

Trip to Scotland in May of 2018

by B. J. MacDonald

NOTES: This PDF was part of the blog The Man Who Lived Airplanes. I had to reduce the size of the blog.

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Introduction:

This was a trip that I and my hubby took to Scotland in May 2018. We toured the country for three weeks. It was a long trip but well worth it. We started in Edinburgh, then drove up to Stirling. From Stirling we headed to Inverness, stopping at the Clan Macpherson museum in Newtonmore and then onto Inverness and stayed there several days. We visited Urquhart Castle and the Loch Ness Museum. After Inverness we drove down Loch Ness to Fort Augusta and visited that area. From there we headed West to the Isle of Skye. Stopping at the Glengarry Heritage Center for several hours. We visited Eilean Donan Castle. We drove over the Sky Bridge to Portree. We stayed on Skye for several days touring at least a small part of the island, viewing the Old Man of Storr, Duntulm Castle. We then headed down to Armadale at the western end of Skye and I visited the museum there and did research in the Clan Donald Centre. We crossed the Sound of Sleat to Mallaig. From Mallaig we took the ferry to Knoydart and for most of one day, we toured that remote area and then came back to Mallaig. From Mallaig we went to Glencoe, past Loch Lomond and visited Dumbarton Castle. It was time to head east to Glasgow and then finish up our tour by returning to the Edinburgh Airport. We flew back to Amsterdam and got stuck for an extra day but finally arrived home. I spent time learning more about MacDonell/MacDonalds. It was EPIC!

The Beginning

We left Seattle, Washington and flew directly to Amsterdam. In Amsterdam we connected to our flight to Edinburgh arriving on a Sunday afternoon.

A Tour of Scotland: Edinburgh

June 6, 2018

We arrived in Scotland on May 6th leaving Seattle the day before late in the evening. The flight was long 9 hours 21 minutes and there was a connection in Amsterdam and that took a few more hours. We touched down on Scottish soil Sunday about 2:55 pm.

Before a trip, I like to study the websites of a destination airport. You can learn a lot about what is going on. I am especially fond of the airport map. These days they have apps you can download.

Edinburgh Airport: <https://www.edinburghairport.com/>

Amsterdam Airport referred to as Schiphol: <https://www.schiphol.nl/en/>



Edinburgh Airport



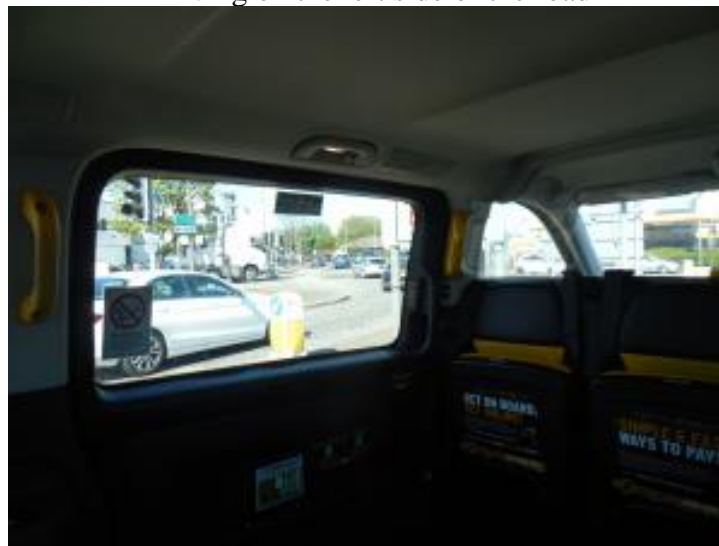
Edinburgh Airport Tower

We collected all our bags and went in search of a taxicab. We were immediately introduced to driving on the left side of the street. I found myself pondering the movement of our cab driver when he headed for the right side of the car. Our cabbie knew his business and maneuvered his way through the streets of Edinburgh and all the construction that blocked his progress. As you

head into the city one of the first things you see is Edinburgh castle up on the hill. It is truly an imposing site. I murmured "There it is!"



Driving on the left side of the road



Driving on the left side of the road.

As we drove along, I busied myself with studying the buildings and noting the businesses and shops along the way. We were soon on Princess Street which is one of the main ones in the city of Edinburgh. We came upon New Register House and turned right onto North Bridge passed the Balmoral Hotel and drove over the bridge that covers Waverly Station. Our hotel The Scotsman was on the other side of the street on the right. So, what did he do, he made a U Turn right in the middle of the road and parked at the curb, [The Scotsman Hotel](#) does not have a car drop off. He helped us get all our luggage out, we paid him and thanked him and started making our way into the hotel.



The Scotsman Hotel in Edinburgh a bit fancy but it was great

I chose this hotel, because it was a little older and not so modern looking like some of them. We were soon settled into our room with the help of the very friendly bellman. We of course asked him a ton of questions and he answered them politely and in a quick manner. Our only goal for that first night was to find a nice restaurant and have a lovely dinner. We would start our sightseeing the next day. We decided on Monteith, with the bellman's help, which was located on the [Royal Mile](#) a very famous street in Edinburgh. I had planned that we would be just a half block away so we would have many possibilities to walk and get around easily.



South on North Bridge Street



The Royal Mile or High Street



A shop window, Scottish Coos are everywhere but if you look closely you will see more items for sale.



East on the Royal Mile



One of many pubs on the Royal Mile



The entrance to Monteith is to the left where the white menu sign is and the arch. The restaurant with tables on the street is totally different.



Monteith before the dinner rush

We headed out to [Monteith](#) going south to the Royal Mile and turning left, past shops, restaurants, hotels, banks, and even a pharmacy. Monteith's sign indicated that you had to walk into this alley or what they would call a close and down some stairs. You enter the bar area and a lovely lady grabs a menu and shows you your seat in the other room which is the restaurant. We arrived early and it was a good thing because it filled up quickly.

After our lovely meal of scallops and chicken, we wandered slowly along the Royal Mile. If a store was open, we went inside to see what treasures they had. Night was falling on Edinburgh and we needed to get some sleep so we could begin our tour of the city. We returned to our hotel and prepared for bed.



Night comes to the Royal Mile



If you look carefully you can see St. Giles' crown like top.

More to come.

Travel Books: I like to study at a variety of options for travel. Each author has their own take on a location. I combine it with websites and lots of maps.

1. Rick Steves (he is based in Seattle and my husband goes to the same church) - Scotland First Edition 2016 <https://www.ricksteves.com/>
2. Pocket Edinburgh, Lonely Planet with a map that is hard to read because it is small-scale. Very helpful in identifying things to see in Edinburgh. <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/>

Note: Links like the above can change rapidly so go and look now and make notes.

Tour of Scotland: Edinburgh Castle and more...

June 8, 2018

I was up around 7 am and started to get ready for the day. About 8:30 we headed down to breakfast and found a lovely room with three crystal chandeliers and tables covered in white tablecloths. I was headed to a table and this man, probably the head waiter, came up to me and pointed to a table with two seats. I settled in and he returned with a pot of coffee and cream and later some toast. I went off to the breakfast bar and sampled some eggs, smoked salmon, a potato like item and something that looked like Canadian bacon. It was lovely and tasted great. It was a very fancy breakfast. I went back for seconds. The fresh hot coffee was welcomed because all we had in our room was instant coffee that you made with the Electric Tea pot they provide.



The Esplanade at Edinburgh Castle

Today we were heading to [Edinburgh Castle](#) and that would take about 10-15 minutes to get too by walking up the Royal Mile to the west. It took a while for both of us to get ready and figure out what to take with us. I had purchased advanced tickets online and we were given a window of 11 am to 12 pm for entrance. This made it easy for us to get up to the ticket taking area and we didn't have to wait in line. Hubby, my hubby, noticed the line was very long.



We were late getting started for the castle and so we could not dither like I had wanted to and wander in the stores. We walked along the Royal Mile west toward the Castle. It is slightly uphill on cobbled streets. It was not too bad. When you get near the Castle you enter the Esplanade which is a large open area, they use for the August Military Tattoo. The castle looks imposing, as it dominates the view in the distance. I have wanted to see this castle for a long time, so I was a happy tourist.

You can get a brochure that has a map of the castle at the entrance. The map helps to orient you. I encourage you to study the website so you can decide what you want to accomplish for there is not enough time for it all. You can buy a guide for a few pounds, but I didn't do that for this castle.

- The One O'clock Gun
- St. Margaret's Chapel
- Mons Meg
- The Honours of Scotland
- The Great Hall
- Prisoners of War

The castle is very old and big. The bricks are large and dirty looking or maybe you could call it weathered. It is built into the rock which flow out of the structures. There are two types of cobblestones one for walking and some for the horses. The special stones were placed to keep the horses from slipping when hauling the wagons up into the castle. The oldest part is the St. Margaret's Chapel. There was a wedding scheduled in the chapel so we would not be able to enter. We observed the bride to be and groom pulling up to the chapel in a fancy old car while a photographer took pictures.

Castles have their own history and each building has its own history. This includes who was in possession of it at what time throughout its history.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edinburgh_Castle







We entered the castle and obtained the audio guides. I spotted a tour forming so we tagged along. The tour guide was excellent. I am surprised. I guess I know a lot of the history but, he had a few things to add that I did not know. He talked about Mary Queen of Scots and how she just kept getting into more and more trouble and ended up getting beheaded by her cousin Queen Elizabeth. It is a very sad story. He took us around the outside areas and explained the different buildings, told us stories of the castle and a few jokes.



The free tour forms by the ticket and audio guide gate.



Our guide was very good, told lots of stories, jokes and answered our questions.



This is a diorama of Mary Queen of Scots as a woman and as a baby.

Tip: If you like drama try Elizabeth R with Glenda Jackson as Queen Elizabeth. It was very good. It was done in early 1971 so it is aged. There are more recent versions of the story of Queen Elizabeth, I but I remember this to be a very good drama.

The tour guided ended the tour by pointing out various buildings and the lovely tea room across from the place where the [Honours of Scotland](#) are exhibited. We had coffee, tea, apple/pecan cake and a very delicious creamy cheesecake in a lovely room with a round crystal chandelier. We dallied over our simple but tasty meal.



This cheesecake was fabulous

At some point, I had tried to position our visit so we could see and hear The One O'clock gun that is fired every day except some holidays and Sunday. We found a good viewing area up high and could look down and see that the crowd was beginning to gather around the gun. The uniformed soldier was all pomp. He was like a toy soldier in his moves and marching in a particular manner up to the cannon. He made several maneuvers that might have been to set up the gun but we were far back so we could not see the detail. Promptly at 1 pm he fired it and there was smoke all around. These photos also show you a little of the city of Edinburgh.



The visitors gather in all places where they can see and squeeze in

The Soldier is very much like a toy soldier walking in that stiff manner and in a very ceremonial fashion



He came up to the cannon, retreated to the building, then returned several times and then fired the gun. Apparently, the gun sounding off can startle people if they don't know about it.

Our next task was the exhibit for the [Crown Jewels](#) (Honours of Scotland) and the [Stone of Destiny](#). Apparently the Crown Jewels of Scotland are older than England's. You cannot take photographs of these items. They are very beautiful and quite ornate. There is the Crown, the Scepter and the Sword of State. This website has an interesting discussion about the Honours: <https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofScotland/The-Honours-of-Scotland/>



One board is for explaining the Honours and the other board is to read while you wait in line to view the items.

The Stone of Destiny was removed in 1296 by Edward I of England and taken from Scotland and placed under the coronation chair in Westminster Abbey. Queen Elizabeth II granted that it be returned to Scotland. When a coronation takes place, it is to be sent back to Westminster Abbey

for the event and then returned. It is the stone where the Scottish Kings would put their foot on when they were crowned. I asked if they had tested it for DNA, but the attendants didn't know. That might have been a little hard to do but I thought it was an interesting idea. There are two iron rings embedded into the stone that are used for lifting it. The attendants did say it was carbon dated using the right iron.



The Stone of Destiny: Doesn't really look like much, does it. Still it is very old and legendary.



Information on the Stone

We wandered back through the castle and visited several gift shops along the way. We tried to take a selfie in the castle center area, and we didn't do too badly. We are not very good at it, HA! I had Hubby take a photo of me at the arch at the 2nd entrance to the castle area.



Our attempt at a selfie at Edinburgh Castle



Me at the other castle entrance.

My camera strap kept coming undone and next then I knew it was swinging on one strap...We ended up fixing it by tying it in a knot. It is still in a knot to this day.



Park and a cemetery, not sure in what direction this view is?



Princess Street Park

You cannot leave the castle before you try several viewing areas that feature the city of Edinburgh. The weather was great, so we wanted to take advantage. After we exited the Castle, we were back in the Esplanade, so we went to the side of it to get more views of the city.



I noticed we were close to the Whiskey Experience and Camera Obscura and I asked hubby what he wanted to do. He chose the [Camera Obscura](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camera_obscura). We secured our tickets and headed to the top to see the view and see the presentation of the camera. They handed us a fact sheet about the Camera Obscura that describes the concave table, the camera and the magnification and various other technical things. Our guide, I learned had been born in Italy, and spoke with a thick Scottish burr. This made it difficult for me to understand all she said. The camera has a view of the outside of the castle and the people walking the Esplanade and she took a piece of paper, slipped onto the concave surface and then slowly raised it up and flicked the people. It was funny. Hubby seemed to know a lot about this type of camera and said there were others. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camera_obscura



Camera Obscura is the building with the black dome

After going outside on their top floor to get the view of the city and seeing the camera presentation, we made our way down to the different floors of the building. There were six floors

with different features on each. It was sort of like a fun house. They call it a World of Illusions
<https://www.camera-obscura.co.uk/>



Toll Booth Church from Camera Obscura



A School, I liked with all the spires, shapes and more



Looking down from Camera Obscura's top floor. The Whiskey Experience is the building to the left.



Looking back at the Castle from Camera Obscura's top floor.

After we thoroughly studied the Camera Obscura, we continued wandering down the Royal Mile in search of a restaurant. I chose Angels with Bagpipes. It was described as a fancy restaurant in the guidebooks, but I found it to be laid back. There was a couple next to us and they had some fancy drink in Champagne glasses that was multi-colored? I had a steak and hubby had polenta. <http://www.angelswithbagpipes.co.uk/the-restaurant/>

This piper was out on the streets in full dress. I asked him how long it took to get dressed and he said 10 minutes. I was impressed. Of course, we gave him a little money for the photo.



Helping the locals

Hubby had seen a hat he liked, so we examined every shop we could along the Royal Mile all the way back to Monteith where we had dinner the night before. Hubby found one he liked in the shop a few doors from the hotel in a tweed style. The one he tried on was too big and we couldn't find any more in a medium size. The quest was on.

Well, I was sick with a cold by this time. Hubby had brought it home just before the trip and I tried so hard not to get it. The headache on the airplane was letting me know I had failed. I was taking Alka Seltzer and Cold Eze to manage it. Medicine in Scotland is very different from the States. They have Pharmacy's which are separate from other stores. There was a Pharmacy on the Royal Mile near Monteith's, but they closed at 5 pm. There might be some drugs in other stores and the Co-ops but not a lot. Fortunately, Hubby being an MD can figure things out. The salespeople are helpful. so, ask questions and if you can compare the ingredients to the US version that will help. Next time I will bring twice as much medicine even though I might not be sick. We settled on some tablets that seems to work.

We headed back to the hotel...still more to come.

More Travel Books:

1. Discover Scotland, Lonely Planet with pull out maps
2. Eyewitness Travel: Top 10 Scotland with pull out map
3. Discovery Channel: Insight Guide Scotland. This is a little older but, it was very good

A Tour of Scotland: The Scottish Genealogical Society, a Little Harry Potter and more...

June 12, 2018

It was Tuesday, May 8th and I was up early. Today we will visit the Scottish Genealogical Society in Edinburgh. I took a shot of medicine for my cold and then rested for a while waiting for my transformation into human to take over. I was feeling rough.

I started preparing for the day. We left about 9:30 am and headed to the shop just next door so Hubby could revisit the hat he was interested in. This time the salesperson measured his head and then called the other store to see if they had the color and size in inches. It didn't work out. The quest for the best hat continues.



Meanwhile I heard some rather interesting music in their store and the other clerk handed me a CD of the Red Hot Chili Pipers. I was tempted, apparently they are a big deal and you can go to YouTube and check them out or their website: <https://rhcp.scot/#>



A Piper in front of a government building

We then headed up to Banks street. Well it turned out that Banks street is also the George IV Bridge Street. Yup, named Banks on the one side and George IV named on the other side of the Royal Mile/High Street. Once we figured it out, it was not that hard to find Victoria Street.

Victoria Street is split level and we needed Victoria Terrace. I walked to the end of the street and found the terrace entrance. I headed to the end and turned around the corner and found the closed-door of the Scottish Genealogical Society. <https://www.scotsgenealogy.com>



Down the Close (Alley) Scottish Gen Society



Scottish Genealogical Society Entrance

I waited, looking out on Victoria Street and all the activity and eventually a lady appeared who unlocked the doors. I chatted with her trying to see if I could get her to let me in a little early. She was firm and asked me to wait till half past. I found a chair at the restaurant at the corner of the terrace and settled in for 15 to 20 minutes till they opened.



The Boy Wizard Shop on the right in the photo below.



Victoria Street in Edinburgh, early morning activity



Victoria Street is two streets, the actual lower street with car access and the upper level called Victoria Terrace.



Enjoying the activity on Victoria Street at the end close to the society.

Victoria Street was busy with trucks bringing the supplies for all the stores and restaurants on the street. I am impressed with how they can maneuver the narrow streets and zip here and there. This street may have been the inspiration for Diagon Alley in the Harry Potter books per the online sources.

Hubby went for a walk checking out Victoria Street. He returned to find me sitting in one of the restaurant chairs under an umbrella out of the sun. We dallied some more and at about 10:33 am we entered the genealogical society and the nice lady greeted me.

Before I start with my experience at the society, let me remind you that I was sick with a cold and it was not my best day. I did join them before I left for Scotland getting the overseas rate and PDF rather than mail choice. They have a fairly good website and a lot of online access and items to look at.



SGS Website

I showed her my packet of family information and she immediately informed me that they don't do genealogy for you but show you how to do it yourself. I assured her that I didn't expect that. She also said that they only take family trees. I had emailed them and was told they did take family histories, so I don't know what the disconnect was. They also have a whole section online of family genealogies. I was confused and I was disappointed for I had spent a considerable amount of time putting something together. She did take several of my blog pamphlets. So, I advised that you get really clear in emails to them before you go. I did try but perhaps I was not clear enough.

I did have several goals in mind. The first was to get their opinion about a last name of Margaret my 2nd great grandmother and see if they could figure it out. I felt they might be more familiar with Scottish surnames and help me out.



Death of Mary Ford - See the parent's names on the form

The first thing I did was show her the page of Mary J. Barclay Ford, the daughter, that had the name of the wife of John Barclay on it. She studied the writing and thought it was probably Davidson/Davison. She went and obtained a book of names and was looking at it.

I told her about John Barclay, and she started creating a family chart and asking me what sources I had etc. After a while, she seemed satisfied that I had done a lot on this family. She tried the IGI (Family Search) and found a John Barclay and Margaret Anderson who had a son John. Now it is possible that Margaret was married before. I told her I didn't know if John had any siblings. He immigrated in 1833 whether he had been married before or Margaret had been married before. She encouraged me to go back to the research and see if I could not find his origins in the US. She might be right??

After a while, I introduced her to James McMurray, my mother's grandfather, and the location of *Beulowman* in Scotland on the 1861 New Brunswick Census.

Head of the Family	30	Scottish Beulowman
Wife	33	English Longton
Son	12	English Newcastle
Son	10	Native
Son	5	Native
Daughter	6	Native
Son	4	Native
Daughter	2	Native
Head of the Family	33	Scottish Drumfries
Son	8	Native



She tried several books about place names but could not find anything useful. Beulowman might be Ben Lomond according to a cousin. She thought that he probably just said Ben Lomond as a location that was familiar. Ben Lomond is a mountain in Scotland next to Loch Lomond. It covers a large area and so James might have come from around the mountain. The other is that the census taker misunderstood him. These are thoughts I had too. The search continues.

Then she asked another lady for assistance and things deteriorated after that. Unfortunately, this other person was zooming about helping others as well as me. It was busy. By that time, I was confused and realized it was time for more cold medicine and I was failing fast.

My big mistake was not taking a tour of the Society and photos. I get a better feel for a society when I do that. What I do remember is that you enter the blue door and into a room with a desk and large table. Things were tight. There was a hallway area to the right filled with cabinets and to the left you continued past the table and entered another small room with computers, I believe. You turn right again and there are filing cabinets, film cabinets and maybe stairs to an office and bathroom? It was an odd layout but typical of little space and lots stuffed into it.

I didn't really expect to find John or Margaret Barclay. I have been studying a lot of records at Scotland's People and not getting what I needed. It was time to move on.

For those of you who know me, you know how much I like legends, sci-fi, and fantasy and that includes Harry Potter. I am very familiar with the films and just recently finished reading the novels and I was up on Harry Potter. You can go on Harry Potter tours in Edinburgh to the places that J.K. Rowling is said to have been sighted writing her books:

<https://www.pottertrail.com/>



Elephant House Cafe

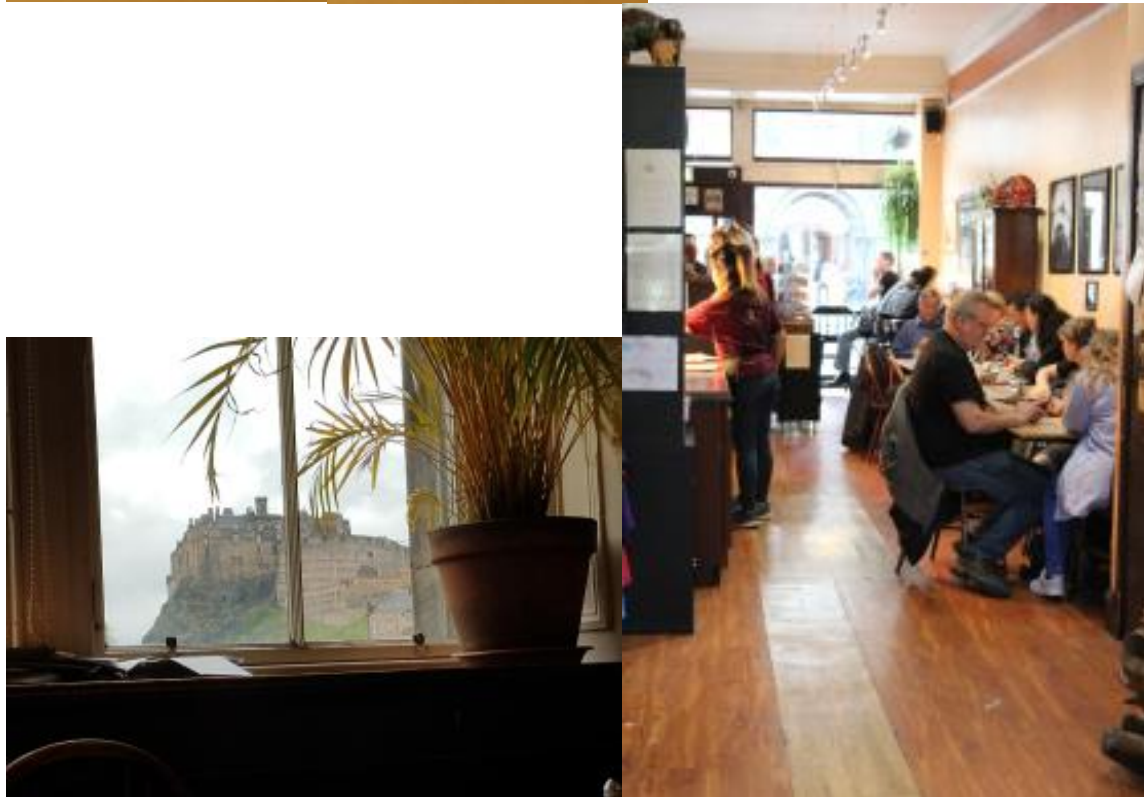
So hubby and I headed out to the Elephant House Cafe <http://www.elephanthouse.biz/> where J.K. Rowling's wrote some of the Harry Potter books. There is a faded picture of her sitting at a table posted on one of their windows. Hubby had a spinach and leek dish and an Americano (their version of a regular cup of coffee) that he said was excellent.



Hubby's Lunch very fancy

I had the Quiche and tea. It was very good. The Elephant House Café was very busy and noisy. The windows were tall and dominated the one wall of the café. You could see Edinburgh Castle from the window in the main area. The floors were wood, and the chairs were creaky. They also looked out on Greyfriars Kirk (Cemetery). I would have wandered through the Greyfriar's Kirkyard, but it was raining. <https://greyfriarskirk.com/>

The bathroom walls of the cafe were totally covered in graffiti with Harry Potter themes. It was a little creepy.



Because of the rain we headed over to the National Library of Scotland <https://www.nls.uk/>. I thought they had an exhibit about the library, but it was about the lady who wrote the *Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*. It was a very good exhibit on this writer's life. You can go on Writers tours and there is a Writer's museum in the city.

Hubby went off to see a public health exhibit. He was gone for about 20 minutes. I found out I would need my driver's license/passport for signing up for a reader's card. Oops...I didn't have those with me. It was okay, I was tired, and the cold was misbehaving. I did collect some brochures that they had in the lobby. They have a great deal on their website that you can access so I will go back and study it again and review it. They have an amazing online map collection. I thought I had taken a picture of the building but seems I can't find it.

Anyway, the Scots are very clever. They renovate the interiors of their old buildings and when you walk inside of the building you find an updated, clean, modernized interior with a cafe, good signage and helpful people.



National Library a great resource

I did pick up, probably at the Library, a pamphlet: ASGRA Tracing Scottish Ancestry which lists members that do research. It is titled The Association of Scottish Genealogists and Researchers founded under the patronage of the Lord Lyon King of Arms. Wow! I do not know much about them, but it sounded worth checking out and I might need some help to find John Barclay. <http://www.asgra.co.uk/>

We headed back to the hotel in the rain. Hubby held the umbrella over my head. It was very much like being in Seattle except for the old buildings and fancy churches that we passed by. The rain did refresh the air. So far, the weather had been sunny and a little cool.

These pictures were taken a day before or so and are very fun.



A little magic along the Royal Mile, the witch is floating...



A little while later we went out to the pharmacy that Hubby had spotted and bought a few things. It was very small, but they were helpful. It was near Monteith restaurant on the Royal Mile. Their version of Alka Seltzer was more like an aspirin than a cold medicine. I backed off. I suppose I could have compared the ingredients and eventually we did figure something out. So, my cold either makes me feel good sometimes and other times I feel terrible. I took some more medicine so I could enjoy the evening.

After the pharmacy we headed out to find a restaurant an Hubby wanted to check out Ensign Ewarts but I thought the menu was limited so we headed to the [Deacon Brodie](#). The pub

reminded me of the pub I went into in Ottawa, Canada. It had a lovely tin carved ceiling and an amazing wooden bar and lots of bottles up on the wall. It was busy and packed with people.



I took possession of one of the tall tables with chairs that you must climb into and slide off. Hubby returned after doing some investigating. The restaurant was upstairs, so we climbed up these stairs that looked more like they were going into some hotel or someone's upper living area, but it was where the restaurant was, so it was the way to go.



Fish and Chips Deacon Brodie style

They had the windows open so there was a pleasant breeze. I ordered a Chianti and had fish and chips (Cod). They were delicious and they even had tartar sauce. I consider tartar sauce a food group. Hubby had a meat pie. It was a pleasant dinner.

Here is where a little people watching begins and listening to people chat. There was a table with four people in front of us seated next to the windows - two sets of couples. I watched them eat. The two men had very tall beer glasses and the two women had some fancy drinks. I thought they were done until the waiter brought the main meal. Then they switched to wine. Eventually they had desserts. It was quite the dinner celebration. So, who belonged to whom and were they brothers or where they sisters in the connections?



St. Giles

We headed back along the Royal Mile. The sun was trying to break through the clouds as we walked. We took a tour of St. Giles Cathedral which is Presbyterian. I don't think I have ever seen a church in that denomination like this church. It was lovely with impressive stain glass windows and great giant arches. It was cavernous. There were various areas set up for various activities. They even had a gift shop with Clan histories. St. Giles is the church with the top that looks like a crown. <https://www.stgilescathedral.org.uk/>

Well it is time to pack up for tomorrow we head to the Holiday Inn Express by the airport and pick up our rental car. Yes, we are going to drive on the left side of the road....dum da dum da...da!

Tour of Scotland: Leaving Edinburgh, Scotland's People and driving on the left?

June 14, 2018

I was up early, but it took a few more minutes to really get going. I dressed and checked all that I would need for the day to go to Scotland's People Centre at 9 am. Hubby would be on his own till I returned which means he had to check us out and store the luggage.

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/visit-us/scotlandspeople-centre>

We headed down to the lovely breakfast room, with the crystal chandeliers, for the last time. It is a nice room and the breakfast is good and filling. I am pleased our stay at The Scotsman has been good even though it was a bit pricey. The location can't be beat. The character is also better than some of the slick modernized places I looked at online.

At the room, I finished up the packing and gave Hubby some instructions. He was going to need to get me more cold medicine. I gave him a sample packet for him to figure out what I needed at

the pharmacy. He had plans to visit several closes (alleys with gardens) and Holyroodhouse Palace.

I packed up and grabbed my small group of research supplies and headed out to Scotland's People Centre which was up North Bridge street to Princess Street.



New Register House Map from The Scotsman Hotel. just find the red pin and then head north across Waverly Station and past the Balmoral and across the street is the Center and New Register House.

It was easy to get to it and cross Princess street. They were not open yet, but I tested a door on the side of the building and was told the entrance was the front door. The other big building is the Lyons Court, I believe. I did not go in. Maybe someday I will discover that I have a Coat of Arms? I believe they did feature a similar establishment for one of the Who do you Think You Are? episodes.



Signs for the New Register House and more



Scotland's People Centre



Entrance to the Scotland's People Centre and the National Archives of Scotland



I think this is the Lyons Court <https://www.courtofthelordlyon.scot/>

I took some pictures of the outside and I sat down by on a ledge by the steps to wait. A nice lady came up and I moved over and we chatted. I told her I was looking for John Barclay but having trouble and she said she was doing research on Perthshire schools.

The door opened and I said goodbye to the nice lady and in I went to the receptionist desk. They verified that I had a desk reserved in Scotland's People Centre and I was sent inside to Adam's Dome to the desk area. They also verified my reservations and then they sent me upstairs to get a reader's ticket. It was a little confusing being sent outside into the hallway and up the stairs. My cold was making it hard to hear. I am already challenged with some hearing loss and I must really listen to understand. It was interesting to go through their process. I did need my passport and verification of my address, so I had a garbage bill that I brought. I probably could have used my driver's license. She was a nice lady the one that signed me up. My picture on the laminated card makes me look like a driver's license picture, UGH!



Adam Dome Research Room, can you see me by the doors on the right...just kidding

I went back to the Adam Dome room and they took me to seat 27. It was the seat I reserved online before I left for Scotland. He opened the computer and then left. I put in my membership information which took some time trying to find the @ sign which refused to let me type it in.

It is a good idea to register online at Scotland's People in advance, so that you have your account set up. A tip from a person online at Trip Advisor, I think, mentioned that you can save your searches so that was a good thing in your online account. I did not need a locker because I had stripped myself of only the bare minimum. I had my Tablet, research file and some other items and my jacket with big pockets. They seemed okay with that.

The Adam Dome is beautiful and very peaceful with the occasional noise from people doing research. You cannot photograph anything inside so that is why I had trouble finding pictures online to get myself oriented. The computer tables are large and round with several stations on each and plenty of room to put your research. There were about 6-7 round tables, with the reception area and an attendant on duty always and that meant I couldn't sneak a photo. There are bookcases built into the walls with old sasine books lined up for various areas of Scotland. The walls are a creamy white with trim. It was wonderful.

I spent my time trying to see if I could find John Barclay and Margaret, but no luck in the records. John Barclay is on my Dad's mother's side. Her father's family. I tried the 1841 Scottish census to see if I could make sure they were not in it and it was looking like they weren't. John in his naturalization papers said he came over in 1833, but I wanted to make sure this was correct. I went through my searches that I had saved on the site and added a few more. I tried Davidson/Davison as the last name for Margaret, but it was not working. Apparently, you go right to the records if you come into the center, but if you are at home you must buy each search. Therefore, it does have its advantages to visit them and reserving the table was £15.00. I found some brochures and grabbed them to add to my stack of things. I was doing searches for marriages and births in addition to the 1841 census. I decided that John and Margaret are not cooperating. He was supposed to have been born in Edinburgh in 1801. Hmmm....?

I recommend that you register for Scotland's People online and study the website for them and the National Records of Scotland. Their website is confusing and with all the changes and consolidations over the years you need to get updated to how they work now. <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/visit-us/scotlandspeople-centre>

My cold medicine was wearing off and it was about 12 noon. I packed up and headed out. This means that I did about 2.5 hour of worth of research and that was okay. There never is enough time. I headed through the doors behind me, and through, I believe, the other research room called the Reid Room and wandered back through the garden in search of the cafe. I found the cafe, which is small and simple. I asked for coffee and some water for my medicine. After resting I returned to the garden and met up with the nice lady that I had chatted with before the doors opened. We discussed our research findings and said goodbye.

I headed back to the hotel crossing Princess Street while an emergency vehicle came zooming by. It was busy with lots of people moving about. It was also windy and trying to storm. You can see the Scott Monument in the distance. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scott_Monument



Scott Monument

Getting to The Scotsman hotel is along North Bridge Street which crosses over Waverly station (trains). I stopped here and there getting up on my tiptoes to peak over the bridge. There was no place to put my things down, so I didn't take photos.



The Sign for Princess Street on the Balmoral Hotel. Gee, I should have gone into this hotel it was even more expensive than ours....



Down North Bridge, The Scotsman is on the right in the distance

I entered The Scotsman Hotel lobby for the last time and found a winged back chair to settle into. There was a man and woman sitting in the other chairs. He was reading the newspaper and she was on her cellphone. I wrote a text to Hubby telling him I was back at the hotel. I rested and waited. About 10 minutes later, Hubby peered into the chair and found me. He went to get the luggage and a cab.

Now we could have used the train for Waverly was just next door. We used a cab because it is easier for us old people and all my luggage. I can't maneuver luggage like I used to. It was about £23.00 both ways. The cab was there in a minute and we piled our luggage into it. I explained to the cab driver our destination was the car rental near the Edinburgh Airport. He drove north on North Bridge Street and turned left onto Princess Street. Edinburgh was busy and alive with people and cars going here and there. We passed houses, businesses, gardens, schools, and construction blockades. His goal was the Glasgow Road or A8.

We had rented our car from Celtic Legends because we liked all the options that they offered for car rental. We wanted an automatic and GPS. We were hoping for petrol but ended up with diesel. That was okay, you just need to remember to use the right fuel pump at the station. In this case the pump handle was black in color. I believe it is green here in the states. Our US Driver's licenses would be just fine for driving in Scotland. We did take out Traveler's Insurance as a precaution. There was insurance with the car rental as well. <http://www.celticlegend.co.uk/car-rental/>

The cab ride took about 30 minutes, seemed less. He knew where Arnold Clark Car Rental was at the airport and he pulled in and helped us pile the luggage on the porch, Hubby went inside and started the process. The office was very narrow and crowded so I waited outside in the cold and wind guarding our luggage.

The nice young woman helping us was pretty, funny and friendly. She chatted away as she prepared our papers and got us ready for our fancy BMW Diesel with navigation. Very nice. I don't think I have ever ridden in that fancy a car.



Our BMW Rental Car outside the Caledonian B&B in Fort Augustus

Bonnie's Tips for Driving on the left.

Before we left for Scotland, we did several things to prepare us for driving on the left.

1. I decided not to worry about it till it happened. Meanwhile get prepared.
2. I watched a lot of YouTube videos on learning to drive on the left. Visually it helped me to get used to seeing the cars on the different side of the road. Just go to YouTube and put in "learning how to drive on the left" or "driving on the left." Some of them are a riot so that will help you get into the spirit of this. **DO THIS!**
3. Do a Google search as well and all kinds of articles will pop up like 7 hints for driving on the left, or 10 hints for driving on the left. **READ THEM** they are helpful. They give a lot of tips.
4. I booked us into the Holiday Inn Express by the Edinburgh Airport for one night so that we could pick up the rental car, orient ourselves to the car, practice driving it on the roads near the hotel and in the parking lot. This will alert you to problems to solve before you go and where things are in the vehicle.
5. Take time to familiarize yourself with the car's knobs, GPS, air conditioning and heater and more before you start driving. It will take a little time to get use to the new car, so be patient with yourself. There should be a manual in the glove box **REVIEW IT.**
6. Go to the Scotland Highway website [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/browse/driving/highway-code-road-safety) and learn about driving in Scotland and their rules, the different signs, laybys, single track roads and more. Click on Highway Code it was very helpful. This website will get you familiar with the different roads (motorways), speed limits, pelican crosswalks, roundabouts etc. I printed off some of it and put that in the door pocket of the car to refer to when we saw a sign we didn't understand. They had summary PDF's that you can print. I looked at it several times while we were driving. <https://www.gov.uk/browse/driving/highway-code-road-safety>
7. Roundabouts are everywhere, learn how to use them. Some are one lane; some are two lanes and some are very complicated. Use YouTube Videos to learn about them. and the Highway Code in No. 6. Study diagrams on how they work. Remember go to the **LEFT.**
8. Before you go, do some route planning. I am a bit obsessed with this because I have gone on genealogical road trips by myself and had to navigate and drive. I used a good route planner, but Microsoft discontinued their Streets and Trips and I have been struggling.

