



FRASER



THE CLAN FRASER

SOCIETY OF
SCOTLAND AND
THE UNITED KINGDOM




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CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

For many of us this has been a year of great sadness and great joy. We have had the sorrow of the death of Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. Even at my age I cannot remember a world without her, and it seems very strange. And then we have had the joy of celebrating the Jubilee, which those of Canada, Australia or have been celebrating. of war appear to be Let us all hope and away, and that we shall prosperous year in



Queen's Golden you who live in the UK, New Zealand will also Now the storm clouds gathering yet again. pray that they blow have a peaceful and 2003.

My very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to you all.

Lady Saltoun

SEASON'S GREETINGS

We would like to echo Lady Saltoun's message and hope you all have an excellent Festive Season, wherever in the world you are and a great 2003. We're also delighted we managed to get a Christmas edition of the **FRASER** Newsletter to you.





Picture of Fraserburgh Harbour Thanks to Fraserburgh Picture Gallery
thegallery@thebroch.info

A BRIEF HISTORY OF FRASERBURGH HARBOUR

Lady Saltoun

Early in the 16th century, Sir William Fraser, 6th laird of Philorth, purchased the lands of Faithlie from Sir Henry Mercer of Aldie. In 1542, his son Alexander Fraser, 7th of Philorth, received from King James V a charter of the whole fishings opposite his lands and he constructed a convenient harbour. As a result, he received a royal charter erecting Faithlie into a Burgh of Barony.

His grandson and successor, Sir Alexander Fraser, 8th of Philorth, known in the family as "The Founder", carried on his work (which included enlarging and beautifying Faithlie; building the Castle which until recently was the Kinnaird Head Lighthouse, the first lighthouse in Scotland; and founding a University) and laid the first stone of a new harbour on 9th March 1576 This harbour was bounded by a north breakwater, where the North Pier is to day; and a south pier, which forms the landward leg of the Middle Jetty. In 1588 he obtained a charter erecting Faithlie into a Free Port and Burgh of Barony and in 1592 he obtained a grant of novodamus, creating Faithlie a Burgh of Regality with a Free Port and ordaining that it should in all time coming be called the Burgh and Port de Fraser. Thus was the port of Fraserburgh born.

No major changes to the harbour took place until the early 19th century. In 1809-1810 a new North Pier was completed at a cost of £11,332-17-3d 1815 saw the start of the Herring Curing Industry in Fraserburgh, and after bumper catches in 1815-17, the construction of the South Pier was started in 1818, and the first direct local Harbour Authority, as constituted by Act of Parliament, met for the first time - the first Fraserburgh Harbour Commissioners.

In 1850, the construction was begun of a new North Breakwater, called, ever since the Crimean war, the Balaclava Pier. By

1873 the prosperity generated by the boom in the Herring Fishing combined with the coming of the Railway in 1865 had made further enlargement of the harbour a matter of urgency. In 1875, thanks to the vigorous efforts of Sir Alexander Anderson, 17th Lord Saltoun's factor in planning and in obtaining finance, the foundation stone of a new breakwater was laid (by Lord Saltoun, on 23rd October). From then on until Sir Alexander Anderson's death in 1887, extensive improvements were made to the Balaclava and North Harbours, including the provision of a Lifeboat slip. Between 1894 and 1896, the Balaclava Harbour was deepened for the first time. It was deepened for the second time in 1977 along with the main entrance channel, and it was planned that the Inner Balaclava Harbour will be deepened for the third time in 1990 and a new dry dock installed.

In 1908 work started on the construction of the Faithlie Harbour, and storm gates across the entrance to it These were swept away shortly after completion in 1914, and from then until 1963 the use of the Faithlie Harbour was severely restricted in bad weather. A Slipway at the Faithlie basin was built by 1931. This was replaced by a new Hydraulic Slipway in 1981.

The first Fishmarket was situated in what is now Cross Street, but was until 1870 called the Fish Cross. The first Fishmarket at the Harbour was built later and in 1959 a new market was built on the Walker Quay in the Faithlie Basin. In 1987 a new Fishmarket was erected alongside the existing one, and in 1989 the one on the Walker Quay was replaced by a new one. Both have the most up to date chilling facilities Further improvements have been made since then.

