



## *Some Distinguished, Notable or Famous Sinclairs*

*Clan Sinclair Canada has developed a series of four descriptive files about Clan Members which appear on the Clan Sinclair Canada website available at [www.clansinclair.ca](http://www.clansinclair.ca) including:*

- 1. Honourary Life Members (HLM) and Distinguished or Important Canadian Sinclairs.**
- 2. Recipients of the Clan Sinclair Merit Awards for Service presented by Clan Sinclair Chief Malcolm Caithness.**
- 3. Some Distinguished, Notable or Famous Sinclairs other than Canadian.**
- 4. William and Nahovway Sinclair (W&N) fur trade era pioneers and their Descendants who have made outstanding contributions to the future social fabric of Canada.**

### **St. Clair/Sinclair Family History**

Much of the early history of Scotland and its families should not be taken at face value. The history of the Sinclair Family is no exception. Despite Sir Bernard Burke, a noted genealogist, stating in his book 'A Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Peerage and Baronetage' in 1847 that "No family in Europe beneath the rank of royalty boasts a higher antiquity, a nobler illustration, or a more romantic interest than that of St. Clair", the origins of the Sinclair Family are disputed and various. Some claim we are descended from Jesus (*The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail – Michael Baigent and others*); others say our roots are the semi-mythical ancestors of Hrolf (Rollo), the founder of Normandy in France (*The St. Clairs of the Isles – Roland Sinclair*) and others that we were part of a larger movement of people from central Europe and then from France to England. In his chronicle of the Norman people (*Roman de Rou – Wace*) there were Sinclairs with William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings in 1066 and two Saint-Clairs are mentioned in the Domesday Book in 1086.

Charters are generally the most important primary source document in trying to determine medieval history accurately. As a result of studying them we do know is that in the late 1000s there were Sinclairs owning land in many counties in England. At present, there is no DNA or written evidence to link these Sinclairs with those in Scotland. Significantly, the first charter to a Sinclair in Scotland was not from the King but from Richard de Morville to Henry de St Clair in 1162 of land at Herdmanston, to the east of Edinburgh. The first Royal charter was to William Sinclair in 1279 of land at Roslin (*The Enigmatic Sinclairs – Gerald Sinclair and Rondo BB Me*). Not only do DNA results show no link between the two families at that time but also that Sinclairs tested who are of the Roslin line do not have any Norse DNA in the male line that could go back to the Viking period. (*St. Clair Research*). It was the Roslin Sinclairs, through talent, dynastic marriages and good fortune, which became one of the most powerful and influential families in Scotland. They reached their zenith with the 1st Sinclair Earl of Caithness (Sir William Sinclair of Roslin), on whose death the family estates were divided between his three sons whose descendants are the current Earl of Caithness: Earl of Roslin and Lord Sinclair. Since then, Sinclairs have remained close to the center of power in Britain and influential all over the world. Before its reform in 1999 there were seven Sinclair peers entitled to sit in the House of Lords in the United Kingdom.

## **The early Sinclairs in Scotland**

### **Henry St. Clair (of Herdmanston) (1100s)**

Henry was the first Sinclair in Scotland to receive a grant of land by charter in 1162 from Richard de Morville.  
*The Enigmatic Sinclairs*

### **Sir William St. Clair of Roslin (c1240 -1297)**

William, no relation to the Sinclairs of Herdmanston, was granted the barony of Roslin by charter from King Alexander III in 1279. He came to prominence when commanding a wing of King Alexander III's army in the defeat of the Norse at the Battle of Largs in 1263. Early in 1279 the King appointed William as guardian of Alexander, Prince of Scotland who, in turn, was the nephew of Edward I of England. Around the same time he acquired the Knights Templar lands of Gourton from Walter fitz Stephen de Melville. He was appointed a member of the Scots Parliament at Scone on 5 February 1283–84. In 1285, William was one of the members of the Scottish embassy to France that was tasked with escorting back the queen-elect, Yolande of Dreux, daughter of Robert IV, Count of Dreux. William was among the Scots who defeated the English at the Siege of Dunbar in 1296, but also among those who, with two of his sons, were soon defeated by the English at the Battle of Dunbar where many of them were taken prisoner. He was among those who were sent as prisoners to the Tower of London. *Wikipedia and St Clairs of the Isles, Rotuli Scotiae, Scots Peerage (Paul)*

### **Sir Henry St. Clair of Roslin (c1275-1335)**

Sir Henry was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron of Roslin and succeeded to this title in 1297 and married Alice de Fenton (1270-1336). He, like his father, was captured at the Battle of Dunbar and later sent to St Briavels Castle, from which he was ransomed. He fought in the Battles of Roslin (1303) and Loudon Hill (1307) and also at Bannockburn in 1314 in support of Robert the Bruce – defeating the English on three occasions. He along with eight Earls and thirty-one Barons signed the Declaration of Arbroath on 6th April, 1320 - a letter from Scottish Nobles to the Pope John XXII declaring Scottish independence. The declaration confirmed Scotland's status as an independent, sovereign state and defended Scotland's right to that declared Scottish independence from England. In 1321 Henry started the family's long association with Caithness and Orkney when appointed Ballivus of Orkney. *Wikipedia*

### **William St. Clair of Roslin (d1337) The Bishop of Dunkeld and The King's Bishop**

Second son of Sir William, William was the third member of the family to be captured at the Battle of Dunbar in 1296 and imprisoned in Gloucester Castle from which he escaped. In 1309 he became the Bishop of Dunkeld and was responsible for building part of the 'old' Cathedral. In 1317 at the Battle of Donibristle in Fife he rallied the retreating Scottish forces to gain an emphatic victory over the English. As a result of this King Robert the Bruce proclaimed him his bishop and that he should be known as the King's Bishop. In 1332 he crowned Edward Balliol as King of Scotland after the Battle of Dupplin. He also served in the Scottish Parliament. *Wikipedia, Scots Peerage (Paul)*

### **William St. Clair of Roslin (1300-1330) and his brother John St. Clair (d1330)**

William and John, sons of Sir Henry, was killed alongside Sir James Douglas when trying to take the heart of Robert the Bruce to the Holy Land. William was one of a group of knights selected to fulfil the King's dying wish to be taken on a crusade. The party only got as far as Grenada in Southern Spain, where they encountered Saracens and both Douglas and St Clair were killed in a Battle at Teba. The remains of the fallen knights were returned to Scotland along with Robert's heart, which is now buried in the ancient monastery Melrose Abbey where the Bruce's Heart has recently been rediscovered. *St Clairs of the Isles, Wikipedia*

### **William St. Clair of Herdmanston (late 1200s/1300s)**

A comrade in arms to King Robert the Bruce, William was, after the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314, presented by the King with a sword on which was engraved “Le Roi me donne, St Cler me porte”. Literal translation “The King gives me, St Cler carries me.” *St Clairs of the Isles*

### **Sir William St. Clair of Roslin (c1320s - ?)**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sinclair Baronet of Roslin. William succeeded from his grandfather, his father having been killed at the Battle of Teba. He made one of the great dynastic marriages when marrying Isabella, second daughter and eventual heiress of Malise II, last Norse Earl of Orkney, Caithness and Strathearn thus uniting his large and increasing land holdings around Roslin with hers in the north of Scotland. He built Kirkwall Castle in Orkney as his base there. He was succeeded by his son. *St Clairs of the Isles*

