Jacobite summary notes

Edinburgh in the ’45 – John Sibbald Gibson

Graveyards

Battle of Prestonpans book

Fight for a Throne

Damned Rebel Bitches

Background

-Last Stuart – Queen Anne died in 1714

Charlie was 25 years old

Britain at war in Europe.

Some French help.

Patrick Crichton – 50 years old – Woodhouselie Manuscript

Spoke Scots – not English

1 – Greyfriars

Forbes

* One of the greatest boozers in the North (the other was his brother)
* Story about leaving his mother’s body behind
* Nicknamed ‘King Duncan’ – displeased Duke of Cumberland
* Disarming Act of 1716 – only loyal clans had given up arms, Jacobite ones had secreted them in places.
* Was totally loyal to the Crown
* 40 clans – 20 were in rising, four fought for Government (with vary degrees of enthusiasm)

Ban Macintyre

* Fought with the Breadalbane Fencibles against the Jacobites at Falkirk in 1746. Then became a town guardsman.

Pitcairne

* Son rescued
* Crate of wine
* Fake grave and the real one is in the covenanter’s prison

2 – Museum

Women

3 – Potterrow and Flodden Walll

* Edinburgh
* The Flodden Wall
* Potterrow
* Edinburgh hasn’t changed much since the mid sixteenth century
* Around 60,000 people
* Merchants would meet around Cross and then take the meridian
* Plans for a 12 foot wide breach to be made by blowing up gunpowder there.

4 – Defence attempts

Edinburgh Castle – invalid company – and two regiments of Lascelles foot

George Drummond – fought at Sherrifmuir 30 years before. Wanted back as Lord Provost.

7 September – Lord Provost and Council send a loyal address to King George

* Probably between 2000 and 3000 ment. Town Guard, trained bands (turned up once a year for the king’s salute and then had lunch), Edinburgh regiment – about 200 guys who really came for the pay – volunteers and excise office people
* Nowhere to put canons – were some walkways but only one rank of defenders and whole chest of a man was exposed – not good if you’re firing a musket!

5 – St Mary’s and Charlie’s movements

Saturday 14th – Highland army had slipped past Stirling and was at Linlithgow.

Sunday 15 – Bank reserves of gold and silver get sent to castle.

* 16th September, a crowd literally chased Provost Stewart and asked him to come to terms with the rebels.

6 – Netherbow attack

Monday 16 - Prince’s army at Gray’s Mill – Water of Leith

Provost Coutts sent out to meet the Prince – he wanted unconditional surrender AND city to receive him as his father’s regent

Cameron of Locheil and Appin Stewarts sent out to take city

Before daylight on Tuesday 17th – one account says 4am

Attempt with a highlander dressed as a servant of a dragoon had failed

* Prince said ‘no bloodshed’
* 700 men of Locheil and osullivan – picked clansmen
* 5am 30 men rush the open gate
* Edinburgh delivered up to about 3000 flea ridden highlanders

8 – Tweeddale Court

Marquis of Tweeddale

Marquis of Tweeddale – Secretary of State for Scotland

Lieutenant-General Sir John Cope, C-in-C North British forces – go from Stirling Castle and nip rebellion in the bud. This had worked in 1719.

Cope then goes to Aberdeen – ships – come to Leith

* Really splendid house – garden
* Coach house to the rear
* Secretary of state for Scotland – was in London and said he thought they’d made no great progress…on the day the Jacobites took the city of Edinburgh!
* Resigned in January 1746 amidst allegations of incompetence
* ‘dragoons have no excuse but that they are from Ireland’

Guardhouse

* Guardhouse
* Countess of Eglinton
* Guards took over all the gates – waited for five hours for keys to the Parliament building
* Locals gave them food and drink – orders were no alcohol was to be touched
* Some people paid for their things – all very civil

Mercat Cross proclamation

Mercat Cross proclamation

* Ross Herald
* Charles was Regent for his father
* Free pardon to people loyal to Elector of Hanover – King George
* Maintenance of protestant religion

Fleshmarket Close

* Banks
* 20th September – army leaves to fight at Prestonpans
* 21st September – battle takes place
* 4000 pounds taken from Cope’s army at Prestonpans
* 29th September – 5500 brought from Glasgow but some in notes
* Mrs Clerk’s tavern
* Then another 2000 plus pounds needed to be converted
* Got a pass to get them past the weight house
* Money was somewhere in the governor’s residence
* Castle was firing on town while they were taking the money
* Something in the region of at least half a million

Libberton’s Wynd

First capital knows is Laird of Gask – Laurence Oliphant – comes out of Writer’s Close – confronts four dragoons who were charging up the High Street to seek refuge at the Castle. Two fired on him.

