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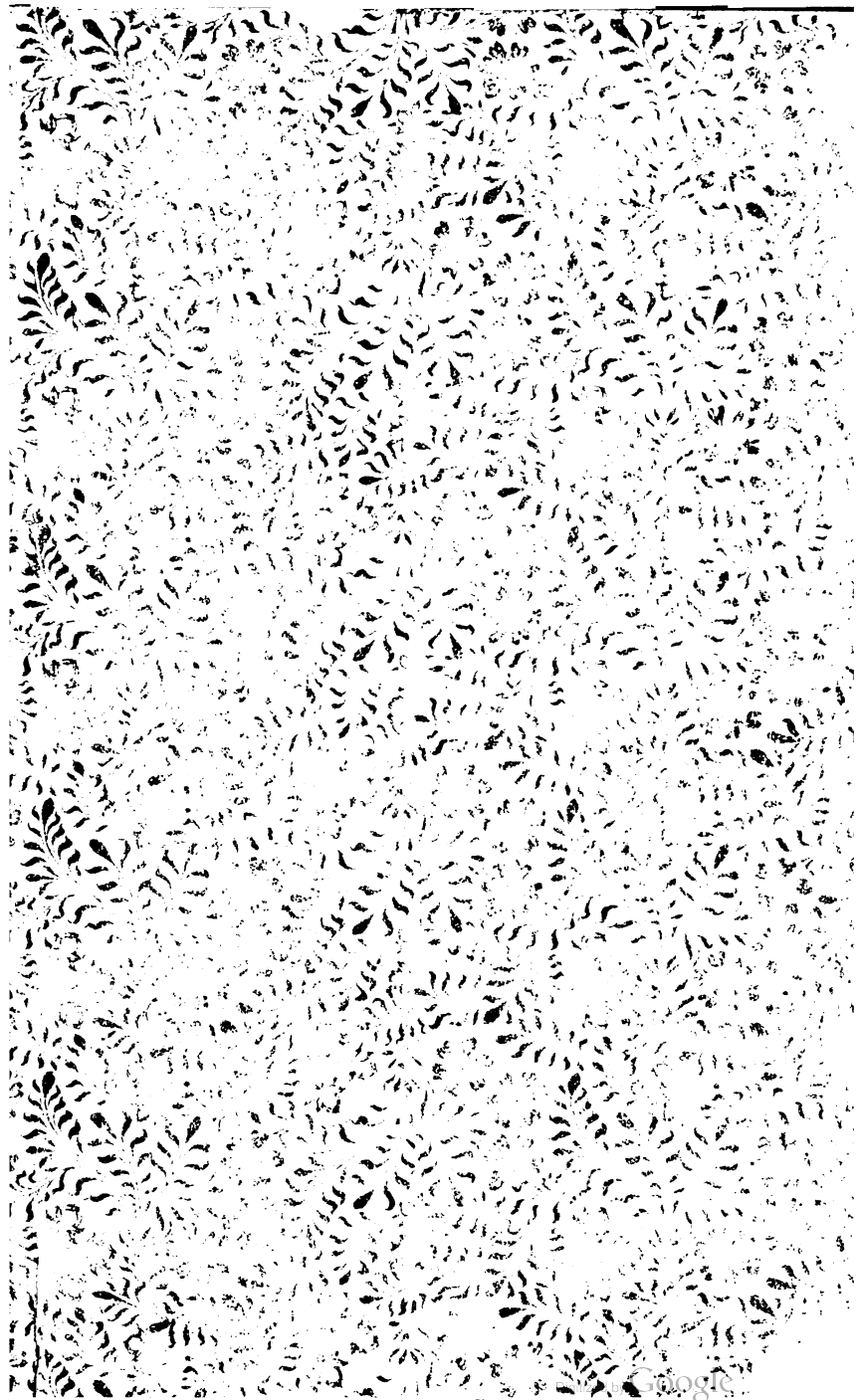
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# Sinclairs of Roslin, Caithness, and Goshen

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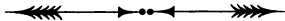
# THE SINCLAIRS

OF

Roslin, Caithness, and Goshen

BY

THE REV. A. MACLEAN SINCLAIR.



CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. ISLAND.

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## PREFACE.

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I have written this work simply for the benefit of those now living, and those who may be in existence one hundred years hence, of the descendants of Alexander Sinclair, John Ur Sinclair, and George Sinclair in Goshen. I have consequently given a number of minor details which would be unnecessary and out of place in a work of a more general character. The chapters on the Lords of Roslin and the Sinclairs of Caithness should be of interest to those who do not possess Henderson's Caithness Family History. The chapter on the Sinclairs of Goshen can be of interest only to themselves and their relatives. I have had four different searches made in the Register House, Edinburgh, for genealogical facts. I have to thank Mr. George Macbeath, Bighouse, for his kindness in collecting information for me with regard to the descendants of William, Donald, and Ann Sinclair in Strath-halladale.

The subscriptions received do not pay the cost of getting searches made in the Register House and printing and binding the book. Mr. John H. Sinclair, New Glasgow, has offered to pay the whole of the loss. I cannot accept the whole of it from him. He can, however, have the privilege of paying the half of it for the sake of the Sinclairs of Shurery.

A. MACLEAN SINCLAIR.

Belfast, P. E. Island,  
September 3, 1901.



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# THE SINCLAIRS OF ROSLIN, CAITHNESS, AND GOSHEN.

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## CHAPTER I.

### The Lords of Roslin.

**T**HE Northmen, or Normans, were originally Scandinavians from Normandy. They settled among the Keltic inhabitants of Gaul in 912 A. D. They conquered England in 1066, and introduced feudalism into the country. The Normans who settled in England were not Scandinavians. They were rather Skando-Kelts, or a mixed race formed from the intermingling of Scandinavians and Kelts.

The Saint-Clairs were Normans, and came over to England with William the Conqueror. Richard of Saint-Clair and Brittel of Saint-Clair are both mentioned in Domesday Book. William of Saint-Clair witnessed a charter granted by King Stephen in 1135.

Saint-Clair was originally the name of a place. The proprietor of it and the members of his family designated themselves as being de Sancto-Claro, or of Saint-Clair. In course of time the de, or of, was dropped, and Sanctus-Clarus, or Saint-Clair, adopted as a surname. Through the wear and tear of language Saintclair has, as a general rule, been changed to Sinclair.

About the year 1160 Henry of Saint-Clair obtained a charter of the lands of Herdmanston in Haddingtonshire. Henry is the first Sinclair with whom we meet in Scotland.

It is certain, however, that he was not the first of the name who settled in that country. His descendants are still in possession of Herdmanston.

Roslin, or Roslyn, is a Gaelic word, and means *ros linne*, or the promontory of the pool. The place known by this name is about eight miles from Edinburgh. Willielmus de Sancto Claro, Miles, or William St. Clair, Knight, received in 1280 a charter of the lands and barony of Roslin. This William was the progenitor of the St. Clairs of Roslin and the Sinclairs of Caithness. He was succeeded by his son, Sir Henry. Sir William, son of Sir Henry, was killed in Spain in 1330. Sir William, son of Sir William, succeeded his grandfather in Roslin. He married Isabel, daughter of Malise, the Keltic Earl of Stratherne, Caithness, and Orkney, and had by her one son, Sir Henry, fourth of Roslin. Sir Henry claimed the Earldom of Orkney through his mother, and received it from Haco, King of Norway, in 1379. He was Admiral of Scotland. He died in 1404, and was succeeded by his son, Henry. Sir Henry, fifth Baron of Roslin and second Earl of Orkney, succeeded his father as Admiral of Scotland. He was created Lord Sinclair in the Scottish peerage. He married Egidia, daughter of Sir William Douglas of Nithsdale—the Black Douglas of history—and had by her two children, William and Beatrix. He died in 1420, and was succeeded by his son. Beatrix, his daughter was married to James, seventh Earl of Douglas. She was the mother of William, eighth Earl of Douglas, of James, ninth Earl of Douglas, of Archibald, Earl of Moray, and of Hugh, Earl of Ormand.

William St. Clair, sixth Baron of Roslin, third Earl of Orkney, and second Lord Sinclair, possessed immense estates, and lived at Roslin Castle in a style of the greatest magnificence. He was Admiral of Scotland in 1436, and High-Chancellor in 1454. He received a grant of the earldom of Caithness, August 28, 1455. He married, first, Elizabeth, daughter of Archibald, Earl of Douglas, and had by her one son, William the Waster. He married secondly, Marjory Sutherland, by whom he had Oliver, William, and other sons. He was deprived of the Earldom of Orkney by

James III in 1471. He received as some compensation the lands of Ravenscraig in Fife. He divided his possessions, in 1476, among his three eldest sons. He gave the lands of Newburgh in Aberdeenshire to William the Waster, the lands of Roslin and others to Oliver, and the Earldom of Caithness to the second William. He died in 1480. William the Waster received from his brother Oliver the lands of Ravenscraig, Dysart, and others. He had two sons: Henry, his successor, and William of Warsetter in Orkney. Henry was created Lord Sinclair of Ravenscraig in 1489. John, seventh Lord Sinclair, died in 1676, and was succeeded in his estates by his daughter's son, Henry St. Clair, twenty-fourth Laird of Herdmanston, who was created Lord Sinclair in 1677.

Sir Oliver St. Clair, seventh Lord Roslin, was married three times, and had eight sons: George, William, Henry, Oliver, John, Alexander, Arthur, and James. He died about 1520. William St. Clair, fifteenth Baron of Roslin, sold his estates in 1736. He died without issue in 1778.

James St. Clair obtained a charter of Longformacus in Berwickshire about the year 1390. He seems to have belonged to the Roslin family. Robert Sinclair of Longformacus was created a baronet in 1664. Sir John Sinclair, the last of the Longformacus baronets, died in Edinburgh in poor circumstances, in 1798.

John Sinclair, a merchant in Edinburgh, purchased the lands of Stevenson in the counties of Edinburgh and Haddington in 1624, and was created a baronet in 1636. It is maintained that he belonged to the St. Clairs of Longformacus. Sir John Sinclair, fourth of Stevenson, had two sons: Robert, his successor, and George, Lord Woodhall. Sir Robert Sinclair, fifth of Stevenson, was succeeded by his son, Sir John, who obtained possession of the estate of Murkle in Caithness.

