

# THE WEST HIGHLAND MUSEUM



*whm*

*West Highland Museum*



**FORT WILLIAM**



West Highland Museum  
Cameron Square  
Fort William PH33 6AJ  
Tel: 01397 702169  
[www.westhighlandmuseum.org.uk](http://www.westhighlandmuseum.org.uk)

Scottish Company Number: 581556  
Charity Number: SCO47954

Written by Sally Archibald and Fiona Marwick  
Designed by Nick McCann and Matthew Limbert  
Photography by Nick McCann unless otherwise  
credited.

It was founded on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1922 by a group of Lochaber people who dreamed of creating, for the public good, 'a museum of and for the West Highlands that would be second to none in the whole country'.

A series of summer loan exhibitions were held culminating in the 1925 Prince Charles Edward exhibition, a magnificent tour-de-force worthy of any great institution. Many of the lenders subsequently gifted their exhibits and the Museum's fine collections stem from their faith and generosity.

In 1926 premises were acquired and the purchase of the old British Linen Bank in Cameron Square, in the centre of Fort William. These Grade B listed buildings are some of the oldest in town.

Printed in Fort William

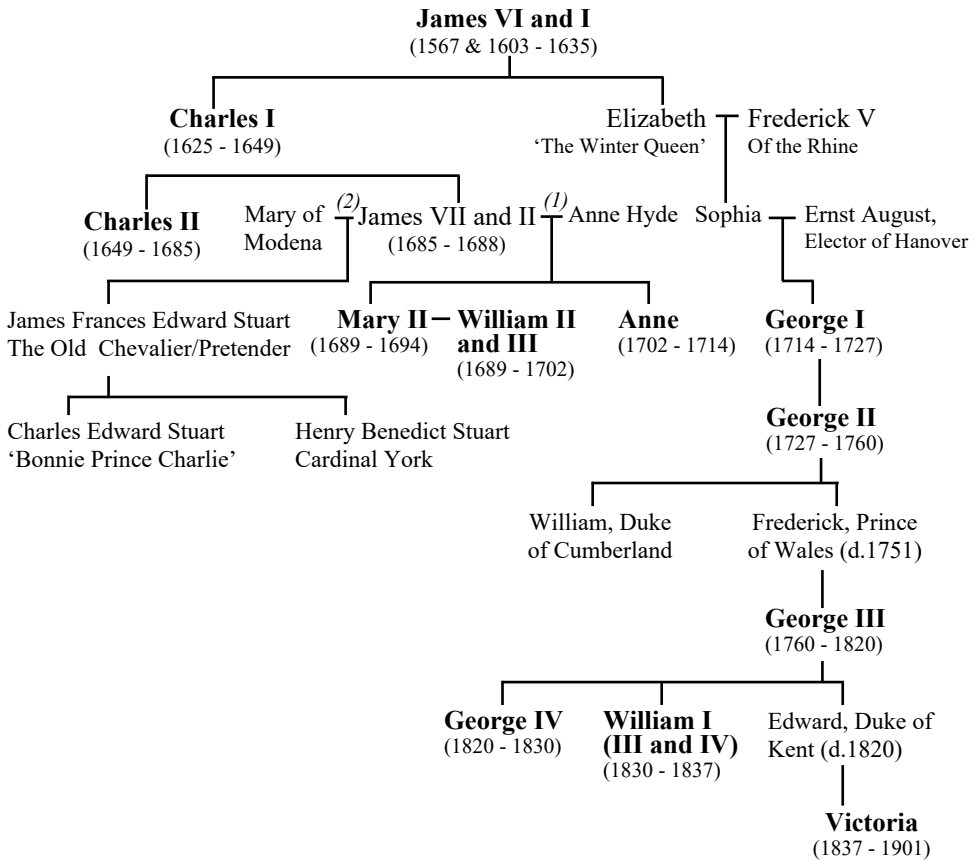
© West Highland Museum 2019



# CALENDAR OF DATES

## WITH SOME REFERENCE TO EXHIBITS

	1603	James VI of Scotland (son of Mary Queen of Scots) succeeded also to the throne of England on Elizabeth's death. The two kingdoms remained constitutionally separate until the Act of Union in 1707.
2 February	1645	Battle of Inverlochy. Montrose for King Charles I defeated Argyll's covenanters.
June	1654	"Inverlochtié" fort built - site of Fort William.
July	1654	Locheil's encounter at Achdaliu.
	1688	James VII of Scotland and II of England lost the throne. He tried to regain it, but was defeated by the new King William (of Orange) at the Battle of Boyne.
13 February	1692	Massacre of Glencoe.
13 November	1715	Battle of Sheriffmuir - end of the first Jacobite rising.
31 December	1720	Birth of Prince Charles Edward Stuart.
	1725	Disarming Act.
	1735	General Wade's road from Fort William to Inverness completed.
19 August	1745	Jacobite standard raised at Glenfinnan.
14 March	1746	Siege of Fort William, until April 3 <sup>rd</sup> .
16 April	1746	Battle of Culloden at Drumossie Moor. Disarming Act and prohibition of the wearing of Highland dress - repealed 1783.
4 May	1752	The Appin Murder.
	1773	First emigrant ship from Fort William left, with 425 people aboard.
	1778	Fencible regiments first raised.
31 January	1788	Death of Prince Charles Edward in Italy.
5 March	1790	Death of Flora MacDonald.
	1793	79 <sup>th</sup> Regiment (Cameron Highlanders) raised.
	1822	First through passage of Caledonian Canal, built by Thomas Telford.
18 May	1843	Secession by Ministers of Church of Scotland to form the Free Church.
17 October	1883	Weather Observatory opened on Ben Nevis summit.
11 August	1894	West Highland Railway officially opened.
	1904	World Championship belt won by athlete A.A. Cameron from Muccomer, Spean Bridge.
31 December	1907	Aluminium first produced at Kinlochleven.
May	1911	Car driven (and pushed) to the top of Ben Nevis.



## The Stuart & Hanoverian Succession

James VI of Scotland was crowned King of England in 1603 and the Stuarts reigned over the two kingdoms until the death of Queen Anne in 1714. James VII and II was forced to abdicate in favour of his daughter Mary and her husband William of Orange. His son was still a minor when Anne succeeded and at her death, although *de jure* James VIII and III, he was passed over for the Protestant George of Hanover. Two Jacobite risings on behalf of James and his son, Bonnie Prince Charlie, failed and on the death of Prince Charles Edward's brother Henry, Cardinal Duke of York, all but the strictest legitimists regarded George III as his natural successor.

# THE WEST HIGHLAND MUSEUM

2	INTRODUCTION
4	THE LANDSCAPE
6	WILDLIFE
7	ARCHAEOLOGY
9	INVERLOCHY & FORT WILLIAM
12	THE JACOBITES
16	THE APPIN MURDER
16	WEAPONRY
18	MILITARY
19	MEDALS
20	THE CHURCH
22	COINAGE
23	SOCIAL HISTORY
25	LIFE ON THE LAND
27	COSTUME
28	EXPORT PORCELAIN
28	SNUFF
29	SPORT
30	MAPS
30	COMMUNICATIONS & INDUSTRY

# INTRODUCTION

The West Highland Museum was founded on 23rd May 1922, without premises or a collection, only a dream: to create a museum off and for the West Highlands that was second to none in the whole country. A series of summer exhibitions, beginning with Lochaber by-gones and culminating in the brilliant 1925 Jacobite exhibition, were organised by Victor Hodgson who personally contributed many of the exhibits and arranged for a loans of interesting objects from all over the country. The exhibitions were held in the Cameron-Lucy Reading Rooms in Monzie Square and proved very popular. The committee meanwhile were looking for permanent premises, at one time considering the Glencoe suite in the old military fort where the orders for the massacre were signed. It was too small and not central enough but an appeal was launched in 1925 to buy part of the present premises, from 1835 a branch of the British Linen bank and one of the oldest buildings in Fort William. The Museum acquired it in 1926 along with a substantial mortgage that ran for 50 years.