### **Sir Henry St. Clair of Roslin, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Orkney (c1346 - c1404)**

4<sup>th</sup> Sinclair Baronet of Roslin. Due to his mother's lineage, Henry was able to contest his claim to the Jarldom (Earldom) of Orkney and Lordship of Shetland which he received from King Hakon of Norway in 1379 as Orkney and Shetland were then owned by Norway. Thus began a unique period of about one hundred years when the Sinclairs owed fealty to both the Kings of Norway and Scotland. There is circumstantial evidence that he organised, with the noted Italian seamen, Nicolo and Antonio Zeno, a fleet of ships to explore westwards to Greenland and what is now North America in about the year 1398. There is neither proof that this did or did not happen, but it was eminently feasible and we know his mother had ancestors who reached what is now L'Anse aux Meadows in Newfoundland four hundred years earlier. To strengthen Sinclair connections his second son John became governor of Shetland and his eleven daughters all made successful marriages to major Scottish families. Henry possibly died in a naval battle against the English defending Orkney and Shetland around the year 1400. *Primarily St Clairs of the Isles and The Enigmatic Sinclairs*

### **Sir Henry St. Clair of Roslin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jarl (Earl) of Orkney (c1375-1420)**

Henry, son of the 1<sup>st</sup> Earl, was born about 1375 at Roslin Castle. He was taken prisoner by the English at the Battle of Homildon Hill in 1402 but was soon released. He was captured again in 1406, when he escorted Prince James to France, but his ship was captured by the English. Both were imprisoned in the Tower of London and he was ransomed for the equivalent of £40,000,000 in today's money. His marriage to wealthy Egidia Jill Douglas, from one of Scotland's foremost families, in about 1407 brought more land into the family, this time in southwest Scotland and in Stirlingshire. He was the first of his family to hold the title of Lord Sinclair. He was a shrewd diplomat serving two monarchs, a good businessperson, close advisor to the King of Scotland, warrior, scholar and religious benefactor. *The Enigmatic Sinclairs*

### **Sir William St. Clair (Sinclair), 3<sup>rd</sup> Jarl (Earl) of Orkney and 1st Earl of Caithness (1410 -1484)**

William Sinclair, 5<sup>th</sup> Baronet of Roslin, was also the 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Orkney, and later became the 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Caithness (1455). He inherited at an early age in unsettled times. He outmaneuvered his uncle and guardian to be confirmed by the Danish King (who at the time was also King of Norway and Sweden) as the Earl of Orkney and simultaneously became a member of the Council of the Scottish King, James I, whilst still in his teens. At the age of twenty-eight he organised and led the embassy which took Princess Margaret of Scotland, along with a retinue of 1200 plus 140 servants, to Paris to marry the Dauphin, the heir to the French throne. Aged about thirty-four he became Chancellor of Scotland. A year later, in 1455, he was granted the Earldom of Caithness, so he was concurrently holding two earldoms and paying allegiance to two different kings and nations. In 1456 he commissioned Sir Gilbert Hay to translate treatises on knighthood and chivalry from French to Scots. In 1460, following the death of King James II, he was part of the inner council during the minority of young King James

III and also his guardian. He had extensive business interests throughout Scotland, Orkney and Shetland including two baronies in burgh. In 1471 he received an historic and unprecedented seven charters in one day from king James III when he relinquished the Earldom/Jarldom of Orkney when Shetland and it became part of Scotland. At the same time, he skillfully arranged affairs so that after giving up the Earldom of Orkney, the Sinclairs still effectively governed the islands for another 75 years after his death. His other major legacy, and the one for which he is most known for today, is there for all to see carved in stone at Rosslyn Chapel, which he commenced building in 1446 and supervised for 35 years until his death in 1480. His son Oliver terminated construction with a decade after his demise. William effectively disinherited his son William by his first marriage, although he had already been gifted the barony of Newburgh. William his eldest son by his second marriage was granted the title of Earl of Caithness and lands with it. Sir Oliver, his second son by his second marriage was left an extraordinarily rich and all-encompassing feudal domain comprising Rosslyn (Roslin) and Pentland. *The Enigmatic Sinclairs*

## **Sinclairs in the UK after 1480**

### **John Seintcleere (1500s)**

Knighted with the sword at the Coronation of King Henry VIII of England and Anne Boleyn in 1533. *The Knights of England (Shaw)*

### **George Sinclair, 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Caithness (early 1500s - 1582)**

Received a grant from Mary Queen of Scots of the hereditary Justiciary of the North of Scotland with full power over life and death in 1566. The next year he was appointed Foreman of the Jury at the trial that acquitted James, Earl of Bothwell for the murder of Lord Darnley and who then married Mary. The Earl of Bothwell's sister Jean was George's daughter in law having married his eldest son, John. *Dictionary of National Biography, Scots Peerage (Paul)*

### **Oliver Sinclair of Pitcairn and Whitekirk (1523 – 1585)**

A son of the Sir Oliver Sinclair of Roslin who had inherited Roslin from his father the 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Caithness. Oliver was a favourite of King James V of Scotland and had the keeping of the king's purse during his trip to France in 1537. In 1540 he was appointed Justice, Sherriff, Admiral and Baillie of Orkney and Shetland by King James V of Scotland. From some accounts he led a fractious Scottish army at the Battle of Solway Moss in 1542 against the English at which he was captured, and the Scots were defeated. *Wikipedia, St Clairs of the Isles, Collins Encyclopaedia of Scotland*

### **Sir William Sinclair of Roslin (1600s)**

William was confirmed by the William Schaw petition from the Master of the King's Work as Grand Masters of the Masons of Scotland in 1630 and for the position to be hereditary. *Rosslyn Chapel (The Earl of Rosslyn), St Clairs of the isles*

### **Henry 11<sup>th</sup> Lord Sinclair and 1<sup>st</sup> Lord Sinclair of the Herdmanston line (1660 - 1723)**

Henry obtained from King Charles II in 1677 a new patent of the Sinclair peerage, with a remainder to the heirs-male of his father in default of the male issue of his own body, thereby bringing a totally different family into succession to the prejudice of the heirs-male of his own body. He thus effectively created two titles. His son John Sinclair, Master of Sinclair participated in the Jacobite rising of 1715 and attainted by Parliament. Consequently, he was not allowed to assume the title. He died childless in 1750 when the claim to the title passed to his younger brother General James St Clair (d1762) de jure 12<sup>th</sup> Lord. However, he never assumed the title. On his death the lordship became dormant. It was to remain so

until it was successfully claimed by Charles Sinclair, 13th Lord Sinclair, grandson who was confirmed in the title by the House of Lords in 1782. *St Clairs of the Isles, Wikipedia*

### **Sir William St Clair of Roslin, 15th Baronet of Roslin (1700-1778)**

William had an interest in sport and was a skilled golfer and archer. He redesigned the Old Course at St. Andrews to 18 holes thus affecting all golf courses since. He was a Scottish Freemason and became the last hereditary Master Mason and first Grand Master Mason of the Grand Lodge of Scotland by acclamation on 30 November 1736. Known as the last of the Roslin's because he died without male heirs. *Wikipedia, St Clairs of the Isles*

### **Sir James Sinclair of Rosslyn (1700s)**

In 1745, Sir James, a lieutenant general with the Royal Scots regiment, was appointed the commander of the British Forces in Flanders. In 1746, at the Battle of Culloden, he commanded the Royal Scots regiment on the British-Hanoverian Government side. *Wikipedia*

