

CLASSIC SCOTLAND

23 April – 6 May 2018

Gate 1Tours

This year we decided to visit Scotland. I liked the schedule that Gate 1 was offering (10 Day Classic Scotland), so we booked the tour. Mike and I planned to arrive a few days early in Edinburgh for time on our own. We picked up our rental car at the airport and we were on our way. Since our room at the Hilton Edinburgh Grosvenor wouldn't be ready till the afternoon we drove 7 miles south of central Edinburgh to the village of Roslin. Within the village of Roslin is the Rosslyn Chapel. Founded in 1446 as the Collegiate Church of St. Matthew by Sir William St. Clair, Rosslyn Chapel took some forty years to build and was incomplete when Sir William died in 1484. Practically every surface inside and outside this unique building is carved in an outstanding display of craftsmanship, with many carvings depicting Biblical scenes or giving moral messages. Following a free map we started to discover the most remarkable features, including the Chapel's angels, 100 Green Men and the famous Apprentice Pillar. There are literally hundreds of individual figures and scene carvings in the Chapel inside and out. I liked the carving of the fallen angel Lucifer hanging upside down and bound with rope. The Green Men had vines sprouting from their mouths that represented nature's growth and fertility and illustrated the unity between humankind and nature. The carved angels in the Lady Chapel were celebrating Christ's birth with music. One angel was playing the bagpipes. Since the late 1980s the Chapel has been featured in speculative theories concerning a connection of Freemasonry, the Knight Templar and the Holy Grail. It was prominently featured in the 2003 bestselling novel written by Dan Brown 'The Da Vinci Code' and its 2006 film adaptation. We stopped to have lunch in Roslin at Rosslyn Inn est. 1857. Later checked into our hotel and soon got the keys to our room.

After a welcomed night's sleep and a good breakfast we felt refreshed and took a trip to the village of Huntingtower NW of the centre of Perth. Huntingtower Castle, once



known as Ruthven Castle or the Place (Palace) of Ruthven, is located near the village. The castle was built in stages from the 15th century by the Clan Ruthven family. In the summer of 1582, the castle was occupied by the 4th Lord Ruthven, who was also the 1st Earl of Gowrie, and his family. Gowrie was involved in a plot to kidnap the young King James VI, son of Mary, Queen of Scots. During 1582 Gowrie and his associates seized the young king

and held him prisoner for 10 months. This kidnapping is known as the 'Raid of Ruthven' and the Protestant conspirators behind it hoped to gain power through controlling the king. James eventually escaped and actually forgave Gowrie, but after a second abortive attempt by Gowrie and others to overthrow him, Gowrie was finally executed and his property (including Ruthven Castle) was forfeited to the crown.

The Castle and lands were restored to the Ruthven family in 1586. However in 1600, the brothers John and Alexander Ruthven were implicated in another plot to kill King James VI and were executed. This time, the king was less merciful: as well as seizing the estates, he abolished the name of Ruthven and decreed that any successors would be ineligible to hold titles or lands. Thus the House of Ruthven ceased to exist and by royal proclamation the castle was renamed Huntingtower. The Castle remained in the possession of the crown until 1643 when it was given to the family of Murray of Tullibardine (from whom the Dukes of Atoll and Mansfield are descended). Among the features of interest at Huntingtower are early 16th-century paintings which survive on the first floor of the Eastern Tower. These include fragmentary wall paintings showing flowers, animals and Biblical scenes, and a largely complete decorative scheme on the wooden ceiling. Among the designs are grotesque animals (including a version of the green man) on the main beams, and Renaissance-style knotwork patterns on the overlying planks. This painted ceiling is believed to be the earliest of its kind to survive substantially in Scotland. Minor fragments of wall-paintings also survive in the Western Tower.

Mike and I enjoyed our visit to the Huntingtower Castle. We were the only people in the castle and had a great time finding all of the designs and the knotwork planks. The reason I was so interested in the castle was because the Ruthvens were my ancestors. The Ruthvens settled in Perthshire in the late 1100s, when their forebear, Swein, relocated from East Lothian. Swein's grandson also named Swein, was the first to adopt the surname "Ruthven", borrowed from a place on his estate west of Perth. So much history surrounds the Ruthven family that the truth will never be known. Many of the family members were executed and their lands and property became crown property. Luckily my ancestor escaped and his son William Ruthven went to America. William Ruthven changed his surname to Ruffin and lived in Virginia.

We continued our research in the town of Perth at St. John's Kirk where John Knox preached in 1559. One of Scotland's most important burgh churches. The interior of the church is divided into three parish churches – Middle, East and West. The East Church contains the burial-place of the Gowrie family. Mike and I found a large bronze plague on the far east wall with the Coat of Arms of the Ruthven family listing the names, Earl of Gowrie, Alexander Ruthven, John 3rd last Earl of Gowrie and other family members that were put to death. This memorial was placed by a lineal descendant of John 5th Earl of Gowrie & Janet Ruthven-Stuart as an act of justice and tribute to the memory of brave, loyal and innocent men on the 45th of August 1913.

One of the docents and told us where the Gowrie House was located in town. Gowrie House stood at the end of South Street in Perth. It was demolished in 1809 so that the street could be extended to the River Tay. Gowrie House was the scene, in 1600, of the slaughter of John Ruthven, 3rd Earl of Gowrie, and his brother Alexander Ruthven. The events leading to and surrounding the deaths are sketchy and the incident has come to be known as the Gowrie Conspiracy. We took a short walk around town and went into a few shops. We went into two antique shops. In one I purchased a nice wall pocket and a pretty blue bird. In the other antique shop I purchased some glazed pottery buttons made

by disabled children that lived in Perth. Next door was a boutique called Blues & Browns with dresses and hats. I purchased a burgundy hat with assorted feathers on the top designed and made by the lady that ran the store.

Our next mission of the day was to get to visit the Croft Moraig Stone Circle a prehistoric stone circle situated four miles southwest of Aberfeldy. The stone circle is situated by the side of the A827 road between Aberfeldy and Kenmore. It stands to the northeast of Loch Tay on low ground beneath steep mountainsides. Croft Moraig is a complex double stone circle which owes its appearance to no less than three phases of religious activity over 5,000 years ago. In common with other prehistoric religious sites, it was altered on a number of occasions with the changing needs of the people who used it. We stopped for dinner before heading back to Edinburgh at the Black Watch on Bank Street in Aberfeldy. I tried some local dishes, steak and ale pie, and for dessert sticky toffee pudding.

