

PHOTOS BY ELEANOR

Clyde and Eleanor Moore

916-961-1560

E-Mail Address: clyde2@ix.netcom.com

Clyde & Eleanor's Trip to England & Scotland

August 27 - September 21, 1994

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Average Exchange Rate

£ = \$1.57

Sunday, 8/28

Dwight and Amelia dropped us at the airport at 6:55 PM. We flew Suntrips charter using Leisure Air from San Francisco (Check-in 3 hours prior to departure) 8/27 - Leave at 10:00 PM, Flight L8 1758. The announced 9:15 PM boarding was delayed to 9:35 PM. Our seats were in the 35th row, seats were assigned at check-in. They were OK, near the rear of the DC10. We left at 10:30 PM, bypassing the snack and drinks for a nap. We slept on and off until 6:00 AM, cleaned up for breakfast and juice and were ready to land at 10:30 AM (California time) on 8/28, arrived at Stansted airport at 4:30 PM Sunday. We were pleased with the flight to England and the small airport at Stansted was nice (we were the only arriving flight), not like the hustle and bustle of the big Heathrow. We cleared customs and got a cab £7.50 to Great Dunmow. Our reservations for accommodations were at the 17th Century Saracens Head Hotel (phone 0371-3901), three nights at £56/night, includes taxes (\$84) USA phone #800-225-5843. We were too tired to walk around the village or eat. At 2:00 AM we were wide awake but stayed in bed until 8:00 AM. When reading the Sunday paper, it indicated this was a three-day weekend and Monday was a Bank Holiday (similar to our Labor Day, only the last weekend in August). Thinking we would get to a bank on Monday morning, we arrived with only £100 in cash.

Monday, 8/29

Great Dunmow is a small village 8 miles from Stansted, approximately 2,000 people live here. The only shop open was the Newspaper shop. Our Hotel served a Continental breakfast for £6 each, so we thought we would walk and find another place to eat. We decided to get a cab (£6) to the airport to take the train to Cambridge (£13 for two). We arrived in Cambridge about noon, decided to walk into town. After 1.5 miles the wrong way we arrived at the Visitor Center and got a map 10P and ate at the Eagle Pub, E Cauliflower, Broccoli and Leak Bake with rice, Ale, C had beans, frank and chips with lemonade for £10. We talked with a young couple from London. Walked through the Kings College with the famous Chapel, £2 each. Visitors were rowing boats and running into each other, we heard later this was a tradition. Took pictures of the Trinity College and Christ's College. Walked back to the train station, arriving home about 7:00 PM. We were too tired to eat.

Tuesday, 8/30

We tried our hotel for breakfast on Tuesday, we still couldn't find anything else open on a workday. Fruit (what was left), juice, pastry. The waitress brought me a pastry, but none for Clyde. We asked for non-carbonated water and were brought carbonated. Poor service and when we told the office, they didn't charge us for breakfast. Today we have reservations for a Buckingham Palace Tour (\$50 each for a London city bus tour, 1.5 hour tour of the palace then a boat ride back). We were meeting the group at 1:45 PM at the Victoria Station Tourist Information Center (Underground). Call 48 hours before - 071-233-7030 Phone number for the tickets is 800-962-9246, not refundable or rescheduled.

We took a cab to the airport £5.60 and bought round trip train tickets to London's Liverpool station (£22 for two). To add to our good luck (Monday's Bank Holiday), the trains will go on a 48 hour strike at noon today (8/30). We had to get back to the Liverpool Station for the last train at 5:30 PM. Trains would run at 50% during the strike but nothing after 6:00 PM. We arrived in London about noon and decided to get

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off the Underground at Oxford Circus and find the English Heritage Office to renew our membership (purchased on our 5/93 trip) and get maps, as I forgot to pack the old ones. The office wasn't used to people coming in to renew, \$45 for two. The English Heritage allows members to gain entry to historic places without paying the entrance fee. Funds are used to purchase and restore properties in England, Wales and in Scotland, a good investment!

Back to the Underground as we were scheduled to meet Golden Tours at the Information Center at the Victoria Station at 1:45 PM. We had enough time to split a Burger King hamburger and Coke. We waited at the pickup point until 2:10 PM, no one came. We checked with the Information Center staff and finally the Tour guide arrived 20 minutes late, heavy traffic due to the train strike! The bus took us through the Mayfair Embassies, The Duke of Westminster still owns all the land and only rents it on a 60-year lease basis. The Americans wrote to Westminster some years ago to buy the land where our embassy is. The Duke said OK, if the Americans would return the land taken in the 1776 Revolution!

Our entrance time to the Palace was 2:45 PM. We walked at our own pace through the formal rooms opened to the public; the reception area, galleries, stateroom, dining room, green and blue room, the white room and the bow room where the Queen greeted visitors for garden parties. NO PHOTOS! We bought a guidebook, £3.50. There were many antique clocks in the rooms. We met the tour guide as scheduled, 4:00 PM. It was a short bus ride to the Charring Cross Pier and a short boat ride on the Thames to the Tower Pier. Photos of Christopher Wren's home for 30 years, the church of the founder of Harvard and the sailing ship, Gloria. We arrived at the Tower Pier at 4:50 PM, left the tour and walked to the Underground to take the subway to the Liverpool Station. It was packed, many people there to get the last train out of London. We found seats, a young couple stood in front of us and opened a US map and were looking for something. Clyde asked if he could help. We talked with them all the way back. They were nice and offered to take us to our hotel since they lived in Great Dunmow. They were leaving for a 2 1/2 week vacation 9/17 to Los Angeles and wanted to see San Francisco and the Grand Canyon. We suggested that may be too much as the mileage between those points were a lot for their vacation time. We exchanged cards and hoped they would call on us when we were home. They offered us a room at their home the next time we came into Stansted Airport. When we were home, Lisa and Kevin did call us when they were in Grass Valley (staying at a B & B) on Friday, 9/30/94. Clyde was just leaving for a doctor's appointment and then to work; I was at work. They were going to San Francisco on there way south. We'll have to get together with them another time.

We ate dinner at the Star Restaurant, highly recommended gourmet dining. A three-course meal was £22 - £32 each, excellent! We asked if we could get a light meal, she said yes we could get a la carte since it wasn't busy. Clyde had Lamb with a spinach sauce and E had Halibut with a sauce. Lager and lemonade £26.

Wednesday, 8/31

We checked out of the Hotel at 9:00 AM, £168 on VISA. We called the same cab as Tuesday, a 70 year old driver that was retiring for the third time. We went to Bishops Stortford to pick up the car, Alamo Rental - From Wed. 8/31 to Wed. 9/21. \$450. Confirm prior to pick-up. Phone 0279-758800.

The starting mileage was 9,230. We drove off in our maroon Cavalier at 10:00 AM, heading north on the M11 to A14 to Deddington to see Eleanor's Cross, first stop. The Cross was erected by Edward I to mark the resting place of his wife. Eleanor died in 1290, cute village which had Eleanor's House, a Tea Room. We filled up the car as we wanted to see what gas level we needed to return the car, 42 liters @ £52.9 or £22.60 after 65 miles. We stopped in Teckincote at the Crown Pub for lunch, C breaded Plaice, E had seafood crepes, both with chips/peas, Bitters and lemonade £12. We drove 275 miles, mostly in the rain. A visitor center located accommodations at the Fox & Hound Hotel, Stagshaw Bank, Corbridge, £36. Directions were, take the A1 to A68, to Corbridge, A69 to Hexham, A68 to Jedburgh. The Hotel/B

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& B had a good restaurant, C had steak E had Cajun vegetables and a big platter of steamed broccoli and cauliflower, £15. We were told that in nearby Washington (east of where we were), was the place the ancestors of George Washington lived.

Thursday, 9/1

The Halton Castle was close by the B & B, it was a private family home for more than 400 years, then on to the Aydon Castle £2.75 (Heritage), a 13th century manor house where a minor baron lived in the King Edward I era. Toured the Corbridge Roman Site, £2 (Heritage). Behind the line of Hadrian's Wall, was Corbridge, the prosperous garrison town and supply base for the troops manning the Roman frontier. Ruins of granaries designed for long-term storage were visible. Between AD 122 and 130, the Romans built 73 miles of forts, mile castles, turrets, signal towers and an immense wall. Once up to 20 feet high, much of this dramatic frontier wall still remains with sites of interest along its whole length.

Prudhoe Castle or 'proud hill' in the Middle Ages was the most impressive castle in the whole of England. The walls twice repelled the forces of Scotland's William Wallace in the 12 Century. We'll take pictures while the sun is out! Photos of the castle reflected in the pond, £1.80 (Heritage). There was a very difficult roundabout over the Tyne River to get to Belsay Hall Castle and Gardens. The same family has lived here for 600 years. Three main buildings, a medieval castle, Jacobean Manor House and Georgian Hall. They receive an average of 28 inches of rain annually. The castle was built in the 14th century, a border town house. The manor house was the first unfortified house built in the area. Sir Charles Monck, the 19th century owner, took his bride on a two-year honeymoon to Europe and built Belsay Hall, design was based on European and Grecian architecture. The garden has 30 acres, beautiful grounds, £2.40 (Heritage). We could have spent all day there, we had lunch in the tearoom, £8.55, E chicken/ham, C beef/venison potpies. The nice lady suggested we take the coast route to Edinburgh, off at 2:00 PM. No rain yet, but cloudy now. Took two photos of the Wardworth Castle, 15th Century Percy family home, potty break and back on the road.

