This version of the History of the Clan Macnab forms chapter VIII of “**In Famed Breadalbane, the Story of the Antiquities, Lands and People of a Highland District**” by William A. Gillies, Minister of Kenmore, originally published in 1938 by The Munro Press, Perth. A modern facsimile edition has been published by Framedram Publishers, Ellon [www.northernbooks.co.uk](http://www.northernbooks.co.uk). Mr. Gillies has a strong opinion about the genealogy of the chiefly family, believing that, owing to the lack of documentation, it is largely made up and rather fantastical. One cannot deny that he has a point as, whatever Macnab family papers existed have been lost. That same absence of documents also means that the clan history, as given, cannot be disproved.

This book is referenced in the current Clan History and in the “Green Book” version that preceded it. The text is presented as in the book with the exception of some conversion of spelling from British to American English. The photos are also taken from the book and are roughly in the same locations as there.

**CHAPTER VIII In Famed Breadalbane**

**The Macnabs of Bovain**

For nearly a thousand years Glendochart was the home of the famous, and once numerous, Clan-an-Aba, or Macnabs; yet to-day there is only one occupier of land bearing that name in the stretch of twenty miles between the head of Loch Tay and Tyndrum. Skene says that we may recognize in the Macnabs the descendants of the lay abbots of Glendochart.[[1]](#footnote-1) This appears to be a much more probable descent than that assigned to them by Buchanan of Auchmar, who claims that they were descended from the first abbot of Inchaffray, whose surname was MacDonald, in the beginning of the reign of Alexander II. Inchaffray, however, was founded in the reign of William the Lion, and the first abbot was Malis, presbyter and hermit.



Bovain, the Original Home of the Macnabs

The genealogy of the Macnabs, given in the Gaelic Manuscript of 1450, and printed in the Transactions of the Iona Club, “Collectanea de Rebus Albanicis," is quite absurd. This genealogy traces the origin of the family back to a period prior to the founding of St. Fillan's priory in Glendochart. The Macnabs, the Mackinnons, and the MacGregors appear to have had a common ancestry, and evidence of their kinship is found in two curious bonds of friendship that were drawn up between the chiefs of these respective clans in the seventeenth century. The first of these bonds is dated 12th July, 1606, and was entered into between Lauchlan Mackimion of Strathordel, in Skye, and Finlay Macnab of Bovain, who happened "to forgether with certain of the said Finlay's friends in their rooms, in the Laird of Glenurchy's country, and the said Lauchlan and Finlay, being come of ane house and being of ane surname and lineage, notwithstanding the said Lauchlan and Finlay this long time bygane oversaw their awn dueties till adderis, in respect of the long distance betwixt their dwelling places," agreed with the consent of their kin and friends to give all assistance and service to each other ; and are "content to subscribe the same with their hands led to the pen." Mackinnon signs his name—"Lauchland, mise (i.e. myself) MacFingon." The other bond of friendship, dated at Kilmorie, Skye, in 1671, was between Lauchlan Mackinnon of Strathordel and James MacGregor of MacGregor, and it is therein stated that "for the special love and amitie between these persons, and condescending that they are descended lawfully fra twa brethern of auld descent, wherefore, and for certain onerous causes moving, we wit ye we to be bound and oblesit, likeas by the tenor hereof we faithfully bind and obleise us and our successors, our kin, friends, and followers, faithfully to serve ane anither in all causes with our men and servants, against all who live or die."

**A Fantastic Genealogy**

The genealogy of the Macnabs has presented much difficulty owing to the absence of family papers. It is said that the Macnab writs were destroyed on two occasions, first in the time of King Robert the Bruce, and again when the castle of Ellanryne was burned down by the English during the Commonwealth. The genealogy given in the Douglas Baronage is fanciful and fictitious and has an extraordinary history behind it. When Sir Robert Douglas of Glenbervie was collecting material for his book, in 1768, he wrote to John Macnab of Bovain, then chief of the clan, for information concerning his family. Macnab prepared a genealogy, which Douglas stated to be pretty good so far as it went, and he himself undertook “to make it fuller and better." At the same time the historian asked Macnab to furnish him with further details regarding his immediate ancestors and their children, and any anecdotes concerning the clan that he could recollect. John Macnab thereupon wrote to his brother, Archibald Macnab, then a colonel and afterwards a general in the British Army, in the following terms:

"Dr. B. yours of the 6th June I had, and wou'd be extremely happy how soon your affairs would admitt of your being here. You see I lost no time in writting Mr. Douglass, and sent him the accompt of our Family in the very manner you sent me. On perusing it frequently with all attention I found you justly took care not to Incence or Raise the ill nature and Umbrage of the B.' family against us. You are, as well as I am, sensible the doing it att this time of day answered no ends, nor would Monk's Letters being so very recent add any Antiquity To the Family, and placing them or any pairt of them of course behoved to rip up old sor's and Disgrace B's family. Mr. Douglass may indeed mention his having by him letters from Monk will prove that the Great Family keeped possession of the whole of our Estate during the length of the Usurpation, and still hes some of it to this day, but does not incline to insert them at this juncture; this I intended to have inseart in the skeath, but delayed doing it till I had your thought thereon. I was also for Two or three days Endeavouring, but in vain, to get rid of the Etimologie of our name, I mean Abbot's son, Fearing that when published the Readers might Infer therefrom wee were bastards ; Because noe Abbot or Kirkman in Orders befor the Reformation were allowed by their Canons marriage. To obviate this my Intention was to putt it on this footing, viz:—That as the Abbots of old amassed a deall of Riches, That this Abbot of Glendochard had given all the lands he had acquired of Temporalities to his Nevay, or nearest Heir, and had got thereby the Appellation of M'nab Eyre (i.e. heir); by this we get quyt clear of the Imputation of bastardy, which to the utmost of our power wee ought to guard against. I have just now write to Mr. Douglass that I sent you a Coppy of what was sent him, and desyred he would print nothing till he heard from us, not knowing but we might make some alterations. If I send him what he wants I shou'd mention Achalader and Achlyne come of our Grandfather; let me have your opinion of this also. If you approve of thir remarks I have made, and as I believe you have keeped by you a Coppy of what you sent me, you may att conveniency Extend it a new and remit to me. Frank is just now at Ednr. pushing and procuring of some £100 pounds mentioned in my last. I expect he'll meet with success. Wee are all in good health, and Jamie is become a Father, but I doe not think his son will live any Time. My wife, Rob, and Don. Campbells wife, who is here, joyne in compliments. To you, and I ever remaine.

Your affect. Brother,

Kinnell 3d July, 1768” John Macnab.

The fantastic genealogy prepared by John Macnab and his brother in this remarkable way bears on its face the marks of inaccuracy; yet, strange to say, it has been accepted as true by historians, and has received the approval of John Macnab of Callander, who wrote a book, entitled “The Clan Macnab," published in 1907. In 1768 John Macnab, in making up his genealogy, reckoned himself to be eleventh in descent, tracing from father to son, from Gilbert Macnab to whom a charter was granted in 1336. This allows a period of possession of thirty-nine years and three months for each of his predecessors, and if each chief was twenty-one years of age when he succeeded, each must have attained an average age of sixty years. Between the years 1488 (when King James III. was murdered), and 1606, if we are to credit this genealogy, there were only three Macnabs in succession as chiefs. As a matter of fact, however, there were six chiefs during that period.

For much of the following genealogy of the Macnabs of Bovain, as well as for the interesting letter of John Macnab to his brother here produced, I am indebted to the late Mr. John MacGregor, W.S., Edinburgh, who placed at my disposal the results of his long and careful searches for information concerning the clan among the charters and papers of many Highland families.

During the time of William the Lion (1165-1214) the Abbot of Glendochart was associated with the Earl of Atholl in the government of the neighboring part of Argyll. This goes to prove that even at this early period the Macnabs had attained to a position of considerable influence and power in West Perthshire. During the Scottish War of Independence the Macnabs supported the MacDougalls of Lorn in their opposition to Robert the Bruce. They fought against him at Dalree (1306), and at Bannockburn (1314). When Bruce gained control in Scotland, it is said that he punished the Macnabs by depriving them of the greater part of their lands and by burning their houses; but in the reign of Bruce's son, David II, the Macnabs were reconciled to the Crown, and they remained loyal to the Throne ever after.

**The Chiefs of Bovain**

I. GILBERT MACNAB. In the reign of David II (1329-70) there is mention of a charter ("Index of Missing Charters”) to Gilbert Macnabbe (printed M'Nable) of the lands of Bothmachan, in the sheriffdom of Perth. The date of this charter is 1336; and it may have been in existence in 1768, as it is stated in the article in the Douglas Baronage to have been omnibus et singulis terris de Bovain in dominatu de Glendochard infra vie de Perth anno 1336.

From the date of this charter, in the reign of King David, until the year 1406, there is no evidence as to the succession of the Macnabs of Bovain. It is true that the article in the Douglas Baronage assigns to Gilbert a son, Finlay, who lived in the reign of King James I., and who was father of Patrick Macnab of Bovain; but no evidence is given for this statement. King James I. began to reign on 4th April, 1406, but at that time he was a prisoner in England, and on the death of King Robert III., Robert Duke of Albany, Earl of Fife and Menteith, was appointed governor of the kingdom. The after-mentioned charter was obviously granted prior to Albany's appointment as governor, or regent, and subsequent to his marriage with Margaret, Countess of Menteith, the dispensation for which marriage is dated 9th September. 1361.

II. ALEXANDER MACNAB. For his useful service rendered, and to be rendered, Alexander Macnab had a charter (“Breadalbane Papers”) from Robert, Duke of Albany, Earl of Fife and Menteith, and Lord of Glendochart. It is not dated, but the lands conveyed were Ardekelechyr, Invermonekel, Bothmeghan, and Dovniche, which may be indentified as Ardchyle, Invermonichele, Bovain, and Downich. This was not the original grant of these lands. They had belonged to Alexander Macnab before, for they were resigned by him into the Duke's hands in his chamber at Stirling. and they were regranted, to be held by the said Alexander, and John Macnab, his son, and the heirs male of his body, whom failing by Maurice Macnab, also son of the said Alexander, and the heirs male of his body, whom failing by Alexander Macnab, the son of the foresaid Alexander, and the heirs male of his body, whom all failing, by the lawful heirs whomsoever of the said Alexander, of the said Duke and his heirs in fee and heritage, as is set down more at length in the charters of the said lands. Not only does this charter preserve the names of Alexander's heirs, but it shows that there were older charters of which there is now no trace. The Lairds of Macnab at that time did not hold of the Crown, but of the Earl of Fife and Menteith, who is also styled “Lord of Glendochart." The probability is that Robert, Duke of Albany, acquired right to lands in Glendochart through his wife, Margaret, Countess of Menteith, who had married Robert, as her fifth husband, and he therefore designed himself Lord of Glendochart in respect of that right. Alexander' Macnab was dead before 18th September, 1407, and is designed in the sasine to John, his son, as “the deceased Sir Alexander Macnab." His wife's name is unknown; but he had three sons mentioned in the above-quoted charter:-1. John; 2. Maurice; 3. Alexander.

