



# FRASER



THE CLAN FRASER  
SOCIETY OF  
SCOTLAND AND  
THE UNITED KINGDOM

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 29

NOVEMBER 2004



## COLOUR AGAIN!



I'd like to welcome you to another colour Newsletter, this one is our second, the first one, last year, seemed to be a success so we're giving it another try, because of cost and the extra work involved by Michael and his wife Chris, we restrict the colour to the first



two pages. Therefore, as we've had some important and colourful events this year, such as the CFSSUK dinner in Perth, I'm going to leave lots of room for the photographs, which I'm sure you're going to enjoy. I'm also trying to get all the photos of the dinner onto the website. In colour, we have photos of your Society dinner in Perth, followed by those of the 78<sup>th</sup> Highlanders, from Montreal who visited Scotland in August (see history of the 78<sup>th</sup> later in the Newsletter) then the Clan Fraser of Lovat dinner in Beaulieu and Aussie Tartan Day. *G B Fraser, Editor*



Top Left, left-right, Pat Sinclair, David Boag, Lady Saltoun. Top right, the Happy Group. Middle left John Nicoll, Penny Nicoll. Above left, Pat, David Lady Saltoun. Above right Rosemary Young, Paul R Fraser, Jenny Phillips. Middle right The Happy Group again. Bottom Left Susan Boag, Charlie Gammock, sitting Rosemary, Paul, Jenny. Bottom right Charlie Gammock. Louise Fraser.



## THE DINNER

*Michael Fraser Treasurer*

“Ah, this must be the right room – I recognise the tartan!” In a way, these words by one of the guests at the CFSSUK Dinner in Perth on 9<sup>th</sup> October capture a very important part of this small but rather special gathering. However, I will come back to this in a moment.

It was a delight to see some of our members again – and some new ones – who had travelled far and wide to join us. I thought we had been fairly adventurous taking on the challenge offered by the railway system to find our way to Perth from Dorset, but Kim Fagerlie had come all the way from Oslo, and there were two Australian couples and our members from Portugal who had built their trips around the dinner! What an honour!



The Parklands Hotel did us proud with some splendid food, and the whole event was organised with military efficiency by Susan (although I'm sure she will not thank me for the adjective!). We were



arranged around the long table and Susan was able to remind us all what we had ordered about a month earlier and forgotten on the night! (A senior moment for most of us!)

It was a great honour for us to have The Lady Saltoun with us for the evening, and we were well entertained by her recounting some of her adventures, and misadventures, in Canada. The misadventures were in her hotel where not everything went as efficiently as they did in Perth.



This brings me back to the paragraph at the top of this report. At one stage during the dinner I asked Lady Saltoun about the value and role of clans and clan societies in the



21<sup>st</sup> century. Her answer was succinct in the extreme as she pointed to a pile of papers I had brought to the table, and said, “That!” The papers were printouts of the embryonic database Graeme and I have discussed constructing. Lady Saltoun expanded on her answer by pointing out the need many of us have to trace our roots and to find our place in society. Knowing that one belonged to the huge



extended family provided by a Scottish clan is one way of establishing this place, even though the searching can be frustrating and hard at times. I was particularly impressed when Lady Saltoun stated that she saw her role as “being there for the members of the clan, rather than the clan being there for her.” The tartan works like a badge,



or even an old school or regimental tie; it is a way in which we can recognise each other as sharing something important; the Society exists as a very important channel through which we can learn more about our extended family.

Although the railway worked perfectly for us when we came to Perth (apart from the trolley running out of hot water “because the train is very busy today!”) it doesn't seem as if the system is yet capable of sustaining that performance consistently. Thus we had a 2½ hour wait on Perth station for the London train to find its way from Inverness. The frustrating bit was that the delays were announced progressively in 30-minute blocks, so no one dared leave the station to go into the city. However, our trials were nothing compared with those that Lady Saltoun apparently suffered on her journey to and from Canada.

## HOW DID THE DINNER COME ABOUT?

Graeme has asked me to write an article about the Clan Fraser Society dinner held in Perth in October. Alas, Graeme himself could not be there. However, I know Michael is writing about the evening itself. My task is to give you a little bit of



background to the event. Some of you will know that I ran the Clan Fraser Society in this country until I moved to Germany in December of 2000. This Society was set up in early 1995 but it was only in 1997 that I started to consider the idea of a social event for members. In fact, it wasn't even my idea initially, as the following extract from the September 1997 newsletter shows:

"I did ask all the members I met at the Gathering whether they had any ideas for the future of the Society. It emerged that many would like to see an annual dinner or something similar, and that is something I am hoping to arrange for next year."

The Gathering referred to was, of course, the big Fraser gathering held at Castle Fraser in August 1997.

I returned from Germany in August 2003, and within a month of my return was asked if I would arrange a dinner for this year. Now, I love the idea of an annual dinner for the Clan Fraser Society so I agreed, but only on the basis that I would do it for one year only. After all, I was really enjoying being an ordinary member of the Society with no particular responsibilities.

Conferring with Graeme, we agreed on Perth as a location, but I then had to find somewhere to hold the meal. Perth was not a city I knew at all well, so this posed a few problems. Fortunately a couple of members of the Society could suggest suitable hotels, and I just investigated those three. At that point it wasn't clear that the dinner would go ahead. I was keen to keep the numbers low as I liked the idea of a dinner party atmosphere, but we had decided on 20 guests as an absolute minimum. The tension mounted as I waited to hear who planned to attend, but we made the minimum. With the dinner definitely going ahead, a venue had to be decided upon. In the end I went for the Parklands Hotel, having been given glowing reports of the food, and the members were given the details.

