The Lairds of Kincaid and Craiglockhart castle

Craiglockhart castle is actually the ruins of a tower situated about 2.5 English miles southwest of Edinburgh castle on Glenlockhart Road near its junction with Colinton Road. The tower sits on the side of the entrance to the Craiglockhart campus of Edinburgh Napier University. About 500 feet to the southeast is the summit of Wester Craiglockhart Hill which presently forms part of the Merchants of Edinburgh golf course, but which formerly was part of what was known as the Craiglockhart estate.

The tower is believed to have been built in the 15th century and was an oblong structure of four storeys in height with walls 5 feet thick at base and measuring 28.5 feet from north to south and 24.5 feet east to west. The entrance was on the north side and opened to a vaulted chamber suitable for two floors. A fireplace was built into the west wall. Corbels in the walls served as footings for a hall floor. Adjacent to the entrance was a wheel staircase that gave access to the hall floor and another upper vaulted chamber.¹

Figure 1: Craiglockhart castle as it appeared in the early 1960s.²

Figure 2: Craiglockhart castle as it remained in the late 19th century.\textsuperscript{3}

The earliest reference to the lands upon which Craiglockhart castle stood was on 2 December 1277 when the adjacent lands of Easter Craiglockhart Hill (then referred to as Estir Crag’ de Gorgyn) was granted to the Malcolm de Lamberton. The latter’s boundaries ran west as far as the boundaries of Craig which Stephen Lockhart, knight held (et inde versus occidentem vsque ad diuias terre illius Crag’ quam Stephanus Loccard miles tenuit). Who this Stephen Lockhart was and how and when he came into possession of the lands of Craiglockhart is difficult to say given the scarcity of surviving evidence. However, it is certain that his lands of Crag (meaning hill) became known as Crag Lockard and later Craiglockhart.

It is clear that Stephen Lockhart’s line ended in an heiress; namely Elena Lockhart. She granted the whole lands of Craiglockhart to John de Camera and his wife Mariote. The royal confirmation of this charter was dated 27 August 1324 and reads as follows:


Little can also be said of this John de Camera and his wife. What is certain is that civil war broke out in 1332 between supporters of King Robert the Bruce’s young son and heir David II and those of the English backed Edward Balliol, son and heir of Robert the Bruce’s competitor to the throne - John Balliol. Edward Balliol’s faction had the upper hand initially after routing David II’s forces at the battles of Dupplin Moor (1332) and Halidon Hill (1333). David II and his Queen had to flee to France in 1334 where they remained until 1341. In the meantime, fighting continued on in Scotland and things would not be finally settled in David II’s favor until 1357. There were a lot of land holders who either died in this conflict and others were forfeited because of their support for Edward Balliol. How this affected John de Camera and his wife and heirs is difficult to say, but Craiglockhart ended up in the hands of King David II. He then gave it to James Sandilands.

We know that James Sandilands was given the lands of Craiglockhart prior to 1345 as on 6 October 1345 David II granted him annual rents from the lands of Horsburgh and Eshiels until a suitable alternative could be found for the lands of Craiglockhart and Stonypath which the King had formerly given to James Sandilands, but which James then surrendered. The charter is recorded as follows.

5 The surname ‘de Camera’ can represent a number of Scottish surnames including Chalmers, Cameron, and Chambers.
Dauid Dei gracia rex Scottorum omnibus probis hominibus tocius terre sue salutem. Cum alias concesserimus per cartam nostram Jacobo de Sandylandys dilecto et fidelis nostro terras de Craglokard and de Stanypeth cum pertinenciis ac idem Jacobus postmodum de mandato nostro nobis dictas terras sursum reddiderit et simpliciter resignauit cui tamen de equaualenti promocione in compensacionem dictarum terrarum promisimus fideliter prouidere. Nouritis nos dedisse concessisse et hac presenti carta nostra confirmasse eidem Jacobo de Sandylandys in compensacionem dictarum terrarum annuos redditis debitos siue exequentes de Horsbruk et de Heschelys infra vicecomitatum de Pethys. Tenendos habendos et percipiendos eidem Jacobo heredibus suis et suis assignatis de nobis et heredibus nostris in feodo et hereditate quousque sibi per nos vel heredes nostros ex nostri deliberacione consilii de tanta terra fuerit in loco competenti prouisum. In cuius rei testimonium presenti carte nostra sigillum nostrum precepimus apponi. Testibus Roberto senescallo Scocie nepote nostro, Johanne Ranulphi comite Morauie domino vallis Anandie et Manny consanguineo nostro, Patricio de Dunbarr comite Marchie, Malcolm Flemyn' comite de Wygton', Willelmo de Duglas domino vallis de Lydell', et Thoma de Carnoto cancellario nostro, militibus. Apud Lanark sexto die Octobr' anno regni nostri septimodecimo.7

So clearly John de Camera lost the lands between 1324 and 1345 and they were given to James Sandilands who then returned them to the King in 1345. Why this was done is uncertain. It is possible that John de Camera’s family were then being returned the lands. Perhaps the King had held them while they were in wardship for the heir of John de Camera.

