

## People in Logie Blairlogie Castle/The Blair

### Owners of BLAIRLOGIE CASTLE.

Crown.

Patrick Spittal, 1480-1486

James Spittal, before 1486-1519.

Mr. Henry Spittal, 1519-1543.

Alexander Spittal, 1543-1580.

Adam Spittal, 1580-1617.

Alexander Spittal, 1617-1654.

Alexander Spittal, 1654-1696.

James Spittal (son of above), 1696-1758.

James Spittal (son of above), 1758-1796.

Elizabeth Spittal (daughter), 1796-1835.

Robert Bruce Dundas, 1835-1839.

Richard Leslie Dundas, 1839-1843.

Trustees of do., 1843-1845.

Robert Bruce of Kennet, 1845-1864.

Lord Balfour of Burleigh (son of above), 1864-1891.

Lieutenant-Colonel James Hare, 1891-1891.

Calderhall Disentail Trustees, 1891-1930.

Major General Sir Steuart Welwood Hare, 1930-1951

Major General Francis Hare, 1951-1956

Alasdair Morrison Drysdale, 1956-1972

Lewis Findlay Robertson, 1972-1980

Angus William Ogilvy, 1980-1991

Gavin Richard Dobson, 1991-2000

Present owners, 2000-



At the foot of Castle Law, near the mouth of the glen, stands Blairlogie Castle. In **1513** the lands on which Blairlogie Castle now stands were granted by James IV to James Spittal a Stirling merchant. James Spittal died in **1528** and was succeeded by his eldest son Henry. Henry however did not take up his inheritance and his son James took up the inheritance of Blairlogie estate and castle instead. It was an Alexander Spittal, son of James Spittal who in **1543** built the tower, which had an east wing added by Adam Spittal in **1582**<sup>1</sup>. This addition made the castle an L shape. The basement of the original tower is vaulted and the hall occupied the first floor<sup>2</sup>. Both the tower and the east wing are two storeys high and have in addition an attic. The walls of the castle are approximately 2 feet 4 inches thick and are made from rubble with a harled facing. The gable ends have been constructed in traditional crowsteps and the roof is covered in Scottish slates. The tower still retains many original features including four early windows. A modern projecting window was added to the south gable<sup>1</sup>.

The castle was built when safety was an important factor and therefore it has a secret chamber in the south gable wall close to the west battlement. The secret chamber was 4 feet by 6 foot 8 inches by 7 feet high. The entrance was hidden by an oak cabinet which pivoted to allow access, before pivoting back to its original position<sup>4</sup>. Alexander Spittal, who was heir to his grandfather, James Spittal, who died on the 12th December **1543**, then inherited the estate. His initials, and those of his wife, and the date, **1546**, are inscribed on the tops of the dormer windows on the west side of the castle. On the one are the initials, A. S., surmounted by the numerals 15, and on the other E. H., and the numerals (now almost illegible) 46. These, however, have no connection with the erection of any portion of the castle, but may, perhaps, refer to the date of his marriage to Elizabeth Hay<sup>4</sup>.

Alexander Spittal of Blairlogie was succeeded by his son, Adam Spittal, who was heir to his father, 16th February, **1580**. He was engaged in merchandise in Stirling, but his name does not appear in any public official capacity. After his succession to Blairlogie estate, he added, in **1582**, the east wing to the castle. He married Jean Foulis, and had issue. On 20th April, **1583**, as part of his marriage contract he gave his wife-to-be, Jean Foulis possession of half the lands of Blairlogie with Manor Place etc. for the rest of her life<sup>4</sup>. He was succeeded by his son, Alexander Spittal, who was an elder of Logie Kirk at **14th April, 1617**. He died about **1654**, and was succeeded by his son, Alexander Spittal of Blairlogie and Leuchat. Alexander Spittal, the younger married, about **1645**, Catherine, second daughter of Sir John Scott, and they had at least two sons, James, his successor, and John, who died in **1719**. From **1689**, to the time of his death, **30th March, 1696**, he represented Inverkeithing in the Scottish Parliament. He had ratification of a Charter of the lands of Leuchat, Letham, Beath, and Blairlogie to himself in Liferent, and to his eldest lawful son, James Spittal, dated **28th February, 1695/8**.

