

PHOTOS BY ELEANOR

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2000 Scotland Trip

March 28th - April 20th, 2000
3,400 Miles Driven
£ = \$1.58
PETROL = \$6.50/GALLON
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Monday, March 27, 2000

We're spending the night at the Best Western - San Mateo Los Prados Inn. This motel has a \$149 package for lodging, airport shuttle and three weeks of parking our car. I was told that as of 1/1/2000, some hotels changed the number of days that customers can park their cars. This change has a big impact on our travels since we usually require parking for three weeks. The Best Western San Mateo advertised in the Sacramento Bee in the Sunday Travel Section. The Los Prados Inn is located at 2940 S. Norfolk St., San Mateo, CA 94403, tele (650) 341-3300 or in California, 1-800-341-1234. They are located approximately 15 minutes from the San Francisco Int'l Airport.

Tuesday, March 28

We had a restful night, even though the inn was close to the freeway. The rooms had adequate insulation to keep the noise to an acceptable level. The lobby offered continental breakfast, rolls, coffee and juice to hold us. We were glad that our flight didn't leave until noon as we missed the early morning rush to the airport. We decided we would stay here again.

I read in the USA Today paper that United Airlines has 20% of the air travelers and Continental was last on the list with slightly more than 10% of air travelers. Today's flight was our first Continental trip. When we booked the flights in January, United was \$596 and Continental was \$515.

We were at the airport by 10am and were waiting at the gate until plane departure. Departure was in fifteen minutes when we heard the announcement that Continental flight #1235 was canceled due to plane maintenance. A substitute plane was not available therefore Continental canceled our flight, just like that!

We waited in line with the other passengers to find alternative flights. Another announcement for the international passengers told us to return to the main ticket counter for flight reassignment. Evidently Continental is a partner with Virgin Atlantic Airlines. We were booked on the 330pm flight to London and the connecting flight to Glasgow would be on British Airways. We were happy with the reassignment as we flew on Virgin a few years ago and enjoyed the flight.

Our arrival time in Glasgow would now be 235pm instead of 1030am. I asked the clerk at the Continental ticket counter for a lunch voucher. We were both given a voucher for \$8. We had to go downstairs to fetch our bags after they were taken off the Continental plane. We proceeded through two terminals to the Virgin Atlantic Counter, which by now was quite busy. We had over two hours to wait and found a snack bar for a hot dog, small pizza, soda and a beer for \$17.35, good thing we asked for the vouchers.

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As mentioned Virgin Atlantic was our favorite flight of all our trips to Britain. While we waited in the gate, Clyde remembered to call Budget to advise them of our new arrival time. We would really be in trouble if Budget didn't have a car for us! No problem, Budget thanked us for calling. Hope today's changes to our travel plans would be all we have to deal with. We need to rest, relax and have a few drinks.

Wednesday, 29 March

Other than the temperature being too warm in the plane, the flight was fine. We landed on time at Heathrow but a gate wasn't available, so we exited the plane on a ramp to waiting vans that took us to the terminal. All our checked bags were at the Glasgow airport when we arrived. Budget had a two door Fiat Bravo reserved for us. Our bags barely fit in the back and the trunk.

Clyde remembered the route to Jim & Viv's Garnock Lodge B& B, we arrived about 4pm. Viv greeted us with warm hugs. Jim and Viv volunteer at the local hospice and Jim wasn't there now but would return home at 5pm. We visited over a cup of hot tea until Jim got home. He greeted us with big hugs, it was nice to see them again.

A couple from Sydney arrived for the night. They are on a five-week holiday. On Friday, 31 March, they'll take the ferry to Northern Ireland then work their way through Ireland, Wales then England. At 530pm, we said good night to Jim and Viv and went to bed.

Thursday, 30 March

We visited with the couple from Sydney over breakfast and were on the road by 10am, not bad for day one. Rossdhu had been the home of the Chiefs of Clan Colquhoun (spelled Calhoun in the USA) since the 12th century. We found a Royal Bank of Scotland in Dunbarton and used the ATM to withdraw £200. We'll use the ATM this trip, since the Royal Bank of Scotland doesn't have a service charge for ATM withdrawals. The Bank of America has a \$3 fee per foreign ATM transaction.

We thought we should set up our cameras and take warm up shots before going to our first assignment. We stopped at the Cameron House/Hotel/Restaurant and Health Club on Loch Lomond. It is overcast and cloudy today. It had rained earlier this morning, hopefully, it will clear. The Cameron House was beautiful, it must be really nice inside. Next stop was the Loch Lomond Castle Hotel, or what was left of it. The burnt out ruins are the only remains of the Hotel. Nearby are the Loch Lomond Castle Lodges, which evidently replaced the first castle/hotel. The daffodils were in bloom, looked nice with the ruins.

We arrived at the Loch Lomond Golf Club at 1130am. The guards at the entrance knew Mr. MacDonald was expecting us. Donald took us through the Rossdhu House, which was built in 1772 and is now used as the Clubhouse for members and golfers. We walked through the drawing rooms, two dining rooms, library and Lady Colquhoun's Bedroom. There are six bedrooms in the house. We walked to the Rossdhu Chapel on the way to the castle ruins. This is the Colquhoun's private chapel of St. Mary of Rossdhu, which was dedicated in 1469. Sir Ivar Colquhoun is the 8th Baronet and 32nd Chief. He and Lady Colquhoun of Luss have a son, Malcolm Colquhoun, Younger of Luss and a daughter Iona, the Duchess of Argyll. Ivar (born in 1916) has his tomb inscribed in the chapel for whenever he passes on. Below the stone floor is the burying vault of the former lards of Luss and their families.

In a 1457 charter, King James II granted to Sir John Colquhoun, the Great Chamberlain of Scotland, which formed the lands of Luss and the Barony of Luss. In the following year, a further Royal charter refers to the lands of the Park of Rossdhu but no actual mention is made of the Castle. It is not until 1541 that a charter refers to the "castle, a tower and fortalice of Rosedew". Sir John Colquhoun 11th of Luss built the old castle of Rossdhu in the 15th century. Mary, Queen of Scots stayed there twice. In the drawing room is Mary's workbox, which she left on one of her visits.

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The nearby town of Helensburgh was named after the wife of Sir James Colquhoun 25th of Luss. Lady Helen Colquhoun was the sister of the 17th Earl of Sutherland. In 1772 Sir James started building the present Rossdhu House, it was completed in 1773. The 27th Colquhoun of Luss enlarged the Rossdhu House by adding two wings and the portico. The stones from the old Rossdhu castle were used for the additions. All that remains of the Rossdhu Castle is a portion of one of the walls. This remaining wall dates to the early 16th century and was once part of a square and simple keep, belonging to the third period of Scottish architecture.

Queen Victoria visited Sir James Colquhoun 29th of Luss at Rossdhu in 1875. The second wife of Sir James inherited and sold many of Rossdhu's ancestral treasures when he died in 1907 and was succeeded by his cousin Sir Alan Colquhoun 30th of Luss. Sir Alan bought back the treasures that he could. However, newer and characteristically Highland relics are preserved at Rossdhu and they are truly remarkable.

Located near the Rossdhu Bay of Loch Lomond is the carriage house. The attendants lived above the first floor where the horses and carriages were kept. Then the carriage house became the garage to park their cars. There are 12 islands on Loch Lomond. Most of the islands have either holiday homes or permanent homes. The old small building off the castle ruins was last used as a sewing room for the ladies of Rossdhu. The light was good at this place near Rossdhu Bay.

Sir Ivar and Lady Colquhoun left the Rossdhu House around 1975. The Rossdhu Estate then became the Loch Lomond Golf Club, which opened in April 1994. The club is committed to providing its international membership their own private club in Scotland, the birthplace of golf. Closer to home, some of the more famous Calhouns have been Lieutenant Jimmy Calhoun of the 7th US Cavalry. Jimmy fell fighting the Sioux in Custer's famous last stand at the Little Bighorn. Another famous Calhoun of Scottish descent was the Vice-President Calhoun.

We had a wonderful tour, Donald took his time to show us the wonderful estate. We were there about two hours. On to the Village of Luss, which was restored in 1992 and was used as the setting for one of Scotland's favorite daytime soaps. We had a late lunch at the Coffee Shop, tuna toastie, scone and tea, £7.40. They featured the music of a local Celtic group that included the Uilleann Pipes. We couldn't leave without this CD, it was nice music. Photos of Loch Lomond and Ben Lomond Mountain. Many Colquhouns are buried at the kirk in Luss, which is famous in its own right. The builders of the church were skilled in ship building and designed and built the roof as an inverted 'hold' of a ship. It was quite unusual and interesting.

The next assignment was Glen Fruin, on the A814, on the way to the Gare Loch and the Garelochhead Naval Base. Coming back on a different single-track road we passed through the Glen and found the Strone Military facility. We found a group of black and white ducks near the farm of Glen Fruin. Interesting and unusual markings on these ducks.

Since we were in the neighborhood, we stopped at the Bannachra Castle. We were here last year for photos of the Bannachra House and took only one shot of the castle ruins. Sir James and Lady Lesmore (?) were home and said we could go through the garden and see the ruins. The gardens were beautiful and there was a lot more to the ruins than we first thought. There were portions of two walls left beside the one wall of last year's shot. Lady Lesmore said the best daffies are yet to come. The ones we see now are the wild ones. The wild ones were just beautiful and they were everywhere, 5:15pm.

The lands and Castle of Bannachra originally formed part of the Earldom of Lennox and were known as the five-pound lands of Easter and Wester Bannachra. They were originally in the Parish of Cardross; were transferred to Rwe (Rhu or Row) when it was formed into a Parish; in 1659 annexed to the Parish (Quod Sacra) of Luss as being more convenient.

Bannachra is a ruined 16th century tower house of three stories with gables and shot holes under the windows. The lands belonged to Thomas Galbraith before 1489. In that year on his forfeiture it was granted to Adam Hepburn, brother of Patrick, Earl of Bothwell. In 1512 it was in the hands of James Galbraith of Culcreuch then

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passed to Patrick Colquhoun who built the tower. It then became the property of Sir Humphrey Colquhoun in 1523. Sir Humphrey Colquhoun was murdered here by the MacFarlanes in 1592, illuminated and betrayed by a servant. There was a battle between the Colquhouns and the MacGregors at Glen Fruin in 1602 the MacGregors won. In 1619 the estate was appraised to the Laird of Kelburn and in 1624 it was conveyed to Seton of Gargunnoch. Sir James Lumsden, Lord Provost of Glasgow, acquired the property in 1867 as part of Arden estate.

We visited with Viv that evening and gave her our gifts, T-shirts from Old Sacramento and a bottle of California Fetzer Merlot. Jim was out to a horticulture function and wouldn't be back until 10pm, too late for us. We had a full day for day one and we're tired.

Friday 31 March

The first photo of the day is the Barr Castle on the outskirts of Galston. It is now used as a Masonic Hall. A lady walking by said the castle was open to the public last week. Barr is a massive 15th century keep of five stories. It was a property of the Locharts. William Wallace is said to have taken refuge here during the Wars of Independence but if he did it must have been in an earlier stronghold. John Lochart of Barr was a zealous Protestant and had George Wishart who was later martyred, preach here in 1545 and John Knox did the same in 1556. The 9th Lord sold Barr to the Campbells of Cessnock in 1670.

The next stop is the Cessnock Castle that stands above a ravine. Clyde looked for someone to ask if we could take photos, no one was available. Cessnock is a massive 15th century rectangular keep of three stories and an attic. To this has been added a large mansion making the building a U-plan. The hall would have been on the first floor, with the private chambers on the floors above. The great hall, in the newer part, still has a late 16th century painted ceiling.

Cessnock was a property of the Campbells. Mary, Queen of Scots, came to Cessnock after her defeat at Langside. One of her ladies died here and is said to haunt the castle. The property then passed through the families of Dick, Wallace and Scott, to the DeFresnes in 1946. The ground floor was sold off as a self-contained flat in 1981, 1130am.

We found another castle, Sorn Castle, on our route and stopped. Sorn is a much altered 14th century keep of three stories and an attic, which was extended in the 16th century. It was further extended when a large wing was added in the 19th century. The 16th century extension contains a kitchen and cellars in the basement with a hall on the first floor and private chambers on the floors above. The interior of the old part of the house has been greatly altered.

The lands belonged to the Keiths of Galston but passed by marriage to the Hamiltons of Cadzow in 1406, then to the Setons of Winton. James VI visited the castle and it was garrisoned against Covenanters in the reign of Charles II. It was sold to the Campbell Earl of Loudon about 1680, then to the Somervilles at the end of the 18th century and finally to the McIntyre family in 1900, who still occupy the house.

Time to stop for petrol, it took 22.3 liters, 80.9p/liter for £18.10. We talked about trying to find another assignment, the Dalzell House but decided to tackle this one another day. The Sanquhar castle ruins were located in the village on the side of the road. We couldn't miss this one so I walked out to see the ruins. Sanquhar is on a hill over looking the valley. Portions of a big motte are still visible. Sanquhar is a 13th century castle consisting of an altered keep and ranges of buildings around a courtyard. A four story tower stands at one corner. A ruined hall-block and later wing, with a passage and a semi-circular tower also survive.

The lands originally belonged to the Ross family, but passed by marriage to the Crichtons in the 14th century. James VI visited the castle in 1617. The family was made Earls of Dumfries in 1633 but in 1639 sold the property to Sir William Douglas of Drumlanrig, who was later made Duke of Queensberry. The 1st Duke had

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Drumlanrig Castle built but only spent one night in the new mansion, decided he didn't like it and moved back to Sanquhar. However, the family moved to Drumlanrig after his death and Sanquhar was abandoned to become ruined. The 3rd Marquis of Bute began rebuilding it in 1896 but this was abandoned on his death in 1900. This castle must have been something in its day, nice ruins.

The Closeburn Castle was close by and we thought we would try to find it. We have been asked if we have a photo of Closeburn at previous Scottish Games but didn't have it. We asked directions from people in the town and then found the closed and locked gates. We could see the castle in the far distance but it was too far away to take a photo. I tried each of the three gates and all were locked. Oh well, we tried! We'll go on to the Crawford Castle assignment.

The Crawford Castle was abandoned at the end of the 18th century and was partly demolished to provide masonry for the present home. The lands belonged to the Carmichaels but passed to the Lindsays in the 12th century, they may have built the castle. However, there may have been an earlier stronghold here. In the 1290s William Wallace captured the castle from the English. The property passed to the Douglas Earls of Angus in 1488 until they were forfeited in 1528. Crawford was visited by James V, the king repaying the hospitality of the keeper of the castle by making his daughter pregnant. The lands were sold to Sir George Colebrooke in the 18th century. The Crawford Castle is also referred to as the Lindsay's Tower.

Part of this assignment was also the Kilmahew Chapel. We thought the chapel would be close by. We stopped at the hotel in the village, no one there had heard of the Kilmahew Chapel. Same response when we stopped at the Information Center at the rest stop on the motorway. They checked their book and couldn't find a listing for it. While we were there we had a hamburger at Burger King, £7.89. We'll give up on finding the Kilmahew Chapel for now, it is time to return to the Garnock Lodge for a nap.

We arrived home at 530pm, we probably should have quit an hour ago. We took a nap as we were going to a curling match with Jim tonight. Jim has been on a curling team for the past 10 years and enjoys the sport. Tonight's game was the semi finals for the league. The season runs from October through March. There were eight teams, two teams played 8 sets (matches). The games started at 830pm and finished about 1030. Jim's team lost by one point. The curling stones weigh 44 pounds. The delivery of the stone across the ice to the circle is the technique that results in points. Once the stone is in the circle, the closer to the bulls-eye (center) the more points are scored. It seemed like it would be so easy to over throw the stone and go out of bounds. The stone glided smoothly across the ice. The teams were mixed, men and women, some young and the rest were our age. It was an interesting evening; we had a wee nip of whisky with Viv when we arrived home, nice whisky and visit!

Saturday, 1 April (April Fools Day)

Breakfast of eggs/bacon and Kippers today at 9am. We both could have slept in today. It drizzled most of the night and the forecast was colder temperatures with snow in the hills. Clyde called Kathy at the Thistle Doo B&B, they're expecting us tonight. Kathy said the skies were gray in Oban. As usual, we enjoyed our stay with Jim & Viv, good friends and a great B&B. The Garnock Lodge, Jim & Vivienne McMeechan, they're located on the Boydstone Rd., Lochwinnoch, Renfrewshire, PA12 4JT, tele 01505 503680; £118 for three nights, ensuite.

We're taking the back roads to the Thistle Doo B&B. We stopped at the Information Center in Dunbarton, one of our favorite information centers. I thought I would try again for information on the Kilmahew Chapel. To my surprise, the lady knew about it and it was on the way we were headed. She thought the St. Mahew Chapel (Kirkton Chapel) was the Kilmahew Chapel. There are a number of places with the name of Kilmahew in Cardross including a Kilmahew Burn. The St. Mahew Chapel is still active with masses on Sunday but it wasn't open on Saturday. Photos of the old grave stones on the hill beside the chapel. There were beautiful gardens around the chapel, noon.

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The headlines in today's Scotsman's Newspaper indicated the John Muir Society purchased Ben Nevis for £500,000 to preserve the wilderness. The Black Cuillin Hills on the Isle of Skye were placed on the market by the Chief of the MacLeods, for £12 million, evidently the Dunvegan Castle needs a new roof!

The Ardincaple Castle or what is left of it is on the west end of Helensburgh. A piece of the wall and a tower are all that remains. The ruins are in the middle of a housing area, homes are on both sides of the wall. A nicely preserved tower is on the hill above the wall. A coat of arms was visible on the tower. Ardincaple was formerly a large castellated mansion that incorporated part of a castle of the MacAulays. This work incorporated work from the 12th century, however, most of this was demolished in 1957. The MacAulays held land here from at least the 13th century. The castle was abandoned as a roofless ruin and sold to the Campbells in 1767. It was rebuilt and remodeled in 1764 and 1772 then had passed to the Colquhouns of Luss by 1890.

We drove around Loch Long on the A814 on this gray and overcast day. It was raining and very cold. Stopped for photos of the village of Arrochar at the north end of the loch. Low clouds and light drizzle followed us. We're now heading toward the Carrick Castle then on to Oban. We passed a pretty spot in the Argyll Forest Park. We stopped for photos at the top of Glen Croe, on the B828 single-track road. This road was 11 miles of narrow road to the castle. The castle was located in Carrick Castle Village on Loch Goil. The castle is being restored, mostly on the loch side. Two men were fishing on the pier beside the castle. I wished them luck when they said they haven't caught any fish as yet, 205pm. We passed some type of Minister of Defense facility near Carrick Castle.

Standing on a rock jutting into Loch Goil, Carrick Castle is a ruined 15th century keep, although there may have been a stronghold here from the 13th century. The castle rises to three stories, a small courtyard occupied a higher part of the rock but little remains of ranges of buildings within the walls. There was formerly a motte and drawbridge on the landward side.

There are two entrances both from the courtyard, one in the basement and the other is above the first floor. The two floors have no connecting stair. The hall is on the first floor, which was once a fine apartment and had windows with stone seats. Two straight stairs lead off on either side of the entrance. One climbs only to the second story and the other to the parapet. An earlier castle here may have been a hunting seat of the Kings of Scots. It was originally a Lamont stronghold but passed in 1368 to the Campbell Earls of Argyll. Mary, Queen of Scots stayed here in 1563. In 1685 the lands were pillaged and the castle burnt during Argyll's rebellion. The property later passed to the Murray Earls of Dunmore. A pit-prison has recently been discovered in the restoration.

Next stop is Inveraray, we always take photos of the Inveraray Castle and shop in the village. We bought two bottles of Bunnahabhan whisky at the Inveraray Whisky Shop. The 12-year-old whisky is the one that Jim shared with us last night that we liked so well. The shop also had a special whisky made by the same distiller on sale for £51, regular price was £74.90, both bottles came to £75, hope we like it!

Time to fill the tank at our favorite petrol station in Oban, we went 310 miles on this tank, gas was 80p/liter, it took 31.71 liters for £25.66 (including a newspaper). We'll eat in Oban then on to the Thistle Doo for the night, we're tired.

Jimmy and Kathy greeted us with a warm welcome and a warm fire. After they ate their supper we joined them by the fire to catch up on their family lives since we were here last year. We shared our new whisky, the Bunnahabhan 12-year-old with them. We all agreed it was a fine malt. Katrina (their youngest daughter) had to quit ballet school in London. The £12000– 20,000 fees were too much for the family. Everyone was so disappointed but Katrina is working in Dundee now and hopes she likes her new job. The forecast is snow.

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Sunday, 2 April (Mother's Day)

Sure enough, the hills on Loch Awe have fresh white powder. After a big breakfast we're on the road at 1030, late today but Clyde enjoyed sleeping in until 830. It is cold today, very cold. The heavy coats and hats will be worn today, first time this trip. Our first stop today is St. Conan's Kirk; winter is definitely back today, cold and snow. St. Conan's Kirk is regularly used for public worship every Sunday except during the winter.

Walter Douglas Campbell brought from the Marquis of Breadalbane the Island of Innischonain on which he built for himself (his sister and mother) a stately mansion-house. Instead of driving to the parish church in Dalmally Walter built his mother a church closer to home. Work on the small and simple building was started in 1881 and it was completed in 1886. However, this small kirk wasn't enough for Walter so he started work on a larger more noble building in 1907. He devoted the rest of his life to St. Conan's Kirk, he died in 1914. WWI delayed work; Helen then continued the work until she died in 1927. Their Trustees completed the construction and it was dedicated for worship in 1930.

Walter dedicated the Celtic Cross on the knoll above the kirk to his mother. Below the terrace runs St. Modan's Walk. St. Modan was a saint of the Celtic Church who lived in the 8th century and was connected with Argyll and particularly the nearby parish of Ardchattan. St. Conan came from Ireland, he is the patron saint of Lorne and is reputed to have lived in Glenorchy.

The heavy oak beams in the kirk were taken from the old Caledonia and Duke of Wellington battleships. Wood from these ships was used for the doors and roofwork. The vault containing Walter and his sister is below St. Conval's Chapel. Near the chapel of St. Bride is a stained-glass window with the Royal Arms blazoned with those of Argyll in memory of Queen Victoria's daughter, Princess Louise, the wife of the late Duke of Argyll. The Bruce Chapel owes its origin to the place on the hillside above the kirk where the King dispatched his famous outflanking column under the Earl of Douglas, which inflicted the decisive defeat upon John of Lorne and his clansmen in the Pass of Brander. A bone of the King himself, taken from Dunfermline Abbey is contained in a small ossuary in this chapel. The beautiful clear-glass window of the Bruce Chapel was the original west window of St. Mary's Church, South Leith, which was built in 1483. After St. Mary's was rebuilt in 1836 the old window was demolished and kept in a garden in Edinburgh until Mr. Campbell rescued it for St. Conan's.

