

The mausoleum is in Wardlaw Graveyard, Kirkhill, 8 miles west of Inverness. It was built in 1634 as the burial place of the Lovat Frasers on the end of the original parish church.



The building was remodelled in 1722 by Simon Lord Lovat, the 'Old Fox' of the 1745 Jacobite rebellion. We believe he was later buried in the crypt after being beheaded at the Tower of London in 1747 for his part in the rebellion. We are working with Dame Professor Sue Black from Dundee University to try and solve this mystery.



Simon raised the roof, changing the thatch to slates, added the belfry and erected the monument to his father Thomas Fraser, Lord Lovat, who is buried at Dunvegan on Skye.



The monument is made of coade stone, a manufactured material, and features the Lovat Fraser crest. This contains the 3 crowns for the day Simon 'The Patriot' Fraser saved the life of King Robert the Bruce. It also has white strawberry flowers to recall the French origins of the family. Strawberry in French is 'fraise', which evolved into Fraser.

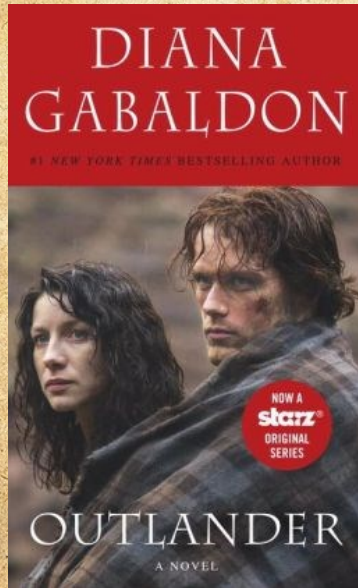


The crypt, accessed by a hatch in the floor, contains 6 lead coffins of Lovat family members. Simon the Fox is against the wall on the left next to his son, General Simon. He raised the 78th Fraser Highlanders to fight in Canada and the 71st Fraser Highlanders for the American Revolutionary War. Across the back is his brother Archibald who succeeded him, last of the original line. On the right are Archibald's wife Jane and 2 of their children.



The Lovats stopped using the building in the early 19th century when the Strichen family became the Chiefs of the Lovat Frasers. They built St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church at Eskdale, 9 miles west of Kirkhill. It is still used for their burials today. The mausoleum fell into disrepair and was rescued by local people in 1990 who formed Wardlaw Mausoleum Trust. A restoration project was carried out by the Trust in 1997. It is now listed Grade A by Historic Scotland.

Many of the visitors to the mausoleum come through our connection with the Outlander books by Diana Gabaldon. The main character, Jamie Fraser, is a grandson of Simon the Fox.



Diana and members of the TV series cast have visited the mausoleum, as have many of the fan groups. They are always welcome.



Access to the mausoleum is by pre-arrangement with the keyholder, Erik Lundberg. You can also just turn up and he will give you a tour if he is available. Call at the house on the right at the entrance to the graveyard. Organised groups can arrange to pick-up the key and do their own tour.

There is no entry fee but we have a suggested donation of £2.50 per person—more is welcome! Donations can also be made through MyDonate on our website.



Wardlaw Mausoleum Trust, Pilgrim Cottage,
Wardlaw Road, Kirkhill, Inverness IV5 7NB



WARDLAW MAUSOLEUM



KIRKHILL INVERNESS

BURIAL PLACE OF THE LOVAT
FRASERS AND 'SIMON THE FOX' FROM
'OUTLANDER'