

DRUMMOND

Drummond Village

The village of Drummond ('Low Ridge') grew as a ferm-toun to the farm, which was part of Foulis Estate.

The early Parish records show that in 1702 Donald Munro, a tailor in Drummond and his wife Isobel from adjacent Mulinearan had a son Robert. In 1746 Hector Munro, a labourer at Drummond, and his wife Anne, had a son Robert. In 1753 Andrew Mackenzie, merchant, had a daughter Margaret and in 1766 Alex Morrison, a cooper, had a daughter, Katherine. Another merchant, Alex Ross, had a daughter, Katherine in 1733, a dyer, Robert Findlater, a son, William, the following year. In 1785 Mary, wife of tailor William Munro, gave birth to a son, Donald. In 1791 the grieve was David Cumming, who had a son, John.

Marriages listed in the eighteenth century at Drummond included Christian Mackenzie (1709), Hector Munro, labourer (1744), Marjory Finlayson (1764), Jannet Beaton, servant to Robert Finlater in Drummond (1785), In 1802 Donald Munro, shoemaker at Drummond married Janet Munro.

In the late 1700s Rev. Harry Robertson reported "there is only one small village in the parish, called Drummond, situated in a level field contiguous to the river Skiack. The village is yet in its infancy; but as the situation of it is central and agreeable, being on the post-road between Dingwall and Novar Inn, there is every reason to believe that it will increase in a few years. At present there is a public house, 2 shopkeepers, a dyer of woollen stuffs, who keeps a press and scouring-mill; a few other mechanics. Two fairs or markets are held here annually; the one early in June, the other the first week in December (the 'Goose Market'), where black cattle and other commodities are sold Adjoining to the village is the parish school, which is commonly attended by 60 to 80 children, and often by a much greater number,"
(1st Statistical Account, c 1792)

At the 1841 census the district including Drummond, Drummond Village, Katewell, Knockancurin and Teanord had 85 females and 94 males in 37 houses. Heads of household included 4 woodworkers, 4 wrights, a weaver, miller, sawmiller, mason, blacksmith and 2 apprentices, a vintner, 3 farmers, a factor, 16 agricultural labourers, 14 farm servants, a shepherd, a gardener and 5 spinsters.

In 1845 among the tenants were Alex Munro, smith ; Rev. Duncan Campbell, Drummond Cottage. (Campbell had left the Parish Church and

the manse at Kiltearn at the Disruption of 184:3. The Free Church Manse was probably still under construction). Kenneth McIntosh was at Duiebridge Croft for 19 years; it was he who built the house there. (Ref, John Munro VI, Knockancurin)

Drummond Inn in 1881 was run by Roderick and Joanna Young.

The current farm-house was built in 1894 for £805; the garden wall for £50. The old farm-house was turned into cottages. (These were demolished after boys set fire to them in the early 1970s.)

In September 1902 James Moore died aged 34. The Ross-shire Journal reported that he had not been active in public affairs.

In 1910 the mill at Drummond was still in operation but the proprietor, in a joint case with the mill at Katewell, lost a claim for compensation by Sir Hector Munro of Foulis.

During the Depression the price on potatoes fell to 6d per hundredweight, Donald Hugh Moore, younger brother to James, offered them free of charge to the villagers but they asked for them to be transported. Instead he took them and dumped them in the sea!

The working day was 10 hours a day before war. Pay was about £1 per week plus meal, coal, milk and potatoes,

Donald Gallie recollects getting 15 bob a week, then £1.

What were your working hours at Drummond?

"From half past six to half past five - 2 hours for dinner. You had to be in the stable at half past five to gang and feed your horses. All through the year. 10 weeks of the year you did a 10 hour day from 5 to 6, "

Hard work?

*"Noo - ach well you know I was young then.
You were out in all weathers - you never bothered getting inside,
Ach - it was good."*

Alan Moore recollects walking the cattle through to Dingwall. In previous times, if they didn't sell there they would go on to Muir of Ord and South.

Tractors were introduced early on. In 1928 during thrashing operations, the big Fowler Steam Engine (from Leeds) caused a fire and most of the Steading is burnt down in 1928. Donald Hugh Moore's clothes caught fire and he was burnt, only one calf was lost in the

fire. The steading was replaced with stone and slate steading but Donald Hugh, according to his son Alan, never really got over it, He died in 1940 and his son Alan, aged 24, took over,

Alan Moore bought a Caterpillar tractor in 1940 for £805, which in 1992 is still serviceable.

Some of the scrap from Glenskiach Distillery was bought for Drummond, including the pillars of the verandah of Drummond House.

