



Culloden Tales: Stories from Scotland's Most Famous Battlefield

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The last battle on British soil, Culloden marked the end of clan culture, was the harbinger of the Highland Clearances, ensured the inevitability of the American Revolution, and increased the outpouring of Scots across the globe. It is the only battle that British Army regiments are not permitted to include on their battle honors; the only battle that Bonnie Prince Charlie ever lost; and the only battle that Cumberland ever won. As visitors make their way to the site of Culloden, they bring with them their stories and their grandfather's stories—sometimes haunting, sometimes humorous, but always impressive. A poignant location, resonant with past deeds and emotive memories, the battlefield inevitably affects those who work there, including the author. Having worked there for many years, he has collected these stories and offers them here as a unique record of the power of the place. There are tales from both before and during the battle, stories from those who visit from all corners of the globe, and tales from those who work there. These stories tell of civil war, love, the unexpected, and even the supernatural.

Culloden Tales: Stories from Scotland's Most Famous Battlefield Details

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Author : Hugh G. Allison

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From Reader Review Culloden Tales: Stories from Scotland's Most Famous Battlefield for online ebook

Diana says

Not all tales were interesting but overall quite an okay collection.

Jean says

An OK book. Simon Fraser of Lovat was a real person in the Outlander books! Also, Culloden was about Episcopalianism vs. Presbyterianism.

Sherry Sharpnack says

“Culloden Tales” is full of trivia, history, and supernatural visitors at Drummossie Moor, the site of the Battle of Culloden on April 16, 1746 — the last battle fought on British soil, which led to the destruction of the Highland way of life. This battle is well portrayed in the “Outlander” novels and TV series.

Written by a man who works at the historical site, the most interesting quarter of the book was about the various stories brought to the information desk by visitors, many from North American descendants of the clansmen who participated in the battle. I also liked the “ghost” stories told.

If you are a serious student of the Jacobite cause, you will learn nothing new. If you are suffering through “Droughtlander,” waiting on Season 4, this gossipy book might help during your wait.

Janelle V. Dvorak says

This is a well-written book full of fascinating biographies, personal stories, and tales of inexplicable events at Culloden. Mr. Allison knows the battlefield back to front and answered many of my questions.

Adela says

very interesting and nice :)

David K says

Get down in the weeds of the Culloden Battlefield

Very interesting but more for the aficionado of the Jacobite Rebellion. The individual stories were interesting, but hard to tie them together into a comprehensive understanding. I was still glad I read it.

Jennifer (JC-S) says

I heard my first account of Culloden some 45 years ago. It was not an inaccurate account, just a proudly partisan account from the perspective of Clan Cameron participation on the losing side.

This book is not an history of Culloden. It is a collection of tales: about the place itself, the events leading to the battle and its aftermath. A kind of oral and physical history with an overlay of fact.

For those interested in learning more about Culloden, there is a good select bibliography.

Hannah Stewart says

Not your average book of 'tales'. Most of them were super interesting, quite a lot were poignant and you got to feel for a lot of characters. The author/collater did a good job conveying emotions and experiences - even humour- which quite often these story collections lack.

Jbondandrews says

Quite an interesting book about different aspects of Culloden.

Jonno says

Written in such a way that I just couldn't put the book down once I started it. So I sat up until 3 in the morning to finish it.

A great collection of history and stories passed on through the generations. Well worth a read if you have an interest in Culloden and the Jacobite cause.

Jordyn says

After visiting Culloden Battlefield and meeting the author himself, I had to read! Hugh takes you from the beginning of its geological formation and the Celt history and then through first-hand accounts of the battle of the '45 and beyond. By "beyond" I also mean its ghostly realm.

Matthew says

The premise of this book, to tell stories of love, battle, even the supernatural that are related to the famous battle, is great but the book does not live up to its promise. Instead of individual tales, the book is a series of short essays related to the history of the region of which the battle takes up about 1/3 of the book. These essays are not bad and actually may make up a good way to study the battle for someone who has previous knowledge of the history and terrain. However, for someone looking to learn about the battle it makes for a disjointed and confusing read.

Andrea Johnson says

3.5. Interesting to read about after visiting there.

David Farrar says

This book is a fun collection of short stories about Culloden, the last battle fought on English soil back in 1746.

A couple of messages come through clearly in this book. History is written by the winners, so to provide balance this book is clearly sympathetic to the losers. If you know anything about British history you might think Culloden was between Bonnie Prince Charlie, or the Scots, and the Duke of Cumberland, or the English. This book looks at it differently and more as the last gasp of a long drawn out civil war between the supporters of the Stuarts and the Hanoverians.

To support that perspective the stories in the book illustrates that there were Highland Scots, Lowland Scots and English on both sides in large numbers. Further, some of the stories show the religious side of the wars as being between Presbyterian and Episcopalian Protestants. And finally, there is the perspective that Bonnie Prince Charlie's side was itself divided between those who were fighting to unite Britain under the Stuarts, those who wanted a separate but equal kingdom of Scotland, and those who wanted independence for both Scotland and Ireland.

If all that sounds too dry, it's not. The stories cover the heartbreak and despair of civil war through to drinking stories of then and today, and even ghost stories that surround the battlefield.

The stories themselves are gathered from the authors experience as a guide and docent on the battlefield dealing with tourists, locals and families come to pay their respects. If you want a novel look at a familiar aspect of British history this will while away a few enjoyable hours.

Christine Austin says

More historic than spooky

This is a good compendium of stories, though I had expected more ghost stories. I liked the history through time presented, though it was brief.