After breakfast we drove three hours to visit the Castlerigg Stone Circle situated near Keswick in Cumbria, North West England. One of around 1,300 stone circles in the British Isles and Brittany, it was constructed as a part of a megalithic tradition that lasted from 3,300 to 900 BC, during the Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Ages. Various archaeologists have commented that the site was “one of the most visually impressive prehistoric monuments in Britain. The plateau forms the raised centre of a natural amphitheatre created by the surrounding fells and from within the circle it is possible to see some of the highest peaks in Cumbria. As we approached the circle a gray haired lady in a long white dress with a knee length red wool coat was hugging one of the large stones. She meditated for a while placing her hands on the top of the stone and closed her eyes. After a while she was taking selfies of herself and the stone. We patiently waited till she was satisfied and then approached the site. The stones are of a local metamorphic slate, set in a flattened circle, measuring 107 ft at its widest and 97 ft. at its narrowest. The heaviest stone has been estimated to around 16 tons. There is a gap in its northern edge, which may have been an entrance. Some stones in the circle have been aligned with the midwinter sunrise and various lunar positions. The original purpose of the site is unknown. It could have been used as a trading post. Three stone axes have been discovered inside the circle. In the Neolithic period axes were made from volcanic stone quarried in the fells. Other possible uses include a meeting place for social gatherings, a site for religious ceremonies and rituals or even an astronomical observatory with the stones being aligned to the sun, moon and stars.

Driving back we passed the sign welcoming us to Scotland. We stopped at the Church of Scotland Blackmount Parish and its cemetery linked with Biggar. Originally a parsonage in the 13th century, it appears to have always occupied the same site, undergoing a complete rebuild in 1789, with late 19th-century additions. A typical T-plan church, built so the preacher has the light behind him and the congregation can hear him. The bell dates from c.1800. The cemetery was Lamington Cemetery. The cemetery had some very old tombstones with skulls with wings and crossbones. Afterwards we were looking for a place to have lunch and stopped at an old mill turned into a restaurant. Mike went to see if they were opened. I saw an older lady enter through an arch covered with

vines. I peeked inside and saw a beautiful country garden. The lady saw me and motioned for me to enter the garden. She said it was her garden and to enjoy it. Mike came in to find me and the lady talked to us for half an hour about all the plants in the garden and all the birds that she was friends with on first-name basis. I was surprised on how many plants were in flowering. We asked if she could recommend a good place for lunch. She suggested that we go to the Crown Inn on High Street in Biggar for locally sourced food and traditional cask ales & malt whiskies. She gave us a good suggestion and we had a very nice lunch. We shared the Biggar 'Ice Cream in Waffle Basket' made with high street ice cream...three scoops, vanilla, strawberry and raspberry ripple, decorated with some berries and powered sugar...yum. We went exploring in Biggar and entered the local bakery. I purchased some cookies called fleeting moments, a sandwich cookie with a passion fruit filling. I ate them later and they were the best cookies I have ever had. We went down the block to 'Biggar Stitches' a quilting shop. I was looking for some buttons made in Scotland. We had a nice conversation with the ladies running the shop and one of them showed me a basket of buttons. The basket had buttons made from broken pieces of china from tea cups and saucers. We left and drove on passing lowland fields and wild hill pastures dotted with sheep.

When we got back to Edinburgh we were lucky to find a parking space near the end of the Royal Mile. We found what we were looking for, the Greyfriars Bobby Fountain. The fountain is a granite fountain surmounted by a bronze life-size stature of Greyfriars Bobby, a Skye Terrier who became known in 19th-century Edinburgh for supposedly spending 14 years guarding the grave of his owner John Gray until the dog itself died. After seeing Bobby we went into Greyfriars cemetery and church. We found the grave of Greyfriars Bobby who died the 14th of January 1872 at the age of 16 years and was buried in a flowerpot in front of Greyfriars church. A marker for Bobby was erected by the Dog Aid Society of Scotland that reads "let his loyalty & devotion be a lesson to us all". Then we found the grave of John Gray who died in 1858. John Gray was a policeman in Edinburgh who died at the age of 45 of tuberculosis who would never have been remembered today if it were not for his dog Bobby, who kept watch over his grave for fourteen years. Greyfriars Bobby's statue in Edinburgh is a city landmark, and his life has been the subject of many books and movies, including the 1961 Walt Disney movie "Greyfriars Bobby."

When we were in San Diego, California earlier in this year we entered a small courtyard next to the historic Davis-Horton House Museum. In the courtyard were two statues, Greyfriars Bobby of Scotland and Bum a stowaway from San Francisco who was aboard a steamship in 1886 and was soon adopted by the townspeople of San Diego. They were two vagabond dogs and the cities who loved them. A project was started called the "Brothers Dogs." The "Brothers Dogs" project took off with the arrival of the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Eleanor McLaughlin, in San Diego in 1990. She met San Diego's Mayor Maureen O'Connor. Edinburgh and San Diego California being sister cities, the two agreed to promote a twin statues project. Bum was declared San Diego's official town dog. His likeness was put on "Dog Tax Receipts" of 1891. When Bum died on the 10th of November 1898, the children of San Diego collected pennies for Bum to have a proper funeral. Bum bronze statue is not side by side with Bobby in Edinburgh. Bum's

statue is at Princes Street Gardens the west-entrance at Kings Stable Road. The statue of Bum was given to the people of Edinburgh by the San Diego-Edinburgh Sister city Society and the statue of Bobby was given to San Diego in return by the Edinburgh – San Diego Twin City Association.

This morning we met with our Gate 1 group and went for a city tour of historic Edinburgh. The route took us past the Scottish Parliament, the Museum of Scotland, the Royal Mile, Georgian new Town and Princes Street. We ended up at Edinburgh Castle and had time on our own to explore the castle. We went to see the Crown Room and St. Margaret's Chapel and enjoyed the views of the city from the castle. At the bottom of the esplanade, where the square hits the road we found the plaque on the wall above the tiny witches well (now a planter). This plaque memorializes 300 women who were accused of witchcraft and burned here. Below was the Nor' lock, the swampy lake where those accused of witchcraft (mostly women) were tested: Bound up, they were dropped into the lake. If they sank and drowned, they were innocent. If they floated, they were guilty, and were burned here in front of the castle. Lose-Lose situation.

