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## EDDERTOUN.

Eddirtane—Eddirthane—Iddirthane—Attherthane—Eddirtayn—  
Eddertane—Edirdin—Edardin.

This parish, stretching along the Dornoch Firth from the water of Fearn to the Muckle Ferry, and about six miles inland, consists chiefly of arable land backed by hills varying from 600 to 1000 feet in height. The coast is sandy, except at one rocky point where a hilly ridge abuts upon the water's edge.

In 1532 Sir John Ros the vicar of Eddirtane died in Ballone. The church of Eddirthane at the period of the Reformation belonged to the subdean of Ross. In 1583 King James VI. presented Donald Simpsoun to the vicarage of Eddirtane, vacant by the decease of Master William Strauthauchin.

The church, built in 1743, stands apparently on the old site at Ardchronie near Balinlich or Ballioch on the Dornoch Firth.

The abbey of Fearn, founded early in the thirteenth century by Ferquhard Earl of Ross 'beside Kincardin in Stracharrin,' stood at Fearn, probably Middle Fearn, in this parish, where the convent appears to have remained for about 15 years before its removal to New Fearn, and where vestiges of its buildings seem to have been visible till the end of the sixteenth century. Malcolme, one of two 'quhite channonis,' said to have been met by the Earl in Galloway bearing relics of Saint Ninian, which with the bearers he carried to Ross, was abbot for 15 years, and was succeeded by Malcolme of Nig, during whose rule (apparently about the year 1238) the site of the monastery was changed.

In the year 1574 the reader at Eddirtayn had for his stipend 20 marks and the kirklands.

In 1341 William Earl of Ross granted to his brother Hugh of Ross the lands of Westray and others, with the fishing of Acheferne and Stogok. Between 1350 and 1372 Hugh of Ross granted to his *armiger* William Marescal, for his good and faithful service, his land of Dachynbeg in Vestray. Daane, Westray, and perhaps other lands granted by King James I. to Nele Nelesoun in 1430, and by King James IV. to David Ros in 1490, appear to lie in this parish. In 1550 Alexander Ros of Balnagown granted to William Carnecors of Colmishill or Colmislie the lands of Milntown of Westray with the mill, the lands of Ballinleich, and the lands of Mekill Doles, in special warrandice of the lands of Estir Rarechy which he then sold to the same William. At the Reformation all or nearly all the lands in the parish were held and paid tithe to the subdean of Ross as follows—Iddirthane, half a davach (or 23 ploughgates), occupied by Alexander Ros of Balnagown, 10 marks 6s. 8d.; Westray and Meltoun, half a davach, occupied by the same Alexander, 4 marks; Rowny (or Downe), a davach, occupied by the same, 14 marks; Mekle Doles and Lechestoun, half a davach, occupied by the same, 10 marks; Lytill Doles, three quarter davachs,

occupied by John M<sup>c</sup>Colemestoun or Ross, 10 marks; Wastir Farine (now apparently in Kincardine), a davach, occupied by William Ros, 18 marks; Estir Feme, a davach, occupied by Thomas Ros, 8 marks; Dathan Mekle, three fourths of a davach, occupied by Walter Ros otherwise named Alexander Waltersoun, his mother, and Thomas Ros, 6 marks; Dathan Lytle, a quarter davach, occupied by William Ros and his brother, 3 marks; the subdean's croft and mains within the canonry of Ros, occupied by Andro Wilgues, 3 marks. In 1577 William Carncors of Colmeslie was served heir to his father Robert in the lands of MyIntoun and Westra with the mill, Ballinlechie, and Mekill Doles, in warrandice of Eister Rarechie. In 1578 the lands of Litill Dolles, Mekle Dolles, the MyIntown of Westry, and Litill Dovane, with other lands held in heritage by Alexander Ros of Balnagowne, and George Ros his son and apparent heir, of the bishop of Ros, the commendator of Ferne, and the sacrist of Thane, were apprised in favour of James Scrymgeour of Duddop constable of Dundie in defect of movable goods, to be held of the crown for the services formerly due. In 1582 King James VI. granted to George Ros of Balnagowin and the male heirs of his body, with remainder to his male heirs whomsoever, the same lands with those of Ballelich, formerly belonging to James Scrymgeour of Dudop, apprised by him to Alexander Ros the father of George for large sums of money, and resigned by the same James, to be held for the services formerly due.

The site of the castle of Eddertoun, erroneously supposed to be one of the two founded or fortified by King William in 1179, lies near the sea.

The circular buildings styled duns were at one time numerous in the parish, and one of them named Dunaliskag during part of the last century was nearly entire.

West from the church is a large plain with tumuli, where a battle is believed to have been fought with the Danes or Norwegians, and beside it a circular mound with a rude obelisk in the centre about ten feet high.