## CHAPTER II.

### The Sinclairs of Caithness.

#### THE LAND OF THE CATTIANS.

THE first inhabitants of the British Islands were cave-dwellers, and lived by hunting and fishing. They were a short, dark, and wiry people, and were apparently of the same race as the Basques and Eskimos. For want of a better name they are sometimes spoken of as Iberians. They were followed by Keltic tribes from Gaul, who conquered them and gradually absorbed them. The Anglo-Saxons began to settle in South Britain in 449 A. D., and in the southern part of North Britain about 547 A. D. Until 800 A. D., the Highlands and Islands of Scotland were wholly occupied by Keltic tribes. These tribes were divided politically into two peoples, the Picts and the Scots. The Picts seem to have been partly real Picts—who were a branch of the same stock as the Britons—and partly Gaidels. The Scots came from Ireland about 506 A. D. They settled in Argyll and became mixed up with the people of that district. They were Gaidels, Gael, or Gaelic-speaking Kelts. About 825 A. D., the Norwegians began to form settlements in the Scottish Islands. In 870 or thereabouts, they took permanent possession of the Shetlands, Orkneys, and Western Islands, and in a few years made themselves masters of the Isle of Man, Arran, Bute, Kintyre, and the western coast of Argyll, Inverness, and Ross. They began to attack Caithness about 880, and gradually extended their sway over the whole of the northern part of Scotland as far as the Beaully Firth. The Scottish kings kept up a war against them, and finally destroyed their power at the battle of Largs in 1263.

The Keltic tribes, north of the Dornoch Firth, were known to the Norwegians as Cataich or Cattians. It is not to be assumed that the whole of these tribes called themselves by that name ; it is certain, however, that their leading tribe must have called themselves by it. The meaning of the word seems to be cat men, or the men who used the wild cat as an emblem on their standard. The Cattians called the Norwegians Gallaich or foreigners. In course of time the term Gallaich came to be applied to all the people north of the Ord of Caithness, whether they were Norwegians or Kelts. Thus, the old name Cataich became restricted to the people of Sutherland proper.

Caithness or Gallaibh contains ten parishes ; Dunnet, Cannisbay, Olrick, Thurso, Bower, Watten, Wick, Reay, Halkirk and Latheron. The parish of Reay was originally partly in Caithness and partly in Strathnaver. About the year 1895, the Strathnaver portion of it, or Strath-halladale, was united to the parish of Farr. Sutherland proper includes the parishes of Dornoch, Creich, Lairg, Golspie, Rogart, Clyne, Loth and Kildonan. Duthaich Mhic-Aoidh, or Lord Reay's country, embraces the parishes of Edderachilis, Durness, Tongue, and Farr. It was for a long time known in English as Strathnaver. Assynt is a parish by itself, and belonged for over 330 years to the Macleods. In 1601, Sutherland proper and Strathnaver were separated from the Sheriffdom of Inverness and formed into the county of Sutherland. To this new shire the district of Assynt was added in 1631.

Caithness contains 455,708 acres, or 712 square miles. Its extreme length is fifty-three miles and its extreme breadth thirty-three miles. The coast is bold and rocky. The interior, except the south-western portion of Latheron is generally low and flat, full of barren moors, and destitute of trees. South-western Latheron abounds in mountains, hills, and vales. Morven rises to a height of 2313 feet, and Scaraben to a height of 2054 feet. Caithness contains a large number of lakes, but there are only three of them which are more than one mile in length. The principal rivers are the Thurso, the Berriedale, and the Wick. The

Thurso is twenty seven miles in length, the Berriedale sixteen miles, and the Wick nine and a half miles. Sutherlandshire contains an area of 1,297,846 acres, or nearly 2028 square miles. It is sixty-two miles in length and forty-nine miles in breadth. It contains the large straths of the Naver and the Halladale and a number of pleasant glens. Taken as a whole, however, it is a hilly and mountainous country. Ben More is 3431 feet in height; Ben Klibreck, 3164; Ben Hope, 3061; and Foinaven, 3015. The rivers, like those in Caithness, are small. The Oikell, which is the largest, is only twenty-three miles in length.

In 1800 Sutherlandshire and the parishes of Reay, Halkirk, and Latheron in Caithness were almost wholly occupied by Gaelic-speaking Highlanders. The inhabitants of the other parishes in Caithness were a mixture of Kelts, Scandinavians, and Anglo-Saxons. Many of them, especially in the parishes of Thurso and Wick, spoke Gaelic, but as a general rule they spoke English or rather Broad Scotch. It is certain, however, that a large proportion of those who spoke only English were Kelts rather than anything else. Of the voters in Sutherlandshire in 1885, 547 were Mackays; 237, Macleods; 230, Sutherlands; 177, Rosses; 170, Mackenzies; 126, Muuros; 119, Macdonalds; 117, Murrays; 92, Mathesons; 82, Campbells; 62, Gunns; 62, Morrisons; 44, Grants; 41, Gordons; 23, Sinclairs; 19, Macleans; 19, Kerrs; and 18 Bannermans. Of the voters in Caithness in 1892, 320 were Sutherlands; 202, Mackays; 171, Sinclairs; 137, Gunns; 105, Hendersons; 102, Campbells; 98, Swansons; and 24 Keiths. The Swansons are of Norwegian origin, and have probably even at the present day a good proportion of Norwegian blood in them. It is clear, however, from the other names, that the present Caithnessians are to a very large extent a Keltic people. Many of the Sutherlands and Mackays who were evicted from their own lands between 1812 and 1820 settled in Caithness. It was in consequence of this fact that the Sutherlands and Mackays became more numerous in Caithness than the Sinclairs. There must always, however, have been quite a number of Sutherlands north of the Ord.

The principal clans which really belonged to the land of the Cattians were the Mackays, the Gunns, the Hendersons, the Sutherlands and the Sinclairs. The Keiths, the Murrays, the Gordons, the Macleods and the Campbells were numerous in the country, but their chiefs by blood belonged to other parts of Scotland.

Hugh Mackay of Farr, chief of the Mackays, had four sons—Donald of Scourie, John Beag, Hugh, and William of Bighouse. Hugh, his third son, succeeded him in the chiefship and also in his estates. Hugh had two sons; Sir Donald, his successor, and John of Dilred and Strathy. In 1614 Sir Donald purchased Reay, Downreay, Borlum and Brubster. He was created Lord Reay in 1628. Owing to pecuniary difficulties, he had some time afterwards to part with his estates in Caithness. He was succeeded by his son John, who was succeeded by his son George. George, third Lord Reay, had four sons, Donald, Hugh of Bighouse, and George of Skibo. Eric, son of George of Skibo, was the seventh Lord Reay, and the last Lord Reay who ruled over Mackay's country.

William Mackay, first of Bighouse, had five children: Angus, second of Bighouse, Hugh of Golval, Donald, Ann and Marion. William, third of Bighouse, married Agnes, daughter of John of Dilred and Strathy, and grand-daughter of James Sinclair of Murkle. Angus, fourth of Bighouse, married Jane, daughter of Patrick Sinclair of Ulbster. George, sixth of Bighouse, married Catherine Ross, by whom he had Elizabeth and other daughters. Col. Hugh Mackay, son of the third Lord Reay, married Elizabeth Mackay, and got the lands of Bighouse with her. Janet, their only daughter, was married in 1749 to Colin Campbell of Glenure, and had by him Louisa and other daughters. George Mackay of Handa married Louisa Campbell in 1768, and obtained the Bighouse estate with her. He was colonel of the Reay Fencibles, and was a very popular man. He died in September, 1798, and was succeeded by his son, Colin-Campbell. The Mackays of Bighouse held the lands of Strath-hallade under their chiefs.

It is said that Guin or Gunn, the progenitor of the



Gunns, was the son of a Scandinavian father and a Keltic mother. George Gunn, chief of the clan in 1450, lived at the castle of Halbury in Clyth. He was crowner of Caithness and was known as am Braisteach Mor, or the big man of the brooch. He had at least six sons: James, his heir; Robert of Braemore; John of Dalmore; Henry, ancestor of the Mackendricks or Hendersons of Caithness; William, ancestor of the Williamsons and Wilsons of Caithness; and Torquil, of whose descendants we have no account. He was treacherously slain by the Keiths of Ackergill about 1464. James, his eldest son, removed to Sutherland, and settled at Killearnan. James was succeeded in the chieftship by his son William, who was known as Uilleam Mac Sheumais or William Mac Kamish. Robert Gunn of Achaneccan near Kinbrace was chief of the Gunns in 1800.

Hugh Freskin received a grant of the district of Sutherland in 1197. He was the first chief of the Sutherlands. William his son was created Earl of Sutherland about 1228. John, ninth chief of the clan Sutherland and eighth Earl of Sutherland, died in 1505, and was succeeded in the estates by his son-in-law, Adam Gordon, second son of the earl of Huntly. Alexander Sutherland, of Kilphedder, succeeded him as chief of the clan. William Gordon, eighteenth Earl of Sutherland, married Mary Maxwell, by whom he had Elizabeth, who was born in 1765. He died in 1766. He was an excellent man, and the last Highlander who was Earl of Sutherland. He was succeeded in his estates and title by his daughter. George Gower, afterwards Earl Gower, married Elizabeth Gordon, Countess of Sutherland, in 1785. On the death of his father he became Marquis of Stafford. He was created Duke of Sutherland in 1833, and died in the same year. His wife died in 1839. He was not chief of the Sutherlands; he was simply a land-owner and a duke. The Sutherlands of Kilphedder became extinct about 1835. Sinclair of Forse in Caithness seems to be the present chief of the Sutherlands as a clan.

The Caithness portion of the parish of Reay contained 44,747 acres; the Sutherlandshire portion of it was much smaller. The lands were owned chiefly by the Sinclairs.