Bamburgh Castle, photos only. Guarding the North Sea entry to Britain, the site has been occupied since the 1st century BC. The craggy citadel then became a royal center by 547 AD. Normans lived here for eight centuries, it was restored in the 19th century. It was the first castle taken in war by Edward IV.

In Scotland at 4:20 PM, the skies cleared as we went north to Berwick for the night. Tantallon Castle on the rocky coast of the Firth of Forth, built in the 14th century (1358) for the strong hold of the Sir William Douglas's, Earls of Angus. The Douglas family had a close association with Robert Bruce (future King of Scotland). In 1528 the castle withstood a twenty-day siege from James V's artillery. The king eventually took the castle, made repairs and strengthened it to become 'unwinable to any enemies!' Like in southern England, Cromwell took this castle by force in 1651. By the turn of the century it was abandoned. The state took it over in 1924.

Now a short history lesson on Scotland: "Many visitors think of Scotland as Edinburgh and search no further, but if you travel northward, you'll find the real Scotland, along with overwhelming hospitality and a sense of exploration. A small nation, Scotland is only 275 miles long and some 150 miles wide at its broadest point. No one lives more than 40 miles from salt water. In spite of the smallness of size, however, Scotland has extended its influence far and wide, giving the world both dreamers and daredevils, warriors and preachers. Inventors include Alexander Graham Bell, explorers Mungo Park and David Livingston. Scotland gave the world philanthropists Andrew Carnegie, poets Robert Burns and novelists Sir Walter Scott and the famous Loch Ness monster Nellie!

Scotland has its own legal system and issues its own currency. Both English and Scottish bank notes have equal value and are accepted in both countries. The Church of Scotland is separate from the Church of England, the language of the Scot is said to be nearer to the original English than what is spoken today. In

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fact, an English person often finds it hard to understand the speech of a true and gentle Highlander, who grew up in view of ancient sandstone and granite mountains. England and Scotland have been constitutionally joined since 1707, Scotland is very different and is much its own country. Scotch is a whisky (spelled without an e) and not the name of the proud people who inhabit the country. They are called Scots or Scottish, most of all, don't call them English! Scotland is the oldest geological formation of Great Britain. Its three regions are the granite Highlands which include the lochs, glens, mountains, hundreds of islands to the west and north; the central lowlands, the three valleys and estuaries (firths) of the Clyde, Forth, and Tay rivers make up a fertile belt from the Atlantic Ocean to the North Sea; and the southern uplands, the smooth rolling moor land, broken with low crags and threaded with rivers and valleys between the central plain and the English border.

From the last Ice Age, mankind has lived here as attested by Cairns, standing stones, brochs, cromlechs and burial chambers. Eventually Celts moved in. They may have come here via Ireland, but were probably not Irish Celts, being more closely related to those of Cornwall, Wales and Brittany - Celt Iberians. They were dubbed Picts by the Romans, who came to what they called Caledonia in the early part of the 1st century AD. The Picts were so named because they painted their bodies blue, it is claimed. The Romans didn't have much luck against the wild, fierce inhabitants of Caledonia and before long pulled back south and built Hadrian's Wall. The Dalriad Irish, called Scots moved in 500 AD, bringing with them Christianity. These people were red and sandy haired with fair skin. They settled in the Argyll peninsula, which they named Scotia. Presbyterianism is still the major religion, with John Knox and the Reformation. The country had its own kings and their battling cohorts by the time of William the Conqueror. Sometimes the Scots banded together to battle the English, and at other times joining the neighbors to the south to fight each other. The first Irish invaders started new families, which, when they split from the original homesteads and resettled, formed clans, the Gaelic word meaning 'family' or 'children of'. The clan designation allowed them to trace their origins even when they moved to distant places. There was a strong hierarchy within each clan, with a chief at its head, followed by lesser chieftains. The various families warred among themselves for territory, rights and honor. The fighting among the clans abated in 1609 when the statutes of Iona were signed by the clan chiefs. Sporadic fighting continued for years, but the last real clan battle, MacDonakds versus Macintoshes took place in 1688.

The power of the great lords of Scotland was broken in 1603, when the son of Mary Queen of Scots assumed the throne of England upon the death of Elizabeth, but all was not peace and goodwill between Scots and English. Religion again stirred strife when King James II was ousted from the throne and his Roman Catholic descendants tried to restore their title and their religion to England and Scotland. Because many Highlanders had rallied to the cause of Bonnie Prince Charlie's claims to the throne, the wearing of the tartan, the distinguishing plaid material denoting the wearer's clan affiliation was banned until 1782. As a result of the strife and defeat of anti-English forces at Culloden in 1746, many Scots fled to other parts of the world during the troubled 1700s, becoming an integral part of the development of the United States and other countries.

Scotland has a population today of some 5,200,000 people, about 75% of whom live in the central lowland area, from the Firth of Forth to the Firth of Clyde." Now we're ready to tour Scotland! Scotland History from Frommer's England & Scotland 1990, pages 534 - 535.

We spent our first night in Scotland at Pam Swanston's Chestnut Lodge in North Berwick; 2a Ware Road, EH39 4BN, Tel: 0620 894256, £33. We had dinner at the Nether Abbey Pub, C Haddock/chips, E Chicken Curry/rice, £12. The B & B had beautiful gardens, the gladiolas were blooming. We went 375 miles, purchased 42.34 liters of gas for £23.80.

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Friday, 9/2

We stopped at Dirleton Castle, £2 (Heritage), the oldest part dating from the 13th century. It was rebuilt in the 14th century and extended in the 16th century. The beautiful gardens were first established in the 16th century. We couldn't find any other castles. We took the Firth Road Bridge, 40P.

Aberdour Castle, £1.50 (Heritage), a 14th century castle extended in the 16/17th centuries with terraced gardens, a bowling green and a dovecot. We stopped at the Earl David Hotel/Pub for lunch, £11, C had pork steak and E had pork kabobs. Another beautiful day in Scotland.

Next stop is St. Andrews, where golf originated. The cathedral must have been colossal in size during its day. The castle was mostly in ruins, a beautiful view of the beach of the North Sea. St. Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland. They are trying to get November 30th a national holiday in honor of St. Andrew. In 730 the religious center was started. The foundation of the castle was started in 1160. It was the largest church (kirk) in Scotland. They had a tradition of eating singed sheep's head and its broth on St. Andrew's Day. This tradition continued into the 19th century (ugh!). St. Andrew's Cathedral withstood the Reformation. When the Edinburgh Castle was captured by Randolph, Earl of Moray on March 14, 1314, Moray destroyed all castle buildings per Bruce's policy except St. Margaret's Chapel as Queen Margaret was made a patron saint of Scotland in 1673.

At 7:00 PM we arrived at the Ravenswood Hotel, 2 nights B & B Friday, 9/2 depart Sunday, 9/4 Braemar Road, Ballater (about 15 miles from Braemar), £27 p/p/n Telephone # (03397) 55539, £108 charged to VISA 6/29 We had an appetizer in the hotel bar, C tuna salad, E venison pate for £7. The room was big with high ceilings and a Jacuzzi/bathtub NICE!. This room must have been the master suite of the manor home.

Saturday, 9/3

We started the day with a good Scottish breakfast. We left the hotel at 8:45 AM and parked 2 miles from where the games were. Nice day (so far)! The Braemar Games (£8 - prepaid tickets) had more competition than the games we have been to in California. There were only a few booths with items to sell, not commercial like the home games. Of course, Clyde bought a T-Shirt with a Scottish Highlander tossing the caber with bare cheeks under his kilt! Besides the caber toss and the pound toss, they had foot races, high jump and even gunny sack races for the kids. The military had several teams (about 6 men each) for the tug of war. This went on most of the day. The team winning the 93 tug of war also won this year. One of the difficult events was the 'hill race'. The competitors ran a lap around the track and then ran up the hill and back, a BIG HILL! The winner made it back in 28 minutes, what an accomplishment.

The History of the Highland Games, According to tradition Scottish Highland Games had their beginning when originated by the old kings and chiefs of Scotland as a reasonably agreeable method of choosing the best men available for their retinue and as men at arms. Crude forms of the athletic events you will see today were developed to test the contestants for strength, stamina, accuracy and agility. Of course, they used the elements and materials of their day to day life and so the caber toss, the stone put, the hammer throw, the weight lift and the weight toss, the sheaf toss, archery, wrestling, foot races up steep hills were their training tools and methods. Even Highland dancing was used to tax the endurance and strength of the competitors. While many of the events have become more sophisticated and refined over the centuries, they retain the essence and flavor of the ancient days. It is interesting to note, for example, that the Scottish regiments used to require Highland dancing as a form of training to develop stamina and agility. Only with the recent advent of military mechanization has this drill been abandoned, to the regret of many.

