

Kincaldrum

Kincaldrum is listed in the Ordnance Gazetteer of Scotland 1873 as 'a mansion in Inverarity Parish, Forfarshire, on the north east slope of wooded Kincaldrum Hill, 5 miles SSW of Forfar. It is the seat of the Right Honourable William Edward Baxter (b.1825; suc. 1871), Liberal MP for the Montrose Burghs since 1855, who holds 581 acres in Forfarshire and 1201 in Fife, valued at £880 and £3,287 per annum'.

Kilmaron Castle, a mansion in Cupar parish, Fife, standing one and a half miles north west of Cupar town, is described as a splendid edifice, build after the designs by Gillespie Graham, it was the seat of Sir David Baxter, Bart. (1793-1872), a manufacturer and munificent benefactor of Dundee, at the death of whose widow in 1882, the estate 1201 acres, of £3,287 annual value - went to the Right Honourable W E Baxter of Kincaldrum.

A chapel was erected some time after 1659, on the margin of a den at the foot of Kincaldrum Hill. It was burnt by a party of Royal Dragoons in 1745, and remained roofless and ruinous for many years. The ruins were removed in 1816.

(New Statistical Account 1845. A J Warden 1880-85.)

The earlier story of Kincaldrum, leading up to this point, may be read in William Marshall's account of the 'Historic Scenes of Forfarshire,' (*kindly loaned by Blair Thomson*). It states that from 1395, the Earls of Crawford had Kirkton, Hillton and other lands in the district and it would appear that the lands of Lour and Inverarity had been in the possession of a number of families of historic note.

At an early period, they were the property of Henry of Newth, Knight, who had to resign them to the King for failing to render unto him the services due for them.

In 1267, Alexander III gave them to Hugh of Abernethy. When his extensive estates fell to heiresses, they passed by marriages to the Lindsay, Stewart, and Leslie families. Lesly's wife was heiress of the Lour portion, and Norman de Lesly got charters of it in 1390. In 1464, George Lesly, first Earl of Rothes, granted a charter of the barony of Lour; the lands of Muirton, and half of the lands of Carrate, with the superiority of the barony (*Lour had before that been erected into a barony*), in favour of David Guthrie of Kincaldrum, Treasurer to the King.

After passing through some other hands, the Earl of Northesk acquired the barony in 1643, and in 1694 David, fourth Earl of Northesk, sold the dominical lands and Mains of Lour to David Fotheringham of Powrie. By 1875 they formed part of the Powrie estates, and the fine mansion of Fotheringham occupied the site on which the old Kirkton once stood.

One version of the Bower legend

The story goes that Alexander Bower of Meathie and Kincaldrum in 1745 was in the prime of life, married and travelling on the continent when he heard the news of the arrival of Prince Charles Edward in Scotland. He immediately returned home to Kincaldrum and, raising his tenantry, joined the Forfarshire Insurgents, being appointed a Lieutenant in Lord Ogilvy's Regiment.

After the war was over, and the disbandment at Clova, Colonel Kerr of Graden, Roxburgh, returned to Kincaldrum, where Mrs Bower and her boy were. During the daytime the refugees took to hiding in the neighbouring hills, and at night returned to Kincaldrum House for food and shelter.

One night, after supper, a party of Hessian Dragoons, in search of fugitives, surrounded the house, and while part remained outside, the officer and others entered. At this time all the lower part of the house had iron stanchioned windows, so, on hearing the noise, Colonel Kerr made for one of these, which he knew had a loose bar, through which he went, only to find himself in the hands of two of the enemy, who took him prisoner.

Lieutenant Bower sought refuge in a secret closet off a bedroom, the aperture to same being covered by an old cabinet. In their search the soldiers removed this article, and discovered Bower. He gallantly attempted to defend himself, it is said with a poker, and knocked some of the enemy down, but, after being severely wounded, was captured.

He was removed, first to Dundee, then to Perth; and in an article written by the Lieutenant's grandson,

Mr Graham Bower, it is stated that, 'having a fine head of hair, the Dragoons knotted it to one of their horse's tails, and dragged him in this way for about two miles, to a place called Cothiewards (*Cuttywards*), near Findrick, where a poor man, of the name of Saunders Kinnear, was hauling up broom, who, on his bended knees, interceded for his master, saying, 'If you will only put the gentleman on a horse, I will gie you a' the siller I hae,' which amounted to ten pounds. The relief seems to have come too late however. He was then mounted behind a trooper, carried to Dundee, from there to Perth Prison, where it soon pleased God to relieve him from his tormentors, having expired from the brutal treatment he had received.'

