

Chronology

- Two periods of major clearances: 1782-1820; 1840-1854
- 1762 Sir John Lockhart-Ross inherits Balnagowan and introduces sheep-farming to the north.
- 1782 Thomas Geddes, a Lowland sheep-farmer, takes a lease on Balnagowan land.
- 1783 Thomas Gillespie rents a sheep-walk on Glenquoich from Macdonell of Glengarry.
- 1784 The Forfeited Estates, administered by the Crown since the Jacobite Rebellion, are restored to their owners.
- 1785 First large clearances on Glengarry's estates.
Marriage of Elizabeth, Countess of Sutherland, to the Marquess of Stafford.
- 1786 Large emigrations to Canada from Knoydart, on Glengarry's property.
- 1790 The Great Cheviot brought to Ross and Caithness.
- 1792 THE YEAR OF THE SHEEP.
- 1800 First clearances in Sutherland, small numbers to the north of the River Oykel.
- 1801 STRATHGLASS. Beginning of the evictions.
- 1802 Disbanded men of the Glengarry Fencibles leave for Upper Canada.
- 1807 SUTHERLAND. Ninety families removed from the parishes of Farr and Lairg.
The Northern Association of Gentlemen Farmers and Breeders of Sheep resolve to obtain a Royal Charter to extend their activities in Inverness, Ross, Sutherland and Caithness.
- 1809 SUTHERLAND. William Young and Patrick Sellar take employment with Lord Stafford. Removals from the parishes of Dornoch, Rogart, Loth, Clyne and Golspie.
STRATHGLASS. More large clearances.
- 1812 SUTHERLAND. Patrick Sellar clears wide districts in Assynt.
- 1813 SUTHERLAND. Removals in lower Kildonan. The 'rebellion' of the Gunns.
James Loch becomes Lord Stafford's Commissioner.
- 1814 THE YEAR OF THE BURNINGS. First clearance of Strathnaver.
- 1815 The Society of True Highlanders formed by Alistair Ranaldson Macdonell of Glengarry.
James Loch publishes a brief account of the Improvements completed and proposed for Lord Stafford's estates in Sutherland.
- 1816 THE TRIAL OF PATRICK SELLAR.
- 1817 An annual sheep and wool market established in Inverness.
- 1819 SUTHERLAND. Final clearance of Strathnaver and Upper Kildonan.
- 1820 ROSS. The Culrain Riots and evictions in Strathoykel.
- 1821 SUTHERLAND. Riots and evictions at Gruids.
- 1825 The kelp industry, in decline since the end of the French Wars, is now destroyed by the abolition of the excise duty on salt. The lairds of the Isles, particularly Clanranald, begin the sale of their estates.
- 1829 Lord Stafford buys Lord Reay's Country.
- 1830 Emigration increases with destitution. According to the northern Press this year 'a fever of emigration is raging in the county of Sutherland'.
- 1831 The Marchioness of Stafford, Countess of Sutherland, tours Lord Reay's Country.
- 1832 CHOLERA.
- 1833 Death of Lord Stafford who, six months before, was created Duke of Sutherland.
- 1836 FAMINE.
- 1839 Death of the Duchess-Countess of Sutherland.
- 1841 SUTHERLAND. Rioting and deforcement in Durness.
- 1842 ROSS. First attempt to deliver writs of removal to the people of Glencalvie.
- 1845 ROSS. Glencalvie cleared. Delane of *The Times* sends a Special Commissioner to report.
Failure of the potato crop in Ireland and famine.
- 1846 FAMINE following the potato blight.
Establishment of Destitution Relief Boards in Glasgow and Edinburgh.
- 1847 Food riots.
- 1849 GLENELG evictions.
SOLLAS evictions from Lord Macdonald's land on North Uist.
- 1850 STRATHCONON evictions by James Gillanders and others.
- 1851 SOUTH UIST AND BARRA. Evictions by Colonel Gordon of Cluny.
- 1851 The Skye Emigration Society formed under the chairmanship of Thomas Fraser, Sheriff-Substitute of the island.
STRATHAIRD evictions on Skye.
- 1852 The Highland and Island Emigration Society formed under the patronage of Prince Albert. It absorbs the Skye Society. The Land and Emigration Commissioners offer ships and assistance.
- 1853 SKYE. Lord Macdonald clears the last of the people from Boreraig and Suishnish.
- KNOYDART. Mrs Macdonell of Glengarry, with the trustees of her son's estate, serves writs of removal on the last of her sub-tenants there.
Harriet Beecher Stowe's first visit to Britain, and her meeting with the second Duchess of Sutherland.
- 1854 ROSS. Last evictions from the property of Robertson of Kindeace in Strathcarron. 'The Slaughter at Greenyards' and 'The Massacre of the Rosses'.
KNOYDART. The Lord Advocate orders an inquiry into the the state of paupers there following the evictions.
Failure of the recruiting campaign in the Highlands.
- 1856 Harriet Beecher Stowe's second visit to Britain. She stays at Inverary and Dunrobin to gather 'notes on the clearances', and publishes them in *Sunny Memories*.