


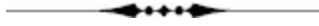
RANDOM HOUSE  BOOKS



I Never Knew That About the Scottish

Christopher Winn

CONTENTS



COVER

ABOUT THE BOOK

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

MAP OF SCOTLAND

TITLE PAGE

DEDICATION

PREFACE

THE CLANS AND COUNTIES OF SCOTLAND

— Aberdeenshire —

House of Gordon † *The Huntlys* † *Dukes of Gordon* †
Gordons of Haddo † *The Aberdeens* † *The Wicked Earl* †
Lord Aberdeen † *George Osborne* † *Marquess of Aberdeen*
† *Some Notable Gordons* † *The Spanish Gordons* † *Clan*
Forbes † *Some Notable Forbes*

ABERDEENSHIRE FOLK

— Angus —

Earls of Angus † *Montrose* † *Graham* † *The Great Montrose*
† *Dukes of Montrose* † *Some Notable Grahams* † *Bonnie*
Dundee † *Thane of Glamis* † *Grey Lady* † *Earl of Strathmore*
and Kinghorne

ANGUS FOLK

— Argyll —

Duke of Argyll † *Campbell* † *Lord Campbell* † *Earls of Argyll*
† *Dukes of Argyll* † *Some Notable Campbells* † *Lord Clyde* †

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman
ARGYLL FOLK

— Ayrshire —

Kennedy † *Dunure* † *Earls of Cassillis* † *Culzean Castle*
† *Marquess of Ailsa* † *Some Notable Kennedys* † *Earldom of*
Eglinton
† *Eglinton Castle* † *Eglinton Tournament*
AYRSHIRE FOLK

— Banffshire —

Macduff † *William Duff* † *Dufftown* † *William Grant* †
Glenfiddich
† *The Balvenie* † *Grant's Whisky*
BANFFSHIRE FOLK

— Berwickshire —

Home † *Hume Castle* † *Earl of Home* † *Sir Alec Douglas-*
Home
† *Some Notable Homes and Humes* † *Haigs of Bemersyde*
† *Some Notable Haigs* † *Bemersyde House*
BERWICKSHIRE FOLK

— Buteshire —

Sheriff of Bute † *Earls of Bute* † *Marquess of Bute* † *Johnny*
Dumfries
† *Earl of Arran* † *Brodick Castle*
BUTESHIRE FOLK

— Caithness —

Earl of Caithness † *Stewart Earls* † *Sinclair Earls*
† *Notable St Clairs or Sinclairs*
CAITHNESS FOLK

— Clackmannanshire —

Menstrie Castle † *Sir William Alexander* † *Baronets of Nova Scotia*

† *Earl of Stirling* † *Sir James Holborne* † *Sir Ralph Abercromby* † *Nova Scotia Rooms*

CLACKMANNANSHIRE FOLK

— Dumfriesshire —

Earl of Dumfries † *Sanquhar* † *Sanquhar Castle* †
Drumlanrig

† *Queensberry* † *The Cannibalistic Idiot* † *Queensberry Rules*

† *Annandale* † *Lords of Annandale* † *Some Notable Bruces*
† *Sir William Bruce* † *James Bruce*

DUMFRIESSHIRE FOLK

— Dunbartonshire —

Lennox † *Dukes of Lennox* † *Some Notable Lennoxes* † *Luss*

† *Clan Colquhoun* † *Rossdhu Castle* † *Battle of Glen Fruin*

† *Colquhoun of Luss* † *Notable Colquhouns*

DUNBARTONSHIRE FOLK

— East Lothian —

Haddington † *'The Lion'* † *Alexander II* † *John Knox* †
Dunbar

† *Earl of Dunbar* † *Some Notable Dunbars*

EAST LoTHIAN FOLK

— Fife —

Anstruther † *Beggar's Benison* † *Some Notable Anstruthers*

† *Secret Anstruther*

★ *Secret Agent* ★ *Balfour* ★ *Some Notable Balfours* ★
Cardinal Beaton ★ *Arthur Balfour*