We took a walk through Princes Street Gardens located in the shadow of Edinburgh Castle. Lots of spring flowers and trees were in bloom. Hundreds and hundreds of daffodils filled the slopes. We ended up by the Sir Walter Scott Monument and noticed people on the top of it walking around. The Scott Monument is among the largest monuments to a writer anywhere in the world, it is a truly unique building. Sitting proudly at the base of the monument is Sir Walter himself, carved in Carrara marble by Sir John Steell. This monumental statue is fashioned from a single piece of marble weighing 30 tons it took the sculptor six years to complete. It features Scott and his beloved hound Maida. We got tickets to climb the 287 steps to the top of the 200-foot monument for a fine city view. When Mike was at the top he decided to take a photo of the view. When he got close to the edge his hat hit an overhead and the hat went sailing down to the ground. I said go and get your hat and I will be down later. The stony spiral staircase is a tight fit and only one person can fit at one time so it was going to take me some time to get down to the ground. Mike must have flew down because he got his hat it record time.

After our visit to the Sir Walter Scott Monument Mike and I had lunch at 'The Witchery by the Castle' a wonderful bolthole. Located in a sixteenth-century merchant's house, the rich baroque surroundings of the Witchery's original dining room offers a memorable dining experience surrounded by ancient oak paneling hung with tapestries. Heraldic painted ceilings recalled the Auld Alliance and Edinburgh's Royal past reflected in the candlelight of dozens of antique candlesticks and whilst historic stone walls reminding you of the building's four hundred years of history.

We used Rick Stevens snapshot book of Edinburgh to venture down the Royal Mile. The Royal Mile is the name given to a succession of streets forming the main thoroughfare of the Old Town of the city of Edinburgh in Scotland. The term was first used descriptively in W. M. Gilbert's 'Edinburgh in the Nineteenth Century' (1901), ...with its Castle and Palace and the royal mile between", and was further popularized as the title of a

guidebook, published in 1920. The thoroughfare is, as the name suggests, approximately one Scots mile long and runs downhill between two significant locations in the history of Scotland, namely Edinburgh Castle and Holyrood Palace. We went inside Tolbooth Church with its impressive Neo-Gothic structure (1844). We passed many interesting buildings, restaurants and shops. Across the street from Deacon Brodie's Tavern is the statue of hometown boy David Hume (1711-1776), one of the most influential thinkers in all of Western philosophy. I noticed his shiny toe. People on their way to trial (in the high court just behind the statue) or students on their way to exams (in the nearby university) rub his toe for good luck. I gave his toe a good touch to gain some knowledge maybe to make me wiser in life. On the opposite corner of the David Hume statue there is a brass 'H' in the pavement that marks the site of the last public execution in Edinburgh on the 21st of June 1864 of George Bryce, the Ratho murderer. Deacon Brodie himself would have been hung about here (in 1788, on a gallows whose design he had helped to improve). Further down the brick paved sidewalk was the 'Heart of Midlothian' which marks the spot of the city's 15th century municipal building and jail. In times past, in a nearby open space, criminals were hanged, traitors were decapitated, and witches were burned. Citizens hated the rough justice doled out here. Locals still spit on the heart in the pavement.

We went inside the flagship of the Church of Scotland 'St. Giles' Cathedral'. Parts of St Giles Cathedral date from the 14th century: inside you can see medieval stonework and Victorian stained glass windows. Also known as the High Kirk of Edinburgh, it is the Mother Church of Presbyterianism and contains the Chapel of the Order of the Thistle. The Thistle Chapel was designed by Robert Lorimer and finished in 1911. It contains stalls for the 16 knights, the Sovereign's stall and two Royal stalls. The chapel contains a wealth of detail, both religious and heraldic, and much of it peculiarly Scottish, including angels playing bagpipes. Along the sides of the chapel are the knights' stalls, which are capped by lavishly carved canopies with the helms and crests of the knights rising above. The richest effect of all, however, is reserved for the Sovereign's stall at the west end of the chapel.

For some fun I stepped inside a red telephone box designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott. The color red was chosen to make them easy to spot. Scotland is home to approximately 1,300 working red telephone boxes, and more than 120 which have been disconnected and put to new uses by communities and individuals.

The Worlds End: For centuries, a wall stood here, marking the end of the burgh of Edinburgh. For residents within the protective walls of the city, this must have felt like the "world end". At the intersection we found the brass bricks in the street that trace the gate (demolished in 1764). At Canongate we saw the obelisk, called Martyrs' Monument, that remembers a group of 18th century patriots exiled by London to Australia for their reform politics. The round building to the left is the grave of philosopher David Hume.

Just outside Cannogate Kirk on the sidewalk was a statue of the poet Robert Fergusson (1750-1774). The statue is unusual as Robert is walking on the sidewalk. You can pose by the statue and act like you are walking with him. Robert Fergusson was one of the first

people to write verse in the Scots language. He so inspired Robert Burns that Burns paid for Fergusson's tombstone in the Canongate churchyard and composed his epitaph. Robert Fergusson poetic career lasted for just three years. In 1774 he injured himself falling down a flight of steps and was incarcerated in the Edinburgh Bedlam as a madman. His poetry in Scots expresses the character, spirit, and very taste and smell of the Edinburgh of his day.

Today Mike and I went to tour the Palace of Holyroodhouse the Queen's official residence in Edinburgh and the home of Scottish royal history. We went to explore the palace's close associations with some of Scotland's most well-known historic figures such as Mary, Queen of Scots and Bonnie Prince Charlie, and learn how today it is used by the Queen when carrying out official engagements in Scotland. Unfortunately the Queen's Gallery was closed. At the palace we went inside to see the State Apartments and outside to the ruins of the 12th Century Holyrood Abbey and the royal gardens. After we toured Holyroodhouse we made our way back to the Royal Mile. We had not completed it the last time. We made a photo of the brass letter 'S' placed in the cobblestone street. This marks the place of sanctuary. Debtors couldn't be arrested within the boundaries of Holyrood Abbey. Between the 17th and 19th centuries, thousands of debtors from around the world claimed sanctuary at Abbey Strand and with the Palace precincts. On Sundays debtors could venture into the city without fear of arrest. They were often chased down the Royal Mile by sheriffs as they tried to return to the sanctuary by midnight.

