

# The Lairds of Leckie

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*The text in this document has been transcribed from a booklet prepared from a series of articles in an old local paper, the Stirling Sentinel. Enhancements have been added in the form of photographs and drawings, old and new, available in the year 2001.*

*An updating section has been added at the end to continue the story through the rest of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and into the new millenium*

# The Lairds of Leckie



*These photographs show Leckie Castle as it was in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century (top left), as it looked to the noted Scottish Architect James McLaren in 1874 (left) and as it looks today (top right)*

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The Estate of Leckie having passed from Mr Graham Moir to Mr George Younger of Valleyfield, it may be interesting to trace the ownership of the lands from the earliest times in a more complete manner than has hitherto been attempted

The place-name Leckie (Leky, Lekke, Lekky, are old forms of the name) is not to be found in Johnston's "Place names of Scotland," and it is also omitted from the same writer's "Place-Names of Stirlingshire," for what reason it is impossible to guess, as its derivation is simple enough.

The first known owner of Leckie is said to have been a certain Malise de Leggie during the invasion of Edward I of England, but he is a rather mythical personage, and besides, at that period, owners more usually took their surname from the lands than the lands from their owners.

Sir Herbert Maxwell, in his "Scottish Land Names", (p152) says: "*Leachan, a derivation of leac, a flagstone, is occasionally used to denote a sloping hillside. From another variant, leacach, comes Leckie in Stirlingshire, most appropriately named from its position on the north flank of the Lennox range.*" We should be inclined to derive Leckie from the substantive *leacann, the side of the hill, rather than from the adjective leachach, but the root word is the same.*"

Mr Mathieson, in his "Place Names of Elginshire," derives Lekin in the parish of Knockando from the Gaelic *leacann*, steep shelving ground on the side of a hill. *Leac*, the root, originally means a large flat stone, especially a stone to mark a grave.

The lands of Leckie were Crown property till the reign of Robert the Bruce, who granted the west half nearest Boquhan, to Malcolm, fifth Earl of Lennox, in recompense for the lordship of a carcuate, or ploughland, of Cardross, in Dumbartonshire, where the King erected a castle in which he died in 1329. The terms of the original charter of Wester Leckie are repeated in a charter granted by David II in favour of Malcolm, son of Duncan, and grandson of Murdoch, who was second son of Corc, one of the younger sons of Alwyn, second Earl of Lennox. This charter, dated 31<sup>st</sup> March 1352, narrates the excambion above referred to, and states that the lands were surrendered by Donald, Earl of Lennox. The reddendo is a pair of gilt spurs at the feast of Pentecost (or Whitsunday) if demanded. Another charter by King David to the same effect, and dated 12<sup>th</sup> March 1356, is preserved at Leckie.

Malcolm inherited from his father, Duncan, the lands of Rahane and Altermony, and the office of Sergeandry in the County of Dunbarton (*Robertson's Index* p119) Malcolm de Leckie was succeeded by his son Murdoch, to whom Robert II granted a charter in 1376 of Malcolm's half of Leky, reserving his liferent. Failing Murdoch and his heirs, Leky was to go to his brother Thomas and his heirs, failing whom, to his sister Elisabeth and her heirs. The east half of Leckie remained longer in the hands of the King than the west, as in 1359, the feu duty is accounted for in the Chancellor's account. In 1391 an entry sets forth that nothing was due to the Crown for Esterleky because the heir had entered, which showed that the lands had previously been disposed by the King.

On 25<sup>th</sup> February 1407, Robert, Duke of Albany confirms a charter by John de Dolas of Esterleky, who appears to have been a weaver of arras, or figured tapestry, to his dearest friend, Murdac de Leckie, of the lands of Estirleky, which from a later charter (10<sup>th</sup> October 1407) appear to have been sold for 120 merks, the reddendo being 10 merks and the usual suit and service to the King. This Murdac, however must have been the son of Murdoch of Leckie as he survived 'till the reign of James II which monarch, on 7<sup>th</sup> March 1441, confirms to John of Murray of Kypmad (a cadet of Polmaise) the lands of Wester Leky (along with Altermone and Rachan in Dumbartonshire) which Murdoch of Lecky personally resigned, reserving liferent to the said Murdoch and Margaret, his spouse. This transfer seems to have been merely a temporary arrangement, no doubt for pecuniary considerations, as "Leky of that ilk" appears in subsequent charters.

It was different, however, for Easter Leky, which for the long period of 156 years was alienated from the family. It was held in 1451 by Adam Cosour, customar of the Burgh of Stirling, a wealthy burgesse who built the north aisle of the West Church. The charter he received from James II was rather of the nature of a bond or obligation for a loan than a regular charter, and the Steward of Menteith, in making up his accounts, is careful to state that the lands were held by Cosour *per impignoracionemut asserit*.

On 16<sup>th</sup> July 1472, there was offered at the alter of the parish church of the Holy Cross of the Burgh of Stirling by William Lord Monypenny of Petmuly, 300 merks for redemption of Easter Lekke and le Offeris of Schyrgartine, but Adam Cosour, holder of the lands, refused to give them up but promised if he was offered what he paid for them to "umquhile our Soverane Lordis progenitore of nobil mynd," to give answer God willand as effeiris. This sum, whatever it was, was later paid by Lord Moneyppenny, who got a charter of the lands from James III, 13<sup>th</sup> September 1472, and immediately afterwards disposed them to Andrew, Lord Avandale, Chancellor of Scotland. Thirteen years later, on Lord Avandale's resignation, a charter was granted by James III in favour of Andrew Stewart, son and heir of Walter Stewart of Morphie, Lord Avandale reserving his liferent and apparently the five merk land of Leky, which was confirmed to him and Margaret Kennedy, his spouse, by James IV in 1500. In 1520 there is a seisin in favour of Andrew Lord Avandale of Easter Lekky and Offeris of Schergartin.

Meanwhile Murdach de Leky seems to have been succeeded by Malcolm, very probably his son, who on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1477, gave his oath never to alienate any of his lands from his eldest son begotten of his first spouse, except ten merks, and that with consent of Malcolm Flemyng. The names of neither of Malcolm's wives are known, but it may be surmised that the first was Flemyng. A Murdo Lekky mentioned in 1492 may be the eldest son above referred to, and James Lekky of that ilk in 1493 was perhaps his half brother, but we have no particulars of Lekky marriages and descents at this period.

The ten merks of Wester Leckie which was excepted from Malcolm's oath came into the hands of Alexander Cunningham of the Glengarnock family, with which the Leckie's had a marriage connection. Alexander Cunningham was a Sheriff of the King in an obligation of Alexander and James, sons of William Murray of Polmais, dated 18<sup>th</sup> January, 1473, that William Stirling of Keir and his friends should be unharmed to the 5<sup>th</sup> of March. These were the Murrays who, along with their father, were slain by the Bruces of Stenhouse in a fight near Stirling in July of the same year. The Laird of Touchadams widow was Christian Cunningham, in all probability a sister of Cunningham of Lecky who acted as executor to the deceased. It is not till after Flodden that we find another Lecky of that ilk in the person of Richard, who had seisin of the half of Lekky next to Boquhan in 1515. He may have been the son of James, and was evidently a person of importance, as he is one of the obligants, along with Edmonston of Duntreath, Stirling of Keir, and Schaw of Knockhill, to Margaret, Queen of Scots, for the safe-keeping of Doune Castle, 29<sup>th</sup> September, 1520.

Richard Lecky of that ilk died between 1537 and 1545, and was succeeded by his eldest son John, who is the Laird of Lekky – now a barony – exempted from military service because he was one of those

entrusted with the safe-keeping of the infant Queen Mary, at this time (10<sup>th</sup> July, 1545) lodged in Stirling Castle. He was, however, killed while fighting for the Queen at the battle of Pinkieclough, 10<sup>th</sup> September, 1547 as is set forth in the retour of his son and heir, Walter, 26<sup>th</sup> March, 1555. Sir Walter Seton of Touch, who was probably the young Laird of Leckie's maternal uncle, obtained a gift of his non-entries during his minority.

Walter Leckie had two brothers, Robert (of Kepdarroch) and James. In 1570 the Laird appears to have been seriously ill, as on 28<sup>th</sup> April that year he nominates John Cunningham of Glengarnock (who was probably his wife's brother), his executor, and makes him tutor to his son Alexander, to whom he leaves his whole goods and geir, movable and immovable, and ordains that the said Laird of Glengarnock keep the said lands of Lecky only in goodwill, and take no interest or duties from them, but only their mailis to his son's perfect age, making compt thereof. Laird Walter, however, recovered, and survived for a number of years.

