



Chronology of the Garrison of Inversnaid 1703-1746

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711 Battle of Glen Arklet “ Congressio Britonum & Dal Riati for Loirgg Ecclet ubi Britones deuicti”. An encounter between Britons and the Dál Riata at Lorg Ecclet, (Glen Atklet?) which the Britons were defeated. Annals of Tigernach U711.5

1694 Kilmannan (MacGregor of Glenstrae) transfers ownership of Inversnaid farm (Craigrostan) to Rob Roy

!702-04 Writs of lands of Ruscanach in parish of Buchanan, **barony of Craigroyston**

1703: This is the year James Nasmyth, a successful engineer and inventor of the steam hammer, claimed that his great-great-grandfather, Michael Naesmyth (1652-1705) a well-known Edinburgh builder and architect - had the contract to build Inversnaid garrison; during which he and workers were captured by Rob Roy and his men and dragged through the snow which led to his ill-health and early death. The claim is fictitious construction of the garrison and event of workers being carried off, occurred 15 years later. However, some writers speculate that the Duke of Montrose may have started to build his own garrison which may have involved Michael Nasmyth. Naesmyth had a fine reputation for his masonry and woodwork; and since his business was designing and erecting new mansions, principally for the landed gentry and nobility he, in all likelihood, knew and probably did some building for Montrose elsewhere in the district. After all, Montrose had several strategic houses built throughout his estates that served as watch stations. For example, in 1716, John MacFarlane's house at Auchintoig, built in 1702, as part of the Duke of Montrose's chain of watch stations to guard against raiding. The present Inversnaid Lodge, built in 1790, replaced an earlier lodge shown on Dumaresqu and Bastide's draught of a plan for the Inversnaid barracks, may also have been a watch house given its strategic location.

20th February 1710 Bond by John Hamiltoun of Bardouie and Robert Campbell of Innersnait [Rob Roy], to John Graham, in Knithswood, for 1700 merks

24th December 1712 Rob Roy's signs a contract with the Duke of Montrose. Rob Roy undertook to buy two hundred cows from Kintail for Montrose in return for £2,800 Scots. He failed to deliver the cattle and Montrose and his other customers took legal action to recover their money. They started proceedings by recording their contracts in the Register of Deeds.

1712 Copy letter from Robert Campbell (Rob Roy MacGregor) to James Graham, writer in Glasgow. n.d.come to hand upon the 5th July'. On writer's debt to Montrose; once he gets what money he is due from others, he will repay the money

6th Oct 1712 Correspondence of James, 1st Duke of Montrose: Copies of letters from Montrose to officers of the independent companies requesting a warrant from the Lord Advocate, with a narrative of Rob Roy's practices, evasion of justice, and the arrest of Rob Roy for debt.

1712 Montrose took over Rob Roy's lands illegally since Rob Roy had already and legally disposed of them to Bardowie and Glengyle.

15th Oct, 1715 The Loch Lomond Expedition when MacGregor boats on the shore near Inversnaid Harbour.

1715 Following the Jacobite rebellion of Parliament passed an Act (1715 c.50) vesting in the king the real and personal estates of those attainted of high treason committed before 1 June 1716.

1716 John MacFarlane's house at Auchintoig, built in 1702, is part of the Duke of Montrose's chain of watch stations to guard against raiding. In an undated letter from the laird of Glenegies informs to the Duke of Montrose "*A representation of remarkable and great losses Auchintroig has sustained for his zealous appearing in defence of the present government when disturbed by rebels*"

1716 Major Green orders Rob Roy's Innersnait farmhouse be burned and livestock confiscated. After which examines a site nearby for a proposed barracks. The burning reported in the Flying

1716 Montrose submits plans for a garrison at Inversnaid in a letter sent to Secretary of State Lord Charles Townsend but addressed to Gen Carpenter

1st June 1716. The King in Council in London orders the building of barracks in the highlands with priority given to Inversnaid

5-6th Nov 1716 Duke of Montrose starts legal proceedings that dispossess Rob Roy of Innersnait (alias Craigrostan)

27th Nov 1716 Court rules that Robert Campbell of Innersnait (and not Bardowie and Glengyle) was legally the owner of Craigrostan and therefore liable for debts owed to creditors.

25th June 1717. Balwhidder, Copy of declaration by Rob Roy, 'to all lovers of honour and honesty'; treacherous attempt to arrest him and his escape; 'to narrate all particulars made towards this foul plot and the persecution I suffered by the Duke of Montroses means, before and after I submitted to the government, would take up too much time. Were the Duke of Montrose and I left alone to debate our own private quarrell, which in my opinion ought to be done, I would shew to the world how little he would signify to serve either king or country'.