We passed a little outdoor craft market where a lady was busying knitting hats, scarves and gloves to sell. One man had a table of antiques and jewelry for sale. Mike grabbed a Pitt beer at Barney's beer stand and we went to find a taxi to go to the Royal Botanic Gardens. This is Britain's second-oldest botanical garden (after Oxford) and was est. in 1670 for medicinal herbs, this 70-acre refuge is now one of Europe's best. The gardens are free but if you want to visit the 10 greenhouses there is a fee. We went through the gardens with the trees and shrubs blooming with their spring flowers. The greenhouses have different climatic zones, from steamy tropics to arid desert, and are home to over 3,000 exotic plants. Their mission is to explore, conserve and explain the world of plants for a better future. The front desk at the Royal Botanic Gardens had a phone on the counter where you could call up for a taxi to pick you up at the entrance. We got our taxi and had him take us to a very good seafood restaurant called 'Fishers in the City'. After a wonderful dinner we walked to Rose Street a street in the New Town. It is a narrow street running parallel between Princes Street and George Street. We found the Tudor Rose design embedded in the brick street.

We met up the next morning with our tour group and guide and boarded the coach. We are leaving Edinburgh today and heading to the town of St. Andrews, renowned for its famous golf course and the University where Prince William studied and where he met Catherine Middleton. We went inside Northpoint Café on North Street where 'Kate Met Will' is posted on a sign in the front window.

Our guide had the coach drop us off at the ruins of St. Andrews Cathedral. It was built in 1158 and became the centre of the Medieval Catholic Church in Scotland as the seat of the Archdiocese of St Andrews and the Bishops and Archbishops of St Andrews. It fell into disuse and ruin after Catholic mass was outlawed during the 16th-century Scottish Reformation. It is currently a monument in the custody of Historic Scotland. The ruins indicate that the building was approximately 390 ft. long, and was the largest church to have been built in Scotland. We purchased tickets to climb St. Rule's Tower's 160 steps. The tower allows you great views of the town, harbour, sea, and surrounding countryside. Beautifully built in grey sandstone ashlar, and (for its date) immensely tall, it is a land-and sea-mark seen from many miles away, its prominence was meant to guide pilgrims to the place of the Apostle's relics. In the Middle Ages a spire atop the tower made it even more prominent. The tower was originally ascended using ladders between wooden floors, but a stone spiral staircase was inserted in the 18th century.

At the entrance of the St. Salvator's Chapel on the sidewalk were the initials on the pavement of 'P H'. The sign on the gate stated: The initials on the pavement nearby mark the spot where Patrick Hamilton, member of the University, was burned at the stake on 29 February 1528, at the age of 24. On the continent he had been greatly influenced by Martin Luther, and on his return to St. Andrews he began to teach Lutheran doctrines. Having been tried and found guilty of heresy, he was condemned to death, thus becoming the first martyr of the Scottish Reformation. Students at the University of St. Andrews traditionally avoid stepping on the monogram of Hamilton's initials outside St. Salvator's Chapel for fear of being cursed and failing their final exams. To lift the curse students may participate in the annual May dip where they traditionally run into the North Sea at 05.00 to wash away their sins and bad luck. We talked to a couple who told us that their son had participated in the annual May dip this morning so that he might have good grades on his final exams that were coming up.

We stopped off to look at the courtyard at the University of St. Andrews College then headed back to meet our group at the old golf course one of the oldest golf courses in the world. Old Tom Morris, who helped shape the course and his son Young Tom – both four-time winners of the 'Open' are buried in the graveyard by the ruins of St. Andrews Cathedral.

Our next stop of the day was to Glamis Castel, childhood home of the Queen-Mother. This well-preserved Glamis Castle has been the home of the Lyon family since the 14th century, though the present building dates largely from the 17th century. Glamis was the childhood home of Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, wife of King George VI. Their second daughter, Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, was born there. From here we left to go to the winter sports resort of Aviemore in time for dinner. We stayed at the Morlich Hotel at Macdonald Aviemore Resort.

Next morning we had day trips, to the Balnuaran Clava Cairns, Culloden Battlefield and a whisky distillery. The Clava Cairns was a highlight of my trip.....as were the stone circles Mike and I did on our own. One of the large singular stones at Clava Cairns was used to film a scene for the Outlander series where people entered a time travel portal to

the past. The character Claire Elizabeth Beauchamp Randall/Fraser was a fictional character in the Outlander series of multi-genre novels by American author Diana Gabaldon, and its television adaptation. In the series, Claire is a married World War II nurse visiting Scotland who finds herself transported from 1945 back to 1743. There she finds adventure, war and romance with the dashing Highland warrior Jamie Fraser. Smart, stubborn and willful, Claire uses her wits, practical medical skills and knowledge of the future to survive in the 18th century.

The Clava cairn is a type of Bronze Age circular chamber tomb cairn, named after the group of three cairns at Balnuaran of Clava, to the east of Inverness in Scotland. There are about 50 cairns of this type in an area round about Inverness. They fall into two sub-types, one typically consisting of a corbelled passage grave with a single burial chamber linked to the entrance by a short passage and covered with a cairn of stones, with the entrances oriented south west towards midwinter sunset. In the other sub-type an annular ring cairn encloses an apparently unroofed area with no formal means of access from the outside. In both sub-types a stone circle surrounds the whole tomb and a kerb often runs around the cairn. The heights of the standing stones vary in height so that the tallest fringe the entrance (oriented south west) and the shortest are directly opposite it.

Where Clava-type tombs have still contained burial remains, only one or two bodies appear to have been buried in each, and the lack of access to the second sub-type suggests that there was no intention of re-visiting the dead or communally adding future burials as had been the case with Neolithic cairn tombs. The cairns incorporate cup and ring mark stones, carved before they were built into the structures. The kerb stones are graded in size and selected for colour, so that the stones are larger and redder to the south west, and smaller and whiter to the north east. All these elements seem to have been constructed as one operation and indicate a complex design rather than ad hoc additions.