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The present day popularity of Scottish Games must be credited to the indomitable Queen Victoria, who developed a love for Scotland, its people and things Scottish early in her life. She, with her entire Royal family, regularly attended the Scottish Games held at Braemar, close by her Scottish Castle at Balmoral. The Royal tradition established so long ago is continued today at Braemar. Scottish Highland Games are held in all parts of the world.

At 3:00 PM the entrance to the games was blocked, if you left the arena now you couldn't return until after the queen left. Her shining black Rolls Royce came in with Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip followed by another Rolls with the Queen Mother. The Queen Mum just turned 94!

By this time, the skies had clouded over and the weather was cooler. It was getting darker and rain would be coming soon. Sure enough about 3:30 it started to sprinkle. We knew it would be rude to leave before the queen but at 3:45 we left, it was now a light rain. We had a long way to walk back to the car. Of course, all the streets were blocked off for the Queen's exit, which made walking with all the other people most difficult. We reached the car and sat, no cars could move until 10 minutes after the Queen's party passed the car park on their return to Balmoral Castle.

We arrived back at the hotel about 4:30 PM and let the camera and the bags dry out. We had dinner at the hotel, C Haddock/chips, E had chicken a la King, lager/lemonade for £10.60. There were only seven rooms at this hotel, we really enjoyed our stay here. It was built about 1820 and was a family home until 1970 when it became a hotel. Recent enhancements were en suite bathrooms and spa bath in the master bedroom, the room we had.

Sunday, 9/4

After breakfast we drove through the Grampian Highlands to the wildlife preserve (many other cars going there too). We took a narrow country road to Glen Munich then a short walk to Loch Munich. Beautiful country but we didn't see the red tail deer. We noticed logging was being done in some areas on the Victorian Heritage Trail, the back way to Balmoral and the Royal Lochnagar Distillery. Interesting tour for this 12-year-old scotch, £2 entrance fee. By law, Scotch has to be aged at least three years in Scotland. The reserve bottle cost £145! The 12-year scotch was £21.95. The reserve scotch was a darker rich color than the 12-year scotch. They had a 500-year-old scotch that was being raffled off for £1/ticket. Photo of the estimated £50,000 bottle of 500-year-old scotch. The reserve bottles were sold then the money was given to charities. We were given a dram of the 12-year-old scotch for tasting, nice but not real smooth.

We drove back to Braemar thinking most of the people would be leaving and we could see the town. The tourists were still there, couldn't find a parking place so we left. Took one photo of the Braemar Castle, didn't go in. The Braemar Castle is home to the Farquharson Clan! Photo of Dunnottar Castle, south of Aberdeen, Dunnottar was where the movie, MacBeth with Mel Gibson was filmed. We decided to drive north and not stop in Aberdeen. We looked for Old Aberdeen and couldn't find it. We stopped at the Huntly Castle, £2 (Heritage). George Gordon, the IV Earl, built this castle in 1550. Additions were made in the 16/17th centuries. There were remains of the late 12th century Norman moat and bailey. It was an interesting old castle, with visible engravings on the doors and fireplaces. The Earl of Moran burned the old castle in 1452. The renovated castle was completed in its final form from 1597 - 1602. A Heraldic doorway and fireplaces were unique to this time. The castle fell into disuse after the Civil Wars.

Huntly lies in a sheltered position in the heart of scenic Strathbogie, ideally situated in the Grampian Highlands and Heather covered hills. The town stands in an important strategic position, on a low-lying plain surrounded by hills, commanding the routes from Strathdon and Aberdeen to Moray. Consequently it has an eventful history, the defensive site between the rivers Deveron and Bogie having been fortified at least since the days of the Norman Earls. The two standing stones in the Square suggest much earlier

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habitation, however. It became the power center of the great Gordon clan, and the town was established as a Burgh of Barony in 1545. From 1776 onwards it was extended by the Duke of Gordon during the period following the defeat of the Jacobites when many northeast lairds sought to develop their estates on more commercial lines.

We decided to spend the night at the Braeside B & B, £34. Mrs. Gormley's B & B was located on Provost Street, Huntly, Aberdeenshire AB54 5BB, Tel: (0466) 793825. We had dinner at the Gordon Arms Hotel Bar, £10.40, C had Haddock/chips, E liver and onions. No spirits were served before 6:30, they didn't renew their all day liquor license!

Monday, 9/5

First stop of the day was the Balvine Castle, we arrived prior to opening time and the keeper living next door, let us in, £1.20 (Heritage). Balvenie was a castle of enclosure first owned by the Comyns with a curtain wall of 13th century date. Added to in the 15 and 16th centuries and visited by Mary Queen of Scots in 1562. It was a beautiful morning!

Next stop was the Glenfiddich Distillery, great scotch! Glenfiddich, which in Gaelic, means valley of the deer, lies in the heart of the Scottish Highlands! William Grant (his grandfather survived the 1746 uprising at Culloden), built the distillery in 1887, and first distilled on Christmas Day 1887. Spring water near by and all the facilities processed the scotch the same way and still owned by the same family. The distillery employed about 200 people. Wages here were £5/hour for tradesmen, coppers and distillers, women do the bottling of the single malt scotch and received less money and tour guides even less. A bottle of Glenfiddich Scotch Special Reserve sold for £17.95 WAS IT GOOD, NICE AND SMOOTH! We decided we didn't want to carry around a bottle and would get one at home. This scotch was much smoother (and less money) than the Royal Lochnagar and was the nicest of the four distilleries we visited. Served with no ice, sipping scotch. I drink Chivas Scotch at home, a blended scotch. While I like it on the rocks, I don't think I could drink it straight but I could the Glenfiddich!

Next stop was the Elgin Cathedral, where else after a stop at a distillery! This was an interesting and big ruins. There were three main aisles, second in size to St. Andrews Cathedral. It closed during the reformation and the stones were sold and it was used as a quarry site. The prettiest of the ruins began in 1224. After the 1270 fire it was extended by adding aisles and chapels for more space at the high altar. Another fire in 1390 set by the Wolf of Badenoch (enemy of the bishop). The rebuilding may not have been completed before the 1560 Reformation. The use as quarry material ended in 1807 and was maintained at that level. We could see the fire marks left on some of the stones. The lead and bells were destined for sale in the Netherlands but the ship carrying these was so overloaded it floundered in Aberdeen Harbor and sank. Both Catholic and Protestant worship were held well into the 17th century. The choir roof blew down in 1637, the collapse of the central tower occurred on Easter Sunday 1711.

The Elgin Cathedral keeper told us about the Spynie Palace, a new Heritage property not even on their map yet (purchased 1 month ago), £1.20. Bishops lived here, that's why it is a palace (and castle). Only queens and bishops could live in a palace. The Bishopric of Moray established the palace in 1120. The bishop's throne (or cathedra) was transferred to Elgin in 1224 until 1689 when it was abolished in the Scottish Church. David's tower (SW corner) is the largest tower house in Scotland. Mary Queen of Scots stayed here 9/17 - 9/19 1562. The Earl of Huntly besieged the palace in 1645. St. Andrews Castle was also a Bishop's palace. It became a ruin in the 18th century and was sold in 1836 to a private owner. Returned to state care in 1973.

We stopped in Lossiemouth for lunch, ate lunch outside, soup/sandwich for £4. It was a beautiful day. Photos of the Cape Wrath Lighthouse. We decided to drive to Inverness and stay there for three nights to rest and do laundry. We stayed at a 200-acre Farm, the Taronsay for £34/night, Lower Muckover Farm,

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Inverness Tel:(0463) 231880. The B & B was three miles from town on the old A9 near the Drumossie Hotel. Mrs. Munro recommended dinner at the Dows Pub, turkey dinners, bitters/lemonade, £15.15.

Tuesday, 9/6

We requested a Scottish breakfast of juice, porridge and toast. Mrs. Munro said that we're having fresh milk, taken from the cows this morning. She said the taste of milk is ruined by all the pasteurizing. It was good! After breakfast, we dropped 3 bags of laundry at a dry cleaners in Inverness, £11. We'll pick the laundry up on Wednesday morning. We stopped at the Craigton Point Visitor Center, one photo looking across the Firth to Inverness. Photo of the Bonar Bridge on the A836. After Spinningdale photo of horses and what we thought were ruins of small castle. We later read that this structure was the ruins of a 1790 Cotton Mill that was built to provide work for people in the Highlands.

A turbulent history is attached to these the most northerly counties in mainland Scotland. In 1567 the Earl of Caithness sanctioned the poisoning of the Earl and Countess of Sutherland. In an effort to secure a hold on the counties he kidnapped the poisoned couple's 15-year-old son and then forced the boy into a marriage with his own 32-year-old daughter.

