



A Chronology of Tarbert Castle and the Lordship of Knapdale



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1. Introduction

This chronology has been compiled to be a companion piece to the publication of the excavation results of the archaeological fieldwork undertaken at Tarbert Castle in 2018-2019, Tarbert Castle, Argyll; Community Excavations at a Royal Castle of Robert I'. <https://journals.socantscot.org/index.php/sair/issue/view/33>. The excavation project also provided an opportunity for Dr Mark Thacker as part of The Scottish Medieval Castles and Chapels C14 Project to undertake analysis of the fabric of Tarbert Castle and production of his subsequent publication, Thacker, M 2022 'Regime change in 13th-century western Scotland: a reconsideration of the architectural form and history of the royal castle at Tarbert, Argyll'. *Proc Soc Antiq Scot* 151, 175–202.

While the excavation publication references some of the historical documents that relate to Tarbert Castle and the lordship of Knapdale it was felt a more comprehensive corpus of documents was warranted and these are presented in this chronology.

The chronology below reproduces extracts from published texts which are highlighted in grey and are individually referenced in full although some abbreviations have been used, these listed immediately below.

Abbreviations

AU: Annals of Ulster. Author unknown. CELT: the Corpus of Electronic Texts
<https://celt.ucc.ie/published/T100001A/index.html> last accessed 13-12-2022.

NAS: National Register of Archives of Scotland
<https://catalogue.nrscotland.gov.uk/nrsonlinecatalogue>

RPS: The Records of the Parliaments of Scotland to 1707. Ed. K Brown. University of St Andrews. <http://www.rps.ac.uk>

POMS: People of Medieval Scotland: 1093–1371. Ed. A Beam, J Bradley, D Broun, J Davies, M Hammond, N Jakeman et al. 2019. Glasgow and London. <https://www.poms.ac.uk>. Last accessed 25 April 2022.

SHS Stennis Historical Society Cantonments of the British Army in Scotland
<https://sites.google.com/view/stennishs>

2. Historical Summary

The wider history of Tarbert and its castle has been previously outlined by Dugald Mitchell in *Tarbert, Past and Present: Gleanings in Local History* this later summarised by MacIntyre and Smith in the *History of the Royal Castle of Tarbert* (Mitchell 1886; MacIntyre and Smith 1974). An outline of the historical background to the castle is given by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) in their *Inventory of Argyll, volume 1, Kintyre* with the history of the castle further explored in an accompanying account by Dunbar, and Duncan's *Tarbert Castle: a contribution to the history of Argyll* (RCAHMS 1971: no. 316, 182-184; Dunbar and Duncan 1971). A translated version of the 1325/1326 exchequer roll is included in *Origines parochiales Scotiae* and by Marion Campbell in the *Kist* (Innes 1854, 32-38; Campbell 1987), while articles about the castle have also appeared in editions of the *Kist* (Campbell 1972; Ferguson and MacKenna 1987; Beaton 2002; Clerk 2002).

2.1 Tarbert and Dalriata

It has been suggested that the site of Tarbert Castle can be identified with the *Tairpert Boiter* mentioned twice in the 8th century Annals of Ulster, named alongside Dunaverty (*Aberte*, Canmore ID [38302](#)), Dunadd (*Dun Att*, Canmore ID [39564](#)) and Dunollie (*Dun Ollaigh*, Canmore ID [23027](#)), (Bannerman 2016: 16).

2.2 Norse Incursion into Knapdale

After its mention in the Irish Annals Tarbert is seldom mentioned in extant historical records until the 11th century when it appears under another name in the *Orkenyinga saga* relating to the expedition by King Magnús Óláfsson (Magnus Barelegs) of Norway during his invasion of the Hebrides and Kintyre in 1098. Prior to this who had political control over the Kintyre peninsula and Knapdale *vis-à-vis* the Kingdom of the Isles is not at all certain and the story of Magnús is regarded by some scholars as suspect given that the account dates to the 13th century when tensions between the Scottish and Norse crowns over the Hebrides was at its height and the Scottish king referred to in the account was Malcolm and not Edgar as it should have been at this time. Despite this, the existence of several accounts of Magnus's expedition suggests that even if the tale of Magnus drawing his boat over the isthmus is apocryphal his expedition to the *Sudreyar* did take place with Magnus later making peace with King Malcolm, this later known as the 'Treaty of Tarbert' (Anderson 1922: 113; Woolf 2004: 101). The sagas use the word *eið* (*Satirismula eið*) to describe the Tarbert isthmus, a word that has been noted elsewhere in medieval Norway to also delineate portages. It has also been argued that these portages were considered as part of the navigable sea and not part of the land, which might make sense of Magnus's claim that Kintyre was an indeed an island (McCullough 2000: 23).

2.3 Regime Change in Knapdale in the 13th Century

Tarbert next gains a mention in historical sources when Donald MacGilchrist is mentioned as Lord of Tarbert (*Douenaldus Makgilcriste dominus de Tarbard*) in a charter dated to around 1250. Donald MacGilchrist as Mark Thacker and others have suggested may have been a brother of Gillescop and Eoghan (*Eugenius*) MacGilchrist who were granted large estates in Glassary and Cowal by Alexander II in 1240 (Thacker 2017; Innes, C 1832: 157; MacPhail 1916: 121). The MacGilchrist kindred were dynastically connected to other important landed families in what is now mid Argyll and Cowal, that included Clann Suibne, who were likely the major force in Knapdale up until the middle of the 13th century their lordship based on the two strongholds of Castle Sween, built c.1200, and Skipness Castle (Canmore ID [39798](#)) likely built in early decades of the 13th century (Thacker 2022).

By the early 1260's there appears to be a displacement of the Mac Suibne kindred from Knapdale, by the Stewarts under Walter 'Balloch' earl of Menteith, when in 1262 there is a transfer of title of Skipness Castle from Dugall Mac Suibne to Walter Stewart (Innes 1832: 120-122; Graham & Collingwood 1923). The Menteith Stewart's appeared to maintain this position in Knapdale up until King John's ordinances of 1293 for establishing sheriffdoms in the west when Knapdale is listed as being under the control of the earl of Menteith (*comitis de Menteth de knapdal*) (Thomson & Innes 1814: 447b).

2.4 A Castle of Robert I

It is during the reign of Robert I (1306-1329) that Tarbert itself next comes into view when in 1315 the king received a charter resignation from John of Glassary at Tarbert next to Loch Fyne (*apud Tarbart' iuxta Louchfyne*), while in the same year according to Barbour in '*The Bruce*' the Scottish king had his boats drawn across the Tarbert isthmus (Duncan 1988: 69; Duncan 2007: 566-567). Tarbert Castle crucially earns its first mention in extant historical documents within the earliest surviving Scottish exchequer roll listing the work undertaken at the castle between 1325-1326 submitted by its then Constable John de Lany (Stuart & Burnett 1878, 50-55). Between 1327-1329 Tarbert and its castle appear regularly in the exchequer rolls with one appearance in 1330 (Stuart & Burnett 1878: 52-58, 69, 118, 127, 135, 136, 153, 175, 184, 187-189, 191, 196, 201, 207, 213, 223, 237, 239, 287).

2.5 The Menteith/Stewart and MacDonald Families

Apart from a mention in 1355 Tarbert Castle disappears historically until the end on the 15th century. For much of the 14th and 15th century the control of Knapdale lands involved the Menteith/Stewart and the MacDonald Lords of the Isles, their fortunes attached to wider political alliances and increasingly with their relationship to the Scottish Crown. For example, in 1336, John of Islay received from Edward Balliol a grant for lands on Skye, Lewis, Kintyre and Knapdale. In 1341, with the return of David II from exile, Knapdale, along with Islay and Kintyre were returned to Robert Stewart (the king's nephew and heir). Between 1346-57 the Earl of Menteith gave numerous charters of lands in his Knapdale estate to Gillespie Campbell, which perhaps indicates the growing importance of the Campbell family in the area. In 1360 Sir John Menteith died, his lands in Knapdale taken by the Crown and granted in 1372 to John of Islay, Lord of the Isles (son in law of King Robert II and head of the MacDonalds).

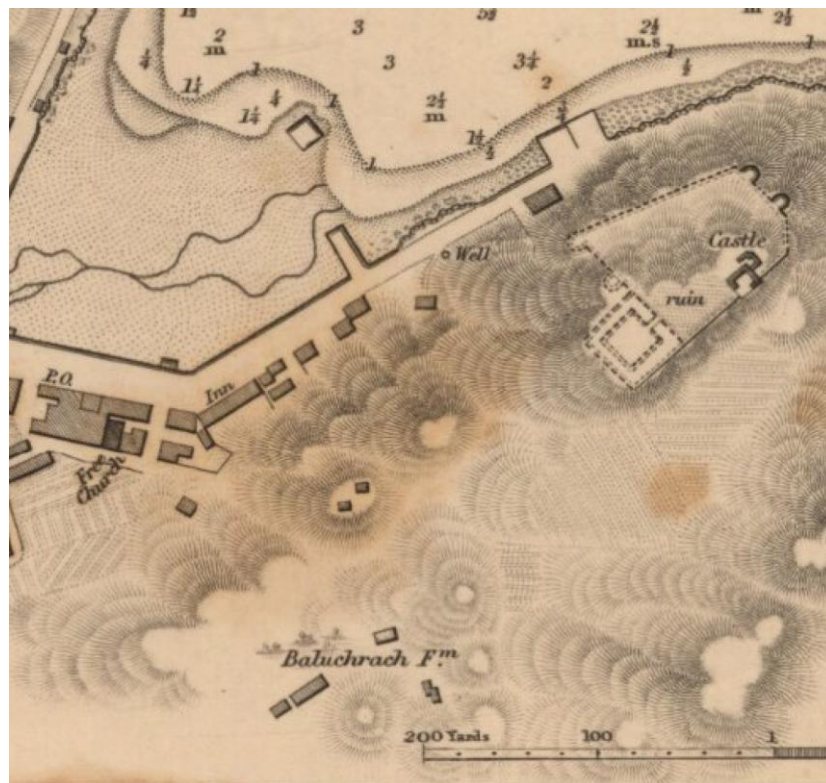
2.6 James IV and the Campbell Family

Knapdale stayed with the Lords of the Isles until their forfeiture in 1475 with some of these lands were granted by James IV to the Colin Campbell earl of Argyll in 1481, who had by this time had established the Campbells a one of the most powerful families in Argyll.

It is in the reign of the same king, James IV, that Tarbert Castle again enters the records when, between 1494-1499, the king personally led military campaigns to the Western Isles. In July 1494 James summoned a host consisting of 'the Lords of the Westland, Southland, and Eastland, to the meeting of the King at the Tarbert' and during his visit to Tarbert Castle the king ordered the repair or the '*biggin*' of the castle, this, and its provisioning can be gleaned from various exchequer accounts (Dickson 1877: 215, 223, 235, 237, 244; Burnett 1887: 407, 451, 452, 477, 478). On his visit to Tarbert in 1499 James IV made Archibald Campbell, earl of Argyll, constable of the castle (Livingstone 1908: 413, 58). Five years later in 1504 king James made Archibald Campbell his Royal Lieutenant in Argyll and the following year granted him the '*offices of justiciary and sheriffship, crownary and chamberlainry of the lands and lordship of Knapdale and Kintyre, and Captain of the House and fortalice of Tarbet when it shal be built....*' (RCHM 1874: 239, 485). The castle is thereafter mentioned in a series of crown charters, granting lands in Knapdale including the keeping of the castle to Archibald Campbell's heirs and successors (Paul 1883: 348, 78-79; 2306, 527; 2814, 654; Thomson 1886: 2017, 525; Thomson 1888: 25, 9; Thomson 1890: 265, 97; RCHM 1874: 243, 485).

2.7 Civil War and Rebellion in the 17th and 18th centuries

During the 17th and 18th centuries the castle enters the records as having been garrisoned in times of strife, although, given the troubled history of the region in this period, the few mentions it does have is perhaps an under representation of the actual case. This is also a period where the MacAlisters (of Tarbert) become hereditary constables of Tarbert Castle under the Campbells. The castle appears to have been used as a place of imprisonment during the wars of the three kingdoms (*RPS*: A1662/5/1). During the Cromwellian campaign into Scotland in 1652 the castle was garrisoned by some of Cromwell's troops where they were famously attacked by the locals (Firth 1895: 362, 366; MacKinnon: 54; Whitlocke 1853: 451; Brown 1910: 2-3). During the rebellion of the earl of Argyll in 1685 the castle was garrisoned by government troops under the Marquess of Atholl and subsequently held by the Campbells until the rebellion's failure (Murray 1908: 201, 205-206). A few years later in 1689 a government-backed Campbell militia was stationed at Tarbert Castle in readiness to counter the threat of a Jacobite invasion and similarly in 1745 the troops of the earl of Loudoun, forming part of the Argyll Militia, were stationed at Tarbert (*NAS*: GD 14/22; GD 14/112; Macpherson 1775: 358). Almost two decades later it appears that the castle had fallen into disrepair when in 1762 the earl of Argyll sues the creditors of the MacAlisters of Tarbert for having failed to fulfil the conditions stipulated in their fute of Tarbert Castle (Mitchell 1886: 80-81). No repairs to the castle appear to have been undertaken after this period and the castle subsequently fell into further disrepair.



Admiralty Chart of East Loch Tarbert 1847

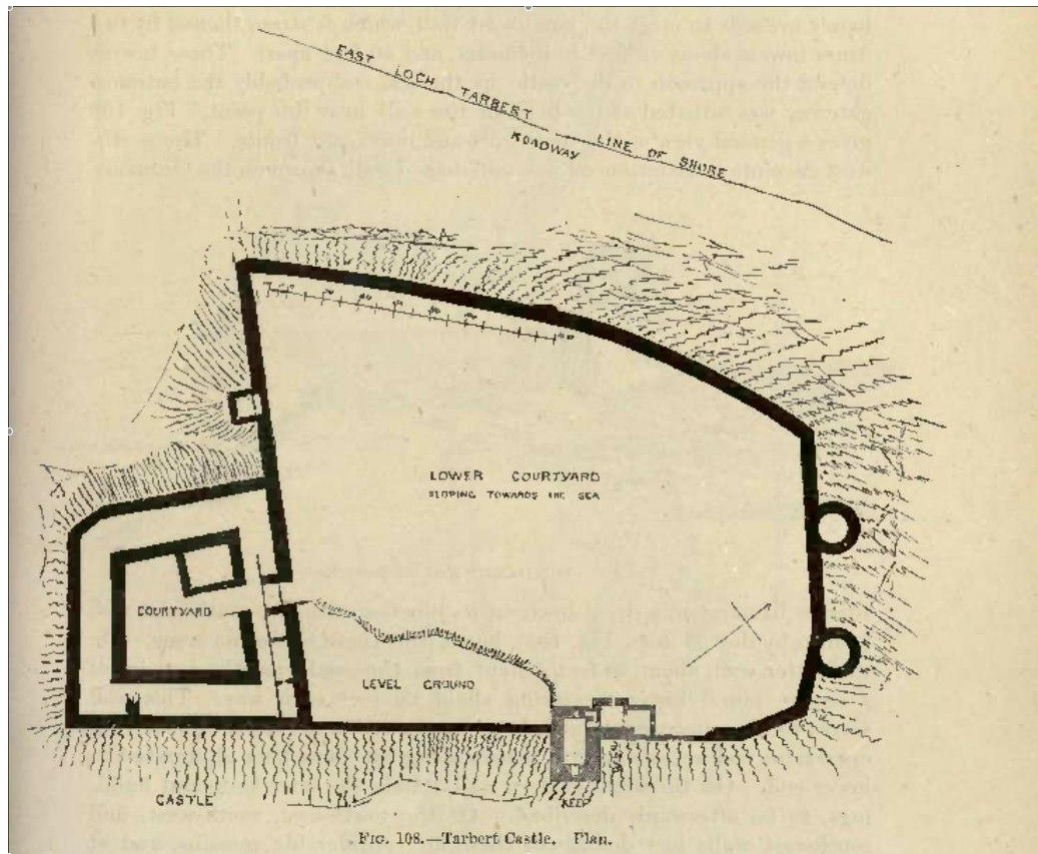


1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of Tarbert Castle and surrounding area

3. Past Studies of the Castle Remains

The suggestion that the castle at Tarbert dates before the early 14th century appears to have been made initially by MacGibbon and Ross in the late 19th century in their five-volume *Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland* (MacGibbon & Ross 1887). MacGibbon and Ross proposed three major phases of construction at Tarbert the first phase consisting of the construction of a small sub-square enclosure ‘Castle’ (the Inner Bailey at Tarbert) situated on the summit of the site. They ascribed this to their 13th-century ‘First Period –1200-1300’ of Scottish castle construction pointing out that Tarbert in terms of plan and size had a ‘strong resemblance to Kinclaven Castle’ (Canmore ID [28498](#)) in Perthshire and speculated that Tarbert Castle was one of the royal fortresses handed over to Edward I by John Baliol, after Edward placed him on the throne in 1292. The second phase of construction at Tarbert involved the construction of large irregularly shaped ‘Lower Courtyard’ (the Outer Bailey) attached to the earlier smaller primary enclosure with drum towers adjacent to a probable entranceway in the north-east with two further mural towers projecting from the south-west curtain wall. They ascribed this phase to the early 14th century based on a surviving account of John de Lany, the castles constable, in the Scottish Crown’s Exchequer Rolls detailing various ‘additions and repairs’ undertaken at Tarbert Castle in 1325/6 during the reign of Robert I (Stuart & Burnett 1878: 52-58). The third phase comprised the construction of a four-storey ‘Keep’ or Tower House, which straddled

the south-east curtain wall the larger enclosure. This construction was ascribed to the late 15th or early 16th-century on the basis of the general masonry style and various architectural details and underlined by the above-mentioned historical account of 1494 that tells of the ‘*biggin*’ of the castle during King James IV’s expedition into the western isles, although there is no information on what was actually built or repaired.



Plan of Tarbert Castle as published in MacGibbon & Ross 1887: fig. 108

A detailed drawn survey of the castle fabric was undertaken in 1966 by RCAHMS, the results appearing in their above-mentioned *Inventory of Argyll, Kintyre* published in 1971 (RCHAMS 1971: no. 316, 179-184). This produced a more detailed plan and description of the castle site and largely agreed with MacGibbon and Ross’s proposed development of the castle, although they now identified the three phases of construction as the Inner Bailey followed by the Outer Bailey and lastly the Tower House. Also, in 1971 to complement this work John Dunbar the lead architectural investigator of the RCAHMS at the time and Archie Duncan who had recently been appointed as a Commissioner, published a joint article *Tarbert Castle: a contribution to the history of Argyll* in the *Scottish Historical Review* that sought to amplify and underpin their analysis of medieval Argyll that went beyond the official remit of the *Inventory*.

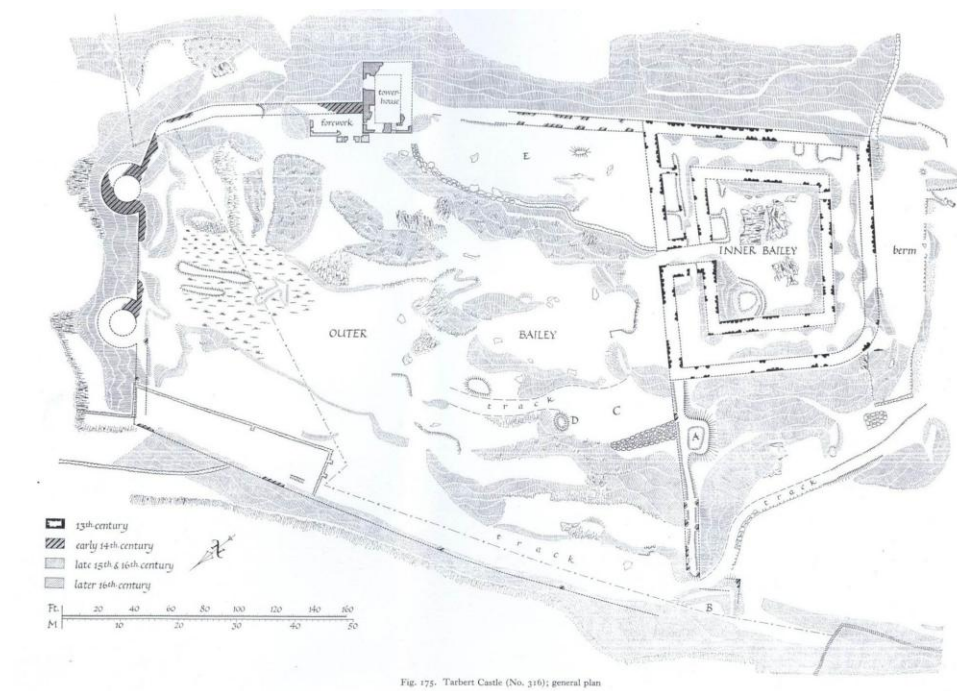
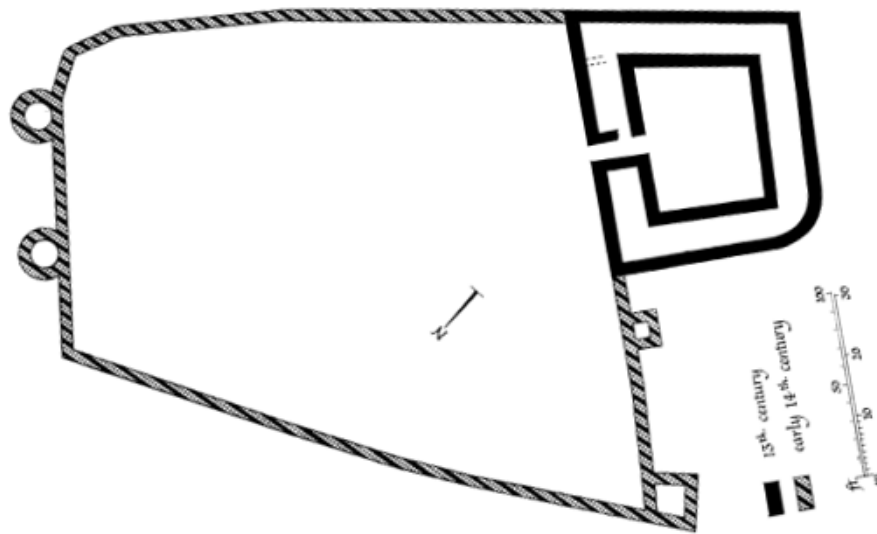


Fig. 175. Tarbert Castle (No. 316); general plan

Plan of Tarbert Castle as published by RCAHMS 1971, SC_2093902 © Courtesy of HES

In their article Dunbar and Duncan described Tarbert castle as ‘...*three distinct units...*’ that appear ‘...*to be the outcome of a separate period of building activity*’ suggesting the Inner Bailey could be identified as belonging to a group of early ‘*simple rectangular castles of enclosure*’ characterised by a ‘*substantial curtain-wall of stone, pierced with few openings, enclosing an oblong or square courtyard around which there were ranged lean-to buildings of stone or timber*’. While they acknowledged that closely datable features were ‘*conspicuously absent*’ from the remaining or visible fabric of the castle, they did state that ‘...*it is to be argued here on the basis architectural evidence that...Tarbert was built before the middle of the thirteenth century*’ based on the similarity of the ground plan of the Inner bailey at Tarbert to the royal sites of Kinclaven and Kincardine Castle (Canmore ID [36061](#)), suggesting all three were the works of either Alexander II or Alexander III (Dunbar & Duncan 1974). They framed the construction and strategic importance of the Tarbert castle within 13th century attempts by the Scottish Crown to control its western seaboard and the western isles suggesting the building of the castle was associated with a documented invasion of Argyll and the Isles by King Alexander II in 1221-1222, against Ruaidhri Mac Raonaill, great grandson of Somerled (Dunbar & Duncan 1971: 2-3; Oram 2012: 79-81).



Plan of Tarbert Castle as published by Dunbar & Duncan: fig. 2.

More recently and as mentioned above an important programme of buildings analysis and materials sampling was undertaken at Tarbert Castle by Dr Mark Thacker under the aegis of the Scottish Medieval Castles and Chapels C14 Project (SMCCCCP). The SMCCCCP has previously examined the chronology of the fabric of several castles in Argyll these including Castle Sween (Canmore ID [39028](#)), Fincham Castle (Canmore ID [22777](#)), Aros Castle (Canmore ID [22272](#)) and Auchadun (Canmore ID [23018](#)) his work also examining the families and lordships that were associated with their construction (Thacker 2017; 2020a; 2020b; 2021). Building on this, the results of Thacker's programme of work at Tarbert Castle has recently appeared in a complementary publication which examined the development and construction of the castle and its place within the lordships that developed in Knapdale in 13th-14th century (Thacker 2022).

Like the castle the first mention of the Burgh of Tarbert is within an exchequer roll this time dating to 1328 which lists the expense of 7 shillings and 8 pence to produce a cocket (stamp seal) for the burgh '*Et pro factura unius cokete ad burgum de Tarbard*' (Stuart & Burnett 1878, 118). This entry suggests that the Burgh was a creation of the regime of Robert I and was very probably based around his new castle although the exact location of the burgh remained unclear. Dunbar and Duncan state that it '*probably occupied the flat-topped ridge immediately to the southwest of the castle...*' and '*...there may be seen traces of buildings, bounded by a rock-lined ditch...*' (Dunbar & Duncan 1971, 15-16). The Royal Commission saw no reason to question this interpretation, and the area of the presumed medieval burgh was scheduled in 1975 (SM 3410) while the castle fabric remains were scheduled earlier in 1935 (SM 276).



Knapdalia Joan Blaeu 1654 NLS EMW.X.015 (formerly WD.3B)

4. Tarbert Early Origins?

The excavation of Tarbert castle produced a radiocarbon date from a fragment of birch obtained from a pre-castle soil lying under the Inner Bailey wall. This was dated between 686-734 AD (677-877 calAD, BP 1246 \pm 24 95% probability SUERC-96577). This date brackets the two mentions of *Tairpirt Boitter* (spelled in various forms) in the Annals of Ulster giving us the possibility that Tarbert castle, as previously postulated is the site of the fort mentioned in the annals, named alongside Dunollie (*Dun Ollaigh*), Dunadd (*Dun Att*) and Dunaverty (*Aberte*). Excavations at both Dunollie and Dunadd have demonstrated that their mentions in the annals correspond with occupation phases uncovered at both sites (Alcock & Alcock 1988; Lane & Campbell 2001). Dunaverty and Dunadd along with *Tairpirt Boitter* were likely controlled by the Cenél nGabráin while Dunollie was a stronghold of the Cenél Loairn two prominent kindreds of Dalriata in the 8th century (Bannerman 1974). Within Scottish Dalriata these two kindreds were perhaps the two most prominent during this time and conflict between them may have resulted in the annal entries both entries recording the burning of a fort at Tarbert.

712

Combusti(o) Tairpirt Boitter

The burning of Tairpirt Boiter
(AU: *Annals of Ulster* AU712.2)

Combustio Tairpirt Boittir apud Dunghal

The burning of Tairpert Boitir by Dúngal
(AU: *Annals of Ulster* AU 731.4)

The 712 entry does not mention who burnt ‘*Tairpert Boiter*’ although a likely candidate is Selbach Mac Ferchair of Cenél Loairn, who also besieged Dunaverty in the same year ‘*Obsesio Aberte apud Selbachum*’ (The siege of Aberte by Selbach) (AU 712.5). The second entry refers to Selbach’s son Dúngal leader of Cenél Loairn possibly leading a campaign against the Cenél nGabráin whose leader was Eochaid at this this time (Bannerman 2016: 109, 113).

If the present Tarbert castle is indeed the site of the *Tairpirt Boitter* of the annals, then the question must be, where are the earlier remains? The other sites mentioned in the annals, Dunollie, Dunadd and Dunaverty along with many other duns and forts in Argyll are built on prominent geological stacks. If an earlier structure existed at Tarbert, and these geological determinants were followed, then the place most likely for the position of an earlier fortification would be on the rise now occupied by the Inner Bailey, and if so, its construction may have eradicated most if not all the evidence of any such building, although pockets of earlier occupation might survive.

After its mention in the Irish Annals Tarbert is seldom mentioned in extant historical records until the 11th century when it appears under another name in the *Orkenyinga saga* relating to the expedition by King Magnus Barfod (Barefoot) of Norway during his invasion of the Hebrides and Kintyre in 1098. Prior to this who had political control over the Kintyre peninsula and Knapdale *vis-à-vis* the Kingdom of the Isles is not at all certain and the story of Magnus’s is regarded by some scholars as suspect given that the account dates to the 13th century when tensions between the Scottish and Norse crowns over the Hebrides was at its height and the Scottish king referred to in the account was Malcolm and not Edgar as it should have been at this time. Despite this, the existence of several accounts of Magnus’s expedition suggests that even if the tale of Magnus drawing his boat over the isthmus is apocraphil his expedition to the Sudreyar did take place with Magnus later making peace with King Malcolm, this later known as the ‘Treaty of Tarbert’ (Woolf, 2004, 101).

1098

King Magnus held northward, along the coasts of Scotland, and messengers came to him from Malcolm, the King of Scots, to ask for peace. They said that the King of Scots was willing to give him all the islands lying west of Scotland, between which and the mainland he could pass in a vessel with the rudder shipped. Thereupon King Magnus landed in Satiri (Kintyre), and had a boat drawn across the neck (isthmus) of Satiri, he himself holding the helm, and thus he gained possession of the whole of

Satiri, which is better than the best island of the Sudreyar, Man excepted. It is in the west of Scotland, and on the land side there is a narrow isthmus, across which vessels are frequently drawn. Thence King Magnus went to the Sudreyar, and sent his men into Scotland's Fiord. They rowed in along one coast and out along another, and thus took possession of all the islands west of Scotland.

(Anderson, A O 1922, *Early Sources of Scottish History A.D. 500 to 1286*, vol II, 113).

While the isthmus in question is undoubtedly Tarbert (Gaelic: *Tairbeart*) the sagas use the word *eið* (*Satirismula eið*) to describe that isthmus, a word that has been noted elsewhere in medieval Norway to also delineate portagees. It has also been argued that these portages were seen as part of the navigable sea and not part of the land, which might make sense of Magnus's claim that Kintyre was an indeed an island (McCullough 2000, 23).

Despite his peace with King Malcolm, it seems likely that Magnus's claim to Kintyre was never recognised by the Scottish crown as its authority in the west is perhaps attested to by a charter dated between 1141 and 1147 in which David I grants half the *teind* (tithe) of his *cáin* (tribute) from Argyll and Kintyre to the canons of Holyrood Abbey, this referring to territories in Cowal, Lorn and Mid Argyll. However, in a later charter of 1150-52 David I grants to Dunfermline Abbey the other half of his *teind* and *cáin* lands in Argyll and Kintyre but adding '*in whatever I should receive it*', (*Et concede eidem ecclesie dimidiam partem decimi mei de Ergaithel et de Kentir, co scilicet anno quando ego ipse inde recepero Can*) (Laurie 1905: 116-118, 169-171, 383-385, 417-419). This appears to suggest that the crown had lost control within part of Argyll, and it seems likely that the main any challenge to royal authority in Argyll and the Isles at this time came from Somerled MacGillbrigte, the progenitor of the MacDougalls, MacDonalds and MacRuairis (known collectively as the MacSorleys) who was ultimately killed during another rebellion at the Battle of Renfrew in 1164.



Cantyre [ca.1636-52], Robert Gordon, NLS Adv.MS.70.2.10 (Gordon 39)

5. The Donnsleibhe Lordship of Knapdale

Despite possible losses of territory elsewhere, Somerled's son Ranald appears to have retained Kintyre where he may have been based. The situation to the north in Knapdale is unclear but by the 13th century part of Knapdale and what is now mid Argyll along with areas in Cowal appear to have been held by members of the family collectively known as the Donnsleibhe kindred, that included the MacSweens, MacGilchrists and the MacLachlans

By the early 12th century, the kings of Scots and their greater vassals were beginning to construct stone and mortar castles. These physical expressions of their lordship along with being high status residences became centres of administration, tax and tribute gathering and estate produce management that projected physical control over surrounding landscapes. Within western Scotland and the Hebrides these stone-and-mortar defensive structures have been seen as local manifestations influenced by Norman or Irish developments, while Oram has argued for a '*Scandinavian-filtered European influence*'.

In the west and in Knapdale by the early 12th century these projections of lordship had already made an appearance in the construction of Castle Sween, built by the descendants of Suibhne, son of Donnsleibhe which was built c.1200 and this may have been joined by Skipness in the early decades of the 13th century.

Skipness and of course Tarbert in the medieval period and later lay in the parish of Kilcalmonell and were considered to be in Knapdale. Both castle Sween and Skipness indicate that a large part of Knapdale was held by the MacSween family, although whether they directly held any territory that included Tarbert in the 12th and early 13th century is less than clear.

In c.1250 there is a charter by Donald MacGilchrist lord of Tarbert (*Douenaldus Makgilcriste dominus de Tarbard*) that grants Paisley Abbey the right to cut wood on his land, although where exactly is unspecified. However, one of the witnesses to the charter was Hugh of Parcliner, perpetual vicar of Kylmacolme (*Hugone de Parcliner perpetuo vicario de Kylmacolme*) this likely being the chapel associated with Skipness (dedicated to St Columba and named *Sancti Columbe* in a charter of 1261, see below) indicating the Donald's Lordship of Tarbert was located in Knapdale.

c. 1250

Carta Donaldi Makgilcriste domini de Tarbard

UNIVERSIS sancte matris ecclesie filiis presentibus et futuris Douenaldus Makgilcriste dominus de Tarbard eternam in Domino salutem. Noveritis me devota mente concessisse et per presentem cartam meam, pro salute animarum

antecessorum meorum et pro salute anime mee, in puram et perpetuam elemosinam dedisse pro me et heredibus meis Deo, Sancto Jacobo et Sancto Mirino de Passelet ac monachis ibidem Deo servientibus et imperpetuum servituris, liberam licentiam amputandi, capiendi et abducendi omnimodum meremium eisdem reigiosis placens, pro edificatione et sustentatione monasterii sui et domus de Passelet, infra oranes silvas totius terre mee. Do etiam et concedo pro rae et heredibus meis eisdem religiosis et hominibus suis imperpetuura tam liberum introitum et exitum cum omnimodis raeremiis fuis amputatis, amputandis et abducendis, quam liberara licentiam, fine visu serjantis, amputandi, capiendi et abducendi. In cujus rei testimonium presenti carte mee sigillum meum apposui. Hiis testibus, domino Hugone de Parcliner perpetuo vicario de Kylmacolme, domino Nicholaio capellano, domino Macolmo capellano.

