

Clan Dunbar 2014 Tour of Scotland in August 14-26, 2014: Journal of Lyle Dunbar

Introduction

The Clan Dunbar 2014 Tour of Scotland from August 14-26, 2014, was organized for Clan Dunbar members with the primary objective to visit sites associated with the Dunbar family history in Scotland. This Clan Dunbar 2014 Tour of Scotland focused on Dunbar family history at sites in southeast Scotland around Dunbar town and Dunbar Castle, and in the northern highlands and Moray. Lyle Dunbar, a Clan Dunbar member from San Diego, CA, participated in both the 2014 tour, as well as a previous Clan Dunbar 2009 Tour of Scotland, which focused on the Dunbar family history in the southern border regions of Scotland, the northern border regions of England, the Isle of Mann, and the areas in southeast Scotland around the town of Dunbar and Dunbar Castle. The research from the 2009 trip was included in Lyle Dunbar's book entitled House of Dunbar- The Rise and Fall of a Scottish Noble Family, Part I-The Earls of Dunbar, recently published in May, 2014. Part I documented the early Dunbar family history associated with the Earls of Dunbar from the founding of the earldom in 1072, through the forfeiture of the earldom forced by King James I of Scotland in 1435. Lyle Dunbar is in the process of completing a second installment of the book entitled House of Dunbar- The Rise and Fall of a Scottish Noble Family, Part II- After the Fall, which will document the history of the Dunbar family in Scotland after the fall of the earldom of Dunbar in 1435, through the mid-1700s, when many Scots, including his ancestors, left Scotland for America. The research from the 2014 trip is planned to be included in this Part II installment of the book, since a major part of the Dunbar family history in this 1435-1750 time period occurred in the northeast of Scotland in Moray.

This "Journal of Lyle Dunbar" provides a daily itinerary, an overview of the sites visited, and a brief summary of the historical relevance of the sites visited to the House of Dunbar history. In some cases, references are made to the chapter in the House of Dunbar book where more detailed historical information can be found. The following illustration shows the route of the trip through Scotland. Most of the Clan Dunbar 2014 Tour of Scotland members had flights on Thursday, August 14, arriving in Edinburgh, Scotland, on the morning of Friday, August 15. Our tour guide was James Dunbar, who lives in the Moray area of Scotland and is a current Clan Dunbar member. James was also the guide for the previous 2009 Clan Dunbar tour. The tour group stayed in Edinburgh from Friday, August 15, through Monday, August 18, and visited venues in Edinburgh, southeast Scotland around the town of Dunbar and Dunbar Castle, and as far as Berwick-upon-Tweed in the English border region. On Tuesday, August 19, the tour group traveled to a hotel in the town of Lossiemouth, in Moray in northeast Scotland, which was the base for tours of sites in Moray from Tuesday, August 19, through Friday, August 23. On Saturday, August 20, the tour group traveled further north to the Black Isle, the highlands of Caithness, and the town of Wick, where the Annual General Meeting of Clan Dunbar was held at the Ackergill Tower Hotel on Saturday night. On Sunday, August 24, the tour group retraced its route south through Caithness into the central Scotland highlands from Inverness to Fort William for a one night stay. On Monday, August 25, the tour completed its journey through the central highlands to Glasgow for a one night stay before departure of most Clan Dunbar members from Glasgow airport on Tuesday, August 26.



Illustration: Clan Dunbar 2014 Tour of Scotland Route (red arrows) through Scotland from Edinburgh, to Dunbar and Berwick in Southeast Scotland, then to Moray and Caithness in Northeast Scotland, and then South through Central Highlands to Glasgow

Thursday-Friday, August 14-15, 2014

Daily Itinerary: Thursday, August 14, was a travel day for most of the Clan Dunbar 2014 Tour of Scotland group to arrive at the Edinburgh, Scotland, airport on the morning of Friday, August 15, followed by bussing to, and check-in at, the hotel in the port area of Leith in Edinburgh, and then an afternoon tour of the National Gallery in the downtown center of Edinburgh.

Overview of the Sites Visited:

Most of the Clan Dunbar 2014 Tour members, including the author of this journal, Lyle Dunbar, traveled on Thursday, August 14, arriving at the Edinburgh airport on Friday, August 15, about 930AM. Our guide, James Dunbar of Scotland, who also was the guide for the previous Clan Dunbar Tour of 2009, and a fellow member of Clan Dunbar, met us at the airport. Our bus driver for the tour was Derek, who was from the Glasgow area. Our Clan Dunbar tour group included 34 members with 30 from the United States and 4 from Australia. We boarded our bus for the trip across Edinburgh to our Malmaison Hotel in the port area of Leith where we checked in about 1200PM. We then left at 1230PM for a short bus ride to the downtown Edinburgh area for a tour of the National Gallery and a self-guided walking tour of the area between Prince Street in new town and the Royal Mile in the old town in the vicinity of the Edinburgh Castle. The bus departed about 430PM to transport us back to the Malmaison Hotel where we had a group dinner in the hotel at 730PM.



Illustration: Malmaison Hotel in Leith Port Area of Edinburgh

Saturday, August 16, 2014

Daily Itinerary: The morning would be a tour of the Royal Yacht Britannia, berthed in Leith Harbor. The afternoon would be a tour of Holyroodhouse Palace and Edinburgh Castle.

Overview of the Sites Visited:

The day began with a group buffet breakfast at 730AM in the Malmaison Hotel. At 930AM, the group assembled and walked about ¼ mile to the port of Leith in Edinburgh to tour the Royal Yacht Britannia. This former royal yacht of Queen Elizabeth is now decommissioned and is a tourist attraction and is available for private events. A noteworthy historical part of the Britannia Yacht tour was the state dining room where Queen Elizabeth II had entertained famous guests including Winston Churchill, Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher, and Bill Clinton in past years. The tour group walked back to the Malmaison Hotel at 1230PM. We boarded the tour bus for the trip across Edinburgh for the Holyroodhouse Palace tour. The exterior of the Holyroodhouse Place is shown in the following illustration. A noteworthy historical part of the Holyroodhouse Palace tour was the Mary Queen of Scots apartment where her son, James VI, was born; and where her husband, Lord Darnley, and his supporters killed David Rizzio, Mary's secretary and possible lover, in the presence of Mary. We then boarded the bus for the drive up the Royal Mile from Holyroodhouse Palace to tour the Edinburgh Castle. Noteworthy historical parts of the Edinburgh Castle tour were the crown jewels- the crown and septer, St Margaret's church, the Royal Palace, King David's Tower, and the Mons Meg cannon, which are shown in the following illustrations.

We returned to the Malmaison Hotel at 630PM. There was no group dinner and tour members were free to have dinner in restaurants and explore Edinburgh.

Historical Relevance to House of Dunbar History: Holyroodhouse and Edinburgh Castle

Holyroodhouse

The Palace of Holyroodhouse is the principal official residence of the Monarch of the United Kingdom in Scotland. It has served as the principal residence of the Kings and Queens of Scotland since the 15th century. The Palace stands at the bottom (east end) of the Royal Mile in Edinburgh. It is the official Scottish residence of Queen Elizabeth II, who spends one week there at the beginning of each summer to host garden parties and official ceremonies. The ruined Augustinian Abbey on the grounds adjacent to Holyroodhouse was built in the year 1126 at the order of King David I of Scotland. The roof of the abbey collapsed in the 18th century, leaving it as it currently stands in ruins. Gospatrick I, 1st Earl of Dunbar, was related to King David I on the Scottish side through David's father, King Malcolm III Canemore, who was a first cousin, and on the English side to David's mother, St Margaret, who was also a cousin.

Edinburgh Castle

At the entrance to Edinburgh Castle, there are two life-size statues of King Robert I "the Bruce" of Scotland and the Scottish patriot, William Wallace. There were many interactions of these very famous Scots with the earls of Dunbar in the House of Dunbar ancient history. There is a plaque on the wall of the castle acknowledging the important role of Sir Thomas Randolph in retaking Edinburgh Castle in the year 1314 after it had been captured and occupied by the English for over 20 years. Sir Thomas Randolph was the uncle of Robert the Bruce, the father of

Black Agnes Randolph Dunbar, who was married to Patrick V, 9th Earl of Dunbar, and father of Isabelle Randolph Dunbar, who was married to Sir Patrick Dunbar of Westerspot and the mother of George I, 10th Earl of Dunbar, and John Dunbar, 5th Earl of Moray. Thus, the descendants of the last two earls of Dunbar, George I and George II, as well as all of the Moray Dunbars descending from John Dunbar were related to Sir Thomas Randolph through the female line.

The Royal Palace in Edinburgh Castle was occupied by Mary Queen of Scots when she gave birth to King James VI, who would also become King James I of England in the year 1603 in a union of the crowns. St. Margaret's Chapel is a small stone building at the top of the castle. St. Margaret was the wife of King Malcolm III Canmore of Scotland and mother of King David I of Scotland. She was the daughter of an Anglo-Saxon king of England. She married King Malcolm III Canmore after she was exiled from England when William the Conqueror invaded and took over England in the year 1066. Gospatric I, 1st Earl of Dunbar, was related through his maternal side to St. Margaret and the Anglo-Saxon kings of England that were deposed by William the Conqueror. St. Margaret died in the year 1093, shortly after her husband was killed in a battle in England. King David I built the chapel in the 1100's as a monument to his mother. It is the oldest building in Edinburgh.

King David's Tower in Edinburgh Castle includes the room of the "Black Dinner", where a very young King James II of Scotland hosted a dinner in the year 1440 attended by some of his Scottish nobles and guardians. The "guests of honor" at the Black Dinner turned out to be William, 6th Earl of Douglas, and his brother, who were members of the "Black Douglas" family. A bull's head was served at the dinner, which signified someone would die. The Douglas brothers were seized by James II's Scottish noble guardians, tried on trumped-up charges, and taken into the outside yard and beheaded. The Black Douglas family had become too powerful and was a threat to James II and his Scottish noble guardians. This event took place a few years after King James I, the father of James II, forfeited the lands and titles of George II, 11th Earl of Dunbar, in 1435. The Earl of Dunbar had become more wealthy and powerful than the king and threatened the power of other Scottish nobles; so the Black Douglas family conspired with King James I to forfeit the Dunbar's because they were rivals of the Black Douglas family. Several generations of James II's descendants then had to fight the Black Douglas family which was no longer checked by the powerful Dunbar family. This had bad results for those kings and the Black Douglas family including: James I, who was killed by his nobles; James II who was killed by a bursting cannon, James III who was killed by his nobles, and the Black Douglas family, many of which were killed and eventually their lands and titles forfeited by the year 1455, about 20 years after the Dunbar forfeiture!

The Mons Meg cannon at the top of Edinburgh castle could fire massive cannon balls and rocks for several miles. It is representative of the technology that was developed in the 1500s that made castles obsolete, since the castles could no longer survive sieges under the bombardment of the cannons that could knock down the massive stone fortifications.



Illustration: Britannia Royal Yacht in Leith Harbor Edinburgh



Illustration: Britannia Royal Yacht State Dining Room



Holyroodhouse Palace on the Royal Mile in Edinburgh



Edinburgh Castle on the Royal Mile in Edinburgh



St. Margaret's Cathedral & Mons Meg at Edinburgh Castle

Sunday, August 17, 2014

Daily Itinerary: The tour group would travel by bus from Edinburgh to the town of Dunbar for a tour of Dunbar Castle and the town, and the lands in East Lothian and Berwick along the English-Scottish border areas that were owned by the Earls of Dunbar and March. Historian Stephen Bunyan from Dunbar town, the tour guide for the day, would obtain permission for the group to cross the barrier in front of the castle to explore part of the castle grounds and ruins positioned on the cliffs above the North Sea. The remainder of the day would include exploring the former earls of Dunbar lands and estates in East Lothian and Berwick in the border regions. The Earls of Dunbar and March controlled much of the “Merse” lands along the East Coast of Scotland from Dunbar to Northumberland. The estates formerly owned by them are now private homes, but Steven Bunyan would arrange permission for the group to enter the grounds of several key properties. The tour would include Spott House, Mordington House, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Duns Castle, Biel House, and Dunbar town.

Overview of the Sites Visited: Dunbar Castle

After a breakfast buffet at the hotel at 730AM, our bus left at 830AM to travel along the northeast coastal route from Edinburgh, to Haddington, and then to Dunbar town. We observed Bass Rock in the distance in the North Sea off of the coast line with its “white” top created by birds nesting on its summit and the resultant bird guano. We saw the hill of Traprain Law rising from the flat coastal plain near the town of Haddington. This was the hill site of an early Neolithic residence of Celtic people, who came from Europe, and were apparently good silversmiths based on artifacts discovered at the site. Many fields of wheat and barley were being harvested in the fertile land along the coastal plain. We arrived in Dunbar town and met our tour guide for the day- historian Stephen Bunyan from Dunbar town.

Our driver parked the bus in the parking lot of the Dunbar Leisure Center, which had been built in the past 10 years on the upper grounds overlooking the Dunbar Castle park ruins and Dunbar harbor. We walked down the path to the Dunbar Castle ruins. Very little remains of Dunbar Castle except some of its red rock ruins. The castle was demolished by order of the Scottish Parliament in the year 1567 to prevent it from being captured by opponents of the Scottish government. It has been further destroyed by demolition to enlarge the harbor, and the elements of wind, rain, and birds over the centuries. The stone ruins are behind fences and gates, since they are generally unstable and unsafe. Our guide, Stephen Bunyan, had obtained permission for our group to enter the ruins to explore part of the castle grounds. Several members of the group were allowed to walk up on top of the ruins to take pictures. The park attendant opened the gate to the park and ruins, and also unlocked a gate which led to an underground secret passage from the castle to a sea entrance. This sea entrance had been used to supply the castle in time of siege. Our tour group was allowed to enter the passage and look down into the sea where boats could secretly approach the castle.

The following illustrations show an artist’s rendering of Dunbar Castle as it might have looked in relation to a current picture of the castle ruins. Extensive demolition of the ruins have been done over the past 200 years to enlarge the Dunbar town harbor and entrance to the harbor, which was once an important sea port and fishing boat harbor. The group walked around the extensive castle ruins in the harbor area. Much of the red rock of the ruins had been used for construction of Dunbar town buildings in the past centuries. The views from the ruins extended east to the rough and cold North Sea, north to Bass Rock in the North Sea near the Firth of Forth,

south to Berwick-upon-Tweed on the North Sea and English border, and west to the Lammermuir Hills of the southeast Scotland border area.

We then boarded the bus for a driving tour of Dunbar town. We traveled down Main Street and past the old parish church, and then on to tour the rest of our tour sites in East Lothian and southeast Scotland.

Historical Relevance to the House of Dunbar History: Dunbar Castle

Our Dunbar name comes from Dunbar Castle and Dunbar Town, since “Dunbar” meant “fort on a hill” in the old Gaelic language of Scotland. The ancient ancestor of the House of Dunbar is Gospatric, 1st Earl of Dunbar, an English as well as Scottish noble, who was given the lands of East Lothian and the Dunbar Castle in the year 1072 by his first cousin, King Malcolm III Canmore of Scotland. Gospatric was previously the Earl of Northumberland in what is now northeast England from the years 1067-1072, before surrendering his earldom as a result of the Norman, William the Conqueror, defeating and deposing the Anglo-Saxon kings of England in the year 1066. Some historians spell his name as “Cospatric” and some as “Gospatric”, which is the spelling used by this author. Gospatric was related to Irish, Scottish, and the Anglo-Saxon kings of England. He started the Scottish noble House of Dunbar, which was a succession of eleven Earls of Dunbar, who owned Dunbar Castle and vast feudal landholdings in the lowland Scottish Border areas of southern Scotland and northern England. These earls of the House of Dunbar married well over the years into several royal Scottish families. The eleven earls and the years of their reign (“r”) include: Gospatric I (r.1072-1115), Gospatric II (r.1115-1138), Gospatric III (r.1138-1166), Waltheof (r.1166-1182), Patrick I (r.1182-1232), Patrick II (r.1232-1248), Patrick III (r.1248-1289), Patrick IV (r.1289-1308), Patrick V (r.1308-1369), George I (r.1369-1420), and George II (r.1420-1435). The last earl, George II, 11th Earl of Dunbar, was more wealthy and powerful than the Scottish King James I. George II had extensive landholdings in southern and northern Scotland, northern England, and even the Isle of Man, which is currently a separate country in the Irish Sea and member of the British Commonwealth. King James I of Scotland, and Archibald “the Grim” Douglas, of the rival “Black Douglas” family, conspired to arrange the forfeiture of George II’s titles and landholdings in the year 1435.

Dunbar Castle was a courtyard-castle believed to look similar to the following artist’s illustration. It was notable as one of the greatest and most impregnable fortresses in the region of southeast Scotland. It was draped across large rocks of a headland protruding out into the North Sea, and thus protected from attack on three sides by the rough waters of the North Sea. The one landward side was protected from attack by a moat and drawbridge. Because of its proximity to the North Sea, it had some unique features such as a natural cavern below the castle, which is now exposed since the demolition of the castle, and this cavern may have formed part of the dungeon. It also acted as a secret gate to the sea allowing supplies to be brought by sea in a boat, and escape by sea unknown to land-based attackers.

Since Dunbar Castle was demolished by order of the Scottish Parliament in the year 1567, the only physical description of it is in a few history books, which has been used to create the artist’s rendering of Dunbar Castle shown in the following illustration. The best description of Dunbar Castle, which was recorded sometime after its demolition, is by James Miller in The History of Dunbar published in the year 1830 as follows:

“The body of buildings measured in excess of one hundred and sixty five feet from east to west, and in some places up to two hundred and ten feet from north to south. The South Battery, the citadel or keep, is situated on a detached perpendicular rock, only accessible on one

side, seventy two feet high, and is connected to the main part of the castle by a passage of masonry measuring sixty nine feet. The interior of the citadel measures fifty four feet by sixty within the walls. Its shape is octagonal. Five of the gun-ports remain, which are called the 'arrow-holes'. They measure four feet at the mouth and only sixteen inches at the other end. The buildings are arched and extend eight feet from the outer walls, and look into an open court, whence they derive their light."

"About the middle of the fortress, part of a wall remains, through which there is a gateway, surmounted with armorial bearings. This gate seems to have led to the principal apartments. In the center are the Arms of George, 11th Earl of Dunbar, who succeeded his father in 1369, and who besides the earldom of Dunbar and March, inherited the Lordship of Annandale and the Isle of Man from his heroic mother. They must have been placed there after his succession, as he was the first who assumed those sculptured Arms: viz, a large triangular shield, and thereon a lion rampant, within a bordure charged with eight roses. The shield is adorned with a helmet, carrying a crest: a horse's head bridled. On the right are the Arms of the Bruces, and on the left those of the Isle of Man."

"The castle towers had communication with the sea, and dip low in many places. North-east from the front of the castle is a large natural cavern, chiefly of black stone, which looks like the mouth of the Acheron - a place that leads to melancholy streams. This spot is supposed to have formed part of the dungeon where prisoners were confined, such as Gavin Douglas, Bishop of Dunkeld, who was a prisoner here in 1515. There is, however, also a dark postern which gives access to a ricky inlet from the sea, and it seems probable that it was through this that Sir Alexander Ramsay and his followers entered with a supply of provisions to the besieged in 1338."

"It was long said the castle was invulnerable, possibly because of the many sieges it sustained. The castle was built with a red stone similar to that found in the quarries near Garvald. Large masses of walls, which have fallen beneath the weight of time, appear to be vitrified or run together. In the north-west part of the ruins is an apartment about twelve feet square, and nearly inaccessible, which tradition states was the apartment of Mary, Queen of Scots."

It should be noted that the above quotes from James Miller's book contain some historical errors that are important to the Dunbar history. The quote "George, 11th Earl of Dunbar, ...inherited the Lordship of Annandale and the Isle of Man from his heroic mother " was intended to refer to Black Agnes Randolph Dunbar as his heroic mother. But this is incorrect since Black Agnes was a sister to Isabelle Randolph, who was the mother of George I, 10th Earl of Dunbar, and grandmother to George II, 11th Earl of Dunbar. So Black Agnes, wife of Patrick V, 9th Earl of Dunbar, was an aunt of George I, 10th Earl of Dunbar, and great-aunt of George II, 11th Earl of Dunbar.



