



# FRASER



THE CLAN FRASER  
SOCIETY OF  
SCOTLAND AND  
THE UNITED KINGDOM

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 44

NOVEMBER/XMAS 2012



## TIME FLIES

It hardly seems like 12 months since the last Xmas Newsletter but here we are again. While we were disappointed our new website was wrecked by hi-tech vandals, we've now managed to rebuild it, it's back up there in hyperspace and our Facebook page



remained unharmed, you do wonder about some peoples' minds. Jenny Main has been involved in yet another book which had a nomination for the Saltire Society awards and Sarah Fraser's book about The Fox, Lord Lovat, "The Last Highlander" won The Scottish First Book of the Year award there. While other Highland games were washed out, our members have done well, Ken Fraser has had another successful time at the Fraser tent at the Aboyne Games and Donald and Ann Fraser-Clark represented the clan at Bressuire, France. I'd like to thank those who contributed to the Newsletter and hope it's an interesting

*Jenny Main* one but I do need more articles, so come on, get those fingers on the keys. Jonathan Kersting has made some Fraser and Fraser of Lovat plaques and are on sale for the astonishing price of £9.90 each, in the UK, extra outside the UK. Go to The Shop on the website <http://www.fraserclan.net/> or contact him direct at "Foreshore" 57-59 Elgin Road, Pwll, Llanelli, Carmarthenshire, South Wales, SA15 4AF, Tel Number 01554 755014, email [jk.ontherun@virgin.net](mailto:jk.ontherun@virgin.net).

## BRESSUIRE

As part of our recent holiday we attended the Bressuire Highland Games in France. Graeme had mentioned it in one of his news letters and seeing we were going to be staying about 100 miles north we decided to go. Graeme also got in touch with Jean-Louis Coppet, the organiser, who kindly sent us an invite to join the official opening party to represent our Clan Fraser Society. The games came about because Bressuire, where the games are held, is twinned with Fraserburgh and seeing our Clan was instrumental in forming the Burgh we were invited as Clan Fraser members.



Bressuire is near Poitiers in central western France and has a fine old

Chateaux (to us a castle) in the grounds of which the games took place. It was a serious affair with competitors from France, Scotland, Ireland, Germany, Finland, Hungary, Poland, Estonia, Holland, Austria, and Lithuania, all taking part in the traditional sports of stone throwing, hammer throwing, weight throwing etc. and of course, Caber tossing. The judges included three Scottish Games past World Champions one of which was Francis Brebner, originally from Aberdeen but now living in America, who had travelled across just for the Games.



The opening of the games was heralded by the arrival of four Pipe Bands, including one from Fraserburgh, and then all the competitors, judges and ourselves (as representatives of the Clan Fraser Society) were introduced to the crowd.

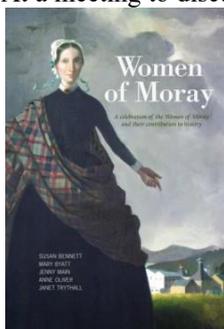
The games began with the “Putting of the Large Stone” and went on through various events for 6 hours. At the same time, although there was no piping or dancing competitions, in another part of the castle the Pipe Bands marched and played, there were Scottish and Irish Dancing demonstrations and Gaelic singing events.

It was estimated that 5,000 people attended the event on the Sunday, with similar numbers the day before. Although the weather could have been better, it was a great success. As the evening closed in we joined the Mayor and other officials for the Prize Giving with Pieter Karst Bouma from Holland being declared “Champion of the Games”.

We have attended many Highland Games in Scotland but this one in France was, in its own way, as good as any. *Donald Fraser-Clark*

### Women of Moray by Jenny Main

At a meeting to discuss the promotion of local men of history, one of the ladies present enquired ‘what about the local women?’ There was a pause and, after coming up with just one name, that of famous local authoress Jessie Kesson, the meeting continued.



A short while later, a group of women – five Moray residents - met to discuss the production of a book which would prove their point that Moray had indeed produced some noteworthy women throughout the ages. This book took longer to create than first anticipated as the research revealed more and more women who had great influence on their local area as well as further afield!

Published in March to coincide with International Women’s Day, the book celebrates women from the area and their contribution to history, capturing the tales of more than 70 subjects and spanning medieval to modern times.

The publication includes a treasure trove of biographies – women who have made an impact both in Scotland and abroad - from the real Lady Macbeth to the intrepid Elsie Watson, who rode solo across South Africa on a motor cycle in 1912, Margaret Hasluck, the spymaster of Albanian agents during World War II, Ethel Bedford Fenwick, the founder of professional nursing, and many more.

‘Women of Moray’ is a unique glimpse into the history of the region, looking at women marginalised, forgotten and usually uncelebrated across the centuries. It is published by Luath Press (thanks for the cover) and written by Susan Bennett, Mary Byatt, Jenny Main, Anne Oliver and Janet Trythall and was shortlisted for the Saltire Society’s title of Scottish History Book of the Year 2012.



Top Plaques: Sarah Fraser



71st Fraser Highlanders



Favourites from Oz



Top Bressuire: Aboyne



## OBITUARIES

**Sadly we've lost a couple of good members of the clan recently.**

**Allistair McDonald Fraser:** 1926-2012, Commissioner of the New Zealand Society and one of the co-founders, former piper, soldier in the NZ Scottish Armoured Regiment, and activist in the Scots societies in Canterbury NZ, he did so much for the New Zealand Fraser Society.