We went to the Dunrobin Castle, home of the Dukes of Sutherland for 800 years. Dunrobin Castle is the most northerly of Scotland's great houses. It is the largest house in the Northern Highlands and is one of Britain's oldest continuously inhabited houses, dating in part from the early 1300s. The Castle contains an opulent and fascinating collection of furniture, pictures, objects d'art and family memorabilia displayed in many cases in the original setting. The atmosphere is indicative of the great house in its heyday and shows how the Dukes of Sutherland actually lived. The tour showed the formal apartments, silver pieces and beautiful china in the big dining room, art, and robes of the Duke & Duchess through the years. A separate museum in the gardens was previously William, Earl of Sutherland's summerhouse and has been completely refurbished. It holds the trophy room for their trips, safari treasures, gifts and dirks (knives). There were MANY TREASURES, they led a good life! Beautiful formal gardens and colorful flowers. We had lunch in the tearoom, soup/salad, £3.60. We couldn't take photos inside the castle. One of the guides told us that someone recently took a video when photography was permitted and came back and broke in and knew exactly where to steal things. The Earl (they had been downgraded from Dukes to Earls!) then said no more photography. £3.50 entrance fee, not on the Heritage. There were 189 rooms in the castle including a working 19th century fire engine. The Victorian Dukes also occupied four other equally large houses in England as well!

Time to stop at another distillery, the Clynelish in Brora. When we were at the Royal Lochnagar Distillery, a Scotsman told us if we like the Scotch there we would really like it at Clynelish. At each tour we learned something new. The shape of the stills are different from one distillery to another and affects the taste of the spirit. The spirit can be stored in casks soaked in Sherry, which gives the Scotch its rich color. Sherry casks cost £300 each! They usually soak the oak casks in wine or scotch for the color (otherwise it is clear). Casks soaked in wine and scotch are much cheaper. The casks are reused and maintained for a long time. The fermentation containers are made from Oregon Pines at this distillery. Only 3% of their Scotch is sold with their label, the rest is sold in casks to other distilleries for making Scotch blends, like Johnny Walker, Teachers, Dewars and others. In each of the 14 years of the aging cycle, 2% of the spirit (impurities) is lost. There are over 100 distilleries in Scotland!

We took the country roads back, coming to the Nigg Ferry crossing £5.50. Only two cars per trip! We waited for the next ferry for the 15-minute crossing. We were in Cromarty, took photo of the Hugh Miller Institute, given to him by Andrew Carnegie. Photo of a manor house for sale. Photo of Hugh Miller's Cottage, he was born here in 1802 a geologist, author and editor. Hugh the stonemason became an eminent geologist, naturalist, theologian and author. The cottage has been restored by the National Trust for Scotland and contains a collection of his geological specimens and writings.

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He died in 1856, nice garden by his cottage. Took photo of the University of Aberdeen lighthouse at Cromarty. Ate dinner in the Royal Hotel Bar, C Haddock, E Venison lager/lemonade £14 VERY GOOD FOOD!

Continuing driving south (home), we took photos of the Fortrose Cathedral. A 13th century cathedral with a Celtic cross. This cathedral was built by the same mason as the Elgin Cathedral. Home at dusk.

Wednesday, 9/7

Just outside of Inverness was Culloden Battlefield, the Uprising of April 16, 1746. The last major battle in Britain. Jacobite and Highland Army of 5,000 under Bonnie Prince Charles Stuart were defeated by King George in a battle that lasted less than one hour. The English army was 9,000 strong. A Hanoverian force commanded by George's son, William Duke of Cumberland. The regiments from the Highland Clans formed the Jacobite front line and in their devastating charge they broke into the Government Infantry ranks in places. But the government's undoubted superiority in artillery and cavalry that day won for Cumberland the sole military victory of his career. Cumberland's success was marred by the extreme cruelties and brutalities he permitted in the battle's aftermath to the wounded, to the prisoners and to women and civilians. The calculated rape of the countryside by the Duke and his successors during the military occupation created a desert from coast to coast. Many features of the battlefield are the same as 1746. After Culloden it was a criminal offense to wear a tartan. The bagpipe was considered a weapon, it was also banned. They didn't become legal again until 1782! Many Highlanders were shot years after the 1746 battle.

Nearby were the Clava Cairns, burial stones which were built by farmers and herdsman in 4 - 3 millennium BC. The three large mounds with 10 - 12 vertical stone markers were older than Stonehenge. Took photo of an elevated railroad bridge and gate.

Cawdor Castle, £2 each for the gardens plus £4 for the castle. We walked through the gardens only. Even the guidebook was £2.50, no maps nothing! Cawdor was the 600-year-old fortress, home of the Thanes of Cawdor immortalized by Shakespeare's MacBeth Romantic Castle. On to Fort George, a big fort (still occupied by the Army) built after the 1746 Uprising to ensure there would be no more, £2.50 (Heritage). With its six bastions the fort is shaped like an irregular polygon. It was built in 1748-63 by one of Scotland's finest architects, Robert Adam, to replace an earlier Fort George built by General Wade on Castle Hill in Inverness. It was destroyed when one of Prince Charles Edward Stuart's French engineers blew it up, killing himself in the explosion and blowing his dog across the river. The dog lost its tail, but survived the blast.

We ate lunch in an Ardersier Pub, C tuna/pasta casserole, E Chicken Curry casserole, £7. Photo of the Stuart Castle, Mrs. Munro said the castle was recently restored and was quite nice.

Loch Ness Museum/Exhibition £4 each for a walk through a series of photos and commentaries on the sightings of the famous Loch Ness Monster = Nellie. The last major effort was ships with sonar looking for Nessie in 1987. Stopped at the Urquhart Castle on Loch Ness, £3 (Heritage). This was one of Scotland's largest castles dominating a rocky promontory on the Loch. The Castle has been occupied and fortified since the Iron Age. Now it is mostly in ruins, portions of the entrance (what was left of it) were taken down after the 1746 Uprising. It was getting darker and darker, hope we make it up the hill and back to the car before it starts raining! We should have come to Loch Ness on Tuesday like Mrs. Munro said, she said it would be a nice day there on Tuesday! £25.35 fuel, 47.03 Liters.

We made reservations early this morning for dinner and show at the Drumossie Hotel near our B & B. Mrs. Munro had 2 - £2 discount tickets for the evening. C had roast, E Salmon, soup and apple pie with

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cottled cream. The show consisted of a singer and highland dancers. Late night for us, 11:00 PM! £20. We bought a tape from the singer, 'from the heart'.

Thursday, 9/8

Near Ullapool, photos of Loch Broom. In Ullapool it was cold and windy. We stopped at the Ceilidh Team Room for Tea and scone/brownie £3.05. Hot tea never tasted so good, it was cold! The Highlands are beautiful green mountains, in this area are the biggest we've seen so far. Many Lochs everywhere. Little Loch Broom out to the Gruinard Island & Bay, Second Coast. Stopped at the Aultbea Hotel for lunch, E fish soup, C tuna sandwich; lager/lemonade £7. A very nice view of the Loch, good soup. The lady said it was a beautiful day yesterday, warm and sunny. Took photos of Loch Mare. Mrs. Munro said it was going to be nice in Ullapool on Wednesday! Driving on toward the Island of Skye, we stopped at the Eilean Donan Castle, the most photographed castle in Scotland! We had dinner at the Tingle Creek Hotel Bar, E Chicken Kiev, C Haddock; Guinness/lemonade £14.05, good! Stayed at the Clairemont B & B £33.

Friday, 9/9

The lady said the skies look better than Thursday, but they were still gray this morning. Thought we should fill the car with gas, since gas would be more money on Skye, £17.08 30.45 Liters. £5.20 for the five-minute ferry to Skye. Skye is one of the largest and picturesque of Scottish islands. It is dominated by the Cuillins mountain range made of

It was really raining now and it rained most of the morning. Now a little history, "Skye and its largest neighbor, Raasay, have been inhabited since prehistoric times; there are many traces of these early people all over the island, remains of stone circles, standing stones, brochs at Struan and Flodigarry, and many Iron Age fort sites. Brochs (structures peculiar to Scotland) and Duns were built by early Celtic inhabitants who also brought their Celtic language which is with us today in modern Gaelic, Scotland's native language.

Both language and people were firmly rooted here by the time the Vikings from Norway began to raid and later settle during the Dark Ages. Many Skye place names have Norse elements still, e.g., Glendale, which is literally Valley - Gaelic and Norse in combination. Norse 'nish', a point, occurs in names all round the coast, the landmarks of a sea-going race. The most famous names from Skye are its two great clans, MacDonald and MacLeod, who fought for its possession through the Middle Ages. Somerled, founder of the Macdonalds, is credited with driving the Norse from Argyll, and after Skye officially became part of Scotland in 1266, the people of mixed Norse/Celtic races were already formed into clans which would become so powerful that the MacDonald Lord of the Isles felt able to treat with the English King on an equal footing. Such threats to the Scottish Crown eventually led to the MacDonalds being stripped of much of their power, but at the end of the 16th century, there were strong MacDonald castles at Duntulm and Teanque and MacLeod fortresses in Dunvegan and in Raasay. Inter-clan warfare led to fierce battles such as at Trumpan in Waternish, where the Fairy Flag is said to have won the day for the MacLeods, and on the Snizort River near Skeabost, where the then heavily wooded Trotternish was the prize.