Sandoks

The next reference to Craiglockhart was when they were granted to one James Sandoks. An index of the charters of David II, many of which do not survive, was drawn up in 1629 and it records that reference was made in David II’s roll G of a charter to ‘James Sandoks’ of the lands of Craiglockhart and Stonyepthe in the sheriffdom of Edinburgh.8 Many names were not properly transcribed by the 1629 compiler so some may assume that this James Sandoks was actually James Sandilands and this was the charter of the lands to him prior to the year 1345 when Sandilands surrendered the lands. However, the charter seems to date after 1345.

The charter to James Sandoks was recorded first on David II’s roll G. Then followed three entries to Maurice Murray (Maurice de Moray or Moravia) with the last being for the lands of Gosfoord and Bissetland. Gosfoord was actually Cesford and an extract of the charter of confirmation of this grant was done in the early 1600s and its particulars survive. This particular charter of confirmation was dated 10 January 1358.9

If Sandoks is a misread, then Sanders seems to be the best proper alternative given the writing styles of the

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8 Robertson, William. An index, drawn up about the year 1629, of many records of charters, granted by different sovereigns of Scotland between the years 1309 and 1413, most of which records have been long missing. Edinburgh: Murray & Cochrane, 1798. p. 46, no. 1. The entry reads ‘Carta to James Sandoks, of the lands of Craiglockhart and Stonyepthe, vicecom. de Edinburgh.’

period. Os and Es were similar as were Ks and Rs.

William of Kincaide of Craiglocart

The record is then silent for 86 years. When the darkness is lifted it was the Kincaids who were in possession of the lands. We know this from a charter, dated 2 April 1444, from Patrick Lyon, Lord Glamis, to his squire Robert of Kincaide of the lands of Inchbrek and the mill of Antermony in Campsie Parish, County Stirling. In this charter, Robert is referred to as the son and heir of William of Kincaide of Craiglocart. The charter of confirmation by King James II, dated 12 April 1447, reads as follows (bolding added for clarity):

Jacobus dei gracia Rex Scotorum Omnibus probis hominibus tocius terre sue clericis et laicis salutem. Sciatis nos quandam euidenciam asseadaciones et ad formam dimissiones dilecti consanguinei nostri patricii lioun domini de glammys factam et concessam dilecto nostro Roberto de Kincaide filio et heredi Willelmi de Kincaide de Craiglocart de totis et integris terris de Inchbrek cum pertinencis vna cum molendino earundem terrarum iacentibus infra vicecomitatum de Strivelin et comitatu de levenax de mandato nostro visam inspectam et diligenter examinatam non rasam non abolitam non cancellatatam nee in aliqua sui parte suspectam Sed omni prorsus vicio et suspicione careutem ad plenum intellexisse sub hac forma: Be it kend till all men be thir present letters me patric lioun knight lorde of ye glammys to have sett and to ferme lettin and be thir my present lettres settis and to ferme lettis to my luvid sqwyer Robert of Kincade sonne and ayer to William of Kincade and to his assigneis al my landis of Inchebrek and ye mylne liand within ye schirefdome of Strivelin and within ye Erldome of ye levenax for ten markis of ye usuale mone of Scotland to be pait zerli at twa usualy termes yat is to say Witsunday and Martymes in winter to me myne ayris or assigneis ye said Robert or his assigneis broukand said landis and mylne of Aftermony  [with ye multouris pertinentis] before visit. And us ye saide patric my ayris sal warand ye saide landis & mylne of almyndy for al ye dayis of the said Robertes life [aganis al dedeli leleli] and treuli to be kepit but fraude or gyle. In witnes of ye quhilk thing I ye said patric has sett to my Sele to yir present lettres at ye glammys ye secund day of ye moneth of aprile ye zere of our lorde Jaj iiiij c fourti and foure zeris. Quam quidem euidenciam asseadaciones et ad firmam dimisiones in eadem contentis in omnibus punctis suis et articulis conditionibus et modis ac circumstanciis suis quibuscunque forma pariter et effectu in omnibus et per omnia approbamus ratificamus et imperpetuum confirmamus salvis nobis et successoribus nostri wardis relevis maritagiis aliis et juribus et serviciis deductis terris et molendino cum pertinencis ante presentem confirmacionis nobis inde debitis consuetis. In cuius rei testimonium presenti carte nostre confirmacionis magnus sigillum nostrum apponi precepinus; testibus Reuerendo in Christo patre carissimo consanguinei et cancellario nostro Jacobo Episcopo Dunkeldensi, Willielmo domino de Crechtoun, Alexandro de Levingstoun de calentyr, militibus, Jacobo de Levingstoun, capitaneo castri nostri de Strivelin, magistris Willielmo Turnbull, Secreti sigilli nostri custode, Johanne de Roulstoun, Secretario nostro, et Alexandro de Narme de Sandefurde computorum nostrorum Rotulatore apud Strivelin duodecimo die mensis Aprilis anno domini millesimo quadringentesimo quadregesimo septimo Et Regni nostri undecimo.10

