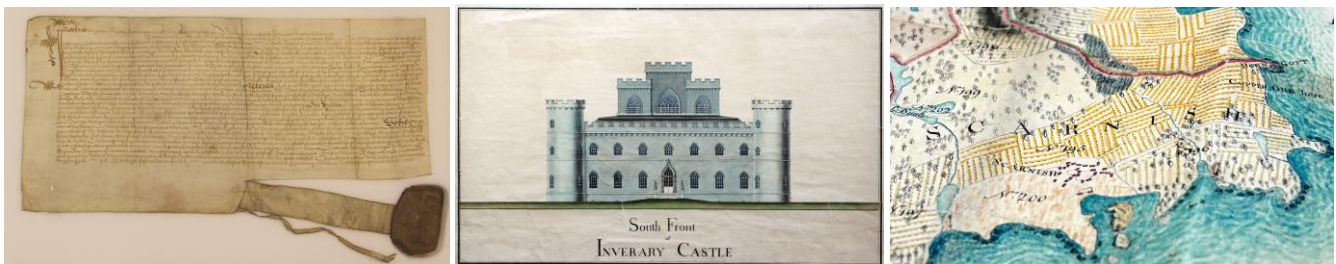




Argyll Estates Archives Collection Description

Argyll Estates Archives hold the records of the Campbell family, earls and dukes of Argyll. The archive is a rich source information on the roles played by the family in major historical events, as well as offering a window into their private lives and interests, and the management of their lands in Argyllshire and Central Scotland.



Scope and Content

The contents of the archive are wide and varied, due to:

- The historically important role of the Campbell family in Scottish, British and international affairs. From the 14th century onwards the earls and, later, dukes of Argyll were closely allied to the Scottish Crown and Parliament, acquiring a host of official roles and responsibilities which were sustained and expanded after union with England. Extensive personal papers, correspondence and accounts document the activities of the extended family in all of its endeavours, offering potential for many important historical themes and events to be explored.
- The geographical extent of the Argyll estates. Until the mid-20th century, the Argyll estates covered most of Argyllshire and also parts of Inverness-shire, Clackmannanshire, Fife, Perthshire, Stirling and East Lothian. The family also had properties in Edinburgh, London and abroad. Many of their lands were acquired controversially during the West Highland clan wars of the 16th and 17th centuries, where they were acting as Crown mediator and overseer for confiscated estates. In the 18th and 19th centuries, successive dukes invested heavily in agricultural, industrial and urban development and the records of these endeavours provide a fascinating insight into our landscape history and built heritage. Large areas of the estates also lie in some of Scotland's most marginal and fragile island environments which endured some of the worst periods of 19th century Highland famine, emigration and land agitation. The history of all these places, and of the people who lived there, is documented in detail in the archive.



- The chronological depth of the collection. Records in the archive date from the 13th to the 21st centuries, forming an unbroken record of nearly eight hundred years of the history of the Argyll family. All the key events in Scotland's history are represented to some extent. This depth of chronology is very rare for a Scottish family archive.