Over the following months there were the inevitable highs and lows as numbers fluctuated up and down. The greatest high came when Lady Saltoun confirmed that she would be able to attend. This was a source of

great pleasure. Then, Max and Judy Fraser-Byass, who run the Clan Fraser Society of Australia, asked if they could mention the dinner in their newsletter. Incredibly, two Australian couples were planning to be in the UK this autumn and asked if they could attend. So, we welcomed Richard and Elizabeth Hall and John and Penny Nicoll. In the end there were 22 of us there, gathered around on long table, and I got my wish. It really was like a dinner party in the company of the Clan Chief, Lady Saltoun. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening, and I really hope this can become an annual event. *Susan Boag*

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## EDITOR SPIK

For those of you who aren't on email and were wondering why the Newsletter is so late, there are two reasons. When I took over I promised to publish two Newsletters a year but managed to squeeze in another smaller



Christmas one, unfortunately this year there wasn't enough copy for two but if I can get enough articles rolling in, then I'd only be too delighted to restore the extra Christmas edition. Then, as the dinner in Perth was in October, I needed time to get photographs of the event in, so we decided to go for another colour edition and for this year only, amalgamate the October and Christmas edition into a bumper one, waiting for the seasonal greetings from the two chiefs, which I've put at the back, so we have a happy ending. I hope it's been worth the wait, the pictures of the dinner are good, from all reports it was a very successful event and I hope to get some photos onto the website so you can all see them. The pictures are from a number of sources and I'd like to thank David Boag, Paul Fraser of the CFSSUK and John Nicoll, of our Australian sister society, for those of the Perth dinner, Max Fraser-Byass, courtesy of Furry Software [www.highlandsnsw.com.au](http://www.highlandsnsw.com.au) of our Australian sister society, for the Australian Tartan day snap, (being at the other end of the world, they celebrate Tartan Day on 1st July. the date the Act of Proscription was repealed, instead of the Declaration of Arbroath). Bruce D. Bolton, Major, Regimental Adjutant, The 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser Highlanders, Montreal for some of the photos of the 78<sup>th</sup> and Lord Lovat for other 78<sup>th</sup> ones and the Beaulieu dinner. Lord Lovat's photos can be accessed by registering, on the Internet, at <http://www.holidayalbums.com/shared.asp?shI>

d=6097B8EB-F79C-46F6-9BCE-65F75573286F.

Michael and I are always conscious of the fact, that since the death of Donald Fraser, we've had no one to do genealogical research for us, to try and improve the situation Michael is making some proposals which he outlines in an article later on in the Newsletter and I'm in the process of adding a Genealogical section to the website, which we've dedicated to Donald for all the work he did. This new section has links to a number of societies that can help with your own family research or your historical interests eg the excellent Highland Council regional government Archives website <http://www.highland.gov.uk/educ/publicservices/archivedetails/archives.htm>. Co-incidences never cease to amaze me with genealogy, I'd stumbled into looking for details about my Great Great Grandparents Donald and Catherine, both Frasers, from the Inverness area, making the search even harder. I'd started by only meaning to look up the 1851 census for my Great Grandad Hugh but Sue Thomson of the Kilmorack Heritage Association, who'd been helping took ill, referred me to a friend, Margaret MacKay, who visits the Scottish Records Office frequently and she offered to help with a search for Donald and Catherine, which was successful. (Although Sue has been ill she says, she'll still take on research for the three local Parishes her Society covers, [john@northlodge.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:john@northlodge.freeserve.co.uk) and whilst Margaret makes a modest charge to cover expenses, I found her assistance, in a search I'd been stuck on for years, excellent [BillMargaretMackay@compuserve.com](mailto:BillMargaretMackay@compuserve.com). I then queried the birthplace of my Gt Gt Grandmother, using the Highland Archives and received excellent help, partially from an Alistair MacLeod and the next day Kim Fagerlie, a member from Norway who had been at the dinner in Perth, emailed me to say he'd been up to Inverness and met Mr MacLeod and had nothing but praise for him and the archives. Thus a small seed of an idea was born, I thought if I know about some of these services, so should our members and I started to develop the new section for the website.

For those of you who remember Newsletter 23 October 2002, you may recall my failed quest to find the Worcester Memorial to the thousands of Scots who died or were sold into slavery at the Battle of Worcester, "On 3 September 1651, Alexander Fraser, Lord Saltoun had led a regiment of 800 men and was left for dead on the field but his lifelong servant, James Cardno, found his severely wounded body, carried it from the field, nursed

him and took him back to Fraserburgh, they were the only two of the 800 to return home." In October we were on a caravan rally nearby and we thought we'd try again, only to find there was a mistake on the new instructions we were given and a feeling of déjà vu came over Gillian and myself as we waded through a muddy dairy and farmyard, lost. By chance the dairy was owned by John Bennet, who had

put a lot of work into erecting the stone and with the help of his



receptionist, we found the memorial, it's in a small car park opposite a huge chimney, you can see from the Worcester bypass and is in a lovely position next to the old Powick Bridge. Directions can be found on The Fraser Connections, section of the website.

There are lots of interesting events happening next year some with, some without, a Fraser connection and Lady Saltoun passed on these two worthy events to me and I hope you'll support them, if possible. One is the Pipefest, which is the next article and another the Arbroath Abbey Pageant Society, who are trying to raise money for a full re-enactment of the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath. Richard Irvine of the Society emailed me and said "We would be most keen to develop the common ground between our Societies and all information that you have on the Fraser who signed the famous Letter would help to ensure that both his rightful place in taken in history and that our re-enactment is as realistic as possible. The Pageant is planned to be staged between the 22nd and 27th August 2005, you and your Clan for most welcome to come - if you cannot make these dates, we can arrange an "interactive meeting" in our Pageant Centre in the weeks leading up to event if that is desirable. Please feel free to get in touch." Unfortunately, I can't make those dates but if anyone is interested please contact me and for more information they can be contacted at [www.arbroathabbeypageant.com](http://www.arbroathabbeypageant.com) or 33 Commerce Street, Arbroath, DD11 1NA. Online information is improving rapidly and the National Archives Office in London, have now allowed access to WWI medals, I tried to get information on my grandfather William Barron but didn't have his Army Number and there were 14 others with the same name, in the Gordons, so you need to have an uncommon name or a lot of information, interesting, all the same. ScotlandsPeople (the Scottish Records Office) have, during the remainder of this year, a number of new

indexes and images added, these include their first Street Index from the 1901 Census and Name Indexes and Images from the 1841, 1851, 1861 and 1871 Censuses. To keep up to date with the timetable for these, please look at "[http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/index.php?area=content/about\\_this\\_site/whats\\_in\\_database](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/index.php?area=content/about_this_site/whats_in_database)". The DSL or Dictionary of the Scots Language has now been digitalised and is accessible on <http://www.dsl.ac.uk/dsl/> it's an excellent site, done in conjunction with Dundee University and covers old and modern Scots and is an excellent tool for those who want to write in the Scots Language or just find the meaning of a word. *Graeme B Fraser*

### PIPEFEST

The search is on for at least 10,000 pipers, drummers, members of brass and reed bands and clan societies to take part in the biggest ever Pipefest event, which aims to break the world record for the world's largest pipe band, while raising money for a leading cancer charity. Ten years ago at the inaugural Pipefest, 3,000 pipers and drummers marched through Edinburgh to raise money for Marie Curie Cancer Care. A decade on, after setting the current record for the world's largest pipe band with almost 9,000 pipers and drummers and organising piping events in various cities throughout the world including New York, Chicago and Paris, Pipefest will be returning to Scotland – the spiritual home of piping.

