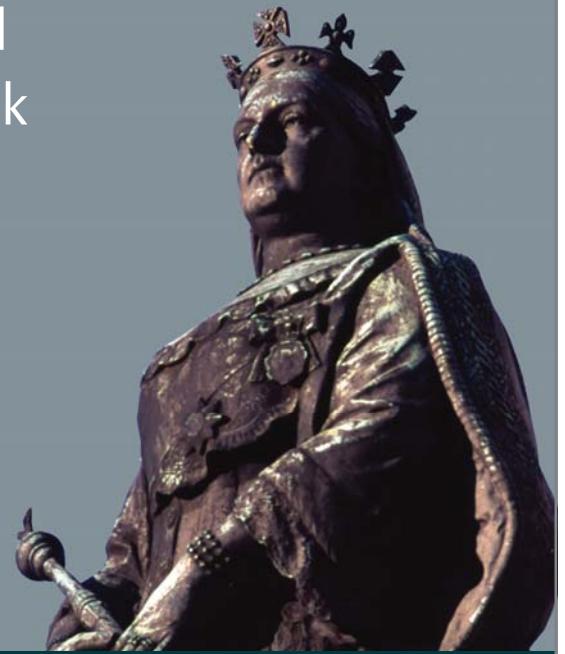


They came from Europe, made Scotland their home – fought her battles and took their name from one of her regions. Murrays have played an important part in Scottish and British society for centuries. Queen Victoria described one Murray friend as ‘so excellent and ... so truly Scotch’.



THE NAME **MURRAY** COULD NOT BE MORE  
**SCOTTISH** COMING FROM THE  
NORTH-EASTERN PROVINCE OF **MORAY**  
WHERE THE CLAN EMERGED

Murray Clan tartan

Bothwell Castle



Blair Castle



#### MURRAY SITES

The Murray name could not be more Scottish – coming from the north-eastern province of Moray where the clan emerged in the Middle Ages.

However, their founder was Freskin, a 12<sup>th</sup>-century Flemish knight.

The Murrays became linked with Scottish patriotic causes. During the Wars of Independence Sir Andrew Moray demolished his ancestral residence of Bothwell Castle in 1337 so it could not be retaken by the English. The great fortress has been battered down, rebuilt and extended many times. Its scars make it an impressive place to visit.

Another great Murray site is Blair Castle, seat of the Dukes of Atholl – the clan chiefs.

The castle has seen many unusual events and remarkable people.

It was there that Bonnie Prince Charlie first tasted a pineapple.

At the time he was a guest of the gout-ridden William Murray, who had been stripped of his estates and titles for his support of the Jacobite cause.

He landed with the young pretender in 1745 and they marched to Blair Castle.

Murray's brother James, the official duke, fled leaving him free to take up residence and entertain with exotic fruit.

In 1844 Queen Victoria and Prince Albert spent a month at Blair Castle.

The queen and Anne Murray, who became Duchess of Atholl in 1846, were friends.

Victoria described her as: ‘so wise, so excellent and so pleasant and so truly Scotch’.

Another fascinating character was Lady Evelyn Stewart-Murray who was born at Blair Castle in 1868, took up Gaelic and recorded 240 Perthshire stories. She later moved abroad and her interest turned to creating and collecting needlework.

Nowadays the dukes of Atholl have the distinction of being hereditary commanders in chief of the Atholl Highlanders, Europe's only private army.

Blair Castle is the HQ and each May the army assembles for a full parade inspected by their Colonel in Chief.

## NATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL

The Scottish National War Memorial was formally opened in 1927 by the Duke of Rothesay – later King Edward VIII. But its origins went back a decade to a proposal by the Duke of Atholl for a place of commemoration for Scots who fell in the First World War.

Two years on Sir Robert Lorimer was chosen as the architect.

The result is a magnificent memorial at the heart of Edinburgh Castle containing a shrine where Rolls of Honour, naming the war dead of 1914-18, are kept in a steel casket, the figure of St Michael the Archangel soaring above.

In the memorial's Hall of Honour are books commemorating those who died in the Second World War, and the other conflicts in which Scots have since laid down their lives.



Huntingtower Castle

Edinburgh Castle – Scottish National War Memorial

Broughton House



## SIR ANDREW AND WILLIAM WALLACE

# WON A HUGE VICTORY

## AGAINST OVERWHELMING ODDS

### HUNTINGTOWER CASTLE

This is a castle of two names, until 1600 it was known as Ruthven after the family which had owned it for centuries.

But Parliament expunged the name, replacing it with Huntingtower, and gave the property to the Murrays after the downfall of the Ruthven family over the mysterious Gowrie Conspiracy.

In 1670 the 4<sup>th</sup> earl of Tullibardine, a Murray, died at Huntingtower and it passed to his relative John, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Atholl.

The Murrays of Atholl found it a convenient residence, partly because it was near Perth, and it was here that Lord George Murray was born in 1694.

George's claim to fame was that he became lieutenant-general of the Jacobite army in the rising of 1745.

### THE RISE TO FAME

The Murrays successfully worked their way up the medieval social ladder, as Lords of Petty then of Bothwell on the Clyde.

They also founded the noble house of Sutherland.

Among the most famous Murrays was Sir Andrew, whose son of the same name slighted Bothwell Castle.

Sir Andrew was key to the decision to take on the English at Stirling Bridge in 1297, where he and William Wallace won a huge victory against overwhelming odds.

Sir Andrew died of his wounds and never saw his son.

The Murrays continued to thrive as earls of Tullibardine and of Atholl.

Atholl eventually became a marquessate then a dukedom in 1703.

# MURRAY SITES

- 1 Balvaird Castle:**  
Home of the Murrays of Tullibardine. Sir Andrew Murray of Balvaird was keeper of Holyrood Park.
- 2 Blair Castle:**  
Traditional seat of the Dukes of Atholl, chiefs of Clan Murray.
- 3 Bothwell Castle:**  
Built by Sir William Moray of Bothwell or his son Walter 'the rich'. Sir Andrew Murray recaptured the castle from the English in 1337 and demolished part of the round tower to prevent its re-use. Lady Joanna Moray's marriage to Archibald Douglas 'the Grim' in 1362 saw the property pass to the Black Douglases.
- 4 Broughton House:**  
Alexander Murray, Provost of Kirkcubright, was an early owner. His family, the Murrays of Broughton and Cally, developed Gatehouse of Fleet.
- 5 Edinburgh Castle:**  
The Scottish National War Memorial and National War Museum were inspired by the 8th Duke of Atholl in the aftermath of World War One.
- 6 Huntingtower Castle:**  
Forfeited by the Ruthven family it passed into the hands of the Murrays.
- 7 Murray Isles:**  
This small group of islets in Wigtown Bay, Dumfries and Galloway, are host to a colony of cormorants and are an important site for breeding gulls. They were gifted to the National Trust for Scotland in 1991 by Mrs Murray Usher of Cally.
- 8 Scone Palace:**  
The Murrays acquired the property after the downfall of the Ruthvens in 1600. The family were made Viscounts Stormont in 1602 and Earls of Mansfield in 1776. The present mansion dates from 1802.
- 9 Strome Castle:**  
Donated to the NTS by Mr CW Murray of Couldoran in 1939.
- 10 Venniehill:**  
A hilltop partially surrounded by ancient earthworks. It was gifted to the NTS by Mrs Murray Usher of Cally in 1981.

- Key to sites**
- Historic Scotland
  - National Trust Scotland
  - Historic Houses Association



Balvaird Castle

Edinburgh Castle