Victor Hodgson, the guiding hand behind the Museum died suddenly in January 1929. Thanks to a Carnegie Trust Fund grant the Committee was able to appoint its first curator, the Rev K.N. McKenzie, but without Hodgson's enthusiasm and guidance the Museum became a little rudderless. It continued to grow however throughout the thirties and became known as *the* Jacobite Museum. During the Second World War the exhibits were stored and some rooms used as a naval officers' mess. A huge refurbishment and upgrading was carried out in the 1990s which included reroofing the building and incorporating the new staircase to improve circulation.

The Flora MacDonald case contains some important items such as her spinning wheel and Holyrood fan. This type of fan is thought to have been given out to Lady guests by Bonnie Prince Charlie, during a ball at Holyrood Palace in Edinburgh to celebrate his victory at the Battle of Prestonpans in 1745.





Ornate carved oak settle from Callart House.

The Museum, one of the oldest in the Highlands, is open all year round and is financed almost entirely by donations and shop sales. It aims to record, preserve and interpret items of significance and historical interest to the West Highland area. The collections span a range of subjects from archaeology to modern industry with a special emphasis on the great Jacobite risings of the 18th century.

The holdings include the Alexander Carmichael collection, the Goldman coin collection and the Dr Charles Hepburn bequest. The rooms are numbered but there is not necessarily a specific route to take when going round display. This is going to give some background information to the main items held by the Museum and looks at the general historical perspective.



The quach is a traditional drinking vessel, used today primarily for ceremonial purposes.



Embroidered silk waistcoat worn by Bonnie Prince Charlie.

The table on which miscreants were strapped to be birched - a punishment meted out by a policeman, accompanied by a doctor and 'other officials'. Last used in 1948.



# THE LANDSCAPE

One of the striking natural features of the West Highlands is the Great Glen fault which runs south-west to north-east on a line between Fort William and Inverness. Over a period of millions of years the landmass above the fault has slipped about 65 miles. This process is ongoing and small earth tremors are not uncommon. Most of the rocks in the area are granites, exposed by the erosion of the original covering layer of lava.

Ben Nevis and Glencoe were formed by “cauldron subsistence”. A cylindrical faulting in the surface lava sank into the underlying molten rock, forcing it up into the void as granite intrusion. The summit of Ben Nevis consists of the remains of an old lava field deeply subsided into granite. This occurred after the formation of the main Caledonian mountain chain about 400 million years ago. A considerable variety of minerals are found on the Ben. In nearby Glenroy, there are quantities of mica schist encrusted with garnet particles from which Quern stones were made. These querns, used to grind oats and barley into flour, were of excellent quality and have been found far forth of the immediate locality.

Also in Glenroy are the beaches of lakes formed when water was contained at various levels by gradually melting glaciers. There are three distinct beaches known as the Parallel Roads; flat surfaces cut into the hillsides at average heights of 1,148; 1,067; and 848 feet above sea level. In the folklore of the area they were the roads of the Finne along which Fionn MacCuil, Ossian and Oscar strode.

A weather observatory was built on the 4,406 ft summit of Ben Nevis, the highest point in the British Isles. It is operated for 20 years until 1904 when it was closed from lack of funds and the buildings fell to ruin. There was a pony path to the summit which it proved possible take a car. Henry Alexander was the first, with a model T Ford in 1911. George Simpson, with a passenger, drove an Austin 7 to the top in 1928 in a record time, never beaten, of seven hours 23 minutes. He made the descent in just under two hours and then drove the car home to Edinburgh! Others made the ascent by motor bike Earlier in 1887, Donald McDougall, Fort William’s town crier or “bellman” for 56 years pushed a 73lb wheelbarrow to the top as a feat of strength.

The summit has an annual precipitation average of 161 inches and is subject to very severe weather. In winter the staff of the Observatory were quite isolated but in summer, visitors paid to walk or ride up to the hotel and post office where they recorded their comments in books now preserved in the museum. During the two summers before the observatory was opened, Clement Wragge accompanied by his St Bernard dog climbed the Ben every day to make weather recordings. His byname in the town was Inclement Wragge.



Henry Alexander driving down from the summit of Ben Nevis.



Replica Model T Ford, cast in bronze by Powderhall Bronze, unveiled in Cameron Square 19<sup>th</sup> May 2018.



18<sup>th</sup> century watercolour of the south view of Fort William. The Fort was designed to be supplied by sea. Even after General Wade's road building programme over-land routes were difficult, if not dangerous and water-borne transport remained vital.





## WILDLIFE

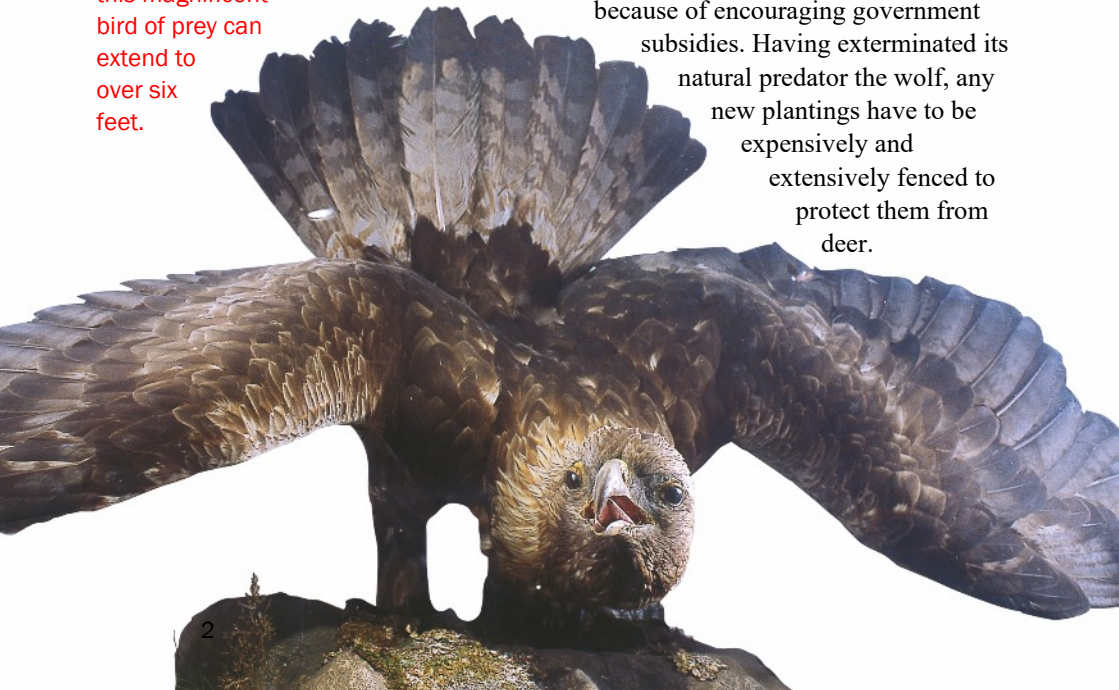
The gannet uses its dagger-like bill to spear fish in spectacular vertical dives into the sea.

The stronghold of the golden eagle in Britain has always been the Western Highlands. The wingspan of this magnificent bird of prey can extend to over six feet.

