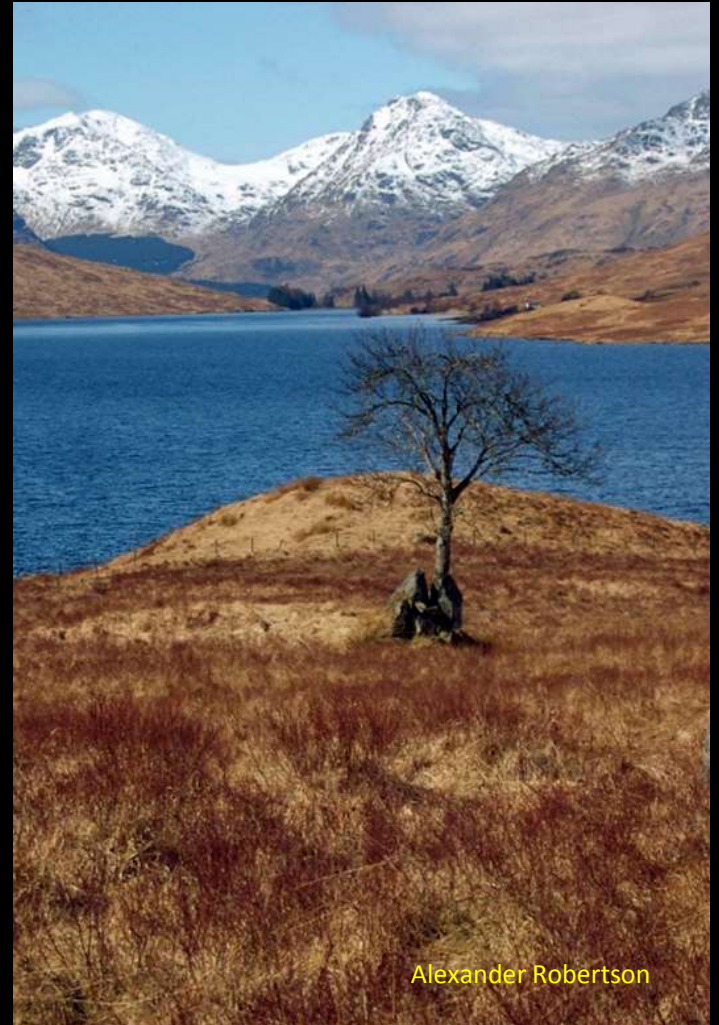


# HISTORIC GLEN ARKLET

Birth place of and Cultural Inspiration for  
ALEXANDER ROBERTSON



Alexander Robertson

Alexander Robertson was born May 1<sup>st</sup> 1940 to Thomas Murray Robertson and Jeannie (nee McConkey McDougal) Robertson in the ancient croft Bruach which stood by the small group of conifers (which were planted many years after the family left Glen Arklet in 1941). The track of old military road built in the 1720's is off to the right side of the "new" road on the north side of Loch Arklet. The loch was doubled in size in 1915 as an additional source of water for Glasgow and has a hydro power plant at the west end. The original loch extended only as far Corriechan farm – the glen on the south side, which Rob Roy's uncle John McGregor. John's niece Mary McGregor was staying with him when Rob Roy met and later married Mary at Corriearklet just over the ridge beyond the reservoir.



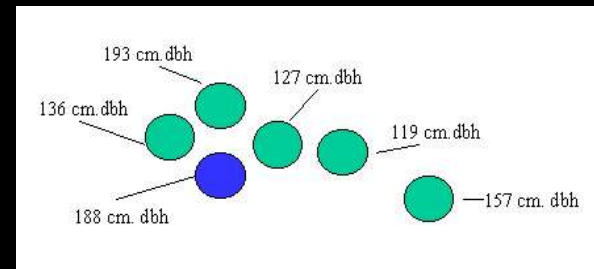
Alexander Robertson



Jeannie Robertson (nee MacDougal) ,1911-1941 ,in one of her many dancing costumes at the age of 12 years old and her grandson Stirling Alexander Robertson at Bruach



Bruach is shown on Dumaresq and Bastide's landscape drawing dated 1717 In the 17-18<sup>th</sup> century and was probably the woodman's croft. It is situated on the south side of the old military and there are traces of buildings , stone walls and other structures suggesting Bruach was at one time a clachan about the size of present-day Lettereigh on the west end of Loch Arklet. For much of its existence, Bruach would look like Jeanie MacAlpine's Inn with a roof of bracken, broom and whin. By the late 19<sup>th</sup> century it had acquired a slate roof. Notable was an ordnance survey level on the right door post. When Bruach was demolished a large Ordnance Survey plate was mounted on the remnants of the foundation (which was replaced after 1973 when the photo on the left taken) a smaller geodesic marker (center). The object of the marker is to monitor changes in the Earth's crust. In 2002 the trees were measured and photographed (on the right) by **Throstur Eysteinnsson and Sherry Curl of the Icelandic Forest Service.**





St. Kentigerna's church windows honor the famous wise women of the *Kil-mi-Cailleach* (Cell of Nuns), founded in the 8th Century by St. Kentigerna. St. Kentigerna (*not be confused with St. Kentigern the founder of Glasgow Cathedral*) was the daughter of a Viking Irish king, and resided on Inchcailloch Island on Loch Lomond and was buried there in 733 A.D. In those days, the landscape was not as bereft of trees as it is now. So appropriately, St. Kentigerna's Church (is set in a native birch woods beside the Snaid Burn (river) above Inversnaid.

The west end of the church has a set of stained-glass windows which depicts God's care of women folk and women's services to God.

Kentigerna and her son St. Fillan would frequently pass by Bruach while visiting the communities of the *Kil-mi-Cailleach*. Such was the fame of Kentigerna and her wise nuns that difficult court cases were occasionally referred to the *Kil-mi-Cailleach* for judgment. As one expects of wise women, nearly all cases referred to them were amicably resolved.



Alexander Robertson



## The Wise Women of Inversnaid

Highland women have long been known for their wisdom and leadership, not only in Scotland but had influence in development Icelandic culture. Around Bruach many women have earned a prominent place in history. Mary Campbell who lived in Inversnaid at the turn of the 16-17th century, comes to mind. Her house, which government troops burned, and later built the Garrison close by, is barely a gunshot west of Bruach; while her husband Robert MacGregor (Rob Roy) was born at Glengyle a mere gunshot and a half northwest of Bruach .

But it is the wise women of the **Kil-mi--Cailleach (Cell of Nuns)**, founded in the 8th Century by the St. Kentigerna, who were once the most famous. St. Kentigerna, daughter of an Irish king, resided on Inchcailloch Island on Loch Lomond and was buried there in 733 A.D. In those days, the landscape was not as bereft of trees as it is now. So appropriately, St. Kentigerna's Church is set among the birch woods above Inversnaid. The west end of the church has a set of three stained-glass windows dedicated to the Wise Women: the centre panel depicts God's care of women folk; the right panel, scenes of God's services to women; and the left, of women's services to God. St. Kentigerna, with her son St. Fillan, frequently passed Bruach to visit the communities of the Kil-mi-Cailleach.

Such was the fames of the wise women that difficult court cases were occasionally referred to the **Kil-mi-Cailleach** for judgment. As one expects of wise women, nearly all cases referred to them were amicbly resolved. One such case was that of a man accused of stealing a horse while its owner was attending church. The accused pleaded innocent, saying: "**Ah wis jist sat oan the harse tae get a feel o't, when ta' beastie ran aff wi' me barely hangin' oan tae it.**" The Sheriff, unable to make a judgement, referred the case to the Kil-mi-Cailleach. In their usual brilliant diplomatic aplomb, they rendered a double-edged verdict: they judged that the defendant was truthful and decreed he be set free; the horse, on the other hand, was found guilty of abducting the accused and was sentenced to be hanged for kidnapping.