Artist's Rendering of Dunbar Castle in 1100 to 1565



The Ruins of Dunbar Castle in 2014



Viewing the Secret Entrance to Dunbar Castle from the Sea

Overview of the Sites Visited: Spott House

Our tour proceeded by bus from Dunbar town on a road leading from the main A1 highway to Spott, a small village in East Lothian, about 2 miles southwest of Dunbar. A recent newspaper article describes the current Spott House and property as 2,463 acres, views to the North Sea and Dunbar town, three reception rooms, a study, billiards room, kitchen, nine bedrooms, eight bathrooms, cellar, gun room, staff flat, and gardens. Our bus driver delivered the group to the front entrance to Spott House, where we were met outside the house by the current owners. Our guide, Steven Bunyan, was not able to get permission to enter the house, but we were provided information about the house by the current owners and allowed to take pictures of the exterior. The current house, as well as the previous ancient houses on the site, had been built in a strategic location over a very deep ravine with a running stream around the house, which made it more defensible in ancient times. The current house also had a “doocot”, or “dovecot”, which is a separate building for housing pigeons or doves, which were used in ancient times to provide a food source for the house occupants.

Historical Relevance to the House of Dunbar History: Spott House

The old Spott House and property were part of the landholdings of the Earls of Dunbar until their forfeiture in 1435. Sir Patrick Dunbar of Westerspott was the owner of the lands in this area in the early 1300's until his death on a crusade to the Holy Lands in 1357. He was a 1st cousin to Patrick V Dunbar (r.1308-1368), 9th Earl of Dunbar, and Earl of March. Sir Patrick Dunbar of Westerspott and his wife, Isabella Randolph Dunbar, were the parents of George I, 10th Earl of Dunbar, and his brother, John Dunbar, 5th Earl of Moray, and thus the ancestors of the Dunbar family line which is the main line of descent of the House of Dunbar. The first Battle of Dunbar in 1296 took place less than a mile from Spott House. Before the second Battle of Dunbar in 1650, the Scots army, which vastly outnumbered Oliver Cromwell's army, camped at Doon Hill, just to the east of Spott House, before leaving the high ground to meet Cromwell and be defeated. Spott House has served as home to the proprietors of Spott since the 13th century.



The Current Spott House in 2014

Overview of the Sites Visited: Mordington House

We traveled south from Spott House toward Berwick-upon-Tweed to visit Mordington House. Steven Bunyan had arranged with the current owners of Mordington House, John Trotter, a landscape architect, and his wife, to host the tour group. The following illustrations illustrate key aspects of our visit. John Trotter and his wife met us in front of the current house, and escorted us to the back of the house, and east through a field for several hundred yards to the site of an old medieval village, cemetery, and crypt. The Mordington House property once belonged to Countess Black Agnes Randolph Dunbar, and she was buried in the vault in the crypt in about 1358. John Trotter, and his assistant, had spent considerable time cleaning up the site and preparing for our visit. We were allowed to enter the crypt to see some of the inscriptions on the walls. After all of the centuries, there was no remaining evidence of any graves or bones of people interred in the vault. The old cemetery included gravestones of which some inscriptions were still legible from the 1800s. The weather in Scotland, combined with soft stone, typically results in gravestone inscriptions being illegible after about 150 years. John Trotter had marked sites of interest in the cemetery including an adjacent field as the site of the ancient village of Mordington. The remnants of the village could still be recognized as dirt embankments in the grass field. John Trotter had planned a special event for the Clan Dunbar tour group. He had purchased a birch tree, dug a hole, and allowed the group to participate in planting the tree adjacent to the crypt of Black Agnes in recognition of the occasion. Our Clan Dunbar chieftain, Phillip Dunbar of Florida, and our Clan Dunbar Chief, Sir James Dunbar of North Carolina, led the planting of the tree followed by a group photograph of the Clan Dunbar tour group in front of the tree.

We then proceeded back across the field to the current Mordington House back yard. The illustration that follows shows the view from the Mordington House backyard looking west across the Tweed River valley, which is the border between Scotland and England in southeast Scotland, and toward the distant hills about 10 miles west. The Battle of Flodden Field was fought between Scotland and England on the center hill in 1513. The following illustration shows the rear area of the current Mordington House. The Trotters graciously hosted the Clan Dunbar tour group for wine and snacks in the rear area kitchen and solarium, in spite of the rainy day and our wet shoes. John Trotter had prepared a small pamphlet about the history of Mordington House and its relationship to the Dunbars, which he distributed to the group. John Trotter then provided us with some further historical information of interest. The house on the property during the time of Black Agnes in the 1300s had long ago been replaced.

The following illustration shows the previous large Mordington House that was built on the site of the backyard of the current house as it looked in 1932. The family who owned the house lost their only son in WWII and let the house deteriorate and it was torn down in 1973. The present Mordington House was built in 1985, and it is a somewhat smaller version of the original older house. The Trotters bought the house and property in 1986 from the previous owners. The Mordington House property is about 200 acres now, but had been about 2000 acres before the estate was broken-up into smaller acreages after WWII. John Trotter's ancient Trotter family was once a vassal family to the Homes family in medieval times. This suggests that the Trotters also had a distant connection to the Dunbars, since the Homes were originally a branch of the earls of Dunbar family in the 1200s. John Trotter's older brother inherited the family lands in the border area, and is the owner/operator of a large farm estate. John Trotter is the younger brother, who didn't inherit, and had "to try harder" as a landscape architect. He seems to have done well, and he is trying hard to sustain the Mordington House property and history.

Our tour group profusely thanked the Trotters for their hospitality and boarded the bus to travel further south to the town of Berwick-upon-Tweed across the Tweed River and the border with England. We stopped briefly for a photo op but we didn't have time to walk to observe the Elizabethan walls in Berwick. From observations, as we traveled through Berwick, as well as historical accounts, it was obvious that the Scots still consider Berwick-upon-Tweed as Scots land and not English. For example, there was a larger Scottish Church (Presbyterian protestant) adjacent to a smaller English Anglican Church across the street. The town seemed clearly more Scottish than English. We then drove across the bridge over the Tweed River through the town of Berwick Tweedmouth, and back north to our next destination of Duns Castle in southeast Scotland.

Historical Relevance to the House of Dunbar History: Mordington House

Mordington is an agricultural parish in the extreme southeast of Berwickshire in the Scottish Borders region. It is five miles from Berwick-upon-Tweed and borders Northumberland in England to the east and south. A Pele or tower house existed at Mordington from a very early date, probably from the time of the ownership of Sir Thomas Randolph, 1st Earl of Moray, in the time of King Robert I the Bruce. The Hays family may have been responsible for the construction of the previous Mordington House, a Georgian mansion centered upon the original Peel tower sections of which were incorporated in its walls, as shown in the year 1932 in the following illustration.

Sir Thomas Randolph, 1st Earl of Moray, was a nephew of King Robert I the Bruce, and commanded the left wing of the Scottish Army under Robert the Bruce at the Scots victory over England and King Edward II at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314. Sir Thomas Randolph was Regent of Scotland for the son of King Robert I the Bruce on his death in 1329. In addition to lands and titles in Moray, King Robert I the Bruce rewarded Sir Thomas Randolph for his exceptional service and support by awarding him many other lands and titles. He was granted the Barony of Mordington granted in the year 1318, when he and Sir James Douglas ("the good Sir James") captured nearby Berwick-upon-Tweed from the English. Sir Thomas Randolph owned the original tower house in Mordington. On the death of Sir Thomas Randolph in 1332, the Barony of Mordington passed successively to his elder son, Thomas Randolph, 2nd Earl of Moray, who was killed at Dupplin later in 1332 without any children to succeed; then to Sir Thomas Randolph's younger son, John Randolph, 3rd Earl of Moray and Regent of Scotland from 1335, who was killed at the battle of Neville's Cross in the year 1346 without any children to succeed; and then to Sir Thomas Randolph's eldest daughter, Agnes (Countess "Black" Agnes Randolph Dunbar), who married Patrick V Dunbar, 9th Earl of Dunbar (d.1368), by whom she had no surviving children to succeed. She is reported in the historical records as being buried in a vault on the grounds of Mordington House.

Countess "Black" Agnes Randolph Dunbar is famous in Scottish history for successfully defending Dunbar Castle from an English siege while her husband, Patrick V Dunbar, 9th Earl of Dunbar, was off fighting in Scottish-English battles. The nickname "Black Agnes" is said to refer to her "swarthy" complexion. Black Agnes' sister was Isabella Randolph Dunbar, who was the wife of Sir Patrick Dunbar of Westerspott. Black Agnes inherited The Isle of Man and many other lands and titles from her father, Sir Thomas Randolph. Isabella also inherited vast land holdings in Moray from her father, Sir Thomas Randolph. Earl Patrick V and his wife, Countess "Black" Agnes Randolph Dunbar, outlived their children when they died in about 1369. Thus, the male line successor to Patrick V went extinct, and the earl of Dunbar succession passed to the

parallel line of Sir Patrick Dunbar of Westerspott. George I Dunbar, 10th Earl of Dunbar, was the son of Sir Patrick Dunbar of Westerspot and his wife, Isabella Randolph Dunbar. Thus, George I, 10th Earl of Dunbar, inherited the earldom of Dunbar and March from his second cousin, Patrick V, 9th Earl of Dunbar, who was a first cousin to George I's father.

John Dunbar, brother of George I, 10th Earl of Dunbar, and second son of Sir Patrick Dunbar of Westerspot and his wife, Isabella Randolph Dunbar, would become the 5th Earl of Moray. John Dunbar would be granted vast lands in the northeast of Scotland after his marriage to Marjorie Stewart, the daughter of King Robert II of Scotland, in 1372. These vast land holdings and titles, which were inherited by Agnes and Isabelle from their father, Sir Thomas Randolph, were passed to the Earls of Dunbar and Earls of Moray, and then to their Dunbar male descendants. Note that the Dunbar family, which now descends from John Dunbar, 5th Earl of Moray, and his wife Marjorie Stewart, are descended from the royal Stewart family line through the female side.



Rear View in 1932 of Old Mordington House Demolished in 1973



Rear View in 2014 of the New Mordington House Rebuilt in 1986



Owner John Trotter and Clan Dunbar at Mordington House



Battle of Flodden Field and Hallidon Hill Sites in Distant Hills As Seen from Rear of Mordington House



Graveyard and Crypt of Countess "Black" Agnes Randolph Dunbar in the Field at the Rear of Mordington House



Location of Medieval Village of Mordington and Clan Dunbar Planting Tree Near Crypt of Black Agnes Dunbar

Overview of the Site Visited: Duns Castle

We then traveled by bus to Duns Castle in the southeast Scotland border area. The large stone gates to the estate were too small for passage of our large bus; so our guide, Steven Bunyan, had arranged for a smaller bus to transport our group up the long, tree-lined lane, to the front of Duns Castle. We were greeted outside Duns Castle by the present owners, Alexander Hay and his wife. He is a descendant of the Hay of Yester family that has owned the property since about the late 1600s. His ancestors married into the powerful East Lothian Seton family, which was catholic and supported Mary Queen of Scots in the late 1500s. The following illustration shows the present day Duns Castle exterior. The original tower of the medieval castle remains on the right side of the picture, and the rest of the castle was added over the centuries. The original castle “great room” is now a dining room on the second floor near the original tower in the right of the picture. Alexander Hay and his wife arranged to host our tour group and served tea and snacks in the “great room” shown in the following illustration. Note the old wood fireplace mantel and intricate carvings in the following illustration of the “great room”. Alexander Hay gave us an overview of his Hay family, described the many pictures of his ancestors that were on the walls of the “great room”, and gave us a tour of several rooms in the castle.

Historical Relevance to the House of Dunbar History: Duns Castle

Duns Castle is located west of Duns Law. The remains of the castle “pele tower” were incorporated into the major rebuilding and expansion, which was carried out to the design of James Gillespie Graham, the noted architect, between 1812 and 1822. The Castle came into the possession of the Hay family in 1696, and has remained in the Hay family ever since. The original Castle of Duns would appear to have been built by Sir Thomas Randolph, 1st Earl of Moray, in 1320, following a grant of the lands of Duns by his uncle King Robert I the Bruce. Sir Thomas Randolph had fought alongside Robert the Bruce at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314 and was married to Isabel, daughter of John Stewart of Bonkyl. Randolph died in 1332 and the Castle would appear to have passed into the hands of Patrick V, 9th Earl of Dunbar, who was married to “Black” Agnes Randolph Dunbar, eldest daughter of Sir Thomas Randolph. It was likely forfeited to the Scottish Crown in 1435, along with the earldom of Dunbar during the reign of George II, 11th Earl of Dunbar.



Present Day Duns Castle Owned by Hay Family



Clan Dunbar Tea in the Great Hall of Duns Castle

Overview of the Site Visited: Biel House

After leaving Duns castle, we traveled back toward the vicinity of Dunbar town along the coast of southeast Scotland to visit the site of Biel House, a few miles north of Dunbar. Our bus driver, Derek, was able to maneuver the large bus along the narrow lane back through the estate to the front entrance of Biel House shown in the following illustration. The house was not currently occupied since the owner, who had been in his 90's, had recently passed, and his son lived elsewhere on the estate. So our guide, Steven Bunyan, had not been able to arrange a hosted visit including a tour of the interior of the house. The tour group disembarked the bus for a short walk around the exterior and photo ops. The following illustration shows the front of the large house as well as the gardens at the rear of the house. The condition of the house had clearly deteriorated in recent years, during the time of the advanced age of the prior owner, and his son and inheritor was most likely trying to cope with how to afford to keep the house and grounds repaired and pay for operating costs- a typical problem for these large old historic Scottish properties. Some owners have been able to get assistance from the organization "Historic Scotland" to finance, manage, and sustain historical sites.

After leaving Biel House, we traveled back to Dunbar town and stopped briefly at the Red Friars "Friory", which had been originally set up by Countess Christina Dunbar, wife of Earl Patrick II, the crusader, in the 1200s time period. The only building left was the large 3-story red brick dovecot, which housed pigeons or doves as a food source for the Friory. After the short visit to Dunbar town, we parted ways with great thanks to our guide for the day, Steven Bunyan, for a unique experience by the Clan Dunbar tour members. We then returned to our Malmaison Hotel in Edinburgh. There was no group dinner and tour members were free to have dinner in restaurants and explore Edinburgh.

Historical Relevance to the House of Dunbar History: Biel House

Biel is a village in East Lothian, Scotland, to the south of Dunbar, off the B6370 road. It is situated on the Biel Estate, close to Biel House in the town of Stenton. The original Biel Castle was a tower house dating from the 12th century. The present Biel House, a 16th-century three-story listed building, formerly owned by the Earls of Belhaven, was built around an earlier tower house in the east wing. The grounds include chapel, rock garden, dovecot, summerhouse, gatepiers, deer park, woodland, arboretum, kitchen garden, glasshouses.

The Biel estate was originally owned by the Earls of Dunbar. It was transferred to Sir Patrick Dunbar of Biel (d.1438), who was a son of Sir Patrick Dunbar of Westerspott and Isabella Randolph Dunbar, and the brother of George I, 10th Earl of Dunbar, and John Dunbar, 5th Earl of Moray. He is the ancestor of William Dunbar (b.1460, d.1520), who was a famous Scottish poet. William Dunbar held the high post of laureate at the Scottish court of his patron, King James IV, who died at the Battle of Flodden Field in 1513. He is spoken of as the "Rhymer of Scotland", who authored one hundred and one poems, with his chief allegorical poems being The Goldyn Targe and The Thrissil and the Rois in honor of the marriage of King James IV and Margaret Tudor of England. He is known for his haunting verse in the Lament of the Makars, a tribute to the medieval poets (makars) of the 14th and 15th centuries. It is said that William Dunbar did not think highly of his earl of Dunbar noble ancestors and he makes a satirical reference to his being a member of the noble House of Dunbar in The Flying of Dunbar and Kennedie. Some historians say Biel House may have been the birthplace of William Wallace. In 1489, the King transferred it from Hugo Dunbar of Biel to Robert Lauder of Edrington.



Front Entrance of the Present Day Biel House



Rear Gardens of the Present Day Biel House

Monday, August 18, 2014

Daily Itinerary: The itinerary for this second full day in Edinburgh would be a morning tour of the National Museum, which contains thousands of artifacts from Scotland's history including an original of the Covenant, and items from Robert the Bruce and Mary Queen of Scots. In the afternoon, the tour would include Mary King's Close in old town Edinburgh. The "closes" are often called the underground city of Edinburgh, but are actually the remains of old "closes" or alleyways, which were closed off when Edinburgh grew upwards with increased population. The fourth, and last, evening in Edinburgh would be a grand finale for the group as it attends the famous International Military Tattoo at Edinburgh Castle.

Overview of the Site Visited: Edinburgh and the Military Tatoo

The group breakfast at 730AM at our Malmaison Hotel was followed by a short bus ride at 930AM to the old town of Edinburgh to tour the National Museum from 10AM to 2PM. The National Museum is about 2 blocks south of the Royal Mile in the vicinity of Edinburgh Castle and St. Giles Cathedral, which are on the Royal Mile. The National Museum has a very impressive architecture as well as contents. The author of this journal focused on exhibits related to Scottish history including the Scottish Reformation of the mid-1600s, the problems of the established Scottish Catholic Church before the Reformation, and the strictness of the Scottish Reformed protestant and Presbyterian Church after the Reformation.

From 200PM to 400PM, our group toured Mary's Close, which is a side street off the Royal Mile near St. Giles Cathedral. The new buildings on the Royal Mile after the 18th century were built over the old buildings of Medieval times leaving the old side streets or alleys, called "closes", buried. The Mary's Close tour opens up the subterranean street living quarters and recreates conditions in the mid-1600s. The living conditions portrayed in the 1600s were atrocious. Garbage and human waste were thrown into the street and washed down to the Loch (lake) that existed at that time on the north side of Edinburgh Castle, and which was also used for their drinking water. The conditions representative of the 1646 bubonic plague, the last in Edinburgh, were recreated on the tour of Mary's Close.

At 430PM, we traveled back to the hotel for an early 600PM-730PM dinner. Then, our tour group traveled back to the Royal Mile and Edinburgh Castle for the 900PM-1130PM Military Tattoo parade of bands and dancers from all over the British Commonwealth. The highlight of the show for the male members of the tour group (other than the expected highlights of the pipers and drum bands) was the Zulu warriors dance group from South Africa and their topless female dancers! We traveled back to our hotel by bus by 1230AM for our last night in Edinburgh.

Tuesday, August 19, 2014

Daily Itinerary: The morning would include leaving Edinburgh and heading north across the Firth of Forth Bridge to Dumfermline Abbey. Then we would continue traveling north across north-central Scotland to the vicinity of Inverness on the Firth of Moray where we would tour Culloden Moor, which was the scene of the last battle fought on Scottish soil, and the one that brought the clan system to an end. We would visit the new Visitor's Center, which has an interactive video that draws the viewer into the battle.

Overview of the Site Visited: Dumfermline Abbey

After breakfast at the Malmaison Hotel from 700-800AM, we checked-out and left on the bus at 830AM traveling through the city of Edinburgh and stopping for photo ops at the area of the "3-bridges" across the Firth of Forth. We then continued north to Dumfermline Abbey for self-guided tours of the old abbey ruins and the present cathedral dating from the 1800s from about 930AM to 1115AM.

Historical Relevance to the House of Dunbar History: Dumfermline Abbey

Dumfermline Abbey is a Church of Scotland Parish Church located in Dumfermline, Fife, Scotland, about 30 miles north of Edinburgh. The following illustration shows the present church, dating from the 1800s, which occupies the site adjacent to the ruins of an ancient and large medieval Benedictine abbey. The Dumfermline Abbey, which is presently in ruins, is one of Scotland's most important cultural sites due to its history as the burial site of many Scottish kings. The Benedictine Abbey of the Holy Trinity and St Margaret, was founded in 1128 by King David I of Scotland, but the monastic establishment was based on an earlier foundation dating back to the reign of King Malcolm III Canmore (r.1058-1093) and his queen, St. Margaret, an English princess. During the Scottish Reformation, the abbey church was sacked in March, 1560. Some parts of the abbey infrastructure, principally the vast refectory and rooms over the gatehouse, which was part of the former city wall, still remain. The nave was also spared and it was repaired in 1570.