An entry in the Stirling Protocols, dated 7<sup>th</sup> July, 1575, mentions Walter Leckie of that ilk, along with Agnes Cunningham, his wife, and Alexander, apparent of Leckie, and as this Walter also appears as witness to a charter in 1576, it is almost certain he was the Laird of Leckie who had the feud with the Earl of Menteith which led to the "Battle of Ballochleam" famous in local annals.

This deadly feud is the subject of a letter from John, Earl of mar, to his "*traist friend, the Laird of Abercairny.*"

Writing from Stirling Castle, 20<sup>th</sup> October, 1575, he says:-

<p><i>"I neid nocht to mak repetitione of the lang troubill my freind and defender, the Laird of Lekky, has sustinet be the persewt of the Erll of Menteithe, knawin ye understand of it alrebye; and last of all the Erll has sumond him to underlie the law, the penult of this monethe of October, quha at na time offerit ony kind of misbehaviour except als is weill knawin in his own just defence at the day of law approachand; thairfoir I man chairge you my speciall freindis and weill willaris be ther concurrans and assistens to accompany me the said day, and will desyr you effectuouslie that accompaneit with your honest freindis ye address you to, be heir at Striveling the 28<sup>th</sup> of this instant October to accumpaye me to Edinburghe, quhair, God willing I intend to be, to the effect this mater may be defendit, and to the honour of me and my house, quhairby ye sall do me acceptabill plesur, &amp;c"</i></p>	<p>I need not to make repetition of the long trouble my my friend and defender, the Laird of Leckie has sustained by the pursuit of the Earl of Menteith, knowing you understand of it already; And last of all the Earl has summoned him to underly the law, this penultimate of this month of October, who at no time offered any kind of misbehaviour except all as is well know in his own just defence at the day of law approaching; therefore I must charge you my special friends and ? ? by their concurrence and assistance to accompany me the said day, and will desire you effectively(?) that accompanied with your honest friends you address you to, be here at Stirling the 28<sup>th</sup> of this instant October to accompany me to Edinburgh, where, God willing I intend to be to the effect this matter may be defended and to to the honour of me and my house, whereby you shall do me acceptable pleasure, &amp; c</p>
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Another letter from the Earl of Mar to the Laird of Abircairney on the subject of the "Laird of Leckie" is dated 9<sup>th</sup> January, 1577.

No date has been fixed for the great clan fight, but it seems to have taken place prior to 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 1577, on which date the feud came under the notice of the Privy Council. Ballochleam (wrongly printed in some maps as Ballochlinn) is properly *Ballochleum*, the pass of the leap, and is the name of the gorge in the face of the hills at the western extremity of the parish of Gargunnock, down which the waters of the Boquhan Burn leap to the lower ground.. Near this spot the Leckies met the Grahams of Menteith, and a fierce conflict ensued. The late Lieutenant-General Fletcher Campbell of Boquhan, who left a manuscript history of his estate, thus alludes to this affair:-

*"The ballad that celebrated the battle of Ballochleum was still sung by a lady in our days {i.e. the early part of the nineteenth century}*

The Leckies must have been of considerable numbers at that time if they could cope with the Grahams.....In the hollow of one of the fields, searching for limestone, an old tenant found some pieces of brass armour, with the points of spears, and a great quantity of different types of bones. He said he intended to go on but a thought came that he might raise the plague. As the ballad referred to by General Campbell has been lost and forgotten – it is a pity he did not preserve a copy of it – the causes of the feud with the Grahams and the details of the fight remain in obscurity. The minute of the Privy Council throws no light on the matter. It runs in the following terms:-

<p><i>Forsamekill as upon licht and slendir occasion unhappily fallen out, there was diverss slathers comittitt betewxt the friends, servants, and dependants of William Earl of Menteith and Walter Lekkie of that ilk.....assurances were given and persons denounced rebels relaxed in hope of sum concord and quietness in the country to have followed, howbeit sensyne the former trubill and misrule has been renewit and slachter lately committit, whereupon fude inconvenient is likely to follow if timeous remeid be not providit, therefoir ordains letter to be directit charging baith the said pairties to compear personally before the Lord Regent and Secret Council on the last day of May to answer to sic things as salbe inquired of them, and to underly sic ordure and directions as salbe imputed to them under pain of rebellion and putting to the horn.</i></p>	<p>Forasmuch as upon light and slender occasion unhappily fallen out, there was diverse slaughters committed between the friends, servants and dependants of William Earl of Menteith and Walter Leckie of that ilk....assurances were given and persons denounce rebels relaxed in hope of some concord and quietness in the country to have followed, however since the former trouble and misrule has been renewed and slaughter lately committed, whereupon feud inconvenient is likely to follow if timeous remedy be not provided, therefore ordains letter to be directed charging both the said parties to appear personally before the Lord Regent and Secret Council on the last day of May to answer to such things as shall be inquired of them, and to underly such order and directions as shall be imputed to them under pain of rebellion and putting to the horn</p>
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John Cunningham of Drumquassel became surety for the Laird of Leckie, and this surety had to be renewed the following year, which shows that the strife continued. The Earl of Menteith had also to find sureties for £5000 (Scots), that he and his servants and dependants would keep good rule in the country, and in point of fact, as we shall see, there was no lasting peace. On 30<sup>th</sup> June, 1579, James Leckie, brother of the Laird, and Andrew Leckie, were denounced as rebels for having failed to appear before the Privy Council, not improbably in connection with the same dispute. And in 1585 there was, on the part of the authorities, a fear of actual hostilities. On 23<sup>rd</sup> December of that year, it was reported to the Privy Council that George Graham, tutor of Menteith, and Walter Lekky of that ilk, and their followers were lying in garrisons, "*bodin in feir of weir,*" (living in fear of war) as they had been doing for many days bygone, waiting for the opportunity "*ather pairtie to invaide uthers be way of deid and hostilitie.*" (either party to invade others by way of deed and hostilities) Both parties were accordingly charged to "*skaille*" their forces and desist from further convocation of the lieges and mutual provocation, and to this effect were commanded to assure one another within six hours after being charged, under pain of rebellion, and also to appear in peaceable manner before the King and his Council when warned in order to the settling of the debates and controversies betwixt them.

But for several of the references in the records which preclude the supposition that this Walter Leckie had died or resigned in favour of his son Alexander during the interval between 1585 and 1592, we should have been inclined to the opinion that the Walter Leckie whom we find involved in the old feud with the Menteith Grahams at the latter date was the grandson of the Laird who flourished at the time of the Battle of Ballochleam, and who even then must have been past middle age. The difficulty is to find room for a Laird Alexander and a second Laird Walter within the period from 1570 to 1592, Walter being the Laird's name in both these years and apparently throughout the entire interval. In 1580, for example, Walter Lekkie of Leckie sells to Donald Campbell of Drongie the five merk land of Altermony and the five merk land of Rahewin, both of which, as mentioned above, were in the possession of Murdoch of Leky in 1441; and in 1583 there is a charter and precept of sasine by Alexander, Master of Elphinston, and Jean Levingston his spouse, to Walter Leky of that ilk, of the lands of Kepdarroch and half of Fleuchams of Gargunnoch. It is, however, perplexing, to find a later reference to Walter as the son of Alexander, and we can only suggest that further enquiry might reveal

the existence of two Lairds of Leckie – an Alexander and his son Walter – who at present cannot be accounted for.

Although Sir William Fraser in the Menteith Book is strangely silent as to any conflict between John, the sixth Earl, and the Laird of Leckie, the Privy Council Records show that the old feud was revived and again assumed a dangerous aspect in 1592. Under date 12<sup>th</sup> January, there is entered in the register an act of caution in 10,000 merks that John, Earl of Menteith, his tenants, and “*hail clan dwelling in Menteith,*” and all others for whom he is responsible, shall not invade or pursue Walter Lekky of that ilk, his men. Tenants, or other partakers in the deadly feud standing between him and the said Earl, and also that all persons for whom the said Earl is bound by the laws and general band shall be answerable to justice. And on the other hand, a fortnight later, there is recorded an act of caution of 3,000 merks by John Murray of Polmaise for Walter Lekky of that ilk, that he, his tenants, servants, and “*hail clan dwelling in Strivilingschir,*” and all others for whom he is responsible, shall not trouble John, Earl of Menteith, his tenants &c. A truce to all further hostilities seems to have been proclaimed at this time, but it was not long before the Laird of Leckie was to find himself involved in another and still more deadly feud, in which the heir of his house was fated to lose his life, and the fortunes of his family to suffer a blow which largely brought about its decay and ultimate extinction in the latter half of the seventeenth century.

