

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

The Cummings of Altyre and the search for an ancient genealogy, part 2: ‘Truth has here lain in the bottom of a well’

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A. Indenture between Thomas Dunbar, Earl of Moray, and Alexander Cumyne, with promise of service and marriage to Dunbar's sister, Euffame, 28 May 1408



National Records of Scotland - NRS GD44/13/10/1 (Gordon Castle Muniments)

[on reverse:] Indent[ur]a nec[com] Comitē Dun[bar] et Alexr de Comyne de t[er]ris de glencharny
1408

1 This Indenture made at Fynlett[er] the xxviii day of the moneth of maij the yere of oure Lord M.CCCC and viij yere betvix
2 a noble Lord & a mychty Sr Thomas of Dunbarre Erll of M[ur]eff on the ta part / and Alexr Cumyne on the toth[er] part/beris
3 witnes th^t it is accordit in form and in effect as eftir folwis th^t is for to say th^t the forsaide Erll sal giff his
4 gude will to the mariage of his sister euffame And xxⁱⁱ markisworth of lande wⁱⁿ his landis of glencharny the
5 lordschip outtakyn his chemys & his demayne in to Resoñable plāce & cūnable to the airis cumand betwene the saide
6 Alexander and Euffame // And the forsaide Alexr is oblist to be lele man & trew for al the days of his live to the
7 forsaide Erll agayne all dedelike outtakand his allegeance til oure lord the kyng an[er]ly / And als it is accordit th^t f^a
8 the tyme of the ussay of his t[er]me w^t Alexr Stewart Erll of Marre th^t is to say v yeris eftir the makynge of this
9 Indenture that he sal entere than in to the s[er]juice of the forsaide Erll / And als it is accordit th^t qwil the date that
10 the lord of the Ilys haffis tak of the Erll of M[ur]eff of glencherny that the forsaide Erll off M[ur]eff sal mak to the
11 forsaide Alexr Cumyne f^a the ussay of his t[er]me that he haffis of the Erll of Marre / xx markisworth of land
12 wⁱⁿ the Schirreffdome off Elgyne or Fores / And als the forsaide Alexr is oblist for to s[er]jue the Erll off M[ur]eff lelily
13 and trewly to the ussay of the Erll of Marris t[er]me outtakand an[er]ly the Erll of Marris s[er]juice agayne al vther
14 as is beforsaide / And the forsaide Erll is oblist to mak him Resoñable Reward eftir his s[er]juice as his cosale
15 ordenys vnsuspecte / In the witnes of this thyng but fraude or gile lelily to be kept our selys ar ent[er]chang-
16 ably to putt the day the yere the place beforsaide

[in modern hand:] Edin 12 May 1821 Recorded as a Probative Writ in the Books of Council & Session

Note

19th century transcriptions, all probably made by or on behalf of the Gordon Cummings in the 1820s, are held by NRS (RH1/2/75 and RH2/2/15 no. 16) and NLS (Adv.MS.25.8.4, f.14 between pp252-3). Thorn  and yogh  have been silently expanded to 'th' and 'y' respectively, but otherwise the orthography of the text has been followed. The document image is on the next page, reproduction courtesy of The Goodwood Estate Archive and the National Records of Scotland.

Y^e iudicium made at friburgh the xxviii day of the month of may the xiiij of our lord of all and mynys heretofore
in writte b^e a a wyth of Thomas of Dunbar Erll of Gylchorny on the one part and Gled & mynys on the other part best
abundant y^e it is accorded in form and in effect as foloweth y^e is for to say y^e the forsaide Erll Gyl Giff his
grude shall w^e ye charge of his & for suffraunce of his & for the worth of land in his landis of Gylchorny y^e
lordship of Scotland his heretofore a his demour in to reasonable place p^r amable to ye our Emmaund heretofore ye said
Alexander and Suffraunce And ye forsaide Gled is obligit to be like may a t^rue for al ye days of his l^{if}e to ye
forsaide Erll agayne all a d^e like oneralland his allegaunce til our lord ye King only And als it is accorded y^e f^r
ye tyme of ye assay of his t^rue at Gled & Gylchorny Erll of Gylchorny y^e is to say y^e ye of ye making of me
iudicium y^e he sal curie y^e in w^e ye f^r of ye forsaide Erll And als it is accorded y^e what ye due y^e
ye l^{if}e of ye No haff tak of ye Erll of Gylchorny y^e ye forsaide Erll off Gylchorny sal mak w^e ye
forsaide Gled & mynys for the assay of his t^rue w^e he haff of ye Erll of Gylchorny w^e ye Erll off Gylchorny l^{if}e
w^e ye f^r of Gylchorny as before And als ye forsaide Gled is obligit for to be ye Erll off Gylchorny l^{if}e
and equal to ye assay of ye Erll off Gylchorny oneralland and ye Erll of Gylchorny for agayne al w^e
as is before And ye forsaide Erll is obligit to mak him reasonable p^reroid of his f^r as his costle
ordynis suffraunce y^e ye l^{if}e of his things but f^r and a g^r l^{if}e l^{if}e to be kept our Gled & mynys or our charg
ably to p^rte ye day ye ye ye place before said

Eden 12 May 1521 Recorded
as a Substantive Writ in the
Books of Council & Session
The King

B. Correspondence between John Riddell, peerage lawyer, Sir William Gordon Gordon Cumming of Altyre (WGGC) and others, 1821-1829

National Library of Scotland Special Collections - NLS Dep.175 (Gordon Cumming of Altyre Papers)

Letter 1: Charles Lennox Cumming-Bruce to WGGC, 15 May 1821

(Dep.175/160/3)

15th May 1821 Edinr

My Dear Willm –

I enclose a Letter there recd from Riddell – He says you have not yet identified the relationship of the three Persons mentioned in your Letter to me that you must cause research to be made in the Charter Chest at Gordon Castle and Lord Morays to find out whether Eufame was married to Cumyn of Altyre, or if there is any son of Alexr & Eufame styled of Altyre; and to ascertain whether she was the Daughter of the first or the second Earl Thomas of Dunbar, or (in point of fact, wth the Doubts) whether there ever were two Earls Thomas, except in the books. Also that you must endeavour to ascertain where Glencharney is. He seems to doubt whether we ever had Glencharney, and thinks some lands abt Altyre may have been [p2] given instead of it – and you must therefore see whether you have any Charter of any lands in Moray given by the Earl of Moray at that time, wh you may still have, or wh may have been alienated. I have sent the indenture to be seconded, but know not where the originals of the other two papers are. The Copies will not do, but there is no hurry – Mary has not been too well these two days but we still think of returning to Kinnaird on Saturday. I was delighted to read of your safe arrival as the rough weather frightened us for you.

I shall write my Mother tomorrow in the meantime I am in a great hurry, your most affect. CLCB

Note

Cumming-Bruce here reports to his brother on a letter received from John Riddell, the location of which is not known. This is the first known reference to the Gordon Cummings having awareness of the 1408 indenture. Glencarnie and its early possession interested the Cumming brothers because of the existence of a tradition that it once was held by Cummings, including one 'Bigla Cuming'. However, Fraser (1883), *Chiefs of Grant*, vol 1 (pp53-61 and Preface), debunks this tradition as myth, showing that Bigla (Matilda of Glencarnie) was not a Cuming, and that the Comyns had not possessed Glencarnie.

