

WHERE DID THEY GET THESE STREET NAMES? This has been a common question, so we thought it might be of interest for you to know. Highland Park was designed on a Scottish theme. The gently rolling high plains are reminiscent of the Scottish moors, and the land, when mowed, looks like a park, though not nearly as green as the beautiful lush lowlands in central Scotland where much farming occurs. Native sandstone rock, similar to the sandstone used in construction of many Scottish buildings, was used at the entrances (yes, it is solid rock, not veneer on concrete block), and the County required the use of rock-lined ditches in some areas. Accordingly, Scottish names seemed to fit for the roads. The exception to this is Forestgate, which describes our location as the [beautiful] gateway to Black Forest. Here are the others:

Cairngorm Way: A *cairn* is a mound of stones. When travelers visited a sacred area, they piled a stone on the cairn to create a memorial, often to those who died in a battle. Sometimes cairns were (and are today) used to mark a trail so that others will find their way.



Cairngorms & Lochavon

The Cairngorms are the highest mountain range in Scotland, and became a 1400 acre National Park in 2003 (Scotland's second National Park). Located in the Highlands of northern Scotland, the Cairngorms are among the last great wildernesses in this country, and the entire range is Britain's largest Nature Reserve. Large parts of this mountain landscape are protected by European Environmental Law, and they are a popular tourist destination (you can even ski there).

The kilt pin became fashionable in the 1800s, and has continued to this day, universally worn on all kilts or kilted skirts. Highlanders invariably elaborated the metal parts of their wearing apparel either by the use of precious metal or by introducing Cairngorm stones, polished pebbles or jewels; and this practice later extended to kilt pins. The Cairngorm Brewery Company uses brews local ales using the clear waters from the Cairngorm mountains.



Cairngorms

Braemar Lane: A Brae is a hill or hilly area. Braemar is a



The Braemar Gathering and Highland Games

small, hilly, picturesque village of 800-900 in north-central Scotland, about halfway between Loch Ness and Aberdeen in a lovely valley between the Cairngorm Mountains to the north and Cairn Glenshee to the south. Cairnwell Pass, at 2,100 feet, is the highest through road in the country, which on the Braemar side passes through the Glenshee Ski Centre. Braemar, or Braigh Mharr in Gaelic (which finally died out locally as a spoken language about 1900). It is the highest and most mountainous parish in the UK, with each of its 182,000 acres being more than 1000 feet above sea level (the Post office, in the village centre, is at 1110 feet). The area contains within its borders some 24 Munros, or mountains of over 3,000 feet, with three over 4,000 feet. There is, as they

say, a ‘cracking little golf course’ along the Cluny River, just above its confluence with the Glen Dee River in Braemar; it is the highest 18-hole golf course in the country. Balmoral Castle, owned by the Queen (not the government) lies just to the East, and is reputed to be her favorite home.



Balmoral Castle

Braemar and Crathie parishes have been a playground of kings and nobles since the dawn of Scottish history. In the heart of the village lie the ruins of the great castle of Kindrochit (“The Head of the Bridge”). Nearly a thousand years ago it commanded all the glens leading in and out of the area - Glenshee to the south, Aberdeen to the east, Lairig Ghru and Lairig an Laoigh to the north and Glen Tilt and Glen Feshie to the west. It was around this strategic bridgehead that the little village grew.

Over a hundred years ago, Queen Victoria chose Deeside as her holiday center, and successive generations of the Royal Family have followed her example. The area is popular with vacationers seeking the clear air, majestic scenery of mountains and rivers, and the many and varied sporting activities. The Highland Games are an annual Fall event.



Braemar Castle

Braemar Castle is situated amidst the magnificent splendor of the Cairngorms on Royal Deeside, about a half mile northeast of Braemar. This impressive fortress was built in 1628 by the Earl of Mar on the site of an even older habitation. A former seat of local government, it was later transformed into a residence of unusual charm. It is a popular wedding site today.

Loch Linneh Lane: A *loch* is a lake, similar to a fjord, shaped during the glacial period. They may be fresh or salt water. Loch Linneh (also spelled Loch Linnhe), in northwestern Scotland, stretches from Fort William to the seashore; it is salt water. Fort William is a romantic little town on the north end of the lake, with cobblestone streets. Ben Nevis, at 1344 feet, adjoins the town on the east side. It is a popular hiking and biking area, as visitors can stage out of Fort William down to Glencoe (Glen of the Weeping, named for the many water falls that spread down the mountainsides). The *Southern Lass* takes visitors on a tour of the lake, which is beautiful blue color, surrounded by wonderful bens (a mountain or hill), meadows, glens (a valley), and forests.



Loch Linneh

Lochwinnoch: Lochwinnoch, a picturesque Renfrewshire village, is close to Howood and Castle Semple Country Park. The village is surrounded by stunning scenery, as well as being an ideal location for those interested in Scottish wildlife and wildfowl. Located just 20 miles SW of Glasgow it can be reached easily by road, train or bus. The cycle track from Glasgow to Irvine runs through the village and so provides



Village scene in Lochwinnoch

easy access to the more energetic visitors who prefer to make their own way!

Killearn Way: Killearn is a village and parish of approximately 2,500 nestled under the Campsie Fells in West Central Scotland (just northwest of Glasgow). It boasts the most southerly highland malt distillery in Scotland at Dumgoyne.



One of the four churches in Killearn



Killearn Village

Kilninver Court: Kilninver village lies south of Loch Feochan on the west coast of Scotland, about 8 miles south of Oban. It is a popular area for estates and tourists seeking holiday cottages near the sea.



Cottage in Kilninver



Kilninver

Ben Tirran Court: A ben is a mountain. Hikers, the world over, come to the Scottish highlands to walk its hills. This one is due north of the east coast seaport of Dundee. Ben Tirran is a hill and mountain route recommended for the more experienced walker. The route passes a small pine wood and climbs steadily towards the hidden scoop of Loch Brandy, before following a craggy edged spur. Enjoy the stunning views of the cragged



Ben Tirran



William Wallace Memorial at Bannockburn

buttresses of Mayar and Dreish and the black pin of the Airlie Memorial tower.

Bannockburn Trail: A small town south of Stirling in central Scotland about halfway between Edinburgh and Glasgow, named after the Bannock Burn (a burn is a small stream) running through the town on the way to the River Forth. The town was originally famous for weaving tartans, carpet and tweeds. The Battle of Bannockburn fought in 1314 was a turning point in Scotland's war for independence from England. The battle and events were dramatized in the popular movie, Braveheart, in which Mel Gibson portrayed William Wallace who led the Scots to victory on the field just west of the town.

Culloden Court: Culloden is a village near Inverness on the Moray Firth (a firth is a small sea inlet or estuary) near the North Sea. The battle of Culloden was fought on the Drumossie Moor (now called Culloden Moor) about three miles south of town. The battle was the death knell for the Jacobite uprising in 1746 when the Hanoverian English (including some Irish and Scots opposed to the rebellion) crushed Charles Stuart's Jacobite forces (which included Scottish Highlanders and French and English Jacobite sympathizers), killing some 1500-2000 fighters in about an hour.



Cairn memorial at Culloden battlefield

Rannoch Moor Way. When one thinks of the Scottish highlands, the wild and scenic Rannoch Moor comes to mind. Known for its wildlife, this area is about 50 square miles between the Cairngorms and Loch Lomond. The railroad builders in this area had to float the tracks on a mattress of vegetation, earth and ashes because of the boggy peat.



Rannoch Moor



The wilds of Rannoch Moor