Not all routing apps or applications or software will do European countries and you may have to download and order maps for a country. You need to take that into consideration. I really plan the routes and study them. It takes some time, but I am familiar with the lay of the land when I do that. GPS does not always work or leads you astray, so you do need to be ready to take over and use...A MAP!

1. Find a good route planning guide. I found My Scenic Drives <https://www.myscenicdrives.com> This is an online tool so you will need Wi-Fi to access it. They have an itinerary planner which is a little crude, but it works. I like to have my routes by each day. This daily route schedule makes it easier to concentrate on just small segments at a time.
2. Google Maps is an option, but it is online, and you will need Wi-Fi to access.
3. Some apps are offline and might work. I downloaded some to my tablet and gave them a try. You will have to experiment like I did.
4. Consider buying a GPS unit that you can take with you. You will need to be able to download maps for specific countries so make sure you can. We decided not to because the car did come with GPS.
9. My husband took over the driving. The original plan was I was going to help, but that didn't happen. He had to really concentrate on the new car, the driving and there just didn't seem to be a time where I could have learned. Fortunately, it worked out.
10. As passenger I helped with the navigation. I had done that by preparing routes and familiarizing myself with the routes and where we were going ahead of it all. I knew what the B&B's looked like so we could recognize them. It really helped me to see if the GPS was taking a route that I had studied. I then knew we were on track.
11. Left side of the road management: My massage therapist had driven in Ireland and warned me about the "left side" and making sure you are careful with parked cars and the edge of roads. Good tip.
12. More Left side tips: They do not have shoulder's in Scotland, but they have curbs in the middle of nowhere. So, you do need to be diligent because a mashed tire is not a good thing. I would say "Curb, Curb" whenever Hubby was too close to the left edge. I also would warn him about the condition of the road along the left side which was usually deep ruts and no shoulders and sometimes broken pieces of the road creating a bad pothole.
13. Meanwhile, he had to concentrate on the right side and make sure he moved over when cars and trucks are coming towards him. Roads are narrow and tight in Scotland so be ready to slow down and pull over if you have too. They have laybys which they announce with road signs in feet and you can pull into them to let the cars behind you go by.
14. Watch out for potholes and drainage grates that are not level. They can be tough.
15. More on Roundabouts: The GPS (Petunia) would warn us about a roundabout and tell us which exit to take. I started using my fingers to count down the exits. It helped. Fortunately, she would repeat right before the roundabout. On occasion she didn't acknowledge the roundabout, so we had to improvise. Be prepared to make mistakes in the roundabouts and miss a turn. My brother-in-law said he went around one several times before they figured out the exit to take.
16. We learned to trust the GPS in some instances, it did pretty good and got us out of a few mess ups. However, it did not have all the updates, so we did have to be careful.

This video is one of the first I watched, and it cracked me up.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ABFnk3rJBXE>

Back at the car rental, Hubby signed the papers and we headed outside to the car which is a smoky black sedan. We walked around it to make sure there were no bumps and bruises and she made notes. We then packed the luggage into the car. She gave us instructions on how to start it, where the turn signals and wipers were. The lights are automatic. She explained the navigation system which is fancy. It is a knob on the console between the passenger and driver. She wished us well and left.

This BMW is one of those cars that turns off when you stop and turns back on when you start up again. This was so weird. It interfered with Hubby trying to make turns, slowing him down. It is supposed to save on fuel. He seemed to know about this feature, whew.

Well it is never enough instruction from the car rental. It was time for Hubby and me to get oriented to the car by ourselves. This took some time because we were having trouble programming the navigation and hearing it. The volume was very low. Not good for two people who are hearing challenged. You could still see the map on the navigation screen, and I knew the route to the hotel.

Hubby finally started out. The road took us to a roundabout and Hubby took the wrong exit on the roundabout into a business. Figuring out what is a true exit and a business exit on a roundabout can be confusing. He backed out and recovered and we entered the roundabout and headed north. He was already having trouble with the left side of the car getting too close to the curb. Another roundabout but this was a left and first exit so that was not too bad. It was then easy to drive to the hotel. There were lots of parked cars on the road pushing us into the center and that was confusing.



Holiday Inn Express Edinburgh Airport

The hotel was the Holiday Inn Express. Now I think of Holiday Inn as being a nice hotel and this was, but it was a bit odd. We gathered our luggage taking it all from the car and I headed in to register us. They gave us a room at the end of this very long hallway. The room was square with a double bed and a desk was opposite the door. You had to use your key card to turn on the lights and electrical. The bathroom was small, but the shower was a good size. We found out it was slippery. It would work for the one night. <http://www.edinburghairporthotel.co.uk/>

Hubby spent time reading through the car manual. I had a small rolling luggage for carry on, a medium-sized luggage and then my big luggage. So, I started to rearrange my things so that all I needed was the medium-sized luggage to take into the lodging that we were stopping at. Yah I know, too much stuff, I need to rethink it for the next trip. Rick Steves would be horrified (Travel guru). <https://www.ricksteves.com/>

After our break, we then headed out to study and practice in the car. Hubby drove around the area and he practiced going right and left and backing up and using the turn signals etc. He was getting use to the feel of the car. We ended up in this field and he spent forever fussing with the navigation system's loudness and we couldn't figure it out. I finally said that I was fading and needed food. He reluctantly went back to the hotel.

The restaurant is sort of in the middle of the hotel next to the bar and consists of two rooms. I sat at a table close to the bar and it was a little busy because the traffic went through there. The TV was also on the wall and there was a table with the highchairs that functioned as the bar table. You must order your drinks and food at the bar. The lady carefully measures the wine out into a metal container to the size you order. We did not have our key card folder so we couldn't charge it to the room. I ordered their hamburger and wine and Hubby ordered their pasta dish. He was not too happy with it, something about too much cornstarch. My hamburger was good and filling.



GPS Knob in our BMW

After pondering our problem with the GPS, I suggested he Google navigation and GPS for the model of our BMW and see if there is a solution. We did not have a touch screen we had this knob that was situated on the console between the driver and passenger. It was very easy for me to bump it, so I had to be careful. He found several YouTube videos and figured it out how to raise the volume on the GPS. YIPPEE!

He finished his dinner and decided to go out to the car and try some things that he had learned with his studying the manual and the videos. I let him go by himself because he needed to get comfortable with the car on his own. I named the BMW's GPS "Petunia" because of her very posh British accent. I call our cars GPS "Sylvia." I know I am silly.

Time for bed. My cold was causing all kinds of trouble, so I took more medicine and called it a night. Tomorrow would be trial by fire in the car. HA!

Before we left Edinburgh, Hubby went on a little tour of Edinburgh while I was in the Scotland's People Centre. He went to Dunbar's Close a lovely little garden and toured Holyroodhouse Palace. <https://www.royalcollection.org.uk/visit/palace-of-holyroodhouse>.



Hubby with his new hat...





Holyroodhouse, Hubby's visit our last day in Edinburgh:











A Tour of Scotland: The Falkirk Wheel, The Battle of Bannockburn and Stirling Castle

June 15, 2018

Thursday came and I prepared for the day. Breakfast was terrible and not very good for a Holiday Inn Express. The scrambled eggs were odd tasting. The coffee was awful and out of a machine. The Corn Flakes even tasted funny...dry. I was not happy.

FALKIRK WHEEL

Our first goal was the Falkirk Wheel. Hubby figured out how to make the GPS (Petunia's) voice louder so we could use it. It involved pushing some buttons. It worked.

I had obtained tickets online before leaving home to make it easier to get into the event. I reserved the Falkirk Wheel boat ride, The Battle of Bannockburn appointment and Stirling Castle. The first two required timed visits and I had to take great care in figuring it out. We needed time to spare, in between each event, to drive to each location.

It was time to get going. We headed out to A8 and negotiated the three roundabouts. There were two roundabouts to get onto the Glasgow Road which is A8. We headed west to a very large roundabout with two lanes and then north onto M9 motorway. We were doing okay. We then got confused and took the wrong exit. Petunia (GPS Navigation) got us back on course. We did drive by the large Kelpie statues, but we didn't stop. <http://www.thehelix.co.uk/things-to-do/the-kelpies/kelpies-tour/#.WxcNOu4vyUk>

Fortunately, the Navigation took us around Falkirk and not through Falkirk which would have been nothing but roundabouts. The route took us to the north parking lot for the Falkirk Wheel. I did not know that. It was quicker and easier coming southeast from Stirling Road. In the picture below, see the area on the upper left with a circle. Follow the road back to the parking lot which looks like a narrow loop at the top of the picture. We parked the car and walked about 10 minutes along the canal and across a foot bridge to get to the visitor center. A nice older man with his dog stopped and chatted with us. He teased us by saying that he didn't want us to end up in his backyard when we came back.



Map of the Falkirk Wheel Area.

The weather couldn't decide if it wanted to be sunny and warm or rainy and windy. We endured some rain while we waited for the center to open at 10 am. I had changed to my other jacket and it was a good thing for I needed the hood. While we waited Hubby got a chance to wander around and watch the wheel work. They were testing it. It is an amazing piece of engineering and almost artistic with its design.



Falkirk Wheel - Hubby exploring the wheel

The visitor center opened, and I was surprised that there wasn't anything like museum boards about the Falkirk Wheel. It was mostly a gift shop and cafe.

<https://www.scottishcanals.co.uk/falkirk-wheel/>

I obtained our boarding pass from the clerk. There was a bunch of noisy school kids that got to board first at 10:20 am. They had a better view out the front of the boat. We boarded after getting on the boat with glass windows. It had lots of obstructions so photography would be difficult. You had to push down on the seats and sit in them to keep them down or they popped up if you stood up.



Falkirk Wheel slowly lowering



Our guide was a young man who was friendly and knowledgeable but difficult to understand with his thick Scottish accent. He told us about the wheel and how it worked. There are two similar boats that they use. They use them as counterweights, loading the first and then the second. This means that when one is on top in the upper canal the other boards on the bottom. This rotates the boats throughout the day.



Boat for the Falkirk Wheel

Our boat pulled out of the dock and maneuvered into the docking trough under the wheel. Once they close the trough doors, the boat is raised up with the trough filled with water to the upper canal. The wheel stops and the trough is opened, and the boat moves out and along the upper canal. It enters a tunnel. Once through the tunnel, they turn the boat around and head back into the tunnel. You pass through the tunnel and come out still in the canal. The boat continues back to the docking area and they prepare to lower you back to the bottom of the wheel.



Looking up from inside the boat



Falkirk Wheel thru the tunnel

The return trip passed through the tunnel and out into the canal where we got more views of the countryside.



Returning to the lower area



Falkirk Wheel getting ready to enter the trough and get lowered down

We waited at the docking area of the wheel for about 15 minutes before we then started rotating down to our starting point. The wheel is very smooth not one bump. We were waiting for the other boat to position itself in the lower trough docking area below us. It was a slow peaceful trip with a canned narration during some of the trip. It was interesting. I am glad we went to see it. It is the only wheel of its kind.

We could have stopped at the information centre, which was also part of the buildings, but we didn't think we had time. We, therefore, walked back to the car over the foot bridge and along the canal and the pathways were tricky but we figured it out. We didn't end up in the man's backyard. It was still a little stormy and cold.

THE BATTLE OF BANNOCKBURN

Our next destination was to The Battle of Bannockburn Visitor Centre. <http://battleofbannockburn.com/>

Hubby carefully punched the location into the GPS. Sometimes it would recognize a destination and other times we had to do it manually. This meant twirling the knob to a letter and spelling out the name. A bit tedious.

We were off on our next adventure and more roundabouts. This route took us up Stirling Road like I had anticipated, and the countryside was beautiful and green. Hubby was having trouble with the left side of the car and getting too close to the curb. The Scottish roads are narrow with no shoulders and there are often deep ruts on the left side, so I am trying to help him by reminding him to stay over to the right. This means he must be careful of the oncoming cars on the right. It is very tricky. The Scots drive with purpose so you do have to pay attention.



Visitor Center - Battle of Bannockburn

We arrived at the visitor center in plenty of time for our 1 pm scheduled experience. I went into the visitor center gift shop and presented my tickets and they gave us 3D glasses to use as our receipt. There was free parking so that was a good thing.

We had about 30 minutes to wait so we decided to get coffee and I spotted a pastry to share. I am having trouble with my mobile chargers not liking my phone, so Hubby hooked up his to my Cellphone and it was working nicely. I also took more medicine so I could enjoy the experience.

The Battle of Bannockburn is not your typical historical museum visit. There will be no pictures of this because it is immersive. We entered this room and there are viewing screens on the wall in a circular fashion. The attendant narrated the whole battle for us. It is like a movie but 3D. What appeared were men or women dressed in the costumes of the day or in warfare attire at different locations on the screens. You had to turn around to see some of them. Some of the men were archers or had cross bows. There was a knight on a horse. Some worn these woven helmets and held axes, poles and other armament. There were examples of instruments of war and chain mail in the center of the room. I found the chain mail to be quite heavy. The 3D effect made it look like the arrows were aimed right at you. It was very interesting. This battle took place 24 June 1314. This website has a map of the battle:

<https://www.mrallsophistory.com/revision/an-overview-of-the-battle-of-bannockburn.html>

There were alcoves were, you could go in and stand across from a character. To get the character to respond you waved your hand and then they would talk to you. Some were not responding too well.

I had signed Hubby up for playing the game and that was the next part of the experience. I was going to observe. We entered the room and Hubby ended up being on the King's side. They would not let you choose. I went up behind him and then I had a coughing attack due to my cold, so I had to leave. I went out around the corner and I managed to get it under control.

There is a Game Master who describes the whole battle telling you what and how it all happened. Once he is done with the overview, he assigns you to either the Scottish or British side. Before him is a board and as the game progresses things light up on this board so you can see what is evolving. The Game Master asks questions of the different players whom he has assigned as various warriors. The questions are about how you want to deploy your men. He also assigns people as the queen or king. It was interesting and to me a bit confusing. I also could not see the board very well because I was on the upper level. Try this website for more details and a similar map of the battle. <https://www.britishbattles.com/scottish-war-of-independence/battle-of-bannockburn/>

After the experience was over, we walked out to the statue and the memorial across this very large green field. It was very windy. The land was green, beautiful and flat. People had dogs running around enjoying the open spaces. Hubby took photos of me by the statue of Robert the Bruce with the wind whipping me about.



Robert the Bruce



Me at the statue fighting the wind



We decided that I needed more medicine, so we asked for some hot water from the cafeteria and I used my last Alka Seltzer tablets. We sat in the cafe for a while and I rested.



The Statue of Robert the Bruce on the green



The field around the visitor centre - The Battle

My brother-in-law recommends this book: *Robert the Bruce, King of Scots*, by Ronald McNair Scott. I am more interested in how my brother-in-law descends from this man, but I have not yet figured it out. There is a chart of Robert the Bruce's family in the beginning of the book.

STIRLING CASTLE

The next destination was Stirling Castle. The Castle is on a hill with very tight narrow steep streets. I could not find the tickets I had purchased online. My Stirling Castle information was missing. We decided to head for the castle and see if we could figure it out.

Getting to the castle was a challenge because we lost GPS as we neared the top of the mountain that the castle is resting on. We ended up going in the wrong direction. Hubby did a U turn on the narrow road and we headed back up the steep street. We passed the cemetery went straight and to the right and found the castle entrance. We were able to obtain a parking space with help from a nice lady who was managing the cars.



Robert the Bruce at the entrance to Stirling Castle



Entrance to Stirling Castle

We went over to the gift shop and I showed them my ticket on my cell phone, so they figured out a way to get us into the castle.

We must have missed the last free tour of the castle; however, I think they didn't conduct one for lack of people. We wandered around and through the Great Hall, the king and queen's quarters and a few other exhibits. The view was wonderful of the green countryside around Stirling. Fortunately, it was sunny with clouds, so our visit was pleasant. Stirling castle is old and might be bigger than Edinburgh Castle. It was also steep in many places.

<https://www.stirlingcastle.scot/>



Kings Chambers, the tapestries were amazing



Ceiling tiles and flag



The Great Hall in Stirling Castle



Me holding court and pondering my decision...

I was to discover later that my papers for Stirling Castle had slipped under the passenger car seat and that is what happened to my well-prepared plans for Stirling Castle. From that point on, I always put them into my bag by my feet.

Here is a gallery of pictures of Stirling Castle and the area around the castle. The castle is up on this hill and looms over the countryside.



The Cemetery near the castle













Solving Problems in a Foreign county:

Hubby told me that his hearing aids were not working, and he thought it was due to ear wax build up. He needed filters which we didn't have. We drove to this place in the outskirts of Stirling. It was up steep narrow roads in a hilly area. We think the business must have closed because we could not find any signs. Hubby would need to do more research to find an alternative. This is probably not of interest to you, but it is an example of trying to solve problems that come up when you are traveling.

After he searched for the business that wasn't there, he decided to go to the B&B. We headed to The Old Tramhouse and got caught in a left turn lane when we wanted to go straight. Fortunately, GPS helped us out of that one too. The Old Tramhouse Bed and Breakfast is on Causewayhead Road. It is a very very busy road in Stirling. You can see The National Wallace Monument in the distance. <https://theoldtramhouse.com/>



Sign for B&B



Old Tramhouse B&B



Wallace Monument in the distance

The parking lot was filled with cars, so I hopped out and asked the lady for help. The side road that was about $\frac{1}{2}$ a block away would allow us to park the car. Hubby gathered the luggage from the car, and I took them into the B&B. Hubby then went to park the car while I went with the lady in charge of the B&B and she took me to Room #3. This was a lovely room with steps down into the space. There were two twin beds. I could not believe that she wrestled our luggage up the steep steps. It was very nice the room, a bit narrow and crowded with things. There was a sitting area and a large bathroom. We could not figure out how to turn on the heat, so it was a little cold.

The lady who greeted us was assisting the owner. The owner had emailed me that she had to go to a funeral for her brother. This helper lady showed us around and offered to give us a ride to the Birds and Bee's restaurant which she said was a quick walk back to the B&B. She drove with purpose. I was amazed she was brave enough to back up on to Causewayhead road. <http://www.thebirdsandthebees-stirling.com/>



Birds & Bees Restaurant





The National Wallace Monument in the distance



The land around Stirling - our walk back from the Birds and Bees

The Birds and Bees Restaurant is eclectic mix and just my style of restaurant. My steak was good, and my wine was good too. I tried two varieties of wine. Sometimes the different sizes are an advantage. Hubby also had a steak and I think a beer. He wasn't driving.

We had survived this busy day with a few mishaps and miss-turns, but we were okay. We had successfully driven on the left side. We had arrived at all our destinations with time to spare and enjoyed the activity. I was very proud of us.

Our walk back to the B&B was a little longer than we had anticipated, but it was a nice walk. It was a very calming walk. The countryside was lovely, and the Wallace Monument loomed up on the hill in the distance. It was a bit cool but sunny. As we walked along, I studied the houses with their small gardens. They were all tidy and neat, some a little fancier than others. They were nice houses, not huge but maybe mid-sized.

It was time for bed. It was fun to sleep in a twin bed. I had not done that for in a long time.

A Tour of Scotland: The National Wallace Monument and Clan Macpherson Museum

June 16, 2018

Morning came and Hubby tried making the instant coffee that they provided. I tried eating the continental breakfast. The instant coffee was warm. If the owner had not had to leave for the funeral, we might have had a great breakfast in the lovely dining room in the Old Tramhouse B&B. It was an unfortunate situation, and I was disappointed that I did not get to meet her.

The day before Hubby realized that his hearing aids weren't working, so we tried to go to this one place that apparently was out of business. Hubby did more research had found several places to get the hearing aid filters he needed. We looked at Google Maps and decided that the first one looked like it would be the easiest for us to get too. At 9 am he gave them a call and they said to come in. It was The Hearing Clinic. It was not too hard to find. We found it on the 2nd floor of what looked like a business park building. A lady in the hall helped us out. We got settled in the waiting room after Hubby checked in at the desk. It was taking a while, so in about 30 minutes I headed to the coffee shop with Hubby's encouragement.

I ordered some regular coffee and saw a sandwich that didn't look bad, cheese and ham. The attendant asked if I wanted it toasted and I said yes. We call them grilled cheese sandwiches; they call them toasties. I settled in at a couch and she brought my food out to me.

I was there about 30 minutes and Hubby showed up with his hearing aids working and new filters. He said that there was no charge for the service. Wow! They did take him back to an office and the medical person fixed his hearing aids for him in minutes. He was happy. He proceeded to eat the rest of my sandwich and drank a little of the remaining cold coffee. It was a very nice coffee shop called The Grind and the nice lady that prepared my food was very sweet. (I have lost the link, so I hope it is still in business, nice place.)

This little detour did knock some time off our day's activities which meant we were going to have to skip some stops I had planned.

Our first goal was the National Wallace Monument. We made our way through Stirling back on to Causewayhead Road. We avoided the left turn lane that got us into trouble when we first arrived. It was not too difficult to get to the monument. It required just a little maneuvering around a very sharp corner. We had to drive slowly through the parking lot. We found a space right at the exit. <https://www.nationalwallacemonument.com/>

I took my tickets into the visitor center and was told that they take them at the monument. I took a quick tour of the gift shop and spotted this cool Scottish Coo. I decided to come back later and check him out. The shuttle came up and we were on our way to the top of the hill.



The National Wallace Monument



The drive up to the monument was on a very narrow road and steep. I tried not to watch. I have a bit of motion sickness. I don't do well with hills. It was a very quick drive. You can walk up if you like. The shuttle deposited us right at the base of the monument. We turned and looked out on beautiful green countryside. The weather was cloudy, not warm at all, and there was wind.

At the counter inside the monument they took my ticket. The young woman was friendly and kept saying "perfect." The Scots are lovely people and very nice.



The Monument is on a hill, you can walk or take the shuttle

We started our journey up the tower taking these straight steep steps. Eventually, the steps began to curve and got smaller and narrower. You climbed a grouping of curved steps and come to a small landing that opened to a room. This first room was about William Wallace and his rise to power, the defeats and victories and the various types of war armament and more. If you looked up, you would see these lovely stained-glass windows. Try this blog there are some nice pictures and explanations that add to my photos: <http://miceforlent.blogspot.com/2012/08/wallace-monument.html>



Stain Glass



More Stain Glass

The second room came after more curved steps and it was famous and influential people of the day.



Bust of Robert the Bruce on the Famous people level

They had William Wallace's Sword in a display case. It was very difficult to photograph because it was a dark gray metal suspended in a glass case. There was glare and other problems, but I think you get the idea.



Wallace's Sword



What Wallace may have looked like



Wallace Sword



Wallace Sword

I took off alone and went up more stairs to another room in the monument. It was about the monument's creation. They had a full-length picture of Wallace's sword, so I was able to stand up close to it and measure myself to it. I was a good foot short. He was a big man over six feet.



Up higher in the monument and you can see the clouds darken



At the top of the Wallace Monument it was wide open and with the wind blowing, it was a little scary.



246 Steps

I headed up higher in the monument. It was very cold, and the wind was blowing. I moved quickly. I eventually made it to the very top which is a wide-open area where the wind was really blowing. It was a little scary. I took pictures very quickly and then headed back down. I found going down easier than up and was at the bottom of all 246 steps rather quickly.



Looking out at Stirling



The River has a lovely curve - River Forth



Hubby went to the top without me, but I did warn him of the wind. He didn't dally. He arrived at the bottom of the tower. The shuttle was there so we "popped" right onto it and were soon at the bottom.



The Monument up close



The Monument is massive

Hubby had a few photos that were interesting from his views on the Monument.



The National Wallace Monument. Hubby must have taken this the day before later in the evening



Views of Stirling from the monument



Views of Stirling from the Wallace Monument



Stirling



Stirling views

We returned to the visitor center for I was interested in this cow doll that turned out to be a doorstop. It is quite heavy. His name is Angus and he is very cute. Someone has done a great job with the design of this creature. Dora Designs is on the tag and they are quite the business. I used to make cloth dolls myself, so I appreciate when I see a good thing.



Angus the Coo, he makes me laugh! Sitting on my mantel all the way from Scotland to the Pacific NW. Now he is above me at my desk so I can see him every day.

It was time for us to make some decisions about what we were going to do. Our goal was Inverness and that was about 2.5 hours' drive through the Cairngorms. We decided not to do the Blair Athol Distillery and instead go directly to Newtonmore. We could stop at the Clan

MacPherson Museum that is located there. The drive was a good hour a half. Once on the motorway we made good time except for some construction and getting around Perth.

Later, I realized that I missed the Battle of Killiecrankie 1689 site which is part of the Jacobite Rebellions. We passed it on the way to Newtonmore on A9. We really didn't have time.

http://www.battlefieldsofbritain.co.uk/battle_killiecrankie_1689.html

Our drive took us through the Cairngorms. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cairngorms> The area is a national park. There was some snow on the mountains. Some of the mountains were round and worn, others were flat-topped, and they didn't have any trees on them. There were forested areas but only here and there. There was this valley that was shaped like a bowl with the mountains around it and a stream going through it. It reminded me of Eastern Washington in the US where we live. It was beautiful in an eerie sort of way. Scotland was once covered with glaciers and they really did a number on the country, carving out the landscape.

<https://visitcairngorms.com/>

As we drove the motorway it would change into 4 lanes with land in between. This made it easy to pass or be passed. These highways were like our 4 lane highways with medians.

We arrived in Newtonmore around 4 pm which meant that we would get to Inverness during the rush hour. Newtonmore is part of the Scottish Highlands which means that they extend out into the Cairngorms.

We dallied at the Clan MacPherson Museum. Sometimes you find a gem when you least expect it.



Sign for Clan Macpherson



Clan Macpherson museum in the back



Clan Macpherson House



The museum was well done and much larger than I had expected. This Clan is very active. Their chief looks like a very nice man. They had lots of artifacts and one was a very fancy and elaborate silver carving. I think it was a candle holder. MacPherson is a clan that is part of Clan Chattan a consortium of clans. Their ancestral home has been bought and sold so many times that the artifacts in it have been lost. Some have been scavenged from many locations including Australia. Apparently, the Newtonmore area is the home base of this clan.

<http://www.clan-macpherson.org/museum/>

I bought a booklet about the clan titled: “*The Posterity of the Three Brethren, A short History of the Clan Macpherson,*” by Alan Macpherson and published by the Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch 2004. First published 1966. The book is only 91 pages and cost £6.

This Clan has a Facebook page, which I have liked and I get some really nice postings:
<https://www.facebook.com/clanmacphersonmuseum/>

They do not take genealogies. They do not have any idea about who left for other parts of the world because so many did. They did have a note card display where people were leaving comments about emigrants and a map above with pins. There is a lot of reference to Cluny in this clan. I was not aware that it was so involved and quite the affair. I have not done any serious research or studying about the history of this clan. My great great grandmother Ellen McPherson has been very difficult to find any information about her in Canada. I am very impressed and want to encourage others to go to their website and take time to investigate them.

Oh, they say that the spelling of McPherson is not important they embrace all forms.

The Cluny Castle at Laggan is the Clan Chiefs Castle for Macpherson. Do not confused it with the other Cluny Castle near Aberdeen. It is located right off A86, but it is private so you can't

visit it. It is after Laggan but just past Balgowan and a bit before Newtonmore. Darn, I wish I had looked.

<http://www.ambaile.org.uk/detail/en/32200/1/EN32200-cluny-castle-at-laggan-near.htm>

TO INVERNESS

We tried the hotel across the street in Newtonmore, but they were not serving dinner till 6 PM. It was now 4:45 pm so we would have to wait quite a while. We were to learn that this is typical in Scotland. They have specific hours for breakfast, lunch and dinner and then cake times, or tea times so check the restaurant before you go.

We decided to try Aviemore for dinner. [Aviemore](#) is a ski town and tourist town. Near there is the Rothiemurchus Forest which is quite the activity location. Unfortunately, the restaurant closes at 5 pm so we were too late. It looks like a place that would be worth spending time in and we didn't have time. I was so tempted to book us into it: <https://rothiemurchus.net/visit/food-drink/>

Aviemore is also considered part of the Scottish Highlands. We found a fish and chip restaurant called the Happy Haggis <http://www.harkai.co.uk/> and that turned out just fine. I choose the senior version of their fish and chips and Hubby had the larger meal. He got ice cream with his meal. I ordered one for me. The Scots know how to make ice cream. It is very creamy.



Happy Haggis

Some food helped and we headed into Inverness which was about 30 miles away. The Navigation (Petunia) took us into Inverness to the Ardconnel House the way that I had routed it on my maps. I knew where we were going even though it seems a bit convoluted.

<http://www.ardconnel-inverness.co.uk/>



Ardconnel House Inverness



The view out of our window at the Ardconnel House

We found the B&B and it was not separate but part of a string of row houses. It was at the end of this group of B&B's. Hubby was parked in a no parking area, so I ran in to the B&B to find the owner and help. The owner pointed to the car park about half a block away. Hubby drove to it and parked.

I chatted with the owner, but after a while I decided to go and find Hubby. I found him sitting in the car. He was trying to download an app to use for the parking because it would require a ton of coins. He found the information on the board at the car park. The company is RingGo <https://www.myringgo.com/> That took a while because they wanted all kinds of information. Once the parking was taken care of, we grabbed our stuff and headed for the B&B.

The owner explained the room, the shower and the breakfast. We settled in and rearranged things a bit. Rick Steves had recommended the Ardconnel in his Scotland book. Hubby attends the same church as Mr. Steves. Based on my experience now, if you aren't sure about what is offered

email them. I thought they had parking per their website. We were able to use RingGo as I mentioned above, and we also used it in Glasgow.

We were soon to bed and I slept very well.

A Tour of Scotland: Culloden Battlefield and Inverness

June 20, 2018

The Ardconnel B&B room was a pleasant size with a double and single bed. The bathroom was small but adequate. The shower was tight, but it worked. We had filled out the breakfast card the night before and I chose 8:30 am for the time.



Breakfast Room Ardconnel House



Our Table - Ardconnel House

We were headed to the breakfast room and found our table situated in the bay window area. You find your table by the number of your room. The Scots don't rush. They did have a buffet of cereals, juice, croissants and other items. You then have your main meal which you ordered. Everything tasted good my croissant, the brewed coffee, my sausage, my eggs and the dining room was lovely. If you want coffee, they bring you the coffee pot that is the French Press version. I was learning to press it down. It was good coffee.



Breakfast 1st Day Mine



Breakfast 1st day - Hubby's

CULLODEN Museum and Battlefield

Today we were going to Culloden where the battle took place between the Jacobite army and the British on 16 April 1746. This is where Bonnie Prince Charley (Charles Edward Stewart) was defeated. This is something that I had wanted to see and do for a very long time.

We were soon on our way to the battlefield. Driving was a bit of a challenge. I kept watch on the left side of the road to make sure Hubby didn't go into a ditch. They don't believe in shoulders, so the edge is sharp and frequently has deep ruts or broken road. He was being very careful

driving and doing very well. The Navigation took us a different way to the battlefield that I had calculated.



Entrance to the Culloden Museum



The Museum in the distance from the battlefield

The Culloden Battlefield museum is huge and very modern looking with a detailed museum, a large cafe and a gift shop. Hubby bought the tickets and audio guides. The audio guides were very helpful, I encourage you to buy and use them.

He also bought the Guidebook: National Trust for Scotland, **Culloden "Cuil Lodair"** This guidebook is very well done with quotations, photos, portraits, maps, drawings and paintings.

Contents a summary:

- Setting the Scene
- The Government versus the Jacobite Cause
- The Prince and the Duke: troops and tactics
- The Road to Culloden
- Culloden the Battle
- Culloden the Legacy

First you go through the large museum presentation which has the Jacobite cause on the right side of the wall in this hallway. On the left is the British story. I was going back and forth to try to keep the continuity. There was a theater that presented a film recreating the battle. It was powerful. They had artifacts found on the battlefield, guns used, a canon or two. There was a huge raised relief map of the battlefield. They have benches for resting because it will take time to go through all this. <https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/culloden>

This whole battle is a sad affair. Okay, this is my summary of what I read, and it is my thoughts about the battle. The whole history of Culloden is very complicated and started years ago when Charles' grandfather James II and VII of England, Scotland and Ireland in the Glorious Revolution of 1688. James Francis Edward also tried to claim the throne in and made his bid in 1715.

The Jacobite Army at Culloden was ill prepared, tired, hungry, divided and their leader Bonnie Prince Charley (Charles Edward Stewart) was not really felt by some to be trustworthy. He had been raised in France. The Jacobites, which included many clans, and others wanted to return the Scottish Crown to Scotland along with a parliament. It didn't look like Charles was that interested in what the Scots wanted.

The Duke of Cumberland was Charles' cousin and a brilliant military leader. He set out to crush them and earned the title "Butcher." He figured out a way to break the charge of the Scots and that was part of their downfall. Just click and the photo will open in another page. Red is the British forces and the blue is the Jacobites.



From the Guide a map of the battle lines

Unfortunately, the book cuts right through the blue battle lines. I think the last one is Athol Men 500.



From the Jacobite Rebellion booklet that I also purchased. Map of the battle

After we looked at the exhibits in the museum we moved outside and wandered as much of the battlefield as we could. There were paved walkways. The tall red flags were the British troop locations and the Blue flags were the Jacobite army's location. We could see where the Clans were situated as the battle took form. The actual battlefield was much larger than what is in the park and spills over the highway.

We headed out from the museum and went to the west end of the field following the walkway. The path had stopping points with the larger map of the battlefield indicating your position in the battle.



Google Map of the current battlefield

The red pin represents the Cairn in the middle. The museum is on the right - see white. The clan stones are south of the Cairn. The Clan Donald stone is almost to the highway at the curve. The blue flags are along the line on the left and the red flags are to the right of the red pin.



Flags were set along the walkways

The ground and terrain were ugly. I pondered as to why anyone would stage a battle here. It was beyond me. I couldn't get my mind around it.

"I do not like the ground. It was certainly not proper for Highlanders." Lord George Murray, 25 May 1746.



The land at

Culloden



The land at Culloden some was bog

Along the walkways were information boards showing you where you were. There were also individual boxes showing where the Clans and the British troops were located on the battlefield. This is not a complete listing.



Camerons - Jacobite



Stewarts of Appin and MacLarens – Jacobite



John Roy Stewart's – Jacobite



Munro - British



Frasers - Jacobites

We slowly made our way to the cairn in the middle and that is where most of the stones are located. These stones commemorate the Clans.



The Culloden Cairn about in the middle of the battlefield



The Culloden Cairn



The Culloden Cairn with Scotch broom on the top.



The dedication of the Cairn



The Cairn Sign for Culloden



Bonnie Jean MacDonald at the Cairn of Culloden May 12, 2018

The cairn itself is made of stones and has Scottish broom growing at the top. The cairn is in a field of grass and scattered about this field to the south of the Cairn are Clan stones. I started on the west side of the park like area and headed east. This is as many as I could do and might not be all. We did not walk all the field.



Clan Fraser



Mixed Clans





Clan Macintosh



Another Clan MacIntosh



Clan Cameron



Clan MacGillivray



Clan Stewart of Appin



Clans MacGillivray, MacLean, MacClachlan, Athol Highlanders



Here lies _____The Chief of Clan MacGillivray's

fell

You ask "Where is the Clan Donald Rock? Well there is a sign at the east end of the green area pointed toward the highway. I was a bit frustrated. If I had known that, I would have headed to the Cairn first.

A couple from Ireland were sitting on the bench by the Clan Donald rock. Hubby went on to get a picture of the other rocks for me. About half a block down the walkway were these stones:



More Clans names on the boxes



Keppoch Rock and sign



Keppoch Sign Close up



The Keppoch Rock

I chatted with the couple and asked if I could share the bench. Hubby returned and took my photo at the rock and we said goodbye to them.



Clan Donald Rock and Sign, you can see the museum in the background. The Clan Donald rock is over next to the highway, signs point to it at the east end of the Cairn area.



Bonnie Jean MacDonald at the Clan Donald Rock, May 12, 2018



Bonnie a little closer

AFTER THE BATTLE what happened and again this is a summary. A lot more happened for the government was systematic in its determination to break the Highland way of life forever.