**General Sir David Fraser GCB, OBE:** soldier, author & first cousin of Lady Saltoun, died on Sunday 15th July, aged 91. Born on 30 December 1920, he was the son of William Fraser, the younger son of the 18th Lord Saltoun, and Pamela Maude, widow of Billy Congreve a Victoria Cross recipient, he had a long and very illustrious career in the army, retiring in 1980.



Although he was famous as a soldier, it is an author that he will be most greatly remembered. I found his memoirs, *War and Shadows* an outstanding book and as Don Chitts the Fraser Australian Commissioner reminded me, his saving, editing and publishing of *The Christian Watt Papers*, was an iconic piece of work. A book I thoroughly recommend you read, if you haven't already.

If I've got my records correct, he joined the Society in 1999 and although we never met, he seemed to have had a nice sense of humour, judging by some quotes he made to our Secretary, Michael Fraser.

I've also taken the liberty of reprinting the first few lines from Michael's review of *The Christian Watt Papers* from Newsletter 39 and also a new and relevant article by James Russell. *Editor*

"Bookshelves in Waterstones are groaning with memoirs, autobiographies and commentaries on transitory personalities, many of whom are seeking to extend their time in the public's eye by persuading us with enticing covers and titles that their story is worth prolonged consideration. On the other hand, there are a few whose lives have been lived way beyond the public view, troubled by decades of tribulation and tragedy, but whose stories, when uncovered, reveal personalities with so much integrity and life that it is a privilege to have met them, albeit at a distance in the pages of a book.

One such remarkable lady's life has been "rescued" by the research and scholarship of her descendants and one of our members, General Sir David Fraser. (*The Christian Watt Papers* edited with an introduction by David Fraser, Birlinn Ltd, Edinburgh, 2004 – ISBN 1 84158 308 1 £7.99 in paperback) Christian's story should be required reading, not only for all Frasers, but as a primary source for students interested in social and industrial life for the working men and women in the north-east of Scotland in Victorian times."

*Michael Fraser*

## WHAT IS THE WEIGHT OF MISSING EVIDENCE?

James Russell Member

My great-grand father [John Bucknell Russell, Artist, 1820-1893] had a grand father in John Fraser in Lonmay who was born in 1760. The late Jim Shirer of the Aberdeen and North East Scotland Family History Society affirmed that the above John Fraser in Lonmay was the son of William Fraser, factor of Lord Saltoun at Philorth. He was baptised on Sunday the 10th of August 1760 in Fraserburgh. The witnesses at the baptism were Lord Saltoun and John Gordon of Kinnellar.



The Old Parish Records for Strichen clearly state that John Fraser in Lonmay and Isabel Robertson were married in Strichen on the 17th of November 1783. John Fraser and Isabel Robertson had ten children who were born in various places in the North East of Scotland. Jim Shirer assumed that they were a reasonably wealthy family as they moved around to this extent and always came back to Strichen for the baptism of their children. In the death certificate of Jean, a daughter, we learn that John Fraser had become a Flaxdresser.

Moving from the official to family records I find that a daughter of John Fraser in Lonmay had written that her father was a member of a large family and had a father called William Fraser who had no family history. She also recorded that her grand father, William Fraser, walked almost daily with the Laird. The sort of thing a factor would do. Also, that her grand father Robertson had opposed the marriage of his daughter Isabel to John Fraser who had no male family history beyond his father. Another reason for his opposition to the marriage could be found in John Fraser having been a Captain in the British Army. Father Robertson held to the Jacobite spirit of the Highlands and probably opposed the marriage until John Fraser relinquished the gun and became a flax dresser.

Moving from family records to 'Granny Lascelles' Account' in Appendix IV of 'The Christian Watt Papers' we find another man called William Fraser who came from God knows where who may be the same man.

When Granny Lascelles went to work with her Aunt Kate, William Fraser, her husband, had become clerk and factor at Philorth House. They had a large family and William Fraser did buy the Park Estate at Lonmay, calling himself Fraser of Park. No one knew where William Fraser came from or anything about his origin. Yet, despite his lack of credentials, he could become Clerk and Factor to Lord Saltoun and, later, tacksman to a part of the estate of Lord Lovat.

From the family trees in 'The Christian Watt Papers' I learned that William Fraser married the Kate Gordon who was the daughter of Henrietta Fraser of Philorth and John Gordon of Kinnellar who was present at the baptism of John Fraser on 10th August 1760. When I wrote to the late General Sir David Fraser -the editor of "The Christian Watt Papers" - asking if there were any

further sections which might throw some light on my enquiries, I was told that the 'Christian Watt Papers' were with a solicitor in Aberdeen. When I wrote to the solicitor asking for a sight of the Papers I received no reply. Later, I found that other people had come up against the same brick wall.

I find it exceedingly odd that local people did not know where William Fraser came from and yet he could marry the grand child of the 11th Lord Saltoun; become factor to Philorth and tacksman to Lord Lovat. I had hoped that I would learn something of the father of John Fraser in Lonmay.

Perhaps there is no further evidence. Perhaps the weight of a brick wall is heavy enough to discourage any further enquiries. I feel sure the family of Christian Watt would like the Papers back again to distinguish between the editing carried out by the late David Fraser and what Christian and "Granny Lascelles" wrote. Until then we cannot comment on the editing of "The Christian Watt Papers" as we have no originals against which to test the editing.