Letter 2: Charles Lennox Cumming-Bruce to John Riddell, 21 May 1821

(NLS Adv.MS.25.8.4, f.15 between pp.252-3)

Kinnaird 21st May 1821

My Dear Sir

On the other side is a Copy of the Indenture, wh I promised to send you. The original was not returned to me from my Agents, who got it to have it recorded, till the Day before I left Edinr., wh must be my excuse for not sending it sooner. Should your wanderings bring you to this part of the Country it will give me much satisfaction to have the Pleasure of seeing you I am and I remain

My Dear Sir

truly Yours
C. L. Cumming Bruce

Note

Letter 2 is interleaved within Riddell's personal copy of Wood's (1812) edition of Douglas's *Scots Peerage*, vol. 2, along with a transcription in Cumming-Bruce's hand of the 1408 indenture. It confirms that the Cummings – probably Charles – had found the 1408 indenture, and then engaged Riddell to act on their behalf, rather than the latter discovering and alerting them to it. The individuals named in the indenture had not been included in versions of the Cumming tree published prior to 1821, and were not included on the illuminated pedigree discussed in Part 1 of this article (Cleary 2022), giving a terminus ante quem for its date.

Letter 3: James Chalmers (solicitor, London) to WGGC anent Charters &c., 28 Nov 1825
(Dep.175/163/1)

Sir

I received your letter of the 24th Octr which I would have answered sooner, but, being incessantly occupied by a service of the most urgent affairs which would admit of no delay, I was unable to find time to search for the two single papers mentioned in your letter. The large

5 Manuscripts were put into my Charge by my late Uncle, at the time he received them, and have been taken great care of ever since. They are as follows.

1 “Inventory of the rights and papers of the estate of Gordonston, but not here connected as they ought to be. 1718.” a large folio MS. 287 pages, halfbound. At the end of this vol. there are, loose, an Inventory, and several Lists of missing Writs & papers belonging to Sir Rob. Gordon of

10 Gordonstown; the first Inventory & list 8 pages foolscap, and a series of Lists 34 pages foolscap. All these were left by yourself with my late Uncle.

2 A transcript of 43 Original Charters, & other deeds, in the possession of the family of Grant: A large folio MS Unpaged, but extends to 59 pages. This was sent to my late Uncle by Mr. Alex Macdonald, 28 Feb. 1823, in consequence of your direction.

15 The two single papers mentioned in your letter viz a copy of a contract of marriage betwixt Alexr. Cumming & Euphemia Dunbar sister of Thos. Dunbar Earl of Moray in 1408; and a copy of a Bond of Manrent from Alexr. Cumming [p2] to the Earl of Huntly, about 1470; were never put into my hands, and I was not aware that my Uncle had got any deed. In the Course of a Careful Search, which I have been making, when I could find time, I have this day found a Probative extract of an Indenture, 28

20 May 1408, betwixt Thomas Dunbar Earl of Moray and Alexr Cumyng for the marriage of the Earls Sister Euffame. This is evidently the first paper mentioned by you, as above noticed. I have also found along with it a letter from John Riddell Esq Advocate to _____ Bruce Cumyng of Rosile, 14 May 1821, about this deed and other things relating to your family, & the lands of Glencarny. I regret that I have not yet been able to find the Copy of the Bond of Manrent from Alexr Cumming to the Earl of

25 Huntly about 1470. If I do not find it in the Course of a few days I shall send off all the others ^without it^ by the Mail Coach to Mr Macdonald, as you direct.

I shall use every endeavour to find the Copy of the Bond of Manrent, and you may be assured that as soon as I can get my hands on it I shall transmit it to Mr Macdonald, in an office frank.

30 I have the honor to be

Sir
Your Most obedient Servant
Ja Chalmers
3 James Street, Buckingham Gate [*London*]

Note

Reference is made (line 22) to the lost letter from John Riddell to Charles Lennox Cumming-Bruce, 14 May 1821, which Cumming-Bruce reported to his brother in Letter 1. The 'probative extract' referred to in line 19 is likely the transcription RH2/2/15 no. 16 held by National Records of Scotland.

Letter 4: John Riddell to WGGC, 3 Oct 1826
(Dep.175/162/6)

Loudon Castle
Tuesday 3d Octr 1826

My Dear Sir,

5 Many thanks for your additional kindness. Being in the very midst of the Moment, which one very numerous, I find I will not be able to leave till this Wednesday (tomorrow) when I shall follow your suggestion and go to Elgin, taking the opportunity of seeing the old charters, Cathedral &c. This will fully occupy the day, and I will with much pleasure wait upon you on Thursday (the next day) after breakfast, or in the forenoon.

10 I am extremely sorry that as yet I have not met with any thing that can be of service to you. One of your ancestors is witness to a bond of manrent [p2] before the middle of the 16th century, but this of course is immaterial. The marriage contract of George Master of Huntly with Elizabeth Countess of Murray I had in my view, and it is certainly very curious. I see she had a son James and a daughter by her previous husband Archibald Douglas Earl of Murray, but George after all his
15 promises and behaviour ungallantly deserted her for a Princess Annabella daughter of James 1st also eventually divorced.

With respectful Compts to Lady G Cumin

20 Believe me
 Sincerely yours
 John Riddell

Letter 5: John Riddell to WGGC, 30 Nov 1826
(Dep.175/163/1)

Aberdeen Dempster's Hotel

Thursday 30th Novr. 1826

My Dear Sir,

5 I daresay you will be surprised to find me by this Letter still at Aberdeen. The truth is on leaving Banff I caught cold which brought on a sore throat & other ailments that almost instantly confined me to the house from Sunday before last when I arrived at Aberdeen down to the present moment. I was obliged to call in some remedial assistance, but being now recovered am upon the eve of setting out for Edr.

10 I thought it necessary to apprize you of the coincidence, as an apology for not previously visiting to you. On looking over the papers at Duff House I note [p2] with a large bundle of some antiquity with this inviting indorsation – papers regarding the family of Dunbar, and the house of Pluscardin which with Lord Fife's permission I examined, but found nothing before 1500, or any way material to you. Of the nature of a conversation, however, I had with his Lordship on this point, I shall enter more into detail when I send you from Edr. the full copy of the grant by Margaret
15 Countess of Angus and Marr to Sir Richard Cumin. Among some other points I found Alexander Cumin of Ernsyde shortly after the middle of the 15th Century.

Captain Jones and I travelled together from Banff where we met. He brought the melancholy intelligence of the reiterated iniquity of Cherry; and [p3] by some strange coincidence we were both taken by a person in the coach from excisemen – a sad sound to the captain, who however took it
20 very goodnaturely especially when taken in conjunction with his adventure on the poney. These were certainly strange persons with us, for one attempted to awaken me when I had fallen asleep, by sticking a pen of snuff up my nose. He was some low being connected with a distillery, I thought it a very good joke,

25 What a dull time I have passed of late. Aberdeen – altho' apparently a pretty town quite sickens me, & I will hardly be in good spirits until my return to Edr. My illness has been a sad contrast to the former part of my excursion.