FIFE FOLK

— Hebrides —

Lord of the Isles ★ *Three Clans* ★ *Some Notable*
MacDonalds

HEBRIDES FOLK

— Inverness-shire —

Badenoch ★ *Lords of Badenoch* ★ *Frasers of Lovat* ★
Beaufort Castle

★ *The Old Fox* ★ *Mackintosh* ★ *Clan Chattan* ★ *The Rout of*
Moy

★ *Some Notable Mackintoshes* ★ *Clan Cameron* ★ *Tor Castle*

★ *The Gentle Locheil* ★ *New Achnacarry* ★ *Some Notable*
Camerons

INVERNESS-SHIRE FOLK

— Kincardineshire —

Arbuthnott ★ *Some Notable Arbuthnotts* ★ *Barclays of Urie* ★
Barclay's Bank

★ *The Last Laird of Urie* ★ *Some Notable Barclays* ★ *Burnett*

★ *Some Notable Burnetts*

KINCARDINESHIRE FOLK

— Kinross-shire —

The Adam Family ★ *William Adam* ★ *John Adam*

★ *Robert Adam* ★ *James Adam*

KINROSS-SHIRE FOLK

— Kircudbrightshire —

*The Stewartry † Lords of Galloway † Some Notable
Fergusons*

† Balliol Lords of Galloway † King John (Balliol)

KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE FOLK

— Lanarkshire —

*House of Hamilton † Bothwell Castle † Cadzow † Hamilton
and Douglas*

*† Earls of Arran † Marquess of Hamilton † Dukes of
Hamilton*

*† Some Notable Hamiltons † House of Douglas † The
Douglas Larder*

† The Good Sir James † Some Notable Douglasses

LANARKSHIRE FOLK

— Midlothian —

*Dundas of Arniston † Viscount Melville † Melville Castle †
Dalhousie*

† Some Notable Ramsays † St Clairs of Roslin

† Roslin Chapel † Roslin Castle

MIDLOTHIAN FOLK

— Morayshire —

Earl of Moray † Earls of Elgin † Elgin Marbles

† Gordon Castle † Gordon Highlanders † The Gay Gordons

† Gordon Setter † Gordon Riots † 5th Duke of Gordon

MORAYSHIRE FOLK

— Nairnshire —

*Roses of Kilravock † Muriel of Cawdor † Black Baron †
Jacobite Rebellions*

*† Kilravock Today † Some Notable Roses † Cawdor †
Cawdor Castle*

★ *Campbell Thanes* ★ *Earls of Cawdor*
NAIRNSHIRE FOLK

— Orkney and Shetland —

Norse Earls of Orkney ★ *Sigurd and Maelbrigte* ★ *St Magnus*

★ *Scottish Earls of Orkney* ★ *Sinclair Earls* ★ *Duke of Orkney*
★ *Stewart Earls of Orkney and Lords of Shetland* ★ *Earls of Zetland*

★ *Marquess of Zetland*
ORKNEY AND SHETLAND FOLK

— Peeblesshire —

Neidpath Castle ★ *Old Q* ★ *Traquair* ★ *Earl of Traquair*
PEEBLESSHIRE FOLK

— Perthshire —

Clan Murray ★ *Marquess of Atholl* ★ *Dukes of Atholl* ★ *Lord George Murray*

★ *Blair Castle* ★ *Some Notable Murrays* ★ *Gleneagles* ★ *Haldanes*

★ *Union Jack* ★ *Colours and Limes* ★ *Brodrick Chinnery-Haldane*

★ *Some Notable Haldanes*
PERTHSHIRE FOLK

— Renfrewshire —

Erskine ★ *Earl of Mar* ★ *Some Notable Erskines* ★ *Clan Montgomery*

★ *Some Notable Montgomeries* ★ *Wallace* ★ *Some Notable Wallaces*

RENFREWSHIRE FOLK

— Ross and Cromarty —

*Ross † Earls of Ross † Rosses of Balnagowan † Balnagowan
Castle*

*† Some Notable Rosses † Clan Mackenzie † Two Earls †
Earl of Seaforth*

*† Brahan Seer † Brahan Castle † Some Notable Mackenzies
† Clan Munro † Some Notable Munros*

