



DUNLUCE CASTLE

Ulster-Scots Translation

DUNLUCE CAISSLE

Tha Steadin

Tha muckle, braw waa-steads o Dunluce Caissle is stuid on a neb o basalt blakstane, 30m heech, stickin oot o tha sey along tha noarth Antrim coast, 5 km aist o Tha Port an 3.5km wast o Bushmill. Theday, tha apen stane waas is an awesome sicht, maist o aa at dailygan fae tha Bushmill side, or in tha bricht simmer sin wi tha white limestane cliffs an sannie stran o Tha Port ayont. Quhaniver it wus furst bigged tha caissle maun hae luk't brave an strang, a stranghoul nae boadie cud a bate thair wye intae afore tha days o gun-poother. Unnèr tha caissle, a sey cave cud keep twarthie boats hid fur a quack getaway tae Racherie or tae Scotlann, hame tae tha MacDonald clan.

A Trip roon tha Caissle

Tak a waak owre tha Mainlann Coortyard an staun at tha Brig. Tha 30m heech cliff (1) unnèr tha caissle isnae made o haired blakstane colyums lake tha Giant's Caussey, but a mair saft soart o a roak made up o roon crummie bouldèrs. Some o tha waas o tha caissle haes fell doon along wi tha faa'in roak, sae tak tent!

Tha Brig (2) is tha yin an onlie road owre ontae tha roak, jist a nerra pad on tha leevin roak, wi a stane airch bigged later tae houl it up. Quhaniver tha Caissle wus bigged in tha Middle Ages, nae airmie cud tak tha caissle, nae mettèr tha nummer o sodgers the' had. Tha maist auld pairt o tha caissle strangwarks is tha Ootmaist waa, an twa roon ang'l Touers (4) an (5). Tha furst Gate-hoose wus fletten't wi cannons in 1584 an tha new Scotch style o Gate-hoose (3) wus bigged no lang effer. Tha twa apenins in tha auld waa aist o tha Gate-hoose wus fur cannons, ris fae tha wrack o tha Spanyairds Boat-o-War Girona.

Tha aulder biggins inside tha caissle wus likelie mair wee nor theday's yins. Tha raa o Colyums (6) rinnin along wi tha waa at rins aist fae tha Gate-hoose maun furst o aa hae bin pairt o a biggin (kent as a loggia) owre-leukin a fancy laid-oot gairden o tha 15 hunnèrs. Tha wee'r hoose wus maist likelie clappit agin tha Noarth-Aist Toer (5) an kitchens. Wi tha roaks aye crummlin, Rannal tha seyconn yarl, had tha wut tae big his Haw (7) mair tae tha middle.

Tha Haw bigged in tha 1630s had a Muckle Chammer wi twa hairths, an thrie bay wundaes an a big set o timmer stairs rinnin up tae private ruims. Tae its noarth wus a new scullery an Milk-hoose (8) along wi an auld kitchen wi twa hairths. An auld tunnel is hud unnèr tha Noarth-Aist Toer quhaur ye cud hae made aff throu, doon tae tha shore. Aiblins tha tunnel micht be a souterrain hoaked oot o tha roak 500 yeir afore tha caissle wus bigged.

A nerra apenin rins oot tae tha guid Kitchen Coortyard (9), a coortyard wi kitchens an workshops on tha grun flair an dwellins abane. Tak tent o aa tha soarts o stane pads ye hae here an in ither

pairs: cabbles in tha yaird, throughither blakstane flegs in tha kitchens an freestane flegs in tha Heech Yaird. Maist o this dates bak tae tha furst an houls a showin o auld wuid divides, trinkets an ither thaings. Tha brok waa at tha enn o tha roak pits ye in mine o tha pooer o tha sey, aye makkin its attek on tha foonds an cuttin awa unnèr tha caissle.

Mak yer road bak throu tha Kitchen Coortyard, by tha Haw an bak owre tha brig til tha Mainlann Coort. On tha richt-haun side is Ludgein-hooses (10) fur tha wheen o landers at cum tae tha caissle in tha 16 hunnèrs. Ayont tha Ludgein-hooses, in tha fiel, ye'll can see yit tha reuch outline o tha yarl's gairden (11), wrocht intae thrie steppin pletfoarms. We hae lairnt fae auld papers at tha gairdens tuk in a green fur tha bowles.

On tha left-haun side wus stables wi quhit's left o a coarn kill in yin. Theday's shap an TV show ruim is new biggins ris fae tha foonds an bigged wi matched-in materials an wi roofs o tha richt stye.

Ye'll can tak a Pad (12) doon tae tha shore. We maun gie ye a wurd o caution but, tak guid heed an dinnae gan in tae tha cave at tha fit o tha caissle fur fear o faa'in roaks.

Historie

Tha caissle as ye hae it theday gans bak maistlie tae tha 15 an 16 hunnèrs. It cud be that aa ye see wus bigged wi tha M'Donnals, but we fandleie houl that at laist tha ootmaist waas an tha twa roon touers hae a date bak tae tha M'Qullans at hel agrup on Tha Route an tha noarth coast o Anthrim fae tha 13 hunnèrs.