Mrs Bower, although in poor health, followed her husband to Perth, where, learning that the Duke of Cumberland was at Stirling Castle, she went thither, and interceded for her husband's life. At last the Duke consented to grant it, on condition that he would leave the country and never return; and he gave her passes for her husband, herself, and their child, a boy of six years of age. Mrs Bower immediately returned to Perth, only to find that her husband had meantime died of his wounds and cruel treatment. The sight of the dead body so terribly shocked her that she fell forward over the corpse and expired. The two bodies were placed in one coffin and brought to Kincaldrum House, where they lay some days previous to interment.

A strange story is told in connection with this part of the tragedy. James Bower, a relative, being anxious to secure the property of the deceased insurgent, bribed the soldiers stationed in the district to kill the

infant son, he being the next of kin; but the nurse, when she heard them coming, hid the boy in the coffin containing his dead parents, covering him with the pall, and so escaped detection.

The bodies were buried in the Chapelyard on the farm of Easter Meathie, which then belonged to the Bowers of Kincaldrum. There is a tradition, now almost forgotten, that, when buried, Mrs Bower had on a very valuable finger ring. This being known, the gravedigger came after nightfall, and opening the grave, proceeded to appropriate the ring. In his effort to do so, he cut the finger, when a cry proceeded from the corpse. The story has lost what further took place; but according to the Chartists, it is said a mob left Forfar bent on mischief, and wrecked the Bower tombstone, so that the exact burial spot is now unknown.



Lieutenant Bower had married in 1736, Margaret St Clair of Rosslyn, the last of the real St Clairs of that estate near Edinburgh, and their only child and heir was Alexander St Clair Bower, who so narrowly escaped. For better safety he was sent to France in the custody of Miss St Clair, an aunt, where, on the advice and influence of Lord Ogilvy, he was placed in the Scots College in Paris.

On 31st July 1750, a petition was made to the Court of Session by Alexander Bower of Kinnettles, cousin of the deceased Lieutenant Bower, and tutor dative to his son Alexander, setting forth that the said Alexander Bower, an infant, while under the petitioner's tutorage had been taken to France by his aunt, and settled in the Scots College in Paris. The Lords appointed the petitioner curator, and James Hay, WS., agent. On 8th December following,

through some malpractices with the estate, Hay was censured, and suspended from practice for a year. Through influence, it is said, young Bower became a page of honour to Louis XV, the French King, and while in this capacity, took smallpox, which ever after disfigured him.

Alexander St Clair Bower returned to Scotland as a grown man about 1762, and the following year married Margaret, daughter of Robert Graham of Fintry; their daughter Katherine was born in 1764, and son Graham in 1769. Kincaldrum

was sold at Whitsun 1818, to Robert Stirling Graham of Altamont, and he died at Monimail, Fife 3rd April, 1844, and was buried there. Another daughter Margaret was born in November 1771 and died January 1885. She was married in 1789, to Patrick Carnegie IV of Lour, grandfather of Colonel Patrick A W Carnegie IV. The youngest child Anna was born in July 1773.

The Baxter connection

The estate of Kincaldrum had, at one time, belonged to the Earl of Angus and it was at Kincaldrum House, on 26th July 1871, that the death occurred of the well known and highly esteemed, Mr Edward Baxter, one of the merchant princes of Dundee, and one of the honourable traffideers of the earth. Kincaldrum then became the property of his son, the Right Honourable William Edward Baxter, for thirty years Member of Parliament for the Montrose District of Burghs and late Financial Secretary to the Treasury. He died on 10th August 1890. His son Edward Armstead Baxter DL JP of Kincaldrum and Kilmaron, born 25th September 1848 succeeded his father and he died on 7th January 1933, then his wife Isobel Scott-Elliot died in her 81st year on 26th December 1943.

In 1806 the firm of William Baxter and Son erected a flax spinning mill on the Glamis Burn, consisting of 16 frames. The machinery was driven by a 16hp. water wheel. In 1820 a steam engine of 10hp. was introduced with a view to making things easier during the summer months when the water in the burn was low. A plash- mill for cleaning the yarn was



also introduced. This mill employed 60 to 70 people. The cloth was known as Osnaburgs and sheetings. From this small beginning grew the large firm of Messrs Baxter Brothers Ltd., Dundee, which gave work to so many people from Dundee and the surrounding district.