With best respects to Lady Cumin,

Believe me Sir

Your ever truly

30 John Riddell

Letter 6: John Riddell to WGGC, 5 Dec 1826
(Dep.175/162/6)

Edr. Decr. 5th 1826

111 Geo. St

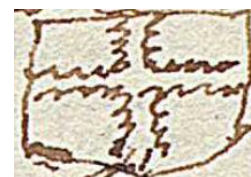
Dear Sir,

I here send you the copy of the grant by the Countess of Angus & Marr.¹

5 “Hec indentura facta apud Edinburgh octavo die mensis aprilis anno domini 1389 inter
nobilem et honorabilem dominam dominam [sic] Margaretam Comitissam de Marr et Angus ex
parte una, et dominum Richardum Cumine militem ex altera, testatur quod dicta domina dictum
Dominum Richardum in hunc modum de terris subscriptis per cartam suam infeodavit cujus tenor
sequitur et est talis Omnibus hanc cartam visuris vel auditoris Margareta Comitissa de Marr et Angus
10 salutem in domino sempiternam, sciatis nos in nostra libera viduitate ex deliberata voluntate,
dedisse concessisse et hac presenti carta nostra confirmasse dilecto consanguineo nostro domino
Richardo Cumyne militi totas terras de Malnese, Balbrydie Dalerbe et Ord-dalledy in baronia nostra
de Kerrymore, infra vice-comitatum nostrum de Forfar pro suo bono auxilio et servitio nobis
impenso et impendendo, tenend. et habend. eidem Domino Richardo pro toto tempore vite sue, de
15 nobis et heredibus nostris libere, quiete, bene, et in pace, per omnes rectas metas et divisas suas in
boscis et planis, sylvis et nemoribus viis et semitis, moris et maresiis, aquis et stagnis aucupationibus,
venationibus et pasturis, pratis, pascuis, et pasturis, cum fabrinis, trasinis, molendinis, multuris, et
eorum sequetis, et nativis, cum curiis, et earum exitibus et eschætis, cum omnibus suis justis
20 pertinentiis, prout jacent in longitudine et latitudine et cum omnibus aliis libertatibus
commoditatibus, et aysiamenis, tam non nominatis, quam nominatis ad easdem terras spectantibus
seu quoquomodo spectare valentibus in futurum. Reddendo inde dictus Dominus Richardus domino
nostro regi debitum servitium et consuetum, nobis vero et hæredibus nostris, annuatim tres sectas
curie ad tria placita nostra capitalia [p2] tenend. apud Kerymore tantum pro omni alio onere servitio
25 exactione seu demanda que per nos vel heredes nostros de dicta terra cum pertinentiis exigi
poterunt vel requiri Et nos dicta Margareta et hæredes nostri dictas terras cum pertinentiis prædicto
domino Richardo pro toto tempore vite sue contra omnes homines warantizabimus et defendemus
In cujus rei testimonium huic presenti carte nostre sigillum nostrum fecimus apponi apud Edinburgh
his testibus dominis Johanne de Sancto Claro de Hirdmanston Jacobo et Waltero de Sancto Claro,
Willielmo Seton fratribus nostris carissimis, Willielmo de Borthwick et Johanne de Liddale militibus
30 et multis aliis / et si predictæ terre minoris suit extensionis quam 20 marcis predicta domina sibi
persolvi summum deficientem faciat, et si maioris prefatus dominus Richardus dicte domine
restituatur in argento et ad hoc omnia fideliter perimplenda predictæ indenture sua sigilla ambo partes
alternatim apposuerunt datum die loco et anno supra dicto.”

¹ A transcript of the charter by Patrick Rose of Banff, Dec 1828, is in NLS Dep.175/110/8, with the note “The above is the substance of a Charter, a copy of which is preserved among Father Hays Collection, Advocates Library, (vol. Jac V.2.17) but it is not added from whence taken.” The text of the charter was published in print in Grant’s (1827) edition of Shaw’s *History of Moray*, p479, which was published in Elgin with some patronage from the Gordon Cummings. Grant added a note “The above is inserted amongst the MS collections of Father Hay, in the Advocates’ Library, an eminent antiquarian, and gleaner of ancient documents, who lived more than a century ago,” almost word for word as Riddell wrote in lines 34-5, suggesting that Riddell’s letter was Grant’s source for his text.

35 The above is inserted among the MS collections of Father Hay, an eminent Antiquarian and
gleaner of ancient documents, who lived more than a century ago – in the Advocates’ Library (vol Jac
5.2.17) f. 225. Unfortunately the reference is not given. The deeds preceeding [sic] it are Charters by
William Sinclair Earl of Caithness to his brother David Sinclair of Banff, anno 1498, and a Charter by
Robert the third to James Sinclair of the lands of Loncharmagus Berwickshire: – and those that
40 follow are short notes of a grant by King David “to Margaret Stclair Countess of Angus, sometime
spouse to John Saint Clair (of) an yearly pension of 20^f sterling [p3] out of the thanage of Comrie,
and an old charter by Richard de Momille to Alan de Sinclair of the lands of Herdmanston, from
which it might be inferred that they are all Sinclair papers & either from the Roslyn or Hermanston
charter chests, with which families indeed Father Hay was connected & well acquainted. It is to be
45 observed that the Mother of Margaret Countess of Angus and Marr was a Margaret who also
married Sinclair of Hermanston, so that the Sinclairs were consequently brothers uterine of the
former. The Margaret above mentioned spouse of John Sinclair, was the Mother. There was a
distinguished family in Banffshire styled Sinclair of Finletter and Deskfurd. David the second by his
Charter upon record in 1366 grants “Ricardo de Sancto Claro” the lands of Fynletter Banffshire upon
50 the resignation of John de Fynletter. And Robert the third confirms to his brother ^in law^ John Earl
of Murray all claim he might have on account of forfeiture to the Barony of Deskfurd belonging to
the late John Sinclair, – and to the lands of Finletter which belonged to Richard Sinclair (on Record
dated 5 April first year of his reign). The Sinclairs of Finletter however recovered the lands and
continued down to 1437, as I find by the Inventory at Cullen, when Walter Ogilvie married Margaret
Sinclair daughter and heiress of John Sinclair. One other important fact remains to be noticed that
55 the Sinclairs of Finletter bore the arms of the Sinclairs of Hermanston – the cross engrailed from
which it might be inferred they were of the Sinclairs of Hermanston like
other families of the name in the County of Perth. When it is recollected
that any descendants of the Sinclairs of Hermanston ^through her mother^
would be also “cousins” of Margaret Countess of Angus & Marr, at the same
60 time that Richard Cumin is so designed, bore the same Christian name with
Richard Sinclair of Finletter, & that the marriage ^contract^ of Alexander his son² is dated at
Finletter we may be led to infer that this was the channel through which Sir Richard was connected
with the Countess [p4] perhaps his mother being a Sinclair. & since the greater inducement to
examine the Cullen & Hermanston Charter chests, the latter of which belongs to Lord Sinclair the
65 heir male of the Sinclairs of Hermanston. This supposed connection too [sic] both of Sir Richard and
Alexander with the Sinclairs serves rather to foliate the latter with the former.



I find by the Exchequer rolls that parts of the rents of Glencarney were drawn in 1456-8 &
1460, & most probably afterwards by Elizabeth Countess of Murray [sic], and by the same authority
that the whole property was set by the Crown, who thus became the proprietors, in consequence of
70 the forfeiture of Douglas Earl of Murray, [to] “Duncan Grant militi” in the year 1478, by whose
family they were finally retained. Hence in consequence of this, and other considerations I think it
must be presumed that the part of Alexander Cumin’s marriage contract relative to that property
was never implemented, and that Alexander necessarily got the warrandice lands in Murray, or in
other words the estate of Altyre.

² At this point Riddell still saw Alexander named in the 1408 indenture as the son of Sir Richard Comyn. This view would be revised by the time of Letter 10, below (Sept 1828).

