

TARBERT CASTLE

DESK BASED ASSESSMENT & ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUND SURVEY



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Summary

The community survey at Tarbert Castle has successfully recorded the present upstanding castle remains in detail. While few new features came to light during the survey within the castle walls an area to the south of the inner bailey had several faint traces of ditches or enclosures. As yet it is not known whether these are associated with the use of the castle or with the possible mediaeval burgh. The geophysical survey also hinted at the presence of buried features within same area and it is perhaps here that any future excavation should concentrate which may reveal their age and function.

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1. Introduction

1.1 The Project Circumstances

This Desk Based Survey has been prepared by Kilmartin House Museum with respect to the Explore Tarbert Castle Project, which aims to conduct an archaeological and historical study at the scheduled site of Tarbert Castle, Kintyre, Argyll. The project was initiated by the Tarbert and Skipness Community Trust (TSCT) who also own the castle site. Funding was provided by Argyll and Bute Council, the Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic Scotland.

1.2 Explore Tarbert Castle Project

This project is part of a programme of work that seeks to consolidate, conserve and enhance the understanding of Tarbert Castle. The project is run by the Tarbert and Skipness Community Trust which was established to seek ownership of Tarbert's Royal Castle on behalf of the community. The work at the castle incorporates the aims of the Tarbert and Skipness Community trust, namely:

1. To promote the historical importance and raise the awareness of the area's historical and archaeological assets to the local community, particularly young people.
2. To encourage the recreational use of the site with the use of heritage trails and dedicated picnic areas
3. To provide training opportunities to community members in archaeology, and local history research for local and unemployed people.

Other project aims include

4. To further understand the history of the castle and its relationship to the town of Tarbert.
5. To enhance and promote understanding of the area's cultural heritage for visitors to the area, encouraging tourism.
6. To raise the local understanding of how to protect and care for historical landmarks, buildings and features within the area.

To achieve these aims the Trust, over the past six years, has undertaken a strategy involving a extensive community effort to make the site more accessible to the public and to save and consolidate the remaining built structures. Many of the original aims of the project have been completed or are near completion, these including a sustainable conservation plan and a major consolidation of the Tower House. Some 50 volunteers and several organisations including local schools have been involved in this process these supported by public donations and several major funders who. HLF funded the last interpretation phase of the strategy to be completed in the Autumn of 2012 and this has successfully produced further junior involvement at several levels in local schools as well as community volunteers.

Throughout the consolidation and interpretation programme the Trust has been constantly asked by members of the local community whether it would be possible to further explore and understand the site through its archaeological remains, not only because people are interested in their history but because the castle is such a major asset to the local identity and economy.

With this in mind the Trust is seeking a research framework that will expand the current knowledge of the site through archaeological and historical analysis.

We now plan to go beyond the original strategy and involve the community in an archaeological and historical exploration of the castle and immediate environs combined with building on the existing access and interpretation works by involving less physically able members of the community to explore and advise how we might achieve better access and interpretation meeting their special needs within the limitations of the archaeological value of the site.

The work of the Trust has involved the close cooperation of Historic Scotland, Archaeology Scotland's 'Adopt-a-Monument' Scheme, Kilmartin House Museum, Argyll and Bute Council local disability group organisers and Tarbert Academy. We will continue to work in partnership with these organisations throughout the project.

To take the project to its next stage this phase of work has sought to consolidate and enhance our knowledge of the history of the castle and its physical remains.

This was done through the collation of existing information about the history and archaeology of Tarbert Castle providing a background that can be used by the local people of Tarbert, professional archaeologists and visitors to the town and castle.

2. Tarbert Castle

2.1 Location and Topography

The castle occupies a prominent ridge on the SE side of East Loch Tarbert within the parish of Kilcalmonell. (Centred NR 86770 68730, NMRS No. NR86NE 1, Canmore ID 39316). Directly overlooking Tarbert Harbour and standing above the present town, the site of the castle is naturally defended all sides, except on the NW by steep rocky scarps around the edge of the ridge, these sheer in places particularly on the W side. The SE side of the castle overlooks a relatively flat area of marshy ground. On the SW the ground falls away from the castle in a series of ridges towards the present village of Tarbert.

The main nucleus of the Castle formed by the inner bailey occupies the highest outcrop on the ridge, the lower ridges enclosed by a curtain wall (the outer bailey) including a tower house at the W. The site over the past six years has been steadily cleared of a substantial amount of scrub and vegetation cover by TSCT, the castle grounds mainly covered in sheep-maintained grass cover, with a few gorse bushes.

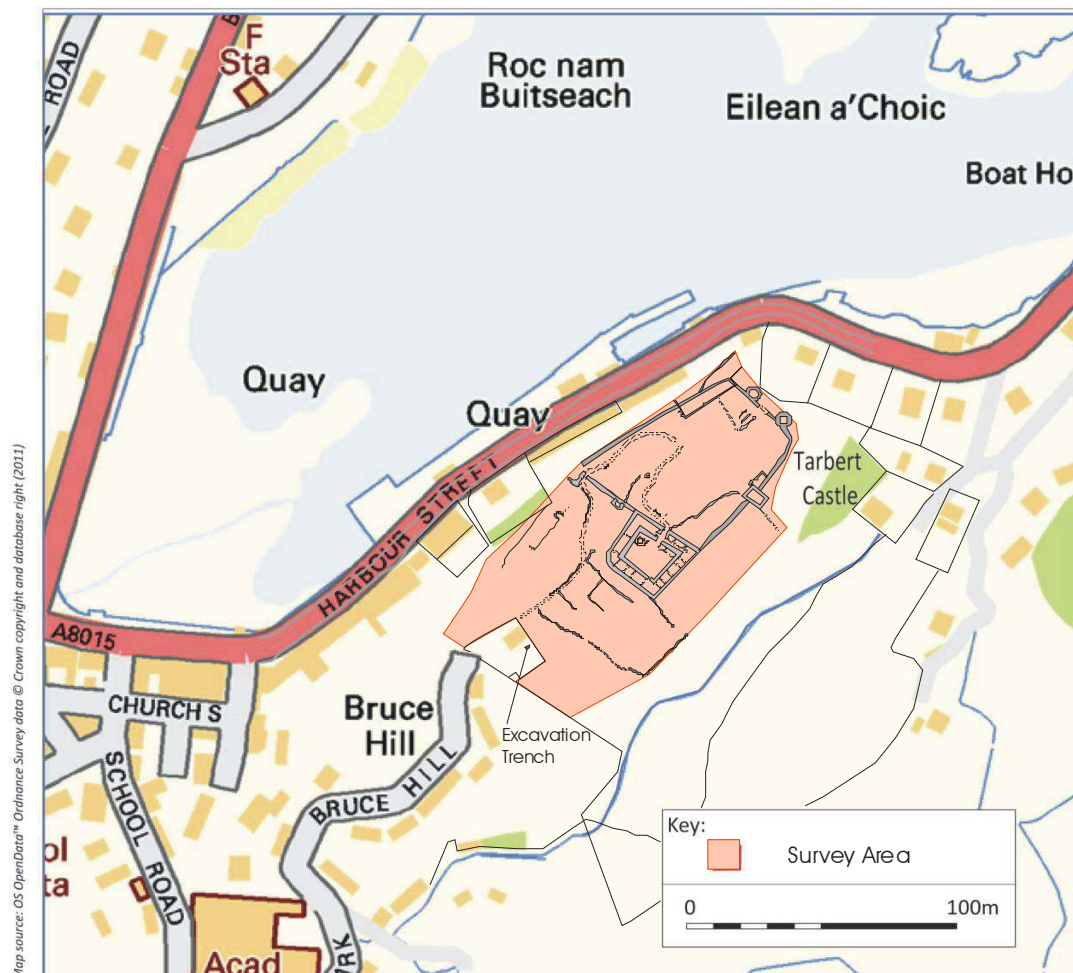
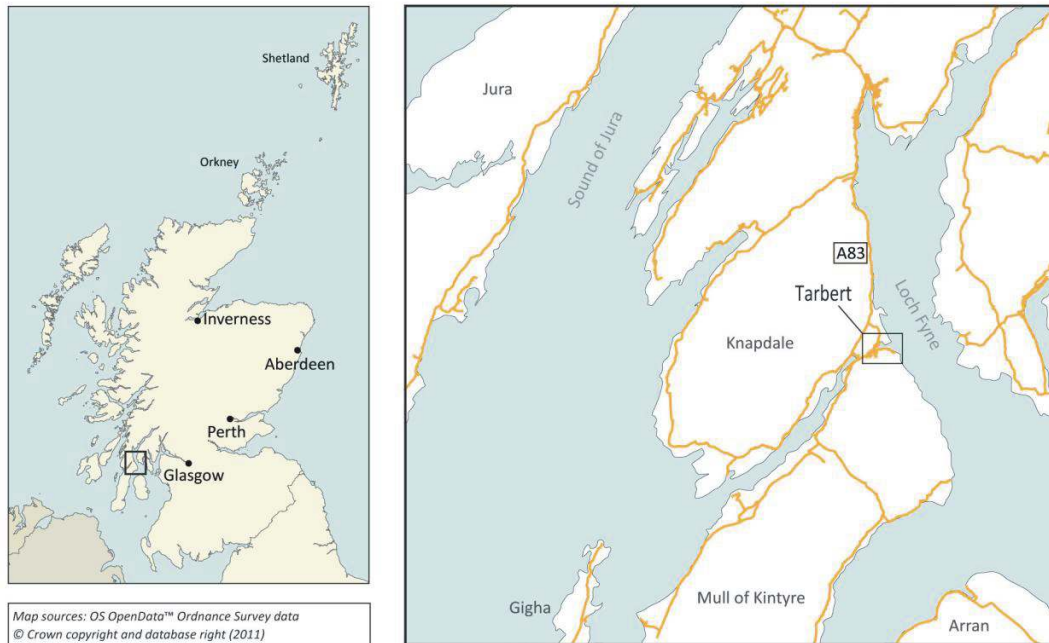


Figure 1: Location of Tarbert Castle and Survey Area

2.2 Historical Background

The history of the castle has been outlined in several publications, the earliest being that of Dugald Mitchell in 1886 which sets the history of the castle beside the growth of the burgh town (Mitchell 1886). Thereafter David McGibbon and Thomas Ross wrote a detailed description of the castle as it survived in the late 19th century (McGibbon and Ross 1887). The archaeological remains of the castle along with its history are described by Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland for their Inventory of Kintyre (RCHAMS 1971) while Dunbar and Duncan have outlined the history of the early Medieval castle (Dunbar and Duncan 1971). The history of the castle was summarised by Ian MacIntyre (MacIntyre 1974) and articles have appeared about the castle in the Kist (Campbell 1972 & 1987, Clerk 2002). Several of these works appear in full in Appendices 5-8 and along with other sources form the basis of the brief historical summary provided below.

2.2.1 Tarbert Castle, a Brief History

Tairbert Boitter

It is possible that the site of an early fortification is now masked by the later castle as a fort or defended site at Tarbert (*Tairpirt Boitter*) is mentioned in the Annals of Ulster along with three other sites at Dunollie (*Dun Ollaigh*), Dunadd (*Dun Att*) and Dunaverty (*Aberte*), these likely being strongholds of the Cenél nGabráin in the 8th century (Bannerman 1974). The Annals mention the burning of a fort at Tarbert '*Tairpirt Boitter*' on two occasions in 712, '*Combusti(o) Tairpirt Boitter*' (The burning of Tairpirt Boiter, AU 712.2) and 731 '*Combustio Tairpirt Boittir apud Dunghal*', (The burning of Tairpirt Boitir by Dúngal, AU 731.4), these respectively carried out by King Selbach Mac Ferchair of Cenél Loairn, who also besieged Dunaverty ('*Obsesio Aberte apud Selbachum*' - The siege of Aberte by Selbach AU 712.5) in the same year and by his son, Dúngal MacSelbaig.

After this period the castle is seldom mentioned in extant historical records until the 14th century although Tarbert as a strategic place continues to be mentioned. In 1098 Magnus Barfod (Bare Leg), King of Norway laid claim to the western isles of Scotland and this was partially recognised in a settlement with Edgar, King of Scotland, known as the 'Treaty of Tarbert', which offered him a settlement 'to the islands off the west coast which were separated by water navigable by a ship with its rudder set'. The use of Tarbert as a place of treaty might indicate the presence of a Royal stronghold. However, the *Orkneyinga Saga* tells how Magnus, in order to extend this claim over Kintyre, '*had a skiff hauled across the narrow neck of land at Tarbert, with himself sitting at the helm, and this is how he won the whole peninsula*'. The saga, however, gives little indication as to the presence of an extant defended site or settlement at Tarbert. The Norse claim over Kintyre, even if the account is true, was never recognised by the Scottish crown as in 1200 the diocese of 'sodor' (the South Isles) or 'Sudreys' under the authority of the archbishop of Trondheim does not include Kintyre.

Alexander II

The first building of the castle we see today is likely to be work commissioned by King Alexander II, just after his campaign against Ruaidhri mac Raonaill (great grandson of Somerled and Lord of Kintyre) in 1221 and 1222. That the present inner bailey is the work of Alexander is also suggested by the strong architectural similarities to the castles at Kinclaven and Kincardine which were also built during Alexander's reign (Dunbar & Duncan 1971). This Royal castle would have dominated access into Knapdale and Loch Fyne, along with Kintyre and the islands either side of it. Although it remains unclear when the first phase of construction for the present inner bailey was undertaken, it has been speculated that

Alexander then passed control of Kintyre (along with Tarbert castle) to Dohmnhall mac Raonaill (Ruaidhri's brother) the progenitor of the MacDonalds of Islay who held the overlordship of Kintyre throughout the greater part of the 13th century. Alexander may also have used the castle as a base for his fleet in his campaign against Eógan mac Dubhghaill (MacDougall) of Argyll, where after pushing his campaign into Lorne the King died on Lismore.

Later it is also postulated that the presence of a crown-held castle at Tarbert may explain why in 1263 the fleet of King Haco of Norway chose to sail round the Kintyre peninsula rather than use the relatively safer portage at Tarbert.

Robert the Bruce

The castle certainly appears to have been built by the end of the 13th century as it, along with the rest of Scotland, becomes embroiled in the dynastic struggles that engulfed the country during the Scottish Wars of Independence.

In 1292 Edward I of England adjudicated between the Bruce and Balliol claims to the Scottish crown and came out in favour of John Balliol, who was crowned King in the same year. To gain Edward's support John swore fealty to the English King and on doing so several castles, including Tarbert, passed to the Scottish crown, which meant that after Robert Bruce's ascendancy to the crown the castle passed into his control.

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. Part of this campaign involved the invasion of Ireland in 1315 by the new king's brother Edward Bruce, likely supported by Angus Og MacDonald. The invasion was supported by King Robert, who likely mustered his forces at Tarbert 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, this commemorated some years later (c.1375-77) in Barbour's *Bruce* (See below Appendix 8).

Bruce, 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 rebuilding programme at the castle. Much information of what this work entailed is contained in the earliest extant Scottish Exchequer Roll dating to 1326. 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 in Appendix 4. 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.

The rebuilding and 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. This was part of an interlinked military and judicial system that covered much of Argyll through dependent constabularies at Dunoon and Dunstaffnage.

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.

After the death of Robert I in 1329, Kintyre as with much of western Argyll, was involved in the dynastic familial struggles between the leading families of the area and for much of the 14th century this involved the Stewart Earls of Menteith and the MacDonald Lords of the Isles, their fortunes attached to wider political alliances with the Scottish Crown. Both the Bruce and Balliol factions courted John McDonald of Islay, Lord of the Isles. In 1335 Thomas Randolph, Earl of Moray, the acting regent for David II (who was in exile) met John at Tarbet Castle but failed to persuade him against the Balliol claim to the throne which was also supported by Edward III of England. 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). For the rest of the 14th and much of the 15th century the castle and who controlled it is rarely mentioned in extant historical sources although it must have remained strategically important as clan and family feuds continued to cause turmoil in Kintyre and the Western Isles. When the castle comes back into historical focus it is still linked with the powerful Clan MacDonald, the Lords of the Isles and later to the rising Clan Campbell, and, associated with them, Clan Alasdair.

The MacAlisters

Clan Alasdair claims to descend from Alasdair Mhór (Alexander the elder), who was the younger brother of Oengus Mhór, 4th Lord of The Isles both sons of Domhnall, founder of Clan Donald, himself a grandson of Somerled (Somhairle mac Gillebruide), 'King of The South Isles'. As one of the older branches of Clan Donald, second only to Cìneal Ruairidh and their Clan Ranald successors, the MacAlisters (MhicAlasdair - Descendants of Alexander) inhabited the south of Knapdale and the north of Kintyre. The clan eventually had four main branches: the McAlesters of Loup (the chief's family), the MacAlisters of Tarbert, the MacAlisters of Glenbarr, and the Alexanders of Menstrie, whose name was anglicised after they migrated to the Scottish Lowlands in the early 14th century.

Alasdair Mòr first appears on record in 1249, when he is recorded as witnessing a charter by his brother, 'Aonghas Mòr a Ìle' for the church of Kilkerran in Kintyre to the Abbey of Paisley *'for the salvation of the soul of my lord Alexander, illustrious king of Scots'*. In 1299 Alasdair Mòr is said to have been slain during a conflict with Alisdair (Alexander) MacDougal, Lord of Argyll, possibly over land on Mull. Alisdair is recorded as having five sons: Domhnall, Gofraidh, Donnchadh, Eoin and Eachan and was succeeded by his eldest son Domhnall (Donald). The position of the clan during the wars of independence in the early 14th century is unclear, as Domhnall and his son, another Alisdair, are said to have sworn fealty to Edward I of England in 1291, although many Scottish nobles who are later firmly on the side of Robert the Bruce also did so. In 1314 John (MacDougall) of Argyll was commissioned to bring *'Douenaldus de Insula and Gotheris'* (Donald and Godfrey MacAlister) *'into the peace of'* Edward I. However, as he is commissioned to do the same in 1315 the MacAlisters may have remained uncommitted or were more likely already sided with Bruce. This is perhaps borne out as a *'Donald of the Isles'* is mentioned as attending Bruce's first parliament. After this the family drops out of historical records for some time. Domhnall's son Alisdair was succeeded by his son Ragnall, who in 1366 crossed over into Ulster to fight in the wars between Donald and Neill O'Neill. There is still some confusion in the extant records about the succession of the next MacAlister chiefs but its likely Ragnall was succeeded another Alasdair who flourished about the year 1400. Allied to the MacDonalds of Islay the clan are closely involved in attempting to maintain the MacDonald patrimony on Arran and Bute where their depredations are recorded in surviving rent books from the 1440s where there is a *'melancholy record of losses in the island through*

devastations by the cursed invaders from Knapdale and Kintyre', these 'cursed invaders' primarily of MacDonalds and MacAlasdairs. Alasdair was then succeeded by Eoin Dubh from whom the later chiefs derived their Gaelic designation Mac Iain Duibh.

In 1478, James III granted the lands of 'Lowb' (Loup) and other estates in Kintyre to John, Lord of the Isles, which included Ardpatrik (3 merklands), Cuildaynoch (1 merkland), Barnellan (4 merklands), Culnashemrog (1 merkland), and Balliner, Balliemean-och, & Glenralloch (totalling 3 merklands) and these along with Loup may have been given to the MacAlisters shortly afterwards. Eoin Dubh was succeeded by Angus who had two sons Charles (Tearlach or Calvach) from which the Loup line descends and Donald from whom the Tarbert line descends.

The forfeiture of the Lordship of the Isles meant that many clans, including the MacAlisters of Loup, became independent of the MacDonalds and held their land directly from the crown and in 1481 '*Tearlach MacAlexander, head of the MacAlesters of Loup*' was appointed Constable of Tarbert Castle and Steward of Kintyre. The Stewardry of Kintyre was a life appointment and came with a considerable amount of land, these 40 merklands including: '*4 merklands of Machquarrymore of Dunaverty, 2 merklands of the two Ramcollis, 2 merklands of Edyne, 1 merkland of Knockstippilmore, 1 merkland of Keranbeg, 2 merklands of Glennomudlach, 5 merklands of Kildovy, 5 merklands of Polmulyn, 1 merkland of Salkanch, 3 merklands of Glennahervy, 2 merklands of Feachaig, 20 shillings lands of Corpany, the half merkland of Barfarnay, 2 merklands of Kilmichell, 4 merklands of de la Crag*'.

By this time the Burgh of Tarbert had become the seat of a sheriff of an extensive shire, including Kintyre, Knapdale, Gigha, Islay, Jura, Scarba, Colonsay and Mull. The shire of Tarbert returned a member to the Scottish parliament until its amalgamation with the shire of Argyll in 1633.

James VI

Continued instability in Argyll and the Isles led to a more serious attempt by the crown to quell the trouble in the west, and particularly the continued power of the MacDonalds. In 1494 James IV personally led a military campaign to the Western Isles, which he visited three times. On two of these occasions he resided at Tarbert castle, the first after his forces captured it from John MacDonald of Islay, Lord of the Isles. During the King's residence in April of that year he ordered the repair the castle and it is likely the tower house was built at this time. There is an account of '*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 '*The Comptare charges him wyth xx li. Ressauit frae the Bishop of Dunblane to the biggin of Tarbert*'. The castle was also provided '*with artillery and skilful gimmer*' with the shipping of artillery to the castle and laying down a stock of gunpowder and payment for master gunners.

On his second visit, Parliament was summoned to meet at Tarbert on July 5, 1494 for the purpose of deciding ways of pacifying the still turbulent areas of Kintyre and the Islands, with couriers despatched to summon '*the Lords of the Westland, Southland, and Eastland, to the meeting of the King at the Tarbert*'. 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.

In 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 in all likelihood it was probably due to further rebellion by the MacDonalds. In that year we again find King James at Tarbert when 'he sailed on the 8th of March (from Ayr), and touching at Arran, proceeded 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*'.

In 1499, after being '*repaired at considerable cost*', Tarbert castle was again used by James 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. For his services to the crown John MacIain received a charter, issued at Tarbert in March 1499, for lands in Islay, Jura and Kintyre. James then made Archibald Campbel, Earl of Argyll, keeper of the castle of Tarbert, with the '*balyery and governans of the lands of Knapdale and all profits and dues belonging to the same, to beheld during the King's pleasure*'.

Campbell Ascendancy

After another major uprising in 1505 the King appointed Earl Archibald Campbell, Justicar, sheriff, coroner and chamberlain of Knapdale and Kintyre and captain '*of the house and fortalice of Tarbert*', 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 Dunnyveg, 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 becoming first Laird of Tarbert and constable of the castle.

In the early sixteenth century it is reputed that Ailean MacLean, otherwise known as Alan-nan-Sop, an illegitimate son of Lachlan Catanach McLean, was given possession of Tarbert Castle by Alan MacDonald of Islay, which we must assume was taken forcibly from the Campbells. Using the castle as a base Ailean plundered extensively in Argyll, the Lennox, the Lowlands and Ireland, deserving his name, Alan-nan-Sop (Allan o' the Wisp, because of his habit of setting fire to buildings).

As mentioned above, many of the MacAlisters were still allied to the MacDonalds, as can perhaps seen in their involvement in the Dunnyveg 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.

Donald MacAlister of Tarbert was succeeded by Alisdair and then Charles who is named Constable of Tarbert in 1580 when he received a charter of '*feu ferme to two merklands called Ballenille in lordship of Knapdale*' from his cousin, Alexander MacAlister, the Vicar of Kilcalmonell. Living in the castle at this time however is Charles's son Hector while another son Archibald is mentioned in 1589 in a bond of caution signed by Sir James Campbell of Ardkinglas for his kinsman Donald of Kilmore and Donald's son Dougall, who '*[a]re particularly aggressive and unruly, and g[i]ve much trouble to the family of Tarbert*'. This is essentially a restraining order to keep these Campbell neighbours from bothering Archibald

his tenants, and his servants despite, the Tarbert family now being vassals of the Earls of Argyll.

Charles then appears to have become Tutor for his nephew Godfrey (or Gorrie) MacEachan MacAlister of Loup, who while still in his minority received, in 1591, a charter for the Tarbert lands from the Earl of Argyll.

In 1598 Godfrey (who had now reached his majority) became involved in a serious dispute with his uncle Charles, which eventually led to the Tutor being killed. One traditional story is that Gorrie had fallen in love with a wealthy heiress and Charles had prevented their marriage, attempting to secure her fortune for one of his own sons. The story of why the Tutor was killed may or may not be true but the dispute did not end there. The sons of Charles (presumably Hector or Archibald) were then pursued by Gorrie and his armed retainers to Askomull House, the home of Angus MacDonald of Dunyvaig, where they sought shelter. Enter at this point Sir James MacDonald, son of Angus, who appears to have used the incident to resolve his own dispute with his father. The previous year Sir James was permitted by the King to go from Court to visit his father to insure his father's obedience, Angus being a rather reluctant crown subject at this time. Sir James then joined Gorrie and '*200-300 barbarous wikked and bludie Hieland men*' surrounded Askomull House and with his father and mother inside set it ablaze. Angus MacDonald survived despite suffering burns and was apprehended by his son. Hector and Archibald evidently also survived as they appear in later documents. Godfrey MacAlister escapes prosecution although Sir James Macdonald was brought to trial in 1609. The charge was treason, and his own parents testified against him (through the Earl of Argyll, who represented them at the trial). He was sentenced to be-heading, but the sentence was never carried out, possibly for the alleged reason that Sir James possessed a written warrant in the King's name for the arrest, if not the assassination, of his father.

The MacAlisters of Tarbert however were not always the victims and were equally capable of taking part in the despoliation of others. In 1599 Archibald, heir apparent of Tarbert, along with Hector of Loup took part in a raid on Arran on the lands of Knockransay. The Laird John Montgomery of Skelmorlie was absent at the time, although the raiders took his wife and children prisoner and also took everything of value. Hector MacAlister was imprisoned in 1600 for his part in the Arran raid, John Montgomery describing the Clan Alastair as '*sic unhappie people*'.

In 1602 Archibald heir-apparent of Tarbert, under Campbell of Auchinbreck, along with Colin Campbel of Kilberry and McNeill of Taynish took part in raids on Bute. With 1,200 men '*they proceed first to damage the property of Marion Stewart, and to harry her lands of Wester Kames. Thence they passed on to the lands of Ninian Stewart, Sheriff of the County, where all sorts of atrocities are committed.*' For this '*Archibald MacAlasdair, and the other delinquents-are ordered to be denounced as rebels*'. In 1605 the Privy Council orders Archibald of Tarbert and Godfrey of Loup along with other Highland lairds '*to find sureties for the payment of Crown rents, on pain of having their titles declared null and void, and being denounced as rebels.*' Loup is, apparently, one of the few who turn up as ordered. The Council record lists Godfrey of Loup among several chiefs made responsible for keeping other Kintyre Lairds in line; this allows him to keep the lands for which he has charters from Argyll, but his other possessions are forfeited to the Crown.

In 1614 Angus Og MacDonald rises another rebellion and the MacAlisters, under Alexander, son of the Tutor of Loup, are charged with the capture of Dunyveg castle, but instead join him in rebellion. The Crown through the Earl of Argyll manages to retake the castle and captures several of the leading rebels including Alexander and Angus MacAlister who are hanged for treason.

The castle may again have been garrisoned in 1615 during the rebellion of James MacDonald. After James MacDonald had landed in Kintyre, raising the fiery cross, Duncan Campbell of Auchenbreck, along with 300 men, was charged to hold the Tarbert isthmus until reinforcements under the Earl of Argyll could arrive. The forces of James MacDonald appear to have been contained and eventually driven from Kintyre by the Earl's men.

In 1631 Godfrey MacAlister, heir of Tarbert (effectively acting as head of the family although his father Archibald was still alive) is involved in feuding with '*a number of landowners in Renfrew and Ayr, against whom forays [a]re conducted on quite an extensive scale*' whereby bonds of caution are signed that '*Godfrey [i]s not to molest these Lowland lieges or their families*', and to keep several others '*from molesting Godfrey MacAlister, fiar of Tarbert, and his servants*'.

Civil War and after

During the War of the Three Kingdoms the MacAlisters of Loup were aligned with the Royalist, or rather MacDonald, cause in trying to re-establish their patrimony of Kintyre under Alasdair MacColla. In 1644 Alasdair MacColla marries the daughter of Hector McAlister of Loup, who is appointed by Charles I to be one of the commissioners for the sheriffdom of Argyll, serving on a committee of war. The position of the Tarbert family is less clear, as, with the death of Godfrey, King Charles I gives lands of Tarbert to George Campbell, Sheriff of Tarbert.

Campbell lands are despoiled by MacColla's forces in 1645 and again in 1646 in which the MacAlisters take part. 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.

With the surrender of the King to the Covenanters, they and the Scottish Royalists were united but eventually defeated by Cromwell's parliamentarian army. By 1652 Tarbert Castle had passed into the hands of Cromwell's troops who likely strengthened it by constructing bastions and outworks. Local tradition has it that the castle was repossessed, at least for a time, by a body of Tarbert men, while the garrison were out gathering nuts. The villagers took the opportunity to steal quantities of gunpowder, cheese, and biscuits.

In 1654 Ronald MacAlister, grandson and heir of Archibald is named as Captain of Tarbert in a charter which also lists the quite Tarbert lands; '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 halfmerkland of Drumadroman, 4 merklands of Ashens, 2 merklands of Garrowellen, Barmore, Park and Ashnasey, 2 merklands of Breanfeorline and one merkland of Tarbert'.

With the death of Charles II and the accession of James VII of Scotland and II of England in 1685, Archibald, Earl of Argyll, led a Scottish expedition against the King in support of the Monmouth Rebellion in England. Argyll, after landing in Campbeltown, issued a declaration of war against the King and summoned his armed men to gather at Tarbert, '*a very central place*' and by May 27 1,800 men and horse had congregated. From there, while marching towards Glasgow, the Earl's forces were defeated at Kilpatrick in Dunbartonshire, the Earl then taken prisoner and conveyed to Edinburgh where he was beheaded. The MacAlisters however did not support the rebellion and along with other clans were quick to take advantage of the defeated Campbells. For example Archibald MacAlister Captain of Tarbert (who succeeded his father in 1681) appears in a list of the Depredations of the Clan Campbell as having in June 1685 '*taken away in the tyme of the late Rebellion from the Captain of Dunoon's Tennents*', horses, cows sheep and household 'plenishings'.

For a while thereafter the Campbells lost, along with many other titles, the constableness of the Tarbert castle and the superiority of the lands of Tarbert. However with the succession of William and Mary in 1688 the Campbell family regained their former status and again were central to the provisioning of the castle and the gathering of troops in 1689 to counter any threat of an '*irish invasion*' into Kintyre in support of the deposed King James.

In 1705 an Act of Scottish Parliament was passed in favour of Archibald MacAlister instituting '*four yearly fairs and a weekly mercat at the town of East Tarbet*'.

During the Jacobite rebellion in 1745, Archibald Campbell of Stonefield dispatched a party of soldiers raised by the Duke of Loudon to Tarbert with a warrant for '*disabling the boats at Tarbert lest they should be employ'd in the accommodation any people intending to go into the Highland army*'. The same dispatch also goes on to say that '*I am very glad that you find the people of Tarbert of a peacable disposition*'.

