

Title – P720: Photographs of the Site of the Battle of Altimarlach, near Wick, 1680

RECORDS' IDENTITY STATEMENT

Reference number:	P720
Alternative reference number:	
Title:	Photographs of the Site of the Battle of Altimarlach, near Wick, 1680
Dates of creation:	2008
Level of description:	Fonds
Extent:	9 photographs and CD
Format:	Photographs and CD

RECORDS' CONTEXT

Name of creators: David A. Taylor, photographer

Administrative history: From Wikipedia:

The Battle of Altimarlach or Altimarlech was a Scottish clan battle that took place on 13 July 1680. It was fought between the Clan Campbell and Clan Sinclair.

In 1672, debt forced George Sinclair, 6th Earl of Caithness, to resign his titles and estates in favour of Sir John Campbell. Campbell took possession of the estates on Sinclair's death in May 1676, and was created earl of Caithness in June the following year. Sinclair's heir, George Sinclair of Keiss disputed the claim and seized the land in 1678.

On 13 July 1680, Campbell took a force of 800 men north to evict Sinclair of Keiss, who was waiting for him with 500 men near Wick. Inflamed with drink, the Sinclairs attacked the force of Campbells and were routed. Legend has it that so many Sinclairs were killed that the Campbells were able to cross the river without getting their feet wet.

The Campbells' piper composed a tune before the battle, whose English translation is "Gaffers in Trousers". This was meant to taunt the Sinclairs who,

unlike the Campbells who wore kilts Highland dress, wore tartan trews.

Aftermath

Having failed to regain his inheritance by force, Sinclair of Keiss then turned to the law. He took his place as Earl of Caithness on 15 July 1681, and his lands were restored on 23 September. Campbell was made Earl of Breadalbane by way of compensation.

Custodial history:

RECORDS' CONTENT

Description:

Appraisal:

Accruals:

RECORDS' CONDITION OF ACCESS AND USE

Access: Open

Closed until: -

Access conditions: Available within the Archive searchroom

Copying: Copying permitted within standard Copyright Act parameters

Finding aids: Available in Archive searchroom

ALLIED MATERIALS

Related material:

Publication:

Notes:

Date of catalogue: 14 May 2015

Ref.	Description	Dates
P720	Nine colour photographs of the site of the Battle of Altmarlach near Wick, 1680 and monument erected in 1901, by David A. Taylor [9 photographs and CD]	2008