

KilliecrAnkie1689

Friday, 29 June 2018

FILM TOURISTS ONLY OFFERED THE 'REEL' DEAL

Inspired by history and heritage, Scotland is pursuing high value screen tourism but fails to protect real historical assets.

George MacLean of KilliecrAnkie1689, the group campaigning for a review of the A9 dualling plan, is delighted to welcome MSPs Murdo Fraser and Donald Cameron to the site of the Battle of Killiecrankie where their namesakes and forebears participated in the first and bloodiest of the Jacobite battles in Scotland.

They are doing what Visit Scotland encourages many to do: enjoy the country's rich landscape and walk in the footsteps of their ancestors. With 50 million people worldwide claiming Scottish ancestry and about 10 million of them saying that they are interested in visiting the land of their forefathers, it is a lucrative way to market Scotland.

"Visitors are arriving in Scotland in increasing numbers, attracted by our unique mix of scenery, history and heritage," says George MacLean. "Visit Scotland excels at promoting our image. In contrast, Scotland is poor at protecting real historic assets, such as the site of this important battle."

Culture, heritage and ancestry are the strongest motivators for visits to Scotland. All are perfectly supported by film tourism which is currently booming, thanks to cinematic landscapes and heightened interest in Scottish history. Only this week,

location filming for Season 4 of the hit Jacobite TV series, *Outlander*, was completed in nearby Faskally Woods.

Boosted by the success of *Outlander*, the number of visitors from the US – for years the chart-topper of international tourists to Scotland - has been rising along with their spending. In 2016, they splashed £510m here, up by 30% on the previous year. Figures for 2017 are not available yet but it is safe to say that they spent even more as spending by all overseas visitors in the first 9 months of last year rose by 18% to £1,846 million which already matches the total for the whole of 2016.

Killiecrankie is well established on the tourist map because of its natural heritage and historic environment. It is the starting point of the Jacobite trail. After all, this is where Jacobitism was born.

John Graham of Claverhouse, Viscount Dundee, led rebel Highlanders to a surprise victory in a bid to reclaim the throne for the deposed King James VII and II in 1689. Although the Jacobites won the battle, they lost Dundee and the revolt fizzled out within a few weeks.

The battle is seared into popular imagination because of its sheer brutality. In less than an hour at least 2,000 men were killed in one of the goriest episodes of Scottish history.

“We know the position of the armies immediately before battle commenced and we know how the inferior Jacobite numbers overwhelmed the government troops,” says George MacLean. Much of the success was due to the shock of a terrifying Highland Charge, led by the veteran Ewen Cameron of Lochiel.

Donald Cameron is the Younger of Lochiel and a direct descendant of the man who commanded the clan. The Camerons were positioned on the immediate left of Dundee and rushed down Creag Eallaich at high speed towards the Williamite

troops lined up along the flat ground. Using the natural dips in the terrain they managed to protect themselves from the expected volley of musket fire yet maintain a frightening pace downhill. The Highlanders smashed through the battleline with surprising speed, overwhelming the government men by the force of momentum, deafening war cries and brutal hand-to-hand fighting.

While the right flank of General Hugh Mackay's army was broken by the charge, many on the left flank appear to have lost their nerve and fled before the Highlanders could engage. It was all over, Mackay wrote later, "in the twinkling of an eye".

The fighting was concentrated in the flattish ground that runs along the shadow of the current northbound carriageway of the A9. This is the very area which will be obliterated by construction of new carriageways and related infrastructure.

The key features of the core of the battlefield are listed in the Inventory of Historic Battlefields which offers a degree of protection in normal circumstances. However, dualling the A9 does not fall within the usual planning system. There are 183 objections to Transport Scotland's plan at Killiecrankie coming from Historic Environment Scotland, Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust, Cairngorms National Park Authority, history groups and individuals. Ultimately, it will be a decision for Scottish Ministers to take.

Huge effort is put into burnishing the image of Scotland by promoting Scottish history and heritage on celluloid. Campaigners who want a review of Transport Scotland's design and route for the A9 at Killiecrankie lament the fact that the same effort has not gone into protecting the real thing.

Supporters who want a review of the plan can sign the petition at

<http://chn.ge/2CLemMT>

NOTES FOR EDITORS

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Read: www.killiecrankie1689.scot

Watch: <https://youtu.be/4Hdi9ZbbUTw>

Twitter: @KilliecrankieA9

Facebook: Killiecrankie1689

Petition: <http://chn.ge/2CLemMT>

1 Information on the A9 project Killiecrankie to Glen Garry, including the Environmental Statement and draft Road Orders, is available on Transport Scotland's website: <https://www.transport.gov.scot/projects/a9-dualling-perth-to-inverness/a9-killiecrankie-to-glen-garry/>

2 The following lists are names of those who fought at the Battle of Killiecrankie. The lists are not comprehensive and may contain errors but have been collected from historic records and are on display at the National Trust for Scotland visitor centre in Killiecrankie.

JACOBITES

Thomas Buchan

Sir Ewen Cameron of Lochiel

Camerons of Lochiel, of Glendessary

Col Alex Cannon

Earl of Dunfermline

Dougal of Craignish

Farquarsons

Fraser of Culduthel, of Foyers

Donald Gorm son of Alasdair Dubh, chief of Glengarry

Donald Glas, chief of Glengyle Gregarach (Rob Roy's father)
John Graham of Claverhouse, Viscount Dundee
Iain Grant of Glenmoriston
James Grant of Sheouglie
Grants of Glenurquart, of Glenmorrison
Fullerton of Fullerton
David Halyburton of Pitgur
Sir Alex Innes of Coxtan
Soldier Johnston (tended dying Dundee)
Kinnaird of Culbin
Lamonts of Kintyre
MacDonalds of Clanranald, of Keppoch, of Sleat, of Kintyre, of Glen Spean/Glen Roy,
of Glencoe, of the Isles, of Rachlin
John MacDonald of Largie
Macdonnells of Glengarry
Macleans of Duart, of Otter, of Ardgour/Torloisk/Coll
Macgregors
MacNeills of Barra
MacLeods of Raasay
Iain Ben Beag MacRoy
Alasdair MacAlasdair of Glencoe
Alasdair MacDonell of Glengarry
MacMartins of Letterfinlay
MacNaughtons of Dunderawe
Maclachlans of Kintyre
Alexander Macalister of Loup
9th Lord Oliphant
Clan Oliphant
Col James Purcell
James Philip of Almerieclose
Rattray

Rob Roy

Col Ramsay of Pitgur

Robertsons of Struan

Stewarts of Appin

Patrick Stewart of Ballechin

Alastair Bon Stewart

Revd Robert Stewart

Sir William Wallace of Craigie

GOVERNMENT TROOPS

Brigadier Barthold Balfour

Lt Col John Fergusson

Col Lawder

Donald Macbean

Major General Hugh Mackay of Scourie

Lt Col James Mackay (brother of the Commander)

Clan Menzies

Col The Hon George Ramsey

Oliver of Smallcleuch

John Williamson

Earl of Annandale's Independent Troop of Horse

Lord Belhaven's Independent Troop of Horse

Ferdinando Hasting's Regiment of Foot

David Earl of Leven's Regiment of Foot

Viscount Kenmure's Regiment of Foot

1 Company of Grant's Foot

ENDS