

DORNOCH HERITAGE SOCIETY.

TRANSCRIPT OF A MEETING ON TUESDAY 25TH APRIL 1989 WITH MR HARRY MACKAY OF REIDHBREAC, NEAR BONAR BRIDGE.

LEATHAD A'CHUAILEIN MacKays from a croft in Strathmore, Durness, were evicted to Leathad a'Chuailein about 1810-1812. The croft had the Gaelic rendering of 'The old Cailliach beside the Burn' as the name, and was in Strathmore the other side of the water from the Broch, beside a burn coming down the hillside.

The 'sheiling' on Meall Mor (NH69 : 664.964) was a croft also inhabited by Mr Harry MacKay's folk, who also came from Durness, having been evicted from there.

Murrays occupied 'Rhibnac' (phon) and 'Rhobnac' (phon) – two crofts of which Rowbreac (phon) was the lower one (?Reidhbrec??). The 'Coulan' (phon) (Chuailein).

'Clashnafaraigh' (pron) or Clashnafaire (NH69 : 624.979) – two crofts – Ross and MacKay in the early 1800's

There were 1000 grazing rights back of Bonar in those days. You established your own grazing rights by putting your sheep (cattle?) on the land, and keeping them there a certain number of days.

Ceann-loch-lagain. Occupied by the Gunns. A Book 'The Gunns of Kinlochlagain' by an American/Canadian lady. ? a book on the Ross's in Garbhairigh (this may have been picked up wrong.) (not the book!).

Garbh-airigh – was called 'Crock' (pron.) The sheriffs men came when the men were all away and fired the house with an old lady in it. And when they came back at night they found the old lady beside the ruin.

Leathadbreac (NH69 : 624.969) The Last Eviction in Sutherland. The old lady was a witch. Henny Gordon had bought a brand new axe – which the Sherriffs men borrowed to break down the croft. Henny threw the new axe into the fire – and nothing ever went right for Henny again, for ever after.

Sallachy (NH69: 643.977) was not an old croft – feal house then eventually store house.

Heather Inn (NH69 : 650.982) owned by Torbreac – Frasers. They made illicit whisky and also got it from Rhian. Story told of three men who asked one night is they could get a meal and refreshment there. The lady of the house served them with illicit whiskey, and overhear them talking about the whiskey – realising they must have been something to do with the law – she refused to charge them, and they could do nothing about it.

Mackenzie of 'Badoag' (pron) - ?Badbog (NH69 : 638.962)

Clais-na-sinneag (NH69 : 632.974) Murrays here; left in 1900s and went to ?Birichin?
(Place of the Willows)

Strone Ach'a'Bhacaidh (NH69 : 620.980) Sutherlands here – went to Australia and/or
New Zealand. (J Fraser said Australia)

Clais-na-faire (NH69 : 621.981) MacKays and Ross's here in two crofts. The Ross's of
Migdale – Robert Ross evicted from Clais-na-faire to ? ? then to Sleastasy (NH69 :
642.965) – than Migdale.

'Rhubraec' (pron). East End of Loch Buidhe. ?Alltan Riabhach (NH69 : 676.981) Same
Ross family as were in Sallachy.

Coirshellach and 'Rhubreac' (pron) - ?Reidhbreac were given to the daughter of the
estate when she married.

'Torbreac' (pron) Loch Buidhe – 2 circles on the map at west end of the loch (NH69 :
651.982)

Strath Tollie Away up Strath tollie is a house in very good order.

'The Cor' – (Liathad na Caora) (NH69 "655.953) – Croft owned by Leslies.

Robert Calder (Badbog) did the out part Loch Laro: built beautiful culverts.
(Puill Fhraoich)

[James K. Bell, S.J.T. Robertson
representing Dornoch Heritage Society]