

## ***The Jacobite Trail at Traquair House***

The Stuarts at Traquair had a very long tradition of loyalty to the Stuart monarchs and this combined with their adherence to Roman Catholicism from the mid 1600's led to them becoming Jacobites and supporters of the Uprisings in 1715 and 1745 to restore the Stuart kings to the throne.

A Jacobite was a follower of James (from the Latin, "Jacobus" ) the exiled James (VIII) deposed in 1688 following the arrival of William and Mary.

As you walk through the house there are many reminders of the family's Jacobite loyalties from portraits, coded letters, glass and hidden symbols that would be understood only by fellow sympathisers.

### **1. Bear Gates (seen from High Drawing Room)**

Perhaps the most iconic symbol of the Jacobite loyalty to the Stuart monarchy. The Bear Gates were built in 1739 only to be closed in 1745 following a visit from Prince Charles Edward Stuart (Bonnie Prince Charlie) . After the 5<sup>th</sup> Earl promised his support for the cause he closed the gates and vowed they would not be opened again until a Stuart king returned to the throne. As the Jacobites were on the march South optimism was high and perhaps a re-opening was expected a few months later. However, over 250 years later we still wait ...

### **2. Portrait of James Edward Stuart (First floor landing)**

James Edward was James II's only son with his wife, Mary of Modena, born in 1688. As a Catholic he was denied his right to succeed both to the English and Scottish thrones and was exiled in France until his attempts to overthrow the monarchy established by William and Mary in 1709 and then in 1715. This portrait shows a youthful James, perhaps shortly after his father's death when he was styled as James III of England and VIII of Scotland.

### **3. Wallpaper with white roses (corridor between High Drawing Room and Kings Room)**

This wall paper is some of the earliest manufactured wallpaper produced in the mid 1700's and after the defeat of the Jacobites at Culloden but interestingly the motif is a white rose, a well known Jacobite motif perhaps dating back to earlier Jacobite sympathies?

### **4. Prince James Edward Stuart (Kings Room)**

"The Old Pretender" Portrait of James Edward Stuart. This painting executed at the studio of Alexis Simon Belle, one of the painters at the exiled Stuart

Court in St Germain-en-Laye. A very popular portrait commissioned by many English and Scottish Jacobites in exile after the uprising of 1715.

5. Jacobite Glasses ( Museum )

This cabinet holds a number of Jacobite drinking glasses with extraordinary air twist stems that were all manufactured between the 1730's and 1740's.

One of the rarest is the "Amen Glass" of which there are only around 60 left in existence today. The printed material will show the poem on the glass and further information.

Did you know that Jacobite sympathisers had a special dinner toast? It was traditional to toast the King after dinner but as a Jacobite you may have held your wine glass over a fingerbowl of water to signify you were toasting not the king in this country but the exiled king in France.

Note the glass with flowers depicted around the rim. Each flower will spell the Charles by its first initial – C – Chrysanthemum , H – Honeysuckle A – Aconite etc

6. A lock of hair of Bonnie Prince Charlie

Prince Charles Edward was known to have distributed many locks of his hair to his supporters. While its absolute authenticity cannot be verified, it has been in the family for many generations and its provenance is the best indication of its authenticity.

7. Betty Burke

Painting on glass of Bonnie Prince Charlie disguised as a "Betty Burke", an Irish spinning maid after the Jacobite defeat at the battle of Culloden in 1746. It was the ingenuity and bravery of Flora McDonald who suggested the disguise that he was able to take a boat to Skye before making a final escape to France.

8. Nithsdale Cloak (Museum)

This is the cloak that Lord Nithsdale wore when he escaped from the Tower of London in 1746 the night before he was due to be executed due to the bravery of his wife, Winifred, Lady Nithsdale The extraordinary account of the escape was recounted by her in a letter after the event which can be read in the Dining Room. The escape caused much excitement at the time and this style of cloak became known as "a Nithsdale". It was later passed down through the family and is on loan from the estate of the late Lady Herries.

The portraits of Lord and Lady Nithsdale can be seen in the Dining Room.

9. The Coded Letter (Second Library)

This extraordinary coded letter was discovered in the Traquair archives. It dates from the time of the 1715 Uprising., It can be seen that the letter was folded into six perhaps for ease of hiding and it looks to have been passed around.

The Earl and Countess of Traquair were in the habit of using the pseudonyms Mr and Mrs Jones during this time to avoid detection and their relations, the Nithsdales were known as Mr and Mrs Young. However, the letter which uses a numerical code has yet to be broken! In 1995, during the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1745 Uprising the Daily Mail ran a competition to break the code. Despite huge interest and many attempts including a code breaker from Bletchley Park, the code remains unbroken.

10. Map of the Route of the 1745

Fascinating map of the route taken by the Jacobites of the 1745 uprising.

11. 4<sup>th</sup> Earl and Countess of Traquair

The 4<sup>th</sup> Earl and Countess of Traquair were strong Jacobite supporters which was primarily driven by their adherence to the Roman Catholic faith and the Stuarts of Traquair had always strongly supported the Stuart monarchy.

As early as 1692, the Earl was imprisoned in Edinburgh castle as a known Catholic and Jacobite. In 1694 he married Mary Maxwell, daughter of the 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Nithsdale and two strong Jacobite families were brought together.

Mary had a very large family of 17 children which she produced between 1694 and 1711 – a child every year with a year off when she had twins! Mary was a powerful Jacobite voice behind the scenes and lived through both uprisings and died at the age of 88.

12. Portraits of Lady Winifred Nithsdale and Lord William Nithsdale (Dining Room)

Prominent Jacobites who took part in the 1715 Uprising. Read about the escape from the Tower of London in the folders on the table.

13. Lower Drawing Room – Portrait of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Duke of Perth

Note the white medallion on the Duke's armour, signifying his Jacobite allegiance. Operating like a secret society the Jacobites had many symbols that they used to alert sympathisers of their real allegiance. These included the white cockade – a white feather in a beret, thistles, oak leaves and acorns, butterflies and many more. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Duke of Perth married Lady Mary Stuart, one of the 17 children of the 4<sup>th</sup> Countess of Traquair.