The MacAlisters of Tarbert retained the tenancy the castle 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 MacAlisters however had given up residency in the castle and moved to a new house built at Barmore, letting the castle fall into disrepair. The 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. Despite this it would not appear that any significant repairs were carried out as both the fortunes of the MacAlister family and the fabric of the castle went into decline thereafter.

3. Archaeological and Survey Background

The site has previously been surveyed and described by MacGibbon and Ross in the late 19th century (MacGibbon and Ross 1887). A second more extensive survey of the castle was undertaken by Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland for their Inventory of Kintyre, which is reproduced below (RCHAMS 1971 Appendix 7).

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in 1992 during the erection by of a fence by CFA (CFA 1993). In 2009 an architectural survey was undertaken on the tower house prior to its consolidation by Austin-Smith:Lord as part of the Tarbert Castle Project. Another watching brief along with a photographic survey was undertaken by Highland Archaeology in 2010 prior to the erection of scaffolding around the tower as part of the consolidation work (Wood 2010).

The RCAHMS maintains the 'CANMORE' (Computer Application for National Monuments Record Enquiries) data base, which allows the user to access on-line, the database of the

National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS). The RCHAMs collection contains historical and survey photographs and drawings of the castle these are listed in Appendix 3.

3.1 Imaging the Castle

The castle has been depicted in various formats since the 19th century its romantic setting captured by several artists, the most famous perhaps being JMW Turner, the first three sketches below by him, while the romantic theme is continued in paintings by Thomas Miles Richardson and Hans Gude

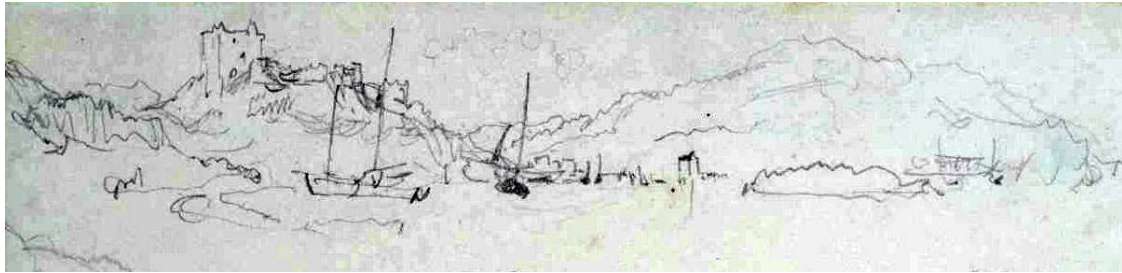


Figure 2: Turner sketch



Figure 2: Turner sketch



Figure 4: Turner sketch



Figure 5: Painting by Thomas Miles Richardson



Figure 6: Painting by Hans Gude

The castle also appeared on early postcards this rather hazy reproduction of a hand coloured card likely dating to the beginning of the 20th century



Figure 7: The castle on an early postcard

Probably the earliest depiction of the 'Castel of Terbart' appears in Bleau's Atlas published in 1654 the castle depicted at the N end of 'Cantyrá'.



Figure 8: Bleau's Atlas

The castle, perhaps not surprisingly is depicted on General Roy's military 'Great map' in 1746.



Figure 9: Roy's map

George Langlands map of Argyll of 1802 does not depict the castle, which likely reflects its disuse and neglect in this period.



Figure 10: Langlands map

The castle however is surveyed in some detail during the compilation of the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey in 1865 (published in 1870, Argyllshire Sheet CXCII).



Figure 11: 1st Edition Ordnance Survey

The first detailed plan of the castle appears in MacGibbon and Ross in their publication on the fortifications of Scotland of the late 19th century.

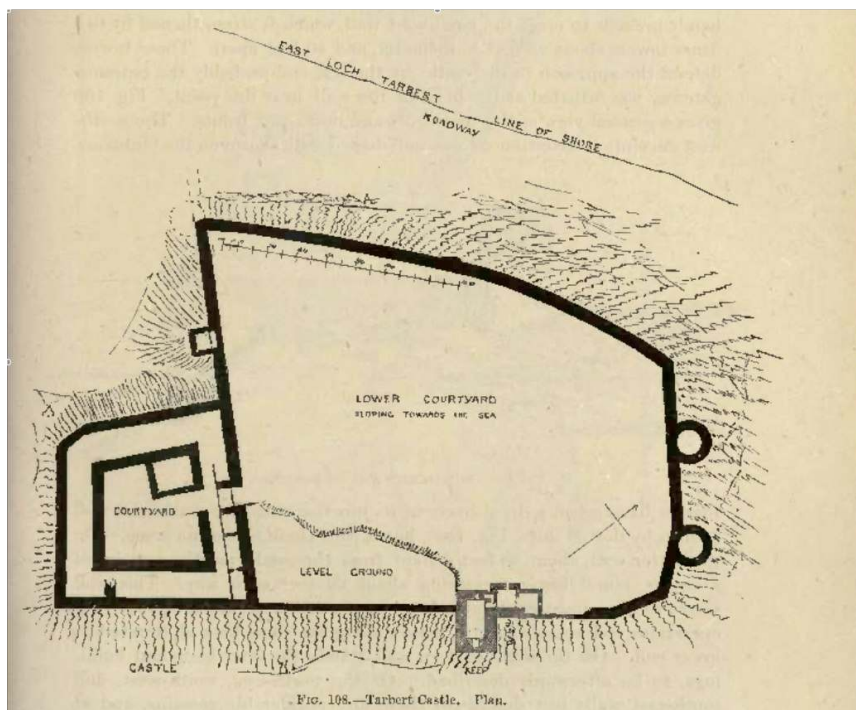


Figure 12: MacGibbon and Ross plan

The plan produced by the RCHAMS in 1971 shows the castle in much more detail.

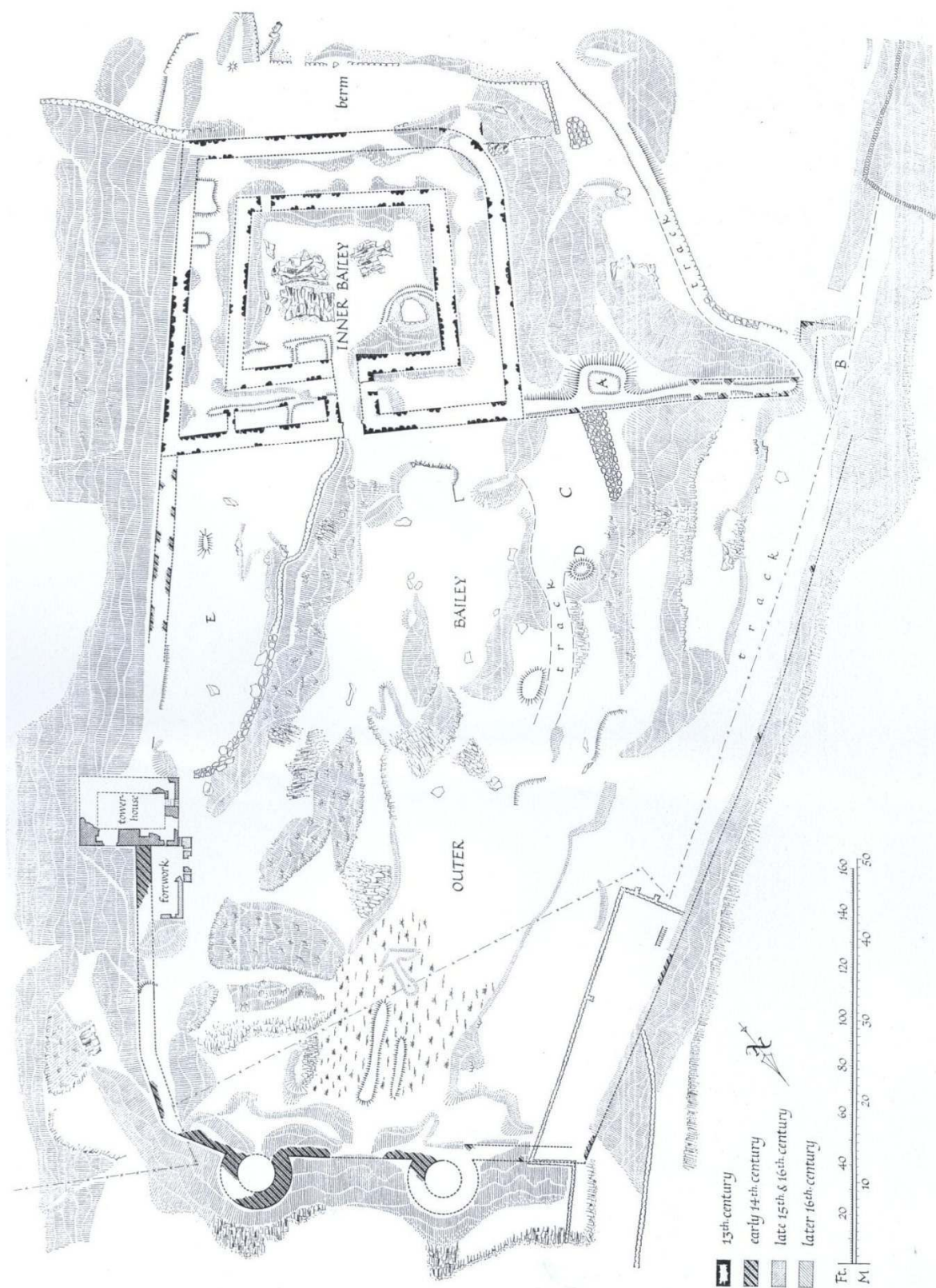


Figure 13: RCHAMS plan

In 2009 as part of the Tarbert Castle Project architects Austin-Smith:Lord surveyed the Tower house as prior to its consolidation. From the survey several elevations of the Tower were produced and two of these are reproduced below (Figures 14 & 15).

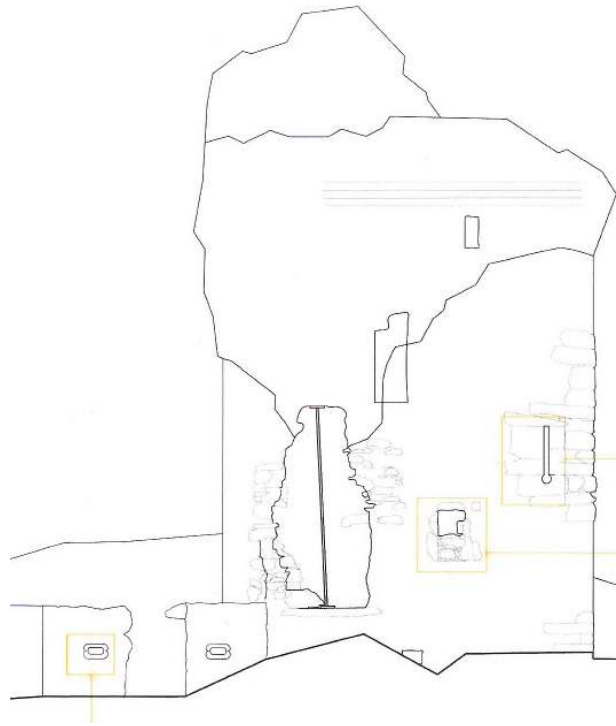


Figure 14: North West elevation

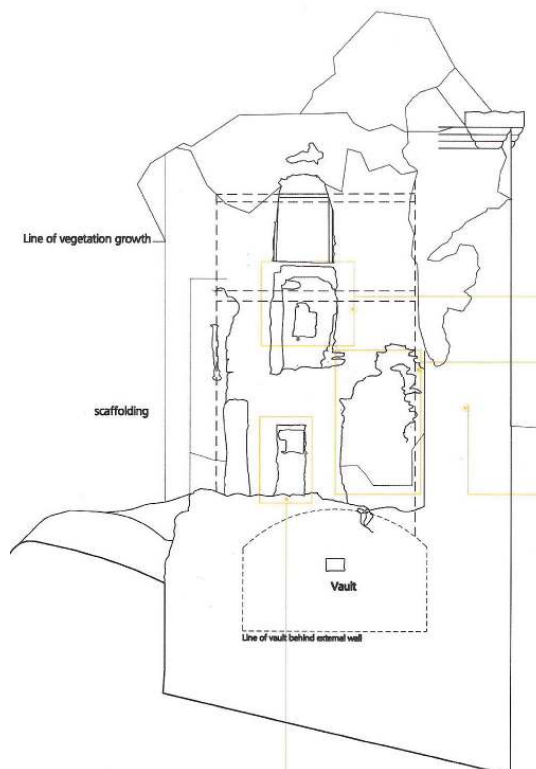


Figure 15: South East elevation

3.2 Laser Survey

A detailed survey of the Castle and surrounding scheduled area was conducted in 2012 by Northlight Heritage using a laser scanner and some of the resultant images can be viewed online at www.northlight-heritage.co.uk.

3.3 Geophysical Survey

A geophysical survey was also conducted by Northlight Heritage in July 2013 (MacIver 2013). The results were dominated by modern disturbances and strong geological signals. Some very subtle positive readings from the gradiometry survey may indicate that archaeological features are present south of the inner bailey where the possible medieval burgh may exist.

3.4 Ground and Photographic Survey

A photographic and measured survey of the upstanding structures and features was completed in the spring of 2013. The work measured and recorded all the features identified within the survey conducted by RCHAMS in 1971 while compiling more exhaustive descriptions for individual elements of the castle structure along with other features not included within the original survey. The exceptions to this were the individual elements of the Tower house many of which were inaccessible during the survey period. Many of the individual features within the tower had been previously recorded and drawn within the RCHAMS survey, while many were also photographed by John MacPhail during the recent restoration work and his photographs are included in the survey results.

During the survey individual features were numbered and the full written descriptions compiled and these are reproduced in Appendix 1 below.

3.4.1 Survey Results

Few unrecorded features within the castle itself came to light during the survey. A possible gun loop or drain can be seen in the internal wall in NE drum tower although no apparent outlet is now visible in the outer wall. Running from a wet area just S of a series of enigmatic earthen ridges down hill to the W was a possible drainage ditch, although this may be of recent origin. To the W and N of the castle a series of enclosure walls were recorded, these dividing the area into small enclosed fields surrounding the castle and obviously reflecting past land use through time. Whether any of these are contemporary with the use of the castle or are associated with any early burgh is open to question. Possibly also field boundaries were two rectilinear ditches lying to the S of the S berm of the castle. These ditched features are readily apparent on an aerial photograph taken in 1967 as reproduced in Dunbar and Duncan's article on the castle (Dunbar & Duncan 1971). As these have no or little evidence of associated banks it is difficult to ascribe these as stock enclosures and their more formal layout may reflect horticultural use or represent relic garden features. Terracing of the slope to the E of these ditches may also be past attempts at creating level planting areas or fields. Across the site there are numerous mounds of small stones, many of these appear to occur near vertically sided outcrops and both these features the stone heaps and the, now, vertical outcrops may be evidence of quarrying, some of which may be associated with the various phases of construction of the castle. Running around the sides of the inner bailey is a suite of building ranges. Within the ranges at the NW and the W a series of linear rises can perhaps be traced that may give some indication of the internal to divisions within each range. Similar divisions can perhaps be seen within the S and E ranges but these are less well defined and remain more speculative, while none can be seen within the NE range. Also probably a strip quarry is a 'ditch' noted during the RCHAMS survey.

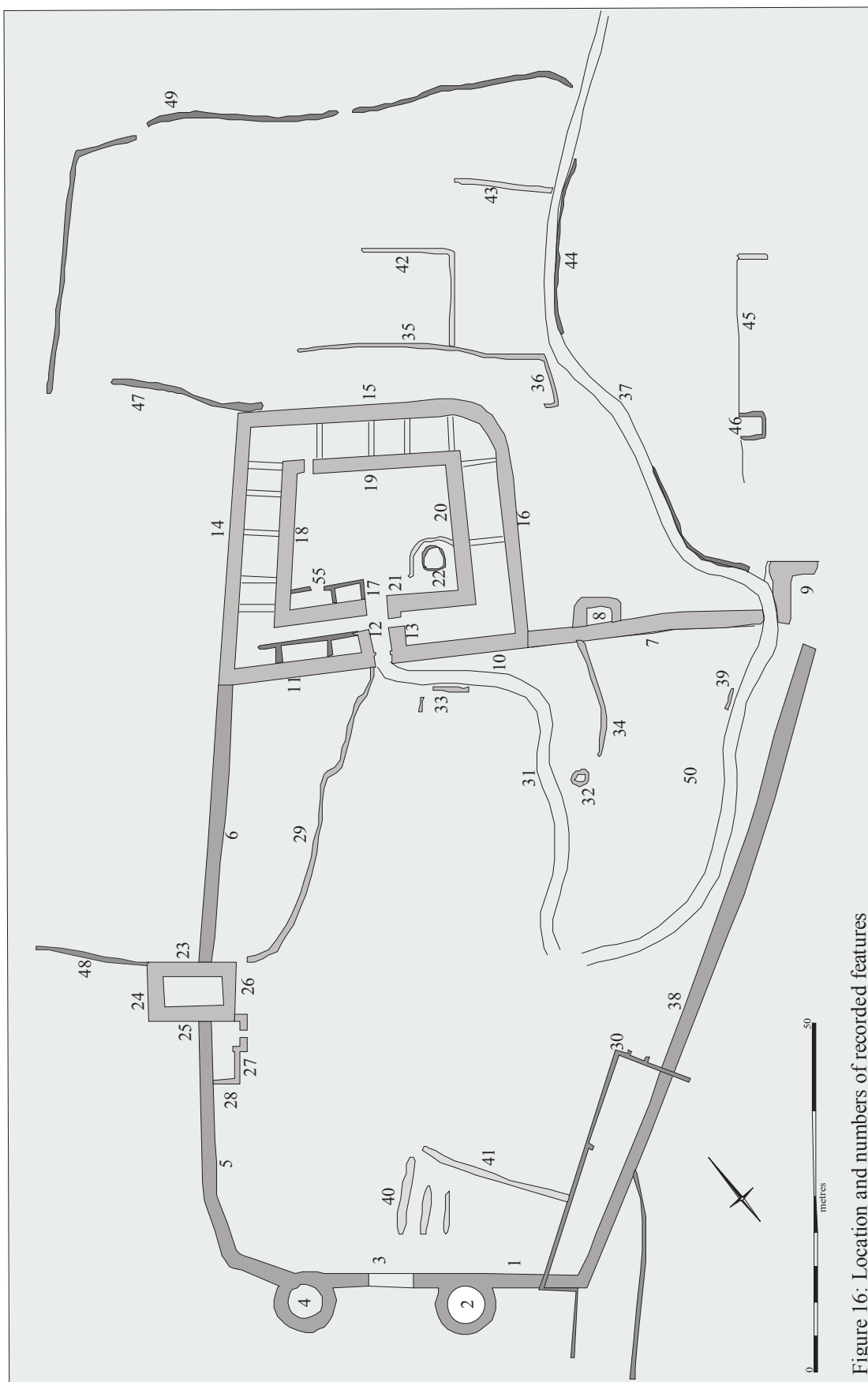


Figure 16: Location and numbers of recorded features

4. Children's Excavation

A small excavation was undertaken as part of the Medieval Mêlée celebrations at the castle in June 2013. A trench was opened in the ground of a private garden that backs on to the scheduled area of the castle. A small trench measuring 4.90m by 1.10m was opened, which revealed a homogenous garden/plough soil [001] below modern turf to a depth of between 0.22m-0.29m this was a mid brown clay silt with moderate charcoal and coal fragments, with occasional pot, glass and iron objects. Below this was another homogenous soil [002] which occurred down to bedrock with a maximum thickness of between 0.28-0.30m. This was similar to [001] above but lighter (more orange brown) in colour. While the upper soil contained modern artefacts including a curtain hook and a plastic toy it also contained sherds of 19th century industrially produced pottery and glass. While less frequent this pottery also occurred through the lower layer to just above bedrock, suggesting the soil has been thoroughly mixed, both deposits likely representing agricultural soils.

5. Recovered artefacts

During the survey and restoration work at the castle various stray finds have been recovered and these are listed below.

- i) A broken schist spindle whorl, measuring 33mm in diameter and 7mm thick with a 10mm perforation. This was found between the steps leading up to the castle in 1993.
- ii) A brass button, measuring 21mm in diameter, with broken attachment. This was found by the path near the top of the stairs up to the castle in 2007.
- iii) A fragment of the bowl of a clay pipe with name ...CHELL and ...BERT. This was found near the steps up to the castle in 2007.
- iv) A pottery sherd, wheel turned reduced fabric with traces of glaze on external surface, possibly late medieval. This was found beside path leading up to the castle on the SE of the inner bailey in 2013.
- v) Fragments of iron slag, these were found in the sides of a modern drainage channel on the east side of the Bruce Hill road in 2013.

6. Discussion

The survey work has built on earlier results had has recorded the present castle remains in some detail. Consolidation work on the Tower house is now complete and a continuing programme of monitoring and consolidation continues to be undertaken by volunteers from the Tarbert and Skipness Community Trust, while increased access to the castle and information about are also being facilitated. Many questions remain as to the origin of the castle, its development and its layout, while the function of many of its component features remain unclear as do the presence/absence of a medieval burgh along the ridge to the south of the castle. A programme of community archaeological excavation would perhaps answer some of these questions, leading to a better interpretation/presentation of the castle while also promoting the castle as an important place through generated publicity and the excitement of local involvement. Several areas within the castle itself readily suggest areas of potential investigation, particularly the building ranges lining the inner bailey. Without the castle the presence of ditches and the nearby anomalies detected during the geophysical survey also suggest fruitful areas of investigation, which might establish the presence of the putative medieval burgh. A programme of archaeology involving the community of Tarbert would not only shed light on this important medieval monument but would help to ensure it remained a '*very central place*' in the future.

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Appendix 1: Feature Descriptions

Outer Bailey

[001] NW wall section of outer bailey. Oriented NW/SE the wall is constructed from mainly angular epidiorite schist rubble (maximum size 0.80m x 0.24m x 0.35m) with traces of mortar bonding. The Wall is 15m long and up to 2.60m in width and stands to a maximum height of 1.06m in 6 rough courses above present ground level on its N side. Facing stones can be traced on the NW extent but side are less apparent elsewhere. The mortar bonding is degraded but where seen is light brown in colour.



Wall [001]

[002] Wall. Circular wall of NW drum tower. The wall is constructed from angular epidiorite schist rubble (maximum size 0.66m x 0.66m x 0.32m) with traces of mortar bonding. The tower measures 8.10m in external diameter (4.10-4.45m internally).



Drum tower [002] external wall

The walls are between 2.40-2.50m thick and stand up to 1.30m in height where the inner face stands up to 0.53m in 3 courses. Externally the wall stands to a maximum height of 1.40m above present ground level where the facing stones survive to a height of 1.20m in 6 courses. The bonding material where it can be traced is a light grey mortar with frequent small stones and occasional shell fragments. No visible entrance to the tower on the S side could be traced.

[003] N central wall section of outer bailey. Oriented NW/SE the wall is constructed from mainly angular epidiorite schist rubble (maximum size 0.50m x 0.30m) with traces of mortar bonding. The Wall is 15.40m long and 1.90m in width standing to a maximum height of 3.65m in 18-20 courses above present ground level at its E extent where it joins the NE drum tower ([004]). The bonding material is a compact light grey mortar with frequent small stone inclusions.



Wall [004]

[004] Wall. Circular wall of NE drum tower. The wall is constructed from angular epidiorite schist rubble with traces of a mortar bonding. The tower measures 9.00m in external diameter with walls 2.45m thick.



Drum tower [004] external face

Internally the walls stand to a maximum height of 2.28m high in 17 courses. A scarcement 0.22m wide can be traced on the E and W sides.



Scarcement in drum tower

Above this the internal diameter is 3.99m and below the ledge the diameter of the tower is 3.77m. On the N side of the tower wall is a stone with a hole which may represent a gun loop given its height in comparison to the projected floor levels - however no opposing hole on the external face is now apparent.



Possible gun loop

Externally the wall stands to a maximum height of 3.40m above present ground level where facing stones can be seen in 14 courses. Much of the tower has recently been re-pointed with new lime mortar and the original bonding material where it can be traced is a light grey mortar with frequent small stones.

[005] NE wall of outer bailey. Three lengths of wall all constructed from mainly angular epidiorite schist rubble (maximum size 0.82m x 0.72m) with traces of a mortar bonding. From the north the wall lengths measure 6.40m, 12.20m and 24.40m respectively and up to 2.60m in width and stands up to a maximum height of 2.35m in 12-13 courses above present ground level on its S extent where it adjoins the Tower house where the wall has recently been re-pointed. The mortar where it is apparent is light grey in colour with frequent small stone inclusions.

[006] SE wall of inner bailey. NE/SW oriented the wall is constructed from mainly angular epidiorite schist rubble (maximum size 0.58m x 0.36m) with no visible traces of a mortar. The wall is 40.30m long and 2.30m in width and stands to a maximum height of 1.86m above present ground level on its external side. Internally the wall stands to a height of 0.60m. No mortar bonding is now visible.



Wall [006]

[007] SW wall of inner bailey. SE/NW oriented the wall is constructed from mainly angular epidiorite schist rubble.



Wall [007]

The wall is 37.60m long and 2.50m in width and stands to a maximum height of 1.95m above present ground level on its N face where lower facing stones are visible. No mortar bonding is now visible.

[008] Remains of Tower. Sub rectangular tower remains measuring 6.0m by 5.20m externally (3.90m by 3.10m internally). No internal or faces are now visible except on its N side where its circuit is part of the outer bailey wall ([007]). The thickness of the rubble at the base of the wall is up to 4.20m tapering to 1.0m at upper extent with a maximum height of 3.40m above present ground level on its W side. At present the internal width of the tower is 2.41m although the true width is no doubt masked by rubble collapse. No mortar bonding is now visible.



Outer bailey tower

[009] Remains of entrance tower on outer bailey wall. Only the SE angle of this tower is now apparent surviving mainly as a rubble core. The E wall measures 11.40m long with the S wall 4.90m long. There are a few facing stones apparent on its S face standing up to 0.40m high. The extrapolated width of the walls was between 1.30-2.10m constructed in angular schist rubble (maximum size 0.30m x 1.00m x 0.15m). No mortar bonding is now visible.



Remains of entrance tower

Inner Bailey

[010] External NE wall of inner bailey. SE/NW oriented the wall is constructed from angular epidiorite schist rubble with traces of a mortar bonding. The wall measures 16.60m m long and is 2.40m in width standing to a maximum height of 3.19m above present ground level on its N side where facing stones can be seen on the lower three courses. Internally the wall stands to 1.50m high. The original bonding material appears to be a friable mid brown sandy mortar, although a harder grey (cement?) mortar appears have been used to consolidate the upper wall remains at some earlier date. The remains are overhanging in part and appear precarious.



NE inner bailey wall



NE corner of inner bailey

[011] External NW wall of inner bailey. SE/NW oriented the wall is constructed from angular epidiorite schist rubble (maximum size 0.66m x 0.36m) with traces of a mortar bonding. The wall measures 21.70m m long and is 2.55m in width standing to a maximum height of 2.50m above present ground level on its N side where facing stones survive in 3-4 courses up to 0.70m high. Internally the wall stands to 1.30m high where facing stones survive in 5 rough courses up to 0.90m high. The original bonding material appears to be a friable light brown sandy mortar with shell inclusions.



NW inner bailey wall



Inner bailey entrance

[012] W wall of entrance passage to inner bailey. NE/SW oriented the wall is very badly denuded with few facing stones visible to give original dimensions. The wall measured 9.60m long and over 1.50m in width standing to a maximum height of 1.70m within the entrance passage, where some facing stones can be traced and standing only 0.50m high internally. A dip in the wall core rubble possibly indicates an entrance or doorway c1.20m wide. Some facing stones can be traced on its side. No mortar bonding is now visible.

[013] E wall of entrance passage to inner bailey. NE/SW oriented the wall is very badly denuded with few facing stones visible to give original dimensions. The wall measured 9.10m long and over 1.50m in width standing to a maximum height of 1.30m within the entrance passage, where no facing stones could be traced. Internally the wall stood 0.70m high where one facing course is visible. The sides of a door can be seen within its length this 1.43m wide. No mortar bonding is now visible.



Door ? to entrance passage of inner bailey

[014] External W wall of inner bailey. Mainly NE/SW oriented but turns SE at S end. The wall is constructed from mainly angular epidiorite schist rubble measuring 33.15m long and 2.30m in width. Internally the wall stands up to 1.30m in height where some facing stones can be traced. At the SW angle of the wall external facing over bedrock can be seen standing up to 1.20m in height.



W wall of inner bailey

[015] External E wall of inner bailey. NE/SW oriented the wall is constructed from mainly angular epidiorite schist rubble (maximum size 0.56 x 0.23m x 0.15m) measuring 38.70m long and 2.00m in width standing to a maximum height of 0.94m externally (with facing stones in 6 courses) and 0.70m in height internally (with facing stones in 4 rough courses). Fragments of a light brown friable mortar could be seen within the wall core, the presence of a more compact grey mortar suggests more recent consolidation.



E wall of inner bailey

[016] External S wall of inner bailey. SE/NW oriented the wall is constructed from mainly angular epidiorite schist rubble (maximum size 0.37m x 0.28m) measuring 31.70m long and 3.40m in width. Externally the wall stands up to 1.65m in height with facing stones visible at its present base standing up to 0.85m high in 3-4 courses. Internally the wall stands up to 1.30m in height although no facing stones are visible. No mortar bonding is now visible.



S wall of inner bailey

[017] N wall of internal range of inner bailey. SE/NW oriented the wall is constructed from mainly angular epidiorite schist rubble (maximum size 0.64m x 0.25m) measuring 12.60m long and 1.73m in width. Externally the wall stands up to 0.38m in height with 2 courses of facing stones visible at its present base. Internally the wall stands up to 0.70m in height with facing visible up to 5 courses high. No mortar bonding is now visible.



NW range inner bailey

[018] E wall of internal range of inner bailey. NE/SW oriented the wall is constructed from mainly angular epidiorite schist rubble measuring 23.80m long and 1.73m-2.0m in width. Externally the wall stands up to 1.20m in height with 5 courses of facing stones visible. Internally the wall stands up to 0.35m in height with two courses of facing stones visible. No mortar bonding is now visible.



W range inner bailey

[019] S wall of internal range of inner bailey. SE/NW oriented the wall is constructed from mainly angular epidiorite schist rubble (maximum size 0.26m x 0.22m) measuring 22.50m long and 2.0m in width. Externally the wall stands up to 0.64m in height with 2-3 courses of facing stones visible. Internally the wall stands up to 0.63m in height with 3 courses of facing stones visible. The sides of a door can be seen at the SE which suggests an entrance 1.20m wide. No mortar bonding is now visible.



