

TIMES DECEASED. A Chronicle of the Mackenzies of Scatwell and Suddie from the 17th to the 19th Century. By Evelyn MacKenzie.

Original is in MS. References here are to a typed copy in the possession of Mrs Marjory MacIntyre of Findon. Evelyn MacKenzie was daughter of Sir James Dixon MacKenzie, 7th Baronet, who died in 1900, and the book is based mostly on the MacKenzie Papers, now in the British Museum.

Summary and Comments.

Preface. Sources: The MacKenzie Papers.

The History of the MacKenzies, by Alexander MacKenzie (187
My own memory of what I have seen or heard tell in my youth

I. The Tutor of Kintail. Legends say that Colin Fitzgerald helped Alexander III at the Battle of Largs, and was rewarded with land in Wester Ross. He became lord of Kintail, where the stronghold of Eilan Donan Castle was built. From his son Kenneth came the clan name MacKenzie, which means "son of Kenneth". A descendent, Colin Cam, held most of Ross-shire, from Kintail to the Black Isle. He became Privy Councillor in 1593 and died at Redcastle.

His sons Kenneth and Roderick (Rorie) waged war on the MacLeods of Lewis and others, and were rewarded by James VI. Kenneth became Lord Kintail and Rorie was knighted. Kenneth died at the age of 36, appointing Rorie Tutor to his heir Colin. Colin later became the Earl of Seaforth. Rorie married Margaret daughter of MacLeod of Lewis, and got the estate of Coigach (north of Ullapool) and Castle Leod as his chief residence.

II. How the tree branched. Colin built Brahan Castle, where the Seaforths lived till the 1715 rebellion. Rorie's grandson George in 1703 became the Earl of Cromartie - his male line ended in the 18th Century, but the Earldom was revived by Queen Victoria. Rorie's second son Kenneth inherited the estate of Scatwell from a cousin.

Kenneth's son, another Kenneth, inherited Scatwell, and bought Rosehaugh from his cousin Sir George (Bluidy) MacKenzie in 1689. Shortly after he acquired Findon by marrying its heiress Lillias MacKenzie. They built their residence at Findon in 1696. * In 1703 he was made a Baronet of Nova Scotia. (Note: ~~this was a mistake for payment of 2000~~ although he and his successors did not live at Scatwell, they kept the title "of Scatwell, and are known in Session Minutes as "Scatwal" or "Scatwel"). His first wife died that year. He remarried twice. In 1715 he secreted his papers for safety, buried underground near the Findon Burn. He was Whig in sympathies. He had the reputation of charging high rents from his tenants. Donald Sage writes: "Sir Kenneth MacKenzie of Scatwell an ardent Episcopalian, contrived even after the Presbytery had inducted the ministers of Avoch and Kilmuir Wester, to exercise his feudal authority so as to prevent them from officiating in their pulpits." "But" goes on Miss MacKenzie "he built Ferintosh Church, now, alas, in ruins."

* According to Burke's "Landed Gentry" he became Baronet in 1699

REMARKS. When Sir Kenneth acquired Findon he would become one of the three heritors of Urquhart and Logie Wester Parish, and in the "mortification document of 1709 "Sir Kenneth Mackenzie of Scatwall" is described as one of the "present elders of the Kirk Session of the said united parishes". For some reason it appears that his cousin George, Earl of Cromartie, was patron, and when he died in 1714 it was his son John Earl of Cromartie who presented Alexander Fraser to the vacant charge. Their statement that Sir Kenneth "built Ferintosh Church" is certainly erroneous: the church is much older. He may have paid his share of some repairs; but Session records are not available for that period. He died in 1729. His/wife's sister (aunt?) Margaret married Sir Kenneth Mackenzie of Gairloch.

III. Troublous Times. Sir Kenneth's eldest son, George, educated at Oxford was nearly involved in a Jacobite plot while going to Holland in 1703. (Details given). He "died of a decay" in December 1705. His youngest son, Alexander, died in 1711. Roderick the second son, succeeded at Sir Kenneth's death in 1730 (Burke's Landed Gentry gives the date as 1729) "to estates valued at £ 5529". His wife was Janet, daughter of Sir Ludovic Grant. He resided at Rosehaugh, because Sir Kenneth's third wife (and widow) was at Findon. Sir Roderick seems to have had