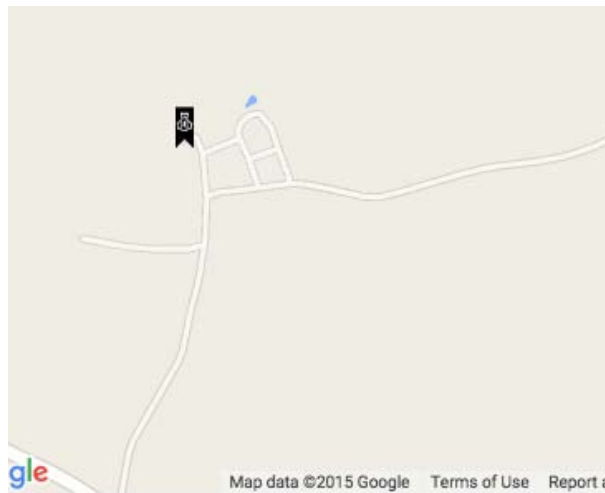


The Murrays lived in the Castle here & in the area from 1535-1670

Tullibardine Chapel

A9 ne from Stirling

A823 nnw at? past Gleneagles hotel- first right



Tullibardine Chapel is a monument to the piety of the powerful Murray family, ancestors of the dukes of Atholl. In 1446 Sir David Murray of Tullibardine and his lady, Margaret Colquhoun, founded a chantry chapel near their residence, Tullibardine Castle (demolished in the 1830s).

Their grandson, Sir Andrew Murray, substantially enlarged the chapel around 1500. This resulted in the present cross-shaped or cruciform plan and the squat bell tower.

A family mausoleum

The church lost its function as a private family chapel following the Protestant Reformation in 1560. But it continued in use as the family's burial place into the 20th century.

Prince Charles Edward Stuart's general, Lord George Murray, buried his infant daughter here in 1740. Lord George would have been interred at the same spot himself, had he not led the Jacobite army to defeat at Culloden in 1746 and been forced into permanent exile.

For almost 500 years, (1149-1602) the Muirs (Mure/More) lived in South Eastern Scotland in Ayrshire., Polkelly Castle 1174-1500, Rowallan Castle, Kilmarnock

Fenwick, East Ayrshire, Scotland
UK grid reference NS45684524

a77 north past kilmarnock

Polkelly Castle

Polkelly Castle, also Pokelly, was an ancient castle located near Fenwick, at NS 4568 4524, in the medieval free Barony of Polkelly, lying north of Kilmarnock, Parish of Fenwick, East Ayrshire, Scotland. The castle is recorded as Powkelly (c1747), Pockelly (c1775), Pow-Kaillie, Ponekell, Polnekel, Pollockelly, Pollockellie, Pokellie, Pathelly Ha'[1] and Polkelly.[2] The name is given circa 1564 as Powkellie when it was held by the Cunninghams of Cunninghamhead.[3]

The Lands of Polkelly[edit]

Prior to the 1390s the evidence suggests that the lands of Polkelly were in the hands of the Comyns.[4] The estate was important to the Lairds of Rowallan as it gave uninhibited access to the large and important grazing lands of Macharnock Moor, now Glenouther Moor.[5]

In the charter of confirmation of 1512 the feudal Barony of Polkelly comprised Darclavoch, Clonherb, Clunch, with its mill, Le Gre, Drumboy, the lands of Balgray, with its tower, fortalice, manor, and mill, and the common of Mauchirnoch (Glenouther).[2] The Lainshaw Register of Sasines records that Laigh and High Clunch were part of the lands and barony of Pollockellie or Pokellie.[6]

Dobie records that the Mures held Pow-Kaillie which extended to 2400 acres, two-thirds of which were arable.[7]

The origins of the lands of Polkelly and Rowallan as a unit may date back to the British period of the Kingdom of Strathclyde, as indicated by certain anomalies and coincidences in the boundaries of these lands.[8]

The castle[edit]

Polkelly became the secondary power centre within the feudal Barony of Rowallan. It became of minor importance when Balgray became the principal message of the free barony of Polkelly in 1512.[2] The castle lay close to the Balgray Mill Burn. The castle remains were removed in the 1850s and used to create a road, only leaving the motte, measuring 23m by 16m.[2]

Nearby Polkelly Castle and later Rowallan Castle (1300)

