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MDCCCLV.

KINCARDINE.

Kyncardyn—Kincardin—Kincarn—Kincairdein—Kincarne—Kincardine—
Kincairdyne.

This parish stretches on the north along the whole course of the river Oikel (the boundary between Ross and Sutherland) and along its estuary the Dornoch Firth as far as the water of Fearn, by which it is bounded on the east. It is mountainous and abounds with small lakes. Its western part, a hilly district of great extent, is named the Forest of Balnagown or Frevater.

In the year 1227 Maurice the parson of Kyncardyn was present with others of the clergy of Ross at Kenedor in Moray at the settlement of a dispute between the bishops of Moray and Ross respecting the diocesan right of the churches of Kyntalargyn and Ardrosser. In 1487 Sir John Buschild was either rector or vicar of Kyncardyn. In 1533 the vicar was Sir Archibald Balconie. From 1536 to 1566 Master Thomas Dunnone was rector of Kincardin. In 1566 Queen Mary presented Master Alexander Leslie for life to the parsonage and vicarage of Kincardin, vacant or when vacant by the decease or demission of Master Thomas Dynnvne. The rector of Kincardine was a canon of the cathedral, and as such had a manse within the canonry of Ross.

The church, built in 1799, seems to occupy the site of its predecessors at the mouth of a small stream on the Dornoch Firth about a mile east from Invercarron. About the year 1790 the church was thatched with heather. At the same date the inhabitants used five cemeteries, two in Kincardine, and three in the parish of Creich in Sutherland.

At Kilmachalmag on the Oikel stood a chapel, dedicated, as its name implies, to Saint Calmag.

In the Book of Assumptions the rental of the parsonage and vicarage of Kincardin, as given by Mr. Thomas Ros parson of Alnes, was 120 marks or £80, but the rental, he stated, could not be made perfect, as the vicarage was unpaid. In the Libellus Taxationum the church is valued at £26, 13s. 4d., exactly the third of the above rental. In Baiamund, as preserved by Bisset, it is rated at 53s. 4d. In 1574 the reader at Kincardin had as his stipend £13, 6s. 8d. and the kirklands.

In 1341 William Earl of Ross granted to Hugh of Ross his brother the lands of Strathochill, Strathcarron, and others, with the fishing of Acheferne and Stogok. In 1365 Hugh of Ross lord of Fylorth, the brother of William Earl of Ross, granted to Paul Mactyre and to his wife Mariot of Grahame the niece of Hugh of Ross, and to their heirs, with remainder to Paul's heirs by any other wife, and to his brothers and their lineal descendants, the lands of Tutumtarvok, Turnok, Amot, and Langvale, in Strathokel. The same Paul, who is styled the grandson of Lendres one of three sons of a king of Denmark, is said to have acquired the lands of Stracharron, Strahoykil,

and Friewatter. His daughter Catherine married Walter Ross of Balnagoun, who thus seems to have acquired the same lands. In 1430 King James I. granted to Nele Nelesoun, for his homage and service in the capture of his deceased brother Thomas Nelesoun a rebel, the lands of Daane, Moyzeblary, Croinzueorth, Tittumtarwauch, Lanchort, Drinayde, and others in the earldoms of Ross and Suthirland, some of which appear to lie in the parish of Kincardine. In 1490 King James IV., as tutor of his brother James Duke of Ross, granted in heritage to David Ross, the nephew and apparent heir of John Ross of Balnagown, among other lands those of Stracharroun and Strathochell, with the mills, brewhouses, tenants, and tenandries, resigned by John Ross, and reserving to him the liferent. In 1515 Sir Donald of the Isles of Lochalch granted to Hector Monro of Foulis his fishing of Kelysakkell (the Kyles of Oikel) in the sheriffdom of Innernys. In 1528 King James V. granted to William Ros, the brother of the deceased Walter Ros of Ballangowne, the ward, relief, and nonentry of the 5 marklands of Ocumyord (or Gruinyord), the 10 marklands of Langoill, the 3 marklands of Crokkane, the 7 marklands of Cullace, and the 5 marklands of Pellavelnie (probably not all in Kincardine), in the sheriffdom of Innernys, which were in the King's hands by reason of the decease of David Ros of Ballangowne, for the yearly payment of 20 marks to James Earl of Murray or any other having the ward and relief of the lands. In 1529 Pope Clement VII. confirmed to the canons of New Ferne all their possessions, including among others two measures of land commonly called davachs in the place called Innercharron; the pasture they had in the places called Halchmaguli, Braghlugudi, and Salki; the fishing which they had in the water called Okeal in the place called Banaff; the fishing commonly called Choro in the town of Kyncarden; a davach in the town called Greater Fern; a half davach in the town called Lesser Fern; the land they had in the place called Archanagart; the fishing and ferry of the same; and a davach and a half in the place called Dwne. In 1546 Queen Mary granted to Alexander Ros of Balnagown and Jonet Sinclair his wife the lands of Westir Gronzeart, Eistir Gronzeart, and others in Ross, which Alexander had resigned. Among the sums of money and victual given out of the bishoprick of Ross yearly at the period of the Reformation are mentioned 4 bolls of victual and 40s. to the 'kenar' of Kincairne. About the same period Henry Sinclair bishop of Ross, at the request of Thomas afterwards abbot of Fearn, granted to the laird of Balnagown Ardgay amounting to a davach of land, the Kirktown of Kincardine, the salmon fishing of the same amounting yearly to a last, and the mill of Kincardin which yielded yearly 24 bolls victual. At the same time the laird of Balnagowne held of the abbot of Fearn the lands of Wester Ferine, Innercarroun, Downy, and others. In 1578 the lands and barony of Strathokell (partly in Kincardine), and the lands and barony of Strathquharrone, the latter including Innerquharron, Seoll, Langwell with the fishing, Skenchall, Grumzordie with the fishing, and Auchingullane, in Kincardine, and some lands in Eddertoun, which belonged in heritage to Alexander Ros of Balnagowne and George Ros his son and apparent heir, and which with other lands were held by them of the bishop of Ros, the commendator of Ferne, and the sacrist of Thane, were in defect of movable goods appraised in favour of James Scrymgeour of Duddop constable of Dundie, to be held of the crown for the services formerly due. In 1582 King James VI. granted to