### **John Sinclair, 11th Earl of Caithness (d1789)**

John entered the army becoming a major in the 76th Regiment of Foot. He served for some time in America where he was wounded in the groin by a musket ball while reconnoitering with Sir Henry Clinton at the Siege of Charleston in 1780 during the War of American Independence. *Wikipedia*

### **Alexander Wedderburn PC, KC, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Roslin (3 February 1733 – 2 January 1805)**

Alexander was a Scottish lawyer and politician who sat in the House of Commons between 1761 and 1780 when he was raised to the peerage as Baron Loughborough. He served as Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain from 1793 to 1801. His first wife died childless in 1781, and the following year he married Charlotte, youngest daughter of William, Viscount Courtenay; her only son died in childhood. Lord Loughborough accordingly obtained in 1795 a re-grant of his barony with remainder to his nephew, Sir James St. Clair Erskine. He was created Earl of Rosslyn on 21 April 1801, also with remainder to his nephew. *Wikipedia*

### **Sir John Sinclair of Ulbster; 1<sup>st</sup> Baronet (1754-1835)**

Sir John was a relative of the family of the Earls of Caithness. He was educated at the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow and at Trinity College in Oxford. He was admitted to the Faculty of Advocates in Scotland and called to the English Bar although he never practiced law. Sir John was the first President of the Scottish Board of Agriculture, of which he had been instrumental in creating and became the Compiler and Editor of the First Statistical Account of Scotland. He introduced the use of the word "*statistics*" following a trip to Northern Europe to examine agricultural techniques thereby adopting the use of the word in a slightly different context. He was returned to the House of Commons for Caithness in 1780, his parliamentary career extending to 1811 with few interruptions. His reputation as a financier and economist had been established by the publication of his *History of the Public Revenue of the British Empire*. Widespread ruin was prevented by the adoption of his plan for the issue of Exchequer Bills and on his advice, Pitt issued the "loyalty loan" of eighteen millions for the prosecution of war. *Wikipedia*

### **Charles St. Clair 13<sup>th</sup> Lord Sinclair and 4<sup>th</sup> Lord Sinclair of Herdmanston Line (1768 –1863)**

He was the son of Andrew St Clair, de jure 12th Lord Sinclair, grandson of Charles Sinclair, de jure 11th Lord Sinclair (d. 1755) and great-grandson of the Matthew St Clair, uncle of the tenth Lord. He thereby became the first

holder of the title without descent from the original Lords. He was able to claim the title as a result of the new patent Henry 11<sup>th</sup> Lord Sinclair had obtained (see Henry 11<sup>th</sup> Lord Sinclair). *St Clairs of the Isles*

### **Mary Amelia St. Clair Sinclair (1863-1946)**

Mary Amelia St. Clair Sinclair, also known as *May Sinclair*, was an English writer and suffragist known for her innovations in the development of the psychological novel. After attending Cheltenham Ladies' College for one year (1881–82), Sinclair began to develop her writing. She had originally hoped to become a poet and a philosopher, and though she did publish many critical essays on idealism throughout her career, she is known for her poetry and fiction. Her first publication was a book of poems, *Nakiketas, and Other Poems*—published in 1886 under the pseudonym Julian Sinclair—and she followed that with *Essays in Verse*, another book of poems, in 1892. About 1896 she moved to London, where she did translation from German for pay and worked on her own writing. She published *Audrey Craven*, her first novel, in 1897. *Britannica*

### **Andrew Sinclair (1794–1861)**

Following medical training Andrew entered the navy as an assistant surgeon in 1822 and became a surgeon in 1829. Much of his spare time was taken up with collecting botanical and zoological samples, many of which he sent to the British Museum. Later he started work as a surgeon on convict ships to Australia and had opportunities of collecting at several Australian ports. He presented a fine collection of shells and insects to the British Museum so that staff were encouraged to start the first systematic catalogue. Andrew served as Colonial Secretary in New Zealand from 1843 to 1855. Having arrived to find a colony was bankrupt and which had just experienced its first settler-Māori conflict. More conflict was brewing, settlers had lost trust in the Government, and discontent amongst Māori was common. After a successful tenure of office his post ended when New Zealand obtained responsible government. He is credited with training staff who formed the core of an effective civil service for New Zealand. Andrew is also remembered for his contribution to natural history. During his term of office as colonial secretary he spent much of his spare time collecting botanical specimens for Kew. *Wikipedia*, <https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/1s12/sinclair-andrew>

### **John Sinclair 1<sup>st</sup> Lord Pentland GCSI, GCIE, PC (1860 – 1925)**

John, after leaving the army, became a politician in the Scottish Liberal Party was a Member of Parliament (MP) in the British Parliament from 1892 to 1895 and 1897 to 1909. He served as the Secretary for Scotland as a MP. He was given a peerage in 1909 and continued to serve as the Secretary for Scotland from 1909 to 1912 as a peer. He was created a Privy Councillor in 1905. He was the Governor of Madras, India from 1912 to 1919 and was made a Knight Grand Commander of the Order of the Indian Empire in 1912 and a Knight Grand Commander of the Order of the Star of India in 1918. *Wikipedia*

### **Sir Archibald Sinclair of Ulbster KT, CMG, PC; 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Thurso (1890-1970)**

Archibald Sinclair trained at Sandhurst and served in the British Army during World War I. He was briefly second in command to Sir Winston Churchill when Churchill commanded the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Royal Scots Fusiliers'. He became MP for Caithness and Sutherland from 1920 to 1950 and became leader of the Liberal Party in 1935. During World War II, 1940 to 1945, was the Secretary of State for Air in Winston's Churchill Cabinet. He also served as Rector of the University of Glasgow from 1938 to 1945. He was created Viscount Thurso in 1952. *Wikipedia*

### **Robert John Sinclair, 1st Lord Sinclair of Cleeve (1893 –1979)**

Robert's family business was tobacco. During the Second World War, Sinclair served as Director-General of Army Requirements at the War Office from 1939 to 1942 and as Chief Executive at the Ministry of Production from

1943 to 1945. After the war he was President of the Federation of British Industries, a Member of the Security Commission, and Pro-Chancellor of Bristol University from 1946 to 1970. He also held the honorary post of High Sheriff of Somerset. England. *Wikipedia*

### **John Maynard Sinclair (1896-1953)**

John was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland served in the British Army during World War I. In October 1937 he raised and commanded the Antrim Fortress Royal Engineers at Victoria Barracks, Belfast, one of the first Territorial Army (TA) units in Northern Ireland. Besides being a successful businessperson he was elected to the House of Commons of Northern Ireland in 1938 for the division of Belfast Cromac. He was appointed Minister of Finance (de facto Deputy Prime Minister) in the Government of Northern Ireland on 6 May 1943 and was made a Privy Councillor (Northern Ireland). He was drowned on January 31st, 1953, in the sinking of the ferry MV Victoria Princess that was enroute crossing the North Channel from Stranraer, Scotland to Larne, Ireland. *Wikipedia*

### **Sister Margaret Sinclair (1900-1925)**

Margaret endured many hardships during her youth, leaving school at fourteen to become a full time factory worker, to help her family cope with the daily cost of living with her father and elder brother fighting in France in World War I. Later, she joined the “*Celettine Poor Clares*” taking up convent life and adopting the name of Sister Mary Francis of the Five Wounds. She worked hard to encourage giving and helping the poor while establishing a devout following as many saw her life to be like their own. In 1978, Sister Margaret was declared “venerable” by Pope Paul VI. *Wikipedia*