These are the highlights of the history of Fraserburgh Harbour. In between (*8th laird Sir Alexander*) the story is one of continual maintenance and smaller improvements. (Financing the major improvements has been the chief problem since the beginning of the 19th century. In 1894-6 the second deepening of the Balaclava Harbour, the erection of jetties and the building of the South Breakwater cost £87, 535. In the 1990s, the deepening and building of the Dry-dock cost &1.7 million!) Fraserburgh Harbour was built by the

energy and enterprise of public men of the past. It is to be hoped that their spirit will live on in the Harbour Commissioners of today, and, in spite of the difficulties the Fishing Industry is facing, ensure it a prosperous future.



(8th Laird, Sir
Alexander Fraser
"The Founder")

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ME *Editor*

I'm sure your full of the Christmas feeling, mad panic, stress and where's the money coming from but what surprises me is, it's now a year since I took over as editor of this Society and whilst I've had one or two disappointments and irritations, I've enjoyed the time, I just hope you've enjoyed what I've produced. My main aim when I took over, was to help Michael Fraser in his efforts to save the Society. This, I think, we've succeeded to do but we can't be complacent, as there are some rocky times ahead, especially the next round of membership fees, most have had free membership for a while but we'll need some money soon. We appreciate the comments you made on the subject and other suggestions made, such as advertising and they've all been given thought. Michael is finalising his thoughts on the fees and membership renewals but it looks like he'll leave fees as they are and will be sending out the information in March's Newsletter, We do need more members, however and I would ask each one of you to try and enrol one of your friends or relations, that in itself would double our membership. Why not give it as a present for Christmas or some ones birthday?

In this past year, the website has been set up, thanks solely to Giles Fraser and this has allowed me to advertise, for free, on numerous types of website eg Tourist Boards and Family History Societies, I've also had articles printed in numerous FHS newsletters and in most editions of ours, we invite a FHS to return the compliment but I've no room in this edition, no book review either. Our attempt at paid

advertising in a Scots magazine didn't bear fruit but I'll still go ahead and advertise in a genealogical magazine to see if that is a better field, I'm conscious of cost so the adverts are only small but the readers of those magazines seem to devour every word, so I hope it'll be noticed. Contacts with other Clan Societies haven't come to much but I'm uncertain how important they are anyway.

On the other side, the replies to the Maureen Tandy Files has been very slow, only 9, I know it's voluntary, some people don't have any information on their Family Tree and some don't like others looking at their personal information but it's important to us all, give it a go. If one of our members in Africa can take the trouble to post it in, you can. Michael has set up a database and it will only be viewed by CFSSUK members. I was also disappointed not to receive any message for you from Lord Lovat this Christmas. No one has come forward to organise the annual dinner, it would be lovely to get together and would mean so much to the Society, someone out there must have the skills to put one together, I'll help if needed and some details can be circulated in the Newsletter, to avoid a lot of mailing, so come on, go down in history.

I've had one or two articles and promises of some more, so much thanks for them but I still need a lot more. I'm trying to get more famous Frasers to write for us, some don't even reply, some are too busy but at least have the good manners to reply and keep us in mind, such as George MacDonald Fraser, the author and some are only to happy to help. I hope to have a couple of fascinating articles from Dr Bashabi Fraser, on the ties between the cultures of Scotland and India. So I hope there's lots of interest to come, I was delighted to get this extra edition out but I do need your stories and if they keep coming this edition need not be a one off. Let me, finally, on behalf of Gillian (whose done the proofreading) and myself, wish you an excellent Christmas "an a Guid New Year fan it cums".

SPEIR AWA, Your Queries Page

Q My mother wondered if you know if it is true that the Norwegian explorer Thor Heyerdahl had a Fraser grandmother. She says she heard this claim on BBC radio years ago?
Kim Fagerlie
Can anyone help? Ed



GIVE A FRIEND OR LOVED
ONE A PRESENT OF



CONTACTS

TREASURER Michael Fraser, Church Farm Cottage, Osborne, Sherbourne Dorset, DT9 4JY.

Michael.Fraser1@btinternet.com

EDITOR Graeme B Fraser, 2 Hoe Hill View, Tollerton, Notts, NG12 4GE.

graeme@hardwick-fraser.freeserve.co.uk Remember to put CFSSUK or CFS in subject box.

