

IDENTITY STATEMENT

Reference Code

NRAS 6 and NRAS 1209

Title

The Argyll Papers, the family and estate archive of the Campbell Family, Dukes of Argyll.

Dates of creation

13th – 20th centuries.

Level of description

Collection (fonds).

Extent

178 linear metres of loose volumes, 168 linear metres of boxed records (504 boxes) and 50 deed boxes. There is also a considerable un-quantified volume of unsorted material which will be transferred to the archive in due course.

CONTEXT

Creator

The Campbell Family, Dukes of Argyll.

The Callander Family of Ardkinglas and Craigforth, The Campbell Family of Southall, The Campbell Family of Craignish, 17th – 19th c, The Campbell Family of Barbreck, The Campbell Family of Glendaruel.

The Church of Scotland (Synod of Argyll).

Administrative history

The Campbell family, Dukes of Argyll, played a historically important role in Scottish, British and international affairs from the fourteenth to early twentieth centuries. From the fourteenth century onwards their clan chiefs were closely allied to the Scottish crown and parliament, holding many important official roles and responsibilities which were sustained and expanded after Union. These include Master of the Royal Household in Scotland, Keeper of the Privy Seal, Lord Justice General, Lord Lieutenant of Argyll, Admiral of Western Coasts and Isles, and in the nineteenth century, the Colonial roles of British Governor General in India and Canada.

From the early fourteenth century the family seat was Innischonnell on Loch Awe and their principal landholdings lay close by on Lochawside. Around 1400, Sir Colin Campbell moved to Inveraray on Loch Fyne which lay closer to newly acquired lands in Cowal and gave direct access to important coastal travel and trade routes. Archibald Campbell 7th Earl of Argyll was granted the former MacDonald lands in Kintyre in 1607 and at the height of their power the family controlled lands across much of Argyllshire, parts of Inverness-shire, Clackmannanshire, Stirling, East Lothian, as well as holding properties in Edinburgh, London and abroad.

Many of the West Highland lands were acquired controversially during periods of political unrest in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries whilst acting as Crown mediator and overseer for confiscated estates, and a substantial body of evidence relating to these events survives in the archive. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries successive Dukes invested heavily in agricultural, industrial and urban development and records of these activities are also strongly reflected in the archive. During the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries the island estates (Tiree, Iona, Mull) were severely affected by poverty and famine, with associated periods of emigration and land agitation; the history of these people and events is also documented in great detail.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

System of Arrangement and Cataloguing history

The archive is not fully catalogued and there is presently no system of arrangement within the existing survey lists. It was surveyed by the National Register of Archives of Scotland in the 1960s (NRAS 6) and again in the 1980s (NRAS 1209), and these survey lists currently act as catalogues for the archive. NRAS 1209 partly replaces NRAS 6, but not entirely: researchers must, therefore, consult both surveys in order to obtain a full overview of the archive.

- NRAS 6 is a shelf list describing records as they were found in-situ in Inveraray Castle and Argyll Estates Offices. It covers many of the earliest records in the archive, including land charters, commissions, and legal documents dating from the thirteenth century, and a large collection of important estate, family and political papers dating from the sixteenth to mid-twentieth centuries.
- NRAS 1209 is a numbered bundle list, describing approximately 2749 bundles of family and estate records dating mainly from the 17th c – the 20th c.

A separate maps and plans list was compiled by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCHAMS) in 1986. This replaces NRAS 6 pages 159-164 and 276-291. Other parts of NRAS 6 were also re-surveyed during the 1980s and 90s and incorporated into NRAS 1209, but the extent of this work was not fully documented.

A comprehensive stock-check and condition survey of the archive was undertaken, June 2012 – December 2013. This has enabled the extent of the re-listing between NRAS 6 and NRAS 1209 to be identified and sections of the two survey lists mapped to each other, where relevant – further information is given in Introductory Notes to the archive, which are designed to help researchers navigate these and other issues, pending further cataloguing.

Some records were not accounted for during the stock-checking process and these are marked as ‘missing’ on the survey lists. It is anticipated that most will become available in the future, as further work is undertaken on the archive, therefore, researchers should ask for an update on the status of any affected items which relate to their research.

