



YOU
ARE INVITED TO BE

OUR GUESTS

at

BROOMHALL HOUSE

oooo

From Lord & Lady Bruce



B R O O M H A L L H O U S E
& C O L L E C T I O N
H I S T O R I C A L & C U L T U R A L T O U R S

Featuring the highlights of the collection, our works of art, archives and artefacts of national and international importance are curated to illustrate and accompany private tours of the house.

Tours may be booked by prior arrangement on an entirely exclusive basis. Inspired by a wealth of history and informed by the objects on display, our tours are narrated to entertain, astonish and excite, but above all to leave an indelible memory.



N O T W O T O U R S A R E E V E R T H E S A M E .

The mighty two-handed sword of King Robert the Bruce, passed from father to son by successive chiefs of the Bruce family since the fourteenth century.

Cast of King Robert's skull formed from a mould taken by William Scoular at Dunfermline Abbey in 1818 following the discovery of the king's long-lost tomb.

KING ROBERT THE BRUCE

The scion of a Norman noble family which settled in Scotland in the 12th century, Robert the Bruce (1274–1329), pursued a dynastic claim to the Scottish throne following the capture and brutal execution of William Wallace in June 1305. In defiance of Edward I, Hammer of the Scots, Bruce was enthroned at Scone on 25th March 1306 but within three months found himself a fugitive king, routed at the Battle of Methven by an English army. Accompanied by a dwindling band of supporters, he was harried across Scotland but evaded capture by crossing the Irish Sea to Rathlin Island.



IMAGES LEFT TO RIGHT



In April 1307, Bruce returned to Scotland and embarked on a guerilla campaign to recover his kingdom from English occupation. His victory over an army led by King Edward II at the Battle of Bannockburn on 23–24

June 1314 was the turning point in the first of Scotland's long and bloody Wars of Independence. Bruce's legacy as a warrior and statesman, along with his mighty two-handed sword, is enshrined at Broomhall, the home of his family for over 300 years.

Heraldic painting of King Robert the Bruce accompanied by his pet unicorn. Andrew Jamieson, 2023.

Plaster maquette of head of King Robert the Bruce, a gift of the sculptor Charles d'Orville Pilkington Jackson whose equestrian statue of Bruce was unveiled at Bannockburn by HM The Queen in June 1964, on the 650th anniversary of the battle.

Handing over the steam yacht, Emperor, a present from Queen Victoria to the Emperor of Japan, 26th August 1858 in Tokyo Bay to celebrate the signing of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce. Commissioned by the British government from R&H Green of Blackwell in 1857, the yacht was later renamed Banryu-maru, and converted from a pleasure craft to a

gunboat armed with four 12 pounder bronze canons.

Full Powers granted by Queen Victoria to James Bruce, 8th Earl of Elgin, with her Great Seal attached, instructing him to negotiate a free trade treaty with the Emperor of Japan, 1858.

EMPIRE & INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY

In the era of free trade in the mid-nineteenth century, two members of the family, James Bruce, 8th Earl of Elgin (1811–1863) and his brother Frederick Bruce (1814–1867) were appointed by Queen Victoria as Ministers Plenipotentiary and diplomats, responsible for negotiating and implementing significant international trade agreements.

Treaties signed with the United States on behalf of Canada (1854) and between the United Kingdom and China (1858) and with the Empire of Japan (1858), were all negotiated by diplomatic missions led by James Bruce. Original documents, paintings and photographs kept at Broomhall bring this critical period of history to life.

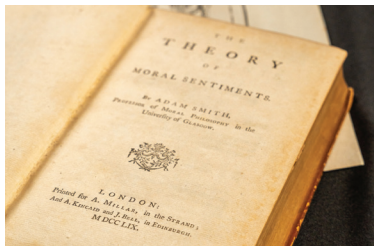


ATLANTIC TRADE, AMERICA AND THE SCOTTISH ENLIGHTENMENT

Scotland's relationship with America in the 18th century focused mainly on trade and migration. Although Scots fought on both sides during the American War of Independence, the Scottish impact on the framing of the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution reflects the pedagogical influence of Scottish professors teaching at American universities on the first generation of American statesmen and legislators.

The contemporary works of Scottish writers such as Francis

Hutcheson, Adam Smith and David Hume were highly influential in codifying the rights and responsibilities of the new republic. Early editions of their works are held in the library at Broomhall.



Thomas Jefferys
(1719–1771)
General Topography
of North America,
(London, 1768).