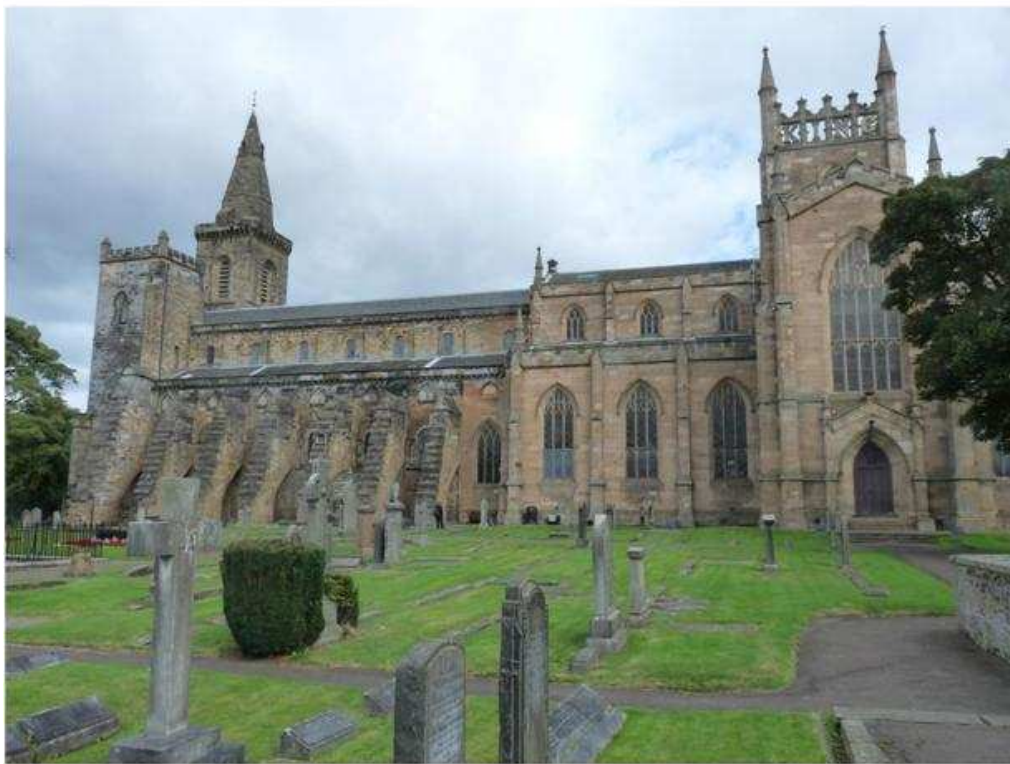
Dumfermline Abbey has received more of Scotland's royal dead than any other place in the kingdom excepting Iona. The tombs of Queen St. Margaret and King Malcolm III Canmore within the ruined walls of the Lady Chapel were restored and enclosed by command of Queen Victoria. St. Margaret of Scotland was buried there in 1093; and on June 19, 1250, following her Canonization, her remains were disinterred and placed in a reliquary at the high altar. King Malcolm III Canmore's remains were also disinterred, and buried next to St. Margaret. Other notables buried there include: King Duncan II of Scotland in 1094, and King David I of Scotland in 1153 along with his queen Maud, Countess of Huntingdon, in 1130. In 1329, King Robert I the Bruce's bones were buried in the choir, which is now the site of the present parish church, but his heart was buried in Melrose Abbey in southeast Scotland. His skeleton was discovered in 1818, and then reinterred below the pulpit of the new church. In 1891, the pulpit was moved back and a brass plaque inserted in the floor to indicate the royal vault. The mother of William Wallace, the Scottish patriot who led the Scots against the English in about 1300, is said to be buried in the churchyard. Sir Thomas Randolph, nephew of Robert the Bruce, is also buried there.

Gospatrik I, 1st Earl of Dunbar, and his successors as earls of Dunbar, were nobility descended from Scottish and English kings. Gospatrik I was a first cousin of King Malcolm III

Canemore through the male Scottish side of his family. Gospatrick was also a cousin of St. Margaret, an English princess, through his female English side of the family. So King David I is an ancestor of the Dunbars as well. Sir Thomas Randolph was the father of Countess “Black” Agnes Randolph Dunbar, wife of Patrick V, 9th Earl of Dunbar, and also Isabella Randolph Dunbar, wife of Sir Patrick Dunbar of Westerspott, whose son was George I, 10th Earl of Dunbar and Earl of March, and John Dunbar, 5th Earl of Moray. So later earls of Dunbar, and present day main line of the House of Dunbar also descends from the female lines of the Randolphs. [Reference: House of Dunbar, Part I, Chapter 4, Descent form Kings].



Ruins of Ancient Dumfermine Abbey



Present Day Dumfermine Cathedral

Overview of the Site Visited: Culloden Moor

After leaving Dumfermline Abbey, we traveled north into the highlands of northeast Scotland on the A9 highway. We passed the towns of Dunkeld and Kilcrankie and on toward the town of Inverness in the central highlands and then to Colloden Moor in Moray. The tallest highland mountains in this area of north east Scotland were about 4,000 feet. The vegetation in the mountains is dominated by “heather”, which is a ground cover of purple flowers, which were in full bloom in this late summer time period. Our guide told us that the sides of these mountains were used for grouse hunting, which is a big sport in Scotland, and parts of the heather were burned off to improve the grouse hunting operations and the associated revenues from these commercial hunting operations.

In the weeks preceding our tour, it had been very rainy in Scotland as a result of a hurricane that had traveled up the Gulf Stream to its end in the North Sea. The rain from this storm had flooded rivers and lowlands and wiped out railroad tracks. The summer weather patterns were thus disrupted and rainy weather continued throughout our tour. The rivers still ran full and we observed many waterfalls cascading off the tops of mountains down into the rivers. The rivers were flowing “coffee-brown” from peat leached out of the hills by the recent heavy rains.

The green mountain pastures were covered with sheep and cattle. Steel towers for electric transmission lines interrupted the green pastoral scene as electricity from wind energy machines in the north of Scotland produced power for transmission to the population centers of Edinburgh and Glasgow to the south. Our tour guide, James Dunbar, noted the colorful thistle plants in the fields and noted that the thistle is the Scottish National flower. He explained the reason that the thistle gets this high position is that, in medieval times, an English soldier of the invading English army stepped on a thistle and yelled during a night-time surprise attack on the Scottish army, which warned the Scots and thus the thistle saved the Scottish army.

We bypassed the town of Inverness and arrived at the visitors’ center at Culloden Moor in Moray at about 400PM for a tour of the exhibition center and the battlefield. The following illustration shows the site of the battle on Culloden Moor.



The Site of the Battle of Culloden in 1745 in Moray

The visitor center was built in the past few years and provided high technology displays of the history of the combatants and battle, including explanations from the British government viewpoint, the Scottish Jacobite supporters’ viewpoints, and an interactive display that places the viewer in the middle of a reenactment of the battle. The exhibition was very educational with displays describing the key players for the British government side supporting King George II, as well as the Jacobite side supporting Bonnie Prince Charles. My key conclusions were (1) the Jacobites made dumb decisions and used stupid battle tactics which cost the Jacobites the battle; (2) Bonnie Prince Charlie was a poor military commander of the Jacobites who made a bad

decision to fight at Culloden Moor; (3) the French never showed up as promised which cost the Jacobites the battle; and (4) the Duke of Cumberland was a “butcher” who was sent by the British government to make sure the Jacobites never tried a rebellion again by slaughtering most of the Jacobite combatants as well as other locals.

Historical Relevance to the House of Dunbar History: Culloden Moor

Culloden Moor is located near Inverness in the Scottish Highlands. It is the site of the Battle of Culloden on April 16, 1746, which was the final confrontation of the Jacobite Rising of 1745 between the Jacobite forces of Charles Edward Stuart and the British government forces. The victory of the government forces at Culloden Moor decisively halted the Jacobite intent to overthrow King George II, and his House of Hanover, and restore the House of Stuart to the British throne. Culloden Moor was the last battle of the Jacobite Rising, with the loss of about 2,000 Scots, mostly Scottish Highlanders, and the last pitched battle fought on British soil.

The term “Jacobite” is from “Jacobus”, the Latin form of James. The Jacobite Rebellions were a series of uprisings, rebellions, and wars in the kingdoms of England, Scotland, and Ireland (called the Kingdom of Great Britain after the union of 1707), which occurred between 1688 and 1746. These were termed “rebellions” by the ruling British government, since the Jacobites opposed the existing government of Great Britain. They were called “risings” by the Jacobites, whose initial aim was returning James VII of Scotland, who was also James II of England, to the throne of Scotland and Great Britain, after James II of England was deposed by Parliament. Later “risings” aimed to return James II’s descendants of the House of Stuart to the thrones.

King James II of Great Britain, who was also King James VII of Scotland, was deposed as king in 1688. The thrones were claimed by his daughter, Mary II, jointly with her husband, the Dutch-born William of Orange. After the House of Hanover, and George I, succeeded to the British throne in 1714, the risings continued, and intensified. The “First Jacobite Rebellion” and “Second Jacobite Rebellion” were known respectively as “The Fifteen” and “The Forty-Five”, after the years in which they occurred in 1715 and 1745, respectively. The last Jacobite Rebellion (“the Forty-Five”) was led by Charles Edward Stuart, the “Young Pretender” who was soundly defeated at the Battle of Culloden in 1746 by the British government forces of King George II commanded by his second son, Prince William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland.

Charles Stuart’s Jacobite army consisted largely of Scottish Highlanders, as well as a number of Lowland Scots and a small detachment of Englishmen from the Manchester Regiment. The Jacobites were supported and supplied by the Kingdom of France and French and Irish units loyal to France were part of the Jacobite army. The British government force was mostly English, along with a significant number of Scottish Lowlanders and Highlanders, a battalion of Ulster men from Ireland, and a small number of Hessians from Germany and Austrians.

The Battle of Culloden was both quick, taking place within an hour, and bloody. Following an unsuccessful Highland charge against the government lines, the Jacobites were routed and driven from the field. Between 1,500 and 2,000 Jacobites were killed or wounded in the brief battle, while British government losses were lighter with 50 dead and 259 wounded. The aftermath of the battle and subsequent crackdown on Jacobitism was brutal, earning the Duke of Cumberland the nickname of “Butcher”. Efforts were subsequently taken to further integrate the comparatively wild Highlands into the Kingdom of Great Britain including civil penalties introduced to weaken Gaelic culture and attack the Scottish clan system.

After the Battle of Culloden, Prince Charles Edward Stuart, called Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Young Pretender, escaped to France with the help of Flora MacDonald and lived comfortably in exile. He died, despondent and a drunk, and is buried in St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. The House of Stuart (originally "Stewart" until the time of Mary Queen of Scots who change the spelling) was never restored to the Scottish throne after over 400 years of ruling Scotland since the succession of King Robert I the Bruce of Scotland in the early 1300's.

There are a number of misconceptions related to the Jacobite Rebellions. They were not wars between England and Scotland, nor wars between Highlanders and Lowlanders, nor wars of religious differences. It was a bid by the House of Stuart to reclaim not just the defunct Scottish throne, but that of Great Britain as well as the Irish throne, with support from Europe, and especially France. Many major Highland clans supported the British government including Clan Sutherland, Clan Sinclair, Clan Campbell, Clan MacKay, Clan Munro, Clan Ross, Clan Gunn, Clan MacLeod, Clan Grant of Freuchie and others, along with Scottish Lowlands regiments. On the Jacobite side, over half of their forces were lowlander Scottish Episcopalians from Britain. In the "Forty-Five", the Jacobite forces were joined by about 250 English Episcopalians, and at Culloden by 800 men from the Écossais Royaux (Royal Scots) and Irish Brigade Regiments of the French army. Not all Lowlanders were forced to join the Jacobite army. Recruiting records show the Lowlands north of the Tay provided many volunteers, including some landowners. England also supplied some volunteers, including a small regiment. Highlanders were probably more often pressed into service for the Jacobites than Lowlanders.

The Dunbars, like many Scots, probably were represented on both sides in support of the Jacobites and government. Some historical records show there were at least five Dunbars in the battle at Culloden Moor on the side of the Jacobites. A Sir William Dunbar, 6th Baronet of Durn (d.1790), was listed in the Pitscotie Calvary regiment, and he was later pardoned instead of executed. This was possibly because he could prove his status as a landed noble. The Durns were a Dunbar baronetage with land in Moray. A Robert Dunbar was also listed as being in the Duke of Perth's regiment in support of the Jacobites, and he was killed in the battle.

Overview of the Site Visited: Moray and the Town of Lossiemouth

After our tour of Culloden Moor, we traveled through Moray along the fertile coastal plain of the Firth of Moray, where the Dunbars had owned vast amounts of lands in the 1400s-1600s. We observed barley fields and vegetable farms, and green pastures dotted with sheep and cattle. Our tour guide, James Dunbar, pointed to some of the green pastures and some yellow flowers that prominently stood above the green grass. He said the yellow flower was named after Prince William, the Duke of Cumberland, known as "the butcher" of Culloden to Scots. The yellow flower has a different name in Scotland and in England, reflecting the respective views of the Duke of Cumberland. In Scotland, the yellow flowers are known as "Stinking Willies", and in England they are known as "Sweet Williams"!

We continued on our bus trip passing small towns, which we would later visit and which are related to the history of various Dunbar family branches, including Boath, Auldhearn, Alves, Burgie, West Grange, Forres, and Elgin.

We then arrived in the town of Lossiemouth, Moray, and our Stotfield Hotel located on the coast of the Firth of Moray across from the Moray Golf Club as shown in the following illustration. We checked in about 600PM and had a group dinner at the hotel at 730PM.



Stotfield Hotel in Lossiemouth in Moray, Scotland



Moray Golf Course and Shore from Stotfield Hotel



Lossiemouth River and the Firth of Moray in Lossiemouth

Wednesday, August 20, 2014

Daily Itinerary: Our first stop in the morning would be Spynie Palace near Pitgaveny and Elgin. Spynie was the seat of the ancient Bishops of Moray, one of whom was Columba Dunbar, who is buried at Elgin Cathedral. From Spynie we would travel into the ancient city of Elgin where we would tour Elgin Cathedral, viewing the ruins and the Dunbar Aisle. Buried in the Cathedral are Bishop Columba Dunbar; Sir Alexander Dunbar of Westfield, his children and wife; Sir Robert Dunbar of Grangehill; Dunbars of Bennetsfield and Mefts; Lachlan Shaw, the Moray historian, and others. Elgin is one of the premier medieval cathedrals in Scotland, and the Dunbars were one of its chief patrons. After lunch, we would visit Pitgaveny, an ancient farm estate still owned by Dunbars, where we would meet the current owner, Crinan Dunbar, and receive a farm tour guided by the farm operations manager.

Overview of the Site Visited: Spynie Palace

After breakfast from 730-900AM at the Stotfield Hotel, we traveled by bus a few miles to Spynie Palace for a tour of the ruins from 930-1030AM. The bus parked outside the ruins, which are in a park managed by the Historical Scotland Trust. We walked on a lane to the park entrance building to use our tickets to gain entry and the services of the park tour guide. We walked the grounds of the ruins and were able to climb to the top of the tower ruins for photo ops of the surrounding countryside. The view from the tower showed the surrounding local farm countryside, which included the lands of the Pitgaveny Farm of Crinan Dunbar that we would visit later in an afternoon tour.

Historical Relevance to the House of Dunbar History: Spynie Palace

Spynie Palace, also known as Spynie Castle, dates back to the late 12th Century and was the fortified seat of the ancient Bishops of Moray for about 500 years, one of whom was Columba de Dunbar, who is buried at Elgin Cathedral. Columba de Dunbar (b.1386,d.1435) was Bishop of Moray from 1422 until his death at Spynie Palace near Elgin sometime before November 7, 1435. Columba was the youngest son of George I, 10th Earl of Dunbar, and Earl of March, and his spouse Christian Seton. George I supported the so-called English Party in Scotland, but later changed his Scotland allegiance to England, and supported King Henry IV of England against Scotland for a number of years, before returning his allegiance and residence back to Scotland. George I, his older sons, and Columba moved to England in 1400. Columba studied at Oxford, and in 1403 was granted "the Deanery of the free chapel of St. Mary Magdalene of Bridgnorth" as a reward for the help provided by George I to King Henry IV in the Battle of Homildon Hill in 1402. Along with his father, Columba returned to Scotland in 1409, and by 1412 he was Dean of Dunbar collegiate church when he witnessed the foundation charter of St Andrews University. In addition, he was the Deacon of the chapel of Ruthven, St. Andrews. On May 1, 1419, by Papal Dispensation, he was given the additional rectory of the parish church of Locherworth or Borthwick from which he was promoted to the post of Archdeacon of Lothian. Columba became Bishop of Moray on April 3, 1422, but no record of his consecration exists. On December 1, 1433, a Safe-conduct was issued by the young King Henry VI of England for Columba and his entourage of 30 servants "to pass through England on his way to the Roman Court" probably as an envoy of King James I of Scotland. He died before November, 1435, and is thought to have been buried in the aisle of St Thomas the Martyr (Becket) in Elgin Cathedral.



Ruins of Spynie Palace of the Bishops of Moray



Ruins of Spynie Palace of the Bishops of Moray

Overview of the Site Visited: Elgin Cathedral and Elgin Town

We then traveled by bus a few miles to the town of Elgin to tour the ruins of the Elgin Cathedral from 1100AM to 1215PM, and then travel to the downtown area for a self-guided walking tour of the town and lunch from 1230PM to 200PM.

The following illustrations show the Elgin Cathedral ruins. We climbed the many steps of the south tower, which had been restored and a new roof added, to view the tower as it might have appeared during the 1500s. We also climbed the many steps of the north tower, which had not been restored and had no roof, but offered panoramic views of the surrounding Elgin and Moray locations. At the top of the tower, there were two storyboards facing east and west that identified key locations including many sites that we would visit on our tours. One of the following illustrations recreates part of those storyboards with the panoramic views and the locations of some of our tour destinations including Pluscarden Abbey, Spynie Palace, Duffus Castle, and Pitgaveny Farm. One of the illustrations shows the Elgin Cathedral arch and the crest of Columba de Dunbar, who was a Bishop of Moray and who was in charge of restoration of the cathedral during his reign. One illustration shows the Dunbar Aisle ruins in the north side of the cathedral where many of the Dunbars were buried.

We walked through the Elgin town business center, a wide street that was probably the location of a medieval market but was now converted into a wide pedestrian mall with shops along both sides and the St. Giles Church in the center of the mall area. The group separated for individual walking tours, museum tours, and lunch. Some of the tour members went to the Yeatons Bookstore, which had books and pamphlets for sale of interest to the Dunbar historians and genealogists. On the walking tour, the author of this journal noted that an old Scottish church had been converted to an Indian food restaurant. This conversion of old Scottish churches to other functions had previously been noted in Edinburgh. Apparently, there are far too many old churches in Scotland that now exceed the number of church-going Scots/ Tour members had lunch in the various restaurants in Elgin, including the author's choice of the Muckle Cross Pub, and a great sausage & mash dish accompanied by a Tenants lager beer!

Historical Relevance to the House of Dunbar History: Elgin Cathedral and Elgin Town

Elgin Cathedral is a historic ruin in Elgin, Moray, in northeast Scotland. Elgin is a former cathedral city and Royal Burgh, which is now the administrative and commercial center for Moray. Buried in Elgin Cathedral and the Dunbar Aisle are Bishop Columba Dunbar; Sir Alexander Dunbar of Westfield, his children and wife; Sir Robert Dunbar of Grangehill; and the Dunbars of Bennetsfield and Mefts. The Dunbars were one of the chief patrons of Elgin Cathedral.

In 1130, after defeating Óengus of Moray, King David I of Scotland made Elgin a royal burgh. During King David I's reign, a castle was established at the top of what is now Lady Hill. The town received a royal charter from King Alexander II of Scotland in 1224, when he granted the land for a new cathedral to Andrew, Bishop of Moray. Elgin Cathedral, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, was established in 1224 on land granted by King Alexander II outside the burgh of Elgin and close to the River Lossie. It replaced the cathedral at Spynie, which was about 2 miles to the north. After a damaging fire in 1270, a rebuilding program greatly enlarged the building. The ruins of the remaining buildings are from the reconstruction following that fire.