III. JOHN MACNAB. On 16th September, 1407, the said Earl of Fife, now Governor of Scotland, granted a precept of sasine to his bailie of Glendochart, who was also named John Macnab, to give sasine of the lands of Bochvane, Ardeqhulley, Duffince, with their pertinents, and of the office of “Farbaleschip” of Auchlyne in the barony of Glendochart to John Macnab, the son of the deceased Sir Alexander Macnab. He received infeftment four days later. John McAlastair Macnab' was one of the jurymen who made a declaration with regard to the rights and privileges, and also the duties of the hereditary Keeper of the Coygerach at Kandrochid (Killin) on 22nd April, 1428. John Macnab survived 21st September, 1428, when in a court held at Logierait, Walter, Earl of Atholl and Caithness, after calling all parties interested, ordered a transcript to be made of the last mentioned precept of sasine. Why this precept was not in John's possession, and who the other interested parties were, is not known. Whether John was succeeded by his son is not known, but it seems probable that the next Macnab of Bovain was Finlay Macnab.

IV. FINLAY MACNAB. On 24th August, 1450, a notarial instrument was taken by Finlay Macnab, who is not designed, in the Chapel of St. Martin in the parish church of Perth. He insisted that he and Edana of Abercromby had agreed in the last Sheriff Court of Perth to meet on the said day and place, and settle their disputes by certain arbiters, and that the party failing to appear should lose his case, and be held liable in amerciament, and therefore, protesting on the non-appearance of the said Edana, that he had gained his case, and was entitled to the stipulated fine. What was the nature of the dispute between them does not appear. Finlay may have been the father of Patrick, the next Laird. The authority of the Douglas Baronage, such as it is, would support this view.

V. PATRICK MACNAB. On the 18th November, 1464, “Patrick Mackynab of Bochtuane” was confirmed by the Prior of the Charterhouse in the office of Ferbaleschip of Auchlyne in such wise as he and his predecessors held the same. This office had been in the family for at least three generations. On 30th September, 1474, Patrick took an instrument that he had lost his titles of the lands of Auchlyne, and that having desired a new charter thereof with clauses and privileges as full as in his old deeds, his desire was granted, and on the same day he confessed before Patrick Russell, the Prior of the said Monastery, that he held the lands of Auchlyne, in the Lordship of Glendochart, of the said Prior and Convent in chief, in the same manner as his predecessors held them of any persons prior to the grant of them to the said Prior and Convent. The Prior and Convent granted a charter dated 1st October, 1474, to the said Patrick and his heirs male of the lands of Auchlyne, to be held of the Prior and Convent in fee and heritage, for the yearly payment to them of the sum of ten merks Scots, with a stockmart in manner used and wont. Apparently the lands of Auchlyne were held of the Monastery, while Bovain and other lands were held of the Crown.

The probability is that Patrick Macnab married considerably before the year 1483, for on 26th June of that year, at Perth, he granted a liferent charter of the lands of Easter Ardchyle in favor of “Marion Campbell, daughter of Duncan Campbell, the son of Charles Campbell." The grandfather of this lady was probably one of the Strachur family of Campbells, who about this time held Glenfalloch.

On 1st January, 1486-7, Patrick Macnab disponed to his son and heir, Finlay, the lands of Bovain, Ardchyle Easter, and Downich, and King James III confirmed this charter on 21st March following. According to the Dean of Lismore's Book and the Chronicle of Fortingall, Patrick Macnab died at Auchlyne in the year 1488; but the Prior and Convent of the Charterhouse had granted a precept of dare canstat in favor of his son and heir, Finlay, in the lands of Auchlyne, on 25th September, 1487. Whether Finlay was his son by the above Marion Campbell, or some former wife, is not known.

VI. FINLAY MACNAB, Patrick's heir and successor, received from his father the conveyance above mentioned of Bovain, and had the precept of care constat from the Prior and Convent of the Charterhouse, as his heir in the lands of Auchlyne. He was infeft in the lands held of the Crown, and in Auchlyne. The latter infeftment was on 25th September, 1487. “Finlay Maknab of Bowayne” was a witness at Inverness to a charter on 29th January, 1497. He was dead before 6th July, 1499. There is no evidence as to his wife.

VII. JOHN MACNAB had a precept from King James IV., as heir of the deceased Finlay Macnab of Bovain, on 6th July, 1499. This precept covers the lands of Bovain, Craigchur, Downish, and Easter Ardchyle, security being taken for the sum of £8 6s. 8d, being the rents of said lands at the last term, and for two silver pennies for the doubling of the blench farm.

Note—In Douglas's Baronage, after Patrick four Finlay Macnabs are shown in succession, and Finlay's, son, John, is omitted altogether

VIII. FINLAY MACNAB, son of John Macnab of Bovain, is designed “of Bovain” on 5th January, 1502-3, when he had from Patrick M'nabe of Monzie a procuratory of resignation in his favor of the lands of Ewer and Leiragin, extending yearly to four merks, and lying in the barony of Glendochart, and on the 9th day of the same month Finlay had a Crown charter of these lands. It does not follow from the above resignation that his father was then dead. On 3rd April, 1506, Finlay had a charter from the Prior and Convent of the Charterhouse of an acre, or croft, in the town of Killin. He is named as the first witness to a charter signed at Isle of Loch Tay on 18 September, 1511.

Finlay Macnab married Mariot Campbell, and on 18th January, 1522-3, he gave her a charter in liferent of the lands of Ewer and Leiragan. She died at Perth 9th July, 1526.

On 11 December, 1524, Finlay granted letters of baliary over his lands in favor of John Macnab, his son and heir. Again on 20 March, 1524-5, he granted a twenty-five shilling land out of the lands of Ewer and Leiragan to John Macnab, his “second son." On 1 April, 1525, with his wife's consent, Finlay granted a charter of the whole said lands of Ewer and Leiragan to the said John Macnab; and on the same day John granted a charter of the whole of the said lands to Mariot Campbell, his mother. It is probable that Finlay's eldest son was killed with Duncan Campbell of Glenorchy, and his brother, John Campbell of Lawers, at Flodden. There are poems in the book of the Dean of Lismore ascribed to a Finlay Macnab. The 'author was probably this Finlay who was contemporary with the Dean, in whose Chronicle both his own death and the death of his wife are recorded. It has even been suggested that the Dean was inspired to take up the work of preparing his book by Finlay, and that the poem entitled, The Sluggard's Book of Poetry," was intended to encourage him with the undertaking. Finlay died at Ellanryne, 13 April, 1525, and was buried at Killin.

IX. The ninth Laird was JOHN MACNAB, the second son of Finlay. At Perth, on 3 July, 1525, John was retoured by ten jurors, whose names are given, as lawful and nearest heir of the deceased Finlay, his father, in the lands of Bovain which had been in the hands of the Crown for three months. On the 8th of the same month the sheriff issued a precept for his infeftment, which was duly carried out on 11 July; but the Crown apparently raised a summons against the jury who had served him heir to his father, for on 30 December, 1529, John and five or six of the jurors granted a procuratory to answer the summons. John Macnab granted a tack for nine years of the two merk-land of Auchessan, on 9 April, 1545, to John Campbell of Glenorchy. He died before 10 July, 1558, and left a widow, Eleyn Stuart. John had at least two sons, Finlay and Alexander Macnab.

X. FINLAY MACNAB, the tenth Laird, appears to have been a man of mature age at the time of his father's death, for on 3rd November, 1552, he bound himself under a penalty of 500 merks Scots, at the ensuing feast of St. Andrew, to resign in the hands of the Regent at Edinburgh all his lands in Glendochart holden of the Queen, for new infeftment of the same, in favor of himself and his heirs male of him and his “moderne” (present) wife, Katryne Campbell, natural daughter of the deceased John Campbell of Glenorchy, and failing these heirs, in favor of Colin Campbell of Glenorchy and his heirs; and providing that he, the said Finlay, shall have heirs as above specified, he should pay to the said Colin the sum of 300 merks Scots; and further leasing to the said Colin Campbell all the said lands, together with the feu and tack lands which the said Finlay held of the Prior of the Charterhouse within the said bounds of Glendochart, and that for the life-time of the said Finlay, and for the rent which his father, John Macnab, got out of these lands; the said Colin binding himself in return to defend the said Finlay, his heirs male above written, his friends and his kinsmen, in all their just causes. This agreement was either departed from, or Finlay was circumvented, for in the following charter, which is not a lease, nothing is said about it being only for Finlay's life-time.

Finlay granted a charter on 24th November, 1552, in favor of Colin Campbell, sixth Laird of Glenorchy, his heirs and assignees, of the lands of Ewer, Leiragan, and the lands of Bovain, Ardchyle Easter, and Downich, for a pair of gloves yearly in blench farm, for a sum of money paid to him in his great and known necessity. Following thereon Colin Campbell had a charter under the Great Seal, dated 27 June, 1553, confirming this charter, and as he had already taken sasine there was a clause inserted in the charter of confirmation declaring it as valid as if granted prior to the sasine. Having now acquired the lands of the Laird of Macnab, Colin Campbell of Glenorchy disponed these lands to the said Finlay on 8 April, 1559.

The marriage contract of Finlay Macnab and Katherine Campbell, natural daughter of John Campbell of Glenorchy, is preserved among the Breadalbane Papers. It was drawn up at the Isle of Loch Tay on 13 March, 1547-8. There is a stone in the Macnab burial enclosure at Inchbuie, which may be taken as marking the grave of Finlay and his wife. This stone is 3 ft. 10 ins. by 1 foot 10 ins., and is of a coarse, hard material. Towards one end there is a hole, 3 ins, in diameter, drilled right through it. The central panel on the stone is occupied by a shield, which bore the arms of Macnab of Bovain (now defaced). The initial letters “F.M." and' K.C." are carved above and below the shield respectively. Below are symbols of death, and surrounding the central panel is the inscription, “THIS BURIEL APERTINES TO FINLAY MACNAB OF BOVAIN."

Finlay, the tenth Laird, appears to have had a son, John, who is described in the charter of 8 April, 1559, as his son and heir, but who must have predeceased Finlay, his father. The last reference to Finlay is in a Court' case on 12 November, 1573, when he sued John Bane Macnab for the rents of Sleoch and Acharn. The claim was not disposed of on that day, and when it came up again on 12th October, 1574, the pursuer was

XI. ALEXANDER MACNAB, Finlay's brother, who succeeded as the eleventh Chief. Alexander Macnab obtained a precept of c*lare constat*, as heir to his brother, Finlay, of the lands of Ewer, Leiragan, Bovain, Downich, Achessan, and Craigchur, from Colin Campbell of Glenorchy, on 21 and 22 July, 1574. He continued the practice, begun by his brother, of disposing of his lands to the Campbells of Glenorchy. On 2 November, 1577, having borrowed from Colin Campbell, the sixth Laird, and Patrick, his third son, the sum of 500 merks, he interdicted' himself to them anent his lands of Kinnell and others. On the same day he also interdicted himself with respect to Bovain, Ewer, and other lands, to Colin Campbell, the second son of the Laird of Glenorchy, on account of another sum of 500 merks borrowed from him. Again, on 12 May, 1578, Alexander granted a charter of Ardchyle Easter and Downich to Katherine Ruthven, wife of Colin Campbell of Glenorchy, in liferent, and to Colin Campbell, the second son of Colin Campbell of Glenorchy, and to the heirs male of his body, whom failing, to Patrick Campbell, his brother german, and the heirs male of his body, whom also failing, to Archibald Campbell, likewise his brother german, and to the heirs male of his body. It will thus be seen that Alexander Macnab involved himself hopelessly with the Glenorchy Campbells, and for his foolish actions his descendants had to suffer severely.