Walter Leckie married a second wife late in life. This was Margaret Livingstone, sister to Alexander Livingstone of Pantisken (now Bantaskin). The pre-nuptial contract is dated at Dunipace, 13<sup>th</sup> October 1597, and bears that it is entered into with the consent of Alexander Leckie, son and heir of Walter. In this contract Walter Leckie obliged himself to grant to his wife in liferent the lands of Newpark in the barony of Leckie, and by a charter executed at St Ninians Kirk the same day, these lands were conveyed to her in due form.

Within four years after this marriage occurred the tragedy which darkened the lives and impaired the fortunes of the family of Leckie. In the month of September, 1601, Alexander, son and heir of old Laird Walter, was foully murdered by or at the instance of Sir James Maxwell of Calderwood and Alexander Lindsay of Dunrod who were related to him by marriage. It is not till 1622, when the victim’s son had attained his majority and brought his fathers murderers to justice, that we get an account of what happened. It is set forth as follows in a paper submitted to the Privy Council by Alexander Leckie:-

<i>“There falling out a controversie betwixt the Lairdis of Calderwood and Newark anent the lands of Hagtounhill, the Lairdis of Minto, Ferme, and sindrie utheirs preassing to tak up the same dureing the time of the conference, the Laird of Dunrod and certane his complices crap up covertlie under ane dyksyd neir the place of conference, and befor the upgiffing thair of schott the defunct deid behind his back, being then altogidder unfurnished of wapoun or ony airmour ather offensive or defensive.</i> ”	<i>There falling out a controversy between the Lairds of Calderwood and Newark concerning the lands of Hagtounhill, the Laird of Minto, Ferme, and sundry others pressing to take up the same during the time of the conference the Laird of Dunrod and certain (of) his accomplices crept up covertly under a dyke near the place of conference, and before the upgiving thereof shot the defunct dead behind his back being then altogether unfurnished of weapon or any armour either offensive or defensive.</i>
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This melancholy affair will come under notice again in the course of our narrative, and we continue the biography of the murdered man’s father, on whom the blow must have fallen very heavily. His son’s wife, Euphame Maxwell, was a sister of Patrick Maxwell of Newark, who was concerned in the dispute, which was marked by the sad fatality, which he was now mourning. On 1<sup>st</sup> March, 1603, this Patrick receives a grant from the King of Wester Leckie, the charter in his favour setting forth that these lands along with the third part of Kepdarroch, also granted, were held from the King by service of ward, and were recognised owing to their alienation by Walter Leckie, Alexander Leckie, his father, and some of their predecessors without the King’s consent. This was perhaps a voluntary divestiture by the old Laird to avoid trouble from the enemies of his deceased son, as a month later he obtains the royal confirmation of a charter in implement of his marriage contract with Mariota Livingstone, and also of a charter in her favour, dated 24<sup>th</sup> February, 1603, granting to her in liferent, and the heirs of the spouses, the Nether Maynes of Leckie and Garnabayne, extending to 2½ merks old extent of the Barony of Leckie, provision being made for the regress of the said Walter, his heirs or assignees, after the death of Mariota, on payment of 2,000 merks to heirs procreated between them. These lands must also have

come into Patrick Maxwell's possession, as in 1606 there is a confirmation of a charter by him granting part of them to his sister Euphame, relict of Alexander Leckie, on her marriage with Adam, son of the deceased Adam Cunyngham of Auchinhervie. By this time however the old Laird of Leckie was dead, and his grandson, Alexander, the young Laird, was under the tutorship of Robert Leckie, senior, of Kepdarroch, his granduncle. That the feud with the Laird of Calderwood was being maintained is shown by the following entry in the Register of the Privy Council

*4 March 1606 – Robert Leckie, elder, Of Kepdarroch, Robert L. his son; John and James, also his sons, Murdoch L. of Croy, Walter L. of Boquhaine, William L., son to umquhile Robert L. at the Kirk of Kippen, Alexander L. in Drumkippen, Adam Cunningham, son to the Laird of Auchenhervie, &c, with Patrick Maxwell of Newark and Cunningham of Glengarnock, in charge for assurance between the Lairds of Calderwood and Newark.*

This charge was renewed on 25th June in the following year.

Ten years after this the young Laird had reached a marriageable age, and chosen as his wife, Grizzel Murray, a daughter of Sir John Murray of Touchadam and Polmaise who will be sought for in vain in any of the printed pedigrees of that family. They had the pleasure of seeing the two Leckies – Easter and Wester – re-united after a long separation in the hands of the old family. A royal charter, dated 14<sup>th</sup> March 1617, grants to Alexander Leckye, now of that ilk, and Grizzel Murray his future spouse, the half of the lands and barony of Leckye called Wester L. adjoining the lands and barony of Boquhan, and also the third part of the lands of Kepdarroch, which lands came to the King by recognition, and were disposed to Patrick Maxwell of Newark, and were by him, with consent of George M., fear of Newark, resigned; also the lands of Easter Leckye and the Offerance of L. called Schirgartene, which Adam Cunyngham of Chapelton, now of Markinch, resigned, and which the King incorporated in a free barony of Leckye. Reddendo for Wester Leckye and Kepdarroch, service of ward &c.; for Easter L. and Schirgatane, a silver penny. Adam Cunyngham's brother, Alexander, having married Anna Murray, sister of Alexander Leckie's wife, it is evident that this transaction represents an effort of the young Laird's friends to give him a good start in life.

Easter Leckie, which, as we have seen was in the hands of Lord Avandale in 1520, was conveyed to Archibald Beaton of that ilk, chamberlain of Dunfermline, who was infeft in the lands in 1539, and the next notice of them occurs in a charter of sale, dated 8<sup>th</sup> July 1548, granted by Henry, Lord Methvin to Archibald, Earl of Argyle in liferent, and Colin Campbell, his second son, in fee. Two years previously, the Earl of Argyle and his son Colin had received from the Queen a charter of the lands of Boquhan, and his second son, Colin, was styled Sir Colin Campbell of Boquhan. He afterwards succeeded to the Earldom. It was his son and heir, Archibald the Grim, seventh Earl of Argyle, who, with consent of Colin Campbell of Lundie, his brother, resigned Easter Leckie in 1617 in favour of Adam Cunyngham of Markinch, who conveyed the estate to Alexander Leckie of that ilk.

In order to prevent conflicts between the partisans of the Leckies on the one hand, and those of James Calderwood on the other, during the minority of the Laird of Leckie, the Privy Council demanded a renewal of the assurances every year, at least up till 1610. In 1620, owing no doubt to pressure on the part of Laird Alexander and his friends, criminal proceedings were taken against the accused persons. On 15<sup>th</sup> December (the record bears) Sir James Maxwell of Calderwood, knight, Alexander Lyndsay of Dunrod, John Lyndsay, his brother natural, and James Maxwell, son of William Maxwell of Newlands, were "delaitit" of art and part in the slaughter of umquhile Alexander Leckie of that ilk, committed in September 1601. Sir James Maxwell died before the case was brought to trial, and the diet was continued to 16<sup>th</sup> January, 1622, and afterwards to 17<sup>th</sup> June and 5<sup>th</sup> October in the same year. At the last mentioned date it was stated that the Lord Justice Clerk had received a letter from the King in the following terms:-

*"We have been pleased to write to the Council willing them to employ their best means for reconciliation of Sir James Maxwell of Calderwood and Alexander Leckie of that ilk, and require them not to proceed in the criminal action till ye shall understand by our said Council that they have given up all further dealing in the matter."*

The Privy Council lost no time in undertaking the task set them by the King, as we find from the following minute in their register:-

<p>9 October 1622 – Missives to be direct to the Laird of Leckie on the one part and the persons chargit for the slaughter of his fader on the other part, to compeir before the council the last Counsell day of November for reconciling of the feade standing betwixt thame – to William Calderwode, Dunrod to bring his bass brother with him.</p>	<p>9 October 1622 – Missives to be sent to the Laird of Leckie on the one part and the persons charged for the slaughter of his father on the other part, to appear before the council the last Council day of November for reconciling of the feud standing between them – to William Calderwood Dunrod to bring his illegitimate brother with him</p>
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The course taken by the negotiations thus initiated is carefully minuted in the official record.