A few Kil-mi-C'ailleach ruins can be seen still within an hour or so walk from Bruach. The Kil-mi-Cailleach at the foot of Ben Ducteach (Ben Dochty - meaning Holy Hill) was already an ancient holy site before it became occupied by St. Fillan's cell. Robert the Bruce, after slaying Sir John Comyn in Greyfriars Kirk in Dumfries in 1306, a few months later was defeated at the Battle of St. Johnstoun (the old name for Perth), took to hiding in the birch and oak forests of Loch Katrine. He was given sanctuary by the monks of the cult of St. Fillan where he learned of the strange arm relic of the Saint. Apparently, in order for St. Fillan to write him edicts in a darkened monastery during the night, he was blessed with a glowing right arm. Eight years later, on the eve of the Battle of Bannockburn (1314), King Robert the Bruce summoned the sacred relic. But the monk in charge of it, calculating the overwhelming odds in favour of King Edward's army, feared it might be lost forever; so he stowed the arm in a safe hiding place and presented the King of the Scots army with an empty box. Low and behold! When Bruce opened the box, there was the glowing arm of St. Fillan. And so it was that Robert the Bruce attributed his victory over Edward II at Bannockburn, beneath Stirling Castle, to the intercession of St. Kentigerna's boy. In gratitude, King Robert dedicated a nunnery and ecclesi-astical college on the site. These ancient ruins can still be seen on the shores of Loch Katrine.

## The Bombing of Glen Arklet May, 5th 1941

I this photograph and brief note in [Lochs and Glens Newsletter](#) records the night of 4-5<sup>th</sup> May, 1941 when a German bomber destroyed what used to be the Post Office in Inversnaid Hotel (the bombed part is on the left). But why bomb and empty, scarcely populated glen that was mostly of water. One story has it that there was a suspected outbreak of foot & mouth disease. As a precaution the cows were killed and burned. The fire escaped and spread into the thick, dry mats of dead bracken. Since the Luftwaffe's usual fight path to Clydeside, was via Ben Lomond, the bomber pilot seeing the little inferno below, and thinking he was over the Clyde. and assumed another bomber in his squadron had dropped their bombs on the shipyards ahead of him, he let his go 21 bombs or so in a long line over Inversnaid and into Loch Lomond.



*Dinah on her escape  
from Bombed area to her  
night, front part at one time  
was Post Office & further on  
was Hotel. Miss  
Sitting room of the Miss  
Stewarts.  
5th May 1941*



The British version of WWII children's gas mask – dubbed the Mickey Mouse Gas mask.



At the time I was only 1 year and 4 days old. My eldest sister vividly recalls the gas mask drill insofar as she and my eldest brother were bawling their eyes out; not because of fright from the bomber, but because I was the only one who got a Mickey Mouse mask designed for babies which required a someone to blow air into it to keep the baby breathing. This job fell to my siblings aged 2-8 years old. But jealous tears soon changed to uncontrollable laughter when they discovered the endless fun of blowing through the rubber ventilation tube and making loud farting noises. I have no recollection of how I survived this chaotic air supply.



Early 17<sup>th</sup> century  
map of Glen Arklet  
Bruach a hanging  
valley between Loch  
Lomond (left) and  
Loch Katrine.





Many traces and relicts of the Bronze age settlements and cup & ring markings are quite common throughout the district. While the Romans occupied the adjacent lowlands, they rarely ventured into the mountains unless to undertake trade or punitive missions. In the 'dark ages' this rugged patch of Scotland was fought over by many factions. About 574 A.D., some kingdoms were consolidated by Aedan the 49th King of Britons and Prince of Fortrenn (i.e., the Forth Valley). The kingship passed on to his legendary son King Arthur (Artair) who was born and buried in the kingdom of Fortrenn – which explains why there is a mound near Holyrood in Edinburgh called Arthur's Seat near, and an 884m high mountain Ben Arthur (Beinn Artair), by Loch Lomond. In fact, it is from rulers of Fortrenn that the Scottish monarchy is descended, including the present Royal Family.



This is the site of Battle of Glen Arklet in *"709: Congressio Britonum & Dal Riati for Loirgg Ecclet ubi Britones deuicti"* In translation it simply means the Gaelic speaking Dalriadians (Dal raiti) defeated the Britons (Strathclyde Scots) – thus gining the Dal Raiti giving them control of a much larger portion of Scotland.



Left: Loch Arklet and Loch Katrine. (right) Loch Arklet viewed westward to Beinne Narnain and Bienne Ime



The little Rowan tree is reputedly the most photographed tree in Britain.





**Glen Arklet and the Arrochar Alps**

With the Ferguson Rowan Tree

Photographer Karl Williams





*The snow-capped peak of Ben Lomond Ras seen from the Cobbler on Beinn Artair (Ben Arthur). The east side of Loch Lomond was the ancient Pictish kingdom of Fortrenn; and on the west side was ancient kingdom of Dalriada. The slopes of Ben Lomond was once part of Rob Roy's feudal Craigostran Estate extended along the east side of Loch Lomond from Doune in the North to Knockield in the south. Bottom photos show Flanders Moss at Arnprior and viewed from Stirling Castle.*

From Glen Arklet it is a pleasant 30km hike south to Old Kilpatrick where, about 385 AD, St. Patrick was born. His parents were Calpurnius and Conchessa, who were Romans administrators in charge of the colonies living at the west end of The Antonin Wall where the ruins of an old Roman Fort have been found. As a boy of fourteen or so, he was captured during a raiding party and taken to Ireland as a slave to herd and tend sheep.





## Decline of Corriearklet

Corriearklet was the principle administrative centre for the district. As maps show, starting with Dumaesque & Bastide 1717 it was a typical run-rig farming system and a 'ferm town' with 22 buildings. As the administrative and religious centre of the district, well-documented genealogical records reads like a the glitterati descendants of the MacGregor descendants Amendments to Dumaesque & Bastide's draught made in 1719 and 1742 plan, respectively, show 15 buildings. Grassom's map (1817) shows only 6 buildings; and Thompson (1820) only building at Corriearklet.

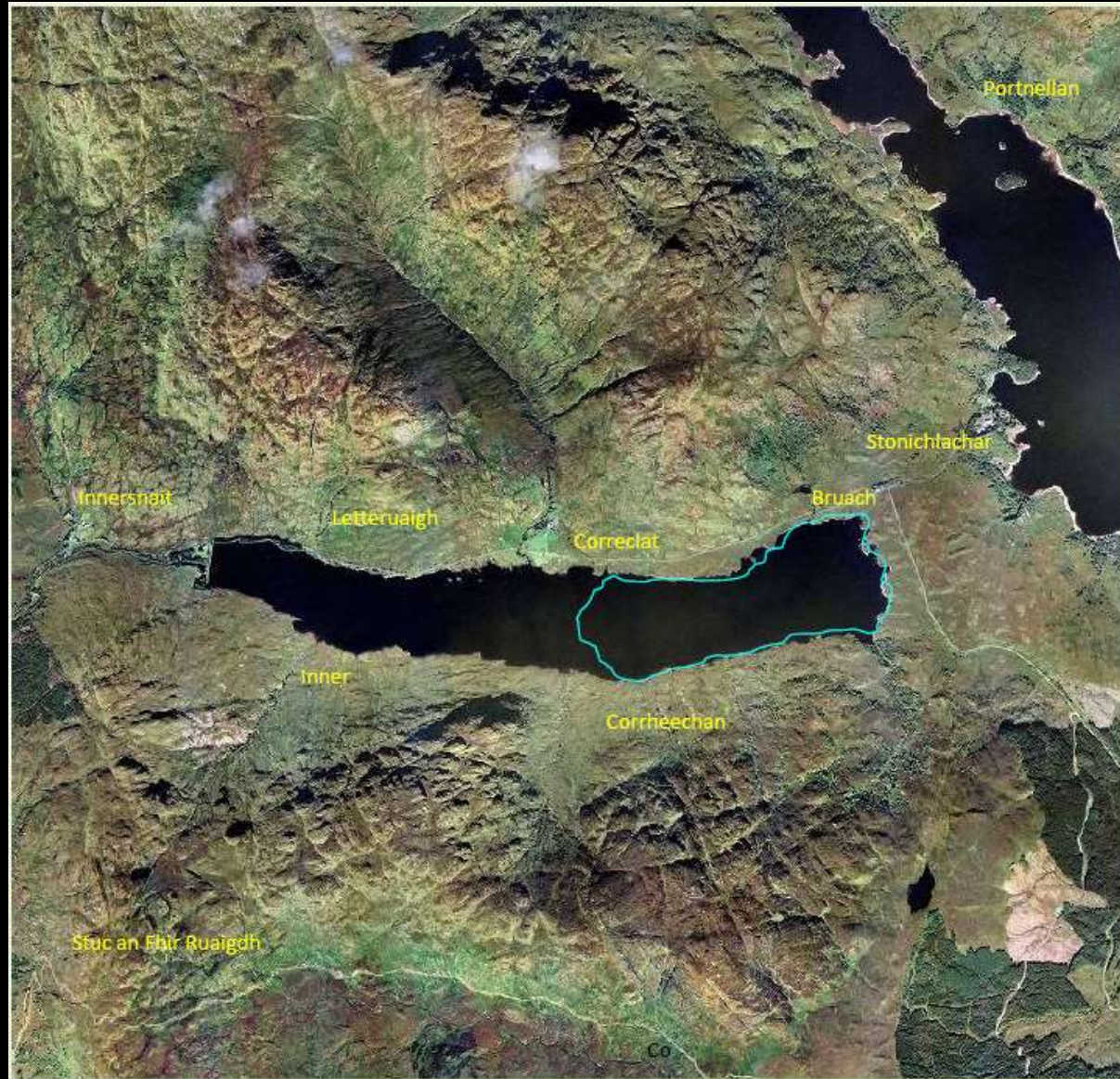
This is was not so much a case of Highland clearances, but more a case of better opportunities in emergence in Glasgow as an as a leader in revolution. With arrival of Glasgow Water Board in the 1850's to development of Loch Katrine and Loch Arklet as reservoirs, Corriearklet has few utility buildings (used by the shepherds) but still has only one house. The 18<sup>th</sup> century military that passes through Corriearklet has been upgraded by the Forestry Commission to a cycling/walking route as part of West Highland Way hiking trail system.





