

LUMSDEN AREA TIMELINE

581	According to one account the site of Kildrummy Church has been the site of a series of churches, the earliest of which may have been established by King Bridei I or King Brude of the Picts in 581. There was once a St Bride's Well on the mound, but no sign of these remain.
1063	King Malcolm granted and confirmed to the church of St. Mary of Mortlach, 'my lands of Murthue, the church of Cloveth, with its lands, and the church of Dalmeth (now Glass), with its lands.'
1157	Pope Adrian IV confirmed the monastery of Cloueth (Clova) to Edward, bishop of Aberdeen, and his successors. In 1875 a description was given of "The monastery, or church of Clova" or Cloveth, established by St. Moluag of Ulster in the 6 th century, which was about four miles to the east of the kirk of Kildrummy. It stood on high ground, which sloped rapidly towards a burn on the south, towards a spring called Similuak or Smaluk (possibly a corruption of the name St. Moloch), to whom the kirk was dedicated. In 1875 there was evidence only of traces of foundations of the kirk, indicating that it was about 31 feet long and about 15 feet wide. There are no tombstones; and the site is, at no great distance from the mansion house of Clova.
1250	Kildrummy Castle was built. According to some sources, the mound on which Kildrummy Church sits is actually a Norman motte or castle mound, on which a precursor to Kildrummy Castle stood until the latter was built in about 1250.
1266	The Dean and Chapter of Aberdeen confirmed the grant made by Bishop Richard of the churches of Dalmeth (now Glass) and Cloueth (Clova), for the lights of the great altar, and the ornaments of the cathedral of Aberdeen
1300s	There has been a church on the site of Kildrummy Church since at least the early 1300s, originally called the Chapel of the Lochs and later becoming the Kirk of St Bride.
1353	Sir Thomas de Lumsden, from the County of Berwick, granted lands of Easter and Wester Medlar in Aberdeenshire. His descendants lived in the Estates of Cushnie, Clova, Auchindoir and Pitcaple.
1362	Thomas, Earl of Mar, gave over the right of patronage of the kirk of Kildrummy to the dean and chapter of Aberdeen, possibly with the view of having it united with the kirk of Kildrummy.

1363	The date of the permanent union of the kirks of Kildrummy and Clova has not been ascertained. As far back as 1363, due to the small revenues of the parishes of Kildrummy and Clova, 'which are said to have been wasted by frequent wars', the Bishop ordained one vicar to serve both parishes with the kirk lands; but this agreement was not lasting. In the previous year, Thomas, Earl of Mar, gave over the right of patronage of the kirk of Kildrummy to the dean and chapter of Aberdeen, possibly with the view of having the two churches united.
1509	James IV granted a charter to Alexander Lumsden of Clova.
1511	The Bishop' lands at Clova are stated to consist of two ploughs, and to have been let to four tenants.
1520	The kirk of Cawbraucht or Cloueth was constituted one the common churches of the chapter of Aberdeen, a fact which possibly shows that Clova and Cabrach were then one district.
1549	The lands of Clowetht (Clova), and the mill of the same, were leased for 19 years by the Bishop, to Master Robert Lumisdane, probably an ancestor of the future lairds of the property.
1560	Precursor to Kildrummy Inn thought to date from post-Medieval times (from 1560 AD)
1731	The castle and estate of Kildrummy were no longer the property of the Earls of Mar as they were bought by John Gordon of Warehouse.
1790	In the Cabrach, tenant farmers bought in sheep in early spring, and cattle a little later, to graze and then sell off at the end of the summer. The cost of grazing black cattle was 2s a head on hill pasture and 5s a head on "infield" grass for the summer. At three years of age and upward, these cattle then sold for £3 to £7 a head.
1796	In 1796 it was noted in the Kildrummy Parish Records that in this area people commonly crossed the River Don on stilts , "about 6 feet in length, with a step on one side, on which the passenger raised about 2 feet from the ground, resting them against his sides and armpits, and moving them forward by each hand, totters through". Peat was the only fuel used. As it was far from the farms, corn was generally dried in kilns by the heath, with children of 6 to 8 years of age being assigned to keep the fires burning.
1799	At the end of the 18 th century the entire population of the Parish of Auchindoir was 572.
1803	The old kirk, which stood on the north side of the burial-ground, was removed outside the churchyard. The only remains of the old church are parts of the north and east walls, and the Elphinstone burial place.
1805	Kildrummy Church was built (203 sittings). It is unclear why the church is the unusual shape that it is. Perhaps the laird at the time wanted something a little different. One local story says that the builders started off using plans for a mill, with the mistake only being discovered when it was too late to start again from scratch. This is unlikely to be true.

