

The Jacksons of Swordale



Major Randle Jackson

Major Randle Jackson from Norfolk, latterly of the Fife Light Horse, married Emily Margaret Baxter, daughter of Edward Baxter of Kincaldrum, an important Dundee jute merchant. A wealthy man, 'The Gallant Major' bought Swordale from John Munro – some said on condition that it was cleared of tenants; however, they had been cleared some years earlier.

He spent more than £20,000 on the estate, apart from the Victorian Mansion House, designed by Maitland of Rain, which was added to the older house. (This newer 'Swordale House' was demolished in 1963; the older house remains – left of photo).

Major Jackson put an electricity turbine on the River Skiach, was the main force behind the building of the Diamond Jubilee Hall and was largely responsible for establishing the small-holdings at Knockrash. He died in 1902, one year before his idea for a school at Swordale came to fruition.

He is buried along with his wife in a private cemetery (pictured) on Swordale Hill.

One of their daughters Annie Constance (girl seated in group photo), married the controversial, event fraudulent, Richard Meinhertzhagen, subject of Mark Cocker's biography 'Soldier, Scientist, Spy'. She died in July 1928 in a shooting accident, while returning with her husband from the shooting range.





Emily Jackson with her granddaughter Annie Meinhertzhagen



Dorothy and Annie Jackson



The Jackson Family Cemetery, Swordale Hill



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Kindly re-photographed and retyped by Willie Fraser, Evanton

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