

Wild Alasdair and Bishop Hugh

Alasdair Fiadhaich agus an t-Easbaig Ùisdean

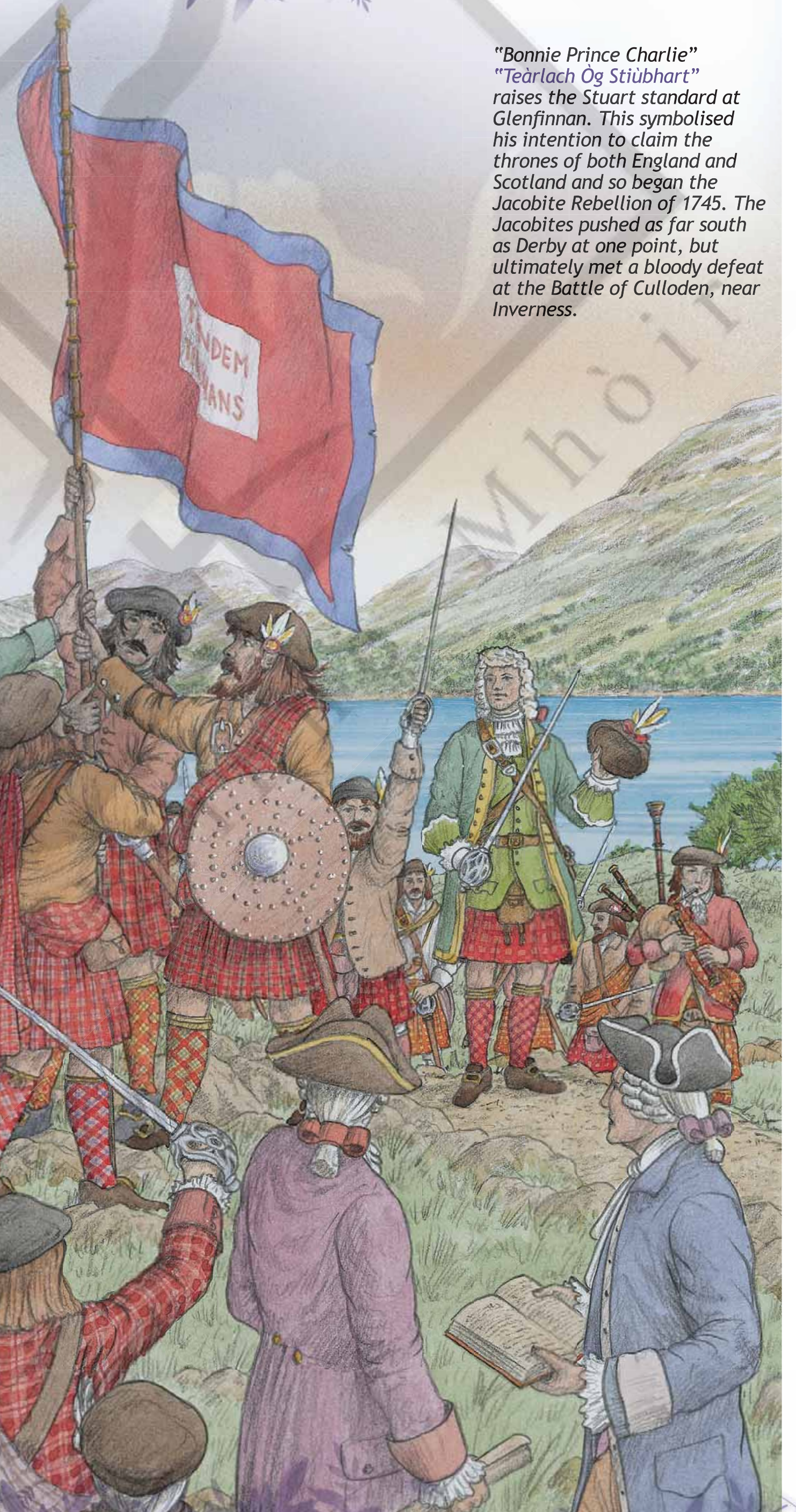
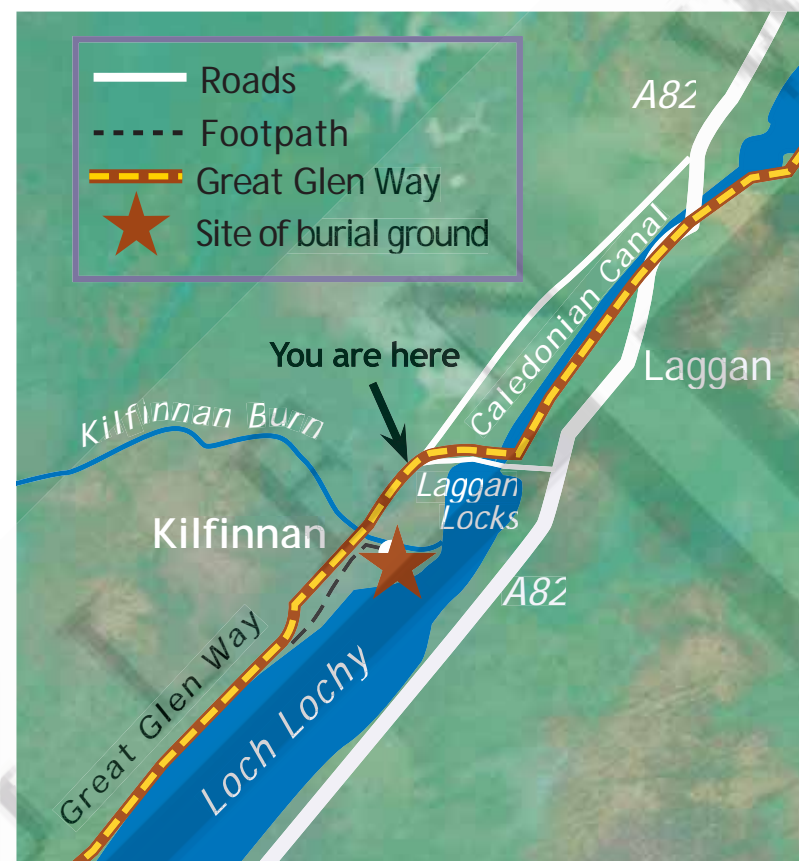
Pronounced: Alasdair Feeaeach agus an tessbeek Doishdeean