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### ABOYNE GAMES

The Aboyne Games went particularly well in 2012 because for the first time in years we had a really sunny day!! Lady Saltoun and the Rt Hon Kate were with us for a lot of the afternoon. Naturally, the 'Usual Suspects' Frasers were there with several new faces turning up from the USA, Canada, Africa and Malaysia. There was discussion with the other Clans with Tents that we should maybe pool our resources next year to organise a few functions in the week leading up to the Games. We are certainly open to this suggestion. It's a long way for people from the South to come just for an afternoon out but if there were a few other activities for visitors then it



could encourage more to make the trip. I'll let you know if anything comes of the scheme. Regardless of this, we will be organising the Aboyne Games 'Clan Fraser Tent' again in 2013 so please put the first Saturday of August into your Diaries. All are welcome. *Ken Fraser*

### UNUSUAL HOBBIES



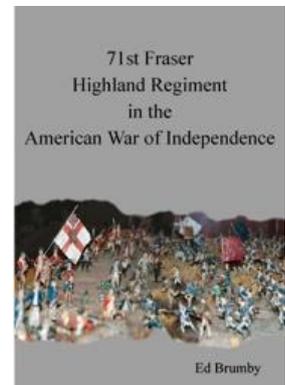
Not all our members potter away on computers and obviously some have hobbies that are not in the normal run of things. I'm a retired Machine Tool maintenance Electrician, to give me my posh title and now I'm into old clocks, I've over 40 in my shed. I've also made my own Ancient Hunting kilt, seen here in the photo with my wife Margaret at Loch Awe, I've since made himself a Red Fraser one, I feel it's quite an achievement. Have you any interesting hobbies, let the editor know? *Don Fraser*

In our last newsletter I featured the hard work of Stephanie Briggs in commemorating the members of the 71<sup>st</sup> Fraser Highland Regiment, who died in her adopted town of Cheraw, South Carolina. I said I'd print the full commemoration to those soldiers but as I knew little about the 71<sup>st</sup>, couldn't explain much about their overall campaign in the American Wars of Independence. However, by co-incidence, Ed Brumby, an old friend of the society, got in touch, saying he'd written a book on the regiment, which I'll certainly be buying, to fill this gap in my Fraser history. Below is the preface to his book (that's him in regimental uniform on page 2) and we hope, if he can get some time, he'll write an article for us on the regiment. *Ed*

### 71ST FRASER HIGHLAND REGIMENT by Ed Brumby

The 71st Fraser Regiment was raised by Major General Simon Fraser of Lovat in December 1775 to fight in The

American war of Independence. The Duchess of Gordon, at Fochabers in Moray, was an active recruiter for her brother Captain Hamilton Maxwell. This was long before her famous "kiss and a shilling" for the recruits of the Gordon Highlanders. 2000 men were raised by officers from many clans and sailed along with the 42nd Regiment from Greenock in



April 1776. About 500 men, together with their officers were captured off Boston and spent up to nearly two years in captivity, some working for American families. The war would see the 71st fighting in New York, Pennsylvania, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, finally being defeated at Yorktown, Virginia. The kilted warriors had to endure a variety of climates, mainly hot, and on occasions had to abandon their beloved plaids for trousers. They gained a fearsome reputation and the "skirl of the pipes" was feared by the French who assisted the Americans at Savannah.

Some men chose to settle in Nova Scotia and nearby northern areas. Some deserted, and some finally made it home to Perth. Those who had been wounded were judged by The Chelsea Board to see if they warranted assistance. It is sad that the 71st Regiment seems to have been forgotten in the history of Scotland, indeed it is seldom mentioned. Hopefully this book "71st Fraser Highland Regiment in the American War of Independence" will address that issue. My book is on sale via Tain Museum, it is £12 plus postage. I am trying to support them as they seem to be the only museum etc in Scotland who are really interested in the 71<sup>st</sup>.



## THE 71<sup>ST</sup> REGIMENT OF FOOT

These words and the regimental crest above are as they appear on the bronze Marker placed 13<sup>th</sup> November 2011 in the Churchyard of Old St David's Church ( the last in America to receive its Charter from King George 111), near to the graves of the Officers and soldiers of the 71<sup>st</sup> Fraser Highlanders. **Motto:** Noli Me Impuni Lacesset (No one assails me with impunity)



*Officer's Grave*  
"The Fraser Highlanders"

Encamped at Cheraw Hills in the summer of 1780  
During the American Revolutionary War

The Fraser Highlanders were recruited in Scotland in 1775 by their Clan Chief Simon Fraser, Master of Lovat, to serve in the army of King George III. They fought with honor in more Battles and Skirmishes, in both the Northern and Southern Campaigns of the American Revolutionary War, than any other British regiment. Following the Fall of Charleston to the British in May 1780, their Commander in the South, Lord Charles Cornwallis, ordered detachments from the two Battalions of the 71<sup>st</sup> Fraser Highlanders to set up an outpost at Cheraw Hills to further strengthen the British strategic line of defense.

Major Archibald McArthur, accompanied by their Regimental Surgeon Robert Jackson, led a detachment from the first Battalion from Camden on 7<sup>th</sup> June, marching at a fast pace of 20 miles per day, they arrived in Cheraw on the 9<sup>th</sup> June 1780.