By the 18th century the clans had drawn together against a common enemy, central government. Although after their meeting at Sconser, the Skye chiefs decided against "coming out" in support of Bonnie Prince Charlie, when the Prince spent four nights as a fugitive in Skye and Raasay after the disaster of Culloden, he was aided and protected by the people despite the enormous reward for information leading to his capture. This was a testament to the loyalty of the islanders to their traditional leaders in the face of their material poverty, and the inevitable government reprisals. Raasay was virtually laid to waste by government troops, and parliament passed laws stripping the people of their culture and the chiefs of their

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traditional powers. The old clan system of law, land and protection from the chief in exchange for obedience and service from the clansmen was finally destroyed.

New laws and new fashions changed the chiefs from warlords to landlords in a century more devastating for the people than the centuries of warfare had been. As the old Highland economy based on cattle and farming declined, and kelp and fishing failed, landlords sought new ways of raising rents high enough to finance their new tastes in good living. Some estates went bankrupt and were sold. In many, the population was cleared to the coasts to make room for lucrative sheep farms. Entire villages were cleared and the people forced to emigrate. Mass evictions were commonplace. The emigrant ships waiting in the bays for their miserable cargo became a familiar sight.

By the late 19th century the remaining Skye tenants were so frustrated by the lack of response to their needs for adequate grazing and arable land, and the rack-renting of landlords, that they rebelled against the injustice of the system. Rent strikes spread from Valtos and Glendale to all over the island. The crofters of Braes fought off 50 specially imported Glasgow policemen who tried to back the landlord. Now gunboats were seen in the lochs of Glendale, Uig and Portree. But the crofters' case was carried and the Crofter's Act was passed in 1886, at last giving the people a chance to live peacefully without threat of eviction or unfair rents. Today, people come to Skye for a relaxing, peaceful holiday. It hasn't always been such a quiet place!" History from the Skye Visitors Center.

Photo of Kelt Rock and its waterfall. We were seriously thinking about turning around and leaving Skye, too much rain. Duntulm Castle Ruins, seat of the MacDonalDs of the Isles and it is said to be haunted by a ghost of a child whose clumsy nurse dropped him from a window to the rocks below. The MacDonalDs left the castle in 1730. The Piping Center was way out to Borraeig, near the village of Glendale, but worth the trip on the single track roads. On the cliff near the Center was a memorial to the founder of the Scottish Bagpipes. They had a bagpipe 200 years old, told how one is made and stories of the famous pipers. Clyde bought a bagpipe cassette for Dwight and a CD for us. £1.50 each, entrance fee. We stopped nearby at the Three Chimney Restaurant. E soup/mussels, C smoked salmon and tea. Expensive, £21, but good. Near Sligachan the sun is out!

Castle Ruins at Teanque, pictures of castle, beach, sheep and a black highlander bull Monument originated to the soldiers of WW I & II near Kilmore. HIGHLAND CATTLE, Highland Cattle are an ancient breed of beef cattle. The breed is characterized by its unique hair coat, picturesque horns, distinctive forelock and solid colors of white, silver, yellow, red brindle, dun and black. Highland Cattle in the Highlands of Scotland, thus their breed name. They are know for their quality, lean and low cholesterol beef. Highland Cattle are browsers, as well as grazers and are most hardy. They can and do survive and perform on forages by-passed by others. Yet, they are most esthetic, each with individual personalities and quick to respond to training and care. The breed is able to adapt and thrive on the varied terrain and climates and forages found in the Highlands, Western USA (since W.W.II) and British Columbia.

Flora MacDonald, the Jacobite heroine who helped the Prince to flee after the Battle of Culloden, is commemorated nearby. When we toured Culloden, we were told that Flora hid the Prince in a boat dressed as a woman. They made their way to Skye where the Prince then left for France. The Prince never wrote to Flora and thanked her. She paid with her life for helping him! We took the ferry from Armeadale Skye to Mallaig, £17.95, a thirty minute trip. Glencairn, East Bay B & B on the harbor of Mallaig, Inverness-shire, Tel: 0687 2412, £37, nice big room. Mrs. Forbes gave us a great breakfast, her husband helped too.

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Saturday, 9/10

Drove in the pouring rain, stopped at Glenfinnan, monument to the Clansman who followed Prince Charlie in the 1745 Uprising. Stopped at the Ben Nevis Distillery in Fort William. Too long to wait for the next tour, suggested we see the film and then a taste of their scotch. Fine with us! Cute film on the Legend of the Dew of Ben Nevis Distillery. Scotch wasn't as smooth as Glenfiddich. Stopped for shopping at one of the tourist stores, hoped it would quit raining. Drove on to Glencoe, the massacre site of the MacDonalds on 2/13/1692 by the British. Between 30 and 45 Scottish men, women and children were treacherously murdered by their guests, the pro-English Campbells. Some clan members escaped to build forces to retaliate for the brutal killings. We drove through Loch Lomond, too bad it was raining, this was beautiful country we were told.

Dunbarton Castle on the Firth of Clyde, the earliest recorded history was in 137 AD, then known as the Rock of Clyde. It was a volcanic rock formation that was the site of the ancient capitol of Strathclyde. Beside the castle, there was a governor's manor house and 18th century artillery. In between rain clouds, it was windy and cold. We stopped at the visitor center and got a reservation for the Old Mill Cottage in Cardross, £34. We should have turned around and left when we noticed the carpet on the stairs looked like it hadn't been vacuumed for a long time. The room was bare and bathroom didn't look clean. Since the Visitor Center was already closed, we had no choice but to stay. We opened the windows for the wind to clear the room. It was supposed to be a non-smoking room. We drove to Helensburgh for dinner, photo of the Victoria Hall and the Hill House, 1902 architect Charles Rennie Macintosh. Ate dinner at the Commodore Hotel Bar, C Haddock, E beef goulash, £13. photos of the sunset on the Firth of Clyde.

Back to the room, thought it would look better in the dark, but it didn't. It was a terrible B & B, the worst one we ever had on both trips! On top of this, I was getting a cold. I didn't know if it was the smoke in the room or the un-pasteurized milk that gave me a 'bug' that I wasn't used to. The inn keeper was taking care of the B & B while the owner was away. At breakfast we told him the room wasn't clean and it wasn't up to standards. He said he was sorry and gave us the room for £24.

Sunday, 9/11

Drove off early, stopped at the Visitor Center to complain, but they weren't open. Drove to Paisley but everything was closed on Sunday. Took photos of the Abbey and the Town Hall, decided to go on to Glasgow. We parked, £3, near George Square to take the city tour bus, £4.50. Photos of a tall monument to Sir Walter Scott. The square was going to have a monument of King George, but this was at the time of the American Revolution (1776) and George lost too much money in the tobacco trade with the colonies when the States won its independence. They decided on a more popular hero for this monument. Glasgow is the industrial capitol of Scotland. Industry is slowing down, ship builders moved away resulting in people moving away. We had a guided bus tour, but it started to rain and the windows were fogged and we couldn't see out. After the bus tour we drove to a couple of the spots on the tour we wanted to see. By this time, the traffic was building up, we decided to leave for Stirling.

Stopped at the Battle of Bannockburn £1.80 (not Heritage) & 20P parking. King Robert Bruce's famous victory over a much larger English army in 1314. The most vital battle of the War of Independence. The prize, the Stirling Castle, the only remaining Scottish Castle in English Hands. Too bad Scotland's independence lasted only 300 years! Photos of Memorial and inside the Standards of English and Scottish Royalty. One was a checker board pattern, depicting 'finance of the army' (bank checks), one was for the Prince of Wales and one was from the Earl of Spencer. As the guide pointed out, the Prince & Princess of Wales are on opposite sides! Scotland equates this battle in importance comparable to the English and the 1066 Saxons/Norman Battle at Hastings. Stirling was the most strategic place in Scotland Whoever controlled Stirling controlled the nation.

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We're staying outside Stirling at the Cambria Guest House, Diane & Bill Kane in Bannockburn £36. This B & B was located at 141 Bannockburn Road, St. Ninians, Stirling. FK7 0EP, Tel: 0786 814603. What a difference from last night's B & B. We did submit a complaint form at the Visitor's Center where we made tonight's reservation.

Monday, 9/12

I started the day with a truly Scottish breakfast, Kippers! Our first stop was the bank, time to get more money to spend. Parking was four hours so we decided to walk into old town, uphill to the Stirling Castle, £3.50 (Heritage). A statue of Rob Roy greeted us as we started up the hill to the castle. Sir Walter Scott wrote the original novel about the Scottish 'Robin Hood'. As the story goes, Rob Roy was called Red Rob, he lived from 1671 to 1734. Rob belonged to the notorious MacGregor clan, denounced for both its real and alleged atrocities. Their lands were located between the Campbell territory of the Duke of Argyll to the north-west and the Clan Graham of the Marquis of Montrose, south from the Trossachs.