In addition to the survey lists described above, the following interim lists also exist for parts of the archive:

- Index of Sealed Argyll Charters, 1315-1708
- Rolled Plans Survey
- Plan Volumes Survey

Scope and Content: NRAS 6 and NRAS 1209

- **Charters and writs, 13th – 20th c**

A large collection relating mainly to the transfer of land and titles, but also including marriage agreements, commissions and appointments, contracts of friendship, inquests, gifts of ward and nonetes, letters of tutory, assize herrings and more. The principal collection of approximately 500 charters is arranged chronologically, 1315-1784 and includes many early royal charters which record the progressive expansion of Campbell lands and influence from the fourteenth to sixteenth centuries. This collection is summary listed in the Index of Sealed Argyll Charters. Many other charters are listed in groups and individually, throughout NRAS 1209, and some un-listed and largely unsorted material also exists.

- **Records relating to the Earls and Dukes of Argyll's official roles and responsibilities, 16th – 20th c.**

Includes three important collections of political and personal correspondence from royal, military and noble figures with whom the Argyll Family were closely associated, 1543-1800 ('Royal Letters' and 'The Argyll Letters', volumes 1 and 2). These collections also include commissions to the Earls of Argyll, 1460-1646.

- **Military papers, 16th – 20th c.**

Includes militia lists, muster rolls, accounts and correspondence relating to military and political matters, with much on sixteenth and seventeenth century west highland unrest and on the Jacobite Rebellions. Also, records relating to the Argyll Militia, Territorial Army and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 19th - 20th c, and some papers relating to the First and Second World Wars (also see personal and estate correspondence).

- **Personal and business papers of family members, 16th – 20th c.**

Includes personal correspondence of the Marquess of Argyll and Margaret Douglas, 1660 and 1673, papers of the 8th Duke of Argyll relating to his term as Secretary of State for India, 1860s-70s, and letter books and press cuttings of the Marquis of Lorne (later, 9th Duke) as Governor General of Canada, 1878-1883. A large and interesting collection of family correspondence exists for the 8th Duke and Duchess and their extended family, including the Dukes of Sutherland, Northumberland and the Royal family, along with personal diaries, photograph albums, sketch books and other personalia (this includes the 9th Duke and Princess Louise). A very complete archive for the 10th Duke also exists, comprising extensive correspondence and an unbroken series of detailed personal diaries, 1892-1945. Personal papers for other generations of the family are also represented, but they are currently listed very piecemeal throughout the survey lists.

- **Transcripts, 19th – 20th c**

Approximately 250 volumes and 100 bundles containing transcripts of The Argyll Papers and related archives compiled by Sir William Fraser, the 10th Duke and others. The most important collection, 'The Argyll Transcripts', contains handwritten copies of many of the earliest records in the archive (24 volumes).

- **Genealogies, 17th – 20th c**

Genealogies representing all branches of the Campbell Family, mainly compiled by the 10th Duke and his contemporaries, 19th – 20th c, but including some earlier records.

- **Estate archives, 16th – 20th c**

Extensive archives for Inveraray Estate, Rosneath Estate, Kintyre Estate, Castle Campbell, Tiree Estate, Mull, Iona and Morvern Estate, Lismore and Scammadale Estate, 16th – 20th c.

The principal estate records series include accounts, rentals, tacks, correspondence, chamberlains' instructions and other papers relating to the administration of the estates, including rural industries (kelp,

salt, wool, lint, coal, quarries, woods) and infrastructure. The estate archives also include name lists, such as the Argyll Estate Census of 1779 (recording the names and ages of every person living on the Argyll Estate) and smaller scale census for Tiree (1776), and Campbeltown and Kintyre (1792). A large collection of estate maps, plans and written surveys also forms part of the estate archive and is described more fully below under 'Maps and Plans.'

- **Records relating to buildings of national importance, 17th - 19th c**

Amongst the personal, family and estate papers described above are surveys and accounts for buildings of national importance, with which the family was associated, including:

- Argyll's Lodging and Gardens, Stirling: titles, correspondence, surveys and accounts, 17th – 18th c (NRAS 1209 Bundles 1051, 1189, 1856, 3206).
- Holyrood House: copy royal warrant granting John Duke of Argyll, lodgings in the Abbey formerly possessed by John Duke of Atholl, 1705, and vouchers for household expenses, 1776-97 (NRAS 1209 Bundles 111 and 683).
- General Register House, Edinburgh: vouchers for work done by tradesmen under the supervision of Robert Reid, Architect, 1809-19 (NRAS 1209 Bundles 3194-3197, amongst the executry papers of Lord Frederick Campbell, Registrar).
- Castle Campbell, Dollar Glen: survey describing its state of dereliction after military occupation, with estimates for repair, 18th c. (NRAS 1209 Bundle 3019)