Alexander Macnab of Bovain signed a document at Kenmore on 10 April, 1585 relating to the repairing of the Kirk of Inchadney, and on 12 November, 1587, he witnessed a band of manrent, also at Kenmore. There is no evidence as to his wife, but he had at least two sons, Finlay, by whom he was succeeded, and Patrick.

XII. FINLAY MACNAB, the twelfth Laird, was the last of his line to bear the favorite family name of Finlay. He married Katherine Campbell, who is described in an incomplete Glenorchy genealogy of the end of the seventeenth century as "first daughter to Sir Duncan Campbell, seventh Laird of Glenorchy, of his other children." The term, “other children," is evidently a euphemism for natural children. There is no mention of this marriage in the Black Book of Taymouth, which records the marriage of another natural daughter, also a Katherine, of Sir Duncan. Tradition says that Finlay had twelve sons, the weakest of whom could drive his dirk through a two inch board. The only sons whose names appear in records are John, the eldest, and Duncan in Tullichcan. The Glenorchy genealogy above referred to states that Finlay had three daughters, one of whom married Finlay Mac-Alastair Macnab of Innishewan, and another married John Dow Macfarlane, son of the Laird of Macfarlane. Finlay is styled as a “sheriff of that part” (Glendochart) in a sasine granted on 25 February, 1619. The earliest reference to him as “of Bovain" is in a charter which he witnessed on 20 November, 1601, when Sir Duncan Campbell gave the lands of Mochaster to his second son, Robert Campbell, Finlay Macnab was entirely in the power of the Campbells. On 16 December, 1613, his brother, Patrick Macnab, renounced his title to Bovain and Wester Ardnagaul in his, Finlay's, favor; and on the following day these lands were granted in wadset to Robert Campbell of Glenorchy. On the same day the charter' of the superiority of the Campbells over the Macnab lands was confirmed. In 1618 Finlay Macnab of Bovain and his kinsmen, Alastair Macnab of Innishewan and Duncan Dow Macnab in Acharn, were arrested for the illegal carrying of arms, hakbuts, and pistols. Finlay was imprisoned within the Burgh of Edinburgh until he was released on the security of Sir Duncan Campbell of Glenorchy. In the Muster Rolls for 1638 Finlay Macnab is stated to have possessed one sword and target, one hakbut, and one steelbonnet; while his son, John, fiar of Bovain, who was then resident at Auchlvne, had one sword, target, bow, arrows, and one hakbut.

**The Macnabs and the Civil War**

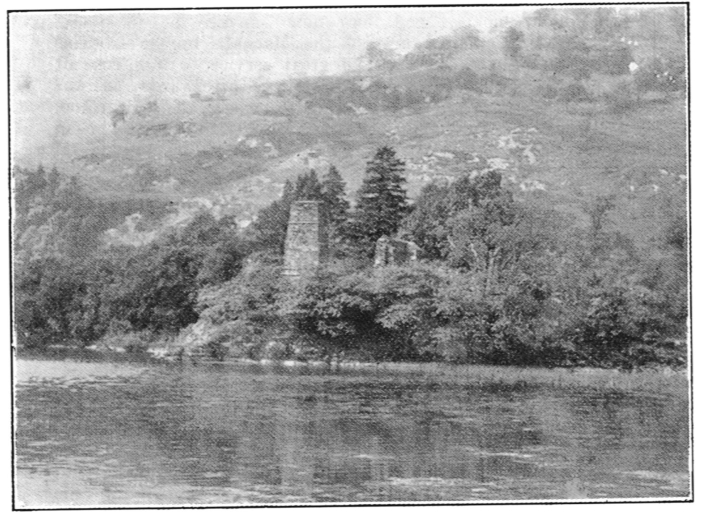
Finlay Macnab's career as chief extended over the troublous period of the Civil Wars, in which he and his clan were deeply involved on the side of king Charles I under the Marquis of Montrose. Finlay survived 28 July, 1656, when he signed an agreement anent the lands of Inneshewan and Bovain with John Campbell apparent of Glenorchy. While the Macnabs no doubt united with the Campbells in support of the National Covenant in 1638, they deserted to Montrose in 1644. This action brought them into direct conflict with the Laird of Glenorchy and his family, to whom they were bound by feudal and financial obligations. The consequences for the Macnabs, as we shall see, were ruinous; and although they were able to survive as landowners in Breadalbane for another century and a half, they were always at the mercy of their powerful neighbors, the Campbells.

The appearance of Montrose in Perthshire in August, 1644, was the signal for the Macnabs to rise under Finlay's eldest son, John Macnab, fiar of Bovain, who was called in irony lain Min Macanaba, or Smooth John Macnab[[2]](#footnote-2). According to the well-known Macnab legend Smooth John was the leader in the fierce and murderous attack upon the remnant of the clan Neish, who after their defeat at Boltachan, near Comrie, took refuge on the Isle of Lochearri, at St. Fillans.

John Macnab married Mary Campbell, daughter of Duncan Campbell, fourth Laird of Glenlyon. On the 15 October, 1633, she had a charter' from her father-in-law, Finlay Macnab, investing her in the liferent of Kinnell. In this charter Mary Campbell is described as the “betrothed spouse" of John Macnab. John Macnab and his wife had a family of four sons, Alexander, Patrick, Archibald, and James, and six daughters, three of whom married. Of the sons, Patrick and Archibald died unmarried; James married Katherine Macfarlane, daughter of George Macfarlane of Rosneath, and lived at Auchessan. On 6 September, 1676, the Laird of Glenorchy was commissioned to arrest James Macnab in Auchessan, Finlay Macnab in Innishewan, and Archibald Macnab of Acharn, and imprison them "until they presented John, Callum, and Duncan McGibbon." Margaret Macnab, John's eldest daughter, married Gregor MacGregor in Ruskich, Glenlyon; another daughter married John MacGregor, while Agnes, the third daughter, married Alastair Dubh Campbell of Achallader, who was known as “Black Sandie," and was father of John Campbell of Achallader, for fifty years chamberlain to the Earls of Breadalbane.

According to the account of the Macnabs in the Douglas Baronage, John Macnab was of great service to Montrose at the battle of Kilsyth, and immediately afterwards he was appointed to garrison Montrose's own castle of Kincardine, which held out against General Leslie until provisions began to fail. John Macnab then managed to get the whole garrison of 300 men clear away; but he himself and one private were captured. John Macnab was sent to Edinburgh, where he was tried, and condemned to death. He, however, contrived to escape from prison on the night before the day appointed for his execution.

There is a tradition in Breadalbane to the effect that, when Finlay Macnab saw the terrible destruction that was being wrought by the wild host that followed Montrose through the district, he intervened on behalf of the poor people who were burnt out of their houses, while their cattle were driven away and they themselves chased to the hills to perish in mid-winter. This tradition receives some support from the fact that on 21 January, 1645, immediately after the historic raid, an agreement' was drawn up at Finlarig between Alastair MacFinlay Macnab and his sons, Duncan and James, on the one side, and John Campbell, eldest son of Sir Robert Campbell, on the other. By the terms of this agreement the keys of Ellanryne were to be delivered to John Campbell, while the Castle of Lochdochart was to be placed in the custody of Alastair Macnab, so that he himself and his sons with their families might remain there until the present troubles were over. They were to regard themselves as the Laird's men and to hold the castle for his use. The Laird of Glenorchy on his part was to procure remissions for the sons of Macnab.



The castle of Loch Dochart

It would appear, however, that the above agreement was not observed. The Macnabs, on gaining possession of the island of Lochdochart, held it for themselves against the Campbells. In the Black Book of Taymouth it is stated that John Macnab, fiar of Bovain, and Alexander MacFinlay Macnab in Inchewan, with the whole Clannab, joined with the enemies and took “the isle of Lochdochart, which isle of Lochdochart was violently tak from them again in 1646, and burnt through their default."

The above record receives confirmation from coins and various articles found among the ruins of the castle when they were explored' by the late Mrs. Place of Lochdochart some thirty years ago.

**Death of John Min Macnab**

According to the notice in the Douglas Baronage of the Macnabs, John Min Macnab was killed at the battle of Worcester on 3 September, 1651, and this statement has been accepted by the clan historians ever since. From a memorandum anent the lands of Croftchoise and Ellanryne, which was evidently written at the end of the seventeenth century, and entitled "the oldest writs the Macnab hes by him," it appears that the writer had before him discharges for feu duties on the Macnab lands paid to the Laird of Glenorchy by the Macnabs. Among the items detailed is one to the effect that Sir John Campbell discharged “John Macnab, fier of Bovain, for 1651 and 1652 of the sum of £7 11s. 8d. as the yearlie dutty on the whole of lands." There is no mention of any payment being made for 1653, the reason for which will appear later, but the discharge for 1654 was granted to “Marie Campbell, relict of John Macnab, fier of Bovain." The memorandum proves that John Macnab survived till 1652, and could not therefore have been killed at Worcester, but evidently he was dead by 1654. How then did he meet his end?

The circumstances of John Macnab's death at the hands of the English are revealed by reports of the activities of the Commonwealth troops in Scotland during 1653. In the spring of that year some Highland chiefs and Lowland noblemen began to stir in the Royalist interest, and during the last week of May they held a meeting at Killin to resolve upon the movement that led to the rising under the Earl of Glencairn. Colonel Daniels, commander of the Commonwealth troops at Perth, having heard of the Royalist rendezvous, led a company of soldiers into Breadalbane and came into conflict with the Macnabs. It was in this encounter that John Min Macnab was killed.

Colonel Lilburne, commander of the Commonwealth army in Scotland, writing to Cromwell on 9 June, 1653, from Dalkeith, makes the following reference to the incident, “That little baffle which was put upon the Highlanders by Col. Daniells' partie hath much discouraged them, and was very seasonable to us, there being at that time in those parts divers great Lords and others complotting mischief, who since are discovered to us, and I hope to have some of them by the craigs: yet your Lordship may believe that many of them are in so desperate a condition that they would be glad to lay hold of the least opportunity to disturb us.” In another communication' written two days previously, Colonel Lilburne gave the following details of the incident:—”Last week a partie of horse and foot being sent-forth from St. Johnstons (Perth) towards the Highlands, in Athole, to arrest the collector, the Lord MacKnab, one of the great Montrossians, with his whole clan, did rise upon our partie ; and coming to them, after some little parley (we having got some of their cattel together) they offered our partie free quarter, if they would lay down arms and return in peace. But our men, not willing to be so affronted, stood upon their defence ; which the Highlanders perceiving, sent a flight of arrows and a volley of shot among them ; and ours letting fly again at them, killed MacKnab, the great chieftain of that wicked clan, with four more, and fell upon them and routed them all." There can be no doubt that the “great Montrossian” who thus met his death was the fierce and dauntless warrior, John Min Macnab, who by his deeds added Neish's head, the boat, and the motto, “Timor omnis abesto," to the armorial bearings of his clan.