75 The Charter room at Duffhouse seemed to be principally filled with modern papers – so that
a collection with the title “Murray papers” including the parcel affecting the Dunbars & Pluscardin,
alluded to in my last letter, had a very imposing appearance; had they been older something in all
likelihood of importance had transpired. Lord Fife however, with whom I had a long conversation in
the evening at the House of his factor, where we dined, suggested that there might be many older
80 papers (I think he positively said that there were) at Innes House, and his other residences, which on
my application both for you, and Sir Charles Forbes, he promised [p5] to allow me to examine at any
future time. So this much he particularly kept in view. The Inneses were a great Murray family and
much connected with the Dunbars. Besides it was among the above “Murray papers” that I also
found many respecting the Inneses. Alexander Cuming of Ernsyde³ was mentioned in a deed not
85 long after the middle of the 15th Century and just about the time when the Alexander Cuming
brother of Thomas of Altyr, the litigant about the will, figured. I am pretty certain I was told by ^{his}
agent that Lord Macdonald had no older papers than some a little subsequent to the date of the
reformation. I have every reason to believe this, but as I am counsel for Glengarry who in many
ways is opposed to his Lordship, & whose charter chest would as little assist you, I am prevented
90 from interfering in the business. I am rather busy at present but in the course of a week will make
the necessary application to Mr Watson through the medium of the Letter you gave me. For greater
satisfaction I think it might be as well ^{too} that you would either write Macdonald, or send me a
letter to him before I apply for inspection of your papers in his custody.

 I wrote Ald Hoy yesterday regretting the trouble I had given him in rearranging [p6] the
95 papers, at the same time adding that it was a necessary consequence from the mode in which he
allowed me to examine them, which induced a partial dislocation of various and sundry bundles,
whose indorsations however might have easily led to a proper knowledge of their classification, –
and that I had much rather preferred a general investigation of the whole charter chest, beginning
with the first bundle and so on – and replacing the deeds as soon as I had taken notes from them,
100 but was from delicacy prevented from suggesting this to him as he was so much bent upon his own
method, for which he might have had especial reasons. I further added that if he had dropped
the slightest hint at the time I would have devoted any period in assisting him to replace the deeds
in their former order; as also that, altho mentioned in the Inventory, I had never seen the original
bond of Manrent you alluded to.

105 The Huntly family having occasionally been proprietors of the Earldom of Murray, may
account for their having the marriage contract of Alexander Cuming in 1408, – or they may have
come to have reclaimed it for the reason you suggest, to prove their own connections or interests in
exclusion to Eupheme Dunbar of whose pretensions they might have been jealous or afraid.

 After I have seen Mr Watson I will write you again. I would fain hope Lord Murray will be
110 tractable. Indeed after his promise it is difficult to see how he can refuse you, & his charter chest, if
well preserved, may be very important.

 Yours ever sincerely

 John Riddell

³ Another Comyn/Cuming line visible in Moray in the 15th century, but its precise relationship to the Altyre Cummings is unclear.

115 PS. I have not yet seen the divine Mrs Paul, nor her seraphic spouse, – hence have not executed your commission, and fear much as I may not be among the elect, that access may be difficult to the holy coterie to which they belong.

Letter 7: John Riddell to WGGC, 16 Dec 1826
(Dep.175/162/6)

Edr. Decr. 16th 1826

111 Geo. St

My Dear Sir,

I have received your obliging Letter of the 7th inst, and am very sensible of the polite
5 attention both of his Grace of Gordon and of the Earl and Countess of Murray. Tho his Lordship has in part refused you, yet I can't help thinking it might be still advisable to avail yourself of his offer, and to request him to employ some friend of his own, who may read the old hand, to examine all his Murray documents within the necessary period, for whatever notices respecting your family, or the Cumins, you supplying all proper information on this head to give full effect to the search. But I
10 would not hint any thing about the Randolphins or Dunbars Earls of Murray, or your possible claim to represent the Family. Perhaps you might ^{add} you wish also to know ^{the} succession in exact chronology, of the Dunbars Earls of Murray, but even this might give rise to suspicion. I forgot to hint in my last that Alexander Cumin's marriage contract might either have been dated at Findlater on account of the then Earl of Murray possessing it in virtue of the Charter ^{or grant} by Robert the 2^d
15 in 1371, to John E. of M. his ancestor & his heirs, of the forfeiture of Richard Sinclair of Finletter; or by reason of the Sinclairs ~~supposed~~ ^{being} relations of Alexander, they having certainly again recovered the property & retained it untill their male extinction before 1437. But in both events the Cullen charter chest would be important to examine. Sir Richard Cumin really seems to have been a public character, and of weight towards the end of the 15th [sic] century; and it was probably [p2]
20 owing to him that his name still continued to flourish in Murrayshire. He seemingly figures as early as 1365 when "Ricardus Comyn armiger is mentioned in Rymer's Federa (Vol 6 f. 497. being then only a young graduate in chivalry.

These extracts are from a later description of Murray in the Advocates Libr[ar]y vol Jac
5.4.20 Macfarlane's Coll "Moraviam descripturi [sic] hoc nobis verissime præfari liceat eam
25 saluberrimo cælo nulli inferiorem indulgentia et bonitate terræ clementiaque aeris longe omnibus ceteris arctois provinciis antecellere, aeris hic tanta temperies et omnibus circum circa hyemis sevitia rigentibus &ce "Altyr ad Cuminios spectans quæ gens ante trecentos annos omnium Scotiæ nobilium et supra omnes Scotorum proceres potentissima et numerosissima jam pene defecit &ce."⁴ Sir Thomas de Dunbar eldest son of John Earl of Murray is mentioned in a deed in the Chartulary of

⁴ Mitchell, Arthur, ed. (1906) *Geographical collections relating to Scotland made by Walter Macfarlane Edited from Macfarlane's Transcript in the Advocates Library*. Vol. 2. Edinburgh: Scottish History Society, pp. 427, 432. 'When about to describe Moray we may be allowed first to make the remark with perfect truth, that it is second to none in healthiness of climate, and far surpasses all the other northern shires in kindness and fertility of soil and in the mildness of the air... Altyr, belonging to the Cummings, a family which, three hundred years ago, was the most powerful and numerous of all the Scottish nobility, but now is almost extinct.' [Mitchell's translation]

30 Murray anno 1389. Sir Thomas was then Sheriff of Inverness, his father appears to have died a year
or two afterwards. This notice therefore is rather good, the older year makes Thomas the better. In a
public instrument about the lands of Calbal belonging to the Bishop of Muray [sic] 21 October 1375
“Alexander Comyn” is a witness, without any designation. John Sinclair of Fores is also there upon
an inquest anno 1369. I have looked over the two Chartularies of Murray in our Library, but found
35 nothing more important excepting a deed in 1393, where Thomas Earl of Murray is procurator for
his brother Alexander; thus confirming Pitscotties account of the descent of Ferendraugh [sic] and
later Earls of Murray. It is singular Genealogists never at the same time quoted this authority. I am
well aware we cannot at present fix the descent of Altyr from Badenagh, but may not the following
authorities rather preponderate in favor of a different one than what is assigned in Douglasses’
40 Baronage?