The wildlife of Scotland includes Britain's largest native birds and mammals. A red stag may weigh up to 20 stone and an adult golden eagle has a wingspan of over 6 feet. The last wolf in Lochaber is said to have been shot by a bowman in Glen Roy in about 1680. The Scottish wildcat is truly wild, unlike the feral goats which are remotely descended from escaped domestic stock. A 16th century description of Loch Ness reads, "*by reason of the great woods there standing, is great store of savage beasts as harts, wild horses and roes.... likewise martins, bevers, foxes and wezels, whose skins are sold unto strangers at huge prices.*"

Seals and a large variety of seabirds and waders can be seen on the tidal shores around Fort William. In Lochaber there are still remnants of native Scots Pine forests, some trees being over 200 years old. Locally Glen Nevis is the most accessible. Natural woodlands of pine, oak and birch were cleared for settlements from earliest times and tree-felling on a massive scale began about 1600. Timber was cut for ships' masts, building and fuel making drastic changes to the Highland landscape. Large tracts have been re-afforested, mostly with non-native logpole pine and larch.

Recently much of the planting has been native woodland species because of encouraging government subsidies. Having exterminated its natural predator the wolf, any new plantings have to be expensively and extensively fenced to protect them from deer.



# ARCHAEOLOGY

There may have been Palaeolithic peoples in Scotland but any evidence has been destroyed by the ice of the last glaciation. Farmfields on Rum, a Mesolithic assemblage with a later Neolithic site above it is one of the oldest settlements known and dates to around 7500 BC. The inhabitants exploited the bloodstone found on Rum which could be worked like flint to form tools. Flint is only found locally in beach pebble form. Farming, using slash and burn clearance, came in around 2000 BC. Axes were then of prime importance to fell the great pine, birch and oak forests.

These Neolithic axes were of polished stone and were traded throughout Britain and Ireland. They continued in use throughout the early metalworking period while the new technology became more efficient and durable. Made of bronze, the only type of metal axe was flat and made in stone moulds. The later hollow shapes with a loop for more secure hafting were cast in pottery moulds.

The first metalworkers, the Beaker people, buried their dead in stone cists, sometimes with grave goods and always with a small patterned pottery beaker. These burials were common in Lochaber. Later in the Bronze Age, the dead were often cremated then buried with ritual offerings of food and occasionally weapons or jewellery placed with them.

The Ballachulish Goddess, a 4'6" high figure carved from alder with quartz eyes, was found on Loch Leven side in 1881. She dates to around 600 BC, the transition between the Bronze and the Iron Ages. A strange, powerful presence, even warped and dried out as she is now, she is a unique and enigmatic presence in the archaeological record of Scotland. She is now in the National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh.



Bronze halberd (1300 - 1600 BC), found in 1960 at Leanachan.

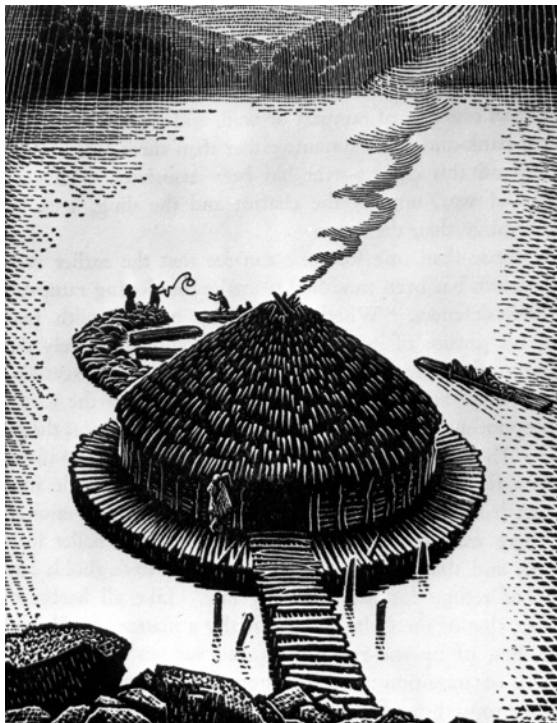


Earthenware food vessel from cist burial with incised design on outer bowl and rim.

By the first century B.C., The Celts held sway in the Highlands. The vitrified forts such as Dun Dearduil in Glen Nevis, date from this period although some may be far earlier. No authenticated example has been found south of the river Tay, and there is some doubt about their construction. Made with timber-laced ramparts dressed in stone, it is not known whether they were deliberately fired by the builders or became solidified by burning during an attack. Controlled experiments have been unable to reproduce the extensive vitrification found on these Forts and they remain something of an archaeological problem.



6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> century shoe from a crannog site.



Artist's impression of a lake dwelling.

Another type of fortification - the defensive round tower houses known as Brochs - were in use before and during the first century A.D., as well as Crannogs. Artificial islands were constructed, based on a framework of timbers then built up with wood, stones and underbrush until a sizeable platform rose above the surface of the water to support one or more huts. These dwellings were accessible only by boat or by submerged concealed causeways. Their use persisted into the Middle Ages and Crannogs are also recorded in Loch Lochy, Loch Ness near Fort Augustus, by Arisaig and in many other West Highland Lochs. The Crannog in Loch Treig was uncovered and excavated in 1933 when the dam supplying water to the British Aluminium Company was under construction.



This engraving of 1836 shows a fanciful version of the rout of Argyll's army, seen fleeing from Old Inverlochy Castle.

## INVERLOCHY & FORT WILLIAM

The chronicler, Hector Boece, whose sometimes fanciful history of Scotland was published in Latin in 1526, gives one of the earliest historical references to Inverlochy. He wrote of a town, a burgh even, flourishing some years before the Christian era, where French and Spanish merchants came for the abundant fish. No archaeological remains substantiates this. The ruins of the late 13th century curtainwall castle can be visited.

In 1645 a Fort called called Inverlochtie was built by General Monk for his Cromwellian troops: *“only a kind of ditch.... and a few sorry wooden or clay huts.”* This fell into disuse after the Restoration but in 1690 William II's commander-in-chief in Scotland built a new fort on the old foundations. He called it Fort William after the King. The Prince of Orange had become King William III of England at the invitation of nobles discontented with the rule of James VII and II. Scotland was less enamoured of him but eventually he was offered the throne becoming William II, King of Scots. Many of the West Highland clans remained loyal to James VII.

Inverlochy was the site of some epic battles most notably in 1645 when the Marquis of Montrose, in support of Charles I, defeated the Earl of Argyll's Covenanter's army. Montrose said that the route, in haste and secrecy from Kilcumein (Fort Augustus) via Glen Roy was his *“difficullest march of all”* and a contemporary account records *“two days through the mountains in great extremetie of cold (&) want of victualles...”* His force was outnumbered two to one, but at least half of Argyll's men, surprised by the attack, fell in the battle and pursuit.

To bring the Highlands to heel, William required the Chiefs of the hostile clans to sign an oath of allegiance to him by 31 December 1691. Most were not keen but did so. MacIain, chief of the MacDonald's of Glencoe, went to Fort William to sign on December 30, 1691 but the governor, Colonel John Hill, was not empowered to administer the oath. MacIain had to travel to Inveraray which he reached on second January, where he duly signed two days late. With full Royal approval, the master Stair, and the Campbell Earl of Breadalbane determined to make an example of the clan. Instructions were issued for the massacre of the MacDonald's of Glencoe and the reluctant governor Hill gave the orders from Fort William to carry it out. The Argyll Regiment, many of them Campbells, a powerful, expansionist plan with a history of feuding with the

MacDonald's was billeted in the houses in Glencoe for two weeks. The regiment was ignorant of what it was to do and the soldiers were on good terms with their hosts. The orders came through and, in the early hours of the morning of February 13th, the guests rose up and all the MacDonald's and could not escape were slaughtered.

A few soldiers tried to give some warning appalled at the abuse of the clan's trust and hospitality. MacIain himself was killed with 35 others and the survivors fled into the winter hills. Colonel Hill reported to his superiors the next day, *'I have also ruined Glencoe....their goods are prey to the soldiers and their houses to the fire'*. By this one rank act William delivered the West Highland clans into the arms of the Jacobites.