Translation

To all the sons of holy mother church now and to be (or present and future) Donenald Makgilcriste, Lord of Tarbard, sends eternal greeting in the Lord. Know that I with a devout mind have granted, and by this my present charter, for the salvation of the souls of my ancestors and for the salvation of my own soul, have given in pure and perpetual alms on behalf of me and my heirs to God, St. James and St. Mirin of Paisley, and the monks the reserving God and to serve him for ever, the free right of cutting, taking, and carrying away all kinds of timber pleasing to those "religious," for the building and maintaining of their monastery And house of Paisley, within all the woods of my whole land. I give also and grant on behalf of me and my heirs to the same "religious" and their men for ever as free entry and exit with all kinds of timber cut, or about to be cut and carried away as the free right of cutting, taking and carrying away without the oversight of the sergeant. In testimony of which thing I have affixed my seal to my present charter. These being witnesses, Sir Hugh of Parlciner, perpetual vicar of Kylmacolme; Sir Nicholas, chaplain; Sir Malcolm, chaplain.

(Innes, C (ed.) 1832 *Registrum Monasterii De Passelet, Cartas, Privilegia, Conventiones, Aliaque Munumenta Complectens, A Domo Fundata A. D. Mclxiii Asque Ad A. D. Mdxxix*, 157)

David Sellar has suggested that Donald was possibly a brother of Gillespcop and Eoghan (*Eugenius*) MacGilchrist who were granted large estates in Glassary and Cowal by Alexander II in 1240, in one of the earliest surviving charters relating to Argyll). The MacGilchrists claimed similar ancestry to the MacSweens and from the eponymous Gilchrist a son (or perhaps brother) of Donnsluibhe. Donalds grant of 1250 gives Paisley Abbey the right to cut wood on his land, although where exactly is unspecified. If Donald has been correctly identified as the lord of Tarbert it is quite possible he had control of any castle in this period, although this has to remain speculation (Sellar, 1971; MacPhail, 1916,121).

Donald MacGilchrist may have been a brother of Gillespcop and Eoghan (*Eugenius*) MacGilchrist who were granted large estates in Glassary and Cowal by Alexander II in 1240. The MacGilchrist kindred, as descendants 'Donnsluibhe, of were dynastically

connected to other important landed families in what is now mid Argyll and Cowal that also included the MacLachlan, Lamont and McNaughton kindreds. Also, part of this grouping were the MacSweens, the eponymous Suibhne another son of Donnsluibhe, who were the major force in Knapdale up until the middle of the 13th century their lordship based on the two strongholds of Castle Sween built c.1200 which was likely joined by Skipness Castle in the early decades of the 13th century (Thacker 2022). Both Skipness, Castle Sween and Tarbert were in lordship of Knapdale in the medieval period and both lay in the parish of Kilcalmonell. Both castle Sween and Skipness indicate that a large part of Knapdale was held by the MacSween family and their associated kindreds, although whether they directly held any territory that included Tarbert in the 12th and early 13th century is less than clear.



Tarbert Castle, unknown date, Joshua Cristall (1765-1847)

6. The Mentieth/Stewart Lordship of Knapdale

By the early 1260's there appears to be a displacement of the Donnsluibhe kindred, namely the MacSweens, by the Stewarts under Walter earl of Menteith. This transference of title is highlighted in two surviving documents in the Paisley Chartulary. The first is dated to 1261 where Dugall son of Suibhne (*Dusgallus filius Syfyn*) granted to the monks of Paisley, with the consent of John, his heir, the right of the patronage of the church of Kilcolmonel (*Sancti Colmaneli*) in Kintyre along with the dependent chapel of St. Columba (*Sancti Columbe*) situated near his castle of Skipness '*juxta castrum meum de Schepehinche*'.

Donatio super jure patronatus Sancti Colmaneli, per Dugallum filium Syfyn, in Kentir.

OMNIBUS sancte matris ecclesie filiis et sidelibus presens scriptuni visuris vel audituris Dugallus filius Syfyn salutem. Noverit vestra universitas me, caritatis intuitu et de mera voluntate mea et de assensu Johannis heredis mei, dedisse, concessisse et hac presenti carta mea confirmasse, pro salute anime mee, Juliane et Johanne sponsarum mearum, et antecessorum meorum et successorum, Deo et Sancti Jacobo et Sancti Mirino de Passelet et monachis ibideni Deo servientibus et imperpetuum servituris, jus patronatus ecclesie Sancti Colmaneli que sita est in terra mea de Kentyr, in liberam puram et perpetuam elemosinam, cum omnibus pertinentiis, terris, libertatibus et aysiamentis predicti ecclesie spectantibus vel spectandis; et cum capella Sancti Columbe que sita est juxta castrum meum de Schepehinche, post decessum Clementis rectoris ejusdem ecclesie; Tenendum et habendum predictis monachis de Passelet imperpetuum, adeo libere, quiete, pacifice et honorifice, sine omni onere seculari, sicut predicti monachi aliquas ecclesias in toto regno Scotie de dono aliquis, liberior, quietius, plenius et honorificentius tenent et possident. Insuper dedi et legavi corpus meum ecclesiastice sepulture in monasterio de Passelet sepeliendum, ubicunque in fata decesserim, sine spe mutandi propositum et tale legatum per aliquod testamentum subsequens in posterum conditurum. In ejus rei testimonium presenti scripto sigillum meum apposui.

Hiis testibus, domino Waltero Senescallo comite de Menteth, dominis Thoma Croc, et Fynlelo de Stragrif, militibus, magistro Symone de Bygres precentore Glasguensi, magistro Ada de Lochmaban, domino Wilhelmo capellano de Passelet, David Syward clerico, et multis aliis. Datum apud Passelet die dominica In ramis palmarum anno gratie millesimo ducentesimo sexagesimo primo.

Translation

Gift of the right of patronage of the church of St Colmanel

Dougall son of Sweeney, with the assent of John his heir, has given, granted, and by this his present charter established, for the welfare of his soul, and those of Juliana and Joanna his spouses, to Paisley Abbey, the right of patronage of the church of St Colmanel which is located in his land of Kintyre, in free, pure and perpetual alms, with all pertinents, lands, liberties and easements, and with the chapel of St Columba that is located next to his castle of Skipness after the death of Clement the rector of that church, holding without any secular burden. Moreover, he has given and bequeathed his body for burial in the monastery of Paisley

Witnesses

Waltero Senescallo comite de Menteth (Walter Stewart, Earl of Menteith), *dominis Thoma Croc* (Lord Thomas Crook) *et Fynlelo de Stragrif, militibus* (Finlay of Strathgryfe, knight *magistro Symone de Bygres precentore Glasguensi* (Sir Simon of Biggar, precentor of Glasgow), *magistro Ada de Lochmaban* (Sir Adam of Lochmaben), *domino Wilhelmo capellano de Passelet* (Lord William, chaplain of Paisley) *David Syward clerico* (David Siward, clerk)

(Innes, C (ed.) 1832 *Registrum Monasterii De Passelet, Cartas, Privilegia, Conventiones, Aliaque Munimenta Complectens, A Domo Fundata A. D. Mclxiii Asque Ad A. D. Mdxxix*, 120-121)

In the following year Walter Stewart, the earl of Mentieth (*Walterus Senesceallus comes de Mentheth*) confirmed the grant of Dugall son of Sween (*Dufgallus fillus Syfyn*) previously made to Paisley Abbey before he (Dugall) gave him (Walter) his land of Skipness (*terram suam de Schyphinche*).

1262

Confirmatto Walteri comitis de Mentheth, super donatione Dugalli, ecclesie Sancti Colmaneli in Kentyr.

OMNIBUS Christi sidelibus hoc presens scriptum visuris vel audituris Walterus Senesceallus comes de Mentheth salutem in Domino sempiternam. Noverit universitas vestra me, carltatis intuitu, pro salute auimarum antecessorum meorum in monasterio de Passelet sepultorum, concessisse et hac presenti carta confirmare Deo et Sancto Jacobo et Sancto Mirino predicti loci et monachis ibidem Deo servientibus et imperpetuum servituris, donationem quam Dufgallus fillus Syfyn' predictis monachis fecit et carta sua confirmavit, priusquam terram suam de Schyphinche mihi contulit, super ecclesia Sancti Colmaneli infra predictam terram iita, cum una nummata terre ad predictam ecclesiam spectante; cum capella juxta castrum de Schyphinche. Quare volo et pro me et heredibus meis concedo quod dicti monachi predictam ecclesiam cum omnibus pertinentiis, libertatibus et aisiamentis suis, in liberam puram et perpetuam elemosinam imperpetuum teneant, habeant et possideant, adeo libere, quiete et pacifice, sicut aliquam aliam ecclefiam de dono baronis vel militis liberius et quietius tenent et possident. In cujus rei testimonium huic presenti scripto sigillum meum duxi apponendum.

Hiis testibus, dominis Fynleio de Stragrif, Johanne de Irschyu, militibus, Dugallo filio Sewen, Murchardo filio Malcmur, Johanne Portar, Dunslene fratre Murchardi, Reginaldo clerico, et aliis multis. Datura apud parcura de Irschyn die Jovis proxima postsestum Sancti Marii anno gratie millesimo ducentesimo sexagesimo secundo.

Translation

Walter Stewart, earl of Menteith, for the welfare of the souls of his ancestors buried in the monastery of Paisley, has granted, and established by his present charter, to Paisley Abbey the donation which Dubgall son of Suibne made to the monks, and by his charter established, of his land of Skipness, first conferred on Walter, moreover the church of St Colman situated on that land, with one 'nummata' of land (pennyland) pertaining to the said church, with a chapel next to the castle of Skipness. He wills and grants that the said church is to be held with all its pertinents, liberties and easements, in free, pure and perpetual alms.

Witnesses

Fynleio de Stragrif (Finlay of Strathgryfe), *Johanne de Irschyu, militibus* John Erskine, knight, *Dugallo filio Sewen'* (Dougal, son of Suibne (MacSween))

Murchardo filio Malmur (Murchad, son of Máel Muire (MacSween)), Johanne Portar (John, porter), Dunslene fratre Murchardi (Donn Sléibe or Dub Sléibe (brother of Murchad MacSween)), Reginaldo clerico (Reginald, clerk) (Innes, C (ed.) 1832 *Registrum Monasterii De Passelet, Cartas, Privilegia, Conventiones, Aliaque Munumenta Complectens, A Domo Fundata A. D. Mclxiii Asque Ad A. D. Mdxxix*, 121-122)

Walter Stewart (1225/1230–1293/1294) was brother of Alexander who became fourth hereditary Steward of Scotland in 1241. Walter Stewart had inherited the title of earl of Mentieth through his wife Mary (*jure uxoris*) who he married in 1358. Mary had become Countess of Menteith following the forfeiture and exile of Walter Comyn of Badenoch (who had previously inherited the earldom from Mary's sister Isabella). Walter was obviously using the title by 1261 when he witnesses above mentioned grant to Paisley Abbey of Dugall son of Suibhne. The reason for the transfer of title of Skipness from Dugall to Walter Stewart is unclear but its timing in 1262 appears to coincide with Alexander III's renewed campaign in the Isles attempting to undermine Norse authority along his western seaboard. If the two are connected, then the MacSween kindred may have been seen by the Scottish king as less than reliable adherents to his authority using the powerful Earls of Mentieth to effectively displace them (Graham and Collingwood 1923; 281-282; MacDonald 2021; 106-107).

Castle Sween at this point may have been held by the family of Dugall's brother Maelmore, his sons Murchadh and Dunselve witnessing the 1262 charter. The transfer of title of Skipness likely underscores Stewart expansion into Knapdale by the mid 1260's this following on from earlier Stewart territorial encroachment westward along the Firth of Clyde which likely included Bute by the very late 12th or early 13th century. By the 1220's they had gained lands in Cowal possibly granted to them following Alexander II's 1221/2 expedition into the west while their western lordship possibly also included Arran by the 1250's (Thacker 2022; Caldwell 2022: 7). These Stewart and by association Scottish crown advances into the southern Hebrides were obviously considered a threat by local established magnates as well as a threat to Norse overlordship in the Isles. This ultimately led to a major naval campaign mounted by the Norse in 1230 under Uspak/Håkon when the Stewart caput at Rothesay Castle (Canmore ID [40395](#)), where their regional lordship was based, was targeted being besieged and taken by the Norse and their Hebridean allies.

The evidence of the above-mentioned documents of 1261 and 1262 suggest that Walter of Mentieth had replaced the MacSweens at Skipness and may well have the dominant force in Knapdale by 1263 when another Norse expedition led by King Håkon himself to reassert authority over the Scottish islands when again Rothesay Castle was besieged. The expedition is related in the Saga of Håkon that appears in various versions and translations and while Knapdale is not mentioned as a place, and it is probably safe to assume that the Norse considered it to be part of Kintyre

geographically. The saga states that Kintyre was held by Angus (MacDonald) of Islay, great grandson of Somerled, and Murchaid, who both, under threat from Håkon reluctantly, decided to join the Norse King.

1263

When King Hakon lay in Kerrera he parted the host, and sent fifty ships south to the Mull of Kintyre to plunder there' and when they reached the 'isthmus of Kintyre, to plunder, that they went ashore there, and burned the inhabited lands that they found there, and took all the treasure that they could get. They also slew some men; but all that could, fled away.

(Anderson, A O 1922 *Early Sources of Scottish History A.D. 500 to 1286*, vol II, 617-619 from Frisbók's Hakon Hakon's son's Saga).

The isthmus mentioned in that account is likely a reference to Tarbert and is translated as such in English versions of the sagas.

Now it is to be told of that part of the host which the king had sent to the Tarbert of Kintyre to harry, that they landed there and burned those homesteads that they found, and took such fee as they could lay hands on; they slew also some men. But all the folk fled away with all they could not carry off.

(Dasent, G W 1894 *Icelandic saga and other historical documents relating to the Settlements and descents of the northmen on the British Isles, Vol. V, The Saga of Hakon, and a fragment of the saga of Magnus with appendices*, 350)

Frisbók's Håkon Håkon's son's Saga mentioned in Anderson states

In the south of Kintyre is a castle; in it sat a certain knight. He went to king Hakon, and gave the castle into his power." The king gave the castle to Guthorm Bakka-kólfr.

(Anderson, A O 1922, *Early Sources of Scottish History A.D. 500 to 1286*, vol II, 19).

This no doubt a reference to Dunaverty.

Some histories such as that of Carlyle suggest that Håkon 'While his ships and army were doubling the Mull of Cantyre, he had his own boat set on wheels, and therein, splendidly enough, had himself drawn across the promontory at a flatter part.' saying 'All to the left of me is mine and Norway's!' and this is repeated by Mitchell. However, Carlyle here may be conflating the earlier tale of Magnus Barfod with Håkon's expedition, as Håkon Håkon's son's Saga does tell us of a warband who dragged their boats over to Loch Lomond from Loch long (by way of Tarbet near Arrochar).

Walter Stewart and his brother Alexander played prominent roles in countering King Håkon's expedition, being joint commanders of the Scottish force that confronted the Norse and their allies at the battle of Largs in October that year. Joining Håkon's

expedition was 'Murchaid' who is now recognised as the displaced Murchadh MacSween and likely the same individual who died from starvation in the captivity of the Earl of Ulster in 1267 (Duncan & Brown 1958; Cowan 1990: 119; Sellar 1971: 21; Sellar 2000: 206; Sellar 2017: 37; Barrow 2013: 142; Caldwell 2022: 7; *ALC* 1267.2; Nicholls 2007: 92; Simms 2007: 107; McWhannell 2014: 4).

After Håkon's failed expedition, the Scottish crown would have relied on powerful west-coast kindreds to maintain its influence in the west particularly after the treaty of Perth in 1266 when the Isles were ceded to the Scottish crown. As such The Mentieth/Stewarts appear to have maintained the lordship of Knapdale up until King John's ordinances of 1293 for establishing a scheme of sheriffdoms in the west where Knapdale is listed as being under the control of the earl of Menteith (*comitis de Menteth de knapdal*).

1293

Three sheriffdoms were erected or revived by King John Balliol by Royal ordinance and styled respectively Skye, Argyll, or Lorne, and Kintyre.

The sheriffdom of Argyll or Lorne consisted of

Terra Alexandri de Argadia.
Terra Johannis de Glenurwy.
Terra Gilberti Mc...
Terra Malcolme Mchuyr.
Terra Dugalli de Cragin,
Terra Johannis McGilcrist.
Terra Magistri Radi (Radulphi) de Dundee.
Terra Gileskel McLach[lan],
Terra comitis de Menteth de Knapedal.
Terra Anegusii filii Douenaldi Insularum
et Terra Colini Cambel
et vocet vic de (lorn)

(Thomson and Innes (eds) 1814 *Acts of the Parliaments of Scotland*, vol II. 447b).

1296 March 17-29

Letter from Edward I (doesn't survive) to Alexander of Isles to take the earl of Mentieth's lands

The king ordered him to give seisin of the land of Kintyre to Malcolm de Engles; however, the writer and others already hold lands there, and many say that according to the law of England and of Scotland no one should lose his heritage unless he has been impleaded by writ. The writer has seized these lands from the steward and could take the castle; he has also seized the lands of the earl of Menethet in Argyll by virtue of a writ dated at Wark and delivered last Easter. Asks instructions.

(Bain, J (ed.) 1888 *Calendar of Documents Relating to Scotland*, vol IV, 1357-1509, 152, 152)

The title of the earldom of Mentieth was inherited by Walter's eldest son Alexander, although Knapdale by the beginning of the 14th century appears to have been held by Walter's younger son John of Mentieth. John of Mentieth was an influential baron who gained later notoriety for his part in capturing and handing over William Wallace into English captivity. As with others during the wars of independence he found himself switching alliances. Captured at Dunbar he served with Edward I in France and when returning to Scotland remained in Edward's service. The earldom of Mentieth was forfeited by his nephew Allan after he was captured at Methven, and possibly in compensation John was granted the earldom of Lennox and constablership of Dumbarton Castle. John of Mentieth was in charge of Dumbarton when he refused to surrender it to Robert I in 1306

1301

John MacSween writes to Edward I that his lands in Knapdale are being occupied by John (MacDougall) of Argyll on behalf of John of Mentieth.

1301 After 27th September (when Edward left Bothwell Castle)

Letter from Johannes filius Suffne to King Edward respecting his Proceedings in the Isles of Scotland.

Nobilissimo viro ac excellentissimo domino Eduardo, Dei gratia regi Angliæ, domino Hiberniæ, Johannes suus in omnibus servitiis humilis et fidelis filius Suffnee, salutem, et se promptum ad omnia sua beneplacita facienda. Vestra sciat regia majestas quod ego sum in comitatu nobilis viri domini Hugonis Byseth, et cum classe vestra, quamdiu venit ad regna Scoticana, et postquam recessistis de villa Glasguensi ad castellum de Bhotwill, et in vestro servitio cum dicto Hugone paratus existo et promptus ad omnia vestra beneplacita facienda. Et postquam 'resecit classis \ vestra' de Buth ego adivi et visitavi terram meam de Cnapedale, quam michi vestri gratia per vestras patentes litteras contulistis. Hinc est quod Johannes de Ergadia intravit dictam terram cum manu armata et cum magna potentia ex parte domini Johannis de Menetheh, et me prohibuit habitare dictam terram; qui quidem Johannes de Menetheh est vester adversarius. Quare vestram majestatem regiam humiliter omni prece qua possum exoro supplicans et requiro ut dignemini litteras vestras transmittere ad Johannem de Ergadia, si creditis quod sit in pace vestra, ut deliberet terram meam de Cnapedale mihi, cum omnibus agiamentis ad dictam terram pertinentibus, prout vos per vestras litteras mihi vestri gratia contulistis; et vestram voluntatem expecto, et ad vestra beneplacita sum paratus facienda. Valete semper in Domino.

Translation

To the most noble man and most excellent lord Edward, by the grace of God, king of England, lord of Ireland, John, his humble and faithful son of Sween in all his services, greeting, and ready to do all that pleases him. Let your royal majesty know that I am in the company of the noble man Sir Hugh Bisset, and with your fleet, as long as he comes to the kingdom of Scotland, and after you have retired from the town of Glasgow to the castle of Bothwell, and in your service with the said Hugh I

am ready and able for everything to be done at your pleasure. And after your fleet had left, I went from Bute and visited my land of Knapdale, which you kindly conveyed to me by your open letter. Hence it is that John of Argyll entered the said land with an armed hand and with great power on the part of Lord John of Mentieth, and he forbade me to inhabit the said land; John of Mentieth is your adversary. Wherefore I humbly beseech your royal majesty with every prayer that I can, and request that you condescend to transmit your letters to John of Argyll, if you believe that it is in your peace, that he may dispose of my land of Knapdale to me, with all the rights pertaining to the said land, as you by your letters you have given me your grace; and I await your will, and I am ready to do it at your pleasure. Goodbye always in the Lord. (Stevenson, J 1870 *Documents Illustrative of the History of Scotland, from the death of King Alexander the Third to the accession of Robert Bruce, 1286-1306*, vol II. no. 616)



Tarbert from Loch Fyne, looking west, illustration in Beattie, W 1838 Caledonia Illustrated

7. The Castle of Robert I

After the death of Edward I in 1307 John of Mentieth may have felt released from any obligation to the English crown and was now able to join Robert I. Mentieth may have joined Bruce by 1308 when Dumbarton castle came into Robert I's hands and was certainly in the Bruce camp by 1309 when he witnessed royal charters early in that year (Duncan 1988: no. 5, 294). In 1310 John of Mentieth held was holding Castle Sween for Robert I when Edward II granted the dispossessed Eoin MacSween (son of Dugall, mentioned in the above-mentioned charter of 1261) and his brothers, their ancestral lands of Knapdale (Burnett 1887: 90).

It is possible John of Menteith was granted his Knapdale lands by King Robert prior 1310 when Edward II grants John MacSween and his two brothers 'the whole land of Knapdale which formerly belonged to their ancestors', to make them more hostile to 'our enemy and rebel, John of Menteith', and other enemies of the king. On John of Menteith's death in c.1323 his claim on the lordship of Knapdale and Arran was passed successively to his son and grandson (both Johns).

1310 July 22

Donatio terra; de Knapdale facta Johanni de Ergadia et fratribus suis, fit poterint cam eripre e manibus Scotorum.

Rex omibz ad quos &c. satlm Ut Johes fil Swienei de Ergadia & Terrealnanogh & Murquocgh fr̃es sui Johes de Meneteth inimico & rebelli ñro certisq̃ inimicis ñris in ptibuz Scot' exinde amplius exosos se reddant concessim⁹ eisdem Johi Terrealnanogh & Murquocgh tot ā trān ūe Knapdale cū omibz suis ptin' in Ergadia que quondum suit antecessoz d̃toz Johis Terrealnanogh & Murquocgh hend' sibi & her' suis de nob̃ & hedibuz ñris p s̃vitia inde debita & cōsueta imp̃petuū si cam de manibz inimicoz ñroz potint recupare Et hoc omibz quoz int̃est notū esse volum⁹ p p̃sentes In cuj⁹ &c. T. R. apud Westm' xxij die Jul'.

(MacPherson, D (ed.) 1819 *Rotuli Scotiae*, vol I, 90)

1315

After securing his throne in 1314, Bruce turned his attention to the nobles in Argyll and the Western Isles who had been acting as allies of the Balliol and English factions, the most prominent perhaps being John (MacDougall) of Argyll. King Robert was at Tarbert before May when he likely received the resignation of the Mill of Longfrorgan by John of Glassary which was conveyed to Alexander Keith. Again, however, there is no mention of a castle or indeed a manor house at Tarbert, mentioning its geographical position next to Loch Fyne (*le Tarbartis iuxta Louchfyne*).

Part of Bruce's campaign in the west involved the invasion of Ireland in 1315 by the king's brother Edward Bruce, who was likely supported by Angus Og MacDonald. The invasion was supported by King Robert who likely mustered his forces at Tarbert, where the king appears to have issued a charter, before sailing for the Western Isles with his son-in-law Walter Stewart, until '*all the isles, great and small, were brought to his will.*' In doing so Robert repeated the symbolic annexation of Kintyre and the Isles undertaken by Magnus Barfod, hauling his ships across the Tarbert Isthmus ('...*le Tarbartis juxta Loch fine...*'), this commemorated some year's later (c.1375-77) in Barbour's *Bruce* (Book XV)

1315 May 8

Charter by King Robert the Bruce granting to Alexander Keith part of the mill of Longforgan, 8 May [1315].

Robertus Dei gracia Rex Scotorum, omnibus probis hominibus tocius terre sue, salutem. Sciatis nos dedisse, concessisse et hac presenti carta nostra confirmasse Alexandro de Keth, dilecto et fideli nostro, totam terciam partem molendini de Langforgrunde, vna cum quinque acris terre ad eandem terciam partem molendini pertinentibus: quamquidem terciam partem molendini vna cum quinque acris terre predictis Johannes de Glastrethe nobis per fustum et baculum sursum reddidit, coram quibusdam magnatibus nostris, apud le Tarbartis juxta Louchfyne, vna cum toto iure et clamio quod in eadem tercia parte molendini et terra habuit vel habere potuit pro se et heredibus suis. Tenendam et habendam dicto Alexandro et heredibus suis vel assignatis suis de nobis et heredibus nostris, in feodo et hereditate, adeo libere, quiete, plenarie et honorifice, cum omnibus libertatibus, comoditatibus, aisiamenis et iustis pertinenciis suis, sicut idem Johannes vel aliquis predecessorum suorum dictam terciam partem molendini, vna cum quinque acris terre predictis aliquo tempore tenuit seu possedit vel tenere debuit aut possidere. In cuius rei testimonium presenti carte nostre sigillum nostrum precepimus apponi. Testibus, Bernardo Abbate de Abirbrothoc, cancellario nostro, Gilberto de Haya, Alexandro de Meigners, Hugone de Ross, et Roberto de Keth, militibus; apud Abirbrothoc, octauo die Maii, anno regni nostri decimo.

(Duncan, A A M (ed.) *Registra Regum Scottorum* vol V, The acts of Robert I, no. 69, 353)

1315

Bot to King Robert will we gang
That we heff left unspokyn of lang.
Quhen he convoyit to the se
His broder Edward and his menye
With schippes he maid him yar
Intill the Ilis for till fare
Walter Steward with him tuk he
His mawch, and with him gret menyhe
And other men off gret noblay.
To Tarbart thai held thar way
In galayis ordanit for thar far,
Bot thaim worthy draw thar schippes thar,
And a myle wes betwix the seys
Bot that wes lownyt all with treis.
The kyng his schippis thar gert draw,
And for the wynd couth stoutly blaw
Apon thar bak as thai wald ga
He gert men rapys and mastis ta
And set thaim in the schippis hey
And sayllis to the toppis tey
And gert men gang tharby drawand,

The wyind thaim helpyt that wes blawand
 Sua that in a litill space
 Thar flot all weill our-drawin was.
 And quhen thai that in the Ilis war
 Hard how the gud kyng had thar
 Gert schippis with the saillis ga
 Out-our betwix the Tarbartis twa
 Thai war abaysit sa uterly
 For thai wyst throu auld prophecy
 That he that suld ger schippis sua
 Betwix the seis with saillis ga
 Suld wyne the Ilis sua till hand
 That nane with strenth suld him withstand.
 Tharfor thai come all to the king,
 Wes nane that withstud his bidding
 Outakyn Jhone of Lorne allane,
 Bot weill sone eftre wes he tane
 And present rycht to the king,
 And thai that war of his leding
 That till the king had brokyn fay
 War all dede and distroyit away.
 This Jhone of Lorn the king has tane
 And send him furth to Dunbertane
 A quhill in presoun thar to be,
 Syne to Louchlevyn send wes he
 Quhar he wes quhill in festnyng,
 I trow he maid tharin endyng.
 The king quhen all the Iles war
 Brocht till his liking les and mar
 All that sesoune thar dwellyt he
 At huntyng gamyn and gle.

(Duncan, A A M (ed.) 2007 *The Bruce, John Barbour*, 566-567).

King Robert I, like those before him, understood the strategic importance of Tarbert in controlling southern Argyll and the Inner Hebrides and in recognition of this undertook a major building programme at the castle. Much information of what this work entailed is contained in the earliest extant Scottish Exchequer Roll dating to 1326 (Stuart and Burnet 1878, 52-58). This is an account of the work undertaken at the castle submitted by its Constable John de Lany. The Rolls give an extraordinary glimpse into the life of those associated with its building and provision and a full transcription of the accounts are reproduced below in full.

This offers glimpses into the work undertaken on the fabric of the castle and some of the buildings that lie within and surrounding the castle. If we examine the account and giving some allowance for the transcription of the original Latin, we can perhaps differentiate between new building works and repairs to existing structures.

New work involved the building of a peel tower at West Loch Tarbert, which still hasn't been definitively located, and the construction of a new road between the two Tarberts. Within the castle itself a new kitchen was built along with a house, presumably a workshop, for the goldsmith. A '*fabrilis*' for the 'plummer' was also built, and if this is taken as a literal translation meaning 'carpentry' then it likely indicates the building was a timber construction, perhaps a workshop or shelter. A house was also built for the '*pistrius*' likely a bakery (*pistrinus*). New works also involved the excavation of a mill pond and lade as well as a ditch, presumably defensive, below the castle along with a ditch around the brew house, this likely a drain.

A number of buildings which were likely already in existence were also repaired or upgraded. The building of a new kitchen, of course indicates a previous one, while making the mill 'anew' and 'making good its walls' also suggests this building was already in existence. Also suggestive of extant buildings are 'making a house anew in the island, with roofing for it, and to the chapel'. There was also repairs to the brew house which was fitted out with a lead sink/tub and the making of a '*rudaris*' (rubble) of stone and clay in the middle of the brew house, which may mean a cobbled surface or hard standing. A kiln was also made 'anew' although what type is not stated. The hall also seems to have been extensively refurbished at this time. That it was already in existence is indicated by the underpinning of timber supports of the hall by stone. Carpenters were also involved in 'raising the hall' with 'mowers' presumably providing thatch for roofing it. Clay and sand were used for the walls '*parietibus*' and birch branches collected to repair the hall and rooms, which suggests the use of wattle and daub type construction. The park was also repaired at this time.

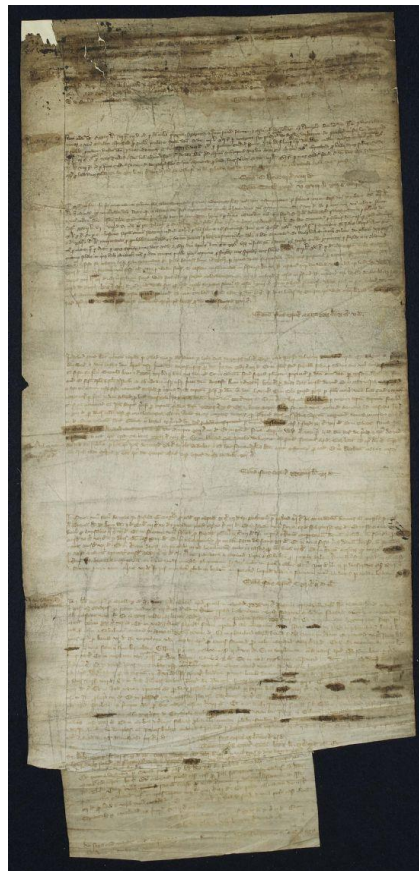
Several trades are named in the construction and repair of the castle, these including, mason, smith, plumber, carpenter, plasterer, roofer and thatcher, while '*sarratoribus*', could translate as tiler? The smith was also paid for working 78 stones of iron, possibly indicating the production of construction materials on site *i.e.* nails, door fittings, yetts, porcullis etc.

The extent of the work on the Castle is perhaps indicated by the buildings mentioned in the documents, including a hall built on piers, houses within the inner court, a chapel, a wine house, bake house, goldsmith's house, a malt-house, brew-house and a mill with a mill-pond and lade, while the castle itself was surrounded by a moat.



Tarbert slott Skotland, 1877, Hans Fredrik Gude (1825–1903)

7.1 Exchequer Roll Accounts



The Exchequer Roll of 1326

COMPOTUM Johannis de Lany Constabularii de Tarbart redditum apud Clacmanan die Lune proximo post festum beate Margarete virginis, anno gre Mo CCCmo XXVI coram domino Episcopo Sodorensi et domino Roberto de Pebles clerlico libacois domus domini nostril Regis, auditoribus per dominum nostrum Regem ad hoc deputatis, de omibus receptis suis et expensis a xvij die Aprilis anno grace MoCCCmo XXV usque in diem presentis compoti.

ACCOUNT of John de Lany, Constable of Tarbart, rendered at Clachmanan the Monday next after the feast of blessed Margaret the Virgin (30 July) 1326, before the lord Bishop of Sodor and Lord Robert of Pebles, Clerk of the Liverance in the lord King's Household, Auditors deputed by our lord the King, of all his receipts and expenses from 18 April in the year of grace 1325 to the present day of accounting.

Denarii

Money

Idem onarat se de xiiij li. vij s. viij d. recptis de Dugallo Cambel, de compoto suo reddito apud Tarbart, de Ballia Atholie.

The equal amount of £13.7.8. recived from Dugallo Cambel after rendering his audit at Tarbert as bailie of Atholl.

Et de lxvj li. xiiij s. iiij d. receptis de eodem Dugallo, loco predicto de compoto suo vicecomitatus Ergadie.

And £66.13.4 recieved from the same Dugall in place of and on account of the sherriff of Argyll.

Et de xiiij li. vj s. viij d. recptis de Dugallo Cambell: post dictum compotum suum redditum apud Tarbart.

And £13.6.8. recived from Dugall Campbell after rendering his audit at Tarbert.

Et de lxxvij li. Receptis de Umfredo de Kirpatrik per compotum suum redditum apud Sconam.

And £77.0.0. recived from Umfredo de Kirpatrik, after rendering his audit at Scone.

Et de cxlj li, xvj s. viij d. receptis de eodem per compotum suum redditom apud Sconam.

And £59.16.8. received from the same after rendering his audit at Scone.

Et de xvij li, receptis de Camerario per copmpotum suum redditum apud Sconam.

And £18.0.0. received from the Chamberlain after rendering his audit at Scone.

Et de lxxvj s. viij d. receptis de domino Benedicto, rectore ecclesia de Arran

And £3.6.8. received from Lord Benedict, Rector of the church of Arran

Et de x lj. receptis de Abbate de Passeleto per W. de Bonkill recipientem.

And £10.0.0. received from the Abbot of Paisley for W. de Bonkill recipient.

Et de Summa huius Recept cccij li. x s.

And the total and its receipt £354.10.0.

Denarii recepti per victualia

Money for the provisions

Idem oneratur de cxxiiij li. vij s. iiij d., receptis per tria milia quingenta sexaginta et quatuor pondera farine et casei recepta de Johanne McDonnyle Ballio de Ile per duas indenturas et unam cedulam computando pro quolibet pondere septem denarios.

