

## Lochletter

Lochletter House (or at least the last incarnation of it) was built in 1761 by Patrick Grant along with a still surviving garden pavilion, which is listed. Lochletter House burnt down in the 1920s, but the 1761 datestone inscribed 'P[atrick] G[rant]', survives.

Patrick Grant of Lochletter fought in the battles of Prestonpans and Falkirk during the second Jacobite uprising. He also fought at Culloden as a lieutenant of the Glengarry regiment. He escaped afterwards and was in hiding in the dense woodland of Lochletter to avoid arrest.

Nearby Sheuglie (Shewglie), the family's main residence, was wrecked in course of the post-Culloden military reprisals, 1746; but the family recovered its wealth in the next few decades.

*(Taken from Pavilion listing doc and recent P&J article; a ref to Patrick Grant hiding out in the woods is also in Mackay)*

### Info from Duncan MacDonald, local historian:

In the Muster Roll of Glengarry's Regiment, Patrick Grant is listed as a Lieutenant and the source is given as MUG (Makay U&G). Unlike his brothers, Alexander who escaped made his way to India and became wealthy, and Robert who was killed at Falkirk, it does not give any outcome for Patrick.

Patrick Grant was listed but I know not if he fought at Prestonpans or Falkirk. He was on his way to Culloden and was involved.

Shewglie was destroyed after the '45 and I'm sure Lochletter would have been also.

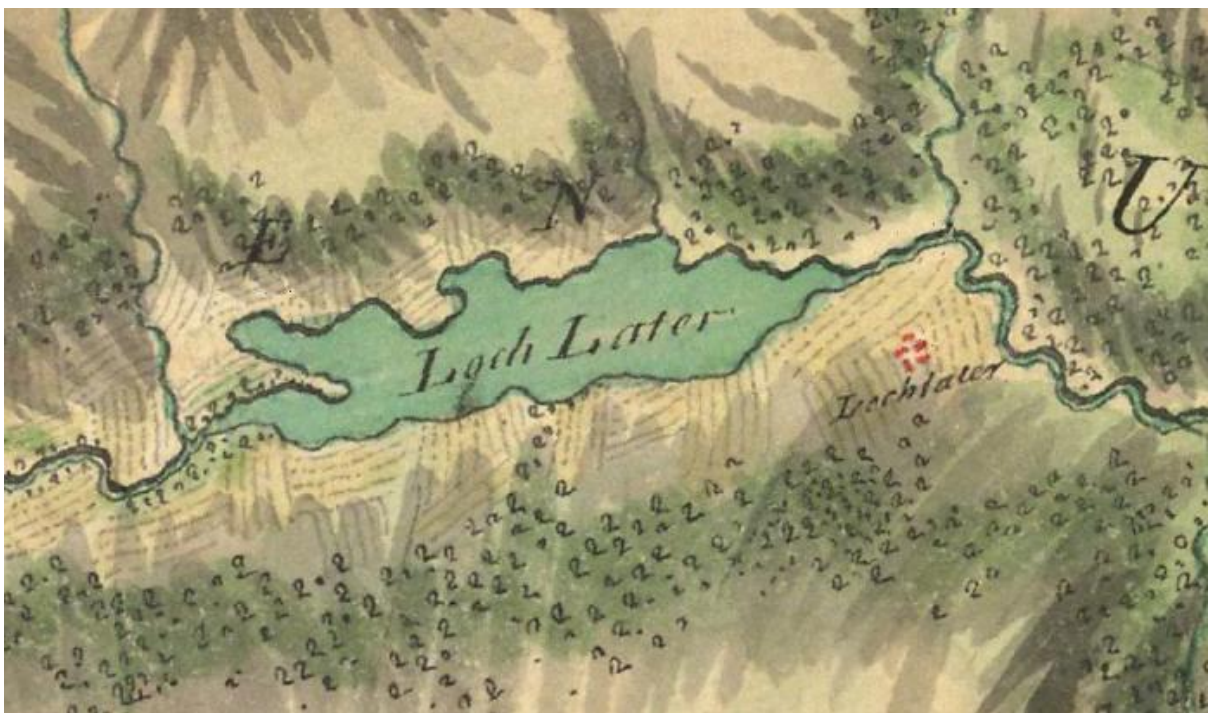
James Grant who was a prisoner with Old Grant of Shewglie in London, returned and built New Shewglie House and was factor for a time. "While his brother Patrick brought up his family at Lochletter"

Alexander led an adventurous life and in 1763 was worth £20,000. He was at Prestonpans, Culloden and Plessy. He helped the future Charles Grant, Chairman of the East India Co. and MP (picture in Inverness Library) get started. This famous Charles Grant visited the Glen in 1770. "He found the two old brothers, James and Patrick, with their families at Shewglie and Lochletter respectively." He found Mrs Grant of Lochletter, "a well-informed Christian."

Old Lochletter House was re-built in 1761. At that time Patrick Grant was the tenant and from 1765 had the fishing rights of Urquhart Bay and the Enrick. His son Colonel Grant was still the tenant up to at least 1812. In 1831 a new house was built and towards the end of the 1830's the house and shooting was tenanted by Francis Palmer. In 1860, new kennels were built. Mrs Gordon may know when the Folly was built: I suspect it was during Colonel Grant's time as he had made his money abroad. The 1831 house was burned down in the 1920's or later. The metal token which Mrs Gordon found probably dates to the time when Grants Lochletter were involved in the plantations in Guyana. They had a visitor in 1812 who was recently returned from Guyana.



