a daughter of Kenneth Mackenzie of Davochmaluag

Murdoch, 6th of Fairburn married in 1673, Isobel, daughter of Hon. Simon Mackenzie of Lochslinn and Agnes, daughter of William Fraser V of Culbokie

They had:- Roderick
Katharine
Anne, who in 1695 married George, 1662-1760, son of Alexander Mackenzie of Inchcoulter and Katherine, daughter of William Mackenzie of Belmaduthie
They had
Sons, 2
Daughters, 5

George, along with George Mackenzie of Allangrange and Kenneth Mackenzie of Dundonnell were 3 of the Tutors and Curators named, who assisted the Mackenzies' of Fairburn in regaining their land after the 1715 Jacobite Uprising

Murdoch died c.1711

Roderick, 7th of Fairburn married in 1712, Winniewood, daughter of Brigadier William Mackintosh, younger of Borlum and Mary Readie

William took part in the 1715 Jacobite uprising. The last laird of Borlum, Edward Mackintosh was proprietor of the estate of Rait, near Kingussie which passed into the hands of 'Ossian' Macpherson and is now known as Belleville. (see below)

Roderick took part in the 1715 uprising and in 1726 was granted clemency by King George I, having been attainted of high treason for levying war against his Majesty

They had:- Alexander
Kenneth who married Ann Macrae
Helen, who married John, died 1751, eldest son of Colin Mackenzie IX of Hilton and Catherine, daughter of Christopher Mackenzie, Arinhugair
Mary, who married 1st, as his second wife, Coll Macdonald of Barisdale, 2nd Angus Macdonald of Greenfield

Jacobitism was largely a 17th and 18th century movement that supported the restoration of the senior line of the House of Stuart to the British Throne. During the reign of Queen Anne, England and Scotland was united in 1707. Following Anne's death in 1714, her protestant cousin George I of Hanover became King of Great Britain. In 1715 the Jacobites wanted to replace George with Anne's catholic, half-brother, James Francis Edward Stuart (The Old Pretender).

Roderick joined the Jacobite uprising of 1715, under William, 5th Earl of Seaforth, which resulted in the estate of Fairburn being forfeited. On 14th October 1723, James Baillie, WS, bought the lands of Fairburn, Arcan, Moy and others, at auction in Edinburgh, on behalf of George Mackenzie of Allangrange.

Roderick died c. 1731

Alexander, 8th of Fairburn died 7th May 1760 in Fortrose. Married first 23 January 1741, Barbara, daughter of Baillie Gilbert Gordon, Inverness and Marjorie, daughter of William Mackintosh

Barbara was a Jacobite supporter who sold her diamonds to raise men for the cause

They had:- Marjorie, baptised 30 October 1741 and three other daughters
Roderick Married second Jean, daughter of Alexander Mackenzie VIII of Davochmaluag, near Strathpeffer, who died 7 January 1776 and Magdalene, daughter of Hugh Rose XV of Kilravock

Married second Jean, daughter of Alexander Mackenzie VIII of Davochmaluag, near Strathpeffer, who died 7 January 1776 and Magdalene, daughter of Hugh Rose XV of Kilravock

They had:- Kenneth, Lieutenant, 21st Regiment, who was killed while serving under General John Burgoyne, 1722-92 at one of the battles of Saratoga, in the State of New York, during the American Revolutionary War against the British in September 1771. Had he lived, Kenneth would have inherited the Lands of Davochmaluag from his aunt, Beatrix Mackenzie