He was succeeded by his son, James Spittal of Blairlogie and Leuchat, who was born in the year **1664**, and was for some time Provost of Inverkeithing, and also, from **1697** to **1707**, M.P. for that burgh. He married a daughter of James Holburne of Menstrie. In **1689**, they had one son who died in childhood. After his wife's death, he intended to marry his wife's sister, and as that was against the law, they went to Rome to obtain a dispensation from the Pope. Soon after reaching Rome, Miss Holburne died of consumption. After several years spent in travelling on the Continent, he returned home, and resided at Leuchat.

"Perceiving his son more fond than he wished of a female cousin, he bought a cornetcy of dragoons for him, thinking that the best way to break off the connection, which he attributed to idleness, ignorance, and rawness. But a private marriage having taken place, the young woman claimed her husband, and declared herself pregnant. 'Madam,' said Leuchat, 'what shall I make of the cornetcy which I have bought.' The young woman replied 'Take it yourself, for you are much fitter for the army than him'. The son died a young man, after they had several children. The father and daughter-in-law lived together very cordially and comfortably for near fifty years, she being at great pains to make him happy, by accommodating herself to his ways.

His last illness was short and gentle. He died in **1760**, aged 96 years. His only son, James, who predeceased him, was born in **1690**, married, **1715**, and left a family. It was his son, James Spittal who succeeded his grandfather. He was born in **1716**, and was a captain in the army. He married, in **1741**, Frances Innes, and had a daughter, Elizabeth, born in **1742**, who succeeded him, in **1803**, and was married, in **1767**, to Robert Dundas of Blair, near Culross, they had a son. It was at this time that the castle and the lands of Blairlogie went to the Dundases of Blair. Mrs. Dundas died in **1835**, and her son, Robert Bruce Dundas, born in **1768**, and married in **1793**, who succeeded to Blairlogie, sold the lands, in **1845**, to Robert Bruce of Kennet.

Robert Bruce of Kennet married Anne, daughter of William Murray of Polmaise, who died in **1846**, without having children. He married in **1849**, Jane Hamilton, daughter of Sir James Fergusson, Bart., of Kilkerran, and they had one son, his successor, and one daughter, Henrietta Jane, married to Claude H. Hamilton, and had a child, Robert Bruce, who died 13th August, **1864**.

The **1861** census<sup>6</sup> shows Anne Ferguson (aged 46) living in Blairlogie Castle with one domestic servant called Helen Alison (aged 47) Anne Ferguson was living on private funds at the time.

Robert Bruce was succeeded by his son, Alexander Hugh Bruce of Kennet, born 13<sup>th</sup> January, **1849**, in whose favour the dormant title of Baron Balfour of Burleigh, attained in **1716**, was restored in **1869**. In **1875** Blairlogie Castle consisted of the following lands: the lands and estates of Blairlogie; the lands of Lipnoch; the lands of Loss; the lands and estate of Borrowmeadow otherwise called the acres or lands of Borrowmanormeadow with the salmon

and fishing on the waters of the Forth; plus 2 acres of land called the Wavinglands which was part of the Barony of Touchadam, and Teinds; 3 acres of land called Langlands in the Parish of St. Ninians<sup>5</sup>.

The **1871** census<sup>7</sup> shows that the castle was occupied by David Aitken (aged 63) a sheep farmer of 2000 acres and employing 2 shepherds. His wife Elizabeth Aitken (aged 65) was also at home as was David Aitken their 24 year old son. Christina Finlayson was their 24 year old domestic servant.