Thomas Grotrian, director of the Pipefest commented on the preparations for Pipefest 2005: "Pipefest 2005 presents us with a great opportunity to welcome bands from all over the world for one monumental gathering in Edinburgh. Since 1995, the Pipefest events have raised more than £580,000 for Marie Curie Cancer Care, and this event will not only provide more funds for the continuing fight against cancer, but it will also celebrate Scotland, its heritage, the truly international reach of the Great Highland Bagpipe and provide a great day out for the spectators lining the route of the march,"

Pipefest 2005 will take place in Holyrood Park on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August. Setting off at 14:00hrs along Queens Drive, the spectacular event will come to a head two hours later when the bands meet up for the grand finale in the shadow of Arthur's Seat at the northern end of Holyrood Park. If you would like to take part in Pipefest 2005 or would like further information on the event, please contact the Pipefest Team on 0131 220 5559, or log onto [www.pipefest.com](http://www.pipefest.com) *If anyone is interested in becoming involved, could they contact me. Ed*

### GENEALOGICAL RECORDS

*Don Fraser*



Those of you who have been members of the Society for several years will remember Don Fraser. Sadly, he died a while ago, and the Society greatly misses the contribution he made. Don's particular skill and interest was genealogy, and he helped many people solve

problems, and climb over the proverbial "brick wall" when their researches seemed unable to go any further. Graeme and I, together with Susan's support and very helpful contributions, have been pondering what we could do to fill the gap. We have decided that it is possible to build a simple database that could prove to be useful to members and to the non-members who often approach us on the Internet to see if we can provide any information about their families.

Our thoughts at the moment are that the database would have two parts. The first part is the data that several of you have very helpfully provided on the forms designed by Maureen Tandy. We would like to assume that, unless you let us know otherwise, you would not object to this information being made available on our web site. We would not wish to include any living persons, so the thought is that we will omit all persons born after 1900. On the other hand, if you would be content for any of these names to be included, then please let us know in writing or by email.

The second part of the proposed data will be much more extensive, but **will not be posted on the web site**. This will consist of names, dates and relationships of people whose details we have gathered from a range of published sources. We understand that this is something we are entitled to do, as long as we don't republish it in any form without the originator's consent. The proposal, therefore, is that we will maintain a database that will list all this information, together with the source from which it was obtained.

The idea is that, should we receive an enquiry from anybody, we would search this privately held data. If there should appear to be a match, we would then inform the person making the inquiry of the source of the information and how to find it and possibly, whether it is in the form of a pedigree, or else, it is simply a lone reference.

This is where we are asking for your help – in two respects.

First, please let us know if you think the idea is no good. Also, if you have some knowledge of copyright and data protection legislation, we would be extremely grateful for any helpful guidance and warnings you can offer us.



Secondly, if you do think the idea is worth pursuing, we would love to hear from you of any family trees, or anything else you have come across with a genealogical interest containing information on any

Fraser or any of the Sept names.

Of course, this will be a huge project that we are embarking on, and certainly will not have the sophistication or detail of the information gathered over many years by the highly skilled and experienced genealogist, Marie Fraser, in Canada. We will need to take many years building up our information, but we do rely on the support of all our members. Remember, any information at all, from books, your own researches, anything at all that you don't wish to retain as a secret will all help to build things up. It's the acorn and the oak tree story – from small beginnings...*Michael Fraser, Treasurer*

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## FRASER BYTES

### A GLANCE AT CD PUBLISHING

There are some books that anyone with a keen interest in Fraser history will want to read. The trouble is, most of them are out of print. Unless you inherited a well-stocked library from your great-great-grandparents, it can be most frustrating! If you live near the central library of a city or enjoy access to a university library, you may be able to pluck what you want straight from the shelves. Failing that, you can order any book from your local library via the inter-library loans service for a small fee. Libraries are an invaluable resource but there is an inherent problem. The books have to be returned!

There are texts that you simply have to own, to read and re-read as your interest develops into an obsession. There are many good second-hand bookshops and book-finders throughout the UK. Internet users have ready access to a global book market via Amazon zShops, [www.addall.com](http://www.addall.com), and [www.abebooks.co.uk](http://www.abebooks.co.uk) to name but three outlets. Even so, you will probably have hunted high and low for that elusive Fraser genealogy-- or waited months for a dealer to track down a copy for you.

Patience is not among my virtues. When I want a book, I want to know when I'm going

to get it rather than be left wondering whether I'll be able to read it this year, next year, sometime, or never. Luckily for me, there are a growing number of alternative publishing companies that make out-of-print, out-of-copyright texts available on CD-ROM. Scanned images of the pages are saved in portable document format (or PDF). An entire book can be read on a PC monitor by anyone with Acrobat Reader, available as freeware at [www.adobe.co.uk/support/downloads/main.html](http://www.adobe.co.uk/support/downloads/main.html). Rare books on Fraser history are now within everybody's grasp thanks to this cost-effective form of publishing.