Inneses, and Mackays. In 1604 William Innes, a native of Morayshire, purchased Sandside, an estate which included the lands of Sandside, Fresgo, Borlum, Reay, New Reay, Dachow and Shurery. In 1787 Major William Innes became proprietor of these lands. He died in 1842, and was the last Innes of Sandside. John Sinclair of Murkle, eighth Earl of Caithness, held in the parish of Reay the lands of Downreay, Borrowston, Lybster and Acharaskil. Alexander of Murkle, the ninth Earl, obtained the lands of Isauld in 1723 and of Brubster in 1726. John Sinclair of Assery, a son of James first of Murkle, obtained a charter of Brawlbin in 1631. Sir John Sinclair of Ulbster purchased Brawlbin in 1784. At the present time Brawlbin, and also Lambsdale, belong to the estate of Sinclair of Forss. The Mackays of Bighouse held the lands of Strath-halladale. In 1829 Lord Gower purchased all the lands then held by the Mackays for £300,000.

The inhabitants of Caithness and Sutherlandshire were in a fairly happy condition until the beginning of the last century. It is true that they were in the discouraging and unpleasant position of being tenants; at the same time their rents were comparatively small. About the year 1800 the landlords began to discover that sheep and deer would pay them better than men, and also began to conclude that they had a perfect right to depopulate the country in their own interests. In 1807 Mrs. Colin-Campbell Mackay of Bighouse—a daughter of Patrick Cruikshanks of Strathcathro—evicted eighteen families from the upper part of Strath-halladale. They had been paying between them a rent of £185 a year, but that was deemed too small a sum. Mrs. Mackay gave their lands to a sheep-grazier, who agreed to pay her £400 a year for them. In the same year in which the people of upper Strath-halladale were removed from their homes, Lord Gower and his wife, the Countess of Sutherland, evicted ninety families from the parishes of Farr and Lairg. In 1809 the same couple evicted hundreds of families from the parishes of Dornoch, Rogart, Loth, Clyne, and Golspie. Their principal agents in carrying on their nefarious work were William Young, Patrick Sellar,

James Loch, Francis Suther, John Horseburgh, Captain Kenneth Mackay, and Angus Leslie. If we can credit tradition, Sellar was the most active and the most cruel of all; he was certainly the most detested. About 1810, Major William Innes of Sandside and John Patterson, his sheep farmer and factor, evicted a large number of families from Isauld, Skail, Borrowston, Lybster, Skinnet, Shurery, and other parts of West Caithness. In 1812 Lord Gower and his wife drove away from their lands scores of persons who were compelled to seek a home among the Indians and bears of the Red River settlement. In 1815 they turned more of their tenants—more of the parents of the men who had been fighting against Napoleon—out of doors, especially in the parishes of Farr and Kildonan. On this occasion the selfish and tyrannical Sellar found enjoyment and pleasure in setting fire to the houses of those whom he was removing. In 1819 and 1820 the whole parish of Kildonan, parts of the parishes of Rogart and Golspie, and the districts of Strathnaver and Strathy were cleared almost wholly of their inhabitants and sheep put in their place. In the statistical account of the parish of Reay, written in 1840, we find the following statements:—"The distress at present existing in the parish is extreme. The most of the parish has been converted into sheep-farms and consequently the poor people have been ejected from their houses and lands, many of them reduced to indigence and misery, and others necessitated to emigrate to a foreign land."

Lord Gower, Marquis of Stafford and Duke of Sutherland, was an Englishman. He was to a large extent responsible for the Sutherland clearances and their horrible cruelties. It is of no use to try to throw the whole blame on his wife. The factors were bad enough, but they were only agents. John Patterson came to Caithness from Roxburgh in 1804. He was then only a moneyless shepherd. At the time of his death, which took place in 1853, he was tenant of several large well-stocked farms and had £39,000 in cash.

## THE EARLS OF CAITHNESS.

Walter, sixth high steward of Scotland, married Marjory, daughter of King Robert Bruce, and had by her Robert II., the first of the Stewart kings. John Macdonald, first Lord of the Isles, married Margaret, daughter of Robert II., and had by her Donald, his successor. Donald, second Lord of the Isles, married Margaret Leslie, by whom he had Alexander, Angus and Mariot. Alexander Sutherland of Dunbeath married Mariot, daughter of Donald of the Isles, and had by her Marjory and others. William St. Clair, first Earl of Caithness, married as his second wife, Marjory, daughter of Alexander Sutherland of Dunbeath, and had by her William and other children. He gave the earldom of Caithness to William in 1476.

William Sinclair, second Earl of Caithness, married Mary Keith, by whom he had two sons; John, his successor, and Alexander, first of Dunbeath and Stemster. He was killed at the battle of Flodden in 1573. About three hundred of his followers fell with him. He was the first chief of the Sinclairs of Caithness considered as a Highland clan. John, second earl, invaded Orkney in 1529 with five hundred men, and was killed at the battle of Summerdale. The most of his followers perished with him. He was succeeded by his son, George. George, sixth earl, was appointed justiciar of Caithness in 1566. He married Elizabeth, daughter of William Graham, Earl of Montrose, and had by her three sons: John Garbh, Master of Caithness; William, first of Mey; and George, second of Mey. He was a wily and ambitious man. He turned against John Garbh, his heir, and imprisoned him in Girnigo castle, where he was murdered in 1576. The fourth earl died in 1582.

John Garbh married Jean, daughter of Patrick Hepburn, Earl of Bothwell, and had by her three sons: George, James of Murkle, and John of Rattar. George succeeded his grandfather. James of Murkle was succeeded by his son Sir James. Sir James had two sons, John and David of Broynach. John became Earl of Caithness in 1785. David of

Broynach was married twice. He had one son, James, by his first wife; and two sons, David and Donald, by his second wife. Donald had a son named William, who was tacksman of Isauld from 1755 to 1760. The Rev. John Sinclair, Kinloch-Rannoch, is descended from William and claims to be the representative of the Sinclairs of Broynach.

William, first of Mey, had two sons, Patrick and John, both of whom were legitimated in 1607. John was the progenitor of the Sinclairs of Ulbster. Sir John, eighth of Ulbster was a man of great ability and energy. He was created a baronet in 1786. He raised the Rothsay and Caithness Fencibles in 1794, and the Caithness Highlanders in 1795. He published several valuable books, and hundreds of pamphlets. He died in 1835. George, second of Mey, had three sons: William, John of Geanies, and Alexander of Latheron. James, fourth of Mey, was created a baronet in 1631. He had three sons: William, Robert of Durran, and George of Olrick. James, third of Durran, had a son named George. John-Sutherland Sinclair, son of this George, was a lieutenant-colonel in the army.

George, fifth earl of Caithness, married Jean, daughter of George Gordon, fifth earl of Huntley, and had by her two sons: William, known as Lord Berriedale, and Francis of Northfield. John, son of Lord Berriedale, signed the National Covenant in 1638, and supported the cause of Presbyterianism and civil liberty most loyally. He died in 1639, leaving one son, George. Francis of Northfield married Elizabeth Fraser, by whom he had George of Keiss. George, the fifth earl, died in 1643. He was Earl of Caithness for the long period of sixty-one years. He is known in history as the Wicked Earl. He was succeeded by his great-grandson, George, son of John, son of William. George, the sixth earl, died without issue in 1676. He was deeply in debt and sold his estates to John Campbell of Glenurchy, afterwards Earl of Breadalbane. He also tried to convey the title of Earl of Caithness to Glenurchy. He was not a wicked earl, but he was a very foolish earl.

George Sinclair of Keiss was an active and patriotic man. He had a bitter struggle with Campbell of Glenurchy

for some of the lands which the latter claimed, and also for the title of Earl of Caithness. In 1681 the Privy Council acknowledged his right to the lands of Northfield, Tister, and Keiss, and also to the title of Earl of Caithness. He died without issue in 1698, and was succeeded by John Sinclair, third of Murkle. John, the eighth earl, died in 1705, and was succeeded by his son Alexander. Alexander, the ninth earl, was born in 1684. With amazing indifference to the interests of his clan, he willed his estates to George Sinclair, Lord Woodhall, a man who had no connection with the Sinclairs of Caithness. He died in 1765.

William Sinclair, sixth of Rattar, was acknowledged Earl of Caithness in 1768, and confirmed in his claim to that title in 1772. He was the tenth earl. He died in 1779 and was succeeded by his son John. John, the eleventh earl, died unmarried in 1789, and was succeeded by Sir James Sinclair, tenth of Mey. James of Mey, the twelfth earl, died in 1823, and was succeeded by his son Alexander. Alexander, the thirteenth earl, died in 1855, and was succeeded by his son James. James, the fourteenth earl, was noted for his scientific attainments. He died in New York in 1881, and was succeeded by his son George. George of Mey, the fifteenth earl, died unmarried in 1889. He was succeeded in the title of earl, but not in his estate, by James-Augustus Sinclair, son of Lieut.-Colonel John-Sutherland Sinclair of the Durran family. James-Augustus, the sixteenth earl, was for a number of years agent in Aberdeen for the bank of Scotland. He married in 1855, Janet, daughter of Dr. Roderick Macleod in London, and had by her John-Sutherland and other sons. He died in 1891.

John-Sutherland Sinclair, seventeenth Earl of Caithness, was born in 1857. He was educated at the University of Aberdeen. He emigrated to the United States. He has a farm called Berriedale at Lacota in North Dakota. He has no land in Scotland. But that is not a matter of any great consequence; he is chief of the Sinclairs of Caithness.

## ARE THE SINCLAIRS A HIGHLAND CLAN?

As the Normans and the Lowlanders had a good deal of Keltic blood in their veins, it would be folly to look upon the Lords of Roslin as Scandinavians. Sir Henry Sinclair, fourth of Roslin, was the son of a Keltic mother. William Sinclair, second Earl of Caithness and progenitor of the Sinclairs of Caithness, was also the son of a Keltic mother. The Scandinavians who settled in Caithness occupied only parts of the country. They did not slay the whole of the original inhabitants. It was indeed quite a common thing for a Norwegian to marry into a Keltic family. Leod, the progenitor of the Macleods, was the son of a Scandinavian father. He married a Highland girl and had two sons by her, Torquil of Lewis and Tormod of Dunvegan. These sons were only half Scandinavians. Tormod of Dunvegan married a Keltic girl and had a son named Malcolm by her. Malcolm was very far from being a half Scandinavian. He was certainly a Kelt rather than a Scandinavian. Before a Sinclair, a Macleod, or a Gunn talks about his Scandinavian origin, it would be wise for him to calculate with some degree of care to what extent his blood is Scandinavian blood. Patrick Sinclair, third of Ulbster, was the son of Jane Chisholm. John, fourth of Ulbster, was the son of Elizabeth Mackay. John, fifth of Ulbster, was the son of Janet Sinclair. John, sixth of Ulbster, was the son of Jane Munro. George, seventh of Ulbster, was the son of Henrietta Brodie. Sir John Sinclair, eighth of Ulbster, the most eminent man that Caithness ever produced, was the son of Janet Mackay. Was Sir John a Scandinavian? He believed himself that he was a Highland chieftain.