The equal amount of £124.7.4d rendered for 3,564 lbs meal and cheese from John McDonyle, bailie of Islay for two indentures and one scheduled calculated at 7d per lb.

Et de iiij li. xvj s., per nonaginta sex pondera casei, recepta de balliuis de kentire, de pondere eiusdem loci, computando pro quolibet pondere duodecim denarios, per duas indenturas.

And £4.16.0 for 96 lbs cheese, received from the bailie of Kintyre, at local weight calculated at 12d per lb. for two agreements.

Et de cvj s. viij d. receptis per quatuor celdras farine receptas de Ada filio Alani, per compotum dicti Ade reddittum revenue apud Tarbart computando pro bolla viginti denarios.

And £5.16. received for 4 chalders meal received from Adam son of Alan, by the account of the said Adam, the revenue rendered at Tarbart calculated at 20d per boll.

Et de vj li. iiij s. receptis per tres celdras tresdecim bollas et dimidiam farine, receptas de dicto Ada, preter compotum suum apud Ruglen, anno gracia MoCCCXXV, computando pro bolla duos solidos.

And £6. 3s. received for 3 chalders thirteen bolls and a half of meal received from from the same Adam, except for his account at Rutherglen, in the Lords Year 1325, calculated at 2 s.per boll

Et de vj li. viij s. receptis per quatuor celdras farine, receptas de Patrico filio Colini, computando pro bolla duos solidos

And £6 4s. received 4 chalders of meal, received from Patrick son of Colin, calculated at 2s. per boll.

Et de iiij lj. xvj s. per tres celdras farine receptas de dno Episcopo Sodorensi computando pro bolla duos solidos.

And £4.16.0 for 3 chalders of meal received from the Bishop of Sodor, calculated at 2s. per boll.

Et de xiiij li. vj s. viij d. receptis de Gilcrist McAy per literam suam de recepto, sed ignorat in cuius manibus litteram suam dimisit.

And £13.6.8. received from Gilbert McAy, by his letter of receipt, but he does not know in whose hands he left his letter.

Summa clxv [li.] iij s. viij d.

Summa Totalis recepte vc xvij li. xiiij s. viij d.

Sum £165. 3.8

sum total recived £518.13.8.

Expense eiusdem

At the expense of the same

In primis computat in solucione facta Roberto Cementario, per duas indenturas facta inter ipsum et computantem, pro fabrica murorum Castri del Tarbart cciiijxx li. lv s.

First of all, the accounts on the payment made to Roberto Cementario, through two indentures made between him and the accountant, for the construction of the walls of the Castle of Tarbert, £282, 15s.

Et eidem, ex curialitate domini Regis, quia in absencia domini Regis augmentavit muros in latitudine ultra conuencionem, cvj s. viij d.

And to the same, by the Lord King's jurisdiction, because in the Lord King's absence he had built the walls wider than agreed on, £106, 8s.

Et per empciomem unius celdre farine et unius celdre orderi solut prefato Roberto ex convencione, primo quarterio anni de hoc compoto, lxiiij s. per terciam indenturam inter ipsos factum.

And the price of a chalder of oatmeal and a chalder of barley to be paid to the aforesaid Robert by agreement, in the first quarter of the year £3, 4s. by the third indenteture made between them.

Et Johanni cementario, per duas indenturas, pro fabrica dicti Castri, xxviiij li. vij s. viij d.

And John the mason, for two indentetures, building the said castle, £28, 7s. 8d.

Et eidem, in parte solucionis pro Construccioone unius Pele nove apud Tarbart occidentali iiij li.

And also, as part payment for building a new 'pele' at Wester Tarbart, £4.

Et Ade Cementario, pro fabrica dicti Castri, per unam indenturam, ix li. x s.

And Adam the mason by covenant for building the said castle, £9, 10s.

Et pro combustlione septem centum sexaginta celdarum calcis pro dicta fabrica, setso Pentecostes anno gracie MoCCCmoXXV usque ad festom Nativitatis Sancti Johannis Baptiste anni gracie etc. XXVI, l li., computando pro quibuslibt centum celdris decern marcas, per literas testimoniales Roberti et Ade Cementariorum

And for the burning of 660 Chalders of lime for that building from Whitsunday (26th May) 1325 to Midsummer (24th June) 1326, £50; calculating for 100 chalders at 20 merks, for testimonial letters Robert and Adam masons.

Et duobus hominibus cariantibus calcem de thorali usque castrum tam per mare quam per terram, per xxix septimanas et tres dies, videlicet, a xvij die Aprilis, anni gracie xxv usque in festum sancti Martini proximo sequens, quolibt percipiente per singulas tres ebdomadas quatuor solidos, et quinique, hominibz cariantibz ut supra per idem tempus, quolibt ipsorum capiente per singulas tres septimanas tres solidos et quatuor denarios xij li. xv s. ij d.

And for two men carrying the quicklime from the coast to the castle during twenty-nine weeks and three days, namely, from 18th April 1325 to the feast of Saint Martin (Martinmas, 11th November) following, each four shillings for every three weeks; to five men for the same service during the same period, each three shillings and sixpence for every three weeks, £13, 15s. 2d.

Et septum hominibus cariantibus ut supra a festo Santci Martini usque festum nativitatis Sancti Johannis Baptiste, anno etc. XXVI, per treginta duas septimanas, quolibet eorum percipiente per septimanam quatuordecim denarios xij li. xvj d.

And seven men for the same service from the feast of Saint Martin (Martinmas) to the feast of the Nativity of John the Baptist (Midsummer) 1326, thirty-two weeks, each fourteen pence a-week, £13, 1s. 4d.

Et in factione unius fosse sub castro, per Wilelmun Scott, ad tascam conuencionatam in presencia domini nostri regis testante super hoc Willemo de Bonkil, et p literam dicti Willelmi de recepto, vij li. iij s. xj d.

And for the making of a ditch below the castle by William Scott according to agreement made in presence of the King, on the testimony of William of Bonkil, and of a letter from William Scott, £7, 3s. 11d.

Et in solucione facta Willemo Scot predicto, pro stagno molendini et ductu aque ad molendium, per tascam in presencia regis testante dicto Willelmo de Bonkil, et per literas eiusdem de recepto, lxi s. viij d.

And payment made to the aforesaid William Scot for a mill-pond and mill-lade by agreement in presence of the King, on the testimony of the said William Bonkil and letter of the said William Scott, £3, 9s. 8d.

Et eidem Willelmo Scot, pro quodam torali de novo facto, ad tascam, xvij s.

And to the same William Scott for the making of a new kiln by agreement, 17s.

Et in soluciones facta dicto Willelmo Scot, in partem solucionis viginti marcarum conuencionatarum secum ad tascam, pro itinere faciendo ab uno Tarbart usque ad alium, per dominum Regem, per duas litteras de recepto ipsius Willelmi, viij li.

And in the payment made to the said William Scot, as part of the payment of the agreed twenty marks kept in safety, for making a road from one Tarbart to the other, for the lord King, by two letters of receipt of the said William, £8.

Et in dimida celdra farine epmta et liberata dicto Willelmo Scot, causa curialitatis, ex precepto Domini Regis pro dicto itinere faciendo, xvj s.

And half a chalder of meal bought and delivered to the said William Scot, under the jurisdiction, by order of the Lord King for the said road 16s

Summa istius expnse ccccxxx li. x s. v d.

in all £430, 10s. 5d.

In solucione facta Domino Mauricio, capellano pro salario suo, pro dimido anno, per litteram suam de recepto, xl s.

In payment made to Sir Maurice the chaplain for his half year's salary, received his letter, 11s.

Et in vadio (domino) Jacobo del More commoranti apud Tarbart, de precepto Domini Regis, a decimo octauo die Aprillis usque primum diem Augusti precipienti per diem quinque denarios, xliij s. iiij d.

And ...(Sir) James del More dwelling at Tarbart by the King's command from 18th April to 1st August, at fivepence a-day, £2, 2s. 4d.

Et in soluciones facta Nigello fabro, pro salario suo vnus anni, finientus ad festum Sancti Petri ad vincula, anno etc., xxvi, xij li. per litteram suam de recepto.

And payment to Neil the smith, as one year's salary to the feast of Saint Peter *ad vincula* (1st August) 1326, £12, on receipt of his letter.

Et in soluciones facta Nigello plumber, precipienti per diem octo denarios per tresdecim dies et dimidium finientes ad festum apostolorum Philippi et Jacobi, et ab illo die usque primum diem Augusti, anno etc., xxvi, lxix s. per duas literas eiusdem de recepto.

And payment to Niel the plumber, at eightpence a-day for thirteen days and a half, ending at the Feast of the Apostles Philip and James (1st May), and of to the 1st day of August, 1326, £3, 9s. on receipt of two letters of the same.

Et in salario Johannis Carpentarii a festo Sancti Martini usque festum nativitatis Sancti Johannis per triginta duas septimanas, precipientis per diem tres denarios, lvi s.

And salary to John the carpenter, from the feast of Saint Martin to the feast of the Nativity of John the Baptist (Midsummer, for thirty-two weeks, at threepence a-day, £2, 16s.

Et in cibo eiusdem, precipientis per quamlibet mensum unam bollam farine unam codrum casei, per precuim in denariis, soluendo pro bolla duos solidos et pro quolibet codro, septum denarios, xx s. viij d.

And food for the same, monthly one boll of meal and one *codrus* of cheese, at two shillings per boll, and sevenpence per *codus*; 20s. 8d.

Et in soluciones Dofnaldi blocker, per viginti septem septimanas finientes ad festum nativitatis Sancti Johannis Baptiste precipientis per septimanam quindecim denarios xxxiij s. ix d.

And payment made to Donald the Blocker, for twenty-seven weeks ending at the feast of the Nativity of John the Baptist (Midsummer), at fifteenpence a-week, £1, 13s. 9d.

Et in servicio Hugonis Dulp, facientis unu molendium de novo ad tascam, lx s. et xiiij d. per duos codros casei, pro curialitate sua

And for the service of Hugh Dulp in making a new mill by agreement, £3, and for two *codri* of cheese for his gratuity, 14d.

Et in servicio duouorum coopertorum domorum per quadraginta dies infra presens compotum cooperencium domos in castro, xiiij s. iiij d.

And for the service of two roofers employed for forty days in roofing the houses in the castle, 13s. 4d.

Et in soluciones facta Gilmor McKathil ex precepto Domini Regis, per literas suas patentes pro viginti caslamos casei farine, xj s. viij d.

And payment to Gilmor McKathil, by command of the King by his letters patent, the price of twenty *caslams* of cheese and meal, 11s. 8d.

Et in soluciones facta Johanni filio obcetrdis, per litras Domini Regis de precepto ipsius de recepto xiiij s. iiij d.

And payment made to John the midwife's son by the King's order, 13s. 4d.

Et in soluciones facta Copino Wlf, mercatori, per litras Domini Regis de precepto ipsius de recepto, xiii s. iii d. pro pannis ab eodem emptis apud Tarbart, xxvj s. viij d.

And payment made to Copin Wlf the merchant, by the King's order, for bread bought of him at Tarbart, £1 6s. 8d.

Et in liberacione facta Jacobo del More, ad providenciam faciendam apud Tarbart ad opus domini regis, tempore domini Roberti de Peblis, per litras ipsius Johannis de recepto, xlj s. de quibus respondebit, et ad hoc faciendum dominus Adam More manucepit pro eodem

And for the delivery made to James del More, to make provision at Tarbart for the King's need in the time of Sir Robert of Peblis, by the constable's own letters, for which he will answer, £2, 1s., Sir Adam More being his surety;

Et in duodecim codris casei liberatis Johanni clerico coquine, per litras ipsius de recepto, ostensas super coputum de quibus repondebit, xij s.

And for twelve codri of cheese delivered to John clerk of the kitchen, by receipt of his letters, he will show you, 12s.

Summa istius expense xxxiiij li. xj d.

In all £34, 0s. 11d.

In faccione unius domus de novo in Insula cum cooptura pro eadam, et pro capella, x s. iiij d.

For building of a new house on the Island with a roof for it, and for a chapel, 10s. 4d.

In factura unios domus pro pistrina, iij s.

For building a house for the bakery 3s.

In emendacione domorum cum cooperatura pro eisdom contra adventum Domini Regis, anno domini, etc., XXV, iiij s. vj d.;

For repairing houses, with roofing for the same, against the King's arrival in 1325, 4s. 6d.;

et pro undecim petras casei. v s. vj d.

and for eleven stones of cheese, 5s. 6d.

Et in faccione unius furni apud Schipnifle xx d.

And for making a furnace at Schipnissse, 1s. 8d.

Et in faccione unius domos aurifabro ij s. vj d.

And for making a house for the goldsmith, 2s. 6d.

Et in faccione unius fabrilis pro Nigello plumber ij s. iiij d.

And for making a workshop for Neil the plumber, 2s. 4d.

In coopertura servicio cooperiencium domum moledi, cum faccione partietum eiusdem, v s. vij d.

For roofing and the service of the roofers of the millhouse, and building the walls of it, 5s. 7d.

et per duos codros casei, xiiij d.

and for two *codri* of cheese, 14d.

Et in una porche pro torali facto de novo, xj d.

And for a '*porche*' for the new kiln, 11d.

Et in una fossa circa domum brasei, cum emedacione eiusdem, vij d.

And for a ditch around the malt-house with repair of the same, 7d.

Et in servicio duorum carpentariorum circa levacionem aule in castro per tres dies, iij s.

And for the service of two carpenters for three days about the '*Leuacione*' of the hall in the castle, 3s.

Et in servicio messorum pro coopertura metanda pro aula, et cariagio et portagio eiusdem, xxij s. ix d.

And for the service of mowers of thatch for roofing the hall, and carriage and portage of the same, £1, 2s. 9d.

In servicio portaneium et cariancuim lutum et subulonem pro paritibus aule, et servicio diversorum operariorum circa easdom, et servicio tauberiorum et cooperiencium, cum servicio dourum cimentaorum subponeneium postes aule cu petra et calce, xv s. viij. ob.

For the service of those who conveyed earth/clay and sand for the walls of the hall, service of divers workmen about the same, service of plasterers and roofers, and service of two masons underbuilding the piers of the hall with stone and lime, 15s. 8½d.

et per dous codros casei xiiij d.

and for two *codri* of cheese. 1s. 2d.

In faccione parietum nove coquine vj d.

For making the walls of the new kitchen, 6d.

In posicione unius plumbi in bracina, cum portagio lapidis et luti, et faccione, unius ruderis per medium bracine v s.

For placing a vat in the brew-house, with portage of stones and clay, for the floor in the middle of the brewhouse, 5s.

Summa istius expense cxj s. ij d. ob.

In all, £5, 11s. 2½d.-

In j libra cere empte pro capella, x d.

For one pound of wax bought for the chapel (*capell*), 10d.

In quinque equis cariagii emptis pro calce cariendo xxxvij s. de quibus computans respondebit.

For five carriage horses bought for carrying lime, £1, 17s.;

In centum bordis magnis, emptis et missus usque Cardros pro parco emendando iij s. iiij d.

For 100 large boards bought and sent to Cardross for repairing the park, 3s. 4d.

Et in servicio operariorum Laborantium circa stagnu moledini faciendum antequam convencionatum fuit ad tascam viij s.

And for the service of men labouring at the millpond before a covenant was made, 8s.

Et in xvj celdris carbonum emptis pro opere facto per Patricium fabrum, xxi s. iiij d.

And for sixteen chalders coal/charcoal bought for the work done by Patrick the smith, £1, 1s. 4d.

Et in operacione lxxvij petrarum ferri per eundem Patricium, xix s. vjd.

And for the the working of seventy-eight stones of iron by the said Patrick, 19s. 6d.

Et in vadio et geruicio Nigelli fabri, operantis ante conuencionem secum factam, incerte, iij s.

And for wages and service of Neil the smith for work done before a covenant was made with him, 3s.

Et in planchura duarum batellarum pro calce et sabulone cariandis, in anno, etc., XXV, xvij d.

And for the planking of two boats for conveying lime and sand in the year 1325, 1s. 6d.

Et in planchura earundem batellarum superdicto anno, cum servicio carpentarii, v s.

And for planking of the same the second year, with the service of carpenters, 5s.

In iij libris picis, emptis pro batella, vj d.

for three pounds of pitch bought for the boats, 6d.

In viginti octo ulnis canubii, emptis pro saccis faciendis pro calce cariendo, vij s. ij d.

for twenty- eight ells of canvas bought to make sacks for carrying lime, 7s. 2d.

Et hominibus venientibus circa le Mole cum vna navi, que fuit Dofnaldi McGilhon, per quatuor codros casei, ij s. viij d.

And for four *codri* of cheese to the men who came round the Mull with a ship which belonged to Donald McGilhon, 2s. 8d.

Et in vigilacione eiusdem navis apud Westertarbart per quindecim dies, v s.

And for watching the same ship at Wester Tarbart for fifteen days, 5s.

Et in vigilacione vnus navis, misse per dominum Arthurum Cambel, x d.

And for watching a ship sent by Sir Arthur Cambel, 10d.

Et in vadio sex hominum trans euncium cum dicta navi ad dominum regem in Aran, ij s.

And for wages of six men passing with the same ship to the King in Arran, 2s.

Et in portagio panis de Tarbart usque Schipnisse, xxij d.

And for carriage of bread from Tarbart to Skipness, 1s. 10d.

Et in cariagio victualium de Westertarbart, iiij d.

And for carriage of victuals from Wester Tarbart, 4d.

Et in vigilacione Brenni pro canibus apud Westertarbart per tres septimanas, ij s. vj d.

And for watching Bran for the dogs at Wester Tarbart for three weeks, 2s. 6d.

In portagio boardarum pro vna batella de novo facienda, xij d.

for carriage of boards for making a new boat, 12d.

In fugacione martorum usque Schipnisse, per duas vices, viij d.

for driving marts to Skipness twice, 8d.

Et in custodia quadraginta multonum regine ante adventum regis, xij.

And for keeping forty of the Queen's sheep before the arrival of the King, 12d.

Et per dimidium bolle farrine, xij d.

And for half a boll of meal, 12d.

Et pro custodia pultrie per quindecim dies, xxij d. ob.;

And for keeping the poultry for fifteen days. 1s. 10½d.;

Et in custodia martorum et porcorum regis per duos pastores et duos pagetos, per septem bollas farrine, xiiij s. vj d. argenti.

And for keeping the King's marts and swine by two shepherds and two lads, seven bolls meal, price 14s., and in silver 6s. 3d.

In vadio unius cursorii euntis in Ile pro equis, vj d.

And for wages of a servant going to Islay for horses, 6d.

Et in passagio quatuor equorum de Ile usque Tarbart, x s.

And for passage of four horses from Islay to Tarbart, 10s.

Et pro sustentacione sexdecim hominum Johannis filii Duncani commorantium apud Tarbart, ex precepto regis, per sex codros casei, iij s. vj d.

And for the maintenance of sixteen of John son of Duncans' men dwelling at Tarbart by the King's command, for six *codri* of cheese, 3s. 6d.

Et octo hominibus Johannis et Nigelli, filiorum Gilhon, commorantibus, ex precepto regis, per unam mensem, per viginti octo codros, xvj s. iij d.

And eight of the men of John and Neil McGilhon abiding by the King's command during one month, for twenty- eight *codri*, 16s. 4d.

Et duobus hominibus Iwur McAulay, et vni homini Iwur McGilcom, commorantibus, ex precepto regis, per tres codros casei, xxj d.

And two men of Ivur McAulay, and one man of Ivur McGilcom, abiding by the King's command, three *codri* of cheese. 1s. 9d.

Et in carbone et servicio fabrorum probancium minam plumbi fundendam, xij d.

And for coals to the smiths for lead casting, 12d.

Et in literio pro cameris domini Episcopi Sancti Andree et domini Jacobi domini de Douglas, cum ramis bulorum cindendis et portandis, pro aula et cameris reparandis, ij s. ij d. ob.

And for litter for the chambers of the Lord Bishop of Saint Andrews and Sir James lord of Douglas, with the cutting and carriage of branches of birch for repairing the hall and chambers, 2s. 2½d.

Et in elemosina domini regis per septem codros casei, liberatos domino Roberto elemosinario, iij s. j d.

And in the alms of the Lord King for seven *codi* of cheese, delivered to Sir Robert the almoner, 4s. 1d.

Summa istius expens, ix li. vij s. iij d.

Summa totalis expense, cccclxxix li. ix s. ix d. ob.

The total cost of this £9, 7s. 3d.

The sum of the total expenses. £479, 9s. 9½d

Et sic debet xxxix li. iij s. x d. ob. De quibus allo cantur eidem xxj li. xj s. pro vadiis suis pro uno anno in tegro et lxvj diebus, finientibus ad festum natiuitatis sancti Johannis Baptiste, percipienti per diem xij d. ex convencione.

The constable's whole receipts on this occasion are stated at £518, 13s. 8d., and his whole expenses at £479, 9s. 9½d. Of the difference, £39, 3s. 10½d., the constable claimed as his wages for one year and sixty-six days ending at Midsummer, at 12d. a-day, by covenant, £21, 11s.

Et petit allocacionem per centum petras casei liberatas domino Roberto de Peblis, clerico liberacionis, cuius receptum non ostendit super computum, lx s.

And asks for an allowance for 100 stones of cheese delivered to Sir Robert of Peblis, clerk of the liverance, the receipt of which does not show on the account, £3.

Et octoginta petrarum casei missarum per Johannem fili um Mauricii usque Cardros ad dominum regem, xl s.

And for eighty stones cheese sent by John Fitz-Maurice to Cardros to the Lord King, £2

Et per viijxx pondera farrine et casei pro vadiis servencium, per diversas vices transeuncium in Ile, pro victualibus reducendis infra tempus compoti, iiij li. xiiij s. iiij d.

And for eighty pounds of meal and cheese as the wages of servants passing divers times to Islay to bring victual, £4, 13s. 4d.

Et petit allocacionem de iij s. iiij d. pro custodia et vigilibus vnius incarcerate,

And asks for an allowance of 3s. 4d. for keeping and watching a prisoner,

Et allocantur eidem per unam bollam farrine et unam petram casei, datas sarratoribus pro curialitate, ex precepto regis, ij s. vj d.

And the same for one boll of meal and one stone of cheese, given to the tailors of the court, by the Kings command, 2s. 6d.

Summa huius allocacionis et petitionis, xxxj li. x s. ij d.

in all, £31, 10s. 2d.

Et sic debet de claro vij li. xiiij s. viij d. et ob.

And leaving of clear debt due by the constable, £7, 13s. 8½d.

De ferro non vacat nunc computare, nec de domibus infra interiorem clausuram, nec de medio muro claudente, nec de domo vini computatur.

In this statement are not included the iron, the houses within the inner court, the middle wall enclosing it, or the wine-house, for which the constable had not leisure to account.

(Stuart and Burnett, J and G (eds.) 1878 *Rotuli Scaccarii Regum Scotorum*. Exchequer Rolls of Scotland, 52-58)

Later Exchequer Accounts 1327-1330

Later accounts of revenues and expenses relating to Tarbert Castle and its constable John de Lany and the new Burgh can also be found in other surviving Exchequer Rolls between 1327 and 1330.

1327

Et pro quinque maysis allecum, liberates Johanni de Lany, de quibus respondebit, x s.

And for 5 *maysis* of herring sent to John de Lany, for which he shall repsond, 10s. (ibid. 69)

1328

Et pro factura unius cokete ad burgum de Tarbard, vij s. viij d.

And for the making of one cocket (seal) for the Burgh of Tarbert, 7s. 8d.
(ibid. 118)

1329

Idem computat xij hominibus de Dumbretan, transeuntibus usque le Tarbart, pro magna nave domini regis reducenda, xvij s.

The same account 12 men from Dumbartan, passing as far as Tarbart, for the return of the king's great ship, 18s.

Item, in expensis hominum transeuncium cum Patricio stulto, veniente de Anglia usque le Tarbart, xvij d.

Also, the expenses of bringing Patrick the fool coming from England to Tarbert 18d.

Et ix hominibus transeuntibus cum Johanne filio Gyn usque ad le Tarbart, cum attiliis nauis domini regis, vj s.

And 9 men to pass with John son of Gun as far as Tarbert with rigging for the ships of our Lord King, 6s.
(ibid. 127)

Idem, computans de ferro, onerat se de centum petris, receptis a Johanne de Lany, de quibus, computat iiijxx petras expeditas circa necessaria navium domini regis et domini comitis, et aliorum necessariorum, ut patet superius. Et sic debet xl petras.

The same, calculating the iron, burdens himself with a hundred pounds, received from John de Lany, of which he calculates 40 stones pounds on the necessities of the ships of the lord king and the lord earl, and other necessities, as is clear above. And thus he owes 40 pounds.

(this appears to be the same iron used on the ships of the king and the earl of Moray at Cardross (ibid. 126).

(ibid. 135-136)

Et mittuntur vsque Tarbart, ex precepto regis, per literam, in duabus batellis, xvij celdre xij bolle iij firlote.

And (barley) brought to Tarbert, by the Kings order, in two ships, 18 chalders 13 bolls 3 firlots.

(ibid. 153)

Et per duas koketas de Tarbard, xxxiiij s. viij d.

And for two cockets (seals) of Tarbert, 33s. 8d.
(ibid. 175)

Et de iij li. ij s. ij d. ob., de Johanne de Lany, constabulario de Tarbard.

And 4s. 2½d. to John de Lany, constable of Tarbert (payment to the Clerk of Liverance)

Et de lxij s. x d., per vendicionem brasei putridi apud Tarbard.

And 63s. 10d., by the sale of rotten malt at Tarbert
(ibid. 184)

Et sic debet ij celdras vj bollas dimidiam bollam dimidiam firлотam, quas dicit esse in manibus Johannis de Lany, de quinque celdris per computantem depositis in granario cum eodem apud Tarbard. Et notandum quod idem Johannes, tacita veritate, ut dictur, habet penes se literas de receptor de una celdra, octo bollis et tribus firtoltis, sub Sigillo computantis, de eadem farina sic deposita, que si de cetero inveniantur in scaccario nullatenus allocentur.

And thus he owes two chalders, six bolls, half a boll, half a firлот, which he says are in the hands of John de Lany, of five chalders by the account deposited in the granary with the same at Tarbard. And it should be noted that the same John, with tacit truth, as it is said, has in his possession letters of receipt of one chalder, eight bolls and three firлотs, under the seal of the account, of the same flour thus deposited, which if they are found in the treasury shall not be allocated in any way.
(ibid. 187)

Vinum

Et de xij, per empcionem computantis apud Tarbard, solutis per rotulos domus.

Wine

And 12, by purchase on account at Tarbert, paid by the rolls of the house.

Et de ix, per empcionem regis apud Tarbard.

And of 9, by the king's purchase from Tarbert.
(ibid. 188)

Et de viij celdris, ordie, de Johanne de Lany, de ordeo Hybernie.

And 8 chalders, barley, of John de Lany, of Irish Barley

Et de xiiij bollis brasei auene, ex mutuo Johannis de Lany.

And 14 bolls of malted barley, from John de Lany
(ibid. 189)

Et de xxv, receptis de Johanne de Lany

And 25 (marts) received from John de Lany.

(ibid. 193)

Et de ccv xx et x, de Johanne de Lany, preter compotum.

And 210 and 10 (marts) from John de Lany, past account
(ibid. 196)

Et de viij celdris, emptis apud Tarbard per dominum regem.

And 8 chalders (salt), purchased at Tarbert by the lord king.

Et de vj dacris j coriorum, receptorum de Johanne de Lany.

And 6 daces (60-72 hides) and 1 leather, received from John de Lany
(ibid. 201)

Et Johanni de Lany, per firmam de Buchan, pro opere de Tarbard, vij li., de Johannes de Lany respon quibus respondebit.

And John de Lany, from the fermes of Buchan, for works at Tarbert, £7, John de Lany will answer for it.
(ibid. 207)

Et Willelmo de Bonkill, pro operario del Tarbard, xl s.

And William de Bonkill, for workmen at Tarbert, 40s.
(ibid. 213)

Et Johanni de Lany, per literas suas de recepto, ix celdras iij bollas et dimidiam, de quibus respondebit

And John de Lany on his letters of receipt, 9 chalders 3 and a half bolls (meal), for which he will answer.
(ibid. 223)

Et de iiij li. viij s. x d., receptis de contribucione pacis burgi de Tarbard.

And £4 8s. 10d., received as a contribution to the peace from the Burgh of Tarbert
(ibid. 237)

Et Willelmo Scot, in partem solucionis pecunie sibi ordinate pro factura et sustentacione parci de Tarbard, per literas suas de recepto, xl s.

And William Scot, as a part of the payment of money owed to himself for the making and maintenance of the park of Tarbard, on his letters of receipt, 40s.
(ibid. 239)

1330

Et Willelmo Scot, in complementum consumacionis parci del Tarbart, cs.

And William Scot, on completion of the circuit of the park of Tarbart 100.s
(ibid. 287)



Landskap ved with Tarbert Castle, 1877, Hans Fredrik Gude (1825–1903)

7.2 A Note on John De Lany

There has been some speculation as to the origins of John De Lany but his name suggests the origin of his family is Leny which is situated near Calander in Perthshire and lay in the earldom of Mentieth. Leny was held by ‘*Gillespic de Lani*’ before 1237 when it was passed to his daughter Margert by a grant of Alexander III (Fraser 1880: lxxiv-lxxv). In an undated charter (between 1286-1333) John son of Alan of Lany (*Johanni filio Alani de Lany*) is given the lands of Drumchastle in Perthshire previously held by his father in a charter of Malcolm earl of Lennox (Dennistoun 1883: 48-49). A ‘*John de Lany*’ appears on the as a signatory on the Ragman Rolls submitting to Edward I in 1291 and again 1296 as ‘*Johan de Lanyn*’ and his seal is appended to the homage bearing a stringed hunting horn and ‘*s' johannis de l....ni*’ (Bain 1884: no 811, 200). In 1304 a ‘*John de Lany*’ is listed as a knight forming a jury as part of an inquisition, before John Comyn, then Guardian of Scotland, into a dispute between the Earl of Strathearn and Sir John de Mowbray (Bain 1884: no. 1592). In 1306 the lands of ‘*Johan de Lany de Mentieth*’ are listed as having been forfeited for his part in the Bruce rebellion these being petitioned to be given to ‘*Robert de Sapy*’ (Palgrave 1837: 313). If the Drumchastle charter dates to as early as 1286 then it is unlikely that ‘John son of Alan of Lany’ is the *Johne de Lany*, Constable of Tarbert as he may have been too old to hold such an active position, and if so, he may be a son or other close relation also called John. However, if the later it is highly likely he may be equated with the juror ‘*John de Lany*’ in 1304 and the

forfeited Bruce supporter of 1306 and also the constable of the Tarbert Castle between 1325 and 1329, where in the latter year he is accused of concealing meal at Tarbert.



Tarbert Castle Loch Fyne, photograph by George Washington Wilson (1823-1893)

7.3 The Royal Burgh of Tarbert

The rebuilding and the expansion of the castle can perhaps be seen as a wider administrative policy in Argyll with the creation of a new sheriffdom of Argyll c.1321, centred on a proposed burgh port surrounding the castle at Tarbert. The King was also in control of Skipness given that the exchequer accounts above mention goods being ferried to and from Skipness and lime kilns being constructed there. This was part of an interlinked military and judicial system that covered much of Argyll through dependent constabularies at Dunoon and Dunstaffange.

When Tarbert actually became a Royal Burgh is open to question but is referred to as such in an Exchequer Roll of 1328 where a charge of seven shillings and eight pence is recorded for '*Et pro factura unius cokete at un Burgum de Tarbard*', the making of a coket (a customs seal) for the Burgh of Tarbert, to have the right to custom a levy on goods imported and exported through the port of Tarbert. Merchandise liable to custom could not be legally exported without a coket, that is a certificate under the seal of the proper officer, that the great custom had been paid on it; and every burgh of export had its coket seal and coket clerk. Mitchell's 1886 publication on Tarbert tells us that '*According to Bell's 'Law of Scotland', royal burghs, as a rule, sprung up beside royal castles, and this is ... apparently the case with regard to Tarbert*' although he doesn't speculate beyond this as to where the burgh may have been. (Mitchell 1888). Dunbar and Duncan state it '*probably occupied the flat topped ridge immediately to the south west of the castle...*' and '*...there may be seen traces of*

buildings, bounded by a rock-lined ditch... (Dunbar and Duncan 1971: 15-16). While this may be the case, no definite building remains were identified to the south of the castle during the survey in 2013 and as such the location of the burgh still needs to be established.

7.4 The Peel and Eilean Da Ghallagain

Some building footings have been recorded on a rocky knoll at the head of west loch tarbert, although their exact nature is unclear, although it has been postulated that these are those of the peel mentioned in the exchequer roll.

It is also perhaps not a stretch of the imagination to equate the entry of the '*building of a new house on the Island*' in the 1326 exchequer roll with a structure identified on Eilean Da Ghallagain at the head of West Loch Tarbert (Canmore ID 39336). In May 1455 John, Lord of the Isles is found on '*Cleandaghallagan in Knapadal*' granting a charter to Paisley Abbey, (Munro and Munro 1886, 86). The signing of the charter presumably took place within some form of building on the island and the RCHAMS has recorded a building with '*unexpectedly substantial*' footings not typical of later agricultural buildings and has suggested the building may have been used in connection the nearby anchorages. If the structure on Eilean Da Ghallagain can be identified with the '*new house in the island*' then this and the peel along with the castle might be an overall scheme for the control and protection for an anchorage and the road, or route over the Tarbert Isthmus.



Tarbert Castle, Loch Fyne, 1838, Thomas Miles Richardson (1784–1848)

8. Knapdale in the Reign of David II (1329-1371)

1335

Thomas Randolph, Earl of Moray, the acting regent for David II (who was in exile) met with John MacDonald of Islay at Tarbert Castle to try and persuade him against Edward Balliol's claim to the Scottish Crown.

1335

In hiis autem temporibus Johannes de Insulis cum Anglis faventibus multam vicinitatem habebat: contra quem Johannes comes Moravise multos tractatus ac dissensiones, in castro de Tarbart existens, habere solebat.

Translation

In these days John of the Isles kept up friendly relations with the English party, and John earl of Murray, who was at Tarbert Castle, used to have many discussions and disputes with him.