On 10<sup>th</sup> December **1875** Alexander Hugh Bruce, Lord Balfour of Burleigh also known as Alexander Hugh Bruce of Kennet used his property as a bond for £11000 in favour of Alexander Archibald Speirs of Elderslie<sup>5</sup>.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> May **1876** Lord Balfour used his property as a second bond, this time for the amount of £7000. Again it was in favour of Alexander Archibald Speirs of Elderslie<sup>5</sup>.

On 19<sup>th</sup> January **1877** Lord Balfour and his wife Lady Katherine Elizabeth Gordon made provision in the event of his death for the following: £6000 to the elder or only son (without prejudice to his expected succession to his estates; and a sum not exceeding £10 000 to the children other than the eldest or only son<sup>5</sup>.

Lord Balfour of Burleigh married, in **1876**, Katherine Eliza Gordon, youngest daughter of George John James, fifth Earl of Aberdeen. On 19<sup>th</sup> January **1877** Lord Balfour and his wife Lady Katherine Elizabeth Gordon made provision in the event of his death for the following: £6000 to the elder or only son (without prejudice to his expected succession to his estates; and a sum not exceeding £10 000 to the children other than the eldest or only son<sup>5</sup>. They had the following children: (1) Robert, Master of Burleigh, born September, **1880**, Lieutenant Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders; served in South Africa, 1900. (2) George John Gordon, born, **1888**. (3) Mary, born, **1877**. (4) Jane Hamilton, born, **1879**. (5) Victoria Alexandrina Katherine, born. **1898**. In **1891**, Lord Balfour sold the estate of Blairlogie to Lieutenant-Colonel James Hare of Calderhall, for many years commissioner for the Earl of Hopetoun.

On 10<sup>th</sup> March **1880** Lord Balfour made provision for his wife Lady Balfour of security of a restricted life annuity of £1500 after his death. On 10<sup>th</sup> March **1880**, Lord Balfour took a bond of £5000 to Lawrence Dundas, Earl of Scotland, using his lands as collateral. On 26<sup>th</sup> May **1883** Lord Balfour discharged his bond for £4000 as listed above. On 28<sup>th</sup> December **1885** Lord Balfour discharged his bond for £11000 dated 10th December **1875**, he also discharged the bond for £2000 dated 3<sup>rd</sup> May **1876**.

The **1881** census<sup>8</sup> shows that the castle was occupied by James Marshall, an 85 year old widower and retired joiner. His widowed daughter, Mrs Robt. Napier aged 50, was listed as his housekeeper, and his granddaughter Elizabeth Napier aged 24 years resided there.

On 19<sup>th</sup> May **1891** Lord Balfour sold his Blairlogie estate to Lieutenant Colonel James Hare. At this time Lt Col James Hare and his family were staying in The Cottage. The Cottage has been called Montague Cottage, Blairlogie Hotel and is now Blairlogie House.

Lt. Colonel Hare, born **1836** and who died on 21<sup>st</sup> November **1928** at Edinburgh. He was the eldest son of the late Steuart Bayley Hare of Calderhall, who died **1878**, by his first wife, Mary Anne, daughter of Alexander Maconochie, the second Lord Meadowbank, who were married on 3<sup>rd</sup> February **1834** at Kirknewton. Lt. Colonel Hare had two sisters and one brother as follows: Mary Isabella Hare who was born about **1836**; Alexander Hare who was born about **1838** and Harriet Hare born about **1841**.