The soldiers camped "within 400 to 500 paces" from what was Kershaw's (now Laney's) Landing on the west bank of the Great Pee Dee River, on open land not far from Old St. David's Church (est.1768). They set up canvas tents and "wood huts" made of a framework of fresh cut boughs and striplings, to help avoid the sun and rain.

Local Loyalists advised McArthur against camping near the river, because of its potential malaise, suggesting that their encampment should be within the woods.

Concerned there would be greater risk of sudden attack there from local Patriots, however, McArthur chose the open ground. Soldiers from the second battalion arrived in early July, camping, even closer to the river bank; with the officers' tents nearest of all.

During their time in Cheraw, the prime role was to maintain law and order and to encourage loyalty to the King; to gain intelligence on the activity of rebel troops

from Loyalists, passing this on to Commanders in Camden and other British detachments at Hanging Rock, Rocky Mount and Waxhaw. Major McArthur was only too aware of the need to hold the northern line; and to defend his soldiers against any approaching Patriot troops in the vicinity, who were pushing south and westwards.

Small units accompanied Major McArthur to the Court Houses at Long Bluff (Society Hill) and Anson County (Wadesboro), where he administered the Oath of Allegiance, to any citizens who continued to swear loyalty to the King. As food supplies began to dwindle severely and in need of horses for their few accompanying dragoons, there was an increasing need to live off the land, even commandeering supplies from local people.

At best estimate, some 300 men from the Regiment were camped here, with Surgeon Jackson reporting that two hundred men suffered from a malignant fever, brought on, he believed, by the noxious vapors off the river. It spread so rapidly, particularly amongst those camping closest to the river, that before late July, when the post was abandoned, "few were left who had not felt its influence". Major McArthur wrote of suffering from the fever himself, for most of their six weeks spent in Cheraw.

Some of the men worst affected by the fever were taken into St David's Church nearby, it is said, to gain shelter from the reported excessive heat and heavy rain of that summer. Local diarists and other historians record that several men of the Highlanders died in Cheraw and are buried in this cemetery. Neither their Commanding Officer McArthur, nor the Surgeon who treated the men, made reference to this in their records, probably due, however, to the severe demands on them at the time. At burials in the field, it was customary for an Officer to say a short prayer, with Officers mostly being buried separately and Other Ranks being buried together. They were usually wrapped in simple shrouds, sometimes with a keepsake from home, perhaps a favorite pipe, having been stripped of their clothing and shoes, by their surviving comrades who had a greater need of them. Major McArthur's letter written on the 29th July 1780 confirms that all his men had been in want of such essential "necessaries" since October 1778.

The official Muster Rolls for this Regiment are some of the most incomplete of the British Military in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. There are no Rolls in existence for the soldiers of the 71<sup>st</sup> Frasers which specifically record the place and date of death, during the summer of 1780. Some records for 1780 were only completed from distant memories, after the British surrendered at Yorktown.

When the two detachments were ordered back to Camden, Surgeon Jackson wrote that "about forty" of the men were still too weak to march. Major McArthur committed these to the command of their Lieut. John Nairne, to be escorted under the protection of Lt. Colonel William Mills and his local Loyalist Militia. On 24<sup>th</sup> July 1780, they embarked on flatboats at Kershaw's Landing, to be taken to Georgetown. The boats were ambushed at Hunts Bluff down river from Cheraw on 25<sup>th</sup> July by Patriot forces led by Captain Tristram

Thomas. These sick soldiers of the 71<sup>st</sup> Fraser Highlanders were taken as captives into North Carolina and exchanged later for local Patriots being held as prisoners by British forces.

The other soldiers, meanwhile, had marched back to Camden, with Surgeon Jackson recording that many of the men recovered through the exercise and fresh air on the march. Though some still too sick were held in reserve, the remainder of the 71<sup>st</sup> Fraser Highlanders fought in the Battle of Camden on 16<sup>th</sup> August 1780. In memory of those unnamed soldiers of the 71<sup>st</sup> Fraser Highlanders who died here in Cheraw, a Memorial Headstone, has been dedicated this day, Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2011, to honor them all and is placed at the grave of one Officer buried on the north side of the church.

Another Officer is believed to be buried near the eastern Vestry door, with several Other Ranks being buried together, in a "sink or depression" "close to the door on the south side of the church. These two grave sites are each identified by a small Marker.

*"When duty calls me, I must go, to stand and face  
another foe,  
But part of me will always stay, o'er the hills and far  
away.....  
If I should fall to rise no more, as many comrades did  
before,  
Ask the pipes and drums to play, o'er the hills and far  
away."* (From a

*Traditional Melody*



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**W**ELCOME NEW MEMBERS  
MICHAEL SCOTT WHITE, LESLEY J B  
FRASER, DANIEL MCKENZIE FRASER

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#### EMAIL

I keep on getting these addresses back as dead email addresses, can you please update me? Of course, if you don't want the Eletter let us know but Michael and I like to keep our records straight.

paulrossfraser@, jklinklater@, Fraserrowanvale@ Ed

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#### BOOK REVIEW

**The Last Highlander** By Gordon Fraser, Member



I recently spent a number of very pleasant hours reading "The Last Highlander" by Sarah Fraser. This is a biography of Simon Fraser (The Fox) who was executed having been tried and found guilty of high treason following the Jacobite rising in 1746.

