

CLAN MACRAE SOCIETY OF CANADA  
ONLINE

DORNIE MANUSCRIPT

*The following is a representation of the document known as the Dornie Manuscript, the history of the Clan Mackenzie transcribed by Colin Mackenzie of Newburnside in 1760. We do not have a verified copy of the manuscript, and cannot confirm this as an accurate representation, or only a subset thereof. The document does maintain interest however, in that it contains references consistent with the History of Clan MacRae by Rev. Alexander Macrae B.A. (1899), and the oral tradition of Clan MacRae.*

**A Genealogical Account Of The Murchisons**

On the banks of the river Lochy in Lochaber resided a Sept of the Celtic race named Clann Chalamain or MacCalmans of whom Murcaddubh or black Murdoch who occupied the farm of Sroinnaba A.D. 1520 was not the least considerable of the branch.

This Murdochdubh brought up his eldest son John to be a priest of the Episcopalian persuasion who got his first charge in Lochalsh. He built a chapel of unhewn stones on a prominent hill above Ardelve and the ruins of the edifice can be seen at this day.

Here John MacChalmain took his father's Christian name as his surname which is in English Murchison.

In the harvest of 1537 Donald Gorm MacDonald fifth Baron of Sleat came with a strong party to Kintail hearing that Islandonnan Castle was but weakly garrisoned and a conflict ensued between the assailants and defenders in which John Dubh Matheson the Castellan was killed. At this time there was none in the castle saving the crier and Duncan MacIllechrist MacRae who knew Donald Gorm by his garb and main among some other gentlemen of his party looking where they might easiest make a breach so as to take possession of the castle. Duncan MacIllechrist took the opportunity of shooting the only arrow he had left, which happened to be a barbed one, which lighted in and cut an artery of MacDonald's foot, who being impatient of the pain plucked it out, on which the blood gushed out so vehemently that it could not be staunched; seeing this, his followers carried him to one of his boats, as he was evidently dying fast; they landed him on a sea bank near Avernish, where he died. The bank is called Larachtaigh MhicDhomhnuill, i.e. The site of MacDonald's house.

But to return to John MacMhurchaidh duibh MacCalman -- after the Castellan John duibh Matheson was killed, a dispute arose between MacRaes and MacLennans of Kintail who should have charge of Island Donan Castle. To compromise the debate of these two clans, whom the Laird MacKenzie found irreconcilable, fearing they should kill one another, the laird of Faiburn advised Sir Kenneth who was the eleventh laird of Kintail to appoint John MacMhurchaidh duibh as Castellan of Island Donan Castle, he being a stranger in the country. The charge he faithfully discharged. Here we may quote the rhyme of a sarcastic old woman in Kintail who was much against John MacMhurchaidh being appointed;

Mhie'Illichalmain a dhuine  
A sroin na-ba an Lochbar!  
De rinn thus ad fear comhairle  
Deagh Mhac Coinnich so thiagainn?

which may be englified literally though not poetically thus

Thou MacCalman O Man!  
From Snoin na ba in Lochaber  
what made thee a counsellor?

To the good MacKenzie we have For this trust John MacCalman the Priest was assassinated; for shortly afterwards Sir Kenneth left the country, and he, coming on a Sabbath Day from the Kirk of Kintail, the MacLennans sent a man in ambush near the road, and as he was passing he was shot with an arrow through the buttocks, so that he fell. The assassin seeing persons coming the way, and fearing he would be captured, made his escape. The priest was carried to a boat where he died. From this Priest are descended all the Murchisons in the Northern countries.

Manuscript History Of The Mackenzie

Transcribed by Colin Mackenzie of

John Murchison the Priest was married to a daughter of Evander MacKay, Priest of Achgiurain in Glenshiel, and left a numerous family. One of his daughters was married to Christopher MacDhouchaidh, Chief of the Macraes, A.D. 1578. His eldest son Murdoch studied for the church, and succeeded his father as Priest of Kintail and Castellan of Castle Donan, in which trust he presided until his death, which happened in the year 1618, and he was succeeded by his nephew, Wm. Farquhar MacRae.