Possible door in S range

[020] W wall of internal range of inner bailey. SE/NW oriented the wall is constructed from mainly angular epidiorite schist rubble (maximum size 0.63m x 0.19m) measuring 20.0m long and 2.0m in width. The wall stands up to 1.55m in height with 2-3 courses of facing stones visible externally. Internally 9 courses of facing stones are visible in the NE corner (1.80m high). No mortar bonding is now visible.



E range inner bailey

[021] S wall of internal SW range of inner bailey. The wall is constructed from mainly angular epidiorite schist rubble (maximum size 0.67m x 0.32m) measuring 12.10m long and 1.75m in width. Externally the wall stands up to 0.46m in height with 3 courses of facing stones visible at its present base. Internally the wall stands up to 0.40m in height with few visible facing stones. No mortar bonding is now visible.



NE range inner bailey

[022] Well or cistern in NW corner of inner bailey. This appears as a rubble filled depression surrounded by what may be the remains of an enclosing wall. The W and N walls of the inner bailey form the respective W and N sides of the feature which measures 7.0m by 6.40m overall. The S and E sides are delineated by a linear mounds measuring up to 1.20m wide and standing up to 0.30m high, which may be the remains of a surrounding wall on these sides. Enclosed within is a 0.50m deep rubble filled oval depression measuring 2.60m by 2.40m.



Well or Cistern

The Tower House



Tower house internal elevation

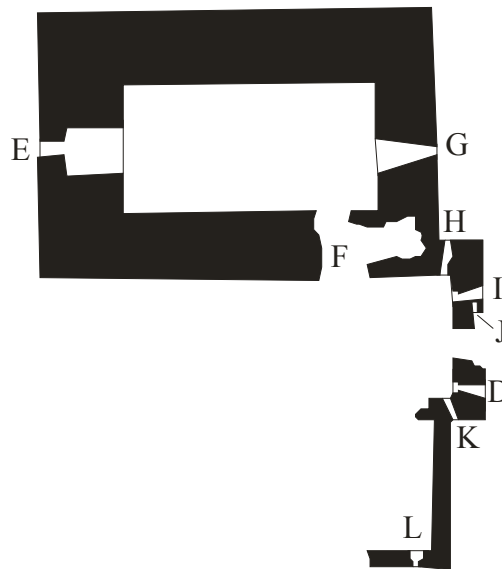


Tower house internal elevation

The walls of the tower house were individually numbered as [023], [024], [025] and [026] respectively the S, E, N and W walls, but without safe access measurements could not be obtained.

[027] W wall of tower outwork. Springing from the Tower house at the SE the bastion wall projects 1.52m before turning at a right angle and running for a further 5.65m before again turning NE for another 1.05m. Over this part the wall is 1.10m in width and stands up to 2.75m high. Within its build is a doorway (0.95m wide) which has a rectangular bar-hole slot in its S side, measuring 0.16m x 0.15m in width and 1.25m long. Either side of the door are two oval gun loops. The N loop has an aperture measuring up 0.38m by 0.14 internally, funnelling out to 0.38m by 0.18m externally. Two further gun loops are built into the NE and SE corners of this wall projection. To the N the bastion wall becomes narrower in build, (0.66m wide) and runs for 4.60m standing up to 1.70m high.

[028] N wall of tower outwork. SE/NW oriented this wall is 4.40m long and stands 1.85m high in NW corner externally. The wall width is 0.65m and within its build are two recesses and a possible window. The lower recess measures 0.38m in width and 0.30m in depth and may connect to a small aperture or drain seen in the external face, although is masked on the internal side. The upper recess measures 0.24m in height 0.10m in height and 0.25m in depth. The possible window aperture is 0.58m wide.



Plan of cellar and outwork (after RCHAMS)



Entrance to cellar



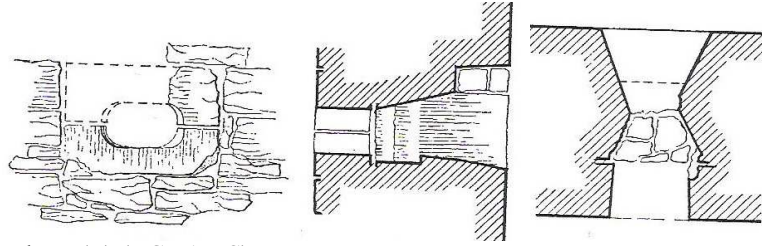
Cellar



Cellar window (G)



Cellar gun-loop (E)



Gun-loop (E) (RCHAMS)



Tower Entrance (F)



Outwork gun-loop (H) external



Outwork gun-loop (H) internal



Outwork gun-loop (I) external



Outwork gun-loop (I) internal



Outwork entrance



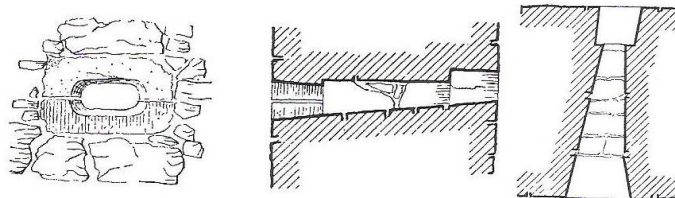
Outwork entrance bare-hole (J)



Outwork gun-loop (D) external



Outwork gun-loop (D) internal



Gun-loop (D) (RCHAMS)



Outwork gun-loop (K) external



Outwork gun-loop (K) internal



Outwork internal recess (L)



Outwork external drain (L)



Plan of First Floor (after RCHAMS)



Entrance gun-loop (N)



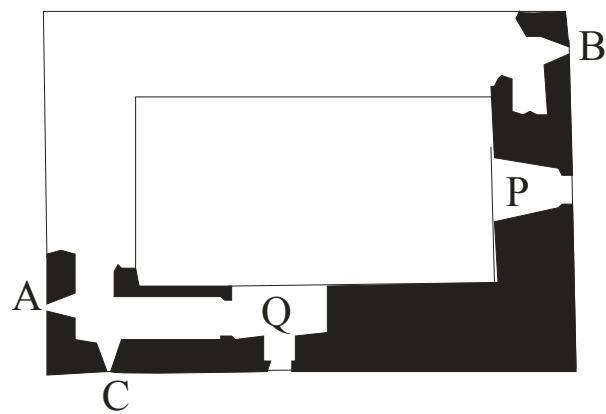
Stairs and blocked window (M)



Bar holes blocked window (M)



First floor N window (O)



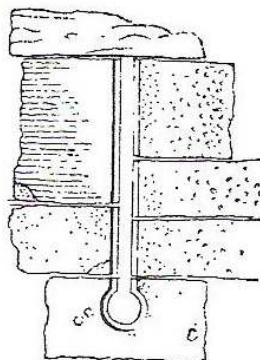
Second floor plan (after RCHAMS)



Stair gun-loop (B) internal



Gun-loop (B) external



Gun-loop (B) (RCHAMS)



Second floor window (Q)



Window (Q) external



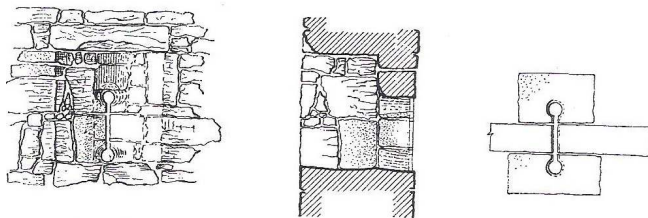
Second floor passage



Gun-loop (A) external



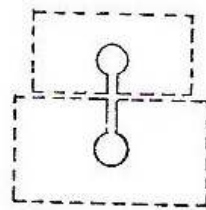
Gun-loop (A) internal



Gun-loop (A) (RCHAMS)



Gun-loop (B) external



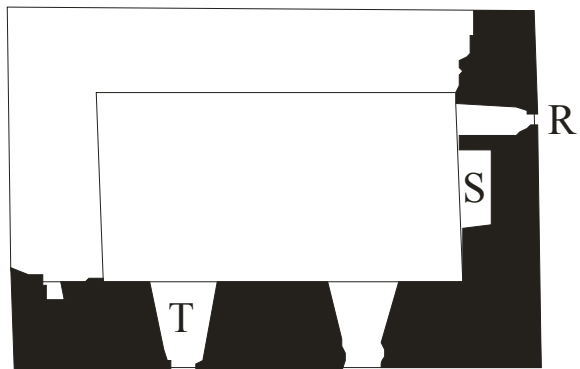
Gun-loop (C) (RCHAMS)



Window (P) internal



Window (P) external



Third floor plan (after RCHAMS)



Window (R) internal



Window (R) external



Fireplace (S)



Window (T) internal



Window (T) external



Moulding



Fourth floor gable

Other Features

[029] Wall. NE/SW oriented wall defining W side of level platform within the inner bailey. The wall is 47.70m in length and 1.50m-2.0m in width, although much denuded. Constructed in rubble it stands up to 0.50m in height with only one visible facing course on either side visible.



Wall [029]

[030] Wall of enclosure. SW/NE oriented wall partially collapsed. The wall measured 38.8m in length and 0.60m in width, standing to a maximum height of 1.78m. One buttress survives on the W side. The wall is bonded by a compact light grey lime mortar. S wall of enclosure. SE/NW oriented wall partially collapsed. The wall measured 14.2m in length and 1.4m in width, standing to a maximum height of 0.30m. Two buttresses survive on the S side. The wall is bonded by a compact light grey lime mortar.



Buttresses of enclosure wall [030]

[031] Possible track-way leading up to inner bailey entrance. The lower extent of this is difficult to place with any confidence given the similarity of the terrain making several routes possible, higher up the track seems clear climbing up the stepped terrace with a maximum width of 4.5m.



Track [031]

[032] Structure? This could be a small oval structure as indicated by an oval rise which may indicate wall remains measuring 2.70m by 2.60m externally. However this could just be the N remains of wall [034].



Structure? [032]

[033] Berm? Quarry? This feature is difficult to ascribe and appears as a rectilinear depression or hollow faced on its N side and possibly partially on its E side. Piles of small stones and rubble also lie above its E and W sides. The N side is revetted by walling 5.60m long and standing up to 0.60m high. It is possible this may have originally been a strip quarry (to supply stone for the castle?) its S face then consolidated to stabilise any path leading up to the entrance.



Berm [033]

[034] Wall. SW/NE oriented wall running along the upper edge of the terrace leading up to the inner bailey. The amount of rubble down-slope might indicate that this was quite a substantial structure although much of the rubble may equally have come from the hole punched through the outer bailey wall at the S. The wall can be traced for 11.60m but may originally have run to possible structure [032] and now stands up to 0.34m high.



Wall [034]

[035] Berm wall. This wall revets the S side of a relatively level terrace at the S side of the inner bailey. The wall measures 36m long and stands to a maximum height 1.30m above present ground level. The wall would appear to be deliberately battered where its face survives although this is not clear along most of its length due to its tumbled nature.



S berm [035]

[036] Enclosure wall. A length of rubble walling enclosing the w end of the berm platform. The wall springs from a natural outcrop at the NE and runs for 5m before turning S for another 5m to meet the W end of the berm revetment ([035]). The wall stands to a maximum height of 0.45m.

[037] Track. Track that leads from the entrance tower [009] and can be traced to revetment [044] at the S. For most of its length there appears to be a small bank or walls on either side of the track which is up to 2m wide. Remains of revetting on its east side (this now tumbled) can be seen on its S at its N end as it approaches the tower, the revetting measuring 11m long and standing 0.75m high.



Track

[038] W wall of outer bailey. This wall is badly collapsed and can only be confidently traced at its n end where there may be the survival of its original facing standing 2.0m high bridging the gap between two natural rock outcrops. Rubble can be traced along the while length but this is much masked by vegetation growth and possible later landscaping.

[039] Wall. Oriented NE/SW this wall revetts the E side of the entrance track way as it enters the outer bailey. The rubble walling can be traced for 11m and stands 1.10m high.



Wall [039]

[040] Earthworks? Three distinct parallel banks that define relatively level platforms at the N side of the outer bailey. The E most bank measures 10.90m long, 1.70m wide and stands 0.27m high. The middle bank measures 6.60m long and stands 0.65m over a natural ridge. The third, W most bank, measures 7.30m long and stands up to 0.70m high.



Earthworks [040]

[041] Ditch. A linear depression running NE from a boggy area lying to the S of [040]. The ditch measures 11m long and 0.70m wide.

[042] Ditch. A linear depression running 14m S from the berm before turning to the NE for another 13m. The ditch is up to 0.75m wide and 0.15m deep with the slight traces of a former bank on its external side.



Ditch [042]

[043] Ditch. A linear depression running SW/NE which can be traced for 14.5m, measuring 0.65m wide and 0.30m deep.

[044] Revetment wall. This runs along the E side of what was likely the former track leading to the castle. The wall is 24.5m long and stands up to 0.96m in height in 4-6 rough courses.



Revetment [044]

[045] Terrace. NE/SW oriented W edge of relatively flat terrace which can be traced running for 22m and standing up to 0.32m high.



Terrace edge [045]

[046] Structure? Possible footings of a rectangular structure measuring 3.75m externally with the slight remains of narrow walls (now grass covered). This appears to cut through or lie within terrace edge [045] and may be of more recent origin (given the presence of brick in the area).

[047] Wall. Robbed and tumbled earth and stone wall forming N end of an enclosure on the W side below the castle. The wall measured 0.90m wide at the base and stood to a maximum height of 0.38m.



Enclosure wall [047]

[048] Wall. Badly tumbled/disturbed wall line running from N end of natural scarp and possibly originally ran to SE corner of tower house. Its length can now be traced for 10m.

[049] Wall. Enclosure wall probably originally turf and stone construction. The wall is best preserved at its W end where it is represented by a row of large upright stones stands measuring up to 0.65m high and is 0.60m wide. Elsewhere it is represented by a low line of turf covered stones or a low earthen bank.



Enclosure wall [049]

[050] Quarry NR 86747 68740. Rectangular strip quarry with near vertical sides measuring 12m by 4m. A heap of small stones is situated in the NW of the quarry and may be discarded aggregate.



Quarry [050]

[051] Quarry NR 86720 68631. Possible strip quarry face where the rock has been cut away to produce a near vertical face.

[052] Quarry NR 86686 685. Rectangular shaped strip quarry cut into an W facing escarpment measuring 14m long by 7m wide.

[053] Quarry NR 86685 65594. This large vertically sided depression likely represents a large area of quarrying measuring 27m long by 8m wide.



Quarry? [053]

[054] Quarry NR 86738 68613. Possible quarry face as represented by a vertically 'cut' rock face with a mound of small stones above.

Appendix 2: Survey Photo List

Photo No.	Location	Feature No.	Description
1	Outer bailey	1	NW wall N face
2	Outer bailey	1	NW wall N face
3	Outer bailey	1	NW wall N face
4	Outer bailey	1	NW wall
5	Outer bailey	1	NW wall
6	Outer bailey	2	NW drum tower
7	Outer bailey	2	NW drum tower
8	Outer bailey	2	NW drum tower
9	Outer bailey	2	NW drum tower
10	Outer bailey	2	NW drum tower
11	Outer bailey	2	NW drum tower
12	Outer bailey	2	NW drum tower
13	Outer bailey	2	NW drum tower
14	Outer bailey	2	NW drum tower
15	Outer bailey	2	NW drum tower
16	Outer bailey	2	NW drum tower
17	Outer bailey	2	NW drum tower
18	Outer bailey	2	NW drum tower
19	Outer bailey	2	NW drum tower
20	Outer bailey	3	N wall
21	Outer bailey	3	N wall
22	Outer bailey	3	N wall
23	Outer bailey	3	N wall
24	Outer bailey	3	N wall
25	Outer bailey	3	N wall
26	Outer bailey	3	N wall
27	Outer bailey	3	N wall
28	Outer bailey	3	N wall
29	Outer bailey	4	NE drum tower
30	Outer bailey	4	NE drum tower
31	Outer bailey	4	NE drum tower
32	Outer bailey	4	NE drum tower
33	Outer bailey	4	NE drum tower
34	Outer bailey	4	NE drum tower
35	Outer bailey	4	NE drum tower
36	Outer bailey	4	NE drum tower
37	Outer bailey	22	Inner enclosure
38	Outer bailey	22	Inner enclosure
39	Outer bailey	22	Inner enclosure
40	Outer bailey	22	Inner enclosure
41	Outer bailey	22	Inner enclosure
42	Outer bailey	7	S wall
43	Inner/Outer bailey	7/10	S wall
44	Outer bailey	7	S wall
45	Outer bailey	8	Tower
46	Outer bailey	8	Tower
47	Inner bailey	10	N wall
48	Inner bailey	10	N wall

49	Inner bailey	10	N wall
50	Inner bailey	19	wall
51	Inner bailey	14	wall
52	Outer bailey	2	NW drum tower
53	Outer bailey	2	NW drum tower
54	Outer bailey	2	NW drum tower
55	Outer bailey	2	NW drum tower
56	Outer bailey	2	NW drum tower
57	Outer bailey	2	NW drum tower
58	Outer bailey	2	NW drum tower
59	Outer bailey	2	NW drum tower
60	Outer bailey	2	NW drum tower
61	Outer bailey	2	NW drum tower
62	Outer bailey	4	NE drum tower
63	Outer bailey	4	NE drum tower
64	Outer bailey	4	NE drum tower
65	Outer bailey	4	NE drum tower
66	Outer bailey	4	NE drum tower
67	Outer bailey	4	NE drum tower
68	Outer bailey	4	NE drum tower
69	Outer bailey	6	E wall
70	Outer bailey	6	E wall
71	Outer bailey	6	E wall
72	Outer bailey	6	E wall
73	Outer bailey	6	E wall
74	Outer bailey	6	E wall
75	Outer bailey	6	E wall
76	Outer bailey	4	NE drum tower
77	Outer bailey	4	NE drum tower
78	Outer bailey	4	NE drum tower
79	Outer bailey	4	NE drum tower
80	Tower outwork	28	N wall drain outlet
81	Tower outwork	28	N wall drain outlet
82	Tower outwork	27	gun loop N wall entrance
83	Tower outwork	27	gun loop N wall entrance
84	Tower outwork	27	gun loop NW wall entrance
85	Tower outwork	27	gun loop NW wall entrance
86	Tower outwork	27	entrance
87	Tower outwork	27	entrance bar hole
88	Tower outwork	27	gun loop SW wall entrance
89	Tower outwork	27	gun loop SW wall entrance
90	Tower outwork	27	gun loop NW wall entrance
91	Tower outwork	27	gun loop NW wall entrance
92	Tower outwork	28	recess N wall
93	Tower outwork	28	recess N wall
94	Tower outwork	27	gun loop N wall entrance
95	Tower outwork	27	gun loop NW wall entrance

96	Tower outwork	27	entrance
97	Tower outwork	27	gun loop SW wall entrance
98	Tower outwork	27	S wall entrance
99	Tower	25	Entrance
100	Tower	25	Gun loop
101	Tower	26	Repair W wall
102	Tower	26	Drain/gun-loop w wall
103	Tower	26	Blocked window W wall
104	Tower	26	Bar holes blocked window
105	Tower	26	Arrow/gun slit
106	Tower	26	window
107	Tower	26	window
108	Tower	26	N wall
109	Tower	26	Window stairwell
110	Tower	26	Window stairwell
111	Tower	26	Window stairwell
112	Tower	26	Window
113	Tower	26	blocked window
114	Tower	26	window
115	Tower	26	fireplace window
116	Tower	26	fireplace window
117	Tower	24	
118	Tower	25	
119	Tower	25	
120	Tower	25	
121	Tower	24	
122	Tower	25	
123	Tower	25	
124	Tower	25	
125	Tower	25	
126	Tower	25	
127	Tower	25	Gun-loop
128	Tower	25	
129	Tower	25	
130	Tower	25	
131		45	Terrace
132		46	Structure
133		37	Track
134	Outer bailey	8	SE tower
135		37	Track
136	Outer bailey	8	SE tower
137	Outer bailey	39	revetment wall
138	Outer bailey	50	Quarry
139	Outer bailey	41	Ditch
140		30	Enclosure wall
141		30	Enclosure wall
142	Outer bailey	40	platform
143	Outer bailey	40	platform
144		39	enclosure buttress
145	Outer bailey	31	Track
146	Outer bailey	32	Structure?

147	Outer bailey	34	track wall
148	Void		
149	Inner/Outer bailey	7/10	Wall junction
150	Inner/Outer bailey	7/10	Wall junction
151	Inner bailey	10	NW wall
152	Inner bailey	10	NW wall
153	Inner bailey	33	Berm
154	Inner bailey	33	Berm
155	Inner bailey	33	Berm
156	Inner bailey	10	NE wall
157	Inner bailey	10	NE wall
158	Inner bailey	10/11	Entrance
159	Inner bailey	13	Door
160	Inner bailey	11/17	NE range
161	Inner bailey	11/17	NE range
162	Inner bailey	11/17	NE range
163	Inner bailey	11/17	NE range
164	Inner bailey	11/17	NE range
165	Inner bailey	15/18	E range
166	Inner bailey	15/18	E range
167	Inner bailey	16/19	S range
168	Inner bailey	14/120	E range
169	Inner bailey		Courtyard
170	Inner bailey	15/18	W range
171	Inner bailey	10/21	NW range
172	Inner bailey	11	NW wall
173	Inner bailey	14	W wall
174	Inner bailey	14	W wall
175	Inner bailey	20	W range inner wall
176	Inner bailey	22	Well
177	Inner bailey	22	Well
178	Inner bailey	22	Well
179	Inner bailey	20	W range inner wall
180	Inner bailey	19	S range inner wall
181	Inner bailey	19	S range inner wall door
182	Inner bailey	16	S wall
183	Inner bailey	15	W wall
184	Inner bailey	16	S wall
185		35	S berm
186		35	S berm
187		35	S berm
188		35	S berm
189	Inner bailey	14/16	Outer face SW wall
190		44	Track revetment
191		44	Track revetment
192		42	Enclosure ditch
193		43	Ditch
194		49	Enclosure wall
195		49	Enclosure wall
196		53	Quarry
197		49	Enclosure wall

198		47	Enclosure wall
199	Inner bailey	15	W wall
200	Inner bailey	15	W wall
201	Tower	26	E wall repair
202	Tower	24/25	
203	Tower		
204	Tower	25	N wall repair
205	Tower	26	E wall stairwell window
206	Tower		
207	Tower		
208	Tower		
209	Tower	25/26	repair
210	Tower	25	N wall repair
211	Tower	23/26	
212	Tower	25	Entrance
213	Tower	25	Entrance
214	Tower outwork	27	Entrance
215	Tower		Entrance repair
216	Tower		Entrance repair
217	Tower outwork	27	
218	Outer bailey	5	
219	Tower outwork	28	Recess
220	Tower outwork	27	Entrance
221	Outer bailey	4	NW drum tower
222	Outer bailey	4	NW drum tower
223	Outer bailey	4	NW drum tower
224	Outer bailey	4	NW drum tower
225	Outer bailey	4	NW drum tower
226	Outer bailey	4	NW drum tower
227	Outer bailey	4	NW drum tower
228	Outer bailey	3	N wall
229	View		
230	View		
231	View		
232	View		
233	Tower		Corbelling NE corner
234	Tower		Corbelling NE corner
235	Tower		
236	Tower	25	Gun-loop N wall
237	Tower	25	Window N wall
238	Tower	25	Gun-loop N wall
239	Tower	25	Window N wall
240	Tower	25	Window N wall
241	Tower	25	Window N wall
242	Tower outwork	28	Drain outlet
243	Tower outwork	27	Gun-loop
244	Tower outwork	27	Gun-loop
245	Tower outwork	27	Gun-loop
246	Tower	26	Widow
247	Tower	26	Arrow/gun-loop
248	Tower	26	Blocked window
249	Tower	26	Repair

250	Tower	24	E wall
251	Tower	24	Gun-loop
252	Tower	24	Gun-loop
253	Tower	26	W wall
254	Tower	25	window
255	Tower	25	window repair
256	Tower	26	E wall repair
257	Tower	26	E wall repair
258	Tower	25	N wall repair
259	Tower	25	N wall repair
260	Tower		Cellar
261	Tower		Cellar
262	Tower	25	N wall repair
263	Tower	25	N wall repair
264	Tower		platform
265	Tower	24	W wall
266	Tower	25	N wall
267	Tower	25	N wall
268	Tower	25	N wall
269	Tower	25	N wall
270	Tower	24	Gun-loop
271	Tower	24	Gun-loop
272	Tower		
273	Tower		
274	Tower		
275	Tower		
276	Tower		
277	Tower		
278	Tower		
279	Tower		
280	Tower		
281	Tower		
282	Tower		
283	Tower		
284	Tower		
285	Tower		
286	Tower		
287	Tower		Cellar
288	Tower		
289	Tower		
290	Tower		
291	Tower		
292	Castle		
293	Tower		
294	Tower		
295	Tower		
296	Tower		
297	Tower		
298	Tower		
299	Tower		
300	Tower		
301	Tower		

302	Tower		Cellar
303	Tower		
304	Tower		
305	Tower		
306	Tower		
307	Tower		
308	Tower		
309	Tower		
310	Tower		
311	Tower		
312	Tower		
313	Tower		
314	Tower		
315	Tower		
316	Tower		
317	Tower		

Appendix 3: Items held by RCHAMS on Tarbert Castle

Item	Description	Date	Copyright
AG 1132	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. General view from South.	4/11/1966	RCAHMS
AG 1133	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. General view from South-East.	4/11/1966	RCAHMS
AG 1133/A	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. General view from South-East.	4/11/1966	RCAHMS
AG 1133/B	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. General view from South-East.	4/11/1966	RCAHMS
AG 1134	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. View of forework on North wall.	4/11/1966	RCAHMS
AG 1135	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. View of gunloop in North wall.	4/11/1966	RCAHMS
AG 1136	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. View of slit window in North-West wall.	4/11/1966	RCAHMS
AG 1137	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. View of round corner tower from North.	8/1966	RCAHMS
AG 1138	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. View of round corner tower from North.	8/1966	RCAHMS
AG 1144	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. View of tower house and forework from North.	8/1966	RCAHMS
AG 1145	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. General view from South-East.	8/1966	RCAHMS
AG 1146	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. General view from South-West.	8/1966	RCAHMS
AG 1147	General view from the SW	15/11/1966	RCAHMS
AG 1148	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. View of drum-tower in North-East curtain wall.	6/1966	RCAHMS
AG 1149	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle, interior. View of North-West wall of tower house.	15/11/1966	RCAHMS

		6	
AG 1150	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle, interior. General view from South-East.	8/1966	RCAHMS
AG 1372	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. General view from South-East.	1967	RCAHMS
AG 1373	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. General view from South.	1967	RCAHMS
AG 1374	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. General view from South-East.	1967	RCAHMS
AG 125 PO	Oblique aerial view from SE.	1967	CUCAP
AG 126 PO	Oblique aerial view from S.	1967	CUCAP
AG 127 PO	Oblique aerial view from SW.	1967	CUCAP
AG 2431	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. General view from South-East.	1962	RCAHMS
AG 3893/10	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. General view from South-West.	1955	RCAHMS
AG 3893/9	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. General view from West.	1955	RCAHMS
AG 4696 PO	Oblique aerial view from W.	1952	CUCAP
A 49902	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. View from East.	6/1918	RCAHMS
A 49903	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. View from North.	6/1918	RCAHMS
A 49904	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle, interior. View of North angle.	6/1918	RCAHMS
A 49905	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. View of entrance door to keep.	6/1918	RCAHMS
A 49906	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle, interior. View of North angle.	6/1918	RCAHMS
A 49907	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. View from West.	6/1918	RCAHMS

A 49908	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. View from North-East.	6/1918	RCAHMS
A 49909	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle, interior. View from West.	6/1918	RCAHMS
A 49910	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. View looking towards East Loch Tarbert.	6/1918	RCAHMS
A 49911	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. General view from North-West.	6/1918	RCAHMS
A 49912	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. Detail from South-East.	6/1918	RCAHMS
A 49913	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. View from West.	6/1918	RCAHMS
A 65377	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. Oblique aerial view from North.	1984	RCAHMS
A 65378	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. Oblique aerial view from South.	1984	RCAHMS
A 65379	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. Oblique aerial view from South.	1984	RCAHMS
A 65384	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. Oblique aerial view from South-West.	1984	RCAHMS
A 65385	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. Oblique aerial view from South-West.	1984	RCAHMS
A 65386	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. Oblique aerial view from South-West.	1984	RCAHMS
A 65387	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. Oblique aerial view from South-West.	1984	RCAHMS
A 65388	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. Oblique aerial view from North-East.	1984	RCAHMS
A 65389	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. Oblique aerial view from North.	1984	RCAHMS
A 65390	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. Oblique aerial view from North.	1984	RCAHMS

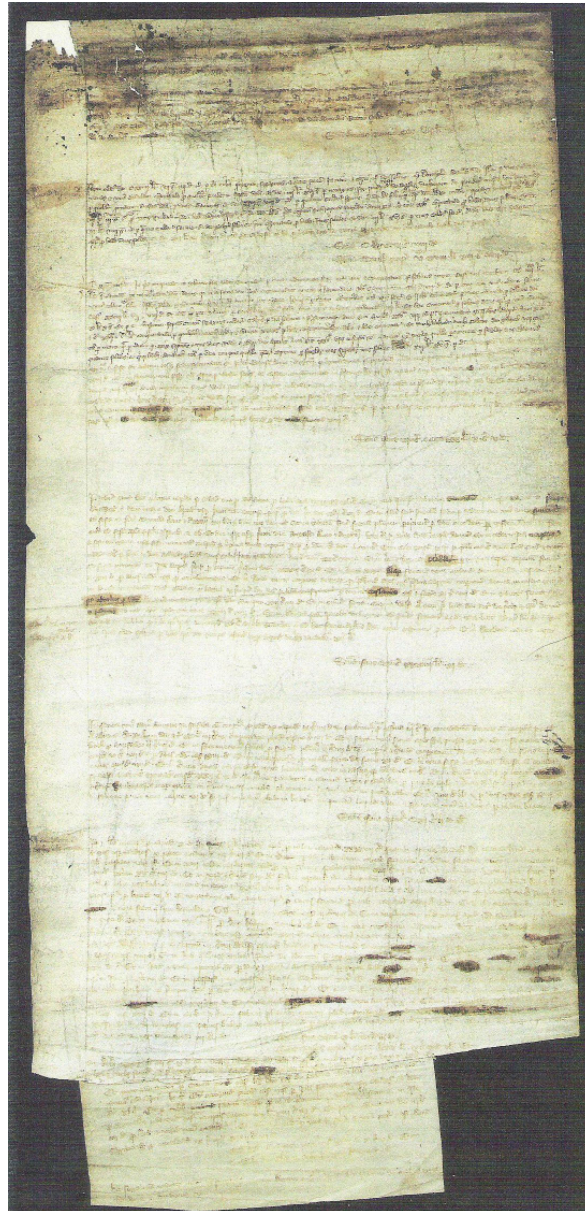
B 68895 P	Photographic copy of comparative plan. Titled: 'Ground Plans of A. Kinclaven; B. Kincardine; C. Tarbert Castles'.	1984	RCAHMS
C 75582	Photographic copy of plan of site.	4/10/1884	RCAHMS
A 83289 PO	Oblique aerial view from E.	1954	CUCAP
G 813884 S	General view of ruins.		RCAHMS
G 813885 S	Detail of ruins.		RCAHMS
G 813886 S	View of wall with gun-loop.		RCAHMS
G 813888 S	Photographic copy of plan of Tarbert Castle.		RCAHMS
G 813889 S	Photographic copy of the second third and fourth floors		
G 813900 S	Photographic copy of plan of castle.		RCAHMS
AGD 13/1	Plan of measured draft drawing of 2nd floor and shothole (?) for Tarbet Castle and block plan of Tolquhon Castle.	4/10/1884	RCAHMS
AGD 13/2	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. Plan of measured draft drawing of sunk floor about 9ft high.	4/10/1884	RCAHMS
AGD 13/3	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. Pencil notes.	4/10/1884	RCAHMS
AGD 13/4	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. Block plan (?).	4/10/1884	RCAHMS
AGD 13/5	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. Plan of site.	4/10/1884	RCAHMS
AGD 13/6	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. View from Loch Fyne looking West.	4/10/1884	RCAHMS
AGD 13/7	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. Plan showing details of gunloops.	1970	RCAHMS
AGD 13/8	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. Plan showing details of gunloops.	1970	RCAHMS

DC 3584	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. Part plan of site, sheet 1.	1966	RCAHMS
DC 3585	Tarbert, Tarbert Castle. Part plan of site, sheet 2.	1966	RCAHMS
RAB 255/OPP/241	Opp. Page No,241, Distant view of castle ruins Insc.: 'East-Tarbet, sur le Loch Fyne'	1838	RCAHMS
MS 4040	Report on a coastal zone assessment survey phase III, Kintyre and Isle of Arran, Argyll and Bute.	1/2005	CFA
MS 726/37	Archaeological Monitoring of Fencing Works, November 1992. Report.	1992	CFA

Appendix 4: 1326 Exchequer Roll.