19th July 1717 Buchanan The park has been broken into and 32 of the best of the cows stolen; Killearn ordered fire crosses to be sent through Menteith to raise the country for pursuit, but no one has turned up; Rob Roy intends to attack with his own clan and all the broken men.

23rd July 1717 *Inversnaat*, The tenants refuse to come and work as Rob Roy had threatened to burn their houses; and had stolen 16 bolls meal from the gurnal during the work being done on the barracks.

21st July 1717 Buchanan Fruitless pursuit of Rob Roy as far as Correrklet. (Corriearklet)

1718 Lt. John Dumaresq and Lt. John Henry Bastide produced 'A draught of Innersnait....) Including a proposed location of temporary barracks for 100 men, the site and plan for the garrison and location of rubble stone quarries as well as the location of existing farms and Corriearklet houses and run-rigs. Dumaresq & Bastides also produce a map of 'roads between Innersnait, Ruthvan of Badenock, Kiliwhilam and Fort William in the Highlands of North Britain'

March, 1718 Work begins on the barracks by well-known Edinburgh architect James Smith a *Surveyor and Chief director of work on Barracks in North Britain*. Major Thomas Gordon is his chief overseer with Lt. John Dumaresqu acting as *clerk of works* and Lt. John Henry Bastide as *draftsman* (later he becomes famous as a Lt. Colonel and chief engineer of fortifications in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and second in command to Gen. Jeffrey Amherst. Gilbert Smith *mason* plus James Livingstone and eight *masons* Robert Mowbray *carpenter* and James Syme *slater*.

July 1718 Capt Biggar is in command of the soldiers billeted in the temporary barracks located 550 yards north of Inversnaid and on the west side the Snaid Burn opposite the Garrison site. Masons began construction and opened quarries in beside the River Arklet.

8th August 1718 At 11pm, James Livingstone, mason, testifies that a man knocked on the door saying he had a letter from Capt. James Biggar whereupon they were seized by 'persons unknown' and marched 16-18 miles to the lowlands.

19th September August At his court martial Capt. Biggar's defense was that his temporary barracks up the Snaid was distant from the construction site that was out of sight from the construction site; and that the contractors insisted his workers had no need of protection. He was found not guilty of negligence.

April 1719 Barracks nearing completion, Richard Struckburgh commander reports that Lord Drummond and Rob Roy with large numbers of men was 4 miles away. Gen Wightman orders reinforcements and the construction of palisades and ditches. The fort was not attacked.

May 1719 Following the Jacobite rebellion of 1715, Parliament passed an Act (1715 c.50) vesting in the king the real and personal estates of those attainted of high treason.

1719 the London-based York Buildings Company, of which Duke of Montrose was major shareholder, floated a joint stock fund of £1.2 million pounds sterling '*for purchasing forfeited and other estates in Great Britain*'. Notably Rob Roy's land at Inversnaid.

19th June 1719 Sir Patrick Strachan of Glenkindie appointed Barracks Master General of Scotland. Recommends the building of the Inversnaid Garrison

5th July 1719 Brig. George Preston orders a Captain, 3 Lieutenants, and 100 men to Inversnaid

19th July, 1719 soldiers from Drymen, under Capt. Brown and Killearn occupy Corriearklet 21st occupied mostly by the MacFarlanes and Macgregors

20th July, 1719 reinforcements led by John Graham of Drunkie and Patrick Graham arrive. Killearn is confused as to where the garrison should be built. Later, Montrose charges government £350 sterling for the construction of temporary barracks.

2nd December 1719. Declaration by two of birleymen of the barony of Buchanan concerning the value of ground marked out round the barracks at Inversnaid.

Sept. 1720 Notice of public auction of the forfeited estate of the rental property of Robert Campbell (RR) in Edinburgh

13th October 1720 Starting price 20 years purchase. Purchased by Graham of Gorthie for £820 (31 years purchase) acting for Montrose

19th March 1721 Register of Baptism, Parish of Buchanan records birth of a son to wife of a soldier stationed at Inversnaid barracks. Buchanan Stirling 1646 1854 OPR 474

28th November. 1724 After settling with creditors Montrose finally obtains ownership of Craigrostan

28th November, 1735 Transcript of Testament of Robert Roy Campbell (Rob Roy) of Inversnaid and Inverlochlarig Beag (Balquidder).