The Valuation Roll of 1895-96 records Edward Armstead Baxter as the proprietor of Kincaldrum estate and George Washington Baxter of Invereighy, Ashcliff, Dundee as proprietor of Invereighy estate. Forty years later the estate of Invereighy is registered under its Trustees with Dame Edith Baxter living on the estate. Likewise Kincaldrum estate is listed as having the Kinreich Estate Co.

Limited as the proprietor with Mrs Isobel Baxter living in the mansion house.

Alexander Spence came to West Mains of Kincaldrum Farm in 1944 and farmed it for thirteen years until he died in 1957. John Spence succeeded his father, he having already bought the farm of West Mains in 1952. In 1953 there was a sale at the mansion house and then the Spence family, after the lead was stolen off the roof, took down the roof itself and turned the house into a deep litter for hens, the locals affectionately renaming the ruin 'Leghorn Hotel.'

Above: Kincaldrum Estate, 1926.

Kinreich Farm

Mrs Ina Morton now living at Taranty Road, in Forfar, holds fond memories of her time spent in Inverarity during the early part of the last century. Ina Norrie was born in 1914, daughter of John Keith Norrie and Mary Jane Leonard of St Vigeans. Ina's father worked on the farm of Kinreich for Mr Ammand, who was the farmer at that time.



Ina and her dog in the garden at Kinreich Farm.



The Norrie Family. Keith is at the back, Jessie who died in 1927, then Lizzie to the right (*Mrs Sturrock of Meadowgreen*) and Annie to the left (*Mrs Milne*). Ina herself is at the front.

Ina was the youngest of the family, having three older sisters and an older brother and all attended Inverarity Primary School. After leaving school, Ina went to work in the Manse at Inverarity where the Minister was Rev Black. One mistake she will never forget making as a young girl in her first job; it happened one day when she was asked by Rev Black to go out to the coalhouse and bring in some churls.

Not knowing what churls were, Ina decided she would bring in the largest pieces of coal she could find. This, of course was a mistake, as she soon found out. She did not realise that churls were the smallest pieces of coal. Now if Rev Black had asked her to bring a shovelful of dross Ina might have understood!

Another regular job, which Ina was expected to do for Rev Black, was to wheel his bike to Gateside in readiness for him to mount when he came off the bus from town. His was a slightly unusual bike, as it had to have a fixed wheel because Rev Black had a wooden leg.

Then there was the day her mother sent her to Forfar for messages. Ina always got a 'penny' for sweeties but alas - on this particular day Ina had bought over the allocated amount of sweeties and had no money for the bus home! Thunderstruck she looked wildly around and luckily spotted a friend who kindly loaned her the money for the bus home. Ina never did tell her mother about that escapade!

Characters of the day were Davie Anderson, the local joiner, Mr Anderson, the local blacksmith whose daughter Mary married Chae Findlay of the Govals. Peter Elder was a teacher at Inverarity School followed by Robert Forbes, Peter Crerar and Mr Lind. The lady teachers who are remembered by Ina are Miss Rodger who stayed in Forfar and Miss Webster who stayed at Kincaldrum.

Other cherished memories are of days spent with the Girl Guides. The highlight of one Guide camp was the ride in the charabanc, which belonged to the laird.



Guide camp outing in a charabanc.

Kinreich Farm 1946

Twenty years later a new farmer came to farm Kinreich; David C Pate. The farm was bought in 1953 and David and Margaret Pate were married in April 1953. Keirton was also acquired in the 1950s and Wester Meathie in 2001. Soon both David and Margaret had become involved in all kinds of community and church work.



Kinreich farm in 1947.



David Pate (Snr) during a TV interview in 1979.

WRI



Cutting the cake at the WRI Diamond Jubilee in 1981.

Left to right; M Kidd, R Jackson, E Spence, A Elrick (*Past Pres.*), M Pate (*Pres.*), M Robertson, E Watson, A Caldwell, N Joiner, A Russo.

David has a great interest in Inverarity Church and recounted the story of the church bell, as he had heard it.

The story of the Church Bell

Inverarity Church bell was cast by a Dutchman, Peter Vandenghein in 1614. The story tells of some Dutch immigrants who had fled from Holland only to be caught by a storm at sea. They had no fresh water and illness had broken out on board. They sailed into the Tay estuary but, because of the sickness, they were not allowed to land and had to sail on. Once out of sight of Dundee, they came ashore in desperation, often as far as ten to twenty miles inland, in order to obtain fresh water and a cure for their illness. Some of these Dutch people settled in Inverarity and elsewhere. Eventually they decided that they wanted a bell for their church and knew where they could obtain one - from their homeland - Holland. Two bells were delivered to Dundee by ship; one was brought to Inverarity Church and the other was taken to Kinnell Church.



