

[History of the Carnegies, Earls of Southesk, and of their kindred](#)

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[James Carnegie, sixth Laird of Balnamoon](#), the great-grandson of Sir Alexander, married, in 1734, Margaret Arbuthnott, heiress of the estate of Findourie, in the county of Forfar. Mr. Carnegie added the surname of Arbuthnott to his own, and the subsequent lairds of Balnamoon have followed his example.

In the stirring year 1745, the same laird zealously espoused and valorously supported the cause of the exiled family of Stuart. He was appointed Governor of Forfarshire on behalf of Prince Charles. He fought at the battles of Preston, Falkirk, and Culloden. The fortunes of battle having gone against Prince Charles on the field of Culloden, the laird found it necessary to retreat; and to secure his personal safety he fled to the mountains of Glenesk. In a large cave which had a small entrance, near the foot of Curmaud Hill, in the valley of Glenmark, which is still called 'Bonnymoon's Cave,' he long found shelter, with the connivance of the neighbouring tenants. The farmer of Glenmark, and many of the inhabitants, who like himself were Jacobites, knew that this was his hiding-place, and they welcomed him to their houses whenever he could come with safety; nor could they be tempted by the hope of reward to inform against him. On a cold rainy day, when he had ventured to go to the farm-house of Glenmark, a party of soldiers entered the house in search of him as he was sitting at the kitchen fire disguised in the dress of a poor hind. The farmer with much address diverted suspicion from Balnamoon by gruffly ordering him to go and clean the byres, while he ordered the best entertainment he had to be given to the soldiers.

From the prominent part which he acted in 1745, this Laird of Balnamoon is commonly called the 'Rebel Laird.'¹ Many anecdotes relating to his good humour and conviviality, for which he was conspicuous throughout a long life, have been current; but some of them are certainly apocryphal. The absurd story of his having cut, or rather sawed down, the valuable books in his library to suit the size of his bookshelves has been completely disproved. He is commonly considered as the author of the popular ballad, 'Low down in the Broom,' but this has not been authenticated.

¹ *Vide* [p. 304](#).

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The insurrection in Scotland on behalf of the Stuart family soon required the presence of the Duke of Cumberland, who hastened from Flanders to Scotland to take the lead in crushing the insurrection. Sir James Carnegie of Pittarow, 3rd Bart., returned with the Duke, and he was present at the decisive battle of Culloden, fought 16th April 1746, in which he displayed great bravery. His younger brother, George Carnegie, afterwards of Pittarow, fought in the same battle, in support of Prince Charles (alongside [James Carnegie of Balnamoon](#)), an example, in those times not uncommon, showing how members of the same family staked their fortunes on different sides in that exciting conflict. The details and general result of this battle are well known, and need not here be enlarged upon. The action commenced about one o'clock, with the fire of the insurgent cannon, which, however, were pointed too high, and did little execution. In a few minutes the Royal artillery replied, and being excellently served, soon made long lanes through the masses of the insurgents. This led to an immediate and furious attack by the whole insurgent clans, which the royal troops sustained with firmness, and repulsed with great slaughter, the royal cavalry at the same time charging their broken ranks and gaining a complete victory.²

With the battle of Culloden, the fortunes of Prince Charles perished, and he thenceforth wandered among his Highland hills a poor fugitive, seeking shelter in the humblest huts, and disguising himself in female attire. To the honour of his faithful Highlanders, the large reward of £30,000 which was offered for him was too small to induce them to betray the unfortunate representative of their ancient kings.

How different was the state of the victorious Duke! In pursuance of his object of completely suppressing the rebellion, soon after the battle of Culloden he fixed his head-quarters at Fort Augustus. Here, amidst the fatigues and hardships inseparable from military life, he made all about him as jovial as the place would admit of. A specimen of the amusements with which his Grace enlivened his camp is given in a letter, dated Fort Augustus, 17th June 1746, which narrates the amusements of the Duke and his officers. He gave two prizes to the soldiers to run heats for, on barebacked Galloway ponies, taken from the insurgents; eight started for the first, and ten for the second prize. These ponies were little larger than a large sheep, and there was excellent sport. On another day, the Duke gave a fine Holland smock to the soldiers' wives, to be run for on these ponies, also barebacked, and riding with their limbs on each side of the horse, like men. Eight started; and there were three of the finest heats ever seen. The prize was won, with great difficulty, by one of the Old Buffs' ladies. In the evening, General Hawley and Colonel Howard ran a match for twenty guineas, on two of the above ponies, which General Hawley won by about four inches.

² A list of colours taken from the insurgents at the battle of Culloden, and afterwards burned at the Cross of Edinburgh, will be found in the Appendix.

