

Considerable Persons of the Family of Gordonstoun here interred', moved from its central position opposite the entrance to a new position several feet to the right, the work of removal and erection being rather carelessly done unfortunately and resulting in some damage to the stone. In its place he erected a white marble tablet with pillared sandstone surround and base, and headed, 'In memory of those of the Family of Altyre whose mortal remains lie in the vault beneath'. Below this heading the tablet records details of his father, the 1st Baronet, also those of his mother, and has a curious error of dates in recording that Sir Alexander, "Succeeded to the Gordonstoun estates on the death of Sir William Gordon, Bart., 1794". A glance at the nearby Gordon memorial shows that Sir William Gordon died in Edinburgh on the 5th of March 1795, clearly the Altyre family could not have succeeded to the estate in the year preceding the date of death of the last of the Gordons. After the details of his father and mother Sir William added a note recording 3 of their children who died in infancy, Jane, Mary, and Emilia, and when first erected the lettering ended at that point. Additional details were added after the death in 1854 of Sir William himself. The full text reads as follows:

In Memory  
of  
Those of the Family of Altyre  
Whose mortal remains  
Lie in the Vault Beneath.

**SIR ALEXANDER PENROSE CUMMING GORDON BART.,**  
Born 19th May 1749, married 9th September 1773  
Helen, 5th daughter of Sir Ludovick Grant of Grant, Bart.  
By Lady Margaret Ogilvie, eldest daughter  
of James, Earl of Findlater, and Seafield.  
Succeeded to the Gordonstoun estates on the death of  
Sir William Gordon, Bart. 1794, Died 11th Feb. 1806  
**DAME HELEN**, his spouse, born 29th May 1754  
Died 1st January 1832. They had issue seven sons and  
Nine daughters, of whom Jane, Mary, and Emilia,  
Lie in the vault beneath

**SIR WILLIAM GORDON GORDON CUMMING, BART.,**  
Born 20th July 1787 Succeeded his father in 1806.  
Married September 1815, Eliza Maria, eldest daughter of  
Col Campbell of Shawfield — by Lady Charlotte Campbell  
second daughter of John, Duke of Argyll — by whom he had  
seven sons and six daughters, two of whom, Walter and Constance  
died in infancy, and lie in the vault beneath.  
**DAME ELIZA MARIA**, Died 21st April 1842  
**SIR WILLIAM GORDON GORDON CUMMING**  
Died at Altyre November 23rd 1854  
**SOPHIA CUMMING** 7th daughter of  
Sir Alexander Penrose Cumming Gordon,  
Born 16th November 1784, Died 28th February 1861

The memorial being filled by the details above, the lines which follow have had to be carved on the base of the tablet:

**ROUALEYN GEORGE**, 2nd son of Sir William Gordon  
Gordon Cumming, Born 15th March 1820  
Died at Fort Augustus, 24th March 1866

The details referring to Sophia Cumming and Roualeyn George are both later additions to the memorial. Roualeyn, son of the second Baronet, achieved some considerable fame as a big game hunter in Africa being dubbed 'The Mighty Hunter'. Many of his trophies adorned the large hall in Altyre House until it was demolished in 1955.

At some time after the death in 1866 of the third Baronet, Sir Alexander Penrose Gordon Cumming, yet another memorial was erected in the mausoleum. It is in the form of a heavy, ornate, Victorian tablet of dark grey granite with sandstone surround flanked by four pink granite pillars and is affixed to the wall immediately on one's right on entering the building. It was erected by Sir Alexander's widow and records also her own death and burial later. The inscription reads:

Erected  
by  
Dame Anne Pitcairn Campbell  
In Memory of  
Her Beloved Husband  
**ALEXANDER PENROSE GORDON CUMMING**  
Baronet, eldest son of  
Sir William Gordon Gordon Cumming  
and Dame Eliza Maria Campbell  
Born at Altyre 17th August 1816  
Died in Edinburgh 2nd and  
interred here 11th September 1866  
also of  
**DAME ANNE PITCAIRN CAMPBELL**  
born 17th December 1819  
Died at Gordonstoun 18th and  
Interred here 22nd August 1888

Sir Alexander was a close friend of Charles St. John, the famous naturalist and author of many books on wild life, who records (*Sport in Morayshire*, p.38) that he and Sir Alexander were out together shooting wildfowl over Loch Spynie as recently as February of 1847.

But the total neglect of the Gordonstoun policies continued throughout Sir Alexander's lifetime and, at a time when Gordons-