

# Diary of John Campbell, cashier of The Royal Bank of Scotland, 1745

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The diary of [John Campbell](#) is an archival document dating from 1745. It is held in the archives of [The Royal Bank of Scotland](#).

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## the diary

The diary comprises the surviving portion of the diary of John Campbell, first cashier of The Royal Bank of Scotland, covering Saturday 14 September to Thursday 5 December 1745. It is primarily an aide memoire of business transactions and correspondence related to Campbell's roles as bank cashier and agent in Edinburgh for Lord Glenorchy.

The custodial history of the diary is not fully documented. It has formed part of the archive collection of The Royal Bank of Scotland since at least the 1890s, but many not have been held by the Bank continuously since Campbell's period of office.

The diary is written in Campbell's own hand. Many of the pages are closely written and Campbell uses such devices as doodles of pointing hands and marginal notes to indicate both things yet to be done and those which have been accomplished.

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## published versions

The diary was privately published in 1881 in a heavily edited form, under the title *Leaves from the Diary of an Edinburgh Banker in 1745*. Only 20 copies of this edition were printed, but it was reprinted 12 years later by the Scottish History Society in the first volume of *Miscellany of the Scottish History Society* (Edinburgh, 1893, pp.537-59).

In 1995 The Royal Bank of Scotland privately published a complete transcription of the diary with introductory chapter and explanatory notes. This edition was provided free of charge to public libraries, universities and archives throughout Scotland.

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## people and places mentioned

The following is an alphabetical list of some of the people and places mentioned in the diary. A more complete list is available in the 1995 published version.

- **The Abbey** The name by which Holyroodhouse was commonly known
- **Earl of Breadalbane** John Campbell, 2nd Earl of Breadalbane (1662-1752), the diarist John Campbell's uncle and clan chief. At the time of the diary, living at Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh
- **Ensign Allan Campbell** Soldier in Lord John Murray's Regiment (the 43rd Highlanders) taken prisoner at the Battle of Prestonpans
- **Mrs Clerk** or **Lucky Clerk** Vintner in Fleshmarket Close, Edinburgh. Also known - like many of the city's female tavern keepers - as 'Lucky'
- **General Cope** Lieutenant General Sir John Cope, Commander-in-Chief of the Government forces in Scotland
- **John Coutts** Merchant, former Lord Provost of Edinburgh and ordinary director of The Royal Bank of Scotland 1744-51
- **William Forbes** Town Clerk of Edinburgh and extraordinary director of The Royal Bank of Scotland 1743-55
- **Gladsmuir** The name by which the Battle of Prestonpans was known to Jacobites

- **Lady Glenorchy** Arabella Campbell (née Pershall), second wife of Lord Glenorchy, resident in London at the time of the diary
- **Lord Glenorchy** John Campbell (1695/6-1782), son and heir to 2nd Earl of Breadalbane, whom he succeeded as 3rd Earl in 1752
- **General Guest** Lieutenant General Joshua Guest (1660-1747), in command at Edinburgh Castle of the Government Forces remaining there in the autumn of 1745
- **John Hamilton** Writer to the Signet and ordinary director of The Royal Bank of Scotland 1740-56
- **Hugh Hathorn** Merchant in Edinburgh and extraordinary director of The Royal Bank of Scotland 1744-56
- **Alexander Innes** Teller to The Royal Bank of Scotland
- **George Innes** Second cashier and chief teller to The Royal Bank of Scotland 1745-77
- **John's Coffee House** In Parliament Close, Edinburgh
- **David Kinloch** Writer to the Signet in Edinburgh. Son of Francis Kinloch of Gilmerton
- **King's Park** Adjacent to Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh
- **Lovat** Simon Fraser, 12th Lord Lovat (1667-1747). Wavered in the early stages of the Rising, but eventually joined Prince Charles Edward. Executed 1747.
- **Lumisdean** Andrew Lumisdean, on Murray of Broughton's staff in the Highland Army
- **William Mackewan** Public notary in Edinburgh
- **Captain McNabb** Son to Laird of McNab and Captain in Loudon's Highlanders. Captured at the Battle of Prestonpans
- **Baillie James Mansfield** Merchant in Edinburgh and extraordinary director of The Royal Bank of Scotland 1744-52
- **Lord Monzie** Patrick Campbell, a Breadalbane Campbell, Senator of the College of Justice and ordinary director of The Royal Bank of Scotland 1727-51
- **John Murray** Associate at Holyroodhouse of 2nd Earl of Breadalbane
- **John Murray of Broughton** Secretary to Prince Charles Edward in the '45. Captured in 1746 but pardoned on turning king's evidence against Lord Lovat
- **Old Bank** Bank of Scotland, at Old Bank Close on the north side of the Lawnmarket, Edinburgh
- **John Philp** Auditor in the Exchequer in Edinburgh and ordinary director of The Royal Bank of Scotland 1727-51, living at Greenlaw, Midlothian
- **Pinkie** House near Musselburgh of the Marquis of Tweeddale, Secretary of State for Scotland
- **General Preston** General George Preston (c.1659-1748), Deputy Governor of Edinburgh Castle in 1745
- **The Prince** Prince Charles Edward Stuart (1720-88), eldest son of James III and VIII. Born and educated in Rome. Landed in Scotland in August 1745 to raise a Jacobite army to oust the Hanoverians from the British throne
- **Rollo of Powhouse** A Stirlingshire laird, two of whose sons served with the Jacobite Army
- **Mungo Roro** Captain McGregor of Roro (in Glenlyon), of the Atholl Brigade in the Jacobite Army
- **St Germain's** James Campbell of St Germain's in East Lothian, friend (and later

father-in-law) of John Campbell

- **Alexander Shairp** Merchant in Edinburgh and ordinary director of The Royal Bank of Scotland 1743-73
- **Peter Smith** Brother to the Laird of Methven (near Perth), on Murray of Broughton's staff
- **Lord Tinwald** Charles Areskine, Senator of the College of Justice and extraordinary director of The Royal Bank of Scotland 1727-64
- **Weigh House** Building at the head of the Lawnmarket occupied by the Jacobite Army while besieging Edinburgh Castle

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**related  
publications  
and online  
sources**

- *The Diary of John Campbell: a Scottish banker and the 'Forty-Five'* (Edinburgh, privately published, 1995)
- [1745: John Campbell and the Jacobite Occupation of Edinburgh](#), schools teaching resource based on Campbell's diary.
- [John Campbell's Diary](#) is featured in [RBS history in 100 objects](#).