

# Kinlochmoidart House

by

Norman H. MacDonald

While the various chiefs were occupied in raising their clansmen, Charles, on 11 August 1745, crossed the Sound of Arisaig, by boat from Borrodale to Moidart and on landing at Glenuig, was met by many of the inhabitants, who had gathered to get a glimpse of him. Some of the older members of the company expressed their joy at seeing the Prince, by dancing a reel in his presence, which has since become known as The Eight Men of Moidart. Kinlochmoidart's piper, John MacIntyre, soon after Charles' arrival had already composed, in his honour, the well-known Ceol Mór, or classical piece, entitled Thainig mo Rìgh air Tìr am Mùideart -- My King had landed in Moidart. After making their way through Glenuig, Charles and his entourage took boat again at Caolas and proceeded to Kinlochmoidart, where they remained until 18 August. During this period Donald MacDonald of Kinlochmoidart returned with John Murray of Broughton who advised the Prince as to whom letters should be sent appealing for their physical or financial support for the forthcoming rising, which it had already been agreed should commence at Glenfinnan on 19 August, when the Royal Standard would be raised. According to Murray, Kinlochmoidart was charged with the duty of delivering the letters to the addressees but refused and demanded that the Prince make him one of his aides-de-camp, to which demand Charles, in the circumstances felt obliged to agree. Murray further states that he, himself reluctantly performed this service. Such behaviour is certainly not in keeping with what is known of Kinlochmoidart's character and Murray's remarks must be accepted with strong reservations. Murray was a Lowlander and had a low opinion of Highlanders. On 18 August, the Prince and his party left Kinlochmoidart on foot for Loch Shiel, from which at Dalilea, they sailed in three boats for Glenfinnan, spending the night at Glenaladale en route.

Following the Battle of Gladsmuir on 21 September, 1745, Donald MacDonald of Kinlochmoidart was sent on 24 September, north from Edinburgh to endeavour to persuade Lord Lovat to raise Clan Fraser for the Prince. On his return to rejoin the Jacobite army, he was unfortunately taken, along with his servant, at Broken Cross Muir, near Lesmahagow, in Lanarkshire, by a divinity student named Thomas Lining, assisted by a carpenter named Meikle and some of the country people armed with old

fowling-pieces and pitchforks. He was thereafter incarcerated in Edinburgh Castle on 12 November, 1745 and sent to Carlisle in August, 1746, where he was, along with the gallant Donald MacDonell of Tirnadris, the hero of Highbridge, who had been captured at the Battle of Falkirk, executed on 18 October 1746 and their heads exhibited on the Scotch Gate of the town.

The original Kinlochmoidart House was burned down by the Butcher of Cumberland's soldiers after Culloden. The avenue of trees adjacent to the present house and the main road has been named The Prince's Walk in commemoration of his visit. In the field on the south side of the present road, near the old pier are seven beech trees, the originals of which were planted in the nineteenth century, in memory of the seven principal men who landed with the Prince at loch nan Uamh and now erroneously known as The Seven Men of Moidart, while in a lay-by at the roadside opposite is a cairn, erected by the Highland Regional Council in 1995, funded jointly by the Council and the 1745 Association, with commemorative plaques by each of those organisations.