

Nigg - A Changing Parish

by Anne Gordon 1977

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Nigg

Donald Roy (Red Donald)

From 1739, Nigg was a centre of the religious movement known as the Evangelical Revival, which was a powerful force in shaping Highland society for the next 200 years. Key figures in the movement were lay preachers known as Na Daoine (The Men). As well as being local leaders and powerful preachers, they were often credited with prophetic gifts and supernatural powers – and memories of them became part of local folklore. Donald Roy, the most renowned of The Men in Nigg, died in 1774 at the age of 108. Among many stories about him is the tale that one night, on a quiet road near Nigg, he met the Devil in the form of a black dog, which breathed flames of fire.

John Ross

John Ross (1842–1915) was born in Balintore and preached in the parish of Nigg, in the United Presbyterian church at Chapel Hill. He worked as a missionary in China for almost forty years from the early 1870s and became the founder of Protestant churches in both Manchuria and Korea, where he is still remembered. A native Gaelic speaker, he came to speak eleven languages and translated the New Testament into Korean.