Elgin Cathedral was unaffected by the Wars of Scottish Independence. In August, 1370, Alexander Bur, Bishop of Moray, began payments to Alexander Stewart, the Wolf of Badenoch, who was King Robert III's brother, for the protection of the Bishop's lands and men.

In February, 1390, the bishop then turned to Thomas Dunbar, the Earl of Moray, to provide the protection. This action infuriated Alexander Stewart, the Wolf of Badenoch. Unfortunately, Thomas Dunbar, Earl of Moray, was not able to fulfill his role to adequately defend the Bishop's lands. In May, 1390, the Wolf of Badenoch descended from his castle on an island in Lochindorb and burned the town of Forres in revenge. In June, 1390, he burned much of Elgin, including two monasteries, St. Giles Church, and the Hospital of Maison Dieu. Elgin Cathedral again suffered extensive fire damage following this second attack.

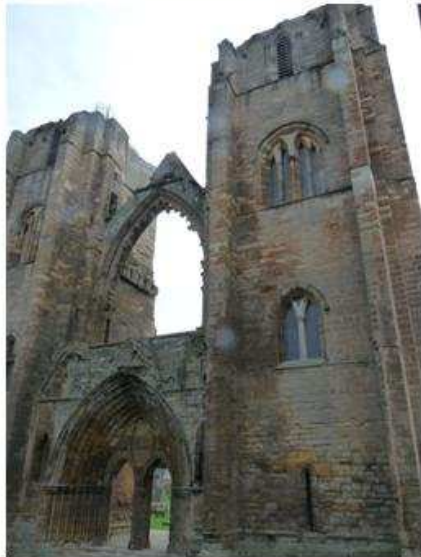
Columba de Dunbar (b.1386,d.1435) was Bishop of Moray from 1422 until 1435. Columba was the youngest son of George I, 10th Earl of Dunbar, and Earl of March, and his spouse Christian Seton. The major alterations to the west front of Elgin Cathedral were completed before 1435 during his reign, and the right side of the west apex contains his arms. He is said to be buried in the aisle of St Thomas the Martyr (Becket) in Elgin Cathedral.

Sir Alexander Dunbar of Westfield, Sheriff of Moray (b.1425,d.1498) was killed by Alexander Sutherland and was buried in the Dunbar aisle, Elgin Cathedral, Moray, Scotland. He is represented by a recumbent figure in armor with armorial bearings on his breast.

The Dunbar of Durris branch of the Dunbar family descends from the Dunbar of Westfield branch of David Dunbar of Durris (b.1470,d.1522), 5th son of Sir Alexander Dunbar of Westfield (b.1425,d.1498) and Isobel Sutherland. He was granted ownership in 1495 of the barony of Durris, on Loch Ness in the parish of Durris (Dores), half of Holm, Little Bellacheranich, Tirchirocha, and Dalmigvie by his father, Sir Alexander Dunbar of Westfield. David died in 1522 in Durris, Inverness-shire, Scotland, and is buried in Elgin Cathedral. Children of David Dunbar of Durris include: Gavin Dunbar (d.1546), James Dunbar of Tarbet (b.1495, d.1588), and Alexander Dunbar of Durris (b.1500,d.1527). His descendants were heritable bailies of Pluscarden Priory.

The first of the Dunbar of Grangehill branch of the Dunbar family was Mark Dunbar (d.1644), who married Isabel Falconer. He was the 4th generation descendant of David Dunbar of Durris (b.1470,d.1522), the 5th son of Sir Alexander Dunbar of Westfield, Sheriff of Moray. Mark Dunbar sold the lands of Durris in about 1592, and bought the grazing lands of Pluscarden Priory in about 1608 and named his new estate Grangehill, and he was an ancestor of the Dunbar of Durn Baronetage. His son was Ninian Dunbar of Grangehill (b.1600,d.1675), who married Finduella Christian Dunbar, and his grandson was Sir William Dunbar, 1st Baronet of Durn (b.1640,d.1707), who married Janet Brodie. Sir Robert Dunbar of Grangehill (b.1665,d.1704), son of Ninian and brother of Sir William, is buried in Elgin Cathedral.

The Dunbars of Durn branch of the Dunbar family descends from David Dunbar of Durris (b.1470,d.1522), 5th son of Sir Alexander Dunbar of Westfield and Isobel Sutherland, and thus the Durris and Westfield branches of the Dunbar families. A Dunbar of Durn baronetage of Nova Scotia was created on January 29, 1698, with Sir William Dunbar, 1st Baronet of Durn (b.1640,d.1707). His father was Ninian Dunbar of Grangehill (b.1600,d.1675), who married Finduella Christian Dunbar. His grandfather was Mark Dunbar of Grangehill (d.1644) who married Isabel Falconer. Sir William Dunbar, 1st Baronet of Durn (b.1640,d.1707), who married Janet Brodie, lived at Durn, Banffshire, and his children were Jean, Sir James Dunbar, 2nd Baronet of Durn (b.1665,d.1737), and Ann. This line continued with Sir William Dunbar, 3rd Baronet of Durn (d.1786), and then Sir James Dunbar, 4th Baronet of Durn (d.1812), who was unmarried and was succeeded by his distant cousin, Sir Robert Dunbar, 5th Baronet of Durn (b.1780,d.1813), whose common ancestor was Ninian Dunbar of Grangehill. The line has continued through Sir Robert Drummond Cospatrick Dunbar, 10th Baronet of Durn (b. 1958).



**Ruins of Elgin Cathedral and Bishop Columba Dunbar
Crest on the Cables of the Cathedral in Elgin, Moray**



Ruins of Elgin Cathedral and Dunbar Isle in Elgin



View from Elgin Cathedral Tower Looking Southwest (left) to Northwest (right)



View from Elgin Cathedral Tower Looking Northeast (left) to Southeast (right)



View from Elgin Cathedral Tower Looking West (left) to Northwest (right)

Overview of the Site Visited: Pitgaveny Farm

After our lunch and tour of downtown Elgin, we boarded the bus for a short trip to visit Pitgaveny Farm from about 200PM to 500PM. We stopped near the entrance to the road to Spynie Palace to meet the Pitgaveny Farm operations manager, Martin Birse. He had parked his pickup truck on the road and boarded our bus to guide us around the Pitgaveny Farm lands to show us the lands and explain the business operations. Martin told us that additional lands had been added to the original estate in recent years, and there were now about 5,000 acres in the operation. He estimated the average price of this land, which is some of the most fertile coastal land in northern Scotland, at about 6,000 British pounds per acre (about \$10,000 per acre). Martin indicated the farm has between 4 to 7 full-time employees, plus part-time seasonal labor, and is currently owned by Crinan James Dunbar and his sister Rebecca Dunbar Russell.

Martin explained that most of the Pitgaveny farm was an inland sea loch and Spynie Palace was once located on the sea coast in the 1450s. This sea loch was drained in the 1700s. The privately-managed Spynie canal now drains the area into the Lossiemouth River and then into the Firth of Moray and North Sea. The Lossiemouth River has dikes to keep it from flooding, but it has flooded in the past and then the water can't get back into the river, which creates long-lasting flood problems for the landowners in the low areas. The land is pure sand under the area drained. There had been extensive rains in the weeks before our visit, and the Lossiemouth River was running full bank, but fortunately did not go over the levies. But the extensive rains, including the rainy weather during our visit, made the fields too wet for finishing the harvest of barley, which was at-risk of rotting in the fields.

Martin showed us the cattle herds and explained their conversion of the large 250 cow herd from the Charolais to Simmenthal breed in recent years, and the building of an organic Black Angus cow herd over the past 20 years at significant cost. The good news was that consumers had been willing to pay a 20 percent premium for organic beef in past years; the bad news was that consumers were no longer willing to pay a premium to cover the extra costs of an organic herd! The farm had conventional crops, such as wheat and barley, and the barley is sold to the whisky distilleries of which Moray has the largest number in Scotland. Martin indicated they are trying to identify higher-value crops to obtain premium pricing such as carrots, parsnips, and potatoes. Large machinery was observed in the fields, and Martin indicated that the combines cost more than \$250,000 and tractors cost more than \$100,000. Martin indicated that parsnips were a higher-value crop, but hand-labor was required to weed the parsnip fields. The solution was importing temporary workers from Poland, who would lay prone on hammocks attached to booms from a machine that traversed the field as the workers used their hands to weed the parsnips! One crop we observed was beans, more like string-bean sized plants than soybean plants, which were grown for cattle feed. Martin also described other non-farm business operations including renewable energy from solar power and wood chips supporting by government subsidies, wetlands and conservation programs supported by government programs, wild game hunting and shooting, rock sales from quarries, and potential future housing development on land adjacent to the town of Elgin. Most of the explanations by Martin would have sounded the same had our group been touring farms in Iowa!

We then concluded our farm tour, dropped Martin at his pick-up truck, and followed Martin to the Pitgaveny Farm buildings and house to meet Crinan Dunbar. Our bus driver, Derek, maneuvered the large bus down the farm lane toward the farm out-buildings, and attempted to make a left-hand 90-degree turn. It had been raining and the ground was very soft, so the bus got stuck in the mud. We disembarked the bus in a light rain and walked the

remaining few hundred yards up the lane to the house where we were met by our host, Crinan Dunbar. He invited us into the house, in spite of our wet shoes and rain-covered jackets, and hosted us in the first-floor dining and living rooms. We were served cookies, tea, and sampled some local whisky. Crinan provided historical information on the house and his Dunbar family, showed us some of his ancestors' possessions and memorabilia that he and his sister were cataloguing, and provided a tour of some rooms in the house. One interesting book that was displayed was William Dunbar's book entitled Life Letters and Papers of William Dunbar 1749-1810 published by Rowland press in 1930. The author of this journal was aware of this William Dunbar, who was a plantation owner in Mississippi in the early 1800s, and had played a key role surveying part of the Louisiana Purchase for President Thomas Jefferson [Reference: House of Dunbar, Part I, Chapter 3- Dunbar Castle and the Origin of the Surname]. The author of this journal was informed that this William Dunbar was a member of the Dunbar of Northfield branch of the House of Dunbar, and possibly a younger son or nephew of Sir Archibald Dunbar, 6th Baronet of Northfield (b.1772,d.1847).

Crinan's family is part of the Dunbars of Northfield, and he is a cousin of Edward Dunbar, heir apparent to the Dunbar of Northfield baronetcy, who we would visit the next day on our tour of Duffus Castle and Duffus House. Crinan handed out a brochure that described the Pitgaveny House, which was built in 1776 by the Brander brothers, who made their money importing citrus from South Africa and selling it to the English Navy in the 1700s. They each purchased large tracts of land that eventually were consolidated into the Pitgaveny Estate. Crinan's ancestor, Sir Alexander Dunbar, 5th Baronet of Northfield, married Mary Brander as his second wife. They could not live in this "Brander" house because it was "entailed" meaning it must go to a male heir. So they lived in the Dunbar of Northfield house in Elgin, which is now a pub on the west end of Elgin across from a hotel. Apparently, the Dunbar male, who married the Brander female, took the name "Dunbar-Brander" or "Brander-Dunbar" due to pressure from the "Brander" female, who inherited and must have said "its my money so take my name"! So the Pitgaveny Estate was then owned by a "Dunbar-Brander" or "Brander-Dunbar" (it is somewhat confusing). The final "Brander-Dunbar" owner was a very colorful character, Captain James Brander Dunbar, who was a marksman, hunter, and a British special forces military man in the Boer War and then WWI. He gifted Pitgaveny Estate to Alexander "Sandy" Dunbar, his cousin and father of Crinan, in about 1950.

We thanked our Host, Crinan Dunbar, for the tour, and left Pitgaveny House about 500PM. We walked back along the lane to our bus, and we were happy to see that it was no longer stuck in the mud. Martin Birse, the farm manager, had arranged for one of their "\$100,000" farm tractors to pull the bus from the mud. Our driver, Derek, skillfully maneuvered the bus along the farm lane and onto the paved highway to return to Lossiemouth by about 600PM for a 730PM group dinner at our Stotfield Hotel.

Historical Relevance to the House of Dunbar History: Pitgaveny Farm

Pitgaveny Estate has been in the Dunbar family ownership for many generations. Pitgaveny Estate is now owned by the heirs of Alexander "Sandy" Dunbar including his son Crinan Dunbar and daughter, Rebecca Russell. The estate was previously inherited under unusual circumstances by Alexander "Sandy" Dunbar, who was born in London as the younger son of Sir Edward Dunbar, a member of the Dunbar of Northfield family branch. After national service, he was educated at Pembroke College, Cambridge. Sandy Dunbar worked as a lawyer before moving to Newcastle to start up the North Eastern Association for the Arts. He then

became UK director for the Gulbenkian Foundation, and was subsequently chief executive of the Scottish Arts Council in Edinburgh for nine years before coming back to live at Pitgaveny with his family in the early 1980s.

Alexander “Sandy” Dunbar was gifted the Pitgaveny estate near Elgin in Moray by his distant cousin, James Brander Dunbar. When he was aged 29, his friend Oscar Hahn made a £20 wager that Sandy would not run naked to Pitgaveny House from his family home at nearby Duffus. Sandy won the bet, though he had to dive briefly into a ditch beside the Elgin-to-Lossiemouth road to minimize the puzzled looks from the occupants of a passing bus. His grandfather's cousin, James Brander Dunbar, was so impressed with the young man's spirit that he gifted Pitgaveny to him. The bet proved a shrewd move as the property, land, and its sporting rights were valued at more than £8m at the time of Alexander “Sandy” Dunbar's death at age 82 in March of 2012. He instructed that his wealth should be left to his wife, Susannah, and their two children, Crinan Dunbar and Rebecca Dunbar Russell.

The location of Pitgaveny has ancient history associated with it as well as relevance to the ancient Dunbar family history. Pitgaveny, which was formerly called “Bothganowan” meaning “place of the cattle”, was the site of a battle in 1040 between the army of Macbeth, who controlled Moray, and the army of King Duncan I of Scotland. King Duncan I was killed in the battle at Pitgaveny by the men of Moray led by Macbeth most probably on August 14, 1040.

King Duncan I of Scotland was the son of Crínán, hereditary lay abbot of Dunkeld, and Bethóc, daughter of King Malcolm II of Scotland. Duncan I had succeeded his grandfather, King Malcolm II, as king of Scotland; but Macbeth, a cousin, was competing for the crown and controlled the north of Scotland in Moray. The second son of Crinan, and brother of Duncan I, was Maldred, King of Cumbria in what is now northwest England. Gospatrick I, who would later become the 1st Earl of Dunbar in 1072, was the young son of Maldred, who was the second son of Crinan and thus brother of King Duncan I. Malcolm III Canemore was the son of King Duncan I, and the next in line to succeed as king. But Macbeth had claimed the crown of Scotland after killing King Duncan I in the battle in 1040.

So in 1045, Crinan and Maldred led their army north into Moray to take revenge on Macbeth for the death of their kin, King Duncan I, and to reclaim the crown of Scotland for their kin, Malcolm III Canemore, and their family line. But Crinan and Maldred were killed in the battle with Macbeth's army in 1045. So Macbeth continued as King of Scotland until Malcolm III Canemore led an army north to defeat and kill Macbeth in a battle in Moray in 1057. So King Malcolm III Canemore had taken revenge on Macbeth for the deaths of his father, grandfather, and uncle, but more importantly gained the crown of Scotland.

King Malcolm III Canemore would marry St. Margaret, an English princess, as his second wife, and one of their sons would become King David I. Gospatrick I was a first cousin to King Malcolm III Canemore on his male line, and a first cousin to St. Margaret on his female line. King Malcolm III Canemore would later grant the lands and earldom of East Lothian to Gospatrick in 1072, and this would evolve to become the earldom of Dunbar [Reference: House of Dunbar, Part I, Chapter 4- The House of Dunbar Descends from Kings].



**Pitgaveny Farm and the House of Crinan Dunbar
of the Dunbars of Northfield Branch**



Pitgaveny Farm Lands of Northfield Dunbars from Spynie Palace

Thursday, August 21, 2014

Daily Itinerary: In the morning we would drive to Pluscarden Priory, located in the hills above the town of Rafford, and a few miles from Elgin. Pluscarden is a working Benedictine Abbey with strong ancient Dunbar connections. The progeny of two of the sons of Sir Alexander Dunbar of Westfield had positions at Pluscarden. Sons of David Dunbar of Durris, fifth son of Sir Alexander Dunbar of Westfield, held the titles of Bailiary and Justiciary of Pluscarden for several generations, and Mark Dunbar then bought the priory grazing lands, naming his new estate Grangehill. Sixth son Patrick Dunbar of Aberdeen's son Alexander was the last Prior of Pluscarden before the Reformation. Alexander foresaw that church lands would be dismantled with the Reformation, and was able to take possession of key properties for his children. The Dunbar Vestry within the church nave is named in his honor. One of the monk's would give us a tour of the Abbey, fully restored since Clan Dunbar's previous visit. After Pluscarden, we would stop at the Califer Hill Viewpoint, where we would have a sack lunch prepared by our hotel, and partake of the commanding view across Moray to the Firth of Moray and Findhorn Bay. The Dunbars owned much of the land seen from this viewpoint. We would then continue past the ruins of Blervie Castle, which was a former residence of the Dunbars of Blervie, but is now a private farm with the ruins of the castle tower visible from the road. From there, we would travel to the ancient town of Forres, where we would pass near the site of Forres Castle, for 300 years the principal residence of the powerful Dunbars of Westfield, the heritable Sheriffs of Moray. The castle itself was dismantled many years ago. Sir Alexander Dunbar of Westfield (d.1498) was the first Dunbar Sheriff of Moray. From there we would travel to the old Burgie Castle ruins of the Dunbars of Burgie and the current Burgie House for a tour hosted by the current owner Hamish Lachor. From there, we would travel back to our hotel crossing the countryside to Kinloss and along the scenic coast road passing the former Dunbar estates of Windiehills (now Milton Brodie) and Hempriggs, as well as the ancient port of Burghead.

Overview of the Site Visited: Pluscarden Abbey

Breakfast was in our Stotfield Hotel, Lossiemouth, from 730AM to 900AM. We then traveled to Pluscarden Abbey from 930AM to 1000AM. Derek parked the bus outside the grounds, since it was too large to fit through the gate of the abbey. We walked a few hundred yards up the road through the abbey grounds for a tour from 1000AM to 1130AM. Our first view of the abbey was of the massive old abbey church, shown in the following illustration. In contrast to this "old" church, we were first greeted by a "new" robotic lawnmower, which was methodically mowing the grass in front of the church with no operator in sight. We went into the church where a monk led a tour of the church. He explained that the Priory was burned by the Wolf of Badenoch in 1390. A Dunbar family ancestor, Alexander Dunbar, was the last prior in 1560 at the time of the Reformation. The church lay in ruins without a roof and open to elements for over 400 years; and was only recently restored in the mid-1900s and a new roof was only finally added in 1982. The main part of the church included extensive history of the Dunbars related to the priory. The following illustrations show the grave markers of Dunbars with inscriptions dated in 1625 that read "Alexander Dunbar of Westerhill and wife" and his crest which looks like pillows. The monk showed us the Dunbar Vestry at the side of the church, which is the room where they keep the monks' clothing, and the Dunbar crest on the ceiling, as shown in the following illustration. The monk played a mournful tune on the large organ in the church, while our senses were overwhelmed by incense in the main chapel, and we walked

among the wood bench pews with intricately-carved mice on the wood arms of the pews. We then explored the abbey grounds walking through the gardens, and observing the vegetable gardens, cemetery, and fields as shown in the following illustrations.

We walked back down the lane of the abbey, through the gates, and boarded our bus for the next stop about 1130AM.

Historical Relevance to the House of Dunbar History: Pluscarden Abbey

Pluscarden Priory lies six miles southwest of Elgin, Morayshire. It was one of the most important ecclesiastical foundations in Morayshire, and reflected the preferences of King Alexander II in 1230 for the Valliscaulians, a French order, which also had houses in the Highlands at Beaulieu, Ross-shire, and Ardchattan, Argyllshire. These were the only houses of that order anywhere in the island of Great Britain. Pluscarden Priory has the tradition that a ring found at the Priory had been given to a monk by Joan of Arc before she was burned as a witch. The monk later found his way to Pluscarden bringing the ring. The army of King Edward I of England caused damage to the Priory during the Wars of Independence in the late 1200s and early 1300s. In 1390, the Priory of Pluscarden was burned along with Elgin Cathedral by the Wolf of Badenoch, Alexander Stewart, son of King Robert II, who had been excommunicated by the Bishop of Moray and then retaliated. Although Elgin Cathedral was reconstructed, the Priory was in disrepair, and taken over in 1456 by the Benedictines from nearby Urquhart Priory.