Scope and Content: Maps and Plans

- **Architectural plans and specifications, 17th – 20th c**

A collection of around 500+ plans relating to family homes, estate buildings and county towns, including:

- Inveraray Castle and policies, Argyllshire: original plans and elevations by Roger Morris, John Adam, and Robert Mylne, 1746-1789, including Roger Morris' book of 'Letters and Instructions for building Inverara Castle, 1744-47'. Also, plans of alterations made by Anthony Salvin and Ian Lindsay following extensive fires in 1877 and 1975; plans and correspondence relating to the policies by William Nesfield, 19th c (incorporating seventeenth century formal avenues and plantations); plans of estate buildings and follies within the policies, by various architects, 18th – 19th c.
- Rosneath Castle, Dunbartonshire: large volume containing over 100 annotated plans and specifications by Joseph Bonomi and correspondence with the 5th and 6th Dukes of Argyll, 1802-1806.
- The Royal Burgh of Inveraray, Argyllshire, 18th – 20th c: drafts for the town layout (Inveraray was one of Scotland's first planned towns, built under instruction of Archibald, 3rd Duke of Argyll in 1751), plans and elevations of the principal public and residential buildings by Roger Morris, John Adam and Robert Mylne.
- Campbeltown and Oban, Argyllshire, 1740s-1900s: detailed street plans, house plans and written surveys containing detailed descriptions of properties, building styles and their occupiers.

- **Estate plans and surveys, 17th – 20th c**

A collection of around 320+ maps, plans and surveys, covering all of the Argyllshire estates and some American properties, including:

- General Plan of the Castle, Gardens, Parks and Plantations of Inveraray, the Seat of His Grace The Duke of Argyll and Greenwich. No surveyor, c1719-43.
- Plan of Campbeltown drawn by William Douglas about the year 1760. Several versions.
- Plan of Iona surveyed by William Douglas in 1769, copied by James Ferguson, Inveraray, 1864.

- Plan of the Ross of Mull reduced from Mr John Kirk Junior's plan of 1770, by Smith and Wharrie, Glasgow, 14 October 1872.
- Plan of the Farm of Treshnes [Treshnish] and adjacent islands, the property of His Grace the Duke of Argyll surveyed and planned by John Kirk, c1770.
- Plans of Farms on Inveraray Estate, surveyed by George Langlands, 1789: volume containing plans of 24 farms.
- Written Survey of Farms around Loch Awe and Inveraray, by George Langlands and Sonachan, Summer 1789: volume containing written surveys of 16 farms.
- George Langland's Survey of Kintyre, 1770-77, containing detailed descriptions of 204 Kintyre farms, with recommendations for their modernisation and improvement.
- Plans of Farms in Mull and Morven, surveyed by James Richmond, 1770: volume containing plans of 26 farms.
- James Turnbull's Survey of Tiree, 1768/9: large, detailed and extremely attractive rolled plan, with a 111 page written survey.
- Plans of Kenovay, Ballimartin, Scarinish and Hianish, Kenvar and Gortandoneil, Tiree, as divided by George Langlands, 11th August 1802: 4 rolled plans
- Plan of a proposed new line of road from Tarbit [Tarbet] on Lochlomond to Cairndow on Lochfine [Lochfyne] by two lines, both by Loch Sloy and Glencroe. Being part of the road from Dumbarton to Inveraray. Surveyed by Charles Abercrombie, 1807. [the 'Rest and Be Thankful' road]
- Plan of His Grace the Duke of Argyll's part of the Burgh of Campbeltown by John Waterstone, 1841
- Plan of Part of the Estate of Oban and Glenshellach, the property of Robert Campbell Esq. of Sonachan 1860

- **Printed maps and plans**

A collection of around 500 printed maps and plans, 18th – 20th c, comprising national, county, marine and geological maps of Scotland (also some national and county maps of England and Europe), including:

