

Inverness Burgh Town Council Minute Book, 1702-1720
(GB0232/BI/1/1/9)

[1715 - Inverness Castle was in the hands of Sir John McKenzie of Coul and a group of Jacobite rebels who had been proclaiming that 'King James the Eighth' was the rightful king and not King George I.

7th November 1715. The Provost, Alexander Clark, and the magistrates received a letter from Hugh Rose of Kilravock, John Forbes of Culloden and Mr Duncan Forbes which read as follows]

"We are credibly informed, that you the Magistrates, Town Councill and Community of the Burgh of Inverness, have collusively and deceitfully admitted in to your Castle a Garrison of about a Hundred rebels commanded by Sir John McKenzie of Coull, who stiles himself Governor for the pretender under the designation of King James the Eighth of Scotland; and as such avowedly uplifts and intrometts with all publick money for the maintainance of his rebellion, which pretended Governor and Garrison you dayly intertain, converse with openly and comfort and assist alleadging upon your parte that you are overawed and forc'd therto, altho it be obviously in your power to apprehend, arrest and secure these rebels and traitors to Our Sovereign King George and his Government dayly in your streets or at least to dislodge them from the ruinous house where they now shelter themselves, by refusing to comfort, and, or assist them; these are therfor pursuant to the Powers and Instructions given us, requireing you forth with to apprehend, arrest and secure the person of the said Sir John McKenzie and of the other rebels....denying him and them all aid and comfort and means of subsistance until you either apprehend and secure him and them as above or force and constrain him and them to relinquish and abandon your said Castle. Certifieing you, that if you ommitt or failzie in any article of the premises, wee will look upon and demain you, as aiders, assisters, maintainers and comforters of rebellion, and as Traitors and open enemies to our Sovereign King George and as such will anoy and prosecute you with fire and sword and the outmost vigour of war."

[The Magistrates wrote back to claim that they had done nothing wrong and were only guilty of doing what they had been forced to by the rebels.

Alongside the Lovat Frasers and the Forbes', Hugh Rose determined to blockade Inverness.

Following the fatal shooting of Arthur Rose (Hugh Rose's brother) by rebels on 12th November, Hugh Rose wrote to McKenzie of Coul and the rebels demanding they surrender. On the 13th November the McKenzies took boats along the river and escaped north.]