A watercolour view of Fort William in 1820.

During the 1715 rising Fort William was garrisoned by the Sixteenth Foot (the Bedfordshire Regiment). In 1746 it was besieged by the Jacobite army under Lochiel. In preparation for this the Fort's Governor ordered the burning of the surrounding wood and thatched houses of the little town of Maryburgh.



Fort William and Maryburgh from a hand-tinted engraving of about 1745.

After Culloden, the Fort was a centre for the troops hunting Prince Charles Edward. By the end of the century there was a need for closed garrison and Parade House was built in the town for the Governor. The Governor's office lapsed in 1854 and 10 years later the Fort was sold to private owners who, in 1889, sold it on to the West Highland Railway Company.

There was no town where Fort William stands now until the military came. The first settlement in 1654 was called Braintoun after the first Governor. In 1690 the settlement was called Maryburgh after William III's Queen. When the Duke of Gordon became feu superior he called at Gordonsburgh. Duncan Cameron of Callart later tried to change the name to Duncansburgh, the only survival of this being the Duncansborough Church. In 1954, to celebrate the tercentenary, the suggestion was made to change it to Abernevis. Through all this hubris the town remained to locals what it had always been, *an Gearasdan*, the Garrison into the gaelic speakers and to the English speakers, the Fort.

Commemorative medals of:

'Queen'  
Clementina



The Jacobite  
oak emblem

The Duke of  
Cumberland's  
victory



Cardinal  
York's  
claim to  
the throne

A touchpiece of  
'Charles III'  
(against the  
King's evil)



## THE JACOBITES

The House of Stewart (or Stuart, the French spelling) ran in direct descent from Robert the Bruce through his daughter Marjorie who married Walter, High Steward of Scotland. Although some individual monarchs ruled precariously, the throne itself had strong popular support as the symbol of independent national integrity. In 1603 James VI inherited the throne of England on the death of Elizabeth I becoming James I of England. James VII and II fled to France in 1687 having been deposed from the English throne after raising fears of an unwelcome Catholic supremacy. His Protestant daughter Mary and his son-in-law William, Prince of Orange were offered the English throne. The Scots, after intense debate and with some reluctance, agreed that James VII had forfeited his right to the throne and that they too would offer it to William and Mary. John Graham of Claverhouse, Bonnie Dundee, immediately left the convention and raised his standard for James VII, the first act of the Jacobites in Scotland. The Jacobites were the supporters of James VII and II so called from Jacobus the Latin form of James. The loyal clans of the West Highlands rose with him and he decisively beat the Williamite army at Killiecrankie. Dundee was killed in the battle and the Jacobite opposition lost direction to lack of leadership. When James VII and II died at St Germain in 1701, his 13 year old son by his second marriage to Mary of Medina was recognised by the kings of Spain and France as *de jure* James VIII and III. However his second daughter, and sister of William's Queen, was already in the *de facto* monarch having ascended to the thrones of England and Scotland on the death of William in 1702. She died in 1714, the last of the Stuart monarchs, having presided over the creation of the United Kingdom with the union of the English and Scots Parliament in 1707, a political act that forced many of its opponents into the Jacobite fold.



In 1715, James made an unsuccessful attempt to gain the British throne. That ill-fated rising, under the Earl of Mar, ended at Sherrifmuir, a curiously indecisive battle that had no victor and no vanquished.

James married Clementina Sobieski, Grand daughter of King John III of Poland and their first son, Charles Edward Louis Philip Casimir was born in Rome in 1720. A new star appeared on the night of his birth and was taken as a good omen for the Stuart cause. Meantime the Hanoverian George I, had succeeded to the United Kingdom throne. His supporters called Stuart claimants "Pretenders". In 1745 Prince Charles, appointed Regent of Britain by his father, led the last Jacobite rising.

He left France with two ships, himself on board *la Douville*, with the seven men of Moidart and 4,000 *louis d'or*. The companion vessel, the 64 gun *Elizabeth* containing arms and a small French volunteer force, was so badly damaged in an encounter with the *Lion*, one of the British ships sent to intercept the Prince, that she had to return to Brest. The campaign was now dependent on the ability and willingness of the loyal chiefs to rally their clansmen. The prospects were not promising when Prince Charles Edward landed at Loch Nan Uamh on July 25, 1745 but following the pledge of support by Lochiel, 1,200 Highlanders saw the Royal standard raised at Glenfinnan the following month. They marched towards London capturing Edinburgh and Carlisle and reached Derby where they turned back largely because the English and Welsh Jacobites did not turn up in support. The Jacobite army was defeated at Culloden on 16th of April 1746. Post Culloden, and treatment of the Jacobites by the victorious Government troops earned their commander, William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, a younger son of George II the name of the picture "Butcher" by which sobriquet he is remembered to this day.

The battle of Culloden (a few miles east of Inverness) meant the end of Jacobite hopes for the removal of the Hanoverian dynasty.



Bonnie Prince Charlie disguised as Flora MacDonald's maid, "Betty Burke".





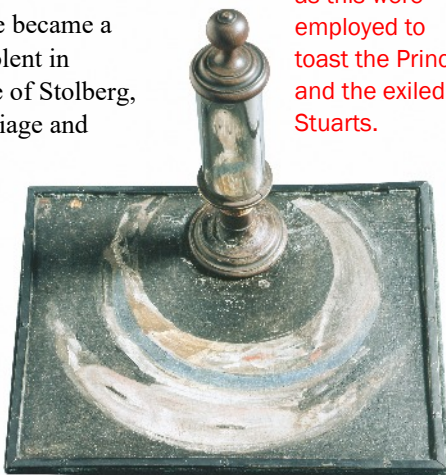
Flora MacDonald.

After Culloden Charles Edward, with the price of £30,000 pounds on his head, was a fugitive in the Highlands and Islands until September when he escaped to France. Constantly in danger of arrest, at one stage he was disguised in women's clothes as Flora McDonald's maid Betty Burke. This was one of the many romantic episodes associated with Bonnie Prince Charlie. Personal charm and looks may have accounted for some of the fervour for the Stuart cause in 1745 but by no means all. It was 30 years since the death of Queen Anne but, however contented people were under the House of Hanover, the undeniable right of the Royal House of Stewart to the throne of the United Kingdom could not be gainsaid however undesirable its restitution might be. Despite the threat of heavy penalties, his followers pledged their loyalty to the "King over the water" and even those not supportive of the Prince helped to hide him and engineered his escape after Culloden.

The 1745 rising was a Civil War and it is worth remembering that the worst atrocities perpetrated against the Jacobites in its aftermath were carried out by Lowland Scots. By no means were all Scots Jacobite; many were strong Government supporters, both highlanders and lowlanders. Nor were all Englishmen George's men; although their commitment when called upon proved a chimera, many of the great houses of England were Jacobite sympathisers.

There were no more risings to restore the succession and Prince Charles was exiled and without hope became a sour, disappointed man often drunk and violent in temper. In 1772 he married Princess Louise of Stolberg, 30 years his junior. It was a miserable marriage and without children. Twenty years earlier his mistress, Clementina Walkinshaw, had born him a daughter Charlotte who he had long neglected. In his last years in Italy he recognised and legitimised her creating her Duchess of Albany. She became his companion and remained with him until his death in 1788. She died herself the following year unmarried leaving two daughters and a son.

The likeness of Prince Charles Edward Stuart is only seen when reflected in the cylinder of this 'secret' anamorphic portrait. Ingenious devices such as this were employed to toast the Prince and the exiled Stuarts.



George IV, as Prince Regent, contributed to the cost of marble monument commemorating Prince Charles Edward his father James VIII and III and his brother Henry, Cardinal Duke of York. It was sculpted by Canova and stands in St Peter's in Rome. Henry, Cardinal Duke of York claimed the succession on Charles's death and died himself in 1807 *de jure* Henry I monarch of the kingdom in which he never said foot, the last of the legitimate Stewart line.