George Ros of Balnagowin and to the male heirs of his body, with remainder to his male heirs whomsoever, the lands and baronies appraised in 1578 in favour of James Scrymgeour, subsequently appraised by him to Alexander Ros of Balnagowin the father of George, and also resigned by the same James. In 1584 George Ros apparent of Balnagowin sold to Hugh Munro of Asschyn in heritage certain lands in Strahokell, and in warrandice the town and davach of Langwell with the wood of Skatwell. with Lonnillodloch, Cromlie, the salmon fishing of the Halfepolmorall, and all the other salmon fishings within the bounds of Langwell, in the baronies of Strahokell and Stracharroun, in the earldom of Ros and sheriffdom of Innernes. In 1642 Robert Lord Ros of Halkheid and Melvill was served heir to Lord William his brother german in the lands of Strathokell, including with others Dalnauchtane and Down, the lands of Stracharroun, Soyall, Knockinnarrow, Longwall with the salmon fishings, Scuttiechaell, Gruntzeardis with the salmon fishings, Auchnagullan, and Tormichaell, with the Forest of Friewater, and other lands in the earldom of Ross and sheriffdom of Inverness, all united into the barony of Balnagoune, and together of the old extent of £200. In the same year Lord Ross was served heir to his father James Lord Ros of Halkheid and Melville in the Kirkcoun of Kincardine extending to a quarter davach or 30s., with 6s. in augmentation; the mill of Kincardine extending to 12 bolls victual; the alehouse of Kincardine with its lands, of the extent of 53s. 4d. and 10s. 8d. in augmentation; the lands of Ardgyle, a davach, of the extent of £10 and 40s. in augmentation; the fishing of the Yair of Kincardine, of the extent of £20; the lands of Eddertyne, a davach, of the extent of £5, 6s. 8d. and 21s. 4d. in augmentation; the alehouse of Eddertayne, of the extent of 17s. 9d. and 3s. 6¾d. in augmentation; in all £44, 93. 5¼d. feuferme—with other lands united into the tenandry of Kirkcoun of Kincardine, for the new augmentation of the whole by the sum of 6s. 8d. In 1657 David Ros of Balnagowin was served heir male to his father David in the same lands, baronies, and tenandry, with the following difference in the details—the lands of Dalvanachtan and Downe, extending to 6 davachs, of which 4 davachs lie benorth the water of Oickell in the sheriffdom of Sutherland, and 2 on the south of the same in the sheriffdom of Ross, of old the sheriffdom of Innernes; the lands of Strathcarron, Soyall, Knockinnarrow, and Languall, with the salmon fishings; the lands of Skuittichaill, the lands of Auchownaguillen, the lands of Tormichell, and the lands of Esbolg, with the Forest of Friewater, all extending to a davach and a half, with other lands in the earldom of Ros and of old in the sheriffdom of Innernes, united into the barony of Belnagowne in the sheriffdom of Ross.

In 1686 King James VII., in a deed confirming the barony of Balnagowan to David Ross of Balnagowan, erected the village of Ardgay in Kincarden into a burgh of barony to be called the burgh of barony of Bonarness, with two yearly fairs, one on 2 June, and the other on the second Tuesday of July, with a weekly market every Friday.

There is a fair called Feille-Edeichan held at Kincardine in the end of November or beginning of December.

In 1179 King William the Lion crossed the Ochiel with his army on his way to Caithness. About the same period he sent a large army into Ros against Gothred MacWilliam (or Donald Ban), and soon afterwards following in person he built or fortified two castles in Ros, laid waste the country, and nearly extirpated the followers of Gothred, who, having escaped with a few, besieged and destroyed one of the castles when the King's army had retired; but, on the King's return with Prince Alexander, Gothred was betrayed by his followers to the Earl of Buchan. and being brought to the King at Kyncardin was put to death.

In the parish are several ancient round towers known as duns, and several stone circles.

In the churchyard is a sculptured stone sarcophagus, 5 feet long, 2 broad, and 2 deep, and divided into two compartments.

Near the church there is a walled lane terminating in a semicircular space, said to have been used of old for wapinshawings.

At Craigcaoineadhan in this parish the Marquis of Montrose in 1650 fought his last battle and sustained his final defeat.