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10. LIST of the 'REBEL COLOURS' taken at the Battle of Culloden, and brought to the Castle of Edinburgh. 31st May 1746.

Referred to at Page 205.

Received from Lieutenant-Colonel Napier the following Rebel Colours, viz.,—

1. On a Staff a White Linnen Colours belonging to the *Farquharsons*.
2. On a Staff a White Linnen Colours, motto *Terores ferio* Chisolmes.
3. On a Staff a large plain White Colours, said to be the Standard.
4. On a Staff a blue Silk Colours, *Sursum tendo*.
5. A Staff, the Colours tore off.
6. Do.
7. On a Staff a White Silk Colours with the Stewart's Arms, *God save King*.
8. On a Staff a White Silk Colours, in the Canton St. Andrew's Cross.
9. On a Staff a white Silk with a red Saltire.
10. A blew Silk Colours with the Lovat arms, *Sine sanguine victor*.
11. A white Silk with a blew Saltire.
12. Piece of a blue Silk with a St. Andrew Saltire, *Commit the work to God*.
13. A White Linnen Jaik with a red Saltire.
14. One of Lord Lovat's Camp Colours.

Which Colours I am to deliver to Lord Justice Clerk at Edinburgh.

(Signed) Hu: Wentworth.

Inverness, May 11th, 1746.

Castle of Edinburgh, 31st May 1746.

Received from Major Wentworth the above Colours, which are to be marched on Wednesday next, betwixt twelve and one, with a sufficient guard, to the cross of Edinburgh, and there to be burnt by the hands of the common hangman.—By Order of the Lord Justice Clerk.³

RUSSELL CHAPMAN.

11. ACCOUNT of the Burning of the 'REBEL COLOURS' taken at the Battle of Culloden, at the Cross of Edinburgh, 4th June 1746.

Referred to at Page 205.

Edinburgh, 4 June 1746.

This day at Noon fourteen pair of the rebels' colours, taken at the late battle of Culloden, were brought from the castle of Edinburgh under a detachment of Collonel Lee's Regiment. The hangman caried the Pretender's own standard, and a chimney sweeper each of the other colours (to be burnt publicly) at the mercat cross, where a large fire was lighted up for that purpose. The sherriffs of Edinburgh, preceeded by the heraulds and pursevants at arms, in their robes with the trumpets, constables of the city with their battons, sherriffs officers and city Serjeants with their halberts, escorted by a party of the city guard, march'd from the Parliament Closs to the cross, where proclamation was made by the eldest herauld that these colours belonging to the rebels were order'd to be burnt by the hand of the common hangman. With three flourishes of the trumpets, the Pretender's standard was first put into the fire and burnt, amidst the repeated acclamations of ane innumerable joyfull company of spectators. Every one of the other colours was separately put into the fire with sound

³ Original at Salton.

of trumpet, and attended with the same expressions of joy. The whole was conducted and concluded to the universale satisfaction of all who have just notions of liberty, and a true love for the welfare of their country.⁴

⁴ Ibid.

12. Another ACCOUNT of the Burning of the 'Rebel Colours' taken at the Battle of Culloden, at the Cross of Edinburgh, 4th June 1746.

Referred to at Page 205.

Yesterday, fourteen of the rebel colours taken at the battle of Culloden were publicly burnt at the cross by the hands of the common hangman. As the solemnity used on this occasion exceeded every thing that has been known in this place, so the loyalty of the spectators, which were many thousands, distinguished it self by a sincere and unaffected joy, expressed by loud and repeated huzzas, waving of hats by men, & handkerchiefs by the ladies from the windows.

Betwixt the hours of ten and eleven forenoon the fire was pil'd up at the cross. Soon after, five companies of Collonel Lee's regiment march'd thro' the street to the castle. The city guard paraded about eleven, and drew up in the Parliament Close, after which they escorted the twenty-eight constables with their battoons to the cross, where, after they had properly stationed themselves, the rebel colours came from the castle; that which they called 'the royal one' was earned by the hangman in front, and the rest by chimney sweeps employed for that purpose. The Grenadier company, with the other four of Collonel Lee's regiment, surrounded the fire, and soon after, the sherriffs, attended with their train, and preceded by the trumpets, heralds, and pursuivants in their proper habits. When everything was thus prepared, the hangman took the royal standard, as the rebels term'd it, and threw it in the flames, the heralds proclaiming aloud what it was, the trumpets blowing, and the spectators huzzaing. The rest were burnt in the same manner, one by one, amidst the joyfull acclamations of the populace, which even drown'd the sound of the trumpets.

The whole was carried on with the highest solemnity, conducted with an agreeable decency, and concluded without the least disturbance.⁵

⁵ Original at Salton.