Principal series and items of interest

- A large collection of medieval and early modern writs and charters relating to the transfer of land and titles, marriage agreements, commissions and appointments, contracts of friendship, inquests and more. The principal collection of approximately 500 charters is arranged chronologically. This is an important collection as it includes many early royal charters which record the progressive expansion of the Argyll estates and the influence of the earls of Argyll from the 14th to the 16th centuries.
- Records evidencing the official roles and responsibilities of the earls and dukes of Argyll from the 16th to the 20th centuries, including collections of political and personal correspondence from important royal, military and noble figures with whom the Argyll family were closely associated.
- Military papers from the 16th to the 20th centuries, including militia lists, muster rolls, accounts and correspondence relating to military and political matters. These are mainly centred on 16th and 17th century periods of unrest in the West Highlands and Islands, as well as the Jacobite risings. There are also records relating to the Argyll Militia, the Territorial Army and the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders from the 19th to the 20th centuries. Additional papers relate to the First and Second World Wars.
- Extensive personal and business papers relating to family members from the 16th to the 20th centuries. These include personal correspondence between the Marquess of Argyll and Margaret Douglas in 1660 and 1673; papers of the 8th duke of Argyll when he was Secretary of State for India in the 1860s and 1870s, and papers relating to the Marquess of Lorne (later 9th duke) as Governor General of Canada, 1878-1883. There is a large and interesting collection of family correspondence for the 8th duke and duchess and their extended family, including the dukes of Sutherland, Northumberland and the Royal family. Additionally, there are diaries, photograph albums and sketch books, and a particularly complete personal archive for the 10th duke which includes extensive correspondence and a series of detailed diaries from 1892 to 1945.
- Transcripts of the content of the archive, compiled by Sir William Fraser, the 10th duke and others: approximately 250 volumes and 100 bundles or folders. The most important collection, 'The Argyll Transcripts', contains handwritten copies of many of the earliest records in the archive (24 volumes).



- Genealogies of all branches of Clan Campbell, mainly compiled by the 10th duke and Herbert Campbell in the 19th and 20th centuries.
- Extensive records of the Argyll estates for Inveraray, Rosneath, Kintyre, Tiree, Mull, Iona and Morvern, as well as the Lismore and Scammadale estates, and also for the Lordship of Campbell (Dollar, Stirling, Fife, Clackmannan and Bo'ness) from the 16th to the 20th centuries. These include accounts, rentals, tacks, correspondence and other papers relating to the administration of the estates, including the rural industries of kelp, salt, wool, lint, coal, quarries and forestry. They tell the stories of all those who lived and worked on the Argyll estates – many Campbells but others of a multitude of Highland and Lowland family names. They also include name lists, such as the List of Inhabitants of the Argyll Estate, 1779 (recording the names and ages of every person living on the Argyll Estate) and smaller scale censuses for Tiree (1776), and Campbeltown and Kintyre (1792). A large collection of estate maps, plans and written surveys also forms part of the archive and is described more fully below under 'Maps and Plans' below.
- Amongst the personal, family and estate papers described above are surveys and accounts for buildings of national importance with which the family was associated from the 17th to the 19th centuries. These include:
 - Argyll's Lodging in Stirling: titles, correspondence, surveys and accounts from the 17th and 18th centuries, including detailed accounts for carpentry work, wright work, slaters work and decoration.
 - Argyll's Lodging in Holyrood House, Edinburgh: copy royal warrant (1705) granting John, 2nd duke of Argyll, lodgings in the Abbey formerly possessed by the duke of Atholl, and vouchers for household expenses, 1776-1796.
 - General Register House, Edinburgh (today's National Records of Scotland): plans and vouchers for work done by tradesmen at Register House, Edinburgh, under the supervision of Robert Reid, architect.
 - Castle Campbell, Dollar: survey describing its state of dereliction after military occupation and estimates for repair, 18th century.

Maps and Plans

- The collection of architectural plans and specifications relates to family homes, estate buildings and county towns. They include:
 - Inveraray Castle and policies: original plans and elevations by Roger Morris, John Adam, and Robert Mylne, 1746-1789, including Roger Morris' book of 'Letters and Instructions for building Inverara Castle, 1744-47'. Also, plans of alterations made by Anthony Salvin and Ian Gordon Lindsay respectively following extensive fires in 1877 and 1975; plans and correspondence relating to the policies by William Nesfield, 19th century (incorporating 17th



century formal avenues and plantations); plans of estate buildings and follies within the policies by various architects, created in the 18th and 19th centuries.

