

Map of events in 1882

What happened at the flashpoints

7 April C - Assault on Sheriff officer.

7 April B – Papers burnt about 40yds south of the institution.

7 April A - Summonses seized by crowd following the retreat to Portree.

19 April E – Crowd gathers at boundary to stop further police progress south.

19 April D – Crowd, angry at the arrests of five men, shouts and throws stones as the retreating group pass across the Allt nan Gobhlag through a narrow gorge.

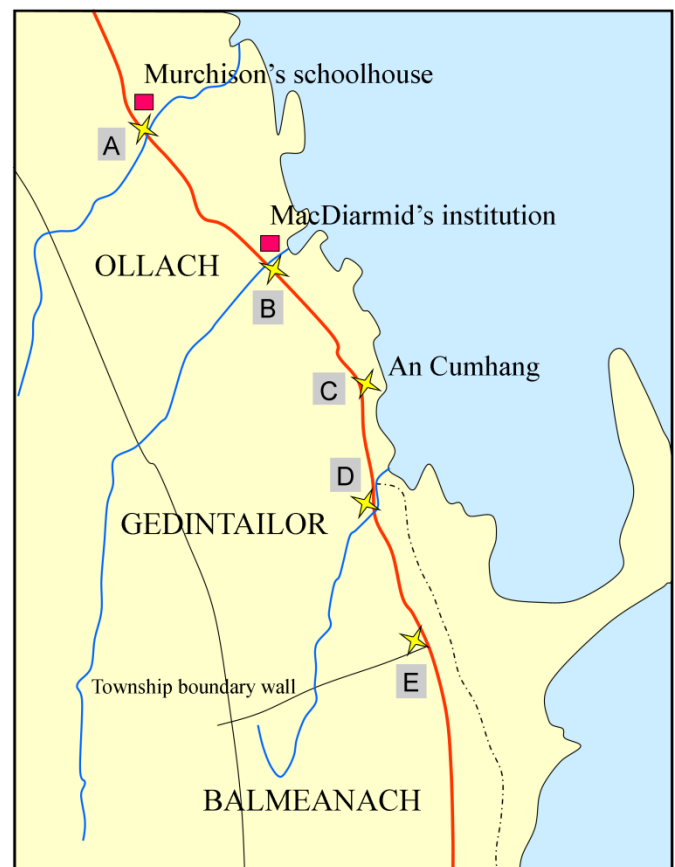
19 April C – As the police return to Portree with their ‘prisoners’, a large crowd hurl abuse and boulders. The site of the ‘Battle’.

24 October E – Crowd gathers to stop the serving of more writs.

Notes

“Murchison’s schoolhouse” is now a private house and part of Braes Village Hall, “MacDiarmid’s Institution” is the old church at Upper Ollach and now private, An Cumhang (the narrow road ledge with the white wall), the narrow gorge and finally the boundary wall between Gedintailor and Balmeanach where progress by the officials and police backup is halted by angry crowds on more than one occasion.

The position of the modern Balmeanach Township road (thin dashed line) is shown for reference. The commemorative cairn (and seat) is about 200m north of An Cumhang.



Further reading

The Making of the Crofting Community, James Hunter, 2000

The Isle of Skye in 1882-1883, Alexander Mackenzie, 1883