WEBMASTER Giles Fraser, giles@eircom.net WEBSITE <http://www.fraser-clan.org>

WEBSITE FOR LADY SALTOUN www.fraserchief.co.uk

INTERNATIONAL

AUSTRALIA frasercl@ar.com.au <http://www.ar.com.au/~frasercl>

CANADA neil.fraser@clanfraser.ca <http://www.clanfraser.ca>

NEW ZEALAND clanfrasernz@paradise.net.nz



*John Syme's
Office, now a
cafe*

FAMOUS FRASERS

JOHN SYME 1755-1831. THE BARD'S FRIEND

Son of the Laird of Barncaillzie, Kirkcudbrightshire and like his father, a Writer to the Signet, young Syme spent some years in the Army, as an ensign in the 72nd regiment. He then retired to his father's estate, where he experimented with farming improvements. His father lost heavily as a result of the Ayr Bank failure and Syme was no longer able to live at Barncaillzie. Appointed to the Sinecure of Collector of Stamps for the District, Syme moved to Dumfries in 1791. His office was on the ground floor of a house, which is now Bank Street. When Robert Burns, a few months later, moved from his farm at Ellisland to the Wee or Stinking Vennel, he became a tenant of Capt. John Hamilton, on the floor above Syme's office (Syme was his superior in the Customs and Excise).

Syme, a few years older than Burns, found Dumfries society dull and welcomed in the poet, a convivial kindred spirit. Burns was a frequent guest a Syme's villa Ryedale, on the West side of the Nith. Of Syme as a host Burns wrote, in an impromptu verse:

“Who is proof to thy personal converse and
wit,
Is proof to all other temptation.”

In the summer of 1794, Syme accompanied Burns on a tour through Galloway. The poet, smarting from the restrictions on his Jacobin sympathies, by the Commissioners of the Excise, apparently raged against the rich at the mere sight of a mansion. According to Syme's remembered recollection of the trip, they rode to Kenmure the first day, then on to Gatehouse-of-Fleet, Kirkcudbright and St Mary's Isle, where they were happily entertained by Lord Selkirk. Again according to Syme: “The poet was delighted with his company and acquitted himself to admiration.....” It was on this tour that Burns wrote “Scots Wha Hae” and a Thomas Fraser, bandsman, was involved with the tune.

Syme visited Burns at Brow on 15th July 1796, and again a few days later, when Burns had returned to Dumfries. He was horrified at the poet's deteriorated condition.

After Burn's death, Syme, with Dr Maxwell organised the funeral, and, with Alexander Cunningham, worked unsparingly raising money to help the poet's widow and children and was the first to push for a Mausoleum to be built to hold the remains of the world's greatest poet. He was one of those who urged Dr Currie to undertake his edition of Burns's work, and along with Gilbert Burns spent three weeks staying with Currie at his Liverpool home.

Syme left some highly-coloured, though valuable, reminiscences of Burns. His correspondence with Cunningham came to light a few years ago.



Of Burns's features, Syme wrote: “The

poet's expression varied perpetually, according to the idea that predominated in his mind: and it was beautiful to mark how well the play of his lips indicated the sentiment he was about to utter."

John Syme died in 1831. *Editor.*

CASKIE MEMORIAL

In October's newsletter I stated a memorial plaque to Donald Caskie, "The Tartan Pimpernel", was unveiled, in Marseille, for his heroism in WWII, by the Alliance France-Ecosse, in June 2002. Unfortunately, dates with Donald's relatives couldn't be fixed, so it was postponed till March 15th 2003. The President, Julian Hutchings, is anxious to invite servicemen, who were helped by Donald Caskie, to the ceremony, if you were involved or know someone who was, either contact me or Julian on Tel/Fax 00 33 238444532.