Every once in a while history throws up a character that is larger than life and Simon the Fox is one such. Sarah Fraser gives a balanced picture (warts and all), of a complex man who lived a very eventful life. The story is written with style, flair and humour. It is a vivid and stirring account of clan life and politics in eighteenth century Scotland. The interest never flags as the story unfolds with a succession of twists and turns as Simon faces up to various threats to himself and the clan.

As a result of certain family deaths, Simon's father had a claim to the Lovat titles and estates. The matter was complicated by a rival claim on behalf of Amelia, daughter of the deceased chief. The dowager Lady Lovat was the daughter of the Marquis of Atholl the Chief of the Murray clan who saw an opportunity to 'take over' the Lovat Frasers. Eventually Simon decided that marriage with the Dowager Lady Lovat would strengthen his position. When she would not agree, Simon rashly decided to marry her by force. The resultant outrage and scandal provoked by this act was to haunt him for many a year. Wanted by the law he eventually decided to flee to France and the Jacobite Court at the Palace of Saint Germain's. Well received initially, he agreed to go back to Scotland to assess support for the Jacobites amongst the clans. To secure his safety of movement in Scotland he obtained the protection of the Duke of Queensberry (Queen Anne's High Commissioner in Scotland) by agreeing to act as a double agent. A spin-off opportunity was thus created to discredit Atholl. On his return to France these actions were to lose him his credibility and lead to his imprisonment and later house arrest lasting some ten years and effectively wasting much of the prime of his life. Major Fraser of Castle Leathers was eventually sent to France by the clan to help Simon to escape back to clan territory, so that he could reverse the deteriorating situation at home, where Mackenzie of Fraserdale the husband of Amelia had effectively taken over the Lovat estates. Simon was still a fugitive from the law but eventually arrived back safely. His arrival coincided with the start of the 1715 uprising. Fraserdale had marched with some of the clan to join the Jacobite army. Lovat sent a messenger to recall them, leaving Fraserdale without followers. His actions were due to his rejection by the Stuarts and the fact that this course of action could lead to him receiving a pardon and the restoration of his titles and estates. Lovat also took action to prevent reinforcements reaching the Jacobite forces holding Inverness, and in a short time Inverness

was surrendered to the Government forces. Since Lovat had obviously been a catalyst in this victory, the stage was set for him to receive his pardon and the return of his titles and estates. Lovat received his pardon from the King and was made Governor of Inverness Castle and given the command of a militia company. Fraserdale, now in prison, was made to forfeit the estates which were then gifted by the King to Lovat. The gift however only lasted for Fraserdale's lifetime after which the title and estates would pass to Fraserdale's son. It would take nearly twenty years of expensive litigation before the titles and estates became Lovat's in perpetuity. To consolidate his position Lovat married Margaret Grant which would provide heirs and form a powerful Fraser/Grant alliance. Sarah Fraser provides a vivid picture of the event with the festivities going on for days. In the following years Amelia was still to be a thorn in Lovat's side with a series of legal actions relating to unpaid debts due by Lovat to various creditors. The Scottish Court of Session found against Lovat but he appealed to the House of Lords who overturned the Court of Sessions decision. Real debts were still payable however.

Sarah Fraser gives a fascinating idea of the life-style of



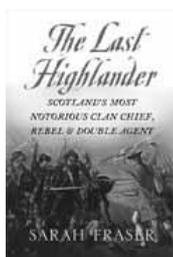
a great clan chief in the eighteenth century Scottish highlands, greatly detailing domestic arrangements, medical treatments and childbirth. She also traces the development of General

Wade's road building programme in the highlands.

In 1729 Margaret died of a fever having just given birth to a son, leaving Lovat with four children. He re-married in 1732 to April Campbell but the marriage was not a happy one and she eventually left him.

Lovat became concerned with the way things were going politically in the highlands and threw his support against the election of Duncan Forbes to Parliament which action severely dented their long friendship. A very revealing picture is drawn about the vote rigging and electoral malpractices that took place. The money that Lovat spent during the election did not see a return after the election, as he received no jobs or financial perks. In the years that followed, he was increasingly cold-shouldered by the establishment as concerns about his loyalty grew. A particularly bitter blow came when he was stripped of his command of the militia company and his position as Sheriff of Inverness.

If Charles Stuart had not suddenly arrived in Scotland, Lovat would most likely have spent the rest of his days as an establishment figure. This new situation forced many Jacobites to come off the fence even if it was against their better judgement. Following the news of the victory at Prestonpans, the Master of Lovat marched off with many of the clan to join the Jacobite army. Loudon, who commanded the government forces in Inverness decided to take Lovat into custody, and Lovat was transported to his Inverness house and kept under guard. That night Lovat was helped to escape through a secret passage and



rowed up the river to Gortleg House. Lovat was a hunted man once more.

Sarah Fraser gives a harrowing account of the battle of Culloden and the nightmarish aftermath which continued for some days as the army wreaked vengeance on the highlanders. This included the destruction of Lovat's castle and the pillaging of his property. After a brief meeting with the Prince Charles at Gortleg House, Lovat sought safety in the hills. Lovat eventually met up with a number of leading Jacobites to try and organise some resistance, but to no avail. It was decided that the only option was to escape to France. Eventually Lovat was tracked down and discovered beside Loch Morar. He was then transported to London and placed in the Tower. The British Government must have been embarrassed by the dearth of leading Jacobites that had been apprehended, most having escaped to France or simply disappeared. Thus the trial of Lovat seems to have been a political 'show trial' with little or no chance of an acquittal. The discovery of a number of incriminating documents found in Lovat's possession sealed his fate. Some mercy was shown however by the subsequent changes to the method of execution used. For most of his life Lovat was having to fight his corner against numerous enemies, and in doing so seems to have been involved in a number of unsavoury actions. His courageous behaviour after his capture and during his trial and execution, gave an aura of nobility to the end of his life.