Pluscarden Priory has strong ancient Dunbar connections. The descendents of two of the sons of Sir Alexander Dunbar of Westfield had positions at Pluscarden. The sons of David Dunbar of Durris, the 5th son of Sir Alexander Dunbar of Westfield, held the titles of Bailiary and Justiciary of Pluscarden for several generations. Alexander Dunbar (b.1510,d.1560), the son of Patrick Dunbar of Aberdeen (b.1471,d.1525), 6th son of Sir Alexander Dunbar of Westfield, was the last Prior of Pluscarden before the Reformation. Mark Dunbar later bought the priory grazing lands and named his new estate Grangehill.

Patrick Dunbar of Aberdeen (b.1471,d.1525) is possibly the one who graduated from St Andrews in 1484. Patrick was Chancellor of Aberdeen diocese, rector of Kilmure, and is the ancestor of the Dunbars of Bennestfield. The Chancellor of the diocese, along with other functions, had a general charge of theological and grammar education. Like his brother and priest, Gavin Dunbar, the Bishop of Aberdeen, he did not marry in accordance with Catholic Church rules. Patrick died in 1525 in Aberdeen. Also like his brother, Gavin, and most Catholic Church priests of the time, he had common-law wives and fathered the following children, which were legitimized by the Catholic Church, for the usual fee: James Dunbar (b.1490,d.1542), Gavin Dunbar (b.1500,d.1560), Alexander Dunbar, who was the last Prior of Pluscarden (b.1510,d.1560), George Dunbar (b.1511), Rev David Dunbar (b.1515,d.1580), and John Dunbar (b.1520, d.1545).

Alexander Dunbar (b.1510,d.1560), the last Prior of Pluscarden, was a secular cleric, but he wore the Benedictine habit. Alexander foresaw that church lands would be dismantled with the Reformation, and was able to take possession of key properties for his children. The Dunbar Vestry within the church nave is named in his honor. After Alexander Dunbar died in 1560, Pluscarden was made the responsibility of a succession of lay commendatory priors who saw to the monastic revenues and the welfare of those monks that remained. Although they lost their lands, the monks of Pluscarden were left undisturbed at the Reformation and were protected by Alexander Seton, a Roman Catholic, who became lay Commendator of Pluscarden. In 1948, a

group of Benedictines from Prinknash Abbey in Gloucestershire returned to restore the Priory of Pluscarden.

Alexander Dunbar (b.1510,d.1560), the last Prior of Pluscarden, was also involved in the infamous and long-running family blood-feud between the Dunbar and Innes Families. A quarrel had broken out between the two powerful Moray families of Dunbar and Innes, and developed into a hereditary feud for 30 years. These two families were the largest holders of property of the rank of landed gentry in the area. The Inneses predominated in the east, the Dunbars in the west. What caused the quarrel is not very clear. It may have been mere jealousy of each other's influence. But on January 6, 1554, eighty armed Inneses came to the cathedral of Elgin and attacked Alexander Dunbar, Prior of Pluscarden; David Dunbar, Dean of Moray; and other laymen, with the objective to "slay them in presence of the holy sacraments." On their part, the Dunbars had apparently come to church that evening prepared with similar deadly intent to slaughter William Innes and his servants. Which side came off best is not certain. At any rate the battle was not decisive, since both parties subsequently engaged in lengthy legal battles.

After twenty years of litigation, the differences were still not settled, and Alexander Dunbar (b.1545,d.1593), who was the Dean of Moray, was involved in the feud. On the October 18, 1577, the fight erupted again with a band of Inneses, including John Innes, who was a brother of Robert Innes of Invermarkie, John Innes (alias Long John), Andrew Innes (alias Kow-the-gegat), Andrew Innes (alias the Scholar), and their followers, made a night attack on the house of Alexander Dunbar. His house was situated within the precinct now known as the North College in Elgin. There the Inneses slew Andrew Smyth, the Dean of Moray's servant, broke open the stable door and cut the halters of four of the horses intending to carry them away. Alexander Dunbar was roused from his sleep by the disturbance, and came out of his chamber in his dressing-gown unarmed except for the dirk which he always carried. One of the John Inneses immediately attacked Alexander Dunbar with his sword, wounding him severely both in his head and in his hands. Subsequent accounts stated that "and the said John, not satisfied with his blood, most cruelly, horribly, and without mercy slew Elizabeth Dunbar, the dean's daughter, a girl of thirteen years old, killing her with a thrust of his sword in her breast, and left her dead on the ground."

This attack was going a little too far, even for a highland family blood-feud. The Inneses were indicted, fled from justice, were declared rebels, and "put to the horn". But this indictment apparently only made matters worse. Seven months later, the Inneses returned to pay the Dean of Moray, Alexander Dunbar, another nocturnal visit. They went to his country house at Carsehillock and carried off forty sheep. Apparently killing 40 sheep was a worst offense than killing a 13-year old girl, because this attack caused the king of Scotland to take action! He then granted a commission to the sheriffs of all the northern counties and other local authorities to apprehend the Innes family rebels, to destroy their homes, and by every possible means bring them to justice. But unfortunately, nothing came of this royal order. Not one Innes could be found. By this time both the Dunbars and Inneses apparently were getting pretty tired of the blood-feud. So some mutual friends offered to arrange for arbitration of the dispute, and the Dunbars and Inneses agreed to the arbitration to settle their differences. The final terms of the arbitration are not known; but, surprisingly, both parties agreed to the decision. Thus, the Dunbar-Innes blood-feud was finally brought to an end after 30 years. The historical records state that this is a "typical" example of the state of Scottish Highland society of those days!



Pluscarden Abbey Interior and Grounds of St. Benedicts Monks



Dunbar Vestry and Dunbar Gravestones in Pluscarden Abbey

Overview of the Site Visited: Califer Hill Viewpoint

After leaving Pluscarden Abbey, from about 1200PM to 100PM we traveled through the Moray coastal area west to a view location called Califer Hill Viewpoint where we would stop for a photo op and to eat our sack lunch prepared by our Stotfield Hotel. The view included the nearby ruins of Blervie Castle, which was once the property of the Dunbars of Blervie, as shown in the following illustration. The current adjacent private residence, the Blervie House, was built using the stone from the ruins of the castle where only a tower remains. The Califer Hill Viewpoint provided a panoramic view of the Moray coastal plain as shown in the following illustration. In front of us were the Firth of Moray and the North Sea. To the west in the distance were the Darnaway Forest and the city of Inverness. To the East were the towns of Forres and Findhorn and Findhorn Bay. To the north were the Black Isle and the northern highlands stretching north to the town of Wick, which we would visit later in our trip. In ancient times, the Dunbars controlled most of the land we could see along the Moray coastal plain. In modern times, some of the descendants of those ancient Dunbars still retain a few estates that were part of our panoramic view.

Historical Relevance to the House of Dunbar History: Califer Hill Viewpoint

Blervie Castle was built on a hill about 4 miles southeast of Forres in Moray in northeast Scotland. The original castle was built and owned by the Earls of Dunbar around the end of the 1300s, when the lands would have been inherited by George I, 10th Earl of Dunbar, and his brother, John Dunbar, 5th Earl of Moray, from their Randolph family of their mother, Isabelle Randolph Dunbar, and aunt, Black Agnes Randolph Dunbar. Blervie Castle was apparently destroyed and rebuilt in the 1500s, and that castle is now in ruins. The stone from the castle ruins was used to build the current Blervie House. What remains from the castle ruins is a five-story tower. Near the tower are four large standing stones, believed to be part of an ancient Caledonian stone circle. The property was purchased in the early 1900s by Alexander Mackintosh, and was later sold by him to the Earl of Fife.

Additional research is required by the author of this journal to define the Dunbars of Blervie branch of the Dunbar family. It may have been started with a Patrick Dunbar, who may have been the son of the “Bold Sheriff” of Moray, Sir Alexander Dunbar of Cumnock (b.1510,d.1576), who was a grandson of Sir James Dunbar of Westfield (b.1445,d.1504), the 1st son of Sir Alexander Dunbar of Westfield and Isobel Sutherland. In any event, the story of the “Bold Sheriff” of Moray is worth telling.

Sir Alexander Dunbar of Cumnock (b.1510,d.1576) inherited and succeeded his father in the position of Heritable Sheriff of Moray in 1535 and was sometimes referred to as “the Bold Sheriff of Elgin and Forres”. This may have been because he was courageous. But considering some of the accusations in the records, it could also have been that he interpreted the law to his own advantages as Sheriff! For example, in 1540, the records say that Alexander Dunbar of Cumnock, Sheriff of Elgin & Forres, was prosecuted by the town of Elgin and accused by the Abbot of Kinloss for carrying away 22 feather beds, a silver salver weighing 240 ounces, and other pieces of plate and furniture from the Abbey. Another example, in 1550, was a complaint from Alexander Cumming of Altyre lodged against the “Bold Sheriff” for having on several occasions “cruellie set uou and invadit them for their slaughter”. In 1551, Sir Alexander was “put to the horn” for supporting Norman Leslie, a traitor and rebel convicted by Mary Queen of Scots. In 1554, his son, Patrick, was denounced and “put to the horn” with several others for the slaughter of Thomas Russell in the house of Balnageiche. Also in 1554, Sir Alexander and his

son Patrick, were “put to the horn” with several others for the slaughter of James Cumming in Dollacebrachty. These altercations with the Cummings may have been part of the blood-feud between the Innes family and Dunbar family, which went on for generations.

The phrase “put to the horn” has been used several times in describing historical connections of the Dunbars. In Scots law, the phrase “put to the horn” referred to a “Letter of Horning” which was a document (i.e., letter) issued by civil authorities that publicly denounced a person as a rebel. The document was issued against persons who had not paid their debts, or other alleged illegal activities. Historically, the documents would be announced by three blasts of a horn, and the documents themselves came to be known as “letters of horning”. A person who was denounced in these documents was described as having been “put to the horn”. So Sir Alexander and his son Patrick, who may have been the first of the Dunbars of Blervie, were “denounced”, but there is nothing in the records that states that they were punished in any other way such as jail or fines.



Blevie Castle Ruins, Blevie House, and Coastal Lands Formerly Owned by Dunbars in Moray Between Elgin and Forres

Overview of the Site Visited: Forres Town and Castle

We left Califer Hill Viewpoint about 100PM, and traveled to the nearby town of Forres, where we stopped for a brief break. We observed the trademark of the town of Forres- its colorful flowers. We did not attempt to find and stop at the site of the ancient Forres Castle, which was originally the home of Sir Alexander Dunbar of Westfield, since the castle is now in ruins.

Historical Relevance to the House of Dunbar History: Forres Town and Castle

Forres Castle was a fort and castle built near Forres, Scotland. The Royal Castle of Forres stood at the west end of the High Street in the town of Forres, beside the Burn of Mosset, where its foundations were found during tree planting before 1882. The fort was destroyed in 850 by Vikings. Forres was created a royal burgh by King David I of Scotland in 1140. Forres Castle was once a royal castle built as a motte and bailey castle. King William the Lion and King Alexander II of Scotland, ancient royal ancestors of Gospatrick I, 1st Earl of Dunbar, visited and stayed at the castle. The castle was first demolished in 1297 by the supporters of William Wallace during the Scottish Wars of Independence with England. It was then strengthened in the 1300s. King David II of Scotland stayed at the castle in 1346. It was burned by Alexander Stewart, Earl of Buchan, called the Wolf of Badenoch, in 1390, along with many other buildings in Moray. It was held by the descendants of Sir Alexander Dunbar of Westfield until the 1600s, when it fell into ruins. Nothing now remains above ground and little is known of the form of the castle and its extent beyond the foundations which are marked out.

Sir Alexander Dunbar of Westfield and his Dunbar successors were “Heritable Sheriffs of Moray” for hundreds of years. The office of sheriff in Scotland was equivalent with, and competed with, the powers of the earl. The office of sheriff was a heritable one, and often was conferred on the earl. But in Moray, it was never the case of the earl and sheriff being the same person. The “sheriff” had the powers similar to a combination of a modern time sheriff and judge. The first heritable Sheriff of Moray, whose name appears on the records, is Alexander Douglas, who held the office in 1226.

Sir Alexander Dunbar of Westfield was the son of Sir James Dunbar, the 8th and last Dunbar Earl of Moray, who was murdered in a fight at Frendraught on August 10, 1429. Sir James Dunbar, and his first wife, Janet Seton, had two daughters, Janet and Elizabeth. James Dunbar, and a second wife, Isabel Innes, daughter of Sir Walter Innes of Innes, had one son, Alexander, a half-brother to the sisters. Since James and Isabel were second cousins, a papal dispensation was required to legitimize the marriage. Unfortunately for Alexander, he was born before the papal dispensation arrived, and was thus declared illegitimate. While he was still declared illegitimate at the age of one, his step-sisters, Janet and Elizabeth, inherited the earldom of Moray and its lands from Sir James Dunbar. Elizabeth married Archibald “the Grim” Douglas, son of James, Earl of Douglas, who arranged for the earldom of Moray to pass to the Black Douglas family. Alexander obtained the Barony of Westfield from his sisters as a consolation prize.

King James II of Scotland attempted to right this wrong done to Alexander Dunbar. He knighted Alexander, made him Hereditary Sheriff of Moray, and granted him large estates from his sisters, and also grants of land from the king himself. This Sir Alexander Dunbar of Westfield had lands in Carnousie, Pitterhouse, Kilbuiack, Conzie, Durris, Tarras, Balnagath (owned by the Dunbars until 1860), Fochabers, Clunies, Moyness, Clacack, Golford, Auldcash, and others. Sir

Alexander Dunbar of Westfield married Elizabeth (also sometimes called Isabel), daughter of Sir Alexander Sutherland, 3rd Lord Duffus, on August 6, 1451, and they had six sons and one daughter: Sir James Dunbar of Westfield (who succeeded in 1498), Sir John (d.1503), Alexander, Gavin (Dean of Moray and Bishop of Aberdeen), David of Durrus, and Patrick (Chancellor of the Diocese of Aberdeenshire and founder of the House of Bennetsfield), and one daughter, Isabel (or Janet). Sir Alexander Dunbar of Westfield died March 10, 1497, and was buried in the Elgin Cathedral.

Sir James Dunbar of Westfield succeeded his father in 1497. He was knighted by King James IV and made Hereditary Sheriff of Elgin in 1489. He inherited most of the landholdings of his father. Another brother, Alexander, who got the Barony of Conzie and Kilbuiach, was killed by Alexander Sutherland as a result of a dispute about a debt unpaid by Sutherland. Another brother, Gavin, who was Dean of Moray and Bishop of Aberdeen, took a lead role in the government of King James V. Another brother, Patrick Dunbar of Entriken, who was Chancellor of the Diocese of Aberdeen, Rector of Kilmure, and the ancestor of the Dunbars of Bennetsfield, married a cousin, Janet, co-heir of Patrick Dunbar of Cumnock and Mochrum.

The main male line of the House of Dunbar continued with Sir James Dunbar of Cumnock and Westfield (d.1535), who succeeded his father, Sir James Dunbar of Westfield, as Hereditary Sheriff of Moray in 1505. The main line then shifts to another brother, Sir John Dunbar of Mochrum, 2nd son of Sir James Dunbar of Westfield, who was killed at the Battle of Flodden Field in 1513, along with King James IV and about 12,000 other Scots, in a major historical event and disaster for Scotland.

The main male line of the House of Dunbar continued with the succession of the son of Sir James Dunbar of Westfield, Sir John Dunbar of Mochrum (d. 1543), who married Nicolas, daughter of Stewart of Garlies. He was made Justiciar of Mochrum and Hereditary Coroner of Wigton by Mary Queen of Scots. He married Elizabeth Mure, but had no sons. So he married his eldest daughter, Grizel Dunbar of Mochrum, to his cousin, Alexander Dunbar of Conzie and Kilbuiach (d. 1585), in order to keep the Dunbar family estate intact. This Alexander Dunbar was descended from another parallel Dunbar family branch starting with Alexander Dunbar, 3rd son of Sir Alexander Dunbar of Westfield, who got the Barony of Conzie and Kilbuiach from his father.

The main male line of the House of Dunbar then continued with the 1st son of Grizel Dunbar and Alexander Dunbar, Sir John Dunbar of Mochrum, in 1586. He married Elizabeth Kennedy, but their line ends in two generations. So the main line passed to the line of his brother, Alexander Dunbar of Pankill (d.1630), and his son John Dunbar of Mochrum and Pankill, who married Margaret Urquhart. The main male line then passed down to his great-grandson, Sir James Dunbar, who was created 1st Baronet in 1694, and married Isabel, daughter and co-heir of Sir Thomas Nicholson. His son, Sir George Dunbar, 2nd Baronet, sold the estates of Mochrum and Pankill, married Janet, daughter of Sir John Young, and died in 1727.

The Dunbar main male line then continued through many more generations to the current head of the Dunbar clan according to the Scots Peerage, the 17th Baronet, Sir James Dunbar of North Carolina, USA, who was a member of the Clan Dunbar 2014 tour group.

Overview of the Site Visited: Burgie Castle and Burgie House

We left Forres about 200PM and passed through East Grange, Milton Brodie (Windiehills), Hempriggs by Kinloss golf course, Lossie RAF station that was a major WWI RAF station for bombers, and Grangehall. We arrived at Burgie House at about 215PM for a

tour from 215PM to 430PM of the house and the ruins of Burgie Castle, which were once owned by the Dunbars of Burgie. We were hosted by the current owner, Hamish Lachor, who met us at the current Burgie House, and pointed out the Dunbar of Burgie family shield, dated in 1602, which was taken from the castle and embedded in the wall of the current house during its construction in the 1800s. Hamish hosted a tour of the current house and provided a pamphlet with the history of the Dunbars of Burgie, Burgie Castle, and Burgie House. The house included portraits on the walls of Robert Dunbar of Burgie and a Naomi Forbes Dunbar who was married to a Dunbar in the reign of Charles II in the late 1600s. We then walked from the current Burgie House across a grass field and past the current horse stables and riding school, to the ruins of Burgie Castle where Hamish led a tour of the old tower ruins. Many of the tour group climbed the steps to the top of the tower to view the surrounding area. Hamish indicated that stone from the Burgie Castle ruins was used to construct the new house by the Dunbars in the 1830-1850 time period for the center section. The Thompson family (Hamish's grandfather) purchased the house in 1908 and added the wings and top of the new house. The following illustrations show the current Burgie House, with its Dunbar of Burgie family crest, and the Burgie Castle ruins.

We completed this tour of the Burgie House and returned to our Stotfield Hotel by 500PM for a "formal" dinner in the hotel at 700PM with Scottish dress by many of the Clan Dunbar attendees. Our guests were Crinan Dunbar and his sister, Rebecca Dunbar Russell, of Pitgaveny Farm, and Edward Dunbar and his wife, Caroline, of Duffus House. Crinan and Edward are members of the Dunbars of Northfield family branch. Following the dinner at 830PM, a Ceileigh (a coming together of friends for group singing and dancing, somewhat like Scottish square dancing) was held with several musicians and our guests instructed the Clan Dunbar on the Scottish dancing steps.

Historical Relevance to the House of Dunbar History: Burgie Castle and Burgie House

The information in the pamphlet provided by Hamish Lechor was taken from a book entitled The Book of Burgie, by Rev. J.G.Murray, M.A. The information reads like a soap opera and describes many interesting stories of the Dunbars of Burgie, the Deans of Moray at the time of the Reformation including transferring of catholic church assets to the Dunbars, the Dunbar-Innes family blood-feud, many Dunbar branch family feuds, information on Burgie Castle and Burgie House, and information on the covenanters versus the royalists and the Dunbar family positions in the civil wars of the late 1640s. The reader is referred to the pamphlet for more detailed information, but some highlights for the author of this journal are described below.