People from our group and ourselves looked around the cairns and had photos taken at the stone used in one of the 'Outlander' series. I rushed to look around for a particular stone with the cup and ring marks and found it on the first cairn...lucky as I found it just as our group was leaving for our next designation. Our guide was excited that I found that stone and she wanted me to show her where it was...I did and we all left the cairns.

We made a short stop at a farm that had some 'Hairy Coos' The farm had bulls, cows and calves. The Coos are Highland cattle (Scottish *Heilan coo*) a Scottish cattle breed. They have long horns and long wavy coats that are coloured black, brindle, red, yellow, white, silver (looks white but with a black nose) or dun, and they are raised primarily for their meat. They originated in the Highlands and Hebrides Islands of Scotland and were first mentioned in the 6th century AD. The first herd book described two distinct types of Highland cattle but, due to crossbreeding between the two, only one type now exists and is registered. They have since been exported worldwide.

They are a hardy breed, having been bred to withstand the conditions in the Scottish Highlands. Their long hair gives the breed its ability to overwinter. Bulls can weigh up to 1,800 pounds and cows up to 500 kilograms 1,100 pounds. Their milk generally has a

very high butterfat content, and their meat, regarded as of the highest quality, is gaining mainstream acceptance as it is lower in cholesterol than other varieties of beef.

Onward to the battlefield where the 1745 Jacobite rising came to a tragic end: Culloden Battlefield. On 16 April 1746, the Jacobite forces of Charles Edward Stuart, known popularly now as Bonnie Prince Charles, were decisively defeated by loyalist troops commanded by William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, near Inverness in the Scottish Highlands. Charles Stuart's Jacobite army consisted largely of Catholics and Scottish Episcopalians – mainly Scots but with a small detachment of Englishmen from the Manchester Regiment. The Jacobites were supported and supplied by the Kingdom of France from Irish and Scots units in French service. The British Government (Hanoverian loyalist) forces were mostly Protestants – English, along with a significant number of Scottish Lowlanders and Highlanders, a battalion of Ulstermen, and some Hessians from Germany, and Austrians. The quick and bloody battle on Culloden Moor was over in less than an hour, when after an unsuccessful Highland charge against the government lines, the Jacobites were routed and driven from the field. The museum at Culloden was very interesting with lots of displays and information. In the movie room a short film was shown. You stood in the middle of the room with screens on all sides and a very loud battle began. It was quite realistic and the men all fought running and screaming ... around 1,500 men were slain – more 1,000 of them Jacobites. Mike and I went outside to walk around the battlefield. Headstones mark the graves of hundreds of clansmen who gave their lives for the Jacobite cause; a 6m-high memorial cairn honors the fallen; and an eerie silence often falls across wild Drummoissie Moor.

We left Culloden and stopped at town of Inverness for lunch and looking around the town. Mike and I went into the Inverness Cathedral and then went to have lunch at a nearby restaurant called 'Steak and Seafood'. Mike ordered 2 orders of mussels and fish and chips. I ordered the roasted loin of pork stuffed with kale, goats cheese and sun blushed tomatoes, with dill and potato puree, chantenay carrots and pan jus. Great lunch, I even tried the quail appetizer.

After lunch our coach drove us to Loch Ness. Loch Ness is a large, deep, freshwater loch in the Scottish Highlands extending for approximately 23 miles southwest of Inverness. Loch Ness is best known for alleged sightings of the crypto zoological Loch Ness monster, also known affectionately as "Nessie". Loch Ness is the second largest Scottish loch by surface area after Loch Lomond, but due to its great depth, it is the largest by volume in the British Isles. We didn't see "Nessie" but the views were amazing.

Our last stop today was to visit the Glen Ord Distillery the Home of Singleton Single Malt Scotch Whisky. Glen Ord is a whisky distillery in the Scottish Highlands and is the only remaining single malt scotch whisky distillery on the Black Isle. Its principal product is an eponymous 12-year-old single malt whisky. Our group was taken behind the scenes to see how the whisky is in the production areas of the distillery. Afterwards we were taken to the tasting room to sample Singleton 12, 15 and 18 yr. old Singleton whisky.

New day new adventures: First we stopped at Carron Restaurant for some homemade shortbread and tea. Next door was the Carron Pottery and Crafts Gallery. I had just enough time for a power shopping trip. I asked if they had any pottery buttons. "Yes behind you" the lady said. I grabbed the box and hurriedly picked out some and headed to the coach with my buttons. The scenery ahead was beautiful. We made a short stop to see the Eilean Donan Castle situated on an island where 3 lochs meet, dating from the 13th century. The castle was founded in the thirteenth century, and became a stronghold of the Clan Mackenzie and their allies the Clan Macrae. In the early eighteenth century, the Mackenzies' involvement in the Jacobite rebellions, led in 1719, to the castle's destruction by government ships. Lieutenant-Colonel John Macrae-Gilstrap's twentieth-century reconstruction of the ruins produced the present buildings.

Our next stop was at Armadale Castle, Gardens & Museum of the Iles, the spiritual home of Clan Donald. The Macdonalds have been associated with this site for centuries. Clan chiefs have had a residence here since the mid-17th century. We had lunch at the 'Stables Restaurant' and then to see the ruins of the Armadale Castle. A fire destroyed much of the original mansion house in 1855. By the 1930s the castle had fallen into disrepair and had become structurally unsafe. It was necessary to partially demolish it in the 1980s. Mike and I headed over to the museum walking through the gardens. It was cold, windy and raining so we did not get to spend too much time in the gardens. It was a nice museum and one of the cases had the original sculpture of Greyfriars Bobby by the Scottish sculptor William Brodie (1815-81) on loan from the Skye Terrier Club.

Later we had a short stop at Glenfinnan. Glenfinnan is a hamlet in Lochaber area of the Highlands of Scotland. In 1745 the Jacobite rising began here when Prince Charles Edward Stuart raised his standard on the shores of Loch Shiel. By 1815, the Jacobite cause was no longer a political threat. Alexander Macdonald of Glenaladale, a minor branch of the Clan Donald, built a memorial tower at Glenfinnan to commemorate the raising of the standard of the Young Pretender. The tower was designed by the Scottish architect James Gillespie Graham. The statue of an anonymous highlander, referred to at the point of commission as Charles Edward Stewart, by John Greenshields, was not added until 1835. Hundreds of Jacobite enthusiasts gather at the tower each year on 19 August to remember the Rising of '45.

