

Mr. David Denne's letter of the 20th ult. It so happens that I am able to give the information about the Sergeant Donald MacLeod referred to, as he was a cousin of my mother, and his history, being a somewhat extraordinary one, attracted my attention. His father was a grandson of Sir Roderick MacLeod, of MacLeod, of Dunnegan. Sergeant MacLeod's uncle was Alexander MacLeod, who was sheriff of Skye, in 1773. His (Sheriff MacLeod's) brother John eloped with his wife, Isabella Macdonald, of Sleat, from a public school at Inverness, when they were sixteen and seventeen years of age respectively. As can easily be understood, Sergeant MacLeod's father's fortunes after this were not very bright, and he and his family fell into poverty. Donald, his son, the sergeant, on attaining his majority, enlisted, and turned out a good soldier, and skilled swordsman. His regiment was the Royal Scots, then commanded by the Earl of Orkney. Fought under the Duke of Marlborough, between 1704 and 1712, having been engaged at Blenheim and Ramillies. He was also at Sheriffmuir in 1720. He left the Royal Scots and became recruiting, and afterwards drill sergeant to Simon, Lord Lovat, in the raising of the independent companies, subsequently formed into the 42nd Regiment. He afterwards fought at Fontenoy, at Louisburg in America, and at the siege of Quebec, under General Wolfe, though then in his seventy-first year. At Quebec he was sorely wounded, and was invalided home in charge of the body of General Wolfe to Britain, in November, 1759. Twelve of his sons, he having been married three times, joined the army and navy. Donald's father John had two older sons, one of whom became a Captain of Marines, and was killed at Belleisle, in 1761. Donald was born at Uillinis, Skye, on 20th June, 1688, as appears from the parish register of Bracadale. There was a memoir published of Donald's career, but it is difficult to get. A sister of John, Donald's father, married a Mackinnon of