ROSS AND CROMARTY FOLK

— Roxburghshire —

*Duke of Roxburghe † Clan Kerr † Earl of Roxburghe †
Dukes of Roxburghe*

*† Some Notable Kerrs † Roxburghe Club † Pringles †
Smailholm Tower*

† Some Notable Pringles † Pringle of Scotland

ROXBURGHSHIRE FOLK

— Selkirkshire —

*Buccleuch † Scott † Lord of Buccleuch † Dukes of
Buccleuch*

† Great Scotts † American Scotts

SELKIRKSHIRE FOLK

— Stirlingshire —

*Stirling Castle † Stirling Stewarts † Stewarts † Bute †
Stewart Titles*

*† Royal Stewarts † House of Stewart † Dukes of Albany †
James*

† Earl of Moray † Mary Queen of Scots † Union of Crowns

*† Pretenders † Stuart Queens † Some Notable Stewarts †
Acting Stewarts*

STIRLINGSHIRE FOLK

— Sutherland —

*Clan Sutherland * Earls of Sutherland * Dukes of
Sutherland*

** Some Notable Sutherlands * Clan Mackay * Piper Mackay*

SUTHERLAND FOLK

— West Lothian —

*Dalmeny * Primrose * Earls of Rosebery * Hope * Hopetoun
* Earls of Hopetoun * Marquesses of Linlithgow * Some
High Hopes*

WEST LOTHIAN FOLK

— Wigtownshire —

*The Shire * Earls of Wigtown * Some Notable Flemings*

WIGTOWNSHIRE FOLK

INDEX OF PEOPLE

INDEX OF PLACES

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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About the Book

Bestselling author Christopher Winn takes us on a fascinating journey around Scotland, discovering the traditions, triumphs and distasters, foibles, quirks and customs that make up the Scottish people. From their peccadilloes to their passions he uncovers astounding stories and extraordinary facts that will amuse and enlighten in equal measure.

Travel through the Highlands and cities across Scotland and learn how every county contributes to the distinct Scottish personality. From the capital Edinburgh, home of Alexander Gordon Laing who was the first European to see Timbuktu, to Tain, home of John Shepherd-Barron, inventor of the automatic cash machine, uncover the memories and tales of ordinary folk from every walk of life and find out what it means to be Scottish.

Charmingly illustrated with pen and ink drawings throughout, this fascinating book will entertain and inform for hours on end.

About the Author

Christopher Winn's first book was the bestselling *I Never Knew That About England*. Volumes on Ireland, Scotland, Wales and London followed and he has recently published books on the English, Scottish and Irish, alongside an illustrated edition of *I Never Knew That About England*. A freelance writer and collector of trivia for over 20 years, he has worked with Terry Wogan and Jonathan Ross and sets quiz questions for television as well as for the Daily Mail and the Daily Telegraph. He is married to artist Mai Osawa, who illustrates all the books in the series. His website is <http://www.i-never-knew-that.com>.



Orkney

Shetland

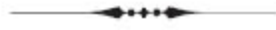
Outer Hebrides
Inner Hebrides

- A : Nairn
- B : Kincardine
- C : Kinross
- D : Clackmannan
- E : West Lothian

IRELAND

ENGLAND

CHRISTOPHER WINN



*I Never Knew That
About*

THE SCOTTISH



ILLUSTRATIONS BY
Mai Osawa



EBURY
PRESS

For Auntie Janet

PREFACE

IN ORDER TO be able to fully appreciate the stories in this book it is helpful to know a little of their history and where they come from.

The Scotland of today is primarily a fusion of four races.

1. The Irish Gaelic Scotii from Dal Riata ([see below](#)).
2. The Picts, or 'painted people' from the north.
3. The Norse from Norway who occupied Orkney and Shetland, the Western Isles and parts of Caithness and Sutherland.
4. The Normans who came north from the court of Henry I of England with the Scottish King David I in 1124, and settled mainly in the Borders and the south. The Normans and the Norse were, of course, from the same origins - the Norman family of Robert the Bruce, for instance, was descended from the Earls of Orkney.

Monarchs of Scotland

The monarchs of Scotland traditionally trace their descent from Fergus Mor, King of the ancient Irish Gaelic kingdom of Dal Riata, which covered an area more or less equivalent to the modern County Antrim. He led a group of 'Scotii' from Ireland to settle in Kintyre in the late 5th century.

Dal Riata, or Dalraida in Scotland, grew to occupy much of the western seaboard of present-day Scotland (Argyll,

Bute and some of Wester Ross) as well as the original territory in the north of Ireland.

The inhabitants of Dalraida were referred to as Scotii, from the Latin name for the people of Ireland.

In the 9th century Dalraida, under Kenneth MacAlpin of the Scotii, united with the kingdom of the Picts in the north to form the land of the Scotii or Scotland.