- Rosneath Castle or House: over 100 annotated plans and specifications by Joseph Bonomi and his extensive correspondence with the 5th and 6th dukes of Argyll during the initial building process, 1802-1806.
 - The Royal Burgh of Inveraray, 18th – 20th centuries: drafts for the layout of the new town of Inveraray, one of Scotland's first planned towns, built under the instructions of Archibald, 3rd duke of Argyll and John, 5th duke. There are plans and elevations of the principal public and residential buildings by Roger Morris, John Adam and Robert Mylne.
 - Campbeltown and Oban, 1740s-1900s: including street plans, house plans and written surveys which contain detailed descriptions of properties, building styles and the people who built and lived there.
- Estate plans and surveys from the 17th to the 20th centuries, including:
 - William Douglas' plan of Iona, 1769. This is the earliest detailed map of the island and is accompanied by a brief written survey. Many other records relate to the island's history, including correspondence describing the 8th duke's efforts to manage the landscape and antiquities, his appointment of Sir Robert Rowand Anderson to repair the abbey in 1874 and his decision to gift the ownership of the abbey buildings to the Church of Scotland in 1899.
 - George Langlands' survey of Kintyre, 1770-77. This is one of the most important landscape surveys ever undertaken by a single surveyor and patron, containing detailed descriptions of 204 Kintyre farms, with recommendations for their modernisation and improvement. The process of improvement was embraced over a period of thirty years and is recorded in a very large collection of estate records recording the amalgamation and abandonment of marginal settlements, the division of shared tenancy farms into modern farming units, and the introduction of new families, technologies and industries into the peninsula, which by the middle of the 19th century had become the industrial and agricultural heartland of the Argyllshire.
 - James Turnbull's survey of Tiree, 1768/9. A large, gloriously illustrated and highly coloured map depicting the island landscape before the modern crofting landscape was created in the 19th century. It shows densely packed clusters of large farming townships separated by rigs of infield and outfield cultivation, common grazing, 'old danish forts' and other antiquities. It is accompanied by a detailed 111-page written survey describing each township in detail, with minutely recorded observations on farming practices, fishing and the way of life of the island's inhabitants. There are many other 18th and 19th century surveys for the island, which is particularly well documented owing to its geographical location.
 - 20th century maps of Auchindrain and Auchnagoul townships, near Inveraray, which demonstrate the rare survival of traditional shared farm tenancies long after the practice had died out elsewhere.



Sub-collections

- Family and estate archives and personal papers of allied or related families:
 - Callander of Ardkinglas and Craigforth, 17th to the 19th centuries
 - Campbell of South Hall, 18th to the 19th centuries
 - Campbell of Craignish, 17th to the 19th centuries
 - Campbell of Barbreck, 18th to the 19th centuries
 - Campbell of Glendaruel, 18th to the 19th centuries
- Records of the Synod of Argyll, 17th - 19th centuries. For much of this period the Synod of Argyll covered most of the West Highlands and Islands of Scotland, from the Western Isles and Skye in the north, to Arran in the south. It contains many references to the building and maintenance of churches, manses and schools, to ministers and schoolmasters, the recruitment of Gaelic speaking ministers, and to Catholic and 'pagan' religion. It also includes individual items of interest such as the oldest known collection of Scottish Gaelic proverbs dating from c. 1700.
- The Dewar Manuscripts, an important collection of Gaelic folklore comprising traditional tales, historical stories, poems and songs, and genealogies, collected by John Dewar for the 8th duke of Argyll, 1862-72, in seven volumes. A little-known near-contemporary English translation by Hector MacLean, 1879-81 is also held in the archive (6 volumes) together with four volumes of Lord Archibald Campbell's folklore collection, 'Celtic Waifs and Strays.' Correspondence relating to all of these collections is preserved amongst family correspondence and personal papers.

Condition

Some records are fragile or dirty, some have been damaged over the years or unsuitably repaired, and a small number are affected by mould. Affected items will not be available for consultation where this is likely to cause further damage. Ongoing sponsorship programmes organised by the Friends of Argyll Estates Archives will fund the treatment and repair of these documents.