(Skene, J F H (ed.) 1877 *The Historians of Scotland, Liber Pluscardensis*, vol VII 278; Skene, J F H (ed.) 1877 *The Historians of Scotland, the Book of Pluscraden*, vol X, 210)

1335

The Kyng off Ingland alsa fast
Hame in till hys awyne land past.
In the meyne tyme that this wes,
The Erie Jhon dyde besynes,
Bathe be land and be se,
To sawffe the rycht off [his] cwntrre:
For at [the] Tarbart he wes qwhille
Haldand dayis wyth Jhone off Ile,
That wes till Inglis fay haldand;
And qwhylle wes in to the mayne land
Traveland sa besely,
That men hym callyd wtraly
The best begynnyng off a man,
That in Scotland wes lyvand than

(Laing, D (ed.) 1872 *The Historians of Scotland: The Orygynale Cronykil of Scotland by Androw of Wyntoun*, vol. II, 419)

1335

In the meantime, Randolfe went to John, who challenged the Aebuda (Hebrides) as his own, and not being able to draw him to his Party, he was content in so troublesome a Posture of Affairs, to make a Truce with him for some Months.
(Buchanan, G 1727 *Rerum Scoticarum Historia*, 388)

1336

John of Islay (who later adopted the title of '*dominus Insularum*' or Lord of the Isles) now entered an alliance with Edward III extensively supporting Edward Balliol's claim to the Scottish Crown travelling to Drogheda in Ireland to assist in preparations for an attack on Scotland. Here John received from Edward Balliol for his good service a grant to the Islay, Kintyre, Knapdale, Gigha, half of Jura, Colonsay, Skye, Lewis, along with the lands of 'Kenelbadon' and Ardnamuchan. John was also has granted the wardship of Lochaber until the heir to the earl of Atholl came off age.

1336 September 12

Rex omnibus ad quos &c. salutem. Inspeximus quasdam litteras indentatas factas inter magnificum principem Dominum Edwardum regem Scotorum illustrem consanguineum nostrum carissimimi et Johannem de Insulis in hec verba

Hec indentura facta apud villam de Perth die Jovis xij die Septembris anno domini miliesimo trescentesimo quinto inter excellentissimuui principem Dominum Edwardum Dei gratia regem Scotorum illustrem ex una parte et Johannem de Insulis ex altera parte testatur quod dictus dominus rex concessit quantum in se est predicto Johanni pro bono et laudabili servitio sibi impenso ac in futuro impendendo per se et heredes suos

Insulam de Ysle

Terram de Kentyre

Terram de Knappedoll

Insulum de Githe

Dimidium Insule de Dure

Insulam de Golwouche

Insulam de Mulle

Insulam de Sky

Insulam de Lewethy

Terram de Kenalbadon et de Ardmurcon

tenenda eidem Johanni heredibus et assignatis suis. Concessit etiam dictus dominus rex eidem Johanni wardam de Loghaber usque ad legitimam ctatem filii et heredis Domini David de Strabolgy ultimi comitis Atholle. Pro quibus quidem concess. sionibus predictis prefatus Johannes de Insulis obligat se et heredes suos esse ligios homines et fideles dicto domino regi et heredibus suis imperpetuum et gravandi omnes suos iniraicos et rebelles quibuscunque diebus et locis et omnibus quibus eos gravare poterit et se et suos ac heredes ejus quoscunque Et pro securitate omnium premissorum fideliter complendi praestetur sacramentum corporale per dictum Johannem super sanctum eucharistiam calicem altaris et missale Item vult et concedit dictus Johannes quod si predictus dominiis rex obsidem vel obsides ab eo voluerit habere pro majori securitate faciendum consanguineum vel consanguineos suos minoris etatis sibi propinquiores dicto nomino regi reddendos cum tempus opportunum advenerit Quia dictus Johannes filium nee heredem a corpore sue nondum habet legitime procreatum quod compaternitas ejusdem heredis prefato Johanni concedatur.

Nos autem omnia et singulas in litteris predictis contenta pro nobis et heredibus nostris quantum ad nos pertinet acceptamus ratificamus approbamus et confirmamus sicut littere predictae plenius testantur.

In cujus &c.

Teste Rege apud Aukeland quinto die Octobris.

Per ipsum regem.

Translation

The King to whom, & etc. We have examined certain letters of indenture drawn up between the magnificent prince Lord Edward King of Scotland, our illustrious and most dear cousin, and John of the Isles, in the following terms:—In this indenture, made at the town of Perth on Tuesday, 12th September, 1336, between the most Excellent Lord Edward by the grace of God, King of Scots on the one part, and John of the Isles, on the other part declares that the said Lord King has surrendered, as far as in his power, to the forsaidd John for his good and praiseworthy service done to him and to be done by him in the future by him and his heirs,

The Island of Islay

The land of Kintyre

The land of Knapdale

The Island of Gigha

Half the Island of Jura

The Island of Colonsay

The Island of Mull

The Island of Skye

The Island of Lewis

The land of Morvern and Ardnamurchan

to be held by the said John his heirs and assignees. The said Lord King has also granted to the same John the wardship of Lochaber till the majority of the sons and heirs of David of Strathbogie, last Earl of Atholl. For which forsaidd conditions, however the forsaidd John of the Isles binds himself and his liegemen and vassals to the said Lord King and his heirs forever, and himself, his friends and his heirs, whomsoever, to pursue all his enemies and rebels whenever, wherever, however he may. And, for guarantee of the faithful fulfilling of all these promises, the said John shall swear upon the host, the alter chalice, and the missal. Moreover the said John is willing and grants that, if the foresaidd Lord King wish to have a hostage or hostages from him for further security, his kinsman or his kinsmen nearest in blood, being minors, shall be delivered up to the said Lord King when occasion permits, because the said John was not yet a son or heir lawfully begotten of his body. Further, the foresaidd Lord King is willing and grants that whenever he has an heir legitimately begotten of his body the said John shall be godfather to the said heir.

(MacDonald, A and MacDonald, A 1896 *The Clan Donald*, vol I, 496; Munro, J and Munro, R W (eds) 1986 *Acts of the Lords of the Isles*, 1-2; Smith, G G 1895 *The Book of Islay: Documents illustrating the history of the island*, 13; Bain, J (ed.) 1887 *Calendar of Documents relating to Scotland*, vol. III 1182, 213-214; MacPherson, D (ed.) 1819 *Rotuli Scotiae*, vol I, 463b-464a; POMS 1/56/19)

c1341-1342

Despite the 1336 grant we have no evidence whether John MacDonald was able to take control of these Knapdale lands and it is quite possible that Tarbert Castle was maintained by the crown, while the Mentieth Stewarts still held sway in Knapdale. This political situation in Knapdale may be reflected in a charter of David II to John of Islay after the king's return from exile (traditionally dated to 1341-2) that excludes Knapdale.

c1341-1342

Chartour of Ilay and divers uthers lles.

David, etc. Sciatis nos dedisse, etc., Angusio filio Joannis de Insulis consanguineo nostro dilecto et fideli, pro servitio suo nobis fideliter impendendo, totam insulam que vocatur Yla, totam terram de Kintyre, insulam de Gychey, insulam de [Dewre], insulam de Coluynsey, viginti quatuor uncias terrarum que dicuntur Morware, duas uncias terre in Mula que dieuntur Morynis, cum pertinentiis Tenendas, etc. Faciendo servitia de predictis terris cum pertinentiis tam per mare quam per terram debita et consueta.

(Thomson, J M (ed.) 1912 *Registrum Magni Sigillii Regum Scotorum*. The Register of the Great Seal of Scotland, vol I, app. ii, 114, 482; POMS 1/54/37).

1353

That the Lordship of Knapdale along with Castle Sween was retained by the Mentieth Stewarts is evidenced by a charter whereby John of Mentieth Lord of Knapdale and Arran (*dominus de Cnappodol et de Aran*) grants lands in northern Knapdale, to Archibald Campbell of Lochawe (tradition has it that Archibald married a daughter of John, but there is no record of this). This grant was witnessed at Castle Sween suggesting that this was the centre of the lordship of Knapdale (a notorial copy of this charter was later made by Duncan Campbell of Lochawe in May 1433). Two other charters also exist in which John of Mentieth grants lands in Knapdale along with keeping of Castle Sween to Archibald Campbell and although these are undated although they must have been enacted prior to John of Menteiths death between 1364 and 1366 (the exact date of his death is not known).

1353 Nov 29

Charter by John of Menteith to Archibald Campbell of Lochawe, of his lands in Knapdale. — [29th November] 1353.

Sciant presentes et futuri, quod ego Johannes de Menthet, dominus de Cnappodol et de Aran, dedi, concessi, et in hac presenti carta mea confirmavi fidei consanguineo meo Gilleasbeg Cambel, domino de Lochowo, et heredibus suis ac assignatis, de me et heredibus meis, totas terras subscriptas in Cnappodol; videlicet, denariatam terre

de Ardnanno, Ervergy, Ariluyg et Arierech, quadrantem de Bercorari, denariatam de Leachnaban, Drumlynd et de Craglyne, quadrantem terre de Obinhan, denariatam de Bealalach, denariatam de Conardari, obulatam de Dunan, denariatam de Glencagiduburgilli et Arigeargag, denariatam de Lagan, obulatam de Achagnaclochi, denariatam de Kyllmychel et de Cragnavyach, obulatam de Lergnahunsend propinquiorem terre de Kyllmychel, denariatam de Drumnaherwege et de Metnach, tres quadrantes de Achagnadarach, obulatam de Achagnagarthi, tres quadrantes terre de Braclach, obulatam de Kyllalduburscalan, obulatam de Atichuan, denariatam de Ynwerneill, Breanorlyng et de Cororlyng, per suas rectas metas antiquas et ex vtraque parte diuisas: Tenendas et habendas dicto Gilleasbeg Cambel, de me et heredibus meis, sibi et heredibus, in feuodo et hereditate, vnacum varda et releuio earundem terrarum, quossiens ad nos uel heredes nostras contigerint varda uel releuium earundem peruenire, adeo libere, quiete, plenarie, pacifice et honorifice, in boscis, in planis, in pratis, in pascuis, in moris, in moressus, in vus, in semitis, in aquis, in stagnis, in venacionibus, in piscacionibus, in molendinis, in siluis, in montibus, et cum omnibus aliis pertinenciis, libertatibus ac ayssiamentis, ad dictas [terras] spectantibus vel de iure spectare valentibus in futurum: Si vero contingat quod fur aut fures, latro uel latrones, in terris supradictis fueriut atachiati propter furtum, eidem Gilleasbeg, heredibus suis ac assignatis, conuedimus liberam potestatem vendendi ac dimittendi ipsos, prout sibi placuerit; preterquam quod si ad mortem fueriut iudicatus aut iudicati ad batibulum et curiam nostram suspendendi reducantur: Reddendo inde nobis et heredibus nostris vnum denarium sterlingorum in festo Sancti Martini annuatim persoluendum, si dictus Gilleasbeg uel heredes sui per nos aut heredes nostros ad hoc fuerint requisiti, pro omni seruicio seculari et demanda: Ego vero prefatus Johannes de Mentheth et heredes mei predictas terras dicto Gilleasbeg Cambel et heredibus suis ac assignatis, contra omnes homines et feminas varantizabimus, aquietabimus et defendemus: In cuius rei testimonium sigillum nostrum est appensum.

Datum apud Castrum Suffin (Swaine), in vig[iliis] Sancti Andree Apostoli, anno Domini m^occc^o quinquagesimo tercio.

Translation

Let the present and the future know that I John of Mentieth, lord of Knapdale and Arran, gave, granted, and confirmed in this present charter to my faithful kinsman Archibald Campbell, lord of Lochawe, and to his heirs and assigns, concerning me and my heirs, all the lands subscribed in Knapdale; that is to say, a penny of the land of Ardnan, Ervergy, Ariluyg, and Arierech, a quarter of Bercorar, a penny of Leachnaban, Drumlynd, and Craglyne, a quarter of the land of Obinhan, a penny of Bealalach, a penny land of Conardar, a penny land of Dunan, a penny land of Glencagiduburgill and Arigeargag, a penny land of Lagan, gift of Achagnacloch, gift of Kyllmychel and Cragnavyach, gift of Lergnahunsend nearer land of Kyllmychel, gift of Drumnaherwege and Metnach, three quarters of Achagnadarach, gift of Achagnagarth, three quarters of land from Braclach, gift of Kyllalduburscalan, gift of Atichuan, pennyland of Ynwerneill, Breanorlyng, and Cororlyng, divided by their right ancient lands and on each side: To be held by the said Archibald Campbell, of me and my heirs, to himself and his heirs, in fee and inheritance, every ward and relief of that land in waters, in ponds, in hunting, in fishing, in mills, in forests, in mountains, and with all other appurtenances, liberties, and easements, to the said [lands] looking or having the right to look in the future; thieves, robbers, or robbers,

having been attached for theft in the aforesaid lands, we granted to the same Archibald, his heirs and assigns, free power to sell and release them, as he pleased; except that if he shall be condemned to death, or those condemned, shall be brought to the gallows and our court to be hanged; to every secular service and demand: Verily, I, the aforesaid John of Mentieth, and my heirs, will warrant, quieten, and defend against all men and women the aforesaid lands of the said Archibald Campbell and his heirs and assigns: In witness whereof our seal is affixed:

Given at Castle Sween, on the vigil of St Andrew the Apostle, in the year of the Lord 1353.

(Fraser, W 1880 *The Red Book of Mentieth*, vol. II, 235-236; Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts 1874 *Fourth Report of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts*, 40, 476)

Before 1366

Charter be John of Monteeth, Lord of Knapdaill and Arran, in favors of Archibald Campbell, Lord of Lochaw, his aires and assigneyes, off that penny land within which Castel Swine is situated, the lands of Apenad, the 2d land of Danna called Barmore, the three penny land of Ulva, the lands of Dallechelicha, Stroud Oure, and the lands of Dreissag in Knapdaill, with the ward and releiff of the said lands as they shall hapen to fall to the said John of Monteeth and his aires: To be holden for payment of a paire of whyt gloves at Martimass in winter yearly, if the same shall be asked: With power also to the said Archibald Campbell and his aires of selling and dismissing of theiffs as they please; and if they be condemned to death, with power to cause hang them wpon ane gallows.

(Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts 1874 *Fourth Report of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts*, 38, 476; Fraser, W 1880 *The Red Book of Mentieth*, vol II, 235-236n)

Before 1366

Charter be John Lord of Menteeth to Sir Archibald Campbell of Lochaw and his aires, of the said Robert [John] his lands in Knapdaill and Arran, with the keeping of Swine Castell and pertinents theroff, which John Lord of Monteeth did more fully dispone to Archibald Lord of Lochow.

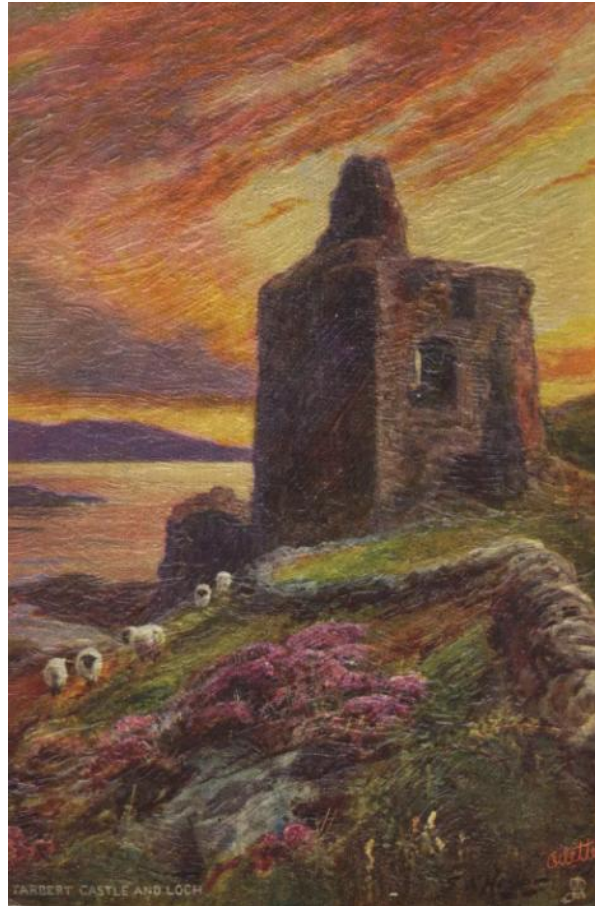
(Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts 1874 *Fourth Report of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts*, 39, 476; Fraser, W 1880 *The Red Book of Mentieth*, vol II, 235-236n)

1364

John of Menteith is again named as Lord of Arran and Knapdale (*Johannis de Meneteeche de Arane et de Knapdalle*) in a confirmation of a charter to the Monestary at Killwinning 1364.

(Thomson, J M (ed.) 1912 *Registrum Magni Sigilii Regum Scotorum*. The Register of the Great Seal of Scotland, vol I, 182, 50)

John of Mentieth and may died soon after the above charter and being without direct heirs, Knapdale appears to have passed into the territories controlled by Robert Stewart (the Scottish King's nephew and heir) being heir to the deceased Mentieth line.



Tarbert Castle and Loch (from Tuck's Post Card No. 7136)

9. Knapdale and the Lordship of the Isles

1376

With the death of David II and the accession of Robert Stewart, as Robert II in 1371, John MacDonald as son-in-law of the new king, received a charter granting him and his wife Margaret part of the lordship of Knapdale.

1376 June 6

Charter to John del Yle of the lands of Kintyre and part of Knapdale to be held by John and Margaret and their heirs.

Carta Johannis del Yle.

Robertus Dei gracia rex Scottorum omnibus, etc. Sciatis nos dedisse, etc., dilecto filio nostro Johanni del Yle, terras nostras de Kyntyre et medietatem terrarumstrarum de Knapdale cum pertinenciis Tenendas et habendas eidem Johanni et dilecte filie nostre Margarete sponse sue et eorum alteri diucius viventi ac eorum heredibus inter ipsos legitime procreatis seu procreandis de nobis et heredibus nostris in feodo et hereditate inperpetuum, libere quiete bene et in pace' Faciendo inde nobis et heredibus nostris dicti Johannes et Margareta sponsa sua ac eorum alter diucius vivens et heredes sui predicti servicia debita et consueta. In cujus rei, etc. Testibus, etc. Apud Strivelyne, sexte die Junii anno regni nostri sexto.

Translation

Robert, by the grace of God, king of all the Scots, etc. Be it known that we have given, etc., to our beloved son John of Islay, our lands of Kintyre and half of our lands of Knapdale with their appurtenances To be held and held by the same John and our beloved daughter Margaret his spouse and the other of them living longer and their heirs lawfully begotten between them or by procreating from us and our heirs in fee and inheritance in perpetuity, freely, quietly, well and in peace. By doing thenceforth to us and our heirs the said John and Margaret his wife, and the other of them living longer and the heirs of the aforesaid, doing due and customary services. In whose case, etc. Witnesses, etc. At Stirling, on the sixth day of June in the sixth year of our reign.

(Thomson, J M (ed.) 1912 *Registrum Magni Sigillii Regum Scotorum*. The Register of the Great Seal of Scotland, vol I, 569, 209)

1404

The lands of Knapdale are passed from King Robert III to James his heir.

1404

Copy of Charter by King Robert III to James, Steward of Scotland, his son and heir, of the lands of the stewartry of Scotland '*senescalliae Scotiae*', eg, baronies of Renfrew, Cuninghame and Kille Stewart, in sheriffdom of Ayr, baronies of Rathou and Innerweik, in sheriffdom of Edinburgh, lands of the isles of Butte, Arrane and Combray , Great and Little, lands of Cowall and Knapdale, lands of earldom of Carrick and lands of Kille Regis, in sheriffdom of Ayr, to be held in free regality.

(NRS GD124/1/1129)

1430

Knapdale, or at least part of it, appears to have been retained by the MacDonalds but these lands may have been retaken during a royal expedition into Kintyre and Knapdale against the MacDonalds following the rebellion of Alexander MacDonald lord of the Isles and Donald Balloch. James I then granted two Ayrshire knights, Alexander Montgomery of Ardrossan and Robert Cunningham of Kilmaurs, the custody of the royal castle of 'Soon', along with the islands of Gigha and Danna

which pertained to that keepership (*insulis de Gezay et Dannay ad custodiam castri Regis de Soon pertinentibus*) along with with custody of Skipness castle for 7 years.

1430 August 10

Apud Perth, 10 Aug.

Rex constituit Alexandeum de Montgomery de Ardrossane, et Robertum Cunynghame de Kylmauris, milites, custodes suos infra partes de Kyntyre et de Knapdale;— dans et concedens eisdem conjunctim et divisim plenariam potestatem et mandatum speciale, prefatas terras unacum insulis de Gezay et Dannay ad custodiam castri Regis de Soon pertinentibus, regendi, gubernandi et defendeudi;—ligeos regis habitatores earundem ad pacem regis inducendi et alliciendi;— remissionem regis plenariam etiam eisdem concedendi;—et pro eisdem, ex parte regis tractandi et componendi ;—terras prefatas cum insulis supradictis assedaudi et ad firmam vel in feodo pro tempore concedendi firmas earum percipiendi et levandi;—curias regias tam vicecomiti quam justiciario spectantes tenendi;—delinquentes in forma juris communis regni puniendi et multandi;—amerciamenta et eschaetas exigendi, levandi et percipiendi;—firmas tam pecuniarias quam alias de dictis terris et insulis ad usum ipsorum sine compoto levandi et percipiendi et de ipsis pro libito eorum voluntatis disponendi, ac omnia alia et singula faciendi que ad officium hujusmodi custodientium de jure pertinere dinoscuntur;—Preterea concessit eisdem custodiam castrorum de Soon et de Skypinch, et desuper ligeis suis et inhabitantibus dictarum terrarum et insularum mandavit quatenus prefatis Alex, et Rob. et eorum alteri parerent et obedirent in omnibus &c., in pace et in guerra:—presentibus post sejustennium a festo pentecostes ultimo preterite in robore duntaxat duraturis.

Translation

The king appoints Alexander Montgomery of Ardrossan and Robert Cunningham of Kilmaurs, his custodians of parts of Kintyre and Knapdale;—giving and granting to them jointly and severally plenary power and a special mandate, the aforesaid lands together with the islands of Gigha and Danna to guard to govern, govern, and defend the the King's castle of Sween, to govern, to govern, and to defend it; to induce and entice the king's inhabitants to the king's peace; of the besieged and to grant to the ferm or in fee for the time to receive and raise their ferm; pecuniary and otherwise of the said lands and islands for their use without charge and to receive and to dispose of them according to the will of their will, and to do all other and particular things that are known to belong to the duty of such keepers by law; Moreover he granted them the castles of Sween and Skipness and as his lieges command over the inhabitants of the said lands and islands by the the aforesaid Alexender, and Robert. and that they should conform and obey them in all things, &c., in peace and in war:-being present after six years from the feast of Pentecost last past, with all their strength.

(Balfour Paul, J (ed.) 1882 *Registrum Magni Sigillii Regum Scotorum*. The Register of the Great Seal of Scotland vol II, 163, 35)

1440

The forfeiture of the MacDonald's Knapdale lands appear to have been brief as Alexander Lord of the Isles and now earl of Ross is able to grant the constabulary of Castle Sween, to Torquil MacNeill along with other lands in Knapdale. The MacNeills (of Gigha and Taynish) appear to be another family that were well established in Knapdale and are possibly like the MacSweens and others part of the Donnsluibhe kindered.

1440 June 24

Note of a charter by Alexander, earl of Ross and lord of the Isles, to Torquil MacNeill.

Charter by Alexander Macdonald of Ilay, Earl of Rossie and Lord of the Isles, to Torquill MacNeill, of the whole island of Gigha, the island of Dannay, the lands of Barbreck, Barbech, Barlochan, Bamashally and Ardnachage, the constabulary of the Castle of Suffne and the office of Thosciachdeora of Knapdale.

(Munro, J and Munro, R W (eds) 1986 *Acts of the Lords of the Isles*, 50)

1455

The successor of Alexander MacDonald Lord of the Isles, John issues a similar charter for Knapdale lands to Torquill MacNeill's son, Neill indicating their constabulary of Castle Sween was a hereditary one.

1455 Nov

Note of a charter by John of Yle, Earl of Ross and Lord of the Isles, confirmed to Neill McTorquell McNeill, his constable of Castle Ssyn, one eighth part of Arydalych, an eighth of Arydagh, two eighths of an Druimyeon more eighth of Aryduirmegynche, an eighth of Foiryfown, and an eighth of Arydglannich, all in Gyga, which had been granted to Neil's father Torquill MacNeill by John's father Alexander of Yle, Earl of Ross and Lord of the Isles

November 1455.

(Munro, J and Munro, R W (eds) 1986 *Acts of the Lords of the Isles*, 88)

1476

The lordship of Knapdale appears to have been retained by the MacDonalds until the forfeiture of John Lord of the Isles in 1476 when Kintyre and Knapdale were retained by the crown.

1476 July 10

Quo die idem Johannes de Ila, personaliter consitutus coram eodem domino nostro rege et tribus regni statibus, comitatum Rossensis cum pertinentiis, tenementibus, tenandriis et libere tenementium serviciis, cum pertinentiis; omnes et singulas terras de Knapdale et Kyntyre cum pertinentiis, tenementibus tenandriis et liberetenementium serviciis; vicecomitatus de Invernes et Narne una cum omnibus aliis et singulis pertinentiis suis, castris et fortaliciis, sua, mera et spontanea voluntate; ac omne jus, clameum, proprietatem et possessionem eorundem quod et quas idem Johannes aut sui predecessores habet habuit aut habuerunt, a se et heredibus suis et assignatis imperpetuum eidem domino nostro Regi et suis successoribus, sua mera et spontanea voluntate sursum reddidit pureque simpliter et sponte renunciavit. Notarii ut supra.

Translation

On which day the same John of Islay, personally appearing before our same lord the king and the three estates of the realm - by his pure and spontaneous will - surrendered and - purely, simply and of his own will - resigned from himself and his heirs and assignees to our same lord the king and his successors in perpetuity, the earldom of Ross with pertinents, tenements, tenandries and services of freeholders, with pertinents; all and sundry the lands of Knapdale and Kintyre with pertinents, tenements, tenandries and services of freeholders; the office of sheriff of Inverness and Nairn, with all and sundry their other pertinents, [and] their castles and fortalices; and all right, claim, property and possession of the same, which the same John or his predecessors have, had or used to have. Notaries as above.

(RPS 1476/7/6)

1476 July 15

Agreement between James III and John, lord of the Isles in respect of the earldom of Ross, the offices of sheriff of Inverness and Nairn, and the lordships of Knapdale and Kintyre, and a bond that neither he nor his heirs will intromit with the same in the future. Edinburgh, 15 July 1476

[Joh]annema dominum Insularum obligari et per presentes bona fide firmiter obligo me et h[eredes meo]sa linialiter et recte vel ratione tallie descendentes no principi suppremoque domino nostro domino Jacobo tercio Scotorum regi illustrissimo suis [heredibus] et successoribus. Quia idem suppremus dominus noster [post forisfacturam] per eundem in suo parleamento super me omnibusque meis terris possessionibus redditibus officiis s[uperiori]tatibusfl et bonis causantibus meis demeritis juridice [productum vere]a et ex gratia sua speciali michi concessit hereditarie omnes et singulas terras et [michi antedictam forisfacturam pertinentes exceptis omnibus et singulis terris tocius comitatus Rossie cum officiis vicecomitatus de Invernes et Narne ac []a Knapdale et dominii de Kyntyre cum castris et fortaliciis earundem et aliis justis pertinentiis in propretate (sic) et tenandria quod nec ego nec he[redes mei nec aliquis nostro nomine impedimentum aut obstaculum faciam aut facient dicto suppremo domino nostro regi aut camerariis officiariis et ministris et tenentibus [actione et assedacione dictarum terrarum comitatus de Ross]a dominiorum de Knapdale et Kyntyre cum castris et officiis predictis aut in leva[a et proficuorum earundem cum pertinentiis sive aliquam perturbacionem molestiam

*iniuriam aut violenciam temporibus futuris tenentibus et inhabitantibus dicta[
Jendama vel impendent' et quod nunquam temporibus futuris [nee] ego nec heredes
mei predicti nec aliquis alius nomine vel ex parte aliquod jus vel clameum [directe]a
vel indirecte publice vel occulte in vel ad dictas terras [cum]a pertinentiis aut dicta
officia seu aliquam partem earundem in proprietate vel tenandria prosequemur vel
inde jus aut clameum exigere aut ven[dicare]a valeam nec valeant. Quas etiam terras
comitatus Rossie et officia de Invernes et Narne predicta ac antedictas terras
dominiorum de Knapdale et Kyntyre cum castris pred[ictis]a cum tenentibus
tenendriis et libere tenentium serviciis ac omnibus suis pertinentiis annexis et
dependentiis a me et heredibus meis eidem suppremo domino nostro regi et
successoribus suis cum eisdem imperpetuum spectand' et remanend' quitumclamo et
renuncio pro perpetuo per presentes. Ita quod ego et heredes mei ab omni juris titulo
tarn petitorio quam possessorio earundem sim et sint exclusus et exclusi imperpetuum
penitus et omnino. In cuius rei testimonium presentibus sigillum meum est appensum.
Apud Edinburgh decimo quinto die mensis julii anno Domini millesimo
quadringentesimo septuagesimo sexto.*

(Munro, J and Munro, R W (eds) 1986 *Acts of the Lords of the Isles*, 173-174;
MacDonald, A and MacDonald, A 1896 *The Clan Donald*, vol I, 553-554)

1478

The loss of Knapdale and Kintyre no doubt caused resentment within Clan Donald South who had previously held much of these lands leading to open rebellion. In April John lord of the Isles is summoned to parliament to answer for charges of rebellion and giving 'treasonable assistance' to rebels holding Castle Sween, following reports that he was 'stuffing' the building with men, victuals and arms of war. However later in the year John managed to clear his name obtaining a pardon for himself and his son Angus.

1478 April 7

John lord of the Isles accused of rebellion, 'stuffing castle sween' and summoned to court

The vij day off the monethe of Aprile, the secund day of the said parliament, Johnne, lorde of the Ilis, lauchfully, personali and peremptourli summond to the said day to ansuere to oure soverane lord the king in his said parliament for his tresonable assistance, counesale, favoris, help ande supportacioune geving to his rebellis and tratouris being in the castell of Castelsone, and for art and part of the tresonable stuffing of the saide castell with men, vitalis and armis for weire, and for the tresonable art and part of the halding of the saide castell contrare to the kingis majeste, and for his manifest rebelloun agane the king oure souraine lorde, making weire apoune his liegis attoure his forbidding, and for supportacioune and resetting of the kingis rebellis Donalde Gorme and Neile Makneile and thare complices, the quhilkis dali invadis the kingis liegis and distrois his landis, and for uthir tresouns, transgressiones and rebelliones again oure said souveraine lordis majeste wrocht and committit, the saide lorde being oft tymes callit and nocht comperit, the summondis being lauchfully previt be the schiref and the lauchfull tyme of day biding thareeftir,

our souveraine lorde, with the avise of the thre estatis, continewis the saide cause and accioun of summondis maid uppoune the saide Johnne, lorde of Ilis, to the secunde day of the monethe of Juin nixt tocum, with continucioune of dais, to his parliament tobe haldin at his burgh of Edinburghe, and to begyne the first day of the monethe of Juin forsaide, with continuacioune of dais, in the sammyn forme, strinth and effect as it now is.

On 7 April, the second day of the said parliament, John, lord of the isles, lawfully, personally and peremptorily summoned on the said day to answer our sovereign lord, the king, in his said parliament for his treasonous assistance, counsel, favours, help and support given to his rebels and traitors in the castle of Castelsone, and for participating in the treasonous furnishing of the said castle with men, victuals and arms of war, and for the treasonous participation of the holding of the castle in contradiction to the king's majesty, and for his manifest rebellion against the king, our sovereign lord, making war on his lieges in violation of his prohibition, and for support and harbouring the king's rebels Donald Gorm and Neil MacNeil and their accomplices who attack the king's lieges and destroy his lands daily, and for other treasons, transgressions and rebellions wrought and committed against our said sovereign lord's majesty, the said lord being often called but not compearing, the summons being lawfully proved by the sheriff and the lawful time of day commanded thereafter, our sovereign lord, with the advice of the three estates, continues the said cause and action of summons made on the said John, lord of the Isles, until 2 June next, with continuation of days, at his parliament to be held in his burgh of Edinburgh, and to begin the 1 day of the aforesaid June, with continuation of days, in the same form, strength and effect as it is now.

(RPS 1478/4/3)

1481

Colin Campbell, earl of Argyll, received an extensive grant of lands in the north of Knapdale along '*with the custody of the royal castle of Castlesone*'. Later in the year John MacDonald was restored to some of his Knapdale lands, however, these were only to be held in his lifetime. Tarbert now became the seat of a sheriff for an extensive shire that included Kintyre, Knapdale, Gigha, Islay, Jura, Scarba, Colonsay and Mull.

1481 Feb 26

Charter to Colin, Earl of Argyll Lord Campbell and Lorn,

Rex concessit Colino Comiti de Ergile, domino Campbell et Lorne, magistro hospitii sui,—pro singulari favore quern gessit erga ipsum, et pro ejus gratuitis servitiis,—160 mercatas terrarum dominii de Knapdale, unacum custodia castri regii de Castolsone, vic. Perth, et tunc per novam creationem et statutum Parliamenti infra vic. de Tarbart infra bondas subscriptas, viz.; — terras de Insulis de Dannaa, Whvaa, Thivinche, cum omnibus terris de Knajadale infra marchias subscrijttas, viz.;—inter Lochfyne ex parte orientali, et mare vocatum. Dura ex parte occidentali, ab aqua de Dowkassich ex parte australi extenden. ad boream ad Kantracrenane, et ab

Garsolene ex parte australi extenden. ad Lochgilb, fee, in liberam baroniam de Kilmichell: — Tenend. dicto Colino et heredibus ejus masculis de corpore ejus legitime procreatis, quibus deficientibus, Duncano Campbell de Glenurquha et heredibus, &c. (ut supra), quibus def., Duncano C. de Kilmichell et heredibus, &c. (ut supra), quibus def. Arch. C. de Ottir, et heredibus, &c. (ut supra), quibus def., Colino C. de Orraydale et heredibus, &c. (ut supra), quibus def., Johanni C. de Ardkinglas, et heredibus, &c. (ut supra), quibus def., dicto Colino dom. Campbell et ejus heredibus legitimis quibuscunque: — Reddend unum denarium argenti, nimine able firme

Translation

Charter by King James the Third, under the great seal, in favour of Colin Earl of Argyll, Lord Campbell and Lorne, His Majesty's Master of the household, of all the one hundred and sixty merk land of the lordship of Knapdale, with the keeping of Castle Swine, lying of old within the sheriffdom of Perth, and now in the sheriffdom of Tarmachan, viz.: the lands of the isle of Danna, Ulva, Tainish, and all the lands of Knapdale between Loch Sween towards the east and the sea called Jura towards the west, the water of Doukassich towards the south, from thence towards the north of Kantracenan on the one part from Garfeorlin on the south, extending to Loch Gilp towards the north, to be called in all time coming the barony of Kilmichael, to be held blench of the King's Majesty and his successors, Kings of Scotland, for payment of a silver penny in name of blench farm yearly at Whitsunday. By which charter the King grants to the Earl and his heirs power to create and ordain constables, porters, watchmen, captains, and keepers, and other officers necessary for the custody of Castle Swine. Dated 26th February 1480.

