

A Jacobite Lady Reveals Her True Colours

This fine unidentified *Portrait of a Jacobite Lady* by Cosmo Alexander c1740-46 is one of a small number of pre-Proscription pictures to show tartan wore by women. Images of this one are generally of poor quality and for a long time researchers assumed that the sitter was wearing an unidentified red tartan.

The original portrait, part of the Drambuie Collection, is on display at the NTS Culloden exhibition where I had an opportunity to examine it and working from a good quality photograph was able to analyse the sett and identify it as Murray of Tullibardine. The extract below shows a portion of the picture with a colour stripe superimposed and the sett matched to the tartan of the jacket. As can be seen it is possible to make out every line of the pattern which is truly remarkable for such a complex design.



Having identified the tartan are we able to hazard a guess at the identification of the sitter? She appears to be aged roughly 18-35 and the style and fineness of the jacket indicates a lady/family of wealth. The white rose represents a Jacobite supporter and was painted c1740-50 with the period 1745-46 being most likely. She has been identified as Jenny Cameron, daughter of Cameron of Locheil and alleged mistress of Bonnie Prince Charlie but the evidence is by no means definitive. Whilst we cannot be certain who the sitter was, nor whether she was a Murray, there are several possible contenders amongst this strongly Jacobite clan:

Lady Mary Murray (1720-95) daughter of the 1st Duke of Atholl.

Lady Jane Murray (1730-47) daughter of the 2nd Duke of Atholl.

Lady Charlotte Murray, (1731-1805) daughter of the 2nd Duke of Atholl.

Amelia Murray (1710-66), Lord George Murray's wife.

Amelia Murray (1732-1777) daughter of Lord Gorge Murray

Irrespective of the sitter's identity it's rewarding to be able to identify a tartan with such an historic pedigree.