A double row of dark carved stalls in the chancel was carved from Spanish chestnut trees. Here are the full coats-of-arms, complete with crests and badges, of the chiefs who in the old days held land in the neighborhood. The clans are the two main branches of Clan Campbell, Argyll and Breadalbane, the MacDougalls, MacNaughton (whose stronghold, Eilan Froach, is visible from the windows of the church), MacGregor of Glenstrae (original home of the MacGregors), MacNab of Barachastlain (a family of smiths who lived above Dalmally for 600 years and who helped build Kilchurn Castle), MacIntyre of Glen Noe on the other side of the Cruachan and McCorquodale of Loch Trommlie, near Kilchrennan.

Our next stop is the Bonawe Iron Furnace, great place to be when it is snowing except the Furnace works shut down in 1876. We used our English Heritage Pass for the Historic Scotland property. We thought we would be the only fools out in this weather but the attendant said we were the second visitors today! Richard Ford and Company founded the ironworks in 1752-3 and formed an offshoot of a parent company based in Cumbria. Bonawe was the largest and longest lived of the charcoal blast furnaces in the Highlands. Charcoal was the principal fuel employed in the iron smelting process before the more widespread use of coke from the second half of the 18th century onwards. The site was well placed for the water-borne transport of materials on Loch Etive and it could rely on the water of the River Awe to provide the necessary motive-power to drive the blast furnace.

The vast timber resources of the Highlands provided a cheap and abundant fuel supply that attracted the English and Irish ironmasters in the 17th and 18th centuries. The original lease of the company's Scottish wood rights and lands expired in 1863 and a new 21-year lease was negotiated with Bonawe. The term of this lease didn't run its full term as production ceased in 1876.

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Yesterday's newspaper reported the Historic Scotland signed a 1,000-year lease with the Macneils of Barra to manage the day-to-day operations of the Kisimul Castle. They will pay Ian Roderick Macneil, the clan chief, £1 a year plus a bottle of Talisker single malt whisky, the chief's favorite. In exchange, Historic Scotland, a government agency charged with preserving Scotland's monuments, will redevelop the castle as a tourist attraction. In addition, Historic Scotland will provide a conversation program that will ensure the castle's future.

Time for the next assignment, the Ardchattan Priory, yes a special assignment even in the rain and snow. A number of MacDougall families are buried here as well as Campbells and MacLairns, 130pm. When I reached the end of the roll of film, my camera quit. The cold weather is hard on batteries, good thing I have a spare, but it is in the car.

Finely carved burial slabs offer a reminder of Ardchattan's former glory. The priory takes its name from St. Cathan; it was founded in 1230 for monks of the Valliscaulian order (branch of the Benedictines). Robert the Bruce convened his parliament here in 1308, the last one to be held in Gaelic. The church was later burned by Cromwellian troops. The MacDougall Cross, or what is left of it, is here.

We drove by the Barcaldine Castle, two shots, we have been here before. We'll drive south down the coast to the Crinan Lighthouse. The Crinan Canal starts here, we had seen the canal open for boat traffic when we were driving to Castle Sween on our 1998 trip. Too gray and cold, we'll head back to Oban for an early dinner. We ate at the MacTavish Cafeteria, roast pork and chicken curry, tea and ale for £8.55.

Jimmy and Kathy joined us by the fire for a wee dram of whisky, our last visit. We'll leave in the morning to find the Ardanaisig Hotel. Kathy talked with John, the boatman at the hotel who knows the islands on Loch Awe. John would take us to the islands, weather permitting.

Monday, 3 April

We woke to blue skies, cold but clear! After another great breakfast of smoked haddock and eggs/bacon, we said good-bye. We had another great stay, £20 per person/per night (ppn) or £80 for two nights, nice big king-size bed. The Thistle Doo B&B, Jimmy & Kathy Lambie, Kilchrenan, Taynult, Argyll PA35 1HF, tele 01866-833339.

The Ardanaisig Hotel was close by. The young couple we met at Jimmy & Kathy's on our 1999 trip were married at the Ardanaisig Hotel last summer, what a beautiful setting for a wedding. The hills have another coating of fresh snow, the hills were so close we could almost touch them. We found John feeding the Highland Coos, Hector, Dougall and William Wallace, John's pets. Clyde tried his hand at feeding the coos, they have long thick warm tongues. John said the coos weigh approximately 2,000 pounds, they're big.

John said the water was way too rough to take us to the islands. He pointed out the island where the Duke of Argyll is buried, he said castle ruins are on another island (probably the Eilan Fraoch). The Innis Chonnel Castle is mid way down Loch Awe. We thanked John for the information and told him we would look him up on our next rip for a boat ride to the islands. Next stop is the Kilchurn Castle, this is the first time we've seen it in the sun. We decided to take the 4pm ferry to the Isle of Mull. We stopped for photos of the Red Deer grazing in the Taynult Deer Reserve. We realized on the second tank of petrol, 50 miles a gallon, good thing as petrol now costs about \$6.50/gallon. This fill up took 23.5 liters, @ 80p/liter for £19, went 200 miles on this tank. We'll drive around the north end of Loch Awe. As we approached the north side, the clouds became thicker, then darker, then came small snowflakes, it's snowing. The weather sure changes rapidly here.

I walked out to the Kilchurn, the sun was now shining on the ruins. The trip to the castle and back to the car only took 30 minutes. The rocky path to the castle had been improved since our 1999 trip, no puddles of water, it was a nice walk. There was an Historic Scotland trailer close to the castle and I noticed as I walked around it there was scaffolding within the ruins. The castle is being restored, nice! The weather now was just beautiful, the sun

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on the snow capped hills in the east. The Kilchurn Castle was for sale last year, it was good news that Historic Scotland will take care of it.

Some say the Kilchurn Castle is the second most photographed castle in Scotland. It is a picturesque 15th century ruin. It consisted of a keep of four stories and a garret, which was extended, with ranges of buildings in the 16th century. The basement of the keep is vaulted and contained the kitchen. The hall, on the first floor had only one fireplace. The floors above are gone. The courtyard has round towers at the corners, which are pierced by shot holes. The other ranges are late 17th century barrack blocks having two large kitchen fireplaces. The lands originally belonged to the MacGregors but were acquired by the Campbells of Glenorchy who built the castle. The castle was strengthened and improved by Black Duncan of the Seven Castles, Sir Duncan Campbell, at the end of the 16th century. The Campbells withstood a two-day siege here in 1654 by General Middleton before he retreated from Monck's Cromwellian forces.

Sir John Campbell acquired the lands of the 6th Earl of Caithness by foreclosing on his vast debts and claimed the title of Earl. He led a bloody campaign in the north in 1680 and legend has it he slew so many Sinclairs that the Campbells crossed the Wick River without getting their feet wet. The song, 'The Campbells are Coming' was composed at this point in history. Sir John failed to hold the Earldom but was made Earl of Breadalbane instead. The Campbells inhabited the castle until 1740 when they moved to Balloch which is now called Taymouth. Kilchurn was garrisoned by Hanoverian troops in 1745.

Driving south on the east side of Loch Awe, we found the Innis Chonnell Castle. It is situated on a small island close to the Ardchnonnell Village. The large ruins can be seen quite nicely from the shore of Loch Awe. It is a magnificent ruin, with greenery on all the walls. It must have been a magnificent castle in its day! This is the first stronghold of the Clan Campbell. In the 13th century the family secured the region when Archibald Campbell acquired the lordship of Lochow (or Lochawe), through the marriage to the daughter of the royal treasurer. Innis Chonnell was designed as a 'castle of enclosure' (a simple courtyard enclosed within a curtain wall) but its living quarters were later improved.

Continuing down Loch Awe, a small truck came upon us driving too fast and bumped the side mirror and cracked it. Clyde slowed down to let the oncoming car pass, but the Sky Digital Truck didn't slow down. The mirror on the truck was cracked too. Clyde and the driver talked and figured they were even as both mirrors were cracked and they should go on. We cooperated, even though Clyde slowed down and he didn't.

The 4pm ferry crossing to Mull was £35 and took 45 minutes. Oban, the Dunollie Castle and the Eilean Musdile Lighthouse on the Sound of Mull were pretty in the sun. The Duart Castle however, was dark as we sailed by. The ferry arrived on time, at 440pm. We'll find a B&B then drive out to the Duart Castle. We found a nice place to stay tonight, the Redburn B&B, Lochdon, Isle of Mull, PA64 6AP, tele 01680 812370, £20 ppn. We dropped our bags off and we're off to the Duart. It sure would be nice to see the Duart in the sun, it has always been dark and gloomy when we've seen it.

Surprise, the Duart is in the sun! For over 400 years Duart Castle was the base of the Clan MacLean's formidable sea borne power. They lived there until the 17th century, controlling the sea-lanes around Mull and fighting the Jacobite cause. After the 1745 Rising, it was garrisoned by Government forces. Ten years later, the forces left and Duart was burnt down and remained a ruin until it was bought back in 1911, by the 26th Chief of the Clan, Sir Fitzroy MacLean.

Duart is an impressive and daunting fortress. It consists of a large 13th century curtain wall enclosing a courtyard on a rocky knoll. In 1390 Lachlan Lubanach, 5th Chief, built the keep on the outside of the curtain wall, enclosing the existing well. There are later ranges of buildings within the walls. The entrance was through a gatehouse. The keep has very thick walls and the main hall is on the ground floor. There is a great fireplace and rounded windows with a stone seat in the main hall. The upper floors are reached by a narrow turnpike stair in the

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thickness of the wall. A 16th century range of three stories has four cellars and another three-story block was added in the 17th century.

The MacLeans of Duart claim descent from Gillean of the Battle Axe. Lachlan Lubanach married Lady Elizabeth, daughter of the Lord of the Isles, granddaughter of Robert II King of Scots and was granted the first known charter for Duart dated 1390 as her dowry. While fighting with the MacDonalds, the 6th chief Red Hector was killed at the Battle of Harlaw in 1411, slaying and being slain by Sir Alexander Irvine of Drum.

Lachlan Cattanach, 11th Chief, became so unhappy with his Campbell wife that he had the woman chained to a rock in the Firth of Lorn to be drowned at high tide. She was however, rescued and taken to her father, the Campbell Earl of Argyll. As a result, MacLean was murdered in his bed in Edinburgh by Sir John Campbell of Cawdor.

In 1604 MacLean of Duart, along with many other chieftains, was kidnapped and imprisoned while being entertained off Aros Castle aboard ship. In 1674 the castle was acquired by the Campbell Earl of Argyll. The MacLeans remained staunch supporters of the Stewarts throughout the Jacobite Risings. Although garrisoned, the castle was not used as a residence and was abandoned after the Jacobite Rising of 1745 to become derelict and roofless.

The officers of the Spanish Galleon that sunk in 1588 were imprisoned in the dungeons of Duart. Sir Fitzroy MacLean was over 70 and had fought in the Crimean War, when he engaged the architect, Sir Jon Burnett, to restore the castle. He lived to be over 100 years old and was succeeded in 1936 by his grandson, Lord MacLean, Chief Scout of the Commonwealth and Lord Chamberlain to the Queen. Duart is now the home of the 28th chief, Sir Lachlan MacLean.

Early quit tonight, Clyde isn't feeling well, he probably is coming down with a respiratory infection. We have antibiotics with us so he will be OK. We found a phone booth on the way home and called Celia Mackintosh of Mackintosh. We had written to her before the trip to schedule a return visit to Moy Hall on Saturday. After Clyde had some hot tea he felt better but was heading to bed. I took a walk down the road around Lochdon and sat on a rock to watch the sun set. Visions of colorful skies came to mind, however, it was a peaceful but routine sunset.

Tuesday, 4 April

Another beautiful morning, cold and clear. Sheila fixed us a great breakfast, smoked fish and porridge that was made over night. Clyde had his usual Scottish breakfast. He is sick, quite congested but will go with me to the Isle of Iona. The reflection of the village buildings across Lochdon was beautiful, so peaceful and quiet. We're off to Iona!

On the news this morning, the reports continue of the winter storm playing havoc across Britain. There have been roads closed in the east of Scotland, Midlands of England and elsewhere. The storm is moving south and should be through Scotland by tomorrow. The West of Scotland in the Argyll area had a sunny and cold forecast. We're in the right place at the right time this trip! We haven't been so lucky in previous trips.

We have a castle assignment on Lochbuie, the Moy Castle. Situated on a rocky crag by the seashore, Moy Castle is a ruinous plain 15th century keep of three stories that is intact to the wall head. The entrance leads to the basement and the hall would have been on the first floor with the private chambers above. The tower was harled and a landing place survives just beside the castle. Part of the beach appears to have been cleared. The MacLaines owned the property, an unruly branch of the MacLeans. MacLean of Duart, desiring Lochbuie, captured one of the MacLaines and confined him on the Treshnish Isle of Cairnburg to prevent him from producing a heir. His only female companion was an old and ugly woman who he contrived to make pregnant.

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MacLaine was murdered but the woman managed to escape and produced a son who eventually regained the property.

Ewen MacLaine of Lochbuie was slain in battle with the MacLeans and beheaded. His ghost, the headless horseman, is still said to ride Glen Mor. MacLaine of Lochbuie, having supported the Marquis of Montrose with his kinsmen from Duart, rode with 300 men to join Bonnie Dundee. The castle was abandoned in 1752 and when Boswell and Johnson visited Lochbuie in 1773 they stayed in a small house nearby, which was replaced by a large Georgian mansion. The MacLaines sold the property in the 20th century.

The drive through the southern portion of Mull to Fionnphort for the ferry to Iona was just beautiful. The blue of the water of the lochs and the hills with fresh snow was spectacular, 1110am. Iona is known as St. Columba's Isle. Iona is known throughout the world as the birthplace of Christianity and where St. Columba set up his abbey. Thousands of visitors make the pilgrimage to the tiny island every year. The passenger only ferry to Iona was £2.10 per person. We took the 1215 ferry for the 10-minute trip. Clyde was going to stay in the hotel or restaurant while I took photos of the Iona Abbey. The Abbey Church is still used for services. The cloister has old stone slabs that were the headstones of the Scottish kings were placed upright against the wall. While I was taking photos of the stones my camera quit. The auto-focus wouldn't work, then the camera quit entirely. I had just finished a roll of film and it worked fine, it rewound OK then stopped. I went back to the village and changed the battery from Clyde's camera, it still didn't work. I took Clyde's camera and went back to the Abbey for the shots I missed.

Iona came into the care of The National Trust for Scotland in 1979. Trust ownership was made possible by the Hugh Fraser Foundation, which made funds available to buy the island from the Trustees of the 10th Duke of Argyll as a gift to the nation in memory of the late Lord Fraser of Allander. It is likely that the island was inhabited by 3,000 BC. Farming communities were established before 1600 BC when the ground was largely covered with hazel and birch. One version of the name of the island translates to 'Island of Yews'.

To secure crops, animals and its people, Iona watched the waters to the west. The rocky hill Dun Bhuirg near the western edge of Iona was turned into a protected look-out. Traces of a fort built there between 200 BC and 200 AD can still be seen. From about 300 the Highland Celts, united by a common hatred of the Roman army pressing them from the south, became known as the Picts. In the 5th century travelers from the Dalriada tribe of Northern Ireland (75 miles) made frequent trips to Argyll. The incomers from Ireland were known as Scots. In 500 AD, the Dalriada dynasty transferred its seat across the water to Dunadd, near Kilmartin establishing Scottish Dalriada.

Saint Columba crossed from Northern Ireland to reach Iona on Whitsun Eve 563. He died on June 9, 597 at the age of 75 or 76. During his time on Iona he made Iona into a world-renowned center of spiritual and cultural inspiration. Columba was born about 521 of royal warrior stock at Gartan in County Donegal. A century earlier Saint Patrick began converting influential leaders in Ireland to Christianity. By Columba's time there was an expansion of the faith within Ireland and parts of Scotland and separately Christianity was marching north through eastern England behind the Roman army. St Columba accompanied by twelve supporters, food and luggage landed at the south-east corner of Iona now known as The Port of the Coracle. When he knew that Ireland was out of sight, he built a cairn on a knoll of high ground half a mile to the north-west called the Cairn of the Back to Ireland.

Columba built his church on the site where the abbey is today, it was made of timber. Nothing of this structure remains. A major part of the mound and ditch, called the vallum, which surrounded the original tract of 20 acres on which the monastic foundation stood remains. The only known statue of St Columba is in a niche on the east face of the Bishop's House. Columba taught the gospel and recruited novices to have Iona become the center for training of monks. Columba was in touch with Conall, the King of Scottish Dalriada and the pagan Pictish ruler, King Bridei, at Inverness. Columba possibly converted King Bridei to Christianity. Columba established and supervised many spiritual houses in the Hebrides and in Ireland. Those in Ireland included the famous foundation

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at Durrow. On mainland Scotland he won over the Pictish clans to the north and west of the Grampians. His teams later took his message to Northumbria and eastern Scotland. By the middle of the seventh century there were Columban foundations in Fife, Atholl and Easter Ross along with contact with the religious leaders of Northumberland. His death is still celebrated by dignitaries and clergy from Scotland and around the world.

At the June 9, 1997, the 14th centenary of Columba's death, a banner to mark the occasion was brought from the parish of Llanfairisgaer in North Wales and presented in the Abbey and is still displayed there. Mary Robinson, President of the Republic of Ireland, opened the Saint Columba Welcome and Iona Abbey Information Point at Fionnphort as part of the centenary celebrations.

The monastic life on Iona proceeded under the abbots who followed Saint Columba throughout the 7th and most of the 8th centuries and would probably have continued if it weren't for the Vikings. About 750 the area now made up of Denmark, Norway and Sweden wanted additional farmland and more sources of wealth. The combined population created a strong force of pirates known as the Vikings. The Vikings reputation for violence, cruelty and stamina has followed since these early times. The Vikings were made more successful due to their superb seamanship and the Viking longships. An invitation to join the crew of a longship became an honor for the Scandinavian people. The longships had elegantly carved prows topped with a grotesque head calculated to terrify enemies. A fleet of these vessels sometimes of up to 200 ships presented a formidable fighting machine. The goal of the raids was to plunder gold, silver, jewelry and to take healthy prisoners who were sold as slaves; and to capture nobles that could be held for ransom.

The Vikings first descended on Britain in the year 789 near Dorchester. Iona was attacked in 795, 802 and in 806 when they massacred 68 monks at Martyr's Bay. The following year the Abbot of Iona decamped the foundation to Kells, 35 miles northwest of Dublin, where most of the remaining monks from Iona went. Some monks chose to stay on Iona, however, the Vikings again raided Iona and killed two monks on the northeast shore known as the White Strand of the Monks.

The Book of Kells is a collection of the four gospels, in Latin, mainly taken from Saint Jerome's Vulgate text of the late fourth century. It was a book ahead of its time, the colors have barely faded in almost 1,500 years. It is almost certain that the Book was started on Iona. The Book of Kells was on Iona when the Vikings Came and was taken to Kells in 807 for safekeeping. It can now be seen in the Trinity College at Dublin.

The Vikings colonized Mull and many other places in Scotland but didn't stay on Iona. King Harold of England brought a close to the Vikings raids after 300 years at the decisive victory over Harald 'Hardraade', King of Norway, at Stamford Bridge, near York, in September 1066.

In the 12th century the Lordship of the Isles controlled the Hebrides and the mainland west of the Great Glen as far north as Ullapool. Somerled, a Clan Donald chieftain of Norse and Celtic ancestry ruled the area from 1156. Somerled died in 1164 and was succeeded by his son, Reginald. Reginald allowed the monastic community on Iona to become a Benedictine order to establish a foundation on Iona. Their abbey was built on the site that Saint Columba had used. The oldest surviving stone building in the Abbey complex is Saint Oran's Chapel which may date from 1180. Its burial ground, the Reilig Odhrain, may be even older. There were many Christian memorials in the Reilig Odhrain. A recent survey listed 10 crosses, 11 effigies and 150 grave covers and grave slabs. Some of these historic items are now in the Abbey museum and a few are in the cloister. The oldest of the monuments were carved in the 12th century. Many say 400 or more Scottish kings and noble were buried on Iona. Some say there aren't any, however, there may be 40 or more under the abbey.

In Macbeth (Act 2, Scene IV) Shakespeare makes Ross ask MacDuff 'Where is Duncan's body?' MacDuff replies 'Carried to Colmekill, the sacred storehouse of his predecessors and guardian of their bones'. Duncan was King of Scotland from 1034 until 1040: Colmekill was one of many spellings of Iona in the middle ages!

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The paved path connecting the Abbey Church to the Reilig Odhrain, known as 'The Road of the Dead' is the finest medieval road in Europe. It used to extend to Martyrs' Bay where coffins brought from the mainland were taken ashore until less than a hundred years ago. The Abbey Church and buildings were started about 1200 and were extended throughout the 13th and 15th centuries. In 1493 the Benedictines' right to the Abbey was forfeited to the Crown and the Abbey lost its independent status passing into the possession of the Bishops of the Isles, who made Iona Abbey Church their official seat and accorded it the title of 'Cathedral'.

Saint Martin's and Saint John's Cross are examples of outstanding medieval creations. These 8th century 'high crosses' have elaborate carvings. MacLean's Cross comes from the Benedictine presence. Saint Columba's Shrine is an attachment of the Abbey Church. The remains of Saint Columba are unknown. Legend has his remains were divided between Dunkeld and a site in Ireland. The richly-jeweled Monymusk reliquary was supposed to hold Saint Columba's bones and in that belief Robert the Bruce usually carried it into battle and had it with him at Bannockburn. The reliquary is now in the New Museum of Scotland.

The withdrawal of patronage from the Abbey came in 1493. The religious life continued until about 1560 when the Scottish Reformation reached Iona bringing its monastic quality of life to a close. The Abbey buildings stood silent thereafter. The ruins were not extensively ransacked for the stone but the roof timbers disappeared.

There were more stones of the Scottish kings and the St. John's Cross inside another building. On the left of the Abbey was a small ruin with sheep grazing. The ruin was the remains of the internal wall that ran across the old Bishop's House north of the abbey. This setting was nice foreground for the blue water of the Sound of Iona and the Isle of Mull. The beaches of Iona have white sand and remind us of Hawaii. I walked back to the village stopping for photos of the Iona Nunnery. Clyde and I stopped at a shop close to the restaurant and took the ferry back to Fionnphort, 3pm. The local people suggest staying on Iona for a night or two to capture the essence of the solitude of the island after the tourists leave. There are a few B&Bs on the island, we'll do this next time.

My spare camera was in the trunk, the old Olympus (Oly) camera, looks like it saved me again. We headed back home and stopped at the Torosay Castle. When I tried to focus the camera, the battery in this camera didn't work. I tried a few shots of the castle and went back to the car to see if the spare 'used' battery for the Oly was in the camera bag. It was and it still worked. Back to the castle and beautiful gardens.

The Torosay Castle was completed in 1858 by architect David Bryce in the Scottish Baronial Style. It was originally known as the Duart House, then renamed Torosay when the Duart Castle was restored. Torosay is a castellated mansion that was designed for the Campbells of Possel but the expense forced him to sell it in 1865. It was purchased by the Guthrie family, whose descendants, later Guthrie-James still own it. David Guthrie James sailed in one of the last windjammers, made a successful escape from POW Camp and completed a polar exploration. The gardens contain many tender plants that benefit from the Gulf Stream. The gardens, laid out by Sir Robert Lorimer in 1899, include formal terraces, an Italian statue walk and woodland. There is a miniature steam railway from Craignure.