The Gaelic form of the name Sinclair is Singlear. The Sinclairs of Argyleshire call themselves Clann-na-Cearda, or the children of the craft or trade. It is probable that this name was given them by their neighbours, who would naturally take for granted that Singlear meant shingler or flax-dresser. The Sinclairs of Argyleshire are out-and-out Highlanders.

The Earls of Caithness held their lands of the Crown, and were in no way subject to the Saintclairs of the Lowlands. They lived in the Highlands, they were chiefs of the Sinclairs of Caithness, they ruled over a large number of Gaelic-speaking Highlanders, and they were to some extent Kelts by blood. They had thus a perfect right to regard themselves as Highland chiefs and to wear tartans and bonnets, and use bag-pipes, if they saw proper. The Sinclairs of Caithness are thus a Highland clan just as much as the Sutherlands, Gunns and Macleods are Highland clans ; but they are not Kelts to the same extent.

#### THE SINCLAIRS OF SHURERY.

William Sinclair in Shurery was married and had by his wife six children : George, baptized January 22nd, 1757 ; Alexander, February 16, 1759 ; Janet, February 23, 1763 ; William, March 17, 1765 ; Catherine, September 4, 1765 ; Margaret, February 19, 1768 ; and Elizabeth, who was born probably in 1771. George Sinclair, in Shurery, had William, baptized in 1759. Donald Sinclair in Shurery had Christy, baptized in 1759, John in 1761, Elizabeth in 1763, and Janet in 1767. It is probable that the three Sinclairs in Shurery, William, George and Donald were brothers. There were fifteen tenants in Shurery in 1794. They were paying between them a rent of £100.

#### THE SINCLAIRS OF STRATH-HALLADALE.

Alexander Sinclair in Strath-halladale entered into a contract of marriage with Mary Mackay in Thurso, December 23rd, 1728, George Sinclair, merchant in Thurso, being cautioner for the latter. George Sinclair in Dalhalvaig had his daughter Ann baptized in 1752. John Sinclair in Golval had his son John baptized in 1756. Donald Sinclair in Golval had Janet baptized in 1764, Beatrice in 1767, and John in 1769. It is possible that George, John and Donald were brothers. It is at any rate fairly certain that John and Donald were brothers.

John Sinclair in Golval had four children : William,



John, Ann, and Donald. William must have been born as early as 1755. John was baptized Dec. 21st, 1756. Ann was born probably in 1759, and Donald, probably in 1761. John was born in Golval; the other children may or may not have been born there. The Christian name of John Sinclair's wife was Catherine. It is said that she was a Cameron.

I. William, eldest son of John Sinclair in Golval, married Catherine Campbell, by whom he had nine children: Colin, Alexander, Catherine, John, John, Ann, Henrietta, Christy and Hugh. According to the inscription on his tombstone, Alexander was born in 1778. Catherine was baptized in 1785, the first John in 1788, the second John in 1791, Ann in 1794, and Hugh in 1799. William Sinclair lived at Clarville in 1788. He became tenant of the farm of Kirkton some time afterwards. He was removed from Kirkton by the tyranny of landlordism in 1807. He went then to live at Achramisgag near Melvich, where he passed the remainder of his days.

Colin, son of William Sinclair in Clarville, married Mary, daughter of James Innes of the Reay Inn, and had by her Donald, James, William, Alexander, Peter, John, Jane, Margaret, Catherine the elder, Catherine the younger, and Marjory. Donald was baptized in January, 1803; James in December, 1804, and William in November, 1806. Colin Sinclair lived at Kirkton until 1807. He lived afterwards at Melvich for a number of years. He died at Dunn in the parish of Watten. Donald, his eldest son, married Jane Mackenzie, by whom he had David, Colin, Barbara, Hugh, and Mary-Innes. Colin was Free Church minister at Invergordon. William, third son of Colin Sinclair and Mary Innes, lived at Port Skerry. He married Jane Munro, by whom he had Donald, Alexander, Colin, and three daughters. Colin was for some time minister of Ripley, Ontario. Three of the sons of Colin Sinclair and Mary Innes,—James, Alexander and Peter—emigrated to Australia.

Alexander, son of William Sinclair in Clarville, was for a few years in the Reay Fencibles. He entered into

business as a merchant in Thurso about 1803. He married Catherine Waters in September, 1806, and had by her nine children : William, Benjamin, Daniel, Alexander, Catherine, Jane, Henrietta, Elizabeth and Margaret. He died July 13, 1852, aged seventy-four. He was a man of deep piety and sound sense. The Rev. Mr. Auld gives a very interesting account of him in his excellent work, "Ministers and Men of the Far North."

Catherine, eldest daughter of William Sinclair in Clarville, was drowned at Thurso. Ann was married in December, 1814, to John Murray, merchant, Thurso. Henrietta was married to Hugh Macpherson in Strath-halladale, and Christy to Robert Macdonald in Trantlemore.

2. John, second son of John Sinclair in Golval, entered into a contract of marriage with "Janet Sinclair in Shurery" on May 22nd, 1787. He is described as "John Sinclair in Bighouse." He lived at Breckrow, am Breacradh, which is about half-way between Trantlebeg burn and Forsinain burn. He was removed from Breckrow in 1807, by Mrs. Colin Mackay of Bighouse, to make room for sheep, dogs and shepherds. On being expelled from Strath-halladale he went to Strathy, and settled on the croft of Dal-Giobag, about a mile from the mouth of the Strathy river. For this croft he was paying an annual rent of £13. In 1820 he was driven from his home a second time to make room for sheep. Among those turned out of Strathy along with him was John Grant, one of the famous "men" of the far North. As Sutherlandshire would not give him leave to toil any longer within its bounds, he removed to Caithness, the land of his forefathers. He settled at Clachbhual, or Clachvul, about two miles from Brubster, and was allowed to spend the rest of his days there in peace. He is buried in the Reay churchyard.

3. Donald, third son of John Sinclair in Golval, lived in Cargarry. He married Elizabeth Mackay, and had by her ten children : John, Jane, Catherine, Augustus, Angus, Barbara, Farquhar, Ann, Janet, and Donald. He is described as Donald Sinclair in Cargarry from 1784 to 1799, and afterwards as Donald Sinclair in Forsinain. He was

removed from Forsinain in 1707, and went to live at Trantlemore. John, the eldest son, was baptized in February, 1784. He entered the army when quite young, and died there. Angus married Jane Macleod, by whom he had six children. He died at Achnavast in the parish of Thurso. Donald was born in 1804. He married Barbara Mackay, by whom he had three sons and three daughters. He died at Trantlemore, Sept. 1, 1888. Jane, eldest daughter of Donald Sinclair in Cargarry, was married to Hugh Mackay in Trantlemore; Catherine, to James Ross; Barbara, to William Cooper; Ann, to John Munro in Durness; and Janet, to Donald Macdonald.

4. Ann, only daughter of John Sinclair in Golval, was married, first to George Campbell in Cargarrymore, and by him had four children, Catherine, George, John and Hugh. She was married, secondly, to George Mackay, by whom she had two sons, George and William. Hugh, her third son, was baptized in June, 1783. George, her fourth son, was baptized in August, 1788. She died at Brubster. She was noted for her earnest piety.



## CHAPTER III.

### The Sinclairs of Goshen.

#### THE DESCENDANTS OF ALEXANDER SINCLAIR IN SHURERY.

**A**LLEXANDER, second son of William Sinclair in Shurery, married Isabel, daughter of John Sutherland in Bailie, and had by her nine children: Elspet, baptized April 26, 1792; William, June 24, 1794; Robert, August 5, 1796; John, April 9, 1797; Christy, July 5, 1801; Alexander, April 4, 1806; Robert, probably in 1808; and Donald, Nov. 7, 1811. Isabel Sutherland, Alexander Sinclair's wife, was baptized May 20, 1770.

Alexander Sinclair lived in Lambsdale—which is quite near Shurery—when Elspet, William, and the first Robert were baptized. He lived in Backlass in the parish of Halkirk, when John, Christy, and Alexander were baptized. The baptism of John was witnessed by Farquhar Macdonald in Achscorcleit and Mary Macdonald in the same place; the baptism of Christy, by John Sutherland in Acharennie and William Sinclair in Scoralet; and the baptism of Alexander by John Gunn and Barbara Sutherland in Backlass. Alexander Sinclair removed from Backlass to Uag of Dunbeath in the parish of Latheron, where the second Robert and also Donald were born. The first Robert died young.

Alexander Sinclair left Latheron and sailed for America in the spring of 1816, the year after the battle of Waterloo. He landed in Halifax in June, and came by a schooner to Sherbrooke. He lived for some time a few miles below the foot of Lochaber Lake. About 1819 he removed with his family to the district then known as the Backlands of St. Mary's, but now as Goshen. He died on May 13th, 1841. His wife died on May 4th, 1854.

I. William, eldest son of Alexander Sinclair, settled on a lot of land beside his brother John's lot. He was married, about 1821, by the Rev. Thomas Trotter, to Isabel, daughter of John Macdonald, Beaver Meadow, Antigonish, and had by her thirteen children: Agnes, born in 1822; Isabel, in 1824; Grace, in 1826; John-Alexander, in 1828; Robert in 1830; William-Hill in 1832; Archibald, in 1834; Donald-Macconnachie in 1836; Lewis, in 1838; Angus, in 1840; James D., in 1843; Ranald, in 1845; and Mary, in 1848. He died August 4, 1862. His wife died September 19, 1883.