**General Monk and the Macnabs**

The Macnab's castle of Ellanryne, with a half merk of land attached to it, stood on the east bank of the river Lochay and within half a mile of the Laird of Glenorchy's stronghold at Finlarig. The presence of a hostile clan at their very door had been a source of much trouble and annoyance to the Campbells during recent years; and they no doubt gave every encouragement to the English, when in 1654 the latter gained control in Breadalbane, to burn and destroy the ancient castle, and to carry away the Macnab writs. General Monk gave over the Macnab lands to the Laird of Glenorchy and his people, granting them full permission to help themselves to the property of the rebel clansmen. On 21 November, 1654, Monk sent the following letter' to the commanders of the garrisons at Finlarig, Balloch, and Weem, instructing them to assist Glenorchy in the work of spoliation:—”In regaird of the manie insolences and depredations off the Maknabs and ther pairtie and uther under ther Comand upon the Laird of Glenorquhay, and his tenents, thes ar therf or to authorize you to be assisting unto the said Laird of Glenorquhay to mak up his said Losses out off the chieffs of the Maknabs estaits, and also quhatt farder Losses they sail sustene ; to be Lykwise assisting unto the said Lord Glenorquhay to put the hail! Macknabs out off the countrie till such tyme they give good securitie off Low Countrie Gentle¬men, that the said Laird Glenorquhay sall be in securitie in tyme coming : unto all ther presents sail be your warrant ; given under my hand and seall att Dalkeith,"

The Campbells, in their merciless attack upon the Macnabs, seem to have awakened strong resentment in certain quarters, and very soon after the above orders were given representation was made to Monk on behalf of the widow of John Macnab and her children and other members of the clan. The result was that on 18 December following Monk' wrote as follows to the Laird of Glenorchy :—”Understanding that by virtue of my late order for your having satisfaction out of the estates of the McNabbs you are proceeding against the widow of the Laird of McNabb deceast, I desire you will forbeare to trouble her, in regard shee has paid sense, and lived peaceably since her husband's death ; nor would I have you extend that order to any that live peaceably at home ; but such as are obstinate and continue out in arms against the Commonwealth. I desire you also to forbeare to meddle with any of the Magriggors."

Monk followed up this communication with an order to Captain Gascoigne, in charge of the garrison at Finlarig, commanding him to see that Lady Macnab and her children were protected from the Campbells. The order to Gascoigne, sent from Dalkeith, dated, 18 January, 1654-5, was in the following terms: —-“I do hereby declare that it was not intended by my order for repairing of the Laird of Glenorchy's losses by the Macnabs out of their estates that the same should extend to the molesting or intermeddling with the estates of any of the Macnabs who live peaceably. And forasmuch as I understand that the widow of the Laird of Macnab hath lived peaceably, you are hereby authorized and I desire, in case any vexation be offered to the outing or dispossessing of the said widow and her family of the said lands or anything that belong to them under colour of said order to preserve the rights that to them belong, as if the said order had never been made, and to enter and to receive them into their lands ; and this favor also is to be extended to Archibald Macnab of Acharn." By 1655, Alexander, eldest son of the deceased John Macnab, fiar of Bovain, attained his majority. In that year we find him being put in possession of his ancestral lands by his grandfather, Finlay. On 14 September, 1655, at Kinnell, Finlay Macnab of Bovain gave charter to Alexander Macnab, his grandson, of all and whole the lands of Kinnell, Ardnagaullbeg, Bovain, Auchessan, Ewer, Suie, Acharn, and the half-merk land of Ellanryne, all lying in the Lordship of Glendochart and parish of Killin. On 23 September following, Archibald Macnab of Acharn, as bailie of Finlay Macnab, gave sasine to Duncan Macnab in Tullochcan, Finlay's lawful son, as attorney for Alexander in the above mentioned lands. There is no evidence as to the date of Finlay's death, but, as already stated, he signed an agreement with John Campbell, apparent of Glenorchy, anent the lands of Innishewan and Bovain, on 28 July, 1656.

**The Appeal to Parliament**

Alexander Macnab, who succeeded his grandfather as thirteenth Laird of Macnab, had no charter to prove that his lands belonged to him. His writs had either been destroyed or were in possession of the Laird of Glenorchy. He was therefore compelled to submit a petition' to the Scottish Parliament on 14 March, 1661, craving Parliament to force the Laird of Glenorchy to invest him in the Macnab lands in terms of several acts that had been passed by Parliament for assisting Royalists who had suffered during the period of the Commonwealth. The commissioners ordered the Laird of Glenorchy to be called before them, and in May, 1662, Glenorchy and Alexander Macnab submitted the differences between them to lawyers, the Earl of Glencairn, Chancellor of Scotland, being oversman, but no decree ensued on the submission.

Alexander had to deal with John Campbell younger of Glenorchy, afterwards first Earl; and he found that the latter would make no concession until the feu duties outstanding for the years from 1656 to 1661 were paid. When these had been discharged, John Campbell, acting for his father, granted Alexander Macnab a charter of his lands, on the narrative “that his father, John Macnab, fiar of Bovain, had been killed by the English and his writs destroyed, it was not reasonable that the said Alexander should be depryved of the loss thereof through a public calamity." The half-merk land of Ellanryne, which Finlay had made over to Alexander, in the charter of 1655, was not included in the charters. John Campbell evidently did not wish to see the Macnabs rebuilding the ruined castle of Ellanryne, or having any possession on the east side of the river Lochay.

On the 29 April, 1660, Mary Campbell,' widow of John Min Macnab, married Malcolm MacGregor, Tutor of the Clan MacGregor, who had been associated with her late husband in the Royalist army. By an agreement¢ with her son, Alexander Macnab, Mary Campbell renounced her liferent of the six-merk land of Kinnell, which had been secured to her. In return Alexander disponed to her and her husband in conjunct liferent and to himself (her son) in fee, the lands of Ewer, in Glendochart.

Alexander Macnab married Elizabeth Menzies, third daughter of Duncan Menzies of Weem. Their marriage contract is dated 14 November, 1662. Alexander must have died before 16 August, 1683, for by that date Elizabeth Menzies, his widow, was the wife of Duncan Campbell. brother to Mungo Campbell of Kinloch, one of the Earl of Breadalbane's bailies. Alexander Macnab's family consisted of two sons, Robert, who succeeded, and John, who died without heirs before 23 January, 1689; and two daughters, Jean and Agnes, neither of whom appears to have married.

XIV. ROBERT MACNAB, who succeeded as Fourteenth Laird of Macnab, was apprenticed to Colin Campbell of Carwhin, Writer to the Signet, Edinburgh, the Earl of Breadalbane's man of business, on 1 February, 1686. Robert Menzies of that Ilk was his cautioner. It would appear from the Glenorchy genealogy, already referred to, that Robert married, as his first wife, a daughter of Robert Campbell of Glenlyon, by whom he had a son who died young. Robert's second wife was Anna, daughter of Sir John Campbell of Glenorchy by his third marriage. Robert was thus brother-in-law to John, first Earl of Breadalbane. He and Anna Campbell were proclaimed at the Kirk of Killin on 10 October, 1697. They had a family of seven sons and five daughters. John, the eldest son, born in 1698, succeeded as fifteenth Laird.

Archibald Macnab, Robert's second son, died at Edinburgh, 2 January, 1790, after having had a long and honorable career, as a soldier in the British army. He was commissioned a lieutenant in the Marine Regiment of Foot, 26 January, 1740; appointed captain in the Highland regiment, 7 December, 1745; and promoted to the rank of Colonel of the 41st Regiment of Foot, 29 August, 1777. He was commissioned a Major-General in the army, 19 October, 1781.

Allan Macnab, the sixth son of Robert, was a soldier in Sir Duncan Campbell of Lochnell's Independent Company, and died 9 March, 1735, at the age of 19 years. He was buried in the churchyard of Tarland, Aberdeenshire, where a stone marks his grave. On the stone is the following inscription, “Humanity with pity, both virtues shining clear and those indeed are in a youth of birth and worth lies here." Of Robert Macnab's daughters, Mary, the eldest, married John Campbell younger of Baleveolan. Their marriage contract is dated 8 June, 1720. According to the account of the family in Douglas' Baronage, only two sons, John and Archibald, survived in 1769. Robert Macnab died before 17 November. 1725: but his widow survived until 6 September, 1765.

**Litigation and Increased Debts**

XV. JOHN MACNAB, who succeeded as Fifteenth Laird, served as a soldier in the Hanovarian army at the Forty-five, with the rank of major. He was taken prisoner at Prestonpans, on 21 September, 1745, and confined in Doune Castle until the rebellion was well over. It has been said that while the Laird of Macnab and his brother, Archibald, took the side of the government, the clan rose in support of Prince Charlie and fought at Culloden with the Duke of Perth's men. In the list of persons who were involved in the rebellion, and who were wanted afterwards, there are only two Macnabs mentioned, and neither of them belonged to Glendochart. With the Laird and his brother opposed to the rebellion, it is unlikely that many of their kinsmen and tenants would respond to the call of the fiery cross when it was sent round Loch Tay by Archibald Menzies of Shian and John Campbell of Glenlyon.

John Macnab married Jean Buchanan, only daughter of Francis Buchanan of Arnprior. Her brother, Francis, who joined the army of Prince Charlie, was executed at Carlisle on 18 October, 1746. John Macnab had a precept of *care constat* for his lands on 17 November, 1725. During his time the family debts went on accumulating, but this fact did not prevent him from carrying on many lawsuits against his powerful cousin and neighbor, the Earl of Breadalbane. Macnab disputed with the Earl about the maintenance of the banks of the river Dochart. He raised actions in the Court of Session over the rights and multures attaching to the meal mills of Auchlyne, and Millmore, at Killin. He further contended that the Ear) had still part of the Macnab lands in his possession. At length John Macnab decided that he must give up the fight against his powerful opponent, and on 24 June, 1756, he sent the following letter to John, the third Earl of Breadalbane :—”My Lord, I am sorry that so many suits and disputes are subsisting betwixt your Lordship and me, and to put an end to all these, I am perfectly willing to enter into a general submission of all disputes betwixt your Lordship, your wadsetters, tenants, tacksmen, and me. And if agreeable to your Lordship, to be determined by Mr. James Ferguson of Pitfour, your Lordship's lawyer.

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient and most humble servant, John Macnab."

John Macnab and Jean Buchanan, his wife, had a family of two sons and two daughters. Francis, the elder son, succeeded as sixteenth Laird of Macnab. Robert was a doctor, and resided at Bovain. Elizabeth, the elder daughter, married Dick Miller, and Marjory, the younger, married Colonel Campbell of Baleveolan. John Macnab died at Kinnell on 19 February, 1778, at the age of eighty years. His widow survived until 20 April, 1789.