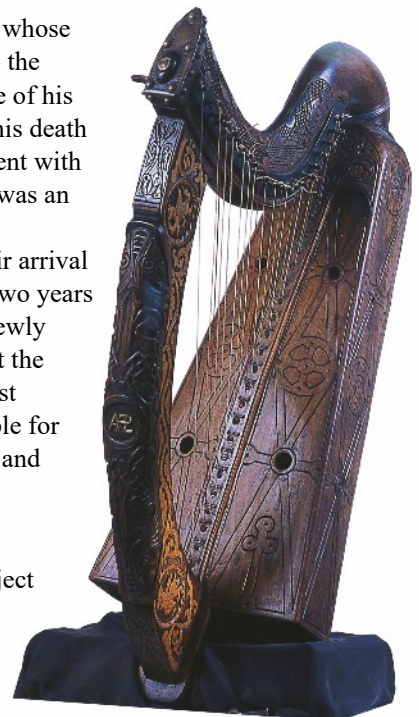
Flora McDonald was born in South Uist in 1722. She had returned from Edinburgh to hear the rumours of Prince Charles Edward's landing. At the end of June 1746 when he was in hiding after Culloden, she helped him to reach Skye from North Uist where he had taken refuge in a cave. She disguised him as her maid for the hazardous journey; first a rough sea crossing in a small boat and then over land. They were always in danger from the militia patrols hunting for the Prince who nearly gave himself away by the awkward management of his skirts. They parted at Portree and on her return to South Uist she was arrested for helping the fugitive Prince for those few days. She was taken to London and kept a state prisoner, briefly in the Tower of London, but mostly under supervision until the Indemnity Act year later.

In 1750 she married Allan MacDonald of Kingsburgh whose father had been imprisoned for a year for giving aid to the Prince. He had incurred heavy financial losses because of his arrest which severely impoverished the family. After his death Alan and Flora emigrated to America. In 1774 they went with some of their children to North Carolina, where there was an established settlement of Highlanders, many of them MacDonald's. A ball was given in Wilmington on their arrival to welcome the Jacobite heroine. Life was disrupted two years later by the American Revolution when some of the newly immigrants Scots, although they had no call to support the British Government of George III, took up arms against Washington's Patriots. Flora was personally responsible for urging numbers of them to fight and her husband, son and son-in-law fought on the Government side.

Allan and his son were taken prisoner and did not see Flora again until 1783. She meanwhile became the object of suspicion and reprisals. Impoverished and in poor health, she sailed from Charleston to return home in 1779. She died on Skye on 5 March 1790.

After the Jacobite defeat at Culloden, traditional Highland instruments were suppressed and legislation against them was imposed.

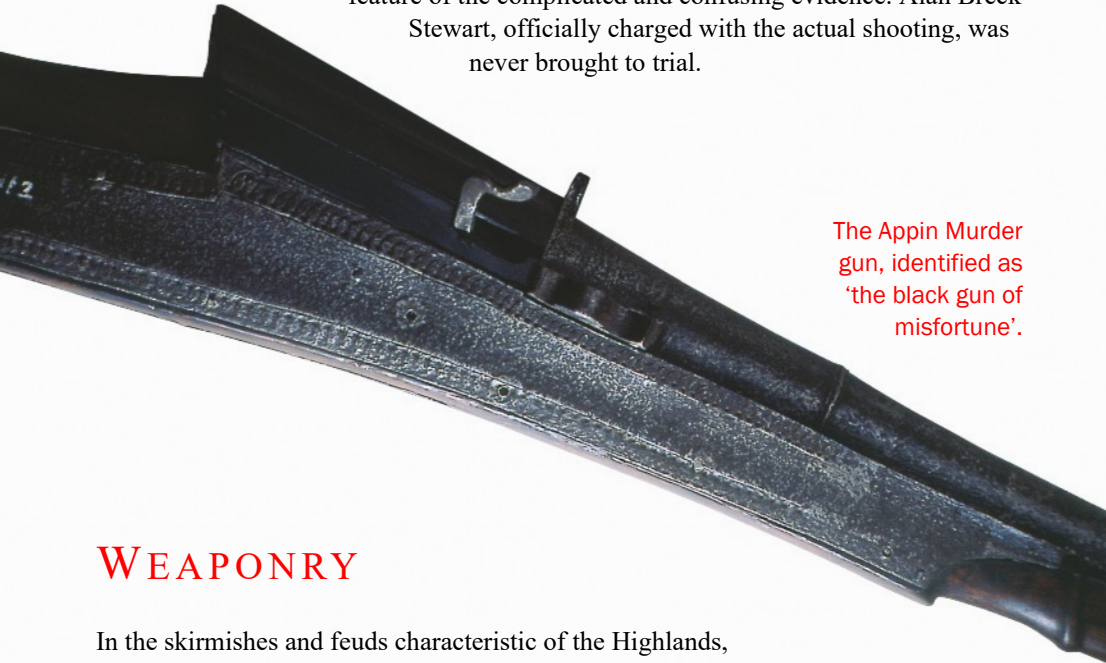
The Poltalloch harp, a 19<sup>th</sup> century clarsach of the Queen Mary type.



# THE APPIN MURDER

The Highlands were disarmed by law if not in practice at the time of the notorious Appin murder in 1752. The victim was Colin Campbell of Glenure, King's factor of some Jacobite estates confiscated after the defeat at Culloden. Charles Stewart of Ardsheil. James Stewart, guardian to Charles's family was arrested and imprisoned in Fort William for conspiring to the crime. He was tried at Inveraray and hanged at

Ballachulish protesting his innocence. A long Spanish gun was an important feature of the complicated and confusing evidence. Alan Breck Stewart, officially charged with the actual shooting, was never brought to trial.



The Appin Murder gun, identified as 'the black gun of misfortune'.

## WEAPONRY

In the skirmishes and feuds characteristic of the Highlands, clansmen regularly carried an array of arms. The targe, a round shield of oak or fir boards, occasionally even steel, covered with hide weighed up to 8lb. The centre was spoked and the tooled designs were often picked out with brass studs. In the relative peace before the 1745 Rising the targe had fallen into disuse but when the Jacobite army was in Edinburgh and Perth, targes were made in those cities costing from 5 to 10 shillings each. In hand-to-hand fighting at Culloden the Government troops used a new and effective bayonet drill. By attacking the man to his right rather than his direct opponent, the soldier could get past the Highlanders targe. Boswell wrote: "*after the disarming act they made them serve as covers to their buttermilk barrels.*"



The Breadalbane gold dirk, seen here with the small knife and fork which fit into the scabbard.

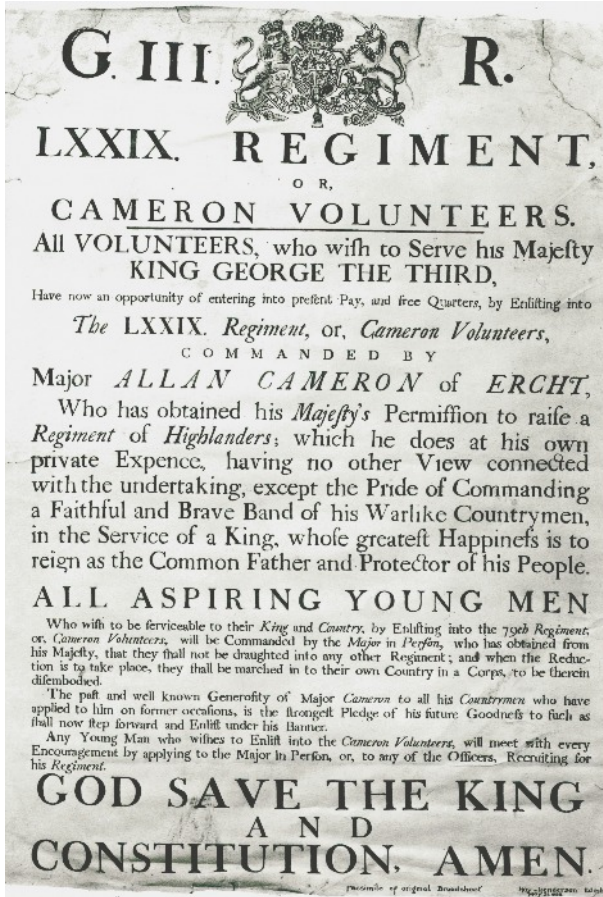
The double-edged blades of broadswords were usually imported from Germany or Italy and fitted to locally made hilts. These became known as claymores or great swords, although the name was first given to the much older and larger two-handed swords often carved on Celtic tombstones.