Not far from here is Kilfinnan, an ancient burial ground. The name "Kilfinnan" comes from "Cill Fhionain" - Finan's Church, although there is now no trace of a church.

Kilfinnan was the burial place for the chiefs of the MacDonells of Glengarry. The original burial ground was submerged when the building of the Caledonian Canal Canàl Cailleannach raised the water level of Loch Lochy Loch Lòchaidh in the early 1800s. The replacement burial ground is on higher ground and has the MacDonell of Glengarry family mausoleum.

Alasdair Ranaldson MacDonnell of Glengarry, the 15th Chief, was known as Alasdair Fiadhaich (Wild Alasdair). He stripped his estate of timber to finance his flamboyant lifestyle and evicted many of his tenants to make way for sheep. He was a constant problem for the builders of the Caledonian Canal, demanding large amounts of compensation and chasing canal workmen off his land.

Kilfinnan is also linked to the Jacobite Rising of 1745. Bishop Hugh MacDonald, who was buried in the old burial ground, tried in vain to warn the clan chiefs not to proceed with the Rising but later blessed Bonnie Prince Charlie's Standard at Glenfinnan in the West Highlands. After the Battle of Culloden, Bishop Hugh spent many years evading capture by government troops. The present burial ground has a memorial to him.



"Bonnie Prince Charlie" "Teàrlach Òg Stiùbhart" raises the Stuart standard at Glenfinnan. This symbolised his intention to claim the thrones of both England and Scotland and so began the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745. The Jacobites pushed as far south as Derby at one point, but ultimately met a bloody defeat at the Battle of Culloden, near Inverness.



Did you know...?

Alasdair MacDonnell, the 15th Chief, liked to wear full Highland garb and to travel with a body-guard luchd-crios which guarded him at any house where he stayed. He referred to this entourage as his "tail" "earball".

Alasdair MacDonnell of Glengarry, (1771-1828) by Henry Raeburn

His ambition was to be a Highland Chief of the olden time... Though he possessed talent and many kindly qualities, his overbearing temper led him repeatedly into difficulties and his careless expenditure far exceeded his income.

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