Ranald Macdonald, of the family of Achatriachadan, lived in Glencoe, Scotland, and had two sons, Alexander and Donald. Alexander lived at Clachaig in Glencoe. He married Mary Macdonald, by whom he had three sons; John, Angus, and Ranald. John married Grace, daughter of Angus Macdonald, and had by her five children: Lewis, Margaret, Isabel, Ann and Mary. He came to Nova Scotia about 1802, and settled at Beaver Meadow about 1805. John, son of his brother Angus, came to Nova Scotia in the summer of 1834 and settled near Glenbard.

John-Alexander, eldest son of William Sinclair, married Eunice Macquarrie, by whom he had Florence, Mary, Grace-Isabel, Eunice-Ann, Christy and Alexander-Neil. He lives in Boston. Alexander-Neil, his only son, died at Leadville.

Robert, second son of William Sinclair, lived in Goshen. He married Jane Pushie, by whom he had thirteen children.

William-Hill, third son of William Sinclair, married Mary-Jane Mason, by whom he had Hugh-Kenneth, Hiram Blanchard, Abner, Isabel, and Mary. He lives at Port Dufferin in the county of Halifax.

Archibald, fourth son of William Sinclair, died at Londonderry, Nova Scotia. He was married and left a family.

Donald-Macconnachie, fifth son of William Sinclair, married Sarah Cameron, by whom he had six children. He lived at Eight Island Lake. He died some years ago.

Lewis, sixth son of William Sinclair, died in Newfoundland. He was married and left children.

Angus, seventh son of William Sinclair, lives at Salt Springs, Pictou County. He is married and has one son, William.

James D., eighth son of William Sinclair, lives on a part of his father's farm. He married Ella J. Fraser, of Thorburn, and had by her two children: Margaret-Alice, born in November, 1873, and William-Adrian, born in June 1877. His daughter died Feb. 5, 1890. His wife died in March, 1900.

Ranald, ninth son of William Sinclair, lives on a part of his father's farm. He married Mary, daughter of Dougald Macdougall, East River, St. Mary's, and had by her two sons; Fraser, born November 30, 1884, and Arthur born in April, 1886.

II. John, second son of Alexander Sinclair, settled in Goshen on a lot of land beside his father's. He was married by the Rev. Alexander Lewis, on June 30th, 1825, to Elizabeth, daughter of Alexander Mackenzie, Forks, St. Mary's, and had by her the following children: Alexander, born October 23, 1826; William, November 5, 1828; John-Thomas, August 13, 1830; Robert-Angus, July 4, 1832; Daniel-Macgillivray, May 17, 1834; Simon, May 8, 1836; James, June 9, 1838; Hugh-Kenneth, Oct. 17, 1840; Isabel February 10, 1843; Ebenezer, June 9, 1845; Joseph, May 28, 1847; and Samuel-Henry, March 12, 1851. He was a magistrate and was known as John Sinclair, Squire. He died July 11, 1880, aged eighty-three. His wife died August 1, 1873, aged sixty-seven.

Alexander, eldest son of John Sinclair, married Elizabeth Murray, with issue two sons, John-Abner and Alexander-Robert. He died in 1857.

William, second son of John Sinclair, studied for the ministry. He was ordained Nov. 7, 1865, and settled over the congregation of Mabou, Cape Breton. He died February 4th, 1870.

John-Thomas, third son of John Sinclair, married Euphemia, daughter of the Hon. William Mackeen, Mabon, Cape Breton, and had by her two daughters, and a son

named Francis. He lives in Yakima, Washington, U.S.A. His wife died in 1878. His daughters died young.

Robert-Angus, fourth son of John Sinclair, removed to New York, and engaged there in a bakery business. He died in 1894.

Daniel-Macgillivray, fifth son of John Sinclair, married Janet Smith, of Mabou, in 1865, with issue—William, born in 1866; Hedley-Vicars, in 1875; a daughter who died young; and Lyman, born in 1879. He lived for some time in Mabou. He removed to Bonner's Ferry, Idaho, about 1881. He died in 1894.

Simon, sixth son of John Sinclair, lives in Goshen. He married Mary M. Scott, of Guysborough, in 1870, by whom he had the following children:—Ella-Louise, born November 7, 1871; Walter-Hugh-Stanley, born September 10, 1873; Harold-Scott, August 28, 1875; Jairus-Carlton, October 23, 1878; Hattie-Maude, October 4, 1882; and Jessie-Winifred, October 12, 1885.

James, seventh son of John Sinclair, lived on the old homestead in Goshen. He married Jessie Henderson, of Merigomish, in 1867, and by her had five children: Elizabeth-Etta, born in 1869; Maria, in 1873; William-Henry, in 1876; John-Alfred, in 1879; and Robert-Ernest-White, in 1888. He died in 1895.

Hugh-Kenneth, eighth son of John Sinclair, married Frances Bishop, of Antigonish, by whom he had Emma, born in 1865; Alfred, in 1868; Clara, in 1870; and Minnie-Frances, in 1873. He left Goshen in 1879, and went to live in Yakima, Washington Territory. Emma, his eldest child, died at the age of eleven months.

Ebenezer, ninth son of John Sinclair, died in 1857, aged 13 years.

Joseph, tenth son of John Sinclair, married in May, 1877, Jessie M. Forbes, by whom he had four children: Kirtley, John, Gertrude and Karl. He removed to Yakima in 1879. He entered the American army in 1863 and was engaged in several battles of the civil war. He held the rank of lieutenant-colonel at the time of his retirement. He died in 1895.

Samuel-Henry, eleventh son of John Sinclair, married Annie, daughter of Alexander Maclean, of Lime Brook, East River, Pictou. He lives at Ridgley, Maryland, U.S.A.

Isabel, only daughter of John Sinclair, was married in 1870 to John Macphie, South River, Antigonish. Mr. Macphie removed with his family to Yakima in 1882.

III. Alexander Sinclair, third son of Alexander Sinclair and Isabel Sutherland, lived in Goshen beside his father's farm. He married, in 1830, Elizabeth, daughter of John Bruce and his wife, who was a Mackay, and had by her five children: Isabel, born May 22, 1832; Margaret, May 23, 1833; Elizabeth, February 18, 1835; John-George, March 26, 1837; and David, January 14, 1839.

Alexander Sinclair died April 22, 1876. His wife, Elizabeth Bruce, was born in Latheron, October 26, 1796, and died in Goshen April 18, 1886.

John-George, elder son of Alexander Sinclair, lives in Country Harbour, Guysborough County. He married, March 27, 1866, Annie, daughter of Donald Cameron, Lochaber, Antigonish, and Flora Cameron his wife, and had by her nine children: John-Wesley, born January 1, 1867; Christy-Bell, January 14, 1868; Alexander-Bruce, December 24, 1869; Flora-Maude, May 2, 1871; Daniel Wickliffe, March 31, 1873; Elizabeth-Jane, November 13, 1874; Mary-Catherine, December 1, 1876; David George-Whitefield, August 7, 1878; and William-H.-Howard, June 22, 1891. His wife was born November 13, 1836. Christy-Bell, his eldest daughter, was married, October 24, 1900, to Captain William M. Swasey, Salem, Massachusetts.

David, second son of Alexander Sinclair, lives in Goshen. He married, in November, 1889, Annie, daughter of Hugh Macmillan and his wife Barbara Sinclair.

Isabel, eldest daughter of Alexander Sinclair, was married in July, 1856, to Alexander Polson, Altamore, or Big Brook, South River, Antigonish, and had seven children. Isabel, her second daughter, is married to A. W. Reid, Port Hillford. Margaret, second daughter of Alexander Sinclair, was married in June, 1868, to John A.



Jordain, St. Mary's. Elizabeth, the third daughter, was married in 1864 to Alexander Langly.

IV. Robert, fourth son of Alexander Sinclair, lived near the Cross Roads, St. Mary's. He married, August 2, 1852, Catherine Sutherland. He died without issue, December 20, 1888. The writer of this work taught school in St. Mary's about a year and a half, and found Robert Sinclair and his wife exceedingly kind. They were a very happy couple. His widow is still living and resides in Sherbrooke.

V. Donald, fifth son of Alexander Sinclair, married, December 24, 1841, Jane, daughter of Donald Macneil, and had by her six children: Alexander, born November 18, 1842; Mary-Macneil, August 30, 1844; Daniel, May 30, 1846; John-H., May 27, 1848; Catherine, May 13, 1850; and Jane, March 18, 1853. Donald Sinclair was an elder in the Presbyterian Church. He was ordained December 28, 1853. He died January 11, 1885. His wife died April 30, 1876.

Donald Macneil, Domhnall Mac Iain, lived in Kilmornaig, Lochaber, Scotland. He married Catherine Cameron, by whom he had Donald, Hugh, John, Allan, Mary, Jane, Christy and Janet. He was drowned in the Caledonian Canal, October 30, 1828. His widow and children came to Nova Scotia in 1830 or 1831. Jane, his second daughter, was Donald Sinclair's wife.

Alexander, eldest son of Donald Sinclair, lives in Goshen on the old homestead. He is Warden of the Municipality of St. Mary's, Guysborough County. He married in August, 1877, Janet, daughter of Alexander Fraser, New Glasgow, and had by her two daughters: Marion-Jane, born July 2, 1878; and Janet-Louise-Kennedy, November 30, 1880. His wife died November 9, 1896.

Daniel, second son of Donald Sinclair, settled in Upper Natchez, Washington, in October, 1879. He married Annie-Margaret, daughter of Duncan Cameron, Lochaber, by his wife Jessie Murray. He had three children: Jean, born December 10, 1886; Jessie-Margaret-Carmichael, born

November 13, 1892; and Malcolm, who died at the age of two years.