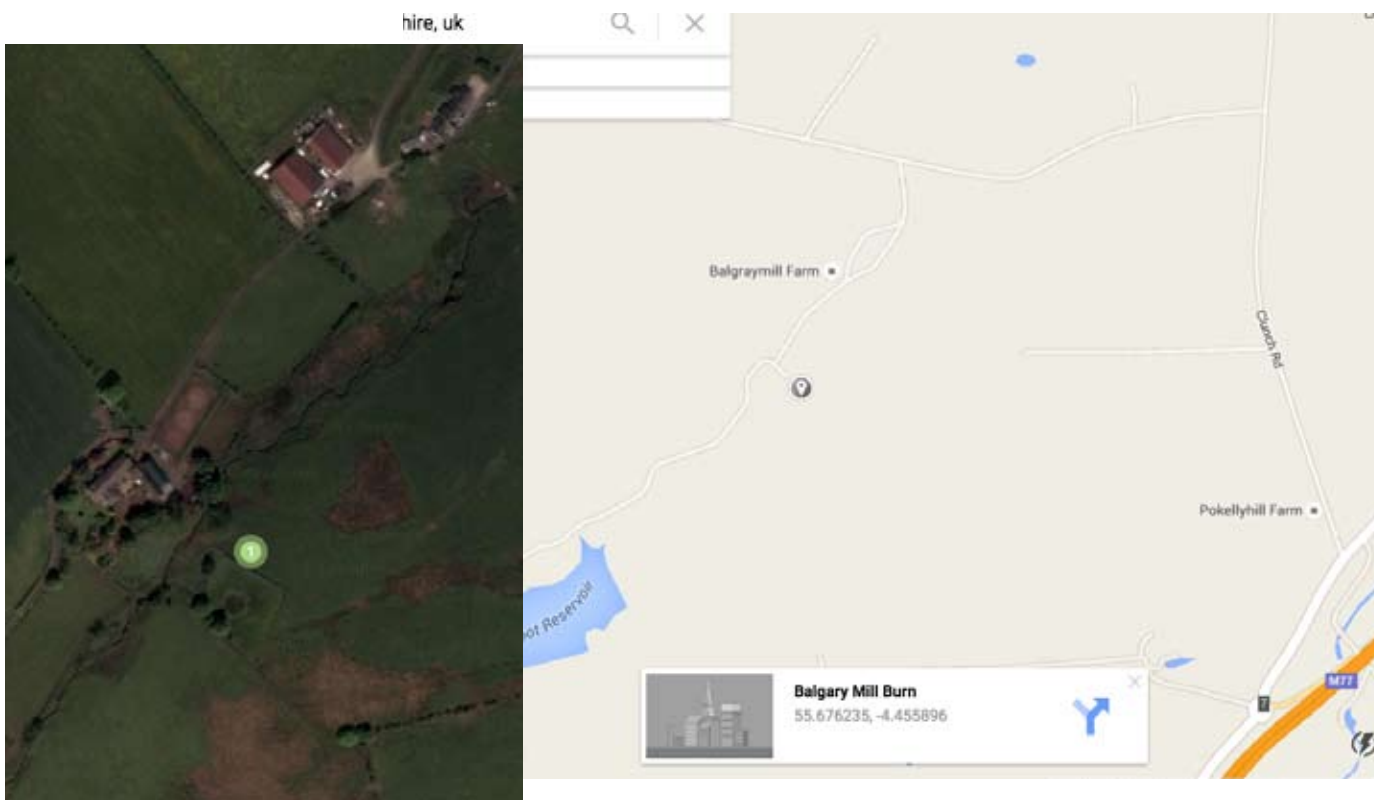
A Gulielmus (William) de Lambristoune was a witness to a charter conveying the lands of Pokellie (Pokelly) from Sir Gilchrist More to a Ronald Mure at a date around 1280. During the reign of Alexander III (1241–1286) Sir Gilchrist Mure held Pokelly and had to shelter there until the King was able to subdue Sir Walter Cuming. For the sake of peace and security Sir Gilchrist married his daughter Isabella to Sir Walter.[9]

In 1399 Sir Adam Mure held the castle and upon his death it passed to his second son, the eldest obtaining Rowallan. The lands of Limflare and Lowdoune Hill were included in the inheritance.[2] The castle and Barony of Polkelly was mainly held by the medieval Mure family, however Robert Mure of Polkelly had died by 1511, leaving his daughter Margaret, Lady Polkelly, as the sole heir.