(Balfour Paul, J (ed.) 1882 *Registrum Magni Sigillii Regum Scotorum*. The Register of the Great Seal of Scotland, vol. II, 1464, 305; Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts 1874 *Fourth Report of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts* 239, 476)

1481 August 11

Charter by James III to John of Islay, lord of the Isles

Apud Edinburgh, 11 Aug.

Rex concessit Johanni de Ila, Domino Insularum—pro ejus fidei servitio, &c.—pro toto tempore ejus vite—terras subscriptas, viz.:—terras de Killewmane extendentes annuatim ad 12 merc.; terras da Owigill, Auchnaslesok, Achencork, et Kenochane, extend, annuatim ad 6 merc.; terras de duobus Knokrenochis, Glemorele, Altnabay, Baduff, et Areskeauch, extend, ad 9 merc.; terras de duobus Toreforguse et Largbane, extend, ad 5 merc.; terras de Koynethane et Hening, extend ad 3 merc.; terras de duobus Knokantis, et Calybole, extend, ad 6 merc.; de le Lossit et Glenhawindee, extend, ad 5 merc.; de Ballegrogane et Cregok, extenden. ad 4 merc.; de Catadill, Gertmeane, et Gartloskin, Bredelaide, et Keppragane, extenden. ad 8 merc.; de Ballenabraide, extenden. ad 2 merc.; de Kilsolane, extend, ad 4 merc.; de Achmaclaich, extend, ad 2 merc.; de Lagnacreig, extend. ad unam meream: de Knowsoyre, extend, ad imam merc.; de Gartloskin,

extend, ad unam merc.; de Glenranskill, extend, ad 3 merc.; de Glenvey, exteud. ad 2 merc.; de Brownergyn, Drumtryenoch, Dalsmerill, Lagnadaise, et Enyngeokaloch, extend, ad 4 merc, enm dimedia ; de Kildallok et Lonochane, extend, ad unam mercam cum dimedia; de Ellerich, et Arenarroch, extend, ad 2 merc.: de Cralekill, Macherhanys, Darbrekane, et Clagkeile extend ad 13 merc.;—acclamatas per Maknele, jacentes in dominio de Kyntyre, vic Tarbart:—ac etiam concessit dicto Johanni, pro toto tempore ejus vite,—terras subseriptas, viz.;—terras de Arymore, extend, ad 12 merc.; de Owragag, Achtydownegall, Scottomyl, Drunnalalaycht, Downskeig, le Lowb, Lemnamwk, Gartwaich, et Teseard, extend, ad 21 merc.; de Barmore, Garalane, Achnafny, Strondowr, Glenmolane, Glenraole, Largbanan, Barnellane, Howildrinocih, Glannafeoch, Ardpatrik, Ardmenys, Largnahowsehine, Frleyngloch, Crevyr, et Drumnamwkloch, extend ad 31 merc.; de Kilinolowok, extend, ad 4 merc.; de Drumdesok, extend, ad 4 merc.; de Clachbrek, extend, ad 2 merc.; de Barlonkyrt, extend, ad 4 merc.; de Altbeith, extend, ad unam merc.; de Cragkeith, extend, ad unam merc.; de Achetymelane, Dowemynnltoch, Benochane, Kileamok, Gartnagrauch, et Ormsay, extend, ad 20 merc.; acclamatas per Alaklane et Maknele, in dominio de Knapdale, vic. Tarbart.

Translation

Charter to John, lord of the Isles, for his lifetime of lands claimed by MacNeill in the lordship of Kintyre in the sheriffdom of Tarbert: Killeonan, Wigle, Achnaslishaig, Oatfield, and Cuinachan(?); two Knockriochs(?), Glen Muril, 'Altnabay', 'Baduff', and Arinascavach; Tirfergus and Largybaan; 'Keynethane' and Innean; Knockhanty and Killypole; Losset and Glenahanty; Ballygreggan and Craigaig; Cattadale, Gartvain, Gartloskan, Brecklate(?) and Keprigan; Balnabraid; Killellan; Achnaclach; 'Terindonyll'; Lecknacreive; 'Kerowsoyre'; Gartloskan; Glenramskill; 'Glenvey'; Brunerican, 'Drumtyrenoch', Dalsmeran, 'Lagnadaise' and Innean Coig Cailleiche; Kildalloig and 'Lenochane'; 'Ellerich' and Arinarach; 'Cralekill', Machrihanish, 'Darbrekane' and Clochkeil; and also lands claimed by MacLean and MacNeill in the lordship of Knapdale in the sheriffdom of Tarbert: Arivore; Oragaig, 'Achtydownegall', Scotmill, Druimnaleck, Dunskeig, Loup, Leamnamuic, Gartavaich and Eascairt(P); Barr Mor, 'Garalane', Acha nam Fiadh, Srondoire, 'Glenmolane', Glenralloch, 'Largbanan', Barnellan, Culdrynoch, Glenefiach, Ardpatrik, Ardminish, (Allt) Learg an Uinnsinn, 'Forleyngloch', Crear and Drumnamucklach; Cill Maluaig; Druimdrishaig; Sean-ghairt; Ballyaorgan; Clachbreck; Baranlongart; Allt Beithe; 'Cragkeith'; Achadh da Mhaoilein(?), Dunultach, Ronachan, Kilchamaig, Gartnagrenach and Ormsary, all in the sheriffdom of Tarbert.

Edinburgh, 11 August 1481.

(Balfour Paul, J (ed.) 1882 *Registrum Magni Sigillii Regum Scotorum*. The Register of the Great Seal of Scotland, Vol. II 1485, 310; MacDonald, A and MacDonald, A 1896 *The Clan Donald*, vol I, 559-560)



Tarbert c.1909 (old photograph)

10. Tarbert Castle and James IV (1488-1513)

Continued instability in the west is indicated by a royal force being at Tarbert between 1491 and 1493 when the castle was supplied by the Chamberlain.

1491-1493

Accounts of Patrick Hume of Polworth, Chamberlain of Stirlingshire from 4th July 1493-11th June 1494.

Et misse ad exercitum regis ad castrum de Tarbert et intrate in libris domicilii ad extra decimotercio Julii post hoc compotum de dictis firmis, j celdra xij bolle brasii. Et pro factura trium celdrarum et octo bollarum ordeï in brasium de anno compoti, et pro simili factura quatuor celdrarum et unius bolle ordeï in brasium de anno precedenti hoe compotum, percipiendo de celdra unam bollam, vij bolle ij ferlote j pecca ordeï. Et eidem, pro similibus expensis factis in dicto domicilio a vicesimoseptimo Septembris inclusive anni nonagesimiprimi usque vicesimumseptimum mensis Junii anni nonagesimisecondi, ut patet in dictis libris examinatis ut supra, xix celdre xiiij bolle brasii.

Translation

And I sent to the king's army at the castle of Tarbert, and entered in the books of the chamberlain, on the thirteenth of July after this, an account of the said, i chalder xii bolls of oats. And for the making of three chalders and eight bolls of barley into malt for the year, and for the like making of four chalders and one boll of oats into malt in the preceding year, retaining in the cellar one boll, vii bolls ii firlots i peck of barley. And to the same, for similar expenses incurred in the said residence from the twenty-seventh of September inclusive of the ninety-first year to the twenty-seventh of June of the ninety-second year, as is evident in the said books examined as above, xix chalders xiiii bolls of oats.

(Burnett, G (ed.) 1887 *Rotuli scaccarii regum Scotorum*. The Exchequer Rolls of Scotland, vol X, 407)

1494

The continued threat of potential trouble in Argyll and the Isles led to a more serious attempt by the crown to pacify the west when in 1494 James IV personally led a military campaign to the Western Isles, which he visited three times. On the 5th of July the King prepared for this new expedition to isles by despatching couriers to summon *‘the Lords of the Westland, Southland, and Eastland, to the meeting of the King at the Tarbert’* by the 24th of July. During the King’s residence at Tarbert an exchequer was held and the account includes tax contributions made by the Bishop of Dunblane and the Abbot of Newbattle for the *‘begin of Tarbert’* also *‘The expens maid uppone the vittuling of the Tarbert and the King’s schippis, the tyme the King past in the His, in the year of God, 1494’* and castle was also provided *‘with artillery and skilful gimner’* with the shipping of artillery to the castle and laying down a stock of gunpowder and payment for master gunners. Local tradition suggests that the ‘Parliamentary sitting’ was held in the Sheriff Court House, which is believed to have stood on the site now occupied by the Free Church. Initiating repairs at the Castle the king left a provisioned garrison and then proceeded to take Dunaverty castle from the MacDonalds. Tarbert along with Skipness and Dunaverty appear to have been left under the control of Duncan Forester, King Jame’s comptroller between 1492-1499 who was in charge of collecting and spending royal revenue.

1494

De Taxa

Item, the Comptare chargis him wyth xx li. ressaut fra the Bischop of Dunblane to the begin of Tarbert.

Item, wyth xx li. ressaut fra the Abbot of Newbotill for the said caus.

Summa xl li.

(Dickson T (ed.) 1877 *Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer of Scotland*, vol I, 215)

1494 July 5

In primis, the v day of Julij, gevin to Donald Malynne, curroure, to pass with lettres to the Lordis of the Westland, for the mating of the King at the Terbert, x s.

Item, to Johne Keir, to pass with sic lik lettres in the Southland and the Estland, xiiij s.

Item, for the cariage of ane barrell of gwn pulder fra Edinburgh to Dunbertane, x s.

Item, [the xxiiij day of Julij] to ane curroure, passande fra Glasgw to the Terbert with writingis to the King, v s.

Item, gevin to the gunnaris, the semen tyme, be the Kingis commande, to drinksiluer, xi s.

Item, gevin to ane currou to pass with lettres for the continuacioun of the airis of the Northland, xiiij s. iiij d.

Item, gevin to the chapell, to thare expensis quhen the King was at the Terbert, vj li. xiiij s. iiij d.

(Dickson T (ed.) 1877 *Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer of Scotland*, vol 1 237)

1494 31 July

And, the penult day of Julij, deliverit to my Lord Chalmerlane, at the Terbert, iijxxvj li. xiii s. iiij d.

(Dickson T (ed.) 1877 *Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer of Scotland*, vol I, 235)

1494 August 20

Item, quhen the King come fra Terbert, bocht fra James Abircrummy in Striueling, the xx day of August,

(Dickson T (ed.) 1877 *Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer of Scotland*, vol, I, 223)

1494

The expense maid uppon the vittaling of Tarbert and the Kingis schippis, the tyme the King past in the Ilis, the yere of God, etc., nynte and four yeris.

In primis, deliverit to Duncan Forestar, Comptrollar, at the Kingis commaund, xv chalderis ij bollis meile, quhilk is enterit in the Kingis bukis of houshald.

Item, deliuerit to Patrik Gourla, servand to the Lard of Balgowny, for the forsaid provisione, be the Kingis precept and commaund; and to Richard Fordoun; and to Donald Owre, be the said precept and commaund, xv chalderis iij bollis meile; price of the boll iij s.;

summa xlviij li. xvj Q. Item, for lxxviij sekkis ; price of the s[ek ij]Q.; summa vij li. xvj s.

Item, for fraueht, cariage and expens maid uppon the said vitall, vj li.

Item, for the fraucht and hyre of a schip furth of Are to Downawarte, with vitall to the King quhen he was thare, vj li. xij s.

Summa totalis huius folij lxviiij li.

(Dickson T (ed.) 1877 *Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer of Scotland*, vol I, 244)

1494

Provision for Tarbert Castle provided by the Lord of Islay and Donald Oure (a son of Angus son of John Lord of the Isles)

Et per liberacionem factam ad provisionem Castri de Tarbert, liberate Domino Lile et Donaldo Oure de mandato domini regis, rotulatore testante mandatum super compotum, ij celdre ordeii.

Translation

The delivery is made for the provision of the Castle of Tarbert, payment of the Lord of Islay and Donald Owr by command of the king, citing the comptrollers command on the account, 2 chalders of barley

(Burnett, G (ed.) 1887 *Rotuli scaccarii regum Scotorum*. The Exchequer Rolls of Scotland, vol X, 477-478)

1494

Accounts of Duncano Forester de Skipinche knight

Et eidem, per liberacionem factam Duncano Forester, compotorum rotulatori, et misse ad locum de Tarbert pro previsione ibidem facienda, pro quibus compotandum est cum dicto rotulatore, xij celdre xiiij bolle brasii.

Translation

And to the same, the delivery to Duncan Forester, the comptroller, and sent to the place of Tarbert for provision to be made there, for whom it is to be accounted with the said comptroller 12 chalders 14 bolls of malt.

Et eidem, per liberacionem factam ad expensas provisionis de Tarbert ut supra, et intratam in libris domicilii xiiij Julii post hoc compotum, quod brasium extendit se in toto ad tresdecim celdras et duodecim bollas, de quibus prius et superius allocantur duodecim celdre quatuordecim bolle in plenam allocacionem dicte summe, xiiij bolle brasii.

Translation

And to the same, the expenses of delivery made for the provision of Tarbert as above, and entered in the books of the house on the 13th of July after this account, that the malt amounts to thirteen celdars and twelve bolls, of which before and above are allocated twelve celdre fourteen bolls in the full allocation was said above, 14 bolls malt.

(Burnett, G (ed.) 1887 *Rotuli scaccarii regum Scotorum*. The Exchequer Rolls of Scotland, vol X, 451-452)

Et per liberacionem factam dicto rotulatori in sex martis liberatis artificibus in Tarbert in mense Julii ante hoc compotum et de quibus reddidit compotum, vj li.

And the delivery made to the said comptroller of six marts on the release of artists from Tarbert in the month of July before this account £6

(Burnett, G (ed.) 1887 *Rotuli scaccarii regum Scotorum*. The Exchequer Rolls of Scotland, vol X, 451-452)

1495

Duncan Forester was given the constableness of Skipness castle the and possibly used this as his base while Tarbert Castle was under reconstruction.

1495 3 July

James IV granted to his comptroller Sir Duncan Forester the castle Skipness

Apud Glasgw, 3 Jul.

Rex, pro singulari favours, et pro ejus fideli servitio, concessit familiari suo compotorum

*rotulatori Duncano Forestare de Skipinche militi,—terras de Skipinche, cum castro, fortalicio, et loco earimdem, extendem. Ad 4 mercatas terrarum; terras de Lethourlee et Kilelee, extenden. ad 2 mercatas terrarum; Colintre, extenden. ad 2 merc.; le Altgallereas et Altwowar, extenden. ad 2 merc.; Glenskipinche, extenden. ad unam mere; Glenrestill, extenden. ad 2 merc.; Clyneagir, extenden. ad 4 merc.; Orgagir, extenden. ad 4 merc.; Stronrestill, extenden. Ad imam merc.; Garworle, extenden. ad unam mere; Laganrowok, extenden. ad unam merc.; et Allemor, extenden. ad 12 merc. cjuē omnes extend unt ad 36 merc., in dominio de Knapdale, vic. Terbart;—et quas rex in unam liberam baroniam de Skipinche univit et- incorporavit :
—Reddend unum denarium argenti nomine albe firme*

Translation

Charter by King James the Fourth, under the great seal, in favour of Sir Duncan Forester of Skipnish, Knight, of the lands of Skipnish with the castle, fortalice, and place thereof, the lands of Letterlee, Kilelee, Colintree, Altgalileas, Altchovar, Glenskipnish, Glenrestill, Clanigar, Orgaig, Skeneskar, Garworill, Laggarvock, Aliemore, in the lordship of Knapdale and sheriffdom of Tarbet, united into the free barony of Skipnish, with power of pit and gallows, outfang and infang thief; to be held blench for payment of a silver penny at the Castle of Skipnish at the feast of St. John the Baptist. Dated 3rd July 1495.

(Balfour Paul, J (ed.) 1882 *Registrum Magni Sigillii Regum Scotorum*. The register of the Great Seal of Scotland, vol II, 2261, 479; Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts 1874 *Fourth Report of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts*, 477)

1497 Nov 26

King James granted to Walter Forester (Duncans son and heir) the barony and fortalice of Skipynch for life

Apud Linlithqw, 26 Nov.

Rex concessit familiari militi suo Waltero Forstare, filio et heredi apparenti familiaris militis sui Duncani F. de Skipynch, et heredibus ejus,—terras de Garden, cum turre, fortalicio et molendino earundem, vic. Perth; terras de le My,le Torwod, et Torwodhed, cum officio forestarii et custodia de le Torwod, vic. Striveling; terras de le Qwoyg, cum molendino earundem, terras de Kirktoune-Malare, et Hiltoun-Malare, vic. Perth; et baroniam de Skipynch, cum castro et fortalicio ejusdem, in dominio de Knapdale;—quas dictus Dune, personaliter resignavit

(Balfour Paul, J (ed.) 1882 *Registrum Magni Sigillii Regum Scotorum*. The Register of the Great Seal of Scotland, vol II, 2384, 505).

1498

King James revoked all charters granted in the previous five years to the vassals of the Lord of the Isles. The reasons for this are obscure, but it represents a sharp change in policy after a year or two of relative tranquillity, although it was probably due to further rebellion by the MacDonalds. In that year we again find King James at Tarbert Castle when he sailed in March (from Ayr), and visiting Arran before proceeding to the new castle which he had built at the head of Loch Kilkerane, (now Campbeltown), in South Kintyre. Having spent a week there and at Tarbert, he returned by way of Ayr to Duchal. The accounts of that year mention the provision of both castles and for '*ane cole man to pas in Kintyre tovesy gif colis may be wonnye thare*'. The King also granted Skipness to the keeping of Duncan Foretser.

1498 March

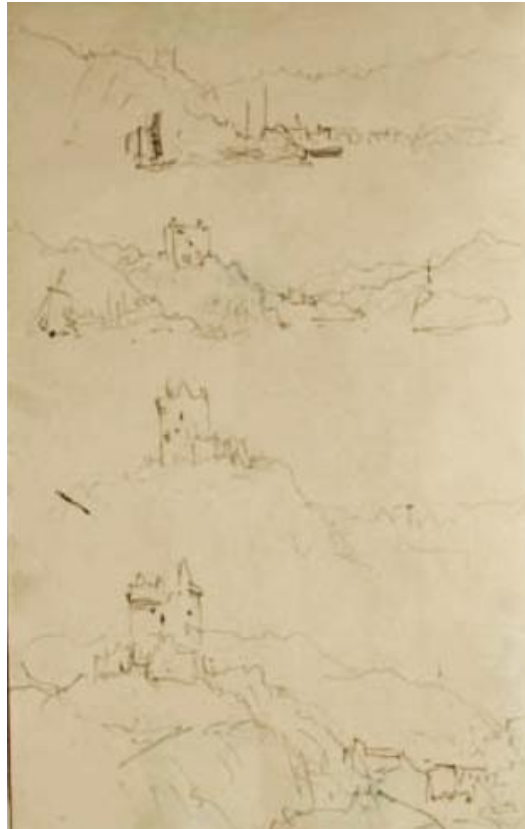
Item, the xxvij day of Aprile, gifin to ane cole man, to pas in Kyntyr to vesy gif colis may be wonnye thare, xvijj s.

(Dickson T (ed.) 1877 *Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer of Scotland*, vol I, clxv)

1498 March 18

Charter by King James the Fourth, after his majority and perfect age of 25 years, in favour of Sir Duncan Forester, of the barony of Skipnish, comprehending the lands, castles, and others above mentioned...

(Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts 1874 *Fourth Report of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts*, 477)



Tarbert Castle, 1831, from the sketchbook of JMW Turner (1775-1851)

1499

After being '*repaired at considerable cost*', Tarbert Castle was again used by James IV as a naval supply base during his campaign to suppress the outlawed but still rebellious John of the Isles, Lord of Dunyvaig and the Glens. This most implacable opponent of the King along with his son John Catanach and a number of other kinsmen were captured at Finlaggan on Islay by John MacIain of Ardnamurchan and taken to Tarbert Castle. In March James sailed from Ayr to the castle where he may have taken personal custody of the prisoners, who were hanged soon after, probably at Stirling, while the king confirmed his grant of Skipness Castle to Duncan Forester. For his services to the crown John MacIain received a charter, issued at Tarbert in March 1499, for lands in Islay, Jura and Kintyre. In August James then made Archibald Campbell, earl of Argyll, keeper of Tarbert Castle.

1499 March 29

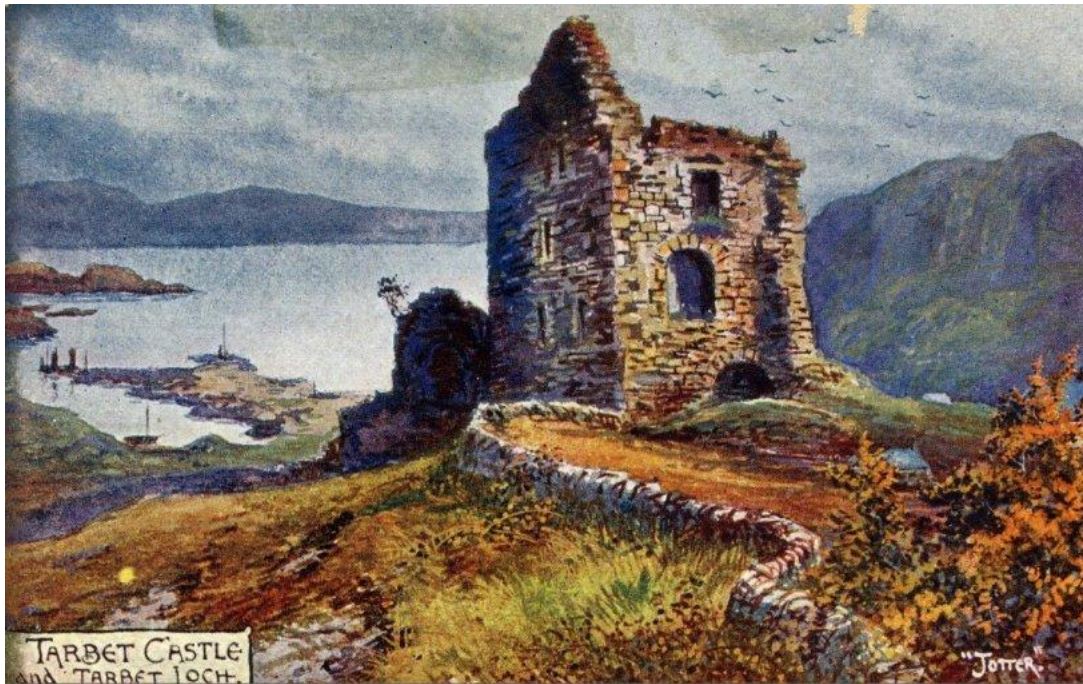
Charter to John MacIain of Ardnamurchan,

...Apud castrum nostrum de Terbert in Knabdell, vicesimo nono die mensis Marcii, anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo nonagesimo nono, et regni nostri undecimo.

Translation

At our castle of Tarbert in Knapdale, twenty-ninth of March in the year of our Lord one thousand four hundred and ninety-nine and the eleventh year of our reign.

(Smith, G G 1895 *The Book of Islay: Documents illustrating the history of the island*, 28-30)



11. The Campbell Lordship of Knapdale

1499

The constablership of the refurbished Tarbert Castle is granted to Archibald Campbell, earl of Argyll. It has been speculated that the forework added to the northwest angle of the Tower House was built during the Cromwellian occupation in 1652, but as the RCHAMS suggests this is more likely to be work undertaken prior to this date by the Campbells, probably sometime in the 16th century.

1499 Aug 22

A Letter mad to Archibald Erle of Ergile, lord Campbell, etc.,- of the keeping of the house of Tarbat, together with the balzery and governans of the landis of Knapdale pertenyng to the kingis henes, and als the proffitis and dewitteiz pertenyng to the ammyn: To endur for our severance lordis will, etc.

Per subscriptionem Regis. Gratis

(Livingstone, M (ed.) 1908 *Registrum Secreti Sigilli Regum Scotorum*, Register of the Privy Seal of Scotland, vol I, 413, 58)

1502

James IV consolidates the Campbells in Knapdale by also giving Archibald earl of Argyll the custody of Skipness Castle which was resigned by Duncan Forester.

1502 Sept 12

Apud Striveling, 12 Sept.

Rex concessit Archibaldo Comiti de Ergile, dom. Campbele et Lorne, magistro hospitii sui,—terras de Skipynch, cum castro, fortalicio et loco earundem, extendentes ad 4 mercatas terrarum, terras de Lathourling et Kilpenny ad 2 merc, Colintre ad 2 merc, le Altgallorcaset Ariwoware ad 2 mere., Glenskipale ad 1 merc, Glenrestill ad 2 mere, Clynaig ad 4 merc, terras de Orgaig ad 4 merc, Stronerestill ad 1 merc, Garweile ad 1 merc, Laganerowok ad 1 mere, et terras de Arymore ad 12 merc, extendentes in integro ad 36 mercatas terrarum, in dominio de Knapdalle, vic Tarbart;—quas in liberam baroniam de Skipinch per regem incorporatas, Duncanus Forestare de Skipinch miles personabter resignavit:— Tenend. dicto Archibaldo et beredibus masculis ejus de corpore legitime procreatis, quibus deficientibus, Duncano Campbele de Glenurquha et heredibus ejus, &c. (ut supra), quibus omnibus def., legitimis et propinquieribus beredibus masculis dicti Archibaldi arma et cognomen de Campbele gerentibus quibuscunque: — Reddend. annuatim unum denarium argenti nomine albe firme:

Translation

Charter by King James the Fourth, under the great seal, to Archibald Earl of Argyll, Lord Campbell and Lorne, His Majesty's Master of the Household, and his heirs, of the lands and barony of Skipnish, comprehending the castle thereof and others above written, following on the resignation of the said Sir Duncan Forester, with power of pit and gallows; to be held blench for payment of a silver penny beside the Castle of Skipnish at the feast of St. John the Baptist. Dated 12th September 1502.

(Balfour Paul, J (ed.) 1882 *Registrum Magni Sigilii Regum Scotorum*. The register of the great seal of Scotland, vol II, 2669, 567; Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts 1874 *Fourth Report of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts*, 477)

1504

James IV revoked all previous charters which led to another major uprising in the west which led James to propose setting up a system of court and court officers to be based at either Tarbert or Kilkerran.

1504

Item, because there has been great abuse of justice in the northern and western parts of the realm, such as the Northern Isles and Southern Isles, through the lack of the said justice ayres, justices and sheriffs, and thereby the people have almost become

wild, it is therefore decreed and ordained for the calming of the people through justice that in the future there are to be justices and sheriffs depute in those parts as follows below: that is to say, that the justices and sheriffs of the Northern Isles have their seat and place to administer justice in Inverness or Dingwall as the matters arise to be decided by the said officers, and that another justice and sheriff be made and depute for the Southern Isles and those parts and [he is] to have his place and seat for the administration of justice in Tarbert or at Loch Kilkerran at the will and pleasure of the said officers as the matters arise.

(RPS A1504/3/103)

1504

Item, that there be [a] justice depute for the Isles and sheriffs, and those who are justice and sheriff for the Northern Isles [are] to sit in Inverness or Dingwall, and another justice and sheriff depute [is] to sit in Tarbert or at Loch Kilkerran for the Southern Isles

(RPS 1504/3/16)

1505

Despite raising money for the rebuilding of Tarbert several years previously it may be that the James IV had concentrated on building the new castle at Kilcheran and any proposed refurbishment of Tarbert was delayed or unfinished until 1505 when the King appointed the Archibald Campbell earl of Argyll, Justicar, Sheriff, Coroner and Chamberlain of Knapdale and Kintyre and captain of 'the House and fortalice of Tarbet when it shal be built' relying on the Campbells to maintain the King's peace in Argyll (the title 'Keeper of the Castle of Tarbert' is still borne today by the present Duke of Argyll). The political changes wrought by the forfeiture of the Lordship possibly reflects itself in the loyalties of Clan MacAlister in which part of the clan attaches itself to the MacDonalds of Dunyvaig, with others including Donald, second son of (Angus) vic Ean Dhù, becoming vassals of the Campbell earls of Argyll (now acting as Crown Chamberlain), Donald MacAlister becoming first Laird of Tarbert and constable of the castle.

1505 Feb 23

Charter by King James the Fourth, under the great seal, in favour of Archibald Earl of Argyll, of the offices of justiciary and sheriffship, crownary and chamberlainry of the lands and lordship of Knapdale and Kintyre, and Captain of the House and fortalice of Tarbet when it shall be built; also disposing heritably to the Earl of Argyll and his heirs the lands of Kilberrie and south half of Knapdale, with the patronage of the kirk of Kilberry, and uniting the same into a barony called the Barony of Tarbet, lying within the sheriffdom of Tarbet, with the half of the escheats and amerciements of the said courts, and the half of the fees and casualties of the foresaid office of crownary, to be held in ward.

(Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts 1874 *Fourth Report of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts*, 239, 476)

1511 August 13

Charter of confirmation by King James the Fourth, under the great seal, in favour of Archibald Campbell, son of Archibald Earl of Argyll, and his heirs, of the lands and barony of Skipnish, with the keeping of the castle thereof; to be held of the said Earl for service of ward, relief, and marriage when the same shall happen, with two galleys, one of 16 oars and another of 14, for the service of the Earl when he shall be required, with 24 bolls of meal, 24 bolls of beare, and 30 stones of cheese to be paid at the foresaid castle.

(Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts 1874 *Fourth Report of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts*, 477)

1513

The Campbell control of Knapdale was maintained after the death of James IV at Flodden.

1513 November 18

Sasine following upon a precept directed furth of King James the Fourth's Chancery, in favour of Colin Earl of Argyll, in the offices of Justiciary, Sheriffship, Crownary, Bailiery, and Chamberlainry of both Kintyres and Knapdales, south and north, lying in the sheriffdom of Tarbet. Dated 18th November 1513.

(Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts 1874 *Fourth Report of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts*, 485)

1526 January 18

Colin Campbell received a Royal Charter of all his father's lands which Earl Archibald had resigned for regrant by King James V to his heir (this obviously uses the same wording as the 1505 grant as it still tells Tarbert is still not built a phrase which also appears in later charters).

Apud Edinburgh, 18 Jan.

Rex concessit Archibaldo Campbell Alio et heredi apparenti Colini com. Ergadie dom. Campbell et Lome &c., et ejus heredibus,—dominium de Lorne, cum tenentibus &c., baroniam de Kilmon, baroniam de Lochchow, baroniam de Urquhay, Ovir Cowell, terras de Strathchie, terras do Orchard et Ardmernok, baroniam de Ottir, terras de Achnagarryn, terras de Concrow, Kildalwin, Inverneil, le Glak, terras de Kamys et Achtyewin, terras de Glasry, terras de Craginche, terras de Melfort, terras de Eddirling, terras de Tausnache et Stelag, terras de Bordland cum custodia castri de Dunnone, terras de Ardsodhinch, terras de Tollort-Flemyng, terras de Loyng, terras de Swna, terras de Glensero et Lettir, terras de Glenary, terras de Lochstrewinheid, vic. Ergile; officia vicecomitatus, justicie, camerarie, coronatoris et looumtenentis infra dictum vic; cum advocatione beneficiorum diet, terrarum; terras de South Knapdall, cum tenentibus et tenandriis, custodia castri de Tarbart cum edificatum foret, baronia de Tarbart et vicecomitatu ejusdem nuncupat;

terras de Kintire, terras de North Knapdaill, cum tenentibus et tenandriis, officiis justiciarie, vicecomitatus, coronatoris, camerarie, locumtenentis, cum advocacione beneficiorum diet, terrarum; officium balliatus ambarum terrarum de Kintiris, et custodiam castri de Dounawartich cum edificatum foret; terras et baroniam de Menstre cum molendino, vic. Clakmannane; terras de Pannell, 5 marcas de Duflettir, terras de Nether-Glenny, terras de Drumlane et Blairbeuok, vic. Perth; terras de Gloume cum castro et fortalicio Castel - Campbell nuncupato, tenentibus &c., vic. Perth; terras de Litill et Mekill Pincartoun, cum tenentibus &c., infra vie. Edinburgh et constab. de Hadingtoun; —quas dictus Col. personaliter resignavit: — Resbrvatis libero tenement dicto Col, ac rationabili tortia ejus sponse cum contingeret, cum ejus conjuncta infeodatione

Translation

At Edinburgh, 18 Jan.

The king granted to Archibald Campbells heir apparent Colin, Earl of Argyll Lord Campbell and Lome, &c., and his heirs-

the Lordship of Lorne, barony of Kilmun, barony of Lochawe, barony of Glenorchy, Over Cowall, lands of Strathachie, lands of Orchard and Ardmarnock, barony of Otter, lands of Achnagarryn, lands of Coneraw, Kildalwin, Inverneil, le Glak, the lands of Kames and Achtyewin, the lands of Glassary, the lands of Craignish, the lands of Melfort, the lands of Ederline, the lands of Tausnache and Stelaig, the lands of Bordland with the Keeping of the Castle of Dunoon, the lands of Ardscofnish, the lands of Tollard-Fleming, the lands of Luing, the lands of Shuna, the lands of Glenshira and Lettir, the lands of Glenaray, the lands of Lochstrivenhead, in the Shire of Argyll, the Office of Sheriff, Justiciar, Coronar and Lieutenant with the advowson of the benefices of the said land in the said Sherifffdom, the lands of South Knapdale – with the custody of Tarbert Castle when it should be built – the barony of Tarbert, the lands of Kintyre the lands of North Knapdale – with office of Justice, Sheriff, Coroner, Chamberlain and Lieutenant with advowson of the benefices of the said lands – the Bailiary of North and South Kintyre – and custody of Dunaverty when it shall be built – the lands and barony of Menstrie in Clackmannan, the lands of Pannell, of Duislettir, the lands of Nether Glenny, the lands of Drumlane and Blairbeuok in Perth, the lands of Gloume with Castle and Fortalice – known as Castle Campbell – the lands of Little and Meikle Pinkerton.