On 21st July, 1724, the Commissioners for the sale of forfeited estates sold to JAMES BAILLIE, Esq. W.S. the whole lands which belong d to RODERICK CHISHOLM of Comer, comprising the lands of Erchless, Breakachy, Innerchannich, Comer, Glencannich, and many others. By a highly ornamented pardon, (with a sight of which the author has been favoured,) under the *privy* seal, George I. forgives the crimes of treason "and levying war," committed by the following gentlemen, in these words:—" Pardonamus, Remittimus, Relaxamus pfat:—Roberto Stuart de Appin, Alexandro Macdonald de Glenco; Johi Grant dno Anglice, Laird de Glenmorison; Joanni Mackinni dno Anglice, Laird de Mackinnin; Roderrick Mackenzie de Fairburn; Alexandro Mackenzie de Dachmaluack; Roderic Chisholm de Strathglass; Georgio Mackenzie de Ballamathie; Roberto Campbell als M'GREGOR, öter vocat Robert Roy; John Macdougal de Lorne, et Jacobo Ogilvis, öter vocat. Domin. Ogilvie, et errum cüll," &c. Dated at Westminster, 4th January, 12th year of the King's reign. GEORGE M'KENZIE of Allangrange acquired the above lands bought by Mr BAILLIE, from that gentleman, and a charter of the same passed under the Great Seal in his favour 26th July, 1725. On 20th July 1727, Allangrange disposed them to ALEXANDER CHISHOLM of Mucherack, who was infeft 21st July same year. By disposition dated 9th November, 1743, and registered in the books of Session 25th July, 1774, ALEXANDER CHISHOLM of Mucherack made over the foresaid properties to ALEX. CHISHOLM, eldest son of the said RODERICK CHISHOLM of Comer, asainted, and the heirs male of his body.

A Garrison of Swiss mercenaries occupied the tower in 1716.

We hear from the North, That there is a Garrison of 80 Men in the Earl of Seaforth's House at Brahan, 80 at Castlehead, 80 at Echless, 30 at Fairburn, 30 at Kinkel, 30 at Kitwyvie, and 30 of Captain Foul's Independant Company at Tullock. All the Gentlemen in Ross shire are fled to the Hills with Seaforth, but Boyd of Tulloch, Mackenzies of Scatwall, Elder and Younger, Allangrange, Foveran Elder, Old Redcastle, and Old Belmadurty, d.d never engage in this Rebellion, and would not follow Seaforth into the Field.

Newcastle Courant,
19 March 1716

Following the Jacobite rising of 1745, William Roy surveyed the whole of Scotland between the years 1747-55

This is an image from the map showing part of the lands of Fairburn



THAT upon Tuesday the 4th of November next, there is to be expoid to publick voluntary roup, in Fairburn, in the county of Ross,
A LEASE for SIX YEARS from Whitunday next, of the **MAINS and GRAZINGS** of FAIRBURN, which are all finely inclosed, very extensive and convenient for any dealer in black cattle.—Also, the whole of the present crop, corns, and hay, labouring graich and utensils, with a great number of black cattle, and young store, together with the whole of the household furniture, a set of fine horse furniture, pistols, &c. The articles and conditions of roup, and rental of the lands, to be seen in the hands of Colin Mackenzie, Writer in Dingwall.

15 October 1760,
 Caledonian Mercury

THAT on Tuesday the nineteenth day of August inst there is to be sold, by publick voluntary roup at the place of Fairburn, in the county of Ross,
A large Parcel of DROVING CATTLE, such as stots, oxen, cows, together with some saddle hortes, bul-hortes, and mares, with their foals, sheep and goats. The cattic hortes, &c. are all in fine order; and the purchasers may have them grazed till convenient for them to carry them away, at an easy rate. The articles and conditions of roup, to be seen at Fairburn in the hands of Mr. John Dingwall, Writer in Edinburgh, and in the hands of Colin Mackenzie, Writer in Dingwall.
 There is also to be SET, by roup, the said day, for three or five years, the **MAINS of FAIRBURN** with fine hill grazing, mostly inclosed very extensive, and convenient for any gentleman who deals in black cattle. The old rent, before inclosing amounted to about 100l. per annum.