The dirk is a single edged dagger and may have a small knife and fork in the scabbard. A flintlock pistol with powder horn, a pouch to

hold shot and possibly a musket and bayonet completed the fighting man's equipment. The Lochaber axe is a curious weapon and not obviously useful to Highlander in battle. It resembles most closely and Jeddart stave and there is a reasonable argument that they were called Lochaber axes, not because they were used here, but because the width of the shafts came from the forests of Lochaber.



Queen Victoria presented her ghillie John Brown with a set of Highland dress accoutrements, including this dirk and sword, to mark the occasion of the wedding of her daughter Princess Louise to the Marquis of Lorne.



## MILITARY

Early in 1788 because of the harassment of shipping on the Scottish coasts by French and American privateers (including the adventurer Paul Jones) various seaports began to form voluntary associations of armed men for local defence. In April the Government formed the first regiments of Fensible infantry - troops voluntarily enlisted for service in Scotland only. Those raised in 1794 were for service throughout the British Isles. These defensive regiments were usually disbanded after a few years. The Lochaber defensibles were raised by Lochiel in 1798 and disbanded in 1802.

Recruiting poster for the 79th regiment.



Cross belt plates from Fencible regiments raised during the Napoleonic Wars.

At the same time it was decided that more general service troops were needed. Several Scottish regiments were formed when France, after supplying arms and volunteers to America during the war of independence, declared war on Britain.

In 1793 Alan Cameron of Erracht, kinsman of Lochiel, was granted a charter to raise the 79th Cameronian volunteers. He did this almost entirely at his own expense and commanded them for 15 years. He had previously fought with the loyalists in America having gone there after killing his opponent in duel. The 79th paraded in Fort William before marching to Stirling where the regiment was embodied in January 1794. The name was later changed to the Cameron Highlanders then the Queen's own Cameron Highlanders when Queen Victoria presented new colours in 1873. Most recently the regiment amalgamated with the Seaforths becoming the Queen's own Highlanders and then amalgamated with Gordons to form the Highlanders.

During the Second World War Winston Churchill required the formation of a special force to carry out covert raids in Nazi occupied Europe. In 1940 the Commandos were formed. By 1942 the Commando Basic Training Centre was established at Achnacarry Castle, 15 miles north east of Fort William. A tough training regime was established to train elite commandos from Britain, the United States and other European nations. By the time it closed in 1946 more than 25,000 men had passed through the gates of Achnacarry. This training was the forerunner to all special forces training throughout the world today.

## MEDALS

British medals struck for general distribution as battle decorations are of comparatively recent date. Cromwell issued a medal to all the officers and men of his army after his victory at Dunbar in 1650, but the next distribution was not until Waterloo in 1815 by George IV as Prince Regent. He also instituted long service and good conduct medals for the army and navy so the separate issue of these by individuals and regiments gradually ceased.



Medals from World War 1. The bronze plaque was issued to the families of all soldiers killed in conflict.

# THE CHURCH

The early Christian Church in Scotland was the monastic tradition stemming chiefly from cheat St Columba who founded a religious community in Iona in 560 A.D. By the 12th century, the Celtic Church had long been superseded by the primacy of Rome with control vested in bishops appointed by the Crown. After the Reformation in the 16th century, the Episcopal Church was established but it was rapidly overtaken by the teachings of Calvin and Presbyterianism. The Episcopal Church, like the Catholic Church, was controlled by bishops. However the Presbyterian Church was egalitarian and drew its authority from God and saw its ministers as equal. One problem that reformed churches faced was the training of sufficient priests and ministers to go out into the parishes. Both churches had their power bases, the Episcopal Church in the north-east and the Kirk in the lowlands and south west. Other areas, including parts of the West Highlands, were untouched by the new religious thinking as no priest or minister reached them until James VI and his son Charles I tried to impose a episcopacy as Crown-appointed bishops gave control of the Church to the monarch.

It was opposition to Charles I's meddling with their religious freedom that forced the Presbyterians to sign the National Covenant in 1638. In 1643 the Presbyterians Scots entered the English Civil War against Charles while the West Highland Clans, most notably Roman Catholic and Episcopalian, rose up, ostensibly for the King, but more immediately against the encroachments of the Presbyterian Argyll Campbells. The Royalists were defeated and both Charles I and Montrose were beheaded.

From 1638 tokens were used by both Presbyterian and Episcopalian churches to identify those fit to receive communion and in times of religious persecution to keep out spies and informers. In Glasgow parish for example "...none had entress bot he who had an taiken of leid, declaring that he was an Covenanter....". Some ministers left their churches altogether and held open air meetings to which crowds of people travelled great distances. The first translation of the Bible into a Highland Gaelic was made in the 17th century.



16<sup>th</sup> century brass chalice from St. Clement's Church, Rodel, Harris.



Communion Tokens from Kilmallie and Kilmornaig parishes.



Presbyterianism became established religion in 1592 although different interpretations gave rise to alternative versions. The reformed Presbyterian Church amongst others sent missionaries to America and tokens taken from Scotland to Pennsylvania in 1752 were the first ever used there. Patronage was sanctioned by an Act of Parliament in 1712 and congregations had no right of choice of their minister. This provoked a series of protests and, in 1843, after declaring such Acts “void and null” more than 400 ministers abandoned the establishment and formed the Free Church.

In the Strontian district of Argyll, the congregation of the new breakaway church were refused land to build a place of worship. In 1846 they had a vessel specially constructed in Greenock which was towed to Loch Sunart and moored there. *Eaglais Iaruinn* - literally the island church but called in English the floating church was used for 30 years and it said to have held 700 people.

Patronage ceased in 1874, but by then the disruption of the Free Church from the establishment had become permanent.

This contemporary engraving shows the *Eaglais Iaruinn* - literally translated ‘The Iron Church’, being towed out to Loch Sunart in 1846. Moored in the centre of the loch, it was in use for 30 years and accommodated up to 700 people.



# COINAGE

The Museum has a very fine collection of pre Union coin. The oldest on display is a silver penny of William the Lion (1165 to 1214.) There were mints at Roxburgh, Berwick, St Andrews, Edinburgh and Perth. With the accession of James VI to the English throne, the coinages of the two countries became very similar with the English types prevailing. Twelve shilling Scots equalled one shilling sterling. This difference continued until money was standardised by the articles of the Act of Union in 1707. No Scottish coins were minted after 1709. Milled rims, to prevent the scraping of metal from the edges of gold and silver coins, were introduced in the mid 17th century and the currency of Charles II bridges the change from a hammered process dating from the Roman times to the screwmill method of stamping the design on the metal. The Gaelic word for penny is *sgillin*.

Coin-like tokens were circulated by tradesmen during the 16 century because of the lack of small change and these were at one time exchangeable for coins of the realm.