The Accounts for the Repair and rebuilding of Tarbert Castle 1325-1326

The original Exchequer roll was written in Latin and a transcription was prepared by Marion Campbell.



Notes on some measurements: A Codrus equals roughly a quarter stone of cheese. A chalder is an ancient Scottish dry measure, applied to grains, varying with the grain being measured for meal it was 16 bolls, 1 boll equaling just over 145 litres or 2332 litres

ACCOUNT of John de Lany, Constable of Tarbart, made at clachmanan the Monday next after the feast of S.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 outlays from 18 April in the year of grace 1325 to the present day of accounting:-

He takes burden for (credits himself with)-
From Dugallus Cambel, as bailie of Atholl; £13.7.8d
From the same, after (rendering his audit); £66.13.4

From Umfred de Kirpatrik, by his audit; £77.0.0
From the Chamberlain; £18.0.0
From lord Benedict, Rector of church of Arran; £3.6.8
From the Abbot of Paisley per W. de Bonkill; £10. 0.0
(recte, £343.1 2.)
Total £354.10.0

By 3,564 lbs meal and cheese from John McDonyle, bailie of lie (islay) reckoning 7d per lb; £124.7.4d

By 96 lbs cheese from bailies of Kintyre, of the lb of that place, at 12d per lb; £4.16.0
By 4 chalders meal from Adam son of Alan, at 20d per boll; £5.16.

By 3 ch. 13 ½ b. meal from the same before his 1325 audit, at 2/- per boll; £6.3.0
By 4 ch. Meal from Patrick son of Colin at 2/- ; £6.8.0
By 3 ch. Meal from the Bp. Of Sodor at 2/- ; £4.16.0
From Gilbert McAy, receipted but receipt lost £13.6.8

(including error above) 165. 3.8
Expenditure:- Total £518.13.8

Settlement with Robert cimentarius (mason) for work on the walls of the castle of the Tarbart;
£282.15.0
To the same, by the King's grace, because in the King's absence he made the walls wider than agreed
in the contract; £5.6.8
Purchase of 1 ch. Meal & 1 ch. Barley (over 3386 litres) issued to said Robert by contract in 1st quarter
of year; £3.4.0
To John the mason, work on walls of castle; £28.7.8
To the same, part-settlement for construction of a new Peel at Tarbart west; £4.0.0
To Adam the mason for building the castle; £9.10.0
To burning 760 ch. Lime between Whitsunday 1325 and St John's Nativity
(24th June) at 10 marks p. chalder; witnessed by Robert and Adam, masons; £50.0.0
To 2 men carrying lime from kiln to castle by sea and land, 29 weeks 3 days,
28 April - (11 Nov) / 25, at 4/- per 3 weeks, and to 5 men as above at 3/4d; £13.15.2
To 7 men as above, (11 Nov-24 June), 32 weeks at 14d per week; 13. 16.0

To William Scot, making a fosse (ditch or drain) below the castle, by contract in King's presence;
7.3.11
To the same for mill-pond & lade by contract (&c); 3.9.8
To the same, for a kiln made anew, by contract; 1.2.0
and in settlement with same, part-payment of 20 mks (1 3.3.4d) agreed by The king, for a new road
from one Tarbart to the other: 8.0.0
To ½ ch. Meal bought and issued at King's precept to said W. Scot for making and the said road;
0.16.0

Total £430.10.5

To settlement with Id. Maurice the chaplain for his half-year's salary, by receipt; 2.0.0
Wages of James del More, remaining at Tarbart by King's precept, 18 April -1 Aug, at 5d per day;
2.4.2
To settlement with Nigel (Neil) the smith, salary for year to (1 Aug) 1326 by his receipt; 12.0.0
To sett. With Nigel plumber, 8d p. day for 13 % days to (29 June) and thence to 1 Aug, 1326; 3.9.0
To wages of John carpenter, (11 Nov-24 June), 32 weeks at 3d per day; 2.16.0
to his rations, 1 b.meal & 1 codrus cheese per month, at 2/- p. boll and 7dp.codrum; 1.0.8
To service of Donfnald blocker (? Trader,broker) 27 weeks to (24 June), at 15d per week; 1.3. 9
To service of Hugh Dulp, making a mill anew by 3.0.0
Contract, and by a codri cheese for his trouble; 0.1.2
To service of 2 'roofers' for 40 days in building within the castle in period of account; 0.13.4
To sett. With Gilmor McKathil for 20 caslams of cheese and meal; by King's precept; 0.11.8

In sett. With John the midwife's son, by receipts from Adam Roger and himself; 0.13. 4
 In sett. With Copin Wlf, merchant, for bread bought; 1.6.8
 By liverance to James del More of provisions for the King's work, for which he will account, and Adam More took delivery for him; 2.1.0
 To 12 codri cheese issued to John, Clerk of the kitchen, by receipts for which he will account; 0.12.0

Total of these outlays; £34.0.11

To making a house anew in the island, with roofing for it, and to the chapel; 0.10.4
 To making a house for the pistris (= pistor, baker, or pistrinus, grinding mill); . 3.0
 Repairing and roofing houses against the coming of the King, a.d.1325; 0.4.6
 And for 11 stones cheese 0.5.6
 And in making a furnace at Schepnisse 0.1.8
 Making a house for the goldsmith; 0.2.6
 Making a fabrilis (= ? fabrica, workshop) for Nigel plumber; Materials and labour for roofing the mill-house and making (good) its walls; 0.5.8
 And by 2 codri cheese; 0.1.2
 For a porch (porche) for the kiln made anew; 0.011
 For a ditch around the brewhouse & repairs to it; 0.0.7
 In wages of 2 carpenters raising the hall in the castle over 3 days; 0.3.0
 In wages of mowers cutting roofing for the hail, and carriage and portage thereof; 1.2.9
 In wages carrying and carting clay and sand for parietibus (walls, ?partitions) of the hail, and of divers workmen about the same, and of plasters and thatcers, and of 2 masons underpinning the posts of The hail with stone; 0.15.8½
 And lime; and by 2 codri cheese; 0.1.1
 To making the wall (partition?) of the new kitchen; 0.0.6
 To putting in a (lead) sink in the brewhouse, with portage of stone and clay, and making a rudaris (? Drain, ?brewing vat) in the middle of the brewhouse; 0.5.0
 (recte £4.6.2 ½)

Total of these outlays £5.11.2½

To 1 lb. wax bought for the chapel; 0.0.10
 To 5 horses of carriage (-pack-horses) bought for carrying lime, for which the accounter will answer; 1.17.0
 To 100 great planks bought and sent to Cardros for repairing the park; 0.3.4
 To wages of workmen labouring about the mill-pond before the contract was made; 0.8.0
 To 16 chalders charcoal bought for Patrick the smith; 1.1.4
 To working of 78 stones iron by Patrick; 0.19.6
 In wages and work of Nigel (Neil) the smith, before contract, uncertified; 0. 3.0
 To planking of 2 boats to carry lime and sand; 0. 1.6
 Planking of said boats & carpenters' wages; 0.5. 0
 To 3 lbs pitch bought for boats; 0.0. 6
 To 28 ells canvas bought for sacks for lime; 0.7. 2
 To men coming round the Mull with a ship, formerly Donald McGilhon's by a codri cheese; 0.2.8
 To the watching of said ship at Westertarbart for 15 days; 0.5.0
 To watching of a ship sent by Arthur Cambel 0.0.10
 To wages of 6 men going with the same ship to the King in Arran; 0.2.0
 To portage of bread from Tarbart to Schipnisse 0. 1.10
 To carriage of victuals from Westertarbart; 0.0.4
 To bran for the watchdogs at Westertarbart for 3 weeks; 0.0.4
 In driving cattle to Schipnisse, twice; 0.0.8
 To care of 40 of the Queen's sheep before the King's arrival; 0. 1. 0
 And by ½boll meal; 0.1.0
 For custody of pultrie (poultry) for 15 days; 0.1.10½
 To custody of the King's cattle and pigs by two herdsman and two boys(pagetes), by 7 boils meal; 0.14.6

By wages of a messenger going to Islay for horses; 0.0.6

And in the passage of 4 horses from Islay; 0.10.0

For keep of 16 men of John son of Duncan staying at Tarbart by command, by 6 codri cheese; 0.3.6

To 8 men of John and Nigel, Sons of Gilhon, for 1 month, by 28 codri; 0.16.4

To 2 men of Iwar McAulay and 1 man of Iwar McGilcom (as above), by 3 codri cheese; 0.1.9

In charcoal and wages of smiths trying to cast a mina of lead (minam plumbi fundendum); 0.1.0

To literio ('litter', rushes for floors) for the rooms of the Id. Bishop of St Andrews and Id. James, lord of Douglas, with cutting and portage of birch-branches to repair the hall and rooms; 0.2.2 Y2

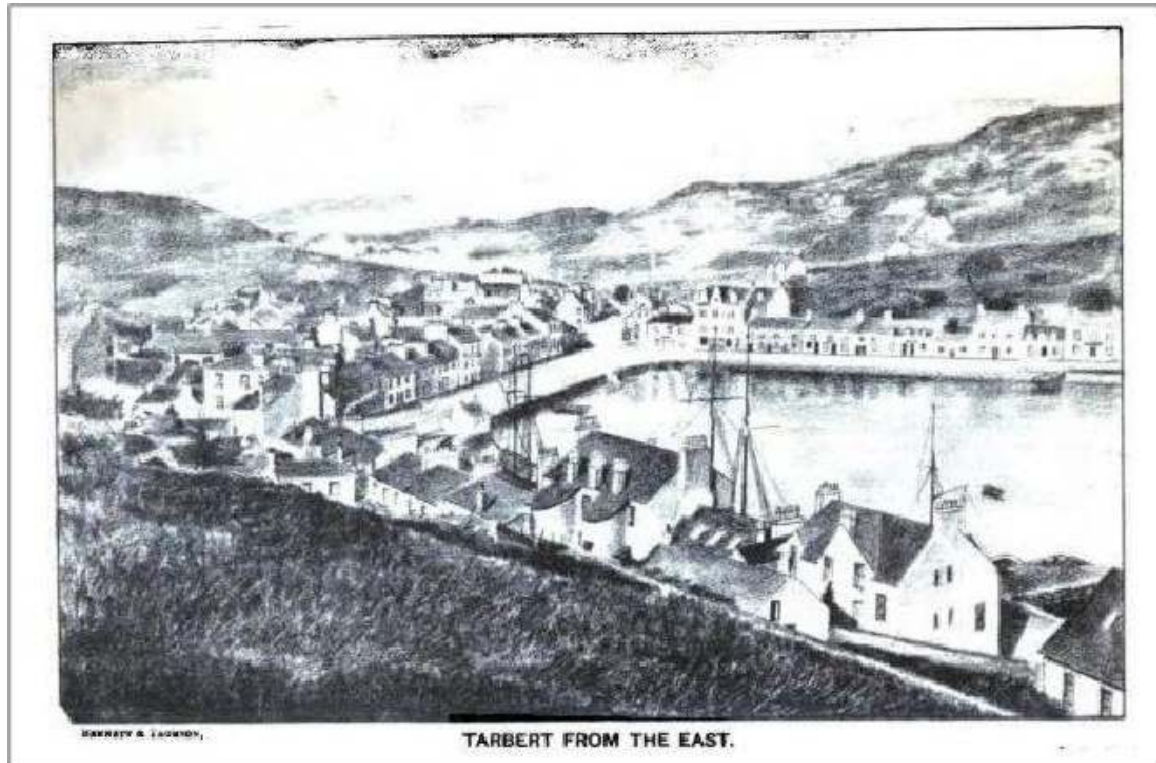
To the King's alms, by 7 codri cheese issued to Id. Robert the almoner; 0.4.1

(recte, £8.0.9) Total of these outlays £9.7.3

(recte, £476.1 8.3 ½)

Total of all outlays £479. 9. 9 ½

Appendix 5: Tarbert, Past and Present: Gleanings in Local History (From Dugald Mitchell 1886 *Tarbert, Past and Present : Gleanings in Local History*. The last two chapters have been excluded from this extract)



DUMBARTON : BENNETT & THOMSON, 16 and 18 HIGH STREET 1886

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CHAPTER I

EARLY GLIMPSES

TO many minds of an antiquarian or archaeological tendency, minds that love to wander among the things of a bygone age, the associations which cluster themselves around the old historic village, or cling tenaciously as its trailing ivy to the picturesque though dilapidated ruin which has braved the storms of centuries - which has seen thrones established and dynasties overturned, constitute a theme of interest and attraction. To such an one every step taken among these relics of the past serves anew to fire his imagination; every chamber, nook, or dungeon of the now deserted castle tells again its wondrous tale, its varied tale of love and war; and, standing on its crumbling walls, he finds himself conjuring up the approach of the enemy, or planning a sortie for its relief. The strategical importance of Tarbert with its castle, commanding as it does the shortest and safest route from the Western Islands to the firth of Clyde, the prominent historical events in which it has figured, and other circumstances such as the details of the building of the castle, that shall appear later, serve to link it in a not unimportant manner with the memories of the past, and to call up, not only the jealous rivalries of clans with their incessant quarrels, but to lead us back to the time when Scotland's history proper was yet in its early infancy. Beautifully situated around the margin of its land-locked bay, it rejoices in a name, in one or other of its forms, as Tarbert, Tarbet or Tarbat, possibly the commonest in Scotland. Amongst the most familiar are Tarbet on Loch Lomond, Tarbet East and West in Jura, and Tarbert East and West in Harris; and, in common with all of them, Tarbert on Lochfyne owes its name, it would appear, to circumstances dependent on its geographical position. Stretching from the eastern loch to the western, and presenting an effectual barrier to their union, is a narrow neck of land, fully three-quarters of a mile in breadth, joining Kintyre to the mainland, and known as the Isthmus of Tarbert. That these lochs should be united and their waters mingled has doubtless been the desire of centuries, and the present canal scheme, as well as its more immediate predecessors, is but the echo of bygone dreams. The manner in which the obstacle to navigation presented by the isthmus has been hitherto practically overcome upon a small scale, seems to account for the origin of the name. It is not, however, as a matter of convenience or necessity, but as one of cunning and aggrandizement that history first informs us of the method of accomplishment. It was the year 1098. Looming out of the darkness which enshrouds this period of Scottish history, we catch a romantic glimpse of it through the medium of Scandinavian records. Torfaens, in his *Hist. Orcad.*, informs us that Magnus Barefoot, King of Norway, having shortly before conquered the Hebrides, concluded a treaty with the Scottish King. This treaty was to the effect that all the Western Isles, or all those places that could be circumnavigated, should be ceded to the Norwegian King. Not satisfied, however, with the ordinary interpretation of the treaty, Magnus contrived to add to his possessions the rich peninsula of Kintyre by a species of ingenious fraud. Seizing the helm as he seated himself in the stern of his lightest galley, he had himself drawn across the narrow isthmus in a sort of triumphal progress, by which means it was conceded in these simple times he had demonstrated Kintyre to be an island. At any rate, as the result probably of this exploit, the peninsula was reckoned one of the South Isles, or Sudreys, until the seventeenth century, and it is generally believed that from this custom of transporting boats from the one loch to the other Tarbert has derived its name, it being supposed to be compounded of the two Gaelic words, *tarruing*, to draw, and *bata*, a boat; while the fact of this royal stratagem having occurred here may account as Pennant imagines, for Tarbert on Lochfyne being designated in all old writings as the Tarbert. The system of drawing boats across isthmuses to avoid long or dangerous navigations was not at all uncommon among the ancients. Among the Greeks such positions received a name meaning dragging places, and a very remarkable one existed near Corinth. The varied forms under which the name Tarbert appears at different periods are interesting as showing at least the ingenuity of the writers. It would be somewhat of a test of ingenuity to add to the variety. In the oldest records we find it spelt as *Tarbart*. Soon it takes the form of *Tarbard*, and later it appears indiscriminately as *Terbert*, *Tarbert*, *Tarbett*, *Tarbet*, *Tarbatt*, *Tarbat*, *Torban*, *Tarbot*,

Tarbitt, Terbat, Turbet, and Terbart. That the old sea king was thoroughly acquainted with the value of Kintyre as a possession is rendered probable by a remark which occurs in a Scandinavian record of the thirteenth century, the "Magnus Saga" of Snorro, in which, after describing Magnus' boat stratagem, he says:—"Satiri (Kintyre) is a great country, and better than any island of the Sudreys, Man excepted." And then, describing the isthmus, he adds - "There is a narrow sandy ridge between it and Scotland, so that ships are often drawn across it." The following passage from the late Principal Shairp's poem of "Kilmahoe" refers to the above incident:—"Then Norrøway kings, our chiefs overthrown. Held isle and islet for their own, and one, more haughty than the rest, Swore he would claim for island ground. Whatever he drove his galley round; And from the Atlantic, up the west. Loch Tarbert bearing, made them haul His barge across that isthmus small; Himself proud seated at the helm. Then spreading sail down fair Lochfyne, He cried aloud, "Kintyre is mine, I've bound it to my island realm". To Highlanders the explanation given by Snorro regarding the surname received by Magnus is not a little interesting. It is to the effect that the Scandinavian monarch so admired the "Garb of Old Gaul," that on his return to Norway he himself adopted it, and hence received the appellation of Barefoot. Regarding Tarbert, history now becomes silent for many years, and for the next incident connected with it we are again indebted to Norse records. It is very similar to that which has just been described, and is quoted by Carlyle, in "The Early Kings of Norway." After referring to the authenticity of the battle of Largs in 1263, and to Haco's evident "high kind of humour" previous to it, he goes on to quote from the records as follows :- "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.' All to the left of me is mine and Norway's!" exclaimed Hakon in his triumphal boat progress, which such disasters soon followed." The disasters referred to were those resulting from the battle of Largs, which was fought shortly afterwards. The storms of an unusually severe winter fought on the side of the Scots, and enabled them to effect the utter ruin of the Norwegian expedition — an expedition which, as represented by their own historians, was the most formidable that ever left the ports of Norway. It consisted of from one hundred to one hundred and forty ships, carrying twenty thousand men. On his way home Haco died at the Orkneys, it is 'said of a broken heart. His son Magnus readily concluded a treaty with the Scottish King, Alexander III., in which all Norse claims to Kintyre and the Western Isles were for ever renounced. In those days, and particularly on occasions such as those referred to, the position occupied by the Kings of the Isles was peculiarly delicate. By no means a match for the neighbouring states of Scotland and Scandinavia, they were usually under allegiance to one or other of them. Though this homage was of course involuntary, when they were in straits they considered it implied protection; and when that was not afforded, they had little hesitation in forming new connections more conducive to their safety. On the occasion of the battle of Largs, all the powerful chiefs of the Isles and Western Highlands, with the exception of Eogan (John) of Argyll (who held faithfully by the Scottish King, and strove to bring about a cessation of hostilities), fought on the side of the Norwegians, and that apparently with great bravery. In Haco's own ship, according to the Norse records from which what follows is taken, we find Roderick, the second son of King Reginald of the Isles, occupying an important position, and when the expedition had reached the island of Kerrera, opposite Oban, it was joined by Roderick's three sons. King Dugald, Allan, and Angus. Regarding the Lords of Kintyre and Islay, they were apparently under allegiance to Alexander, and it required some compulsion to make them join the forces of Haco. From Kerrera the latter sent fifty ships south to the Mull of Kintyre to plunder, under the command of King Dugald and other prominent captains, where "they burnt hamlets and took all the effects that they could find. They killed some of the inhabitants; the rest fled where they could." On the promise that the peninsula should be spared from further devastation, Margad or Murchard (Murdoch), Lord of Kintyre, surrendered his lands to Haco, as likewise did Angus, the Lord of Islay, both taking the oath of allegiance and delivering hostages. Notwithstanding this, Haco laid on their estates a fine of a thousand head of cattle, but "returned Islay to Angus upon the same terms that the other barons in the Hebrides enjoyed their lands." After the battle we learn that King Dugald and Allan, his brother, took

leave of the Norwegians at Tobermory, having previously received, as rewards, grants of those lands formerly owned by Eogan of Argyll, under Haco's sovereignty. On Dugald, also, was bestowed a castle in South Kintyre (probably Dunaverty) which had been besieged and taken the previous summer. To Murchard of Kintyre was given the Island of Arran, and to Roderick the Island of Bute. They were among the last gifts of a king who had already reigned the long period of forty-six years, and who was soon to pass away from the scenes of his many strifes. During this century, and about the period we have been referring to, the lands of Tarbert seem to have been in the possession of the M'Gilchrists. The ecclesiastical matters of the district at this time were under the jurisdiction of the Monks of Paisley, and from the register of that Monastery we may trace the connection as far back as the middle of this century. About the year 1250 "Donenald Makgilcriste, Lord of Tarbard," granted to the Monks of Paisley a charter conferring upon them the right to cut timber on his lands. Though this charter contains no internal evidence that the "Tarbard" referred to is that with which we are concerned, various considerations have led many to believe that such is the case. As a specimen of a charter of these early days, as well as for its inherent interest, it is worth quoting in full. Like all learned documents of these days, the original is in Latin:—

CHARTER OF DONALD MAKGILCRISTE, LORD OF TARBARD,

"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."

Ten years later the connection of the monks of Paisley with the Parish of Kilcalmonell was drawn still closer. From the "Origines Parochiales Scotis " we learn that in 1261 the lay patron, "Dufgall the son of Syfyn (or Sween) granted to the monks of Paisley, with the consent of John, his heir, the right of patronage of the church of St. Calmanel, which was situated in his land of Kintyre with the chapel of St. Columba, which was situated near his castle of Schepehinche (Skipness) after the death of Clement, rector of the said church, bequeathing his body at same time to be buried in the monastery of Paisley."For centuries the church of Kilcalmonell, situated first at Balinakill and later at Clachan (both about eleven miles from Tarbert), as well as the lands connected with it, continued as part of the barony or lordship of Paisley.

CHAPTER II

TARBERT IN THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY

BELIEVED in the manner above detailed from the frequent harassments of the Northern Power, Scotland soon found herself called upon to engage her whole energies in repelling the presumption of her southern neighbour. It is in connection with this long-sustained struggle for independence that Tarbert next appears (this time in traditional story), and again a royal visitor is the occasion. That visitor is Robert the Bruce, and the year 1306. Not, however, in the pomp and pride of power, surrounded by thousands of followers does he appear, but as a downcast fugitive king, passing, by this route, it is said, after his defeat at Methven, with a

mere handful of staunch adherents to seek a refuge in Kintyre with Angus Og, commonly called Lord of the Isles. This refuge and protection Angus readily accorded him, first at Saddell and afterwards at Dunaverty, and later on, when circumstances required it, conveyed him for greater security to the island of Rathlin, on the Irish coast. Cuthbert Bede in his "Glencreggan" gives the following legend in connection with the King's wanderings on this occasion. (The mountain referred to is within a few miles of Tarbert) :- "On the bleak mountain in South Knapdale, called Sliabh-Ghaoil, the hunted monarch passed a cheerless night. He was well-nigh spent with fatigue and hunger, and, to add to his distress, the night was bitterly cold. He would probably have perished had not a goat come to him and laid herself down beside him. She suffered him to refresh himself with her milk, and kept him warm all the night through. Refreshed by the night's rest, and the goat's milk and warmth, the Bruce came on to Cantire the next morning. It was in grateful memory of this that, when he 'enjoyed his own agen,' he made a law that forbade any one to poind (or pound) a goat." A period of eight years of varied fortune, eight years mainly of hardship and defeat, has slowly passed, and at last the Bruce's star shoots brilliantly above the horizon. Bannockburn is fought, and Scotland is forever free. The task which the king found before him of introducing order into his long troubled dominions was one of no light nature, and this, it will be understood, was more particularly true of the Highlands and Western Isles. After his brother Edward had departed on his ill-starred expedition to Ireland, King Robert set out on a visit to the Isles, and on his way thither chose the route across the isthmus of Tarbert. According to Barbour, Archdeacon of Aberdeen, who wrote his poem "The Bruce" in 1375, the following is the manner in which the land part of the journey was accomplished. The distance between the two lochs was "lompnit all with treis," which phrase may either mean that a smooth slide of planks was constructed, or that the trunks of trees were so arranged as to form rollers. Taking advantage of a favourable wind that was blowing, the galleys were placed on the structure, all the sails were set in order to assist their progress, the men were set to work, and so, by means of this unique combination of sailing and hauling on dry land, the western loch was reached. There is a tradition that in the journey one of the ships fell and was seriously damaged, and the place where the accident occurred is still pointed out. It is not improbable that the overland route was selected by Bruce in order to work on the superstitious feelings of the Islesmen, amongst whom, according to Barbour, an old prophecy was current, possibly dating from the time of Magnus Barefoot's successful stratagem, to the effect that, if their invader should his might would be unavailing. So effective was the king's device in attaining the desired end that all the rebels, with the exception of the Lord of Lorne, submitted without any show of resistance. The following, which are Barbour's lines describing the above incident, are worth quoting for their interest and quaintness:- "Quhen he (King Robert) had conwoyit to the se His brodyr Eduuard, and his menyne. With his shippis he made him yare Into the Ilis for to fayr. Walter Stewart with him tuk he, His maich, and with him gret menyne, And other men of gretnoblay. To Tarbart they held thair way, In galayis ordanyt for thair far, Bot thaim worthydraw thair schippis thar: And a myle wes betnix the seys; Bot that wes lompnit all withtreis. The king his schippis thar gert draw. And for the wynd conth stoutly blaw Apon thairbak, as thai wald ga. He gert men rapis and mastis ta, And set thaim in the schippis hey, And say Ilis to the toppis tey; And gert men gang thar by drawand. The wynd thaim helpytthat wes blawand; Swa that, in a litill space, Thair flote all our drawin was. And when thaithat in the Ilis war, Hard tell how the gud king had thar Gert his schippis with saillis ga Owtour betnix the Tarbartis twa, Thai war abaysit sa wtrelly. For thai wyst, throw auld prophecy, That he that suld ger schippis sua Betuix thai sek with saillis ga, Suld wyne the Ilis sua tillhand, That nane with strenth suld him withstand. Tharfor thai come all to the king. Wesnane withstud his bidding, Owtakny Jhone of Lome allayne, Bot weill sone eftre wes hetayne. "Sir Walter Scott, in his "Lord of the Isles" makes use of the above incident, and, applying it to an earlier date, describes an imaginary journey of the Bruce across the isthmus, when on his way from Rathlin to Ayrshire in 1307.

"Ever the breeze blows merrily, But the galley ploughs no more the sea. Lest rounding wild Cantire they meet The southern foeman's watchful fleet, They held unwonted way;-

Up Tarbat's western lake they bore, They dragg'd their bark the isthmus o'er. As far as Kilmaconnel's shore, Upon the eastern bay. It was a wondrous sight to see Topmast and pennon glitter free. High raised above the greenwood tree, As on dry land the galley moves, By cliff and copse and alder groves. Deep import from that selcouth sign Did many a mountain seer divine. For ancient legends told the Gael That when a royal bark should sail O'er Kilmaconnel moss, Old Albyn should in fight prevail, And every foe should faint and quail Before her silver Cross."