Adam Smith
(1723–1790)
Theory of Moral
Sentiments
(London 1759).

Drawing Room at Broomhall House, completed in 1808 by William Stark.

Elevation drawings for a new south front for Broomhall House 1798, Thomas Harrison.

ARCHITECTURE OF DREAMS

Broomhall House, first built in 1702 and subsequently rebuilt twice over a period of 160 years, conceals a complex architectural history comprising the work of over a dozen leading British and European architects, including John Adam, Thomas Harrison, Henry Holland, Sir Robert Smirke, William Porden, Louis Damesme, Louis-Martin Berthault, William Stark, William Burn, Charles Cockerell and Charles Heath Wilson although only a few of their plans were actually commissioned. Built to provide an ancestral seat for the family, the house clearly demonstrates the development and dissemination of classical taste—particularly the Greek revival—in Scotland and around the World.



THE JACOBITES BY NAME

A family of Jacobites, the Bruces supported the exiled King James II (1633–1701) and his successors, James Edward Francis Stuart the Old Pretender (1688–1766) and Charles Edward Stuart the Young Pretender (1720–1788) for over half a century. Deposed in the Glorious Revolution in 1688 James mustered a clandestine army of adherents in Scotland who toasted him secretly as the King Over the Water. Three Jacobite uprisings in 1715, 1719 and 1745 failed to overthrow the Hanoverian Succession leaving the Jacobite cause to fade away following the disastrous Battle of Culloden on April 16th 1746.

A suspected Jacobite, Thomas Bruce, 3rd Earl of Elgin (1656–1741) was imprisoned in the Tower of London in 1696 and exiled to the Continent. His great-grand-daughter, Princess Louise of Stolberg-Gerden, married Charles Edward Stuart (Bonnie Prince Charlie) in 1772. Not until the coronation of George III in 1761, attended by Charles Bruce, 5th Earl of Elgin (1732–1771)—who took the opportunity to swear an oath of allegiance to a Hanoverian king—was the Jacobite connection formally ended.

IMAGE LEFT

Suit jacket in Bruce of Kinnaird tartan, 1782. Woven in silk and linen, the suit was commissioned shortly after the repeal of the Dress Act 1746 which proscribed the wearing of tartan for 36 years.

Court sword worn by Charles Bruce, 5th Earl of Elgin at the coronation of George III at Westminster Abbey on 22nd September 1761.



CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH THE ROYAL FAMILY

King George VI and Queen Elizabeth escorted by Edward Bruce, 10th Earl of Elgin at the Empire Exhibition, Glasgow, 1938.

Queen Victoria sculpted by her daughter Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, presented to Victor Bruce, 9th Earl of Elgin, 1870.

Serving successive Scottish and British monarchs, for over 400 years, several members of the family have acted as counsellors, ambassadors, colonial officers and courtiers. Between 1923 and 1989, three Kings and three Queens—King George V and Queen Mary, King Edward VIII, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth and Queen Elizabeth II—have all been entertained at Broomhall.

Few people became closer to Queen Victoria than Lady Augusta Bruce who gave the Queen much needed moral support following the death of both her mother and her husband, Prince Albert in 1861.





A FAMILY AT WAR

II

IMAGES TOP TO BOTTOM

In October 1939 six weeks after the outbreak of WW2, Broomhall survived a daylight bombing raid by the Luftwaffe. The Battle of the Forth was the first aerial combat of the war fought over the UK mainland, and one of the first encounters between enemy aircraft and the Supermarine Spitfire. Several members of the family fought with the RAF—and also at sea and on land in other wartime theatres—with courage and distinction.

Newspaper clipping of a downed Heinkel He III, the casualty of a raid on Rosyth and the River Forth on 16th October 1939.

Arriving in Normandy in July 1944 as a tank commander serving with the 6th Guards Tank Brigade, Andrew Bruce, IIth Earl of Elgin took part in one of the most intensive tank battles of WW2 at Caumont which resulted in the collapse of German resistance at Falaise. Although badly wounded when his tank was blown up, Lord Elgin is one of the few surviving veterans of the Normandy campaign; his memories were recorded by the BBC to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings in 2024. He celebrated his 101st birthday in February 2025.

Andrew Bruce (later IIth Earl of Elgin) leaping from his Churchill Mk IV tank after it was hit by a Panzerfaust grenade at Chenedolle, Normandy 11th August 1944 (With permission of Sam Caldwell).