### **Brigadier James Roderick Sinclair, 19th Earl of Caithness, CVO, CBE, DSO (1906 – 1965)**

Roddy joined the Gordon Highlanders and rose to the rank of Brigadier and as such led his regiment (part of the 51st (Highland Division) through France, Belgium, the Netherlands into Germany during World War II and was decorated with the Distinguished Service Order and made Commander of the Order of the British Empire. In 1949 he was appointed the first Commander of the Ceylon Army and played a major role in establishing it as a regular army from the volunteer Ceylon Defence Force till 1952. On returning to the UK, he was given various postings in England and Scotland before in 1955 being appointed land agent and manager of Her Majesty The Queen's Private Estate at Balmoral Castle, Aberdeenshire. After leaving the army, he was appointed Colonel of his old Regiment the Gordon Highlanders. He was made a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order. *Wikipedia*

### **Susan Cunliffe-Lister, Countess of Swinton, Baroness Masham of Ilton, (née Sinclair; 1935 – 2023)**

Sue was daughter of Major Sir Ronald Sinclair of Dunbeath (8<sup>th</sup> Baronet) and grew up in Caithness. She sustained spinal cord injuries in 1958 in a riding accident, becoming paraplegic when she was 22 years old. In 1974 she founded the Spinal Injuries Association. She represented the UK in several Paralympic Games in Rome, Tokyo, and Tel Aviv winning gold, silver and bronze medals in both swimming and table tennis. On marrying David Cunliffe Lister, Lord Masham and became the Countess of Swinton when David succeeded to that title. She also received a peerage in her own right and sat in the House of Lords as Baroness Masham of Ilton. Her 53 years' membership of the House of Lords was the longest of any female peer. *Wikipedia*

### **Sir Clive Marles Sinclair (1940 - )**

Sir Clive was best known for his work inventing various consumer electronic products during the 1960's, 70's and 80's. He founded Sinclair Radionics in 1961, where he produced the first slimline pocket calculator and later the ZX 80, the United Kingdom's first and highly successful mass marketed home computer costing less than £ 100. He also formed Sinclair Research producing the TV80, a flatscreen portable mini television utilising an



ingenious cathode ray tube. LCD television technology was in advanced development however, and the Sinclair FTV1 (TV80) was a commercial flop, only producing 15,000 units. Sinclair also formed Sinclair Vehicles and released the Sinclair C5, a battery operated electric vehicle that was also a commercial failure. Since then Sinclair has concentrated on personal transport, including the A-bike, a folding bicycle for commuters that weighs 5.5 kilograms (12 lb) and folds down small enough to be carried on public transport. Due to his prowess as an inventor, Sinclair was Knighted in 1983. *Wikipedia*

### **Veronica Linklater, Baroness Linklater of Butterstone (1943 –2022)**

Veronica was the granddaughter of Sir Archibald Sinclair, 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Thurso. Like him, she was a British Liberal Democrat politician. Her interests were in children's welfare, education and special needs, and prison reform. She was created a life peer as Baroness Linklater of Butterstone, of Riemore in Perth and Kinross, in the 1997. *Wikipedia*

### **Sir Malcolm Ian Sinclair of Canisbay PC; 20<sup>th</sup> Earl of Caithness (1948 - )**

After starting his career in land management, Malcolm became a commercial surveyor and developer before entering politics. He was a minister in the United Kingdom Governments of Margaret Thatcher and John Major from 1984 to 1994, serving in various ministries. He was the only hereditary peer in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century to have been a Minister in the Home Office, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Treasury, where he was also Paymaster General. He was appointed a Privy Councillor in 1989. As Chief of Clan Sinclair, he maintains a consultancy role on “*all things Sinclair*” coordinating his activities across a spectrum of Clan Sinclair Associations representing Clan Members in several countries including Australia, Canada, Italy, New Zealand, Norway, Romania, Scotland, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. He founded the Clan Sinclair Trust whose purposes include the conservation and preservation of Sinclair Castle Girnigoe located on Sinclair Bay near Wick, Caithness, Scotland. Malcolm is a Hereditary Peer elected to sit in the House of Lords. *Malcolm Caithness*

### **Malcolm Sinclair (1950 -)**

Malcolm became a British stage and television actor and President of Trade Union, Equity 2010–18. He has acted in television programmes and performed with theatre companies such as the Royal National Theatre, Royal Shakespeare Company both in Britain and internationally. In 2001 he won the Clarence Derwent Award and was also nominated for an Olivier Award as best supporting actor for his performance as Major Miles Flack in *Privates on Parade*. *Wikipedia*

### **Sir John Sinclair of Ulbster; 3<sup>rd</sup> Viscount Thurso PC (1953 - )**

Before becoming a politician, John joined the Savoy Group as a management trainee in 1972 and ended his successful career in the tourism and hospitality industry as CEO of the Champneys Group. John is notable for having served in the House of Lords both before and after a period in the House of Commons. He first joined Parliament in the House of Lords as a hereditary peer in 1995 and served until 1999, when he was among the majority of hereditary peers who were removed from Parliament following the House of Lords Act 1999. John was the elected Member of Parliament for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross from 2001 to 2015. He was appointed a Privy Councillor in 2014. In 2016, John returned to the House of Lords after winning a by-election to fill a vacancy among the remaining Liberal Democrat hereditary peers. He became chair of VisitScotland in 2016 and later became Lord Lieutenant of Caithness in 2017. *Wikipedia*

### **Peter St. Clair-Erskine; 7th Earl of Rosslyn, CVO KPM (1958 - )**

Peter's early career was in the Metropolitan Police Service reaching the rank of Chief Inspector in the 1990s. From 2003 to 2014, he was head of the Royalty and Diplomatic Protection Department (since amalgamated into



Protection Command). Upon relinquishing his appointment was appointed a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (CVO) having received the King's Police Medal (KPM) (at the time called the Queen's Police Medal - QPM) in 2009. Peter was then appointed as Master of the Household to The Prince of Wales, and The Duchess of Cornwall at Clarence House. In 2023, he was appointed Lord Steward of the Household and was appointed Personal Secretary to Their Majesties by King Charles III. Peter and his wife Helen established and still manage The Rosslyn Chapel Trust to oversee the much-needed conservation of the chapel which his ancestor had built (see **Sir William St. Clair (Sinclair), 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Orkney and 1st Earl of Caithness (1410 -1484)**). It opened as a sightseeing destination in 2011 but also remains a working church. Peter is a hereditary peer and was elected to sit in the House of Lords in 1999. *Wikipedia, <https://www.rosslynchapel.com/church-services/>*

### **Matthew Murray Kennedy St. Clair 9<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Lord Sinclair (1968 - )**

After qualifying as a Chartered Surveyor Matthew founded and is Director of Saint Property Limited as well as owning, a farming and forestry enterprise in Kirkcudbrightshire. He was appointed Deputy Lieutenant for Kirkcudbright in 2016. *Wikipedia*

## **Sinclair in Australia**

### **Duncan Sinclair (1700s)**

Master of The Alexander, part of the first fleet bringing convicts and settlers reaching Sydney Cove in 1788. He was the subject of the first civil action case brought in Australian legal history being the Writs by Henry and Susannah Cable who had been convicts on his ship. *<https://firstfleetfellowship.org.au/ships/hms-alexander/>*

