

FASCINATING INSIGHT INTO MANSION LIFE



VIP GUEST The Queen Mum, centre, with Lady Jean's father, right, at Brodick Castle in the 20s **Picture** BBC

STATELY HOME MOVIES REVEAL DOWNTON ON ISLE OF ARRAN

Show delves into families' archives



RIDING THE WAVES Lady Jean shows off her waterskiing skills off Arran in 30s



TOUCH OF TARTAN The 6th Duke of Montrose with his daughter Lady Jean



At first glance they could be snippets of film lifted straight from the editing suite of *Downton Abbey*.

But these grainy black and white images featuring everyone from a young Queen Mother to rows of domestic staff are from the home movie archives of some of Scotland's wealthiest families.

The BBC wanted to show examples of the earliest home movie footage but almost 100 years ago, only the rich could afford cine cameras.

So makers of Scotland's Home Movies approached the ancestors of some of the country's biggest landowners for old films and were delighted by what they found.

Lady Jean Fforde – daughter of James Graham, the 6th Duke of Montrose –

has allowed footage shot in the 1920s and 30s by her mother Lady Mary Douglas-Hamilton at their home, Brodick Castle on Arran, to be screened.

Lady Jean, 95, spent summers playing in the grounds of the castle

Jenny Morrison

with Prince Rainier of Monaco, who went on to marry actress Grace Kelly.

One film shows the Queen Mother, wearing a fox fur scarf and throwing her head back in laughter as she chats to the family at the castle.

Lady Jean, who was the youngest of four siblings, said: "The King and Queen came up for a football match in Glasgow and stayed with us while they were there – although it might have been when they were still the duke and duchess.

"We didn't have royals come to visit a lot – although my second cousin was Prince Rainier of Monaco and he and his sister Princess Antoinette would stay with us every summer."

Other home movies show the family taking part in the Brodick Games and Lady Jean water skiing behind her family boat.

She said: "I couldn't go off to boarding school because I had had tuberculosis. I had a governess and did lessons outside if it was sunny.

"We bathed in the sea every day from May 30 to September 30. It was supposed to be good for us but it was very cold.

"I suppose the films do look a little like something from *Downton Abbey*. I used to quite like the programme – it was a bit like how things used to be when I was growing up, although there was never so much gossip."

Lady Jean regrets throwing away

many of her family's films. She said "I haven't seen some of them for years. I'm trying to preserve them but I'm afraid I did destroy a lot.

"I never thought they would be of particular interest."

Laird Niall Bowser, owner of the 1300-acre Argaty Estate in Doune, Perthshire, has also allowed footage from his family archives to be shown.

His great-grandparents Thomas and Annie Henderson made a fortune from the tea trade in India and bought Argaty House and the land around it.

He said: "When they bought the house in 1916, they did a massive refurbishment, no expense spared."

And when the work was complete, his grandparents and their children arrived at the property in a chauffeur-driven car, which was then pulled up the driveway by estate workers, while the domestic staff lined up outside.

Niall said: "There was a huge number of people to make this family work.

"It worked out something like three house staff per family member which is a ridiculous proportion. There were nannies, nursery-maids, housemaids, cooks, bottle-washers, gardeners, grooms and chauffeurs."

Makers of the four-part BBC Scotland show hope it will give a warm and nostalgic look back at how home movie making grew from a hobby for the rich in the 1920s to become a cultural phenomenon.

Scotland's Home Movies is on BBC1 Scotland tomorrow at 7.30pm

BARROW OF LAUGHS Lady Jean pushed along by her father at Brodick Games



PULLING POWER Teams of estate staff haul car up driveway to Argaty House



HAPPY MEMORIES Lady Jean with her dog at their family home, Brodick Castle

ARCHIVES Lady Jean and Niall



66 *Downton Abbey* was a bit like how things used to be when I was growing up