Sir Alexander Cumin knight, proved by Ragman Roll to have sworn fealty to Ed. the first
“apud Elgin in Moravia”, 26 July 1296. This I take to be the same with “Alexander Cumin of
Badenagh” the husband of Eva, mentioned in Rymers Foedera 4 Sept’ 1296, vol 2. It is to be observed
that the head of the House of Badenagh then was John Cumin, and he like other younger sons, by a
45 frequent practice with us is called of Badenagh to distinguish him from other Alexander Cumins, one
of whom was a younger son of the Cumins Earls of Buchan. Then may come the Alexander in 1375 in
the Chartulary of Murray probably a brother of Sir Richard. There may have been one or two
generations more, but the evidence of the first Alexander apparently [p3] in Murray, and the
adoption of his surname by the others rather indicate him to be their ancestor. It is singular that in
50 the Rotuli Scotie vol. 1 p. 133 a Roger Cumin is said in 1314 to have delivered up Gilbert de
Glenkerny, but I rather think he was of the Kilbride Cummins.⁵ As I cannot find there proof of
Celestine of the Isles possessing Glencarny, in which fact I may have been mistaken, I think it will be
best surely to rest contented with the evidence of its having been in the Murray family at the middle
of the 15th century, sure indications of it which appear in the Exchequer Rolls. I apparently have
55 confounded Glenmoriston with Glencarney.

Having sent to Mr Watson WS and fixed an hour with him, he told me explicitly that after
every search he could not find any Calder papers older than the year 1600, and knew nothing of
those contained in your Letter. He begs his Complts to you. He incidentally asked if Mr Staples the
factor had permission from Lord Cawdor to show the charter chest!! – so you have carried the thing
60 by a coup de main!! He says Lord Cawdor is the ninth heir in succession to the Estates & title of
Argyll.

I suspect there is some misconception about the Cumins of Pollan. On looking over some
copies of old title deeds of the lands of Kindrought I find Thomas Cumming of “Pullan” (supposing
this to be the same) holding lands in Aberdeen[^]shire[^] and engaged in transactions in 1460, with
65 William Cumin of Coulter. The lands he possessed were those of Kindrocht in the Barony of
Kingedward. I have also a copy of his seal of arms which represents the three garbs with a star in the
center [sic] of the shield. However the above circumstance may not be decisive.

Perhaps when you see the Duke of Gordon again you might inform him that a Gentleman
here who is thought a judge in such matters, and who had seen the picture of the second Marquess
70 of Huntly by Vandyke in the possession of the Buccleugh Family, thinks it is not the original, but that
the latter is now in Drummond Castle – having been carried into the Drummonds by intermarriage;
& certainly there were many intermarriages between the Drummonds & Huntlys.

⁵ It is likely he was the son of John Comyn, Earl of Buchan.

Yours very truly
John Riddell

75 *[continues]* After the tack of Glencharney to the Lord of the Isles was out, [p4] the lands, I think,
have returned to the Murray Family, who have thoughts proper to retain them, and give others in
lieu thereof as in terms of the Marriage Contract &c. To give consistency to the descents from
Alexander and Eva we must infer that his heirs were desirous of being settled in that County where
from the other notice, he himself seems to have been fixed, & hence perhaps were the more willing
80 to take Altyre instead of Glencharny. The famous passage of Pitscottie, of which you probably are
aware says, that John Dunbar Earl of Murray had “Thomas Dunbar, quho succedit to his father, and
ane other called Alexander Dunbar, quho married Mauld Fraser heretrix of Fren draught. This forsaid
earl Thomas had ane sone called Thomas – who died without aires of his bodie &c. I see Crawford
Peerage p. 142, note, quotes a “Resignation by Alexander Sinclair son to Ingerson Sinclair of
85 Deskford to Sir Walter Ogilvie of Ackynen Knight and Margaret Sinclair Lady Deskford his niece quam
deo volente ducet in uxonem 1437, penes Comitum de Finlater – and another deed in 1455 which
[letter runs out of space and ends]

Note

Riddell’s curious comment in lines 9-11 “I would not hint any thing about the Randolphs or Dunbars Earls of Murray, or your possible claim to represent the Family” raises the question of the Cummings’ motivation, and whether they were entertaining the possibility of claiming this status. It would have been seen as a threatening stance by the then earl of Moray, hence Riddell’s cryptic advice on concealing this interest while seeking access to his charter room. In the passage from line 41ff, Riddell sets out his alternative view, based on his reading of the sources he had located, of the Altyre Cummings’ ancestral origins, as analysed in the article. The comment in line 47 “probably a brother of Sir Richard” indicates his movement away from viewing Richard Comyn as the direct ancestor of the Altyre Cummings, which becomes firmed up by the discovery of the Countess of Ross’s charters, presented in Letter 10.

Letter 8: John Riddell to WGGC, 18 Feb 1827
(Dep.175/162/6)

Edr. Feb. 18th 1827
111 Geo. Street
My Dear Sir,

I have just been informed by a relative that Lord Sinclair is at length arrived in London from
5 the Continent – his agents I may add are Scott Findlay and Balderston WS. 57 Albany Street. I see in
the Rotuli Scotiae under date 20th March 1358, there is a safe conduct for “Ricardus Comyn scutifer”
and “Jacobus de Sancto claro” – thus both mentioned together. There really seems to have been a
great connection between the Sinclairs and Cumins, but after the experience we have had of Charter
chests & the mutilations they have endured in various parts of Scotland [p2] it would be rash to
10 build confidently from what may be drawn from such a source. Hence the Sinclairs of Hermiston
altho an old family, may not have transmitted to their present heir male all that may be important
for you, tho in MS in our Library there are charters by the Mormilles to them in the 13th century.
Lord Sinclair too is only a collateral heir male, the female representation having split among the
Humes who thereby derived the lands of Polwarth and others. This I partly formerly discovered by
15 inspection in the Wedderburn Charter chest near Dunse. I certainly saw there some charters

me and my heirs – and failing heirs of the marriage the lands are to go to the heirs of Thomas –
10 reddendo a silver penny

* I believe the Inneses had an interest in Killmalewak.

[p2] – dated at Bricklyn 4th Decr. 1356 witnesses William Earl of Ross, Adam de Urchard &c

15 It is not improbable that Thomas Cumyn of Pullan in your charter chest may have held the
lands as heir of these Sinclairs, which might well account for the connection of Sinclairs with the
Cumyns early in the 15th century – the relationship of Margaret Sinclair Countess of Angus to Sir
Richard C., and supply further presumption of the latter being ancestor of Altyre. I believe Sir
Richard in some deed in Rymer – independently of being styled cousin of Countess Margaret, has a
safe conduct along with a Sinclair. Perhaps his mother may have been a Sinclair, & through her
20 Pullan has come into the family. The Sinclairs [p3] of Findlater may also have been of the same
Sinclairs, & the marriage contract of Alexander C. is dated at Findlater. There was I believe a liaison
or feudal intimacy between Thomas first of Altyre & the Hays – and Strathpeffer is the famous
mineral spring I suppose.

25 Shortly after I saw you in the summer I had a Letter from my Friend Mr Maxwell MP for
Renfrewshire, in which, as he alluded to some conferences he had with Mr Canning & the Duke of
Portland, I called his attention to the subject of the Gordonstone Baronetcy, the advantage of the
Duchess declaring herself &c &c with all necessary particulars. I visited Mr M. at Pollok, a fe[w] days
ago, and I find he had most kin[dly] forwarded the statement, (being ever since in Scotland), to Lady
William Bentinck, with whom he is well acquainted, but I am sorry to say, he added that he had
30 received no particulars in answer.