### **James Sinclair (1809- 1881)**

James was a natural horticulturalist and artist. From his home in Scotland he undertook further training at Kew Gardens in London. In 1838 Prince Mikhail Semenovich Vorontsov of Russia invited him to plan his estate at Sebastopol in the Crimea. The quality of his work so impressed Tsar Nicholas I that he borrowed him to assist in laying out the Imperial Gardens at St Petersburg. He was honoured with the Imperial Order of St Anne. In 1854 he emigrated to Melbourne and was given the job of converting sixty-four acres (26 ha) of swampy land and former bluestone quarries which were being used as rubbish dumps into what is now Fitzroy Gardens. His work contributed much to the development of Melbourne as a garden city. *<https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/sinclair-james-4583>*

### **Henry Daniel Sinclair (1818 –1868)**

The New South Wales Government, in 1859 (i.e. prior to the separation of Queensland), offered a substantial reward for the discovery of a suitable harbour that could be more easily accessed by northern settlers. Henry led an expedition which resulted in the finding an excellent location and named it Port Denison (the port of Bowen). He survived a murder attempt by the Aboriginal and was never paid the reward money. *Wikipedia*

### **Eric Sinclair (1860 -1925)**

After emigrating to Australia from Scotland, Eric, a psychiatrist, led a movement to establish the treatment of mental illness on a scientific footing and to have psychiatry recognized as a legitimate medical science. He was commissioned in the Australian Army Medical Corps and charged with supervising psychiatric treatment of returned soldiers in WWI, having convinced the Government that insanity was an illness and, in some cases, curable. *<https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/sinclair-eric-8435>*

### **Marion Sinclair (1896-1988)**

Marion taught music and drama and helped run a Girl Guides' group. She won a competition with her song *Kookaburra Sits in an Old Gum Tree*. It was sung at the first Pan-Pacific Girl Guides jamboree held in Australia and it achieved worldwide popularity. In 1935 Sinclair was awarded King George V's silver jubilee medal.  
<https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/sinclair-marion-15924>

### **Jean Sinclair "Clair" Isbister CBE, (1915 –2008)**

The Sinclair name appears to have been passed down from his grandmother. Clair married James Isbister, a name that is a Sinclair sept. Clair was the most prominent Australian paediatrician of her day, with radio and television appearances as well as books making her well-known. She established that newborns were contracting infections from the hospital environments, rather than their mothers, and her findings led to significant changes in practice in maternity hospitals. A staunch social conservative, she was on record opposing premarital sex, de facto relationships, infidelity and abortion. She was created an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in 1969 and Commander in 1977. She stood twice for the Senate. *University of Sydney, Wikipedia*

### **Ian McCahon Sinclair AC (1929 - )**

Ian is an Australian former politician who served as a Member of Parliament for 35 years, and was leader of the National Party from 1984 to 1989 winning two federal elections, in 1984 and 1987. He served as either a minister or opposition frontbencher for all but a few months from 1965 to 1989, and later Speaker of the House of Representatives from March to August 1998. In January 2001, he was appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC). set up the Sinclair Pastoral Company, of which he became managing director. He was a director of the Farmers and Graziers' Co-operative Limited from 1962 to 1965. Ian was also a successful farmer setting up the Sinclair Pastoral Company, of which he became managing director. He was a director of the Farmers and Graziers' Co-operative Limited from 1962 to 1965. *Wikipedia*

### **Rear Admiral Peter Ross Sinclair, AC (1934 - )**

Peter rose to high command in the navy, serving as Director of Naval Plans and as chief project officer during the establishment of the tri-service Australian Defence Force Academy, and then serving as its first commandant. In 1987, he was appointed Flag Officer Commanding HM Australian Fleet, which was redesignated as Maritime Commander Australia the following year. In 1989, he was appointed as Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff but served only briefly until his retirement later that year. He was appointed Governor of New South Wales in August 1990. Sinclair was the first to start Government House open days, the first being on 24 March 1991. By the end of his term in 1996 approximately 35,000 people had visited the Vice-regal residence. Peter was made a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) in 1992. *Wikipedia, https://researchdata.edu.au/peter-ross-sinclair/145526*

### **John Sinclair AO (1939 – 2019)**

John was an environmentalist who received the Global 500 Roll of Honour award in 1990, and was awarded the Goldman Environmental Prize in 1993. He fought for thirty years to protect Fraser Island (K'Gari), and succeeded in stopping logging of the island's rainforest, and sand mining by multinational corporations. For this work John was named "Australian of the Year" in 1976. The island is recognized as World Heritage natural wonder. He was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in the 2014. *Wikipedia*

### **Rosemary Edna Sinclair, AO (1936 - )**

Rosemary took up the environmental cause of her birthplace, the Lord Howe Island when it was listed as an UNESCO World Heritage Site. She won the title of Miss Australia in 1960. In November 1988, she jointly

founded the National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN) to fully address issues related to child abuse. She was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in the 2002. *Wikipedia*

## **Sinclair in Denmark**

### **Sir Andrew Sinclair of Ravenscraig (1555 – 1625)**

Andrew (Anders Sincklar as he was known) was the third son of Henry Sinclair, 6th Lord Sinclair. He was incredibly involved with the marriage of James VI to Anne of Denmark. He stayed in Denmark and became Governor of the Castle and the Town of Calmar. He was appointed a Danish privy counsellor, envoy to England. *St Clairs of the Isles, Wikipedia*

## **Sinclair in Jamaica**

### **Augustus Constantine Sinclair (c1834 – 1891)**

He was the compiler with Laurence R. Fyfe of the annual *Handbook of Jamaica*, first published in 1881. He is credited with the idea of the Jamaica International Exhibition of 1891 but died on its opening day. *Wikipedia*

### **Madge Sinclair CD (1940 – 1995)**

Madge Sinclair was a well-known actress and is best remembered for her portrayal of Kunta Kinte's wife, the house slave Belle whose only child, Kizzy, is sold to another plantation owner in the epic television drama *Roots* (1977). Her performance earned her an Emmy nomination and a lengthy career in American television followed. In 1994 she was the voice of the lion queen in Disney's smash hit animated feature *The Lion King*. She was posthumously awarded the Order of Distinction, rank of Commander, for service in the performing arts by Prime Minister of Jamaica, P. J. Patterson in October 2000 <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/people/obituary-madge-sinclair-1322176.html> *Wikipedia*

### **Charles Sinclair Jr. (?)**

Charles is a Jamaican politician from the Labour Party. He is a member of the Senate of Jamaica and is Deputy President of the Senate. *Wikipedia*

## **Sinclair in New Zealand**

### **James Sinclair (1800s)**

James was born in Nybster, near Wick, Caithness. He and his wife emigrated to New Zealand in 1852 and set up business in Nelson before moving to Wairau, where the Wairau Massacre or the Wairau Incident, which was the first significant armed conflict between Māori and British settlers after the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi, had taken place. He built the first house at Blenheim and was one of the movers and shakers involved in the separation of Marlborough from Nelson and also having Blenheim made the capital of the province. The award-winning St. Clair Wine is grown on land he once owned. *St Clair of the Isles, www.theprow.org.nz/people/james-sinclair/*

### **Andrew Sinclair (1794 –1861)**

See under UK section.