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The first Fraser CD I bought was an urgent replacement for my smelly old copy of the Wm Mackay's fine edition of James Fraser's Wardlaw MS

(Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press for the Scottish History Society, 1905). I have found two outlets for this seminal text. First, it is available as a "Scotdisc" from Unicorn Ltd of Auburn, Alabama. The current price given on the company web site is \$9.95. Unicorn accept orders by letter, telephone, fax, e-mail, and though [www.scotpress.com](http://www.scotpress.com). Payment is by cheque, credit card, or PayPal, which enables you to send money securely using your plastic. For European orders, Unicorn charge airmail plus \$2.50 for handling. I believe the safest and speediest way to order is to send an e-mail requesting the total cost and then to send the dollars through PayPal. Unicorn also produces a facsimile edition of the Wardlaw MS. This "Scotcopy" volume is produced to order and takes 3-4 weeks to prepare. It is priced at \$133. William Mackay's edition of the Wardlaw MS is also available at eBay: "The World's Online Marketplace". The Sevenchildren eBay store, run by Kathi Stine of Oregon, specializes in CD reproductions of family histories and genealogies. Besides the Wardlaw MS, the following Fraser texts have been published:

- Brewster, Margaret Isabel Fraser. *Descendants of Simon Fraser of Laggan, Inverness-shire, Scotland, and Allied Families in Scotland, Canada, and United States*. Florida: 1956.
- DeForest, L.Effingham. *Jelke and Frazier and Allied Families*. New York: The DeForest Publishing Company, 1931

- Frazier, Walter S. *Annals of the (Frizzell) Frazier Family*. Illinois: Press of the Aurora Beacon, 1890
- Johnson, Deirdre Duff. *The Fraser Clan in America*. Indiana: 1915.
- Mackenzie, Alexander. *History of the Frasers of Lovat*. Inverness: A. & W. Mackenzie, 1896.
- National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Records for *Fraser, Frasier, Frazer, Frazier and Allied Families*
- Warrand, Duncan. *Some Fraser Pedigrees*. Inverness: Robert Carruthers & Sons, 1934.

To find the Sevenchildren store, go to [www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com) or [www.ebay.co.uk](http://www.ebay.co.uk) and set your mouse to work. Click on the "Search" option at the top of the home page and select the "Find Items by Seller" tab on the left. Type in Sevenchildren. You will see a list of what is on sale but to enter the store requires one more click on the circular red and white logo. Now that you have reached Sevenchildren, remember to bookmark it! Alternately, you can shoot straight to the Sevenchildren store at [www.stores.ebay.com/id=26647728](http://www.stores.ebay.com/id=26647728). Yes, I know I could have told you the direct route earlier but you're learning how to use eBay!

The Sevenchildren store is very easy to search for items of interest. Don't worry if you do not see the Fraser texts I've mentioned. Kathi writes that "requests for specific family names or locations are welcomed" and eBay has made it easy to get in touch with her. Click on the name Sevenchildren and you will see a message-box. eBay will forward whatever you write to Kathi. She combines professionalism with friendliness and will probably be able to put the CD you want in her store. The Fraser items I have bought from Kathi have been priced between \$14.99 and \$19.99. Other items range between \$7.99 and \$24.99. There is a \$5 charge for shipping to the UK. Kathi accepts payment from UK customers via PayPal. However, before you buy anything from Sevenchildren, you must sign up as a member of eBay. This is a simple and free procedure. To maintain your privacy online, I suggest you set up a separate e-mail account just for eBay purchases and choose an eBay ID that is nothing like your real name. Exercise your imagination! I have never had a security problem using eBay and have been delighted by the quality of every CD I have bought.

Those of you who use the FreeBMD service at <http://freebmd.rootsweb.com/> might have noticed the link to Archive CD Books. Graeme mentioned the company, which was founded

by Rod Neep in 2000, in the March issue of the newsletter. Four years later, there are branches in the UK, the United States, Canada, Australia, and the Netherlands. Outlets in Ireland and New Zealand are only a few months away. Archive CD Books has several publications of Scottish interest. At the moment, though, there are only two Fraser texts, in the fields of parliamentary and family history:

- Saltoun, Alexander Fraser, 15<sup>th</sup> [now 16<sup>th</sup>] Lord. *Thoughts on the disqualification of the eldest sons of the peers of Scotland to elect, or to be elected from that country to parliament* (Edinburgh: 1788)
- Tweedie, Michael Forbes. *The History of the Tweedie or Tweedy Family* (1902)

Orders are accepted online at [www.archivecdbooks.org](http://www.archivecdbooks.org) and payment made by debit or credit card. Rod Neep's project is a labour of love and his team is always ready to answer questions. Don't hesitate to make contact! *Archive CD Books, 5 Commercial Street, Cinderford, Gloucestershire GL14 2RP*  
e-mail: [enquiries@archivecdbooks.org](mailto:enquiries@archivecdbooks.org)  
Tel: 01594 829870 Fax: 0154827864

I have mentioned PayPal a lot, so perhaps it's time I explained a little about it. PayPal is a secure, user-friendly means of transferring money from your credit card or bank account to any business or individual with an e-mail address. Visit [www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com) and you will see how easy it is to sign up and start using this safe way of paying your bills. A personal account is free to open. You will need to provide your name, a postal address, an e-mail address, and details of the debit or credit card you wish to use.

When you purchase goods online using PayPal the money will be taken from your account. PayPal will e-mail the seller to say that you have completed the transaction. At the same time, PayPal will send you an e-mail receipt as proof of purchase. Perhaps this sounds rather daunting but I have never had a problem using PayPal or, indeed, making any online purchase.

One warning. Genealogy in any format varies in reliability. Historic fact and family lore forge an unholy alliance but what ancestors hath joined.... Now, off you go and treat yourself to those books you've always wanted. Or write to Father Christmas!

*Tracy Martin, member.*

**FAMOUS FRASERS**  
**GEORGE FRASER'S RHODO HEAVEN**

Heritage of Beacon Hill Park, in Victoria, Vancouver Island, is based on an 1889 design by John Blair, was subsequently modified by others. Many of the original plants, some of which still beautify the Park, were brought in by a Scotsman named George Fraser. This year marks the 150th anniversary of George's birth and the West Coast town of Ucliet held a festival to honour the pioneer and rhododendron hybridizer. It was for 50 years the site of George Fraser's nursery where he cultivated not only many rhododendrons but also heathers, holly, and a variety of other plants. He also hybridized new varieties that



*Colin Fraser in front of the Rhodo plants of George Fraser, B.C.*

were sold around the world. Bill Dale became interested in George Fraser in the 1980's when he was president of the Victoria branch of the American Rhododendron Society. He decided to research some of the old-time rhododendron growers, George Fraser being one. Bill Dale also researched the history of Beacon Hill Park because George Fraser was the foreman under Park designer John Blair in the late 1880's. Some of the rhododendrons Fraser planted can still be seen by Goodacre Lake. Dale traced Fraser's origins to Fochabers Scotland, where he worked at Christy's Nursery, still in operation. Fraser immigrated to Canada in 1885, coming first to Winnipeg, then on to a more plant-friendly environment in Victoria two years later. Dale has been corresponding with the Fochabers townspeople, and even invited the Fochabers Fiddlers to play in Beacon Hill Park in July 2002. Fraser was himself a fiddler. In 1985 Bill made a presentation to the Ucluelet Lions club and they became very interested and helped erect a proper grave marker for Fraser at the cemetery and helped develop the George Fraser Memorial Park where a large stone marker tells visitors about his life.