Lt. Colonel Hare was married in **1861** to Alice Charlotte Tait, born about **1841** and who died on 23 December **1911** at the Grand Hotel, Rapallo, Italy. She was the youngest daughter of John Tait, Esq., Advocate, Sheriff of Perthshire, and niece of the late Dr. Archibald Campbell Tait, Archbishop of Canterbury. They had four children as follows: (1) Alice Harriot Hare who was born in **1865** in Bromley, Kent and who died on 5<sup>th</sup> November **1895** in Venice, Italy. Alice Harriot Hare's cause of death was typhoid fever caught at the Stirling Ball on 1<sup>st</sup> October **1895** after eating tainted oysters. (2) Stuart Welwood Hare who succeeded his father to the estate and who was born about **1867** and died on 25<sup>th</sup> October **1952** at Saxmundham. Stuart Welwood Hare married Mary Nina Ruttledge in Eiscorth, Ireland in **1896** and they had a son called James Francis Hare born in **1921** who married Eileen Knowles at Marlebone, Middlesex in **1945** and he died in **1972**. Lt. Colonel Hare's third child was Lucy Edith Hare and she was born about **1873** and died at Farnham, Sussex in **1956**. The last child of Lt Colonel Hare was Mary Stilwell Hare who was born about **1863** in Winchester, Hampshire and died on 21<sup>st</sup> October **1913** at Calderhall, Midlothian.

Lt Colonel James Hare had a distinguished army career and served in the army in India and was present at the storming of the Delhi Gate. He was an elder of Logie Kirk and he gave the Kirk many beautiful gifts including three oak chairs in the chancel, , the Lych Gate and the peal of bells.

When the estate was purchased by Lieutenant-Colonel James Hare, of Calderhall, in **1891**, he proceeded to carry out some alterations and extensions on the old castle. Regarding these operations and the discovery of an ancient ceiling, Mr. W. B. Cook contributed the following notice to his newspaper:

***The Stirling Sentinel*, dated August 16, 1891:-**

**"INTERESTING DISCOVERY AT BLAIR CASTLE, BLAIRLOGIE.**

About eighteen months ago, Blairlogie estate was purchased by Lieut. Colonel Hare, who is at present altering and extending the ancient mansion house on the estate known as Blair Castle, or 'The Blair,' and picturesquely situated on the table-land at the foot of the Ochils. The work is being carried out by Messrs. Headridge, masons, Causewayhead, and Mr. T. McNab, joiner, Stirling. On removing the plaster ceiling of the hall, or as we call it now, the dining-room of the old house, Mr. M'Nab observed that the oak beams which formed the original ceiling of the apartment were still *in situ*, and that they were decorated with curious antique designs. Knowing our interest in old houses from his connection with the taking down of the upper part of 'Queen Mary's Palace' in St. Mary's Wynd, Stirling, in **1877**, Mr. McNab kindly intimated to us the discovery he had made, and we paid a visit to the place. At our request, Councillor Small, who has a special knowledge of ancient architecture, afterwards inspected the ceiling, and he has furnished us with the following description:- It consisted of about a dozen oaken beams about six inches square, with the boards of the next floor resting on them. These oaken beams have all been decorated in the style prevalent at the end of the sixteenth century. They were all painted in white. The various ornaments were coloured in red, yellows, and blues, and outlined and slightly shaded by lines in black. On seven of the beams the ornament could be distinctly traced, although it was sometimes necessary to pick it out from several of the repeats. There was the familiar guilloche ornament of the period in red and green dots outlined on black. It may be mentioned here that the ornaments covered the three visible sides of the beams, but there evidently had not been any on the underside of the flooring between them. The fleur-de-lis in yellow, and red circles between, occupied another beam; conventionalized pears and leaves a third, while an elaborate design of flower, fruit, and leaves in yellows and blues was depicted on a fourth. Another carried a series of yellow rings joined together with a hand, while the sixth was covered with what we might call a rude representation of serpents with their tongues protruding and their tails twisted up, somewhat similar in design to what we see in old oak carvings of this period. The last one that could be deciphered was divided by red hands every twenty-four inches or so, and the space between filled with a pot and a flower, conventionally treated. Similar