### **Keith Sinclair (1922 – 1993)**

In the second half of the twentieth century, Keith transformed how New Zealanders understood themselves and their history. A prominent poet and New Zealand's most important historian of the 1950s and 1960s, his work was energised by a deep commitment to New Zealand and a strong cultural nationalism. Throughout his career he was concerned with the question of national character and what made New Zealanders distinctive. He pioneered a range of approaches to New Zealand history and shared his insights and arguments widely. He was also an amazingly effective institution-builder, leading the emergence of a robust tradition of New Zealand history at the University of Auckland and initiating the New Zealand Journal of History.

*<https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/6s5/sinclair-keith>*

### **Barry Whitley Sinclair MNZM (1936 –2022)**

Barry was a New Zealand cricketer. He played 21 Test matches for New Zealand national team as a specialist batsman from 1962–63 to 1967–68, and captained the team from 1966 to 1968. *Wikipedia*

## **Sinclairs in South Africa**

### **James Hugh “Jimmy” Sinclair (1876-1913)**

Jimmy was a natural sportsman and in particular a cricketer who played in 25 Test matches from 1896 to 1911. He scored South Africa's first three Test centuries and was the first person from any country to score a century and take five wickets in an innings in the same Test. He is one of the fastest-scoring Test batters of all time. He also played international rugby union and won a single international appearance in association football, thus representing his country at three sports. Jimmy fought on the British side in the Boer War and joined Little's scouts. He was captured by the Boers but escaped - in time to take part in South Africa's cricket tour of England in 1901. Jimmy worked in banking before setting up as a "mining material and general broker". *Wikipedia*

## **Sinclairs in Sweden**

### **David Sinclair (d1656), Baron of Finnekumla in Älvsborg**

David emigrated to Sweden from Scotland in 1630 or 1631 with his elder brother John and his father, and they all entered military service. He, a staunch loyalist, returned to the UK and from 1640 onwards participated in the Scottish and later English civil wars. He was lieutenant colonel in John, 9th Lord Sinclair's regiment of foot from 1640-42. However, after king Charles I's execution, David returned to Sweden, serving in Johan Wittkopf's cavalry regiment. David was ennobled and introduced to the Swedish House of Nobility in 1655. *<https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/history/ssne/item.php?id=3503>*

### **Baron William Sinclair (1655 – 1715)**

A son of David he had a lengthy career in the Swedish army and became major general of the infantry. He was ennobled and made a Baron in 1714. *<https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/history/ssne/item.php?id=3503>*

### **Malcolm Sinclair (c1690-1739)**

Malcolm, grandson of David, served as a soldier in the Swedish Army. He was captured by the Russians at the battle of Perovolchician and was not returned until 1722. He thereafter resumed his commission as a lieutenant and went on to serve in the Dutch Republic between 1724 and 1726. He eventually held the rank of Major with the Upplands Regiment by 1737. The following year he became a member of and led a secret mission to Turkey and was murdered in Grunberg in Silesia (now part of Poland) by Russian agents, on the orders of the Czar, on his way home from Constantinople with dispatches. <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/history/ssne/item.php?id=3503>

## **Sinclairs in the United States of America**

### **Salamon Sinclare (1600s)**

Salamon was a passenger on the John and Sara from London to America in 1651 *St Clairs of the Isles*

### **John Sinkler (1600s)**

John was probably a Scottish soldier captured by the English in the Civil War (1642 – 1652) and was transported to Exeter, New Hampshire, USA in 1652 possibly on the ship John and Sara, although his name does not appear of the passenger list. He was sold as an indentured servant but was a free man by January of 1659, when he purchased ten acres of land in Exeter. There are two claims as to his ancestry. Leonard Allison Morrison in his book *The History of the Sinclair Family in Europe and America for Eleven Hundred Years*, published in 1896, remains the main source for most of what we know about John, and he claims that John was the great-grandson of George Sinclair, the 4th Sinclair Earl of Caithness. Hon. Charles Henry St. Clair of Morgan City, Louisiana believes it is more likely he came from the Edinburgh area and is related to the Sinclairs of Roslin. It is to John that many Sinclairs in the USA trace their ancestry. <https://stclairresearch.org/the-exeter-lineage/>

### **Major General Arthur St. Clair II (1737-1818)**

During the Colonial Wars in the “New World” (Canada), then Lieutenant Arthur St. Clair served in the British Army with General Jeffery Amherst when in 1758, the British troops routed the French from their stronghold settlement at Louisbourg, Cape Breton Island, now a part of the Canadian Province of Nova Scotia. He also carried the Colours for General Wolfe at the Battle of Quebec on the Plains of Abraham near Quebec City, Quebec. He moved to live in the USA purchasing land in Pennsylvania in 1764 and later served as a Justice of the Court. In 1776, he served in the Continental Army under General George Washington as his trusted advisor during the American War of Independence, rising to the rank of Major General. He participated in Washington’s now famous crossing of the Delaware before the Battle of Trenton serving with distinction. St. Clair later became an American politician and was appointed President of the Continental Congress for one term and under the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, became the Governor of the North-Western Territory, an area now recognized as the Mid-Western United States of America. St. Clair succeeded General Josiah Harmar as leader of the United States Army in the area and where he was routed in a bloody battle known as the Battle of the Wabash by a tribal confederation led by Miami Chief Little Turtle and Shawnee Chief Blue Jacket. *Wikipedia*

### **John Sinclair (1755 – 1820)**

John was an experienced seaman trading with the Caribbean Islands at the start of the American war of Independence. He became a Captain in the Virginian Navy and was hired by the French Admiral de Grasse to pilot his fleet of 28 sails of the line and a due proportion of frigates containing 3,000 troops through the Virginia capes. Once anchored there, the squadron became a formidable naval bastion which prevented British naval forces

from coming to Cornwallis' assistance. This led directly to the British surrender at Yorktown and the subsequent victory and independence of the USA. <https://scholar.lib.vt.edu/VA-news/VA-Pilot/issues/1994/vp940925/09230587.htm>

### **Commodore Arthur Sinclair II (1780-1831)**

An early American Naval Hero, Arthur Sinclair II served in the United States Navy during the Quasi War with France, the 1<sup>st</sup> Barbary War and the War of 1812 against the British. While serving as a mid-shipman, he was involved in the capture of the French frigate “*L. Insurgente*” during 1789 and later was serving on the “*Essex*” with the Mediterranean Squadron participating in the attacks on Tripoli in the early 1800’s. Commanding the “*Argus*” in late 1812, his superior ship handling allowed him to escape an enemy squadron. During the War of 1812, he also successfully commanded the “*General Pike*” in engagements on Lake Ontario; the “*Niagara*” in several engagements on Lake Huron and Lake Superior as well as directing a naval squadron in the Battle of Mackinac Island. He conceived the idea of a Nautical School and was allowed to set one up on board the frigate “*Guerriere*”, for the education and development of young naval officers. It was from that small start that the current U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis has grown. *Wikipedia*

### **Elizabeth Sinclair (1800s)**

Elizabeth was a farmer and plantation owner in New Zealand who moved her family to Vancouver Island for better farming possibilities (which proved disastrous) and later to Hawaii. She was the matriarch of the Sinclair family that bought the Hawaiian Island of Ni‘ihau in 1864 from King Kamehameha V for the sum of \$10,000 in gold. Her descendants still own the island today. She was the mother-in-law of Isabella Sinclair. *Wikipedia*

### **Isabella Sinclair (1842 –1900)**

Isabella Sinclair was born near Stirling, Scotland and emigrated to New Zealand with her family as a young child. After marrying her cousin, Francis Sinclair, they moved with his family to Hawaii to be with her aunt and mother-in-law Elizabeth. Isabella was a botanist and botanical illustrator whose most notable book ‘The Indigenous Flowers of the Hawaiian Islands’, published in 1885, is still the ‘bible’ of Hawaiian flowers today. She was among the first authors to express concern about the loss of native habitats on Hawaiian flora due to land development and competition from invasive species. *Wikipedia*