The founder of the Burgie and West Grange branches of the Dunbar family was Alexander Dunbar (b.1545,d.1593), Dean of Moray, who was the son of David Dunbar (d.1557), Dean of Moray, and whose predecessor is not yet known by the author of this journal. In 1561, Alexander Dunbar married Katherine Reid, sister of Walter Reid, last Catholic Abbot of Kinloss. The lands of West Grange, as well as many other lands, were inherited by Katherine and came to Alexander Dunbar and his family branches. Alexander, as Dean of Moray, had a mansion in what is now called North College in the Chanonry of Elgin, where he resided until his death in 1593. He was the Dean of Moray involved in the Dunbar-Innes family feud and whose 13 year old daughter was killed in an attack by the Inneses, as described previously. Several of his children of historical interest included: Thomas who became Dean of Moray and Laird of West Grange; Robert 1st of Burgie; Elizabeth who was killed by the Inneses; Jean who married John Dunbar of Moyness; Isobel who married first Patrick Dunbar of Boghole and second Allexander Tulloch of Tannachie; and Katherine who married James Hay.

Robert Dunbar, the 3rd son of Alexander Dunbar, Dean of Moray, is called the “1st of Burgie”. It is said that, like his brother Thomas, he was destined for the Church, which “held out the certainty of no small financial profit”. He appears to have been somewhat of a con-artist throughout his life. He seems to have been involved in questionable financial dealings while minister of the Parish of Rafford from 1590 to 1598. It is stated that “having exhausted the pecuniary possibilities of the ministry, he then turned his attention to the management of the Estate of Burgie”. With his apparent financial gains, he was able to afford building the Burgie Castle in 1602.

In 1640, Robert Dunbar, 2nd of Burgie succeeded his father in the lands of Bishopmill, Pittenkirck and Collerscruickis. He later acquired lands from John Dunbar of Hempriggs by somewhat controversial means leading to discord between these family branches. He married Isobel Crichton. In the 1645-1647 time period. The Dunbars along with other principal families in Moray were staunch supporters of the covenanting cause and most of them suffered severely at the hands of the King’s Lieutenants Montrose and Huntly. In 1645, Montrose passed into Moray where he “plundered, burnt and spoiled the houses and lands of Ninian Dunbar of Grangehill, and plundered but didn’t burn the lands of Burgie, Lethin and Duffus”. Huntly took advantage of his position to “stiff” Robert Dunbar of Burgie of money he owed. In 1650, Robert Dunbar identified with the Royalist party in Scotland, and thereby suffered from Cromwell’s invasion of Scotland. It appears that he spent 6-1/2 years in debtors prison, in the Tollbooth of Edinburgh for non-payment of debts. His brother, Thomas Dunbar of West Grange, took extraordinary measures to get him out of prison and assumed responsibility for a large part of his debt, and assumed ownership of Burgie Castle and associated lands in about 1666. Robert Dunbar, 2nd of Burgie, died in about 1679.

Although Robert Dunbar had disposed of the estate of Burgie to Thomas Dunbar of West Grange, he and his descendants continued to be known as “Dunbars of Burgie”. Whereas Thomas and his descendants were know as “Dunbars of Grange or West Grange”. There are many additional interesting stories in The Book of Burgie but too numerous to retell here.



Artist Rendering of Original Burgie Castle Built in 1602 by Dunbars of Burgie and Remaining Ruins of Tower



Current Burgie House Owned by Hamish Lachore and Dunbar Shields from Original Burgie Castle of 1602

Friday, August 22, 2014

Daily Itinerary: We would begin the day by driving through the towns of Dyke and Moy where the Dunbar families of Westfield owned many of the farm estates including Grangehill (now Dalvey), Wester Moy, Moy House, Kintessack, and Kincorth. Kintessack is believed to be the primary residence for the Durris and Grangehill Dunbars, although it is essentially just a hamlet today. These farms are contiguous to one another in beautiful farm country that is likely not much changed since the 1700's. Grangehill, the most well known of these properties, was purchased by Mark Dunbar from the Pluscarden Priory after he sold his Durris estates in Inverness. We would drive by the Boath House, the residence of the Dunbar Baronets of Boath, where the current mansion house is now an upscale Bed & Breakfast, since we were unable to gain permission to stop for a visit. We would then proceed to the ancient town of Auldearn, a quiet town today, but in medieval times it was strategically important. Here the King of Scotland had a palace and the powerful Deans of Moray were based. The Church of Auldearn has been the burial place for the Dunbars of Boath (from the Durris line of Westfield) for centuries. Next to the church, the ancient Dunbar Crypt has no ceiling, but the remaining walls have protected the stones, many of which are very old. The entire Boath family is buried there as well as David Dunbar (II) of Durris, Dean of Moray, and John Hay of Lochloy and Park. We also have permission to see the interior of the church.

Overview of the Site Visited: Auldearn Church

We began our day with the breakfast buffet at the Stotfield Hotel from 730AM to 900AM. We left on our bus from 930AM to 1000AM traveling west past areas previously occupied in the 1500s-1600s by Dunbars including Grangehill (now Dalvey), which was once part of Pluscarden Priory. The flat coastal farms contain some of the best lands in Moray. We drove past the Dunbar of Moy house ruins and the large Kinkorth House. We stopped in Auldearn from 1000AM to 1100AM for a tour of the current Scotland Kirk parish church, and the ruins of the old church where the Dunbars of Boath were patrons and were buried. The following illustration shows the new and old church, and the gravestones and inscriptions for Sir James Dunbar, Baronet of Boath (b.1812,d.1883), his wife, Louise Pemble, and his 2nd son, Sir Frederick Dunbar, Baronet of Boath (b.1875,d.1937). There were also gravestones and inscriptions for Sir James Dunbar of Boath, Capt Royal Navy, d.1836; Alexander Dunbar of Boath, d.1808, who was in India and Jean Burnett, widow, d.1805; and her son, Alexander Dunbar of Boath.

We then left Auldearn about 1100AM. We drove past Boath House, which at one time was occupied and owned by the Dunbars of Boath, and which is now an upscale bed and breakfast. We didn't stop since we couldn't get permission from the current owners for a visit. We stopped for luncheon buffet from 1145AM to 145PM at the Brodie Country House.

Historical Relevance to the House of Dunbar History: Auldearn Church

Auldearn is a village situated east of the River Nairn, just outside Nairn in the Highland council area of Scotland. Auldearn has a small square at its center named the Rose Gardens, which was refurbished in 2003, and now has benches, flowerbeds and a small shelter. Auldearn takes its name from "Eren" (Old Eren), the castle of King William the Lion, which was built there in the 12th century. From Castle Hill, there is a view all around for miles. On top of Castle hill, there is a 17th-century pigeon loft named the "Doocot", or

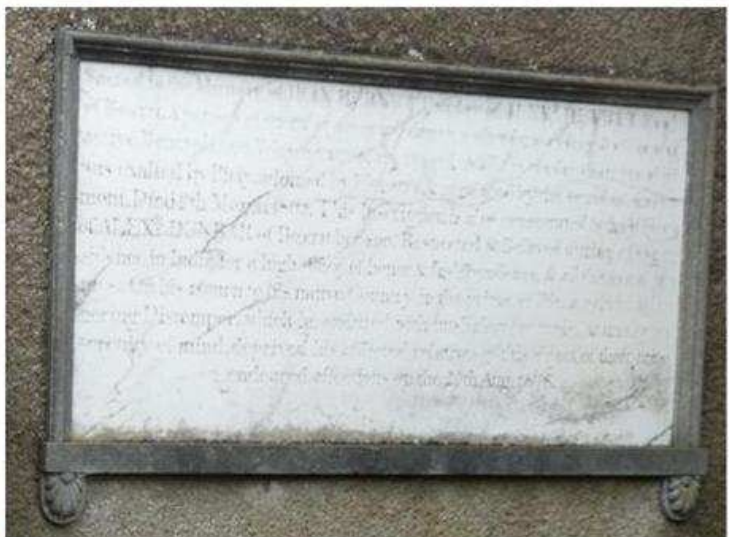
Dovecot, which has hundreds of small recesses inside for pigeons to nest. The Doocot was used to feed the Dunbar family of Boath in the wintertime if food was scarce, and is now looked after by the National Trust of Scotland.

Auldearn has ancient connections to the descendants of the Earls of Dunbar, since King William the Lion was a royal ancestor of Gospatrick I, 1st Earl of Dunbar. Patrick I, 5th Earl of Dunbar (b.1152,d.1232) was married to Ada, daughter of King William the Lion of Scotland (r.1165-1214), so the earls of Dunbar were descended from the Dunkeld line of kings. This descent was the basis for the claim of Patrick IV, 8th Earl of Dunbar, to the throne of Scotland during “the Competition for the Crown” in 1296. He had about as good a claim as the other 12 competitors, but Edward Balliol and Robert the Bruce both had slightly better claims. In any case, Edward Balliol got the job due to his support from King Edward I of England, who thought he was more easily manipulated. Robert the Bruce, and his Stewart family, later won the crown by defeating the English and Edward Balliol forces in the early 1300s. Auldearn also has later connections with the Dunbars of Boath in the 1500s, who lived in the area and chose the Church of Auldearn as their family burial place.

A monument comprises the remains of the medieval Church of Auldearn, which survives as a ruin with rendered and dressed stone walling, architectural stone carving, carved memorial stones, wall plaques and a large tomb chest. The church is located in the northern half of the village of Auldearn and is joined on its west side by the present church built in 1757. The church, although ruined, retains much of its original architectural detail in the form of its structural walls, dressed and carved stone detail, and in its later use as a burial ground with over 30 grave-markers, wall-plaques, memorial stones and a large decorated tomb chest. It is a well-preserved archaeological site and representative of pre-Reformation architecture seen throughout Scotland. Local families, including the Hays of Lochloy and the Dunbars of Boath, subsequently took it over as their burial place.

The Dunbars of Boath apparently originate with Alexander Dunbar of Boath (d.1774), who married Janet Brodie, and whose ancestors are not yet known to the author of this journal. Their son was Alexander Dunbar (d.1783), who married Jane Burnett. Their 3rd but eldest surviving son was Sir James Dunbar, 1st Baronet of Boath (b.1770,d.1836) for whom the Dunbar of Boath Baronetage of Nova Scotia was created on September 19, 1814. Sir James was also known as “Sir James Dunbar Baronet of Boath” in the records. Sir James was knighted on March 30, 1810. He lived at Boath, Auldearn, Nairnshire. Sir James Dunbar married Helen Coull in 1814. Sir James Dunbar was created a Baronet of Boath on September 19, 1814. He was made a Lieut. R. N. in 1790; and a Post-Captain April 29, 1802. His children included: Jane, Helen Patricia, Sir Frederick William Dunbar, 2nd Baronet of Boath (b.1819,d.1851), Sir James Alexander Dunbar, 3rd Baronet of Boath (b.1821,d.1883), and George Dunbar (b.1822,d.1850). Sir Frederick William Dunbar, 2nd Baronet of Boath (b.1819,d.1851) succeeded his father in 1836. Sir James Alexander Dunbar, 3rd Baronet of Boath (1821–1883) succeeded his brother in 1851. Successors were Sir Alexander James Dunbar, 4th Baronet (1870–1900) and Sir Frederick George Dunbar, 5th Baronet (1875–1937). The Baronetcy became extinct in 1937 on the death of the 5th Baronet.

The Boath House is a Regency house in large grounds of about 20 acres with a lake and walled garden. Wendy and Don Matheson, who rescued the fine mansion from Historic Scotland's “endangered list”, have restored it with style. Their son, Sam, is the manager. The Boath House Hotel was built around 1825 for the Dunbar family, replacing the original Dunbar of Boath house, which had been on the site since the mid-16th century.



Ruins of Auldearn Church and Graves of Sir James and Sir Frederick Dunbar, Baronets of the Dunbars of Boath

Overview of the Site Visited: Duffus Castle and Duffus House

We left Auldearn about 145PM driving past the Dunbar of Westfield House, a few miles northwest of Elgin located back in a stand of trees, but we didn't have permission to stop for a visit. We arrived at the ruins of the Duffus Castle at 215PM where we were met by Edward and Caroline Dunbar, and their young daughter. Edward led us on a tour of the Duffus Castle ruins, which are shown in the following illustration. Edward explained that the land is owned by his family, but the castle ruins are preserved, maintained, and operated by Historic Scotland. Duffus Castle was an old Norman castle from about the year 1100. It originally was a wood fort built by a Flemish mercenary who was granted land by King David I and took the name "de Moravis" meaning "of Moray". A stone fort in moat and bailey style was built in the early 1300s in the reign of King Edward I of England and the start of the wars of independence between Scotland and England. The Dunbars of Northfield subsequently acquired the castle and property. The current Duffus Estate contains about 1,500 acres, which are rented out to long-term tenants on long-term leases. Edward noted that one tenant was a Duncan, and a member of the Duncan family had farmed some of the estate for over 200 years, and these long-term leases are handed down from father to son. Edward noted that the leases are difficult to break and the tenants have about as much rights as the landowners, including a first right to purchase the land.

After completing our tour of the castle ruins, we boarded the bus for the short ride to Duffus House, about 1 mile south of Duffus town, where we would visit the house and some of the buildings on the property from 300PM to 430PM. We were hosted by Edward and Caroline Dunbar for our visit to Duffus House, which is currently a dormitory for the Gordonstoun School. It is a competitor to the Eton School, and Prince Charles was one of the Gordonstoun graduates. We first walked to the stables to see the display of wood carved Dunbar shields, which were hanging on the walls of the stable. The following illustration shows a collage of these shields assembled previously by the Clan Dunbar from pictures of those original shields commissioned by Sir Archibald Hamilton Dunbar, an ancestor of Sir Archibald and Edward. He was the author of the book Scottish Kings, published in 1906, which is one of the best historical references documenting the kings of Scotland, and the corresponding Dunbar family history during the time of the earls of Dunbar, which was a key reference for the House of Dunbar, Part I, book of the author of this journal.

We then walked from the stables on a dirt path through the woods to the old church ruins and cemetery, where we saw the graves of many Dunbar of Northfield ancestors of Sir Archibald and Edward. The following illustrations show the ruins of the old Duffus church and the gravestones of Dunbar of Northfield ancestors including Sir Archibald Dunbar, 6th Baronet of Northfield, who died at Duffus January 6, 1898, aged 94; his wife, Dame Sophia Dunbar, who died in 1909 at the of age 95; Sir Archibald Hamilton Dunbar, 7th Baronet of Northfield, who died at Duffus, June 6, 1910, aged 82; his wife, Dame Isabella Mary Dunbar, who died June 17, 1931, at the age of 86; Sir Archibald Edward Dunbar, 9th Baronet of Northfield, who died at Aberdeen, June 15, 1969, aged 80; and his wife, Dame Olivia Sinclair Dunbar.

We then walked back to Duffus House where we were hosted for tea and cakes by Edward, the heir apparent to the Dunbar of Northfield baronetage, who was born in 1977 and is 37 years old. We met his father, Sir Archibald Ranulph Dunbar, the current 11th Baronet of Northfield (who is 87 years old), and his wife. Also present was Caroline Dunbar, wife of Edward, and their daughter, and Rebecca Dunbar Russell, sister of Crinan Dunbar, a cousin of Edward, and co-owner of the Pitgaveny Estate. Many books and historical documents had been assembled for our tour members to inspect. The author of this journal had the opportunity to

meet Sir Archibald and discuss the book *Scottish Kings* published by his ancestor, Sir Archibald Hamilton Dunbar, in 1906. The current Sir Archibald was an agricultural expert in South Africa in his younger days and published a book on the subject. The Gordonstoun School has built a new dormitory and the Duffus House will revert to the Dunbars to find some future economic use to ensure its survival. Edward discussed some studies they are conducting to identify alternative uses for Duffus House in the future.

We left Duffus House about 430PM and drove through Duffus town on our way back along the coast of Moray to the Stotfield Hotel arriving at 500PM and we had a group dinner at the Stotfield Hotel at 730PM.

Historical Relevance to the House of Dunbar History: Duffus Castle and Duffus House

Duffus Parish takes its name from the Gaelic word, “Dubuist”, which signifies “black lake,” and is a reference to the ancient inland sea loch near Spynie, which was drained for farmland in the 1700s. Duffus Parish is bounded to the north by the Firth of Moray sea, and on the other points by the adjoining parishes of Drainie, New Spynie, and Alves. This parish is about three miles from the south border of the town of Elgin. This area was the home of the Dunbars of Northfield and the Baronetcy of Northfield. At one time, the principal land-owner in the parish was Sir Archibald Dunbar, 6th Baronet (b.1772,d.1847), and his eldest son, Sir Archibald Dunbar, 7th Baronet (b.1803,d.1898), who owned half of the parish land.

Duffus Castle near Elgin, Moray, Scotland, was a motte-and-bailey castle in use from about 1140 to 1705. At the time of its establishment, it was one of the most secure fortifications in Scotland. At the death of the 2nd Lord Duffus in 1705, the castle had become totally unsuitable as a dwelling and so was abandoned.

The Old Duffus Farmhouse and The Lodge form part of the Duffus Estate. The Dunbar of Northfield family has owned the Duffus Estate since the early 18th century. At one time they lived in Duffus Castle and during the winter moved, with their beds on wagons, to Thunderton House in Elgin. Thunderton House is now a pub, just off Elgin High Street. The present owner, Sir Archibald Ranulph Dunbar, is the 11th Baronet. Edward and Caroline, the son and daughter-in-law of Sir Archibald Ranulph Dunbar, manage Duffus Estate Holiday Cottages. The Mansion House of Duffus is currently rented to Gordonstoun School, where the founder Dr. Kurt Hahn started the school with just a handful of pupils and masters who were refugees from Nazi Germany in 1934.

The Dunbars of Northfield descend from the line of Alexander Dunbar of Conzie, Kibuyack, and Aldcash (b.1457,d.1493), 3rd son of Sir Alexander Dunbar of Westfield, and his later descendant Alexander Dunbar of Conzie and Kibuyack (d.1579), and then John Dunbar, 3rd of Hempriggs (d.1666). The Baronetcy of Nova Scotia called Dunbar of Northfield was created by King William III in 1700 for Sir William Dunbar, 1st Baronet (d.1711), who was the son of John Dunbar, 3rd of Hempriggs. Succeeding baronets include: Sir Robert Dunbar, 2nd Baronet (d.1742) who was the brother of Sir William Dunbar; Sir Patrick Dunbar, 3rd Baronet (b.1676,d.1763); Sir Archibald Dunbar, 4th Baronet (c. 1693-1769); Sir Alexander Dunbar, 5th Baronet (1742–1791); Sir Archibald Dunbar, 6th Baronet (b.1772,d.1847); Sir Archibald Dunbar, 7th Baronet (b.1803,d.1898); Sir Archibald Hamilton Dunbar, 8th Baronet (b.1828,d.1910); Sir Charles Gordon-Cumming-Dunbar, 9th Baronet (b.1844.d.1916); Sir Archibald Edward Dunbar, 10th Baronet (b.1889,d.1969); and the present baronet, Sir Archibald Ranulph Dunbar, 11th Baronet (b.1927). The heir apparent to the baronetcy is Edward Horace Dunbar of Northfield, younger (b.1977).



Ruins of Duffus Castle and Clan Dunbar Hosted by Edward Dunbar, Heir to Baronetcy of Dunbars of Northfield



Ruins of Duffus Church and Graves of Dunbars of Northfield



Duffus House and Stables with Display of Sir Alexander Hamilton Dunbar Collection of Dunbar Shields



Dunbar Shields from Original Collection of Sir Alexander Hamilton Dunbar Displayed at Duffus House

Saturday, August 23, 2014

Daily Itinerary: After breakfast we would travel along the coastal plain of Moray to Inverness and then north to the Black Isle. We would stop in Fortrose and Avoch on the Black Isle to see the burial sites of the Dunbars of Bennetsfield and lands once owned by the Dunbars of Bennetsfield and Suddie. These lands were originally held by Patrick Dunbar, Chancellor of Aberdeen, youngest son of Sir Alexander Dunbar of Westfield. We would then travel north along the coast of the northern highlands to Wick. In Wick we would stay at the 5-star Ackergill Tower Hotel. The original castle, the square keep of which still exists, was built by the powerful Keith family. It was later the home of the Dunbars of Hempriggs, who were also from Moray. Some of the furniture of the Dunbars remains in the hotel, along with portraits, paintings and the original Dunbar of Hempriggs family tree picture. We would tour the upper part of the castle, and walk around the outside of the ancient parapet, which is still in place, for incredible views.