"The Testament Dative and Inventory of the goods gear cattle Household plenishing and others which pertained to the Deceast Robert Roy Campbell in Innerlochlangbeg within the parish of Balquhidder and Commissariat of Dunblane the time of Decease which was in the Moneth of December last Faithfully made and given up by Mary Mcgrigor alias Campbell the Defuncts Spouse only Executrix Dative Decerned as Credetrix to her said Deceas'd husband For payment and Satisfaction to her of the sum of four hundred and thirty six pounds ten shillings and four pennies Scots money Expended and Deburs'd by her on the Defuncts

funerals and for Masters rent, and Servants fees and for medicaments and other Necessaries furnished during his Sickness Conform to a particular Accompt and Several Instructions thereof produced Whereon she made faith as use is As also for payment of the expences of Confirmation hereof By Decreet of the Commissary principal of the said Commissariot as the samen of the date of these pre--sents in itself more fully Bears

There was pertaining and belonging to the Said Defunct the time of his decease foresaid the goods gear and others aftermentioned of the values after express'd According as the Samen were valued in Virtue of the said Commissarys warrant Vizt. Imprimis Two Tydie Cows at eight pound Scots per piece Inde Sixteen pound Item Two Yeald Kine estimate at Six pound Scots pr. piece Inde Twelve pound Item Two old Kine with a Stirk estimate at Six pounds thirteen shilling And four pennies Scots per piece Inde Thirteen pound Six shilling and eight pennies Item Two forrow Kine with a Stirk estimate at Seven pound Six Shilling and eight pennies Scots oer piece Inde fourteen pound Thirteen Shilling and four pennies Item Two Six quarters old queys estimate at Two pound thirteen Shilling and four pennies Scots per piece Inde five pound Six Shilling and eight pennies Item a ten quarter year old quey estimate at Three pound Item thirteen Ews and one Ram estimate at fourteen pound It[em] seven hoggs estimate at three pound ten shilling It[em] fourteen Goats with a Buck estimate at Twenty pound It[em] eight Minchaks estimate at four pounds Item Ane Old Mair with a filly estimate to eight pound It[em] two horses estimate to thirty pound It[em] a Blind horse estimate to One pound ten shilling It[em] Two Bolls of Gray Corn with the Straw estimate to ten pound It[em] the Key estimate to Twelve pound It[em] the Saddle and Armes estimate with the Bridle Twenty four pound It[em] Betwixt his body Cloaths and heall house plenishing estimate to eighty four pound Six Shilling and eight pennies.

Item The said Defunct had Justly addebtet and resting to him the time foresaid of his decease By Alexander Mcfarlane in Coreitlet the Sum of One hundred pounds Scots money and whole annualrents thereof as a part of the sum of Six hundred merks Scots money principal Specified in a Bond Granted by him to the said Defunct therein

Designed Robert Campbell of Innerfuait Dated the Twenty eight day of November and day of One thousand seven hundred and seven years.

*Summa Confirmed 6th February 1735 Raynold Drummond and John Fisher of Tayenrouyoch Cautioners**

14th Oct 1740: Richard Hawley, commanding officer of the Inversnaid barracks

1745 Inversnaid garrisoned by 89. The barracks were partially destroyed by Rob Roy's son, Major James Mohr MacGregor.

1746. List of lands belonging to Montrose whereof the houses and furniture were burnt down by the king's troops on 8-10 June 1746, and from possessors thereof, the cattle, horses etc. were carried away to Crieff; with an estimate of the people's loss and sufferings.

1st August 1746 Disarming Act - 19 George II, Chap. 39, Sec. 17, 1746 Abolition and Proscription of Highland Dress (except for Highland Regiments). **There is no mention of the playing of Bagpipes anywhere in the act, let alone their abolition.**

June 1746 The Earl of Albemarle decided to reoccupy Inversnaid and writes to the Duke of Newcastle that it would prevent the MacGregors, from robbing , plundering, and laying waste the country about them. Brevet-Major James Wolfe, returning from Hawley's headquarters, rejoined his regiment and was ordered to reconstruct the Inversnaid garrison and improve the military roads throughout the district which had been wrecked by Jacobite insurgents. He did his work well, setting up sub-posts in the district, arresting bandits, and sent soldierly reports every fortnight. Here he remained until late in November 1746, when he received orders to rejoin his regiment on the Continent in six weeks' time, while he was reactivating the Inversnaid Fort.

May 1753 Rob Roy's son Roberts (Rob Og) captured at fair in Gartmore by soldiers from Inversnaid barracks.

20th March, 1753 The Jacobite Dr. Archibald Cameron was captured near Inversnaid. If Andrew's lang's version alluding to the Corriearklet children is closet to the truth, then one possible bothy is Bruach about 2 km east of which, according to Dumaresq and Bastides 1718 draught, had the only substantial woodland in the

vicinity of Corriearklet. A clan Cameron website gives the location of location of Capture as Benachyle (i.e., Benachoile Lodge) several kilometers away on the northeast side of Loch Katrine.