House of Alpin (848-1034)

Kenneth MacAlpin	843-58
Donald I	858-62
Constantine I	862-77
Aed	877-78
Giric and Eochald	878-89
Donald II	889-900
Constantine II	900-43
Malcolm I	943-54
Indulf	954-62
Dubh	962-66
Culen	966-71
Kenneth II	971-95
Constantine III	995-97
Kenneth III	997-1005
Malcolm II	1005-34

House of Dunkeld (1034-1286)

Duncan I (1034-40)

Maternal grandson of Malcolm II and son of Crinan, hereditary lay abbot of Dunkeld - hence House of Dunkeld.

Macbeth (1040-57)

Also a maternal grandson of Malcolm II and therefore cousin of Duncan. Son of the Mormaer of Moray.

Lulach (1057-58)

Stepson of Macbeth.

Malcolm III (1058-93)

Known as Malcolm Canmore (Big Head). Son of Duncan, he slew Macbeth at Lumphanan.

Donald III	1093-94
Duncan II	1094
Donald III (restored)	1094-97
Edgar	1097-1107
Alexander I	1107-24

David I (1124-53)

Youngest son of Malcolm III, David spent much of his youth at the court of his brother-in-law Henry I of England, who was married to David's sister Matilda. When he came north to rule Scotland David brought with him many Norman knights to whom he gave land and titles. In what is termed the 'Davidian Revolution' he introduced Norman feudalism, consolidated the system of primogeniture and founded a number of monasteries.

Malcolm IV	1153-65
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William I (1165-1214)

Known as William the Lion from his standard, a red lion rampant on a yellow background, which is still the Royal Standard of Scotland.

Alexander II	1214-49
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Alexander III (1249-86)

He succeeded in wresting the Western Isles from Norway and bringing them under Scottish rule. When he died without a male heir Scotland's monarchy was plunged into chaos.

House of Fairhair (1286-1290)

Margaret (1286-90)

Known as the 'Maid of Norway' she was the granddaughter of Alexander III and daughter of King Eric Fairhair of Norway. She never set foot in Scotland but was drowned off Orkney at the age of 7 while on her way to her new kingdom. Her death left the throne of Scotland without an obvious heir by primogeniture, and a number of candidates came forward to claim the throne, including Robert de Brus, grandfather of the future Robert I (Robert the Bruce). Edward I of England was asked to choose between them and he decided upon John de Balliol, a great grandson of David of Huntingdon, brother of William the Lion.

Interregnum

1290-92

House of Balliol (1292-1296)

John de Balliol (1292-96)

John was eventually deposed by Edward I who then annexed Scotland to the English crown. This move resulted in the Scottish Wars of Independence which started with William Wallace in 1297, saw the crowning of Robert the Bruce as Robert I of Scotland in 1306 and ended with Scottish independence after the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314.

Interregnum

1296-1306

The Ragman Rolls

In 1296 Edward I of England persuaded many of the Scottish nobels to sign a document swearing their allegiance to him. The document became known as the Ragman Rolls after a previous record compiled by a papal tax collector called Ragimunde.

House of Bruce (1306-1371)

Robert I (the Bruce) 1306-29

David II 1329-71

House of Stewart/Stuart (1371-1567)

Robert II (1371-90)

Grandson of Robert I and High Steward of Scotland - hence the name Stewart.

Robert III 1390-1406

James I 1406-37

James II 1437-60

James III (1460-88)

He married the daughter of King Christian of Denmark and received sovereignty of Orkney and Shetland as an unredeemed dowry.

James IV 1488-1513

James V 1513-42

Mary I 1542-67

James VI (I of England) (1567-1625)

On the death of Elizabeth I of England in 1603 the crowns of England and Scotland were united and James VI of Scotland became also James I of England.

Charles I (I of England)	1625-49
Charles II (II of England)	1649-85
James VII (II of England)	1685-89
Mary II (II of England)	1689-94
William II (III of England)	1694-1702

Anne (1702-7)

After the death of Anne, the last Stuart monarch, the term King or Queen of Scots was no longer used. The Hanoverians and all subsequent monarchs have been British monarchs.

In 1707 the Parliaments of Scotland and England were united into the Parliament of Great Britain and the separate Kingdoms of Scotland and England became a single United Kingdom.