<p>28 November 1622 – The quhilk day compeirit the Lairdis of Calderwode and Dunrod and James Maxwell, sone to umquhile Williame Maxwell of Newlands, and [John] Lindsay, base brother to the Laird of Dunrod, on the one part, and the Laird of Leckie on the other part, and they being directit to nominat freinds for satling of the feade betwixt thame upoun occasioun of the slauchter of umquhile the Laird of Leckie, and who might mak offeris and resaeue and heir the same, it wes answerit be Leckie that their wes no necessitie on his part to nominat freindis for that errand, because yf ony offeris wer to be maid he wald heir thame himselff. Qhairupoun Calderwood nominat Sir Johnne Hamiltoun and the Laird of Conhaithe, and Dunrod nominat the Lairdes of Balcairis and Lag to mak thair offeris; quho ar ordaint to gif in their offeris to the pairty the morn, and to reporte upoun Twisday. Whereunto bothe pairtyis being present, ar warnit. <b>apud acta</b></p>	<p>28 November 1622 – This day appeared the Lairds of Calderwood and Dunrod and James Maxwell, son to the deceased William Maxwell of Newlands, and (John) Lindsay, base brother to the Laird of Dunrod, on the one part, and the Laird of Leckie on the other part, and they being directit to nominate friends for settling of the feud between them upon occasion of the slaughter of the deceased Laird of Leckie, and who might make offers and ? and heir the same, it was answered by Leckie that there was no necessity on his part to nominate friends for that errand because if any offers were to be made he would air them himself. Whereupon Calderwood nominated Sir John Hamilton and the Laird of Conhaithe, and Dunrod nominated the Laird of Balcairis and Lag to make their offers; who are ordained to give in their offers to the party tomorrow, and to report upon Tuesday. Whereunto both parties being present are warned <b>apud acta</b> (in the presence of the court)</p>
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On the 3<sup>rd</sup> December the parties made a formal submission to the council, leaving it to them to decide what “*assythment and satisfacioun*” should be made to the Laird of Leckie, the Laird of Calderwood declaring

<p>“That he enterit not in this submission as a guiltie persoun, or as one who by law can be chargit for the said slaughter seeing he was one infant when the same slaughter unhapplie fell out, but onlie for eshewing and removing of all aleist, grudge, and discontentment that may be conceived against him for his said umquhile father’s interesse therein”</p>	<p>That he entered not in this submission as a guilty person, or as one who by law can be charged for the said slaughter seeing as he was one infant when the same slaughter unhappily fell out, but only for avoiding and removing all ?, grudge, and discontentment that may be conceived against him for his said deceased father’s interest therein</p>
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The Lords accepted this declaration and appointed Lord Erskine, Sir George Erskine of Innerteil, Sir Andrew Hamilton of Redhouse, Sir John Hamilton, Clerk of the Register, and Sir John Scot of Scotstarvit to confer and deal with the parties “*the morne in Chekkerhouss*” for the purpose of drawing them so far as possible to some reasonable terms of conformity and agreement, and to report on Thursday next, 5<sup>th</sup> inst., the parties binding themselves to accept the decision of the Privy Council on the said report.



The final sentence and discreet of the council, dated 5<sup>th</sup> December, may be given in full:-

*In the first, forasmuche as it is cleirlye knowne to the saidis lordis that the said Alexander Lindsay of Dunrod was upon the ground the tyme of the committing of the slaughter of the said Laird of Lekkie and was fugitive fra the lawis for the same, and sua must be repute haldin and estemit to be airt and pairt and guiltie of the said slaughter, Thairfore, the saidis lordis decernis and ordanis the said Alexander Lindsay of Dunrod to mak, seale, subscriye, and delyver to the said Laird of Lekkie ane sufficient letter of procuratorie for resigneing in the handis of the excellent Prince Charles, Prince of Scotland and Wailles, &c, superioris of the landis underwritten, the twa merk land of Eister Rogertoun, the ane merk land of Wester Rogertoun, and the half merk land of Gairnemuiir, to the effect the said Laird of Lekkie may procure from his Heines ane new infestment of the saidis landis, to be halden of his Heines be the said Laird of Lekkie in the same forme and maner as the said Laird of Dunrod presentlie holds the same; and, the said infestment being past and exped in favoris of the said Laird of Lekkie, decernis and ordanis him to mak, seal, subscribe, and delyver to the said Alexander Lyndsay of Dunrod and his aires ane sufficient chairtour in dew and competent forme of all and haille the sidis landis of Eister and Wester Rogertoun and Gairnemuiir to be haldin be the said Laird of Dunrod of the said Laird of Lekkie, in few and heritage for yeirlie payment of the saxt retoured maill, of few maill allanerlie, with warrandice from the said [Alexander] Leckie of his awne deid, except the waird thaireof when the same sall vaik in the superiour his handis, quhilk waird sall nowayes be comprehendit under the said warrandice, bot salbe speciallie exceptit thairfra, and that the said letter of procuratorie contene likeways ane sufficient warrand for resigning in the handis of the said excellent Prince the superioritie of the fyve merk land of Warnokis Thornetoun to the effect the same superioritie may be disponit be his Heinis to the said Laird of Lekke, and that he may become superior thaireof to the Laird of Cathkine, who now holdis the same in few of the said Laird of Dunrod for yeirlie payment of the sowme of four pundis of few maill. And, whereas it is understand to the said Lordis that the said [William] Maxwell of Calderwoode is altogether innocent of the said slaughter, in so far as he was but ane young bairne when the slaughter unhappilie fell out, nivertheless for removing of all eilist, grudge, and discontentment betext the hous of Calderwood and Lekkie, and for establisheing of ane constant, solide, perfyte, and sattled friendship betwixt thame hereinafter, the saidis Lordis discernis and ordanes that,*

*In the first, forasmuch as it is clearly known to the said lords that the said Alexander Lindsay of Dunrod was upon the ground the time of the committing of the said Laird of Leckie and was fugitive from the law for the same and so must by repute ? and thought to be art and part and guilty of the said slaughter, therefore the said Lords decree and ordain the said Alexander Lindsay of Dunrod to make, seal, write, and deliver to the said Laird of Leckie one sufficient letter of procuratorie for resigneing in the hands of the excellent Prince Charles, Prince of Scotland and Wales, &c, superior of the lands underwritten, the two merk land of Easter Rogertoun, one merk land of Wester Rogertoun, and the half merk land of Gairnemuiir, to the effect the said Laird of Leckie may procure from his Highness one new recorded title of the said lands, to be held of his Highness by the said Laird of Leckie in the same form and manner as the said Lord of Dunrod presently holds the same; and, the said recorded title being (past and exped)? in favour of the said Laird of Leckie, discerns and ordains him to make, seal, write, and deliver to the said Alexander Lyndsay of Dunrod and his heirs one sufficient Charter in due and competent form of all and whole the side(said?) lands of Easter and Wester Rogertoun and Gairnemuiir to be held be the said Laird of Dunrod of the said Laird of Leckie, in feu and heritage for yearly payment of the sixth returned rent, of feu rent only, with undertaking from the said {Alexander} Leckie of his own deed, except the ? thereof when the same shall ? in the superior his hands, which word shall now always be comprehended under the said warrandice, but shall be specially excepted therefrom, and that the said letter of procuratory contain likewise one sufficient warrand for resigning in the hands of the said excellent Prince the supereority of the five merk land of Warnokis thornetoun to the effect the same superiority may be disposed by his Highness to the said Laird of leckie, and that he may become superior thereof to the Laird of Cathkine, who now holds the same in feu of the said Lord of Dunrod for yearly payment of the sum of four pounds of feu rent. And, whereas it is understood to the said Lords that the said {William} Maxwell of Calderwoode is altogether innocent of the said slaughter, insofar as he was but one young child when the slaughter unhappily fell out, nevertheless for removing of all eilist, grudge, and discontent between the house of Calderwood and Leckie, and for establishing of one constant, solid, perfect, and settled friendship between them hereinafter, the said Lords discern and ordain that*

whenever it sall please God to blisse the said Laird of Calderwoode with ane laughfull son, and the said Laird of Lekkies with ane laughfull dochter, of convenient and competent yeiris for mariage, that than, the said Laird of Calderwood's sone, being the heir of his house, sall marye the said Laird of Lekkies his dochter; and faillyeing of successioun bewixt the saidis Lairdis of Calderwood and Lekkies, sua that this mariage cannot be accomplished betwixt thair childreene, that than the first aire maill of the house of Calderwoode, being of convenient mariageable yeiris for the tyme, sall tak to wyffe a laughfull dochter of the said Laird of Lekkies, being of convenient mariageable yeiris for the tyme; and the conditionis of the said mariage to be sette downe be Johnne, Earl of Mar, and faillyeing of him be deceas, Johnne, Lord Erskine, or the tutour of the House of Mar for the tyme, for the pairt of the said Laird of Lekkies, and be Robert, Earle of Nithisdail, and, faillyeing of him be decease, be the tutor of his house, for the pairt of the said Laird of Calderwood, and in caise of variance betwixt them be the Lordis of his Majesties Privie Counsell. And the saidis Lordis discernis and ordanis bothe the saidis pairtyes for thame selffis and takand the burdene on thame for thare friends, assistaris, and partakeris to observe and keepe this reconsiliatioun and aggreiment unviolat in any poynt, and to remitt, renounce, and discharge all rancur, hatreit, and malice, greiff and displeasure and unkyndness, whylk thay or any of thame has consaved and born against otheris upoun occasion of the said slaughter or whatsomevir deade, cause, or occasion bigane predeiding the date heirof, and to live togethir in all tyme comeing in peace, love and freindship as becometh duetifull subjectis, peaceable nightbouris, and goode Christianis, under the obedience of thair soverane Lord and King. Like as, the saidis pairtyis being callit upoun befor the saidis Lordis and thes decreitt and sentance intimat to thame, thay bothe acquiescit thairunto and embracit the same and promeist to observe the same unviolable in all tyme coming; and in token of thair true and unfeigned reconsiliation and aggreement thay, with Patrik Maxwell of Newark, James Maxwell of Newlandis, and Johnne Lindsay, brother of the said Alexander Lindsay of Dunrod, hairtilie embraceit ane another and clappit handis together in presence of the saidis Lordis. And the saidis Lordis ordanis this thair decreitt sentance to be insert and registratt in the books of Secreitt Counsell, that executioun may pass thairupoun in forme as effeiris.