### **David A. Sinclair (1850 – 1902)**

David was an early supporter of the YMCA movement and under his leadership, the YMCA began to offer vocational training classes for the many jobless men in Dayton Ohio. These eventually grew into Sinclair Community College which is recognised as one of the best community colleges in the region. *Wikipedia*

### **Harry Ford Sinclair (1876-1956)**

Harry was an oilman who acquired the assets of 11 small petroleum companies and by the end of the 1920’s, had parlayed these into Sinclair Oil Refineries, a single large producer with the capability of producing over 80,000 barrels of oil per day. During this period of acceleration, the Company was ranked as the seventh largest oil company in the United States with 900 miles of oil pipelines. In 1922, Sinclair Oil was granted an oil lease without competitive bidding. Sinclair was later convicted of “Contempt of Court” and served a short prison term. Sinclair gas stations complete with their signature dinosaur can still be found operating in some states. *Wikipedia*



### **Upton Beall Sinclair Jr. (1878-1968)**

Upton studied law at Columbia University before becoming an author. He was an outspoken American Socialist who wrote over one hundred books winning the “Pulitzer Prize” for Fiction in 1943 for his muck-raking novel “The Jungle”. This book exposed deplorable conditions in the meat packing industry which contributed in part to the later passage of the “Pure Food and Drug Act” as well as other protective legislation. He wrote additional exposes on working conditions in the automobile industry, in the coal mining fields, the oil industry and his favourite, journalism. He eventually ran unsuccessfully for Congress as a nominee from the Socialist Party and also ran as the Democratic Party candidate for Governor of California during the Great Depression, running under the banner of End Poverty in California, but was defeated. *Wikipedia*

### **Malcolm St. Clair (1897-1952)**

Malcolm St. Clair was a Hollywood film director, writer, producer and actor. Hired by comedy pioneer Mack Sennett, St. Clair was an actor in many films, primarily comedies. He directed almost one hundred films, as well as producing five others, between 1915 and 1948. His brother, Eric St. Clair, was a writer and actor. Between assignments at Sennett, St. Clair worked for the Buster Keaton company, serving as actor and directed four of their comedies. *Wikipedia*

### **Anne-Élise (née Schwartz) Sinclair (1948- )**

Anne’s father changed his surname to Sinclair a year after she was born in New York. She has spent most of her life in France. Anne became a successful French TV and radio interviewer and journalist, who for more than 13 years hosted popular political shows for French television network TF1, the largest European private TV channel. *Wikipedia*

### **Mark Sinclair (1967 - )**

Mark, an actor and film producer is better known by his stage name Vin Diesel. His debut feature was Strays (1997) and came to prominence when appearing in Steven Spielberg's Saving Private Ryan in 1998. He is best known for portraying Dominic Toretto in the Fast & Furious franchise. He writes, directs, produces, and stars in films and video games. *Wikipedia*

*Author’s Note: The following profiles for Lister Sinclair and Jamie Sinclair have connections to Canada and are included in the file for CSAC Honourary Life Members (HLM) and Distinguished Canadian Sinclairs.*

### **Lister Sheddon Sinclair OC (1921-2006)**

Born in India, Liston was sent to live with an aunt in London and did not see his parents again until he was seven. He began his formal education at Colet Court and being gifted at mathematics, won a scholarship to St Paul's School in London. He and his Mother were visiting Niagara Falls when World War II broke out and subsequently, they settled in Vancouver. He enrolled at the University of British Columbia where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in mathematics and physics and began a lifelong friendship with classmate Pierre Berton. Moving to Toronto, he earned to a Master of Arts from the University of Toronto supporting himself by lecturing in mathematics to undergraduates. Sinclair found employment as an actor with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) performing in a variety of radio plays. He began writing for the network writing more than four hundred plays. Following radio, Sinclair appeared on several CBC Television programs such as *Front Page Challenge*, *Assignment* and the *Wayne & Shuster Comedy Show*. Sinclair would spend over six decades with the CBC in various capacities including actor, playwright, writer, panelist, producer, lecturer, commentator and network executive. Sinclair was either a panelist or host on the *Court of Opinion*, *Man at the Centre*, *The Nature of Things*, *Morningside* and *Ideas*. He was awarded the Order of Canada in 1985.

## **Jamie Sinclair (1992- )**

*American/Canadian Ice Curler; Design & Renovation Contractor.*

Jamie Ann Sinclair was born on February 21, 1992 to a Canadian military person on an exchange program in Anchorage, Alaska, USA. She is an American-Canadian curler from Osgoode, Ontario where she grew up in nearby Manotick, a suburb of Ottawa. In October 2016 it was announced that she would appear as "Miss July" in the 2017 Women of Curling calendar. Sinclair was born with a hearing disability. She graduated Carleton University with an honours degree in International Business and did a year of study abroad in Chile. Sinclair currently works as a design and renovation contractor. *Wikipedia*

## **The Sinclair/St. Clair Earls of Caithness Scotland (1410~2024)**

*Fourth Creation (1455)*

1. Sir William Sinclair, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Caithness (1410-1484) 1476 resigned from duties
2. William Sinclair, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Caithness (born c. 1459 - died 09 Sep. 1513).
3. John Sinclair, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Caithness (died 18 May 1529).
4. George Sinclair, 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Caithness (b. bef. 14 Jul. 1527- died 09 Sep.1582) resigned from duties 1545.
  - John Sinclair, Master of Caithness (c. 1543- died Sep. 1575).
5. George Sinclair, 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Caithness (1566 – died Feb. 1643).
6. George Sinclair, 6<sup>th</sup> Earl of Caithness (died 1677) resigned from duties 1672.
  - John Campbell, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Breadalbane and Holland (1633-1717) resigned from duties 1681.
7. George Sinclair, 7<sup>th</sup> Earl of Caithness (died 1698).
8. John Sinclair, 8<sup>th</sup> Earl of Caithness (1705).
9. Alexander Sinclair, 9<sup>th</sup> Earl of Caithness (c.1684 – died 09 Dec. 1765).
10. William Sinclair of Rattar, 10<sup>th</sup> Earl of Caithness (born 02 Apr. 1727- died 29 Nov. 1779).
11. John Sinclair, 11<sup>th</sup> Earl of Caithness (1757- died 1789).
12. James Sinclair of Mey, 12<sup>th</sup> Earl of Caithness (born 31 Oct. 1766 – died 16 Jul. 1823).
13. Alexander Campbell Sinclair, 13<sup>th</sup> Earl of Caithness (born 24 Jul. 1790 – died 24 Dec. 1855).
14. James Sinclair, 14<sup>th</sup> Earl of Caithness (born 16 Dec. 1821 – died 28 March 1881)
15. George Philips Alexander Sinclair, 15<sup>th</sup> Earl of Caithness (born 30 Nov. 1858 – died 25 May 1889)
16. James Augustus Sinclair, 16<sup>th</sup> Earl of Caithness (born 31 May 1827 – died 20 Jan. 1891).
17. John Sutherland Sinclair, 17<sup>th</sup> Earl of Caithness (born 17 Sep. 1857 – died 30 May 1914).
18. Norman McLeod (Sinclair) Buchan of Auchmacoy, 18<sup>th</sup> Earl of Caithness (b. 04 Apr. 1862 – d. 25 Mar. 1947).
19. James Roderick Sinclair, 19<sup>th</sup> Earl of Caithness (born 29 Sep. 1906 - died 1965).
20. Malcolm Ian Sinclair, 20<sup>th</sup> Earl of Caithness born 03 Nov. 1948-) [Hereditary Peer elected to remain in the House of Lords in 1999]. Malcolm Caithness bio is included in the body of this manuscript.