We had dinner in Craignure at the Craignure Inn; steak/kidney pie, Haddock, Guinness/lemonade for £13.80. We asked the inn keeper if anyone in town works on cameras. We were given a name and number and called a local man. He asked if we changed the battery as this cold weather is very hard on cameras. He thought it wasn't a major problem and told us to see a Macdonald in a craft store in Mallaig 300 yards from the pier. This Macdonald was a friend of his who knows cameras. He thought it sounded like the camera or battery got wet or over worked. We were home by 645, Clyde wasn't feeling well and I'm pooped.

Wednesday, 5 April

Sheila served us another great breakfast, Scottish breakfast for Clyde and Kippers for me. We bid Sheila and her husband a fond farewell and were on the road by 930am. We stopped at Craignure to phone the Estate Office of the Balnagown Castle. We have an 11am appointment with them on Friday to see the public areas of the Castle.

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We were going to call Mrs. Munro to stay with her Thurs/Fri and Saturday but couldn't find her phone number in my journals. Sheila looked in her B&B books then we stopped at the tourist office in Craignure and they found it. Clyde called and Mrs. Munro had our room available, we're set.

We took the ferry from Fishnish to Lochaline, a 15 minute trip. My Pentax camera is still not working, hope we can find the Macdonald and he can fix it. Four vehicles were on the 1015 ferry to mainland Scotland. We noticed the Kinlochaline Castle in Kinlochaline was restored and looks really good. Scaffolding was all around the castle when we were here in 1998. They did an excellent job on the restoration. Standing in a striking location, Kinlochaline Castle is an altered 15th century keep, rectangular in plan and has four stories. An external stone stair leads to the hall, on the first floor, with a guardroom beside the entrance. The hall has an arched fireplace over which is a stone panel featuring a naked woman. A stair leads down to the vaulted cellars that are lit only by slits, while another turnpike stair, in one corner, climbs to the parapet. There are many stairs and passageways in the thickness of the walls. The garret story has gone.

The castle was the seat of the MacInnes clan, hereditary bowmen to the MacKinnons. Following the murder of the laird and his sons by the MacKinnons at nearby Ardtornish in 1319, the lands were given to the MacLeans of Duart. The castle was damaged by the Marquis of Montrose's lieutenant Alaisdair Colkitto MacDonald in 1644 and later by Cromwell's forces in the 1650s. The Campbell Argyll attacked the castle in 1679 during a feud. It was abandoned about 1690, restored about 1890, but was then deserted until the recent restoration.

Today is the third day of needing sun glasses, amazing! It isn't as cold today. We're on the way to the Mingary Castle. We went to Mingary in 1998 but didn't get close up shots in the gray and drizzle of that trip. We stopped at the Bay of Pledge that has an abandoned crofter's house on the bay near Ardslnish. Beautiful spot! The single-track roads took a long time to get to the Mingary. I found the public footpath through the fields to the castle and walked down the beach to shoot the front side of the castle that was shining in the sun. The Mingary House is close to the castle ruins. There was a small cannon on the side of the castle ruins.

Mingary is a strong 13th century castle of enclosure with a high wall encircling the rock on which it stands. The main entrance was on the sea side, another entrance was across a drawbridge, over a walled ditch. Ranges of two story buildings stand inside the curtain wall, dating from the 17th and 18th centuries as well as a three story rectangular block. Alterations were made between the 16th and the 18th centuries. Mingary was probably built by the MacIans of Ardnamurchan. It was occupied by James IV in 1493 and in 1495 during his campaigns against the MacDonalds; and was demolished or slighted in 1517. The MacIans supported the MacDonalds in the 1550s and MacLean of Duart captured the chief of MacIan and tried to besiege the castle with the help of Spanish soldiers from an Armada galleon in Tobermory Bay.

The Campbells took Mingary from the MacIans. It was captured by Alaisdair Colkitto MacDonald in 1644 for the Marquis of Montrose but was recaptured by the Covenanter General David Leslie in 1646, then returned to the Argyll Campbells in 1651. The castle was garrisoned for the Government during the Jacobite Rising of 1745 and was habitable until 1848.

We decided to continue west to the Ardnamurchan Lighthouse, the most westerly point on mainland Scotland. The lady at the shop said Queen Elizabeth visited here in 1987. She had seen the lighthouse many times when sailing on the Britannia. The Lighthouse Group invited her to dinner and everyone had a delightful time. She also shared with us her other favorite story of the first lady to work at the shop after the lighthouse was built. When a tourist asked for a newspaper she responded, 'do you want yesterday's paper or today's paper? If you want today's paper you'll have to come back tomorrow'!

On to Mallaig and filled the tank, 83p/liter, took 33.67 liters for £28.25; 313 miles on this tank. We're staying the night at Mrs. C. Stewart, Glengorm, Morar, Inverness-shire PH40 4PA, tele 01687 462165, £18 ppn. We had a light supper at The Cabin in Mallaig, soup and tuna toastie, Guinness and lemonade, £7.60.

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Thursday, 6 April

On the road at 930am after a good breakfast. Mrs. Stewart served a good poached fish in a milk and butter sauce. Clyde had his usual Scottish breakfast. We arrived at the ferry office early and when Clyde asked to purchase passage for our car and us to Skye, the man (same one as the one we talked with last night at closing time) told him it is a passenger only ferry until 21 April! He said he didn't see that we had a car when we stopped at the office last night! He apologized and off we drove to Fort William, to Invergarry then to the A87 to Skye. We have an assignment on the Isle of Raasay and we must make the 1pm ferry and the return ferry at 315pm. Good luck, as there was a lot of traffic, road work and big lorries.

The good news, we arrived at the Eilean Donan Castle at noon and the best news, the castle is in the sun! This is the first time in all our visits that the castle is in the sun. There were vehicles on the sunny side of the castle; this side could be shot hiding the vehicles, 1215pm. There are approximately 2000 castles and towers in Scotland. The oldest castle is Cubbie Row's Castle on the Island of Wyre, Orkney. Cubbie Row was built by Norseman Kolbein Hrugar in 1145. The oldest inhabited castle is Dunvegan Castle on the Isle of Skye. The most photographed castle in Britain is the Eilean Donan Castle, Dornie. The most northerly castle in Britain is the Muness Castle, Shetland. Kilravock Castle, Inverness, has been continuously occupied since 1640 by the Rose family. Britain's only triangular castle is Caerlaverock Castle in Nithsdale. *Scottish Banner, Volume 23 Number 9, March 2000.*

We drove across the Skye Bridge, £4.70 for a one way passage. There is a lot of traffic here as well as road work. We arrived at the Sconser Ferry with two minutes to spare £19.35 for the round trip passage to Raasay. The mountains of Skye were pretty as we left Sconser, Ben Lee at 1456 feet is above the village of Sconser and Glamaig is on the right at 2542 feet. The sun is still out for the trip on a 10-car ferry. The roads on Raasay are gravel, single track roads at best. Glad it isn't raining. Photos of the Brochel Castles then the Eyre Lighthouse at Eyre Point.

Brochel Castle, on a high rock, is a small ruined fortress built in the early 16th century by the MacLeods of Raasay. Stumps of walls surround an uneven courtyard contouring the rock with several towers. The castle was entered by a steep stair leading to a passageway through the gatehouse. The last chief resident was Iain Garbh around 1648 after the family moved to Clachan at Kilmaluag, further south on Raasay (later tower house is gone).

We were early for the 315pm ferry to Skye, we didn't want to miss this one. There were abandoned buildings on the south side of Raasay that could have been used in WWII. We drove by the Eilean Donan again and took the scenic drive above and across from the castle. Stopped for photos of the Five Sisters and Loch Duich, with grazing sheep that were reluctant to pose for the photos, beautiful spot, 5pm.

We stopped for dinner at Glen Rowan Highland Fayre, beef stroganoff/rice, ham/cheese toastie, tea/ale for £10.90, good dinner. Filled the tank at the Lewiston Garage, fuel was 80.9p/liter, took 28.8 liters for £23.30, and drove 271 miles on this tank. What a drive it was today, too many miles in a short time due to the Mallaig to Skye ferry being passenger only.

We arrived at Mrs. Munro's at 730pm and visited with her until 9pm. Clyde and Ailene had tea and I had whisky. We asked about laundry facilities and she asked if we had a lot. I thought we would have 3 small loads. She volunteered to do our laundry for us, this was most kind. I sorted the clothes and she started a load while we visited. It was nice to hear about her family and the farm; they were all doing well since our last visit. Taransay B& B, Lower Muckove Farm, Inshes, Inverness, IV2 5BB, tele: 01463 231880.

Friday 7 April

After a good Scottish breakfast and poached haddock we were on the road by 930am. We thought we would have the Pentax camera checked at the camera shop in Inverness to see if it could be fixed. I tried it yesterday and it

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still didn't work. We asked Ailene to dinner tonight, she said that it wasn't necessary but would like to go. We found the camera shop and as I demonstrated the problem with the auto focus, it worked! Just like that, we said you do great work and went on our way. It may have gotten wet or I worked it too hard taking flash photos in the Abbey at Iona. Good news!

We're on the road to our 11am appointment with the Estate Office of the Balnagown Castle. Hopefully, our luck will improve and we can relax. Gray and over cast skies today but so far it's dry. It took 45 minutes to drive to Balnagown; the office was expecting us and buzzed us through the outside gates. We met the Estate Office manager, he talked with us about five minutes. Due to security concerns there is no photography on the estate. I asked about the outside of the castle and he said Paul Ross, our guide would take a picture of us with our camera in front of Balnagown. He added that we would be given a book on the Ross family and the Balnagown Castle when we leave that has beautiful pictures in it. We thanked him and followed Paul in our car to the entrance of the castle.

In the Entrance Hall Paul pulled up the carpet to show us what is hidden beneath the floorboards. A panel in front of the fireplace can be raised to reveal a sunken iron bath installed in the early 19th century by Lady Mary. Paul said that in earlier times when someone died it usually took awhile to get the body to a mortician. The iron bath was used to store the body until the body could be taken away. It looked just like a coffin, a nicely carved wood box in the shape of a coffin. I asked if anyone was in there, not at this time he answered!

We followed Paul into the Main Hall where he took us to an old chair. He said this is William Wallace's Throne (chair). It was worn but looked nice for being so old. A portrait of the 6'7" Wallace was above the chair. The Wallace chair has been in the Ross family all these years. Paul said that Wallace's sister married a Ross and William's possessions went to her, then passed through the generations of the Ross Family. Later on in this journal are statements that were taken from the Balnagown book that was given to us that clarifies how the chair came to Balnagown. I really wanted to take a photo of the chair, what a historical treasure! Al Fayed bought the estate, gutted the castle and restored it. Many of the old furnishings including the Wallace chair were packed away when Mr. Fayed bought the estate. Amazingly all the Ross treasures were preserved with very little damage. Paul said that when a castle is sold, all the historical possessions of the family remain with the castle. He said there are now 16,000 acres on the Balnagown Estate and another 32,000 acres north of the estate. Paul took our photo in front of the entrance and gave us a beautiful hardbound book, Balnagown, ancestral home of the Clan Ross.

Balnagown is located a mile inland from Nigg Bay on a hill above the coastland of Easter Ross. At one time the Ross Clan was the most powerful of the Highland clans. Balnagown was built in the 15th century and has been continuously inhabited since it was erected. Throughout those 500 years the Ross lairds played their part in the history of the kingdom as leaders of soldiers, politicians, agricultural reformers, brigands and benefactors. The Rosses were known as a lively lot! Mohamed Al Fayed rescued the dilapidated property from ruin in 1972 to make it his Scottish home. He thoroughly restored the castle and estate, it was beautifully done.

The Royal Navy made its base at nearby Invergordon due to the deep water harbor at Cromarty Firth. The Cromarty Firth separates the peninsula from the Black Isle. The sea brought danger to this area especially during the Viking raids of the 8th and 9th centuries. Facing north to Sutherland across the Dornoch Firth is the ancient burgh of Tain. The relics of the 11th century Saint Duthac became one of Scotland's most important centers of pilgrimage in the later middle ages. The Lairds of Balnagown played a prominent role in the municipal life of Tain, serving as Provosts and Members of parliament.

Until the 9th century this part of Scotland was included in the northern Pictish kingdom. The Picts, or 'painted people' (so called by the Romans because of their tattoos) seem to have been a Celtic confederation of tribes. The inhabitants of Easter Ross were the Decantae, while the Lugi, Smertae and Cornavcii lived further north in Sutherland and Caithness. On the west coast the Carnonacae and Creones were found while the center of the Highlands was occupied by the Caledonii. Pictish dominance began to be threatened in the 6th century with the

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arrival of the Gaelic Scots from Ireland. The Scots increased their power and influence by military conquest and through the missionary activity of St Columba of Iona in the 6th century and then of St Maelrubha of Applecross in the 8th century.

Kenneth MacAlpin united the kingdoms of the Scots and Picts in 844. The Norse Vikings established settlements here. When Thorstein the Red (son of Olaf of Dublin) was killed by the Scots his death marked the start of the decline of the Norse inhabitants. Gaelic became the principal language and was widely spoken in Easter Ross in the 19th century. Balnagown is a Gaelic name meaning the baile ('farming township') of the smiths, perhaps an indication that iron ore was once smelted here. The name Ross is also of Gaelic origin: Ross means 'headland' or 'promontory'. Most clans take their name from a person. The Clan Ross derives its name from a region: the land of Ross existed before the clan. The name Ross first appears in the 11th century. When the boundaries of Ross-shire were laid down in 1661, the county extended from the east coast across Scotland to the Western Isles, this was the territory held by the Earls of Ross.

King Malcolm IV made Malcolm MacEth the first Earl of Ross. The earldom did not pass to MacEth's son but was held by the king. The Earl of Ross isn't recorded in history until 50 years later. The regions of Moray and Ross rebelled against Malcolm's successor, William the Lion, until Farquhar MacTaggart, a highland chief from the west, defeated the rebels in 1215. Alexander II granted Farquhar knighthood and created him Earl of Ross. Farquhar's family claimed descent from a Celtic chief called Beolain and his Norse wife. Legend has it she was traded in marriage by her Viking father in return for permission to take home booty. Her brothers had sailed from Norway to reclaim her but perished in a ship wreck. The Pictish standing stones in Easter Ross were said to be their memorial.

In the 13th century the O'Beolain Earls of Ross were native Highlanders while other local magnates were of foreign extraction, placed there by the Scottish kings to break the power of the old dynasties. Earldoms were given to the Comyn family of Normandy and to the Flemish Freskin family. Farquhar married his son and heir William to a daughter of William Comyn, Earl of Buchan and his daughter Euphemia to the Freskin family, Sir Walter de Moravia (Moray). Another daughter, Christina, is said to have married Olaf, the Norse King of Man. Farquhar established an abbey in Easter Ross in 1225 and moved to its present site at Fearn in 1238. Its founder, the first and greatest of the O'Beolain line of Earls, died in 1251 and was buried in the abbey. His tomb can still be seen in a roofless side-chapel of the abbey. Many of the later Rosses were laid to rest in the family vault at Fearn.

Clansman's loyalty was first to the Chief of his clan, second to his branch of the clan, third to the clan and fourth to the sovereign. The chief dispensed justice to his clansmen, granted them their land and controlled all aspects of their lives. He protected them and was duty bound to seek revenge for harm inflicted on a member of the clan. The clansmen in return had an absolute duty to answer his call to rally. The strength of a clan was directly related to the prestige of the chief, the land he held and the number of men that the land could support. The loss of land could result in a drift of supporters to another chief. On becoming Earl of Ross (the First Earl of the new line) Farquhar had been granted the territories that had been held by the MacEth's. His own lands were added to these and he also received grants from the king. The clan which the successors of Farquhar led took its name not from MacTaggart of Beolain but from the land of Ross.

For four generations after Farquhar, the earldom remained with the male line of O'Beolian family. They resided at times at Dingwall, in the royal castle granted by Alexander II to Farquhar and later granted to Farquhar's grandson by King Robert the Bruce. Ballone Castle on the cliffs near Tarbat Ness is also said to have been theirs. Their principal seat seems to have been Delny Castle where Farquhar and subsequent Earls died. Today nothing remains of the castle at Delny, which was located three miles southwest of Balnagown. In 1476, the Earldom was annexed to the crown when John Macdonald, Earl of Ross and Lord of the Isles, was deprived of the title. Henceforth it was reserved for the second son of the King of Scotland: the present Earl of Ross is Prince Andrew, Duke of York.

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When the Earldom was taken from the male line of the O'Beolain family on the death of Earl William in 1372, the allegiance of the clan did not go with it but passed to his half-brother, Hugh of Rarichies, who took his name from the villages of Easter and Wester Rarichie. According to most, Hugh is regarded as the first true Chief of the Clan Ross. Hugh made sure that his family's connection with the old earldom was not forgotten by taking Ross as his surname. Hugh was the First Laird of Balnagown and the descendants of Hugh of Rarichies remained the lairds for over 300 years until the line failed with the death in 1711 of the 13th Laird. The Ross Lairds of Balnagown were a fiery dynasty. In the end their lawlessness during the turmoil of the 16th century helped bring them near to ruin.

In 1487 the Rosses battled the Mackays at Alt na Charrais in Strathcarron. The Ross Chief and 17 of his most important followers were killed. Chief Alexander's widow, Dorothy, took measures to safeguard the family property. She is said to have ordered two of her henchmen to save the treasure by burying it. When their task was completed they were given poisoned drinks by their mistress, who never divulged the hiding place. The whereabouts of the treasure are still unknown.

No firm date can be given for building the earliest castle at Balnagown. Some sort of building would have been erected here between Hugh's acquisition of the lands around 1350 and the earliest recorded mention of the castle in 1490. Balnagown was built as a laird's fortified residence. Dorothy's son, David Ross the 7th Laird, improved the defenses of Balnagown using rubble stone gathered from the estate. This was probably the first stone built tower-house at Balnagown, which is the earliest part of today's castle.

King James IV (1488-1513) often passed near Balnagown on his regular pilgrimages to St Duthac's shrine at Tain. His mistress, Janet Kennedy, lived at Darnaway which James would visit en route. The royal entourage would then make their way north, crossing the Balnagown River by the bridge, known as the King's Bridge, just upstream from the castle. His last pilgrimage to Tain was made in 1513 as he was killed along with many of Scotland's nobles at Flodden Field.

David Ross, the 7th Laird of Balnagown received a knighthood that increased the status of the Balnagown Rosses. Alexander Ross, the 9th Laird of Balnagown had quite a history. His first wife was a Sinclair, daughter of the Earl of Caithness; his second, a Mackenzie, the daughter of the Lord of Kintail and the mother of the first Rosses of Pitcalnie. George Ross, his son by his first wife, became the 10th Laird in 1592. His son, David married Mary Gordon, the Earl's daughter. This marriage contract and associated land dealings started a feud between the Rosses of Balnagown and the Gordons of Sutherland that created financial problems at Balnagown that lasted for the next century.

King James VI (later James I of England) assumed direct government of Scotland in 1587. He personally sought to persuade the Highland lairds to restore law and order in their territories. By the early years of the 17th century peace and order had been restored to most of the kingdom. This was the beginning of a building boom throughout Scotland as the tumult of the previous century gave way to a period of peace. Balnagown had major building work done on the castle. David Ross, the 11th laird of Balnagown was honored by having Balnagown made a Barony by James VI, another rise in status.

The financial plight of the estate worsened. In the early decades of the 17th century the Laird of Balnagown first turned to Lord Ross of Halkhead to relieve the financial burden on his estates. The Halkhead Rosses were Lowlanders from the west. Their seat was near Paisley, in Renfrewshire. Their Norman ancestors came from Yorkshire and were in no way related to the Highland clan. They sought to extend their property and influence in Ross-shire in hopes of claiming for themselves the ancient Earldom of Ross. David Ross, the 13th Laird was the last Balnagown Chief of the Clan Ross. Although David fathered a number of illegitimate children, his marriage remained childless. The Pitcalnie Rosses could not raise the money needed to redeem the mortgages required to become heirs to the chiefdom. The 13th Laird of Balnagown died in 1711. William, Lord Ross obtained the property and the Halkhead Rosses took the Earl of Ross coat of arms and crest instead of their own. The Halkhead Rosses meant the end of the financial insecurity that hung over the estate. The claims of the Pitcalnie

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Rosses still regarded themselves as the true hereditary Chiefs of the Clan. However, they weren't officially recognized until 1903. The present Chief is their descendant, David Ross of Shandwick.

William, Master of Ross, became the 16th Laird of Balnagown. On his death in 1754, his son survived his father for only two months. The extinction of the male line of the Halkhead Rosses meant the succession passed to the family of Sir James Lockhart, the son of General Ross's niece. William Lockhart of Carstairs had his claim to Balnagown confirmed by the House of Lords becoming the 17th Laird. Sir James, the 4th Baronet, changed his name to James Ross-Lockhart. However, he died childless in 1760. His brother George inherited the baronetcy but Balnagown passed to the youngest brother, John. John Lockhart Ross, the 18th Laird was to be one of the most celebrated Lairds of Balnagown. He married the wealthy heiress Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Dundas, the Lord President of the Court of Session for Scotland in 1762. She inherited from her mother, Henrietta Baillie Carmichael, properties at Lamington and Bonnington in Lanarkshire, which were now added to the Balnagown property. It was through Elizabeth's family, descendants of Sir William Wallace, that the famous Wallace Chair once in the Tower of Lamington came to Balnagown.

Captain (later Admiral) Lockhart Ross ordered designs for a new house to replace the ancient castle, which at first he intended to demolish. A four story mansion was designed to be built at the south end of the bowling green. The proposed house was not built and the Captain contented himself with remodeling and extending the old castle that was now a commodious residence suitable for modern and forward looking landlord instead of the tower-house of a traditional clan chief.

Livestock farming grew in importance in the 17th century in the Highlands. 'Black cattle' were the red and gold ancestors of the Highland Coos. They were so called because they were raised on the low-lying 'black' land, free from snow and ice. Unable to survive mountain winters, they were only taken to higher ground for summer grazing. As an added income Baron David Ross began to exploit the timber resources on their estates. Large-scale sheep farming was introduced to the Highland region. John Lockhart Ross was one of the first to introduce Lowland sheep to the Highlands and is seen as an initiator of the Highland Clearances which left much of northern Scotland bereft of its human inhabitants. The Highland sheep were too small to become central to the farming economy. Flocks of Linton and Cheviot sheep were introduced to the Highlands. The Cheviot sheep have remained the breed of choice in the region ever since.

Lockhart Ross was strongly opposed to the emigration of the Highlanders. He had plans to establish cloth mills at Kincardine to create new employment, but these came to nothing. 1792 is known as the 'Year of the Sheep', when large-scale clearances began in Easter Ross, including the Balnagown estates.