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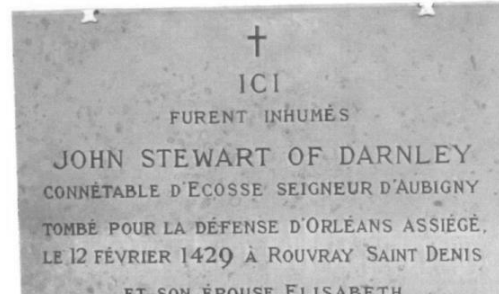
GENfair Michael Fraser, Treasurer

I came across this review in the Genuki Family History News # 65 and thought it may be of interest

A Gazetteer of Scotland CD, edited by Mike Spathaky, published by GENfair. ISBN 1 904107 00 1 Price £25.50 plus postage. GENfair, the Online Genealogy Bookstore, is pleased to announce the forthcoming release of a Compact Disc "Gazetteer of Scotland" This new CD includes a facsimile edition of Francis Groome's six-volume "Ordnance Gazetteer of Scotland" of 1896 for which Mike Spathaky has created a superbly intuitive user-interface and new indexes to all sections. Ian Anderson, writing in the Dumfries and Galloway Family History Society's website, has described Groome's Gazetteer as "a superb work of reference which has never been superseded... This gazetteer includes entries for towns, villages, hamlets, parishes, castles and mansions (as well as rivers, mountains, lochs, &c), and in most entries provides quite detailed topographical and historical information - the entry for Dumfries, for instance, runs to almost 10,000 words..." The Gazetteer of Scotland CD will be launched on 1st September and will retail for £25.50 plus postage.. Advance orders can be placed at the GENfairDirect stand of their website www.genfair.com.

I've, also, recently received an advert from Sherrifmuir Books, Glentye, FK15 0LN,

01786 822269, for "Statistics on Annexed Estates 1755-1766" including rentals for Fraser Lord Lovat, in detail by farm, number of children etc price £20 but please check out the firm first as I've had no direct dealings



with them, myself.

.....
Section of a France-Ecosse Plaque

1881 CENSUS *Editor*

I know I don't claim to be a genealogist but I do have the CD discs for the 1881 Census and am quite willing to look up anyone's ancestors who were alive in that year, it gives the address where they were, occupations and who else lived there. I can reply by email, if you don't have email I'm happy to cover the small cost of printing but I'd need an SAE. The more information I have the better and it makes life a lot easier if you could provide the following GIVEN NAME, LAST NAME, BIRTH YEAR, BIRTH PLACE, CENSUS PLACE IE COUNTY, REGION OR TOWN.

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CAPTAIN ALEXANDER FRASER Part II

When the American Rebellion broke out in 1775, the 9th Regiment of Foot was placed on an alert status. In April, 1776, it embarked from Ireland and sailed for Canada with other forces under Major-General John Burgoyne.²⁶ The Regiment arrived on the St. Lawrence River in the beginning of June and landed near Montreal where it took part in the operations by which the invading American Rebels were driven from Canada. It is during these initial British counter-measures in Canada that we catch our next glimpse of Lieutenant Alexander Fraser. We find him once again, despite his regimental affiliation, being utilized in positions of independent command to which he seems to have been well suited. On May 13th, 1776 Major-General Guy Carleton, Commander-In-Chief of the British Forces in Canada, promoted Fraser to Captain-Lieutenant in the 9th Regiment of Foot and issued an order directing him to report to

General Burgoyne from whom he was to receive commands relative to the assembling of the Indians that were acting in conjunction with the British Forces in Canada. ²⁷ From this point forward Captain-Lieutenant Fraser was ordered out on a reconnoitring expedition south from St. John's ²⁸ His party consisted of thirty Indians, some Canadians, and one sergeant, one corporal, and twelve volunteers from the Light Infantry. ²⁹ Lieutenant Thomas Scott of the 24th Regiment of Foot was second-in-command. ³⁰ During the evening of July 25th about 20 miles out, Fraser's party, while paddling down Lake Champlain received information that a party of Americans were near them, upon which Fraser gave immediate orders to make for them. The Indians were first to make contact, but after one of their number was killed, they retreated. The Canadians in a single canoe kept their distance while Captain-Lieutenant Fraser and Lieutenant Scott exerted themselves to come up with the American boats. Fraser finally got so near them that he ordered a volley of musket fire which enabled him to overtake the fleeing boats. The Americans surrendered, but just as they did so, the Canadians came up and needlessly fired into them. With difficulty, Captain-Lieutenant Fraser managed to keep the Indians from killing and scalping the prisoners, but somehow all was brought under control. On July 26th, Fraser returned to St. John's with his party, bringing in a total of 34 prisoners. His party had suffered in the above skirmish three wounded (two Canadians and one volunteer) plus one Indian killed. The very next day Brigadier-General Simon Fraser, ³¹ who commanded the British Advanced Corps to which Captain-Lieutenant Fraser was attached, issued Brigade Orders noting the spirit and success of Fraser and Scott. ³² Fraser had hardly returned to camp before he was assigned another task. A party of Americans under a flag of truce arrived before the British camp carrying letters from the Continental Congress and General George Washington to Generals Carleton and Burgoyne. They were detained until August 8th when Captain-Lieutenant Fraser and a party were given the duty of escorting the Americans safely back to their own outposts. Fraser left them within 20 miles of Crown Point. ³³ returning to camp on August 11th. ³⁴ General Military Court Martial held on August 26th, 1776. Three days later Alexander Fraser exchanged into the 20th which was also in Canada. ³⁵ This exchange came on the eve of the formation of a special unit, which was to play an important role in the Campaigns of 1776 - 1777, and which was to become

