

Fyvie Castle Timeline

The Lairds	Tenures as Laird	What and When	Items of Interest
William the Lion	between 1211 and 1214 - exact date not known	Royal Residence - Crown property	Fyvie Castle was a Royal residence and there was also a Royal Burgh at Fyvie
Alexander II	1221 - 22nd February	Royal Residence - Crown property	He signed a charter conferring benefits on the monks of St Thomas
Reginald le Chen or Cheyne	1296 - 22nd July	Royal Residence - Crown property	Edward I of England stayed the night during his tour after the Battle of Dunbar in 1296
various owners or thanes who are known to us merely by a record of their payment of rent or tithes	1306 onwards to 1329	Royal Residence - Crown property	Robert the Bruce stayed often and made it a centre for administration of justice
Mathilda - daughter of Robert the Bruce	1345 - 1370	David, son of Robert the Bruce, bestowed the lands containing the burgh and Castle of Fyvie on his sister Matilda	
John, Earl of Carrick	1370-1380	Castle and lands reverted to the Crown in 1370 then bestowed by Robert II	
James Lindsay	1380 - 1397	marriage to Margaret, daughter of Sir William Keith, Great Marischal of Scotland	Battle of Otterburn
Sir Henry Preston	1397-1433	February 4th 1402, Castle and lands were passed over irrevocably to Sir Henry for the sum of one hundred pounds	Tammas the Rhymer curses Castle
The Meldrum family	1433 - 1596		built the Meldrum Tower in about 1440

		Alexander Meldrum of the family of Meldrum of Meldrum	At the bottom of the Meldrum Tower is a windowless, inaccessible chamber to which it was believed there was no means of access
		1450 William Meldrum son of Alexander	legend – promises of untold disaster falling on anyone who tried to get into the chamber
		1502 George Meldrum son of William	Involved in the Treaty of Greenwich 1543
		1544 William Meldrum (2) son of George	
		1577 George Meldrum (2)	
		Andrew Meldrum relative of George (2)	
The Seton family	1596 - 22nd July	Possession passed to the Seton family by the Crown	
	1596-1622	Alexander Seton 1st Earl of Dunfermline	The Green Ladye mystery - is it Lilius Drummond?
			Charles - later Charles I of England, spent many boyhood years at Fyvie in the care of the Setons
	1622 - 1672	Charles Seton 2nd Earl of Dunfermline	Battle of Fyvie 1644
	1672 - circa 1677	Alexander Seton 3rd Earl of Dunfermline	reported as dying in 1674 and alive in Fyvie in 1676
Legend of Mill of Tifty's Annie			

	circa 1677 - 1694	James Seton 4th Earl of Dunfermline	found guilty of High Treason on 14th July 1690 (for backing the wrong side). His estate passed to the Crown to be disposed of as the King saw fit. For forty three years after their forfeiture, the Castle and estate of Fyvie remained Crown property, until they were acquired by William Gordon, second Earl of Aberdeen
			Involved in the Battle of Killiecrankie
The Gordon family	1733 - 1745	William Gordon, Second Earl of Aberdeen	became Laird of Fyvie at 9 years old
	1745 - 1816	General the Honourable William Gordon	started erecting Gordon Tower in 1777
			responsible for extensive landscaping and land improvement
			Isobel Black - a housemaid - bore him a son in 1776
		William eventually married Isobel in his old age and died 25th May 1816 at the age of 80. Isobel died 3rd June 1824 age 80.	
		William Gordon (2) son of General Gordon	although illegitimate was educated by Gen. Gordon as a gentleman, going to Eton. Legitimised by his parents marriage late in their lives

	1816 - 1847	Charles, eldest son of Lord Rockville	inherited Fyvie, but he was then seventy one, so he surrendered the property to his eldest son Cosmo, merely taking an annuity from the estate for himself. He visited Fyvie only once for a few months in 1848, and he died in 1851
	1847 - 1887	Cosmo Gordon	
		Alexander (Alick) Gordon	
		Sir Maurice Duff-Gordon	tried to get into secret chamber Castle and Estate put up for sale in 1885 because of debts
The Forbes-Leith family	1889 - 1925	Alexander Forbes-Leith, Lord Leith of Fyvie	Married Loiuise January of St Louis USA in Paris October 19th 1871.
			Made a fortune in the USA steel industry
			Purchased Fyvie Castle and Estate in 1889 for £175,000
			Major refurbishment of run-down Castle, and addition of new wing - Leith Tower
			Raised to peerage in 1905 - Lord Leith of Fyvie
			King & Queen of Spain stayed at Fyvie on their honeymoon in 1906
			Son Percy died in 1900 when serving in the Boer War
			Daughter Ethel-Loiuise married Colonel Charles Burn in 1891

The Forbes-Leith family	1925-1930	Sir Charles Forbes-Leith	Ethel Louise inherited the Castle and Estate on the condition that she and her husband Charles Rosdew Burn change their name to Forbes-Leith
			eldest son Arthur killed in action at Ypres in October 1914
The Forbes-Leith family	1930 - 1973	Sir Ian Forbes-Leith	Married Ruth Barnett in 1927
			Had 4 children - John, born in 1928, Andrew, born in 1929, Anne, born in 1932, and Mary, born in 1934.
			During World War II, the Castle was first turned into a maternity hospital for a short period – babies born during this time were given the middle name of Fyvie! Later it became a convalescent hospital for badly wounded soldiers
			the family suffered a devastating loss in 1949 when the eldest son John, now aged 21 and serving as a 2nd Lieutenant with the 2nd Battalion the Scots Guards, was killed in action during the emergency in Malaya

			<p>Sir Ian died on 17 March 1973 and was much mourned. The title then passed to their second son Andrew. Lady Forbes-Leith survived Sir Ian by only seven weeks, dying on 11 May 1973. Sir Ian had been her life and she could not go on without him.</p>
<p>The Forbes-Leith family</p>	<p>1973-2000</p>	<p>Sir Andrew Forbes-Leith</p>	<p>married Jane McCall McCowan, a close friend of Anne and Mary, on 17 July 1962. Up to Sir Ian's death in 1973 Jane and Andrew lived at Dunachton, Andrew's home in Inverness-shire. The young couple were very happy in their first home, where they had four children; Miranda, born in 1963, Louisa, born 1965, George, born in 1967, and John, born in 1969. Easter, summer and Christmas holidays were spent at Fyvie where a resident caretaker was employed but without the number of staff employed by earlier generations, Jane found that keeping an eye on her increasingly adventurous children made their visits to Fyvie more difficult, and she could not have been indifferent to the family's unhappy historical associations with the Castle</p>

			In 1969 tragedy struck the family again. On the day that Jane was due to leave the maternity hospital she died following an embolism
			It was Sir Andrew who sold the Castle to the National Trust for Scotland, completing the deal in 1984. In agreeing to this purchase by the National Trust (the funds were made available to them by the National Heritage Memorial Fund), Sir Andrew ensured that the Castle and its contents would not be separated and that this unique family home would remain intact
The Forbes-Leith family	2000 - present day	Sir George Forbes-Leith	The current Laird of Fyvie