Took photos of the Cambuskenneth Abbey and the notorious Tollbooth prison. We really enjoyed the town of Stirling. "Guarding the route between the Highlands and the Lowlands, the Stirling Castle has been at the forefront of Scottish history. It was constantly fought over and saw two great Scottish victories. During the 15th & 16th centuries many powerful nobles were attracted to Stirling by the presence of the royal court. Numerous great State occasions took place in the Castle, which was embellished with much fine building, notably the magnificent Great Hall of James IV. The Hall was now being restored to medieval splendor by modern masons along with the outstanding Renaissance Palace of James V and the Chapel Royal of James VI. Mary Queen of Scots was crowned here and fell in love with her second husband, Lord Darnley. The Queen Anne Garden is nice. The Castle is also home to the fascinating Regimental Museum of the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders."

We took the old walk from the castle back to the 'New Town' and to our car. "From medieval times Stirling was, strategically, the most important place in Scotland. Whoever held Stirling, controlled the nation. To the west lay treacherous marshes, to the east the broadening estuary of the River Forth, which could not easily be crossed below the Stirling Bridge. Hence all the key north-south routes came by Stirling, leaving its great cliff-top fortress ideally placed to command this all-important narrow 'waist' of Scotland. So it was that Stirling came to be known as the brooch or clasp of Scotland, the Key to the Kingdom.

The great battles of the Wars of Independence, when Scotland struggled to be free of English domination, inevitably took place around Stirling, at Stirling Bridge in 1297 and at Bannockburn in 1314. In the uneasy peace that followed, Stirling Castle gradually evolved into a splendid renaissance palace, the favorite royal residence of the Stuart dynasty. Yet drama was never far off. No less than seven battle sites can be seen from the Castle ramparts. With such a central place in Scotland's history, it is indeed fortunate that so much of Stirling's heritage has survived. Centered around the Castle and, below it, the Old Town is the finest concentration of historic buildings in Scotland, including many important medieval and renaissance sites." History from the Stirling Visitors Bureau.

We drove toward the 'old Stirling Bridge' where William Wallace won the decisive battle of the late 13th century. It's impossible to drive around Stirling without seeing the Wallace Monument. This 220 foot tower dominates the surrounding plain. It wasn't open when we went up the hill, it was just as well, we really didn't want to climb the 246 steps to the top. "Wallace was a major Scots hero. In 1296 Edward I of England believed that he had Scotland under his thumb. King John of Scotland had been humiliated. Stripped of his title, he was in exile in France. Edward thought he could dominate the Scots in the same way as he already ruled the Welsh. He didn't, however, think he would encounter Wallace!

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Through a series of daring attacks, this fierce freedom fighter became acclaimed, 'the hammer and scourge of the English'. The invaders had killed his wife and brother; some revenge was gained by slaying the English sheriff of Lanark. Marshaling a well disciplined national fighting force, Wallace became recognized as the Guardian of Scotland. With his great two-handed sword and loyal followers, he cut swaths of resistance throughout the country, culminating in the siege of the English garrison at Dundee in 1297. Edward was enraged. To deal with the rebels, he sent a massive army north: 10,000 infantry men and 800 cavalry. The finest fighting force in Europe was armed with the most advanced weapons of the time: longbows. It got as far as Stirling Bridge, Wallace attacked as the army was divided by the River Forth. Over 100 English knights and 5,000 infantrymen died that day; the rest fled in disarray. Eventually he paid a heavy price for his convictions. In 1298 his army was heavily outnumbered at the Battle of Flakier, and destroyed. After years in hiding, he was captured and sent to trial in London. He was hung until semi-conscious, disemboweled while still alive and his body cut into quarters and displayed at Newcastle, Berwick, Stirling and Perth. Wallace left a legacy: a belief that inspired the whole of Scotland. In 1314 King Robert the Bruce led the Scots to full nationhood at the Battle of Bannockburn. The Wallace monument was completed in 1869. The Hall of Heroes include writers, explorers, inventors and statesmen. King Robert the Bruce, Sir Walter Scott, David Livingston, Robert Burns and James Watt, among others." History from the Stirling Visitor Bureau. In front of the Edinburgh Castle were only two statues, Robert the Bruce and William Wallace.

The Wallace clan originated in the Scottish Lowlands and were first mentioned in 12th century documents near the city of Glasgow. The legend of William Wallace was originally created by Blind Harry, a 15th century minstrel who put his rhymes into writing about 150 years after Wallace's execution. His dramatic sage of William's life is one of Scotland's best known and best loved stories. The Acts and Deeds of Sir William Wallace, Knight of Elderslie, one of the first books printed in Scotland, sold more editions than any other book with the exception of those written by Robert Burns and Sir Walter Scott. Wallace was 35 years old when he was executed in 1305, he was born in 1270 in Elderslie near Paisley. Wallace's uncle, a parson near Stirling, tutored him in Latin, English and French. Wallace courted a young maiden named Marion Braidfute of Lamington, according to Blind Harry, there are no records to prove this. Wallace did murder Sir William Heselrig, English sheriff of Lanark, in May 1297, cutting him to pieces to avenge her death. Wallace was a military genius, there is documented proof that he first used round schiltrons of spearmen. Even Sir Winston Churchill reportedly admired his fighting skills. Wallace was knighted on 11th September, 1297, after the Stirling victory. He resigned the position of Guardian of Scotland after his army's defeat at Falkirk in 1298. In 1305, Sir John Menteith, a former friend, betrayed Wallace and as a result, Edward I captured him at Robroystoun near Glasgow. Legend has it that Wallace was imprisoned at the Dumbarton Castle following his capture. After his trial and conviction in 1305 in Westminster, the English executed Wallace at Smithfield on 23rd August, 1305. The Wallace Monument in Stirling is at the site where his army camped in 1297, anticipating the arrival of Edward I's English troops. Wallace struck while the English were crossing the River Forth.

Next stop was the Menstrie Castle, a stone mansion associated with Nova Scotia in Canada. In the early 17th century, Sir William Alexander, the first Earl of Stirling, encouraged King James V to establish the Order of Baronets of Nova Scotia, a scheme that enabled the crown to make a cash fortune out of a new colony.

On to the 'old clock mill', former mill building of 1824, which played a major role in woolen production in Scotland. Driving northeast, we stopped at the Castle Campbell, £2 (Heritage). We were told that MOORE is in the Clan Campbell. Guidebook was £1.75. This was the 15th century fortress high in the Dollar Glen with superb views across the Forth Valley below. From 1489 it became the lowland stronghold of the powerful Campbell's, Earls of Argyle, providing a convenient base close to the royal court at Stirling. Photo of the Dunblane Cathedral, once a leading Ecclesiastical center. Mainly 13th century with an earlier tower. The nave was un-roofed in 1892-5. The organ was just restored. Next stop was the Doune Castle £2 (Heritage), on the Teith River, built in late 14th century for the Regent Albany. Its most striking feature is the combination of keep, gatehouse and hall, with its kitchen in a

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massive frontal block one of the best preserved medieval castles in Scotland. Built largely in the 15th century by successive Dukes of Albany, closely related to the throne and Regents of Scotland during James I's captivity in England. The castle later passed to the Earls of Moray. Dinner tonight at the Hollybank Restaurant/Bar, C lamb, E chicken stroganoff, Guinness/lemonade for £14. GOOD DINNER

Tuesday, 9/13

After saying good-bye to Diane Kane we left for Edinburgh, only 45 miles east. We stopped at Linlithgow thinking we would stay outside of Edinburgh and take the train in since it was such a big capitol city and too easy to get lost. The Visitor's Center located a B & B for £30 within walking distance of the train station. Two nights lodging at Rita & George Findlay's B & B, located at Quantra Tree, 43 Clarendon Crescent, Linlithgow, West Lothian EH49 CAW, Tel: 0506 842574. The Linlithgow Palace, the birthplace of royalty, was our first stop after the Visitors Center. It was in better condition than most castles, £2 (Heritage). Dropped our bags off and had tea with Mrs. Findlay. Walked to the train station and arrived in Edinburgh at 1:00 PM. When we bought our tickets, £8, we were told the 48 hour train strike started at noon and would end at 5:30 PM the next day. We were just in time for the London train strike and here again for the Edinburgh strike.

Leaving the Waverley Station, we noticed a very tall monument and wondered what it was. We were later told it was the famous monument to Sir Walter Scott. Later in our trip the news headlined that after six years of debating, the Scott Monument will not be cleaned. The material is too soft and the estimated £3 million for restoration was too much money. We stopped at a pub near the station for lunch and then walked up to the Royal Mile and on to the Edinburgh Castle, £5 (Heritage), and St. Margaret's original castle. It was cold and very windy, especially at the castle. The grandstands for the Edinburgh Tattoo (last week in August) were being taken down. The Mons Meg cannon was stored where the prisoners were once held. The Scottish Honors were on display in the Crown Room, the Royal Sword, Crown and Spectre. The Honors could only be worn by Scotland's King/Queen. A displayed photograph showed Queen Elizabeth holding the sword and crown but she didn't wear them. The last coronation that Scotland had was King Charles II in 1651. We caught the 4:30 PM train back to Linlithgow and back to the B & B by 5:00 PM. We were tired tonight, needing rest. I was cold even in our room. Clyde asked the Findlays about turning the heat on, they responded it comes on at 7:00 PM. By 6:00 PM I had my coat on. The heat soon came on and we warmed up.