In summing up, I found this book a hugely enjoyable, educational and fascinating read and would heartily recommend it. It should be on the Christmas list of all those with the name of Fraser. The Last Highlander, published by Harper Collins, ISBN:978-0-00-722950-5 We thank Caroline Forbes for use of the author's & acknowledge HarperCollins for use of the cover & their copyright. Ed

### 1745 Muster Rolls

*Some interesting information from a Christine MacDerment who posted on our website.*

The Jacobite Rebellion muster rolls aren't online, as far as I know. I bought the book some time back. It's published by Aberdeen University Press, first published 1984, reprinted 1985 Muster Roll of Prince Charles Edward Stuart's Army, 1745-46 editors Alastair Livingstone of Bachuil, Christian W H Aikman and Betty Stuart Hart ISBN 0 08 030385 4 I believe a lot of the research came from the 1745 Association. It lists the members of regiments, eg Cameron of Lochail's, Duke of Perth's, Macdonalds of Clanranald, etc etc as well as giving the reference for each entry and, where known, what happened to each man, eg died, escaped, transported, banished, pardoned etc. I rather think my Donald Fraser was the Donald Fraser, a gardener at Achtermerak, who fought with the MacDonells of Glengarry (which included the Grants of Glenmoriston), who surrendered and "turned King's evidence". He appears with the Redcoats in an incident involving the Grants of Glenmoriston in 1746, which is recounted in the Lyon in Mourning and, in a later addition to the story, as being a miller in North Uist (by 1751). He was certainly the first recorded North Uist Fraser.

## EDITOR SPIKIN

**Australian trip:** In January and February this year Gillian and I decided to have the trip of a lifetime and fly around the world, the main part of the trip would be in SE Australia and this would also give us the chance to see our Australian society counterparts, who we've been regularly corresponding with, over the years. First stop was Hong Kong and we flew in at Chinese New Year, great we thought but it turned out it was shut, still, the touristy things were open and the trip on the funicular up The Peak would have been great if you could have seen through the fog. We took the tuppenny tram, saw the biggest Apple/Mac shop ever and looked up to the skyscrapers from our 24<sup>th</sup> floor bedroom. The highlight was Aberdeen, some of the most expensive property in the world but some people live in Sampans, bit like the original, we thought. We did see the fabulous New Year parade, with lots and lots of dragons, it was the Year of the Dragon, after all, (wonder what happens in the Year of the Dog) so we were well and truly Dragoned out. It's a great place, when it's open and well worth a visit, we didn't even need a visa, unlike Australia and the US.



We arrived in Melbourne, after an eight hour flight, at 8 am, dropped our cases at the hotel and went straight to the Australia Day Parade, (we certainly picked our arrival days) where we met the Clan Fraser Society of Australia Commissioner, Don Chitts. He was supposed to be drumming in the pipe band, amongst the large Scots contingent but was

persuaded to pipe, so with the heat and his exertion he collapsed and was taken to hospital, leaving us to follow the parade and what did we see? Yes, Chinese Dragon after Chinese Dragon. Thankfully, Don recovered quickly and a couple of days later we met him, his wife Maimie and the Victoria Fraser Society President, Heather Byers and had a very pleasant afternoon with them. Halfway through the afternoon a Chinese dragon came into the bar, all the dragons we'd seen before were nice but this one was fun, the two man dragon walked up to the bar and the lead person ordered a pint, I've no idea what the one in the rear had.

Melbourne's a lovely city, plenty to see and even a free tourist tram and we began to realise three things about the country, you felt very safe, the news didn't harp on about stabbings, murders, car crashes and death and the Australians are an extremely friendly people, who will talk to you anywhere, in a shop (took ages getting round the big stores) or even just passing in the street. What also struck us was the speed at which the former colony developed, from the tents the prisoners slept in on arrival in 1788, to major buildings on a grand European scale, just a few decades later. We'd planned a couple of rest periods into our itinerary and we headed to the next state, South Australia, it was here we discovered more about the country, outside the cities the motorways become B roads and what looks like a four hour trip turns out to be seven and whenever we had a rest break the weather would turn bad and when we were sight

seeing it would be hot. We were told we were lucky to get any sunshine, as Australia was having its worst ever summer. Also, as we slowed down at the entrance to our accommodation, a six foot tall Kangaroo decided he didn't like our Japanese car and jumped on it, luckily we weren't hurt but we needed a new car. In commiseration Don Chitts did text us "well, Gil did say she wanted to see the wildlife close up", true enough but not lying on the windscreen.