1. Deaths on the Jacobite side in the battle were 1500 to 2000. The British suffered 50 deaths and 239 wounded.
2. The Dress Act of 1746 made wearing "the Highland Dress" including tartan or a kilt illegal except by the Army. It was repealed in 1782.
3. Act of Proscription of 1747 government officers were authorized to search houses at will if the occupants were suspected of keeping swords or other weaponry like target, poignard, whinger, durk, side pistol, gun, etc. These restrictions were lifted in 1782.
4. The Duke of Cumberland did not discriminate between Scots who supported the Jacobites and those that didn't. There was destruction for weeks after in the Highlands. Cattle were driven off and taken to market and sold, houses were burned, people were shot, and women were raped.
5. No reliable estimates of the numbers murdered in the aftermath of Culloden. The mutilated bodies of those executed were displayed as gruesome warnings.
6. Many Jacobite captives who were not killed on the spot faced deportation and possible death. 3,471 were shipped to England to face trial after prolonged imprisonment in Carlisle, York and London.
7. 936 of the Jacobite rank and file were sentenced to a life of slavery overseas.
8. 120 were executed, 1287 were freed, many died in transit or in prison,
9. Many fled into exile on the Continent or hid out for months in the Highlands.
10. A list of person concerned in the Rebellion - at Internet Archive <https://archive.org/details/alistpersonscon00excigoog>
11. The forfeiting of estates of many in the 1715 and 1745: <https://archive.org/stream/selectionofscott00millrich#page/376/mode/2up>
12. Roads were improved and extended in the Highlands so patrols could easily move about. Fort Augustus was repaired and the barracks as well. The Highland regiments were incorporated into the regular Army of England by the end of the century.

13. Laws were passed that changed the legal status and power of the clan chiefs. The Government abolished hereditary jurisdictions cutting the clan chiefs powers.

I headed back to the museum while Hubby wandered on. He went over to the house, but it was under renovation. I returned to the museum area to finish up the remaining reader boards and the final audio tour signage.

I then went into the gift shop and found a T-shirt and purchased it. Next on my list was the cafe. I found Hubby sitting at a table with a lot of food in front of him. He said he was hungry. He had soup and a sandwich and juice purchased. I started eating the soup. He opened the sandwich and we shared it. We think it was cream cheese and beets on wheat bread. It was rather good. The soup was some broccoli type and not bad. They don't puree things like we do so their food is for lack of a better word lumpy. Hubby went off to finish his part of the audio tour. I rested and relaxed in the cafe. He wasn't long and we were soon on our way.

We decided to find a store and get some supplies. It took two tries in the car. The Navigation system was incorrect on the first try. On the second try we found a store much like a Speedy 7 Eleven. We bought kleenex and a few other things. We then headed to the Ardconnel to park the car and go to dinner in the city. We found a parking spot in the car park but noted it was filling up. We are restricted on the number of hours we can park the car in the car park.

Back at the Ardconnel we relaxed and rested. I journaled some and he studied Nessie websites. Several hours later he announced that we best go to dinner or he would be falling asleep. We decided on the Bella Italia on High Street. We would walk to it.

We headed out to the steps at the end of the street and made our way down them and ended up on a street that we didn't know the name of till Hubby found the sign. It was High Street. We did some withdrawals at the bank ATMs and headed up the street. We were going towards the river Ness in Inverness. Bella Italia was too crowded and busy. So, we wandered a little further and Hubby found a steak house called McGonagall's Steakhouse & Restaurant. Apparently, McGonagall was a bad poet, but he published anyway. Hubby liked the sign on the wall of the restaurant and copied it down.

There was a coo on yonder hill

It's nae there nu, it must have shifted.

I had salmon fillet and mashed beetroot and he had a warm chicken salad. I guess the beetroot is what we call the beet here in the States. I was finding that my meals were tasty and well presented. Sadly, the restaurant is closed now 2019.



Warm Chicken Salad



Salmon fillet with mashed

beetroot?

The restaurant got very busy very quick. It was good we were just in time to get a good seat.

Inverness is a busy city and the stores are crammed together along the street. After dinner we headed toward the River Ness and then turned east and followed the water for a little while to this very beautiful church called Ness Bank Church. I didn't go up to the statue of Flora MacDonald at Inverness Castle. I would be seeing her grave soon.



Inverness Castle

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inverness_Castle



The River Ness in Inverness - It flows from Loch Ness to Beauty Firth

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/River_Ness

I figured out how to return to the Ardconnel road. It was a bit convoluted and we climbed the streets and stairs and up along narrow sidewalks, and we found our lodging. Not bad.

I climbed into bed. I was tired even though Culloden had been flat it was big. I was happy for I had wanted to see it and experience it.

Sources:

1. The Jacobite Rebellion 1745-46, by Gregory Fremont-Barnes, Essential Histories, Osprey Publishing, 2011. This covers a lot of ground: Chronology, the roots of Jacobitism, the armies of two kings, The Bonnie Prince's rebellion, Raising the standard of revolt, Lord George Murray, The battle of Culloden, Flora MacDonald, Highland Life in the mid-18th Century, Conclusion and consequences etc.
2. Battle of Culloden - Wikipedia - interesting maps of the battle: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Culloden
3. The Jacobite Cause BBC
http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/civil_war_revolution/scotland_jacobites_01.shtml
4. Jacobite Rebellion of 1745 website has some interesting information and lists. I have not studied it, but it might be useful: <https://www.jacobites.net/>

A Tour of Scotland: Loch Ness and Urquhart Castle

June 22, 2018

I was up early, and I tried to catch up the journaling of our trip. Yes, I do a detailed itinerary so I know what each day will bring. I can make decisions about what to do or not do when the time comes. I then journal the day's activities: where we went, what we saw, how I felt, what we ate. I have learned that it is so easy to forget. I like to do it when it is fresh in my mind. I then review it later and add to it. I do go back and use parts of it for my stories on my blogs and to refresh my memory. Editing is always a challenge and I always find mistakes.

Remember that we had to park our car in the car park at the end of the block. Well it had rules and we needed to get our car out about 9:05 am this day. We decided to just leave the city and head to the Loch Ness Centre and Exhibition. It was about 30 minutes away, so it was not too far. We had a lovely full breakfast in a little bit of a rush and headed out in the rain to our car. It was quiet on the streets of Inverness because it was Sunday morning.



The Loch Ness Centre with gift shop to the left in the white building with hotel and restaurant to the left with the round front.

We crossed the bridge over the River Ness and proceeded down A82 but lost the Navigation at a couple of roundabouts. The road was narrow at the north end of Loch Ness and the route had some bad spots on the left side. It was very foggy over Loch Ness and rainy. You could see mountain tops peaking above the thick fog. I had confidence it would get nicer by the afternoon. There was very little traffic so that was good.

We arrived at the Loch Ness Centre and Exhibition and pulled into the parking lot. The centre is housed in a former old brick hotel. <http://www.lochness.com/>



Parking the car



Loch Ness Centre side view and entrance

The tour meandered into and out of separate rooms in the museum, where they told the story of Loch Ness.



The Presentation maps

They reviewed the ancient history of Scotland and continental drift. They talked about the sightings of the monster and gave a timeline of those events and what was seen. They tried to explain what might have really happened. They talked about the sonar mapping of the Loch. The Loch structure and the base has been totally mapped. They discussed that large sea creatures could not live in the Loch without food and Loch Ness does not have enough food to support the type of creature people are seeing. They talked about the wave action of the warm and cooler water causing shifts in the surface of the Loch that might cause ripples creating effects. One sighting might have been a bird, others might have been debris or a giant sturgeon. It was a good presentation and I enjoyed it.

I have the Loch Ness Centre & Exhibition brochure and we also have the Loch Ness, by Adrian Shine, Loch Ness Project guidebook. Both are very interesting. I was very pleased with myself for knowing quite a bit about the Loch Ness Monster. I believe I have seen PBS Specials on the Loch Ness Monster and maybe other specials over the years. I like legends.

There is the scientific exhibit and then there is Nessieland. We did not make it to Nessieland. After studying the website. I can see that we would have needed a full day to do that. It is also in another location and separate from the exhibit we visited. It is more for children, but I am sure we would have managed: <https://www.nessieland.co.uk/>

They also have cruises on the Loch. The shuttle was leaving off tourists who had taken the cruise and they were laughing and talking and saying it was a good tour and they were glad they had gone on it.



Brochures for Loch Ness

After you finish with the presentation in the centre you end up in the gift shop. Of course, I studied it all very carefully - twice.

Here I am attempting to take a selfie of me and a stuffed Nessie toy. I am so bad at selfies. You can see my eyes are wrong and I had the wrong setting with the postage stamp thing. AUGH!



Toys and Selfie

I purchased a T-Shirt with Loch Ness on it. I do collect them when I travel. Hubby found a mug with a Scottish Coo on it and he wanted me to see it. We headed into the store called the

Whiskey Store. It is a nice mug, sturdy. It says that it is dishwasher safe, but I am not sure about microwaves. Well, I have tried it and it works in the microwave.

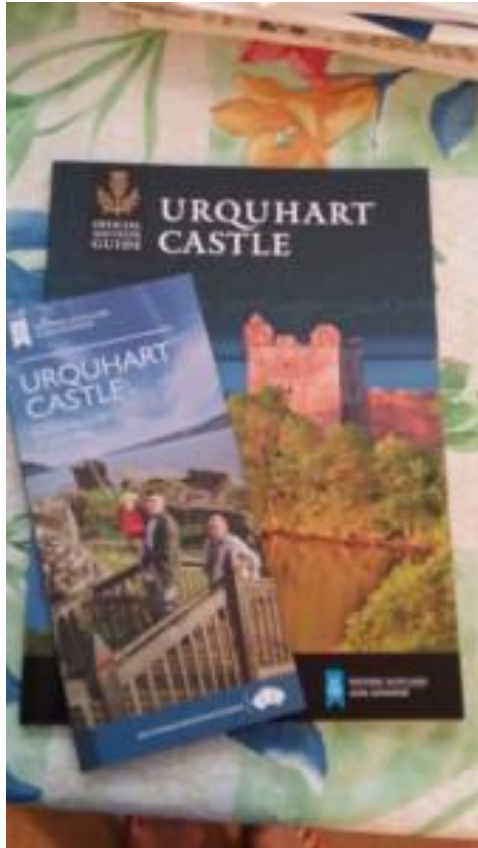


Coo Mug

While he was buying the mug, I asked the sales ladies several questions. The name of the town is Drumnadrochit. The sales ladies tried to help me to pronounce it. The trick is to say it very fast Drum na dro chit. Somehow Hubby was talking about driving and how hard it was, and I said my job was watching the left side of the road. Well many people in the shop laughed. Yeah, I am a funny kid.

Hubby suggested that we get a snack and some coffee, so we went over to the cafeteria. He tried what was a nut bar. I had sponge cake that was very sweet. The coffee was wonderful, and I told them it was. The Scots are not really into coffee. We like the French Roast which is a rich coffee and it makes it hard to adjust to other flavors. We dallied there at the nice cafe and then Hubby decided that we should do Urquhart Castle in the nice weather. I was right, it had cleared up. He wanted to explore Lochend because he liked the picture that I put on my Facebook of Loch Ness. We had a plan.

Urquhart Castle (pronounced - Urket) is not far from the town. It is further south on Loch Ness. We found parking in the tight parking lot. It was getting very busy with lots of people. We purchased our tickets and a guidebook. It is a bit confusing. First you go down the elevator to the lower floor to access the gift and coffee shop. They have a small museum display and the exit to the castle grounds.



Urquhart Brochures



Scale model of Urquhart Castle

The small museum display was about castle life. It explained the different jobs that were needed to run the castle, such as: feed the people, dress the lord and lady and help with travel arrangements if needed, care for the animals, defend the castle, and just run things. It was quite complicated. This is a little bit of a funny description of castle life <https://www.ranker.com/list/what-life-was-like-in-medieval-castles/shanell-mouland>

They had a short film that told of the conquering of the castle over many years. The MacDonald's and the Lord of the Isles were involved on many occasions taking cattle and basically causing lots of problems till the owner Lord Grant decided to just destroy the castle. The dates of raids by MacDonalds start in 1395 and go to 1545 the last raid. Click the photo and read the reader board it is very interesting.



MacDonald Raids of the Castle



Grant's feud with the MacDonalds



The Castle as it looked through the years.

We spent quite some time walking the ruins. Hubby helped me with some of the stairs for they didn't have handrails. The weather was perfect having cleared up considerably.

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place/places/urquhart-castle/>



Presentation. He was very good and knowledgeable.



Quaich Cup - Friendship cup, my cup

There was supposed to be a free tour. We waited on a bench and nothing happened till I saw this man in a tri-cornered hat setting up his presentation. He did a wonderful talk about weaponry and how it was used. It was also a bit gruesome.

He had a Quaich cup which he explained. This is called a friendship cup. When someone comes to your home you present this cup. First you hold it and drink from it to show your guest that it is not poisoned. Holding the cup requires using both hands making you vulnerable to the other person and a possible attack. Then you hand it to them, and they drink exposing themselves. It is a sign of trust.

Photos of Urquhart Castle Ruins and Loch Ness views, sorry no Nessie sightings today! So pretty. I like Loch Ness.







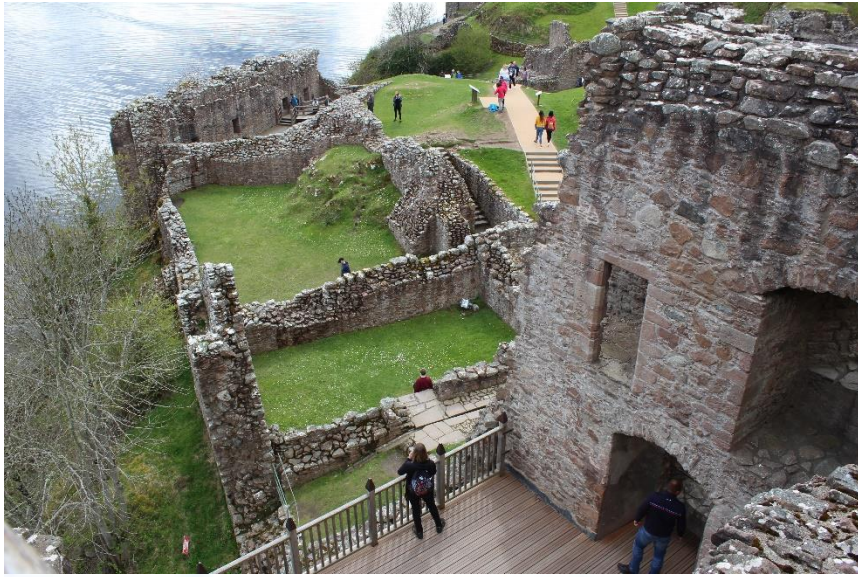














The day turned out lovely, sunny with clouds.

We left the castle and headed up to the small village at the north end of Loch Ness called Lochend. We missed the turn, so we sought out the Jacobite Cruise sign where we had been told there were some Highland Coos. Well, it was not as romantic as some pictures I had seen of the Highland coo. Some pictures are wonderful with the coos out on the Highlands and in the wilds of Scotland. They were totally uninterested in us. There was a sign asking to not disturb them.



Highland Coos. They can really swish their tails



Highland Coo in Inverness

We pulled off parked and just enjoyed the animals in the field. These were real highland coos lying about chewing their cud. There were about 4 of them in a field by the car park. Yes, we got photos of the butt ends.



Lochend - the land that juts out at the bottom of the loch

We tried again for the Lochend and Hubby turned off a little too soon onto a road that was very rough and undeveloped. He drove up to a gate which ended our little adventure. It wasn't till later that I realized that he had taken the correct road that was reflected in the photo above. It was not developed like we had thought it was. Apparently, there had been some plans to fix it up but so

far it was not happening. The gate we had seen meant we could have walked out onto the area. Be careful the road down into this is very rutted and scary when turning off the highway.



Satellite view of Loch End

Hubby decided that he wanted to go and talk to the man who was really into Nessie. This man had a trailer parked near the Dores Inn. <http://www.thedoresinn.co.uk/>



Nessie Hunter

The Dores Inn was on the east side of the lake. We drove down a lovely tree-lined road with beautiful green fields on both sides. The Dores Inn is located at the north end of Loch Ness on the east side. We managed to get a table. I had fish and chips and Hubby had some Beef dinner with potatoes and gravy. We sat in the restaurant area and not outside in the wind.



The Dores Inn



Wooden Boat Art inside the Dores Inn restaurant

The man who Hubby wanted to see was not at his trailer. It was in the corner of the parking lot for the Dores Inn. This man is really into Nessie. <http://www.doresonlochness.co.uk/steve-feltham.html>



Northeast Loch Ness



Loch Ness Info



Loch Ness - not as tranquil as near Urquhart Castle.

This is at the northeast end of Loch Ness. The water was lapping the shore and as you looked out on the Loch you saw gray water and waves. It was like a big sea. The wind was trying to whip me about, even though it was sunny with clouds. It was not really picnic weather.

We headed back to Inverness and the ArdcConnell House. The Navigation system got hung up again at this roundabout which apparently is new. We lost it and we ended up heading back and retracing our steps. In any event, we made it back to ArdcConnell Street and the car park. This car park is in a location for the main part of the city of Inverness and is highly prized. I was a bit worried we might have trouble finding a space but there were some tucked in the back area.

Since we had dinner at the Dorne Inn we were ready to just relax and prepare for leaving Inverness the next day. I needed to get ready for my visit to the Highland Archive at the south end area of Inverness.

A Tour of Scotland: The Highland Archive and Society to Fort Augustus

June 25, 2018

We were up early to get packed and ready for our trip to Fort Augustus which is at the south end of Loch Ness. The day was going to be sunny with some cloudiness but otherwise a good day. I was going to visit the Highland Archive and then we would head south along Loch Ness to Fort Augustus.

Breakfast was very good at the Ardconnel, I tried beans with my scrambled eggs and sausage. They do make good sausage in Scotland. They serve baked beans with breakfast and I kind of like it. They also fry or roast half a tomato and serve them as well. They had freshly baked hot cross buns which was a treat.

A nice couple from Connecticut sat at the other table and mentioned Rick Steves. He is a travel guru with his home base in Edmonds, north of Seattle. Hubby told them he knew him from his church. They described their trip so far. We, in turn, gave them our trip ideas, where we had been and where we were going. She mentioned that they had not done the visitor center in Glencoe because it was closed due to technical difficulties. Hopefully it would be fixed by the time we went there.

We packed up making sure the room was emptied. We were soon off down the street to our car, me with my two bags and Hubby dragging the two pieces of luggage along with him.

We headed out of Inverness driving over the River Ness on B861 for the last time and south down A82. We turned onto Bught Road and got a bit confused for there were all these large buildings and one had a big swimming pool. It was some sort of recreation complex. The Navigation was not helping. I was confused by it all.



Highland Archive Location

The Highland Archive building was tucked into the southwest corner of the property in a separate building. I made my way up to what appeared to be the pool building and found a map of the complex. I figured out that I needed to go east and south. We walked over to the building. Hubby tagged along so he would know where I would be. He was going to go and do some errands while I was at the archive.



Entrance to the Highland Archive

Before I had set out on this trip to Scotland, I studied the website of the Highland Archive and the Highland Family History Society. Fortunately, they are housed in the same building.

The Highland Archive in Inverness is the main archive for the Highlands. There are four archive centers. Each one of the listed archives houses records appropriate to that area. Each one has their own hours (some are limited) and locations so you need to be careful in your planning.

I find the Highland Archive website to be confusing so take your time studying it.

<https://www.highlifehighland.com/highland-archive-centre/>

1. Highland Archive in Inverness - Main archive, open 5 days a week <https://www.highlifehighland.com/highland-archive-centre/highland-archive-centre/archives-held-in-the-highland-archive-centre/>
2. Caithness Archive Center in Caithness. This archive is north of Inverness. I am very confused about this archive, its location and name, so contact them for details. I did not go into the northwestern area of Scotland above Inverness; my focus was south of Inverness. <https://www.highlifehighland.com/nucleus-nuclear-caithness-archives/>
3. Lochaber Archive Center in Fort William – has moved and is now in a new location with new hours: <https://www.highlifehighland.com/lochaber-archive-centre/>
4. Skye and Lochalsh Archive Centre in Portree. I visited this in Portree and will describe it in a future post. <https://www.highlifehighland.com/skye-and-lochalsh-archive-centre/>

You will find that each of these archives have their own set of records for the area they are serving. Here is a sort of guide based on my experience:

1. You will need to identify what areas of the Highlands the archive covers.
2. You will need to study the web pages for each archive to find out what records are housed there. To find out what they hold go to the links provided in the above in the list and study the information.
3. Find the highlighted writing that reads: *Find out more*. Click it and it will take you to a description of the records kept there. Here is the link for the Highland Archive in Inverness: <https://www.highlifehighland.com/highland-archive-centre/highland-archive-centre/archives-held-in-the-highland-archive-centre/>

Archives held in the Highland Archive Centre
[Sùthain air an t-asgòth ann an Tòsalain na Gàidhealtachd](#)

The main series of official records held at the Highland Archive Centre are those created by The Highland Council and its predecessors, the former Regional, County, District and Borough Councils.

[The Counties of Inverness, Nairn, Ross and Cromarty, and Sutherland from the 18th century to 1875.](#)

[The Boroughs of Cromarty, Dingwall, Dornoch, Fortrose, Grantown-on-Spey, Invergordon, Inverness, Kinrossie, Nairn and Tain from the 18th century to 1975.](#)

The **Highland Regional Council** 1975-1996.
The records of local government administration include:

Education records from the 1890s, including logbooks and admission registers for more than three hundred schools.
Poor relief records, 1845-1938.
Records of Highway Authorities, including turnpike trusts, 1804-1899.
Property valuation rolls, 1868-1989.
Deans of Guild and Building Control plans and registers, 1890-1995.
[Inverness Borough records](#) including High Court and Inverness County Sheriff Court process papers, 17th-19th Century.
[Abbeys and Priories](#) for the Counties of Argyll, Caithness, Inverness, Nairn, Ross and Cromarty, and Sutherland from 1781.
Police archives, 1858-1992.

Among the many hundreds of privately deposited archives in the care of the Highland Archive Service there are:

[Estate and family papers](#) including those of [Earls of Dalrymple](#) from 1705, and those of [Marquess of Blandford](#) from 1670.
[Business and industrial records](#) including the records of the [Caledonian Canal](#) from 1800.
Church records including Kirk session and presbytery records for parishes in the presbyteries of Inverness, Ross, Sutherland, Lochaber & Skye, and Moray & Morayshire dating from c.1640.
[Inverness District Asylum](#) records including patient records and staff registers from 1867 onwards.
[Records of individuals, societies, and other local organisations.](#)
Records relating to the history of [fishing](#).
Maps and plans, including estate maps, Roy's Military Survey, and extensive holdings of Ordnance Survey plans dating from the 1860s.

Record Summary Example - area covered and records held in the archive

4. On the website for the Highland Archive record contents are highlighted red writing. Click on those and it will take you to another webpage: "[Privately deposited archives](#)" and "[Church records](#)" and "[Inverness District Asylum](#)."

5. I clicked the "[privately deposited archives](#)" on this webpage to find the link to the "[Topical Index](#)" *click on that and it will take you to a PDF "Topical Index to Deposited Collections."* It contains a table of contents of the different records. Other tables of contents can be 100's of pages. They call them "catalogues." This list is 57 pages. Starting on page 4 of the PDF is the table of contents listing subjects.

6. I read through the online Topical Index and made a list of those records that interested me.

HIGHLAND COUNCIL ARCHIVES

D90 Genealogical Donations, 1738-1925

Accession	Reference
GB232/Acc.130	HCA/D90

Ref.	Description	Dates
D901	Information on Lieutenant Hugh Mackenzie, born Inverness, 7 th Canadian Machine Gun Co. World War I [1 item]	n.d.
D902	History of Paterson of Black Isle [1 item]	n.d.
D903	John Grant, convict Settler in Australia, 1794 - 1812 [1 item]	n.d.
D904	Document and transcription of feyding disagreement in Inverness Harbour [1 item]	n.d.

Example of Table of Contents (catalogue) of one record set

7. Review the catalogues and select the ones you are interested in. The archivist will need the Reference Number, Description and years.

8. I wrote an email to the Highland Archive and told them what I was looking for. I was interested in anything about MacDonalDs/Macdonells and would be visiting the Highland Archive in May. I was surprised by the response. The archivist sent me the "catalogues" of various records sets for me based on my email inquiry and my list from the Topical Index to Deposited Collection. I recommend that you be specific and do some studying of the Topical Index and drill down.

9. I did read through the catalogues that he sent to me and eliminated them drilling down to what looked doable.

The next thing I did was study the Highland Family History Societies website. I clicked on all the links: events, publications, resources, membership, useful link (which is very good) and

contacts. There are other highlighted words on their website, click those too: I have found them to be friendly so please email them with your questions.

<http://www.highlandfamilyhistorysociety.org/>



Web page Highland Family History Society, Inverness

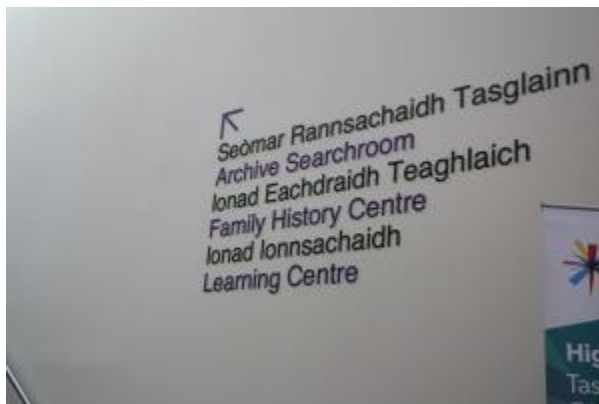
My goal was to visit two repositories on this day. My time was restricted. I had about 3 hours.

1. The Highland Archive which had the records of the Highland areas of Inverness, Nairn, Ross and Cromarty, and Sutherland.
2. The second was the Highland Family History Society which just happened to be housed in the first room of the Highland Archive in Inverness. They have their Catalog listing on their website and member interests which I found all very interesting.



Sign inside the foyer

I entered the foyer of the building and saw the standing board with the sign pointing upstairs.



Sign for where to go

I climbed the stairs and entered the Highland Archive room which is on the 2nd floor. I was greeted by a very friendly young man who had me sign in and explained the rules. He pointed to the lockers at the front of the room. He also showed me the books in the back of the room and the Clan Donald titles. I emptied my bag taking what I needed and then put the remaining into the locker and took the key. I put that key in my pocket and zipped it up. I have been known to lose a key and it is not fun, guard it carefully.



First Room Highland Archive - the Genealogy Room, perhaps

There are two rooms. The room in the photo above is the first room and it has the reception desk, lockers, computers, microfilm readers, books, and map files. The second room is back further on the floor. In the photo the 2nd room would be behind me. That inner room is where you consult the special research files that I described above.

I sat at the large table to the right of the photocopier. It was next to the Highland Family History Society desk and the bookcases along the back wall of the room not shown in the picture. <http://www.highlandfamilyhistorysociety.org/>

Just a few minutes later the Highland Family History Society volunteer appeared at the desk. We talked for some time and he asked me questions. After I convinced him that I knew what I was doing, he accepted my family research packet of mainly the MacD's and my blog brochure. I was pleased. I decided right then to sign up for membership.

At this point I turned to studying all Clan Donald book titles on the bookshelf. I found about 14 titles in the Clan Donald section that might be helpful in identifying the different groupings of Clan Donald. I was learning that Clan Donald is very complicated in its lineages such as: Clanranald, Glengarry, Boisdale, Glenaladale, Lundie, Sleat etc., etc. As I studied a book, I wrote down the title, author, date of publication information. I also identified pages to copy.

Here is a list of those books/articles I had copied. Some of these books might be online for viewing.

1. Clan Donald Magazine, No. 12, 1959 - 1) The MacDonald's of Glenalladale, Iain R. McKay. 2) MacD of Glenaladale and Borrodale 3) MacDonalds of Lundie 4 MacDonells/MacDonalds of Glengarry/Stormont - Canada by Duncan Darby MacDonald U.E.
2. Coilkitto! A Celebration of Clan Donald of Colonsay 1570-1674, 1997 by Kevin Burns
3. The Clan Ranald of Knoydart & Glengarry, Norman H. MacDonald FSA Scotland, 1979 and a 1995 version. (I was to purchase this book online after trying to find it in Scotland.)
4. Moidart Among the Clan Ranalds, Charles MacDonald 1997
5. The MacDonald's of Clan Ranald by Alexander MacKenzie FS Scot., 1973
6. The Lord of the Isles, by Ronald Williams 2009 and 1997

Did not make copies of the following books.

1. MacDonald of the Isles, A.M. W. Stirling 1914
2. The MacDonalds of Glencoe, 1998 by Alexander McDonald
3. The Clan Ranald of Lochaber 1973-75, Norman H. MacDonald
4. History of the MacDonalds, Lord of the Isles, 1973 by Alexander MacKenzie
5. The Fate of Glengarry, Bernard W. Kiley, 1905
6. The Clan Ranald of Garmoran, Norman H. MacDonald 2008
7. The MacDonald's of Glengarry, Alexander MacKenzie 1973
8. Clan Donald, Donald J. Macdonald of Castleton 1978

The receptionist at the front desk did the copying for me and counted the copies and put them with the book I was getting the information from.

I also studied their map collection and found some were modern ordnance maps and others were Victorian vintage, which I think I might like better. You can buy them online, but I will try the map collection of the National Library of Scotland first. I have spent some time studying maps for the Highlands and it has helped a great deal in understanding where things are.

About this time Hubby appeared and he settled in next to me. I told him I was moving into the inner research room of the Highland archive. I entered that room and signed in again at the desk.

I requested the table of contents (catalogue) of the (D456) MacDonnell of Glengarry (Baillie of Dunain papers 1789 to 1831) listing that I had found in my research and inquiry above. I was told it was too large for them to send me via email. The assistant handed me the title inventory book and it was filled with this collection. It was huge. I searched through the whole book and found the Glengarry information at the back end of the book D456/C Macdonell of Glengarry papers. Now this was just the table of contents of the collection (catalogue) and it was 9 pages long. The last page was Other Solicitor's Correspondence D456/D/1 and it looks like it was cut off. I did scan through the whole book.

I had a packet of my family history research that I wanted to give to this archive, but I learned that the archivist was at a meeting in Fort William this day. Well at least the Highland Family History Society had copies.

At this time, I decided after reading through the copies that I did not have time to dig in because the detail was overwhelming. It would take a good day of serious research, if not more, to wade through all the information. So, I asked to have the table of content (catalogue) pages copied. I paid for the copies and we also gave a donation.

Loch Ness to Fort Augustus

We headed out of the Highland Archive. I suggested to Hubby that we eat in Drumnadrochit. I also wanted to check out the visitor center that I saw there the day before. Our drive down Loch Ness went easily. We parked in the Visitor parking area in Drumnadrochit. I went into the Visitor center and proceeded to study the Explorer Maps and others they had for sale but decided not to buy them. They are broken down in various groupings that I don't always like.



The Fiddler Restaurant

Drumnadrochit is a fun town with lots of activity in this central area. There were several cafes and hotels across the road, so we headed over to the Fiddlers Highland Restaurant to get some lunch. I had a hamburger and Hubby got soup and a salad. They had a lot of bottles up on their wall arranged in groupings of location where the whiskey was from. <http://www.fiddledrum.co.uk/>

We continued to our drive along Loch Ness. The road is narrow and winding, so it was slow going. A motorcycle and a big car passed us. Hubby did pull over once for about 6 cars. Fort Augustus was not that far about 15 miles. We located our bed and breakfast and fortunately there was parking out front of the Caledonian House Bed and Breakfast. (I am not sure, but this might be up for sale now, so be careful and check it out.)



Caledonian Bed and Breakfast in Fort Augustus

We rang the door buzzer and were greeted by the owner. She didn't have me down for the day as a guest, so I showed her the confirmation email. This was the only B&B that I paid the total cost in advance. She confirmed it was her invoice. She gave us the room on the first floor which meant no stairs. Carol, the owner, is quite the character and used the phrase *on a good day* a lot.

Hubby and I wanted to see the Caledonian locks and the Clansman Center, so we set off on our walk. Getting around in Fort Augustus is easy for it is small. It turns out the Canal center was undergoing renovation which was a disappointment. I was hoping for a museum explaining the canal system. <https://www.scottishcanals.co.uk/canals/caledonian-canal/>



The Clansman Center

We walked over to The Clansman Center. We entered a small gift shop and a few minutes later the salesperson appeared, and I asked about the presentation. He said that they have had to cut back on their presentations because they are not getting the tourism they once had. Again, I was disappointed. I had wanted to see their presentation about Clan life, it looked very interesting from what I saw on their website: <http://www.clansmancentre.uk/>



Caledonian Canal lock section



Caledonian Canal Mechanisms

We wandered up to the canal and climbed up the stairs noting that the water was lower in some of the sections and boats were up at the top of the staircase canal. There was a fancy speed boat, several other types of boats and a tourist barge waiting to leave a section of the locks. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caledonian_Canal



Boats along the canal



Fingal a vacation Barge



Fingal a barge



Fingal a vacation barge



Fingal <http://www.caledonian-discovery.co.uk/>



Fingal



Schedule post



Opening the gates



Boats Leaving, they don't dally...

We observed the water filling up the section and then the doors opened. First out of the canal were the small boats, some rafts with motors on them and then the two large boats.

There are more Caledonian Canal sections from Inverness down to Fort William. It is a whole system of canals through the Great Glen. This was only one part of the system.

<https://www.scottishcanals.co.uk/canals/caledonian-canal/>

Back at the room we settled in. I took some cough medicine that Hubby bought me and caught up the journaling. Our room was a nice size with lots of wood paneling. We were on the ground floor and the window opened onto the road and I had to be careful about the privacy. The bathroom was roomy. It was a very nice room.



A Picture of Fort Augustus

Hubby and I decided on the Boathouse Restaurant <http://www.lochnessboathouse.co.uk/> which was out on the very south end of Loch Ness. It was a bit unusual because you had to walk to it. If you look at the old picture above, you locate the canal on the right, and you walk along on the left side. The walk was a good several long blocks on a semi dirt/gravel walkway. You could peer through the trees and hedge into the grounds that are to the left in the photo. There was a huge house inside the grounds, I believe it is the [Highland Club](#), which is very fancy.

The Boathouse Restaurant was at the loch shore sort of where the white dot is in the photo above.



Boathouse Restaurant in Fort Augustus



Through the sliding window of the Boathouse Restaurant looking out north to Loch Ness

The restaurant was designed like a boat with a wooden ceiling and rafters that came down the ceiling and small windows on one wall that reminded me of port holes. The weather was milder and warmer than the north end of the Loch.

For dinner, I had salmon and Hubby had a shrimp dinner. Once again, our timing was great for the restaurant really filled up quickly.



The south end of Loch Ness



The south end of Loch Ness



Walking back from the Boathouse.

Back at our room we settled in for the night.

A Tour of Scotland: Fort Augustus, Glengarry Heritage Center to Kintail Lodge...

June 30, 2018

We were up after 7 am this day. We were staying at the Caledonian House Bed and Breakfast in Fort Augustus. I liked our room. It was square and had wooden trim on the doors and more. I slept very well that night, because Fort Augustus is very quiet.

Breakfast was in the dining room which may have been a living area at one time. A man was handling the serving and he said he was Carol's brother. I changed my order to scramble eggs and smoked salmon. I had a bowl of Rice Krispies with milk and sugar. I have not eaten them in years. Yup, they still crackle.

Later in the breakfast Carol came in and told stories, she is quite the character, nice, funny and friendly. She is very knowledgeable about the area and where things are. She also told stories. Apparently, she worked with a chef at one time and traveled a lot. One of her dogs disappeared and was found north of Inverness. It cost her a small fortune to bring him home. She brought him into the room, and I saw that he was a hunting dog and a bit wired.

Hubby and I went back to our room, packed up and we were out of there a little after 10 am. We headed to the store for some food. I purchased a sandwich, banana and some juice. We were heading into areas that might not have food available. I didn't really need to worry; you do not go hungry in Scotland. The town was very busy with tourists, buses, motorcycles, and cars and it was a little hard to get around them all.

We went the wrong way going north upon leaving Fort Augustus. We figured it out. We turned around and headed south on A82 in the direction of Invergarry. The highway took us passed the Lundie View Guest House.

We past the Aberchalder & Glengarry Estates <http://www.aberchalderestate.co.uk/> and then we came to a bridge that opened up to let a boat through. It is called the Aberchalder Swing Bridge. These location names are very familiar to me and my Canadian family research. We are entering Glengarry country.



Map of area south of Fort Augustus to Invergarry

At the top of the map you see A82 crossing over the River Oich and Canal to the other side of Loch Oich. That is where the Aberchalder Swing Bridge is located near the Aberchalder Estate. <http://www.aberchalderestate.co.uk/history/>

We arrived in Invergarry turning onto A87. We stopped at the very tiny post office and I asked the attendant where the Glengarry Heritage Center was located. She was very helpful explaining that we just needed to keep going on the road and we would find it.

The Google map below is not correct. The Glengarry Heritage Center is in the Glengarry Community Center, not over by the Craigard House. We left the Post office and drove A87 west around the corner and just where the green area is we turned left and left again following the road signs to the Glengarry Community Hall.