## OLD CLACHAN'S of GLEN ARKLET

Aerial Photo showing the historical names of settlements in Glen Arklet. Note the historic location of **Innersnait** (*Inversnaid*) and **Stonichlachar** (*Stronachlachar*). from 1718-1865. **Coraklait** (*Corriearklet*) was the glen's "ferm toun" which had 22 buildings in 1718. This is thought to be Loirg Eclat site of a battle in AD 711 where the Dal Riada lost to the Strathclyde Britons **Bruach** shown in 1718 maps, is where Sandy Robertson was born; the croft was demolished in the 1940's but its prominent group of 5 Scots pine and 1 Sitka spruce and a geodesic benchmark and the spring flush of daffodils mark the site. **Inner** is a ruin - although there was one building in 1865. **Innersnait Harbour** (formerly *Inversnaid Mill* and presently *Inversnaid Hotel*). **Lagbuidhe** (*Clacklaine*). Lettereigh still exists, but **Inner** on the opposite side of the loch is a ruin. **Corrieachichon** (*Corrieachan*), where Mary McGregor lived with her uncle, was flooded. **Drummesorn** on the old military was still a substantial building on the but doesn't exist now. Apparently Rob Roy burned the first Duke of Montrose's **Inversnaid Lodge** – the present building built by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Duke in 1790 and enlarged since). Contrary to popular belief, the old road above the present road, was not one of General Wade's Road - it is basically the old drove that was upgraded by the Dukes of Montrose and later re-aligned by the Glasgow Water Board.



Older spellings of MacGregor farmsteads around Glen Arklet and the Original size of Loch Arklet (blue line) until its enlargement 1915 to supplemental reservoir for Glasgow's water supply





Aerial Photo showing the settlements of Glen Arklet. Note the historic location of Innersnait (Inversnaid) and Stoniclachar (Stronachlachar). from 1718-1865. Coracklait (Corriearklet) was the glen's "ferm town" which had 22 buildings in 1718. Bruach was demolished in the 1940's but its prominent group of 5 Scots pine and 1 Sitka spruce and a geodesic benchmark and the spring flush of daffodils mark the site. Inner is a ruin - although there was one building in 1865. Innersnait Harbour (formerly Inversnaid Mill and presently Inversnaid Hotel). Lagbuidhe (Clacklaine). Lettereigh still exists, but Inner on the opposite side of the loch is a ruin. Corrieachichon (Corrieachan), where Mary McGregor lived with her uncle, was flooded. Drummesorn on the old military was still a substantial building on the but doesn't exist now. Apparently Rob Roy burned the first Duke of Montrose's Inversnaid Lodge - the present building built by the 3rd Duke in 1790 and enlarged since). Contrary to popular belief, the old road above the present road, was not one of General Wade's Road - it is basically the old drove that was upgraded over the past 300 years



Scottish Woodland History Discussion Group: Notes XII (2007) Excerpt from **LOCH KATRINE WOOD PASTURE SURVEY: CULTURALLY-MODIFIED TREES LINKED TO PAST SETTLEMENT IN THE LOCH KATRINE CATCHMENT** by Peter Quelch.

**Bruach wood pasture** is interesting because it merges into natural woodlands on extremely rocky terrain with crags, and the obviously worked trees penetrate a little into that woodland but stop abruptly when the terrain is too difficult to access on foot. This effect has been seen elsewhere, and points to the logical conclusion that worked trees had to be accessible to pony and man. That means however physically accessible in terms of terrain, but high elevation above the glen floor was not a problem to our fit farming ancestors, neither was distance from the nearest road. Clearly much of the land around Loch Katrine, especially the southern shore, has been accessible in the past by boat rather than road.

*Thanks to Sandy Robertson of Newfoundland who has a special family connection to Loch Arklet.*

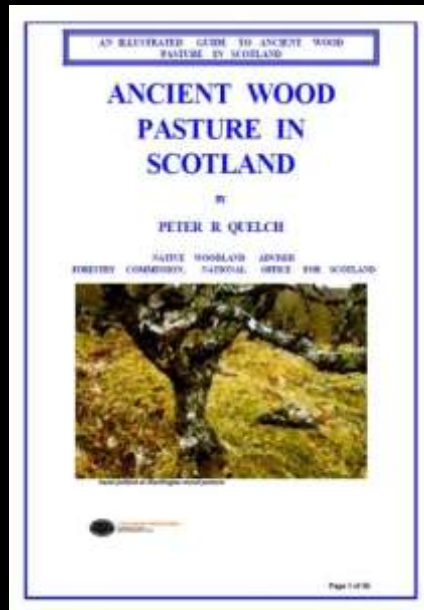
**Alexander Robertson**



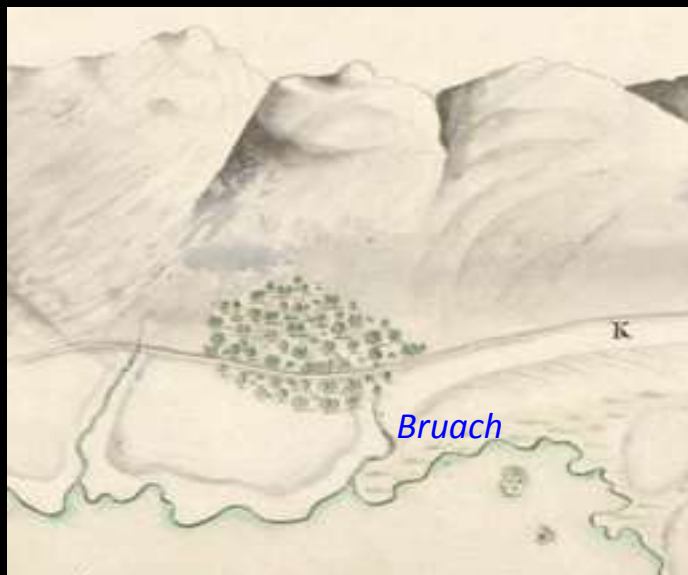
Remnants of 300 year old military road are still used for all terrain vehicles. In the top photo, looking westward alongside Loch Arklet, it passes close to Bruach (the clump of conifers) and looking eastward over Loch it winds its way to Stronachlachar beside Loch Katrine.



There are extensive ancient oak woods along the shores of Loch Lomond and Loch Katrine which in Rob Roy's time mostly provided bark for tannin used in the leather industr. Military maps date 1717 show that Bruach had and still has the only substantial ancient native woods which, according Peter Quelch, the Robertson family were the last to coppice the ancient woodland.



