

Horatio Ross only son of Hercules Ross of Rossie and Henrietta Ross “nee Macrae “ was born at Rossie Castle on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of September and baptised on the 27<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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 82<sup>nd</sup> 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 .