In the year 1325 Bruce commenced the building of Tarbert Castle. The knowledge gained by him during former visits of the strategical importance of the isthmus, the dread with which the navigation of the Mull of Kintyre was at that time regarded, and the consequent frequency of transporting the small ships of war then in use across this narrow neck, together with the necessity he felt of having a convenient base of operations from which to keep the Islesmen in check, constituted sufficient stimulus for its erection. In addition to Tarbert Castle, we are informed that other two forts guarded the isthmus, one about its middle, in the neighbourhood of Cairnbaan, and the other at the head of the West Loch. These, however, must have been of small size, and all trace of them has long since disappeared. Whether or not there existed, previous to the time of Bruce, any fort on the same site as the present castle was erected, is a question that cannot easily be determined. Cosmo Innes, Burnet, and Taylor assert that the castle was first built by King Robert, while Gregory, in his "History of the Highlands and the Western Isles," holds to the opinion that fortifications did previously exist, and that Bruce's efforts were directed to the strengthening and extending of them, and to the furnishing of them with a Royal garrison. Tytler, again, more than once makes a similar statement, and asserts that there existed a royal castle as early as the reign of Edward I. of England. The fact, also, that the Exchequer Rolls, which 'details the expenses connected with Bruce's castle, also mentions the repairing of houses, "placing a new vat in the brew-house, making a new kitchen, lime-kiln," &c., points in the direction of former ones having existed. The expenses, however, connected with these matters are but a very small fraction of the amount incurred at this time in connection with the general structure. The probability is that a fort did formerly exist, that it was built by the Lords of the Isles, and its keeping committed to the M'Gilchrists as Lords of Tarbert; and that later when Alexander, Lord of the Isles, resigned his lands, &c., in 1315, it fell to the Crown. It is reasonable, at any rate, to suppose that a position that was really the key to Kintyre (the cradle of the Scottish Monarchy) would not be left entirely unprotected. Standing proudly against the sky upon its commanding height, and bearing well its centuries of age, Tarbert Castle still exists as a stately and picturesque ruin. Situated on the south side of the loch about one hundred feet above sea level, few castles can be said to command so extensive and so varied a view, a fact which must have added very considerably to its efficiency. Glancing the eye to the south and east, it scans the coast of Bute, and ranges along the Cowal shore from Ardlamont point to Otter spit. Northward, Ben Cruachan, Loch Awe's proud guardian, and the upper reaches of the blue Lochfyne, come well into view; while to the westward West Loch Tarbert, with its surrounding hills clad in their mantle of green, are seen stretching away in soft and mazy beauty. Originally the castle would appear to have consisted of a strong, high, square tower, with extensive subsidiary buildings, and numerous round towers, constructed of durable whinstone and red sand-stone. Approachable only from one direction, and guarded by a moat and widely extended walls, it must have been at the time of its power quite impregnable to any engines of war that could then be brought against it. The year in which the building of the castle was commenced saw Bruce land once more on the isthmus of Tarbert. From this fact we may infer that his thorough knowledge of military affairs, and the necessities of the situation, was brought to bear, if not in selecting the site (than which a better could not have been chosen) at any rate in determining the form the structure should take. Some of the contracts, indeed, would appear to have been entered into during this visit. That the king took very considerable interest in its erection is evidenced by the fact that he again visited Tarbert the following year, and resided in the castle for some time. On this occasion he was accompanied by his warm friends, Lamberton.⁷

Bishop of St. Andrews, and Primate of Scotland, and the Good Lord Douglas, names well-known and loved by all Scottish readers of the annals of the wars of independence. Very probably, also, he had in his train the Lords Auditors of the Exchequer, for we learn that during this visit "he received the accounts of several of the local Stewards." In these days the officers who collected the king's revenues, of every grade from sheriffs to bailies and customars, rendered their accounts yearly before the Lords Auditors, receiving due notice to attend at a given time and place. On such occasions the Lords usually sat from four to six weeks, changing their place of sitting if the king shifted his residence during that period. The interest attaching to the building of Tarbert Castle is much enhanced by the important circumstance that the details regarding it, and furnished in the year of the latter visit (1326) by the then Constable of Tarbert, John De Lany, constitute, according to the editors of the "*Origines Parochiales Scotiae*," "the earliest account of any details of domestic architecture and modes of rural life in Scotland." Indeed, the earliest Scottish Exchequer Roll extant is that contributed by the Constable of Tarbert, the earlier ones having been destroyed or lost during the wars referred to above in the original Latin this interesting document may be found in the "Exchequer Rolls of Scotland," and the "*Compota Camerariae Scotiae*" while an English translation of the greater portion is given in the "*Origines Parochiales Scotiae*." Though the castle, as at first designed, appears never to have been quite completed, it would seem that at the date when the accounts were rendered by the Constable, viz., 20th July, 1326, almost all that was then purposed being done was finished. We have therefore in this Roll what must be considered a tolerably complete statement of the outlay connected with the building itself, as well as of some other matters more or less intimately connected with it, and an examination and comparison of the extent of building that could be constructed out of a few hundreds of pounds in the fourteenth century with what can be effected in the last quarter of the nineteenth century with the same amount, would be not a little interesting and instructive. From this record we learn that from the 18th day of April, 1325, to the 20th July of the following year, the whole amount received by the Constable for the building of the castle and other duties connected with his office was £518 13s 8d. During the same period he had expended, in all, £511. In passing, it may be noted that at this date the current money of Scotland did not materially differ in value from that of the sister country, Scots money passing for its full value in England in the reign of Robert the Bruce, and down till about the year 1355. The depreciation of the currency in Scotland which ultimately brought the pound Scots down to one twelfth of the pound sterling, belongs to a later age. During Bruce's reign the pound weight of silver was coined into twenty-six shillings and three pence; at the present day the same weight is made into sixty-six shillings. Apart from the dimensions of the castle, which cannot be gathered from any of the records, a good idea of its extent may be inferred from a mere enumeration of the various accessory structures with which it was provided, so far as referred to in connection with payments. Separate from the main building, which must have contained accommodation for a considerable body of men, mention is made of a hall built on piers, houses within the inner court with a middle wall enclosing it, and a chapel, together with such subsidiary structures as a wine house, bakehouse, goldsmith's house, a malt-house, brew-house, and a mill with its mill-pond and lade, and lastly, a moat. For the expenses connected with some of these buildings, viz., the houses within the innercourt, the middle wall enclosing it, and the wine house, the Constable had not leisure to account, and they are therefore not included in the £511 expended at the date mentioned. Among others, however, the following items, which have no direct connection with the building itself, are included in the statement of expenditure, and when these are also taken into account, the value of money at this particular period will be more fully realised. Some of the entries are further rather peculiar, and serve to throw a little light on the habits and modes of life of that far away time. In connection with the king's visit, it is noted that James Del More received the sum of £2 1s "to make provision at Tarbert for the king's need," while at the same time there was delivered to "John, clerk of the kitchen," twelve codri of cheese valued at 12s. In preparation for the other guests, a sum of 2s 2½ d was expended in providing "litter for the chambers of the Lord Bishop of St. Andrews and Sir James, Lord of Douglas, with the cutting and carriage of branches of birch for repairing the hall and chambers." For "keeping forty of the queen's

sheep before the arrival of the king," 1s; "keeping the poultry for fifteen days," 1s 10½d; "keeping the king's marts and swine by two shepherds and two lads," seven bolls of meal; "watching bran for the dogs at Wester Tarbert for three weeks," 2s 6d; to "Copin Wef, the merchant, by the king's order, for cloths bought of him at Tarbert," £1 6s 8d; "carriage of bread from Tarbert to Skipness," 1s 10d; "driving marts to Skipness twice," 8d. Besides these there were also included the Constable's salary, Sir Maurice the Chaplain's salary, wax for the chapel, "building a house in the isle anew, with roofing for the same;" "one hundred large boards bought and sent to Cardross for repairing the park," 3s 4d; "keeping and watching a prisoner" 3s 4d; "part payment for building a new pele (fort) at Wester Tarbert," £4; to William Scott, £8 "as part payment of £13 6s 8d, agreed for with him for making a road from the one Tarbert to the other," &a, &c. As was to have been expected, more particularly in connection with such a building as the castle, the great bulk of the expenditure was on mason work. To Robert, the principal contractor for the mason work, a sum of £282 15s was paid, besides a gratuity of £5 6s 8d, "because in the king's absence he had built the walls wider than agreed on." John, another mason, received £28 7s 8d "by bargain for building the said castle;" while Adam, a third mason, was paid "by covenant for building the said castle, £9 10s;" and a further sum of £50 "for burning seven hundred and sixty chalders of lime for that building." The roofing of the "houses in the castle" is stated as having occupied two roofers for forty days, and for this large undertaking they were rewarded with the sum of 13s 4d, just two pence a day for each man. Of the skilled workmen whose wages are specified the best paid was the smith, who received nine-pence per day. Next to him came the plumber, with eightpence a day; while the carpenter got sixpence a day. Compared with these the stipend of Sir Maurice the Chaplain cannot be considered very satisfactory, for it is put down at the modest sum of £2 for the half year. Indeed, when we find that even the Constable, the chief officer of the castle, was content to receive a shilling a day, it is evident that the skilled workman who received his eightpence or ninepence was a most important individual, and most probably very well off with his seemingly modest wage. But if wages were small, the price of provisions was of course correspondingly low. The materials entering most largely into the dietary of the period were oatmeal and cheese. From numerous entries in the accounts, it is evident that the chief source from which these commodities were obtained was Islay, and they were supplied in such quantities that large consignments were made to the king at Cardross, and to the chamberlain, "Sir Robert of Peblis". When provisions formed part of the wages of a workman, these were the articles supplied, and the allowance given to a man for a month was generally one boll of meal and one codrus (about a stone) of cheese, the whole being valued at two shillings and sixpence. Other things were also equally low in price. Sixteen chalders of coal, equal to twenty-four tons, cost only twenty-one shillings and fourpence, and was used for "the work done by Patrick the smith." Mention is further made of five horses "for the carriage of lime," having been purchased for £1 17s. The expenses connected with bringing four of them from Islay was but ten shillings and sixpence, including sixpence which the man who had gone for them was pleased to receive as wages.

From these same records out of which the above particulars have been gleaned, a full statement may be gathered of the sources from which the funds for the buildings, &c., were obtained. By far the greater part was provided by the gentlemen in authority all round the west coast. Dugald Campbell, Sheriff of Argyll (or Ergadia, as it was then written), and Bailie of Athole, is credited with contributing a considerable portion, while a larger amount in the shape of oatmeal and cheese was forwarded by John M'Donald, bailie of Islay. Assistance was also rendered by "Dofnald, Neil and John M'Gilhon" - the last of them the ancestor of the M'Lean's of Duart. Contributions are further acknowledged from "Gilchrist M' Ay" (the progenitor of the M'Kays of Ugadale), from the Bishop of Sodor, the Rector of Arran, the Abbot of Paisley, the Bailie of Kintyre, &c. In the records of the year 1329 acknowledgment is made of £7 having been received by DeLany "out of the farms of Buchan, for the work of Tarbert," and of a sum of £2 from a William of Bonkill. Notices in connection with expenditure at this time include an entry in this same year of £2 as part payment to William Scott for "making and maintaining the park of Tarbert," and a further sum of £5 to the same individual in 1330

as allowance in full for the said park. On completion of the castle sufficiently to fit it for its intended service, a keeper would be doubtless appointed by the Bruce. Recognizing its position as the most important on the Argyll coast, the first on whom he bestowed the office is said (but on doubtful authority) to have been his grandson, Robert Steward, who afterwards became Robert II of Scotland. Whether or not after the year 1326 the King again visited Tarbert we have no certain information. Residing as he did so frequently at Cardross, a very few hours with a favourable breeze would suffice to carry him through the Kyles of Bute, and across the waters of Lochfyne. Two entries, in which it is stated that wine and salt were bought "by the king at Tarbert" in 1329, may warrant the inference that he was resident in the castle in this year. Two other items in the accounts of the same year may point also in this direction. They refer to the "king's great ship." The first is one of eighteen shillings paid to twelve men passing from Dumbarton to Tarbert, "to bring back the great ship belonging to the king," while the other takes note of six shillings paid to nine men "passing with John, the son of Gun, to Tarbert, with the rigging of the king's great ship." The inference is further strengthened by the fact of a Court Jester having been brought to Tarbert in 1329, the entry referring to it stating that eighteen pence was paid for "the expenses of the men who accompanied Patrick, the fool, from England to Tarbert." The first occurrence of imperial interest in which, as far as is known, the central position of the castle was utilised took place in the year 1335. Ere this date the Bruce had gone "the way of all the earth," as also had Angus, the Lord of the Isles, his staunch ally at Bannockburn. John, the successor of the latter, failed to follow the example of his father in his warm adherence to the Scottish Monarchy, but as Fordun, the historian, mildly puts it "favoured the English interest." This position of affairs being highly unsatisfactory and prejudicial to the well-being of Scotland, it was considered extremely desirable to endeavour to come to some arrangement, and in order the more expeditiously and conveniently to carry out negotiations with this descendant of the "mighty Somerled," John, Earl of Moray, the guardian of Scotland, resided within the castle of Tarbert for a considerable portion of the time during which the negotiations were proceeding. Before they were completed he was called south to repel an invasion of French troops who had come to assist the English. The visitor to Tarbert never fails to note the particularly secure natural harbour with which it is endowed, and around which its houses are grouped. This fact of a commodious and safe anchorage, together with its proximity to West Loch Tarbert, and its comparative nearness to the important ports on the Firth of Clyde have constituted it, from the earliest period in which the necessity for such existed, the centre of export for the surrounding district, as well as for Islay and others of the southern isles. Evidence is found in connection with the customs of its occupying this position as early at any rate as 1328. During the time of Robert the Bruce the "great custom" was charged on three classes of exports, viz., wool, wool-fels (sheep skins with the wool on), and hides. In the year above referred to a charge of seven shillings and eight pence is made by "Sir Robert of Peblis," Chamberlain of Scotland, for "making a coket for the burgh of Tarbert," the use of which and its necessity will be understood by a reference to the following extract from the preface to vol. I. of the Exchequer Eolls already mentioned. "Merchandize 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. One of the items of expenditure in the Chamberlain's account of 1328 is the making of a coket (that is a coketseal) for the burgh of Tarbert. When goods were shipped at one port under the coket of another, they were included in the articles charged for, but the coket appeared on the credit side of the account; and we find the custumars of Berwick, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, and Perth, crediting themselves on various occasions with cockets not only of the royal burghs of Linlithgow, Inverkeithing, Stirling, Cupar, and Tarbert, but of the Earl of Moray's burgh of Lochmaben, and of the church burgh of Dunfermline. The custumars were persons appointed by the Crown in each burgh of export, being generally one or two of the leading burgesses to collect the king's great custom. "In this extract, it will be observed, Tarbert is classed as one of the royal burghs, and in the accounts of this period it is frequently referred to as "the burgh of Tarbard." Regarding the date of its erection as such, it is improbable it occurred before the reign of Robert Bruce. According to

Bell's "Law of Scotland," royal burghs, as a rule, sprung up beside royal castles, and this is stated in the preface just quoted from to have been apparently the case with regard to Tarbert. One of the privileges of royal burghs at this time was that they were required to contribute to the support of the country in the shape of taxes, and in the year 1329 Tarbert is credited with the sum of £4 8s 10d, as the "Contributio pacis " of the burgh. This appears to have been a contribution towards the amount which Scotland was called upon to pay to England as a war indemnity by the terms of the treaty of Northampton. While little indication of the extent or population can be gathered from the fact of its being a royal burgh, it may be reasonably inferred that even at this early date a community of considerable size must have existed in the village and its immediate neighbourhood. The following extract from a "Report on the settlement of the Revenues of Excise and Customs in Scotland," submitted to the Government more than three centuries later, viz , in 1656, by a Mr Thomas Tucker, is of much interest in connection with the position of Tarbert as a place of export, and the early methods of communication between the Western Islands and the centres of trade, as well as from its giving an indication of the class of mercandize which the Highlanders of the seventeenth century brought to market. Although there are a few discrepancies, there can be no doubt the reference is to Tarbert, both from the fact of the method described having been, as is well known, largely employed at this isthmus, and from its being the only place on Lochfyne to which the description otherwise could apply. The extract is as follows:- The inhabitants of Glasgow trade and deal "with their neighbours the Highlanders who come hither from the Isles and westerne parts; in summer by the Mul of Cantyre, and in winter by the Torban to the head (should be mouth) of Loquh Fyn (which is a small neck of sandy land, over which they usually draive their small boats into the Firth of Dunbarton), and soe passe up in the Cluyde with pladding, dry hides, goate, kid and deer skyns, which they sell, and purchase with theyr price such "Comodities and provisions as they stand in neede of from time to time ." With reference to the practice of dragging boats between the two lochs. Pennant in his "Tour in Scotland" remarks:- "It is not very long since vessels of nine or ten tuns were drawn by horses out of the west loch into that of the east, to avoid the dangers of the Mull of Cantyre, so dreaded and so little known was the navigation round that promontory."

CHAPTER III

ROYAL VISITS AND ROYAL GRANTS

FROM the year 1335, the date of the Earl of Moray's sojourn in the castle, till 1494, when James IV. was king, history is silent regarding Tarbert and its affairs. In this year we discover distinct traces of a royal visit. For many years previously the clan feuds which distracted Kintyre and the western islands proved a source of extreme annoyance to the Scottish crown, and the attempts made to settle contending claims were as frequent as they were unavailing. In the year 1493 James IV visited Campbeltown, and, to quote from the "Pictorial History of Scotland," "in the course of the year 1494 he visited the Isles no fewer than three times, so great was his anxiety to establish the authority of law and government in these remote districts." On two of these occasions, at least, James resided at Tarbert for a time. During his first visit which occurred in April, he made extensive repairs on the castle, and, as showing the importance he attached to it, he provided it, at this early period in the history of fire arms, "with artillery and skilful gimners". To this visit Tytler refers in the following terms :- " At Tarbert, in Kintyre, he repaired the fort originally built by Bruce, and established an emporium for his shipping, transporting thither his artillery, laying in a stock of gunpowder, and carrying along with him his master gunners, in whose training and practice he appears, from the payments in the treasurer's books, to have busied himself with much perseverance and enthusiasm "In the month of July King James is again at Tarbert. This occasion is rendered somewhat memorable by the fact that Parliament was summoned to meet him there in order to deliberate on the means to be employed for securing a more settled state of affairs in Kintyre and the Southern Isles. Regarding this meeting we learn from the preface to Vol. I. of the accounts of the Lord High Treasurer that "on the 5th of July, 1494, the lords of the east,

south, and west were summoned to meet King James IV at Tarbert, where, accordingly we find him on the twenty-fourth with the Christopher and other ships, gunners and munitions of war. Having repaired the castle of Tarbert, and victualled and garrisoned it as a basis of operations, he proceeded to reduce the castle of Dunaverty, in South Kintyre. The expenses connected with the summoning of the Lords at this time, and the method by which it was affected, are gathered from the two following entries in the Treasurer's accounts :- "In primis the V day of Julu, gevin to Donald Malynne, currou, to pass with letters to the Lords of the Westland for the meeting of the King at Terbert, xs (10s)." "Item to John Keir to pass with sic lik letters in the Southland and the Eastland, xiiij s." As illustrating the King's generosity and the habits of the times, the following entry is interesting and significant :- "Item gevin to the gunnaris, the xxiiij day of July, be the King's command, to drinksilver, xls (40s)."

Nor were the necessities of the chapel overlooked, for mention is made of £6 13s 4d having been given towards its expenses "quhen the King was at the Terbert." In the accounts of this year, also, we find the Bishop of Dunblane credited with having forwarded £20 "to the bigin of Tarbert," and a like sum was "resaut fra the Abbot of Newbotill for the said caus." The next occasion on which we find King James at Tarbert was in the year of 1498. It is thus referred to in the preface just quoted from :- "He sailed on the 8th of March (from Ayr), and touching at Arran, proceeded 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 Dunchal." "Desirous of providing for the strongholds he had established there and at Tarbert, he sometime after sent 'ane cole man to pas in Kintyre tovesy gif colis may be wonnye thare." Following this entry in the accounts of the period is one of eighteen shillings paid to a Dumbarton collier to make working tools and proceed into Kintyre. The reader of Scottish history needs not to be informed that notwithstanding the frequent efforts then made for the pacification of the rival clans, Kintyre and the Southern Hebrides continued in a state of lawlessness and bloodshed. In April 1499, we therefore find this able and energetic monarch once more in Tarbert. About this time a new policy began to be adopted for the enforcement of order among the clans in the more seriously disturbed districts, and in the course of this year we find the Government applying it to districts around Tarbert. This policy consisted in the giving of grants of lands, castles &c., to some of the more powerful nobles, in return for which they were bound to maintain order in their respective districts. From the fact of the clan Campbell being one of the most powerful in Argyllshire, and the most likely from this and other circumstances to curb the turbulence of other clans, this position was assigned to them in several parts of the shire. According to Gregory, the influence of the Argyll family was first brought to bear on Kintyre and the Isles in the following manner :- During the visit of James IV., which has just been referred to, "he gave a commission to Archibald, Earl of Argyll, and others, for letting on lease for the term of three years, the entire lordship of the Isles, as possessed by the last lord both in the Isles and on the mainland, excepting only the Island of Isla, and the lands of North and South Kintyre. Argyll received also a commission of lieutenandry, with the fullest powers over the lordship of the Isles. "A few months later he was appointed "Keeper of the castle of Tarbert, with the 'balyery and governans' of the lands of Knapdale and all profits and dues belonging to the same, to beheld during the King's pleasure. " But these concessions were only the introduction. In 1505 there was further "granted to the same earl the offices of Justiciar and Chamberlain of the lands and lordships of Knapdaill and Kintyre, and of Captain of the house and fortalice of Tarbert, and also the lands of Kilberry and the south half of Knapdaill, with the patronage of the church of Kilberry (allunited into the barony of Tarbert), with one half of the King's dues. In the years 1526, 1529, 1541, and 1542, the grant in one form or other was renewed and confirmed, the influence of the Argylls in the neighbourhood increased and strengthened, and the keeping of the castle of Tarbert has ever since remained in the hands of the family of MacCalein Mor as the feudal superiors. Among the many changes of ownership which the lands in the neighbourhood of Tarbert had undergone from one cause or other previous to this date, it is difficult to trace the proprietorship connectedly. In the thirteenth century, and for some centuries later, Tarbert, and much of the north of Kintyre, formed part

of the barony or lordship of Knapdale. Early in the thirteenth century most of Knapdale, including the lands of Skipness, and those in the neighbourhood of Clachan, seem to have been possessed by Syfyn or Swene of Argyll. As early as 1262 Dufgal the son of Swene granted to Walter Steward, "Earl of Mentheth," his land of Skipness reaching over the country to Clachan, "in free barony for payment to the King of two-thirds of the service of one soldier and other services." At some time previous to the year 1310, Robert Bruce is said to have granted Knapdale to John of Mentheth, a descendant of the above Walter Steward, but in this year "King Edward II of England, in order that John the son of Swien of Argyll, and Terrealnanogh and Murquocgh his brothers might render themselves more hateful to John of Meneteth, his enemy, and to others his enemies in Scotland, granted to them the whole land of Knapdale which belonged to their ancestors, provided they could recover it out of his enemies' hands."

In this extract we have an interesting illustration of one of the methods employed by the English for increasing their influence and furthering their ends even in these remote districts. From the *Origines Parochiales* we learn further that :- " In the year 1335, Edward Balliol granted to John of the Isles for his allegiance 'the land of Knappedoll' and other lands." This was the period when the Earl of Moray visited Tarbert, in order to negotiate with the Lord of the Isles, who was said by the Scottish historian "to favour the English interest". "In 1376, King Robert II. granted to John Del Yle, and Margaret, his wife, half of his lands in Knapdale." "In 1475, John, Earl of Ross, and Lord of the Isles, forfeited all his possessions to the crown, and on his restoration in 1476, the lordship of Knapdale was reserved to the crown. "In 1481, King James III. seems to have restored to them all the more modern lordship of Knapdale, which, however, it is noted, was claimed by "Makelane and Maknele." Most of the places mentioned in this grant will yet be known from their old spelling. They are as follows: — Barm ore Garalane, Achnafey, Strondowr, Glenmolane, Glenraole, Largbanan, Bamellane, Kowildrinloch, Glannafeoch, Ardpatrik, Ardmenys, Largnahowshyn, Forleyngloch, Crevyr, Drumnawmkloch, Kilmalowok, Drumdrisok, Schengart, Bargawre, Clachbrek, Balonkyrt, Arrymore, Owragaig, Achtydownegall, Scottomyl, Drummalaycht, Downynskeig, Le Lowb, Lemnamwk, Gartwaiche, Tescard, Altbeith, Crag-keith, Achetymalane, Dowynynvltoch, Renochane, Kilchamok, Gartnagruach, and Ormisay. The Knapdale portion of the district covered by these names, as distinguished from the Kintyre part, was included in the Commission granted to the Earl of Argyll in 1499.

CHAPTER IV

A FREEBOOTER OF THE OLDEN TIMES

BY an historian of the sixteenth century, a rather black picture is presented of the morals and manners of the Islesmen of those days. Indeed, they would seem to have been little removed from barbarism. "The Highlanders who dwell on the mainland, though sufficiently wild," he allows, "show some shade of civilisation; but those in the islands are without laws or morals, and totally destitute of religion and humanity." The many stories that exist of feuds conducted with savage cruelty, demonstrate only too plainly that the general accusation was not unwarranted. Freebooting and piracy were rampant. These were the days in which Alan-nan-Sop, one of the most noted pirates and freebooters that the Scottish coast has ever produced, was at the height of his power, and he, along with many others of like predatory tendencies, succeeded effectually in keeping all the western parte in a state of ferment and terror. This Alan was an illegitimate son of Lachlan Catanach MacLean, of Duart, chief of the clan MacLean, by a daughter of the laird of Tresmish. According to some, his nick-name of Alan-nan-Sop (Alan of the Straw) was derived from his having been born, by some accident, on a heap of straw, while according to others he received it in consequence of a custom he had of setting fire to houses with his own hand, by means of a blazing wisp of straw, when on his freebooting expeditions. Some years after the birth of Alan, the beauty of his mother having captivated MacLean of Torloisk, a man of rank in the clan, he married her and took her to

reside at his castle of Torloisk. Unfortunately for Alan, or rather for many others who suffered in consequence, he succeeded in securing his step-father's ill-will. He was therefore forced to shift for himself, and strive by some means or other to win an inheritance independently of the old chieftain. Young, strong, and brave to desperation, he entered as a sailor on board one of the numerous ships engaged in piracy along the coast, and "in process of time obtained the command, first of one galley, then of a small flotilla, with which he sailed round the seas and collected considerable plunder, until his name became both feared and famous. "From the following translation of a paper which appeared in a Gaelic magazine, "Cuairtear Nan Gleann," of August, 1841, it will be observed that Alan resided for a time in the Castle of Tarbert, and had considerable possessions in the neighbourhood. On account of previous writers having circulated many untruths regarding the redoubtable Alan, to the regret of the author of this paper,' he announces his effort as being an earnest attempt to give a true and faithful account of the doings of his hero, and we may accept it as such. Regarding the statement contained therein with reference to the gift of Tarbert Castle by MacDonald of Islay, we may suppose he received it from the latter for the taking of it from his hereditary enemies, the Campbells. Once in his possession, Argyll evidently preferred to have him as a friend than a foe. That part of the paper which refers more particularly to Tarbert is as follows :-"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 M'Cailein 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. The Lord of Coll was a noted bard, and he began to make a song to Ailean-nan-Sop. He sang the song-this got the better of Alan-he loosed him and gave him his freedom, saying to him, " Take care what you say about me after this-there is a little bird in Coll that comes to tell me your language at your own table- I will let you go, but be on your guard henceforth." (Thoir an aire ciod a their thu 'na dhMgh so mu m' thimchioU-sa - tha eunbeag ann an Cola tha tighin a dh' innseadh dh5mhosa do chainnt aig do bh6rd fin - leigidhmi as thu, ach hi a' d' earalas It so a mach.)

When Alan became old, he gave up his evil habits, and abandoned plundering and robbing, but this did not please his warriors who were in the castle -the flesh was not so plentiful as it used to be. On a certain day he gave a feast, and one of his men was picking a bone on which there was not much to be got. " A wonderful change has come on this house," said he, "when the bones are so bare." (" 'Sann air an tigh so," ars 'esan, "a thainig an da latha'nuair tha na cnalmhan co lom ") Alan heard him, and understood what was meant - " Let every boat that belongs to us beready to-night, our boys and our men, and we will try to put in a little flesh for the winter."(Biodh gach Inrlinn a bhuineas dninn deas an nochd, ar gillea'n's ar daoine, agus fiacbaidhsinn beagan fedla chur a stigh air son a' gheamhraidh.) (Off they set through the Kyles of Bute, and went up the river Clyde to near Glasgow ; they took much spoil, and returned with every boat filled. This is the greatest and the last booty that Ailean-nan-Sop

every took, and he gave it the name of the "spoil of the rib " (in allusion to the bone which his follower had been picking.) Alan became very aged. He went to Icolmkill, and made his peace with the clergy, and shortly afterwards died, and was buried in Iona in St. Oran's burying ground with his ancestors, the family of Duart. Alan had one son and one daughter. He put his son to death because he attempted to murder Hector Mor, his father's brother; and his daughter married Murdoch the Short, of Lochbuy. The estate that Alan took from the "Family of the Iron Sword," the family of Leitir, came after his death to MacLean of Duart, and he gave it to Lachlan Og, son of Sir Lachlan Mor of Duart, and from him came the family of Torloisk. Ailean-nan-Sop died about the year 1555, between that and 1560. The flat stone on this man's grave can be discovered in Icolmkill."

CHAPTER V

THE SHERIFFDOM OF TARBERT

In such lawless and turbulent times as those we have been referring to, the difficulty in administering law was in no district felt to such an extent as in that embraced in the present shire of Argyll. The large area which it covers, the diversified character of the country, and the inclusion within it of so many islands, would indeed at that time have made the task an almost impossible one. As a result of this, we find that at the period we have been referring to, the northern portions were attached to the shire of Inverness, the central and larger portion of the mainland constituted the Sheriffdom of Lorne or Argyll, and the remainder was formed into the shire or Sheriffdom of Tarbert. Regarding the date of formation of the shire of Tarbert, it cannot be arrived at, but its existence may be traced as far back as the year 1481. Including as it did within its jurisdiction the districts of Kintyre and Knapdale, the islands of Gigha, Islay, Jura, Scarba, Colonsay, and Mull, together with a number of the smaller isles, its extent was very considerable. It is somewhat peculiar to find that previous to 26th February, 1481, when it was made apart of the shire of Tarbert, the district of Knapdale was included in the shire of Perth. At an earlier period still, however, it formed a portion of the shire of Lorn or Argyll. The hereditary offices connected with the shire of Tarbert were for the greater part of its existence held by the house of Argyll. Among these offices were those of Heritable Lieutenant, Chamberlain, Sheriff, and Coroner.