(Balfour Paul, J (ed.) 1883 *Registrum Magni Sigillii Regum Scotorum*. The Register of the Great Seal of Scotland, vol III, 348, 78-79)

1529 August 19

Sasine following upon a precept from His Majest 's Chancery, upon the resignation of the said Colin Earl of Argyll in favour of Archibald Earl of Argyll, son and heir of the said Colin, in the lands and lordship of Lorne, baronies of Kilmun, Lochaw, Glenorchy, Over Cowall, Strachachie Otter, the lands of Orchardtown, Ardmernoch, Auchingarren, the lands of Couchra, Kildalvan, Innerweill, Games, Auchtyevin, the lands of Glassary, Craigness, Melford, Edderlin, Taunich, Stelag, Bordland, with the keeping of the castle of Dunoon, the lands of Ardskeodnish, Towart Fleeming, Loyn , Toresay, Shuna, Glenshea, Leter, and Glenara, an Loch Strevingshead, in the sherifffdom of Argyll, the lands of south and north Knapdales, with the keeping of the castle of Taret, the lands of Kintyre, with the offices of Justiciar, Sheriff,

Chamberlain, Coroner, and Lieutenant, within the sheriffdom of Argyll, right of patronage of the churches and benefices of the foresaid lands; with the office of bailie of the lands of both Kintyres, with the keeping of the castle of Dounavertie; (Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts 1874 *Fourth Report of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts*, 243, 485)

1529 September 2

Sasine given at the castle of Tarbet, upon a precept from King James the Fifth's Chancery, in favour of Archibald Campbell, Master of Argyll, son and heir apparent to Colin Earl of Argyll, of the foresaid several offices of Justiciar, Sheriff, Coroner, Bailie, and Chamberlain of both Kintyres and Knapdales.

(Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts 1874 *Fourth Report of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts*, 245, 485)

1529-1539

As mentioned above, many of the MacAlisters were still allied to the MacDonalds, as can perhaps be seen in their involvement in the Dunyvaig insurrection of 1529. This involved a rebellion by 'The Clandonald of Isla' against what was seen as Campbell territorial expansion over former MacDonald lands. The Loup family, under their chief Alexander, along with the MacLeans took part in an 'invasion' of Campbell lands of Roseneath, Lennox, and Craignish, 'which they ravage with fire and sword, killing at the same time many of the inhabitants', according to the Registry of the Privy Seal. A 'Donaldo McAlester', possibly the brother of Alexander of Loup and future Constable of Tarbert is summoned twice to parliament in 1531 to answer 'for certain treasonous actions contained in the said summons', but he fails to appear and in 1539 Alexander along with his brother, nephew, and 300 men were outlawed by the crown.

1541 March 14

Archibald Campbell earl of Argyll resigned lands including Tarbert Castle to King James V who subsequently regranted them to him.

Apud Edinburgh, 14 Mar.

Rex, pro servitio &c. Archibaldo Ergadie Comiti, dom. Campbell et Lorne &c., — terras et baroniam de Lochhow, terras de Arscodinche, Glenyra, Glenscherro et Letter, burgum de Inverara infra diet, baroniam, terras de baroniam de Glenurquhay, terras et baroniam de Over Cowell, terras de Straquhoure, extenden. ad 51 marcas terras antiqui extentus, terras de Strathache, Glenmassen, Glenlaeyne, Lochstrevinheid, Ardinslait, Tollard-Flemyng, Invemeill, Glak, Kamrays, Auchtyewin, Ardmarrok, Lysag, Derengyrochmoir, Glencaw et Derengyrochbeg, terras et baroniam de Otterinwerane, terras de Glassery et Edderling, viz. Menard, Kilmichaelbeg, Gorthenraimioh, Knok, Ardcastell, Gallannache, Auchnabrok, Ballemoir, Kilmichaell, Hozellew, Monenearnach, Knopalway, Tunnyne, Garwald, Cragnewir, Thangenalyicht, Bairquhoill, Torwlaren, Lag, Auchety-carlych,

Cragmuryill, ac terras de Craginche et Melfort, vic. Ergilo; terras et baroniam de Terbert, cum custodia castris de T. cum edificari contingeret, vic. Terbert; cum castris, turribus, fortaliciis, molendinis, lacubus, piscariis in aquis dulcibus et salsis silvis, nemoribus, forestis, annexis, tenentibus &c., advocacione ecclesie de Kilbary ac coterarum ecclesiarum et capellaniarum diet terrarum;—quas idem Arch. personaliter resignavit; et quas rex de novo incorporavit in liberam baroniam de Lochhow, ordinando castrum de Incheconnell fore principale messuagium ejusdem: —cum liberarum forestarum privilegiis ubi nemora extitemnt: — Reddend. annuatim tres sectas ad tria placita capitalia vic. de Ergile, cum servitio warde &c

Translation

Charter by King James the Fifth in favour of Archibald Earl of Argyll, following on his resignation, of the lands and baronies of Lochaw, Ardskeodnish, Glenara, Glenshera, Leter and burgh of Inveraray, Glenorchy, Over Cowall, the lands of Straquhirr, the lands of Strachachie, Glenmassen, Glenlaen, Lochstrevinshead, Ardinslatt, Tollart Fleeming, Innerweill, Gleikamish, Auchtyewing, Ardmernok, Lindsage, Dorrina, Gerrochmore, Deoringerothleg, lencaw, the lands and barony of Otter Invean, Glassarie, and Edderlin, underwritten, viz., Menard, Killinslevig, Gortinrannoch, Knok, Ardechastell, Galleauch, Auchinbreck, Ballemore, Kilmichaell, Monenernich, Knokalloway, Tunes, Garvalt, Craiginure, Thangualicht, Blair uhold, Torblaran, Laggantheitie, Carlyth, Craigmurriel, and the lands of Graiginsh and Melford, in the sheriff'dom of Argyll, and the lands and barony of Tarbet, with the keeping of the castle of Tarbet when it shall be built, in the sheriff'dom of Tarbet, with the castles, towers, fortalices, mills, lochs, fishings in fresh and salt waters, woods, forests, with the advocation and donation of the kirk of Kilberrie, and all other kirks and chapels within the said lauds, all erected into a barony to be called the barony of Lochaw, to be held of the King's Majesty by service of ward and relief for three suits yearly to be given at three head courts of the sheriffdom of Argyll, with the service of ward, relief, and marriage when the same shall happen. Dated 14th March 1540.

(Balfour Paul, J (ed.) 1883 *Registrum Magni Sigillii Regum Scotorum*. The Register of the Great Seal of Scotland, vol III, 2306, 527; Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts 1874 *Fourth Report of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts*, 6, 473)

1542

Archibald Campbell is confirmed in his lands along with Tarbert castle granted the previous year resigning the same lands to King James V., by whom they were then granted to Archibald the Earl's son and heir the custody of Castle Sween is also given to the earl of Argyll.

1542 October 22

Apud Edinburgh, 22 Oct.

Rex concessit Archibaldo Campbell, filio et heredi apparenti Archibaldi com. Ergadie dom. Campbell et Lorne &c., —terras et baroniam de Lochhow, terras de Ardsoodinche, Glenyra, Glenshero et Letter, ac burgum de Inverara infra diet. baroniam, terras et baroniam de Glenurquhay, terras et baroniam de Ovir-Cowell,

terras de Straquhoure extenden. ad 51 marcat. antiqui extentus, terras de Strathache, Glenmassen, Glenlaeyne, Lochstrevinsheid, Ardinslait, Tollard-Flemyng, Inverneill, Glak, Kammys, Auchtyewin, Ardarnok, Lyusag, Derengyrochmoir, Glencow, Derengirochbeg, terras et baroniam de Otterinwerane, terras de Glassery et Edderling, viz. Menard, Kilmychaelbeg, Gorthenrannich, Knok, Ardcastell, Gallannache, Auchnabrok, Ballemoir, Kilmichaell, Hozellew, Monenearnach, Rnopalway, Tunnyne, Garwald, Cragnewir, Thangenalyiclit, Blairquhoill, Torwlaeren, Lag, Auchety-carlych, Cragmiuryill, terras de Craginche et Melfort, vic. Ergile; terras et baroniam de Terbert, cum custodia castri de T. cum edificari contingeret, vic. Tarbert; cum castris, turribus, fortaliciis, molendinis, lacubus, piscariis in aqiis dulcibus et salsis, partibus, pendiculis, silvis, nemoribus, forestis, tenentibus &c., advocacione ecclesie de Kilbary ac ceterarum ecclesiarum et capellaniarum omnium diet, terrarum; — quas, prius per regem Incorporatas in baroniam de Lochhow, dictus comes personaliter resignavit: — Tenend. dido Arch.C. et heredibus masc. ejus de corpore legit, procreatis, quibus deficientibus, legit, et propinquioribus heredibus masc. quibuscumque arma et cognomen de Campbell gerentibus, quibus def., legitimis et pro- pinquioribus heredibus dicti Arch, quibuscumque, in libera baronia ut prius; cum liberarum forestarum privilegiis ubi nemora fuerunt: — Reddend. annuatim tres sectas ad tria placita capitalia vic. de Ergile, cum servitio warde et relevii ac maritagio cum contingeret: — Reservatis &c.

(Balfour Paul, J (ed.) 1883 *Registrum Magni Sigillii Regum Scotorum*. The Register of the Great Seal of Scotland, vol III, 2812, 653)

1542 October 22

Charter by King James the Fifth, under the great seal, in favour of Archibald Campbell, son and heir apparent to Archibald Earl of Argyll, and his heirs male heritably, following upon the said Earl's resignation, containing a *de novo damus* of the offices of Lieutenant, Commissary, Sheriff, and Chamberlain within the bounds of Argyll, and offices of Justiciar and Sheriff of Lorne, with the half of the wards, reliefs, marriages, escheats, amerciements, and other profits whatsoever within the foresaid bounds, with the offices of justiciar, sheriff, coroner, and chamberlain of the lands and lordship of Knapdales and Kintyres, within the whole bounds thereof, to be held in ward of His Majesty. Dated 22nd October 1542

(Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts 1874 *Fourth Report of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts*, 485)

1542 Oct 22

Apud Edinburgh, 22 Oct.

Rex concessit Archibaldo Campbell, filio et heredi apparenti Archibaldi com. Ergadie dom. Campbell et Lorne &c.,

Cum custodia castri do Swyne, terras ot baroniam do Skipinche, vic. Terbart; cum castris, turribus, fortaliciis, maneriubus, molendinis, laeubus, piscariis, silvis, forestis, parcis, annexis, tenentibus &c.,

(Balfour Paul, J (ed.) 1883 *Registrum Magni Sigillii Regum Scotorum*. The Register of the Great Seal of Scotland, vol III, 2814, 654)

11.1 'Ailean Nan Sop'

There is a tradition that Tarbert Castle was at some time held by Ailean Nan Sop an illegitimate brother of Hector MacLean of Duart, was given possession of Tarbert Castle by MacDonald of Islay. Ailean gained a reputation for being as a notorious pirate (his nickname 'Nan Sop' possibly deriving from his habit of setting fire to buildings). Ailean Nan Sop appears on record as having slain some MacNeils of Gigha likely over a dispute of that Island in the 1530's. In 1539 James V granted him lands in Gigha, Kintyre, Knapdale and Islay and made *tossochdoir* of Kintyre (*Registrum Secreti Sigilli Regum Scotorum* Vol xiii ff 16, 17). His grants of land in Islay and Kintyre would have been opposed by the MacDonalds which casts some doubt on the tradition quoted below which if it happened at all was likely dated between 1539 and Ailean's death sometime between 1555 and 1560.

Cha 'n eil ni air bith a's mó tha 'leigeil ris duinn séoltachd agus treuntas an duine so na gu'n do cheannaich Mac Dhóimnuill Ile a chàirdeas le Eilean Ghiogha thoirt dha mar oighreathd, agus bailtean eile ceann Loch Tairbeart. Chuir an ceatharnach, no an spúinneadair so seachad mórán úine ann an caisteal an Tairbeart a fhuair e bho MhacDhómhnuill; agus cheannaich MacCailein Mór a chàirdeas le oighreachd a thoirt dà ann an Cnapadal, aite tarbhach d' am b' ainm Cille-charmaig. d' am b' ainm Cille-charmaig. Le cairdeas nan daoine mora sin, MacCailein, MacDhómhnuill, agus a bhráthair, Eachunn Mór Dhubliairt, bha Ailean-nan-Sop anabharrach cumhachdach, agus 'na chulaidh-eagail d'a náimhdean; agus ged a bha a liuthad oighreachd luachmhor aige, cha do sguir e do chreachadh agus do mhilleadh. A mach o Chaisteal an Tairbeart b' àbhais da dol do Chòmhall agus do thaobh Loch Laoimunn, agus air feadh mhachraichean na Galldachd, a' togail chreach o gach àite. B'àbhais da le'loingeas dol mar an ceudna do dh-Eiriim a losgadh agus a mhilleadh, agus a thogail chreach; air chor 's gu'n robh Ailean-nan-Sop co ainmeil ann an Eirinn 's a bha e ann an Alhainn. Chaidh e' thogail chreach aon nair do 'n Eilean Bhódach; chuala 'n Siorram gu 'n robh e 'tighin, agus chruinnich e a dhaoine, ach cha seasadh iad na ceatharnaich bhorb a bha aig Ailean; thug e air falbh làn a luinge do 'n spréidh a b' fhèarr a bha r' a fhaotainn. Chur giùlan Ailein mòr-dhuilgheadas air an duine'ard-inntinneach, onorach; Eachunn Mòr, a bhráthair, agus air 'fhear-cinnidh Tighearna Cliola. Chual' Ailean nì-eiginn a thuirt Tighearna Chola 'na aghaidh, agus thug e Cola air gu aicheamhail a ghabhail. Bha Tighearna Chola 'sraidimeachd air an tràigh—ghlac Ailean e agus thug e air bórd air a bhirlinn e, rinn e prìosanach dheth, agus cheangail e ris an tobht' e; thog e 'shiùil agus thug e an Tairbeart air.

Translation

There is nothing which shows more plainly the cunning and might of this man than the fact that MacDonald of Islay bought his friendship by giving him as an estate the island of Gigha and villages at the head of Loch Tarbert. This warrior or robber spent much time in the Castle of Tarbert, which he obtained from MacDonald; and McCailein Mor bought his friendship by giving him an estate in Knapdale, a fertile region called Kilcharmaig. By the friendship of these great men, MacCailein,

MacDonald, and his brother. Hector Mor of Duart, Ailean-nan-Sop was exceedingly powerful, and became a cause of terror to his enemies, but, although he possessed so many valuable estates, he did not cease plundering and destroying. From Tarbert Castle he used to go to Cowal, and to Loch Lomondside, and through the country of the Lowlands, carrying off booty from every place. He used also to go with ships to Ireland, burning, and destroying, and carrying off plunder, so that Ailean-nan-Sop was as were known in Ireland as he was in Scotland. He went once to collect spoil from the Isle of Bute; the sheriff heard that he was coming, and gathered his men, but they could not withstand the bold warriors who were with Alan; he brought away a shipful of cattle, the best that he could get. Alan's conduct caused great sorrow to that high-minded and honorable man, Hector Mor, his brother, and to his kinsman, the Lord of Coll. Alan heard something that the Lord of Coll had said against him, and he set off to Coll to take vengeance on him. The Lord of Coll was walking on the shore; Alan laid hold of him, and took him on board his boat, made him prisoner, and tied him to a rower's bench, hoisted his sail, and set off to Tarbert.

(Campbell, J & Campbell, P 1841 *Cuairtear Nan Gleann*, vol II, 153; Mitchell, D 1886 *Tarbert Past and Present*, 42-43)

1564

Charter by Archibald Earl of Argyll, in favour of Sir Colin Campbell of Boquhan, his brother, and his heirs male, whom failing, to return to the Earl and his heirs, of the lands and barony of Skipnish, comprehending the lands and others above specified, with the keeping of the Castle of Skipnish, and that in excambion for the lands of Wester Boquhaple in the stewardry of Monteith; the lands of Sheilgartan and Easter Leckie in the sheriffdom of Stirling, and the lands of Craignich in the sheriffdom of Argyll; to be held of the Earl and his successors for payment of the services of ward, relief, and marriage when the same shall happen, with service by sea and land how oft the said Colin and his foresaids shall be required thereto, with a galley of 20 oars, and paying yearly 40 bolls of oatmeal and 30 stones of cheese at the Castle of Skipnish; which charter contains a precept of sasine, and is dated 24th June 1564.

(Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts 1874 *Fourth Report of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts*, 477)

1572 Feb 10

Charter under the great seal, by King James the Sixth, to Colin Campbell, brother-german of Archibald Earl of Argyll, and his heirs, following on the Earl's resignation of the offices of Lieutenant, Commissary, Sheriff, and Chamberlain, within the bounds of Argyll, and offices of Justiciar and Sheriff of Lorne, with the half of the ward, reliefs, marriages, escheats, amerciements, and other profits whatsoever, which shall happen to be vacant within the bounds foresaid, together also with the offices of Justiciar, Sheriff, Coroner, and Chamberlain of the lands and lordship of Knapdale and Kintyre, within the whole bounds thereof, held in ward of His Majesty. Dated 10th February 1571.

(Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts 1874 *Fourth Report of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts*, 486)

1572 James VI

Apud Leith, 10 Feb.

Rex &c., concessit Colino Campbell de Bothquhan militi, fratri germane Archibaldi coraitis Argadie domini Campbell et Lorne &c.,- terras et baroniam de Loclihow, terras de Arscodiniche, Glenyra, Glenscherro et Letter, Burgum regium de Inverrara infra diet, baroniam, terras et baroniam de Glenurquhay, terras et baroniam de Owir Cowle, terras de Straquhore extenden. ad 51½ marcat. Antique extentus, terras de Strathachie, Glenmassen, Glenlaryne, Lochstrevinscheid, Ardinslait, Toward-Fleming, Invemeill, Glak, Cammys Cammys, Auchtyevin, terras de Ardmernok, Lynsag, Derengyrochmow, Glencaw et Derengyrochbeg, terras et baroniam de Otterinwerane, terras de Glassery et Edderling, videlicet Menard, Kilmichelbeg, Gorthenranich, Knok, Ardcastell, Gallannach, Auchnabrok, Kallemoir (Ballemoir), Kilmichaell, Hozewow, Monenearnach, Knopalway, Tunnyne, Garwald, Cragnewir, Thangenallcht, Blairquhak (Blairquhaill?), Torvlaren, Lag, Auchetyetarlych, Cragmuryill, terras de Craginche et Melfort, vic. Argadie; terras et baroniam de Tarbert, cum custodia castri de T. cum edificari contingeret, vic. Tarbert; cum castris, turribus, fortaliciis, molendinis, lacubus, piscariis tarn in aquis dulcibus quam salsis, silvis, parcis, forestis, annexis, tenentibus &c., advocationibus ecclesie de Kilobarye ac ceterarum ecclesiarum et capellaniarum omnium dictarum terrarum;- quas, per regis predecessores in baroniam de Lochhow incorporatas, dictus Arch, personaliter resignavit:- Tenend. dicto Col. et heredibus masc. ejus de corpora legit, procreatis, quibus deficientibus, legit, et propinquioribus heredibus ejus masculis quibuscunque, arma et cognomen gerentibus de Campbell, quibus def., legit, et propinquioribus ejus heredibus masculis quibuscunque; cum liberarum forestarum privilegiis ubi nemora fuerunt:- Reddend. Annuatim tres sectas ad tria placita capitalia vic. de Ergyle, cum servitio warde &c.: - Reservato libero tenemento dicto Arch. :- Test. ut in aliis cartis &c.

Rex &c, concessit Colino Campbell de Bothquhan militi, fratri germane Archibaldi com. Argadie dom. Campbell et Lorne

terras et baroniam de Tarbert, cum custodia castri de Tarbet cum edificari contingeret, vic. Tarbert; cum castris, turribus, fortaliciis, molendinis, lacubus, piscariis tarn in aquis dulcibus quam salsis, silvis, parcis, forestis, annexis, tenentibus (Thomson, J M (ed.) 1886 *Registrum Magni Sigillii Regum Scotorum*. The Register of the Great Seal of Scotland, vol IV, 2017, 525)

1580

Donald MacAlister of Tarbert was succeeded by Alister and then Charles who is named Constable of Tarbert in 1580 when he received a charter, witnessed at Tarbert of the '*feu ferme to two merklands called Ballenille in lordship of Knapdale*' from his cousin, Alexander MacAlister, the Vicar of Kilcalmonell. Archibald Campbell, earl of Argyll is granted the custody of Tarbert Castle along with other lands in Knapdale.

1580 Sept 5

Apud Halieruidhous, 5 Sept.

Rex confirmavit cartam Alexandri Makallister, vicarii perpetui ecclesie parochialis de Kilcalmannell in Knapdaill,-qua adfeudifirmam dimisit eonsang suo Carulo Makallister constabulario de Tarbert, in vitali redditu, et Hectori Makallester ejus filio, heredibus ejus et assignatis quibuscunque,-2 marcat. terrarum antiqui extenhis de Kilcalmannell nuncupat. Ballenakill, cum molendino, ejus aqueductu et astrictis multuris, acram vocat. Dalnaschonkill, acram jacen. circa capellara de Skibinsche, in dominio de Knapdaill, vic. Tarbert:-Reddend. annuatim dicto vicario 16 bollas farine avenatice (vel 10 sol. pro qualibet bolla), et 3 sol. 4 den. augmentationis; et 4 marc, in introitu heredum:-Test. Joanne episc. Insularum, Alex. Campbell rectore de Killynnynvie ejus filio, Nigello Reid vicario ejusdem, Jacobo Kincaid, Andrea Calder armigero, Duncano Do McVcTarlych de Peinyreochis, Jo. Roy McAllen VcDoule:-Apud Tarbert, 8 Mali 1580J;-Test, ut in aliis cartis &c

(Thomson, J M (ed.) 1888 *Registrum Magni Sigilii Regum Scotorum*. The Register of the Great Seal of Scotland, vol V, 13, 4)

1580 Sept 27

Apud Palatium de Halierudehous, 27 Sept.

Rex concessit Archibaldo Campbell, filio et heredi apparenti Colini com. Argadie dom. Campbell et Lorne justiciarii generalis Scotie,-terras et baroniam de Lochhow, terras de Ardscondinche, Glenyra, Glenschera et Letter, burgum de Inverara in dicta baroliia, terras et baroniam de Glenurquby, terras et baroniam de Over Cowell, terras de Straquhore extenden. ad 51 marcatas antiqui extentus, terras de Stratliache, Glemassen, Glenlaryne, Lochstrevinscheid, Ardunslat, Tollard-Flemyng, Inverneill, Glak, Cammis, Auchtyewiu, Ardmernok, Lynsag, Direngyrochmoir, Glencaw et Direngyrochbeg, terras et baroniam de Otterinwerane, terras de Glassery et Edderling, viz. terras de Menard, Kilmichaelbeg, Gorthenranicbe, Knok, Ardcastell, Gallannache, Auchinbrok, Kallemoir (Ballemoir), Kilmichaell, Hozcwaw, Monenearnach, Knopalway, Tunnyne, Garwald, Craignewir, Thangenallcht, Blairquhak, Torblaren, Lag, Auchetytarlych, Craigmuryill, terras do Craiginche et Melfort, vic. Argyle; terras et baroniam do Tarbert, cum custodia castri de T. cum contingeret idem edificari, vic. Tarbert; cum castris, molendinis, lacubus, piscationibus tarn in aquis dulcibus quam salsis, silvis, parcis, tenentibus &c., advocationibus ecclesie de Kilobary et ceterarum ecclesiarum et capellaniarum earundem;

(Thomson, J M (ed.) 1888 *Registrum Magni Sigilii Regum Scotorum*. The Register of the Great Seal of Scotland, vol V, 25, 9)

1600 April 3

Proclamation for attending the King in an expedition against rebellious inhabitants of Highlands and Isles.

He therefore ordains letters to be directed charging all and sundry earls, lords, barons, substantial feuars and landed gentlemen, together with the inhabitants of burghs, within the shires of Air, Renfrew, Dunbartane, bailiaries of Kyll, Carrik and

Cunynghame, nether ward of Cliddisdail, and brae of Stratharne, by open proclamation at the market crosses of the head burghs of the same, to meet his Majesty at Dunbartane upon 10th July next, and all such persons within the bounds of Bute, Ergyle, Tarbett, Athoill and Braidalbane, to meet him at Kintyr upon 12th July, well armed, with "carriage and palyeonis to ly on the feildis," and provided to remain one month, under pain of loss of life, lands and goods. There is also order to command the boatmen and ferriers upon the Water of Clyde and the whole sea coast thereabout to repair to the ferry of Tarbett with their boats upon the said 12th July, and there attend for transporting the army, under the same pain.

(Masson, D (ed.) 1884 *Registrum Magni Sigillii Regum Scotorum*. The Register of the Great Seal of Scotland, vol VI, 99-100)

1610 March 6

Charter under the great seal, by King James the Sixth, in favour of Archibald Earl of Argyll in liferent and Archibald Lord Lorne, his son, thereafter Marquis of Argyll, in fee, following on the said Earl's resignation, of all and whole the earldom of Argyll, the heritable offices of Lieutenant, Commissar, Sheriff, and Chamberlain within the whole bounds of Argyll, as also of the offices of Justiciar and Sheriff of Lorne, with the half of the whole wards, reliefs, escheats, amerciements, and other profits and emoluments that shall happen to be vacant within the bounds foresaid, together with the office of Sheriff, Justiciar, Coroner, and Chamberlain of Knapdales south and north, and Kintyres, within the whole bounds thereof, together with the office of sheriff of the sheriffdom of Tarbet, with the whole fees, privileges, immunities, and casualties belonging to the said offices, to be held ward of His Majesty. Dated 6th March 1610.

(Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts 1874 *Fourth Report of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts*, 486)

1610 March 6

Apud Edinburgh, 16 Mar.

Rex,-pro so et tanquam administrator filii sui Henrici ducis de Rothesay com. De Carrik dom. de Ardmannok baronis de Renfrew principis et senescalli Scotie,-concessit Archibaldo Argadie Comiti dom. Campbell et Lorne &c.,in vitali rodditu, etc Archibaldo Campbell Domino Lorne ejus ; filio et heredi apparenti in feodo, - terras et baroniam de Lochhow, terras de Ardscofinche, Glenyra, Glenschera et Letter, burgum de Inverara in dicta baronia, terras et baroniam de Glenurquby, terras et baroniam de Over Cowell, terras de Straquihou (vel Straquhur) extenden. ad 51 A mercatas antiqui extentus, terras de Stratbachie, Glenassen, Glenlayrne (vel Glenlayeue), Lochstrovenscheid, Ardinslat, Tollare-Flemyng, Inverneill, Glak, Cammis, Awchtyeuin, Ardmernok, Lynsag, Direngyrochmoir, Glencaw, Direngirociiebeg, terras et baroniam de Ottiriuverane, terras de Glassery et Edder(l)ing subscriptas, viz. Menard, Kilmichaelbeg, Gorthenrenicbe, Knok, Arecastel, Gallanascho, Auchinbrok, Kallemoir, Kilmichaell, Hozewaw, Monenearinach, Knepalway, Cunnyne, Garwald, Craigueuir, Changelalicht, Blairquhak, Torblaten, Lag, Auchetycarlych, Craigmurchill, terras de Craiginsche et Melfort, vic. Argyll; terras et baroniam de Tarbert, cum custodia castri de T. cum edificari contingeret, vic. de Tarbert; cum castris, molendinis, lacubus, piscationibus

tarn in aquis dulcibus quam salsis, tenentibus &c., advocationibus ecclesie de Kilobray et ceterarum ecclesiarum et capellaniarum suprascriptorum; terras et baroniam de Auchnagarren, 5 librat. terrarum ant. ext. de Craig, Furlynauchlane, Eaith, Ballaicliindryne, Leffennyckennony, terras de Conchray, Talnach (vel Tawnasche), Stelag et Kildalvane, cum castris, molendinis, piscariis, lacubus, tenentibus &c., advocationibus ecclesiarum et capellaniarum (si que essent), in balliatu de Cowll, vic. Argyll; officia locumtenentis, commissariatus, vicecoraitatus et camerarie infra bondas Argadie, necnon officia justiciarie et vicecomitatus de Lome, cum dimidietate wardarum &c. et aliorum proficuorum per eos levand. infra dictas bondas; officia justiciarie, vicecomitatus, coronatoris et camerarie terrarum et dominiorum de Knokdailles et Kintyres; officium vicecomitatus de Tarbert; cum omnibus diet, officiorum feodis &c.; terras, dominium et baroniam de Lome, terras de Loyne, Corsay (Torsay T), Swna, Sayll, Corfora et Lesmoir in dicto dominio, terra's et baroniam de Kilmvwn, terras de Bordland, custodiam castri de Dunnyine, vic. Argyll; terras et baroniam de Kilmicbaell, cum custodia castri de Svvyne, terras et baroniam de Skypinche, vic. de Tarbert; cum castris, maneriebus, molendinis, lacubus, piscariis, forestis, tenentibus &c., advocationibus ecclesiarum et capellaniarum; 5 mercat. terrarum ant. ext. de Fewnand, cum earum piscationo super aquam de Aw, mercatam ant. ext. de Auehindryne, cum tenentibus &c., in baronia de Lochbow, vic. Argyll; terras et baroniam de lie Kirktoon de Inchevar, vic. Invernes; terras et baroniam de Rosneith, vic. Dumbartane; terras de Inverquhapill in Glenfinfurde, terras de Caylat, terras de duabus Ardinblaitbis et duabus Craigquhaldis, ½ mercatam in territorio de Inverquhapill olim occupatam per procuratorem de Sanct-Deowray, mercatam olim possessam per Euarium M'Canry, terras de Stuke et Blairbeg, Ferry et Strone, cum tenentibus &c., vic. de Argyll; 20 librat, terrarum de Durroure (viz. 7 mercatas de Cowll et Glencallachane, 7 mercatas de Ardsell et Langinaball, 3 mercat. de Ballichelis, 5 mercatas de Auchinadaraich, 3 mercat. de Auchtycharne, 5 mercatas de Auchycbar et Auchinblane), 20 mercat. de Gleucoun, in dominio de lies, vic. Perth; terras de Pannell, 5 mercat. de Duffater, terras de Nethir Glene, vic. Perth; terras de Lytill Sawlling et lie Bordland de Sawlling, vic. Fyfe; terras de Menstrie, vic. Clakmannane; cum molendinis, tenentibus &c. omnium suprascriptorum; terras et baroniam de Boquhen et earum molendinum, cum tenentibus &c., vic. Strivelling; — quas idem comes resignavit; et quas rex dictis personis de novo dedit, includendo advocationem rectorie et vicarie ecclesie et parochie de Sanct-Peter lie deane de Lochbow; et omnes incorporavit in liberum comitatum, dominium et baroniam de Argyll, ordinando castrum de Inverara principale fore messuagium: — Reservando dicto comiti durante ejus vita potestatem vassallos, tenentes liberosque tenentes (the friehalderis) intrandi, personas ad dicta benedicia et officia presentandi, casualitates recipiendi; necnon ejus sponsas unam seu plures in vitali reddito in dictis terris &c. de Menstry, Sawlling, Rosueith, Dufflatte, Nether Glen, Pannell et Boquhen infeodandi; et filios ejus de corpore legitime procreandos enrumque heredes et assignatos infeodandi in terris &c. de Craigneische, Loyne, Thurso, Skipinche, Tarbert et Rosneith, de dictis com. et domino tenendis; necnon aliquam partem suprascriptorum (exceptis illis que reservate sunt ad dictas spouses infeodandas) impignoraudi, onerandi sive alienandi sub reversione 100000 lib.:—Tenend. dictu comiti ut sup., dicto dom. Lorne et heredibus masculis ejus de corpore legit, procreandis, quibus deficientibus, diuto comiti et heredibus masculis ejus de corpore legit, procreandis, quibus deficientibus, Colino Campbell de Lundie et heredibus masc. ejus de corpore legit, procreatis, quibus def., D. Joanni C. de Caddell militi et heredibus &c. (ut sup.), quibus del, legitimis et propinquioribus

heredibus masc. quibuscunque dicti com., cognomen de Campbell et arma domus de Argyll gerentibus; viz. Vuchnagarrin &c. (usque ad Kildalvane) de dicto principe, cetera de rege:-Reddend. pro Lochhow &c. (usque ad Tarbert), cum pertinentiis, tres sectas ad tria placita capitalia vie. de Argyll, cum servitio warde &c.; pro Auchnagarrin &c. (usque ad Kildalvane) servitium warde &c.; pro Lorno &c. (usque ad Skypinche) unam lie mantill, unam rubram rosam, uuum par chirothecarum et 2 den. argenti apud castrum de Dunstaffage, nomine albe firme; pro Kirkoun de Inchevar 3 sectas ad 3 placita capitalia vie. de luvernus, cum warda &c.; pro Rosneith 41 lib. feudifirme; pro Pauuell &c. (usque ad Menstrie) 3 sectas ad 3 placita capitalia vie. de Clakmannane, cum sorvitio warde &c.; pro ceteris suprascriptis jura et servitia debita et consueta: — Test. ut in aliis cartis &c. xlv.

(Thompson, J M (ed.) 1890 *Registrum Magni Sigillii Regum Scotorum*. The Register of the Great Seal of Scotland, vol VI, 265, 97)



Tarbert Castle (old postcard)

11.2 The MacDonald Rebellion 1614-1615

Tarbert Castle may again have been garrisoned in 1614-1615 during the rebellion of the MacDonalds of Islay when James MacDonald escaped from crown custody in Edinburgh and made his way to Islay and Kintyre drawing men to his cause. After James MacDonald had landed in Kintyre, Duncan Campbell of Auchenbreck, along with 300 men, was charged to hold the Tarbert isthmus until reinforcements under the Earl of Argyll could arrive. Assembling a force of around 1,500 men in total, Argyll set off in pursuit of the MacDonalds from Duntroon Castle in early September. In the intervening time, James MacDonald's forces had continued to grow and now probably numbered around 1,000 men. Argyll divided his army into two main divisions, each proceeding down the east and west sides of Kintyre. Two companies under the command of John Campbell of Calder numbering perhaps 700-800 men were sent

along the western coast to capture or destroy any MacDonald galleys. Failing that, they were to wait for Argyll to arrive overland from the east side of Kintyre with another two companies, commanded by Captain Boswell and Campbell of Kilmichael, again numbering 700-800 men. Argyll arrived at Tarbert at night, just two miles away from the MacDonalds camp. The MacDonald leader had directed his uncle Raghnaill to block Argyll's path overland with a force of 300-400 men, while Colla Ciotach was sent with 60 men to Tarbert, where he captured Colin Campbell of Kilberry, who had become separated from Argyll's camp. Despite this the forces of James MacDonald appear to have been contained and eventually driven from Kintyre by the Argyll's men.

1615 Nov 24

Report by Archibald Campbell of Glencarradale in the name of the earl of Argyll to the Privy Council

...Lykwyse his Lordschip gaif command to the Laird of Auchinbrek and to some speciall of Auchinbrekis freindis to marche over land to the Tarbert with his Lordschipsis forces of Ergyle. My Lord him selfff, being accompaneid with the men of Coull, went by sea to the Tarbert on the uther syde of the mayne land. My Lord went frome Duntroone on the ...day of September, and was that nicht in the Tarbert, quhair Auchinbrek with the men of Argyle did meete him that same nicht...

