

Fassfern House *

By
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In 1745, Fassfern House was occupied by Lochiel's younger brother, John Cameron and the former, on his way to meet the Prince at Borrodale, called in at the house to inform the latter that the Prince had landed and had sent for him. Fassfern requested to know how many troops and what money and arms the Prince had bought with him. On being informed by Lochiel that the Prince had with him no troops, money or arms and that he – Lochiel, was resolved not to be concerned in the affair and intended to do his utmost to dissuade Charles from making such a rash attempt, Fassfern, while approving his brother's resolution, nevertheless advised him to proceed no further towards Borrodale and instead express his views to the Prince by letter. Lochiel, however, replied that he, ought at least to wait upon him, and give "his reasons for declining to join him." "Brother," said Fassfern, "I know you better than you know yourself. If the Prince once sets his eyes upon you, he will make you do whatever he pleases." Fassfern's views proved correct and as a result of Lochiel's subsequent meeting with Charles at Borrodale, the Cameron chief was indeed won over by the Prince's charm. Thus wrote John Home in his "History of the Rebellion in the Year 1745" (1802).

On Friday, 23 August 1745, the Prince spent the night at Fassfern House on his way with his little army from Glenfinnan. The Laird, however, had chosen to vacate his residence in advance as he wished to have no part in the enterprise. Consequently Fassfern was one of the few houses spared by the Hanoverian forces after Culloden. The room in which the Prince slept is still shown by invitation; it is the fourth from the left on the upper floor when facing the front of the building, i.e., the left-hand upper floor window of the centre (original) section of the house. Walter Biggar Blaikie, writing in 1897 states, "Fassfern still stands, but two years ago the rooms occupied by the Prince were considerably altered.." Sir Duncan Cameron took the actual bed in which the Prince slept to Callart House when he purchased Callart Estate from his cousin around 1789. The bed is now in the West Highland Museum, Fort William.

According to tradition, the Prince picked a white rose from a bush in the garden at Fassfern and attached it to his bonnet before leaving. This rose has since been described as "Prince Charlie's Rose."

Fasaidh-feàrma = Abode or stead of the Alders