Grandfather of Lady Nairne – who wrote Charlie is my Darlin’

St Giles

* New Church – one of the four in St Giles – Archibald Stewart discusses what could be done to defend Edinburgh.
* Statute law forbade him from raising troops unless he had authority from King. Would take at least a week.
* Stewart is the colonel of the Train Bands.

Lawnmarket

* Blue Blanket flag flying from St Giles for four days as a warning of enemy coming and the need to rally against them.
* Men gather
* Sunday 15 – the young students meet in the Landmarket
* Bread and cheese and some brandy from the local publicans
* Dr Wishart – College principal called on the men to stop this rash attempt – defend the city – NOT go out too meet the Jacobites
* Alexander Carlyle – 23 – brother William was 15 – really upset when Sandy asked him to look after his money
* Decided to go an stay on guard duty down at the bottom of Leith Wynd
* Edinburgh’s fire bell (I think from St Giles) sounded and the volunteers met
* This happens on a Sunday
* End of church services
* Locals came out of churches to see young men they knew in the volunteers and tried to get them to change their minds

West Bow

* Blackbird

Victoria Street

* Archibald Stewart
* Charlie’s ‘visit’
* Kept in custody by the Jacobites for the first week of the occupation
* Wednesday 18th – day after the Mercat Cross, demands came for
* 1000 tents, 6000 canteens, 6000 pairs of shoes and 2000 targets

Grassmarket

* Volunteers waited in Lawnmarket for an hour and then went down West Bow to Grassmarket
* Drummond put on a ‘not entirely convincing show of regret’ and off they went.
* Possibly because they were his most likely voters.
* Sandy Carlyle 23 – just go out and dissuade Charlie – William 15 – only realised how severe the situation when his brother said ‘look after my money’!

West Port

* Whole army has left by 1 November, Charlie the day before.
* Soldiers come from the castle and ransack the palace
* Castle soldiers spat in the face of the wife of Cameron of Locheil – called her a bitch and a whore
* Went to infirmary and tore open the wounds of the injured highlanders
* Cumberland eventually returns here and is met by the Edinburgh mob – who cheer
* Differed from Charlie’s treatment of Redcoat wounded after Prestonpans – Murray of Broughton even said that he put them before his own wounded.

Castle

* Eventually 100 men and a few officers found refuge in the Castle.
* Quite a few end up wearing the white cocades and switched sides.
* General Guest – 85 – overall commander
* General Preston – 86 - bit more sure of himself. No surrender.
* Guest was new commander
* Preston was the predecessor and didn’t give up his position easily. Made out that Guest was a bit of a defeatist.
* Rumours that Cameron of Locheil would take 120 men and take the castle.
* General Preston did rounds of sentries in his bath chair
* Firing on 25- turned out just to be goats
* Jacobite army was around 2000 strong
* Preston’s tactic – including putting out information that the castle was running low on supplies, was to keep the Jacobite army in Edinburgh. Remember, rumours were there of armies coming over from France.
* If communication was kept open – the castle wouldn’t fire.
* 1st October – highlanders fire on people carrying supplies, Castle responds.
* Prince stops communication – including General Guest’s supplies of dairy products which were all he could eat.
* After firing on 4th October, the blockade ends. First real reversal for the Prince.
* One highlander calls the castle ‘that damned angry bitch’.
* Arguments now start about what happens next.
* Around about 200 men of Lascelles 58th regiment of foot – 2 companies and invalid

West Bow

* 4th of October – castle warns about firing
* 22nd October
* Lord George Murray argues with the prince – army of 5500 wasn’t enough. Didn’t know if England would support.
* Charles wanted all three kingdoms or none.
* Later Charles said - I find, gentlemen, that you are for staying in Scotland and defending your country, and I am resolved to go to England.

Mercat Cross

* Flags

Final

* Isabella Lumsden and Robbie Strange. Bella made fans and Robbie was in hiding, helping her. Sitting at spinning wheel.
* Couple became Sir Robert and Lady Strange and lived in London. “Pretender? Prince, and be damned to ye!”
* Flora MacDonald – Betty Burke was how Charlie travelled – Charlie wanted to carry a pistol under his petticoat, and flora said no, if they searched there they would be suspicious…Charlie replied that if they searched there they’d discover him anyway!
* People tried to imply a sexual link afterwards. None existed.
* Why was she treated so well? Sent to London and looked after pretty well.
* Received by Frederick, Prince of Wales, he liked a racy element to his party guests, but had to ask – ‘I’d have done the same for you if I’d found you in distress’.
* Painted by Allan Ramsay – son of the man we saw at the start.

Summary