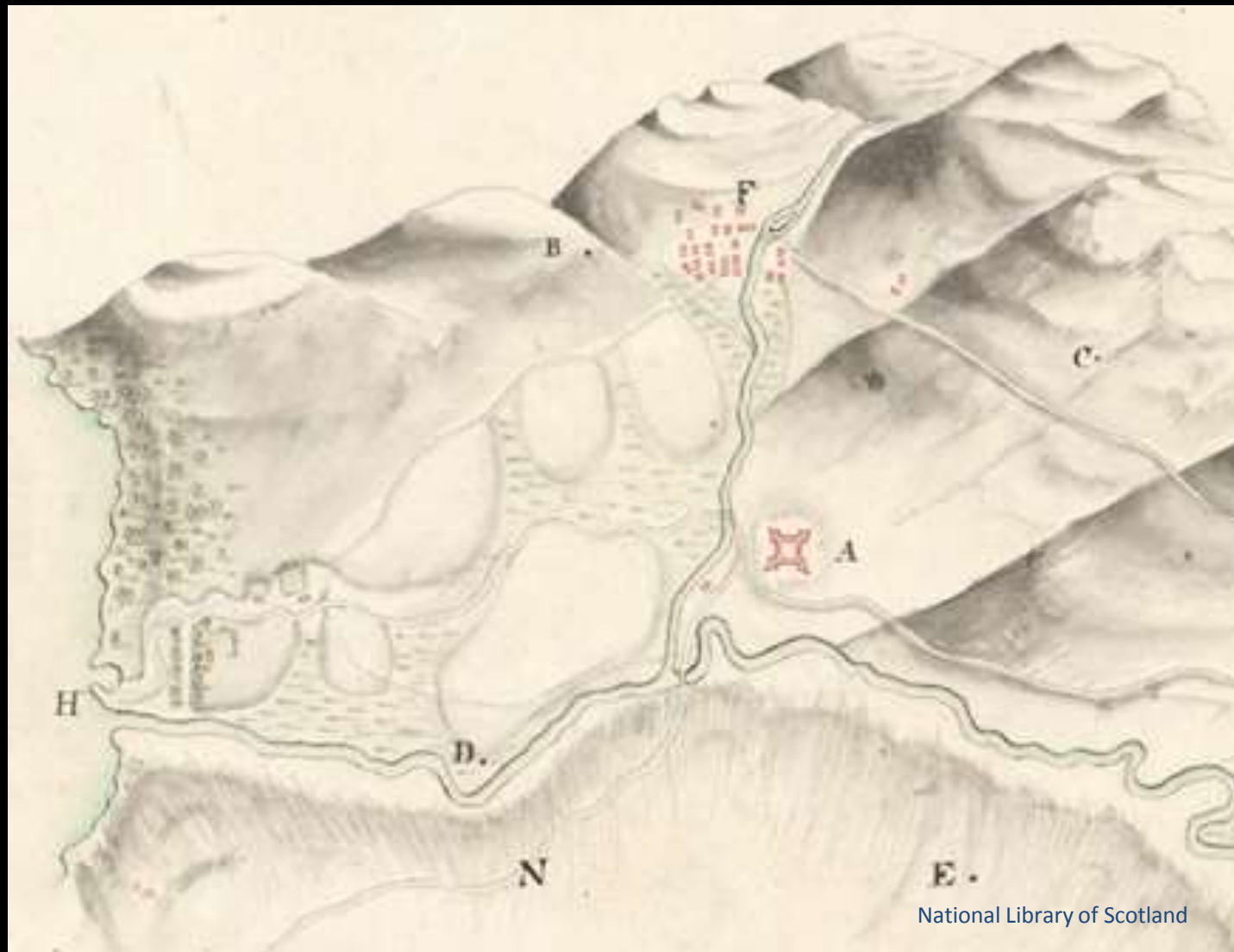
Alexander Robertson



National Library of Scotland



Bastide and Dumaresq's sketch showing the location of **Inversnaid Harbour** in relation to the Inversnaid **fort** and **temporary camp** where the troops were billeted in 1717-1720 while the fort was being built which proves Capt. Biggar's assertion that the troops were a considerable distance from the fort at a more important location at the intersection of three main drove roads.

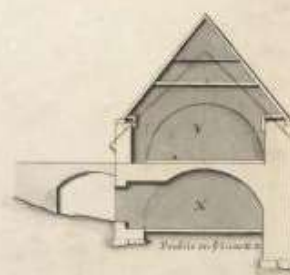


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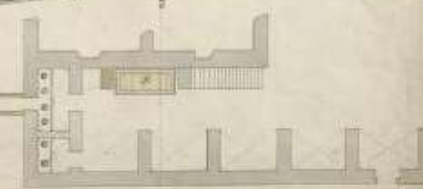
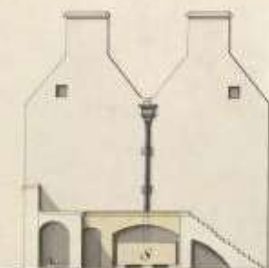
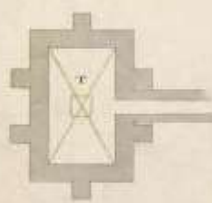
- N. B. The present type is a very good example of the old type, and is a very good example of the old type, and is a very good example of the old type.



1. *Chlorophyll a* (Chl a) is the primary photosynthetic pigment in most plants and algae. It is a green pigment that absorbs light energy in the blue-violet and red-orange regions of the visible spectrum.



+ back of row



1982-1983

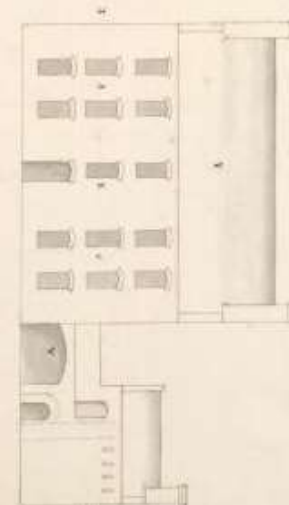
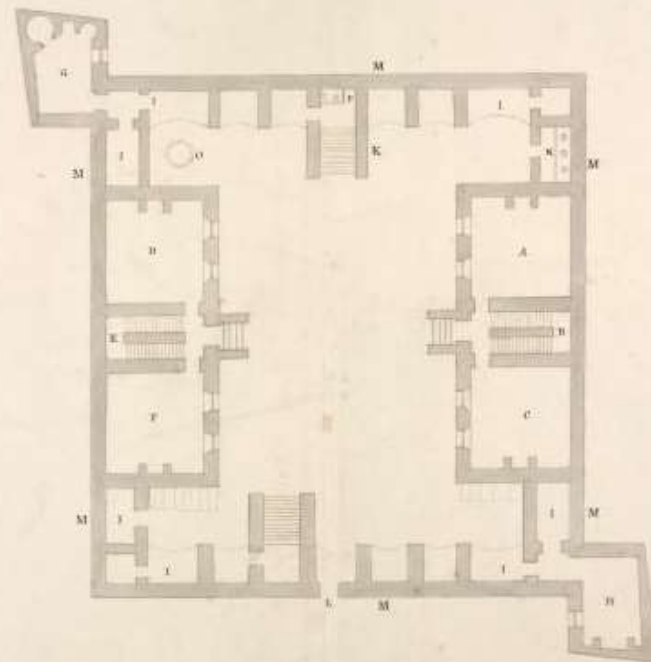
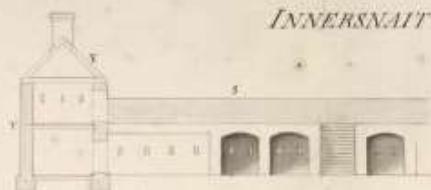


# EXPLANATION

- A. Part of a File of Barracks.
- B. The inner gate.
- C. The other part of the first Barrack.
- D. Part of a File of another Barrack.
- E. The front of Gate.
- F. The other part of the first Barrack.
- G. Tower with it is here for a little house & some house.
- H. The other tower with it is here for a guard house.
- I. The tower with it is here for a guard house.
- J. The tower with it is here for a guard house.
- K. The tower with it is here for a guard house.
- L. The tower with it is here for a guard house.
- M. The tower with it is here for a guard house.
- N. The tower with it is here for a guard house.
- O. A Well.
- P. House of Office for the officers.
- Q. Section of the Barracks about sixteen high.
- R. The whole end of the Barracks.
- S. Elevation of the Barracks.
- T. Section of the Tower and Elevation part.
- U. Elevation of the Archway.
- V. Elevation of the Barracks.
- W. The Road.