Believe me

111. Geo. Street

Yours very truly

John Riddell

Note

The reference to the 'Gordonstone Baronetcy', line 26, is to Sir William Gordon Cumming's legal proceedings, seeking to claim the rights to this title, the premier baronetcy of Nova Scotia. William's father had inherited the Gordonstoun estate through entail in 1795 ahead of the Duchess of Portland (line 27), despite her being a nearer heir. The Portlands had challenged the succession but lost in the House of Lords in 1800. The Cummings had not inherited the baronetcy which became dormant before being revived by another relative of the Gordon family. William wished to make a claim upon it, which required all other potential claimants nearer in line to waive their own. The Portlands declined to do so, their lawyers returning Cumming's proposal with the note "The Duke of Portland desires us to say that he will consider it to be his duty to oppose any claim that Sir William Cumming Gordon may make to the Gordonstoun Baronetcy." (Dep.175/162/6, 25 July 1826)

Letter 10: John Riddell to WGGC, 3 Sep 1828

(Dep.175/162/6)

Edr. 3^d Sepr. 1828

My Dear Sir,

Allow me to send you the following notices of some original grants –

5 Charter by Eufamia Comitissa de Ross in "suera et integra virginitate" with consent of Robert
Duke of Albany the Governor "carissimo amico nostro David Comyn filio domini Ricardi Comyn militis

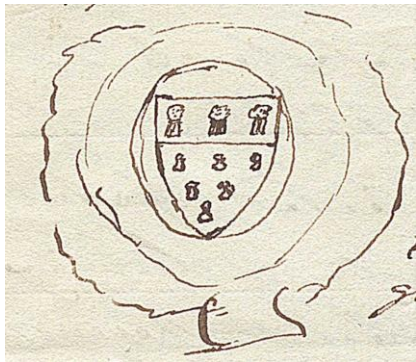
suo homagio – ^of^ teras de logy et de Inchemene cum pertinentiis – in comitate nostro de Ross infra vicecomitatum de Invernes” which had belonged to Sir Richard heritably, and had been resigned by him. Tenendas prenomintas terras dicto David et heredibus suis masculis [p2] de corpore suo legitime procreatis seu procreandis, quibus forte deficientibus Alexandro Comyne 10 consanguineo dicti David et heredibus suis masculis de corpore suo legitime procreatis seu procreandis, quibus forsitan deficientibus legitimis et propinquioribus heredibus predicti Ricardi quibuscunque – de nobis &c – the substitution again mentioned – service to be rendered at Dingwall, – dated at Stirling 14 January 1412, witnesses the Countesses [sic] relative John Earl of Buchan & others.

15 To this deed a fine seal of the Governor is appended.

Charter by “Johannes Cumyn filius quondam domini Ricardi Cumyn domini de Cowpermaculti salutem – nonuit universitas vertia me dedisse concessisse &c – nobili viro domino David Senescalli [p3] domino de Durisdeer militi fuo suo consilio et auxilio michi gratanten impresis totas et integras terras meas de Logy et de Inchmany cum pertinentiis in Comitatu de Ross infra 20 Vicecomitatum de Invernys Tenendas – per omnes rectas suetas – a me et heredibus meis de domino Comite de Ross in feodo – dated at Dumfermlin 1st of November 1431

Precept of seisin for the charter dated 20th January 1431.

To both of these deeds John’s seal is appended containing these arms



[to right of sketch of seal]

This is a very pretty & appropriate difference for a younger branch of the Cumins, as the family originally were probably.

It strikes me the preceding Alexander the cousin of David may have been [p4] Alexander 35 mentioned in 1408, ^ husband of the Earl of Murray’s dr.^ both living at the same time & ^probable^ ancestor of Altyre. Besides the Family of Altyre had lands in Ross, and held of the Earls of Ross. From the predilection to male succession evident from the charter 1412, Alexander may have been the next heir male, and in the Altyr charter chest there is in 1462, a transaction between the Urwells, & the above identical David Stewart of Rossyth, the same as Durisdeer.

40 In my recent excursion to Perthshire I had the good luck to find the documents of which these are only brief extracts, in the Charter chest of Mr Oliphant of Condie*. They are now selected of many others, & laid aside, & having obtained from this Gentleman permission to give you the information, if you will immediately write to him he

* This residence is in the parish of Forgundenny a few miles from Perth

[ends with no salutation, or sheet lost]

Note

With this letter it is clear that Riddell had discovered the deeds disposing Richard Comyn’s lands to his sons (given in full in Section C) by 1828 and informed the Cummings of them. His comments on the heraldic device and following indicate that Riddell had concluded that Richard Comyn was not the direct ancestor of Altyre, though he was closely enough related to them to name them as his heirs male after his own sons.

Letter 11: John Riddell to WGGC, 17 Nov 1828
(Dep.175/162/6)

Edr. Nov. 17th 1828

My Dear Sir,

I am happy to find you thought the Cumin deeds from the Condie Charter Chest important, the lands mentioned in which I have been attempting to discover, and now believe the best chance
5 of obtaining further information will be the Charter Chest of Monro of Foulis – which besides I know contained, at least about ^{^half^} a century ago, ancient documents.

From the authority in Robertson you quoted it is plain that early in Robert Bruce's reign, Cupermacultie, from which Sir Richard Cumin took his prominent designation, with other lands lying in Strathspey, belonged to Robert Munro. And in the pedigree [p2] of Monro of Foulis /Douglass's
10 Baronage p. 80/ it is stated that the same Robert "redeemed parts of the lands of Logie and others, which had been wadset by his predecessors, and which mostly held of the earls of Ross. This appears by a renunciation of these lands in favours of this Robert, dated 4th January 1338" – which is there said to exist "in archivis familiæ de Foulis." Independently there are other old deeds, and one in the
15 year 1426 of Wester Logie. The parish of Easter Logie still subsists lying in Rossshire a little to the north of the Cromarty Firth, or rather of Invergordon; & places, though with a little corruption, corresponding to Inchmeny, may be traced further southward in the neighbourhood of Foulis &c.

The transactions by which Sir Richard, or his ancestors acquired the lands from the Munros, may incidentally let out something more of his pedigree and descents. From the contiguity of the possessions, & the comparative rarity of the surname [p3] in his time, there can be little doubt that
20 the Sir Richard, mentioned in reference to them, was one and the same.

The curious notice of the Alexander Cumin in the early part of the 15th century, is taken from an MS history of the Macintoshes, or rather chronicle of public events connected with them, written in the century before last, and in the Advocates' Library. It is as follows "Anno 1411, in hoc bello / that between Regent and Donald of the Isles, on account of the Earldom of Ross / multi de tribu
25 Clanbean – desiderati sunt. Paulo post antiquum desidium [sic – dissidium] inter Catanos (the Macintoshes) et Cumineos redintegatur [sic – redintegratur]. Nam jussu Alexandri Cumminei, qui terris Narniæ et Rait potiebatur, Milcolumbi /Malcom Macintosh/ pedisequæ numero duodecimus una omnes, prope Rait ob levissimam causam strangulati sunt. Quo audito, Milcolumbi bilis efferbuit. Post aliquot dies arcem Narniæ cum suorum decem tantummodo strategemate ingreditur, ubi tunc
30 Primores Cumminei familiæ, qui Moraviæ degebant, epulabantur; et allatam sibi injuriam ita retribuit, ut priusquam Cumminei arma capere potuerint, omnes a Milcolumbo, et adjutoribus confodiuntur."⁶ This passage in the former dearth of evidence strikes me as very valuable. There is an Alexander Cumin mentioned, as a chief or leader, & proprietor of Nairn & Rait, not far from Altyre

⁶ Clark, James T, ed. (1900) *Genealogical collections concerning families in Scotland, made by Walter MacFarlane 1750-1751, edited from the Original Manuscripts in the Advocates Library*. Vol. 1. Edinburgh: Scottish History Society, p185.