Sir Charles Ross, 21st Laird of Balnagown and 9th Baronet, was the last Balnagown Laird. He was a man of extraordinary vigor and inventive genius but arrogance, egotism and vindictiveness dissipated much of his energy. He was a difficult and complex character but he always retained the respect and affection of the tenants on the Balnagown estates. Dorothy Mercado, Sir Charles secretary, became his third wife in 1939. She inherited Balnagown on his death in 1942. Dorothy married Francis Eveligh de Moleyns, the younger son of an Irish peer in 1953. Dorothy died in 1957 and De Moleyns struggled on with further attempts to halt the financial losses of Balnagown. De Moleyns died in 1964 and his family continued for a time to live in part of the castle while the rest stood empty and decaying. It was at this point that the Irish trust formed the Ross Estates Company to administer the estate and preserve the castle. In 1972 Balnagown was sold to the Fayed family from Alexandria in Egypt. He implemented an extensive renovation program that was completed in 1973. He added to the estate bringing it to twenty-three thousand acres.

All was going well until disaster struck in 1990. Damp had seeped through the external rendering and the building was discovered to be badly affected by dry rot. An urgent rescue program was done and the building underwent intensive restoration and reconstruction. Today the castle stands more secure than it has been for many years. The Fayed family is deeply committed to the historic heritage of their adopted country and proud of

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Balnagown's links with the Clan Ross. The mementos of the old lairds, the Rosses and the Lockhart Rosses, are carefully preserved.

The famous Wallace Chair is constructed of pine and has a deerskin cover. It is medieval and may well have a connection with Wallace, since Lady Baille-Ross, the wife of Admiral Sir John Lockhart Ross, was a lineal descendant of Wallace. Until the 18th century the chair stood in the Tower of Lamington in Lanarkshire, the ancestral home of Wallace's wife. Sir Charles Ross took the chair to America for safety during the WWII. It was returned to Balnagown after the war and now stands in the Main Hall of Balnagown beneath the 19th century portrait of Sir William Wallace. The chair is worn, but is in good shape for being over 700 years old!

We had a wonderful tour of the public rooms of Balnagown and a glimpse of the gardens. We were there for over an hour. It was starting to rain as we left the estate. From here we'll drive north for the Gunn Castle assignment. The Gunn family had three castles in this area. Not much remains of the once strong and splendid castle on a rock except part of the basement. It was owned by the Gunn family who feuded with the Keiths of Ackergill. Dugald Keith attacked the Gunns of Braemore and carried off Helen Gunn to Ackergill. She threw herself from a castle tower rather than submit to Keith and her ghost is said to haunt Ackergill. The Gunns ravaged the Keith's lands but were defeated at battles at Tannach Moor in 1438 and at Dirlot in 1464. The chief of the Gunns and four of his sons were killed. Another Gunn chief, Judiciary of Caithness, was 'basely' murdered by the Keiths in 1478. James Gunn slew Keith of Ackergill and his son at Drummoy in revenge.

The Latheron Castle was also listed for the Gunn Clan. We stopped at the Latheron Post Office to ask where the castle was. The lady working there pointed across the street, it is now part of the Mackenzie house and farm. She suggested driving there and the people living there will show us. They were home and the farmer took us behind their house to the piece of wall that is all that is left of the castle. Not much remains of a castle of the Gunn family, except one overgrown wall. In the village of Latheron is the Clan Gunn Heritage Center and Museum. Latheron House, dating from the 18th century, was much enlarged in the 19th century. This is where the current chief lives.

We then followed the instructions in the castle book to the third Gunn castle, the Halberry Castle. No luck finding this one and it is really raining now. We called it quits and headed south. After a few miles we saw the Dunbeath Heritage Center and thought we would give it one more try. The lady thought she knew where the ruins were but called a neighbor in Mid Clyth. She gave us directions to the neighbor's house and off we went. He knew where the remains of the Halberry or Gunn Castle were. He said there is only one castle. He said to park our car on the road that goes to the Hill O'Many Stones and cross the A9, over the fence and follow the burn to the sea. There isn't much of the castle left he added.

Off we went again and it seemed like the rain was lighter. We climbed the fence and followed the burn to the sea. On the right side of the cliff was a man made wall about 10' that could be the basement that's it! It was really windy now but the rain had stopped long enough for us to hike to the sea. All that the castle book has on the Halberry is it stands on a promontory in the sea. Halberry castle is a very ruined 15th century keep and castle of the Gunn family.

We drove south back to Inverness and arrived home at 515pm. Ailene was ready to go out to dinner. We went to Dows, we had been there a few years ago. Ailene had high tea with macaroni/cheese, Clyde had roast lamb and I had turkey curry, nice dinner and visit, £21.32.

Saturday, 8 April

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I need to see a doctor, I'm sure I have the same infection that Clyde has. Ailene suggested the 'casualty department' at the nearby hospital. We need to be there early before it gets crowded. Arriving at the Raigmore

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Hospital at 915, no one was waiting. We were called in right away and the nurse took my vitals and a young doctor checked me and prescribed antibiotics. There was no charge for the doctor's visit and only £6 for the prescription. We were in and out of the hospital in 30 minutes total, great service! Stopped at the co-op for water, fruit, candy and petrol. It took 27.7 liters @ 80.9p/liter for £22.41; we went 261 miles on this tank. Today we have an 1130 appointment with Celia Mackintosh of Mackintosh. We were early so we turned off the A9 to find the Daviot Castle. The scant ruins of Daviot are of a 15th century keep and courtyard of the Lindsay Earls of Crawford. The property later passed to Alexander, the 24th Chief of Clan Mackintosh, who built the Daviot House. He lived here because the widow of the late Chief had the liferent of Moy Hall. He died unmarried in 1827. Angus, the 25th Chief also lived here as did other Chiefs, 1045am.

Arriving at Moy Hall, Celia was happy to see us. The Mackintosh and Clan Chattan museum is off the back of Moy Hall in a separate building. Celia said that she and her late husband (Lachlan, died 1995) organized the historical mementos laying about the house and created this museum. The bed that Prince Charles slept in while he was at Moy Hall in February 1746 was in the museum. Two swords from the Battle of North Inch, 1396, are the oldest historic relics in the museum. We purchased three different booklets, Mackintosh history, Clan Chattan and the current Clan Chattan newsletter. Celia pointed up the hill to where the memorial to her husband Lachlan had just been dedicated at the last gathering in August 1999. She added, Lachlan so loved the spot where the memorial was built.

Celia said she needed to watch the time as her son, the current and 31st Mackintosh Chief, was coming home to stay with her for two nights. He had been teaching in Milan, prior to that assignment he taught at Singapore for six years. We walked around Moy Hall, Moy Hall IV (built in the 1950s) taking more photos. We asked where the cannon in front of the house came from. Celia said it was from the HMS Nancy that fought in the American Revolutionary War. Then Angus Mackintosh, the 25th Chief, plied the Nancy on the Great Lakes. During the War of the Niagara Frontier with the United States 1812-15 he afforded the Government valuable assistance at considerable loss to himself. His son Alexander commanded the Nancy, which ran supplies to British garrisons on the Great Lakes. Naval officers took over the Nancy and she was sunk by the Americans on Lake Huron. In 1836, Alexander, the 26th Chief, had two of the Nancy's cannons sent from Canada to Scotland and mounted them on the terrace of Moy Hall.

Celia pointed out the memorial to Aeneas Mackintosh, erected by his wife Dame Margaret ,on the island where Moy Hall III had been. Moy Hall III was lost due to dry rot, it was quite large. Much larger than it had originally been planned, Mrs. Mackintosh added.

We said goodbye and said we would ring her on our next trip. We left Moy Hall and opened the first farm gate on the left side of the road. We drove to the parking area and walked to the Lachlan memorial. It was nicely done and did have a nice view of Loch Moy and Moy Hall. We could see why Lachlan chose this place to sit and view his home.

The Mackintoshes are derived from the Dalriadic kings descended from Ferchar Fada, son of Feradach, king of Dalriada, who died in 697. The earliest authentic ancestry is traced to Shaw MacDuff, son of the third Earl of Fife, who was of the Royal Family. MacDuff took the name of Mackintosh, 'Mac-an-toisich', which means Son of the Chief or Thane. In 1163 he came to the north with King Malcolm IV to suppress a rebellion of the men of Moray. As a reward for his services, he was made Keeper of the Royal Castle of Inverness and received the lands of Petty and Breachley with the forest of Strathdearn in the valley of the Findhorn. The early chiefs are said to have resided in Inverness Castle but Petty was their early duthus and there through the centuries the family burial-place has been and is still the resting place of the Mackintosh chiefs. The hereditary property of the chief was called the duthus or principal estate. Shaw Mackintosh, the first Chief of the Clan, died in 1179.

The Mackintoshes are traced with the original Clan Chattan. Clan Chattan means Clan of the Cats. There are five theories on the origin of Clan Chattan. One says they came from the Catti, a tribe of Gauls driven out by the Romans. A second derives it from cat or catai, the name of a weapon. A third says the clan came from Caithness,

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obtaining its name from the wildcats, which infested the district. A fourth says they took their name from Catav, now Sutherland. The fifth theory which is the most reasonable, the clan descended from Gillichattan Mor, who was 'Servant of St Chattan', and had the galley coat-of-arms. The meaning of 'Servant of St Chattan' is that Gillichattan was the bailie or temporal leader of the Abbacy lands of Ardchattan and the duthus of Gillichattan's race was the estate of Glenloy and Loch Arkaig, where Torcastle was the Chief's seat. It is only certain that the Clan Chattan were found in Lochaber at the close of the 13th century. The clan consisted of families or septs, bearing diverse names, who had banded themselves together under one chief for mutual protection. The Clan Chattan Wildcat Tapestry from Moy Hall III hangs in the Mackintosh/Clan Chattan Museum. There were four tapestries in the drawing room at Moy, made in Halkin Street, London, to the order of Arabella, wife of the 28th Chief, in 1890.

In 1336, William, the 7th Chief, acquired from the Bishop of Moray the barony of Moy. Moy had been reserved for a country seat of the Bishop on account of its beauty, when Shaw, the first Chief, had originally been given the lands of Strathdearn. Virtually nothing remains of the 14th century Moy Castle of the Mackintosh family. Moy Castle was used from 1337 until 1665. The island had several other buildings, a paved road and two huge ovens. Moy Hall, built in 1675 was burned fifteen years later by the Macdonalds. Lachlan Mackintosh, the 19th Chief, had acquired a wadset of the Castle and barony of Dalcross in 1688. After the destruction of Dunachton he intended living at Dalcross, instead of the castle in Loch Moy, which he found inconvenient. However, he found Dalcross equally inconvenient, so he built a new house in about 1700 at the north end of Loch Moy approximately a hundred yards north-west of the present house. By this time he clearly thought it unnecessary to have the defense of living on an island which was the reason the first Mackintosh home had been built there in the 14th century. In those early days not only was the Chief's dwelling there but a whole village and in 1422 when the Comyns made their attempt to flood the six-acre island it had a garrison of 400 men. Moy Hall II was built about 1700 and burned down about 1800. Aeneas, 23rd Chief, built Moy Hall III about 1800 at the north end of Loch Moy.

The Mackintosh Clan and Clan Chattan had a long and bitter feud with the Clan Cameron. The feud became so fierce that the Government had to interfere. It was arranged that the Clan Chattan and Clan Cameron should select thirty champions to hold combat in presence of King Robert III at the North Inch at Perth in 1396. It was found that on the Clan Chattan side one champion was missing. A volunteer was found to take his place that was a harness-maker or armourer smith 'not great in stature but fierce'. He fought bravely and was afterwards adopted into the clan and the sept of Smith or Gow has survived in Clan Chattan. As a result of the battle the Clan Chattan were successful with eleven survivors, while the Camerons were all slain except one man who leaped into the Tay and escaped. This battle closed the feud for many years but it broke out again in a battle in 1430. In the Mackintosh Museum the second tapestry from Moy Hall III depicts the Battle of the North Inch at Perth, 1396.

The Mackintosh Clan and Clan Chattan had a long and bitter feud with the Comyns. In 1424, Alexander Comyn had several Mackintosh men taken and hanged, whose death Malcolm, the 10th Chief, avenged by surprising some of the Comyn's chief men in the Castle of Nairn and putting them to the sword. Then the Comyns invaded his country and advanced to Loch Moy where they were caught in an ambush and completely routed. The Comyns now treacherously offered reconciliation while mediating revenge and to that end they invited the Mackintoshes to the Castle of Rait to a feast where all animosities should be forgotten. However, one Comyn lad was in love with a Mackintosh lass whom he asked to meet him at the Grey Stone, or listening-stone, near the Church of Croy. There, speaking to the stone in the hearing of his friend, he disclosed to her that a bull's head would be brought in at the feast as a signal for the attack upon the Mackintoshes. The lass warned the Mackintoshes, who thus went to the Castle prepared for action. Immediately the bull's head appeared, each Mackintosh fell upon a Comyn and the whole sept was slaughtered except for the one who communicated the treachery at the Grey Stone. The Mackintoshes regained the Castle of Rait in 1442. The third tapestry in the Mackintosh Museum depicts the Massacre of the Comyns, about 1424.

In 1622, the Prince of Wales, later Charles I, gave Sir Lachlan, the 17th Chief, a sword that he took from his own side as a parting gift. This sword is preserved as an heirloom at Moy and is always carried on the coffin at the

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funerals of the Chiefs. This sword is in the Mackintosh/Clan Chattan Museum. One of Viscount Dundee's relatives presented The Mackintosh with the sword that Dundee wore at Killiecrankie. This sword is also in the museum. The sword presented by the Prince of Wales to Sir Lachlan and the Dundee Sword are laid crossed on the coffin of every Chief of Mackintosh at his funeral.

The battle of Mulroy (Macdonalds against the Mackintoshes), fought in 1688, is of considerable interest as being the last clan battle fought between Highlanders. In August 1745, Prince Charles raised his standard at Glenfinnan, on Loch Shiel. Angus, the 22nd Chief, did not join the Prince at Stirling but continued to hold his commission under King George II and commanded a company of the Black Watch. The Chief's wife, Anne Farquharson of Invercauld, though only twenty years old, took up the Prince's cause and raised the clan without any hindrance from her husband. In his absence she inspected the clan regiment before it left for Stirling, selecting MacGillivray of Dunmaglas as Colonel.

Under MacGillivray the Clan Chattan regiment of eight hundred fought in the battle of Falkirk. They and the Macphersons fought side by side in the center of the front line with the Farquharsons of Balmoral next on the right. The Prince's army won the victory at Falkirk in 1746 but though Charles wanted to follow up his advantage, the Chiefs advised him to retreat in order to take up the northern forts and then to recruit a larger army. The Prince arrived at Moy on 16 February 1746 with only a few attendants, where he was received by the Lady Mackintosh. The Lady Mackintosh sent out Donald Fraser, the Smith at Moy, with four other men to watch the road from Inverness. About midnight, when they became aware of the approach of a body of troops, Fraser posted his men among a number of peat-stacks, which might be mistaken in the darkness for groups of men. When Loudon's troops came near, Fraser and his men fired their guns and ran in various directions shouting loudly for Mackintoshes, Camerons and Macdonalds to advance. The ruse was successful and the army fell back in alarm to Inverness.

At the same time a small boy was smuggled out of Inverness by old Lady Mackintosh, Anne Duff, widow of the 20th Chief, to warn the Prince of Loudon's approach. The boy was secretly carried out on horseback under the cloak of a dragoon and once outside the town he slipped off the horse to make his way by short cuts to Moy. He gave the alarm; the prince was aroused and left Moy Hall to join Lochiel's men, who were preparing to make a stand. Smith's success came to be known as the Rout of Moy. The Smith's sword and anvil are still kept at Moy Hall, as are Prince Charles' bonnet and the bed he slept in.

Lord Loudon, thinking the Jacobite army much larger than it actually was, withdrew his troops immediately from Inverness. Accordingly, Prince Charles took possession of the town as his headquarters, staying for two months in the house of the dowager Anne Lady Mackintosh, in Church Street. Charles sent a detachment under the Duke of Perth into Ross-shire to pursue Lord Loudon. Loudon's force was dispersed and a large number of prisoners captured, among whom was the Chief of Mackintosh. The Prince sent Mackintosh to his own wife at Moy, saying that he could not be in better security or more honorably treated.

All the loyalty and heroism in support of the Stuart cause was defeated at Culloden on 16 April 1746. More Mackintoshes were killed than any other clan was. Out of seventeen officers only three survived. So numerous were the Mackintosh casualties that their massed graves are commemorated by three gravestones. Culloden also marked the end of the clan system in Scotland as a military force. The titles of the chiefs survived but the Jacobite rebellion expired in a wave of glory.

Next stop is Castle Grant. We had been to Castle Grant on the 1999 trip but didn't get a good shot of the castle. Two vehicles were parked in front of the stairs and we were since told that this was the back of the castle. The back part of the castle is the oldest part of the castle. Clyde knocked on the door and rang the bell to see if anyone was home to ask if we could take photos. No one was there, I walked around to the front and it was more modern, like a mansion.

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Castle Grant is a Z-plan tower house with work from the 15th century and enlarged in 1750 and later. The old part is four stories tall and has an attic. The property belonged to the Grants and became their main stronghold. The Grants were Hanoverians and fought against the Jacobites in the 1715 & 1745 Risings. The family became Earls of Seafield in 1811. The castle became derelict and has since been fully restored. There were still patches of snow on the lawn in front of the castle, 130pm. On to the Duthil Kirk, now the Grant Clan Museum. Many Grants are buried in the churchyard.

The next castle assignment is Cluny Castle. On the way to Cluny we come upon a memorial overlooking Glen Truim, on a minor road off the A9 and past Glentruim. Glen Truim was really pretty. We saw a big mansion like home across the glen and drove there. It looks like it could be the Cluny Castle. We found a lady there, she said we could take photos. When I walked around the back it looked older than the front. I asked her if this was the oldest part of the castle. She didn't really know, she said the old castle was burned in 1746 and this one was built. They have a beautiful view of Glen Truim from the Cluny Castle. The Dalwhinny Distillery is near here, however it isn't open on weekends.

Cluny Castle is a large castellated mansion of 1836-40 that incorporates an altered 17th century Z-plan tower house. The tower house consisted of a main block with two round towers at opposite corners. Most of the original features have been lost. The Gordons held the lands from the 15th century. The castle is located about 5.5 miles SW of Newtonmore, on minor road north of A86, north of River Spey and east of Balgowan at Cluny Castle.

Sunday, April 9

After another great breakfast of kippers we gave Ailene goodbye hugs and were on the road at 910am. Our stay with Ailene was £19ppn or £114 for the three nights. It was another good stay with our friend. The skies are gray and overcast today, hopefully it will lighten up as the day progresses. We're off to Petersburg and Bruntisland for assignments. We'll probably have the next three nights at different B&Bs, too much territory to drive. We filled the tank before leaving Inverness, we went 152 miles on this tank, petrol was 80.9p/liter for £15.64, and it took 12.6 liters to fill the tank. We realized just about 50 miles to the gallon.

Two castles are on our route that looks to be just off the main road. Watch out, these are always the most difficult of castles to find. The Blervie Castle ruins are located on the Blervie Castle Farm, it took us awhile to find it. I knocked on the door, after several minutes a man in his bathrobe came out and said are you a Dunbar? He said it is fine to take photos, he wasn't a Dunbar either. A lady was exercising a beautiful palomino, he posed while I took a picture of him. She said unfortunately the house isn't ours when I asked her if they owned the property.

The Blervie Castle is a ruined 16th century Z-plan tower house, of which only one of the projecting towers survive. The surviving part is a five story square tower with a round stair-tower in what was the re-entrant angle. It has a parapet with open rounds. Not much remains of the main block and there is nothing of the matching tower at the opposite corner. Gunloops and shot-holes pierce the walls.

The property was originally held by the Comyns and there appears to have been a royal castle here in the 13th century. The present castle was built after it had passed to the Dunbars. Blervie was sold to the Mackintoshes at the beginning of the 18th century, who in turn sold it to the Duffs of Braco, Earls of Fife. The castle was partly demolished to build nearby Blervie Mains about 1776.

The Burgie Castle should be easier to find, ha ha. After driving on the road where we found the Blervie Castle we could see a towerhouse but couldn't find the road to get us there. After driving around for 15 minutes we found it. It was a nice substantial ruin.

The Burgie Castle now consists of one tower from a large 17th century Z-plan tower house. The tower rises to six stories and has a parapet with open rounds. A tall stair-turret with the demolished main block is crowned by a

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caphouse. The walls are pierced by gunloops and shot holes and iron yetts bar some of the windows. The castle was extended in 1702. The entrance to the basement still has an iron yett. The basement is vaulted, as are the 5th and 6th floors.

Not much of the main block remains. The castle stands within a pleasance wall with a well in what had been the courtyard. Burgie passed from the Abbey of Kinloss in 1566 to the Dunbars, who built the castle. Dunbar of Burgie fought against the Marquis of Montrose in 1645 but bankrupted himself paying for supplies for Charles II's army in 1650 and had to sell the property to his kinsman, Thomas Dunbar of Grange. Most of the castle was demolished in 1802 to build the Burgie House; itself rebuilt in 1912 as a plain two-story mansion. This castle was fascinating; it must have been something in its day. The tower that is left is in excellent condition, wish we could go inside but we couldn't find anyone that was connected with the Burgie Castle.

The Findlater Castle is our next stop. We had been here before, however, after seeing a picture of the castle ruins I wondered if we in fact shot all of the ruins. It was very foggy on the 1997 trip but I thought we saw everything. We found it this time; perhaps more ruins were built into the cliffs facing the sea. Clyde went down a to the seashore and shot the ruin, he really had a job getting back up. All his efforts were worth it as his photos came out really good.

Little remains of the Findlater Castle, which was built on a dizzying cliff-top promontory. The 14th century keep and castle was the original fortress of the Ogilvies of Findlater who held it from 1445 or earlier. About 1560, the Ogilvie laird of the time argued with his son, disinherited him and signed the property over to Sir John Gordon, 3rd son of the Earl of Huntly. In 1562, the Gordons rebelled against Mary, Queen of Scots, refusing her entrance to the castle. They were defeated at the Battle of Corrichie and Sir James Gordon was beheaded. The castle returned to the Ogilvies but was abandoned after 1600 when the family moved to Cullen. They were made Earls of Findlater in 1633.

One more time to see if we can find the Boyne Castle which evaded us in 1997. The directions in the castle book said to follow the Burn of Boyne on foot, and sure enough there it is. We did have to ask two men who were out walking where the Boyne was. A public footpath is by the bridge over the burn. The man in the house by the bridge talked with Clyde. They moved here from Ireland a few years ago. The castle ruins were huge. It was difficult to get the entire front in the frame, nice little hike out to the ruins and only one fence to climb.

Boyne consists of a very ruinous and overgrown 16th century courtyard castle with four round corner towers and a twin-turreted gatehouse. It was once a splendid place with fine rooms. The lands were held by Thomas Randolph, Earl of Moray about 1320 but passed to the Edmonstones, then by marriage to the Ogilvies. The castle was built by Sir George Ogilvie of Dunlugas after 1575. It was occupied in 1723 and there are remains of two walled gardens.

