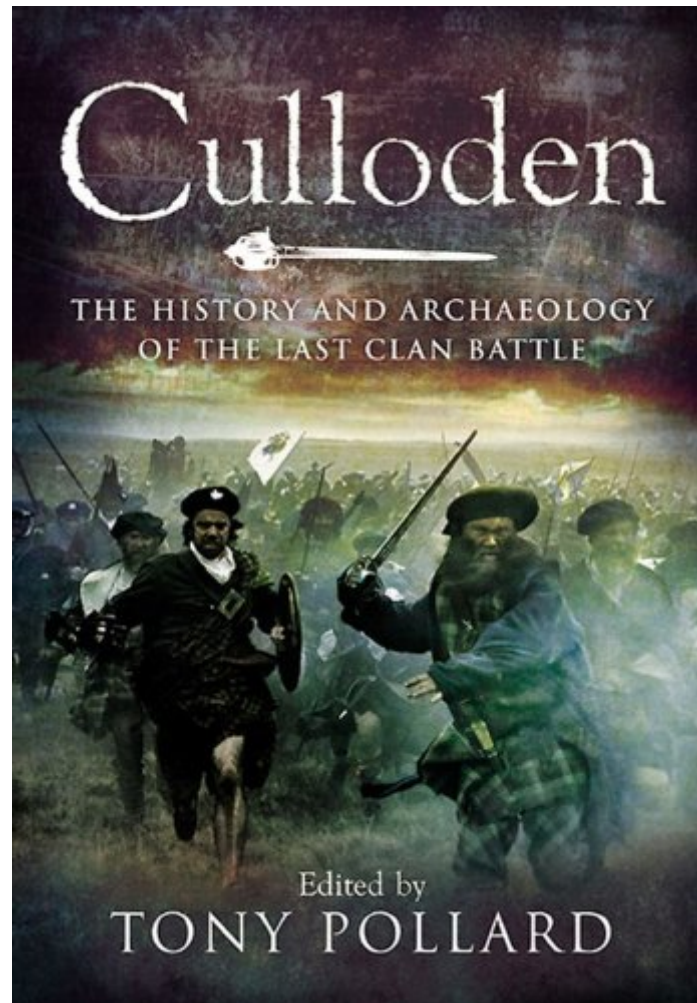


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Culloden: The History And Archaeology Of The Last Clan Battle



Synopsis

In battle at Culloden Moor on 16 April 1746 the Jacobite cause was dealt a mortal blow. The power of the Highland clans was broken. And the image of sword-wielding Highlanders charging into a hail of lead delivered by the red-coated battalions of the Hanoverian army has passed into legend. The battle was decisive - it was a turning point in British history. And yet our perception of this critical episode tends to be confused by mistaken, sometimes partisan views of the events on the battlefield. So, what really happened at Culloden? In this fascinating and original book, a team of leading historians and archaeologists reconsiders every aspect of the battle. They examine the latest historical and archaeological evidence, question every assumption, and rewrite the story of the campaign in vivid detail. This is the first time that such a distinguished team of experts has focused on a single British battle. The result is a seminal study of the subject, and it is a landmark publication of battlefield archaeology.

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Customer Reviews

I visited Culloden back in 1969, and while the place was powerful, I could not visualize the battle.

This book explains that when I saw Culloden, it was covered in trees that had been planted late in the 19th Century. This is just one of the details that presents the ground and the battle itself in a way that brings it to life. Today Culloden is obscured by myth, adventure fiction, and the images from a semi-documentary movie made in the 1960s. This book presents the results of recent archeology and careful surveys of the field to clear off some of the mist. The result is to make the battle more complex, but at the same time more understandable. If you are a Scot or a Scot at heart, you have probably felt that this battle still has heat to it, whether or not you believe the Stewart line would have been better for Great Britain. Culloden began a period of disaster for the clans that rivals the removal period of Native Americans in the Eastern US. The book acknowledges the heat but succeeds in reporting the battle as a historical event rather than a mythic event. If you were raised on stories of the '45 and Bonnie Prince Charlie, or have wondered about references to Culloden in the work of Scott and Stevenson, then I recommend this book to fill in some of the history behind the fiction. If you are interested in military history and want to study a clash of two armies with very different tactics and organization, I recommend it as well.

This is by far the best coverage on this famous battle I've ever read. 4 stars instead of 5 only because a few of the chapters (reports by different historians) focus on details that interested me less than others. I had not realized how much is actually known about this fight, even from the vanquished side, and recommend this book to anyone interested in the subject. There's more here than one really needs in order to understand the fight, but in the process of reading this detailed information, one learns a lot about the period and the attitudes of the time.

Not a book for the average reader. It is academic writing at its most basic. Each section is developed by a different author with can lead to contradictions. Chapter eight for example contradicts earlier chapters. Ok for its type carefully reading can bring you a better understanding of a famous battle.

Very interesting and well written. I learned a lot from this author. He pulled me in and made the whole history come to life.

This did a great job outlining the various aspects of the battle and its aftermath. Especially interesting was the sections related to the archeology of battlefield.

I strongly recommend this multi-authored book to anyone interested in the battle of Culloden. An exacting fact base examination of this battle. Very little bias with frank comments on the participants on both sides. There are numerous written descriptions and comments taken from period papers of participants and witnesses.

This book has different chapters by several different authors. Very informative about the battle of Culloden

For someone into Scottish history to the point of this depth, the book is an interesting read. For me it is an interesting read, but not as interesting as other books on Scottish history and myths.

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