The above Murdoch Murchison the Castellan of Island Donan Castle commonly went under the name of Maighstir Mor, i.e. Big Master. He had a wad-sett of Auchtertyre, Lochalsh and left issue Evander, Donald, Mary and Rebecca.

Mary married Murdoch MacKenzie fifth Laird of Hilltown. Rebecca married Maurice MacRae, Kintail, and left issue.

Donald second son of Murdoch had a portion of the Farm of Auchtertyre. He left two sons and a daughter viz. John, Donald and Ann. Ann married Christopher MacRae Tacksman of Araidhbhuachain. Donald left issue viz. Donald father of Donald og who was an Innkeeper in Kyle of Lochalsh.

John, son of Donald second son of Murdoch, was tacksman of Bundaloch, Kintail and married a daughter of Alexander MacLennan Morvich, Kintail. He left issue two sons and two daughters viz. Donald, Murdoch, Margaret and Christina. Margaret married John Ban MacDomhnuil og MacRae and left issue.

Murdoch married Mary Daughter of Mr. Tulay (Finlay?) MacRae, Minister of Lochalsh. He resided in Brahan and left issue.

Donald Murchison the eldest son of John was born at Bundaloch about the year 1687. At his birth he happened to be a weakling and had a squint in one of his eyes. The midwife said of him that if he lived for the space of four and twenty hours he would survive, and would be as brave a man as any in his day or generation. He survived, was sent to school and became a classical scholar, and was afterwards proficient in military tactics. When William MacKenzie, Earl of Seaforth, raised his tenants in the year 1715 to join the Stuart Standard he chose Donald Murchison to be his Lieutenant Colonel; hence the following stanza by Matheson the Seaforth bard;

The crafty Colonel  
Whose name is Donald  
Will take the chief lead  
Over thy country's people.

Seaforth raised all his tenants, who were able to carry arms, consisting of three thousand faithful mountaineers; they had been out in the insurrection of 1715 and fought manfully although their chief fled at the battle of Sheriffmuir where the flower of his adherents fell; they continued under arms and stood the field under the direction of Colonel Donald Murchison until the base Treaty at Perth, when the King fled to Montrose and then to France.

While the Parliament was engaged in devising means for maintaining the public tranquility the Earl of Seaforth retired to the Island of Lewis where he collected a considerable body of his men under the command of Brigadier Campbell of Ormidale, an officer who had just arrived from Muscovy, where he had served in the army of the Czar. General Cadogan sent a detachment into the island under the command of Colonel Cholmondeley In order to reduce it. The Earl, on the appearance of this force, crossed into Ross-shire, whence he escaped into France, and Campbell, being abandoned by his men after he had formed them in order of battle, was taken prisoner while standing in a charging posture.

After the flight of Seaforth to France, he left all his affairs in the hands of Colonel Donald Murchison who, consequently, acted as his Factor in Ross-shire and was always on the alert in the Highland passes to defend the Earl of Seaforth's estates from the Government troops.

In the year 1719 another project revived the hopes of the Jacobites in consequence of the expedition sent from Spain under the Duke of Ormond which ended in disappointment, the armada as it was called, being dispersed and disabled off Cape Finisterre by a violent storm which lasted twelve days; only two of these ships reached Scotland and had on board the Earl Marischall and Seaforth the Marques of Tullibardine some field officers together with three hundred Spaniards and arms for two thousand men. This small force landed in Kintail and the fiary cross was sent through the country to rouse the men to arms -- the Kintail and Lochalsh men, with