synonymous with Fraser's name.

On August 30th, 1776, Brigadier-General Fraser issued his "Memorandum relative to a Company of Marksmen," which he sent to Major-General Carleton. It read as follows: "*A man from each company of the British regiments to form a corps of marksmen consisting of 100 men. They should be chosen for their strength, activity and being expert at firing ball: each man to be furnished with an excellent firelock, the lock in good order and the hammer well steered. The soldier should by his frequent experience find out the quantity of powder with which his firelock fires the justest at the greatest distance and his cartridges should be made by that measure. Officers of experience should be appointed to this company and I should propose Captain Fraser, Lieuts. Satt (Scott) and Wright of the Light Infantry Battalion.*

Monin's (Canadian) Volunteers to be augmented to 70 or 80 and provided with clothing, arms, accoutrements. These two corps may act on the flanks of the advanced Brigade and reinforced by what number of Indians the General may think fit to employ. They may be turned to great use when we cross the Lake, as the nature of the country can admit of their turning large corps of the enemy, surprising convoys and making them uneasy in their rear: a corps of this kind well commanded would fatigue the enemy exceedingly by constant alarms." ³⁶

As the above "Memorandum" implies, the Company's primary function would be to counteract the hit and run tactics of the American forces, to perform raids, reconnoitre in advance and on the flanks of the army, and to work in company with the Indians and Canadians. The formation of the "Company of Marksmen" under the leadership of Captain-Lieutenant Alexander Fraser was promptly approved by Major-General Carleton. His General Order of September 6th, 1776 reads:

"The regiments which compose the Brigades of Brig. Gen. Nesbit and Powel are each to select one Sergeant one Corporal and eight private men. The non comm'd officers to be intelligent men. The privates to be taken one man from each company. The commanding officers are to take care that the capts. give a man of good character, sober, active, robust, healthy. The men are to be provided with a very good Firelock and to be in every Respect proper to Form a Body of Marksmen to be attached to

Brig. Gen'l Fraser's Corps under the command of Capt. Fraser of the 20th Reg't and such Sabalturns as the Brigadier General shall

*appoint from his corps.
Each reg't to furnish one Tent for the non
commissioned officers, and two for teh private
men, with proper camp necessaries.
An officer from Captain Fraser will go round
the Regiments to receive these different
Detachments who are to be furnished with
Provisions for two Days from their Respective
Regiments."* 37