Since the Fordyce Castle was close by we decided to go to the village and see if the restoration work to the castle was completed. When we were here in 1999 workmen were repairing the front of the castle and we couldn't get a decent shot of the front of the castle. Sure enough, the work was all done and the castle looked great. The weather was better in 1999 but we can see the detail of the castle now. A home in the village across from the castle had beautiful gardens, nice work. The Fordyce Castle consists of a 16th century L-plan tower house of three stories. The castle is dated 1592 and was built by Thomas Menzies of Durn, Provost of Aberdeen. It was used as a village school and was restored.

On to Fraserburgh, we'll play tourist and tour the Kinnaird Head Lighthouse, which was the first lighthouse in Scotland. Interesting tour and we were glad the weather was mild as Fraserburgh holds the record for sustained strong winds. The winds were clocked at 147 miles/hour that held for 24 hours. The tower of the Kinnaird Castle was used for the lighthouse and the rest of the castle was dismantled.

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Kinnaird Head Castle consisted of an altered massive 15th century keep, rectangular in plan, of four stories. The entrance was at the first floor level. The basement was vaulted and the hall was on the first floor. The Wine Tower, standing about 50 yards away, is a lower tower, now of three stories. The unlit first floor is only entered by a trapdoor from the second floor, which is only reached from an outside ladder. The basement has no stair to the floors above. The upper vault has three finely carved pendants with the Fraser arms and those of James V. The upper chamber may have been used as a chapel.

It was a property of the Frasers of Philorth. Sir Alexander Fraser built the harbor at Fraserburg; the town was originally called Faithlie. Fraser came near to bankrupting himself and had to sell much of his property in 1611. A lighthouse was built into the top of the castle in 1787 and the outbuildings were built around it in 1820 by Robert Stevenson, grandfather of Robert Louis Stevenson. It now forms part of a lighthouse museum. Sir Alexander Fraser is said to have had his daughter's lover, of whom he disapproved, chained in a sea cave below the Wine Tower, where the poor man drowned. His daughter, Isobel, threw herself to her death on finding that her lover had been killed. An apparition is said to be seen by the Wine Tower whenever there is a storm.

We'll stay the night at Peterhead, we have an assignment here. Dinner tonight was at the Palace Hotel in town, penne marine, tuna toastie, Guinness and lemonade for £12. After two stops to look at B&Bs we found the Craigholme Guest House, 15 Balmoor Terrace, Peterhead, Aberdeenshire, AB42 1EQ, tele 01779-475134, £20ppn.

Monday, 10 April

The B&B was on the main road through Peterhead, however, our bedroom was off the front of the house and we didn't hear the traffic. We had a good Scottish breakfast and were on the road by 9am. When we told her of our assignment here she not only knew where Ravenscraig Road was but it was just a few streets away. Our assignment was to shoot the harbor and fish market of Peterhead and Tracy's grandparent's garden on Ravenscraig Road. She asked us if we were going to knock on the door when we found the grandparents home, she added I think you should.

We found Tracy's grandparents house and they were home. We told them when they came to the door that we know their daughter in California. She had asked us to take photos of Peterhead and her grandparents' pretty yard. We were invited in for tea but we said we'll come to visit awhile, however, we just finished breakfast. We chatted with them for a few minutes and took photos of them in their house and at their front door. When we told them we were going to the fish market, he mentioned the busy time for all the boats coming in with their catch was at 6am, however, there might be some fishmongers still there.

Back to the harbor to find the fish market and there were a few loads of fish waiting to be shipped. We found the Peterhead Lighthouse at Boddam and the Crosse and Blackwell factory that employed many of the local people but it closed some years ago. The company now operates from London. Found the marina then filled the tank, 116 miles on this tank, petrol was 79p/liter, it took 19.53 liters for £15.60.

Stopped at the Bullers of Buchan, cliffs above the sea where pigeons roost and have their young. Next stop is the Slains Castle. It was really foggy when we were here last year, the large ruins could barely be seen from the road. It rained and would have been a mess walking to the ruins. Today it is overcast but dry. It is over a mile walk to the ruins on a farm road. Up close, Slains is gigantic; it must have been something in its day.

The huge ruin of the Slains Castle stands on the cliffs above the sea. It incorporates part of the basement of the 16th century tower house of Bowness. The castle now consists of buildings around a central courtyard with adjoining ranges. It was altered in 1664 when a corridor was inserted within the courtyard and again in 1836 it was rebuilt and granite faced. At one time it had three extensive gardens. It was built by the 9th Hay Earl of Errol after James VI had destroyed his castle at Old Slains at Cruden Bay, after the Hays participated in the rebellion of

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1594. We were later told that Slains Castle was the inspiration for Bram Stoker when he wrote Dracula, it does look spooky.

There were a number of castles in this area that we shot on the 1999 trip that we'll stop at again to get better photos since it was really gray and foggy on that trip. First stop is the Haddo House with the monument commemorating Waterloo on the grounds, the home of the Dukes of Aberdeen. Nothing survives today of the original castle of the Gordons, who held lands here from 1429. The present Haddo House, an Adam Mansion of 1731-6, was built for William Gordon, 2nd Earl of Aberdeen. Patrick Gordon of Haddo was killed at the Battle of Arbroath in 1446. In 1644 Sir John Gordon of Haddo was captured after being besieged in the castle for three days. He was imprisoned in 'Haddo's Hole' in St Giles Cathedral before being executed by beheading. The castle was destroyed.

Haddo was refurbished in the 1880's. It elegantly blends Georgian architecture with late Victorian interiors by Wright and Mansfield. Haddo has a delightful terrace garden with geometric rose beds and fountain, commemorative trees and a magnificent avenue of lime trees leads to Haddo Country Park with its lakes, monuments, walks and wildlife. The Gordon family has lived at the Haddo continuously for over 400 years.

As we were driving to the next castle, a nice medieval castle was on the right side of the road, the Barra Castle. The Barra Castle is a 17th century L-plan tower house of three stories and a garret that incorporates older work and was altered and extended in the 18th century. It consists of a main block and an offset projecting wing with a round stair-tower. Two round towers project at the corner of the main block and the corner of the wing. The 18th century addition extends from the end of the main block to form three sides of a courtyard, a curtain wall completing the last side. The house is dated 1614 and 1618.

The entrance within the courtyard leads into the basement, which contains a kitchen and cellars. A wide stair leads to the hall on the first floor. The hall has been subdivided at an early date to form two rooms. The floors above are occupied by many private chambers. The King family held the property from the mid 13th century. It was nearby that Robert the Bruce defeated the Comyn Earl of Buchan in 1307 during the Wars of Independence. The Kings of Barra feuded with the Setons of Meldrum, one of the Kings having slain a Seton in 1530. Despite this, the property was sold to the Setons who sold it to the Reids in 1658, they to the Ramsay family in 1750 who built the extension in 1755. Although used as a farmhouse from around 1766 to 1909, the house was restored when it passed by marriage to the Irvines in the 20th century. It is occupied.

The Easter Aquhorthies in Inverurie are a recumbent stone circle, a circle where the 'entrance' to the ring is marked by a large horizontal stone, flanked by two tall portal stones. The entrance is in the SW quadrant of the circle. The granite of the entry stones is different from the pinkish porphyry of the other boulders. The horizontal stone has been interpreted as a pagan altar, but its true purpose is uncertain.

On to the Castle Fraser, last year it was covered in scaffolding and what looked like a total restoration. Looks like they finished the restoration, it looks great. Castle Fraser is impressive and well preserved; it is a tall and massive Z-plan tower house, mostly dating between 1575 and 1636. It consists of a large main block, a square tower at one corner and a great round tower at the opposite corner. Two projecting wings form a courtyard, the final side being completed by other buildings, one with an arched gateway. The oldest part is a plain 15th century keep of four stories and an attic. The great round tower rises two stories higher to finish in a flat roof. The corners of the main block and square tower are crowned by two-story bartizans with shot holes. The upper stories of the main block and both towers project and have dormer windows. The walls are pierced with many gunloops, slits and shot holes. Over the present entrance are panels dated 1576, 1683 and 1795.

The original entrance leads to the vaulted basement containing a kitchen and cellars. It also leads to a wide turnpike stair climbing to the first floor hall, above which there are smaller turret stairs to the private chambers on the floors above. The interior was remodeled in 1838. The property was acquired by the Frasers in 1454 and in 1633 the family was created Lord Fraser. The Frasers were Covenanters and their lands were ravaged in 1638 and

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in 1644 by Montrose. They were later Jacobites and the 4th Lord Fraser died a fugitive, falling from a cliff after the 1715 Rising. In 1976 the property was donated to the National Trust for Scotland.

Looking for the Skene House assignment, we came upon two towers that looked like they could be a massive gate to a very large estate. However, we couldn't find what it could be on the map. We asked two different residents where the Skene House is; maybe we'll find it this time. We found it, there were pretty horses grazing in front of the House. The Skene House is an extensive castellated mansion incorporating a large 14th century keep, which had three vaulted stories. It was greatly altered in 1680, a wing was added in 1745 and the whole building was extended and remodeled about 1850. It was a property of the Skene family from 1318. Adam Skene was killed at the Battle of Harlaw in 1411. Alexander Skene was killed at the Battle of Flodden in 1513 and another Skene laird died at the Battle of Pinkie in 1547. In 1827 the property passed to the Duff Earl of Fife but was sold to the Hamiltons in 1880 and is still occupied, 315pm.

The next stop is the Cullerlie Stone Circle, eight boulders form a small circle 32' in diameter. Within the circle are seven tiny cairns. The largest of the cairns was used for burials. It is believed that the central cairn belonged to a chief, while the satellite tombs were for his dependents, ritually slain at the time of his death.

Last castle for the day is the Drum Castle since it wasn't very bright here last year. Drum Castle is one of the oldest occupied houses in Scotland and is surrounded by extensive gardens. Drum consists of a plain late 13th century keep of four stories. To this has been added a large L-shaped range of 1619 and the castle was extended again in the 19th century. The keep has rounded thick walls, which are pierced, by small windows, gunloops and slits. An external stone stair leads to the entrance at the first floor level. The vaulted basement is lit only by slits and is reached by a straight stair in the thickness of the walls from the barrel-vaulted lesser hall on the first floor. The main hall is on the second floor and a turnpike stair rises in the thickness of one corner.

The 17th century extension consists of an L-shaped range of three stories and a garret. There are other additions, which together with the older parts form a courtyard completed by a curtain wall. The basement of the extension is vaulted and contained the kitchen with a large fireplace and cellars. A large hall occupies the first floor and a turnpike stair led up to the private chambers above. Drum was a property of the Irvines from 1323 when the lands were given to them by Robert the Bruce after Sir William deIrwyn or Irvine, whose seat was at Bonshaw, had been his standard bearer. The Irvines were much involved in the feuding between the Keiths and the Forbeses.

Sir Alexander Irvine was killed at the Battle of Harlaw in 1411, slain by and slaying MacLean of Duart, 'Hector of the Battles'. The Irvines supported Charles I and the castle was besieged and plundered by Argyll in 1644 and sacked again in 1645 when the womenfolk were turned out of the castle. The family were Jacobites and fought in the 1715 and 1745 Risings. The courtyard was remodeled by David Bryce in 1876. In 1975 the castle was given to the National Trust for Scotland.

Dinner tonight will be at the Beefeaters outside of Aberdeen; chicken and gammon entrees, Murphy's and lemonade for £16.70. After two attempts to locate a B&B for the night, we found the "Furain" Guest House, 92 N Deeside Road, Peterculter, Aberdeenshire AB14 0QN, tele: 01224 732189. The Furain was a large guesthouse, we stayed in room #9, £20ppn.

Tuesday, 11 April

Great stay and at breakfast they have an extensive list of breakfast entrees including French toast and pancakes. Clyde had a Scottish breakfast and I had the pancakes, good! The man taking breakfast orders left for work at 9am then his wife took over his B&B duties. Breakfast hours were advertised until the time he goes to work. They have a good arrangement, lots of work running a B&B.

We drove 134 miles yesterday, we'll fill up at the nearby station, petrol is 79.2p/liter, took 15.15 liters for £12. We thought we would go into Aberdeen but decided to tackle the big city on a weekend on the next trip. It was

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such a mess last night finding a place to eat with all the commute traffic. Getting about in the big cities is much easier on the weekends when there is less traffic.

Continuing down the east coast of Scotland we'll stop at Stonehaven and the Dunnottar Castle. It rained through the night and is drizzling now but the sun is trying to come out, 9:45am. Stopped in Stonehaven to get another battery for my camera then drove by the harbor to Dunnottar. We took many photos of Dunnottar, the sun peaked through the clouds but it was a gray day. Clyde went to the left cliffs and I walked out to the right cliffs of the sea. I'm sure we have enough of this castle.

On Scotland's northeast coastline, just south of Stonehaven and perched precariously on a rocky outcrop is the Dunnottar. The castle is one of Kincardineshire's most impressive highlights and one of its prime visitor attractions. Set amidst some of Scotland's finest views, the startlingly imposing stronghold makes an awe-inspiring sight. Its time worn walls appear to waft history from every stone.

The ancient castle ruin, which dates back to the ninth century, is reached by trudging a pathway which has been fabricated over a massive rock rising from the North Sea to a height of over 600 feet. The castle itself is linked to the mainland by a slender stretch of ground. Throughout history, especially during the times from the ninth to the 17th century, the assorted fortifications of Dunnottar were contested on numerous occasions. For almost 300 years the castle was protected by the Keith family, who were Grand Marshals (high officers of State) of Scotland.

Some of the most notable happenings to take place at the castle include the burning alive, by William Wallace, of an entire English command who had attempted to attack and take up residence at Dunnottar. Wallace and his followers managed to herd the invaders into a chapel, where they poured oil through the small windows then set the whole building on fire.

During the years 1562 and 1564 Mary, Queen of Scots stayed at the castle. She described its panoramas as utterly breathtaking! Throughout this period, the entire country was under siege by Oliver Cromwell's Roundhead army. The complete collection of Scotland's Crown Jewels (The Honors) was secretly kept safe under lock and key in the dungeons of Dunnottar! Another prominent episode of a diverse nature came about in 1865 when a total of 167 Covenanters were incarcerated beneath the castle foundations in atrocious conditions. Today's visitors can see these minute tomb-like cellars where these men and women were locked away to die horrible deaths.

It was after the second Jacobite Uprising of 1745, after Culloden, that a program was started to reinforce and fortify the castle's walls; but this idea soon fell by the wayside and the whole property began to fall into disrepair. However, only as recently as 1925, an enterprising project of renovation was set to motion by the first Viscountess Cowdray. The program of recovery and improvement master minded by the Viscountess herself was more than accountable for the excellent condition of the castle, which we see today. Maintained by funds from the nearby Dutnecht Estates, a vast range of consecutive architectural designs is on show, including the excellent spectacle of the fully refurbished drawing room. Mel Gibson's *MacBeth* was filmed here.

Just south of Dunnottar is Todhead Point and the Todhead Lighthouse. A baby lamb was laying in the grass with a field of pretty yellow shrubs in the background. Next assignment is the Hallgreen Castle at Bervie Bay on the North Sea. Hallgreen's is a much-altered 16th century L-plan tower house of three stories and an attic. It incorporates earlier work from the 14th century and has been extended by a modern mansion. The old part has steep roofs and gables. Hallgreen was a property of the Dunnet family who built the castle about 1376 but it passed to the Raits in the 15th century, one of whom was a captain of the guard to James IV. Although still roofed, the house became empty and derelict but has since been restored and is occupied.

The drive down the coast was nice, overcast skies but dry. We looked for the Montrose Lighthouse and found it after asking a few people. Hope the white lighthouse comes out in the gray skies. There was a bright orange ship docked at the harbor, this should come out. The next stop is the House of Dun, the present House of Dun was built in 1730 by William Adam for the Erskine Lords Dun. The Georgian house overlooks the Montrose Basin.

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Lady Augusta Kennedy-Erskine was the daughter of William IV and Mrs. Jordan and the house contains royal mementos of that period. Fine plasterwork and collection of portraits, furniture and porcelain. Walled garden and handloom weaving workshop are on the grounds.

Next is the village of Brechin. The Brechin Castle incorporates cellars from a 16th century L-plan tower house but is mostly a mansion from the 17th & 18th centuries that has a garden. It was at Brechin and possibly at an earlier castle that John Balliol, Tomoe Tabard, was forced to abdicate as King of Scots by Edward I of England in 1296. Sir Thomas Maude defended the castle for three weeks in 1303 against the English until slain by a missile from a catapult.

The castle was owned by the Maules but passed to the Erskine Earl of Mar until sold to the Maude Earl of Panmure in 1646. They built the existing mansion in 1711. The family was forfeited for their part in the 1715 Rising but the property was bought back by a relation and the title restored. It later passed to the Ramsays of Dalhousie and the house is occupied by the Earl of Dalhousie.

The nearby cathedral is mainly 13th century although the adjoining round tower may date from the 10th century when Culdees occupied the site. King David I appointed Bishop Samson to Brechin about 1150. There was a Christian community living here for at least three hundred years before that. The Round Tower is the major monument to that Celtic Church period. The cathedral was restored in 1900-1902 when the church was returned to roughly its medieval shape. In 1452 at Brechin a royal army under Alexander Seton, 1st Earl of Huntly defeated a force under Alexander Lindsay, 4th Earl of Crawford.

The Brechin Round Tower was originally free standing. It is believed to have been used as a bell tower and as a lookout for the early churches. It was also a place of safety against the Vikings. It is 106 feet tall. The round towers were common in ancient Ireland, but only two remain in mainland Scotland. The two are the Abernethy Round Tower and the Brechin Round Tower. Brechin's tower is the oldest and may have been built by Irish masons in the late 10th or early 11th century. The narrow doorway was set 6' high above the ground and a ladder was needed to reach the entrance. The artwork around the door is ornate, with a crucifixion on the lintel and two figures of Culdee churchmen on either side.

While we were in the neighborhood we'll stop at the Edzell Castle. When we were here several trips ago there was scaffolding on the tower. The restoration work was completed some time ago, it looks nice. The Edzell Castle consists of an early 16th century tower house later enlarged and extended with ranges of buildings around a courtyard. A large pleasance, or garden, was created in 1604 and was surrounded by an ornamental wall. A summerhouse and a bathhouse were later added to the garden. The fine carved decoration of the garden walls is unique. The L-plan tower, at one corner of the main courtyard, replaced an older castle. It rises to four stories and has open rounds at all corners and small projecting half-rounds at the center of each wall.

The entrance, reached through an arched doorway from the courtyard, is in the re-entrant angle. It leads to the vaulted basement, one cellar having a small stair to the hall on the first floor above. The hall has two fireplaces and a wide stair reached the upper floors. An L-shaped gabled range of three stories was added in the late 16th century. This is very ruinous but once contained many comfortable chambers. The pleasance is large and surrounded by a wall. The summerhouse is a rectangular two-story building with its own stair-tower, gunloop and bartizan. The basement is vaulted.

The lands passed by marriage from the Stirlings of Glenesk to the Lindsay Earls of Crawford in 1357. Mary, Queen of Scots, held a Privy Council at Edzell in 1562 and stayed in the castle. Cromwell garrisoned it in 1651. During the Royalist uprising of 1653, John Lindsay was kidnapped from Edzell but Cromwell's forces rescued him. The Lindsays had to sell the property in 1715 because of huge debts and the Maule Earl of Panmure bought it. The Maules were forfeited for their part in the 1745 Jacobite Rising and the castle was garrisoned by Hanoverian troops who did much damage. The Maules recovered Edzell in 1764 but the castle was abandoned soon afterwards.

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We looked for the remains of the Kincardine Castle but couldn't say we saw it. There might have been some remains in the trees beyond the farmhouse. The last castle for the day is the Birse Castle assignment. The Birse Castle is a sizeable L-plan mansion incorporating a simple 16th century tower house, square in plan of three stories. It was the Bishop of Aberdeen's hunting lodge but later passed to the Gordons of Cluny. Abandoned and ruined it was rebuilt and extended in 1930.

To find the Birse Castle we drove through the Birse Forrest, several miles of single-track road. We were about to give it up when we saw a young lady near her car looking at maps. Clyde asked her if we were heading in the correct direction. She found another map in her car and said, yes, you'll be there in five minutes. We continued on the road which at times was just dirt and gravel. Driving into a farm where we thought we saw the castle we encountered a car. Clyde stopped him to ask if we could take photos, he said OK but don't take long. I didn't take long, it was very cold. There is another storm coming tomorrow, at least it is dry now.

Back on the main road, the area started looking familiar. We stayed at a nice B&B here last year. We'll look for it again. We found where Doreen and Bill live and the "Dorena" B&B, MUTCH, Strachan by Banchory, Kincardineshire AB31 6NL, tele 01330 822540. They remembered us and we had a nice visit with them. We realized that we were less than 10 miles from where we stayed last night, oh well!

Wednesday, 12 April

As predicted, it rained through the night and we woke to more rain and gray skies. It will be colder today and some places nearby may get snow. We enjoyed the Scottish breakfasts and the best red raspberry jam that we remembered from our last visit. Bill and Dorene celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary last year, they showed us the family pictures.

On the road by 915 to the Balmoral Castle. The brochures indicated Balmoral will open to the public today. However, when we arrived at the castle the gates were closed and the sign has the opening for 17 April, next trip for Balmoral. We'll take the A93 from Braemar to Perth, the main road south looked fine on the map. We climbed in elevation and the rain turned to slush then to snow. The snow is sticking on the road now, heavy in places. Glad there isn't much traffic, we probably shouldn't be here either! We reached the summit, the ski lifts were closed for the season but there was lots of snow. Clyde is doing a great job driving through these conditions.

The next castle assignment is the Forter Castle on the B951. Forter is located on the Isla River and in the Isla Glen. Now that we are at a lower elevation we're having rain, sleet and snow. It didn't look like there was anyone home at the Forter. I walked around one side to get photos, nearby were farmers working on their equipment. If they can work in the rain looks like I should take photos in the rain. It is very cold now, 1125am.

Next assignment is the Finlarig Castle, we stopped at a Folklore Museum in Killin to ask about the Finlarig. The ladies knew where the castle ruins were, however, they never heard of a Miln of Fillarig. Both ladies have lived here all their lives and didn't know about it. They looked in their reference books and it wasn't there either. We headed back to the village to the Coach House Hotel, right turn on Pier Road and after the cemetery are the ruins of Finlarig and its mausoleum. Two Campbell graves having Celtic crosses on them were on the grounds of the castle, 135pm.

Finlarig Castle Ruins and Milne of Finlargo Church, West End of Loch Tay (Killin), the old church or the site of the Milne of Finlargo (Finlarig) Church. Little remains of the Finlarig Castle, a 17th century Z-plan tower house. Two ruined square towers with shot holes survive and a passage leads past two cellars to the kitchen. The lands were held by the Menzies family but the castle was built in 1621-9 by the Campbell 'Black Duncan of the Cowl' or 'Black Duncan of the Castles'. Parliament was summoned to appear here in 1651 but only three members turned up. Close by is said to be a beheading pit containing a block and a sunken cavity for the head. Noble folk were executed in the pit while the common people were hanged on a nearby oak tree. The pit may in fact be a

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water collection tank but this does not make such a good story. This branch of the family became Earls of Breadalbane.