'In the year 1411 ... In that battle ... Many of the family of Clanbean were lost ... A little while afterwards the old feud between the Chattans and the Cummins was renewed. For, by the order of Alexander Cummins (who possessed the lands of Nairn and Rait), the attendants of Malcolm, to the number of twelve, were, for a very slight cause, all at once strangled near Rait.

'On hearing of this, the wrath of Malcolm boiled over. Some days after, by stratagem, with only ten of his men, he entered the tower of Nairn (where the chief men of the Cummins who dwelt in Moray were then feasting) and so revenged the wrong done to him, that before the Cummins could take their arms they were all stabbed by Malcolm and his helpers.' [Clark's translation].

35 – may along with the Cumins in Murray – figuring at the same time with the Alexander who md. the
daughter of the Earl of Murray (& who was to have lands in that County) – as also contemporary
with the Alexander C. in the Condie deed, undoubted cousin of the sons of Sir Richard, which latter
Knight had great possessions in Banff, Murray, & Ross, & was vassal of the Earls of Ross, in the same
way as Thomas first of Altyre. The Macintosh charter chest where there are also old deeds, shd
likewise be examined; But you should keep the knowledge of these repositories ^as^ secret ^as
40 possible^ for in the highlands, where after all, there are few ancient deeds, such [p4] channels are
invaluable, & need not be exposed to all vulgar eyes. Perhaps there may be there also the original
copy of the above MS History. Thus at length we are obtaining evidence proving that after the
downfall of the principal line, there existed one branch of the Cumins, great, & affluent, though it
must be confessed that as in most other cases, truth has here lain in the bottom of a well.

45 I am obliged to you for what you mention as to the Hays of Lochloy, or Park, but have since
found that the Hays of Park with whom I was interested, were a separate family though of the same
title in Galloway. I was well aware of the ancient deeds at Aberdeen and have long since seen on
each transcript of them from the earliest period, they do not contain a great deal, though otherwise
curious, about ancient baronial families.

50 There was one passage in an excerpt from a Condie deed relative to the substitution; I don't
know if I correctly copied, but this you can determine upon inspection. You are right to have them
recorded.

I am much honor'd by Lady Cumin's remembrance, as well as her, and your kind invitations,
& offering you both my best respects.

55 I remain
111 Geo. Street Yours very sincerely
John Riddell

Letter 12: John Riddell to WGGC, 4 Aug 1829
(Dep.175/162/6)

Haddington
August 4th 1829
My Dear Sir

5 I must indeed make many apologies for not sooner answering your very kind Letter. The fact
is I was prevented by absence in the Country, and uncertainty as to some future arrangements and I
regret I now find it will not be in my power to avail myself of your invitation.

I am not aware of any thing new at present to interest you. I have been looking at something
in Haddingtonshire but [p2] I don't think the Cummins are there in their elements.

10 I think I met not long ago with a notice of a Cumin of Inbibosse in Aberdeenshire shortly
subsequent to 1400 [1460?], who can this Family be?

Believe me
Dear Sir
Yours very sincerely
John Riddell

15 *[continues]* What a deluge there is here, the Tyne never was so full – the lower part of Haddington was within an ace of being inundated, & may be so still.

[p3] The following is my answer to Lady G Cumin's queries, to whom may I request you to present my best compliments.

20 Nepos in our practice means both Nephew and Grandson. Nepos as applied to Thomas Earl of Murray in Albany's grant, must, I conceive, be rendered "nephew", Thomas having been in that relationship to the Duke, and no other being capable of being shown. The Earl of Murray in 1406 therefore, was the son of John Dunbar Earl of Murray, and if we could hold that he lived down to the 28 of May, 1408, then of course the Eupheme wife of Alexander Cumin might have been his sister –
25 their marriage contract being of that date. But there does not seem as yet sufficiently precise evidence to check the fact. Supposing Eupheme to be the Earl's sister, she could not have been heir of line of the Earls of Murray, that character in law being in Alexander Dunbar of Fren draught, necessarily her brother, and his descendants.

30 Mr Andrew Storie W.S. I am informed is agent for the Balnagown Family, but it is awkward that at this moment the heir is a Minor.

Note

Riddell politely reminds WGGC that the 1408 indenture does not demonstrate any right for him to claim to be the representative of the Dunbar earls of Moray, as this had passed down the line of Eupheme's brother's daughters. Following this, the correspondence appears to have ceased.

C. Transcript of Three Charters from the Originals in possession of Mr Oliphant of Condie made in 1829.

National Library of Scotland Special Collections – Dep.175/110/8 (Gordon Cumming of Altyre and Gordonstoun). The transcriptions in a fair hand were likely made by or at the instruction of John Riddell in response to Sir William Gordon Cumming's request to record them as deeds (see Letter 10, above). Abbreviations in the transcriptions have been maintained.

Index [p 1]

1412. I. Eufemia Comitissa de Ross – in qua confirmavit carissimo amico suo Davidi Comyn filio Domini Ricardi Comyn militis – terras de Logy et de Inchmene in comitatu de Ross & Apud Striveling, 14 Jan. 1412.

1431. II. Johannes Cumyn filius quondam Domini Ricardi Cumyn domini de Cowpmaculti – in qua concessit et confirmavit Domino David Senescalli domino de Durrisdere militi – terras de Logy et Inchmany & 1 Nov. 1431.

1431. III. Precept by the said John Cumyn for infefting the said Sir David Stewart in the lands of Logy and Ynchmany – Apud Dumfermling, 20 Jan. 1431.

1. Charter of Euphemia, Countess of Ross, to David Comyn son of Sir Richard Comyn confirming grant of lands in Ross, 14 Jan 1412

[p2] Omnibus hanc cartam visuris ut auditoris Eufamia comitissa de Ross salutem in Domino sempiternam. Nouerit vniversitas v̄ra nos in n̄ra pura et integ^a virginitate n̄ra cum consensu et assensu excellentissimi principis ac domini n̄ri metuendissimi D̄ni Roberti Ducis Albanie comitis de
5 fife et de mentethe ac regni Scocie gubernatoris habentis nos in warda et gubernacione dedisse concessisse et hac p̄nti carta n̄ra im̄petuū confirmasse carissimo amico n̄ro David comyn filio Domini Ricardi comyn militis pro homagio et seruicio suo totas et integ^as terras de logy et de Inchmene cum p̄tinenciis Jacentes in comitatu n̄ro de Ross inf^{ra} vicecomitatum de Inuirnys / que quidem terre cum pertin̄en fuerunt dicti d̄ni Ricardi hēdetarie Et quas idem d̄ns Ricardus non vi
10 aut metu ductus nec errore lapsus s̄z mera et spontanea voluntate sua in manus n̄ras coram testibus subscriptis per fustum et baculum ac per suas t̄ras patentes sursum reddidit pureq̄z simp̄tr resignavit / ac toum ius et clameū que in dictis terries cum pertinenciis habuit ut habere poterit pro se et heredibus suis om̄io quietum clamauit im̄petuū Tenendas et h̄ndas totas et integ^as p̄nōiatas t̄eras cū p̄tinēn dicto David et heredibus suis masculis de corpore suo legittime
15 procreatis seu procreandis / quibus forte deficientibus ^Johanni Comyn fratri suo et heredibus suis masculis de corpore suo legittime procreatis seu procreandis, quibus forfan deficientibus^ Alexandro cumyne consanguineo [p 3] dicti David et hēdibz suis masculis de corpore suo legittime procreatis seu procreandis / Quibus forsitan deficientibus veris leggitimis et p̄pinquiorobus hēdibus pred̄ci Ricardi quibuscunq̄ de nobis et heredibus n̄ris in feodo et hereditate im̄petuū per omnes rectas
20 metas suas antiquas et diuisas / in boscis planis moris marresiis viis femitis aquis stagnis pratis pascuis et pasturis molendinis multuris et eorum sequelis aucupacionibus venac̄oibz et piscariis cum curiis escaetis et curiarum exitibus cum bondis bondagiis natiuis et eorem sequelis / ac cum om̄ibus et singulis aliis cōmoditatibus libertatibz et aisiamentis ac iustis p̄tinenciis quibscunq̄ ad predictas terras cum pertinenciis spectantibus seu iuste spectare valentibus quomodolibet

