

## On This Day – 26<sup>th</sup> August 1787

Robert Burns is 'knighted' by Lady Catherine of Clackmannan

Burns, who was touring Scotland in the autumn of 1787 with Dr James Adair, visited Lady Catherine Bruce at Clackmannan Tower. She was living in the now-destroyed mansion house next to Tower (making her the last-ever resident) and who claimed to be descended from Robert The Bruce.

A staunch Jacobite ([a portrait of her by local artist David Allan](#) depicts her holding a white rose, a Jacobite symbol), Lady Catherine took to knighting people of her choosing – perhaps seeing it as a way to undermine then-King George III – using the sword of Robert The Bruce, an honour that she gave the famous poet in 1787 when he visited her.



*The entrance to Clackmannan Tower is adorned with a carving of a rose, believed to be another reference to Jacobinism*

### More information:

[The Burns Encyclopedia](#)

### Nearby IFLI projects:

[The View From Clacks Tower](#)

[A Tale Of Two Estates](#)

[Coastal Clacks Woodland Network](#)