Wednesday, 9/14

Mrs. Findlay gave us our requested porridge for breakfast, it was a nice break from the big breakfasts. At the last minute, we decided to take our laundry to a town west of Linlithgow. We finally found it, the man owning the launderette said it would be ready Thursday at 10:00 AM. He asked our name, didn't write it down and said it would cost £5! Parked the car in Linlithgow, near the Visitor's Center and walked to the train station to catch the 11:00 AM train to Edinburgh. This time we only bought a one way ticket since we were going to the theater matinee and didn't know if it would be out in time to catch the last train. We took the city bus tour where we could get on and off at any time. First exit was near the theater to purchase our tickets for 'Armstrong's Last Goodnight', £17 for two, not bad! Back on the bus to the Scotland National Museum for an hour of seeing its treasures. Lunch at the tea shop, then back to the bus. We walked by Grey Friar's famous pub, which became famous in the Walt Disney movie for the Scottish Terrier dog who walked with its owner on his daily beat. When the owner died, the dog went to the graveyard and sat at the grave every day until the dog died. The dog was granted a special award by the Queen. Back on the bus to the Holyrood Palace where the Queen and family stay when they are in Edinburgh. We looked in a few stores to find a gold charm of a 'bagpipe'. The charms came in 9 Carat or 18 Carat, couldn't find a bagpipe in 18 Carat.

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A synopsis of the show (from the show booklet): After the defeat of the Scottish nation at Flodden, there has been a long period of hostility between Scotland and England. Border raids have created an uneasy situation which threatens peace and prosperity. Negotiations for a truce have broken down. King Henry VIII prepares for another Flodden if the young Scottish King, James V, cannot control the powerful Border rivers, particularly the unruly Armstrong of Gilnockie. Sir David Lindsay is to try and persuade Armstrong to submit to the rule of law in return for royal favors. Armstrong is hunting with a rival, James Johnstone of Wamphray. They ceremoniously declare a reconciliation. Later, Wamphray admits he has unfaithfully lain with the daughter of another rival, Gilbert Eliot. After drinking together, Armstrong disarms the sleeping Wamphray, and sends for Eliot. Wamphray is killed, and Meg Eliot drags her lover's body into the forest to protect it from scavenging crows.

Lindsay and his secretary, McGlass come to Armstrong's castle and are faced with his wife. She orders them to be disarmed and bound. When Armstrong appears, he has an argument with the sophisticated Lindsay, who manages to persuade the less eloquent man to promise to stop his raids, in return for a free pardon and the title of Warden of Eskdale. Lindsay assures Armstrong that his new allegiance to King James will rescind his long-standing oath of fealty to his suzerain laird, the sybarite Lord Maxwell of Linlithgow. They celebrate their agreement. An evangelist enters and stops the merriment. Armstrong strikes him in the face, and Lindsay pours scorn on him. Later, Lindsay confides in McGlass the extent of his machinations. In the service of the King he is playing one Border laird against another.

Meanwhile, Lindsay's mistress makes her independent way through the forest to Armstrong's castle. She encounters Meg, who is being pursued by the Evangelist, and hides. She is horrified by the hypocritical moralizing of the misogynist preacher, and comes out of her hiding place to confront him. We learn that the aristocracy at court is concerned about their influence Lindsay has over the young King, who is beginning to assert a new authority. The Church shares this anxiety, and both factions are jealous of the growing power of Armstrong. Lindsay's mistress is growing impatient that he is still in Edinburgh, and offended that he is putting politics before love. As a strongly sensual woman, she quickly responds to Armstrong's direct advances.

Armstrong is uncomfortable in his new position as King's man, and he is persuaded by Eliot to make a raid into England once more. Together with their men, they burn the small town of Slaked in Cumberland and kill many of the inhabitants. War with England seems inevitable. Lindsay must act cunningly and decisively to protect his own head. Once more, he journeys to the Borders. Astutely, he recognizes that Armstrong, arrogant though he is, knows the danger of being trapped between England and Scotland. The Evangelist, in the meantime, has been successful in his proselytizing, and Armstrong's followers are caught up in a frenzy of religious ecstasy. Even Armstrong declares himself penitent.

When challenged, the Evangelist stabs and escapes into the forest, Meg following. McGlass convinces Lindsay that Armstrong is too dangerous to reason with. He must be stopped immediately. Lindsay tricks Armstrong into agreeing to meet the King under a promise of safe conduct. In the forest Armstrong is arrested by the King's men and killed. "King James the Fifth, though but seventeen years of age, did become an adult man, and learnt to rule his kingdom. He had been well instructed in the necessities of state by the poet that was his tutor"

Listening to Scottish accents, especially from two hundred years ago was a job. We had to listen very carefully and concentrate. The show was good, not too many in the audience. The show was over at 6:00 PM, we walked quickly (it was cold/windy) to locate the bus station. The bus was packed with commuters, the ride home was one hour. We ate at a pub in Linlithgow and drove to the B & B for the night.

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Thursday, 9/15

At breakfast this morning, Mrs. Findlay talked about their travels. They have good friends in Vancouver and go there or meet them at various places. One of their recent trips was to Florida, she said they would never go again because they didn't feel safe. On their first evening walk, a policeman stopped them and advised them not to continue walking in that area. What a nice welcome! We left after breakfast to pick up our laundry wondering if it would all be there. Sure enough the laundry was done and all accounted for. Heading south we stopped at the Craignethan Castle, £1.50 (Heritage), way out in the country. The oldest part of the castle was a tower house built by Sir James Hamilton of Finnart in the 16th century. The castle was defended by an outer wall pierced by great ports and by a wide and deep ditch with an unusual 'caponier' a stone vaulted chamber for artillery. It was bigger than it originally looked. Photos of Drumlannig Castle, 17th century. Its builder, the first Duke of Queensbury, lived there for one night and fled. In the 18th century an idiot heir Queensbury escaped from his tower prison, seized a kitchen maid and boiled her alive in the supper cauldron! The inventor of the bicycle, Kirkpatrick MacMillian (1813 - 1878) lived 2 miles from Thornhill.

Threave Castle, situated on an island in the River Dee and accessible by motorboat to the island and back, £1.50 (Heritage). The massive tower was built by Archibald the Grim in the late 14th century and later a stronghold of the powerful Black Douglases. The king of the conquering army ordered the removal of all stained glass and wood floors after taking the castle. The 'booty' was used by the king or the townspeople. John Paul Jones (founder of the American Navy) was born nearby.

We noticed on the map that the folk hero, Laird Armstrong, the play that we saw in Edinburgh (Armstrong's Last Goodnight) lived in nearby Langholm in Galloway. It was a true story after all!

Cardonnes Castle, a 15th century four story tower house standing on a rocky platform above the Water of Fleet is the ancient home of the McCullochs. The fireplaces in the great and upper halls are nice, £1.20 (Heritage). Next stop was the Chambered Cairns,

4 - 6000 years ago used for burial and formal occasions. The chambers were below the ground. Seven to ten stones, nice view out to sea. Cairn Holy, another smaller chamber was up the hill. Stopped by MacClellan's Castle, a castellated town house built by the provost of Kirkcubright from 1577, good architectural details, £1.20 (Heritage). Dundrennan Abbey held the ruins of the Cistercian Abbey founded by David Ist. Mary Queen of Scots spent her last night on Scottish soil here before going to her cousin, Elizabeth. There she was imprisoned, then beheaded. Orchardton Tower was built in the 15th century for the Laird of Orchardton. Staying at the Gordon & Margaret Hood Kirkhouse Farm in Beeswing Dumfries (DG28JF, 0387-76209). Excellent B & B. They both had jobs in Dumfries, a big farm/cows to take care of and run a B & B! Impressive

Friday, 9/16

The sun is out, cold wind but sunny. First stop is the Sweetheart Abbey, built by Dervorgilly, Lady of Galloway in memory of her husband, John Balliol in the late 13th and early 14th century. Apart from the abbey church, the main feature is the precinct wall enclosing 30 acres. Stopped at the New Abbey Corn Mill, which is a renovated water powered oat mill in working order. Caerlaverock Castle was our next destination. This castle was on a triangular site surrounded by moats. Its most remarkable features are the twin towered gatehouse and the Nithsdale lodging, a splendid Renaissance range dating from 1638. The castle was besieged by Edward I and fought over many times by the English and the Scots, £2 (Heritage). As we were leaving Scotland a sign said, "HASTE YE BACK". We stopped at Carlisle and got a B & B reservation, took a quick walk to the Castle Carlisle. The castle had a tortuous history of family feuds and warfare haunts this medieval castle which was once the prison of Mary, Queen of Scots. We didn't see much as it was time to head east to Hadrian's Wall.