25 infuturum / Adeo libere et quiete plenarie integre et honorifice bene et in pace in omnibus et per
omnia sicut predictus dominus Ricardus predictas terras cum pertineant de nobis aut predecessoribus nostris
ante dictam resignacionem nobis factam liberius tenuit seu possedit / faciendo nobis et heredibus
nostris predictus David et heredes sui masculi de corpore suo legitime procreati seu procreandi /
30 quibus forte deficientibus / dictus Johannes frater suus et heredes sui masculi de corpore suo
legitime procreati seu procreandi / quibus forsitan deficientibus dictus Alexander et heredes sui
masculi de corpore suo legitime procreati seu procreandi / quibus forsitan deficientibus veri legitimi et
propinquiores heredes dicti domini Ricardi quicumque de predictis terris cum pertinentiis tres sectas curie ad
tria nostra placita capitalia annuatim tenenda apud Digvaley / tantum pro omni alio servicio seculari
exactione seu demanda / que per nos ut heredes nostros de predictis terris cum pertinentiis infuturum
35 exigi poterunt quomodolibet ut requiri In cuius rei testimoniū / quia sigillum nostrum propriū ad presens
non habemus sigillum predicti Domini nostri Ducis albanie gubernatoris Scocie presenti carte nostre [p 4] in
presencia multorum nobilium apponi cum instancia procuravi apud Striueling decimo quarto die mensis
Januarij Anno Domini millesimo quadringentesimo duodecimo Testibus nobilibus et potenti domino Johanne
40 sencomite Buchanie consanguineo nostro carissimo domino Wilhelmo de hamilton milite Alexandro
senmichaeli de narn Waltero de Curry alexandro de Roos Wilhelmo Berclay et Johanne de achinlek
scutiferis amicis nostris carissimis cum multis aliis

There is a beautiful seal of the Duke of Albany attached

2. Charter of John Cumyn, son of the late Sir Richard Comyn of Cuparmacultie, transferring lands in Ross to Sir David Stewart of Durrisdeer, 1 Nov 1431

[p6] Omnibus hanc cartam visuris vel auditoris Johannes Cumyn filius quondam domini Ricardi
Cumyn domini de Cowpmulti Salutem in domino Sempiternam Nouerit vniuersitas vestra me dedisse
concessisse et hac presenti carta mea confirmasse Nobili viro domino David Senescalli domino de
5 durrisdere militi pro suo consilio et auxilio michi gratanter impensis totas & integras terras meas de
Logy et de Inchmany cum pertinentiis iacentes in comitatu de Rosse infra vicecomitatum de
Inuynys Tenendas & habendas totas & integras predictas terras cum pertinentiis predicto domino
dauid heredibus suis et suis assignatis a me et heredibus meis de domino comite de Rosse in feodo &
hereditate imperpetuum per omnes rectas metas suas antiquas & diuisas In boscis planis moris
10 marresiis viis semitis acquis stagnis [p 7] pratis pascuis et pasturis molendinis multuris et eorum
sequelis aucupacionibus venacionibus et piscariis cum curiis et earum exitibus eschaetis merchetis &
heryheldis cum bondis bondagiis natiuis et eorum sequelis ac cum omnibus aliis & singulis
libertatibus comoditatibus & aisiamentis ac iustis pertinentiis suis quibuscumque tam non nominates quam
nominates tam sub terra quam supra terram procul & prope as predictas terras cum pertinentiis
15 spectantibus seu iuste spectare valentibus quomodolibet in futurum Adeo libere et quiete plenarie
integre et honorifice bene et in pace in omnibus et per omnia sicut ego dictus Johannes aut
predecessores mei dictas terras cum pertinentiis aliquo tempore elapso tenui seu possedi tenuerunt
seu possederunt faciendo inde annuatim dictus dominus dauid heredes sui et sui assignati domino
comiti de Rosse et heredibus suis tres sectas curie ad tria placita capitalia tenenda apud Dingvaley
20 tantum pro omni alio onere servicio seculari exactione seu demanda que de dictis terris cum pertinentiis
pro quocumque exigi poterint quomodolibet vel require Ego vero dictus Johannes et heredes mei totas &

25 integras predictas t^{er}ras cum p̄tinenciis predicto [p 8] domino dauid h̄edibus suis & assignatis in
om̄ibus & p̄ o^{ia} ut p^{er}missum est Warantizabimus acquietabimis et contra omnes mortales
imp̄petuū defendemus In cuius rei testimonium p̄nti carte mee sigillum meū apposui Et pro maiori
30 huius rei euidencia sigillum p̄uidi viri Johannis de Lyndesai de Crambeth coram testibus subscriptis
huic carte mee apponi cū instancia procurani apud Dumfermelyne primo die meß Nouembris Anno
domini millesimo quadringentesimo tricesimo primo Hiis testibz Johanne Wricht thoma de Bra
Roberto mercer Willm^o de Orrok Will^o de Balewod armigeris & domino Johanne Will^omi
capellano cū multis aliis
30 Seal attached & intire & one gone

3. Precept of sasine enacting the transfer in (2), 20 Jan 1431/2

[p9] Jo^hes Cūyn filius quōd̄ dn̄i Ricardi Cūyn dn̄i de Cowp̄ malculty militis dilectis in hac vice meis
balliuis David de Cūysden Rob^{er}to m^{er}sar andree de methuen et Will^omo Walwud slt^m Quia
5 concessi hereditarie honorabili viro dn̄o David Senescalli dn̄o de durisd^{er} totas et integras t^{er}ras
meas de Logy et ynchmany cū p̄tene^{ciis} iacent^{er} in cōitatu de Rose infra vicecōitat[um] de Inu^{er}nes
vobis p^{er}ceptimis et mādam^{er} q^atenis d^{co} dn̄o dauid seu eius c^{er}to actornato latori p̄nciū saysinā
he^{er}ditariam d^{car}ū t^{er}rarū cū p̄t scd^m formā et tenorem carte mee quā inde habet cōfectā iuste
habere faciatis et siⁿ dilac^{oe} saluo lure cuiuslibz ad quod vero faciē^{et} vobis et v^{er}m cuilibz
10 cōiūctim et diuisim meā qmitto plenariā potestatē & mādatū speciale Et in signū huius saysine [p 10]
p̄ vos tradite sigillū v^{er}m qui d^{cum} saysinā tradetes post meū pn̄tibz apponatis In cui^{us} rei
testimōim sigillū meū pn̄tibz apponi ap^d Dūfermlyn xx^o die mēß Januarij ānodⁿⁱ M^o CCCC xxxj^o
seal attached

/END OF SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL