Edinburgh in the ’45 – John Sibbald Gibson

Summary Notes

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

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

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

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.

Kept in custody by the Jacobites for the first week of the occupation

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

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

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

Edinburgh hasn’t changed much since the mid sixteenth century

Around 60,000 people

Merchants would meet around Cross and then take the meridian

Spoke Scots – not English

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

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’

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

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

20th September – army leaves to fight at Prestonpans

21st September – battle takes place

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’

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.

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.

Fleshmarket Close

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

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.

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.

Final

Edinburgh didn’t have the persecution that happened further up North

Tweeddale Court

* 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!

Graveyards

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

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

Battle of Prestonpans book

Forbes

* 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)

Lawnmarket

* 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 – Stewart’s House

* Wednesday 18th – day after the Mercat Cross, demands came for
* 1000 tents, 6000 canteens, 6000 pairs of shoes and 2000 targets

Tweeddale Court

* Resigned in January 1746 amidst allegations of incompetence
* ‘dragoons have no excuse but that they are from Ireland’

Fight for a Throne

Castle

* Around about 200 men of Lascelles 58th regiment of foot – 2 companies and invalid

Drummond Street tower

* 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!

Lawnmarket

* Blue Blanket flag flying from St Giles for four days as a warning of enemy coming and the need to rally against them.
* 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.

Potterrow

* Plans for a 12 foot wide breach to be made by blowing up gunpowder there.

St Mary’s

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

Netherbow

* 700 men of Locheil and osullivan – picked clansmen
* 5am 30 men rush the open gate
* Edinburgh delivered up to about 3000 flea ridden highlanders

Castle

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.

Damned Rebel Bitches

Final scene

* 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.