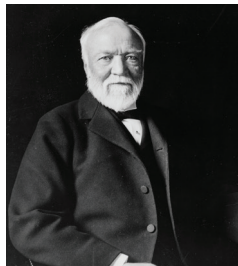
SCOTLAND'S GREATEST PHILANTHROPIST AND AMERICA'S RICHEST MAN?

Andrew Carnegie, 1913
© United States Library
of Congress's Prints and
Photographs Division.

*Letters to Victor Bruce,
9th Earl of Elgin from
Andrew Carnegie
1901-1917.*

Descending from a family that had found refuge at Broomhall Estate after the 1745 Jacobite rebellion, the thirteen year old Andrew Carnegie left Scotland in 1848 bound for Pittsburgh. He returned to Scotland in 1901 having sold his steel business to the financier, JP Morgan, to form the world's first billion dollar conglomerate, United States Steel.

During 40 years of active philanthropy Andrew Carnegie bestowed \$350m (equivalent to \$11.5bn) on his fellow citizens in the United States and Scotland. He established fourteen trusts and foundations focusing principally on education, civic engagement and world peace. With a \$10m grant he established the Carnegie Trust for the Scottish Universities in 1901 and appointed Victor Bruce, 9th Earl of Elgin as chairman; within ten years the trust was funding the studies of 50% of all undergraduates at Scottish universities. Much of this fascinating story is held in the archives at Broomhall.



Well with "The Bruce". We are to visit
Claude at Bideford where I got the
Freedom, June 22 & hope we may
be so fortunate to find you all at
home when we are at Dunblach.
With every good wish for
you yours & renewed thanks
Always faithfully yours
Andrew Carnegie

EXPLORATION AND INVENTION

13

IMAGES LEFT TO RIGHT

Several members of the Bruce family have been responsible for important discoveries across the globe. Departing Scotland in 1761—and disappearing for 14 years—James Bruce of Kinnaird (1730–1794) travelled widely in the Eastern Mediterranean and North East Africa, in Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia. In 1770 he was one of the first Europeans to reach the source of the Blue Nile.

A century earlier in 1662—in an attempt to improve

navigation by accurately calculating longitude—Alexander Bruce, 2nd Earl of Kincardine (1629–1680) commissioned the Dutch clockmaker Severyn Oosterwijk to build a maritime chronometer. Alexander was a founder member of the Royal Society.

Portrait painted in 1660 of Alexander Bruce, 2nd Earl of Kincardine by Jan Mijtens at the Hague, Holland.

Clothing, surveying equipment and maps of North Africa belonging to James Bruce of Kinnaird.



ALEXANDER, 2ND EARL OF KINCARDINE

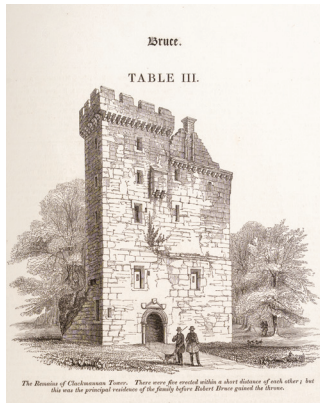


A KNIGHTHOOD FOR ROBERT BURNS

Clackmannan Tower
taken from an engraving
published in *Histories of*
the Noble British Families
with Biographical Notices
of the Most Distinguished
Individuals in Each,
edited by Henry
Drummond, London:
William Pickering,
1842–1846.

Katherine Bruce of
Clackmannan clutching
a white Jacobite rose.
Painted by David Allan,
1780.

In 1787, having made his name as Scotland's National Bard with the publication of *Poems Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect*, Robert Burns (1759–1796) visited Clackmannan Tower to interview Katherine Bruce (1696–1791) about her memories of the Jacobite Rebellion, which had happened 40 years before. Katherine, a sprightly widow and the last of the Bruces of Clackmannan asked Burns to kneel before her and thereupon knighted him with the double-handed sword of King Robert, telling him that she “*had more right than anyone else*”.