## INNERSNAIT

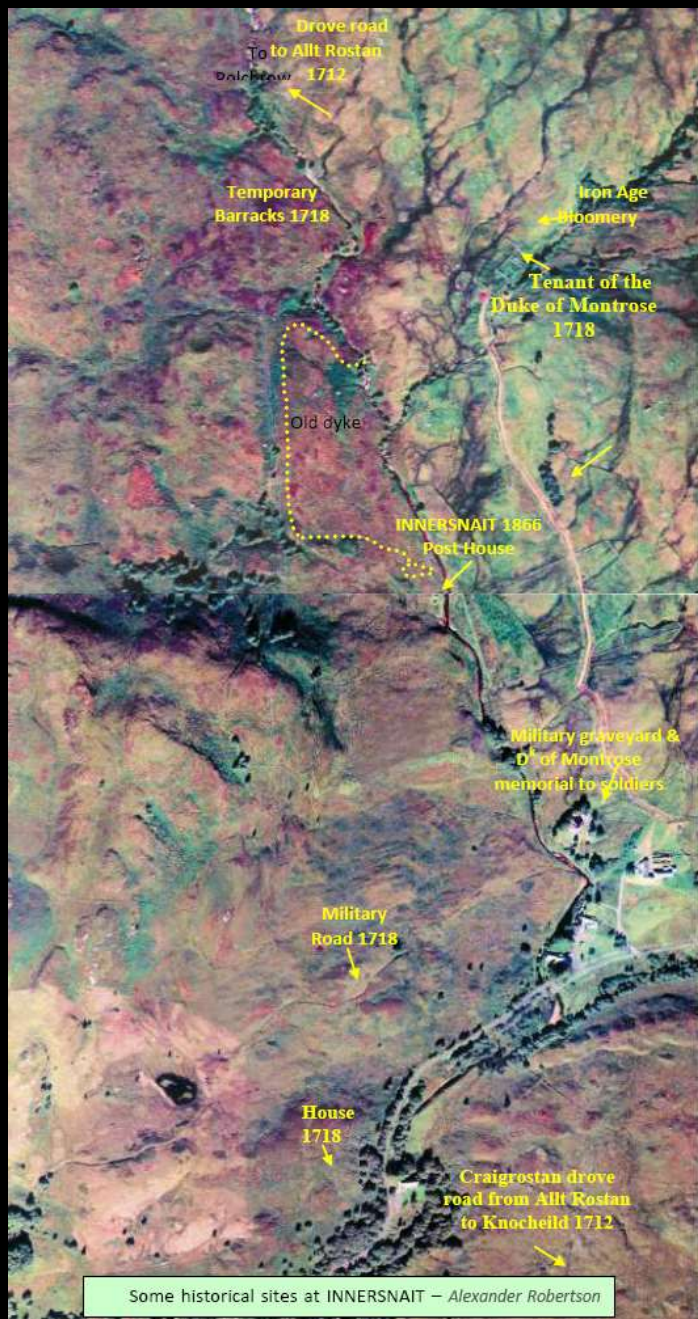
23/9/90



The hanging valley of Glen Arklet and ancient woodlands on the shores of Loch Lomond. The district is rich in agricultural antiquity. This was a time when Rob Roy still claimed ownership of this farmstead as part of his Craigrostan Estate which extended along most of the east side of Loch Lomond with Inversnaid Harbour (now the Inversnaid Hotel). The white building in the glen is the Inversnaid farm that was recycled from stones from the Inversnaid Garrison and on the site of the garrison







The garrison which was not occupied until 1720-21. The two buildings on the right of the old drove road on the top right is farm which was labelled on is the Duke of Montrose's tenant – of which the sheep fold survives. What is missing is any evidence of Rob Roy's had farmstead at Inversnaid - which was supposed to be burned by Major Green in September, 1716 at a when Rob Roy had lost his right to live there (if he ever did). In fact, all we know from letters is that the house was in Craigrostan - which is located on the banks of Loch Lomond on the south of Inversnaid Harbour. In Fact, location of the house that was burned much further north at Auchinchesallan where Rob Roy took out a nine-year lease on Auchinchisallan, now called Auch, from his powerful kin John Campbell of Glenorchy, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Breadalbane. Here was relatively safe from. On the evening of the 4<sup>th</sup> April 1716, Rob's cousins in Glen Dochart forewarned Rob that Col. Christopher Russell was preparing to lead a company of 60 or so Swiss mercenaries with orders to burn Auch. They arrived at Auch on the morning of the 5<sup>th</sup> of April and were shot at by Rob and men, injuring a couple of the Swiss. But vastly outnumbered, Rob could not prevent the Swiss from burning Auch and driving off his livestock which, as a receipt shows, Col. Russell sold to Iain Og MacGregor of Glencarnaig.





Carving by Alexander Robertson depicting Rob Roy McGregor and notables associated with him in life and literature. In the background is Loch Arklet, and ancient Bruach woods which were part of his Craigrostan Estate and Arrochar Alps.





The most famous of the locals was Robert McGregor (ROB ROY). Who took his mother's surname Campbell when the name McGregor was proscribed. In his official documents he signed Robert Campbell. And on his last will and testament he signed Robert Campbell of Innersnait – even though he lost the Estate years before through the deceit of His Grace the Duke of Montrose. Since Rob Roy's influence is still felt in the glens – it is wise to carefully consider the type of forestry that should, if necessary be applied.



**ROB ROY**  
**Robert McGregor**  
(Robert Campbell of Inversnaid)



Alexander Robertson

A romanticized sculpture of Rob Roy below Stirling Castle.

The Famous contract in the between Rob Roy MacGregor and the Duke of Montrose for the delivery of cattle. The money went missing and soured relations between Montrose & Rob Roy – resulting in the building of garrison and long feud that became a legend and the subject of popular books and movies.

At Glasgow the twenty fourth day of December 1712  
 In presence of the parties following they are to say James Duke of  
 Montrose & James Graham writer in Glasgow on the  
 one part, and Robert Campbell of Innersnait on the other  
 in manner following that he is for as much as the said  
 Robert Campbell has on the date hereof sold and sells to the said James  
 Duke of Montrose and the said James Graham equally between them, this  
 ..... what.... the number of two hundred good and sufficient highland  
 cows, of the Grants? Of Kintail and are betwixt five and eight years old  
 with four bulls to the bargain to be delivered by the said Robert  
 Campbell his ..... to his Grace and the said James Graham or their  
 orders all to the Head of Dyke of Gartincaber in Buchanan upon the  
 28th day of May next. And on the other part His Grace and the said  
 James Graham, have..... advance payed delivered to the said Robert  
 Campbell the sum of Two Thousand and Eight Hundred pounds.... as  
 the full ... and price of the said two hundred cows with the bulls to the  
 bargain as said, whereof he .... the... and... his Grace and the said James  
 Graham, and forty... of the price of said cows and the said Robert  
 Campbell.... &.... him and his.... for their performance of their part of the  
 promisy under pain of four hundred pounds money for said of  
 penalties in case of..... by and all our performance and both parties are  
 ... and..... be.... for the books of Campbell? of .... or in any  
 other..... letters of may .... on..... and

Signed by said James Graham are... by both (Parties?) James  
 Graham.... all day... Mungo Graham of Gorthie and John Graham  
 younger of Killearn.  
 Signatures – Montrose (Duke of), Ro: Campbell (Rob Roy), Mungo  
 Graham (Gorthie) and John Graham (Killearn). Witness James Graham  
 (Writer in Glasgow)''



A sheep fank is marked on Dumaresq and Bastide's map date 1719 in the next slide as "Tenant of the Duke of Montrose" (middle-right edge) .