Glengarry Heritage Center is in the Glengarry Community Center



The roadway to the Glengarry Heritage Centre



The Glengarry Community Center in Invergarry

Somehow, I stumbled upon the Glengarry Heritage Centre website before we left for Scotland. I was excited. They mentioned emigrants to Canada on their website. You never know when you are going to find a gem, and this was one of those. I rearranged our itinerary to make sure I did not miss this archive. I emailed them letting them know I was coming. It took several weeks for a reply, but they are small and all volunteer, so please be patient.

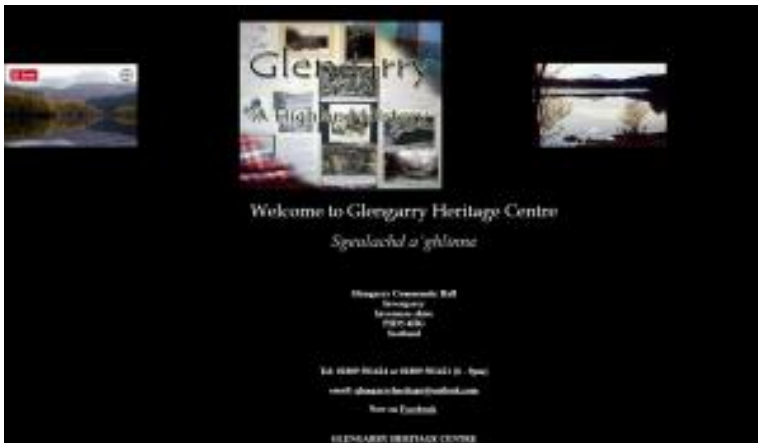


Glengarry News Board



Glengarry Community Center in Invergarry - Me, Bonnie, ready to go inside to the Heritage Center.

<http://www.glengarryheritagecentre.com/>



Website for Glengarry Heritage - a portion

The Glengarry Heritage Center is a room housed in the Glengarry Community Center. There is a cafe as well and meeting rooms etc. I entered the heritage center and was greeted by Veronica. She had pulled some books for me. There were about 4-5 books of which I had some in my own home library. Veronica, Patsy, Catherine and a tall man (name escapes me but very knowledgeable) were all very helpful and answered all my questions. As usual, there is never enough space and this room for the heritage center had a lot of information stuffed into the room.



A quick picture of the Books on the bookshelf



More books

Books on shelf at the Glengarry Heritage Center. Okay, this is not a complete listing of the books in the pictures, but it is a nice grouping.

- Scottish Clans & Tartans, Ian Grimble
- Tartans, Christian Hesketh - I have several books about tartans and clans
- Adventurers & Exiles, Marjory Harper
- A Dance Called America - I have a copy in my library, one of the 1st I bought about emigration to America and very good.
- The Last of the Chiefs, Brian D. Osborne - See my comment below
- History of the Highland Clearances
- Clearance and Improvement, T.M. Devine
- Legacy of Tradition, F.R. McDonald
- The Dynamics of Heritage
- The Highland Clearances, MacKean
- The Highland Clearances, John Prebble. I have a copy in my library

- The Highland Clearances, Eric Richards - See below books I bought from them.
- The Lochaber Emigrants to Glengarry, Fleming. I have page copies somewhere
- The Last Highland Clearance, Iain MacKay
- Scotland Farewell, The People of the Hector, Donald MacKay
- A Summer in Lochaber, Scots in Canada, Cathriona Fford
- Back to Lochaber, Stuart Macdonald
- Miss K. Janie Balfour's Diary 1831-32, Ellice
- Discovering Inverness-shire, Maclean
- Inverness, J. Cameron [Lee]
- Jane Ellices Recipes 1846-1859
- Knoydart - A History, Benis Rixson - Bought Later
- Lochiel of the 45, John _____
- Mist in the Corries, Alistair Grant
- Moidart, Charles Macdonald - Bought Later
- Scots in Canada, Jennie Calder - I am rather interested in this one?

I bought the following books from them and we gave a donation.

- *Caesars Wilderness*, by Peter C. Newman - £1 This book was among their books for sale pile and was recommended by Patsy. Not sure what it is about but I am willing to check it out.
- *The Highland Clearances* by Eric Richards - I asked them all about Prebbles, *Highland Clearances* and there seemed to be mixed review of his work.
- *Place names of Glengarry and Glenquoich* etc., Edward Ellice - This has a map in the back and covers Glengarry, Aberchalder, Ardochy, and Glenquoich Districts. This book is a reprint in 1999. There is an 1898 version at Internet Archive but no map.
- *2 Glengarry Heritage Centre Historical Guides* - This pamphlet has a listing of locations/buildings in Glengarry and a map.
- *2 Each Invergarry Castle Ancestral Home of the MacDonells of Glengarry* pamphlet

Veronica had pulled several books. Unfortunately, I did not write down or note the books she had pulled, not a good move on my part. I was pulling books from the shelf, for sale table, asking questions and generally causing myself confusion. I was very excited and happy.

- *The Clan Ranald of Knoydart & Glengarry* with some papers place in the pages she thought might be of most interest to me. This book was at the Highland Archive on their bookshelf. I know have my own musty copy from Leahey's Bookshop in Inverness purchased when I got home. It is currently being aired out and it is a hard copy. It is online, but very expensive so you must do a little digging to find a less expensive copy or try to find it in a local archive.
- Lucille Campeys "*After the Hector*," I am a Campey fan and have all her books. Hmm...maybe it was the other book above *Scotland Farewell, The People of the Hector*, Donald MacKay.
- I think she had Marianne McLean's "*The People of Glengarry*," which I have a copy of in my home library and was reading it before I left for Scotland.

The Last of the Chiefs by Osborne is about Alasdair Ranaldson Macdonell of Glengarry 1773-1828. My Aunt Miriam had a small picture of him framed that is in the memorabilia bin here at my home. I asked the group their opinion of this man and again received mixed reviews. The tall man suggested this book. I would learn a bit more about him in the next weeks and see other portraits. He was very young in 1788 (15 years old) when he took over from his father Duncan MacDonell.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_Ranaldson_Macdonell



Alasdair Ranaldson Macdonell

Veronica kindly accepted my family research packet. I showed her the lineage on my tablet and explained what I have researched and done. I also gave them my blog pamphlet which refers to this blog, my other blogs and my research on the family and more.



Glengarry Heritage Center, May 2018

More stuff on the shelves:



There were about 3 shelves with these binders of the file records and file boxes below.

I took time to study their many reader boards that featured emigration of Glengarry inhabitants and they had the "MacDonald" ship to New York 1774. These were the settlers who settled on the land of Sir William Johnson in the Mohawk Valley. I traveled there several years ago to Sir Johnson's house. The boards mention the "Friends, Helen and Jane" ships in 1802, the Lochaber migration. A list of locations that the immigrants left from in Glengarry. Maps on the wall and a relief map of the Glengarry area with locations identified. I saw a brief description of the settlers walking to Fort William to board ships, oh my.

I selected the blue binder book covering Emigration (Folder 4) Contents. It was a listing of about 2 pages of information and sources about this subject. I took photos. As you can see there are many of these blue binders that one could study.

The highlight was the MacDonald chart that was resting on a table. It was huge. Veronica indicated that most of it was proved except for the part that was Somerled's ancestors. I looked the chart over and recognized names of chiefs. Unfortunately, they would not allow photography of it for copyright reasons and it is not for sale. I told them that I was very interested in a copy. We will see.

It was a fun several hours at the Glengarry Heritage Center. I encourage and recommend that you go and visit.

We headed out, finding the Glengarry Castle hotel built between 1866-69 for Edward Ellice Jnr. The Ellices made their fortune in furs and lumber and were associated with the Hudson's Bay Company. This name is familiar to me for I have seen it in the records at the Highland

Archive: Here are some okay links to the Son and then father: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Ellice_\(Scottish_politician\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Ellice_(Scottish_politician)) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Ellice_\(merchant\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Ellice_(merchant))

Veronica told us that they might have copies of the book I was interested in - *The Clan Ranald of Knoydart & Glengarry*, by Norman H. MacDonald.

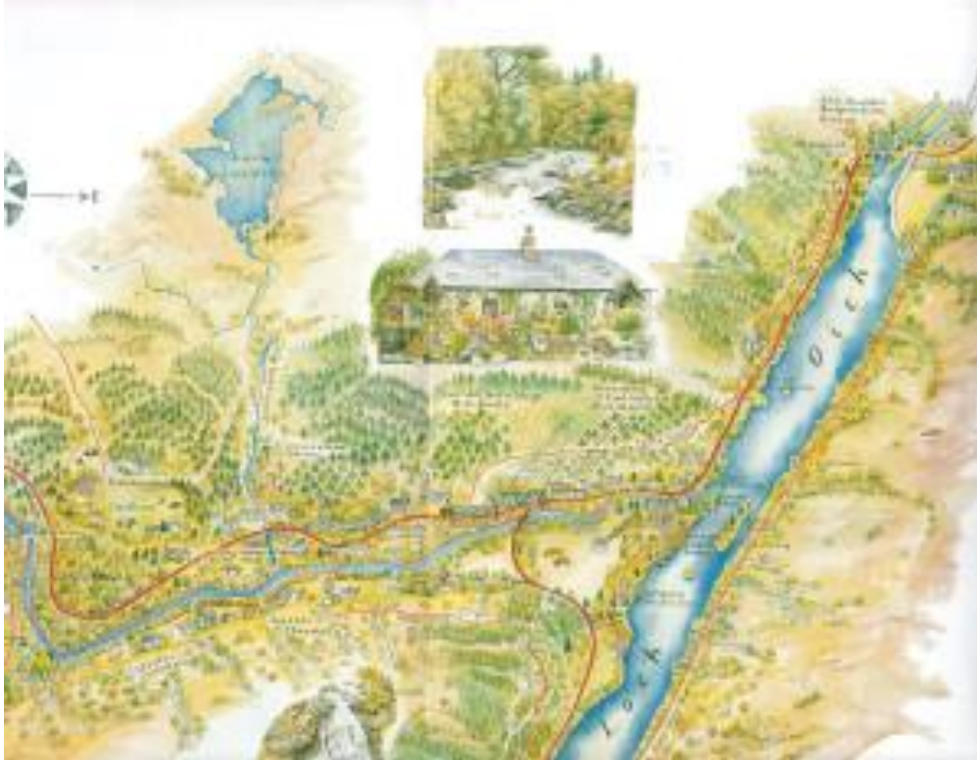


Glengarry Castle Hotel and car park

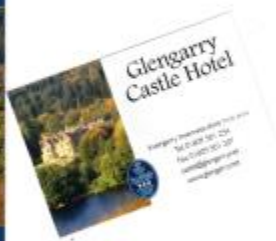
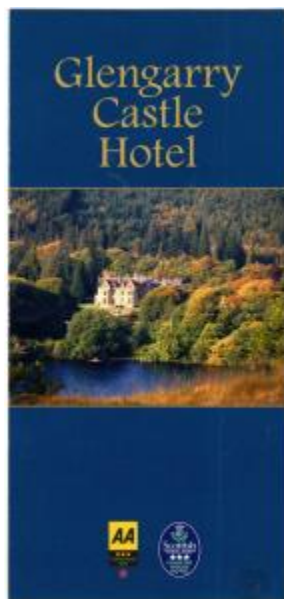


It is huge this grouping of buildings

We asked about meals and they said that they would be serving tea soon. It sounded wonderful and we would be back: <http://www.glengarry.net/>



A fun map of Invergarry, notice Loch Lundy



Armed with instructions on how to find the Invergarry castle ruins we drove out along the road. The castle was on the grounds of the hotel. It was not that hard to find once we got a little better oriented. This castle was a MacDonell of Glengarry castle.

What follows is a pictures of Invergarry Castle I took in May 2018. They have done much to keep it from crumbling further as you can see the big beams inside.

As I was looking at the Invergarry Castle ruins a car pulled up and parked. The lady and her son were touring the area. They were both English. She was an expert on castle histories. She called the Invergarry Castle, a Keep. She explained that it was probably whitewashed so it could be seen. She was trying to find the entrance. It was wonderful to hear her explain it all. It was not like Urquhart Castle but built more for military reasons. The Duke of Cumberland destroyed it. Veronica called him the Butcher. Hubby went down the trail to the loch edge and saw the wreck and followed the pheasant. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Invergarry_Castle

Images of Invergarry Castle follow:













Me at Invergarry Castle



Well, I think I am going to have to study up on castle histories it is all so very interesting. Castles have their own stories and histories. <http://traveluto.com/castles-in-scotland/>

After viewing the castle ruins, we went back to the Glengarry Castle Hotel and had tea and coffee in one of their lovely rooms. They served a tray of lovely delicacies. It was 3 tiered starting with sandwiches and ending in pastries at the top. It was delightful. <http://www.glengarry.net/>

The Glengarry Castle Hotel Grounds in Glengarry:











One of the lovely rooms in the Glengarry Castle Hotel



Waiting for our tea and goodies

The weather was threatening to be nasty, but we were managing to keep ahead of it. Hubby went off to explore the grounds and Loch Oich. Spring was showing itself and the grounds were lovely. This Hotel is in a great location if you really want to explore Glengarry. It is within reach of Fort Augustus, Fort William and other locations in the area.

Glengarry Castle Hotel - Hubby saw it online and joked that he wanted to stay in room 9. Alas, we did not stay in a room, but it was a lovely visit.

From Invergarry we headed west on A87 which passed along Loch Garry. The highway then turned up and skirted the northern part of Loch Loyne. We turned left at the Junction of A887 with A87.

Now if we were really digging deep into the Glengarry area, we would have driven around Loch Garry out on country roads. Another possibility was, I could have had us leave Fort Augustus go

north and turn west on A887 to cover more of the Glengarry area. If we had gone further west, we would eventually come to Knoydart. I found these maps at a fishing site which has more maps of the area. Just scroll down the site and you can get an idea of the area involved. Remember these are current maps: <http://www.trout-salmon-fishing.com/scotland-glengarry.htm>



This site shows elevation of the A87 and the surrounding mountains, really cool: [https://elevationmap.net/3-a87-kyle-iv40-8hn-uk#latlng=\(57.22164137750767,-5.416754313696288\)](https://elevationmap.net/3-a87-kyle-iv40-8hn-uk#latlng=(57.22164137750767,-5.416754313696288))



Loch Garry looking west, by a Kenneth Barker in 2010, someone's ancestors lived along the shores of this loch years ago...

As I have stated above, the highway, A87, goes along Loch Garry and then curves up past Loch Loyne and you leave the Glengarry area:

<https://canmore.org.uk/site/search/result?NUMLINK=312944&view=map>

We turned west and drove past Loch Cluanie. Hubby pulled off and I took pictures of the area. Loch Cluanie is getting deep into the Highlands. It is very quiet and a tad cool. There are mountains to the south of the loch.

So, what do you think of Loch Cluaine versus Loch Garry (see photo above), it looks lonely to me.



Loch Cluaine



Loch Cluaine hills



Loch Cluaine Hills and A87



Loch Cluaine Mts



Loch Cluaine

At the end of Loch Cluaine (A87 is 750 feet or so in elevation) and a bit past is the Cluanie Inn. I thought of staying at this inn but decided that another was my goal. Their website photos of the area are amazing, and I suggest you take a look. It is amazing country: <https://www.cluanieinn.com/>

We zipped past the Battle of Glen Shiel (recognize this name from Canadian research). Another battle in the long history of the Jacobite Rebellion. This time it took place in 1719. I am amazed

that the government was this far into the Highlands, but I do see reference to a Military Road on the maps:

http://www.battlefieldsofbritain.co.uk/battle_glenshiel_1719.html

We made it to the Kintail Lodge Hotel on Loch Duich (a saltwater loch) a little after 4 pm and settled in. Their address is Glen Shiel, Kyle of Lochalsh; <http://kintailodgehotel.co.uk/>

They offered dinner at 6 pm so we made reservations. We dithered in our room. It was very pleasant with many windows that looked out on the grounds and the loch. It had a sitting area and a desk. I was pleased. The sun broke through and we went for a walk on the property before dinner.



Kintail Lodge a former hunting lodge



From our Window - Kintail Lodge



The area around the Kintail



The Kintail Lodge is not small



Wee Bunkhouse - no we did not stay in this building



Lovely garden grounds

A group of wild goats were walking on the highway. I had seen a road sign warning about wild goats. They were right on the road and the cars go by fast, fortunately they hurried.



Wild Goats





The Wild Goats seemed to know where to go

The restaurant is combined with a bar. There was a group of men enjoying drinks. People kept coming in and out of the restaurant and it did fill up. I ordered the Steak and Whiskey Dinner. Hubby tried the Venison stew. I also chose wine for dinner and Hubby had a dark Skye brewed beer. The Scots know how to make ice cream, so I ordered some and Hubby broke down and helped me eat it. It was wonderful. Like I said, you don't go hungry in Scotland.



The Tavern Entrance



Skye Beer



Venison Stew



Steak and Whiskey Pie

Off to our room and time to get ready for bed. I am tired.

A quick note: The town of Glenelg was about 30 minutes to the west from the lodge on a country road. It is right across from the Isle of Skye. There is a ferry north of it that goes to Skye. I decided not to go there. Glenelg is pronounced saying the final g. It is another familiar term for Canadian research. It is also the parish name that covers a large area of the Highlands. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glenelg,_Highland

A Tour of Scotland: Kintail Lodge, Eilean Donan Castle, Kyleakin to Portree...

July 4, 2018

I was up early to do some chores and the alarm went off at 7 am. Looking out the window of Kintail Lodge, I noticed that the Loch was very still, and the water was glassy and smooth. Was this a good omen for the day?



Morning at Kintail Lodge



So still



The Loch and Hills



Morning on the Hills



Through the window at breakfast

Breakfast time came at 8 am. I waited and decided to go ahead because I wanted some good coffee. They serve it in French Press coffee makers. The breakfast room was in the other part of the hotel and it was filled with people. There was one table that had a very large party of very happy people. I started with a bowl of Corn Flakes and the waitress brought toast. I ordered the Salmon and scrambled eggs. Hubby appeared, he ordered the Haddock and a poached egg. I was sitting in the bay window looking out on the Loch and that was nice. This was day 12 of our 21 - day trip.



Kintail Brochure page 1

After breakfast we dallied in the room getting packed. Eilean Donan Castle didn't open till 10 am so we had time. Getting our luggage down to the car was not easy because the steps were many and they have these heavy fire doors. We went through the bar area and found a door that was unlocked to the outside. The day was going to be a great with sun and some clouds.

Eilean Donan Castle is one of the most photographed castles in Scotland. It is situated on three saltwater lochs making it very strategic: <http://www.eileandonancastle.com/>

The castle was close and located at the other end of Loch Duich. It did not take us long to get to the very busy and crowded parking lot. Apparently, the tourist buses come early.

Take a look at this tourist map of the area. We were at the Kintail Lodge just past Shiel Bridge on the south end of the Loch Duich. The Castle is where the Dornie sign is. We are getting close to the Isle of Skye. You will see some place names of interest if you study this.



Lochalsh map

We made our way to the visitor center and took our time for there was a piper playing his bagpipes. It was time to pay the piper, giggle. I did record him, but WordPress won't let me upload for security reasons and they want me to pay them for audio and video.



Bagpipes at Eilean Donan



A little contribution



A much better photo of the Piper

We made our way to the visitor center and Hubby purchased the tickets. From the visitor center we went through the ticket area which lead toward the castle. The wind was a bit cold and biting.



Eilean Donan Castle



Eilean Donan is set out on a peninsula and there is a bridge to it. They had to repair it all because it was in ruins and it took a long time to make the castle safe. You can take pictures of the outside and the interior outside of the castle, but you are not allowed to do so in the inside.



Me at the Eilean Donan Castle May 2018

Here is a map of the castle:



Map of the Eilean Donan Castle

We entered this room and learned about the beginnings of the castle in the medieval period. Castles have history and stages of styles. They change over the centuries. There was mention of Vikings trying to take this Castle, but they failed. I believe this was the first real mention of Vikings on our trip. I was happy. I was hoping that Hubby would get some ancestral stories.

A smaller version of the Viking long ship called a Birlinn was used in the Western areas of Scotland. These ships worked better in the lochs and were faster and smaller.



A Dragon - Isn't he cute



A Birling Model - oops didn't see the man standing there!

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birling>

There are a lot of stairs and narrow passageways in this castle and thin windows:



A thin window through the castle walls

There was a large room with a big table, portraits, artifacts, furniture, dishes, books and more. It was very grand. Apparently, someone did live in this castle after the renovation. I did not take this photo, I found it online.



The grand room

We climbed around, up and down stairs and saw many small and large rooms and different levels of the castle. There were lots of MacRae Honor roles on the walls. Two very fancy grand dresses in a display. I do not know how they would have managed the large skirts in this castle. The kitchen had dishes, fake food and wax figures standing around. It was a bit eerie.

The last room had the portcullis and we couldn't figure out where the gate came out. Hubby saw that it was the big front door. If you looked closely you would see these teeth sticking out from the top which looked pretty scary.



The Entrance



Hubby examines the gate and the teeth

Well this castle was owned by the MacKenzies and maybe MacLeods and later the MacRae's. However, they did have a bit of trouble with Donald Gorm MacDonald a Lord of the Isles in 1539. I will let Wikipedia explain the history it is just too complicated with clan feuds and fighting, AUGH!



MacDonald's arrive

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eilean_Donan

You can climb around the interior outside area of the castle and experience a mis mash of buildings styles, the different levels, views and strange narrow walkway areas.



A variety of building styles



Looking down



Out on a thin walkway



Eilean Donan climbing around



Looking down on the entrance area



The bridge



The Car Park

We wandered back to the visitor center and headed for the cafe where we had tea and coffee and rested up. There was a woman in a wheelchair who was looking at a video of the interior of the castle which was very cool. Apparently, they offer this computer video at the visitor center for the disabled because there is no way a wheelchair can get inside the Castle.

We then wandered through the very crowded gift shop and I found a map and a book for Hubby about Vikings and he bought them. Book: *The Vikings and all that*, by Allan Burnett and illustrations by Scoular Anderson. It is done in a cartoon manner but does describe the Viking culture with illustrations. I thought it was for kids. but I am not so sure after reading some of it. Table of contents: The Viking Age, Boats and Battle Axes, The Viking Empire, How to be a Viking, Viking Explorers, The Viking Universe, The curse of the Horned helmet. In the back is a timeline of Viking events.



Where we came from - Loch Duich



Where we were going along Loch Alsh

It was time to move on the next adventure and that would be the Sky Bridge that connects the Isle of Skye to the mainland at Kyle of Lochalsh across to Kyleakin. We could see the bridge in the distance as we were driving toward it.

I kept expecting the Scottish towns to be flat, but they never are. Kyle of Lochalsh was hilly. It was also tightly packed with narrow roads. We were soon up and over the bridge to Skye in no time. It was too quick. I had Hubby take us into the town of Kyleakin on the Skye side so I could take pictures of the bridge.

The Skye bridge is not a fancy bridge with gargoyles and pillars, but it does have a lovely gentle arch. The bridge is a little further from the town of Kyle of Lochalsh via another flat bridge to this island area then to the bridge.



Kyle of Lochalsh across the loch



Another flat bridge



The Skye Bridge



Skye Bridge & Lighthouse

It was a lovely day and we lingered along the shore of the Loch before we went over to the Castle Cafe Moi and had some lunch. I had an Italian soup and Hubby had the Haddock soup which looked something like a clam chowder. They called it a broth which was a little confusing.

As I ate my lunch, I watched the cars and trucks cross the Sky Bridge. It was built-in 1996. There was a ferry from Kyle of Lochalsh before that time. The pier is still there. This ferry would cross to Kyleakin and the little harbor is where it docked. There is another ferry from Glenelg to Skye, but it is operated only during the summer, I believe?

After lunch we went over to the visitor center called the Bridge of Brightwater. <https://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/skye/brightwater/index.html>

The nice lady at the desk was helpful and answered our questions. She told us that you couldn't go over to the Castle ruins because it was too dangerous, and they had it blocked off. So, I took pictures from afar. It is called Caisteal Maol.



Castle Maol



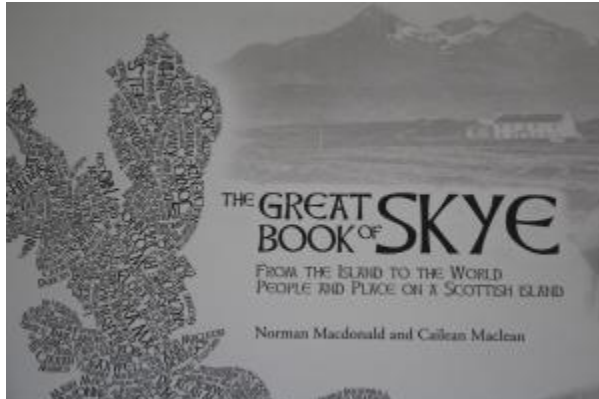
<https://ancientmonuments.uk/124930-caisteal-maol-castle-moyle-kyleakin-skye-eilean-cho-ward>

The visitor center had a gift shop with many tempting items. There was this wonderful sculpture of an otter, but it was very expensive. Outside was a statue that was similar.



Otter sculpted

The visitor center also had a museum with all kinds of history of the area, artifacts and a huge relief of the area with the Skye bridge. They had a small genealogical section and one of the two volumes of very thick book. The second volume has a 2 on the cover - The Great Book of Skye: <http://www.greatbookofskye.com/>



The Great Book of Skye Volume I

It was time to head to Portree the main town of Skye and where our lodging was located.

The Isle of Skye was not what I expected but then I am not sure I really understood its topography even though I studied photos online. As we drove along, we both remarked that it looked rather desolate and I even compared it to the moon. This made Hubby laugh. I am not being critical, just surprised and amazed at the landscape there. It is so varied.

It took about 50 minutes to get to Portree and the road was winding its way along the eastern coastline next to the Inner Sound. We passed through Broadford and it was bigger than I was led to believe. It is also flat, at least where the highway was located. We would be back to experience a little more of this town.

The road once again came close to the water at Loch na Caindh and the Isle of Scalpay was across from it. Then the A87 turns and follows Loch Ainort past a mountain called Glamaig and around to Loc Sligachan. You pass through Sligachan and head up to Portree with the Loch of Portree on your right and you might get a glimpse of the Sound of Raasay and the island in the distance. The traffic was not too bad, but we did run into one lane construction areas with the stoplight. As we drove along, approaching Portree, I could see the Old Man of Storr in the distance. That was very cool.

The navigation system would not accept the Viewfield House as our destination. Viewfield House is located on A87/Viewfield Road before the A87 and A855 junction in Portree. I kept an eye out for the signage and spotted it. Hubby turned left into the steep driveway and a van was coming down the road blocking the entrance and forced us to back up into the busy road. Hubby managed to avoid that problem. This van was coming from a garden center along the road to the house.



Viewfield House, a former hunting lodge

<https://viewfieldhouse.com/>

We parked out front of the Viewfield House. I entered through a huge door and found the buzzer on the wall and a tall man came out and greeted us. He confirmed that we could park in front.





He took us into the hall and told us about drinks before dinner at 7 pm and showed us some of the rooms. He then took us to our room which was on the top floor in an apartment with a dormer. Yes, lots of steps and fire doors to the upper floor. It had sloping roofs in some areas. It was a large room with a sitting area and a big bed. The bathroom was small but useful. The Viewfield House is set on a hill so our view out the window was the Loch of Portree (harbor)



Our Room, very nice!



The View out of our window

This hotel was a bit pricey, but I was having trouble booking lodging back in January a full four months before our trip. I liked the way the house looked, and their website made it very tempting. I decided to go for it.

I was happy to learn that I could wash my clothes for they had a laundromat in the hotel. It took us a bit to figure out the Scottish coins for the laundry, but we got it done. The laundry machines were downstairs in the coat closet off the main hall. I had dallied too much in the room and someone had arrived before us. They were using the washer and almost done with the cycle, darn. We left and came back and I got my wash into the washer for two £1 coins. Hubby monitored it and we used the coin that is silver with many sides like a hexagon for the dryer. I can handle the bills and the small £ coins but the rest is too confusing. We did 40 minutes so that was two hexagon coins. In any event, my laundry was done, and I was happy.

Hubby and I went outside to enjoy their garden and lovely green lawn. We sat on the bench overlooking the Loch. It was beautiful but a little cold, the weather was changing. We moved over to the lawn area and arranged a bench, so we had the sun on us. The lawn was beautifully mowed grass with tufts of grass around the daffodils clustered and scattered about the lawn. Behind the house was the garden and a hot house. A lady was tending that garden. It was very pretty and well maintained.

The Viewfield House was a hunting lodge at one time. So, you see a bit of taxidermy in the main hallway and in some of the display cases. Apparently, this has offended people who have stayed there. This little guy greeted us in the porch area before the big door to the house. They had him covered so I removed the cover for a minute. I was surprised to find a Red Panda.



Yes, this is a red panda who is usually covered because the animals bother him.

It was a lovely home. The man who had greeted us was a descendant and owner of the house. He is a MacDonald of Viewfield.

We were told that drinks would be served at 7 pm so we moved into the lovely large room with a grand piano in it and they had a fire going in the fireplace to the right of the wing backed chair.



The lovely room where we had our drinks

A nice couple from Utah chatted with us. They were serving drinks and Hubby and I decided on the Merlot. Other couples arrived in the room, but we didn't get a chance to talk to them for the woman who had the load of laundry before me was dominating the conversation by that time. Happily, the announcement for dinner came and we went into the large lovely dining room. They had the tables numbered with our room number on it. Hubby and I got a nice table right in the middle of the room.

I had the cod and Hubby had the lamb. The white potatoes were delicious. The dinner was surprisingly good. My dessert was vanilla ice cream and their ice creams are very lovely. Hubby had some type of pudding. The server asked if I wanted to book dinner the next night, but I said no. I wanted to eat in Portree. We will be here two nights. Tomorrow is a big day. Dinner had been served at 7:30 pm so it was late when I crawled into bed. I was tired.

A Tour of the Scotland: A Tour of Northern Skye: The Old Man of Storr, Duntulm Castle and Museum of Island Life...

July 6, 2018

I was up early. I was managing to keep the trip journaling up. It is better when you write it all down before you forget. The room was cold, so I gave the instant coffee that they serve in the B&B's of Scotland a try. It was warm. Hubby handles the HVC (heating and cooling) but this morning I really needed to learn how to do it.

We headed to breakfast and I had scramble eggs, tomato and sausage. I also had Rice Krispies from the buffet. Hubby had kipper which is a very large piece of fish. He said it was good but oily. He ate all the toast that they provide in these metal containers with sections already sliced diagonally. It is quite clever.



Hubby toast and a kipper



My breakfast, rather typical and good

We headed out for our tour of the north part of Scotland. There is much to see on the Isle of Skye and people we met were doing one day tours. Well, I decided to just focus on one area of Skye - The Trottenish peninsula, add a few MacDonalld castles, the history and that would be pretty much all we could handle.

We had to drive through Portree, and it is very busy, hilly and the streets are narrow and cobbled. We were targeting A855 which is a two-lane road in some places, and single track in other places. It was hard to keep from falling into ruts on the left edge of the road. Then we had to look out for potholes and manage oncoming cars.

The Old Man of Storr was the first to view. I had researched this location and focused on the condition of the trail to the Old Man, but I had not really done a thorough study of the facilities. This website Walk The Highlands has a nice grouping of the various areas of Skye: <https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/skye/>

The day before, I learned that there are no toilets there. The government is thinking of putting in a major car park because of the dangers of the people parking on the side of the road. Add to that, what the man at the Viewfield said about the hike being steep in places. <https://www.isleofskye.com/skye-guide/top-ten-skye-walks/old-man-of-storr>

We pulled into this layby which gave us a good view of the Old Man and within seconds several cars and some motorcycles joined us. Layby means a pull-out area to park, but not as fancy as the rest areas we know here in the States.



Old Man of Storr, grrr...wires in the way



Old Man of Storr



Old Man of Storr a little closer

I pulled out my new telephoto lens and my monopod. The Old Man of Storr was off in the distance, and you could get a feel for its shape. I think it is the most interesting rock formation.



Lots of sheep on Skye



A lovely waterfall - Bride's Veil Falls

We continued and stopped at another layby to get more photos of the area. I believe it is the layby next to Loch Leathan. The Isle of Skye's topography is so varied.



Near the Old Man of Storr looking east to Raasay Island



Looking South from Loch Leathan to the Cuillin Mts



Loch Leathan

We decided not to try climbing to the Old Man today. My legs were hurting and frankly I was tired from all that we had done so far. It would take an hour and that meant much longer for me and then the return. The lack of facilities was a major concern. I was a little disappointed but seeing this famous rock in the distance did make me happy. So, we pushed on. Now, just because I did not climb up to The Old Man of Storr does not mean you can't. Just prepare and get ready for this hike, study up.



Me and the Old Man of Storr, May 2018

As we were driving along when we came to the car park for the Old Man of Storr. Apparently, there had been an expansion of the car park on the left of the road and that was filled. There were many cars on the right balanced on the edge of the road. It was about 10 am and it was already packed. I am frankly worried about Skye. If it was as crowded as it was when we were there in May, can you imagine how crowded it will become in the summer. The impact on the island resources and lands is a major concern. If you go, please be respectful and take care of the Scottish landscape.

The Staffin Fossil Museum seemed like a good place to find facilities and view the items in that museum. Unfortunately, it does not have facilities, so we headed further up the road to the town

We found a cafe in a hotel on a hill. It reads on the sign Columbia 1400. I meant up with Hubby in the cafe and I ordered a pastry and he ordered a hot chocolate with the works. It was a very lovely modern cafe with small tables and chairs in a large bay window. Like I said, you won't go hungry in Scotland or on Skye, HA!

We returned to the museum which had fossils and told of the history of fossils on the Isle of Skye. Apparently, the finds are of international significance. The building was also filled with artifacts like tools, kitchen utensils, farming equipment and more. I got to feel some peat which is very odd stuff.

It was a lovely and informative stop on Skye. The friendly and helpful lady who was staffing the museum was sitting outside knitting and enjoying the sunshine. We gave her a donation as well as our admission. <https://www.staffindinosaurmuseum.com/>



Staffin Fossil Museum



Looking inland from the museum



Across from the museum, am I looking at Quiraing?

<https://www.isleofskye.com/skye-guide/top-ten-skye-walks/the-quiraing>



The Highway to the south of the museum.



Looking a little more to the left of the museum

We continued A855. We were approaching the north tip of the Isle and starting to turn inland. We were heading for Duntulm Castle, another MacDonald Castle that is in ruins. We are now heading for the western side of the peninsula.

We came around a large curve and found cars parked on the side of the road. We found a place and prepared to take a medium easy hike to the castle.



Car Park Duntulm Castle

It was a warm day with sun and clouds. The castle is really in ruins and not stable so there is a big sign and fencing to keep you away. It is also on a very rocky and steep cliff. We took the trail to the castle along the top of this steep grassy slope.



Duntulm Castle Ruins, go no further danger



Duntulum Castle ruins, Isle of Skye



Cairn to the MacArthurs, hereditary pipers to the MacDonalds of the Isles

Then we proceeded to walk down the slope. I used the rickety fence posts to guide me down to the lower grassy area. I see why the MacDonald's abandoned it for it is very remote. This link will take you to a drawing of what the castle may have looked like at one time: <http://www.ambaile.org.uk/detail/en/13200/1/EN13200-duntulm-castle.htm>



More Duntulm Castle

I spotted a big cruise ship in the distance out on the water. I had been watching the progress of the cruise ship and wondered where it was heading?

NOTE: Well I have been misspelling Duntulum Castle and hopefully I have found all the mistakes.



Hubby, the cruise ship and the Hebrides in the distance

Looking South



The Hebrides were in the distance and I could see North Uist, maybe Harris off across the water. I could not believe our luck in the weather and how well it has been for this trip.

A young sheep was making a racket. Crying for its mother but none of the other sheep were claiming it. It did look like it was old enough to care for itself. We dallied at the castle taking our time to walk back to the car. I took my jacket off for it was warm.

The road turned south, and we came upon the Skye Museum of Island Life. You can't miss it. We parked and I paid 40 pence to go to the bathroom. It was on the honor system. <http://www.skyemuseum.co.uk/>

We headed toward the gift shop and ticket building but before we entered, I spotted the graveyard with Flora MacDonald's big Celtic cross showing in the distance. Upon entering the building, I asked the lady in the gift shop if you could drive to it and she said yes. Whew!



Kilmuir Cemetery in the distance



Flora MacDonald Cross in the distance - Kilmuir Cemetery.

I bought a Skye T-Shirt with Isle of Skye on it and a booklet: *The Place Names of Skye, A Visitors Guide*, J. MacDonald. They had these wonderful sweaters tempting me.



The weaver cottage



Another house - the Smithy



A museum House

We then proceeded outside and toured the museum. They had the individual crofting houses and each one represented aspects of life on the island with exhibits inside: education, smithy, crofting family, weaving, emigration, Jacobites, the clearances and more. It was a very good museum with these wonderful stone buildings and thatched roofs. The rocks were weighing down the roof. One of them was lived in by a family at some time in the past, something like 11 children. The museum was overlooking the water and up on a hill. I spent some time resting on one of the outside benches.