Robert of Kyncaide of Craglokkard

It can be shown that Robert of Kincaide was the Laird of Kincaid and he succeeded his father in the lands of Craiglockart. First of all, Robert of Kyncaide of Craglokkard and his sons Patrick, David and Robert were

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10 Glasgow City Archives, Glasgow, UK. Lennox of Woodhead Papers, T-LX 1/12/1. Transcription by Peter A. Kincaid. The two parts in brackets are soiled and almost impossible to read on my black & white copy. The first one, except for the last word, was mostly a guess while the second one has only the spelling used in question.
In Nomine Domini, Amen: Per hoc presens publicum Instrumentum cunctis pateat euidenter, quod anno ab Incarnatione Domini, secundum computacionem regni Scotiae, millesimo ccclxxx quarto, mensis vero Januarii die xxvii, indictione xiiii, pontificatus sanctissimi in Christo patris et domini nostri, domini Pauli, diuina prouidencia pape secundi, anno primo: In mei notarii publici et testium subscriptorum presencia, personaliter constitutus prouidus vir, Willelmus Stewarde, filius naturalis Jacobi Stewarde de Albany, procurator et procuratorio nomine dicti Jacobi patris sui, de cuius procuracionis mandato et facultate sufficiente michi satis constabat legitimis documentis, ad principale messuagium dimidietatis terrarum orientalium de Baldorane, iacentium in comitatu de Leuenax, et infra vicecomitatum de Striuleyne, accedens, et super solum eiusdem stans, quoddam breue de saysina nobilis et potentis domini, Johannis Stewarde, Domini de Dernle, produxit, et prouido viro, Domino Murdaco Stewarde de Albany militi, balliio dicti Domini de Dernle ad infrascripta specialiter deputato, presentauit, ac michi notario publico exhibuit perlegendum; cuius breue tenor sequitur, et est talis: Johannes Stewarde, Dominus de Dernle, directo consanguineo meo, Murdaco Stewarde militi, balliio meo in hac parte, Salutem; Quia concessi hereditarie meo consanguineo predilecto, Jacobo Steward de Albany, filio naturali quondam Jacobi Stewarde, filii Domini Murdaci Stewarde, olim Ducis Albanie, et Comitis de Fyff et Menteth, totam et integram meam partem orientalem terrarum meearum de Baldorane, cum pertinenciis, iacentium in comitatu de Leuenax, et infra vicecomitatum de Striuleyne; Vobis mando et precipio quatenus dicto Jacobo, uel suo certo actornato et procuratori latori presencium, saysinam hereditarium dicte medie partis orientalis terrarum antedictarum de Baldorane, cum pertinenciis, secundum tenorem carte mee dicto Jacobo, et heredibus suis desuper confecte, visis presentibus tradatis indilate, salvo iure cuiuslibet; ad quod faciendum vobis tenore presencium plenariam committo potestatem; In cuius rei testimonium sigillum meum presentibus est appensum, apud burgum de Striuleyne, viio die mensis Januarii, anno Domini millesimo ccclxxx quarto: Quo perfecto, et in wlgari exposito, prefatus Dominus Murdacos Steward miles, iuxta mandatum in eodem breue contentum, statum et saysinam hereditarium dicte dimidietatis terrarum orientalium de Baldorane, cum pertinenciis, prefato Willelmo Stewarde, procuratorio nomine quo supra, videlecit, Jacobi Stewarde patris sui, secundum tenorem carte prefati Domini de Dernle desuper confecte, ac ibidem ostense, publicate, et lecte, per terre et lapidis tradicionem, ut moris est, tradidit et donauit cum effectu, eidem Jacobo Steward, heredibus suis et assignatis, pro perpetuo remansuris; saluo iure cuiuslibet: Super quibus omnibus et singulis, prefatus Willelmuus Steward, procuratorio nomine prefati patris sui, a me notario publico infrascripto sibi fieri petiit publicum instrumentum: Acta erant hec apud ipsam terram, hora quasi nouena ante meridiem, anno, mense, die, indictione, et pontificatu quibus supra: Presentibus ibidem prouido viro, Roberto de Kyncade de Craglokkard, Domini Willelmo Capellano, commorante cum eodem; Patricio, Dauid et Roberto, filiis eiusdem Roberti de Kyncade, Roberto Petygrew, Willelmo de Glorate, Donaldo Blar, Aulay Blar, Arthuro Roberti, Johanne Henrici, Roberti Armorar clerico, Patricio Armorar, Donaldo de Kyncade, Jacobo Lyone, Johanne Lyone, et Roberto filio Donaldi de Kyncade, cum multis allis testibus ad premissa vocatis specialiter et rogatis. Et ego Johannes Zong, presbiter Glasguensis diocesis, publicus auctoritate imperiali notarius: Premissis, etc. Johannes Zong.11

