



Highland Roots

Gordon Waddell

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HIGHLAND ROOTS is the real story of one Highland cottage through Scotland's turbulent history. It is a blend of history, archaeology, estate records, literature and legend too. It includes a lot of original quotes that give a genuine flavour of the times. But it also tries to get beneath the skin of history, to imagine how it would feel if we were transported back to these times. Sitting in the remains of the Iron Age homestead on a glorious summer evening or a wet winter day, 2000-year-old ghosts can still send shivers down your spine. What was it like to live here? – In the Iron Age, when the Romans came, when Picts fought Gaels in the birth of a nation, in the Wars of Independence, through the Improvements and the Clearances? Can you imagine trying to scrape a living from this land? How did people survive and raise a family here before roads or schools or health care? What was history really like for the ordinary people who had to live through it? Dalgirdy was never important. There were no kings or castles or great battles here. No one ever heard of the people who lived here. But Dalgirdy represents many thousands of other small places and little people who made Scotland. It was swept along on the great tides of Scottish history and played its part, even if it only had bit parts and was often helpless flotsam on the tide. We were but foot soldiers on the moors of time. Yet without foot soldiers there would be no lords or kings and we fought and won, and bled and died, just like those whose names went down in history. Kings and governments may have grand designs, but what really matters is the impact on ordinary people's lives. So, Dalgirdy offers a unique window onto the history of Scotland and her people. Real people; real lives. This is the real story of your Scottish roots. Essential background to family history. For everyone who loves Scotland, history, ancestry and myth.

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