4 August 1760,
 Caledonian Mercury

LANDS to be LET in the County of Ross.
TO be LET by public roup at Fairburn, upon Tuesday the 29th of November current, for the space of ten years from Whitunday next, the **MANSION-HOUSE**, Office-houses, and Mains of Fairburn, pleasantly situated on the south side of the water of Canon, in the parish of Urray and county of Ross; as also, the valuable and extensive **GRAZINGS** of Monar, Baulcet, Achonakie, Achegederfon, and the Bridge Park, all lately possessed by the deceased Roderick Mackenzie of Fairburn, the proprietor. There is a modern dwelling-house and convenient offices on the farm, fit to accommodate any private gentleman. And the Mains, the lands of Achonakie, Achegederfon, and the Bridge Park, are all sufficiently inclosed with stone dykes; and there is game of all kinds on the grounds.
 There is also to be **SOLD** by public roup, upon the same day, and at the same place, the whole **SPOCKING** of **CATTLE** belonging to the said defunct, consisting of Milk Cows, Stots, Heifers, and young store, in all from two to three hundred in number. The cattle are reckoned of the best kinds in the Highlands, many of them are fat, and all of them in the greatest order. The purchasers may have the Winterings (which are near the place of Fairburn) from the day of the roup till the 15th of May next, on reasonable terms.
 The articles and conditions of roup to be seen in the hands of Colin Mackenzie writer in Dingwall, with whom any person inclining to offer for a lease of the Mains and Grazings, or to bid for the cattle, may send their proposals, which, if not accepted of, will be kept private.
 N. B. If the cattle are disposed of, there will be also sold by roup, a large quantity of **CORN** and **STRAW**, and a **HAY STACK**.

16 November 1774
 Caledonian Mercury

25 August 1796
 Caledonian Mercury

FARMS AND GRAZINGS IN ROSS-SHIRE.
TO LET,
 For such number of years as may be agreed upon, **THE** Lands and Country of **STRATHCONAN**, so well known for their goodness and extent of pasture.
 Also, the whole Hill or Grazing of **MONAR**, remarkable for its extent and good quality of grafs, both for milk Cows, hill cattle, and sheep.
 Together with the whole of the **Low Country Estate of FAIRBURN**, including the Mains of Fairburn, the Bridge Park, &c.
 For farther information enquire at Mr Kenneth Mackenzie at Mill Bank, by Dingwall, factor for Lieutenant-Colone Alexander Mackenzie of Fairburn, the proprietor.

Roderick, 9th of Fairburn, died 23 January 1774, married in 1768, Catherine, daughter of William Baillie of Rosehall, 1704-79 and Catherine Sutherland

They had:- Alexander, born 12 March 1772, died 17 October 1853



General Sir Alexander Mackenzie, Bt, Knight of the Hanoverian order of the Guelphs, and of the Sicilian Order of St. Januarius

The National Portrait Gallery, London by and published by William Say, after George Henry Harlow mezzotint, published 1819

William, born 8 December 1773, died 30 October 1819; Lived on the Island of St Vincent, owning the Tourama Estate, and had Alexander, 1799-1883, with Margaret Lincoln, 1780-1833

Mary, born 2 April 1772, Ross shire, died 9 December 1861, Bath, Somerset; married Watkin William Massie, 1768-1838

Barbara, born 17 April 1770 Ross shire, died 9 September 1836, Clifton, Bristol; married first 30 November 1789

Kenneth Murchison of Tarradale



**Mrs Kenneth
Murchison, painted by
Henry Raeburn**

Museum of Fine Arts,
Budapest

The chief attraction was an excellent Raeburn, a portrait of Mrs. Barbara Murchison, a lady of pleasing appearance, though not in the first blush of youth ; she wears a perfectly plain white dress with a dark sash, and a band in her auburn hair, and she sits under a tree with her arms folded in her lap. The picture was accompanied by a four-page autograph letter from the artist, and was sold for 950 guineas (Colnaghi and Co.) a by no means excessive price as things go.

Another Raeburn, but one very far inferior in quality, was the portrait of Miss Murray, afterwards Mrs. Hull, a little girl in white dress, with very straight hair, which fetched 175 guineas. Yet a third picture by the same

**The Daily Mirror,
14th December 1903**

They had:- Roderick Impey, 1792-1871 Became a geologist and served as Director General of the British Geological Society from 1855-71. Married 29th August 1815, Charlotte 1788-1869, daughter of General Francis Lewis Hugonin, 1751-1836



Charlotte Murchison



Sir Roderick Murchison
KCB, DCL, FRS, HonFRSE,
FLS, MRIA
The National Portrait Gallery

Kenneth, 25 April 1793, Tarradale House, Muir of Ord, died 1st August 1854, Governor of Penang Married 4 December 1815, Prince of Wales's Island/Penang to Charlotte Pryce Married 27 May 1826, Stockton on Tees to Anne, daughter of John Douthwaite Nesham