George Fraser moved to Ucluelet in 1894, Chief Bert Mack of the Ahousat tribe recalled his grandfather telling him about Ahousat and Ucluelet band members coming over in canoes. "We saw a new type of forest there, and ponds with carp and trout. He was really looking after Mother Earth. He'd always take

time to speak with my grandfather in Chinook." Ucluelet Elder Barbara Touchie added, "Our people would see him working and working in his garden. His hands and face would get dirty. We had a name for him," something like A-a-sh-heck, "Which means, Man with Mud on his Face."

George Fraser must have been a very patient man. He started experimenting with crossing different species of rhododendron. Fifteen years later, he saw the first bloom. One of his crosses, called *R. Fraserii*, is grown world-wide. *When on holiday this June, in Victoria, Colin Fraser and his wife Carole, members, noticed a story in the local paper, visited Beacon Hill Park and McTavish Island (another Fraser connection) and I'd like to thank The James Bay Beacon and the authors of the above, Ann-Lee and Gordon Switzer, for allowing me to use part of their article. Ed*

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**LIVING ON THE EDGE Part 2**  
**My Fraser ancestors of Mosside**  
*Judy Strachan, member.*

My great-great-great grandfather William Fraser, born illegitimate in 1805, in Cruden Parish in Aberdeenshire, found himself a Longside wife. The evidence points to them meeting when they both worked on the same farm. Christian Hutcheon had, like many a girl of her time and place, already given birth to an illegitimate child fathered by a John Bisset. William and Christian had ten children, eight surviving infancy. It must have been pretty cramped, bringing all those children up in a two-roomed cottage, but somehow they managed it.

The three acres called Mosside became home to quite a few of their grandchildren, too. Three of their daughters followed the family tradition and had illegitimate children before marrying. One of them, Janet Fraser, managed to have four children, including a set of twins, to three different fathers. Mary Fraser had two illegitimate children before eventually, in her thirties, marrying a local widower.

There was someone else living at Mosside helping to make it a very crowded little croft. John Black, a deaf and dumb pauper, appears on the 1851 census as a border, age 19. He's still there in 1861 and 1871. But by 1881 he's gone. I've no idea where he came from or where he went, but for more than twenty years he lived with the Frasers at Mosside. No doubt the pittance he received as Poor Relief helped the family coffers, but that can't be the only

reason he was there. I suspect he was related, but how is probably going to remain a mystery so far, my search of the records has unearthed nothing.

In the 1841 census William is described as a farmer, then in 1851 he's down as a shoemaker, which in those days was a rather disreputable occupation. But he was living at Mosside at the time, so the shoemaking must have been a way of earning some extra money. In 1861 he's described as a farmer of two acres, and in 1871 he's a crofter of three acres. I doubt if Mosside actually changed size: a more likely explanation is someone simply took a guess as to how big the croft was. And it's interesting how the term 'crofter' wasn't used before 1871.

The Fraser name continued through William and Christian's two surviving sons, the eldest dying before he was old enough to marry. So it was the second son, Alexander, who eventually took over the lease of Mosside croft.

Alexander Fraser was born in 1838, a fortunate birth year for genealogists as it means his entire life is documented in the census records. He was still at home when he was 12 and at school, although one suspects most of his time would have been spent working on the croft. Shortly after this he was off, living the itinerant life of a farm servant until he married, in the parish of Ellon, in 1864.

His first marriage was, sadly, short-lived. Mary Ann Logan managed to produce two children, a boy (my great grandfather) and a girl, before succumbing to Phthisis (Tuberculosis) three years after her wedding. Although she and Alexander had been living the typical life of a farm servant, moving from farm to farm every year, Mary Ann died at Mosside, having been ill for nearly a year. It seems Mosside was more than a place for young Fraser women to go to give birth: it was where they went to die, too.

Alexander remarried a year later. In those days this was very common. What else was a man to do when he had small children and his job meant working for about twelve hours a day? I wish there'd been a census during the year his wife was ill or the year he was a widow as I suspect Alexander's two small children would have been found at Mosside, being looked after by their grandparents.

But in 1868, Alexander's children acquired a stepmother when he married Margaret Booth. She had an illegitimate child, of course. This marriage, and others that appear on my family tree, follows what seems to be a pattern. The

women who'd had illegitimate babies formed a very useful pool of second wives for widowed men with children.

Already the father of two, Alexander went on to have eleven children with Margaret, ensuring his Fraser genes are highly unlikely to ever become extinct. And a few of his daughters continued the tradition of becoming mothers before they became wives. However, before Alexander took over Mosside Croft, he moved around a fair bit. He was working as a farm servant at Firkendry, Parish of Longside when he married Margaret Booth. A year later, when twin daughters were born, he was at a farm at Dudwich, Parish of Ellon. The family were in Old Deer when the next child was born and at the 1871 census they were in Fortrie, Parish of Savocho. At that point the bright lights of Aberdeen seemed to have called, because



when his son was born in 1872 we find him working as a mason

labourer and living at 1 Spital, Old Aberdeen. Five years later, when a daughter was born, he back on the land, working as an agricultural labourer but living at Govan Brae, Causeway End, Aberdeen. Two years later, however, his wonderings came to a halt.

William Fraser died in 1877, at the age of 72, which was a very good innings for those days. Alexander moved his family to Mosside and took over his father's lease, and that's where he stayed for the rest of his days. He and Margaret had yet more children, and their children spawned a huge amount of grandchildren: I've managed to discover twenty of them so far but I know there were a lot more. Alexander Fraser died in 1911, when he was 73 and influenza got the better of him. He died at Mosside, where he was born.