Rowallen Castle - 1400 - 1600 (associated with Polkelly lands)

Muir clan

http://www.scotsconnection.com/clan_crests/Muir.htm



Rowallen Castle

Reginald Muir 1149 - Ayr
Sir David Moore Muir - Ayr - Fokeltle (Polkelly Castle - Fenwick)
Sir Gilchrist Muir Rowallen 1200-1280
Sir Archibald Lord Rowallen Muir 1231-1297
William Muir 1293-1373
Adam Muir 1323-1373 - Ayr
Archibald Muir 1348-1390 - Kilmarnock
Robert Muir 1379-1429 - Ayr
Archibald Muir 1400-1450
Robert Muir 1439-1489 (married Princess Elizabeth Stuart - K. James III)
Sir John Muir 1467-1517
Sir John Muir 1487-1537
Patrick Muir 1511-1561
Thomas Muir 1535-1585



Rowallen Castle

The castle and barony has been owned or held by the medieval Muir family, the (Boyle) Earls of Glasgow, the (Campbell) Earls of Loudoun, the (Corbett) Barons Rowellan, and more recently by the developer, Niall Campbell.[2] It is said that the earliest piece of Lute music was written at Rowallen.[5] It is said to have been visited by the unfortunate King James I of Scotland when on his way from Edinburgh to England. The first Mure holder, Sir J. Gilchrist Mure was buried in the Mure Aisle at Kilmarnock.[6]

Origins[edit]

The original castle is thought to date back into the 13th century. Rowallen was said to be the birth place of Elizabeth Mure (Muir), first wife of Robert, the High Steward, later Robert II of Scotland.

In 1513 John Mure of Rowallen was killed at the Battle of Flodden. In 1513 the Rowallen Estate took its present day form.[7]

In about 1690 the estate was home to the Campbells of Loudoun, who held it into the 19th century.[7] The former tower of Polkelly lay near Rowallen and was also held by the Mures, for a time passed to the second son until it passed by marriage to the Cunninghams of Cunninghamhead.

Construction and other details[edit]

Rowallen Castle today

William Aiton's map of 1811 showing Rowellan (sic)

The castle is built around a small knoll and once stood in a small loch or swampy area, fed by the Carmel Burn.[4] The southern front of the castle was erected about the year 1562 by John Mure of Rowallen and his Lady, Marion Cuninghame, of the family of Cunninghamhead. This information appears as an inscription on a marriage stone or tablet at the top of the wall: - Jon.Mvr. M.Cvym. Spvsis 1562. The family coat of arms lies to the right. The crest of the Mure's was a Moore's head, which is sculptured near the coat of arms. This is no doubt a rebus or jeu-de-mot on the Mure name, however it is suggested that it is a reference to some feat performed in the crusades against the Saracens.[8] The Royal Arms of Scotland, fully blazoned, are carved over the main entrance, together with the shields of the Cumin family, from whom the Mures claim descent.[3] Over the ornamented gateway is a stone with the date 1616 inscribed upon it.[9]

Engraving of the castle by James Fittler in Scotia Depicta, published 1804

Over the doorway of the porch is an inscription in Hebrew using Hebrew characters which read The Lord is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup, Psalms. XVI, Verse 5. Such an inscription is so rare as to be unique. Doctor Bonar, moderator of the Free church of Scotland, put much effort into deciphering and translating it.[10] At the front of the castle stood a perfect example of an old loupin-on-stane.[11] A fine well with abundant pure water was present at Rowallen. [12] King William's well is located in the policies of Rowallen.[13]

One of the rooms was called Lord Loudoun's sleeping apartment and Adamson records that almost every room throughout the house has its walls covered with the names and addresses of visitors. Some have also left poems or have recorded the details of their visit in verse.[14]

Sir John and Sir William Muir took great pleasure in the erection of the various parts of Rowallen, and a record was kept of the portions completed by each. Much of their attention was also taken up with the planting of the castle policies.[15]

Part of the castle was known as the 'Womans House' indicating the age when gender separation was the norm for the privileged classes, reflected in the decoration of these apartments and the sewing and other work undertaken by the ladies of the house.[16]

In 1691 the Hearth Tax records show that the castle had twenty-two hearths and eighteen other dwellings were associated with the castle and its lands.[17]