whenever it shall please God to bless the said Laird of Calderwood with one lawful son, and the said Laird of Leckie with one lawful daughter, of convenient and competent years for marriage, that then, the said Laird of Calderwood's son, being the heir of his house, shall marry the said Laird of Leckie his daughter; and failing of succession between the said Lairds of Calderwood and Leckie, so that this marriage cannot be accomplished between their children, that then the first heir, male of the house of Calderwood, being of convenient marriageable years for the time, shall take to wife a lawful daughter of the said Laird of Leckie, being of convenient marriageable years for the time; and the conditions of the said marriage to be set down by John, Earl of Mar, and failing of him by decease, Johnne, Lord Erskine, or the tutor of the House of Mar for the time, for the part of the said Earl of Leckie, and by Robert, Earl of Nithsdale, and, failing him by decease, by the tutor of his house, for the part of the said Laird of Calderwood, and in case of variance between them by the Lords of his Majesty's Privy council. And the said Lords discern and ordain both the said parties for themselves and taking the burden on them for their friends, assistants and partakers to observe and keep this reconsiliation and agreement inviolate in any point, and to remit, renounce, and discharge all rancour, hatred, and malice, grief and displeasure and unkindness, which they or any of them has conceived and borne against others upon occasion of the said slaughter or whatsoever deed, cause or occasion began preceeding the date hereof, and to live together in all time coming in peace, love and friendship as becometh dutiful subjects, peaceable neighbours, and good Christians, under the obedience of their Soverign Lord and King. Like as, the said parties being called upon before the said Lords and thus decreed and sentence intimated to them, they both acquiesce thereunto and embrace the same and promise to observe the same inviolable in all time coming; and in token of their true and unfeigned reconciliation and agreement they, with Patrick Maxwell of Newark, James Maxwell of Newlands, and John Lindsay, brother of the said Alexander Lindsay of Dunrod, heartily embrace one another and shook hands together in presence of the said Lords. And the said Lords ordain this their decreed sentence to be inserted and registered in the books of Secret Council, that execution may pass thereupon in form as ?.

Although escaping lightly from the punishment of his crime, Lindsay of Dunrod was in no hurry to fulfill his part of the agreement, for nearly two years afterwards we find him summoned to appear before the council and ordained to satisfy the decree arbitral printed above, a warrant being issued for his arrest in the event of disobedience. He was allowed an extension of protection to give him time to perform what he had bound himself to do, but three months later matters were no further forward, and having received a gentle reminder from the Laird of Leckie and his friends that their patience was becoming exhausted, he was obliged to petition the Council against them for systematic molestation. The parties petitioned against were Alexander Leckie of that ilk, Leckie, his brother natural, Robert Leckie of Kipdarroch, and his son; Walter Leckie, elder and younger of Polder, the Leckies of Croy, Schirgarten, and Moy (or Mye) Leckie at the Kirk of Kippen, John Murray, elder of Polmaise, and his brother, Patrick Maxwell of Newark, his son, grandsons, brothers, and son natural, Adam Cunningham of Auchenbowie and his sons, James Schaw of Greenock, and Cunningham of Glengarnock and his sons – a powerful combination who were alleged to have conceived a hatred against the Lindsays and continually threatened them and lay in wait in hidden places to do them bodily harm and take away their lives. All the Leckie faction were accordingly bound over to keep the peace under various penalties, ranging from £5,000 Scots to 2,000 merks, according to rank and condition. Lindsay, however, while evidently reluctant to become a vassal of the Laird of Leckie, as the arbiters had decided, deemed it prudent to make some kind of offer to placate his enemy and this is contained in the following document, which is entirely holograph of the signatory:-

<p><i>Offeris made by me, Alexander Lyndsay off Dunrod, to the right honorabill Alexander Leckie of that ilk, for the unhappie slachter off unquhill Alexander Leckie of that ilk, his father.</i></p> <p><i>(1) In the first, for my purgatioun off the unhappie accident, I protest befoir God that I was noch upon the foirknowledge counsell nor dewys thairof, bot wad have bein sorie from my hart that any such misfoirtoun suild hewe befallin him, nocht only in respek of the streat bandis of bluid standing betwixt us and brotherly lowe intertynyt betwixt us also unto the untymous tym of his deceis did so far ty me in all respectis, ye, in all respective dewtjis of intear and unfeinzit lowe with my kyndnes to him, that in his just and lawfull quarrel I wald so far go in with him as my alleagance to his Majestie my soveran wald hewe alluit.</i></p> <p><i>(2) And nocht withstanding of the premissis, I am content for the sayd Alexander his satisfactoun to mak him such assayethement in homadge to his honour in quhat place the sayd Alexander sall appoynt me</i></p> <p><i>(3) And, qhuairasnow I am left to myself in thes particular seeing it has pleased God to call the principal party from thes moirtell lyff and the nixt intrans pleades innocency and will stand to his tryall, I humblie beseik the Leard of Leckie for Godis cause to consider the premissis, willing to honour him with all respeckis of dewtie during the curse of my natural lyff, begging also thes offeris to be accepit off be him and hes honourabill freindis for Chryst his seak as from ane penitent hart.</i></p> <p><i>(4) And, gif thes my submissioun and humble offer can wirk no pitie nor commeseratioun, I am content to submit my self to the Lordis of his Majisty's honorabill Privie Counsell, and sall underly quhat farther thay will decern in the</i></p>	<p><i>Offer made by me, Alexander Lyndsay of Dunrod, to the right honourable Alexander Leckie of that ilk, for the unhappy slaughter of the late Alexander Leckie of that ilk, his father</i></p> <p><i>(1) In the first for my purgation of the unhappy accident, I protest before God that I was not upon the foreknowledge aware nor ? thereof, but would have been sorry from my heart that any such misfortune should befallen him, not only in respect of the straight bands of blood standing between us and brotherly love intertwined between us also unto the untimely time of his decease did so far tie me in all respects, yea, in all respective duties of ? and unfeigned love with my kindness to him, that in his just and lawful quarrel I would so far go in with him as my allegiance to his Majesty my sovereign would ?</i></p> <p><i>(2) And notwithstanding of the premises, I am content for the said Alexander his satisfaction to make him such ? in homage to his honour in what place the said Alexander shall appoint me.</i></p> <p><i>(3) And, whereasnow I am left to myself in these particulars seeing it has pleased God to call the principal party from this mortal life and the next ? pleads innocence and will stand to his trial, I humbly beseech the Laird of Leckie for God's cause to consider the premises, willing to honour him with all respects of duty during the course of my natural life, begging also these offers to be accepted of by him and his honourable friends for Christ his sake as from one penitent heart</i></p> <p><i>(4) And, if these my submissions and humble offer can work no pity nor commiseration, I am content to submit myself to the Lords of his Majesty'd Honourable Privy Council, and shall underly what further they will decide in the</i></p>
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<i>premissis according to my possibilitie. – In witness quhairoff thes presentis as written and subscriyvet with my awen hand, at Edinburgh, the last of November jm vjc and twenty-twa yeris</i> A. LYNDSAY OF DUNROD	<i>premises according to my possibility, - In witness whereof these presents as written and subscribed with my own hand, at Edinburgh, the last of November ? and twenty-two years</i>
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This transparently hypocritical production roused the indignation of the Laird of Leckie, who in his answers (undated) which are too long to quote, reminds the Council of the foul nature of the crime, and as for the homage offered by its perpetrator, he points out that it is not commensurate with the slaughter of a Baron in such a manner as to involve the ward of his lands, the dues of marriage of the heir, the non-provision for the rest of the bairns, and almost the utter ruin of his house and memory. He asks the council to consider how scornfully he has been used both by the Laird of Calderwood and Lindsay, whose offers he characterizes as illusory, and calls for the redress allowed by the law.