We arrived in Ft. Williams and stayed at the Alexandra Hotel. It was raining but Mike and I went for a short walk to Craigs Cemetery also known as the Ft. Williams cemetery. The ruin of the arch of Ft. Williams was moved to this cemetery and stands as an entrance way. A marker on top of the arch reads: "This arch was erected in 1690, over the main entrance to the 'Fort' and re-erected here in 1896 where Sir Allan Cameron of Errachtin 1793 raised the 79th or Cameron Highlanders a regiment which distinguished itself on many a hard fought field for King and County." Fort Williams owes its name to the large fort constructed here in 1690. With accommodation for 600 soldiers it was the westernmost of a chain of three forts built to help pacify the Highlands. It was demolished to make way for the West Highland Railway in 1894.

Next day we drove through Glencoe Valley and made a stop to see the three mountains called 'The Three Sisters of Glen Coe', three steeply-sided ridges that extend north into the Glen. We saw many hikers making their way on the hiking paths. The scenery was beautiful with snow capped mountains, running streams and waterfalls. We soon saw the sign that said "Welcome to Inveruglas Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park. We went on a cruise taking in the views of the surrounding Trossachs National Park.

In the afternoon we arrived in Glasgow and had a guide take us on a short tour. We first visited the St. Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art. Outside in the courtyard was a Clooty Tree, usually found near sacred shrines, springs and mountains. Brightly colored ribbons were in a basket by the tree. Tying pieces of cloth on trees is a tradition in many cultures from Cyprus to Japan. In Scotland the tradition goes back to ancient Celtic times before the arrival of Christianity. The strips of cloth can represent hopes and prayers. The museum had many displays showcasing religions and customs practiced all over the world.

When we grouped outside our guide told us the story of Glasgow's Coat of Arms. Somewhat surprisingly, the City of Glasgow did not have a coat of arms until the middle of the 19th century. In 1866, the Lord Lyon King at Arms gave approval for one which incorporated a number of symbols and emblems which had been used on official seals up until then - all of which were associated with St. Mungo a monastery on the banks of the Molendinar Burn. The story of the Glasgow's Coat of Arms.

There's the tree that never grew,
There's the bird that never flew,
There's the fish that never swam,
There's the bell that never rang.

The Tree That Never Grew

The tree in the coat of arms is a now sturdy oak tree, but it started out as a branch of a hazel tree. The legend says that St. Mungo was in charge of a holy fire in St Serf's Monastery and fell asleep. Some boys who were envious of his favored position with St Serf put out the fire. But St Mungo broke off some frozen branches from a hazel tree and, by praying over them, caused them to burst into flames.

The Bird That Never Flew

This commemorates a wild robin which was tamed by St. Serf and which was accidentally killed. St. Mungo was blamed for the death but he is said to have taken the dead bird, prayed over it and it was restored to life.

The Fish That Never Swam

The coat of arms always shows the fish with a ring held in its mouth. This is because a King of Strathclyde had given his wife a ring as a present. But the Queen gave it to a

knight who promptly lost it. Some versions of the story say that the King took the ring while the knight was asleep and threw it in the river. The King then demanded to see the ring - threatening death to the Queen if she could not do so. The knight confessed to St. Mungo who sent a monk to catch a fish in the river Clyde. When this was brought back (presumably catching salmon in the Clyde in those days was a lot easier then) St. Mungo cut open the fish and found the ring. When the Bishop of Glasgow was designing his own seal around 1271, he used the illustration of a salmon with a ring in its mouth and this has come down to us in today's coat of arms.

The Bell That Never Rang

In 1450, John Stewart, the first Lord Provost of Glasgow, left an endowment so that a "St. Mungo's Bell" could be made and tolled throughout the city so that the citizens would pray for his soul. The bell was still ringing out in 1578, as there is an entry in the City Treasurer's accounts two shillings (10p) "for one tong to St. Mungowis Bell." A new bell was purchased by the magistrates in 1641 and that bell is on display in the People's Palace museum near Glasgow Green.

In 1631, another bell was made, this time for the Tron on which was inscribed the words "Lord, let Glasgow Flourish by the preaching of the word." Whether Glasgow flourished with spiritual assistance or the hard work of its people (or both), there is no doubt that Glasgow, now the largest city in Scotland, (twice the size of the capital, Edinburgh) has certainly prospered.

We then went to Glasgow Cathedral. Glasgow Cathedral, also called the High Kirk of Glasgow or St. Kentigern's or St. Mungo's Cathedral, is today a gathering of the Church of Scotland in Glasgow. The history of the cathedral is linked with that of the city, and is allegedly located where the patron saint of Glasgow, Saint Mungo, built his church. The tomb of the saint is in the lower crypt. Technically, the building is no longer a cathedral, since it has not been the seat of a bishop since 1690. However, like many other pre-Reformation cathedrals in Scotland, it is still a place of active Christian worship, hosting a Church of Scotland congregation. One scene in season two of the series 'Outlander' was filmed in the lower section of this cathedral at the nurses chapel. A small nurses chapel (chapel of St. Andres) had been refurnished and brought back into use, after an interval of four hundred years, on Whitsudnay 1961, as a place of prayer and meditation for member of the nursing profession. It was here that Claire of 'Outlander' was being cared for when she became ill. She was pregnant at the time and the trauma of witnessing a duel between Black Jack and Jamie Fraser brought on complications and she loss the baby.

We drove around Glasgow for a short city tour and then we went to the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum. We saw some paintings by Vincent van Gogh and others. Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum is one of Scotland's most popular free attractions and features 22 themed, state-of-the-art galleries displaying an astonishing 8000 objects. Everything from a mummified man's head a Spitfire plane hanging from the ceiling to hundreds of flowing heads with different facial expressions by Sophie Cave hanging from

the ceiling to a large pipe organ on the second floor. Nice shops are located in the basement. I purchased a nice sized tapestry bag to take my souvenirs home in.