Meanwhile, William Fraser, his eldest son, was living a life that was very much an echo of his father's. William, born in 1865, worked as a farm servant from about the age of 13. At first he stayed close to Mosside, working at farms close to Hatton, then gradually widened his patch when he married in 1889, he was at a farm near Auchnagatt, in Savocho parish, and his wife, Helen Hay, was working at the local hostelry. Unusually, she didn't have an illegitimate child—but she was illegitimate

herself, the offspring of a domestic servant and a farmer's son from Tarves.

William and Helen had five children, including my grandfather, James. They moved from farm to farm on almost an annual basis, as did most farm servants. Their eldest daughter was born in Savoch, their eldest son in Foveran, and then my grandfather James was born at Aikenshill farm in Foveran. His sister Barbara was born at Waterton near Ellon. The family then moved to Mill of Brogan in Slains where William was head cattleman. And it was here, in 1903, shortly after the birth of another daughter, that Helen died of chronic enteritis, leaving William with five children all under the age of twelve—which accounts for his quick remarriage.

William's second wife was also called Helen and she brought an illegitimate child with her. William and the second Helen went on to have four children of their own, and it's this Helen my mother remembers as Granny Fraser. They become the tenants of Mosside croft in 1911 and lived there until their deaths, Helen departing in 1938 and William achieving the grand age of 83 when he died in 1948.

So how is it that, given this ancestral background of clinging to Mosside, my mother and I both managed to be born in Yorkshire?

It was war that did it: two wars, in fact.

When my grandfather was 19, the First World War broke out. He took himself off to Peterhead and joined the Gordon Highlanders. In France he fought in the trenches until a bullet found its way into his left wrist. Early in 1919 he found himself at Beckett Park College in Leeds, which had been turned into a military hospital. Then he met local lass—and married her later that year. He went on a government training course, emerging as a qualified painter and decorator, and settled down to domestic life in Kirkstall, Leeds, the father of two daughters.

During the Second World War, his younger daughter, Dorothy Fraser, joined the army and while stationed near Bath met a Scottish soldier by the name of Robert Strachan. They married after the war, settled in Leeds, and I'm their daughter.

When my great-grandfather William died, all his sons had spread to most corners of the world and no one remained to take over Mosside. In any case, none of them wanted to be crofters. The eldest became a baker in New Zealand, my grandfather painted and decorated in Yorkshire, one son did go into farm labouring but died aged twenty-one. Two went into the hotel industry, with one of them

eventually migrating to New York. One son, according to my mother, went to live in Turriff, and the youngest either went to the south of England or America.

Mosside was taken over by another family but today it's derelict, a decaying monument to a way of life that once was but is no longer. I've been to see it, though, and I'll visit it again. It's a wonderful feeling, standing on the land that holds the imprint of your ancestors' footprints. It might be only home to rabbits now, but the echoes live on.

*Judy Strachan is a freelance writer and regular contributor to Your Family Tree magazine. She was born in Yorkshire and, after moving about all over the place, is living back home again. Judy can be contacted at [jmstrach@dircon.co.uk](mailto:jmstrach@dircon.co.uk)*



**W**ELCOME NEW MEMBERS  
**DENISE SHERWOOD, ANDREW  
K FRASER, JOHN R TOWNS,  
KENNETH G FRASER, CYRIL G  
JENNER, ROSEMARY I YOUNG,  
COSMO A FRASER, DONALD FRASER-  
CLARK, JASON L FRASER, MARY  
FRASER GRANT, MAUREEN A  
OSBORN**

**BOOK REVIEW** by Michael Fraser  
**JOURNEYS IN FAMILY HISTORY** by  
David Hey  
National Archives 2004. ISBN 1 903365 61 9 (£30)

This is subtitled "The National Archives' Guide to Exploring your Past / Finding your ancestors" This means that nearly all of the illustrations and guides are fairly heavily focused upon the resources at the National Archives (formerly the Public Record Office) The idea of the book is a very interesting one in that it goes a step further than many of the initial guides for people starting out on their family history researches. Hey's argument is that collecting lists of names and dates and then constructing a family tree is only part of the work of being a family historian. It also matters, he argues, that we try to understand the lives that our ancestors led, especially as, for most of us, their origins are likely to be pretty humble. If you can trace your history to a landed family or the aristocracy, there may not be much need to go any further with this review!

The book is divided into 4 sections and works backwards from the known to the unknown, in

the “correct” way of undertaking any family history research. The first section is “Into Recent Memory (1900 - )” and is then divided into two main chapters, as are the other 3 sections. The first main chapter for each section is “Exploring your Past” and is a useful, but somewhat potted social history, dealing with such issues as houses, work, poverty, World War I etc. The second chapter for each section has a self-explanatory heading of “Finding your Ancestors” and illustrates the major resources that one can tap into for tracing forebears in that period. Being a modern book it appreciates that many of us make great use of the internet nowadays, but it does repeat the vital warning of not taking as gospel anything one finds on the internet, however respectable the organisation posting the information. Always check against the original documents where possible!

The other sections are: “Through the Nineteenth Century (1800-1900)”; “Making Early Connections (1550-1800); and “Back to the Middle Ages ( - 1550). Each section has both some social history as well as search advice and tips. There is also a detailed list of useful addresses and websites, including all the local record offices, libraries and registries. And three pages of further reading for those wishing to concentrate on a specific aspect of their studies.

Because of the scale of the work, it would probably not be the ideal choice for a someone who has got beyond the initial stages in their research. There are many more detailed pamphlets and books that focus on very specific issues, such as military records and how to read ancient script. (David Hey has a rather optimistic view of how easily one can learn to cope with old manuscripts – or perhaps I am just a very slow and impatient learner!) On the other hand, I found it a very interesting book that has opened up a whole new avenue of research into social history matters. This will, I have no doubt, breathe new life into relations who I simply know as names for the moment – for example my great-great grandfather was the bailiff on an estate in Sussex. Now I feel inspired to try to find out a great deal more, not just about life on that estate, but also of the work of a bailiff.

