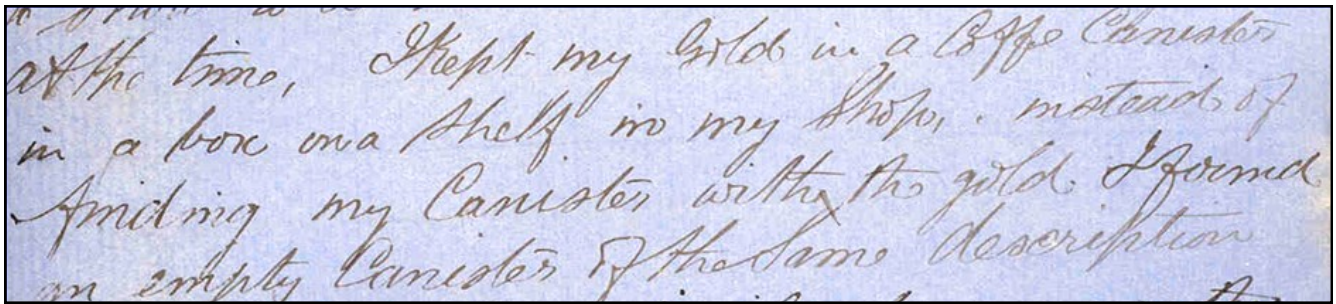


The Gold Rush year at Kildonan, although a prosperous period for the region, also saw its share of quarrels. One particular case highlights the greed and desperation which can be brought by gold.

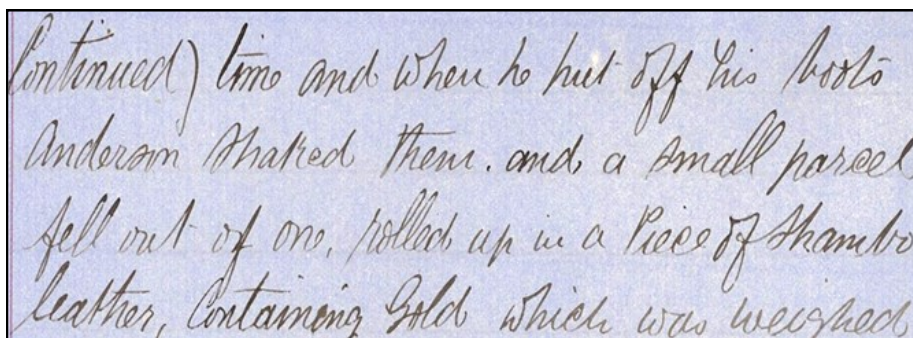
Duncan Fraser, aged 45, was a storekeeper in Baile an Or in September of 1869. He made a complaint to Sergeant Ross that he had been the victim of a theft.



Mr Fraser kept two ounces of gold in a box, inside a coffee canister on a shelf in his shop. He had shown the gold to a traveller the day before and, since now it had disappeared, he suspected that this particular traveller, Robert Rider, a 41 year old Furrier from Birkenhead, had stolen his gold.



Robert Rider had resided in Kildonan for some time at the gold diggings and was in possession of a miner's license. He had not had much luck at the gold fields and had coincidentally left Kildonan the same day Mr Fraser discovered the disappearance of his gold. As Mr Fraser was eager to recover his gold and have the thief brought to justice, the police set out right away and managed to apprehend Mr Rider as he was leaving the area. He was taken to the local police station and searched, but the police found no gold in his possession. He was released, but Mr Fraser was not satisfied with this result. The suspect was searched again, and this time was asked to remove his boots. As he did so, a small package fell out of his boot which turned out to be a small nugget of gold, weighing two ounces.



On discovery of this, Mr Rider was arrested and we can follow his journey as a prisoner through the records.

" Robert Rider Theft 2116

We are told in the Daily Occurrence Book written by Sgt. Ross that the prisoner will be taken to Golspie and then transported from there to Dornoch.

Sunday - At 2.30 Am. left Station House and assisted Sergeant Anderson in conveying Robert Rider charged with Theft. by Mail Coach to Golspie and by a hired Machine from there to Head quarters Dornoch. Saw Inspector

When the prisoner arrives in Dornoch, it is noted in the daily Occurrence Book of Sergeant Bridgeford of Dornoch Station.

Serg Anderson arrived with prisoner Robert Rider charged with Theft

The prisoner is processed at Dornoch station and his crime is entered in the Register of Parties Accused of Crimes and Offences, along with the fact he was prosecuted and the sentence he received which was 30 days imprisonment.

Register of parties accused of Crimes and Offences

Date and Name when taken into custody	Name & address of Person Detained	Age	Cause of Retention	Hour brought to Station
Sept 4 10 P.M.	Robert Rider Gold Miner Kildonan		Charged with Stealing Gold at Kildonan	8 a.m. 5 <sup>th</sup> Sept 69

Detained	Or is admitted to Bail	Signature of Constable taking the Charge	No. of Charge	Procurator-Fiscal to whom Charge is reported	Proceedings taken by Procurator-Fiscal	Magistrate before whom Charge is brought	Charge: How disposed of by Magistrate, and what Offence proved	Remarks by Magistrate
yes		Alexander Anderson	24	do	prosecuted	Sh. Punny, Dornoch	Thft. 30 Days Imprisonment	