Captain-Lieutenant Fraser seems to have spent the next four days, September 7th - 10th, organizing his new unit in the vicinity of St. John's. 38 In a letter sent from St. John's on September 7th, Major-General William Phillips of the Royal Artillery writes to Brigadier-General Fraser: ".....I never took more liking to any man than to (Captain-Lieutenant) Fraser. He is a sensible, cool, plain man. I dare say a most excellent officer - employ him directly....."39 What better compliment could a superior officer give a subaltern? Having nearly completed the organization of his unit, Captain-Lieutenant Fraser left St. John's about September 10th with a detachment of his Marksmen and a group of one hundred and fifty Indians. 40 Lieutenant James Wright 41 left St. John's on the 12th with another detachment of the marksmen and joined Fraser at teh River La Colle 42 where they established a forward observation post from which scouts were sent to gain intelligence of American movements on Lake Champlain. These scouting expeditions continued without serious incident during the remainder of the Campaign of 1776. After the American naval defeat at Valcour Island 43 on October 11th, the British Army under Major-General Carleton advanced without interruption to Crown Point. From here it was only about 10 miles by land to Fort Ticonderoga, which was the principal American fortified position on Lake Champlain. Unsure of the strength of the American position and force at Ticonderoga, numerous scouts were ordered out to gain intellegence. On or about October 22nd, Captain-Lieutenant Fraser captured 150 Oxen in front of the American lines without a shot being fired and drove them back to Crown Point. 44 Feeling that the season was now too well advanced for continued active campaigning, Carleton turned his attention in early November to the problem of where to quarter his army for the oncoming winter. Fearful that his army might be too extended, he pulled back the bulk of his force to Canada, abandoning all previously captured territory south of the Isle aux Noix.45

Captain-Lieutenant Fraser's Company of Marksmen was broken up for the winter. The subalterns and men most likely returned to their parent regiments for the season. On November 11th, 1776 Alexander Fraser once again changed his regimental affiliation and became a full Captain in the 34th regiment which was stationed in Canada. 46 Captain Fraser spent the winter in and near Montreal performing new duties as acting Superintendent of Indians in Canada.47

Notes 26. Canada was at this time besieged by invading American Forces which had captured Montreal and had nearly taken Quebec. 27. James Baxter, ed., *The British Invasion From The North, Digby's Journal of the Campaigns of Generals Carleton and Burgoyne from Canada, 1776 - 1777*, Albany, 1887 (New York, 1970), pp. 122-123. 28. A city on the Richelieu River 21 miles southeast of Montreal. 29. George F. G. Stanley, ed., *For Want Of A Horse*, Sackville, 1961. This is a printed journal of an unidentified British officer of the Light Infantry Company of the 47th Regiment of Foot, who served in the Campaigns of 1776 and 1777 under Generals Carleton and Burgoyne. It is perhaps the most detailed record of the two Campaigns. It contains numerous references to Alexander Fraser, which are not found elsewhere. See pp. 77-81 for record of Fraser's scouting expedition, subsequent skirmish and return July 23rd - 26th, 1776; See also Baxter, *British Invasion*, pp. 122-125 for corroborative entry and additional details. 30. Baxter, *British Invasion*, pp. 122-124 for biographical details of this officer. 31. Brigadier-General Simon Fraser, Alexander's uncle, led the Advanced Corps of the British Regiments then stationed in Canada (8th King's Regiment excepted) plus his own 24th regiment of Foot and various Provincial volunteers, Canadians, and Indians as were attached to the Army. Alexander was at this period Captain-Leutenant in the Grenadier Company fo the 9th Regiment on detached duty. 32. Stanley, *For Want Of A Horse*, pp. 80-81 for full text of Brigade Order July 27th 1776. As a reward Fraser, Scott the sergeant, corporal and 12 volunteers from the Light Infantry each received one dollar by order of the Brigadier-General. 33. A strategic point on route from New York to Canada. Located on the western shore of Lake Champlain about 10 miles north of Ticonderoga, New York. Site of several forts built between 1731-1759. 34. Stanley, *For Want Of A Horse*, pp. 84-86 35. Rogers, *Journal Burgoyne's Campaign*, pp. 262 265-

