Wardlaw Mausoleum

Transcriptions of the plaques from the lead coffins in the crypt
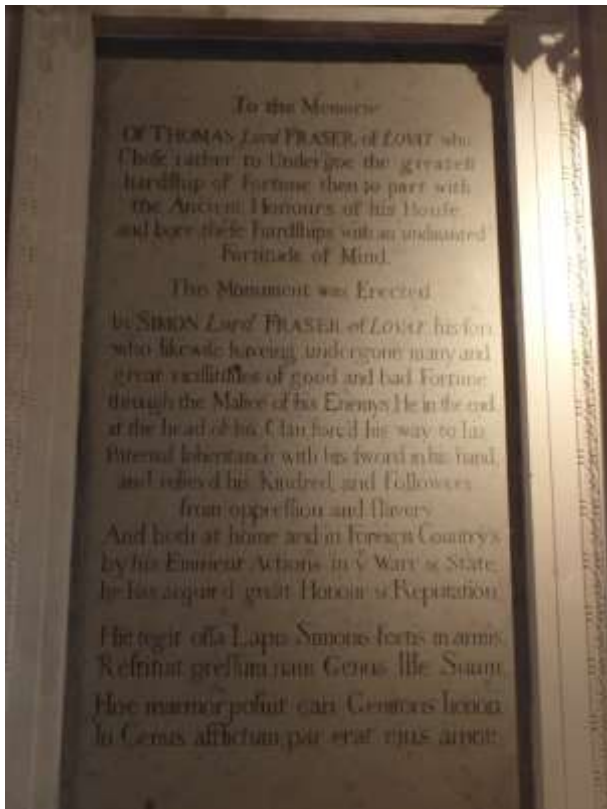
1.   Simon Lord Lovat, The Old Fox 1668 – 1747

In plumbeo hoc Sarcophage Conduntur
Exuvie, Simonis Domini FRASERY de Lovato
Qui post Viginti annorum in patria, et apud
Exteros Summa Cum Laude, et Gloria, vito
Pericula, ab Atholi Tyrannide, et Mackenzeorum
De Tarbato, dolis et Infidus Genus fuum, Tribum,
Et Familiam restituit et Servavit
Antiquum servare Domum non ultima Laus est
Non honor est hosti qui spotiavit cam
Hic licet incidus et duro marte Valebat
Huncpepulit bello, Simon et arte sagan

In this lead coffin are laid the remains of Simon
Lord Fraser of Lovat who, after twenty years in
His own land and abroad with the greatest
Distinction and renown, at the risk of his life,
Restored and preserved his race, clan and house-
Hold from the tyranny of the Athol and the treacher-
Ous plotting of the Mackenzies of Tarbat.
To preserve an ancient house is not the greatest
Credit. Nor is there any honour for the enemy who
Despoiled it. Although that enemy was strong in his
Plotting and in unrelenting warfare, yet Simon'
Who was also skilful and cunning defeated him in
War.

Wing-Commander Fraser, Wardlaw House, writing in 1966 noted that there is an engraving at the bottom of the plate of the Lovat Fraser coat of arms. However, instead of a Baron's coronet on top of the shield there is a Ducal one. Simon had been made a Duke by Bonnie Prince Charlie as part of his price for lending his support to the prince. The recovered plate fits the screw holes and shadow on the coffin and the text is the same as that printed in the Scots Magazine in May 1747.

The 'dog' Latin at the bottom of the monument plaque to Thomas of Beaufort reads

Hic tegit offa Lapis Simonis fortis m armis.
Reftituit preffum, nam Genus Ille Suum,
Hoc marmor pofuit cari Genitorus honori
In Genus afflictum, par erat ejus amor.

This translates as

This stone covers the bones of Simon, brave in arms, he having rallied his hard-pressed clan, this (marble) stone he has placed to the honour of a dear father whose love for a broken (shattered, damaged) family was equally great.

The monument and plaque were erected by Simon the Fox in 1722 when he remodelled the building.

2. General Simon Fraser 1726 - 1782

The lead plate attached to the coffin reads

D.O.M. [Deo Optimo Maximo]	God Almighty
DOM.SIM.FRASER [Dominus]	Lord Simon Fraser
Nat	Born
MDCCXXVI	1726
Obiit Londini	Died London
MDCCLXXXII	1782

The recovered brass plate reads

Honble
Lieutt Gen:
Simon Fraser
Eldest Son of Simon
Last Lord Lovat
Born Octr 1726
Died in London
8th Feby 1782

The brass plate (like those below) would have been attached to the outer timber coffin. These have dissolved over time and only the lead coffins remain.

3. Archibald Campbell Fraser 1736 – 1815

THE HONOURABLE
ARCHIBALD FRASER OF LOVAT
COLONEL COMMANDANT
OF
THE 1ST INVss SHIRE L. MILITIA & &
YOUNGEST SON of SIMON LORD LOVAT
BORN THE 16th AUGUST 1736
DIED 8th DECEMBER 1815

4. Henry Emo Fraser 1768 - 1782 [Son of Archibald]

D.

OP. MAX. (Deo Optimo Maximo)	God Almighty
HEN. EMO. FRASER	Henry Emo. Fraser
FIL TERT (Filius Tertius)	Third Son
DOM ARCH FRASER DE LOVAT	Lord Archibald Fraser of Lovat
NAT. APUD ALGIERAM	Born at Algiers
Anno Dom 1768	A.D. 1768
OBIT EDINBURGI	Died Edinburgh
MENS AGUSTI	Month of August
1782	1782

By an act of parliament in recognition of his service to the army and the crown, Simon was allowed to buy back the estates in 1774 by paying off the debts of £20,000. The titles were not returned until the 1830's when the Strichen Frasers, who had inherited the estate following Archibald's death in 1815, were re-admitted to the UK peerage. The Scottish title was restored in 1857. The use of 'Lord' in the plaques for General Simon and Archibald therefore probably denote that the family and clan continued to recognise them as Lord Lovat even though the official title had been removed as Simon the Fox's punishment for his part in the Jacobite rebellion.

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