Looking out to the Inner Sound the Hebrides

After we had thoroughly studied the museum we drove up to the cemetery and viewed Flora MacDonald's grave.



Kilmuir Cemetery



Kilmuir Cemetery Info

The large Celtic monument is very impressive of Flora MacDonald's. I was surprised that she was held in such esteem for saving the life of Charles Edward Stewart, Bonnie Prince Charley after his defeat at Culloden. I knew of her because I had read a book, years ago, about the Highlanders emigrating to North Carolina: *The Highland Scots of North Carolina 1732-1776*, by Duane Meyer. Flora and her husband went to America and then later returned to Scotland. It didn't work for them.



Flora MacDonald's Cross

I also sought out the carved stone of the soldier that lay on the ground.



This was the Kilmuir cemetery. I have not been diligent about visiting and going to cemeteries in Scotland. What was wrong with me?

Find A Grave has 270 memorials from this cemetery.

<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2170391/kilmuir-cemetery>



Kilmuir Cemetery is in a very lovely, peaceful place on the Isle of Skye.

We had completed my tour of the northern part of Skye called the Trotternish Peninsula. We came into the town of Uig from high up and were greeted by a wonderful view of Uig Bay. You can catch a ferry in Uig to other islands. Just south of the town the road reconnects with A87 a much better road.

We were in Portree quickly. The navigation would not find the restaurant we wanted or maybe it was closed and replaced? We parked on Bosville Terrace street on the other side of the Loch (harbor). Portree is busy with people, with narrow cobbled streets, lots of businesses in the main area and it is HILLY!



Beware of the famous picture of Quay Street in Portree



On the end of Quay street looking back



See the hill on the left of the harbor

The famous picture of the Portree harbor with the colorful houses is on a lower level. Portree is hilly or split level. You reach those houses next to the harbor, by driving down this narrow cobbled steep road called the Quay. We walked that road along the narrow sidewalk. At the bottom you come to a break in the road and you either turn left to Beaumont Cress where there are hotels, or right where there is a long line of a mix of B&B's and restaurants. There was one restaurant that was open a fish and chip place (very crowded) and as we wandered along reading the posted windows signs, we discovered that most of the other restaurants would not be open till 5:30 or 6:00 pm and it was only 4:30.

Oh, there is parking on Quay Street, if you are lucky to get a place. It is also a little tough to turn around. After seeing this I was glad I had booked us into the Viewfield house a little south of this busy main area. Shopping was not an option because the stores start closing at 5:00 pm - so watch the times.

Well our quest to find a nice place to eat was not going well and we ended up with Chippy. This was a takeout place at the top of Quay street, tucked into a lower area of this building. They did have tables and umbrella's outside so you could get a little cover if needed. I ordered a

hamburger and Hubby got the fish and chips. My hamburger didn't have anything on it. It was totally naked. Ah ha! The server said something about buying a salad! I said no, not realizing that it might be the tomato and lettuce? This means that food items are broken down and you pay for it separately. I guess it is build your own hamburger. I obtained a lot of condiments in small packets that you can't open and managed to make the hamburger tasty.

We were sitting outside so we got to watch a little of the comings and goings of the town of Portree. Several families started to populate the tables, so it became livelier. There was a young woman with several children that she was feeding. One of the boys kept taking the food of his sister who didn't like it at all. The restaurant was filled with a variety of nationalities. Sitting out enjoying the pleasant weather was nice. You still needed a jacket.

So be advised, things close down 5ish, restaurants close and reopen at various times and Portree is hilly. It is an odd town.

I spotted a Royal Bank of Scotland along Bank Street and Hubby obtained some cash. We headed back to our car and I decided I wanted a glass of wine, so we entered the Merchants Bar. It was a pleasant pub and I had fun watching the servers take care of business and interact with each other. Hubby became concerned that our car might be ticketed but it was okay. So, you will need to add parking rules to the list in Portree.

It was time to return to the Viewfield House. The navigation refused to acknowledge the lodging. The trick was getting out of Portree easily with all the one ways and nooks and crannies. I punched in Viewfield Street and HA, it worked. It guided us out and down to the A87 and we could take it from there. We were soon in our room relaxing and taking it easy. It was bedtime!

A Tour of Scotland: Portree to Armadale, South Skye

July 9, 2018

I slept well and was up early. I made some coffee using the instant stick. I think this was Nescafe and it was not too bad. Okay, I am a coffee snob, I like my French Roast...yeah Starbucks if on sale. They provide lovely teacups and saucers to drink your beverage making it very fancy. I just use a mug at home. I also upped the heat in the room and it soon was toasty.

Hubby slept in and got up slowly. Because we were so high up in the house it was a bit challenging to take our luggage down to the car. My strategy was to pull together some items and take them down in stages. The first load was when we went to breakfast.

Breakfast was delicious. I had an egg sunny side up, sausage and a cooked tomato. Hubby had an egg over easy, with sausage and other things. I purposely chose lodging with breakfast, so we had at least one hearty meal. I could have chosen self-catering which would be less expensive for lodging, but I don't want to cook on my trips. I also want to enjoy the food of that location.

The dining room of the Viewfield House is a lovely large rectangular room. There is a photo of it on their website. It has a big bay window on one end. At the other is a large antique sideboard they use for the buffet. In the center of one long wall is a fireplace. The windows are tall with long fancy curtains. On the walls are all these portraits with no labels. It was very elegant.

We returned to our room and finished getting packed. I went off to pay the remainder of our bill. I had paid an advanced deposit and that was correctly recognized in the total bill. As I recall, they had a special set up for this deposit that was a little tricky so read their instructions carefully. I had made an error and did not understand that the drinks and dinner were separate. Make sure you understand just what they are stating when you contact a lodging. I was not expecting a hotel and other meals, my mistake. The dinner was very good.



Viewfield House, Portree, Isle of Skye



The window of our room in the Viewfield House

I finally made up my mind and decided to go to the Skye and Lochalsh Archive in Portree. It is part of the Highland Archive network. I had studied the website but was not really finding anything of interest for this archive. The comments online were encouraging so off we went. We found the archive easily and parked the car. It was just north of the Viewfield House on A87 which curves to the left and then a left into the community center area.

We followed the signs around these large buildings to this small round building with a cone top. This is the archive building. It was across from the Portree Community Library.



Skye & Lochalsh Archive in Portree

We were greeted by a friendly receptionist. She was very helpful, answered my questions, pulled some MacDonald related items. She brought out the table of contents binder and let me look at the MacDonald's of Viewfield collection. It was mostly the business of the family. I bought a postcard of Duntulm Castle showing how it may have looked in its best day. I read through the items she gave me and asked to copy some family charts that might help me with some of the quest for understanding the Clan Donald structure. I am glad I stopped, it was a lovely visit and the attendant was very nice and helpful. It may have been small, but it was comfortable, I felt at ease. Oh, watch the hours of opening and closing for this archive. They do close for lunch.

<https://www.highlifehighland.com/skye-and-lochalsh-archive-centre/>



Hubby enjoying the photos in the archive

In the photo below on the bottom shelf are the catalogue (Table of contents of the holdings) binders. I have described them in my past post on the main Highland Archive in Inverness.



Skye & Lochaber archive



Me at the archive Skye & Lochaber

It was time to head to Armadale at the south end of Skye. We returned along the same highway from a couple of days before and came into Broadford the next town. It was a good drive because we got to see the landscape of Skye from a different angle. The landscape was dramatic with the Cuillin Mountains in the distance under fog and clouds. They still had some snow on them. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuillin>



The Cuillin Mountains of Skye - the weather is changing

We arrived in Broadford and we parked in a lot next to the Co-op Market. There was a gas station, gift shop, and additional parking as well. We went in and I found crackers and kleenex. We had to go in search of bathrooms because the Co-ops were not working. The public bathrooms turned out to be next to the church down and across the street.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Broadford,_Skye

I like Broadford, it is more spread out and less cramped. It seems flat at least where the A87 was. Apparently, it is growing and incorporating other locations into its borders. There seems to be an assortment of lodging choices and eateries.

Just outside of the town we turned south-east onto another road A85/A851 that took us to the Sleat (pronounced Slate) Peninsula of Skye and towards Armadale. We spotted the tiny entrance sign to the Kinloch Lodge and had to turn around. I was surprised it came up so fast. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sleat>

We traveled a rough road and over a very narrow wooden bridge for 3/4 miles? They were doing excavation at the lodge so there were big machines around. There was a car park before the little bridge, so we pulled in. We then walked over to the lodge past the big machines.



Kinloch Lodge, Sleat Peninsula, Isle of Skye

It was big, white and beautiful. I had wanted to stay at this lodge, but it was booked solid when I tried back in January of 2018, sigh. It is owned by a MacDonald: <https://kinloch-lodge.co.uk/>

We went inside and I inquired if they were serving lunch or dinner. They offered me lunch. The lady had us sit in the room with the bar and went to get us some refreshment. It was a very pleasant room with bookcases, artifacts, a large window and comfortable chairs. She pulled up small tables and presented a tray with our coffee and tea.

Lunch was several courses and very fancy. It was billed per plate, so it was expensive, but we decided to go for it. While we waited to be seated in the dining room, we studied the menus, large wine and drink books.

Our table was ready, and we were taken into the dining room. The food was delicious. This was a major presentation and it was served very slowly. Each plate was artfully arranged. The waitress announced our dishes each time she served the course. I had, if I recall, scallops in one course, an ice dessert for the palate, cod in another, a parsnip soup, a fish fillet and a creme Brule for dessert. Wow!



Kinloch Lodge Dining Room

The room was a good size with dark green walls. One wall was all windows. There were huge portraits and one I think was Alasdair Ranaldson MacDonell, but he was in a different pose, so I was not sure?



Alastair R. MacDonell, I think?

There was another painting with two young boys holding sticks for a game of some kind and I pondered how the artist got them to remain still. There was a large round table with a group of ladies enjoying lunch. Another couple was sitting over behind us. About the time we finished another party was seated. It was very elegant.

We dallied in the yard in front of the Kinloch Lodge taking photos of the area.



View Kinloch Lodge



Kinloch Lodge view



Kinloch Lodge additional views

Apparently, we missed Lord MacDonald, he had visited the day before. I took a picture of his portrait in the hallway. Lord Godfrey MacDonald does not live at Kinloch lodge anymore, so this article is a little old, but it is interesting:

<http://www.highcouncilofclandonald.org/Macdonald.html>



Lord MacDonald

Back on the road we came upon Armadale in 9+ miles and turned right into the parking area. We had only a little time, so my plan was to visit the museum first. We would then see the castle later. I noted the cafe in the building in front of our car.

In the Google map below, you will see the Mallaig-Armadale ferry at the bottom. You can see that Armadale is very close to the ferry. There are two photo icons, the first is of the cafe building and probably a meeting area. The next photo icon is the visitor center next to the car park. Once you pass through the visitor center you walk up to the split in the road. Turning left is the building that looks like a cross and that is the museum and Clan Donald center. If you go the

other way you come to the castle ruins where the great lawn is located. It is all laid out separate on this large expanse of land. Click the map and it should open in another window.



Google Map of Armadale

We walked over to the visitor center/gift shop and bought our tickets. I decided to go for it, and I bought a Clan Donald Modern version scarf which is very nice. I really like it although it is not cashmere, HA! I did study the gift shop and they had a lot of items and many books about clan history.

You exit the visitor center through the other end of it and wander the pathway up to the museum past lovely ponds and wonderful old trees. There is quite the extensive garden as part of Armadale, and it is lovely.



The Garden Ponds

Armadale is a large complex of 40 acres and there is lots to explore and discover.

Undiscovered Scotland has a nice

article: <https://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/skye/armadalecastlegardens/index.html>

Wikipedia gives a brief summary of the location: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armadale,_Skye

This is the main website: <https://www.armadalecastle.com/>



Museum of the Isles

Upon entering the museum, we looked for the Clan Donald Center which is to the left where the museum exhibits start and on the right of the round room. We tried the door handle, but it did not open. We learned that you pushed the door handle and not pull it. AUGGH! The Clan Donald Center closes at 4 pm so even if it had been open, I would not have accomplished much.

Armadale Castle, Gardens and Museum are open Sunday thru Saturday 9:30 am to 5:30 pm. The Clan Donald Centre is open at different times, with shorter hours than then the museum, so check

the website to be sure. They also break for lunch as well. It is not a bad idea to email them in advance that you are coming to make sure they are open and explain what you are researching: <https://www.armadalecastle.com/explore/library-archives/>

My plan was to return the next day and devote my time to the Clan Donald Centre. The museum receptionist person told me they opened at 10 am. She would alert the visitor center person that we would be returning the next day and not to charge us the admission fee.

We then proceeded through the museum which does have an audio tour if you are interested. It was well done. I started with Somerled, his contributions, his descendants, Clan Donald, Lord of the Isles, a description of Finlaggan and more. It moved on to the Jacobite rebellions, tartan dress, more on Alastair Ranaldson MacDonell. Then it covered emigration from the Highlands and the clearances.



One of the boards in the museum.



Clan Donald - Family names, bearings and plaids



I wanted to see the castle and our time was running out, so we walked through the beautiful gardens. The castle ruins were enclosed with chain link fencing because it was unsafe. At one time it was lived in but no more. It was a little sad. I would come back the next day and explore the area more.



Armadale Castle Ruins

In front of the castle is a large lawn area that reached down to the cliff by the Sound of Sleat. I could see in the distance over to Mallaig, Morar, Glenelg peninsula and Knoydart on the mainland our destination in a few days. First, we would return to do some exploring in the Clan Donald center.



Across from Armadale to The Sound of Sleat to the mainland - the weather is turning....

We were scheduled to stay at the KnoydART Bed and Breakfast just a little beyond Armadale and I told Hubby we needed to head to it for the owner was waiting on us. We went over to the cafe and they had some extra leftover sandwiches from lunch. We picked out one. Our big lunch at the Kinloch Lodge meant we didn't need much food for the evening. The restaurant was closed for lunch and getting ready for dinner time to reopen at 5:30 pm.

From Armadale the road turns down to the ferry terminal. We turned to the right and the road narrows and becomes rougher. We drove by the Ardvassar Hotel and continued to the KnoydART Bed and Breakfast. I was not expecting a big gate at both entrances, so I asked the neighbor. It turned out the owner was home, greeted us and she helped Hubby back into her driveway. <http://www.knoydartskye.com/>

Julia showed us to our room on the first floor and explained how to use things. She was having plumbing problems so off she went to talk to the plumber.

Julia is an artist and she has a studio on her property. Her dog is a collie and his name is George. Hubby played ball with him for a little while. I settled into the room and did some rearranging.

The KnoydART is right on the Sound of Sleat looking out across the Sound of Sleat to the mainland. We will have a sandwich soon and that should take care of us for the night.

A Tour of Scotland: The Clan Donald Center and more Armadale

July 11, 2018

We were in no hurry today. The Clan Donald Centre opened at 10 am a half hour later than the museum, so we had time.

Our room in the KnoydART B&B was small but well laid out. The shower was right behind the sink and open. I did not see any of the other rooms so I cannot judge their size. It was turning out that each of our stays in various lodgings was an adventure in and of itself.

Julia is very nice. She is an artist. You can see it in touches in her home. She has a huge fancy oriental statue on the stair landing and other art hung on the walls throughout the home. I loved her very slick ultramodern kitchen and steel countertops. We had come from the old large hunting lodge of Viewfield to a small modern home. It was quite the contrast.

Breakfast was at the long modern table and in the dining area. The chairs had thin scooped out curved backs. Other guests were already seated and eating their food. I entered and prepared a bowl of cereal. Breakfast was scrambled eggs with salmon. The salmon was placed on top of the eggs rather than to the side. The salmon was more like a fillet rather than the other type of salmon we had been served. It was good. Julia was accommodating our taste and Hubby had the same but added some mushrooms to his meal. Her food was delicious. <http://www.knoydartskye.com/>

I felt like a kid as I sat and looked out from Julia's large picture window toward the Sound of Sleat and it was outstanding. Later, in answer to my question, she pointed out where Knoydart was and told me she wanted to go there someday. I explained that we would be going there in two days.

Julia told me that she bought the house on her own. She was following her heart. She was thinking of having art groups come and paint for a weekend or so. I think it is a great idea. When I paid the bill, she wanted cash. I had not asked, so be prepared is it not unusual for places in more remote areas to ask for cash and deposits. We were only spending one night at this B&B and would be moving over to the Ardvasar Hotel. Finding lodging back in January 2018 for May had proved to be difficult. The person I emailed with for the Ardvasar Hotel helped me out when he realized he only had one night he could offer me. He booked me into this KnoydART B&B and it turned out to be a lovely stop.



The Front yard to the KnoyART B&B



The KnoydART B&B



Mallaig in the distance



Knoydart is in the distance

I took pictures while trying to play soccer with George the Collie. Hubby thinks he has been taught soccer moves because he defends the ball. He has a little bark for a large dog. I have not seen a Collie in a long time, he reminded me of my Bo dog.

Julia opened the gate for us, and we said our goodbyes to her. We thanked her for the lovely visit. I also promised I would send her a couple of Knoydart photos.

We headed out to Armadale and the Clan Donald Archives. We were soon entering the visitor center and the receptionist recognized us. I said that Hubby would pay again but she refused and sent us on our way. They are very nice people at Armadale.

We headed over to the ruined castle so Hubby could take pictures of me in front of the ruins





Me

in front of the Castle



Armada Gardens: a closer look at the ponds.





Ferry Terminal in the distance



Across to the mainland - See the view in the mountains, that leads into Loch Nevis and then Inverie on Knoydart.

At the museum shop I sat on the large couch they provided and waited for the library and archive to open at 10 am. I was beginning to be known by the staff. The moment arrived and we entered the archive and library and were greeted by Fiona a sister of Julia's.



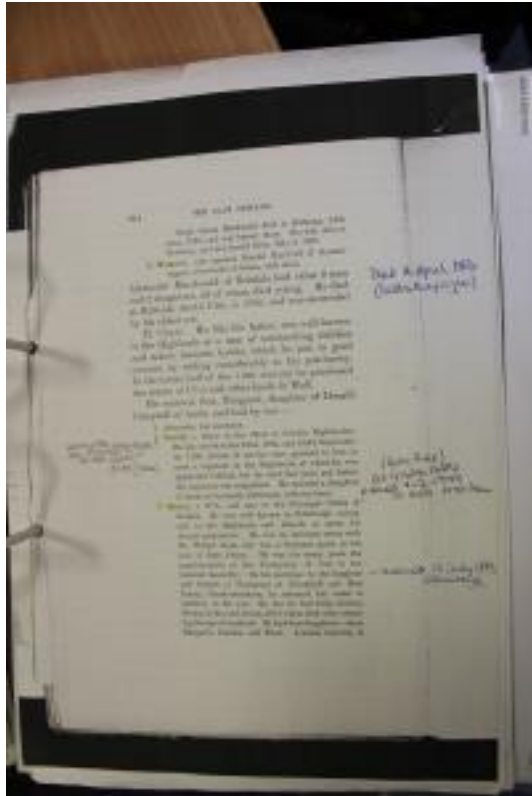
The Big Doors to Clan Donald Center push in

I brought with me my family history research packet and Fiona accepted it. Hubby had to fix the page numbering because I had it in two parts. She preferred it put together. I also gave her some of my blog pamphlet brochures so that she would have links to my blogs and more. I am sure there are lots of mistakes in it especially the Janet of Lundie part. The ancestors of Archibald McDonnell and Mary his wife need work as well.

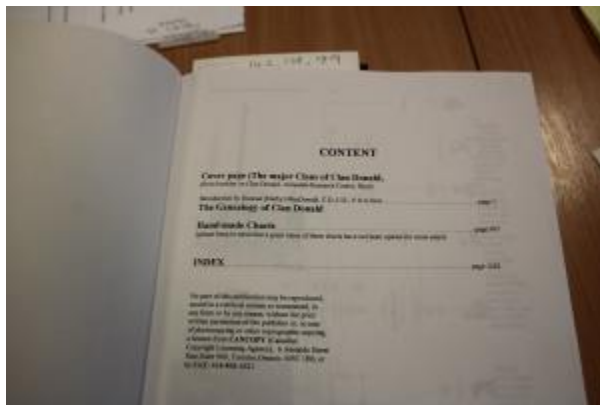
Fiona pulled some books off the shelf next to her desk in what was the Clan Donald bookcase. It holds the titles and binders for various subjects regarding the history of Clan Donald. I looked at them and studied the different lineages of the Clan Donald. It is much more complicated than I realized. Fiona also cautioned me about the genealogies being mainly father to son and the hereditary line and not really discussing the collateral lines. I agreed because I have seen where siblings are not emphasized unless they do something really interesting like marry a



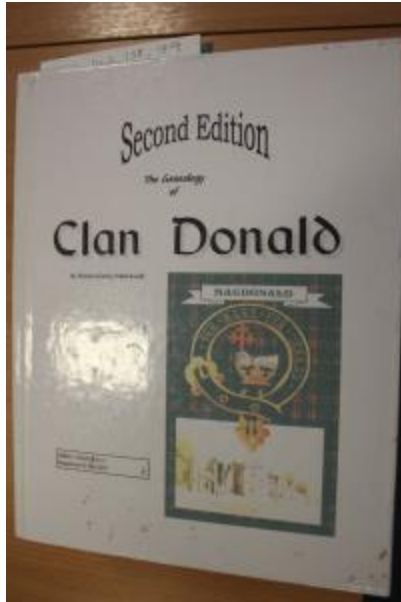
The Clan Donald Centre has a series of binders on the Clan Donald bookshelf. In these binders, which there are many, they have copies of the Clan Donald book and extra pages for visitors to write down their information. Some just write on the pages as in this following example. I studied certain volumes, but I don't have enough information on my family to make clear choices.



3. Fiona pulled a giant book at least 5 inches thick and set it on the table I was working at. The author was Duncan Darby MacDonald. I believe we know this individual from Canadian research. The book was filled with familiar charts and copies of parts of his books about the Clan Donald. It is also a 2nd edition?



A compilation of Duncan Darby MacDonald's Clan Donald charts and writings



Duncan Darby MacDonald's contribution to the centre

4. *Clan Donald*, by Donald J. MacDonald of Castleton, MacDonald Publishers 1978 - This book has a Foreword by The Rt. Hon. Godfrey James Macdonald of Macdonald, Lord MacDonald the man who owns Kinloch Lodge.



Clan Donald - Castleton

Contents	
Foreword	v
Index	vi
Abbreviations	vii
1. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	1
2. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	17
3. THE CLAN DONALD, 1850-1900	33
4. THE CLAN DONALD, 1900-1950	51
5. THE CLAN DONALD, 1950-2000	69
6. THE CLAN DONALD, 2000-2018	87
7. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	105
8. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	123
9. THE CLAN DONALD, 1850-1900	141
10. THE CLAN DONALD, 1900-1950	159
11. THE CLAN DONALD, 1950-2000	177
12. THE CLAN DONALD, 2000-2018	195
13. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	213
14. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	231
15. THE CLAN DONALD, 1850-1900	249
16. THE CLAN DONALD, 1900-1950	267
17. THE CLAN DONALD, 1950-2000	285
18. THE CLAN DONALD, 2000-2018	303
19. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	321
20. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	339
21. THE CLAN DONALD, 1850-1900	357
22. THE CLAN DONALD, 1900-1950	375
23. THE CLAN DONALD, 1950-2000	393
24. THE CLAN DONALD, 2000-2018	411
25. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	429
26. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	447
27. THE CLAN DONALD, 1850-1900	465
28. THE CLAN DONALD, 1900-1950	483
29. THE CLAN DONALD, 1950-2000	501
30. THE CLAN DONALD, 2000-2018	519
31. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	537
32. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	555
33. THE CLAN DONALD, 1850-1900	573
34. THE CLAN DONALD, 1900-1950	591
35. THE CLAN DONALD, 1950-2000	609
36. THE CLAN DONALD, 2000-2018	627
37. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	645
38. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	663
39. THE CLAN DONALD, 1850-1900	681
40. THE CLAN DONALD, 1900-1950	699
41. THE CLAN DONALD, 1950-2000	717
42. THE CLAN DONALD, 2000-2018	735
43. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	753
44. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	771
45. THE CLAN DONALD, 1850-1900	789
46. THE CLAN DONALD, 1900-1950	807
47. THE CLAN DONALD, 1950-2000	825
48. THE CLAN DONALD, 2000-2018	843
49. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	861
50. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	879
51. THE CLAN DONALD, 1850-1900	897
52. THE CLAN DONALD, 1900-1950	915
53. THE CLAN DONALD, 1950-2000	933
54. THE CLAN DONALD, 2000-2018	951
55. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	969
56. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	987
57. THE CLAN DONALD, 1850-1900	1005
58. THE CLAN DONALD, 1900-1950	1023
59. THE CLAN DONALD, 1950-2000	1041
60. THE CLAN DONALD, 2000-2018	1059
61. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	1077
62. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	1095
63. THE CLAN DONALD, 1850-1900	1113
64. THE CLAN DONALD, 1900-1950	1131
65. THE CLAN DONALD, 1950-2000	1149
66. THE CLAN DONALD, 2000-2018	1167
67. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	1185
68. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	1203
69. THE CLAN DONALD, 1850-1900	1221
70. THE CLAN DONALD, 1900-1950	1239
71. THE CLAN DONALD, 1950-2000	1257
72. THE CLAN DONALD, 2000-2018	1275
73. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	1293
74. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	1311
75. THE CLAN DONALD, 1850-1900	1329
76. THE CLAN DONALD, 1900-1950	1347
77. THE CLAN DONALD, 1950-2000	1365
78. THE CLAN DONALD, 2000-2018	1383
79. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	1401
80. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	1419
81. THE CLAN DONALD, 1850-1900	1437
82. THE CLAN DONALD, 1900-1950	1455
83. THE CLAN DONALD, 1950-2000	1473
84. THE CLAN DONALD, 2000-2018	1491
85. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	1509
86. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	1527
87. THE CLAN DONALD, 1850-1900	1545
88. THE CLAN DONALD, 1900-1950	1563
89. THE CLAN DONALD, 1950-2000	1581
90. THE CLAN DONALD, 2000-2018	1599
91. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	1617
92. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	1635
93. THE CLAN DONALD, 1850-1900	1653
94. THE CLAN DONALD, 1900-1950	1671
95. THE CLAN DONALD, 1950-2000	1689
96. THE CLAN DONALD, 2000-2018	1707
97. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	1725
98. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	1743
99. THE CLAN DONALD, 1850-1900	1761
100. THE CLAN DONALD, 1900-1950	1779
101. THE CLAN DONALD, 1950-2000	1797
102. THE CLAN DONALD, 2000-2018	1815
103. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	1833
104. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	1851
105. THE CLAN DONALD, 1850-1900	1869
106. THE CLAN DONALD, 1900-1950	1887
107. THE CLAN DONALD, 1950-2000	1905
108. THE CLAN DONALD, 2000-2018	1923
109. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	1941
110. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	1959
111. THE CLAN DONALD, 1850-1900	1977
112. THE CLAN DONALD, 1900-1950	1995
113. THE CLAN DONALD, 1950-2000	2013
114. THE CLAN DONALD, 2000-2018	2031
115. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	2049
116. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	2067
117. THE CLAN DONALD, 1850-1900	2085
118. THE CLAN DONALD, 1900-1950	2103
119. THE CLAN DONALD, 1950-2000	2121
120. THE CLAN DONALD, 2000-2018	2139
121. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	2157
122. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	2175
123. THE CLAN DONALD, 1850-1900	2193
124. THE CLAN DONALD, 1900-1950	2211
125. THE CLAN DONALD, 1950-2000	2229
126. THE CLAN DONALD, 2000-2018	2247
127. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	2265
128. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	2283
129. THE CLAN DONALD, 1850-1900	2301
130. THE CLAN DONALD, 1900-1950	2319
131. THE CLAN DONALD, 1950-2000	2337
132. THE CLAN DONALD, 2000-2018	2355
133. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	2373
134. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	2391
135. THE CLAN DONALD, 1850-1900	2409
136. THE CLAN DONALD, 1900-1950	2427
137. THE CLAN DONALD, 1950-2000	2445
138. THE CLAN DONALD, 2000-2018	2463
139. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	2481
140. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	2499
141. THE CLAN DONALD, 1850-1900	2517
142. THE CLAN DONALD, 1900-1950	2535
143. THE CLAN DONALD, 1950-2000	2553
144. THE CLAN DONALD, 2000-2018	2571
145. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	2589
146. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	2607
147. THE CLAN DONALD, 1850-1900	2625
148. THE CLAN DONALD, 1900-1950	2643
149. THE CLAN DONALD, 1950-2000	2661
150. THE CLAN DONALD, 2000-2018	2679
151. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	2697
152. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	2715
153. THE CLAN DONALD, 1850-1900	2733
154. THE CLAN DONALD, 1900-1950	2751
155. THE CLAN DONALD, 1950-2000	2769
156. THE CLAN DONALD, 2000-2018	2787
157. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	2805
158. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	2823
159. THE CLAN DONALD, 1850-1900	2841
160. THE CLAN DONALD, 1900-1950	2859
161. THE CLAN DONALD, 1950-2000	2877
162. THE CLAN DONALD, 2000-2018	2895
163. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	2913
164. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	2931
165. THE CLAN DONALD, 1850-1900	2949
166. THE CLAN DONALD, 1900-1950	2967
167. THE CLAN DONALD, 1950-2000	2985
168. THE CLAN DONALD, 2000-2018	3003
169. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	3021
170. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	3039
171. THE CLAN DONALD, 1850-1900	3057
172. THE CLAN DONALD, 1900-1950	3075
173. THE CLAN DONALD, 1950-2000	3093
174. THE CLAN DONALD, 2000-2018	3111
175. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	3129
176. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	3147
177. THE CLAN DONALD, 1850-1900	3165
178. THE CLAN DONALD, 1900-1950	3183
179. THE CLAN DONALD, 1950-2000	3201
180. THE CLAN DONALD, 2000-2018	3219
181. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	3237
182. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	3255
183. THE CLAN DONALD, 1850-1900	3273
184. THE CLAN DONALD, 1900-1950	3291
185. THE CLAN DONALD, 1950-2000	3309
186. THE CLAN DONALD, 2000-2018	3327
187. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	3345
188. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	3363
189. THE CLAN DONALD, 1850-1900	3381
190. THE CLAN DONALD, 1900-1950	3399
191. THE CLAN DONALD, 1950-2000	3417
192. THE CLAN DONALD, 2000-2018	3435
193. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	3453
194. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	3471
195. THE CLAN DONALD, 1850-1900	3489
196. THE CLAN DONALD, 1900-1950	3507
197. THE CLAN DONALD, 1950-2000	3525
198. THE CLAN DONALD, 2000-2018	3543
199. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	3561
200. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	3579
201. THE CLAN DONALD, 1850-1900	3597
202. THE CLAN DONALD, 1900-1950	3615
203. THE CLAN DONALD, 1950-2000	3633
204. THE CLAN DONALD, 2000-2018	3651
205. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	3669
206. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	3687
207. THE CLAN DONALD, 1850-1900	3705
208. THE CLAN DONALD, 1900-1950	3723
209. THE CLAN DONALD, 1950-2000	3741
210. THE CLAN DONALD, 2000-2018	3759
211. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	3777
212. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	3795
213. THE CLAN DONALD, 1850-1900	3813
214. THE CLAN DONALD, 1900-1950	3831
215. THE CLAN DONALD, 1950-2000	3849
216. THE CLAN DONALD, 2000-2018	3867
217. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	3885
218. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	3903
219. THE CLAN DONALD, 1850-1900	3921
220. THE CLAN DONALD, 1900-1950	3939
221. THE CLAN DONALD, 1950-2000	3957
222. THE CLAN DONALD, 2000-2018	3975
223. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	3993
224. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	4011
225. THE CLAN DONALD, 1850-1900	4029
226. THE CLAN DONALD, 1900-1950	4047
227. THE CLAN DONALD, 1950-2000	4065
228. THE CLAN DONALD, 2000-2018	4083
229. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	4101
230. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	4119
231. THE CLAN DONALD, 1850-1900	4137
232. THE CLAN DONALD, 1900-1950	4155
233. THE CLAN DONALD, 1950-2000	4173
234. THE CLAN DONALD, 2000-2018	4191
235. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	4209
236. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	4227
237. THE CLAN DONALD, 1850-1900	4245
238. THE CLAN DONALD, 1900-1950	4263
239. THE CLAN DONALD, 1950-2000	4281
240. THE CLAN DONALD, 2000-2018	4299
241. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	4317
242. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	4335
243. THE CLAN DONALD, 1850-1900	4353
244. THE CLAN DONALD, 1900-1950	4371
245. THE CLAN DONALD, 1950-2000	4389
246. THE CLAN DONALD, 2000-2018	4407
247. THE CLAN DONALD, 1745-1800	4425
248. THE CLAN DONALD, 1800-1850	4443

preserve these lands of Armadale and the Clan memory in any way I can. It is called Friends of Armadale at the website:

<https://www.armadalecastle.com/community/friends/>

I am not a member of Clan Donald currently, but I am beginning to think that I need to consider it. The Clan is scattered all around the world. The Clan Donald lands in Scotland belong to private individuals, and land trusts. <http://www.highcouncilofclandonald.org/>

We meandered over to the cafe or building that was probably some complex with meeting rooms and more. I ordered a sandwich, soup, coffee and juice. It was a good thing for it helped me build up my energy. It was cafeteria style for lunch, and we were just in time and obtained our lunch before a tour bus unloaded and the line grew huge. The room is large with a huge bay window. People were going outside to sit at the tables and enjoy the nice day.

As I was eating, I noticed the shields above me, and I found the categories interesting:



Clan Ranald, Clan Glencoe



Clan Shields Glengarry and MacDonald of MacDonald



Clan Shields

We headed back to the museum and archive room. Hubby went off to finish his audio and museum tour and then to explore the gardens. He was interested in the various trees and plants in the gardens. Some of the specimens were labeled.



Monkey Puzzle Tree

I went back into the archive and resumed my study of the books waiting for me on the table. I also explored the room and walked around studying the bookshelves on the other side of the room. By the way the archive does not have a detailed listing of the contents of their library online. They also have an extensive microfilm collection. You will have to ask them for more detail.

I asked Fiona about Somerled. Did he marry twice. She went over to this huge chart and found an entry that said that he just might have had another wife and children. This is not the chart at the Glengarry Heritage Centre, but it is still good.



A part of the Clan Donald Chart

It was about 3:30 with only 1/2 hour to close. I had done a lot and gone as far as I could go. My head was exploding with all the different Clan Donald lines that I was finding. I packed up and said goodbye and thanked Fiona for her time and interest.

I went out into the lobby of the museum and found Hubby. He wanted to do more exploring of the gardens. We walked toward the entrance and he took off up a small hill. They do provide you with a map of the grounds so that you can find your way.

I decided to head for the car park and stopped along the way and chose a couple of rocks to place in my collection. I had some from Duntulm Castle (oops I have been misspelling this) and a little puff of sheep fleece left behind by one of the sheep on the green hill by that castle.



My Rocks from Duntulm Castle and Armadale

I waited for Hubby in the car. We knew where the hotel was because we drove right by it the night before. It is a large white building. They have a nice big car park. I stopped in the lobby and chatted with the receptionist. We headed up the stairs and were directed to room No. 1. It turned out to be more like a suite with a sitting area and bed area. The bed was a king and that was wonderful. Like I said, each lodging is an adventure.



Ardvasar Hotel, Isle of Skye near Armadale

Dinner was at 5:30 pm in the bar and restaurant area. We picked a table next to the bar. The man who had greeted us at the reception area was in the bar. Apparently, he wears several hats and currently he was training new employees. He tried to get me to have the Cranach for dessert, but I was interested in the apple pie and ice cream. They had homemade Macaroni and Cheese and it was good. They served chips with it, their versions of French Fries. My pie turned out to be more like a pastry with apples. It was very good. I did have some wine, but I decided I wanted a Port, Sherry or Brandy. The fun young man went off to his stash and found me a nice brandy. Apparently, they don't get that kind of request too often, giggle.

Back at the room I turned on the TV to see if there would be highlights from Harry and Megan's wedding in Windsor that day and we got some of the news about the Royal wedding. The Royals certainly know how to put on a beautiful wedding. I was fascinated that the Scots were not that interested among those I asked. There was some curiosity expressed about the wedding dress.

It is time for bed. We will be leaving Skye the next day and taking the ferry to Mallaig.

A Tour of Scotland: Armadale to Mallaig

July 18, 2018

I was up early to do chores and Hubby woke up before his alarm. He was complaining that he was stubbing his toes on the bathtub and we determined that the configuration was not good. The tub was very large, and it was encroaching on the sink area. It was proving that our lodging choices were as much an adventure as the trip itself.

The road is very close to the hotel and when a car goes by you hear the swish and they are fast on these country roads.

Breakfast was 8 am and we got there a little after the hour. The room was crowded. There was a breakfast buffet area and I prepared some cereal. Hubby was making toast in the noisy automatic toast machine.

We both had the Eggs Benedict. Mike brought the coffee and served it with a regular coffee pot like in restaurants and not the French Press version. It was good.