*Note: The heir apparent, the 21<sup>st</sup> Earl is the present Earl's son Alexander James Richard, Lord Berridale (born 1981).*

## **The St. Clair Family of Rosslyn descend from the following:**

1. Sir William St. Clair (1240-1297), 1<sup>st</sup> Baronet of Rosslyn, succeeded in 1270.
2. Sir Henry St. Clair (1275-1335), 2<sup>nd</sup> Baronet of Rosslyn, succeeded in 1297.
3. Sir William St. Clair (1300-1358), 3<sup>rd</sup> Baronet of Rosslyn, succeeded in 1331 (sic).
4. Sir Henry I St. Clair (c.1345-1400), 4<sup>th</sup> Baronet of Rosslyn, 1<sup>st</sup> Prince or Jarl of Orkney, succeeded (scd) 1358.
5. Sir Henry II St. Clair (1375-1420), 5<sup>th</sup> Baronet of Rosslyn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prince/Jarl of Orkney, succeeded 1400.
6. Sir William St. Clair, (1410-1484), 6<sup>th</sup> Baronet of Rosslyn, 3<sup>rd</sup> Prince/Jarl of Orkney, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Caithness scd 1420.
7. Sir Oliver St. Clair ( - c.1523), 7<sup>th</sup> Baronet of Rosslyn, succeeded 1484.
8. Sir William St. Clair ( -c.1554), 8<sup>th</sup> Baronet of Rosslyn, succeeded 1523.
9. Sir William St. Clair ( -1602), 9<sup>th</sup> Baronet of Rosslyn, succeeded in 1554.

10. Sir William St. Clair ( -c.1610), 10<sup>th</sup> Baronet of Rosslyn, succeeded in 1602.
11. Sir William St. Clair (c.1588-1650), 11<sup>th</sup> Baronet of Rosslyn, succeeded in 1610.
12. Sir John St. Clair (1644-1690), 12<sup>th</sup> Baronet of Rosslyn, succeeded in 1650.
13. Sir James St. Clair ( - ), 13<sup>th</sup> Baronet of Rosslyn, succeeded in 1690.
14. Sir Alexander St. Clair (1672-1706), 14<sup>th</sup> Baronet of Rosslyn.
15. Sir William St. Clair (1700-1778), 15<sup>th</sup> Baronet of Rosslyn, succeeded in 1718 (sic)

### **The St. Clair Earls of Rosslyn**

1. Alexander Wedderburn St. Clair (1733-1805), created & appointed 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Rosslyn in 1801.
2. Sir James St. Clair-Erskine (1762-1837), 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Rosslyn; succeeded 1805.
3. James Alexander St Clair-Erskine (1802-1866), 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Rosslyn; succeeded 1837.
4. Francis Robert St. Clair-Erskine (1833-1890), 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Rosslyn; succeeded 1866.
5. James Francis Harry St. Clair-Erskine (1869-1939), 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Rosslyn; succeeded 1890.
6. Anthony Hugh Francis Harry St. Clair-Erskine (1917-1977), 6<sup>th</sup> Earl of Rosslyn; succeeded 1939.
7. Peter St. Clair-Erskine, the current and 7<sup>th</sup> Earl of Rosslyn (1958-); succeeded 1977.  
*Apparent heir to the Earldom of Rosslyn is Jamie St. Clair-Erskine son of Peter St. Clair-Erskine (1986- )*

### **The Lords Sinclair (1449)**

1. Henry II Sinclair (1375-1420), 2<sup>nd</sup> Jarl (Earl) of Orkney, 10<sup>th</sup> Baron of Roslin and the 1<sup>st</sup> Lord Sinclair.
2. William Sinclair (1410-1484), 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Orkney, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Caithness, 11<sup>th</sup> Baron of Roslin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lord Sinclair.
3. William Sinclair ( -1487), 3<sup>rd</sup> Lord Sinclair.
4. Henry Sinclair ( -1513), 4<sup>th</sup> Lord Sinclair.
5. William Sinclair ( -1570), 5<sup>th</sup> Lord Sinclair.
6. Henry Sinclair (1528-1601), 6<sup>th</sup> Lord Sinclair.
7. Henry Sinclair (1581-1602), 7<sup>th</sup> Lord Sinclair.
8. James Sinclair ( -1607), 8<sup>th</sup> Lord Sinclair.
9. Patrick Sinclair ( -1617), 9<sup>th</sup> Lord Sinclair.
10. John Sinclair (1610-1676), 10<sup>th</sup> Lord Sinclair.
  - o Catherine Sinclair, Mistress of Sinclair.

### **The Herdmanston Line**

1. Henry St Clair, 11<sup>th</sup> Lord Sinclair (1660–1723). Eldest son of Catherine Sinclair, daughter of John Sinclair, 10<sup>th</sup> Lord Sinclair, and her husband John Sinclair, 23<sup>rd</sup> Lord Herdmanston (eldest son of John Sinclair, 22<sup>nd</sup> Lord Herdmanston). It is not known if the Sinclair Lords Herdmanston share a paternal ancestor with the Lords Sinclair who are descended from the Sinclair Barons of Roslin.
  - o *John St Clair, Master of Sinclair* (1683–1750) (eldest son of eleventh Lord; attained in 1715 and never allowed to assume title)
  - o *James St Clair* (d.-1762) (younger son of eleventh Lord; never assumed title) *dormant 1762–1782*

2. Charles St Clair ( -1775), 11th Lord Sinclair.
3. Andrew St Clair (1733-1775), 12th Lord Sinclair.
4. Charles St Clair (1768–1863), 13th Lord Sinclair (confirmed in title 1782).
5. James St Clair (1803–1880), 14th Lord Sinclair.
6. Charles William St Clair (1831-1922), 15th Lord Sinclair.
7. Archibald James Murray St Clair (1875-1957), 16th Lord Sinclair.
8. Charles Murray Kennedy St Clair (1914-2004), 17th Lord Sinclair.
9. Matthew Murray Kennedy St Clair (1968- ), 18th Lord Sinclair. Lord Sinclair was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Kirkcudbright on 29 July 2021.

*The heir apparent is the present holder's son Harry Murray Kennedy St. Clair, Master of Sinclair (b. 2007). Wikipedia*

***Author's Note:***

*The research, writing and editing of this document was a collaboration between **Malcolm Caithness**, Chief of Clan Sinclair; **Wayne Sinclair**, President Clan Sinclair Australia; **Mary Raye Casper**, Secretary-Treasurer, Clan Sinclair USA; and George Sinclair.*

For additional information, contact:

**George D. Sinclair**

Author

Past-CSAC Secretary & CSAC Member

Clan Sinclair Association (Canada) CSAC

P.O. Box 100, 332 Birch Acres Drive

Honey Harbour, Township of Georgian Bay

District of Muskoka, Ontario, Canada, P0E 1E0

Email: georgedsinclair@sympatico.ca

+ 1 705 756-8889

July 14, 2024