“Hereupon, a detachment from Lord George Beauclerk's regiment was sent in search of him, and he was taken in the following manner: -- Captain Graves, with thirty soldiers, going towards the place where it was presumed he was concealed, saw a little girl at the extremity of a village, who, on their approach, fled towards another village. She was pursued by a servant and two soldiers, who could only come near enough to observe her whispering to a boy, who seemed to have been placed for the purpose of conveying intelligence. Unable to overtake the boy, they presented their guns at him; on which he fell on his knees, and begged his life; which they promised, on the condition that he would shew them the place where Dr. Cameron was concealed. Hereupon the boy pointed to the house where he was, which the soldiers surrounded, and took him prisoner”. Source: **Excerpt from the Newgate Calendar - The Tyburn Calendar, or Malefactors Bloody Register**

“In 1753 Doctor Archie was sent on his second, and as it turned out, disastrous visit (back to Scotland, concerning the disposal of the famed "Treasure of Loch Arkaig.") He reached the Highlands, and while staying secretly at Brenachyle (Brenachoile) on Loch katrineside...he was arrested.” Source: Clan Cameron website

“...there were several spies among the demoralised Jacobites in France, and it is to be feared that the good doctor fell victim to treachery. It happened that while he was being hunted round Inversnaid the children of the neighbourhood were his best sentries. The soldiers were puzzled by the strange conduct of the children, who always uttered loud cries whenever they saw a redcoat. At last the soldiers caught a boy who had hurt his foot and could not run away. By bullying him they found out that Dr Archie was hiding in a certain bothy in a wood. He escaped in time from the house, but was caught among some bushes. Source: Clan Cameron archives

“...he was detected in a woodsman's cot (Bruach) near Inversnaid (possibly through a scoundrel of his own name), and was hunted by a detachment of the Inversnaid garrison. They were long baffled by children set as sentinels, who uttered loud cries as the soldiers approached. At last they caught a boy who had hurt his foot, and from him discovered that Cameron was in a house in a wood. (i.e., Bruach); thence he escaped, but was caught among the bushes Source: Andrew Lang's 'Pickles the Spy'

1768 Inversnaid garrisoned by 24

1770's Inversnaid garrisoned by 5

July 1772 Messrs. Montague and Sheldon, officers, the one commanding at Inversnaid; the other commanding a working party improving roads around Buchlyvie, They also requested A formal note granting permission to shoot on the Duke's 'manors'.

1777 Charles Ross produces a map of Loch Lomond with location of Rob Roy's Prison. This is the source of the popular mythical cave - which is little more a pile of sharp rocks than a cave !

1820 John Thompson's map has Rob Roy's Cave in the same location as the legendary Rob Roy's Prison Loch Lomond – thus perpetuating the popular myth that persists on modern maps. **Rob Roy was never imprisoned in his home district.**

1792 About 1792 Sir Walter Scott chanced to pass through Glen Arklet, while on a tour through the Highlands, he states the garrison consisted of a single veteran. *“The venerable warder was reaping his barley croft in all peace and tranquillity and when we asked admittance to repose ourselves, he told us we would find the key of the Fort under the door”.*

1803 William Wordsworth, his sister Dorothy and friend Samuel Taylor Coleridge visit Inversnaid. As paused at the cot Bruach, he saw a highland girl working in the field – which inspired him to write his famous poem “To a Highland Girl”

22nd December 1823. Letter from R. Byham, Office of Ordnance, to the Duke of Montrose’s transferring the garrison of Inversnaid to the Inversnaid Estate.

21st Sept. 1839, Glasgow. Letter from Andrew Macgeorge, younger, to the duke of Montrose. Expresses surprise at the deteriorating state of Inversnaid Fort; urges in a an interdict against this as ‘part of the history of our country ... *It has been already, with too much justice, the reproach of Scotsmen that they have failed to preserve as they ought our historical ruins and to arrest their natural decay. God forbid that to this should be added the reproach of active, and, as in the present instance, wanton destruction*’.

1st May, 1940, the compiler of these notes Dr. Alexander Robertson (*M.SC, D.Phil Oxford*) Research Scientist (Retired) was as Born at Bruach .

15th May 1941 During an air raid , a German Hotel, and dropped 27 bombs on Glen Arklet one of which destroyed the Post Office attached to the Inversnaid Hotel. Fortunately, there were no casualties. Apparently, burning bracken at the rear of the hotel had, at may high altitude, been mistaken for the burning Clydeside docks fifty miles away which severely bombed which resulted in serious losses of life and heavy damage to property.

1986 The RSPB purchases the 376 hectares of the Inversnaid Estate and a further 441 hectares adjacent to Garrison Farm in 2002.