After a break we followed the coast from Port Campbell, to Melbourne, up past Fraser Island, the Clyde River and had a break in the Grampian Mountains (don't you just love these authentic Australian names), where it rained and I got a sceptic toe but. Our final destination was Sydney, we took a couple of weeks to do it, normally a twelve to fourteen hour drive, a bit like John o' Groats to Land's End and it was spectacular, we also learned to live out of one suitcase, instead of dragging in everything from the car and also insisting on ground floor accommodation. We did find Australia extremely expensive and cut our coats accordingly, by using motels and self catering accommodation but we do that anyway and also looking out for restaurants that were part of a gambling complex, as the meals are subsidised, Ozzies love a flutter. Another addition to our education was that the Medicare health service is very good, when I had to have my toe treated, we had to pay up front but got a fair bit back at the end, although they did check my passport and visa to check I wasn't illegal.

There's a great buzz to Sydney, I think because a lot of people live in the centre and we thoroughly enjoyed it, my opposite number, Judy Fraser-Byass, suggested a trip to the Blue Mountains and told us not to book an expensive excursion but buy a very reasonable rail ticket, that also included the tour bus and the underground in Sydney and she'd meet us on the train. Sydney has a population of 4.6 million but stretches for miles, it took us at least two hours to get out of the suburbs but it was well worth the effort, I was only sorry Judy's husband, Max, (the previous Commissioner) had died a while before and I didn't get to meet him. While on the tour bus the driver said there was a lovely walk back to views of the mountains, what he didn't say was, that it was rain forest and wet, my toe was still in treatment and had to be protected, so Gil and Judy pretended not to know me, as I walked on wearing taped up plastic bags over my sandals.



Our final stop was San Francisco, it was fabulous seeing all those iconic places, even though our backsides were getting blisters from all those tour buses, such as the Golden Gate Bridge and the Golden Gate Park, which incidentally is miles from the bridge and was largely designed by a Scot, John McLaren, a name the Americans had great difficulty in pronouncing, it was also a lot cheaper but it was also a culture shock. For the first time in our trip we didn't feel entirely at ease, some bits were a bit rough and we were told not to talk to anyone on the street. However, in the bars, attractions and shops, people couldn't have been nicer.



All in all it was the trip of a lifetime, been, done it, bought the tee-shirt, even the bad bits were fun, it was hard work but we managed, living out of a suitcase for weeks isn't the best, long live our caravan. Would we recommend it to others, most certainly, we met lots of lovely people and caught up with old friends, as well

as Kangaroos and dragons.

**Homecoming 2014:** With Stirling council cancelling their event for the Homecoming, I think on grounds of cost, things are in a bit of confusion and we still don't know what we're doing but a number of organisations are talking to each other, so something will happen. Lady Saltoun has already said, if there's an event she'll provide a clan tent, which does give us something to aim at. All we can say is, we're trying to organise something around the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn, at which the Frasers fought, we'll let you know as soon as we have something firm and Gil and I have already put it in our diary, even though we're normally in France. The actual date is the 24<sup>th</sup> June, which is a Tuesday, so when the celebrations are happening is anyone's guess but I'm sure something will take place on the day itself.

**Septs:** I've always wanted to have more information on the septs on the website, we've only information on the Tweedies and Simpsons. Now the website is back up in place, I'm working on it but some are a bit obscure and if anyone has any information on a sept, I'd be happy to look at it.

**Plant Badge Square:** This is part of an email I received from an organisation requesting that we make a clan square for a tapestry based on the Yew tree. While strictly speaking Clan Fraser itself has no official plant badge, it's Clan Fraser of Lovat's, Michael and I think it's a lovely idea and feel something should be done for both the clans, I've also suggested using the strawberry leaf. We're toying with the idea of getting Jayne Chapman, who makes our bags to do something but first of all we'd like to ask if any of you have the skills to do Patchwork and are willing to help? Also, we need a design, any ideas? We don't want to be left out.

"I work for the wild plant conservation charity Plantlife Scotland and we are currently coordinating a UK wide public participation project, the Patchwork Meadow, to create a Bayeux Tapestry celebrating the role of wild plants and trees in the British culture ([www.wildflowereurope.org](http://www.wildflowereurope.org)). We are making a special effort in Scotland because the first exhibition of the work will be at the Wild North Festival in Caithness and Sutherland at the end of June 2013, in the year of Natural Scotland. The Wild North Festival will be coordinated by the North Highland Initiative.

We would be delighted in anyone connected with the Clan Fraser Society of Scotland and the United Kingdom would consider contributing a square based on the clan plant, yew. This can be any design and any fabric and there is further information on how to make the squares

below. I have attached a link to our Clan plants factsheet (<http://wildflowereurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/Names-and-Clan-Plants.pdf>) and a sample square for Clan Sinclair.

The basic instructions for participating in the Patchwork Meadow are that anyone who is interested can contribute a 15cm fabric square (sewing, weaving, felting, printing, painting, lace etc) depicting a plant (or plants) that currently grows wild in Britain. All the squares are to be mounted on card (acid free foam or mount board are best but any rigid, unprinted card will work). The deadline for submission of squares is the end of March 2013. Dr. Seona Anderson"



### Fraser Tourists in the Blue Mountains Australia a Century Ago By Kim Fagerlie

Graeme's photos from the Blue Mountains outside Sydney reminded me that my great grandfather George Fraser (1845-1926), a century earlier used to visit the



same area from his suburban Sydney home. According to my late mother he may have had a retreat there somewhere, but we don't know that for certain. The photo below is probably taken during one of these visits. George is at the back row, third from

the left with a moustache. My grandmother Georgina is in front row, first from the left.