*LOCHLETTER. Built by Patrick Grant in 1761. The tenant in 1825 was the Patrick Grant who purchased Lakefield from James Grant of Corrimony in that year. For about 30 years Lochletter was let to Francis Palmer as shooting tenant. In 1886 Bradley Martin took over the shootings. The house was destroyed by fire in 1920.*



*Detail from Roy's Map 1747-55, predating Lochletter House of 1761*

## Mackay – “Urquhart & Glenmoriston”

*The following are some of the references I could find to Lochletter in roughly chronological order from the above book (written late 19<sup>th</sup> C.)*

Lochletter : Loch-leitir Loch, an old adjective signifying "dark," as in Lochaidh, the river Lochy ; leitir, a wet hill-side. The dark Wet Hill-side. Lochletter is notably dark "behind the sun/"

### Medieval References

Sir Robert Chisholm was appointed Constable of Urquhart Castle by David II in 1359 and held it for the Crown, and his annual salary of £40 was paid out of the Royal Exchequer.

Chisholm early acquired great influence. He was proprietor of Invermoriston, Blarie, **Lochletter**, Inchbrine, and Dulshangie, in our Parish; he held Achmonie in feu from the Bishop ; and he had extensive estates in Morayshire and the neighbourhood of Nairn and Inverness. He was Sheriff of Inverness, and Justiciar of the regality of Moray; and, like his grandfather, Sir Robert Lauder, he held the still more important office of Justiciar of the North.

As the Constable advanced in years he relinquished his possessions in Urquhart. The lands of Invermoriston, Blarie, Inchbrine, **Lochletter**, and Dulshangie, which he acquired from John Randolph, were resigned into the hands of the King, who granted them, about the year 1384, to his son, Alexander, Earl of Buchan (the “Wolf of Badenoch”), for an annual duty of one silver penny, payable within the Castle of Urquhart.

### The Grants

John Grant, first of Corrimony, was the younger son of John Grant, of Freuchie born c. 1487-1490.

On 8th December, 1509, he received a Charter under the Great Seal of the Barony of Corrimony, from King James IV. The charter proceeds on this narrative, " know ye that for the increase of our rental, and the profit of the patrimony of our Crown, and also with a view to the advancement of order and manners, and the promotion of good government, in the lands underwritten, among the inhabitants thereof, and for making those obedient to our laws, who in times past have been unruly and disobedient to our said laws, we have given, granted, and in feu-ferme disponed, and by this our present charter, confirmed to our lovite John Grant, younger son of John Grant, of Freuchie, and his heirs male, All and Sundry the lands underwritten, viz., the £4 lands of Corrimony, the £4 lands of Morull, the £8 lands of Four Meikles, **the 40 shilling lands of Lochletter**, the shilling lands of Auchintamarag, the 40 shillings lands of Deveauch, and half of the lands of Mekle Clune, extending to a 20 shilling land, and the 40 shilling land of Pitcarrell Croy, extending in all to a £27 land of new extent, as is contained in our rentals, lying in our lordship of Urquhart, and within our sheriffdom of Inverness."

The lands are thereafter incorporated into a Barony, to be called the Barony of Corrimony, to be held by the said John Grant, and his heirs male, as a free barony for ever from the King, and his successors in office.

In 1580, John, Second of Corrimony, resigned his Barony in favour of Duncan, heir-apparent of the Laird of Grant, who, on 19<sup>th</sup> August, obtained a Crown charter thereof, in virtue of which the Chiefs of Grant have ever since been the feudal superiors of that estate. In granting to John's successor a renewal of the title in 1610, John, Laird of Grant, retained Shewglie and **Lochletter**, which accordingly ceased to form part of Corrimony.

### Lochletter House

The dwelling-houses of the lairds and the houses of Balmacaan, Shewglie, and **Lochletter**, were probably stone built as early as the sixteenth century, and the Castle was a marvel of substantial masonry as early as the thirteenth. It was not, however, till the seventeenth century that turf and heather gave place to slate on the roof of the residence of the lairds of Glenmoriston ; and slate was first used by the proprietors of Corrimony in 1740, when the Old House the oldest dwelling now in the Parish was erected. In 1761 and 1762 the present houses of **Lochletter** and Shewglie were respectively built, and covered with slate ; and before the end of the century the Manse, and the houses of Lakefield, Dulshangie, and Polmaily, were roofed with the same material.

### Whisky

During the seventeenth century whisky began to take the place of ale, and so great did the demand for the spirit become that the leading men in the Parish started small stills on their own account. "Shewglie, **Lochletter**, Corrimony, Dulshangie, Peter Mackay in Polmaily, John Macdonald in Achmonie, and William Macdonald in Temple," says Lorimer, "distill spirits, and all except Corrimony and John Macdonald use the Laird's woods for the distillery. They should not be allowed to take so much as a rotten stick for this purpose. Above 150 bolls of bere will be yearly distilled by these people in spirits, besides what bere grows on their own farms. If these people will brew and distill, they should pay something for fire, of which none should be wood." The tenants, he states elsewhere, "not only distill into aquavita what barley grows to themselves, but they import and distill a great deal more."

The result of stringent revenue laws was to suppress these small distilleries, and give rise to illegal distillation, and to a brisk illicit trade which continued till far into the nineteenth century. A licensed brewery was erected within that century at Lewistown, and another at Balnain. The latter entirely disappeared years ago. In the former beer and porter are still sold, but none manufactured.