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Later in 1465, we see John Kincade of Craglokart a student at the University of Glasgow. He was perhaps the John of Kyncade who witnessed, with Robert of Kyncade of that Ilk, the foundation charter of various lands by Sir Robert Fleming of Biggar to the chapel of St. Ninians in Kirkintilloch dated at Kirkintilloch on July 23, 1451. The Lairds of Kincaid did not part with the lands of Craiglockhart as they continued in their possession. On 27 October 1473, Robert of Kincad of Craglokhart was a witness when Elizabeth Menteith, one of the heirs of Duncan, Earl of Lennox, renounced all claim she had upon the lands belonging to William Edmonston of Duntreath within the earldom of Lennox.

**William Kincaid of that Ilk**

Robert Kincaid of that Ilk died shortly thereafter and, on 27 May 1474, his son and heir William was given sasine of Robert’s lands of Inchbelly in Campsie Parish. The next day William was retoured heir to his father in the adjacent lands of Inchbreck. William Kincaid of that Ilk left no legitimate heirs and he was succeeded by his brother Patrick. William did leave two illegitimate sons; John and Peter, who were later legitimized by a royal precept dated 30 January 1515/16.

**Patrick Kincaid of that Ilk**

On 16 May 1492, Patrick Kincade, brother of William Kincade, was given sasine of the lands of Craglockhart following retour of March 27, 1492. Patrick was the first Laird of Kincaid we know the spouse of. She was Egidia Houston and she was likely the daughter of Sir John Houston of that Ilk and Elizabeth Sinclair as the Lairds of Kincaid acquired the Nether Mains of Houston which had been granted to Sir John Houston of that Ilk in 1468.

**Elizabeth Kincaid of that Ilk**

Patrick Kincaid of that Ilk had as surviving issue an only daughter named Elizabeth. She married Thomas Kincaid, younger son of Thomas Kincaid of Coates, burgess of Edinburgh and constable of Edinburgh.

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12 Munimenta Alme Universitatis Glasguensis: Record of the University of Glasgow from its foundation till 1727. Vol. II. - Statutes and annals. Glasgow, 1854. p. 71. The entry reads: {A.D. 1465} Anno etc. lxxv*to in festo Crispini et Crispiniani incorporati fuerunt subsequentes. In primus Johannes Kincade de Craglokart ...
15 Glasgow City Archives, Glasgow, UK. Lennox of Woodhead Papers, T-LX 1/12/5.
16 Glasgow City Archives, Glasgow, UK. Lennox of Woodhead Papers, T-LX 1/12/6.
On 3 July 1505, likely in fulfillment of a marriage contract, Patrick Kincaid resigned the lands of Craiglockhart for a new charter to be given to Thomas Kincaid, reserving a life estate to Patrick and his wife Egidia Houstoun. This was recorded under the Great Seal and Privy Seal of Scotland and is the first reference to a tower and fortalice on the lands. Patrick Kincaid of that Ilk died before 25 June 1507 when Elizabeth, his daughter and heir, resigned her lands of Kincaid for a new infeftment to be made to herself and her spouse Master Thomas Kincaid of Craglokkart.