Until its amalgamation (when the country was more settled) with the shire of Argyll in 1633, in accordance with an Act of Parliament passed on 28th June of that year, it continued to send up its representative to Parliament, its last member being Sir Lachlan M'Lean, of Morvem, who had been elected by the Freeholders in September, 1628. The following extract from the Act by which it was abolished is of considerable interest:- "His Majestie with advyse and consent of the thrie estates of this present Parliament, Hesunited and be thir presents unites The said shirefdome of Tarbett to the forsaid shirefdome of Argyll, And ordaines baith the saids shirefdoms of Argyll and Tarbett heirby united as saidis To be callit in all tyme coming the shirefdome of Argyll." And farther, it goes on to add that "no citationes, sumonds, denunciationes of homings, inhibitiones, brieves, nor na nthersick publick citations or proclamationes sail be usit at na tyme heireftir at the mercatt croceor accustomat place of Tarbett". It appears that during a portion at least of the period of its existence, the law officers of the shire of Tarbert were unable to overtake the work committed to them, for we find that by an Act of Parliament passed in 1503, a Sheriff was specially appointed for the "south His and thai partis," who was to have his seat either at Tarbert or Loch Kilkerran. The following extract from the Act explains fully the reasons for the new appointment : "Item becaus thair hes bene greit abusioun of Justice in the north partis and west partis of the realme, sic as the north His and south Ills, for lak and fait of Justiceairis Justicis, and schirefis And thair throu the pepill ar almaist gane wild It is thairfor statute and ordainit for the acquietting of the pepill be Justice that thair be in tyme to cum Justicis and schirefis depute in thai partis as effcir folowis that is to say That the Justicis and schirefis of thenorth Ills half thair salt and place

for administratioun of Justice in Invemes or Dingwale as the materis occurris to be decemyt be the saidis officiaris And that ane uther Justice ands chiref be maid and depute for the south His and thai partis and to haif his place and saif for administratioun of Justice in the tarbart or at loch kinkerane at the will and plesour of the saidis officiaris as the materis occurris." Although for administrative purposes the separate existence of the shire of Tarbert ceased in 1633, the frequency with which the phrase "Shire of Tarbert" occurs for many years afterwards in proclamations, letters, &c., shows that for practical purposes such as the massing of levies, the sub-division was felt to be very convenient. It is not till the year 1705 that we find the expression "Tarbet in the shire of Argyll," occurring in the records. A somewhat thorough search through the "Acts of the Parliaments of Scotland," and the "Register of the Privy Council," has been productive of a few items of information which serve to act as landmarks in the history of Tarbert and its shire, and to link it, in some instances slightly, in others to an important extent, with the most stirring events of the times. These were the days in the history of our country when every man was more or less a soldier, and ready, at any time, to don his armour and assume his weapons at the call of his superior or chief. Taking advantage of such a condition of affairs. Government determined to find means of improving the fighting power of the nation, and bringing it more under the control of the central authority, and with this end in view an Act was passed on 5th March, 1574, entitled an Act "Anent the making of Wapinschawingis." In stating its purport and necessity it declares that "forasmekle as it is maist requisite that in time of peace provision be maid and cair taken for the weare when at goddis pleasur it may happen," wappinschaws should be held twice a year (on July 20th and October 10th) at convenient places within the several jurisdictions. This was the nearest approach to the compulsory system of the Continent that our country has ever adopted. All able-bodied men were required, on penalty of a fine, to attend these gatherings at the proper time and place, provided with weapons and armour suitable to the rank of the individual, and they were held on the same day all over the country, lest the same weapons, &c., should be made use of by different persons, thus leading to a deficiency which could only be discovered when they were called out for active service. In order that the Government might have a thorough knowledge of the military capabilities of each district, the Sheriffs, Bailies, &c., were ordered to send a complete list of the muster and of the weapons to the Regent, within forty days after the Wappinschaw, under a penalty of one hundred marks. Certain persons were appointed to co-operate with the above officers in receiving the musters, examining the arms, &c., and we find that those who were commissioned at this time to act in the Sherifffdom of Tarbert were James Campbell, of Ardkinglas, and Dugald Campbell, of Auchinbreck. Probably as a result of these grand field days and the increased control thus gained over the clans, levies from the outlying districts came to be more frequently employed for imperial purposes in other and distant parts of the country. In the year 1579 we find that a levy of all the inhabitants within the shire of Tarbert was ordered for service at the siege of the castles of Hamilton and Draffen, held by the Hamiltons against the King. In 1580, 1582, and 1588, levies were raised for employment against the Border thieves; in 1584, against the "enemies of the true religion in the North;" in 1592 and 1601, against the McGregors; and in 1596 and 1608, against the Islesmen. In the year 1597 they were for the fourth time called upon for service against the Border thieves, but on this occasion the levy partook of the nature of a compromise, as expressed in the proclamation, when it states it to be lawful to the 'haill inhabitants of Tarbett, comprehending thair in Ergyll," to furnish "ane hundreth hieland men with a commander bodin with hacquetbutis, bowis, havirshoms, swerdis, darlochis, and targeis," and that the observance of this alternative by the said sherifffdom "sail releve the haill remanent inhabitants thair of fra thair personal service to this present raid". In 1581, a sum of £40,000 (Scots) was granted by Parliament for the purpose of repressing the Border thieves, and resisting a threatened English invasion, which sum was to be raised by a special tax. In the following year, Colin, Earl of Argyll, was sued for non-payment of the portion imposed on the shire of Tarbert, and in the course of a petition to the Privy Council to stay the letters of homing against him, the following passage occurs. It demonstrates very plainly how unaccustomed the Highlanders of these days were to taxation, and how little inclined they were to at all acknowledge the

principle of sharing the burdens of the State :-"Attoure, gif the said compliner in onywyse be addettit in the said taxatioun, the samin isonly as schiref of the schirefdome of Tarbert; quhilk hes nevir bene in use of paying ony taxationn or contributioun in ony King's tyme of befor: yea scarslie will pay thair awin fewmales,- the saidis haill landis, at the leist for the maist part, nevir being stentit norretonrit, yea the mabt part of the samin bmikit but sesing or evident; and the farthest thesaid compliner can be addettit into is bot only to do his diligence. Quhilk he hes doneabeady: viz upoun lettirs of impetrat be him of his Hienes and the saidis Lordis of Secrete Counsale, he hes causit charge the frehalders, under the pane of rebelloun, to mak payment, lyke as alsua he wald have causit poind thair reddiest guidis and geir for the samin". The Privy Council commanded Argyll to pay the sum by a certain date, or else "to report lettirs dewlie execute and indorsat upoun the barronis, frehalders, and utheris, addettit inpayment thairof," and in the meantime suspended the letters of homing.

CHAPTER VI

MILITARY AFFAIRS 1600-1745

THE seventeenth century had scarcely dawned ere James VI., in one of his more courageous moods, made the brave resolve of undertaking an expedition in person to Kintyre and the Isles, in order to bring his rebellious subjects of these regions to submission. Accordingly we find a proclamation was issued in April, 1600, commanding the inhabitants of the shires of Ayr, Renfrew, Dumbarton, and some other districts, to meet him at Dumbarton on the 10th of July. Two days after this date he hoped to reach Tarbert, where all within the bounds of Tarbert, Bute, Argyll, Athole, and Breadalbane, were instructed to await his arrival in order that their passage to the Isles might be facilitated, all the boatmen and fenders upon the water of Clyde and the whole sea-coast thereabout were summoned to repair to the "ferry of Tarbett" (evidently Port 'a Mhaidhe, on the Kerry shore), with their boats upon the said 12th July, and there attend for transporting the army under pain of loss of life, lands, and goods. Arrived at Tarbert, we can readily picture the boats conveyed across the isthmus as on the occasions made memorable by former royal progresses; and once upon the waters of the Western Loch, a few hours sail would suffice to transport them, it might be, to the south of Kintyre, to Islay's verdant shore, or other disaffected district. At the last moment, however, the projected expedition was abandoned, firstly on account of the poverty and distress of the people of Scotland at that time, and secondly, for what would probably appear to James the more important reason, viz., that he was afraid to "hasard himself" there unless well supported by troops. Several years after the collapse of this well-intentioned project, the old system introduced in the fifteenth century for the quieting of turbulent districts was again had recourse to. In Kintyre and the Southern Isles the chief disturbing influence continued to be the Macdonald's, and the several offshoots of that ancient and powerful clan. That their powers should be curbed if peace was to be secured and civilisation fostered, seemed to the Government of the day an absolute necessity, and no more convenient or less expensive method could be devised than that of setting one powerful clan against another by holding out the temptation of increased territory and, accordingly, in the year 1607, the grants formerly referred to as having been made to the Argyll family in the neighbourhood of Tarbert were so far extended as to include the whole of Kintyre. That the brave descendants of the Lords of the Isles should tamely submit to this wholesale deprivation of their choicest possessions was not for a moment to be expected, and the years of petty though bloody warfare that ensued between the two clans only ceased when in the year 1615 the power of the Macdonald's was effectually broken. For twelve years previous to this date their chief, Sir James Macdonald, was a prisoner in Edinburgh, and during six of these years he lay under sentence of death. In the spring of this year, however, he succeeded in effecting his escape, and sought the shelter of the Isles as speedily as possible. Once more restored to the land of his forefathers, his position as chief was soon realised, and he very shortly found himself at the head of a body of four hundred men, mostly natives of the northern isles. Knowing full well the restless nature of the clan, and feeling assured that an effort of a determined character would now be made,

the Government, in the absence of Argyll in England, gave orders to Sir D. Campbell, of Auchinbreck, and Campbell of Ardkinglas, to take measures for the protection of Argyll proper, Knapdale and Kintyre. Until the Earl should arrive, Auchinbreck was appointed to take chief command, and the men of Tarbert, Argyll, Ayr, Dumbarton, Renfrew, &c , were under orders to attend him when required. As was anticipated, Sir James was not long inactive. Having completed some fortifications in Islay, he forthwith landed on the shores of Kintyre, and sent the fiery cross throughout that district to summon all the Macdonalds to arms. Towards the end of July he moved northwards in full force, and took up a position about ten miles from Tarbert, announcing his determination to reach the isthmus about the thirtieth of the month.

Auchinbreck by this time, however, had gathered to him three hundred men with whom he held the isthmus, his object being simply to prevent the MacDonalds from leaving Kintyre and pushing into Knapdale. In this resolve he was confirmed by the Government, who, though ordering Ardkinglass and Lochnell to join him with the men of Cowal and Lorn, impressed upon him the desirability of not risking an attack, but of simply contenting himself with holding his position, and confining the MacDonalds to the peninsula till the arrival of Argyll. In this manner the MacDonalds, who do not appear to have shown much activity, were cooped up in Kintyre during the whole of August. In the following month Argyll arrived upon the scene. At Duntroon, on Loch Crinan, he mustered his forces, having among them a contingent of four hundred hired soldiers, whom he had received from the Government. Few of the men of the shire of Tarbert having joined Argyll from the fact of their being nearly all MacDonalds or favourers of the clan, the employment of these mercenaries was rendered all the more necessary. The Earl's course of action was soon determined upon. Having ascertained that MacDonald's galleys were stationed at the island of Cara, he decided on surprising them, if possible, by night, with the view of lessening their chances of escape from the mainland, and with this intent despatched Calder with a fleet of galleys containing a force of eight hundred men. On the same day he himself reached Tarbert with the remainder of the troops, where they were joined to those under the command of Auchinbreck. It was high time for Sir James to bestir himself. Advised of the arrival of Argyll, and determined, if possible, to prevent his advance into Kintyre, he hurried forward his Uncle Ranald with from three to four hundred men, "to stop the passage from Tarbert on the east," whilst Coll MacGillespich (Coll Ciotach) with three boats and sixty men proceeded to West Tarbert to reconnoitre. Coll had the first stroke of success. Campbell of Kilberry being engaged on a like service on the side of Argyll, he and some of his followers were captured by Coll, who then retreated. Intending to make for the ships at Cara with his prisoners. By this time, however, Calder had reached Gigha, and Coll, still retaining the captives, found himself obliged to hasten to Kintyre, and abandon his boats. Notwithstanding Calder's arrival at Gigha, he was unsuccessful in the object of his cruise, Keppoch and the others who had been left with the ships having been warned of the approach of the ships of Argyll by a beacon which Largie's people had lighted, and so made good their escape. Their flight, however, was a serious and unexpected shock to Sir James. On the east side, also, misfortune awaited the MacDonalds. Attacked by Argyll, they were forced to yield, and beat a hasty retreat. Though pursued far into Kintyre they succeeded in effecting their escape, but were so cut up that Sir James was compelled to leave the peninsula, and seek a shelter in Eachrin. Later on the unfortunate chief returned to Islay, then passed over to Ireland, and finally left the British Isles and sought a safe refuge in Spain. Keppoch and some of the other officers secured a safe retreat in Ireland. Coll Ciotach found his way to Islay, where for a time he held out in two forts, but finally surrendered, and afterwards becoming an active partisan of Argyll, he captured and delivered up to the authorities MacFie of Colonsay and eighteen others of his old allies. By the beginning of November the insurrection was completely quelled, and Argyll received orders to disband his hired troops. For some reason or other, however, he retained them for a period of six weeks longer, a proceeding which (more particularly as all the chiefs of the rebellion had escaped), nearly led to his incurring severe censure. As it was, the Government compelled him to pay out of his own resources the soldiers' allowances for those six weeks. Though thus

effectually humbled for a time, it was not long ere the Macdonalds were again able to take the field in force. Eighteen months after the crushing defeat of Montrose at Philiphaugh, the only chief remaining in arms for the King in the south and west was Sir Alister Macdonald, of Dunaverty, son of the brave Coll Ciotach. With over a thousand men he so ravaged Kintyre that in May, 1647, General David Lesley and the Marquis of Argyll advanced with the covenanting forces in order to expel him from the district. As illustrating the ease with which at that time it was felt the isthmus of Tarbert might be held against any army endeavouring to enter Kintyre from the Knapdale side, the following letter may be quoted. It is from the pen of Sir James Turner, Adjutant-General of this little army, and runs thus :- "From Inveraray we marched to Kintyre, which is & peninsula. Both before and at the entry to it, there were such advantages of ground that our foot for mountains and marshes could never have drawn up one hundred in a body, nor our horse above three in a breast, which, if Sir Alister had pre-possessed with those thousand or twelve hundred brave foot that he had with him, I think he might have ruined us, at least we should not have entered Kintyre (but by a miracle) and then in the true covenanter strain he goes on to add, "but he was ordained for destruction, for, by a speedy march, we made ourselves masters of these difficult passes, and got into a plain country, where no sooner he saw our horse advance, but with little or no fighting he retired. The result of the expedition, the defeat of Sir Alister at Eunaherin, his retreat to the Castle of Dunaverty, and the ultimate fate of its garrison, are well in own matters of Highland history. During the period of the Commonwealth, Tarbert Castle, in common with most of the castles in Scotland, passed into the possession of the Round-heads, by whom it is stated to have been strengthened by the construction of bastions and outworks. The following note of how it was re-captured by a body of Tarbert men is taken from Aikman's continuation of George Buchanan's history. After referring to the fact of Argyll's having been surprised by some Parliamentary forces while he lay ill at Inverary, of his having reluctantly submitted to the Commonwealth, and accompanied their forces to Dumbarton, as well as to the fact that some of his vassals, thinking, or pretending to think, that on his way thither he was a prisoner, stopped their march through a certain defile, he proceeds: "Others seized the castle of Tarbert on the same pretext during the absence of the greater part of the garrison, who had gone anutting, 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." From a contemporary, Sir Bulstrode Whitelocke, we learn that the above incident occurred about the beginning of September, 1652, and that the officer who was in command of the garrison at the time of the surrender was a Lieutenant Gillot. Eight years from the above date, the Commonwealth had ceased to be, Charles II. Was restored to the throne whose privileges he had abused; the great Marquis of Argyll, to whom we have just referred, and who had placed the crown on the King's head at Scone, was speedily brought to the block, and some years afterwards his son, the Earl of Argyll, was condemned to death, but escaped into exile before the bloody deed could be committed. After the discovery of the Rye-house plot in England, measures were taken to prevent a rising in the Campbell country, from the fact that the exiled Earl was stated to have promised aid to the conspirators, by calling his clansmen to arms against the Government in Scotland. That the measures were of a very thorough nature will be inferred from the fact that Charles appointed six lieutenants of the "shires of Argyll and Tarbet," who were called the lieutenants of Cowal, Inverary, "Sadel" or Kintyre, "Craigness," Dunstaffnage, and Tarbet respectively, and further issued a royal proclamation on May 5th, 1684, in which he commanded certain nobles and gentlemen to "have in readiness with all convenient Diligence the respective Proportions and Number of Men aftermentioned, well provided in Feir of Weir, well armed, and with Thirty Days Provision, for concurring with and assisting our said Lieutenants, &c." The noblemen and gentlemen who were instructed to come to the assistance of the Lieutenant of Tarbert, and the number of men they were respectively to bring, were as follows:-" The Earl of Mar Three Hundred Men, the Laird of Weem One

Hundred Men, the Earl of Seaforth Three Hundred Men, and Sir Donald M'Donald of Slait Two Hundred Men," while "all in the shires of Aberdeen, and Banff above Kincardine of Neil, Kildrummy, and Keith," were also to answer the Lieutenant of Tarbert, and be ready to come to his assistance on six days' warning, with thirty days' provision. The preparations, however, were at this time unnecessary, the country remaining undisturbed. With the events of the following year the history of Tarbert is intimately associated. Charles had died, and was succeeded in February of 1685 by James the Seventh of Scotland and second of England. In the spring of this year Argyll, with several influential covenanters who also had taken refuge in Holland, resolved on an invasion of Scotland, in order to wrest his native country from the rule of a Popish king. In conjunction with this effort the unhappy Duke of Monmouth made his unsuccessful attempt in the south. It being anticipated that the landing in Scotland would be affected in some part of the Earl's territory, with a view to making preparations for the invasion, the Marquis of Athole on April 29th received a commission as Lord Lieutenant of the "shires of Argyll and Tarbert" With the command of the expedition Argyll was nominally, but only nominally entrusted, for even before they left Holland, the Lowland refugees set themselves diligently to devise means of limiting his power, and of controlling all the movements of their so-called leader. Having touched at Kirkwall and Islay on their way, the expedition reached Campbeltown after a prosperous voyage, and there the Earl printed and dispersed a Declaration of War against the King, which had been prepared in Holland by a namesake of His Majesty, James Stuart, an "eminent lawyer and excellent person." Soon the fiery cross was hurried over hill and dale to summon to arms all the Campbell's from sixteen to sixty, and the isthmus of Tarbert, "a very central place," was fixed as the rendezvous. Slowly the summons was obeyed, and those who did appear seemed impelled more with love to the long banished Earl than with fondness for the cause. Encouraging accounts having been received from the Lowlands, Sir John Cochrane, Sir Patrick Hume, and others "earnestly pressed the Erle that wee might divide, and some of us go thither; he seemed satisfied, but withal, told us that his son Charles and other gentlemen were at Tarbot Castle with 1200 men, and if we would saile the ships thither, and many boats wee had, he with Sir John (Cochrane) and a good pairt of the sogers, would take a land march through Kantire, levie the whole country, and joine them, and that we might then goe to the Lowlands with a considerable division of men . . . So he marched, and we sailed; came to Tarbot, and found our friends at a rendezvous here. We made of horse and foot 1800 men."

The date of arrival at Tarbert was 27th May, and here the Earl printed a declaration concerning himself, in which, after rebutting the assertion of his enemies that this expedition was simply undertaken in order to recover his own lands, and expressing his grief at his "former too much complying with and conniving at the Methods" which had brought so much evil on his country, he goes on to state his purpose boldly thus:- "I have now with God's Strength suffered patiently my unjust Sentence and Banishment, Three Years and an Half, and never ofiered to make any Uprore or Defence by Arms, to disturb the peace upon my private Concern; but the King being now dead, and the Duke of York having taken off his Mask, and having abandoned and invaded our Religion and Liberties, resolving to enter into the Government and exercise it contrary to Law, I think it is not only just, but my Duty to God and my Country, to use my utmost Endeavours to oppose and repress his Usurpation and Tyranny; and therefore being assisted and furnish edvery nobly by several good Protestants, and invited, and accompanied by several of both Nations, to lead them, I resolve, as God shall enable me to use their Assistance of all kind toward the ends expressed in the said Declaration (The Declaration of War), I do earnestly invite and obtest all honest Protestants and particularly all my Friends and blood Relations to concur with us in the said Undertaking," &c., &c. These were brave words, but the time was when they would have been backed up by greater strength of arms than on this occasion answered to the Earl's summons. In earlier and more prosperous times, instead of the 1,800 men that assembled at Tarbert, MacCalein Mor could have easily raised 5000 or 6000 claymores; but so many chieftains had been thrown into prison, and so much had their territories been ravaged, that the spirit of the clan Campbell was broken. Nothing daunted, however, the Earl proceeded to organise his forces. The horse

were placed under Rumbold's command, while the infantry were divided into three regiments from 500 to 600 strong, under the following officers :- "Sir Duncan Campbel, John Aylief, and the Laird of Lapness (Elphinstone), were Colonels; Major Alexmider Campbel, the Laird of Barbreck, and a third, were Lieutenant-Colonels; James Henderson, John Fullarton, and Major John Campbell were Majors; and all inferior officers were at the Time nominate, and this Handful put in the best Order might be." In good time the ships of war arrived in the harbour from Campbeltown, They were three in number, the largest carrying thirty-six guns, the second twelve, and the third six, while in addition they had a small vessel laden with corn, which they had captured upon the coast. But whilst Argyll's forces were thus increased in numbers, as time passed their prospects of success, whatever they might be, were greatly reduced by the ceaseless quarrels and intrigues of some of the Lowlanders. "The bickerings," says Lord Macaulay, "which had begun in Holland, had never been intermitted during the whole course of the expedition; but at Tarbet they became more violent than ever." There being but six hundred Government troops in Argyllshire, and these in the neighbourhood of Inveraray, it was the Earl's desire to proceed there in the first instance, in order to expel them from the shire, which might easily be done, and raise more of his clansmen before passing to the Lowlands, but Sir John Cochran and some others of like mind were determined to proceed direct to Ayrshire, where they expected large numbers of the people to join them for the support of the Covenant. In their Highland allies they had little faith, regarding them as "half-papists," who had joined the enterprise simply for the sake of the Earl. To decide matters a council of war was held, and it was there resolved, contrary to the will of Argyll, that an invasion should be forthwith made on the Lowlands. Accordingly, on the 29th of May, two days after his arrival on the isthmus, the Earl "loosed from the Tarbet and came into the town of Rosa in the isle of Boot, where he took a night's provision for himself and his men."

ultimate fate of this ill-starred expedition is too well known to require lengthened mention here. Some of the party had a successful skirmish at Greenock, when they "took some meal out of a gimull, and a pretty barque out of the harbour, and returned to Rothesay. While wee were away, the Erle had caused burn the Castle, because a house of his had been burnt in Cowal." Evading the king's ships and forces, they effected a landing, but while marching through Dumbartonshire for Glasgow, the little army was broken up at Kilpatrick on the 18th June. After crossing the river Clyde, Argyll was taken prisoner at Tlnchinnan, on the river Cart, and carried to Edinburgh, where he was beheaded twelve days thereafter. Thus died the Earl of Argyll. Shortly afterwards, viz., on June 16th, an Act of the Scottish Parliament was passed by which certain offices, jurisdictions, &c., long possessed by the house of Argyll, were "united, annexed, and incorporated to the Crown of this his (James II.) Ancient Kingdome, to remaine inseparably ther-with in all time Coming," viz., inter alia, the offices of Justice General, Heritable Lieutenant, Chamberlain, Sheriff, and Coroner of "Argyll and Tarbert Shires;" and of constable of the castle of Tarbert, and superior of the lands of Tarbert, &c. In indicating the necessity for this confiscation, the Act states that the possession of so many offices had raised the Campbells to too great power. Of short duration, however, was this deprivation of offices and power, a complete restoration having been effected by the Revolution of 1688, when the last of the Stuarts was hurried from that throne which he had made the abode of tyranny and violence. For many months after the landing of William and Mary, and before their power was thoroughly established, the state of the country continued very unsettled. In May, 1689, the Committee of Estates having received notice that "some Irishes" had landed in Kintyre, ordered four companies of Lord Bargany's regiment, two companies of the Earl of Glencaim's regiment, and two of Lord Blantyre's regiment to march to Largs or other convenient port on the west coast, and there take ship for Tarbert, where they were to imite with some companies, or the whole of the Earl of Argyll's regiment. In addition to this force, Sir Duncan Campbell, of Auchinbreck, lieutenant-Colonel of the latter regiment, was further empowered to call together, if necessary, "all the fencible menin the continent of the shyres of Argyll and Tarbert, and to keep them in armes for defence of the countrie." That the "Irishes" were not to be lightly dealt with is apparent from the tenor of Auchinbreck's orders, he being strictly enjoined to "persew, kill, and dissipate any persones who shall appear in oppositione to the Government." On this occasion the natives of Kintyre

and that neighbourhood, in accordance with their wonted enmity to the Campbells, also rose in arms, but were subdued after a few skirmishes. At the period referred to, the chief support of James came from his co-religionists in Ireland, large numbers of Roman Catholic soldiers having been enlisted by Tyrconnel. On June 27th of this same year we find Viscount Dundee, commander of the forces that still adhered to James in Scotland, writing to Lord Melfort, and appealing to him to send over some reinforcements from that country. After requesting that from 5000 to 6000 troops, including 600 or 800 horse, might be landed at Inverlochry, his letter proceeds thus: - "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 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." But the king he never met. Whether or not Irish troops were sent to Cantyre cannot be gathered. However that may be, Dundee's proposed march to Tarbert never occurred, the fatal battle of Kiliencrankie having been fought, and Clavers sent to meet that Judge he erstwhile defied, ere an opportunity presented itself. With the succeeding efforts in 1715 and 1745, "in the same direction, and in favour of the Pretender, and Prince Charlie, the history of Tarbert is but lightly touched, the lairds and people of the village and its neighbourhood having espoused the Hanoverian cause. One incident, however, regarding the '45 may here be referred to. On this occasion it was the intention of Macdonald of Largie to join Prince Charlie, but he was hindered in a manner which is variously stated. Cuthbert Bede gives the following version on the authority of the late Laird of Largie :-"In the 'Forty-five' the then Laird of Largie was for going out. He was to join with other lairds in taking ship at Tarbert. The minister of Kilcalmonell invited him to spend the night at the manse on his way to Tarbert, and by the over-exercise of hospitality contrived that Largie should be late in getting up the next morning. And so it happened that when Largie arrived at Tarbert with his contingent the fleet had sailed. Thus was the property of Largie saved in the '45'. Afterwards Largie went to Paris and gave great entertainments to the Prince, whereby he got so much into debt as to be obliged to sell a portion of his estates." From another source he received this second version of the story:- "In the 'Forty-five' the proprietors of Kintyre raised their men against Prince Charlie, but Macdonald of Largie declared for the Prince. Upon this the Laird of Tarbert sent him word that if he intended to join the Prince, he would meet him on his way in passing, and that they would have a hot day of it, and that few Macdonald's should remain to join any party. On this the Laird of Laigie thought fit to change his mind, so he sent his men with the rest of the men of Kintyre" to Inveraray.

CHAPTER VII

LAIRDS OF TARBERT

THE M'ALISTERS AND CAMPBELLS

AS far back as the sixteenth century may be traced the connection with the village of the old M'Alisters of Tarbert, the former proprietors, to the last of whom reference has been made in the closing sentence of the preceding chapter. According to Mackenzie's "History of the Macdonalds," the M'Alisters claim their descent from Alexander, eldest son of Angus Mor, Lord of the Isles, but their real descent seems to have been from Alexander, second son of Donald of the Isles, and younger brother of Angus Mor. In the "Register of the Privy Seal" for the year 1515 appears the name of "Angus Vic EanDubh" This Angus, who was chief of the M'Alisters and Laird of Loup (an estate in Kintyre ten miles from Tarbert), had three sons, the second of whom, Donald, founded the Tarbert branch of the clan, and was constable of the castle, an office which became hereditary with them, and which they continued to hold for centuries as the vassals of the house of Argyll. Next to the M'Alisters of Loup this branch would seem to have been the most important. From references existing in several authorities to the successors of Donald, we find the following mentioned as subsequent lairds. According to the "Origines Parochiales," the possessor of the estates in the year 1580 was Charles

M'Alister. From the "Register of the Privy Council" we learn that in 1602 Archibald M'Alister, who was concerned in some raids into Bute, was then the heir apparent to the Tarbert estates. In the years 1667 and 1678 Donald was laird, and at these dates he was Commissioner of Supply for the shire of Argyll. The next to whom reference is made is a second Archibald.

He was in possession in 1685, and in his favour an act, for the institution of fairs in the village, was passed by the Scottish Parliament in the year 1705. Charles, the successor of the above, died in the year 1741, and was buried in the churchyard of Tarbert. On a marble tablet set in the wall surrounding the tomb may be read the following inscription to his memory, and to that of his wife, who was a daughter of Walter Campbell of Skipness :- "S. M. CAROLI M'ALISTER DE TARBERT, QUI OBIIT 3us AP., 1741, AETAT. ANNA CAMPBELL FILIA GUALTERI CAMPBELL DE SKIPNESS TUM EJUS CONJUX HOC MONUMENTUM POSUIT" Archibald, who succeeded to the estate, was the last of the line to inherit them, and with the severance of his connection, bonds were cut which had for centuries united the family with Tarbert and its fortune. In military affairs of imperial interest the M'Alisters would appear to have been usually found on the side favoured by their superiors, the Argylls. Like other clans, however, in the days when might was right, they had their own feuds and skirmishes with their neighbours. Sallying from the castle and holding it as a base of operations and a place of safe retreat, they were particularly well situated either for holding their own or for making forays by sea or by land upon the adjacent territories. On one occasion they were called upon to repel an invasion of the M'ivers. A branch of this clan having settled at Lochgilp, and built a sort of small fort on the west side of it, made many raids on their southern neighbours. As the result of two encounters, however, they were eventually almost exterminated. The first of these occurred with the M'Neils near the mouth of West Loch Tarbert, and probably in the vicinity of Lergnahunsion; the second was the occasion referred to above, in which they were seriously defeated by the M'Alisters of Tarbert on the shores of Lochfyne.

A favourite scene for the forays of the Knapdale and Kintyre men was Arran, and from the "Register of the Privy Council" it appears that in connection with these, complaints by the proprietors of that picturesque island were frequently made to the Government. In the raid into Bute in 1602, spoken of formerly, Archibald M'Alister, younger of Tarbert, was accompanied by Campbell of Auchinbreck, Colin Campbell, apparent of Kilberry, M'Neil of Tainish, &c., with a following of about 1200 men.

During the confiscation of Argyll, and while the followers of Athole were plundering the Campbells in all directions to their hearts' content, M'Alister also seized the opportunity which presented of enriching himself by making frequent raids on the territory of his former feudal superiors. Issuing from the shelter of the castle, Innellan and Colintrave on the one hand, and Inveraray on the other were laid under contribution. On one occasion, during June and July, 1685, we learn from "The Depredations committed on the Clan Campbell in 1685 and 1686," that articles of a most miscellaneous character, valued at £773. 6s 8d Scots, were "lifted" from "Neil Campbell of Ellengreig" and his tenants at Colintrave and its neighbourhood by "Donald M'Tlvorie (M'Gilvray) in Tarbert, tennent to Archibald M'Alister of Tarbert, and then his follower and servant, M'Eachern, M'Iffie (M'Phee), who were also "in Tarbert's companie," and their accomplices.

A complete list of the articles, stock, &c., removed is given, and the statement is interesting as giving an idea of the character of conveniences, and the sources of wealth at that date. Everything that they could lay their hands on seems to have been included in their booty horses, cows, sheep, geese, money, a ferry-boat (Colintrave), a gray plaid, a dirk, plough irons, hides, an anchor tow (rope), herring nets, meal, an axe, brewing graith, barrels empty and full, tables, chests, doors, a pot and crook, a brass pan, a standing bed, and other household plenishings. Continuing their excursion, and visiting the Captain of Dunoon's tenants at Innellan, they added to their plunder by killing "nyne great coues," valued at £140

Scots, and took possession, further, of cloth and other articles to the value of £50. From Pennymoir, from Inverayay, and from Auchinshellich, considerable contributions of a miscellaneous character were also secured during these same months. Such were the little diversions of the Highlanders of the seventeenth century. As to the disastrous effect of such raids on the country at large, they were only too well borne home to the Governments of these days, and with a view to fostering the arts of peace, establishing friendly intercourse, and furthering civilisation, many means were had recourse to from time to time. Among these was the establishment of fairs and markets in convenient localities. As far back as the year 1705 Tarbert was fixed upon for this purpose, as is formerly mentioned incidentally, and in September of that year an Act of the Scottish Parliament was passed instituting the same. The Act, among the last passed by the Parliament of Scotland, is somewhat interesting, and may be quoted in full. It is as follows :-

"ACT IN FAVORS OF ARCHBALD MACKALESTER OF TARBET FOR FOUR YEARLY FAIRS AND A WEEKLY MERCAT AT THE TOUN OF EAST TARBET."