(Masson, D (ed.) 1891 *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, vol X, 758)

1615 Dec 21

Deposition to the earl of Argyll to the Privy Council

...to incamp thame selffis in a poynte of land callit the poynte Ardrissak, quhair thay wer to attend my comeing by the east syde of the land accompaneid with two utheris of his Majesteis companeis undir the conduct of Capitane Boiswell, with Robert Campbell, Capitane of Dwnone, and Coline Campbell of Kilmichell,—the lairdis of Ardkinglas, Lamond, McClauchlane, being with my selfff to the number of sevin or aucht hundreth men. In the nicht (with the companeis foirsaidis) I come to the Tarbert within ten myllis to Sir James his camp, quho at that tyme being incertane of my comeing had directit Ronnald McRonnald, his uncle, to the number of three or foure hundreth men, to stop the passage upoun that quarter. Coll McGillespik wes also sent be him to the Tarbert with threscore in nomber and three boattis; quho, finding Coline Campbell of Kilberrie, accompaneid with thrie or foure in nomber being seperated frome the camp, took him prisonner, and convoyit him bak in thair boatis; quhome I persewit [not ?] notwithstanding of my cosines imprisonment, feiring it had bene ane trayne; bot remittit it to the cair of these that I appointit to go by the west coast, becaus of necessitie Coll wes to pas that way. Coll with his prisonner directed his course toward the Ile of Gigha;...

(Masson, D (ed.) 1891 *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, vol X, 763)

11.3 The War of the Three Kingdoms 1640-1647

The part played by Tarbert Castle during the period of what is now called the 'War of the Three Kingdoms' is not at all clear. Equally unclear is the political position adopted by MacAlister families of Loup and Tarbert. Like the Marquis of Montrose they may have initially been in favour of the National Covenant but later also like him became strong supporters of the king, Charles I and opposed to the Covenanter faction led by the earl of Argyll. In Argyll as elsewhere in the Highlands and Isles these wider political affiliations were always bound up with local family aspirations and loyalties hence the support of the MacAlisters for Alasdair MacColla or rather the MacDonald, cause in trying to re-establish their patrimony of Kintyre. As such, suspicions of the loyalty to the Campbells might have led to the MacAlisters being removed as captains of Tarbert Castle as a Dugald Darroch is named as captain of the castle 1642.

1642 Oct 7

Elder of the Presbytry of Kneloch

...Mr Dugald Darroch Captaine of Tarbert

(MacTavish, D (ed.) 1943 *Minutes of the Syond of Argyll*, vol I, 39)

1643

A sasine by Archibald Marquis of Argyl to Sir James Lamont is issued at Tarbert, which might suggest a garrison loyal to the Campbells had control of the castle at this time

1643 October 15

Sasine on Precept of Clare Constat by Archibald Marquis of Argyle, to Sir James Lamont now of Inneryne, Knight, lawful son and nearest heir male of the late Sir Coill Lamont of Inneryne, Knight, in 6 mercates of the lands of Kayms, lying in the Lordship of Cowall and parish of Kilfinane. At Tarbert 21 May

1645-1647

Hector McAlister of Loup is appointed a commissioner of war by Charles I. However, other commissioners named in the same list appear to have been ardent Covenanters, particularly the members of the Campbell family, so the list may not be the best guide to which sides any family ultimately ended up supporting. The Campbell heart lands are despoiled by Alasdair MacColla's and Montrose's forces in the winter of 1644/1645 but again whether the MacAlisters took part is unclear. If they had joined the Royalist forces, then it is possible that this was when Alasdair MacColla married an unnamed daughter of Hector McAlister of Loup. It also appears that Tarbert Castle was again used as a place to hold royalist prisoners following the surrender of Toward

Castle to a Campbell/Covenanter force, which can be gleaned from petition made by James Boyd to Parliament in 1662. After the defeat of a Campbell led army at Inverlochy by Montrose, Alasdair MacColla again leads his men to attack the Campbell lands in Argyll, and it is during this period that certain Argyll families now openly switch sides from the pro-Covenant/Campbell side to Royalist/anti-Campbell side. The Royalist forces appear to occupy several castles in this period, including, Dunvarty and Lochhead in Kintyre. It also appears that Tarbert Castle was also held for a time by a royalist force as Archibald Campbell of Coillestan, the 14 year old, younger brother of James Campbell of Ardinglass was taken captive, possibly by Archibald Lamont and handed over to MacColla, the young man was initially held in irons at Tarbert and later transferred to Mingary castle where he remained captive for a year (Stevenson, D 2014 *Alasdair MacColla and the Highland Problem in the 17th Century*, 214). The Kings surrender to the covenanters allowed General Leslie's army to advance into Kintyre in 1647 in pursuit of MacColla's forces and the MacAlisters were reputed to have been given charge of the defence of the isthmus at Tarbert. Sir James Turner, Leslie's adjutant-general, believed it was divine providence that allowed Leslie access to Kintyre, because in light of the forces MacColla had with him, *'I think he might have routed us, at least we should not have entered Kintyre but by a miracle'* In fact, *'[w]e know that a number of the Mackays of North Kintyre, and also of the Macallasters of Loup, followed Sir Alexander Macdonald, and that some of them met their deaths at this time'*.

Montereul, a contemporary French diplomat, reports that after a short battle at Rhunahaorine (12 miles south of Tarbert) there is *'so much confusion and fear that the same night two chiefs of the clans, Macneil and Macalister-for this is how they call the powerful families-sent to David Leslie making offer to him to abandon Macdonald, with all their followers, if they were assured of their lives and of their property, which the Marquis of Argyle . . . promised them'*.

Some MacAlisters, however, may have retreated to Dunvarty Castle where after a short siege they likely became victims of the notorious massacre of the defenders by Leslie's forces following their surrender. None of the reports of this campaign mention that the Covenanters had to retake or besiege Tarbert Castle therefore it has to be assumed the castle if held by MacColla's forces was abandoned by them.

1647?

Act in favour of James Boyd

To his majesty's commissioner's grace and estates of parliament, the humble petition of James Boyd

Humbly shows,

That your petitioner (having these 24 years entirely preserved his loyalty to his majesty and duty to his native country) was engaged in the interest of those who

laboured to maintain the same against the opposition of misled subjects; and so was involved in the common calamity with others of his judgment, but with a great deal more weight than ordinary, being five years banished from his native country, to save his life, excommunicated by the violence of a precipitate clergy, fined by the state in a considerable sum of money, all his bonds and papers seized upon, and in end endured two years' imprisonment, which exposed his wife and eight children to the hazard of famine, and has brought himself to utter ruin. May it therefore please your lords (seeing God has restored our king to his just right, his subjects to their liberties, and those who suffered to the expectation of some relief) to have compassion on the afflicted condition of your distressed petitioner and to provide some means of subsistence for him, as in your wisdom shall be thought expedient, and he as in duty bound shall ever pray.

Edinburgh, 3 June 1662

The lords of the articles remits the petition above-specified and desire thereof to [Robert Wallace], bishop of Isles and John Bell, provost of Glasgow, to speak with the petitioner and find out some way for the petitioner's satisfaction, and report their opinion.

[William Cunningham, earl of] Glencairn, chancellor, in the presence of the lords We having, according to your lordships' commands, been upon the papers of James Boyd, find that his papers being seized on by those who took in the house of Towart, and though full evidences thereof be not fully held clear to us, yet notwithstanding finds he merits recommendation to the lords of session for dispatch in his prosecution of persons having any of the same; and that his losses by fining and imprisonment is well-known to us and all who knew him, his fine being the seizure of his moveable fortune to the value of £500 sterling; his imprisonment four months in Tarbert and his banishment for nine years, to be in whole in loss to the value of £1,000 sterling, which we humbly recommend to my lord commissioner's grace and other honourable lords of articles.

(RPS, A1662/5/1)

11.4 The Cromwellian Occupation of the Castle 1652

Scottish support for the recently crowned King Charles II prompted Oliver Cromwell to lead a campaign into Scotland. By 1652 Cromwellian troops were moving into Argyll where according to Aikman's *History of Scotland* the Marquess of Argyll was surprised by Cromwells troops at Inverary and reluctantly agreed to their demands. However, it appears that the Marquess aware of his weakness had reached an accommodation with the Cromwellian regime. As such a brigade of Cromwellian troops landed at Tarbert in early July where they stationed troops in Tarbert Castle. In August the Marquess of Argyll formalised an agreement with the English Commissioners that Cromwellian troops were to garrison some of his castles which included Tarbert, Lochhead, Dunollie and Dunstaffnage. The presence of Cromwellian troops in Argyll was not popular amongst many of the local populace, who were still suffering the trauma and despoliations of the recent wars. Politically the Campbells were also split with the Marquess of Argyll remaining an adherent of the Cromwellian regime, while his son Lord Lorne supported the Kings cause.

However, trouble in Argyll appears to have arisen when the Marquess of Argyll accepted an invitation to board the ship of Major General Deane when an ensuing gun salute was misinterpreted as hostile fire and led to the rumour that the Marquess had been taken prisoner. Thereafter highlanders gathered and attacked the Cromwellian garrisons whereby the castles of Tarbert and Lochhead appear to have been surprised and taken, while Dunollie and Dunstaffnage were placed under siege. Local tradition has it that Tarbert Castle was taken while the garrison were out gathering nuts and the villagers took the opportunity to steal quantities of gunpowder, cheese, and biscuits, although the true story may be something more menacing. From a contemporary, Sir Bulstrode Whitelocke, we learn that the officer in command of the garrison at the time of the incident was a Lieutenant Gillot. Argyll's son the then Lord Lorne later claimed to have been responsible for this uprising. Whether Lorne was responsible for the seizure of the Tarbert from the Cromwellian troops is uncertain, but one person who also claimed a part in taking the castle was Walter Campbell of Skipness who later in 1685 gave the statement while trying to prevent the destruction of Skipness castle stated that he had '*severall tymes to have venterd his life against the English rebels then in Argyll and particularlie at the Castle of Tarbatt, which the petitioner besiged and took from the Englishes who then had it in garrison*'. This statement has previously been seen as referring to the rebellion of the Earl of Argyll in 1685, but the fact he states it was in the reign of the previous king, Charles I, and those involved were English, leaves no doubt he is alluding to the attack on Tarbert Castle in 1652. After this in October and perhaps realising the possibility of escalation of hostilities the Marquess of Argyll came to an agreement with Major General Richard Deane whereby the garrisons of Tarbert and Lochhead are withdrawn with only those of Dunollie and Dunstaffnage maintained.

1652 July 7

On the 7th July 1652 Colonel Robert Overton landed with part of his Brigade in Tarbert bay and took possession of castle.

(MacKinnon, D 1883 *Origins and Services of the Coldstream Guards*, vol 1, 54)

1652 July 12

William Clarke to the Speaker

The party under Colonell Overton which landed at Tarbut in Cantire, were met by the Marquesse of Argyles Steward by his appointment with a compliment, but we heare not what they have done since.

(Firth CH (ed.) 1895 *Scotland and the Commonwealth. Letters and papers relating to the military government of Scotland, from August 1651 to December 1653*, XLII, 362; MacKinnon, D 1883 *Origins and Services of the Coldstream Guards*, vol 1, 54)

1652 July 19

Having settled some Garisons in Cantyre, we divide our forces and sent Col. Read, with the major part to Innerary, and yesterday was sevensnight begun our march, with 700 horse, dragoons and foot, from Tarbet towards Dunstaffenage, in hope to have found our ships which garison there; and after four hard dayes march, wee got thither, viewed that and another within a mile or two of that, called Dunolley, finding them very strong, but no provisions being come, although wee stayed there two nights, we were forced to act the King of Frances part, to face about, and by a neerer cut got hither last night, and found yours of the first instant.

(Firth CH (ed.) 1895 *Scotland and the Commonwealth. Letters and papers relating to the military government of Scotland, from August 1651 to December 1653*, XLIV, 364)

1652 August 12

In August the the Marquess of Argyll signed an agreement with the Cromwellian regime and the castles were again regarrisoned by Cromwells troops.

‘Parliament and Commonwealth of England’ pledging to ‘live peaceably and quietlie under the said Governement’ allowing English garrisons in his ‘houses’.

(Firth CH (ed.) 1895 *Scotland and the Commonwealth. Letters and papers relating to the military government of Scotland, from August 1651 to December 1653*, XXV 49)

1652 August 29

For the Major Gen. who went by Sea from Innerary to Ayre, came to us by Boat, and wee heard by him of the surprizall of our Garisons of Logh, Kincarn, and Turbet: I wish Dunstaffnage and Dunolle be safe.

(Firth CH (ed.) 1895 *Scotland and the Commonwealth. Letters and papers relating to the military government of Scotland, from August 1651 to December 1653*, XLVI, 366)

1652 August

Letters that the major-general had concluded amicably Highlands. with the marquis of Argyle, and the English were returned from the Highlands of Scotland, and in their march the Highlanders, about fifteen hundred, were got together at a pass, where they stood upon rocks and inaccessible ground, and the English could only file over : That they pretended to inquire whether the marquis of Argyle were prisoner, though they knew he was not; the English advanced one by one over the pass, and the Scots stood every way prepared to take their advantages upon them, yet had not the power or spirits to do it: That the English drew up close to the Scots, till all their rearguard was passed over, and then marched and encamped a mile from them, and heard no more of them till they came to Dunbarton; and there the major-general came to them, and told them, that since their march away the Scots had surprised two of their garrisons in the Highlands: That the Highlanders took in Turbet-castle, (which was yielded to them by lieutenant Gillot) ten barrels of powder, with match and bullet, five thousand weight of cheese, and twenty-six bags of biscuit: That they seized upon forty English foot,

pretending that they did it because their marquis of Argyle was carried away prisoner, which they knew was not so; but they used the prisoners very civilly.

(Bulstrode Whitelock 1853 *Memorials of the English affairs from the beginning of the reign of Charles the First to the happy restoration of King Charles the Second*, vol 3, 451)

1652 August

(In a statement made by some years later Adjutant general Smyth in 1658/9 report by reports 'concerning the surprisall of the English forces in Argyllshire in August 1652)

These are to Certefie all those whom it may Concerne, That whereas their was Articles of Agreement made by the Earle of Argile with Major Generall Deane, whereby the said Earle did Engage for himselfe, ffriends, and tennants to live peaceably. And I being (Adjutant Generall) left at Inoraro (Inverary) the twentyeth of August, Anno 1652, by order from Major Generall Deane, to take care of severall vessells laden with provisions, and one Man of Warre called the Elias (Capt. Drew, Comander), and to goe and supply severall Garrisons with provisions and other necessaries. Vpon the 22th of August 1652 their came a Scotchman aboard the said Capt. Drew to acquainte me that all my Lord Argiles freinds and tenants were in Armes, and had surprized the Garrisons slaine and others taken Prisoners, which came over Lough-how. Wherevpon I went to the Earle of Argile to know the trueth (being within halfe a mile of his house wher the Shippe was Rydeing in the River). And when I was within twelue score yards of his house, I see many men in Armes drawn vp within a hundredyards of his house. So soon as I came neer them they did throw a Durke either att me or att the Coxsaine of the Boate who was with me. I did perceive they intended to stabb one of us. Att my entering into the said Earle of Argiles house, for my endeavouring to save the Coxsane (which I did apprehend they would have murdered), they broke my head. Imediately I went to the Lord Argile, and did acquainte him that I had intelligence that many of the souldyers belonging to the Commonwealth of England were slaine and taken prisoners, and our Garrisons surprized within his bounds, contrary to his agreement with Major Generall Deane. My Lord Argile answered me that he knew nothing of itt. I told him there was many menin Armes about his house, neare the number of two hundred: he denyed that he knew of any. I told his Lordshipp that I had bin abused by them: he told me he would not stand to talke any more with me. Then I desired to know of him whether he would keep me, or give order for my safe retourne: he would giue me no answer, but shutt the doore and went away from me, and would not speake to me any more. The 24th, the wind presenting, sett saile to Tarbott, where I found that Garrison surprized by the Lord Argiles ffreinds and Tennants, and, in pursuance of my orders, went to Lough head, and found that Garrison in the possession of the Lord Argiles men, as they called themselves. They had surprized that Garrison, and taken and slaine that Troope of Dragoones thatwas their. In my retourne from the said Lord Argiles house I was necessitated to give Moneys to two of his Servants (unknowne to my Lord Argile) to goe along with me to the Boate, if I had not done so I suppose they would have stabbed us; for severall of the Seamen which sett me on shore, and stayed with the Boate till my retourne to them, were sore wounded, and one slaine. The said 24th of August the Boate was sent on shore, within two miles of his house, for fresh water,

and those people that were in Armes would not suffer them to come their, but fired at them.

In testimony whereof I have subscribed the 24 day of March 1658/9

(Signed) Jer. Smyth.

(Firth, C H 1899 *Scotland and the Protectorate*, 412-414)

1652 August

An incident marked the respect in which Argyle was held by his vassals. The highlanders, who imagined their chieftain had not been treated with the respect due to his rank, assembled in considerable numbers, in one of the passes through which the English had to defile, and, from the inaccessible rocks on which they were stationed, threatened to overwhelm the intruders, until satisfied that they had not carried Argyle as a prisoner along with them. Others seized the castle of Tarbert on the same pretext during the absence of the greater part of the garrison, who had gone a-nutting, from which they took ten barrels of gunpowder, five thousand weight of cheese, and twenty-six bags of biscuit: for this, however, they afterwards made an apology to the major-general, who politically accepted it, and not being too rigid in requiring restitution, his forces were treated with more kindness in that district, and their officers entertained at the expense of Argyll, whose interests demanded that he should use them with hospitality, when further hostility would only have aggravated his irremediable ruin.

(Aikman, J 1827 *The History of Scotland, Translated from the Latin by George Buchanan*, vol V, 441)

1652 August

The Earl of Argyle's Speech to the Lords Justice General, and the Lords of the Justiciary

After the misfortune of Worcester, I continued in Arms for His Majesties Service, when Scotland was overrun with the Usurpers, and was alone with some of my Friends in Arms in the Year 1652. and did then keep up some appearance of opposition to them: And General Major Dean coming to Argyleshire, and planting several Garrisons he no sooner went away but we fell upon the Garrisons he had left, and in one day took two of them, and cut off a considerable part of a third, and carried away in all about Three hundred Prisoners

(Argyll 1683 *The Case of the Earl of Argyle or An Exact and full account of his trial, escape, and sentence*, 61)

1652 August?

Anent the petition presented by Walter Campble of Skipnish shewing that whereas the petitioner is informed that the Council has given order for razing down the house of Skipnish as being one of the Kings houses and that there was likewise a warrant for summoning the petitioner to compare before the Council at a certain day amongst the rest of the heretours of the shire of Argyll, it is humbly represented that the foresaid house of Skipnish is none of his Majesties houses but a part of your petitioners property wherein he stands infeft and confirmed under the great seal, and the only

duelling house of the petitioner wherein his numerous family presently recides, and that the petitioner shall be alwayes willing to make the same forthcomeing and patent to his Majesties service when required. Lykeas the petitioner has already found caution to the right honourable the Marques of Atholl for his peaceable beheavior, and that he shall not resett or intercomune with rebells and particularlie the late Earle of Argyle. Notwithstanding whereof if the razeing down of the forsaid house shall be thought by the Councill indispen[s]ably necessar for the publict good and his Majesties service, the petitioner will not repyne but allwayes think it his duetie and honour to spend life and fortune to serve his Majestie. And in the rebellion against his late Majestie the petitioner was known to have adhered to his Majesties intrest, and severall tymes to have ventered his life against the English rebells then in Argyll and particularlie at the Castle of Tarbatt, which the petitioner beseidged and took from the Englishes who then had it in garison. And of late the Shirref of Bute can bear witnes how instrumentall the petitioner was in discovering and recovering the late Earle of Argyles armes which was delivered up to the shirref by Killberrie; and nothing could so much trouble the petitioner as to think that his duety and loyalty to his Majestie should be questioned or to be judged a favorer of any that conspyred the overthrow of his Majesties government or the disturbance of the publict peace. And to take off all ground of suspition the petitioner intends presently to transport himselfe and family into the Isle of Bute. And seeing the petitioner is accidentallie here upon his lafull occasions and cannot, without great loss and prejudice, stay here till the dyot appointed for the compeirance of the rest of the heretours of Argyleshire befor the Councill and that necessarlie he must goe home for the transportation of his family and that he was now readie presently to ansuer befor the Councill or otherwayes to find sufficient caution acted in their books to compeir befor the Councill at any other dyot, and therfor humbly craveing that the Councill would be pleased to dispence with his appearance upon the said day, and likwayes that the Councill would be pleased to consider the great loss and damnadge the petitioner will sustean by razeing down of the forsaid house, which is the petitioners propertie and only place of residence, and to allow the petitioner a suteable recompense theirfor. The Lords of his Majesties Privy Councill, haveing heard and considered the forsaid petition, doe recommend to his Majesties Advocate to call for the petitioners writts, chartors and evidents whereby he pretends right to the house withinmentioned in property and as confirmed by his Majesty, and to consider thereof and report. And in the mean tyme recomends to his Majesties said Advocat to write to the Lord Marques of Atholl, in name of the Councill, that the said house remaine undemolished intirely as the same now is untill the Councill consider the said report and give ther further advice in the matter, and refuses the other part of the desyre for dispenceing with the petitioners appearance befor the Councill at the dyet withinmentioned.

(Hannay, R K (ed) 1929 *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, 3rd series vol XI, 2-3)

1652 October 27

An Agreement made betweene Major Generall Richard Deane in the name of the parliament of the Commonwealth of England on the one part, And Archibald, Lord Marquesse of Argile, in the belhalf of the Gentlemen and Inhabitants of the shire of Argile on the other part. This 27th day of October 1652.

...That the gentlemen and people of Argile, with their Complices and Adherents, doe sett at liberty the English Officers and souldiers now in their custody, and make restitution of what was taken from them, as alsoe, That they restore the garrisons which they surprised with the horses, armes, ammunicion, and provisions, except such provisions as have been expended on the souldiers, and such horses as were dead before the signing of this, as alsoe such ammunicion and armes as were spoyled att the surprising the garrison...

and that

...That noe more garrisons shall be planted in the shire of Argile then Dunstaffnesse and Dunolly...

(Firth CH (ed.) 1895 *Scotland and the Commonwealth. Letters and papers relating to the military government of Scotland, from August 1651 to December, 1653*, XXIX, 55)

1652 October 29

General Richard Deane to the Marquess of Argyll

My Lord, I have appointed Capt. Weddall and his Lieutenant to receive the garrisons of Lochhead and Tarbott, according to the first article of our Agreement, made the 27th of this instant; as alsoe I have auethorized them to receive into possession, and take an accompt of all armes, horses, amunicion, and provisions, which according to the said Article, are to bee, delivered or restored. My desire being, That your Lordshippe will please heerby to take notice of the same, And that the said garrisons may accordingly bee delivered uppe to them, and likewise the armes, horses, ammunicion, and provisions aforesaid, with a full account therof, according to our agreement and my instruccions to them in that behalf. — I am, Your Lordshippes very humble servant,

Ri. Deane.

Dalkeith, 29 October 1652

(Firth C H (ed.) 1895 *Scotland and the Commonwealth. Letters and papers relating to the military government of Scotland, from August 1651 to December, 1653*, XXXII, 59)

1654

Ranald MacAlister, grandson and heir of Archibald is named as Captain of Tarbert in a charter which also lists his accompanying lands.

1654 Feb 13-14

4 merklands of Achnadarroch, 4 merklands of Braklie, 2 merklands of Kildusklane, 2 merklands of Auchtychowane, 2 merklands of Craigglassie and Gortanorne, 2 merklands of Daltinable, the ten-shilling land of Ardrishaig, the halfmmerkland of Drumadroman, 4 merklands of Ashens, 2 merklands of Garrowellen, Barmore, Park

and Ashnasey, 2 merklands of Breanfeorline and one merkland of Tarbert with custody of the castle, all in the parish of Knapdale.

(Beaton, D 2002 'How the Tarbert Lands Passed from the Macalisters to the Campbells', *The KIST*, vol 63, 5)

1656

Ranald MacAlister is listed as amongst the justices of peace in Argyll under the Cromwellian protectorate

1656

Ronald Mac Alister Captain of Tarbert

(Firth, C H 1899 *Scotland and the Protectorate*, 309)

1663

A MacAlaster captain of Tarbert, presumably Ranald, is appointed a Justices of Peace in their districts under an act of Parliament

1663

Act for renewing justices of peace

[...] MacAlister, captain of Tarbert,
(*RPS*, 1663/6/144)

1664

Ranald Macalister is again listed as Captain of Tarbert as on of the '*commissioners of Excise in the shireffdom of Argyle*'

1664

Ronald McAllaster, captan of Tarbett

(Hume Brown, P (ed.) 1908 *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, 3rd series, vol I, 617)

1666

Tarbert castle may also have been garrisoned along with Saddell and Skipness in 1666 when there was a possibility of rebellion when the Earl of Argyll's yacht is positioned at Tarbert.

1666 Dec 3

Earl of Argylls letter to the Lauderdale yacht at Tarbert.

After I had advertised all the heritors of the shire to meete me heere, with a certaine proportion of the best men, best armed, I went myself, day and night, forward to Kintire, with a small party, and drave all, foul and cleane, here before me; where I found the country very well conveened, but not armed as I could have wished for his Majaeties service. It is not to be imagined but in a wholl shire some would be slow, and some refractory; and these I have taken notice of, and some I have taken engadgments of, to live peaceably, and to render ther persones when they are required. Not that I can prove any accession to the late insurrection, but because, in discourse, I found them not principalled as I wished. I have garisoned two houses, Sadell and Skipnage, for a fortnight, till all be peaceable, and till I acquaint the General and the lowlanders have contributed ther share for it; ...

(Sinclair, G and Clarke, C K (eds) 1829 *Letters from Archibald Campbell earl of Argyll to the Earl of Lauderdale*, 39)

1667

Ranald MacAlister named as Captain of Tarbert ain an Act of the convention of estates of the kingdom of Scotland

1667 January 23

Ronald MacAlister, captain of Tarbert
(RPS 1667/1/10)

1676

McAllister, Captain of Tarbet, given protection to be a witness against the MacLeans in charge brought by the earl of Argyll

Protection is also granted for a like period to Ninian Bannatein of Kaimes, John Campble of Airds, James Campbell of Glendarowell, McAllester, Captain of Tarbet, Colin Campble of Illangreg, Donald Campbell of Barrichibeyean, and John McLauchlan of Kilbryd, who are cited as witnesses in the action by the Earl of Argyle against the McClaines.

(Hume Brown, P (ed.) 1912 *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, 3rd series, vol V, 4)

1678 July 10

The Captain of Tarbert (Ranald) is named in a commission of fire and sword against the MacLeans. for Argyll, as is 'Gory Mcalaster' of Loup

...with advise of the Lords of our Privy Councell, have made and constitute, and hereby make and constitute our right trusty and welbeloved cousignes, John, Earle of

Cathnes; Archbald, Lord Lorne; Lord Neill Campbell and our wellbeloved Sir Hugh Campbell of Calder; Sir Duncane Campbell of Auchinbreck; Sir James Campbell of Lawers; Colline Campbell of Ardkinglas; the Laird of McCleod; Alexander Campbell of Lochnell; Ninian Bannatyne of Kaimes; Gory McAllister of Loup; Robert Campbell of Glenlyone; the Laird of McFarlane; Donald Campbell of Parbrek; Archbald Campbell of Innerraw; Collonell James Menzies of Culdars; John Campbell of Airdes; Captaine of Skipnish; Captaine of Craigneish; Captaine of Dunstafnag; Captaine of Carrick; Captaine of Tarbett; Captaine of Dinoone; John Campbell of Airdes, James Campbell of Angus Campbell of Kilberry, our commissioners in that part to the effect after specified, giveand, grantand and committand to them, conjunctly and severally, our full power, authority and commissione, expres bidding and charge, to convocat our liedges in armes, and to passe, search, seek, pursue, take and apprehend, and, incaice of resistance or hostile opposition, to pursue to the death the said Lauchlane McClean of Broleis, Hector Oig McCleane, his brother, John McClean of Ardgower, Hugh McCleane, fiar thereof, Archbald McClean, brother to Ardgower, Allane McClean of Inverskavadill, John McCleane of Kenloch Allane, Hector McCleane, his sone, Charles McClean in Ardna- croish; Lauchlan, Allan, Donald, Hector and Ewin M°Charless, his sones, Hector McCleane, fiar of Lochbowie, Hugh and Alexander McCleanes, brethren to Kingerloch, Hector and John McQuories and Lauchlane McClean, fiar of Toirloisk, our rebels for the cause foresaid;...

(Hume Brown, P (ed.) 1914 *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, 3rd series, vol VI, 46-47)

1681 June 25

Archibald MacAlister succeeds as Captain of Tarbert the 'lawful son to the deceast Ronald McAllester of Tarbert' and recieves a grant from the eral of Argyll listing the same lands as in 1654 grant

...Whom failing in lawful heirs to his brothers german James and Gorrie, whom failing, the nearest heirs of John Dow MacAllister Atavus of Archibald...

With the reddendo for the

...service of ward and relief, with marriage when it shall happen, a six oared ship in war and peace at the service of Argyll and his family when required, and keepership of the castle...

(Beaton, D 2002 'How the Tarbert Lands Passed from the Macalisters to the Campbells', *The KIST*, vol 63, 5)



Tarbert Castle, 1847-54 hand coloured lithograph by E.T Crawford and R. Carrick

11.5 The Rebellion of the Earl of Argyll 1684-1685

Following the death of Charles II and the accession of James II (VII of Scotland) the exiled Archibald Campbell, former earl of Argyll gathered supplies and ships to lead a Scottish expedition against the King in support of the Monmouth Rebellion in England. In Scotland the government were well aware of these potential rebellious machinations and in April 1684 to counter any potential insurrection in Argyll, they had appointed Robert Stewart temporary sherriff of Argyll and *'...severall lieuetennents in Argyle and Tarbet shyre for suppressing and preventing disorders in these parts...'* and men from *'Dumbarton, Stirling, perth, Forfar, Kincardine, Aberdeen, Banff, Elgin, Nairn, Inverness and Ross to ...be in readynesse on sex dayes advertisement, weil furnished with armes and other provisiones, to answer the respective lieutenants...'*. In May these levies were to report to the various lieutenants based at *'Cowall'* (600 men), *'Inverrary'* (500), *'Sadell or Kintyre'* (800), *'Craigness'* (700), *'Dunsatffnage'* (800) and *'Tarbet'* (900) being *'...well provided in feir of weir, weil armed and with 30 days provisons...'*. In July the Marquess of Atholl was appointed Lord Lieutenant and Sheriff of Argyllshire and duly received Argyll's easte of Inverary and by August Atholl had entered Argyll with around 1000 men. Despite these precautions the rebellion did not immediately take place the earl of Argyll launching his invasion the following year.

1684 May

Draft Proclamation

a proclamatione narating A., late Earle of Argyll, heth not only consulted and concurred with the Englis conspirators forces to resist in their late treasonable plott against the Kings persone, his dearest the impending brother and the royall goverment, but heth been eminently active Earl of Argyll. therin, encuraging his complices by undertaking to raise a considerable force in the antient kingdome of Scotland for begining and careing one of ther vilanous conspiracie; and the King beeing oblinded by the law of God and man to endeavour by all just meaines to disapoynt those helish machinationes and to prevent the ruine of his good people, which necessarily wold ensue if the malicious designes of the said A[rchibald], late Earl of Argyll, and others his complices should take any effect, and the King having, in ordour therto, established livtenancies in the shyres of Argyll and Tarbit for preventing and supresing the projects and seditions intended by the said late Archibalds descending in these places and his convocating others who are ill principalled and disafected to the goverment, and it beeing fit that the saids livtennants should be assisted by his Majesties other good subjects in caice of any such traiterous attempt, the King doeth, therefore, by virtue of his royall auctoritie and with advyce of his Privie Counsell, comand and require that the persons after named have in readines with all convenient diligence the respective proportions and number of men after mentioned as weil provided in fier of weir, weil armed and with 30 dayes provisione for concuring with and assisting his Majesties said livtenants in mantaining his royall auctoritie and executing of his laws and preserving the peace of the kingdome as they shal be required by the Kings saids livtennants on any necessarie ocasion, viz. :-The Marquis of Montrose 300 men, the Earl of Monteith 200 men, the Earl of Perth 300 men, the Laird of Luss 100 men for assisting the Livtenant of Cowall when they shal be required; the Marquis of Atholl 300 men, the Earle of Bredalbin 200 men, the Laird of Grant 200 men, the Laird of Glengarie 100 men to asist the Livtenant of Inverarey; the Earl of Mar 300 men, the Marquis of Huntly 300 men, the Laird of M'Intosh 200 men, the Laird of Weeme 100 men to asist the Livtenant of (Inchhonald [deleted]) Cragness; the Earle of Seaforth 300 men, Sir Donald M'Donald 200 men, M'Leod of Haries 200 men, the Captain of Clanronald 100 men and the Laird of Lochzeil 200 men for assisting the Livtenant of Dunstafnish; the Laird of M'Lean 200 men, the Laird of M'Kennan 100 men (Duke Hamiltoun in Arran 200 men [deleted]), and the shyre of Bute 200 men for asisting the Livtenant of Kintyre. And all the persons above named are heirby required to have ther forsaid numbers in readines and to certiorat the Chancell[our] therof befor the day of nixt to come and to have ther saids numbers fitted and prepared to march with all convenient diligence to the saids respective Livtennants, as they shal require the samen; and that the ill affected people may be the more terified from attempting anything to the prejudice of the King or of his Majesties good subjects, his Majestie heirby comands and requres all his leige men betuixt 60 and 16 within the respective shyres after mentioned weil pro- vided in fier of weir to march on sex dayes warneing with 30 dayes provisione to the assistance of the severall Livtennants quhen they shal require the same, and ther to act and doe as they shal be comanded by the saids Livtennants or others having comand from his Majestie, to witt, all within the shyres of Dumbarton and Stirling and Stevartrie of Monteith for to ansvere the Livtenant in Cowall, all within the shyre of Perth (and stewartrie of Stratherne [deleted]) to

answere the Livtenent of Inverarey, all within the forsaid divisione of Adberdine and Bamfe shyres above Kincarden of Neil, Kildrumay and Kyth to answe to the Livtenent of (Inchhonald [deleted]) Craignes, all within the shyres of Narne, Invernes and Ros to answe to the Livtenent of Dunstafnish, and all within the Isles of Arran, Bute, Illa and Mull to answe to the Livtenent of Kintyre; and all the Kings leidges are heirby required to give obedience to the saids Livtenents to act, asist and concurr with them in maner forsaid under the paine of tinsall of life, lands and goods, and therby and attour all the fencible men within ilk respective divisione who are heirby required to give obedience to the saids Livtenents in maner and to the effect above writtin under the forsaid paines; and to charge messengers, etc., to pass to the marcat croce of the saids severall shyres, etc., and to charge the leidges, etc.