some forces from the neighbouring clans. This gallant band marched through the pass of Glenshiel to encounter some regular troops that were advancing from Inverness under General Wightman. There the Highlanders and their allies took up their position on an eminence at a defile of the upper forge of the plain, where they had a good view of the enemy coming. Colonel Donald Murchison advised them to keep themselves concealed till General Wightman would come into the pass, where he might be surrounded. But when they came near the Place where the Highlanders were ensconced one Donald MacLennan who was of a fiery temper fired his musket and killed a Dutch Colonel, hence the saying "The Dutch Colonel fell should be worth his weight in gold." General Wightman was in the snare and the Highlanders commenced at once to pour down furious volleys upon him, by which many of his men fell and others threw their arms into a linn or Pool in the river and fled. There were none of the Highlanders killed in this skirmish excepting one Finlay MacRae. The Earl of Seaforth was wounded in the knee from a musket ball and the Highlanders seeing no chance of a successful issue in consequence of MacKenzie being badly wounded, and he himself giving no encouragement, dispersed during the night among the mountains and the Spaniards on the following day surrendered prisoners of war. After the skirmish General Wightman went a-foraging through Kintail and committed sacrilege by burning the Church of Kintail.

After this affair the Earl of Seaforth Marischall and Tullibardine with the other officers lurked in the braes of Kintail until Seaforth wounds were cured. At this Juncture Colonel Donald Murchison and Christopher MacRae son of Inverinate were busily engaged in fortifying the stronghold of Donan Castle and shortly thereafter a Government ship of war went into Lochduich, and opened a brisk fire on the Castle which the defenders found to be irresistible. Colonel Donald Murchison with his customary intrepid and vivid conceptions came to the conclusion that if Government got possession of the castle, a garrison would be planted there; that it would then become impossible to defend the country from the depredation of the Red Coats, and that they (the Sasanachs) would become a source of great annoyance to the Earl of Seaforth and his faithful adherents; therefore he concluded in the dilemma that their safest course would be to blow up the castle by setting a match to the powder magazine in the Fort, which proposition was at once complied with, so that it was laid in ruins. Tradition says that all the silver plate and other valuables in the Castle were thrown into the Fort. A view clear and vivid of this long ruined and deserted picturesque building when in its glory is conjured up in the mind's eye by the following incident. Writing in the year 1792 seventy three year afterwards, the minister of Kintail and Rev. relates--"The oldest inhabitants of the parish remember to have seen the Kintail men under arms, and dancing on the leaden roof of the castle just as they were setting out for the battle of Sheriffmure where the most of this resolute band were cut in pieces."

After the battle Seaforth fled for refuge to the Island of Lewis: hence the following lines by the family Bard Murdoch Matheson:

If you shiped across the sea from us,  
Thyself and Colonel Murchison  
who was faimed in the courts of Albion,  
That was the lion celebrated  
whose fame was great at every board!  
A choice of port I hale to thee  
when you cross from Seaforth's sea  
The chief of Harris is a friend to thee  
From Lochlin come the thousands  
On the Minch to the seat of MacLeod.

After the affair in Glenshiel Seaforth fled a second time to France and Government became more anxious to secure the estates of the insubordinate Lairds which were forfeited, and among the most notable of these was the Laird of Kintail whose domains extended from Brahan Castle to Eastern Ross across the country to Kintail and including the Island of Lewis. These lands were chiefly occupied by opulent Tacksmen and cattle grasiers and were difficult of access but by narrow mountain bye paths. Therefore it was hard for the Commissioners of King George whom the people considered as usurpers, to march through the Country, so that they could not survey effectually their fastnesses. The rents of the district were collected without the slightest difficulty for the benefit of the exciled Earl and regularly transmitted to him. At one time a large sum was sent to him to Spain by a desperate fellow from Lochalsh named afterwards in consequence Donall ban spainteach i.e. Spanish

Donald ban. The chief agents in this business were MacKenzie of Fairburn, and Colonel Donald Murchison. In the 1720 the commissioners made a movement for substantiating their claim to the property, and in William Munro of Easter Fearn was found a man bold enough to take the leadership, but Colonel Donald Murchison, and Murdoch Matheson the Bard were the means of rescuing Brahan Castle out of the hands of Munro of Foulis and went round the country encouraging the people to stand out. The high spirited warriors declared they would stand out to a man.