266; Douglas Brymner, ed., *Report On Canadian Archives 1886* Ottawa, 1887, p. 623. Fraser was appointed by Lieutenant-general Burgoyne in General Orders dated August 23rd, 1776 from headquarters in Chambly; Douglas Brymner, ed., *Report On Canadian Archives 1885*, Ottawa, 1886, p.243 for calendar of letters to Lieutenant Fraser while serving in the capacity of judge Advocate. 36. C.T. Atkinson, "Some Evidence For Burgoyne's Expedition," *Journal Of The Society For Army Historical Research* Volume 26, (1948), London, pp. 134-135. 37. Rogers. *Journal Burgoyne's Campaign*, pp. 474-475. As pointed out in the "General Order" all commissioned officers for the Company of Marksmen were to be selected from Brigadier-General Fraser's Corps only. The non-commissioned officers and privates were to be selected from the Battalion Companies which composed the main army. See also Public Archives Canada, *Haldimand Papers Transcripts* MG21, B83, p. 40 for Carleton's Order September 6, 1777. 38. The ten British Line Regiments then in Canada were the 9th, 20th, 21st, 24th, 29th, 31st, 34th, 47th, 53rd, and 62nd. The 8th King's Regiment was also present, but excluded from Brigadier-General Fraser's "Memorandum" as all of its companies were then stationed hundreds of miles to the west at various frontier posts. Each British Regiment was composed of ten companies - two flank (Grenadier and Light infantry) and eight Battalion. It is not known if the Company of Marksmen ever realized its full complement of 100 men plus officers during the Campaign of 1776. 39. Atkinson, "Evidence Burgoyne's Expedition," pp. 135-136. 40. Ibid. p. 137 Letter dated September 10th, 1776 Phillips to Fraser. The 150 Indians were grouped as follows: 56 Iroquois, 24 Ottawas, 70 Abanakis.' 41. Was a Lieutenant in the Light Infantry Company 9th Regiment of Foot. Alexander Fraser was undoubtedly a long-standing acquaintance of his as they both served in the 9th Regiment while it had been in Florida, Ireland and then in Canada. Lieutenant Wright was killed on October 7th, 1777 during the Battle of Bemis Heights (Second Saratoga). 42. Located 9 miles south from Point au Fer on the western side of Lake Champlain. A small settlement was there in 1776. See also Stanley, *For Want Of A Horse*, p.88. 43. An island in Lake Champlain 5 miles south of modern-day Plattsburgh, New York. An American fleet under under command of General Benedict Arnold attempted to challenge the British invasion when October 11th it nearly ambushed the British fleet off Calcour Island. The Americans were defeated

and by October 13th the British had destroyed most of the retreating American warships. This victory gave the British undisputed control of the Lakes Champlain and George for the remainder of the Rebellion. On October 11th, Captain Fraser and his marksmen were part of a detachment which was stationed on the west bank of Lake Champlain just across from Valcour Island while the naval action was in progress. During the battle they kept up a fire of small arms that proved to be most harassing to the American fleet. For an excellent account of the Battle of Valcour Island see Christopher Ward, *The War of the Revolution*, 2 Vols., New York 1952, 1: 384 - 397. 44. William L. Stone, ed., *Memoirs And Letters And Journals Of Major General Riedesel*, 2 Vols., Albany, 1868, 1: 68-69, 79. 45. An island situated at the northern extremity of Lake Champlain and commanding the entrance to the Richelieu River. 46. W.C. Ford, comp., *British Officers Serving in the American Revolution 1774-1783*, Brooklyn, 1897 p. 73. 47. Brymner, *Report Canadian Archives*, 1885, pp. 250-258 contains a calendar of documents pertaining to the Burgoyne Campaign. A number of these concern Captain Fraser and his routine duties as acting Superintendent of Indians in Canada over the period November 20th, 1776 through May 17th, 1777.

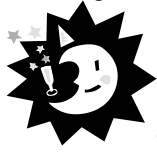
US CHURCH FOUNDED IN ABERDEEN

Prior to the American War of Independence, the British Government hadn't allowed Bishops to be consecrated for America, and at the end of the war the Episcopal Church there had neither Bishops nor Diocesan government. The clergy of Connecticut elected a Dr Seabury and sent him to England to be consecrated by the English Bishops, but they refused unless he was prepared to take the oath of allegiance to George III. Naturally, he refused and the outcome was that the ceremony took place in a room in the house of Bishop Skinner in Aberdeen, conducted by Primus Kilgour, Bishop Petrie and Bishop John Skinner. (*Thanks to Eileen Lothian for this snippet. We founded their country, their navy etc, so I suppose we had to give them religion. Ed*)

And here's a hand, my trusty fere!

And gie's a hand o' thine!
 And we'll tak' a right gude-willie waught,
 For auld lang syne.
 For Auld lang syne, my dear,
 For auld lang syne,
 We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,
 For auld lang syne.

An hae a richt guide New Year, fan it comes.



Graeme & Gillian