

LETHEN IMAGES

Images dated 1884 (Lethen Estate, Ardclach Parish): Mr James Mann and family at Cairnglass [1. Mann, Cairnglass]; Mrs Murdoch and family at Lynemore [2. Murdoch, Lynemore]; The Free School maintained at Knockandhu with teacher and pupils [3. School, Knockandhu]; Mr John Rose at Daltra [4. Rose, Daltra]; Mr Donald McQueen at the Carpenter's Shop near Dulsie Bridge [5. McQueen, Dulsie]; James Falconer and Alexander Cattanach tying a salmon fly at Dunearn Lodge [6. Falconer & Cattanach, Dunearn]. Contributed, with notes, by Sarah Brodie.

3. School, Knockandhu



Caption: Lethen. Free School maintained by T.D. Brodie at Knockandhu, with the Teacher, Miss Caroline Murdoch, Lynemore, & her pupils – 1884.

Notes:

This photo was published in 'A Salmon for the Schoolhouse; a Nairnshire Parish in the Nineteenth Century, from the Diaries of Robert and Elsie Thomson', John Love & Brenda McMullen eds, 1994.

(see introduction re. schools & school board politics in Ardclach parish)

In 1884 the other schools in the parish were: Ardclach Parish School near the Kirk (moved to Ferness 1890); the Lethen School at Fornighty (originally SSPCK); and Colonel Campbell's school at Achmatone.

The Knockandhu school was short-lived. It opened in January 1883 with 15 pupils under Caroline Murdoch in what is now the Lethen gamekeeper's house at the entrance to Dunearn Lodge, and closed c.1890.

After Caroline Murdoch married in November 1888 and moved with her husband to Petty, a Miss Penny continued as schoolmistress (referred to in Elsie Thomson's

journal 24 May 1890, when H.M. Inspector examined the Knockandhu school along with the Ardclach Parish School). Miss Penny was probably Jeannie Young Penny, daughter of William D. Penny teacher of the Public School at Delnies. She was at Delnies Schoolhouse age 17 and a 'pupil teacher' in the 1881 census and, perhaps after a brief stint at the Knockandhu School 1888-90, she was back with her family at Delnies Schoolhouse as assistant teacher age 27 and unmarried.

[T.D. Brodie - Thomas Dawson Brodie WS (1832-1896) only son by his 1st marriage of John Clerk Brodie WS, younger brother of James Campbell Brodie of Lethen. When his young cousin James Campbell John Brodie of Lethen died in 1880 leaving a widow and young children, T.D. Brodie stepped in to help manage the estate during the minority of the next Laird]