In 1721 the commissioners Factors sent officers to the district, who assured the Tenants of good usage if they would yield. This they sternly resented by abusing the officers. The factor endeavored to retaliate by raising his own tenants or servants, and a considerable number of soldiers at Inverness to enforce his claim by force of arms, The commissioners' Factor held a court in Strathglass in which some people made a verbal promise of submission. Their next course was to march west to Kintail through Glen Affaric, but the undaunted Kintail and Lochalsh men headed by Colonel Donald Murchison, being informed of them, he (the Colonel) met them with sixty sturdy men at " Beulath nam Muileach i.e. the Mullmens' fords."

Beyond this at the gorge of the mountain stream which empties into Loch Affaric they concealed themselves in the heather intending to surround the troops which could not come up the pass but two abreast. Here should be mentioned lay the Colonel and the best of his few followers. Others stationed themselves on Toman a Bheatha i.e. bird hillock. The main body of the Royalists made a halt at a long distance and then moved slowly forward, young Walter Munro at their head, equipped in a scarlet cloak and riding a white steed. Whenever the Kintail man noticed him they considered him to be one of the commissioners and Malcolm MacRae and Donald Dearn MacLennan from Morvich scrambled down through a rocky burn where they took good aim and both let go the contents of their muskets by which lovely Walter fell, mortally wounded. After the young leader was shot Munro's party fled, himself taken prisoner. In this skirmish he found himself confronted with Colonel Donald Murchison who made him deliver the Commission he had from King George, besides to swear fealty and that he would not act further as Factor. Munro implored as a favour of Murchison to get a party to convey his wounded son till they should overtake the fleeing troops. To this request the noble Colonel acceded with his wonted generosity. A litter was constructed the best way they could of birch poles tied together with withes, and broom and heather laidover it. On this the young wounded man was placed and they retraced their steps to Beaully. The gallant convoy performed their duty with fidelity and fortitude until they came near Knockfin. Few or none of them could understand English except Murdoch MacRae from Morvich in Kintail: he discerned from their conversation that when they got into the level country they would decoy them into an ambush and kill them, but when they came to Knockfin in the heights of Strathglass, they returned in consequence of MacRea's remonstrances.

A bloody grave for young Walter Munro of Eastern Fearn in the Beaully cathedral was the only print of the abortive attempt to take Seaforth Estates within the scope of the law of King George.

When passing through Beaully with the dead body of young Munroe an old woman met the procession and exclaimed sarcastically "Let pass the Earl of Seaforth's rent thou low mob." She composed some Gaelic stanzas on the occasion which can be translated thus:

Two rents, two rents, ho ro, ho ro,  
Ho re, ho re for Donald.  
When you met the valiant men  
At Balathnam Muilleach joined,  
It was down thro' the wolds of Affaric  
You felled the lovely Walter,  
And many a trust gun there was  
Scaring them through the hills.  
When the Red Coats saw that  
They dispersed and scattered.  
There fell in that shattering or battering  
The man whose life forsook him;  
Donald of the generous heart,  
Who rides the steeds with reins,  
I joy how it happened thee

And glad am I how ended.  
 Captain Fearn is aye disgraced.  
 His son is also mangled,  
 And the man with the scarlet coats  
 Made their complaints at Edinboro'  
 When you saw they were unmanageable,  
 The valiant Gillies under Donald,  
 You basely delivered the Commission  
 You got as a gift from George.  
 Two rents, two rents, ho ro, ho ro,  
 Ho re, ho re for Donald.  
 When you have brought the Marquis' rent  
 On two horses and a litter.

After Seaforth was restored, he used to give the old woman a boll of meal yearly for her loyalty to his cause. For some time after this affair there were no more demands by the Government commissioners for the rents of these mountainous fastnesses till August 1722 when a considerable body of troops, under Captain John Mac Niell left Inverness taking a route through Strath Conan considering it the safest. But Donald Murchison and his gallant band, being informed of their advancing, soon crossed Mam Attadile and posted themselves in the woods below, till the troops arrived at Allan ba Duihh where they were saluted by a volley of musketry by which several of them were killed. Malcolm MacRae fractured Captain John MacNeill's arm and the captain being in great pain desisted from further proceedings and the whole party took to flight. After this we learn of no renewed attempts to get possession of the Seaforth's property. The above Malcolm MacRae and Donald MacLennan of Morvich were such good marksmen that they always took deadly aim, and on their return from the skirmish they rested in Glenluinge and noticing some butter flowers growing in a meadow on the opposite side of the River the one said to the other, "try if you can bring one down of the butter flowers". MacRae cut the top of the flower and MacLennan did the same with the stalk with their musket balls.