Inveraray penny



Robert III groat



James VII and II ten shilling piece



Queen Anne sixpence



*A print by Sir D.Y. Cameron from copperplate engraved banknotes. In 1746 the sloop 'Hazard' bringing money from France was lost and the Jacobites were in such urgent need of currency that the young Robert Strange was commissioned to design and engrave plates for Price Charles Edward's Treasurer. There were to have been notes for values up to £200 but none was issued.*

# SOCIAL HISTORY

Grants of land were given to various influential families by Royal Charter after the 13th century wars of independence but no title was worth having without the strength to hold it and territory often changed hands by force. The history of Lochaber includes notable examples of disputes concerning ownership and there were many clan feuds as well as reiving (cattle stealing raids) to provide for the Chief's following, especially where the land was agriculturally poor.

Chiefs reckoned their wealth in men not money, and rents were generally paid in kind and in-service. In return clansmen enjoyed continuity of land tenure as the "kindly" or hereditary tenants. They had no recognised legal right of possession however and when in the 19th century many were forcibly removed they had no redress.

After the 1745 arising the old clan system, already under pressure in a changing world, was deliberately attacked by the Government through the forfeiture of estates and the banishment of the patriarchal chiefs who had been out. When the Chiefs, or often their heirs, finally returned a generation and a half later, they came as landlords, not as the fathers of their people. They came with different needs and expectations wishing to exploit their land and make it earn them money. No longer did they need or count their wealth in men. The Government's policy was successful and the clan system was destroyed.



Cameron - one of Mclan's famous plates illustrating Highland dress and clan tartans. Robert Ronald Mclan (1803 - 1856), a descendant of the MacDonalds of Glencoe, was an actor in his early years. He was a self-taught artist and his paintings, expressing his enthusiasm for the Highlands and especially his representations of Highland chiefs, have always been popular for their vigour and accuracy.

This detail from an 18<sup>th</sup> century Chinese porcelain plate shows two Highlanders in traditional dress. One is seen playing the bagpipes, carrying Clan colours, and the other hold a rifle.



Thus betrayed the people began to drift away from the Highlands, some driven abroad by the desire to maintain their old way of life in the form of the great tacksman emigrations of the early 19th century, and laterally by starvation when the potato crop failed. Lochaber never saw the sustained landlord clearances of the North country and Skye, but Knoydart and Morven were severely affected.

Everywhere as men left they were replaced by sheep. The Highlands has never recovered its former status as a populous, though not necessarily prosperous, agricultural area. Today of 80 or so major clans, many now have thriving associations and societies, mostly in the New World and the old colonies to keep their members in touch with each other and their history.

Although many clans trace their pedigree to an earlier date, the system was probably strongest from the 12th to 17th centuries. "Clan" means children and a chief considered himself, and was regarded as, the head of an extensive family. His blood relatives were the nucleus but the clan stretched to include all those connected with his lands. They could choose to adopt his name or keep their own sept patronymics. This produced a closely-knit interdependency of men of different means and status, fiercely loyal to their clan and chief. That is not say that there could not be disagreement and rivalry amongst clansmen on occasion. In the 1745 Rising close blood relatives were opposed and even fought on different sides although often this was political expediency

The wearing of tartan was prohibited after the 1745 uprising, except when worn as regimental uniform. Until this time it had been the usual dress of the Highland Clans.

# LAND TENURE

Croft is an Anglo-Saxon word meaning a field and survives in many place names in Scotland and England. The term “crofter” means the holder of the smallest sub tenancy under the old Highland system of land tenure. Groups of croft are holdings are called townships. A clan chief’s power once depended on the size of his following and the subdivision of land had been encouraged, often leading to poor living conditions.

During the clearances when estate owners tried to improve the land and its revenue by removing the population and introducing large numbers of sheep, many Highlanders were forced to lowland towns or emigrated. The crofter of today has security of tenure and usually combines a job with the traditions of an older way of life.

Miss Eunice Murray assembled and dressed the collection of dolls, each representing a character with a distinctive Highland occupation. The nearest to mechanised tools are the loom and spinning wheel. The figures here are a crofter with a *cas chrom*, a metal-tipped wooden foot plough well suited to small patches of steep or stony ground, and a woman carrying a creel of peat cut and dried for fuel. The old way was hard. Peat was in many places the only fuel. It had to be cut, stacked, turned to dry and carried back to the one-room cottages of stone or turf thatched with heather. The ground was broken for cultivation with the foot plough. Seaweed used as fertiliser was carried from the shore to the plantings. The grain harvest, cut by hand, as threshed and winnowed before being milled between two flat quern stones. The crofters kept a few sheep and small black cattle but wool was scarce and valuable and meat not always available. Smoked or salted fish and sea birds like gannet and cormorant were staples along with oat and barley meal, milk, butter, cheese and, from the mid 18th century, potatoes. Tea was a novelty and was at first consider dangerous.

These two dolls represent a traditional crofting couple: The Man carries a ‘cas chrom’ a metal tipped wooden foot plough, and his wife carries a creel of peat on her back.



A traditional creel.



In summer the cattle were taken to a high pasture ground by the younger members of the family who enjoyed a kind of a holiday, living in shielings and making stores of cheese and butter. At the end of the year some animals were killed and their meat salted down for the winter. Before the Highlanders learned to go fodder for winter feeding, those cattle which survived the hard weather were in a very poor condition, even when kept undercover in stalls at one end of the croft house.

Fort William was on one of the droving routes from Skye and Lochaber to Falkirk and further south. Large numbers of sheep and cattle were driven to market in the 18th and 19th centuries. John Cameron of Corriechoille, near Spean Bridge, one of the most famous drovers was reputed to own 60,000 sheep.

Wild plants provided medicines and dyes for colouring wool. Flax and even nettles were used to make linen, and women often sat spinning out of doors. Inside, smoke from the peat fire blackened the ceilings. Light was supplied by fish oil or animal fat burning in hanging cruise lamps. Very few people could read or write but there was excellent entertainment to be had in tale telling, music and dancing.

The common drink in the highlands used to be ale brewed from native barley. In 1735 the civilian population of Maryburgh had a dispute with the Governor of Fort William about their right to brew it. The making of whisky began in the 16th Century and from the early 18th Century it was subject to duty. To avoid this the spirit was often made illicitly in pot stills, carefully hidden from the exciseman. Government subsidies were offered to regularise whisky production and in 1825, "Long John" MacDonald started a distillery in Fort William. It is still in production although the Long John name was sold to a rival firm many years ago. A great grandson of the Keppoch chief killed at Culloden, Long John MacDonald was 6' 4" hence the nickname. In 1835 the Minister compiling the Kilmallie parish entry in the Statistical account recorded the absence of local demand for library books for considered that "*the numerous spirit shops in that village (Fort William)....prove a great snare to those who ought to employ their time in reading.*"



Whisky bottle from the Fort William distillery founded in 1825 by 'Long John' MacDonald.



This illicit whisky still was left on the steps of the Museum in 1924 by an anonymous donor. Holes had been punctured in it by The Department of Customs and Excise.

# COSTUME

The wearing of tartan was prohibited after the '45 except as regimental uniform. Until then it was for the most part worn only by Highlanders. Later it was promoted by George IV's visit to Scotland and it became still more popular during Queen Victoria's reign. The word originally meant only particular kind of cloth. Repeating chequered designs called setts date from about the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Many tartans are quite recent design while old prints and portraits often show individuals wearing a variety of setts in different articles of clothing.

The kilt in its modern form dates in the late 18th Century. Previously men dressed in a shirt and plaid, a very warm untailored piece of cloth usually tartan, of two narrow widths sewn together. The Gaelic name is derived from a Danish word meaning to gird or tuck up: feileadh mor for the belted plaid and feileadh beag for the kilt. To put the plaid on, it was laid on the ground in rough pleats on top of a belt. The wearer then lay down, in his shirt, fastened the belt around his waist and got to his feet arranging the folds and draping the spare folds around his shoulders where a round large brooch held it in place. The plaid was also worn as a cloak over close fitting trews or could be used as a blanket. The sporran, made of leather, animal pelt, or horse hair was used as a purse and pocket.

