There exists in the cartulary of St Andrews Priory a group of property records which derive from the Culdee (Cèle Dé) house of Lochleven, the ruins of which are still visible on what is today known as St Serf’s Island in the south-east corner of that loch (see Hall, this volume and Illus. 63). These records form a discrete group within the cartulary, which exists in the National Archives of Scotland as GD/45/27/8 (hereafter N), and which was printed by the Bannatyne Club in 1841 (St A. Lib.) following the order of the cartulary itself. The early Lochleven material (hereafter L) is on fos. 50v to 52r, printed as St A. Lib. 113–18.

N is a complex document made up of many hands from the thirteenth century onwards. The scribe who copied L is, as far as I can ascertain, unique to this section. The opening text of L states that it has been translated and abbreviated from a book written originally in the old language of the Scots (antiquo Scotorum idiomate) i.e. Gaelic ‘lest with the passing of time unnecessary litigation and violent dispute uselessly assail the ears of kings, nobles and bishops’. L was copied into N after 29 April 1276, since on the same page and in the same column (fo. 50v col. b) it directly follows an Inspectimus issued by William bishop of Brechin dated at Montrose in that year on the Wednesday before the feast of the apostles Philip and James (St A. Lib. 111–12, and facsimile following p. 112).

L was probably first compiled around 1130, after the Culdees of Lochleven had found themselves having to assert their rights to part of the lands of Kirkness, a large estate which lay on the neighbouring

---

1 I would like to thank Paul Bibire, Dauvit Broun, Nicholas Evans, Mark Hall, David Munro, Roibeard Ó Maolalaigh and Alex Woolf for useful discussions on various aspects of this chapter. Above all I would like to thank Barbara Crawford, with whom I first explored and discussed Kirkness in the early 1990s. To her this chapter is gratefully dedicated.

2 ‘ne superuacua questio et tumultuosa disceptacio aures regum et principum et pontificum temporis tractu inutiliter percellat’ St A. Lib. 113.
Illus. 63 Sketch map locating Kirkness and Loch Leven, with places in the immediate vicinity mentioned in the text. The former parish boundary lies between Portmoak parish and a detached part of Ballingry parish. After 1685 it became the county boundary between FIF and KNR.

(Map drawn by B. Ballin Smith)