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Drove to Housesteads, a Roman Fort, the walls and many stones, £ 2.20 (Heritage). We also stopped at Cawfields and Winshields, more stops on the Hadrian Wall tour, Housesteads, the best known part of Hadrian's wall, covers five acres with remains of buildings such as granaries, barrack blocks and gateways. Beer reportedly played a role in keeping the conquering Romans from overrunning Scotland. A heather ale (yes, brewed from the tips of heather plants) is believed to have rendered the native Picts so boisterous and spoiling for a fight that the Romans turned tail back to the South. (United Hemispheres 8/96) We had dinner in Cockermouth, at the Wordsworth Hotel. We both had lamb, it was excellent, £10.70. We stayed the night at Mrs. Lawson, the Ellerbeck Farm & Fishery in Brigham, Lake District of England.

Saturday, 9/17

Left early and drove through Cockermouth, took photo of William Wordsworth home, built in 1710, he was born in 1770. Wordsworth is closely associated with the Lake District, and his passionate descriptions of the stunning Cambrian scenery have drawn many a visitor there to share his special love for the place. Stopped at the Castle Rigg Stone Circle, from the 2500 - 1300 BC era. The circle was three miles east of Keswick. Driving through the Lake District, Skiddaw, Scafell and Helvellyn peaks were beautiful, rocky slopes falling through forested banks to the waters of the Lakes below. Wordsworth returned in 1799 after his travels, living first at Dove Cottage and then at Rydal Mount, both adjoining Grasmere. It was cloudy and raining on and off, but the people were hiking through the countryside. Rain can't stop folks from doing what they want to, it rains too much. We stopped for photos at the popular Devorgilla Bridge, built in the 15th century. It had a nice view of the area and across the lake.

We drove south, finally getting on a motorway and making good time. Looking at the map for a town to stay, our last night before returning to London and the flight home. We decided to drive to Chester (Clyde's cousin recommended Chester). We located the visitor center and found lodging at a B & B in an old Victorian a short walk from town. One of the unique features of Chester is an elevated walking wall around the old town, approximately 2 miles around the city. Walking on the wall is a good way to see where everything is. We asked a citizen where the castle was, she didn't even know there was one. We understood why when we finally located it, only part of a tower was left. There were several Roman sites (what was left of them), a coliseum and columns from an old building. We ate dinner in a fish restaurant and walked back to the Eaton House, 36 Eaton Rd, Handbridge Chester (CH4 7EN), phone (0244) 671346, £30. Directions, take Lower Bridge Street, over river into Handbridge, left at Boys Club.

Sunday, 9/18

After a good breakfast, we drove south, first stop was the Beeston Castle. It was standing on sheer, rocky crags which fall sharply away from the castle walls. Beeston has possibly the best views of the surrounding countryside of any castle in England and the rock has a history stretching back over 2,500 years, £1.50 (Heritage). A foot race is being held today around the castle. The castle is reminiscent of the crusade castles in distant lands from which the builder (Earl of Chester) drew his inspiration. Neolithic tribesman and Iron Age warriors were here thousands of years before Ranulf built his fortress in the 13th century. The castle was taken during the English Civil War by the Parliamentarians. Nearby, is Peckforton Castle, owned by the same man, a 19th century castle (not open on weekends).

Drove on and took a castle/potty break at the Kenilworth Castle, £1.80 (Heritage). It was a great and gaunt castle, rising to dominate the countryside. This was the most extensive castle ruins in Britain. It is a former stronghold of kings and nobles, the red sandstone castle stands above pasture land which once was an artificial lake. Towering over the remains is the Norman keep, its walls twenty feet thick in places. Built for defense, the castle was also a place of lavish display and entertainment. The Great Hall was second only in grandeur to the Westminster Hall. The Earl of Leicester made additions to the castle for

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the visit of Queen Elizabeth the 1st in 1575. Elizabeth stayed 19 days. One photo of Warwick Castle, £7.50. To see this castle would take all day, we'll leave it for another trip.

Drove on the M40 to London, going 80 miles per hour in the slow lane! Many cars were passing us in the other two lanes. When we reached the London Orbital, M25, we went north thinking we would find a visitor center to locate a B & B close to an Underground Station. We arrived in Rickmansworth at 4:00 PM, looked for the visitor center and couldn't find it. The town was quiet not many people out, even the businesses looked closed. We stopped at the train station, Clyde asked a cab dispatcher where the visitor center was, he responded everything is closed on Sundays. He gave Clyde a phone number of a B & B, we tried it but they only had a room available for one night. We wanted to stay in one place and not have to move. That B & B referred us to a few more in town, we ran out of coins on the third call. We looked at the map and drove to St. Albans, as it looked like a bigger town. This time we found the visitor center, but it was closed. We drove back to Rickmansworth, called the first B & B and took their room for the night. The B & B was Mrs. Norton's on E, 64 Valley Road, Rickmansworth, tel: (0923) 774185, £30. This B & B was not en suite, the bathroom was down the hall. The room was very small but it was better than not finding a place to stay. We had dinner in the 'Americanized Restaurant' in town, one of the only ones opened. We ordered and it took a long time for the food to arrive. The owner apologized and said the entrees were on the house as our order had been lost. This just wasn't our day!

Monday, 9/19

The next morning we went to the visitor center and arranged for two nights at Mrs. S. Mash, 74 Kewferry road in Northwood, tel: (0923) 821378, £32. We went by and dropped our bags off and drove to the Underground Station for the trip into London. We arrived at 1:00 PM and went to Leicester Square, the two for one theater tickets outlet (performances for that day). We wanted to see Sunset Boulevard and Arcadia, both recommended by my allergy doctor who is very involved in the theater. The sign in the ticket outlet indicated they did not sell tickets to the more popular shows, including the two we wanted to see. We walked to the Theater, the person in front of us got tickets for the second balcony, the best available seats. We asked for the best seats, either Monday or Tuesday night. The lady checked her computer and said two tickets in Row G just became available for that night, £37 each. Next stop was the Haymarket Theater, where Arcadia was playing. We purchased tickets for the next night, £24. Stopped at the diner next to the theater for lunch before taking the Underground to Madame Tussaud's famous Wax Museum. The line of people waiting to go in amazed us. We waited in line for 30 minutes then went in. It was interesting, they rotate figures as times and famous people change. We could take photos.

Sunset Boulevard was excellent! Billy Wilder's screenplay was an early movie starring Gloria Swanson and William Holden. The male lead was a Scotsman who went to school in the states, I couldn't detect an accent. The main set was a piece of artsmanship. Taking the late train back to Northwood, we got home about midnight.

Tuesday, 9/20

Happy Birthday Eleanor! Mrs. Mash wished me happy birthday as she served us a good breakfast. She said she remembered my birthday (Clyde must have told her) as it was her son's birthday as well. On to the Underground Station and to London. We went to the financial district thinking we would see the Old Stock Exchange and Lloyds of London. After finding both of them, we were told the same thing, they weren't open to the public any more since the last IRA bombings! We took the Underground to Harrods, the biggest department store in the world. It was big and was it expensive. A pair of Ralph Lauren jeans for women were £300, or \$450.00! Too much for our budget, we didn't see a SALE sign in the store. We left and looked for a jewelry store thinking we would find a bagpipe charm, but to no avail. Stopped at a pub or two for rest and refreshment. Had my birthday dinner in a wine bar close to the theater. It was good, I had mussels and Clyde had fish/chips. Arcadia was good, it didn't start off too well as the theater

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was too warm. At intermission Clyde asked the manager to turn the heat down. It was better then, we enjoyed the rest of the play. The play was centered around the grounds and gardens of Sidley Park, a manor house. When it was first created a hundred years ago and most recently when it was going to be renovated. The story included the characters of each period, even Lord Byron stayed there. It was good how they interwove the two times and stories together. Another late train back to the B & B, getting home at midnight.

Wednesday, 9/21

We packed our bags after breakfast and luckily everything fit, just barely! We drove east to Stansted, stopping at St. Albans. It was market day for the town, we found some souvenirs at the vendor stalls. We stopped at a Roman Theater ruins just outside of town. Driving on to the airport, we filled the car with petrol. Clyde dropped me at the airport, the car would barely hold all of our bags. He dropped the car off after a difficult time of finding the drop off location. We drove over 2,800 miles on this trip! Departure 9/21 at 6:00 PM. Flight L8 1759, arrives San Francisco at 9:00 PM. We checked in at 3:00 PM to find that all the rows with more leg room had already been taken. We waited for the VAT government representative to arrive to sign our forms and then saw a sign on the baggage cart, summer sale on liquor in the duty free shop, one half off. I said let's look, but I've never bought anything in duty free shops before, they were usually too expensive. We found the Glenfiddich and it was £13.95, about \$20/bottle. We bought two bottles and went to the plane. The trip home wasn't as good as the flight to England. The audio system wasn't working. Everyone voted to hear the movie on the main speakers, we didn't but oh well. The movie was City Slickers II, it would have been OK, but the volume was so loud I could barely hear Clyde say anything. There was another available movie but luckily the vote was not to hear it. After dinner we tried to sleep, but didn't get much sleep.

We arrived at 10:15 PM, Dwight was at the airport to pick us up. We went to Berkeley, they asked us to spend the night but we said we wanted to go home. I helped Clyde stay awake by going to sleep most of the trip home. It was a long drive for him.