After this tour we were taken to the Hilton Glasgow where we would be staying. Dinner was on our own so Mike and I picked a restaurant within 15 minutes walk from our hotel called 'Sarti'. A traditional, family-run trattoria for Italian breakfasts, regional dishes and thin-crust pizzas. The food was good ... we were hungry and ordered a hearty bowl of minestrone soup, Gamberoni alla Griglis (five butterflied king prawns flamed with chilli, garlic, parsley and extra virgin olive oil to start. Mike then ordered mussels on a bed of risotto. I had spaghetti alla carbonara with a side of three big meatballs. Our waiter was a bit nutty but the food was good.

Last full day with the group we all went to visit Stirling Castle. Stirling Castle is located in Stirling being one of the largest and most important castles in Scotland, both historically and architecturally. The castle sits atop Castle Hill, an intrusive crag, which forms part of the Stirling Sill geological formation. It is surrounded on three sides by steep cliffs, giving it a strong defensive position. Its strategic location, guarding what was, until the 1890s, the farthest downstream crossing of the River Forth, has made it an important fortification in the region from the earliest times. Most of the principal buildings of the castle date from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. A few structures of the fourteenth century remain, while the outer defenses fronting the town date from the early eighteenth century. There have been at least eight sieges of Stirling Castle, including several during the Wars of Scottish Independence, with the last being in 1746, when Bonnie Prince Charlie unsuccessfully tried to take the castle. Mike and I took off on our own and explored the castle. In one part of the castle was the regimental museum highlighting the history of the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders in their uniforms. I like buttons and a docent saw Mike and me taking photos of the uniforms and their military buttons. She asked us why we were so interested in the buttons on the uniforms. I told her I collected buttons and liked to take photos of them in museums. I asked if there was a gift shop at the castle where I could buy reproduction buttons, she said she would ask. The nice lady came back with two reproduction buttons for me to keep for free. "You can give a donation in the next room in the donation drum if you want but don't have too", she said. I did leave a donation for the museum. The ceiling of the King's Presence Chamber was originally decorated with a series of carved oak portrait roundels known as the Stirling Heads, described as "among the finest examples of Scottish Renaissance wood-carving now extant." The carvings were taken down following a ceiling collapse in 1777, and of an estimated 56 original heads, 38 survive. Most were given to the Smith Institute in Stirling, and these are now preserved in the castle, and three more are in the National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh.

Then we went to see the impressive 'Kelpies', the world's largest equine sculptures and Scotland's latest iconic landmark rising majestically over the Forth & Clyde Canal in Falkirk. The 'Kelpies' are 30-metre-high horse-head sculptures, standing next to a new extension to the Forth and Clyde Canal near River Carron, in The Helix, a new parkland project built to connect 16 communities in the Falkirk council area. Kelpie, or water kelpie, is the Scots name given to a shape-shifting water spirit inhabiting the lochs and

pools of Scotland. It has usually been described as appearing as a horse, but is able to adopt human form. Some accounts state that the kelpie retains its hooves when appearing as a human, leading to its association with the Christian idea of Satan as alluded to by Robert Burns in his 1786 poem "Address to the Deil" [Devil]. Almost every sizeable body of water in Scotland has an associated kelpie story, but the most extensively reported is that of Loch Ness. Just as with cinematic werewolves, a kelpie can be killed by being shot with a silver bullet, after which it is seen to consist of nothing more than "turf and a soft mass like jelly-fish". Whatever the folk tale about the Kelpies the sculptures were amazing I wish I could have seen them lit up at night. So next time you are strolling by a pretty river or stream, be vigilant; you may be being watched from the water by a malevolent Kelpie.

Our group returned to Glasgow for time on your own. The coach stopped at George Square. We went inside the City Chambers, whose magnificence tells the story of the wealth and industrial prosperity of the Second City of the Empire. It was opened by Queen Victoria in 1888 and for over a hundred years has been the headquarters of successive city councils. Queen Victoria herself is depicted on the front of the building, with the central apex statue of Truth above her. This figure is known by locals as Glasgow's own "Statue of Liberty". The building is in the Beaux arts style, an interpretation of Renaissance Classicism incorporating Italianate styles with a vast range of ornate decoration. The entrance hall of the Chambers displays a mosaic of the city's coat of arms on the floor. The coat of arms reflect legends about Glasgow's patron saint, Saint Mungo, and include four emblems – the bird, tree, bell, and fish. Pillars of marble and granite give way to staircases of Carrara marble, freestone, and alabaster, and a ceiling decorated in gold leaf is topped by a stained glass dome. We had a guide take us through the City Chambers and it was absolutely beautiful.

We walked past the Gallery of Modern Art with the equestrian statue of the Duke of Wellington in front. The statue usually has a traffic cone on its head; for many years the authorities regularly removed cones, only for them to be replaced. The jauntily placed cone has come to represent, particularly in tourist guidebooks, the city's light-hearted attitude to authority. Next stop was to the Parisian-style arcade with a glass roof where over 30 jewellers and diamond merchants sell their jewelry. The arcade is called 'The Argyll Arcade' and is situated in the heart of Glasgow's shopping metropolis on Buchanan Street. I was looking for smoky quartz jewelry the national gem of Scotland. I found out that smoky quartz was not as popular anymore in Scotland and I found very little in the stores. Smoky quartz also known as 'Cairngorm quartz' for centuries adorned traditional Highland dress. We then went back to the hotel to get ready for our farewell dinner with our group. The coach took us back to George Square to a restaurant called 'Browns Brasserie & Bar'. We had a nice dinner and conversations with people from our group...goodbyes and happy travels was said by all.