THE CLANS AND COUNTIES OF SCOTLAND



THE WORD CLAN comes from the Gaelic 'clann', meaning children, descendants or tribe - members of a clan share a common descent and most usually share a surname taken from the founder of that Clan. If Gaelic, this surname was often derived from a physical characteristic (eg Campbell - gaelic for 'crooked mouth'), or from 'mac', or 'son of' as in MacDonald, son of Donald. If Norman, the surname was usually based on territory, as in Robert de Brus, or Robert of Brix in Normandy, and Adam de Gordon, Adam of Gourdon in France. I have used the European dynastic term 'House' rather than 'Clan' for some of the families of Norman descent, eg House of Gordon.

Because these surnames refer back to a single ancestor it follows that most people bearing that surname, wherever in the world they now live, share the same family roots and are hence of Scottish descent. It is on this basis that in each chapter I feature some notable people who share the same surname.

After the Battle of Culloden in 1746 the Clans and their old loyalties were suppressed by the Act of Proscription, and many Clan members became scattered around the world as a result of the emigrations caused by such repression and also the Clearances of the 18th and 19th centuries. Consequently many Clan Chiefs and their relatives reside outside Scotland.

In the late 19th century, however, there was a movement, led by Sir Walter Scott, to revive the customs, loyalties, dress and traditions of the Clans, and today many

Clan societies flourish. Clans now hold annual gatherings at their ancestral castles which are attended by Clan members from all over the world.

Most Clans and families were associated with, or settled in, a particular part of Scotland at a time when the country was divided into kingdoms, mormaerdoms and provinces, rather than counties. Because these older divisions were somewhat vague and constantly changing, I have divided the chapters of this book into more recognisable counties, and each chapter features the Clans and families who hail from the territory now known by those county names, as well as other figures who were born there or are associated with the county in some other way.

Aberdeenshire

[HOUSE OF GORDON](#) † [THE HUNTLYS](#) † [DUKES OF GORDON](#) †
[GORDONS OF HADDO](#) † [THE ABERDEENS](#) † [THE WICKED EARL](#) †
[LORD ABERDEEN](#) † [GEORGE OSBORNE](#) † [MARQUESS OF ABERDEEN](#) †
[SOME NOTABLE GORDONS](#) † [THE SPANISH GORDONS](#) † [CLAN](#)
[FORBES](#) † [SOME NOTABLE FORBES](#)



Castle Fraser - one of the grandest of Aberdeenshire's great tower houses, built in the late 16th century by the Aberdeenshire branch of the Fraser family, who also founded the town of Fraserburgh.

— ABERDEENSHIRE FOLK —

[Bertie Charles Forbes](#) † [John Barbour](#) † [James Gregory](#) †
[William Forsyth](#)
† [Revd Alexander John Forsyth](#) † [Alexander Milne Calder](#) †
[Mary Slessor](#)
† [Sir Patrick Geddes](#) † [Andy Beattie](#)

The House of Gordon

THE GORDONS CAME, it is thought, from Gourdon, near Quercy in France, in the 11th century, and gave their name to the border lands where they settled. They later fought for Robert the Bruce, and in 1320 SIR ADAM DE GORDON, from the village of HUNTLY in Berwickshire, accompanied the Declaration of Arbroath to the Papal court in Avignon to plead with the Pope to recognise Scottish independence and lift Bruce's excommunication for killing John Comyn at Dumfries in 1306. Gordon's reward for his efforts was to be granted the lands of Strathbogie in Aberdeenshire, once belonging to the Earl of Fife.

In 1445 Sir Adam's descendant through marriage, Sir Alexander Seton, became the 1st Earl of Huntly, and his son married a daughter of James I.

The Huntlys

HUNTLY CASTLE, IN the heart of Aberdeenshire, was the seat of the Chiefs of the House of Gordon for nearly 400 years from the 14th to the 17th century. Originally known as the Peel of Strathbogie, the first castle to be built on the site was a motte and bailey, put up in 1190 by the Earl of Fife to guard the crossing where the rivers Bogie and Deveron meet.

Around 1400 the Gordons replaced the wooden castle with a stone tower house, and then in 1450 the 1ST EARL OF HUNTLY built a grand new structure more in keeping with his status as one of the pre-eminent men of his time. In 1496 James IV, always keen to ruffle the feathers of the English, came to Strathbogie to celebrate the marriage of his beautiful young cousin Lady Catherine Gordon to Perkin Warbeck, pretender to the throne of Henry VII.