“Our clients have always had a fantastic experience at Broomhall House. Over the last three years, Away from the Ordinary has organised several private tours for our visitors and we have consistently received excellent feedback”

AENEAS O’HARA, FOUNDER AND CEO,
AWAY FROM THE ORDINARY

“I have been organising private cultural tours for over 15 years and recently brought a group of 20 guests for a special five-day tour in Scotland. Our first visit was to Broomhall House...and we were welcomed with such warmth and enthusiasm that I knew from the start this would be hugely appreciated by my guests...our visit turned out to be the highlight of our tour and will be long remembered”

SUE STAMP, FOUNDER, SUE STAMP TOURS

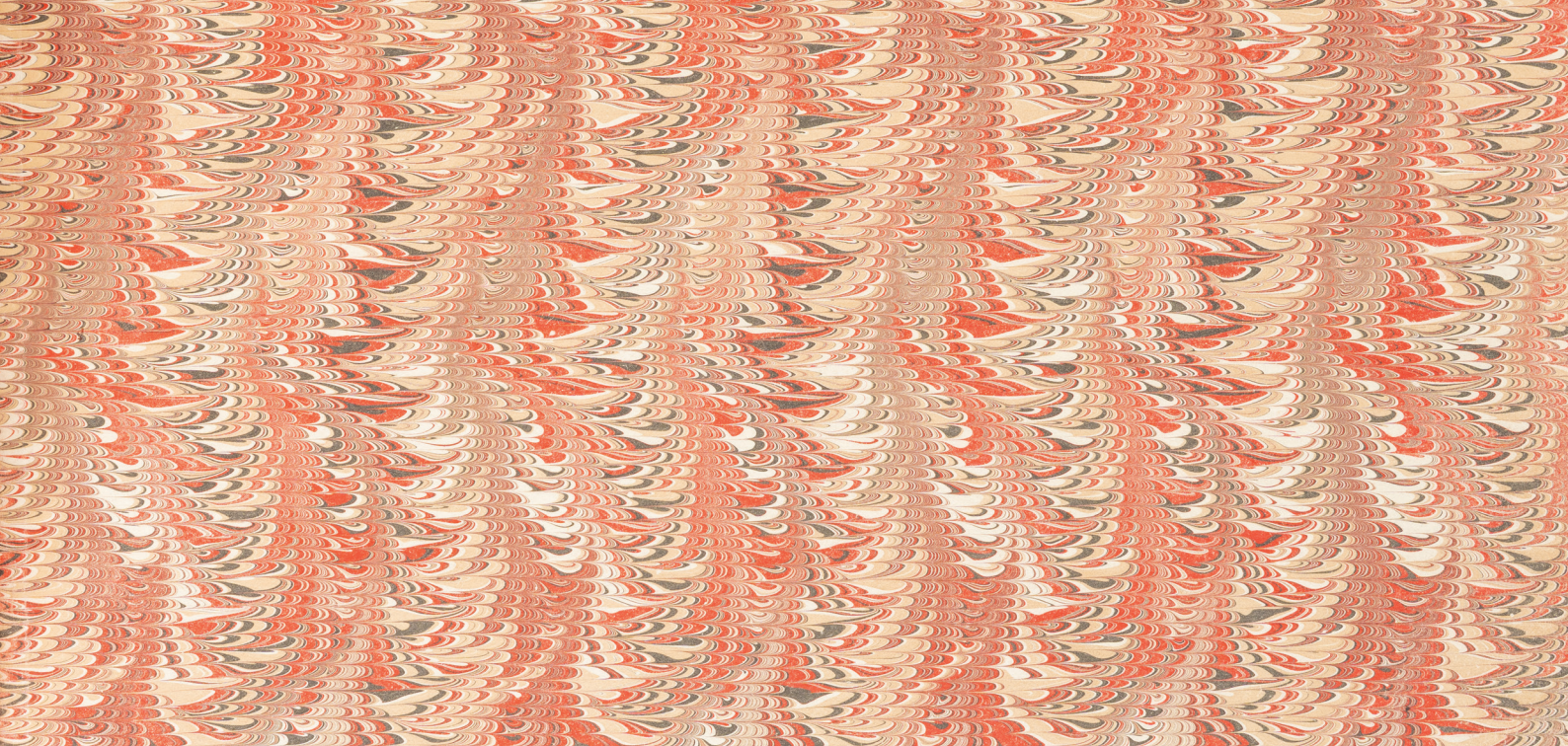
“We send many groups to Broomhall House from all over the world...the tours are always fully booked months in advance. The guest feedback is outstanding...One gentleman pulled me aside and said, ‘I have been all around the world...and been on hundreds of tours over the past 30 years...never have I been on one quite like this, it has been the best tour experience’...”

REBECCA BUTCHER, SENIOR OPERATIONS
CO-ORDINATOR, *EXCURSIONS LTD.*



For more information, contact us at

ENQUIRE@BROOMHALLHOUSE.COM





BROOMHALL

THE HOME OF THE FAMILY OF KING ROBERT THE BRUCE



FUIMUS ET ERIMUS

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