1811	Parish of Auchindoir united with Kearn
1825	Lumsden village created. Founded by Harry Leith Lumsden of Auchindoir. Before the village existed, there was an old drovers' market stance on the site of the Market Square and an inn, now the hotel.
1840	Population of Lumsden village was 243. At this time a stage coach passed to and from Aberdeen on alternate days. The Parish School taught Latin, English, maths, geography and writing.
1843	Union Free Church built
1850	Bear Lodge was built as a manse for Kildrummy Church, which is now a private residence. (Could 'bear' refer to a kind of barley, hardier than the ordinary kind but of inferior quality, that was grown at the time?)
1861	Population of Lumsden was 478 and the population of the whole parish was 1,593. After this the population of the parish started to steadily decline. One reason was thought to be a decline in the crofting way of life. In a paper to the WRI in 1936 it was explained that 43 crofts had disappeared by that time in the parish.
1867	Kildrummy Inn appears on the OS map of 1867 and 1888 as an inn. They show the inn with a U-plan steading to the rear, with attached horsemill.
1871	Population of Lumsden was 507
1875	Lumsden village noted as having a post office, branch of North of Scotland Bank, an inn, a Free Church and a U.P. Church. Fairs were held on the first Monday from December to April and (old style) on the last Tuesday of April, the last Friday of May and the third Tuesday of August.
1880	Catholic Church built on Clova Estate
1881	Population of Lumsden was 519
1888-89	Union Free Church united with the UP Church congregation, two years ahead of their national bodies, building the new church – Auchindoir South Church or the 'Union Free' Church.
1914-18	First World War
1915	The Mary Fair was held on the village green, previously called the Market Muir, until 1915. In much earlier times, it was held on the Market Hillock at the farm of Newton. The Fair took its name from the Virgin Mary, to whom the Kirk of Auchindoir was dedicated.
1928	The Union Free Church united with the Old Parish Church (the North) at Auchindoir under a single minister.

1933	Deuchar Forbes Gordon of Manar, Australia inherits Clova Estate from his cousin, Captain Hugh P. Lumsden
1936	Last trip of the mailbus which ran from 1864-1936 and was owned by Robert Garden, father and son, who were also farmers. The original mailbus was a horse and trap which ran from Bellabeg to Gartly, leaving Bellabeg at 4.30am and arriving at Gartly at 8.15am. It then started its return journey at 9.30am arriving back at Bellabeg at 1.30pm). In severe winters, a sledge was used instead of the bus. In the 1980s, Jill and Norman Pratt were still collecting the Sunday newspapers from the bus shelter at the Gartly turnoff. 1936 marked the end of the passenger service from Lumsden to Aberdeen. After this, people in Lumsden had to hire a car or walk to Mossat to link up with the Strathdon-Aberdeen bus service.
1938	Press article noting that the Wellintonias near Clova House were grown from seeds brought over from Yosemite Valley, USA by Captain Lumsden.
1938-45	Second World War
1950-53	Most farms stopped using horses and used tractors for ploughing
1962	The village hall (that was originally the church) burnt down on the 25 th May 1962.
1963	Lumsden school was reconstructed. During this time children were taught in the WRI Hall, the Church Hall and at Kildrummy School.
1967	The site of the new hall, ground adjoining the hotel, was given by the local hotel keeper, Mr Charles Wyness. The new hall was built in 1967 once sufficient funds were raised.
1980	Frederick Bushe, with assistance from the WASPS (Workshop and Artists Studio Provision Scotland Limited), starts the Scottish Sculpture Workshop in the converted bakery in Lumsden.
1986	Lumsden village noted as having a primary school, a garage and post office, a police station (1 policeman) and a general shop.
2009	Population of Lumsden and its surrounding area was 344