Francis Macnab

XVI. FRANCIS MACNAB, the sixteenth Laird, was born in 1734, and died at Callander on 25 May, 1816. The grim face and massive form of the Laird of Macnab have been made familiar by Raeburn's famous full length portrait,' which was painted at Taymouth for John, fourth Earl of Breadalbane. Francis inherited the family debts and estate burdens, but he sat lightly under the weight of his financial obligations and treated with contempt the numerous demands that came to him for payment. He went on living the life of a feudal lord at Kinnell, waited upon by a few faithful retainers, as if he were the greatest man in the kingdom. His habits and eccentricities provided much amusement for his own generation; and numerous stories about him have been preserved.

Francis Macnab remained unmarried, but he is reported to have had numerous natural children. On 8 August, 1786, Janet Buchanan, daughter of Robert Buchanan, sometime of Leny, and her son, Francis, raised an action of declarator of marriage against the Laird of Macnab, on the ground of an alleged marriage, which took place by mutual declaration on 2 November, 1781. Macnab was, however, assoilzied by the court. Mrs. Murray of Kensington, in her book describing a tour in Scotland at the end of the eighteenth century, referring to the Macnab burial-ground on Inchbuie, says, “It belongs to a Highland chief hard by, who once on laying his pretensions and possessions at the feet of a fair lady, whom he courted for his bride, told her as an irresistible charm that he had the most beautiful burying-ground in the world. Whether the lady preferred beauties she could enjoy in life to those offered her after death, I cannot say, but the chief was not accepted; nor has he ever worn the chains of matrimony, though he has added to his family thirty-two children."

Francis Macnab, discovering that he could not find sale for surplus barley that he grew at Kinnell, started a distillery of his own at Killin, and according to Heron, who toured Perthshire in 1792; he produced the best whisky to be found in Scotland. He held the rank of Lieutenant-colonel in the Royal Breadalbane Volunteers, and on the parade ground at Taymouth he used to give his commands to his men in voluble and forcible Gaelic.

**The Last Laird of Macnab**

XVII. On the death of Francis Macnab in 1816, the chiefship of the clan and the Macnab lands with their heritage of debt devolved upon his nephew, Archibald Macnab, only son of Doctor Robert Macnab, who died at Kiln on 8 June, 1814. Robert Macnab had been married to Anne Maule, and besides Archibald he had a daughter, Anne, who married Robert Jameson, Advocate, on 28 July, 1811.

Four years before his death, Francis Macnab had made a disposition of the Macnab lands in favor of his nephew, Archibald, who is designed in the deed as of Easter Torry, a property which the Macnabs had acquired about 1778. Archibald Macnab had married Margaret Robertson, whose father was a Writer to the Signet, and a clerk in the Register House, Edinburgh. They had a family of three sons and three daughters, two of whom appear to have died in infancy. Of the others, Alexander died at Edinburgh on 20 May, 1828, in his eleventh year; William died at Pisa on 23 November, 1833, at the age of twenty years; Margaret died at Florence on 31 January, 1834, aged eighteen years; Sarah Anne, the eldest born of the family, survived until 19 January, 1894, when she died at Florence at the age of eighty-six years. Alexander was buried in Greyfriars Churchyard, Edinburgh, and the last three mentioned members of the family were interred in the Protestant cemetery at Florence, where their mother, who died there on 20 June, 1868, was also laid. A stone marks their graves.

The career' of Archibald Macnab, the Seventeenth and last undoubted chief of his clan, was remarkable and strange in the extreme. He had been brought up with the expectation of being a Highland chief, inheriting lands that had been in the possession of his ancestors for at least six centuries. When he came to succeed as Laird he discovered that his lands were mortgaged beyond redemption, the chief creditor being John Campbell, fourth Earl of Breadalbane. By 1823 Archibald Macnab's position had become desperate. The Court had issued a writ of foreclosure, and numerous creditors were threatening to imprison him for debt. He took refuge for a time with his cousin, Dr. Hamilton Buchanan of Leny; but his retreat was discovered, and he had to flee. Macnab made his way to Dundee, where he boarded a ship that was sailing to London. In London he borrowed sufficient money from some friends to pay his passage to Canada. On his arrival at Montreal the Macnab was given a great welcome and entertained to a dinner by some of the best people in the city. As he moved about the country he was honored everywhere for the sake of the name that he bore. Through Bishop MacDonell of the Roman Catholic Church; who had founded the settlement of Glengarry in Canada, Macnab obtained introductions to persons of authority in the government. The Governor-General at the time was Sir Peregrine Maitland, who was greatly attracted by the chief's personality and engaging manners, and when Macnab asked for a grant of land on which to settle clansmen, whom he intended to bring out from Glendochart, he was given eighty-one thousand acres in the valley of the Ottawa River. He lost no time in taking possession of the estate, to which he gave his own name of "Macnab." He then built for himself a villa on a charming site commanding a view of river, lake, and mountain scenery, such as would appeal to the heart of a Highlander. In the meantime he got into communication with his former tenants in Glendochart and others in west Perthshire, through his cousin, Dr. Buchanan of Callander. The bright prospects and wonderful advantages offered to settlers on the Macnab's lands were widely advertised, and some eighty-five men, women, and children arrived at Montreal on 27 May, 1825, bound for the land of promise. They were met on landing by the chief himself, who had brought his piper with him to give them a right Highland welcome.

The journey from Montreal to their destination was slow and toilsome and took them two months, although it is covered to-day by train in a few hours. On arrival the Macnab allocated homesteads to the emigrants, and they proceeded to erect shacks and to clear the land of timber. It was altogether an arduous task, and when the chief failed to fulfill his promise to provide them with a year's food, they began to regret that they had ever left Scotland. For the winter they had to subsist on flour and potatoes, and not too much of that. The more independent men among the settlers began to grumble and complain of the treatment they received: and as they discovered from other settlers near them that Government land in Canada was free, while they had bound themselves to pay rent to the chief, discontent became more wide-spread and intense. The protests of the Highlanders were met by the chief with acts of tyranny and oppression, and it was apparent that he was endeavoring to transfer the feudalism of Scotland to the free lands of Canada.

Macnab was on very friendly terms with the governing powers, and being himself a Justice of the Peace, with authority to hold courts; he was able to deal in a summary way with those of his tenants who gave signs of disloyalty. With the arrival of a new company of settlers the spirit of insubordination spread, and at length one man sent an anonymous communication to the Governor-General, complaining of the Macnab's acts of oppression. The letter was sent to the chief, and he at once concluded that it had been written by a certain Alexander Macnab, who had been giving him trouble. Without delay he sent the following extraordinary epistle to the suspected man:

Kinnell Lodge,

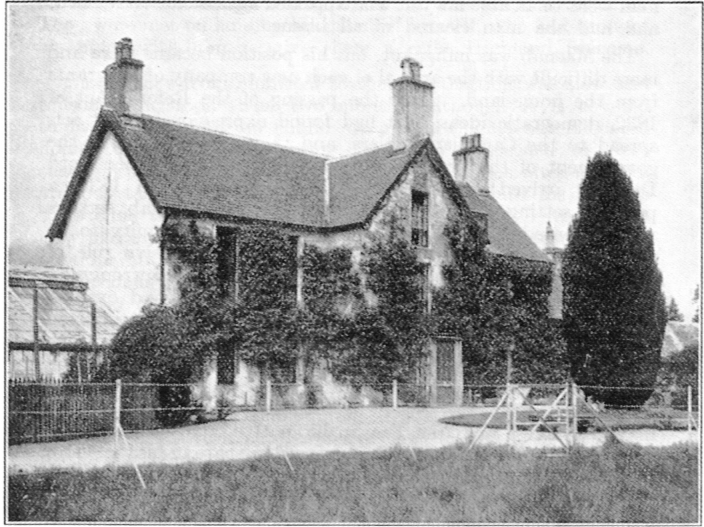
“Alexander Macnab, 13 March, 1829.

Degraded Clansman,—you are accused to me by Sir John Colborne of libel sedition and high treason. You will therefore compeer before me at my house of Kinnell, and there make submission; and if you show a contrite and repentant spirit, and confess your faults against me, your legitimate chief and your crime against his Majesty King George, I will intercede for your pardon. Your offended Chief, Macnab."

It turned out, however, that the man accused was not the writer of the offending epistle; but he answered his chief's summons, and appeared at his house. Alexander Macnab protested his innocence, but all to no purpose. He was convicted in the chief's court and sent to his prison. On getting out the aggrieved man went to an able lawyer, who appealed against the conviction, and had the man cleared of all blame.

The Macnab was indignant, but his position became more and more difficult with the arrival of each new company of emigrants from the home-land. After the passing of the Reform Act of 1832, democratic ideas, that had found expression in that act, spread to the Canadian settlers, and they rebelled against the government of the proud and tyrannous Macnab. When Lord Durham arrived in Canada as Governor General in 1838, a petition setting forth the grievances of the Macnab settlers was presented to him. He at once ordered an inquiry to he made, with the result that the illegal and oppressive rule of the Macnab was exposed. It was shown that he had wrongfully withheld the land patents from the people; he had exacted rents from them, when none was due; and he had restricted their freedom. He was compelled to refund the rents and to make restitution to those whom he had wronged; and by the time he had done this Macnab was a ruined man. He remained in Canada until 1853, when he returned to Scotland to find himself landless and friendless in his native country. His wife and surviving daughter, who had refused to share in his Canadian adventure, were living in Florence, and for some years he was left to live a lonely and miserable life. His wife at length made him a small allowance, and with this he went to live at Lanion, Cotes du Nord, in France, where he died on 12 August, 1860.

**Disposal of the Macnab Lands**

After the departure of Archibald Macnab for Canada in 1823, his creditors proceeded to dispose of what remained of the Macnab estate. Some of the lands had already been sold; Ewer had been purchased by Mr. Edward Place of Lochdochart; Suie by Mr. Colin Macnab; and Craignavie by Dr. Daniel Dewar. The remaining portions consisted of Kinnell with the grounds and parks around the mansion-house; the farms of Sleoch and Acharn, and the houses in Grey-street, all on the south side of the River Dochart; Millmore and several houses in the village of Killin, and the farms of Bovain and Craitchur on the north side of the Dochart. These subjects were all let and yielded an annual rental of £942 15s. Each tenant was under obligation to lead a load of coals from Stirling to the House of Kinnell. The burdens on the lands and the family debts amounted to the sum of £35,000. Although the estate was advertised for sale in June, 1823, it was not until 1828 that the properties, along with the superiorities over Ewer, Suie, Craignavie, and Arnfinlay, were sold to the fourth Earl of Breadalbane. The islands in the river Dochart, Garbh-innis, and Inchbuie, also became the property of Lord Breadalbane. The old burying-ground of the Macnabs is on the latter island.