When we came to Loch Earn, Clyde took a shot of the Edinample Castle across the loch. We were here on the last trip but didn't see the castle from this side. It is quite a distance to the castle, it may be too far away. It is still raining at 245pm, looks like we're in for a wet spell. It really is the first full day of rain we've had on this trip, hope it is the last!

Stopped at Methven to fill the tank, 79.9p/liter, took 37 liters for £29.50 and we drove 319 miles on this tank. On to the Duffs, we arrived to their warm welcome at 345pm, it was good to see them again. They invited us to tea but we said we needed a nap as we drove through 200 miles of snow and all kinds of weather. We asked if they were going to be home tonight and we'll visit then. They will be home and we'll bring our new whisky down at 7pm.

We needed the nap, didn't realize how tired we were. We visited with Stewart and Annabel until 930pm. Stewart liked our new whisky. They will be leaving for Rhodes in three weeks for their holiday. They love Greece and usually take their annual holiday there. We got caught up on their family activities. The Duffs will be grandparents again, their 9th, they have five children. Hillview B&B, 46 Scotland Terrace, Newburgh, Fife, KY14 6AR, tele 01337-840570 , a nice B&B.

Thursday 13 April

After a good night sleep and a great breakfast we were on the road by 930am. Today we'll go to Dundee than back to Perth. The north direction on the Dundee Bridge is the free direction, south bound is 60p. The first shots of the day is the Old Mansion House Hotel at Auchterhouse (or Auchterhouse Castle). It looks like a really nice hotel.

Auchterhouse incorporates part of a 16th century castle which was remodeled in the 17th century, excellent plasterwork survives. Nearby is the basement of the Wallace Tower, a 15th century keep. The lands were held by the Ramsays in the 13th century but the keep was built by the Stewart Earls of Buchan who held the lands from 1497. The property passed to James Stewart, Earl of Moray, then around 1660 to Patrick Maule, Earl of Panmure before passing to the Ogilvie Earl of Airlie. The house is now a hotel. William Wallace is said to have visited the castle.

Next castle stop is the Belmont Castle at Meigle, a large castle mansion that now belongs to the Church of Scotland. It is a Church of Scotland Eventide home. A small herd of Highland Coos are being raised on the property, they looked young. Belmont Castle surrounds a tower house of three stories. A square clock-turret has been added to the tower. The interior has been completely altered. The lands originally belonged to the Bishop of Dunkeld but passed to the family of Nairn of Dunsinane. In the 17th century Belmont was acquired by the advocate Sir George Mackenzie of Rosehaugh who earned the name 'Bluidy Mackenzie' for his ruthless persecution of Covenanters. The property passed by marriage to the Wharncliffe family, then to Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, Prime Minister in 1905 as leader of the Liberal Party. He was the son of a Glasgow draper, who became Lord Provost of Glasgow. He inherited a fortune from an uncle, was MP for Stirling burghs from 1868 and knighted in 1895.

We need to re-shoot the Scone Palace. A lady stopped by our booth a few years ago and said my photos of Scone didn't do it justice! It's overcast today with gray clouds but we had spots of sun, 1210pm. Scone Palace was the crowning place of the Kings of Scotland. The Earl and Countess of Mansfield's home is full of flowers and treasures they've collected over the last 400 years. The Kings of Scotland have been crowned here on the Stone of Scone that was just recently returned to the Edinburgh Castle. A model of the stone is in front of the building where the coronations took place.

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Much of the present Scone Palace, a castellated mansion, dates from 1802. It incorporates the palace built by the Ruthvens in the 1580s; itself probably created out of the Abbot's Lodging. Scone was probably a center of the Picts and in the 6th century a Culdee cell of the early Celtic church was founded here. The Kings of Scotland were inaugurated at the Moot Hill, near the present palace, from the reign of Kenneth MacAlpin. An abbey was founded here in the 12th century and The Stone of Destiny, also called the Stone of Scone, was kept here, until taken to Westminster Abbey by Edward I in 1296, although this was returned to Edinburgh Castle in 1996. The last king to be inaugurated here was Charles I in 1651.

The abbey was sacked by a Reforming mob in 1559 and there are no remains. The property passed to the Ruthvens in 1580. However, after the Gowrie Conspiracy in 1600, when the Ruthven Earl of Gowrie and his brother, the Master of Ruthven, were murdered by James VI and others. Scone passed to the Murrays, as David Murray of Gospertie had been one of those to save the King's life. The family were made Viscounts Stormont in 1602 and Earls of Mansfield in 1776. The old village of Scone was moved in 1804-5 to New Scone, as it was too close to the Palace for the then owners.

The Drummond Castle and Gardens is our next assignment. It has never been open when we've been here. It opens in the afternoons for just a few months in the summer. We'll try to get in there for photos. We went to the castle on the back roads. Clyde parked the car while I walked into the castle. A car was parked there but it didn't look like anyone was there. I walked through the door to the magnificent gardens and found a gardener that said I could take photos. I told him that we've been here the last two years and haven't found it open.

The Drummond Castle is built on a rocky outcrop; it consists of a 15th century keep of five stories and a garret. To this has been added a lower 17th century extension and a late 19th century mansion, which was remodeled from the buildings surrounding the keep. The entrance, at first floor level, is reached from the courtyard by an external stone stair. A lesser hall occupied the first floor and the vaulted basement is reached by a narrow stair in the thickness of the wall. A turnpike stair, in the tower projecting from the keep, leads to the main hall. The upper floors have been remodeled.

The extension comprises a rectangular gatehouse range of three stories, through which a vaulted pend, with massive iron gates, enters the courtyard. Another range of buildings is demolished to its foundations. Sir Malcolm Drummond distinguished himself at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314 and was given the lands here, although the existing castle was not begun until the 15th century. Margaret Drummond, daughter of the builder, was a lover of James IV and they were reputedly married and had a daughter. However, some of the nobles wanted James to marry Margaret Tudor, sister of Henry VIII and form an alliance with England. To this end, and to 'free' James, Margaret, and two of her sisters, were murdered with poisoned sugared fruit and are buried side by side in Dunblane Cathedral.

The Drummonds were made Earls of Perth. Mary, Queen of Scots, visited the castle in 1566-7 with Bothwell. The castle was badly damaged by Cromwell in the 1650s and slighted after having been occupied by Hanoverian troops during the Jacobite Rising of 1715. The 5th Earl had commanded the Jacobite cavalry at the Battle of Sheriffmuir that year and the 6th commanded the left wing of the Jacobite army at the Battle of Culloden in 1746. The family was forfeited as a result, although the Earldom of Perth was recovered by them in 1853, as was Stobhall where they now live. The castle passed to the Willoughbys, then the Earl of Ancaster. It was restored in 1822, when a new mansion was added. The castle and magnificent formal garden were featured in the film version of 'Rob Roy'.

The old Muthill Church and graveyard are close-by. I'll finish the Oly roll here, interesting headstones and a nice view of the countryside. Since we'll be driving by, we'll try to find the Braco Castle. Clyde tried to find someone to ask if we could take photos, he found someone working in the fields. Braco consists of a plain 16th century tower house of four stories to which a projecting tower was added. In the middle of the 17th century the building was extended enclosing the stair-tower and further additions were made in the 18th and 19th centuries. Braco was a property of the Graham Earls of Montrose, one of who was created a baronet of Braco in 1625. In

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1715 Braco was garrisoned by Jacobite forces during the Rising. The last of the Grahams to live here died in 1790 and the property later passed to the Smythes.

On the way home we stopped for photos of the Methven Castle. When we were first here we were told that Methven had been sold and made into luxury apartments. We drove into the grounds and it is now a private castle. I asked a man inside if I could take photos. Methven is a lot bigger than it looks from the road, 325pm.

The Methven Castle is a 17th century tower house, square in plan, of five stories with round towers with ogee roofs at each corner. The windows are large and evenly spaced and there are lower and later extensions. The property originally belonged to the Mowbrays but passed to the Stewart Earls of Atholl, who were forfeited for treason in 1427, the lands being retained by the Crown. The castle was used as a dower house for Margaret Tudor, wife of James IV, who died at the castle in 1540. In 1584 the property was given to Esme Stewart by James VI, then was held by the Dukes of Lennox until sold to the Smythes of Braco in 1664, who held it until 1923 when it was sold again. The castle was restored in the 1950s and 1980s and is still occupied as company offices. Robert the Bruce was defeated at a battle nearby in 1306 by the Earl of Pembroke.

We'll have a light supper tonight outside of Crieff, soup, tea and a sweet, £4.30. Stopped at the Huntingtontower Castle for Clyde to take photos. Early quit tonight, we can tell it is getting toward the end of our journey.

Friday 14 April

We hated to say good-bye to the Duffs. We had another fun evening last night with them, visiting over a wee dram or two of whisky. After finishing Kippers and a Scottish breakfast we're on the road by 915am and I need sunglasses today! It is a beautiful morning, not much breeze and clear skies. Two of Annabel and Stewart's grand children came by this morning before going to school, cute kids.

Filled the tank in Newburgh, petrol is 79.9p/liter, it took 22.2 liters to fill the tank for £17.80, 208 miles on this tank. We'll drive through Falkland to see the palace in the sun. Our first assignment for the day is Burntisland on the coast heading south to Edinburgh. The known history of the town dates back to AD83. A statue dedicated to Alexander III who was killed at this spot overlooks Burntisland. The statue was erected in July 1887 to commemorate his death on 19 March 1286. The Parish Church on East Leven Street was the first Post Reformation Church to be built in Scotland in 1592. Took photos of the shore, parish church, town center and the Rossend Castle on the West End of town. The Burntisland Highland Games; reputed to be the second oldest in the world are held in mid-July.

Standing on a rocky hill above the harbor, Rossend Castle is an altered and extended 16th century tower house, now E-plan, although it may incorporate work from the 13th and 14th centuries. The original tower rose to three stories and is dated 1544. The entrance was in a stair-wing. The main stair climbs to the hall, on the first floor, then to the second floor. A turnpike stair reaches the upper part of the castle.

The lands originally belonged to the Abbey of Dunfermline, who may have had a castle here but passed to the Duries, then the Melvilles of Murdocairnie. Rossend Castle was reported to be the secret hiding place of the relics of Queen Margaret of Scotland. In 1563, while Mary, Queen of Scots, was staying at the castle, the French poet Chatelard secreted himself in the Queen's bedchamber. He had done the same at Holyrood and been pardoned but this second attempt led to his execution by beheading at the Mercat Cross in St. Andrews. The Castle was held against Cromwell but was easily captured by his forces in 1651 and he stayed at the castle. It was later acquired by the Caskie family who was created Lords Burntisland. The Jacobites held it briefly in 1715. It was used as a boarding house until 1952 after which it deteriorated and became roofless. It was saved from demolition in 1971, restored, and is now the office of the architects L.A. Rolland & Hurd Partners.

Continuing on toward Edinburgh, we'll try to find the Culross Palace and Abbey, we looked for these on the last trip but couldn't find them in the fog. Culross Village has cobblestone streets and is maintained as a medieval village. The Palace was built between 1597 and 1611; it doesn't apparently have any fortified features, although

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one range is vaulted. The complex consists of ranges of gabled buildings with decorative paintwork and original interiors. The Palace was built for Sir George Bruce.

On to the Wallace Monument in Stirling. We thought we should do the monument before we get any older, £3.30 each. We walked up the road to the monument, then climbed 246 steps to the top. What a view, there are three levels to stop and rest, the Hall of Honor, Wallace's sword, murals of the areas indicating the sights that can be seen from the north, south, west and east of the monument. We made it! We didn't ask how many steps we had to climb until we got back to the bottom at the gift shop. I didn't want to think about it while we were climbing. It was a magnificent memorial to William Wallace that was dedicated to the Freedom Fighter in the 19th century.

The idea for a monument to one of Scotland's National Heroes began in the 1830s on a worldwide tide of Scottish nationalism. Remember that [Sir Walter Scott](#) was fanning these flames - he had rediscovered the "[Honours of Scotland](#)" (crown, sword and scepter) in [Edinburgh Castle](#) in 1818, 111 years after they had been locked away after the [Union of the Parliaments](#) in 1707. And of course his novels had led to a re-awakening of an interest in Scotland's history.

A group of prominent Scots formed a National Monument Committee in the 1830s. However, in typical committee fashion, it took until the 1850s before serious steps were taken to build a monument. Initially the preferred site was Glasgow Green - Wallace's connection with this site is hard to discern! However, on the instigation of the Rev Dr. Charles Rogers, the chaplain at Stirling Castle, the site at Abbey Craig was selected. Since 1709 the land had been owned by the Patrons of Cowanes Hospital, a charity established in 1637. [Cambuskenneth Abbey](#) (founded around 1147 by [King David I](#)) sits at the foot of Abbey Craig.

A public subscription was launched and a design competition was organized. The winner was an Edinburgh architect, J T Rothead. When the foundation stone was laid in 1863, a crowd of 70,000 was present. But disputes amongst the National Monument Committee members and financial problems resulted in construction not being completed until 1869.

The Wallace Monument is situated on the top of Abbey Craig, overlooking the river Forth and the [Forth Valley](#). Only [Stirling Castle](#), a few miles away across the river Forth, makes a bigger impression on the area. Abbey Craig at one time was the site of a hill fort and in 1297 [William Wallace](#) camped there before defeating the English attempting to cross the Forth at the [Battle of Stirling Bridge](#).

The design of the monument is in the Scottish "Baronial" style and represented a Scottish Medieval tower, rising from a courtyard, with a representation on the top of the Crown Royal of Scotland. The design has been much criticized for its fanciful combination of secular and ecclesiastical elements. The monument is 220 feet high, 54 square feet at its base, with the tower 36 square feet. The walls are 16/18 feet at their thickest, tapering to 5 feet thick at their thinnest. It is estimated that there were in excess of 30,000 tons of stones used in the construction.

The statue of Wallace on the outside of the building is solid bronze and was sculpted by David Watson Stevenson. It is situated approximately 30 feet from the ground, and the statue itself stands around 15 feet tall. Other motifs on the building include the Scottish Thistle, the Wallace coat of arms - surrounded by a knotted rope. The monument was built with a caretaker's house attached. Today, that space is now occupied by a tearoom (which was originally the caretaker's kitchen and parlor).

Internally there are four rooms in the tower of approximately 25 square feet, with vaulted ceilings 20/30 feet high. The tower rooms are connected by a spiral staircase in the northwest corner - and there are 246 steps to the top. The ground floor room contains the inevitable souvenir shop - with a video player and TV screen continuously playing the Mel Gibson "[Braveheart](#)" film. By now the staff there must know the words by heart! The other rooms at each stage on the way up the tower offer a welcome respite to visitors unused to climbing over 200 feet and 246 steps. At the first level is an audiovisual presentation on Wallace and his achievements. But it is the 700 year-old Wallace sword which makes the biggest impression.

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The sword is a traditional two-handed broadsword, 71.5 inches in length. It weighs six pounds. Little is known about the origins of the sword for it carries no maker's mark and is therefore difficult to date. The quality of the metal used for the blade suggests that it may have been forged in Scotland (unlike other swords of the period which were often Flemish or German in origin). We do know, however, that [King James IV](#) ordered the sword to be rehilted in 1505, so that it would be more fitting to Scotland's National Hero. The size of the sword indicates that Sir William Wallace must have been at least six feet six inches tall. The sword was traditionally kept in Dumbarton Castle until 17 November 1888 when it was handed over in Stirling Castle - to Rev Charles Rogers who had started the Wallace Monument project in the first place.

At a higher level up the spiral staircase is the "Hall of Heroes" containing busts of sixteen well known Scots. Since a number of these have been presented by individuals and organizations and reflect 19th and early 20th century views, the entire selection is not perhaps the "top 16" on everyone's list. (The inclusion of Gladstone in this company may seem particularly odd but although he was born in Liverpool, his parents were both Scots and he claimed "there is not a drop of blood in my veins that is not Scottish.") Please note also that the spelling of William Murdock's name is "correct". He changed to that spelling when he moved to England!

The busts are of :

- * [Sir David Brewster](#) (1781 - 1868), scientist and inventor.
- * [Robert the Bruce](#) (1274 - 1329), King of Scotland and national hero.
- * [George Buchanan](#) (1506 - 1582), historian and scholar.
- * [Robert Burns](#) (1759 - 1796), poet.
- * [Thomas Carlyle](#) (1795 - 1881), writer and sage.
- * [Thomas Chalmers](#) (1780 - 1847), preacher and writer.
- * [William Ewart Gladstone](#) (1809 - 1898), politician and UK Prime Minister.
- * [John Knox](#) (1505 - 1572), religious reformer.
- * [David Livingstone](#) (1813 - 1873), missionary and explorer.
- * [Hugh Miller](#) (1802 - 1856), writer and geologist.
- * [William Murdock](#) (1754-1839), pioneer of gas lighting.
- * [Allan Ramsey](#) (1685 - 1758), poet and man of letters.
- * [Sir Walter Scott](#) (1771 - 1832), writer, poet and nationalist.
- * [Adam Smith](#) (1723 - 1790), economist and philosopher.
- * [Robert Tannahill](#) (1774 - 1810), songwriter.
- * [James Watt](#) (1736-1819), inventor and developer of the steam engine.

At the top of the tower there is a parapet from which magnificent views across the Forth valley can be obtained to Stirling and its Castle and, in the other direction, the Ochill Hills.

We drove through Falkirk and looked for the sites having remains of the Antonine Wall at Bonnie Bridge, the best spot is at Rough Castle. Antoninus Pius built the defensive wall in AD139. The Antonine Wall was completed in AD144 and was manned by up to 6,000 soldiers. Many of the forts were abandoned by AD161. The wall ran 37 miles along the Forth-Clyde isthmus. A ditch, 40' wide by 12' deep, protected large stretches. Part of the wall can be seen at Watling Lodge, midway between Falkirk and Rough Castle. Much of the barrier was composed of turf ramparts, ditches and other earthworks. Rough Castle, located near the eastern end of the wall, has some of the best-preserved examples of these fortifications. The hollows in the foreground are defense-pits nicknamed *lilia* (lilies) by the Roman soldiers.

Stopped for a light supper at the Longniddry Inn tonight, tomato soup in the bar. We'll be staying with the Playfairs again, for three nights. The Spinney B&B, on the old School Lane, off Links Road, Longniddry, EH32 0NQ, tele 01875 853325.

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Saturday 15 April

It is a beautiful morning! We had a good visit with the Playfairs. They both are well. On the road today by 9am, bright and early. The first castle stop today is the Dirleton Castle. We've been here before but the sun is nice on the huge castle ruins. Overlooking an important coastal route is the Dirleton Castle. It dates to the 13th century and was built by a prominent Anglo-Norman family.

The Dirleton Castle stands on a rock in a picturesque flower garden. It consists of towers and ranges of buildings around a courtyard, which was once surrounded by a wide ditch. The old part of the castle, dating from the 13th century, is grouped around a small triangular court and consists of a large drum tower, a smaller round tower and a rectangular tower. The chambers in the drum tower are polygonal, one on top of the other. The basement is vaulted like a dome and has a fireplace decorated with dogtooth moldings. The upper chamber would probably have been the lord's room and is a particularly fine apartment.

The entrance to the castle is by a wooden bridge across the wide ditch and is through a gatehouse, formerly with a drawbridge and portcullis. On one side of the castle is a range of buildings with a very thick outer wall. The basement, partly dug out of solid rock, contained the bakery, with ovens and a well and several large cellars. Adjacent to the bakery is the kitchen with two huge fireplaces and a service room leading to the hall. The hall, on the first floor was very large and one end is raised and was probably screened. A stair linked the hall and cellars at one end and at the other a stair led down to the dungeon beneath which is a pit-prison. A wing also ran along the other side of the courtyard.

The castle was built in the 13th century by the De Vaux family. It was captured after a hard siege in 1298 when the English employed large engines, but was retaken by the Scots in 1311 and partly demolished. In the 15th century the castle passed to the Halyburton family, who extended it and in the 16th century to the Ruthvens, who again remodeled much of the castle. After the forfeiture of the Ruthvens in 1600, following the 'Gowrie Conspiracy', the lands were acquired by Thomas Erskine of Gogar. In 1649 several women and men, who had confessed to witchcraft after the witchfinder, John Kincaid, had found 'devil's marks,' on them, were imprisoned in the castle, later to be strangled and burned at the stake.

In 1650 the castle was besieged by General Monck, during Cromwell's invasion of Scotland. A party of musketeers had been attacking Cromwell's lines of communication, with some success, but they were quickly forced to surrender. Three of the leaders were subsequently shot. The castle had been damaged in the attack and was probably slighted. In 1663 the property was bought by Sir John Nisbet, who built the house of Archerfield to replace the castle.

Since we were close, we continued on to the Tantallon Castle, thought we would breeze through the castle to get good shots of the castle and Bass Rock in the sun. The Tantallon Castle is one of the most impressive castles in southern Scotland. Tantallon is a large and once strong 14th century courtyard castle. It consists of a massively thick 50-foot-high curtain wall, blocking off a high promontory, the sea and the height of the cliffs defending the three other sides. In front of the wall is a deep ditch and at each end are ruined towers, one round, one D-shaped. The shell of a massive keep-gatehouse stands at the middle of the wall and rises to six stories. Within the castle walls are the remains of a range of buildings which contained a hall and private chambers. There is also a deep well and the foundations of a sea gate.

Further earthworks form the outer bailey, which has a small stone gatehouse and a 17th century doocot. A ravelin, a triangular artillery earthwork, was constructed beyond the outer bailey. The castle was built by William Douglas, 1st Earl of Douglas, about 1350. William waylaid and slew his godfather, another William Douglas, the infamous 'Knight of Liddesdale' and secured his position as the most powerful lord in the borders. George Douglas, his son, became the 1st Earl of Angus, the First of the 'Red Douglases', and married Mary, second daughter of Robert II. He was captured at the Battle of Homildon Hill in 1402 and died the next year. James, the 3rd Earl used Tantallon to pursue a vendetta against the rival branch of the family the 'Black Douglases'. His

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brother, George, later 4th Earl and James II's army routed Black Douglas forces at Arkinholm and he was rewarded with the lordship of Douglas. He died in 1463.

Archibald, the 5th Earl, better known as 'Bell-the-Cat' hanged James III's favorites, including Cochrane, from the bridge at Lauder. He entered into a treasonable pact with Henry VII of England, which led to James IV besieging Tantallon. In 1513 he died and his two sons were killed at the Battle of Flodden. His grandson, another Archibald, succeeded as the 6th Earl of Angus. In 1514 he married Margaret Tudor, widow of James IV and sister of Henry VIII. In 1528, after many dubious ventures, Archibald had to flee to Tantallon and James V besieged the castle with artillery. After 20 days, the King was forced to abandon the attack. Douglas retired to England and the castle passed into the hands of the King. When James V died in 1542, Angus returned and again took possession of Tantallon. By 1543 England and Scotland were at war and Archibald offered to surrender the Douglas tombs at Melrose Abbey and Archibald changed sides and led the Scots to victory at the Battle of Ancrum Moor in 1545. He also led the Scots, along with the Earl of Hamilton, to defeat at the much more decisive battle of Pinkie in 1547. Cannons at Tantallon took part in a naval battle between an English and French fleet. In 1556 Archibald died at the castle.