John-H., third son of Donald Sinclair, was educated at the common school in Goshen, at the Guysborough Academy, and at Dalhousie College. He took a law course in the Halifax University, and received the degree of LL.B. He was called to the bar in January, 1880, and began to practise in New Glasgow, N. S., in March, 1881. He married, July 13, 1886, Jessie, daughter of James-William Carmichael, New Glasgow, now the Hon. Senator Carmichael, and has by her one child, Donald-Carmichael. He was Mayor of New Glasgow in 1890 and 1891. He was elected to the Legislature of Nova Scotia for Guysborough County on March 14, 1894, and again on April 20, 1897. Donald-Carmichael was born in New Glasgow December 10, 1888. Mrs. Sinclair was born February 5, 1860. Her mother, Maria-Jane MacColl, was a daughter of Duncan MacColl, Guysborough, a native of Argyleshire.

Mary-Macneil, eldest daughter of Donald Sinclair, left Nova Scotia with her brother Daniel in October, 1879. She was married in San Francisco, October 22, 1884, to Charles E. Bishop, of Sacramento, California, who removed to Portland, Oregon, in 1889, where they now reside. Catherine, second daughter of Donald Sinclair, was married February 5, 1880, at Fitchburg, Massachusetts, to Daniel Macbain. Jane, the youngest daughter, left Goshen in 1879. She was married in Chicago, May 6, 1893, as his second wife, to Joseph Cowgill, of North Manchester, Indiana.

Elsbet, or Elizabeth, the eldest of Alexander Sinclair's family, was married to John Murray, Lochaber, Antigonish, in 1817, and had by him eleven children: Jessie, born February 6, 1820; Isabella, September 16, 1822; Christy, June 18, 1824; Alexander, March 31, 1826; William, March 1, 1828; John, November 7, 1830; Elizabeth, November 27, 1831; Robert, January 29, 1833; Margaret, October 27, 1834; Daniel, July 9, 1836; and James, August 27, 1837.

Alexander married Margaret Henderson; William married Jessie, daughter of Kenneth Cameron, Barney's

River; John married Mary Mackinnon; James married Catherine J. Hattie. Jessie was married to Duncan Cameron, Lochaber; Isabella to Alexander Hulbert, Lochaber; Christy to William L. Mackeen, Cross Roads, St. Mary's; Elizabeth to Alexander Sinclair, Goshen; and Margaret to John D. Cameron, Glen, Lochaber.

John Murray was born in the parish of Ken Edward, Aberdeenshire, in 1785. His wife died March 6, 1883.

Christy, second daughter of Alexander Sinclair, was married to Alexander Sutherland. She had six children: James, born in 1826; Alexander, in 1828; John, in 1831; Jane, in 1833; Elizabeth, in 1835; and Margaret, in 1837. James lives at Eight Island Lake. He married Eliza Polson, by whom he had six children: Alexander-C., James-W., John-R., Elizabeth, Jane and Christy. Alexander lives in Goshen. He married Elizabeth Murray, widow of Alexander Sinclair, and by her had four children: Murray, Russell, Albert, and Edith.

#### THE DESCENDANTS OF JOHN BAN SINCLAIR.

John Ban Sinclair was born in the parish of Reay, Caithness. He came to Nova Scotia in 1818, and settled in St. Mary's, near the Two Mile Lake. His father's name was Donald Sinclair. It is said that his mother was a sister of Alexander Sinclair in Goshen.

John Ban Sinclair married Jane Macdonald, April 4, 1816, and had by her four children: Donald, Catherine, Barbara, and Ann. He died in April, 1849. Donald, his only son, died without issue. Catherine was married to Alexander Chisholm, and Barbara to Hugh Macmillan. Ann was born in St. Mary's June 16, 1824. She was married November 20, 1845, to William M. Clark, in St. Mary's. She emigrated with her husband and family to Rushford, Illinois, in May, 1870. She had ten children. Two of them died of diphtheria in St. Mary's. The others emigrated to Illinois with their parents. The family removed to Minneapolis in 1874. Mrs. Clark died December 9, 1893. One of her sons, J. S. Clark, is a professor in the University of Minnesota.

## THE DESCENDANTS OF JOHN SINCLAIR IN BRECKCROW.

John Sinclair in Breckrow, Strath-halladale, married in 1787, Janet, daughter of William Sinclair in Shurery, and had five children by her: William, Catherine, John, Christy and George. William was baptized May 21, 1792; Catherine, January 20, 1795; John, May 20, 1797; and Christy, November 14, 1799. George was born in 1801.

I. William, eldest son of John Sinclair in Breckrow, came to Nova Scotia about 1842. He taught school for a few years. He purchased a lot of woodland in Goshen and settled on it. He died in February, 1880. He was never married. He left his farm to his nephew, Andrew Sinclair.

II. John, second son of John Sinclair in Breckrow, came to Nova Scotia in 1831 on the ship *Industry*, which belonged to Dundee and was commanded by Capt. Carr. Along with him came Angus Gunn and Neil Gunn in St. Mary's, John Mackay and Hugh Gunn in Earltown, and Alexander Murray in Scotsburn. The *Industry* sailed from Cromarty, July 6, 1831, and arrived in Pictou on Sabbath morning, October 9. It had thus a passage of three months and three days. But then it was better to be tossed about on the deep blue sea for three years and three days than to live under a landlord and feel like a voluntary slave. John Sinclair and Neil Gunn left the vessel on Monday morning, October 10th, and went to the Three Mile House, where they stayed during the night with John Henderson. On Tuesday night they stayed at John Macrae's, Maclellan's Mountain, and on Wednesday night with John Forbes, pensioner, at Blue Mountain. On Thursday night they were at Alexander Sutherland's, East River, St. Mary's. Neil Gunn remained at the East River. John Sinclair went on to the Backlands, where his maternal uncle, Alexander Sinclair, was living. He took up a woodland lot there, and settled on it. He had only seven pence half-penny in his pocket; but he was a free man, he had health and strength, and he knew how to work. As he was a new comer and as there were two Sinclairs of the same name before him, he came to be known as Iain Ur, or New John.

Neil Gunn, son of William Gunn and his wife Catherine Sinclair, was born at Achins in the parish of Reay, Caithness, in 1806. Shortly after his birth his parents removed to the parish of Halkirk. He died in 1886. He was a magistrate, and was commonly spoken of as Squire Gunn. The Rev. Samuel C. Gunn, D.D., Boston, is his second son.

John Sinclair married first, early in 1833, Mary, daughter of John Inglis in Lochaber and his wife, Maria Lambert, and had by her three children, Janet, John and George. His wife died of measles in December, 1837, in the 22nd year of her age. He married, secondly, in the spring of 1839, Christy, daughter of John Maclean, the poet, in Glenbard, Antigonish County, and had by her one child, Alexander-Maclean, who was born in Glenbard, at the home of his maternal grandfather. Janet was born December 1, 1833; John, August 11, 1835; and George in December, 1837. Alexander-Maclean was born March 1, 1840. John Sinclair died June 27, 1875, aged seventy-eight years. He was succeeded on his farm by his eldest son, Iain Og or Young John, as he was commonly called.

1. John, eldest son of John Sinclair, married July 6, 1859, Isabel, daughter of James Ban Stewart, Lochaber, by his wife, Janet Stewart, and had by her nine children: James-Alexander, born April 16, 1860; Mary-Jane, September 8, 1861; John-Robert, March 20, 1863; Janet-Helen, February 7, 1865; Christy-Catherine, December 12, 1866; Margaret-Isabel, December 13, 1868; Gracie-Ann; September 4, 1871; George-William, February 17, 1874; and Peter-Stirling, January 23, 1877.

James lives with his father on the old homestead. He married, November 22nd, 1893, Isabel-Jane, daughter of Peter Mackintosh, Argyll, by his wife, Diana-Grace Smith. He has two children; John-Roy, born April 15, 1897, and Peter-Stirling, born October 14, 1899.

John is a conductor on a passenger train and has his home in Spokane, Washington, U. S. A. He married July 22, 1896, Alice L. Roberts, by whom he had two children:

Harry-John, born July 11, 1897; and Frank-Robert, June 18, 1899. Harry died January 18, 1898.

George lives at Roxbury, Massachusetts. Stirling was killed by the falling of a tree, June 19, 1899, in Nicaragua, Central America.

Mary was married June 7, 1893, to Stewart I. Campbell, and has one child, John Ellsworth, born February 4, 1895. She lives in Holyoke, Massachusetts. Janet was married January 3, 1899, to John Young. She lives at Easton, Massachusetts. Catherine was married, September 20, 1899, to Daniel-Charles Nicholson. She lives in Roxbury, Massachusetts. Maggie lives in Boston, Massachusetts. Gracie died February 24, 1880.

2. George, second son of John Sinclair, settled at Lochaber, Antigonish County, in January, 1863. He married, December 20, 1865, Maria, daughter of John Inglis in Lochaber, and his wife Cecilia Maclachlan, and had by her eight children: Mary-Alice, born December 15, 1866; Cecilia, December 11, 1868; John-Franklin, October 31, 1870; Elizabeth-Emma, April 14, 1874; Maria, June 9, 1876; George-Herman, May 22, 1877; Alexander-Maclean, June 3, 1880; and Frances-Roberta, July 19, 1883. Maria died June 19, 1876; and George-Herman, May 26, 1879.

John-Franklin lives in Bisbee, Arizona. He married Grace-Isabel, daughter of Robert Stewart, Lochaber, and his wife, Christy Stewart. He has one child, Roberta-Sweet, born August 12, 1898. Alexander-Maclean also lives in Bisbee. Mary-Alice was married in 1898 to Thomas Keizer at Wine Harbour, Guysborough County, and has two children. Cecilia was for some time a missionary teacher in Trinidad. She was married, November 14, 1900, to Capt. Edward-King Perry, of Glasgow, Scotland.