**Kinnell House**

Kinnell House is a plain building of some ten rooms, situated on the south side of the River Dochart, almost opposite the village of Killin. It faces the south, and the front walls are covered with ever-green creepers. The oldest part of the house probably dates from the seventeenth century, and, after the destruction of the Castle of Ellanryne, Kinnell became the seat of the chiefs. The ceilings of the house are very low, and it is probable that the rooms have undergone little or no alteration since they were occupied by Francis Macnab. The house was vacant for many years after it came into the possession of the Breadalbane family. Gavin, the third Marquis, and the Marchioness had the house re-furnished, and they resided there for a few weeks each year. They collected various articles of furniture and other antiques that had at one time been in the possession of the Macnabs, and displayed them in the rooms and on the walls of the staircase. The family sideboard stood in the dining-room. Beside it was a brass candlestick that was said to have been in the family since the days of Iain Min. Silver shoe-buckles, spectacles, and a snuff-box that had belonged to Francis, were also shown, as well as several relics that had been associated with the name of Rob Roy. At the front of the house there used to be a large collection of mill-stones, querns, knocking-stones, and one or two ancient baptismal fonts, all of which Lord and Lady Breadalbane had gathered in from the district around. For most of the year the house was thrown open to visitors, and large numbers came to view the house that was once the home of the chiefs of Bovain. At the west end of the House of Kinnell is the famous Kinnell vine, which was planted by the second Marquis of Breadalbane in 1832. This Black Hambro vine rivals the celebrated vine at Hampton Court and has never been known to miss a crop. Note.—Kinnell House was renovated, and part of the Macnab relics sold, October, 1935.

**Inchbuie**

Inchbuie, or Innis Buidhe, the Yellow Island, situated in the River Dochart, has from time immemorial been the burial-place of the Macnabs. It is approached down a flight of stone steps from the east side of the Bridge of Dochart. The whole island measures some two hundred yards from east to west. Near the steps are two massive pillars, and a little beyond them is a high wall that stretches across the island, having in it three open arches. The entire island' is divided into three sections by two artificial earthen mounds that run parallel to each other across it, at a distance of about one hundred and fifty yards apart. These mounds were no doubt thrown up at some remote period in the past, when the island was used for defensive purposes. The burying-ground proper is in the east most section of the island. Here within a walled enclosure are the graves of the chiefs. On a great slab of mica-schist these is carved the effigy of a warrior. The art is rude and primitive. Tradition says that this slab was taken from the shoulder of Ben Lawers, and that it marks the grave of one of the earliest chiefs. Another stone, also recumbent, covers the grave of Finlay Macnab, the tenth Laird, and his wife, Katherine Campbell. The ordinary members of the clan admitted for burial to Inchbuie were interred outside the enclosure to the east. Here there are many grave-mounds, some of them covered with rough stone slabs. There are two erect head-stones, with quaint carvings and inscriptions, dating from the end of the eighteenth century and the beginning of the nineteenth.

As the visitor treads upon the soft, golden turf that has given the name, Innis Buidhe, to this sacred spot, and proceeds under the shade of the somber firs to the graveyard, he cannot but be filled with regret at the failure and almost entire disappearance of the wild warrior clan which for so many centuries dominated Glendochart, and played so prominent a part in Scottish history. The Macnabs are now scattered to the ends of the earth, but the traditions of the chiefs and their clan will cling to this beautiful and romantic countryside so long as the waters of the Dochart continue to surge and roar around the rocky foundations of the island where the dust of their dead reposes.

The chiefs of the Macnab’s imprudently lived beyond their means and amassed large debts. Those debts were acquired by the Campbell Earl of Breadalbane who foreclosed on them, forcing the Macnab into bankruptcy, thereby enabling the Campbell’s to acquire the Bovain Estates. The Campbells are included here because of the impact they had on the later history of the clan. This is a much shortened version of an article found on the Electric Scotland website. There it is stated that the original was discovered in an antiquarian bookshop and came from a 2 volume set written by James Taylor, M.A., D.D., F.S.A and published in 1887 as set 88 of a 250 print run. The original may be found at: <http://www.electricscotland.com/webclans/families/cambells_breadalbane.htm>

I have modernized the spelling and grammar as well as deleted much that is irrelevant to the history of the Breadalbane Campbells in relation to the Macnab’s - David Rorer

**The Campbells of Breadalbane**

The Campbells of Breadalbane were the most powerful branch of the house of Argyll. They are descended from Sir Colin Campbell, third son of Duncan, first Lord Campbell of Lochaw, by Marjory Stewart, daughter of Robert, Duke of Albany, and Regent of Scotland. In the “Black Book of Taymouth,” printed from an old manuscript preserved in Taymouth Castle, it is stated that “Duncan Campbell, commonly called Duncan in Aa, Knight of Lochaw (lineallie descendit of a valiant man surnamit Cambell quha cam to Scotland in King Malcolm Kandmore his time, about the year of God 1067, of quhom came the house of Lochaw) flourished in King David Bruce his dayes. The foresaid Duncan begat twa sons, the elder callit Archibald, the other namit Colin, wha was first laird of Glenurchay.[[3]](#footnote-3)” That estate was bestowed on him by his father. It was the original seat of the MacGregors, who were settled there as early as the reign of Malcolm Canmore. It was gradually wrested from them by the Campbells and in the reign of David II they managed to procure a legal title to the lands of Glenorchy, but the MacGregors continued for a long time to retain possession of their ancient inheritance.

Sir Colin Campbell, founder of the Glenorchy or Breadalbane branch of the clan was known for his military prowess and for the virtues of social and domestic life. He was born about A.D. 1400, and according to the “Black Book,” “throch his valiant actis and manheid maid knicht in the Isle of Rhodes, quhilk standeth in the Carpathian Sea near to Caria and countrie of Asia the Less, and he was three sundrie tymes in Rome.”[[4]](#footnote-4)

After James I was murdered in 1437, Sir Colin succeeded in capturing two of the assassins, Chalmers and Colquhoun. For which service James II gave him the barony estate of Lawers. In 1440 Sir Colin erected the Castle of Kilchurn (properly Coalchuirn) on a rocky promontory at the east end of Loch Awe, under the shadow of Ben Cruachan, near the Pass of Brander, where the MacDougalls of Lorne were defeated by Robert Bruce. The castle occupies every foot of the island that is visible and appears to rise out of the water. According to tradition, Kilchurn Castle was built by Sir Colin”s lady during his absence in the Holy Land on crusade, and is said to have consumed the greater part of the rents of his lands during the seven years it took to construct.

Sir Colin was married four times. His second wife was one of three daughters and co-heiresses of the Lord of Lorne, by whom he acquired a third of the estates of that ancient and powerful clan and hence forth quartered the galley of Lorne with his paternal coat of arms. His nephew, the first Earl of Argyll, to whom he was guardian, married another of these heiresses. By his fourth wife, a daughter of Stirling of Keir, Sir Colin had a son named John, who was the ancestor of the Earls of Loudoun.

Sir Duncan Campbell, Sir Colin’s eldest son, obtained in 1498 the office of Bailiary of the King’s lands of Discher, Foyer, and Glenlyon. The office was hereditary, and on the abolition of the heritable jurisdictions in Scotland in 1747, the second Earl of Breadalbane received the sum of one thousand pounds in compensation. Sir Duncan appears to have been very successful in carrying out the acquisitive policy of the Campbells, for he obtained grants of the crown lands at the port of Loch Tay, along with the lands of Glenlyon and Finlarig, which became the burying-place of the family, and other property in Perthshire.

Sir Duncan was killed at Flodden, along with his chief, the Earl of Argyll, and his sovereign. His eldest son, Colin Campbell, succeeded as third laird of Glenorchy, and the second was the ancestor of the Campbells of Glenlyon, one of whom commanded the soldiers who perpetrated the massacre of Glencoe. Sir Colin is mentioned as having “biggit the chapel of Finlarig to be ane burial for himself and posteritie.”[[5]](#footnote-5) His three sons succeeded to the estates in turn, and the last of these, another Sir Colin, who became Laird of Glenorchy in 1550, “conquessit the superiority of M’Nabb his haill landis.”[[6]](#footnote-6) The MacNabs were an ancient clan who at one time possessed considerable property on the banks of the Docherty, near Killin, on the south side of Loch Tay, but their lands have been incorporated into those of the Breadalbane family.

Sir Colin is also said in the “Black Book of Taymouth” to have “behiddet the laird of MacGregor himself at Kandmoor in presence of the Erle of Athol, the Justice-Clerk, and sindrie other noblemen.”[[7]](#footnote-7) It was this laird who erected the castle of Balloch on the site now occupied by the splendid mansion of Taymouth Castle. When asked why he had built his house so near the extremity of his estate, he replied, “We’ll brizz yont” (press onward). The possessions of the family have however extended in the opposite direction.

Sir Colin was succeeded by Sir Duncan Campbell, his eldest son, usually termed Donacha dhu na Curich, Black Duncan o’ the Cowl, who seems to have been a man of considerable force of character, but unscrupulous and treacherous. He was appointed by James VI, 18th May, 1590, one of the barons to assist at the coronation of his queen, Anne of Denmark, when he received the honor of knighthood. Sir Duncan was one of the six guardians of the young Earl of Argyll appointed by the will of his father, the sixth Earl, in 1584, all of them cadets of the family, and one of whom, Campbell of Lochnell, was the nearest heir to the earldom.

Sir Duncan Campbell was deeply implicated in the conspiracy to which the Lord Chancellor, Lord Maitland of Thirleston, and the Earl of Huntly were parties, to murder the Earl of Argyll, Campbell of Calder or Cawdor, one of his guardians, and the Earl of Moray. Sir Duncan was the principal mover in the plot which led to the murder of Calder. Glenorchy knowing the feelings of personal animosity cherished by Campbell of Ardkinglas, his brother-in-law, against Calder, easily prevailed upon him to agree to the assassination of their common enemy. Glenorchy himself had an additional cause of quarrel arising from the protection given by Calder to some MacGregors who were at feud with Glenorchy.

Though Sir Duncan was ambitious and grasping like his race, and utterly unprincipled, he was distinguished for his efforts in building, planting, and improving his estates, and in stimulating the industrious habits of his clan. He employed artists to decorate his house, and at a later period he was one of the most liberal patrons of George Jamesone, the Scottish Vandyke.

The Household Books, which contain minute details of the economy of the Breadalbane establishment from the year 1590 downwards, show that the cheer was always abundant and of excellent quality. It consisted of fresh and salt beef, salmon and trout from Loch Tay, herrings from Loch Fyne, dried fish of several kinds, mutton of wedders from the Braes of Balquhidder, capons, geese, wild geese, brawn, venison, partridges, blackcock, “birsell” fowls, and rabbits.