Back in the room I busied myself with various tasks and getting packed. We agreed that we would leave by 10:45 am and it took that long to get downstairs and pay the bill. I thanked the man who assisted me in January, for helping me book lodging in South Skye. Instead of one place for two night I ended up with two different places to stay. It worked, each lodging was different and unique making our stay a happy one. If you get stuck on lodging on Skye, ask for help.



Ardvasar Hotel View

The ferry from Armadale to Mallaig was not far away and we were there in minutes. The parking lot was full, and we had to double park. I decided to go into the terminal and inquire. They said that they would come out and open the gate to the waiting area for boarding the ferry. We ended up being first in one of the lines.

We were early so it was a bit of a wait but that was okay. Hubby played his CD from the gift shop at Urquhart Castle. He heard the music playing when we were in the gift shop. It has a nice variety of music with pipes, flutes, guitars etc. Title of the CD: *Scottish Moods, the Pure Sound of Scotland*.

I had put Hubby in charge of planning and booking our ferry rides before we left for Scotland. I found their timetables a bit confusing. <https://www.calmac.co.uk/mallaig-armadale-skye-ferry-winter-timetable>

There are several ways to get to the Isle of Skye: 1) Sky Bridge 2) Cal-Mac Ferries and maybe other ferries. You will have to study the routes thoroughly.



A Map of the area and the ferryboat from Armadale to Mallaig

Beware of the ads showing a large ferryboat on this run of Armadale to Mallaig. Ours was a small ferryboat with huge landing ramps on both ends. The ferry came up to the dock and lowered this very long black flat piece. There was the Pilot house and along the side there were upper walkways with chairs. but they were exposed. This might be nice on a fair and lovely day, but our weather had turned cold, rainy, cloudy and windy.



Ferry Terminal Armadale

The man had checked our tickets and we waited a little longer. The walk-on's boarded first by rolling their luggage down the road to the ramp and into the ferry boat. I do not know where they stayed on the boat, maybe in a small room? It was our turn to move onto the ferry and it was no different than back home for boarding. We were directed to a place behind a large RV. Once I determined that the upper deck was open air, I returned to the car to keep warm.



Armadale Ferry up top - not today in the cold and wet!



Brrr a brave lady from the ferry top area.

The ferry left the dock and proceeded across the Sound of Sleat. It moved along at a steady pace but rocked back and forth all the way to Mallaig. The sea had whitecaps and the water sprayed up over the front of the boat and onto our car. It is the north Atlantic after all. We could not see out ahead of us because of the black ramp that was folded up in front of us and the RV. I am glad, I think it would have made the trip worse.



The Window from the ferry, can you see the white caps?

There was one small window with bars going up and down on the side of the boat. I could see through it to the rough sea. This rocking and spraying went on a good 20+ minutes and I was a little scared. We arrived in Mallaig to my relief. Crossing Puget Sound is nothing like this crossing even in bad weather. Whew!

I confess, I have a little problem with motion and don't do well with hills and slanted ground or water. I am sure that I would get use to this ferry in time. Maybe if it was a tad larger like our ferry boats here in the Pacific NW? HA!

We disembarked the ferry quickly, but we ran into trouble for we could not find the Seaview Guest House. We ended up driving around the whole town. I was not prepared for hills in Mallaig, yeah, I know my hill thing. Hubby stopped and parked and tried to configure the navigation which took us to the general location. We missed the Seaview about ½ a block from the main downtown area to the east. Hubby found the road to the parking lot and proceeded to drive up a steep hill with a tight squeeze between two pillars. We made it into the car park and fortunately there were not that many cars, so we had room to get the car situated. <http://www.seaviewguesthousemallaig.com/>



Seaview Guest House

I found the front door of the Seaview Guest House which was the house to the left of the car park not the one in front. I entered the house through the big white door and met the receptionist. He told us the room number and sent us up to the top floor by ourselves to room 6. The stairs were wide and easy so that was good. The room had sloping roofs all over the place and there is one at the head of the bed meaning it was difficult to sit in the bed and read. The bathroom had a sloping roof right over the toilet. There was a skylight right above the toilet that made me laugh. This meant you could stand up easily and not bump your head. There was an area that had a chest of drawers, a small closet, and two leather chairs. The shower and tub were separate. If we watched our heads, we would be okay. Despite this challenge, it was a very lovely room and quite comfortable. We also had a window that looked out right on the harbor.

Once we settled in, I tried to figure out the restaurant situation and determined that there were two possibilities nearby. Mallaig is not that big but there are lots of tourists so you do need a reservation or maybe you will luck out if it is earlier in the day. They were:

- Chlachain Inn <http://www.chlachaininn.co.uk/bar.asp.html>
- The Steam Inn <http://steaminnmallaig.co.uk/restaurant-mallaig-dining/>



Rainy Mallaig - to the left is a street with other possibilities



Mallaig thru our window



The noisy business across from the Seaview



Mallaig's Port

We choose the Clachan Inn and the food was great. It was just down the street and up the next street on a slight hill. Oh, walking on hills doesn't bother me.

I thought we should eat hearty and not go out for dinner later. I had a steak with onion rings, and it was delicious. I ordered a glass of wine and Hubby had an ale. For dessert I had cheesecake and Hubby had the chocolate cake and both were good. It was a great restaurant. It was a large room with a bar in the middle. It was a very good place for people watching. The nice waitress would gently sing along with the radio as she worked at her station. They allowed people to bring their dogs into this restaurant which was cool.

We wandered back down the street stopping at the Spar which is a grocery store. We found the Bank of Scotland and removed money. We would need it because the Seaview wanted cash.

We studied the piers and figured out where the Western Isles Ferry boat service office was located. It was on one of the piers in a small building. We were going to the Knoydart Peninsula the next day. We knew where we needed to go in the morning.

By this time my careful initial packing was out of control and I had things here and there. I was looking for my research on Knoydart and was not finding it. It was time to call it a day and rest and refresh. We will be taking the ferry to Knoydart tomorrow. Yup...I was going to see this remote area of Scotland where a lot of Canadian MacDonald's emigrated from.

A Tour of Scotland: The Knoydart Peninsula

July 19, 2018 with updated photos

I was awake early. Today, we were going to the Knoydart Peninsula and the weather was not cooperating with us. It was raining and overcast with heavy mist and fog.

<http://www.visitknoydart.co.uk/>

Breakfast started at 7:30 am and we were up and ready for it. We were the first to get there so we received good service. I had porridge this time. We both had salmon and scramble eggs, which seems to be typical of the B&B's in Scotland. The coffee was the best we had ever had in the French Press. By the time we had finished breakfast the room was filled with people.

Knoydart is a remote peninsula on the western coast of Scotland. It is part of what is called the Rough Bounds. Included in that label is the areas of Morar, Arisaig and Moidart.

To get to Knoydart you have two options:

1) Walk: hike for two days or more. If you choose this method. Please do a lot of research and be in good physical condition. You need to really know what you are doing. Talk to the Ranger at the Knoydart foundation to get more information.

This link is to the blog *A Nice Walk* with some interesting walk descriptions about Knoydart. This particular walk was a 9 mile hike - Barrisdale to Inverie with pictures: <https://anicewalk.wordpress.com/tag/barrisdale/>

2) Take the ferry from Mallaig to Inverie. The ferry is walk on only, so you are on foot when you get to Inverie. There may be other boats that you can take but you will have to do your own research on that topic. See below for the Western Isles Ferry information.

3) By Helicopter. You will have to figure that one out. You could start with the Old Forge pub website. I tried to find some company that would fly over Knoydart but the ones I found were more to the south of the Rough Bounds area like Loch Lomond. We have done this in Hawaii and the Grand Canyon, and it was amazing. Hmm...this is interesting?

What I really wanted to see was some of the interior of the peninsula and that was going to be a challenge. Maybe if I was 20 years younger, I would be able to do some walking. I could probably see the flat land near the town of Inverie and do okay with the walking, but it would not have given me a total view of the area.



I like this Knoydart Relief map, which is a little exaggerated, but it works. From the Sandaig website.

Why did we go to Knoydart? Well, I wanted to see the location where a lot of MacDonell/MacDonalds who emigrated to Canada had come from. I do not know exactly which area of Scotland my family came from, so I am doing what I call "collecting all possibilities." My Aunt Miriam, sister to my father Keith, seemed to think we were Glengarry MacDonells which could mean a large area of the Highlands of Scotland. Knoydart was first owned by Clanranald but something happened, and it ended up with the Glengarry MacDonald's and became their lands. If your ancestor came from Glengarry, Scotland it could be a very large area stretching from Invergarry (south of Loch Ness) west to Knoydart.

So far, I have visited or passed through various areas of Scotland. I have not toured it all in depth, staying with the better highways and not going into the country areas. I was pushing it with a three-week tour. So, this is not all the MacDonald/MacDonell clan areas and events. Here is where I have visited so far on this trip:

- Clan Macpherson land in Newtonmore before Inverness,
- Visited Inverness and the Highland Archive and Highland Family History Society
- Culloden Battlefield to the northeast of Inverness.
- Explored Loch Ness, part of the Great Glen of the Highlands, and visited Urquhart Castle. It is there I learned that the Lord of the Isles attacked this castle on several occasions.
- Visited Invergarry which is where the Glengarry MacDonells lived, and the Glengarry Heritage Center is located. Invergarry Castle, a very important MacDonell Castle.
- In Glengarry, we drove past Loch Garry and then turned north to Kintail near Glenegl and we drove through Lochalsh.
- Toured a portion of Skye visiting several MacDonald castles and the Clan Donald Center and Castle at Armadale.
- Took the ferry from Armadale to Mallaig which is in North Morar. Clan Donald used Birlinns to sail the waters and lochs of the Highlands.
- Add Knoydart on this day.

- Later in our trip we would visit the following areas to come like Morar, Arisaig, and little bit of Moidart, Glenfinnan, Fort William
- Clan Cameron lands north of Fort William. This is still not all, the Clan lands and locations but not a bad start.

Back in the room we got ready for our Knoydart adventure and filled Hubby's backpack up with items that we thought we might need. A little before 10 am we were ready, so we headed to the Western Isles building on the pier. Our Ferry was scheduled at 10:30 am. They wanted us at the loading 30 minutes before. It would take about 5 minutes from our B&B to get to the boat.

Our trip so far, had been mostly fair weather with a little rain and coldness; however, this day, the weather was going to be cold, rainy and foggy. We are from Seattle in the Pacific Northwest and we know rain. I was a tad disappointed, but I decided it was probably better to see Knoydart in the rain. The Knoydart foundation brochures says, "We Like The Rain!"

Hubby had made our ferry reservations online before we left for Scotland. We entered the little building and had a lovely chat with the nice ladies in the Western Isles Ferry office. <https://westernislescruises.co.uk/>

I had debated whether to stay in Inverie on Knoydart overnight. You can find accommodations, but a lot are self-catering (bring your own food). I just didn't want to drag food over and deal with it. Hubby figured out a plan that we could go in the morning and return at 4 pm at the end of the day. We would have 11 am to 4 pm to explore. That sounded about right in time.



Western Isles Ferry Office



Western Isles

How were we going to get around if we could not have a car, well, I did some research and had Hubby organize a tour with the Ranger of the Knoydart Foundation via email. We had choices. We could do the 2 or 4 hour Land Rover tour and we decided on the 4-hour tour. <http://www.knoydart-foundation.com/>



Western Isles Ferry - The next day and you see it was fair weather again. Sigh!

The boat had docked on this huge pier and was ready, so we headed over. We had to walk down these stairs and then hop over to the boat. It was tricky but the men took good care of me and got me on board safely. The boat had a cabin area. We went inside. It had seats and down below was a place they dispensed drinks and a bathroom. The windows were fogged up because it was cold outside and the two heaters in the cabin were working away. It was not sunny like the photo above taken the day after. The boat loaded up quickly and we were on our way. Be advised that they don't mess around. Yes, there is a schedule, but they leave quickly, so don't get left behind.

The boat rocked from side to side and there were white caps on the Sound of Sleat. I know that we skirted the North Morar coastline. I could not see out because it was crowded with people and the windows were wet with the moisture.



Wet Windows



The Cabin

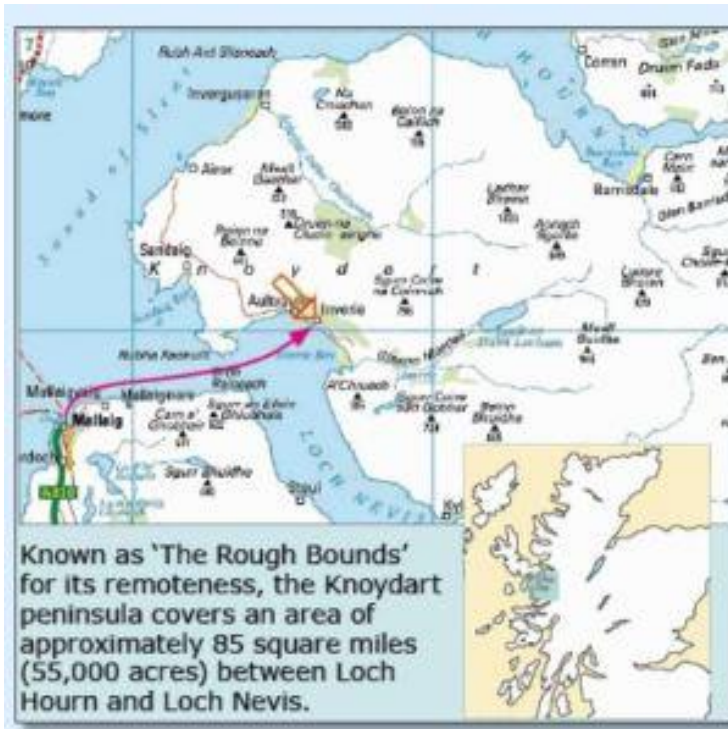


The brave ones

We chatted with a nice young couple who were going to the peninsula to camp and stay in a B&B. The young man had been to Seattle and really liked it. He had been visiting family. They

both had trouble with motion sickness, and I have my motion issues, yet we all did well. Once on Loch Nevis the boat did not rock as much. We were all happy about that. Some people were brave and bundled up like Eskimos to go outside the cabin to get the view.

Look at the map below. The ferry is coming from Mallaig (see the pointed red line) and it moves along the north part of North Morar (the land that looks like a table) and heads for the entrance to Loch Nevis. It then crosses Loch Nevis to the town of Inverie which is located on the shores of the Bay of Inverie. Note the nice big arrow pointing to Inverie.



Knoydart The Rough Bounds and the Ferry to Inverie and back to Mallaig.

Look at the map below which is from Marianne McLean's book: *The People of Glengarry (Canada)* in which she devotes chapters to Barrisdale (1771) and Lochiel and a little about Glengarry. I have a copy which I bought years ago of this book and I read parts of it before I went to Scotland. It is a great source for some of the history of Knoydart. I believe that Google books has a preview currently. It shows the settlements and you can see that many of them are along the coastline. Barrisdale is spelled in some places with two "r's."

29 Barisdale



Map 2 Kroydart, c. 1771

Sources: Ordnance Survey of Scotland; 1880, 8887 112. Plan of the annexed estate of Barisdale, William Morton, 1771; 880, GB44/25/29, "Division and Arrangement of Kroydart"; Fraser-Mackintosh, "Macdonells of Scoton," 79-80; and 80, Father Esau John Macdonald, box 6, envelope 2, 8-1-14, list of place names in Monie and Kroydart.

This map is from Marianne MacLean's Book - The People of Glengarry

It was about 30 minutes to the dock in Inverie. The men on the boat were very careful with me and helped me out of the boat by taking my arms and lifting me onto the walkway. This is one of those times you just let others take care of you. The ferry continues down Loch Nevis to other stops and returns to Inverie and then back to Mallaig.

I did take photos of the dock upon arrival in Inverie. I told you it was crowded.



The busy dock in Inverie



The busy dock in Inverie



The Dock at Inverie later in the day about 4 pm and it was empty then. On the other side is North Morar.

The pier is long, and it was crowded with people waiting to return. They had probably come for the weekend. The day of our visit was Monday, May 21, 2018. The photo above was taken later in the day and at the time the pier was deserted.

As I made my way down the pier toward the land area, I was greeted very quickly by Amie the Ranger from the Knoydart Foundation. I am not sure how she knew who I was, but she did.

At the end of the pier is a building that looks like a large picnic shelter and it houses the pit toilet with a lovely aroma. Across from it was a sign that explained the area. Click the photo and study it, it is very interesting. It shows walks, trails and other information around and about Inverie.



The Sign for Knoydart



Bonnie Jean MacDonald's feet on Knoydart next to the sign May 21, 2018. For Kevin...

Amie is very friendly and fun. We climbed into her old and a little banged up Land Rover. Yes, there are autos on Knoydart, but you as a visitor cannot bring them along. The roads are in most places very rough.

She had a stool for me to use for it was a big step up. She made sure I was safely into the back seat. Amie took us into Inverie, which is not that far. She wanted to make sure we had a reservation at the Old Forge Pub. I thought that was funny, but apparently it can get filled up for lunch and dinner if there are enough people around.

Basically, Inverie is a long white block of a building divided up internally into various establishments like the Old Forge and the Knoydart Foundation office and visitor center.

As you can see, in the photo below, the weather was not cooperating. It had been beautiful weather the days before but not today. Sigh! Here I am taking photos out the front window of the Rover. Let's call it a creative way to get in the mood for the tour. HA!



Inverie from the Land Rover, notice the windshield wiper...it was raining...

Before I start this, be aware that there was a lot that was discussed and viewed on this tour. I am afraid I was overwhelmed and cannot remember everything said. This is not going to be a blow-by-blow account but more a summary. Also be aware that Amie can only drive on Foundation land due to Scottish laws. Therefore, the tour was on those lands owned by the Foundation. This leaves out a lot of acreage.

Amie drove us along the coastline to the north of Inverie, she was headed to Airor. We started on a paved road. First stop was at two cottages which might have been for the game keepers at some time past.



A Gamekeeper house at one time?

Another white house was supposed to be quite old. Can you imagine getting the materials to Knoydart, wow, the logistics of it is overwhelming, not to mention the cost.



A very old home?

We passed an old growth forest. It must be fenced off to keep the deer from stripping the land. Amie told us of a Rhodie that is invasive and not native. It is a pretty plant, so it has been hard getting the people to take other varieties of Rhodies that were good for the land. The variety is Rhodie Ponticum. It is described on the foundation's website.

<http://www.actforlibraries.org/plant-profiles-rhododendron-rhododendron-ponticum/>

We passed by a lovely large house set closer to the water. I believe it was a school-built centuries ago. The small window on the left side is a Leper Window for the giving of alms. The tree on the left sort of obscures the view but it is there. On the right is a Yew tree which is very old and a tradition at schools in the British Isles?



A nice view, a little fuzzy, but still you can get the idea



Old School and the sheep are resting for the day...



Old Yew Tree

She then turned the Land Rover inland and started climbing on the edge of the cliff up into the interior of the northern part of the Peninsula. I was seated on the right and Hubby was on the left in the back seat. I was taking photos to the left and then to the right trying to get more land visuals. I was rolling the window down. Rain and camera equipment don't mix so I was being careful.



Looking up to the right



A loch

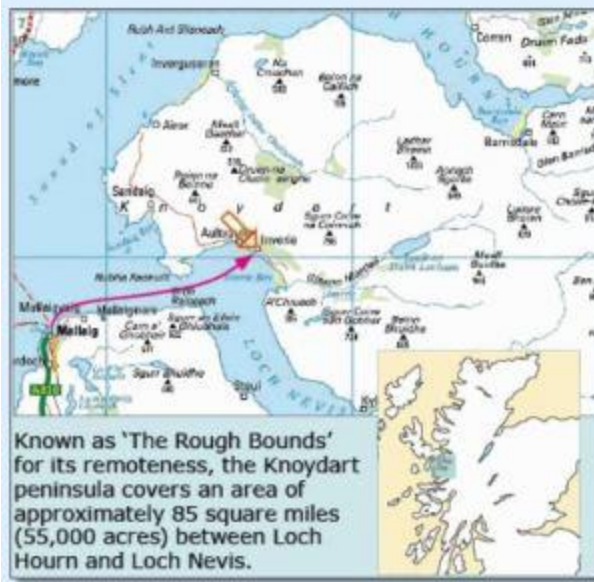


A bit rough



A very misty mountain, you can't see the top.

We saw an area where a slide had occurred that almost caused a terrible accident. It was all excavated and it was near the edge of the cliff! I stumbled on this article with pictures: <http://www.visitknoydart.co.uk/single-post/2017/10/25/LANDSLIDE-ON-AIROR-ROAD>



Knoydart The Rough Bounds and the Ferry to Inverie - There is a dark line on the West Cost of Knoydart, that goes to Airor.

Our route for this morning tour is the line that you see skirting Sandaig. The first part was next to the water and then we went up into the hills. We were still looking down on the water. The road got rougher at some point with potholes and water puddles. She showed us Sandaig and several other locations.



Sandaig (white houses) in the distance and through the left window

She pointed out Doune (after Sandaig) which is an extreme recreation location. This has possibilities for a way to do Knoydart. You come by boat and there are various activities to participate in like hiking and more. The Doune website has a very interesting history that you might check out: <https://www.doune-knoydart.co.uk/about-us/doune-history>. Here is the main home page: <https://www.doune-knoydart.co.uk/>



Doune - the house is down by the water

I have been trying to find a definition of a moor and so I asked Amie what a moor was, and she said that I was looking at one, see the heather which was about to bloom. Moors are very important in English literature like Wuthering Heights and Jane Austin novels.

Dictionary.com

1. a tract of open, peaty, wasteland, often overgrown with heath,
2. common in high latitudes and altitudes where drainage is poor; heath.
3. a tract of land preserved for game.



More rough land



Rough lands

Camusblathan is a lovely place to stay in Airor but it is self-catering so bring food and how you get to it you will have to read their website: <http://www.camusblathan.co.uk/>



Camusblathan

Amie pointed out crofting and rock ruins. As she proceeded the road got rougher and bumpier.





We entered Airor and curved around the bay to the end of the road.



Airor Bay

A little further into Airor and then we had to turn around and head back. We passed by the cafe *The Road's End Cafe*. It was closed this day. There was a very curious doggie watching us. <https://m.facebook.com/theroadsendcafe/>



The Cafe at the end of the Road

As we headed back to Inverie, I was able to take photos right out my window toward the Sound of Sleat. The rain and fog had let up a tiny bit making visibility better?



On the way back from Airor



Moving south



Sandaig again



More ruins

Hubby asked a lot of questions about their funding, how they did the Wi-Fi, where did they get electricity and power. It sounded complicated. Hubby asked about taxes and Amie explained that to him. Knoydart is a self-sufficient community of about 108 people and a few part-timers. The Knoydart Foundation website is filled with all kinds of information about how the foundation is run and how they provide power to the community. It also covers the goals they have for the natural environment of the peninsula. Amie did share about the history of the land and who bought it and sold it. I refer you again to the Knoydart Foundation website where they devote a page to this very interesting topic. <http://www.knoydart-foundation.com/>

I was curious about who owned what and where on the peninsula currently. Here is a little from Wikipedia about that topic:

The Knoydart Foundation was established in 1997 to take ownership of the 17,500-acre (71 km²) Knoydart Estate which makes up much of the peninsula, It is a registered charity under Scottish law, including the village of Inverie. The Foundation bought the estate in 1999. It is a partnership of local residents, the Highland Council, the Chris Brasher Trust, and the John Muir Trust. The foundation aim is to "manage the Knoydart Estate as an area of employment and settlement on the Knoydart Peninsula without detriment to its natural beauty and character and to seek and encourage the preservation of its landscape, wildlife, natural resources, culture and rural heritage."

The neighbouring privately-owned Kilchoan Estate was part of the foundation when it was set up but have since gone their own way. Kilchoan Estate covers 13,212 acres (53.47 km²) of the peninsula and lies to the east of the Knoydart Foundation land. Other landholdings on Knoydart include the 8,080-acre (32.7 km²) Camusrory Estate (lying to the east of the Kilchoan Estate), and the 14,230-acre (57.6 km²) Barrisdale Estate on the northern side of the peninsula and extending as far east as Kinloch Hourn. 3,063 acres (12.40 km²) of land on the northern slopes of Ladhar Bheinn is owned by the John Muir Trust, one of the participants in the Knoydart Foundation. - From Wikipedia <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knoydart>

Here are some interesting links regarding some of the information presented above. The first is about Chris Brasher, the next is about the Camusrory Estate, then Barrisdale Estate and last Kilchoan Estate:

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/obituaries/christopher-brasher-1-598736>

<https://abolasabout.wordpress.com/2018/03/13/camus-rory/>

<http://www.barrisdale.com/>—Doesn't seem to be working! You can just put in Barrisdale in Google and see what comes it, mostly hiking.

<http://www.kilchoan-knoydart.com/>

Returning to our tour, it was time for lunch. We returned to Inverie. We headed into the Old Forge, said to be Britain's remotest pub. Once again, I advise you to read the Old Forge website it is filled with very good information. <http://www.theoldforge.co.uk/>

We had invited Amie for lunch. Amie and I had stew and Hubby had scallops. We, Hubby and me, both had a glass of wine no beer. I spent too much time chatting, so I had to really dig into my stew which was delicious. The nice man in the bar took a picture of us at the table.



The Menu



Lunch at the Old Forge, Knoydart, Scotland



Looking out the window as the weather starts to get worse. That is North Morar you see across the loch.

As I was happily chatting, I mentioned that I needed to learn more about Scottish music. Amie suggested the BBC had a radio program that featured Scottish Music which I will have to check out. The man in the pub must have heard me and suggested the CD to Hubby. "*Jam Music from the Knoydart Peninsula - Live sessions from the old forge.*" Hubby bought the CD of music and

they gave him a free Old Forge T-Shirt in Medium size for me. It is black with white letters on both sides. I collect T-shirts from places I visit, and I was getting quite the collection on this trip.



I showed Amy the map done by Marianne McLean from her book indicating where the people had lived in 1776. She recognized the names of the settlements. She in turn took out the big map of Knoydart - *Explorer Map, Ordinance Survey #413 Knoydart, Loch Hourn and Loch Duich, Kyle of Lochalsh*. You can find these all around at various shops if you pay attention rather than buy online. I am fussy about my maps and like to take a look before I buy: <https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop/maps/explorer-map-knoydart-loch-hourn-loch-duich.html>

I have a copy of this map, but I am not going to use it in this post it is too detailed. Amie showed us where we had been that morning and where we were going after lunch. As we were getting ready to leave the pub a backhoe drove by with a man and a dog riding along. Amie laughed and said it was her family.

We were off in the Land Rover on our next adventure of the day to the Glen. Hubby asked what was meant by "Glen." I said valley and Amy agreed.

She had taken us on the north side of the Black Mountains and now we would be on the south side of them. I have not been able to find anything about the Black Mountains. She said they had three Munros (mountain) but we would only see one. These are their larger mountains up to 3000 feet. Scroll to section 10b for the 3 Munros of Knoydart:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Munros



The Glenn

In the map above, the blue line is the next route we took, but we did not go all the way to the water. I am not sure exactly where we stopped. This road went by Amy's house then she turned a sharp left and up the hill she went. She is fearless. This road was bad, bumpy, rocky and rough. I almost hit my head a few times on the top of the Rover.

The glen was amazing, it had waterfalls, a river and ruins of former crofts, rough land to our left and right, tall mountains surrounding us, some forested areas and it was most of all peaceful and maybe a little sad?



A river



Looking out



Trees too close together

There were large groves of evergreen trees scattered about in various locations. Amie pointed out that they had been planted too close together. The foundation was trying to remove them and had made some progress, but it was expensive, and you could see that the remoteness made it very difficult to take the logs out.



Following the river



The road ahead



Better growth

She pointed out that the deer were basically stripping the land. There were fences in some areas and gates she took us through set up to defend against the deer. There are no natural predators in Scotland, the last wolf was killed in 1680. This means that the deer must be thinned out and their population kept under control. In Scotland there is a tradition of Stalkers. She said that she has been out with the Stalker guide and found it is very hard to spot the deer. Hubby and I didn't see any. He was able to point them out easily to her. She talked about bringing in ponies to remove the deer carcasses. They also prepare the venison for use and sale. Nothing is wasted.

The ride was bumpy, but she took us to the where there was a bridge across the river, and she parked the Rover. Across the river was a line of rock ruins of croft(s). Someone had lived out here! If you look closely you can see a rather substantial building ruin in the distance beyond the other rock ruins.



Ruins along the river.



Someone lived out here once - the crumbling building in the center of the photo

Amie became excited and got out of the Rover and went searching by the river for some rocks. She handed them to me and said that they have garnet in them. I was very happy because now I had my rocks from Knoydart.



My Knoydart Rocks with garnet sparkling in them.



Looking back, the Land Rover and the stool



The River and Amie looking for garnet



Looking around from the bridge

Standing on the bridge and just slowly rotating around I saw a valley with a variety of trees, mountains all around, the sound of the river water. It was a lovely spot.



A waterfall higher up



This mountain is willing to show its top.



Heading back along a mucky road



Rushing water

We headed back to Inverie because it was getting time for the ferry to return. We thanked Amie for her time and told her we were pleased and happy with the tour. Before she left, she helped us out and took a few more pictures of us.



We were there - Inverie in the background, Bonnie and Hubby, May 21, 2018



North Morar in the distance



The ferry arriving late



The Ferry Arrives, don't dally it will leave without you...

The ferry was to pick us up at 4 pm but it was late, and we didn't leave till 4:40 pm.

This return trip on the ferry to Mallaig did not have that many people on the boat. I wiped the fog off the window and pressed my nose to the glass. I could follow the coastline of North Morar as we made our way back to Mallaig. It did get rocky out on the Sound of Sleat, but it was a better ride then the morning one for the weather was lifting. I spotted houses as we got closer to Mallaig. These first two photos are not very good, but you can get the idea.



Mallaigvaig was where the people lived before Mallaig was established, because it didn't get the cold winds that Mallaig gets.



Coming into Mallaig



The boat at the dock

They really don't mess around docking and disembarking. The boat was a bit far from the dock, so I really had to jump. I am grateful the men really know what they are doing in helping the customer out of the boat.

On the upper area of the dock in Mallaig, I was meant with a bitter wind that chilled me. We decided to just go straight to dinner, so we tried Fisherman Restaurant. It was too full. The Cornerstone was across the street and up some stairs and we were able to get a small table in the corner. I liked this restaurant, because I had a view of the docks from their upper floor and could watch the activity. <https://seafoodrestaurantmallaig.com/>

For dinner Hubby had a curried monkfish and I had a lovely cod fillet. Dessert was creme Brule for me and a cake of some type for Hubby. It was all good. I finally stopped shivering for the hand warmer helped warm me some. I giggled to myself that I did not use one on Knoydart.

I had to crawl out of the corner of the restaurant for I had been trapped by the table next to us. I headed to the B&B and Hubby walked around the town and got lost.

I did it, I went to Knoydart.

Here are more links that you might investigate and make sure you know hours and in the event of bad weather make sure you check the ferries:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knoydart>

<http://www.visitknoydart.co.uk/>

Some beautiful pictures on this website:

<https://maptia.com/selfpwr/stories/mountains-midges-and-the-rebels-of-knoydart>

There are videos, you will have to search for them:

The John Muir Trust - Knoydart

Britain's last wilderness: Scotland's Knoydart Peninsula at the Guardian

Vimeo: Views from Beinn Bhuidhe on the Knoydart Peninsula

There is no real history of Knoydart. I mentioned Marianne McLeans' book above. The records are non-existent up until about the 1700's. A book titled: *Knoydart A History*, 2011 by Denis Rixon is available for purchase. I bought my copy after returning home. This is not a genealogy although it does have some biography of a few of the people of Knoydart and some interesting emigration information taken from a variety of sources.

The table of contents:

- Geography and topography,
- Prehistoric and Early Christian,
- Knut's Fjord - Knoydart and the Norse,
- Knoydart in the Middle Ages,
- Knoydart in the Later Middle Ages,
- The Jacobites in Knoydart,
- A Forfeited Estate,
- The Population Problem and Emigration,
- The 1853 Clearance,
- From 1853 to 1891 and
- Knoydart in the 20th Century.

There is no index but there is a reading list. I have read it and I think I will need to do so again. I warn you that it is a little sad, the inhabitants were poor and had a very rough life. Amazon has this book and the cover page has a picture of a rocky beach and driftwood with a red-orange sky in the distance.

Another book: *Chapels of the Rough Bounds: Morar, Knoydart, Arisaig, Moidart*, by Alastair Roberts, 2015.

There are more things to do and see on Knoydart, here are a few more:

- The Knoydart Foundation display room and shop
- The Kilchoun Farm shop
- The Inverie River
- Woodland walks with the Ranger and around Inverie
- The Kilchoan Cemetery, apparently the stones are so old they are difficult to read. At this time I cannot find a listing for this cemetery that is helpful - A study of the Kilchoan Cross in this cemetery is interesting: <http://www.thehazeltree.co.uk/2013/02/27/the-mystery-of-the-kilchoan-cross/>
- The Seven Men of Knoydart Cairn <https://www.revolvvy.com/main/index.php?s=Seven+Men+of+Knoydart>
- A walk to Barrisdale - see above.
- etc...

A Tour of Scotland: Mallaig to Fort William

July 23, 2018

We awoke to a lovely day. I raised up my fist to the sky and growled. It was the day after our tour of Knoydart, and it was nice weather again. AUGH!

It was our last day in Mallaig, and we wanted to go to the Mallaig Heritage Centre. It didn't open till 11 am, so that meant we could fill up the morning exploring, shopping and just enjoying the town. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mallaig>

We went down to breakfast in the dining room of the Seaview Guest House at 8 am. We both had porridge, scramble eggs and I had sausage and he had salmon. Once again, the coffee was good.

Check out was an early 10 am, so we busied ourselves with packing up. Hubby took a load down to the car and came back for the rest. I was ready a little after 9 am so we headed down with the rest of our stuff. I had Hubby pay the lodging bill in cash and he got a handwritten receipt. We asked if we could leave our car in the B&B car park until we left town in a few hours. The manager was okay with that.

We headed west towards the middle of the town and I started weaving in and out of the stores. There were two shops that were very good. They had a lot of clothing for outdoor activities, even a canoe or two. They also had a lot of souvenirs. At the first shop, we bought some small Nessie dolls for several of the grand kids.



Mallaig harbor the next day after Knoydart - Sunny and warm



The main street - Tea Garden restaurant to the right with the umbrellas



Another main Street with shops and inns

We found another interesting store down an alley way. I spotted a gargoyle and a sign and got curious. I walked down the alley and into the open door and found this wonderful shop filled with Harry Potter memorabilia. Haggard Alley is the name. I was very happy. I looked around at all the of what they had: books, wands, clothing, a broom and other items. They even had some unique and amazing displays down this other hallway. I bought a Hogwarts Jacket. I could have bought a Gryffindor labeled jacket, but the Sorting Hat had not given me its verdict. I believe there was a sorting hat in the store, ah yes above the counter.



Haggard Alley in Mallaig, 18 E. Bay opens 10 am



Anyone for a Nimbus 2000

I chatted with the friendly salesperson about Harry Potter, the characters, movies and books. I had just read all the books, so I was up on the stories. What a riot! Hubby showed her Diagon Alley photos from our area. This man had built a mini-Diagon Alley in his driveway in Ballard a neighborhood of Seattle. That display is gone now but it was fun to see. I left a link on the stores Facebook page about it: <https://www.facebook.com/Haggardalley/>

I love my Hogwarts jacket. It is soft and comfortable. I have since had several comments about my jacket and it is fun to tell them where I purchased it. The sales lady said that the store had only been open about 3 weeks. There was a shop on the Jacobite Train which comes to Mallaig. I think this might be what Amie thought was a museum for there were various displays like the fancy broom pictured above? It was a kick and I highly recommend that you stop by and see what they have!

We wandered down to the Bakery, which had been recommended by the young man on the ferry boat to Inverie. The desserts, pastries and breads looked delicious, but it was standing room only. We still had a little more time till 11 am so we went over to the Tea Garden Cafe. It was a sit down and the restaurant felt like sitting in a garden. I had tea while Hubby had coffee and a lemon cake.



Mallaig Heritage Centre

It was time to go over to the Mallaig Heritage Center. It was a small museum next to the train station. <http://www.mallaigheritage.org.uk/>

You enter through the door and the first room is the gift shop which has lots of books. I found several that I liked, so I bought them.

Chapels of the Rough Bounds: Morar, Knoydart, Arisaig, Moidart, by Allaidair Roberts. I have mentioned this before in my past post.

Arisaig & Morar A History, Denis Rixon 2011. This is the same man who wrote the *Knoydart A History* I featured on my past post.

Moidart, Among the Clanranalds, Charles MacDonald, Edited by John Watts.

So now with all the books that I have been collecting, I have a good overall general history of the area of the Rough Bounds and more. I am slowly working through my books from Scotland.