examples of this treatment of Jacobean ceilings are to be met with in Dalcross Castle, near Inverness, in which the three sides of the beams are painted, also remains of similar decorations on the wall and ingoings of a window at the Bishop's Palace, Elgin; at Greyfriars, Elgin, where the proprietor has carefully preserved the decorations on the beams of his dining room; and at the Palace, Culross, and at other places. The examples at the Palace, Culross, are well worthy of a visit. In some of the rooms the whole walls and ceilings are covered with this painted decoration. In Blair Castle, the aumbry in the wall has a very prettily panelled oak door, with characteristic iron drop handle and hinges of the same period as the paintings. Mr. Small having taken sketches in water-colour of the various designs, we may expect from him an interesting illustrated paper for the local Archaeological Society during next session. Colonel Hare was duly informed of the discovery, but preferred a more modern ceiling for the room than the old oak beams, and they have again been concealed from view. Mr. J. S. Fleming describes the castle as a small baronial mansion of the early sixteenth century, L shaped, and situated on a spur of the Ochils. From its two irregular-shaped towers, a pair of ancient Scots firs, and the backing of a steep mountain, it is a picturesque feature of the Carse of Stirling. It is on a partially artificial terrace, 10 feet high on its south and east, and is bounded on the latter side by a mountain torrent issuing from Warrick Glen. The approach to it is by a precipitous pathway and bridge over the torrent, and its situation is of great natural strength. The three dormer windows bear respectively a *fleur de lis* and initials A. S., a thistle and initials E. H., and a man's head, or rose, and date **1513** (year of Flodden) or **1548**. The walls are very thick, windows narrow and barred, and the rooms low in the ceiling." The mark (*Reversed 4*) on one part of the castle walls indicates that its builder was a merchant. Merchants were in the habit of adding this mark to their discharged accounts. The precise meaning of this figure, and also many others of a kindred type, seems now lost. The late Marquis of Bute, when in Stirling some years ago, gave it as his opinion that it was a pious symbol, representing the movement of the arm crossing the breast in making the sign of the Cross. There are many instances of this mark on tombstones in Stirling churchyards, and there, in some cases, the figure is a reversed, 4. There are instances in the old graveyard of Logie. The same mark also appears on two old houses in Blairlogie village<sup>4</sup>.

In **October 1896** Lt Col James Hare made a bond and assigned in security of his son Stuart Halwood Hare's marriage contract, who was a Captain in the Royal Rifle Corps and in the event of his son's death, Mary Ruttledge or Hare, his son's wife. The bond was to the amount of £200 for any surviving children that they may have had and a free life annuity of £500 for Mary Ruttledge or Hare during her life and after the death of her husband, James Hare.

In January **1903** Lt Colonel James Hare sold off some of his land to Clackmannanshire Council to enable them to build the Reservoir at Loss Burn and also pipes, access road and an area for the filter plant.

In **1904** Peter MacFarlane, a joiner in Blairlogie purchased from Lt Colonel James Hare a piece of ground with a dwelling house on it. The lands were bounded on the South by the public road from Stirling to Dollar and on the North East by the footpath from the Post Office to the village of Blairlogie and on the East side by the East road leading to the village of Blairlogie.



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Lt Col Hare and Mrs Hare with his wife and eldest daughter, Mary circa 1890s

In December **1910**, Lt Colonel Hare gave permission for Francis Charles Buchanan of Powis to draw water from the spring flowing through the lands of Blairlogie from the underground tank or reservoir.

In April **1912** Lt Colonel Hare entered a long lease contract with Clackmannanshire Council renting them 2 acres, 2 roods and 25 3/5 poles of land. He also made a bond for £25,000 to Steuart Welwood Hare, Lieutenant Colonel in the Kings Royal Rifle Corps, stationed at Shorncliffe.

On 20<sup>th</sup> June **1916** had a bond for £5000 prepared in favour of his son, Major General Steuart Welwood Hare who was on active service at the time.

On December **1928** Major Sir General Steuart Welwood Hare gave servitude rights to Elizabeth Miller or Johnstone who resided at Red Carr for water rights from springs on Dumyat immediately to the north of Red Carr via water pipes.

In June **1930** Major General Sir Steuart Welwood Hare K.C.M.G., C.B. received title of his father's estate of Blairlogie, Lipnoch (now called Lipney) and Loss. Major General Hare was residing at 29 Eaton Terrace London at the time.