It may be no digression to mention here that when the Earl of Seaforth was preparing for Sheriffmuir men from all parts of his extensive lands were summoned, the fires on Tullochard ceased not night nor day and the castle which had a leaden roof was destroyed 1719.

Colonel Donald Murchison used to lift the rents of the Earl of Seaforth while an exile in France, and to go himself with them in the habit of a beggar to avoid detection.

Being thus disguised in the year 1724, he happened to take up his lodgings in a country inn in England as he was on his way to Dover. Shortly after he entered, The Duke of Argyle came to the house, and on sitting, he enquired of the waiter if there were any guests within. She told him they had none save a mandieant who was sitting at the kitchen fire. He ordered him to be sent in. The call was at once obeyed, and when the door opened, the Duke said, "If I am not mistaken you are Colonel Donald Murchison who headed Seaforth's army at the Battle of Sherrifmuir". Finding that he was recognized (probably by the squint in his eye), he acknowledged the fact, and threw himself at the Duke's mercy. That nobleman said: You are one of the most faithful servants I know in all Scotland, therefore I will let you pass. After the night was spent over their cups the Duke took him up in his carriage and brought him to Dover, whence he got him safely ferried across. When he arrived at his destination, he found the Earl of Seaforth working in a garden for his own and Lady's support. In the year of 1725, General Wade was waited upon by a body of about one hundred and fifty gentlemen of the name of Mackenzie, headed by Lord Tarbart, Sir Colin Mackenzie of Coul, and Sir Kenneth Mackenzie of Cromarty. The last informed the general that they had come as the representatives of Seaforth's tenants and vassals who would not come in themselves until they knew how they were to be received; that their rents had for several years been uplifted by Colonel Donald Murchison and that they were not able to pay them a second time, but that if they were discharged of these rents, they would pay them in future to the Government, deliver up their arms and live peaceably.

Wade, who according to Lockhart of Carnwath was "a good enough tempered man", at once acceded to his request, and informed the deputations, that if the clan performed what had been promised he would endeavor in the next session of parliament to procure a pardon for Seaforth and all his friends. After being well entertained for two or three days at Inverness the deputation, accompanied by Wade and a small body of

dragoons, went to Brahan Castle where the arms of the clan were delivered up, but not until Colonel Donald Murchison had secreted all those of any value.

Shortly after this the Commissioner puts up Seaforth's estates for sale and the Colonel purchased them so that they virtually became his own.

In 1726 through the King's great clemency Earl Seaforth received a pardon and returned home. For his services to the Earl, Colonel Donald Murchison thought he should get either the estate of Lochalsh or Loch Carron, but the Earl went with a party to his house, broke open a trunk in which he kept the title deeds of the estate, and offered him only the insignificant farm of Bundaloch in Kintail or Achadatonalain in Lochalsh. This he sternly refused, knowing his services deserved a much more liberal grant. He took the matter so much to heart that he went to bed. While confined there, Seaforth went to see him and said:-"Colonel Donald, if I have done you any earthly injury, I hope you will forgive me." The noble minded and faithful hero replied, "God may forgive you, but I will not." Soon after this conference, he died in the house of Mr. Morison at Laggy on the banks of the Conan in March 1727. The fidelity and bravery with which the Kintail men stood forth in all cases of emergency when their chief was interested, and their boldness and success in keeping the rents from the Government and sending them to him whom they considered as the lawful owner, are facts of themselves that should shed immortal lustre on their memories.