Our Sovereign Lady and Estates of Parliament considering that fairs and mercats inconvenient places tend much to the good and advantage of the Inhabitants thereof and of Her Majesties other Leidges dwelling near thereto, and that it is very fit for these ends to authorize four yearly feirs and a weekly mercat at the Toun of East Tarbet, in the shire of Argyll, belonging to Archbald Mackalester of Tarbet, Do therefore by their presents Appoint four fairs to be kept and holden yearly in all time comeing, One thereof to begin upon the tenth day of May, Another to begin on the sixteenth day of July, Another to begin upon the nineteenth day of August, And the other to begin upon the sixteenth day of October, and each of them to continue two dayes. And a weekly mercat to be holden in all time comeingevery Tuesday at the said Toun of East Tarbet. And have Given and Granted and hereby Give and Grant to the said Archbald Mackalester his heirs and successors the right and priviledge of keeping the said yearly feirs and weekly mercats for all kinds of merchandicewith all the tolls customes and casualities thereof and all other liberties priviledges andimmunities and advantages used and wont to belong to any haveing the priviledge of keepiig fieirs and mercats within this Kingdom."

It will be observed that none of the above dates corresponds with that on which the yearly fair has been for long held, viz., the last Thursday in July, nor yet with the dates of either of the other three yearly markets recently established. According to "The Statistical Account of Scotland," published towards the end of last century, the Macalisters of Tarbert had been "by far the most considerable family in SouthKnapdale." Although descended from the Macdonalds, all their lands were held on feu charters granted by the Argylls. In their more prosperous days almost all the lands for some miles around Tarbert were in their possession, while northwards their territory extended along the coasts of Lochfyne and Lochgilp, to the very extremity of South Knapdale parish. Evil days, however, overtook the family. From some cause or other (according to one story, from the amount of his wine merchant's bills), Archibald M'Alister became very poor ; his lands were heavily mortgaged, and by degrees passed into other hands, so that some years 27 before the middle of the last century, the ancient stock ceased to be the possessors of a single acre. Dael and Craiglass became the property of Mr Macarthur Stewart, of Milton, and the other lands north of Inverneil fell to Mr Peter Dow Campbell, of Kildusclan (a title taken from the name of a small chapel on the shore of Lochgilp). Four farms constituting the Erin's estate became possessed by Mr Macfarlane, of Muckroy; three more were formed into the estate of Kintarbert, and became the property of Campbell of Elintarbert, from whom the late proprietrix, Miss M'Neil-Campbell, was descended; while the remainder of the original estate, with the mansion house which was situated at Barmore, just below the position occupied by the present residence, was purchased in 1746 by Archibald Campbell of Stonefield, great-great-grandfather of the present estemable Laird."Sic transit gloria mundi" By this time Tarbert Castle had fallen seriously into disrepair, and this fact, together with others that shall appear, formed the

subject of an important and unique lawsuit which the Duke of Argyll instituted against the last M'Alister laird, or rather against his creditors, in the year 1762, and which may be here referred to. While the M'Alisters were yet in prosperous circumstances, they had built for themselves the mansion-house at Barmore indicated above, and the castle being no longer required to serve its original purpose of a fort, its condition was neglected, contrary to the stipulations of the old charter. In feudal times, as is well known, the conditions on which lands, castles, &c., were held by a vassal were mainly those of service, the grant being made by the Superior and confirmed by the Sovereign. In the case of the Barony of Skipness and the keeping of its castle for example, the Earl of Argyll in 1511 conferred them on one of his sons upon the following conditions, viz., "furnishing two galleys, one of sixteen and one of fourteen oars, for the Earl's service when required, and paying yearly at the Castle of Skippinych twenty-four bolls meal, twenty-four bolls bear, and thirty-seven stones of cheese." The following excerpt from the feu-charter, which contains the points on which the action was based, is interesting, as showing to some extent the conditions on which the Tarbert estate was held, while the result of the suit (so far as concluded) in connection with some of the points raised, illustrates the transition state of the law at this period when a tithe of feudalism still existed. The charter, the original of which is in Latin, among other things stipulated that the vassal should provide –

"A boat of six oars in time of peace and war, which they shall be bound to equip properly with arms and all necessaries, 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. M'Alister and his heirs, as often as required. And likewise the said Archibald M'Alister 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 M'Alister 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."

In prosecuting his suit before the Lords of Session, Argyll admitted that the obligation contained in the charter to keep and defend the castle for the use of the Superior could not now be lawfully enacted, while he also agreed to pass from the clause obliging the vassal to support the fabric and maintain it wind and water tight for the reception and entertainment of the Superior gratis, provided the vassal became bound to uphold the mansion house lately built on the feu in the same manner and for the same lawful purpose. The clause referring to the boat and rowers he also insisted on, and contended that these several prestations should be performed and declared real burdens on the estate. For the creditors it was objected that the obligations of keeping up a house and a boat for receiving and entertaining the Superior, and for transporting him from one place to another, fell under an Act of George I., which discharges all personal services and attendance of vassals on their Superior, and ordains the same to be converted into an annual value in money. In reply, it was contended for the pursuer that the Legislature did not mean to abolish all personal obligations in charters, but only such as formerly gave Superiors an opportunity of convoking their vassals. By the preamble of the Statute, all service, with the exception of personal attendance, shooting, hunting, watching, and warding, were reserved, their purpose being entirely innocent. The Lords, in giving judgement, found as follows : "That the pursuer's vassal in the Estate of Tarbert is bound upon his own proper charges and expenses to keep and uphold a boat of six oars, and to provide the same with six rowers and a steersman and all things necessary

for the use of the Superior and his family, in terms of the former feu charters thereof : and also to keep the mansion house now built upon said estate wind and water tight: and find that the prestations are not personal services, and do not fall under the statute of George I. founded on, but that the future feu rights of said estate ought to be burdened there with, and to contain a reddendo in these terms; and remit to the Lord Ordinary to proceed accordingly. But with respect to that part of the reddendo of the former charters whereby the vassal is bound to receive and entertain the Superior and his heirs, gratis, in his Castle of Tarbert in the same way as the other Keepers of the Pursuer's Castles are bound to do, they remit to the Lord Ordinary to hear parties further, and do therein BA he shall see cause."

This decision was considered of much importance, and it became a precedent for future actions of a similar nature. Archibald Campbell of Stonefield, who purchased in 1746 the larger part of M'Alister's estate, and whose descendants continue still in possession, was a cadet of the house of Lochnell. By the male line the family is descended from John Gorm, second son of Colin, third Earl of Argyll, while by the female side they trace their descent from the Breadalbane stock through Sir John Campbell of Glenorchy, father of the first Earl of that ilk. The title of Stonefield is derived from the name of an estate which they formerly possessed on the picturesque shores of Loch Etive, and under the shadow of Ben Cruachan. It is now known by its Gaelic name of Auchnacloich. After selling their estates in this region, as well as some possessions in the island of Lismore, the Stonefields became connected with the Tarbert district as early as the year 1716 or 1717, by the purchase from the Campbells of Blythswood of a portion of their present estate situated to the south and west of Bardaravine bum. At this period the family were also possessed of estates in the parish of Kilmaronock, in the north of Dumbartonshire, while about the same time as they purchased the above land in the vicinity of Tarbert they became proprietors of the estate of Strathleven (then called Stonefield), situated in the neighbourhood of the town of Dumbarton. For many years Sheriff-depute of Argyll and Bute, Archibald Campbell would seem to have been a gentleman of much ability, determination, and resolution. He did much to improve the estate, and by his energy in enclosing it, and draining and planting extensively, increased its value very considerably. About this time important and very necessary efforts were made to improve the roads throughout Argyllshire, and in connection with those in the neighbourhood of Tarbert, Stonefield exerted himself in no light degree. This is well illustrated by an incident relating to the making of the road between Ardrishaig and Tarbert, which is given in the "New Statistical Account" : -"The Sliabh Ghaoil road, which was so useful before the introduction of steam, and conferred such a boon on the country generally, and on Kintyre particularly, was obtained through the instrumentality of Sheriff Campbell, one of the ancestors of the present family of Stonefield. The line was surveyed by an English engineer. It is said that he attempted to travel over the ground, but the rocks were so precipitous, the ferns so gigantic, the Englishman so unwieldly, and so unaccustomed to travel such rough grounds, that, after much tumbling and scrambling, he was obliged to betake himself to his boat, and finish his survey by rowing along the shore. On arriving at Barmore House, the residence of Sheriff Campbell, he remarked to the Sheriff that it was a hopeless thing to attempt opening a road along the projected line; that it was an undertaking fit for the Empress Catherine of Russia, and not fit for private individuals. The Sheriff ordered his clerk or treasurer to pay the English surveyor for his trouble, and with that determination and resolution which so much characterised that gentleman, the Sheriff set about the mighty task of opening the Sliabh Ghaoil road, and persevered till it was finished". Before the opening of this road, the district of Kintyre was quite insulated from the rest of Argyllshire. The only path by which any communication between the two places could be maintained was almost quite impassable. It ran along hills and dales which were intersected by water courses without any bridges. In summer the waters were fordable, but in winter the attempt to cross them was both difficult and dangerous."In carrying out this costly but useful undertaking, the Sheriff was ably assisted by His Grace the Duke of Argyll, and the gentlemen of the shire in general, who contributed liberally towards its accomplishment. On the death of Archibald Campbell, which occurred in the year 1777, he was buried at Arrivore, six miles from Tarbert, where was another residence of the family. He

was succeeded in the estates by his son John, judicially styled Lord Stonefield. A daughter, Elizabeth, married John Campbell of Carwhin, and became the mother of the fourth earl and first marquis of Breadalbane. Lord Stonefield was an eminent judge. "Admitted advocate in 1748, he was elevated to the bench of the Court of Session in 1762. In 1787 he succeeded Lord Gardenstone as a lord of justiciary, which appointment, however, he resigned in 1792, retaining his seat in the Court of Session till his death, 19th June, 1801, having been thirty-nine years a judge of the supreme court. By his wife, Lady Grace Stuart, daughter of James, second Earl of Bute, and sister of the Prime Minister, John, third earl. Lord Stonefield had seven sons, all of whom predeceased him." Colin, his eldest son, was Colonel of the Dumbarton Fencibles, which regiment he was instrumental in raising in the year 1794. After serving in Ireland during the rebellion, they returned to Scotland in 1802, and were reduced the same year. The second son, Lieutenant-Colonel John Campbell, was the hero of Mangalore, the soldier whose memorable defence of that town from May, 1783, to January of the following year, first arrested the victorious career of Tippoo Sultan. Born in 1753, this illustrious soldier entered the army in the eighteenth year of his age. He served successively in the 57th regiment, the 7th foot (with the latter in Canada, where he was taken prisoner), the 71st, and the 74th. By this time he had reached the rank of Major. In 1781 he exchanged into the 100th regiment, and with this corps he served with distinction in the East Indies against the troops of Hyder Ali, during which period he was appointed to the majority of the 42nd.³⁰

Wounded in an engagement with Tippoo Sultan, he refused to quit the field till the enemy was defeated. He was afterwards engaged in the siege of Annantpore, which he reduced and took from the enemy. In May, 1783, he was appointed to the provisional command of the army in the Bidnure country, and soon found himself called upon to defend the important fortress of Mangalore against the prodigious force of Tippoo Sultan. Tippoo's force was estimated at 140,000 men, with a hundred pieces of artillery, and the defence of the town by Major Campbell, with a garrison numbering only 1883, of whom but two or three hundred were British soldiers, "is justly accounted one of the most remarkable achievements that ever signalized the British arms in India." For two and a half months this little garrison resisted all the efforts of Tippoo. Breach after breach was made, which the besiegers attempted to storm, but they were invariably driven back at the bayonet's point. For a brief period a cessation of hostilities took place, and then for a time the siege was turned into a blockade. Twice did Colonel M'Leod appear off the port, with ships filled with troops; but instead of landing them and attacking Tippoo in his camp, he made agreement with that barbarian for permission for the garrison to procure supplies, which agreements Tippoo carried out by ordering all persons to sell them nothing but damaged and putrid stores. The bravery and resolution displayed by Major Campbell were so much admired by Tippoo that he expressed a wish to see him. The Major, accompanied by several of his officers, accordingly waited upon him, when "he presented to each of them a handsome shawl; and after their return to the fort, he sent Major Campbell an additional present of a very fine horse, which the famishing garrison afterwards killed and ate." After sustaining a siege of eight months, during which they were reduced to the greatest extremities by disease and famine, the garrison at length capitulated on the 24th January, 1784, on the understanding that they were to march out with all the honours of war. Accordingly they evacuated the fort on the 30th, and embarked for Tillicherry, one of the British settlements, on the coast of Malabar. Major Campbell now attained the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel; but the fatigue which he endured during the siege had undermined his constitution, and in the following month he was obliged by ill health to quit the army and retire to Bombay, where he died on the 23rd of March, in the 31st year of his age. To his memory a monument was erected in the church at Bombay, by order of the East India Company. Lord Stonefield having been predeceased by all his sons, he was succeeded in the estates by his grandson, John, eldest son of Colonel Colin Campbell. By him Stonefield house, the present residence at Barmore, was erected, and many important improvements effected on the estate. He died on March 18th, 1857, and was buried at the new tomb situated half-a-mile further north than the house. By his wife, who was a daughter of Sir James Colquhoun, Bart, of Luss, he left two sons, Colin George Campbell, the present laird, and

James Colquhoun Campbell, D.D., Lord Bishop of Bangor. The former was for many years Convener of the County of Argyll. The Bishop, having graduated in honours at Trinity College, Cambridge, was successively appointed rector of Merthyr Tydvil, and Archdeacon of Llandaff, and was nominated by Lord Derby to the See of Bangor in April, 1859.

CHAPTER VIII

TARBERT IN RECENT TIMES

ALTHOUGH till within the last fifty years Tarbert could not boast of a population of more than 750 inhabitants, its importance as a centre of trade and communication was, as has been already shown, always very considerable. In the year 1809, we learn that a memorial was presented to the Parliamentary Commissioners, in which it was stated that the village of Tarbert was "one of the most considerable places in the West Highlands, on account of the excellence of its harbour and the peculiar advantages of its locality. It is the centre of communication between the numerous sea lochs that indent the coast of this part of the country, and offers great facilities of transit between the districts on the east and west." The object of this memorial was to endeavour to induce Government to undertake the renewal of the land breast originally constructed by the proprietor, and the enlargement of the quay. In answer to the memorialists, the Commissioners "agreed to the enlargement of the quay, the renewing of the land breast which had become ruinous, and the improvement of the approaches to the harbour by the removal of some rocks obstructing the entrance." Just about this date the more modern village sprang into existence. Houses now began to be built on what has since been the front or main street, the older ones having been situated further inland, and on the hillsides. The maintenance of the breast wall to stay the winter tides has on this account also become absolutely indispensable, yet even now the lower flats of many of the houses are occasionally invaded by the unwelcome visitor. After a lapse of eighty years, however, these structures continue in good repair, and have proved a boon of no ordinary character to the villagers. To the convenient situation of the harbour and its excellence as an anchorage is doubtless due the pre-eminence which Tarbert holds as the centre of the Lochfyne herring fishery. Within its kindly shelter have been reared many generations of hardy fishermen, who by their perseverance, diligence, and devotion to the occupation of their forefathers, and by their readiness to adopt those methods which have proved most remunerative, have demonstrated how success may be obtained even in a calling which is notoriously one of the most fickle and uncertain. East Loch Tarbert, which constitutes the harbour, is an arm of Lochfyne one mile in length and three furlongs in breadth at its widest part, with an island about its centre dividing the harbour into an inner and an outer portion. While the island serves to render the inner bay thoroughly secure, the passage on either hand is so narrow that to see for the first time a steamer threading its way in either direction is to make one almost conclude that she is running to certain destruction. Along the sides of this land-locked basin the great bulk of the houses constituting the village are situated. Forming a short street behind is the older part of the village proper, which until lately consisted almost entirely of small and very unpretentious thatched houses, more picturesque than inviting. This old street, however, boasts of having been one of the first paved streets in the kingdom. In it stands also an old modest thatched cottage, in which it is said justice used to be dispensed in those days when Tarbert was yet the headquarters of a Sheriff. Whether it is the original court-house or not, the existing house, which is still occupied as a dwelling, and was at one time used as an inn, stands, it would seem, on the original site. By means of an underground vault it communicates with an adjoining house. It is probable the purpose of this vault was not as a place of safety, as might be inferred, but to serve the ends of illicit distilling, which is said to have been extensively carried on within it. The usual difficulty with regard to the smoke is understood to have been overcome by introducing it into the chimney of the court-house. In connection with the vault the following story is told:- A good many years ago a son of Africa's soil, on the evening of the July Fair, was lodging in the house which has been referred to as adjoining the old court-house. Throughout the evening dancing was indulged in, the bottle

circulated freely, and he of the sable countenance shared in the general merriment. As the night wore on, the enthusiasm of the latter and the vigour of his movements increased with the growing excitement and the cumulative influence of the Highlanders' strong water. A Scotch reel was in progress.

Not to be outdone by the efforts of his Celtic fellow-dancers, Sambo reeled and set with renewed energy, till all on a sudden, as he uttered a mighty "hooch," the flooring gave way, and down he plunged into the vault beneath. Being persuaded that the end of the world had come, and that the earth had just opened its mouth quietly to receive him, it is not to be wondered at that his "hooch" very quickly degenerated into a yell of despair, as he felt himself descend into the darkness. In addition to the front street and back street, there exist on all sides numerous cottages, which have been lately erected both for the accommodation of the increasing population and for the convenience of summer visitors. Situated as the village is on the isthmus which connects Kintyre with the lands of Knapdale, it encroaches on both districts, the larger half being in Kintyre. Its parochial affairs are for the same reason controlled by the authorities of two parishes, the Kintyre portion being in the united parishes of Kilcalmonell and Kilberry, and the Knapdale portion in that of South Knapdale. The general appearance of the village is very pleasing. You have arrived, we shall say, some fine day by the good ship "Columba," which calls at the outer pier, constructed at a distance of rather less than a mile from the centre of the village by the present laird in the year 1866. Choosing either to drive or walk, you pass on your left hand a very handsome and commodious hotel, recently erected. Beyond it, and lining the road as it skirts the water, are about half-a-dozen tastefully built villas, which have sprung up within the last four or five years. Now you come in sight of the hoary ruin, the old guardian of the village, which looks down from its craggy height, unmoved, on the changes which time has wrought around. Under its shadow a second group of neat cottages with their gardens has been erected, and proceeding a little further a turn in the road brings you in sight of the greater portion of the village, snugly nestling under the shelter of its hills. Just before entering the village the old pier is passed, at which the goods steamers call, and where in days gone by so many busy scenes were witnessed in connection with the landing, curing, and shipping of herring. With an extensive country district to provide for besides the village population of about 1850 souls, the demand for the conveniences of civilization is met not inefficiently. Two churches, an Established one crowning an eminence to the west of the village - a veritable Mount Zion - and a Free, modestly hiding itself behind the main street, provide for the spiritual edification of the people. The former is quite an imposing new structure, reflecting credit on the parishioners, and occupies a site which makes it a most prominent feature in the landscape. Although, as we have seen, a chapel existed in pre-reformation times in connection with the castle, and although there is also reason to suppose that a chapel at one time existed at Glenakil, Tarbert for long was dependent on the occasional ministrations of the Parish ministers, who resided, one at Clachan and the other at Achoish. The old church, which has just been replaced, was built in the year 1775, when "a mission was established by the committee for the management of the Royal Bounty, and a missionary appointed to preach there every Sabbath." Till about twenty years ago it continued a mission station, but at this date it was raised to the position of a Qiwad Sacra parish, the sum of a thousand pounds sterling having been subscribed for that purpose. Steps have lately been taken by the Free Church community with a view to following up the example of their Established brethren, and erecting a handsome and commodious structure to replace the present church, which was built under difficulties at The Disruption, and which has well served its day and generation. As necessary adjuncts to the churches, both are provided with very creditable manses, that of the Free Church looking down on the village from the north, and that of the Established erected on the isthmus close by the church. On a cheerful and healthy situation to the rear of the village is the school-house, where the youthful intellects are duly moulded in conformity with the most approved Government pattern. Contiguous with the school-house is the residence of the head master, the whole building forming a delightfully irregular construction after no particular style of architecture. Within the last dozen years very great improvements have

been made in the houses generally. Shops of a character much superior to the run of villages of a like size exist in abundance, evidencing considerable enterprise on the part of the inhabitants, and an abundant faith in plenteous harvests being yet gathered from the sea. As indicating a certain amount of prosperity, and the development of habits of thrift, it is gratifying to observe the large number of cottages which have been erected within recent years by the fishermen. At least a score of comfortable and well built houses of from four to eight apartments, each with its garden attached, have sprung up within the last fifteen years in the outskirts of the village, all of red brick are partially occupied by the owners, and many let to summer visitors. These, together with a few larger and more pretentious villas, give to the place a much more coast-like appearance than formerly, and add not a little to its attractions as a summer resort. Regarding hotel accommodation, a very necessary feature in the equipment of a coast village, it is ample. The principal hotel is the "Tarbert," and here, under the genial and homely management of Mrs M'Lean, who has been so long at the head of it, the wayfarer finds himself as comfortable and well tended as it is possible to be away from his "ain fireside." A branch of the Union Bank looks after the safe keeping of the surplus cash, and affords the necessary facilities for the transaction of business. About fourteen years ago there was founded in the village a lodge of the Independent Order of Good Templars, which since its formation has done much good service, more particularly among the fishermen. For convenience of meeting, the members banded themselves together and erected a hall in 1872, capable of holding about 400 people. Till this date the village was entirely dependent on the school-house for a place of meeting. Since then this hall has been generously given free of charge by the Templars, when required for any purpose purely intended to benefit the village, and it has consequently been of much value to the community. The Volunteer movement which originated in 1859 found early adherents among the young men of Tarbert. Previous to the formation of a battery in the village, the Tarbert enthusiasts exhibited their loyalty and their love of arms by forming a section in connection with thenow defunct Dunmore Corps, or 4th A. A.V., raised by the late Major Campbell of Dunmore. In 1866 a local battery, the 11th A.A.V., having as a nucleus the older Volunteers, was formed under the command of C. G. Campbell, Esq., of Stonefield; Messrs Hugh M'Lean and James E. M'Larty acting as lieutenants. After a few years the late John Campbell, younger of Stonefield, became captain in room of his father, who resigned, and he continued to hold the position till his untimely death in the beginning of 1885.³⁴

After a service of twenty-five years in the ranks, a few of the original members, still active and zealous, remain connected with the Corps, and may well be considered veterans among the thousands who have joined throughout the land, and have fitted themselves to stand up for Queen and Country, since the institution of the Volunteer movement. "With a strength of sixty-three, the greater number of whom are active young fishermen, thoroughly fitted for the duties of gunners, the Battery continues under its present officers in a thoroughly efficient state, providing healthful recreation and instruction for the youth of the village, and contributing its little quota to the security of the State. A great institution of the village, and one full of interest to the lads and lasses, the boys and girls of all the surrounding district, is Tarbert Fair, which is held on the last Thursday of July. It is the high day of the year. Every one is dressed in holiday attire, and everyone gives himself or herself up to simple social enjoyment. The ostensible reason for the fair is the sale of horses and wool; yet, although a pretty large business is done in both, it fails to account for the enormous crowds that flock to the village on such occasions. By road and by steamer they come, walking, driving, sailing. The reason is in most cases of a sociable rather than of a commercial nature. Here, as at a convenient centre, every one meets his relatives, "from the brother of his blood to his cousin forty times removed; "the lads and lasses of Tarbert, Campbeltown, and the country districts of Kintyre mingle with those from Arran, Bute.

Appendix 6: TARBERT CASTLE, ARGYLLSHIRE. (From MacGibbon, D. and T. Ross, 1887-92 *The Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland from the Twelfth to the Eighteenth Centuries*)

This castle is of unusual interest from being intimately associated with King Robert the Bruce. It is situated on a small creek called Loch Tarbert, on the west side of Loch Fyne, and stands on the summit of an eminence about 60 feet above the sea, and at a distance from the shore of about 60 yards. It was one of the royal fortresses which Edward I. caused to be handed over to Baliol, after placing him on the throne in 1292. In 1325 Bruce had the castle inspected and repaired, with the intention of using it for the purpose of overawing the Highlanders, then being brought by him under subjection, and a glance at the map will show that the situation of Tarbert, on its isthmus, is one of the best strategical positions in the country. The object of the castle from its first erection must have been to serve as an entrenched camp or stronghold for a large garrison on the edge of a country which might any day rise up in rebellion, and this explains its plan. The castle with which Bruce's name is associated seems hitherto not to have been recognised, but has always been confounded with a late keep adjoining it to the east, situated in the outer courtyard. It is shown by hatched lines on the plan, and will be hereafter described.

We have now no means of exactly determining to what extent the castle existed before Bruce's additions and repairs were made, but judging by analogy we may infer that the square enclosure which constitutes the castle proper was what he found existing before he commenced his operations. This castle or enclosure has a strong resemblance to Kinclaven Castle, Perthshire, a pre-Brucian castle of almost the same size and plan. If this surmise is correct we may conclude that Bruce erected the lower court with its drum towers, and so enlarged the castle as to make it better available for his purpose.

Tarbert Castle (Fig. 108) consisted of walls enclosing a square measuring about 120 feet each way, now generally reduced to little more than grass mounds, with pieces of masonry seen here and there, except along the north-east curtain, where considerable portions of the old wall can still be seen on the lower ground outside. These walls were not less than 8 feet thick, but of their height no estimate can now be formed. The north-west angle of the square was slightly canted to suit the ground. Inside this enclosure was another square formed by walls of the same thickness as those just described, with a space between of from 18 feet to 20 feet, and in this space the castle buildings have apparently stood. There are grass-covered traces of foundations against the north-east and south-east curtains, not however extending quite across the 18-foot space. At the inside angle of the north corner there has been a building of some kind about 20 feet square, with the walls seemingly brought up from a depth below the natural surface. This may have contained a well in the under floor, or a tank or reservoir for water, such as are sometimes found in the earlier hill forts.

The centre of the castle which in ordinary cases would be called the courtyard, is here the natural sloping face of the hill-side, with several large rugged rocks projecting in confused masses through the ground. No attempt has been made to alter its surface by artificial means, but the space within the outer and inner walls (the 18-foot space) has been raised so as to be about level from north-east to south-west, with a fall to the north-west corner. The making-up, as seen on the north-east side, has been on an average about 6 feet, but considerably more along the northwest side, owing to the fall of the hill being in this direction.

Adjoining the castle to the north-east there is a second and larger enclosure, already referred to as being possibly the work of Bruce. This forms the lower court, which, like the court of the castle just described, is the rugged, rocky, unaltered surface of the hill-side. This court measures about 300 feet by 240 feet. Two of its sides are formed by a continuation of two

sides of the castle proper. At the east corner the wall bends inwards to meet the north-east wall, which is strengthened by two drum towers about 28 feet in diameter, and 40 feet apart. These towers defend the approach to the castle by the sea, and probably the entrance gateway was situated at the bend of the wall near this point. Fig. 109 gives a general view of the south-east and north-east fronts. The northwest enceinte is a continuous crescent-shaped wall, shown on the Ordnance Plan as having had a drum-tower at its junction with the south-west wall (shown by dotted lines, Fig. 108), but of this there is now no trace. On the latter wall, about 30 feet distant from the castle, are the remains of a square mural tower measuring about 20 feet each way. This wall seems to have been continued down to the sea, but extensive quarrying operations and a roadway with houses along the shore have obliterated its lower end. On the south-eastern wall stands the later keep and buildings, to be afterwards described. Of the north-east, south-west, and south-east walls just described, there are considerable remains, and at their most ruinous parts they can be distinctly traced along their whole respective lengths. The north-east wall with its drum towers on the outside is about 8 feet or 10 feet high. Of the crescent-shaped north-west wall nothing remains but its track along the brow of the hill.

At the southern corner of this courtyard, between the keep and the castle, is a triangular piece of ground about 135 feet long by 45 feet wide. It occupies the highest part of the courtyard, and is the only level ground within the walls, having been made so artificially. It is about the same level as the first floor of the keep. The great courtyard above described has evidently been the basse-cour of the castle. Bruce found it necessary to add this to the original structure in order to make the castle conform to the plan then universally adopted. At the same time he would appear (from the documentary evidence to be hereafter referred to) to have built a hall and a dwelling-house within the walls of the ancient fortress, thus converting the whole into a genuine castle of the thirteenth-century type.

The keep already referred to is of late fifteenth-century or early sixteenth Century work, and stands near the centre of the south-east wall of the lower courtyard. It measures 41 feet by 26 feet 3 inches over, and is four stories in height. Up till nearly the middle of this century its four walls were entire, with stairs leading to the various floors, continued round the north, west, and south walls, in the thickness of the walls (as at Hallbar, Coxton, etc.), but about that time nearly all the south-west and southeast walls' fell. The keep (Figs. 109, HO, 111) is now the only portion of Tarbert Castle which bulks largely in the landscape, and it is doubtless owing to this that it has had conferred on it the honour of being regarded as the castle built by the great Bruce. The entrance (Fig. 108) at the north corner leads directly into the vaulted ground-floor, which is the only part now entire. It measures inside 26 feet by 12 feet 6 inches, and was, when clear of ruins, about 9 feet high. At the south-east end is an arched recess in the wall, 4 feet 9 inches wide by 6 feet deep, having a broad splayed shot-hole for guns. This and a narrow splayed loop in the opposite wall supply all the light on this floor. From the passage leading to the vault, the stair already mentioned leads off to the upper floors. There has been one apartment on each of these floors (Fig. 112) with wall chambers, and on the top floor only is there a fireplace, but doubtless the two floors beneath contained fireplaces in the now fallen walls. There are not many details about the keep, but what there are, as shown by sketches, Figs. 113 and 113A, all point to its erection at a late period. These are the gun-holes, several beaded windows, and beaded fireplace, the parapet with its continuous corbelling, consisting of small members, and the general style of masonry. Additions have been made to the keep on the north-east side, consisting of two apartments, probably two stories in height, and entering from the courtyard, with shot-holes on each side of the door. One of these apartments was probably the kitchen. There is a stone sink and drain in the northeast angle. The accounts of the building, or rebuilding and extension of the castle, or "Castrum," in the year 1326, are preserved, and are printed in vol. i. of the Exchequer Rolls. It would appear from these that the King took a personal interest in the building, as is shown by his paying Robert the mason £5, 6s. 8d. in addition to his contract of £282, 15s., for having in the King's absence made the walls of an extra thickness. These and other figures from the Rolls denote

Scots money. We also find the King's friends, William of Lamberton, Bishop of St Andrews, and James Lord of Douglas, visiting the castle, and payments made for decorating their apartments and the hall with branches of birch, and for providing litter. We have the payments made to John the carpenter, Donald the blocker, Neill the plumber, and Neil the smith; also the payments for burning and conveying lime by sea and land to Tarbert.