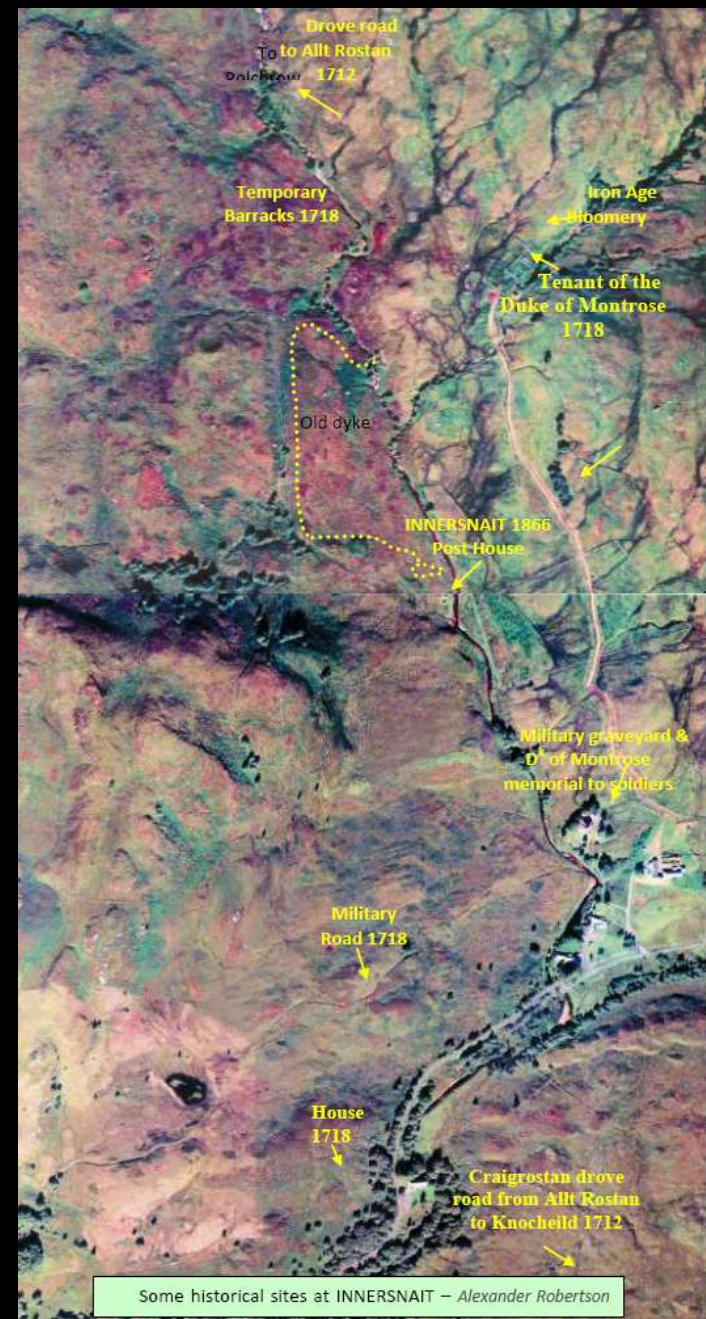


Alexander Robertson



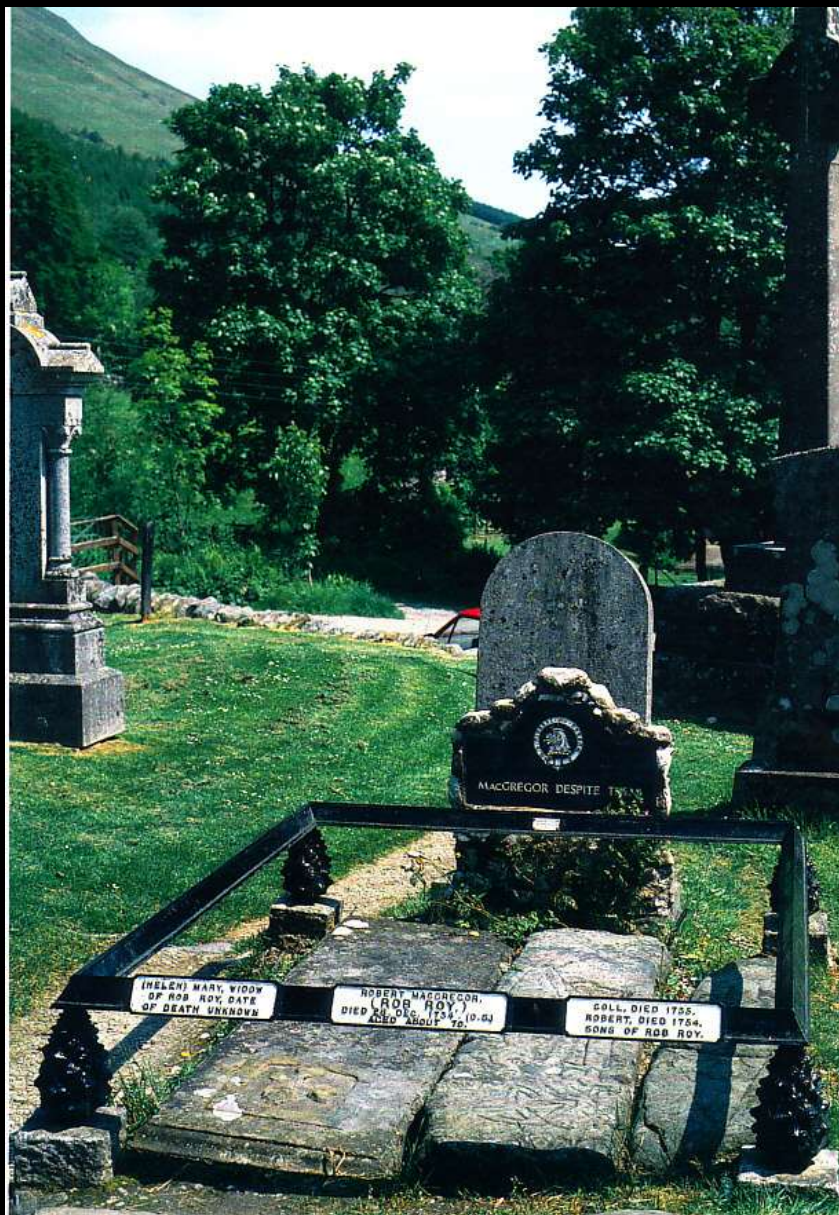


Rob Roy's Inversnaid feudal estate took in most of the east shore of Loch Lomond from Doune to Knockield roughly 20km.



Alexander Robertson





## JAMES NASMYTH'S FICTITIOUS STORY ABOUT HIS FATHER ENCOUNTER WITH ROB ROY AT INVERNAID



James Nasmyth, the engineer, claimed that 1703 his grandfather Michael Nasmyth had the contract to build Invernaid garrison during which he and workers were captured in December by RR and dragged through the snow which led to his ill-health and early death in 1707.

This is untrue. The only Naysmith connection to Invernaid garrison is the much celebrated Alexander Naysmith's drawing of it around 1820. Besides, it was a builder by the name of Smith who built the Invernaid Garrison.

The true story is: that, at the court martial of Capt. Biggar, James Livingstone, mason testified that around 11pm on Aug 8th, 1718 a man knocked on the door saying he had a letter from Capt. James Biggar and was seized by 'persons unknown' and marched 16-18 miles to the lowlands. Sept. 19th, 1710 Capt. Biggar was court martialed and found **not guilty**. Biggar's defence was that **James Smith** and his the workers had not asked for protection and that building site was too far and out of sight of the temporary garrison. B

y **April 1719** Barracks were nearing completion, Richard Struckburgh commander reports to Lord Drummond that Rob Roy were 4 miles away with large numbers of men. Gen Wightman orders reinforcements and construction of palisades and ditches. The fort was not attacked on this occasion. But was damaged in the 1746 by Rob Roy's son. And repaired by the celebrated Maj. James Wolfe

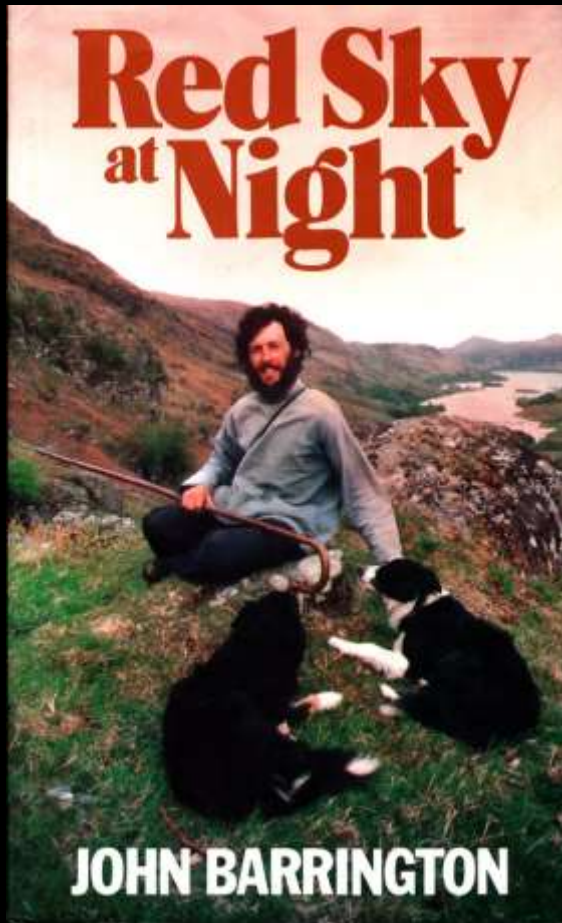


A few of the famous historical figures whose passed by the shieling Bruach.