Mike and I had two more days in Glasgow on our own. On our first day we did a walking tour around Glasgow. We were following a walking map called 'City Centre Mural Trail' to find murals painted on buildings and alleyways by artists of Glasgow. In 2014 the City Centre Mural Trail was officially launched to promote the growing

portfolio of works adorning buildings within Glasgow City Centre. We found this an interesting way to explore the city and it was fun finding the murals. On the way we went inside the Glasgow Central Train Station, lots of historical building, places where the series 'Outlander' were filmed, pedestrian streets, restaurants and shops and just watching tourist and locals out for the day. We even watched a little old lady with a red velvet hat pull bowls of feed out for the pigeons that flew down in droves to get the feed. The streets and sidewalks were full of cars, bikes and people. We stopped to go in candy shops, some fancy, some not. I found a hat store and purchased a few fascinators. We stopped to see the blue police booths. Although these police boxes were designed to help the public and act as a miniature station, they found fame as the shape taken on by Doctor Who's "Tardis" a fictional time machine and spacecraft that appears in the British science fiction television programme 'Doctor Who' and its various spin-offs. We also found a few red telephone booths, one used as a hemp dispenser and information booth... "How May We Hemp You?"...lol Mike and I had tea at 'The Willow Tea Rooms' established in 1983 on Buchanan Street. Inspired by the works of Charles Rennie Mackintosh, the tea rooms are modeled on Kate Cranston's 'Ingram Street Tea Rooms' from the early 1900s. There are two tea rooms, one painted all in white with tall backed dark wood chairs and the other a floor above that is all done all in blue with oriental furniture. We sat in the white room with a view of Buchanan Street and "went all out" and ordered the afternoon tea with a glass of champagne. We had a tier stand with tea sandwiches, scones with cream and jam and our choice of dessert from the dessert case. Then we picked what tea we wanted from a list of selections.

We left and walked down Buchanan street and listened and watched performers on the street. One man looked like he was sitting on the street with his dog but it turned out to be a mother dog and a pup made out of sand. We went pass the 'Hard Rock Café' and many stores. Popped into a mall and I had to laugh when I saw a clerk selling Krispy Cream doughnut in a stand the shape of a Krispy Cream doughnut box. We walked pass the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall and then stopped in 'The Raven' for Mike to get a pint of beer. I kept myself busy today photographing buildings, churches, museums, people and doors. My new passion is photographing doors and if I can find any interesting man hole covers I photograph them also. We got kinda tired walking around so we went back to our hotel for a rest and had a pizza delivered to our hotel for dinner.

This is our last day in Glasgow and then we will be flying home. We started off the day with a wonderful breakfast at the hotel. If I had anything left from my breakfast, and a few extras in my pockets from the buffet, I found homeless people on the street to give it to them. I even gave away my coat today to a homeless girl that was sitting on one of the corners. She was funny...I asked if she wanted my coat and she said yes...and then yelled out ... you are an American aren't you. I nodded yes. I was glad she wanted the coat, it wasn't new but still useable.

We spent today still just looking around the city. We were heading to check out the flea market called 'Barras Market' in Gallowgate. On the way we stopped in a candy store and the clerk told us that 'Barras Market' was a real flea and maybe we might want to check out a craft show that takes place near Barras in a church. 'Barras Market' was a

flea in every sense. So much stuffed in buildings and booths it was like you can't see the forest for the trees. We did talk to a few people at the market. I saw some elderly ladies sitting on chairs talking to each other. I asked if they wanted a few cans of an energy drink I had been given on the street by a promoter of the drink. "Oh ya" the ladies said, "I love that energy drink". There was a man with long gray hair dressed in jeans and a plaid shirt standing next to them. I asked if I could take his picture and he said "OK, do you want me to scratch my bum?" Guess that was suppose to be funny...but kinda weird. We went inside another part of the market and found some booths that were tidy and orderly. I found a lady selling lots of sewing items and buttons. She had all plastic buttons that I was not looking for but the lady was nice to talk to and I took she let me take her photo. She asked us if we had been to Edinburgh and we told her yes. She said did the people in Edinburgh be nice to you as tourist because they can be uppity and us folks in Glasgow are very friendly and like to talk to tourist. We told her we were treated nice in Edinburgh as well as in Glasgow.

I wanted to see the McLennah Arch at the Charlotte Street entrance to Glasgow Green. The arch was originally the centerpiece of the facade of the Assembly Rooms in Ingram Street, designed by Robert and James Adam. In the 1890s the Assembly Rooms were demolished to make way for the extension to the General Post Office, and the arch was rebuilt in Greendyke Street. During the 1920s the arch was moved again to its current position in Glasgow Green. The arch is known as the McLennan Arch after Baillie James McLennan who presented it to the city, and is inscribed to that effect. We left the arch and continued to Glasgow Green in the East End, the city's oldest park where the spectacular Doulton Fountain is. Doulton Fountain is the largest terracotta fountain in the world. We went inside People's Palace and Winter Gardens, a museum and glasshouse. At the time, the East End of Glasgow was one of the most unhealthy and overcrowded parts of the city, and the People's Palace was intended to provide a cultural centre for the people. It was designed by the City Engineer, Alexander B. McDonald. At the opening ceremony Lord Rosebery stated: "A palace of pleasure and imagination around which the people may place their affections and which may give them a home on which their memory may rest". He declared the building "Open to the people for ever and ever".

When we first entered Glasgow Green we noticed people in the park with banners and flags. We did not know what event was going to be held in the park. When we left the People's Palace outside in the Glasgow Green large groups of people had gathered and more were coming into the park. Thousands hit the streets of Glasgow for the Scottish Independence March. The march left Kelvingrove park and ended with a rally on Glasgow Green. Marchers draped in Saltires waved flags and played bagpipes and drums. A saltire, also called Saint Andrew's Cross, is a heraldic symbol in the form of a diagonal cross, like the shape of the letter X in Roman type. The march achieved a high turnout. Police Scotland estimated that 35,000 people joined the procession, which ended with speeches and music on the green. Mike and I walked among the marchers and a man told Mike what the march was all about. Afterwards we left to find a place for lunch. We ended up at the "Drum and Monkey" (est. 1873) which looked like a good place for a libation for the overworked. We both ordered Nicholson's Fish and Chips, cod fillet hand battered in their own Nicholson's pale ale and served with chips, samphire

tartar sauce, and mushy peas. We liked our food except the mushy peas ...the monkeys can have those!

This ends our trip to Scotland and I can say we had a great time. Got to see my ancestors castle, stone circles, cairns, churches, castles, battlegrounds, museums, gardens, Kelpies, Loch Nessie, buildings, shops, restaurants and especially the Highlands. Maybe return and see more of Scotland one of these days.

Keep on truckin,

Audrey & Mike Lambert

2018