The drink consumed by the chief and his own family and guests was “claret wyne,” “quhyit [white] wine,” “Spanis wyne;” and judging by the chalders of malt which appear in the accounts, the consumption of ale and beer must have been wonderful. There were three kinds of ale in use—ostler ale, household ale, and best ale—for the different grades of persons in the family. In 1590 the oatmeal consumed in the household was 364 bolls[[8]](#footnote-8), the malt 207 bolls (deducting a small quantity of struck barley used in the kitchen). They used go beeves (“neats,” “stirks,” or “fed oxen “), more than two-thirds consumed fresh; 20 swine, 200 sheep, 424 salmon, far the greater portion being from the native rivers; 15,000 herrings, 30 dozen of hard fish; 1,805 “heads” of cheese new and old, weighing 325 stone[[9]](#footnote-9); and 9 stones of butter, 26 dozen loaves of wheaten bread; of wheat flour 3¼ bolls. The wine, brought from Dundee, was claret and white wine, old and new. Of spices and sweetmeats we find notice only on one occasion of small quantities of saffron, mace, ginger, pepper, “raises of cure plumdamas, and one sugarloaf.” These books also furnish us with the names of the Laird’s guests. In the week beginning 18th September, 1590, besides Sir Duncan and Lady Campbell, there were at table the Laird of Tullibardine, the Laird of Abercairnie, the Bishop of Dunkeld, the Tutor of Duncrub, the Laird of Inchbraikie, the Prior of Charterhouse, “with sindrie other cumeris and gangeris [goers].”

The Inventories of Plenishing, which commence in 1598, are of great value for understanding the habits and style of living of a powerful Scottish family. Besides the more homely furnishing of beds, sheets, blankets, and napery, there are entries of arras, work coverings, sewed coverings, woven Scots coverings, black and red mantles, Irish and Scottish “caddois” (a kind of woolen cloth), white plaid curtains—some of red and green plaiding, others of black worsted; green “sey,” champit red “sey,” purpour plaiding pasmentit (decked with lace) with orange green, and blue “canabeis [canopies?] pasmentit with orange;” “damewark burde claithes, serviettes, and towelles,” “sewit cushions, woven reid and orange,” “green couterclaiths of French stennyng,” “buffet stuillis.” The lists comprise all the articles used in the kitchen, the brewhouse, “woman house,” and other divisions of the establishment.

In 1600 are enumerated the pieces of armor in the House of Balloch—cut-throat guns, brazen pieces, hagbuts, muskets, two-handed swords, a steel bonnet, “a gilt pece with the Laird”s armes, that come out of Dundie, stockit with brissell [Brazil wood],” “brasin pistollettes,” “Jedburgh staves,” Lochaber axes, “gilt harness quhilk was gotten fra the Prior of Charter-house, one stand embracing twelve peces.” Curiously connected with the last entry is “ane Bibill,” which may have come from the same reverend donor. There is an enumeration of articles indicative of the means which the chief, we fear too frequently, employed to vindicate his authority—”great iron fetters for men’s feet and hands, long chains in the prison, high and low, with their shackles, &c.,” and, most ominous of all, “ane heading ax.”

An Inventory of the “Geir [goods, effects] left by Sir Colin, not to be disponit upon,” made up by Sir Robert Campbell in 1640, contains a list of jewels and silver plate of no ordinary extent. Of the former is “ane targett of gold, set with three diamonds, four topacis, or jacincts, ane rubie, and ane sapphire enammeled, given by King James the Fyft, of worthie memorie, to ane of the Laird of Glenurchay his predecessoures; item, ane round jewell of gold sett with precious stones, containing 29 diamonds and 4 great rubies, quhilk Queen Anna of worthie memorie, Queene of Great Britane, France, and Ireland [James VI’s Queen] gave to umquhile [the late] Sir Duncan Campbell of Glenurquhy, and uther four small diamonds quhilk the said Queene Anna, of worthie memorie, gave to the said Sir Duncane; item, ane fair silver brotch sett with precious stones; item, ane stone of the quantitie of half an hen’s eg sett in silver, being flat at the ane end and round at the uther end, lyke a peir, quhilk Sir Colin Campbell, first Laird of Glenurquhay, wore when he faught in battell at the Rhodes against the Turks, he being one of the Knychtis of the Rhodes; of great gold buttons 66.” The “silver work” comprehended “plaittes,” “chargers,” “layers, with basons partly overgilt,” “silver trenchers,” and “sasers partly overgilt,” “great silver cups,” some of them “engraved” and “partly overgilt,” and some with the Laird’s arms, “little long schankit cups for acavite [whisky], silver goblets, saltfats, masers, spoons, some of which had the lairdis name on them.”

Besides these heirlooms, the inventory contains many swords, guns, and armor, silk beds with rich hangings of taffety, one of them with “ane pend of blew velvett,” embroidered with the names and arms of the laird and his lady; another bed of “incarnatt London cloath imbrouderit with black velvett;” a third of “greine London cloath passimentit with green and orange silk lace;” a fourth of “changing taffite greine and yellow;” “sixteen uther weill and sufficient common furnischt beds with their furniture requisite;” “great cramosie velvett cuschiones for the kirk,” “cuschiounes of Turkey work;” twenty-four pictures of the kings and queens of Scotland; “thirty-four pictures of the lairds and ladies of Glenurquhay, and other noblemen; ane great genealogie brod paintit of all the Lairds of Glenurquhay, and of those that ar come of the House of Glenurquhay.”

In 1617 Sir Duncan obtained the office of heritable keeper of Mamlern. King Charles I afterwards conferred on him the sheriffship of Perthshire for life, and he was created baronet of Nova Scotia in 1625. He died in 1631, leaving seven sons and three daughters. His fifth son was the ancestor of the Campbells of Monzie, Lochlane and Finnab, in Perthshire.

As might have been expected from his character, the policy of the family towards the ill-fated MacGregors was pursued with unabated severity by Sir Duncan. His second son headed an attack upon them in 1616, at a place called Bintoich, or Ronefray, in the Brae of Glenorchy, at the head of two hundred men. The MacGregors were only sixty in number, but though thus overmatched, they fought with the fury of despair, and slew a number of their ruthless enemies in the conflict which ended in their defeat, with the loss of four of their leaders and twenty of their clansmen.

Little is known of Sir Colin Campbell, eldest son of Sir Duncan, except that he commissioned Jamesone, the celebrated painter, to paint for him a large number of family portraits, for which he paid the artist “ane hundred four scoire -pounds, quhilk are set up in the hall of Balloch”[[10]](#footnote-10) (now Taymouth). His brother and successor, Sir Robert Campbell, was a Covenanter—a character which could not have been expected to descend from such a stock or to flourish in the wilds of Breadalbane. In consequence, “in the year of God 1644 and 1645, his whole landes and esteat betwixt the foord of Lyon and point of Lismore were burnt and destroyit by James Graham, some time Erle of Montrose, and Alexander MacDonald with their associates. The tenants, their whole cattle were taken away by their enemies; and their comes, houses, plenishing and whole insight, weir burnt; and the said Sir Robert pressing to get the inhabitants repaint, wairit [spent] £48 Scots upon the bigging of every cuple in his landes, and also wairit seed comes upon his own charges to the most of his inhabitants. The occasion of this malice against Sir Robert and his friends and countrie people, was because the said Sir Robert joinit in covenant with the kirk and kingdom of Scotland in maintaining the trew religion, the kingis majesty, his authority and laws and libertie of the kingdom of Scotland; and because the said Sir Robert altogether refusit to assist the said James Graham and Alexander MacDonald, their malicious doings in the kingdom of Scotland, so that the Laird of Glenurquhay and his countrie people, their loss within Perthshire and within Argyleshire exceeds the soums of 1,200,000[[11]](#footnote-11) merks.”

Sir Robert Campbell had five sons and nine daughters. William Campbell, the third son, was the ancestor of the Campbells of Glenfalloch, from whom the present Marquis of Breadalbane is descended. The daughters were all married to Highland lairds, and the eldest became the mother of Sir Ewan Cameron, of Lochiel.

Little is known of Sir Robert’s eldest son, Sir John Campbell. He married the eldest daughter of the powerful but ill-fated Earl of Strathearn, and had by her a son, John Campbell, the first Earl of Breadalbane, born about 1635. The character of this powerful and unscrupulous chief has been drawn in dark but true colors by Lord Macaulay. “He could bring seventeen hundred claymores into the field, and ten years before the Revolution he had actually marched into the Lowlands with this great force for the purpose of supporting the prelatical tyranny. He affected zeal for monarchy and Episcopacy, but in truth he cared for no government and no religion. He seems to have united two different sets of vices, the growth of two different regions, and of two different stages in the progress of society. In his castle among the hills he had learned the barbarian pride and ferocity of a Highland chief. In the Council-chamber at Edinburgh he had contracted the deep taint of treachery and corruption. After the Revolution he had like many of his fellow-nobles, joined and betrayed every party in turn; had sworn fealty to William and Mary, and had plotted against them.” Mackay, in his “Memoirs,” says, “the Earl is of a fair complexion, and has the gravity of a Spaniard, is as cunning as a fox, wise as a serpent, and slippery as an eel. No Government, can trust him but where his own private interest is in view.”

Breadalbane had claims upon the gratitude of the royal family for the great assistance which he gave, in 1653, to the forces collected in the Highlands under General Middleton, in the cause of Charles II., and for his endeavors to persuade Monk, after Cromwell’s death, to declare for a free Parliament, as the most effectual way of bringing about the restoration of the Stewarts. He was a principal creditor of George Sinclair, sixth Earl of Caithness, whose debts were said to have exceeded a million merks. In 1672, Earl of Caithness executed a disposition of his whole estates, heritable jurisdictions, and titles, in favor of Campbell of Glenorchy, who took on himself the the Earl’s debts. On the death of Lord Caithness, without issue, in 1676, Sir John Campbell obtained a patent creating himself Earl of Caithness; but George Sinclair, of Keiss, the heir-male of the family, disputed his right to that title. Parliament decided in favor of Sinclair and in 1681 Sir John Campbell was created Earl of Breadalbane and Holland, Viscount of Tay and Paintland, Lord Glenorchy, Benderaloch, Ormelie, and Wick, with remainder to whichever of his sons by his first wife he might designate in writing, and ultimately to his heirs-male whomsoever.

The honors thus heaped upon him by the reigning sovereign failed to secure his fidelity when the trial came. After the Revolution of 1688 he gave in his adherence to William and Mary, though there was no end to “the turns and doublings of his course” during the year 1689 and the earlier part of 1690. But after the battle of the Boyne had apparently ruined the Jacobite cause, the Earl became more steady in his support of the new sovereigns; and, as it was at this time his interest, as he affirmed, to promote the stability of the Government and the tranquility of the country, it was resolved by the Ministry to employ the Earl to treat with the Jacobite chiefs, and a sum of fifteen thousand pounds was placed at his disposal in order to induce them to swear allegiance to the reigning monarchs.

It was an unwise and unfortunate selection. Breadalbane’s reputation for honesty was not high, and he was suspected of intending to cheat both the clans and the King. He alleged that the Macdonalds of Glencoe had ravaged his lands and driven away his cattle; and when their chief, MacIan, appeared with the other Jacobite heads of the clans at his residence in Glenorchy, the Earl, who ordinarily bore himself with the solemn dignity of a Castilian grandee, forgot his public character, forgot the laws of hospitality, and, with angry reproaches and menaces, demanded reparation for the herds which he claimed had been driven from his lands by MacIan’s followers.

