



Forbes: A Story of Scotland

By B. R. Forbes

Synopsis

Most histories of Scotland's clans read like genealogical registries — names, dates, marriages. *Forbes: A Story of Scotland* takes a different approach, following one family, the House of Forbes, as a throughline across more than five centuries of Scottish upheaval, from the first lairds of Forbes in 1272 through the aftermath of the 1745 Battle of Culloden.

Rather than treating the Forbesees as background players, author B. R. Forbes demonstrates, through primary-source evidence, that they were often at the center of events — shaping outcomes at the Wars of Independence, the Reformation, the Covenanting wars, and the Jacobite rebellions. Drawing on primary sources including centuries of correspondence, the book traces real people — lairds, lords, rebels, and loyalists — making choices that carried real consequences, often for the nation as a whole and not just their own family.

The book's emotional climax arrives in 1745, when two Forbes cousins find themselves on opposite sides of the rebellion that would decide Scotland's fate — one the British government's chief legal officer in the north, the other one of the most devoted Jacobites in Scotland. Their divided loyalties, and the consequences that followed, still echo through Highland identity and Scottish memory to this day.

Chapters

Prologue

Chapter One: First Lairds of Forbes – 1272 – 1483

Chapter Two: Valor and Vengeance – 1483 – 1538

Chapter Three: Faith and Fire – 1538 – 1582

Chapter Four: Crown, Kirk, and Church – 1582 – 1625

Chapter Five: War and Covenant – 1625 – 1689

Chapter Six: Union and Rebellion – 1689 – 1719

Chapter Seven: Blood and Bond – 1719 – 1746

Chapter Eight: Repercussions and Legacy – 1746 – 1822

Epilogue