Tha M'Donnals is a brench o tha Scotch clan o MacDonalds, Lairds o tha Isles, thon pairt o Scotlann maist near tae tha coast o Anthrim. Twarthie gat merriet wi tha big families o tha noarth: Colla gat merriet on Evelin M'Qullan, Sorley Boy merriet on Marie O'Neill an Rannal, tha furst yarl, merriet on Alice O'Neill. Tha familie focht alang wi an agin thair neibors an wur aye fechtin agin tha Inglish quhan thair sodgers wus on tha attek throu tha 15 hunnèrs. Sorley Boy M'Donnal wus tha furst tae leeve aa his days in Ulstèr, an a wile reuch, fechtin wye o leevein it wus. He wus keapture't wi his guid-brither, Shane O'Neill at tha Battle o Glentasia in Maie 15&65, an hel fur twa yeir effèr Dunseverick Caissle an Dunluce Caissle wus baith taen. At a festive boord near Cushendun, quhaniver tha troubles leuk't like bein near at an enn, tha M'Donnals turn't on thair hosts, let Sorley Boy oot an murdèr Shane. In 15&84, tha Loard Depute o Airlann, Sur Jhone Perrot, tuk big nummers o sodgers til Dunluce Caissle. He tuk tha caissle - no by wye o haein a big nummer o sodgers, - but acause he had thrie cannons. In 15&86 Quaen Elspeth haunnit tha caissle bak tae Sorley Boy an in 15&88, quhaniver tha Spanyolds Boat-o-War Girona run ontae tha roaks nearhaun, he brocht up (alang wi a wheen o ither thaings) thrie cannons fur defendin tha caissle. Tha fallaein yeir he dee'd.

Jamie M'Donnal, a sin o Sorley Boy, wus weel-kent an weel thocht o wi Jamie V1 o Scotlann, an tha kaing made him a Sur. He fixed tha caissle up effèr Perrot's attek in tha menner o tha Scotch in thaim days, tha Gate-hoose an gairden wi its loggia anaa. In 15&97, Sur Jamie focht wi an kill't Sur Jhone Chiechestèr, Governor o Carrick, but in 1601 he wus pusshion't an dee'd, aiblins on accoont o Chiechestèr.

Quhaniver Jamie V1 o Scotlann wus made Kaing Jamie 1 o Inglann, tha M'Donnals turn't tae bein leal kinsfowk. The' wur gien a grant o tha hale o tha Glens an tha Route, takkin in near aa tha hale coast o Anthrim fae tha Bann Wattèr tae Lairne. In 16&20, Sur Rannal wus made Yarl o Anthrim on accoont o his guid name wi tha kaing. He wus gart big a caissle apiece in aa his baronies, but it leuks lake he nivver bigged ocht mair in Dunluce itsel, tha mair he pit up a new wee toon roon about tha caissle.

In 1635 the auldest sin o the yarl, cried Rannal forbye, merriet on Catherine Menners, a weeda-wumman tae the umquhile Duke o Buckingham, quha wus uised tae big money an heech leevin in among the big fowks o Lunnon. He bigged the new Haw fur her aqween 1636 an 8, along wi the when o kitchens an ludgein-hooses fur aa the big pairtys an festive boords at Dunluce.

Tha Duchess cudnae thole the soon o the sey, an shair eneuch she wus in the richt wi her bittèr thochts quhaniver a kitchen cum doon on itsel, faa'in intae the wattèrs yin nicht quhan the' wur aa in the middle o thair dennèr. Thrie yeir effèr, anither hairtscaud o a dennèr cum aboot quhaniver Genèral Munro, Governor o Carrick, pit his host unnèr arrest. Catherine gaihert thair pruch the-gither fae Dunluce Caissle an a new hoose nearhaun an tuk it aa aff in a boat tae Chestèr quhaur it wus pit by tae 1651 quhan the hale lot wus grabbed wi Cromwal's Faictors an sowl aff. A leet o aa this pruch, made oot on 9 Mairch 1645, gies licht on hoo fancy aa thair hame guids an gear wus wi tapestries, Persia cairpets, an Airish hairp, linen hingins, an dizens o sates, maistlie wi silk, linen, velvet an satin civvers. Tha maist like't colour wus rid, but bue an green claithe gets a mention forbye. Rannal wus in hidein fur maist o Cromwal's time, cumin bak effèr the Restorin o the Kaings in 1660. Hooaniver, Dunluce Caissle wusnae the hoose tha M'Donnals wus wantin tae leeve in onie mair, an the' flittit, furst o aa tae Bellymagarry Haw an then tae Glenairm Caissle.

Ither pairts tae luk at

Tha M'Donnals bigged Dunluce Auld Kirk forbye, 1 km sooth o the caissle, fur the wee toon o the 16 hunnèrs plantin, an Kinbane Caissle, hame tae Colla M'Donnal (auldest brither o Sorley Boy), 4 km wast o Bellycaissle. Sorley Boy leeved in Bellycaissle, an wus buried in Bonamargie Friar-hoose. Ither M'Donnals is buried alangside Layd Kirk in Cushendall. Tha Yarls o Antrim leeves yit in Glenairm Caissle, the familie hame fae the days o Dunluce Castle. Its awesome Gate-hoose stauns guerd owre a private dwallin. Carrick Caissle, hame tae the Yarls o Ulstèr, wus jail-hoose tae Rannal M'Donnal, but he made his escape fae there twa times.