Barbara married second 9 June 1798 Colonel Robert Murray MacGregor, son of Evan Murray MacGregor and Janet Macdonald

They had:- Janetta Catherine, born 29 May 1799, Edinburgh; died 10 July 1883 Stenton Lodge, Tunbridge Wells, Kent (Janetta also had her portrait painted as a child by Henry Raeburn) Married 1st 7th September 1818, at the house of Stratfield Canning, British Minister, Lausanne, Switzerland to Robert Sutherland, son of Colonel James Sutherland of Uppat and Elizabeth Baillie Married 2nd William Darley Hull, born 1806, Ireland; died 12 July 1877 Stenton Lodge, Tunbridge Wells, Kent
Evan Alexander, born 1804, Edinburgh, died 1815, Tours, France
Barbara, born 22 November 1806, Edinburgh; died 16 August 1841, Government House, Dominica Married 30 September 1826, All Souls, Marylebone to Richard Hort, Adjutant General, Windward Islands, 1802-57

Catherine Baillie married secondly, William Scott MA, son of David Scott and Margaret Femmister

They had:- Mackay Hugh, born 15 September 1790 in Inverness, died 1838, 24 Saxe-Coburg Place, Edinburgh married Barbara Baillie, died 8 March 1841, Seabank
Georgiana, born 5 September 1791, Inverness, died 22 January 1878 Bath, Somerset

Alexander, 10th of Fairburn, born 12th March 1771, joined the army became Gen Sir Alexander Mackenzie of Fairburn and died 17th October 1853, in Bath, unmarried.

He received his early education from Walter Scott in Edinburgh.

His military career: Major in 78th Foot 25 July 1793; served in Flanders 1793; Lieutenant-Colonel 10 February 1794; commanded 2/78th Foot 1794 to 1796; served at Cape of Good Hope 1796; brevet Colonel 26 January 1797; exchanged to Lieutenant-Colonel in 36th Foot 22 May 1797; subsequently Major-General 25 September 1803; commanded a Division in Italy 1806; Lieutenant-General 25 July 1810; General 19 July 1821; died Bath October 1854.

www.napoleon-series.org

Alexander inherits the lands of Fairburn in 1787, when the gross annual rental was £700 sterling. He made extensive borrowings on the security of the estate and in 1797 sold four portions of the estate adjoining Fairburn. In 1799 the lands of Fairburn, Monar and Strathconon are put up for sale. There is a pipe tune 'Lady Mackenzie of Fairburn', a strathspey, but we have no information as to who it was composed for or the name of the composer

The Lands are sold to various different owners

In 1791-92 Alexander transferred a pendicle of the estate called Moy to Francis Humberston Mackenzie 1st Baron Seaforth, 1754-1815, for £3,500