Evander Murchison the eldest son of Mr. Murdoch above stated was Tacksman of Auchtertyre Lochalsh and married Ann, daughter of Colin MacKenzie son of Sir Roderick MacKenzie of Cromarty commonly called the Tutor of Kintail. He left issue John born 1680, Roderick, Murdoch, Duncan, and a daughter Mary who was married to Farquhar Matheson of Fernaig Duncan, the youngest son, left two sons, John and William, which latter died in Lochalsh leaving issue Murdoch, who left Donald, who left two sons, Murdoch and Duncan, the latter presently at Dunbar and the former resided at Airdinarff in 1840, leaving issue Duncan Donald Roderick Finlay and Catherine. They all emigrated to New Zealand; John, son of Duncan, married Christina Murchison, sister of the Colonel Murchison and left issue Mary, who married Roderick MacKay, Dornie Kintail Murdoch the third son of Evander, was a cattle dealer and married at Dail na spidail in Athol and returned to Caplach in Lochalsh where he left a numerous family of whom were Alexander and Simon and Catherine who married Donald MacRae Cnoc nan carn i.e. hill of Cairns Camusluinie. Simon left a son Mr. Murdoch Murchison factor to MacLeod who lived in Glenelg a gentleman well known in many parts of Scotland. When Doctor Samuel Johnson and Mr. James Boswell on their Highland tour in 1773 the Doctor says:-Having surmounted the hill (of Ratagan) at last we were told that at Glenelg on the sea side we should come to a house of lime, slate and glass. This image of magnificence raised our expectation; at last we came to our Inn weary and peevish and began to enquire for meat and beds, of the provisions the negative catalogue was very copious: but however we had a very eminent proof of Highland hospitality; along some miles of the way in the evening a gentleman's servant had kept us company on foot with very little notice on our part. He left us at Glenelg and we thought of him no more till he came to us again in about two hours with a present of Rum and sugar from his master. The man had mentioned his company and the gentleman, well knowing the penury of the place, had thus his attention drawn to two men whose names perhaps he had not heard by whom his kindness was not likely to be ever repaid, and who could be recommended to him only by their necessities." This gentleman, according to Mr. James Boswell, was none else than Mr. Murdoch Murchison of Beolary, Glenelg and factor to the laird of MacLeod. He married a daughter of Murdoch MacRae of Morvich Kintail by whom he left a numerous family. John, his son, was Tacksman of Beolary Glenelg but left no issue. Duncan, son of Mr. Murdoch, married a daughter of MacLeod of Scalasaig and left issue viz. Donald, Magnus and Roderick. The family emigrated to America. Magnus left issue Ludovic Murdoch Murchison sheep manager Inverguseran Knoydort, 1866. Murdoch Murchison, third son of Evander Murchison of Auchtertyre, left a son Alexander who left Murdoch who married Katherine daughter of Kenneth MacLennan by whom he left issue Duncan and Janet. He married secondly Mary the daughter of Simon Murchison, issue one daughter, Mary who married Farquhar MacDonald Letterfearn. Janet married Alexander Ferguson at Montgerald Easter Ross. Duncan married Ann, daughter of Kenneth MacMillan Dornie issue Murdoch, Alexander, Ann, Catherine, Janet, Margaret, and Jaen. Ann married Farquhar MacRae pensioner Dornie. She was mother of the Rev. Alexander MacRae, late Priest of Beaully. Both sons jointed the 78 regt. in 1793 Murdoch was a sergeant in the regiment, and on the eve of being promoted, was unfortunately lost in a transport coming from Bengal to Bombay which took fire on the 29th February 1804. Alexander, his brother, returned home from India. He was a strong powerful man and married Margaret

MacKarlich, Bundaloch; he left issue Murdoch, John, and Janet who married Donald Mac Lennan, Bundaloch. They emigrated to Australia. Murdoch left issue and died at Bundaloch by his wife Flora MacKerlich namely Duncan, Alexander, and Margaret. John is married to Ann, daughter of Roderick Finlayson Bundaloch and has (1866) issue Murdoch and Janet.

