



Stirling Castle

Stirling is one of the most powerful castles in Scotland. It is a courtyard castle, standing on a high rock, looking clearly out in many directions. It is more than possible that its location was chosen carefully for more esoteric reasons than military importance. Stirling Castle is one of the many structures placed on the powerful ley-lines running through the earth. This phenomenon by which prehistoric mounds, churches, castles, etc. appear to lie on a straight line holds important magnetic energy . Stirling Castle, Ben Lomond, Rob Roy's Prison, Arrochar, Inverary, and Iona lie on what is referred to as the 'old straight track to Iona.'

As Elizabeth and I walked quietly atop the castle's high walls, I could smell the flowery presence of a waif from many years ago. No flowers were in bloom midst the courtyard garden that day late in October. "What did you say?" Elizabeth asked me to repeat my words, as I approached from the nearby turret.

"Nothing," was my reply. "I wasn't talking at all."

She assumed a mysterious look, "Oh really. Well I was just standing here listening to women's voices, muffled, but carried to me through the ages." October is a month of very few tourists and none were around that day.

Parts of Castle Stirling date to the 12th century . The 'King's Old Building' contained royal chambers, and the 'Chapel Royal' was the location of the crowning of Mary, Queen of Scots in 1533. In 1124 Alexander I died behind its walls. December 1174 it became garri-

soned by English troops after William the Lyon was forced to sign a treaty with King Henry. William the Lyon would also come to his death in the castle in 1214.

King Henry III of England caused more trouble for his northern neighbors. He and his supporters effected the capture of Margaret and Alexander of Scotland in 1254. The Comyns, however, managed to rescue the pair in 1257 and placed them safely in Stirling Castle.

By April 27, 1296 the Scots were again trying to withstand English dominion. The Scottish army took their stand near Dunbar, but were totally defeated. Several castle garrisons surrendered in the wake of Edward I. When he reached Stirling's gates, its garrison had already fled.

Later in 1304, Edward would again capture the castle. Then, typical of his character, he employed his terrible siege engine—the 'War Wolf'—even after the garrison had laid down arms.

Much history continued to parade through Stirling's walls. In 1452 James II murdered the 8th Earl of Douglas, tossing his body out one of the windows overlooking a small garden in a rear courtyard. Some people speculate that it's the Earl's wife, currently referred to as the Pink Lady, who seeks her husband. The Pink Lady is the apparition of a beautiful woman in a pink silk gown seen around Stirling Castle. Other people seem to feel that she is the wife of one of the men killed as Edward attacked the garrison. As she drifts along in her tall finery, the Lady in Pink also resembles Mary, Queen of Scots.

What is thought to be one of Queen Mary's ladies-in-waiting, the specter called the 'Green Lady,' is usually associated with fire. This lady saved the Queen's life once when her bedclothes caught fire. Dozens of people see and hear the moaning spirit of this same 'Green Lady.' They also believe her to be a pretty teenage girl who died of heartbreak soon after her fiancé was killed by an arrow while on sentry duty as part of the castle's garrison. The 'Green Lady' has often been seen recently.

The church of Dunipace, connected with Cambuskenneth Abby, was close by Stirling Castle to its east. The River Forth wound around snakelike between the town and Abbey Craig with Tor Wood. Stirling Castle perched regally overlooking all and forever the connecting link