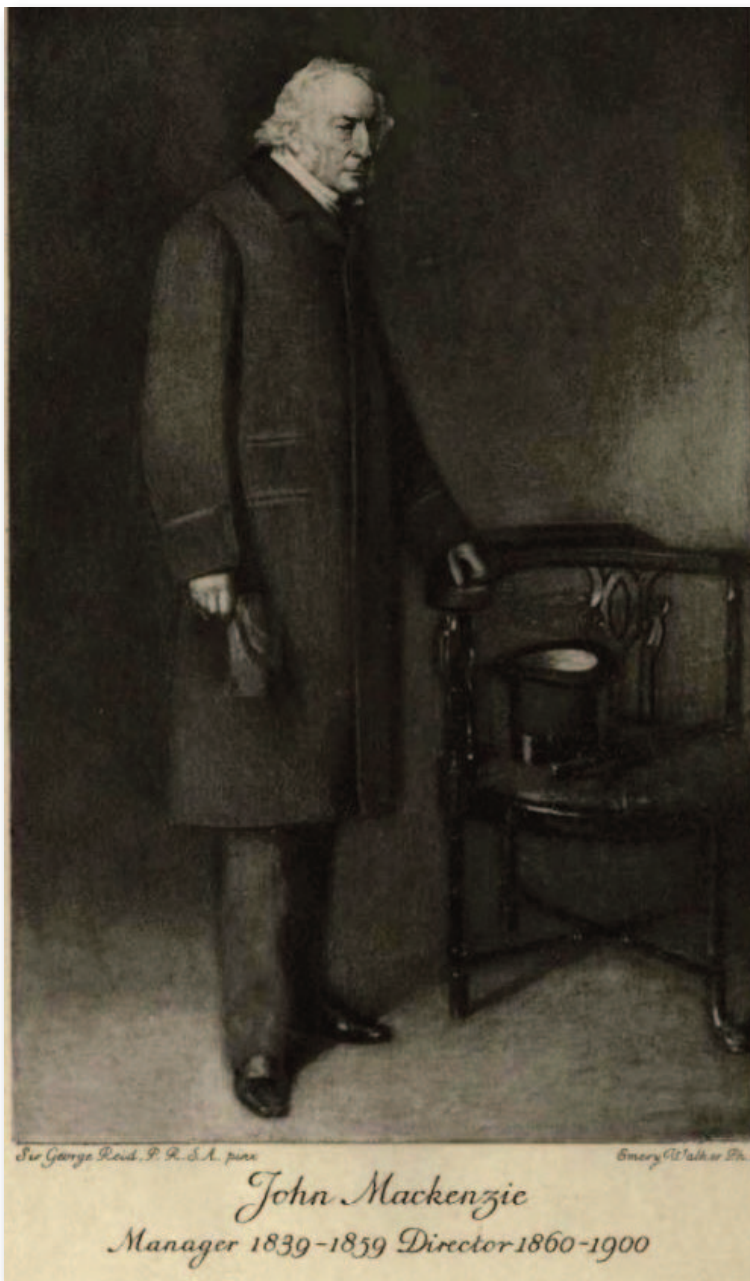


Francis Humberston Mackenzie, 1st Lord Seaforth in the uniform of the 78th Highlanders

By William Dyce

In 1793-94 General Sir Alexander Mackenzie, together with his Factor, Kenneth Mackenzie disposed of other parts of the property:

1793 the land of Wester Fairburn went to James Shaw, a Merchant of Inverness; his son, Alexander Mackenzie Shaw sold the land in 1807 to William Reid who styled himself Reid of Muirton. John Macrae, Sheriff Substitute of Ross shire becomes a Trustee of the land in 1817; Captain John Matheson of Bennetsfield (a Jacobite, died 1843) also has an interest in the land. The land is then owned from 1824 until the 1850's, by William Mackenzie WS, d.28 April 1856, of 29 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh (a large self-contained house, with Coach house, Washing House and Larder), Alexander Mackenzie, b.1812, a Wine Merchant in Leith married to Marion Dalrymple Mansfield, 1816-72 and John Mackenzie, Manager of the Scottish Widows Fund & Life Assurance Society, Edinburgh



THE LANDS and ESTATES of FAIRBURN, MONAR, and STRATHCONON, lying in the parishes of Urray, Contin, and Fodderty, and county of Ross. The lands will be sold in whole or in such lots as may seem most likely to accommodate offerers. If exposed in lots, the following is suggested as the most convenient division.

Lot I. The GRASING of MONAR, which is at present out of lease, being in the possession of tenants from year to year; of course it would afford a much higher rent on a lease, than these tenants pay.

Lot II. The COUNTRY of STRATHCONON, with the LANDS of CORRIFOIL annexed thereto. This tract of country is at present possessed as a black cattle grazing, but is well adapted for sheep pasture, and if let as such, would yield a very considerable increase of rent. The leases of this property expire at Whitsunday 1802.

Lot III. The ESTATE of FAIRBURN, with the Salmon Fishings on the rivers Conon and Orran. This estate lies in the low part of the county of Ross, is very extensive and highly improveable. The Salmon Fishings are let from year to year. The farms of Richragan and Arrady are under a lease which expires at Whitsunday 1812, and the rest of the property under expire at Whitsunday 1802.

The title deeds are in the hands of Messrs Alexander and Colin Mackenzie, W. S. Edinburgh, who will furnish a rental of the estate, and any other information that may be required—and they are authorised to receive proposals for a sale by private bargain, at any time before the day of sale, and the lands themselves may be seen by applying to Mr Kenneth Mackenzie at Millbank near Dingwall, the factor on the estate.