You pay the entrance fee at the reception desk and then enter the main museum. There are reader boards that explain the history of Mallaig which was founded in the 1850's. There is little

documentation before 1841 for this town. They describe the Jacobite's and Charles Edward Stuart and the effect this had on the Mallaig area. Lots of very interesting old maps about the area are shown. It describes that Mallaigvaig was the original settlement but all that changed due to the owner who was The Earl of Lovat (Simon Fraser 16th Earl) efforts to do improvements and breaking up of the farms and moving people out. Pictures of individuals at various forms of work like cutting peat, carrying seaweed, weaving, sheering sheep and other pursuits.

There was a section on Knoydart showing a chart of the population in 1755 at about 800+ and by 1991 it was almost zero. That is 236 years later. There is even more explanation of the 1800's and the population decline. They describe the 1851 Knoydart Clearances which were brutal.

The picture below is the best I can find of a Creel house. I learned about this in the Knoydart History book. This is the house of our ancestors in the Highlands. The rock house ruins that I presented in my past post on Knoydart are probably the remains of the improvements done by the forfeited estates commissioners. Those living on Knoydart towards the "end of the 19th century where able to boast houses with stone walls."

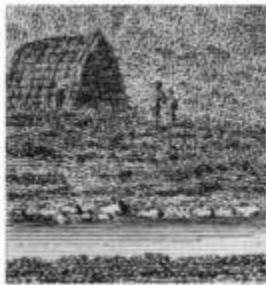


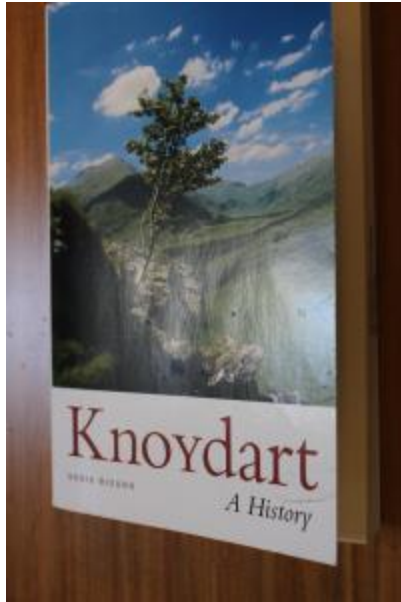
Figure 1. Wattle and turf dwelling house in Strathmore, 1776. (Reproduced from: Revd Charles Cordner, Antiquities and Scenery of the North of Scotland, London, 1780, plate 19 'Dun Dornadilla' (facing p.105)

Creel Houses - wattling and thatch

https://pure.uhi.ac.uk/portal/files/2038541/VB37_pp31to50_Cheape_CreelHouses_SPREADS.pdf



Houses Loch Hourn mid 1850's or later? on the wall of the museum



Knoydart a History by D. Rixon

This is where I found out information about the Knoydart History that Amie had mentioned. The receptionist disappeared and reappeared with a copy of it. They did not have any for sale. I took photographs of several pages, so I could buy a copy later. I now have my copy which I ordered online. I have written about this book in the past post on our visit to Knoydart. Go there if you want to learn more about what the book contains. This is not a genealogical book it is a historical and sociological study of the Knoydart area.

I told the receptionist I had emailed them, but no one had responded. I asked if there was some way, I could contact a person directly, if I had questions. She handed me a business card with an email contact. I might revisit their website and see if there is anything of interest.

The Jacobite train came into the station next door and we went out to take pictures and enjoy all the commotion of people getting on and off. The train was much longer than I expected. The railway station was crowded with people.



Jacobite Train



Jacobite Train in Mallaig



Crowds around the train



A very long train



Very very long

We would not be riding this train for we had the rental car. I was glad that it had appeared for my Hubby likes trains. I suspected that we would see it again that day.

<https://www.westcoastrailways.co.uk/jacobite/jacobite-steam-train-details.cfm>

It was time to leave Mallaig and head to Fort William, so we finished up in the Mallaig Heritage Centre.

Our first stop on this part of our journey was Loch Morar. I wanted to take a picture of the loch. Loch Morar divides the areas of North Morar from South Morar. My understanding is they tend to call the South Morar after Arisaig. It also has its own monster named Morag and he is older than Nessie. The town of Morar was bigger than I expected it would be. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loch_Morar

From Wikipedia: *During the period of the Highland Clearances, many residents emigrated to Canada.^[16] Boats left in 1790,^[16] 1802,^[17] and 1826,^[18] carrying people to Quebec, Glengarry in Ontario, and the Strait of Canso in Nova Scotia respectively.*

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morar>



Loch Morar - no monster sightings today...for Neil



Loch Morar is very deep and freshwater with lots of history



Loch Morar is swallow at the west end and at the east there are steep hills on either side



Our Lady of Perpetual Succor & St. Cumin - Catholic

We had to drive through Morar to get to the Loch. We got off A830 and followed Columbia Rd through the town and then this other road to the Church in the photo above. It is right on the Loch. We stopped for a while taking photos and enjoying the sounds of the loch. Then we took the road along the River Morar and found this lovely waterfall and park with green grass and benches to sit on.



The River Morar



River Morar waterfall



River Morar and lovely bridge - the park is to the left

Arsaig was next with a stop at the Land, Sea and Island Museum. They were tearing up the parking lot, so we had to park in the Medical office lot across the road.



Land, Sea and Islands Centre in Arisaig

When you first enter you are in the gift shop. It was filled with books, memorabilia, clothing and more. I studied everything and decided on the book: *The Scots A Genetic Journey*, by Alistair Moffat, 2017. I had heard of this book but hesitated to buy it online because I do like to study them before I purchase them. The author takes you on a DNA journey from Africa and how man and woman migrated to present day Scotland and discusses the mixes of DNA that are in Scotland. It is very interesting. You should see my scribbles of the DNA haplogroups on my piece of paper - I covered it all. I wrote them down as I read through the book. He does provide an index so you can go and look the DNA up and refer to the pages he is discussing. I have seen DNA videos about the progression of man through the world and they are fascinating. This book is focusing on the Scots.



Inside the Land, Sea and Isles centre



Peat - very odd stuff - rough and stiff - used for fuel



Crofting – or farming land in Scotland

manually



Another picture of housing in the Highlands



Loch nan Ceall - Arisaig

The museum was very small but well done. They also emphasized several of the islands west of the area which was interesting. <http://www.arisaiginfo.org.uk/>

Arisaig is a very pretty place with a lovely bay. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arisaig>

We left Arisaig and headed east on a very nice wide road A830. The landscape was either piles of rock at various heights or rocks that looked like they were slices bunched together on their ends. Scotland's landscape surprises me constantly. Well Scotland was under several ice ages, so it does look very chiseled.

We stopped for lunch at the Glenfinnan Train Car Restaurant which is next to the train station and not far from the Glenfinnan Monument and the Viaduct.



Glenfinnan Train Car restaurant



Bring your suitcase



The dining room



Outside of the restaurant

Lunch at the Glenfinnan Train Car restaurant I ordered mushroom soup, and a cheddar cheese toasty (toasted cheese sandwich). Hubby had a pulled pork sandwich and a salad. <https://glenfinnanstationmuseum.co.uk/facilities/dining-car/>

While we were eating the train came into the station from Mallaig. This was the one that had pulled into Mallaig a few hours before. We had been wondering how the engine got turned around. Well it didn't get turned around for this train's engine was backwards. Well we now knew how it worked. A little while later another train came in from the other direction and stopped. Hubby went off to get pictures of the train. Again, I lucked out and the timing could not have been better to catch this famous train at another location.



Train Station Glenfinnan



Steam Train



Steam Train



Heading out



Almost gone



Heading for Mallaig - can you see the young man wave from the train?

After our meal we visited the train station museum next door. This was a very tiny museum and quite fun. Hubby explained the use of tokens to me. I asked the museum receptionist about the walk to the viaduct where the train travels on. She said it would take 25 minutes to walk to it and that meant it would take an hour or more for us. This is the viaduct that is in the Harry Potter movies. We decided that it was a bit too much for us today. I was okay with that.

We continued to the Glenfinnan monument. This is where Bonnie Prince Charlie raised his standard and rallied the Clans to help him win back the Scottish Crown. We had been at Culloden and seen the outcome of this claim for the crown and here was the beginning of that Jacobite rebellion.

We parked the car and walked across the busy highway to the monument which is a very tall tower with a Jacobite Soldier on the top. It is set in a beautiful place at the north of Loch Shiel. <https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/glenfinnan-monument>



Glenfinnan Monument and visitor centre Loch Shiel



Glenfinnan Monument



Glenfinnan Monument

We walked around the base studying the plaques at the bottom. When I saw the name of Archibald MacDonald of Glenaladale listed in the plaque, I was very amazed. Somehow somehow I am related to this family via DNA at Family Tree DNA. It is my brother's DNA and I have tried to figure out where on this family tree we come from but so far, I am at an impasse. So, this means South Uist and the Hebrides are also of interest. Just couldn't make it there this trip.



Plaque at Glenfinnan with a Glenaladale featured

At various archives I have asked about the Glenaladale MacDonalds, but no one seemed to know who they were. I was seeing chapters and articles on this line of the clan in my travels so far, but I need to do more digging. This article is from the Dictionary of Canadian Biography and it is not bad. These MacDonalds came to Prince Edward Island and settled: http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/macdonald_of_glenaladale_john_5E.html

It was time to move on. Fort William was only 17 minutes from the monument, so today's journey was almost at an end. It took a bit of maneuvering to find the Ashburn House our

lodging destination. We turned off on the wrong exit for a roundabout and had to get righted. Fort William's main highway is very busy and right along the waters of Loch Linnhe. The Ashburn House was down the main road below the center of the town. We did find it and the car park in back. <http://ashburnhouse.co.uk/>

The roundabouts were very confusing. I started to hold up my hand with my fingers up for the number of the exit we are to take. So, if there were three exits expressed by the Navigation system, we would count them out. It was helping. I know it sounds silly but when you are in busy traffic it really helps. The Scots are very quick and fast. Fortunately, the Navigation system in our BMW was pretty good. I named her Petunia and she would tell us twice which exit to take.



Ashburn House in Fort William

The Ashburn house was very grand. I entered the front door of the House and rang the buzzer. A man came out and he graciously showed us around. The Ashburn House was very fancy. It had a major flowing staircase to the second floor. The door to our room was this large wooden piece. The room was very pleasant but there was this odd couch in one corner. I think it was a hide a bed. The bathroom was cozy, and it was obvious it had been added. They look like units with raised floors.



West End Hotel

We decided to walk into town and settled on the West End Hotel bar. It was a tad cold on that walk along Loch Linnhe. At the hotel I had a glass of wine, Hubby had a beer. I also ordered an apple pie and ice cream. I shared it with Hubby. There pie is not like our pie, more like a pastry.

The West End Hotel is a big hotel with a large restaurant and bar area. You ordered your food and drinks at the bar. It was comfortable with views of the Loch.

On the way back to the B&B we passed many fancy B&B's that were huge. The one for sale was £535,000. It was very big and old-looking. There was construction going on at one rather large old building and Hubby said it was being renovated for the city government.



Fancy House in Fort William - this one might be two houses together?

Back at the Ashburn House it was time for bed.

Hubby and I had just travelled what is called "The Road to the Isles." We went from Mallaig to Fort William and they usually write it the other way around. There are many more places to stop and dally then want we did today. Google has lots of ideas for activities.

A Tour of Scotland: The Fort William Area and Clan Cameron

July 27, 2018

We had far too many events planned for this day and included on the itinerary. I also added another location which meant I needed to figure out what would work. So, after pondering them, I decided on what was more important to me. The weather was going to be great with some sun, some clouds and just all around nice.

I had learned that getting to the Clan Cameron Museum would take a little trip of about 30 minutes up A82 north to the west from Fort William. The museum didn't open till 11 am. This meant we had time for other activities.

We decided that we would go visit Old Inverlochy Castle first, then go to the town of Spean Bridge and then the Clan museum. Later in the day we would return to Fort William and do some more exploring and visit the West Highland Museum. We also decided on the Crannog Restaurant right on the edge of Loch Linnhe for our dinner that evening. The day was planned.



Ashburn House, Fort William

Breakfast was in the lovely large rectangular room of the Ashburn House. At one end was a bay window with antiques set around the room. There were lavender curtains, tablecloths and even the thick carpet was lavender. The table for two was narrow but longer than I had seen. It made it less crowded for the dishes. William was serving breakfast. He has a breakfast form you fill out with all your breakfast selections and then you place it in the dining room and the next day you get your meal. They assign your table using your room number. We entered a little after 8 am and there were already guests present. On the opposite side of this room, was a double door to a conservatory filled with windows all around and big comfy leather chairs. books, games and I think movies to look at. It was the guest room.

Hubby and I had the French toast, a fancy version. It had fruit with it and yogurt. Hubby also asked for toast and it comes in that metal stand with the slices placed in each section. The pressed coffee was good and warm. I had porridge first and it was very creamy. Again, we were in elegant surroundings much like Viewfield in Portree. I am enjoying my mix of lodgings and find them to be just as much an adventure as the journey.

I decided to start sorting out my stuff which was totally out of control by this time and had items scattered all over the luggage and car. I also needed to get our receipts ready for customs regarding the items we had purchased. I headed out to the car and realized I had forgotten my cell phone. Hubby called to me from the window of our room which was rather cute. I told him what I needed.



Ashburn House - Looking out our window to the car park

I was trying to clean up the back seat behind my side of the car. I was throwing stuff into the large luggage on the backseat and it was now a mess and would need to be re-organized. I was also trying to get my papers, research, newly purchased books, flyers into the little roller luggage. I will organize everything Saturday when I get it all packed and ready for the trip back home. Yes, we were getting to the end of our journey just a few more days left.

Hubby arrived and I stopped cleaning up. We headed to the main highway which is A82 and it is right in front of the Asburn House. We turned the car north along Loch Linnhe. We headed north through the town. It takes time weaving through Fort William. The town long with many roundabouts. The main highway through the town is a very busy and narrow with lots of trucks, cars and businesses all around. Some of the exits on the roundabouts are for business only, so you do have to pay attention.



Old Inverlochy Castle Ruins

Petunia the Navigation system's name for this trip, took us to the Old Inverlochy Castle ruins and it was awesome. It was quite the castle at one time with turrets on all four sides. I think this is a castle that a child's imagination would love!



Old Inverlochy Reader Board showing how the castle looked



Reader board about the Old Inverlochy Castle

A lot of the castle was still visible and intact. The Queen had commented that there was not much left. This caused a stir in the press. Some of the turrets were blocked off because they were unstable, and you could see they were trying to repair it to make it safe. We wandered the castle and the grounds and Hubby inspected things. We got into some mushy ground thinking the green grass would be nice to walk on. We headed for higher ground up nearer the castle walls. The walls towered above us. The River Lochy flows by the castle but the moat is gone. Make sure you search for Old Inverlochy Castle, otherwise you will end up at the fancy hotel:

<https://www.inverlochycastle.co.uk/>















I am reading "*Robert Bruce, King of the Scots*", by Ronald McNair Scott, 1982. In it he talks about Robert The Bruce taking Inverlochy castle and Urquhart as well. I have now visited both castles approximately 703 years later, so that is cool!



Robert the Bruce

We headed north and found the Spean Bridge Woolen Mill store and their large car park. We headed into the store which is awesome. They had the softest plaid scarves but no MacDonald clans in the cashmere which were £40 each.



Spean Bridge Woolen Mill



Spean Bridge Woolen Mill

Hubby decided on a book for our older grandchild about Sea monsters. He then decided that the polyester scarves would work for all the grand girls and his daughter. He picked out colors for

them. He chooses one to replace his old scarf I bought him years ago. These were not as pricey as the cashmere ones. We still have one more grandchild to find something for and he is a tough sophisticated 6-year-old. <https://www.ewm.co.uk/store-finder/index/storedetail/id/320/>

I looked at this cape which had its own scarf and it was a lovely grey, but it was a bit heavy. They had sweaters and I was tempted. I did the store twice but couldn't find anything I wanted.

From Spean Bridge, we gave Petunia the Clan Cameron Museum location and she found it! It would be out in the country and I was not sure about the roads. Along the way to Clan Cameron, we came upon the war memorial and decided to stop. It was a great day with a wonderful view of the Munro Mountains. Lots of people were around for it was a WWII memorial and a tourist bus stop. <https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/munros/>



WWII Monument

The Plaque Reads: In Memory of the Officers and Men of the Commandos Who Died in the Second World War 1939 to 1945 This Country was their training ground.



WWII Remembrance

There was a remembrance circle filled with the names of soldiers and flowers in their honor. It was sad and sweet at the same time. You never know what you will find on a trip. This was a great surprise. We were to learn more about the Commandoes of WWII at the Clan Cameron Museum and West Highland Museums.

<https://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/speanbridge/commando/>

This area was wide open, so I took a series of photos in a circular sweep hoping to get all of it.









We continued west to Gairloch and turned north on a single-track road that was rough in some places, but not bad. It was beautiful country spreading out before us. There was green fields, forested areas and Loch Lochy to view through the trees.

It took about 15-20 minutes to get to the Clan Cameron Museum. They sure come quick, the other cars. We did have to be diligent and careful and pull over when needed. It turned out to be a nice drive and easy to do.



Clan Cameron Museum



Clan Cameron Sign

We came upon a long white house that is the museum. People were sitting outside at the chairs and table provided. They were serving coffee and tea from a very small machine. Hubby purchased an ice cream and bought tickets for the museum.



Clan Cameron Cairn



Gift Shop

I studied their books in the gift shop. I had not spent a great deal of time on the Cameron Clan and decided it was time I educated myself. <http://www.clanameronmuseum.co.uk/>

I meandered through the museum slowly reading the presentation boards which were very helpful and informative about the Clan history, the history of the Chief's, the genealogy of the Chief's. Cameron lands are just below Glengarry lands. The MacDonalds and Camerons did a lot of intermarrying.



Fancy Clan Cameron Map



Clan Cameron with a better map of the lands



Lineage of Clan Cameron

I returned to the gift shop and bought a Clan Cameron T-shirt, and a scarf. I decided to get the book *The Camerons The History of the Clan Cameron*, by John Stewart of Advorlich, 1st published 1974, 1981, 1994, 2001 and 2015.



Research library

I looked through their little reference and research library noting what was there. It was very warm outside, and the tables and chairs were filled with people, so I found refuge in a chair in

the research room and continued to study their collection. I don't have enough information currently to identify ancestors, but I do recognize some of the names.

The attendant told me where to go to get a photo of the Cameron house that still exists. You walk down to the two gates straight ahead from the museum. You cannot visit the house because it is privately owned.

She also introduced me to Donald Angus Cameron the XVII Chief of the Clan Cameron. He drove up to the museum and was seated in his car. He was very sweet and nice. He was off to lunch with friends. I was a little bit intimidated. I have never met a Clan Chief before. I told him that I had spent more time on Clan Donald up until now, but today I was focusing on my Clan Cameron side of my family: <http://www.clanameronmuseum.co.uk/>

Hubby finished up the museum part and we wandered down to the gate and into the road beyond and turned to see the lovely house in the distance with sheep grazing in front of it. This land is still owned by the Clan Cameron and the Chief lives there. It is a working estate today. The house is privately owned so you cannot visit it at this time. It was built-in about 1804. The Duke of Cumberland's troops burned the origin homes and castles after the 1745 defeat of the Jacobites.



Clan Cameron Estate privately owned



Clan Cameron Estate, a closer view.

We headed back on the road stopping at a few places for photos of Loch Lochy and we could see the Munros to our left. I finally decided on which one was Ben Nevis. It is the knobby one. So, in Scotland you collect mountains by climbing them or Lochs by viewing them and learning their history. This loch is part of the Great Glen of the Highlands.



Loch Lochy



Google Map of the location of the Clan Cameron Museum

The drive back took us down another road on the west side of the river. It was single track. The view was all green pastures, farmland. We came out at Neptune's Stairs which is the Fort William version of the Caledonian Canal. We could not stop, we had other things to do in the town that day. Since we had seen part of the Canal in Fort Augustus, I gave this destination up. Here is a little more about this amazing canal system:

<https://www.scottishcanals.co.uk/locations/neptunes-staircase/>

We made it back to the Ashburn House managing the many roundabouts on A82 in Fort William. We needed a rest break.

Around 3 pm we headed up the street to town along Loch Linnhe. Our walk today was very beautiful and warm. Loch Linnhe is a sea loch and it is 31 miles in length.

<https://www.scotlandinfo.eu/loch-linnhe-scotland/>

Fort William must have been very wealthy at one time. The houses are beautiful along the highway and the loch is beautiful and large.



This one is a fancy restaurant - Cruachan Hotel Reception Bar & Restaurant

We passed the West End Highland hotel where we had drinks the night before and proceeded into the town center. I was "popping" (used in an Amsterdam restaurant) into and out of the stores.



Fort William city center

The Highland Bookshop looked like a lovely store to visit so I went inside and looked around. <http://www.highlandbookshop.com/>

I was looking for copies of the book: *The Clan Ranald of Knoydart & Glengarry, A History of the MacDonalDs or MacDonells of Glengarry*, by Norman H. MacDonald FSA Scot 1979 or 1998. They brought me a copy of the *Clan Ranald of Garmoran, A History of the MacDonalDs of Clanranald*, by Norman H. MacDonald, 2008. I turned them down.

In retrospect, I should have bought this book even though it was not the one I was focused on. These books are very hard to find, and pricey on the internet, because the author self-published. This means are limited numbers of books to find. Mr. MacDonald has also passed on so that is

sad news. We thanked them for their time and took their advice and went to another store around the corner. It was a wonderful building filled with old used books. A man sitting at a desk, in a suit, stood and greeted us. He was surrounded by tall bookcases and a room filled with books crammed in any place they would fit. Hubby chatted about the book we were searching for. He didn't have it but knew about the author's death. I think it was the Ben Nevis Book Corner.

We visited a couple more stores and headed to the West Highland Museum just up the street to the north Cameron Square. I thought they were open till 6 pm but was told rather strongly that they closed at 5 pm. She didn't leave the issue alone. I was unable to verify this till much later and apparently, I did mess up the hours. I do believe I saw something online that said 6 pm but I could not find that link.



West Highland Museum, tucked into one of the Cameron Square of the city center

I thoroughly studied the books in their gift shop. The museum was free. We gave a donation in response. We started at the top floor to see the Highland life information. They had some of Queen Victoria's costumes in one room, Jacobite items in another and Highland life in another. This museum was in a large building with many floors and nooks and crannies. They had things roped off so they could direct our walking and viewing of the exhibits throughout the building.

They have quite a lot of artifacts throughout the building and a reference library (by appointment only but you must be a member). They do not have a listing or description/summary of their reference library holdings which would be nice on their website:

<http://www.westhighlandmuseum.org.uk/>

I asked the attendant "where would the harbour be." Fort William is one of the locations where emigrants came to board ships to go to Canada, Australia and other places. She growled that "there was never a harbour." Sigh! Yes, I was annoyed, but I have been thinking that perhaps I have an incorrect vision of the emigrants boarding ships. I am beginning to think that the ships

came into the bay or loch and dropped anchor. There might have been a pier for them with a plank to climb on the ship. Or, they got into smaller boats and were rowed out to the ship that took them to their destination. These places that the emigrants came out of were small unless they were in Glasgow, Greenock or Aberdeen or some other larger cities. I am now rethinking my images and we will see what I find out.

The society started boarding windows about 4:30 pm and monitoring the door. They had to unlock it when you wanted to leave. Apparently, things are a little rough in Fort William.

We wandered back down the other side of the street checking out more of the shops. There were a lot of closed abandoned stores which made me think the town was a little depressed. I spotted a hardware store. Wow, the first one ever that we visited in Scotland. It was so fun to see the gardening supplies and hardware. Hubby found us a nightlight that is for the proper electrical outlet in Scotland. We will get 4 nights out of it for this trip. It was £4. I think the store was Marshall and Pearsons.

Back outside, we sat down on some benches across from a real estate store and studied the properties listed it was very interesting.

My husband's camera case was falling apart with the skin separating from the main body. We passed a cellphone accessory store and just on the chance that they might have something we went in. The man greeted us. We told him the problem and he went over to the wall behind him and pulled out two camera cases to try. Hubby liked one of them, but the cover was not closing. He felt it would loosen over time. He paid the man £10 which was not cheap. The case turned out to be just perfect. Who knew!

We checked out a few more stores. Be careful about closing times for stores in Scotland. Some stores will close at 5 pm, which is a little frustrating but that is what they do.



Very Fancy

Our dinner was a 6 pm at the Crannog <http://www.crannog.net/> which is situated on Loch Linnhe. We found the street corner to turn down to the busy road. We were still too early at about 5:20 pm. They were not open till 6 pm even though the door was open.



The Crannog Restaurant



Up close

I found a nice bench on the pier and enjoyed the view of the loch and the warm sun. Hubby explored. Apparently, they have lunch cruises or a variety of cruises. You cruise the loch then return to the restaurant for lunch. That would have been nice, but we just didn't have the time.



Sitting on the dock



Loch Linnhe

About 5:48 pm we went into the restaurant and they seated us. I tried a lovely wine from South Africa, Cannongate. I liked it a lot and the name seemed familiar. Hubby got a Glen Spean Pale Blonde beer he liked.



I had salmon fillet which was very good and once again their potatoes are wonderful. Hubby had a unique white fish that he liked. Then we topped it off with vanilla ice cream and butterscotch syrup. We can't seem to get the Scots interested in Chocolate syrup on ice cream.



Looking back

Our walk back was along the other side of the busy road next to the loch. At a certain point we were able to climb down to the grass and enjoy the lovely park by Loch Linnhe. I took several pictures of the loch while the sun was going down. It was very beautiful. The big hill looming on the western side of the loch started to lose detail as the sun set behind it.



Loch Linnhe evening time



Loch Linnhe park and the hill across shrouded in dark



Loch Linnhe - the boat dock

We crossed the very busy street, carefully, and entered the Ashburn House. Tomorrow we would leave Fort William and drive to Glasgow. I probably was pushing it on this next leg of our journey. We would stop first at Glencoe, then drive the west side of Loch Lomond, visit Dumbarton Castle and then negotiate Glasgow. It was going to be a challenge.

Time for bed!

A Tour of Scotland: Fort William, Glencoe, Loch Lomond, Dumbarton Castle and Glasgow

July 28, 2018

I was up early and caught up my journaling of yesterday's adventures. It was now almost 7 am and time to start packing and getting ready for breakfast, pay the bill and head out for Glasgow. It would be another busy day with a bit of driving to do.

This was our last breakfast at the Ashburn House. Hubby tried a cheese plate with wafers and fruit. I had a full breakfast. I tried some Haggis a Scottish dish. It was a circular slice probably from a loaf. It was a lot drier than I expected. I felt bad eating some but leaving most of it. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haggis>

We had barely left the car park of the Ashburn House and they were in our old room cleaning it. I could see them in the window. We turned left which was south on A82. It was pretty along Loch Linnhe. Unfortunately, it was a narrow road. This meant not much sightseeing but more keeping an eye on the road to keep from hitting someone or going into a ditch. The road followed the loch and then turned to the east and we crossed a bridge.

The first stop was the Glencoe Visitor Centre. We missed the turn, so we had to find a place to turn around and go back. Some places ask you to contribute to the maintenance of parking or even the toilet. This time it was for parking: <https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/glencoe>



Glencoe Visitor Centre Signs



The Entrance

We spent a lot of time in the museum. I wanted to understand the massacre of the MacDonalds of Glencoe. This event took place in 1692. I spent some time listening to audio explanations and studying the exhibit boards. There was a movie explaining the massacre. Norman MacDonald was featured in the film and he is the man who wrote many books on the Clan Donald's various lineages. He died several years back. His books are hard to buy for he self-published. They also described the Vikings, Jacobite uprisings and more. It was well done.



Reception area Glencoe, Ranger station to the right - see the person in white T-shirt

We bought a Glencoe guide that has quite a bit of information mostly about the natural part of the area and includes hikes, rock climbing, nature, wildlife, the history, the volcano and geology, and more. It is quite the guide made by the National Trust of Scotland. I did buy another book titled *Massacre of Glencoe*, by John Buchan, LangSyne Pub. We will see. I went back and bought a Glencoe T-shirt. I also found a Friendship cup. I think they needed this at Glencoe. Remember I drink first as the host, then you drink next and we don't kill each other in the ritual of it all.



Quaich Cup - Friendship cup

I finished up and waited in the cafe for hubby to finish up: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Massacre_of_Glencoe



The very nice cafe with seating outside

There was a viewing area and look out at the Great Glen of Glencoe. It was spectacular with these mountains dominating the view. The weather was warm, sunny with some clouds. Apparently, it was an ancient volcano at one time. The area is now an historical and nature reserve.



Glencoe



The Viewpoint



More to the left

I am a bit frustrated as to exactly where the massacre took place. Well, the killing took place all over the glen where there were settlements. Inverigan seems to be the main place where a group of MacDonald's were killed.

Apparently, they are going to excavate the sites soon. This article mentions these settlements of Achitrioctan, Achnacon and Inverigan as locations for Glencoe settlements at the time of the massacre: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-5385245/Experts-search-site-1692-Glencoe-Massacre.html>

Another location is Invercoe which I cannot locate at this time. I can see that this is very complicated and difficult to pin down the locations of the ruins.



Map of Glencoe from the guidebook.

Inverigan is up where the #5 is located on the map below, I believe, and there are rocks and maybe a portion of a house ruins. This is from the Woodland Walk brochure https://www.nts.org.uk/Downloads/Properties/glencoe_woodland_walk_combined_low_res.pdf.

Maybe in time more information will come to light as they dig further.



Woodland Walk Glencoe

Remembrance Day in Glencoe: <https://www.scotiana.com/remembrance-day-in-glencoe/>

There is large gift shop to the right as you enter the visitor area and before you pass into the museum and cafe area. I had visited it and when Hubby was done with the museum we went over to the shop. I showed him my choices for our 6-year-old sophisticated grandson's present and he liked my ideas. It is a book about the Kelpies. I liked the illustrations. They are spirits that inhabit the lochs, and rivers of Scotland, and we will see if he responds to it. He wants to write scary movies someday. It is a beautiful book. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kelpie>

We also got him a *How to play Quidditch* book which is part of the Harry Potter memorabilia and they had several shelves devoted to this fantasy. His father said they were reading the Harry Potter books together. So, this will be good and add extra details to the story.

I asked the Ranger for help in finding the MacDonald Glencoe Massacre Memorial. We failed to locate it and I decided we needed to move on. This blog has some very nice photos of the area along with the memorial. The memorial is in Glencoe village north along the River Coe on upper Carnoch Road and past the Glencoe Folk Museum. We didn't go far enough when we drove over there.

It was time to move on. We headed east to Loch Lomond through the valley of Glencoe. We stopped at one viewing and hiking area, along the River Coe. We spent a few minutes trying to get more pictures. I believe it was called An Torr and is a free car park. The mountains are grand and each one is so different.

What follows is a gallery of photos of this area.

Gallery of Glencoe Valley









Can you see me.

As we continued along A82, we saw that the viewing areas were crowded with people and cars. It discouraged us from stopping. This was unfortunate, because the scenery was outstanding and was constantly changing. At these car parks you can take short walks or go on long hikes. The Ranger station at the Glencoe Visitor Centre can help you plan your hike.

There are car parks at various locations along the road: Three Sister Car Park, Point 5 mile Walk which has views of the Ralston Cairn and the Meeting of the Three Waters a waterfall. Further along A82 is the Glen Coe Valley Viewpoint with parking beyond that at Buachaille Etive Mor with more views. To your right the Glencoe Mountain Resort appears.

The road is a challenge and we had to be alert as we wound around the mountains. At a certain point the land opens flat and extends out to this large concave area. The mountains are on the far-right side of your field of view. There are small lochs in the flat areas that you skirt at loch level. It was like a moonscape. <https://www.zigzagonearth.com/a82-glen-coe-scotland/#tab-con-10>

As we neared Loch Lomond https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loch_Lomond it became very green with trees both deciduous and evergreen. You are in the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park. <https://www.visitscotland.com/see-do/landscapes-nature/national-parks-gardens/loch-lomond-trossachs/>

It is at Ardiui where you meet up with Loch Lomond. The thick trees came down to the water's edge blocking views of the north end of the Loch.

It is possible that my great grandfather on my mother's side, came from somewhere around Ben Lomond. His name was James McMurray. On the Canadian census was written "Beulowman" for the location of his birth. A cousin thinks it is Ben Lomond. There is no village of that name so he might have just given it as a location and the census taker misunderstood him.

The road along the northern part of Loch Lomond was very narrow. We saw several cars crashed on the side of the road. One was upside down on the edge of the road. The bus ahead of us barely made it around corners. At one curve the bus stopped and the large truck on the other side waited till the bus slipped by. Our progress along this part of the Loch was slow.

Petunia, our navigation, was totally wrong with where Tarbet was located on Loch Lomond, and suggest it was in the middle of the forest. We did come to Tarbet. It was very busy, and the car park was packed. I didn't see the Tarbet Tearoom anywhere. It turns out that we needed to make a right turn on A83 and go up this hill. We turned to the left instead. It was so busy with cars that it was very confusing. Although we missed the Tearoom, we probably wouldn't have been able to get in with all the people. It was very busy.

Just beyond Tarbet, Hubby suddenly pulled off finding a road that was along the loch. We took a break and took pictures of the Loch through the trees. It was a nice stop and gave him time to relax from the stressful driving he had been doing since leaving Glencoe. This road had a gate to a walkway at the end and the other gate must have been to a house hidden in the woodlands.



Loch Lomond below Tarbet

It was taking much longer to get down the west side of Loch Lomond than I had anticipated. I had not even considered the fact that the Loch would be impacted by people getting out enjoying the amazing weather. I have a feeling that a different strategy for Loch Lomond is needed because it is just too close to Glasgow.

After Tarbet, the road became wider and easier to drive. We did stop again at another viewing area on Loch Lomond. This viewing area was further south along the loch and there were swans and a lovely beach. The loch appears to widen at the southern end. <http://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/>



Loch Lomond south end - looking southeast



Loch Lomond looking north, I think that is Ben Lomond in the distance



South East Loch Lomond



Swans on the Loch, people too...

Hubby and I had forgotten how to do roundabouts with two lanes, and we had a few dicey situations as we got closer to busier traffic and more congestion.

Dumbarton Castle is embedded in this huge rock hill along the River Clyde. As I recall getting to the castle was a bit weird. The navigation wanted us to turn right on A82, which is very busy street into a side street that didn't look like much. So, we went down the block turned around and turned left into this street which worked better for us. As we were coming back to turn, we noted a car was stopped in the middle of the road trying to turn right into the side street. I don't remember the name of the street. Then the route took us left and right to Castle Road and that was not too bad: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place/places/dumbarton-castle/>





Dumbarton Castle Entrance

The car park was in shade so that was a good thing. The walk was not bad, and we were into the castle area. It required more stairs of course to climb up to the battlements where the cannons were situated.

This castle was a later version and not the medieval one that used to be there. Somerled had a battle in Renfrew nearby to the east and died there. The Vikings tried to take it over but failed. Mary Queen of Scots stayed there six months. A Macdonald was imprisoned there by the name of Aeneas MacDonald, one of the seven men of Moidart who had accompanied Prince Charles Edward to Scotland in 1745. It was used as a prison for notable Jacobite persons who fought in the 1745 uprising.

We bought our tickets in the gift shop and went into this small room that had costumes from the soldiers who served the fort for a time. We then went outside and climbed more stairs to various levels.



Dumbarton Castle



Reader board for Dumbarton Castle

You can climb to the top of the rock from either side.



Up on the Rock

Hubby decided to try the left side first. He came back left his jacket with me and did the right side. While he was exploring, I found a nice picnic table up on one of the levels and in the shade. I settled in to observe the River Clyde. I could see cars on the other side of the river traveling along. No ships or boats came by while I relaxed and enjoyed the view.



River Clyde



Across the River Clyde



River Clyde - looking across

I wanted to visit Dumbarton Castle because I wanted to look at the River Clyde. I was interested in this famous river, because of all the immigration to other parts of the world. Greenoch was further west on the other side of the river and another location for emigration. I probably could have seen it from the top of the rock. I am now thinking I should have visited that town. Anyway, ships do come up and down the Clyde through the channel and some do have to wait till the tide comes in. The Queen Mary II was built-in Clydesbank and the Cutty Sark in Dumbarton.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/River_Clyde

My hubby's photos from the top of the rock at Dumbarton Castle are presented.









Hubby was gone quite a while, and I went to use the facilities. I bought a candy bar to keep my stomach from growling. I was starting to fade away for I had not had any food since breakfast.

As I sat there contemplating the River Clyde, I decided that instead of finding a place to eat nearby, just go to Glasgow and find our lodging at the Argyll Hotel and then get some dinner in the city: <http://www.argyllhotelglasgow.co.uk/>

While we were enjoying the castle, Hubby and I had time to think carefully about the two-lane roundabouts and how to handle them. I had mapped the route to the hotel in Glasgow, so I had some idea of how to get there. We discussed our strategy.