*Left-right: (Top) Sir Walter Scott, William Wordsworth, Tobias Smollet, Alfred Lord Tennyson, (middle): Samuel Taylor Coleridge, John Hopkins, Alexander Naysmyth, (bottom) Queen Victoria, Gen. James Wolfe, Dr. Archibald Cameron, John Ruskin.*

At the west end of Loch Katrine fine trees line shores around Glengyle House former home of the Chief of the Glengyle McGregor's, notably Rob Roy father. The house (much renovated) was built about 1702 as part of change of watch houses. So Rob Roy was not born in the house as a great many of the clan believe. All the hillside above the loch are scheduled to be planted. Much like the plan for Glen Arklet. In his younger days in the 1980's, John Barrington as shepherd for Glasgow Corporation Water, the famous writer, radio and television personality wrote his famous book while living in MacGregor's House in Glen Gyle which propelled him to fame.

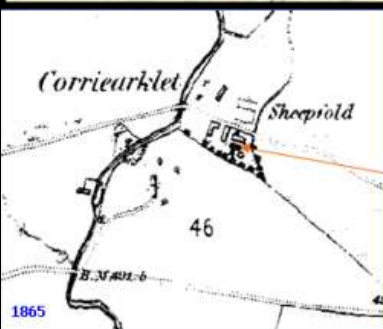




## Decline of Corriearklet

Corriearklet was the principle administrative centre for the district. As maps show, starting with Dumaresque & Bastide 1717 it was a typical run-rig farming system and a 'ferm toun' with 22 buildings. As the administrative and religious centre of the district, well-documented genealogical records reads like a the glitterati descendants of the MacGregor descendants. Clips of maps are from Dumaresque & Bastide's draught made in 1719 and 1742 plan, respectively, show 15 buildings. Grassom's map (1817) shows only 6 buildings; and Thompson (1820) only building at Corriearklet through which the

This is was not so much a case of Highland clearances, but more a case of better opportunities in emergence of nearby Glasgow as an industrial power. With arrival of Glasgow Water Board in the 1850's to development of Loch Katrine and Loch Arklet as reservoirs, Corriearklet has few utility buildings (used by the shepherds) but still has only one house. The 18<sup>th</sup> century military that passes through Corriearklet has been upgraded by the Forestry Commission to a cycling/walking route as part of West Highland Way hiking trail system.



## Inversnaid Garrison



Top left: A sketch of of Inversnaid garrison (c 1830) 'after a drawing' by Alexander Nasmyth the famous Scottish landscape painter. It is found in Samuel Smiles biography of his son James Hall Nasmyth's, a engineer notable as the inventor of the steam hammer. In his autobiography James claims his great, great grandfather Michael Naesmyth was the architect and builder of the Inversnaid Garrison and that Rob Roy drove out of the hut in cold, snowy winter's night from which he became ill and very really recovered, dying at the 1707 at the age of 53 – 11 years before construction of the garrison began in the spring of 1718 and August the 8<sup>th</sup> of that year that 'armed Highlanders' carried off the tradesmen.





(left) Remains of an old foundation on the side of the old military road above Bruach and restored to a new walking/cycling



View of Bruach from the old military road passing below the small pond.





Loch Arklet and the Arrochar Alps on the west side of Loch Lomond.

# Inversnaid Pier 1858



The Steam Engine

Henry Bell (1767-1830) and his pioneering steamship, the Comet, with an engine designed and built by John Robertson.

In 1814, David Napier (Robert Napier's cousin) built a foundry at Camlachie (where Gen. James Wolfe had a house) where he produced his first marine engine a 20 hp. He built the 60ft long wooden hulled Marion at Dumbarton and installed his new engine in it. Napier first sailed her on the Clyde in 1817, and the following year on Loch Lomond where there were no steamships. These early steamships not paved the way for the Clyde's place as a world centre of shipbuilding and marine engineering.

These and other early Glasgow steamships were put in service on Loch Lomond, Loch Tay and Loch Earn. The steamship service was linked to scenic railway routes with convenient train stations at Balloch (Loch Lomond) Callander (Loch Katrine), Kinlochearn (Loch Earn) and Killin/Kenmore (Loch Tay), respectively. These literally spawned the highland tourism industry. Today, only survivor is the newly refurbished century-old SS Sir Walter Scott.

Getting the SS Sir Walter Scott onto Loch Katrine was quite a challenge. What they did was dismantle the boat into sections and transport them by horse and cart from Inversnaid Pier, up the very steep and twisted coach road onto Glen Arklet, and onto Stronachlachar where it was re-assembled beside a crude pier beside Loch Katrine.





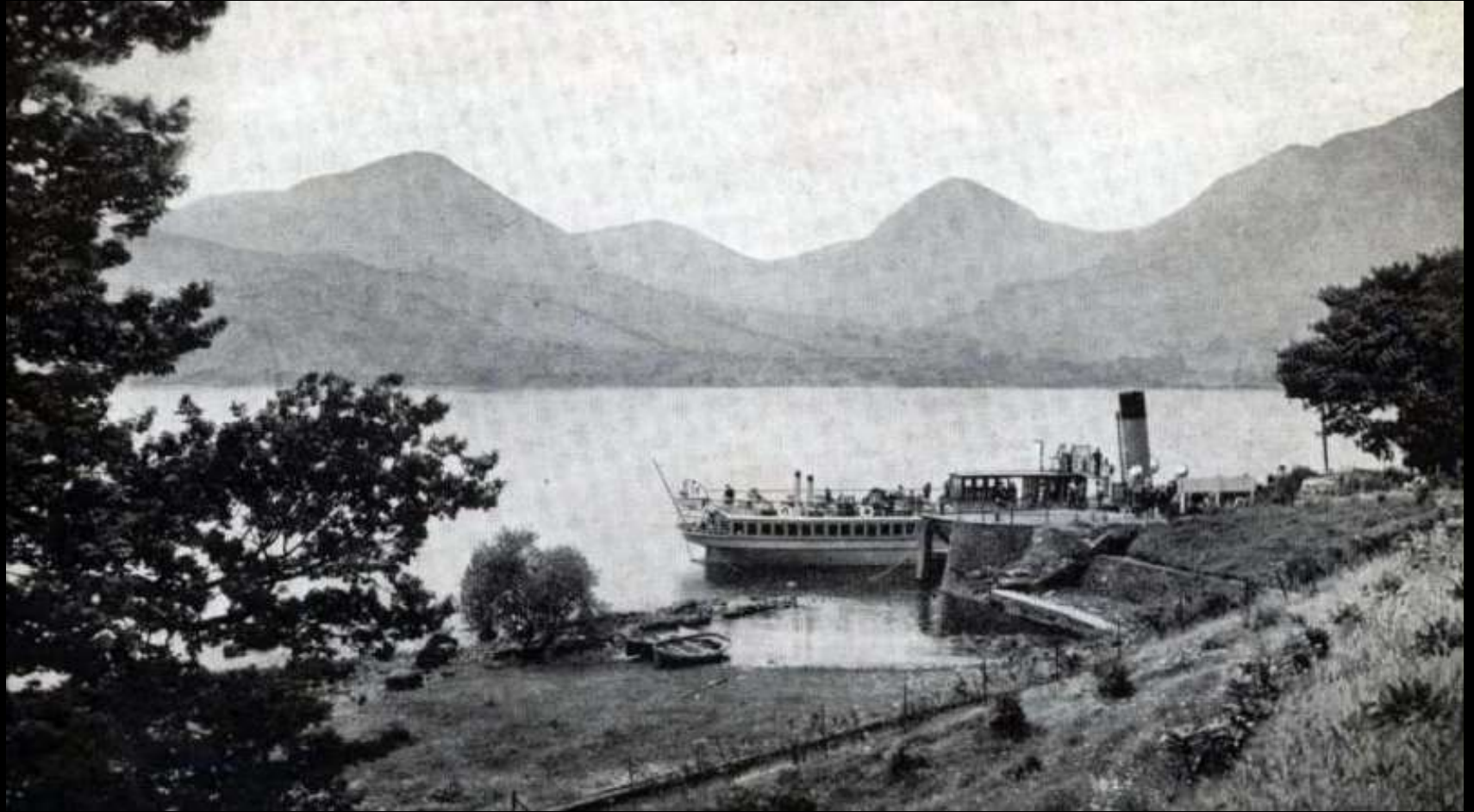
Tourists enjoying a trip on David Napier's "Marion" on Loch Lomond c. 1820

Rob Roy II At The Trossachs Pier





## Rob Roy at at Inversnaid Pier



Loch Katrine 1868



Rob Roy II On Loch Katrine 1899



On board the SS Sir Walter Scott 1900.