1. "The shyres of Dumbartan, Stirlin and stewartry of Monteth to the Leivtenant of Carrick.
2. "Shyre [of] Perth to the Leivtenant of Ineraray.
3. "Forfar and Kincardin and stewartry of Strathern to the Leivtenant of Craignes.
4. " Aberdeen, Bamf above Kincardin Neill, Kildrimy and Keth to Tarbatt.
5. "Boot Isle, Mul, Ila to Saddell or Kintyre.
6. "Inernes, Elgin, Nairn and Ross to Dunstafnage.

"For Leivtenent of Cowall."

"Marquis [of] Montrose, 300 men

"Earl [of] Montteth, 200 men

"Luss, 100 [men].

"Ineraray.

"Marquis [of] Athole, 300 men

"Earl [of] Bredalbin, 300 [men]

"Saddell or Kintyre.

"Shyre [of] Boote, 200 [men])

"M'Lean, 200 [men]

"M'Leod of Haries, 200 [men]

"Ila, 200 [men]

"Craignes.

"Earl [of] Pert or Marquis [of] Huntly 300 [men]

"M'Intosh, 200 [men]

"Mackinon, 100 [men]

"Appin, 100 [men]

"Dunstafnage.

"Marquis [of] Huntly or Perth, 300 [men] 66

"Lochiell, 200 [men] 66 66

"Captain Clanranald, 200 [men]

"Glengary, 100 [men]

"Tarbatt."

"Earl [of] Marr, 300 [men]

"Laird of Weem, 100 [men]

"Earl [of] Seaforth, 300 [men]

"Sir Donald M'Donald, 200 [men]

(Paton, A (ed) 1927 *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, 3rd series vol X, 372-374)

1684 May 5

Proclamation for the Apprehension of Rebels

Charles, by the grace of God, King of Great Britaine, France and PIreland, defender of the faith, to our lovits macers of our Privie Councill and messengers at armes, our sheriffs in that part, conjunctly and severally, specially constitut, greeting. Forasmuch as wee, considering the frequent rebelliones that have been lately raised within this our ancient kingdome, contrair to ther native alleadgeance, to the destructione of our governement and the peace and quyet of all our good subjects, and the extravagant and impious principles which have been the necessar and fatall consequences thereupon ensueing, wee did, amongst other remedies, ordaine these who wer in armes and these who had recept them, to be legally cited before our Justices to the effect they might be tryed. And, notwithstanding that wee gave them that fair opportunity of defending ther ounne innocence, yet many of them being now denounced rebells and fugitives from our lawes, wee are resolved to prosecute them till they be brought to condigne punishment, and, therefore, wee have appoynted ane exact roll of the saids persones so denounced to be printed, requyreing all our subjects not only not to comfort or harbour the saids persones, but likewayes to do ther outmost endeavours to apprehend them, as farr as is ther power, and to give notice to our next sheriffs, bailzies of bailzeries and regalities, stewarts of stewartries, magistrats of burrowes and other officers and ministers of our law, and to the officers of our armie when they know that any of them lurkes in ther bounds. And also, in caice ther be any contained in the saids rolls and list that have been denounced through ther negligence or ignorance, tho they have subscriyved the band or taken the Test, as wes prescryved by our former proclamations, therefore wee, with advice of our Privie Councill, yet allow any of the saids persones who shall, betwext and the first of August next ensueing, clear that they have taken the band or Test, to be thereupon relaxed gratis before our Justices, and our Advocat is hereby ordered to desert the dyet against them, they compearing and being relaxed, as said is. And, to our royall authority and executeing of our lawes, and preserveing the peace of this our realme as they shall be requyred by our saids tennents on any necessary occasion, viz. the Earle of Monteith two hundred men and the Laird Luss one hundred men, for assisting the lievetennent of Cowall when they shall be requyred; the Marques of Atholl three hundred men and the Earle of Braid Albin three hundred men to assist the lievetennent of Inverrary; the sheriff of Boot two hundred men; the Laird of McClean two hundred men; McClaud of Harris two hundred men, and for Ila two hundred men, for assisting the lievetennent of Sadell or Kintyre: the Marques of Huntley and Earle of Perth three hundred men; the Laird of McKintosh two hundred men; the Laird of McKinnen one hundred men, and the Laird of Appine one hundred men for assisting the livetennent of Craigness: the Marques of Huntley and Earle of Perth three hundred men; the Laird of Lochyell two hundred men; the Captaine of Clanronnald two hundred men, and the Laird of Glengarry one hundred men for assisting the lievetennent of Dunstaffnage: the Earle of Marr three hundred men; the Laird of Weem one hundred men; the Earle of Seaforth three hundred men and Sir Donald McDonald of Slaitt two hundred men for assisting the lievetennent of Tarbet. And all the persones above named are hereby requyred to have ther forsaid number in readynes, and to certiorat our Chancellor

thereof with all convenient dilligence, and to have ther saids numbers fitted and prepared to march with all dilligence to the saids respective lievetennents as they shall requyre the samen. And, to the effect the ill affected people may be the more terrified from attempting any thing to the prejudice of us or of our good subjects, wee hereby command and requyre all our leidge men betwixt sextie and sextein within the respective shyres eftir mentioned, weill provided in feir of weir, to march on sex dayes warneing with therty dayes provisione to the assistance of the severall lievetennents when they shall requyre the same and there to act and do as they shall be commanded by the saids lievetennents or others haveing command from us, to witt, all within the shyres of Dumbartoun and Stirling and stewartry of Monteith for to answer the lievetennent of Cowall; all within the shyre of Perth to answer the lievetennent of Inverrary; all within the shyres of Forfar and Kincardine and stewartry of Stratherne to answer the lievetennent of Craigness; all within the shyres of Aberdeen and Bamff above Kincairn. of Neill, Killdrummie and Keith to answer the lievetennent of Tarbett; all within the shyre of Boot, Isles of Mull and Ila to answer the lievetennent of Saddell or Kintyre, and all within the shyres of Innerness, Elgine, Nairne and Ross to answer the lievetennent of Dunstaffnage. And all our leidges are hereby requyred to give obedience to the saids lievetennents, to act, assist and concurr with them in manner forsaid under the paine of tinsell of life, lands and goods; and thereby and attour all the fencible men within ilk respective division are hereby requyred to give obedience to the saids lievetennents in manner and to the effect above written under the forsaid. paines. And, to the effect our speciall pleasure in the premisses may be made knoune that persones concerned may give exact and punctuall obedience thereunto, our will is, and wee charge yow strictly and command that, incontinent these our letters seen, ye passe to the mercat crosse of Edinburgh and remanent mercat crosses of the head burghs of the shyres of this kingdome, and there by open proclamation make publicatione of the premisses that non may pretend ignorance. As also wee ordaine these presents to be affixt on the severall parish kirkdoors within the Highlands, and the severall sheriffs of the shyres forsaid to see the same done accordingly, as they will be answerable. Given under our signet at Edinburgh, the fyfth day of May, one thousand sex hundred eighty and four, and of our reigne the thertieth and sext year, 1684.

(Hume Brown, P (ed.) 1915 *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, 3rd series vol VIII, 509-511)

1684 July

Right Honorble-Your comision as Leut: of Argyle & Tarbatt are returned.
The reasones for hasting to move in this are more pressing then when your lop parted,
Therefore be pleased to hast as soon as you can to meet wt.
Your lop most humble servants

Perth.
Alex. Sr And:
Queensberry.
Da. Falconar.
Geo. Mackenzie.
Geo. McKenzie.

The Marquis, having received commands to proceed immediately into Argyllshire with an armed force, now issued orders to his vassals and other gentlemen of Perthshire to prepare to march there under his command.

(Duke of Atholl, J 1908 *Chronicles of the Atholl and Tullibardine Families*, vol I, 187)

1685

It seems likley that Tarbert Castle was had been occupied by troops under Atholl's deputy in Argyll Patrick Stewart of Ballechin. In early May Argyll sailed from Amsterdam landing a force in Lorn before sailing on to Islay where he tried to raise men. Eventually in late May Argyll, after landing in Campbeltown summoned his armed men to gather at Tarbert '*a very central place*'. Prior to Argyll's arrival in Tarbert Atholl feared that the thinly scattered government garrisons at Tarbert, Skipness and Saddell were in danger from Argyll's troops, so the government garrisons were withdrawn to Inverary. If the narrative of Patrick Hume is correct, then Tarbert castle was occupied by a garrison loyal to Argyll. The MacAlisters at this time appear to have remained on the governments side with Ronald MacAlister reporting to Patrick Stewart and cooperating in bringing the garrisons of Saddell, Skipness and Tarbert to Inverary. However, despite the withdrawal of government troops and according to a letter from two MacAlisters (both John) the family appear to have remained in possession of both castles. At Tarbert Argyll now linked with troops under his son Charles and Sir Duncan Campbell of Auchinbreck his force now reckoned to number 1,500-2000 '*foot and horse*' although the numbers given in contemporary or near contemporary accounts vary. From Tarbert Argyll issued a second declaration of war against the King. In June Argyll's estates and offices including the constablership of Tarbert Castle were annexed to the crown. Eventually Argyll's rebellion petered out with the Earl taken prisoner and conveyed to Edinburgh where he was beheaded. Following the rebellion the MacAlister family participated in the despoilation of the lands of Campbell adherents.

1685 May 20

John Campbell Earl of Breadalbane to Patrick Stewart of Ballechin

If yor garisons in Skipnes & Tarbet can come saifly to you I wish with all my heart you had ym, & all the boats this syd of Strondour, but its not tyme now to divide or pairt with yor men if the enemie be on his march. In which caise I continow still of the opinion I gev you, with submission to what you think better.

(Duke of Atholl, J 1908 *Chronicles of the Atholl and Tullibardine Families*, vol I, 201)

1685 May 22

Patrick Stewart of Ballechin to the Marquess of Atholl

My Lord,—I receved your Losp: Letter yesterday from Ronald Moir McAlastair & did dispatch him to Kintyre to bring me intelligence, for all confirmes ther was manie shoits off cannon heird since Sunday last about Kintyre, & we judge the King hes men off wair hes meitt with them...

All thos that is cum to me adwyssed me to dismissee the garissones off Sadell, Skipness, & Tairbett, which I did and ordered them all to cum with Ronald Moir to Envereray, for upon pretence off ther garissones they keip all the baist men & our amunitione. Iff Ardgyll be in Kintyre Ronald is promiss'd to be at me tomorrow with shur intelligence, he has likewayes promiss to reaisse all the prettie men in Kintyre, & bring them & all the wictuall hie can to Envereray.

(Duke of Atholl, J 1908 *Chronicles of the Atholl and Tullibardine Families*, vol I 205-206)

1685 May 24

Patrick Stewart of Ballechin to the Marquess of Atholl

My Lord,—This day I receved your Losp: about nyne a clock. All haid out for intelligence, & I employed McAlister off Loch heaid who sent ane boy yesterday to Kilmichael in Glaissrie, & hie just now returned. All meitt leat A: at the Tarbett this day... A: hes all his shipes this day at the Tarbett... I am shur the McAllasters is honest men...

(Duke of Atholl, J 1908 *Chronicles of the Atholl and Tullibardine Families*, vol I, 209)

1685 May 29

John Campbell Earl of Breadalbane to the Marquess of Atholl

...the lat E: of A: did yesternyt order his sons, Achinbrek, and Barbrek, to march night & day to his Randesvouse this day at 12 of ye clock at Tarbet. That his motion from thence is uncertane, but by beakins fyred on the top of Ilsa and Mull of Kintyr, its conjectured he is to shipp in his partie at Tarbitt, & land wher he made his first apoyntment; but if it holds qt is reported of the shooting of cannon, its lyk his passage is stopt, and in that caise necessitie, (if not choyse) will oblige him to come up to this cuntree if he hes any party near to equall you...

(Duke of Atholl, J 1908 *Chronicles of the Atholl and Tullibardine Families*, vol I, 214)

1685 May

...In a short time wee got very encouraging returns from the Lowlands, and earnestly pressed the Erle that wee might divide, and some of us goe thither. He seemd satisfied, but withall told us that his son Char:, and other gentlemen, wer at Talbot-castle, with 1200 men; and if we would saile the ships thither, and many boates wee

had, he, with Sir John and a good pairt of the sogers, would take a land march throw Kantire, levie the whole country, and joine them; and that then we might goe to the Lowlands with a considerable division of men (for it was not fit to goe too single) and he with another considerable pairt would stay there, levie men, and act against Athole, or as occasione fell in. Sir John was for dividing and parting presently; but the Erle being wilfull, and the motion resonable he made, and the work but of twenty-four houres, we wer most of us of the Erie's opinion; so he marched, and we sailed; came to Tarbot, and found our friends at a rendevous here. We made, of horse and foot, 1800 men. Here the Erie, in printing a declaration concerning himselfe, and in modelling the men, spent more time than needed (as indeed he did likewise at Cambleton) for all wee could doe to haste him on...

(Rose, G H (ed.) 1881 *A Selection from the Papers of the Earls of Marchmont; Sir P. Hume's Narrative of the Earl of Argyle's Expedition*, vol III, 44-45)

1685 May 26-29

Particulars relative to the landing of Archibald the Earl of Argyle

Edinburgh, June the first, Since our last, we have an account that the late Earl of Argyle did, on the twenty-sixth of the last month, march from Campletoun in Kintire with two troops of horse, (such as could be had in that country), and seven hundred foot, to Tarbet, and met three hundred of the Ila men, and two hundred more were expected, where they were all to muster, the twenty-eight. His three ships came from Campletoun on Tuesday, and the next day went into Tarbet, the greatest carrying thirty-six guns, the other twelve, and the third six. He had another small vessel with him, which he took upon the coast, loaden with corn. The twentyninth, he loosed from the Tarbet, accompanied with Auchinbreck, (who, we have already told you, had joyned him), and came into the town of Rosa, in the Isle of Boot, where he took a night's provision for himself and his men.

(Maidment, J 1884 *The Argyle Papers*, 30)

1685 May

Argyll's second '*Declaration*' printed at Tarbert

...all my vassals everywhere, and all within my several jurisdictions, with the fencible men within their command, to go to arms, and to join and concur with us, according to the said Declaration, as they will be answerable at their highest perils, and to obey the particular orders they shall receive from me from time to time...

(Burns, R 1830 *The History of the Suffering of the Church of Scotland from the Restoration to the Revolution* by Robert Wodrow, vol VI, 290-291)

1685 June 1

Edinburgh, June the first

Since our last, we have an account that the late Earl of Argyle did, on the twenty-sixth of the last month, march from Campletoun in Kintire with two troops of horse, (such as could be had in that country), and seven hundred foot, to Tarbet, and met three

hundred of the Ila men, and two hundred more were expected, where they were all to muster, the twenty-eight. His three ships came from Campletoun on Tuesday, and the next day went into Tarbet, the greatest carrying thirty-six guns,- the other twelve,-and the third six. He had another small vessel with him, which he took upon the coast, loaden with corn. The twentyninth, he loosed from the Tarbet, accompanied with Auchinbreck, (who we have already told you, had joyned him), and came into the town of Rosa, in the Isle of Boot, where he took a night's provision for himself and his men. The thirtieth, he sailed round the Island with his three ships and twenty small boats, and came again to the town of Rosa, and fired seven guns at his landing, having with him, as we are informed, in all about two thousand and five hundred men. He endeavours to perswade and encourage the people to rise with him, by assuring them that there are already great risings in England, as you will see by a letter, all written and signed by himself, directed for the laird of Lusse, which is herewith sent, and is as follows :

Campletoun, May 22, 1685.

Loving Friend, It hath pleased God to bring me safe to this place, where several of both nations doth appear with me for defence of the protestant religion, our lives and liberties, against popery and arbitrary government, whereof the particulars are in two declarations emitted by those noblemen, gentlemen, and others, and by me for myself. Your father and I lived in great friendship, and I am glad to serve you, his son, in the protestant religion, and I will be ready to do it in your particular when there is occasion. I beseech you let not any, out of fear or other bad principles, perswade you to neglect your duty to God and your country at this time, or to believe that D. York is not a papist, or that being one, he can be a righteous king. Then know that all England is in arms in three several places, and the Duke of Monmouth appears, at the same time, upon the same grounds we do, and few places in Scotland but soon will joyne, and the south and west, wants but till they hear I am landed, for so we resolved before I left Holland. Now, I beseech you, make no delay to separate from those abuse you, and are carrying on a popish design, and come with all the men of your command to assist the cause of religion, where you shall be most welcome to Your loving friend to serve you, Argyle.

P. S.-Let this serve young Loigie, Skipnage, and Charles M'Echan.
(Maidment, J 1884 *The Argyle Papers*, 30-31)

1685 June 4-6

A Report made be The Marques of Atholl, Lord Lieutt of Argile & Tarbatt, to the Lords of...

...wheron I sent Ballaquhan with 500 to secure the pass at Tarbatt from being seized either by the Isla partie commanded by Campbell of Airds, or be Argile if he returned from Boott, that being the pass of farr greater importance in all that shyre. Ballaqn stayed at Tarbat till I was informed that Argile hade pitched on Ellengreg as the place to post his armie & secure his ships...

(Duke of Atholl, J 1908 *Chronicles of the Atholl and Tullibardine Families*, vol I, 251)

1685 June 16

Act of annexation of the offices belonging to the late [*Archibald Campbell*], earl of Argyll

Our sovereign lord, with advice and consent of the estates of parliament, considering how dangerous it has always been to the peace and quiet of this kingdom to bestow too many heritable jurisdictions, offices and superiorities upon any of his majesty's subjects living in the remote highlands, and that, by such helps as these, the family of Argyll did in the last age, as well as this commit and maintain their execrable treasons and oppress and enslave his majesty's faithful and loyal subjects, and that the jurisdictions, offices, superiorities and constabularies after specified are now fallen into his majesty's hands by the sentence and doom of forfeiture given and pronounced against Archibald Campbell, late earl of Argyll, by the commissioners of justiciary, upon the [...] day of [...]; therefore his majesty, with consent foresaid, does unite, annex and incorporate to his crown of this his ancient kingdom, to remain inseparably with the same in all time coming, the offices of justice general of all the isles of Scotland (except Orkney and Shetland) of the shires of Argyll and Tarbert, and of all the remaining lands and estate belonging to the said late earl in Scotland, the heritable lieutenancy of Argyll and Tarbat shires, the heritable chamberlainry of both these shires, the office of admiralty of all the lands belonging to him the said Archibald Campbell, the right of the commissariat, in so far as it belonged to the late earl, the office of the king's master of the household in Scotland, the heritable sheriffship of Argyll and Tarbat shires, the heritable crownarship and *toshachdorich* or majorship in these shires; as also that half of the casualties belonging to the king and prince formerly conveyed by his majesty and his predecessors to the earl of Argyll and his predecessors, namely the half of the wards, reliefs, marriages, non-entries, escheats, amercements and of all casualties whatsoever belonging to the king and prince within the said shires, and also the patronage of all kirks, and prebendaries which any manner of way did belong to the said late earl and his predecessors; and in like manner, the constabularies of the castles of Craignish, Tarbert, Carrick, Dunoon, Swin and Dunstaffnage, with the profits, rents and emoluments belonging thereto; as also, the superiorities of all and whatsoever lands belonging to [*John Campbell*], earl of Breadalbane, [*Hugh Fraser*], lord Lovat, John MacLeod of Herries, he heirs of the late Lord MacDonald of Donald, MacDonald of Moidart, of the laird of MacLean, [...] MacLean of Lochbuy, [...] MacLean of Torlisk, and of the other heritors holding of the late earl of Argyll, in the isles of Mull, Jura, Tiree; of the lands belonging to the lairds [*Sir Hugh Campbell*] of Cawdor, [*Cameron of*] Locheil, [*Sir Duncan Campbell of*] Auchinbreck, [*John*] MacNaughton, [*Sir Colin Campbell of*] Ardkinglas, MacAlister of Tarbert, [*Sir Colin Campbell of*] Arbruchill, Duncan of Lundie, [*John*] Campbell of Ardchattan, the lairds of Ormsary and [*Campbell of*] Lochnell, together with the superiority of the burgh of Inveraray and the property of the house, castle and parks of Inveraray, declaring that the generality hereof shall be as sufficient as if each part of the said lands and every patronage were particularly herein expressed, and that this present annexation is affected with all the conditions and provisions as to the way and manner of alienation and dissolution mentioned and expressed in the former act of parliament, annexing to the crown the lands of [*Walter Scott*], earl of Tarras, [*George Melville*], lord Melville and others.

(RPS 1685/4/79)

1685 June 22

John and John MacAlister to the Marquess of Atholl

Skipnisse, Jun 22 1685.

My Lord,—These are to inform yor Lordship of Argills proceedings in Kintyre. All those of his Celan, either kindly or Lowlanders, in Kintyre, hes joined wt him, all excepting ye few gentlemen yt left ye countrey, & prt of ye Kinlyes & relates q^o keiped ymselves out of his way. He boasted verie much & threatned wt all vigour to raise fyre & sword upon all ye contrare to him & to his designes. The number of men he broght to Scotland wt him will be about four scoir or fivescoire men of forraigners, & no more: he has caused print seall declaritnes at Campbeltoun and Tarbirt contrair to his Majesty person, the Lawes, and governmt of ye nationes. He sent us a message to this place to render ye garrison, wt all ye boast & threatning he might or could be able to enforce upon us, & after his marching to ye Tarbirt & intending, as we were informed, ffor ye south country, he hath piladged bute, & burnt severall places; to witt, ye Shirefs house, wt ye Bishops, & ye Com'rs. They inform us that they are houghing the horses yr, notwtstanding of any oy thing they can lay yr hands to to take. There is seen this two or three dayes bypast a number of ships upon the coast of Kintyre, is seen to ... , they apear like men of Warr.

The greatest number Argill may be yett will be som fyften hundred men.

This is directed from thos qm apointed for ye Castle of Tarbirt, & waitts for yor lops answer & order qnever ye demand.

This is all, ffrom. My Lord,

Yo'r most humble & reall srvts

John McAllester.

John M Allester.

(Duke of Atholl, J 1908 *Chronicles of the Atholl and Tullibardine Families*, vol I, 220-221)

11.6 The Jacobite Uprisings 1689-1745

The MacAlisters likley remained in possession of Tarbert holding this directly from the Crown. With the succession of William and Mary in 1688 the Campbell family regained their former status and in 1689 Lord Lorne (the late Argyll's eldest son) became the Earl of Argyll by the Convention of Estates in Scotland while an Act of Parliament rescinded the forfeiture of the deceased Earl of Argyll and the Campbells regained the constablenesship of the Tarbert Castle and the superiority of the lands of Tarbert. The same year a government-backed Campbell militia was stationed at Tarbert Castle in readiness to counter the threat of a Jacobite invasion into Kintyre in support of the deposed King James. In April commissions for raising new regiments were issued and a unit of around 500 men under Captain William Young was put together and transferred in small boats to Tarbert where they landed on 15 May and took possession of Tarbert Castle. In June Viscount Dundee was proposing to land troops from Ireland at Tarbert. The MacAlsiters of Loup along with the MacNeill's of

Gallichioile had risen for the deposed king and appeared to have taken Skipness Castle but later in May after a skirmish with government troops at Loup Hill were forced to flee to Gigha where they were rescued by Alexander MacLean later joining Viscount Dundee at the battle of Killlicrankie. These fears of an imminent invasion were enhanced when a French merchant ship which had been commandeered by Irish refugees arrived in Skipness.

1689 June 27

Viscount Dundee to the Earl of Melfort

...The only ill is, the passage is long by sea and inconvenient, because of the island; but, in this season, that is not to be feared. So soon as the boats return, let them ferry over as many more foot as they think fit to the Point of Kintyre, which will soon be done; and then the King has all the boats for his own landing. I should march towards Kintyre, and meet at the Neck of Tarbitt, the foot, and so march to raise the country, and then towards the passes of Forth to meet the King, where I doubt not but we would be numerous.

(MacPherson, J (ed.) 1775 *Original papers, containing the secret history of Great Britain from the Restoration, to the accession of the House of Hannover: to which are prefixed extracts from the life of James II*, vol 1, 364)

1745

During the Jacobite rebellion in 1745, Archibald Campbell of Stonefield, who oversaw military preparations in Argyll, dispatched a party of soldiers from the earl of Loudoun's regiment to Tarbert with a warrant to disable boats. In September Stonefield appears to have written to the merchants in Tarbert of explaining his actions, although this letter appears not to have been sent. Assisting Loudoun's men in disabling the boats at Tarbert was Donald Campbell of Kilchamaig who billed Archibald Campbell of Stonefield for his mens subsistence.

1745 August 13

Colonel Campbell had despatched a party of Loudon's regiment to Tarbert (Ferguson, J 1951 *Argyll in the Forty-Five*, 25)

1745 Sept 20

Draft letter of Archibald Campbell of Stonefield

Gentlemen,- Early this morning I received the favour of your letter of the 17th current upon the subject of the warrant granted me for disabling the boats at Tarbert lest they should be employ'd in the accommodation any people intending to go into the Highland army...It was thought expedient for the service of the Government...[It] is in general as to Lochfyne, and the information I have had for some time past made it very necessary to put a clogg upon navigation of the loch...We have [in] all human probabaility to expect the heavy clouds that have hung over us will be dispell'd in a

very little time and then all the boats will have full liberty...I am glad that you find the people of Tarbert of a peaceable disposition.

(NAS GD 14/22; Ferguson, J 1951 *Argyll in the Forty-Five*, 26)

1745 October

Charge made by Donald Campbell of Kilchamaig for £5 9s

...for subsisting for 5 days a party of the Argyllshire men to reinforce a command of the earl of Loudons regiment statin'd at tarbert in harvest 1745 by order of Lieut. Col. Campbell, upon intelligence that Mr McDonald of Lerggy and other gentlemen were to march with a body of men that way to join the rebel army, which was effectively prevented...

(NAS GD 14/112)

1748

Tarbert Castle is garrisoned by government troops between March and November hosting men of Battereau's Regiment. The troops appear to have been involved in gathering proscribed weapons while the castle itself appears to be in a state of disrepair.

1748 March 1

Castle Tarbat... For 1 Sub & 34 men not yet possess'd

(SHS Cantonments of the British Army in Scotland, 1745-56, Letter Book of General Humphrey Bland 1747-49, MS.304 P40)

1748 June 3

arriving Kilchurn castle Capt Darby's troop...Days & Places the arms are appointed to be Delivered in

(SHS Cantonments of the British Army in Scotland, 1745-56, Letter Book of General Humphrey Bland 1747-49, MS.304 P63)

1748 August 11

Castle Tarbot it lies in a peaceable low country...I can't suppose it will ever be fitted up

(SHS Cantonments of the British Army in Scotland, 1745-56, Letter Book of General Humphrey Bland 1747-49, MS.304 P91R)

1748 November 30

Route...was sent to call in a detachment of Batereau's Regiment at Tarbot in Kintire immediately

(SHS Cantonment Register of the British Army in Scotland, 2019, P70)

1762

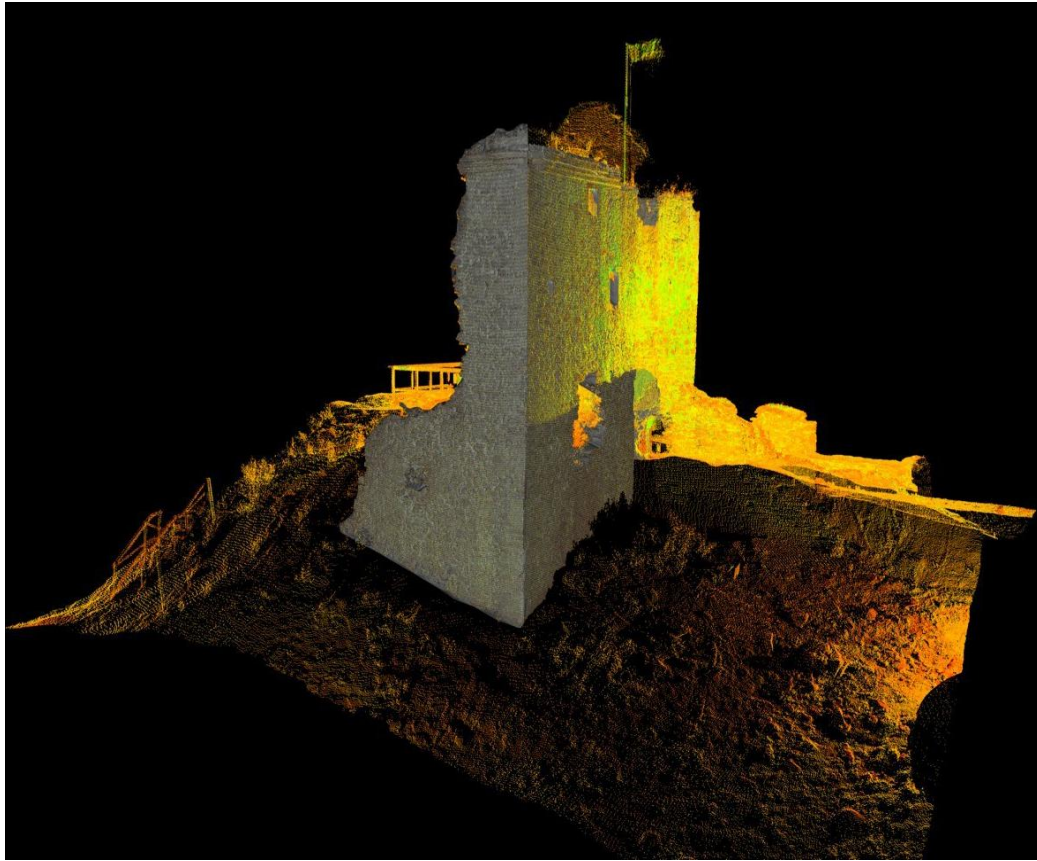
From the late 17th century, the MacAlisters of Tarbert were forced to sell their lands in order to pay off mounting debts, their lands mainly acquired by members of the Campbell family. Despite these increasing debts, MacAlisters had built a large new house at Barmore by 1748 (although even this had to be sold in 1751 when it was acquired by Archibald Campbell, Chamberlain and Sheriff depute of Argyll). Having given up residency of Tarbert Castle the family had retained the tenancy under charter from the Duke of Argyll which stipulated that the vassal should provide '*a boat of six oars in time of peace and war - and to preserve and maintain the said Castle of Tarbert, wind and watertight in all time coming*'. The continued deterioration of the castle under the MacAlisters was the subject of a lawsuit in 1762 when an action was raised by the Duke of Argyll against the last MacAlister Laird before the Lords of Session. Argyll argued that the obligations due to him for holding the castle were no longer lawful by an Act of George I, which discharged all personal services and attendance of vassals on their Superior, and as such these obligations should be converted into an annual money value. Argyll's lawyers argued that the castle was no longer required to serve its original purpose as a fort and its condition had been neglected contrary to the stipulations of previous charters (dating back to 1511). These obligations were outlined during the court case which was ruled in Argyll's favour.

1762

A boat of six oars in time of peace and war, which they shall be bound to equip properly with arms and all necessities, along with six rowers and a steersman for the service of our S.D.N...lord the king, and us and our heirs and descendants for transporting us and our aforesaid from Tarbert to Strondour, Silvercraigs, and Lochgear; and likewise to any part of Cowal between the promontory of Aird and the Strait of Ottar, at the cost and expense of the said Archd. McAlister and his heirs, as often as required. And likewise the said Archibald McAlister and his aforesaid shall be bound faithfully, steadfastly, and securely to watch, ward, and defend the said castle and fortalice for the use and service of us and our aforesaid from the attacks of our enemies and foes, and to receive and guard prisoners in the said castle at the expense of us and our aforesaid, whenever they receive a command from us or our aforesaid, or our deputies from time to time. And that they will be faithful and obedient unto us and our aforesaid in all other things incumbent on the office of keeper of the said castle, as the other captains and keepers of our other castles and houses within the shire of Argyll shall be bound and are wont to do. And likewise to preserve and maintain the said castle of Tarbert wind and water tight in all time coming at the cost and expense of the said Archibald McAlister and his aforesaid, and to receive and entertain us and our aforesaid, whenever we come to the said castle, in the same manner as the other keepers of our castles are wont to do.

(Mitchell, D. 1886 *Tarbert, Past and Present: Gleanings in Local History*, 80-81)

Despite the lawsuit few if any significant repairs were carried out as both the fortunes of the MacAlister family and the fabric of Tarbert Castle declined thereafter.



12. Tarbert Castle Trust

The castle was given over to the Tarbert Castle Trust (TCT; formerly the Tarbert and Skipness Community Trust) in 2005 and over the past 20 years TCT has undertaken a series of projects to better understand the scheduled site of Tarbert Castle and promote it within the community and beyond (www.tarbertcastle.info). This has involved an extensive community effort to maintain the castle fabric while keeping the castle grounds open to the public as a Heritage Park and to make the site more accessible to the public and to save and consolidate the remaining built structures including the creation of a sustainable conservation plan and a major consolidation of the Tower House. The Trust has improved access to the site by upgrading and consolidating paths through the castle site and provided improved information signage to the castle itself. In 2013 and funded by HLF, TCT commissioned a historical and non-invasive survey of the monument (Explore Tarbert Castle - YH-12-03691).

This involved:

- i) The production of a Desk Based Assessment which collated existing information about the history and archaeology of Tarbert Castle
- ii) A laser scan of the castle
- iii) A geophysical survey of the castle
- iv) A descriptive and photographic survey of the castle remains

The results of this work were combined in the subsequent report (Regan 2013).

Despite the history of Tarbert Castle as outlined above, there were large gaps in our understanding of the origin of the castle, its development along with the function of many of its component features. Also unclear was whether the remains of medieval royal burgh extend along the ridge to the south of the castle. TCT decided that a programme of community archaeological excavation would help to answer some of these questions and which would lead to a better interpretation, presentation and future protection of the castle, while promoting the castle as an important place through generated publicity and the excitement of local involvement. TCT thus initiated Tarbert Castle - Our Castle of Kings, a Community Excavation Project and secured funding to undertake archaeological investigation at the site. Several areas of the castle readily suggested themselves as a focus for potential investigation, particularly the building ranges lining the Inner Bailey and the presumed entrances into the Outer Bailey. Beyond the castle to the south there was evidence of ditches and terracing while anomalies detected during a geophysical survey suggest further fruitful areas of investigation, which might help establish the presence of the putative medieval burgh. As Tarbert Castle is a Scheduled Monument, Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) was needed to undertake any excavation and with this in mind an An Excavation Project Design was prepared to accompany the SMC application (Regan 2018b). The excavation took place in 2018 and 2019 and the results are now published as *Tarbert Castle, Argyll; Community Excavations at a Royal Castle of Robert I* available as open access as a Scottish Internet Archive Report (SAIR see link above).



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