For sale by Public Auction

**Within the Royal Exchange
Coffeeshouse, Edinburgh**

**Friday the first of February next,
between the hours of one and
three afternoon**

7 January 1799 – Caledonian
Mercury

Kenneth Mackenzie of Davochmaluag, died c.1619, was granted the lands of Wester Fairburn and Rogie in an excambion for the lands of Borodale owned by Kenneth Mackenzie of Kintail.

To Alexander Gillanders, the younger of Highfield, died August 1794, for £6,000 1797, the Lands of Arcan, including 'Fairburn's half of Arcan' to John Mackenzie of Lentron, died 1803 at Figtree Court, in the Temple, for £3,500

1797, Hugh Fraser of Eskadale, by Beauly, the Monar Grazing for £9,000

In 1802 part of the estate was sold to the Executors and Trustees of James Macpherson, 1736-96, of Belleville, Inverness shire

To Thomas Mackenzie 5th of Ord, died 1803, for £18,000

In 1824 the district of Strathconon was sold for £40,000



Muirton House which was demolished
to make way for Fairburn House

Muirton House was built on Wester Fairburn, but when and by whom we have no record. It was in situ in 1817

ROSS-SHIRE. 269

To be Sold by public roup, on the 12th day of November 1805, at two o'clock afternoon, within the Exchange Coffeehouse, Edinburgh,

ALL and Whole the Town and Lands of **MUIRTOWN**, or **WESTER FAIRBURN**, with the Salmon Fishings, and other Fishings belonging thereto, together with the Mill of Wester Fairburn, commonly called the Mill of Straban, with the Meadows belonging thereto, lying within the parish of Urray and sheriffdom of Ross.

These lands consist, by a late measurement, of upwards of 1700 Scots acres, whereof 171 are arable, 80 under natural wood and planting, 90 under grass pasture, and brush wood, and the remainder consists of moor and heath pasture. The lands are pleasantly situated upon the banks of the rivers Conon and Orran. The planting consists of thriving fir, and a variety of forest wood, which is of considerable value. There is a substantial Mansion-house, with Garden and Offices, upon the estate, fit to accommodate a genteel family, with plenty of fuel at a convenient distance. The whole lands are out of lease, for which there has already been offered above L.300 of yearly rent, and a very considerable augmentation may be expected, on improving leases, besides the salmon fishings.

The lands hold of the Crown, and are valued in the cess books at L.150 Scots, and the public burdens affecting them are moderate.

Few estates of the same extent afford more scope for the successful introduction of those modern improvements, so generally practised in that country, while at the same time the situation is pleasant and convenient, being surrounded by good roads, and of easy access.—The estate lies about 16 miles from Inverness, six from Dingwall, and in the vicinity of a post office, and good markets.

To the sportsman it is also a most desirable situation, as it abounds with every species of game known in the Highlands; while its vicinity to two large rivers gives it every advantage that the angler could wish for.

A considerable part of the price will be left in the hands of the purchaser, if he inclines.

Mr Alexander Falconer, at Drumfalk, by Dingwall, will show the lands; and for further particulars application may be made to Alexander Grant, solicitor, No. 6, Serjeant's Inn, Temple, London; or to James Grant, W. S. Duke Street, Edinburgh, in whose hands are the title-deeds, and who has power to conclude a private bargain.

VALUABLE CORN FARMS

ON
THE ESTATE OF FAIRBURN IN ROSS-SHIRE,
TO BE LET.

THE Following FARMS will be LET on improving Leases, with entry at Whitsunday next:—

1. ACHNASOUL.
2. CACHAN, or ORRINSIDE.
3. LOWER BALLOAN.
4. CONON PARK.
5. OLDTOWN and NEWTOWN.
6. UPPER BALLOAN.
7. CROFTNABODDACH, with Coulgarse Crofts, and part of Coull.
8. TEANALINE, with a small portion of Coull.
9. CROFTNEON.
10. WESTER MAINS and TEARUICH.
11. EASTER MAINS, with a part of Coull.

