

P143 Picture of Sir John Sinclair of Ulbster

RECORDS' IDENTITY STATEMENT

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Title: Picture of Sir John Sinclair of Ulbster

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RECORDS' CONTEXT

Name of creators:

Administrative history: Sir John Sinclair, 1st Baronet (10 May 1754 – 21 December 1835) was a Scottish politician, writer on finance and agriculture and the first person to use the word statistics in the English language, in his vast, pioneering work, *Statistical Account of Scotland*, in 21 volumes.

Sinclair was the eldest son of George Sinclair of Ulbster, a member of the family of the Earls of Caithness, and was born at Thurso Castle, Thurso, Caithness. After studying at the University of Edinburgh, University of Glasgow and Trinity College, Oxford, he was admitted to the Faculty of Advocates in Scotland, and called to the English bar, but never practised.

In 1780, he was returned to the British House of Commons for Caithness constituency, and subsequently represented several English constituencies, his parliamentary career extending, with few interruptions, until 1811. Sinclair established at Edinburgh a society for the improvement of British wool, and was mainly instrumental in the creation of the Board of Agriculture, of which he was the first president.

His reputation as a financier and economist had been established by the publication, in 1784, of his *History of the*

Related material:

Publication:

Notes:

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Ref.	Description	Dates
P143	Picture of Sir John Sinclair of Ulbster	n.d.
P143/1	Printed black and white engraving of Sir John Sinclair of Ulbster, "from the original painting in possession of the family" by Sir H. Raeburn R.A. [1 sheet]	n.d.