- Marine maps of Orkney and Lewis surveyed by Murdoch MacKenzie (1749): folder containing 8 maps, with enclosure, a hand drawn chart showing the 'New Passage Discovered by HMS Investigator ... Captain McClure ... 14 October 1853.'
- 'General Survey of Scotland ...' by James Dorret (1750): flat plan.
- A Map of the District of Kintyre [Kintyre] in Argyllshire most humbly dedicated to His Grace John Duke of Argyll by His Grace's most obliged and obedient Humble Servants, George Langlands and Sons, Land Surveyors, 1793: rolled plan
- Survey of Kintyre by George Langlands (1798): flat plan.
- John Thomson's Atlas of Scotland (1832): 6 bundles of proof impressions of John Thomson's Atlas of Scotland.
- Crofting Counties Royal Commission of 1892 1" OS Maps of Crofting Parishes, showing land suitable for crofts: folder containing 50+ maps.
- Annotated 1st and 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey maps, used as working estate plans, 19th – 20th c: 6 volumes and c60 rolled plans containing detailed annotations about tenants, boundaries, improvements, etc.

Scope and Content: Sub-collections

- **Family and estate archives and personal papers of families associated through marriage:**
 - Callander of Ardkinglas and Craigforth, 17th – 19th c (69 bundles, NRAS1209 Bundles 1813-35, 1872-1919);

- Campbell of Southall, 19th c (7 boxes and 5 volumes, un-catalogued);
 - Campbell of Craignish, 17th – 19th c (3 boxes, un-catalogued);
 - Campbell of Barbreck, 18th – 19th c (1 box,, un-catalogued);
 - Campbell of Glendaruel, 18th – 19th c (2 boxes, un-catalogued).
- **Records of the Synod of Argyll, 17th - 19th centuries (NRAS 1209 Bundles 535-609 and 1751-1761) (84 bundles).**
Correspondence, reports and petitions regarding the building and maintenance of churches, manses and schools, ministers and schoolmasters, the recruitment of Gaelic speaking ministers, and Catholic and pagan religion. There are also many individual items of interest including the oldest known collection of Scottish Gaelic proverbs dating from c1700 (NRAS 1209 Bundle 545). For much of this period the Synod of Argyll covered most of the west highlands and islands of Scotland, from the Western Isles and Skye in the N, to Arran in the S; the collection covers this whole area.
 - **Oral history and folklore collections (un-catalogued)**
The Dewar Manuscripts, an important collection of Gaelic folklore comprising traditional tales, historical stories, poems and songs, and genealogies, collected by John Dewar for the 8th Duke of Argyll, 1862-72 (7 volumes). With a little-known near-contemporary English translation by Hector MacLean, 1879-81 (6 volumes) and four manuscript volumes of Lord Archibald Campbell's folklore collection, 'Celtic Waifs and Strays.' Correspondence relating to all of these collections is preserved amongst the family correspondence and personal papers.

CONDITIONS OF ACCESS AND USE

Condition

The condition of the archive is mixed. Some records are fragile or dirty and a small number are affected by mould. All affected items are clearly marked on the survey lists and will not be available for consultation where this is likely to cause further damage. Argyll Estates may use discretion in granting access to some of these bundles, but most will not be available until their condition is stabilised and improved.

ALLIED MATERIALS

Publication note

The archive was surveyed by Sir William Fraser for the Historical Manuscripts Commission in the 1870s and his reports provide a very useful overview of the historical context of the archive and the earliest records within it:

- Historical Manuscripts Commission 4th Report (1874), pages 470-492
- Historical Manuscripts Commission 6th Report (1876), pages 606-634

The archive was heavily used by Ian G. Lindsay and Mary Cosh to inform their history of *Inveraray and the Dukes of Argyll* (Edinburgh University Press, 1973). This publication remains the standard work on the history of the Dukes of Argyll and the development of the new castle and town of Inveraray, covering the period from 1746 until the mid-twentieth century. It is well-referenced, both with regard to the Argyll Papers and other related archives.

A small number of records from the archive have been published:

- *Inhabitants of the Argyll Estate in 1779*, edited by Eric Cregeen, Scottish Record Society, Old Series, 91 (1963)
- *List of Inhabitants on the Duke of Argyll's Property in Kintyre in 1792*, edited by A.I.B. Stewart, Scottish Record Society, New Series (1991)
- *Argyll Estate Instructions: Mull, Morvern, Tiree. 1771-1805*, edited by Eric R. Cregeen, Scottish History Society, Fourth Series (Edinburgh, 1964)
- *Kintyre Instructions: The 5th Duke of Argyll's Instructions to His Kintyre Chamberlain, 1785-1805*, edited by Eric Cregeen and Angus Martin (The Grimsay Press, 2011)