The story of the Dispatch Rider

The tables were turned on David when he was asked to tell another story; about himself this time. He was asked about his days as a Dispatch rider. He was none too keen to talk of his adventures on his motorbike, suffice to say that he went 'fast.' He modestly stated that, through being a member of the

Home Guard in the 1940's, he had been appointed a Dispatch rider because he had a motorbike! There was possibly a little more to it than that. The dictionary definition of Dispatch-rider is given as, 'an *official* messenger on a motor bike!'

A far cry from the days when the lands of Kincreich were owned by the Abbey of Cupar, which made its money from the tenants of these portions of land. Nevertheless there have been many great changes in farming during the fifty seven years of David Pate's time at Kincreich and a number of these changes have been recorded.

Sheep shearing at Kincreich.



One of the first potato harvesters at Kincreich.

Long service awards

Both the late Dan Gall and John Davidson received long service awards for having worked on Kincreich farm for thirty years.

The next generation

Tradition has been maintained and 'young' David Pate and his wife Elizabeth have carried on working for the community of Inverarity, David having been Chairman of Inverarity Community Council for a number of years and Elizabeth is at present Secretary of Inverarity Guild. They have two of a family; Gordon and Helen.



John Davidson receiving his award from Lord Airlie.

David Pate (*Snr*) explaining his methods to a delegation of French farmers.



Meathie

Easter Meathie are partly in the Parish of Forfar and partly in Inverarity but Wester Meathie is wholly in the Parish of Inverarity.

The lands of Meathie had probably been disposed of, as were the other lands of the Abbey of Cupar before, and in view of, the Reformation. Sir David Guthrie acquired Wester Meathie, Lour, Carrot and other lands about the middle of the 15th Century. On 8th August 1558 William Kynnymont (*Kinmond*) of Wester Meathie was one of the officials at the service of an heir.

The Youngs of Seaton were in possession of Wester Meathie at the beginning of the 17th century. On 10th June 1630, Sir James Young, Knight, son and heir of Sir Peter young of Seaton was retoured in Seaton and in the lands of Wester Meathie.

Blair of Balgillo appears to have succeeded the Youngs in Meathie, and on the 4th April 1665, the father of William Blair of Balgillo, heir of Sir William Blair Knight, was reinstated to the lands of Easter and Wester Meathie.

The brothers Bower had probably acquired the Meathies from the Blairs. Alexander Bower of Kincaldrum was proprietor of Easter Meathie and

Patrick Bower of Kinnettles was laird of Wester Meathie.

The lands of Meathie were acquired from Alexander and Patrick Bower by a branch of the Grahams who retained possession for a long period of time.

At the end of the 17th century, or the beginning of the 18th century, James Graham of Meathie married Elizabeth Wedderburn, heiress of Pearsie, in the parish of Kingoldrum. In 1755 Patrick Carnegie, third of Lour, married a daughter of James Graham of Meathie. James Graham possessed Meathie from approximately 1767.

About the middle of the 18th century, James Graham of Meathie married Grisel, daughter of Sir Alexander Wedderburn of Wedderburn.

James Graham of Meathie was one of the first partners of the Dundee Bank in 1763 and he is also included in the list of partners for 1777. His eldest son James was a merchant in London, and the estate of Meathie was sold.

In the genealogy of the Wedderburns Graham of Meathie (*presently 1824*) of Balmuir then represented Dundee (*Viscount*) in the main line.

By the end of that century Wester Meathie was occupied and run by the representatives of William Adam per Robert Adam, Ladenford, George Watson being grieve in 1895/6. The early part of the 20th century saw the Findlay family in Wester Meathie, before the Steven family bought it in 1931.

Lettings entered in the Rental Books of the Abbey of Coupar Angus. (*Angus or Forfarshire, by AJ Warden*).

Wester Meathie



John Steven in front of Wester Meathie farmhouse.

Easter Meathie

Easter Meathie and North Meathie had been farmed by the Warden family from around the turn of the century until 1st August 1987 when both were then taken over by Andrew and Margaret Brown and their two sons, who came from the Borders area.



Three and a half pairs at Easter Meathie in 1912.