Women also wore the plaid as a shawl over plain or tartan dresses. The cloth was very dense and weather resistant. Long strands of wool prepared for spinning with heated iron combs (as opposed to carded short fibres) made a very compact yarn for hard tartan which was deliberately shrunk before use. Local plants were the source of most of the dyes and the weavers worked from traditional pattern sticks which recorded the colours and the number of threads of the different tartan setts.

A Victorian child's outfit and examples of dirks and sporrans.

Late 19<sup>th</sup> century hard tartan jacket. Kilt believed to have belonged to the Sobieski Stewarts.



# EXPORT PORCELAIN

At the beginning of the 18th century china was being specially made at the factory of Ching-te-Chen for the European market through agents in Canton. The much prized fine, hard paste porcelain was decorated in the traditional Chinese manner and with armorial bearings copied from customers' patterns and drawings.

As the Chinese artists were quite unfamiliar with the complex and heraldic devices there were occasional errors, sometimes making it difficult to identify the owner.

There were various periods of production. Practically no oriental armorial China is known after 1820; by that date the Worcester factory carried out most of the work for the French and English markets. Lowestoft is a soft paste porcelain and many pieces closely resemble Worcester. One of the plates in the museum collection was ordered by an officer serving in Fort William, Calcutta and another bears the arms of the last Earl of Seaforth whose tragic life was foretold in the prophecies of the Brahan Seer.

Chinese export porcelain plate with Mackintosh arms.



# SNUFF

Snuff, the roasted stalks of tobacco, ground into powder and inhaled was very popular in Scotland among both men and women in the 18th century. Mulls and boxes were made in a variety of materials. Snuff must be kept dry and small wooden boxes with a patent well-fitting hinge were made in the 1800s in a number of Ayrshire villages of which Mauchline is the best-known.



Horn snuff mull in the form of a raven's head.



Silver snuff box incorporating a portrait of King Charles I.





A.A. Cameron's World Championship belt.

## SPORT

A.A. Cameron (Mucomer) the Lochaber athlete won the World Championship belt for wrestling in 1903, 1904 and 1906 and held many records for feats of strength. There is an annual race from Claggan Park Fort William to the summit of Ben Nevis and back in September which attracts runners from all over Britain. The present mens' record time is just under one and half hours

Women have run the Ben Race almost from its inception. In 1902 Lucy Cameron from Loch Arkaigside, held the Ladies Record to the top of the Ben having run it in 2hrs, 3mins.



### A.A. Cameron

Champion all-round Heavyweight athlete of the World

Holder of the following Records.

#### Putting the Ball

- 16 - ( 7ft. 6ins. Run ) - 55ft. 6 ins
- 18 - ( " ) - 44ft. 4.5ins
- 20 - ( " ) - 41ft. 1.5ins
- 21 - ( " ) - 41ft. 4 ins
- 22 - ( " ) - 40ft. 6 ins
- 24 - ( " ) - 36ft. 6 ins
- 28 - (Standing Style) - 31ft. 4.5ins
- 28 - ( 7ft. 6ins. Run ) - 34ft. 1.5ins
- 36 - ( " ) - 28ft. 5.5ins
- 42 - ( " ) - 26ft. 1.5ins
- 56 - ( " ) - 20ft. 8 ins

#### Throwing the Weight

- 28 - (half turn of body) - 66ft. .5ins
- 36 - (half turn of body) - 34ft. 1 ins

#### Throwing the Hammer

- 18 - (standing style) - 122ft. 12.5ins
- 25 - (standing style) - 100ft. 9ins

## MAPS

The very inaccurate outline drawn from Ptolemy's tables of A.D. 150 was the basis of every map of Britain until 1546. The first published map of Scotland alone may be one printed in Italy in 1568 following James V's voyage to the Hebrides 30 years earlier.

After the first Jacobite rising much survey work was done to strengthen the military forts and improve communications through road-building started in 1725 by General Wade. The picketing and patrolling of Scotland by government troops produced better details and Elphinstone's map of 1745 marks the end of the previous virtual monopoly of Dutch cartographers.

At least three surveys preceeded the construction of the Caledonian Canal, an immense and costly project started in 1804, to link the east and west coasts and avoid the danger of sailing ships going round the north of Scotland. It was opened in 1822 and is still operational now but never carried the traffic envisaged by its engineer Thomas Telford, as steam power reduced the need for it and shipowners objected to paying passage dues.

## COMMUNICATIONS & INDUSTRY

Lord Abinger, the builder of Torlundy Castle, now the Inverlochy Castle Hotel cut the first sod of the West Highland Railway on 23rd of October 1889. Thousands of tons of materials were brought by sea for the project, originally estimated to cost almost £400,000. Before the line opened, the nearest railhead was 6 ½ hours away by coach. When the necessary parliamentary bill was passed, Fort William heard the news from the Bellman and celebrated with a torchlight procession. The railway company ran a horse-drawn bus service to Ballachulish Ferry and Fort William had a regular paddle steamer connection with Oban.

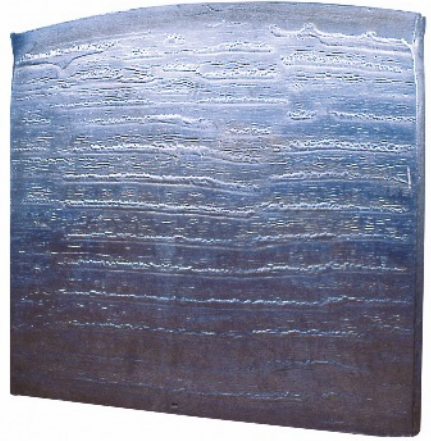
The spade used to cut the first sod of the West Highland Railway on October 23<sup>rd</sup> 1889.





The ceremonial opening of The West Highland Railway in 1894. Notice the huge draped plate cameras focusing on the dignitaries adjacent to the steam locomotive, left.

In 1896 Fort William became the first town in the United Kingdom to have the electric street lighting entirely generated by waterpower. The same year aluminium was first produced in this country in commercial quantities using the electrolytic method. The British Aluminium Company pioneered the industrial use of hydroelectric power at Foyers and, in 1904, built a smelter at Kinlochleven, damming the Blackwater River. By 1924 the Fort William reduction works were under construction. Water was brought from Loch Treig and Loch Laggan through a 15 ft diameter tunnel cut through the Ben Nevis Range. It is 15 miles long and is the largest tunnel of its kind in Europe. Bauxite is the chief ore in the manufacture of aluminium. It is named after les Baux in southern France. Initially the company brought it from Northern Ireland but later it came from Ghana and Burntisland on the Firth of Forth and it now comes mainly from the West Indies.



A 1200lb slab of aluminium manufactured in Lochaber.

The piped water also served the pulp and paper mill at Annat Point, opened by Wiggins Teape in 1964. This Government subsidised enterprise once processed 1000 tons of Scottish timber daily. Some of the stripped bark was used for fuel and the wood was chipped, chemically treated and washed into white pulp to make high-quality paper. The pulp business proved to be uneconomic and the mill itself closed in 2005.

## THE ST. KILDA MAIL BOAT

*A sheep's stomach was attached to a hollowed out piece of wood in which were placed letters, wrapped to keep them dry and held in place by a wooden lid. It was floated out into the tide and would come up on the Isle of Lewis where the finder would post on the letters through the regular mail service.*



Whether you have sent mail by today's more conventional, if less romantic, methods or are keeping postcards to remind you of Lochaber, we hope you have enjoyed your visit.