The matter seems to have been left in this unsatisfactory way, the Privy Council taking no further action to insist on obedience to their own decree, and there is no further record of the feud with the Lindsays. The Laird of Leckie had now enough to do in looking after his estate, already burdened with debt.

A charter of the Barony of Leckie, dated 9<sup>th</sup> July 1632, granted by the Laird to John Cowane, Dean of Guild, Stirling, is suggestive when it is remembered that Cowane did a large money lending business, and, in fact, at this period there were few estates in the neighborhood on which the wealthy merchant had not a mortgage. In the following year a wadset on the three merk land of Kepdarroch was granted by Alexander of Leckie of that ilk in favour of Robert Muschet of Calzechat in liferent, and his son, David Muschet, in fee. Of the two merk land of Kepdarroch, which had been in the hands of another branch of the family, the Laird of Leckie regained possession, as is evidenced by a charter dated 5<sup>th</sup> March 1642. The same charter also contains a grant of the lands of Easter and Wester Rogertoun and Gairnmuir in Lanarkshire, on the resignation of Alexander Lindesay of Dunrod, so that it may be inferred that at least part of the “assythement and satisfaction” which the Lords of the Privy Council ordered to be paid to the Laird of Leckie in 1622, on account of the slaughter of his father, had been received from the Laird of Dunrod, probably as the result of a compromise between the parties.

Alexander Leckie died about the year 1643, when John Leckie who appears to have been his only son, was still a minor. He also left two daughters, Euphame and Margaret. John Leckie of that ilk was, on 12<sup>th</sup> January, 1648, retoured heir to his father in half of the lands and barony of Leckie, commonly called Wester Leckie, and extending to £10 of old extent, with the mill; a third part of the lands of Kipdarroch, the lands of Easter Leckie and the Offerance of Leckie, called Schirgartane, in the Stewartry of Menteith, extending to £8 10s old extent, and united in the barony of Leckie; also, the two merk land of Kipdarroch in the barony of Gargunnoch. It is probable that these lands were heavily burdened, and the new Laird adopted a course, which was not calculated to afford him much relief. He was a strong Presbyterian, and took an active part in the Civil War. He was on the Committee of War for Stirlingshire in 1643-4, 1646, and 1648-9, and a Commissioner to Parliament in 1649. After the Restoration he was one of those who were excepted from His Majesty’s pardon and indemnity and in 1662 he was fined £600. The previous year he had been a Commissioner of Excise, and in 1663 he was appointed a Justice of the Peace, which marks a return of the royal favour, or at least a disposition on the part of the Government to overlook past offences.

The register of marriages for the parish of Gargunnoch contains the following entry:-

*“1661, John Leckie of that Ilke married Jean Buchanan, sister to --- Buchanan of that Ilke.”*

His wife is called Janet in an instrument of sasine, dated 8<sup>th</sup> January 1662. She was the youngest daughter of Sir George Buchanan of Buchanan, and sister to John, the last of the Buchanans of that ilk. The Gargunnoch register of baptisms shows that the Laird of Leckie had a son.

The entry is as follows:-

*“27th day of November 1666, To John Leckie of that Ilke and Jean Buchanan, a son called John.”*

Two years later the pecuniary embarrassments of the Laird came to a crisis. He had apparently been assisted to tide over his difficulties for a while by David Moir of Craigarnhall, Sheriff Clerk of Stirling, who was probably his law agent. At all events the crisis ended in the transference of the estate of Leckie to the lawyer, and there was no longer a Leckie of that ilk, although the dispossessed Laird continued by courtesy to be so designed. With this Laird, therefore ends the long line of Leckies of Leckie.

## The Moirs of Leckie

David Moir of Craigharnhall seems to have originally belonged to Doune. A Walter Moir, writer there, who flourished at the same period, may have been his brother. John Moir, eldest son of this Walter, succeeded David Moir in Craigharnhall, and his near relatives (probably uncles) were James Moir in Newton of Doune, and Robert Moir in Lanrick. "Craigharnhall" was originally "Cragarnot". It is included in the lands formerly in the Earldom of Strathearn, and granted 8<sup>th</sup> February, 1442-3, to Michael, Bishop of Dunblane, and his successors in office, and the Chapter of the same place. It afterwards formed part of the Deanery lands. At the Reformation these lands were feued out to different persons, who subsequently became their proprietors, and it appears from an entry in a manuscript volume in the Register House, Edinburgh, entitled "Charge of the Temporalities of Kirklands, north and south of the Forth, 1569," that the lands of Graigharnall and wood thereof, lying within the parish of Dunblane, were set in feu to James Sinclair, yr of Bankis Row, the yearly feu duty amounting to £16 8s 4d Scots. A royal charter dated 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 1594, grants to this James Sinclair the lands of Craigharnall, with wood, formerly possessed in feu by the Dean of Dunblane, the reddendo being twenty-five merks. The place-name is changed in the next recorded charter, which is dated the 26<sup>th</sup> December 1642, and grants to James Stirling of Balwill and William Stirling, his eldest son, the lands of Craigharnhall, with wood, in the parish of Balmaddock (*sic*) and county of Perth which were formerly held by the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral Church of Dunblane. The name of the parish may be Kilmaddock in the original, but the lands are now in the parish of Lecropt. It is possible that some fancied connection with Arnhall, an old mansion belonging to the Stirlings of Keir, and situated a short distance to the south-west, suggested to the Stirlings of Balwill, cadets of the Keir family, the above-noted change of the place-name to Craigharnhall, but at a later period it re-appears in official deeds as "Craigharnal." We do not again meet with what was probably the original name, "Cragarnot."

David Moir was the owner of Craigharnhall, when, on 21<sup>st</sup> January 1659, he, together with Marie Stewart, his spouse, were infeft in Stirling of Keir's ludging at the foot of Broad Street, Stirling. By a sasine dated 8<sup>th</sup> May 1665, David Moir had himself infeft in this tenement in liferent, and his second son James in fee. From certain legal proceedings which were necessary in 1687 we learn that a royal charter was presented in favour of David Moir, elder, and his heirs, dated 12<sup>th</sup> June, and instrument of sasine dated 27<sup>th</sup> June, 1668, granting to them Easter Leckie and Schirgartane, with half of Wester Leckie; also charter by Charles II in favour of the said David Moir, elder, and Marie Stewart, his spouse, in liferent, and David Moir, their eldest lawful son, in fee, of the half of Wester Leckie, dated 12<sup>th</sup> July, 1670. David Moir, senior, likewise obtained seisin of the lands of Cambusbarron on a wadset on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1672. One of the new Laird's first actions was to protest against the proportion of men the parish of Gargunnock was required to furnish to the Stirling Militia, which protest the Commissioners admitted. It appears that the parish had also to supply 17 horses out of the 73 required for the regiment, the Barony of Leckie's share being 1 horse. David Moir of Leckie is named as a Commissioner of Supply for Stirlingshire in 1678, and again in 1685. Both the Laird of Leckie and his eldest son were dead before 16<sup>th</sup> August 1687 when James Moir, the second son was served heir to his father in Easter Leckie and Schirgartane, and to his brother, David in Wester Leckie, but these services were not extended or retoured with the chancellerie, "*in regard that ten days thereafter the person so served was deceased.*" James Moir, who was thus so suddenly cut off, was joint Sheriff-Clerk along with his father. They were also joint-Clerks of the Lordship of Stirling and Bailliery of the Water of Forth. On 11<sup>th</sup>, January, 1688, George Moir, third son of David Moir of Leckie and Marie Stewart, was served heir to his father and his eldest brother in Easter and Wester Leckie. David Moir, chirurgeon, Stirling, a near relative of the Laird of Leckie, obtained seisin from him of Keir's ludging in Stirling, with liferent to Marion Moir, his second wife, the instrument bearing date 25<sup>th</sup> June, 1698, but this property reverted to the Laird a few years later. Isabel Moir, sister of George Moir of Leckie, married John Graham of Aberuthven, afterwards of Boquhapple, through which marriage the Leckie estate eventually came to the Grahams, as will afterwards be seen. The Laird of Leckie was a Commissioner of Supply in 1696, but after this date there is no record of him. He married and had a family, but the name of his wife has not been ascertained. He died in September, 1710, and was succeeded by his eldest son, James.

