

DALWHINNIE

a Hamlet on the Great North Road



COMPILED BY
DALWHINNIE PAST & PRESENT



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Dougie Abercrombie, Bill Carr, Christine Crichton, Ross Dakers, Marilyn Mercer, Ron Mercer, Sheena Slimon & Maureen Stronach.



Front cover: An early postcard of Loch Ericht with Lochend Cottage.

*Dedicated to
the people of Dalwhinnie past, present and future.*

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INTRODUCTION



From *The Kingussie Record* 30th July 1904

Dalwhinnie ought to be better known, with its excellent fishing in dark, dreary, Loch Ericht. There is a good hotel with a most courteous landlord and landlady, and a charming temperance hotel, but both should be as big again. Give us a good road and they will be. I cannot recommend this place too much, for its grandeur, its awesome sublimity, its silence and romance and listen, it is so healthy that one is charmingly hungry. There is champagne in every breath you breathe and the only wonder is that people die here at all.

DR GORDON STABLES R.N.

CHAPTER ONE

The People



The famous Scots fiddler NEIL GOW—his portrait hangs in Blair Castle. He met Robert Burns there in September 1787. Gow composed the tune “Loch Erich Side” which Burns used for “Address to the Woodlark”.



JAMES HOGG—“*The Etterick Shepherd*” a famous Scots songwriter, poet and novelist, who followed in the footsteps of his hero Robert Burns. In 1803 he literally followed as far as the hills, overlooking Loch Ericht towards Ben Alder, whilst staying at Dalnacardoch Inn where Burns also visited.



MRS KENNEDY, proprietor of the Dalwhinnie Inn with Piobair MacPherson at the visit of HM Queen Victoria on 8th October 1861.



A VILLAGE OUTING c. 1920. *Included in the photograph are:* MAGGIE MACBEAN, MEM MACBEAN, ELLA ALLAN, BETTY ALLAN, MRS FORBES, DONNIE WALLACE, JIMMIE ALLAN, GEORGIE OLIVER, JEAN MCLENNAN, ROSIE CAMERON, HUGHIE MATHESON, MISS ROSS, JAKE FORBES, FRANCIS ANDERSON, ALEC MCLENNAN, TEDDY ALLAN, EUNICE CAMPBELL, WINNIE CAMPBELL, MRS ALLAN, JOCK CRAIB, BELLA WALLACE, MRS WALLACE *and* MR COCHRANE.



MARY MCLAGAN *seen at a grouse butt at Drumochter about 1929.*
The man in the pith helmet is DOUGIE MATHESON, Proprietor of the Loch Ericht Hotel.



DAVIE CRAIB, a famous ghillie, with a stag on a garron (Highland pony) probably around Drumochter.



MR DOUGIE MATHESON, proprietor of the Loch Erich Hotel from 1929 to 1961.
Pictured at a wee snowbank.



The Minister and his wife—MR & MRS COCHRANE.



*The last wedding in THE CHURCH.
MR & MRS GEORDIE & BARBARA CAMERON in 1974.*



A vehicle leaving the Grampian Filling Station in wintry conditions, 15th February 1963.



Great North Road through Dalwhinnie in winter (snow drift outside MacPherson's shop).



A snow blower clearing Ben Alder Road.