3. Alexander-Maclean, third son of John Sinclair, was educated at the common school, Beaver Meadow, the Pictou Academy, the Free Church College, Halifax, the Normal School, Truro, and the Presbyterian Seminary, Truro. He entered the Theological Hall of the Presbyterian Church, Halifax, in 1863, and in the same year attended the Chemistry

and Political Economy classes in Dalhousie College and University, which had then been just opened. He completed his course in theology in April, 1866. He was licensed to preach by the Presbytery of Pictou, May 2, 1866. He was ordained, and inducted into the pastoral charge of the congregation of Springville and Suunybrae, East River, Pictou, July 25, 1866. He was inducted into the pastoral charge of the united congregation of East River, Pictou, November 10, 1875. He was translated to Belfast, Prince Edward Island, May 16, 1888. He published "The Anglo-Israel Folly" in 1880; "Clarsach na Coille" in 1881; "Gaelic Hymns by John Maclean and others" in 1881; "The Glenbard Collection of Gaelic Poetry," in 1890; "The Gaelic Bards" in three volumes, in 1890-1896; "The Peoples and Languages of the World" in 1894; "John Lom's Poems" in 1895; "The Maclean Bards," in two volumes, in 1898-1900; "The Clan Gillean, or History of the Macleans," in 1899; "Mactalla nan Tur" in 1901, and "Filidh na Coille" in 1901. He married, August 1, 1882, Mary-Ann, only daughter of John-Macrae Campbell, East River, Pictou, and his wife, Margaret-Ann Fraser; and has by her five children: Charles-Maclean, born November 26, 1885; John-Maclean, April 9, 1888; Christy, May 30, 1891; George-Maclean, August 16, 1895; and Donald-Maclean, April 16, 1899. Charles and John were born at Springville, Pictou county. Christy, George and Donald were born in the manse, Belfast. Mrs. Sinclair was born February 25, 1861.

John Maclean, the poet, was born in Tiree, Argyleshire, January 8th, 1787. He was fourteenth in descent from Lachlan Bronnach Maclean, Lord of Duart and chief of the Macleans. He married, July 19th, 1808, Isabel, daughter of Duncan Black and his wife, Elizabeth Mackenzie, with issue: Christy, Charles, Archibald, John, Allan, and Elizabeth. He published his poems in 1818, and came to Nova Scotia in 1819. Christy, the eldest of his children, was born December 25th, 1809, and baptized Dec. 26th. Charles was born July 7th, 1813, and baptized July 13th, Archibald was born May 11th, 1815, and baptized May 13th. These dates show quite clearly that

as a general rule children were baptized in Scotland a few days after their birth.

4. Janet, only daughter of John Sinclair, was married in March, 1853, to Robert Polson, Altamore, South River, Antigonish, and had by him eleven children: Mary, Margaret-Isabel, Elizabeth-Ellen, William-James; Janet, Catherine, Nellie, Ann, Maria, Grace, and Gordon-Alexander-Robert. He died August 1, 1878. His wife died June 5, 1896.

William-James, elder son of Robert Polson, was born August 7, 1860. He married Catherine, daughter of Daniel Goodwill, by whom he has one son and five daughters. Gordon-Alexander-Robert, younger son of Robert Polson, was born June 18, 1877. He lives in Holyoke, Massachusetts. Mary, the eldest daughter, was married to William Sinclair; Margaret-Isabel, to Owen Sheffield; Janet, to Alexander Cameron; Catherine, to Charles Whalen; and Nellie, to Peter Cousins. Elizabeth-Ellen died in 1868. Ann died in Boston, August 3, 1898. Maria died April 1, 1900. Grace lives in Boston.

William Polson was born in Caithness in 1788. He married Elizabeth Sutherland about 1804, and had by her Ellen, William, John, Margaret, Alexander, Peter, Robert, Hugh, James, and Eliza. He came to Nova Scotia in August, 1820, and settled at Altamore, or Big Brook, in the county of Antigonish. He died December 15, 1848.

III. George, third son of John Sinclair in Breckrow, married Elizabeth, daughter of Peter Begg, and had by her ten children: John, William and Peter, George, James M., Andrew, Janet, and Robert-Begg. He came to Nova Scotia with his wife and family in 1847, and settled on a woodland lot in Goshen. He died January 15, 1871. His wife died August 11, 1893.

Peter Begg was born in 1784. He married in 1810 Catherine Gow, by whom he had seven children, Robert, Barbara, Elizabeth, Catherine, William, Jane, and Peter. He lived in Toftingall, Watten, at least from 1810 until 1828. He removed shortly after that date to Houstry,



Watten, where he died in 1848. His wife was born in 1788 and died in Houstry in 1860. Elizabeth, his second daughter, was born in 1815.

John, eldest son of George Sinclair, was born at Berriedale in Latheron on the 26th of March, 1839, and baptized on the 31st of March. He lives in Goshen on his father's farm. He is married and has one child.

William Sinclair, second son of George Sinclair, lives in Goshen. He married, December 16, 1880, Mary, daughter of Robert Polson and Janet Sinclair, his wife, and had by her the following children: George-Robert, born October 19, 1881; Bessie-Janet-Begg, January 5, 1882; Cassie-Blanche, September 26, 1884; Mary-Ethel-Berta, February 10, 1886; Gertrude-Melissia-Fraser, February 10, 1886; William-John-Gordon, April 7, 1888; Peter Arthur-Maclean, May 4, 1890; Andrew-Edward-Fraser, August 23, 1891; Charles-Haden-Spurgeon, April 23, 1893; Gracie-Bell, December 20, 1895; and James-Alexander-Murray, April 10, 1898. Mary E. B. died April 20, 1886, Gertrude M. F. died April 16, 1887.

Peter Sinclair, third son of George Sinclair, lives in Isaac's Harbour, Guysborough County. He married, December 13, 1865, Elizabeth, daughter of Peter Bezanson. His wife died October 26, 1866. He married, February 25, 1868, Grace, daughter of William Maclean, Fraser's Mountain. She died July 23, 1901.

George, fourth son of George Sinclair, was born in the parish of Halkirk. He went to Scotland about thirty-five years ago, and for the last twenty-one years has been bank messenger in the British Linen Company Bank, Glasgow. He married in Kirkintilloch, January 18, 1876, Agnes, daughter of James Fisher, and his wife, Mary Graham; and had by her the following children: George-Fisher, born October 27, 1876; Malcolm, March 7, 1878; Mary-Graham, June 4, 1879; Elizabeth-Begg, January 27, 1882; Agnes, June 12, 1883; Janet, March 27, 1885; James, September 21, 1886; William-Begg, August 25, 1890; Robert-John, August 30, 1892; and Elizabeth-Jane, March

24, 1897. Malcolm died in childhood. Elizabeth-Begg died in 1890. Mrs. Sinclair was born in Kirkintilloch in 1855.

James M., fifth son of George Sinclair, lives in Goshen. He married Annie, daughter of James Clyburn, in Country Harbour, and had by her twelve children : Elizabeth-Adelia, born February 4, 1864 ; Gracie B., Nov. 15, 1870 ; Christina, September 13, 1872 ; George-Geddie, December 30, 1874 ; Maclean, March 30, 1876 ; William H., March 19, 1879 ; James-Robert, June 22, 1881 ; Janet-Maclean, November 17, 1883 ; Maclean, May 4, 1885 ; Albert S., September 6, 1887 ; Janet-Mable, April 6, 1890 ; Alice-Gretta, June 1, 1892 ; and Gertrude-Berl, September 18, 1894. The first Maclean died in 1881. Janet Maclean died June 10, 1884.

Andrew, sixth son of George Sinclair, lives in Goshen. He married, July 16, 1875, Christy, daughter of Duncan Stewart and Janet Stewart his wife, and had by her the following children : George-Duncan, born October 20, 1876 ; Andrew-Sterling, April 30, 1878 ; Angus-Hugh, March 21, 1880 ; Jennie-Bell, March 22, 1882 ; William-Alexander, May 17, 1884 ; Robert-Stewart, April 26, 1886 ; Elizabeth-Christina, April 26, 1886 ; Gracie Maclean, December 23, 1888 ; John-Huntley, August 5, 1891 ; Nellie-Jane, December 12, 1893 ; James-Peter, January 12, 1895 ; and Donald-Howard, July 10, 1896. James P. died January 29, 1895.

Robert-Begg, seventh son of George Sinclair, lives at Stony Mountain, Manitoba. He married first, December 25, 1885, Mary-Ellen, daughter of Jacob Williams, Wavy Bank, Manitoba, and his wife, Esther Lister ; and by her had six children : George-Milton, born December 22, 1886 ; Robert-Stanley, February 27, 1889 ; Janet-Ethel, January 5, 1891 ; James-Gordon, November 27, 1892 ; and Mary-Jane, October 17, 1893. His wife died October 24, 1893, aged twenty-nine years. He married, secondly, August 9, 1894, Jennie-Lister Williams, a sister of his first wife, and had by her three children : William-Lawrence, born August 14, 1895 ; Esther-Adeline-Ellen, December 14, 1897 ; and Elizabeth-Irene, September 28, 1899. James-Gordon died in childhood.

Catherine, daughter of John Sinclair in Breckrow, was married to James Murray in Brubster, and had six children: Janet, Alexander, Johan, Catherine, Christy and Donald. We called to see her August 18, 1869. She died January 3, 1893, aged ninety-eight.

Christy, second daughter of John Sinclair in Breckrow, came to Nova Scotia in the ship Osprey in 1840. She died in Goshen, in her brother William's house, June 14, 1873.



## APPENDIX.

## GENEALOGICAL MATTERS.

Page 6.—Walter, sixth High Steward of Scotland, married Marjory, daughter of Robert Bruce, by whom he had one son, Robert. Robert became King of Scotland, and was the first of the old Stewarts. The Black Douglas married his daughter Egidia and had by her Egidia, wife of Henry St. Clair, second Earl of Orkney. William St. Clair, first Earl of Caithness, was thus descended from the Black Douglas and King Robert Bruce.

Page 12.—George Gunn, the crowner, left five sons: James in Kildonan; Robert in Braemore, John in Cattack; William, ancestor of the Williamsons and Wilsons; and Henry, ancestor of the Hendersons. Torquil and other sons were slain with their father. The statement that Robert Gunn in Achaneccan was chief of the Gunns in 1800 may or may not be true. The chief authority for it is the Rev. Donald Sage in his valuable and interesting work "Parish Life in the North of Scotland." When I made the statement I had not read Mr. Thomas Sinclair's history of the Gunns, a work which every Gunn who has any respect for himself or his ancestors should purchase and study. The Mansons, Magnus' sons, or clann Mhanuis, are apparently a branch of the Hendersons.