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## CONTACTS

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## LEGENDS and STORIES



Susan King, the author, has made a suggestion for the Society to collect Fraser stories and legends and is willing to help by visiting her local University in Maryland and viewing their copy of the

Wardlaw Manuscripts, which originate from near Beaulieu. An obvious one is the story of Blar na Lien, as well as the belief that, “if a pregnant Fraser visits the battlefield a male child will be born” but there must be lots more, do you know any? It needn’t be anything famous, a small family tale would be of interest as well. Send anything you’ve got to me, if there’s enough, we may put something together or at least it’ll make copy for the Newsletter and I’m certainly short on that. *Ed*

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## **T** HE 78TH FRASER HIGHLANDERS HISTORY OF THE REGIMENT

The 78th Regiment, Second Highland Battalion of Foot, commonly called Fraser’s Highlanders was raised in Scotland in 1757, specifically for service in North America. It



played a daring and romantic role in the major battles of the Seven Years’ War, a war which ultimately determined Canada’s future. Although the regiment was disbanded in Quebec in 1763, it

was the only Scottish regiment ever to be disbanded on foreign soil. The men of the 78th were first among the many thousands of “red-coated” settlers who remained in Canada. Since that time, their family trees have flourished placing their descendants throughout the country and the continent. At the behest of Lord Chatham, Colonel Simon Fraser, Master of Lovat, raised the Regiment under Warrant for King George II. The 1,500 men were recruited largely from clansmen, who, a dozen years earlier had fought for Bonnie Prince Charlie in the War of ‘45. When an official high in authority questioned the wisdom of arming former rebels, General James Wolfe defensively replied, “If a Highlander gives his oath, he can be completely trusted”.

The Regiment sailed from Scotland, via Ireland, to Halifax before moving north to lay siege and then capture the mighty French Fortress Louisbourg in 1758. The men wintered in Connecticut and southern New York State before undertaking the Quebec

campaign throughout the summer of 1759. It was the largest regiment on the Plains of Abraham and suffered the heaviest casualties. Within the walls of the old fortified city, the bitter winter of 1759-60 played heavily on the health of the soldiers. Tradition holds that the Ursuline Nuns came to the Highlanders' aid by knitting longer hose to reduce their exposure to the elements! The next spring, despite a French victory at St. Foy, just outside of Quebec, the British Army, now under the command of General Murray, moved onto Montreal, which was surrendered in September 1760. For the first time since the onset of the War, the 78th was garrisoned with the other two Highland Regiments in the campaign, the 77th Montgomery's and the 42nd, The Black Watch. The surrender of Montreal effectively ended the war in North America although the 78th did take part in the re-capture of St. John's, Newfoundland in September 1761. It would be two years before the war was to be settled in Europe. In the meantime, since a number of the men spoke French (due to their Jacobite connection) and were Catholic, they were well respected by the French Canadians in the area.



*The modern day 78<sup>th</sup>, Beaulieu memorial gdn.*  
When word was received of the disbandment of the Regiment while in Quebec, many decided to stay on land grants and many married into French Canadian families. During their short stay in Quebec, members of the Regiment were also responsible for establishing the first Presbyterian Church in Canada and the first Masonic Lodge, as well as introducing the game of curling on the frozen rivers and lakes. Even the men who went home to Scotland after the War could not forget their North American experience. Many returned to fight in the American Revolution under Major-General Simon Fraser forming the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 71st Regiment (Fraser's Highlanders). In Canada, Lt. Colonel Allen Maclean raised the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 84th Regiment (Royal Highland Emigrants) from soldiers who had fought in the previous war.

Others returned independently to establish business concerns, notably in the fur trade, where they or their descendants explored and opened the continent naming such rivers as the MacKenzie and the Fraser. The influence of the original 1,500 men of this Regiment on Canadian and North American history is still evolving. New historical discoveries are still being made which further indicate that this Regiment deserves a special place in our military tradition. *Bruce D. Bolton, Major, Regimental Adjutant. The 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser Highlanders, PO Box 1200, Stn A Montreal, QC H3C 2Y9, Canada*

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### SPEIR AWA

I was interested to come across your clan Fraser society website. My great grandmother was a Fraser, and she married a Brodie. I have been able to trace my ancestry back to both the Frasers of Fraser and the Brodies of Brodie, and would be very willing to share what I have gleaned with others, and indeed to contact others who are descended from the Frasers. My Fraser line comes down from the Lord Lovats, through the Frasers of Farraline and Gortuleg. *Julia Henderson (Mrs) Off Internet [ikhenderson@excite.com](mailto:ikhenderson@excite.com)*.

### Irish Frasers in Australia

Very briefly, I can trace my direct family line back to George Fraser who died in Banagher, Ireland in 1729 but would like to fill in some of the lateral branches. George's grandson, also George Fraser, (c.1722-1797) of Cuba House, Banagher and High Sheriff of Kings County married Judith Susanna de Gennes in 1752. My grandfather, Arthur Fraser-Byass would have been second cousin to Sir Thomas Fraser (1840-1922) who published his "Recollections and Reflections" of the Fraser family in 1914. My great-great-grandfather, Arthur John Fraser (1790-1857) (grandson of George Fraser 2) married Marcella Jameson in Galway and had children David (1808), George Robert (1812), Mary (1816), Judith (1817), Arthur (1819), Fanny (1821), Ellen (1823) and Thomas Degennes (my great-grandfather 1827-1862). Arthur John then married Charlotte Heron and had at least one more son, William, who according to Sir Thomas was alive in 1914. All these children were born in Ireland. If anyone recognises any of these names I would love to hear from them and exchange information. *Max Fraser Byass 122/85 Bakers Lane, Kempes Creek, 2171, Australia; [frasercl@ar.com.au](mailto:frasercl@ar.com.au)*

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## GORDON HIGHLANDERS MUSEUM

There has always been a strong Fraser connection with the Gordon Highlanders and many Frasers have served in it, eg when the 100<sup>th</sup> Regiment was raised in 1794, (later the 92<sup>nd</sup> Regiment), the then Muster Roll shows fifteen Frasers, almost exclusively from