Here we come Glasgow! Well we did good and so did Petunia (navigation). She took us right in and to our hotel. I think there was one tricky spot getting on to Sauchiehall Street. I chose The Argyll Hotel because of its close location to several places I wanted to visit. I did not realize that Sauchiehall Street was so important and historical:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sauchiehall_Street

As we drove along, I spotted the Argyll on the north side of the street. We went down around the block parked about a long block and half away. I took off to check us in and forgot my cell phone. I came around the corner and I headed up the stairs and realized it was the Guest house and not the hotel. The sign said the hotel was across the street. Sauchiehall Street is not an easy street to cross for it is busy and they go fast.



Argyll Hotel



Looking east Sauchiehall Street



Looking West

I passed people sitting in a restaurant on the corner enjoying the warm lovely afternoon. I entered the hotel which was part of a long block of other hotels. They were ready for me with the papers and I took my time reading them carefully. Two nights was £219 pounds, not bad. She assigned me room 201. I paid for our room. The lobby was small but pleasant with a leather couch in one corner. The hotel felt closed in and looked a bit tattered, but it will do.

I gathered my things and went back outside and spotted Hubby across the street and yelled and waved to him. He carefully crossed the street and I took him back into the hotel so he could learn firsthand about the parking situation from the receptionists. This was very important to learn about for Glasgow was cracking down on the parking. That took about 10 minutes for her to explain the options. We both thought she was probably French. The other lady was probably Scottish and nice, but she talked too softly and that is hard on us hearing challenged. I really thought the hotel had car parking...just reading the websites is not enough, email them.

We went out to get our luggage and to properly park the car. We got into the car and tried the side street but all that was left was disabled and that would not work. We had been warned about those types of parking spaces and not to park there. Hubby decided to return to the first parking space. I grabbed stuff out of the back seat and headed to the hotel. He went back to the same previous parking spot and brought the two suitcases. There had been parking spots in front of the hotel. They were now occupied by a big travel bus that took up two to three spaces and van that was right up to the bus. I asked the receptionist how long the bus was to be at the hotel. She said just one night. That was good news.

Fortunately, this hotel has a lift and that would take the pressure off. No more stairs to lift our stuff up.

Meanwhile, I found an Italian restaurant around the corner and down the block called Mora. This meant we could walk to it and leave the car behind. When he returned to the room, he agreed it sounded good. <https://morabarandkitchen.com/>



Mora – looking at the other side of the space

Glasgow is a big city and it reminds me of Rome. It is dirty and busy. We found the restaurant easily and I managed to get them to give me a table that had a bench and several pillows so my back would be supported. Our table was in an alcove with a big window. Next to us on the right was a 4-6 people table. Our two-person table was perfect.



Dinner at Mora's



I had a lovely Sangiovese wine and Hubby was recommended an ale that he really liked, something about Marching Penguins. I could not make out the supposedly Italian pasta menu, so I went for a pizza. They were a little short on the artichokes, but it was tasty and had a thin crust. I ate a lot of it and the whole pizza was gone. Hubby had a starter some focaccia bread with tomatoes.

There was a large window behind me, and I could swivel on the bench to look out at the street. There were tables on the sidewalk in front of the restaurant that were filled with interesting people. There was a couple sitting at an outside table. The lady was rather young-looking and cute. The man had grey short hair. They were smooching a lot. They left after a time and an older man with another lady sat there, but I could not see her face. Lots of couples and a variety of people walked by and it was fun to watch them.

Eventually the table to my right filled out with young people. I assumed they were students going to the University nearby. The two young men sat across from me and the two ladies were on the bench. The one woman farthest from us talked almost the whole time and the others did speak but not as loudly or as much. I was having trouble figuring out who was with whom but maybe it was a different mix. Hubby seems to think the young lady closest to me was very curious about us or me.

Hubby was fascinated with the rental bikes across the street and the riders who sometimes wore helmets and other times didn't. He noticed a Gelato store across from the restaurant, but it was closed, darn!

We finished our meal and headed back down the street and around the corner to our hotel. Our room was much smaller than I expected, and the bed is a double, so we were cozy. Our bathroom is even smaller than the one at home. We moved one of the two small red leather like chairs so that I could have the little bay window to house my suitcase and he could have the corner on the

left of our tiny bathroom. There was a desk as well. It was close. The theme is the Clan Gordon room and I will have to read the picture on the wall.





Out our window at the Argyll Hotel



Someone's towels were drying on the line

He returned and had moved the car to the limited parking behind the hotel. What a relief. The parking situation was resolved. We did not have to deal with the car till Saturday when we left for the Edinburgh Airport.

About 9:30 am I had my hubby call the Glasgow and West of Scotland Family History Society to get their hours confirmed. Google's version and the hours on their website were different. They

are closed today per their answering machine, but open tomorrow Saturday 2-4 pm. I was checking because if they were open on Friday, we would go there instead of the Mitchell Library which had more hours and longer ones.

I spent the morning organizing my research for today and the next. I cleaned up the itinerary information and all the maps and literature I have collected on this trip. I also did other chores and rested. My cold is over, but a young man was coughing badly at breakfast, so I have taken a Cold Eze.

Meanwhile, hubby figured out our walking route to the Mitchell Library It would take about 20 minutes. It was time to head out.

We passed these huge buildings which I think are called row houses because they are one long continuous piece, with individual sections that are represented by doors. Businesses are located inside these buildings and some are on the bottom or basement floor. They look old and dirty. Some have driveways off the street and parking. Some look like apartments. Glasgow is old, big and dirty, with lots of litter. Quite a few of the buildings had "For Let" signs.

The sidewalk was a little scary and uneven, so I did have to pay attention. We walked down Sauchiehall street to Granville and turned south and then east down Berkeley. The cars go fast, and some streets are one way in this area. There was a man yelling at a lady and child, it was a bit weird. Welcome to city life.

We came around the corner to the front of the library which has a big dome on the top. The front faces the freeway.



Mitchell Library, Glasgow

The Mitchell Library is in an older building with statues at various levels. I am sure that someone has written about the building and its history. We entered and the walls are marble and so is the floor. A nice man explained where I needed to go for family history.



Hallway

We followed the signs and headed down the hall and turned right and went through some double doors. It took a while for us to find the Family History and Glasgow City Archives which are up on the 5th floor. I entered the Family History room and they redirected us back down the hall to the Glasgow City Archives.

<https://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/libraries/glasgow-city-archives>

Everything had been renovated and it seemed well thought out with lots of room with seating and displays from the contents of the library.

I entered the archive room and went past a swing gate with an arrow and approached the lady sitting at the desk and explained I was from the States and needed to be oriented. She looked at my list of weaver information from their website and told me I would have to use a locker. She gave me a coin and I went back into the lobby area and selected what I needed and put my bag into one of the lockers and carefully put the coin in the inside area and then locked it. I then put the key into my pocket and zipped. I have been known to lose locker keys.

I re-entered the archive room and filled in the form they wanted. There was now another attendant who reviewed my list and handed me several books to take and look at. They are like table of contents of the collection of the weaver trade business. I have reason to believe that my great grandparents John Barclay and Mary (maybe Davidson) were involved in the weaving business. She was the weaver and he was the carpenter. There was a carpet factory in Enfield, CT (Thompsonville) and many Scots came there to work from Glasgow and beyond? There is some evidence that they had been in Enfield.

I had a little trouble finding a place to sit down because the room was very busy and most of the large tables were taken. The room was filled with tables, people working, computers, bookcases, files and more.



Glasgow City Archives sort of looks like this

I sat down and started to go through the books. They were dated back to the 1600's. It was the business of weavers' house for Glasgow. I found the weaver section. I didn't see anything that looked like it would be helpful for the time frame of 1800 to 1850. The second book was a mistake. I also studied the Postal Directories, but they don't seem to go back further than 1890. I might have to check that. I wandered the room looked at other books on the shelves noting the setup. I had emailed the Mitchel Library before coming because I wanted to access the catalog. I was told that since I was not a citizen or lived in Scotland I could not.

I decided that I didn't have time to really dig in at the archives. I returned the books without telling her about the mistaken book. She inquired about the information and I told her the time frame was not right and I just wanted to get an idea of what the papers contained. I thanked her and she said I could have the pencil.

I found my husband sitting in one of the chairs in the lobby and he was excited about the display case and some building that they had built-in the city. This building was very tall and turned out to be a landmark for the Nazi's to target the shipyards which were a mile north. They had to tear the building down. I gathered my things and got my bag from the locker and headed to the Family History Room. <https://www.glasgowfamilyhistory.org.uk/Pages/Home.aspx>



Family History Room, Mitchell Library

There was a bookcase filled with books in the main lobby area, just before the Family History Centre entrance, so I went through the titles and pulled several on Scottish Research. I found a table and began to review these books. There was no photography at all even for books.

I looked at several books about researching in Scotland one by a woman whose style I liked. *The Scottish Tree Detective*, Rosemary Bigwood, Manchester University Press, 2006. Maybe a tad too old. It is available at Barnes & Noble and Amazon.

This book below kept showing up in various places throughout the room and I bought a copy from their gift shop. It had a chapter on DNA.

Scottish Genealogy, by Bruce Durie, 3rd Edition, this edition 2012, there are more recent editions like 2017.

A couple other books:

Discover Your Scottish Ancestry, Internet and Traditional, Graham S. Holton and Jack Winch, Edinburgh Press 2004? Amazon has copies.

Tracing Your Scottish Ancestors, by Alan Maxwell, 2009, Pen & Sword.

I wandered the room looked at the filing cabinets and learning what they represented which included quite a large newspaper collection, census, maps and more.

I came upon their collection of emigration books down at the far end in the bookcases and pulled almost the whole section and reviewed those books. I have seen a lot of David Dobson books covering Canada, but he also has done a lot for various areas of Scotland. I even have a file on my Computer titled: WhyteDobson. They did have some Donald Whyte's books as well. He wrote the *Dictionary of Scottish Emigrants to Canada* etc.

- *Scots in the USA & Canada 1825-1900*, David Dobson, Part 1, 2013, note Pt. 6. The one I have covers 1825 to 1875 but I do not have the title page. Grrrr....this implies 6 parts to this series of books. Ancestry.com has Part 1 and 2.
- *Ships from Scotland to America 2011, 1628 to 1828 Vol. IV*, David Dobson.
- *Scottish Highlanders on the Eve of 1755 to 1775 People of Argyll*, David Dobson, Vol.2, *Argyle & Northern Highlands*, Part 1, *Kingsborough Patent*, NY.
- *Emigrants and Adventurers Aberdeen and NE Scotland, Part One, also Glasgow and West of Scotland* by David Dobson.
- *Scottish Highlands Great Migration People of Inverness Eve of 1725 to 1775 Vol. 2*, David Dobson Vol., 2, Vol. 1 1725 to 1775, the Northern Highlands, 1725 to 1775 Lots of these type of books in different volumes etc.

This man Bill Lawson has a website about the Hebrides that has a database covering his work, but I cannot access it for it is down at this time. I hope not, I gave him some money, HA!

- *A Register of Emigrant Families from Western Isles of Scotland to Eastern Twp. and Quebec*, Bill Lawson, Isle of Harris - Lots of McD's Mid 1850's.
- *Register of Emigrants 1750 to 1900 Vol. 3 Parish of Barrus, Isle of Lewis, South Uist, Benbecula, Isle of Harris*, by Bill Lawson <http://www.billlawson.com/books.htm>
- *Immigrants from Scotland to American 1774-1775*, London Treasury, by Viola Root Cameron, Genealogy Publishing Co.

It was about 3 pm when I decided that trying to access the catalog would not happen. I suppose I should have asked about the possibility of a temporary password, but I decided not to. I really don't have enough information about John Barclay and Mary to know where to dig. I will have to figure out a different strategy. I think it means hiring help. I returned the stack of books to the front desk as the librarian had asked me too. I really liked this Family History Center at the Mitchell Library and highly recommended it.

Hubby and I went in search of the cafe and gift shop. They were on the ground floor. We headed to the gift shop and I spotted one of the Scottish genealogy books for sale that I had seen in the research room and grabbed it. The one above by Durie. I also purchased another one they had. *Rooted in Scotland, Getting to the Heart of Your Scottish Heritage*, Cameron Taylor, 2017. It was time to use up our Scottish money.



Gift Shop

We then went over to the cafe and got something that looked like a brownie, but it was more like a rice Krispy with thick chocolate on top, nice. I got the tea and cake while Hubby got a filtered coffee. We relaxed in the modern glass like chairs and metal tables while enjoying our snack. I observed the people chatting and working together or just working on some project quietly. It was a very open, airy, and modern style room. They had done a lot of renovating of this library and the building was very well done. This area that houses the large cafe and gift shop is part of the theatre area of the Mitchell Library. I realize now that I should have explored more of the floors to see what the whole Mitchell Library was like.



Café

Hubby decided that we had enough time before dinner to go see George's Square in the city. There was an information desk, so I asked about taxis service and she gave me a phone number. Meanwhile, Hubby downloaded the Uber app. The best area to do a pickup by taxi or Uber was out the door from the cafe and gift shop on Granville Street.

We left the library to the west through the glass doors. The Uber app gave him the license plate and name of the driver and a description of the car. I had not taken a picture of the outside of the building, so I turned and did this side which didn't show the big dome, but it did have lots of statues all the way to the top of the building.



Mitchell Library west side



Mitchell Library west side



Mitchell Library West Side



Entrance West Side Mitchell Library Glasgow

George's Square is in the downtown area of the city. It is supposedly an historic square with old buildings and statues. The Uber driver took us there, weaving through the busy Glasgow traffic. It was a great way to see the city streets, stores and bustle of the place. He let us off right at the square. This driver had 1500 trips to his name, so he was experienced. Hubby didn't have to fuss with paying because it is all done automatically. Our daughter-in-law would be proud.

The day was warm and sunny, so lots of people were gathered in the square. We headed to the east side and slowly wandered around the square, sitting on the benches, studying the buildings, reading the names on the statues: Peel, Sir Walter Scott, Prince Edward and Queen Victoria, and other statues on the corners which made it tough to photograph them. There were tons of pigeons and people were feeding them. The City Chambers building was huge, ornate with all kinds of different statues and friezes on it. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Square

The northwest corner was having renovations done so there was a lot of destruction and rubble. You could see the outline of the train station?

George's Square













This website looks like fun - Glasgow Daily

Photo: <https://glasgowdailyphoto.wordpress.com/2008/08/25/george-square-lions/>

We made a complete circle around the square. There were taxis lined up on the north side waiting for patrons. My hubby had forgotten the name of the restaurant that he had picked out for dinner. I found it on my cellphone. The name was Fanny Trollope's. I think we were tired.

I headed to the first taxi and climbed in. The cabbie made his way down very busy city streets. There were old buildings and new buildings and a beautiful Church with spires which was the St. Columba Church of England. I spotted lots of shops that I could have spent a lot of money in. It was a good thing I was in the cab.

The cabbie let us off on the left side of the street from the restaurant. We decided to try the corner. You do have to be careful. One-way streets are easier, and they do have crosswalk buttons which are helpful.



Fanny Trollope, A Bistro, Glasgow

The Fanny Trollope <https://www.fannytrollopes.co.uk/> was a small bistro with maybe seats for about 25-39 people. There is a great story about Fanny, whom the bistro is named after. She had quite the life.

We were greeted by a very handsome young man with dark curly hair. He was tall and buff. He was friendly and nice. I noticed that the accent in Glasgow was thicker and it was a little harder to understand. He got our drink order and food order. Hubby had the lamb butt and I had a flank steak. The food was wonderful. I really liked my steak which was sliced and spread on top of broccolini and beans with a scalloped potato and a mini ox tail bowl with mashed potatoes and gravy. I ate almost all of it. We bought a bottle of South African wine which was pleasant. We were celebrating our 13th Wedding Anniversary which was a few days away. Glasgow was a good place to celebrate.

There were silk prints, like Elton Bennett, on the wall and Hubby figured out it was a Neil Gilles who was the artist. The colors were vibrant. The man seated across from me, commented on the print that he could see on the wall.



Silk Print

The other man who served us was shorter and buff. He was very nice and took pity on me. The sun was in my eyes at the table seat by the window, so he moved us over one table. Across the street there was a Subway, flower Shop, funeral home, and liquor store all in a row, one stop shopping...giggle.



Across from the Fanny Trollope

Our lovely dinner came to an end and we started walking toward our hotel along Argyll Street. We passed Mora our restaurant from the night before and Hubby wanted to see if the young girl and older man were there or he was back with another young girl. Nope he was not there.

We were back at the hotel in no time and I decided to just get ready for bed and take care of business the next day.

A Tour of Scotland: Kelvingrove Museum, Glasgow & West of Scotland Society, Back to the Edinburgh Airport

August 6, 2018

I was awake early and took my time getting up. I washed my face and arms and grabbed my tablet to do some dithering. Hubby got up a while later. The alarm went off and we started getting ready for breakfast targeting 7:30 am. This was officially the last day in Scotland. We would fly out the next day.

We took the elevator (lift) to the bottom floor and into the restaurant which was all set up for the morning. We sat at the same little table and took our time eating our breakfast. An older couple sat next to us and they were a bit grumpy. The man who was the waiter was a lot calmer than the ladies the day before. It was my last good breakfast in Scotland, so I ate up.

Back at the room we decided that we would go to the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum. We packed up, checked out, and headed out to our car in the back alley of the hotel. I was still trying to clean up my luggage mess. Hubby had to open the window of the hotel room reach out and click the BMW doors open for me. I have no idea how he got that window open.



Kelvingrove Museum and Hubby to the left in front



Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum is in this old ornate rectangular building that looks like it was a church before or some university. I think it was part of the expositions that were created in 1888 and 1903. It was not very far from our hotel and took just under 5 minutes to get there. Petunia (GPS) tried to take us to the front; but I knew there was parking and one-way streets. We managed to find the entrance by following the signs. We did miss the turn and had to backtrack.

It is all modernized on the inside with gift shops and several cafes and a large gathering place with another cafe and a place for musical performances.

<https://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/museums/venues/kelvingrove-art-gallery-and-museum>

I went through the gift shop and was tempted by some jewelry that was my birthstone of crystal. There was a bracelet and a necklace, but I decided not to. One store had a mummy doll, but it was a little young for our grandson.



We had a map that led up some stairs and came upon a room with a display of stuffed animals. It was very interesting because they were life-sized. I knew most of the animals, but not all, and was struck by their physical size. They had an elephant, tiger, huge giraffe, polar bear, sloth bear and so much more. The display about animals of the past was about the extinction of many

species in Scotland and when that occurred. They don't have wolves anymore because they were hunted to extinction in the country. Then the exhibit went back to older animals found in various locations in Scotland.



A nice collection of armor



A variety of Animals

I finally wandered into the Egyptian display which was about how to prepare you for your burial and death in the Egyptian manner of mummification. It was done with some humor.

Mummification was very complex, and you needed to prepare yourself. It also explained the mummification process which is not really that nice to know. You needed many items to take with you on your journey to the afterlife. There was a wonderful sarcophagus and some references to Pharaohs like Ramses and Tutankhamun. There were several women mentioned but their names were hard to spell and pronounce.

At that time, we took a break and found the cafe that was the larger one. Hubby ordered coffee and a cake, and I ordered a chicken Caesar salad which I would not get till 12:00 noon. They have hours for their servings in many places. They have what they call cake and tea service. We came in on the cake and tea service and had to wait for lunch to start. I think the waitress with the very soft voice misunderstood me and didn't add the chicken, so my salad was not quite what I expected. Apparently, their version of a Caesar salad is very different and the dressing creamier. It was good. Hubby finished it for me.

We went up even more flights of stairs and wandered around looking at early Scotland even before Dalraida. There was mention of the Vikings and how they came to Scotland. The other room was about Scotland's identity and they had more of the history of Scotland with Robert the Bruce, Robert Burns and other famous paintings that I have seen many times. This one is very well-known to me.



We were running out of time, so in the last room we did a speed walking version of French painters such as Van Gogh, Monet, Gauguin, and a lot more and some I didn't recognize. This is an awesome museum and art gallery and we only saw a smidge of it.

It was time to move on and head to the Glasgow & West of Scotland Family History Society <http://www.gwsfhs.org.uk/> which was just a little further west. We couldn't get Petunia (navigation) to recognize the name of the society so we put in its address 32 Mansfield Street, Glasgow and the car brought us to this funny street. I was confused and it took a few minutes to find the door to the society in between a Gaelic learning center and a hair salon.



Glasgow & West Scotland entrance

We figured out the parking with some help from the locals and waited. Do not park on the other side next to the park. Eventually, a man appeared and went in through the door. I began to realize that the buzzer was the way you get in. There was a sign saying that the buzzer didn't work well so call them. Hubby called them and it was answered. A few minutes later we were greeted by this nice man who I believe is James. He showed us the way to the rooms down some stairs. They are a bit tucked away and you wouldn't know they were there. There was a park called Mansfield Park across the street and they had a soccer practice place and a small festival going on. There was a large tavern at the end of the closed off street.

James directed us through a door and down the stairs into the basement. We entered a large room with a desk to your right and a sign in sheet. James said I could use the research room even though I was not a member. I took time to sort of figure out their layout and wandered through their rooms looking at their stacks and books and pamphlets for sale. They also didn't mind the photography. I found a lovely map book of Scotland and found the Rough Bounds and explained to James where we had been traveling.



This is how the room looks but not what was happening when we visited.

I started to explain my family to James, he didn't recognize Beulowman. They asked what sources I was using online and gave me a new one to try FREECEN. Their images were supposed to be better than Ancestry. James tried searching for John Barclay and also James McMurray at Family Search and he was not having an easy time. He thought that Margaret's name might be Davidson.

They were very friendly, and I joined for the £18 and bought a booklet on searching in Argyll. They served us tea and cookies and we had a good time chatting. Hubby gave them money for the treats and a donation. I have liked their Facebook page and recommend it. I get emails from them as a member and it is all very interesting. I like this Society.

I asked if they knew an easy way to get onto the motorway and around Glasgow and James described how to do it. I was very comfortable at this society even though we didn't stay very long.

James was very knowledgeable. but I did have trouble understanding his thick Glasgow accent. He kindly accepted my stack of Family papers and a few flyers. We said goodbye and Hubby and I headed out. I did not set aside enough time for this place, but their hours are odd and difficult to manage. Darn, I forgot to take more pictures. I really was tired.

It was time to return to Edinburgh and the Holiday Inn Express by the airport.

https://www.ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/gb/en/edinburgh/ediap/hoteldetail?cm_mmc=Goo%20gleMaps-_-EX-_-GB-_-EDIAP

We put into Petunia (navigation) the location of the Holiday Inn Express at the Airport. We took a deep breath and we pulled out of the parking spot on Mansfield Street and were soon driving up Argyll street and onto Sauchiehall. This was familiar territory, so it was good.

We found the signage James had told us about and followed it diligently and soon were on the motorway leading us to M8 and out of Glasgow. We kept to the right and just kept following the M8 sign boards through the city. Driving the freeway out of Glasgow turned out well and we were soon out in the country with Glasgow far behind us and Edinburgh in our future. I was relieved for it had been a lot easier to negotiate the highways then I had expected. This highway was more like our freeways in the States, so it was easier to drive.

The countryside was beautiful with green fields and houses scattered here and there. The road was a good road, so we no longer had to struggle with the lack of a shoulder. Hubby was leaning to the right a lot and I was trying to get him to just get in the middle of the lane. I saw green countryside, businesses and lovely houses.

We needed petrol so we looked for signs indicating services and found one. When the turn came, we got off the freeway on the left which lead us to a great sized BP service area with a store and cafe in it. It was £70 for the full tank of gas. Which seems a lot, but we had not had to fill this car up that much. Hubby also bought some of the cookies that the ladies from the Society had encouraged him to try.



Holiday Inn Express at the Edinburgh Airport

We headed out for our last leg with the BMW and soon switched to M9 and were on that for about 1.5 miles, a roundabout with two lanes, and then onto the Glasgow road. The road that we wanted to take had a closed sign. Hubby took it anyway. A car was coming so he got out-of-the-way as fast as he could. This was the back way to the Holiday Inn Express.

It was now time to empty the car and we just parked it right out front by the red zone. We had to hurry up. We wanted to empty the car completely and Hubby spent time checking here and there and under the seats to make sure we didn't leave anything behind.

I went into the hotel to register. This time we got room #028. It was a nicer room than the last one and closer to the dining area. It took about two trips to get all our stuff out of the car. I suggested that we park the car and take a short break before returning it to the car rental. I could see he was tired. He had done all the driving for the trip and he had done well. A few minutes rest would not make a difference but could help him to relax some.

I stopped at the desk and told the receptionist we had parked the car and would return it to the car rental it about 10 minutes and she was good with that. In about 20 minutes we headed back out to the car and tried to get Petunia to accept the Arnold Clark lot name, but it just would not recognize that name. It did recognize another name like PremAir and took us there. This car rental was not in the airport but south of the airport in an area close to the highway.

The gate to the Arnold Clark rental area was half closed. We pulled in any way and a young man greeted us and told us to park the car. The shuttle was sitting there. A young man said he would take us back to the Holiday Inn which was a good thing.

Hubby signed something in the office after the attendant had reviewed the car. We think we might have scratched the hub cap some. Within minutes we were done.

The attendant hopped into the BMW and took us back to the Holiday Inn in our rental car. He asked how she had done. We explained some of the navigation problems we had. He listened and confirmed that the road from Glasgow to Edinburgh was new in the last several years. The Petunia (navigation) put us in a field as we were driving along. I had opened Google Maps to assist us and to make sure we got back to the hotel correctly.

The Arnold Clark person was zipping through the streets and we were back at the hotel in no time. We thanked him. We were so thankful for his aid, because it would have been difficult to get back to the hotel and complicated. The Scots are nice people.



Lobby and dining area Holiday Inn express

Back at the Holiday Inn Express we had some dinner. Hubby ordered a steak sandwich and I got the salmon filet. I also got a glass of wine. You order at the bar for both drinks and food. It was a nice dinner. We both needed it.

It was time to repack everything and try to squish my purchases into the luggage. It took me about 2 hours to get it all packed and ready. Then I spent some time with the customs list of things that we have purchased before I went to bed. We set two alarms just in case for 5:30 am. We had to be at the Edinburgh Airport by 7:10 am and our flight was 9:10 am from Edinburgh to Amsterdam.

Bedtime.

A Tour of Scotland: Edinburgh to Amsterdam, Stranded in Amsterdam

August 7, 2018

We were up at 5:30 am and quickly started to get ready. I worked on my backpack and getting my stuff finalized. I also headed to breakfast and had a bowl of cereal and a horrible coffee. Their breakfast at the Holiday Inn Express had not improved since the beginning of the trip. Hubby was packing slowly. I was encouraging him to speed up for we were running out of time. I started getting our luggage out into the lobby area while he finished up. I checked us out.

We waited about 5 minutes for the shuttle to come and climbed in. The shuttle took us to other stops and people piled in. When it got to the airport it just parks in one place and you get out. It took a bit to figure out where we needed to go to find KLM. They do not have their own desks and share it with Air France. The luggage was not overweight YIPPEE and they didn't charge us for the extra bag. YIPPEE again! We were soon on our way to the gates. Getting through security was not too bad.

We boarded the plane by crossing the tarmac and climbing into the back end of the plane. We were soon settled in and on our way to Amsterdam. The flight was short about one and half hours. We did get coffee and juice drinks with a sponge cake treat. We landed with a bump at the Amsterdam airport called Schiphol and prepared to find our next flight.

Sometime during all these events Hubby realized he didn't have his hearing aids. He contacted the Holiday Inn Express. He learned that they found them and would mail them back to him. They needed the address for he was not on the reservation for it was in my name. He seemed to think he had left behind other things like his new Scottish cap. I had thought I had checked everything in the room. I think that the bedspread probably knocked the hearing aids off the nightstand or something like that, so I didn't see them on the floor? The hat could have fallen behind the ironing board which was part of this clothes hanging area. The only thing was the hearing aids and they were found. We have had problems with forgetting items in the past, so we try to be thorough and this time we had not been.

We did not know our gate number till 8:20 am. We had some coffee and sandwich. After 8:20 am we headed to Gate D1 which turned out to be a customs thing and they asked a lot of questions. Then we had to go to gate D47. This means we ended up walking back and forth in the airport. Fortunately, they have those moving walkways that help you out.

We settled in some chairs to wait for our flight. Oh NO! Things started to disintegrate at this time. They delayed the flight because of an air conditioning problem. We waited about 1 hour and then a little longer and they announced that the flight was cancelled, and we needed to go to T6 for a transfer. I was getting more and more tired and hungrier. Our shared sandwich had not been enough food.

Schiphol is not small, it is a huge airport, busy and confusing.

<https://www.schiphol.nl/en/>

Off we went looking for this transfer gate and it was packed with people from the flight. Some ladies from Delta pointed to T2 as an alternative and there was a line there too. That took a good hour or more waiting to get up to the counter.

The Delta Attendant was very pleasant. She reminded me of Merle Oberon the famous actress. She first booked us into Atlanta to Seattle, but something happened, and she discovered she could get us on the direct to Seattle flight the next day. She fixed the booking for us and put us into the same seats as we had coming over.

Unfortunately, we were going to have to stay overnight in Amsterdam and I didn't want to at all. She handed us shuttle tickets, hotel room stay tickets, and food vouchers to use in the airport, about 20 Euros.

We found some chairs to take a break and rest up after all that mess and standing waiting. About 20 minutes later we headed out to find the shuttle to the Hotel. This was Amsterdam and we didn't realize it. but we had to go through Customs! This took another 20 minutes to wander through the line of people. We spent about 3 minutes with the customs officer who seemed unhappy.

The first shuttle to the hotel <https://www.hotelschiphol.nl/en/> was mobbed and Hubby and I didn't make it. We waited for a second one to come and that took another 30 minutes. Fortunately, we found a bench to rest on. It was the Valk Hotel Schiphol A4 that we were going to.

As we waited, we chatted with others who had suffered the same flight cancellation. This couple had done a Viking Cruise so that was fun to learn about. The shuttle arrived and we climbed on. The shuttle was really a huge bus. It took about 15 minutes to get to the hotel which was out in the country not near the airport at all. My husband said it was about 5 miles. I was impressed with the bus driver's ability to manage the tight streets.



Reception desk

We again waited when we got in line for the hotel reception desk. The helpful receptionist put us into our room, gave us our keys and food voucher for dinner and breakfast. I suddenly realized we didn't have our luggage, our clothes and things and some meds. They had kept our luggage at the airport.

We headed out in search of our room which was down through the lobby. Then this long hallway to a lounge area next to the convention center of the hotel. I had our instruction paper that read "Stranded Passengers" at the top. The receptionist came running and handed us 3 personal kits. We then used the room key by placing it on the pad to open the doors to the hallway to our room. This was a big hotel.



Our room with the rug that looks like fake wood



The room was on the ground floor, but it was far away and took a while to get too. I was tired, hungry and unhappy, that made everything twice as difficult.

Our room was ultra-modern with a painting of Van Gogh looking at us. There were two single beds pushed together. A big window with a patio door covered most of one of the walls. Looking outside was a patio, grass and then construction. The rug looked like wooden boards. It had a Keurig like coffee maker but small.

We headed to dinner, which was passed the reception desk and so we had to retrace our steps. This is the hallway outside our room.



The Hallway



A lounging area along the way, by the conference center area



Another lounge area

We found the restaurant and the maître de greeted us and said to find a table and help ourselves. Something like "pop on in." Their dinner was a buffet style which was good. I filled up my plate

twice and got a free glass of wine from the nice waitress who took pity on me. Why do I get the feeling that this hotel has done this before? Help stranded passengers.

We had not eaten much all day thinking we would be getting on the plane, big mistake! I was really beyond sanity and that is not me.



The Buffet - a little fuzzy but you get the idea

The dining room had these huge vases filled with elaborate flowers. On one wall was a mural with flowers which seemed familiar?



Dining room at the hotel

I began to think that Valk was a painter, and we later found out that was true. Once our tummies were full, we headed back to the room and pretty much fell into bed.

We had a power problem and tried to figure out how to charge our electronics because this was Amsterdam and different than Scotland. We only had one piece that we could use among our electrical plugs that would work for their electrical current, so we had to charge our electronics, one at a time. It worked.

THE NEXT DAY

We were up early and got ready for breakfast. We both tried to work the Keurig like coffee maker. My Hubby can be determined so he figured it out. The coffee packets were tiny about 1/2 the size of a Keurig. The coffee was okay. We just dithered in the room.

We eventually headed to breakfast and I took a table in the middle of the room this time. I wanted to avoid the kitchen traffic. I had to pick and choose breakfast because things were a bit odd. I filled up my plate as much as possible so I wouldn't have to walk back, I was still tired. I tried their coffee machine -- Yuck! Hubby had a lot of fruit and then went back for the pastries.

We didn't have much to pack because we didn't have our luggage which was at the airport. Hubby decided to take the personal kits they had given us which contained toothbrushes, toothpaste and shaving kits and more. We cleaned up, packed our backpacks and were out the door with the small roller luggage that I had as carry on.



Me in the modern lounge standing on the European Continent



A Dutch painting behind the chandelier

I returned the key to the front desk and inquired about the shuttle at 10 am. It turned out it was right outside waiting. We hurried and got on board. The bus left about 10 minutes later. That was a bit close.

They drive on the proper side -- the right. Out the window was flat land and what looked like hot houses. I saw a casino and a McDonald's. I have now placed my feet on the European Continent four times. One time was Trieste and Rome years ago but this trip it was the Amsterdam Airport and the hotel. I have always wanted to travel Europe but have not quite made it.

The shuttle dropped us off outside the main terminal. We had to walk past the taxi stand and other to get to the main terminal. We entered this huge room which was like an airplane hangar bay. It was bustling with people, noise and more. It was overwhelming.



Amsterdam Airport - when we were there it was packed – A little fuzzy but you get the idea.

Slowly Hubby and I reasoned out what we needed to do reading signs and trying to stay out of people's way. We headed to the D1 to D? signs and found an information booth and double checked with the attendant. She confirmed that we needed to follow the D1 signs, head up the escalator to security and that we didn't need to go and check in.

We headed out and up the escalator to the next floor following the D1 sign and came to Security. This was very thorough and a bit intrusive to me and Hubby physically. I don't think I have ever had anyone check my bra by swiping my front. I had to help Hubby with my roller luggage because he didn't know what was in it. He was busy with his backpack telling the security guard. This was not the nicest security experience. We had to go back down the steep escalator to the gates.

Once that was done, we headed to D1 and did the questions all over again for US customs. We also learned that the flight was delayed 1 hour and that made us nervous. The man at customs gave us D49 as the gate. We sat down and rested after all that fuss.

Then we headed in the general direction of the gate and stopped at Starbucks and used our 20 Euros for nice cups of coffee, a sandwich for me and cheese thing for him. We leisurely ate our meal for it was now 12 noon. I was not going to make the same mistake again about food. Hubby wanted to use up the food voucher, so he was pleased.

We arrived at the gate and I found us seats behind a glass area and hubby spotted a charging station and hooked up. He talked with the gate people and learned it was a different plane than the one the day before. That was a good sign that things were going well. I saw activity that assured me that they were preparing it for flight and the crew came and boarded.

I think we waited about 1 hour and then I saw signs of more activity that was looking like people were preparing to board. Hubby asked an employee what line we needed to be in. He turned and pointed to the line by the window and he would follow. I was almost to the doors to the ramp when he caught up with me and we boarded together. We found our seats which were just past first class on the left. We were settled in quickly and I took the window seat this time. I was checking out our progress to flight time on their screen in front of my seat.



Looking out the window and waiting to leave



Taxing past...



Continuing to taxi to the take-off area



In the air over Amsterdam



In the air over Amsterdam etc.

We were on our way. The captain explained that we would have to taxi to the far side of the field and that was why the long time for boarding. The plane started to move and clapping erupted from behind us. I watched out the window as we taxied on the field. He crossed two freeways to get to the flight take off area. There was cheering as we went out on the field for takeoff. When the plane left the ground there was more cheering. We were all very happy travelers.

What a relief! We were on our way home and it would take 9 hours 54 minutes. Once in the air I decided to watch Cars3 and do a marathon of movies. I ended up including Hidden Figures, The Darkest Hour and Paddington2. They were all different movies but by the 4th I was tiring of doing that and had a movie headache.

Dinner was good I choose the Chicken Picante. I also had a glass of wine. People closed the windows of the plane and settled into to watch movies or sleep. The plane became quiet and dark. I dropped my magnifying glass on the side of my seat and hubby had to reach across me to retrieve it. I was using it to light up stuff so I could see in the dark rather than turn on the lamp above the seat. I tallied our customs list and it came to £199 pounds.

I don't think either of us slept on the plane. I did the movies to keep me going. I spent the final hour just relaxing. It was great to see the land below and recognize Seattle between the clouds. I think I saw Mt. Baker peeking through the clouds but no other mountains. We came into SeaTac from the north to the south.

First stop was the restroom, then baggage claims, then customs which was very easy. There was a Beagle working his nose probably checking for drugs. He was very serious.

We ended up in the middle of the baggage claim level. Hubby's son found us in an odd place from what he knew. He had parked the car so that was good. It was great to have him help with the luggage.

When we entered the house, I found Sneakers and Ebony were in the green chair and a little puzzled as to what all the noise and fuss was. It didn't take long for them to be glad to see us.

We were home at last. THE END May 28, 2018