The main **produce** throughout this period was Oats, Barley, Wheat, Turnips and some potatoes with approximately 400 breeding ewes and 200 cattle. Before the war there were 8 or more on the farm and 8 farm cottages.

During the **war** more grain had to be grown. 3 Italian POWs came to help on the farm, also Polish displaced persons and others for drawing potatoes. The farm provided potatoes to the Aerodrome. Two Land Girls worked on the farm, Jessie and a girl from Ullapool. Alan Moore took part in the Home Guard.

In 1955 he bought Drummond, Knockancurin and Achleach from Foulis.

Drummond Farm

William Sim Esq, tenant of Drummond, and his wife Isabella Cobham, had a daughter Mary in 1812 and another, Elizabeth in 1820. In November 1835 John Sim Esq, Drummond, was noted in the Inverness Courier as having received a Game Certificate (Class D). In 1828 the griever was William Dingwall, whose wife Mary, gave birth in that year to a son, Hugh.

"Mr Sim of Drummond was the first to introduce Ayrshire cattle on a large scale in the parish "and they were found to answer exceedingly well. This gentleman lately introduced some pure short horns." (2nd Stat. Account) "The first **flour mill** in the country was erected in 1821 by Mr Sim. It is driven by the water of the Skiach" (2nd Stat. Acc.)

William Sim, J.P, farmer, Drummond died in 1854. His children died aged 70, 23, 28, 22, 50, 10, 50, 5, 62, 18 respectively. All are buried at Kiltarn.

By 1860 Alexander Allan was at Drummond Farm.

In June 1877: "The farm of **Drummond** on the Foulis Estate is as yet in a transitional estate, **Provost Mitchell**, Dingwall having only tenanted it for 4 years Great improvements have been completed. Already it seems as if a magic wand had been waved over the nicely situated and prospectively spread farm."

"The proprietor allowed £2000 for the erection of a new steading

and 2 cottages but about £300 more was required to complete them. The hewn white freestone was quarried in the neighbouring farm of Teanord. Several new farm roads.... great work done in draining and fencing and in the introduction of water."

"The greater number of the farm servants are accommodated in the old Drummond village."

"The order of cultivation followed is a combination of the 5 and 6 shift. Each acre receives, in addition to the ordinary farm-yard manure, from 8 to 10 cwt of artificial manure, including 1/2 cwt of nitrate of soda and 1 1/2 cwt of guano."

"Only 7 or 8 cows are kept for supplying milk to the work people and raising a few calves; 40 to 50 young stock to take the place of bullocks in the feeding byre when the latter are disposed of in early winter and spring; about 400 wedders and hogs are wintered on turnips, the wedders being sold when fat, the hogs being carried on to grass; a large number of pigs are also fed off yearly."

The farm is worked by 5 pairs of strongly-built and well-matched horses, aided, during busy times, by growing animals of 3 to 4 years old." (*Ross-shire Journal*).

In 1878 Andrew Manson, ploughman at Drummond, using a high-cutter, was beaten into fourth place at the annual **Kiltearn Ploughing** Match by ploughmen from Woodlands, Ardullie and Knockrash. The horses from Drummond, as well as those from half a dozen other farms in the parish, were seen as particularly worthy of note. A Mr Maculloch, Drummond, (manager/tenant?) was present at the match.

In June 1882 Hector Munro, Drummond, was involved in a serious accident on the farm.

In 1887 James Moore arrived from Caithness aged 19 to take on the tenancy of the Farm.

The House at **Knockancurin** was inhabited to 1960 by Sandy Brodie. It was then left vacant and the double roof was not regularly cleared of the build-up of leaves. In time the roof collapsed and in 1989 the building was demolished.

The Steading stones from Achleach were removed to Drummond. The last tenants at **Corriefoulis** were Campbells in the 30s; the place was then left to become derelict and Alan Moore took out the gable ends to create sheds.

Today Drummond is 375 acres. The big field in the loop of the road is 99,5 acres of Grade 1 land. Alan Moore cut all the trees around the

field to let more day-light in. There is a mound in the field, reputedly an old monastery, (See *Monuments Record*, reference no 86), In 1888 Reverend William Watson found 2 cists, each with an inhumation (body), one with an urn, in the mound.

Alan Moore recollects the Old Well *Tobar Uamhach* on the way to Katewell as never running dry and having lovely water; he used to catch trout (2-3 lbs) in a nearby ditch.

Alasdair McArthur, who married Alan Moore's daughter Judy, started work on the farm in 1980. Alan Moore died in 1991 aged 75.

Adrian Clark
March 1992