In November **1941** Moultrie Kelsall of Kirklea Cottage purchased 58/1000 acre of land with Kirklea Cottage and garden and servitude to laying and maintaining a track of drainage pipe to their septic tank from Major General Hare.

In November **1944** Captain Chichelé Keppel Bampton, RN purchased garden ground of 1 and 409/1000 acres Major General Hare.

In May **1946** Major General Hare sold to Marjorie Edith Jamieson of Blairlogie Cottage 396/1000 acre of garden ground.

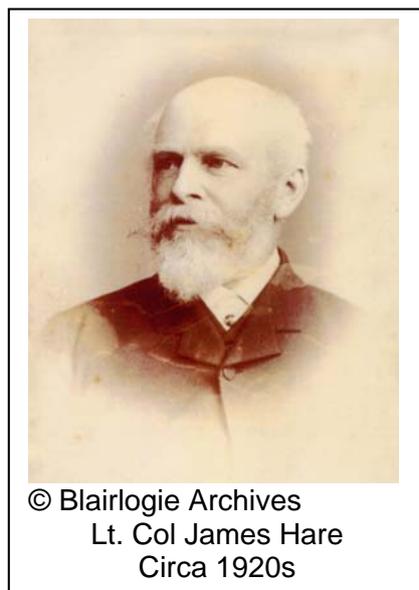
In June **1947**, Major General Hare sold the garage on the village square to Captain Chichelé Keppel Bampton, RN of Croft House.

In October **1947** Major General Hare sold the Blairlogie Reading and Recreation Room with ground attached to the Trustees of Blairlogie Reading and Recreation Room.

In May **1950** Major General Steuart Welwood Hare passed his holdings in Blairlogie, Lipnoch and Loss to his son Major General James Francis Hare who was living at 10 Harley House, Upper Harley Street, London.

In August **1951** Major General James Francis Hare now of 5 Montpellier Terrace, London sold 1/2 acre of land to David Miller of Cotkerse House.

In April **1956** Major General James Francis Hare sold the Blair (Blairlogie Castle) to Alasdair Morrison Drysdale along with 2 869/1000 acres of garden grounds. At about the same time Major General James Francis Hare sold Lipney Farm and the farm lands of Lipney and Dumyat to Duncan and Donald Burns. Montague Cottage, now known as Blairlogie House, was sold to Guinevere Madi de Beaumont of Blairlogie House along with the garden and ground and the West Lodge in May of 1956. The farm and lands of Blairmains was sold to John Eadie, farmer



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Lt. Col James Hare  
Circa 1920s

In November **1958** Major General James Francis Hare waived the feu duty on Blairlogie Reading and Recreation Room

In June **1960** Major General James Francis Hare sold to Marie Tanswell Bates or Featherstone of Montana Cottage, 1 363/1000 acres of ground including the roadway and footpaths from Gateway of Montana Cottage to Clovenstone House (Blairlogie Cottage) on west, to the gateway to Lipney Farm on East, with the area known as the square, and areas of ground either side of Kirk Green road.

In June **1961** Major General James Francis Hare sold to Charles Sharpe an area of ground known as The Croft, Blairlogie with the consent of Agnes Sharpe of The Croft, Blairlogie.

In June **1970** Major General James Francis Hare sold to Moultrie Kelsall of Kirklea Cottage 58/1000 acre of land.

In May **1972** Alasdair Morrison Drysdale sold The Blair to Lewis Findlay Robertson.

In May **1980** Lewis Findlay Robertson sold The Blair to Angus William Ogilvy.

In March **1982** Angus William Ogilvy sold Ivy Cottage to its present owner.

In April **1991** Angus William Ogilvy sold The Blair to Gavin Richard Dobson.

In January **2000** Gavin Richard Dobson sold the Blair to the present owners of the Blair.



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Blairlogie Castle Winter of 2003

## Sources

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