Page 13.—The greater part of this work was through the press before the result of the last search in the Register House, Edinburgh, was received. The facts made known by that search are these:—

William Sinclair in Stemster and Elizabeth Miller in Forss were matrimonially contracted November 8, 1729; Alexander Sinclair in Lambsdale and Barbara Campbell in Shurery, February 2, 1746; Donald Sinclair in Reay and Ann Mackay in Achremie, June 17, 1748; William Sinclair in Shurery and Christy Gunn in Cattack, December 1, 1751; Alexander Sinclair in Shurery and Elizabeth Gunn in

Daluaclatan, June 22, 1754; William Sinclair in Shurery and Barbara Campbell in Ausdale, February 16, 1758; Robert Sutherland in the parish of Reay and Janet Sinclair in Isauld, September 10, 1785; George Sinclair in Shurery and Margaret Campbell in Brubster, January 11, 1788; Alexander Sinclair in Shurery and Isabel Sutherland in Carnside, May 23, 1791; William Sinclair in Clayock, parish of Bower, and Ann Macdonald in Korkal, Strath-halladale, August 19, 1791; James Mackay, cooper, and Janet Sinclair in Golval, June 11, 1798; John Mackay in Shurery and Janet Sinclair in Shurery, December 21, 1798; William Gunn in Corrish, Kildonan, and Catherine Sinclair in Shurery, December 20, 1799; and John Sinclair in Uag of Dunbeath and Jane Macdonald in Dalvaich, March 6, 1816. Donald Sinclair in Golval had his son William baptized April 21, 1764. William Sutherland in Knockglass, near Bailie, was cautioner for William Sinclair in Stemster in 1729. The foregoing facts cost one guinea, but they are worth that.

William Sinclair and Christy Gunn were the parents of Alexander Sinclair in Goshen. They were married probably early in January 1752. It is possible that Elizabeth was the eldest of their family and not the youngest. The George Sinclair who was married in 1788 may have been William's eldest son. The Alexander Sinclair who was married in 1791, was the Alexander Sinclair who came to Goshen. Isabel Sutherland was born in Bailie, but lived at Carnside at the time of her marriage. William Gunn in Corrish was probably the father of Neil Gunn, Squire, St. Mary's. Catherine Sinclair, his wife, was a daughter of Neil Sinclair in Shurery. She was born in 1775 and died in 1861. John Sinclair in Uag of Dunbeath was the John Sinclair who was known in this country as John Ban Sinclair. Carnside is in the parish of Reay. Uag and Dalvaich are only a short distance apart. They are about six miles inland from Dunbeath. As a general rule the marriage took place four or five weeks after the contract.

Marcus Mor Gunn in Cattack was born in 1647 and died in 1734. He had two sons, John in Cattack and

Alexander in Dalmore. John married Janet, daughter of William Campbell in Ausdale, and had Marcus in Dalmore, William in Achalibster, Murdoch in Cattack, and other children. It is possible that Christy Gunn was his daughter. Dirlot, Dalmore, Dalnaclatan, Torrisdale, and Cattack were in the parish of Halkirk.

Page 18.—For Janet Mackay read Janet Gordon.

Page 19.—In the first notes of search received from Edinburgh it was stated by mistake that Donald Sinclair in Golval had Janet baptized April 21, 1764. It was his son William that he had baptized at that time. For calling my attention to this mistake on the part of the copyist, I am indebted to Mr. Thomas Sinclair, the accomplished Caithness historian. I have found Mr. Sinclair a most obliging man.

As John Sinclair in Golval and Donald Sinclair in Golval were probably brothers and as each of them had a William and a John, it is likely that their father's name was either William or John, probably William. John Sinclair in Stemster had his son William baptized March 21, 1755. It is possible that this is the John Sinclair who appears in Golval in December, 1756.

Page 24.—Robert, second son of William Sinclair, died March 8, 1894. The most of his children died young. There are only three of them now living: Leonard-Archibald, Robert-Edwin, and Roberta.

Page 27.—S. H. Sinclair in Ridgely and Annie Maclean, his wife, have four children; Bessie-Macdougall, born March 24, 1883; James-Huntley, October 7, 1884; Alma-Isabel, July 20, 1890, and Henry-Maclean, May 7, 1899. Mrs. Swasey's Christian name is Christabel, not Christy-Bell. She has one child, Bruce-Cameron-Sinclair, born August 20, 1901.

Page 31.—William, eldest son of John Sinclair in Breckrow, came to Nova Scotia in 1843.

Page 34.—John Maclean, the poet, was the son of Allan, son of John, son of Charles, son of Lachlan, son of Donald, son of John, son of Ewen, son of Lachlan Fionn of

Hynish, son of Donald of Treshnish, son of Hector of Blaach, son of Ewen of Ardgour, son of Donald of Ardgour, son of Lachlan Bronnach of Duart, son of Hector Roy of Duart, who fell fighting for his maternal uncle, Donald, Lord of the Isles, at the battle of Harlaw in 1411.

Page 35.—William and Peter, twin sons of George Sinclair, were born in the parish of Watten, July 15, 1841. Janet their sister was born in Goshen November 25, 1851, and died August 22, 1901. For Jane and Peter read Jane, Andrew, Margaret, and Peter.

### NAMES.

Among the old Sinclair names we find the following :— Alexander, a defender of men ; Arthur, high, noble ; Charles, strong, manly ; David, beloved ; Donald, world-ruler ; Francis, free ; George, a husbandman ; Henry, the head of a house ; James, a supplanter ; John, the gracious gift of God ; Patrick, a nobleman ; Richard, powerful ; Robert, bright in fame ; William, defence ; Agnes, chaste, pure ; Alice, of high birth ; Ann or Anna, grace ; Barbara, foreign, strange ; Beatrice or Beatrix, making happy ; Catherine, purified, innocent ; Christina or Christy, a woman belonging to Christ ; Elizabeth or Eliza, worshipper of God ; Isabel or Isabella, worshipper of God ; Janet, a woman graciously given by God ; Margaret, a pearl ; Mary, bitter ; Mora, in Gaelic Mor, magnificent. The most common Sinclair names were William, George, John, Alexander, Janet, Elizabeth, Catherine, and Ann.

There seems to be a tendency at the present day to ignore old family names, and also to burden children with more names than they can easily bear. To discard an old name, simply because it is old and not because it has an undesirable meaning, cannot be regarded either as a sign of rational development or of due respect for our ancestors. It may perhaps be useful in some instances to have two or three Christian names as marks of distinction from other persons ; at the same time we should not forget that William Wallace, Robert Bruce, Martin Luther, John Knox, Oliver Cromwell, Isaac Newton, George Washington, Napoleon

Bonaparte, Arthur Wellesley, Thomas Chalmers. Walter Scott and Abraham Lincoln got along very well with only one Christain name.

### TARTANS, BADGES AND MOTTOES.

The full-dress tartan of the Sinclairs has a large proportion of red in it. The hunting tartan has also a good deal of red in it, but the chief colour in it is green. It is a very handsome tartan. The badge of the Sinclairs is clover. Whin or furze is also used. The motto of the Earls of Caithness is, "Commit thy work to God."

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Messrs. Paton & Co. will send samples of the Sinclair tartans to any address in Canada on the receipt of ten cents.

### BOOKS.

**The St. Clairs of the Isles** by R. W. Saint-clair. Published by H. Brett, Auckland, New Zealand. Price £2 5s. od.

**Caithness Family History**, by John Henderson. Published by David Douglas, Edinburgh. Price about £1 is. od.

The following works are for sale by W. Rae, Publisher, Wick, Scotland:—

**Caldor's History of Caithness**, - - - - - 5/11d.  
**Caithness Events**, by T. Sinclair, - - - - - 5/5d.  
**History of the Gunns**, by T. Sinclair, - - - - - 5/5d.  
**Guide to Sutherland and Caithness**, by Hew Morrison, 7d.  
**The Reduced Ordnance Survey Map of Caithness**,  
 Sheet 27, - - - - - 1/2d.  
**Parish Life in the North of Scotland**, by Rev. D. Sage, - 3/11d.

With regard to the books sold by Mr. Rae, the price stated includes the cost of sending the book by mail. The Map of Caithness can be obtained from any bookseller.

**The Peoples and Languages of The World**, by Rev. A. Maclean Sinclair. Copies of this work can be obtained from the author at the rate of 50 cents per copy, post paid.



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## ADDITIONAL NOTES.

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Page 40.—Robert Sutherland lived at Achniby, now Upper Downreay. Carnside should be Carriside. It is a place on the edge of Loch Calder, near Brawlbin and Shurery. In a letter to the *Northern Ensign* the late Captain Alexander Gunn, a notable antiquarian, stated that William Sinclair in Shurery, afterwards in Brawlbin, was a son of Alexander Sinclair, son of Thomas Sinclair, tacksman of Shurery. Donald, William's son, married Margaret Campbell of the Ausdale family and had several sons and daughters. He held a tack of the farm of Isauld, and at the same time carried on business as a merchant in Thurso. He was agent for an emigrant ship which sailed from Scrabster Roads, Thurso, in 1807, and was wrecked on the coast of Newfoundland. One of his sons settled in Nova Scotia.

For the foregoing facts I am indebted to a letter received from Mr. Thomas Sinclair since this work was placed in the hands of the binder.

There were two William Sinclairs in Shurery in 1758. They were both grandsons of Thomas Sinclair, tacksman of Shurery. The first William was the father of Alexander Sinclair in Goshen. The second William married Barbara Campbell in 1758. He settled shortly afterwards in Brawlbin, and is described as William Sinclair, merchant there, in 1763. He had four children: Catherine, born in 1762; William, in 1763; Alexander in 1765; and Donald, in 1770. Thomas Sinclair, tacksman of Shurery, must have been born about the year 1675. He may or may not have been a grandson of the Thomas Sinclair who is mentioned in Henderson's Caithness Family History at page 330.

Page 41.—There are some slight grounds for thinking that John Sinclair in Golval was a son of the Alexander Sinclair who lived in Strath-halladale in 1728. This Alexander Sinclair is supposed to have been the same person as the Alexander Sinclair who lived in Lambsdale from 1746 to 1756 and then became tacksman of Strubster.

September 24, 1901.









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