Overview of the Site Visited: Black Isle

We began our day early with a group buffet breakfast at the Stotfield Hotel in Lossiemouth from 700AM to 830AM. We checked out at 900AM and began our journey north to the Black Isle, the northern highlands, and our final destination of the Ackergill Tower Hotel in Wick. We stopped briefly for a photo op near the mouth of the Lossiemouth River and the harbor on our way out of Lossiemouth. We drove back past several areas we had previously visited including Spynie Palace, the old Loch Spynie and its drainage canal, the town of Elgin including a passing view of the Thunderton House (former town home of Dunbars of Northfield which is now a pub across from Mansefield Hotel in Elgin).

We then traveled west from Elgin toward the town of Inverness. I noted that the Lossiemouth River continued to run fast and full, from the recent rainy weather, and it continued to be a light coffee-brown color from peat leached from the mountains south of Elgin. I noted the yellow-brown barley still in the fields and too wet to harvest due to the continued rainy weather. Would the local farmers lose their biggest cash crop to rot before they can get back into the fields with their large combines? Do we need to worry about rising prices of premium whisky in about 12 years due to a 2014 shortage of barley for the local Moray whisky distilleries? I noted the wind energy turbines in the distant hills south of Elgin and the associated electric transmission towers to transmit this electricity to the major population centers of Edinburgh and Glasgow in the south. We had been following these transmission lines since we left Edinburgh and traveled to Moray, and they continued north from Moray into the northern Highlands to connect with wind turbines on the northern tip of the Scottish mainland near Wick.

We continued along highway A96 west to Inverness where we turned north across a bridge over the Firth of Moray onto the Black Isle. Our guide, James Dunbar, pointed out that the “Black Isle” across the Firth of Moray was neither “black” nor an “island”. We traveled along the east coast of the Black Isle north to our first stop at the town of Fortrose. It was raining, but we disembarked our bus and walked a few blocks to view the ruins of an old cathedral. The following illustration shows the ruins and the gravestones of John Dunbar of Bennetsfield and his wife Agnes Mackenzie. We explored the town for about an hour before continuing our trip back south along the east coast of the Black Isle to the town of Avoch. The following illustration shows the quaint coastal village harbor area of Avoch, and the nearby farmlands which were once owned by the Dunbars of Bennetsfield and Suddie. These lands

were owned by Patrick Dunbar of Aberdeen, the 6th son of Sir Alexander Dunbar of Westfield, who gave them to his sons who founded the Bennetsfield and Suddie branches of the Dunbar family. Our guide, James Dunbar, noted that the pronunciation of the name “Avoch” is like “Ock”. I noted to myself that Avoch was the home of John Dunbar of Avoch, who was one of the Scottish Undertakers, who received land in Northern Ireland from King James I as part of the Ulster Plantation, and thus was an “Undertaker” of the mission to settle Northern Ireland with Scottish and English settler. John Dunbar of Avoch was probably responsible for many Dunbars emigrating to settle in Ireland and creating many of the Dunbars of Scots-Irish origin.

Historical Relevance to the House of Dunbar History: Black Isle

The Black Isle is a peninsula in Cromartyshire in the Scottish northern highlands. It includes the town of Cromarty, at the north tip, and such villages as Conon Bridge, Muir of Ord, Munloch, Avoch, Rosemarkie, Fortrose, Tore, North Kessock, and Culbokie. Despite its name, the Black Isle is not an island, but a peninsula, surrounded on three sides by water including the Cromarty Firth to the north, the Beauly Firth to the south, and the Moray Firth to the east. Its western boundary is delineated by rivers. The River Conon divides Maryburgh a mile outside Dingwall, from Conon Bridge, which is the first village on the Black Isle from the northwestern side. Its southwestern boundary is variously considered to be marked by either a minor tributary of the River Beauly separating Beauly (in Inverness-shire) and Muir of Ord (on the Black Isle in Ross and Cromarty), dividing the two counties and also delineating the start of the Black Isle; or alternatively, the River Beauly itself, thus including Beauly in the Black Isle despite its official placement in Inverness-shire.

The village of Avoch is a harbor-village located on the southeast coast of the Black Isle on the Moray Firth. Legend has it that the village was founded by survivors of the Spanish Armada. Large estates outside Avoch were owned by the Dunbars of Bennetsfield and Suddie, who descend from Patrick Dunbar of Aberdeen (b.1470,d.1525), 6th son of Sir Alexander Dunbar of Westfield. Patrick’s first son was James Dunbar of Suddie (b.1490,d.1542) who married Janet Graham. James’ second son was John Dunbar of Bennetsfield (b.1504,d.1545) who was most probably the person buried at the Fortrose cathedral. James’ third son was George Dunbar (b.1520,d.1607) who was Rector of Kilmuir and married Janet Thompson.

One of the sons of George Dunbar of Kilmuir was Sir John Dunbar of Avoch (b.1570,d.1657), who married Katherine Graham, daughter of Sir Richard Graham and Elizabeth Hetherington, in 1592. This Sir John Dunbar of Avoch is the Scottish Undertaker who enrolled for a 2,000 acre share in the plantation of Ulster on July 25, 1609. Sir John Dunbar of Avoch was granted land on January 10, 1615, in Fermanagh, Ireland, which was supposed to be 1,000 acres, but actually contained a vast area of mountains and much more than 1,000 acres, and stretched from Lough Erne between Drumcrow and Blaney to the village of Garrison. Sir John Dunbar, and his son James Dunbar, were naturalized British citizens in Ireland on February 12, 1619. Sir John Dunbar was the Justice of the Peace and High Sheriff of County Fermanagh between 1626 and 1632. James Dunbar’s eldest lawful son was heir to Sir John Dunbar’s Castle Dunbar within the county of Fermanagh within the Kingdom of Ireland. These Dunbars were involved in the bloody Irish rebellion of 1641. The descendants of Sir John Dunbar continued in Ireland through the mid-1800s with Major John Killgrew Dunbar (b.1769,d.1854) as High Sheriff of Fermanagh, Ireland.



Ruins of Fortrose Cathedral on the Black Isle



Gravestone of John Dunbar of Bennetsfield and Wife Agnes MacKenzie at Fortrose Cathedral on Black Isle



The Harbor and Village of Avoch on the Black Isle



Dunbar of Bennetsfield Lands in Avoch on Black Isle



Dunbar of Suddie Lands in Avoch on Black Isle

Overview of the Site Visited: Northern Highlands

We left the Avoch area and crossed over a bridge on the western side of the Black Isle and started our journey north along the coast of the northern highlands toward Wick. On our right was a narrow deep water channel for large ships and drilling rigs used in the North Sea for oil well drilling. From 1250PM to 200PM, we stopped for lunch in the town of Dornach. We had time to explore the town including the Dornach Castle, Dornach Cathedral, and the old church cemetery and Mercat (market cross). The following illustration shows the castle and the Mercat, cemetery gravestones, and one flat gravestone used as part of the ancient Mercat. In order to keep the merchants honest and selling an accurate measurement of goods, the ancient “ell” measurement on the flat gravestone was used. It was two iron spikes embedded in the stone about one yard in length. A merchant selling cloth in the Mercat would stretch the cloth between the two iron pegs to measure the correct amount of cloth sold. The cemetery was the location of the Mercat prior to the erection of the stone wall around the cemetery. Apparently the merchants and their customers were destroying the cemetery gravestones; so the stone wall was erected to keep out the Mercat. The result was too little space for the Mercat and it disappeared from the town. This was an early case of over-regulation by local government leading to economic disaster for the town!

We left Dornach about 200PM traveling north along the coast. We saw the location where King Alexander III’s granddaughter, Margaret, the Maid of Norway, died on the ship that was returning her from Norway to succeed her grandfather as queen of Scotland. We saw the vast Sutherland lands along the coast and in the distant highlands, and heard the story of the Duke of Sutherland and Countess-Duchess of Sutherland, who were major contributors to the Highland clearances that resulted in clearing the highlands of its inhabitants in order to implement large-scale sheep-grazing operations. We could see a massive statue in the distance on top of a coastal mountain. It was a 100-foot tall statue of the Duke of Sutherland, erected by local land-owners to commemorate his key role in evicting the highland inhabitants and allowing the other landowners to also implement sheep-grazing. We observed the massive white structure on the sea coast that was Dunrobin Castle, which was the home of the Duke of Sutherland. He had built a train track along the coast through the highlands. We followed the train track along the highway, and observed the train station that the Duke had built near the gates and entrance to his Dunrobin Castle. There were many tourists visiting the castle and grounds, but this was not on our agenda.

We continued our drive north from 300PM to 500PM and observed the glens of the highland mountains that had been cleared of the highland people in the 1700s. We observed the ruins of many small stone houses along the coast that had been built by those evicted from the glens. These were abandoned when these people could not survive in the coastal regions as small farmers or fishermen, and many immigrated to the new world. This area along the coast in Sutherland was not fertile like Moray and was mostly used for sheep grazing. We stopped for a photo op along the coast where there had once been a settlement of highlanders evicted from the glens. The following illustration shows the purple heather on the coastal hillsides along the path we walked toward the abandoned coastal village.

As we traveled further north, and approached the town of Wick and the northern peninsula of the Scottish mainland, the quality of the land improved with a widening of the coastal plain. We observed more cattle, as well as sheep, and an increase in the field crops such as barley.

Historical Relevance to the House of Dunbar History: Northern Highlands

Our bus had passed near the point where Margaret, the Maid of Norway, and daughter of King Alexander III, had died on the ship that was returning her from Norway to succeed her father as Queen of Scotland. When Alexander III later died without an heir, this led to the “Competition for the Crown” in 1296. Patrick IV, 8th Earl of Dunbar, was one of the 12 competitors for the crown of Scotland. John Balliol won the contest, with support from King Edward I of England, who planned to manipulate him. This also led to the succeeding centuries of the Wars of Independence between Scotland and England. Later, another competitor, Robert the Bruce, became king and established the long reign of the House of Stewart. King Alexander was the last in the line of Dunkeld kings of Scotland, beginning with King Malcolm II, who was the great-grandfather of Gospatric I, 1st Earl of Dunbar, through his maternal grandmother, Bethoc wife of Crinan.

The Highland Clearances were forced displacements of the population of the Scottish Highlands in the 1700’s and 1800’s, which led to mass migration of the Highlanders to the coast of Scotland, the Scottish Lowlands, and abroad. It was part of a larger process of agricultural change throughout the United Kingdom. But it was particularly notorious in Scotland due to its timing, the lack of legal protection for tenants under Scots law, the abruptness of the change from the clan system, and the brutality of many of the evictions.

These agricultural changes had depopulated rural England and the Scottish lowlands much earlier. But in the 1700’s, the Scottish Highlands were still a Scottish Gaelic-speaking, semi-feudal culture that still depended on obligations of a chieftain to his clan. The changes resulted in a lingering bitterness among the descendants of the large numbers of Scottish Highlanders forced to emigrate, as well as among those who remained in Scotland as small tenant farmers, called “Crofters”, who had to subsist in “Crofting townships” on very small areas of often poor land. Crofters became a source of virtually free labor to their landlords.

In 1807 Elizabeth Gordon, 19th Countess of Sutherland, was touring the lands of her inheritance with her husband, Lord Stafford who later was made Duke of Sutherland, and they decided that there was great economic potential if “improvement” could be made to the land after “clearance” of the people from those lands. That year, his agents began the evictions, and 90 families were forced to leave their crops in the ground and move their cattle, furniture and timbers to the land they were offered some 20 miles away on the coast, living in the open until they had built themselves new houses.



Dornach Castle in Dornach in Caithness



Dornach Mercat (Market Cross) & Plaiden Ell (Tailors Measure)



Purple Heather on Coastal Hills of Sutherland in Re-Location Sites After Highland Clearances of 1700s-1800s



Sutherland Areas and Ruins of Houses from Re-Locations of Highland Clearances of 1700s-1800s

Overview of the Site Visited: Ackergill Tower in Wick

We arrived in the town of Wick about 400PM and drove a few miles north along the sea coast to the Ackergill Tower Hotel. This was once the home of the Dunbars of Hempriggs. It is now renovated into a 5-star hotel, but includes much of the décor and many possessions of the Dunbars from their time in the 1700s and 1800s. We checked in and were assigned rooms among the five floors of the castle-hotel, and some cottages exterior to the castle. One member of our tour group had an accident when she tripped on a step in the hotel entry, and had to go to the local hospital emergency room. Fortunately, she recovered and was able to rejoin the group the next day. The hotel did not have elevators, so it was a challenge getting up to the top floors. We were given a tour of the hotel common areas in the late afternoon, including a visit to the top of the castle-hotel parapet. The following illustrations show the castle-hotel exterior, views from the parapet, and great dining room, the drawing room, and several other common area rooms of the castle-hotel.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Clan Dunbar for 2014 was held that evening in the Ackergill Tower Hotel. Our Clan Dunbar tour group gathered for champagne in the drawing room and great dining room illustrated in the following pictures. There were many portraits of previous owners on the walls of the great dining room, which most probably were Dunbars of Hempriggs or Sutherland-Dunbar family portraits from the 1700s and 1800s. Our dinner in this great dining room was from 700PM to about 900PM. We then adjourned to the adjacent drawing room where our Chief, Phillip Dunbar, conducted the AGM, until about 1030PM.

Historical Relevance to the House of Dunbar History: Ackergill Tower in Wick

Wick is an estuary town and a royal burgh in the north of the Highland council area of Scotland. Historically, it is one of two burghs within the county of Caithness, of which Wick was the county town. The town straddles the River Wick and extends along both sides of Wick Bay. The town is on the main highway (A99-A9 road) linking John o' Groats with southern Britain. Wick's history goes back at least to the era of Norwegian rule in Caithness, which ended conclusively in 1266's Treaty of Perth. The Castle of Old Wick is situated approximately 2 kilometers southeast of the town on the North Sea coast.

Ackergill Tower (or Ackergill Castle) is located north of Wick, Caithness, in northern Scotland. It was built in the early 16th century. The Clan Keith, under John Keith of Inverugie, inherited the lands of Ackergill in 1354 from the Cheynes family. Ackergill Tower may have been built by his son, but was first mentioned in 1538. Ackergill Tower was sold in 1699 to Sir William Dunbar of Hempriggs. The Dunbars began extensive renovations, including the addition of a lean-to-shaped extension to the tower. In the mid-19th century, further additions including a cap house were made by the architect David Bryce on behalf of Sir George Sutherland-Dunbar, 4th Baronet of Hempriggs, and 7th Lord Duffus. It remained in the hands of the Dunbars of Hempriggs until 1986, when it was sold.



Ackergill Tower Hotel & Dunbars of Hempriggs



Interior of Ackergill Tower Hotel & Rooms and Furniture of Former Dunbars of Hempriggs Owners in 1800s-1900s

Sunday, August 24, 2014

Daily Itinerary: We would start the day with a guided tour of the Ackergill Tower Hotel rooms. While the bathrooms have all been refurbished, many of the bedrooms still have some of the original furnishings, and some have family portraits. All have magnificent views of the ocean and grounds. We would then depart driving south from Wick retracing our previous route through the northern highlands to Inverness, then south along the Loch Ness to the town of Fort William, where we would spend the night at the Cruachan Hotel.

Overview of the Site Visited: Ackergill Tower Hotel

We began the day with a group breakfast in the great dining room of the Ackergill Tower Hotel at about 700AM. After breakfast, from 0800AM to 900AM, the hotel staff provided another tour of the hotel, which focused on the individual rooms that we had occupied the prior evening. Unfortunately, our group did not grasp the concept soon enough to clean up our rooms; so some of our group were frantically cleaning up our messy rooms while the tour was arriving at our rooms!

Each of the rooms had a different name and theme, and a story attached to its name in many cases. The following illustration shows the interior decor and exterior views of the North Sea coast of the author's room, called "Lady D", which probably stood for "Lady Dunbar", one of the past Dunbar of Hempriggs, or "Sutherland-Dunbar" ladies.

Several of the maids guided the tours and related stories of some of the rooms. Many of these involved ghost stories. The maids claimed they had not personally observed the ghosts, but many of the younger female maids had been "spooked" at one time or another. One of the ghosts is apparently a young woman from the Keith family, who jumped to her death from the parapet landing on a stone next to the main entry door to the castle-hotel. The stone remains at the site and is purported to have an image of the young lady on the stone. She apparently was being forced to marry against her wishes, escaped, was incarcerated in the castle, and then jumped to her death.

We also toured the public rooms on the ground floor including a drawing room that contained the Dunbar family tree starting with Crinan and Gospatrick, 1st Earl of Dunbar, and continuing to the many branches of the Dunbar family including the Dunbar of Hempriggs who owned the Ackergill Tower for several centuries. The walls contained a number of architectural drawings of Sir George Sutherland-Dunbar, 4th Baronet of Hempriggs, who planned and implemented many of the modifications to Ackergill Tower Castle.

Historical Relevance to the House of Dunbar History: Ackergill Tower Hotel

The Ackergill Tower or Castle and associated lands were purchased by an ancestor of the Dunbars of Hempriggs branch of the House of Dunbar in about 1691 from the Keith family. Extensive modifications of Ackergill Tower were done by Sir George Sutherland-Dunbar, 4th Baronet of Hempriggs, in the mid-1800s. Ackergill Tower remained in the hands of the Dunbar of Hempriggs descendants, the Baronets of Hempriggs, until 1998 when it was sold and converted to a 5-star hotel. Many of the paintings, wall-hangings, and furnishings of the hotel, as well as room names, came from the time of its ownership by the Dunbars of Hempriggs.

The Dunbars of Hempriggs branch of the House of Dunbar is directly descended from Alexander Dunbar of Conzie, Kilbuyach, and Aldcash, 3rd son of Sir Alexander Dunbar of Westfield, who was the son of James Dunbar, 8th Earl of Moray and great-grandson of John

Dunbar, 5th Earl of Moray. Alexander Dunbar of Conzie, Kilbuyach, and Aldcash married Lady Janet Sutherland in 1480, and he was killed in 1498. His third generation descendant was Alexander Dunbar of Conzie and Kilbuyack (d.1579), who married Elizabeth Forbes in 1554. One of their sons, Alexander Dunbar of Conzie and Mochrum (b.1545,d.1585), married his distant cousin Grizel Dunbar of Mochrum in 1564, and the Mochrum line of the House of Dunbar descends from their union.

The first of the Dunbars of Hempriggs branch of the House of Dunbar is William Dunbar, 1st of Hempriggs (d.1636), another son of Alexander Dunbar of Conzie and Kilbuyack (d.1579). There were two generations of successors to this William Dunbar, 1st of Hempriggs, who were both named John Dunbar as the 2nd and 3rd Dunbars of Hempriggs through 1666. The next generation of this Dunbar of Hempriggs branch of the House of Dunbar was Sir William Dunbar (d.1711). In 1691, he had purchased the lands of Telstane, and changed the name of this Dunbar family branch to Hempriggs. He also had purchased Old Wick and other lands on the south side of the water of Wick. In 1698, he was wealthy enough to buy himself a baronetage of Nova Scotia (a British baronetcy and title) called the Baronetcy of Northfield, and he thus became the 1st Baronet of Northfield. In 1699 he acquired the Ackergill estates, which formerly formed a barony held by the Keith family. He also acquired the lands of Wick, Papego, South and North Kilmsters, and Miln of Wenless. He held a commission from the Earl of Breadalbane as Sheriff and Justiciar of Caithness. But Sir William Dunbar died in 1711 without a son to inherit the title of Baronet of Northfield. So this hereditary title passed to his brother, Sir Robert Dunbar (d.1742), who succeeded as 2nd Baronet of Northfield, and who was also a son of John Dunbar, 3rd of Hempriggs (d.1666). The successors of this Sir Robert Dunbar were the later Baronets of the Dunbars of Northfield baronetcy in Moray, including the current 11th Baronet of Northfield, Sir Archibald Ranulph Dunbar, with whom our tour group visited earlier at Duffus House and Duffus Castle in Moray. Thus, the Dunbars of Northfield branch of the House of Dunbar descends from the Dunbars of Hempriggs branch of the House of Dunbar.

