

Horatio Ross only son of Hercules Ross of Rossie and Henrietta Ross “nee Macrae “ was born at Rossie Castle on the 5th day of September and baptised on the 27th day of October 1801 and was named after his first godfather

The Right Honourable Viscount NELSON , his other godfather being

John Parish Merchant in Hamburg.

His Godmothers were

The Right Honourable Lady Jane Stewart and

The Right Honourable Countess of North Esk ..

A story developed that when Horatio was Six years old his father got him to present Colours to the Rossie Regiment of Yeomanry , but that when they fired a volley the boy fled in terror . His enraged father ordered a servant to fire a musket several times a day over his head , this unsurprisingly made him even more frightened , but one day the servant made him fire a gun at a sparrow , which he hit and killed . In that moment he had found his menier..

When his father died in December 1816 , Horatio was served as his heir to the Rossie Estate.

Horatio joined the 14th Hussars in October 1820 , but had no taste for barrack life and went on half pay as an Infantry Ensign in November 1823 . He was known afterwards as Captain Ross .

Between 1825 and 1830 he became a notable figure in the World of Sport , making and winning matches for large sums of money in steeplechasing , shooting and rowing in which he excelled .p.s. In 1826 he won one of the first Steeplechase”s against a Captain Douglas .

From 1832 to 1834 ? Horatio served as Member of Parliament for Aberdeen , Montrose and Arbroath ousting Sir James Carnegie .

On the 27th July 18? He presented and cordially supported a petition from Aberdeen Woollen Manufacturers (against the extension of the bill to restrict children”s cotton factory hours to Scotland)

If it was , it would facilitate the introduction of Poor Laws in Scotland , which were considered a curse , he did concede that some Glasgow cotton factories might need regulation .

He was in the ministerial majority against the Irish Union of Parishes Bill ..

Horatio Ross sold Rossie Estate in 1845 and purchased Netherley Estate nr. Stonehaven for £ 33,000 from John Silver “ grand son” of Alexander Silver another son of the soil who at a very early age , worked his way to the West Indies , made his fortune and returned home .

After living a quiet Lairds life for 18 years , Horatio came again to public notice in 1862 as the captain of the Scottish Rifle shooting team which competed against England for the Elcho Shield .

In 1833 he married Justine Henriette Macrae daughter of Colin Macrae of Inverinate Chief of clan Macrae , by whom he had five sons .

His claim to fame must obviously relate to his skill as a Sportsman , Marksman , Jockey and Photographer .

Captain Horatio Ross was a superlative sporting shot possibly only surpassed by his son Edward . They had a 1400 yard range on their Netherley estate and had shot with great success up to 1800 yards using targets on boats moored in the Montrose basin .

He and his sons regularly beat all before them at the most prestigious annual rifle competitions at Wimbledon London , and he represented Scotland in shooting championships . Perhaps his most remarkable feat with a rifle was performed in 1867 . In that year he won the cup of the Cambridge Long rifle club against nearly all the best shots in the three kingdoms. The competition extended up to 1100 yards , a test of nerve and judgement and most of all Eyesight , which it would seem wholly impossible for a man in his sixty sixth year.

On his 82nd birthday he killed 82 grouse with 82 shots .

He shot his last Stag in 1884 and died in Rossie Lodge Inverness shire . In 1899 the English Illustrated described him as

“ Undoubtedly the Deer Stalker of the Century “.

It is suggested that for a bet , he once walked from Banchory to Inverness without stopping, a distance of 97 miles .

Horatio became a founding member of the Photographic Society in 1856 and later became it”s President .