

The Earl of Seafield

Alexander Walker

arr: P.S.C.

reel

EARL OF SEAFIELD [2], THE

Walker: A Collection of Strathspeys, Reels, Marches, &c.), 1866; No. 31, pg. 12.

Scottish, Reel. A Minor, original AAB (above AB - octave variations added, P.S.C.)

Composed by Alexander Walker in honour of either Francis William Ogilvy-Grant, 6th Earl of Seafield (1778-1853) or John Charles Ogilvy-Grant, 7th Earl of Seafield (1815-1881)

Note: A different reel (one in the key D by Donald Grant) circulates with the same title.

During the time of Alexander Walker's stay at Newe (1850-1870) there were two Earls of Seafield, Colonel Francis William Ogilvy-Grant, 6th Earl of Seafield who died in 1853 and then John Charles Ogilvy-Grant, 7th Earl of Seafield. The family seat is Cullen House, near Cullen, Moray. (See tune 'The Countess of Seafield')

It is probable the one Alexander Walker heard most about was John Charles Ogilvy-Grant, 7th Earl of Seafield. (Viscount Reidhaven from 1840 to 1853,)

The Earls of Seafield were:

Lewis Alexander Grant-Ogilvy, 5th Earl of Seafield (1767-1840), (Earl 1811 - 1840)

Francis William Ogilvy-Grant, 6th Earl of Seafield (1778-1853) (Earl 1840 - 1853)

John Charles Ogilvy-Grant, 7th Earl of Seafield (1815-1881) (Earl 1853 - 1881)

Ian Charles Ogilvy-Grant, 8th Earl of Seafield (1851-1884) (Earl 1881 - 1884)

After the fifth Earl of Seafield's death in 1840, his younger brother and successor, the sixth Earl, reversed the order of the surnames, styling himself Ogilvy-Grant. In 1858, the latter's son, the seventh Earl, was created Baron Strathspey, of Strathspey in the Counties of Inverness and Moray.

The family seat is Cullen House, near Cullen, Moray. In 1883 the family estates consisted of 160,224 acres in Inverness-shire, 96,760 acres in Morayshire, and 48,946 acres in Banffshire, making a total of 305,930 acres.

Alexander Walker Connection

When Alexander lived at Braes of Enzie and went to Rathven School these were Parishes in the Seafield Estate. iAlexander would have known all about the family and may have played at events when they were present.