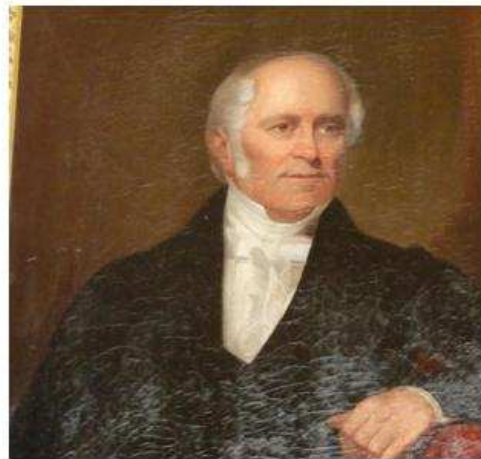
But the Dunbars of Hempriggs branch continued through the female line and the second marriage of Elizabeth Dunbar of Hempriggs, a daughter of Sir William Dunbar, 1st Baronet of Northfield. Elizabeth Dunbar married, first, Sir Robert Gordon of Gordonstoun, great-grandson of Alexander Gordon, fifteenth Earl of Sutherland, and had by him three sons and four daughters. Sir Robert Gordon died in 1701. Elizabeth then married, secondly, James Sutherland (b.1680,d.1724), second son of Lord Duffus, and this marriage produced two sons and four daughters. Elizabeth apparently had inherited most of their money, and must have suggested that her husband should adopt her family name to go with the property. So he became "James Sutherland-Dunbar". The money must have been substantial, because he had sufficient funds to buy another baronetcy for this branch of the House of Dunbar, which was created as the Baronetcy of Hempriggs in 1706, and he became Sir James Sutherland-Dunbar, 1st Baronet of Hempriggs. The eldest son of this marriage of Sir James Sutherland- Dunbar and Elizabeth Sutherland-Dunbar was William who succeeded in 1724. This Sir William Dunbar, 2nd Baronet of Hempriggs (b.1710,d.1793) married three times and by his third wife Henrietta Rose, daughter of Hugh Rose, 16th of Kilvarock, had a son and heir, Sir Benjamin Dunbar, 3rd Baronet of Hempriggs (b.1761,d.1843), who also claimed to be 6th Lord Duffus. He was succeeded by his son, Sir George Sutherland-Dunbar, 4th Baronet of Hempriggs (b.1799,d.1875), who also claimed to be 7th and last Lord Duffus.

It is this Sir George Sutherland-Dunbar that made many modifications to the Ackergill Tower and whose many architectural drawings were observed by our tour group on the walls of

Ackergill Tower Hotel. He devoted himself to country pursuits for many years, and carried on extensive improvements on the family estates, thereby largely enhancing their value. He was apparently too busy designing and building Ackergill Tower and other projects, or uninterested, to get married and have children. So he died unmarried and without a successor in 1875.



Stairs and Lady D's 4th Floor Room and View in Ackergill Tower



Pictures in Ackergill Tower Hotel of Dunbars of Hempriggs Owners and Dunbar Family Tree in Smoking Room

Overview of the Site Visited: Loch Ness and Ft William

After our tour, we departed the Ackergill Tower Hotel about 900AM driving south from Wick, retracing our previous route through the northern highlands to Inverness. We stopped in Iverness for lunch. Then we headed south along the Loch Ness. We stopped for a photo op at the castle Uroghart ruins which are on the banks of Loch Ness. We also stopped for a break and photo op of Ben Nevis, the tallest mountain in Scotland at about 4,000 feet, and to observe boats passing through the locks which separated Loch Ness from Loch Linnhe. We then traveled to the town of Fort William arriving about 530PM at our Cruachan Hotel.

Historical Relevance to the House of Dunbar History: Loch Ness

There is an ancient Dunbar family connection to Loch Ness and its Loch Ness “monster”. There are many stories, all unproven, of sightings of the monster “Nessie”. But the Loch Ness monster is not just a modern day story; it dates back to the time of St. Columba, and the first known reference to a Loch Ness “monster”. It is said that St. Columba came across a group of Picts, who were burying a "poor little man" who had been killed by the monster. St. Columba is said to have saved another swimmer, making the sign of the Cross and saying to the beast "You will go no further", at which point the beast fled terrified to the amazement of the group of Picts, who then were converted and glorified in St. Columba's God. The recorded story specifically states that the monster was swimming in the River Ness; the river flowing from the loch rather than in Loch Ness itself.

St. Columba (b.521,d.597) was an outstanding figure among the Gaelic missionary monks. He was one of the Twelve Apostles of Ireland, who went to Scotland to introduce Christianity to the Kingdom of the Picts during the early Medieval Period. St. Columba is said to be a great-great-grandson of Niall of the Nine Hostages, who was the 126th king in the traditional list of supposed “Ard Rí”, or High Kings of Ireland. Niall of the Nine Hostages is the English translation of the Old Irish language name of Niall Noígíallach, which means "having nine hostages". Niall was one of Ireland's greatest kings and the ancestor of the O'Neill (Uí Néill) dynasty of Irish kings, who reigned in the late 4th and early 5th centuries. Niall is known for several things. He took a young St. Patrick, patron saint of Ireland and Scotland, to Ireland for the first time as a hostage. He consolidated the northern region of Ireland and created a dynasty that kept his descendants as High Kings of Ireland for six hundred years. His military ability led to the Irish taking control of all of Alba (now Scotland) and a large part of what is now England. He is said to be the likely ancestor of a large fraction of the Irish population, based on DNA test results of the current Irish population, and he may be the male ancestor of the Lineage 2 Dunbar family based on its similar DNA results to the Irish DNA results.

Crinan of Dunkeld (b.975, d.1045), Thane of Thanes, is the start of the male line of the House of Dunbar family branches, since he was the grandfather of Gospatrick I, 1st Earl of Dunbar, and was married to Bethoc, daughter of King Malcolm II of Scotland. Crinan, and the Dunbar Lineage 1 male line, may also be related to St. Columba. Crinan had many titles including Lord of the Isles, Hereditary Lay Abbot of Dunkeld, Kindred of St. Columba, and others. Crinan held the “Hereditary Abbot of Dunkeld” title; as did his father, Duncan, Mormaer (Earl) of Athole (b. 948), from Athole, Perthshire, Scotland; as did his father, Duncan MacDonachadh (b. 920, d. 965), from Athole, Perthshire, Scotland; and as did his father, Duncan of Dull (b. 890), from Dunkeld, Perthshire, Scotland. Crinan also held the very special title “Kindred of St. Columba”, which is only applied to the descendants of St. Columba's great-grandfather, Conali Gulban, who is from the homeland of Donegal, Ireland. This special title is

especially applied to branches within the clan devoted to ecclesiastical pursuits in Scotland, including the Hereditary Abbots of Dunkeld, some of whom were descended from St. Columba's brother. So these key titles of "Hereditary Abbot of Dunkeld" and "Kindred of St. Columba" seem to indicate that Crinan of Dunkeld was most likely a descendant of St. Columba, and thus Niall of the Nine Hostages. So, Gospatric, grandson of Crinan of Dunkeld, may also descend from the ancient Irish kings as well as Scottish kings. [Reference: House of Dunbar, Part I, Chapter 4, The House of Dunbar Descends from Kings].

Historical Relevance to the House of Dunbar History: Fort William

The town of Fort William, where our tour group stayed on Sunday night, grew up as a settlement next to a fort constructed to control the Highland population after Oliver Cromwell's invasion during the English Civil War in about the 1640s, and then to suppress the Jacobite uprisings of the 1700s. The name Fort William was said to have been taken from the Scottish Gaelic words meaning "The Garrison", and the town of Fort William is the second largest settlement in the highlands of Scotland and the largest town. Only the city of Inverness is larger. Fort William is now a major tourist center on the "Road to the Isles" with Glencoe just to the south, Aonach Mòr to the north, and Glenfinnan to the west. The town is also said to be named "Fort William" after William of Orange, king of England in the late 1600s, and the settlement that grew around it was called "Maryburgh", after his wife. This settlement was later renamed "Gordonsburgh", and then "Duncansburgh" before being renamed "Fort William". The second renaming is said to be after Prince William, Duke of Cumberland, who was the son of King George II of England. He led the English government army charged with suppressing the Jacobite rebellion of 1745. In the Jacobite rising known as the "Forty-Five, Fort William was besieged for two weeks by the Jacobites, from March 20 to April 3, 1746. Prince William was successful in defeating the Jacobites at the Battle of Culloden; so he is remembered with pride by the English and thus the renaming of Fort William in his honor. But among the Scots, he is known as "Butcher Cumberland" for the atrocities at the Battle of Culloden in 1746 near Inverness.



Urquhart Castle Ruins Loch Ness and Ben Nevis Mountain



Cruahan Hotel & Loch Linnhe Across Street in Ft. Williams



Glen Coe Massacre Site and the Lost Valley & the Mors



Loch Lamond in Troussards and Distillery Visit in Glasgow

Monday, August 25, 2014

Daily Itinerary: We would leave Fort William in the morning and drive south to Glasgow, our city of departure the next day. The route would take us through Glencoe, scene of the infamous massacre of the Macdonalds of Glencoe. Our final tour would be the Auchentoshan Distillery, makers of a unique triple distilled scotch whisky, in Glasgow, and we would stay overnight in the Holiday Inn in downtown Glasgow.

Overview of the Site Visited: Ft William to Glasgow

We had an early breakfast in our hotel at 700AM to 800AM. We departed on our bus at 830AM for the trip through the scenic central highlands of Scotland and to our final destination of Glasgow. The view from the front of our hotel in Ft. William was the scenic Loch Linnhe, which is a sea loch open to the west to the sea.

We stopped for photo op at the site of the Glencoe massacre of 1692 where a number of the Macdonalds clan were massacred by the British government forces consisting mostly of members of the Campbells clan led by the Duke of Argyle, head of the Campbells. He was under orders of the British government to take the action against the MacDonalds to send a message to the highland clans. The following illustration shows the site of the massacre in the “Lost Valley” of the Macdonalds. We made several more photo op stops at scenic inland lochs, moors, and canals between the lochs as shown in the following illustrations.

About 1100AM, we stopped for a photo op at Loch Lomond in Troussards National Park. We intended to have lunch and arrive for our tour of the whisky distillery in the early afternoon. But a car accident on the main road to Glasgow delayed our arrival since we had to make a detour to side roads, which were clogged with traffic. As a result of this delay, we adjusted lunch plans and made an impromptu (note that this is one of the Dunbar mottos) stop at a food mart to pick up food items to consume on the bus during our continued travel. We arrived at the Auchentoshan Distillery in the suburbs of Glasgow about 230PM for our tour. Our guide showed us the whisky-making process with the highlight of the tour being the tasting room.

We then departed for our hotel and arrived in downtown Glasgow about 430PM and checked into our Holiday Inn hotel. We had free time and some members of the tour group explored the downtown shopping area of Glasgow including the pedestrian mall on Buchanan Street. A group dinner from 730PM to 930PM in the hotel concluded our activities.

Historical Relevance to the House of Dunbar History: Glencoe Massacre

The Glencoe Massacre was related to the Jacobite uprisings in Scotland. Elements of the government factions massacred members of the Jacobite factions, the Clan Macdonald, in the aftermath of the Glorious Revolution and the Jacobite uprising of 1689 led by John Graham of Claverhouse. The massacre took place in Glencoe in the Highlands of Scotland early on the morning of February 13, 1692. The massacre began simultaneously in three settlements along the glen, Invercoe, Inverrigan, and Achnacon, although the killing took place all over the glen as fleeing MacDonalds were pursued by the government factions. The MacDonalds allowed the government factions as guests in their houses in accordance with highlander custom. Thirty-eight MacDonalds from the Clan MacDonald of Glencoe were killed by their guests after accepting their hospitality. The government factions had been instructed to take this action to send a message to the highlanders, and the MacDonalds were selected as the recipients of this action because they had not been prompt in pledging allegiance to the new monarchs, William and

Mary, who led the government faction in England. Another forty women and children died of exposure after their homes were burned.

Historical Relevance to the House of Dunbar History: History of Scotch Whisky

Scotch whisky, or “Scotch” is malt whisky or grain whisky made in Scotland. Scotch whisky must be made in a manner specified by law. All Scotch whisky was originally made from malted barley. Commercial distilleries began introducing whisky made from wheat and rye in the late 18th century. Scotch whisky is divided into five distinct categories: single malt Scotch whisky, single grain Scotch whisky, blended malt Scotch whisky (formerly called "vatted malt" or "pure malt"), blended grain Scotch whisky, and blended Scotch whisky. All Scotch whisky must be aged in oak barrels for at least three years. Any age statement on a bottle of Scotch whisky, expressed in numerical form, must reflect the age of the youngest whisky used to produce that product. A whisky with an age statement is known as guaranteed-age whisky.

Scotland was traditionally divided into four whisky-producing regions: The Highlands, Lowland, Islay, and Campbeltown. The Islands is not recognized as a region by the Scotch Whisky Association and is considered part of the Highlands region. In the Lowland, only three distilleries remain in operation- Auchentoshan (visited by Clan Dunbar on the 2014 trip), Bladnoch, and Glenkinchie and Daftmill. Some Highland distilleries include: Aberfeldy, Balblair, Ben Nevis, Dalmore, Dalwhinnie, Glen Ord, Glenmorangie, Oban, and Old Pulteney. The Islands, an unrecognized sub-region, includes all of the whisky-producing islands (but excludes Islay): Arran, Jura, Mull, Orkney and Skye with their respective distilleries: Arran, Jura, Tobermory, Highland Park and Scapa, and Talisker. Campbeltown, once home to over 30 distilleries, currently has only three distilleries operating: Glen Scotia, Glengyle and Springbank. Islay has eight producing distilleries: Ardbeg, Bowmore, Bruichladdich, Bunnahabhain, Caol Ila, Kilchoman, Lagavulin and Laphroaig. Although only five regions are specifically described, any Scottish locale may be used to describe a whisky if it is distilled entirely within that place; for example a single malt whisky distilled on Orkney could be described as Orkney Single Malt Scotch Whisky instead of as a Highland whisky.

Speyside has the largest number of distilleries, which includes: Aberlour, Balvenie, Cardhu, Cragganmore, Glenfarclas, Glenglassaugh, Glenfiddich, Speyburn, The Macallan, The Glenlivet, and The Glenrothes. Speyside, encompassing the Spey River valley in Moray in northeast Scotland, was once considered part of the Highlands district. But it now has about 105 distilleries, almost half of the total number of distilleries in Scotland, within its geographic boundaries; and thus is officially recognized as a distinct whisky-producing region. The Spey River is 107 miles long originating at over 1000 feet at Loch Spey in the Corrieyairack Forest in the Scottish Highlands about 10 miles south of Fort Augustus. The river descends through Newtonmore and Kingussie, crossing Loch Insh before reaching Aviemore, giving its name to Strathspey. From there it flows the remaining 60 miles northeast to the Moray Firth, reaching the sea five miles west of Buckie. This is generally east of Elgin and the area of Moray where the Dunbars were large land owners.

According to the Scotch Whisky Association, Scotch whisky evolved from a Scottish drink called “uisge beatha”, which means "lively water" or "water of life". The earliest record of distillation in Scotland occurred as long ago as 1494, as documented in the Exchequer Rolls, which were records of royal income and expenditure. The quote from those earliest records describes “eight bolls of malt given to Friar John Cor wherewith to make aqua vitae over the previous year”. This would be enough for 1,500 bottles, which suggests that distillation was

well-established by the late 15th century. Whisky production was first taxed in 1644, causing a rise in illicit whisky distilling in the country. Around 1780, there were about eight legal distilleries and 400 illegal ones. In 1823, Parliament eased restrictions on licensed distilleries with the "Excise Act", while at the same time making it harder for the illegal stills to operate, thereby ushering in the modern era of Scotch production.

As we toured Scotland, we observed vast quantities of barley in the fields, many still waiting to be harvested due to the wet weather. Most of this barley was destined for the whisky distilleries including the largest number in the northern Highlands and Moray. It is not known at this time what role the Dunbars played in the whisky industry. But they were large landowners in Moray from the 1400s through the 1700s, and especially during the time of 1644 to 1780 when taxation resulted in many illegal distilleries. So the Dunbars must have been major producers of barley for the distilleries, at the very least, considering their land holdings. It would be surprising if some of them were not engaged in the making of whisky, either legitimate or illegitimate, considering it was the mainstay of the economy in the 1700s.

Tuesday, August 26, 2014

Summary and Conclusion of the Clan Dunbar 2014 Tour of Scotland:

The final day of the tour, for most of the Clan Dunbar 2014 tour group, would include an early morning bus trip to the Glasgow airport for our return flights to our home destinations.

Our day began early with a 500AM wake up call, breakfast items provided by the hotel in the front lobby, and departure from our Holiday Inn, Glasgow, at 600AM. Many of the group left on a United Airlines flight from Glasgow about 900AM and arrived at Newark, New Jersey, airport about 1100AM EDT. The author of this journal was on that United Airlines flight, and then left on another United Airlines flight from Newark in the late afternoon and arrived in San Diego, CA, about 730PM.

The author of this journal concluded that this was a very successful trip for the Clan Dunbar tour group since the primary objective of the trip, to visit many of the ancient sites in Scotland related to the Dunbar family history, was successfully accomplished. Many of the visits were unique and would be very difficult to duplicate for most other visitors to Scotland. The Clan Dunbar tour group was hosted by many current owners of homes and castles, both Dunbar and non-Dunbar, who allowed tour members to see their current homes, to visit normally inaccessible parts of their properties and buildings, to tour and review historical information on the houses, and to partake of their hospitality for tea and cakes in their great dining rooms. Although there were many interesting sites and experiences, the author of this journal suggests that the unique highlights of this Cal Dunbar Tour of 2014 included:

- Dunbar Castle- We were allowed access to the passage leading to the secret North Sea entrance to the castle that was used to supply the castle during the long siege by the English when the castle was defended by Countess Black Agnes Randolph Dunbar.
- Mordington House- Our host, Johnnie Trotter, allowed access to the crypt where Countess Black Agnes Randolph Dunbar was buried, planned a memorial tree planting by Clan Dunbar at the site, and hosted the tour group in his current Mordington House.
- Duns Castle- Our host, Alexander Hay, hosted the group for tea and cakes in the great room of the old castle tower originally built for Sir Thomas Randolph, and provided the history of his Hay family's ownership of Duns Castle.
- Edinburgh Castle and Tattoo- The pipe and drum bands and dancing groups from all over the Commonwealth entertained us, and the Zulu female dancers got our attention!
- Spynie Castle and Elgin Cathedral Ruins- The impressive ruins, and views of the countryside, highlighted the long history of the Dunbars in Moray from the 1300s.
- Pitgaveny Farm- Our host, Crinan Dunbar, and his farm operations manager, provided a tour of a working 5,000 acre farm operation on land that goes back to ancient Dunbar origins where Dunbar ancestors killed Macbeth in a battle at Pitgaveny in 1045.
- Pluscarden Abbey- The beautiful grounds and restored abbey church with its Dunbar Vestry and gravestones of the Dunbars and highlighting their religious roles in Scotland.
- Duffus Castle and House- Our host, Edward Dunbar, provided a tour of the Duffus Castle ruins and graciously hosted the group at Duffus House for tea and cakes, and provided a contemporary connection to compliment the long history of the Dunbar of Northfield family and baronetcy.
- Burgie House- Our host, Hamish Lachor, provided a tour of the Burgie Castle ruins, hosted the group in his house, and provided a history of Dunbars of Burgie and house.

- Ackergill Tower Hotel- The elegant old castle, views from the parapet, furnishings and possessions of the Dunbar of Hempriggs past owners of the castle, and our AGM dinner and meeting in the great dining room and drawing rooms provided a unique over-night experience in this 5-star hotel.

The author of this journal was pleased to accomplish his personal trip objectives through the visits to the Dunbar historical sites, by obtaining additional historical information on the many Dunbar family branches, who lived in Moray in the mid-1400s to mid-1700s. This provided timely information for input to his sequel book focused on this time frame and entitled, House of Dunbar- The Rise and Fall of a Scottish Noble Family, Part II- After the Fall,