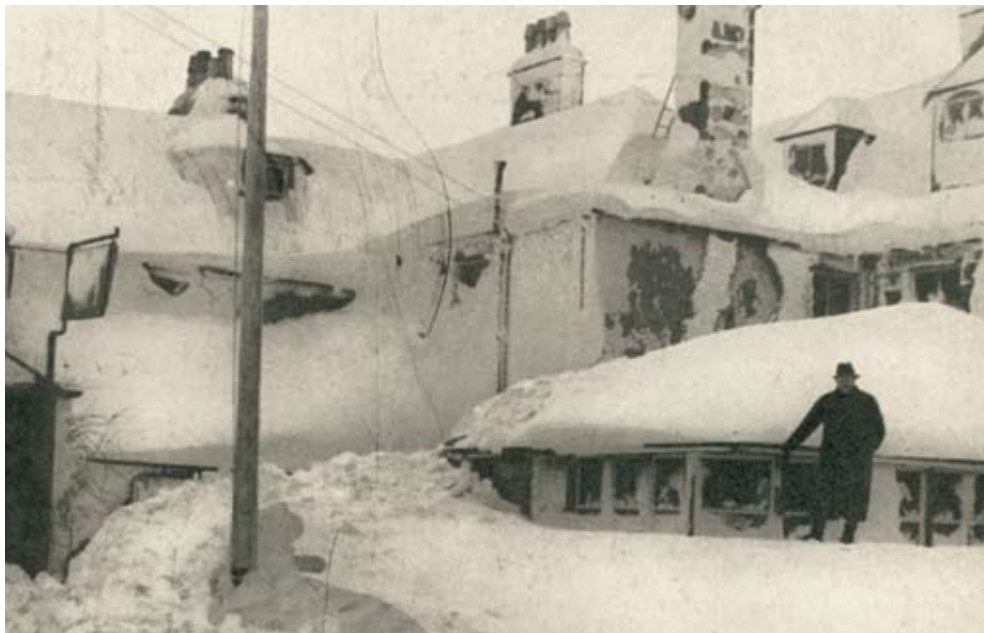
Aerial photograph of the Dalwhinnie by-pass (A9) under construction in 1976.

CHAPTER SEVEN

The Loch Ericht Hotel



Very early photograph. The Inns at Dalnacardoch and Dalwhinnie were in a ruinous condition in 1770, but were restored by the Commissioners of the forfeited estates on the grounds that they were necessary for judges on circuit and for officers of the army. Dalwhinnie had a reputation for sending its guests on their way at 5.00 a.m. of a summer's morning, after a breakfast of eggs and trout. The Whisky was excellent but peak-reek invaded the Port.



DOUGIE MATHESON, owner of the hotel from 1928 until the 1960s, outside in 1940 after a snow storm.



View from the South. The stone building is the original building and was built by General Wade in 1729. There have been many famous visitors including Queen Victoria and Robert Burns. On spending the night of 25th April 1770 at Dalwhinnie John Wesley declared the inn “the dearest Inn I have met with in the North”. During the same night 3 women were smothered in a snow drift crossing to Blair Atholl.

CHAPTER EIGHT

The Railway



Early photograph of Dalwhinnie Station looking South. The main building shown was burnt down in 1927.

CHAPTER NINE

The School



DALWHINNIE SCHOOL.



DALWHINNIE SCHOOL pupils in 1908, some being barefoot—it could not have been winter.



DALWHINNIE SCHOOL pupils c. 1920s. *Back row:* PETER YOUNG, HUGHIE MATHESON, DONNIE WALLACE, JIM McLAGAN, JONNIE MACBEAN, RONNIE STEWART, WILLIE CAMERON, JONNIE STEWART, JIM YOUNG, TEDDY ALLAN. *Middle row:* DOUGLAS CAMERON, ANNIE MACLEOD, MAGGIE MACBEAN, JEAN ALLAN, ELLA ALLAN, NANNY GRANT, ?, MARY McLAGAN, CHARLIE McLAGAN, JIMMY GRANT. *Front row:* IAN FORBES, JEAN MCLENNAN, JIMMY ALLAN, GEORGIE OLIVER, IAN YOUNG.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

The Distillery



*The earliest picture of DALWHINNIE DISTILLERY.
It was built in 1897 and originally named Strathspey Distillery until it was opened a year later.*



THE DISTILLERY *after the fire. Note the piles of rubble to the left of the buildings.*
The Distillery was closed for 4 years whilst being rebuilt, and reopened in 1938.



Workers at the Distillery (pre-war)—TOMMY KERR is the person wearing an apron.

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

The Mountains



At the foot of An Dun can be seen McCook's COTTAGE, before the extension was built.



View from Ben Alder. In the foreground Loch a' Bhealaich Bheithe and beyond it Loch Ericht and 12 miles away, Dalwhinnie.



View of BEN ALDER from Beinn Bheidil

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