James Moir of Leckie was probably under-age when he succeeded to the estate; certainly, he was but a young man, as three years previously he was under the tutorship of Mr John Graham of Boquhapple, his uncle, and others. He had a younger brother, George, but whether his father left any more of a family we do not know. The Moirs must have been related by marriage to the Setons of Touch, as in 1738 the Laird of Leckie is named as tutor-in-law to James Seton, and on the death of the latter, unmarried, in

1742, George Moir, brother of the Laird, was appointed one of the curators of Elisabeth Seton. Heiress of Touch.

Owing to physical infirmity, James Moir, who remained unmarried, felt himself obliged to surrender Leckie to his brother. By a conveyance dated 1<sup>st</sup> May, 1739, he disposed his heritable estate in favour of George Moir, his brother german, who was then in Jamaica, and as his (James's) debts and funeral charges, and other privileged debts, might not be so well looked after as if the heir had been in this country, he authorized and appointed Moses Buchanan of Glins to take care of, manage, and regulate all the affairs that might concern the estate, until his brother's return to the kingdom, or a commission or factorage under his hand should be executed. He also nominated John Stirling of Garden, William Govan of Drumquassel, and William Graham of Boquhapple his commissioners to give instruction to Buchanan. The date of James Moir's death has not been discovered, but he did not long survive the demission of his estate.

The new Laird of Leckie, after settling down at home, married a wife who brought him a considerable tocher. The facts are disclosed in a process of separation and aliment rendered necessary by the bad conduct of George Moir. The lady was Anne Montgomery, niece of Sir Walter Montgomery of Kirktonholm, in Dumfriesshire, who gave her a marriage portion of £2,000, and made a settlement by which she was entitled to £6,000 after his death, but only, it appears, if she had any family. It was also a condition in the marriage contract, which is dated 25th February 1745, that the Laird of Leckie should assume the name and arms of Montgomery in addition to his own. Two of the witnesses to the contract are Home of Argaty, his first cousin, and William Govan, yr. of Drumquassel, his second cousin. In accordance with the condition contained in the marriage contract, the Laird assumed his wife's name, styling himself George Montgomery Moir of Leckie. There was no issue of the marriage, and it is not unlikely that the vanishing of all chance of receiving the £6000 bequeathed to Anne Montgomery, accounts in some degree for the behavior of her husband which compelled her to institute the action for separation and aliment.

An important event marked the first year of this unhappy marriage. The Jacobites were in arms under the leadership of Prince Charles, and the Laird of Leckie was in strong sympathy with the movement. On the 13<sup>th</sup> of September the Highland army, on their way south, crossed the river Forth at the Fords of Frew, and made a halt while the Prince went up to Leckie House. The Laird, however, was not there to receive him. The Hanoverian General Blakeney had been informed by spies that Moir of Leckie was preparing to entertain the Prince, and on the night before his expected arrival, the Laird was seized in his bed by a party of dragoons and carried prisoner to Stirling Castle.

Notwithstanding this *contretemps*, the Prince and his suite were welcomed to dinner at Leckie, and not only they, but many of the Prince's friends who followed soon after were entertained in a most hospitable manner. From Leckie House Prince Charles addressed his famous message to the city of Glasgow, demanding a sum of £15,000, besides what was due to the Government, and whatever arms could be found in the city. The Magistrates paid no attention to the demand; but shortly afterwards they received a visit from a body of the insurgent cavalry, accompanied by Glengyle and his clansmen the McGregors, which made them fain to compromise the claim by paying £5,000 and contributing about £500 worth of goods.

The New Statistical Account of Gargunnoch Parish, and also the local histories, state that the Prince slept at Leckie House on the night of 13<sup>th</sup> September, but this is a mistake. The account given by one of the Prince's followers, and published in the Lockhart Papers, says:- "*This night we lay at Touch,*" from which place the army resumed its march southwards next morning. On the retreat to the north early in 1746, the Prince's baggage, sent on in advance, was deposited at Leckie on the 25<sup>th</sup> January, and on the 1st February the army recrossed the Forth by the Fords of Frew, but on this occasion there was no time to spare for dinner at Leckie House. Everything was in confusion, for the Duke of Cumberland was on the Princes track, and several guns and carriages had to be left behind.

George Moir who dropped the name Montgomery after the legal proceedings above narrated, was a witness in a will case tried in 1765 when his age is given as 50 years and upwards. He lived till 1792, when he must have reached his 78<sup>th</sup> year. Having no children, he executed, five years before his death, an entail of the estate of Leckie, under which Dr Robert Graham of Boquhapple, grandson of Isobel Moir, succeeded as heir of tailzie and provision.





## The Graham Moirs of Leckie

According to the family pedigree, Dr Robert Graham of Boquhapple represented a cadet branch of the great house of Montrose. George Graham of Callander, Brother of the first Earl of Montrose, had, by a daughter of Moray of Abercairney, four sons, of whom the third was Laurence, who married a daughter of Drummond of Borland, by whom he had a son and daughter. Giles, the daughter, married her kinsman, Graham of Garvock. Her brother John entered the ministry, and was parson at Aberuthven. He was a member of the General Assembly of 1636 which deposed the Bishops. He himself married a grand-daughter of Archbishop Hamilton of St Andrews – Giles, daughter of Hamilton of Blair. By this lady he had two sons and a daughter. The eldest son, John, was killed in assisting to rescue his chief, the Marquis of Montrose, when he came over from France to restore Charles II to the throne. His second son, Robert Graham of Aberuthven, married Margaret Hay of Stronevay, whose brother became the husband of Robert's sister. Two sons and a daughter were the issue of Robert's marriage. Both the sons, John and James, were bred to the church, but gave it up. John succeeded to the wadset of Aberuthven, with burden of his brother and sister's portions. This estate was purchased by the Marquis of Montrose in 1702, and two years after, John Graham bought the estate of Boquhapple, which had previously belonged to a branch of the Menteith Grahams, but into this matter there is no need to enter here. John Graham of Boquhapple, as we have already seen, married Isobel Moir, daughter of David Moir of Leckie, by whom he had a family of four sons and four daughters. James Graham, the eldest son, married Catherine, daughter of William Govan of Drumquhassle, by whom he had three sons and nine daughters. John, the eldest son, died unmarried in the East India Company's service, and the youngest son, William, also died a bachelor. Robert, the second son of James Graham of Boquhapple, studied medicine and took the degree of M.D. He appears to have practiced in the town of Stirling.

Under a deed executed by George Moir of Leckie on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 1789, his heir of entail, Dr Robert Graham of Boquhapple, physician in Stirling, was appointed his sole executor, and a disposition of moveables was made in his favour. In accordance with the deed of entail, Dr Graham, on succeeding to the estate of Leckie, dropped the name of Graham and took that of Moir, but he was unable to assume the arms of Moir of Leckie, because none had been registered. The terms of the entail rendered it necessary for the heir of Leckie to raise an action in the Court of Session against his own son, Dr Charles Alexander Graham, and others, to have certain questions decided, and the record of the case in Morrisons "Decisions" supplies the following interesting particulars:-

*"George Moir, in 1787, executed an entail of the estate of Leckie, with strict irritant and resolute clauses, amongst others, that it should not be in the power of heirs male of his body, or others, heirs substituted to them, to increase the rental above £1,000. On his death in 1792, the rental amounted to £1,123, without including rent for 150 acres in his natural possession. Dr Robert Moir succeeded him under the entail, and brought an action against the substitutes concluding that he should be at liberty to keep up and augment the rent of the entailed estate as if this clause had not been inserted. It was held by the Lords that this clause was to be held as discharged by the entail. The entail likewise contained a clause that the heirs of tailzie should be bound to use the name and title of Moir of Leckie exclusive of every other name and title, and to carry the arms of Moir of Leckie without any addition, diminution, or alteration of any kind. After the action came into court it was discovered that there were no arms of Moir of Leckie matriculated in the Lyon Office. The pursuer being the heir alioque successoris only in one fourth of the estate as representative of one of four heirs portioners, it was likewise doubted whether they were ascendible to heirs of entail, or whether they necessarily descended jure sanguine to Mr Moirs heir of line. The Lords found it incumbent on the pursuer and other heirs of entail to follow out the tailzier's appointment in carrying the name and arms of Moir of Leckie, and for that purpose to obtain from the Lyon Office arms of that description descendible to heirs of entail of Leckie.*

Dr Robert Grahams Arms, blazoned, confirmed, and assigned 14<sup>th</sup> December, 1764, are thus described in the family pedigree:-

*Argent*; a man's heart *gules*, ensigned with an imperial crown *proper*; on a chief *sable* three escallops *or*; above the shield a helmet befitting his degree with a mantle *gules* doubling *argent*. On a wreath of his colours is set for crest an escallop as the former. This motto, *spero meliora*. In accordance with the Lords decision of 1794, the Leckie arms were matriculated in 1796, as follows:- (1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters) – *Argent*; three Mauretanian heads couped and distilling three drops of blood *ppr.*, banded of the first, a pearl in each ear of the second, in the centre a mullet *gu*, for Moir; (2<sup>nd</sup> quarter) *argent*, a head crowned *ppr.* in a chief *sable* three escallops *or*, for Graham; (1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter) *argent*; a galley, sailed furred, oars in action, *sable*.