Mary, Queen of Scots, visited in 1566. Archibald, the 8th Earl, entered into more treasonable negotiations with the English and had to go into exile in 1581. He died in England in 1588, as a result, it was said, of a spell cast by Agnes Simpson, who was later condemned as a witch and burnt. The 9th Earl died in 1591 and the 10th Earl, William, was a staunch Catholic, who was also forced into exile to die in France in 1611. His son, William, the 11th Earl also became Marquis of Douglas. Tantallon was seized by the Covenanters in 1639. In 1650 moss-troopers, based at the castle, did so much damage to Cromwell's lines of communications that in 1651 he sent an army to attack the castle. The bombardment lasted 12 days and destroyed so much of the castle that the garrison surrendered. The castle was then abandoned as a fortress and residence and in 1699 the property was sold to the Dalrymples.

Stopped at the Preston Mill and the Preston Mill Cottage in Preston, both were closed but we could walk around the property. Since the 16th century there has been a mill on this site and the present stone buildings date from the 18th century. The conical roofed kiln and attractive red pantiled buildings and the nearby millpond with resident ducks make this an attractive spot. The water-wheel and the grain milling machinery it powers are relatively modern and the mill was still used commercially until 1959.

Next stop is the Barnes Castle, this castle was never finished! Barnes was planned as a strong castle with six square towers around a courtyard which enclosed ranges of buildings. It was never occupied and not built above the vaults. The entrance, in the middle of one wall, was flanked by square towers. Sir John Seton of Barnes built the castle but died before it was finished. He spent much of his life as a diplomat at the court of Philip II of Spain. James VI recalled him and made him Treasurer of the Household.

Since it was a beautiful day we decided to try and find the Yester Castle. The picture in the castle book looked interesting and it shouldn't be far away. Sure enough we came to the place where we walked out to the castle. The neighbor working in his garden confirmed the Yester Castle was a short but tricky walk into the hills. He said to follow the path, turn at the old bridge, find another old overgrown bridge and you'll see the ruins. Off I went; Clyde passed on this hike. I found the first bridge after only one wrong turn. Crossed it and continued hiking, then I saw the ruins on the hill. I couldn't see the second bridge and decided to walk to the rivers below the ruins. I found a few logs that were across the water, surely this wasn't the bridge. I walked a few steps on the logs but decided it wasn't wise for me to do that. I turned around and walked further down the path and then I saw the overgrown bridge. This must be the original bridge going to the castle!

The Yester Castle stands on a promontory at the meeting place of two rivers. Yester is a ruined 13th century castle and keep. The original castle was triangular in plan and defended by a ditch on the 'landward' side. A ruined gatehouse survives as well as parts of the curtain wall. A fine underground chamber, known as the 'Goblin Hall', is reached by a flight of steps.

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The lands were a property of the Giffords in the 12th century. Sir Hugo Gifford, who was reputedly a wizard, built the Goblin Hall, according to one story with the help of spirits. The castle was occupied by the English during the Wars of Independence, until recaptured by the Scots in 1311. It changed hands between the Scots and English in the late 1540s. The castle passed by marriage to the Hays early in the 15th century and was probably abandoned in the 16th century. Nearby is the collegiate church, founded by William Hay in 1421, although access is difficult. Yester House dates from the 18th century and was remodeled by William and Robert Adam.

Back to the car by 1230pm, that was a hike but was worth the work. We'll drive to the Crichton Castle, we were there before but didn't walk all the way out to the castle. The first time we saw the Crichton it was snowed in and couldn't get out to the castle. The second time we were just too tired to walk out to the castle. Third time is the charm! Earlier today we were informed that all Historic Scotland properties are free this weekend! The castle had a beautiful and very different interior. The church remains are behind the castle ruins. The man from Historic Scotland told me that the Crichton Castle has been used in many movies due to the completeness of the ruins and the interior.

Crichton is a large and sophisticated castle that was first built about 1370. The most spectacular part is the range erected by the Earl of Bothwell between 1581 and 1591. The castle has a facade of faceted stonework in an Italian style. A track from Crichton Church leads south to Crichton Castle, they stand above the Tyne. The oldest part was a three-story tower on the east front erected by John Crichton in 1400. A prison was located on the lower floor (basement). His son, Chancellor Crichton, added a range to the south and created a new entrance, vaulted stores and a new hall above. He also added a new block to the north and west, creating a great courtyard castle. In 1440, Sir William Crichton, Chancellor of Scotland, entertained the young Earl of Douglas and his brother here before having them murdered at the 'Black Dinner' in Edinburgh Castle. John Forrester slighted the castle in retaliation. Crichton founded the nearby Collegiate church so the priests could pray for his salvation, he needed all the help he could get!

The Crichtons were forfeited for treason in 1488 and the property later passed to Patrick Hepburn, Lord Hailes, who was made Earl of Bothwell. One of the family was another Patrick Hepburn, 4th Earl, was the third husband of Mary, Queen of Scots. In 1559 the castle was besieged and captured by the Earl of Arran and after the Earl of Bothwell was forfeited, Crichton was given to Francis Stewart. In about 1580 Francis Stewart, 5th Earl of Bothwell, extended the castle and added the grand arcade and diamond faceted wall to the courtyard. He added a stairway within this to make it the first straight stair in Scotland. He decorated it with carved pillars and ceiling slabs. The kitchen in the west range has a huge double fireplace.

The present entrance was created in 1585 and the original was blocked off and converted to a cellar. South of the castle is the old stable block with its horse shoe window. The buttresses are additions making it look like a chapel for which it has been mistaken. Francis Stewart was such a wild and unruly fellow, he too was forfeited in 1593. Crichton became a romantic ruin and in 1926 the castle was placed into care by Henry Burn Callender.

Thought we would go by the Dalhousie Castle/Hotel to see how many cars were parked by the castle. As usual, there were too many cars. We followed signs to the Dalhouse Courte Hotel. At one time the Dalhouse Courte Hotel was associated with the Dalhousie Castle/Hotel but has been separate for many years. The Courte Hotel had been an old house made into a hotel. I took two shots of the old house, interesting.

We'll try to find the Brunstane Castle (tower); it is getting cold now. A short time later there were a few snowflakes on the window, 245pm. Brunstane is a ruined 16th century L-plan tower house of three stories with a square stair-tower. There are gunloops under the windows. Part of the courtyard survives with a square tower dated 1568. The basement contained the kitchen with a large fireplace. The hall was on the first floor. The property belonged to the Crichtons. In 1546 George Wishart, the protestant martyr, who had been sheltering in the tower, was seized and taken to St. Andrews (via Elphinstone Tower and Ormiston) to be burnt as a heretic.

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The laird of Brunstane was subsequently found guilty of plotting with the English and the castle was torched in 1547. John, Lord Maitland, acquired the property in 1632 and extended the castle.

We found ourselves on the high road to Edinburgh; it was really cold now. On the high road would be a good place for an observatory and sure enough we came upon the Royal Observatory with nice views of Edinburgh and the castle in the distance. Filled the tank, we went 253 miles on this tank since the fill up in Newburgh, petrol is 78.5p/liter, took 26.7 liters for £21.01.

Time for dinner, we both were hungry. We found a café in Musselburgh, chicken curry and a tuna baguette sandwich, Guinness and lemonade for £12.45. It was a nice place and they served good food. We arrived home at 5pm; the walk up the Wallace Monument on Friday and today's hike to the Yester Castle were too much for the OLE girl!

Sunday 16 April

We were on the road by 9am after a great breakfast of Kippers and Scottish breakfast. Gray skies today but so far it is dry. We're off to Edinburgh, early, before too many people are there. First stop is the Calton Hill for the great view overlooking the city and the Edinburgh Castle. The Edinburgh Castle or Castle Rock has been occupied since the Bronze age. The city's ancient name meant 'the fortress on the slope'.

Next stop is the Holyrood Palace and Abbey. Holyrood derives its name from a relic of the True Cross, owned by Queen Margaret (c. 1046-93). Her son, David I founded Holyrood Abbey in 1128 and its guesthouse formed the nucleus of the palace. The English sacked Holyroodhouse in 1322 and 1385. James III found the guest range of the abbey a comfortable alternative to Edinburgh castle and James IV and James V extended the house. The English burnt the abbey in 1544 and 1547, all that survived was a block with round corner turrets, built in 1529 to contain private chambers for James V.

Holyroodhouse is most closely associated with Mary Queen of Scots (1542 – 87), who lived here for six years. She married Lord Darnley and the Earl of Bothwell here and witnessed the murder of her private secretary, David Rizzio, at Holyroodhouse. The palace was rebuilt in the late 17th century, a new block being built to balance the original tower with a connecting wall. The original 16th century interiors survive in the old block and the ruins of the abbey church adjoin. The palace is the official residence of the monarch in Scotland.

We shopped at a few stores then had lunch, something hot sure sounded good. We had soup and a roll at a pub on the Royal Mile, £4.50. It was time to leave the city, it was really raining now. We drove by the Linlithgow Palace, two shots across the loch. We'll now head south then west to try to find the Dalzell House assignment as the skies looked like they were clearing in the west.

We found the Dalzell House, but this one was really tough to find. We made several circles using the directions in the castle book and couldn't find it. Clyde drove down a residential street and asked a man who was on his walk. He knew where it was, he had even been there but he explained it is difficult to give directions. We talked with him for five minutes or more going through the many roundabouts that will get us there. Off we went and we found it! The Dalzell House is now exclusive apartments! It was huge. A man walking his dog in front of the castle said it would be OK to take photos, he suggested going to the garden for good shots.

Dalzell stands on the edge of a rocky ravine incorporates a 15th century keep of three stories. A new wing was added in the 17th century with a round tower and a square tower. A strong wall was then built to enclose the courtyard. More ranges of buildings were added in the 17th and 18th centuries. The chain grooves of the original entrance remain but the present doorway leads to a large entrance hall occupying the whole of the ground floor. A straight mural stair climbs to the first floor, the upper floors being reached by a turnpike stair. The original main entrance was reached by an external stair.

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The 17th century extension contains a kitchen on the ground floor with cellars beneath it. The walls are pierced by shot holes. The property belonged to the Dalziel Earls of Carnforth from the 13th century, who built the castle. It was sold to the Hamiltons of Boggs in 1649. The house was remodeled in the 1850s. After a period of decay, it was repaired in the 1970s and is being restored again.

That's all for today, we're tired and it is now very cold.

Monday 17 April

Another nice stay with George and Ailene Playfair. Ailene fixed a treat for me this morning. A smoked Haddock and egg dish called Kedgerree, a breakfast dish that originated in Turkey. On special occasions after partying, Kedgerree would be served to guests about 3am (Recipe in Clare MacDonald CookBook). It was really good! Three nights at the Playfair's B&B was £18ppn or £108 for the stay.

It is raining and we're heading south for the borders assignments, 9am. Filled the tank in Musselburgh, petrol was 78.5p/liter, drove 172 miles since Friday's fill up, took 16 liters for £12.60. While heading south we ran into snow about 945am and there were 4 to 5 people riding their bicycles in this cold weather. Since we were in the neighborhood, we stopped at the Traquair House, since the daffies weren't in color when we were here last year. Some of the daffies were blooming but not all of them. It amazes me how the daffies can be in full bloom in the far north and here in the south of Scotland they are just starting. The famous Bear Gates of the Traquair House were open! It is said that after Prince Charlie last rode through the gates they were to be closed and never to be opened again.

The Traquair House is reputedly one of the oldest continuously inhabited houses in Scotland. Traquair House is an altered and extended tower house, which may incorporate work from as early as the 12th century. The oldest identifiable part, dating from 1492, is incorporated at the end of the main block. About the middle of the 16th century a new wing was added with a projecting rectangular stair tower. Lower late 17th century wings were also added to the main house. The main part of the house rises to four stories. A round stair tower at one corner reached the later extensions. There is a priest's cell, on the top floor, complete with secret stair.

Alexander I had a hunting lodge here but the lands had passed to the Douglasses by the 13th century, then the Murrays, the Douglasses of Cluny, then the Boyds. Dr. William Rogers, a favorite of James III held the property, until sold to the Stewart Earls of Buchan in 1478. Mary, Queen of Scots, visited with Lord Darnley in 1566. She left behind a quilt, possibly embroidered by herself and her four Mary's. The 1st Earl's adherence to the Catholic faith and Stewart cause resulted in his dying poverty stricken in Edinburgh. Bonnie Prince Charlie stayed in the house in 1745, entering through the now famous Bear Gates. One story is that the 5th Earl closed and locked them after Charlie's departure, swearing they would not be unlocked until a Stewart once more sat on the throne of the country. They are still locked. The house has a collection of Stewart mementos.

Heading south we came upon the Newark Castle (Tower), since we were passing by we stopped for photos. The Newark Castle stands in the grounds of the mansion of Bowhill. Newark Castle is a ruined 15th century keep of five stories, rectangular in plan. Two-story 16th century caphouse crown two corners of the keep. The entrance, now at ground level, leads to a vaulted basement. A straight stair, in one corner, which becomes a turnpike above first floor level, climbs to all floors. The hall, on the first floor, has an area screened off to provide a kitchen. The main entrance was at first-floor level and was reached by an external stair. The castle had a courtyard with a gatehouse and wall sections of which survive.

The castle replaced an 'auld wark', east of the present castle and nothing of which remains and was acquired by Archibald, Earl of Douglas, around 1423. It was kept by the Crown after the downfall of the Black Douglasses and given to Margaret of Denmark, wife of James III, in 1473. The castle was besieged by the English in 1547 and burnt in 1548. In 1645 one hundred followers of the Marquis of Montrose, captured after the Battle of Philiphaugh, were shot in the barmkin of Newark. Other prisoners, mostly women and children, were taken to the

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market place in Selkirk and there later also shot. The castle was altered for Anna, Duchess of Monmouth and Buccleuch, about 1690-1700. Her husband, James, Duke of Monmouth, was executed in 1685 for rebelling against James II & VII. Wordsworth visited the castle in 1831 with Sir Walter Scott. The ruin has been consolidated. Bowhill, dating mainly from 1812 and the home of the Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch, houses many work of art and historical mementos.

Next stop is Selkirk, on assignment to find out that Alexander Selkirk wasn't born here but was born in 1676 in the Seatoun of Lower Largo on the coast of the North Sea near St. Andrews. Like most of the other young men of the village, Selkirk went to sea, not as a fisherman but to join a privateering expedition against the French and Spanish colonies. Soon his experience at sea and a definite flair for navigation advanced him in rank from common seaman to respected navigator. Selkirk joined an expedition in 1704 and was appointed sailing master of the "Cinque Ports" under Captain Pickering. Selkirk soon developed a lack of confidence in the captain and left the vessel on the first opportunity. When the ship finally reached the uninhabited island of Juan Fernandez 400 miles off Chile's central coast, he left the ship. All he had was his sea chest containing his clothes and bedding, his mathematical instruments and navigation books, his Bible, a kettle, hatchet and his gun.

Selkirk was on the island for four years and four months until he was rescued. He was then given the command of the "Increase", one of the small prizes taken in the South Seas from the Spaniards. On 3rd December 1721 Alexander Selkirk died (probably of yellow fever) and was buried at sea at Cape Coast Castle (West Africa).

Second part of this assignment is the Casting of the Colors which is part of the annual Selkirk festival. It is held on the 2nd Friday after the first Friday in June, this year on 6/16/00. The Casting of the Colors is the tradition held to support the one man from Selkirk who returned from the Battle of Flodden. All the other Selkirk men were killed. He carried a torn piece of a flag. This is where the tradition started.

Although Selkirk's oldest existing Royal Charter was granted in 1535, it is known that the town had charters and lands before that date and it is possible that Marches were ridden early in the middle ages when King David held Parliament in Selkirk's Castle. In those days lands were often in dispute, boundaries being marked only by the cutting of turf or the erection of cairns and it was an essential part of ownership to maintain all these demarcations. This duty was assigned to a number of Burgesses (townsmen) who were charged to carry out the Burgh Law, as "Burleymen", i.e., Burgh Law Men. The Burleymen took with them youths as attendants to perform the menial tasks and thus the knowledge of the Marches was handed down from one generation to another.

As in all Royal Burghs, the burgesses in return for tenure of lands owned unquestioned armed service to the Crown and in 1513 in honor of this service some 80 men mustered to the King's Colours and marched to Flodden Field. The great battle that took place had more impact on Selkirk than any other event in history. Legend has it that only one man returned carrying an English flag, bringing the tragic story that all the others were slain. He is said to have swung the flag round his head and thrown it to the ground. The legend of Flodden came to be associated with the Common Riding and the Flodden flag is reputed to have been carried round the Marches for approaching 200 years.

On Common Riding day the riders were escorted on the first part of the route as far as the riverside by a foot procession consisting of the Trades' Incorporations and Merchant Company each of which displayed its own banner. It was they; too, who on the return of the riders to the Mercat Cross commemorated the return from Flodden by "Casting the Colours". The Flodden flag has by this time worn out and was replaced by a Saltire with the Town's seal depicted in the center. It was carried in the procession by one of the riders, probably the most junior of the Burleymen. This duty became known as a great honor; thus did the "Standard-Bearer" emerge as the central figure of the Common Riding. The Common Riding Songs were established in the 20th century.

The next assignment is in Minto, the Fatlips Castle assignment. Clyde stopped at the Minto Golf Club to ask where the castle is. Men were in the clubhouse staying dry; they said there are a lot better things to do on a day

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like today. They recommended coming another time when it's dry. There is a car park in front of a cottage 50 yards down the road. Then it is about a half-mile walk through the woods. It would be miserable today, lots of mud to walk through. We agreed to give this one up, will try on the next trip, 1240pm.

Fatlips is a rectangular 16th century tower house of three stories. The entrance leads to the basement and to a stair in one corner. Fatlips was a property of the Turnbulls who according to tradition had very full lips, hence the name. The family is said to have been so unruly that James IV forced 200 of them to come before him with halters around their necks, then he hanged several of them for good measure. Fatlips passed to the Stewarts, who in 1705 sold it to Sir Gilbert Elliot of Minto. The tower was restored in 1897 but although still roofed is becoming derelict.

We stopped for lunch on the outskirts of Langholm at a roadside café. They served nice and hot Lentil soup, tuna toastie, £3.50, 130pm. We're now having both rain and snow showers, oh joy! We continued heading south until it was time for a potty break and we found the Comlongon Castle/Hotel in Clarencefield. What a neat hotel, castle, gardens and they have Highland Coos! Clyde got a brochure on the history of the castle and the three star hotel, 310pm.

The Comlongon Castle is a massive 15th century tower of five stories. Parts of the parapet are roofed in to form small gabled chambers and there is a caphouse crowning the main stair. A large 19th century mansion stands nearby. An external stair reaches the entrance, still with its iron yett. It leads to the vaulted basement and to the turnpike stair, which climbs to the first floor hall. The hall has a stone-flagged floor and two fireplaces. One fireplace is in a deep arched recess and two mural chambers, one reached by a stair in the thickness of the wall, which leads to a guardroom and dark prison. There were private chambers above, each having its own fireplace. The castle was built by the Murrays of Cockpool, who became Earls of Annandale and later Earls of Mansfield. It was sold in 1984 and restored. It is now a hotel.

Down a series of winding steps is the guard room, pledge chamber and pit, all contained within 13 feet thick walls. Set in the guard room is a small hatch measuring 2 feet by 2 feet allowing access to the dismal pit, 18 feet by 5 feet and 11 feet deep. This hatch was covered by a series of wooden doors, packed with wood or leather, so designed as to make the only entrance soundproof and virtually airtight. This pit was used for the intimidation of prisoners awaiting the eventual payment of ransom. The practice of kidnapping individuals and demanding ransom, the black meal' (blackmail) was a widespread activity in the border region. It generated vast amounts of wealth for the families individually engaged in such activity.

Most strongholds in the region employed groups of mercenaries known as reivers (or Raiders). These highly motivated soldiers would organize bloody border raids to loot and kidnap. To be visited by such a raiding party coined the phrase, 'to be bereaved'. Once an individual was taken, he was dragged back to the castle, shackled and lowered through the hatch to the pit below and sealed (the shackles can still be seen on the wall of the guard room of Comlongon). This left the unfortunate soul trapped in a foul smelling, soundproof, pitch black dungeon, confined until a ransom was agreed to be paid. Starved if necessary, the prisoner was eventually dragged from the pit and placed in the next room, the pledge chamber. The exact terms of the pledge, or ransom, was carefully negotiated and written in the form of a contract, witnessed and signed. From then on the treatment greatly improved, achieving the status of an honored guest under arrest, evidenced by the en-suite facilities provided (the Garderobe).

Ransoms at this time were usually paid in the form of sheep or cattle, resulting in certain families amassing fortunes and creating some of the most powerful and influential families in the borders. Once the ransom arrived at the castle, the prisoner was released to return home to his family.

Looking at the map I realized we were close to Ruthwell and the Ruthwell Church having the ancient Ruthwell Cross. We stopped at the Kirkyett House in Ruthwell for the key to the church. The lady living there said the Ruthwell Cross was started in 680!, 330pm. The Ruthwell Cross dates from the early 8th century, it is one of the

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chief masterpieces of Anglian sculpture. It features a number of Biblical scenes, among them a portrayal of Mary Magdalene washing Christ's feet. Framing these images are extracts from a famous poem, *The Dream of the Road*, inscribed in runic characters.

One more castle, the Hills Tower, home of the MacCullochs and we found it in the rain! I knocked on the door of the house attached to the old tower. The lady of the house was home and confirmed it still belongs to the MacCullochs of Ardwell. She said she would let me inside but the castle has been determined to be unsafe. Nice lady, 420pm. Time to look for a B&B for the night.

Hills Tower consists of a 15th century rectangular keep of four stories and a garret. To this has been added a two-story house in the 18th century within an adjoining courtyard. The courtyard has a small gatehouse, which still has an iron yett. The gatehouse was converted into a doocot. The stair of the keep is crowned by a caphouse with a conical roof. The entrance to the keep, from the courtyard, leads to a vaulted basement and to the foot of a turnpike stair. The hall, on the first floor, has a fireplace flanked by aumbries.

Hill was a property of the Maxwells, the family eventually succeeding to the Earldom of Nithsdale. William Maxwell, the 5th Earl, a Jacobite, made a famous escape from the Tower of London on the eve of his execution after being captured at Preston in 1715. His wife was allowed to visit him, before his execution and he changed clothes with her and managed to escape. She eventually joined him in Rome. Hills passed by marriage to the MacCullochs of Ardwell. The 17th century extension is still occupied.

We tried to find the nice farmhouse B&B that we stayed at in Castle Douglas. This could have been on the '94 or '96 trip but we couldn't find it. We stopped at a B&B on the road back to town, they didn't have ensuite rooms but he called B&B friends and found one for us. Tonight's B&B is on Queen Street, just a few blocks away, we're set!