Part of Silver Strand Loch Katrine 1906 made famous in Sir Walter Scott's epic *Lady of the Lake*. The strand was once once connected to the island i.e., until Loch Katrine was raised for a reservoir to supply Glasgow with water.





Newly Refurbished Sir Walter Scott at the Trossachs Pier.



SS Sir Walter Scott (which is still sailing) and SS Rob Roy II In Back Ground

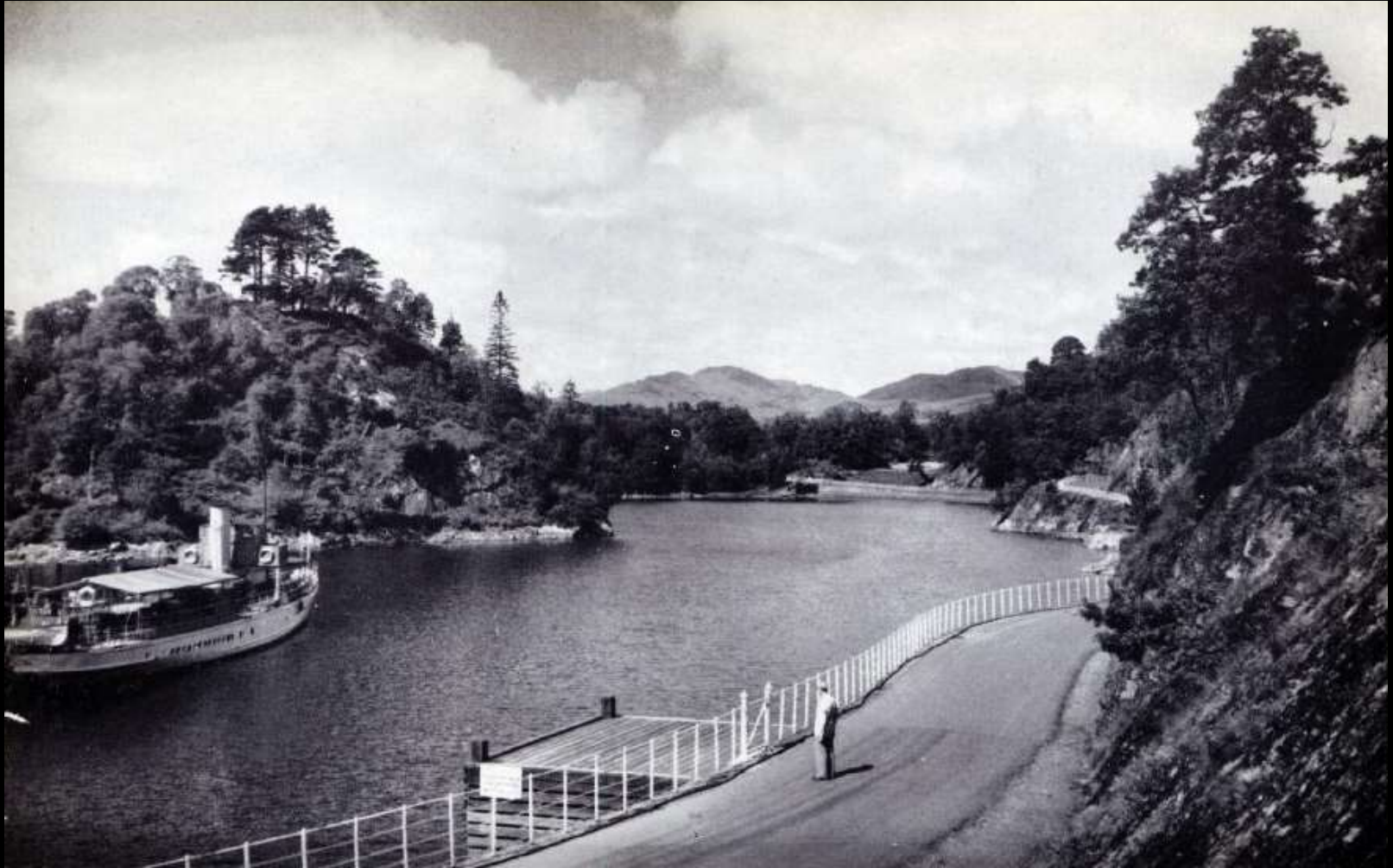




# Trossachs Pier 1934



# SS Sir Walter Scott Around 1960





Over 70 members of the Iceland Forestry Activation gathering for sail on the SS Sir Walter Scot  
September 2011



SS Sir Walter Scott On loch Katrine and Ben Venue was the model for and Alexander Robertson's woodcarving Lady of The Lake





Old Painting of Loch Katrine from above Stronachlachar



Old path and new Hotel at Stronachlachar 1880 and 2004







Alexander Robertson



Alexander Robertson

The PS Rob Roy at Stronachlachar Pier c. 1890 (*top left*) the 100 year-old steamship Sir Walter Scott at Stronachlachar (top right) in 2006 before refit; and after a refit leaving the Trossachs Pier 2010.

Glen Arklet is an ancient route for travellers linking Loch Lomond and Loch Katrine. When Thomas Cook organized a grand tour of the Scotland Highlands in 1848, for £5 a head, they passed through the Trossachs.

From the Trossachs pier on the east end of Loch Katrine they would sail on the paddle steamer ROY ROY to Stronachlachar. From there they were driven in a four-hand open carriage to Inversnaid on east bank of Loch Lomond. In the 1930's my Father was responsible for keeping the road through Glen Arklet in good shape. Which, at that time, was used mostly by horse-drawn; i.e., four-in-hand like the those passing by our croft c 1030's (below). This mode of transport ceased in 1937 - thus ending the last public horse-drawn transport service in Britain.





Heading For Inversnaid Hotel 1928. This four-in-hand coach service between Stronachlachar and Inversnaid pierced operation in 1938 – making it the last public horse-drawn service in Britain.





An old colorized postcard of “4-in-hands” passing Bruach by Loch Arklet on Road to Inversnaid.1938





## Inversnaid-Stronachlachar Coach Service 1905



Old postcards of stagecoaches passing Bruach on the Loch Arklet Road going eastward to Stronachlachar Pier on Loch Katrine c1937. This was the last public coach service in Britain.

The the imposing Arrochar Alps on the west side of Loch Lomond





The extinct volcano Ben Lomond from Bell's Turn on the City of Glasgow Waterworks Department aqueduct. Bruach is to the right of the Ben



Some of the plantations in Strathard , near Glenna Arklet where Robertson of Bruach took part in draining the mountains and planting , bracken cutting etc., as a young forest worker





Until the 1960's, much of Glen Arklet , like most of the Highland glens, was free range sheep and cattle pastures with very few trees.



Loch Ard History Group



Alexander Robertson



Mike Trubridge



Alexander Robertson

In many cases grazing areas are fenced or diked off. But, to a determined sheep, there's no such thing as an impregnable, fence or stone wall.



The ancient Tea Pot Inn and 17<sup>th</sup> bridge where the military were served tea; while the locals were served illegal whisky (from a teapot - of course).



Early color photo of cattle wading in Loch Ard





Jean McAlpine's Inn, Milton near Aberfoyle where Rob Roy, and Sir Walter Scott stayed. It was also the setting of the the fictious "Fray in the Clachan" in Scott's novel Rob Roy.