Inverness-shire, with just as many Gordons, included. Thereafter, we have nearly 30 Frasers in the Medal Roll for the Boer War, all in the ranks; around a dozen in the Indian General Service Roll for 1895-1902; only five for the Egypt/Sudan conflict 1882-89; seven for Afghanistan 1879-80; seven for the Indian Mutiny 1857-59; sixteen on the Waterloo Roll, 1815; and six for the Peninsular Wars 1808-14. Also, The Honourable William Fraser, a member of the Frasers of Philorth family, was an officer during World War I. Information on the Gordon Highlanders Museum can be found on it's website [www.gordonhighlanders.com](http://www.gordonhighlanders.com) Email: [museum@gordonhighlanders.com](mailto:museum@gordonhighlanders.com) or telephone 01224 3112000 The Museum is located in Viewfield Road, off Queens Road, the Highland Tourist Route in and out of Aberdeen. It is very near the Anderson Drive and Queens Road roundabout and signposted from there. There is car parking in the grounds, and further parking 300 yards down the road at Johnston Gardens (a most beautiful gardens and well worth a visit when you're there). It was VisitScotland's Scottish Visitor Attraction of the year in 2001 but please check opening dates, as we found it closed for the season, on a visit in November but it does reopen for special events. *Thanks to William Smith of the Museum for this information and permission to reproduce the piper logo. Ed*

## FAMOUS FRASERS ALASTAIR SIM

Alastair Sim 1900 - 1976 (Sim is a sept of Clan Fraser) was, without a doubt one of the greatest film and character actors the world has

### CHIEFLY DINNERS by LADY SALTOUN

4 pork chops, a very little dripping, 1 rounded tab. Flour, ½ pint (300ml.) cider, ½ pint (300ml.) water, ½ teasp. dried rosemary, 2 cloves garlic crushed salt, freshly ground black pepper

In a large sauté pan with a lid, melt the dripping and brown the pork chops on both sides. Take out and put aside. Stir in flour and then add the cider and the water, a little at a time, stirring vigorously until smooth. Bring to the boil and add rosemary and garlic; season well with salt and pepper. Put pork chops back into this sauce, bring back to boil, cover and simmer 1½-2 hours, until chops are tender. Serve with boiled or mashed potatoes and cabbage. Serves 4. In summer, serve with new potatoes and young green peas.

seen. With his great dome of a head and bulging eyes he had the features of a comic and also possessed the intelligence to use them to their full advantage.

He was born in Edinburgh and started his working life in the family tailoring business but the love of acting proved too strong to resist and he was soon doing small parts in the West End. Presently, he was also doing small parts in Fox's quota quickies. As the parts got bigger the public took more notice and it was with the Inspector Hornleigh series that he really broke through.

It's said his golden period started in the mid-forties. He created a gallery of memorable characters such as Inspector Cockerill in Green For Danger, the spiritualist in London Belongs to Me and the headmaster battling against Margaret Rutherford in The Happiest Days of Your Life. One of his most distinctive roles was as the headmistress in The Bells of St Trinians

[http://www.britishpictures.com/arch\\_b1.html](http://www.britishpictures.com/arch_b1.html) - Belles of St Trinian's, where he played a role of a woman long before Hollywood invented it, with Dustin Hoffman in "Kramer versus Kramer". Yet I suppose he's best remembered, internationally, for his 1951 Scrooge, someone would say a natural role for a Scotsman but not us Frasers, many have tried to emulate him, in this role and all have failed. In 1954 he was awarded the CBE but for some reason refused the knighthood offered, to him, in 1974.

With the advent of the swinging sixties the film roles dried up but he'd always had a thriving stage career so he was rarely out of work. From 1967-71 he did three series of the sit-com Misleading Cases as the judge presiding over Roy Dotrice's bizarre legal complaints (only four episodes of this series are known to still exist).

I used to work with a first or second cousin of his and the likeness to a young Alastair was uncanny, he also had a brilliant sense of humour and in the middle of some serious negotiation with his company, you felt the actor himself was in our presence. *Ed*

*Now for one of Lady Saltoun's favourite recipes, which she uses very often.*

### PORK CHOPS IN CIDER SAUCE



# SEASON'S GREETINGS



## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2004



I thought Christmas would not come again for 12 months, but here it is, looming up after what seems like only a few weeks, and every year it seems to come round quicker than the one before, which is, I fear, a sign of old age! And of course, the fact that here we have had such an awful, wet summer that we don't seem to have had a summer at all, just makes it worse.

But I had a lovely visit to Canada in August. Neil and Marie looked after me marvellously. I really enjoyed meeting many Frasers while I was there, and it only rained for one day out of eight! I also met quite a few Frasers, some from Australia, at the CFSSUK dinner in Perth in October,

which was beautifully organised by Susan Boag.

So, once again, to all of you my very best wishes for a happy Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

**Saltoun**

## A HAPPY CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR TO ALL FRASERS

Happy Xmas and New Year to all Frasers. The Clan had a fantastic year in 2004 building our relationship with Frasers all over the world. In May I led a group consisting of my cousin Raoul Fraser, Ann and Willy from the Lovat Arms, Donald from Morrisons in Beaulieu, and the great friend Neil Fraser. The 6 of us visited the Californian Frasers for their 40th Anniversary in Orange County. Then the Canadian re-enactment regiment, The 78th Fraser Highlanders, made a 10 day tour of Scotland ending with 3 days in Beaulieu for the Clan Dinner 2004. It was a great success with more than 100 people in the Phipps Hall in Beaulieu. I sincerely hope that in 2005 many of you will visit Beaulieu to see the Clan museum, take a drink in the Lovat Arms, and enjoy some Highland hospitality if you haven't done so already. Best Wishes



**Lovat**

## A TWENTY FIFTH ANNIVERSARY for LADY SALTOUN

On Monday 13th December it will be twenty-five years since Lady Saltoun took her seat in the House of Lords, that's quite a remarkable achievement and on behalf of the CFSSUK, I'd like to extend our congratulations to her on this accomplishment. *Graeme B Fraser Editor*



**A PERFECT PRESENT**, buy a friend **CFSSUK** membership this Christmas.



## FESTIVE GREETINGS



Michael Fraser, Treasurer, and myself would like to extend our warmest wishes to all our members, old and new and to all those who have helped the Society over the year. It's been an exciting year with the dinner in Perth taking place and don't forget Giles Fraser, our hardworking Webmaster, who has been involved in one large project, The Fraser Connections and is now involved with the new Genealogy project.

So what does next year hold, well it's our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, as a Society and we're looking for ideas, we can use, to celebrate it. One suggestion we are looking at is Susan Boag's idea for a special anniversary supplement in March's Newsletter, using the best of the articles from previous Newsletters. Let us know what you think.

So have a good time "an lang may yer lum reek". *Graeme & Michael*