These Lands are beautifully situated between the Rivers Conon and Orrin, commanding one of the finest views in the North. The soil is generally of a rich quality, and a very large proportion of the waste ground may be improved with great advantage to the Tenant, at a very moderate expense.

Fairburn is only about 5 miles distant from the Sea-port of Beaully, to which there is access by an excellent Road which crosses the Orrin, by a Bridge lately built, and passes through the stance of the great Muir of Ord Cattle Trysts; and the Tenants can thus procure with facility a supply of Lime for the Lands, while they can, without difficulty, dispose of their Farm produce.

The Lands have been divided and laid out by a Land Surveyor of skill and experience, and the Farms, as arranged are very compact. But the size of the Farms will, if necessary, be reduced.

Written offers will be received by JAMES MACPHERSON, Esq. of Belleville, by Kingussie; or ALEX. SREPPERD, Solicitor in Inverness, Factor on the Estate, till the 21st of March next, on which day the Offerers are requested to attend at Beaully, when the successful candidates will be settled with.

14th March, 1832.

SALE OF LANDS
IN THE COUNTY OF ROSS.

To be SOLD by public voluntary roup, within the Royal Exchange Coffeehouse, Edinburgh, on Wednesday the 11th day of February 1797, between the hours of two and three afternoon,

THREE Parts of the Lands and Estate of FAIRBURN, lying in the parish of Urray, on the south side of the river Orrin, consisting of the Farms of Upper Balvraid, East-er Balvraid, Balichladdich, Achokinamatlic, Miln and Miln Lands of Auldgowrie, with other pendicles adjoining thereto, bounded on the west by the burn of Auldgowrie, and on the east by Mr Gillanders of Highfield's property—all holding blench of the Crown.—These lands are low rented, of great extent, and capable of considerable improvement.

For further particulars enquire at Mess Alexander and Colin Mackenzie, writers to the signet, Edinburgh; or Mr Kenneth Mackenzie, at Millbank, near Dingwall, factor on the estate.

Caledonian Mercury
9 January 1797

**In 1837, James Fowler of Raddery, born 1763, died 5 August 1842,
purchased the estate of Fairburn**



Raddery House

The Fowler family were resident in the Parish of Rosemarkie on the Black Isle, but also had West Indian interests, namely, Lottery, Grange and Friendship Estates in Trelawney, Jamaica. His son, James Evan Fowler of Fairburn, born, 20 October 1812 , died 25 August 1842 at Raddery House, so Fairburn passed to his brother, Henry Mackenzie Fowler of Fairburn and Raddery.

Henry was a Captain in the 96th or Ross shire Regiment of North British Militia. On 20th August 1844 Henry married Miss Louisa Campbell, second daughter of the late Donald Mackay, H.M. 70th Regiment of Foot. In 1845 Henry became a Deputy Lieutenant of Ross shire.

**FARMS TO BE LET,
ON THE ESTATE OF FAIRBURN.**

To be Let, for such number of years as may be agreed upon, not exceeding 21 years, from Whitsunday first,
THE following Farms, on the Estate of Fairburn, lying in the Parish of Urray, and County of Ross.

	IMPERIAL STANDARD.			
	Arable	Improveable	Pasture	Total
1. Lower Balloan, with Newton and Oldton -	60 1 39	129 2 1	11 3 0	201 3 0
2. Upper Balloan -	76 0 26	35 3 14	5 1 13	117 1 13
3. Coull of Fairburn and Conon Park - -	60 2 18	65 1 29	6 2 6	132 2 6
4. Taenaloin, or Middle Fairburn - - -	65 0 0	37 0 0	5 3 15	107 3 15
5. Clashachan, exclusive of Croft Baan - -	35 3 35	62 0 5	4 3 34	102 3 34
6. Mains of Fairburn -	159 2 25	84 1 35	6 3 39	251 0 19
7. Achnasoul - -	66 2 30	56 2 1	10 3 7	133 3 38

Besides several Crofts of from 5 to 10 acres each.

The new boundaries of these farms are now laid off by Mr G. Campbell Smith, Land Surveyor, are distinctly marked on the ground, and will be pointed out by Hector M'Culloch, the Ground Officer at Bridge Park. Nos. 1 and 2 may be conjoined, and No. 6, or Mains of Fairburn, may be subdivided to suit candidates.