According to Judy Fraser-Byass of the Clan Fraser Society of Australia, the photo looks like it is taken on a cliff top path she and Graeme went on which runs from Leura to Katoomba and was built around the 1880s when Blue Mountains tourism began. "It's pretty rough and the mind boggles with the ladies walking it in those outfits."



Judy thinks the photo above looks like the Fairmont Resort at Leura which was one of the first holiday resorts built in the Blue Mountains and a very fashionable place to stay. So maybe they weren't far from the Fairmont or stayed there. As you can see there is snow, so the photo must be taken during the Australian winter, perhaps in July.

This photo shows George and his party by the Explorer's Tree monument about 5 miles west of Katoomba along the Great Western Highway, so named because the initials of explorers Blaxland, Lawson & Wentworth were carved in it when they crossed the Blue Mountains in 1813. The monument erected in the 1880's.

### FRAISER ROOM

“It's in Surfleet and is "in the grounds" of St. Laurence Church. This is quite infamous in itself as it has a leaning tower, in fact at such a slant one of the bells actually hangs outside of the church walls, you can't see that, as it's inside but intriguing all the same.

Sir Peter Fraiser (Fraser) married Anne Heron in circa 1700. This is a national lottery heritage fund project and we are determined to do the rooms proud.

This is a building which was donated to the village by Dame Anne Fraiser in 1764. This lady was the wife of Sir Peter Fraiser, who was the son of Alexander Fraser of Durris. As with many historical records spellings vary in regard to names and places. I am particularly excited by the information that there are many family portraits, as I have searched extensively for pictorial

representations of the people we have been researching. In essence our group is a small local gathering of 8 people, each with specific elements to research, to ultimately, publish a pamphlet and maybe a book, provide a plaque outside the rooms. I am not sure if you will be able to add anything to what we have, but if you are related to the Frasers it would be wonderful to have you connected to our national lottery heritage funded project.”

*This is a compilation of some emails I received by Nigel Battley of the project, which I found quite fascinating, I worked around Spalding, over the years and I never heard of the building. It turns out Sir Peter's father Alexander was quite famous, as surgeon to Charles II. I hope to get over there myself in the Spring and see the room for itself and find out more. Editor*

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### CLAN MACSHIMSI Lady Saltoun

Some weeks ago I received an e-mail from Sir Malcolm Macgregor of Macgregor, Convenor of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, telling me that one Duncan Simpson from Dundee claimed to be the Chief of “Clan Macshimsi”. He has a website [www.macshimsi.com](http://www.macshimsi.com) and is issuing certificates of membership to interested Sims, Simpsons, etc. I think you should be aware that “Clan Macshimsi” is not recognised by the Lord Lyon King of Arms, nor by the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs. The office of the Lord Lyon said. “A clan chief is that person who has been recognised by the Lord Lyon as being in right of the undifferenced arms of the name. No-one of the surname Macshimsi has ever recorded arms in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland It is also the case that no-one has been recognised in the undifferenced arms of Simpson.” If any of you should wish to join “Clan Macshimsi” I cannot stop you, but as far as I am concerned you are valued members of Clan Fraser.

### FESTIVE GREETINGS



My very best wishes to all of you for a calm and peaceful Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year. Saltoun

Dear Clansmen, Another year has passed once again, and I hope it brought you all much success and happiness. Best wishes to you all for 2013 and I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas too. Lovat



### CHIEFLY DINNERS: GAME STOCK

Game and/or poultry carcasses, left over meat bones, Chopped or dried onion, a handful. Some pieces of raw carrot A stick or two of celery, or some Lovage or celery salt. A few blades of mace, black peppercorns, a bouquet garni or two, a bay leaf or two. Half a teasp salt (unless you are using celery salt), a good slurp of table wine (NOT dessert wine!) and water. Can also be served as Consommé.

Put the carcasses and/or bones in a large pan, big enough for them to come not more than half way up the pan. Cover them with water to come right up the pan and put over high heat to come to the boil. When it is just coming up to the boil, start skimming, taking off all the greasy scum as it comes to the surface. When you think you have got all the grease off, turn the heat down to very low, and add the other ingredients, set over very low heat on the back of the stove. The heat wants to be so low that you cannot actually see the surface moving, but that after a while you notice that the level of the liquid has gone down a bit. Leave WITHOUT A LID ON, until the liquid has reduced to the point where it comes about half way up the bones. This will take several hours, such as from after breakfast until teatime, but try not to forget it until you have burnt bones in a burnt and horribly stuck-on pan, as I have done in the past! Take the pan off the heat and, holding the bones, etc., in with the pan lid, pour the remaining liquid through a strainer. You should have a bowl of clear, dark and very tasty stock. Leave it to get cold. Then you can very carefully ladle off the clear stock, leaving the sediment behind in the bottom. You can serve this as Consommé, or use it to make jelly for jellied consommé or game in Aspic

If I have carcasses and either there are not as many as I would like or I haven't time to do all this, I just bundle them into a plastic bag and freeze them until I have time or have collected enough carcasses to be worth while.

When I have left over game, I cut it up small with kitchen scissors, and put it in either a big bowl or little individual bowls, lined with clingfilm, and then pour the jelly over it, and leave it to set in the fridge. Turn out and serve accompanied by a nice chive flavoured potato salad and a tomato salad. To make the jelly, I prefer to use leaf gelatine, 4 sheets to the pint, as it is so much easier to dissolve properly.