This quarter indicates a Stewart and Campbell connection, Dr Robert Moir's wife being a Stewart of Ardsheal. The Moir arms are similar to those of Moir of Hilton. Moir of Leckies crest was a falcon *proper*, armed or belted *or*, perched on a heron lying on its back *proper*, beaked and membered *gu*, with the motto, *Ne oublie*.

Dr Robert Moir of Leckie married Anne, daughter of Charles Stewart of Ardsheal, chief of the Stewarts of Appin and Lorn, by whom he had five sons and six daughters. James Lennox Moir, the eldest son, died in infancy. Charles Alexander, the second son, succeeded his father, and will be noticed below. Of James, the third son, no particulars are given in the family pedigree. Robert, the fourth son, was Professor of Botany in Edinburgh University, and died 7<sup>th</sup> August, 1845. He married Elisabeth Belsches, second daughter of David Hamilton of Drumpellier, and left a family. The fifth son of Dr Moir of Leckie was John, a captain in the royal Navy. The Laird of Leckie died in August 1819, and was buried at Leckie. The Grahams seemed to have had a right of burial in St Andrews Chapel, or Garden Aisle, at the West Church, Stirling, but none of the Lairds of Leckie are buried there.

Charles Alexander Graham took the surname of Moir on succeeding to Leckie, in the Barony of which he was infeft on 8<sup>th</sup> June, 1820. He was a doctor by profession and practiced up to his father's death.

He built the new-mansion house of Leckie on the plan of an old English baronial mansion-house. It stands on a higher situation than the old house and has a commanding view of the vale of Menteith. Dr C.A. Graham Moir married Henrietta, second daughter of Robert Hay of Drumelzier and Janet Erskine, eldest daughter of James Erskine of Cardross and Lady Christian Bruce, daughter of the Earl of Elgin.

The issue of this marriage was an only son. The Laird died 18<sup>th</sup> August, 1845, aged 73 years, and was buried in the family burying ground at Leckie.

Robert Graham Moir, the next Laird of Leckie, married Anne-Elisabeth, third daughter of William Hay of Dunse, Whittingham, and Drumelzier, by whom he had one son and five daughters. He died in 1864.

Alastair Edward Graham Moir, the last of the Lairds of Leckie of this line, sold the property to Mr George Younger of Valleyfield, Kinross, in the Spring of 1906, and shortly afterwards advertised that he intended to drop the name of Moir. The estate of Boquhapple still remains in the family.



## Younger of Leckie

Mr George Younger, who was born in 1851, was educated at Edinburgh Academy. He married, in June 1879, Lucy, daughter of Dr Edward Smith, FRS., of Heanor, Derbyshire, and Harley Street, London, by whom he has had three sons, James, born 1880, Edward John, born 1882, (died in the South African war); and Charles Frearson, born 1885. Mr Younger has been Conveyer of Clackmannanshire for a number of years and thrice contested the united counties of Clackmannanshire and Kinross in the Unionist interest, but without success. A vacancy occurring in the representation of Ayr Burghs, he stood for that constituency, and was only defeated by a few votes. At the general election of 1906, he was successful in wresting the seat from his opponent.

An account of the family of Younger by the late Rev. Cornelius Hallen, MA, Alloa, appeared in the *Scottish Antiquary* for 1889-90, from which we take the following particulars. The earliest known instance of the name, which is the form of spelling assumed by the members of the Flemish family Joncker who came to this country early in the sixteenth century, occurring in Scottish documents is David Younger, *nuncius at vice comes* of the county of Kirkcudbright in 1509. There was a family of Younger of Ferriton in Clackmannanshire, but there is no evidence that they were connected with the branch to which Mr George Younger belongs. This latter branch goes back to Mr Thomas Younger of Leit Green, a salt-maker in Kincardine-on-Forth, whose son, Thomas of Craigton, married Marjorie Schaw, daughter of the Laird of Knockhill, Andrew Schaw, who was grandson of John Schaw of Alva and Knockhill, second son of Sir James Schaw of Greenock, ancestor of the Schaw-Stewarts of today. Thomas Younger of Craigton was a man of good estate. He purchased more land in 1621, and in 1623 he was Baillie of Clackmannan. His son Thomas married Elisabeth Miller, of Clackmannan, by whom he had two sons and two daughters. The eldest son, Thomas, married Jane Tilloch or Tulloch, and George, their only son, married Jean Thompson in the Grange of Alloa. This marriage took place in 1721, when the penal statutes against Episcopal clergymen were still in force, and as the young couple were joined together by Mr Duncan comfy, an Episcopal minister in Dunblane, the Kirk Session referred the parties, along with the witnesses to the marriage, to the Justices of Peace, to be punished according to the law. Whether any consequences followed does not appear, but there is evidence that the Youngers were no favorites with the reverend Court. George Younger and Jean Thomson had several children, the eldest son being George, who became a brewer, and was, in fact, the founder of the present firm of George Younger and Son. He married Catherine Allan, and died in 1788. There is a monument to his memory, and that of his wife, in Alloa churchyard. They had eight children, the direct line being carried on by their fourth son, James, also a brewer, who married Mary Bleloch of Clackmannan. His family consisted of five sons and two daughters. George, the eldest son, greatly increased the brewery business his grandfather had begun. He married, in 1816, Jane Hunter, Woodhead, Tillicoultry, who was alive when Mr Hallen wrote his account of the family. She bore to her husband, nine children, six sons and three daughters. The eldest son, James, married Janet, daughter of John McEwan, shipowner, Alloa, and had six of a family, of whom the Laird of Leckie is the eldest.

The arms of the Flemish Jonckers are *or*, a fess *gu*, between three martlets in chief *sa*, and a rose in base of the second.

The estate of Leckie comprises a large area of rich carse land along the River Forth, behind which there is a stretch of dryfield land, while still further to the south the property rises over over moorland and hill ground to a height of 1600 feet above sea level. The slope of the hill ground, which is very steep, and at places precipitous, is intersected by a number of streams, which in their progress towards the Forth produce a very beautiful and diversified landscape. The estate extends to about 3038 acres, whereof about 260 acres are woodland, 1778 acres arable, and 1,000 acres rough pasture and hill ground. The old house of Leckie is situated about 300 yards from the mansion-house, and forms an interesting and picturesque feature of the property. There are twelve farms on the estate, and eight of the grass parks, extending to 155 acres, are let for the grazing season to the farmers in the neighborhood. Three of the old place-names on the estate are interesting from an antiquarian point of view. "Carleatheran" probably indicates the site of an ancient fort on the hill slope, or on the shore of the loch, while "Craigmakessock" is associated with St Kessock, or St Kessag, and the well on the craig was not improbably considered a holy well on that account. Another Celtic saint, St Columba (or is it St Colmoc), is commemorated by St Colme's glen behind the present mansion-house.

## Update to 2022

Thus ends the “Lairds of Leckie” booklet, produced in 1906, but a lot has happened since then which is of interest to any one diligent enough to have read this far. The estate is still mainly in the hands of the Youngers of Leckie but inevitably changes have taken place.

The late Viscount, George Younger was a career politician who represented a constituency in Ayrshire for many years, rising to become Secretary of State for Scotland and later Minister of Defence in the Thatcher Government. After retiring from politics he took a senior post in the Royal Bank of Scotland. He later retired to Leckie where he died in 2003. His late brother Robert was a lawyer and Sheriff at Stirling. He lived in Leckie Castle, or more accurately Old Leckie, which after many years of deterioration he subjected to careful long-term renovation.

Leckie House, built in the 1830s was vacated by the Youngers to become a military hospital during the Second World War. It was then purchased by the Church of Scotland, which ran it as the David Watson Eventide Home until the late 90s when it closed down. It has now been converted into luxury flats, retaining the name Watson House.

After the death of Lady Younger in 2017 most of the Estate was sold, the younger members of the family retaining the Castle as their home and the farm as a commercial concern with holiday accommodation too. <https://www.oldleckie.co.uk/>

The remainder estate of the estate was initially owned by a developer for a few years but is now in the steadier hands of a second owner.

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John McLaren, Gargunnoch Jan. 2022