Roderick, second son of Evander Murchison of Auchtertyre, left a son named John who left Roderick and Kenneth. Kenneth left a numerous family, one of them named Duncan was a tenant at Craig of Lochalsh and married to Christina, daughter of Roderick MacLennan, Durinish, issue Kenneth John and John who live presently (1866) at craig of Lochalsh.

Roderick son of John was a tenant at Ardelve Lochalsh where he died about 1840 aged 90. He was married to Margaret daughter of Kenneth Murchison, Achmore issue John Kemeth, Isabella, Mary, and Catherine. Isabella married John Matheson Salacy Lochalsh. and was mother to Dugald Matheson merchant Ardelve. Kenneth married Chirsty, daughter of Duncan MacRae, Ardelve, and left issue. He died at Achmore. John emigrated to South America where he lives in good circumstances.

John Murchison, the eldest son of Evander Murchison of Auchtertyre, comes now to be mentioned. He was very handsome and in bodily strength had very few equals. He went in the Highlands under the name of one of the four Johns of Scotland. He was a major in one of Earl William of Seaforth's three regiments A.D. 1715 and was at the Battle of Sheriffmuir where he fought gallantly defending his master's cause. Stimulating his brother soldiers to die on the field of battle rather than yield, he fell mortally wounded when his sword broke, and urging with his latest breath of life the survivors to continue faithful, he fell a hero in the prime of life at the age of 35 years; he was born In the year 1679. Here we may subjoin the poetical effusion so far as concerns him by an eye witness when he fell.

There was John Auchtertyre a King o'er men,  
the real Hero sincere and firm  
The wrathful Lion was valiant daring  
Before the army when to the field  
He was the Champion true and bold  
From the Royal tribe of the comely mein  
The lovely family whose praise went far  
He was no coward who sprang from them.

John Murchison of Auchtertyre was married to Janet, daughter of Kenneth MacKenzie younger of Lochshiel near Tain by whom he left issue 3 sons and two daughters. The eldest daughter married Murdoch, son of Christopher MacRae of Araudg dhugain and left issue; the other daughter married John MacRae in Camuslennie and left issue. The sons were named Alexander, Simon and Kenneth.

Kenneth, the third son, was a man of great bodily strength and burst a blood vessel in his chest lifting a heavy stone in Glenudalain, which stone can be seen opposite the house of his great grandson Dugald Matheson merchant Ardelve. He died at Craig of Lochalsh leaving a family of daughters.

Simon emigrated to North Carolina with a respectable handsome family of nine sons in the year 1774.

Alexander, the eldest son of John was tacksman of Auchtertyre and for some time factor to Lord Seaforth A.D. 1773. He married Margaret MacKenzie, daughter of Alexander MacKenzie Esquire of Lentrom by whom he had issue, Kenneth and a daughter named Janet who married Captain Duncan MacRae of Inverinate in Kintail who was the chief of that name. Kenneth the son of Alexander studied medicine in which he made great proficiency. He went to Calcutta in 1772 as a surgeon in the Cafay's service. Being a very able man and a great classical scholar, he obtained the special notice of Warren Hastings, Sir Elija Impey and other notabilities, and after 12 years of service in the East made a trust fortune. He became a great favourite of the Habob (Nabob) of Acrot for curing a distemper in his daughter for which he gave him a heavy sum of Gold. He returned to Europe in 1784 and first traveled in France, Italy and afterward in parts of Ireland and England and finally returned to his native country he settled there by purchasing (1788) the Estate of Taradale from his maternal uncle John MacKenzie of Lentron and married in 1790 Barbara MacKenzie daughter of Fairburn the first issue Roderick Impey Murchison born 19 February 1792 second son Alexander who died a child, third son Kenneth born in 1794 and rose to be governor of Singapore and Penang and died in 1854 leaving two sons Kenneth and Roderick and one Daughter Charlott who is married to Colonel Cox R.A.

Roderick Impey Murchison the Eldest son of Doctor Kenneth is a celebrated Geologist and was created a Baron 1866.

---