The Roellyan House, R.J. Harper, 75 Queen St., Castle Douglas, DG7 1EG, tele 01556 502505, £20ppn. We started packing a few of the small bags so we don't have so much to do when we get to Jim & Viv's tomorrow night. It wasn't long and the lights were out early, we're tired.

Tuesday 18 April

We had a nice stay here and a good breakfast. We had a huge bathroom that was three steps down from our twin bed room. It had a nice and hot shower, it might have been the largest size shower we've had in Scotland. Talked with another guest at breakfast, she was from Dublin on Easter Holiday to visit friends and family.

On the road at 915am, we stopped in town to shop at one store then decided we would visit the Threave Gardens. The National Trust manages the gardens. The Threave House is part of the gardens; however, it isn't open to the public. Beautiful gardens!

Time to fill the tank while we're in town, 80.9p/liter, we drove 204 miles yesterday, it took 21.8 liters of petrol for £17.60. The sun is trying to come through the clouds; at least it is dry. We went by the Cardoness Castle, first time we have seen it with the daffies in bloom. The Cardoness Castle stands on a rocky mound. It is a late 15th century rectangular keep of four stories. Remains of outbuildings survive in the ruined courtyard. The entrance leads through a mural lobby to a guardroom and to a turnpike stair. The basement consists of two rooms and there is a pit-prison. The hall, on the first floor, has a wide molded fireplace. A straight stair, from the turnpike stair, leads to the second floor, which has two rooms, also with fine fireplaces.

Cardoness came to the MacCullochs by marriage around 1450. They were an unruly lot, the 2nd MacCulloch laird being outlawed in 1471 and again in 1480. His successor, Ninian, robbed the widow of the 2nd laird of all her goods. Thomas MacCulloch, his son, besieged the Adairs of Dunskey in 1489 and soon after plundered the castle of his kinsman, MacCulloch of Adair. Thomas died at the Battle of Flodden in 1513. The line ended with Sir

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Gordon MacCulloch, who shot Gordon of Buck o'Biell in 1690, fled abroad, returned and was spotted in a church in Edinburgh. He was beheaded by the Maiden, an early Scottish guillotine preserved in the Museum of Antiquities in Edinburgh. Cardoness later passed to the Gordons, then to the Maxwells.

The next stop is the Barholm Castle, we couldn't find the road so I hiked 15 minutes on a trail and took a photo or two across the field. Barholm is a fine 16th century L-plan tower house of three stories. It consists of a main block and a small but higher wing. It was a property of the MacCullochs. John Knox used Barholm as a place of refuge before fleeing to the continent. In 1579 John Brown of Carsluith was called to account for the murder of MacCulloch of Barholm. The MacCullochs were ardent Covenanters. Major John MacCulloch of Barholm was executed for his part in the Pentland Rising and subsequent Battle of Ruillion Green in 1666.

On to the Carsluith Castle on the seaside of the A75. There is construction work being done in front of the ruins. The men said to come back on your next trip, we'll have shops and a tearoom. The Carsluith Castle is now a Historic Scotland property. Carsluith Castle consists of a rectangular 15th century keep of three stories to which was added a taller stair-wing in the 16th century, making the castle an L-plan. The walls are pierced by gunloops and shot holes. The tower is dated 1586 and had a courtyard. A turnpike stair leads to the fine hall, on the first floor, which has a molded fireplace. Private chambers occupied the floors above.

Carsluith was a Cairns property, but in 1460 passed to James Lindsay, Chamberlain of Galloway, who probably built the keep. His son was killed at the Battle of Flodden in 1513 and the property passed by marriage to Richard Brown, who built the 1568 addition. Gilbert Brown of Carsluith was the last abbot of Sweetheart Abbey and a noted supporter of the Catholic side in the Reformation. In 1596 the Privy Council complained to James VI that he was sheltering 'Jesuits and excommunicated papists', and in 1605 he was arrested and imprisoned in Blackness Castle. He was eventually allowed to retire to France where he died in 1612. Richard's son, John Brown was heavily fined for failing to answer the charge of murdering MacCulloch of Barholm. The Brown family immigrated to India in 1748 and abandoned the castle.

On to the Castle Stewart in Galloway, among the farm buildings off the A714. It looks like they're restoring the ruins as scaffolding is on the inside of the building. Parts of the outside of the castle is overgrown with greenery, it looks nice, 1215pm. Castle Stewart consists of a 16th century tower house of four stories. It has been much altered with the insertion of new windows. A courtyard contained a kitchen and other outbuildings, but these were replaced by a modern house. The castle is named after Colonel William Stewart, who made his fortune fighting for Gustave Adolphus of Sweden in the 30 Years War during the 17th century.

The next stop is the Glenluce Abbey and it is in the sun! Earlier this morning when it was gray and drizzling I decided to use 400 ASA film in my camera as it makes better use of available light than slower speed film. That did it, the sun came out shortly thereafter and it has been bright all day. We were the only ones at the abbey.

Roland, Lord of Galloway founded the Glenluce Abbey, about 1192. The Cistercian monks who settled in the secluded valley of the Water of Luce probably came from the Dundrennan Abbey, near Kirkcudbright. Hints of the former grandeur of Glenluce Abbey may be seen in the south transept of the church and in the chapter house. The monastic life lasted for 400 years; however, the history of the house is almost unknown. In the 16th century a long-running dispute over rights to the abbey's lands led to the monks taking up temporary exile in Maybole, in Ayrshire in 1560. The Reformation of the Scottish Church occurred about the same time, effectively ending Glenluce's days as a monastery. The 15 monks in residence at this watershed in Scottish history embraced the reformed religion in return for being allowed to live out the remainder of their days in their crumbling cloister. By 1602 the last monk had passed away and the abbey became a temporal lordship. In 1619, the Diocese of Galloway, centered on Whithorn Cathedral, annexed the estate and 20 years later the old abbey re-emerged as a manse and glebe. In 1933 the abbey ruins were entrusted into State care, bringing an end to the almost 750 years of religious activity.

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In 1136, David I introduced the Cistercian order to Scotland at Melrose. Dundrennan followed in 1142 and Glenluce in 1192. Roland's granddaughter, Dervorgilla, established the last Cistercian house on Scottish soil at Sweetheart, in the village of New Abbey, near Dumfries, in 1273. Robert the Bruce confirmed the abbey lands as a free barony in 1323 and a century later, Margaret, Countess of Galloway, raised it to a Burgh of Regality.

The lands above the abbey were originally a property of Glenluce Abbey but passed to the Hays. The tall stark tower house, which stands sentinel over the entrance to the valley of the Luce Water, was built by Thomas Hay, son of the last Abbot of Glenluce, in 1590. The estate had been acquired by his father from the Earl of Cassillis. The castle is now privately managed but can be viewed from the outside. The L-plan tower house has four stories and a garret. Above the doorway is a dated inscription to Thomas Hay and his wife, Jonet Macdowell. On the ground floor is a roomy kitchen, reached from along a passage off which are two other cellars, one of them a wine cellar with a back-stair leading to the hall on the floor above. The main access to the hall and to the upper floors is up a sweeping stair in the projecting wing of the tower house.

The hall occupied most of the first floor. It was the family's principal living room and served also as the dining rooms; the fireplace has a simple grandeur. The hall would originally have been screened off at the entrance end by a timber partition. At the opposite end there was a small private chamber and an additional stair giving private access to the upper floors, which provided private rooms for the lord and his family. Around the castle were gardens and parkland. The house remained in the ownership of the Hay family until the 1830s when 'everything portable was removed to Dungrait', or Dunragit, another of their residences. The property was acquired by the Cunninghams in 1830, then was used to house farm laborers after the Cunninghams abandoned it. Since then it has been nicely restored.

We stopped at the Cairryran Port as a big P & O (Irish ship) was docked there and a Stenna ferry was heading out. We drove a short way and stopped again for photos of the new Stenna Hydrofoil Ship, it has a sleek design and is very fast. It caused waves to break on shore and seems like you could water ski in the wake behind the ship. We found out later that this new ship can only operate in certain waters due to the waves it creates. What a beautiful day it turned out to be, warm and sunny, 145pm.

The next stop is the Ardstinchar Castle, the castle we first thought was the Knockdolian Caste on our 1999 trip. Little survives of the Ardstinchar Castle, except one side of a 15th century keep and foundations of a hall and other ranges. They stood within a courtyard, which had square corner towers. It was built by the Kennedys about 1450. Mary, Queen of Scots, visited here in 1563. In 1601 Gilbert Kennedy, 16th baron of Bargany and Ardstinchar, was slain by his kinsman the Kennedy Earl of Cassillis over a claim to the lands of Crossraguel Abbey.

The Knockdolian is located 3 miles NE of Ballantrae, east of the B7044 and at the junction of A765, just west of the River Stinchar. Knockdolian is a well preserved 16th century tower house that had four stories. The walls were pierced by small windows, gunloops and shot holes. There had been an adjoining courtyard. The entrance leads into the vaulted basement that contained two cellars and the turnpike stair that climbs to all the floors. The hall, on the first floor, has a large fireplace. It was a property of the Graham family, then passed to the MacCubbins, who made extensive repairs to the castle in the mid 17th century. Nearby is the Knockdolian House, a large mansion built about 1842 for the MacConnells.

While I was taking photos of the Knockdolian Castle a man approached Clyde and asked him what we were doing as this was a private castle. After Clyde talked with him for awhile, he told us we could take our photos. The owner of the Castle and the Knockdolian House is the Duchess of Wellington who lives in Oxfordshire. The Duchess breeds race horses and rarely gets to this area. Clyde found out the man was the gardener of the estate, it did have beautiful gardens.

I noticed on the map another castle was close by, the Craigneil Castle near Colmonell. Standing on a rocky hill, Craigneil Castle is a ruined rectangular keep of four stories. One corner fell into the adjacent quarry in 1886. It

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may date from as early as the 13th century, although it appears to be substantially 15th century. The hall, on the second floor, is vaulted. A turnpike stair rose in one corner. Robert Bruce is said to have sheltered here during the Wars of Independence. The castle is said to have then been used as a prison and a place of execution. It looks like the ruins could topple to the ground at any moment.

We'll stop at the Pinwherry Castle in Pinwherry. We must have drove by it two or three times before asking where it was. It is overgrown with greenery and we didn't know it was a castle. Pinwherry stands on high ground, a ruined and overgrown 16th century L-plan tower house. The castle has had a courtyard. The entrance is at the foot of the wing. The Kennedys held it until 1644 when it was sold to the Pollocks. It was abandoned before the end of the 18th century, 305pm.

Once again we're at the Turnberry Lighthouse. It was so pretty shining in the sun. We couldn't resist going out for more shots of the lighthouse and the piece of castle wall that remains of the Turnberry Castle, where Robert the Bruce was born around 1274. Bruce later landed here in 1307 to begin his campaign for independence. The remains of a 13th century castle of the Earls of Carrick stand on a promontory on the shore of the Firth of Clyde. Marjorie Bruce (Robert the Bruce's mother), widowed Countess of Carrick, kidnapped Robert Bruce of Annandale and forced him to marry her in 1271. Bruce was crowned in 1306. Turnberry was dismantled on his orders in 1310 and probably was never rebuilt.

Turnberry is the location of the Turnberry Golf Course where many international tournaments are held. We hated to quit on such a beautiful day but we came to the Troon Marina and decided to have an early light supper. They had the best tomato soup and sandwich, Guinness and lemonade for £12.30. We were happy we stopped there, the yachts were magnificent in the harbor. We arrived home to Jim & Viv's about 6pm. We visited with them awhile and went to our room to do a little packing as we go home on the 20th!

Wednesday, 19 April

We awoke to clear blue skies! The weather report indicated today will be the best weather of the week. Usually, the nicest day is the day we go to the airport to fly home. But this time, we'll have the nice day in Scotland. We were on the road at 910am after a nice kippers & Scottish breakfast. We have our light coats on today but don't think we'll need them for long. I have walking shoes on today, no boots! After wearing boots for three weeks it is nice to have regular shoes on. We sponged the dirt and mud off the boots last night. They will dry by tonight for packing in the suitcases.

Clyde called Continental Airlines last night to confirm our flight. Their operator said to be sure to check in two hours early as this is Easter Week and it's busy. Clyde said he was more concerned about making sure the flight won't be cancelled. The operator didn't think that was funny.

We're headed for Johnstone, Paisley then on to Glasgow. We found the Johnstone Castle on the last trip but we didn't have any information on it and a customer wanted to know more about it. I thought there was a sign in front of the castle. There was a sign but it said that Chopin had stayed there. Two men across the street from the castle were talking. I asked them where I could find information about the castle. One man told me that it had been the seat of George Houstoun. He said I could find more information in town at the library. Then the man went inside his house and came out with two sheets of information on the castle. He mentioned that the castle has an unusual feature, a sun-dial is mounted on the side of the castle. Sure enough, I missed it and went around the other side to find it.

When George Houstoun took over the estate of Easter Cochrane in 1733 he renamed it Johnstone Castle. Johnstone Castle was the seat of George Ludovic Houstoun, Esq., of Johnstone. The town of Johnstone was laid out by one of the lairds of Johnstone; the earliest was in 1782. The lands of Johnstoun appear in the possession of the family of Nisbet early in the 14th century. They passed to a branch of the Wallaces of Elderslie about 1398 and remained in the hands of the Wallaces through William Wallace who died circa 1645. Sir Ludovic Houstoun

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of that ilk then acquired the lands of Johnstoun and conferred them upon his second son George, who became the first Houstoun of Johnstoun.

By the mid-nineteenth century Johnstone Castle, surrounded by woodlands, was one of the finest houses in the district. In 1848 the composer Chopin visiting Glasgow on a concert tour, was a guest at the castle. The estate lands were gradually sold off during the 19th & 20th centuries, though the castle still stood in its own wide grounds. The last laird of Johnstone, George Ludovic Houstoun, moved to Cyprus after WWI and died there in 1931.

On to Paisley and the Paisley Abbey. We found a parking garage in the middle of town and walked to the abbey. Paisley Abbey was founded when Walter FitzAlan signed a charter at Fotheringay Castle in 1163. By the irony of history his direct descendant, Mary Queen of Scots, was executed in Fotheringay Castle in 1587. Walter descended from the Norman conquerors and in 1141, was brought to Scotland by King David I, the son of Malcolm Canmore and Saint Margaret. He was made High Stewart of Scotland, a position that became hereditary and later became the surname. With extensive lands in Renfrewshire and Ayrshire, he had his castle in Renfrew. His charter gave the required land and revenue for the building and upkeep of a monastery. Thirteen monks came from the Cluniac Monastery of Wenlock in Shropshire. The Order of Cluny was founded in France in 910 as a reformed offshoot of the Benedictines. The monks set up a priory answerable to the Abbey of Cluny. The priory became an Abbey, answerable only to Rome in 1245. In 1334 its Abbot was further raised to the dignity of a 'Mitred Abbot', with episcopal jurisdiction over the many churches and other places tributary to the monastery. There would have been several side chapels and a screen at the crossing at that time. The Abbey was dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin, St. James the Greater of Compostella (patron saint of the FitzAlan family), St. Mirin (direct connection with Paisley) and St. Milburga (a Princess of the Anglo-Saxon Kingdom of Mercia).

In 1164, Walter FitzAlan defeated Somerled, Lord of the Isles, at Inchinnan. Alan, second Steward, helped Richard Lionheart with the Third Crusade in 1189. Under Walter, the third Steward, monks from Paisley set up the Abbey of Crossraguel in 1244. Alexander, the fourth Steward, played a distinguished part at the Battle of Largs in 1263. By 1286, Paisley Abbey, rich and powerful, served all southwest Scotland. But in that year, King Alexander III died tragically; and his successor, a three-year old granddaughter, the Maid of Norway, died on her way across the North Sea in 1290. Now began the three hundred years war between the would-be-rulers of Scotland and England. John Baliol, the nearest of thirteen or more claimants, became king but was deposed by Edward I in 1296. William Wallace, the Knight of Elderslie, educated, possibly at Paisley Abbey, won a battle at Stirling Bridge but lost at Falkirk in 1298. In 1306, Robert the Bruce was crowned at Scone but failed to win in battle and fled for a time. The fifth High Steward had supported Scottish independence: in 1307, the English army set fire to Paisley Abbey. All that remains of the original late 12th century building is the Processional Doorway and the three bays westward.

In the 14th century, the Abbey was completely restored. The sixth High Steward, Walter Stewart, married Marjory Bruce, daughter of Robert the Bruce, in 1315. In the following year she died in the Abbey infirmary following a riding accident, but the child in her womb was saved. He became Robert II, the first of the Royal Stewarts. From him, the present Queen Elizabeth is descended. Buried in the Abbey are the six High Stewards, Marjory Bruce, Robert II's wives and Robert III.

In 1498 the Abbey was damaged in an accidental fire but was soon restored. Around 1553, the tower collapsed, destroying the roofs and upper walls of the north transept, crossing and choir. These lay open to the sky for the next 350 years. The nave was walled off and after the Reformation, served as the Parish Church of Paisley. The St. Mirin Chapel became a totally separate chapel and was used by the Hamilton family who acquired the old monastic buildings (The Place of Paisley). The choir was used as a graveyard. In 1673, Lord Dundonald (of the Cochrane family), bought the Place of Paisley and Jean Cochrane married Graham of Claverhouse (Bonnie Dundee) in the Chapel in 1684. The Hamiltons bought back the Place in 1764 but around 1800, rented it out as shoddy houses, pubs and pawnshops. The Kirk Session bought it back in 1904 for restoration.

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In 1858-62, the north porch of the Abbey and the walls of the north transept were restored. Between 1890 and 1907 the north transept and crossing were re-roofed, then rejoined to the nave. In the 1920s the choir was rebuilt as we see it today and rededicated in 1928. In 1980-81, a new mahogany ceiling was erected in the nave to replace a 'temporary' plaster ceiling that had been erected in 1788. Since 1989, an extensive restoration has been undertaken to both the Abbey and the Place and that work continues at the present time.

There is a plaque in the North Aisle dedicated to John Witherspoon, the only clergyman to sign the Declaration of Independence. John joined the colonists arguing 'no taxation without representation'. George III called him 'that damned radical Scots Presbyterian'! This memorial was dedicated in the bicentennial year. John Hamilton, the last Abbot retained the Abbacy despite his promotion to the Bishopric of Dunkeld and to the Archbishopric of St. Andrews. He baptized the infant Prince who became James VI of Scotland and later James I of England. Deeply involved in the political and religious struggles of the period, he was arrested, found guilty of complicity in the murder of Lord Darnley and of the Regent Moray. He was executed then dismembered and taken to Paisley for burial.

Following the conquest of England by Duke William of Normandy in 1066, some of the Saxon royal family found their way to Scotland. Edgar the Atheling, his sister Margaret and others landed on the shores of the Firth of Forth. In 1070, Margaret became Queen, married to the widower Malcolm Canmore, the King of Scots (Malcolm III). She was very pious and introduced many customs in Church and Court more in accord with her southern upbringing. Scenes from her life are shown in the St Margaret Window, in the North Transept, West Wall of the Abbey. Paisley is a fitting site for such a memorial as it was her son, David I, who brought to Scotland Walter FitzAlan, founder of the Abbey.

All the 'working' High Stewards of Scotland are buried at Paisley Abbey with the exception of Robert II. Robert II, the first of the Stewart line, was High Steward during the long reign of his much younger uncle, David II. When Robert II died, he was buried at Scone. When Queen Victoria visited the Abbey, she recognized her Stewart ancestry by presenting a tombstone of white Sicilian marble to mark the burial place of Robert III, King of Scots.

In the South Aisle, West End is the Wallace Window, a monument to Sir William Wallace. In front of this window is the Barochan Cross. The Cross used to stand on a hilltop near Houston, some miles from Paisley. It was moved to the Abbey for its protection.

On the motorway into Glasgow we came to the town center and circled the bridges for awhile trying to find a park and decided to leave downtown, it is too stressful. We'll look now for the Pollok Country Park. There are a number of things to see there, the Pollok House was built in the late 1700s for the Maxwell Family; a heavy horse center of Clydesdales; Highland Coos and the Burrell Collection of art and antiques. We could have stayed there for days. It is much more relaxing here than downtown Glasgow, 310pm. The man from The National Trust for Scotland said some of the family still lives on the top floor of the House, it has beautiful gardens.

There had been an older castle here at one time. This is a site of a castle, a vestige of which remains with a garden wall, close to the stable yard. The present house, built about 1750 and extended in 1890, replaced the stronghold. The old castle had a ditch and drawbridge. It was a property of the Maxwells from the mid 13th century. Pollok was gifted to the city of Glasgow in 1966 along with the Burrell Collection. The house has a collection of paintings, furniture, ceramics and silver. Another earlier castle lay on the southern bank of the White Cart Water but was destroyed when the gardens of the house were laid out. It was a property of the Pollock family, but passed to the Maxwells.

We left the park at 330pm and will take the back roads home. Stopped at a restaurant in Beith, the only thing that sounded good to us was ice cream. We arrived home by 5pm, will take a nap and come down at 7pm and have a wee dram with Jim & Viv.

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Packing went much better this year. On Sunday night Clyde packed our purchases in a carry on bag. Monday night he did the film. Looks like we'll have more than 60 rolls of film on this trip. Our dirty clothes were put in plastic bags in the back seat and trunk of the car. When we arrived at the Garnock Lodge Viv bought the big bag that we left with them out to the car and we filled it with the packages of dirty clothes. This prep made the difficult job of packing much easier.

We visited with Jim and Viv until 10pm then off we went to bed. We'll have an early breakfast in the morning in order to get to the airport on time.

Thursday, 20 April

It rained most of the night and we thought for sure we would be rained on taking the bags to the airport. However, there were blue patches along with the clouds, we'll make it to the airport before it rains. We enjoyed our last great breakfast with Jim & Viv. Smoked Haddock and Scottish breakfast and fond farewells to our hosts and we were off by 9am. B&B charges were £19.50 ppn or for the five nights, £195.

The airport was busy with all the Easter Holiday travelers. Clyde drove more than 3400 miles on this trip. Budget charged us £25 for the cracked mirror that resulted from the driver in Oban traveling too fast on a single-track road. We looked through the airport shops and made only one purchase, a bottle of Bunnahabhain 12-year-old single malt whisky. We bought a bottle in Inveraray for £22.95 and it was £19.20 at the airport.

While I was looking at the whiskies in the Duty Free Shops the house lights flickered then came back on. When we got to our departure gate we were told that a local farmer had cut a power cable and all the computers were down. One airport worker said even the Edinburgh Airport took the hit and their systems were also down. The power failure didn't affect our departure; we boarded on time and left Glasgow about 1230pm.

It was nice not to go through the busy Heathrow Airport; we fly to New Jersey then on to San Francisco! We arrived 45 minutes early at Newark; the airport was a mess due to the Easter travelers. Our plane to San Francisco was late getting to Newark then we sat on the plane on the runway for almost an hour before we could leave. All in all the flight was three hours late leaving Newark. The plane was full but we arrived in San Francisco (late) and called the Best Western - San Mateo Los Prados Inn to pick us up. They arrived promptly and took us to our waiting car. Hope we can remember to drive on the right side of the highway. Good night!