The arable lands are very superior, being composed of rich clay and sandy loams, capable of raising luxuriant crops of all kinds of grain, as well as turnips and grass.

The improveable ground is of an excellent quality, and can be brought into cultivation at little expence. The Proprietor proposes immediately embanking the Fairburn side of the River Conon, and will give liberal encouragement for the improvement of waste ground, and the erection of suitable steadings, as well as for enclosing with stone fences, &c. ; so that these farms will be found well worthy of the attention of persons of skill and capital, to whom alone they will be let.

Fairburn is within six miles, by good roads, of the seaports of Dingwall and Beaully, where all kinds of produce can be readily shipped, and coal, lime, and bone dust imported. The erection of a distillery in the immediate vicinity, now in progress, will improve the facility of disposing of barley.

Further particulars will be learned on application to the proprietor, James Fowler, Esq. of Raddery, by Fortrose ; or to Thomas Mackenzie, Esq. of Ord, by Beaully (if by letter, post paid), who will receive offers till the 1st of June.

Raddery House, 14th April, 1838.

10th October 1846 Henry Fowler sold the Estate of Fairburn for £39,000, to Mary Elizabeth Frederica Stewart Mackenzie, Lady Hood, born 27th March 1783 at Tarradale, died 28th November 1862 at Brahan Castle. The daughter of Francis Humberston Mackenzie, 1st Baron Seaforth.



Mary Elizabeth Frederica Stewart Mackenzie, Lady Hood

By Thomas Lawrence located in Fortrose Town Hall

**In approximately 1875 John Stirling starts to buy
some of the Lands of Fairburn**



John Stirling, 1865

Robert Ainslie, Elvingston, Gladsmuir, Lothian, N.B. had Muirton, Achonachie and Cabaan.

NEW MANSION-HOUSE AT FAIRBURN.

Some years ago Mr John Stirling, one of our leading Scotch ironmasters, became lessee of the shootings of Castle Leod on the property of the Duchess of Sutherland. He shortly thereafter purchased the small romantic estate of Muirton, in the parish of Urray, to which was soon added a piece of moor from the adjoining estate of Scatwell. Two years ago he further extended his estate by purchasing the beautiful and highly cultivated estate of Fairburn, which for some thirty years formed part of the Seaforth estates, the price paid being £115,000. On Fairburn there was no mansion-house, but the sellers recommended an eligible site in the vicinity of the old "Tower." At Muirton there was a neat, though comparatively small mansion-house, and here Mr Stirling resolved to set up his Highland home. A magnificent new dwelling is now in course of erection on the site of Muirton House, which has been completely demolished. The site might perhaps be considered too much obscured, but seclusion and quiet are often a recommendation for Highland residences. Fairburn House (as the mansion is called) is a beautiful rural retreat. It lies in an opening leading from the valley of the Orrin to that of the Conon, and is so close to the former that the rippling of the river is distinctly audible from the house. It also commands a good view of a portion of the Conon, and of Coul and the valley of the Black Water, with the romantic hills of Contin and Tor-Achilty in the foreground.

Inverness Courier, 17 October 1878

SALE OF HIGHLAND ESTATE.—The estate of Strathmore or West Monar has just been purchased by Mr Stirling of Fairburn from Lord Wimborne. Mr Stirling has thus become the possessor of the whole of the ancient forest of Monar. It was at a previous period owned by a former proprietor of Fairburn, and it is pleasing to find in these days, when old estates have a way of splitting themselves up, there should occur one instance at least in which the sub-divisions have become re-united. Mr Stirling is to be congratulated on having acquired one of the oldest and, for its size, best forests in the Highlands.

Northern Chronicle & General Advertiser for the North of Scotland, 27 June 1883

changed hands for £5000. It is also a curious fact that this estate, which was the sporting ground of the old Fairburn family, should now have come into the possession of the modern proprietor of the old Tower of Fairburn.— Yours faithfully,
ALEX. MATHESON of Lochalsh.
London, 16th July 1883.

Inverness Courier, 19th July 1883