The 3RD EARL OF HUNTLY, one of the few survivors of the Battle of Flodden in 1513, changed the name of Strathbogie Castle, and the nearby town, to Huntly.

The 4TH EARL OF HUNTLY, GEORGE GORDON, Lord Chancellor of Scotland, converted the castle into a noble house just in time for a visit in 1556 by Mary of Guise, widow of his childhood friend James V. The Earl later fell out with Mary of Guise's daughter Mary Queen of Scots and was defeated by Mary's forces at the Battle of Corrichie in 1562, dying of apoplexy not long after. The Huntly title was temporarily forfeited, but was restored two years later to his son, another George Gordon, who became the 5TH EARL OF HUNTLY.



In 1599 the 6th Earl was created the 1ST MARQUESS OF HUNTLY by James VI. This title is THE OLDEST EXISTING MARQUESSATE IN SCOTLAND, and the second oldest in Britain, after that of Winchester. The 1st Marquess began to transform Huntly into a lavish palace, the impressive remains of which we see today. Just in case the casual passer-by might have been unaware who was the proud owner, his name and that of his wife are splashed in huge stone letters across the oriel windows of the upper floor. 'George Gordon First Marquis of HU' and, below, 'Henriette Stewart Marquesse of HU'. The French spellings (Marquis instead of the English Marquess) provide a clue

as to why Huntly Castle was more like a sumptuous French château than a northern Scottish castle – Gordon grew up in France and clearly picked up some tips on comfort from the French aristocracy. Even in its ruinous state, Huntly still exudes luxury and extravagance, with its huge rooms and elaborately carved windows and fireplaces. The castle’s greatest treasure, famous far and wide, is the extraordinary carved heraldic frontispiece above the main courtyard entrance, which is **UNIQUE IN BRITAIN**.

The Gordons eventually lost Huntly Castle after the 2nd Marquess, who was the first to sport the Gordon nickname ‘**COCK O’ THE NORTH**’, backed King Charles in the English Civil War, and Huntly began a slow decline until, in the 18th century, much of the building was ransacked for stone to make houses in the town.

Accessed from the town via a stone archway and a broad avenue of trees, Huntly Castle is now in the care of Historic Scotland.

Dukes of Gordon

THE 4TH MARQUESS of Huntly was created 1ST DUKE OF GORDON in 1684, and from this time on Gordon Castle in Morayshire, built in the 1470s by the 2nd Earl of Huntly, became the main seat of the House of Gordon ([see Morayshire](#)). The dukedom died out in 1836 with the death of the 5th Duke, but the marquessate of Huntly survived, passing to the Duke’s cousin the Earl of Aboyne, who became 9th Marquess of Huntly. GRANVILLE GORDON, 13TH MARQUESS OF HUNTLY, born in 1944, is the present CHIEF OF THE HOUSE OF GORDON, and resides at ABOYNE CASTLE.

The 5th Duke of Gordon’s nephew, Charles Gordon-Lennox, 5th Duke of Richmond, inherited most of the Gordon estates, and in 1876 his son was created Duke of

Gordon of the second creation, becoming Duke of Richmond and Gordon. The holder of this title thus holds four dukedoms (Richmond, Lennox, Gordon and Aubigny), more than any other duke.

Gordons of Haddo

IN 1469 JAMES GORDON, a cousin of the Gordons of Huntly, acquired the lands of HADDO, near Tarves, and settled there. His descendant SIR JOHN GORDON OF HADDO, was an ardent Royalist and was created a Baronet of Nova Scotia by Charles I in 1642 ([see Clackmannanshire](#)). He was later locked up in Edinburgh's St Giles Cathedral by the King's enemies for kidnapping the Provost of Aberdeen, who was a staunch believer in the National Covenant renouncing the religious innovations of Charles I. Gordon, whose cell in St Giles, known as Haddo's Hole is still there, was then beheaded, earning the distinction of becoming THE FIRST ROYALIST TO BE OFFICIALLY EXECUTED IN SCOTLAND.

Sir John's eldest son was restored to the title and estates at the Restoration of Charles II, and *his* son, George, was created 1ST EARL OF ABERDEEN.