The Rolls likewise contain payments for erecting a house in the castle, for the plastering and roofing of the castle, fitting up its hall and wine cellar, and making a moat about it, for erecting a mill, kiln, bakehouse, and brewhouse, for building a "pele" at West Tarbert, and making a road across the isthmus to the said pele, which is probably the road used at the present day. There was a chaplain appointed, with a salary of £4.

In the year after the death of the King, which happened at midsummer 1329, payments were made for completing the castle and keeping up the park. In all probability the park referred to is the lower courtyard, which must have been a very necessary appendage in connection with the horses, cattle, poultry, and sheep, for which payments appear as well as for the servants in charge.

The importance of Tarbert as a military stronghold continued to be recognised long after the time of Bruce, down indeed till the troubles of last century. At the end of the fifteenth century, James IV found himself, like the Bruce before him, compelled to conduct an expedition against the turbulent islanders, and we have frequent references to Tarbert in the accounts of this period edited by Mr. Dickson. There is an account of " 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 at the same time couriers are despatched to summon the Lords of the Westland, Southland, and Eastland, to the meeting of the King at the Tarbert, and another courier is sent from Glasgow with writings to his Majesty ; but perhaps the most interesting item is of this same year, and as follows : "The Comptare charges him wyth xx li. Ressaut frae the Bishop of Dunblane to the biggin of Tarbert," and for the " said caus" the same sum from the Abbot of Newbotell. These sums were, in all probability, for the building of the keep, which, judging from its style of architecture, as already stated, belongs to this period. In the same year, an eventful one for the place, there was delivered to my Lord Chamberlain at the Tarbert, iiixx vj li xiiij s. iiij d. (£66. 13s. 4d. Scots). For what purpose this money was used we do not learn, but it is satisfactory to find documentary evidence for building operations corroborating the equally valuable evidence of architectural style. The King was back again at Tarbert three years later, when we may readily suppose the keep to have been finished.

Appendix 7: TARBERT CASTLE. (from the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, Volume 5, Kintyre)

This castle (P1. 67) stands upon a prominent rocky knoll on the SE. side of East Loch Tarbert, directly overlooking Tarbert Harbour some 30 m below. The site is strongly fortified by nature upon all sides but one, the NW. and NE. edges of the knoll falling steeply, and in places sheer, to the harbour and foreshore below, while the SE. side overlooks a broad tract of low marshy ground. The castle itself confronts the weakest, or SW., sector of the site, from which the ground falls gently towards the present village of Tarbert. Here, at the summit of the knoll, there stands a building of irregular courtyard-plan which forms the nucleus of the castle. The remaining portion of the site, much of which lies at a considerably lower level, is enclosed by a curtain wall to form an outer bailey about 10 ha (1.9 acres) in extent. The curtain wall incorporates a number of projecting towers, and is interrupted midway along its SE. sector by a tower house and forework, now the most conspicuous features of the remains. Neither the architectural nor the historical evidence is complete enough to enable the dates of the surviving buildings to be determined with any degree of precision. In view of its size and general disposition, however, the courtyard building, or inner bailey, may be ascribed to the 13th century. The outer bailey, on the other hand, with its flanking towers of diverse plan, appears to be of somewhat later date and probably belongs to the early 14th century, when large-scale building operations are known to have been carried out (*infra*). The tower-house is likely to date from about the turn of the 15th and 16th centuries, a period for which there is further documentary evidence of building activity at the castle, while the associated forework was probably erected later in the 16th century.

THE INNER BAILEY. The building (Fig.i) is approximately square on plan, but the topography of the site has been allowed to impose slight irregularities of alignment, of which the most noticeable is the rounding off of the W. angle; the average overall dimensions are 41.5 m from NW. to SE. by 37.2m transversely. The structure comprises four ranges of buildings grouped round a courtyard, but only the main internal and external walls are now generally traceable, the internal partitions being represented for the most part only by turf-grown mounds. The main walls are constructed of local rubble masonry laid in lime mortar and have an average thickness of 2.3m; the dressings appear to have been of red sandstone. On the NE. side the external wall remains to a maximum height of 3.0 m, and in the centre of this sector there may be seen traces of an entrance pend which passes through the NE. range of buildings to give access to the courtyard within. The pend has an external width of 2.4 m, but broadens out to a width of 3.0m at its inner end. The rebated jambs of an outer doorway, wrought externally with plain 0.13 m chamfers, can be seen at a distance of 1.2m from the outer wall-face, while at a distance of 4.3m from the same point there are traces of another doorway, which has opened into the NW. sector of the main NE. range. In the opposite sector of the same range there are the remains of some internal partition-walls, apparently representing a corridor which ran parallel to the inner wall of the range to give access to three apartments on its NE. side; these walls may be of more recent construction than the remainder.

Close to the S. corner of the courtyard there are some indications of what appears to have been a doorway giving access to the SW. range, while in the opposite corner there is an irregular-shaped stone-lined depression surrounded by the remains of a wall. This may have been a well. On the NW. and SE. sides of the inner bailey the ground falls away steeply, and no outer defences appear to have been considered necessary in these sectors. It is possible, however, that the natural ditch that bounds the marshy ground to the SE. has been artificially deepened and extended some distance south-westwards. On the SW. side of the bailey, where the natural incline of the ground is slight, a broad berm has been constructed parallel to the castle wall. The berm is revetted in dry-stone masonry at its outer edge, immediately beyond which there may formerly have been a ditch, although no remains of such a feature can be

detected today. There are traces of a similar berm on the opposite side of the inner bailey, where an approach track (*infra*) winds up through the outer bailey towards the entrance pend.

About in to the SW. of the inner bailey a shallow rock-lined ditch, some 46 m in width, traverses the full breadth of the knoll. In view of the nature of the terrain it is difficult to know to what extent this ditch represents an artificial, rather than a natural, barrier, but it may well have played a part in the defence either of the castle or of the early burgh of Tarbert (cf. No. 334).

THE OUTER BAILEY. The alignment of the curtain wall of the outer bailey follows the perimeter of the rock knoll (Fig. 175). The wall itself is built of stone and lime and has an average thickness of 2.0m; it is poorly preserved throughout the greater part of its length, but rises to a maximum height of about 4.6 in at its junction with the NE. wall of the tower-house. The SW. sector of the curtain wall appears to have been fortified by two projecting rectangular towers, of which one (A on Fig. 175) is sited upon a small eminence some 9 m beyond the N. angle of the inner bailey, while the other, and larger, one (B) stands at the W. corner of the castle. Both towers are now utterly ruinous and no details of construction are visible, but it is possible that Tower B was a gatehouse, and received the principal access-road to the castle. Certainly the natural line of approach to the knoll is from this quarter, and a modern track now passes through the re-entrant angle between the tower and the curtain wall. From Tower B the approach track probably followed the line of the N. curtain for a distance of about 60 in before turning to ascend in a south-westerly direction towards the entrance pend of the inner bailey. As it returns towards the inner face of the SW. curtain the track crosses a small platform (C). The perimeter of this platform is bounded by a ruinous wall of indeterminate date which appears to have terminated in a small circular tower (D) overlooking the track.

The N. sector of the curtain wall is extremely ruinous; there is no evidence of the former existence of mural towers in this quarter. On the NE. sector, however, there are substantial remains of two drum-towers measuring 8.7 m in diameter over walls some 2.2 m in thickness. The NE. tower (Pl. 68n) retains part of an internal mural scarcement, which probably marks the level of the first floor. It has been suggested that the main entrance-gateway to the castle was situated in this sector, but the terrain appears ill-suited to approach from this side. It is possible, however, that a subsidiary entrance, such as a postern-doorway, was situated midway between the two towers. The remaining sector of the curtain continues the alignment of the SE. wall of the inner bailey. In the original arrangement the curtain was probably continuous, and devoid of flanking-towers, but about the turn of the 15th and 16th centuries a gap was formed approximately midway along its length, and within this breach there was erected a rectangular tower-house of bold projection. There are few traces of buildings within the outer bailey, and the dry-stone wall that bounds the platform (E) in the southern sector of the bailey is probably of comparatively recent construction.

THE TOWER-HOUSE. The tower-house (Fig. 173; Pls. 68A, 69, 70A, 71B) is oblong on plan and measures 12.3 m from NW. to SE. by 8.4 m transversely over walls varying in thickness from 1.8 m to 2.7 m. The masonry is of local rubble laid in lime mortar, with dressings of buff-and red-coloured sandstone. The building originally comprised a cellar, three main storeys and a garret, but because of the collapse of the greater part of the SE. and SW. walls only the lowest floor now remains entire. The upper portions of the surviving walls are thickly clothed externally with ivy, which obscures any surviving architectural details. MacGibbon and Ross's drawings of about 1887 indicate, however, that the wall-head is corbelled out on a continuous corbel-course of four members, and that there are remains of corbelled rounds at the angles. The surviving doorway-openings are round-arched, as are also a number of the windows; other windows, however, have roll-moulded jambs and lintels, and chamfered sills. Most appear to have been half-glazed and some were formerly barred. The tower-house was entered by means of a doorway placed towards the NW. end of the NE. wall.

This gave access to a small lobby at an intermediate level, from which a mural stair in the N. angle rose to the first floor, while another flight of stairs, now concealed by fallen debris, led down to the cellar. The NE. wall of the staircase incorporates a small circular peep-hole, while another, and larger, window, now represented only by a ragged hole in the surrounding masonry, formerly lit the staircase from the NW. The cellar, now partially filled with debris, is barrel-vaulted. An arched embrasure in the SE. wall incorporates a double-splayed gun-loop (Fig. 174E), which is horizontal-mouthed and has an external width of 0.41 m. Each side of the embrasure is equipped with an aumbry. A lintelled embrasure in the opposite wall evidently contained a slit-window, but only the upper portion of the opening is now visible. At first-floor level the NE. wall incorporates a large aumbry, to the SE. of which there are the remains of a segmental-headed window-embrasure equipped with lateral bench-seats. The SE. side of the embrasure appears to have incorporated a small aumbry. A somewhat awkwardly contrived mural staircase in the W. angle formerly ascended to second-floor level. The stair appears to have been lit by three windows, of which the best preserved is an inverted-keyhole slit (Fig. 174B, Pl. 70B) in the NW. wall. A larger square-headed window in the same wall, now partially blocked, is probably an insertion, while the third window, in the SW. wall, is now represented only by a solitary splayed jamb. At second-floor level the NE. wall incorporates a large segmental-headed window-embrasure equipped with a bench-seat on its NW. side. On the opposite side of the embrasure a doorway gives access to a mural passage which originally returned within the thickness of the SE. wall. The passage incorporates two splayed dumb-bell shaped slits (Fig. 174A and c), one in the NE. wall and the other in the surviving portion of the SE. return. The NW. wall contains a lintelled window embrasure. At third-floor level there are the remains of two window-openings in the NE. wall, of which the better-preserved has a lintelled embrasure. Immediately beneath the floor of the embrasure a sandstone corbel of uncertain purpose projects from the main inner wallface. In the centre of the NW. wall there is a rollmoulded fireplace, of which the lintel is missing, while immediately to the SW. of the fireplace there is a small window. In the E. corner of the building there has evidently been a mural chamber, perhaps a garderobe. This incorporates an aumbry in the NE. wall and the remains of a window in the SE. wall. No details of the garret storey are now visible.

THE FOREWORK. The forework (Pl. 71A) adjoins the N. angle of the tower-house and safeguards the approach to its entrance doorway from within the outer bailey. In the NW. wall there are the remains of a doorway provided with a draw-bar. The doorway is flanked by splayed horizontal-mouthed gun-ports (Fig. 174D), while crudely formed pistol-holes provided enfilade fire to SW. and NE. The NE. portion of the forework is equipped with a mural slop-sink, a feature which suggests that this part of the building served as a kitchen.

HISTORICAL NOTE. It is possible that the oldest portion of Tarbert Castle, represented by the present inner bailey, was erected by one of the chief dependents of the MacDonalds of Islay, who held the over lordship of Kintyre throughout the greater part of the 13th century. An alternative possibility, however, and one which is strengthened by the fact that the plan of the inner bailey strongly resembles that of the early royal castle of Kincardine (cf. p. 25), is that the original castle was a royal stronghold of the reign of Alexander II or Alexander III. Certainly the strategic importance of Tarbert was such that, when Robert I came to consolidate his position in Argyll during the period following the Battle of Bannockburn, he decided to develop it as a centre of royal authority.' Accordingly, the castle was enlarged and strengthened as the seat of a constabulary, and a royal burgh was established nearby (No. 334). The survival of a number of building-accounts for the years 1325-6 makes it possible to learn something of the nature and scope of the work carried out at this period. Of the three masons who are mentioned by name the most important seems to have been Robert, who undertook to build "the walls of the castle of Tarbart" for £282-15-0, and afterwards received, in addition, a gratuity for having increased their thickness beyond what was customary, during the king's absence from the site. There is also mention of the making of a ditch below the castle, of the construction or repair of various houses and ancillary buildings, and of the

erection of a hall. This last had walls of clay and sand, and timber posts set upon stone foundations; the roof was thatched. These accounts do not include payments for any work that may have been done within the inner bailey at this time, but they contain a few references to operations carried out elsewhere in the vicinity of the castle, such as the construction of a "new peel" at West Loch Tarbert. Later accounts indicate that work continued up to about the time of Bruce's death in 1329, while in the following year payment was made for completing the park of Tarbert. Thereafter little is heard of the castle until the reign of James IV, who took Tarbert into his own keeping for a time, and visited the place during his voyage to Kintyre in 1494. In 1504, however, the guardianship of the castle was granted to the Earl of Argyll, whose descendants retained this office until almost the end of the 17th century. The determined efforts made by James IV to re-establish royal authority in Kintyre were marked by the construction or refortification of a number of local castles (cf. Nos. 309, 322, 313 and 324), and it was in all probability at this period that the existing tower-house within Tarbert Castle was begun; indeed, building operations of some sort are known to have been in progress there in 1494 and in 1499. On the other hand, the character of some of the architectural details of the tower, such as the wide-mouthed gun loop in the SE. wall and the roll-moulded windows, is indicative of mid- or late 16th-century work, while the phraseology employed in the successive grants of guardianship of the castle to the Earls of Argyll suggests that building operations may have extended over a considerable period of time.⁷ At the time of Argyll's rebellion in 1685 the castle was garrisoned by the insurgents, but was afterwards recaptured for the Crown by Walter Campbell of Skipness. During their period of tenure the Campbell Earls of Argyll subinfeudated Tarbert to a branch of the MacAlister family, who became hereditary constables of the castle, retaining their estates until about the middle of the 18th century, when they passed to the Campbells of Stonefield.

Appendix 8: History of the Royal Castle of Tarbert (From MacIntyre, I. Y. and M. Y. Smith, post-1974 *History of the Royal Castle of Tarbert* .

Few visitors to Tarbert fail to notice the Castle ruins on the hill above the village. No description of this ancient Burgh can be complete without mention of the castle and its connection with Robert the Bruce. Its outline is featured on almost all of Tarbert's holiday brochures. At one time ranking in importance with Scotland's best-known strongholds, the ruins are today mostly hidden by grass and ivy. Large parts of the history of Tarbert Castle are misted by the passage of time. In this article we present what is known of the part Tarbert and its castle have played in Scottish history.

It is possible that Agricola and his Roman legionaries crossed the isthmus in AD 82 when they sailed down the firth and "placed forces in that part of Britain which fronts Ireland". Tarbert's strategic importance would be recognized even at that early date.

Later, after years of incursions by the Scots from Ireland, Kintyre and a large part of the seaboard of Argyll were seized by Loam, Angus and Fergus Mor, the founders of the Scottish kingdom of Dalriada. In early writings, "The Annals of Ulster", it is recorded that on two occasions what was believed to have been a fort was burned by King Selbach and his son Dungal the Violent in the years 712 and 731 respectively. The phrase used in the annals is "Combustio Tairpirt Boetter".

Tarbert again appears in History's headline in 1098 when Magnus Barfod (Bare leg), King of Norway, had his ship drawn across the neck of land between West Loch Tarbert and Loch Fyne in order to claim Kintyre along with all the other islands on the West of Scotland. The "Treaty of Tarbert" agreed between Magnus and the Scottish King Edgar granted to Norway all the Western Isles round which a ship could sail. In 1263 King Haco of Norway still held sway over the Western Isles including Kintyre and Islay until the Norwegian hold was finally broken at the Battle of Largs in October of that year. Even as late as the seventeenth century, Kintyre was still regarded as one of the South Isles or "Sudreys".

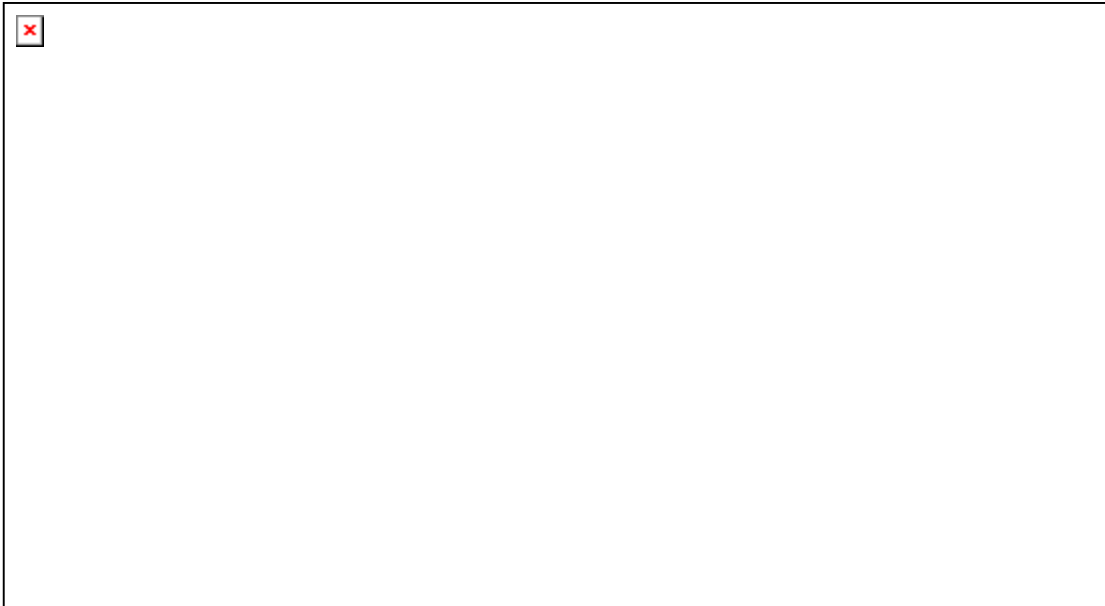
In 1306 Robert the Bruce passed through Kintyre in his flight to Rathlin, and his appointment with a spider. Eight years later, Bruce secured his throne at the Battle of Bannockburn, and turned his attention to the chiefs of the Western Isles who were then acting as allies of England. On his way to confront them, Bruce chose the route across the isthmus of Tarbert. According to John Barbour (poet and historian of the 14th century), a track of logs was laid over the mile wide neck of land. The galleys were dragged over this primitive ship railway with sails set to take advantage of a favourable wind.

*To Tarbard thai held thar way
In galayis ordanit for their fair.
Bot thame worthit draw thar schippes thar:
And a yle was betwix the seis,
Bot that wes lownyt all with treis.
The king his schippis thar gert draw,
And for the wynd can stoutly blaw
Apon thair bak, as thai wald ga,
He gert menrapis and mastis ta,
And set thame in the schippis hye,
And salis to the toppis te,
And gert men gang thar-by drawand.
The wynd thame helpit, that was blawand:
Swa that, in-till a litill spas,*

Thar flot all weill our-drawyn was.

*Andquhen thai that in the Ilis war,
Herd tell how the gud kyng had thar
Gert schippis with the salys ga
Out-our betuix the Tarbartis twa,
Thai war abasit all utrely.
For thai wist throu ald prophesy
That he that suld ger schippis swa
Betuix the seis with salis ga,
Suld wyn the Ilis swa till hand,
That nane with strynth suld him understand.*

While Bruce's fleet was being hauled across the track one of his ships is said to have fallen over. One point on the route has the Gaelic name "Lag na Luinge" which means, "hollow of the ship".



Realizing the importance of the isthmus and the necessity to defend it, Bruce set work in hand in 1325 to repair and extend an existing castle, standing on the hill above Tarbert harbour. The origin of this building has not been ascertained but may well have been a successor to the early forts burnt by Selbach and Dungal. Architects David McGibbon and Thomas Ross wrote a detailed description of the castle as they found it, in 1887, and suggested its probable extent in earlier years. The building which Bruce found at Tarbert was "one of the Royal fortresses which Edward I caused to be handed over to Baliol, in 1292". They believed the castle at this stage to be a square enclosure, measuring about 120 feet each way. It consisted of an outer wall about 8 feet thick, with an inner wall of similar thickness and a space between them of 18 to 20 feet. The castle rooms would have been contained within this space. The central area or courtyard has several large natural rocks projecting through the ground. In one corner of this courtyard there appears to have been a walled are of about 20 feet square which may have contained a well or reservoir for water. It was to these foundations that Bruce's repairs and additions were made. From the available documentation of this work the castle would seem to have been largely rebuilt.

The extension to the original castle was a large courtyard area to the east, measuring about 300 by 240 feet, bounded by a perimeter wall. On the east side facing the sea, two drum towers are incorporated in the wall. These may have been added at a later date. Within this larger courtyard the new works included a Hall, built on piers, and a dweffing house. Other works were the building of a chapel, a new kitchen, a wine house, bake house, goldsmiths' house, malt house, brew house with a new vat, a mill with millpond and lade, a moat and a lime kiln.

Much information is contained in an accounting for the work, submitted in 1326 by the then Constable for Tarbert, John de Lany. This is the oldest of the Scottish exchequer rolls still existing and is believed to provide "the earliest description of domestic architecture and modes of rural life in Scotland". The accounts submitted by de Lany give interesting details of the costs involved in the reconstruction. The principal contractor for the mason work was paid 282 pounds 15s Od plus a bonus of 5 pounds 6s 8d "because in the King's absence he had built the walls wider than agreed on". The roofing of the houses in the castle occupied two roofers for forty days, and for this large undertaking they were paid 13 shillings and 4 pence. In today's decimal coinage this would be about 5 pence per week for each man.

Of the skilled tradesmen:

Neil the Smith was paid 4 pence per day

Neil the Plumber was paid 3 1/2 pence per day

John the Carpenter was paid 234 pence per day

Sir Maurice the Chaplain by comparison was only paid at the rate of 2 pounds for the half year - just over 1 new penny per day.

The king appears to have given personal attention to the progress of the work. He visited in 1325 with several of his lords, and stayed for some time. The accounts show that 'litter' was provided for chambers of Lamberton the Lord Bishop of St. Andrews and Sir James, Lord of Douglas.

A fort at "Wester Tarbert" was built at this time. Payments were made towards the cost of wood for its construction and making of a road from the one Tarbert to the other. The location of this fort has lain unrecognized for several hundred years. However a site has recently been found which shows traces of stone foundations. A fort at this spot (near to the Kilberry Road junction with Campbeltown Road) would have effectively controlled access to the isthmus from the West Loch and would also have been in direct line of sight with the main castle at East Tarbert.

It is not clear how often Bruce visited his Castle but entries in the accounts would suggest that he again stayed here in 1329, the year of his death. Wine and salt were bought "by the King at Tarbert" and for the king's entertainment a court jester "Patrick the fool" was brought from England.

The castle which had now been built, must have dominated the scene, standing high over the township which would lie below at the edge of the bay. The village of Tarbert is referred to as a Royal Burgh in several old documents. The earliest reference is in the Exchequer Roll for 1328 where a charge of seven shillings and eight pence is recorded for "making a coket for the Burgh of Tarbert". This was to be used in connection with a custom levy on goods exported through the port of Tarbert. At what date prior to this Tarbert was proclaimed a burgh is open to conjecture. According to Bell's "Law of Scotland" Royal Burghs were normally found beside Royal Castles and Tarbert's Castle was classed as such as early as 1292. In any event, Tarbert may be considered to be the oldest Royal Burgh in Argyll.

Several tenants occupied the castle during the ensuing years till 1494 in which year James IV resided at Tarbert on two occasions. During his first visit in April of that year he repaired the fort built by Bruce. It is probable that the keep or tower with its 'dungeon' was built at this time. The 'dungeon' is still relatively intact, but of the three upper floors only two walls remain standing. Facilities were established for his shipping, to transport artillery and a stock of gunpowder. On his second visit, parliament was summoned to meet at Tarbert on July 5, 1494 for the purpose of deciding ways of pacifying the still turbulent area of Kintyre and the Islands. 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. This stands at the east end of Back Street, reputed to be one of the earliest paved streets in Scotland.



The cobbled surface only gave way to more modern materials in the 1950s when the old cottages were replaced by the Church Terrace housing scheme. A large stone, which stood at the doorway of one of the cottages in the street, was thought to have been used as a mounting step by horsemen for hundreds of years. Since the cottages were removed this stone is no longer in evidence. King James again visited in March 1498 and April 1499. During this last visit the chief of the Clan Campbell was vested with extensive powers in the area, and a few months later was appointed "Keeper of the Castle of Tarbert", a title which is still borne today by the present Duke of Argyll.

About 1481 the Burgh of Tarbert had become the seat of a sheriff and an extensive shire. It covered the district of Kintyre, Knapdale and the islands of Gigha, Islay, Jura, Scarba, Colonsay and Mull. The shire of Tarbert returned its member to the Scottish parliament until its amalgamation with the shire of Argyll in 1633. For many years Tarbert and its castle were at the centre of the struggle between the MacDonalds and the Campbells for control of the surrounding districts. In the early years of the sixteenth century a buccaneer of the West Coast (Alan-nan-Sop), an illegitimate son of Lachlan Cattanach McLean, was given possession of Tarbert Castle by Alan MacDonald of Islay, who, it is assumed had forcibly acquired it from his hereditary foes, the Campbells. Alan-nan-Sop used the castle as a base, his plundering operations took him to Cowal, Loch Lomond, Bute and the Lowlands. With his ships he is reputed to have made forays even to Ireland. Alan lived to an old age and died about 1555.

By 1652 Tarbert Castle had passed into the hands of Round-heads, who are said to have strengthened it by constructing bastions and outworks. It was repossessed, at least for a time, by a body of Tarbert men while the garrison was out gathering nuts. The villagers took the

opportunity to appropriate quantities of gunpowder, cheese and biscuits, which they put to their own uses.

In 1685 Archibald Earl of Argyll took command of the Scottish expedition to be led against the army of James VII of Scotland and II of England. The various forces were summoned to Tarbert. By May 27 1,800 men and horses had gathered there. The expedition was ill fated, the Earl being taken prisoner and conveyed to Edinburgh where he was beheaded. The loss of land and titles, which the Argyll family suffered as a result, was temporary. By 1689 the Campbell family had regained their former status.

In 1705 an Act of Scottish Parliament was passed in favour of Archibald McAlister instituting "four yearly fairs and a weekly mercat at the town of East Tarbet". Tarbert fair day (last Thursday in July) is still a highlight in the local calendar and originated with this Act. The McAlister family of Tarbert now tenanted the castle under charter from the Campbells. However a new mansion built at Barmore became the McAlister residence, and Tarbert Castle fell into disrepair.

This matter was the subject of a unique lawsuit in 1762 when an action was raised against the last McAlister laird. The charter which granted the castle to the McAlisters 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". Despite this attempt by the superiors, the Argyll family, to ensure that Tarbert Castle should remain in habitable state, repairs were not carried out. The fortunes of the McAlister family were on the wane and their lands were sold off.

Today the castle remains are still in evidence on the hill above the harbour. Of Bruce's Castle and its perimeter wall only the grass-covered outlines can be seen, while two walls of the keep built by James IV still stand to their original height. It appears to have lain thus for over two hundred years, as we see from the comments of travelers who visited Tarbert in days gone by.



James IV Tower House ca 1890

Thomas Pennant in 1772 recorded his arrival in Tarbert thus, "with difficulty get through a strait of about a hundred yards wide, with sunk rocks on both sides, into the safe and pretty harbour of the Eastern Loch Tarbert. The scenery is picturesque - at the bottom extends a small village; on the Cantyre side is a square tower, with vestiges of other remains."

The Rev. Andrew Campbell in the Statistical Account of Scotland 1791-1799 says that the entrance to Kintyre was formerly defended by a chain of forts, one at each end of the isthmus

at Tarbert, one in the centre. The principal of them, The Castle at Tarbert, was then a “fine old ruin”. He also records the general belief that the Castle was supplied with water by “a submarine passage in pipes across the harbour”. (Even today there is a traditional belief in the existence of a “secret passage” used as a means of escape from the castle, which led across the harbour.)

In 1827 Lord Teighnmouth writes “the overhanging keep of its ruined castle, the vifiage and the innumerable fishing boats choking up every nook and crevice form a scene singularly picturesque”.

Ten years later, in 1837, Lord Cockburn on his circuit journeys says “But Tarbert! East Tarbert! How is it that I have never heard of that curious little bay? -there it lay, calm and silvery - a curve of about twenty or thirty small houses drawn round the upper end, all comfortable looking - the ruins of an old castle standing on a rocky knoll at the left side of the entrance - a striking and beautiful spot like a scene from a theater.”



On September 6, 1974 His Grace (Ian Campbell) the 12th Duke of Argyll appointed the Col. of the Regiment of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders as Captain of the Royal Castle of Tarbert at a unique ceremony held in Tarbert to grant the freedom of the village to the Regiment.

The Castle area is now in the ownership of Tarbert and Skipness Community Trust. The Trust wifl seek to identify funds to develop and interpret the sites

SOURCE: The books “Tarbert Past and Present” and “Tarbert in Picture and Story”, by Dugald Mitchell, MD have been an invaluable aid in compiling this record. Other sources have been attributed within the text.

Appendix 9: DES Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Argyll and Bute
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Tarbert Castle Desk based Assessment and Ground Survey
PROJECT CODE:	TAR 13
PARISH:	Kilcalmonell
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Roddy Regan
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Kilmartin House Museum
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Desk Based Assessment, Ground Survey and Excavation
NMRS NO(S):	NR68 NE1
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Castle
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	none
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NR 86760 68717
START DATE (this season)	Feb 2013
END DATE (this season)	Feb 2013
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	Survey by RCHAMS. The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. Argyll: an Inventory of the Monuments: Volume 1: Kintyre. No. 316, p 179-184. Edinburgh.
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	The community survey at Tarbert Castle has successfully recorded the present upstanding remains in detail. While few new features came to light during the survey within the castle walls an area to the south of the inner bailey had several faint traces of ditches or enclosures. As yet it is not known whether these are associated with the use of the castle or with the possible mediaeval burgh. The geophysical survey also hinted at the presence of buried features within same area and it is perhaps here that any future excavation should concentrate which may reveal their age and function. A small children's excavation within a garden to the south of the scheduled area revealed disturbed agricultural soil above bedrock.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Excavation
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Tarbert and Skipness Community Trust
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Kilmartin House Museum, Kilmartin, Argyll, PA31 8RQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	museum@kilmartin.org
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	The archive will be deposited with Kilmartin House Museum and copies of the report lodged with WoSAS SMR, the NMRS, the Forestry Commission and OASIS database

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