Davidson Connection with Cantray Bridge near Inverness

Cantray Bridge (grid ref NH800 480) is located near Cantray House on a minor road with two spans over the river Nairn. The upstream face is carved with the Arms of David Davidson of Cantray, his name and with a date of 1774, which indicates the possible date of the bridge construction. This bridge has somehow survived over 250 years, which is a little surprising when one considers the weight of modern vehicles

David Davidson (1720-1803) was a successful Inverness and London merchant who, in 1767, bought the Cantray estates from the Dallas family. The heraldry depicted on the bridge is quite hard to decipher, but it shows the traditional Davidson heraldry of three pheons and a stag. The crest shows a highlander holding a heart. We have also included a later book plate image of this heraldry to help understand how this particular memorial might have looked. It was not until 1788 that this Davidson family were granted Arms by the Lord Lyon in Edinburgh.

Cantray Bridge

Arms of Davidson of Cantray