The Aberdeens

IN 1732 WILLIAM, 2ND EARL OF ABERDEEN, set about building a sumptuous mansion at Haddo to replace the run-down old 'Place of Kellie' tower house that had served as the family home up until then. William was later described by the family historian Archie Gordon, 5th Marquess of Aberdeen, as 'ambitious, financially accumulative and a thumping snob' - qualities he exhibited splendidly by marrying first the daughter of the Earl of Leven and Melville, then the

daughter of the Duke of Atholl and thirdly the daughter of the Duke of Gordon, each of whom brought with them a considerable dowry of land and money.

HADDO HOUSE was designed in Palladian style by William Adam, the leading Scottish architect of the day. As one of the first stately houses in the north of Scotland it must have amazed the people of Aberdeenshire, who were more used to stern castles and rugged tower houses.

The Wicked Earl

IN 1745 THE 2nd Earl of Aberdeen went to join Bonnie Prince Charlie's rebel forces at Edinburgh, but died of natural causes before he could be implicated in the rebellion, a stroke of luck for his heir, the 3rd Earl, who thus inherited his father's estates intact, and became the largest landowner in Aberdeenshire. Known as 'THE WICKED EARL', he was something of a rake, and was harried into marrying the cook of a Yorkshire hostelry after he paid his compliments to the chef rather too personally - when he went back for seconds the good lady held him at gun-point until he agreed to make an honest woman of her.

In 1787 the Wicked Earl took the opportunity to increase his landholdings even further by buying the Castle of Gight, adjoining the Haddo estate, off his cousin Catherine Gordon for a knock-down price. Catherine's father, George Gordon of Gight, a descendant of James I, had committed suicide and Catherine, his heiress, had married a fortune-hunter called Captain John Byron who dissipated her wealth and then fled to France. Catherine was forced to sell her ancestral home, which should have been passed on to her son, George Gordon, the poet Lord Byron.

The Wicked Earl, whose lifestyle eventually drained the estate, was predeceased by his son and there was little left

for his grandson, who became the 4th Earl of Aberdeen, to inherit.

Lord Aberdeen 1784-1860



*'First in the cat-fed phalanx shall be seen The travell'd
thane, Athenian Aberdeen'*

GEORGE GORDON, ORPHANED as a boy, and ignored by his grandfather the Wicked Earl, was brought up in London by Henry Dundas, later Viscount Melville. With Dundas and the Prime Minister, William Pitt, as his guardians, his early days were much influenced by politics. He was educated at Harrow, after which he travelled widely throughout Europe, spending much of his time in Greece. On his return to London he founded the Athenian Society, whose membership was confined to those who had visited Greece - hence the name 'Athenian Aberdeen' given to him by his cousin Lord Byron (*see above*). Gordon later purchased the foot of Hercules, which had been a part of the Parthenon in Athens for thousands of years, and had it transported to Haddo, from where it has since disappeared.

In 1813 Aberdeen was sent to Vienna by the new Prime Minister, Lord Liverpool, to negotiate an alliance between Britain, Russia and Austria against Napoleon, which was formalised as the Treaty of Toplitz. While in Europe he was

witness to the Battle of Leipzig, the bloodiest battle ever seen in Europe until the First World War, an experience which turned him against war for ever.

He was Foreign Secretary under the Duke of Wellington, until they both resigned over the Great Reform Bill of 1832, and then again under Sir Robert Peel, during which time he was responsible for drawing up the boundaries between the USA and what would become Canada. A believer in free trade, he was forced to resign a second time, along with Peel, over the Repeal of the Corn Laws in 1846.

In 1852, after the resignation of the Earl of Derby, Aberdeen became the prime minister of a coalition government which, against his better judgement, led Britain into the Crimean War. Lord Aberdeen was personally - and somewhat unfairly - blamed for the mismanagement of the conflict and resigned in 1855.

Lord Aberdeen was remembered as honest, generous and cultured, worthy rather than charismatic, a man whose 'strength did not equal his goodness'. Although he remarried, he never really recovered from the death of his beloved first wife, a noted beauty, at the age of 28, and the subsequent loss of all three of his daughters before they were 20.

Memorable Quote:

'I do not know how I shall bear being out of office. I have many resources and many objects of interest; but after being occupied with great affairs, it is not easy to subside to the level of common occupations.'

George Osborne

THE PRIME MINISTER'S grandson, the 6th Earl of Aberdeen, overwhelmed by his inheritance, ran away to sea and joined