MacIan was seriously apprehensive of some personal outrage, and was glad to get safe back to his own glen. His pride wounded; he had no motive to accept of the terms offered by the Government. He was well aware that he had little chance of receiving any portion of the money to be distributed among the Jacobite chiefs. His share of that money would scarcely meet Breadalbane’s demands for compensation therefore MacIan used all his influence to dissuade the other chiefs from accepting the proposals made to them; and Breadalbane found the negotiations indefinitely protracted by the man who had long been a thorn in his side.

Breadalbane contrived, however, in one way or other, either to spend or to pocket the funds entrusted to him by the Government. Some chiefs he gratified with a share of the money; others with good words; others he kept quiet by threats. And when he was asked by Lord Nottingham to account for the money put into his hands to be distributed among the chiefs, answered, "My lord, the money is spent; the Highlands are quiet: and this is the only way of accounting among friends.”

Before this pacification was effected, however, a most shocking tragedy had been enacted, in which Breadalbane was deeply implicated. His estates had suffered severely from the depredations of the men of Glencoe, and he hated them as “MacDonalds, thieves, and Papists.” His anger against them was deepened by his knowledge of the fact that their chief had employed all his influence to thwart the negotiation with the clans, from which the Earl had hoped to gain credit with the Government. Its failure had indeed led the advisers of King William to strongly suspect Breadalbane’s fidelity.

The authority of the Earl to conduct the negotiations was dated 24th April, 1690, and at the close of the autumn of 1691 the chiefs had not come to terms. The Scottish counselors of the King, therefore, resolved to try the effect of threats as well as bribes, and on the 27th of August they issued a proclamation promising an indemnity to those who should swear the oath of allegiance in the presence of a civil magistrate before the 1st of January, 1692, and threatening with military execution those who should hold out after that day. There is abundant evidence that the Master of Stair, the Earl of Linlithgow, King William himself, and in all probability the Earl of Breadalbane also, expected and wished that some of the Highland chiefs should refuse to avail themselves of the offer of indemnity within the prescribed period, and thus expose themselves to the summary vengeance of the Government.

The Earl of Linlithgow, one of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, recommended Breadalbane to “push the clans to do one thing or other, for such as will stand it out must not expect any more offers, and in that case those who have been their friends must act with the greatest vigor against them. The last standers-out must pay for all; and, besides, I know that the King does not care that some do it, that he may make examples of them.” Stair declared to the Earl, on the 3rd of November, that “pulling down Glengarry’s nest as the crows do, destroying him and his clan and garrisoning his house as a middle of communication between Inverlochy and Inverness, will be full as acceptable as his coming in.” A month later, in a letter to Breadalbane, he refers to the Earl’s “scheme for mauling them,” probably much such a scheme as was adopted; and he adds, “Because I breathe nothing but destruction to Glengarry, Tarbet thinks that Keppoch will be a more proper example of severity, but I confess both’s best to be ruined.” It is well known that MacIan of Glencoe was caught in the net spread mainly for the MacDonalds of Keppoch and Glengarry, that the massacre of the chief and his clansmen was carried out in a manner peculiarly treacherous and cruel, and that though it excited deep and universal indignation, both the devisers of the shocking and bloody deed and the instruments employed in its execution escaped the punishment they deserved.

Breadalbane at once took guilt to himself. A few days after the massacre he sent Campbell of Barcaldin, his chamberlain, to the men of Glencoe to say that if they would declare under their hands that his lordship had no concern in the massacre, they might be assured the Earl would procure their “remission and restitution.” It was not until 1695, three years after the Glencoe massacre, that a commission was appointed to inquire into the shocking affair. They reported that they did not find it proved that Breadalbane was implicated in the slaughter, but they discovered that the Earl had laid himself open to a charge of high treason by the manner in which he had acted in his negotiations with the clans; that he had professed to be a zealous partisan of James, and had recommended the chiefs to accept the money offered them by the Government, but at the same time to be on the watch for an opportunity of taking up arms in favor of the exiled monarch. The Parliament immediately committed Breadalbane a prisoner to the Castle of Edinburgh, but he was soon released by the Ministry on the plea that he had professed himself a Jacobite merely in order that he might discover and betray the plans of the Jacobite chiefs.

John Campbell the Earl of Breadalbane was three times married. His first wife was Lady Mary Rich, third daughter of the first Earl of Holland, who was executed for his loyalty to Charles I. She had a fortune of £10,000, a large sum in those days, and out of numerous candidates for her hand the Earl of Breadalbane was the successful suitor. He was married to her in London, 17th December, 1657. According to tradition, after the marriage he set out with his bride for his Highland home, on horseback, with the lady behind him. Her fortune, which was all in gold, was deposited in a leather bag on the back of a Highland pony, which was guarded by a full-armed gillie on each side of the precious horse-load. The strange cavalcade passed unscathed through the Borders, and arrived safe at Balloch. A small room used to be shown in the old castle which, it was said, formed for some time at once the parlor and the bedroom of the newly married pair after their arrival.

The Earl died in 1716, and was succeeded by his second son— John Campbell, Lord Glenorchy, born in 1662, who was nominated in terms of his father’s patent, as his successor in the earldom and in his extensive estates. There is no reason to suppose that his eldest son, Duncan, Lord Ormelie, whom he passed over, had given him any personal offence, or had done anything which warranted this treatment. The probability seems to be that the cunning and suspicious old Earl was apprehensive that though the part his clan, under the command of his eldest son, had taken in the Rebellion of 1715 had been condoned by the Government; they might after all revive the offence and deprive him of his titles and estates. He therefore disinherited Lord Ormelie in favor of his younger brother. The unfortunate youth seems to have passed his life in obscurity without any steps having been taken to preserve a record of his descendants.

In 1721, however, at a keenly contested election of a Scottish representative peer in the room of the Marquis of Annandale, the right of the second Earl to the peerage was called in question by his elder brother on the ground that any disposition or nomination from his father to the honors and dignity of Earl of Breadalbane “could not convey the honors, nor could the Crown effectually grant a peerage to any person and to such heirs as he should name, such patent being inconsistent with the nature of a peerage, and not agreeable to law, and also without precedent.” Strange to say, these weighty objections were overruled by the peers, and by a decision which is quite unique, Lord Glenorchy was confirmed in his ancestral honors and estates. He was remarkable only for his longevity, having died in 1752 in his ninetieth year.

His only son, John Campbell third Earl, born in 1696, was noted for his precocious talents and attainments. In 1718, at the age of twenty-two, he was sent as envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to the Court of Denmark and in 1731 was appointed ambassador to Russia. He sat for a good many years in the House of Commons as member first for the borough of Saltash and then for Oxford, was a steady supporter of Sir Robert Walpole, and was for some time one of the Lords of the Admiralty. After his accession to the peerage he was appointed, in 1761, Lord Chief Justice in Eyre, and in 1776 was nominated Vice-Admiral of Scotland. His first wife was Lady Annabella Grey, eldest daughter and co-heiress of Henry, Duke of Kent, an ancient and illustrious English house, and by her he had a son, who died in infancy, and a daughter, who succeeded her grandfather as Baroness Lucas and Marchioness de Grey

By his second wife Lord Breadalbane had two sons, who predeceased him. The younger bore the courtesy title of Lord Glenorchy and died in 1771 at the age of thirty-four, leaving no surviving issue though he had married in 1761 Willielma, second daughter and co-heiress of William Maxwell of Preston, a cadet of the Nithsdale family.

On the death of the third Earl of Breadalbane, in 1782, the male line of the first Earl was supposed to have become extinct. John Campbell Of Carwhin, who was descended from Colin Campbell of Mochaster, second son of Sir Robert Campbell of Glenorchy, took possession without opposition. He raised a regiment in 1793, called the Breadalbane Fencibles[[12]](#footnote-12), for the service of the Government, and in various other ways displayed a patriotic spirit during the protracted war with France. He was created a peer of the United Kingdom in 1806 by the title of Baron Breadalbane of Taymouth, and in 1831 was raised to the rank of Marquis of Breadalbane and Earl of Ormelie. His attention was chiefly devoted to the improvement of his extensive estates, great portions of which he planted with trees fitted for the soil, and by his costly improvements he rendered the park at Taymouth one of the most extensive and beautiful in the kingdom.

In 1828, the fourth earl of Breadalbane, principal creditor of the Macnab estates, exercised his right of purchase, after Archibald Macnab, 17th chief of Clan Macnab had fled to Canada to escape his debts. Subsequently, in 1849, the remaining Macnabs were evicted to make room for the breeding of capercailzie (a large black Old World grouse) for sport.

The Marquis of Breadalbane died in 1834, at the age of seventy-two, and was succeeded in his titles and entailed estates by his only son, John Campbell, Earl of Ormelie, second Marquis.

The second Marquis of Breadalbane represented Perthshire in the Parliament of 1832, was created a Knight of the Thistle in 1838, elected Lord Rector of the University of Glasgow in 1841, and in 1848 was appointed Lord Chamberlain.

At his death, without issue, in 1862, the Marquisate and Barony of Breadalbane and the Earldom of Ormelie, in the peerage of the United Kingdom, became extinct. The Scottish honors were claimed by John Alexander Gavin Campbell, of Glenfalloch, and by Charles William Campbell, of Borland and the decision of the House of Lords was given, in favor of Campbell of Glenfalloch. He died in 1871, and was succeeded by his eldest son, the seventh Earl of Breadalbane, born in 1851, who was created a peer of the United Kingdom in 1873, by the title of Lord Breadalbane of Kenmore, and was elevated to the rank of Marquis in 1885

1. WILLIAM FORBES SKENE "Highlanders of Scotland," published in 1837, Possibly the source of the ledgend that the MacNabs are descended from the Abbot of Glendochart. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. In irony because according to another account he was exceedingly hairy and hardly smooth at all! [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Duncan Campbell commonly called Duncan in Aa, Knight of Lochaw (lineal descendant of a valiant man surnamed Cambell who came to Scotland in the time of King Malcolm Canmore about 1067, of whom came the house of Lochaw) flourished in the time of King David Bruce. This Duncan had two sons, the elder called Archibald, the other named Colin who was first lord of Glenorchy [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. -through his valiants acts and manhood (was) made (a) Knight of Rhodes which stands in the Carpathian Sea (Mediterranean Sea) near Candia (Crete) and Asia Minor, and he made three journeys to Rome. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Builded the chapel of Finlarig to be a burial (place) for himself and his descendants [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. -contested the superiority of Macnab (over) his whole lands [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Beheaded the lord of Macgregor himself at Kenmore in the presence of the Earl of Atholl, the Justice Clerk, and sundrie other noblemen [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. A boll of meal weighed about 140 pounds [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. A stone equaled 20 pounds [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. One hundred and four score pounds = 2080 pounds a considerable sum for that time [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. 810,000 pounds – one Merk = 13 ½ shillings – 20 shillings equal one pound. This is probably Scots Pounds which were worth much less than English Pounds. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. What today is known as a “Territorial Regiment” for service only within the United Kingdom [↑](#footnote-ref-12)