Thomas Kincaid of that Ilk

Elizabeth Kincaid of that Ilk died before 10 December 1525 when her husband, Thomas Kincaid, entered into a marriage contract with Ninian Seton of Tullibody to marry his sister Margaret Seton. A few years later, Thomas Kincaid resigned his lands of Craglokart for a new infeftment to himself and his wife Margaret Seton. Thomas Kincaid was dead by 22 October 1561, when his son and heir, James Kincaid of that Ilk, got a new infeftment of the lands of Kincaid.

James Kincaid of that Ilk I

James was the son and heir of Thomas’ first wife, Elizabeth Kincaid of that Ilk. On 29 October 1562, James Kincaid of that Ilk, son of Thomas Kincaid of that Ilk, was entered in the lands of Craiglockhart following a precept under the Great Seal.

Shortly thereafter, on 30 January 1562/3, James Kincaid of that Ilk, referred to as laird of the lands of Craglokart, set Mr. John Hamilton of Bankell, burgess of Edinburgh, and Marion Crichton, his spouse, in half the lands of Craglokart. The remaining lands, which included the tower, was set to James’ cousin, Stephen Kincaid, son of James Kincaid of Coates, who became styled Stephen Kincaid in Craiglockhart.
James Kincaid of that Ilk II (m. Christian Leslie of Rothes)

Eight years later, on 19 January 1570/1, James Kincaid of that Ilk’s son and heir, James Kincaid, entered into a contract to marry Christian Leslie, sister of Andrew Leslie, Earl of Rothes. A couple of years later, on 13 February 1573/4, James Kincaid of that Ilk, resigned the lands of Craiglockhart into the hands of a King for a new infeftment to be made to the new couple - James Kincaid and Christian Leslie. This was done two days later by a charter under the Great Seal of Scotland and Stephen Kincaid was noted as still occupying the lands.

Stephen Kincaid gave up his interest on 9 September 1582 for a liferent in favor of himself and an heritable interest in favor of his second son, Robert Kincaid, to an annuament of £20 from the lands of Craiglokkart. Robert Kincaid left no children and his £20 annuament from Craiglockhart was inherited by his nephew Thomas Kincaid on 3 February 1604. The other half held by John Hamilton of Bankell was resigned by John Hamilton, merchant burgess of Edinburgh, presumably the same person, to James Kincaid of that Ilk on 28 August 1602, for a new infeftment in favor of Robert Hamilton, younger, merchant and burgess of Edinburgh.

James Kincaid of that Ilk III (m. Margaret Hamilton of Goslington)

Marriage would see title to the Craiglockhart lands affected again. This time it was to James Kincaid, son and heir of James Kincaid of that Ilk and Christian Leslie, as part of a marriage contract, dated 11 & 15 August 1604, to Margaret Hamilton, eldest daughter of Sir Robert Hamilton of Goslington. At that point, they obtained Christian Leslie’s liferent to the lands. James Sr. died in January 1606 and James Kincaid of that Ilk III was served heir to all his lands, including the lands of Craiglockhart, on 22 May 1606; Craiglockhart being a £3 land of old extent and £12 new extent. James Kincaid of that Ilk, spouse of Margaret Hamilton, was knighted by 15 March 1609.

Things then began to unravel for him as Sir James Kincaid of that Ilk was overcome with debts and had to part with much of his lands; starting with Craiglockhart. On 19 May 1609, these were given to his father-in-law, Sir Robert Hamilton of Goslington, and then Craiglockhart was sold to George Foulis, goldsmith, burgess of Edinburgh and Jonet Bannatyne, his wife, on 13 July 1609, got a new charter

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35 National Archives of Scotland, Edinburgh, UK. GD243/1/2/10.
40 National Archives of Scotland, Edinburgh, UK. GD243/1/3/7.
under the Great Seal of Scotland for the lands of Craiglockhart, with tower and fortalice. This ended the Lairds of Kincaids ownership of the lands and tower of Craiglockhart.

![Family Tree](image)

In summary, it is so far uncertain how the Kincaids originally acquired the lands of Craiglockhart granted to one James Sandok about 1358. Regardless, we do know that the above eight Lairds of Kincaid and their spouses held the lands of Craiglockhart from at least 1444 until the estate was sold in 1609. As the tower of Craiglockhart is said to date from the 15th century, it is almost certain that it was one of the earlier Lairds of Kincaid who built it.

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